

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

The Wisconsin Light



Paul Collinson

**Bernadette Peters
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Anti-Gay Marriage Bill Update Rally at the Capitol Set for May 12

By Bill Meunier

The fight over Gay Marriage is still raging in Madison. A vote on Lorraine Serrati's (R-Spread Eagle) anti-Gay Marriage bill, AB 104, is scheduled to take place following a six hour debate on Tuesday May 13th.

AB 104 has 30 co-sponsors in the State Assembly and was recommended for approval by the Assembly's Committee on Children and Families. It is not expected to be derailed in the Assembly which is controlled by the Republican party.

Nevertheless, activists from Action Wisconsin, Log Cabin Republicans, Rep. Barbara Notestein (D-Milwaukee) and openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), are working hard. Action Wisconsin has issued a call for everyone who opposes to pitch in and help. They believe that the Gay community should use this chance to educate Wisconsin's legislators.

"Every vote we can change is a new friend we have found," said one political activist and observer.

In order to help change some votes, a rally has been scheduled for Monday May 12 at the State Capitol. Baldwin and

Local Ceremony to Honor the Memory of Those Who Have Died of AIDS

Milwaukee -- On May 4, the 14th annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will mobilize people from 290 cities worldwide. In Milwaukee, the event is being hosted by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and will be held at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 4, in the Harbor Lights Room in the O'Donnell Park Pavilion, 909 E. Michigan Street. This year's ceremony, themed "Telling Stories -- Celebrating the Lives" is being held a few weeks earlier than past years.

The ceremony will include the recitation of names of those who have died in the last year, the reading of remembrances, musical selections and the lighting of candles by participants.

"The Candlelight Memorial Ceremony is a celebration of life that honors those who have died with AIDS and offers support for people living directly or indirectly with HIV and AIDS," said Father Mike Hammer of the Catholic AIDS Ministry and master of ceremony for the local event. "The Candlelight Memorial Ceremony also reminds the community to get in-

action Wisconsin also want a wide cross section of people to attend the debate and vote on May 13.

Finally they want everyone to call and/or write their state legislator and express their concerns over passing AB-104.

The bill's proponents claim that it is needed because Hawaii may someday legalize Gay marriages. They say that AB 104 will protect the institution of marriage in Wisconsin.

"That's nonsense," say the bill's opponents. They are backed by a number of legal experts say that the bill is not needed because Wisconsin law already forbids Same Sex Marriage. Moreover, they say that even if another state legalizes Gay Marriages, Wisconsin Gays and Lesbians will still not be permitted to go there and get married.

AB-104's opponents backed by a number of editorial writers straight and Gay alike have said that it is unnecessary and mean spirited.

Meanwhile, the battle rages on. What some say is the biggest civil rights battle is the 90's has been joined and is in full swing here in Wisconsin.

involved in the fight against AIDS."

Quilts will be displayed, and a reception will follow the ceremony, which 150 people attended last year. Those attending are encouraged to bring a photograph of a loved one who died with AIDS to be displayed during the candle lighting.

Attendees will also receive a special, living memorial gift courtesy of the Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association and the Milwaukee County Funeral Directors Association.

Stories Needed

The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is collecting personal stories which will be shared to remember those who have died and reflect experiences, hope and messages of courage. Stories are welcome from relatives and friends of someone who has died with AIDS, health care providers, caregivers and social workers. Text (100-150 words) must be submitted by April 25 to Gary Dennison at MAP, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487.

The Candlelight Memorial Ceremony is
Please See AIDS Page 9

Wisconsin Public TV Refuses Demand to Pull Gay Program

Brother Braddock Sends Refund to Unhappy State Senator

By Bill Meunier

Madison— Wisconsin Public Television refused to give in to the demands of Wisconsin State Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) that it cancel an episode of "In the Life," the nationally syndicated Public television show.

The episode which aired in most of the State on April 4th included a segment on Gay farmers living in Wisconsin. It was that segment to which the Senator objected.

"It casts a negative image of Wisconsin," Fitzgerald told *The Wisconsin Light*. According to Fitzgerald the Farm Boys segment is based on Will Fellows book *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men From the Rural Midwest*.

Fitzgerald admits to not having read the book. He did, however, say that he didn't have to read it because of what he described as offensive quotes on the book's jacket cover. When asked what these quotes said, Fitzgerald said one of the quotes was from a Minnesota man who talked about being Gay and 15 years old but gave no other specifics.

"The Gay community should be out-
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It must be Spring While a cold howling wind blew through downtown, Managers and Officers from Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League put the finishing touches on plans for the groups 20th Anniversary Season during a meeting held upstairs at M & M. Nine teams from Milwaukee and Madison will begin playing an eight week schedule at Sijan Field, 2128 S. KK, on Saturday May 3. This year the SSBL, one of the oldest Gay softball leagues in the country host two tournaments, the Milwaukee Classic, Memorial Day weekend and the Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament, Labor Day weekend. It's not too late to sign up for a team. To sign up call the SSBL Hotline at 454-9264 or stop in at your favorite team sponsor.

Interview with Patty McKeithan, Miller Beer's Vice President Of Corporate Affairs

By Terry Boughner

While Chrysler waffles and J.C. Penny shy's away, Miller Brewing Company steps up to the plate. The Milwaukee-based brewery (the last of the "Big Four" in the Cream City), has not hesitated about being a good corporate citizen. The company supports many causes, some controversial, some not, but this can be said: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the country as a whole, have received considerable benefit from the fact that Miller is there.

Recently, I went out to Miller's corporate headquarters in Miller Valley to interview Patty McKeithan who superintends Miller grants. The day was bright with late winter sun. The air was redolent of yeast, like being in a room with bread baking in the oven.

Terry Boughner: Patty, what's your job description here?

Patty McKeithan: (laughs) I'm Vice President of Corporate Affairs, which is responsible for marketing communications, corporate communications, community relations, the company's contribution and giving program.

We work with Phillip Morris (Miller's parent company) on government affairs issues. Actually, Tom Reed heads up that department within the Division. We work very closely on those issues.

We have industry issues, which involves our alcohol education program—Think When You Drink—and any other issues that come up which we feel need special attention.

(Laughs). We cover everything. If there's any problem out there, it comes to Corporate Affairs.

TB: A little background?

PK: I'm actually an Army brat. My father was in the military. A lot of my earlier life was spent outside the country. But I went to school here in Wisconsin. I've been with Miller for 19 years.

Miller and the Community

TB: Miller is wide-famed for supporting our community—among many, many communities. What impels Miller to be a generous as it is?

PK: Miller has been a part of this Milwaukee community for 142 years. We're

woven into the fabric of this community. We feel very strongly that since our corporate headquarters is here—and in the other places where we have brewing facilities, I might add—we are very community minded.

What I like to look at first, even before out at the external public, is our internal public—our employees. Those employees are involved in various aspects of the community. They are from various special markets. And they're concerned about our involvement in the community. All of our internal communities hit every



Jerry Johnson

Patty Mc Keithan

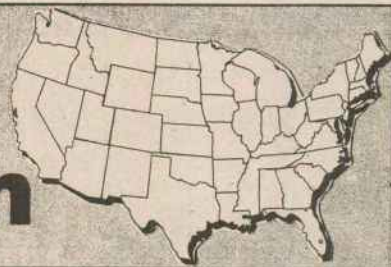
aspect of the external community.

We always keep in mind, too, that our business activity should make good social sense, and our social activities should make good business sense. So there is a marriage there.

I would be very untruthful with you if I didn't say that we care about the community. We want the community to be successful, but we also want people to realize that we are a manufacturing company. We put out a consumer product. We feel we put out the best consumer product in our category of any other company.

TB: Oh, I'll second that!
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News From The Nation



Britain Set to Lift Ban on Gays in the Military

London, England—The *London Times* reports that British army officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines, which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality. They want the Army Board to approve a new moral code under which only those individuals whose sexual activities can be shown to have a direct impact on a unit's operational effectiveness should face disciplinary action or administrative discharge.

"What we're talking about is sexual adventurism, the kind of behavior that can have a really bad effect on a unit," one army source said.

Under the new approach, Gays and Lesbians serving in the army would not automatically face administrative discharge if exposed as homosexuals.

The change in attitude towards sexuality has been largely driven by the surge in legal cases involving Gay men, Lesbians and Transsexuals who have been pursuing compensation claims in British and European courts.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that a Labour government would lift the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

NGLTF Cautions Against Using Heaven's Gate to Bash Gays

Washington, DC—Will the shock, sorrow and surprise of the recent mass suicide of members of the Heaven's Gate cult now turn to rage, resentment and retribution because of Easter weekend press reports that cult leader Marshal Applewhite may have been Gay? That was the question asked by Kerry Lobel, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director, in response to a news article which appeared in the Saturday March 29, 1997 edition of *The Washington Post*. The newspaper reported that Applewhite was fired from his teaching job at a Houston university in the late 1960's for having an affair with a male student. The paper also said that Applewhite's dismissal led him to seek psychiatric treatment so that he could be "cured" of his Gay impulses.

Since the news story broke, Applewhite has been called a "homosexual freak" by the son of the cult's co-founder who also described him as "as Gay as they come."

"My fear is that gays will be scapegoated for the atrocities brought about by the cult leader," said Lobel. "Once again, we may be vilified by those who associate everything bad, wrong, strange, or tragic with homosexuality," she added.

Greg Herek, a research psychologist at the University of California at Davis said the fact that Applewhite may have been gay may make it easier for some people to connect him to dysfunctional behavior, because of their perceptions of homosexuality and of gay people. "The Heaven's Gate incident is a reflection of the trust that followers put in cult leaders," Lobel concluded. "To use this incident to perpetuate the wholesale scapegoating of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," she said.

Swiss Discuss Aid for Gay Victims of Nazis

Geneva, Switzerland—A Gay delegation met with Swiss officials in February to discuss inclusion of Gays in a new \$71 million humanitarian fund to aid needy victims of the Nazis. Gays and Lesbians were sent to Nazi concentration camps and exterminated along with Jews, Gypsies, Slavs and Communists.

The meeting in the Swiss capital, Bern, a day after the Swiss government formally founded the fund, underscored that aid will go to all Nazi victims regardless of race, religion, political or sexual orientation. The umbrella Gay organization, Pink Cross, said it welcomed the fact that the fund intended to treat all surviving victims equally. The Pink Cross will see to it that needy Gay victims of Nazi violence are put in touch with the fund's administrators.

White House Appoints New AIDS Czar

Washington, DC—The White House has announced the appointment of a new AIDS czar, Sandra Thurman. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Thurman is past executive director of AID Atlanta, the Southeast's first and largest AIDS service provider. Under her stewardship, AID Atlanta tripled in size, becoming a multi-million dollar direct service agency with 90 staffers and more than 1,000 volunteers. In 1996, she held a variety of positions with the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign. Most recently, Thurman was a White House appointee to the US Information Agency. Thurman becomes the third person to hold the position informally known as national AIDS czar. She replaces Patsy Fleming, who stepped down after Clinton's re-election.

It's Time for the Stars to Come Out

New York, NY—In the "Comment" section of the March 31 *New Yorker*, Hendrick Hertzberg asserts that there is no good reason why none of Hollywood's leading actors are openly Gay. "Familiarity (with Lesbian and Gay issues) has bred (industry) tolerance and respect," Hertzberg says. "Ever since the closet door swung ajar a generation ago, movie folk have been streaming through it."

He adds that while it isn't viewed as okay for stars to be Gay, it is fully respectable now for stars to play Gay. "The industry evidently believes that audiences will readily suspend disbelief to watch a notorious Don Juan pretend to be a faithful husband or, for that matter, a confirmed heterosexual pretend to be a queen. But under no circumstances can Romeo be played by someone who, off duty, might prefer Mercutio to Juliet."

DOD Signals Zero Tolerance for Gay Bashing

Washington, DC—Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) on April 8th, obtained from the office of Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) a copy of a Department of Defense (DOD) memorandum clarifying its position against anti-Gay harassment and Lesbian-baiting under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

The memorandum, dated March 24, 1997, states: "This guidance is issued because of information we have received that some service members have been threatened with being reported as homosexual after they rebuffed sexual advances or themselves reported acts of sexual misconduct by others. The report of such a threat should result in the prompt investigation of the threat itself. Investigators should not solicit allegations concerning the sexual orientation or homosexual conduct of the threatened person."

Cuban With AIDS Dies of Pill Overdose

Miami, Florida—A Cuban immigrant with AIDS, depressed over the impending cutoff of Social Security and Medicaid, died Sunday, April 6, of an overdose of pills, his brother said.

Alfredo Linares, who found out in December he had AIDS, took four bottles of AIDS medication, said his brother Gustavo Linares.

"He didn't want to die of AIDS," Linares said. "He knew they were going to cut off his checks; mine too. He was afraid he might be deported back to Cuba. It is horrible, just horrible. He was so sick and needed the help to stay alive."

"Tell Clinton to have pity on us. Please stop this insanity. Stop killing people. A lot of people are going to die because of this," Linares said of an August deadline for many immigrants who stand to lose federal and state assistance.

"I found him sitting on the floor. He mumbled that he had taken the pills. I called 911. The ambulance got there right away," the brother said.

Hawaiian Solons May Not Resolve Gay Marriage

Honolulu—AP—The 1997 session of the state Legislature hits the home stretch this week, but lawmakers have many major differences to resolve before the scheduled adjournment April 29.

Despite urgings at the start of the session that the big three issues carried over from the 1996 session—no-fault automobile insurance reform, same-sex marriage and the "high three" pension perk for certain lawmakers—be resolved quickly, that has not happened.

The House and Senate don't appear much closer now on the same-sex issue than they were when it deadlocked at the end of last year's session, leading angry voters to dump the senator who headed the Senate's conferees on the issue.

That senator was Rey Gaulty, but he's back this year as state insurance commissioner and is a key player in the continuing effort to reform no-fault automobile insurance to give Hawaii's motorists a reduction in rates that now are second-highest in the nation. Again, the House and Senate remain far apart on the solution.

Bigotry Makes Activist of Gay Republican

Charlotte, NC—AP—Gay activists in Charlotte are considering their next move against a Mecklenburg County decision to cut funding to eliminate funding for the Arts & Science Council.

Mecklenburg County commissioners voted 5-4 to adopt a resolution that will cut money to groups that offer "exposure to perverted forms of sexuality."

The resolution also prevents any private or nonprofit agency from getting county money unless commissioners approve a separate allocation for each one.

The proposal approved by county commissioners has made Billy Maddalon an activist. The former president of North Carolina State University's Young Republicans is a businessman and conservative Republican and has not talked about being Gay in public.

But that all changed when Maddalon, 29, stepped to a microphone Tuesday and told the commissioners what he thought of the proposal.

"I have never ... gone to a public meeting and spoken about my sexuality, but with what was being said about us, I had to go," he said.

Gay Civil Rights vs. Same-Sex Marriage

Augusta, ME—AP—Some lawmakers say there is nothing contradictory about supporting a Gay civil rights bill and opposing Gay marriages.

From the governor on down, many politicians support a Legislative bill that would protect Gays and Lesbians from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

At the same time, a large number of the same politicians support another bill that would prohibit same-sex marriages in Maine and prevent Maine from recognizing such marriages performed in other states.

Gov. Angus King is the most prominent example of the perceived inconsistency. King supports the bill barring discrimination in housing, employment, credit and public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

At the same time, King said last week he is leaning toward supporting a ban on same-sex marriage.

Public TV

Continued From Page 1

raged over this. Being associated with children is not in its best interest," said Fitzgerald.

The segment which Fitzgerald said he had not and would not watch, contained brief interviews with several Gay and Lesbian farmers. All of those featured in the segment were over 21 years of age.

Furthermore the segment contained no mention of sex or even any displays of affection. It centered on the reasons why some Gays and Lesbians choose to live on farms and the fact that people don't normally think of farmers when thinking about the Gay community.

Fitzgerald said he also objected to the segment because the Gay community is "a fringe group." He said he would have the same objection "if some other fringe group such as a supremacist group wanted an hour on public television."

When asked what he meant by saying that Gays and Lesbians were a fringe group, Fitzgerald responded "they are outside of the mainstream." Later in the interview Fitzgerald said he felt the Gay lifestyle "is immoral."

The Senator did not say whether or not he believed that only mainstream groups should have programming on public television.

Fitzgerald said his feelings towards Gays are based on his religious beliefs. "Judeo-Christian beliefs have served this country well for over 6,000 years," he said.

Fitzgerald also told *The Light* that his main objection centered on using tax dollars for what he called "a fringe group." Fitzgerald said that the State of Wisconsin contributes approximately \$8,000,000 to support public television in the State.

Benjamin Prayz, Executive Director of "In the Life," disputes Fitzgerald's contentions telling *The Wisconsin Light* "In the Life" is in fact sponsored by private donations coming from members of the Gay and Lesbian community. It receives no public funding at all. We are not supported by public television. We are a membership supported show that is made available free of charge to Public Television stations around the country."

Prayz also said "Across the country including Wisconsin, many Lesbians and Gay contribute to Public Television. I would like to ask the Senator if he knows how many of those tax dollars he speaks about and how many pledge drive dollars come from Gays and Lesbians?"

In response to Fitzgerald's contention that the program casts Wisconsin in a negative light, Prayz says "Basically he's saying that he doesn't want Gay men and women to be in Wisconsin. Why don't we just build a concentration camp and put them all in there?"

While backing away from demanding Wisconsin Public Television not air Gay or Lesbian shows the Senator said "It's

not that this particular show is something I am trying to undermine if it was underwritten by members of the Gay community, or was on commercial television that would be different. I know tax dollars are being used. In the production and the airing of the show."

When asked if he objected to Gay programming on public television, Fitzgerald said that he wouldn't object to an informational program about AIDS. When asked if he would object to a program about the fight for Gay civil rights, Fitzgerald said "That's a decision that needs to be made by public television."

John Mikowski of Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) told *The Wisconsin Light* that WPT was not concerned about the controversy. "We welcome public scrutiny. Healthy debate is good."

Mikowski also told *The Light* that Senator Fitzgerald has said some very positive things about Public Television even during this debate. "The Senator is objecting to five minutes of one program but he also expressed his appreciation for the rest of our programming."

Mikowski also said that the Senator's comments did not stir many people. "After the Senator's comments we received 10 phone calls opposing airing the show. We also received six or seven times that number from people who wanted us to air it."

Mikowski said that WPT uses several methods to determine viewer satisfaction. "In our last survey over 90% of the people said they wanted us to air controversial issues."

Mikowski says "Its part of our mission to air things on all cultures, politics and religion. This segment showed Gay and Lesbian farmers, it's important that Gays and Lesbians living in rural areas know that they aren't alone."

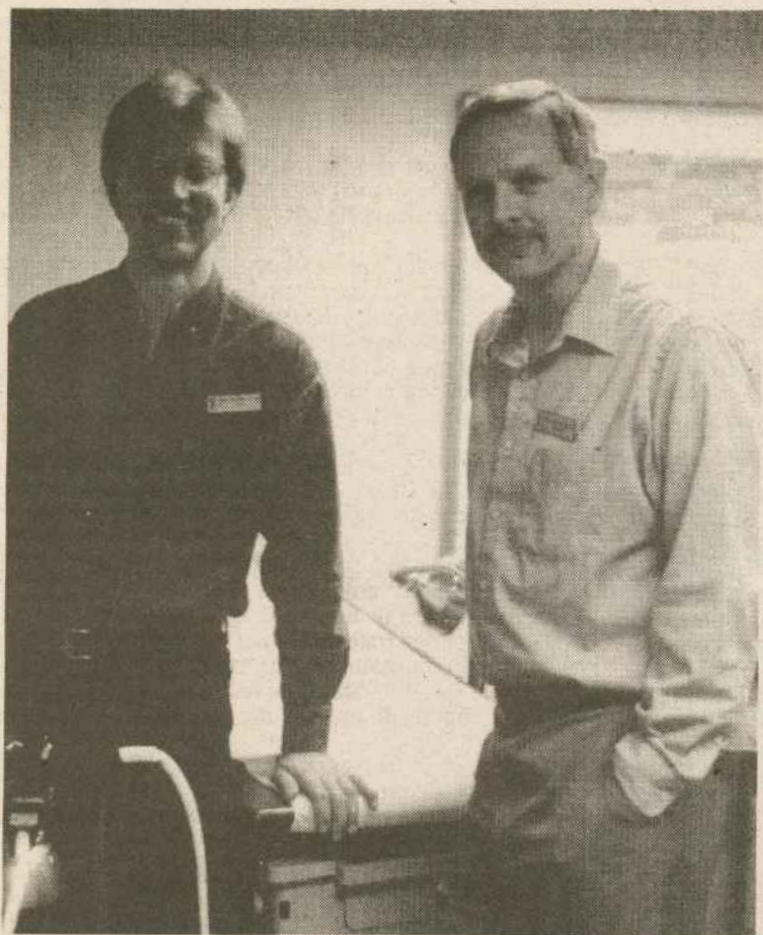
He added, "There are probably very few viewers who haven't disagreed with something we have put on the air, but there are also very few who would say we shouldn't have aired something."

The Senator's comments to the media created a minor stir. Articles about his demand appeared in many newspapers around the state. The Senator also was interviewed on some radio stations.

Upon hearing of the Fitzgerald's complaint that he pledged \$120 to public television and wanted it to show programming that was not "offensive," Brother Stephen Braddock of the St. Camillus AIDS ministry sent the Senator a check for \$120.00.

That check constituted Braddock's monthly allowance from his order. In an accompanying letter Braddock said "It is precisely because of views like yours that programming like this is needed and to applauded. Not to 'act as a catalyst for the Gay rights movement' as you accuse but rather to honestly educate and inform."

As of press time it could not be determined if Fitzgerald cashed Braddock's check.



Bob Pomerening RN and Doug Johnson RN

Johnson and Pomerening, MAP Nurses, Receive National Recognition

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is pleased to announce Doug Johnson, R.N., manager of MAP's Clinical Services along with Bob Pomerening, R.N., coordinator of MAP's Early Intervention Program have been certified as two of the best professionals specialized in HIV nursing in United States according to Association of Nurses and AIDS Care (ANAC).

Johnson and Pomerening were approved in ANAC's first examination during a national conference in Chicago last October. The Certificate of HIV Nursing represents recognition of professional skills and experience, that brings to MAP the reward of the services rendered to more than 1,700 HIV positive people in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha and Washington counties.

"I think that titles like this stimulate ourselves professionally as well as add to the strength of an organization like MAP. All the experience I gained while working at MAP helped me succeed in obtaining this certification," said Johnson. "This certification validates things in which we believe, like quality care, dedication and professionalism."

"This certification proves we are able to develop practical skills in the fight against AIDS with competency. This is a good reward for any professional," added Pomerening.

Certificate of Caring

The Health Services Department at MAP is one of the most complete agencies

for AIDS treatment in Milwaukee. Beyond medical assistance, this program also provides mental health sessions, cooperative therapy sessions, counseling and testing services and dental care. Sixteen specialists are involved in providing these services.

"We have obtained experience and knowledge at MAP by working not only with other professionals, but with the consumers," said Johnson.

He explained that for many individuals with HIV or AIDS their only form of assistance is MAP's Health Services Department. "Some of them don't even have their family's support. Often I think how hard life must be for these people, but then I realize that I have so much to learn from them and their emotional strength — the power to fight. I believe it makes us look at them not merely with compassion, but with respect."

For Pomerening, it is a challenge to be a nurse at an organization like MAP. "Here we have people from all social levels. Some of them with emotional and economic assistance or support, but part of them coming from the streets, suffering discrimination. This diversity among consumers gives us maturity in our professional and personal lives."

For more information about the programs and services offered at MAP, call (414) 225-1571.

Congressman Mark Neumann Signs Non-Discrimination Pledge

By Jim McFarland

Milwaukee—Congressman Mark Neumann, a Republican representing the 1st District of Wisconsin, has signed a pledge that he will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in the hiring, firing or promoting of personnel in his office. Neumann, whose district includes the Racine, Kenosha, and Janesville areas, joins Congressman Scott Klug of the 2nd District (Madison and surrounding counties) as the two Republican members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation who have signed such a pledge.

Neumann's non-discrimination pledge came at the request of the Washington office of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR), which, as one of its top priorities, has requested written clarification of the non-discrimination policies in each GOP Member's office. Responses to LCR's March 3, 1997 request have begun arriving at LCR's office, including from some Republicans who had not publicly clarified their policies in previous years.

Other GOP Members of Congress who have signed the non-discrimination pledge for the first time are Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH), newly-elected Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR), Rep. Charlie Bass (R-NH), Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), and Rep. Jim Gibbons (R-NV). All were declaring for the first time that the sexual orientation of an individual is not a consideration in the hiring, firing or promoting of employees in their offices.

As of today, 24 GOP Senators and 69 GOP House members have certified in writing that they do not discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in their offices. "We are finding more doors opening on this issue than ever before," said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.

"We will continue to seek meetings with every Republican office on this matter until we have a full picture of where the Members stand," Tafel said.

The Wisconsin chapter of LCR was particularly pleased with Congressman Neumann's decision.

"We feel that Congressman Neumann's action has vindicated our support of his candidacy," said Jim McFarland, Treasurer of LCR-WI. McFarland noted that many in the Lesbian/Gay community had questioned LCR-WI's support of Neumann and had labeled Neumann an "enemy" of the community. LCR-WI knew, on the other hand, that Neumann is a fair-minded conservative, and actively supported his campaign, with LCR-WI members contributing a total of \$850 in individual contributions to the Congressman's campaign.

Log Cabin Republicans is the largest Gay and Lesbian Republican organization, with more than 50 chapters nationwide and over 11,000 members. For more information, contact Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin at P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, WI, 53201.

Urvashi Vaid, Author, LGBT Activist, To Speak at UW-Madison

By Victoria Devereux

This year's Out & About Series at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will get under way on Monday, April 14, with a lecture by Urvashi Vaid, a nationally known political activist, attorney, writer, leader, and community organizer, who has been involved in the Gay and Lesbian movement for more than 15 years.

Vaid, who was born in 1958 in New Delhi, India, emigrated to the US with her family at the age of seven and grew up in Potsdam, New York. She attended Vassar College and graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in English and political science. As an undergraduate, she threw herself into political activism; she was involved in protests over issues such as financial aid, worked with a women's group on campus, organized four feminist conferences, and started an anti-apartheid group.

After college, Vaid moved to Boston, became involved with both the feminist and Lesbian and Gay communities there, and attended law school at Northeastern University. When she graduated in 1983, Vaid worked as staff attorney for the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in Washington, DC. While in this position, she started the National Prison Project work with prisoners who have HIV and AIDS.

In 1986, Vaid left the ACLU and started working as the Public Information Director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). She became the Executive Director of NGLTF in 1989, a position she held for three and a half years.

When she left NGLTF in 1992, Vaid concentrated on writing *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation* which was published in 1995. In her book, Vaid presents an analysis of the Gay and Lesbian movement, an analysis which is unapologetically personal, direct, and even critical.

In an article in *The Advocate* in October, 1995, she acknowledges this: "I think some people are not going to be happy with me. It's a subjective book. I pushed myself to take positions and not wimp out by being objective. I'd like to shatter people's sense of complacency."

According to Vaid, mainstreaming has created for Lesbian and Gay people a state she refers to as "virtual equality"—that is, "a state of conditional equality based more on the appearance of acceptance by straight America than on genuine civic parity."

In *Virtual Equality* she talks about a backlash against Gay rights, as well as the fear and discrimination Gay people still experience despite a greater tolerance in society in general.

She also questions the ultimate goal of the Lesbian and Gay movement; for Vaid, this goal is not just the attainment of civil rights and legal protections, but rather the achievement of social justice and liberation which "is going to require a change in people's attitudes, in people's hearts, and in people's values about what they think is good and bad. It's about morality."

Since plans began for her visit to Madison this spring, Vaid has been appointed the Director of NGLTF's Policy Institute. The Institute was set up in 1995 and it is described as NGLTF's "think tank" responsible for doing research, strategizing, and providing education on GLBT equality and civil rights issues.

"I'm delighted to have Urvashi back in the Task Force family because I know her energy and enormous ability will make the Policy Institute a lively national center for ideas, research, and action," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF's current Executive Director.

Awards

Vaid's commitment to the LGBT movement has been recognized by a number of honors and awards. In 1996, she received the Liberty Award from the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund; in 1994, *Time Magazine* listed her as one of America's most promising leaders under age 40; and, in 1991, she was named "Woman of the Year" by *The Advocate*. Her book, *Virtual Equality*, won the American Library Association's Gay Nonfiction Book Award and it was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award.

In Madison

Vaid will be speaking in Madison about the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality and focusing on how minority status groups can work to bridge the gaps that exist between them and build coalitions.

Vaid has been criticized for her "multi-issue politics," for focusing on "non-Gay issues" such as racism and sexism. However, as a Lesbian woman of color, the issues of racism, sexism, and homophobia



Urvashi Vaid

are inextricably connected for Vaid and to deal with one and not the others does not make sense to her.

Vaid acknowledges that groups which focus on a single identity or single issue (such as race) play an important role in empowering people and training leaders, but she does not see this as the long-term solution.

"Identity politics keeps the Gay movement separated from straights, whites separated from Blacks, Lesbians separated from men, people of color separated from each other," Vaid said. "We become a devolving series of specific identities instead of a broad community of people bonded by a shared egalitarian politics."

"People who group together on the basis of their sexual orientation still find within their groups sexism and racism that have to be dealt with—or if gathering on the basis of race, there is still sexism and homophobia to be confronted," writes Suzanne Pharr.

The organizers of Vaid's lecture hope that her visit to the UW-Madison campus will help student and community groups to start to think about and to confront these issues, to engage in dialogue, and eventually, to lead to more coalition building and cooperation among groups representing minorities.

Urvashi Vaid will speak on Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Hall Auditorium (next to the pedestrian bridge at the bottom of Bascom Hill). Her lecture is being co-sponsored by the Ten Percent Society, the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Campus Center, the Campus Women's Center, Multicultural Council, Associated Students of Madison, Chingari, the Women's Studies Department, and the Asian-American Student Union.

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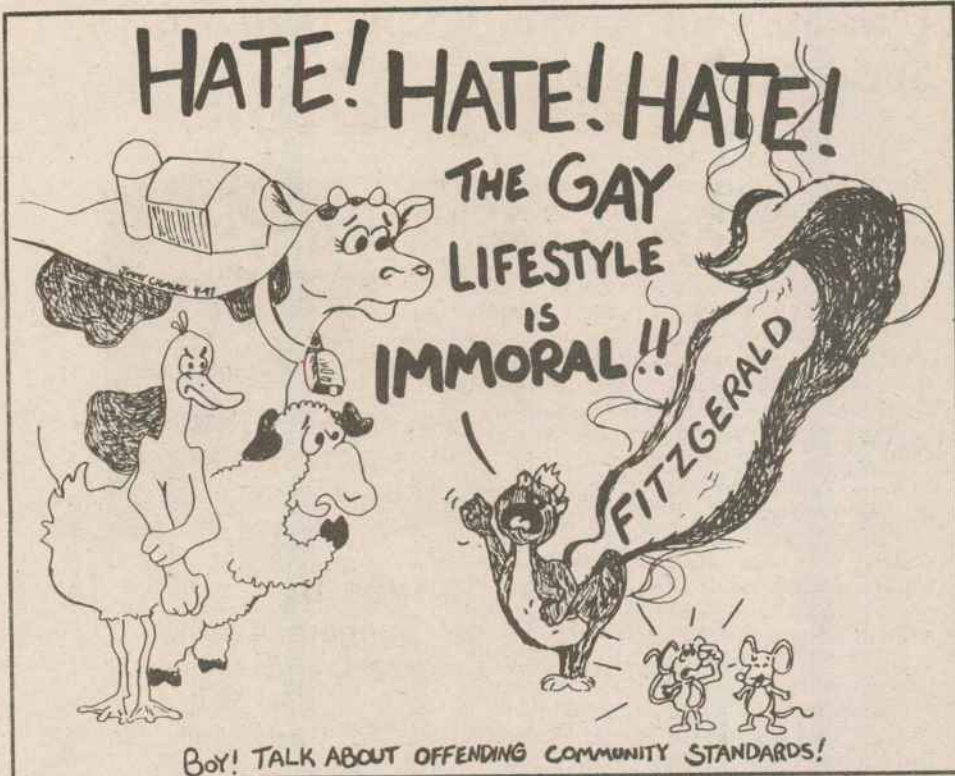
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Editorial

Urvashi Vaid

We seldom write editorials urging people to go hear this speaker or that, but in the case of Urvashi Vaid, we'll make an exception. We have had the great good pleasure of hearing her speak on a number of occasions and have sat, listening, enthralled. She does not mince words, "wimp out," as she would say. We like that.

We have also had the pleasure of meeting Urvashi several times. Yes, she is a dynamic person, one brimming with life. Her bright, brown eyes sparkle with the energy that flows out of her for the cause of equality for all. There is more. While many activists we've met drain you with the urgency of their message, Urvashi radiates a soft and glowing charm that warms you through and through.

Urvashi Vaid is one person you should go and hear. Do what you can, but go. Circle Monday, April 14 on your calendar. And, if possible, meet her. You will find no nicer person than she.

Welcome back to Wisconsin, Urvashi. It's good to have you here.

Marvin Liebman and Allen Ginsberg

We have lost two giants from the Gay world this past week, each as opposite from the other as he could be.

Marvin Liebman was a conservative, a man of the Ivy League. One could easily imagine him with a pipe at Morey's, sharing a glass of ripe amber ale with William F. Buckley, Jr. Here they would speak together of things found in leather bound books, while the bells rang out from the towers of Yale.

Allen Ginsberg would have none of that. He was more comfortable in his beloved East Village, having a joint in some smoke-filled room, drinking beer or downing a scotch. He would read from his poetry, perhaps, to the quiet strumming of someone's guitar. Tomorrow, he would be out on a picket line somewhere, championing his favorite cause.

But for all their differences in style, Liebman and Ginsberg had this in common: they were both Gay.

Liebman came to accept is sexual orientation late in life and wrote about it with an almost Mosaic hand.

Ginsberg accepted himself early. It was part of him, like everything else, and he sang of it by the door yard, whether lilacs were in bloom or not.

Liebman was a Daniel Webster, the "god-like Daniel" of the Senate halls, calling his people to rise.

Ginsberg was like Whitman, defining a whole generation by every word that he wrote.

They were Gay. Hence, they were both outsiders. Perhaps that's not such a bad thing to be. Perhaps we should remember that creation comes, not from conformity, but from being different; from be always the child with its nose pressed against the window pane looking in.

Liebman and Ginsberg were like that. The difference in their Gayness was that Liebman wanted to break the window, while Ginsberg wanted to pull down the building and start anew. We need both. We will miss them.

Editor's Note

On Learning and Senator Fitzgerald

By Terry Boughner

There's an old rule that says that if you don't know what you're talking about, you shouldn't say anything at all. To put it another way, better to keep quiet and let people think you're a fool than to talk and remove all doubt.

Wisconsin State Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) first broke the rule, then trampled on the pieces and finally, removed all doubt.

Fitzgerald appeared on the Jonathan Green show, "The Greenhouse," broadcast during drive time on Milwaukee's WTMJ radio. Appearing with him was John Catania, producer of "In The Life," a TV series that covers LesBiGay issues. The series is broadcast on PBS stations in Milwaukee, Madison and around the nation.

Catania was an articulate spokesman, well-spoken and succinct. Green showed himself to be a highly skilled moderator who kept things fair and on an even keel. Then there was the Senator.

The Senator apparently is under the illusion that being informed about something leads directly to becoming that thing.

For example, for some years I taught a course in Soviet history. By the Senator's line of reasoning, my students should

have all rushed out to sign up with the Communist Party—either that, or developed this overwhelming and insatiable desire to get themselves to Russia as fast as they could.

I might add that learning about Soviet Russia did not, in any way, promote Soviet Russia. In the same manner, learning about Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay people does not—and cannot—promote sexual orientation. Contrary to what the Senator seems to believe, sexual orientation is inbred, not inculcated.

To put it another way, all my life, from every angle, I've heard about heterosexuality. My parents were straight. Every TV and radio program, every movie I saw, advanced heterosexuality (promoted it, the Senator might say).

Yet, I'm Gay, very Gay, very, very Gay.

Senator, despite all that "promotion," I still have no idea, no feeling for, how a person can find fulfillment in a member of the opposite sex. I haven't a clue.

The closest I can come to it is to think, Well, if I feel this way about Jerry, then—maybe—that's what a straight man feels about his wife.

Or, when I see some luscious young man with deep, dark eyes and skin of gold, I "lust in my heart." Is that what a

straight man feels about a beautiful woman? I can only guess, I do not know. That is why, Senator, I would never presume to speak about heterosexuals.

I would ask the Senator this. Since he has involved himself in matters that affect Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay people, would it not be wise to learn about those people? After all, the last time I looked, ignorance was not a Christian value. What is it that someone once said; be wise as serpents, harmless as doves? I seem to remember that.

Perhaps it wouldn't be too much to suggest that the Senator (and some of his colleagues) talk to some people of the LBGT community. There are a lot of us, in your District, Senator, in Wisconsin, and all over the world. We're not that difficult to find.

Were the Senator to engage in a little honest listening and dialogue, there is no way to say that sympathy and understanding would follow. Nor could I say that he would change his way of thinking. After all, never has it been known that knowledge guarantees a change in thought or behavior. But, at least, the next time he spoke, he would know something of what he is talking about. That, in itself, would be an advance.

The Senator might learn that election to office does not confer knowledge or wisdom. What he might see is that humility (Christian humility?) demands the willingness to learn.

Unfortunately the Senator is far from being unique. There are people, lots of them, who, I think, would blush at having to speak on nuclear physics or the culture of Tibet. However, when it comes to talking about GLBT people, they hold forth with abandon, having no temerity at all.

Perhaps it's too much to ask, but I wish these people who report about us would learn about us before they put pen to paper (so to speak).

As far as the Religious Right is concerned, it's hopeless. I think they have some psychological need to believe six impossible things before breakfast, but for the rest, there is no excuse.

And what would happen if people, like the Senator, did learn about us? What if they learned that we are defined not by an act, but by a state of being, not by sex, but by whom we love? What if they learned that, yes, we are different, but we are no threat to anyone? What if they found out that we form loving families, that we work and pay taxes and live honorable lives?

What if they were to say, "Okay, I've learned about you. I still don't like you, but you are human. You should have the same rights as anyone else, and, for the rest, I'll let God judge you and get on with my life?" Heavens to schmeerkease, America might live up to its promise of equal rights for all and social peace might break out. Now, we couldn't have that, could we?

Letters

Tell Me Rep. Fitzgerald!

TO THE EDITOR:

I read in the April 3, 1997 edition of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) is opposed to Public TV airing a program called "In The Life." He objects to taxpayers' money promoting the homosexual lifestyle.

As someone who was interviewed for the program, I'd like to set the record "straight," so to speak.

The program, "In The Life," has been on the air for six years now. It runs for one hour every other month. In other words, this sixty minute show really airs just 6 times a year. The producer of the program, John Catania, is a native of the Milwaukee area and that gives Wisconsin a special place in the heart and soul of the program.

So, with these facts I'd like to know why now?

As I just said, the program's been on the air for six years. Why is Rep. Fitzgerald complaining about it now? Last year the "In The Life" crew shot video in Milwaukee for a segment on Gays and Lesbians living in medium and small sized cities (as opposed to cities like New York or Chicago). Nothing was said by Rep. Fitzgerald about that particular episode. Is it that Rep. Fitzgerald is uncomfortable with the idea that Gays and Lesbians could possibly live in his district?

As I said earlier, "In The Life" airs six times per year. In all the thousands and thousands of hours of TV programming per year, I think 6 hours in a year comes to a fraction of a fraction in available TV time. So why the fuss over a minuscule few hours?

Rep. Fitzgerald thinks that taxpayer supported institutions shouldn't be dealing with

homosexual issues. Well, the last time I checked with the IRS, Gays and Lesbians have to pay taxes just like everyone else. So what do we get for our tax dollars that go to Public TV? A measly six hours a year!

Please See Letters Page 9

Deadlines

April 24th Issue

Articles Friday, April 18th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—April 18th

Camera Ready—April 21st

5:00 p.m.

May 8th Issue

Articles—May 2nd

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 2nd

Camera Ready—May 5th

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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Planning and Pre-Registration for Gay Games 1998 is in Full Swing

Amsterdam—In less than a year, what organizers are calling "the biggest international sports and cultural event that has ever been organized in Holland will take place: Gay Games Amsterdam 1998. This is the fifth Gay Games and the first for Europe.

The initiative for the first Gay Games came from the late Dr. Tom Waddell, a participant at the Olympic Games in Mexico City. Although in 1982, Gay Games started out as a sports festival of a few days, every new edition has shown a growth in the number of participants and sports.

Organizers say that they expect 200,000 visitors and 15,000 competitors to attend the Games being held August 1-8, 1998. Millions more will watch on TV. Over 2,100 volunteers are currently working on the event and the number is growing.

Friendship Village

The heart of the Gay Games will be in the city center of Amsterdam, in Friendship Village. Some of the activities taking place there are: registration and accreditation of participants, ticket sales, information, demonstration sports and press center.

Cultural Program

The cultural program which is meant for participants and visitors, is open to everyone. Between 2,500 and 3,000 paying participants are expected at about 250 program parts.

The choir festival of an expected 2,000 participants will be a highlight. So, too, will be special exhibitions at the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum and international theater productions at the Carre and Stadsschouwburg.

The Community Arts Program will show a high diversity of samples of visual and performing art coming from the Les-

Miller

Continued from Page 1

PK: So, it's important for us to look at these various consumer groups because they are specialized groups within the broader consumer market.

Miller and the LGBT Community

TB: Our community has received—and continues to receive a large and generous helping hand from Miller.

PK: That's kind of you to say, but ten years ago, when we really got going in the Gay and Lesbian community—Tom Reed was very instrumental in that. I've been involved in it for a long time. So, I'm just glad that we can do it.

TB: But I'm not even talking about Milwaukee. Miller supports our community nation-wide.

PK: Yes, this is an area that we are pretty national on. You see you are a very important customer to us, a very customer. We want to make you happy, but we also want to do the right thing.

This company does things, many, many times, simply because it is the right thing to do.

Also, we're large enough so that if we feel that the message is not getting out the way the message should get out about whatever, being Miller Brewing we can do something to help. You can't put a dollar figure on that.

There is a deep-seated commitment here at Miller, a commitment to help where and how we can. There are people here who believe very deeply about this. It's nice to have those people around who have faith in what we're doing. They expand on our ideas and make sure that they're accomplished.

Miller and AIDS

TB: Miller has contributed much in the fight against AIDS.

PK: Ten or eleven years ago when the whole AIDS issue was coming to the forefront and nobody was doing anything else, this company decided it was going to step forward. Somebody had to take that first step. We felt very strongly that forget everyone else, we've got to take that first step and it wasn't a problem and we did it.

We decided at the time that our commitment to the fight against AIDS had to be a long term commitment because the thing is a long term disease.

TB: How much as Miller given to the fight against AIDS?

Tom Reed: I'm not sure of the dollar figure, but we are the largest corporate contributor to the fight against AIDS in the United States.

PK: We contribute money, but we contribute beer, we contribute our time sitting on boards. We here at Miller, do everything that we can to fight this disease. We're just really glad that we can do what we do.

bian and Gay social world, organizers say.

Festivities

The grand opening and closing ceremonies will be two highlights of the Games, representing the connection between the sports and cultural programs. Both ceremonies will take place in the Amsterdam ArenA stadium.

Evening programs by the Amstel River are being planned. These will include concerts of choirs, Gay and Lesbian Bands of America and a Song Contest.

There will also be a parade of 50 floats traveling the canals of Amsterdam, a collective church service on August 3rd and parties every evening in the bars and other venues of Amsterdam.

Registration

Pre-registration for the Gay Games began on February 19, 1997 and will close on July 31, 1997. The purpose of pre-registration is to ascertain the level of interest in the sports and cultural events, the anticipated turnout of women, as well as regional interest and registration of people with disabilities at an early stage.

You can pre-register by logging on to: www.dds.nl/~gaygames, or by writing to: Gay Games, P.O. Box 2837, 1000 CV Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Official registration begins August 1, 1997 and closes April 30, 1998.

For more information, call the International Callcenter at: +31-20-427-1998.

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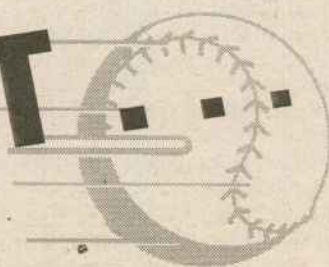
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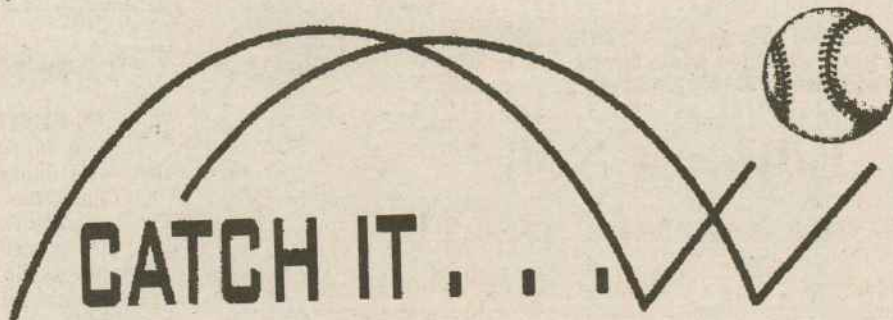
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Don't Bother to Send in the Clowns, "The Clown Show" is Already Here

Commentary by Al Geiersbach

Those who tire of hearing Conservative Christian Fundamentalists of the Religious Right spewing only anti-Gay hate propaganda might be in the mood for a little comic relief. If so, they can't do better than tune into the "Clown Show" that is broadcast by WVCY-TV, one of the several religious Fundamentalist radio and TV outlets operated by Vic Eliason's Voice of Christian Youth group.

The "Clown Show" is the segment of Eliason's "In Focus" TV talk show that's regularly hosted by Ralph Ovadal, a cheesed out dairy farmer from Monroe, Wisconsin. The "Clown Show" has been appearing on WVCY on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., and has been repeated at noon on the following Fridays.

Who is Ralph Ovadal? He's ignored by the mainstream press in Milwaukee, unless he's involved in some incident of tabloid character. He gets more coverage in Madison, where, for example, he shocked the hosts of one television talk show by insisting that Jews were eternally lost if they refused to accept Jesus Christ. Ovadal characterized the person who asked him at question as "a homosexual, a Lesbian," he doubtless also places rabidly homophobic Orthodox Jewish heterosexual males in the lake of fire with her.

The Gay press mentions Ovadal frequently, but usually misspells his name.

Any reasonably educated person who watches the "Clown Show" regularly will soon understand how it got its name. Mr. Ovadal proudly, if somewhat defensively, admits that he lacks a college education. Whenever the opportunity arises, he self-consciously points out great men, such as Abraham Lincoln, who didn't have the benefit of formal education. Ralph's lack of decent education shows; he apparently gets many of his "factoids" from Fundamentalist propaganda tracts rather than reputable scholars, and the results are often hilarious misstatements of fact.

One of Ovadal's most egregious bloopers occurred in December, 1996, on one of his Gay-bashing programs broadcast to publicize the cause of Ron Greer, the

Madison preacher who moonlights as a firefighter and was investigated for passing anti-Gay hate literature to fellow employees at the firehouse. Ovadal showed a tape clip of Scott Lively, author of *The Pink Swastika*, who gave a presentation at Greer's church claiming that Hitler's Nazi regime and the Jewish Holocaust were products of Gay people.

On the program, Ovadal mentioned a factoid he must have gleaned from Lively's book, namely that the ancient Dorian Greeks of Sparta incorporated a bit of homosexuality in the military training of their young recruits. Lively's assertion was that Hitler rose to power because homosexuality makes people aggressively warlike, and he offered as proof the Spartans, who were noted for their military prowess.

At a later point in the show, Ovadal showed a tape clip of counter-demonstrators at an anti-Choice "rescue" outside a Chicago abortion clinic. Ovadal called attention to "a Lesbian" demonstrator who held a sign reading "Right to Life Bigots=Pro-Death Penalty Racists, Anti-Abortion Murderers."

Ovadal's interest wasn't the slogan, but the caption that identified the sign as being from the "Spartacist League/Sparticus Youth Club." He said of the group name, "And that speaks volumes. They are after the children."

The man obviously confused "Sparta" with "Sparticus." One can understand that a semi-literate farmboy might never have read about Sparticus, the leader of the great slave revolt against the ancient Roman Republic who has given his name to left wing groups and to the Spartaciade, the great athletic competition of Eastern Europe, but even an over-ripe cheese head should have seen the movie, "Sparticus."

Whether you want to voice appreciation for the humor of the "Clown Show" or want to deplore its homophobia, you can call the program at (414) 935-3030 (a toll free 800 number is flashed on the screen during the program. Callers who state they have a question or comment are asked their first names and cities. The "In

Focus" hosts sometimes warn that Caller ID is in use and that action will be taken against harassing phone calls, so callers should be polite and be prepared.

For the record, Ralph Ovadal is the founder and leader of Wisconsin Christians United, a group he runs from P.O. Box 771, Monroe, Wisconsin 53566. The group's letterhead lists its phone number as (608) 328-4841 and boasts a FAX machine at (608) 329-6258.

Give a Hand to Help Someone Keep Their Loving Pet

Milwaukee-- Be a friend to someone's best friend through Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS), a pet care assistance program offered through the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) for individuals infected with HIV disease or AIDS.

Volunteer opportunities include assisting with daily pet chores such as litter box cleaning, dog-walking, feedings, veterinary transportation, foster care and possible permanent placement of pets if necessary.

As a PAWS volunteer, you will have the ability to enable those too weak to care for their pet the option of maintaining a vital asset in their quality of life. A pet may be the most important source of attention and love an individual with HIV or AIDS receives, and with your help, they will not have to fear losing their companions.

"This is a great opportunity for people who love animals and want to make a contribution," said Gary Dennison, PAWS coordinator at MAP. "Animals provide the kind of unconditional love and support that many individuals with HIV or AIDS want, but they are worried that they will not always be able to care for their pets. PAWS helps make many of those concerns disappear."

Use the PAWS program at MAP to help you empower someone with HIV or AIDS to find a reason to look forward to tomorrow. For more information on how you can be of service, call (414) 225-1541.

Tell your friends:
I read all about it in
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RALLY

There is a rally scheduled for May 12 in Madison to protest the anti-same-sex marriage bill, AB104.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

Watch the paper for details. In the meantime, call or write your state representative. Tell them your position on this bill.

If you do not know who your representative is, call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472.

AB104 is scheduled for debate and vote in the Assembly on May 13. Plan to be there if you can.



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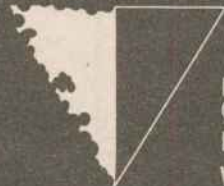
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Transgendered People Must Take Their Place in the BLG Fight for Equal Rights

Commentary by

Jacquelyn Anne Richter

Andrew Brett's recent Letter to the Editor underscores the continuing lack of knowledge and prejudice exhibited by some members of the Gay and Lesbian community toward Transgendered people (Transphobia). Through this article I address some of the misconceptions and erroneous stereotypes about Transgendered and the Transgender community and why AB104's (same-gender marriage act) defeat is important to us. Why were Transgendered testifying against AB104?

Being Transgendered is about a person in a male-identified body identifying as a female.

This is half true, but 50% of those seeking gender reassignment are Transgender men who seek testosterone therapy, radical bilateral mastectomy and, for some, phalloplasty. Transgender men are not mixed up with Lesbians. Some are attracted to men, some to women, and some to either, but all identifying as male.

All Transgendered are heterosexual.

Absolutely not! For Transsexual women, 90% identify as Lesbian, Bisexual or Asexual. Those identifying as Asexual will still express a preference for the company of women, but the results of hormone therapy, life experiences and genital shape prevent them from seeking sexual expression.

The percentage of Transsexual women who are attracted to men alone—heterosexual—is less than 10%. The reverse has shown to be true for Transsexual men.

Transsexual men usually identify their sexual orientation as heterosexual, Bisexual or Asexual. Another category exists of Transgendered who are attracted to other Transgendered. Would those constitute same-gender relationships and who would AB104 affect their relationships?

A person who is married at the time of transition always gets a divorce because the partner can not accept this major life change.

Thirty percent of all marriages or relationships that are intact at the time of transition remain intact after the transition. This compares favorably to the 50% rate of divorce in the heterosexual community. With all the strains that the change makes on a person and the strong condemnation society places on Transsexuals, and their friends, it is remarkable that the numbers of sound relationships is this high. Many of the relationships that do end, end for the same reason that heterosexual relationships end and have nothing to do with the transition process.

For those with strong relationships, they live in fear that AB104 will annul existing intact marriage relationships or that AB104 will prevent the Transsexual from marrying a person of their choice.

Being Transgendered is about gender identity and being Gay is about sexual orientation. Therefore, our legal and civil rights issues are different.

Many of the legal and civil rights issues that affect Gays and Lesbians are the same as those that affect Transsexuals.

Transsexuals want secure employment, free from discrimination and harassment, that we will not be fired or denied employment opportunities based on issues unrelated to our ability to perform the job.

Transsexuals want equal access to all public accommodations and housing.

Transsexuals want affordable insurance coverage for all of our medical needs, especially those unrelated to the transition process.

Transsexuals want to be safe from hate crimes and violence.

We want our relationships to have the same legal rights and responsibilities as heterosexuals.

Are not these the same political and civil rights issues that Gays and Lesbians are fighting for? Presently, only three recognize the rights of Transsexuals: Washington, California and Minnesota. Wisconsin's civil rights statutes are untested on Transgender rights.

The Transgender community has always been a part of the Gay and Lesbian community. When Christians first came to America and killed Berdache for their lifestyle, many of these Berdache were Transsexual.

When the Germans rounded up Gays and Lesbians, the first to go were the most visible: the drag queens, transvestites, Transsexuals and the butch Lesbians.

Leading up to Stonewall, men and women were often arrested and harassed for their perceived sexual orientation through their dress. Many of the rioters at Stonewall were, in fact, drag queen Hispanics.

The sentiments expressed by Andrew

Brett have been expressed before by Bruce Bauer in **A Place at the Table** and Urvashi Vaid's **Virtually Normal**. This assimilationist point of view is encompassed by the statement, "We are the same as straight people except our attraction to people of the same gender." Gender variant people need not apply.

The Transgender community remains disorganized and unwilling to fight for their own rights.

The Transgendered couples who testified about AB104 are members of Gemini Gender and/or IT's Time Wisconsin. These are groups of and for Transgendered people, groups that provide support for TG's and fight for TG's civil rights. Members of these same organizations recently picketed the American Psychological Association's convention in Chicago over the APA's continued inclusion of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) in the DSM-IVR and misuse of this classification to harass gender variant and homo-

sexual youth.

Members picketed the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) fundraiser in Chicago over HRC's continuing refusal to back Trans-inclusive language for the National Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Members of these groups recently traveled to Washington, DC to be part of the National Transgender Lobby Day.

The Transgender people who testified about AB104 testified because this bill was of personal interest to their lives and not because any Gay or Lesbian organization extended a hand.

So why were Transgendered people in Wausau testifying about AB104? For the same reason Andrew Brett was there. For those who have intact same-gender marriages, they do not want to see these torn apart by language that defines legal marriages as only those between one man and one woman.

For those who are single, they look to the future with hope of a same gender marriage with all the same rights and responsibilities as any other marriage.

For some, they spoke for their Gay and Lesbian friends who are in a relationship. The AB104 forum was an open forum for

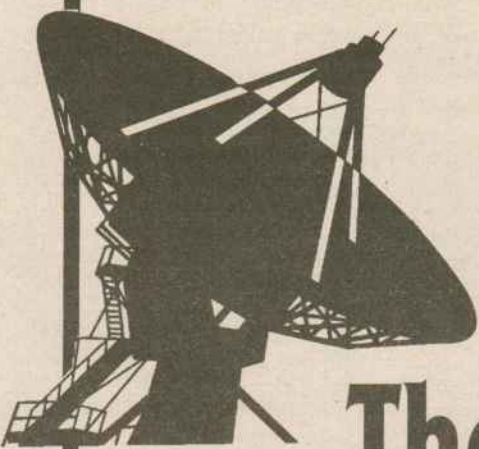
all people, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, straight, and Transgendered. Transgendered people have the same right to be part of the democratic process as does Andrew Brett. Those Transgendered people who spoke were as moved by this experience as anyone else.

Many people have expressed dismay when Collin Powell said that civil rights issues for people of color are based on race and supportable, while those for Gays and Lesbians are based on sexual orientation and are unsupportable.

Is this so much different from the statement made by Andrew Brett that sexual orientation and gender identity?

As long as the dominant culture continues to succeed with the divide and conquer strategy, people will be denied equal rights. If disenfranchised groups will pull together, women, people of color, Gays, Lesbians, Transgendered and friends of all these groups, we will be in the majority.

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Obituary

"Allen, They Whisper. Allen..."

Allen Ginsberg 1926-1997

New York, NY— Allen Ginsberg, the counterculture guru who shattered conventions as poet laureate of the Beat Generation and influenced the next four decades of art, music and politics, died early Saturday, April 5, 1997, at age 70.

The bearded, balding Ginsberg died in his Lower East Side Manhattan apartment surrounded by eight "close friends and old lovers," said his friend and archivist, Bill Morgan. The poet was diagnosed eight days ago with terminal liver cancer, and he suffered a fatal heart attack, Morgan said.

"He made us see that poets were pop stars," said Lenny Kaye, guitarist with the Patti Smith Group and a recent Ginsberg collaborator. "He had a sense of liberation — sexual liberation, philosophical liberation."

Ginsberg, whose blend of drug-inspired visions, love of sex and gut-wrenching autobiography first emerged during the 1950s, spent several days in a hospice after his diagnosis. On Thursday, April 3, he suffered a stroke, fell into a coma and never regained consciousness.

He had returned to his apartment a day earlier after expressing a desire to die at home.

He wrote about a dozen short poems — one titled "On Fame and Death" — and "wore himself out talking to friends," Morgan said.

David Cope, a friend and fellow poet, received one of those phone calls. So did Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who was charged with obscenity after his City Lights Books published Ginsberg's *Howl and Other Poems* in 1956.

"He called all of his old friends from many generations personally to make contact with us one last time, voice to voice," Cope said Saturday. "To me, it was a beautiful gesture."

Ferlinghetti, after speaking to Ginsberg, stayed up all night writing a poem called "Allen Ginsberg Dying."

"It is high tide and the sea birds cry. The waves break over him now," Ferlinghetti said Saturday, reading the poem. "... Allen, they whisper. Allen."

Ginsberg's influence was almost inestimable. His extraordinary list of acolytes ran the gamut from Abbie Hoffman to Smashing Pumpkins singer Billy Corgan, Czech President Vaclav Havel to punk poetess Patti Smith, Yoko Ono to Bob Dylan.

"Dylan said he was the greatest influence on the American poetic voice since Whitman," said Gordon Ball, Ginsberg's editor and friend of 30 years. "I think that's certainly true."

During the conservative, McCarthy-era 1950s, when TV's married couples slept in separate beds, Ginsberg wrote "Howl" — a profane, graphic poem that dealt with his own homosexuality and communist upbringing.

"I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked," the poem began.

"Howl" then careened wildly through scores of surreal images: "a lost battalion of platonic conversationalists jumping down the stoops off fire escapes," people who "walked all night with their shoes full of blood on the snowbank docks waiting for a door in the East River to open a room full of steam heat and opium."

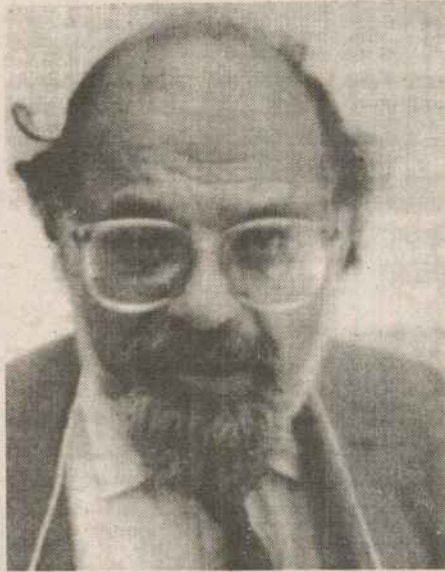
"Howl" was dedicated to Carl Solomon, a patient he met during a stay in a psychiatric ward. Forty years later, Ginsberg was reciting his poetry on MTV for Generation X-ers.

Ginsberg's poetry placed spontaneity over metered verse, frank language over flowery words. His work was often confessional, discussing his Gay sexual orientation, his mother's death, his relationships.

"Kaddish," one of his most famous works, was an Oedipal poem dealing with his mother's life and death in a mental hospital. It was written in his Manhattan apartment, stream of consciousness-style, fueled by a combination of amphetamines and morphine.

His first exposure to the nascent counterculture came when he was a 17-year-old Columbia University freshman. There he met fellow future beatniks Jack Kerouac, William S. Burroughs and Neal Cassady. The group, disillusioned by conventional society, created their own subculture of drugs and hedonism.

"Basically, just a gang of friends who were very into being literate, and who



Alan Ginsberg

were interested in art, and loved each other," Ginsberg once said of the Beat Generation's founding fathers. "Some Gay, some straight."

Ginsberg was in the Gay camp, openly Gay, proudly Gay, and became a proponent of Gay civil rights — one of many causes the activist poet embraced. In 1960, he went on television to call for the decriminalization of marijuana. He was arrested in 1967 for protesting against the Vietnam War in New York, and was tear-gassed a year later while protesting at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

He claimed that closeted Gay FBI director J. Edgar Hoover had placed him on a "dangerous security list" in 1965, a distinction that led to airport strip searches for several years whenever he returned to the United States.

Last year, he was one of the plaintiffs in a U.S. Supreme Court case aimed at knocking down federal regulations on the hours that "indecent programming" could air on television and radio.

Irwin Allen Ginsberg was born June 3, 1926, in Newark, N.J., the second son of poet Louis Ginsberg and his wife, Naomi. The family moved to Paterson, N.J., while Ginsberg was a youngster.

Ginsberg intended to follow his brother Eugene into the legal profession, and enrolled at Columbia. But while still a teenager, he fell in with the Kerouac, Burroughs and Cassady crowd.

"I think it was when I ran into Kerouac and Burroughs when I was 17 that I realized I was talking through an empty skull," Ginsberg once said. "I wasn't thinking my own thoughts or saying my own thoughts."

Another seminal event in Ginsberg's life came in 1948: his vision of poet William Blake while he was lying on the couch of his East Harlem apartment. Ginsberg said he had a "hallucination in 3-D" of Blake reading his poem "Ah, Sunflower."

Ginsberg's first taste of notoriety came after the publication of *Howl* in 1956. Copies of the book were seized by San Francisco police and U.S. Customs officials, and Ferlinghetti was charged with publishing an obscene book.

In 1991 interview with The Associated Press — where Ginsberg briefly worked as a copy boy in 1948 — he recalled the '50s as a time of "total paranoia, suspiciousness, fear, the rich robbing the poor, and complaining about the poor. ... Marketized, mechanized fake emotions."

Ferlinghetti was acquitted in 1957, but the case generated enormous publicity for Ginsberg and his work. Ginsberg was suddenly in demand.

Ginsberg experimented heavily with drugs, taking LSD under the guidance of the late Timothy Leary in the 1960s. But he was also a practicing Buddhist, began each day with a contemplative exercise followed by a cup of hot tea with lemon.

As he grew older, Ginsberg became a guru to the counterculture movement. He coined the term "flower power" during the mid-'60s. And he eventually became more accepted by the mainstream.

His National Book Award came in 1973 for *The Fall of America: Poems of These States, 1965-1971*. He was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in poetry in 1995 for his book, *Cosmopolitan Greetings: Poems 1986-1992*.

Ginsberg toured with Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue in 1977, doing spontaneously composed blues poems. He toured Eastern Europe in 1986, receiving an award in the former Yugoslavia, recording with a Hungarian rock band and meeting a congress of young Polish poets.

Ginsberg remained vital and active well

into his 60s, performing in Manhattan nightclubs and doing poetry readings. Last year, he recorded his poem "The Ballad of the Skeletons" with musical backing from Paul McCartney and Philip Glass. Kaye produced the single.

The funeral will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to Jewel Heart Buddhist Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was survived by his stepmother, Edith Ginsberg of Paterson, N.J.; his brother, Eugene; and several nieces and nephews.

Obituary

Marvin Liebman A Gay Man

Washington, DC— In a 1990 interview with Phil McCombs, of *The Washington Post*, Marvin Liebman, author, conservative political activist and Gay man said he regretted his decades of silence about his homosexuality. "By not speaking about it, you're denying who you are, what you are," he said.

He recalled a conversation with then President Ronald Reagan in which Reagan called him aside to share concerns about son Ron Jr.'s decision to become a dancer. "Aren't dancers... aren't dancers sort of... funny?" Liebman remembered Reagan as asking.

Not necessarily, Liebman had answered. But he said, "Once again, for the thousandth time, I had stood quietly and achingly a Gay man in the closet, competent to deal with Ronald Reagan's fears about his son, unable to deal openly with the facts of my own life."

Marvin Liebman, 73, who, late in life, became a leading Gay civil rights activist, a man who for decades concealed his sexual orientation behind a public facade as a strategist and fund-raiser for the American conservative movement, died of heart disease March 31, 1997, at George Washington University Hospital.

Liebman was a founder of such organizations as Young Americans for Freedom and the American Conservative Union.

He worked for the election of Ronald Reagan as president in 1980, and he came to Washington in 1981 as a public relations official at the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1990, he announced his sexual orientation in a widely publicized letter to his close friend and mentor, William F. Buckley, the editor in chief of the *National Review*. "I am almost 67 years old. For more than half of my lifetime I have been engaged in, and indeed helped to organize and maintain, the conservative and anti-communist cause, the Conservative Party of New York, the Goldwater and Reagan campaigns. All the time I labored in the conservative vineyard I was Gay."

He spoke out when he did, Liebman said, because he no longer could countenance what he perceived as increasing homophobia in conservative speeches and fund-raising appeals.

He had begun to feel "like a Jew in Germany in 1934 who had chosen to remain silent, hoping to be able to stay invisible as he watched the beginnings of the Holocaust," he wrote in *Coming Out Conservative*, his 1992 autobiography.

Three years later, Liebman severed his ties with the Republican Party and the American conservative movement, and he renounced Christianity. Although born a Jew, he had joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1980, with Buckley serving as his godfather.

"I can no longer call myself a conser-

vative, a Christian or a Republican. I am a Gay American, and I will retain my independence from any other label," Liebman said in a 1995 column in *The Advocate*.

"I can no longer associate myself with Rush Limbaugh and other 'conservative' leaders, nor with Pat Robertson and his 'Christian' brigades, nor with Jesse Helms and his new 'Republican' majority. The only identity of which I am absolutely certain is that I am a homosexual in a country that has little patience with us."

After Liebman came out, he wrote voluminously about the Gay struggle for civil rights and the dangers he saw for Gays at the hands of the Right. He put his columns on the Internet as well as sending them far and wide, offering them for free to any GLBT publication that would print them.

Among those publications, were *Light* and *In Step*, then owned by Ron Geiman. Liebman wrote well and what he wrote was worth reading, but Ron and I agreed that there was no need for both of us to publish the same thing. Ron wanted a conservative columnist and, at that point, he had more room, so he published Liebman in Wisconsin.

I called Marvin to tell him that, and that he didn't have to send his columns to both publications. We fell to talking and kept in contact ever after that.

Seldom had I experienced a more interesting and intellectually stimulating time than when I was listening to Marvin Liebman. His breadth of knowledge and facility with words made it almost seem as if I were talking to William F. Buckley himself (a man who I greatly admire).

We talked about the Holocaust. He was most interested in my talks with Gay survivors. We talked about Reagan, about "the old days," when many intellectuals were joining the Communist party. We talked about so many things.

Once, I asked him what he would want on his tombstone. He chuckled and said, "Write, 'Marvin Liebman, A Gay Man.'"

Though we didn't talk often, I will miss our little chats. He was one of the handful of people in this world whose minds I admire.

Liebman is survived by a sister, Eleanor Lidofsky of New York.

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AIDS
Continued From Page 1

free and open to the public. For information or to volunteer at the event, call (414) 225-1523.

Other organizations participating in planning the event include Sinai Samaritan Medical Center/Positive Health Clinic; Catholic AIDS Ministry; Children's Hospital of Wisconsin—Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network—Milwaukee Care Site; Guy Clough; Creative Works; Milwaukee County Funeral Directors Association SET Ministries; and the Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association.

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Letters

Letters

Continued From Page 4

I'd like to ask Rep. Fitzgerald just who does he think the "public" in Public TV is? Is it just straight, white, conservative legislators? Does Public TV program just for them? Or does Public TV reflect the greater diverse culture in which we live?

Also, keep in mind Public TV's original mission statement to provide programming to communities not served by commercial TV. Tell me please, what commercial network airs anything even close to "In The Life?" I'd say that given the number of Gays and Lesbians living in Wisconsin, six hours of programming a year is woefully inadequate.

Lastly, I'd like to point out to Rep. Fitzgerald that there are many serious issues facing the state of Wisconsin. If he has nothing better to do with his time than pick on a TV show that only runs six times year, then perhaps he should leave the legislature and let someone willing to tackle the serious issues take his place.

Cindy Van Vreede
Milwaukee

David Leavitt

TO THE EDITOR:

This is in response to the book review of David Leavitt's new book "Arkansas." Reviewer Glenn Bishop states that Leavitt's prior book, "While England Sleeps," was a plagiarized story of the life of W.H.Auden. Actually, it was British poet Stephen Spender who made the accusation that the story was of his life, not Auden.

But more importantly, "While England Sleeps" is a marvelous story; it is Leavitt in his best form. I would encourage any of his fans to read the book. David Leavitt is one of, if not the best, Gay authors today.

Brian Treglown
Chicago

Wisconsin Discriminates

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a long-time state employee, and have recently become aware that the WRS discriminates against me (and my heirs) if I die after age 60 and my designated heirs are not a spouse, minor or dependent child. This is blatant discrimination by marital status and sex

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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
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(since it affects more women), and I emphatically resent it. In other words, the State of Wisconsin steals about half the retirement money from about a dozen employees who die before retiring. Women are twice as likely to be victims as men. Officially, discrimination by marital status and sex is illegal in Wisconsin.

For the years 1990 to 1993, 57 men and 49 women over 60 died while actively in state service. Of the men, 17 (29.08%) were denied the benefit. Of the women, 32 (67.35%) were denied, since women are less likely to be married than men (at that time in their lives).

I'm sure many of your readers are also employed by the State of Wisconsin, and they, too, will be penalized by their marital status and lack of direct heirs. The State Attorney General denies that this is discrimination by marital status or sex, but it is clearly both.

He maintains that it is his duty to uphold the status of the statutes, even when it is unjust, illegal, and unconstitutional. On this theory, a benefit given only to married people or to the sole supporters of families, would not breach the state or federal laws. In fact, it is precisely what this is, an insurance given to married people for their benefit and their beneficiaries, but not to widows or widowers, single people, or unmarried divorcees.

The Wisconsin University Union (WUU) consulted an attorney who advised them that the statute language is such that it would not likely be a winnable case in court. Thus, one of the few options left is to lobby the legislature, or one legislator who will support changing this language.

As a member of AFSCME, Local 2412, we are trying to get the word out. Unfortunately, our Council is not cooperating with its members, and we are pursuing other avenues of communication. I am the contact person for my Local. Please write me for more information at: 118 Blue Spruce Lane, Marshall, WI 53559.

Kristen Zehner
Marshall, Wisconsin

Reply to Andrew Brett

TO THE EDITOR:

I am (sadly) used to Transgendered and Bisexual people being forgotten or ignored by many Gay men and Lesbians with everything from oral language to Queer publications. However, I cannot allow Andrew R. Brett's letter (last issue) of misperceptions, inaccuracies and possible underlying Transprejudice go unchallenged.

Mr. Brett's comments about his desire to exclude Transgendered persons from the Trans-BiLesGay community feeds right into the hands of what the "Religious Right" has been hoping for; Divide and Conquer.

He states that he is opposed to discrimination in any form, yet there can be no other word for it, since Transgender people feel the same oppression as do Bisexuals, Lesbians and Gay men from the same source as do LesBiGays, based not solely on mono/homosexuality—rather than a larger fear/hate about whether one pays strict attention to "traditional" roles or not.

Mr. Brett's shortsightedness is further demonstrated by his consistent neglect of Bisexuals in his wording regarding our community including the Wisconsin law he refers to, which also protects Bisexuals. He even goes on to say that the Transgender movement is not compatible with Gays and Lesbians (and Bi's), even though compatible simply means existing together in harmony!

Mr. Brett further says that approximately 90% of Trans people are dealing with heterosexual issues pertaining to orientation. Where did he get this number from? I recently conducted an interview with a facilitator of a Trans organization who felt that most are likely Bisexual. I believe that she would more likely know an approximation than he would.

He ends with stating that the Transgender community should not try to ride the coattails and be under the same umbrella that the "Gay" movement started 25 years ago. Uh, excuse me, but I'd like to remind him that Transgender and Bisexual people were in the bar and actively participated in the Stonewall Rebellion, and have been fighting alongside their Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters since the beginning of our liberation movement.

These two groups cannot help it if people like him consistently ignore Trans and Bi contributions by regularly limiting the TBLG community to the "Gay & Lesbian" community/movement.

Trans and Bi people teamed up with Gays and Lesbians in Wausau to testify against AB104, but Mr. Brett can't even allow them their rightful inclusion in our community. The next time you wonder where they are for activism, you'll know that it's this type of prevalent attitude that keeps them at home.

Our Rainbow flag stands for diversity within our TBLG community which doesn't stop at race and age. If Transgenders feel similar oppression, who gives anyone the right to exclude them? I say our community can use all the participation it can get, and I welcome them as an equal member of the family.

When Trans (or Bi's) are excluded and ignored, that is the exact same hurt that Lesbians

and Gays feel from prejudiced heterosexuals.

It is a sad reality that not only does our TBLG community have to fight our common oppressors, now we even have to defend one another from ourselves.

I can hear Ralph Ovadah, Ron Greer and other Queer-prejudiced people singing loud and clear.

S. Butler
Milwaukee

Reply to Joe St. Clair

TO THE EDITOR:

I guess Joe St. Clair received a different copy of the "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's" Cue Section on March 21st than I did. The cover on my copy was dedicated to the promotion of MILWAUKEE, not the smoke-filled, dumpy Gay bars that claim to "support" our community, including PrideFest. Or perhaps Mr. St. Clair failed to actually read the article.

For so long we have watched as prominent Lesbians and Gay men get passed over when it came to recognition for outstanding performance. For example, Martina Navratilova and Greg Louganis never got the opportunities to represent major products even though they were the best in the world in their respective sports. The reason for this was not because they were non-charismatic, but because they were Gay. They did not become world champions by limiting their competition to the Gay Olympics, but they certainly got the financial rewards as if they did.

I am personally very pleased that an out Lesbian was chosen to represent and promote Milwaukee on the cover of our major STRAIGHT newspaper. As a local Milwaukeean who also happens to be a Lesbian, why can't Sue Cook also represent the larger community we all live in?

Why must she, or any other Lesbian or Gay man be forced to live within the very small confines of the so-called Gay "community?"

I would think that life would be quite stale if all I had were smoky Gay bars and Gay bookstores to quench my cultural thirst, which is all Mr. St. Clair could point to, to represent our community, much less the City of Milwaukee. I know I certainly would NOT take out-of-town guests to the majority of the bars for lack of anything to do but watch people get drunk. Now doesn't that sound like a good time?

Obviously Ms. Cook knows her local history, architecture and, yes, the kitchenette little places that make Milwaukee so unique. Sue Cook does an outstanding job promoting Gay pride when it comes to promotion (of) PrideFest; she does an equally outstanding job promoting the City of Milwaukee when it comes to promoting Milwaukee.

It takes a lot of courage for a Gay person to allow him or herself to be featured in the straight media. We are fortunate to have a well-groomed, articulate person representing our community for a change. And, believe it or not, the straight world has taken notice of one of our better community leaders and has actually complimented us as Gay people by having Sue Cook serve as a representative for them, too.

Jenny Jankowski
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: In my considered opinion, Milwaukee is fortunate to have some of the finest LGBT-owned and LGBT-friendly businesses to be found anywhere in the country. Our bars are among those businesses. While everyone in the community may not go to the bars, many do—and many from out of town do as well.

What they find is not bars that are "dumpy" in any degree. On the contrary, our bars are clean, well-run businesses. The owners and staffs are hard-working people who, time after time, contribute mightily to various causes and events in the community.

Our bars are not places for people to "get drunk." The writer should rethink her position on this. Like bars everywhere, they serve a social function, but ours more than most, perhaps. Now and traditionally, our bars have been and are places where many of us can go and feel comfortable to be in a social situation among "our own."

Yes, of course, in our bars, as in any bar, some people imbibe too heavily. But the vast majority of people drink responsibly—or not drink at all. There are people who go to the bars who drink only mineral water or soft drinks. No one is constrained to consume alcohol if they do not wish to do so.

In short, we can be and should be very proud of our bars. I have taken out of towners to the bars and will be proud to do so again.

When it comes to food, Café Melange, Glass Menagerie, Grubb's Pub, Just Us, Mama Roux, and La Perla, are all second to none. Anyone can be proud of taking out of town guests, Gay or straight, to dine in any of them.

The bookstore that serves the BLGT community (the only one between Chicago and the Twin Cities) is anything but smoky. In fact, smoking is not allowed on the premises.

In my considered opinion, it is the responsibility and duty of all who are in the LGBT community to support our businesses. In so many, many ways, our businesses are the health of our community.

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Heaven's Gate is Another Sad Religion Story in the Long History of Faiths

Commentary by Ted Schaar

The deaths of the 39 religious cult members in San Diego is the latest gross example of the power of faith to hurt and kill. That they committed suicide isn't by itself bothersome to me because suicide is an inviolable right. Inviolable because there is no way the state can intervene effectively if an individual is determined to kill her- or himself, unless the person is already in custody.

(I don't know about you, but it gives me a warm feeling to know that the paternalistic arm of government can be ducked; that in the end, individual human will still has dominion over how we treat our own "containers" despite the state's and other's desire to usurp this authority.)

What bothers me is the intellectual laziness showcased by this incident and the willingness of the unscrupulous to exploit this fatal flaw. News reports say the "Heaven's Gate" members had faith they would be transported upon their deaths to a spaceship (perhaps the talk-radio-propagated-hoax "Saturn-like object") that is supposedly shadowing Comet Hale-Bopp on its swing around the sun.

As web surfers, any of these acolytes could have typed "Hale-Bopp" into a search engine and found several sites that rationally and completely debunk the idea that any such object is accompanying the comet. It is utter nonsense with no basis in fact. Either these poor fools didn't want to know the truth or simply would not accept it when they encountered it. This is the power of faith.

Now their cherished faith is the butt of jokes as the world snickers at the absurdity of what they believed. Before anyone laughs too hard, however, believing that aliens are using a comet as a cloak so they can snatch deserving "angels" off the Earth is, if anything, less delusional than the cultists' more primary belief, shared by millions of ordinary religious folks, that there is life after death.

This fundamental issue has been investigated by scientists for centuries and not one atom of evidence has been produced that people survive death in any animate way. When people die, alas, they are dead. No spirits or souls, no pearly gates.

The idea of life after death is accepted on faith. In our modern world, faith is generally a conscious decision to ignore real evidence or to accept as evidence "I told you so" or "the holy book says so" in order to attain a usually self-serving result. In the case of these latest faith victims, they luxuriated in believing they were a "chosen" people (nothing new here) who were on their way to some nirvana on another planet.

This is not much different from the faith that everyday church-going Americans

have that they will be whisked off the Earth someday in death or in life to spend eternity in heaven with god and their loved ones.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult to sway people from things they have faith in as the families and friends of the departed cultists will attest. The job is made infinitely harder by the age-old slickster realization that separating the faithful from their money is as easy as passing the collection plate. Look at Pat Robertson's empire or the pope's.

It is no surprise that the leader of the Heaven's Gate cult was cruelly exploitative of his sheep-like followers; this is standard and ancient behavior that goes with the title.

Money and security, the easy life, are normal cult leader goals followed quickly by ego gratification in the form of adoration or fame. The name "Do" will become as familiar as the name Jim Jones. Sexual favors are generally part of the picture, too, as was the case with David Koresh and countless others. Do's brand of religious sexuality was twisted but no worse than the catholic church's insistence that priests and nuns remain celibate. It might even be considered merciful to neuter those expected to exist in this most unnatural way.

If you think the friendly pastor on the corner is innocent, think again. By encouraging people to ignore reality in favor of having faith that there is a god who cares about what they do and who will greet them with a big smile in the by-and-by, they are perpetrating a giant fraud that wastes precious time and, worse, ultimately helps hold down the average length of time people live and even the quality of life they enjoy.

Every year billions upon billions of dollars are poured down a rat hole to keep the structures and operations of religion healthy and wealthy. Imagine all the well-appointed churches, the comfortable residences, the gold and the glitter that is everywhere associated with religion. Far from being a humble occupation, religion pays big for its well-trained professionals.

Now imagine just how dramatically these many billions applied to medical research might broaden our understanding of life and how to prolong it; imagine how much better the average standard of living might be if all the money currently being fed into the gaping, greedy mouth of religion was used to improve secular conditions. "Imagine," as John Lennon sang, "no religion."

I hope the San Diego tragedy causes people to examine their own faiths, whatever they may be, and to think long and hard about what faith really is.

Faith in the supernatural is not a friend but an enemy; it does not encourage human progress but impedes it. Whether draining off money that could be spent better elsewhere or reinforcing mean-spirited convictions, religion is bad news. Worse news by far than the handful of Heaven's Gate deaths.

At least these cultists only killed themselves. The same can't be said of the faithful in Bosnia, India, Ireland, the Middle East, and other theistic hot spots around the world. But that's another sad religion story.

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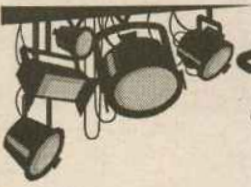
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Talking to the Stars

Bernadette Peters: Expressive, Talented Star Of Stage, Screen And Recordings

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Bernadette Peters is one of true divas of contemporary musical theatre. With a captivating voice that is unmistakable and unique, and her trademark blonde, frizzy curls, the songstress knows the art of putting it together and bring an emotional power to her performances.

From her masterful one-woman Tony-Award winning turn in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Song & Dance" to her esoteric and prolific role in Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday In The Park With George" to her dazzling performance in Sondheim's "Into The Woods," Peters has earned a place in musical theatre history that is unmistakable, and somewhat untouchable. Along the way, she has also earned a large and loyal following, especially in the Gay community.

"I think Gay people are lovers of performers who are expressive and who throw themselves into things very deeply, which I do. If I thought about all the actresses on Broadway, they all probably have huge Gay followings. Anyone who is deeply expressive would have that kind of following I believe. I'm very definitely very honored. It's a great following to have," says the 48-year old singer.

"But I guess I do have a large Gay following. I just never thought about it that way," she says. "I have a lot of friends who are Gay. I just think that Gay people in general are big supporters of the theatre, and they when they like you, they let you know it and they appreciate you."

The newly married Peters is riding high these days. Her first live album, "Sondheim, Etc -- Live From Carnegie Hall," hit the stores on March 11. Recorded last December during her one-night only show at Carnegie Hall as an AIDS benefit for the New York Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the set is an exuberant and exhilarating collection of familiar and not-so-familiar musical theatre gems and pop standards and showcases the songstress at her finest. All the proceeds from the new recording also go to GMHC.

"I think it's so important that people know that they aren't alone in this world and that people be able to lead openly Gay lives, with marriage and all their rights. It's important that Gay people feel good about themselves. They shouldn't feel like they have something to hide," .. Bernadette Peters

The frizzy-haired singer is also enjoying renewed recording success via her stellar Angel Records debut, "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight," which was released last October. The latter is her first album of new material in a decade and a half. It features songs by a wide variety of songwriters including John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Lyle Lovett, Stephen Sondheim and Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Peters is very excited about the live recording. She has long been involved in helping to raise money for the fight against AIDS, and the standing-room only concert certainly did that. Moreover, at least once a year she headlines a major AIDS benefit, and regularly performs at other benefits around the country.

"I've lost two very close friends, Peter (Allen) and one of the dancers who worked with me," she says. "When Peter went, it really affected me a lot. When you work that closely with someone and you perform with them a lot, you get to know their soul. He was a good person. But I've been fortunate in that I haven't lost a lot of close friends. Peter was the closest."

Peters believes that the red ribbons that



Bernadette Peters

are often worn as a symbol of AIDS awareness are still effective, as it reminds people of the need to continue the fight against AIDS. "It's important. I don't see how it hurts," she says. "Some of the AIDS groups have asked people not to wear them because they feel it desensitizes people to the issue. I don't know if I agree with that. But I suppose, if everyone is not wearing them and one person feels strongly enough to wear one, it makes in more pointed, more poignant."

Peters made her television debut at age three-and-a-half. At age nine, she made her first stage appearance. Four years later she landed the role of Dainty June in the road show of *Gypsy*, and soon-after made her Broadway debut. In 1968, at age 20, she landed a lead role in *George M!*, which was immediately followed by *Dames At Sea*, the show that made her a star and earned her a Drama Desk Award for best actress in a musical.

Other Broadway musicals that followed include: Jerry Herman's fun romp *Mack & Mabel* with Robert Preston, the brilliant *Sunday In The Park With George* with Mandy Patinkin, and the emotionally powerful *Song & Dance* -- for which she won a Tony Award.

She's also starred in more than a half-dozen feature films including *Annie*, *Slaves Of New York*, *Pennies From Heaven* and *The Jerk*, the latter two with Steve Martin.

"Bernadette is one of the hardest working and most talented performers out there," says Broadway producer Richard-Jay Alexander (*Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon*), who worked with Peters on Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*. "She is truly amazing, with incredible energy and talent. She is also one of the most caring people I know, with a heart of gold."

But her recording career has been less cohesive. In her three decade career, "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight" is Peters' third non-

Please See Peters Page 14

As "Ellen" Comes Out in Prime Time TV, The Country is all Agog

Milwaukee—It's probably the biggest thing to come along on prime time TV since Lucy Recardo had "Little Ricky."

(For those of you who may be too young or too short on memory, *I Love Lucy* was the biggest show going in the 50's. Lucy got pregnant—by her husband, no less. Though the word "pregnant" couldn't be used, more people watched the show on which she "gave birth" than any up to that time.)

We've come a long way—or have we?

On Wednesday evening, April 30, Ellen Morgan (played by Ellen DeGeneres, an open Lesbian in real life) on ABC's *Ellen*, will "come out" as a Lesbian. Nothing like it has excited so much comment "Murphy Brown" decided to become a single mother—or "Maude" decided to have an abortion (1972).

In Hollywood and elsewhere in show biz land, opinions vary on how the show will do. For example, a spokesperson for *TV Guide* speaking on TV's "American Journal," said that their polls indicate that "no one much" will be watching the show.

(Though it may believe that not too many people will watch the show, *TV Guide's* March 29 issue devoted considerable space to a behind-the-scenes look at ABC and Disney's development of Ellen Morgan as TV's first leading Lesbian.)

Time Magazine in its April 14 issue quotes Dick Wolf, creator of *Law and Order*, as saying, "What you'll find is that *Ellen* is going to take a real hit on this."

On the contrary, Bruce Holland, producer of the *Drew Carey* show is of opinion that the "coming out" segment will give the show a boost, and then everything will go on pretty much as before.

As expected, the Religious Right is all in a dither. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) reports that homophobe Rev. Jerry Falwell, has called for a boycott of the show's sponsors. In this, he joins Don Wilmon of the American Family Association.

(While J.C. Penney and Chrysler have pulled out as sponsors, but the others have stood firm. ABC says it expects that the show will be fully sponsored. The reason for the network's confidence, it is speculated, is that boycotts by the Far Right have been proven ineffective.)

The *Philadelphia Gay News* (PGN) quotes Falwell as calling Ellen DeGeneres, "DeGenerate."

While many in the LBGT community dismiss the opinions of the members of the Religious Right on *Ellen* as bigotry, openly Lesbian Camille Paglia does not agree.

While noting that the entertainment industry has been dining off the talents of Gay, Bisexual and Lesbian people for years, Paglia cautions that objections to *Ellen* by members of the Religious Right "are well-founded."

"People on the left have got to accept that it is not simply bigotry that causes believing Christians to object to this kind of element in popular culture," she said.

In the meantime, many of DeGeneres' colleagues have rallied to her support and the support of the show.

Demi Moore, Melissa Etheridge, k.d.lang, and Billy Bob Thomson, have shown their support by doing cameos on the segment. Oprah Winfrey plays Ellen's therapist in the episode.

According to Chastity Bono, "This episode marks a historic turning point in television history, and we hope that Lesbian and Gay fans of the show will turn out to come out with Ellen."

Ellen House Parties

"Ellen" celebrations are being planned across the country. On April 30, GLAAD will sponsor "Come Out With Ellen" parties to mark the occasion. GLAAD has also established a "Come Out With Ellen" web page at www.glaad.org.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has created "Ellen" house party kits to

"make it easy and fun for people to share the historic coming out episode on April 30."

According to HRC, the kits contain a color poster, party invitations, party planning tips, an "Ellen trivia game," among other things.

To host an "Ellen" house party and receive a kit, call HRC at (202) 628-4160 or visit HRC's web site: www.hrc.org.

The site provides up-to-the-minute information about the episode and about the viewing parties being scheduled nationwide.

Two of these parties, both on April 30, will be sponsored by *Wisconsin Light*. One will be at La Cage in Milwaukee. The other will be at Scandals in Madison. Watch the next issue up for further details.

In addition to its calling for parties, HRC will be airing an ad that night on TV to increase the awareness that job discrimination based on sexual orientation remains legal in 41 states.

According to HRC, ABC turned down HRC's request to make a single nationwide purchase of air time, citing its policy against "controversial issue advertising." Nevertheless, 59 ABC affiliates have said that they will run the ad.

Seven ABC affiliates have rejected HRC's ad. These are: Chicago; Houston; Knoxville, Tennessee; Nashville, Tennessee; New York, Philadelphia and Wilmington, North Carolina.

Critics writing in *Time*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and in LBGT publications who have seen the episode say that viewers should not expect an "I'm out and I'm proud!" scenario. "Ellen" comes out, but she is not entirely comfortable with her orientation. She will end the episode sitting awkwardly in a Lesbian coffee house.

Neither will there be a kiss. "She just found out she's Gay," DeGeneres said. "She doesn't know how to kiss a girl yet."

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OUT on Film

'Breaking the Waves' is a Curiously Angry Film with a Gay Twist

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Breaking the Waves, boasting an Oscar-worthy performance by Emily Watson is a singular meditation on love and sex and religion.

Emily Watson plays Bess, a rather innocent Scottish girl living in a remote closet-knit, fundamentalist Scottish village set some time during the 1970's. Perhaps, as her family believes, "not quite right in the head", Bess seems deliriously happy marrying a big lunk of a man named Jan, an outsider who works at one of the nearby North Sea oil rigs.

Yet even her happiness seems to trouble Bess, her worries of selfishness evident in her two-way conversations with God, of which she has many, and in which she takes both voices, that of a stern if forgiving God as well as that of a small and trusting child who wishes to be both good and happy.

Her rather fragile existence suffers a devastating crisis - Jan is hurt in a freak rigging accident and left nearly paralyzed. When once home he takes a curious liking, at least to Glenn as well as most of the folks of the little Scottish village, to having sex with other men and then come and tell the resulting stories. Only this, he tells Bess, will cure him.

In this small, God-fearing community, Bess's prospects are few and decidedly furtive. When Jan continues to worsen, Bess becomes increasingly desperate

leading to increasingly rash and reckless behavior and her subsequent excommunication from the church. The film's climax, when it comes, proves to be curiously cathartic.

That writer/director Lars von Trier has crafted a haunted and hauntingly angry film is obvious, much of his anger directed at religion, both the fallacies of faith as well as the hypocrisies of the church. The most telling moment has spoken at a funeral a most disturbing eulogy: "You are a sinner and you will find your place in Hell."

This is clear meant to indicate the fate awaiting young Bess and her sinful behavior.

Gay men and Lesbians viewing **Breaking the Waves** are sure to be intrigued by the relationship between Bess and her sister-in-law Dodo (Katrin Cartlidge), a nurse at the local hospital. Dodo has remained in this remote place, at the far end of the world, largely because of Bess following the death of her husband.

Although the film lacks any specific Lesbian references, it is difficult not to perceive that such feelings are at the heart of her tremendous devotion to Bess.

Breaking the Waves is a strong, difficult film which challenges rather than merely entertaining the moviegoer. Particularly intriguing is that von Trier makes no judgments, leaving it up to us to decide.

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

Silly Dialog, Non-Stop Action Infuse the No-Brainer 'Double Team'

By John A. Jahn

Though he's the nation's top counter-terrorist, Jack Quinn (Jean-Claude Van Damme) wants to retire from the spy game. But on the eve of his last mission, he misses his target—he evil terrorist



Dennis Rodman

Stavros (Mickey Rourke)—and loses everything in a split second. Quinn wakes to

Marky Mark's New Film May Not Live Up to its Length

West Hollywood, CA—Miss Paige Turner, writing for **The Triangle Journal News**, reported that she recently attended an advance showing in West Hollywood of **Boogie Nights**, New Line Cinema's latest, in which Mark Wahlberg—a.k.a. Marky Mark—appears in the frontal buff. The movie is scheduled for general release on May 23.

The nearly three-hour film, writes Ms. Paige, is entertaining. There are strong performances by Wahlberg, independent favorite Julianne Moore, beleaguered star Burt Reynolds, and **Fargo** Oscar-nominee William H. Macy.

The film contains some "fairly graphic sex" and an "incredible" disco dance number with Wahlberg and the rest of the cast.

The "big shot" is saved for last. However, Ms. Paige writes, don't get your hopes up. The goods are not Wahlberg's and, she says, "if the audible gasps of horror in the theater were any indication, there will be an additional 13 inches on the cutting room floor."

find himself consigned to "The Colony," a kind of forced retirement home for men of his profession.

When Stavros returns to retaliate against Quinn by kidnapping his pregnant wife, Quinn enlists the support of a very tall, very bizarre deadly weapons dealer and party animal named Yaz (Dennis Rodman). And that, folks, is what passes for a plot in this film of essentially non-stop violence and one-liner, standup comedian-style dialog ("thanks" to writers Don Jakob and Paul Mones).

Van Damme and Rourke are well within their genre in **Double Team**, being veterans of such action thrillers as **Bloodsport**, **Double Impact**, and **Universal Soldier** (Van Damme); and **The Year of the Dragon**, and **Body Heat** (Rourke). And they both give acceptable, passable performances here.

The real hook of **Double Team** is, of course, NBA bad boy, crossdresser, crotch kicker Dennis Rodman. Rodman's screen roles prior to this film have been confined to cameo appearances on various TV sitcoms, as a guest on talk shows, and host of "The Dennis Rodman World Tour" on MTV. His fairly successful autobiography, **Bad As I Wanna Be**, recounts his travels thus far through the worlds of Madonna, sexual identity and basketball. **Double Team** would be nothing more than another action vehicle for body-builder karate expert Van Damme were it not for the quirkiness of the Green Haired One.

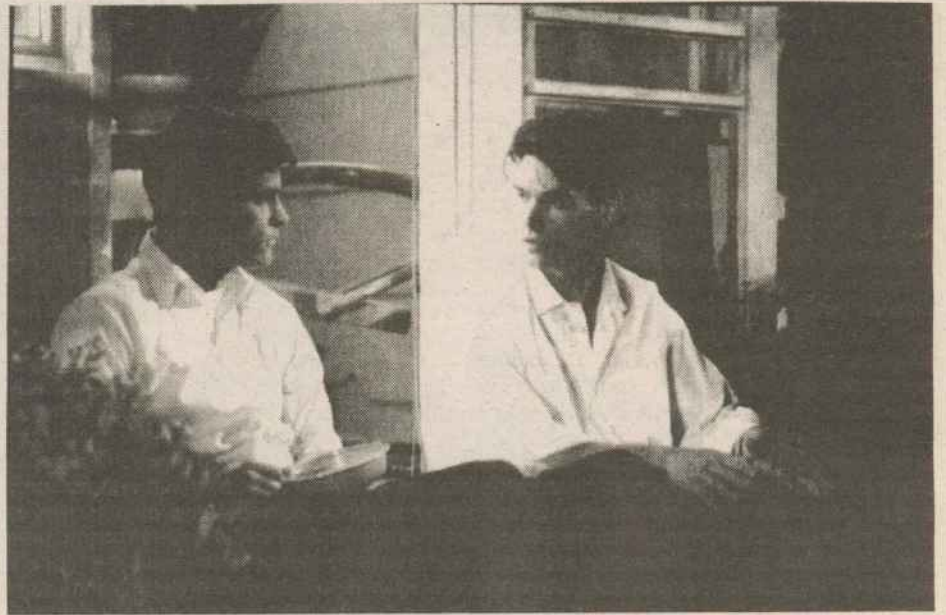
So, the question begs, "Can Rodman act?" A decidedly qualified "yes" emits from this film reviewer. Part of the problem in judging his performance in this, his first theatrical release, is the stupifying dialog that everyone in the film must utter. Thankfully, there isn't much of it, but what there is of dialog consists of supposedly amusing one liners and gloomy threats.

Rodman's NBA persona is winked at throughout, as he delivers such obvious lines as "Defense wins the game," "He's up! He's in!" (Now, now, it's not what you think!), "Air ball!", etc. On and on, throughout the movie. Game over, please!

Essentially, Rodman plays himself in a different line of business, and let's say he does an adequate job. I feel there's perhaps an acting career there somewhere, should he ever tire (or more likely get tossed out) of professional b-ball.

I truly can't recommend you see **Double Team** on the big screen due to the fact that it's such a no-brainer, the action is only passable, the dialog is inane, and the fighting, blasting, exploding action sequences are so numerous as to end up boring. I can recommend it, perhaps, as a no-date night video rental in the near future.

This film rates a 3.



Brotherly Love - Joaquin Phoenix (left) and Billy Crudup portray two different brothers "from the wrong side of the tracks" who get involved with three wealthy sisters in "Inventing The Abbotts."

'Inventing the Abbotts' is a Dumbly, Numbly Predictable Tale

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn should have been forewarned. After all, just how often are beauty products given away as premiums at a preview of a major Hollywood motion picture? One might have thought to have mistakenly found one's way to a sequel to **Priscilla, Queen of the Desert**.

Instead, as he arrived at **Inventing the Abbotts**, Glenn was merely seduced at the prospects of the film's highly photogenic cast of bright, young Hollywood

actors, including the oh-so yummy Billy "Sleepers" Crudup and Joaquin (River's little brother) Phoenix.

The year is 1957. The place is a sleepy hollow called Haley, Illinois. As the film opens, the richest family in town, the Abbotts, are again pitching the backyard tents. Another family celebration is at hand, this latest commemorating the engagement of the eldest Abbott daughter Alice (Joanna Going).

Please See Abbotts Page 14

The Blonde Leading The Blonde.



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'The Saint' Will Provide a Diverting Evening Where the Popcorn is Free

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Whoever said that imitation was the sincerest form of flattery obviously did not conceive of Hollywood's continued reliance upon sequels, re-makes and their current fascination, big screen adaptation of small screen classics.

Last summer's *Mission Impossible* was a wildly successful, if wildly mindless action thriller for Paramount. Of course having that ever-grinning Tom Cruise in the lead couldn't have hurt the box office none.

What was in the vault for 1997? Hey, what about *The Saint*, a popular British TV series starring a young Roger Moore in the 1960's.

(Glenn might add that it was a hit radio show in the US back in the '40s, but he's much too young to remember that!)

So what if Tom Cruise isn't available, Val Kilmer revitalized Batman and cost lots less.

However logical this all might have looked on paper, even a \$70 million production budget apparently couldn't help.

A brief prologue introduces a cute orphan youngster with no name but some awfully serious superhero aspirations-delusions. A daring late-night breakout from the orphanage results in the death of the little lad's sweetheart. Flash forward about 30-odd years.

That cute little lad is now a rather fetching piece of mature male eye-candy, again nameless but whose aliases includes a whole churchful of Catholic saint names. He decides to go by the name Simon Templar but let's just call him The Saint. Hey, ain't that the movie title?

The adult Saint (Val Kilmer) is a charming rogue and master undercover agent with more disguises than Patrick Swayze had costumes in *To Wong Foo*. All it will take is just one more successful mission,

he figures, to put him over his \$50 million earnings goal. Still, isn't he a little young for retirement?

The Saint's next and maybe final job is some rather muddled operation concerning the formula for cold fusion as developed by the beautiful, dyed-in-the-wool romantic Dr. Emma Russell (Elisabeth Shue).

Having previously had an important microchip stolen by The Saint, Russian businessman Ivan Tretiak (Rade Serbedzija) in turn hires him to steal the all important formula which will assure him hero status in the long winter night in Red Square. Seems that Ivan is anticipating being able to outfox our foxy (pun fully intended) hero.

This occasionally ludicrous, often bewildered plot seems rather pointless except for allowing director Phillip Noyce such disparate locations from Moscow's famed Red Square to the charming little university squares in Oxford, England for the film's plethora of chase scenes.

Although donning his myriad of disguises well enough, Val Kilmer still manages to come off as a junior grade Tom Cruise. One must ponder what a Cary Grant or even a Sean Connery might have done with the charming, roguish Simon Templar.

Poor, lovely Elisabeth Shue, so terrific in *Leaving Las Vegas*, here seems hopelessly miscast as the romantic egghead Dr. Russell. To her credit, she does seem to give it her all, particularly in snuggle scenes with Val Kilmer. But then again, who wouldn't?

To be sure, *The Saint* is a mildly entertaining bit of diversion but will probably look better on the TV screen in your living room, where the popcorn is free.

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



High Voltage- Bette Midler plays a high voltage, high maintenance movie star who rekindles an old flame with her ex-husband at their daughter's wedding.

Sorry Bette Midler Fans, but 'That Old Feeling' is Awful

By John A. Jahn

I know she has legions of fans, especially in the LesBiGay community, and to some, she probably can do no wrong, but I have to tell ya, Bette Midler's new romantic comedy, *That Old Feeling*, in a word, sucks.

On the surface, *That Old Feeling* has elements of a vastly superior film of a few years back, *Sleepless in Seattle*. By this, I mean both films possess soundtracks worth buying, filled with romantic, classic ballads, and involving the plot element of an on again-off again love affair, but the similarities part company there.

From the first scene, you can easily figure out what's going to happen to the central characters and their relationships over the course of the next hour and a half. Such easy predictability is already one nail in this absurd film's coffin.

It begins with a sumptuous wedding in which the bride's divorced parents, Dan and Lillie (Dennis Farina, Bette Midler) will be seeing each other for the first time in several years (this separation being purposeful, as they can't stand each other). Dan has married an interior designer whom he began an affair with while still married to Lillie. This "other woman," a standard, cardboard character, is portrayed by Gail O'Grady.

Lillie, meanwhile, has married psycho-babbling, self-help guru (David Rasche, in perhaps the only decently written and

acted role in the film).

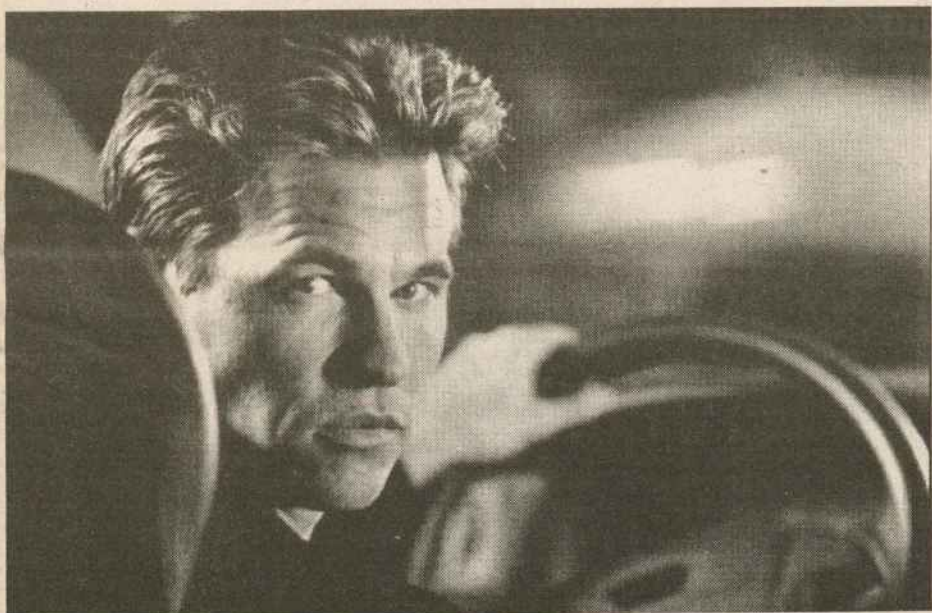
Dan and Lillie's daughter (Paula Marshall) weds a stuffed shirt, up-and-coming Republican, but eventually falls for an exceedingly cute paparazzi whose made a shabby career out of pursuing the somewhat aging star, Lillie. The paparazzi, photographer Joe, is played by the very easy on the eyes Dennis Nucci.

Essentially, the film follows Dan and Lillie rekindling their old flame amidst feuding, insults about hair and weight, and the tireless pursuit of their daughter, who's trying to prevent her parents from getting back together (now that's a twist!).

Once you've sat through the barroom-level one liners, totally unbelievable over acting, and predictable course of events, you're left with the standard happy ending for the people we're supposed to like, and the bad people go sulking off to their miserable fates. With a decent central cast, it's amazing that director Carl Reiner and writer Leslie Dixon couldn't come up with a vastly superior romantic comedy. The romance doesn't move you, the comedy leaves you chuckling at best.

Please note, I have certainly not blamed the Divine Miss M for the failure of this movie; I don't think even the most loyal fan of hers will be able to say she alone can save this dreadful film.

On a 1-10 scale, *That Old Feeling* is but a 2.



Heavenly Saint- Val Kilmer makes a getaway in the new thriller "The Saint."

Abbotts

Continued From Page 13

The Holt boys, J.C. (Billy Crudup) and Doug (Joaquin Phoenix) live just down the block from the Abbotts. Yet their reduced circumstances and lack of social connections place them symbolically, if not literally, on the other side of the tracks.

In an early scene, one of the film's sadly infrequent moments of humor, young Doug is shown drawing on Elvis-like sideburns in anticipation of the Abbott's shindig. Doug's cool-conscious older brother J.C. is horrified.

In the best 1950's sit-com logic, to settle the matter, they turn to Mom (Kathy Baker), a June Cleaver dress-alike but filled with the natural paternal wisdom dispensed weekly by "Father Knows Best's" Jim Anderson. Peace, at least momentarily, is restored.

Inventing the Abbotts might have been a lot of fun as a sardonic sendup of those old, familiar '50's sit-coms, but director O'Connor seems to have more important matters in mind. Before you can say "dysfunctional", the Abbotts are shown to be shallow and unhappy. Their wealth might allow them to entertain on an extraordinarily extravagant level but doesn't manage to keep the lovely Alice from being two months pregnant at her engagement party.

Widowed young, Helen Hunt is a working single mother, an unimaginable concept in the 1950's. Further issues of class arise from J.C.'s bitter resentment of the Abbotts, whose wealth he believes should have been the Holt's. J.C.'s resentment, which borders on obsessive, leads him into first a ruined relationship with wild, middle Abbott daughter Eleanor

(Jennifer Connelly) and later into an equally unfortunate connection with eldest daughter Alice.

The problem with *Inventing the Abbotts* is that too little time seems to have been spent in inventing either a fresh story or interesting characters. There were certainly no surprises in Kevin Hixon's numbingly predictable screenplay.

Doug Holt proves to be the most accessible character in the film, due largely, Glenn imagines, to his role as narrator. He is a simple and sweet boy and is nicely played by Joaquin Phoenix. Billy Crudup's J.C. too often seems to be a pale knockoff of James Dean's classic rebel without a cause.

Liv Tyler makes more of Pam than is indicated in the script, a combination of wry intelligence and a naive radiance. Jennifer Connelly has some bright moments as the briefly seen Eleanor.

For all of the film's obvious sincerity and heart, *Inventing the Abbotts* proves to be a disappointment, simply too slow and too familiar.

And why were they giving away beauty products?

Rating: \$\$ on a \$\$\$\$\$\$ Scale

Art Elements Opens New Show

Art Elements Gallery located at 10050 N. Port Washington Rd. Mequon has proudly announced its new exhibit, Interiors.

Interiors which runs through April 30 includes a number of artists working with furniture, lighting, screens and home accessories.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'CLERKS' COMES A COMEDY THAT SHOWS JUST HOW UNPREDICTABLE ROMANCE CAN BE.

THE VILLAGE VOICE
"THE FUNNIEST, MOST HONEST SEX-COMEDY I'VE EVER SEEN!"
 -Amy Taubin

ROLLING STONE
"A BLAST OF GLEEFUL PROVOCATION!"
 Comic nirvana."
 -Peter Travers

CHICAGO-SUN TIMES
"FULL OF TRUTH AND EXPLOSIVE COMEDY!"
 Completely original."
 -Roger Ebert

CHASING AMY
 Sex is easy. Love is hard.

STARTS FRIDAY APRIL 18TH AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU!
 FEATURING THE SINGLE "HAVE YOU SEEN MARY," FROM SPONGE ON... ORJ MEDIA

Bernadette Peters A Star who is "Honored" To Have A Large Gay Following

Peters
Continued from Page 11

cast recording release, and her first in more than 15 years. The live album, "Bernadette Peters - Live at Carnegie Hall," also on EMI/Angel Records, is a result of the exquisite and brilliant performance last December.

"The music industry has changed a lot and gone through a lot of variations -- disco, theme albums. It's opened up so that you can do what ever you want to do," she says.

Two years ago, while performing at a benefit in New York, the head of Angel/EMI records caught the performer's performance. Afterwards he suggested she return to the recording studio and make a new album. The result is the breathtaking and wonderful "I'll Be Your Baby."

"I think Gay people are lovers of performers who are expressive and who throw themselves into things very deeply, which I do. If I thought about all the actresses on Broadway, they all probably have huge Gay followings... I'm definitely very honored"...
Bernadette Peters

It's a welcome return from a singer who is captivating and mesmerizing in her ability to take a song and make it her own. Passionate and hypnotic, Peters wraps herself within the texture and context of each song, drawing upon her own experiences to bring forth an emotionally charged performance that only few performers can achieve. Critically praised, the album is already enjoying brisk sales.

Surprisingly, Peters doesn't draw from the singers she heard while growing up. Moreover, she was surprisingly heavily influenced by male performers -- Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire ("I just adore him"), Andy Williams and Gogi Grant, much more so than Ella Fitzgerald and Judy Garland, whom she admired.

"I love Judy and Ella, but I never wanted to emulate anyone. I felt it was safer if I just never listened to them too much. If I did, I had to listen and forget. I didn't want any other girl singer in my ear. I didn't want to people to be able to say 'you sing like so and so.' I wanted to be original."

Peters' new set is not what most of her fans will expect however. It's not saturated in Broadway ditties. And it's not subtitled the Stephen Sondheim tribute album. (Although if she has her way her next album may very well be.)

Rather it is a varied collection of songs from both the pop and the theatre arena. From the prolific musing of Sondheim ("No One Is Alone") and the carefree simplicity of Rodgers & Hammerstein ("What's The Use of Wonderin") to the 90's rock of Billy Joel ("He's Got A Way") and the 90's poetic genius of Lyle Lovett ("I Make Him Feel Good"), the album moves easily through a wide gamut of musical styles, never settling in one place too long, but never veering off too far either.

"It's very eclectic, which is what I love about it. It has surprised a lot of people because it includes music from all walks of life," she says. "People forget that I had a pop hit on the charts years ago ("Gee Whiz"), but that was before I came to Broadway and did all the Sondheim shows and all.

People forget that I sing other types of music," she says. "What I love though is being able to jump back and forth between the different styles."

The new opus also gave Peters an opportunity to sing a song by one of her favorite contemporary singer/songwriters, Lyle Lovett. "I think Lyle is very witty. He's a fine musician. His guise is great. He always has something going on," she says. "I think his work is very exciting. He is very soulful when he sings. It's the kind of soul you can hear. It's just incredible. One day I'd love to do an entire album of all Lyle Lovett Songs."

One of the other joys of the new album is

her rendition of "No One Is Alone," Stephen Sondheim's exquisite ballad of hope from his musical "Into The Woods." Peters, who will sing it as part of her Make-A-Wish performance, says the song is one of her favorites as it signifies hope and a belief that no one is alone, something she hopes the Gay community realizes.

"I think it's so important that people know that they aren't alone in this world and that people be able to lead openly Gay lives, with marriage and all their rights. It's important that Gay people feel good about themselves. They shouldn't feel like they have something to hide," she says.

"It's so strange to be talking about Gay people as they. It's very strange to separate one person from another. My world isn't like that, it's just a world where there is no separation like that. It's wrapped up with a lot of different people. But I guess it's important in a way to be acknowledged separately if you are a group who needs rights, and certainly that is the case with the Gay community ... I mean, the fact that Gay marriages aren't recognized is really a shame," she says. "Wouldn't it be great though if everyone in the world wasn't so judgmental?"

Our next issue will feature another great interview Ashley Mc Issac, the brilliant but controversial musician who exposed himself on the Conan O'Brian show.



Brunch Time at the M & M Club These guys were among a large crowd that showed up at Milwaukee's M & M Club for brunch. The popular Glass Menagerie features great Sunday brunches as you can see by the expressions on these happy well fed customers.

Oshkosh Opera House Features Two Name Groups in April

The Oshkosh Grand Opera House located at 100 High Avenue, Oshkosh, will feature two internationally known groups in April.

First up is Dallas Brass which will per-

form on Friday April 18.

Dallas Brass is a dynamic six member group that has been critically acclaimed by critics around the country. The group plays a variety of musical styles from Broadway to Bach.

Next is Saffire... The Uppity Blues Women. This is a must see. Saffire has produced five albums in its six years of existence rising from obscurity to the world's most popular acoustic blues group.

For ticket information on these and other upcoming performances call the Grand Opera House at (414) 424-2355.

SUZANNE WESTENHOFER

Comedy Comes Out of the Closet!
ALL NEW SHOW!
Disarmingly Funny!

Saturday
April 19th, 1997
8:00 pm

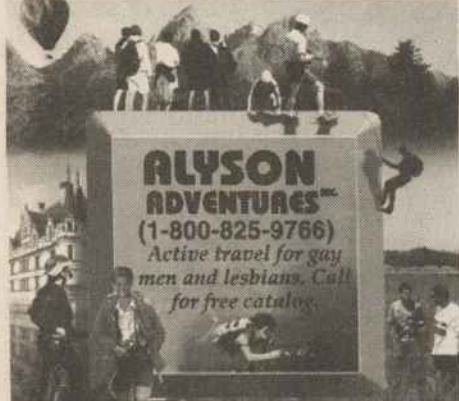
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Charge tickets by phone by calling the Barrymore Box Office (608) 241-8633.



EurPride '97 Celebrates with Games, a Parade, and a Gala at Versailles

Milwaukee—Are you planning a trip to Europe this summer? You might want to consider arranging your trip so that you are in Paris June 20-29. These are the dates of Gay and Lesbian EuroPride Paris '97. The title of this year's celebration is "La Ville en Rose."

To put it mildly, this is to be a gala affair. According to the Paris '97 committee, it is the "most important European event of the century with over 100,000 members of the LGBT community being expected to attend. They will be coming from all over the Continent and the world, drawn to Paris by "something for everyone."

EuroGames June 20-23

For the first time, Paris welcomes the 5th European Gay and Lesbian Sports Tournament. Competitions are open to everyone, whatever level of ability. More than 5,000 athletes are expected from all over Europe to compete in everything from Badminton, Basketball, Petanque, Volleyball to the Martial Arts.

While the Games are open only to Europeans, the social events surrounding them are open to all. There will be a "Girls Soiree," a EuroGames Soiree, Closing Ceremonies followed by a "Giant Brunch."

EuroSalon June 25-29

More than 10,000 visitors are expected at the EuroSalon '97, an exhibition for Gay and Lesbian lifestyles. This is being billed as "a true kaleidoscope of different Gay and Lesbian customs of leisure and expression in various countries of Europe and the world."

More than 250 exhibitors, associations, businesses and venues from all over the world are expected. The Salon will be divided into theme areas, devoted to tourism, leisure, sports, and health.

EuroPride June 28-29

According to organizers, over 200,000 members of the LGBT com-

munity are expected in Paris from all over the world. The march which is the highlight of the affair is being touted as "the greatest European parade of the '90's."

Starting at the Place de la Republique at 11:30 a.m., the parade will wend its way through the Place de la Bastille to the Porte Doree, which is expected to be reached between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

In addition to the parade there will be a "non-stop" series of social affairs that include concerts, a EuroPride party, an After Hours party, bunches, and a tea dance.

There will be numerous other events as well. According to organizers, from June 20th to June 29, "every hour of every 24 hour period is taken."

Versailles

On Thursday evening, June 26, there will be a party at the Chateau de Versailles. Called the "Nuit De Gala," this will be held in the Hall of Mirrors. The Grand Appartements will be open and the fountains will be on.

For those of you not familiar with the Palace, it was built by King Louis XIV in the 17th Century because he wanted to get out of Paris. Constructed where once there had been a royal hunting lodge, the Palace of Versailles became the envy of all of royal Europe.

Located some 12 miles from Paris, the Palace is a vast and magnificent building entirely suitable to the Sun King's magnificence. The gardens with their statuary are sights not to be missed.

Louis XVI was the last French monarch to live at Versailles.

The Hall of Mirrors has been the site of numerous historic events, including the end of the Franco-Prussian War and the treaty that ended World War I.

For more information on events and tickets, phone +33-1-40-50-63-00 or log on to: www.paris97.com

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LIGHTS OUT PARTY

Friday, April 25

Drink Specials

10 pm

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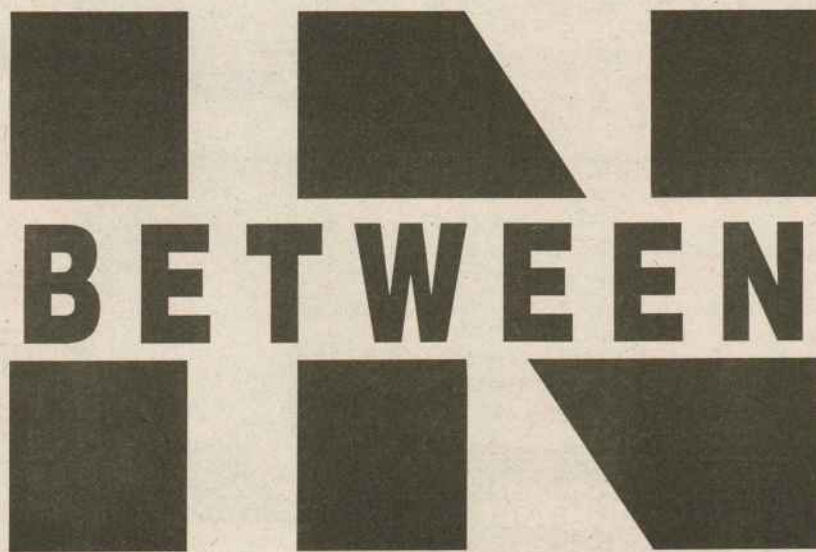
Our Special

"Ellen's Coming Out Party"

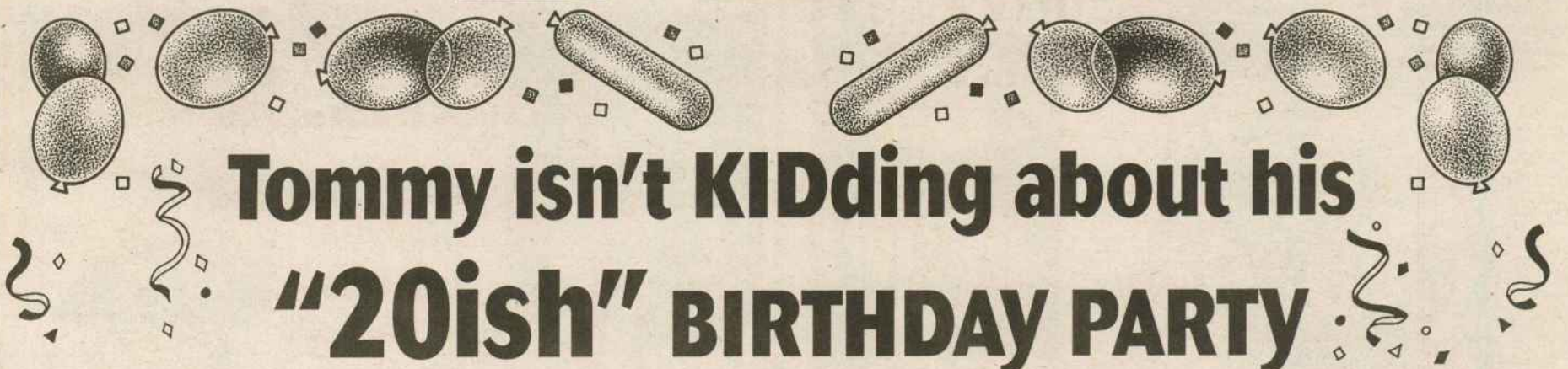
APRIL 30

Milwaukee's ULTIMATE Social Gathering Place!

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There Is Always Something Different at In Between.



Tommy isn't KIDding about his "20ish" BIRTHDAY PARTY

THUR, APRIL 17 • 10pm

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



Hooray For Hollywood The Hollywood 10 Party in the Twin Cities was huge success. Shown at the left is a diorama from "Jerry Mc Guire" with a blonde "showing the money." At the right are a group of zany paparazzi who prowled among the 3,500 guests looking for a story. The event raised over \$130,000 for local AIDS charities.



Announcements

Madison

LAURA FLANDERS SPEAKS ON FRIDAY APRIL 18

WORT Radio, Progressive Magazine and Rainbow Bookstore Coop invite you to a special reading and book signing for Laura Flanders, author of "Real Majority, Media Minority: The Cost of Sidelining women in Reporting."

The reading and signing will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. at Mother Fool's Coffeehouse, 1101 Williamson Street.

There is a \$5.00 suggested donation with all proceeds benefiting The Progressive.

FRONTIERS HOSTS READING BY J. ALLEN KIRSCH APR 19TH

Noted author J. Allen Kirsch will present a reading from his most recent novels, "Madlands" and "God's Little Isthmus" at Gene's Home, 1417 Squire Place, Middleton, (near Parmenter St. and High Point Rd.)

Kirsch's books are set in Madison in the 1980's and include a large and colorful cast of characters both Gay and Straight.

P-FLAG MEETING ON APRIL 20

P-Flag will hold its monthly meeting at the Quaker Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court at 2:00 on April 20.

The topic of the April meeting is religion. There will be handouts and Christian and non-Christian faiths will be represented.

MILWAUKEE

GAY MEN'S GROUP FORMS AT THE COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee is forming a Gay Men's General Issues Group to discuss issues of sexual identity, intimacy, HIV, Relationships and Self Esteem.

There is fee of \$10.00 per session. Interested parties should call the Support Group Program at (414) 271-2565.

LOC HOLDS GAME NIGHT ON SATURDAY APRIL 19.

LOC, wants all its sisters to join in the fun at its monthly meetings the third Saturday of each month.

Its April Meeting will be game night from 7 PM to Midnight at the Yankee Hill Party

Room, 626 E. State Street. For more information on LOC and its activities call Emma at 463-7787.

SQUARE DANCE SOCIAL ON SUNDAY APRIL 20

Those fun folks from the Cream City Squares will be hosting an introduction to Square Dance at 1579 S. Second Street from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Wear some comfortable clothing and shoes, nothing special is needed. Square Dancing is a great activity for singles, couples or groups. It is growing in popularity in the Gay community.

RAINBOW HEIGHTS ASSOC. RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 26

The Rainbow Heights Association, a new neighborhood group will hold a large rummage sale from 8:30 to 5:00 at 1722 N. 52nd Street.

The sale will include items from over 20 Lesbian and Gay households and a selection of baked goods and refreshments.

The purpose of the sale is to raise funds for a decorative planter for the North Ave. Business Improvement District.

Rainbow Heights is a new group for residents in the Washington Heights area. Their April meeting will be held on April 22 at 7:00 at Divine Word Lutheran Church, 55th and Lloyd.

HIT SUMMER LEAGUE FORMING WITH MAY 13 MEETING

New and experienced bowlers are invited to join HIT's Summer League. The League will bowl for 8 weeks at Milwaukee's Landmark Lanes, 2220 N. Farwell. (next to the Oriental Theater).

Each team will consist of five bowlers. The cost is \$8.00 per week which includes, 3 games, a banquet and trophies for the two teams.

The League begins on May 20 and runs through July 22. Bring your own team or let HIT place you on a team at its organizational meeting held at the Landmark Lanes on May 13.

Editor's Note Madison also held an Oscar Night party. The Wisconsin Light regrets that because it was a production night for our previous issue, and Dusty was on a Twin Cities press tour we were unable to cover this fine event. But we understand that despite a snow storm, Madison's affair, which benefited the Rodney Scheel House and the United also came off very well.

Hollywood 10 Gala In the Twin Cities Raises \$130,000 for AIDS Groups

Hollywood 10, the 10th Annual Oscar Night party in the Twin Cities raised over \$130,000 for AIDS on March 24th. Over 3,500 (not counting over 300 volunteers) people including local media personalities and politicians attended the annual Oscar Night Gala in the Twin Cities making it the largest Oscar party anywhere.

They watched the Oscar ceremonies in an elegant theater, ate delectable desserts donated by local restaurants, bought raffle tickets and bid on a Silent Auction.

The gala included actors and dioramas from movies nominated for Oscars such as "Jerry Mc Guire" which featured a blonde bombshell, "showing the money." Other scenes included a Madonna look alike waving from a balcony, (Evita), a musical score and piano player, (Shine), a woman sitting on a Sphinx (The English Patient) and a woman in a flannel nightgown sitting on a John Deer tractor (Fargo).

The Oscar theme was also carried on by

various characters circulating through the crowd and the hilarious paparazzi who cornered guests asking embarrassing questions while their cameras' flash bulbs blinded their victims.

Items in the Silent Auction included vacations in the Caribbean, and autographed movie posters. First prize in the raffle was a Hollywood vacation that included visits to movie studios.

During commercial breaks local performers kept the proceedings lively. Actors from the Broadway hit "Rent," also performed. Actors from Fargo (which drew wild applause every time it was mentioned during the broadcast) also made a special appearance.

This was tenth annual Oscar night party. It is one of only three Oscar events sanctioned by the Academy of Arts and Sciences. All told the galas have raised over \$500,000 for AIDS charities in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Our own Dusty Sass was in the Twin Cities on a press tour and attended Hollywood 10, which he describes as one of the best affairs he's ever been to. (and Dusty's been to and through a lot of affairs) Look for coverage of the Twin Cities in an upcoming issue.

BOY'S NIGHT SATURDAY NIGHT 11:30pm

GIRL'S NIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT 11:30pm

BEER BUST SUNDAY thru THURSDAY 8pm-Close

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You're Invited

SATURDAY APRIL 12

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.

TURN ABOUT NIGHT AT WAUSAU'S MAD HATTER

The Mad Hatter celebrates spring with its own Turn About Night. There will be a fabulous show, a fabulous auction full of fabulous prizes, fabulous music, fabulous people and in general a pretty evening.

Proceeds will be used to keep Mad Hatter patrons supplied with safe sex materials and for Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

Showtime is at 9:00 and the event continues until close. The Mad Hatter is located at 320 Washington Street, in the heart of downtown Wausau. (If you live in Green Bay take the Napalese Lounge special to the Mad Hatter for all the fun.)

THURSDAY APRIL 17

TOMMY CELEBRATES HIS B-DAY AT IN BETWEEN

Tommy, that hot little scamp, who hangs out behind the bar at In Between is having a big birthday bash at In Between, 625 S. Second Street and YOU are invited to join in the party.

It's Tommy's last 20ish birthday but you certainly wouldn't know that by looking at him. There will fun and surprises for all of his many old friends and the new ones he will make that evening.

The party starts at 10 PM. Don't miss it.

FRIDAY APRIL 18

BACARDI PARTY AT LA CAGE

You won't want to miss out on the Big Bacardi Party at La Cage. Meet the Bacardi Boys, Take Advantage of Give Aways and Drink Specials and of course enjoy the hot atmosphere of Milwaukee's hot Dance Bar.

The party starts at 9:00 and runs till close. La Cage is located at South Second and National, Milwaukee.

SATURDAY APRIL 19

WI LEATHER MEN'S CLUB NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP

Drag out that dead animal skin and head on down to the Boot, the Boot Camp Saloon that is for the Wisconsin Leather Men's Club Night and party.

There will be plenty of like minded hot butch men on hand, raffles and fun for everyone. All proceeds from this event go the Community Center Trust Fund. If you can't make the party but wish to donate to the Fund send your check to the Community Center Trust Fund, Box 1686 Milwaukee, WI 53201.

The Boot Camp, one of Wisconsin's premier Leather and Levi Bars is located at 209 E. National, Milwaukee.

MR & MISS EMERALD CITY USA PAGEANT AT ZA'S

One of the premier shows of the year for our friends in Green Bay takes place with the Mr and Miss Emerald City Pageant at Za's. This title is coveted by talented performers from throughout the Fox Valley area.

Interviews are scheduled for 7:00, showtime will be at 10:30. Don't miss it. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

SSBL SEASON OPENING PARTY AT THE BALL GAME

The SSBL will be opening its 20th anniversary season with a big Anniversary Bash at the Ball Game, 196 S. Second St.

Milwaukee.

It will be open season on all the ball players, members of the booster club and their fabulous fans. Everyone is welcome to stop on by and wish the SSBL a successful 20th season.

Don't miss the first official event of the big anniversary season. The party starts at 5:00.

RAW ENTERTAINMENT AT EAU CLAIRE'S TRADING CO.

Milwaukee may not be exporting as much beer as it used to, but now it has new export to help pick up the slack, exotic dancers.

Yes, some of Milwaukee's finest will be featured not only behind the bar but on the bar as Raw Entertainment hits Eau Claire's Trading Company at 11 PM.

The Trading Company is located at 304 Eau Claire Street.

FRIDAY APRIL 25

LIGHTS OUT AT SCANDALS

Having a bad hair day??? Make up doesn't look quite as good as you would like??? Don't fret girl, head on down to the Lights Out Party at Scandals.

This is one party where you don't have to worry about how you look since all the lights will be out.

Scandals is located at 121 Main Street, Madison.

BOY CONTEST AT THE 1100 CLUB IN MILWAUKEE

The Argonauts of Wisconsin bring you one of the highlights of the year for Milwaukee's Leather Scene, the annual Boy Contest.

A kick off cocktail party will be held at South Water Street Docks, 354 E. National. Then the action moves over to the 1100 Club for the 10:00 contest.

The 1100 Club is located at 1100 S. First Street. The Argonauts Daddy Contest will also be held at the bar on Saturday April 26.

SATURDAY APRIL 26

SOFTBALL FUND RAISER AT MILWAUKEE'S MAMA ROUX

Yes, it's that time of the year again, when the grass turns green, the air smells sweet and the softballs start flying. Mama Roux's located 1t 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee celebrates the beginning of the Saturday Softball League's 20th anniversary season with a gala fund raiser benefiting its first year team.

A Beer bash, raffles, drink specials and more await those attend. Help welcome Mama's into the SSBL and have a great time in the process. The fun starts at 9:00.

SSBL CLINIC AT SIJAN FIELD

The SSBL will be holding a clinic at

Noon to help teach some of the basic skills of softball to new players. This will be a great tune up for the beginning of league play on Saturday May 3rd.

For more information call the SSBL Hotline at 454-9204.

JOSIE LYNN BENEFIT AT THE MAD HATTER IN WAUSAU

Vicki and Anne of the Mad Hatter being the generous souls that they are, are throwing a party to get Josie Lynn, Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A out town and into the National finals held in Dallas, Texas.

Seems poor Josie doesn't even own a ten gallon hat and needs your help so she can best represent the Badger State.

There will a show starting 10:30. The performers will donate all of their tips to Ms. Lynn's travel fund. The bar is located at 320 Washington.

DADDY CONTEST AT THE 1100 CLUB IN MILWAUKEE

The 1100 Club will be site of the annual Daddy contest sponsored by the Argonauts of Wisconsin.

The contest begins at 10:00. For more information on this event, write to Northwoods Productions Inc, Box 1104, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

SUNDAY APRIL 27

BENEFIT ART SHOW FOR ROW AT THE MAD HATTER

The Mad Hatter will be the scene of a benefit art show for Rainbow Over Wisconsin. The show begins at 3:00 and will run until 9:00.

Everyone is welcome to attend and pick up something for their home.

DISCOVER WISCONSIN'S GAY ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX!

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7 Bars · 2 Dance Floors · 4 Sound Systems
Video · Food · Games · Dancing

LaCage

Fri, April 18

"BACARDI PARTY"

Meet the "Bacardi Boys"

Drink Specials • Giveaways

We are again issuing LaCage Cards. Pictures will be taken on Friday Nites from 10-11:30pm only. There are 200 cards available at \$5/each.



SUNDAYS

— "Staying Alive" with the 70's

70's Disco + 70's Drink Prices • 8pm - DJ



TUESDAYS

— PRIZE NIGHT!

★ Drawings every half hour • 8 winners nightly • Win up to \$50! • Grand Prize drawing - every 90 days • All weekly winners eligible for Grand Prize Drawing. • First Grand Prize: A trip for 2 to Las Vegas! ★



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DUSTY'S CORNER

Rick Kowal: Serving Up Good Times and Conversation at The Ball Game

By Dusty Sass

At a time when Disco hadn't even been thought of, two friends Gene O'Brien and Rick Kowal opened a Gay bar on Milwaukee's near South Side. Twenty Four years later that bar, the Ball Game still exists in the same location, 196 S. Second St, serving an eclectic mix of young and old alike.

Gene is gone now, but owner Rick Kowal and his mother, Nettie, carry on the tradition of good fun, good drinks and good conversation. While other bars and trends have come and gone, the people at the Ball Game have continued to do what they do best, serving up good times in a homey, clean and secure environment.

Go into the Ball Game on two consecutive nights and you will see different things go on. Sometimes it will be somebody playing the piano, sometimes a hot game on the TV, but whatever is different one thing remains constant, the friendly service and the friendly attitude of the customers.

Talk to Rick and you'll wish you could bottle his positive outlook on life, his cheerfulness and his friendliness. We were fortunate to catch up with this whirlwind of activity and learn about some of the perspectives of this unique and thoroughly charming man - Dusty Sass

Dusty: How long has the Ball Game been open

Rick Kowal 24r years.

D.S. Over that long a period of time you must have seen a lot history.

R.K. Yes I have. I've seen a lot of new bars, and different owners. Yeas ago the owners and people all used to know each other. Now a days people don't go from bar to bar.

This is especially true of some of the organizations in Milwaukee. I get letters with the wrong name on it. I even get letters for a former manager who's been dead for two years.

The community takes more of a interest in AIDS. Before it used to be everyone went to the bars and there wasn't that much politics, there weren't that many organizations geared to Gay life like there is now.

D.S. Why did you decide to go into the bar business?

R.K. I worked for Boston Store. They wanted to transfer me and I didn't want to go because my dad was sick. Plus I worked as a bartender at various places and my friend Gene O'Brien wanted to open a bar. The building was available and we took it.

D.S. O'Brien sounds Irish Does that great St. Pat's Day come from Gene?

R.K. Yes, we opened a few days before St. Pat's day in 1972. So we decided to make St. Pat's Day our anniversary.

In fact when Gene died in 1984, he died the day after St. Pat's Day.

D.S. What do you like about owning a Gay Bar?

R.K. I've always dealt with the public all my life. Before Boston Store, I was a salesman for a local restaurant.

I always liked being with people, and we wanted to have a safe bar where people could go and have a good time.

D.S. What are some of the things you don't like about owning a bar?

R.K. It's very time consuming when you own a business. People think you just open the door and everything is there, but it's not.

There is always something to plan, something to work on, something to do. Which is good, but it leaves very little time for yourself, or for the employees working there.

D.S. So what do you with your spare time?

R.K. Well my Mom's been ill for a quite a while. That takes up a lot of my time. Plus I take a vacation once a year. Nothing exciting, well maybe someday.

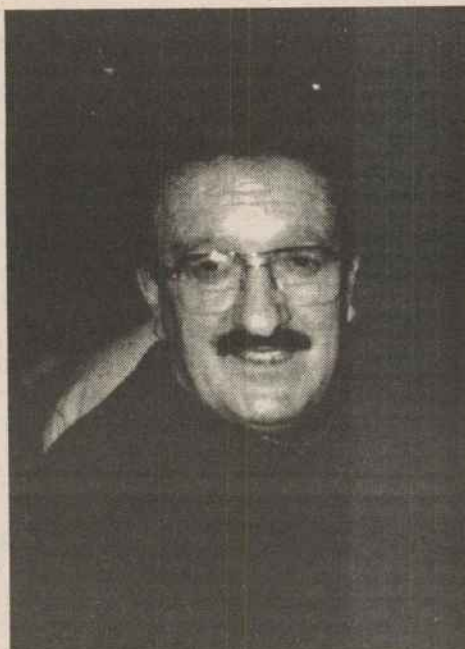
D.S. What kinds of activities do you do that make the Ball Game unique?

R.K. We have a lot of bus trips to the casino's. We used to go the horse races, but we haven't done that lately.

Plus our customers. They are the ones who make our bar, any bar unique. We have a great mix of people.

D.S. What about the shows you used to do?

R.K. Years ago we had some great shows. We were one of the few bars to have shows. Jamie Gay was our first Miss Gay Milwaukee.



D.S. Why did you stop doing shows?

R.K. We didn't have the capacity for the people, and then you started getting into the time when the disco bars were opening. It was pretty competitive.

D.S. What do you attribute the Ball Game's staying power to?

R.K. It's a friendly bar, it's a place where people come to talk. Years ago I put two TV's in. I was one of the first to do that. People said to me 'Oh don't do that, they can watch TV at home.'

But we are kind of a sports bar and the TV's gave people a chance to watch a game with their friends. And when the games aren't on it gives them something to look at and talk about while they were there.

Some sports bar are huge and cold, but we have a nice warm atmosphere. Our customers like that.

D.K. Anyone who is a regular at the Ball Game has met your charming mother. Has Your Mom Been Involved in the Bar?

R.K. Yes, everyone who comes into the bar knows her. She helped a lot especially with the cooking. (Which this interview can tell you is always great)

She loves her bar dice too at age 85. My Mom was a bartender and an owner. Her and my Dad owned Steny's (across the street from La Cage) and they also owned another bar on East State Street.

D.S. In other words don't get into a dice game with your Mom, Nettie?

R.K. Yes (laughs) She is pretty good.

D.S. How did you decide to do what the Ball Game does?

R.K. Everybody tries to make changes. Our clientele wasn't the dancing disco type. We started out with softball years ago. We have a bowling teams too.

We used to have Sheepshead tournaments too, but we needed the room during the summer for the Ball team.

Basically I let the customers decide which direction we go in. I am always open to suggestions.

D.S. So what are some biggest challenges you face as a Bar owner?

R.K. Keeping up with the competition, keep up or be overriden by it. It's one or the other. That's always a challenge for any small business.

D.S. There is a lot more competition now isn't there?

R.K. Yes, there were only a handful of bars when we started, now there are quite a few.

We have fantastic people who come into our bar. That's one of the reasons I love this businesses, the support I get. I think of our bar's patrons not just as customers but as friends. We are always open to anyone who needs help.

D.S. You really being enjoy in the bar business don't you?

R.K. Yes I do. It's like having a new show each day when you open up, although it's not Broadway it could be. May be I always wanted to be a star.

D.S. Anyone who comes into the Ball Game, can't help but the notice, people are really friendly...

R.K. That's true. You do get cliques when you go into the bars even our bar. By us everyone seems to talk. They love to talk and talk, which is great because that's what we are there for. And when I am there, I try to talk to the people who are there, not because I own the place but

because I just like to make new friends.

D.S. Speaking of new friends, is there anyone special in your life?

R.K. No not right now. I am available. Come and get me! (laughs)

D.S. You seem to be able attract a wide variety of people to the Ball Game.

R.K. That's true. Sometimes some people will say 'Oh there are older people who go to that bar.' We do have some older people who come in. But we also have a wide variety of people coming in.

I believe that you don't have to cruise all the time. If there's no one there you are interested in, you can still have a great time striking up a conversation.

We think we have good cruising material for any age. (Something this interviewer can also attest to)

D.S. Is there any one thing that you can say is the secret to your longevity and ability to stay open when so many others don't last?

R.K. If I knew the right reasons I could stay open for another 50 years without worrying about anything. I think if you enjoy life or enjoy people folks pick up on that. They know that you really like them.

Plus we watch for our customers, if there any undesirables we get rid of them. My customers know that.

Plus I want to mention that we have lots of people who come in from other cities especially Chicago and the Twin Cities. They are always telling me how much they like coming to Milwaukee, because the bars are safer and better run. The bar owners of Milwaukee are to be complimented on running nice clean establishments.

That's another thing about attracting good people. You can go into a bar and you can tell by how clean it is what kind of people it attracts.

D.S. How much has Nettie your mom influenced you?

R.K. She is always a hard worker, and I consider myself a hard worker.

You have to work in the business, my Mom taught me that. I will clean the floor wash the toilets or anything else that I ask anyone else to do.

D.S. Are there any changes in store for patrons of the Ball Game? Like are you going to add male strippers or something?

R.K. I'd like to have a bunch of those (laughs), but right now we are getting ready Spring.

D.S. What would you like to say that I

didn't ask you about?

R.K. I know the Gay life is a very young oriented life style. It seems sometimes that the age brackets are more separated than they should be.

Just because you are older doesn't mean you are cruising and going after younger people.

That's what life is all about, first you are younger and then you get older. I think the younger generation are more career oriented than was the case in the past. But on the other hand the older generation has the experience that comes with life. The two should complement each other. That's what they do at the Ball Game.

Well Rick as long as you stay as young at heart as you have always been, we can all look forward to the Ball Game's 50 th anniversary 26 years for now.

Milwaukee Theater Groups Put Out Help Wanted Sign

The Help Wanted Sign is out at the Milwaukee Public Theater and the Mask and Puppet Company for their Summer Production of "Dream Carnival" a multi-media production that will tour this summer.

The groups are looking for applicants for a variety of paid and volunteer positions including: Production Stage Manager, Music Assistant and Players, Puppet Artists and Puppeteers, Dancers and Movers.

For more info on how to apply and/or tryout for these postions contact Milwaukee Public Theater at (414) 347-1685.

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Statues of the Sacred Band

Chapter 3

By Terry Boughner

Summary: A young reporter, Tony Martinelli, has been assigned by his editor to go to Washington and find out what happened to Bobby Calder, Senator Chris Calder's son. There is a suspicion that the boy has been murdered. On the train to DC, Tony meets Nicholas Bartoli, a slimy creature who comes on to him. To avoid the risk of running into Bartoli in DC, Tony gets off the train at Silver Spring.



I stood on the station platform at Silver Spring and watched as the train headed south into D.C. I figured I'd seen the last of Nicholas Bartoli. I could put him in some garret of my mind where I kept such strange and passing people who I never expected to see again. I crossed the platform to catch a Red Line Metro train that would take me right to the other side of the city, to Dupont Circle, the heart of Gay D. C. Twenty minutes later and I was there.

The city, ugh! The heat and humidity were stultifying, the stench of exhaust fumes burned my nose. Crowds of people pushed by. If I needed any reminder why I'd turned my back on all this, I had it now.

Nearby, I spotted a young man handing out flyers of some kind. He was cute, Asian by the looks of him. He was wearing sandals and a frayed pair of denim cut-offs, showing a smooth, golden, well-defined, swimmer's physique.

I was going to take one of his flyers as an excuse to find out who he was, but that, I decided, would have to wait. I was sweaty. I felt grungy, like half the dirt in D.C. was clinging to my skin. What I needed was a shower and some fresh clothes. Maybe then I'd be ready for a tryst.

Before I'd left Hastings, I'd made a reservation at the Dupont Plaza Hotel, a small place, having a fair degree of luxury, that sits right on the Circle itself. The room I got was okay, nothing special, a standard issue for that kind of thing. It did, however, have two things going for it: it was cool and had a broad window offering a good view of the passing scene below. I stripped down to my white jockey briefs and went to the window to have a look.

Right beneath my window I saw a van stopped for a light. I wouldn't have paid any attention to it, but on its side I saw a figure of seated lion done in gold, curiously, the same kind of drawing I'd seen on Bartoli's card. There was nothing on the side of the van to indicate what it was. Save for the lion, it was blank, again like Bartoli's card. The light changed, the van went on, turning right on P Street before it disappeared from view.

I finished my cigarette and flopped face-down on the bed. I was soon fast asleep.

I awakened at ten after eight, got up, showered and dressed in reasonably tight denims and a white short sleeved sports shirt, opened a couple of buttons at the top. A quick comb through my hair, a splash of cologne and the mirror told me I was ready.

After a quick bite at a sidewalk café on the corner of Connecticut and Q, I went across the avenue to a bar called Rondel's. Long and narrow, it had two floors. The first was packed, but the second floor was quiet, more intimate, with a couple of TV's playing videos, the sound set loud enough so you could hear if you wanted and soft enough to ignore if you wanted to talk.

I was standing with my back against a wall, when I became aware that someone was standing beside me had said something. I turned my head to see a guy in his early 20s, very cute and dressed pretty much as I was with his snug-fitting denims showing off well-turned thighs.

"Did you say something?" I asked, trying to be pleasant.

"Just hi," he answered with a kind of shy, lonely little smile.

We shook hands and exchanged intro-

ductions. His name was Garreth. When I told him that I was a reporter from out of town, that seemed to pique his curiosity and he asked me what story I was working on.

"Bobby Calder. You know him?" I asked.

"Yeah, I did." He paused to glance around. So far as I could see, no one seemed to be paying any particular attention to us. "I knew him real well." Again he looked around nervously. "You wanta get outta here? Get some coffee 'r something?"

We left the bar and started up Connecticut Avenue, going away from the Circle, walking at a brisk pace. I couldn't help noticing how jumpy he was, as if, at any second, he expected somebody to grab him.

A half block along, we got to a place called the Stoa, actually two places in one. The front of it was a bookstore. The coffee shop was in the back and had glassed in wall on the far side. As befitted the name, the place had a Grecian décor; stark white columns, some greenery, and here and there bouquets of the most beautiful red roses I thought I'd ever seen. Even in Hastings, I thought, there were none whose vivid color and size could equal these. It wasn't crowded. We found seats at a corner table by the windows, ordered coffee, and lit cigarettes.

"You wanta know about Bobby?" Garreth asked, stopping as the waiter came with our coffee. Only when he had gone, did Garreth continue. "He's dead."

His finality startled me. "How do you know?"

After looking around to assure himself, I guessed, that no one was near enough to hear, he went on to tell his tale.

He had met Bobby two months before in Dupont Circle when he walked past and saw him sitting on a bench. Their eyes met and locked. Bobby went home with Garreth that night. The next morning, Bobby told Garreth who he was, and that he was looking for a place to stay. He said he could pay. He had a job bussing tables at a place called Ganymede's down on M Street. With no hesitation at all, Garreth invited Bobby to move in with him.

After that, they spent all the time together that they could, "like people do," Garreth said, "when they're falling in love, head over heels in love."

As Garreth spoke, there was a far away look in his eyes, a look, too, of infinite sadness, a look of one remembering things that once had been, a lost love. His coffee grew cold in his cup. His cigarette burned itself out in the ashtray. A single spiral of iron-gray smoke rose into the air.

Bobby was happy. He told Garreth that he was happier than he'd ever been, but he was afraid it wouldn't last. They wouldn't let it last, he said.

"Who'd he mean by 'they'?" I asked.

Garreth drank some coffee and lit another cigarette as he glanced around the room. "His mother, her people, her supporters. He was afraid of her, real afraid, but he wouldn't tell me what for. All he would ever say is that he knew something about her that was bad, very bad, but he wouldn't tell me any more than that because he said it would be too dangerous for me to know; that they'd kill me, too."

"Why didn't he go to the authorities?"

"What authorities? There's no authorities to go to, Tony, not in this town, not with someone like her. She's got power and, like Bobby said one time, she knows how to use it to get what she wants." Garreth paused to smoke his cigarette and give a quick look around. "In the end, she used it. She had him killed." Garreth leaned toward me in his seat. "I know that, Tony. I know that because every night when he was working, I'd go to Ganymede's and pick him up. He'd tell me, Tony, tell me that's what was going to happen, tell me. He was so afraid. That last night, he wasn't there. When I asked, they told me that he'd gone out into the back ally to have a cigarette about an hour before and never came back. That's not Bobby, Tony, not to come back. He was in love with me, deeply in love with me. He wouldn't have just left, not up and left me, no way would he have just left. You know something?"

"What?"

"We were gonna leave, get outta this country, go to Holland 'r Denmark, live

Please See Statutes Page 19

9th Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalists Named

Milwaukee--This year, the Ninth Annual Lambda Literary Awards testify to developments in Gay and Lesbian publishing with the addition of a Transgender category.

"The Lammys have always tried to reflect trends in Gay and Lesbian publishing," said Jim Marks, publisher of the Lambda Book Report, which sponsors and organizes the annual awards. "Once we received all the nominations and discussed them with our finalist committee, it became clear that there were more than enough high quality books to justify creating an additional category."

A total of 28 books were considered for the Transgender category. Among the finalists was one book by a past Lammy winner, **Transgender Warriors** (Beacon) by Leslie Feinberg, whose **Stone Butch Blues** (Firebrand) was a Small Press winner in 1994.

Testifying to the continued hunger for Gay and Lesbian life stories were the exceptionally strong Gay and Lesbian Biography/Autobiography categories. Mark Doty, whose **Atlantis** won last year's Gay Men's Poetry award, appears as a finalist for the second time for his exquisitely written AIDS memoir **Heaven's Coast** (HarperCollins). Joining him are the late African-American Gay activist Assoto Saint's posthumous **Spells of a Voodoo Doll** (Masquerade), **Lush Life** (FSG), the biography of Billy Strayhorn, Fenton Johnson's **Geography of the Heart** (Scribner) and **Truth Serum** (Houghton-Mifflin), by Bernard Cooper, whose past honors include a Pen/Faulkner award for **Maps to Anywhere** (Georgia).

An equally impressive Lesbian Biography category spotlights a biography of actress and director **Eva Le Gallienne** (Knopf), the second Le Gallienne biography to be selected as a Lammy finalist. Also selected are Doris Grumbach's memoir, **Life in a Day** (Beacon), Honor Moore's account of her grandmother's life, **The White Black Bird** (Viking), Torie Osborne's **Coming Home to America** (St. Martin's), and **Accidental Activist** (Scribner), Candace Gingrich's account of how she became a Lesbian activist in the wake of her half-brother Newt's election as Speaker of the House.

Mainstream, university and small presses shared nearly equally in this year's finalist. HarperCollins, St. Martin's, Alyson, Beacon, Simon & Schuster and Cleis Press each had four finalists, with Cleis' **Body Alchemy** being selected as a finalist in three categories. Other double finalists included **Too Queer** (Firebrand) and **Boys Like Us** (Avon).

This was the first year in which the entire Lambda Literary Awards process was administered under the aegis of the Lambda Literary Foundation, which officially assumed ownership of the **Lambda Book Report** in December 1996.

Award recipients will be announced at a gala banquet in Chicago, Illinois on Friday, May 30, 1997 on the eve of the American Booksellers Association annual convention (Now known as BookExpo America).

Lambda Literary Award Nominations

Lesbian Fiction

If You Had a Family, Barbara Wilson, Seal
Memory Mambo, Achy Obejas, Cleis
Seven Moves, Carol Anshaw, Houghton Mifflin
Towards Amnesia, Sarah Van Arsdale, Riverhead
What Keeps Me Here, Rebecca Brown, HarperCollins

Gay Men's Fiction

Beauty of Men, Andrew Holleran, William Morrow
Funny Boy, Shyam Selvadurai, William Morrow
Iowa, Patrick Moore, Hard Candy
Law of Enclosures, Dale Peck, FSG
Pagan's Father, Michael Arditti, SoHo

Lesbian Studies

Girls Next Door, Lindsay Van Gelder & Pamela Brandt, Simon & Schuster
Love Between Women, Bernadette J. Brooten, University of Chicago
Sappho and the Virgin Mary, Ruth

Vanita, Columbia University
Surface Tension, Meg Daly, ed., Touchstone

Too Queer, Victoria A. Brownworth, Firebrand

Gay Men's Studies

Boys Like Us, Patrick Merla, ed., Avon
Cracks in the Iron Closet, David Tuller, Faber & Faber
Farm Boys, Will Fellows, ed., University of Wisconsin
One More River to Cross, Keith Boykin, Anchor
Radically Gay, Harry Hay, Will Roscoe, ed., Beacon

Lesbian Poetry

All-American Girl, Robin Becker, University of Pittsburgh
Arc of Love, Clare Cross, ed., Scribner
Furious Cooking, Maureen Seaton, University of Iowa
Home in Three Days, Don't Wash, Linda Smukler, Hard Press
Shift, Jeredith Merrin, University of Chicago

Gay Men's Poetry

Anesthesia, Kenny Fries, avocado
Angel, Interrupted, Reginald Shepard, University of Pittsburgh
Eros in Boystown, Michael Lassell, ed., Crown
My Night With Federico Garcia Lorca, Jaime Manrique, Painted Leaf
What the Body Told, Rafael Campo, Duke

Lesbian Mystery

Baby It's Cold, Jaye Maiman, Naiad
Final Take, Jackie Manthorne, Gynergy
Inner Circle, Claire McNab, Naiad
Liberty Square, Katherine V. Forrest, Berkley
Robber's Wine, Ellen Hart, Seal

Gay Men's Mystery

Death of Friends, Michael Nava, Putnam
Murder on the Appian Way, Steven Saylor, St. Martin's
Simple Justice, John Morgan Wilson, Doubleday
Time to Check Out, Grant Michaels, St. Martin's
Tribe, R.D. Zimmerman, Dell

Lesbian Biography/Autobiography
Accidental Activist, Candace Gingrich, Scribner

Eva Le Gallienne, Helen Sheehy, Knopf
Life in a Day, Doris Grumbach, Beacon
Coming Home to America, Torie Osborne, St. Martin's

White Blackbird, Honor Moore, Viking

Gay Men's Biography/Autobiography
Geography of the Heart, Fenton Johnson, Scribner

Heaven's Coast, Mark Doty, HarperCollins

Lush Life, David Hadju, FSG

Spells of a Voodoo Doll, Assotto Saint, Masquerade

Truth Serum, Bernard Cooper, Houghton Mifflin

Humor

History of Lesbian Hair, Mary Dugger, Doubleday

Homo Handbook, Judy Carter, Fireside

Kurt Cobain & Mozart are Both Dead, Tim Barela, Palliard

Lesbianism Made Easy, Helen Eisenbach, Crown

So You Want To Be A Lesbian?, Liz Tracey & Sydney Pokorny, St. Martin's

Transgender

Body Alchemy, Loren Cameron, Cleis

Gender Shock, Phyllis Burke, Anchor

Honey, Honey Miss Thang, Leon E. Pettway, Temple University

Lieutenant Nun, Catalina de Erauso, Beacon

Transgender Warriors, Leslie Feinberg, Beacon

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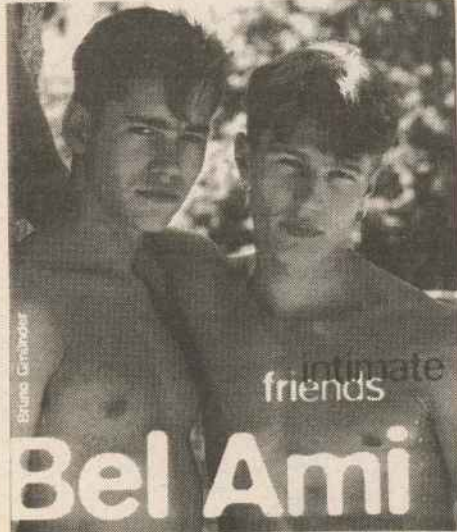


For Fans Johann Paulik, "Bel Ami: Intimate Friends" is a Must-Have Book

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Beginning rather inauspiciously with a series of photo layouts in some of the better skin magazines, then quickly followed by several lushly filmed explicit sexual videos featuring blue-eyed coverboy Lukas (who, much like other such celebrities as Cher and Madonna, seems not to need a last name), the Bel Ami boys have taken Gay America by storm. It was surely then just a matter of time before their youthful splendor would grace the pages of a similarly enticing coffee table book.

Bel Ami: Intimate Friends (Pb \$39.95), published by the prolific German publisher of male erotic, Bruno Gmunder is just that book.



Just who are the Bel Ami boys, you might ask? With names like Dano Sulik, Ion Davidov, Martin Valko and of course, current Bel Ami superstar coverboy Johann Paulik (please see accompanying interview), these attractive, youthful Eastern European lads captured the hearts of Gay men the world round in such videos as

Lukas' Story, Tender Strangers and Frisky Summer.

Now, in this large format, full-color photo book, the photographer Bel Ami has captured his many gorgeous models in a wide variety of poses, invariably seen languishing against radiant, outdoor settings.

Although perhaps not exactly to every Gay man's taste, the models in **Bel Ami: Intimate Friends** are undeniably attractive, good-looking, fresh-faced youths, all the more appealing for their easy smiles and, of course, their characteristically generous endowment.

While he is certain to again be labeled a sex-crazed pedophile following this review, Glenn must admit that it is difficult to dismiss the obvious appeal that this book possesses for many Gay men.

To be sure, **Bel Ami: Intimate Friends** is a beautifully produced book, filled with lushly romantic, exceedingly naturalistic photographs. Still, it's going to take more than that to expect Gay men to part with the asked for price of \$39.95.

A leisurely perusal of the pages of **Bel Ami: Intimate Friends** reveals, Glenn imagines, a pictorial fantasy of an idyllic, innocent lost youth. These comely lads are invariably portrayed gazing invitingly into the camera lens, as if welcoming the reader into their sun-drenched summer-time paradise.

A fantasy? To be sure but a genuinely appealing fantasy. Only one photograph seems oddly conceived and curiously out of place: one in which the exceedingly photogenic Johann Paulik is seen with friend sporting rollerblades and erections.

Just where are two attractive lads going to go rollerblading in the great outdoors? And why do they sport erections? Inquiring minds, like Glenn's, want to know.

Bel Ami: Intimate Friends is a welcome addition to the increasing body of nude male coffee table tomes for the young and the young at heart.

"Seven Moves" is a Gripping Mystery that Will Not Let You Go

Reviewed by Carol Anselm

"You think you love me, but you don't even know me. You don't have a ... clue," says Taylor to Chris during one of their minor fights. After four years of sharing a living together, Taylor storms out of the house. And disappears.

So begins **Seven Moves** by Carol Anshaw, a first-class mystery by a first-class writer.

Taylor, a professional photographer, left behind her dog, her clothing, everything except her car, camera bag, and the clothes she was wearing. Did she meet with foul play? Or did Taylor leave Chris of her own free will?

Chris starts her search for Taylor by calling their friends, driving past the bars looking for Taylor's car, and calls the police to report a missing person. Even though Taylor's family hires a private detective, Chris becomes the real sleuth as she examines the relationship, looking through her pain and grief, for clues to Taylor's whereabouts.

Chris' journey takes her to Morocco and

back. What she discovers, is that she really doesn't know Taylor. And she had been willing to turn Taylor into the person she wanted her to be. This leads Chris and the reader to ponder how much anyone can really know someone. And what lengths should we go in our attempts to do so?

Seven Moves is a book of several layers. It's part murder mystery, part relationship story, with more than one possible outcome. There is so much more going on in this book.

Chris and Taylor have an assortment of friends who wrestle with similar questions. Plus, Chris is a therapist who is so distraught over Taylor's disappearance that she can hardly help her clients.

Anshaw's is a provocative storyteller. Her writing is crisp, with a good ear for dialogue. The characters and their situations are so believable. You can really feel for Chris' despair when Taylor doesn't return home.

Seven Moves is a must read for mystery lovers.

peared around here?" I asked.

"Maybe. I don't know. Johnny thinks so."

"Johnny?"

"Johnny Chang. He's head of Gay Search, a group of one, him. You oughta talk to him. I can put you in touch. Tiny, you gotta find out what happened to Bobby, what really happened—an' you gotta get it into print."

"I'll do my best," I promised.

For maybe 15 minutes more, Garreth talked about Bobby and the love they'd had. Finally, I was forced to excuse myself to go to the men's room. That's where I was, standing in front of a urinal, when the door blew in. I got back out into the restaurant as quickly as I could where I saw to my horror that the whole corner where Garreth and I had been sitting had been blown away.

There were people, screaming, moaning, crying out for help. The air was full of smoke and dust, part of the roof had fallen in. I looked down. There, laying in a bed of mangled roses, was Garreth's head.

On the Set With Johann Paulik and Some Other Bel Ami Boys

By Tony Trabor

I kept fluffing my lines (which was not the fluffing I'd have liked). Sitting beside Bel Ami's most popular stud starlet, Johann Paulik, wasn't the most relaxing position I'd ever been in. Every time he looked at me with those drop dead gorgeous green eyes I lost the plot and forgot what I was going to ask him.

Let's get it straight: I'm no spring chicken and it wasn't the first time I'd sat and chatted with a Gay icon but this time it was special. I remembered viewing 'Boy Oh Boy' and hitting the normal speed button when I glimpsed the delectable Johann lying in a haystack but naked. It was the first time that I'd ever viewed a soft porn video and got turned on. I'm not usually a chicken fancier but there's always a first time.

I'd gone over to Casa Amigos, a fabulous villa in Portugal's Algarve region, to stay with one of my best friends, Roy Whitehouse, for a short holiday and by sheer coincidence (that's my story anyway) I found myself in the middle of a porno shoot for **Pride Video** which starring six of Bel Ami's boys, a straight actor and actress and two of **Pride's** own simmering starlets from London.

When I arrived at the guest house it was early afternoon and the pool was festooned with some of the most desirable young men I'd ever laid eyes upon in my long life. They were diving in and out of the cool blue pool or lying alongside in various states of undress. Looking at them made me feel like a voyeur as I glanced around to see if the object of my frustrated desire was anywhere nearby but was told he was down in the orange grove shooting a scene for 'Summer: The First Time' one of the two videos they were making.

Experience warned me that I'd be disappointed when I met him. It had happened in the past when I'd met Jeff Stryker, who'd turned out to be five foot tall and American artificial, and also when I'd met Kris Lord and the other American porn boys, performing in the **Bad Boys Ball**, all of whom had bad attitude problems.

I also knew that the camera frequently lies and with Photoshop you can even make Gary Bushell look attractive.

I crept through the orange blossom laden trees and spotted the camera crew and director, Xavier, gathered in a group by a shed, and there, lying naked on a makeshift bed trick-acting, was Johann with co-star Matthew (**Mad About The Boy**).

Johann looked even more beautiful than he did in **Boy Oh Boy** and **Chain Reaction**, positively glowing, with an enormous grin only equaled by the size of his erection.

He's now a young man but still retains a boyish charm and innocence that is rare to find. His porn career started when he was just 18 and, as he celebrated his 22nd birthday in March just gone, he's now been in the business for four long years. During that time he's made about 14 videos half of which were 'hard' (he hasn't been keeping count).

During the interview Bel Ami sat in the next room trying to sort out problems he's having with camera equipment and deciding which beach locations he should use for a film he's making later. Johann is his favourite boy and it's clear that they are both very close, although he treats all of his boys with equal respect. They hug and kiss each time they meet and he trusts Johann to get on with our interview without interfering in any way.

Bel Ami doesn't like to give interviews himself and hates his photo to be taken; he works in a legally sensitive and very competitive business. I have to tell him that I'm very impressed with all of his boys while trying desperately try to hide my infatuation with them.

They are all so polite, so sensitive, so obedient, so thoughtful and so stunningly good looking. "I'm very careful who I take on for this work and they're carefully vetted by myself and the other boys. None of them are hookers, if they were to start selling themselves or taking drugs I'd just send them on their way."

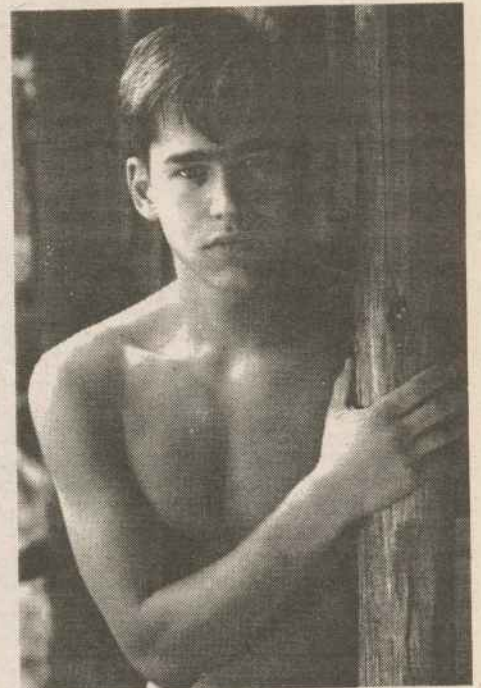
"Why not hookers?"

"They're hopeless: They have too much attitude to begin with and think that they know how to have sex before a camera but they don't, which makes them difficult to direct. My boys all come from good backgrounds and I've even met some of their parents so that I can get understand them even better."

"Do their parents know that they're making porn?"

"No, that wouldn't be wise, they think that they're models."

"All of your boys are very young. Is that intentional?"



Johann Paulik

"I always choose young guys because they are more open minded about their sexuality, once they get older they get married, settle down, form strong views and worse - let themselves go".

"Do you have sex with any of them?"

"All of them. They get their training from myself and the other boys. We have parties at my home where they all meet up with each other, have tea and learn the work. Making videos is expensive and you can't go on a shoot with novices."

I resisted asking for an invitation to one of their sessions - I could guess what the answer would be.

"Johann has been with you almost four years now and he's no longer a boy but a man. Will he be working with you for much longer?" I enquired.

"I prefer him now that he's filled out a bit and is more mature; he still has a lot to offer and I think that he's even more attractive now than when he started, so he'll be around for sometime to come".

Who could disagree with that?

"We all have our favourites and Antoine Korda is one of mine. Could he be the one that follows in Lucas and Johann's footsteps to become a big star?"

"He is a beautiful boy but this is his first video so it's too early to say how popular he'll be. We'll have to see how he develops; at the moment he makes a very good bottom".

He certainly has a gorgeous 'bubble' butt.

I leave the busy Bel Ami, and while walking along the beach with newcomer Antoine, I wondered if he was enjoying making his first Gay porn video. He clearly is as he has no difficulty in getting erections for his sequences with the other boys or for photo sessions.

I ask if he's ever had sex with men before.

"Only with Bel Ami and the boys, never with anyone else". He joined them when he was 17 (their age of consent being lower than ours) and since then has had several 'training sessions' in preparation for his 18th birthday when he could start making films.

Like the other boys he comes from a good family and had a decent education and upbringing. He also, is in the business in order to travel and make some money before he starts his military service in October.

I'm fascinated to know if he's Gay or straight, a question that once again seems to cause puzzlement and I begin to understand why. In Eastern Europe it's not a question of straight or Gay - you go with who you fancy and no one is bothered. Their society and thinking is very different to ours, they neither condemn nor condone, they are, quite simply, non-judgemental. This was clear when they were filming.

The boys have to be able to get an erection frequently and, if having difficulty, will accept assistance from any source available. They'll flick through a **Penthouse Magazine** for the beaver shots, get one of the other boys to give them a blow job or obtain help from any eager journalist or director standing nearby: Sex is sex to them.

Rebecca Tremain confirmed my beliefs. She's a vivacious British actress with a string of credits to her name and has a starring role in 'Summer: The First Time'. The boys competed for her favors throughout the shoot, especially Johann for whom she has a soft spot. She had difficulty in getting her head around the

Please See Paulik Page 21



THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

RECAPS...

Well the Turn About Night at Za's was a big hit and a whole lot of fun. It was a benefit for ROW, Rainbow Over Wisconsin. It sure was nice to see so many people turning out to support a worthwhile organization.

Then on Easter I had a great time at Scandals during its Easter Egg hunt. Mike and Nancy really know how to throw a great party. So does Mama Roux's. Even though most of those on hand were too wimpy to enter the Easter Bonnet Contest, the egg raffle was a great success. The raffle was a benefit for Nelli Mae Jones, Mama's candidate for Possum Queen. You go girl.

Last but not least, I wiled away the closing hours of the holiday at M & M listening to Terri and Corky do their Karoke thing. They were in fine form.

The Cream City Chorus concert on Saturday April 5 was good and so was the Firebird's party at the Boot Camp.

Coming Up

On Friday April 11, I will start out with one of those fab Just Us Fish Fries. Then it will be off to UWM for the screening of "Gay Cuba." After the flick it will be time to head down to La Cage for some hot dancing with some hot men. By the way, if you haven't seen what George, Corey and Company have done to the back bar do stop in. It looks fabulous.

Saturday April 12 you can find me in Madison at the United's Big Shindig at

Olbrich Botanical Gardens. It's a wine tasting, jazz music kind of thing for a very worthwhile cause.

Course no trip to Mad Town would be complete with stopping at **Manoeuvres and the Mad Bar**, where Mike, Charlie and crew really know how to make you feel welcome, **Scandals** where Mike and Nancy Newman and their great staff are always ready to show you a great time and **Geraldine's** where Ray and Company are ready able and willing to show you some great hospitality.

Speaking of Geraldine's, Ray's Café will no longer be open after hours. Ray says there were too many problems with providing reliable service.

If I was anywhere near Wausau on the evening of the 11th, I would want to stop in at **The Mad Hatter** for its "Turnabout Night." The proceeds go towards making sure everyone who has sex does it safely.

On Wednesday April 16 I'll be at La Cage for its two for one night. What a great idea, hot music, hot men in a hot bar, offering drinks at 2 for 1. Thanks George we love ya for this one.

Thursday April 17, I'll be over at **In Between** for Tommy's last 20ish Birthday party. Can you believe that he's turning 29??? (He looks more like 20 or 21). As regulars know, parties at In Between are always good. Hope you'll join me in wishing Tommy a Happy B-Day with many happy returns.

Friday April 18, I'll stop in at **Mama Roux** for one of their great fish fries. Cod

have never eaten there better move quick. The place fills up fast around dinner time and rightfully so. Mama's food has been one of Milwaukee's best kept secrets, but the word is spreading.

After that of course I will be at **La Cage** for their big **Bacardi Party**. The Bacardi Boys will be there to serve my every need, um er, I mean my beverage needs. And isn't it nice that George and Corey are throwing a special party on a night on a Friday night so everyone who has Saturday off (and that's most of us) can come stay out late and enjoy it without having to worry about being tired at work the next day?

Saturday April 19 is one of those days when I wish was triplets so I could go to everything. The SSBL is holding a season opening party at **The Ball Game** (good choice hey) to beginning the celebrations of its 20th Anniversary Season.

Players, boosters and fans are all invited to share in some food, great cheer and good fun. The party starts at 5:00.

Then there is **The Wisconsin Leather Men Club Night at The Boot Camp** (where else???) The party benefits The Community Center Trust Fund (a very worthy cause).

Last but not least is the **Mr and Miss Emerald City Pageant at Za's** in Green Bay. Za's is always a fun place to visit and especially when there is a big event like this one.

If I could get to Eau Claire I would want to take in the **Raw Entertainment** show at the **Trading Company**. This show consists of entertainers from Milwaukee. Hey since we closed down all those breweries we gotta find something to export. I just hope they leave a few hot men behind for the rest of us.

Then on Friday April 25 it will party time with my leather friends. This is the beginning of the big **Daddy Boy Weekend**. The festivities get underway with a cocktail party at **South Water Street Docks** from 6:30 to 8:30. This will be followed by the Boy Contest at **The 1100 Club** at 10:00.

At some point that evening I will be heading up to Mad Town for the **Lights Out Party at Scandals**. I have never been to a Lights Out Party but I hear from those who have been that they are a real gas. So if you aren't afraid of the dark, I do hope you will join me there.

Saturday April 26 the **1100 Club** hosts the Daddy Contest at 10:00. But I do hope that you will join me at **Mama Roux** for their first ever Softball Fundraiser. They have a new team in the SSBL and the whole place will be rocking with excitement. There will be a Beer Bust, Raffles, Drink specials and more.

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

Paulik
Continued From Page 21

idea of the boys fucking each other and also wanting to fuck with her and Johann blew it early on when he told her that she "has breasts like my mother" - not a good chat up line by any standards but his unassuming boyish charm soon won her over.

"Don't even try to understand them" she told me "Just accept them at face value. We seem to have lost their ability to give affection unconditionally".

It's true. If someone shows them that they care they return it in abundance. These are clearly unlike some of the hard-faced porn boys we nurture in the 'civilized' west.

Mike Esser, myself, Johann, Antoine and Rene are taking a break by driving to the coast. Rene, who is the interpreter and the only declared Gay in the group, tells us that the boys are just ordinary by eastern European standards; most of the boys in his town are just as gorgeous, friendly and polite. I make a mental note to go there; I'm not going to tell you where.

The boy's English is intermittent and when Johann says "I don't feel well. I've got Gonorrhoea" Mike nearly has a heart attack, thinking that his filming is finished because if one's got it they all have.

I almost swerve the car off the road before Rene explains that Johann meant to have said Diarrhea, to much laughter.

Later there's a heated conversation taking place between the boys in the back of the car. I ask Rene to translate

"We've been discussing Western society with all of its apparent advantages and decided that we've no regrets about being raised in a poor country despite all the hardships our families endured. You have all these material comforts but still never seem very happy. You don't seem very warm towards each other and are suspicious when friendship is offered; you even seem to be afraid to give each other a hug. It seems so sad". It is.



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Eau Claire WI
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Eau Claire, WI 54703
832-9237

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437-3917

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Green Bay, WI 54303
430-9854

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Green Bay, WI 54303
432-9646

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Green Bay, WI 54304
437-7277

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Madison, WI 53703
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647-9950

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Milwaukee, WI 53204
643-9633

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Milwaukee, WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
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Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-2233

La Cage
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Milwaukee, WI 52304
383-8300

La Perla Restaurant
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347-0344

M & M Club
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Milwaukee, WI 53202
347-1962

Rene's Cozy Corner
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Milwaukee, WI 53208
933-RENE

S. Water St. Docks
354 E. National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
225-9676

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Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-5755

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Milwaukee, WI 53216
447-0910

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Milwaukee, WI 53204
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Milwaukee, WI 53204
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457-1636

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Superior, WI 54880
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Illinois

CARAMEL COMPLEXION This good looking, 25 year old, light skinned, Black male, 5'9, 160lbs, wants frequent meetings with masculine, muscular men. Agenda to be determined. (Chicago) #9314

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

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

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

WHEN IS OUR TEE TIME? I'm a professional, White male, in my early 30's, looking for a sincere man to build a relationship with. I'm 5'10, 190lbs, with short Blondish Brown hair, Hazel eyes, and a goatee. I enjoy movies, concerts, long walks in the park, going out to dinner, and playing volleyball and golf. I enjoy watching most sports. (Evanston) #30097

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

OUR DAY WILL COME I believe that there's someone out there whose interests will match mine. I'm a 43 year old, Gay, White male, 5'6, 130lbs. I like movies, quiet evenings, dining out, bike rides, and more. If you're a Gay, White male, 30 to 45, you may be the one for me. Let's start as friends. (Matteson) #15168

A PIECE OF THE ROCK This Black male, singer and dancer, is a bottom and wants to establish a friendship with a top man, preferably Black, but I'm flexible, in the area. You should be masculine and fun loving. (Rockford) #7085

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

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

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. (Charhassan) #27515

TO THE LIMIT I like country life except for the fact that it's hard to find what I want. I'm a red hanky enthusiast, in my 40's. I like to play both the top and bottom roles. Let's take each other to the limit and enjoy every minute of it. (Houston) #15205

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

TWIN CITIES COMPANION I'm a friendly, Gay, White male, 25, looking for a kind, considerate friend, 30 to 40, who has hopes of finding a longtime companion. I'm a professional and a student, so I'm busy. I'll make the time for you, however. I enjoy movies, fine dining, and meeting people. (Minneapolis) #15403

IT FEELS REAL This sexy Transvestite with beautiful, long hair, full red lips, and a nice, tight, rear seeks well equipped men, not necessarily one at a time, who can make me feel like a real woman. (Minneapolis) #9056

ATHLETIC AND EAGER This smooth, athletic, clean shaven guy is into almost anything, but is primarily a top. I'm an attractive, White male, 5'8, 155lbs, with short Brown hair, and Blue eyes. I want to meet other sexy guys for hot fun. (Minneapolis) #8744

FUN AND SUCH I want to meet some nice looking guys, between 25 and 35, for fun and such. I'm an attractive, White male, 34, with dark hair and eyes, and a medium build. (Minneapolis) #30237

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

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

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

I'M RATED XXX I'm a Bi guy and I'm feeling

very kinky. I'm 5'9, 145lbs, and I want to get to know you in many ways. I'm into making X-rated movies, playing with toys, and many other pleasures. Talk to me. (Princeton) #10232

GOOD BYE, CITY LIFE I love traveling, driving, walking, fishing, and camping. In other words, I'm a big fan of country life. If you're a Bi male, and share this inclination, call me. (Rochester) #15177

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

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

CHECKERED FLAG This Bi guy is looking for regular get togethers with someone in the area. I'm a big sports fan. I love football, Nascar racing, camping, and the outdoors. Discretion is a must. (Eau Claire) #30044

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

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) #22820

A SUCKER FOR SKINHEADS This versatile, Black male, 38, 5'7, wants to meet a well endowed, versatile top, of any race, for fun. I'm stocky and very orally talented. I'm especially interested in bearded, hairy guys with shaved heads. (Milwaukee) #12750

GOING PLACES I know we can go places together. This African American male, 5'8, 145lbs, with Black hair and Brown eyes wants to meet another guy interested in going to movies, out to dinner, and hanging out in front of the television. I like well built, African Americans, Hispanics, and White males. (Milwaukee) #30584

BE A SPORT This shy, 37 year old, White male is into all sports, indoor and outdoor. I also like movies and relaxing at home. Call for more information. (Milwaukee) #30465

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. You should be under 40 years old, in good shape, and weigh over 170lbs. Some experience on the mat will also come in handy. (Milwaukee) #20332

WELCOME ME BACK I recently returned to town after living in Chicago for a number of years. I'd like to meet new friends interested in music, and theater. I'd like to go out for dinners and talk, and talk, and talk. You know, just have a nice time together. (Milwaukee) #28633

COUPLE OF LAUGHS We're a good looking, in shape, couple, in our thirties, looking for people in the northern part of the state to get together and have some laughs with. (Milwaukee) #28844

UNLOCK THE SHACKLES I'm the product of a strict, religious upbringing and I need to let loose. I'm looking for my first same-sex experience with a Transvestite, Transsexual, or she male. I'm a very masculine, White male, 29, 6ft, with a nice build, Brown hair and Blue eyes. I'm clean and healthy and don't smoke or drink. (Milwaukee) #13459

A CLASS ACT Handsome with a kind heart, sharp mind, slender body & exceptional character. Financially successful, yet down to earth. Emotionally secure & open minded with a rather irreverent sense of humor, & fun to be with. At 42, life is good. I'd like it to be wonderful; might you be the cause? Seeking the right guy, under 30, who appreciates substance, sensitivity, & warmth. No hurry, friends first, then....? (Milwaukee) #13620

ORAL AFTERNOONS This Gay, White male, professional writer, 5'10, 180lbs, would like to meet Gay, White, or Asian, males, 18 to 40, for oral afternoons and evenings. Experience not necessary. I'm a smoker and moderate drinker. (Milwaukee) #12856

BULLS EYE I'm a bottom looking for very well hung guys who love to be orally serviced. I'm very hairy, 5'11, 175lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a mustache. I like movies, football, baseball, bowling, darts, and many other things. (Mukwonago) #28445

SLINKY 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

TIMID BUT TRUE I'm a little shy about doing this but I want to meet some friends. I'm a 27 year old male, 5'9. Let's meet. (Wisconsin Rapids) #1753

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CURIOUS I'm curious and inexperienced but I'm ready to share some good, safe, fun with the right guy. I'm an attractive, 28 year old, White male, 6'2, 185lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. Let's make friends on the phone and let it flow from there. #15189

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

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St. Eulalia, Patroness of Drag Queens

By Brian Treglown

The selection of a patron saint to serve as a protector—a sort of special guardian, actually—over a segment of Catholics is a long-standing tradition. There is a patron saint for people with epilepsy (St. Vitus), and one for poets (St. Cecilia). There is even a patron saint for postal employees (St. Ganniel), though one wonders if Gabriel isn't occasionally asleep at the switch given some postal employees' habit of periodically going on shooting rampages.

So, with so many occupations and lifestyles represented, it seems fitting that drag queens should now have someone who would provide this special guardianship for them, too.

Clearly, the logical patron saint candidate for Catholic drag queens is St. Eulalia. She was born in 304 AD, in the Spanish town of Merida. Eulalia was a pious child, a fervent believer in the Catholic Christian faith. So, when the ruler, Maximian, began decreeing that people must make sacrifices to the gods, Eulalia was troubled. Though only 12 years-old at the time, she believed the edicts were blasphemous. No way would she comply.

Eulalia's mother realized that her spirited child was courting danger. If she were to openly defy the ruling, there was sure to be persecution. So, she took the child from Merida to the countryside, hoping for safety in distance.

But Eulalia was not to be denied her fury. She made a special trip to see the presiding judge. When he tried to appease her, legend has it that she spat at him and reproached him for enforcing a rule that would deny the existence of one God. Not a smart move. Her actions gave the judge no choice but to sentence her to death.

At this point, the details get cloudy. As so often happens with history retold many times over the centuries, there is no clear consensus on how Eulalia was executed. One story is that she was burned to death. Another is that she was tortured and her body impaled with large hooks.

A third story—one that is of interest to us here—is that she was crucified. This

account becomes significant because, if true, it makes Eulalia the first Christian woman to receive the dubious honor of being executed in the same manner as Christ.

(Not too long after this, the Emperor Constantine the Great would ban crucifixion throughout the Roman world as a means of crucifixion in honor of Christ.)

Now, the point of all this is that in the church named for her in Barcelona, St. Eulalia is depicted on the cross in a dress, almost as if the figure were a cross-dressing Christ.

One final note: for reasons unknown, Eulalia is already patron saint of sailors. Drag queens and sailors, both under Eulalia's all-caring umbrella? Could be interesting.

BestD Outreach Schedule for April

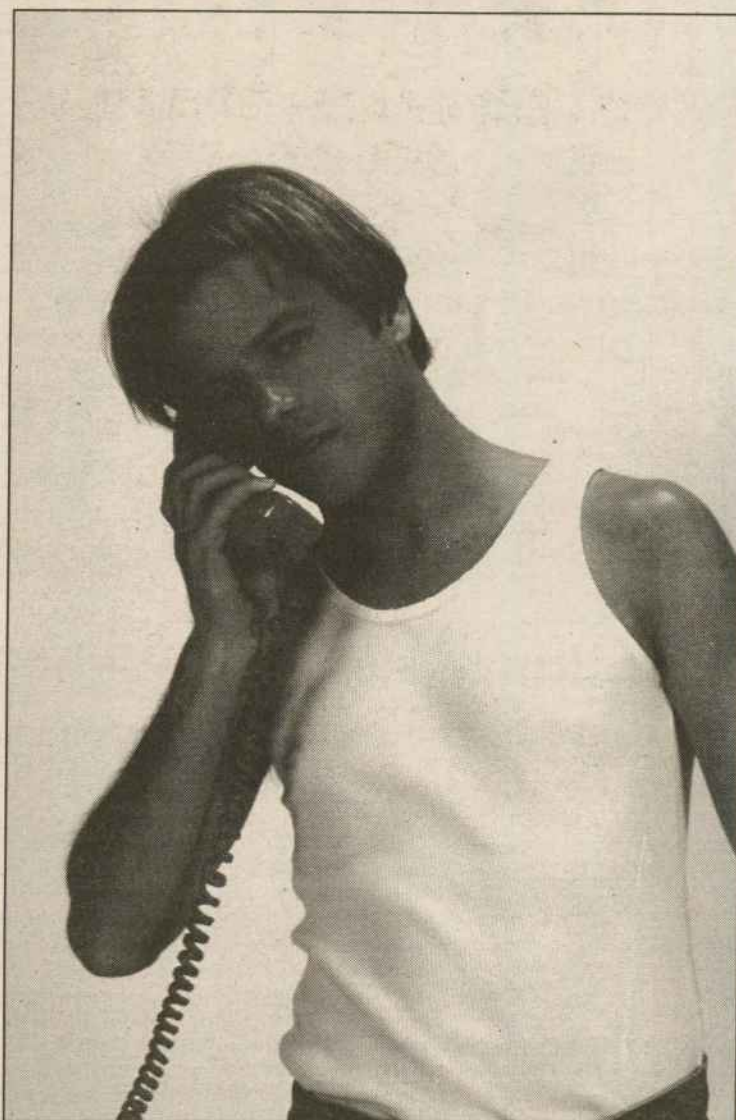
Sat. April 12-9:00 p.m. to midnight
Mama Roux
 Wed. April 16-9:00 p.m. to midnight
Sherman Park Rainbow Assoc.
 April 17-6:30-8:30 p.m.
UWM Union Concourse
 Wed., April 23-10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Boot Camp Saloon
 Wed., April 23-10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
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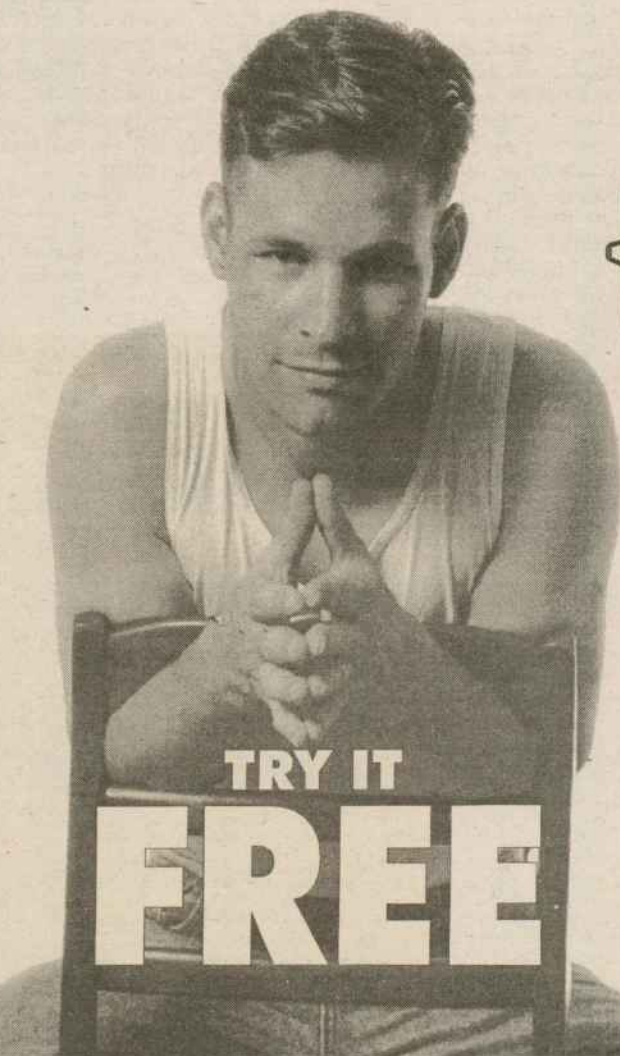
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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

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Speaking From the Right

Genetics and Abortion Rights Combine to Make Gay Genocide a Possibility

Commentary by Jim McFarland

Note: The opinions expressed in this column are the opinions of the author, not of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR). LCR has no official position on the issue of abortion, and there are both pro-life members and pro-choice members of LCR.

It was bound to happen eventually. As science comes closer and closer to identifying the genetic basis of homosexuality, the ability to determine an unborn child's sexual orientation has entered the realm of possibilities. It was only a matter of time before someone commented on the potential of aborting Lesbian or Gay unborn children.

That time has come, as Nobel Prize winning scientist Dr. James Watson recently stated that he thought it would be appropriate for women to abort homosexual babies if a genetic test for homosexuality becomes available. In typical liberal fashion, he opined essentially that it would be cruel to bring a homosexual baby into a world full of prejudice, and that it would be unfair to a mother to have to sacrifice the prospect of having grandchildren by bringing such a baby to term.

Dr. Watson and others might not admit it or understand it, but he has in a sense stated that genocide against homosexuals is acceptable. What difference does it make if it is unborn homosexuals who are eliminated or adult homosexuals who are eliminated (as the Nazis did)? The end result is the same: the extermination of a class of humans without their consent.

While some pro-choice advocates have expressed outrage against eugenics, abortion, which would include abortion of homosexual babies identified by genetic testing as well as abortion of female babies identified by amniocentesis (which happens now, although to a limited extent), pro-choice activists fail to understand that Dr. Watson's position in favor of aborting homosexual babies identified by genetic testing is merely the logical and necessary result of the pro-choice movement's mantra: "Every child a wanted child".

If it is true, as pro-choice activists argue, that a woman should bring an unborn child into this world only if she wants the child, then it should be perfectly acceptable for a woman to abort a child because she or he is homosexual. After all, as Dr. Watson has pointed out, having a homosexual child always brings grief to parents, if for no other reason than that lesbians and gays face so much prejudice and hatred in this world.

I am sure that some Lesbians and Gays believe that they would have been better off never having been born when compared to the hardship of living in this homophobic society as a homosexual. Certainly, those Lesbians and Gays who have committed suicide felt this.

Of course, the difference is that those Lesbians and Gays had the choice of whether to live and die and made that choice, whereas homosexual unborn children would be denied that choice in the event of genetic testing for homosexuality. And many of us, probably the majority of us, have decided for ourselves that we are better off alive, as difficult as that might be in this world, than dead.

The advent of genetic testing for homosexuality will create a difficult quandary for pro-choice Lesbians and Gays. If they

continue to argue that women should have the absolute right to decide whether or not to bring an unborn child to term, they will have to accept the fact that many, if not most of the homosexual unborn children will be aborted.

But I am certain that most of them will be as concerned as I am about the specter of genocide through abortion. Will they argue, instead of "Every child a wanted child", "Every child a wanted child by my standards of which children should be wanted"? Will they hypocritically tell women that they should have to carry an unborn child to term if that child is homosexual (but not, for instance, if the child has Down's Syndrome)? Or will they turn a blind eye to genocide on a large scale?

Pro-choice activists often accuse profilers of ignoring the plight of women who find themselves in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy, and rightly so. But at the same time, it seems to me that pro-choice activists are equally guilty of ignoring the plight of unwanted unborn children, to the point that they often dismiss an unborn child as "nothing but a mass of cells" rather than as a human being that has human qualities.

Perhaps the advent of genetic testing for homosexuality will cause pro-choice Lesbians and Gays to consider, for the first time, the humanity of the unborn child.

If we come to see some unborn children as Gay brothers or sisters, maybe we will come to see unborn children in general as human beings like us, entitled to the same rights that we have. If we do not, we may face a time when there will be no more homosexuals born into this world.

GLBT Speaker's Series at Features Transgender and Transsexual issues

April Events

Milwaukee--What does it mean to be Transgender? How are Transgender issues similar to those faced by Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual people?

Learn answers to these and other questions at this Speakers Series program. Members from the Milwaukee chapter of Gemini Gender Group, an organization that supports the Transgender community, will be present for a discussion on Transgender and Transsexual identities. They will be speaking about their experiences of their coming out process, of challenges they have faced, and other issues.

The program will begin at 7:00 PM in Room E280 of the UWM Student Union located at 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. All GLBT Speakers Series programs are free of charge and open to the public.

The series is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community at UWM, the UWM Of-

fice of Student Life, and the UWM Women's Resource Center.

For more information on this events, contact the GLBC at (414) 229-6555, email glbc@csd.uwm.edu, or snail mail to Union Box 251, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413.

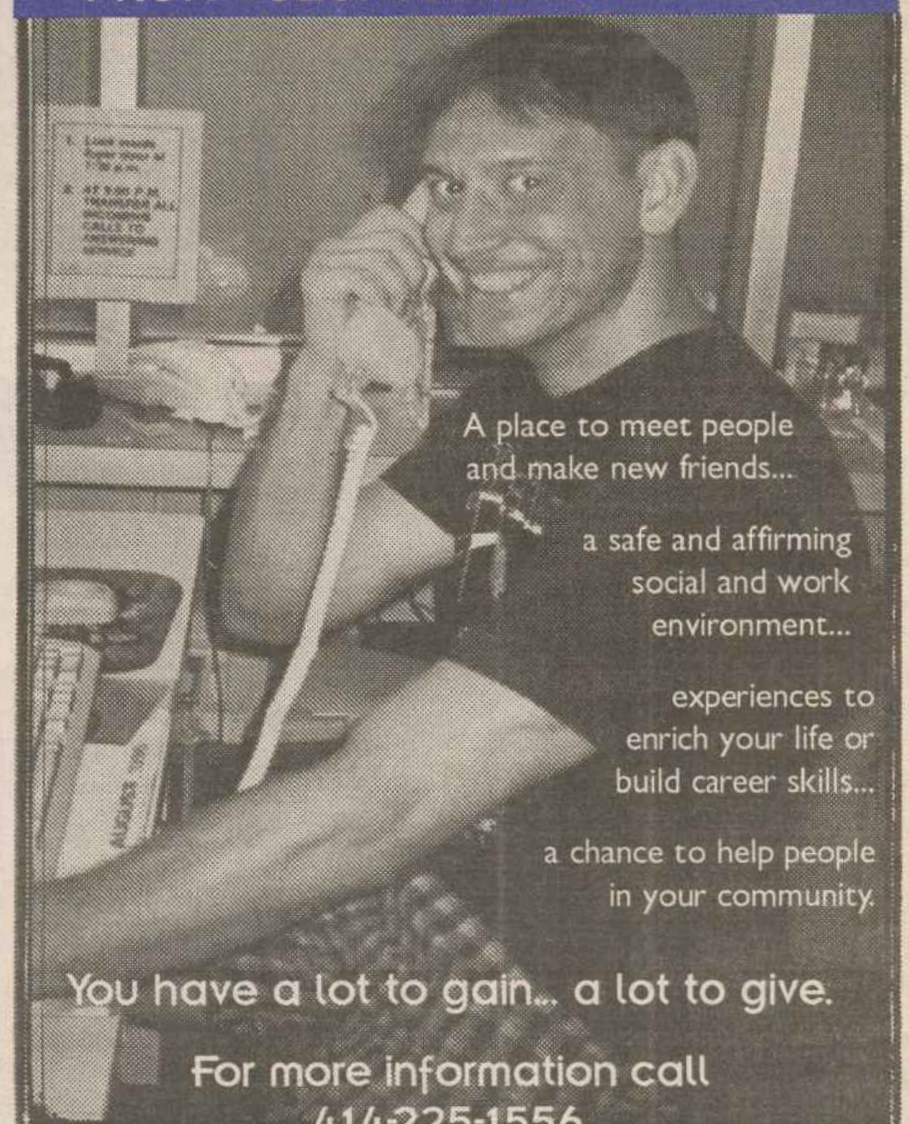
42nd Street coming to Milwaukee

The Broadway Musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" has been cancelled and will be replaced by the award winning 42nd Street.

42nd street will run from June 10 to June 15 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Uihlein Hall. Performance times are Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 PM, Saturday at 2 PM and 8:00 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

Tickets purchased for "How to Succeed ... will be honored for 42nd Street. For tickets call the Marcus Center Box Office (414) 273-7121.

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