

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

▼ The Wisconsin Light

Air Force Denies Report That Pilot Committed Suicide Because He Was Gay

Tucson, AZ—The Tucson Citizen has reported on May 2nd, that the Air Force suspects the A-10 pilot whose plane crashed into a mountainside committed suicide for fear his affair with another male flier was about to be exposed. An Air Force spokesman called the story "unsubstantiated."

"Any reports to the contrary are irresponsible," said Maj. Ed Worley, an Air Force spokesman in Washington. "Nothing has been found thus far which provides answers on what happened."

The newspaper quoted an unidentified military source close to the investigation who said Capt. Craig Button, 32, may have flown the jet into a 13,000-foot Colorado mountain because an estranged lover was about to reveal the affair.

The source said the lover was believed to be another pilot at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson. Button was based at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio before he transferred to Tucson.

"The Air Force really believes that this could be the answer," the source told the newspaper.

Maj. Joe LaMarca, spokesman for the Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, also said the report was unsubstantiated.

On May 2nd, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) said that it had received "numerous requests" inquiring if the Citizen's report was true. An SLDN spokesperson, C. Dixon Osburn, the organization's Co-Executive Director, said that "We do not have any information to conclusively substantiate or verify the news story."

Osburn went on to note that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy "creates tragic results."

"We know of other servicemembers who have attempted or committed suicide because of the Gay policy's brutal consequences," Osburn said. "I hope for the sake of military officials that the rumors about Captain Button are not true. Other—
Please Turn to Air Force Page 11

Hawaiian State Legislature Votes to Give Marriage Like Benefits to Same Sex Couples

Honolulu—Gay and Lesbian couples could be walking hand-in-hand into state Department of Health offices in less than three months to sign up for many of the rights and benefits now enjoyed by married couples.

Hawaii's voters, however, are expected to make sure in a vote next year that these couples don't get a traditional marriage license.

Hawaii's Legislature on Tuesday, April 29th, approved a bill to make Hawaii the first state to grant same-sex couples such things as inheritance rights, the right to sue for wrongful death, spousal benefits for insurance and state pensions, and similar rights.

If signed by Gov. Ben Cayetano, who supports the concept, it would take effect July 1. There is no residency requirement.

A second bill approved Tuesday puts on the 1998 general election ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment clarifying that the Legislature has the right to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Senate approval was unanimous while in the House, Reps. Eric Hamakawa, Scott Saiki, David Tamas, Ed Case, Hermina Morita and Roy Takumi voted "no." Case and Tamas expressed concern that religious groups were imposing their morality on state law.

Public opinion polls over the past several years show that more than 70 percent of Hawaii's voters oppose legalizing same-sex marriages.

"Hawaii has a long and proud history of tolerance and protection of minority rights ... a natural expression of a multi-racial, multi-cultural society, whose beliefs we in Hawaii describe as the spirit of aloha," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Terrance Tom, a key negotiator on the benefits bill.

The bill "provides the legal framework for nontraditional couples to enjoy those basic legal

Bill Would Give Better Job Protection For Wisconsin Gays

Clinton, New HRC Poll Boost Chance for ENDA's Passage

Bill Would Ban Job Discrimination

By Bill Meunier

Washington—Buoyed by a ringing endorsement from President Clinton and a new poll that shows growing support, Human Rights Campaign Leaders are planning a major push for ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a Congressional bill that would ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Fulfilling a campaign promise to the Gay Community, President Clinton endorsed the bill saying that it is "about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance, in our country and in our hearts."

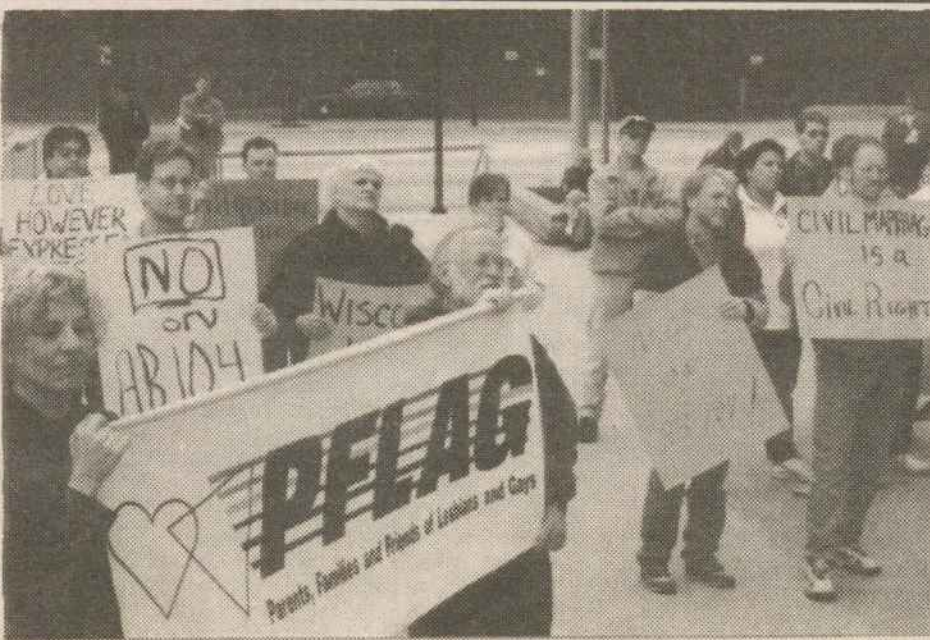
Legal experts say that the bill would offer greater protections to Gays and Lesbians facing job discrimination even in states like Wisconsin which have passed their own legislation.

Clinton's statement was issued following an April 24 meeting held in the Oval Office with Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Human Rights Campaign Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch and other civil rights leaders including Dorothy Height and Wade Henderson of the Leadership Council on Civil Rights, a Coalition of 180 Civil Rights organizations.

They were joined by the lead sponsors of ENDA in the 105th Congress Sens. James Jeffords, R-Vt., Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., and Reps. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Barney Frank, D-Mass.

During the meeting, Clinton pledged that his administration would again "work hard" for the ENDA's passage, just as he did last year when it narrowly missed passing the Senate.

Please Turn to ENDA Page 2



Milwaukee Rallies Against 104- Nearly 100 people turned out at the State Office Building for a noon rally against AB 104 on Monday May 5. Several speakers called for action against the Anti-Gay Marriage bill including State Representative Barb Notestein who called for a "non-violent Stonewall." Gay and Lesbian leaders are urging Gays and Lesbians to call their legislators and demand a no vote on 104.

New Human Rights Campaign Poll Shows Wide, Bipartisan Support For ENDA

Washington—A new national poll by the Tarrance Group (R) and Lake Sosin Snell & Associates (D) shows that two-thirds of American voters (68 percent), including a solid majority of Republicans (59 percent), support passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Overall, two-thirds (68 percent) of American voters support ENDA,

described as a law to "extend civil rights and prevent job discrimination against gays and lesbians," while one in four oppose it (25 percent), and 7 percent are unsure. More than a third (43 percent) say that they "strongly" favor ENDA.

Support for ENDA crosses party lines. Among Republicans, a majority (59 percent) support ENDA.
Please HRC Poll Page 2



Candle Light Memorial A candle light memorial program to commemorate those who have died from AIDS was held on Sunday May 4 at the Miller Pavilion at O'Donnell Park in Milwaukee. Paula Cabot (shown above) read stories written by people who have died from AIDS. (Additional pictures are on page 7)

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News From The Nation



MCC Says "No"

Hartford, CN-AP- Four years ago, the Rev. David Jarvis left the pulpit of the United Church of Christ to minister to a Gay congregation. Now, he says, he's being forced to choose between his flock and his health insurance.

Jarvis was pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Coventry when he came out publicly as Gay. He left the Coventry church after being invited to be the minister at the Metropolitan Community Church in Hartford.

At issue is that Jarvis holds dual credentials in MCC and the United Church of Christ. MCC has told Jarvis dual credentials are not permitted.

Jarvis says if he drops out of the United Church of Christ, he will lose his health insurance. He doesn't have access to a comparable plan in his present job, he says.

Being Gay only compounds his problem, he said. "What insurance company is going to give coverage to a gay man who is nearly 50 years old, even though I am HIV negative?" he said. "I was never told about this when they came after me as a pastor."

The Rev. Troy Perry, head of MCC, said he's sympathetic with Jarvis but can't bend rules. Jarvis noted that the United Church of Christ, which encourages ordination of gays and lesbians, supports his dual membership. Meanwhile, he said, he has been told he can remain in his present church, but as a lay leader rather than as its pastor.

"That's unacceptable," he said.

Cost an Issue for Giving Benefits to Gay Couples

Chicago, IL-AP- Gov. Jim Edgar says he would have "no moral objection" to extending family benefits to the partners of gay state employees.

But the governor says he questions how much it would cost. Expense might lead him to oppose the move, Edgar said during a meeting with the Chicago Sun-Times editorial board Thursday.

"I'm not in favor of gay marriages," Edgar said. "I am old-fashioned, I guess. What I consider 'marriage' I would limit to males and females."

But as for the principle of providing family benefits to state employees if they are in a gay partnership, "I don't have a problem with it," Edgar said.

Actually, I haven't heard a lot of discussion" of the issues, he added.

Andy Foster, deputy chief of staff, said Edgar believes that if anything like that develops, it should come in the context of a collective bargaining agreement.

Last week, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley endorsed a plan to extend family benefits to partners of gay workers employed by the city. His proposal is expected to gain City Council approval.

Rochester Diocese Holds First Mass for Gays

Rochester, NY-AP- There was joy inside the Sacred Heart Cathedral and protests outside as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester held its first-ever Mass for Gays and Lesbians.

Outside, police stood guard and protestors chanted prayers. Inside, people filled the 1,100-seat cathedral Saturday as Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined a handful of bishops nationwide that have held a Mass for Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men.

"I have never felt more intense about climbing into this pulpit," Clark, wearing the deep purple colors of Lent, said in his sermon. "It is not out of fear... This is absolutely right to do."

"We celebrate the reconciliation of Christ," said Clark, standing on the altar with numerous other priests and deacons present in support. "May He take away all that divides us."

ENDA

Continued from Page 1

ENDA Means Stronger Protection Here

Brenda Lewison, a Milwaukee attorney who specializes in job discrimination cases told *The Wisconsin Light* that the passage of ENDA would be good news for the Badger State's Gays, Bisexuals and Lesbians.

Lewison says out that under Wisconsin law victims of discrimination can not sue for compensatory or punitive damages. Wisconsin law only allows suits for back wages or the difference between what would have been earned on job and what was earned in the victim's new position.

"It's very painful to be discriminated against, it hurts. That's what compensatory damages are about. They compensate people for their pain and suffering. Federal law recognizes this and our state law doesn't."

Lewison pointed out that if passed ENDA would offer protection for Federal workers holding jobs in Wisconsin (they are not covered by State law) and for those who might be transferred to positions in other states.

Lewison said the restrictions on recovering damages under Wisconsin State law have led to it being "underenforced."

ENDA Exemptions

ENDA contains exemptions for religious organizations, businesses with 15 or fewer employees and the armed forces. It specifically prohibits hiring quotas based on sexual orientation.

The Radical Right has and is expected to continue its opposition to the bill. The exemptions were added to answer their arguments that passage of ENDA would force churches opposed to homosexuality to hire homosexuals and that ENDA would force businesses to include Gays and Lesbians in their affirmative action programs.

ENDA Top Priority

ENDA has been considered the number one legislative priority for national Gay and Lesbian organizations since it was first introduced in 1991. Last year for the first time it received hearings in both the

House and the Senate.

The Senate failed to pass the bill by a one vote margin, 49 in favor and 50 against. The House did not vote on the measure.

HRC Poll Shows Broad Support

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) also issued the results of a new national poll showing that 69% of American voters favor passage of ENDA. The poll which has an error margin of 3.1%.

Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin's openly Lesbian State Representative told *The Light* that the poll and Clinton's statement was good news. "The HRC polling results are exciting news. It's great to know that US citizens stand fairly united for fairness and against discrimination. I believe that is the product of many years of education. It is important to have the weight of HRC and the weight of the President of the United States behind a bill like the Employment Non-Discrimination act. But clearly in order for it to pass into law we need Congressional leaders with the courage to advance it."

The HRC poll is a significant tool for several reasons. It was taken by a Republican polling firm and it shows a solid majority of Republicans 59% favor ENDA's passage. Furthermore well over a third of the respondents, 43%, said they strongly favored passage. (See the full results of the poll in our story on Page 1)

HRC Confident of Success

The Human Rights Campaign is confident that ENDA has a chance to pass in this session of Congress. Tom Kincheloe, Field Organizer for the North and Northeastern States including Wisconsin told

The Wisconsin Light. "It's an uphill battle, but it's one we believe can be won. Our polling shows that 80% of the American public is against anti-Gay job discrimination and that 69% of the public wants this bill passed."

Kincheloe said that HRC expects all of those who co-sponsored ENDA in the last Congress to do so again. In Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation, current co-sponsors are Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl and Congressmen Tom Barrett from the Fifth Congressional District and Ron Kind from the Third District.

Congressman Scott Klug from the Second District was a co-sponsor in the last Congress but has not yet signed on for this one.

Winnie Stachelburg, HRC Legislative Director told *The Wisconsin Light* that she is also optimistic about the chances of ENDA passing. "We are not standing alone. It's not just HRC, ENDA has been embraced by the broad coalition of civil rights, women's labor and religious groups who are working with us to get it passed in this Congress"

She added, "At the high water mark we had 139 co-sponsors in the House and 32 in the Senate. We hope to exceed that number in the next two weeks."

The bill will be reintroduced in about two weeks. Strategy sessions on how to best proceed will then be held.

Stachelburg also had a special message for Wisconsin Lesbians and Gays, "Our polling continues to show that the biggest problem we have to overcome is that the majority of Americans continue to believe that discrimination is illegal."

"People in Wisconsin need to convey a message that the experience in Wisconsin has been good. There haven't been dramatic increases in litigation as some have predicted will happen if ENDA passes."

Beyond that Stachelburg wants Wisconsin's Gays and Lesbians to contact their Congressional reps and get them to sign up as co-sponsors. "We are especially interested in getting Scott Klug back on board" she said.

HRC POLL

Continued From Page 1

percent) support ENDA and only a third oppose it (33 percent), while 8 percent don't know. Two-thirds of independents (69 percent favor, 22 percent oppose, 9 percent don't know) and more than three-quarters of Democrats (79 percent favor, 18 percent oppose, 4 percent don't know) support ENDA.

In addition, every region of the country, including the South, strongly supports ENDA: 77 percent favor ENDA in the Northeast, with 18 percent opposed; 71 percent favor ENDA in the Midwest, with 25 percent opposed; 68 percent favor ENDA in the West, with 24 percent opposed; and 62 percent favor ENDA in the South, with 28 percent opposed.

Furthermore, 80 percent of the American public say that homosexuals should have equal rights in terms of job

opportunities, while just 14 percent say they should not.

This support for equal rights crosses party lines: three-quarters of Republicans (75 percent) and 84 percent of independents, as well as 84 percent of Democrats support equal rights in terms of job opportunities for homosexuals.

Moreover, support for equal job opportunities for homosexuals is strong in every region of the country, including 83 percent in the Northeast, 82 percent in the Midwest, 84 percent in the West, and 74 percent in the South.

This memorandum reports the findings from a national survey of 1,000 adults who indicated they are registered to vote, conducted April 8-10, 1997, by The Tarrance Group and Lake Sosin Snell & Associates. The overall margin of error is 3 to 1 percent.

QUESTIONS:

As you may know, there has been considerable discussion in the news lately regarding the rights of homosexual men and women. In general, do you think homosexuals should or should not have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?

Should.....80 percent
Should not.....14 percent
Don't know.....6 percent

There are currently no federal laws protecting Gays, Bisexual, Lesbians and Transgenders in the workplace. Only nine states now have laws protecting Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders and Lesbians from workplace discrimination, and a Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Gay man can be fired for being gay in the other 41 states.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which is currently being considered in Congress, would extend civil rights and prevent job discrimination against gays and lesbians. Would you favor or oppose this law?

(Is that strongly favor/oppose, or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Strongly favor.....43 percent
Somewhat favor.....25 percent
Somewhat oppose.....10 percent
Strongly oppose.....15 percent
(Don't know).....7 percent
68 percent total favor
25 percent total oppose

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Ellen was Great, but Now for the Next Step

Commentary by Vincent Cantara
 The "Ellen" coming out episode has come and gone, and the Republic is still standing, the Union is strong.
 No one was deafened by the sound of feminine voices shouting "Why didn't I think of it before? I could have been a Lesbian!"
 Travel agents weren't swamped by orders for tickets from women heading for the divorce courts of Vegas "leaving the straight life behind."
 Jim Nicholson, chair of the Republican Party, sputtered about the "moral high ground," but he was swamped by the juggernaut that was Ellen. As Frank Rich of The New York Times wondered, "If a politician trashes Lesbians in Washington and no one hears him, did he really do it?"
 Of course, the Right Wing bible thumpers were all in a snit. Why not? This was a "golden" opportunity for them. What better way to raise money from their docile and unthinking followers than yap about homosexuality? For the bible bangers, money's the name of the game—especially since their really big money maker dissolved, the Soviet Union.
 ABC made a lot of money too, but isn't that what they were in it for? Or did you think that the network had suddenly decided that the time had come to take a stand for human rights?
 ABC-Disney wanted hoopla, and they set about to get it—in a big way. There was Diane Sawyer's interview with Ellen DeGeneres on "20/20." ABC's "World News Tonight" did its stuff with two Lesbian tie-in stories.
 Then there was the show—complete with gags cross-plugging Disneyland and "Nightline." And afterward, another Sawyer/DeGeneres bit on "Prime Time Live."
 Wonderment? In all that blitz, where were the questions about the status of Gay Americans?
 In 41 states, a woman like Ellen who comes out at work can be legally fired. The Human Rights Campaign tried to make that statement, but in what can only be called "stunning hypocrisy," ABC refused to air it.
 The same thing went for a number of the network's affiliates. All "too controversial," they said. Let it be noted, however, that in the Twin Cities, it wasn't "too controversial" to air an ad from some Christian group about how, if you called, they could "help" you change.
 Leave us not be cynical, but legal dis-

crimination against Gay people is a fact. Religious nonsense about "changing" sexual orientation is a myth—i.e. not true. So, a fact is too controversial, but a lie is not?
 Anyway, ABC got big ratings and a lot of money changed hands. In the process, the sun came up and everything's pretty much as it was before. But there's no doubt about it, Ellen's coming out was a big deal, a very big deal, for a people who experience persecution with nearly every step we take.
 There is one thing, though. As big a deal as Ellen's coming out on prime time was, one can only imagine the hoopla when a leading man does the same thing.
 Look at it this way. In this country, gender roles have always been very strictly defined. Women act "this way," men act "that way," and there's not supposed to be any crossover at all.
 I remember very well my mother and her best friend, Lois. When Lois and her husband Walter would come to our house (which they did frequently), between my mother and Lois there'd always be a lot of kissy-kissy, hug-hug. Meanwhile, my father and Walter—who were very good friends—would stand, looking at each other, like two cats over one dead mouse.
 Things, however, are changing. It is becoming easier and easier to imagine something like this.
 NBC, for example, (trying to get one up on ABC-Disney) announces that one of the leading male characters on "Friends" is going to come out on the show. To add something to the plot, let's say that the actor who plays that role announces that not only does he play a Gay character, he is Gay himself—"And here's my lover."
 What a furor there would be! A woman coming out is one thing, but a man?! If that happened—and a scenario like that is going to happen—the Religious Right will scream (and rake in more money than ever before). Penney's, Chrysler and Wendy's will have a real snit. In the meantime, NBC, crying all the way to the bank, would see its ratings nicely go through the roof.
 (Not to be cynical about it, but I would suspect that the reaction on the part of the religionists would be considerably muted if, on the show, the character was shot the moment his "admission" was out of his mouth.)
 So, now Ellen is out. A step on the road to our freedom has been taken. Another will follow soon—and another, and another—until, at last, we are free.

Fifteen Nurses in Madison and Milwaukee Receive AIDS Certification

By Bob Pomerening
Milwaukee—Fifteen registered nurses in the State of Wisconsin have recently taken and passed the AIDS Certified Registered Nurse (ACRN) exam. The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) and the HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board (HANCB) have granted these nurses formal certification and recognition as professionals specialized in HIV/AIDS nursing practice.
 In celebration of this professional achievement, the following State of Wisconsin registered nurses are recognized:
In Madison
 Pam Delgati, Teresa Lenaghna, Virginia McCulloch, Karen Sielaff, and Jackie Vreugdenhill;
In Milwaukee
 Jose Avila, Mary Busallachi, Barb Cuene, Connie Highsmith, Karen Ivantic, Doug Johnson, Jeff Miller, Marilyn Pilmaier, Bob Pomerening, and Deb To-pham.

The ACRN exam is a written examination focused on current competencies in HIV/AIDS nursing practice and administered by the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC). The exam is weighted to test the nurse's knowledge base and range of skills that include epidemiology and prevention, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations and management, psychosocial issues, special populations, ethical and legal issues, and professional and institutional issues.
 The next scheduled ACRN exam dates are November 5, 1997 and February 1, 1998. Registered nurses interested in obtaining more information about the upcoming exams should call PTC at (212) 852-0400.
 The mission of ANAC is to promote the individual and collective professional development of nurses involved in the delivery of healthcare to persons infected or affected by HIV and to promote the health and welfare of infected persons by: creating an effective network among nurses in AIDS Care; Studying, researching and exchanging information, experience, and ideas leading to improved care for persons with

HIV/AIDS; advocating for HIV infected persons; and promoting social awareness concerning issues related to HIV/AIDS.
 Inherent in these goals is the abiding commitment to the prevention of further HIV infection. Registered Nurses interested in becoming a member of ANAC at the national level may call (800) 260-6780 or fax (703) 435-4390.
 Registered Nurses interested in becoming a member of the Southeastern Chapter of ANAC may call (414) 259-4957.
Editor's Note: The writer is president elect of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of ANAC.

BestD OUTreach
For May
 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.

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MINNEAPOLIS

Editorial

When Is It a Marriage?

In what we suspect is a move prompted by desperation or, perhaps, a desire to make everyone happy, the Hawaiian state legislature has passed a bill giving same-sex couples many of the legal rights and responsibilities involved in marriage.

We stand second to none in our support for same-sex marriage. We have repeatedly stated that same-sex marriage is not a religious issue, but a matter of legal rights.

However, if same-sex couples can be legally united by the state—and, thereby, receive all the rights and responsibilities of marriage, does it make much difference what that is called? Does it make any difference if a church sanctifies the relationship? Whatever a church decides to do, that, we believe, is its decision, made according to its beliefs and/or after debate in its body politic.

While the word "marriage" does not have a religious denotation, in human affairs, it certainly has a religious connotation. Perhaps what is needed is a new word? If same-sex couples got from the state a legal binding with all the rights and responsibilities appertaining to traditional marriage to which we have, in our opinion, an unquestioned right, would a same-sex couple be any less married for lack of a word? We think not.

Perhaps we should say, "Give us our rights, the substance of citizenship. Keep your symbol, your word."

The Time Has Come To Act!

Seldom, if ever, in the history of the paper, have we run a more urgent editorial. On May 13, the Wisconsin State Assembly will vote on a piece of hate legislation aimed directly at the LGBT community: AB104. This bill, nothing more than an occasion for Right Wing Gay bashing, would prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriage. This bill has no other reason than to stir up hatred against us!

YOU CAN HELP FIGHT!
Call your legislator NOW. Let that person know your views. **The legislative hotline is: 1-800-362-9472 or (608) 266-9960.**

On May 12, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., there will be a rally at the State Street entrance of the State Capitol. There will be performers and speakers. **BE THERE IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN!**

On May 13, AB104 will come for a vote to the Assembly floor. **We need to mobilize and fill the galleries!!** The floor debate will begin at 10:00 a.m. and last for six hours.

Our presence must be strong.
Honestly, it is worth taking a day off work to be there.
Let us show the hate-mongers that Wisconsin Won't Discriminate!

Editor's Note

Welcome to a New Column

By Terry Boughner

For the first time in the paper's history we will be running an astrology column. Readers have asked for this, but I've steadily resisted it over the years. That's not because I don't believe in it (I don't), and not because I don't recognize the interest people have in it and its entertainment value (I do). It's because I've never seen an astrology column that I liked.

Most are too vague, too generic. You know the kind. What they say could apply to anyone, no matter what their sign.

I've always figured that for astrology to have any validity at all, there's got to be a certain element of mysticism in it; the psi factor in the astrologer, whoever that might be. In other words, I wanted a jointure of the physical with the spiritual and someone who understood the nexus of the two.

Finally, I wanted a column that was oriented to those within the LGBT community.

I think I've found what I've been looking for in Dean Poh.

What attracted me to Dean was the fact that he believes that people in the LGBT community are on the seventh and highest rung of spiritual evolution. Do I believe that? No, not really, but I find it fascinating nonetheless. More importantly, I think the idea informs what he writes.

Dean's column is not a **Wisconsin Light** exclusive. That word "exclusive" gets banded about a lot, but what it means is that the only place a column, article, interview or whatever appears is in your publication and no place else. The only exception to that is if you say, "Exclusive" followed by a qualifier—city, state, or region.

In Dean's case, he syndicates his column and is published in LGBT publications world-wide, so we don't have an "exclusive." We do, however, have an exclusive in Wisconsin.

Nor is Dean a member of our staff. Syndicated writers and writers whose interviews and whatever you buy, are not on staff. If that were the case, then Cal Thomas, for example, would be a member of the **Journal's** staff. He is not.

Where Do Articles Come From?

Articles—news stories, interviews, etc., come from many different sources. Gay organizations send press releases. People send things in to be published because they think the material is important—or for the thrill of seeing their name in print.

There are also the syndicated writers. There are a great many of these people throughout the land who write and submit articles to make a little money.

Sometimes they send letters of query. Sometimes they send articles—news stories, features, interviews with celebrities—that are unsolicited. If I want the

article, I buy it and it's mine to print.

Always, I'll ask for an exclusive in Wisconsin, well knowing that the same article will be printed elsewhere in the country. That's okay, as long as it isn't in the paper's main distribution area.

We get over 30 LGBT publications on exchange. It's fascinating to see the same article or celebrity interview I've bought printed in Houston, for example, and see what the editor there has done with it—how it was formatted differently from the way we did it, did I shorten it or did she? I see those things all the time.

These syndicated writers are an invaluable resource to any publication—especially small ones. Buying what they have to sell is one way a small publication can bring articles and celebrity interviews to its readers.

For example, I can't call up Brad Pitt and say, "Hey Brad, how 'bout an interview?"

And he says, "Yeah, Terry, anything for you buddy" and "When you gonna spend some time alone with me in the South of France?"

Yeah, right. I wish.

The point is that there are writers who make it their business to have the contacts with these people. We buy what they are marketing around. It's as simple as that.

As with Dean Poh, other syndicated writers, no matter how often I buy stuff from them, are not members of the paper's staff. When I was syndicating, sometimes I'd get listed as a "contributing writer," but that's about it.

So, when you read in **Wisconsin Light** that we got this great article or interview, chances are pretty good that what is meant is that we bought it. The most work "we" did was to buy it and get it into print. If you're traveling, you'll probably see it in another LGBT paper, just like you'll see Cal Thomas printed elsewhere.

Letters

Thanks This Is It

TO THE EDITOR:

I was in your city recently and went to a bar called "This Is It" because it was only a couple of blocks from my hotel. I hope you print this because I want everyone to know that I thank them for a wonderful time. I did not want to stay long. I had a meeting the next day, but I had a wonderful time, so I stayed.

Everyone was so friendly to me. There is even a Latino bartender. They were not only courteous, but friendly and welcomed me to your city and introduced me to several people who I enjoyed meeting and have made friends.

I want to thank everyone there at This Is It for the good time I had. It is a special place.

Roberto B. Sanz
Mexico City

Gays Pay for Straights

TO THE EDITOR:

Gays subsidize the heterosexual lifestyle. The argument that Gays want special privileges, as is claimed in "Public Forced to Comply with Immorality" printed in the April 20th issue of **The Kenosha News**, is a smokescreen behind which homophobes love to hide.

The truth is that Gay taxpayers have been forced to help subsidize the heterosexual lifestyle for years. Gay taxes help subsidize special income tax deductions for married couples; Gay insurance premiums help subsidize special insurance breaks for heterosexual couples seeking housing and automobile insurance and, most unfairly, Gay medical insurance premiums go to help lower the cost of medical insurance for heterosexual couples who claim spousal medical benefits unavailable to their Gay subscribers—all this despite the fact that many Gay couples have all the expenses of a heterosexual couple, including that of child-rearing.

Further, heterosexuals, who are encouraged to flaunt their lifestyle openly, make the laws that make Gay marriages adulterous; and they make the tax laws which confiscate the social security benefits Gay couples work to entrust each other with in retirement.

So, tell me now—who exactly is being forced to comply with whose immorality?

Debra A. Johnson
Kenosha, WI

To Ralph Ovadal

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with great interest in the last issue of **Wisconsin Light**, the "Editor's Note," containing your challenge to Ralph Ovadal, leader of Wisconsin Christians United, to invite a member of the LGBT community to appear on his Thursday night "In Focus" show on Christian television station WVCY.

Pastor Ovadal has, in fact, invited a member of the LGBT community to appear on his show and on three occasions now he has told me that my appearance on that show would have to be cancelled.

Near the end of last year, I had the opportunity to appear after Pastor Ovadal on a Sunday morning talkshow in Green Bay. After my appearance, he very respectfully approached me and asked if I was familiar with "In Focus" and if I would like to appear? I indicated that I would and that I would not even mind taking calls from viewers. (He offered to have the show not include call-ins.) I indicated that I would phone him with some prospective dates for my appearance.

Pastor Ovadal scheduled my appearance on three separate occasions and shortly before each show, contacted me to let me know that something occurred to prevent me from appearing. His most recent communication indicated that producers of the show were concerned about individuals on "both sides of the issue" knowing of my appearance and that they felt the episode should be taped to avoid any problems. He indicated he would let me know when such a show would be taped. That was at least a month ago.

I have now given up on ever appearing on Pastor Ovadal's "In Focus" show. Ironically, I accepted his invitation so that he would have to stop saying that leaders of the Gay community were unwilling to engage in debate with him.

Pastor Ovadal, there are indeed a great many of us who would be pleased to discuss the issues with you. You know that. So what's the problem? Why won't you let me on your show?

Could it be that you really don't want to let your viewers see and hear from me—a conservative, pro-life, tax-paying Roman Catholic Republican who just happens to be Gay. I can see why you wouldn't.

Scott H. Evertz
Madison

Barrett's Hypocrisy

TO THE EDITOR:

I have now read the ultimate hypocrisy in **Wisconsin Light**. Congressman Tom Barrett is the same representative who voted to make homosexuals second class citizens, unworthy of the right and responsibility of marriage.

Tom Barrett, doing his job, discriminated against every single Gay and Lesbian in the entire state of Wisconsin with his vote.

In his column, "It is the Duty of Congress to End Workplace Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation," he ends his column with the statement "Until all Americans cannot be fired simple because of who they are, we will never truly achieve full civil rights in the United States."

How ironic. Homosexuals will never truly achieve full civil rights until heterosexual supremacists like Tom Barrett are voted out of office and any adult can marry another other adult with whom they are in love. I guess I'm unwilling to wait until I'm dead for the Tom Barrett trickle-down theory of civil rights to come to fruition.

He thinks civil rights for homosexuals are granted by heterosexuals rather than inherent

to every individual as stated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. After all, according to the Constitution, we are all created equal. Please Turn to Letters Page 5

Deadlines

May 22nd Issue

Pride Issue

Articles Friday, May 16th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 16th

Camera Ready—May 19th

5:00 p.m.

June 5th Issue

Articles—May 30th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 30th

Camera Ready—June 2nd

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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Tammy Speaks! Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin spoke at rally for Child Care Workers rally on Monday May 1st in front of the State Capitol. Baldwin told the crowd of about 1,000 that child care workers are among the most valuable workers but are undervalued by society. "We must change the equation," she said.

Afterwords/The Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse to Bring Authors and Workshops to PrideFest '97, June 6, 7, 8

Milwaukee—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 will feature a diverse program of author readings and discussions throughout Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8.

Highlighting the many programs at the Literary Coffee House will be an appearance from Gay humorist Frank DeCaro at 7:00pm on Saturday, June 7. DeCaro's delightful memoir, *A Boy Named Phyllis* (Penguin Pb \$11.95) was published last year to great acclaim.

Also on Saturday, popular syndicated Lesbian columnist Jorjet Harper will read from her latest collection, *Tales From the Dyke Side* (New Victoria Pub. Pb \$10.95). All interested writers are welcome to sign up for a special humor

PrideFest Looking for Volunteers in All Areas of Festival

Milwaukee—Volunteers make PrideFest happen. Last year, more than 500 people gave their time and skills to make the festival a success. And with an expected crowd of 12,000, volunteers are needed more than ever.

Volunteers can help as beer and wine bartenders, cooks, food servers, food preparers, cashiers, ticket-takers, security, American Sign Language interpreters, Children's Activity Area assistants on Saturday, parade hands on Sunday, set-up on Thursday and Friday, and clean-up on Monday.

PrideFest asks for a minimum of four continuous hours of volunteer time. All volunteers receive free admission on the day(s) they work and a complimentary meal on PrideFest.

Local organizations will also be supplying volunteers to staff some of the food booths and drink stands. Group members can earn money for their organization since a percentage of sales from those stands will be donated to the organization by PrideFest.

Organizations that will be staffing booths include: Castaways MC, Galano Club, Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Community of UW-Milwaukee, Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee AIDS Project, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and Sherman Park Rainbow Association. Members of these organizations are urged to sign up and help their teams raise money while having fun at the festival.

Three food stands are still available for staffing. Organizations that wish to participate in this fund raising program are urged to contact Susan Cook at the PrideFest office as soon as possible. Stands will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

A volunteer orientation session will be held on Saturday, May 10, at Milwaukee's Bay View Library, 2566 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. People interested in volunteering can sign up. You can also request an application from the PrideFest office at (414) 272-FEST, or P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203. Applications should be returned by May 15th.

Boys From the Rural Midwest (Univ. of Wisconsin Press HC \$27.50). The PBS program, "In the Life" recently aired a segment focusing on Will Fellows and his book.

Among other programs to be found at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffee House are an appearance by popular Gay novelist Robert Rodi (*Kept Boy, Fag Hag, Closet Case* etc.), best-selling Naiad novelist Jackie Calhoun (*Season of the Heart*) and Lesbian mystery writer Jean Marcy (*Cemetery Murders*).

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.

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.

Letters

Continued From Page 4

to Tom Barrett's voting record, all men are not created equal.

Tom Barrett is no friend of the Gay community. Barrett thinks certain civil liberties, like the right to marry, are the birthright of heterosexuals alone. That is the position of Senator Jesse Helms And Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

James Wall
Madison

Campaign Money

TO THE EDITOR:

It started in Washington with Bob Dole. He returned a campaign contribution given to him by Log Cabin Club Gay Republicans.

Next, Representative Mark Neumann's act had rotten fruit thrown at it by Ralph Ovadal of Wisconsin Christians United because the Congressman had obliged the Log Cabin Club by pledging not to discriminate by sexual orientation when hiring staff for his office.

(As was noted on WVCY-TV's "In Focus" program of April 28th, the Log Cabin Club had contributed to Neumann's campaign.)

Now the blight has spread to Madison. On the April 28th edition of "In Focus," Marv Munyon, leader of the Madison-based Family Research Institute, said that Republican legislators are scurrying around their offices, frantically digging through their files to see whether they had unwittingly accepted contributions from the Log Cabin Club.

Perhaps the Log Cabin treasury will shortly have a pleasant surprise in the form of a surplus due to returned campaign contributions.

Al Geiersbach
Milwaukee

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June 6th, 7th & 8th

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		Signature: _____ Date: _____

Volunteers for AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1997 Are Needed Now

Milwaukee- Work is underway for the 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin to be held on Sunday, September 21, along Milwaukee's Lakefront.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin looks forward to registering over 15,000 walkers to reach the \$1.1 million goal. This can only be done with the help of many dedicated volunteers. In 1996, AIDS Walk Wisconsin was helped by over 800 volunteers.

The first opportunity to volunteer is May 31 when nearly 400 volunteers state-wide are needed to help place AIDS Walk posters and registration materials in stores, churches, businesses and schools around the state. Some areas are planning a picnic following the day's poster outreach.

Other volunteering opportunities include: help in organizing teams; outreach at state summer events and festivals for Walk registration; joining one of the many committees such as the food or decorations committees; day-of registration, rest-stop coordination; and many more.

As in past years, there will be a breakfast at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee the morning of the Walk. There will also be entertainment before and after the Walk.

If you would like any information on registering for the Walk or volunteering, please call 414-225-1517.

Wanted: Quilt Booth Coordinator

When participating in the AIDS Walk, have you ever visited the Quilt Booth? Are you interested in interacting with others and helping with their creative processes? ARCW is looking for a Quilt Booth

Coordinator and Quilt Booth Volunteers for the day of the Walk.

Ideal applicants for the Coordinator position are art teachers or crafts persons who enjoy people and are well organized.

The Quilt Booth Coordinator had previously been Ellen Kozak who is now working on the AIDS Walk Entertainment Committee.

Because the Quilt Booth is a popular area on the Summerfest grounds before and after the Walk, more volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

If you would like any information on being the Quilt Booth Coordinator or a Quilt Booth Volunteer, please call (414) 383-3358.

MAP Offers Free and Confidential HIV Testing

Milwaukee- Due to the growing number of HIV cases in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is offering free and confidential testing as several locations and times.

Monday 1-4 p.m., E. Brady St. & N. Farwell Ave.

Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Dennis C. Hill Harm Reduction Center, 4311 W. Vliet St., 414-342-4399

Wednesday 1-4 p.m., Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St. 2-4 p.m., N. 5th St. & W. Center St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dennis C. Hill Harm Reduction Center, 4311 W. Vliet St., 414-342-4399

Thursday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Dennis C. Hill Harm Reduction Center, 4311 W. Vliet St., 414-342-4399 2-4 p.m., N. 30th St. & W. Lisbon St.

For more information on HIV or AIDS, call the Wisconsin AIDSline at 414-273-AIDS.

Below is a statement sent to our offices by the White House Press Office



Statement by the President on the Employment Non Discrimination Act

The Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 24, 1997

Today, Vice-President Gore and I met with a bi-partisan delegation from Congress, representing the lead House and Senate sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA") -- an important piece of civil rights legislation which would extend basic employment discrimination protections to gay and lesbian Americans. At our meeting, I underscored my strong support of the bill, which will be re-introduced in Congress today, and our intention to work hard for its passage.

As I said in my State of the Union address this January, we must never, ever believe that our diversity is a weakness, for it is our greatest strength. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own great potential -- and they always will, as long as we strive to give all of our citizens an opportunity to achieve their own greatness. We're not there yet -- and that is why ENDA is so important. It is about the right of each individual in America to be judged on their merits and abilities and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing unfair discrimination on account of sexual orientation. It is about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance, in our country and in our hearts.

I applaud the bi-partisan efforts of Senators Jeffords, Kennedy and Lieberman and Congressmen Shays and Frank to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act the law. I also thank the members of the Human Rights Campaign and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, whose executive directors joined in our meeting, for their early support and hard work on behalf of this bill. It failed to win passage by only one vote in the Senate last year. My Administration worked hard for its passage then and we will continue our efforts until it becomes law.

Discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation is currently legal in 41 states. Most Americans don't know that men and women in those states may be fired from their jobs solely because of their sexual orientation, even when it has no bearing on their job performance. Those who face this kind of job discrimination have no legal recourse, in either our state or federal courts. This is wrong.

Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work. Sadly, as the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has documented during hearings held in the last Congress, this kind of job discrimination is not rare.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is careful to apply certain exemptions. It provides an exemption for small businesses, the Armed Forces, and religious organizations, including schools and other educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. This later provision respects the deeply held religious beliefs of many Americans. The bill specifically prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation, including quotas. It does not require employers to provide special benefits.

As I indicated when I originally announced my support of this legislation in October of 1995, the bill in its current form appears to answer all the legitimate objections previously raised against it, while ensuring that Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation, can find and keep their jobs based on their ability and the quality of their work. It is designed to protect the rights of all Americans to participate in the job market without fear of unfair discrimination. I support it and I urge all Americans to do so. And I urge Congress to pass it expeditiously.

do something
extraordinary
Thursday May 29

Dine Out!

Eat dinner at a participating restaurant on Thursday, May 29th and 25% of your food bill will be donated to **CAMP HEARTLAND**, the nation's largest summer camping program helping children impacted by HIV/AIDS.

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The Boulevard Inn
Cafe Melange
Ed Debevic's
Edwardo's
Gus' Mexican Cantina
King & I
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Miss Katie's Diner
The Safe House*

EAST SIDE

Chancery Pub and Restaurant
Don Quijote
Ichiban
Mama Roux Bar & Grill
Mimma's Cafe
Outpost Natural Foods*
The Pasta Tree
Sandwich Emporium
Serafino's

MILWAUKEE NORTH

King & I II

MILWAUKEE SOUTH

Chancery Pub and Restaurant
Fritz's on Second

MEQUON/NORTHSHORE

The Centennial Bar & Grill
Chancery Pub and Restaurant
Chip & Py's
Donges Bay Clubhouse
The Highland House
Maniaci's Cafe Siciliano
Mini's Restaurant

RACINE/KENOSHA

Chancery Pub and Restaurant
(Harbourwalk & Racine locations)
Los Tres Reyes
The Summit Restaurant
Yardarm Bar & Grill

BROOKFIELD/WAUKESHA

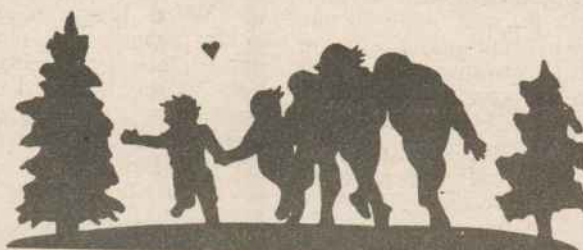
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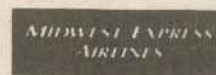


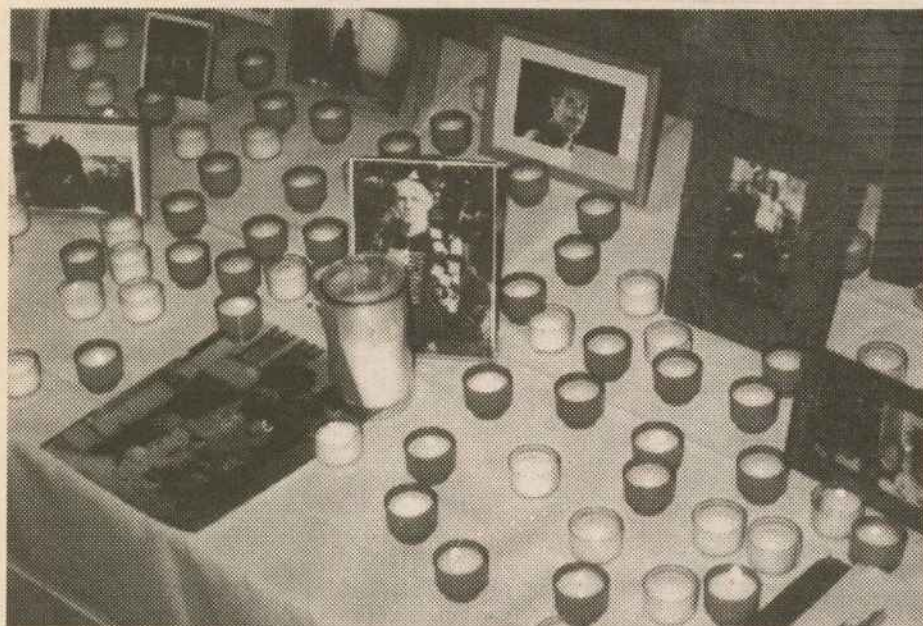
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THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF MILWAUKEE





Jerry Johnson



Candles of Remembrance Dozens of candles were lit during the Milwaukee observance of the International Candle Light Memorial for victims at AIDS held at the Miller Pavilion at Milwaukee's O'Donnell Park May 4. The event attracted 75 people who came to remember friends and family members who have fallen during the fight against AIDS. Pictures of those who have died adorned the room. Live music and speeches were on the program.

Trying to Survive: A Simple Declaration of Equality Before the Laws

Commentary by Cherok Coupe

Erica is four. She stands at a sink scrubbing her skin. She is crying. It's there, that "stain." It won't come off. It is an indelible mark, that does not lessen her appearance nor suppress her beauty. But it has been a scar that has tarnished her Blackness. Even at her age, she realizes the significance her skin color will make in American society. Her color is something she will never control. Yet, she will always be identified with it and by it. It is not her skin that is tarnished, but America's history and society's mind.

Marc

Marc cut his wrists the right way—just once. Once was all it took. His parents, his teachers, his classmates, even his Church denied him, harassed him, failed to love him. He was only different, as different as we all are compared to each other. Unfortunately, he was labeled a freak, a cleric tagged him an abomination in the eyes of God. He could not change who he was. And what he could control, a few hours and a warm bath took away.

On June 1st, the Gay population was less one. And the world was not a better place.

Martha

Twenty-six years of marriage, three children and a miscarriage, Martha finally left home. She lost her children because of abuse, that she endured and could not stop. She was a victim as much as her children. She turned her head and closed her ears, this way—in her mind—the assaults, emotionally, sexually, physically on her kids became invisible. Deafened, silenced by passivity, she coped.

Sharon

Sharon watched while a police officer took her son. She endured the pain of a court awarding custody to her mother.

David fathered and nurtured his children, only to be denied visitation after an emotionally costly divorce.

The influence of a Gay parent can not be in the best interests of a child, so says the rhetoric. Yet, can it be any worse than a grandparent or co-parent who threatens that relationship? Who says parents love their children unconditionally?

Sheila

Sheila arrived for her interview, after several attempts to enter the building. All the interviewer saw was a wheelchair. After two hours of forced conversation and a week of waiting, the letter arrived.

"As we have received numerous inquiries regarding employment..."

Sheila mouthed the words, breathing in the insincerity of the rejection letter.

Across the street, on the other side of the state, on the other coast, Greg was summarily discharged from duty. Qualified in every respect, he was a threat to unit cohesion. Not because a disability prevented him from working, but the mental handicap of others perceived him as a threat to their masculinity.

Scapegoating

Our lives are threatened. Our careers are disrupted or prematurely ended. Our children are taken away. Our unions and families devalued and dismissed. Our futures jeopardized by the ever changing politics of scapegoating.

Now is my time to shout!

I do not need outside validation of my self and of my worth. Stay out of my bedroom, stay out of my home, stay out of my head. What I need is for people who hate, because they are ignorant or bored, or hate simply to hate, to leave me alone!

My people and our situations are not fiction. This is the reality we live. Where

was the educational system; the rewriting of history; the validation of a human child just because she's a child? Where were the concerned humans—teachers, parents, students, clergy—who failed to actively work to remove the racial barriers, mental or physical, to show Erica that being Black does not equate to inferiority or a bleak future?

Where was the government to prevent and educate society through law and policy about the inclusion of certain social doctrines that were created to protect Martha, Sharon, David, Sheila and Greg from deprivation?

But most importantly, American society and its interest in preserving and protecting human life failed Marc. When he needed tolerance, he received memorized religious dogma. When he needed counseling, education and support, it was censored or denied.

When he needed the protection of the laws of the U.S. Constitution and secondary legislation, that protection eluded him. And as justice and fairness or simply understanding seemed beyond his grasp, the opportunity ever to enjoy life faded—permanently.

The purpose of this essay is not to bash politics, politicians, religion or espouse the virtues or lack thereof of political correctness or diversity. There is a simple need for communication and respect of the human condition in all its varied forms. All people are due and owed equal access to opportunities and equal benefit of law. There should be no differential in the way we respect each other on the basis of physical condition, attribute, status, character or person.

The use of race, sex, disability and sexual orientation as parallels is not to establish their likeness or similarity, but to show that the protection of one should extend to protect all.

There is no limit to the abundance of freedom. There is no scarcity in the supply or demand for the recognition of equality, equal treatment and equal opportunity.

Political movements have used the idea of limited liberty to pit subordinated groups against each other. As we fight one another, we also tear at the protections already achieved. Political and social conservatives grin, as other minorities (i.e. protected classes) opposed to Gay and Lesbian civil rights are making the case for the repeal of all civil rights.

New York's Pride Seeking LGBT Entertainers

Milwaukee—Heritage of Pride, Inc. (HOP), the not-for-profit producer of New York City's Lesbian and Gay Pride events, is seeking entertainers for its PrideFest, Sunday, June 29th, in Greenwich Village. The PrideFest stage provides six hours of free, continuous entertainment to an audience of over 7,500 at any one time, while the entire PrideFest attracts over 350,000 people.

Christian Ledan, PrideFest stage coordinator commented, "We are on a nationwide search for the most outstanding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender talent around. HOP is looking for comedians, singers, bands, and female impersonators. We seek a broad range of musical

styles, but are especially looking for High Energy Dance, R&B, Rock, Folk, Jazz, Country, and Cabaret/Theatre acts."

All entertainers must submit a CD, VHS or cassette tape of their material. Material should have a Gay/Lesbian focus. Entertainers must also submit a photo and bio at the same time. No act accepted for the PrideFest stage will be paid for performing.

All submissions should be sent to: Heritage of Pride, 154 Christopher Street, Suite 1-D, New York, NY 10014, Attn.: PrideFest Stage. Submission deadline is June 13, 1997.

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Politically Speaking

A Stitch In Time Saves Nine

By Bill Meunier
By now you have probably heard about AB 104, Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay marriage bill. You may also be wondering why you should care about whether or not it passes.

After all Gay marriage is already prohibited in Wisconsin. Seratti's bill will do nothing to change that. Furthermore even if some other state legalizes Gay marriages its not likely that the courts, even the federal courts, would or could force Wisconsin to recognize them.

"So what's the big deal?" you may be asking. Well it is a big deal, a very big deal.

In politics nothing including Ms Seratti's bill is what it seems to be. This bill is in fact somewhat of a stalking horse. In other words it's a test case, a shake down cruise for the homophobic Radical Right.

You see the Right Wing also knows what you know. They are well aware of the fact that Serratti's bill changes nothing with regard to Gay marriage. That was never their aim and intent to begin with.

If AB 104 passes, our friends in the legislature believe we will soon see a parade of anti-Gay bills being unleashed in the State Legislature. As one staffer put it, "They are trying to build momentum and this bill could be a great momentum builder for them."

AB 104 breaks a truce that has existed since the passage of AB 70. For the last fifteen years, the State Legislature has steadfastly refused to give serious consideration to either pro or anti Gay bills. It's passage would be a bad omen, a very bad omen.

What the Radical Right is trying to do is get legislators on record voting against us. They are using an issue that arouses passion among the ignorant in an effort to get them all stirred up and in a fighting mood.

The real aim of all this hub bub has yet to be revealed but you can bet that if AB 104 passes it won't be long before we find out what that aim is.

It might be repeal of AB 70, Wisconsin's landmark Gay civil rights law. It might deny funds to school districts that refuse to tell Gay teens they are sick. It

might be denying funds to AIDS groups that provide graphic information on safe sex.

It might be all of those things and then some. Never underestimate the fertile hateful minds of our enemies. The passage of AB 104 would break the ice for the homophobes and there is no telling what will bubble up to the surface.

That's a hard concept to explain to people and that's why groups like Action Wisconsin have worked hard to get everyone who even thought about wearing a pink triangle to call their state legislators and protest this odious piece of legislation.

The hope is that if Gays, Lesbians and their supporters raise a big enough stink, the more level headed minds in the State Legislature will come to their senses and remember why they had a truce to begin with.

The hope is that if we can convince them that the amount of trouble they will have to go through to beat up on us is not worth any perceived political advantage they will quietly back away from voting on AB 104 in the State Senate.

Believe it or not, not all politicians are as callous as Ms. Serratti. Some of them try to avoid unnecessary divisive bills in favor of accomplishing something.

Give them a quick hit they think the voters will love and they will go for it. Give them a lot of trouble over something they'd rather not deal with anyway and they will back away.

So think about that while you are deciding whether or not you wish to protest AB 104. And while you are at it think about a few other things too.

Think about all of those who have devoted most of their lives for the last few months fighting this bill. They aren't asking for much, just a phone call to your State Representative and State Senator telling them where Lorraine Seratti can take her bill and put it.

Think about how the next Anti-Gay bill to come the pipe will be something that will be important to us and that will make a difference in your life.

Think about the 10 year girl with two Lesbian moms who testified in Wausau about how this bill would "hurt my family a lot." Think about how many other children she spoke for.

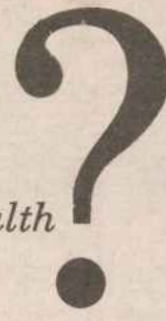
Think about how ticked off "Rev" Ralph Ovadal and his ilk would be if AB 104 doesn't pass.

After you've thought about all of that. Think about something else. It only takes a few minutes to pick up the phone call your State Legislator and demand rejection of AB 104. A few minutes now that can save lots of headaches later.

Last but not least think about how true that old expression is, "A stitch in time saves nine."

Think about that and then pick up the phone and make the call. Time is running out.

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LTGB Visibility is not Necessarily a Positive Contribution to Our Struggle

Commentary by Jacquelyn Richter

Now that the frenzy of the Packers' Super Bowl win is over, I still get questions about the famous Holiday Inn Trans ad. Specifically, people want to know why some Transsexuals object to the use of a Transsexual character in their ad.

I don't pretend to speak for all Transsexuals, but only for myself. My opinions are my own and do not represent official positions of an organization to which I belong. In the unlikely event that other members agree with my statements, blame Murphy's Law.

Of late, many in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexual community are objecting over the use of straight actors to portray members of the GBLT community. The examples are legion: *Birdcage*, *Too Wong Foo*, *Philadelphia*, etc., while Hollywood has maintained a double standard of not using "out" GBLT actors for straight and even Gay roles.

In this ad again, we have a straight, non Transgendered actress attempting to portray a Transsexual woman. This, even though many Trans actresses/models would be available to portray this role. Some, such as the model in the recent liquor ads are quite photogenic. Why not use a Trans actress for this role?

When I was Vice President of the Try-ess Chi Chapter, Chicago, I took on the task of locating a new meeting site for this organization. One site I investigated was the suburban Holiday Inn-La Grange. The motel agreed to let us use a meeting room at the hotel.

After our first meeting, Ch chapter Tri-ess was asked not to return because some members had the audacity to use the bar, lobby, restaurant and public restrooms. This was a "family motel" after all, they related.

If you think this is an isolated incident or ancient history, I would dispel that notion. This incident happened a short five years ago and is not the first or last time I have been refused service or harassed by a business organization.

In the face of blatant Transphobia by

some individual Holiday Inns, how can I support their use of a Trans character in a commercial? This would be akin to Denny's using a Black spokesperson or Cracker Barrel or Walmart using Gay people in their ads.

How ironic that while I'm unwelcome at some hotels, I'm acceptable as a shock image in an ad.

If these Trans people are not welcome in lobbies, restaurants, bars, rest rooms, swimming pools or, in some cases, any public area, what is the likelihood that a Trans person would be hired as a desk clerk, waitress, bartender or even a maid? Remember that only 4 states have civil rights laws guaranteeing fair treatment in employment for Trans people.

The misuse of a Trans character served two purposes in this ad. Super Bowl ads are very expensive so companies go to great lengths to get and hold your attention. Humor and surprise are frequently used for this purpose. The "shock" of a Transsexual in a mainstream ad, the shocked expression of this person's former classmate, the humor of the situation, these things were Holiday Inn's intent in misusing this Trans character.

For many people, Trans continues to equal surgical mutilation of one's genitals even though the true transformation is in the soul. Being a Transsexual is about how you live your life, not about how many surgeries you can afford.

The mental transformation of a person living as one gender to living as the opposite gender, learning to deal with all the losses—sometimes the complete loss of all physical, monetary, career, and emotional ties to a former life, learning to deal with society's prejudice, these are the true transitions of a Transsexual's, not surgeries.

Holiday Inn's ad perpetuates the stereotype that transitioning is about surgeries. This stereotype is as erroneous to one as for a Lesbian to be characterized solely by what she does in her bedroom. These are the least important aspects of who we are, but the greatest focal points

of the unenlightened.

There are those who have argued that the visibility afforded is of paramount importance. Where this visibility is positive as in Martina Navratilova, Rudy Galindo, Tiger Woods, etc, I would agree. In this ad, where stereotypes were perpetuated, a group of people are misused for shock and humor by a Transphobic organization, I feel the negatives far outweigh the positives of visibility.

The Empire, This Is It, Tommy and the Tories

Milwaukee—It was not a good day. They had been out the night before, and had gotten in late, which wasn't the worst of it. By all accounts, "New" Labour was going to win big in Britain. Tommy, a native of the Isle of Man, had been a Tory when Maggie Thatcher was nothing more than a gleam in her father's eye. He winced at the thought of Labour getting in. Yet, there was nothing for it. Labour or no Labour, Tommy had to carry on.

It was Lauren's birthday, his 6—ah, well, his 21st—again. Lauren was Tommy's love, the sweet and most supremely important human fact in his life and Tommy had to get ready for the party. There was a lot of cooking to be done.

The party went off as scheduled. It was held at This Is It, Lauren's and Tommy's "home" bar. A better place could not have been found, so Tommy and others thought.

At This Is It, the two of them gathered, time and again, joining with friends, young and those whose hour glass figures had seen time running down. To This Is It came, women and men not only all ages, but those from every ethnic background under the sun. The bar was almost a microcosm of what "the Empire" had once been.

But there was at least one difference between This Is It and the Empire as she'd once stood. For whatever else it was, the Empire wasn't fun. This Is It was fun, a Gay bar where there was laughter and much talk. Talk about nothing in particular, mind you, but fun talk.

Well, maybe there was one more difference. The Empire was vast, covering one quarter of the world's surface, it did. This

Is It was smaller, more intimate, a place like Cheers, where everyone knew your name.

Despite the distractions, Lauren's party came off, and came off well. Everyone said that. The music played, there was the usual laughter, all well into the evening, past the setting of the sun. In this corner of Milwaukee, in a place called This Is It, the Empire brightly shown again.

Of course, we might add that Lauren's party isn't the only one at This Is It, not by far. For example, Ruthie's party is fast approaching. For this one, the analogy to the British Empire breaks down (shatters to pieces, actually). Perhaps Tiberius on the Isle of Capri will be closer to the truth.

NIGHT LIGHT

Continued from Page 17

Roux up to the big doings. Hope you will join me.

Then on **Saturday May 24**, I'll be at the Milwaukee Classic at Wick Field. This is one tournament you don't want to miss. There is free admission, lots of excitement and some great softball. Don't miss it.

That evening you can find me at **B's** Lana's tribute to Broadway. Lana being the thoughtful thing that she is has even scheduled an all ages show for 6:30. I'll be at the late show at 10:30.

Sunday May 25 is the wrap of the Milwaukee Classic. Come on down to Wick Field and cheer the champs onto victory.

Well that about wraps it up. I hope that you have enjoyed the last year as much as I have. I also hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud.

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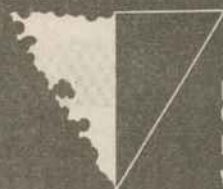
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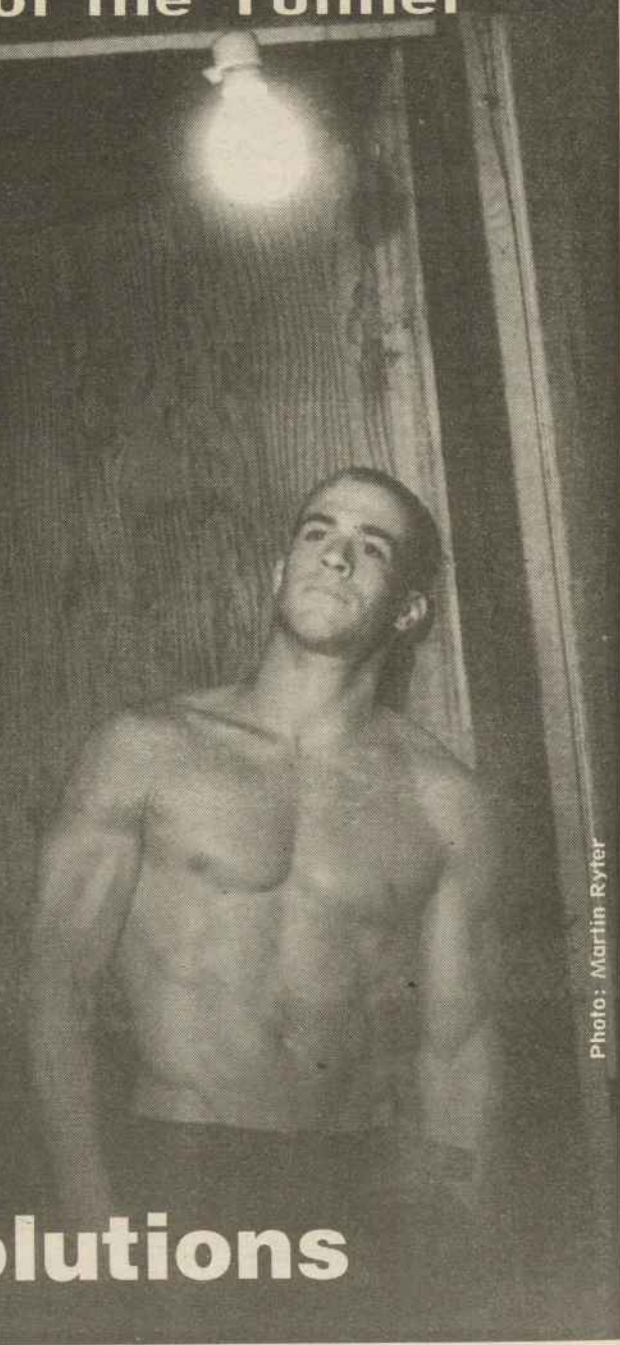


Photo: Martin Ryfer

While Out Gays Find Cities to be Accepting, Life in Rural Areas Can be Difficult

Milwaukee—Though we encourage Lesbians and Gay men to be open and above board about their sexual orientation, life for openly Lesbian and Gay people can be difficult at times. We all know that.

For example, Jonathan goes to school. He plays with friends and takes part in the Christmas play. But when he goes home, there's daddy and daddy.

Jonathan's father, Cliff Junkins, lives with his life partner, John Moseley, and shares custody of his two children with his ex-wife. Jonathan, 10, lives with Junkins and Moseley. Joshua, 8, lives with his mother.

The Junkins family represents a face of the Gay and Lesbian community that few outside the Gay world know anything about. The fact is that most Lesbian and Gay male couples, like Cliff and John, live much as do their heterosexual counterparts, normal, everyday, even rather hum-drum lives.

Whether in Milwaukee or Madison, Minneapolis or San Francisco, they work. They own businesses. They are doctors and lawyers, construction workers and waitresses. They are moms and dads.

Life is just a little more difficult for same-sex couples than it is for straights.

Gays in Minneapolis, for example, don't seem to be as worried about physical violence as they once were. But a code of silence and fear still keeps a large number of Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men in the closet.

Junkins, Moseley and the two children aren't the Brady Bunch, but they do consider themselves a family. Moseley is a registered nurse at a Minneapolis hospital, and Junkins works for a department store in the linen department.

"It's no different than being a regular parent," said Junkins, 29. "I have the same feelings. It's just I'm with someone else to share my life. My wife and I didn't get a divorce because I was Gay. We got a divorce because we didn't get along."

Junkins married at 17. Four years later he was separated from his wife, and soon after he "came out." He has been with Moseley for two years.

Junkins' describes his 1992 divorce as bitter, with the children used as weapons. Restraining orders were issued to keep Junkins away from his wife, and thousands of dollars went to lawyers. Gay friends rallied around him, offering emotional support and holding fund-raisers to help pay the legal bills.

The center of the dispute was the fact that Junkins' lover has tested positive for HIV, which causes AIDS.

"Finally, when she saw that Cliff was not backing down and saw that she had no legal basis to keep him from seeing the children, she agreed to joint custody," said Moseley, 35.

Moseley loves the kids. But he said being a Gay parent is a challenge.

"Jonathan calls me by my first name and I sometimes hear him telling people that I'm his other dad," he said. "I'll discipline them. I'll help them with their homework. But I do try to keep a little distance."

The touchiest subjects were Moseley's HIV status and explaining homosexuality.

"We sat them down and explained our relationship by telling them that grown-ups do have to have a mate," Moseley said. "We said most men will have a mate that's a woman, and some men have mates that are men."

Moseley and Junkins explained that they were mates.

"When we told them, it seemed like a non-

event to them," he said. "They said 'OK, can we play now?' and Cliff and I sat there wondering if we got the message across."

The boys' teachers know. The principal knows. The neighbors know, and Junkins and Moseley say they haven't had many problems. Sometimes they even babysit for some of the neighbors.

"The other children in the apartment building play with the kids," Moseley said. "We take them to parties at their friends' houses from school, and when we go we are usually together. I'm sure the parents understand the relationship."

Others may understand, but many Gay people say that they live with fear daily. Probably the most common worry is that of losing a job if their sexual orientation is discovered.

A Gay doctor in a Wisconsin city was reluctant to be identified in this news story for fear he would lose patients and the industrial contracts that make up the bulk of his practice.

Several years ago he said that he appeared in a television interview speaking sympathetically on AIDS and Gay issues in the state. The next day, he said, three companies canceled contracts totalling about \$300,000 annually.

He said Wisconsin has a reputation for being liberal and tolerant of diversity, but sometimes he wonders.

"I don't think there is any question that we've made great strides as far as tolerance in this country," he said.

For awhile before moving north, he lived in Mobile, Alabama. "The national sport there and in much of the South is the legitimization of prejudice, and one way is by the churches and the Right Wing extremists."

The Rev. Helene Loper, pastor of predominantly Gay Cornerstone Metropolitan Community Church in Mobile, echoed his sentiments.

"That is the most difficult part of my ministry—people that have been so wounded by the teachings of some churches that being Gay and Lesbian is a sin," she said.

Small town life can be particularly frightening, a situation not relegated to the South.

One young gay man who works as a manager in a retail store in Butler, a small town near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is so fearful of his family or co-workers finding out he is Gay that he does not go out to Gay bars and avoids relationships.

But John Bailes, who lives in a rural county in Alabama, says he has never had any problems. A tenured professor at Tuskegee University, he is active in the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of his state.

Bailes did not openly live as a Gay man until he moved back from Huntsville, where he "came out" while living there for three years. Bailes said it was easier for small-town residents to deal with his sexuality because they knew him as a person first.

"And I guess the fact that I don't have a partner means that even though people know I'm Gay, they don't have to deal with any issues associated with that," said Bailes. "It's easier for them to forget the fact that I'm Gay or not think about it."

The issue Moseley and Junkins most fear is AIDS. Moseley is the healthiest he's been since he was diagnosed and is on experimental medication.

"That's always been a touchy subject for me because I don't like to think about that—period," said Junkins, who does not have the disease. "I love him very much and I could tell you right now I don't know what I'd do if he wasn't here."

The men also worry about how society will treat Jonathan and Joshua.

"When is the badgering going to start? Has it started already? We wonder," Moseley said.

Being Gay in rural areas can be difficult. While some residents of urban areas have accepted Gay people, many Lesbians and Gay men find life in the country to be far more challenging.

As in Mississippi or Kansas or Wisconsin, rural Gays often are targets of violence because they are more easily identified in small, close-knit communities, said Stephen Kerigan, president of the board of directors for Alternative Resources of the Triad, an information center for Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals.

For example, sixty incidents of anti-Gay hate crimes were reported in North Carolina in 1993, the last year for which complete statistics are available, according to North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence. Most of these were in rural areas.

The North Carolina Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality reported 364 homophobic offenses in 1993, including two stabbing deaths in rural Sampson County, 15 assaults, two kidnappings and 149 instances of intimidation.

The isolation faced by rural Gays can be more than just physical, said Kathryn Smith, a counselor who founded Alternative Resources of the Triad.

Smith, who grew up in New York and moved to the Sandy Ridge community of northeastern Stokes County about 15 years ago, said she hasn't told a lot of people about

her sexual orientation, but doesn't hide it, either.

"I've come out to a few select souls in Sandy Ridge," she told the **Winston-Salem Journal**. "The isolation is physical, but it's also intellectual. They (rural residents) don't get exposed to many ideas. They're expected to fall into line. They're expected to graduate from high school, go to work in a textile mill and get married."

Betty Moore, a Davidson County commissioner, agreed that Lesbians and Gay men in rural counties such as Davidson face discrimination, but says God favors discrimination against Gays. "I think religion plays a big part of it around here," she said. "I just don't think it's a correct lifestyle. I think they could be cured if they wanted to. It's just not natural."

Alfred Ayscue, a Mount Airy minister and former president of the Baptist State Convention, said some church leaders discriminate against Lesbians and Gay men. Ayscue, who retired from Calvary Baptist Church in December after 21 years, said he didn't discriminate, but he also never knew any openly Gay church members.

"While I cannot agree with that particular lifestyle, I certainly feel that those people shouldn't be ignored and that some kind of compassion should be given to them," he said.

When Shelby Nichols learned her son was Gay, she didn't speak to him for almost two months.

But her horror has turned to acceptance and now she and another Mount Airy minister have started Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or P-FLAG.

Nichols and the minister, who asked not to be identified, hope to bring Gay people back to the church and keep them from moving away from small towns.

"Heterosexuals always thought they had a monopoly on God," the minister said. "They don't. He's their God as much as he is ours."

HAWAII

Continued From Page 1

Attorney Dan Foley, who represents the three same-sex couples denied marriage licenses said what the bills do "is to deny rights because both houses are working on the assumption that unless they do something the plaintiffs will prevail and have equal rights, meaning marriage."

There's no guarantee the Supreme Court will hold off a final ruling to legalize same-sex marriages in Hawaii just because the Legislature approves the two bills, Foley said.

Hawaii's legal case on same-sex marriages prompted legislatures across the country to consider preemptive action act because the U.S. Constitution says marriages performed in one state must be recognized in all.

In response, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act to deny federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allowing states not to recognize same-sex unions licensed in other states. President Clinton signed it in September.

Florida would become the 19th state acting not to recognize same-sex unions under a bill sent to Gov. Lawton Chiles on Tuesday.

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May Horoscope

By Dean Poh
Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Happy Birthday Taurus! This month the Sun and Mars combine to send white hot bolts throughout your physique. You're horny. Your thighs are moist. Your loins boil with lust. You're partnered? Oh boy! The temptation to cheat is going to be so great. Actually, if you're truthful with yourself, you know that your relationship has been on the skids for some time now. A breakup is nearly inevitable. So, yield to temptation and be careful, okay?

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

A project of yours, Gemini, will take a big advance, opening like the bud of a lotus in full and beautiful bloom. Be serene, Gemini. This project has been blessed by the gods from the start. The only thing that can hurt you is your own loss of faith.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

May is not your month, Cancer. A dark cloud hovers close. The thing is, you've brought a lot of it on yourself—which is always the way with you. It's going to take extreme care to avoid disaster, but it can be done, if you're willing to shed some tears and get on with your life.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

You exude command and authority, Leo, but underneath, you are so unsure of yourself. This affects everything, including your sex life. There is someone near you who wants you to take command and cannot understand your hesitation. Live according to your nature, Leo. That is happiness for you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept 22)

Ever practical Virgo, summer's coming and you thought you wouldn't be able to travel, too expensive—so you thought. Things will change. You're off to another city or, in some cases, another country. Whichever it is, Virgo, you're in for the hottest, wildest time of your stuffy career.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Spring is not your time of year, Libra. You are a child of Autumn, golden, hazy. Then you glow. Now, your creativity (your strongest suit) is blocked. You're frustrated to the max. No sense fighting it. Relax and wait, confident that your soul will sing again. Take heart in the knowledge that creation is your destiny and you will fulfill it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You love little curio shops, Scorpio. In May you will visit one and be strangely drawn to an item. Yield to your little voice that is always with you and buy it. It will bring you much joy for many, many years.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The spirits are very close to you in May, Sagittarius. You are unusually sensitive, a mystic in many ways, so you know that. One, especially, a lost love, hovers near. Know and be comforted.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan 19)

There is disharmony in you, Capricorn. If you let this go on, you will set yourself up for financial loss and bodily dysfunction. To restore your peace, walk among the daffodils and sing the song that has been yours from the start.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Two seek your heart, Aquarius. You flow from one to the other and back again. If you are not to lose them both, you must make a choice, as hard as that is for you to do.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

In May, Pisces, you will discover what it is meant for you to do in life. The problem is, you may not like it. But you are the Gayest of the Gay and you will triumph in the end.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

It is going to happen, Aries! Finally, it's going to happen! Have faith in that. The spheres are all singing your song, the one only you and one other can hear. For so long, your heart's destined one has been searching for you. At a social function you will finally meet. The Mandate of Heaven requires your love.

Editor's Note: Dean Poh is a resident of Hong Kong, but will be moving to Manila in June. He is an astrologer of wide experience, but he is also a gifted seer who, as he says, uses many means to divine the future. He ascribes his sensitivity to his being Gay because "Gay people are on the seventh and highest rung of spiritual evolution."

His column will be offered in Wisconsin Light for your enjoyment once a month.

AIR FORCE

Continued from Page 1

wise, his blood is on their conscience." In the last issue of Wisconsin Light, the paper printed a Letter to the Editor from a person in the military requesting anonymity because he was "afraid of my physical safety" if it were known he was Gay.

The writer, noting that he was "deeply closeted" and that it's "a horror to live that

way," speculated that Button had committed suicide because he was Gay.

LaMarca said the Air Force decided only Wednesday, April 30th, to convene an accident investigation board that will look at all aspects of the case, including Button's personal life.

The newspaper has made "some very clear assumptions or accusations of a military investigator close to the source," LaMarca said. "I'm here to tell you that the board just convened, and I'm not even sure whether all the investigators are out there yet."

If Button, who was single, was Gay, he could have faced discharge. The Pentagon deems homosexuality incompatible with military service.

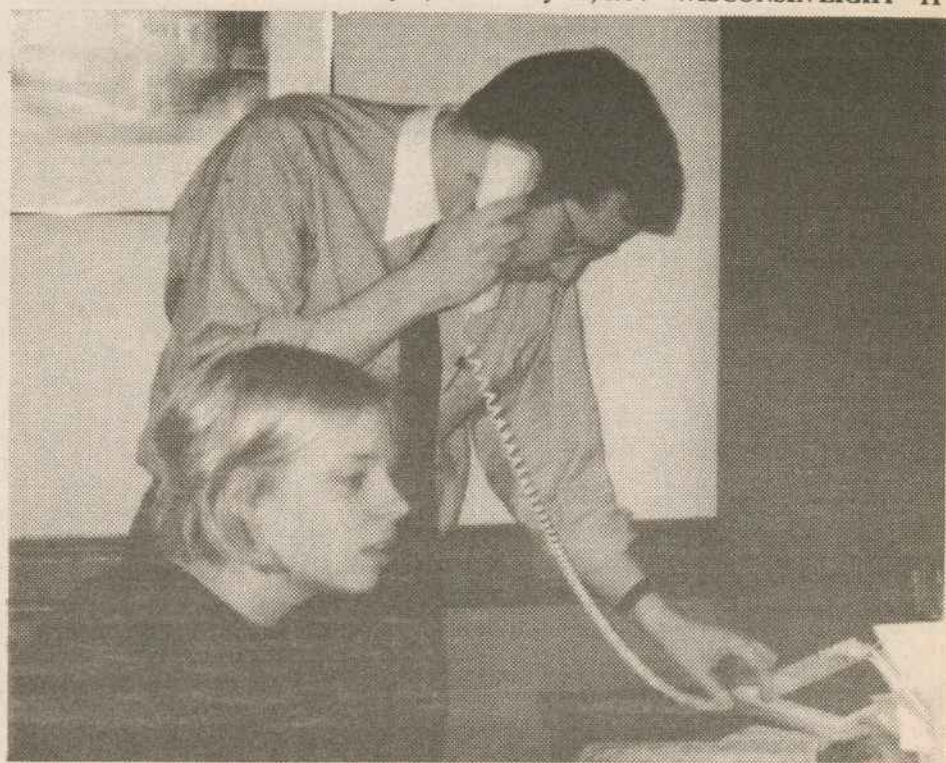
The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI), which investigates undetermined deaths of Air Force personnel, is conducting its own inquiry.

"We're not discounting anything and dismissing any possibilities at this point," said Capt. Steve Murray, an OSI spokesman in Washington.

Button's \$8.8 million plane was the last in a three-plane formation heading toward a bombing range in southwestern Arizona on April 2 when it veered off course, eventually crashing near Vail, Colorado.

In 1992, the Navy was obliged to apologize for initially saying a suicidal, Gay sailor was to blame for the 1989 explosion that killed him and 46 shipmates on the USS Iowa. The Navy said its investigation uncovered there was no proof the sailor was to blame, and apologized to his family.

Friday's report came on the same day



Busy Office Our photographer dropped by Tammy Baldwin's office and as usual found it very busy as the staff fielded calls and provided information about the fight over AB 104, Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay Marriage bill. Things are likely to get even hectic as the vote on the bill draws near. There will be a Statewide rally against 104 on Monday May 12 at the State Capitol at 7:00, followed by a post rally celebration at Scandals bar, 121 W. Main Street. Have you called your Legislators on AB 104 yet? If not there is no time like the present.

Button was buried on New York's Long Island. About 40 relatives and friends met at a funeral home in Button's hometown of

Massapequa and then proceeded to the nearby Long Island National Cemetery for another prayer before burial.

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Buddies! Openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer and Brenda Perry from Mayor Sue Bauman's staff share some fun together at our SpotLight party at Scandals on April 30

A Trip Through New York's Gay Leather Scene Back in the Days Before AIDS

By Don V.

My life in leather started relatively early. As a 12 year old, my fantasies were fed by the front cover illustrations of "straight" sex novels with leather and s/m overtones. They featured incredibly masculine, unshaven and bare-chested men tied up and tortured by the masculine brutes.

More fertilizers for my adolescent mind were TV shows in the sixties like "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and "The Wild, Wild West." My right hand developed its strength much faster than my left due to those fantasies. Oh to be the captured spy, hung from my wrists and abused, only to be rescued by the ever so handsome Robert Conrad.

As I grew older, some guilt-ridden introspection caused a period of self-denial. Not until my college years in the early seventies did I let the leather fantasies rear their (beautiful) heads again.

As a 21 year old, I wanted to come out, reach out, make contact. The only thing was, I didn't know how. I wanted the man of my fantasies to bring me out. At this point of my life, though, I was clue-less as how to meet him.

A couple of more years passed, and every so often I would hear about places like Greenwich Village. Unfortunately I never heard about where to go. A breakthrough finally occurred via the Edgar Bronfman, Jr. kidnapping. Remember that? While trying to collect every detail about his kidnapping, the newspapers broke the story about his homosexual life. Wow! They reported on his activities and which bars he frequented. Clues were now starting to pour in.

Finally, a leather breakthrough: **The Village Voice** mentioned a place called the Ramrod where men into leather collected. It was on West Street between Christopher and West 10th Streets. I decided to go.

There I was on a rainy Saturday night, sitting in my car under the West Side Highway. Across the street was the Ramrod. Seeing the men entering and exiting the bar both terrified and elated me. I couldn't even muster up the courage to leave the safety of

my car let alone cross the threshold of the bar.

For nearly every Saturday night of 1976 I repeated this vigil of sitting in my car for hours on end under the West Side Highway. Sitting, watching, waiting and praying someone would notice, come over and take me home. Those were my times of sexual expectation and hope.

At last, I met someone (a story of its own) and entered into the world of gay male leathersex. More and more, I found out about places populated by men like me. Little by little I started to frequent them. Looking back, these places formed a collage of fond memories of "nights out" and actualized fantasies.

Take a walk with me to some of them. I'll tell you what Leather Gay New York was like in the "good old days."

Let's start by going over to Second Avenue and the northwest corner of East 6th Street. No, not a leather bar, but definitely in its heyday, a part of leather New York: The Saint. At this place, the old Fillmore East, there were Black Parties of renown with rumored circumcisions, piercings, tattooing and s/m sex scenes taking place to the beat of music under the spectacular dome.

Any given Saturday night, you would find incredible shirtless men dancing their asses off. And later on, you'd see them at the Mineshaft. There was nothing like it. I love recounting this short story:

1981. After spending a fruitless Friday night in the local New York leather scene, I woke with my best friend in the Hilton Hotel. We looked at each other with sleepy and oh-I-am-sooo-tired-of-New York eyes. He said to me, "Tonight's the Black Party at The Saint." I said, "Let's go." We went.

Now head up to St. Marks Place and make a left. Walk past the street vendors, vintage clothing stores and various restaurants. Just before you reach 4th Avenue, on the south side of the block at #6 St. Marks Place, is a building presently undergoing some renovation: The New Saint Marks Baths. Here is where the disco bunnies got their last licks before the close of each weekend. At this bathhouse you'd find bodies and muscles of great form and sex for days.

Continue to walk westward on St. Marks Place crossing Cooper Square into East 8th Street and across town to the West Village.

Get to Christopher Street and start to stroll around this ever changing neighborhood. It was here as a college undergraduate that I was in awe of the first man I saw in chaps.

At Tiffany's Restaurant, on West Fourth near Christopher Street, you would find leathermen having a burger and fries at 7:00 a.m. after a night at The Saint and Mineshaft.

Dressed in their leathers, black T-shirts wet and torn, they'd eat and listen to conversations by drag queens bragging and moaning about their lost loves of the night before.

Around the corner on Christopher you'll see Boots & Saddle across the street from Citibank. That establishment was usually my first stop on my trips into the Village. It was always sleazy enough for me to get "warmed up," but never interesting enough to stay for the evening.

Walking further down Christopher but turning left at Bleecker Street just a few doors in from the corner was the Marquis de Suede. In its day, it was a terrific little leather shop. Now it's a tchatchke shop.

Further down Christopher and (thankfully) still in business, is the Leather

Man. Prices are pretty high there, but the stock is extensive and staff courteous and knowledgeable. The front display window is frequently changed making for interesting comments (and judgments) by gay vanilla or straight strollers/tourists.

Across the street is Ty's. Although this bar never pretended to be part of the leather circuit, I liked to go in and maybe turn a head or two. Getting cruised there usually got me in the headspace for a great night. Not getting cruised there would put me into a funk.

Christopher Street can be long. Too long. It ends at West Street and what once anchored a cluster of bars: Keller's, to the south on West, Badlands at the northeast corner (now a XXX video store), and a few doors up of course, the Ramrod, which is now a restaurant.

I never scored too often at the Ramrod, but I loved to go look at the scenery. For some reason, the men (who reappeared at other haunts the same night) looked better there.

Crossing over West Street to the river, a series of piers in varying degrees of decay are seen at intervals up and down the Hudson River. Believe it or not, several of them had huge pier housings on them and this area was known as none other than the piers.

It was an extremely dangerous endeavor to cruise the piers. The structures on them were in all sorts of states of collapse, and one never knew who or what sort of person would be met there. If you weren't killed by falling through the rotted pier itself, then there was the risk of being mugged by someone lurking in the shadows. It made Central Park seem like child's play. Yet, many of us were attracted to this darker corner of our underworld.

Get back over to Washington Street and start hiking north. You'll pass another parking lot on Washington and Bethune.

Keep walking and there, at Little West 12th Street, on the northeast corner, now painted pink (and most recently used as a backdrop for a Lands' End men's clothing ad!) are the remains of the Mineshaft. Talk about a story! On any given night, there was fodder for many a novel.

You'd go up the stairs, pay the fee and enter the bar. From there, you could check your clothes and go into the sex arena. The first part had stalls, slings and some glory holes.

In the center was a steep wooden stairwell to descend below. Or, at the other end of the play area was a more conventional stairway. Going down the stairs you'd enter an empty concrete room with men hanging around.

Some waiting for action, others creating it. Through a doorway there was a tub in the middle of a large room. More men, some of them very wet. Up ahead was another small area with several stalls. Shadows became real when they touched your tits. Hands were strong when they pushed you down to the floor. The arms were so protective when they held you tight. Cross through one more doorway, and there was the space: the last, the darkest, and the most hard-core area of the Mineshaft.

I don't even know if it had a name other than the "downstairs bar." This area had a bar, play space and the best of sex music. For some of us, the "downstairs bar" defined sex music. As far as the action went, whipping, flogging, bondage, humiliation. You name it.

One block over to the east and another to the north at 13th Street and 9th Avenue is a triangular building. Bounded by 9th Avenue, 13th and Hudson Streets, this building housed a series of leather/s/m clubs of historical value. One was, and at this writing, still is, J's at street level on the Hudson side. Back in the early '80's, a game of pool and some backroom action all in the same place could definitely make my late twenty-something libido very happy.

On the other side of the building, down a flight of stairs was a space that has had many names but always remained true to the leather New York scene. Its names at times were Hellfire and Manhole. Certain nights it was gay, other nights, straight/mixed. But it was always leather and s/m.

The club was actually under the cobblestone street. Its vaulted brick and concrete rooms housed cages, stocks, tubs and slings.

Enough reminiscing here; time to go further uptown. Head back to 14th and West Streets and you will see a hotel. There, in the basement was The Anvil. In its heyday, the Anvil was a place which combined male go-go dancers with a variety of s/m acts. I never got to witness these acts, but I heard it was pretty explicit.

The Spike Bar was once New York's premier leather bar. It still stands at the corner of West and 20th Streets. My cruise night would never be complete without standing outside and peeing against the wall. While you were peeing or talking with some of the regulars outside of the bar, you might hear a catcall from the Women's House of Detention across the street.

While on West Street continue walking up to the northern corner of 21st Street. There, the Eagle's Nest still rules as it used to, hosting bar nights for handballers and other special interest groups. The Eagle's Nest was always one of my personal favorites. I loved going from the back to the front and around by the black painted johns. For me it was the epitome of a leather bar: dark, masculine, stark and almost rustic.

No recollection of New York's leather scene would be complete without a mention of the "mamma" bathhouse of them all: The Everard Baths (fondly dubbed the Everhards). It closed for a period in the late seventies when a fire took its toll on this bastion of Gay male sexuality. I never experienced its riches, but I loved (and still do) hearing men talk about it. It reopened after the fire, but slowly faded into gay history.

Though the leather scene today is different from that of the seventies and eighties there are new places to create one's own ghosts: the LURE, Rawhide, Dugout, the Tunnel Bar, Zone DK and the Cellblock have become home to many men.

What has changed over these past years is our approach to responsible, safe, sane and consensual sex. What has not changed are our desires and abilities to acknowledge our sexuality.

New Hampshire Legislature Passes Gay Rights Law

New Hampshire- On May 6, 1997, the New Hampshire State Senate voted to join Wisconsin and eight other states with statewide Gay Civil Rights laws.

By a vote of 13 to 9, the Republican controlled body sent a bill to include Sexual Orientation in the State's existing civil rights law to Democratic Governor Jeanne Shaheen who has said that she will sign it.

The bill was passed by the State House on March 18 by a vote of 205 to 125.

New Hampshire is the first state to pass a Gay civil rights law since Rhode Island did so in May, 1995. Other states that include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination laws are: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey and Vermont.

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Ellen's Coming Out Episode Highly Rated by Fans and Viewers Ratings

By Bill Meunier

Despite the predictions of Radical Right Wing forecasting a ratings disaster, the coming out episode of "Ellen" became ABC's highest rated show of the last 12 months.

Overnight ratings said that 35% of all television viewers watched the long awaited hour long episode. In fact "Ellen's" rating was three times higher than the second place program during the last half hour of its showing.

In the episode, Ellen DeGeneres admits to her therapist, friends and a new love interest that she is a Lesbian. The show's April 30th rating was three times its normal viewership.

"You can safely say the network is pleased with the performance," said Anne Riccitelli, an ABC spokeswoman. The show had its highest ratings in Boston and Seattle, where 45% of those watching television tuned in.

While her character came out on TV, DeGeneres herself came out of the closet as well. In interviews with both the electronic and print media, DeGeneres made what some would call a compelling case for coming out and for Gay civil rights.

But the show was not without its detractors. Jerry Falwell referred to DeGeneres as "Ellen DeGenerate." A threatened boycott of the show's sponsors resulted in several of them, including Chrysler, J.C. Penny's and Wendy's pulling their ads from the episode.

But DeGeneres took it all in stride. When told of Falwell's comments she remarked, "He said that? People have been saying that since I was in first grade. I am glad I could give him work."

Across the country, thousands of "Ellen Parties" were held in bars, restaurants and private homes. The Human Rights Campaign alone sent out nearly 5,000 Ellen Party kits.

DeGeneres herself watched the show at a private party in Beverly Hills, while some of her cast members watched it at a Madhatten Night club benefit for GLAAD, Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

In Birmingham Alabama, over 2,000 people bought tickets to watch "Ellen" in the only place they could, the City Auditorium, after the local ABC affiliate said that it would not televise the show.

In numerous places in Wisconsin, thousands of people decided to watch the episode with friends. In Madison, a Wisconsin Light sponsored party at Scandals drew over 100 people and raised around \$300 for Action Wisconsin.

A few blocks away a packed house at Manoeuvres was also enjoying the show. The Scandals party garnered front page coverage from the Wisconsin State Journal newspaper, while the Manoeuvres party was attended by the local ABC station, WKOW, Channel 27.

In Milwaukee, another Wisconsin Light party drew about 75 people to La Cage. Meanwhile a packed house at Just Us drew the attention of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel while the Triangle's Ellen Party was covered by WISN TV. Other parties were held at Fannies and Mama Roux.

The ratings for the show may give those advertisers who pulled their ads second thoughts. Action Wisconsin along with other Les/Bi/Gay organizations has called on its supporters to let Chrysler, Wendy's and J.C. Penny know what they think of their decision to pull out of the show.

At the same time the group has asked people to thank the show's sponsors, Bayer Aspirin, Volkswagen, Time Warner, Unilever, Burlington Coat Factory and Sony.

According to the Associated Press ABC declined to say how much it was charging for commercials on the show, but people familiar with the matter said some commercials were sold for \$300,000 to \$350,000 for 30 seconds.

Although no one expects the show to maintain the high ratings it achieved on April 30th there is rampant speculation on what the numbers will show next week, when Ellen comes out to her parents.

Outside of the reaction from right wing religious zealots, the response from heterosexual America seemed to be generally positive.

"Last night ABC exercised their First Amendment rights, and I think we're a better nation because they did that." Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said in a speech in Los Angeles about the media message to young girls.

In an editorial the New York Times ran on the episode, the paper said "If last night's show is any indication, the new 'Ellen' can hardly be accused of promoting

a lifestyle as much as promoting tolerance."

Reaction to the episode from members of the Gay community who saw it was nearly universally positive. Typical of the reaction were these gathered by the Associated Press.

"She's an excellent role model for people, whether they are gay or lesbian or straight," said Justin Reynolds who joined about 40 people at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. "She can show middle America this is a gay person. We're not all weird."

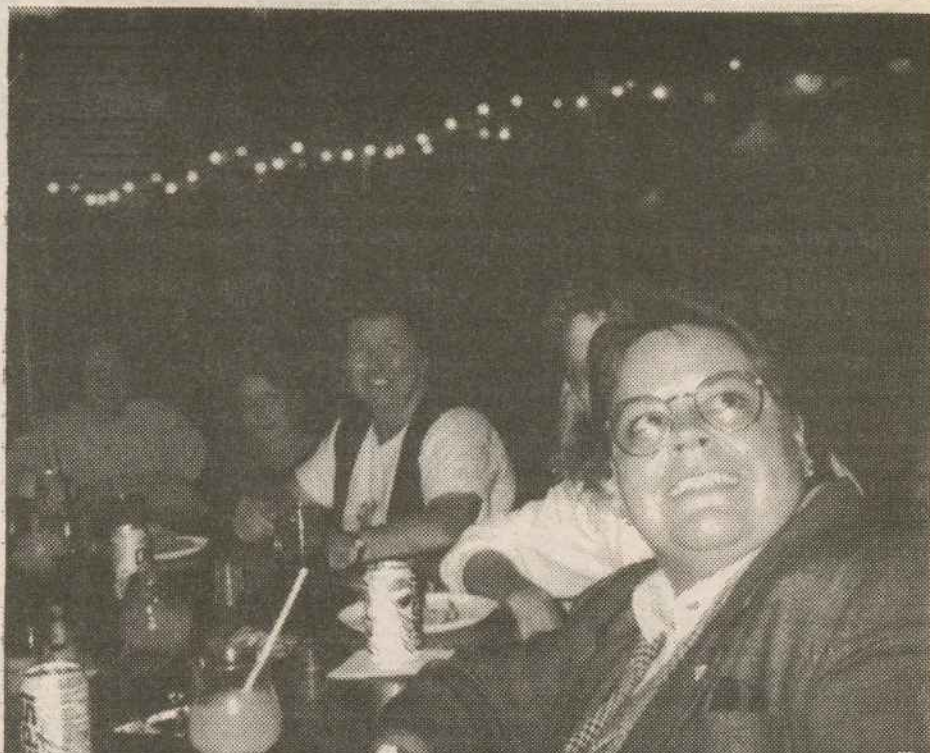
"It wasn't easy for me coming out, either," said Mark Davile at a party in Boston. "But I know we all feel wonderful tonight."

"I think this episode will be great for everyone - women and guys," said Chris Davis a patron at Madhatten's Meow Mix Bar. "Now people will have to talk about it. They won't be able to hide it anymore."

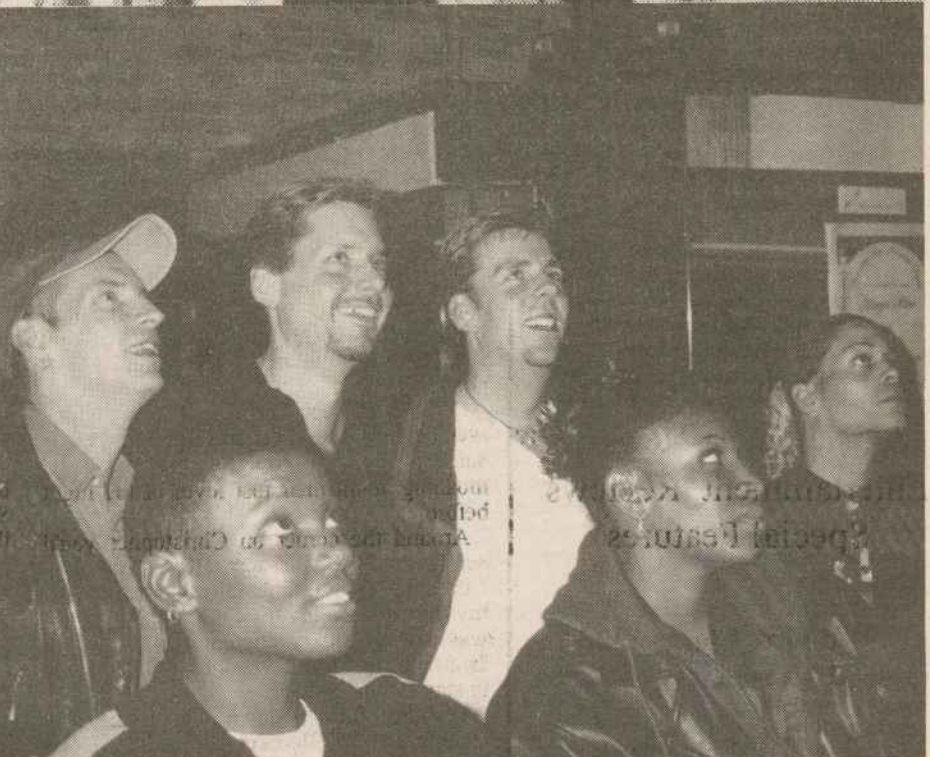
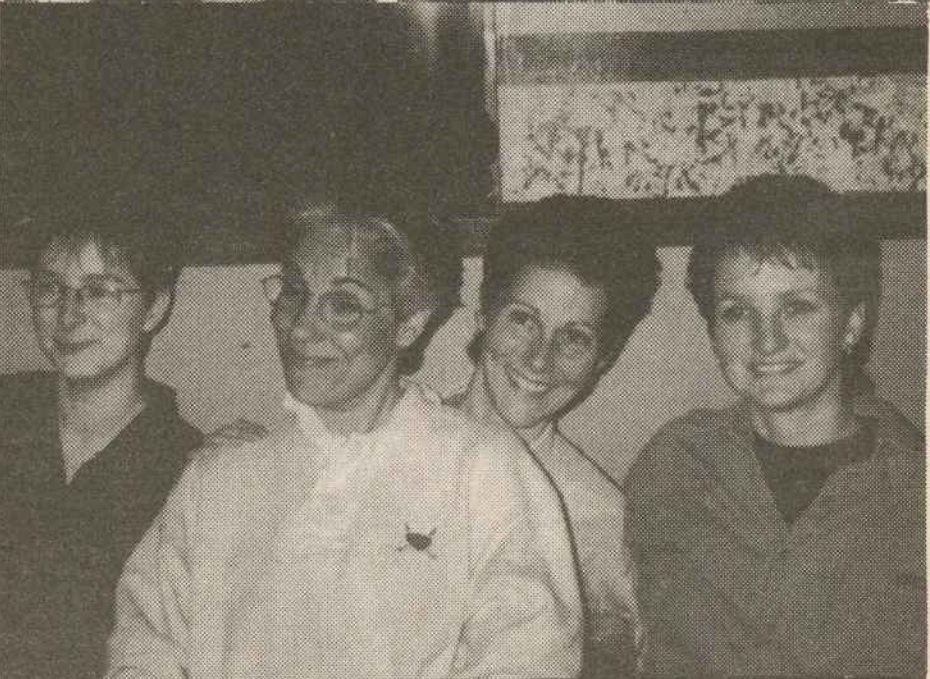
"It's politically powerful because ... let's face it, we are to the right wing what garlic is to Dracula," Rick Garcia said in Chicago, where people were shouting and high-fiving on the North Side strip of Gay clubs.

"So when you have openly Gay people as likable and girl-next-doorish as Ellen, they dispel the myths," added Garcia, Executive director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights.

Or as openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin said at the Scandals party. "Someday hopefully this will be a common event, but for tonight it's really special."



Jerry Johnson



We Came out for Ellen's Coming Out There were lots of Ellen parties around the State on Wednesday April 30. Our photographer ran himself ragged trying to cover them all. Shown at the top are the folks at Station 2, next some friendly faces who helped pack the bar at Just Us, then a group of celebrants at Fannies and last but not least a group of fans who attended our SpotLight party at La Cage.

Announcements

Appleton

Angel of Hope MCC Goes to Appleton

Angels of Hope Metropolitan Community Church will begin a parish extension to Appleton on Sunday May 18.

Worship services will be held at 110 S. Locust, just off of College Ave. at the 700 Block.

The worship service will be on Sunday evenings at 5:00. The first five evenings will have as their subject "Homosexuality and the Bible." The messages will be given by Rev. Ken Hull, the pastor of Angels of Hope MCC.

The Green Bay worship services will continue to be held on Sundays at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM at 614 Forest St.

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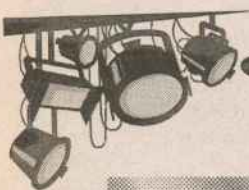
\$10 of each sale goes to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin when you say "Ellen sent me!"

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SPOTLIGHT



Talking to the Stars



Barbara Cook

Barbara Cook At Age 70 Still Going Strong, She Finally Gets Her Oscar

By Jeffrey L. Newman

After more than four decades of dazzling audiences, Barbara Cook is still going strong, playing her cabaret show to standing room only audiences. With a voice that is as pure as gold and the ability to mesmerize her audience with each note, the 70-year old singer is one of the great singing diva of the 20th century.

On her new opus, "Oscar Winners" (DRG Records), a tribute the work of Oscar Hammerstein II, the Tony and Grammy awards-winning songstress is in fine form. Her intoxicating, operatic voice is richer and more powerful than it has ever

been and brings a sense of clarity and purity to these chestnuts of American popular song.

"It is music that appeals to everyone," says Cook in her soft-spoken, Southern-eseque voice. "Hammerstein's music appeals to a lot of different people. Some of these songs are 50 and 60 years old. People grew up listening to these songs. So for a lot of people, it comes with so many memories," she says. "Of course for others, of the younger generation, their parents grew up listening to it and they are

Please Turn to Cook Page 28

Opening Day for the SSBL Rained Out, CCF Gives \$1,500 Grant to League

Milwaukee- Opening Day for the 20th Anniversary Season of the Saturday Soft Ball League proved once again that the best laid plans can go awry. A nearly 24 hour soaking of the softball field at Sijan Park left the league little choice but to postpone, the Saturday May 3 schedule.

Commissioner Dan Nelson was informed by the Park custodians that they would not allow games to proceed on one of the diamonds because it was far too wet. The other diamond was said to be playable but only after a few hours to allow it to dry out.

"We felt it was better to play all the games at a later date rather than only play two or three games on the one diamond that might have been playable," said Nelson.

But those who were disappointed were buoyed by the news that the Cream City Foundation, Wisconsin's state-wide Gay and Lesbian philanthropic foundation had given a grant of \$1,500 to the League.

"We can't thank CCF enough," said Nelson. "They have come through for us in the past and now they have come through again. I hope everyone considers that when the Combined Giving Campaign comes to their workplace next fall."

For its part CCF seemed equally pleased to offer its support. "The Cream City Foundation is very pleased to support the SSBL especially in this its twentieth anniversary year," said CCF President, Tony Rhodes. "We are pleased to be able to contribute to an organization that has given so much to our community. The Foundation has always believed that by supporting the diverse activities of our community it helps to build a stronger community for us all."

The games scheduled for May 3, will be made up on Saturday June 7 at Sijan Field.

"While we would prefer not to play during PrideFest weekend, we can't take a chance that our second rain date may be a wash out as well," said Nelson.

The league also announced that its May 17 schedule will be played at Olbrich Park in Madison. Originally the May 17 schedule was going to be played at Wick Field, but Madison's Manoeuvres team now in its second year in the SSBL asked that the games that day be played in Mad Town.

A cook out and fund raiser for the Manoeuvres team will follow the games at Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair Street.

Wisconsin's Largest Gay Complex Grand Opening May 17 in Neenah.

Milwaukee-It's called Diversions and you are likely to be hearing a lot more of it and from it. Located at 1413 Green Valley Road, Neenah, Diversions which opens Friday May 16 and has scheduled a grand opening for May 17 will be Wisconsin's largest Gay and Lesbian entertainment complex.

With over 14,000 square feet of party space including a large dance area, a game room, darts and pool, Diversions hopes to fill the void left when Appleton's famed Pivot Club closed.

Owner/Manager Joe St. Claire is excited about his new venture. St. Claire who is known in Milwaukee, as the Manager of Mama Roux and is widely credited for that bar's success.

"I know that people will receive Diversions," said St. Claire, "We will offer Gays and Lesbians a safe fun place to go with great shows, hot music, great service and lots of fun."

A grand opening party slated for May 17 constitutes the official unveiling of the new bar. The party will include a show hosted by the fabulous Sage La Rue, and including many local favorites, drink specials,

celebrity bartenders provided by HIT and more.

"The Grand Opening will be something special, said St. Claire, "We hope that everyone will want to be on hand so that in years to come they can say they were there when the curtain went up."

Just as he has with Mama Roux, St. Claire plans to hold benefits for local Gay and AIDS related organizations. "It's always been my belief that when you take something out of the community, you should make a point to give something back," he said.

Diversions can be reached by taking Hwy 41 to the Breezewood exit. Then head south on Green Valley to the bar.

Mama Roux will begin a once a month express bus to the new bar with a special run for the Grand Opening celebration.

The bus which includes a free drink at Mama Roux and a free drink at Diversions will leave from Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt at about 9:00. All proceeds from ticket sales go to the HIT bowling tournament. For more information call Mama Roux (414) 347-0344.

SpotLight Events May 10 At Milwaukee's In Between, May 17 at Manoeuvres

Milwaukee-In May we have two big SpotLight events that we want to call your attention to and both of them deal with the Saturday Softball League.

The first will be at In Between on Saturday May 10. It's the Mr. SSBL contest, the biggest fund raiser of the year for the league.

Candidates nominated by each team entice you into buying raffle tickets, who ever sells the most wins the coveted crown of Mr. SSBL.

You can be sure that Curt and his staff are going all out to make this event a success. Doing this event is a lot of work and it's to In Between's credit that the SSBL selected it to host this important fund raiser.

Our next SpotLight party will also be a real blast. It's got everything you would

want, exciting action, a great show, a chance to buy fabulous things and more.

That's right we are going to be there when the SSBL takes its act on the road and brings it to Madison on Saturday May 17.

The games will get underway at Olbrich Park. The first game will get underway at 11:00 and the last one begins at 3:00.

The games will be followed by a Gayla Fund Raiser at Manoeuvres. Ed and his staff are so pleased that the SSBL is coming to their neck of the woods that you can count on them to pull out all the stops for their cookout/auction/show/party.

The SSBL schedule is as follows:

11:00 In Between vs. Manoeuvres
Noon Mama's Family vs In Between
Balistreni's vs. Manoeuvres

Please Turn to Soft Ball page 27

The SpotLight Section Editor's Note

By Bill Meunier

With this issue, **The Wisconsin Light** SpotLight section is one year old. What a year it has been.

We brought you on the scene coverage of everything from the MAGIC Picnic weekend and the parties during the Democratic convention in Chicago to the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, the Milwaukee Classic, Halloween, New Year's Eve and everything in between.

We have thrown some great parties and brought you important news on Wisconsin's entertainment scene. In the next year and in the years to come we plan on doing even more.

When we started this section it was our hope that it would find a readership and that the readership would respond positively. That hope has been met and exceeded beyond our expectations.

It has been an exciting time for me personally and for all of our writers and reviewers. We have met many wonderful people, had a lot of fun and learned so much that it's been a privilege for us to bring you the SpotLight.

We don't believe in resting on our laurels. The challenge for any publication is to remain fresh, informative and to continue evolving as new ideas and concepts come to the forefront.

So even though the SpotLight Section is a year old it is not finished. We think of it as a work in progress. We recently added a Book Section, Dusty's Corner, and Speaking With the Stars. We will continue to add new features in the weeks ahead.

All of this of course is made possible by our advertisers. We owe them and we give them our gratitude. We thank them for having faith in us.

We also thank our readers especially those who have taken the time to stop and chat or write or call with their comments. You have no idea what that means those of us who every two weeks are up in the wee hours of the morning typing away at our computers.

We were delighted to hear from a statewide pageant director that he had done a survey of the areas where his local pageants are held and found that the our paper is the most read among the Gay papers in the Badger state. We are thrilled when people tell us about something they read in the SpotLight.

We fully understand the responsibility that rests on our shoulders. We are proud of the fact that we have kept these pages free of vicious bar gossip. Our aim has always been to promote our community not to tear it down.

On behalf of Glenn Bishop, Dusty Sass, Brian Harder, Barb Lightner, all of the rest of our reviewers and writers and myself I want to express our thanks and wish you good reading in this issue and all the many issues to come.

Cris Williamson & Tret Fure Discuss Songs, Love and Being Together

By Barb Lightner

A Wisconsin Light Exclusive Interview

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure, who will be in concert in Milwaukee on May 10, 8:00 pm, at Centennial Hall, spoke on the telephone from their home in Oregon with Light correspondent Barbara Lightner. Lyrics quoted are from *Between the Covers*, © 1996, Bird Ankles Music (BMI), and Lunafish Music (BMI); words, from *Lumière*, © 1986 Pacific Cascade Records.

Barb Lightner: Good morning. And, by the way, thanks— I understand you're missing morning yoga for this interview.

Cris Williamson: Oh, we got it in, can't miss yoga!

BL: I might have known.... You'll be in Milwaukee, I take it, to promote your new album *Between the Covers*?

CW & Tret Fure: Yes! Unhuh! That's right.

BL: The album was described on your Web site as your "love letter to each other."

CW & TF: [deep-throated agreement].

BL: And *Billboard* gave it a really fine review, noting that it is "disarmingly passionate."

CW or TF: [sweet-sounding surprise].

BL: You all have been together for 15 years. I see your new album as, in a way, recapturing love and commitment, saying, "It's okay, it's right." And singing about love differently from what I, at any rate, find as tendencies in certain kinds of feminism, the concerns about "couplism," for example, or fears that passionate, deep, involvement is—well—unfortunate.

CW & TF: Mmm? Mmm. Umhum.

BL: What are some of the aspects of love that you all sing to?

CW: [after deliberation] *Constancy*. I think most of all, *constancy*. We want women to see that in us, to know about that. —To be a kind of beacon, provide a public knowledge of that.

BL: Yes, I hear that in the new album. Your "Night Birds of Paradise" also seems, Cris, to suggest a spiritual dimension to your love. Or are you just being metaphorical? I think of the words:

*Windbound in the shadows
We were strangers to desire
Til our bones turned to feathers
We were curling up higher and higher
Night birds of Paradise
Totally undone*

By the movement of a heavenly body.

CW: Yes, there is something spiritual, but it's not in that song. "Night Birds" is sensuous, it's not spiritual, and the "heavenly body" is sensuous, not spiritual.

The angel in "Between the Covers" [the title song] is spiritual.

BL: Yes, with its chorus.
*I know the angel, I feel heaven in your wings
You are an angel, I can surely hear you sing
Because you take me so lightly, I know*

*I know that I can fly
Between the covers, my angel
Between the covers, you and I.*

BL: Tret, our Lesbian communities—and communities of women in general—have been influenced (plagued, I sometimes think) by co-dependence as Ann Wilson Shaef has defined it and worked with it. In your song "Say Good Night," I seem to recognize a strong counter rhythm.

*Don't leave me in the morning, don't leave me in the evening
It's a little about leaving, but it's a lot about love.*

CW & TF: [laughing good-naturedly]

TF: Yes, isn't it funny, we were just talking about that. It's about love, what love is. If you're a whole person, whole in yourselves— each of you has to be— not living your life through somebody else, it's a lot about love.

CW: [laughing] We believe in co-dependence!

CW & TF & BL: [more laughing]

CW: What is all this about anyway? Of course we depend on each other. We're interdependent— we're, uh, connected, that's what it is.

Tret went to the post office the other morning, and I missed her, can you believe it, I missed her while she went to the post office!

BL: So it's okay, as Tret writes, to sing:

Don't go anywhere without me, don't go anywhere alone

It's a little about going, but it's a lot about love!

CW & TF: [laughing] Yes! Mmm! When you're whole! When you're complete in

yourself to begin with!

BL: I hear *Between the Covers* not only as your love letter to each other. What else do you sing witness to?

CW: Tret's song about the death of her mother ["New Year's"]. People need to know more about Tret. That song is the most beautiful, the most moving....

BL: I certainly found that. Tret, in the *Washington Post* one of your reviewers, states that you are "adroit at... capturing the emotion of the moment," which is true. But I find more than that in "New Year's." I think of a tragic understanding of life. Is that there?

And we in our confusion...the stars could not disperse us

Nor gather us in, nor set us free

And we in our loss...the clock could not unwind us

Nor set us ahead, nor set us free

Life turns as fragile as a broken heart.

TF: Yes.

BL: The women's music scene has changed a lot. k.d. lang has come out; Melissa Etheridge has come out. And there's also Ellen DeGeneris coming out in her sitcom, and personally. How has this affected women's music? And your music?

CW: It's been very important. Those who have come out are very important. It's

okay that not everyone has come out, but those who do are making a difference.

Our music has always gotten around hand-to-hand, from one person to another. That's how we've become known. And it's different now.

But we remember, we started it!
BL: Yes, indeed! Including your work in founding Olivia Records.

CW: That, and there was the support. It was so hard then. Maybe it takes that kind of struggle, because it's different now. There's not that same support.

BL: It seems like real struggle can bring a closeness, and a kind of support sometimes, that just sort of diffuses when the struggle isn't so hard. And there's that way of overlooking the unpleasant parts, more or less remaking something into a more golden past?

CW: Nostalgia? Yes.

BL: How has your music changed?

TF: My music has gotten stronger, I think, and more complex. I'd come from a guitar-strumming kind of back-ground, picking, more rock; and doing more than that, the instrumentals, has changed a lot of what I do.

CW: Our music has changed in working together in *Between the Covers*. Tret deserves recognition for what she's doing. We're in transition, so we don't know what will happen.

BL: As one who knew you, Cris, from the time of *Changer and the Changed*, I haven't found difficulty with the transition. You were part of starting women's music, and now, Tret, you and Cris are carrying this music forward. Say a little bit about how you do in fact

work together.

CW: Well, for many of the songs, I write the lyrics, and Tret does instrumentals. So, it's easy. But that doesn't always happen. Sometimes we write vocals together, we've been doing that, and that's a big part of how our music has changed. —The changer and the changed.

I work a lot of the old songs into the new ones—"between the places where the wild things roam," "the changer and the changed."

It's fun, most of all it's fun. But that is how our music is changing, and will keep on changing.

BL: One of your reviewers, Cris, says that your music "celebrates human strength, tenacity and resilience." But it's more, it seems to me, than "I am woman, I am strong." You seem to come from a kind of New Age standpoint, but at the same time don't assume that Love's infusion throughout the universe will stand all things right, if we could just get in touch. . . . I think of the "steel" and the "spine" in "Positive Solution."

*Steady, steady, on the line
Standpoint...Master-free
Find the steel, find the spine
Speak your heart, mind your*

ground

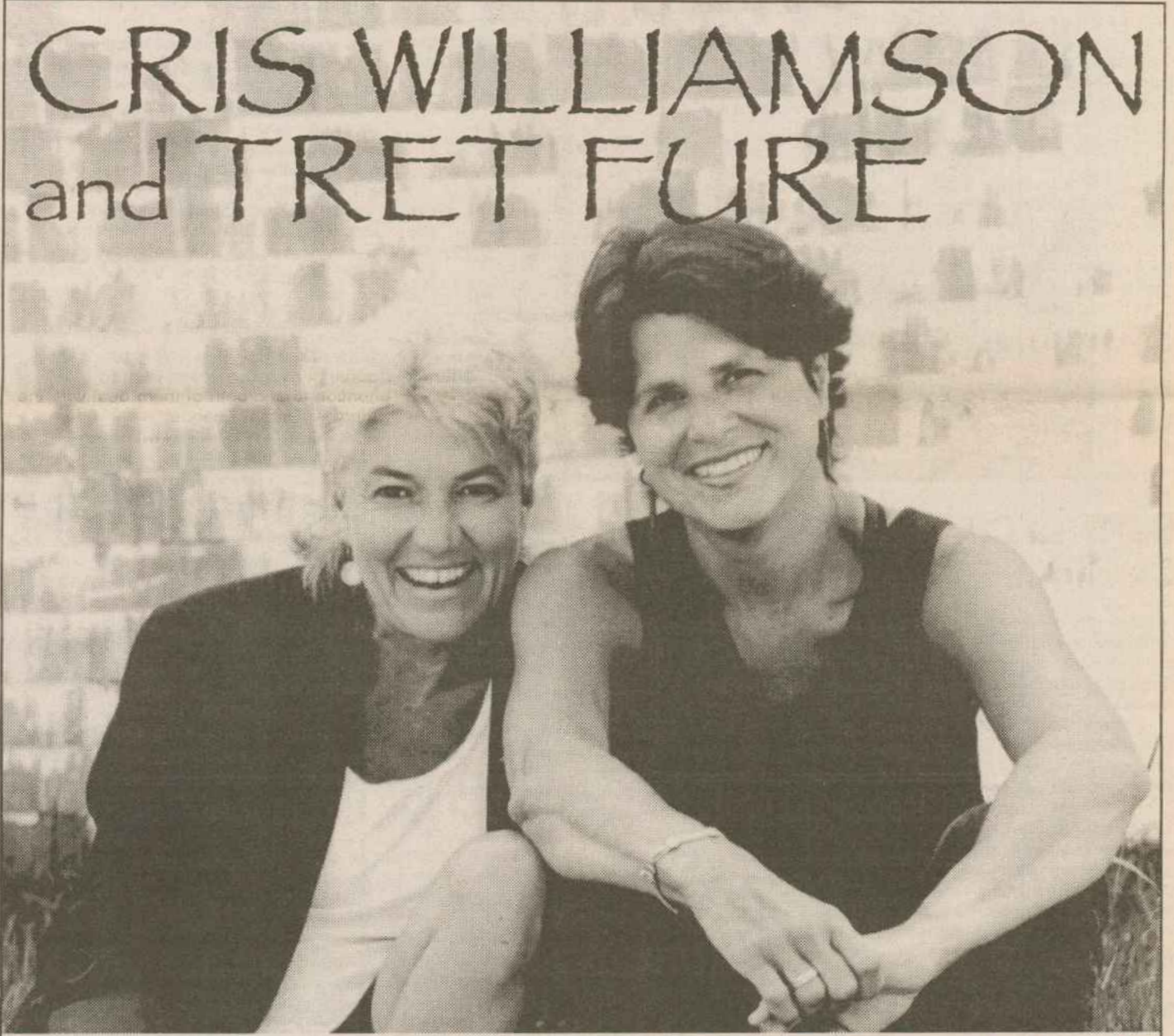
And reach for a Positive Solution.

CW: I see a dichotomy between what reality is, and the spiritual. . .

BL: —As in "Between the Covers" where you sing, "I walk the hard streets where paradise can be so strange? . . ."

CW: —Yes, and to be aware, awareness

Please Turn to Music Page 16



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

Ticket Prices: \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door (tax included)

Ticket Outlets: Afterwords Bookstore & Espresso Bar 2710 N. Murray Ave. Outpost Natural Foods 100 East Capitol Drive

733 North 8th Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin

order tickets by mail by sending a SASE and check to: Full Moon Productions N235 Country Hwy W Campbellsport, WI 53010 email: fullmoonpr@excel.net



Curtain Calls

The Skylight Opera Theatre Tackles 'Sweeney Todd' With Admirable Aplomb

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Stephen Sondheim's **Sweeney Todd** is an unusual hybrid, part opera while part Broadway musical; part love story while part gruesome thriller. A marvelous piece of theatre, **Sweeney Todd** is at once demanding both upon its cast and upon its audience.

Sondheim's "Demon Barber of Fleet St." offers up a London that perhaps only venerable ol' Charles Dicken could love: a dirty, gritty, dangerous city filled with assorted beggars and where any poor stray cat might just end up as the filling for a penny-dreadful meat pie.

This is the London to which Sweeney Todd (R.F. Daley) returns, following fifteen years of banishment in Australia. He returns to find his family and right the wrongs he has been subjected to at the hands of Judge Turpin (Richard Halverston).

Immediately Sweeney is befriended by that infamous purveyor of "the worst pies in London", Mrs. Lovett (Judith Baird), who informs Sweeney of his family's sad plight. She agrees to assist Sweeney in his noble quest for justice and in the bargain, begins falls in love with Sweeney.

At the center of Johnathon Pape's current production at Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre is the superb R.F. Daley, a New York based actor who dynamically brings Sweeney vividly to life. Daley's "demon barber" is sympathetic yet determined. A gifted, powerful singer, Daley's songs, particularly the ironic "My Friends" and the haunting "Pretty Women" are dazzling. Still, Glenn must quibble a bit and suggest that Mr. Daley might take pity on his partners in his various duets and give the other singers half a chance.

Community Players Perform in "Quilt" In Oshkosh

Oshkosh—"Quilt, A Musical Celebration," opens on the Grand Opera stage in Oshkosh on May 16th at 8:00 p.m. A cast of 28 Fox Community residents will present the very special production for two nights (May 16th & 17th) and a matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday May 18th. The musical is very much an ensemble production featuring almost all 28 members of the cast in solo numbers or cameo scenes. Two large choral numbers start and finish the show.

Uniquely, the musical is primarily a string of soliloquies about loss, love, and coping with death in the 80's and 90's. QUILT... is a collage of stories for, from, and about the NAMES PROJECT MEMORIAL QUILT. QUILT... examines one 32 panel block of the Quilt and the stories of the people who made the panels for their loved ones: Lovers, spouses, family, and friends. Most characters appear only once or twice. The two lead characters reappear periodically and their unfolding stories give the musical its simple story line.

The cast is intentionally multi-racial and represents ages 12-70 and while not a documentary, it is based upon real people and real situations. Creative license has been used to combine, shape, or alter actual stories and events.

The leads are played by Howard Brown III and K.T. Kinsey of Oshkosh. Other Oshkosh residents in the cast are Ben Barlow, Don White, Kristin Isham, Donna Ruhl, Diane Walsh, Dana Hartel, Catie Haase, Michelle Ruhl, Kim McGuire, Daryul Dietz, Brooke Pfaff, James Clark, Stacy Harman, Brandon Arrowood, Jason Smith, Barb Carroll, and Cindy Hopkins. Dan Berns is directing the musical and Nate Kinzel and Mary Plier are handling Orchestra and Vocal direction respectively.

From the other Fox Communities, the musical features performances by Kathy Hilbert and Ralph Schwartz of Fond du Lac. DJ Mattson, Maria Jaensch, and Brian Babbitts are showcased from the Neenah/Menasha area. And Bob Carroll of Appleton will perform a cameo role.

Tickets for "Quilt" are on sale at the Grand Opera House box office or by contacting (414) 424-2350 for Ticketmaster services. The musical is comparable to a PG 13 movie rating as it deals with mature themes and contains some strong language.

warm and winning performance, her delightful "The Worst Pies in London" a highlight.

Equally effective as the young lovers are Tony Clements and Culver Casson although Glenn must mention here that he grew increasingly weary of the seemingly endless reprises of "Johanna", so much so that he began to wish that she'd end up in Sweeney's chair.

Less effective were Gary Biggle's Beadle Bamford, who just didn't seem as villainous as he ought (it is perhaps needless to mention that Glenn knows all about villainy) and Ryan Dance's weak Tobias Ragg.

Despite this production's many fine performances, **Sweeney Todd** ultimately proves to be somewhat disappointing. David Maxine's set is suitably gloomy but often feels awkward and needlessly complicated. The end of the first act is terrific but pacing in the second does little to set up Sondheim's bloody finale.

Another quibble: at the performance that Glenn attended, the blood effect occasionally faltered as Sweeney took care of his customers.

Sweeney Todd is a marvelous and original piece of musical theatre which the Skylight has tackled with admirable aplomb.

MUSIC

Continued From Page 15

is so important. I want people to be aware, to pay attention...

BL: -Ah, one of the "psalms according to Williamson," one of the "caring homilies" your Web site says you give from the stage?...

CW: [laughing, and then] -Homilies, clichés, they are so important, they are what we live by. Music is to be understood by everyone. Our music is for everyone.

BL: Cris, you've created two children's classics, your first lullaby, the one on *Changer and the Changed*; and a children's fable, *Lumière*, that won a Parent's Choice Award.

CW: The lullaby was written for a play we were doing. A young girl had been raped, and the mothers had taken her in, to hold her. I put everything comforting I could in that first lullaby.

BL: And now mothers everywhere are singing the lullaby to their children.

CW: Yes, I can't believe that children come up to me at concerts and say, "How did you know my mother's song?"

BL: I wasn't familiar with *Lumière* until just the other day. You say that you wanted to create a "deep meaning" for the children of the world. I notice that the child, Ted, is thrown into (for him) terrifying circumstances, then into worlds of beautiful vision—back and forth.

CW: Life is random. But there's a pattern underneath.

BL: And randomness can be terrifying?

CW: Yes.

BL: Ted dreams that an automaton-voiced mother has thrown him deep in a pit because he hasn't cleaned his closet; but then he also knows star-kinded worlds of the best, the kindest, the most beautiful, sort. Are these abrupt back-and-forths also part of the dichotomy you see?

CW: Yes. People, most of them, are not aware. I want people to be aware. They are not aware.

BL: Of the real world, "where paradise seems so strange?" You seem to combine it all, I think, with the ending of *Lumière*—a fable, as so many of the really good stories are, for children and their adults.

I think of Ted looking up the meaning of *lumière* on his computer. French, he learns, for, "light, the light, enlightened."

And then outside of his dreams, Ted's mother sees this single word on his computer, *lumière*, so she—and we—know that he's been "studying light," as the narrator says, "and cleaning his closet" all at the same time—a perfect crystallization of that dichotomy—paradise, even in the midst of reality, the child's hard reality, so strange.

CW: Yes.

BL: And now, to clarify. Some logistics. Why the name *Bird Ankles*? Charming, I think, but what does it mean? And *Lunafish*? And what is the

relation between *Wolf Moon Records* and *Goldenrod Records*?

CW: *Bird Ankles* is the name of my publishing company, and *Lunafish*, Tret's. *Wolf Moon Records* is our distributor, but we can't handle it all, and so we work with *Goldenrod Records*.

A friend in Colorado said I had "bird ankles," and so the name stuck. Small feet, standing here. Not a bad idea in that.

TF: I'm a Pisces, with a strong moon, *Lunafish*.

BL: They told me we had half an hour, and time's more than up. Thank you both for a wonderful interview.

See you in Milwaukee, May 10!

CW & TF: Yes, thank you. In Milwaukee, yes!

Visit Cris and Tret's site on the Internet at <http://www.cris-tret.com>.

'Space Gypsies' is a Familiar Story That Is Compellingly Told

By John Jah

On April 25 and 26 and May 2 and 3, Dale Gutzman Productions presented a world premiere performance of the late Ross Quint's dramatic science fiction play, **Space Gypsies**. The performance took place at Vogel Hall, in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee.

As the playbill states, "The end of the world is how it starts."

The play is set in some very distant, nightmarish future right here on Earth. Humanity, as we know it, has ceased to exist, and Man has been thrown back to a pre-technological, pre-language, tribal existence. It centers around a tribal band of 11 men and women. We watch as they perform rituals, battle one another for dominance of the group, bow to their unspoken superstitions, try to amuse themselves, fight for one another's affections...in other words, the same sorts of things we do in today's world, only on a vastly smaller scale and vastly lower technological level.

The tribal band is visited by the Stranger (Karl Miller), who brings to them new knowledge and understanding after a battle for supremacy and acceptance. The Stranger has, somehow, taken control of events on planet Earth and, we believe, was somehow responsible for Earth's seeming demise.

The "message" of this play will be different for everyone who sees it. To me, Quint had something of an anti-technological bent, which shows itself in the way the tribe succeeds without the need of high tech gizmos. It also tells us to each search for "the truth," whatever that is, on our own. We each seek and find our version of what is "the truth" in our lives.

The post-apocalyptic survival of humans who have reverted to a more primitive state is a familiar one, as are the threats—

all human-made catastrophes—which brought it about. I wasn't overwhelmed by the story or the message. Nor was I impressed with the totally out-of-place sequences of talking which somehow break out in this play in which there are no spoken words otherwise.

There are two scenes like this, which just occur and then stop, at the behest of the Stranger. Why? They're totally out of the blue, unexplained, and act as unneeded intrusions upon the story. I found them distracting to the play's over-arching themes.

Secondly, the staging was handled well enough, but no use was made of a completely white backdrop, except for a few brief moments when a greenish backdrop is hoisted perhaps six feet up, then down again. The stage was in sore need of realistic props, and in particular, the white background could've been used as a screen for scenes of devastation, changing colors and patterns to reflect moods, etc.

On the other hand, all the characters had excellent costumes and gave superb and convincing performances as grunting human primitives.

Dale Gutzman gave a brief talkback after the play (which ran for 1 hour and 45 minutes without intermission, which helped significantly to explain this sometimes perplexing play. Gutzman also designed the music for the play (which accompanies nearly the entire sequence of events), reconstructed the draft of the play left behind by Quint, and directed the play. He and his entire company are to be commended for bringing to the stage a compelling performance of a familiar subject. One can argue the value of the story, but not its execution, which was fine indeed.

For information concerning future productions, call (414) 466-4049, or write to: Dale Gutzman, Man Productions, 4915 N. 85th St., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

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THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

Wow can it have been a whole year since I first sat down at a keyboard and began writing this column? Why my goodness I believe that it is.

What can I say? I have partied myself into such a stupor that I wasn't watching the old calendar. But don't take that to mean it wasn't a great time. It was.

Thanks to all of those wonderful people out there who have made it so enjoyable.

Special thanks go out to everyone who made it so special (and you know who you are).

Recaps...

I hope you had as much fun at an Ellen Party as I had at our party at **Scandals**. Mike and Nancy Neuman are great people and their staff is fantastic. Then I stopped in at **Manoeuvres**. Both places were packed with hunks and celebrants. Spe-

cial thanks to Ty, the **Scandals** DJ who came in and worked on his time.

I wasn't able to get to Lauren's birthday party at **This Is It**, but I understand that a fun time was had by all. The food was great. Tommy, Lauren's other half, made much of it himself. The pizza was out of this world.

Then there was the big **Round Up** sponsored by **Shoreline**. There were lots of beefy men walking around in cowboy boots and hats looking butch. I was so smitten by some of them that I was tempted to line dance myself.

I also had a great time at the first team fund raiser of the year for the SSBL, held at **Mama Roux**. The team did well enough to pay for its stunning new uniforms. Speaking of stunning that really cute ticket seller Brian can just about sell me anything, anytime he wants to.

Last but not least, the Mr. Gay Milwaukee Pageant at **B's** was great.

Coming Up....

Friday May 9, you can find me at **M and M** for one of their fab fish fries. With great food and great service, it's no wonder that **M's** has retain its popularity over the years.

After a few drinks, it will be off to **B's** for the big Northern Babes Show. The show is to help some of Wisconsin's title holders get the Miss Gay US of A Pageant in Dallas.

Saturday May 10 I'll be pounding the base paths at the SSBL's Season Openers. (Weather permitting). I'd tell you what team I am on, but all those autograph seekers can be such a distraction. After the games, it will off to **In Between** for the big SSBL Fund Raiser of the year, the Mr. SSBL contest. Curt and his staff are going all out of this one, so don't miss it.

Then that evening the big Chris Williamson, Tret Fure concert at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall will be on tap. Boy what a day that's going to be.

Then I am going to rest up for **Monday May 12** when you can find me at the big statewide rally against AB 104 at the State

Capitol. The rally starts at 7:00. We need everybody even YOU, so please try to be there.

After the rally there is a post rally blow out at **Scandals** which is so ever conveniently located a block away from the Capitol Square. There will be drink specials and a chance to mingle with our political elite.

Saturday May 17, is going to be another big day. For the first time in its history, the SSBL will be playing out of town. Olbrich field in Madison will be home to the league for the day. The games will be followed by a **SpotLight Party at Manoeuvres** in celebration of the SSBL's debut in Mad Town. A kick ass show, drink specials, an auction and lots more will be there for you.

Then it will be off to Oshkosh for the grand opening of **Diversions**. **Diversions** is the newest star in our constellation of Gay bars, and it's also the biggest. Located at 1413, Green Valley Rd, in Neenah (just outside of Oshkosh) it's over 14,000 square feet of party space. It would be great to see it filled.

I'll be taking the HIT bus from **Mama**

Please Turn to Night Light Page 9

THE RAINBOW ALWAYS LEADS TO DIVERSIONS

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Ellen's Party Was Something Special at Madison's Scandals Bar

By Bill Meunier

Madison—There was something special about the Wisconsin Light SpotLight Party at Scandals in Madison during Ellen's coming out episode. There was an electricity, an air of anticipation, a total party feeling.

The party was a real blast. As usual, Mike and Nancy and their staff did a super job in getting ready and those in attendance definitely appreciated their effort.

And lots of people were there. There was the couple living at the Rodney Scheel house who invited me to their September wedding.

Tammy Baldwin was there. Other political leaders on hand included openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer, County Supervisor Scott Mc Cormick, and Brenda from Mayor Sue Bauman's staff.

The Wisconsin State Journal sent a reporter and a photographer who seemed somewhat amazed at the reaction. Cass Marie Domino (one of my absolutely favorite impersonators) was on hand with her absolutely gorgeous boyfriend, (care to share Cass???) and so was Randy Lorenz from Z & L Productions (who told me that his survey showed the Wisconsin Light is the most read Gay publication in around the state) Scandals DJ, Ty and the folks from Action Wisconsin were on hand pushing raffle tickets to raise badly need funds.

They and others came to support Action Wisconsin, to show their appreciation to the bar, to watch the show with their friends and to have fun.

Ty is a real treasure. He wasn't scheduled to work so he came in on his own to whip up the crowd with music and chat. I was especially pleased when he said "Don't we love The Wisconsin Light?" and the crowd responded with cheers. (How many newspapers can say their readers cheer for them?)

Prior to the broadcast, people streamed into the bar. One man came in and announced "I'm a Lesbian!" to the cheers and delight of the front bar. Others arrived more quietly but nearly everyone had a smile on their face as they walked in.

There was Mike and Nancy fretting over where their big screen TV was. Mike had reserved one from a local rental firm, but at the last minute the firm claimed it could-

n't provide one so Mike pulled the big screen TV out of his home. "I advertised a big screen TV and I keep my word," he told me. You have to respect that kind of attitude.

But even with that minor problem, the Neuman's were beaming, proud that so many people had chosen their bar for this event. "We feel so honored," said Nancy.

Tammy Baldwin arranged her hectic schedule to be on hand. When I introduced her as "The next Congressperson from Wisconsin's Second District" the walls shook from the thunderous applause and cheers. She gave a great speech that elevated the crowd's mood another notch or two.

As the show began the crowd quieted down and when Ellen made the big announcement it brought the house down. In contrast when Ellen told her therapist played by Oprah Winfrey about her fears of being Gay, you could have heard a pin drop.

Throughout the show everytime Ellen revealed her sexuality, the crowd stood and cheered. It was a sight to behold.

People laughed at the jokes and generally agreed that it was a great show.

Even the commercial breaks were fun. Ty who is a very talented emcee worked the crowd relentlessly. Carrying his cordless mike he asked people when they came out of the closet, or who they were with or what they thought of the show, or how many raffle tickets they had bought.

In fact it was his pushing of the raffle that helped make it such a big success. Action Wisconsin raised around \$300 to fight against Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay marriage bill, AB-104.

After the show people stayed around to watch Ellen DeGeneres and her family interviewed. They applauded many of the comments made especially those made by her mother.

Meanwhile Ty took the ticket sellers and his mike over to the Shamrock to sell some more raffle tickets there.

There were other parties that evening as well. Just a few blocks away a large crowd jammed into Manoeuvres. Plus there were many other parties in bars and at homes around the state. Wednesday April 30 seemed to be our collective coming out night.



Ellen Comes Out - A great time was had by all at our SpotLight party at Scandals during the Ellen Coming Out Episode on Wednesday April 30th. At the top is part of the crowd cheering just after Ellen made her big announcement. Next are Cass Marie Domino, with her new hunk (we mean boyfriend) on the right. Next are party goers toasting Ellen and at the bottom are two hot guys who were at the Ellen party at Manoeuvres. Scandals will be the site of a Post Rally Party following the Statewide rally against AB 104 at the State Capitol from 7 PM to 9 PM Monday May 12. Manoeuvres will host a SpotLight party on Saturday May 17 as the SSBL comes to Madison.

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(608) 251-1030

Scandals

YOUR SPECIAL PLACE - 7-Days a Week • Open at 2pm
Mon-Sat, 5-7pm, 2-for-1 Happy Hour
Nightly Specials 8pm-Close • Beer Bust Sundays, 4-8pm
DJ Ty, Thursday thru Saturday

MOTHER'S DAY REVUE Sunday, May 11

Sponsored by Z & L Productions

WITH ALL YOUR FAVORITES
Cass Marie, DuWanna, Celeste,
Sage, Susies & Others

JOIN US AFTER THE RALLY

Against AB 104

Monday, May 12

Drink Specials, Watch the Oscar Winning
"Life & Times of Harvey Milk"

MONDAYS ARE MOVIE NIGHTS

Popcorn, Big Screen TV

Come in & Check Out our new
HAPPY HOUR

You're Invited

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 SEPTEMBER 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 IN MIWLAKUEE

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 Afterwords Books, 2710 N. Murray or Outpost Natural Foods, 100 East Capitol.

KATHY'S NUT HUT POSSUM QUEEN FUND RAISER

There will be a great time at Kathy's Nut Hut as the customers there gear up to support their Possum Queen Candidate, the vivacious Miss Nut Butt, with raffles and auction.

There will be free beer from 2 PM to 3 PM.

Kathy's is located at 1500 W. Scott, Milwaukee.

MONDAY MAY 12

POST RALLY AB 104 PARTY AT SCANDALS IN MADISON

A celebration of the fight to defeat AB 104, the Anti-Gay Marriage bill proposed here in Wisconsin will be held at Scandals, 121 W. Main Street, following the State wide rally to be held at the State Capitol.

There will music, drink specials and late night showing of "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk" the excellent Oscar winning documentary on America's first openly Gay elected official.

FRIDAY MAY 16

QUILT A MUSICAL OPENS IN OSHKOSH AT THE GRAND

The critically acclaimed musical "Quilt" opens at the Oshkosh Grand Opera House. Quilt is a stunning production that relates the stories of various individuals and families affected by AIDS.

The production will also be on stage Saturday May 17 and Sunday May 18 (matinee performance). For tickets call (414) 424-2350.

The Grand Opera House is located at 100 High.

SATURDAY MAY 17

SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT MANOEUVRES IN MADSON

Our SpotLight event for May will be held at Manoeuvres in celebration of the Saturday Soft Ball League's debut in Mad Town.

The league schedule for the day will be played at Olbrich Park. The games will be followed by a Gayla cookout and fund raiser at Manoeuvres.

Please Turn to Invited Page 27

PrideFest IS COMING!



Ride with the ▼Just Us▼ Dykes on Bikes at PrideFest!
We'll Lead the Parade! Anyone with a motorcycle is welcome.

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Friday Fish Fry

5-10pm
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Join Your Friends for Food at the ▼ JUST US▼ Food Booth

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Sandwiches & Appetizers

We Do Parties & Banquets

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Sports & S.S.B.L. Social Gathering Place!



Curt, Chris, Craig, James, Patrick & Tommy
wish everyone a Happy Spring

Tommy Has Returned & We're Going to Work His BUTT Off!
(We'll Save some for You!)

THANK YOU!

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MANOEUVRES

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608.258.9918
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MAD BAR

The Saturday Softball League Comes to Madison **Saturday, May 17**

Olbrich Park • Atwood Avenue (Just Off Fair Oaks)

- 11am In Between vs. Manoeuvres
- 12pm Mama's Family vs. In Between & Balistreri's vs. Manoeuvres
- 1pm Mama's Family vs. The Ballgame & Balistreri's vs. Club 219
- 2pm M&M Club vs. Riverwest & The Ballgame vs. Triangle
- 3pm Triangle vs. Riverwest & Club 219 vs. M&M



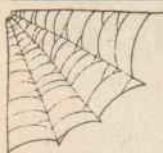
*The 17th Annual SSBL Memorial Classic Softball
Tournament will be held in Milwaukee over Memorial
Day Weekend.
Don't Miss It!*

Then Join Us at Manoeuvres for a Gayla Cookout



**Entertainment
Great Food
Auction & More**

*Help Us Celebrate
the First Ever Gay
Softball Games in
Madison*



DUSTY'S CORNER

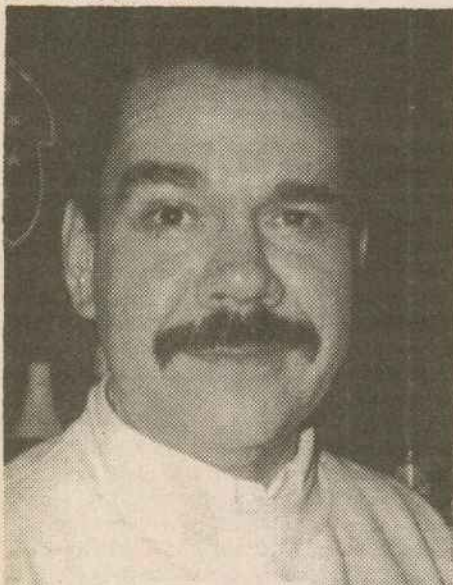
Ed Grunewald The Mastermind Behind Manoeuvres, We Are Family

Ed Grunewald can best be defined as a workaholic. Owner of Madison's Manoeuvres and the MAD Bar, plus the Les/Bi/Gay boutique, We Are Family, Ed has worked hard to put himself and his businesses at the Center of Madison's Gay and Lesbian social life.

Manoeuvres attracts a mixed crowd of Gays, Lesbians and even straights. The MAD bar draws the leather crowd and We Are Family pulls in everybody.

But Ed is about more than his businesses. Anyone who knows him, knows about his commitment to his Madison Gay community and to Madison's community at large.

After several attempts I was finally able to pin Ed down for a few minutes so we could chat.



Ed Grunewald

Dusty Sass: How long has Manoeuvres been around?

Ed: Two and half wonderful years that I wouldn't trade for anything.

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

Ed: To give the community another option and show my support for them.

D.S. What is that make Manoeuvres unique?

Ed: I think a lot of it has to do with the staff, we have a great staff. We have two of the best DJ's, Ken and Tony and of course great customers.

D. S. What do you do that's different

Ed: We try to go out all out with our shows. People need a change where they can see live entertainment. We have a regular Sunday show. We love doing benefits. Fortunately, we have Simply Divine to work with us. Without her, the benefits just wouldn't be the same. Frankly I doubt that they would work.

Others Impersonators organize benefits for themselves, not that that isn't important, because they need the funds to represent the community in national pageants, but Simply Divine does benefits for AIDS, the Salvation Army, the Homeless and other causes. People recognize that and appreciate it.

Plus we have two different kinds of bars, the dance bar and the MAD bar with two totally different kinds of atmospheres. We try to provide something for everybody.

D. S. What do you like most about your job as owner?

Ed: Seeing the customers have a good time. Take the Ellen Party. It was great. We had a couple hundred of people and everybody was celebrating. It's good to see the community take such an interest.

D. S. You also sponsor a softball team don't you?

Ed: I do that because Madison doesn't have a team and I think they should be represented. At one time, Madison was the heart of the Gay community in this state. That kind of slipped away. I don't want it to slip away any farther.

Obviously we won't get a lot of business out of sponsoring a team that plays in Milwaukee, but, I thought it was important to give our customers who are into athletics a chance to participate.

D.S. You do a lot of benefits. Can you estimate how much money and for who?

Ed: The one we did with *The Wisconsin Light* for the Homeless raised over \$1,700, the Camp Heartland benefit raised a few hundred. It's probably at least \$5,000 in the last six to eight months alone. When we do a benefit, every penny goes to the charity.

For the regular shows all the money

goes to the performers, except for when we have dancers.

D.S. So you obviously had too much time on your hands and you started "We Are Family." Why would you want to start another business?

Ed: Because there was nothing like it in Madison. People always said, they had to drive to Chicago or Milwaukee. I saw a need because not everyone has a car and can drive to those places.

D.S. How is We Are Family doing?

Ed: We are getting more merchandise in, and more business. At first it was really slow but now it's really taken off.

We are putting together a web page and we are taking pictures now of the women and men and drag queens for mounting on our web site. We want everyone to know that our store is not just for one specific group.

D.S. Tell us about your love life?

Ed: (Laughs) Working 95 hours a week there isn't much of a love life. Seriously though my lover, Gary, and I have been together for just over 13 years.

D.S. Where do you meet Gary?

Ed: At Rods.

D.S. Was your underwear among those decorating the bar?

Ed: No, back then that phase was sort of over.

D.S. You're involved with the MAGIC Picnic now aren't you?

Ed: They will be using our license for the beer that day. I am getting the donations from the beer distributors and we are doing some signs.

I hope this year is a really good year. The Committee is planning to add entertainment. MAGIC Picnic weekend is July 19th.

D.S. What do you like least about being a bar owner?

Ed: The long hours, not being able to socialize with our personal friends.

D.S. What do you like to do for fun and excitement?

Ed: I like to play with our dog, it's pretty boring (laughs) but at least I don't get any complaints. Plus I like to go outside and garden. We grow a little of everything, tomatoes, cukes green peppers.

D.S. Is owning a bar in Madison, different from owning one in another city?

Ed: I don't know I don't get around to the other cities enough to know. It's definitely different from owning a straight bar.

D.S. Why did you pick that particular location?

Ed: I was working at the Essen House. The people who were there didn't pay their rent and we figured that it would be a good place to open up like a happy hour type bar.

D.S. So you envisioned a little happy hour bar. What happened to change that?

Ed: The Hotel Washington burned down, and the Gay community decided to pick our place as THE bar.

D.S. Do you ever get nervous on those slow nights?

Ed: Oh yes, everyone goes through that. Even if we were packed seven nights a week we would still wonder.

D.S. What are the plans for the future?

Ed: We were going to expand to the second floor, but we found that was way too expensive. It was almost \$500,000. The building isn't even worth that. We may expand into the basement.

D.S. The basement?

Ed: The basement is really neat, it has lots of nooks and crannies and little rooms. We are also thinking about putting a deck out in back for this summer. We have put in new air conditioning system for those hot summer nights when we are crowded.

D.S. You are kind of politically active or at least you are politically aware. How a big of a role do you think bar owners should play in getting their customers active and involved?

Ed: As much as I want to get involved. I find that if I do nothing, they don't do much. If I promote something in the bar with signs or something I find they get a lot more involved.

D.S. What's your philosophy on life?

Ed: Be happy as a human it's who you are. If you're happy everything will work out fine.

D.S. So what we have asked you that we didn't and what would you have said if we would have?

Ed: I don't know, I think you kind of asked me pretty much everything.

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The Original Sports Bar

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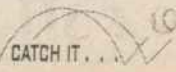
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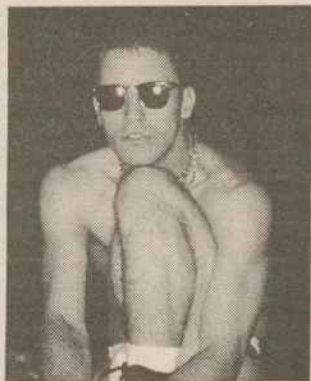
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NIGHT
11:30pm



GIRL'S NIGHT
FRIDAY NIGHT
11:30pm



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OUT on Film



She loves the dead Molly Parker stars as Sandra, a woman with more than a passing interest in post-mortem sex in Lynne Stopkewich's love story "Kissed."

'Kissed' Is an Enthralling Tale of Dark Desire and Death

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Walking into the cinema lobby, a curious little voice warned Glenn to forego his usual "Biggie Popcorn". This proved to be a wise decision and one which Glenn will in turn recommend to all those planning on seeing **Kissed**, a love story with a difference starring Molly Parker and Peter Outerbridge.

Necrophilia. Love and death, two great themes that have rarely emerged as such strange bedfellows as in Lynn Stopkewich's delicious macabre love story.

Growing up, death fascinated young Sandra (the extraordinary Natasha Morley). What is more innocent and poignant than watching a young child burying a favorite pet and in the process learning for the first time the difference between life and death, Glenn wonders?

Sandra's interest in death proves to be for more complex. At an early age Sandra begins to understand that this fascination, quickly becoming an obsession, separates her from others. She must keep this a secret, her highly ritualized burial ceremonies are something she must do, but only at night and always alone.

Providence comes in the form of the unexpected death of Tony, a young mortuary worker. Delivering flowers to the funeral home for her father, a now adult Sandra (Molly Parker) convinces fatherly Mr. Wallis (Jay Brazeau) of her desire to learn the business.

In one brief, memorizing scene, Sandra (along with us in the audience) is given an extraordinary introduction to the art of embalming by her enthusiastic teacher, Mr. Wallis. Although not explicitly shot, this scene still is certainly not recommended for the squeamish.

Immediately impressed with her calm determination and her, dare one say it, coolness, Mr. Wallis perhaps recognizes

'Crash' Offers a Whole New Meaning to the Term "Auto-Eroticism"

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Faithful readers of the **Wisconsin Light** will not be surprised to learn that Glenn, in his heart of hearts, is a dyed-in-the-wool romantic. Let one of those classic Hollywood love stories turn-up on AMC or TCM and Glenn turns to absolute mush.

Cinematic love in the 1990's is apparently a very, very different matter. Witness Lynne Stopkewich's chilling **Kissed** (please see accompanying review), a film featuring a pretty, young protagonist who can only find true satisfaction with the deceased.

Next for Glenn came David Cronenberg's much hyped **Crash**, based upon a cult novel by J. G. Ballard. **Crash** is a film already mired in controversy, prior to its release date.

In ways vastly different from **Kissed**, literally and symbolically, **Crash** proves to be an extraordinarily cold and calculated film, seeking as it does to explore the extreme fringes of death, sexual desire and obsession.

On the surface, Glenn might have thought that this would seem to hold for a fascinating film, one out of the ordinary, perhaps not entirely believable but never a dull moment. Wrong. Wrong. Wrong.

Bland, blond James Spader plays James Ballard, a vanilla soft-serve cone of a protagonist, married to luscious, blonde

in Sandra something of a kindred soul.

At the mortuary, her consuming desire is given free reign. Yet this seemingly idyllic existence is shattered by the arrival of Matt (Peter Outerbridge), a handsome young medical student who quickly finds his attraction to Sandra similarly bordering on the obsessive.

Matt becomes the first person Sandra feels comfortable with confiding her deep, dark secret. Rather than deter Matt, he becomes even more fascinated with Sandra and the two tentatively embark upon a sexual aspect to their relationship.

Despite Matt's consuming passion, Sandra soon accepts that these encounters are leaving her unsatisfied. Matt sensing that he is losing her and proceeds to devise increasingly elaborate schemes to entice Sandra, ultimately leading to Stopkewich's shattering, darkly erotic climax.

Perhaps not to everyone's taste, **Kissed** is nevertheless an enthralling meditation of death and desire.

With a surprising deftness, Stopkewich manages to illuminate yet never judge Sandra's acting out of her desires. Mention must be made of the tremendous performances by both Molly Parker and Natasha Morley as the adult and the child Sandra, respectively. Equally effective is Peter Outerbridge as the doomed romantic Matt.

In less skilled hands, **Kissed** might well have succumbed to the exploitable excesses characteristic of a Wes Craven. Instead, brave audiences of moviegoers are going to find themselves treated to a haunting and deeply moving love story they are unlikely to soon forget.

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

Kissed starts Friday, May 16, at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater for a one week run.

Catherine (Deborah Kara Unger). This beautiful woman is apparently unable to sate James Ballard's insatiable desires, who is viewed mounting women in any number of unlikely and unholy locations.

His whole life turns topsy-turvy following a devastating car crash which seems to awaken in James any number of bizarre fetishes, first with Dr. Helen Remington (played by the usually perky and pert Holly Hunter).

Because of the crash, James and Helen become associated with Vaughan (Elias Koteas), a curious sort of historian who researches and then re-enacts celebrated car crashes.

With all of his players introduced, Cronenberg proceeds to set up a wide spectrum of oddly passionless sexual permutations, primarily centering on James who, in the course of the film, manages to engage in sex with all of the other central characters, including Vaughan.

Watching Cronenberg's cast being put through their deviant sexual paces, Glenn too quickly became quite numb to the film's often repellent sexual sequences.

What does it all mean, Glenn was heard to wonder, puzzled by the filmmaker's

Please Turn to Crash Page 27

'Special Effects' Entertains, But Misses IMAX's Strengths

By John Jahn

How did they make the White House explode in **Independence Day**? How did they get an elephant to crush a Ford in **Jumanji**? And how were all those new effects added so well to the recently released **Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition**? The creation of convincing and entertaining special movie effects is the central focus of the latest film showing currently at the Milwaukee Public Museum's Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater.

Special Effects takes you behind the scenes to see Hollywood's master effects wizards at work. You see how pyrotechnics, computer imaging, and camera techniques turn mere fireworks into towering infernos and miniature model creatures into giant, sometimes horrific monsters. **Special Effects** is narrated by John Lithgow.

If you go into **Special Effects** not knowing anything about how visual effects are done in today's movies, you're sure to be entertained and interested throughout.

However, if you've ever watched a documentary on TV concerning this subject, you won't really see or learn anything new.

The exception to this is the opening minutes of the film, which feature King Kong atop the Empire State Building—all filmed in the IMAX format.

But the misfortune of this movie is that a great deal of footage is not in the gigantic, surrounding IMAX format—it's just stock footage from the original movies, and when shown on the huge, concave IMAX dome screen, it just doesn't impress you any more than seeing it on a regular screen.

This IMAX presentation does indeed have several scenes made specifically for the IMAX cameras, but only a few of them involve the special effects you want to see. Nevertheless, with a superb soundtrack and some enthralling moments, **Special Effect** will certainly please—if not overly impress or enrapture.

This film rates a 6 on a 10 point scale.

'Romy and Michele's High School Reunion' is a Quirky, Fun Comedy

By John Jahn

Romy (Mira Sorvino) and Michele (Lisa Kudrow) are two ditz, sometimes annoying, but always loveable gal pals trying to make a go of it in Los Angeles. Meentally and emotionally, they never left high school, so far, the central event of their still young lives. So, it's no wonder they both are filled with anxiety, dread, and excitement when they receive invitations to their 10th high school reunion. The Class of '87 is gathering in their home town, Tucson, Arizona. This is the central focus of this very funny, quirky, distinctive new comedy from writer Robin Schiff and Director David Mirkin.

A good part of the film centers on Romy and Michele alone—their lives today, and their reminiscences of their high school days. They were not exactly the most popular girls, being somewhat nerdy and geeky, especially to the small clique at the top of the class of '87 food chain. Some of the best scenes in the film are these flashback sequences.

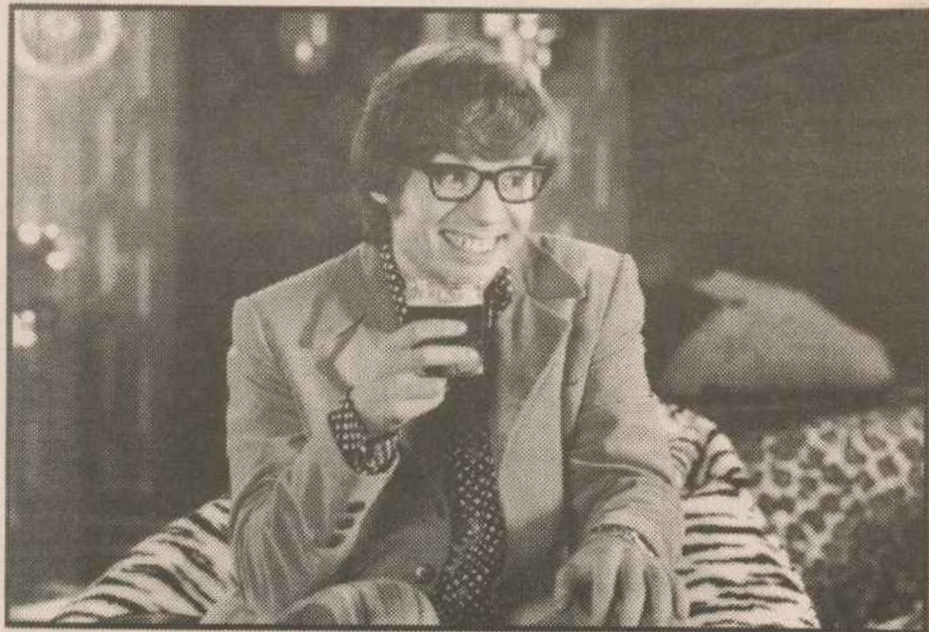
Romy and Michele look back on high school like most of us do: "They were the

best of times, they were the worst of times." The emphasis on these two characters—allowing us plenty of time to get to know them—is distinctive, and a large reason why we come to care about them throughout the film. So many films simply throw characters in front of us and, within minutes, we're supposed to know everything about them so we'll care about them later. Not here.

One aspect of the film which I found most satisfying was the soundtrack, which had many audience members singing and humming along. It was a blast from the past, full of mid-'80s pop hits. They really brought you back and were a joy to hear.

Romy and Michele hits for many reasons: good acting, great comedic writing, nostalgia and the triumph of the average person over their supposedly superior counterparts. A heartwarming, enjoyable film involving two gal pals who dress funny, talk funny, who can't quite make it apart, but have a blast with each other. And we have a blast with them.

This film rates a 7 on a 10 point scale.



My what nice teeth you have! Mike Myers stars in "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."

'Austin Powers' Surely Has Its Moments, but Ultimately Falls Short

By John Jahn

Austin Powers, an "International Man of Mystery" according to the film's title, is in actuality a British high-fashion photographer/undercover agent, and a cross between James Bond, the Beatles, and the Monkeys. In the late '60s, he's ultra-hip, a real lady's man, snappy dresser. When his arch enemy, Dr. Evil, blasts off into Earth orbit aboard his Big Boy statue space ship, and also into cryogenic suspended animation, Powers elects to do the same. He'll be thawed out the moment Dr. Evil returns.

The very witty Michael Myers (of **Wayne's World** fame) plays both the inept Powers and, in an even better performance, the notorious, but equally inept, Dr. Evil. Myers, also the writer of this film, presents us with several funny episodes and developments in **Austin Powers**, and it's hard not to laugh when one of his two characters is goofing around.

But, in the final analysis, this movie breaks down, and we're left disappointed.

Austin Powers, thawed out to do battle with Dr. Evil after 30 years, is hopelessly out of sync with the world of the late '90s, and we can't help but laugh at his attempts to impress women with the lines that succeeded in 1967.

Meanwhile, Dr. Evil needs to be brought up to date on what a proper ransom should be (He still thinks \$1 million is a huge amount of money to demand for the world.), and he even tries group therapy to try to learn how to deal with his son. Like I said, **Austin Powers** does have its moments.

Unfortunately, a great deal of the so-called humor is aimed at the title character's crotch and other bodily functions. It gets really tiresome. In this 90 minute film, there's perhaps 15 to 20 minutes of decent comedy. In other words, enough for a "Saturday Night Live" skit, but nowhere near enough for a feature length theatrical release.

This film rates a 2 on a 10 point scale.

'Love and Other Catastrophes' is a Snappy Film with Fresh Dialogue

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

At first glance at *Love and Other Catastrophes*, a debut film by Australian director Emma-Kate Croghan, Glenn wondered if he was to be faced with an Australian knock-off of the superficially popular television series *Friends*.

An admittedly attractive, perky group of twentysomethings populate *Love and Other Catastrophes*, centering on Alice (Alice Garner), frustrated in love and with a thesis (wonderfully titled, "Doris Day as Feminist Warrior") that's four years late. Her wacky roomie is Mia, a lesbian student who is so obsessed with her favorite college professor, she intends to follow him to whatever department he should wonder off to.

Emma-Kate Croghan's screenplay with Yael Bergman and Helen Brandis follows Mia and Alice on a typically untypical day. Mia is desperate to change departments, of course she has waited until the last day to do so and her quest is one that proves to be far more difficult than she (or we in the audience) can imagine, culminating with the breaking into her dead professor's office in frantic search of his department stamp.

Alice spends most of her time looking over her shoulder for the advisor eagerly awaiting news of her thesis. Meanwhile Alice searches for a third roommate, works at her part-time job, plans that evening's party, helps Mia break into her professor's office and falls in love with Ari (the delicious Matthew Dyktynski), the campus gigolo. Whew, what a busy day indeed.

What separates *Love and Other Catastrophes* from the typical run-of-the-mill Hollywood romantic comedies is a fresh-

ness to the dialogue and a refreshing absence of the usual stereotypes.

Rather than have her lesbian characters languishing on the outer fringes of the action, as they do in *Friends* for example, *Love and Other Catastrophes* places the relationship of Mia and her girlfriend Danni (Radha Mitchell) right in the center of the film's romantic couplings.

Mia emerges as a delightfully complicated character. She is pretty, intelligent and possessing, when the occasion calls for it, quite a bitchy side. But most importantly, Mia is also deeply in love with Danni but with plenty of insecurities that just might prove insurmountable as the two reach a new level in their relationship. As played by Frances O'Connor, Mia should positively delight lesbian audiences.

In fact, Emma-Kate Croghan has elicited uniformly fine performances from all of her youthful cast. Alice Garner is fine as Mia's equally screwed-up roommate Alice and Matt Day makes for a most agreeable Michael, a shy lad who worships Alice from afar.

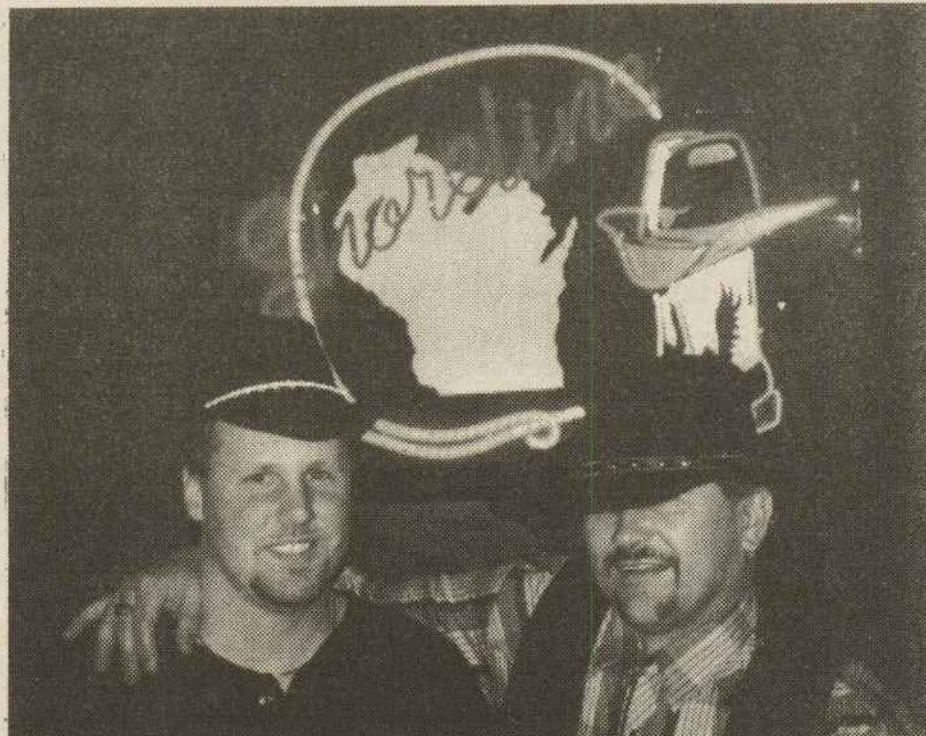
Glenn must make special mention of the absolutely yummy Matthew Dyktynski, whose Ari manages to reveal an appealing, convincing vulnerable side beneath his slick and confident facade.

Love and Other Catastrophes, made in only 17 days and for a mere \$30,000 is a romantic comedy for the '90. Delightfully spontaneous and filled with both energy and some wry observations on the search for love, *Love and Other Catastrophes* offers audiences, Gay and Lesbian included, a marvelous alternative.

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



OUT & About



Photos By Jerry Johnson & Bill Meunier



Yeeehaah A fantastic time was had by everyone in attendance at the Shoreline Round Up held on May 2, 3 and 4 in Milwaukee at Just Us Bar and the War Memorial Center. At the top two "cowpokes" enjoy watching the dancers at the big Country Gayla. Next are three members of the Rainbow Cloggers, an outstanding dance troupe that came from the Twin Cities for the event. Next is a friendly group of Gayla celebrants. At the bottom are three Shoreline supporters taking a break during the festivities at Just Us. Just Us located at 807 S. 5th Street, Milwaukee has Country Dancing on Tuesdays and Saturday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join in.

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
54235
746-0334

EAU CLAIRE

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

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

GREEN BAY

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

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

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

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

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

We Are Family
524 E. Wilson
Madison, WI 5303
258-9006

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
1120 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
278-96114

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

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 52304
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

NEENAH

Diversions
1413 Green Valley
Neenah, WI

RACINE

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

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

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



Robert Rodi's New Novel, "Kept Boy," is a Hilarious Romp Through Gay Life

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

One of the most prolific and popular Gay novelists today is Robert Rodi, perhaps the lone exception to the claim that there is nothing funny about Gay fiction. His latest novel is *Kept Boy* (Dutton HC \$23.95).

Beginning with the hilarious *Fag Hag*, thru *Closet Case*, *What They Did to Princess Paragon* and *Drag Queen*, Robert Rodi has delighted readers with wicked and wickedly funny characters, outrageous and improbable situations, quotable quippy one-liners and generally a genuine sense of irreverence. Rodi's legion of fans aren't likely to be disappointed with *Kept Boy*.

Dennis Racine is Rodi's protagonist and title character. Pretty as a penny, and oh-so young and nubile to boot, Dennis wormed his way into the heart and home of fifty-ish Chicago theatrical impresario Farleigh Nock. In much the same fashion as Madonna's *Evita*, Dennis with swift efficiency dispensed with Farleigh's previous boytoy, Christos.

Many happy years of kept bliss lay ahead for Dennis. A simple creature, Dennis never even seemed to entertain a thought of the possibility that the day just might come when a shinier (not to mention younger and more nubile) penny would catch Farleigh's eye.

Enter Jasper, the new pool boy. Dazzlingly handsome and possessing a body that Glenn can only fantasize about, Jasper is suddenly promoted from pool boy to director of Farleigh's latest production. Panic quickly sets in as even the decidedly dim Dennis realizes the improbability of such a development happening purely on the basis of dramatic imagination.

A determined Dennis is possessed of his wits enough to know the unlikeliness of an aging, if still attractive houseboy finding other employment sufficient to keep him in the style to which he has become accustomed.

To keep Farleigh from the clutches of the gold-digging little Jasper, Dennis will fight, but not before enlisting assistance from his friends and fellow gigolos Lonnie Roach, a beautifully languid heterosexual kept by ancient gossip columnist Dierdre Diamond; and Paulette Ng, the mistress of an influential Congressman. Together, this rather unholy alliance plots and schemes to devise the means for Dennis to keep his position.

"Lucy and Mickey" is a Great Tale of Lesbian Love

Reviewed by Daddyles

Lucy and Mickey by Red Jordan Arobateau, proves a journey into the harsh reality of Lesbian life in 1950's Chicago. Written from the coarse perspective of a street-running butch dyke in her teens, Mickey shows us the trials and thrills of Lesbian life and love in her era.

Lucy and Mickey is the "Paris is Burning" of Lesbianism—detailing rough street butches and their Bisexual prostitute lovers, offering us an intimate look at the societal bonds and hazards that faced prostitutes, street people, Gays and Lesbians alike before Stonewall.

Arobateau's no-holds-barred depiction of Lesbian sex fill this sad love story with kinky twists and turns, while depiction's of Lucy's steadily building heroin addiction keep you grounded in reality.

The first three-quarters of the book held my interest strongly. Toward the later parts of the book, things became a bit mundane. I'd recommend this book as a harrowing yet impressive bit of literature for any Lesbian searching for a true perspective of her heritage.

Unlike many of Robert Rodi's previous "rich and famous" lifestyle.

Surrounding Dennis are a roster Rodi's "usual suspects", a collection of typically eccentric characters ranging from the outrageous Fatima Howitzer, Dennis' amazon-like workout partner, Mercedes St. Aubyn, an actress with Tourette's syndrome and Jasper's not-so-nice granny, Ioannou.

In typical Robert Rodi fashion, *Kept Boy* has a rollercoaster ride of a plot guaranteed to keep readers on their toes with plenty of laughs thrown in to keep one and all entertained from beginning to end. One might quibble over a few of Rodi's more curious plot twists and perhaps wish, as Glenn did, that Rodi had taken a bit more in setting up his expectedly unexpected climax.

Those readers looking for deeply profound or highly literary literature are unlikely to find it in Robert Rodi's *Kept Boy*. What they will find is the most enjoyable Gay romp Glenn has read in many a moon.

Robert Rodi is scheduled to appear at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffee House at this year's PrideFest.

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.

Wildwood Flowers is a hilarious and heartwarming tale of Lesbian culture and culture shock, the resiliency of true love and the extraordinarily maddening gab between "coming out" and "being out."

When Bev's lover, Andie, receives an assistant professorship at a Christian-affiliated college, Bev does her best to be the supportive partner. But she isn't too thrilled about the prospect of moving from Boston's Lesbian ghetto to the small southern town of Morgan, Kentucky. When the local welcome-wagon arrives at their doorstep, Bev is shocked when Andie tells them that they are cousins. But when faced with the prospects of being set up with all of the most eligible men in Morgan, Bev must put her foot down!

Watts currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee where she is a part-time nanny, part-time teacher and a "the-rest-of-the-time writer".

For further information concerning Ms. Watts' appearance, please phone (414) 963-9089 or visit the Afterwords website at www.afterwords.com.

Margot Peters Reading At A Room of One's Own

Margot Peters will read from her biography of May Sarton at Room of One's Own on Friday May 16 at 6:30 PM.

Peters, a Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has written the first biography of Peters, a complex woman and artist.

Peters gives a compelling portrait of Sarton the actress, novelist, poet, and writer.

The event is free and open to the public. A Room of One's Own is located at 317 W. Johnson Street. Please call (608) 257-7888 for more information.

"Wildwood Flowers" Author, Julia Watts Talks About Lesbian Life

By Cynthia Van Vreede

Wildwood Flowers is the first book from one of Naiad's newest authors, Julia Watts. It's a heartwarming and hilarious story of Lesbian culture shock when two women move from their supportive Gay community in Boston to a small town in southern Kentucky. I had a chance to chat with Julia Watts about her book, her rural background, and her new project.



Julia Watts

Wisconsin Light: You are a nanny/writer. How did that come about?

Julia Watts: Well, I am a nanny of a child of two really close friends that I met when I was in college. So it came about as I was finishing grad school. I was thinking I would like to, you know, devote some real time for writing. They were going to have a baby, so it just came about that way.

WL: In *Wildwood Flowers* both Andie and Bev struggle with the concept "out" and "closeted."

JW: I think the two different characters come at it from two different perspective, and I think part of that is their personalities. Bev is, I think, a much more open person than Andie is. Andie is more reserved. So I think what your natural inclinations are, in terms of your personality, has a lot to do with your "struggle" with being out versus being closeted. The big difference is that Andie is coming in with this new job in this college that is "Christian" affiliated. In the south, they have even stronger implications than something being "Christian" up your way. I think a lot of Andie's struggle comes from fear of losing her career. I think that is a big fear with a lot of people staying in the closet.

WL: Some people have said that *Wildwood Flowers* offers lessons in

being at peace with yourself. Do you agree with that?

JW: That's really a nice thing to say. Nobody has said that about the book before. And that's a nice way to think about it. I think that's certainly one aspect of the book. I also think that something Andie learns from the book, and Andie doesn't learn it as soon as Bev, is that even in a community like Morgan, there are still going to be people who are going to be accepting. You can't always assume that everybody is to come at you with prejudice. I want there to be a message about acceptance. If you accept yourself, there are always going to be people who accept you.


WL: Let's talk about your new book, *Phases of the Moon*, which will be coming out in September. What's it all about?

JW: It is the fictional autobiography of a Lesbian rockabilly singer. I say fictional because it is written as though it is her autobiography and she is telling it. But it's fiction. It traces her origins in the coal camps of rural southeastern Kentucky where she was born, her rise to fame, which is kind of not a huge thing because she is a woman rockabilly singer. I don't know what if any you know about rockabilly music in the 50's, but there were really a lot of women in the field, producing. They didn't end up topping the charts like the men. When I was researching this novel, I was amazed by the number of women. You don't really think of women doing that. Usually Janis Joplin gets the first credit.

WL: If you think about what kind of woman was represented in mass market, you think of the girl groups of the 60's or maybe someone like Patti Page or Connie Francis before that. But we really don't have much in terms of rockabilly and you don't even think of women participating in that kind of music because we've never heard it.

JW: Yes, there are some really great stuff and the thing about these women is that most of them recorded a few songs and the fell back to obscurity. Some of them got married and had families. It's sort of about Glenda, the main character's name, and her small level of fame, and falls back into obscurity. Then how she resurfaces and finds herself again in the 70's when women's music starts emerging.

Julia Watts will be at AfterWords Bookstore on May 22nd at 7:30pm. She'll be reading from *Wildwood Flowers*.



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FICTION

Statues of the Sacred Band



A SERIALIZED NOVEL

Chapter 5

Summary: The day after Garreth's death in the Stoa restaurant explosion, Tony seeks out Mary Ann Allen, a reporter who has been working on stories about Chris Calder. He learns that Garreth was the President's grand nephew. Mary Ann tells him that there may be something here bigger than Watergate. Since Garreth was Bobby Calder's lover, they set out to search Garreth's apartment to see what they can find.

By Terry Boughner

Mary Ann kept her car in the paper's basement garage. It was small, a low lying convertible that had seen better days. The body was dented badly and the once bright red paint looked faded and worn. She told me to shove her "junk" out of the way, while she pulled a flag out of her purse and stuck it on the hood.

"Whose flag?" I asked.

"Good. Who knows. Cops here, stupid. Belong in the home. See flag and think 'diplomat.' Leave you alone."

I quickly found out what she meant by leaving us alone. In a squeal of tires, up the garage ramp we roared and plunged onto 15th Street, with her looking neither to the right or left. We skidded around Logan Circle, darting in and out of traffic like a Horns blew, drivers cursed and made obscene gestures. She paid them no mind. Neither did she pay much attention to stop lights. As I discovered, she thought of them more in the nature of kindly advice than declarations of intent.

More horns sounded, a protesting cacophony of them blaring angrily, as we whipped up Rhode Island Avenue. There were more gestures, too, not that I blamed them. I didn't, not one little bit. A cop standing on a corner saluted as we passed. Mary Ann gave him a merry wave.

On to Lincoln Road we swung, barreling past a cemetery (a preview of what was to come, I thought) and on to Michigan Avenue we roared, passing the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Catholic University, both on the left, and swept over a bridge.

"Turkey Thicket," Mary Ann shouted, pointing back to a small park on the left as she wheeled right, onto Perry Street, tore up a hill and parked on the corner of Perry and 12th. I collapsed back against my seat.

"Jesus!" I shouted. "Did you ever hear of speed limits? Ever?"

"Good. Have flag." Apparently thinking that was explanation enough, she got from the car.

It was a quiet street, framed in trees that looked wilted from the searing heat. Garreth's apartment building was across 12th Street from where we were, a three story affair, built of cream colored brick. With the adroit use of a credit card, Mary Ann got us in the building and then, into the third floor apartment itself. As it turned out, she could have saved herself the effort. The place had been picked clean. I did spot something of interest, however. But before I could say anything, Mary Ann was heading out the door. I tucked it in my shirt pocket and hurried along behind.

I caught up with her on the second floor landing. She was standing, back against the wall, head turned so that she could peek out the window. I stopped on the bottom step.

"Good. Company." Her voice was barely above a whisper.

Through a window I could see two men standing on the sidewalk across the street. They were both dressed in dark blue suits and reminded me, somehow, of sharks. As I watched, a car pulled up on 12th Street and parked. Two more men got out, both dressed like the first two.

"Who...?" I began.

She put a finger to her lips and then pointed to the descending stairs. Down we went to the first floor hall and followed that to the back of the building. There was a door. Mary Ann opened and peeked out before gesturing to tell me that the way was clear. A short flight of steps led to a

brick ally that gave out on 12th street. There was a bus stop. A woman was waiting. The bus rolled up. She got on and so did we, darting up to it just before it pulled away. Ordinarily, I hate buses, but this one had one thing had one advantage: Mary Ann wasn't driving it. I fell into a seat beside her.

"Would you mind telling me who we were running from?" I pleaded.

"Good. Calder's goons, probably. Part of tribe that cleaned out Garreth's apartment."

The bus turned left, lumbering on to Michigan Avenue. From her purse, she took a lipstick and mirror to freshen up. Meantime, the bus stopped for a light.

"God, they do stop for lights in this city." I intended to let my sarcasm show.

"Don't make mock," she replied and applied the lipstick, as if she had not a care in the world.

The light changed, the bus turned left again, off Michigan Avenue and into a Metro parking lot where we got off.

"Okay, so what about the car?" I asked.

"Forget it. Have friend pick it up later."

And with that, we were off to the station, Brookland-CUA on the Red Line, as she said, to take the train into the city.

I wanted a cigarette badly, but there was no smoking in the station. An escalator led to the platform above. A sign said there was no smoking there, either, but in reaching for my cigarette pack, I felt what had retrieved from Garreth's apartment and took it out. It was a white business card with the figure of a seated lion on it outlined in gold, and beneath it, in raised black letters, a name.

"You ever hear of a guy named Nicholas Bardi?" I asked Mary Ann.

"Good. Known to immediate world. Why?"

I gave her the card, told her where I'd found it, and about meeting Bardi on the train. By the time I'd finished, the lights on the edge of the platform were flashing on and off, indicating a train was coming in. When we'd got on and were seated, she showed me something. On the back of the card, written in blue ink, was "Project 328." I asked her what she thought it meant.

"Good. Mar doesn't know." She stopped and from her purse she took a small yellow note pad and flipped it open. "Nicholas Bardi," she read. "Lives in Georgetown. Very rich. Gives to Right Wing causes. Is one of Calder's chief supporters. Has half interest in Russian bank. Other half owned by Iranian, name of Hafazi Agassi." She stopped and looked at me. "Didn't see him with Bardi, did you? Rumor has it they're lovers."

"Bardi was alone, as far as I could see."

"Good. Saw everything." She went back to reading from her notepad. "Bardi deals in art. Is a rose fancier. Owns a flower shop in Georgetown called The Theban Bower. Ultra fashionable. Flowers for best parties in Washington come from there. That's it."

Her mention of The Theban Bower struck a chord. Why it should, I couldn't have said. As far as I could think, I'd never heard of the place before.

The notepad disappeared into the maw of her purse from whence it had come. She turned the card over and over in her fingers, looking at it as if she wished it could talk. "Pieces, all part of same puzzle," she mused. "Senator, Bobby, Bardi, Gays disappearing, Garreth, the White House. Now this. Project 328."

As the train slid into the Rhode Island Avenue station and stopped, she glanced over at me with a thoughtful look.

"So, now what?" I asked. "See what this Johnny Chang knows?"

There was the sound of chimes. The car doors slid shut and the train started up again.

"Good." Her tone was thoughtful. "Find him, first."

"And check out Ganymede's, too. Garreth said Bobby worked there."

"Good. Thinking. Mar's hungry. Needs lunch. Start with Ganymede's. Maybe someone there knows this Chang."

The train plunged beneath the ground, heading for Union Station. From the depths of her purse, I heard her beeper go off. She took it out and looked at it. "Good. Call office."

I figured she had a cell phone stashed away in that purse—which she did—but she didn't want to use it. It wasn't secure, she said. We got off at Union Station. While she went off to find a pay phone and make her call, I went outside to have a cigarette.

Traffic clogged Columbus Circle just in front of me, while around its rim, the flags of the several states hung limply against their poles. Up ahead, a couple of blocks, I could see the Capitol dome white and shimmering in the noonday sun.

Christ, it was hot, like a steam bath. The air roared with heat. The sidewalk seemed to come up and hit you in the face.

A young guy went by. He was short, slender, and had a dusky complexion. Cute, I thought, in his white tank top and shorts, good contrast to his complexion. Nice legs, shapely, muscular legs.

He gave me the once over, shy-eyed, speculative. I took a drag from my cigarette and looked back. He went on his way, disappearing into the crowd of tourists and others entering the station.

It was just a flirtation, nothing more, but it made me feel good. I hoped I'd done the same for him.

My mind wandered. *Bardi? It didn't surprise me that he was rich. I'd pretty much guessed that. But a flower shop? Geez. A creep like him owning a flower shop. What'd Mary Ann said he called it? Oh yeah, The Theban Bower. The name didn't mean anything to me, so why did it sound so familiar?*

I shook my head to clear it and smoked my cigarette. My shirt was glomming to my skin.

And Project 328? What'd that mean? Who's card was it? Bobby's? Garreth's? Had Garreth known more than he said he did? What about this Johnny Chang? What's he know?

Ganymede's. God, yeah. It'd be heaven to get out of this heat. Have some coffee. I'd kill for coffee right now, coffee in air conditioned comfort. Where the hell was Mary Ann?

I'd about finished my cigarette, when Mary Ann returned. It didn't take a psychic to know there was trouble. The look on her face said that. Something had happened and, whatever it was, wasn't good at all.

TO BE CONTINUED



Bending the Landscape edited Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel White Wolf Pub. HC \$19.99

In this groundbreaking anthology, a group of queer writers, both talented newcomers and award-winning genre veterans fantasy, exploring queer characters. **Bending the Landscape** features stories that stretch the standard fantasy genre and will give readers a dizzying, dazzling ride.

The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture by Daniel Harris, Hyperion HC \$24.95

In **The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture**, prize-winning essayist and critic Daniel Harris traces the historical development and meaning of the artifacts and rituals of Gay culture as they evolve over time. He also looks at how the process of assimilation has transformed elements of Gay culture from what they once were, vehicles of political protest into sanitized, marketable commodities.

Ceremonies of the Heart: Celebrating Lesbian Unions, edited by Becky Butler Seal Press Pb \$16.95

Here is the book that says yes to Lesbian identity and culture - and to a new

and improved definition of family. Filled with ideas on creating unique rituals, the book describes the transformative experiences of twenty-seven Lesbian couples who celebrated their relationships in wide-ranging ways. **Ceremonies of the Heart** is a joyous affirmation of passionate and enduring love and relationships between women.

Afterwords Events

Monday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.

Afterword's Book Club
Was by Geoff Ryman

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 p.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*

Thursday, May 29, 7:00p.m.

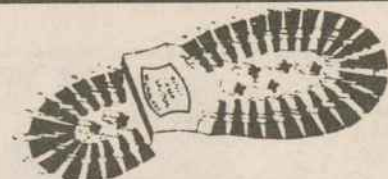
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Friday & Saturday • DJ - 9:30^{pm}
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Dear Ruthie

Hello Folks. Well it's time for a few more questions. My mailbox is getting low, so please keep your letters coming!!! I just love wrapping myself in silk sheets and reading all of your letters. Liberace music playing from my 8-track, the scent of my "Charlie" perfume in the air - yes damnit, I'm a "Charlie" girl!

I really like the e-mails I've received too, after all "Charlie" girls are "hip with the techno scene," as the kids say. I also liked getting the photos that some of you have included.

Except for the photos I keep receiving from "Jimbo" of Glendale Heights, Illinois.

Well, "Jimbo," sending unmarked dirty Polaroids of yourself via the post office is a federal offense -although, in your case a minor one. "Big Ray" from California, on the other hand, please send me 12 wallet sizes and an 8 x 10 glossy.

Ruthie,

I need your advice. I am in a situation that I perceive as a tough one and all I was trying to do was to help someone. A "friend" contacted me and said he needed help. He and his wife had a fight and he needed a place to stay. He had no clothing except for the clothing on his back. The fight turned out to be the result of their eviction from their apartment for having loud arguments.

He essentially told me that he had no where to go and that she wasn't talking to him. He wanted to sleep on my couch for two weeks until he got his first pay check from his "new" job. He is a chain smoker, I requested that he smoke outside - so far he has been sneaking cigs in the downstairs bathroom!!!!

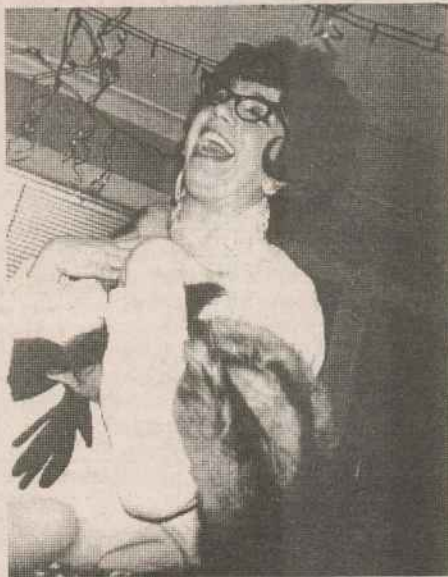
I woke up this morning and took my shower when I came to the closet I noticed that the suit I was going to wear was missing. I blew up but by that time he left for "work". He broke the rules and now must go back to the street...not my problem ... call your wife!!!! I just need to hear what you think!

Regards,
Cincinnati Sinner

Dear Sinner,

A man who steals, lies, and breaks all the rules - if I didn't know better, I'd swear I married this guy once. There's only one thing worse than a chain smoking, suit stealing, couch sleeping, S.O.B., and that's one who takes advantage of your kindness. "Beat it, Smokey!" It just gripes my bottom when people reach out for someone's hand and they wind up getting kicked in the ashtray, if you know what I mean.

Tell that guy it's time for him to hit the tracks! Tell him that you aren't Mother Theresa, and if you were, you certainly would have better taste in clothes than she does. I mean come on now - white and blue, white and blue. Someone get that woman some sequins. I'm putting that on my list - get Mother Theresa some sequins ... and a boa. I know that she is an older lady and hasn't been feeling well lately, but maybe this would cheer her up a bit. Perhaps a lovely pants suit ... and a tiara - every diva needs a tiara.



Ruthie

Dear Ruthie, I've been with my share of men, but they never want to get too serious. Why is this? How come gay men can never say "I love you?"
(Signed)
Lonely in Cudahy

Dear Lonely, There are 10 things that a Gay man will never say. I offer you ...

RUTHIE'S TOP TEN LIST OF THINGS A GAY MAN WOULD NEVER SAY

10. "Shirley Temple would have made a better Dorothy."
9. "Let's turn off this *Golden Girls* rerun and watch the game."
8. "This town needs more straight bars."
7. "Quick - Rush Limbaugh is on!"
6. "Let's get the Playboy channel."
5. "Newt Gingrich, Newt Gingrich, oh that dreamy Newt Gingrich!"
4. "The best things in life are free."
3. "Jerry Falwell for President!"
2. "Size doesn't matter."

And the number one thing a gay man would never say,

1. "Ellen who?"

Did you notice that "I love you" wasn't in there? Keep your chin up. You'll find someone.

Ruthie is waiting for your letter. Please jot down any problem, comments, or concerns you might have and send them to: Ruthie, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

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SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 14

- 1:00 Mama's Family vs. The Ball Game Balistreri's vs. Club 219
- 2:00 M & M vs River West The Ball Game vs. Triangle
- 3:00 Triangle vs River West Club 219 vs M & M

Then beginning at 4:00, Manoeuvres will be the site of a big blow out. There will be food, dancing, an auction, a show and as much action as anyone would want.

Anyone with hailing distance of Mad Town (and even those who aren't) should make this date on their calendars now. Don't miss this first ever chance to be part of history as the SSBL comes to Mad Town.

Olbrich Field is on Atwood off of Fair Oaks. Manoeuvres is at 150 S. Blair.

YOU'RE INVITED

Continued from Page 18

The fund raiser includes a show, a cook out and an auction. Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair Street. Olbrich Park is on Atwood Ave, just off of Fair Oaks.

GRAND OPENING OF NEW BAR, DIVERSIONS IN NEENAH

So you thought all the big bars were in the big cities huh?? Wrong, thanks to some very talented and enterprising people, Wisconsin's largest Gay entertainment complex, Diversion's will be holding its Grand Opening on Saturday May 17.

The party includes a show, drink specials, hot dance music and lots of excitement. Diversion's is located at 1413 Green Valley Road. To get there take HWY 41 to the Breezewood Exit and then take Green Valley a short distance to the bar.

A special Milwaukee Rainbow Express bus will be leaving Mama Roux to go to the party. The bus benefits HIT. For details call Mama Roux, 347-0344.

POOL TOURNEY AT KATHY'S NUT HUT IN MILWAUKEE

Kathy's Nut Hut will be holding a Pool tourney to help support the Possum Queen Contest. The tourney starts at 2 PM. There is a \$10.00 per person entry fee.

Proceeds go to support Miss Nut Butt, Kathy's Possum Queen candidate. The Nut Hut is located at 1500 W. Scott Street.

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SATURDAY MAY 24

THE MILWAUKEE CLASSIC

If you like to excitement of seeing butch men (and women) who wear tight clothes and bend over a lot, then the Milwaukee Classic is for you.

This 17 Classic will be held on Saturday May 24 and Sunday May 25 at Wick Field, 52nd and Vliet, Milwaukee.

This is the oldest Gay softball touney anywhere in the U.S. Twenty four teams (including 15 from outside of Wisconsin) are expected to compete.

Best of all admission is free. So head on down to see how your friends in the SSBL stack up against national competition. It's fun and its free!

TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY AT B'S IN MILWAUKEE

B's located at South Second and Lapham will be the site of Lana's Tribute to Broadway. Lana St. James, Miss B's will host a gayla look at Broadway through the years.

There will be an all ages show at 6:30 and a 21 and over show at 10:30. There is a \$3.00 cover to benefit the BESTD Clinic.

CRASH

Continued From Page 22

surprising reticence in depicting his characters' deepest depravities. Cronenberg's cautious approach undermines his as well as his character's convictions yet ought to effectively disappoint those merely seeking titillation

Gay and Lesbian moviegoers may or may not be pleased by the inclusion of same-sex encounters (there is a brief scene between Holly Hunter and Rosanna Arquette, tossed in at the end as if an after-thought) in *Crash*. Glenn is forced to admit that the kiss between James and Vaughan was not only the most passionate of the film, but also the most passionate kiss between two men Glenn has seen in a Hollywood film in ages.

Perhaps Cronenberg and author Ballard are offering up a cautionary tale of a not so distant future, a future in which people will substitute increasingly outrageous and depraved sexual antics for the love they can no longer feel or embrace. A grim tale, indeed but not a particularly convincing one.

Still, *Crash* offers a whole new meaning to the term auto-eroticism.

Rating \$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$\$)
Crash starts Friday, May 9, at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater for a one week run.

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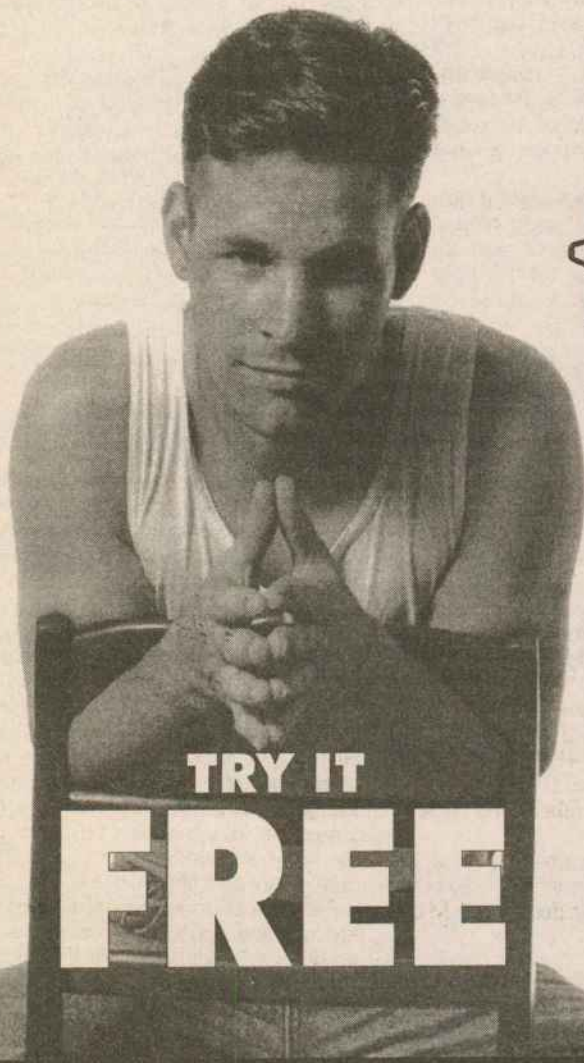
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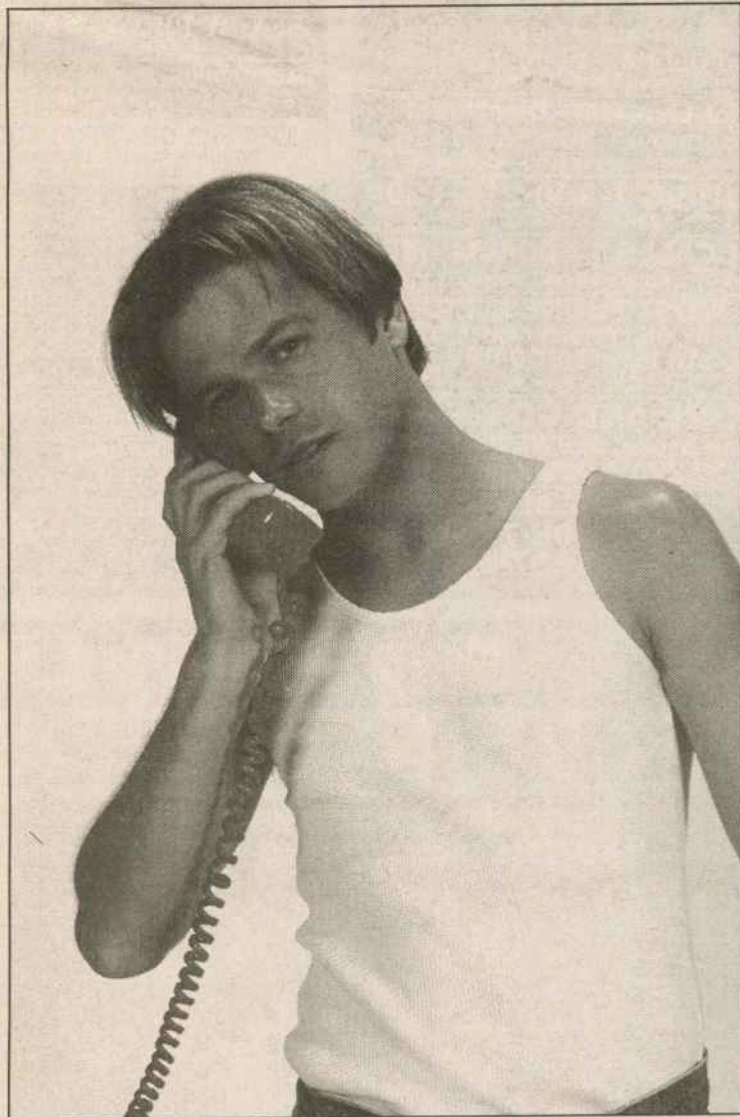
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Illinois

TWO TICKETS TO PARADISE If you're looking for a good time, I've got the ticket. I'm a hot looking, Gay, White male, 6'2, 175lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I wanna play. (Chicago) #31218

LEAN ON THE SCENE I'm a hot, masculine, 19 year old, Latino male, 6'3, 150lbs, with a nice body. I'd like to hook up with other good looking, lean, athletic males for fun, friendship and, if it works out, more. (De Kalb) #31252

ROMEO IN JOLIET I'm a good looking, Asian male, 5'10, 145lbs, into traveling. I want to meet an in shape, good looking, White male, for friendship and, maybe, more. (Joliet) #32571

Iowa

COMMON GROUND I love to visit with other guys in the Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, area. Eventually, I'd like to have a long term relationship. I'm an attractive, 40 year old, White male, 6'3, with a mustache and goatee. I have very diverse interests so I'm sure we can find some common ground. (Decorah) #33379

THE GOAL LINE This creative, enthusiastic, handsome, Gay, White male, 6'3, 240lbs, with Brown hair, Hazel eyes, and a goatee, wants to meet other men interested in becoming friends with the goal of a long term relationship. My interests are wide and varied and I'm very adventurous. (Decorah) #30669

I'M NO PHONEY I'm not necessarily into getting together at this point, but I want to have some hot conversations on the phone. I'm a good looking, White male, 5'11, with short Brown hair, Green eyes, and a very muscular body, from constant workouts. Who knows? We might hit it off and meet in person. (Iowa City) #32536

Minnesota

READ MY FUTURE Right now I'm looking for companionship but what can happen in the future is anyone's guess. I'm an attractive, masculine male, in my late 40's. You should be a sincere guy, 20 to 35, who wants to start as friends. (Elk River) #30954

SEXY SCIENCE I'm conducting an experiment. I seek horny, Black men, 30 to 45, as my subjects. I want to see what I can do to make a tent in your jeans. (Minneapolis) #32944

SEEN MY SHE-MALE? Transvestites and she-males really turn me on. I'm a horny, White male, 5'9, 145lbs, and I'll do anything for you. (Minneapolis) #32025

MY NIGHTS ARE FREE This good natured, attractive, White male, 165lbs, with Blond hair and Hazel eyes, seeks a nice, caring, funny, good looking, guy to spend the nights with. (Minneapolis) #32295

LIPPY AND LEGGY I'm a sexy, long haired, Bisexual, crossdresser looking for a man, or a couple of men, to get together with for intimate times. I have long legs, a tight rear end, and very red lips. I can be very versatile. If you're well endowed, you're all the more welcome. Let's play. (Minneapolis) #32184

BEAR CARE I'm looking for bears who are sincerely interested in getting together. You should be at least moderately hairy, over 6ft tall, and weigh over 220lbs. I can't wait to meet you. (Minneapolis) #31690

BRILL THRILL I've got a thing for guys who slick their hair back. I'm a hot, Red haired, White male, in my 30's, 6'1, 185lbs. I'm a submissive bottom who loves to give it up to Brill creamed brute. (Minneapolis) #31454

RAUNCH-A-TERIA The kinkier the better. Raunchy? The best. Come use and abuse me. No holds barred. (Minneapolis) #31494

SOCIAL SCENE My and my buddy are looking for other men to socialize with. Get in touch with us. (Minneapolis) #31556

RAVISHING REDHEAD I'm a smooth, slender, Redheaded, Gay, White male, and a submissive bottom. I'm very horny to meet a well hung stud who I can satisfy over and over. I have a lot of experience. If we like it, we can get together whenever you want to. Let's do it everywhere. (Minneapolis) #31565

ROCK, ROLL, AND RIDE Do you like music? Wanna go dancing? Gotta bike? Let's rock, roll, and ride. I'm a good looking, White male, 5'8, 130lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes. I want to meet a man whose interests are similar to mine. (Minneapolis) #17426

REGULAR FILL UP This horny, Gay, White male loves to be a submissive bottom. I get off on making my man feel good all over, and under. If you're well hung, tall, and sexy, we can work it out. (Minneapolis) #29874

WEEKEND WARM UP I'm looking for discreet, 3-way action with an attractive, healthy, safe, couple who've been together at least 2 years. I'm a 39 year old, Gay, White male, 5'11, 170lbs. You should be versatile, masculine, mature, and into some mutually satisfying, uninhibited action. An ongoing thing would be great. (Minneapolis) #17057

HUG THE HURT AWAY I'm trying to get over a broken heart and the best antidote is cuddling with a young, dark skinned, slim guy who wants to get to know me. I'm certain you can help me get over the hurt I'm feeling. (Minneapolis) #16327

OUTDOORSY I live about an hour north of the Minneapolis metro area and I think I'm worth the trip. I'm an outdoorsy, athletic, White male, 36, 6ft, 180lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, a mustache, and trimmed beard. I'm muscular, masculine, and looking for someone like me. Wanna get together? #32396

Wisconsin

APPLE'S WAY I'm ready to start a relationship with a sincere, non smoking, Gay, White male, 23 to 27. I'm an easy going, attractive, 24 year old, White male, 6ft, 165lbs, with short Brown hair, Hazel eyes, and a swimmer's build. I enjoy working out, electronics, bowling, and photography. If you're Mr. Right material, let's get together. (Appleton) #30977

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS This very traditional, 29 year old, White male, seeks Gay friends. I love the outdoors and sports, both participating and watching. I'm outgoing but discreet. (Eau Claire) #33245

OUT OF CONTROL I need a man to get me in line. This 44 year old, Bi, White male is extremely submissive, unrelentingly naughty, and in need of a dominant master to whip me into shape. I'll do your bidding, whatever it may be. (Green Bay) #12639

RAT RACE REMOVAL If you like older men and believe in outdated virtues like sincerity, honesty, intelligence, Peter Pan, laughter, fidelity, lifetime relationships, and are tired of city life and the rat race, here I am. My birth certificate says I'm 63, but I'll never believe it. Maybe we're the missing piece in each other's life. Let's talk and find out. (Hurley) #31090

DON'T LET THE CHAIR SCARE YA I have Cerebral Palsy and live in a wheelchair. I'm looking for a man between 20 and 50, to spend some quality time, and share hugs, with. I'm a 42 year old, White male, into swimming, and wrestling. (Janesville) #31871

ASIAN INFATUATION This attractive, White male seeks a Gay, Asian male for friendship. (Janesville) #31586

JUST THE TWO OF US I'm looking for a man who likes to spend intimate times with a loving partner. I'm a good natured, attractive, 32 year old, White male, 6'1, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I love the outdoors, swimming, walks on the lake, and spending time with you. (Kenasha) #30834

SEEKING STABILITY I'm looking for a guy in his 40's, or older, who enjoys spending time with a younger man. I'm a 23 year old, White male, in need of mature guidance. (Madison) #33129

TIGER WOODY I'm a nice looking, 58 year old, White male, 5'9, 180lbs, with a medium build. I love to play golf and engage in all other outdoor activities. Right now, I'm more interested in some indoor sports, if you know what I mean. (Madison) #32997

TATTS AND TRANS This 40 year old, White male, 6ft, 165lbs, with a slim build, very long hair, and tattoos, wants to meet a Transvestite or Transsexual for fun. Wanna come out and play? (Madison) #31124

FREAKY PHONE FUN I totally get off on talking on the phone with other hot men. I can't wait to hear from you. (Milwaukee) #32501

LET'S HAVE A BLAST This smooth, built, attractive, Gay, White male, bottom, 29, seeks aggressive tops, 25 to 30, in the area, for hot fun. (Milwaukee) #32513

HOW TO SPELL RELIEF This good looking, hungry, 22 year old, White male, seeks constructions workers, truckers, and military types, who need to be serviced. Let me relieve you. (Milwaukee) #32260

BOD AND BREAKFAST I'm a Gay, White male, 45, 5'9, 165lbs, with a hairy, muscular build, and a tight butt. I'll greet you at the front door and give you access to my back door. It can't accept wide loads because of it's tight nature. The well endowed should apply elsewhere. I like late morning, and afternoon get togethers. I like foreplay while watching porn. Safe sex only. The sexually frustrated especially welcome. (Milwaukee) #31643

DUET OR TRIO This hot, versatile, Gay, Hispanic male, 5'10, 188lbs, seeks other hot, versatile men for horny get togethers. I have a lover, so three-way action is possible, if you're into it. (Milwaukee) #31762

RIGHT TO THE POINT Like feet? Let's meet. (Milwaukee) #31763

IT AIN'T STOVE TOP This horny, Biracial, Bi male, 6ft, 185lbs, seeks hot bottoms for hard driving encounters. I like eager guys, 18 to 24. I've got just the right stuffing for you. (Milwaukee) #31938

FLEX FEST I'm a very muscular, 29 year old, White male, with great chest, arms, and legs. I like to get oiled up with other muscular dudes for flex fests. Let's get slippery and show off. I'm 5'8, 165lbs, with short, light Brown hair. I'm pretty versatile sexually. (Milwaukee) #31169

MESSIN' AROUND I want to have hot, sexual, encounters with Black men and couples. I'm a passive, but masculine, very attractive, 28 year old, White male, with a smooth body. It doesn't matter if you're Straight, Bi, or Gay, as long as you're horny and ready to go. (Milwaukee) #30918

RITE OF PASSAGE I wanna do it with an 18, or 19, year old guy, who's never been with a man before and is horny as heck. Get ready. #32393



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Barbara Cook: At 70 She is Still Going Strong and Still Proud of Her Gay Following

Continued from Page 14

have taken some songs that would normally be sung as ballads and spiced them up a bit. Others that typically would be done in a brighter matter, she sings in a more soft and gentle fashion, such as "Oh What A Beautiful Morning."

"Song like 'All The Things You Are' and 'Don't Ever Leave Me' are perfect songs.

One feels that there is not a note, not a word out of place. It sort of all fits together. And it is wonderfully romantic and emotional in content," she says. "For those who don't know this music, a whole world can open up to them. There are all those great composers from that era, most of whom are gone, whose work lives on, and will live on for who knows how long. New people can tap into this whole world of really great work."

Raised in Atlanta, Cook, who is divorced and lives in New York City, made her Broadway debut in 1951 as the ingenue lead in the musical "Flahooley," and later toured in the national company of "Oklahoma!"

Other Broadway shows that followed through the '50s and '60s included "Carousel" during the New York City Center's debut season, "Plain and Fancy," "The Music Man," for which she won a Tony award, "Candide" (where she debuted Leonard Bernstein's classic song, "Glitter and Be Gay,") and "She Loves Me."

Two of the tunes from the latter show, "Ice Cream" and "Dear Friend" have become two of her signature songs. (Her last acting job on Broadway was in 1972 in "Enemies.")

In 1987, she won the prestigious Drama Desk Award for her Broadway revue, "A Concert for the Theatre." She has also recorded nearly two dozen albums including eight cast albums, three live recordings and seven solo albums.

But it was her Carnegie Hall concert in 1975 that changed her life and guided the direction of her career for the last two decades. At the time, Cook was well known amongst the theatre crowd, who considered her to be one of the great musical actresses of Broadway.

But few knew her as the cabaret and concert performer. She had met Harp a year earlier and they toured vigorously with a cabaret act of Gershwin music. After a few failed attempts by others to stage a concert for her at the famed New York hall, she and Harp took matters into their own hands and staged the show.

Her standing room only performance at Carnegie earned her critical raves and accolades and exposed her to an audience that was unfamiliar with her as the solo songstress.

At that moment, she was instantly catapulted her to the ranks of true diva. The concert has been deemed one of the finest moments in music history.

(A recording of the famed event was recently released on Sony Classical records, featuring never before released cuts.)

"That concert really launched our act and set the course for my career," says Cook. "And we've (Harp and Cook) been doing okay ever since. Actually, we've been down discovering it themselves. This music really is timeless and has a tremendous cross generation appeal."

Cook points out the recent success of people like Barbara Streisand and Tony Bennett, who have scored well with recordings of standards. "These are songs that sort of faded from view with disco and rock," she says. "But they've maintained a place on the radio and on recordings, and even more so lately with the renaissance of people like Tony Bennett, who have made it hip again. Carly Simon is recording her second album of standards. Linda Rondstadt did it. There is a big audience for this kind of music."

While the album was recorded just last month with a live orchestra, and overseen by her longtime musical director Wally Harp, the idea took nearly a year to come to fruition.

"A friend of Wally's and mine, who loves Oscar Hammerstein's work, suggested that we do an entire album of Hammerstein," she recalls. "We sort of set the idea aside, even though we thought it was a good idea. We just didn't have the time to devote to it. Then last September, we did a show at the Café Carlyle in New York. [Record producer] Hugh Fordin saw the show and thought it was good. He suggested we record an album. And now we have."

Among the 13 Hammerstein composed songs on Cook's new opus are "Oh What A Beautiful Morning," "It's A Grand Night For Singing," "The Surrey With The Fringe

On Top," "All The Things You Are," "Don't Ever Leave Me," "Can't Help Lovin' That Man" and "Edelweiss."

Not everything on this album, however, is done in its pure form. Cook and Harp

"There are a handful of us - Judy, Liza, Bette. I'm pleased to me a part of an exclusive group like that. I think it's great. Perhaps the gay community feels a connection to women who have had some problems, who have endured through the years and who seem strong and resilient."

ing very well lately. My career has really surged during the last eight to 10 years."

Like many of her peers - Eartha Kitt, Judy Garland - Cook is adored by the gay community. A love affair, she says, that is very mutual. "I'm really very fortunate. The fans I have are very loyal and have stood by me throughout the years," she says. "I hear a lot of people talking about it [my gay following]. There are a handful of us - Judy, Liza, Bette. I'm pleased to me a part of an exclusive group like that. I think it's great. Perhaps the gay community feels a connection to women who have had some problems, who have endured through the years and who seem strong and resilient."

One thing she hasn't been able to do, like so many others, is escape the loss of friends and colleagues to AIDS. "It's had a tremendous impact on my life," she says. "My friend Tom Stoddard [a longtime civil rights and AIDS activist], who was a founding member of the Gay Men's Health

Crisis and lived in my building, died in February. What a wonderful man. But the beat goes on, doesn't it? So many people close to me have died from the disease. It's very unfortunate and sad."

In 1994, Cook added the song "Love Don't Need A Reason," to her repertoire. Written by Peter Allen and Michael Callen, both of whom have since died of AIDS, and Marsha Malamet, the song has long been an anthem to fight against AIDS. She sang the song during her sold out performance in London in 1994.

Captured live on the DRG recording, "Live From London" on DRG Records, Cook's rendition is easily one of the most moving and heartfelt recordings of that song.

"It's a very special song," she says, noting that she knew all three songwriters. "It's very hard to write about death without sounding corny. But they just hit the right note with this song, so that it would be palatable without being over the top. And whether you know the deeper meaning of the song or not, you can still find strength and beauty from it. It's a really good song and very, very powerful."

While Cook listens to a lot of classical music (orchestral music is a favorite) and a fair share of Broadway show tunes ("Chess" and "Sunset Boulevard"), she does occasionally segue into more contemporary tunes.

"I absolutely adore Annie Lennox. She's terrific. I love 'Diva.' That was a wonderful, wonderful album. I'd love to see her live sometime. I think she is incredibly talented, with a beautiful voice," says Cook. "I also love kd lang. I remember the first time I heard kd on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. It knocked me out. She's someone who will be around for a long time. She's very talented."

And though Cook admits the music of yesteryear is not as contemporary as Lennox or lang, she believes there is still a large audience, both young and old, who have a genuine appreciation of the music from the composers of American popular songs.

"Clearly a lot of people who remember the music love it. But there is also this entire group of young people who are just now discovering the music for the first time and love it. But then, these are truly great songs," she says.

"I remember when Streisand did her first Broadway album, it helped to introduce that music to a whole generation of music lovers who hadn't ever heard those songs. It was amazing," she adds. "There was one song on there in particular, 'If I Loved You,' from 'Carousel.' And I remember reading somewhere that young people would go up to her and ask her, 'where did you find that new song.' And it's probably 40 or 50 years old. It doesn't really matter if a song is old. If it speaks to you, young people will respond to it."

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the songstress is that with each year and each recording that goes by, her voice only gets better, stronger and more beautiful.

"I sing better today than I did five years ago. My ability to sing a song improves all the time," she says.

"I just feel so grateful to be given the talent that I've been given. I feel just terrific," she says. "I've done this for such a long time, but I never tire of it. And I can't imagine ever retiring. The word retire is not in my lexicon. I have no plans to ever do that. As long as people come and see me, I will continue to perform."

Well, as long as there is Barbara Cook, the people will come.

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