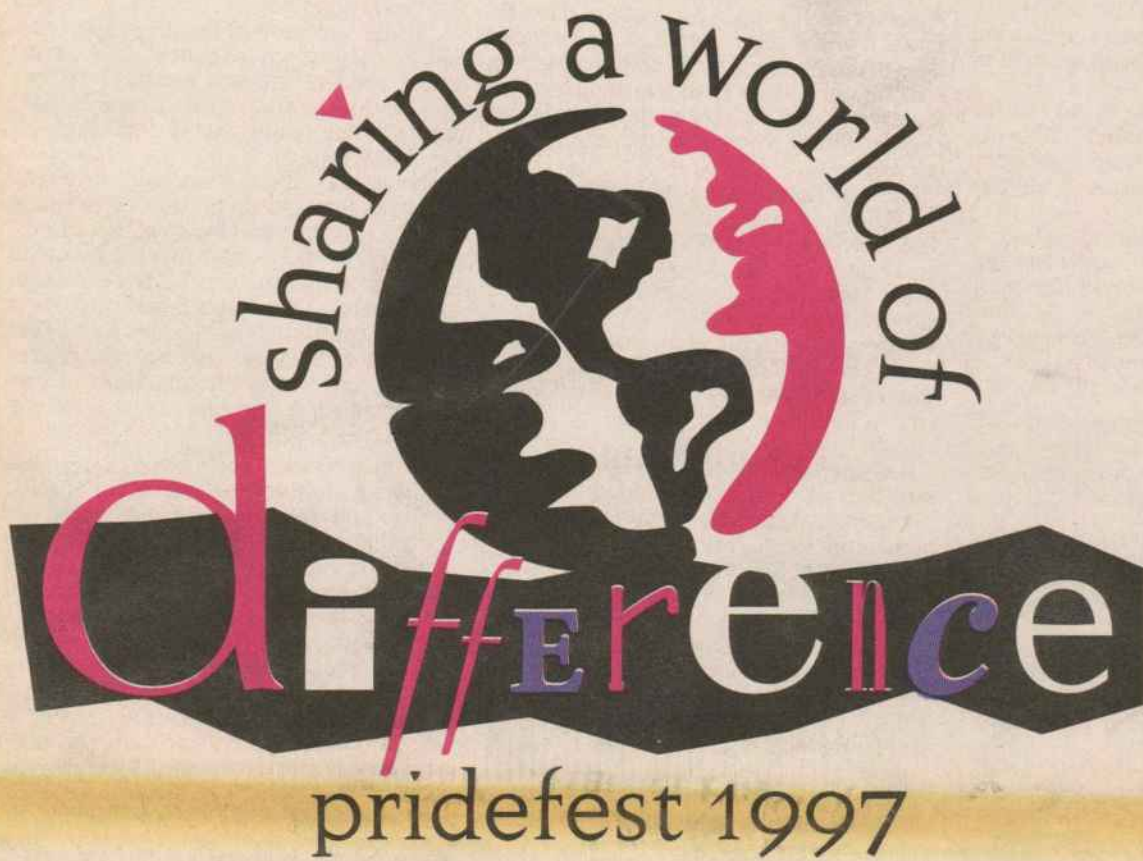


SPECIAL PRIDEFEST & SSBL ISSUE



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

The Wisconsin Light



PrideFest '97

June 6, 7 & 8

**Milwaukee's
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Festival Park**

Downtown on
Milwaukee's Lake Front

**Four Entertainment Stages
Educational Tents
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The Pride Parade
Fireworks**

See Related Articles and
Schedules of Events
Beginning on Page 13

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Pages 11 & 12

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News From The Nation



Court Turns Aside Challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy

Washington, DC— A former Navy sailor discharged after disclosing he is Gay lost a Supreme Court challenge on May 12th to the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military.

The court, without comment, turned down former Lt. j.g. Richard Dirk Selland's argument that the policy is based on prejudice and violates Gay service members' free-speech rights.

Last October, the high court turned down a similar appeal by former Navy Lt. Paul Thomasson, forced out of the service after writing a letter to his commander that said, "I am Gay."

Selland, then a supply officer on the nuclear attack submarine Hammerhead, disclosed his homosexuality to his commanding officer on January 21, 1993. President Clinton had been inaugurated a day before and had promised to lift the longstanding ban on Gays in the military.

Selland was immediately ordered off the ship and Navy officials began discharge proceedings.

Meanwhile, Congress opposed lifting the ban, and the president accepted a compromise that would let Gays serve as long as they kept their sexuality private.

Selland was given on-shore duties in Norfolk, Virginia while he challenged the new policy in federal court, and he left the Navy last year. He now is a law student in Baltimore.

Ex-Congressman Bob Dornan's Chief of Staff Comes Out

Washington, DC—Brian O'Leary Bennett, for 12 years former Congressman Bob Dornan's trusted aide, has announced that he is Gay. Bennett, who, like Dornan is an adherent of the Roman Catholic faith, agonized over his orientation and stuck with the anti-Gay congressman through long hard-working years, he says, because he himself had not come to terms with his orientation.

When Dornan decided in 1995 that he would run in the Republican primaries for the presidency, he asked Bennett to serve as his campaign manager. But Bennett had met another man and had fallen in love. He turned down Dornan's request, he says, because he feared a scandal should his private life get public notice.

His closeted existence, said Bennett, caused painful psychic difficulties. "It was eating me up inside," he explains, noting that for a long time he hoped to overcome his homosexuality.

"Whatever these feelings are," he told himself, "I can beat them."

Rick, an African-American who has requested last-name anonymity in an interview with a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, is the Gay-identified man who came into Bennett's life, turning the Roman Catholic political aide's confusion into self-awareness and happiness. He explained how Bennett's coming out has been only one part in a series of steps toward greater self-esteem that Bennett has experienced.

"I love him," Rick told the *Times*, and "I'm really proud of him for the steps he's taken to confront his fears."

Bennett believes that he would not have been able to come to such self-realizations while working in former Congressman Dornan's office. The one-time congress-

A federal judge in Baltimore said Selland's argument that the policy violated his right of freedom of speech and due-process rights did not override the military's need to maintain morale and discipline.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Selland's discharge last November, relying on its earlier ruling in Thomasson's case.

In the appeal acted on today, Selland's lawyers said that by discharging him merely for saying he is Gay, the policy targets people "not for illegal conduct but simply because of an acknowledgement of sexual orientation."

The ban on Gays serving openly in the military is based on prejudice, Selland's appeal said, adding that sexual orientation has no impact on performance of military duties.

Government lawyers said the policy is justified by "the need for unit cohesion, privacy concerns and the strong interest in minimizing sexual tensions" in the military.

Selland said he was disappointed but not surprised by the Supreme Court's decision.

"I don't believe the Supreme Court will hear a case on this policy for many years," he said in a telephone interview from Baltimore. "That's a pity because this issue deserves an airing."

The case is Selland vs. Cohen, 96-1238.

man's attacks on Gay men and Lesbians formed a major part of his political rhetoric.

"Every Lesbian spear-chucker in this country is hoping I get defeated," he said during his 1992 campaign.

That hoped for defeat materialized in November, 1996, when Dornan was ousted by Democrat Loretta Sanchez. The ex-congressman has not been able to effect a graceful exit though *Los Angeles Times* polls in his Orange County, California district show that if the election were held today, Sanchez would beat him again by a much wider margin (49% to 36%). He continues to insist that his defeat was engineered through fraud.

Bennett says he talks with Dornan still and that he has asked the former congressman, on more than one occasion, to cut down on his anti-Gay tirades. "Poppy," he said, "For all these years I've stood by you and heard all those horrible things out of your mouth about people like me. You've called us pedophiles, sodomites, molesters. Those things hurt, and I want you to stop it. I wouldn't ask you to change your views, I'm saying get rid of the meanness. Get rid of the hurt in promoting your position."

According to Bennett, Dornan promised that this is what he would do.

But, when asked about his Gay long time Chief of Staff, Bob Dornan told the *Times* that "the cutting edge of homosexuality is not Brian Bennett, who loves his religion and his faith. It's the others, who demand of us what they cannot give themselves—dignity and self-respect. Brian thinks this is a gift, and I think it's an ax. I believe the twain shall meet one day."

New York AIDS Walk Brings Out Fewer Stars, But More "Just Folks"

New York, NY—Parents, friends and lovers who lost loved ones to AIDS were among 35,000 people who joined in the 12th Annual AIDS Walk in New York Sunday, May 18, 1997, to honor the memories of the dead - and raise millions of dollars for the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

"It's such a beautiful day and such an important cause," said Eva Friedman, 43, of Queens, who was walking the 6-mile route through Central Park with two teenage goddaughters.

Asked why she was participating, her sunny face suddenly clouded with sadness and tears welled up in her eyes.

"I lost a very incredible and wonderful friend to AIDS. He was only 29," she said, explaining how she and her brothers had

scattered her friend's ashes at Orchard Beach in the Bronx two months ago, to honor his memory.

Kazu Kumagai, 20, of Sendai City, Japan, walking by himself with a wistful expression on his face, said he was honoring the memory of friends who contracted AIDS through tainted blood in Japan. "Last year I walked in Japan's first AIDS Walk. This is my first time in New York's walk," he said. "AIDS is a very big thing in Japan, I guess it's big everywhere."

Walking with about 50 other Sony employees, George McGlinchey, 64, of Deer Park, said that as he walked through the sunny park he remembered his 41-year-old son, who succumbed to AIDS two

years ago.

"If everybody did more, it would be a much better world," he said, then jogged ahead to catch up with his colleagues.

But Mark Robinson, executive director of GMHC, said the group had had to work much harder this year to drum up support for the walk than it had in the past.

"It's sad, but it's much harder now to get people interested. Too many celebrities and journalists have declared the crisis over. But it's not over. We're helping 10,000 people with AIDS-related services - and the vast majority of people with AIDS still have no access to treatment."

Although entertainers Nell Carter, Tony Randall and others rallied the crowd before the walk, many participants noted that there were fewer stars than in previous years.

Swiss Study Shows That More Condom Use Does Not Increase Sexual Activity

Washington, DC— A national campaign in Switzerland to promote the use of condoms has not encouraged people to have more sex, according to a study.

The study published Wednesday in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that a safe sex program and education about the risks of contracting the AIDS virus led to dramatic increases in the use of condoms, but no increase in the number of sex partners or the rate of casual sex.

The conclusions are based on telephone interviews of more than 2,000 randomly selected Swiss residents between the ages of 17 and 45. The interviews started in 1987 and were repeated periodically through October, 1994.

Lead author in the study was Dr. Francoise Dubois-Arber of the University Institute of Social and Preventative Medicine in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Included in the findings:

Among people aged 17 to 30, those who said they always used condoms in casual sex increased from 8 percent in 1987 to 56 percent in 1994. Among ages 31 to 45, a group first polled in 1989, those who said they always used condoms in casual sex increased from 22 percent to 42 percent.

Within the younger group, those with steady partners increased condom use from 40 percent in 1988 to 64 percent in 1994. Those in the older group with steady partners reported condom use increased from 57 percent to 72 percent.

Sex with one or more casual partners decreased among those aged 17 to 30, but remained about the same for the 31 to 45 age group. For the younger group, 18 per-

"A lot of people in our industry have jumped on to other causes and have forgotten this one. I've had a dozen friends die of AIDS. This is about them and a commitment to a real problem in the real world. It's not just another fashionable cause," said actress Rosie Perez.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and other city officials also attended, but were barred from speaking in order to focus on AIDS as a social issue rather than a political issue.

Organizers said they hoped to raise up to \$5 million through the walk, about what was raised last year.

The money benefits GMHC, the nation's oldest AIDS service organization. The group provides direct services to AIDS patients, operates prevention programs and performs advocacy work.

percent reported having one or more casual partners within a year in 1987, while in 1994, the rate had dropped to 13 percent. The rate among the older group remained between 8 percent and 10 percent through five years of polling.

"While the proportion of people who had casual partners remained stable, consistent condom use as a means of protection against the risk of infection with HIV during casual sex increased considerably," the study reported.

The authors of the study said there was evidence that the proportion of sexually active 17-year-olds was going down, probably as the result of the national AIDS campaign and general sex education in schools. The researchers said their findings confirmed conclusions from other studies that showed "neither sex education nor condom promotion leads to earlier or increased sexual activity among adolescents."

In an editorial in the journal, Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus of the University of California, Los Angeles, said the Swiss sex education and AIDS awareness programs stress "responsible sexuality," while the dominant theme in U.S. programs among youth has been "abstinence."

Rotheram-Borus said that European condom promotion programs have led to fewer teen-age pregnancies, births and sexually transmitted diseases.

In the United States, however, she said, condom ads are not accepted by television networks and only 37 percent of sex education programs in public schools include instructions on the health effects of condom use.

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CAIR Center's Jeffery Kelly to Head Up New CDC - Funded Youth At Risk Study

Milwaukee -- In the fight against AIDS, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), parent organization of four AIDS service agencies in Wisconsin including the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), is proud to be a leader in AIDS prevention.

Currently, MAP is one of only a few organizations nationwide to be selected to participate in a new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funded study.

The CDC selected only six AIDS research programs in the country from those submitting applications to the study. In the Midwest, the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin received the CDC award and will supervise the "Prevention of HIV Infection in Youth at Risk" study. CAIR then identified two cities where the research activities will be conducted and the two AIDS service organizations: MAP in Milwaukee and the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project in Detroit.

Dr. Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., director of CAIR, heads the project's scientific team.

As part of the collaboration, MAP had two new staff members join the agency via the CDC grant to work specifically on this study. They are Ed Barrera and Joshua Feyen, research field workers.

"Prevention of HIV Infection in Youth at Risk" is a five year project including two phases.

The first research phase which will last until approximately August 1998, is an assessment phase. Then in late 1998, the intervention trial itself will be undertaken and will last for about three years.



JEFFREY A. KELLY, Ph.D.

"It is not only an honor that MAP was chosen for this research project," said Andy Bagnall, Gay outreach manager at MAP. "But that we were selected as the sole AIDS service organization in Wisconsin and one of only a few in the Midwest for this project shows we are being recognized for the accomplishments we have achieved in the recent years in the fight against AIDS."

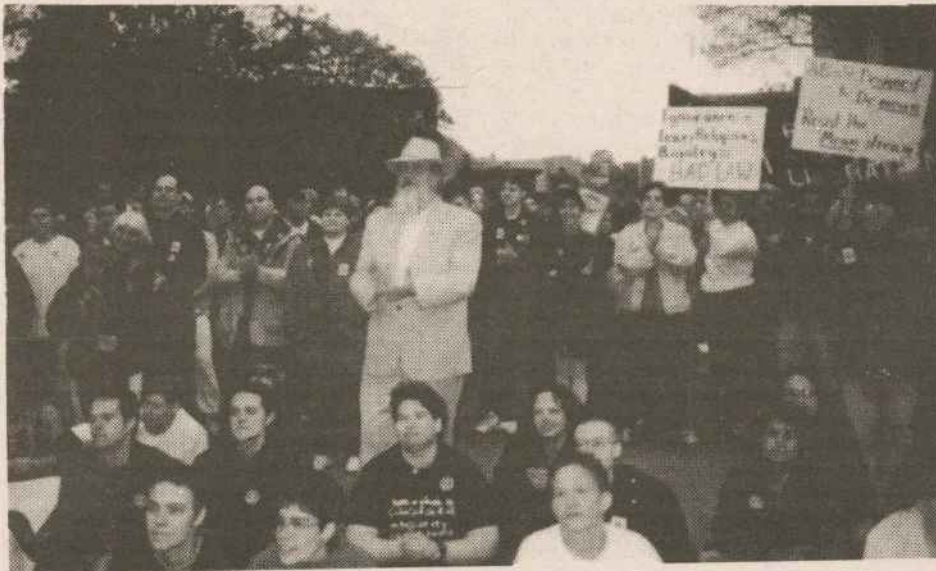
The focus of this study is young men who have sex with men. Men who have sex with men account for over half of all AIDS cases that have diagnosed in the United States. In response to the threat of AIDS, there have been sharp reductions in high-risk sexual practices among older and predominantly white Gay men resulting in a decline of HIV incidence in this segment of the Gay population. However, research shows that sexual risk behavior levels remain high among young men who have sex with men, especially young men of color.

Clearly, better HIV prevention efforts directed toward these young men are needed because this group is so vulnerable to contracting HIV infection. Community-level interventions, those interventions that operate through outreach and by involving settings and care systems that serve this population, are especially needed given the scale, scope and urgency of HIV prevention for this group.

Since virtually no research has been undertaken to identify factors responsible for continued high-risk sexual behavior and high HIV incidence among young men and young men of color who have sex with men, this CAIR initiated study was created to help understand risk behavior patterns to develop and implement effective HIV prevention intervention for this population. "As an agency, MAP is committed to providing maximum support and education to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community," said Bagnall.

"Through our work with CAIR, we are able to increase that commitment and reach a population of young men who are at greatest risk for HIV."

State Assembly Passes AB-104 By a Wide Margin 78 to 20



Just Say NO! The Just Say No to AB 104 rally attracted over 500 people to the State Capitol the evening of Monday May 12. A small portion of the crowd is shown above.

Over 500 Rally Against AB 104 at the Capitol In Madison on May 12

By Brian Harder
Wisconsin Light's Madison Correspondent

Madison—Over 500 people rallied against AB 104 on the steps of the Capitol the evening before the State Assembly voted on the bill.

They cheered, laughed, sang and even ate fire on a bleak cold night. One little girl carried a sign that said "When I grow up let me marry who I want." A transsexual held up a simple pink triangle with one word written on it, "Resist."

The rally began with a prayer service led by members of various local denominations. That was fitting since many of the arguments in favor of passage were religious in nature.

The first secular speaker was openly lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin. Baldwin spoke of how proud she was when she first got elected to office.

Now, however, her feelings of pride in the legislature have been greatly diminished with recent events and pending bill.

Baldwin went on to quote the Wisconsin state constitution regarding "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, to petition the government or any department thereof shall never be abridged".

She was attacked by the Republicans on the Assembly Families Committee for refusing to let over 100 people be heard during the only hearing held on AB104, on March 5th in Wausau. Baldwin said this was a severe blow to the constitution.

Baldwin also slammed AB104 as being unnecessary due to already existing laws, divisive because it codifies in our state statutes discrimination against one group of citizens and dangerous because it sends the message to the masses that it is OK to discriminate.

She concluded by urging the crowd members to fill the assembly galleries on

Tuesday, the following day, to show support against the measure.

Three local clergy members spoke about what real "family values" meant. Not hatred, bigotry, darkness and exclusion of justice, they said, but rather those of love, inclusion, care and rights. They called on all churches to take responsibility for ministering to Gays and Lesbians and to recognize that the creation of "new families that make sense for the individuals involved" is important because so many mainstream families don't make sense and lack values.

The clergy finished up by telling the crowd about the 63 local clergy who that morning had signed a statement stating that "Homosexuality is neither sickness or sin" and that "[they] support family values and [they] believe that relationships that meet the test of fidelity and nurture should be blessed." All much to the joy of the crowd.

Perfect Harmony, a new Madison Gay chorus, performed a few songs after that including *The Chapel of Love* and *Here come the Grooms*. They were quite good and won much applause.

Also making an appearance were the Lesbian Avengers. The Avengers did a fire eating routine telling the crowd that fire will purify our struggle.

Joanne Elder of PFLAG received a warm welcome and urged the media to help us get the word out about this "most important issue in the world right now" to the "everyone else's" who's support we need in this fight.

After Jo Ann, the crowd was allowed to speak their minds and to give their accounts of family and family values and their situations and structures.

Several of those who came spoke at the open mike. Unfortunately just as a planned candle lighting ceremony was about to begin a steady rain began fall. At that the crowd began to scatter.

Clinton Calls For Crash Program to Develop an AIDS Vaccine in Ten Years

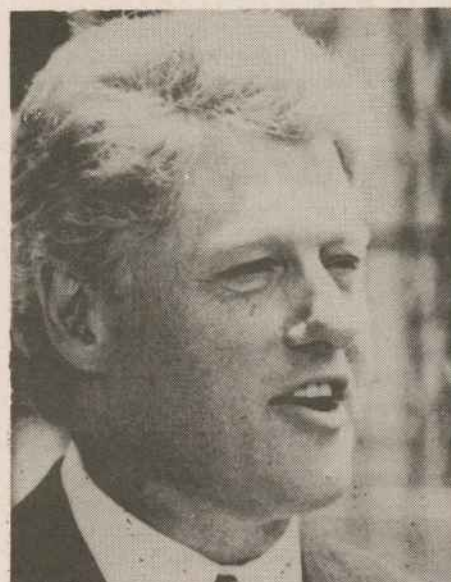
Baltimore - Evoking the memory of John F. Kennedy's challenge to Americans to put a man on the moon in the 1960s, President Clinton Sunday promised that the United States would find an AIDS vaccine within a decade.

In a commencement address at Morgan State University, his first of this year's graduation season, Clinton announced that a special research center would be established at the National Institutes of Health to spur the effort.

"With the strides of recent years, it is no longer a question of whether we can develop an AIDS vaccine -- it is simply a question of when," Clinton said. "And it cannot come a day too soon."

Recalling President Kennedy's May 1961 commitment to send a manned flight to the moon by the end of the decade, Clinton said an AIDS vaccine should be the "first great triumph" of the 21st century.

"He gave us a goal of reaching the moon and we achieved it ahead of time," Clinton told graduates of the predominantly black college in Maryland's largest city. "Today, let us look within and step



PRESIDENT CLINTON

up to the challenge of our time." "Let us today set a new national goal Please See AIDS Vaccine page 47

Passage By the State Senate Unlikely Say Observers

By Bill Meunier

On the Scene Coverage from the Only Gay Based Publication Present during the Entire Debate

Madison—In the end perhaps it was what wasn't said that mattered. After a seven and half hour debate during which only person, the bill's sponsor spoke in favor of it, the Wisconsin State Assembly by a vote of 78 to 20 sent Wisconsin's Anti-Same Sex Marriage bill, AB 104 to the State Senate, where it may face a bleak future.

After the bill's passage the Wisconsin Light spoke with highly placed officials in the State Senate.

"The Senate doesn't really wish to take this up," said one. "The bill will probably be assigned to Lynn Adelman's Judiciary Committee. And there it will stay."

Adelman is an avowed opponent of the bill as is Senate President Fred Risser who also serves on Adelman's committee. While it is possible to pull a bill out of committee by a vote of the Senate such instances are rare.

"They are even rarer when the majority party, the Democrats is opposed to passage," said one State Senator who asked not to be named. "The Democrats in the State Senate will act more responsibly in standing against this than did their Assembly counterparts."

The bill was introduced by Rep Lorraine Seratti, (R-Spread Eagle). Sources in the Assembly say that Seratti was able to get a vote on the bill because she supported House Speaker Ben Brancel in his bid for the Speakership.

"Brancel promised this to her to get her vote," said one source. "If he had lost or if the Democrats were in charge this wouldn't be happening right now."

Throughout the day, the bill's proponents refused Democratic challenges to engage in debate. "What are you afraid of," shouted Marlon Schnieder, (D-Wisconsin Rapids.) "You can't defend this bill so you stay silent."

Speaker after speaker, pounded their fists, and denounced what they called a bill "inspired by hatred."

Although the bill was expected to pass, some observers were surprised by the final margin given the fact that votes on amendments to the bill were much closer.

Throughout the day, Democrats rose to offer amendments. The Republicans refused any opportunity to debate made and passed motions to table any attempt to change the bill.

The first such amendment was offered by State Representative James Krueser. The amendment would have added language to the bill to protect legal marriages where one partner has changed sex.

Krueser said that he had two constituents who were married as an opposite sex couple. Now due to a sex change they are both of the same sex.

AB 104 main sponsor, Lorraine Seratti, (R-Spread Eagle) immediately rose and made a motion to table because as she put it, "They invalidated their marriage when they made that choice."

Representative Marlin Schnieder (D-Wisconsin Rapids) rose and shouted at Seratti, "Who are you lady to talk about choices? So you don't like the choice these people made. It was their choice to make and not yours."

Schnieder went on to give a moving speech about his father's choice to commit Please See AB 104 Page 45

Police in the Parks

As we go to press, we have received a tip from a Milwaukee County Deputy Sheriff that the police are going to start targeting the parks again. This, we are told, refers particularly to Juneau, Underwood and Warnimont parks.

Please, be careful. However, if you have problems, you can contact Andy Bagnall at (414) 225-1502 or Stephanie Hume at (414) 266-9666 or (414) 483-4711. Both are members of Milwaukee's LGBT Police/Community Relations Task Force.

All conversations are strictly confidential.

Editorial

PrideFest '97 June 6, 7, 8, 1997

Across this country and around the world, the LGBT community will be celebrating this June. In San Francisco and New York, tens of thousands will frolic and march. In Paris, the festivities will include a dance in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles. In Wisconsin, the Rainbow Flag will fly in all its resplendent glory over Milwaukee's Henry W. Meier Festival grounds (Summerfest), arguably one of the finest venues for festivals in the whole USA.

There will be many smaller celebrations, too, but whether large or small, for everyone who participates in them (and for many who do not), these festivals are occasions, not only of Pride, but of self-affirmation.

Many years ago, Frank Kameny, the father of Gay activism, told the world, "Gay is Good." What he meant by that there is nothing disoriented or perverse about Gay sexual orientation. Rather, it is completely natural, a part of the scheme of things. What Kameny said (so new then), has not changed. Every Pride celebration is a symbol of that, of the goodness we feel in ourselves, of our rightness, of our being part of the warp and woof of human experience.

We have come a long way since Kameny coined his phrase. We have a long way to go. But this June 6, 7, 8, on the Summerfest grounds, we will pause in our journey. In all our diversity, we will come together in festival to celebrate who we are, who we are now.

This, we believe, is the point of PrideFest; not to "flaunt it," as our critics would say, but to stand up, to be proud, to feel good about ourselves, to affirm ourselves to each other and the world.

Afterward, we will go back to the fight and our day-to-day world, but something will have happened. We will feel better and be better, we will hold our heads a little higher because of PrideFest '97.

This is good. If you can't feel good about yourself and who you are, you can't give anything to anyone else. This is perhaps the cardinal law that God has given to all human kind.

one who looks at a rose window and says, "Well, if we could just get rid of blue. Any rose window can survive without blue."

Listening to Seratti is like the story of Ben Franklin and the hats. It goes something like this.

There was a man who opened a store to sell hats. Above the front door he hung a sign shaped like a hat. On it were the words, "John Smith Sells Hats for Ready Money." A friend came by and Smith asked her what she thought of the sign.

"Well," the friend replied, "it's a nice sign, but you don't need the words 'Ready Money.' Everyone knows you don't barter hats away."

Smith took her advice and got rid of the words.

Another friend said, "'Sells' isn't necessary. No one expects you to give hats away."

Smith got rid of the word.

A third friend opined that he didn't need the word "Hats." The shape of the sign indicated what was sold in the store.

Yet a fourth friend said Smith's name wasn't necessary inasmuch as everyone in town knew him.

In the end, all Smith was left with was a hat-shaped piece of wood. He took that down and used it for kindling. There was no sign in the front of the store—and there were people who complained about that!

Representative Seratti, I tell you honestly and with all due respect, this society and any society needs all the people of energy and good will it can get. The LGBT community is such a people. Like any other, it is comprised of those who create, give what they can, all that they can, people who work and work hard. We seek only to live and love and have the rights accorded all others.

Can you do without us? You may think that you can, but wiser heads will tell you that you're wrong. Wiser heads will tell you that without LGBTs, without African-Americans, without Native Americans, without Asian-Americans, without Hispanic-Americans, and all the rest, the United States would bear a striking resemblance to Smith's hat store.

Maybe that's what Ben Franklin, wise man that he was, was trying to say.

PS Rep. Seratti, that being escorted into the Capitol by the cops was really great theater. It gave just the right impression of your being important.

It kinda reminded me of the person who showed up in the office one day. I invited them to have a seat.

"Do you know who I am?" the person complained.

I looked, shrugged, and replied. "Okay, take two seats."

Letters

A World Without Gays?

TO THE EDITOR:

As I hear word of the rhetoric about Gay marriage that is emanating from my home state of Wisconsin, I must shake my head with great sadness and frustration.

I have, with Pride, long told people that I hail from Wisconsin, the state that in 1982 was the first to pass legislation protecting Gays and Lesbians against discrimination. New Yorkers—and it can be hard to impress New Yorkers—marvel at the progressive history of Wisconsin, and are amazed that the "dairy state" arrived at compassion and reason fifteen years ago when, today, New York still does not have statewide protection for Gays and Lesbians.

Now, I hear of a Gay marriage ban approved by the Wisconsin Assembly in a lopsided vote. I hear of statements from the Assembly floor like "Any society can survive without homosexuality, but no society can survive without the institution of marriage." That, from Rep. Lorraine Seratti (R-Spread Eagle), who clarifies that she does not hate homosexuals.

I must admit that of all the negative statements I have heard directed at homosexuals, that one is unique. That usually savvy politicians can still get away with such bigotry in 1997 astounds me. No other group in this country is made to endure such an attack. Gays and Lesbians are still fair game.

In April, I debated Wisconsin State Senator Scott Fitzgerald on WTMJ radio's "The Greenhouse Show." The Senator had called for a blackout of "In The Life," the national public television series I work on that informs viewers about Gay and Lesbian issues and culture.

The Senator argued that a Wisconsin-based story on "In The Life's" April episode was presenting a bad image of Wisconsin to the nation. Senator Fitzgerald's arguments were similar to Rep. Seratti's, as in "I am not homophobic, but..." "I do not hate homosexuals, but..."

The "but," however, becomes the basis for discrimination. I ask, if it is not hatred, where is the love in such rhetoric?

Please See Letters Page 45



Deadlines

June 5th Issue

Articles Friday, May 30th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 30th

Camera Ready—June 2nd

5:00 p.m.

June 19th Issue

Articles—June 13th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—June 13th

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.

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The Wisconsin Light



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Editor's Note

State Rep. Lorraine Seratti and the Hats

By Terry Boughner

There are a couple of politicians for whom I have the greatest respect. And there are others, the ones who fascinate me like flies struggling in a pot of glue. What they say somehow reminds me of an empty ashcan over which still hovers a dainty mist.

One of the latter is a remark attributed to Rep. Lorraine Seratti (R-Spread Eagle). She was quoted in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as saying, "Any society can survive without homosexuality."

Oh? Taking it that the State Representative is referring to Western society, I wonder if she realizes what it would be like without us?

Socrates, Plato and Aristotle would have to go. Not to mention, popes, kings (King James I of England of Bible translation fame), painters, sculptors, authors of some of our greatest books. Poets and composers of music, too, would vanish. (Has she ever thrilled to the "1812 Overture" or been lulled into bliss by "Swan Lake?") Singers, playwrights, those who write

scripts for TV and the movies, actors, actresses, all would be gone. So much richness would be lost. To paraphrase someone, "Without Gays and Lesbians, life would be reduced to "Wheel of Fortune" or "Let's Make a Deal."

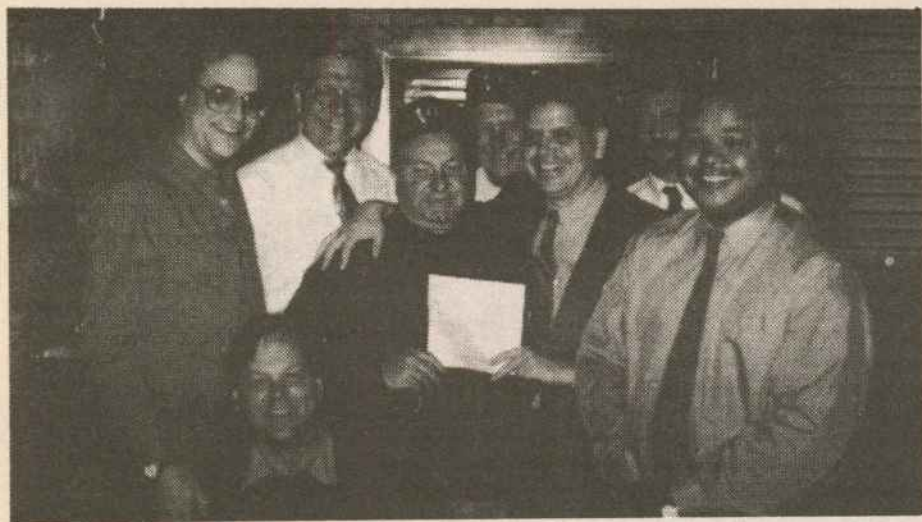
Seratti should know—and the rest of us should remember—that so much of what we call "civilization" has been created and defined by those who were Gay.

This is not to say that LGBTs are alone in the world. There is no people from whom creators have not come. Thus, I have to wonder, what other groups would Seratti want to do without?

What Seratti should learn, I think, is that this is not an homogenized world. Each and ever person here, each and every person who has ever been here or ever will be here, is a unique event unto themselves. Each one is valuable. Each one will never be seen again.

It is from this incredible diversity that civilization has sprung and continues to spring. Which ones from among this diversity do we not need?

Seratti's comment remind me of some-



Bill Meunier

CCF Helps Out — The Cream City Foundation presented a check for \$1,500 to the officers of the Saturday Soft Ball League during a get together at the M & M Club. CCF's donation proves once again that Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian Foundation can be a powerful force for strengthening our community. Don't forget the Foundation when the combined giving campaign comes to your work place next fall.

Court Turns Down Appeal by Madison Woman Who Barred Lesbian Housemate

Washington, DC—A Wisconsin woman penalized because she refused to let a lesbian be her housemate and share the rent on a Madison home lost a Supreme Court appeal on May 12, 1997.

The justices, without comment, left intact state court rulings that said Ann Hacklander-Ready violated Madison's fair-housing ordinance.

The state courts ordered her to pay Caryl Sprague damages of \$300 and lawyer fees that reportedly total more than \$10,000.

Hacklander-Ready's appeal challenged the government's power "to dictate how one may choose with whom to associate as living companions in the anticipated privacy of their own homes."

Hacklander-Ready was single when she and three friends began renting a four-bedroom, two-bath home in Madison in 1987. When two of the friends got jobs out of town, Hacklander-Ready and her housemate, Maureen Rowe, advertised to find two suitable housemates.

According to Hacklander-Ready's lawyers, they did not want males, women with boyfriends who regularly would stay at the house, women with children, smokers or drug users.

One potential housemate was rejected for being too boring; another for "seeming to wear her religious beliefs on her

sleeve."

When initially interviewed by Hacklander-Ready and Rowe, Sprague said nothing about being a lesbian. But the subject of her sexual orientation did arise in later discussions.

Sprague was invited to live with Hacklander-Ready and Rowe, but that invitation was withdrawn after both housemates determined they would not be comfortable living with a lesbian.

Sprague eventually sued, and a state trial judge ruled that Hacklander-Ready and Rowe had violated the city's fair-housing ordinance by refusing to rent to someone because of sexual orientation.

A state appeals court upheld that ruling, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Hacklander-Ready and Rowe last December. Rowe chose not to appeal to the nation's highest court.

Hacklander-Ready's appeal said, "The illegal conduct at issue involves rational and thoughtful decision-making processes concerning the lifestyle compatibility of a potential housemate."

The appeal said Madison's ordinance should be applied only to "typical landlords" and not to those "who wish to share their homes."

The case is Hacklander-Ready vs. Wisconsin, 96-1457.

GOP Leader Introduces Bill Providing for Expanded Hospital Visitation Rights

Madison—Saying that "patients, not hospital administrators, should decide who may visit them when they are sick," Representative Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) has introduced legislation allowing patients themselves to expand the list of people given hospital visitation rights.

"Hospitals have enough to worry about without getting caught in the middle of fights over who may and may not visit a patient in their care," said Jensen. "This bill lets the patient designate who should or should not be allowed to visit them. It's a compassionate, commonsense change."

Currently, hospitals and other inpatient care facilities are given the responsibility to set visitation policies and to determine who may or may not visit a patient. Most often, these policies limit visitation to members of a patient's immediate family. Under the Jensen bill, patients themselves are empowered to add other people to that list of authorized visitors.

Hospitals would still retain authority to limit the number of visitors or visitation periods to a patient if the patient's doctors determine that such visits would jeopardize the health or sound treatment of the patient.

Jensen said that current policies often place patients, visitors, and hospital staff in the awkward position of arguing over whether or not a fiancée, roommate, pastor, or best friend may be allowed to see a person in the hospital.

"I don't think anyone should have to sneak around to visit their loved ones in the hospital," said Jensen. "Society has enough rules, technicalities, and minutiae stifling common sense and compassion."

Curt Lamson, President of the Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin (a Gay Republican group), praised Jensen for introducing the hospital visitation bill.

"While this bill would assist people in many different situations, including those who are just friends, it clearly will benefit Lesbian and Gay couples since they are not considered to be families under current law," Lamson said.

Lamson noted that Jensen's bill is the first bill seeking to end discrimination against Lesbian and Gay couples, among others, to be introduced in this legislative session.

It was no coincidence that Jensen introduced the bill on the day that the Assem-

bly voted overwhelmingly in favor of an anti-same sex marriage bill, Lamson added.

"Rep. Jensen sent a clear signal to the entire state that he and other Republican legislators did not want the anti-same sex marriage bill to be about hatred against Lesbians and Gays," Lamson said.

Miller Brewery Continues as Warrior in Fight Against AIDS

Milwaukee— Miller Brewing Company continues to be the leading corporate donor to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) with their most recent gift of \$90,000 to benefit AIDS care, prevention and education in Wisconsin. Miller's generous gift makes them the Honor Sponsor of AIDS Walk Wisconsin for the eighth consecutive year.

"Thanks to Miller Brewing Company's longtime support of the agency, ARCW has been able to provide more AIDS services than any other organization in the Midwest," said Lisa Wolter, deputy director of community affairs at ARCW. "Miller Brewing is a model of courageous community leadership on this important issue."

Recent research and drug treatment advances have kindled new hope in the fight against AIDS, causing some to speculate that donations to AIDS organizations might decrease if donors felt the epidemic was over.

"Miller's generous 1997 gift clearly demonstrates that they understand that new advances do not mean the end of HIV and AIDS," said Wolter. "Donors like Miller know we face even greater challenges with larger caseloads and increasing long term needs for health and social service programs. The continued support of Miller Brewing is very important for ARCW to meet the new needs of people struggling to purchase expensive new treatments and comprehensive health care."

ARCW is seeking to raise \$2.4 million dollars in private donations from corporations, foundations and individuals in 1997 to meet service needs.

Small Business Sales Generates Donation to ARCW

Milwaukee -- A cash donation of \$10 is being offered to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) by Sherry Schmidt, a representative for the Lifetime Reminder Service, for every membership in which the caller mentions ARCW.

"It's a great opportunity for both parties," said Schmidt. "I enjoy representing my company because I believe it's a unique, timely and useful service. I also believe in sharing my good fortune with the community. Normally, my time is limited, so money is the next best thing. Organizations, like ARCW, are generally established to represent a cause. I can't give to all individuals, but contributions to organizations [I feel] will affect many who are in need."

The Lifetime Reminder Service is lo-

cally represented by Schmidt, however, it is a branch of the National Lifetime Reminder Service. Once membership is purchased, the member fills out and mails back the "Occasion Form" listing the annual events of which they want to be reminded such as a friend's birthday, a relative's anniversary or other important dates. One week prior to each occasion listed a postcard will be sent as a reminder.

Members are able to add or delete dates from their original list, receive an unlimited quantity of annual event reminder cards and other advantages including an 800 service number all for the membership cost of \$39.

The Lifetime Reminder Service is a third-party fund raiser available to any interested companies or organizations. Memberships can be purchased in quantities for promotional incentives, fund raising and as gifts at a reduced price.

For more information or to sign up for a membership, contact Sherry Schmidt at (414) 442-2610 or email: Reminder4me@juno.com.

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On The Scene Coverage In Madison: The Assembly Passes AB 104

Analysis by Bill Meunier Jensen Introduces Hospital Visitation Bill

On the same day that the Assembly and passed AB 104, Republican Scott Jensen announced that he had introduced a bill which would allow hospital patients to decide who can visit them.

If it's passed Jensen's bill would allow Gays and Lesbians to give written permission to their partners so that they can't be denied visitation by hospital administrators or family members.

Jensen told *The Wisconsin Light* that the timing on his bill's introduction was coincidental and denied he introduced to make Republicans look better to Gays and Lesbians.

Jensen voted for AB 104.

African-Americans Repeals Split on Vote for AB 104

Some Gay and Lesbian observers were disturbed that African-American representatives split down the middle on the issue. Reps. Spencer Coggs, Leon Young, and Antonio Riley all from Milwaukee voted against. Reps. Polly Williams, and Johnnie Morris Tatum from Milwaukee and Robert Turner from Racine voted in favor.

"So much for alliances" commented one woman who added "I don't understand how the members of a minority group could vote for this."

Others, however, felt that the influence of religious conservatives in the African-American community had an impact. But no one argued that any of the African Americans voting in favor would have any trouble being re-elected if they had voted against.

Calls from the *Wisconsin Light* to Morris Tatum and to Turner went unreturned.

Gays Pack The Galleries

As they did in during the hearing on AB 104 in Wausau and the Children and Family Services vote on the bill in Madison, Gay and Lesbian opponents severely outnumbered the bill's supporters.

At one point 151 people wearing buttons, and pins were counted sitting in the galleries. Only 10 clearly identified supporters were there as well.

Throughout the day, people came and left. By the time the vote was taken the gallery across from the press table was only about half filled.

Wally's Bad Day

"Wally Kinicki had a very bad day today," said an Assembly Staff member. Most observers would agree.

After trying all day to get some form of compromise going, Kinicki finally succeeded in getting GOP agreement to a change in the bill's wording.

But his efforts went for naught when a member of his own party rose to object and the compromise language was thrown out.

Some questioned why Kinicki even proposed the compromise. During conferences on the floor as he tried to sell the deal the bill's opponents like Tammy Baldwin, Barb Nottstein and Peter Bock could be clearly seen shaking their heads and saying no.

Others think that Kinicki realizing that the Gay community would be angry with the Democrats because a majority of them were going to vote for the bill was trying desperately to tone down the language to make it less offensive.

It's doubtful that strategy would have worked anyway. The language Kinicki agreed to was very similar to that of DOMA, the federal Anti-Gay Marriage act.

Kinicki didn't help himself any when he said, "I didn't consider what to do on this bill until yesterday." One outraged activist said "This is a man who has been on recess for five weeks. He had nothing else to think about. After all the support we have given that party we deserve better than this."

Madison Ministers Speak Up For Gays and Lesbians

A coalition of 63 Madison Area Ministers spoke out on Gays and their churches.

At a well attended press conference, the ministers said "Jesus calls us to love God and our neighbors as ourselves...we embrace Gay and Lesbian persons as our neighbors. For too long, homosexual persons have been condemned and mistreated by followers of Jesus Christ. Sadly the Bible has been misused in support of this condemnation. This abuse of scripture must end."

The statement goes on to say that "we hope and pray that we will acknowledge our sin and be forgiven for our ignorance, fear and self righteousness."

The ministers were from the American Baptist, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Quaker, Moravian Church in America, United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist church.

It was also signed by lay people from several Roman Catholic churches.

Criminal Penalties?

Before you head to Hawaii or any other state that may legalize Same Sex Marriage, think again. Under Wisconsin law you could be fined not less than \$200 and sentenced for up to nine months in jail.

Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin raised that point and offered an amendment to AB 104 saying that it was not the Legislature's intent to impose criminal penalties on Gay and Lesbian couples who attempt to marry.

Baldwin said that under AB 104, even churches that bless Gay unions could be prosecuted if a District Attorney chose to do so.

Like other amendments to the bill hers was tabled.

A Matter of Conscience

Throughout the debate, it was clear that many State Representatives were not comfortable with voting for the bill but would do so anyway.

Out in the hallway one Democrat who voted in favor was overheard saying, "I am disgusted by this. It's all just Gay bashing, but all my calls have been in favor."

Privately some expressed anger at Serratti, the bill's sponsor, for pushing the issue. "Just think," said one observer, "She sold her vote to Brancel for something that will not do her constituents one bit of good."

Speaking At Last

At the hearing on AB 104 in Wausau, over 100 of the bill's opponents were not allowed to speak.

This fact was noted several times during the debate. State Representative Barb Nottstein, a member of the committee that held the hearing said she was "ashamed and disgusted."

Openly Lesbian State Rep, Tammy Baldwin pointed out that during the hearing "There was one man who said I should be executed."

Others also picked up on that point. One Democrat asked why none of the Republicans on the Committee objected to that statement.

Still others demanded to know why the bill which would do nothing to change current law was being considered "on the fast track."

The Republicans had no response to any of these attacks.

Caucus Not Well Attended

The Democrats held a Caucus the day before the debate to consider what motions they would make and what strategy they would employ.

A Milwaukee Area State Rep told *The Wisconsin Light* that only 15 Democrats (out of 47) attended and nearly all of those were opponents of the bill.

A frustrated Tammy Baldwin told *The Light* "I have a lot of work to do this evening. Sitting in the Caucus was like preaching to the choir."

Some felt that since the Assembly hadn't been in session for five weeks, the Caucus should have been better attended, especially given the importance attached to the bill by the Gay community.

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ARCW Pays Honor to the Volunteers Who Make the Fight Against AIDS Possible

Milwaukee—April was a busy month for volunteers at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). There were five outstanding volunteers awarded at two award presentations.

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

On April 26, ARCW held its annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Dinner at the Park East Hotel in Milwaukee. This

event was established to recognize the more than 1,400 dedicated volunteers ARCW has helping each year.

One volunteer from each of ARCW's four AIDS service agencies in Wisconsin were awarded "Volunteer of the Year" awards from the many nominations submitted by ARCW staff.

All "Volunteer of the Year" award winners were active in several different areas of the agency and were recognized based on their dedication, commitment and energy in the fight against AIDS. Highlighted below are the volunteers honored with the awards, presented by Patricia McKeithan of Miller Brewing Company, and a partial list of the significant contributions each volunteer made in 1996.

- Dan McDonough from Center Project in Green Bay--For Center Project, Dan played a key role in organizing its February fund raising dinner, he is helping set up the new volunteer database and he does outreach at area health fairs;

- Ted Berg from the Milwaukee AIDS Project--Ted is active in the Gay and Lesbian Outreach Program, he has taken the lead in funding MAP's Children's Programs through his work with the Phone Pioneers of Ameritech and as a professional clown, Ted provides entertainment at AIDS Walk Wisconsin and other events;

- Amanda Schumacher from the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project in Eau Claire--Amanda is a proactive part of Teen AIDS Peer Prevention providing valuable insight while challenging the minds of rural youth, she has advocated change through her community activism and has challenged the status quo of educational curricula and community leaders' perspectives;

- Don DeBaere from the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project in Kenosha--Dan has been an emotional and practical support person for several consumers, he was very active during the display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Delavan mid-February and he has been chair of the Lake Geneva fund raising cruise for seven years.

Outstanding Teen Volunteer

Esther Aubry is 14, but since the age of 12 she has volunteered in Family Services at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Taking care of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, Jennifer Roy, family services coordinator at MAP, describes Aubry as an indispensable part of the activities for these kids, providing that ever-important piece of encouragement, creating a safe place for kids to enjoy the pleasures of being kids.

Because her dedication and enthusiasm, Roy submitted an application detailing Aubry's work at MAP for Today's TMJ4 State Financial Bank "Volunteer Touch Award." Aubry was selected as the top teen volunteer and received the award during the Completely Kid's Fair at the Wisconsin Center in April.

"The maturity Esther displays is as impressive now as it was two years ago. She has worked with three program coordinators, all who have praised her work and attitude," said Roy. "She has the natural ability to connect with kids of all ages and make them laugh. It is evident that the group trusts Esther and relies on her to bring a special kind of enthusiasm to our events and activities. She has been one of our greatest assets for over two years and deserves to be recognized as one of Wisconsin's outstanding youth."

Aubry's involvement with social service is not restricted to MAP. She is a member of the French Emersion Program at Samuel Morris Middle School and the National Junior Honor Society, she works on community projects and volunteers twice a week at her church. Currently, Aubry is training to work on the Wisconsin AIDS-Slone during the teen call-in times, part of a new program to provide accurate information on HIV and AIDS to teens from teens.

"Esther enables MAP to expand upon and improve services to children and youth affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS," said Roy.

ARCW Depends On Its Volunteers

Without its support from more than 1,400 volunteers, ARCW would not be able to provide the many services and programs available to more than 2,000 consumers affected by HIV and AIDS.

For more information about volunteering at ARCW, please call (414) 225-1556. Especially needed are transportation volunteers, Gay Outreach volunteers and Survival/Revival resale shop volunteers.

The Biggest in Gay Wisconsin History

Milwaukee— This issue of *The Wisconsin Light* is an historic, record breaker.

With 48 pages, it is the largest Gay publication in the history of Gay Wisconsin offering you more column inches of news, features, photos and ads than either we or anyone else has ever provided. Our previous record was 36 pages.

Furthermore, we are publishing and distributing 13,000 copies to be picked up at nearly 200 locations. The 13,000 copies and the number of distribution points are also new Wisconsin records.

In fact our distribution network is now nearly one third larger than our nearest competitor.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and all of the information it contains. Please make a point of thanking our advertisers for helping us to make history with this issue. They have made it possible for us to bring you *The Light!*

A Statement of Policy From The Publisher

Last month another Gay publication published an interview with a major national entertainer. This publication said that the interview was "exclusive." It even implied (some would say outright stated) in an editor's note that the interview was its own.

The reality is that the interview was printed in nearly fifty publications around the country. It was written not by a local reporter but by a fine writer based in Boston.

We want you to know that as a matter of policy, *The Wisconsin Light* has not and will not claim any article is exclusive unless it is written by a member of our staff and will be printed only in our paper.

For example during last Summer's Democratic convention we sent three of our staff members (at our expense) to Chicago. The coverage we provided was our own. We provided you with comments from Cabinet officers and Congressional leaders that were the result of one on one interviews conducted by that staff. The pictures we ran were own taken by our own staff.

Furthermore we will not tell you, our readers, that someone is a member of our staff or contributing writer if they are, in fact, a nationally syndicated columnist.

We believe that these designations should be confined to those who are local writers working at the direction of our editors and publisher, writing original news stories from a Wisconsin perspective.

We believe that when a reader or advertiser questions a paper's honesty on one thing they will question everything else, too. That's why our credibility has always been much more important to us than any short term public relations gain.

That's also why *The Wisconsin Light* is a nationally respected Gay publication.

It's why two different national Gay bookstore chains have requested copies of our paper for distribution to their customers in several cities. It's why the White House Press Office has also requested copies. It's also why we have been told by some of our national leaders that they are regular readers.

We thought you would want to know that for us the bottom line is that when you see the word "exclusive" in these pages, you can believe that it is.

Jerry Johnson

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No Way Wally! Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) is shown in this exclusive Wisconsin Light photo as she confers with Assembly Minority Leader Wally Kinicki (D-Milwaukee). Kinicki tried to convince Baldwin to go along with a compromise during the debate on AB 104 that would have made the bill similar to the DOMA bill passed by Congress last fall. Baldwin refused.

Out In Force The Lesbian Avengers were out in force at the No on AB 104 rally held in Madison on Monday May 12. After delighting the crowd of over 500 people by literally eating fire the Avengers joined others in lighting candles.

Speaking From The Right

Some Thoughts on Same-Sex Marriage

Guest Commentary
by Charles J. Sykes

The desire to make a lifelong commitment is a profoundly conservative step.

In his relentless march to the center, President Clinton has probably successfully pushed Gay rights off the front lines of the fall campaign. Along the way, he may inadvertently have done conservatives a favor. If Gay marriage had become a partisan wedge issue, the ideological lines would have hardened and made it impossible for conservatives to debate the question among themselves and perhaps admit that the issue is not as clear-cut as it might seem.

Politically, Gay marriage was attempting target. Efforts to radically revise traditional definitions of marriage by court fiat naturally provoked powerful counter reaction. Marriage is not merely a legal creation, it is one of society's most fundamental institutions, inseparable from religious and cultural traditions.

No matter how strongly we try to define it in strictly secular terms, marriage never has been and never will be a strictly secular institution. Any attempt to fundamentally alter that tradition either by political or judicial means is bound to stir the deepest and potentially most divisive passions.

In fact, politics and the courts are the last place we can expect a reasonable resolution of the problem. Conservatives are clear enough on that point. But they are less clear in recognizing that there is, in fact, a problem. The problem is that some Gays wish to have monogamous, stable and committed relationships, and they wish to have those relationships recognized. Before conservatives recoil, they ought to ask themselves, what are the alternatives?

Gays are certainly not more likely than heterosexuals to spend their lives in celibacy, and the evidence suggests that they have the same emotional needs and desires as the most committed heterosexual. Despite the rhetoric, it is hard to see how their desire to be married poses a threat to the institution of marriage.

It is easier to argue that Gays who wish to sanctify their union are moving toward, not trying to dismantle, the institution of marriage. Rather than launching a radical attack on marriage, Gays want in on it.

If anyone is surprised by that, it should be heterosexuals. The number of heterosexuals who fled marriage exceeds the total homosexual population many times

In time, society will extend those couples many of the benefits - and obligations - of marriage, without the formal, literal status of marriage. It will not be the sort of arrangement that will please the purists on either side. But the purists are doomed to fall in any case, while the compromise of marriage-in-fact but not in-law, may be the sort of unsatisfactory settlement that turns out in the end to be conducive to the greatest public good and private happiness.

Editor's Note: The above is the complete text of a Charlie Sykes opinion column originally published in the *Isthmus*, Madison's Weekly Newspaper and is used with permission of the author.

Mr. Sykes is a widely published author, a talk show host on WTMJ radio and a

commentator on Today's TMJ-TV in Milwaukee.

over. If we're looking for threats to the institution of marriage, we don't have to look very far. Over the last thirty years, we heterosexuals pretty much trashed marriage without any help from Gays and Lesbians, thank you.

Of course, Gay promiscuity continues to be a fact of life. But so is heterosexual randyness, so let's call it a draw. Anyway, the issue here is not who wants to fool around, it's who wants to settle down. And the desire on the part of Gays and Lesbians to make lifelong commitments is profoundly conservative. This is where the issue becomes complicated.

Society has a vested interest in the stability of Gay and Lesbian relationships, and therefore has an interest in encouraging monogamous, long-term commitments. Nothing, in fact, bars homosexuals from entering into such relationships now. They are perfectly free to make promises of fidelity, share property, make allowance in their wills for one another, and grant one another powers of attorney.

Homosexuals do not need formal government sanction to create a culture of monogamy. After all, government sanction has been only partly successful in assuring it among heterosexuals.

But the absence of officially recognized Gay marriages does involve genuine hardships, especially in areas such as hospital visitation rights and health and survivor benefits - areas in which the Gay partner is specifically barred from benefits and privileges traditionally associated with marriage.

For conservatives who acknowledge the dilemma, the question is: Can we recognize and encourage such relationships short of full-blown declaration of the equality of Gay marriage and heterosexual marriage?

Many of us try to draw a distinction between toleration of homosexuality and official affirmation or endorsement. But the dilemma of Gay men and women in lifelong committed relationships calls for a compromise on both sides that demands both charity and clarity.

Gay advocates may need to admit that a political or judicial victory may come at too high a price in social division, while conservatives need to recognize that their principles need not be sacrificed to recognize basic human needs and aspirations. Unless the politicians and lawyers get their hands on it, the issue may resolve itself without a heated culture war.

Over time, Gay couples will establish themselves in fact rather than in law. Society will come to respect and recognize relationships they see developing informally in their communities and in their neighborhoods. Believing in Gay marriage will not be a tenet of political correctness, it will be a fact of life.



Politically Speaking

A Disgusting Show From Assembly Democrats

By Bill Meunier

Even when you expect defeat it still hurts. On Tuesday May 13, 1997, what remained of my idealism, of my faith in government was left in a heap.

It lays there now, covered by the debris of hypocrisy so thick, I doubt that it will ever rise again. It was suffocated by the deafening silence of those who didn't have the courage to speak out because of their own bigotry.

It was crushed in an avalanche of 78 votes for AB 104, a bill that even many of its supporters privately admitted was not necessary and was hateful.

Oh yes I was told, if a secret vote was held most of the Wisconsin State Assembly leader Wally Kinicki, would say they didn't even want to consider what is euphemistically called AB 104. I felt so much better knowing this.

I felt better knowing that those 75, at least 55 of which voted to discriminate against us, really didn't want to do so. I certainly hope that they don't let their votes get to them. After all a conscience is a terrible thing to have when you are in politics.

Here's hoping that the 27 Democrats who voted for AB 104 don't have a conscience. I'd hate to have any of them spending sleepless night over what they did.

Yes, they were joined by 51 Republicans, but Gays and Lesbians have never been a core constituency group of the Republican Party. For years they have, for the most part, given their dollars, their time and their votes to the Democrats. And they deserved better than what they got from the Democrats in the State Assembly.

For years Gays asked the Assembly Democrats for nothing in return. The thinking was that if we supported the Democrats they would be there for us, if we ever needed them.

That thinking was more wish than reality as shown by the 27 Democrats who voted for bigotry while only 20 stood with us. For the first time since 1982 Gays and Lesbians asked their "friends" in the Assembly for a measure of decency. What they found was a solid majority of the Democrats joining all but one of the Republicans who looked the other way.

Never again can these Democrats count on our support to help them regain the Assembly. No matter what office they run for, this vote will haunt them. Never again can the Democratic Party count on us to blindly give it our loyalty. Loyalty after all should be a two way street.

I watched the debate, I listened and I waited for someone on the other side to speak. For more than six hours every speaker denounced AB 104. Yet it passed overwhelmingly.

What that tells me is that its supporters knew it was wrong. What that should tell everyone is how bad this bill was. Incredibly few news reports told this to the public.

Those arguing against passage gave plenty of openings for the Assembly to do the right thing.

They pointed out that the bill was not needed. They said that the bill unfairly singled out a class of people. They warned that its passage would promote violence. None of this was disputed by those who voted for the bill.

One Democrat, told me that Gays should understand that if they were in charge of the Assembly AB 104 would never have come up for a vote.

What he didn't say was why Gays and Lesbians should believe that a party that couldn't muster a majority of its own

members to vote against AB 104 could have stopped it from being voted on if it was put in charge.

Then there were the Democrats who said they thought the bill was silly and insane along with those who said they thought it was hateful, but still voted for it. They assured us that they only did so because their constituents wanted them to.

"I am here to represent the people who elected me and I have to vote the way they want me to," one of them told me. If they expect me to stand up and applaud that kind of logic they are wrong.

They are using the same type of reasoning we heard from members of the Reichstag in Nazi Germany.

They were derelict in their duty. Of course they had more calls in favor of AB 104 than they did against it. That's the problem with being a minority.

It is the duty of our elected representatives to protect democracy and the essence of democracy is that the will of majority is respected, but so are the rights of minorities.

Many of these Democrats represent safe districts and had nothing to fear. Yet they shirked their responsibility to ensure fairness. They knew this bill was not necessary. They knew it's passage as one opponent put it "will send a message to the hate mongers that its open season on Gays and Lesbians." They didn't care.

We have been a core constituency group for the Democratic party. Yet the party's leader in the Assembly, Wally Kinicki openly admitted that he hadn't considered what to do about the bill until the day before the vote. That was unforgivable.

Only fifteen Democrats even bothered to show up for their caucus the day before the vote. Nearly all of them were opponents.

I don't know about you, but when, despite the tens of thousands of dollars we have annually contributed, not to mention the volunteer time we have given, only a handful of Assembly Democrats show up to help us fight bigotry I think that is pretty poor treatment. There is a rule in politics, "Take care of your own first." The Assembly Democrats failed to do that.

That is not to say that there weren't some Democrats who stood with us. Marlin Schneider (D-Wisconsin Rapids) Marty Reynolds (D-Ladysmith), Frank Boyle (D-Superior), Antonio Riley, Tim Carpenter, Peter Bock, Rosemary Potter, all from Milwaukee were very eloquent.

I have never been prouder of our own Tammy Baldwin. The class with which she handled the situation the eloquence with which she spoke was remarkable.

Unfortunately their appeals to their Democratic colleagues to do the right thing fell on deaf ears.

The day after the vote one State Representative who voted for the bill, Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee) told me "the sun still came up today and nothing has changed." He is wrong. A lot has changed.

For the first time in recent memory a chamber of the Wisconsin legislature voted to discriminate against a class of people. Tens of thousands of Gays and Lesbians and their families and friends woke up disgusted.

The State Assembly had sent a message to the hate mongers telling them we are second class citizens.

The sun did come up the day after the vote, but it shined on a state that had abandoned it's progressive tradition. Its rays shined in the offices of Assembly Democrats most of whom had callously abandoned their staunchest allies.

LBGT Community Center's Name Chosen; Activities Already Underway

Milwaukee—Milwaukee LBGT Community Center is the official name of the proposed LesBiGayTrans community center, the center's Steering Committee has announced. This was an important step on the road to a community center opening in Milwaukee in the near future. The Public Relations Committee extended thanks to all those who voted for the center's name.

Much of the decision making process and progress for the proposed center has been done via regular Town Meetings of the LBGT community. Milwaukee's LBGT community is invited to the next Town Hall Meeting to be held on Sunday, June 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Stonewall Tent on the PrideFest grounds.

"This will be a great opportunity for people to learn about the history, progress and programs of the Milwaukee LBGT Community Center," said Jim Schleif, one of the four Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee.

Members of the last Town Hall Meeting, held in April, approved the center's bylaws, and the center recently received its Articles of Incorporation. According to Karen Gotzler, a Steering Committee Co-Chair, "The bylaws and articles mean that we are an established legal entity, and most importantly, we can now begin providing services as a center."

Looking ahead to the summer, Milwaukee's PrideFest will be a watershed event for the community center. The center will kick off its membership and fundraising drives at PrideFest. Individual, household, organization, business sustaining, and charter memberships will be offered at the Center's PrideFest booth. These memberships will be at a variety of contribution levels with varying benefits, and begin at \$30 annually.

According to Patrick Flaherty, a Fundraising Co-chair, "Becoming a center member is like making an investment that will yield results into the future. The goal is to raise \$26,000 by January 1, 1998, with 350 family and business memberships." This money will be used for community center facilities and programming expenses. The Grand Opening of the Center is anticipated for the beginning of 1998.

One of the most active areas of the Steering Committee lies in programming, which has already organized several activities for the LBGT community.

Laurie Guilbault, Co-chair of the Programming Committee, said that it has begun activities well before the center has a building space.

Examples of recent programs were the Rainbow Dance for Gay youth, co-sponsorship of the screening of *Gay Cuba* at UWM, and helping organize a rally opposing Wisconsin legislation, AB104, which would prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages.

For more information, call (414) 483-4710.



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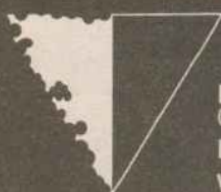
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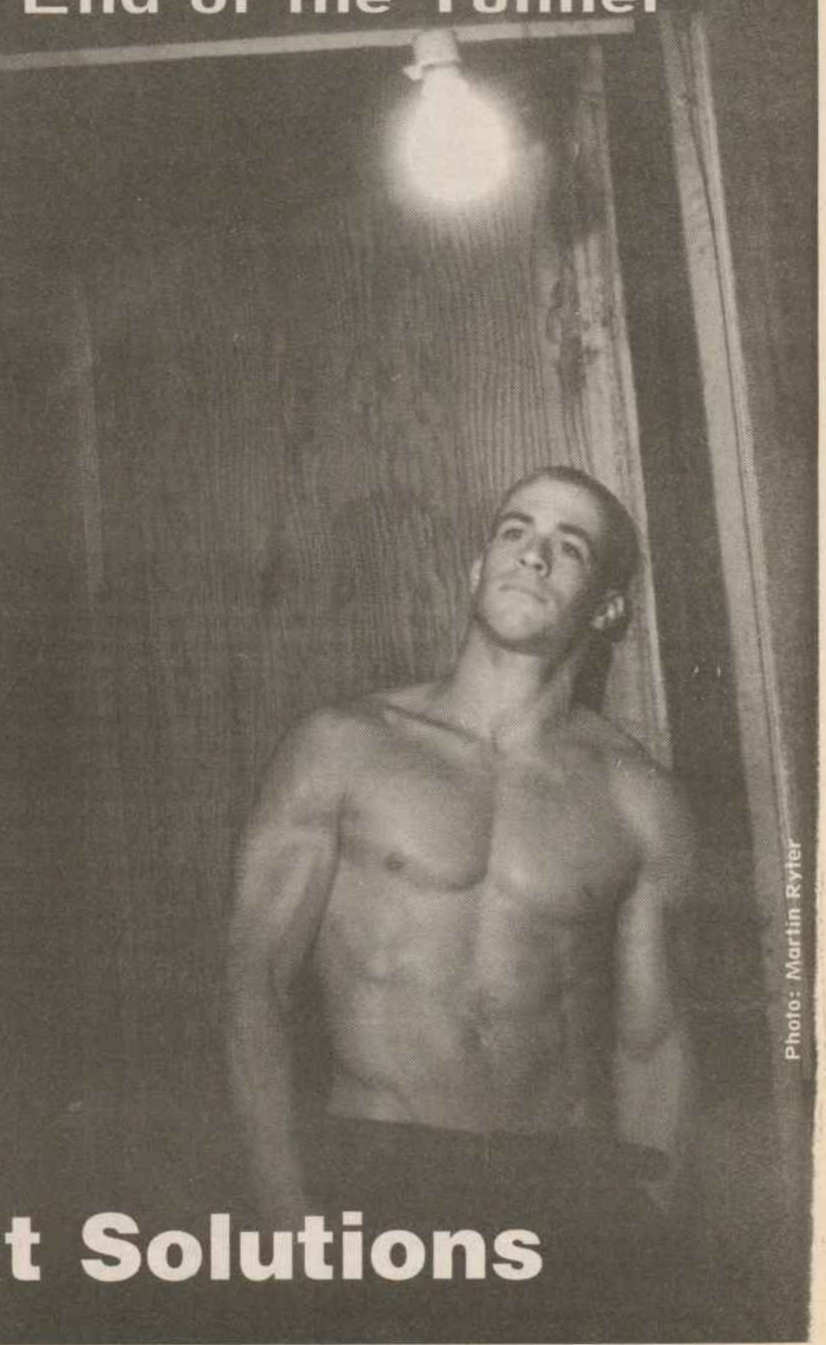
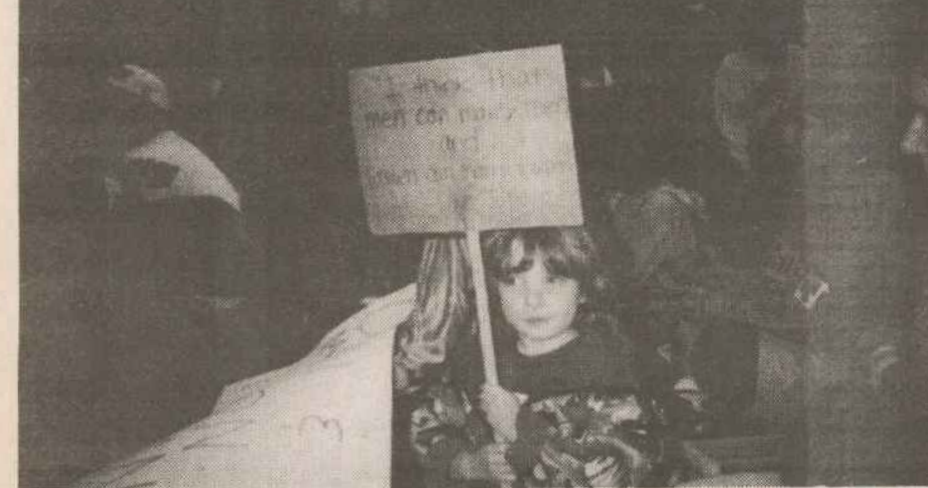
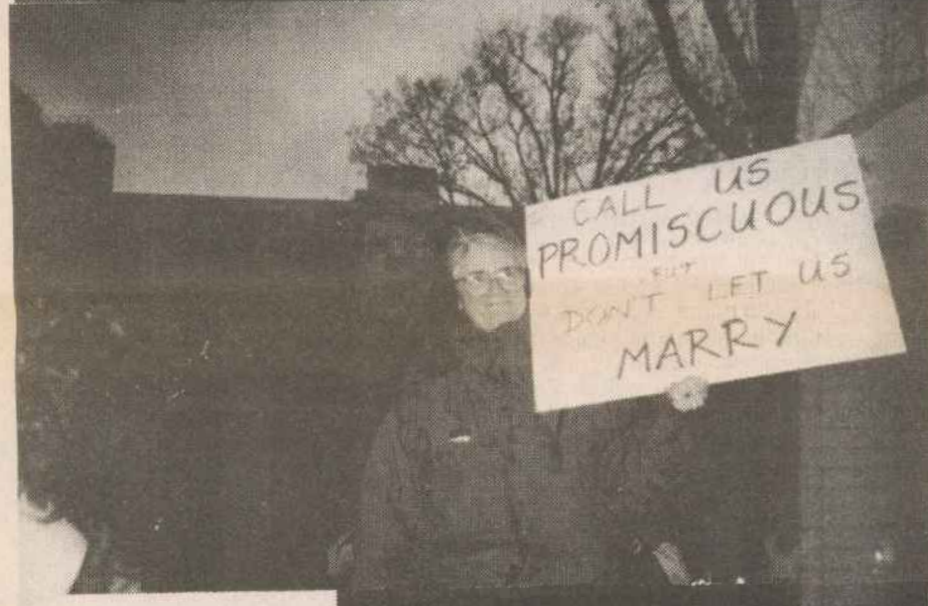
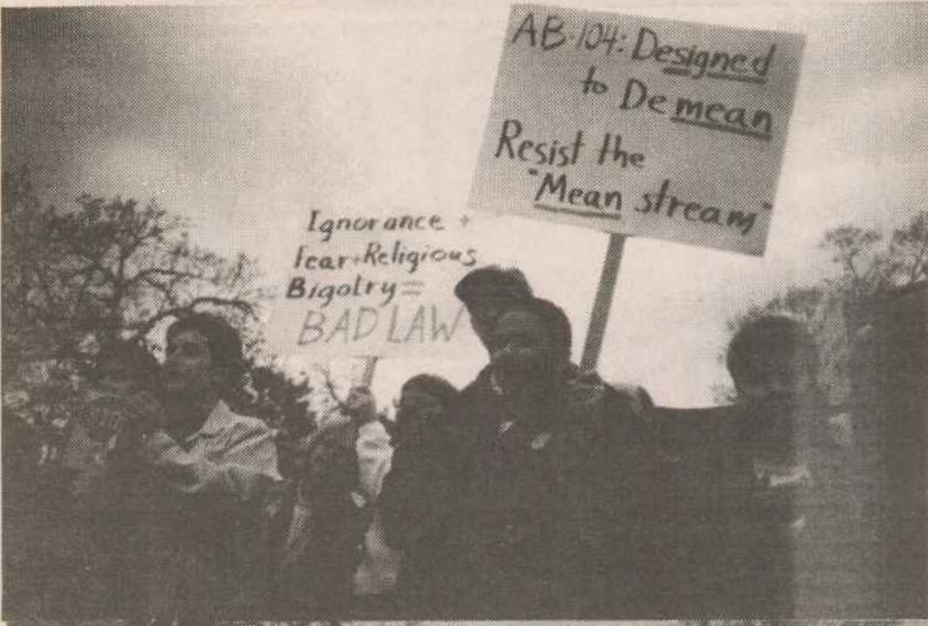


Photo: Martin Ryter

Bill Meunier



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Scenes from the Rally Over 500 people gathered on the steps of the State Capitol to say No to AB 104, Wisconsin's Anti-Gay marriage bill. The crowd heard speeches and music and chanted "Run Tammy Run!" showing its support for Tammy Baldwin's bid for Congress. Many of the protestors went to Scandals after the rally where Mike and Nancy Neumann hosted a post rally celebration.

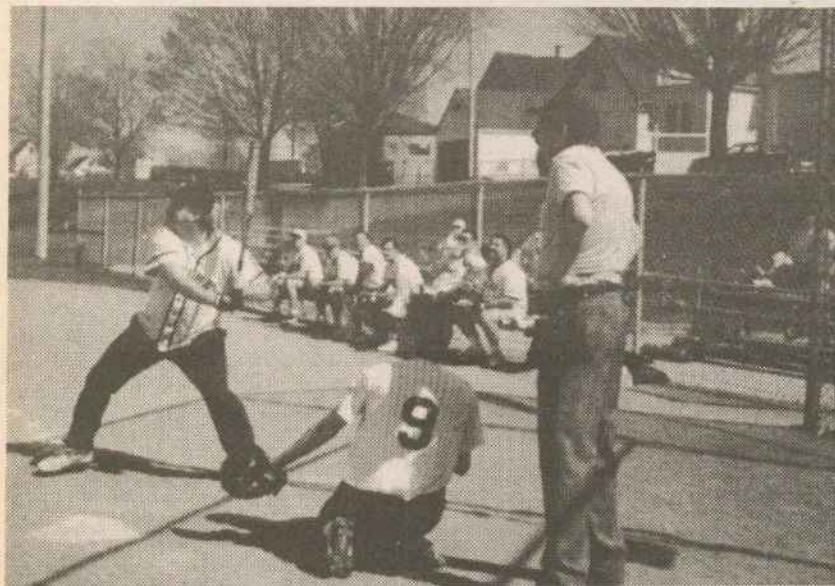


MILWAUKEE CLASSIC

MILWAUKEE CLASSIC

MAY 24 & 25

"America's First and Oldest Gay Softball Tournament"



Bill Meunier

Opening Saturday The SSBL opened its 20th Anniversary Season with a full slate of games at Sijan Field on Saturday May 3. After a week playing in Madison and the Milwaukee Classic, league action returns to Sijan on Saturday May 31st. Sijan is located at 2128 S. KK (Kimmick and California). First games start at 11:00 and the last games begin at around 3:00. This year the league seems to be very well balanced and there will be many exciting games.

Miller Brands Comes Through David Neville from Miller Brands presents the SSBL with a check for \$5,000 to help fund the Milwaukee Classic tournament in May and the MIST tournament the league will be hosting in September. So when you are celebrating your favorite teams Classic weekend, don't forget to hoist one to the folks who helped make it possible.

The Milwaukee Classic: A Rich History, A Glorious Tradition

By Bill Meunier

There are many Gay and Lesbian softball tournaments now, but Milwaukee can always take pride in the fact that it is the home of the first ever Gay Soft Ball tourney.

The Milwaukee Classic didn't begin on the fields. Actually it started when three guys were having a drink and thinking spring in February, 1978.

One of them came up with idea of having a softball tournament over the Memorial Day Weekend. The three of them went to Wayne Bernhagen, owner of the Wreck Room to see if he would sponsor such an event.

Wayne was always ready to do whatever he could to promote Milwaukee. He readily agreed telling the three masterminds, "Go for it."

But lining up a sponsor was easy compared to the task that lay ahead. Remember we were only nine years removed from Stonewall. Communications between Gay communities in various cities was still fairly new.

Yes, now we have our Gay Games, and dozens of other Gay and Lesbian sporting events, but back in 1978, the concept of Gays and Lesbians going to other cities to compete against each other was a new one.

Add to that the fact that there had never been a Gay softball tourney before and you get an idea of the job the initial organizers had taken on.

No one had experience in organizing a Gay tourney. How would teams in other cities be located and contacted? How would they be convinced to come?

Little did the initial Classic Committee know but their idea was a sure fire winner. The Classic was destined to become a landmark event in Gay sports history. They sent out 50 invitations to teams from around the country.

The big breakthrough came when Richie Diaz of New York called to say that he would have his Eagles team play in what was then called "The Wreck Room Classic."

Diaz was soon followed by Toronto which announced that it would send a team, making the Classic an international event in just its first year.

That first classic was won by Diaz's team after a tough battle in the championship game against a woman's team from La Crosse. A Gay sporting tradition had been born.

Since 1986, when Bernhagen who was suffering from AIDS asked the Saturday Softball League to take over the Classic, the SSBL has been running it. But no one can or should forget the critical role that Wayne Bernhagen played in its founding.

Recognizing that about half of the soft-

ball teams around the country were recreational in nature, in 1987, the Classic added a Recreational Division.

Like the Classic itself, the idea was an instant hit. Boston's Club 1270 became the first Recreational Softball team to win a major tournament title when it defeated New York's Spike in the championship game.

Up until 1992, the Classic was held at two locations, West Milwaukee Fields on Burnham and Mitchell Park on S. 27th Street. It was a manager's nightmare since often teams had to be shuttled from one field to the other sometimes on very short notice.

Nevertheless the Classic continued to grow until in 1992 when with 46 teams participating the tourney it was moved to Milwaukee's Wick Field on 52nd and Vliet Street. Its permanent home.

Over the years there have been many thrilling games. Who can forget the battles between Milwaukee's Wreck Room Chaps and Chicago's Sidetracks in 1983? The two championship games went into extra innings. The Chaps finally won the title with a nine inning victory.

Then there was the stir created when Glen Burke, a former Major League player for the Los Angeles Dodgers, came to town. Burke played for the San Francisco Pendulum team. Not only was Burke exciting to watch on the field, he was one of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet.

These are but two examples of many exciting games and players brought to Milwaukee by the Classic over the years.

Of course the weather has sometimes provided some excitement of its own. Conditions have ranged from balmy with temperatures in the 70's and 80's to a 1992 cold snap when temperatures dropped in the teens.

Over the years players and fans have huddled and bundled up to protect themselves from the cold, ran for cover in downpours and gotten out the sun tan lotion. Sometimes they've done all three in the same tournament!

In 1996 for the first time, Milwaukee teams had a rare double win when the Club 219 Pride won the B Division title and the Ball Game Rangers won the C Division crown.

Both teams are hoping to repeat their last year's success when on Saturday May 24 and Sunday May 25 the 1997 Classic will be played at Milwaukee's Wick Field. Once again there will be thrilling games. Once again we will see the camaraderie that exists within and between teams. Old friendships will be renewed and new ones will begin.

The rich tradition known as the Milwaukee Classic continues. Be there to share in it.

Excitement Hightens As the Time of the Milwaukee Classic Nears

It's baaaack! It's Milwaukee's contribution to the national Gay softball scene. It's teams from around the country battling at Milwaukee's Wick Field, 52nd and Vliet. It's fun, it's excitement, it's the Milwaukee Classic.

Since 1978, Milwaukee has proudly hosted this annual event, the first ever Gay Softball tournament in the country. Over the years and name and format have changed but the fun that is the Milwaukee Classic has remained constant.

On Friday May 23rd there will be Registration Party at the Hilton Hotel from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A manager's meeting will follow.

The action gets underway at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday May 24th. Each team will play a round robin against three other teams. The results will determine the team seedings for the double elimination tournament that follows.

Using this format, the Classic is able to guarantee each team will play a minimum of five games.

The first round of the double elimination rounds will be played on Saturday.

Sunday's games also begin at 9:00 a.m. The final games will be played during the afternoon.

The action on the field will be followed by a banquet at Milwaukee's Serb Hall. The banquet begins at 6:00.

But the action on the field isn't the only action the Classic brings to Milwaukee.

There will be plenty of parties and impromptu victory celebrations in the bars as well. Bars that sponsor teams in the SSBL will be particularly popular throughout the weekend.

This year the Classic will have 18 participating teams. They are from Milwaukee, Balistreri's, the Ball Game Rangers, the Club 219 Pride, the M & M Mustangs, Mama Roux's Mama's Family, and the Triangle. From the Twin Cities, the Classics, the Ror Tax Specialists, the Twin Cities Storm, Rumours, the Saloon Spike and the Brass Rail Bombers. From Chicago, Charlies, the Hitmen, North End and Sidetrack. From Cincinnati the Comets and from St. Louis Buzzards.

The tournament is divided into two divisions, the Class B Division and the Class C Division. Club 219 will compete in the Class B while the other Milwaukee teams slug it out in Class C.

Last year for the first time in Classic History, two Milwaukee teams took home first place. Club 219 won the B Division and the Ball Game Rangers won the C Division.

"We are very pleased with this year's field," said Classic Commissioner Tom Salzieder. "There are a lot good teams coming to town. The competition is going to be really fierce."

That competition is what makes the Classic so special. Don't miss it.

Editorial

Welcome Milwaukee Classic

Once again, Gay and Lesbian Milwaukee is in for a treat. The annual Milwaukee Classic Softball tournament will be held on May 24 and 25 at Milwaukee's Wick Field. The Milwaukee Classic was the first Gay Softball tournament held anywhere. It is rich in tradition and history.

Over the years the Milwaukee Classic has been the site of many exciting games and spectacular feats of athleticism. This year will be no exception.

The Classic serves many purposes. It gives an opportunity for players from around the country to come together and compare their skills. It provides a significant boost to Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay economy. It has and will again spark and renew friendships between Gays and Lesbians in Wisconsin and those in other cities.

In these days when our enemies try to portray us only in terms of our sex lives, the Classic serves another purpose as well. It stands of proof of the diversity of our community. It speaks with pride about who and what we truly are.

Of course the Milwaukee Classic doesn't happen by itself. Over the years a number of individuals have labored hard to make it happen. This year we are especially proud of the efforts of Tom Salzieder and his committee of volunteers. We owe them our thanks. We also owe our thanks to Miller Brands and the Cream City Foundation for the financial support they have extended to the SSBL. That support made this event possible.

Perhaps the best way to thank them is to come out to Wick Field and cheer on your favorite team or teams. There is no admission charge and watching the games is a great way to spend a weekend.

We welcome all of those who are coming to Milwaukee for the games. We hope they enjoy themselves and the City. We believe that when we work for a common goal, we become closer. When we strive for excellence we become stronger. When we do both there are no losers only winners.

Our congratulations to all of the winners playing in the Milwaukee Classic. Welcome to Milwaukee!

SPORTSCOLUMN

Club 219, Mama Roux On a Roll In SSBL; League Shows Balance

Milwaukee-- At the beginning of the Saturday Soft Ball League season there were two major questions. Would Club 219 be a strong contender again after losing some players from last year's championship team and would the two new teams from Riverwest/CCF and Mama Roux's be able to win.

After two weeks of play the answer to both of these questions is yes. In fact the Mama Roux's team may be the surprise of the season as it opened play with four consecutive victories.

Those victories were matched by four wins chalked up by the Club 219 Pride. While some of those games were closer than they might have been last year there

is no doubt that Club 219 is again the team to beat for the league title.

Still all in all, the initial two weeks of league play showed that the SSBL may be more balanced than it has been in many years. As evidence of that, the current league standings show two teams tied for first and four teams tied for third.

The first week of play was at Sijan Field. **M & M's** won an exciting 20 to 16 game over **Balistreri's** team. Balistreri's dug it self a deep hole but came roaring back to nearly pull out a win.

Mama Roux made its first game ever a successful debut when Mama's Family beat **M & M** by a score of 17 to 7. Mama's Family followed up that win by putting a

contract out on **Triangle** winning 31 to 7.

Meanwhile the SSBL's other new team, the **Cream City Foundation** Team won its first game with a 9 to 8 victory over a reconstituted **In Between** team.

CCF lost the next one when **Balistreri's** pounded out a 22 to 4 win.

The **Ball Game** beat **Manoeuvres** by a score of 19 to 4, but lost to **Club 219** by a score of 23 to 12. The Rangers had dug their way out of a hole closing to within 2 runs 12 to 10 in the fourth inning, but then the 219 Pride pulled away.

Triangle lost its second game of the day when **Manoeuvres** beat them winning 21 to 8.

On Saturday May 17, the league played at Olbrich field in Madison. Madison fans were treated to some very exciting soft ball as two teams won come from behind victories in the last inning and other games were closer than expected.

Manoeuvres opened with a convincing 17 to 5 win over **In Between**, but then lost a heartbreaker when **Balistreri's** overcame a 5 to 0 deficit to win a 6 to 5 victory in the bottom of the seventh.

An injury riddled **Mama's Family** also had a come from behind win when a Brad Sponholz hit a two out, two run double in the bottom of the seventh for a 9 to 8 win over the **Ball Game**. The team from **Mama Roux's** had an easier time with **In Between** winning by a score of 29 to 7.

Club 219 had a tough time with **Balistreri's** winning by a margin of 13 to 6 and an even tougher time against the **M & M Club** before settling the issue with a 17 to 14 victory.

The **Cream City Foundation** was unable to add a second notch to the Win column. **CCF** lost to **M & M** by a score of 18 to 2 and to **The Triangle** 16 to 6.

It was the **Triangle's** first win of the year after having been defeated by the **Ball Game** in an earlier game by a score of 20 to 0.

The weekend of May 24 and 25 is the Milwaukee Classic weekend so no regular league games will be played. But you can catch, the **Ball Game**, **Club 219**, the **Triangle**, **Mama Roux's**, **M & M**, and **Balistreri's** in the Classic at Wick Field, 52nd and Vliet.

Saturday May 31 the SSBL returns to Sijan Field (K K and California) where it will play for the rest of the year. Games to be played that day are as follows:

- 11:00 CCF vs Riverwest
- Noon Ball Game vs Club 219, CCF vs Manoeuvres
- 1:00 Manoeuvres vs. M & M
- In Between vs Ball Game
- 2:00 Triangle vs In Between
- Mama's Family vs Balistreri's
- 3:00 Triangle vs Balistreri's
- Mama's Family vs M & M

League Standings as of May 17, 1997

	Wins	Losses
Club 219	4	0
Mama's Family	4	0
Balistreri's	2	2
Ball Game	2	2
M & M Mustangs	2	2
Manoeuvres	2	2
Cream City	1	3
Triangle	1	3
In Between	0	4

Past Winners of the Milwaukee Classic

Below is a list of winners in the Milwaukee Classic. No classic was held in 1979 and in 1985 because Milwaukee hosted the Gay World Series.

- 1975 Eagles - New York
- 1979 No Classic Gay World Series
- 1980 M & M Club - Milwaukee
- 1981 Wreck Room Chaps - Milwaukee
- 1982 Pendulum Pirates- San Francisco
- 1983 Wreck Room Chaps- Milwaukee
- 1984 Griffs- Los Angeles
- 1985 No Classic Gay World Series
- 1986 Cloud 9 Americans - Minneapolis
- 1987 Cloud 9 Americans - Minneapolis
- Club 1270 - Boston (Rec Division)
- 1988 Sidetracks Chicago
- Ty's/Chelsea Transfer N.Y. (Rec)
- 1989 Burkhardt's Atlanta
- Venture Inn - Philadelphia (Rec)
- Club 1270 - Boston (Women's)
- 1990 Saloon Americans - Minneapolis
- Blake's Bad Boys - Atlanta (Rec)
- M & M Bad Girls (Women)
- 1991 Spike's Black Sox - New York
- Brass Rail - Minneapolis
- 1992 Sidetrack - Chicago
- Brass Rail Minneapolis
- 1993 No Classic
- 1994 Cat's Cincinnati
- Your Place - Milwaukee (Class C)
- Granville - Chicago (Class C)
- 1995 Club 219 - Milwaukee
- Annex Pumps - Chicago (Class C)
- 1996 Club 219 - Milwaukee
- Ball Game (Class C)

Tips for Milwaukee Classic Fans

By Dusty Sass

Okay so you are going to take in some of the fun at the Milwaukee Classic. Well good for you. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of this year's tournament.

Parking

There is a small lot at Wick Field, but if you are not a player please park elsewhere. You have no idea how heavy that bat bag gets at the end of the day.

Parking can be hard to come by so it's best to arrive early to get the best spaces.

Stay Informed

Want to know how your favorite team is doing? No problem. The Tourney will have an information booth. They will be happy to tell you how your team is doing and when they play next.

Look for the tents to find this. There is also a first aid station in the same location.

Dress

Obviously formal wear isn't required for a soft ball tourney, but keep in mind that the Wisconsin weather this time of year is notoriously fickle. Take an extra sweatshirt along just in case.

Also leave the spike heels at home and wear some comfortable shoes. You may have to do a lot of walking as your favorite team changes diamonds throughout the day.

Tickets

There are none, admission is free. That's right you get all this fun and no one is going to charge you for the privilege. Geez, wonder if major league sports heard of this concept?

Food and Drink

There are no concession stands at the field, but there are two straight owned, friendly bars that serve food and drink across the street. You are of course welcome to bring a cooler in and provide your own.

Pictures

Honey there will be times when you will see some big hunky player and you will just be dying for a picture. So bring a camera. But remember it's polite to ask before you snap.

Etiquette

There are no real rules for watching games, but keep in mind that games are going on while you are tromping through the outfield. So stay off the fields please.

Also as tempting as it may be, it is considered bad form to remind the teams from Chicago about how good our Green Bay Packers are and how piss poor their Bears played this year.

Remember these guys are from other cities are our guests, a smile and some applause are always in order.

Watching

There are no scoreboards so in order to find out what's happening you have to ask either the ump or the score keeper for one of the teams. Wait until one team has completed batting before doing this.

Also keep in mind that Wick Field is a pretty big place. The tourney will be using most of the diamonds there so be prepared and willing to walk around. If you are watching a blow out move to another diamond. There is almost no time when you won't see a close game on at least one field.

And don't forget soft ball is fun but you can get hurt even while watching. Foul balls can go rocketing and hit people who aren't paying attention and who are standing too close the field.

Cheering

Feel free to cheer all the good plays and yell like hell for that cute Center fielder when he comes up to the plate.

But remember that when the man in blue, (the ump for the sports impaired) makes one of his typical bad calls, your comments are not welcome. All you are going to do is tee him/her off and that won't help the team you are cheering for.

Well that's about it. Enjoy one of Gay America's premier sporting events, the Milwaukee Classic. See you at Wick Field.



Opening Day The SSBL opened league play at Sijan Field on Saturday May 3. Shown at the top are three of the many fans who came out to cheer for their favorites. Next is Bob Melig of the Ball Game team going over his score book. Next is Bob, the hunky Ball Game pitcher. YUM! Last but not least is a scene from the League play in Madison's Olbrich park on Saturday May 10. The Ball Game team is shown in this shot.

**Congratulations
To SSBL
On Their
20th Anniversary!
Great Going!**



PRIDEFEST

JUNE 6, 7 & 8

MILWAUKEE

pridefest 1997

PrideFest 1997 Stages

To appeal to the broadest possible tastes, each of the PrideFest stages has its own character and flavor. The PrideFest organizers have tried to program entertainment to meet that character. Listed below is a preliminary line-up of entertainment and performers at the PrideFest stages. A more complete schedule will be published in the LGBT press as the '97 PrideFest approaches.

Alyn Hess Stage

Named for a Milwaukee activist who helped found Milwaukee's LesBiGay movement, the Alyn Hess Stage is PrideFest's big outdoor venue and will utilize the Summerfest Miller Stage. The Hess Stage will not only offer entertainment but will host most of the general political and special events of the festival, such as the PrideFest pre-parade rally and the PrideFest wedding on Sunday, June 8 at 6pm.

Some of featured performers include:

- Björn Again
- Lea DeLaria & Mrs. Fun
- Singsational
- The Possum Queen Pageant
- Pageant Productions featuring Lady Belle Bradley
- Krystal Moon
- Les Lokey Band
- Dianna Jones

The BJ Daniels Revue, hosted by Lilly White featuring a variety of talent from around the state.

Harvey Milk Stage

Sponsored by ARCW & MAP. The Harvey Milk Stage will feature dance groups, local entertainers and a country-western Jamboree.

Some of featured performers include:

- DuWanna Moore
- Lilly White
- Kiley West
- Dressing Room Divas
- Kristina
- Love from the Valley
- Celeste Olds

Rainbow Cafe

Sponsored by Outpost Natural Foods. In addition to showcasing fine entertainment, the Saturday, 6pm AIDS Memorial Service and the Sunday, 10am Interfaith Service will be held here.

Vegetarian food will be served Saturday, June 7, 11:00 a.m.-7:45pm and 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8.

Some of featured performers include:

- Mia Montenegro
- Carl & Tomi
- Robert N. Jones
- Terri Vaun
- Jonnie B.
- Lu Shanti

Stonewall Tent

Sponsored by Q Voice and In Step Newsmagazine. Think of this as the festival's soapbox where speakers can bring their messages to festival-goers and where organizations can meet with the LGBT Community.

MAP will present a mini-massage clinic here and some of the other confirmed programs include:

Elna Hickson, president of Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) will speak Saturday, June 7 at 1pm

Galaxy Gay Youth Organization on Saturday, June 7

Tammy Baldwin on Sunday, June 8

Organizers of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will host a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, June 8 from 2-4pm

Karen Gotzler, Activist & former Milwaukee Common Council Candidate

The Police Community Relations Committee, with MPD reps

Jean Paul Ranieri, who was at the 1969 Stonewall Riots

Jamie Nabozny, who won a 1996 federal court case against the Ashland school district for refusing to protect him from anti-Gay assaults by other students

Fine Arts Stage

Some of the confirmed programs include:

Youth Talent Show on Saturday, June 7 at 11:30am

The Fest City Singers will perform excerpts from their show - "An Evening Out" on Saturday, June 7 at 5: p.m.

Volleyball Tournament Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 7 at 6pm

Gutzman Productions Presents . . . on Saturday & Sunday, time to be announced

The AfterWords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse

Expanded from the Literature Tent from 1996, the Literary Coffeehouse will feature a diverse program of author readings and discussion throughout Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8. A menu of coffee, coffee drinks and other beverages, plus biscotti, muffins, and other freshly baked treats will be available.

Some of the confirmed programs include:

- Humorist Frank DeCar • A Boy Named Phyllis: A Suburban Memoir
- A Humor Workshop offered by Jorjet Harper • Tales From the Dyke Side
- Jackie Calhoun • Seasons of the Heart
- Michael Craft • Flight Dreams
- Jean Marcy • Cemetary Murders
- Poetry Reading with Laurel Mills
- Jeanne Arnold illustrated by Barbara Lindquist • Amy Asks a Question: Grandma, What's a Lesbian

Fest City Singers To Preview Their Show at PrideFest

The Fest City Singers will perform excerpts from their show, "An Evening Out," at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7, on the Fine Arts Stage. The cabaret performance will include music and dance and is "a lot of fun," according to chorus member Sandy Lewis.

The full show is being presented during Memorial Day weekend at Cafe Melange in Milwaukee. Peggy Lozier is music director and Tim Hess is artistic director and choreographer.

The Fest City Singers was founded about a dozen years ago, Lewis said, and has participated at every PrideFest since the founding of chorus.

She calls the cabaret group 'mixed in every sense of the word.' "Some people would say a little mixed up." Its best known show is "History, Herstory, Ourstory" by Peter Mortenson, about Gay history from the 1950s to the present.

Free Shuttle Buses to Provide Service to PrideFest

Last year, you asked for shuttle service to PrideFest. This year, you've got it.

Two free buses will carry people to the festival grounds. Buses will run continuously on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to midnight, and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. All stops will be specially marked.

North Route

The north route will cover the downtown area north to Brady Street. Stops will include the free county parking lot at McKinley Marina. Sponsors of the north route are Mama Roux Bar & American Grill, This Is It, and Pizza Shuttle.

South Route

The south route will go through the southside bar district, including 2nd Street and 5th Street. Sponsors of the south route are Station 2, the Ball Game, La Cage, Just Us, & C'est La Vie.

Dance Tent Biggest Tent at PrideFest

It's back, it's popular, and it's bigger than ever.

The Dance Tent will be three times larger this year. PrideFest will use the most spacious tent available — 90 by 120 feet — and will be joining it to the Ethnic Buildings, which house two bars. In all, this means the PrideFest grounds will be expanded to the north so more people can dance.

Deejays from around the area will spin their favorite songs. Last year, staff members from the Milwaukee World Festival, the managers of the Summerfest grounds, found it difficult to pull themselves away from the rhythmic beat of dance music.

So dance all you want. We'll make more room.

Björn Again, Bigger than Abba, to be Featured at PrideFest

According to the official biography of the musical group Björn Again, four of its members—Agnetha Falstark, Frida Longstokin, Benny Anderwear, and Björn Volvo-us—surfaced in 1989 after their helicopter and a giant glittery platform shoe from outer space collided, leaving them stranded on a deserted island. They were rescued and taken to nearby Melbourne, Australia, with total amnesia, except for some beautiful melodies running around inside their heads.

To find themselves, they teamed up with Rutger Sonofagunn on bass and Ola Drunkit on drums, and set off to search for their past, perform catchy songs, and preaching the values they felt were lacking in the 90s: love, kindness, and good fashion sense.

"For a while," the biography says, "everyone mistook them for the Swedish super group Abba since they looked, sounded, and behaved so much like them, but of course they were not — they were Björn Again."

They will bring their music, love, kindness, and good fashion sense to PrideFest's Alyn Hess Stage at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7.

In 1990, Abba member Björn Ulvacus sent the band a telegram: "Best of luck. Anyone who looks like me ought to have a successful career." In fact, Björn Again has toured more extensively than Abba, presenting 1,200 shows in 30 countries over eight years. Björn Again has performed at European rock festivals alongside Nirvana, Bryan Adams, Bon Jovi, the Beach Boys, and James Brown.

In 1996, Björn Again headlined London's Gay Pride Festival and played in front of more than 300,000 people. The band also performed at the Cannes Film Festival in 1994, and last year at the celebrity party for the United Kingdom premier of the film "Independence Day."

Bartenders' Contest to be Held Again at PrideFest

Bartenders from across the state will compete against each other to provide brew to the most customers from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 6. The winner will receive a \$250 cash prize and a trophy.

The bartenders will work in the Miller beer pods at the Alyn Hess Stage. Up to 24 bartenders can enter the contest.

"It's much more fun than an actual contest," says Susan Cook, PrideFest co-director, "because you can never control where the crowd is going to flow."

Still, winning is a matter of pride — and perhaps customer loyalty. When the contest was held two years ago, Steve Byers from Just Us won.

ADMISSION PRICES

Five Ways to Enter PrideFest

1. A \$5 general admission ticket at the gate.
2. A \$12 three-day pass, available in advance or on Friday at the ticket booths.
3. Free admission Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. when you wear an advance-sale PrideFest pin.
4. Proud Crowd members get free admission every day, any time, when you present your Pride Card at the gate.
5. Free admission on Sunday, June 8 from 2:00-4:00pm with your Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Press Card.

Your Best Route to PrideFest

Take I-94 east from Madison, I-43 south from Green Bay, or I-94 north from Chicago to the I-794 spur east in Milwaukee's downtown Marquette Interchange.

Exit right at Plankinton Avenue (Exit 1D) or exit left at Jackson Street (Exit 1E) or exit left at Lincoln Memorial Drive (Exit 1F).

Follow the green and white signs with red smiley faces to the Henry W. Maier Festival Park.

Watch highway signs for detours in case of construction.

The Pink Triangle

By Terry Boughner

At this PrideFest celebration, as at all the others, the Pink Triangle will be much in evidence. You'll see it everywhere: on T-shirts, on pins and signs, emblazoned on banners and flags. What does it mean?

Most people, I think, know that it symbolizes the Holocaust; that Gay men were forced by the Nazis to wear it as a symbol of their degradation. But is that it? Is that all of it?

Let me tell you a story that I have culled from my notebooks, a story I heard from a Gay survivor in Paris in 1978.

It was a warm summer evening. A breeze whispered through the aspens. By nightfall there would be rain. A lonely church bell in the distance rang out the hour of eight.

The prisoners had been assembled. The guard was making his count. Suddenly there was a commotion. Two were not there. A recount was made, but nothing changed. Two of the prisoners were missing.

A search was quickly mounted. The vast camp echoed with the thundering sound of booted feet and the angry barking of the dogs. Whatever had happened, the two couldn't get far. No one had ever escaped from the Lager at Dachau.

In ten minutes, maybe less, two men were hauled before the assembled camp. One was a man of indeterminate years, tall, big-boned and stocky. The other was younger, in his teens or perhaps, early 20s. It was hard to tell. He'd been beaten too badly.

Both were wearing the prisoner's stripped uniforms, designating them as enemies of society and the state. One, however, was different. The younger man, like hundreds of others in that camp, had a pink triangle pinned to his jacket. Nobody needed them. They were all expendable.

The guards screamed and shouted and called the two of them names. The older one stood impassively. The younger one had slumped to his knees. He was beyond caring. A guard took a pistol and shot him through the head.

It was then that the older man knelt beside his fallen companion and cradled him into his arms. From the youth's jacket, he tore the pink triangle and placed over his heart. He too, was shot dead.

According to the story that later made the rounds of the camp, the older man was a priest, one of many dissident clergy who had been sent to Dachau. He had found the young man, beaten and nearly dead in back of one of the barracks. Nearby there was a faucet which only the guards were allowed to use.

The priest went and got a little water from the spigot and gave it to the young man to drink. This is what was happening when the guards found them.

The Gay survivor who told me this story of Dachau (and many others as well), said it had taught him a lesson. Many people, he said, ask how God could have let Dachau and the other camps happen? Had God deserted human kind?

But Dachau wasn't about God, he thought. Dachau was about individuals and the choices that they make.

Even in a hell hole like Dachau, people could make choices. Even in that prison, they were still free. Individually, they could choose evil, or, like the priest, they could choose good. The price could be terrible, but sometimes the price for choosing goodness over evil is great indeed.

That is the lesson my informant took from the incident. The lesson I took from what he told me is about the Pink Triangle itself.

There are those who say that the Pink Triangle or the Black Triangle, are badges of shame, put upon us by the Nazis. Therefore, we should not use or wear them. I disagree.

The Pink or Black Triangle may have begun as a badge of shame, but it changed. The Triangles are a symbol of our ability to endure all kinds of suffering and horror for being born who we are.

The Triangles are symbols of choice, not as to sexual orientation, but the choice to stand up before the Throne and all human kind and say, "I am me and damn it, I'm proud of that!"

The Pink or Black Triangle are symbols of the fact that, though there are those who think "society can survive without homosexuals," we have defeated them. We do exist and will continue to exist; that we are LGBT 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; that we are not defined by any behavior or act. From that which is beautiful in all of us, we will continue to create.

The German Nazis are in the dustbin of history, but we have survived. The Triangles symbolize that. They symbolize that we are a great and glorious people, a long-suffering people, a people who ask noth-

ing more of life than to be allowed to love.

And this is our choice in this Dachau of a world. We can choose to love, choose to fulfill our beings, or we can choose to "go with the flow" and hide. That priest at Dachau could have chosen to hide, chosen to walk on by. He chose differently. He chose to give a little bit of cool water to a young man. He chose, too, to assume the Pink Triangle at the cost of his life.

As Others Celebrate Their Pride, Gays in People's China Live in Dread

Beijing, China— Like most Chinese homosexuals, Han Yue strives to keep his secret from all but a close circle of Gay friends. Like others, his biggest fear is that someone, someday, might find out he is Gay.

"I've lived with this deep fear of discovery for years, and it knocks all the self-confidence out of you," he says, looking much older than his 32 years. "Now I just feel inferior."

Han Yue, a pseudonym, has been arrested twice. Once the police beat him and then informed his boss, costing him a promising job as a clerk at the Ministry of Culture.

His first homosexual encounter at 16 was snatched in the dark during a violent earthquake in 1976 that knocked out Beijing's electricity supply.

Subsequent encounters took place in parks, toilets and once at the so-called "Democracy Wall" in Beijing which, he says, was a favored meeting point for Gay

The man I was interviewing that day in Paris said the priest, like the young Gay man, had died. I don't believe that, not for an instant. The young man was the occasion for love. The priest used that occasion to show love—to choose it, if you will. They are not dead. They live now abundantly. I believe that.

The Triangles symbolize all of that and more.

men during the brief democracy movement in 1979.

Han Yue is unsure of how many sexual partners he has had, but he knows the figure is high. He knows he has never used a condom and he knows, but does not care, about AIDS.

"Most of us think, 'The sooner I get it, the sooner I'll be dead,'" he said. "We wouldn't think like that if we hadn't been hurt so badly."

Now he shares a cramped Beijing flat with his mother. But he leaves every Lunar New Year—China's equivalent of Christmas when families come together—because his elder brother a few years back stumbled across a private diary recording his homosexual encounters.

"If I'm there at New Year my brother will eat, then he'll drink, then he could start talking about me and I would be finished," he says.

In secret, he attends "Men's World," China's first support group for Gay men

set up in late 1992. But he is skeptical of recent official attempts to publicize the existence of homosexuality in China.

"The newspapers talk about how hard it is abroad, about how Gays in America and Europe are mistreated, but they never talk about how hard it is for Chinese homosexuals," he said. "We don't live like human beings. We live the life of ghosts."

The Forest of Ghosts also is the title for a book Han Yue has written recalling his experiences and those of Gay friends. Stories of arrest and beatings at the hands of the police that, he says, happen every day.

The book includes a particularly disturbing passage describing the arrest and rape of one of his Gay companions by members of the People's Militia, the volunteer civilian force that often patrols homosexual haunts.

"It broke him," Han Yue recalls. "He wanted to commit suicide."

The Forest of Ghosts has attracted the interest of a state-run publishing firm in south China's freewheeling Hainan Province, but so far the company's managers say the book is too sensitive to put on the market.

To Han Yue, their decision comes as little surprise. "This is still China," he said. "I really love my country like I love my mother, but she's not perfect and in some respects I hate her with all my heart."

Articles reprinted from "Pride Guide '97" with permission from PrideFest, Inc.
All articles written by Sue Burke.

PROUD CROWD 1997

INDIVIDUALS

- A Proud Gay Man
Freedom
Andy Bagnall
Fringe
- A Friend of Pride
Dr. Edie Beguelin
- Mark P. Behar, PA-C
- Theodore T. Berg
- A Proud Lesbian
- A Proud Gay Man
Chris R. Briere
Chuck Brotz
- A Proud Lesbian
Sue Burke
Jack Caskey
Susan K. Cook
Steven Delaney
Chris Doerfler
Joshua J. Feyen
Jeffrey J. Fillion
Patrick Flaherty
Rick Formankiewicz
Mr. David Glenn
J. Goldberg
Michael Hall,
A Proud Gay Father
- A Loving Family
- A Proud & Loving Mom
- A Friend of Pride
Stephanie Hume
- A Proud Lesbian
MJ
Nelvin Johnson
Amy Kallas
Jeanne Kitazaki
Lori M. Kreklow
Douglas F. Krimmel
Cheri Lampe
Paula Larson
A Proud Lesbian
Sandy Lewis
Michael Lisowski
Sharon Mahos
Debbie Marszalek
Chris Martin
Atty. Thomas Martin
Donald A. Mead, Jr.
Tom Mielke
A Proud Gay Man

- Anne B. Maloney
D. Millbrook
Rick Miller
- Thanks for a great coming-out!
Bob Moore
Robert N.
Doug Nelson
- A Proud Lesbian
Patrick E. Prudlow
- Jennie Ragland,
a Proud Lesbian
Lee Santkuyl
D. S.
Cori Seider
Sermakasheun
Ronald Lee Smith
James Tate
David Todd
Randy Torkelson
Jon Tschachler
Patrick Wessels
John Wirth
Thomas M. Yockey
A Proud Gay Man

COUPLES

- A Loving Lesbian Couple
Brian Akey & David Van Winkle
Esther Altergott & Naomi Guzman
Chuck & Brian C.J. & Chris
Ceci Chapple & Cheryl Johnson
Jim Chiolino & Dave Heuer
Gerry Coon & Stewart Dempsey
Steven Delaney & Jaime Hernandez
Don Dilges & Richard Braatz
Jerry Gantner & Ron MacDonald
A Loving Lesbian Couple
Rick & Sheldon

- Scott & Sherman
Carol & Mickie,
a Loving Couple
Ron Geiman & Kim Zweibohmer
David Holder & Kreg White
Greg Hutterer & John Murgess
A Loving Lesbian Couple
Sherry & Tammy
A Loving Gay Couple
Kelley L. Johnson & Caryn Moczynski
A Loving Lesbian Couple
Tom & Vicki Kaluzny,
Proud Parents
Alan Karbel & Dave Pederson
Joe Karpfinger & Craig Thelen
Julie Kleppin & Holly Loveland
Dan Lagerman & Tod Templin
Cheri Lampe & Lori Sitzwohl
Lil Lau & Susie Fowler
Two Proud Gay Men in Love with Life
Sue Nevala & Beth Hancock
Cathy Priem, Realtor & Shelli Marquardt
A Loving Lesbian Couple
Louis & Ralph
Nick Rodiez & Jim Hunt
Terry Rohloff & Gary Wells
Dave Rompa & Ray Grant
David Schaefer & Fran Culbert
Dawn Schaefer & Linda Le Gros
Mark & Todd
James Aaron Skiba & Tom D. Kroscher

- Sharon K. St. John & Regina Rose
Mark Street & Mike Phillips
Paul Toonen & Jan Hill
Ross Walker & Erv Uecker
Jerry Warzyn & Brian Rochon
Tom Welcenbach & John Niglis
Mark & Jerry - Forever and a Day
Susie Wirka & Tracy Johnson
R. Zizzo & R. Hicks

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Singsational Productions LTD.

IN MEMORY OF

- In Memory of Carolyn Shore
In memory of Gary
In memory of Vern Schmitt - loving, gentle, missed
In memory of Doug Smith
Bob Raney remembers Mike S. Bresnahan
In memory of Carolyn Shore
In memory of David Iraci, I miss you every day
To my friend, Chris Fons, I think of you often, especially at PrideFest

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FOR INFORMATION ON AIDS, CALL THE WISCONSIN AIDSLINE AT 414-273-AIDS OR 800-334-AIDS.

A Literary Coffeehouse at PrideFest

An exciting array of author appearances, poetry readings, writers' workshops and other literary programs will be found in the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse Saturday June 7 and Sunday June 8 at PrideFest '97.

Stop in for the Coffee, Stay for the Authors!

The Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse expands upon the extremely successful Afterwords Literature Tent at last year's PrideFest to include a beverage stand offering a wide selection of coffees, mochas, cold beverages and bakery items in addition to the scheduled literary events.

Festival goers are keeping fingers crossed that weather conditions for this year's PrideFest that skies will be sunny and temperatures warm and pleasant, but regardless of the weather, plenty of hot coffee can be found at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Coffeehouse.

Saturday, June 7

- 1:00 Jackie Calhoun, *Seasons of the Heart*
also at 1:00 Lesbian & Gay Humor Workshop presented by Jorjet Harper
- 2:00 Robert Rodi, *Kept Boy*
- 3:00 Jorjet Harper, *Tales From the Dyke Side*
- 4:00 Laurel Mills, *I Sing Back - A Poetry Reading*
- 5:00 Milwaukee Poets - An Open Mike
- 7:00 Frank DeCaro, *A Boy Named Phyllis: A Suburban Murder*

* *

Jackie Calhoun

Afterwords is pleased that Wisconsin-native and best-selling Naiad author Jackie Calhoun will for the second year start things off, reading from her latest novel, *Seasons of the Heart*.

Seasons of the Heart is Calhoun's eighth novel. Among Jackie's other titles are *Love or Money*, *Triple Exposure*, *Friends and Lovers* and *Lifestyles*. In addition to her many novels, Calhoun also has stories in four of Naiad Press's popular anthology series including *The Romantic Naiad* and *The First Time Ever*.

Jorjet Harper

Also at 1:00 Afterwords is pleased offer a particularly special program offered by popular Lesbian columnist, Jorjet Harper. *Lesbian and Gay Humor - A Workshop* offers a unique opportunity to explore writing comedy. This workshop is free and open to all interested individuals. Space is limited, advance registration is available at Afterwords Bookstore & Espresso Bar.

Following the workshop, Jorjet Harper will read from her latest collection of humor, *Tales From the Dyke Side*. Harper is a self-described Lesbomaniac, a term she has coined to express her enthusiasm and delight for all things Lesbian. Described by Allison Bechdel as "smart, hilarious and depraved", Jorjet Harper delights in finding humor in daily Lesbian life, whether offering her unique perspective on the Clintons or singing a parody of "West Side Story", "Martina, Martina".

Robert Rodi

Following his arrival on the Gay literary scene with the outrageous debut novel *Fag Hag*, Robert Rodi has become one of the most popular and best-selling Gay authors in America. The Wisconsin Light and Afterwords are especially pleased to welcome Robert Rodi for an author appearance at the Literary Coffeehouse at PrideFest on Saturday, June 7 at 2:00pm.

Rodi's appearance follows the release of his sixth novel, *Kept Boy* and the release in paperback of Rodi's hilarious *Drag Queen*, as well as writing a novel based upon the popular film, *The Birdcage*.

Rodi will read from his latest novels, talk about Gay writing and publishing, and, of course, sign copies of his books.

Poetry Programs

Late afternoon will find the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse hosting poetry readings.

Laurel Mills appearance coincides with the publication of her forth collection of poems, *I Sing Back* - the enduring love of two women.

A Wisconsin native, Laurel Mills' first collection, *The Gull is My Diving Rod* was awarded Outstanding Achievement Honors from the Wisconsin Library association. Her poems have also appeared in such publications as *Ms.* and *Yankee*.

Mills will read at 4:00pm.

Following Ms. Mills will be a Poetry "Open Mike". Any and all interested Gay and Lesbian poets will have the opportunity at PrideFest to read their works. Local poet Carmen Alicia Murgia will co-host. Those interested can sign-up in advance by contacting Afterwords Bookstore.

Frank DeCaro

Highlighting Saturday at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse is Gay humorist Frank DeCaro, author of the hilarious best-selling, *A Boy Named Phyllis - A Suburban Memoir*, reading at 7:00 p.m.

Frank DeCaro's irreverent weekly column "Frank's Place" was one of the first openly Gay columns to run in a major daily newspaper, *New York's Newsday*.

Following young Frank through his childhood and his painful teenage years, *A Boy Named Phyllis* is by turns poignant and hilarious, offering a glimpse into the world of a boy struggling with his emerging identity and his madcapped Italian family. The working class mecca of Little Falls, New Jersey - "twenty-five minutes and a world away from Manhattan" - was not ideal for a Gay teenage boy to acknowledge his sexuality.

A Boy Named Phyllis portrays the wackiness and wonder not only of the seventies, but of coming of age in Suburban America.

Sunday, June 8

- 1:00 Writing Gay Murder - A Mystery Panel
featuring Michael Craft, Flight Dreams
Jean Marcy, Cemetery Murders
Mark Zubro, Rust on the Razor
- 3:00 No Kidding Around : LGBT Titles for Children & Young Adults
featuring Jeanne Arnold & Barbara Lindquist, Amy Asks a Question
- 5:00 Voices From Milwaukee
featuring Afterwords Gay & Lesbian Writers' Group
- 7:00 Will Fellows, Farm Boys

* *

Mystery-lovers, both Gay and Lesbian will find their way to the Literary Coffeehouse at 1:00 on Sunday, June 8 for a Mystery Writers' Panel : Writing Gay Murder featuring Mark Zubro, Michael Craft and Jean Marcy, the combined pen name for Jean Hutchinson and Marcy Jacobs.

Veteran mystery writer Mark Zubro is the author of ten mysteries including *Rust on the Razor*, the sixth book in his extremely popular Tom & Scott series. This series is set in Chicago and feature as sleuths a Gay high school teacher, Tom and his lover Scott, a professional baseball player. Later this summer will find the publication of "The Truth Can Get You Killed," Zubro's most recent entry Paul Turner mystery.

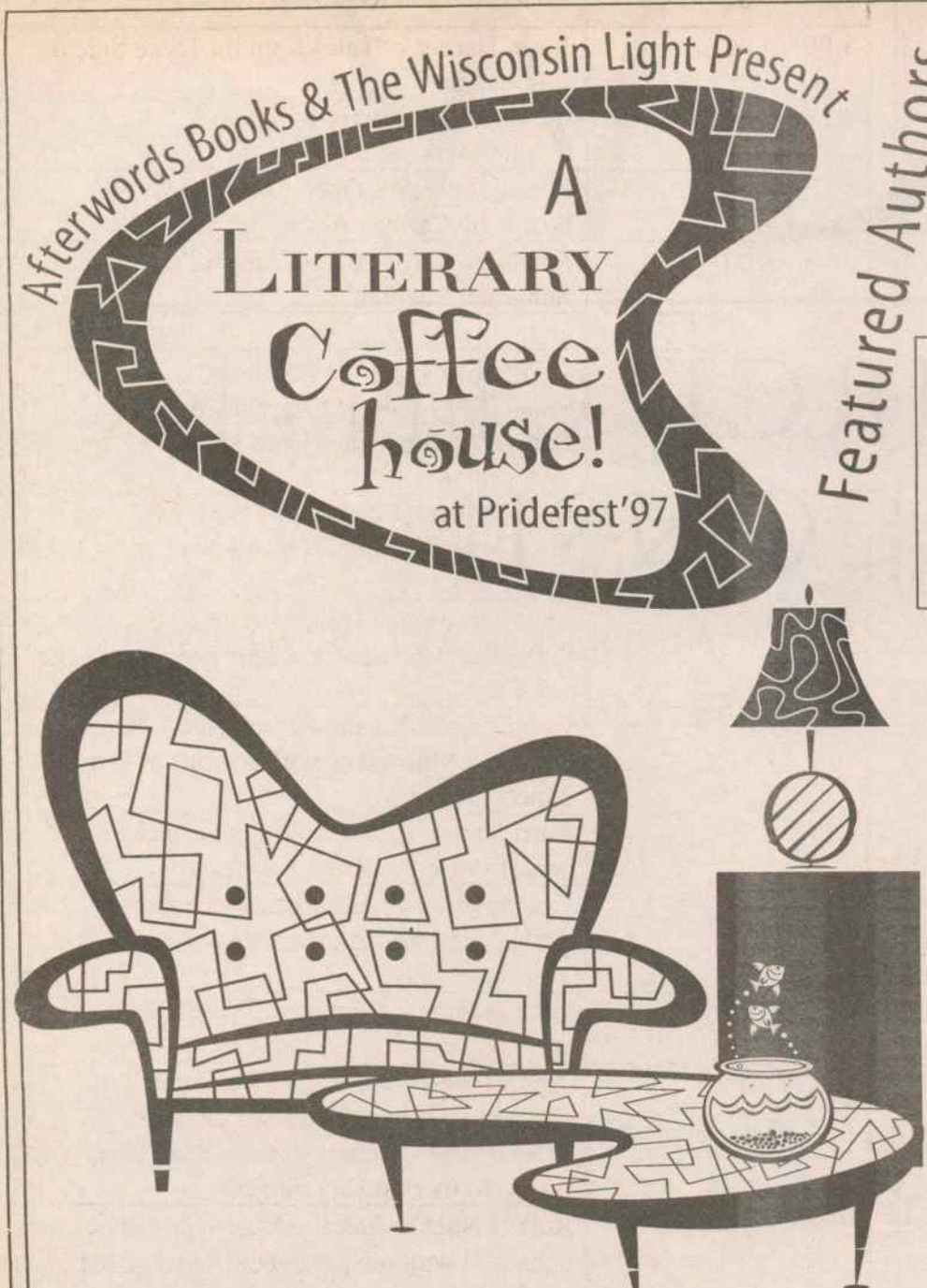
Flight Dreams is Michael Craft's first Mark Manning Mystery. Nearly seven years ago, socialite Helena Carter disappeared without a trace. In a few short months she will be declared legally dead. Investigative reporter Mark Manning may be the only person who believes her alive. But can he discover the truth?

For Younger Readers

At 3:00 p.m., The Literary Coffeehouse will feature a discussion of Gay and Lesbian books for younger readers. With the help from P-Flag and Gay Fathers, many may be surprised to discover many books available for children and young adults beyond classic titles *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate*.

This program will feature a reading and presentation from Jeanne Arnold and Barbara Please See Coffee House Page 22


Afterwords Books & The Wisconsin Light Present



A LITERARY Coffee house!


at Pridefest'97


Featured Authors



Frank DeCaro


Author of the hilarious new book, *A Boy Named Phyllis* will appear at our tent on Saturday, June 7th at 7:00 pm






Robert Rodi


Robert Rodi has written many books, including: *Fag Hag*, *Closet Case*, and *Drag Queen*. His latest is *Kept Boy*. You can meet him at 2:00, Saturday June 7th.





Jorjet Harper

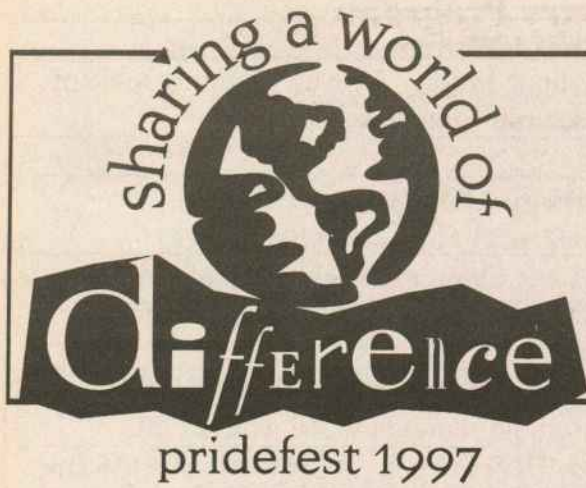
Jorjet, author of *Lesbomania* and *Tales from the Dyke Side* will lead our *Lesbian and Gay Humor Workshop* at 1:00 pm, on Saturday, and will also appear at 3:00pm, the same day



Jackie Calhoun

Jackie, a Wisconsin native, has penned many books for Naiad Press, including her latest, *Seasons of the Heart*. Meet her at 1:00 pm, Saturday, June 7th

For more information, stop into, or call Afterwords Books & Espresso Bar
2710 N Murray, Milwaukee (414)963-9089 or check out <http://www.afterwords.com>



PRIDEFEST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 6	
Alyn Hess Stage Sponsored by Miller Brewing Co.	
5:30 - 6:30	John McGivern, Comedian - From the Big Lake to the Big Lights of LA, John comes back to his hometown for an hour of fun.
6:30 - 7:00	Jillian Clark, Singer - The sultry voice of this Wisconsin artist will surely be a crowd pleaser.
7:00 - 8:30	Singsational - A PrideFest favorite, this song group will get toes tappin' and hands clappin'
8:30 - 10:45	Possum Queen - Friday night's Main Event: The final show of the Possum Queen competition and crowning of the winner. Contestants have been raising funds for AIDS service providers for five weeks and the crown will be passed to the one who raised the most - but they are all winners in our book!
Saturday, June 7	
Alyn Hess Stage Sponsored by Miller Brewing Co.	
11:00 - 2:00	TBA
2:00 - 3:00	Stardust - An all-female band from Milwaukee with blues, jazz, country and rock & roll sound.
3:00 - 3:30	Shoreline Dancers - Put on your boots and get ready for some fast-steppin' line dancing.
3:30 - 4:00	Lu Shanti - A PrideFest favorite returns to the Alyn Hess Stage with full voice power.
4:00 - 5:00	Pageant Productions - A line-up of some of Wisconsin's most talented performers, including Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin.
5:00 - 6:00	Krystalmoon - This five-piece band will keep the crowd hot even as the sun goes down.
6:00 - 7:00	Framing Amy - An all-female five-piece group with a refreshing change of pace.
7:00 - 8:00	Special Announcements
8:00 - 9:00	Lea DeLaria - The one and only "OUT-ragiously" hilarious comedian, Lea takes the Alyn Hess by storm!
9:00 - 10:00	Bjorn Again - Saturday night's Main Event. With the look, sound and feel of the Swedish act, Bjorn Again is "ABBA-esque" at its very best!
10:15 - 10:30	Fireworks - sponsored by the Miller Brewing Co. and featuring the one and only Bartollota's Fireworks Company.
10:30 - 11:45	Les Lokey Band - Familiar and original, let Les Lokey rock the night away.
Fine Arts & Children's Stage Sponsored by The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel	
11:30 - 1:30	Youth Talent Show - featuring some of Wisconsin's up-and-coming artists. Guest presentation by Jamie Nabozny.
1:30 - 3:00	Gutzman Productions Presents... Join in on the fun as parody is mixed with the sounds of a Broadway musical.
3:00 - 5:00	Black Magic - A mix of African American performers bringing you the best in live action music drama.
5:00 - 5:45	Fest City Singers - Performing excerpts from their show, "An Evening Out."
6:00 - 7:00	Volley Ball Tournament Awards Teams who competed in the Miller Lite/PrideFest Volleyball Tournament get a chance to honor the top-playing teams.

Saturday continued...	
7:00 - 8:00	Dynasty Divas - featuring the reigning "Divas" on the circuit including Miss Gay Wisconsin and past crown holders.
Harvey Milk Stage Sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project	
1:00 - 3:00	Cream City Squares - Learn to dance with the best as the Cream City Squares walk you through the steps with Square Dance lessons.
3:00 - 4:00	Cream City Squares - A real down-on-the farm performance.
4:00 - 5:00	America On Tour - American pageantry system brings you the best from near and far.
5:00 - 6:00	Dressing Room Divas - She's got that look! An exciting hour of new impersonators from the local area.
6:00 - 8:00	LOV from the Valley - Talented impersonators from the Fox Valley of Wisconsin.
Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffee House Sponsored by AfterWords Bookstore and Wisconsin Light	
1:00 - 2:00	Jackie Calhoun - "Seasons of the Heart" AND Lesbian & Gay Humor: A Workshop presented by Jorjet Harper
2:00 - 3:00	Robert Rodi - "Kept Boy"
3:00 - 4:00	Jorjet Harper - "Tales from the Dyke Side & Lesbomania"
4:00 - 5:00	Laurel Mills - Poetry Reading "I Sing Back"
5:00 - 7:00	Poetry Reading - Open Mike hosted by Carmen Alicia Murguia
7:00 - 8:00	Frank De Caro "A Boy Named Phyllis - A Suburban Memoir"
Rainbow Cafe Sponsored by Outpost Natural Foods	
1:00 - 1:30	Lomont Richardson - R&B soloist with passion in his voice.
2:00 - 2:30	Basia Rompa, Comedian - Two, two, two loves in one. A humorous look at the Bisexual life.
2:30 - 3:30	Mia Montenegro - With strong style and heartfelt lyrics, Mia's got a unique style you won't want to miss.
3:30 - 4:00	Carl Chadek & Tami Rentmeester - Broadway comes to Milwaukee with a series of songs and dance.
4:00 - 4:30	Terri Vann - A little bit of guitar picking and song from Little Rock Arkansas.
4:30 - 5:00	Corles & Terri - Members of the famous song group, Singsational, they bring you some of your favorites.
5:00 - 6:00	Jeff Jennings - A longtime PrideFest favorite male pop singer. Past Mr. Gay Wisconsin.
6:00 - 7:00	AIDS Memorial Service - Celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us. Service officiated by Brother Stephen Braddock. Music provided by Fest City Singers
7:00 - 7:30	Robert Nugent Jones - Original pop style enhanced with unique upbeat dancing and singing.
7:30 - 8:00	Johnnie B., Comedian - Quick wit and perception of the "alternative lifestyles" breaks down the myths associated with gay people.

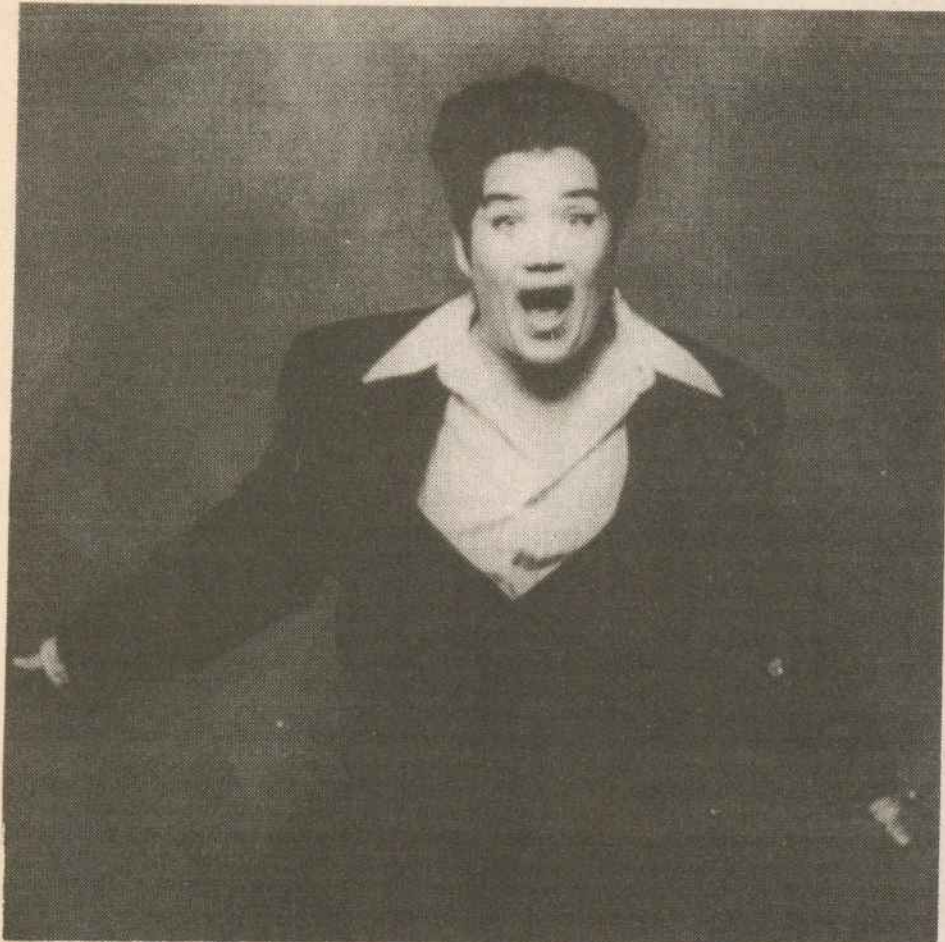


PRIDEFEST

SCHEDULE - CONTINUED

	Saturday continued...
	Stonewall Tent Sponsored by Q-Voice and InStep Newsmagazine
12:00 - 1:00	Chair Massage Therapy - provided by volunteers from the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
1:00 - 2:00	"Personal Journeys" - A panel discussion facilitated by Elna Hickson, PFLAG-Milwaukee. Followed by a question and answer period.
2:00 - 3:00	Log Cabin Club - A "Get to Know Us" session hosted by LGBT Republicans.
3:00 - 4:00	"Baby Steps & Giant Leaps: Taking Your Next Steps Out of the Closet" - Whether you're just getting started or have been out for years, there is always another step to take. Presented by Paul Wesselmann, Stone Soup Seminars, Madison, WI.
4:00 - 5:00	"Creating Successful Support Systems for LGBT Youth in Rural Communities." hosted by Gay Alliance for La Crosse Area Youth (GALAXY)
5:00 - 5:30	Senior Action In a Gay Environment (SAGE) - A "Get to Know Us" session covering issues of concern for older LGBT people.
5:30 - 6:00	Dignity - A "Get to Know Us" session hosted by GLBT Catholics.
6:00 - 7:00	"I Was There: A Personal Account of the Stonewall Riots" The facts behind the legends by Jean Paul Ranieri who saw and partook in the riots as events unfolded after police raided Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn in 1969.
	Sunday, June 8
	Alyn Hess Stage Sponsored by Miller Brewing Co.
11:00 - 1:00	TBA
1:00 - 3:00	AWARDS - Presentation of the Community Service, Stonewall and Lifetime Achievement Awards; parade awards; announcements
3:00 - 4:00	Josie Santiago - High energy and heavy percussion will bring the crowd to its feet.
4:00 - 5:00	Sometimes Y - Eclectic pop with crisp, guitar driven rhythms, progressive percussion, thunderous bass and sensitive, haunting vocals that tightrope the balance between playful and introspective songs.
5:00 - 6:00	Dianna Jones - Song with a variety, from rock to country. A longtime favorite at PrideFest.
6:00 - 7:00	Wedding Ceremony - An interfaith service celebration as couples
7:00 - 8:00	True Heart Suzie - Combining elements of hard rock with a classical sensibility, warmly textured vocals and insightful lyrics. Simply stunning!
8:00 - 10:30	BJ Daniels Review - A PrideFest tradition hosted by Lilly White.
	Fine Arts & Children's Stage Sponsored by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
11:00 - 12:30	Charles D. Productions Presents.... Featuring some of Milwaukee's finest entertainers.
12:45 - 1:30	Cream City Chorus - An all-time favorite choral group from Milwaukee.
1:30 - 3:00	Gutzman Productions Presents... Join in on the fun as parody is mixed with the sounds of a Broadway musical.
3:00 - 6:00	Dynasty Divas - featuring the reigning "Divas" on the circuit including Miss Gay Wisconsin and past crown holders

	Sunday continued...
6:00 - 8:00	Mystique Magic - A revue featuring some of Wisconsin's top male performers.
	Harvey Milk Stage Sponsored by Milwaukee AIDS Project
2:00 - 4:00	La Cage Showcase - A kick-off of the new beginnings from the famous dance club, La Cage.
4:00 - 5:00	Ms. Kristina & Friends - The current Ms. Gay Wisconsin shows how she won her title.
5:00 - 6:00	Lady Di & Friends - A showcase of talent from Kenosha and Racine Wisconsin.
6:00 - 7:00	America On Tour - American pageantry system brings you the best from near and far.
7:00 - 8:00	Neely O'Hara - Friends from our Green Bay area bring you their talented impersonators.
	Afterwords/ Wisconsin Light Literary Coffee House
1:00 - 3:00	Writing Gay Murder - A Mystery Panel featuring: Michael Craft, Flight Dreams; Jean March, Cemetery Murders; Mark Zubro, Rust on the Razor and Another Dead Teenager
3:00 - 5:00	No Kidding Around: LGBT Titles for Children and Young Adults featuring Jeanne Arnold & Barbara Lindquist, Amy Asks a Question
5:00	Voices from Milwaukee - featuring AfterWords Gay and Lesbian Writers' Group
7:00	Will Fellows, "Farm Boys"
	Rainbow Café Sponsored by Outpost Natural Foods
2:00 - 2:30	Basia Rompa, Comedian - Two, two, two loves in one. A humorous look at the Bisexual life.
2:30 - 3:30	Mia Montenegro - With strong style and heart-felt lyrics, Mia's got a unique style you won't want to miss.
3:30 - 4:30	Robert Nugent Jones - Original pop style enhanced with unique upbeat dancing and singing.
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6:00 - 7:00	Jeff Jennings - A longtime PrideFest favorite male pop singer. Past Mr. Gay Wisconsin.
7:00 - 8:00	Lu Shanti - A PrideFest favorite returns to the Alyn Hess Stage with full voice power.
	Stonewall Tent Sponsored by Q-Voice and InStep Newsmagazine
1:00 - 2:00	How to Organize a Political Campaign Presented by Bill Dempsey, Laurie Guilbault and Tammy Johnson of the Human Rights League
2:00 - 4:00	Community Center Town Hall Meeting - Organizer's of Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center project will host a meeting for all to attend. Feasibility report, by-laws and nominations for Board of Directors to be covered.
4:00 - 5:00	"From the halls of School to the halls of Justice." The accounts of terror in the classroom which led to a historic legal victory for gay youth everywhere. Presented by Jamie Nabozny.
5:00 - 6:00	"History of the Gay Veterans Movement" with a presentation by James C. Darby, President GLB Veterans of America
6:00 - 7:00	"I Was There: A Personal Account of the Stonewall Riots" The facts behind the legends by Jean Paul Ranieri who saw and partook in the riots as events unfolded after police raided Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn in 1969.



Lea DeLaria the nationally known Lesbian comic headlines the PrideFest line up

Lea DeLaria, Nationally Known Comic, Is to Be Featured at PrideFest '97

She might not be the girl you want to take home to mother, but feel free to bring your mother with you to see Lea DeLaria on the Alyn Hess Stage at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7. What she says might not shock you — we've all had those thoughts before — except that she says it out loud, on stage, and in front of thousands of people!

She's a Big Dyke and Proud Of It.

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

DeLaria appears as the recurring character Detective Pat Poletti on ABC's "Matlock" and as bartender Loreli on NBC's "The John Larroquette Show." She appears in the movie *First Wives Club* with Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton.

Her professional career began as soon as she moved to San Francisco, where she started performing immediately. She joined a local women's theater, where she

wrote plays and acted. Meanwhile she worked in construction to pay the bills.

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

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

The visibility of Lesbians led to a segment on ABC's "20/20" about the Lesbian community in North Hampton, Mass., which included a portion of DeLaria's stand-up act.

Appearances on "The Arsenio Hall Show" and "Comedy Central" quickly followed; as well as a Christmas show on Great Britain's Channel 4.

DeLaria has been on *Rolling Stone's* Hot List and has been featured in articles in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *People*. In fact, she was the first open lesbian featured in *People*. She has also appeared on ABC's "Day One," CNN's "Showbiz Today," and A&E's "Evening at the Improv."

History Tent at PrideFest is New, Revised, and Bigger Than Ever

When it first appeared at the 1995 PrideFest, the Milwaukee History Exhibit caused a stir. Panels displaying articles, flyers, posters, announcements and memorabilia of the LGBT community sparked old memories and reminded younger people of what can be accomplished.

The exhibit also invited viewers to make suggestions, provide additional information, or suggest people who deserved credit for their contributions.

"We've incorporated some of that," says Jamakaya, the historian working on this year's exhibit. "We revised some of the old panels, and we created new ones for 1995 and 1996."

In addition, she and other people found some old photographs and items that will be added. "We're hoping to have two or three new panels just with new photos, visuals, and highlights of events," Jamakaya said.

She adds, "Even people who went through it last time, I think will be interested in seeing the new stuff."

The History Exhibit, which will be displayed in its own tent, is being paid for in part by the Cream City Foundation's (CCF) 1997 grant to PrideFest. The exhibit will have plenty of space so people

can take their time, study the panels, sit, and reflect.

"For too long, our history has been rewritten or eliminated by those who would rather see us back in the closet," says Scott Gunkel, CCF's Grant Committee chair. "By making sure our history is told and seen by as many people as possible, society cannot deny the valuable contributions and significant gains made by members of our community."

Jamakaya agrees. "It's also important for the non-Gay people who are attending to see the kind of history we have, the struggles we've had over the years, and how we've created our own culture and community."

The exhibit starts with local events before the New York City Stonewall Riots, and after 1970, dedicating a panel to each year. In addition, separate panels list almost every Gay-related organization in Milwaukee since the 1960s, some now defunct; nearly every Gay bar; and the awards given out over the years along with the recipients.

"It was simply impossible to incorporate the names of every group or bar or outstanding individual for each year," Jamakaya says, "but it's an important part of the exhibit."

The Wisconsin Pride Parade '97: Ride, March, or Wave and Cheer

Parades have been a tradition of Pride celebrations since the Stonewall Rebellion. This year's Wisconsin Pride Parade will step off at noon Sunday, June 8, and follow the same route as last year.

It will leave the North Gate, head north on Harbor Drive to Michigan Avenue; west on Michigan Avenue to Cass Street; north on Cass Street to Wisconsin Avenue; west on Wisconsin Avenue to Water Street; south on Water Street to Chicago Street; and east on Chicago Street to Harbor Drive. On-site parade workers will help line up parade participants, and registered groups will get detailed instructions with their confirmation letter.

Marching units can enter the parade for a \$30 fee until June 1; \$40 afterwards. Cars and floats can enter for \$25 until June 1; \$35 afterwards. For entry information, call the PrideFest office at (414) 272-FEST.

Individual marchers are free. Individuals may join any of the marching groups, join in at the end of the parade, or line the streets to wave and cheer marchers.

Dykes on Bikes invites anyone with a motorcycle to help them lead the parade. For more information, call Deb Procknow at Just Us Tavern, (414) 383-2233, or visit the tavern at 807 S. 5th St., Milwaukee.

Prizes will be awarded for the first place marching unit, first place float, first place car, and special creativity.

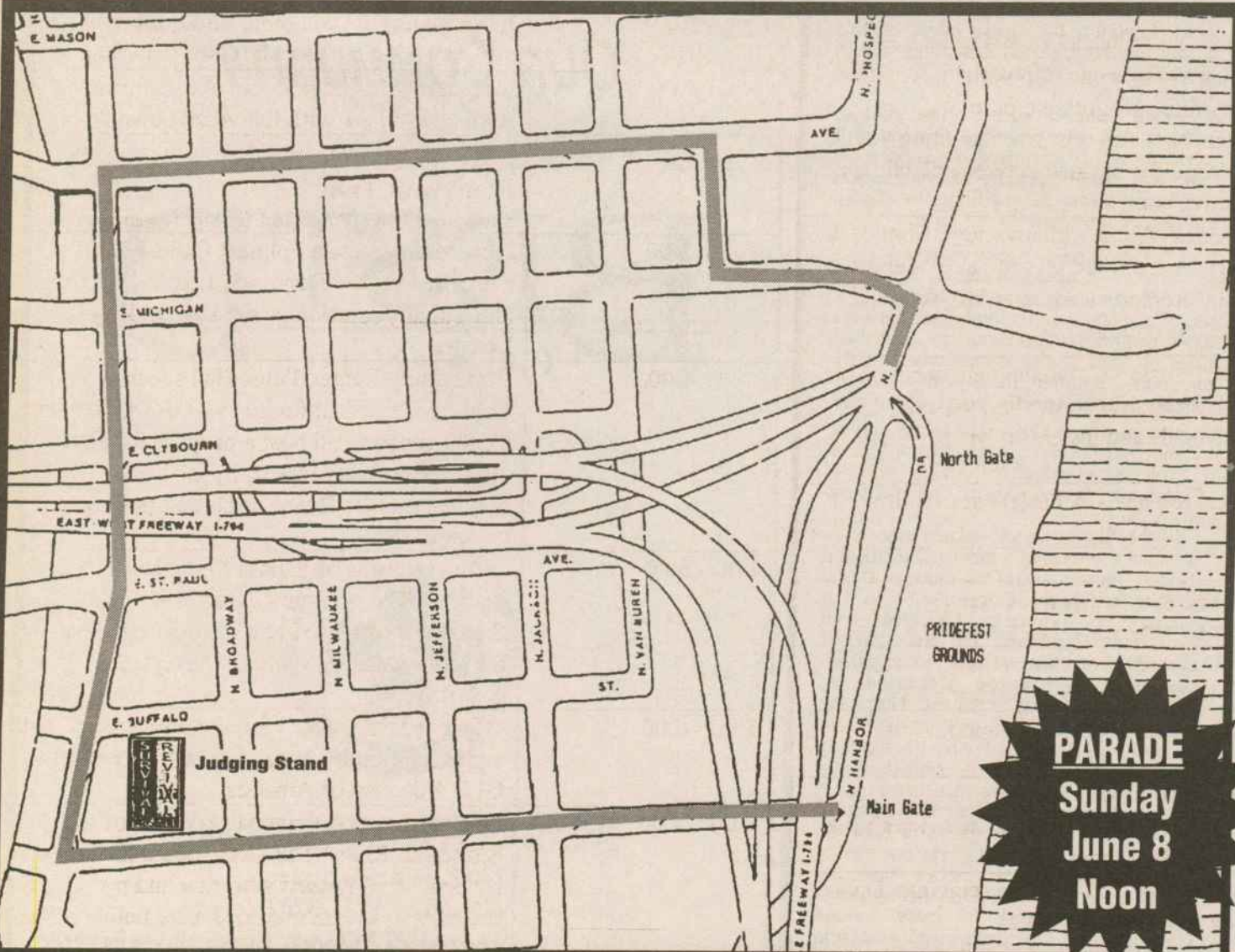
The parade's grand marshal is Lea DeLaria—stand-up comic, actor, musician, activist, and Saturday night's headline act.

Joining her as a parade marshal is Jamie Nabozny, who successfully sued the Ashland, Wisconsin, School District for failing to protect him from anti-Gay bullies.

Bus Tour to Minnesota's Pride Celebration

Minnesota's Pride community will be attending our celebration at PrideFest and it is thought that we should show solidarity by attending the Minnesota Pride Celebration on June 28, 1997.

Mike Hall, PrideFest Co-director is accepting reservations for a motor coach tour to Minnesota for the Pride Celebration, leaving in the p.m. hours of June 27, 1997 and returning on June 29th. The total cost will include bus transportation and hotel (double occupancy). For more information, contact Mike Hall at (414) 962-2773.



1997 Pride Parade Route

North on Harbor Drive to Michigan Avenue

West on Michigan Avenue to Cass Street

North on Cass Street to Wisconsin Avenue

West on Wisconsin Avenue to Water Street

South on Water Street to Chicago Street

East on Chicago Street to Harbor Drive

Judging Stand at Survival/Revival 246 East Chicago

1997 PrideFest Award Recipients

"The credit belongs to those who are actually in the arena, who strive valiantly; who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spend themselves in a worthy cause; who at the best, now the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if they fail, fail while daring greatly, so that their place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

-Theodore Roosevelt
**

Living in our midst are countless numbers of people who have made notable contributions to our community. Many have been generous of their time and expertise. Others have challenged some of society's worst injustices while risking their own comfort, financial well-being, and sometimes, even their careers.

And then there are those who have actually changed the course of our his/her story by demonstrating leadership abilities that cause many of us to stand back in wonder. The LGBT community is graced with these self-sacrificing people as we know from experience that no one else is going to get the jobs done for us.

Every person who has ever volunteered a single hour, everyone who has ever questioned the status quo, or who has led the way through social battles deserves our recognition and our gratitude. Unfortunately, most of these people remain nameless because they believe that what they have done is no more than what others do.

But we do have our shining stars.

The Stonewall Award Miriam Ben Shalom

The Stonewall Award is presented to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated the spirit of the Stonewall Riots by fighting to bring about change. Usually, their fight begins as a personal crusade against an injustice, but often leads



STAFF SGT. MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM

to far-reaching impacts for the good of our community, as well as others. PrideFest is proud to recognize Miriam Ben Shalom.

In 1976, Miriam Ben Shalom truthfully answered the question as to whether or not she was a Lesbian. Even though her performance evaluations documented that he was good as any soldier, and a good deal better than most, the US Army Reserve began discharge proceedings. Miriam decided to fight this action.

For the next 15 years of her life, Miriam began the long process of challenging the JS' ban of Gays in the military. In 1980, a federal district court found no grounds for the military's ban and ordered the Army Reserve to reinstate Miriam, at which point the Army Reserve refused to comply with the law.

Miriam filed a contempt of court suit for reinstatement in 1982. Five years later, the JS Court of Appeals reaffirmed that the Army Reserves must reinstate Ben-Shalom. Finally, in September of 1988, and only after a \$500-a-day contempt of court fine was levied on the Army Reserve, Miriam was reenlisted into the 509st Army Reception Battalion.

Court challenges continued and in 1989 a federal appeals court ruled against Miriam. Her case was forwarded to the US Supreme Court where the "justices" decided in 1990 to let stand the last federal court rulings upholding Miriam's discharge.

Miriam Ben Shalom was trained to fight. When she enlisted, she had no idea what battle laid before her.

JP and Jeff

John Paul Ranieri and Jeffrey Hicks. There are those who's mission in life have touched persons of all backgrounds, whether they be Gay or straight; of faith or not; of one color or another. For Jeffrey Hicks and John Paul (JP) Ranieri, they have seen the effects of poverty and have chosen to do something about it.

For nearly twenty years, JP and Jeffrey have been running The Sanctuary, a shelter for homeless people on Milwaukee's South Side. They have been vigilant and self-sacrificing in the cause of justice, equality and the fight against poverty.

Not only have they provided shelter to men, women and children, they have provided food and clothing; coordinated efforts with various shelters, including Guest House, Hope House, Salvation Army and Open Gate.

JP conducts a ministry to the poor and homeless, but does not make this a condition of assistance. The couple has sacrificed personal comforts so that others have a place to rest, a bit to eat, and an ear to listen to their life's stories. They use thousands of dollars of their own money to carry out their mission.

While JP is the fire of this activity, Jeff is the forge. They augment each other's gifts.

JP also has the distinguished recognition of being a "Stonewall Survivor," a person who was actually present at the Stonewall Inn during the early hours of June 29, 1969 when police raided the bar. There are only 25 survivors left to tell the story of what really happened when the riots of New York's Greenwich Village.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Jamie Nabozny

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to one individual who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the LGBT community. Individuals who receive this award have often been instrumental in changing the course of our history. This year's award goes to Jamie Nabozny.

Age does not dictate when one has reached a lifetime achievement. This year's recipient is in his early 20's, and yet, he has not only demonstrated leadership and commitment, but unwavering courage.

Jamie Nabozny was presented the Stonewall Award in 1996 for his legal challenge against the Ashland School District whose administrators' inactions allowed the verbal and physical assaults by Jamie's classmates to continue until he dropped out of high school and moved away from his hometown.

At a time in his life when it would have been much easier to start a new life elsewhere, Jamie Nabozny, with the continued support of his parents, returned to his hometown after earning his GED to make school administrators accountable for their actions, and/or inactions which led to the continued violence.

Since then, the courts have ruled in favor of Jamie, and have, in effect, told school administrators and teachers all over this nation that they have an obligation to ensure that all students, regardless if they are gay or straight, are entitled to a safe learning environment, and that inaction or proclaimed ignorance are no excuse for allowing violence to continue against gay youth.

Just as if a small stone was thrown into Lake Superior, the ripple effect of this ruling has been slowly spreading across Wisconsin, the Midwest, and the entire United States.

Having achieved such a great goal so early in life, the PrideFest Council will certainly not be surprised if someday we read that Jamie Nabozny has once again set a new course for our future by changing, again, the course of our history.

Community Service Award Carol and Jai

The Community Service Award is presented to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated exemplary contributions of time to the community and its members. Too often, these people are our unsung heroes, quietly going about the business of providing service for others. Their contributions are priceless.

PrideFest is proud to present the 1997 Community Service Award to Carol Stevens & Jai Brett.

To the thousands of women who have attended the women's music concerts and dances, Jai and Carol are known as the smiling faces at the door, selling tickets or handing out programs. Unselfish with their time, Carol and Jai have donated thousands of hours of time to organizations such as Amazon Magazine, the Women's Coalition, Grapevine, Hurricane Productions, and Full Moon Productions.

Carol was also involved with the Gay Peoples Union during the organization's early years. They have also organized a play-reading group called the Off-Stage Players, and have performed in both the Milwaukee and Madison variety shows. Their holiday/potluck parties have become legendary. Active in Milwaukee's community for nearly 30 years, Jai and Carol are two of the most-loved women in Milwaukee.



Ross Draegert

Ross Draegert

Many LGBT organizations have benefited from Ross' financial savvy and don't even know it. Ross Draegert is the financial advisor for the Cream City Foundation (CCF) and has been instrumental in the wise investment of CCF's endowment so that additional funds can be raised to financially support community groups and organizations.

While providing this very valuable service to CCF since 1989, Ross and his partner, Robert, have also opened their home for numerous receptions, enabling CCF board members to meet potential donors. These receptions were responsible for raising thousands of dollars for CCF, which in turn, has made funds available to the community.

Join Front Runners for Three Mile Jog at PrideFest

Front Runners, Milwaukee's own LGBT running club, will be hosting its 3rd Annual Pride Run on Saturday, June 7. Runners of all capabilities are welcome to join in on the 3 mile jog.

Participants will start on Harbor Drive, just in front of the Midgate at the Summerfest grounds at 12:30 p.m. and run along the Lakefront, and around Juneau Park Lagoon before returning to the festival grounds. There is no fee for participation in this non-competitive run.

For more information, contact Front Runners at (414) 332-1527, or email them <http://execpc.com/~blackjon/frontrun.htm>

PrideFest to Host Miller Volleyball Tournament

For the fourth year, PrideFest will serve up the Miller Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, June 7, in Urban Park, just north of the Summerfest grounds at the lakefront.

Teams, both men and women, from across the Midwest will begin in the morning and continue through the afternoon in round-robin and single elimination play. Top teams will win trophies, which will be presented at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Fine Arts Stage.

Last year, 11 teams participated. Miller Brewing Company is again sponsoring the tournament.

TKNet Creates New Website for PrideFest

"We decided we needed to do something spectacular for PrideFest," says Dave Warren, president of TKNet. So he and the members of his company have created the festival's website: <http://www.pridefest97.com>.

It's a labor of love. It's going to be a whole lot of fun," he says. The website already has information on all aspects of PrideFest, including a complete lineup of events. But even after the gates open for the festival, the website will be worth visiting. Warren plans to take pictures at PrideFest and post them daily.

"You'll get to see yourselves on the web," he says. "Isn't that exciting?" He readily admits that he loves this kind of work.

TKNet is a media company that designs web pages and print graphics. Only a year old, it has a total of 50 years of experience in its staff, Warren says, and serves clients from around the country from its Milwaukee headquarters. As a gay-owned business, he adds, providing a page for PrideFest seemed natural. TKNet can be reached at 1-888-29-TKNET, or <http://www.tk.net>.

The page will carry 1998 PrideFest news as it becomes available, Warren says. "We'll be an info resource year-round." He has plans to keep improving the site. "Who knows what we can do by next year?"

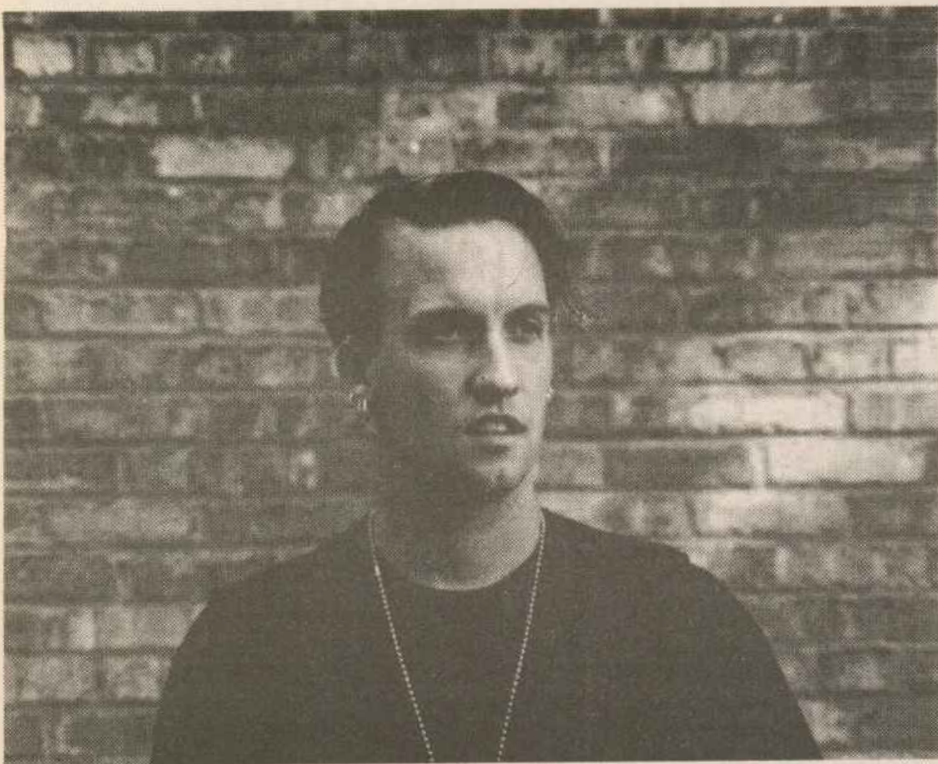
PROUDLY CELEBRATING
23 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO
OUR COMMUNITY.

BESTD
C.L.I.N.I.C



BRADY EAST STD CLINIC

1240 East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 272-2144



Robert Nugent brings his original pop style to PrideFest when he performs at 3:30 on Sunday June 8 at the Rainbow Café.

Pink Triangles Will Light the Night Sky at PrideFest '97

You're going to love this: Pink triangles exploding over Lake Michigan.

"They're perfected," says Mike Hall, the PrideFest volunteer working with Bartolotta's Fireworks Co., one of the nation's foremost fireworks manufacturers and aerial pyrotechnics producers.

For the third year in a row, a Bartolotta crew headed by Joe Maz is designing a unique show for PrideFest. As last year, the show will last about 15 minutes and end in a spectral barrage — loud and proud.

For the third year in a row, the show will be underwritten by the Miller Brewing Company.

The show will start at 10:15 p.m. Saturday, June 7, and the rockets will be launched from the Lake Michigan island just east of Summerfest grounds, so the best viewing spot will be the lakefront.

The rain date is Sunday night.

The Bartolotta crew has been trying to perfect pink triangles for years, Hall says, but has battled technical problems. "One year they turned out to be circles," Hall remembers. "This year, we're going to have three-inch shells with pink triangles that are going to break in the air, but they're also developing a six-inch shell that's going to break a lot higher and wider."

In other words, they'll be seen for miles around.

Hall says PrideFest remains the only pride festival in the nation with its own exclusively designed fireworks display.

Bartolotta Fireworks also produces the world-famous July 3rd Milwaukee lakefront fireworks displays. Each show is carefully planned to start big and end bigger, with beauty and excitement in between.

So watch for pink triangles lighting up the sky with pride.

Proud Crowd Members to be Honored at Reception

Members of the Proud Crowd will be honored with a refreshment reception from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 6 at the Festival grounds.

Proud Crowd members are the individuals and businesses whose contributions form the basis of PrideFest's budget.

In addition to the reception, Proud Crowd members receive a Pride Card allowing free admission to the festival and offering discounts at a number of businesses.

Certain giving levels include premiums of PrideFest logo polo shirts and sweat-shirts or a rainbow flag. The flag can be one that has flown at the festival or can be provided prior to the festival so it can be flown at home.

Proud Crowd donations are being accepted up to and throughout the festival. For more information, call (414) 272-FEST or write PrideFest at P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203 and request an informational brochure.

A booth outside the PrideFest gate on Friday night will allow people to join the Proud Crowd, get their card, and participate in the reception.

PrideFest '97 to Host Third Mass Wedding Ceremony

For the third year, PrideFest will host a wedding at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at the Alyn Hess Stage, where couples can make or renew their vows to each other. The Rev. Lew Broyles, pastor of Milwaukee's Metropolitan Community Church, will officiate.

"Especially this year," Broyles says, "when the State Assembly has passed a bill banning same-sex marriages, it is important that people see us as serious in our intent and serious in our commitment." He hopes this year's mass wedding will be the largest ever.

"When people take up the issue of same-gender marriage," he says, "it's important to recognize that first and foremost it dispels the myth of promiscuity that people often bring to the subject of same-gender relationships."

Couples must pre-register for the wedding at the Metropolitan Community Church booth in the Marketplace area. There is a \$15 fee. They will receive flowers and a picture at the ceremony.

A huge wedding cake will serve the brides and grooms and hundreds of guests — one of the largest wedding cakes in the state. "Last year's was beautiful, with columns and a fountain in the middle," Broyles says. "It was just to die for."

Artist Barb Peterson Illustrates Diversity and Difference in Her PrideFest Logo

"This year's PrideFest slogan, 'Sharing a World of Difference,' is very simple," says artist Barb Peterson, "yet it also lends itself to good graphics." Peterson created this year's PrideFest logo, which appeared on the cover of the Pride booklet.

"It's meant to express the diversity of our community as well as the world at large," she says. "The strength of that diversity obviously helped shape a world of many visions, so the use of a variety of letter forms in the word 'difference' as well as the production of this year's buttons and T-shirt in several background colors helps tie into this theme of difference and versatility."

Buttons and T-shirts will come in three colors with the logo reproduced in different colors according to each background color.

Peterson has been volunteering for PrideFest and donating her artwork for logos since 1994. She freelances as a graphic designer for Wild Child Design and is involved in a new art gallery, Gallery H2O at 221 N. Water St. PrideFest shuttle busses will stop near the gallery, Peterson says, and fest-goers are invited to visit the gallery, which will showcase work by Richard Waswo, whose work is familiar to the LGBT community.

For this year's logo, she says, the design has been kept simple to accommodate multiple formats, "but because of its simplicity, it lends itself to making a pretty strong statement. Hopefully, it will work well for the entire community and for PrideFest."

The Cream City Foundation Helps Make PrideFest Possible

The Cream City Foundation (CCF) operates simply: It raises money to fund organizations and projects that benefit the Milwaukee and Wisconsin LGBT community, says Scott Gunkel, CCF's Grant Committee chair.

"Our giving has gone up exponentially year after year," he says. Much of that has been due to donations from the Miller Brewing Co. and from money raised by AChoice.

AChoice collects money in the workplace for groups who are not part of the United Way. When a United Way representative visits a workplace, employees can use donor option C to designate CCF or if they prefer to give to a non-Gay organization, to designate AChoice, which gives a portion of its donations to its member groups, including CCF. AChoice raised \$20,000 last year for CCF.

In addition, CCF raises funds through mailings and phone banks. In all, Gunkel says, CCF will be able to donate more than \$34,000 this year.

CCF's Grants Committee reviews requests every quarter. This year it gave \$5,000 to PrideFest, much of it paying for the History Exhibit. CCF will have a booth near the exhibit.

Over the years, CCF has given \$37,000 to PrideFest, making it "one of our most loyal sponsors," says PrideFest Co-Director Susan Cook. "CCF made it possible for this festival to get off the ground in the very beginning."

CCF has also funded the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at UWM, the Legal Aid Society for LGBT projects, the Human Rights League for 1996 Coming Out Day activities, CESA 7 for educator training films about Lesbian and Gay students, the Gay Youth Milwaukee hotline, PFLAG outreach, and the April 12 showing and discussion of the film *Gay Cuba* at UWM.

AIDS Memorial Service to Remember Those Who Have Been Lost

A service of remembrance and celebration in honor of all those who have been lost to AIDS will be held at the Rainbow Café at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7.

The service is new to PrideFest and will be officiated by Brother Stephen Braddock, a member of the Order of St. Camillus and founder of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry.

"During this time," says Braddock, "we will pray as a community for all those who have AIDS or those who are HIV positive, their lovers, families, friends, and for all those who care for them as the hands of a God whose divine name is compassion."

The service will include sacred drumming, a ceremony of light, and other spiritual rituals. The Fest City Singers will perform several songs, including "Someone's Missing" by Chicago songwriter Khristin Lems. Soloist Diane Bloom will sing "When Angels Cry" by Janice Ian.

Sandy Lewis, a member of the choral group, said Lems has granted the Fest City Singers permission to use her song at any time. "It's sort of become our song," Lewis said. "It honors artists of all types who have been lost."

She said the chorus is performing by request, and is pleased to have been asked. "Obviously we're deeply involved and concerned," she said, "and have lost some dear members of our group."

Braddock is pleased to officiate. "Over the years," he says, "I have watched in awe as the LGBT community, a community drenched in grief, reached out with unconditional love to people with AIDS. Often, in the absence of organized religion, members of the Gay community have been to one another shining examples of God's presence and love in the world."

"I celebrate the fact that they shamed me into action," Braddock says, "and I am proud and privileged to be praying and working with them for the freedom of every human being to live in a world that can one day be at peace with itself."

The hour-long service will be inclusive and open to everyone. People are encouraged to bring photos or other mementos of loved ones.

Outpost Natural Foods to Sponsor the Rainbow Cafe

This year, Outpost Natural Foods becomes a new sponsor of PrideFest.

"It seemed like a natural thing for us to do," says Lisa Malmarowski, marketing and merchandising manager of the store. Part of Outpost's mission is to serve different segments of the general community, she says, and many of its customers are in the LGBT community.

"Also, we thought it would be a lot of fun," Malmarowski says.

Outpost will sponsor the Rainbow Café, and Outpost volunteers will serve food there. "At a lot of festivals, there are not a lot of choices for vegetarians or people who want something lighter to eat," Malmarowski says. Outpost will sell vegetarian and organic dishes such as sandwiches, fresh fruit, possibly a dessert, and spritzers for people who might not want beer or soda.

Any profits after the \$2,000 sponsorship fee and the costs will be donated to the Cream City Foundation, Malmarowski says, and Outpost is trying to get donated supplies and food "so we can offer more back to the community."

Food will be on sale from 11:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Saturday, June 7, and 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8.

Outpost Natural Foods is a consumer-owned cooperative committed to products and services that promote healthful living, and to creating a fair, diverse, and supportive workplace.

Located at 100 E. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee, it offers groceries, produce, a full-service deli, packaged goods, vitamins, herbal supplements, homeopathics, essential oils, a wine and beer department, gardening items, a gift department, books, bulk grains and other dry goods, bulk wet goods like laundry detergent and oils, and snacks.

Join Your Friends, Have Fun, Help Out, Be a Volunteer at PrideFest '97

Volunteers are the lifeline of PrideFest. Last year, more than 500 people gave their time and skills to make the festival a success.

Volunteers 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.

You can get an application from the PrideFest office, (414) 272-FEST, or P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203. If you want to work with a friend, send in your applications together for assignments at the same time and location.

Members of the 1997 Volunteer Corps receive special benefits:

1. Free admission on the day(s) you work. Those who help with pre- or post-festival tasks receive a complimentary ticket for the festival.
2. A special badge that clearly identifies you as a volunteer corps member.
3. A free meal at PrideFest.
4. Self-satisfaction from knowing you helped make PrideFest the most exciting pride festival in Wisconsin.

Service to be Held for Those of All Faiths at PrideFest

People of all faiths will join in an interfaith service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, June 8, at the Rainbow Café, officiated by the Rev. Lew Broyles, pastor of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church.

As in previous years, Broyles says, members of Dignity, Integrity, Lutherans Concerned, and the United Church of Christ will be invited to participate. He also hopes to enlist participants from non-Christian faiths, and promises a service welcoming to all beliefs.

"We focus strongly on inclusive language, empowerment and a message that is uplifting," Broyles says.

"The interfaith service is a wonderful part of PrideFest that offers people from all different faiths the chance to worship together," he says. He has been organizing the ceremony since 1993, and looks forward to doing it again. Last year's service filled the Rainbow Café tent.

Performers at PrideFest '97

The following information was taken from the press kits submitted by several of the performers who will be performing at this year's PrideFest. "Wisconsin Light" did not have information on other performers as we went to press.

Robert Nugent Jones

Robert Nugent Jones is a singer, songwriter, synthesist and entertainer. His original pop style is heavily influenced by Erasme, Madonna and the Pet Shop Boys. Robert's performances are enhanced by his unique, upbeat dancing and singing. He has already performed in thousands of venues as large as Shoelkopf Stadium in Ithaca, New York, to as small as Steep N Brew café in Madison. Robert has also performed at the Linx Block Party and at a BestD Clinic benefit in Milwaukee.

Robert's decision to be an "out" Gay songwriter has inspired him to write and perform songs that promote tolerance and acceptance. His original songs now, not only deal with love (Pleasant Surprise), infatuation (Simply Gorgeous), and relationships (Go Away), but about acceptance of others (Honor Diversity), Gay Pride (We Are Everywhere), and safe sex (Safe Is Hot).

Robert Nugent Jones will perform at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, on the Rainbow Café Stage.

Carl Chadek

Carl Chadek has performed and/or directed for many companies, including the Sky-light Opera Theatre, the Milwaukee Opera Company, Bay View Players, M&M Productions, Dale Gutzman Productions, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He was the musical director at the Broadway Baby Dinner Theatre for several years where he directed eight productions including Milwaukee's longest running show, Nunsense.

And speaking of Nunsense, Carl did the digital music arrangements for that show at Milwaukee's newest dinner theater, Melanec's Wheel House.

Carl Chadek will perform at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, on the Rainbow Café Stage.

Tami Rentmeester

Tami Rentmeester has been seen on many stages in the Milwaukee area. Among the roles she has performed are Ruth in *The Pirates of Pinzance*, Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Cora Hoover Hooper in *Anyone Can Whistle*, and Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for such companies as Sunset Playhouse, Bay View Players and the Milwaukee Opera Company.

Perhaps Tami's most memorable role is Sister Mary Hubert at the Broadway Baby Dinner Theatre in both *Nunsense* and *Nunsense II*.

Tami Rentmeester will perform with Carl Chadek at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, on the Rainbow Café Stage.

Les Lokey

Les Lokey is a fiery, focused energy leading an audience through hypnotic transcendence to tent-show frenzy. The source of her music is a lifetime spent crossing continents. Nomadic wisdom from North African tribes to America's trailer parks created experiences she has channeled into a hardfare of powerful acoustic rhythm, explicitly wrought lyrics and vivid melodies. Les Lokey approaches critical mass, shaking up all sense of the mundane.

Les Lokey will perform at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7.

Johnnie B.

Johnnie B. has been slated as the best up and coming young comedian by his colleagues and audiences. Johnnie B.'s quick wit and perception of the "alternative lifestyles" have left audiences laughing and wiping tears of humor and ignorance from their faces simultaneously.

The show is an educational experience for all, full of humor and honesty, but most importantly, it breaks down the myths and stereotypes associated with Gay individuals. It's a class we all wish we'd had in school, mind-challenging, but fun to take part in. Johnnie B. uses a combination of high energy, characterization, and engaging story telling.

Johnnie B. will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, on the Rainbow Café Stage.

Sometimes Y

Sometimes Y brings together four Milwaukee musicians: Lora Nigro—songwriter, lyricist, vocalist; Kevin Pedriana—songwriter, guitarist; Rob McWilliam—bassist, keyboardist; and Jeff Gaudes—drummer/percussionist. Their music can be described as "eclectic pop" with crisp, guitar driven rhythms, progressive percussion, thunderous bass, and sensitive, haunting vocals that tightrope the balance between playful and introspective songs.

Sometimes Y will perform at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, on the Alyn Hess Stage.

Mia Montenegro

No stranger to the Midwest's music scene, Mia Montenegro has spent the past three years performing in a popular Milwaukee acoustic rock trio. With the trio, she has played many venues including Summerfest, State Fair, and the Walk Against Family Violence. As a solo performer, she has performed solo and with local musician Julie Darrough at PrideFest and at AIDS Walk Wisconsin the past two years. She's got a unique style that you won't want to miss, a strong presence, heart-felt lyrics and slamming vocals.

Mia Montenegro will perform at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 on the Rainbow Café Stage.

True Heart Susie

Combining elements of hard rock with a classical sensibility, warmly textured vocals, hard-driving rhythms and insightful lyrics, True Heart Susie's CD "Three Sheets" leaves its stamp after the first spin. Led by singer/songwriter Julie Niedziejko, the five-piece band projects anthemic rock songs with dashes of the ethereal and a twist of the avant. Often augmented by violin and a back-up vocalist, the variety of musical approaches is simply stunning.

True Heart Susie will perform at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, on the Alyn Hess Stage.

Framing Amy

Framing Amy is built on solid songwriting, memorable songs, ringing guitars and heart-felt vocals. This 5-piece brings many musical influences to the surface. Amy Pierce's strong vocals are a perfect fit to the tightly constructed rhythms and guitars of the group. This band defies a strict categorical definition and prefers to let its end product do the talking.

Framing Amy will perform at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, on the Alyn Hess Stage.

Coffee House

Continued From Page 16

Lindquist who have just published *Amy Asks a Question: What is a Lesbian?*

For the past several months, Afterwords has helped nurture a Lesbian and Gay writers' group. At 5:00 p.m., members of this group will present a program specially prepared for PrideFest '97.

Closing programs at the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse at 7:00pm is Will Fellows, editor of *Farm Boys: Lives of Rural Gay Men from the Rural Midwest*. Recently in the news, Will Fellow's profile on the popular PBS program *In The Life* resulted in considerable controversy.

Farm Boys undermines the cliché that Gay life is purely an urban experience by telling the stories of more than three dozen Gay men ranging from 24 to 84, all of whom grew up in farm families.

Whether you are a farm boy or always a city boy, all are welcome to the Literary Coffeehouse to hear Will Fellow's program at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

For further information concerning the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse, please call Afterwords at 963-9089 or check the events section of the Afterwords website at www.afterwords.com.

Jeffrey Fillion to Create Original Mural at PrideFest

Last year, Jeffrey Fillion offered to create sidewalk art with chalk at PrideFest — but of course, it rained, so he missed his chance.

He'll be back this year at the request of PrideFest officials, "and we decided not to do chalk this time," he says. This time, he'll use a waterproof medium — probably oil pastels, which resemble high-quality crayons — and he'll work on an eight-foot-square wood panel.

"I like pastels because you can be real spontaneous with them, and you don't have to mix the colors ahead of time. You can mix the colors on the canvass," Fillion says.

When he paints, "I'll mix the color, and it will be absolutely perfect, but I'll run out of it and not be able to get it back."

He plans to create the outline and basic composition before the festival and to execute most of the work on Saturday, June 7, as fest-goers watch. The finished mural will be on display on Sunday. He hopes to create something to symbolize the way the LBGT community represents PrideFest 97's slogan, "Sharing a World of Difference."

"I want to somehow express the synergy that everyone feels when they're at PrideFest, and hopefully that will inspire people to seek that in their everyday life."

Fillion works part-time as an artist. He contributed a piece to the Art for AIDS sale last year that inspired competitive bidding. A work depicting the Thursday Night Group of volunteers at MAP appeared in the Feb. 1, 1996, issue of *Wisconsin Light*. In that work, 49 different figures, each representing a specific volunteer, danced over a winding rainbow road.

"The best pieces of my work have to be the most spontaneous," Fillion says. "Planning it out ahead of time helps to a degree, but when I'm working on a piece, if I'm inspired to go in a different direction, I have to follow that inspiration, otherwise it seems forced."

The Marketplace at PrideFest is Your Place to Shop

The Williamsburg Village at the Maier Festival grounds (Summerfest) will hold up to 80 businesses, organizations, and artists — each one with things to sell or make available to you. The Marketplace will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 Saturday, June 7, and 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8.

As last year, everything from brochures to clothing to fine art will be available. Michael Lisowski, the market's coordinator, says PrideFest is attracting a lot of new vendors because of Summerfest grounds' facilities — a roof and pavement instead of the open grass at many festivals — which make both shopping and selling more pleasant.

Stonewall Tent is PrideFest's Soapbox

If someone has something to say that's worth hearing, the Stonewall Tent is where they'll probably say it — speakers from community and political groups, activists, and experts.

Elna Hickson, president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, will speak at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7.

Organizers of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center will host a town hall meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8.

Although times have not been set, other speakers will include:

Karen Gotzler, activist and former Milwaukee Common Council candidate.

The Police Community Relations Committee, with Milwaukee Police Department representatives expected.

Jean Paul Ranieri, who was at the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

Jamie Nabozny, who won a 1996 federal court case against the Ashland school district for refusing to protect him from anti-Gay assaults by other students.

PrideFest Things to See and Do

Friday, June 6

- 4:30 p.m. Gate Open
- 4:30 p.m. Opening ceremonies - Fountain Area
- 5:30 p.m. - 10:45 p.m. Entertainment - Alyn Hess Stage - Miller Oasis
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Closes

Saturday, June 7

- All Day Jeffrey J. Fillion - muralist - Midgate Area
- 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Volleyball Tournament - Urban Park
- 11:00 a.m. Gates Open to festival
- 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Games by L & C Toy Company - opposite Dance Tent
- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Children's Play Area - Family Day
- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Classic Car Show - North Harbor Drive
- 11:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. PrideFest Marketplace in the Williamsburg Village
- 12:30 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Front Runners will be taking off at the Midgate, please feel free to join in.
- 12:00 p.m. - Midnight Dance Tent (located behind the fountain)
- 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. AIDS Memorial Service - Rainbow Cafe, service officiated by Brother Stephen Braddock, music by Fest City Singers.
- 10:15 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Volleyball Tournament Awards Banquet - Fine Arts Stage
- Midnight - 11:00 p.m. Miller Fireworks (rain date Sunday)
- Midnight - 11:00 p.m. Festival Gates Close

Sunday, June 8

- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Interfaith service - Rainbow Cafe
- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Gates Open
- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Classic Car Show - North Harbor Drive to South Harbor Drive Gate 6
- 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Children's Play Area
- 11:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Games by L & C Toy Company - opposite Dance Tent
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon PrideFest Marketplace in the Williamsburg Village
- 12:00 noon - 12:00 a.m. Parade Step off - Main Gate on Harbor Drive
- Midnight - 1:00 p.m. Dance Tent (located behind the fountain)
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. PrideFest Awards Presentation - Alyn Hess Stage
- 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. PrideFest Mass Wedding - Alyn Hess Stage
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Closes

Coming to Milwaukee Check Out These Hot Spots During PrideFest, The Classic

By Dusty Sass

As you probably know, Milwaukee has a lot of bars, so if you are coming to visit for the Milwaukee Classic and/or PrideFest you may need some help.

Here is a listing of my personal favorite hangouts and what you can expect at them.

Afterwords Books 2710 N. Murray. Milwaukee's premier Gay and Lesbian Bookstore. In fact, it's the only LesBiGay bookstore between Chicago and Minneapolis. They have a neat Espresso Bar, great magazines, all kinds of books, plus lots of pride wear too.

Designing Men 1120 S. 1st Street. An emporium filled with Gay memorabilia, posters, magazines, leather equipment, and a whole lot more.

This Is It 418 E. Wells. A great juke box, great service, very reasonable prices and a crowd of patrons of both genders and all ethnic backgrounds make This Is It a popular stop and one of Milwaukee's favorite bars. This is a fun place, a place to chat, have some laughs, and make new friends. The service here just can't be beat and neither can the friendliness of the customers.

The Ball Game, 196 S. Second Street. This is a great place to stop in for a few beers and some good conversation. Warning: Once you come in this bar you may not want to leave.

Boot Camp Saloon 209 E. National. If you are into leather this is the bar for you. An interesting atmosphere, nice patio, back bar and good service make this place a Milwaukee favorite.

Café Melange 720 N. Old World Third Street. Café Melange has good food and reasonable prices plus great entertainment. It's located on the ground floor of the Hotel Wisconsin.

C'est Le Vie 231 S 2nd Street. C'est Le Vie has a good mix of people. On Fridays they feature the Dazzling Diva Show and on Saturdays they have an all Gay male stripper show.

Fannies 200 E. Washington Fannies is primarily a Lesbian bar. They have a nice patio out back plus a great dance floor and reasonable prices.

In Between 625 S. Second Street. In Between is known for its parties, its sports fans and its turn of the century look. In Between has friendly bartenders and loads of antiques everywhere. It's worth a stop just to see the décor.

As In Former Years, MAP is a Supporter of and Participant in PrideFest

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) provides a comprehensive range of client services including prevention education; support services such as housing, financial, legal, transportation, and benefits planning assistance; health services such as mental health counseling, dental care, cooperative therapies, STD diagnosis and treatment, support groups, and the Early Intervention Program.

ARCW also houses a food pantry, the Wisconsin AIDS Library, the Wisconsin AIDSline, and the Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium, which is Wisconsin's only statewide HIV clinical drug trial program comprised of an impressive network of physicians.

ARCW and the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will continue to encourage support of the LBGT community in many ways, including its sponsorship of two PrideFest events.

Last year, ARCW generously sponsored the laser light show and the Harvey Milk Stage. This year, ARCW will again sponsor the Harvey Milk Stage, which features dance groups, local entertainers, and a country-western jamboree.

ARCW will be sponsoring the PrideFest volunteer t-shirts.

Some other ARCW involvement with PrideFest '97 include a marching unit and decorated car in the parade, a strong HIV prevention presence, and MAP's Survival/Revival resale shop's help in setting up the PrideFest Committee reviewing stand in front of the resale store on Chicago Street.

Just Us 807 S. Fifth Street. Great Friday fish fries, Country Dancing on Saturdays and more make this a popular place to be. Just Us draws a mixed crowd of men and women.

Kathy's Nut Hut 1500 W. Scott. What can you say about a bar that has "This much fun should be illegal" as a slogan. Kathy's is primarily a Lesbian bar located on the near South Side.

La Cage 801 S. Second St. The big one. La Cage is Milwaukee's biggest and hottest dance bar. With two dance floors, seven bars, a basement pub that serves good food and great service it's no wonder that this place is Milwaukee's favorite bar.

Word to wise get there early on PrideFest weekend or be ready to wait to get in.

La Perla Restaurant 734 S. Fifth Street. This is one great Mexican restaurant. They have a really big deck, a chili pepper you can ride and fantastic food. *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* gives La Perla 3.5 stars.

Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt. Gay Milwaukee's favorite East Side neighborhood bar. Mama Roux has great Friday fish fries and other fantastic food as well. The bar specializes in Cajun food and you'd be hard pressed to find someone who's eaten there and didn't enjoy it.

The M & M Club, 124 N. Water. Great food, great drinks, good service and a wonderful atmosphere plus live entertainment on the weekends make this place a must stop. Check out the Glass Menagerie Restaurant.

S. Water Street Docks 354 E. National. A nice bar with a nice atmosphere. A good mix of people hang out here from jocks to the leather crowd. There are drink specials and a nice cocktail hour.

Station 2 1534 W. Grant. This Lesbian and Gay bar is a always a fun to stop. The place has a train motif and very friendly bartenders. I only go there when I need a real good laugh. Somehow they always provide one.

Zippers 819 S. Second Street. Zippers is located next to La Cage. It's claim to fame are the low prices. But don't get the idea that this is some sort of dive bar. Far from it. The newly remodeled Zippers is a fun place to go.

Tour the Lakefront and PrideFest by Boat This Year

A new addition for PrideFest this year will be boat tours of Milwaukee's Lakefront provided by Schmeil Tours. Schmeil Tours will welcome you on board for a scenic tour of PrideFest and Milwaukee's Lakefront daily on Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8th. This outing would be ideal for children of all ages to attend.

Don't forget to reserve your space for the evening cruises, especially the cruise prior to the "Light Up The Sky" fireworks.

Space is limited for these cruises. For more information, look for the Schmeil Boat Tours at PrideFest and make your reservations as soon as possible.

A Few 1996 "Carry the Torch" Shirts Are Still Available

The remaining stock of 1996 "Carry the Torch" shirts has been transferred to two outlets in Milwaukee. The white shirts with the bold, six color design were so popular last year, the PrideFest souvenir stand ran out before the end of the Festival. A second print run was made in time for the Labor Day Weekend Linx Block Party.

If you were left out in the cold without a 1996 PrideFest souvenir shirt, you can purchase one at Afterwords Bookstore, 2710 N. Murray Avenue or Designing Men, 1200 S. 1st Street. T-shirts and long-sleeved mock turtle necks are available, but sizes may be limited. Once these shirts are sold out, they will not be reprinted.

Articles reprinted from "Pride Guide '97" with permission from PrideFest, Inc.

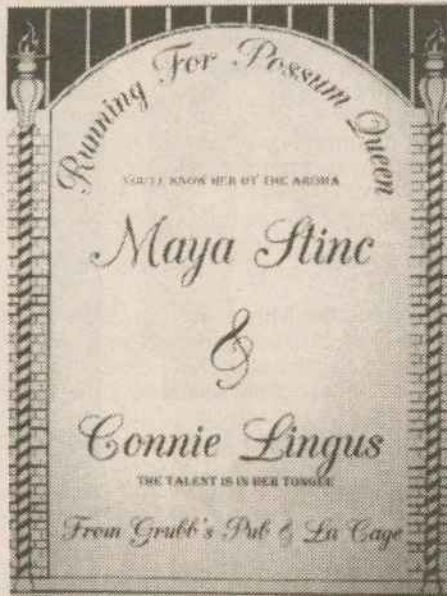
All articles written by Sue Burke.

The Possum Queen Contest is in Full Swing and Promises to be a Grand Show

On your mark, get set, go! Possum Queen contestants have three weeks to raise as much money as they can, any way they can, for AIDS service providers. Whoever brings the most money to the Alyn Hess Stage at 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 6, becomes the 1997 Possum Queen.

But there's more.

While the campaign team is determining the winner, Possum Queen contestants will entertain the crowd. "It's not going to be a beautiful drag diva fashion show," warns Max Barnett, head of the Possum Queen campaign team. "It's going to be more of the raucously, campy, silly, drag stuff."



There might be line dancing or go-go dancing. There might be belly button whistlers — if you've ever seen one, you know how silly they are. Some contestants lip sync. Some sing for real. One year a contestant impersonated an animated cartoon character.

The whole thing, Barnett explains, started as a joke six years ago as a contest among bars. It got bigger. It became an AIDS fundraiser. "Now it's just gotten huge, huge, huge, huge, huge. We raised \$22,000 last year." It has grown so big it has joined PrideFest.

"There are no rules," Barnett says, "which allows a lot of really silly stuff to go on. Last year one of the candidates

PrideFest to Offer a Choice of Foods To Tempt Every Taste

When it comes to food, PrideFest differs from many other summer festivals in two ways.

First, volunteers run most of the food booths as fund-raisers for their organizations, which receive a portion of the gross profits.

Second, compared to other summer festivals, PrideFest offers a variety of vegetarian offerings. For example, the special PrideFest tomato sauce being used by the Galano Club for spaghetti and sandwiches starts off meatless and remains "unviolated," according to its cook.

As last year, a spaghetti dinner — vegetarian and with meatballs — will be offered on Friday and Saturday nights from the Galano Club tent. Galano will also sell Philly brats, meatball sandwiches, & baked potatoes with a choice of butter and sour cream topping or broccoli cheese sauce topping. New this year are fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies.

Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, brats, vegetarian burgers and Mexi-burgers will be featured at the main grill.

In the snack area, called Davinci's Pizza, you can again purchase pizza with various toppings, along with snacks.

A fried foods booth will offer goodies like deep-fried zucchini, deep-fried mozzarella sticks, jalapeno cheese poppers, and French fries, plain or with cheese topping.

New this year will be a booth selling Mexican style fare, such as meat and vegetarian tacos and burritos, and everyone's favorite — nachos.

Amazon's Heros will again feature both meat and meatless cold submarine sandwiches and deserts.

One entire booth will be devoted to the special summer treat of roasted corn on the cob.

Coffee will be served at Davinci's Pizza, the Afterwords Literature Tent, and the Galano Tent.

In addition, several private vendors familiar to the LBGT community will sell coffee, sandwiches, frozen custard, and other treats.

from one tavern was kidnapped, taped to a bar stool, bound and gagged, and shanghai'd and taken around to all of the other taverns, where they made fun of him and drank beer around him."

In past years, contestants have raised funds with mud wrestling challenges, pie tosses, chili cooking competitions, car washes, wiener dog races, raffles, bead sales, dances, shows, direct solicitations for funds, and chicken bingo, which involves live chickens in a pen running across numbered squares. The winning square is determined by chicken "deposits."

At the show, someone involved with the campaign will receive the "Tommy Award," named after a past Possum Queen who died of AIDS, for "the person who we feel really sees the point of it," Barnett says. "Just raise money — none of the bar politics, none of the social circle politics. The winner is beyond the games."

Possum Queen candidates who are shy may designate a proxy to perform. Barnett says that because the show is limited to two hours, this year's show will be more organized than previous years, but he still doesn't know who exactly will perform or what they will do.

Barnett admits there are a few rules. No vandalizing other bars for fundraising purposes. "Beg, borrow, or whatever for money — no stealing." At the show, "no raunch, because my mom and my grandma and my nieces and nephews come. It's a family show for everybody."

Expect the show to be spontaneous and full of surprises. Last year, "I got on the stage at the beginning of the show as the host in slacks and a neck tie" Barnett says. "By the end of the show, someone threw a wig and gown on me, and I became Victoria Maxwell. This year, I don't know if you'll be seeing Max or Victoria."

"I'm not sure exactly what to expect, but I'm sure we can expect fun."

Park East Hotel Host Hotel for PrideFest

Located just north of the festival grounds on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, the Park East Hotel, 916 E. State St., will be the host hotel for PrideFest, as it has been for the past four years.

The PrideFest shuttle will stop at the Park East on Saturday and Sunday, so guests need not worry about parking.

The hotel will offer a special PrideFest rate of \$70 plus tax for one or two people. Reservations should be made by May 15. Call (414) 276-8800 or (800) 328-7275 and mention PrideFest.

Family Day to be Celebrated With Clowns and Music at PrideFest '97

Bring your kids, or borrow your nieces and nephews, and bring them to PrideFest's new Family Day Children's Area Saturday, June 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

They can play carnival games, sing and dance, enjoy face painters and clowns, and help make a banner that will be carried in the Pride Parade the next day.

Chief Clown and organizer of the event, Ted Berg, hopes 100 kids come for the first year. "We're kind of doing a smattering of a lot of different things to see what works, and in coming years to incorporate the things that work and reorganize the things that don't," he says.

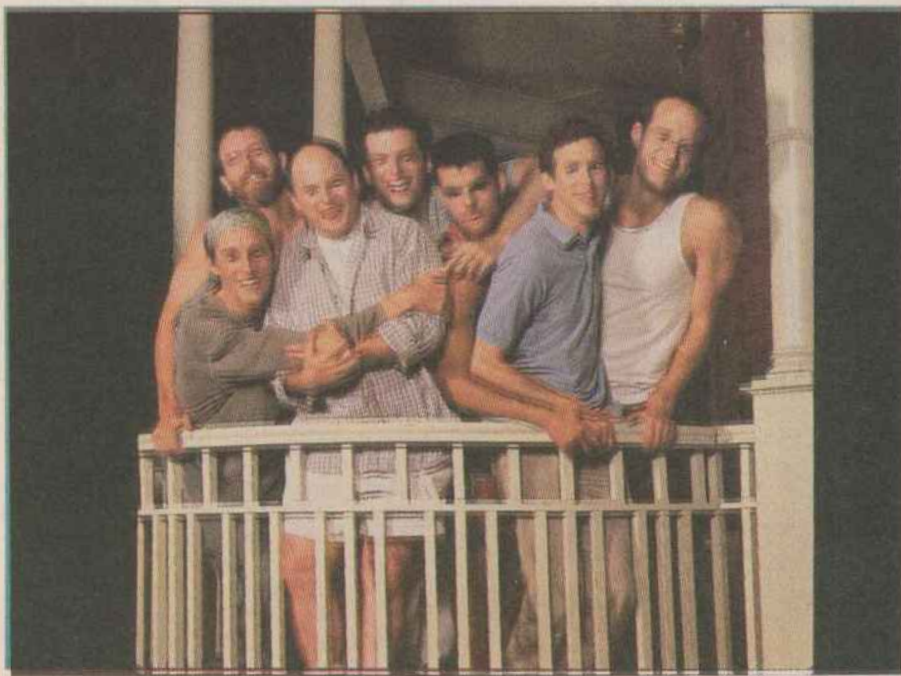
If there are enough children at any one time, he'll organize a clown express children's parade to tour the grounds.

Children's performers will include "Side by Side" at 1:30 p.m. in the Children's Area. Diane Bloom and Sandy Lewis will provide fun participatory music and movement. "We wow em on the grade school circuit," Lewis says.

Berg has no children of his own, "but I do love children," he says. He's both a clown and a Santa Claus, and he believes bringing children into PrideFest activities is an important celebration of the community.

The Parade banner will express the children's pride and love for their parents. "When it is carried in the parade," Berg said, "it will say to the outside community that Gay and Lesbian people are also mothers and fathers, and we do have family values if you just look."

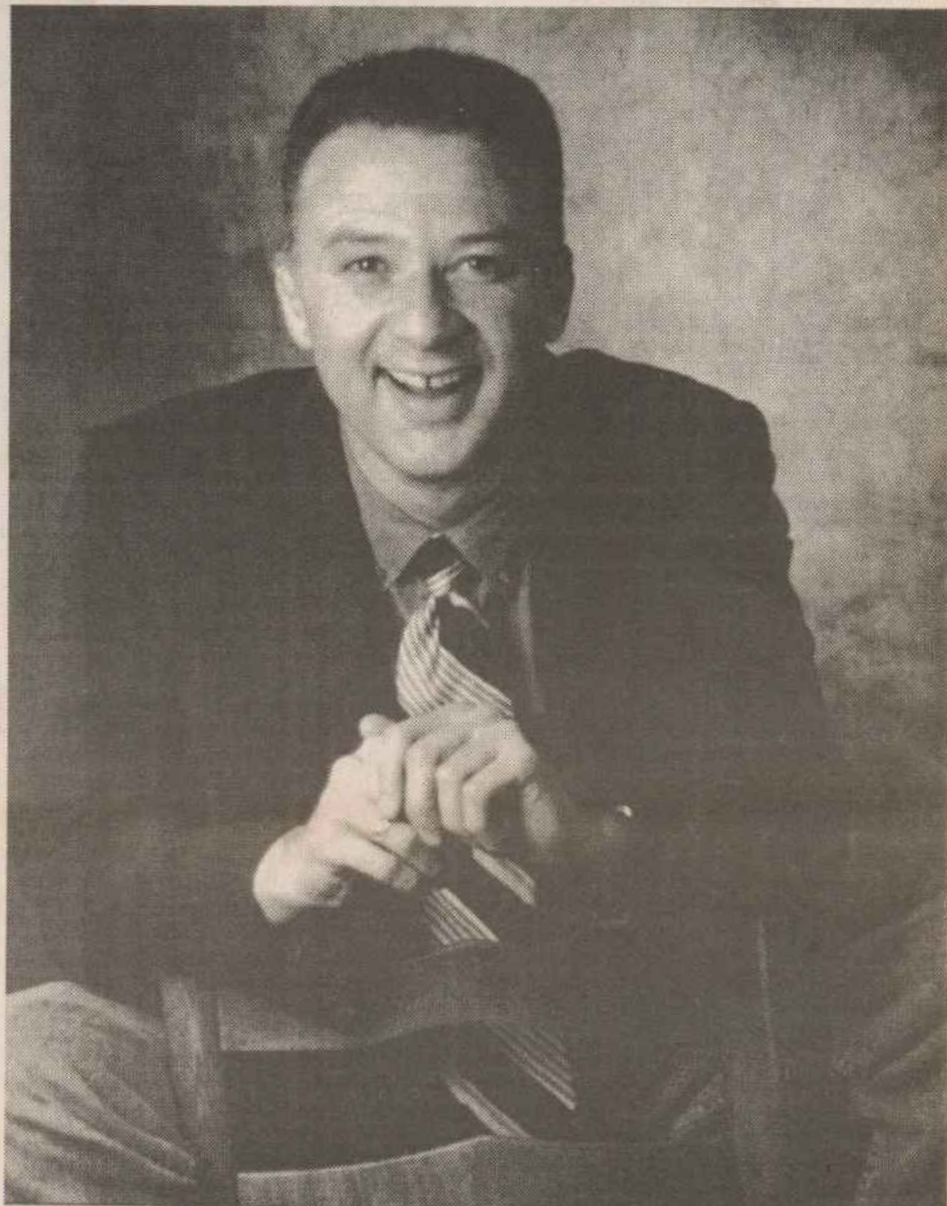
T H E S P O T L I G H T



Love! Valour! Compassion! The cast of Love! Valour! Compassion!, a new Gay themed film based on the hit Broadway play is shown above. The Wisconsin Light is sponsoring a benefit premiere for the new Milwaukee LGBT Community Center on June 11. (See ad on page 39 for details)



Talking to the Stars



John McGivern

John McGivern: Milwaukee's Own Nationally known Gay Comic

He's a Gay Robin Williams. He's funny, he's bright, he's proud. He's Milwaukee bred and raised John McGivern.

John's credits include appearances on the Comedy Channel, the Arts and Entertainment Network, VH-1 and hundreds of theaters and clubs around the country. Where ever he goes John becomes a traveling ambassador of laughs for the Cream City.

Best of all John is coming to Milwaukee. You can catch him at Mama Roux's for its big mud wrestling Possum Queen Fund raiser Sunday June 1, at 2:00 and at the Milwaukee Rep's Steimke theatre from Thursday June 5 through Saturday June 7 as well as at PrideFest following the opening ceremonies.

Dusty Sass - So John where exactly in Milwaukee did you grow up.
 John McGivern Bartlett and Kenwood Ave. on the East Side.

D.S. So what was it like growing up Gay on Milwaukee's East Side?

J.M. Little did I know that when I lived in Milwaukee growing up. I will say that the East Side of Milwaukee was a great place to grow up. Growing up I didn't really know I was Gay, I only knew that Barbie doll is mine.

It's kind of funny we all have these universal experiences. What we thought was odd was really that we were simple homos. We weren't odd at all.

All along I thought I was unique. But I wasn't, not at all, I was just a simple dairy

queen.
D.S. Tell us about your family
J.M. I have a brother who lives in Florida, and a brother who lives in Detroit, one brother lives in Milwaukee and my two sisters live in Cedarburg. My mother lives right between the two of them a mile away from Colleen Mary Margaret and Maureen Mary Margaret. Don't say pathetically Irish to me.

My Dad was a brick laying welder. Yum! My Dad was really butch. I said that at even at age seven. My mother was macho too. I don't know what happened to me.

D.S. I take it your Mom liked that Mary Margaret name?

J.M. She did. I know that she wanted to call me Bridget. Which I wouldn't have minded I don't think.

D.S. Do you work Wisconsin into your routines a lot?

J.M. Yes I do. In fact I have this one bit where I talk about how I was the smallest baby in Milwaukee history, just 8 pounds 8 ounces.

Its funny a friend of mine from San Diego went back home to Oshkosh and spent the last year of his life there before he died of AIDS. Some of his friends flew to Oshkosh for the funeral. The seven of us were at the funeral together and they kept saying, "I can't believe how many Lesbians there are here," and I said those aren't Lesbians those are the girls from Oshkosh. I still not sure they believed me.

D.S. So where do you live now?

Please See McGivern Page 31

Madison's Unicorn Are Up and Running, Opening Summer with a Blast

Madison--The Unicorns of Madison is pleased to announce the success of our May 3, 1997 "GLSTN FUN-RAISER" at Manoeuvre's, 150 S. Blair St., Madison. Thanks to the generosity of the community we were able to raise \$376.00. The Unicorns donated an additional \$124.00, giving a total of \$500, or the equivalent of one scholarship, to the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teachers Network - South Central Wisconsin (GLSTN-SCW).

Unicorn members were busy that night, receiving donations, selling raffle tickets and entertaining the crowd with a bondage demonstration. The high point was a totally chrome studded hood that members of the audience continuously came over to admire and touch.

Thanks to local community merchants, Unicorns was able to raffle \$265 worth of merchandise. The Unicorns wish to expressly thank Ed Grunewald, owner of Manoeuvres and the MAD Bar, and his staff whose assistance and sponsorship were instrumental in the both the success and the crowd's enjoyment of the event.

GLSTN-SCW promotes tolerance and inclusion of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered issues in education. GLSTN strives to provide support for its members with resources, information, and sharing that allows members to create an atmosphere in school that is safe for everyone. The Unicorns is proud to support

this worthy cause that impacts both our community and our youth.

The GLSTN Scholarship Fund is designed to honor senior year students who have supported the mission of GLSTN by their actions throughout their high school years. A student does not have to be a GLSTN member to be eligible, nor does an applicant's sexual orientation need to be disclosed. Each year two \$500 awards are presented, one to a female senior, and the other to a male senior. GLSTN-SCW can be reached at P.O. Box 259502, Madison, WI 53725-9502.

The Unicorns of Madison, Inc. can be reached at P.O. Box 536, Madison, WI 53701-0536 and is planning another fund raiser in August at The Shamrock, 117 W. Main St., Madison.

InQuest Run

Need to put some "bang" in your 4th of July celebrating? The Unicorns of Madison is holding a run this July 4-6 weekend at St. Unicorn, a member's farm located 75 miles west of Madison.

Unicorn members are now busy getting the bars, stage, showers, campgrounds, and in-door dining facilities ready. Entertainment is planned with a get-together social Friday evening, an entertainment extravaganza Saturday night, and an awards brunch on Sunday. Catered meals will be

Please See Unicorn Page 25

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 -Michael Musto, VILLAGE VOICE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



MADISON

Frontiers Holds Pot Luck On Saturday May 24

Frontiers will be holding its annual Memorial Day Weekend Cookout and Pot Luck on Saturday May 24.

Everyone is welcome to participate. Call David at (608) 274-5959 for details

MILWAUKEE

The SSBL Goes to the Mustang Game on August 1

The Saturday Softball League is selling tickets for a very special event. The SSBL will be taking 40 people to a Milwaukee Mustang Indoor Football Game on Saturday June 1st.

Tickets are \$20.00 for lower level seats for the game against the Portland Forest Dragons.

For an extra \$5.00 participants can enter a 50/50 raffle. You don't have to be present to win the raffle.

For tickets contact the SSBL.

SAGE Has Movie Nights

SAGE has scheduled two movie nights for the month of May.

On Monday May 25, the group will show the excellent documentary of Gays and

Lesbians in film, "The Celluloid Closet".

On Monday June 2, the delightful comedy film "Maybe Maybe Not," will be shown.

Both films will be shown at Lake Park Lutheran church, 2647 N. Stowell.

Delores Barry at MCC

Delores Barry, Gospel Singer and Evangelist will be at Milwaukee's Metropolitan Community Church on Sunday May 25th.

Ms. Barry will preach at the 11:00 Service and give a concert at 7:00 PM.

MCC meets at the Hotel Astor, 924 E. Juneau.

Unicorn

Continued From Page 24

served throughout the weekend with food and liquid refreshment available 24 hours. A hot tub is on the grounds. For the more adventurous, a mud pit will allow all hardy souls to really commune with nature.

In the past, demonstrations and contests were held throughout the weekend, including competitions that raised money for community charities. This year's InQuest run promises all knights a chance to don their armor and and go-off on their own quest or CRUISE-sade. Interested conquistadors can get an application or information from The Unicorns of Madison at P.O. Box 536, Madison, WI 53701-0536.



Da Winner! Crig Gemoules won an "First Wives Club" movie poster autographed by Bette Midler in a fund raiser for Superior's Main Club Relief Fund. The poster donated by The Wisconsin Light was raffled off at the Trio Club. The raffle raised over \$800. Shown with Crig is Jo Ann Moody, owner of the Trio Bar. The Trio sold the tickets for the raffle.

The Wild Rose: New Lesbian B & B Opens in Stoughton

By Bill Meunier

Stoughton WI-- If you are like most people you probably wouldn't think Stoughton Wisconsin as a Gay and Lesbian mecca. But Amy Meisner and Vera Zidos are hoping that you will think again.

Amy and Vera have opened Wisconsin's newest Les/Bi/Gay Bed and Breakfast, the Wild Rose in a charming secluded farm house located in Stoughton.

The Wild Rose is a short 20 minute drive from Madison, but it exists in a charming small town world full of recreational, dining, shopping and special event activities.

try some indoor activities. The Stoughton area has a large number of number of art galleries and antique shops are within easy reach.

And Stoughton has an old fashioned historic shopping district that rivals the popular Cedarburg downtown shopping district. "The main difference is that Stoughton has more stores and that they have kept the original historic character intact," said Meissner.

In addition to the Stoughton Downtown area with its many shops you may also want to check out the Cambridge Shop-



Amy And Vera Owners of the Wild Rose

Amy and Vera planned for their business for six years. "We fell in love with this place," said Vera. "The setting is unique" says Amy "Rather than the stuffy Victorian setting that you traditionally see, we have gone for a more homey farmhouse comfortable country feel and look.

"We don't want our guests to be afraid to touch something. We want them to feel right at home, except for the pampering and special attention we provide to all of our visitors."

The site is secluded from neighboring properties. It includes a fire pit for barbecues and private parties, an old fashioned screen in porch and a private hiking trail.

Breakfast can be served to you in bed, in the dining room or on the porch.

Why did Amy and Vera decide to open a B & B in Stoughton? "We had stayed at many ourselves, but we didn't think there were enough in this area," said Amy. "This area has a lot to offer members of our community." Indeed it does.

You can start with the hiking trails. The Wild Rose itself has a private hiking trail on its property. Plus there are other hiking trails in the area.

Lake Kegonsa, a large state park is just 10 minute drive away. The park boasts cross country skiing, a beautiful lake, and ample picnic grounds.

Then there is Coachman's golf course which is right next door to the Wild Rose. The 27 hole golf course is a public course.

If outdoor recreation isn't your thing then

ping District which is home of the famous Rowe pottery works, as well as 50 other specialty shops.

Stoughton also has a rather unique movie theater, the Cinema Café. Unlike most theaters patrons don't sit in rows of seats here. Instead they sit at tables where waiters and waitresses take their orders and serve them food and drink while they watch the latest releases from Hollywood.

Stoughton is known for being a center of Norwegian culture in Wisconsin. In fact it has the largest Nordic Constitution Day celebration anywhere outside of Norway. Over 40,000 visitors are expected to attend.

Other special events include The Stoughton Junior Fair July 2-6, Maxwell Street Days and City Wide Garage Sale, July 19, the Halloween Harvest Festival, October 22 - 25, Holiday Open House, November 21 - 23 and the Victorian Holiday Celebration.

Local cuisine emphasizes the Nordic heritage of the town's founders. Many of the local bakeries feature Norwegian delicacies. But you don't have a lutefish fan to enjoy a great dinner in Stoughton. There are many small town restaurants where the emphasis is on value as quality.

Quality is what the Wild Rose is all about. Amy and Vera would love to show you the quality of life of Stoughton. To reserve a room at the Wild Rose call them at (608) 877-9942.

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Curtain Calls

Gutzman Ends '97 Season With Lavish Production of 'Gigi'

Milwaukee—Producer and director Dale Gutzman ends his current theatre season with a production of the romantic Lerner and Loewe musical, *Gigi*. Based on the award-winning film, the stage musical is a whirlwind of song, dance and spectacle set in Paris in 1901.

Gaston Lachailles, a wealthy bon vivant, escapes from his social boredom by visiting "Mamita" Alvarez, a poor and down to earth friend and her grand daughter, Gigi. Gaston doesn't realize that Gigi's Aunt Alicia, a former courtesan of some repute, is grooming Gigi to become Gaston's next mistress. Gigi, however, holds out for real love and marriage.

Based upon the stories of Colette, this world-famous musical includes some of Lerner and Loewe's most famous songs: "Thank Heaven for Little Girls," "The Night They Invented Champagne," "I Remember It Well," and the title song, "Gigi."

Gigi will be played by a 16 year-old local actress, Sarah Sokolovic, who recently appeared in Gutzman's productions of *Space Gypsies* and *Company*.

Gaston will be played by Chris Engelhardt, a formidable baritone currently working at Broadway Baby, who was discovered by Gutzman and used, also, in *Company*.

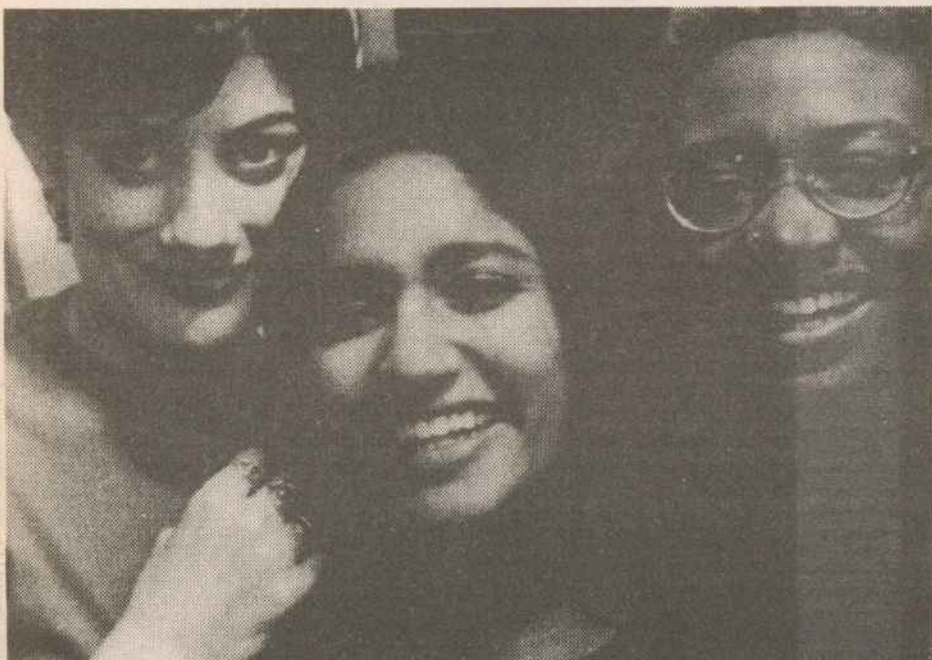
Gigi plays at Vogel Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Friday and Saturday, June 6, 7 and June 13, 14. Performances are at 8:00 p.m. To reserve tickets call (414) 273-7206.

Cream City Chorus Prepares for 'Gay Concert III'

Milwaukee—As the finale of its 10th Anniversary Season, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus' **Gay Concert III** promises to be quite an event. In addition to the festive and often off-color numbers performed by Chorus ensembles, this year's concert will feature guest appearances by many of Milwaukee's great musical artists.

Among those expected to join the Cream City Chorus in their Anniversary Concert are members of the Fest City Singer, Singational Productions, the Bay City Chorus, and many of the Chorus' past members.

The Gay Concert III: A Decade of Decadence, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14th, at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Todd Wehr Theater. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at Afterwords Bookstore, Mama Roux, and the BestD Clinic, or through the Chorus office: P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1488.



In The Life The June episode of "In the Life" focuses on Gay and Lesbian independent film and video. Shown above is a scene from "Junky, Punky, Girlz", "In the Life's" national short film and video winner. The film will be shown in its entirety during the episode. The June Gay Pride episode will be shown state wide on Wisconsin Public TV, on Monday June 9 at 11:00 PM and in Milwaukee on channel 10 on Wednesday June 25 at 11:00 PM.

Benka's 'Manya and Marie' to be Presented in May

Milwaukee—An original play based on local performer and writer Jen Benka's Xeric winning comic book, *Manya* and the life of Marie Curie, will be presented on Friday, May 30 through Sunday, June 1.

Performer/poet Kelly McNally stars in the piece as Manya—"a young, contemporary woman on a humorous and sometimes poetic search for meaning and identity in a culture where progress has often meant destruction," Benka explained. Manya's search includes a late night conversation with the ghost of Marie Curie, portrayed by Benka.

Manya and Marie also features locals Tim Grair in dual roles as a bookstore clerk and an enlightened homeless man and Jen Moore as Marie Curie's sister, Bronya.

The performance includes 50 original and evocative slides from turn-of-the-century Milwaukee warehouses and working factories which work to illustrate the bones often left behind by progress.

Benka has performed at Theatre X and the Kohler Arts Center and is a past recipient of a Diverse Visions grant from Intermedia Arts. Her poetry and visual art has been published in national publications.

She also writes *Manya*, a comic book illustrated by Kris Dresen and published by Vagabond Press in Chicago. *Manya* has been reviewed and featured on Canadian TV and in *MS Magazine*, the *Comics Journal* and the *Progressive*.

Manya and Marie will be performed Friday, May 30th through Sunday, June 1st at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the Pangolin, 828 E. Locust Street. Seating is limited. For reservations call (414) 299-9441.

Ruthie on Parade and This Is It

As we go to press, we have just received word that Ruthie has deigned to grace the Pride Parade with her August presence.

(Ruthie is the only one who can be August in June.)

Of course, Ruthie can't just "parade." She must appear in the style that Her Britannic Majesty would find suitable. Thus, Ruthie will be in a carriage (a modern one, the kind with an engine), pulled, not by horses (how antediluvian!). The vehicle will run on its own.

BUT, she will be attended by strapping young men, hunks, gorgeous types, thighs bulging...I digress.

Ruthie has also consented kindly to appear at This Is It, sweeping grandly into the pub in a trail of bugle beads and fur.

Be sure to watch for time and date.

DONE, this Twentieth of May, in the Year of Grace, 1997, by Order of the Queen.

Fest City Singers

Present

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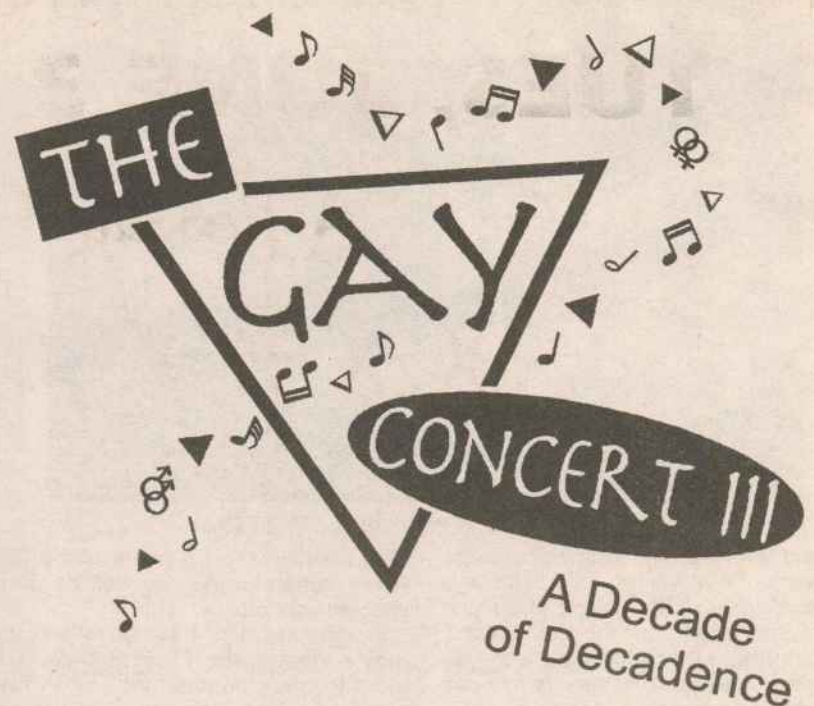
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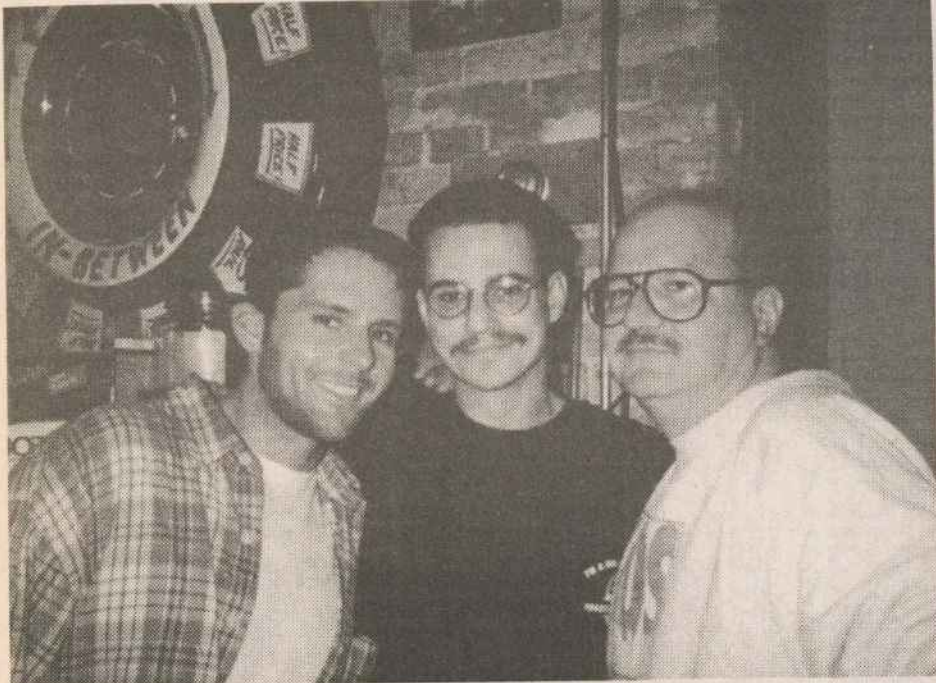
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DUSTY'S CORNER



Bill Meunier

A family scene In Between Owner, Curt Peck is shown above surrounded by two of his friends, bartenders Tommy on the left and Patrick on the right.

In Between's Curt Peck Is A Man Who Values the Important Things

It's a Thursday evening and a crowded bar of happy patrons chats, drinks, shoots darts and plays pool in a space that looks like a turn of the century corner tavern.

Surrounded by antiques ranging from a gas pump to neon department store signs, the customers are clearly having a good time.

The bar of course is Milwaukee's In Between, the pride and joy of owner Curt Peck. Located at 625 S. Second Street, In Between is just a few years old, but it has already had a major impact on Milwaukee's bar scene.

Many know In Between for its Packer Parties and other special events, but there is more to this fun place than that. There is quality service, a great juke box, and an eclectic mix of customers.

We caught up with the whirlwind of activity that goes by the name of Curt Peck and got him to sit still long enough for this interview.

Dusty Sass - You are born and raised in Milwaukee

Curt Peck - Yes

D.S. So how old are you?

C.P. I admit to 32.

D.S. You've been in the bar business for a long time haven't you?

C.P. Yes 1984 or '85. I worked at Cest Le Vie, the old Y.P. Triangle when Al had it, then Partners, which I managed, then Grubs and Zippers and now here.

D.S. This time you own the place. Do you find that different from Managing?

C.P. (Laughs) Yes I had some experience managing Partners, but it's... I'd like to say it's exactly what I thought it would be, but it's not. I learned about supervising people in the service. It's a totally different atmosphere.

D.S. In other words you don't get to just lock the door and go home.

C.P. You take it home with you and you take it back with you.

D.S. So why do you do it?

C.P. I enjoy putting smiles on people's faces. I love talking, I am a social person, I always have been. That's the real nice part of it. Meeting different people and learning lots of things. Especially older folks, their experiences and stuff, I really get a kick out of that.

D.S. So you aren't one of those places who only wants younger people to come in.

C.P. Oh no absolutely not. Everyone is welcome here, Gay, Lesbian, straight or Transgender, whatnot. And it shows, we have them all here. And I honestly, not due to greed, I honestly won't have it any other way. I want everybody. That was the whole idea of having Gay bars, giving sexual minorities a place to go.

D.S. You've been involved with more than just the bars though haven't you? I know you worked on the Clinton campaign. Apparently, being a bar owner isn't enough for you.

C.P. There's a lot more to Gay life than the bars. I was in the service for a long time and that matured me. It didn't force me but it gave me a desire to get involved in a lot of things. My life doesn't revolve around

just Gay bars. There's so much more to be involved with than just the Gay bars.

D.S. Your bar has been real active too. You've done a quite a few things, and you're very well known for the Packers too. Are you proud to be called "Gay Milwaukee's number one Packer Fan."

C.P. Oh sure. A lot of that had to do with you folks giving me that title. You know, I am not going to be doing this forever. When I stop doing this, I don't want to just be known as a Gay bar owner. I want to be proud of what I do. Having a bar gives me a vehicle to do a lot of things through the bar.

I've always found it necessary to be proud of what I am doing. Just making money and serving drinks, that will never be it and never has been of sole importance to me.

D.S. I noticed that with the Possum Queen Contest you are the only bar owner who is in the contest yourself.

C.P. Again. I raised \$1,600 last year and had a great time doing it. Honestly some folks especially Doug, my other half, asked me "Why do you want to do that. You're not a female impersonator."

Honestly one of the reasons was to poke fun at myself. To make the quote bar owner, unquote much more human, much more attainable and more real.

I've always said if you can't poke fun at yourself, don't be upset if other people do it for you.

D.S. I notice the parties you do here. They are special. It's not enough for you to get people in here. You want them to go out with a smile on their faces. Your Christmas Party for example you gave out over \$500 in cash, plus another \$1,000 in prizes. You seem to go all out the parties are real special to you aren't they?

C.P. You know a long time ago, I was working at Triangle for the first time and I saw what everybody was doing.

I started looking at what kind of place I would want to go to. I wanted a place that's fun and not just a meat market. You know take, take, take and not give.

This is not what I am going to retire on. I know that and I don't run it that way. I try to give customers and employees as much as I can. You have to give to get.

I think there are some other bar owners past and present who realize that. It makes good business sense plus that's what we're hear for, to offer a social outlet for people who don't have on.

D.S. I've heard a lot of people comment on the décor here. You must have spent a fortune on those antiques. Where did the idea come from?

C.P. My life partner, Doug and I own an antique store, Clinton Street Antiques. I've gone to bars in the past. I travel with Dad.

What I wanted to do with the Movie Star pictures and autographs, that's been done in straight bars, but not in Gay bars.

I don't want to copy what anyone else does. I want my own look and I want to be proud of it. I was nervous about the retro look, because I was worried about it looking too "straightish"

But everybody seems to really like. It was something that I wanted to do at first.

D.S. But where did you get the idea for

all the stuff like the Gas Tank and the car door with the Drive in tray and how did you track the stuff down?

C.P. These are things that I like. I like advertisements I like old things. I am a nut for history and for the past and for architecture. As time goes by people are starting to respect the past.

D.S. Tell us about Doug your life partner. How did you meet?

C.P. We've been together for 7 1/2 years. I was managing. I was singing at Partner's Christmas party.

He was hanging around with this guy who I knew as a customer. Oddly enough given how shy he is, he came up and gave me a tip and he smiled at me. I was hooked right there.

D.S. So you didn't care he was with someone else?

C.P. Not necessarily. I bought them a shot and then pulled my friend aside and said "You're not going to ruin this for me and tell me that you guys are together are you?"

He said "No he's free for the taking." And that was that.

D.S. I know that family is very important to both of you. I noticed that during the Packer season, Doug's family came in to watch with one coming in from Vegas.

C.P. Yes, we flew them here. Family is very important to Doug and I.

D.S. What about your daily specials. You have the balloon toss, you have free pool and darts during happy hour. You seem to be very interested in having people come in and do more than drink. Its that like your secret of success?

C.P. I am not one to spend too much time patting myself on the back. The secret is that people like coming here.

A lot of that is the bartenders. I think I have the best staff in town. And I tell them that, and I treat them like that.

If you have bar where the staff is miserable that will rub off on the customers. I just want to be happy with what I am accomplishing what I am doing.

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

C.P. Doug's folks have a cottage up North, which we rarely get to see. I love fishing. I do some arts and crafts type things. I love gardening.

During the winter I am at a loss. Our garden was nominated three times last year for a Mayor's award.

Plus I like to work. I like to do special things and when they go over, that's fun

for me.

D.S. What is your philosophy in life.
C.P. Try and make everybody smile, and don't be so caught in yourself that you fail to recognize there are other people in the world. Just be happy with yourself.

D.S. So what should we have asked you?

C.P. What is the most important thing in my life. I'd have to say, not money, not fame, Douglas certainly, my family, his family, my friends, people who reciprocate kindness.

And I cherish my life with Doug, but I wonder if he is kind of a dum dum for putting up with me.

Actually I think Doug is a pretty smart (and very attractive cookie). He knows a good thing when he sees it and Curt Peck is definitely a good thing. Good for his customers, good for his employees and good for his community.

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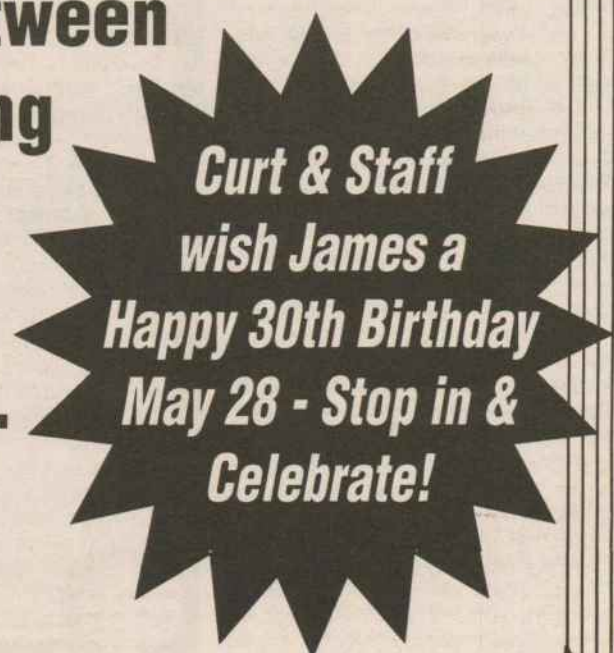


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THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

Well kiddies Spring is finally upon us (well almost). Can you stand it? Why one day the temperature actually got up in the 60's!!! But as they say, "This is Wisconsin."

All kidding aside this up and down it's warm and then it's cold stuff reminds me of a friend's last relationship.

But I have managed to keep busy. I make a point of stopping by at **This Is It**. It's a warm, friendly place, where there's always fun to be had. The drink prices are *tres* reasonable. You can go there, take a friend, and not spend the rent.

I really enjoy the weekends there, especially Friday nights. People come in, most of whom I haven't had a chance to hobnob with all week.

The SSBL finally got underway and the games were great. They were followed by the Mr. SSBL contest at **In Between**. The coveted title was won by hunky Brian of **Mama Roux's**, Mama's Family team. He sold more raffle tickets than the other candidates.

But it was a very close race. Ray from the **Triangle** team finished second and Marshall of the **Ball Game Rangers** came in third. All told the event raised over \$1,000 for the League.

The No on AB 104 Rally was great. The Lesbian Avengers were there eating fire (literally) and the music provided by Madison's Gay chorus, Perfect Harmony was wonderful.

After the rally most folks went over to **Scandals** for a post rally celebration. And rightfully so. Mike and Nancy made sure everyone had a great time.

I also stopped in at **Geraldines** that night to say hi to Ray but he wasn't there by the time I got there. Then I had a great time at **Manoeuvres**.

The Spotlight Party at **Manoeuvres** to celebrate the SSBL playing their games in Madison was fantastic. They had a great show, wonderful food (and plenty of it) and lots of hunky softball players walking around. (What more could you ask for.)

Owner Ed asked me to be sure and tell everyone how much he loves the SSBL. "Those guys were great absolutely great," he said. Well of course we are Ed darling and so are you!

I wanted to stay longer at **Manoeuvres** but I couldn't. I had to catch the bus to **Diversions** in Neenah for its Grand Opening.

If you haven't been there yet, do make it a point to stop in. This is one nice looking place. The bar was packed and so was the dance area and I saw many friends from the Fox Valley.

Joe St. Claire who is helping his sister Darlene run the place needs some prozac though. With **Mama Roux's** in Milwaukee, **Diversions** in Neenah and his new **Moe's Little Jamaican Restaurant** in Wautoma he is going to be one busy little puppy.

COMING UP...

There is lots of good stuff on tap the next few weeks. So hang onto your wind breakers and come along for the ride!

Friday May 23, you can find me at **Just Us** for one of their fab fish fries. Then I will be joining my friends at the Hilton for the Milwaukee Classic Registration party.

Saturday May 24 the 17th Milwaukee Classic gets underway at Wick Field. Yes once again Dusty will be pounding the base paths. The tourney continues on Sunday and concludes with the traditional banquet at Serb Hall on Sunday evening.

Admission is free folks so come on down the 52nd and Vliet and cheer for your favorite players and teams.

Later that evening you can catch me at **The M & M Club** to listen in on **Singsational** and/or at **B's** for Lana St. Jame's Tribute to Broadway. Don't forget Lana has an all ages show scheduled for 6:30.

Monday May 26 is Memorial Day and I am planning to celebrate the arrival of Summer. I will start at **South Water Street Docks** for their beer bust and BB'Q. Then I will head up to **Diversions** for their Memorial Day bash.

Friday May 30 I'll be at **Café Melange** for the opening night performance of **An Evening Out** the latest production from the Fest City Singers. The performance will be repeated at 8:00 Saturday and 3:00 Sunday.

Saturday May 31 will be a busy day. Besides playing ball at Sijan Field, I will be at the **Mama Roux's Rummage Sale and auction**. It's a benefit for the Mama's Family team. The rummage sale will go from Noon to 5:00 and there will be an auction at 6:30. A beer bust from 5 to 8

will make it a well rounded event.

Then I will head over to **B's** for the annual Miss Gay Milwaukee US of A pageant. Some of my favorite performers will be on hand so I don't want to miss this.

Somewhere in between all that, I want to stop at **M & M** for their "Chicken Shit Bingo" Possum Queen Fund Raiser.

Sunday June 1st I simply have to catch my new friend John McGivern at **Mama Roux's Possum Queen Mud Wrestling Challenge**. John is going to Emcee this event. Last year the Mud Wrestlers raised over \$1,600 for AIDS. Let's hope they double that total this year.

Monday June 2nd I am planning on stopping in at **This Is It**. They have great cocktail hours, (other times are fun too) and it's always a pleasure to see Joe Brehm.

Then it will be off to **In Between** for its weekly Monday night balloon toss. Owner Curt Peck gives away about \$300 cash every week.

Speaking of give a-ways, on **Tuesday June 3** I will be at **La Cage** for their Turn About Night Possum Queen Fund Raiser. As usual they will also be giving away a trip for two to Las Vegas.

Wednesday June 4 is the weekly Club Night at **The Boot Camp**. Buy a drink get

a ticket and win some cold hard cash.

Thursday June 5 I will be at John McGivern's opening at the Milwaukee Rep's Stiemke theater. You gotta catch this show. Openly Gay, McGivern has been on Comedy Central, A & E and VH-1. He is from Milwaukee and one of the funniest people I know.

I will be spending the **PrideFest** weekend of **June 6, 7 and 8**, in Chicago visiting friends and checking out the bar scene down there. Look for details in the next **Wisconsin Light**.

That's all for now. I hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud.

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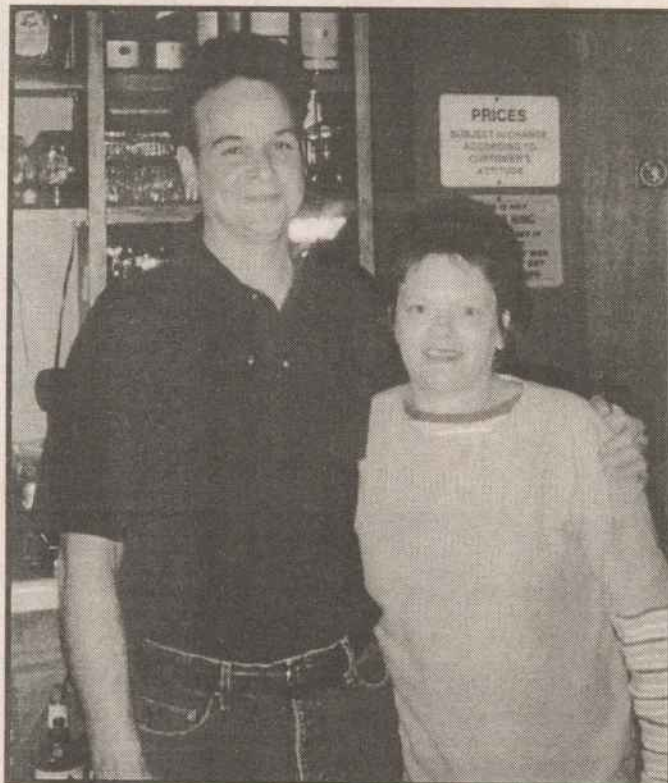
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Thursdays - Ladies Night Drink Specials and DJ
Sundays - Beer Bust, 4-8pm • Bingo, 6pm

McGivern

Continued From Page 24

J.M. Los Angeles, I live in Venice on the beach. It's really lovely.

D.S. Tell us about your coming out?

J.M. I knew that there was problem somewhere in 8th grade, I was the only boy in the family who couldn't throw a ball. In an Irish family the boy who can't throw the ball is the one who is going to be the priest.

So I spent seven years in the seminary. I had more luck there than I did once I got out. They threw me out after my junior year because of homosexuality.

D.S. Did they catch you in the act or something?

J.M. No, it was more like the stuff in Randy Schilt's book "Conduct Unbecoming." They rounded up the suspected homosexuals. They made them go through grueling interrogations, my name came up quite a bit.

D.S. Oh oh!

J.M. The seminary wrote a release for me to be put through psychological testing. They told me parents that I was having terrible problems adjusting. They never said it was because of homosexual activity.

Of course I lived there during the school year. Then half way through the summer of my junior year they sent this letter saying I was not welcome back because I needed psychological adjustment.

So in my Senior year, I had to live with my family for the first time during school plus I had to get another school.

I don't know what my parents were thinking sending a 13 year homosexual to live with 350 boys. Gee Thanks, Mom I love it here. I should have asked to spend summers there too.

I knew then. I really tried to deny it, because I really was Catholic. I wasn't comfortable with it. You know the fact that we come out at all and travel that road is really quite remarkable.

D.S. Are you still Catholic?

J.M. When you are raised that way it's so hard to leave. I have tried everything. And what I am, is a Catholic. Every church I tried pales in comparison.

I know I am a Catholic, and I know there are pluralistic interpretations of the laws of the church otherwise I would be convinced that I am going to hell.

D.S. What prompted you to go you into comedy?

J.M. I've been an actor for a long time. A friend of mine was producing a Gay pride series at the Bailey wick rep in Chicago during the summer of 93.

He said he wanted me to get up and tell some of the stories I had been telling at Sheer Madness. (a long running play in the Windy City.)

So In January he proposed this to me and I said "Okay I'll do it." In May he gave me the dates. But the first time I did it on stage was in July of 93.

Then I wrote my first one man show, Midwest Side Story and through that I got on the Comedy Channel and things took off.

I started marketing Midwest Side Story and then did my second show "More Midwest Stories" and my third show "John McGivern live."

It's really interesting. I didn't know if I would enjoy the solo work. I have a two hour show, almost all of it was written and directed by myself.

It can be hard. I am in a plane or a hotel, or a rental car for 80% of the year. You go into these communities and they are incredibly supportive, but then five days later you are gone.

But I love it, there's nobody else on stage but me.

D.S. You're going to be here PrideFest weekend are you going to be attending?

J.M. Yes I am on Friday after the opening ceremony they asked me to do a half hour of material.

D.S. I didn't know that

J.M. Well I was start calling last winter to offer my services. About a month ago, Susan Cook finally called me.

She said she would have someone get back to me. Finally I called her again and said no one had gotten back to me.

Then she called me back and told me to call Jill Clark. So I called Jill a number of times and finally was able to get a hold of her.

I know that they have Lea DeLaria. We have the same agent. In fact my picture is on the page next to hers in their booking material mine is the one that says "raised in Milwaukee."

D.S. So you will be there on stage on Friday evening

J.M. Yes. When I finally got to talk to Jill she offered me a bunch of options, but by that time I already had my show booked at the Steimke.

D.S. And you are going to the do Mama Roux's Mud Wrestling Possum Queen Fundraiser too aren't you?

J.M. Yes, that should be a real scream. It's going to be hilarious.

D.S. Tell us about the show

J.M. "I am doing a combination of all three of my shows. I am doing two pieces out of the first show and two out of the second show and two out of the third show."

D.S. How do you find the time to write your own show?

J.M. It's all I do. I sit down and concept it all out and I throw on a micro cassette and put it on my computer.

Now we are calling all of my shows "John McGivern Live." I keep track of what I did in each city so when I go back they hear fresh material.

I always start with an introduction of who I am and I always end with my coming out. My mom kept saying "No John you're not Gay you're a bachelor."

Through the course of the piece I always point out that it was my Mother's coming out too.

You should hear my mom talk. She could have been the dialogue coach for "Fargo."

But in fact she is a book buyer for the UWM Bookstore. There was someone who was new on her staff, who used the word "fag" like five times in the course of like 10 days.

My mother pulled himself and said "Bruce, (great name for someone calling other people fag), I have a son who's Gay and while that word doesn't offend me, I just don't want others to think you are just

an asshole."

D.S. So how about them Packers?

J.M. A lot of people asked me about the Packers. I do this whole sports thing, but I do tell them that I am following the team.

D.S. Do you work Milwaukee into your routines?

J.M. All the time. A lot of times someone will come up to me and talk about it. I was up in Fort Meyers where they had 600 people watching. And there were two couples from Milwaukee who came up to me. They said they were straight (that was obvious) but they really enjoyed the show because they said I brought them back home.

At other times I have people come up to me and say things like "I've from Cleveland and it's just like that there too."

What we really need to do is realize our common grounds and stop focusing on the differences.

D.S. So you love your hometown?

J.M. Only when I moved out Milwaukee did I realize that the weather forecast was not given by a puppet.

Remember Albert the Alley Cat on Channel 6? They used to say look at the Gas Light to see the weather was going to be like. Problem was that we didn't have a color TV so I never knew what to expect.

D.S. When did you leave?

J.M. The mid 70's. I went to Florida, because I had a brother who lived there. He's a psychotherapist. Then I went to Atlanta, because I got a job as an acting intern. Then I went to Washington and then to North Carolina.

I was on a six month tour of Androceles and the Lion. Every morning at 9:30 I was

at another grade school in one of five states. There I would be singing "Up with the Sunshine" ...It was horrible.

I did two seasons with the Peninsula Players in Fishcreek, Wisconsin.

D.S. So are you single?

J.M. I am incredibly single. I keep thinking I am going to a date out of doing this, but it doesn't happen. I really doesn't.

I do this one piece where I go in to the audience and talk to them. I always say in this piece I am incredibly single and they so if anyone is interested in coffee and maybe more please let me know.

D.S. So what is the more?

J.M. Some people ask that and I say a croissant.

D.S. Your're being proud of being from the Midwest.

J.M. Yeah sure, that's what I know. I always love to go home. I am proud. Milwaukee is really a lovely city.

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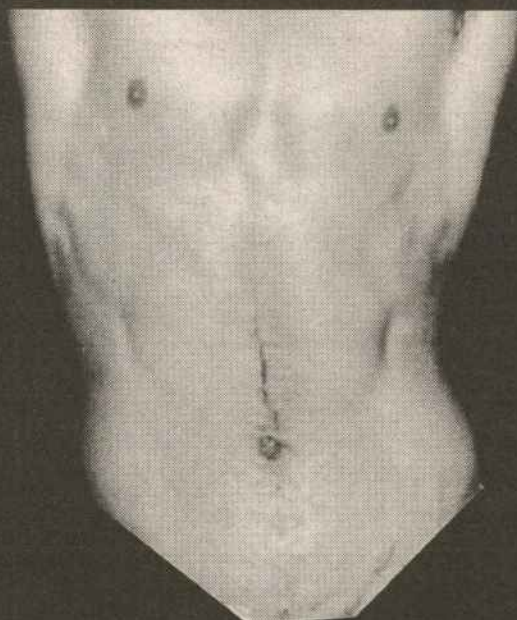
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Europe Is a Hot Destination for Gay and Lesbians Travelers

By Sasha Alyson

This summer, European travel is hot again. With the dollar gaining in strength, Europe's great treasures are no longer exorbitantly priced, and there are even some bargains available. One way to maximize your travel dollar is to travel to Europe in a group.

While this may immediately conjure images of "If this is Tuesday it must be Belgium" and AARP couples with Instamatic cameras and photos of their grandchildren, you'll be glad to know there is now a wide variety of group travel options specifically for gay women and men.

Our Family Abroad offers a full schedule of escorted tour departures to gay popular destinations in Europe. If touring by motor-coach isn't your idea of a good time, how about a boat? You can cruise into Paris on a big ship chartered by RSVP, sail the Star Clipper in Turkey and Greece with Atlantis Events (mostly men) or Olivia Cruises (women), or cruise the coast of Turkey

with Progressive Travels or Hanns Ebensten.

Looking for something cultural? Allegro Enterprises offers tours that include major dance and opera events in the cultural capitals of Italy, Russia and Scandinavia.

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Want to burn calories instead? Join one of the many hiking, cycling and walking tours offered by Toto Tours, Alyson Adventures or Progressive Travels.

Information and booking for these tours is available through any travel agent. If you don't have an agent, call the IGTA (International Gay Travel Association) at (800)448-8550 for a referral in your area.

Send questions or comments about gay travel to Sasha Alyson, Alyson Adventures, P.O. Box 180179, Boston, MA 02118, via email at AlyVenture@aol.com, or visit his website at www.AlysonAdven-

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McGivern

Continued From Page 31

You go around the world and you say "Oh my God I've been to some holes and I say I was really glad to grow up there. And I am glad to get home.

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

J.M.. I need to learn a hobby, I really do. My work is so incredibly consuming. My work is trying to get more material.

A lot of the people I associate with are Gay stand up comics too. We'll go out and do coffee and work on your routines.

D.S. What's your philosophy in life?
J.M.. To maintain a kindness and to really live today. I am a 12 step program boy, I've been in recovery for eight years now.

I remember going to the program at the beginning and hearing "One day at a time" and thinking oh please what is that? But it works.

D.S. Do you play Gay clubs or mainstream places?

J.M.. I mostly play non-Gay theaters. If I do clubs, what they do is call it alternative life style night. I wish I could just go in and do it without that label.

I will say I think what Ellen did is really going help those of us who have been out for a while. I think it's going to have a big impact.

Speaking of impacts, John McGivern is hoping to have a big impact when he comes to the Steimke Theater at the Rep. His shows will be Thursday, June 5 and Friday June 6 at 8:00 and Saturday June 7 at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.

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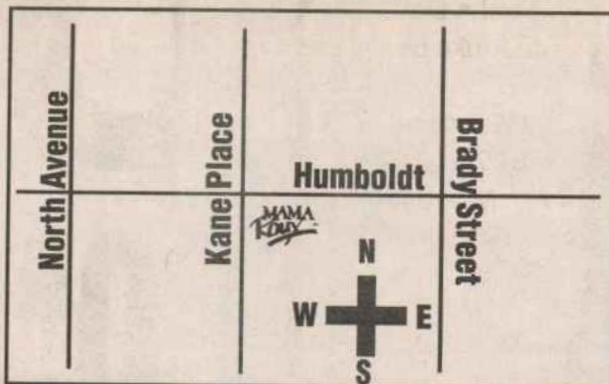
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SPOTLIGHT PARTY

Manoeuvres



Going Mad in Madtown - The SSBL will never be the same after its visit to Madison, Saturday May 17. After some exciting softball games at Olbrich park, most of the players came to our SpotLight party at Manoeuvres. They munched down lots of great food, watched a fantastic show and had a great time. Manoeuvres owner, Ed Grunewald asked us to convey his thanks to all of the Milwaukee people who showed up. "Tell them they were super," said Ed. Consider it done Ed.

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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!

MEMORIAL DAY SHOW AT KENOSHA'S CLUB 94

Sabrina Delight, Du Wanna Moore, Sage La Rue, Kierra Nichole, Viokie C. and Samatha D'Carlo will be on hand to help get your holiday weekend off to a good start with their Memorial Day Revue at Club 94 in Kenosha.

Club 94 is located at 9001 120th Street, Kenosha.

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.

MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY MAY 26

BEER BUST BB'Q AT DOCKS

South Water Street Docks, 354 E. National will be hosting a Memorial Day treat, a Beer And BB'Q bust.

For just \$9.00 you get in on both the beer bust and the great BB'Q that Danny and his staff are going to prepare. Tickets for just one or the other are only \$5.00.

So kick off your summer of Pride and treat yourself to a great time at Docks.

COOK OUT/ BEER BUST AT THE NAPALESE LOUNGE

The Napalese Lounge has a way for you celebrate the first holiday of the summer in style, a Memorial Day picnic.

A cook out will start at 5:00 and there will be a beer/soda bust from 3:00 to 8:00.

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

FRIDAY MAY 30

FEST CITY'S AN EVENING OUT OPENS AT CAFE MELANGE

An Evening Out, Fest City Singer's latest production opens at Cafe Melange, 720 N. Old World Third Street for a three day run.

Performances are scheduled for 8 PM, Friday May 31st and Saturday May 31st and 3 PM on Sunday June 1st.

The Sunday performance is a benefit for MAP. Tickets are \$10.00. For more information contact Fest City at (414) 263-SING

SATURDAY MAY 31

RUMMAGE SALE & AUCTION AND MORE AT MAMA ROUX'S

Mama Roux's, 1875 N. Humboldt will be the site of a rummage sale and auction to benefit their Mama's Family Softball team. The rummage sale will start at Noon and go to 5:00. It will be followed by a Beer Bust from 5 to 8 PM and an auction at 6:00.

POSSUM QUEEN STEAK DINNER AT KATHY'S NUT HUT

Want to support the Possum Queen contest and have a great dinner in the bargain? Then you want to be at Kathy's Nut Hut for their Steak Dinner for the Possum Queen Contest.

Just \$10.00 gets you a juicy steak cooked the way you like it and all the trimmings.

Dinner will be served from 2 PM to 9 PM. Kathy's Nut Hut is located at 1500 W. Scott Street.

MISS GAY MILWAUKEE US OF A PAGEANT AT B'S

The coveted title of Miss Gay Milwaukee US of A will be won by some talented impersonator at the annual pageant held at B's, corner of 2nd and Lapham.

Entertainers at the Pageant will include Cass Marie Domino, Susie Saran Wrap and Tammy Faye. The pageant begins at 10:00 PM.

Be there to cheer for your favorites.

M & M GETS SMELLY

The M & M Club has the smelliest Possum Queen Fund Raiser of them all, the Chicken Shit Bingo Fund raiser.

This is one event that you can't miss (just follow your nose). The fun gets underway at 2 PM in the parking lot. M & M's is located at 124 N. Water Street.

SUNDAY JUNE 1

NATIONALLY KNOWN COMIC SPECIAL GUEST AT POSSUM QUEEN MUD WRESTLING AT MAMA ROUX'S

The hilarious John McGivern will be on

hand to emcee the wildest Possum Queen Fund raiser of them all, the Second Annual Mama Roux Mud Wrestling Challenge.

Possum Queen Candidates from all of the city will be on hand to do what they do best get down and dirty. It's a scream and it's all for a good cause.

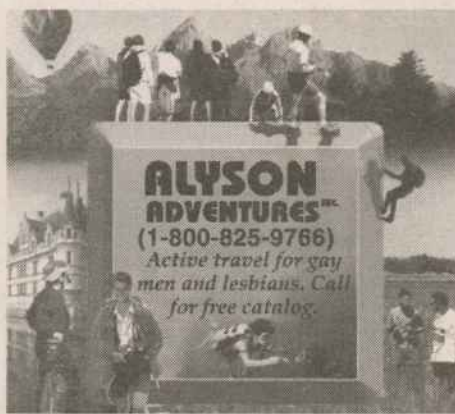
The fun gets underway at 2:00. Mama Roux's is located at 1875 N. Humboldt. Don't miss it.

TUESDAY JUNE 3

POSSUM QUEEN TURNABOUT AT LA CAGE

You won't want to miss Turn About Night at La Cage when the bartenders and the performers switch places to raise money for Milwaukee's Possum Queen contest.

There is a \$2.00 cover and well worth it to see Cory and company in a dress.



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- **Wednesdays 9pm to 1am**
Beer Bust \$4 or 80¢ Glasses of Beer
- **Thursdays 9pm to Close**
\$1.75 Rail
- **Saturdays Tap Beer 80¢ ('til 6pm)**
Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2 (until 6pm)
- **Sundays Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2 (until 6pm)**
Tap Beer 80¢ ('till 6pm)
\$1.75 Rail (9pm 'til close)

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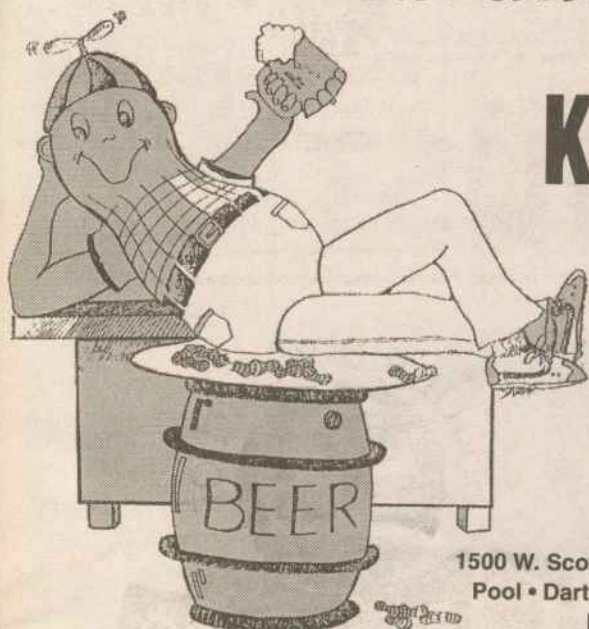
Tickets available at the bar

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Possum Queen Dinner

Steak & all the trimmings, 2-9pm • \$10

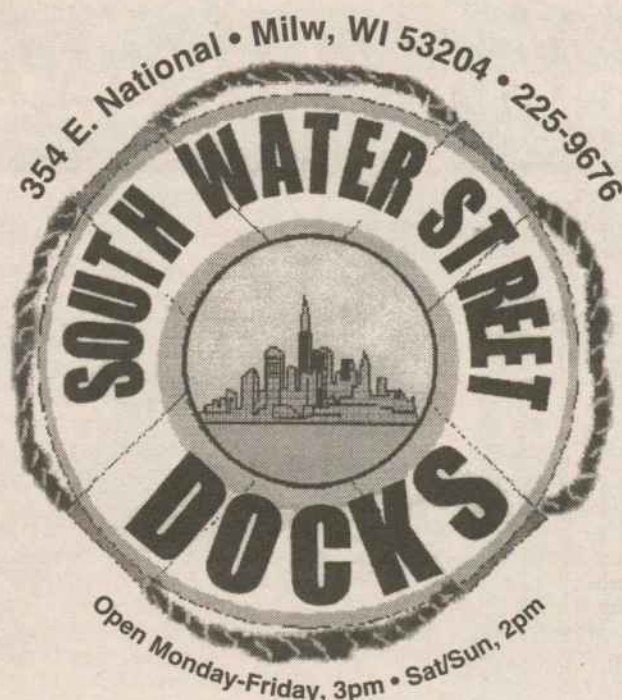
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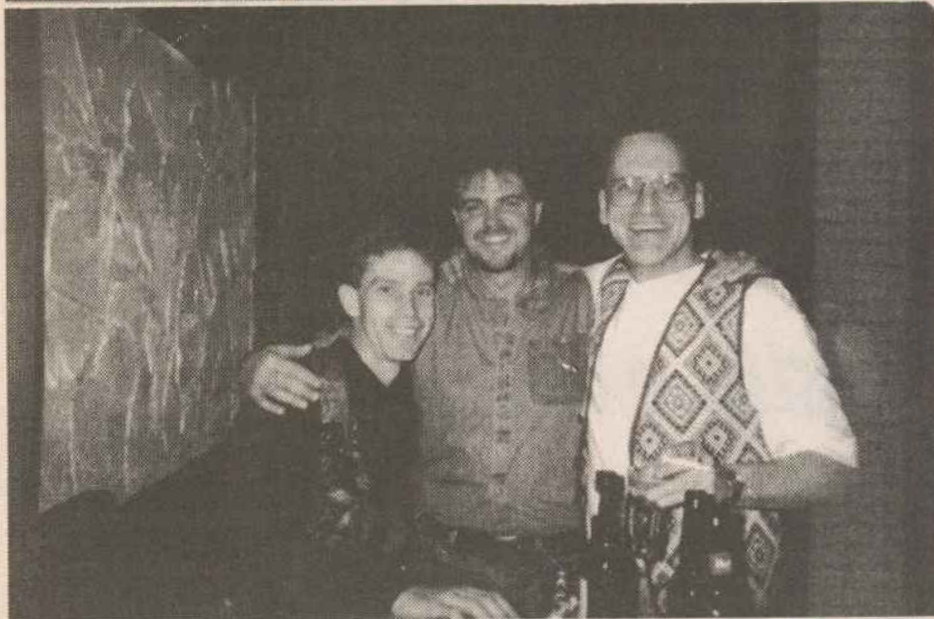
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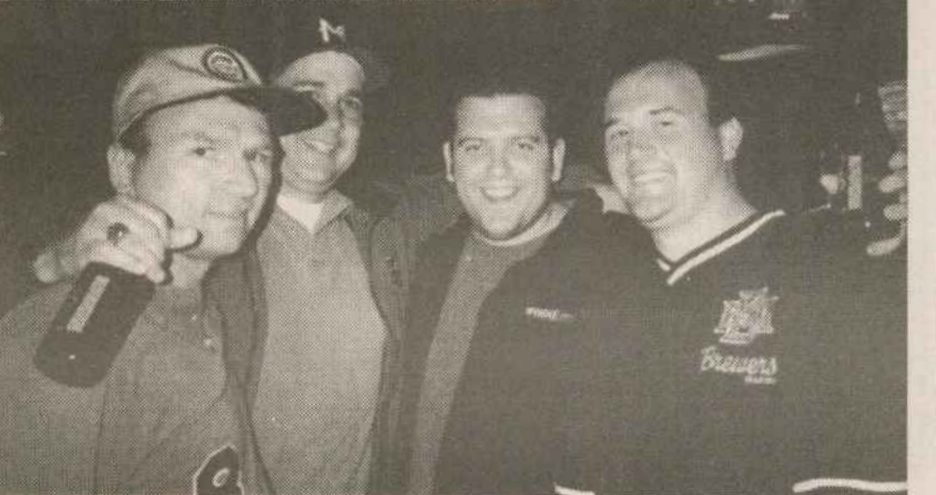
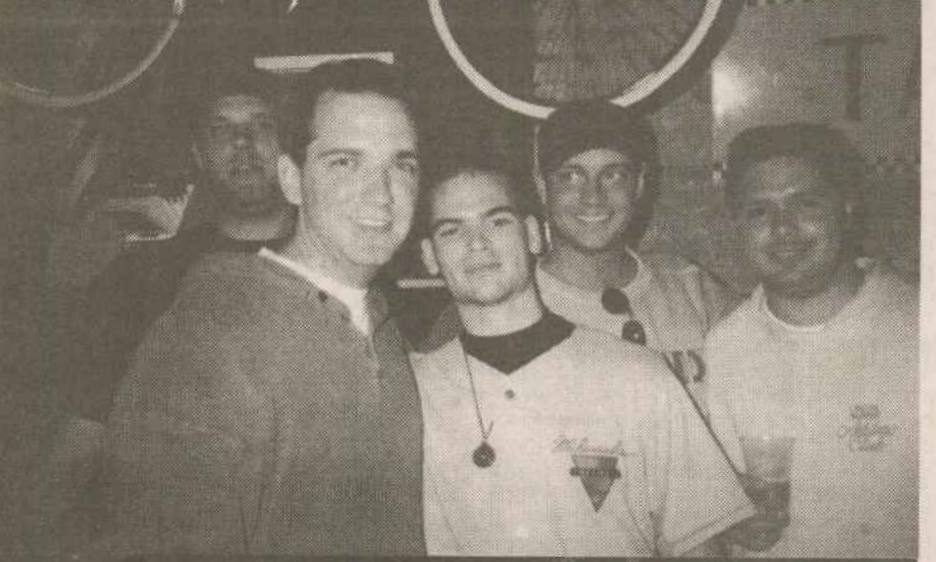
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In Between



Kicking It Off The Saturday Soft Ball League kicked off its season with the annual Mr. SSBL contest hosted by Milwaukee's In Between Bar, 625 S. Second Street, on Saturday May 10. As usual, Curt and his staff did a great job. Shown at the top are the SSBL officers caught revealing their true personas. Next are some members of the Triangle team. In the middle are the Mr. SSBL candidates. The contest was won by hunky Brian from the League's newest team, Mama Roux. Next is Lana St. James who dazzled the crowd and finally some members of Balistreri's team are shown at the bottom. The event raised over 1,000 badly needed dollars for the SSBL.

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OUT on Film



Looking Pretty! Paulina Porizkova and Tilda Swinton star in Susan Stretfeld's "Female Perversions" It opens at the Oriental Friday May 24.

'Female Perversions' Is a Powerful Film of Women's Sexuality in the '90s

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

In a spring that has seen cinemas dominated by *Star Wars* Trilogy-revisited and Oscar-winning films that just never seem to go away, few strong, fascinating and alternative independent films have had much of a chance.

Thus Glenn was delighted to be able to screen a film like Susan Stretfeld's *Female Perversions*, a powerful but difficult film that often seems to be more fascinatingly admirable than simply enjoyable.

Starring Tilda Swinton, everyone's favorite gender warrior from similarly enigmatic and perplexing *Orlando*, *Female Perversions* explores the role of female eroticism in the 1990's from a definitely feminist perspective.

Stretfeld's ambitious and occasionally mannered directorial debut features Ms. Swinton as Eve Stephens as a high-powered lawyer in Los Angeles whose future holds for bigger and brighter things.

Female Perversions' mesmerizing opening sequence offers Eve giving a summation for her case in court. Stretfeld's fluid camera examines the conflict between the strong, intelligent-woman's body language Eve has perfected contrasting with what the judge and the other male court officials are seeing, the fetishism of the "male gaze".

Swinton's Eve is perhaps unduly burdened with psychological problems. On one hand she is seen portraying the lost little daughter still desperately seeking the approval from her cold and oppressive father which she (as well as we in the audience) knows will never come and on the other Eve who continually strives to manipulate the circumstances in which she can infuriate yet continue to dominate her boyfriend John (Clancy Brown).

When she is finally rebuffed, Eve turns to a lesbian liaison with psychiatrist Renee (Karen Sillas). Glenn must admit to being somewhat pleased that Renee, *Female Perversions'* sole lesbian character, is the least conflicted female character in the film. Renee quickly recognizes how destructive a relationship with Eve would prove to be and unceremoniously dumps Eve.

Other characters aren't so lucky. Eve's sister Madelyn (Amy Madigan), equally conflicted, is an obsessive shoplifter. Madelyn's friend Emma (Laila Robins) is marriage-obsessive, then devastated when her boyfriend fails to come through with the proposal she expected. Emma's tomboyish 13-year-old daughter Edwina (Dale Shuger) has become obsessed (and deeply ashamed) of her menstrual blood and has responded with acts of self-mutilation.

Undermining the film's power and effectiveness are too many forays into "Film School" conceits. There are the blatantly didactic sound-bites confronting the viewer not-so-subtly from billboards and the sides of telephone booths. Repetitive, increasingly tedious, sexual fantasy sequences add little to the film's already dramatically over-wrought plot.

The film's intensity lies primarily on the shoulders of the wonderful, wondrous Tilda Swinton whose crumbling outward strength barely conceals the Eve's tortured, conflicted soul. Such an expert juggler, Swinton's Eve never even notices when she has nothing left to juggle.

Those misled by Stretfeld's suggestive title will leave disappointed. Others will find *Female Perversions* enthralling.

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

'Night Falls On Manhattan' is a Bedtime Story Because You Want to Sleep

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Prior to the press screening of Sidney Lumet's new film, *Night Falls on Manhattan*, Glenn was confronted with a double-page ad for the film in the *New York Times*. Headlines screamed out the film's praises. Perhaps the lack of recognizable critics' names (what, no Siskel, no Ebert?) led Glenn to be dubious.

As the man behind such terrific films as *Serpico*, *Dog Day Afternoon* and *Network*, to name just a few, Sidney Lumet must be one of the most respected directors in Hollywood. A fine director with a strong and appealing cast, this ought to be a sure thing. So, why isn't *Night Falls on Manhattan* any good?

A typical police-procedural based on Richard Daley's novel *Tainted Evidence*, *Night Falls on Manhattan* follows ex-cop Sean Casey (Andy Garcia), now an assistant DA. Casey finds himself thrust into the spotlight when his police detective father (Ian Holm) is badly wounded in an attempt to capture drug-dealer Jordan Washington (Shiek Mahmud-Bey).

D.A. Morgenstern (Ron Leibman) has the political savvy to recognize the positive press sure to follow Sean as he prosecutes the man who put his father in the hospital and responsible for the deaths of several

other policemen to boot. And he's right. Sean wins, his career made and Morgenstern basks in the glow of Sean's success.

Circumstances keep thrusting Sean further into the spotlight. On the laurels of his high-profile decision in the Washington case, Sean effortlessly grasps onto the job as D.A. when the wily Morgenstern succumbs presumably to a stroke or heart-attack.

Here Lumet changes course and *Night Falls on Manhattan* becomes a talky, often implausible mediation of moral quandaries. Lumet's moral landscape is one where there are good cops and there are bad cops and somehow both can equally be guilty of tampering with evidence in the pursuit of a conviction.

Police corruption is such familiar territory for Lumet that he probably can spin a tale such as this in his sleep and the feeling is that he did just that with *Night Falls on Manhattan*.

A few terrific scenes occasionally bring some life to the film, particularly a splendid confrontation between Morgenstern and Harrison (Colm Feore), his former heir apparent. Still, the overall effect is one of disappointment.

Please See Manhattan Page 39



Revolting Development? Judy Davis in a scene from Peter Duncan's "Children of the Revolution" It opens on May 24 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

Dazzling Visual Effects Make 'The Fifth Element' an Engrossing Film

By John Jahn

Every 5,000 years, a door opens between the dimensions. In one dimension lies the known Universe and all its planets, stars, and galaxies—ourselves included, of course. Our dimension includes all the "elements" of alchemic Greek tradition—earth, air, fire, and water; four elements gathered together to create the 5th one: life.

But, in another dimension, lies another element consisting of anti-energy, anti-life. This "thing," this darkness, waits patiently at the threshold of the Universe for an opportunity to extinguish all life and light.

That is the scientific reality of director Luc Besson's new sci-fi extravaganza, *The Fifth Element*. Besson, the director of *The Professional*, *The Big Blue*, *Subway*, and *La Femme Nikita*, explains his vision of the anti-life darkness thus:

"The energy of life, and this other, evil life form, are opposites, like fire and ice, and the more of this life-energy we create, the more it irritates and provokes this

other." The evil darkness "feels as if we were asphyxiating it. It wants to fight back, and extinguish every source of energy or light—animal, vegetable, human."

The action of *The Fifth Element* takes place some 262 years in the future, beginning, to be very precise, on March 18, 2259, at 2:00 a.m. The setting is New York City, which is a stunning combination of familiarity and futuristic gizmos. Humanity has explored beyond the Solar System and encountered new life forms on other planets. The result is a menagerie of weirdly exotic aliens: hulking, armored Mondoshawans, huge, dog-like Mangalores—an army in the service of the film's villain, Zorg (Gary Oldman), and the stunningly beautiful Leeloo (Milla Jovovich).

Bruce Willis's character, Korban Dallas, is a taxi driver who protects Leeloo. Willis plays a regular guy embroiled in extraordinary circumstances (a familiar role for this veteran of the "Die Hard" films).

Please See Fifth Element Page 39

The Book That Shocked The Nation Is Now The Most Controversial Film Of The Year.

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COMPLETELY FASCINATING!"**

SISKEL & EBERT

**"★★★★½!
EXTRAORDINARY WIT
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NEWSDAY

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TRANS ATLANTIC ENTERTAINMENT AND MINDY AFFRIME PRODUCTIONS PRESENT "FEMALE PERVERSIONS" TILDA SWINTON AMY MADIGAN KAREN SILLAS FRANCES FISHER LAILA ROBINS PAULINA PORIZKOVA AND CLANCY BROWN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ZALMAN KING GINA RESNICK RENA RONSON LINE PRODUCER RANA JOY GLICKMAN CASTING BY CHRISTINE SHEAKS COSTUME DESIGNER ANGELA BILLOWS MUSIC BY DEBBIE WISEMAN EDITED BY CURTISS CLAYTON LEO TROMBETTA PRODUCTION DESIGNER MISSY STEWART DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TERESA MEDINA BASED ON THE BOOK "FEMALE PERVERSIONS: THE TEMPTATION OF EMMA BOVIARY" BY LOUISE J. KAPLAN SCREENPLAY BY JULIE HEBERT AND SUSAN STREITFELD PRODUCED BY MINDY J. AFFRIME DIRECTED BY SUSAN STREITFELD

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Chinese Film Makers Can't Show Films About Gays in People's China

New York, NY — For underground filmmaker Zhang Yuan, the outcasts of Chinese society always have been in the spotlight. But Chinese authorities want to keep his characters — the mentally retarded, alcoholics, and other "hooligans" among whom they number LGBTs-out of view. Zhang's latest film is screening at the Cannes Film Festival without him; he is at home in Beijing, his passport confiscated.

His film, *East Palace, West Palace*, portrays the Gay relationship between a writer and a policeman. It was shot clandestinely and smuggled out of China for post-production.

China's communist government considers it negative and inflammatory, like Zhang's other films, and it is punishing the 34-year-old director by banning him from leaving the country. It also yanked *Keep Cool*, by internationally acclaimed director Zhang Yimou, from Cannes.

Zhang views China's reaction as official denial of contemporary issues. "The word 'homosexual' has hardly been uttered in China since 1949," he said in a recent interview in New York, referring to the year communist China was founded. "It's as if China didn't have Gays. But wherever you have humanity, you will have homosexuals."

Zhang has long been a gadfly to China's cultural authorities. Ever since his first

Please see Chinese Page 42

Fifth Element

Continued from Page 38

We follow the adventures of Dallas and Leeloo as they combat the evil Zorg. Along the way, they end up on a sort of pleasure cruise hosted by a wacky, campy D.J. named Ruby Rhod (Chris Tucker). He and his entourage provide for some comic relief, camping it up in bizarre, leopard print costumes, and Rhod's blonde phallic-like afro is a sight to behold!

Unfortunately, if I have anything negative to say about this otherwise quite extraordinary film, it's that Tucker's character, while amusing in small doses, is actually quite annoying. This especially becomes a problem late in the film: there's a lot of him at the end, tiresome scenes in which he goes on and on like a rambling caffeine junky.

Despite the somewhat weak ending to the film, *The Fifth Element* comes highly recommended for many other reasons: the lead characters are interesting and excellently portrayed; the costumes (by Jean-Paul Gaultier) are creatively realized; the visual effects (Mark Stetson and the folks at Digital Domain) are breathtaking.

The Fifth Element surely finds itself in the company of such films as *Blade Runner* and *Metropolis*, films it resembles and, in my opinion, betters. It took a team of graphics artists 11 months to create the dazzling world of 2259. In fact, work for *The Fifth Element* doubled Digital Domain's record for most elements in a single shot—over 80 of them combined for each frame in one shot!

With great acting, costumes, writing, and visual effects all going for it (and basically only Chris Tucker going against it), *The Fifth Element* scores an 8 on a 1-10 scale.

Manhattan

Continued From Page 38

Sean Casey is Lumet's white knight, all too tiresomely smug and far too naive (dare one say simple) to hope to be an effective big city District Attorney. Even the cute-as-a-button Andy Garcia fails to bring this pivotal character to life. (Andy, what about that tummy and those love handles?) Nor is Lena Olin, here hopelessly miscast, much help in creating any sparks as Sean's love interest Peggy Lindstrom.

Richard Dreyfuss briefly adds some life as the grandstanding Alan Dershowitz-like defense attorney Sam Vigoda. Better still are always reliable Ian Holm as the lovably believable Liam Casey, Ron Liebman's crafty D.A. Morgenstern and James Gandolfini as Liam's partner and sidekick Joey Allegretto.

With so many satisfying cop shows once again gracing the small screen, big screen ventures need a whole lot more of something than *Night Falls on Manhattan* has to offer to win over an audience.

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

LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!

ONE SUMMER.
EIGHT MEN.
FIGURE IT OUT.



FINE LINE FEATURES PRESENTS A KROST/CHAPIN PRODUCTION A FILM BY JOE MANTELLO 'LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!' JOHN GLOVER STEPHEN SPINELLA
STEPHEN BOGARDOUS JOHN BENJAMIN HICKEY JUSTIN KIRK RANDY BECKER AND JASON ALEXANDER ORIGINAL MUSIC BY HAROLD WHEELER EDITOR JACKIE KROST
EDITOR COLLEEN SHARP PRODUCTION DESIGNER FRANCOIS SEGUIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALIK SAKHAROV EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RUTH VITALE JONATHAN WEISSGAL AMY LABOWITZ PRODUCED BY DIANE CONN
CASTING BY DOUG CHAPIN BARRY KROST SCREENPLAY BY TERRENCE McNALLY DIRECTED BY JOE MANTELLO
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Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre
(Farwell & North Avenues)

A special benefit for the

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

Ticket Prices: \$15/advance, \$20/door

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This Is It! • Milwaukee AIDS Project
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For mail orders, please send check or money order made payable to: Milw. LGBT Community Center. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mail your request to: Wisconsin Light, 1843 North Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Mail order deadline is Thursday, June 5.

*The regular engagement of Love! Valor! Compassion!
begins Friday, June 23 at the Oriental Theatre.*

Out In Print



Mark Manning's "Flight Dreams" is a Murderous, Mysterious Gay Romp

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

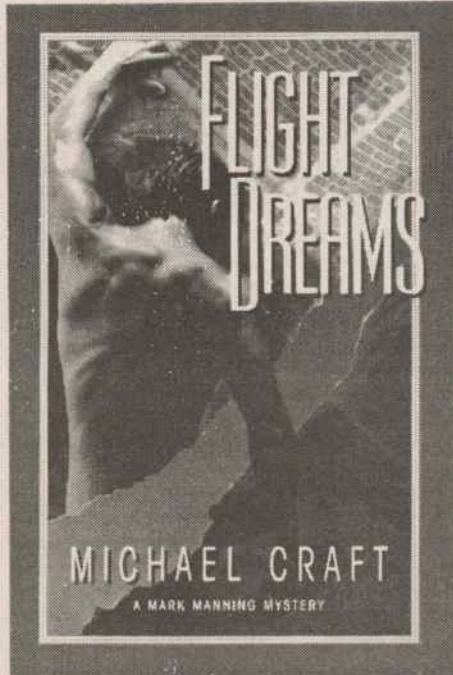
Glenn is a bit of a writer. Well, of course faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* know that some of Glenn's free time is taken up with sharing his opinions about movies.

What most don't know is that Glenn is the author of a number of murder mysteries. Surprised? Glenn learned long ago that planning murder can be fun, not to mention a whole lot safer than actually carrying these self-same murders out.

But Glenn digresses. The matter at hand is a new murder mystery, *Flight Dreams*, a debut Mark Manning mystery.

At the center of *Flight Dreams* is Helena Carter, a rich Chicago socialite who disappeared without a trace on New Year's Day, nearly seven years ago. Also gone are Helena's two celebrated Abyssinian cats. Rumors abound.

What is no mystery is that within three months, Helena will be declared legally dead and the provisions in her will carried



out. The lucky recipients of Helena's millions are the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and a lesser amount to the Federal Cat Clubs of America (FCCA).

Enter investigative reporter Mark Manning, celebrated as the authoritative voice on Helena Carter's disappearance. Never married and sans a serious girlfriend, Mark might appear to be one of Chicago's most eligible bachelors, at least on the surface.

At the age of 39 Mark's professional success masks an emptiness in his personal life, the life of a deeply closeted Gay man.

Within the framework of the mystery genre, Michael Johnson has written a coming out tale of which even Ellen, both real person and fictional bookseller could be proud.

Like the fictional Ellen, Mark has kept his Gayness a secret even from himself. Only when asleep can Mark's unconscious self explore the sexuality he otherwise suppresses.

Enter Neil. In Chicago on business, Neil is introduced to Mark by his dearest friend Roxanne. This decision is one that Roxanne soon regrets. Sparks fly between the two men. A second mystery develops: Will Mark and Neil ever get it on. (Glenn won't tell.)

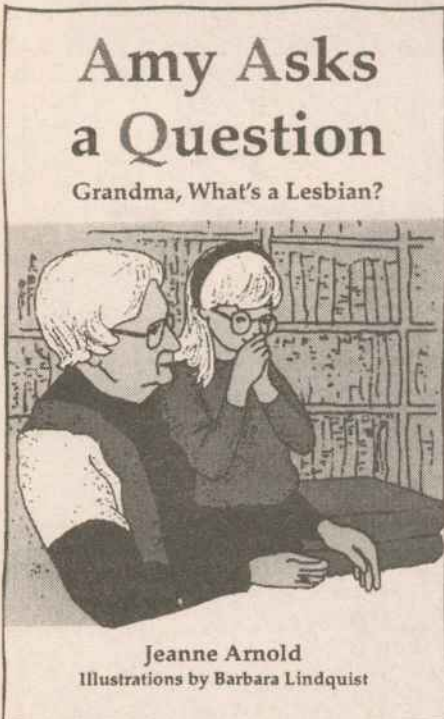
Flight Dreams proves to be an enjoyable, mysterious romp filled with a colorful collection of characters as well as an entertaining gay romance between Mark and Neil. Readers will look forward to more adventures featuring these two handsome protagonists.

Oh, by the way, rest easy all, Glenn's murderous entries are well hidden and are unlikely to see the light of day. Or will they?

Need to Tell a Kid What It's Like to Be a Lesbian? Read About Amy

Reviewed by Jean Webster

How do you explain the Lesbian lifestyle to your children or grandchildren? Jeanne Arnold in *Amy Asks a Question* offers assistance for all of us who need to come out to the significant children in our lives.



Amy Asks a Question provides the right words, and a comfortable setting for handling this challenging moment in our lives. The book is written from a ten year old's point of view and can be read by the child alone.

Read by and discussed with parents or grandparents, *Amy Asks a Question* can bring the whole family through the coming out process intact.

Barbara Lindquist supplements the words with charming illustrations depicting the family, in every sense of the word.

I enjoyed the story. Amy has some wild grandmas, they are pagans and even had a handfasting ceremony. The one criticism that I have is that most of today's Lesbians aren't quite so cool, exciting, and embroiled in a pagan and as out a Lesbian life as depicted in the book. Us ordinary folk might look like pale imitations in comparison to these Lesbians.

Frank DeCaro, Author of "A Boy Named Phyllis," Tells All About Phyllis

By Carl M. Szatmary

Frank DeCaro is a free-lance writer whose childhood memoir, "A Boy Named Phyllis" has become something of a gay best-seller. With the paperback release, Frank DeCaro is touring the country doing author appearances and will appear at PrideFest in the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffee-house at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th.

Wisconsin Light: "A Boy Named Phyllis" is a "coming of age" memoir. Did you write a journal, keep a diary?

Frank DeCaro: I used the columns in some way to inspire the book - there are no columns verbatim. I didn't keep a journal growing up but I didn't throw anything away. My childhood bedroom practically had a velvet rope at the door after I left so no one would go in it. All the toys are still there.

WL: What has been the response to the book?

FD: When I was first handed galleys of the book, I gave it to my family to read. And I kid you not, within two weeks they were both in the hospital with heart problems. I thought, I'm killing them, yes, I'm finally doing it, I'm killing both my parents. But they had trouble, not with the personal details about them, but with what they called "that sex part", page 177.

WL: Did you tour when the book came out?

"Gayish" in the *Daily Northwestern*.

WL: How did "Frank's Place" happen?
FD: I was working at *New York Newsday*, which is now defunct unfortunately. I was the fashion writer there and they were talking about someone should do a Gay column and that this was important. I said to them, if someone is going to do a Gay column, it's going to be me.

WL: When did it begin?

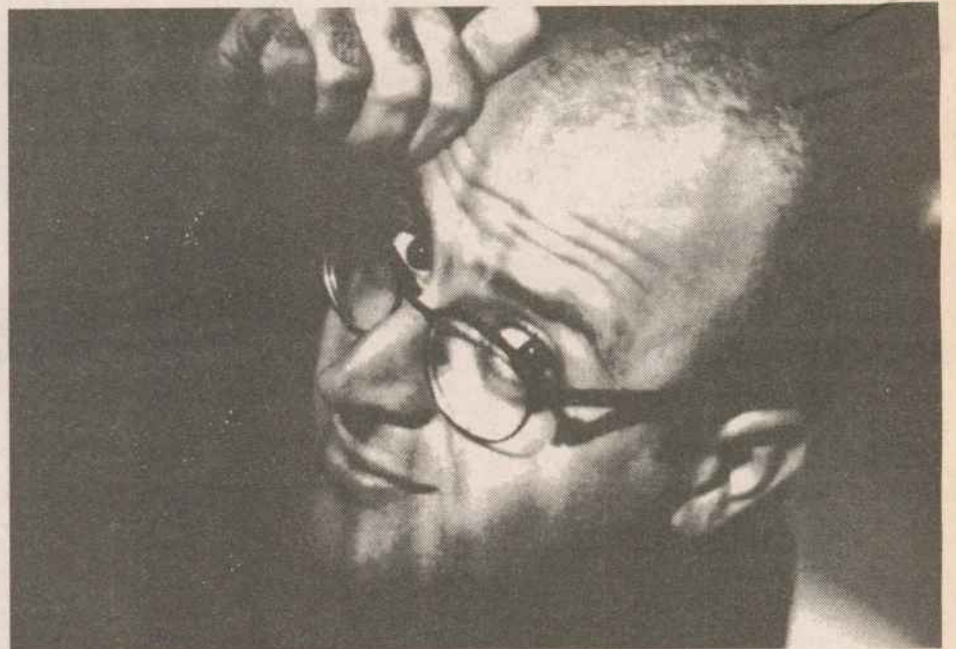
FD: The column began the week of Clinton's first inauguration. They killed the first one because they thought that it was too controversial and I think it was because I said something like "it makes my little homo-heart giddy".

WL: You've been called "a Gay New Wave Erma Bombeck", comments?

FD: That's my favorite. Erma Bombeck was such an inspiration to me. I'm a huge fan of hers and always will be. I think she took the absolute most mundane of circumstances and found the humor and the humanity in it and I hope that I can do the same thing in my career.

WL: Is there another book coming?

FD: I hope so. I've been doing free-lance writing. I sort of needed to do it when I was ready and I'm getting closer and closer to being ready. It's going to be called "Love Handles to Die For" and it's going to be the flipside of *A Boy Named Phyllis*, not so much a continuation. It'll still be memoir but much later, more about how we go into the world as gay men and lesbians to find family and how we cap-



Frank DeCaro

FD: The book came out at the same time as the movie *Welcome to the Dollhouse* came out. I could identify with Dawn Weiner. She had it a little tougher than I did, she was also cooler than I was in her own way. The response shocked me because I really thought that it was going to be awful in my home town. That was the only spot I was dreading going to and it turned out to be quite wonderful.

WL: Any stories?

FD: The best of course was here in Chelsea. I had so many people, I stopped counting at 135. There was a huge amount of people and it was really quite thrilling and there was a mention in *Vanity Fair*, which was great. I was a little late, it was four blocks from my house so I of course had to be late, it was 4 blocks from my house so I had to be late and when I walked in and there was a huge round of applause and it was best night of my life.

WL: When did you begin writing?

FD: The two things that I wanted to be growing up was an actor or a writer and I kinda wanted to be a Broadway critic when I was in high school. At *Northwestern* I started a column called "Being Frank", even though it wasn't explicitly Gay but

ture our sexuality and become adults.

WL: Could you take a moment and explain how the book came to be called "A Boy Named Phyllis"?

FD: It's a spoof on the song title "A Boy Named Sue". I had a boyfriend my senior year in high school and he had read somewhere that Elton John's nickname was Phyllis and Rod Stewart's was Sharon. I looked more like Elton and he looked more like Rod. He took Sharon and I took Phyllis. His name didn't stick and mine did. Years later I found out that Elton John's nickname is Sharon and Rob Stewart's nickname is Phyllis. So basically I've been living a lie all these years.



FICTION

Statues of the Sacred Band



A SERIALIZED NOVEL

Chapter 6

By Terry Boughner

Summary: Tony has linked up with Mary Ann Allen, a rather eccentric reporter for a major D.C. newspaper. They go to Garreth's apartment, but find nothing except a business card on the back of which is written, "Project 238." They are interrupted in their search by some unknown, but ominous-looking men and so, take the Metro to Union Station. Mary Ann goes to make a phone call. When she returns, it is obvious, from the expression on her face, that something is wrong.

**

"President's dead."

For a moment, I had trouble comprehending what Mary Ann had said. "Whatdayu mean, dead? Heyl?"

"Good. As in corpse. As in keeled over in Oval Office. As in boom, gone. Brain long dead. Now heart quit, too."

"But..." I began and stopped and

looked around. I couldn't see any signs of it. No flags had been lowered. People were going about as usual.

"Not announced yet. Got to dry out Vice President, get wife's lover out of the way."

"Who's he?"

"She. Movie star."

"Oh."

"C'mon." Without waiting for me, she started off with a determined stride, skirt swinging back and forth, her purse hanging from her arm. There was a taxi. She hailed it. It started to approach.

"Where we going? The White House?"

"Good. Wants to go where news isn't. New President get up, give speech. He's sad, country's sad, everybody's sad. Death causes virtue so Heyl's a saint. Forget it. Let some TV flunky cover that."

Twenty minutes later, we were in Georgetown, on a quiet, brick-paved street all over-hung with trees. Federal-style houses lined the street on either side. Over one, hung a sign on which was a seated lion drawn in gold. Beneath it were the words "Theban Bower."

The showroom just inside the front door bore a striking resemblance to some glitzy funeral parlor. Everything was white, glaring white. Statues stood about, some on pedestals, others not, but all of young naked men sculpted in various poses. Small fountains bubbled softly, and everywhere I looked, there were roses, red roses, filling the room with an aroma that was almost overpowering.

Behind the counter stood a man of indeterminate years, whose face reminded me of a dissolute bishop slightly taken in wine. Mary Ann explained to him that we were planning a "little soiree" and had come to make a selection of roses to grace the affair. That seemed to satisfy him, so, while she looked around—expecting to find God knows what—I stood at the counter and cooled my heels.

"Your roses are beautiful," I said to the clerk, figuring I had to say something.

"Certainly," he sniffed. "Mr. Bardi knows the secret of growing them." The look he gave was more than one of casual interest.

"Mr. Bardi's not here, I take it?"

"No. He's attending a rose show at the Botanic Gardens. You may have seen something about it in the paper this morning. My name is Percy. I am Mr. Bardi's Chef de Boutique." He paused, looking at me as if I should be impressed as he let one hand creep across the counter toward me. "Is that woman—ah, with you?" He raised one eyebrow significantly.

"Yes," I answered and let it go at that. This Percy was even creepier than Bardi, if that was possible.

I moved away from the counter, intending to tell Mary Ann that I was going outside for a cigarette. The guy aside, the smell of the roses was getting to me. As I moved, a door opened behind the counter

and a man came out. He whispered something to the clerk. The clerk's eyes widened a little and he put one hand over his mouth.

"We must close now, I am afraid," the clerk announced. "Please come back another time." He didn't give a reason for the closing, but it was easy enough to guess. He'd just heard the news that the President was dead.

Mary Ann and I left the store and walked toward Wisconsin Avenue, the main drag, a half a block away.

"Well?" I prompted.

"First thing. Statues aren't made of marble," she answered. "Don't know what. Metal? Plastic? Second thing, they're hollow."

By this time, we had reached Wisconsin Avenue. Though there was traffic going by, a strange hush seemed to have settled over the city. I could see people here and there huddled in little groups. A woman standing on the corner across the street was crying. The news about Heyl was definitely out.

We took a cab to Ganymede's, two blocks south of Dupont Circle, on the corner of N and 18th Streets. The driver had his car radio on and I heard Luther give his speech. It was short. He used nearly the same words Mary Ann had said he would. The driver said it was terrible. I took it that he meant Heyl's death, not Luther's speech.

Ganymede's had a large outdoor café fenced in by artificial greenery and covered by blue and white canopy. After finding a table off in the shadows, Mary Ann told me to order her a scotch—a double—and darted off to make a phone call. The place wasn't crowded, and, thankfully, there was a bit of breeze. I lit a cigarette and settled back.

There were a couple of waiters, young guys, 20-somethings, standing not far away, each wearing black pants and a white shirt with a black bow tie. One was tall, blonde, with surfer boy good looks, but as far as I was concerned, he had nothing at all on the guy standing next to him.

Short, maybe 5'6," he was small boned and lean, with a complexion as warm and brown as toast. His hair was thick, and very dark. His face was a gentle oval, his eyes were lustrous like polished opals, and full of bright, boyish vulnerability. About his sensitive, full-lipped mouth, he wore a close-trimmed mustache and goatee.

Forgotten was the heat and stifling humidity. Gone was the stench of the city and all the noise. All gone, as I stared helplessly at the most attractive, desirable man I'd ever seen in my life.

The blonde started toward me, but happily he didn't get too far. The cute Latino put a hand on his arm and with an oh, no-you-don't look, firmly pulled him back. The blonde returned an indifferent shrug. The Latino came over. The tag on his shirt said his name was Rudy.

"You're with someone?" he asked in a clear and very pleasant voice. He glanced at the chair where Mary Ann would have sat.

"She's a colleague," I replied and added, "I'm not with anyone—at all." I hoped my tone would get the fullness of my meaning across.

I guess it did because his eyes glittered like jewels and he seemed to breathe a sigh of relief. He took my order and off he went, pausing once to look back and wink. By the time he returned with Mary Ann's scotch and my beer, she had returned.

She didn't sit, but took a healthy gulp of her drink. "Joy. No rest. Gotta go." She looked at Rudy. "You know Johnny Chang?"

"Yeah." I had spilled a drop or two of beer on my shirt. Rudy took a napkin and gently wiped it off. Our eyes met. I smiled. He winked and turned to Mary Ann. "He, ah, Johnny, he works here."

"Good. See him later." She took another swallow of scotch. "You stay here," she told me. "Go no place. Be back in an hour." She turned to go and then, turned back. "Single?" she asked Rudy. He nodded affirmatively. "Good. So is he," she said, pointing at me. "Gay, single, but

not looking anymore." With a final warning that I was to stay put, she said to Rudy, "Watch out for him." In a whirl of skirts she was off, her commodious purse swinging on her arm.

"Sorry about that," I said, giving him a sheepish look.

"I'm not," he replied. "She was telling the truth—about you, I mean?" I nodded. His dark eyes sparkled with a boyishly, infectious grin. "Then, I'm not sorry at all."

Maybe it was the humidity, but I was finding it hard to breathe. He asked me for a cigarette, saying his were in the back. I gave him one, but as I lit it, I noticed two guys out on the sidewalk, going slowly by. They paused briefly as they looked over the café and then, went on, joining two other men a little further up. The four stood, talking together, as if comparing notes. I stood up.

"They're looking for you, aren't they?" Rudy said.

"I think, and I think I better get outta here." I started to go, but turned back, seeing a look on his face was what I can only describe as regret. "C'mon," I said, holding out a hand. "You'd better come along too. I don't want anything to happen to you." I was thinking of the Stoa and Garreth. But I was also convinced that if I left him, if I said good-bye, there would be no true love in this world for me.

Rudy didn't hesitate. He took off his nametag, put it on the table and we left the café, going out onto N Street. From there, we headed up toward Connecticut Avenue two blocks away, walking fast. I expected questions from him: who are you, who were those men, where were going? But he said nothing.

We stopped for a light, when I saw a van coming toward us, a white van. I could just make out the seated lion painted in gold on its side.

Instead of going straight head, we ducked left, heading up toward P Street. I glanced back. The van had turned and was following us, picking up speed as it came. I grabbed Rudy's hand (God, that felt good!), and we ran, ran hard, swinging right on to P Street and plunging on toward Dupont Circle.

The sidewalk was crowded. We pushed people aside. "How rude!" "Well, pardon me, Mary." There were sounds, like firecrackers going off. Someone screamed. There were sirens. We didn't look back.

We'd just reached the circle, when Rudy stumbled. He'd have fallen into the path of an on-coming car, but, just in time, I grabbed him and pulled him back. That's when I saw another van, one like the one behind us, coming onto the circle from Connecticut Avenue.

There were park benches around the circle's rim. We vaulted them and ran. The top of a tree disappeared in a loud hiss. Another tree, not ten feet away exploded, and then the fountain itself went up in a loud noise and a column smoke. On we ran, crossing the circle to reach, finally, the point where Connecticut Avenue headed north.

Up the Avenue we ran, weaving, darting along the narrow sidewalk. Windows in stores shattered. People screamed. And, above it all, I heard someone shout out my name.

I looked and there, unbelievably there, was Mary Ann's little sports car. She was in it with another woman driving.

"Get in!" Mary Ann shouted.

I grabbed Rudy. We darted out into the street. I shoved him in the back and jumped in on top of him as in a squeal of tires, the car took off.

"Is a date with you always this hot?" Rudy asked through a grin, looking up at me. Before I could reply, he took my head in both his hands and kissed me full, hard, on the mouth.

The car rocketed along. I heard Mary Ann yell out something about a story to tell. As far as I was concerned, the story was that I'd just died and gone to heaven and been received with a kiss at the foot on the throne.

TO BE CONTINUED

The Honor of Your Presence

Madison—Peter Orr and Kerry Timmens will be celebrating a ceremony of Holy Union on September 6, 1997. The ceremony will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Parkside Presbyterian Church, 4002 Lien Road in Madison.




Peter and Kerry

An alcohol-free reception will immediately follow the ceremony and will be held at the Rodney Scheel House, 2815 Hawk Street in Madison.

Peter and Kerry wish to share their love, joy and happiness that they have with each other with everyone. They request that all join them to celebrate their Union.

For more information, call Peter Orr or Kerry Timmens at: (608) 244-9584.





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Chinese

Continued From Page 39

film, *Mama*, in 1990, about a single mother with a retarded son, his works have been forbidden in China.

He makes his films on his own, scraping up money to buy or rent equipment. His movies are never shown in China, and have had only limited exposure abroad - until now.

The story of *East Palace, West Palace* was prompted when Zhang heard that an AIDS research lab was unable to collect data from Gays afraid to come forward.

"The lab recruited people to drag Gays from a park where they gathered down to the research center so they could interview them about their habits," Zhang said.

"I was astonished to find out that Beijing Gays knew the parks where the best-looking police were. They like the uniforms," he said. "I discovered there's an incredibly direct connection between sex and power. That's what the film's about."

Homosexuality was vilified under communist Chinese rule, and has only been dealt with fleetingly on film. Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine* only suggested such a relationship when one man put his hand on another's shoulder.

Palace contains love scenes between men, though it shows no explicit sex. "I'm fascinated by marginalized people," said Zhang, whose round face, defiantly frizzy hair and easy grin remind one of a smiling Buddha. "It's like me as a director. My emotions are very much on the outside, the outer edge."

Zhang graduated in 1989 from the Beijing Film Academy as one of the "Sixth Generation" of filmmakers.

The so-called "Fifth Generation" included Chen Kaige, Zhang Yimou and Tian Zhuangzhuang, who breathed new life into China's moribund, state-controlled cinema.

"They had a slogan: 'Not like the past,'" Zhang said. "It motivated us to adopt our own slogan: 'Not like the Fifth Generation.'" He made *Mama* with \$20,000 cobbled together from friends and shot it in and around his house. It won awards at film festivals in Berlin, Nantes and Edinburgh, but after it showed in China, authorities canceled its run.

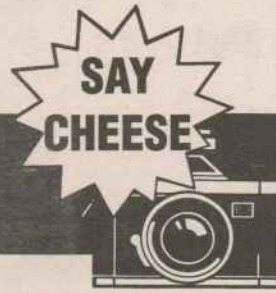
Beijing Bastard, (1992) about alienated, profanity-spitting youth against a background of hard rock 'n roll, starred Cui Jian, China's leading rock star and a friend of Zhang's. "It showed young people after 1989, people whose ideals had been shattered," he said. "I wanted to portray youth colliding into a wall."

Chinese officials pulled other films out of festivals in Tokyo and Locarno, Switzerland, to protest its showing.

The Square (1994) was a homey documentary about Tiananmen Square, with never a mention of the protests and bloodshed of 1989. "Sons" (1996) was about an alcoholic father.

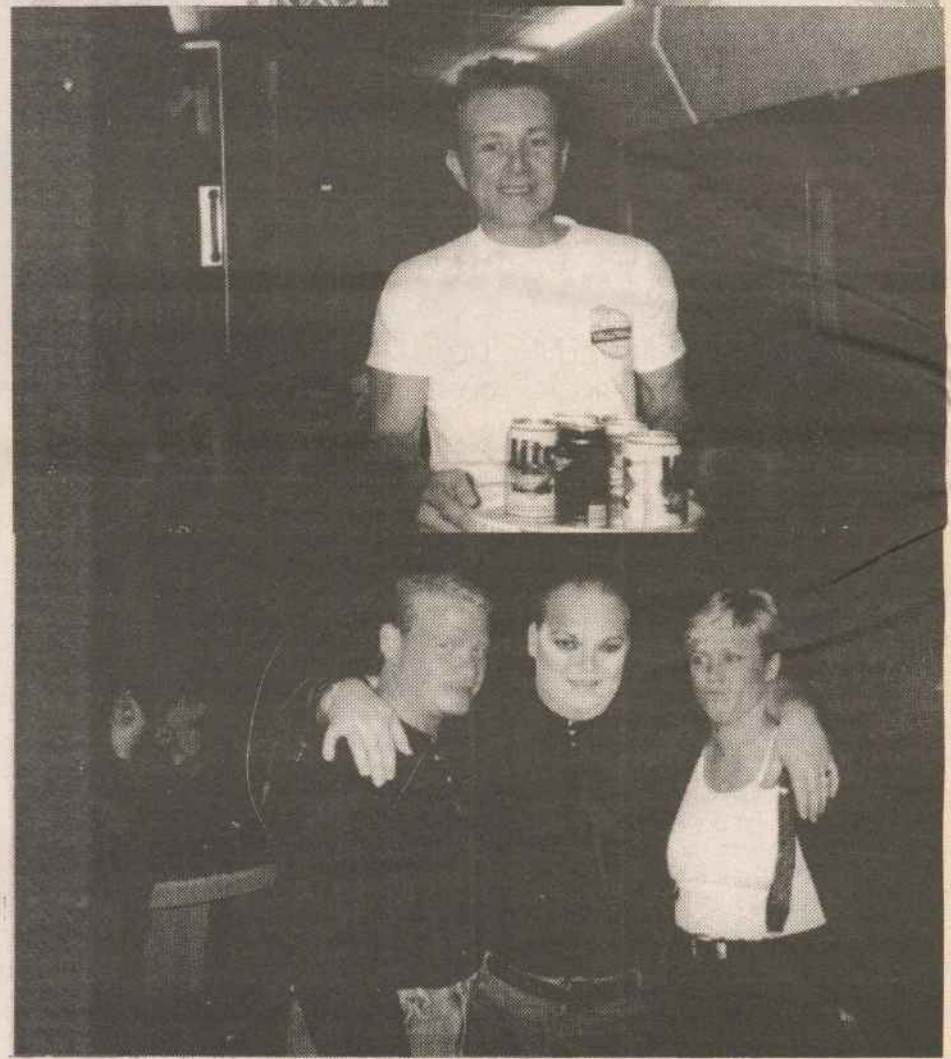
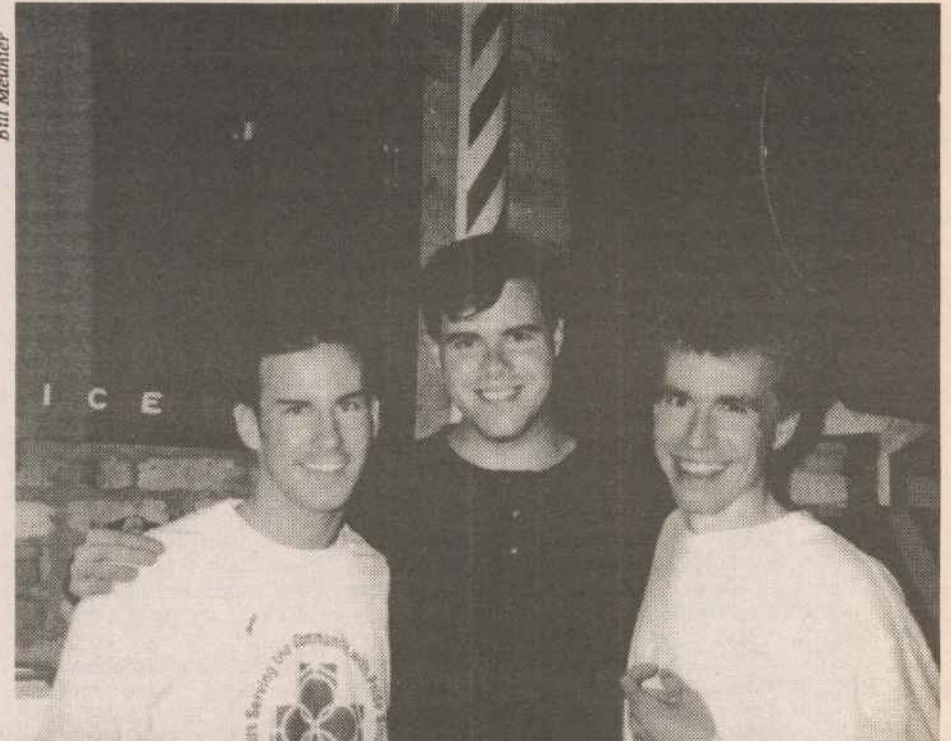
The 95-minute *East Palace, West Palace* was partly funded by an \$138,000 grant from the French Culture and Foreign Affairs Ministries.

"It's the hardest one for me to show in China, but the one I want to show the most," he said. He sees in the film an allegorical parallel between himself and its main character. "I'm like Ah-Lan - he loves a police officer with all his heart - like I love my country." For now, however, his countrymen won't have the chance to know if they love his films.



OUT & About

Bill Meunier



Volunteers! All three of these pictures show volunteers in action. Shown at the top are three absolutely fabulous men. They are BESTD clinic volunteers and we found them doing HIV tests at In Between, Thursday May 15. Next is a HIT Volunteer serving drinks on the HIT bus to the Grand Opening at Diversions. Last but not least is Sage La Rue (in the middle) with two friends. Sage had just finished her volunteer stint at Diversions Grand Opening Celebration.

Entertainment Guide

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| <p>APPLETON</p> <p>Rascals Bar & Grill
702 E. Wisconsin
Appleton, WI 54991
954-9262</p> <p>DOOR COUNTY</p> <p>Chanticleer Guest House
4072 Cherry Rd
Sturgeon Bay, WI
54235
746-0334</p> <p>EAU CLAIRE</p> <p>The Trading Co.
304 Eau Claire St
Eau Claire, WI
838-9494</p> <p>The Wolfs's Den
302 E Madison
Eau Claire, WI 54703
832-9237</p> <p>GREEN BAY</p> <p>Brandy's II
1126 Main St
Green Bay, WI 54301
437-3917</p> <p>Napalese Lounge
515 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303
432-9546</p> <p>Sass
840 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54304
437-7277</p> <p>Za's/Java's
1106 Main St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
435-5476</p> <p>KENOSHA</p> <p>Club 94
9001 120th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140
857-9958</p> <p>LA CROSSE</p> <p>Cavaller Lounge
114 N 5th St.
La Crosse, WI 54601
782-9061</p> <p>LAKE MILLS</p> <p>Cross Roads Bar
W6642 Hwy B
Lake Mills, WI 53551
648-8457</p> | <p>MADISON</p> <p>A Room of One's Own Book store
317 W. Johnson
Madison, WI 53703
257-7888</p> <p>Geraldine's
3052 E. Washington
Madison, WI 53704
241-9335</p> <p>Manoeuvres
150 S. Blair
Madison, WI 54703
258-9918</p> <p>Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast
W13172 Hwy 188
Lodi, WI 53555
1-800-380-8427</p> <p>Scandals
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251-1030</p> <p>The Shamrock
117 W Main St.
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255-5029</p> <p>We Are Family
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Milwaukee, WI 53204
273-7474</p> <p>Boot Camp Saloon
209 E. National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
643-6900</p> <p>Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World St.
Milwaukee, WI 53203
291-9889</p> <p>C'est La Vie
231 S. Second St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
276-8890</p> | <p>MILWAUKEE</p> <p>Continued Club 219
219 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
271-3732</p> <p>Designing Men
1120 S. First
Milwaukee, WI 53204
389-1200</p> <p>1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
647-9950</p> <p>Fannies
200 E. Washington
Milwaukee, WI 53204
643-9633</p> <p>In Between
625 S. 2nd St
Milwaukee, WI 53204
278-96114</p> <p>Just Us
807 S. 5th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-2233</p> <p>La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 52304
383-8300</p> <p>La Perla Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
645-9888</p> <p>Mama Roux Bar & American Grill
1875 N. Humboldt
Milwaukee, WI 53212
347-0344</p> <p>M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milwaukee, WI 53202
347-1962</p> <p>Rene's Cozy Corner
3500 W Park Hill
Milwaukee, WI 53208
933-RENE</p> <p>S. Water St. Docks
354 E. National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
225-9676</p> <p>Station 2
1534 W. Grant
Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-5755</p> <p>10% Club
4223 W. Fon Du Lac
Milwaukee, WI 53216
447-0910</p> | <p>MILWAUKEE</p> <p>Continued</p> <p>This Is It
418 E. Wells
Milwaukee, WI 53202
278-9192</p> <p>Triangle
134 E. National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-9412</p> <p>Walkers Point Cafe
1106 S. First St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
384-7999</p> <p>Zippers
819 S 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
645-8330</p> <p>NEENAH</p> <p>Diversions
1413 Green Valley
Neenah, WI</p> <p>RACINE</p> <p>JoDees
2139 Racine St.
Racine, WI 53403
634-9804</p> <p>What About Me?
600 6th St.
Racine, WI 53403
632-0171</p> <p>SHEBOYGAN</p> <p>Blue Lite
1029 N. 8th St.
Sheboygan, WI 53081
457-1636</p> <p>STEVENS POINT</p> <p>The Platwood Club
701 Highway 10W
Stevens Point, WI 54481
341-8862</p> <p>SUPERIOR</p> <p>JT's Bar
1506 N 3rd St.
Superior, WI 54880
394-2580</p> <p>Trio Club
820 Tower
Superior, WI 54880
392-5373</p> <p>WAUSAU</p> <p>The Mad Hatter
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Wausau, WI 54401
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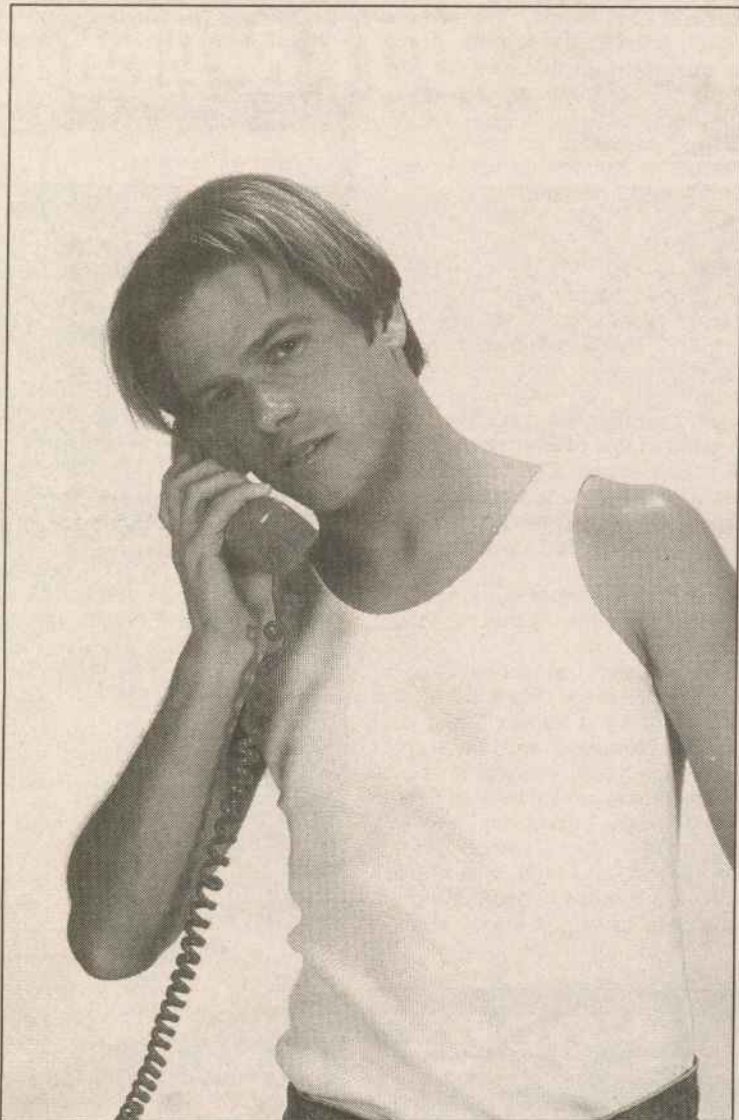
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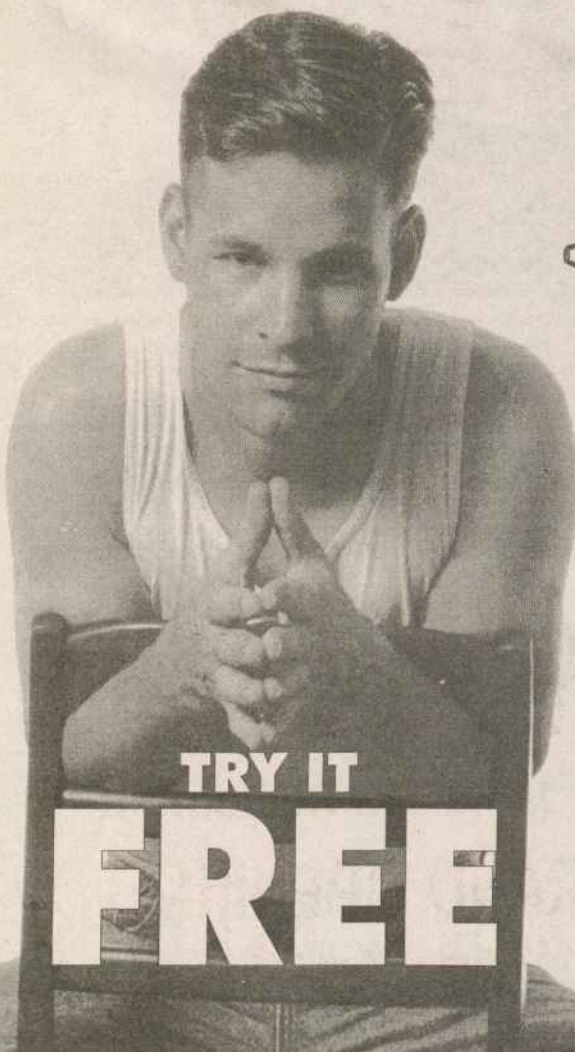


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Illinois

TALK THE TALK I'm a Married, Bi curious, White male, longing to talk to dominant, aggressive, Gay males. Please call. (Chicago) #33630

DYNAMIC DUO DREAM This hot, healthy, dominant, Gay, White male, top, 34, 6ft, 170lbs, needs a submissive, White male, bottom, to act out my fantasy with. I'm Batman and you're Robin. I want you to polish the batpole in the batcave. There's another where Batman and the Boy Wonder are confronted by the Riddler. (Cicero) #10435

A COURSE FOR ADVENTURE I'm a good looking, sexy, Single, Bi, White male seeking hot men, and couples, for adventurous good times. (Evanston) #7935

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING This personable, Gay, White male, 5'11, 165lbs, with dark hair and Green eyes, seeks a dark skinned, dominant but affectionate, partner for a relationship. I'm a good looking, toned, well hung, bottom. You should be handsome, humorous, and looking to get ahead in life. (Joliet) #33525

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

WHOLE ROMANTIC FANTASY My varied interests include the whole romantic fantasy. I like movies, going out, staying home, cooking, reading, road trips, and walks on the beach. I'm an attractive, 29 year old, White male, 6'2, 200lbs, with Blond hair, Brown eyes, and a goatee. I want to spend quality time with a man between 30 and 50. (Cedar Rapids) #34671

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

HOW DOES IT FEEL? I'm a handsome, masculine, White male and I visit the Ft. Dodge area twice a month. I'd like to hook up, while I'm there, with hot guys for hot fun. I like anything that feels good and a few things that don't. (Ft. Dodge) #33706

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

BROWN AND SERVE I love to service African American tops, 25 to 45, who are well hung, and enjoy lots of attention. I'm a good looking, youthful, White male, 41, 5'10, 190lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. (Minneapolis) #1174

HARD AND GOOD This handsome, well built, White male, seeks hard, good times with other hot men. (Minneapolis) #1191

DRILL SERGEANT This rugged, handsome, ex-Army man, in my 40's, seeks versatile guys, 20 to 25, for fun. If you're clean and discreet, photo opportunities are possible. (Minneapolis) #34744

I'LL DRESS UP FOR YOU This young, sexy, White male, 6ft, 150lbs, seeks older men, 25 to 50, for hot encounters. I'll cross-dress for the right guy. (Minneapolis) #34749

IN THE END This 42 year old, White male, 5'1, 190lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, has a thing for Black men. A big thing. I want to meet African American males who are outstanding, if you know what I mean. If you enjoy being orally serviced and like to give it in the end, we need to meet. (Minneapolis) #34292

MAY THE FUN NEVER END! I love to have lots of fun and I want to meet African American tops, 30 to 45, who feel the same way. I'm a lusty, young looking, White male, 41, 5'10, 190lbs. I'm especially interested in well hung guys who love to be serviced and are a little kinky. (Minneapolis) #33555

MORNING APPOINTMENT I like to get it hot and hard on weekday mornings, between 7 and 9 a.m. I'm a sexy, 39 year old, Bi, White male, 180lbs. I'm extremely horny and need it soon. Maybe we can make it a regular thing. The bigger your endowment the better. (Fox Cities) #14525

BAY BI BONDAGE This extremely submissive, Bi, White male, 44, seeks a dominant master. I'll cater to your every whim. I'm turned on by B&D, S&M, spanking, humiliation, verbal abuse, and much more. (Green Bay) #12639

CHEESE LOVER I need a hunk of cheese. I'm a very attractive, White male, 26, 6'2, 190lbs, and in great shape. I'm honest, athletic, and seek someone like me, 18 to 30, who lives in the area. (Hudson) #34658

DICK AND JANESVILLE I want to meet a nice guy, interested in having fun and getting to know each other. I'm a 21 year old, White male, with Blond hair and Hazel eyes. I like tall, slim, muscular men, 20 to 30, who enjoy the outdoors. I hope you're masculine, but unafraid of your feminine side. (Janesville) #33674

CURIOUS AND COMFORTABLE I'd like to meet another Bi curious guy for relaxing times and exploration. I enjoy eating out, cooking, long walks, going to the park at night, and watching TV. (Madison) #34097

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

ON WITH THE SHOW If you like to show off, and have something to show, show it to me. I'm a muscular, 29 year old, White male, into posing, wrestling alone, and oral action. I'm especially into arms and chests. (Milwaukee) #31169

TOP OF THE LINE I'm a well rounded, intelligent, Bi, White male, 44, 5'10, 250lbs, with dark Brown hair and Green eyes. I'm clean shaven and walk with a limp. I'd like to meet an honest, sensitive, humorous guy with whom to share nature, massage, sports, movies, and more. I have a wide variety of interests. My hope is to meet a top as I haven't been with someone, in that way, for years. (Milwaukee) #34019

SCAT, CAT! This hot, 40 year old, Gay, White male, 6'5, 190lbs, has extensive brown hanky experience. I'd like to meet Gay, White male, buddies or, perhaps, a lover, interested in exploring this world. (Milwaukee) #34133

KINK OUT! I can't get enough wild and kinky sex with hot, mature, men. I'm a 32 year old, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. (Milwaukee) #33895

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

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

HIKE AND BIKE I love outdoor activities like hiking, camping, and biking. I hope to meet a guy, 18 to 35, who shares these interests, and likes to have a good time. I'm an attractive, 30 year old, White male, 6ft, 150lbs. (Redgranite) #30882

To talk LIVE, in groups PRESS 0 at the main menu.

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

WOMEN'S WEAR ENTHUSIAST! I seek other Transvestites who share my passion for woman's clothing. I'm a Gay, White male, 22, 6'2, 195lbs. Let's share body ecstasy and fashion tips. I can be a top or bottom. (Rochester) #1051

READY TO TAKE A CHANCE AGAIN My big heart has been broken a few times but I know my prince will come along. I'm an attractive, Gay, White male, 27, 5'7, 140lbs, with a swimmer's build. I'd like to give a piece of my heart to an open, honest, man, 30 to 40, who enjoys hunting, fishing, the outdoors, travel, and cuddling on the couch. (Rochester) #1025

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

BI POLAR SYNDROME This masculine, good looking, Bi, White male, 30, 5'10, 175lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks other Bi men, in the area, for fun times. (Abbotsford) #33638

BENEATH THE SURFACE It seems to me that personal statistics and measurements don't mean much at this point. I'm looking for someone to get to know. If you, too, are interested in what's inside, let's talk. (Eau Claire) #34100

FRESH GOODS I'm new in the area and want to meet buddies for frequent, uninhibited, get togethers. I'm a very well built, good looking, White male, 30, 6ft, 175lbs. If you're masculine, and serious about hooking up, let's give it a go. (Eau Claire) #33358

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



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Dear Ruthie

I make it a habit never to print personal letters from my dear friends.

However, I got this letter from Inez and I just had to share it with you. Little Inez and I go back to her second marriage. We met in the lobby of a Las Vegas wedding chapel. I was in-between marriages myself and had taken a job playing the organ at the Chapel of Perpetual Regret. Inez had just gotten dumped at the altar. What can I say? We bonded in the ladies room. Soon we were at the casino slamming back Pink Squirrels and picking up Greek sailors. The rest is history.

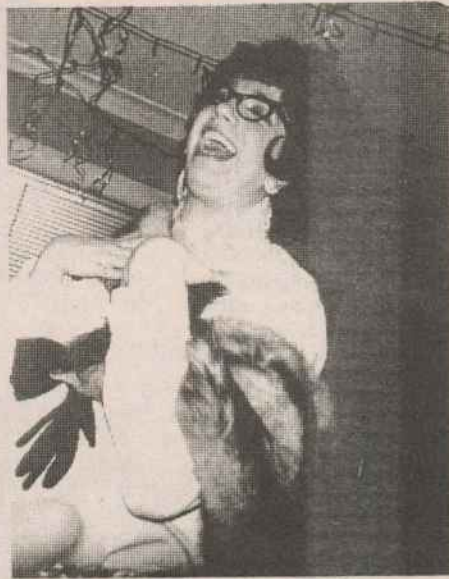
Dear Rue,
Where the hell you been? I ran into our old friend Val Seline in Brooklyn and she told me you were living in a place called Milwaukee. Now what do they call those people? Please heads? How fun! I must come to visit.

Anyways, I'm celebrating my third husband's birthday in Vegas. You must come with me. The Pink Squirrels are cold and the sailors are hot! It's in October and I know we'll just have the best of times. Two single gals back in their jackpot haven!

But let me explain the real reason I'm writing. I got a problem. My girlfriend Estelle Gaspuccio needs some serious plastic surgery. How do I tell her it's time to go in for a little tuck job?

(signed)
Inez
My Dearest Inez,
So good to hear from you! I'll see you in October. Let's talk about our friend Estelle. Poor, old, droopy-faced Estelle. She's sort of a cross between Bob Dole and Walter Matthau. Last time I saw her, her face was hanging so low I was afraid it was going to slip right off her head and into her bag of Doritos. You know it's time for a nip and tuck when your nips keep getting tucked into the waistband of your girdle.

Now, granted, I'm no beauty queen. If you look closely around my eyes I'm sure you'll find a few crow's feet.
But, Estelle?



Ruthie

Hell—she's got the whole damn crow sitting up there on her face! She's the only person I know who looks like she's wearing panty-hose over her head 24 hours a day. The poor woman can't go into a bank or a 7-Eleven without security being called.

But before you register Estelle for the Mary Tyler Moore plastic surgery hall of fame, you must realize that we really shouldn't say rude things to the cosmetically challenged. If Estelle is comfortable with her looks, then it's really none of your business. Saying anything would only hurt her feelings and possibly end your friendship. Suggest a new hair style instead, or go for a make-over together. If all else fails, sing this while in her presence. It's in the melody of that Bette Davis Eyes song the kids are always playing.....

*Thin and saggy,
Kind of baggy.*

*Everyone thinks she's a haggy
All the boys say, What the heck?
She's got - Bette Davis neck!*

Just kidding. Let Estelle look the way

she wants to.
Dear Ruthie,
My lover and I have been together for close to 11 years. He is wonderful and our relationship is great, except that I'm obsessed with the guy who lives in the apartment next door. We always run into each other in the laundry room of our apartment complex and he has made it quite obvious he wants to sleep with me.

The flirting has gotten so hot that I'm on the verge of having an affair with him. How should I proceed?

(signed)
Laundry Lover
Dear Lover,

So you've been happy with your lover for close to 11 years and you want to have an affair, huh? That's about as dumb as murdering your ex-wife while wearing designer shoes. Do you want starch with that divorce? Listen, mister, you've got 11 years invested in this relationship. That's about 27 in Gay years! Don't screw it up just to get your ticket punched. Assuming that you and your lover have the relationship you've always wanted - why play with the laundry boy?

Next time you're tempted, just think about how hurt your lover would be should he find out.

Think about the consequences of catching some disease. Remember, the only totally safe sex is no sex. Take your laundry to the cleaners and leave your neighbor alone. Keep your fantasies at that - fantasy. If the sexual tension gets to be too much to bear - don't run down with a load of whites. Lock yourself in the bathroom instead, and take care of business-if you know what I mean. Remember-no one gets hurt when the band plays alone.

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Continued From Page 1

suicide. For the first time he publicly spoke of his father's drug abuse, and attempts to kill his mother. Yet Schnieder said when his father died his family mourned.

It was what one observer called "a remarkable moment of candid heartfelt feeling. The message was clear. Every person has worth no matter what you may think of their actions."

Realizing that many of those who were going to vote on the bill would rather not have voted on it, House Minority Leader, Wally Kinicki pointed out that the Assembly had been in session for five and half months and had passed only five bills. "Nice work if you can get it," he said.

Kinicki said that bill was being "forced" on the chamber and that if a secret vote were taken "at least 75 of us would vote not to be discussing right now."

The motion, the debate and the vote the motion to table Krueser's amendment which passed 68 to 31 set the tone for the rest of day.

In all there were four amendments and three substitute motions proposed. Three amendments were tabled, one was ruled not germane. Two substitute motions were tabled, one was ruled not germane.

Throughout the day the bill's opponents tried to meet religious arguments in favor of passage head on.

Antonio Riley said that he thought that homosexuality was a sin, but he said, "As an African American man I can not vote for this bill. Let he is without sin cast the first stone."

Marty Reynolds D-Ladysmith "Does it seem strange how God singles out lying, adultery, coveting but he stays silent on homosexuality? It's funny how selective we can be when we read the bible."

Frank Boyle (D- Superior) denounced what he called "a bill based on hate." His voice booming throughout the chamber, Boyle warned that the people behind the

bill were the same people who carry signs "Kill A Queer for Christ."

They were joined by other speakers all of them Democrats who denounced the bill. Including on that list was Peter Bock (D-Milwaukee).

Bock read from a book written by former Congressman Steve Gunderson (R-Wisconsin) and his lover and then commented. "While I must say that I am happy that my side of the aisle captured his seat, I can not help but think of how much good Steve Gunderson could have done for this state had he been re-elected and become chair of the Agricultural Committee. It was your side that drove him out of office because he was Gay."

Throughout the day, Minority Leader Kinicki rose to offer a compromise. The basis for his compromise was that by taking out the words "same sex marriage" the body could make the bill "less offensive."

Kinicki pointed out that if Utah which is controlled by Mormons legalized polygamy, Wisconsin would have to pass another bill saying that it wouldn't recognize such marriages.

According to Kinicki, the Assembly should pass a bill that simply stated "marriage can only be between one man and one woman." He said this could take care of any situations like incestuous or polygamous marriages that may be legal in other states.

The bill's opponents for the most part objected to the compromise. They were concerned that such language, similar to DOMA, the Federal Anti-Gay Marriage act, would make passage in the Senate easier.

Furthermore some Gays and Lesbians on the scene found Kinicki's idea more offensive than the original bill. "Oh yeah," said one, "Lump us in the child marrying, polygamous Mormons. Sure I feel so much better knowing we are equal to somebody in Wally's eyes."

Finally, the Republican Leadership embarrassed by the bill accepted Kinicki's idea. But when the Substitute Amendment Language was proposed Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) rose on a point of order.

"The Amendment is not germane," said Carpenter You can't take a bill that was 5 lines and make it 28 lines without changing its purpose."

The Chair ruled in favor of Carpenter and threw out the compromise. At this point things grew tense in the chamber.

Kinicki took exception to Carpenter's actions. "I did this in good faith," he protested, "I don't want people to think that I didn't keep my word."

Kinicki said that in the Democratic Caucus held the previous day, there was talk of compromise but no specifics were proposed. "I didn't even consider what to do about this bill until yesterday," he said.

Carpenter responded sharply that he had not been consulted by Kinicki and that Kinicki should not count on him to vote for compromises without asking him first. "Don't count on me to be on that train to Rosebud," he said.

Speaker of the House Ben Brancel then rose to say that his side bargained in good faith. Saying that Kinicki could not be trusted to deliver his party, Brancel said, "We will remember this when we take up the budget."

After the vote several Democrats even some who voted for the bill said they felt sorry for Carpenter. "Tim was not treated very well by Wally today. I was ashamed," said one.

In all 50 out of 52 Republicans voted for the bill. They were joined by 28 out of 47 Democrats. 1 Republican and 19 Democrats voted against. One Democrat, Schnieder voted in favor by mistake.

An aide in his office told *The Wisconsin Light* that Schnieder was out of the room when Kinicki's compromise was ruled out of order. "He thought he was voting for the compromise and then would vote against the bill. He didn't know that he was voting on the bill."

Strategists for the bill's opponents were particularly bitter that so many Democrats holding safe seats voted in favor of the bill. Singled out in that regard were Reps Dave Cullen, Johnnie Morris Tatum, Polly Williams, Mark Meyer, John Lehman, Mary Hubler, Jeff Plale, and Greg Huber. *The Wisconsin Light* attempted to contact all of these reps but only two returned its calls to justify their votes in favor.

John Lehman told *The Light* "I thought it was a silly, inane bill that should never have come before the legislature, I feel it was hurtful to many individuals in the State of Wisconsin and misunderstood by many individuals... I think it was misunderstood, by a large segment of people in the State of Wisconsin either way a person voted. I heard from dozens and dozens of people who asked me to vote for it."

Jeff Plele told *The Light* "Sometimes out here, you have to kind of hold your nose and do what you personally may not feel is the right thing, but the overwhelming majority of the calls I received were in favor of the bill." He added "Bills of much greater importance to people's lives they never call on. A bill that I would characterize as sensational they call on."

Letters
Continued from Page 4

For Rep. Seratti I insist that the notion that society "could survive without homosexuals" cannot be argued because, certainly, no society has ever been without them.

And as more of Gay history is understood, it is clear that the contributions to art, politics, religion, etc., made by homosexuals over the centuries is too great to be measured. To speculate on a world without those contributions is folly. It is like speculating on a history and a world without left-handed people.

Most of the arguments now being used against Gay marriage were made decades ago as states, one by one, did away with laws preventing interracial marriage. The same scare tactics were used, religion was exploited, and the same dire predictions were raised.

But bigotry did not prevail, and society was only made richer and fairer as people who

loved each other were allowed to openly express that love before their country and their God.

John Catania
New York City

Let's Boycott

TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding all the media attention to the "Ellen Show," they keep saying that there are 30 roles on TV that depict Gay characters. Big deal! How many characters are on TV that depict "straight" characters? And how many years did it take to get to 30? It's about time!! I've been an ardent TV viewer for over 45 years and would never see any representative of my life.

At work during that week, one of my co-workers made the comment to me that she "didn't understand why Ellen had to come out of the closet?"

I said, "Maybe she thought it would help cut the number of teen suicides that has continued to grow in the last 10 years, and save someone's life."

"Oh, I never thought of that," she says. As for the advertisers that pulled out or said they won't sponsor her show, like Wendy's, C. Penney, Chrysler, I say fine. That's their choice. As for me, I will go to Burger King, Sears, T.J. Max or any other store "BUT" Penney's.

And when it comes time for a new car, any product but a Chrysler will get me around town.

I hope you get my "drift." Let's boycott. It helped with dear "Old Anita" who, by the way, just filed bankruptcy, and with Coors beer.

Hope to see all my friends at PrideFest. Thanks for giving us a place to "vent."

Tracy Jones
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: I note with interest that both Chrysler and Wendy's (among others) were sponsors of *The Odyssey* on NBC. I note with interest, I should say, because all the Gay parts seem to have been excised from Homer's fabled work.

Gay and Asian

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a Gay, Asian Gay, Chinese Gay from the Red China. This letter has purpose to educate people with real Gay life story about being Gay and also educate Gay Asian how to move on their Gay lives.

I am proud as a Asian, and Chinese. Yellow is beautiful and we have the one of the longest civilization.

I am proud as a Gay, because I am honest and tell the truth, and I pursuit real love and happiness.

I am proud of myself. I can die for my love and faith. I depend on myself and nobody could take away my dignity. I made so many mistakes before, but I never stop learning.

My generation is lucky to express ourselves. But we have no role models before us. We learn things by tough lessons to find ways for ourselves but for sure the experience will benefit the younger generation. I urge more Asian Gay, Gay Chinese join me doing something to show what is right for Gay Asian to do.

Love is most wonderful thing in this world. Love is understanding, trust, honesty, care, responsibility, faithful, and unselfish. Not many people experience it or know how to offer it to others. Even some don't know how to take it. You would be empty without love.

I hope you will learn a lot from what I write, from what I had experienced, heard and thought, about love, being Gay Asian, Gay Chinese, relationship, friendship, how to handle crisis.

Life is pain for all Gay Asian, but we always have the hope. If we are honest with the life, the future is bright for each of us. Let's keep doing.

Kurt Yang
Boulder, CO

Please See Letters Page 47

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How They Voted

Below is a listing of how the State Assembly voted on AB 104, Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay Marriage bill

Republicans In Favor - 50

Ainsworth, Albers, Brandemuehl, Dobyms, Duff, Foti, Freese, Gard, Goetsch, Green, Grothman, Gunderson, Hahn, Handrick, Harsdorf, Hoven, Huebsch, Hutchinson, Jensen, Jerkewitz, Johnsrud, Kafert, Kedzie, Kelso, Klusman, Kreibich, Ladwig, Lasee, Lazich, Lahman, Lorge, Musser, Nass, Olsen, Ott, Otte, Owens, Powers, Rschafer, Seratti, Skindrud, Sykora, Tunderheim, Urban, Vrakas, Walker, Ward, Wieckert, Zukowski and Brancel.

Republicans Against - 1 Ourada

Democrats In Favor - 28

Baumgart, Cullen, Gonemus, Hase-nohrl, Hebl, Huber, Hubler, Kreuser, Kruskick, La Fave, Lehman, Linton, Meyer, Morris-Tatum, Plale, Plouff, Robson, Rutkowski, Ryba, Scheider, Springer, Staskunas, Steinbrink, Turner, Vander Loop, Williams, Wood, Ziegelbauer.

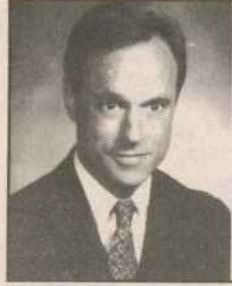
Democrats Against - 19

Baldwin, Black, Bock, Boyle, Carpenter, Coggs, Dueholm, Hanson, Krug, Kinicki, Murat, Notestein, Potter, Reynolds, Riley, Travis, Wasserman, L. Young, R. Young

Republicans Not Voting - 1 Potter

Democrats Not Voting - 0

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In Leaving the Christian Coalition, Ralph Reed May Be Jumping From a Sinking Ship

By Jack Nichols

Washington, DC—Ralph Reed is escaping his high profile in an organization, The Christian Coalition, that is mired in beetle dung. Financial contributions have fallen, two hostile factions are struggling for organizational control, and charges of tax-exempt illegalities involving Republican political contributions are shaking the Christian Coalition to its foundations.

The two fractious factions are (1.) hardcore social conservatives, religious zealots making insistent political demands injurious to the interests of the second group who are (2.) moneyed businessmen, pragmatic on their own behalf and willing to make compromises to stay politically relevant. Reed represents the pragmatists in the minds of the zealots.

To zealots, any compromise is anathema. The business-oriented faction watches further reductions in disaffected membership as zealots are lured into extremist groups like the Washington, D.C.-based Family Research Council.

Until now, the bitter divisions between these two camps have been little known outside the organization. Blatant lies, it is now believed, have been told about the Christian Coalition's inflated membership counts.

A Coalition boast which placed its membership at 1.5 million became suspect when U.S. Postal records reported in late 1995 deliveries of only 310,296 copies of *Christian American*, reportedly sent to every member who contributes \$15 or more.

The Federal Election Commission, federal prosecutors in Virginia and the U.S.

Most of the group's legislative agenda as embodied in Reed's "Contract With the American Family" has been bypassed.

Another major faction, Roman Catholics, who'd temporarily been brought under the Christian Coalition's anti-free-choice banners, have also fallen away, forming their own organizations.

Polls indicate that 40% of all evangelicals do not support The Christian Coalition.

Thus, Reed is leaving a "Christian" group stuck in legal, financial, and ideological disputes raging between its unhappy warring factions.

Senate are currently investigating this high-profile "political-religious" organization, a tax-exempt fund-raising front that is now worth \$27 million.

At the center of the prosecution's case against the Christian Coalition is Judy Liebert, its former chief financial officer. Liebert states that Reed specifically told her to hide an anonymous \$60,000 political donation from a wealthy businessman who had requested that his contribution go to Bush. Both the Christian Coalition and Reed are denying Liebert's embarrassing charges.

Clyde Wilcox, a government professor at Georgetown University who has been studying the Christian Right for over a score of years, says that its membership has peaked, and that various attempts by Reed, (such as his recently much-hyped courting of inner-city African-American children) to mainstream the politics of the Coalition have failed.

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Maine Governor Signs Bill Granting Equal Civil Rights to Lesbians and Gays

Augusta, ME—Backed by legislative supporters of the present and flanked by legislative sponsors from the past, Gov. Angus King signed a bill Friday, May 16, 1997, extending civil rights protection to Gays and Lesbians in Maine.

"It is not special rights," King said. "What we are talking about here are the most basic rights that all of us take for granted."

King's action in a ceremony in the State House Hall of Flags, concluding a two-decade push for passage, was cheered by scores of onlookers, many sporting pink carnations.

King called the occasion "a historic day for a vigorous and self-confident society."

Anticipating a potential referendum challenge to the pending law, King urged those with qualms about the measure to view it as a matter of fairness.

"We have enemies in Maine. They are poverty, disease, ignorance. They are not Gay people," said King, a political independent.

The governor urged "those who are worried, who are uneasy" to "join us in making Maine the best society we together can create."

The law would extend protections provided by the Maine Human Rights Act by prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, which hailed the enactment of the measure, Maine became the tenth state to adopt a civil rights law covering homosexuals.

New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen is expected to sign a similar bill soon.

On Tuesday, the Christian Civic League of Maine told state elections officials it intends to launch a "people's veto" campaign to block the anti-discrimination bill.

The Christian Coalition said it was joining forces with the civic league to

Experts Debate Whether Vaccine for AIDS is an Impossible Goal

Washington, DC—Medical science may never find a vaccine to protect against the AIDS virus because the infection poses unique problems that may be unsolvable, an expert says.

Although researchers have found vaccines for polio and other diseases, Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, said "nobody can say that we will (succeed) for sure" in making a vaccine against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Gallo, head of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, was a member of a panel of experts at a vaccine symposium Tuesday, May 13.

"We have to say it is a serious possibility that we will never succeed with a vaccine against HIV," Gallo said. "We have to be realistic."

Others on the panel did not specifically echo his pessimism, but Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said lack of precise scientific knowledge about HIV is the major stumbling block preventing development of an AIDS vaccine.

Fauci, whose agency takes the lead in AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health, said a "full court press" by scientists led to drugs that keep HIV in check once a person is infected. But making a vaccine to protect against the initial infection "has major stumbling blocks."

"There is still a lot of unknowns," he said.

Gallo said that the uncertainty about finding an HIV vaccine has led some peo-

ple at the World Bank to consider controlling AIDS by treating all of the world's HIV patients with the new and expensive drugs that have been shown to successfully suppress HIV.

"I had discussions with people at the World Bank who are seriously contemplating the possibility of taking the drugs and treating everybody," said Gallo. But he said the discussion was only "exploratory" and that there are no firm plans for drug treatments on such a massive scale.

Gallo said that researchers have put out "an enormous effort" to understand HIV and how it reproduces in the body.

"It is safe to say that we know more about this virus and this disease than we know about any," he said. But Gallo said there is a list of major obstacles, with no known solutions, that may prevent a vaccine from ever being developed:

There is no cheap, short-lived laboratory animal that can be infected with HIV for the testing of vaccines. Some monkeys get a form of the disease, but they are expensive, rare and develop the disease very slowly.

HIV constantly changes. Often there are a variety of HIV strains within a single patient. To be effective, a vaccine would have to protect against each strain.

The HIV virus integrates itself into the body, becoming part of the DNA in cells of the immune system. "As soon as you get infected, it starts impairing the immune system," said Gallo. "Once infec-

tion occurs, you've got it" and the immune system, which usually protects the body, is itself under attack.

To be protective, a vaccine has to prime the immune system against a microbe. "We don't know if the immune system could be primed to do that" against HIV, said Gallo.

Protection may require that every single virus in the body is killed, a trick that is not required of other vaccines. Gallo said, for instance, that polio vaccine merely represses the virus and "then it goes away," preventing an infection. It may take more than this to prevent an HIV infection, he said.

Dr. Gordon Douglas, president of Merck & Co. vaccine division, said his company made its "most expensive commitment we've ever made to any research program" to develop its protease inhibitor drug, one of the new, successful treatments for HIV.

But, he said, "on the vaccine side, the

AIDS Vaccine

Continued from Page 1

for science in the age of biology. Today, let us commit ourselves to developing an AIDS vaccine within the next decade," he said.

Clinton said to help fulfill the goal a dedicated HIV vaccine research and development center would be established at the National Institutes of Health.

Sandy Thurman, director of the White House Office of AIDS policy, said the center would be fully operational within the next several months and initially involve 40 to 50 scientists. It will add about \$17 million to AIDS spending, bringing the annual total to \$150 million, she said.

"We've had some breakthroughs in research, and so now we are looking at seizing this moment" to begin a focused effort, Thurman said.

But one AIDS group immediately criticized the president's declaration, saying the goal of finding a vaccine was not backed up with a commitment of new spending.

"This is a sham and a hoax for Clinton to compare himself to Kennedy and then put no money behind it," Wayne Turner, a spokesman for ACT-UP, said in a telephone interview. "Clinton proposed a Manhattan Project to cure AIDS in 1992. If he had started that Manhattan Project back then, we'd be well on our way to a cure now."

Clinton said also that at a summit in Denver in June, he will ask leaders of the world's other big industrial nations to support the AIDS vaccine initiative. The summit will bring together leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and Russia.

"I will enlist other nations to join us in a worldwide effort to find a vaccine to stop one of the world's greatest killers," Clinton said.

Clinton also challenged the U.S. pharmaceutical industry to increase their investment in AIDS-related research.

An AIDS vaccine should be part of the U.S. industry's "basic mission," he said.

About three million people worldwide are infected yearly with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, and an estimated 29 million people carry the virus. Without a vaccine, AIDS will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading killer disease of people 25-to-44 years of age, experts said.

Clinton chose Morgan State, which is known for its focus on science and technology, to announce the initiative to underscore his commitment to the black community, which is disproportionately affected by AIDS.

The university has an enrollment of 6,000 students, and 850 received degrees at the commencement ceremony.

investment has been pretty low." "The major issue is a lack of technical feasibility," Douglas said. "If we knew what to do or any other company knew what to do, you would have a vaccine in five years."

Letters

Continued from Page 45

Gays in Prison

TO THE EDITOR:

I hear you Mike Bender! I'm an out Gay man in prison. Unfortunately for all concerned, before I had the guts to come out, I resorted to sexual acting out with teenage boys. I don't consider myself a pedophile—I prefer men—but the Gay community has shunned me anyway.

Frequent Letters to the Editor of *The Light* are never printed. I'm a silent minority within a minority, silenced by that minority. The Gay community is as judgmental and fickle as the Fundamentalist Right.

Being in prison (since 1985), and a sex-offender and Gay, is no easy road. It's too bad that no one has so much as even acknowledged the incarcerated community. We do exist.

Good luck being heard. At least your commentary got published!

Michael Grindemann
Black River Falls, WI

A Letter to Michael

TO THE EDITOR:

This is in response to the Commentary by Michael Bender published in the April 24-May 7 issue.

Dear Michael: I hope you find the community you're looking for in Madison. I'm sure you will. Madison is a wonderful place to be Queer. There's a wide variety of things for us Queer Folk to participate in and enjoy. The people there are also diverse.

(This, however, is true no matter where you live.)

But keep this in mind. Just because you have your sexual orientation in common with others does not necessitate that you all like each other or get along. If there's one thing I've learned from being involved with Pioneers for a number of years, it's this: everyone has their own comfort level. Everyone moves along at their own pace when it comes to coming out. And the fastest way to alienate someone is to threaten their comfort level.

Living in rural Wisconsin our "community" may be harder to find, but it does exist. And because we are more isolated, when we do find each other, we need to treat one another with respect; respect for the individual and respect for their comfort level. This is good advice no matter where you live.

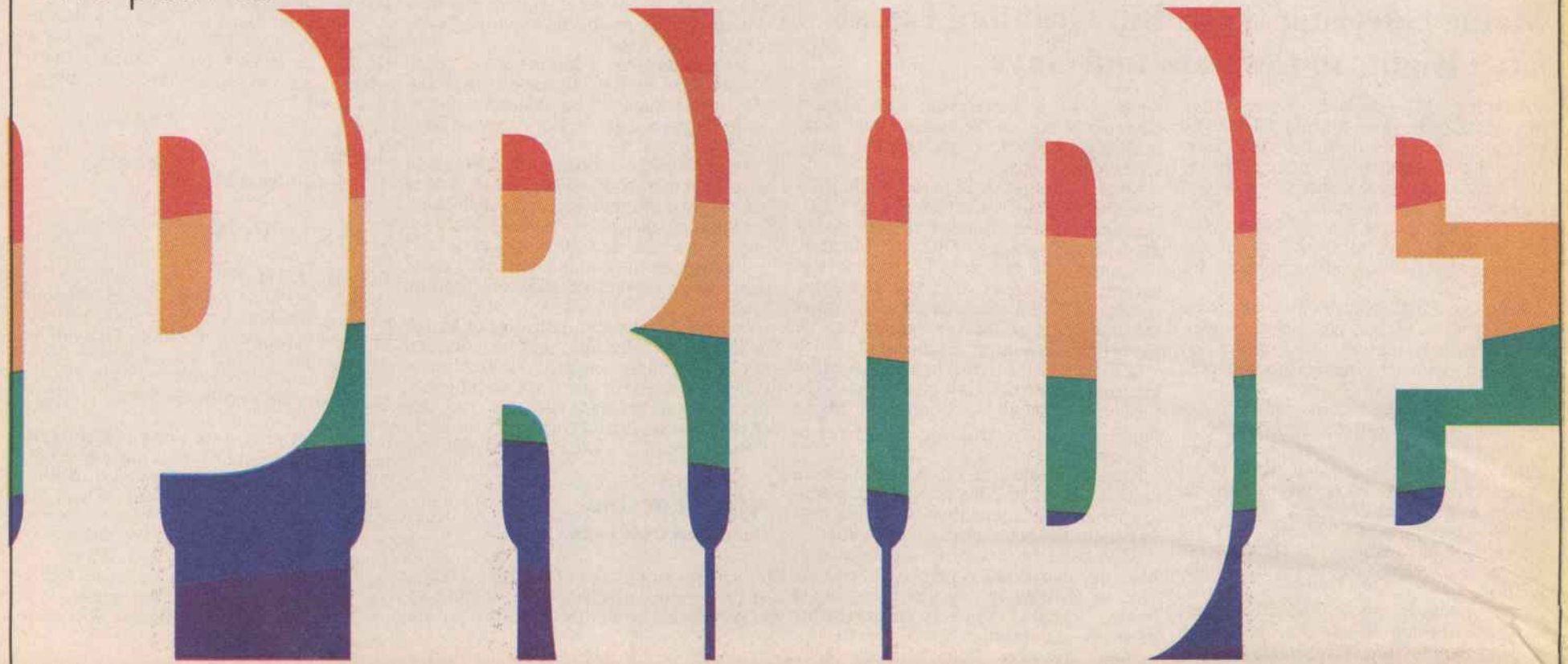
Even though the Pioneers are very low-key, we still have members whom we've never met. We hope one day they'll join us for a meeting or a social. But for some, just knowing that we're there, just the knowledge that they're not alone out here in the sticks is enough for them. And that's okay. We've all been there. We need to remember that when we're dealing with other members of our "community."

In defense of the LGB Alliance at UW-Platteville: The people I've met from that organization are very bright, energetic, and decent young people. They are our leaders of tomorrow. And I give them a lot of credit for hanging in there in a sometimes hostile environment. It's too bad when the hostility come from our own. We need to stick together, to respect and help each other. There's enough divisiveness as it is.

I hope you find the community you're looking for in the "big city," Michael. I guess rural Wisconsin is just not ready for you.

Good Luck!
Deb Meckelberg, Director, Pioneers
Richland Center, WI

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