

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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Rally Against Discrimination

**Milwaukee**—State Rep. Barb Note-stein (D-Milwaukee) will speak at a rally against AB104.

The "Wisconsin Won't Discriminate" rally is being held Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in front of the State Office Building on 7<sup>th</sup> and Wells in downtown Milwaukee.

For more information on the rally, please call Andy Bagnall at (414) 225-1502.

## Compromise Reached on Changing Wisconsin HIV Confidentiality Law

**Milwaukee**—A group representing AIDS victims reports a compromise with legislators for changing a Wisconsin confidentiality law under which people with the disease need not inform their sex partners.

Existing law forbids physicians whose patients have the AIDS-causing HIV virus from notifying the patients' sex and intravenous drug partners about the risk, unless the patient has died.

Legislation introduced earlier this month would allow physicians to alert partners of patients who test positive for HIV.

The move was occasioned by the report of a Milwaukee man who is HIV+. He reportedly told doctors at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital that he was still having sex with his wife, who doesn't know he has the virus. According to the report, doctors urged him to tell his wife, but he has refused.

The above case is only one of several reported. Physicians can do nothing because of the state's confidentiality laws. The law forbids physicians to tell patients' sex or IV needle sharing partners that they're at risk unless the patient has died.

To correct situations like the one above, a bill was sponsored by State Rep. Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee) and State Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig (R-Wauwatosa) that would allow doctors to intervene in cases where there is a substantial risk of HIV transmission.

The issue is of such sensitivity, both in Wisconsin and nationwide, that legislators, the Milwaukee AIDS Project, the Medical College of Wisconsin, the State Medical Society and others have been meeting behind the scenes for weeks to develop a position on which all may agree.

Under a compromise version, physicians would notify the state Division of Health, which then would notify the partners

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## Efforts to Derail Wisconsin Anti-Gay Marriage Bill Intensify



**A Very Special Night**—Milwaukee's First Annual Gay Youth Prom held at the Park East Hotel on Saturday April 19 was a big success attracting over 100 celebrants. Seen above (L-R Back row) are: Kelly Chech, Franklin; Heather Thompson; Chris, Waterford; Chris, Milwaukee; Knutson VerBunker (Prom King); Shalimur Vega, Milwaukee (Prom Queen); Alisha Hunt, Milwaukee; Melanic J. Keller, Kenosha; Amanda Henes, Franklin; seated are Cheryl Angelroth, and Nikki Hass, Milwaukee; Best Female Couple. Additional pictures can be seen on page 12.

**Madison**—As the vote on AB 104, Wisconsin's Anti-Gay Marriage bill nears, efforts to defeat it are intensifying. The bill is expected to pass the State Assembly but faces an uncertain future in the State Senate.

AB 104 sponsored by State Representative Lorraine Serratti, (R-Spread Eagle) would forbid Same Sex marriages from being performed in Wisconsin.

Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin told the *Wisconsin Light* that the defeat of AB 104 is important.

Baldwin says that the radical religious right is using AB 104 as an organizing tool. "If they are successful with AB 104, we can be assured that other bills will soon follow."

Indeed, in addition to Anti-Gay marriage bills, other states are also considering or have passed legislation that would ban guidance counselors from referring suicidal Gay teens to Gay operated

groups, bans on Gay organizations on college campuses and in High Schools and even bills that would allow them to confine anyone who is HIV+.

Dan Ross, At Large Board Member for Action Wisconsin, agrees with Baldwin. "If we don't act now, we will be facing even worse legislation in the future."

In Wisconsin religious extremists have made it clear that they want to repeal AB 70, Wisconsin's landmark Gay Civil Rights law, and reinstate Wisconsin's Sodomy laws among other measures.

AB 104 has raised many questions. Some clergy from churches that perform Gay marriages have called it an infringement on their religious freedom. Legal scholars have said that since Wisconsin already defines marriage as a union between a husband and wife, AB 104 is not needed. Furthermore there are an estimated two dozen Wisconsin married couples where one of the partners has undergone a sex change operation. If passed in its present form, AB 104 would in effect annul these unions.

Nevertheless on May 13, the State Assembly is expected to pass the bill. AB 104 has 30 sponsors in the lower chamber of the Legislature. That expectation hasn't stopped or even slowed down efforts to convince

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## Hawaii Legislature Agrees to Constitutional Amendment Banning Gay Marriage

**Honolulu**—The *Honolulu Advertiser* reports the Hawaii House and Senate have reached agreement on a proposed constitutional amendment they believe would ban same sex marriage. Agreement has also reportedly been reached on the package of benefits and rights for couples who, under the amended state constitution, would be denied the right to marry.

In an effort to steer the decision away from the purview of Hawaii's courts, House and Senate leaders have been struggling for months over the wording of a constitutional amendment. The *Advertiser* reports lawmakers on April 16<sup>th</sup>, agreed to: "The Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples."

If the proposed amendment clears the full legislature, as expected, voters will be asked to ratify the amendment in the 1988 General Election. Polls taken over the past several years show a sixty to seventy percent majority of Hawaii residents have stated their opposition to same-sex marriage.

House and Senate negotiations repeatedly broke down over the scope of bene-

fits that would be granted Gay couples and other non-traditional families in the event the Gay marriage ban was adopted. The House was offering a limited package of five enumerated benefits and the Senate was pressing for a package containing more than two hundred.

The compromise reached late in the night of April 16<sup>th</sup>, provides some sixty rights and benefits guaranteed by the state to couples forbidden by law to marry.

Senate negotiators say a substantial benefits package which included joint health care coverage was absolutely essential if lawmakers were to prove to the courts that banning Gay marriage did not necessarily entail discriminatory practices against Gay couples.

Dan Foley, the lawyer representing the three Gay and Lesbian couples who originally sued the state for marriage licenses, says the case is far from over. If the proposed amendment is adopted by voters in 1998, the 1999 legislature would still have to draft a law banning Gay marriage. Foley says the Hawaii Supreme Court will not wait that long to make a decision on the Gay marriage issue.

## Gay Youth Milwaukee to Attend First National Youth Summit in Washington

**Milwaukee**—Gay Youth Milwaukee (GYM) members Talia Schank, Antwan Tillis, James Pekrul, Nikki Liass, Gracie Limbach, James Winters and Koren Hoard will join two hundred youth and adult experts from across the country meeting in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 27-Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the critical issues facing Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender youth and to educated members of Congress about their lives.

Participants in the National Youth Advocacy Coalition's (NYAC) first annual summit will come together as part of the only national summit to focus entirely on the mental and physical health needs and advocacy trends for GLBT youth.

GYM is a participating member of NYAC and has one of its members, Talia Schank, serving as one of NYAC's national steering committee youth members.

GYM assisted in hosting NYAC's first midwest regional meeting in Milwaukee last November at which some 40 youth and adults attended from 6 states.

GYM members who will be attending the national summit matched travel scholarships with their own fundraising in order to attend this groundbreaking event.

NYAC is the only national organization solely focused on advocacy, education and information affecting the lives of GLBT youth. NYAC works to end discrimination against these young people through a collaboration of a broad spectrum of over 100 national and community-based organization members nationwide.

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**Toasting the Happy Couple**—Jamie Gays, (Center) toasts Nick Gagiano and Jim Riske at their Twenty-Fifth Anniversary party held at Milwaukee's 1100 Club on Saturday April 12. The couple renewed their vows and shared the special occasion with dozens of their friends. (More pictures of this event can be found on Page 13)



# News From The Nation



## “Ellen” Misses the Boat

**Washington, DC**—The splash around “Ellen’s” coming out has turned to waves for one Lesbian-owned business because of a decision by the ABC network not to air their advertisement during the upcoming episode when the lead character announces that she is a Lesbian.

The network rejected Olivia Cruise Lines request to buy air time with the explanation that their ad was unfit for younger viewers. Though shooting of the ad has not yet begun, plans called for the commercial to show two women kissing aboard a cruise ship. The company considered the ad to be a compliment to the theme of the April 30 episode.

Some have called ABC’s decision to dock the ad “a double standard” considering that the network is willing to broadcast a show about a Lesbian discovering herself. “As more Gay and Lesbian-themed programming begins to air, network executives will have to take another look at their advertising policies,” said Kerry Lobel, Task Force executive director. “They don’t seem to have a problem running an ad for other cruise lines with happy straight couples kissing and being romantic,” she stated. “Aren’t there children watching those programs too?,” she asked.

## Gay Pride Comes to Reluctant Greenville

**Washington, DC**—The 1997 Pride season begins this year in Greenville, South Carolina where anti-Gay sentiment currently runs high. April 18 marks the kickoff of the weekend-long celebration in Greenville, but celebrants don’t expect the city to greet the more than 5,000 expected marchers with old-fashioned southern hospitality.

The South Carolina Gay Pride March is normally held in the state capitol of Columbia. This year organizers moved the festivities to Greenville. The move was in response to the County Council’s adoption of a resolution declaring in part, “that homosexuality is incompatible with the standards of this community.”

Called Created Equal, a reference to the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution, the Pride weekend will have performances, an AIDS vigil and a march and pride rally. Rally speakers include Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, (NGLTF), Mandy Carter, Field Director for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and David Mixner, friend and advisor to President Clinton.

## GOP Solons Sign Non-Discrimination Policy

**Washington, DC**—Several GOP Members of Congress have confirmed to Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) that, as a matter of policy, they do not permit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the hiring, firing or promoting of personnel in their Hill offices.

As one of its top priorities in the 105th Congress, LCR requested written clarification of the non-discrimination policies in each Republican Member’s office, specifically addressing sexual orientation. Responses to LCR’s March 3 request have begun arriving at LCR’s Washington office, including from some Republicans who had not publicly clarified their policies in previous years.

Rep. Mark Neumann (R-WI) was one of several new confirmations received by Log Cabin Republicans, including Rep. Charlie Bass (R-NH), Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH), and newly-elected Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) 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.

A total of 24 GOP Senators and 69 GOP House Members have certified in writing that they do not discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in their offices.

## Panel Finds Probable Cause in Lesbian Case

**Pittsburgh-AP**—The University of Pittsburgh discriminated by refusing to extend health coverage to the Lesbian partner of a former writing instructor, a civil rights panel has decided.

Deborah Henson, a lawyer who taught legal analysis and writing, filed a complaint against the university in January 1996, saying the policy violated a city ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The city Human Relations Commission concluded that the policy “has resulted in disparate treatment (for homosexual employees) in comparison to heterosexual employees.”

The case now proceeds to a private settlement conference. If both sides fail to agree on a resolution, the commission will schedule a public hearing on the complaint.

## Largest Ever Gay Religious Conference to be Held

**Los Angeles**—The largest international Gay and Lesbian religious gathering ever held in the Pacific Rim will take place in Sydney, Australia, July 20-25, 1997, according to the Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

“This is the first of UFMCC’s biennial General Conferences to be held outside of North America, and reflects our growing commitment as a truly international community of faith,” Perry said.

This year’s General Conference will feature a public rally at Sydney’s town hall, keynote addresses by internationally recognized human rights activists and theologians, an international AIDS luncheon, and much else. The theme is “You are the light of the world.” For more information, call (310) 360-8640.

## 14<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

**San Francisco**—The 14<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization will be observed worldwide on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997. The event honors the memory of those who have died of AIDS. In May, 1996, the Memorial was observed in over 300 cities in 43 nations. The theme for 1997 is “Illuminate the Truth: Honor every death, Value every life.”

## Gay Games VI in 2002

**San Francisco**—In an unprecedented show of global support and interest in the Gay Games, five cities from three countries have presented bids to host Gay Games VI in 2002. The cities are Dallas, Long Beach, Montreal, Sydney, and Toronto. Actual selection of the host city for 2002 will take place in November, ’97, in Denver, at the annual Board meeting of The Federation of Gay Games. The Federation’s site selection committee will be visiting all five cities this spring and assisting the prospective hosts prepare for their presentations in Denver.

## Nabozny Gets High School Diploma

**San Francisco**—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and its plaintiff, Jamie Nabozny, came to San Francisco to pick up an honorary diploma. The diploma was presented to Nabozny on April 10<sup>th</sup> from the San Francisco Unified School District. San Francisco Schools Superintendent Waldemar Rojas and Board of Education member Juanita Owens awarded the diploma at Lambda’s Seventh Annual San Francisco Spring Reception and Dinner.

“This honor means more to me and my family than anyone will ever know,” Nabozny said. “I would like to thank the San Francisco School District for offering this diploma, something that, along with a safe education, I was denied in my home town [of Ashland, Wisconsin].”

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lambda and Nabozny were also honored when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors issued Certificates of Honor for their anti-discrimination work.

## Lesbian Activist Says Military Still Discriminates

**Fort Collins, CO-AP**—A career Army officer drummed out of the military for being a Lesbian said homosexuals in the military are still the subject of witch hunts, in spite of the so-called “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

Margarethe Cammermeyer received several rounds of applause and a standing ovation Thursday, April 17, from more than 600 people who saw her speak as part of Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Awareness Days at Colorado State University.

## Company Offers Life Insurance to HIV+

**Chicago-AP**—AIDS advocates are cheering the decision of an insurance company to offer life insurance to people with HIV, a move seen by many as a recognition of the significant advances made in treating the illness.

“I’m certainly amazed that the insurance industry is starting to recognize that there is some real hope out there for people living with this disease,” said Javier Salazar, a lobbyist for Washington-based AIDS Action.

Guarantee Trust Life Insurance has become the first in the United States to offer life insurance, albeit expensively, to people infected with HIV. The Glenview-based company specializes in insuring high-risk individuals and is test-marketing the coverage in Illinois.

“From a life insurance risk perspective, we believe many otherwise healthy HIV-positive individuals are more appropriately viewed as having a treatable chronic illness rather than a terminal disease,” President Richard Holson said.

The treatment that has helped prolong the lives of people infected with the AIDS virus involves an expensive combination of drugs that includes a new kind called a protease inhibitor.

## Same-Sex Marriage Ban Apparently Dead

**Olympia, WA-AP**—In a prime example of how “up” can sometimes be “down” at the Capitol, Washington senators have managed to strongly approve a ban on same-sex marriages, while simultaneously giving it the kiss of death.

And adding to the slightly surreal quality of the vote, neither side is quite ready to declare that dead means dead.

The short explanation: The ban passed handily, but not before lawmakers removed a requirement for a public vote in September, a killing move, given Democratic Gov. Gary Locke’s strong opposition to the measure.

The bill, one of the top priorities of social conservatives this session, is on its second trip through the Legislature. Previously, the measure cleared both houses, but was vetoed by Locke, who called it unnecessary, mean-spirited and divisive.

The House struck back a month ago with a bill, HB1130, that would place the issue on the ballot, bypassing the governor’s desk. The vote was 50-48, the bare minimum needed for passage, with eight Republicans joining minority Democrats in opposition.

After days of futile searching for the necessary 25 Senate votes for the referendum, backers on Wednesday agreed to allow three moderate Republicans to sponsor an amendment removing the reference to a public vote. The amendment was approved on an unrecorded voice vote, and the bill then passed 30-18.

## Committee Tentatively Approves Marijuana Bill

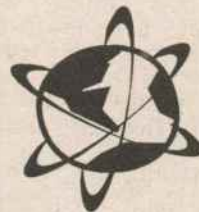
**Augusta, ME-AP**—A plan to legalize marijuana for medical use has won preliminary approval from Maine legislators.

The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services voted 9-3 in favor of a measure that would essentially protect people with cancer, AIDS or glaucoma from being prosecuted for possessing up to an ounce-and-a-quarter of marijuana. The bill will go on to the full House and Senate after the committee’s formal vote next month.

According to the proposal, people who use marijuana to treat glaucoma, AIDS, or cancer would be provided an “affirmative defense” for possessing the drug.

Under an affirmative defense, people still can be charged with possession of marijuana, which is a civil, rather than criminal, offense in this state. But judges would be obliged to dismiss the charges, and prosecutors likely would not pursue them. Use of marijuana in public would remain prohibited.

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## North Dakota Votes to Legalize Confinement for Those With HIV Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>

Washington, DC—On April 16<sup>th</sup>, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) released its bi-weekly update of Gay and HIV-related legislation in US state capitals. In the update, NGLTF tracks measures ranging from making schools safe for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth to banning Gay and Lesbian couples from becoming adoptive or foster parents.

Of great concern is a North Dakota bill recently signed into law making it the first state to legalize the confinement of people suspected of having HIV. According to the law, emergency personnel, including police officers, firefighters, patients, health care workers and others may secure a court order confining individuals to whose blood they have been "significantly" exposed. Persons may be confined for up to five days and no criminal charges need be filed to be imprisoned.

"This is one of the most chilling and dangerous laws enacted this year," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director. "It flies in the face of accepted medical and public health policy regarding HIV. This law will do more harm than good for the people of North Dakota."

Critics of the new law say the fact that HIV tests of others does not determine one's own HIV status seems to have been lost on North Dakota law makers and the governor. The law goes into effect July 1.

### Hate Crimes

Hate crimes legislation continues to move forward in a few states, buoying hopes that the number of states with hate crime laws inclusive of Gays and Lesbians will increase by year's end.

"Hate crime laws are of great importance in deterring violence against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people," stated Lobel. Four of the states with such bills currently have hate crime laws excluding crimes based on sexual orientation.

Lobel underscored the importance of having sexual orientation included in these laws, "hate crime laws excluding sexual orientation send a dangerous message that while hate crimes are wrong, anti-Gay bashing is acceptable."

As of April 16, 1997, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force tracked 227 Gay or HIV/AIDS-related state legislative measures. Over half, 116 are considered unfavorable or hostile. The remaining 111 are considered favorable to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community.

### Marriage

Approximately 61 bills banning same gender marriage have been introduced in 32 states. In Rhode Island and West Virginia, the defeat of anti-marriage bills last week was celebrated. This brings to six the number of states (MD, NH, NM, RI, WV, WY) where marriage bans were defeated this year.

Anti-marriage bills remain pending in 20 states (AL, CA, CO, CT, FL, HI, IN, IA, LA, MN, MT, NE, NJ, NY, OH, OR, TX, VT, WA, WI). In five states (IL, MD, NE, RI, WA), pro-marriage bills were introduced. Only those in Illinois and Washington remain alive.

This year, marriage bans have been signed into law in five states (AR, ME, MS, ND, VA). Marriage bans have become law in 21 states since 1995. (AK, AZ, AR, DE, GA, ID, IL, KS, ME, MS, MI, MO, NC, ND, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA)

In Nebraska, anti-marriage foes were unsuccessful in bringing the anti-Gay marriage bill to a vote. During debate, an amendment was introduced to prohibit people three times convicted of assault on a spouse from obtaining a marriage license. The amendment failed, 17 to 15. It is possible the bill will not be rescheduled for another vote.

In Indiana the LGBT community is battling its fourth anti-Gay marriage bill of the year. Three House bills were killed earlier in the session. The newest bill is a House amendment to a welfare-to-work bill. The full House will be voting on the bill in the near future.

In Washington state, a bill remains alive that, if passed, provides for a ballot measure on the issue by as early as June of this year.

### Civil Rights

Approximately 24 bills favoring basic civil rights for Lesbians and Gay men, including making discrimination in areas such as the workplace, housing and public accommodation illegal, have been introduced in at least 18 states. These measures remain alive in 11 states (AZ, CA, IL, LA, ME, NE, NH, NY, OR, TX, WA).

West Virginia's died in committee last week. Including West Virginia, civil rights measures re now dead in seven

states (AR, CO, MD, MT, NM, VA, WV).

In Washington, the group Hands Off Washington continues its signature gathering to put a pro-Gay employment non-discrimination measure on the ballot in November.

### Domestic Partnership

At least 15 measures have been introduced in seven states and five remain alive (CA, HI, IL, MA, and MN). These measures range from providing a mechanism for Lesbian and Gay couples to register as domestic partners, providing at hospital and prison visitation rights, to extending benefits such as health insurance to same-gender partners.

Domestic partner measures were killed in Colorado and Virginia. An anti-domestic partnership bill is moving in Colorado. The bill, which would prevent state colleges and universities from offering domestic partner benefits to its employees, passed a Senate committee.

In Illinois a bill was introduced mandating municipalities to extend domestic partner benefits to same-gender couples and to extend them to unmarried heterosexual couples as well. While the intent of this law is to undermine the provision of domestic partner benefits to same-gender couples recently approved by the Chicago City Council, NGLTF classifies this measure as favorable.

Historically, domestic partner measures included same and opposite sex partners, reflecting a progressive approach to the reality of families in the United States. NGLTF continues to support broad definitions of domestic partners in these measures.

### Hate Crimes

Twenty nine hate crime bills including crimes based on sexual orientation were introduced in at least 19 states (AZ, CO, DE, GA, IN, LA, MA, MN, MT, NE, NM, NY, PA, RI, SC, TX, VA, WV, WY).

The Indiana, Montana, New Mexico, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming bills are dead. Bills in Colorado and Nebraska moved out of committee last week and the Texas bill made it out of committee April 15<sup>th</sup> and now goes to the full Senate. A measure in Georgia missed the deadline to be heard this year but can still be considered next year. Georgia has a two year legislative session.

Of the bills still being considered, four states (CO, NY, PA, RI) would add sexual orientation to existing hate crime laws, while six of the states (AZ, DE, GA, LA, NE, SC) have no enhanced penalty hate crime laws on the books. In Texas, while there is a hate crimes law on the books that includes sexual orientation, the law is crafted such that prosecutions under it are nearly impossible.

In Arizona, a major showdown over the hate crimes bill unfolded last week. Governor Fife Symington, who vetoed similar legislation last session, attempted to attach an amendment eliminating specific categories of hate crimes. Such an amendment would have made the bill meaningless. House members rejected the language and passed the measure in its original form. Symington says he will veto the measure. The bill is now in the Senate.

In Kentucky, bill sponsors are waiving the ever popular and ever false banner of special rights. A bill was pre-filed that would prevent judges from issuing protective orders to victims of same-gender domestic violence.

According to press reports, one Senator stated, "If violence among homosexuals is so profound that they need special protection, the Gay community needs to come forth and explain what its problem is."

### Schools/Campus

Last week, California's Dignity for All Students Bill passed in the Assembly Education Committee. Speaking for the bill were numerous Gay and Lesbian youth and a mother who's son took his own life because of severe harassment and abuse from his classmates at school for being Gay. The bill would prohibit bias based on sexual orientation in school employment, curriculum and the treatment of students on campus. A measure that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in schools is pending in Connecticut, and in Rhode Island there is a measure that would repeal a law passed last year that lets parents take their children out of AIDS education and sex education classes.

In four states (MO, FL, NH, WA) anti-Gay bills concerning curriculum were introduced, and in three states (CA, CT, NC) anti-Gay bills concerning military recruitment on campuses are being considered.

### Sodomy

Five sodomy repeal measures were introduced in four states (AZ, MA, RI, VA). The Rhode Island and Virginia bills are dead. In California, efforts are underway to remove those prosecuted under a now extinct sodomy law from a bill requiring sex offenders to register.

### Transgender

Missouri is considering a measure hostile to Transgendered people. It would make Transgender status of a parent an issue in determining child custody.

### HIV/AIDS

At least 26 bills favorably addressing HIV/AIDS issues have been introduced in at least nine states (AR, CO, FL, GA, IN, MN, NM, RI, VA). At least 20 measures deemed unfavorable have been introduced in fourteen states (DE, FL, GA, ID, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, ND, OK, VA, WA).

In New York State there is a bill in the General Assembly that would eliminate what's left of confidentiality protections for persons with HIV.

## Make A Promise Dinner Raises Record Amount for MAP

Milwaukee— A record amount of money, nearly \$145,000, was raised at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) 11th annual Make a Promise Dinner & Auction on March 22.

Donations from corporate sponsors like Seagull Enterprises, United Airlines and Miller Brewing Company; event ticket sales; and bids on over 350 auction items, comprised the money raised at the event.

"There was a nine percent increase in net income from the 1996 event, which would not have been possible without the generous donations and strong support from the community," said Marge Beil, special events director at ARCW. "We also had 75 volunteers who helped make the 1997 Make a Promise Dinner & Auction the success it was."

All proceeds from the Make a Promise Dinner & Auction will benefit AIDS care, prevention and research through ARCW.



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## PrideFest '97 Hosts 'Bjorn Again' and the Miller Volleyball Tournament

Milwaukee—Wisconsin PrideFest '97 has announced that the singing group, "Bjorn Again," will be appearing at PrideFest on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Performing over 1200 live shows in over 30 countries including Gay Pride London, 1996, Bjorn Again is one of the most popular revival bands of the decade.

The Abba-esque pop group from Sweden is made up of Agnetha Falstark, Frida Longstokin, Benny Anderwear and Bjorn Volvo-us. They are joined by Rutger Snofagunn and Ola Drunkit to form one powerhouse music act sure to entertain while spreading their good fashion sense, style, love and kindness (qualities Bjorn Again feels were lacking in the '90s).

"If Abba reformed, they wouldn't be as much fun as Bjorn Again," said London's Q Magazine.

### Volleyball Tournament at PrideFest

The fourth annual Miller-PrideFest Volleyball Tournament will be held at Urban Park along Milwaukee's lakefront on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Men's, women's, mixed, pick-up and organized teams are welcome to participate in this popular outdoor (grass) event that is again presented by Milwaukee GAMMA. There will be both a competitive and social division with the morning devoted to inter-division round-robin play and the afternoon to elimination play. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends about 6:00 p.m.

Trophies, medals, and prizes will be awarded in each division. All players will receive a T-shirt and free admission to PrideFest on Saturday. Gay and Lesbian teams throughout the upper Midwest and Canada are expected to attend.

Team managers may register by mailing a roster (include shirt sizes), team name (address and phone), a check for \$60 (payable to PrideFest), and division preference to: Miller-PrideFest, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203. For more information, call Pat at (414) 873-7043.



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## Editorial

### Play Ball: Twenty Years of SSBL Magic

Twenty years ago, a group of friends sat down together and began a new organization, a Softball League for Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community, the Saturday Soft Ball League. Twenty years and tens of thousands of runs, outs, hits, and yes errors later their dream is still going strong.

The SSBL is one of Wisconsin's oldest Gay and Lesbian organizations. The League has changed over the years, but the idea of friendly competition and providing an opportunity for Gays and Lesbians to learn how to play and to compete against each other has not changed.

For over two decades, the SSBL has been building a rich tradition. That tradition includes the first ever Gay Softball tournament, the Wreck Room Classic, now called the Milwaukee Classic, hosting two Gay World series and the first Lesbian World Series. It also includes great fun, thrilling games, and friendships.

The SSBL has contributed more to our community than softball. Dozens perhaps even hundreds of people have used it as a vehicle to come out of the closet. More than a few players have found lifetime partners on the ball diamonds. Inter city friendships have formed at tournaments held here and elsewhere. The League was also instrumental in helping PrideFest in some years contributing up to a third of its volunteers.

All of those who worked on the League Board, who sponsored teams, who played, who umped and who cheered should be proud of what they have done together. They deserve the thanks of the entire community.

Like so many others we are excited about the upcoming anniversary season. If you haven't been to the games, there is no better time to stop by Sijan field than this year. With two new teams, dozens of new players, and for the second year in a row, a team from Madison, 1997 promises to be one of the best seasons yet.

So if the up and down Wisconsin weather gets you blue, use a little SSBL magic. If you try you can smell the freshly cut outfield grass and feel the spring air. And in the distance you can hear the crack of the bat, the cheers of crowd and the umpire's cry, "Play Ball." We can hardly wait.

### Ellen DeGeneres and Tiger Woods

Maybe you've watched "Ellen" and maybe not. Maybe as some commentators say, the show was a dud, going nowhere; that Ellen's coming out is a last-ditch stand for viewers in the sweeps period. Maybe. One thing, however, is certain. Ellen DeGeneres and her character "Ellen," have gotten Americans talking about LGBT issues—or, more particularly, our community itself.

Whether by design or default, DeGeneres and her character have become one of this month's cultural icons—and whether by design or default, DeGeneres is a pioneer. She is the first leading TV actress to come out as Gay, and the first to portray a lead Gay character.

Right, Left, Center, they're all talking. She has broken down doors, they say. She has pushed over barriers. She has become a beacon, a role model, a spokeswoman. Things will never be the same again.

The same things are being said of another of April's cultural icons: Tiger Woods, the young golf champion of color who has taken the sports world by storm. He, too, is a beacon, a role model, a spokesman, for countless people (young and old) of color—and he's got everyone talking. The stodgy, racist golf clubs must now throw open their doors, they say. Things will never be the same again.

Perhaps. One can only hope. There is no denying that role models like Ellen DeGeneres and Tiger Woods can and do make a difference. There have been many of them over the years. Arthur Ashe, Margarethe Cammermeyer and Marvin Liebman and Martina Navratilova come immediately to mind. Like Woods and DeGeneres, these people are role models, but then, in a small way, so are we all who are out. In our own spheres, large and small, it is up to all of us to "make a difference." In that way only one day will we all be free.

### On Light Rail

It was the late 1960's. We happened to be living in Washington, DC when that city began construction on its new Metro system. It had been a long fight. Neither Montgomery County, Maryland nor Georgetown within the District wanted a line. Georgetown residents claimed that the noise and mess of construction would detract from their fabled federal homes and brick streets. It would also be expensive. They added that.

Montgomery County was more frank. A Metro line, their officials said, would bring "those people" in to loot, pillage and commit all kinds of mayhem.

Heaven forbid that this type of thinking should be in the minds of those in Waukesha. Daniel Finley, Waukesha County Executive has been quoted as saying, "I'm tired of wasting money on studies." We agree.

For the sake of our air, for the sake of our environment as a whole, we cannot continue to expend millions upon millions of dollars on expanding a highway system.

We cannot continue to rely on fossil fuel to run untold numbers of cars. Nor can we say (with our fingers crossed), "Well, sooner or later, something to replace the internal combustion engine will come along."

While light rail may not technically be a LGBT issue, it does involve the quality of life. LGBT's live here. We have an interest in that. Light rail would greatly enhance that quality. We need it. Let's get on with it!

## Editor's Note

### Attention Ralph Ovadal!

By Terry Boughner

It happens as regularly as clockwork. The moment the TV evening news is over (and I've found out what's causing cancer now), I switch over to PBS. It may not be perfect, but it's better than anything the networks dish out. (The network sitcom writers are enough to make a first grader blanch.)

The other evening, I varied my routine. A reader had written, saying I oughta watch WVCY (the local Fundamentalists station).

Now let me say right from the start, I never, ever watch VCY. My blood pressure just won't take it. Besides, I've got better things to do, lots better things. But I should make an exception, so I was told. Ralph Ovadal, head of Wisconsin Christians United (WCU), was going to be doing one of his regular segments. So, I watched.

Fascinating (he said dryly). Last issue, I castigated Wisconsin State Senator Fitzgerald for hauling himself up on the radio to speak about what he knew nothing about (LGBT's). Lord love a duck, Senator, Ralph's got you beat by a country mile.

After listening to Ralph for awhile, I

decided that if Emerson was right; if unexamined consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, Ralph doesn't have a thing to worry about in the hobgoblin department.

Ralph has been quoted to me as saying that he lacks advanced formal education. Apparently, he cites Abraham Lincoln as proof that formal learning isn't necessary. Well, I'll say this (paraphrasing a former Texas Senator in a debate), I've studied Lincoln, I know a little about Lincoln, and Ralph, you're no Abraham Lincoln.

My point in all this is that Ralph Ovadal and those like him who inveigh against us never seem to know what they're talking about (not being themselves Gay—presumably). Neither do they give any indication at all of knowing anyone who is Gay. One or the other or both might make a difference.

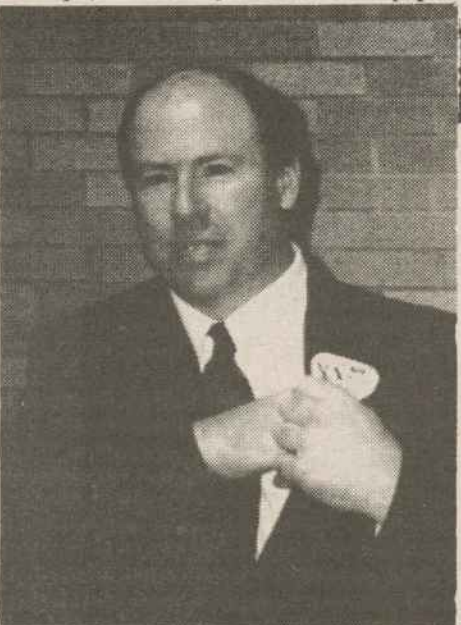
Take the case of Laura Ingraham. Ingraham was notorious for vilifying "sodomites" when she was writing for the *Dartmouth Review*. So vitriolic was she that her views on Gays have been termed "rabid." Things have changed.

In a recent article in the *Washington Post*, Ingraham apologized. She wrote that she had changed her views after see-

ing "the dignity, fidelity and courage" with which her brother and his late spouse coped with AIDS. Now, she understands, she said, why Gays need protection.

Well, okay, I don't say that Ralph and his like will ever go that far, but I do ask this: why not confront the issue head on..

Ralph, I know you read this paper.



Ralph Overdahl

Why, instead of just holding forth, don't you engage in debate with someone who does know what they're talking about? I don't say that your vituperation will be ameliorated in the slightest degree, but at least engaging in open debate would show courage of conviction.

As it stands now, you and all those like you, go on and on, with no one to disagree with you, no one ever to confront you, no one to point out the holes in your argument. (Yes, there are holes, egregious holes.)

Ralph, why don't you invite a member of the LGBT community on to your show? Why don't you engage them in open debate, very civilized, no casting aspersions or opprobrium on each other, sort of like William F. Buckley's "Firing Line."

There are many LGBT people who would be willing to do it—me, for example. I am Gay (but then you know that), I have some small facility with words, I've had a bit of experience in debate, and I've got a modicum of education—a little history, a little Greek and Hebrew. I read a book once, you know how it is?

And the subject (these things have to be narrow or they go all over the map), same-sex marriage. That seems to be the topic of the day.

One on one. There's got to be equal numbers in the arena of verbal conflict.

Now before you think I've got it "in" for Fundamentalists in general, I'll tell you this. I've debated Craig and Jan Parschal, formerly of Wisconsin. I don't agree with a thing they say, but I respect them—and like them.

So how about it, Ralph? Let's cut with the hell fire and brimstone. That's irrational and becomes no one. Let's get down to the nitty-gritty. Get a member of the LGBT community on your show. Either that, or admit that you really haven't got the faintest idea what you're talking about and cut bait.

## Letters

### Community Pride

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the letter from Jenny Jankowski, in reply to Joe St. Clair's letter.

I take great offense to Ms. Jankowski's statement, and I quote: "The smoke-filled, dumpy Gay bars that claim to 'support' our community, including PrideFest."

If it wasn't for the generosity of the bars, many organizations would not exist. The Triangle has donated more than \$7,500 in the past 3 years to organizations and events such as MAP, BestD Clinic, PrideFest, MAPFest, etc.

I agree 100% with the Editor's Note that followed Ms. Jankowski's letter, and with Joe St. Clair, whose point I believe was that the bars should not be over looked, because we do give so much back to the community, something many people seem to forget.

I would like to add that there are at least 15 Gay owned and Gay friendly businesses that need, deserve, and appreciate our support. Showing support for these businesses as well as the bars, is what Community Pride is all about, or doesn't Sue Cook, Director of PrideFest or Ms. Jankowski understand this?

In closing, I would like to say that after 4 months of renovation, the time, effort and the thousands of dollars that were spent to accom-

plish this task, The Triangle, according to Ms. Jankowski's comments, is far from being a smoke filled, dumpy Gay bar.

Rob Bruckner, The Triangle Milwaukee  
Please Turn To Letters Page 10

## Deadlines

May 8<sup>th</sup> Issue

Articles Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Camera Ready—May 5<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Issue

Articles—May 16<sup>th</sup>

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 16<sup>th</sup>

Camera Ready—May 19<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m.

## Caution

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

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

## The Wisconsin Light



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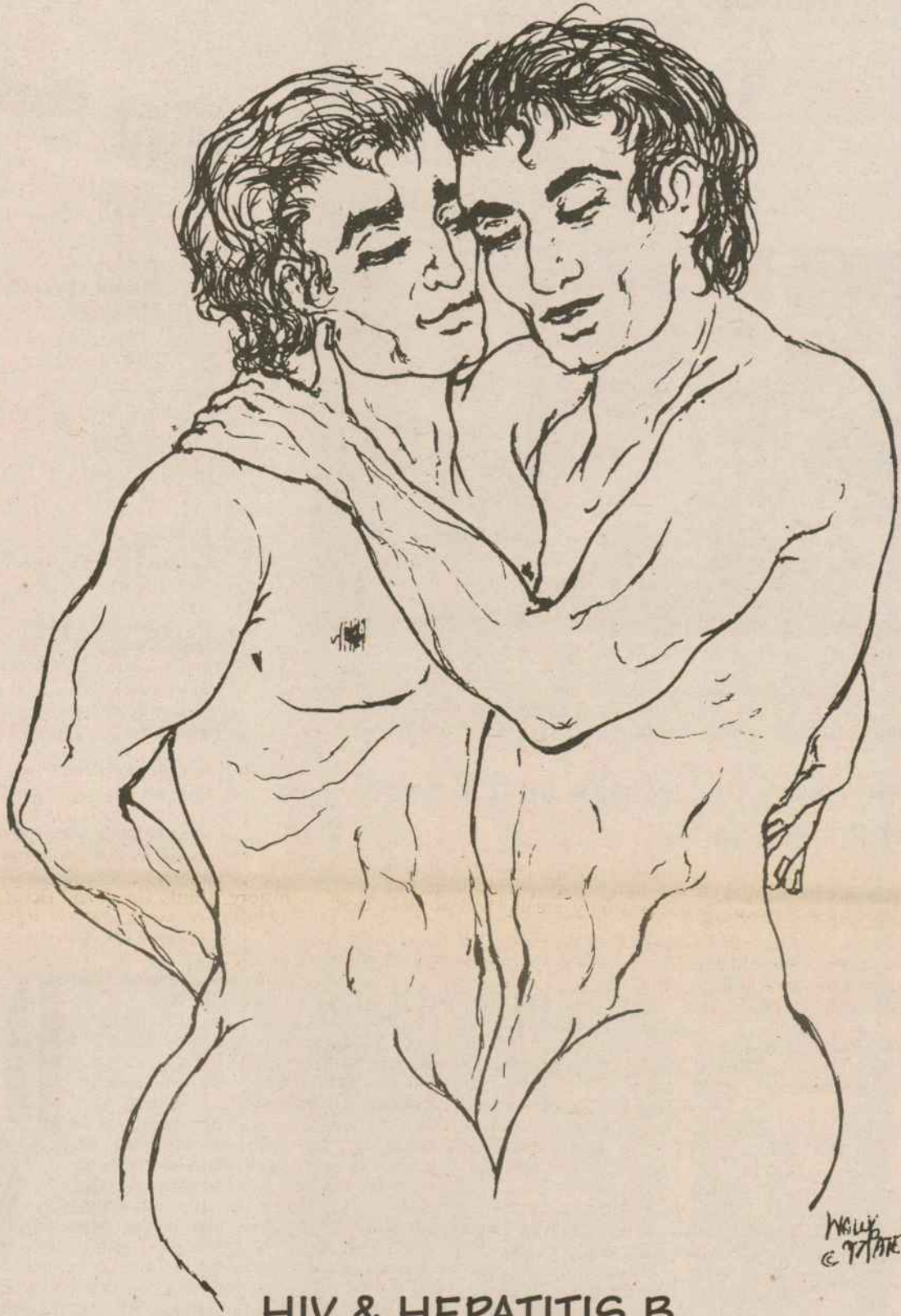
- #1 Wed, April 23  
10pm-1am  
**Boot Camp  
Saloon**
- #2 Tue, May 6  
10am-1pm  
**Reformation  
Lutheran  
Health Fair**
- #3 Wed, May 7  
10pm-1am  
**LaCage**
- #4 Sat, May 10  
9pm-Midnight  
**1100 Club**
- #5 Thur, May 15  
9pm-Midnight  
**In Between**
- #6 Sun, May 18  
6-9pm  
**C'est La Vie**
- #7 Wed, May 21  
9pm-Midnight  
**Triangle**
- #8 Mon, June 2  
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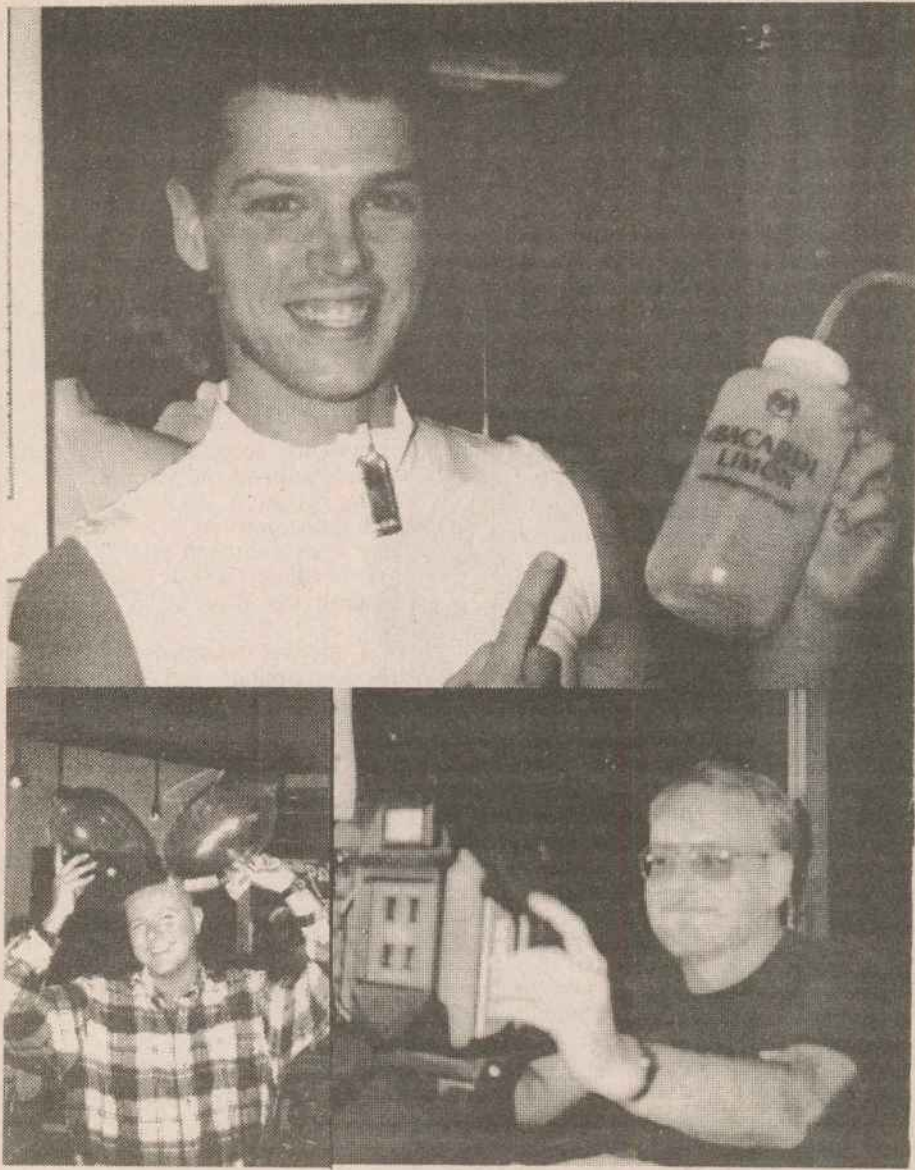
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Bill Meunter

Coffee, Tea, Rum or Me?? We caught this cute little Barcardi boy flitting around during La Cage's Barcardi party on Friday April 18. The event was a great success and we hear the Barcardi people were very pleased. Below is George Prentice getting ready to take another picture for a La Cage Card. A limited number of La Cage's preferred customer cards are now available. At the right is La Cage bartender Scotty playing with some of the condoms given out at the party. Hey Scott, you're supposed to wear those things a little lower.

## Being Openly Gay or Lesbian on TV Sure Isn't What it Used to Be

By John O'Connor

We've heard enough about the race card so deftly played by smooth Johnnie Cochran in that Los Angeles trial most of us would rather forget. Less obvious, though just as entrenched and sometimes at least as insidious, is what might be called the Gay card.

Gay and Lesbian history is rooted in decades when the mere whisper that one was not staunchly heterosexual could wreck careers and lives.

Keepers of public morals kept so-called transgressors firmly in their place, preferably in ominous shadows. Then in 1969 came the Stonewall uprising, in which Gay customers at a Greenwich Village bar fought back against the police, who were often raiding such places. The sea change began. It would accelerate with the advent of AIDS and years of harrowing headlines.

Today the Gay card is no longer an automatic trump for bigots. When still another celebrity is found to be Gay, the prevailing reaction borders on ho-hum. In fact, ABC has been using the once-feared card to drum up publicity for the episode of "Ellen," on April 30, in which the title character played by Ellen DeGeneres, who herself recently came out officially in Time magazine, will announce that she is a Lesbian. "Ellen" is produced by Disney. The times, they really are a-changin'.

On television, back in 1985, the movie "An Early Frost" was justifiably praised as an all-too-rare attempt to deal with the subject of AIDS. It would remain rare for years. But pay cable, not subject to advertiser pressures, was instrumental in altering the content landscape.

Home Box Office, for instance, won numerous awards with the documentary productions "And the Band Played On" and "Celluloid Closet." Now HBO has produced "In the Gloaming," the story of a young man reconciling with his family as he dies of AIDS, and nobody, apart from the usual naysayers, bats an eye as the rave reviews pour in.

Something new is happening, not just in American society but in Gay and Lesbian circles. The Gay image is edging away from the old urban cliches of kinky bars and unbridled promiscuity. Obviously, AIDS hovers over these changes. But the vibrations are unmistakable.

In his new book, *Sexual Ecology: AIDS and the Destiny of Gay Men*, Gabriel Rotello, urging a new life style of limiting partners and restricting sexual acts, offers what will no doubt be a con-

troversial suggestion that Gay men "reward self-restraint and end the pervasive belief that those who are living at the most extreme fringes of Gay sexual life are somehow the most liberated and the most Gay."

In fact, as with any other group, Gay and Lesbian images cannot be reduced to one stereotype. This is one of the messages being hammered home by "In the Life," the magazine program examining Gay and Lesbian issues and culture every other month on national public television.

The latest installment takes an "as American as apple pie" approach to Gay and Lesbian lives. Viewers, even many Gay viewers, may be surprised.

With Katherine Linton as host, the program first goes to Detroit, where Gay and Lesbian workers press the big auto makers for gains. "They're going to live with me just as I have to live with them," says one man, who ends up a delegate to the United Auto Workers convention.

Chrysler reluctantly agrees to include a "sexual orientation" clause in its contract. One significant development is the mutual support of Gay and straight co-workers. As someone observes, management has "an attitude of contempt toward hourly workers, people who work with their hands."

Meanwhile, television prime time has been playing the Gay card with startling frequency. On "Friends," speculation continues that Joey and Chandler are Gay, with bemused interest, not indignation.

If Niles on "Frasier," constantly fussing in the absence of the invisible Maris, isn't Gay, he should be.

Once again, Americans seem more sophisticated and tolerant than hatemongering fringe groups would dare admit.

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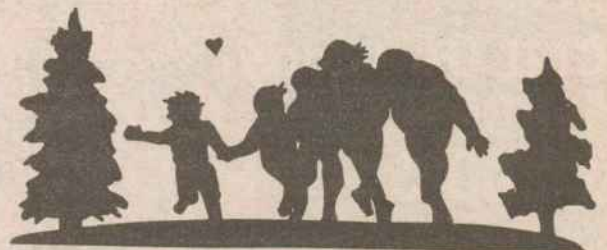
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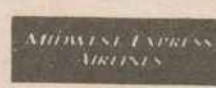
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## Free Hepatitis B Vaccine Now Being Offered at BestD Clinic

By Mark P. Behar, PA-C and Terry Boughner

Her full name was Corrine Butters Duke, but everyone called her simply "Miss. Duke." No one was strong enough to dare further familiarity. Miss. Duke taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Third Street School where she ruled with gimlet eye, no more fierce than at test time.

Well, Miss. Duke's gone now, but we all still have to take tests, important ones when lives are at stake—especially yours. However, before our "little" test, there's some information you ought to know.

### Hepatitis B

There's a disease running around, a nasty thing, that infects some 200,000 people in this country every year. 75% of them between the ages of 15 and 29. It's called hepatitis B.

The disease is a viral infection that gets spread primarily through contact with blood and semen that comes in contact with those warm, wet places on your body (mucous membranes of the anus, vagina, tip of the penis or the mouth) via a scratch or scrape.

What results, at the very least, are chronic infections that increase the risk of cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer and other problems.

At its worst, hepatitis B can result in death. About 5,000 people die of hepatitis B every year.

You may not have heard much about it. In this age of AIDS, its been shoved into the background. However, to put it mildly, like Miss. Duke, hepatitis B is nothing to fool around with.

### Symptoms?

How do you know if you've got it? That's one of the problems with it. You may not know if you have it at all. Most infected people experience no symptoms. If there are symptoms, they may not appear for 6 weeks to 6 months after the first exposure.

Even if you do have symptoms, you may think nothing of them. You may have a fever, headache, loss of appetite, feel sick to your stomach and vomit. You may feel "washed out" and have muscle and joint pain. In other words, it'll feel a lot like you have the flu.

In addition, there may be a yellow dis-

coloration of the skin or whites of the eyes (a sure sign of liver disease), along with dark, tea-colored urine and clay-colored stools. All or any of these may appear during the infection.

The thing to remember is that no matter how you look or feel, you're contagious. You can spread it around.

### The Test

Okay, so how do you know if you're at risk. Here's a few simple questions.

1. Have you ever had sex with one or more persons? That includes vaginal, anal or oral sex with or without condoms.
2. Have you ever shared a razor blade with a friend?
3. Have you ever shared a needle to inject drugs?
4. Have you ever given first aid to anyone who was bleeding or needed mouth to mouth resuscitation?
5. Do you have any medical condition that requires you to receive blood transfusions or dialysis?
6. Are you originally from or have you ever traveled to: Asia, the Pacific Islands, Africa, the Middle East or the Amazon Basin?

If you answered "Yes" to *any* one of these questions, you are at risk for hepatitis B.

### There's a Vaccine and It's Free

Unlike some diseases, there is a vaccine for hepatitis B. You can get it at a doctor's office (big bucks if you aren't insured). You can also get the vaccine at BestD Clinic for free.

Not only is the vaccine free, but at BestD you'll have an accepting volunteer staff who won't make you feel uncomfortable about your sexual orientation or your sexual practices.

When you go in to BestD, you'll be screened by Clinic staff to find out if you've ever been infected before. If you're vulnerable to the disease, the entire series will be given to you free.

Honestly, hepatitis B is nothing to fool around with. Go into BestD and be checked out. You've got everything to gain and nothing to lose.

And Miss Duke will approve. The Clinic is located at 1240 E. Brady

Street in Milwaukee's lower East Side. For more information, call BestD at (414) 272-2144 or call the American Liver Foundation's toll free number: 1-800-223-0179.

## Marriage

Continued From Page 1

State Representatives to stand up against it.

Strategists say that if the more commotion they can make in fighting the bill in the Assembly the less likely the State Senate will be to pass it. Sources in the State Capitol say that if the State Senate views the issue as too contentious it is likely to keep the bill in Committee rather than bring it to the floor for a debate and vote.

### Rallies

With the stakes high, resources from throughout Gay and Lesbian Wisconsin are being thrown into the fight. Rallies have been scheduled for Milwaukee on Monday May 5 at noon in front of the State office building at 7<sup>th</sup> and Wells and in Madison on Monday May 12 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the State Capitol.

### Lobby Days

Action Wisconsin, Baldwin and others have also set May 5 to May 9, as lobby days. Everyone is being encouraged to contact their State Representatives and State Senators during that time period.

Activists are also hoping to pack the Assembly gallery during the six hour debate on AB 104 which will begin at 10 AM on Tuesday May 13. It is hoped that by repeating their success at the bill's hearing in Wausau where Gays, Lesbians and their supporters outnumbered those favoring the bill, Gays and Lesbians will send a strong message to the State Senate.

In addition to these events, *The Wisconsin Light* is hosting two parties to help Action Wisconsin raise funds to fight AB 104. Both will be held on Wednesday April 30 during the broadcast of "Ellen's Coming Out Episode." One will be at Scandals, 121 W. Main Street, Madison, and the other will be held at La Cage, 2<sup>nd</sup> and National in Milwaukee.

State Representative Barb Nottstein, will speak at the rally in Milwaukee. Tammy Baldwin will head up the list of speakers in Madison.

In addition to attending the rallies, those opposed to the passage of the bill are being urged to call and write their State Representatives and State Senators. Anyone who doesn't know the names of their rep-

resentatives can still contact them through the Legislative Hotline 1-800-362-9472, or (608) 266-9960, TTY number is 1-800-228-2115.

With time running out, members of Action Wisconsin and other groups, are working hard to make it clear to the Wisconsin Legislature just how divisive this proposal is. As one activist put it, "It's important that all Legislators from all parts of the State hear from their constituents. We need to act now, or we will be sorry later."

## Bi Definition

**Milwaukee**—Bi Definition, Milwaukee's Bisexual community organization, is currently accepting new members for socials, support and activism.

Non-alcoholic, non-smoking socials and discussions are held the first Saturday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street, including the next event on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A one-year membership and newsletter subscription is just \$10. Otherwise, a \$3 donation covers the cost of an individual social.

For more information, call either Steve Butler at: (414) 483-5046 or Carol Ringo at (414) 562-4058—or write Bi Definition, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

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# Pride Institute at Solutions

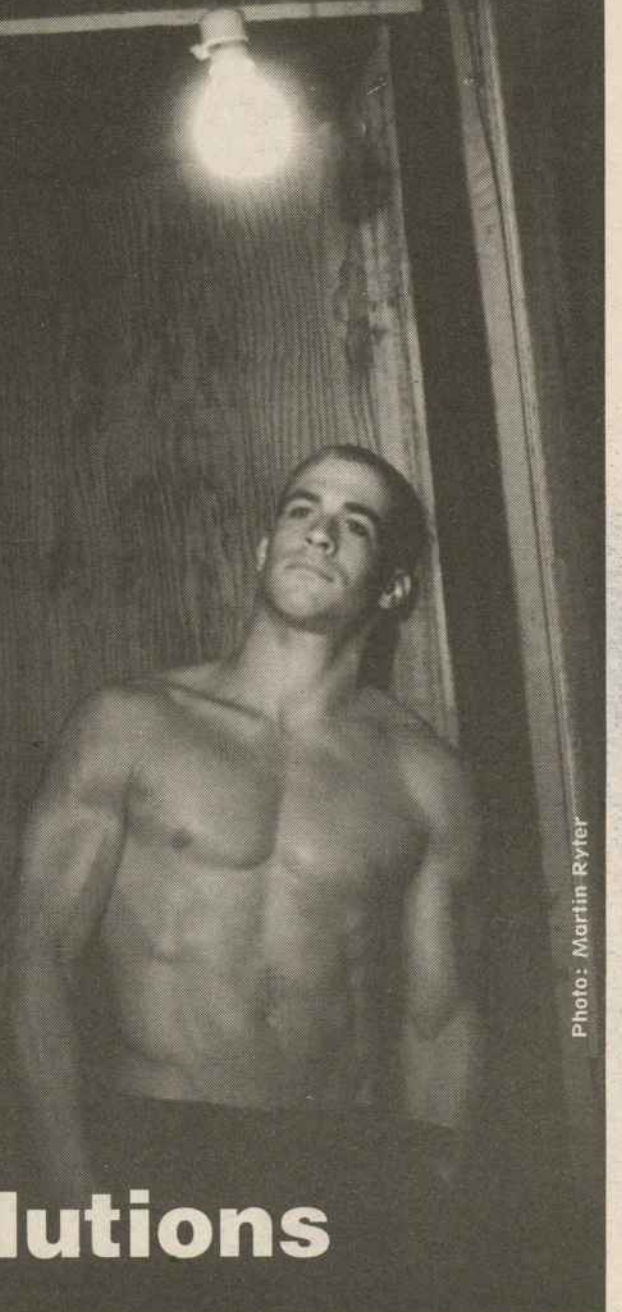


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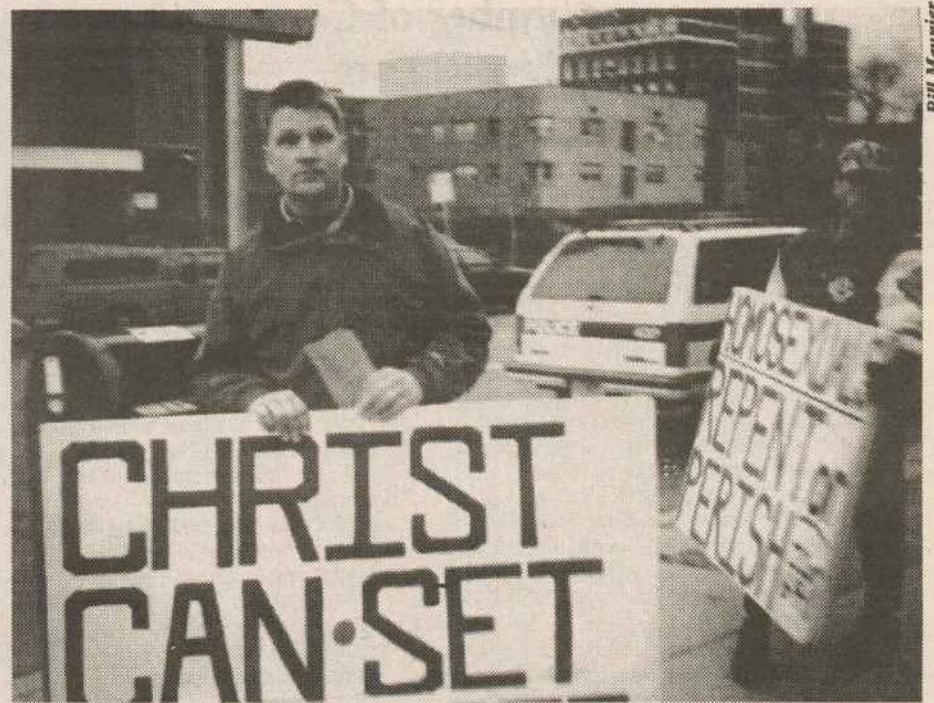
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And he looks so cute too! One of the protesters at Milwaukee's First Annual Gay Youth prom shows that good looks aren't everything. Despite the picket line set up outside of the Park East Hotel, the prom held Saturday April 19 was a big success.

### Summit Continued From Page 1

NYAC's summit is unique. Unlike other national conferences, NYAC's summit represents the philosophy that the expertise on these issues lies with youth, services providers, and advocates across the country. Through discussion roundtables and skills building sessions, summit participants will exchange cutting-edge

information on issues facing their communities.

The discussion roundtable sessions will include: HIV/AIDS; Identity politics and GLBT youth; Community organizing, fighting and using the Radical Right; Capitol Hill Visits; and fundraising.

Confirmed speakers for the summit include: Rea Carey, Director, National Youth Advocacy Coalition; Mandy Carter, Field Director, National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum; Sean Sasser, HIV/AIDS Educator; Megan Per-Lee, Youth Activist; Youth Visioning Panel (made up of youth attending the summit).

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## MAP Increases Number of Cooperative Therapies Offered to Clients

**Milwaukee**— In an effort to continually provide a full array of quality services, the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Health Services Department has expanded its Cooperative Therapies Program to include two new health enhancing services — music therapy and Shamanic energy work.

The two newest Cooperative Therapies, like the others offered through MAP, are services which promote quality of life and focus on pain and stress management for individuals with HIV and AIDS helping to reduce the strain on their immune system.

### Music Therapy

A certified music therapist provides services to consumers at the Wisconsin House, a housing facility funded and run by MAP for individuals with HIV or AIDS. The music therapist also works in conjunction with the massage therapist and acupuncturist at MAP.

"I use music as a tool in music therapy," said Kelly Bartyczak, RMT-BC (Registered Music Therapist-Board Certified). "Since I first began visiting the Wisconsin House and working with MAP, the reception from individuals has been great."

Music Therapy involves both listening for relaxation and participation in creating music. Bartyczak has several rhythmic instruments from different cultures to develop the interaction in groups or on an individual level.

### Shamanic Energy Work

Shamanic energy work classes are held at MAP with Healer Patrick Price who also teaches nature and Native American Spirituality at two local colleges. The classes involve breath work, sound, stones, imaging, meditation and journey work.

"I try to help individuals get to a place of centeredness or serenity," said Price. "This energy work is to help people release stress and strengthen their own energy fields."

In 1996, there were over 1,000 cooperative therapy appointments made through MAP's Health Services Department. "Once considered 'alternatives' to Western medicine, cooperative therapies are now complementing Western medicine," said Maggi Cage, Ph.D., director of Health Services at MAP. "There are hospitals across the nation using cooperative therapies with HIV and AIDS patients to help reduce pain and stress. And all of our cooperative therapists are licensed and regulated by the state of Wisconsin."

Other Cooperative Therapies offered through MAP's Health Services Department are acupuncture, chiropractic care, massage therapy, guided imagery, Soma-Synthesis therapy, nutritional counseling, Qi Gong, Tai Ji Quan, meditation, support groups and more. For more information on any of these services or to make an appointment, please call 414-225-1571.

## ARCW to Kicks Off Gay Targeted HIV Prevention Campaign

**Milwaukee**— On April 17, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) unveiled Wisconsin's first public service campaign targeted specifically at Gay men.

The "man2man" campaign theme is "Take Pride. End AIDS." and uses positive messages to reinforce safer sex practice. The campaign will consist of a series of five messages which will be displayed on posters and cocktail napkins in more than 40 Gay bars across the state of Wisconsin. There will also be advertising done statewide in the Gay press.

"The campaign's message strategy marks a significant paradigm shift in HIV prevention advertising," said Andy Bagnall, ARCW Gay Outreach manager. "Take Pride. End AIDS." promotes self-esteem and encourages Gay men to practice safer sex through a reinforcing message of being proud about being Gay and that life is very worth living."

The first of the five-part series of messages will depict men in their early twen-

ties. As the campaign continues, a diversity of images will be portrayed.

The second message is timed for release in conjunction with the celebration of PrideFest and includes a donation of 300,000 cocktail napkins from Fort Howard Paper Company in Green Bay.

"This is an exciting and unique campaign because it will result in reduced risk-behavior among Gay men in the state as well as position Wisconsin among leading national AIDS service organizations (ASO) that are moving toward promoting life in their prevention advertising rather than using a fear-instilling strategy," said Bagnall. "Our man2man campaign would not be possible without the help and contributions made by many Gay men from across the state."

The campaign is part of a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and was produced by ARCW in cooperation with six state ASO's which participated in focus group research to develop effective promotional content. Materials were created by Wells Ink, a Gay Milwaukee advertising agency.

Be sure to look for the posters and cocktail napkins at your favorite bars the third weekend of April as well as future images consisting of Gay and Bisexual men of color and young Gay men. There will also be a limited supply of posters for interested individuals. For more information, call 414-225-1502.

## SC Johnson Wax Gives SEWAP \$5,000 Grant for Teen Peer Monitoring Program

**Milwaukee** — The Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP) was recently granted funding by the SC Johnson Wax Fund, Inc., which selectively accepts proposals for funding.

SEWAP is a service organization of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW). ARCW is the Midwest's largest private, non-profit AIDS service agency dedicated to the fight against the worsening AIDS epidemic through prevention, care, research and advocacy.

SC Johnson Wax generously agreed to support the Health Information Providers program, a program sponsored by SEWAP, with a grant of \$5,000.

"We are grateful for the partnership SC Johnson Wax has started with SEWAP in the education of adolescents about HIV and AIDS," said Michael Obinger, director of SEWAP. "The responsibilities they have accepted as a corporate citizen in the fight against AIDS are admirable."

The funding will be used to help decrease the costs of the Health Information Providers in the Racine/Kenosha area. This program provides valuable teen peer monitoring, a costly endeavor that makes funding and outside financial support essential. For more information, call 414-657-6644.

## Marvin Liebman: A Man Out of Sync With His Party and His Times

### Commentary by Matthew Tsien

Marvin Liebman was a Gay man, an anti-Communist and a devout Reaganite. He died March 31<sup>st</sup> of heart disease—or a self-inflicted broken heart—at George Washington University Hospital.

As a closeted Gay man in the 1950s and '60s, Liebman, a Jew turned Christian, was one of the most prolific organizers and innovators of fundraising in the conservative movement. A top lieutenant to publisher William F. Buckley (who knew Marvin was Gay), Liebman created such groups as the Young Americans For Freedom and the American Conservative Union. He helped launch the Goldwater and Reagan candidacies. No doubt, his work also helped internationalize pro-democracy groups and uprisings in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

But in 1990, he announced that he was not just conservative, but also Gay. In doing so, he felt compelled to denounce both his adopted Christianity and years of heroic work with the American Right. He said in his 1992 autobiography, *Coming Out Conservative*, that he felt "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 joined ACT UP styled groups and used their leftist, emotionally violent rhetoric to summon the fears of over 50 years ago when fascism and Communism conspired to bring down the United States. Only this time, the fascists were homophobic Republicans and the anti-Semite conservatives of AmeriKKKa.

Coming out as a Gay and a conservative, Marvin had an obligation to tell the other side of the story to Gay people—not just join the other side. Instead, he promulgated inflated images of rampant Nazism and skinheads dominating the American mainstream and Gay life.

How sad for Marvin; he was so out of sync with what was really happening in the late 1980s and early 1990s before he died. Despite clumsy and awkward moments, the Republicans and Gay people within the Party had learned to peacefully coexist. When Marvin died last month, more Gay people worked for and contributed generously to his anti-big government, libertarian, free market Party than ever before.

Marvin was well aware of this but he ever effectively said much in his public statements to the Gay press. He knew that former Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater had staunchly defended Gay's rights to be in the Party and the military. He knew that New York's Republican US Senator Alphonse D'Mato, an Italian-American, had done the same in his autobiography *Politics, Pasta and Power*. Marvin knew Gay Republicans had organized to elect inclusive GOP mayors of the two largest US cities: New York and Los Angeles, and two GOP Governors in Massachusetts and New Jersey.

And there is more that Marvin knew. In 1993, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole had a majority of his 44 Republican colleagues sign a pledge not to discriminate against Gay staff members, and the National Republican Congressional Com-

mittee released a statement pledging to do the same.

A district in Wisconsin reelected a Gay Republican Congressman during the 1994 Republican blowout that captured the US Senate, House and the majority of Governorships with nearly 500 new GOP state legislators; meanwhile, Speaker Newt Gingrich told the *Washington Blade* that Bob Doman did not represent the future of the Party.

Marvin knew all this but chose instead to let his personal angst over his homosexuality rule his better judgement, and he became just another unoriginal neurotic voice of fear, an identity-crisis driven refugee marching in the ranks of the dominant and fascist Gay Left.

Marvin was also far off base in decrying anti-Semitism in the conservative movement. Had he not noticed that the academic base of the conservative movement is increasingly populated by Jewish writers whose leadership provides invaluable depth and intellectual force to its journals, think tanks, and talk shows?

In renouncing his Christianity as intolerant, had he not noticed the new Hispanic and Asian complexion of American Christianity; or that America was big enough to make room for non-Western religions brought over by the Asian boat people and immigrants he helped create?

Marvin had done so much to create hundreds of activist groups that would propel Ronald Reagan into the Presidency, and in so doing, had provided the world an eloquent spokesman and international force that would liberate every continent.

And when Polish ship yard workers and Chinese students at Tiananmen Square boldly shouted the writings of Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, Patrick Henry and Reagan at their armed oppressors, Marvin should have been a happy and triumphant man as he saw his life's work evolve, not the morose, angry, screeching alien he had become for the journals of ACT UP and rallies in Lafayette Square.

Poor Marvin Liebman. A diverse world owes this great and Gay man eternal gratitude for developing the forces of freedom that would defeat Communism and totalitarianism. It is a tragic paradox that Marvin would spend his final years propping up the totalitarianism of the Gay Left who believe that all Gays must come out of the closet to defend and promote diversity, and the only way to do this is for all Gays to become angry, anti-social Leftists.

When Marvin Liebman came out as a Gay conservative, he no longer sang his own song of freedom (fortunately, others picked up his music); instead he sang along with groups that many in the Gay community believe do more harm than good. He did not offer Gay people a choice, merely an echo of despair and demagoguery. He was no longer a triumphant conservative; just another angry and miserable Gay clone.

**Editor's Note:** The author is a member of the Log Cabin, Washington, DC Board of Directors and was National Field Director of President Reagan's Citizens for America.

## MAP's HIV Health Clinic Expands Evening Hours

**Milwaukee**— The Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Health Services Department has expanded its hours.

"Our expansion of the service hours for MAP's HIV Health Clinic is in response to the needs of our consumers," said Neil Albrecht, deputy director of programs for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, MAP's parent organization. "We regularly survey our consumers to make sure our programs are meeting their needs. We heard several requests for more flexible hours of service and are now meeting those requests."

The need to expand its hours was evident because many people with HIV or AIDS are still working thanks to new drug therapies that are improving the quality and longevity of life. Therefore, as a health and social service provider, MAP's HIV Health Clinic wanted to better accommodate consumer's needs without conflicting with their employment.

"There are many barriers out there, such as a lack of transportation, child care problems or conflicting hours of service that can prevent a person from accessing critically needed health care," said Albrecht. "Our goal is to overcome those barriers to ensure our services are accessible. We provide transportation and other supportive services as well as flexible clinic hours to achieve this goal."

The expanded hours are now Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Previously, they had been 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. As usual, Fridays are available for emergency appointments only.

Earlier this year, MAP also expanded its Social and Support Services hours until 9:00 p.m. Now consumers can access more programs and services all in one visit.

For more information or to schedule an appointment at MAP's HIV Health Clinic, call 414-225-1571.

## Country Dance

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The Country Dance Gala is a part of Shoreline's Spring Round-Up, May 2-4, 1997. For further information, grab a brochure!



## Possum Queen Contest To Get Under Way

**Milwaukee**—A Possum Queen Steering Team has been selected to oversee the 1997 Possum Queen Contest.

The Team includes: Max Barnett (Victoria Maxwell); Jon Bauer (Lizzie Bordeaux); Bob Kaufmann (BooBoo LaRue); Mark Meyerhoffer (Roxy Latour); Renne Polubinsky, and Chuck Poulson (Charlotte Lorrain). These individuals are already recruiting potential candidates and marketing the concept of a big and better campaign. Candidate and sponsor packets have been prepared, and the team is applying for 501C-3 status.

The official dates of the 1997 Possum Queen Campaign are from Friday, April 25 to Friday, June 6, with the Finale, this year, being held at PrideFest, where the Possum Queen will be chosen.

For more information, call Max at (414) 221-0093, or talk to other members of the Steering Team.

## BestD OUTreach For May

May 6; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.—Reformation Lutheran Health Fair.

May 7; 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.—La Cage.

May 10; 9:00 p.m. to 12 midnight—1100 Club.

May 15; 9:00 p.m. to 12 midnight—In Between.

May 18; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.—C'est La Vie.

May 21; 9:00 p.m. to 12 midnight—The Triangle.

## Letters

### Letters

Continued From Page 4

### Congratulations!

#### TO THE EDITOR:

We were pleased to read about Doug Johnson and Bob Pomeroy passing the AIDS Certified Registered Nurse Exam and congratulate them. We also want to recognize the many other nurses (320 from across the nation took the exam) who passed this inaugural exam last November and are now recognized as AIDS certified RN's.

Among those from Milwaukee whose expertise and clinical skill in the area of HIV/AIDS care were recognized are BestD Volunteers Jose Avila, Connie Highsmith and Jeff Miller.

Others who work professionally in the field and volunteer their services through the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of ANAC (Association of Nurses in AIDS Care) are Mary Busalacchi, Barbara Cuene, Karen Ivantie-Douchette, Marilyn Pilmaier and Deb Topham. Jim Rice also took the exam this month and, while the results are not in, we

have every expectation, knowing his professional skill, that he will also be certified.

All nurses in the Milwaukee area will be honored in early May as part of the annual Nurse Recognition Week. As we get to that time, it is important to remember that we in southeastern Wisconsin are blessed with many health care professionals who are dedicated, compassionate and skilled HIV/AIDS Clinicians.

On behalf of all the BestD Volunteers and Clients, we say congratulations and thank you to ALL OF THEM!

Ross Walker, BestD Clinic  
Milwaukee

### Rep. Shays and ENDA

#### TO THE EDITOR:

As a constituent of Christopher Shays and an activist in Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to comment on his motivation for becoming the chief sponsor of ENDA. A fondly remembered Gay teacher, while a touching story, is hardly a plausible reason.

For starters, Shays has been a co-sponsor of every national Gay rights bill from his start in Congress, when he took over mid-term from his very popular predecessor (Stewart McKinney), a Gay man who died of AIDS. Back in mid-1987, Shays was anxious to continue his predecessor's progressive agenda, which was in line with his own policies as State Senator and in line with the socially progressive, economically conservative District.

The real reason for Shays' interest in showing leadership on this issue has more to do with his vote on DOMA last summer. He sincerely wants to do the right thing (and usually does), and was quite taken aback by the vehemence of the reaction by the local Lesbian and Gay community to his Yes vote.

Shays showed a lot of guts (or naivete) by showing up at a fund-raiser for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund soon after the vote. He actually was invited by someone who lives in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, but he certainly got an earful from some hurt and angry constituents while he was there.

As for Shays' influence with the current Speaker—I'm not holding my breath. Shays' admiration for Gingrich approaches hero worship, but that is due in great part to Shays' overweening passion, reducing the budget deficit.

Shays saw the Republican revolution very narrowly as a way to finally break the hold of the ossified committee chairs who, he felt, were in some part responsible for the ever increasing federal budget deficit.

Gingrich has demonstrated that he does not return the loyalty of his subordinates, however much they have stood by him. He not only abandoned Steve Gunderson, refusing to protect him (after all those years of faithful assistance) from the forces of hate last fall (Paul Weyrich et al), but likewise betrayed Nancy Johnson, another moderate he used on the way up.

Marianne Seggarman  
Westport, Connecticut

### Homophobic Chrysler

#### TO THE EDITOR:

We (our government) bailed out Chrysler before it went belly-up due to mismanagement.

Chrysler was charged with "laundering" hundreds (a pattern rather than a few "mistakes?") of lemon vehicles in Pennsylvania and New York, reportedly paying \$1.5 million in New York to settle the issue without admitting wrong doing.

Chrysler repeats its lemon laundering (reselling lemon vehicles which it repurchased from original buyers because they could not be repaired, to second buyers without properly disclosing the vehicles status and condition), lemons here in California, where it is now appealing a DMV administrative law judge's decision that Chrysler be prohibited from selling its products in the state for 45 days.

Chrysler refuses to include "sexual orientation" in its workplace fairness policies, as Ford and General Motors have already done.

Chrysler is reported to have influenced Esquire Magazine in killing a story with a Gay theme.

Chrysler pulls its ads from the outing episode of "Ellen," ostensibly to avoid "controversial" issues.

Chrysler appears to be fairness challenged. Chrysler's corporate body language is hostile to and disdainful of its customers and its employees (equally?).

Auto consumers can empower themselves by understanding the many costly tricks of car deals in addition to the lemon laundering trick noted above. Some of them have been listed free of charge at: CARveat Emptor: BUYER BEWARE on [www.well.com/user/kr2](http://www.well.com/user/kr2).

Is fairness too much to ask in the manufacture, sale and repair of a product which, unfortunately, has become so central to our way of life, and which many of us feel a need to have at least one of, new or used, every few years?

Rand Knox  
San Rafael, California

## No! On AB104

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I know several people who have contacted all 99 State Representatives, urging them to vote against Assembly Bill 104, which preemptively prohibits equal marriage rights for same-sex couples in Wisconsin.

Of course, representatives are most interested in the opinions of their own constituents: please, everyone, in every part of the state contact your state representative and state senator and let them know how you feel about his bill!

Contact information for legislators can be obtained by calling 1-800-362-9472 (or (608) 266-9960), which is the State Legislative Hotline. They can help you determine who your legislator is.

The people who wrote "everyone" did receive letters from Rep. Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn), who thanked them for writing, but added that every constituent who had contacted him regarding AB104 supported the bill.

Rep. Kedzie's Assembly District is the 43<sup>rd</sup>, which covers much of Walworth County and part of Rock County, including the municipalities of Elkhorn, Delavan, Darien, Clinton, Walworth, Fontana, Sharon, Williams Bay, and wards 1-6 and 8 of Lake Geneva.

Rep. Kedzie is a co-sponsor of AB104. Those of you from Rep. Kedzie's District, please contact him (and ask family and friends from his District to do the same), and politely voice your opposition to AB104. His office can be reached directly by calling (608) 266-9650.

Dan Ross  
Madison

## Gays in the Military

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I am in the Army. I am Gay. I get your paper when I'm in town and can go off by myself.

There's a lot that is reported about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. I can tell you it doesn't work.

I am deeply closeted. That's not because I am afraid I'll get found out and kicked out of the Army. That's because if any of the men I serve with knew about me or even suspected, my life would become a living hell.

It's not even the names I'd get called, but I am afraid of my physical safety. Guys I know, guys who are friends of mine, would kick the shit out of me or worse.

The reason I'm writing is because of the story that appeared in Newsweek about that pilot, Capt. Craig Button, who took his plane and disappeared in the Rockies. They say they don't know why he might have done it. Maybe I can guess. He was Gay.

That may seem farfetched, but if you read the story, it fits.

There are a lot of us in the military who are Gay and, like me, deeply closeted. It's a horror to live that way. Some can take it. Some break after awhile and make an end to themselves. I'll bet that's what happened to Craig Button.

Thanks for your paper. Thanks for distributing it out here. More guys than me read it. Please don't print my name or location.  
Name Withheld on Request  
Somewhere West of the Mississippi

## Neumann and Dole

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Thursday night, April 10<sup>th</sup>, on the "In Focus" talk show presented by the Wisconsin Voice of Christian Youth on its television station, WVCY, host Ralph Ovadal castigated Wisconsin Representative Mark Neumann for "promoting the homosexual agenda."

Neumann's "sin" is that he has succumbed to the seduction of the Log Cabin Club, the group of Gay Republicans famous for having Bob Dole return its campaign contribution to appease the Religious Right. The Log Cabinites seduced Neumann into signing a pledge that he would not discriminate against employees of his office because of their sexual orientation.

Ovadal urged viewers to call Neumann and express their displeasure with his "promotion" of the "homosexual agenda." He, himself, had tried calling Neumann without result.

It appears that Neumann has a "Dole-flap" on his hands. At least part of the Religious Right is not happy with him. Will he rescind his non-discrimination policy to appease them, and thus earn the wrath of the Log Cabin Republicans? Of course, the Log Cabinites make Casper Milquetoast look like Arnold Schwarzenegger, so their "wrath" is nothing to fear in comparison to the ire of Christian Fundamentalists.

How many people Ovadal can influence is not clear, nor is it sure what can be expected from the Christian Coalition when they become aware of Neumann's "promotion" of homosexuality. This could be a significant factor in another very close election, or in a Republican primary if Neumann runs for Senator.

Al Geiersbach  
Milwaukee

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## There is no Latent Stage With HIV; Damage Control Should Begin at Once

By The AIDS Writers Group  
Damage Control

There is much confusion about what happens inside the bodies of people with HIV before they develop AIDS. In the early 1980's when AIDS was first encountered, it was seen as a collection of diseases that were occurring in people whose immune system was seriously damaged. It was several years before it was discovered that a virus, now known as HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), caused this damage.

Had researchers understood in the beginning what they know now, there would be no 'syndrome' known as AIDS; instead it would be referred to as the late stages of HIV disease. As tests showed that people with HIV appeared healthy for years before the diseases now known as 'opportunistic infections' began, it was believed that HIV stayed in the body for years doing little, in what was called the latent stage. There seemed to be no reason to treat a virus that clinicians believed was dormant.

In recent years researchers have discovered that there is no latent stage, and that the virus begins damaging the immune system earlier than was first thought. When HIV first enters the body it reproduces at an astounding rate.

The immune system recognizes the threat, and fights back. That first fight sometimes causes flu-like symptoms, and the immune system's response is amazingly successful at reducing the amount of virus in the body. Actually, this immune system response against the virus is more powerful than any of the strong antiviral combinations now available, but for reasons not completely understood, the immune system doesn't finish the job by eliminating all of the virus.

What follows is nothing like the image of HIV quietly lying dormant, to emerge years later as AIDS. Instead what goes on inside the body is like a war of major proportions. The immune system itself becomes the main battlefield in this fight for survival. On the one side of this war, HIV hijacks T-cells and turns them into virus producing factories which produce billions of new viruses every day. On the other side the immune system eliminates huge numbers of viruses, killing its own infected cells in the process.

**It is a war that the immune system cannot win on its own.**

So far there is only one known way for a person with HIV to keep this infection manageable - through help from powerful antiviral therapies.

**There is, however, debate over when is the best time to start that antiviral treatment.**

The reason many researchers now believe it is best to start early is their understanding of the hidden damage being done before the immune system is so weak it can't stop opportunistic infections.

**The Damage Done**  
Some of the damage has consequences that are now understood, and some, consequences no one has been able to clearly define.

Probably the best known damage caused by HIV is reflected in the slow but consistent reduction in the number of a kind of white blood cell called the T-helper cells (CD4 cells) that for many years was the best way to know one's status. Everyone knew that when CD4 cells fell below 200, people began getting opportunistic infections, but until recently it was not clear what was going on before that time.

**HIV reduces the number of CD4 cells, the officers of the immune system's disease fighting army.**

When they have determined that a germ has infected a cell, CD4 cells get other cells to fight the germs with antibodies, and another kind of cell called a CD8 cell to kill the infected cells. Therefore, losing CD4 cells impairs the body's ability to fight illnesses. One reason HIV may be so difficult to fight is that it infects these CD4 cells, and the immune system then needs to wipe out many of its own officers.

There are two basic kinds of CD4 cells - those that are programmed to recognize specific invaders (called 'memory cells'), and those that are ready to fight a new illness a person hasn't seen before (called 'naive cells'). Losing too many memory cells leaves the body defenseless to common diseases it has recognized and fought before.

Losing too many naive cells leaves the system without a way to fight new diseases. Interestingly, it is the naive cells that fight things like the common cold, since each cold virus is different.

**Unfortunately, it seems that if all the particular CD4 cells that recognize a specific invader have been killed, taking**

**antivirals may not bring back those particular cells.**

Reducing viral load usually increases the number of CD4 cells, but it does not bring back specific memory cells that have already been depleted. And if the naive cells are lost, then the body may never be able to cope with an infection it never saw before, or relearn to fight illnesses it "forgot".

Meanwhile, the CD8 cells that like soldiers do much of the killing of enemy infected cells, do not work as well as HIV infection progresses. It may be the lack of the CD4 cells, the officers to give them the orders to kill. In addition there is evidence that HIV directly infects and kills CD8 cells. Another possibility is that the CD8 cells are reproducing so often that they prematurely age and begin to resemble the cells of an elderly person. Whatever the cause of the problem, it is clear that without effective CD8 cells, or effective antivirals to keep the virus at bay, continued deterioration of the immune system is assured.

The great battles between these immune cells and the virus take place in the lymph system where most T-cells are housed. As HIV gains the upper hand, the architecture of the system is slowly destroyed.

We know that cancer patients who receive radiation therapy have similar damage, and it makes them more likely to get other infections. Other casualties to the virus are the spleen, which in part helps filter out infections, and the thymus.

Finally, with so much going on, many researchers feel that HIV begins to disrupt the communication between the immune cells. The immune system communicates through chemical messengers, which can be disrupted by HIV. The result is that cells respond ineffectively.

**At the same time that the immune system weakens, the virus itself multiplies faster and infects new types of cells**

Eventually the virus is able to enter cells with ease, by using entrances (receptors) not available to it earlier. In addition, because the virus is not always exact when it makes copies of itself, there are a lot of different variations that continue to develop. The cells which are set to look for and kill HIV, may not recognize all of these variations as the virus it is supposed to hunt down. Therefore the immune system is open to attack even as more of the 'naive' cells are needed to learn to recognize the new variations. These newly trained cells won't be looking for the original variations, making the immune system's response very inefficient.

**Stopping the Damage**

One way to slow the damage, or at least prevent it from speeding up too much, is to stay healthy. By staying healthy one can prevent infections from invading the body, or at least stop them from gaining a foothold. Adding more infections may lead to further taxing an already overworked immune system.

In addition, when the immune system fights infections, it also increases the amount of virus being produced. **Staying healthy** involves any number of things from watching what you eat, exercising, and getting plenty of rest to making sure that contact is limited with friends who have colds or other infections.

It also includes practicing safe-sex, since many infections other than HIV, from Herpes to KS (Kaposi's Sarcoma), are sexually transmitted, and tax the immune system.

**If, however, you want to stop the damage, and not just slow it down, you will need to use antiviral medications.**

Antivirals may stop the continuing damage if they are used together in combinations that reduce the amount of virus in a person to very low levels using the most sensitive viral load tests (meaning they measure as low as 400 or 500 copies). It is hoped, that once drugs get the amount of virus to undetectable levels, it is unlikely to go back up. However, this means taking medicine all the time, on time, and in the right amounts.

Already there is some evidence from people who started antivirals very early in the illness, when they had an immune system fairly intact, that the body can repair the damage caused by HIV. There are a series of tests that determine how well the immune system works. Early results from these tests show that people who start antiviral therapy early can recover the small amounts of immune function they may have lost.

But people whose system is more badly damaged before they begin therapy usually do not recover all the way. This does not mean that people with very low levels of CD4 cells should give up, because the majority of people with counts of under

50 have been dramatically helped with powerful antiviral combinations.

But if people start very early when little damage is done, it may be possible to avoid the damage altogether. There is even a chance that if used early enough, the virus may be cleared by the body, though tests to determine this will not be completed for a few more years.

**Pros and Cons**

After this, it would be logical to ask why people don't just take an antiviral combination right away, as soon as they know that they are infected with HIV.

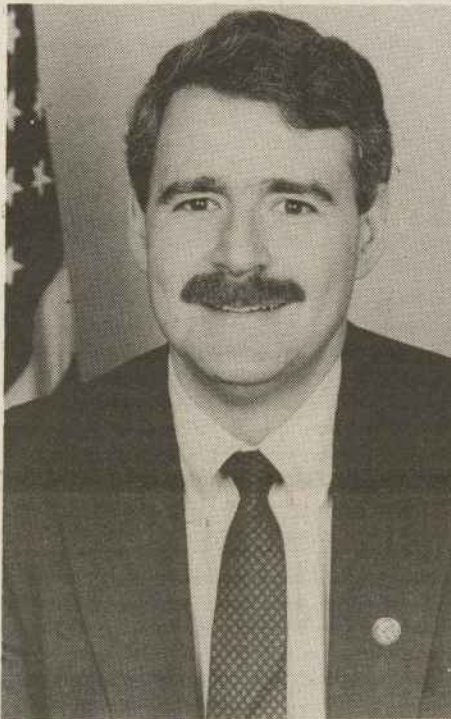
One of the reasons to wait is the side effects of the drugs, some of which can be severe. There are those who are early in the disease and want to wait for better drugs, afraid that using the ones we have now might preclude them from using better ones later.

## It is the Duty of Congress to End Workplace Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation

Commentary by Rep. Tom Barrett

In Georgia, a woman was dismissed from her job at The Cracker Barrel Old Country Store in 1991, because she "failed to demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

In Michigan, a Gay employee of the US Postal Service, complained to his supervisors about the daily harassment he received from his coworkers in the bathroom. When he tried to file suit under the Civil Rights Act, the court ruled that federal law required them to dismiss the case.



Congressman Tom Barrett

In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a man was fired from his job as an accountant, despite an impeccable record. When he inquired why, his boss replied, "You know why." Then, in an attempt to keep him from acquiring new clients, his boss disseminated a hateful mailing that stated, "It's well known that homosexuals are significantly at risk for AIDS. While I have no knowledge of his medical condition, consider getting the results of a blood test for him..."

The case eventually ended up in court, and regretfully, the employee lost, because he had once signed a contract years before that said he could be fired "for homosexuality."

These terrible incidents are neither random nor isolated. They are incidents which clearly reflect the institutionalized bias against Gay men and Lesbians that is so deeply imbedded in our society.

Each year, thousands of hardworking

And there are people who are simply not ready to take medicines every day on time for the rest of their life. The best argument for waiting is that it is not yet known if taking these powerful drugs for long periods will have serious implications. But even taking this into account, many researchers now believe that the earlier one starts, the better for the health of the body in the long run.

**The message is simple: There is no latent stage. From the beginning HIV is running rampant and, if it remains untreated, will cause damage which can't be felt or seen.** There are now ways to control that damage.

**Editor's Note:** The AIDS Writers Group consists of physicians and AIDS care givers in Boston, MA who seek to spread knowledge about the disease.

men and women are denied job opportunities, simply because they are Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual. With absolutely no recourse under current federal law or the Constitution, Gays and Lesbians have no means to seek justice against those who discriminate against them purely on the basis of sexual orientation.

That is wrong. Just as our government worked so hard to deliver justice and full equality in the courts for all Americans regardless of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability, we must fulfill our mission of achieving full civil rights by ending injustice on the basis of sexual orientation.

It's not a matter of "special rights" as some have argued in Wisconsin, it's simple justice.

I have joined once again with my colleague Barney Frank in originally co-sponsoring legislation about this change. The "Employee Non-Discrimination Act" (ENDA), which prohibits employers from making decisions about hiring, firing, promoting, or compensating an employee based on sexual orientation.

The bill makes clear that preferential treatment and quotas are strictly prohibited and that no claims will be based on statistics about Gays and Lesbians in the work force.

The legislation enjoys bipartisan support in both the House and Senate and came within one vote of passage in the Senate last year. It reflects non-discrimination policies already in place at major corporations such as AT&T and Xerox. Nine states and 166 cities and counties already have legislation prohibiting employment discrimination. A recent national poll found that 85% of Americans believe employers should not discriminate based on sexual orientation.

While we need to make similar advances to end discrimination in housing, education, medical treatment, and in the armed forces, this bill will lay critical groundwork, and will serve to highlight the clear-cut issues at hand.

Until all Americans cannot be fired simply because of who they are, we will never truly achieve full civil rights in the United States.

**Editor's Note:** The writer is US Congressman from Wisconsin's 5<sup>th</sup> District.

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**Their Night to Shine**-Over 100 beaming Gay and Lesbian youth attended the First Annual Milwaukee Gay Youth Prom at the Park East Hotel on Saturday April 19. See above left are Ryan Wagner, and Ross Schendel, Jamesville; Center, Stephanie Swistorski, Milwaukee; and Trisket, and Prom King and Queen, Knutson Ver Bunker and Shalimur Vega. They were joined by many other couples enjoying a very special evening. Among the participating groups were PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and Gay Youth Milwaukee.

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### Chorus Selects New Officers at Annual Meeting

**Milwaukee**—The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Among the issues discussed were direction and goals of the Chorus, and the bi-annual election of Vice President and Treasurer. Following a decision by Bahtyah Jones not to seek re-election to her office of Vice President, majority vote installed Debbie Lang to the position. Debbie has already proven her dedication to the Chorus through her efforts in the area of fundraising marketing.

Debbie was welcomed to the Board by Treasurer Kris Mixdorf, who retained his position after running unopposed.

President Matthew Pamperin and Secretary Chuck Ellingson do not come up for re-election until next year.

Emory Churness, Chorus Publicist for the last three years, announced his intention to step down from the position at the end of the Spring Season to pursue different interests within the organization.

The Chorus is currently seeking inquires from those interested in either the office of Musical Director or Publicist. These positions will be filled beginning with the Fall, 1997 season.

*(Editor's Note: It has been a pleasure for me to work with Emory Churness over the last years. All of us here at "Wisconsin Light" wish him well.)*

#### Notices

**The Gay Concert III: A Decade of Decadence** is fast approaching. The Chorus encourages all Chorus members, past and present, to participate in this concert in some way. Please contact any Chorus member, or attend the reunion picnic, Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Call the Chorus office for more details.

**The Gay Concert III: A Decade of Decadence** will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> in the Todd Weyr Theatre of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For more information, write to The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or call (414) 344-9222.

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## There Can be no Gay Community as Long as We Keep Feeding on Ourselves

Commentary by Michael Bender

When I hear the phrase, "Gay Community," I often wonder exactly what is meant by it. Outside of the "big city," there seems to be little community, and if you mention the word "Gay," what community there is suddenly vanishes before your eyes. Recently, I found this out the hard way.

Since I had always wanted to teach, I decided to enroll in UW-Platteville, and I got a job at the student newspaper. While I was perusing the *State Journal*, I found a story about two Lesbians who had been denied an apartment in Madison. I was in need of a soap box and I seized the opportunity. After denouncing the discrimination, I even quoted the Declaration of Independence, you know, the part about all people being entitled to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?" I also came out.

It was great! I felt like I could take on the whole world. Life out of the closet

### HIV Law

Continued From Page 1

has already happened in other states," he cautioned. without disclosing the names of the patients.

Doug Nelson, executive director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), said his group wants to assure the patients' privacy.

"It is a bill that our agency worked on very carefully and came to some common ground," Nelson said. "We were able to protect HIV confidentiality and also were able to address the ethical issues the physicians had."

The bill would allow physicians to report the names of sex and drug partners of HIV+ patients to the Wisconsin Division of Health's partner notification program. Workers from the program then would contact the people and tell them they're at risk, without revealing the name of the patient.

Nelson expressed confidence that the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, MAP's parent agency, would support the move as long as the final wording of the law is what had been discussed earlier.

Nelson added that while ARCW supports "carefully crafted" expansion of the HIV disclosure laws, "no legislation will ever take the place of every individual taking personal responsibility to protect themselves from contracting HIV."

Ross Walker of Milwaukee's BestD Clinic said that he concurred with Nelson that the compromise proposed "is both ethically prudent and appears to keep intact Wisconsin's excellent record of client/patient confidentiality.

Walker did, however, express several concerns. One was that since many health care clinicians either do not recognize or are "blind" to same-sex relationships, "this will primarily address heterosexual relationships."

"I am not sure that legislation is the answer to this nagging concern of many of us working as HIV/AIDS service providers," Walker said. "Those of us involved with anonymous HIV counseling and testing are periodically faced with this same public health dilemma. We often know, but we can't tell," he emphasized.

Walker said that the existing Wisconsin HIV/AIDS reporting statute and automatic referral to the Division of Health Partner Referral Programs "accomplishes about as much as what is proposed."

"I am not sure that persons with HIV/AIDS who now refuse to access Partner Referral will change their postures under what is proposed."

Under existing statutes, state guidelines and protocols, any person known to be infected with HIV, *must* be reported to the Wisconsin Division of Health. The person's name is then automatically passed on to the appropriate County Partner Referral Program for follow up. The HIV client has the option to cooperate with Partner Referral or not.

"The problem is real and there is no easy solution," Walker said. "As a matter of fact, I am almost reluctant to address the issue lest it plant new seeds in the minds of those who would publicly stigmatize and scorn those with HIV/AIDS."

"My biggest concern," Walker added, "is that the current debate, pending legislation and publicity will be a stepping stone to reduce or eliminate anonymous HIV counseling and testing in Wisconsin."

Walker warned that "It would be very easy for those opposing anonymous testing to tack on amendments to what is being proposed in the legislative process. It was better after all. I no longer cared who

knew I was Queer. I could talk to people about being Gay, at last. Maybe I could dispel some of the stereotypes I had grown up with. I was so high on life. Of course, I was naive.

My friends in my former church suddenly disappeared. After their departure, my excommunication from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod was announced to me in a letter from my pastor. People stopped talking to me when they found out who I was, and I was targeted by Wisconsin Christians United for a mail box full of hate. I must say I was not equipped to handle this, but I had been warned that it would happen.

The one thing I was not warned about was the sudden abandonment by the Gay community. The already dysfunctional LGB Alliance, which only met to tell jokes once a week, suddenly decided it was too much for them to deal with. I was shunned when I wrote my next column about Gay rights. And I was even more isolated when I urged people to join me in Madison for National Coming Out Day.

The final straw for me was when a member of the LGB Alliance and a friend who had accompanied me on my rounds of three of Madison's Gay bars, decided he didn't like my article criticizing the Alliance for its total lack of visibility on campus. In a spectacle worthy of ACT UP, he suddenly started shouting. He made quite a scene.

I later found out that he was so scared that I would "out" him that he was willing to resort to violence in order to prevent this imagined action.

What about friendship? What about the bond we shared because of the fact that we were both Queer? All of a sudden, none of that mattered.

Can you see why I wonder where the Gay community is? Rather than welcoming someone who finally stood up for himself, refusing to be forced into a public closet, my Gay and Lesbian brothers and sisters decided to run for cover as fast as they could.

As if they weren't enough of a betrayal, one of my former WELS church mates tried to blackmail me into stopping my writing. Overnight, at least for him, blackmail became a Christian value. I was almost suicidal. I had been betrayed on all sides. Where could I go for understanding?

As it turned out, I had to move to Madison.

Is it any wonder why rural LGBT folk are so invisible? Not only do they have to bear the burden of their ignorant classmates, but they also have to bear the fickleness of their "family."

Why must we feed on ourselves? From the closeted politician who embraces "family values" and then votes against ENDA to the closeted "Christians" who are more concerned about what their own "community" might think if they acknowledge they go to church.

Steve Gunderson, the last rural Gay man to go public, forced or not, was vehemently criticized by his own "community." We Queer people have too many communities and not enough activists to go around.

As long as this internalized homophobia continues, we will continue to feed on ourselves. As long as we sit back and accept this kind of treatment by anybody, even our own "community," there can be no hope for us.

As far as this Gay man is concerned, the people of rural UW-Platteville don't deserve a community. Why fight for people who will stab you in the back at the first available opportunity? It's enough to make me sick.

### "Sweeny Todd" At the Sky Light in Milwaukee

The Sky Light Opera Theatre will be presenting the musical thriller "Sweeny Todd" from April 23 through May 11 in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee.

Sweeny Todd is a barber who is unjustly sent to prison by a corrupt judge who desires his wife. Todd returns from prison and stalks the judge only to be cheated out his revenge. Todd then proceeds to kill every man who comes into his shop for a shave.

The production stars R.F. Dail, Judith Baird, Gary Briggie, Culber Casson, Tony Clements and Ryan Dance. Friday and Saturday evening performances will be followed by a free performance of the Carolin Carolyn Show at the Sky Light Cabaret. Her show is sponsored by Miller Brewing.

For ticket information call the Sky Light Box office, 291-7811.



A Quarter Century of Love- Celebrating their Silver Anniversary were Nick Gagliano and Jim Riske who held a gala affair at the 1100 Club on Saturday April 12. Dozens of well wishers turned out to watch the happy couple renew their vows.



# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Talking to the Stars

### Ashley MacIsaac: An Unconventional, Controversy

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Nova Scotian fiddler Ashley MacIsaac has been causing quite a commotion lately. The 22-year old openly gay musician is becoming as well known for his music as he is for his controversial viewpoints and antics. From his frank opinions about his sexual orientation to his appearance on the Conan O'Brien show where he kicked up his legs, while wearing a kilt with nothing underneath, and exposed his

genitals to millions of Americans, MacIsaac is quite unapologetic for his unconventional points of view. "I don't know if I think being gay is normal. How can I say that it's normal? As much as I know that there are some animals and there are groups of sheep in Tasmania or over in Australia that particularly just have gay sex, that's not for me to go into the idea that they don't have a conscience and learned process as well, and that they've learned to do that because they don't have any girls around them or whatever," he says.

"But I don't see that it's not normal either because a lot of people are doing it," MacIsaac adds. "It's normal for a lot of people. It's normal for me. It's not particularly normal for let's say my father, who married my mother and had me. He would think that it was very strange. He assumes that we're here for only one reason and that's reproduction. I grew up in a very heterosexual family where typically conversation about homosexuals would be on that would be a joking matter, or along the lines of 'if you ever were or if I ever knew, you'd be cut off,' the whole American way."

The outspoken MacIsaac is currently touring to promote his stellar debut opus, "Hi! How Are You Today?," on A&M records. (He previously opened for Melissa Etheridge and the Crash Test Dummies.) Fusing Celtic folk sounds into contemporary pop confections, with swirls of house and industrial dance rhythms mixed in, the flamboyant musician creates folk grunge with a pop sensibility on the electric fiddle.

The album recently earned platinum status in Canada and it's first U.S. single release, "Sleepy Maggie," a quirky, hi-energy ditty, featuring the Gaelic vocal power of Mary Jane Leonard, is currently climbing the Billboard dance charts.

"Hopefully, people will focus in on my music and not my philosophies and see that I'm putting forth a really strong energy and from that give this record a chance, which

Please Turn To MacIsaac Page 26



Ashley MacIsaac

### Shoreline to Present a Country Dance Weekend in May

**Milwaukee**—During the weekend of May 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>, Shoreline will present its first annual Spring Round-Up, three days of country-western parties, dances, and workshops.

#### Country Dance Gala

The highlight of the weekend will be Shoreline's fifth annual Country Dance Gala on Saturday night, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The Gala will include performances by Shoreline, the Cream City Squares, Rainbow Cloggers from Minneapolis, other guests and lots of country music and dancing in this smoke-free facility.

The Gala is expected to draw more than 350 women and men from Milwaukee and throughout the Midwest. Organizers say that it will be THE LGBT event of 1997.

**Just Us**, 807 S. Fifth Street in Milwaukee, will host all other Spring Round-Up events. Get ready for a Friday night fish fry, and open country dancing and two dance workshops on Saturday afternoon.

#### Dance Workshops

The Saturday dance workshops will include instruction in both Texas two-step, a ballroom partner dance, and line dancing. Neither workshop requires a partner.

Carol Anderson, an award-winning two-step dancer and popular instructor from Minneapolis, will present her two-step workshop beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Later in the afternoon, Shoreline's own Mark Duris will teach the hottest new line dances. Mark's high energy enthusiasm always makes learning fun.

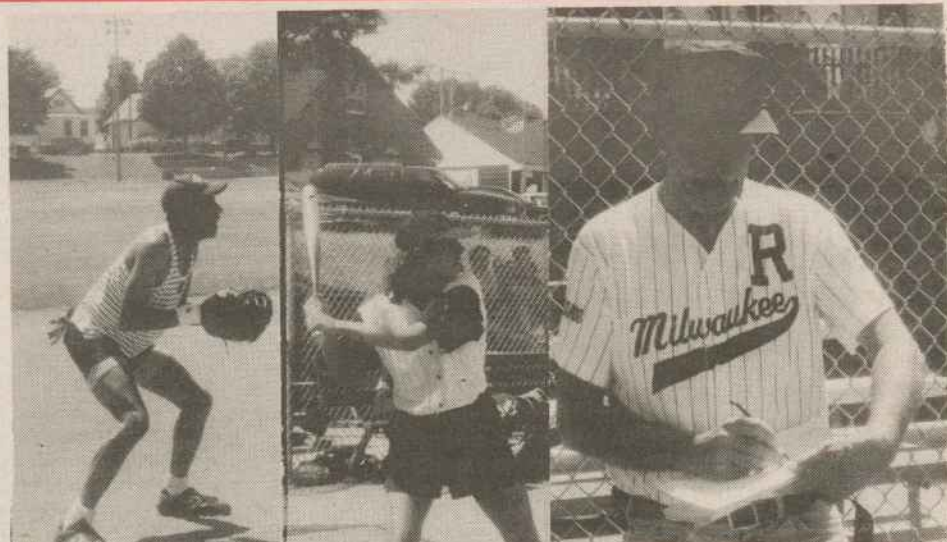
#### Sunday Brunch

On Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Just Us will offer a sumptuous brunch, followed by a dance swap designed to give participants an opportunity to share and learn new and different dances.

Brochures containing registration forms for the Spring Round-Up, as well as tickets for the Saturday night Country Gala, may be obtained at Just Us, AfterWords, Designing Men, People's Books; and OutPost in Milwaukee. To receive a brochure by mail, send a SASE to: Spring Round-Up, c/o Shoreline, P.O. Box 92273, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0273.

Tickets may be purchased separately for each event or for all Saturday and Sunday events at a "weekend package" cost of \$20—a price most cowpokes can afford. Tickets for the Saturday night Gala may be purchased for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Shoreline, no approaching its fifth successful year, has a membership of over 30 cowpokes of both the male and female gender. To learn more about the group or the Spring Round-Up, visit Just Us on any Saturday night.



They're Baaaack! You can catch the boys and girls of Summer and all the action of the SSBL's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season at Sijan field, 2128 S. Kinnicknic Ave. beginning on Saturday May 3.

### The SSBL Offers Twenty Years of Rich History and Leadership in LBG Sports

By Bill Meunier

When a group of friends got together to form a Gay and Lesbian softball league in Milwaukee, they had little idea how much of an impact their new organization would have. Now, twenty years later, the SSBL is celebrating a rich tradition of good play, friendship and leadership, not only in Milwaukee's Gay community, but nationally as well.

That tradition includes the first ever Gay softball tourney, the first Women's World Series and twenty seasons of continuous fun.

The league has changed considerably over its two decade history. Some years

there were so many teams that it had two divisions, a competitive and a recreational division.

The SSBL also had a Women's Division for a few years. That division died when more women's tournaments began being offered. Most of the women also played on other teams and preferred going to out of town women's tourneys on weekends.

Think of the SSBL and you think of Mitchell Park, the league's original home. With one diamond up on a hill and another below it. Summer Saturdays at the park sometimes seemed like a stream of

Please Turn To SSBL Page 26

### Florentine Opera Presents Umberto Giordano's 'Andrea Chenier'

**Milwaukee**—For the first time ever in Milwaukee, the Florentine Opera will mount Umberto Giordano's richly scored verisimo opera, **Andrea Chenier**. Swept up by the inexorable hysteria and cruelty of the French Revolution, Andrea Chenier, a French poet, satirist and critic of the French Revolution, goes to the guillotine, accompanied by his beautiful and aristocratic Madeleine, who refuses to live without him.

**Andrea Chenier** is a tragic romance set to some of opera's most rapturous music, wrapped in a crucible of great dramatic power. As a contemporary of Puccini, Giordano scored a major operatic triumph when his opera premiered just 100 years ago at Milan's La Scala. It continues to thrill audiences to this day.

Giordano's opera has experienced a resurgence in the past few years. Madeleine's famous aria "La Mama Morta" from Act II inspired one of the most emotional and moving scenes ever filmed in the movie **Philadelphia**.

Splitting the demanding role of Chenier, tenors Tonio Di Paolo (May 2 & 4) and Paul Lyon (May 3) will sing this signature role made famous by so many of the great tenors of our day. Florentine Opera favorite Soprano Mildred Tyree will sing the impassioned and moving role of Madeleine de Coigny.

Making their debuts with the Florentine will be Catherine Cook as the Countess Di Coigny and Madelon, Kimm Julian as Pietro Fleville, Kristopher Irmier as Mathieu, and Douglas Perry as Incredible.

Other singers returning to the Florentine include John Koch, Dean Marshall, Scott Sowles, and David Boyd.

Noted Conductor Louis Salemno returns to the Florentine to lead this stellar cast and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in an opera that contains music with a passion and burning intensity even death cannot quell.

Performances of **Andrea Chenier** will take place in Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center (929 N. Water Street), on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at

8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Tickets, ranging in price from \$18 to \$78, are available from the Marcus Center Box Office at (414) 273-7206.

MAY 2, 3 & 4, 1997

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**ANDREA CHENIER**

BY UMBERTO GIORDANO

Florentine OPERA COMPANY

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Together at last! The cast of "Lend Me A Tenor" posed for this photo. The farce is playing at Melanec's Wheel House in Milwaukee Fridays-Sundays through June 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Now Listen Up! Ellard (Royden Mills, left) teaches English to Charlie (Michael Herold) in a scene from "The Foreigner," a hilarious production from the Madison Rep. It plays at the Isthmus Theater through May 4.

## The Wheel House's "Lend Me a Tenor" : A Charming Comedy Worth Seeing

By Dusty Sass

"Lend Me A Tenor" is Melanec Wheel House's second foray into comedy. It follows the very successful run of "Nunsense" which had five month run at the Milwaukee East Side Dinner Theater.

While not quite as entertaining as "Nunsense", "Lend Me A Tenor" is certainly worth a look.

The production successfully captures the look and feel of the 1930's era during which the story takes place. It has the look and feel of a well done 1930's film farce.

Tito Merelli, a world famous tenor know to his fans as "Il Stupendo" is booked for a one night only performance by the Cleveland Grand Opera company. Merilli arrives with his justifiably jealous wife, Maria.

When Maria discovers a fan, Maggie, hiding in a closet hoping to get an autograph she leaves in a huff. Tito threatens to kill himself, but is talked out of it by Max, who is an assistant to Opera Director, Mr. Saunders ( who is also Maggie's father).

When Tito takes one too many sleeping pills, Max thinks he has in fact killed himself and calls on Saunders to figure a way out of the situation.

Saunders convinces Max to sing Merrill's part in Otello which Max does to great acclaim. The problem is that Merilli isn't dead. He awakes, rushes to the Opera House and is nearly arrested when he tries to gain entrance through the stage door. He escapes only after hitting a policeman.

The second act is a riot of confusion as both the imposter and the real Merrill narrowly miss each other going through doors of the Hotel suite while entertaining two admiring female fans, Maggie and Diana, who sang Soprano in the production, as well as Julia, the Chairwoman of the Opera Guild.

Throw in a Gay bellhop, and an exasperated Saunders trying desperately to keep everyone from discovering his scheme and you have the makings of a first rate farce.

In the end everything is resolved to nearly everyone's satisfaction, when Merilli is reunited with his wife and Max gets his girl, Maggie.

For the most part the cast was fairly effective in their roles. This was especially true of Robert Fuchs who played Merilli, Karla Sherman who portrayed his wife Maria and Dick Thomas who played Saunders.

Fuch's facial gestures, accent and body language were perfect for the part. Sherman was totally believable as the irate wife of the tenor. Thomas was very good as the scheming Saunders.

Also quite good were John Cullinan as Max and Nancy Hucke who was delicious as the blonde bombshell soprano trying to get into Merrill's pants and career.

On the negative side of the ledger, was Karen Zimmerman playing Julia. Zimmerman who shined in Nunsense is less than adequate here. The problem wasn't with her acting which was fine, it was with her volume which was not. She was so loud that I was uncomfortable listening to her deliver her lines.

Given her part, some increase in volume may have been justified, but far too often one got the impression that Zimmerman was shouting instead of giving her lines.

One other problem was that the first act seemed to lag a bit, and the timing for some of the gags seemed somewhat off.

But on the whole this was a charming production with many comedic moments.

It is well worth seeing.

"Lend Me A Tenor" will be at the Wheelhouse on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the Wheel House, 2176 N. Riverboat Rd (between North Ave and Brady Street and east of Humboldt) through June 22<sup>nd</sup>. For reservations call (414) 264-6000.

## Madison Rep's 'The Foreigner' is Hilarious, Enjoy It While You Can

By Brian Harder

More than once I've thought of what it would be like if I could start my life over in a new place where no one knew me or my past, (not that I have anything to hide) and I could start my life all over again. In *The Foreigner*, Charlie Baker gets to do just

that, and boy does he make the most of it.

Charlie is a timid bloke visiting rural Georgia with his military friend, Froggy. Charlie has left his dying, and promiscuous, wife back in England to get

Please Turn To Foreigner Page 26

# CRIS WILLIAMSON and TRET FURE



Listen to what they're saying about Cris and Tret's New CD "Between the Covers":

"...a beautiful celebration of Cris and Tret's love for each other." -Bonnie Raitt

"Transparently elegant..." -Janis Ian

Saturday, May 10th, 1997, 8:00pm

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Full Moon Productions  
N235 Country Hwy W  
Campbellsport, WI 53010  
email: fullmoonpr@excel.net

Outpost Natural Foods  
100 East Capitol Drive



**TA-DA!**  
**HERE I AM.**  
**OUT OF THE CLOSET!**

WE'RE WAITING FOR LILY TOMLIN.

DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, DEAR!

4-22-97 JIMMY CIGANEK

**"Ellen" Will Air in Alabama**

New York, NY—Since the ABC affiliate in Birmingham, Alabama refused to air the April 30<sup>th</sup> episode of "Ellen," the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and Birmingham Pride Alabama (BPA) will be holding the city's "Official Welcome Out 'Ellen' Party," with the history-making episode being satellite-fed directly to a giant screen at the Boutwell Auditorium. Thousands of attendees from all over the state are expected to attend.

**Dave Thomas Won't Serve "Ellen" at Wendy's**

New York, NY—Wendy's has announced that while it was never scheduled to advertise on the April 30<sup>th</sup> episode of "Ellen," it has pulled all sponsorship from the show. According to Wendy's spokesperson Denny Lynch, the move was prompted by the media attention to title character Ellen Morgan's coming out as a Lesbian.

**World Premiere of "Three Women" at Madison Civic Center May 23**

"Three Surrealist Women on the Edge of Oblivion" will have its world at Madison's Civic Center on Friday May 23 8:00 and Sunday May 25 3 PM in the Starlight Room of the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street).

The composition is based on a painting by Salvado Dali. It includes text by Amy Looze for three sopranos, euphonium, cello and piano and a live visual artist. The artist will paint a new painting each performance. These works will be sold in a silent auction after the performance is over.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased at Mother Fools Coffee House, on Williamson Street, B-Side Music on State Street or Borders Book Store on University Ave.

**Cris Williamson, Tret Fure at Centennial Hall, Saturday May 10**

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will be performing at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St., on Saturday May 10.

Williamson is considered one of America's premier Lesbian performers. Her collaboration with the talented Fure has generated the critically acclaimed album, "Between the Covers."

Tickets are \$16.00 in advance, \$18.00 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at AfterWords Books., 2710 N. Murray, Outpost Natural Foods, 100 E. Capitol Dr. and by mail -Full Moon Productions, N235 County Hwy W, Campbellsport, WI 53010.

**Beau Solieu Brings Cajun Flair to Grand Opera House in Oshkosh**

Beau Solieu with acclaimed fiddler Micheal Doucet brings their cajun dance music to the Grand Opera House, 100 High Ave, Oshkosh on Saturday May 10.

BeauSolieu made a pre game appearance at last January's Super Bowl. They have also been featured in appearances at Carnegie Hall and have received six Grammy nominations.

For ticket information call 424-2355.

**Joe Lovano Quartet at the Pabst May 10**

The acclaimed Joe Lovano will be bringing his Jazz Quartet to Milwaukee's Pabst Theater on Saturday May 10.

Among the honors heaped on Lovano are "Jazz Artist of the Year," - in both 1995 and 1996- Downbeat Critics and readers polls, and International Artist of the Year-Canada's Jazz Report Magazine.

For ticket info call 286-8777.

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**Ellen**  
Coming Out Party  
April 30  
Free Food 7 to 9 PM

- ♦ FABULOUS BEER BATTER FRIDAY FISH FRY & FULL MENU
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- ♦ IN HOUSE DART LEAGUE (2 MACHINES IN MAIN BAR)
- ♦ GOLF OUTINGS
- ♦ TOMBSTONE PIZZAS
- ♦ NIGHTLY DRINK SPECIALS
- ♦ POOL TABLE
- ♦ COUNTRY DANCE 7-11 SATURDAYS
- ♦ DANCE TO THE HOT HITS FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
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Beer Bust \$4 or 80¢ Glasses of Beer
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\$1.75 Rail
- ➡ **Saturdays Tap Beer 80¢ ('til 6pm)**  
Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2 (until 6pm)
- ➡ **Sundays**  
Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2 (until 6pm)  
Tap Beer 80¢ ('till 6pm)  
\$1.75 Rail (9pm 'til close)

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a fundraiser to benefit the S.S.B.L.

**SATURDAY, MAY 10 • 5pm**

Hosted by: Sofonda Cox

With Special Appearance by: Our Very Own Lana St. James  
(Miss B's, Entertainer of the Year (Q-Voice) '96)

**VOTE FOR:**

**Bev A. Robe &**

**Anita Moore Bevy**

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IN BETWEEN - 625 South 2nd Street - Milwaukee - 278-9611



# You're Invited

## FRIDAY APRIL 25

### 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.

### 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.

## 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 at 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee celebrates the beginning of the Saturday Softball League's 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### SOCK HOP AT THE NAPALESE

Relive those days of the 50's and 60's at the Napalese for their first annual Sock Hop. Elsie and all her friends will be on hand to keep things going.

There will be a dress contest, great music and more fun than should be legal. The Napalese is located at 515 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

### MR. GAY MILWAUKEE US OF A PAGEANT AT B'S

B's located at 1579 S. Second Street, Milwaukee will be the site of the first ever, Mr. Gay Milwaukee US of A Pageant. The winner and runner will be eligible to compete in the State finals held in Green Bay in June.

Contestants will be judged on swimwear, evening wear, talent and interview. The pageant begins at 10 PM. Anyone who is interested in entering should contact Bobby at B's 672-5580.

There is a \$3.00 cover with a \$5.00 table charge. Proceeds benefit the BESTD Clinic.

### 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.

### CHILI COOK OFF AT THE NAPALESE LOUNGE

If you are a fan or a cook of great Chili, then the Napalese Lounge, 515 S. Broadway, Green Bay is the place you want to be.

Everyone is welcome to bring in their best version of the classic American dish for judging. There are cash prizes for the best tasting chili's.

### MISS LEATHER CONTEST AT B'S IN MILWAUKEE

Finally a pageant for impersonators who want to wear leather instead of an evening gown. The first annual Miss Leather Contest at B's, 1579 S. Second Street, Milwaukee will feature many of your favorites in leather.

The pageant begins at 10 PM. There is a \$3.00 cover with proceeds benefiting the BESTD Clinic.

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 30

### "ELLEN" SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT SCANDALS IN MADISON & LA CAGE IN MILWAUKEE

Scandals, 121 W. Main Street, Madison, and La Cage, Second and National, Milwaukee will be the sites of the Wisconsin Light Spotlight Parties celebrating Ellen's coming out of the closet.

The Scandals party will feature Tammy Baldwin, free Lite Taps and some special surprises in addition to a big screen TV. The party at La Cage includes the bar's regular two for one Wednesday special.

Both parties will give those in attendance a chance to contribute to Action Wisconsin's Same Sex Marriage project and will include a special taped message from Elizabeth Birch and a viewing of the HRC commercial that ABC refused to run during the Ellen Episode.

### ELLEN PARTY AT MANOEUVRES IN MADISON

Manoeuvres will the site of a special party honoring Ellen's Coming Out TV episode. The show can be viewed on any of the bars many tv screens and the party will feature give aways of Ellen Degeneres' book, posters and more.

There will also be drink specials and raffles. Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair Street, Madison.

### ELLEN PARTY AT ZA'S

Ellen is coming out of the closet and Za's, 1106 Main, Green Bay will be celebrating with a special party. There will be a beer bust for just \$6.00, and free champagne too.

The show is at 8:00 and the bar opens at 7:00.

## FRIDAY MAY 2

### SHORELINE ROUND UP WEEKEND BEGINS AT JUST US

Shoreline begins its weekend long Round Up celebration at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth Street, Milwaukee. Registration is from 6 to 10 PM. There will be a "Welcome to Milwaukee Party" featuring a Just Us Fish Fry, from 7 to 10 PM followed by country dancing.

## SATURDAY MAY 3

### SSBL BEGINS PLAY AT SIJAN FIELD IN MILWAUKEE

It's been 20 years in the making, but the SSBL's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season gets underway at Sijan Field, 2128 S. KK in Milwaukee.

The first games are scheduled for 11 AM and the last games start at 3 PM. Admission of course is free. So come on down and root for your favorites.

### MISS GAY KENOSHA PAGEANT AT CLUB 94

A bevy of beauties will be on hand for the Miss Gay Kenosha America Pageant at Club 94 in Kenosha. Miss Vicki C, Miss Gay Wisconsin, America, will be on hand to help keep things festive. She will be joined by the fabulous Cass Marie Domino and Kierra Nicole plus other special guests.

The pageant begins at 10 PM.

### COUNTRY DANCE GALA AT MILWAUKEE'S WAR MEMORIAL CENTER

An expected 500 people will be strutting their stuff at Milwaukee's War Memorial Center the site of the fifth annual Country Dance Gala. The Gala which will feature dancers from Chicago and Minneapolis in addition to Milwaukee runs from 7:30 PM to 12:30 AM.

This event is the centerpiece of the weekend long "Round Up" sponsored by Shoreline. Other events held on Saturday May 3 include Line Dance and Two Step lessons at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth Street.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door. Ticket outlets include Just Us, Designing Men and Afterwards Books.

## SUNDAY MAY 4

### ROUND UP CONCLUDES AT JUST US

The Shoreline Round Up concludes at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth Street. Events include a brunch from 11 to 2 and a Line Dance Swap from 12 to 4.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

### MISS WALKER'S POINT CAFÉ CONTEST AT B'S

B'S will be the site of the Miss Walker's Point Café contest. The fun gets underway at 10 PM. Applications are available from the bar or the café.

## FRIDAY MAY 9

### NORTHERN BABES GOING TO DALLAS SHOW AT B'S

Josie Lynn Eileen Dover, Tilio Hara are leaving Wisconsin (only for the big pageant in Dallas, but they need your help to get there so please attend their benefit at B's, 1579 S. Second Street, Milwaukee.

There is a \$3.00 cover/ \$5.00 Table charge

## SATURDAY MAY 10

### MR. SSBL CONTEST AT IN BETWEEN

The annual Mr. SSBL Contest will be held beginning at 5:00 at Milwaukee's In Between Bar, 625 S. Second Street. Contestants nominated by their teams, sell raffle tickets. The

one selling the most tickets wins the coveted title of Mr. SSBL.

The party will include lots of surprises and great fun.

### CRIS WILLIAMSON, TRET FURE PERFORM IN MILWAUKEE

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will be performing in a concert sure to be remembered at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall, 733 N 8th Street, Milwaukee.

Williamson and Fure are considered to be two of the finest Lesbian singers in the country. Among other selections they will be performing music from their new critically acclaimed album.

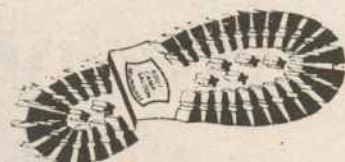
Tickets are \$16.00 in advance, \$18.00 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased from Afterwards Books, 2710 N. Murray or Outpost Natural Foods, 100 East Capitol.

### HIT Seeks Bowlers

Milwaukee—The H.I.T. (Holiday Invitational Tournament) League is now seeking both bowlers, (all skill levels) to join them for ten weeks of bowling this summer.

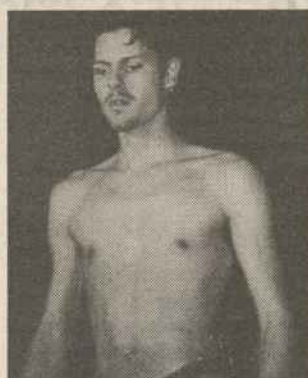
Dates: May 20 - July 22 Teams consist of 5 bowlers per team.

Form your own team or let us place you with others. For further information, join us at our Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Landmark Lanes, 2220 N. Farewell Ave., Milwaukee



### BOOT CAMP SALOON MILWAUKEE'S LEATHER / LEVI BAR

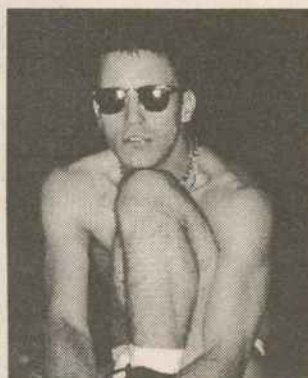
209 E. National Milwaukee, WI 414-643-6900



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

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The Wisconsin Light  
**SPOTLIGHT**  
EVENT

# The Ellen Party

Wednesday, April 30 • Open at 7pm

Watch Ellen Come Out on our 26 video screens  
Hear a special messages from the Human Rights Campaign  
and see the commercial ABC was afraid to let you see.

Help raise funds for Action Wisconsin's  
Same Sex Marriage Project

PLUS our Wednesday 2-for-1 Drink Special All Nite Long

**FRIDAY, MAY 2 • 10:30<sup>pm</sup>**

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# THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

## Recaps

Man oh man, with the weather getting warming the action is getting hotter too. have been going like 60 for the last two weeks and now I feel like 80!!!

The big news is that Jimmy and Bill who are among the best tag teams of bartenders in Milwaukee have left **The Triangle** due to differences with the owner. Contrary to rumor Billy says they will NOT be back. I hope we'll see them behind a bar again soon! Best of luck guys

April 17<sup>th</sup> was Nick Gagliano's and Jim Riske's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated at the **1100 Club**. It was a wonderful affair, with the two men reaffirming their vows in a bower of roses and candlelight backed by the Rainbow Flag. There was Dennis there, and Rona and Bob Schmidt from the **M&M Club**. And Squeaky, who was celebrating his 49<sup>th</sup> birthday party and had known Nick and Jim for 30 years.

I want to make special mention of Bob Husslein. He did the flower gorgeous arrangements at the anniversary. Never have I seen so many long stemmed red roses so beautifully arranged.

Throughout the affair, David Carroll played the piano. That man has such tremendous talent. With his music, he could render any event sublime.

Among the other wonderful things I have been at are Tommy's last 20ish Birthday party held at **In Between**. As usual it was a great time. There was some real good pizza and a great birthday cake. Of course there was also Tommy, (what a hunk) with that great smile of his.

Then there was the SSBL's Season Opening Party at the **Ball Game**. What a great idea this was. The place was packed with softball players, fans and sponsors everyone having a great time.

**The Gay Youth Prom** at the Park East was a real blast. Unfortunately those jerks from Ralph Ovadal's group, Wisconsin Christians United, picketed the place and made everyone's life miserable until they got inside. Sorry Ralph, but no one turned away and we really should thank you for helping steel our younger friends to the kind of hate they will see later on in life.

**The Bacardi Party at La Cage** was a big success. George Prentice told me that the company said it was one of their best yet. Of course holding it at one of Milwau-

## Lesbian and Gay Characters Play Many Roles on TV

On April 30, 1997 the ABC sitcom *Ellen* will make television history when Ellen Morgan, its lead character, will step out of the closet. While Ellen Morgan may be the first openly Lesbian or Gay title character, Gay and Lesbian character have not been strangers to television. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is keeping a scoreboard of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender characters.

There are now 30 characters on television!

### Network Breakdown

- ABC - 13 characters
- NBC - 7 characters
- CBS - 3 characters
- FOX - 3 characters
- The WB - 1 character
- HBO - 1 character
- Showtime - 2 characters

### Television Show Characters

The following is a list of a few of the shows with Lesbian or Gay characters. It is far from inclusive.

**Profiler** VCTF Computer Specialist George Fraley (Peter Frechette)  
E.R. Emergency Room Intern Dr. Maggie Doyle (Jorja Fox)

**Melrose Place** Melrose Place's resident Gay man Matt Fielding (Doug Savant)

**Friends** Ross' (David Schwimmer) ex-wife Carol Wylick (Jane Sibbett) and her girlfriend Susan Bunch (Jessica Hecht)

**Mad About You** Paul's (Paul Reiser) sister Debbie Buchman (Robin Bartlett) and her girlfriend Joan (Suzie Plakson), who is also Jaimie's (Helen Hunt) gynecologist.

**Party of Five** Claudia's (Lacey Chabert) violin teacher Ross (Mitchell Anderson)

**Roseanne** Roseanne business partner Leon Carp (Martin Mull), his lover Scott (Fred Willard), bisexual friend Nancy Bartlett (Sandra Bernhard) and mother Beverly Harris (Estelle Parsons).

**The Simpsons** Mr. Bum's assistant Waylon Smithers (Harry Shearer)

kee's finest bars was a big plus.

## Coming Up

The next couple of weeks are going to be even busier than the last couple, with the new SSBL season, the "Ellen" Coming Out Episode and the Shoreline Round Up there won't be a moment to spare.

**Friday April 25**, I will be at the Boy Contest at the 1100 Club. This part of the big Daddy Boy weekend otherwise known as the time that we all put on dead animal skin and act really, really butch. (okay some of us don't have to act and those are the ones I want to meet.) There will be an opening cocktail party at **South Water Street Docks** and then the big show at the 1100.

Of course in the middle of all this, I will have to jet over to **Scandals** for their first ever "Lights Out" party. Thank goodness it will be dark in the place so no one will see how frazzled I am sure I will look.

**Saturday April 26** you can find me at **Mama Roux** for their big soft ball team fund raiser. There will be a beer bust, raffles and all kinds of good stuff going on. The team appropriately called **Mama's Family** is a new entrant to the league so let's help them get a good start. At some point in the evening, I will have to get down to the **1100 Club** for the Daddy Contest at 10 PM.

If I was in Wausau (and don't you wish you were right about now) I'd be at the **Mad Hatter** for the big Josie Lynn Benefit show. If you get up there say hi to Vicki, Anne, Heath and all the gang for me.

In addition to the Daddy Boy weekend stuff and the Mama Roux Fund Raiser, there is also the Mr. Gay Milwaukee US of A Contest at **B's**. I will stop in a take a peek. Hopefully I will arrive during the swimwear competition.

**Sunday April 26** you can find me at **B's** for the Miss Leather Contest. This is a new event devoted to those drag queens who are into leather. Should be interesting.

**Wednesday April 30**, is the big Ellen Night. I hope you will join those watching at one of our **Wisconsin Light** Ellen Parties. They will be at **La Cage** in Milwaukee and at **Scandals** in Madison. Both will feature a special message from Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign and a viewing of the commercial that ABC rejected for the broadcast. The La Cage party will have the bar's normal two for one, Wednesday night special and the Scandals party will have Tammy Baldwin and free Miller Lite Taps.

Both parties will have raffles and give aways to benefit Action Wisconsin.

Since I will be at the Madison party, I will simply have to check out **Manoeuvres** Ellen Party as well. Ed and his staff are giving away lots of Ellen paraphernalia.

**Friday May 2** I'll be at **Just Us** for the start of the big Country Round Up Weekend. There's just something about a man in cowboy boots. They have a "Welcome to Milwaukee Party" a great fish fry and of course some great dancing.

**Saturday May 3** join me in catching all the action at the Season Openers for the SSBL. This is the league's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. I won't tell you what team I am playing for, (all those autograph seekers get to be a real pain) but I will tell you that a usual there will be plenty of hot men and women walking around in tight pants and bending over a lot.

After the action on the diamonds, I will rush home and get ready for the big **Country Dance Gala at the War Memorial Center**. Dancers from Chicago and the Twin Cities will be joining the locals.

If I have a chance I will check out the action at the Miss Gay Kenosha, America pageant at Club 94. They have some great performers coming in including Cass Marie Domino (one of my personal favorites).

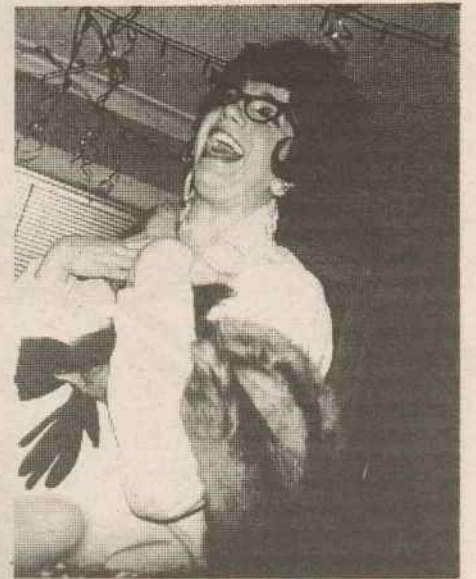
**Sunday May 4** I'll take in the brunch and line dancing swap at **Just Us**, the conclusion of the Round Up Weekend.

**Mark Saturday May 10** in your calendars. That's when the Mr. SSBL contest will be held at **In Between**. (No I am not going to enter. It just wouldn't be fair to all the other contestants.)

Last but not least I can't wait to see **Cris Williamson and Tret Fure** at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall on that evening. Yes they are Lesbian singers and I am not a Lesbian, but you don't have to be one to appreciate great music. I have been a Williamson fan for years.

Well that wraps it up. I hope to see you out and about soon. Meantime, stay safe, be proud and contact your State Legislators and tell them vote against AB 104.

# Dear Ruthie



Ruthie

Well folks, here we are again. Enjoying the warmer weather? I just love it here. I can't wait for the summer to kick in. The sun, the shirtless men, the breeze off of the lakefront, men in shorts, summer showers, rubbing sun tan oil on the muscular back of a motorcyclist.

He's a rebel. Your mother hates him, but Jimmy's got that special quality about him. Excitement is in his eyes and gin is on his breath. He holds you tight in your grandmother's parlor - Frank Sinatra is singing on the radio - he wants you to join the circus with him and make love under the big top, and then you ... oh my stars!

I'm sorry, now where was I? Oh well, I've gotten a few letters that I'd like to share with you. Hope you enjoy them!

Dear Ruthie,

**My life seems to be a series of Good-Bad - Worse events.**

**For example - Good: I fall in love.**

**Bad: He is transferred to China for 6 months.**

**Worse: He decides to live there permanently.**

**Here s another one.**

**Good: I find a great apartment.**

**Bad: My neighbor is a homophobe.**

**Worse: He s the building s manager. See what I mean? How can I break this cycle of bad luck?**

**Signed:**

**Living Under a Ladder**

Dear Ladder,

Lighten up! Is life really that bad? Are these the worst things that have happened to you? Just think of the things that COULD be happening to you, such as:

**Good: Your partner likes cats.**

**Bad: For dinner.**

**Good: On your first date he offers to pay.**

**Bad: For sex.**

**Worse: He only has \$5.00.**

**Bad: Your boyfriend always wears dikkies.**

**Worse: In the summer.**

**Worst: Without a shirt.**

**Good: Your partner likes to make love 7 days a week.**

**Bad: To the next-door neighbor.**

**Worse: Who is 113 years old.**

**Good: You sneak-up behind your girlfriend and pinch her bottom.**

**Bad: It s not your girlfriend.**

**Worse: It s your boss.**

**Good: Your husband likes to talk dirty.**

**Bad: To your mother.**

**Worse: She likes it.**

**Good: Your partner likes to have kinky sex.**

**Bad: At kinky sex parties.**

**Worse: You re not invited.**

**Good: You get the chance to have sex in public.**

**Bad: You get caught and arrested.**

**Worse: By your husband.**

**Bad: Someone tells you that you look like Ruthie.**

**Worse: They mean Ruth Buzzy.**

Dear Ruthie,

**I have a situation in my office that is very uncomfortable. There is an individual who on very many occasions will use the f word in regard to co-workers, be it in the same department**

or other business units. He will stomp around, throw things, and literally blow up while using this language. This person also uses racist language and I have heard him refer to minority employees in an inappropriate fashion.

Since the person has already been written up for this behavior and nothing has changed, do you think it would help to direct a letter outlining this person s behavior to the HR Dept?

**Signed:**

**Tired of Being Offended**

Dear Offended,

I say write-up that racist pig! Everyone should feel safe and comfortable at their workplace.

A few years ago, I was talking to my friend Louise during one of our weekly Bingo/Tequila/ Baywatch nights. In-between bitching about Pamela Anderson Lee, she said, "Mean people suck." Then she threw her shot glass at the TV.

Now, years later, I see that phrase popping up all over the place. And you know, it's true. Mean people do suck.

Sit yourself down, and write a well-thought out letter. Tell your human resource manager how you feel when this person does this, and how you think it effects your work environment.

However, think things through first. If you're going to make these charges you must sign the letter with your name and be willing to explain everything you write.

Last I heard good, old Louise cashed in on that phrase. Now she has implants and a blonde wig. Her ad in the personals reads: DWF, 65+, seeks skinny, tattooed drummer for ocean front wedding, child, and quicky divorce. Wavy, dark haired life guards with talking cars may also apply.

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



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# OUT on Film

## 'Chasing Amy' is a Refreshingly Honest, Funny, Sensitive Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn is puzzled by many things, too many really to mention here but of late, Glenn has been particularly puzzled by the notion of transgender. A term increasingly included in the names of alternative organizations, what exactly does it mean to be a transgendered person? Is Glenn, as a Gay man transgendered, for example?

No, *Chasing Amy* isn't a "transgendered film", nor does director Kevin Smith include any "transgender characters". Yet faithful readers of the Wisconsin Light are likely to be surprised and captivated at this small, curiously disarming film's frank discussion of relationships and the fluidity of sexual attraction.

Warm and winning, Smith's *Chasing Amy* cannot help but defy easy categorizing. Say romantic comedy and the resulting image is some silly bit of fluff most likely starring a cast member from the hit TV series *Friends*. Yet *Chasing Amy* is both romantic and a comedy.

Holden McNeil (Ben Affleck) and his boyhood pal Banky (Jason Lee) are the successful creators of the "Bluntman and Chronic" comic book characters. At a comic convention Holden becomes dazed by fellow comic artist Alyssa Jones (Joey Lauren Adams). She is friendly yet seems somewhat distant, perhaps a little less impressed.

Still, their coupling seems assured and imminent. But wait, there's only one minor problem: Alyssa is a notorious lesbian (Glenn wonders if there is any other kind). Banky questions the logic of Holden's fixation on Alyssa thinking, as Glenn did, how unlikely this delightful couple's prospects seemed to be.

But a couple they nevertheless become and as Banky becomes increasingly jealous and resentful of Alyssa's intrusion into their idyllic, dare one say, comic book-like existence, there develops an romantic triangle unusual in big screen cinematic ventures and which forms the essence of Smith's film.

Silly, sophomoric films such a *Three-some* and *Three of Hearts* sought to incorporate a gay angle into their pedestrian scripts to tease and tantalize their mainly heterosexual audience.

Not so with *Chasing Amy*. Just when Smith seems destined to resort to tired old stereotypes, such as exposing Holden's smugness at wooing and win-



Joey Lauren Adams in "Chasing Amy," now playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

ning a Lesbian, the tables turned on him. So wonderfully developed are Holden, Alyssa and Banky as believable and engaging characters that we cannot help but be caught up in their lives and hearts.

Both Alyssa and Hooper (Dwight Ewell) emerge as two of the strongest and most interesting gay characters to have seen in a big screen cinematic motion picture in recent memory. A particularly memorable occurs when Hooper, whose outward militancy masks his Gay soul offers a marvelous comic convention speech about the racism at the very core of that most sacred of sacred films, *Star Wars*.

Equally fascinating is Jason Lee's Banky, a complex, deeply conflicted character whose latent homoerotic feelings towards his best friend are wonderfully explored without ever resorting to simplistic psycho-babble or any pat solutions.

Romantic comedies invariably rely upon a series of humorous obstacles overcome by the appropriately cute couple just in time for the perfunctory happily ever after ending. Nothing doing in *Chasing Amy*. Kevin Smith knows that in real life true love doesn't always conquer all.

*Chasing Amy* is a terrific film, refreshingly honest and deeply touching.  
Rating \$\$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$)

## 'Anaconda' is a Good Film if You Haven't Got the Time to Go to the Zoo

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Some people have a natural phobia about snakes. Not Glenn. Now, cockroaches are a different matter. Remember that scene in *Looking For Mr. Goodbar*, when Diane Keaton is handed a dirty dishrag covered with cockroaches? Glenn still suffers nightmares.

But what can all of this possibly have to do with *Anaconda*, you might well ask?

Moviegoers who experience a healthy fear of snakes are much more likely to find chills and thrills in *Anaconda* than Glenn expects that most others are likely to.

Director Luis Llosa wastes very little time or effort with setting up much of a story. Glenn hazards a guess that it all has something to do with anthropologist Steven Cale (Eric Stoltz) leading a documentary film crew on an expedition down the Amazon to find the legendary and previous undocumented Shirishmam Indians.

The misfit crew includes Cale's very pretty gal pal, Terri Flores (Jennifer Lopez), the director of the documentary. Then there is Danny (Ice Cube), her cameraman, the sound mixer Gary (Owen Wilson), a blond surfer-dude and the rather irritating, hopelessly helpless production manager, Denise Kalberg (Kari Wuhrer). Except for Danny Rich (Ice Cube) toting around a camera, nobody else seems to have much purpose on board. The only ones missing from this "three-hour tour" seem to be Gilligan and The Skipper.

Their journey has barely begun before our intrepid heroes come across Paul Sarone (Jon Voigt), inexplicably left stranded on a deserted boat. They invite him aboard but it is impossible not to sense something amiss. He's downright creepy and you just gotta know he ain't gonna bring them no good luck.

Immediately Sarone bangs heads with Cale but after a freak incident with a poisonous Amazon wasp, Cale is left unconscious and the uneasy crew are forced to place their faith in Sarone. Big mistake.

Sarone is obsessed with finding and capturing alive the fabled, lethal 40-foot Anaconda snake and quickly their peaceful little search for some mythical natives turns into a nightmare confrontation with the ultimate evil.

At a mere 90 minutes, *Anaconda's* frighteningly predictable plot sails along faster than one might expect. In proper action-flick formula, cast and crew manager to be eliminated neatly in reverse order of billing, which still doesn't explain how Ice Cube manages to nab top-billing even in this second-rate snake-fest.

Still, *Anaconda* isn't exactly a total wasted admission. Surrounded by an attractive, if decidedly lightweight cast, Jon Voigt steals the show with a deliciously over-the-top, scene-stealing outing as the sinister villain Sarone.

Plus, *Anaconda* boasts some pretty nifty special snake effects. Production notes reveal that 30 real Anacondas were used in filming, but Glenn imagines that the spectacular giant Anacondas that lurch on several characters during the film's climax, were provided by special effect folks Walt Conti and John Nelson. While these effects aren't exactly the most believable or even remotely realistic, they prove to be mighty entertaining, nonetheless and they did have Glenn cheering for the complete annihilation of the sad little crew.

*Anaconda* isn't terrific but will make for a decent matinee outing while moviegoers wait for the summer's highly touted blockbusters.

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

## Unfortunately, 'Volcano' Lives Up to Its Billing as a Disaster Movie

By John Jahn

As if Los Angeles weren't in the news enough today over its pollution, traffic snarles, crime, racism, moral depravity, you-name-it; how about we put an active volcano right smack dab in downtown L.A.? In "real life," L.A. is threatened by all those human disasters mentioned, plus several natural ones: earthquakes, mudslides, firestorms. What the hell, let's throw in a lava-spewing volcano for good measure. And, while we're at it, let's make a no brainer film about it all!

Something's going very wrong at the city's famed La Brea Tar Pits. Temperatures are rising, warning bells are going off. Enter Mike Roark (Tommy Lee Jones) as the city's emergency chief and Dr. Amy Barnes (Anne Heche), the pretty, young geologist he's bound to fall for. Of course, no one heed their warnings, especially not the city's political and economic leaders. Before you know it, a minor earthquake opens up a gaping wound just below L.A.'s concrete surface. A few more unexplained rumblings and you soon have geysers of molten lava, thousands of degrees in temperature, and burning boulders soaring through the air. Hell seems to be literally engulfing central L.A.

*Volcano* fails as a movie for many reasons. As a stock "disaster film," it trots out

all the cliches we've come to expect ever since the genre was born in the early '70s: the scientists no one believes until it's too late; the rebellious teenager put in harm's way who learns a few lessons about the meaning of life; the somewhat nerdy, single scientist who finds true love amidst the rubble and ash; and, finally, Man's inability to confront and win out over the forces of Nature.

In *Volcano's* case, rampaging vulcanism from fire trucks, and a few helicopters evidently capable of carrying more water than they weigh themselves. Secondly, simply, expertly, dynamite a skyscraper in less than half an hour so that it collapses right smack in front of the flowing lava.

End of story? No, not quite. Like any disaster film, it's always good to leave the story somewhat open-ended (sequel, anyone?). *Volcano* ends with a shot of a rising volcanic cone where the tar pits used to be.

*Volcano* does offer some neat special effects as one might expect in today's digital domain—the exception being the pocket lint that passes for volcanic ash. Like last winter's *Dante's Peak*, *Volcano* comprises silly and incredible events wonderfully presented through eye-popping special effects technology.

*Volcano* rates a 3 out of 10.

## '8 Heads in a Duffel Bag' is Mindless, Clueless, Not Funny, Dumb

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn is always so very envious of those critics who can, in a brief and ever-so pithy phrase, sum up a motion picture. For example: The funniest thing about the new Joe Pesci comedy, *8 Heads in a Duffel Bag* is the title. Well, golly. Guess it wasn't all that difficult after all.

Upon receiving this assignment, Glenn felt relatively confident. *8 Heads in a Duffel Bag* is certainly a very funny title, no doubt about it. Throw in the always funny Joe Pesci and the supremely annoying David Spade into the mix and an enjoyable comedy should be the result. Well, shouldn't it?

The first problem with this film is that writer/director Tom Schulman just doesn't seem to have a grasp of story-telling. In Mr. Schulman's inept hands, even this film's routine, sit-comish plot is mangled and confusing.

Seems that Tommy Spinelli (Joe Pesci) is playing the role of courier. His job is to transport heads of eight recently bumped off East Coast hoods to a West Coast mob boss, as proof of their demise.

After a spectacularly unfunny bit, where the self-important Tommy tries to kick a package containing donor organs in transport, the duffel bag of the title is taken from him and placed in cargo. Tommy is assured that it will be the first bag off the plane. Approaching the luggage carousel, Tommy hastily and quite inadvertently grabs the wrong bag, one belonging to Charlie (Andy Comeau). Charlie similarly grabs the wrong bag, likewise never noticing that it isn't his bag.

Glenn must wonder if only sit-com characters are clueless enough to grab someone else's baggage at the airport? And why does neither bag actually look like a duffel bag?

Desperate for the heads, Tommy sets off

looking for Charlie, a journey that leads him to Charlie's college dorm room and where he proceeds to question Charlie's roommate Ernie (David Spade) and Steve (Todd Louiso) at length. Thinking that they aren't cooperating, Tommy proceeds to torture them. A scene that has Tommy snapping the underwear-clad Ernie and Steve with a wet towel proves to be a happy if unexpected pleasure.

But Charlie is on holiday in Mexico with his fiancée, Laurie (Kristy Swanson) and her parents Dick and Annette (the perpetually tanned George Hamilton and Dyan "Can we say cosmetic surgery" Cannon). It turns out that Laurie is afraid that if her parents find out that Charlie has a whole bunch of heads in his luggage, they won't want her to marry him. Silly girl.

There's more to this pointless film but you just won't care by this point. Sadly, no one is bumped off in the course of this labored plot.


The film's few amusing moments are feeble compensation for this numbingly unfunny macabre farce. See *8 Heads in a Duffel Bag* if you dare but remember, Glenn warned you!

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

### Milwaukee Chamber Theater Presents "Voice Of The Turtle"

The Milwaukee Chamber Theater will present a production of John van Druten's "Voice of the Turtle" from May 17 to June 1 at the Broadway Theater Center's Cabot Theatre, 158 N. Broadway.

"Turtle" was one of the longest running plays in Broadway theater history, running for four years. In 1948 it was made into a movie starring Ronald Reagan and Elenor Parker.




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# The Human Spirit Triumphs in Bruce Beresford's 'Paradise Road'

By John Jahn

It's early 1942, and Imperial Japanese forces are sweeping through European controlled Southeast Asia. The so-called fortress of Singapore, a British possession, is about to fall. This is the time and place where this true story begins. We follow a diverse group of women and small children as they climb aboard a small gunboat and are evacuated. The women come from all stations in life—from maids and common laborers to high society types—and from every race in the region, especially Europeans, who dominated this part of the globe prior to World War II.

However, they don't get far; the gunboat is attacked by Japanese warplanes and sunk within swimming distance of the island of Sumatra. Upon reaching shore, the women and children find themselves prisoners of the Japanese Army, which they will remain for the duration of the war.

**Paradise Road**, written and directed by Bruce Beresford (*Driving Miss. Daisy*, *Tender Mercies*, *Breaker Morant*), is the story of these unfortunate women. They are starved, beaten, humiliated, tortured, and even executed for the tiniest transgression. Their attrition rate is staggering. Yet, in this horrifying environment, the women bond with one another in ways they never would have outside the confines of their jungle camp. They do so despite everything largely because of two women in particular, who, through music, forge a sense of humanity in this utterly inhumane place and time—a sense of humanity that even manifests itself in

some of the brutal guards. Adrienne Pargiter (Glenn Close) is a classically trained musician who, along with another musically fluent prisoner (Pauline Collins), advances the idea of forming a vocal chorus from amongst the prisoners in an attempt to keep their spirits up and, in a way, show their captors they have not been totally broken and dehumanized. They practice in small groups, always wary of the guards. Finally, they gather together and sing, expecting the worst from the Japanese. What happens next is truly moving.

**Paradise Road** is a successful film for several reasons. The central characters are convincingly portrayed and interesting. Frances McDormand, best actress Oscar winner for *Fargo*, appears as a German-Jewish refugee who's the camp doctor; yet another fine performance by this talented actress.

It's well written and shot on location in Southeast Asia, thus giving the film credibility and presence (living survivors of the actual camp participated in the making of the film).

Finally, there's music—beautifully sung and moving, especially given the circumstances under which it came about.

**Paradise Road** is far more than just *The Bridge on the River Kwai* with women in place of men. It's the true story of courageous women, the triumph of humanity over hatred, bigotry and adversity, and the power of music.

I rate this film an 8 out of 10.

**Paradise Road** is now playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theater



A handshake not a salute—Jergen Prochnow (Captain of U-96) meets a German agent on board a freighter resupplying his submarine in the stunning war thriller "Das Boot." The Director's cut of the movie is now in release.

## Digital Sound, Character Development Bring Reality of War to Life in 'Das Boot'

By John Jahn

There's always been something oddly compelling about war movies involving submarines. Every since the end of World War II, there have been excellent films in this genre, including *The Enemy Below*, *Run Silent, Run Deep*, *The Hunt for Red October* and *Crimson Tide*. Those last two involved modern nuclear submarines the size of WW II battleships, however, and the claustrophobic effects of being aboard a submarine below hundreds of feet of water with an unseen enemy lurking somewhere above gets somewhat lost on you.

Not so with the gritty anti-war movie *Das Boot* (German for *The Boat*, as in *U-Boat*, "Unterseeboot," the German word for submarine).

The year is 1941. The Nazis are still marching triumphantly all over Europe, but Winston Churchill's England remains unbowed. Hitler is depending largely upon his proud U-Boat fleet to bring Britain to its knees by sinking supply ships crossing the Atlantic. Since the island nation cannot be invaded, starving them into submission will do just fine. There's only one problem: the Royal Navy.

**Das Boot** follows a youthful, enthusiastic submarine crew aboard U-96 as they cruise the ocean in search of prey, always wary of British destroyers and their terrible depth charges. As U-96 prowls the Atlantic, the crew will taste the very extremes of human experience—blood pumping excitement and stultifying boredom, fierce camaraderie and dehumanization, intense terror and great pride.

Director Wolfgang Petersen (*In the Line of Fire*, *Outbreak*) takes you along for this harrowing trip in a masterful way indeed.

**Das Boot** was an enormous success when first released in 1982 in its 2 1/2 hour theatrical release. Now, some 15 years later, a 3 1/2 hour Director's Cut is making its way across the country. The re-

released version contains many new scenes of crew life and dialog which serve to make the central characters more interesting—we come to care about them more this way, you feel like you know them, like you're a crew member yourself, almost. Of course, the excellent movement of the camera through the dank and dark submarine aids in this regard, too.

For myself, the most startling and notable difference between the original version and restored director's cut isn't visual, but audible. Indeed, some of the most extensive new work on *Das Boot* occurred, not on the fading film, but on the soundtrack, which, in a movie about war aboard a submarine, is essential to the viewer's overall experience with it.

The men in the U-boat live, survive, or die by sound—trapped in a confined space, it's all they have. It's vital, therefore, that when they are terrified by the sound of whirring propellers of fast-approaching enemy ships, shocked by popping of rivets off the hull, or nearly deafened by exploding depth charges, that we in the audience feel such sounds in our own stomachs, throats and hearts—and we do!

The original sound design and musical score received Academy Awards. Now, with today's digital domain, the film has an 8-track, split-surround sound allowing for a much broader spectrum of frequencies than ever before. The results are amazingly real sounding effects. Even the dead silences are absolutely quiet.

A new generation of moviegoers now has a unique opportunity to experience Petersen's ideal cut of *Das Boot* in theaters. Complete with newly added footage bringing the characters into sharper focus, restored color and clarity, and a re-designed digital sound system, *Das Boot* is not to be missed. The gritty and terrible reality of war comes to life in no better way than in this film.

**Das Boot** rates a 9 on a 1-10 scale.

## 'Grosse Pointe Blank' is Smart, Funny, and Quite a Treat for a Hybrid Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

It seems that even professional hit men can have not only a fear of high school reunions but also mid-life crises as is suggested in the quirky new comedy-thriller *Grosse Pointe Blank* which stars John Cusack, Minnie Driver and Dan Aykroyd.

Following the surprising success of such surprising and surprisingly successful films as *Fargo* and *Pulp Fiction*, audiences are increasingly being treated to some rather unique hybrid films. While a black comedy such as *8 Heads in a Duffel Bag* proves to be a pretty lame effort (please see accompanying review), *Grosse Pointe Blank* is a rather unexpected treat, smart and funny and quite original.

Meet charming professional killer, Martin Q. Blank (John Cusack). After he stood up his high school sweetheart the night of their prom, he fled the charming suburb of Grosse Pointe and proceeded to join the army. There the young Martin is discovered to be "morally flexible", apparently the exact prerequisite needed to become a successful professional killer.

Now, Glenn has met many a "morally flexible" individual who would have never dreamt of killing anyone but that's probably a different sort of moral flexibility and one best saved for another type of review.

Following a hitch in a particularly important assassination assignment, Martin finds himself headed towards home on

another assignment. As long as he's so close, his ever-faithful secretary Marcella (John's hilarious sister Joan Cusack) suggests a little sidetrip to his tenth reunion. We are meant to see this as an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone -- get it?

Puzzled by his changing frame of mind and now facing the dilemma of the reunion, Martin quizzes his reluctant therapist Dr. Oatman (Alan Arkin). "Don't kill anyone for a few days," says a man plainly ill-at-ease with his captivating menacing patient as he sends him off to the reunion, "Just see what it feels like."

Upon finding a mini-mart where his boyhood home once stood, Martin quickly sees the pitfalls of going home. Equally disastrous is his reunion with Debi Newberry (Minnie Driver) his former girlfriend who gleefully humiliates Martin on her live radio phone-in show.

Meanwhile, there's no rest for the weary as *Grosse Pointe* becomes a haven for professional assassins with a contract out on our hero, including the unlikely union organizer Mr. Grocer (Dan Aykroyd).

The talented, cute-as-a-button John Cusack has finally found the perfect role as Martin Blank. Equally entertaining is the multi-talented Minnie Driver as his sweetheart Debi. Kudos, too, to Joan Cusack's wise, wisecracking Marcella and **Please Turn To Grosse Pointe Page 24**

# Entertainment Guide

### APPLETON

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

### DOOR COUNTY

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

### EAU CLAIRE

**The Trading Co.**  
304 Eau Claire St.  
Eau Claire, WI  
638-9494

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

### GREEN BAY

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

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

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

### SASS

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

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

### KENOSHA

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

### LA CROSSE

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

### LAKE MILLS

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

### MADISON

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

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

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

**Mary's**  
2526 E. Washington  
Madison, WI 53704  
244-2939

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

**Scandals**  
121 W. Main St.  
Madison, WI 53703  
251-1030

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

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

### MILWAUKEE

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

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

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

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

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

**C'est La Vie**  
231 S. Second St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
276-8890

### MILWAUKEE Continued

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

**Designing Men**  
120 S. First  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
389-1200

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mama Roux Bar & American Grill**  
1875 N. Humboldt  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
347-0344

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

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

**S. Water St. Docks**  
354 E. National  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
225-9676

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

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

### MILWAUKEE Continued

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

**Triangle**  
134 E. National  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
383-9412

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

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

### RACINE

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

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

### ROCKFORD

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

### SHEBOYGAN

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

### STEVENS POINT

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

### SUPERIOR

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

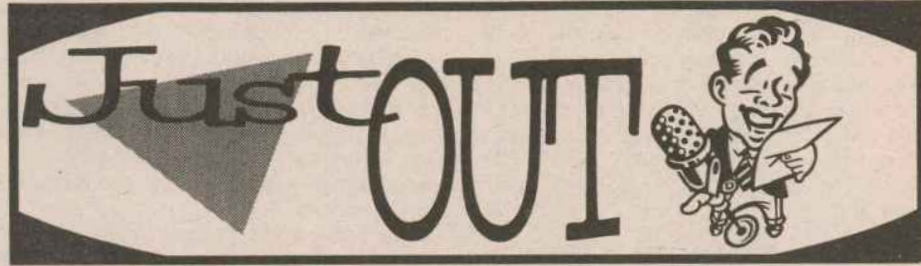
**Trio Club**  
820 Tower  
Superior, WI 54880  
392-5373

### WAUSAU

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



# Out In Print



## Finally, a New Book to Send You Surfing Around the LGBT Pages on the Web

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

In the past few weeks, faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* have been able to find their favorite local Gay & Lesbian publication on the fabled World Wide Web. Great news for many already surfing the net. But what about the rest of us?

Glenn does possess a computer and also internet access. Sadly, Glenn finds himself, as many do, dependent upon that evil giant known as America On Line, or more simply as AOL. *Might Out's Gay & Lesbian Guide to the Web* prove to be means for Glenn to explore the gayest corners of the World Wide Web?

Having found unreadable every computer manual previously encountered, Glenn was pleased at how user-friendly is *Out's Gay & Lesbian Guide to the Web*, beginning with an unusually frank assessment of the pros and cons of America On Line.

While daily we are assured there are new and exciting sites popping up throughout the length and breadth of the World Wide Web, within these pages is a sensational start to the journey.

On page after page, readers will find international, national and local resources for activist organizations ranging from Gay Games 1998 ([http://www.dds.nl/~gay\\_games/](http://www.dds.nl/~gay_games/)), the official site for the fifth Gay Games to be held in Amsterdam in 1998 to the Transsexual Menace International (<http://www.echonyc.com/~degrey/Menace.html>), presented by the activist group fighting for the rights of Transgendered people around the world.

Foremost among Glenn's favorite discoveries are KeanuNet (<http://www.aok.com/keanunet/knet.html>), the site for all things Keanu (as in Keanu Reeves except for criticism and those pesky Gay rumors), maintained by 46-year old Eric Perkins.

It may be sacrilege to admit but Glenn also delighted in *The Lair of the Anti-Mar-*

## Walking to Mercury is a Good Read if You Like to Suffer

Reviewed by Jean Webster

I snatched *Walking to Mercury* up as soon as I saw it. I was looking forward to another book by the author of *The Fifth Sacred Thing*.

I was somewhat taken aback by *Walking to Mercury* because, unlike Starhawk's previous novel, this one takes place in the past, not the future. Once I accepted that this was not going to be a wild fantasy or science fiction novel- which did take some time - I found I was beginning to enjoy it.

*Walking to Mercury* is a wild ride through the turbulent '60s, Maya's formative years. I found it somewhat depressing, especially since Maya's '60s memories were framed by what felt like a torturous hike up a mountain in Nepal.

The first three quarters of the book follows Maya as she suffers her way up the mountain, struggling with memories and the physical challenge. I was struggling with her. It wasn't really until Maya began to find some peace with herself that I really started to appreciate the story.

Maybe I'm getting old, but I don't enjoy suffering through a book like I used to.

Anyone still interested in the '60s and the antiwar movement, would probably enjoy this book. On the whole, most of the characters in the novel are interesting. It was really only Maya, Starhawk's main character and narrator, who got on my nerves.

*Walking to Mercury* is a book about people, the way they are, and the ways that they can change, and some people like that in a story.

tha(<http://www.cris.com/akiyama/martha.html>), a wicked parody the fabulous Ms. Stewart. It is a good site.

Closer to home, there are several local site mentioned within the pages of *Out's Gay & Lesbian Guide to the Web*. Among those local site included are The Galano Club-Milwaukee (<http://www.execpc.com/~reval/>), Afterwords Bookstore (<http://www.afterwords.com/>) and three different Wisconsin-based groups, Milwaukee's Brew City Bears (<http://www.execpc.com/bcb>), Chippewa Valley Bears (<http://www.ecnet.com/home/tzank/cvbear> and The Backwoods Bears (<http://www.primenet.com/~rstbear/bwbears.html>).

Whether you are new to the web or experienced surfer, *Out's Gay & Lesbian Guide to the Web* will prove to be an entertaining and informative guide and a marvelous addition to the bookshelf above the computer.

A particular bonus is the CD-Rom included which provides all of the software necessary to immediately begin exploring "the pink web".

## Jackie Calhoun to Read at Afterwords Saturday, April 26

AfterWords is once again pleased to be able to present bestselling Lesbian author Jackie Calhoun for an author appearance at AfterWords Bookstore & Espresso Bar on Saturday, April 26th at 1:00pm.

The title of Jackie Calhoun's just release novel is *Seasons of the Heart* (Naiad Pb \$11.95). *Seasons of the Heart* is Calhoun's eighth novel. Her other titles include *Love of Money*, *Triple Exposure* and *Friends and Lovers*.

In *Seasons of the Heart*, Sarah finds herself at a crossroads. For the past five years her heart has been so full of love, but now something else was creeping in - a strange emptiness that has left her feeling quite alone and desperate. Unsure of how or why these feelings began, perhaps adding to the pressures of everyday life and her fear of growing older without the benefit of change, Sarah saw only one way out. Dreading the consequences, Sarah made up her mind...

On Saturday, April 26 come join us at Afterwords and let Naiad's #1 bestselling author share with you an unforgettable tale of real women caught up in all of the conflicts and confusions, the pain and the passions of contemporary Lesbian life.

In addition to her many novels, Calhoun also has stories in four of Naiad Press's popular anthology series including *The Romantic Naiad* and *The First Time Ever*.

Jackie Calhoun lives with her partner along the banks of the Fox River in the heart of Central Wisconsin.

For further information concerning Ms. Calhoun's appearance, please phone (414) 963-9089 or visit the Afterwords website at [www.afterwords.com](http://www.afterwords.com).

## Grosse Pointe

Continued From Page 23

Alan Arkin as Martin's irritable, beleaguered therapist

As in the brilliant *Fargo*, *Grosse Pointe Blank* seeks to cleverly combine just the right mix of preposterous situations, moments of graphic violence and some old-fashioned romance. While director George Amitage and Co. aren't entirely successful, *Grosse Pointe Blank* nevertheless proves to be a thoroughly entertaining romp.

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

## Just Out On The Shelf

*Gut Symmetries* by Jeanette Winterson Knopf HC \$22.00

In Jeanette Winterson's sixth novel, aboard the QE2 and under the stars, three lives converge. Two physicists - Jove, a married man and Alice, a single woman meet and begin an affair. Then Alice falls in love with Jove's wife Stella, a poet. Combining passion and intellect, *Gut Symmetries* is a novel of sex and spirit, male and female, science and religion.

*The Heart's Progress: A Lesbian Memoir* by Claudio Bepko Viking HC \$23.95

In *The Heart's Progress*, Claudia Bepko offers a unique glimpse into the growth of her Lesbian identity, coming of age before Stonewall. Beginning with a small-town, blue-collar Catholic girlhood, a heterosexual marriage and involvement in the women's movement, Claudia eventually meets Alice who would emerge as the passionate force that would anchor her life.

*Gossip* by Christopher Bram Dutton HC \$23.95

In a novel that explores both the personal and the political, Christopher Bram's *Gossip* is part dark satire, part suspense thriller. To Ralph, "Thersites" seems ideal: young, attractive but also a Republican in the closet and the author of a tell-all book that spreads gossip about several Washington women. This affair quickly proves to be a nightmare when Ralph's new lover turns up dead and Ralph is charged with first-degree homicide. A page-turner.

*Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con* edited by Andrew Sullivan Vintage Pb \$14.00

In *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*, editor Andrew Sullivan explores questions of same-sex unions in history and the

## Afterwords Events

Saturday, April 26 1:00p.m.

Author Appearance—Jackie Calhoun author of *Love Or Money & Seasons of the Heart*

Sunday, May 11 1:00p.m.

Poetry Reading—Jeremiah Brod

Monday, May 12 7:30p.m.

Afterword's Book Club Was by Geoff Ryman

Thursday, May 15 7:00p.m.

Lesbian Reading Group—*Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories* ed. by Margaret Reynolds

Thursday, May 22 7:30p.m.

Author Appearance—Julia Watts author of *Wildwood Flowers*

## Popular Novelist

### Julia Watts

### to Appear at

### Afterwords

Afterwords is pleased to welcome Julia Watts, author of the popular novel, *Wildwood Flowers* (Naiad Pb \$10.95) for a reading and signing on Thursday, May 22nd at 7:30pm.

Hey Milwaukee, the Fleet's in!

Come meet  
Sailor Billy\*  
at Afterwords!

(\*and his friends Master Billy, San Francisco Billy and Western Billy too!)



Afterwords Books • 2710 N Murray • 963-9089

bases for religious proscriptions against them. Collecting opinions, both pro and con, from Plato and Bishop John Shelby Spong to Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn and Camille Paglia, has created a fascinating anthology of arguments on same-sex partnerships.

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

From the author of the hilarious best-seller, *Barrel Fever*, *Naked* is a remarkable collection of essays following Sedaris' path of self-effacement and a lifelong search for identity. Whether he's taking to the road with a thieving quadriplegic, sorting out the fancy from the extra-fancy in a bleak fruit-packing factory, or celebrating Christmas in the company of a recently paroled prostitute, this collection of memoirs creates a wickedly incisive portrait of an all-to-familiar world.

*2nd Time Around* by James Earl Hardy Alyson Pb \$11.95

In this sequel to his wildly popular B-Boy Blues, James Earl Hardy bring back Raheim "Pooquie" Rivers and Mitchell "Little Bit" Crawford, who happen to have a serious love thang goin' on. But for Raheim, it's a trip that promises to be a bit frightening... to be in love with another man for the first time. Despite having to come to terms with the murder of his homeboy, Derrick "D.C." Carter and the return of his father, Raheim manages to survive, thanks to the love and passion of the man he loves!

## The Mystery of Successful Relationships

Meet John Lee, nationally renowned speaker, teacher and author of *The Flying Boy, Book III: Stepping Into the Mystery*, Friday, May 9, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at The Grand Milwaukee Hotel, 4747 S. Howell Avenue.

BOOK SIGNING  
FREE ADMISSION

JOHN LEE

Friday, May 9

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Grand

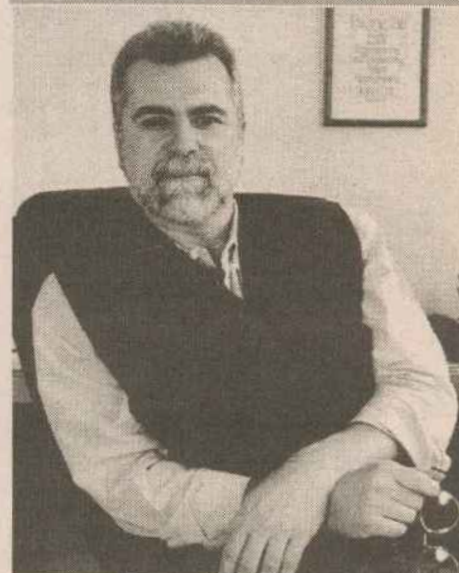
Milwaukee Hotel

4747 S. Howell Ave.

Milwaukee, WI

FOR INFORMATION

414-695-8815





## FICTION

## Statues of the Sacred Band



## A SERIALIZED NOVEL

## Chapter 4

**Summary:** Tony Martinelli has been assigned by his editor to go to Washington, DC and discover what happened to Senator Calder's gay son, Bobby. When Tony arrives in DC, he meets Bobby's lover, Garreth in a Gay bar. They go to the Stoa, a restaurant, to talk. While they are there, an explosion rips through the place and Garreth is killed. Tony is horrified.

By Terry Boughner



I didn't get much sleep that night. Every time I closed my eyes, all I could see was Garreth's head lying among those mangled roses. Toward dawn, I switched on one of the TV morning news shows. President Heyl was recovering nicely from his heart attack. Some movie star was having a kid. Hollywood was all agog. Big question of the day: Does lettuce cause cancer? "You'll be surprised at the answer."

Yeah, I'll bet. Plans were underway for the coronation of the new Czar of All the Russias. The Right loved it, the Left was aghast. Big deal.

And, yes, there'd been an explosion at the Stoa, a restaurant in DC "frequented by homosexuals". The investigation was on-going. Police weren't commenting. The head of some Gay organization or the other opined that it was a Gay-bashing. Three people had been killed. Names weren't being released pending notification of next of kin—if any. Christ, if I hadn't had to go to the bathroom, one of those people might have been me.

The weather was going to be hot. By the time I was done with my shower, one of the anchors was gushing over a rose show going on at the National Botanical Gardens. Blah, blah. I slipped into denims and a white cotton, short sleeved shirt. A special exhibit of Renaissance sculpture was opening at the Smithsonian. Vice President Ronald Luther would be there. Who cared?

I bought some coffee and a bagel at the hotel shop, got a paper and went out on the Circle to sit and read. There wasn't much more than had been on the TV. Heyl was doing great, the White House said. He'd be well enough to attend the coronation of Czar Nicholas III in Moscow next week.

As to the Stoa, the story about the explosion there was on the front page, but beneath the fold. There wasn't anything new in it, nothing I hadn't heard on the TV, except for one thing. Terrorism wasn't being ruled out. So?

Of one thing I was sure. I needed to talk to Mary Ann Allen, the reporter at the Post. From a nearby pay phone, I put in a call and got right through. I told her who I was and briefly what I was doing. She said I should come to the newsroom. She could see me right away.

She was short, only about 5'2", in her early 30's and certainly attractive. She had black hair, worn long to shoulder length, a clear, very white skin and brown eyes that had sort of look to them as if maybe she'd been around the block a couple of times—before the block was paved. She was wearing a white, frilly blouse and a skirt of royal Stewart plaid. From one arm hung an enormous purse.

"Tony Martinelli," she said, extending a hand. I nodded. She introduced herself and without another word, turned on her heel and went striding off, leaving me to follow as best I could.

Not too far, along one side, was a glassed in room. She opened the door and ushered me in. There was a long, highly polished wooden conference table running nearly the full length of the room. There were chairs around it and soft gray carpeting on the floor. A wide bank of windows along one side let in the light.

"Coffee?" she asked. I accepted gladly. She poured a couple of mugs full from a coffee maker on a side table, coming at last, to plop into a chair across the table from me and shoving a mug in my general direction. From her commodious purse, she took out a pack of cigarettes and a

lighter done in plaid.

"Good," she said, elongating the word slightly, and giving it a sarcastic clip at the same time. "Smoke. Want cancer." She lit my cigarette, then hers and took a short sip of coffee. "Good. Here from East Bucolia. Working on the Calder story. Tell Mar all."

"I didn't think there'd be much to tell, not until last night, anyway." I went on to tell her about my meeting with Garreth and what had happened at the Stoa. She listened intently throughout.

"Garreth? Garreth who?" she asked when I'd finished. I told her I didn't know his last name. "Good. Reporter. Didn't get information."

Up she got and away she went, her purse swinging at her side. Presently she returned, entering the conference room in a gust, carrying a manila folder in one hand. From it she extracted a photo and put it in front of me.

"That Garreth?" she asked.

"Yes. So who was he?"

"Last name was Heyl." She took the photo back and returned it to the folder.

"Same as the President."

"Good. Thinking. Getting the picture. President's grand nephew. Knew that, but Mar didn't know he and Bobby Calder were lovers." She took another cigarette and lit it. There was a thoughtful expression on her face.

I took a drag from my cigarette. "So, okay then, Garreth being who he was, won't the White House be all over this 'r the FBI or somebody?"

"Good. Thinks the President's on top of everything. No. President has disease. Has had it for two years now. Nothing to do with his heart. That's a White House cover-up. Heyl has his good days. Times, too, when he doesn't know what day it is. Been like that lately. So, grand nephew dead? Grand nephew, who?"

"Oh." I yielded and took a sip of coffee. "Jesus," I said, half to myself. "Why doesn't he just claim ill health and resign?"

"Good. Resign. Let Vice President Luther in, better known as Letch. Whores around, gambles big time. Loses big time at exclusive clubs, though lately his debts have all been paid. No matter. Heyl quits and country goes from Mr. Who Knows to Mr. Who Gives a Shit. Joy."

"Yeah, I suppose." I smoked my cigarette and tapped it on the edge of the ashtray. "You think Garreth was right; Bobby's mother had him killed?"

"No doubt. Her people, anyway. Garreth too. They knew too much."

"Garreth didn't know anything, not really." I drank some coffee.

"Good. Wants reality. Forget reality. This is Washington. They thought he knew. That's all it took—and you, too."

I sat up straight. "Me? Whatdayu mean, me? Whada I know? Garreth didn't..."

She cut me off. "You were with him. Think. The only reason you didn't get blown away was the bathroom, right?"

"Yeah?"

"Chance, maybe," she conceded. She paused and added ominously, "but maybe not."

I took a final drag from my cigarette, stubbed it out forcefully, and stood up. The sun streamed through the bank of windows. I went to look out on the traffic clogging K Street. "What's going on around here?" When she didn't answer, I turned to her. "Well?"

She lit another cigarette. "Good. Thinks Mar knows everything."

"Not everything, but more 'n me. Look, I came here thinking there was no story. Okay, there is a story. I believe he was murdered. So, tell me why. Tell me why someone who can probably get herself elected President, Gay son or no Gay son, needs to have him wiped out—and his lover—and maybe me, too. Tell me..."

"Tell you what I think. Mar thinks there's scandal in this town. Mar thinks it runs deep, very deep, so deep it'll make Watergate look like a schoolboy prank." She paused to smoke her cigarette. "Ever do jigsaw puzzles?"

"Yeah."

"Good. Will understand. Mar's got some pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, but none of them match. Suddenly, you walk in and Joy!, in plops a connecting piece—maybe and maybe more than one."

"Come again?" I had no idea what she was talking about.

"Never mind. Look, is there anything, anything at all Garreth said you haven't told me. Even Watergate had it's Deep Throat. He might be it. Think."

My brow furrowed as I tried to remember. Finally, I nodded. "Yeah, there's something, a name. Johnny Chang. Garreth said I should get in con..."

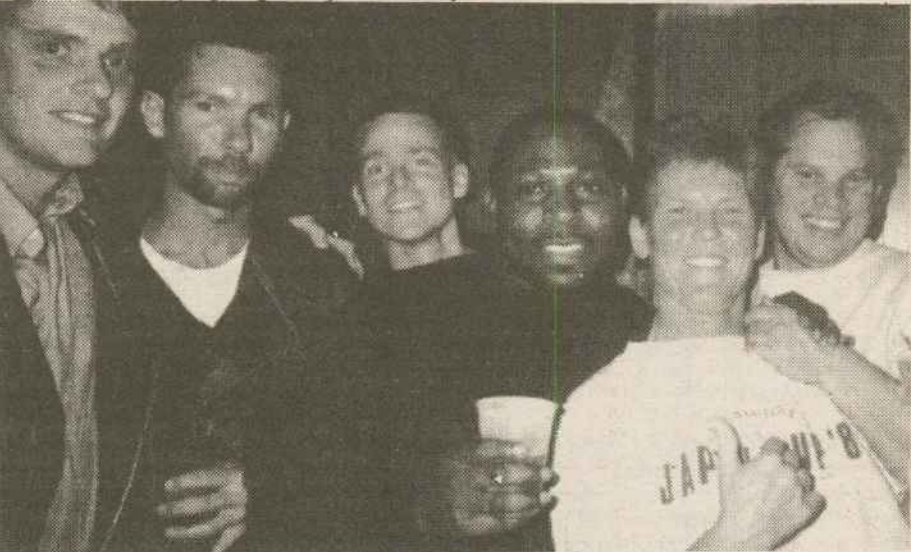
She frowned in thought. "Chang, Chang, Chang?" She brightened. "Good. Chang. Heard of him. Trying to get Gay community

up in arms about disappearances." She flipped open the manila folder and looked down. "Okay, here it is."

"What?" "Garreth's address, over in Northeast, apartment on Perry Street." She closed the folder and stood. "Go there, take a look. Then we go find Johnny Chang. C'mon."

Without waiting for me, she got up a whipped out of the room, leaving me to try and catch up to her.

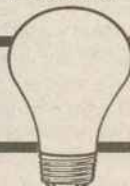
TO BE CONTINUED



Bill Meunier

**Take Us Out to the Ball Game!** The Ball Game, 196 S. Second Street, Milwaukee, was the site of the SSBL's Season Opening Party. As you can see a good time was had by all and why not? Along with the M & M Club, the Ball Game is the only remaining charter member of the SSBL now entering its 20<sup>th</sup> Season. As usual Rick and the staff of Milwaukee's original sports bar did a great job rolling out the welcome mat.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## La Crosse

## PFLAG Chapter Meets May 20

La Crosse has a new PFLAG chapter that will be meeting the third Tuesday of every month from 7 to 9 PM at United Campus Ministries, 17<sup>th</sup> & State.

## MADISON

## 10% Society Dance, Friday April 25 at Memorial Union

UW Madison's 10% Society is sponsoring an "Out and About Dance" on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. The event which is open to the general public runs from 8 PM to 12:45 PM.

## Lesbian Avengers Spring Training Dance Sat. April 26

The Madison Lesbian Avengers will be holding their Spring Training Dance (We Recruit, remember) on Saturday April 26, 1997 from 9pm-1am at Neighborhood House, 29 S. Mills St., near the UW-Madison campus.

Tickets are \$3 in advance at Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore or \$4-6 at door. Womyn only, please.

## Now Sponsors Same Sex Marriage Conference Saturday April 26

The Madison chapter of the National Organization of Women is sponsoring two conferences on family values and one on same sex marriage.

For more information call (608) 255-3911.

## Madison Gay Video Club Movie Night May 10

The Madison Gay Video Club will present "World and Time Enough, Cat Men Do" and a special Feature Catalog X on Video-Part 1.

The showings get under way at 8:00 PM. For more information call (608) 244-8675.

## Milwaukee

## GLBT Speaker's Series Presents Generation Mex in the U.S Today

Carmen Murguia, local Latina activist and performer, will be sharing some of her life experiences and original poetry including a reading from her collection, "The Voices

Inside: Mi Alma, Mi Cuerpo y Mi Espiritu." Her work has appeared in "Voices Seen",

A.R.T.E.'s "Contar Historias", and Zink Magazine, and she is currently the Public Affairs Specialist for 9to5, National Association of Working Women.

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. Sponsored by the UWM Office of Student Life, and UWM Women's Resource Center, and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community at UWM. For more information on these events, contact the GLBC at 229-6555, email glbc@csd.uwm.edu, or snail mail to Union Box 251, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413.

## Movie Collectable Show

Dale E. Kuntz has announced the Spring Edition of his Semi-Annual Movie Collectable Show. Over 30 tables will offer collectors movie posters, magazines, stills, 16mm film, autographs and much, much more.

The Show is from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W. Burnham Street, West Allis. Admission is \$2 per person.

## Pro-Choice Rally

NOW hosts a Pro-Choice rally on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Urban Park, downtown Milwaukee on Lincoln Memorial Drive and Michigan Avenue. Keynote speeches include NOW Vice President Rosemary Dempsey.

Over 1,000 activists are expected to attend. A \$5 donation toward the fight to Keep Abortion Legal is requested.

## Florentine Opera Auditions

The Florentine Opera Company has scheduled General Chorus auditions from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Singers should prepare on aria. The Florentine will provide an accompanist. Please contact Tamara Jansinski at (414) 291-5700 for an appointment.

## WAUKESHA

## Lesbian Network Presents Workshop on Lesbian Sexuality May 4

The Waukesha, Lesbian Network will present a workshop on Lesbian Sexuality on Sunday May 4 from 4 to 6 PM at the Maple Ave. Mennonite Church in Waukesha.

Jane Otto a psychotherapist with Safe Harbor Counseling will present material including the social aspects of sexuality, losing the spark and monogamy/non-monogamy.



## Foreigner

Continued From Page 15

away for a while, but decides he made a mistake coming to America. Out of panic and fear of having to make conversation with total strangers, Charlie begs Froggy to let him go home but Froggy won't hear of it and fixes it so that the lodge owner, Betty Meeks, thinks Charlie is a foreigner who can't speak or understand English.

Betty is fascinated by foreigners, having led a sheltered and backwoods life and looks forward to servicing Froggy's friend. Froggy leaves the lodge for military maneuvers and Charlie decides he can't go through with the lie, but before Charlie can tell the truth the Reverend David Marshall Lee, his fiancée Catherine Simms, her brother Ellard and the local villain, Owen Musser, all think Charlie can't understand them. Before long, Charlie is privy to all sorts of secrets that give him the trump card in all kinds of hilarious situations.

The Foreigner is touted as a side-splitting comedy, I'd have to agree. I laughed so hard I found myself drenched in tears. The narrative set-up was a little long but necessary for the remainder of the play.

While some of the subject matter may be 10 years dated and slightly off color by today's standards, one has to remember that most scripts date themselves so Madisonians should chill and not frown on some of the show's political incorrectness. The delivery was a bit pushed (we were, after all, watching the show in the intimate Isthmus Playhouse, not a field house) and watching Charlie play dumb at the beginning got a little tedious, but once Charlie decided to reinvent himself as a real foreigner, things really got fun.

Charlie's mirror image pantomime of the not so smart Ellard at breakfast touched a funny bone I didn't know I had. And Betty thinks she's got an "extra circular" connection with Charlie when he uses hand signals from football, disco and airplane ground traffic controllers to try to communicate. And with a climax reminiscent of *The Wizard of Oz*, I found this to be one of my new favorite plays.

Directed by J.R. Sullivan, *The Foreigner* was written by a former Milwaukee Rep performer, Larry Shue. It debuted in Milwaukee in 1983 and then went on to become an Off-Broadway smash. Tragically, Shue died in 1985 in a commuter plane crash. Shue fills the narrative with many comic moments that not only entertain but also make some lovely observations on the importance of friendship and trust.

Michael Herold brings the role of Charlie to life with his facial juxtapositions and made-up language. Margaret Ingraham as Betty gives a fair performance as an old widow with a desperate plea for some new life in her old one.

Mark Lazar as the filthy, rotten Owen is mean spirited and funny as the "butt" of numerous jokes, literally. Real charm comes from Royden Mills as Ellard who has been taught to believe he's a real dummy but finds new life and talent as Charlie's English teacher.

Add Jeff Knupp as Froggy, Jeff Christian as the preacher who's not so holy and Valeri Lantz-Gefroh as Catherine, the debutante turned preachers wife turned debutante wanna-be and you've got a great show. (If you want Gay sub text, I could throw in the Klu Klux Klan angle of the show and say its about the underdog fighting bigotry and hatred, but here the good guys win while in real life, while we are still waging the battle).

As Froggy states to Charlie when he finds out how far Charlie has taken the charade, "Enjoy it while you can".

*The Foreigner* is playing Wednesday thru Sunday at the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center thru May 4. Tickets are \$17 and \$20 and are available by calling 608-266-9055.

## SSBL

Continued From Page 14

people going up and down the hill. Think of the SSBL and you think of the Wreck Room Classic, now the Milwaukee Classic. Who can forget some of the thrilling games between the Milwaukee Wreck Room Chaps and Side Tracks of Chicago as they vied for the title.

And who can forget Wayne Bernhagen suffering from AIDS trudging up the hill after cheering his team onto to victory.

Think of the SSBL and you think of great competition between teams like the Finale, the Factory, Your Place, Paradise Books and the Wreck Room Spurs. Teams that seemed so evenly matched that nearly every Saturday schedule had three or four important games on its slate.

The SSBL is said to have fallen in national stature. With the advent of other tournaments, the Milwaukee Classic is not

the draw it once was and with the addition of two dozen cities playing in the Gay World Series, Milwaukee has not finished in the top three in quite some time.

But none of that detracts from what the league has accomplished over the years and the visionary spirit that not only created the SSBL, but that helped pave the way for Gay and Lesbian sports on the national scene.

Regardless of how Milwaukee may finish in the World Series, the SSBL is highly regarded by other leagues around the country. In fact Ron Burbee, former SSBL Commissioner was elected to several terms as commissioner of NAAGAA, the North American Amateur Gay Athletic Alliance.

Other SSBL officers have also been elected to positions on the NAAGAA Board.

A cursory review of the league's history shows just how much it has contributed.

In its inaugural season in 1978, the SSBL's original teams were the Ball Game, the Beer Garden, Claire's Belles, the Factory, the Finale, M & M, the Wreck Room and Your Place.

That same year, the League co-hosted the Wreck Room Classic, America's first National Gay Softball Tournament.

Also in 1978, that same year, Milwaukee sent a team to the Second Annual Gay World Series in New York. The Milwaukee Suds finished third out of five teams competing that year.

In 1979, Milwaukee, along with New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Toronto, established the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAA).

That same year, the SSBL hosted the third annual Gay World Series. The five original NAGAA members were joined by Boston, Chicago and the Twin Cities. The series title was taken by Los Angeles's Rusty Nail. Milwaukee again finished third.

In 1980, the Wreck Room Chaps finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the World Series held in Los Angeles.

The year 1983 was a banner year for the SSBL and it really started to come into its own. The League grew to 12 teams with nearly 200 players.

In 1985, the SSBL hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual World Series. The team title was won by Houston's Briar Patch, the Milwaukee Chaps finish second.

In addition to hosting the Gay World Series, Milwaukee also hosted the first ever Lesbian World Series. San Diego's Spoilers won the title.

In 1986, Wreck Room owner Wayne Bernhagen (due to ill health) asked the SSBL to take over his Wreck Room Classic tournament. The First Milwaukee Classic is held.

In 1994, the SSBL began three years of helping Milwaukee's PrideFest. Dozens of league players did grounds maintenance, security duties and tended bar.

In 1994, the SSBL moved from Mitchell Park where it had played from its inception to Sijan Field in Bay View. The move was made necessary when the County converted one of Mitchell's two softball diamonds into a soccer field.

In 1996, the SSBL became an inter city league as Madison's Manoeuvres joined.

This proud tradition of 20 years of fun, sports and friendship renews itself on Saturday May 3, at Milwaukee's Sijan Field, 2128 S. Kinnickinnic as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season of the Saturday Soft Ball League gets underway.

This year's schedule includes nine teams one more than last year. This year's line up is The Ball Game, Balistreri's Pizza, Club 219, In Between, M & M Club, Mama Roux, Manoeuvres, River West and The Triangle. The players on these teams will battle it out for top honors not only in the league but in two tournaments being hosted in Milwaukee.

In 1997, the League is planning a gala anniversary year. It will again host the Milwaukee Classic on Memorial Day weekend, but it will add another tournament to its schedule, the Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament (MIST). The MIST toumey will be played on Labor Day weekend.

It is also sporting a new look with a new logo, a new slogan "Catch It," and many new players.

The May 3<sup>rd</sup> schedule is as follows:

11:00- The Ball Game vs. River West.

Noon River West vs Triangle, The Ball Game vs M & M.

1:00- Club 219 vs Triangle, M & M vs In Between.

2:00- Manoeuvres vs Balistreri's, Mama's Family vs Club 219.

3:00- In Between vs Balistreri's, Mama's Family vs Manoeuvres.

The May 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule is:

11:00- Balistreri's vs M & M.

Noon- M & M's vs Mama's Family, Balistreri's vs River West.

1:00- River West vs. In Between, Triangle vs Mama's Family.



Jerry Johnson

**Queen for a Day?** Tommy, Bartender extraordinaire at In Between celebrated his birthday with a gala affair at the bar on Thursday April 17. Shown above (L-R) are Tommy, fellow Bartender, Patrick and In Between Owner Kurt Peck. You can see them in person at the bar located at 625 S. Second Street. In Between will also be the site of the Mr. SSBL contest, Saturday May 10 at 5:00.

2:00 Triangle vs. Manoeuvres, Club 219 vs The Ball Game.

3:00- Manoeuvres vs The Ball Game, In Between vs Club 219.

Look for coverage of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Milwaukee Classic in our next issue.

## MacIssac

Continued From Page 14

is what my whole gig is about - to get a radio song and get people to play "Sleepy Maggie." Hopefully people will get the whole dance vibe off it. I could become like the Gypsy Kings and people would say he's a great live act and it's wonderful music and it's traditionally based and they'll get into it. But I want to be a pop star and if I can get a hit record that would be great,"he says.

"My music keeps the integrity and tradition of the original fiddle sound, but adding this new sort of hook to it,"he adds. "It's that dance, dance, dance, sex, sex, sex, now that I got your attention, I've got a car for sale idea. It's like, here s a drummer and here's an electric guitar player and now that I've gotten your attention, here's that 300-year old fiddle tune from Cape Breton that s in the middle of it.

MacIsaac's stage show is equally as electrifying as his recorded music and earning critical raves. Whether kicking up his heels while wearing a kilt, strumming it out a la Green Day or churning out a cover of the Bee Gee's "Staying Alive,"(a concert favorite), MacIsaac turns in an over-the-top performance.

"The whole gig is about image in one sense, and there has been a whole pile of different images coming out about me, but I only have three labels that I put on myself, and that's that I play the fiddle, that I'm from Cape Breton and that I'm Canadian,"he says. "I have about 300 years of enjoyment behind the music. I stand by my music; it's something that works and that it's good. So whether you're RuPaul doing disco in New York or you're a kid up in Harlem, I don't think you couldn't get into it if you actually listen to it in the right frame of mind,"he says.

"Modernizing this music is a way of making it relevant to people today. If it takes showing my cock on Conan to make it relevant for someone to want to talk to me or listen to my album, well hey that's what I'll do. I'm still going to go out and play the fiddle tune."

Born and raised in Creignish, on Cape Breton Island of Nova Scotia, Canada, population 280, MacIsaac grew up listening to traditional fiddle music.

His father bought him his first fiddle at age 8 and taught the young lad how to play; from there he began a love affair with the centuries old instrument. For the next nine years, MacIsaac honed his craft by playing anywhere he could, from square dances to local festivals in his homeland.

But life changed for him when he turned 17 and took off for New York City to fiddle in an off- Broadway production of the existentialist play "Woyzeck." Suddenly this smalltown boy found himself amongst the big city slickers and discovered the underbelly of the nightlife.

From drag bars and sex clubs to the dance floors of gay discos, MacIsaac was like a kid in a candy store.

"I went to New York and lived there for about six months. I hung out at the Lime-light every night in the 'lick-it' lounge, and then I'd go to the Roxy or the Pyramid and listen to dance music for the first time,"he recalls. "I was going out and buying plat-

forms and bellbottoms and hanging out, seeing the big dick shows. It was quite a stretch and opened by head to imagination."

MacIsaac back to Cape Breton after that and realized that he could do transfer his fiddle playing into a pop setting."It suddenly occurred to me that I could play fiddle tunes over this tape of dance music,"he says. "Essentially all my music is about is keeping a beat and keeping a rhythm and that's what the basic element of dance music is about too. I suppose my time in New York had a lot of relevance on my music. Otherwise I wouldn't have gone home and said I want to play the fiddle in a pop setting and that I want to go out and be able to go back to New York and have the opportunity to continue."

Ultimately, what matters most to MacIsaac is getting people to listen to his music. Taking a 200-year old song, like "McDougal's Pride" and contemporizing it, or at least putting in a setting that it comes off as being contemporary.

"The whole musical idea of the record was to try and put it in forms that people could somewhat relate to. A song like 'McDougal's Pride', is as PBS as any song I think will ever get. And the song before it, 'Devil in the Kitchen,' has that sense of grunge or more hard playing. But if you take away the arrangements of it, it's basically the same structure that I've always been playing," he says.

"I once called myself a fiddle slut. The whole thing I meant by that was just that I will play in whatever sort of situation or wherever I can be put to play in front of new people. And if it is a matter of getting to play with RuPaul in a transvestite bar, well then I'd go out and put on my kilt and kick it up."

Still, MacIsaac can't escape matters of his personal life or his unconventional points of view from creeping into people's perception of him. He admits that some of his view points, including that being gay is more often a choice than not, are "pretty intense, pretty insane in one view," he says.

"But, if everything I say is completely irrelevant to lots of other homosexual people's head, then they can just look back on it and say, 'Oh well, he's 22-years old and I went through that awkward stage too as a young gay adult and we'll support him anyway.' If they didn't agree with me, I'd just assume they'd say that 'lots of people have had difficult times in figuring out their life and he's probably just one of them as well'."

But he is tired of people trying to find a correlation between his sexuality and his music. "All that I assume anybody wants to know when they've asked whether or not I'm gay - or want to know by knowing whether or not any man is gay - is whether I suck another man's cock. People have all kinds of stereotypes and whatever, but that's what it comes down to. And if people want to know that, then yeah, come and say hi to me personally after a concert and we'll have that conversation,"he says.

"All these things are not things that clearly have much to do with me playing the fiddle,"he adds. "That's why people would assume that maybe I'm racy. When I was 17, I went on stage and played and nobody bothered to really play attention to anything else except the vibe of the music. Then I went to New York and did this play and came back with the idea that I could

Please Turn To Ashley Page 27



**Ashley**

Continued From Page 26

sell my fiddle music by putting on an image or doing whatever it took to sell it. And now I have articles that are written in Gaelic papers at home that say the messenger is bigger than the music and that's not the way it used to be. And I guess they're right, and that is the case."

Still, given the choice of defending his off color point of view or talking about his debut opus, MacIsaac prefers to focus on the album and his tour -- the core of what he is about.

"At this stage of my life, I'm still trying to go out and promote this "Hi, How Are You Today?" project and talk about music and do everything that I've been doing for three or four years with this band. I still have to go out and basically put the fiddle in front," MacIsaac says.

"However, my original goal of just having a house in Cape Breton has now changed to having a house in Cape Breton, but also to maybe having a house in France," he continues. "Maybe all of this will come to a relevance in 10 years' time and people will say, 'he was this 22-year old freaky fiddle player, but now he sings Wayne Newton songs and he's in Vegas. Or maybe I'll be in jail writing by that point."

Doubtful. The masterful musician clearly has his sights set on the future. From wanting to pose for Playgirl and record a duet with RuPaul -- a cover of Abba's "Dancing Queen," only called "Step Dancing Queen,"-- to put forth an entire disco-infused recording, MacIsaac has no intention of slowing down or conforming to the masses.

"My next record is probably going to be a dance-orientated and a club record in a

sense, at least in beats," he says. "I have other sort of more integrity ideas that I want to put on it as well, besides just writing nice simple songs to put a fiddle tune to. I like to do some speaking on it as well, all about my point in life."

"I had the idea six months ago of calling the record, 'Ashley MacIsaac Goes Disco 1997' -- Just Me And A Bunch of Fruits.' I thought I'd get this picture of me with all these plastic bananas. It would be sort of coy to call it that, and I think it probably has a bit of a connection to my clubbing days."

Whatever he does, there's little doubt that it will be anything short of unconventional and wildly innovative. And as for perception, MacIsaac doesn't much care how people regard his personal life, as long as they enjoy the music and buy the album.

"They can either love you or they can hate you," he says, "but if they are talking about you at least they know who you are."

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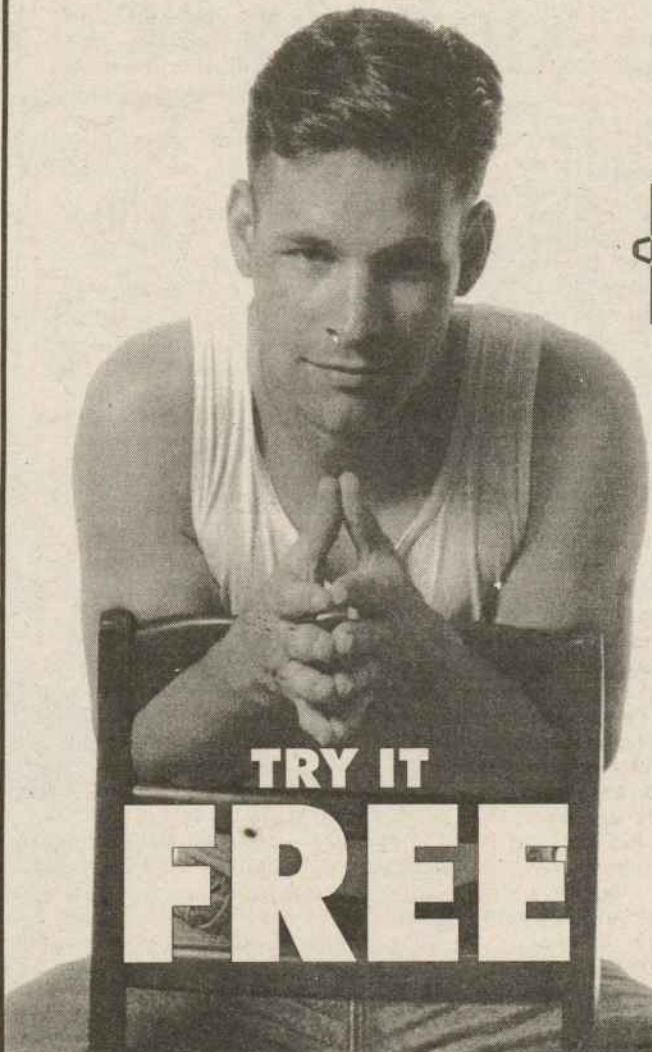
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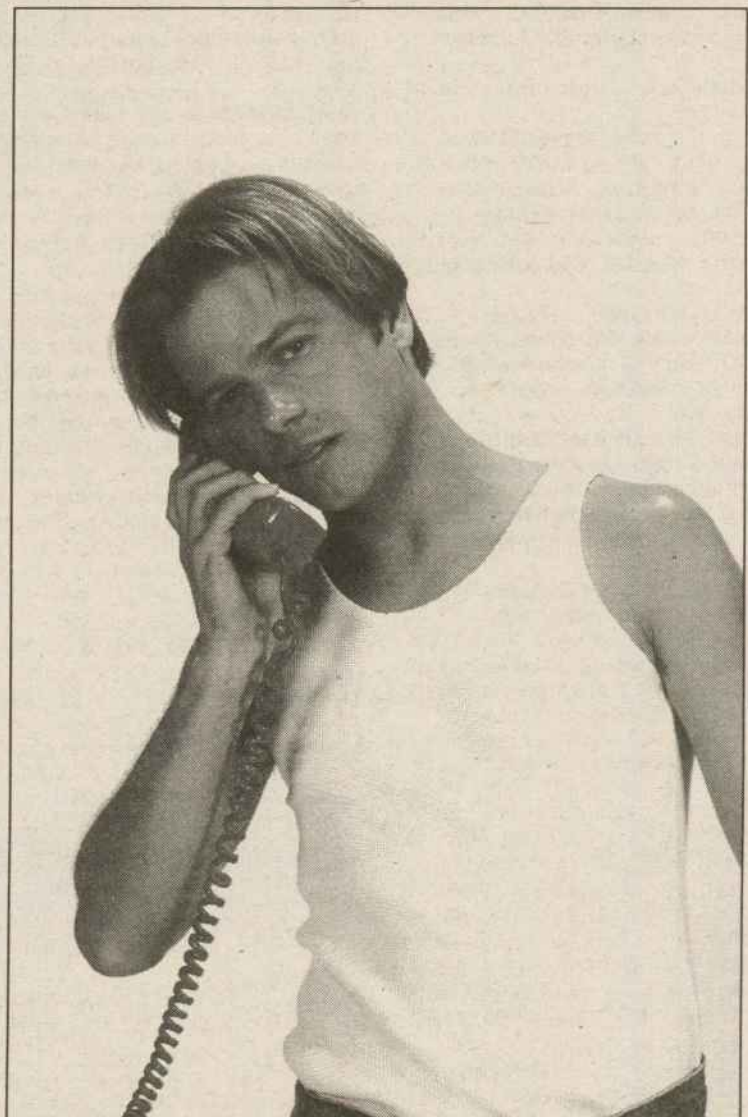
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Please Contribute Something So That the Holocaust May Never be Forgotten

By Roberta Bennett

They wore Pink Triangles on their pockets...and in the cruel hierarchy of the concentration camps, they were the lowest of the low.

They were singled out for brutality not only by the guards, but by other inmates as well. And when the long awaited liberation finally came, these victims of Nazi oppression were not released...but were forced instead to serve out the rest of their terms in prison.

Their crime? They were homosexuals.

As I'm sure you know, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is one of the largest and most important museums in the world dedicated to telling the story of the Holocaust.

Though primarily a story of the Nazis' efforts to exterminate the Jews, it is also about their plans for the annihilation of "confessing clergy" German resisters, Polish intellectuals, Soviet prisoners of war, and Gays.

Since the museum opened in 1993, more than 7.8 million people have come to see first-hand what happened to those in Germany and Nazi occupied Europe who did not fit into the Nazi conformist mold.

And in doing so, they have learned—among other things—that the Holocaust was not just "something that happened to the Jews."

It was something that happened to humanity.

Despite the controversy (and over the objections of some), this Museum has never shied away from examining the experience of Gays in the Holocaust.

Yet, despite our efforts, the story of Gays in the Holocaust is still largely untold.

This is what we know.

The Nazis came to power in 1933, pledged to "purify" German society of anyone they considered "abnormal," "aberrant," or "weak."

They began by abolishing all Gay organizations. Storm Troopers raided Gay bars, cafes and meeting places. The Gay community that had flourished in Berlin and other cities in the 1920s, was driven underground.

In 1934, the Nazis created an anti-Gay task force of the Gestapo. And, in the following year, a provision of the German criminal code—Paragraph 175—was interpreted to allow for the arrest of anyone suspected of being Gay.

(Lesbians were largely spared from this persecution. Not out of any sense of understanding or compassion, but simply because the Nazis believed that "Lesbian wombs could breed the master race.")

According to eyewitnesses, prisoners marked with Pink Triangles or patches bearing the number "175" were among the most harshly treated in the camps. They were often the victims of cruel medical experiments—including castration.

But the worst blow came at the very end. When the camps were liberated in 1945, and survivors were released to rebuild their shattered lives, those convicted of being Gay were forced to serve out the rest of their sentences meted out by Nazi judges.

No consideration was given for the time they'd already spent in the hellish camps. And no financial reparations were made by the German government. Paragraph 175 remained a part of West German law until 1969.

In the Holocaust, there were people who were victimized because of what they would or would not do. Jews and Gays were different. They were persecuted for who they were. It didn't matter if they were productive and loyal German citizens. It didn't matter if they swore allegiance to Hitler or didn't. It didn't matter what their political or religious beliefs were. The Nazis wanted them gone.

It was senseless, irrational hatred. The same kind of hatred that still haunts Gays, Jews, African-Americans and anyone whom society deems to be "different."

That's why the Gay experience in the Holocaust is more relevant today than ever before.

That is why the Holocaust Museum has embarked on this special campaign to remember the untold thousands of Gays who suffered in the camps.

We are asking those of you who read this article, those of you who understand the meaning of "Never Again," to make a contribution so that the work of scholarly research into the Gay experience in the Holocaust can continue.

Money is urgently needed to locate the rapidly decreasing Gay survivors, to chronicle their oral histories, to uncover missing artifacts, to produce new exhibits in the Museum so that all may understand the poisonous results of bigotry.

Please send a contribution to: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, P.O. Box 96818, Washington, DC 20077-7674.

Ms. Bennett is the Chair of the Museum's Gay and Lesbian Campaign.

Editor's Note: Wisconsin Light has never published a letter of solicitation before. This time, we make an exception and urge strongly that you make a contribution.

I have visited Dachau and Auschwitz. I have spoken with Gay survivors of the camps. Jerry and I toured the Museum. It is an experience we recommend to all, and one that we will never forget.

Much, so much, of our history has been lost. That cannot happen to this. It must not happen to this. We must know this history. We must understand it. We must feel it, because all too easily it can happen again.

Bro. Braddock Receives J.C. Penney Community Service Award

Milwaukee—Brother Stephen E. Braddock was recognized on April 15<sup>th</sup> "for outstanding community service" by the J.C. Penney Gold Rule Award Committee.

In recognition of this honor, President Clinton sent a letter to Brother Braddock saying, "...you can be proud of your selection at a 1997 nominee. I commend you for your deep concern about our future and for your exemplary commitment to improving our world."

Brother Braddock is the founder of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, a largely volunteer-driven organization which provides care and support to people with AIDS and HIV disease.

Brother Braddock will also be honored by Cardinal Stritch College on May 7<sup>th</sup> when he receives the 1997 "Alumni Award for Professional Distinction."

Star-Filled Literary Coffeehouse at PrideFest '97

An exciting new feature at Milwaukee's PrideFest '97, "Sharing a World of Difference" is The Literary Coffeehouse sponsored by Afterwords Bookstore & Espresso Bar and The Wisconsin Light.

The Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse expands upon last year's extremely successful Afterwords Literature Tent and which will feature a diverse program of author readings and discussions throughout Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8.

An important component missing last year was plenty of hot coffee and new for 1997, The Literary Coffeehouse will be offering a menu of coffee, coffee drinks and other refreshing beverages plus a choice biscotti, muffins and other freshly baked treats.

Whether this year's festival is blessed with warm and sunny weather or, heaven forbid, like last year's winter-like conditions, all those attending PrideFest '97 will find The Literary Coffeehouse to be the perfect place to hang out, have coffee, check out all of the latest Gay & Lesbian fiction and non-fiction titles and experience unique and exciting programs offered by both local and nationally known authors.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday, The Literary Coffeehouse will feature a schedule featuring a variety of Author Appearances, Writing Workshops, Poetry Readings and host of other literary events.

Among the many authors due to appear at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffee House include Frank DeCaro (A Boy Named Phyllis), Jorjet Harper (Tales From the Dyke Side) and Robert Rodi (Kept Boy, Fag Hag, Closet Case, etc.)

A complete list of authors and programs was not available as The Wisconsin Light went to press.

For all the latest news on who will be appearing at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse, please phone (414) 963-9089 or visit the Afterwords website at www.afterwords.com.

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