

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



The Wisconsin Light

Coming In Next Issue: Interviews with Divine and John Waters

By Terry Boughner

Fine Line Pictures has re-released *Pink Flamingos*, directed by John Waters and starring the incomparable Divine who died in 1988.

Divine was at the height of her power when she came to Milwaukee in 1988 to perform at Club 219. Jerry and I went to her hotel to interview her.

That night, she performed and then quickly left. She was to begin taping a new TV show called "Married With Children" in which she was to play an openly Gay man.

In the next issue of *Wisconsin Light* we will be running a new and expanded version of that interview.

We will also be running an exclusive interview that I did with John Waters, Divine's good friend and director in *Pink Flamingos* as well as many of her other films.

Pink Flamingos will open at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater on Friday, June 20th.

Criticism Comes from Left and Right Wing

Congressman Neumann Blasted Over Homophobic Remarks

By Bill Meunier

Wisconsin Congressman Mark Neumann has found himself in the middle of a hail of criticism following a report of his statements to a group of Christian Coalition members in La Crosse that he wouldn't hire anyone who was openly Gay or Lesbian.

The Congressman, who is preparing a bid against Senator Russ Feingold received scathing criticism from both the left and right.

According to published reports, the Congressman, who just last April had signed a pledge not to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in his office hiring practices, told the group: "If somebody walks in to me and says 'I'm a Gay person and I want a job in our office,' I would say they wouldn't be hired because that means they are promoting their agenda."

Neumann added, "The Gay and Lesbian lifestyle (is) unacceptable, lest there be any question about that."

While saying that he doesn't ask job applicants about their sexual orientation, Neumann said "I don't ask a whole bunch of questions. A sin is a sin in God's eyes."

The remarks by the Southeast Wisconsin Congressman brought him an unwelcome public spotlight. They also brought to the forefront a little known article featuring Neumann in the *New York Times Magazine*.

The article printed on November 3rd of last year quotes Neumann as saying "If I was elected God for a day, homosexuality wouldn't be permitted."

Outraged officials contacted by *The Wisconsin Light* were uniformly critical of Neumann's remarks.

Please See Neumann Page 10

Extremist Religious Right Tries to Launch Anti-Gay Campaign

Washington, DC--Several major pro-family groups launched an ad campaign Wednesday, May 28th, by placing an open letter to American Airlines Chief Executive Officer Robert Crandall in the *Washington Times*, the *Allen American*, the *Plano Star-Courier*, the *Louisville Leader* and several other papers. *USA Today*, as well as the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* refused to carry the ad.

The ad outlines American's support of homosexuality through discount fares for homosexual partners, sponsorship of "Gay pride" events and all-night "circuit parties," designation as official carrier of a Gay schoolteachers group, and donations to partisan homosexual activist groups such as the Human Rights Campaign and Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), both of which have labeled pro-family organizations as "extremist" and "bigoted."

The letter is signed by Gary L. Bauer of the Family Research Council, D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association, Beverly LaHaye of Concerned Women for America, and Richard Land of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The groups collectively represent more than 20 million Americans.

"American is free to market their services in any way they see fit," said Robert Knight, FRC's Director of Cultural Studies. "They are also free to support homosexual activism. But we are free to alert the American people to their agenda and

Please Turn to Extremists Page 7

State HIV Test Disclosure Up for Public Hearing

Madison-- A bill that would allow a physician to disclose test results of someone exposed to the AIDS virus is scheduled for a legislative hearing.

In a modification of rules that protect a patient's confidentiality, the legislation would allow a doctor to provide the information to someone with whom the patient has had a sexual relation.

It also would let a doctor provide the information to people who share intravenous drug use with the patient.

Assembly Bill 280 would alter state law which currently allows a doctor to disclose such information only after the person who tested for the AIDS-causing HIV virus has died.

The bill is scheduled for a public hearing Tuesday at 1 p.m. before the Assembly Health Committee in room 417 North of the State Capitol.

Milwaukee Presbytery Becomes First To Oppose Church Ban on Gay Ministers

Milwaukee--The Milwaukee Presbytery was the first regional body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to oppose the national group's recent ban on ordaining Gays, but one official said what the move means is anybody's guess.

The Presbyterian Church voted in March to make its ban on the ordination of homosexuals part of church law.

The ban got the majority it needed with approvals from regional bodies in Miami and Charlotte, N.C. The Book of Order, the church's constitution, will be changed to require chastity of single ministers.

"It says to the country that Presbyterians are committed to reaffirming their biblical center for faith and practice," the Rev. Jack Haberer said at the time. He was a moderator of The Presbyterian Coalition, a group favoring the amendment.

But the Milwaukee Presbytery, a regional group of 51 congregations with more than 15,000 members, approved a "covenant of dissent" by a 2-1 margin on the matter Tuesday, May 27.

The Rev. Carl Simon, parliamentarian for the Milwaukee Presbytery, said he does not know what the covenant of dissent will lead to. Although the covenant clearly went against the constitution of the church, "simply to advocate civil disobedience is not wrong."

Fred Jenkins, of the national church's of-



Jerry Johnson

ARCOW Says thanks! Their motto is "The Quiet Company," but the employees at Northwest Mutual made a lot of noise at last year's AIDS Walk Wisconsin. The Northwest Mutual team won the first place team award for raising \$15,581. Shown above at the award presentation (L-R) are Doug Nelson from ARCOW, and Michael Youngman and Scott Wallace from Northwest Mutual. Nelson said that the Milwaukee based company, which is one of the largest life insurance companies in the world has shown "great leadership" in the fight against AIDS.

MAP Rent Assistance Provides \$250,000 To Prevent Homelessness

Milwaukee -- As the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS continue to increase, many services offered by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), such as housing, food and transportation, are being accessed by a record number of consumers. One such service, the Rent Assistance Program, operated by MAP's Housing Department, provided over 350 consumers with \$250,000 in rent assistance during 1996.

Of the 350 individuals who accessed the service, approximately 80 percent were single and the other 20 percent were families.

"The Rent Assistance Program is critical to persons with HIV and AIDS," said Neil Albrecht, ARCOW's deputy director of programs. "In many instances, rent assistance is needed by individuals who are no longer able to work and earn income, but are in a six month waiting period to begin receiving Social Security benefits."

"We also work extensively with families who are homeless," continued Albrecht. "First, we locate housing that is long-term, safe and affordable, then we can offer the family a security deposit, three months of rent assistance and utility assistance."

The Rent Assistance Program, which is funded through state and private sources, was started in 1992 to help people with AIDS avoid homelessness when they were unable to continue working, had excessive medical bills or were on unpaid medical leaves from their employment. In the program's first year, MAP provided \$75,000 in rent assistance. The \$250,000 provided in 1996 reflects an increase of more than 300 percent over a four year period.

"In 1996," said Albrecht "we were able to offer six months of assistance. However, this year we are seeing a reduction in the government's Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) funding at a time when the need has never been greater. Subsequently, we have had to reduce the amount of assistance we provide from six months to three months."

Despite the reduction in the number of months a consumer may receive assistance, the demand on the service is already exceeding projections for 1997.

"The number of people needing this type of assistance, both MAP consumers and persons receiving services from other community-based organizations, is staggering. In March alone, we provided nearly \$24,000 in assistance," Albrecht said. "It is an essential program for the HIV/AIDS community. Without it, many people would not have the necessary housing and stability in their lives to focus on their health, particularly with the new treatments that are available. For many people, this program provides them with a place to call home and an opportunity to fight the disease."

fic in Louisville, Kentucky, said the Milwaukee Presbytery is the first regional group of congregations to inform the denomination it had adopted such a dissenting covenant.

The change to the Presbyterian Book of Order, adopted in March, said, in part: "Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders or ministers of the Word and Sacrament."

The Rev. John Gregg, a retired minister who is a member of the Milwaukee Presbytery's Advocacy Committee, was among those opposing the change.

"We think that the amendment itself is out of order," he said.

"There are so many things in the historical confessions that are described as sinful, including having a picture of Jesus in your home, that the amendment opens any number of doors to challenge ordination."

But Jenkins said the national church body had warned dissenting congregations in a letter that the covenant might subject them to legal action in church courts.

The Rev. Phil Brown, Milwaukee's executive presbyter, said he had voted against the covenant and had asked that his opposition be recorded. But he declined to comment further.

News From The Nation



Gay Officer Files Suit Against National Guard

San Francisco-AP- A class-action lawsuit accuses the California National Guard of violating state law by discharging Gay guard members. The suit claims that because the California Army National Guard is a state agency, it is bound by state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

First Lt. Andrew Holmes, who was discharged in 1995 after he told his commanding officer he is Gay, filed the suit in San Francisco Superior Court. The suit said it represents all guard members who are still serving but must hide their sexuality for fear of discharge.

It asks that a court order require all National Guard officers discharged because they are Gay be reinstated with back pay.

"In bringing this suit, I hope to end discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians who are serving their state and country as members of the California National Guard," Holmes said in a statement.

Man Gets Probation for Shooting at Gay Bar

Somerset, PA-AP- A Wyoming man agreed to enter a quick-plea program for firing a gun during his confrontation with protesters at a Gay bar.

Craig Marple, 37, of Green River, Wyoming, will serve two years of probation in Wyoming.

Prosecutors said Marple fired a shot into a hillside April 26 during an argument outside the Casa Nova in Boswell, about 40 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

The bar has attracted numerous anti-Gay protesters and the Ku Klux Klan since opening earlier this year. A preacher agreed to stop his demonstrations and began giving sermons at the Casa Nova earlier this month.

Marple had been charged with reckless endangerment and a weapons count. He agreed with prosecutors to enter Somerset County Court's quick-plea program. Once he serves his term, his record will be cleared.

Gay Activists Protest United Airlines

San Francisco-AP- Gay activists are protesting the airline's refusal to comply with a law requiring domestic partner benefits for companies doing business with the city.

Several companies — from Bank of America to the San Francisco 49ers — have complied with the city law, which applies to benefits for Gay or heterosexual couples who are registered as domestic partners.

United and a coalition of 24 other airlines, through the Washington-based Air Transport Association, have filed a lawsuit to protest the law.

Members of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club are calling for a boycott of United. They say airline officials privately told members of San Francisco's Gay community they would offer the benefits.

United officials say they promised to review the city ordinance. In a statement issued Saturday, Chicago-based United officials said they are deciding whether to offer the benefits, separate from the San Francisco law.

Troy Perry Condemns Proposed Alabama Law

Los Angeles—A proposed law before the Alabama state legislature has kindled the ire of Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). On June 1, he condemned the "unconstitutional religious bigotry" of SB-1, a bill that has come before the Alabama State Senate in each of the last two sessions.

The bill provides a \$1,000 fine for any clergyman who officiates at a wedding for a same-sex couple.

"Let me be very clear," Perry said. "The day any such bill passes the Alabama legislature, I will be on a plane for Montgomery where I will invite all of our UFMCC pastors, as well as enlightened clergy from any other faith community, to join me on the steps of the Alabama Capitol for the largest mass wedding for the Gay community ever seen in Alabama."

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Roger Bedford.

"I find myself amazed that an elected official who is sworn to uphold the Constitution would endorse and introduce legislation that so obviously violates the separation of church and state," Perry said. "I will serve time in jail before I will allow the government to dictate our religious practices."

Florida's Same-Sex Marriage Ban Becomes Law

Tallahassee, FL-AP- Marriage in Florida will remain a bond between a man and a woman, even if other states should recognize Gay marriages, under a bill Gov. Lawton Chiles will let become law.

"This issue should not be decided by the action of another state—it should be addressed by Floridians," Chiles said in a statement issued by his office. "I hope that my decision is not the end of the debate, but the beginning of a dialogue."

Under the new law that takes effect Thursday, June 5, Florida will not recognize same-sex marriages allowed in other states.

No state allows Gay marriages. But the state Supreme Court of Hawaii may approve such unions in the future.

The governor said the bill does not limit the ability of companies to give benefits to Gay partners but does protect Florida's right to make its own decision about allowing Gay marriages.

"I believe that, by and large, most Floridians are tolerant and will one day come to view a broader range of domestic partnerships as an acceptable part of life," Chiles wrote in a public statement about his decision.

"But that is not the case today."

Portsmouth Priest Comes Out to Congregation

Portsmouth, NH-AP- Rev. Robert Stiefel had become known in the community as priest of "the church of the open door," a priest who welcomed Gay men and Lesbians and battled prejudice against them.

So Stiefel said it was only right that he be open with his parishioners at Christ Episcopal Church and his colleagues about his own homosexuality.

So at services Sunday morning, May 25, the 55-year-old priest told his church community he was Gay. "Life in the closet is profoundly debilitating. I know because I have endured it for some 50 years."

Before the service, Stiefel and his wife, Jennifer, who is the church deacon, sent out a letter to the congregation saying they had built a good marriage over 27 years.

But the letter also spoke of the pain and confusion Stiefel and his wife coped with as they tried several methods offered by the church and modern psychiatry to "cure" his sexual orientation.

"Before we decided to get married, I told Jennifer I was Gay," Stiefel said. "But we were young — what did we know? I had been trying since early childhood to be the best 'straight' little boy in the world."

Soon after he married, Stiefel enrolled in an experimental program offered by Harvard Medical School for men who hoped to be cured of their homosexuality.

For three years, he went to weekly sessions of individual and group therapy, and one winter he underwent electric shock treatments five times a week. It didn't work, and neither did anything else he tried over the next 20 years.

"The resources that the society and the church offered us were misguided and hurtful," Jennifer Stiefel said. "Through all of this, I came to understand and to feel, more and more deeply, how Robert was struggling, both to affirm our relationship and to find and accept his own center."

The Stiefels said they will separate soon and divorce by next year.

Gay Rights Bill Comes Back to Life in Oregon

Salem, OR-AP- Softening his opposition to a Gay-rights measure, Senate President Brady Adams says he will allow an alternate version of the bill to proceed through the Senate. Adams, (R-Grants Pass), had steadfastly refused to allow changes to the House measure that would have increased its chances of passage in the Senate. The bill easily was approved in the House, but it has languished in the Senate Livability Committee.

The original bill, HB3719, bans employer discrimination against workers on the basis of sexual orientation. It was introduced by Portland Rep. Chuck Carpenter, the Legislature's only openly Gay Republican, who joined Democrats to maneuver the bill through the House to a resounding 40-20 victory.

Two main concerns arose from the bill: that it didn't include a "loser pays" provision to prevent frivolous lawsuits against employers; and that it was ambiguous about which religious organizations could be exempted by the law.

During debate on the House floor, Carpenter assured lawmakers the problems would be worked out in the Senate, but Adams said the bill had to remain in its original form.

Brown's forthcoming bill contains language addressing the two main concerns, Adams said.

That would make it almost identical to the revised bill Carpenter promised. Carpenter has said his bill, with the necessary amendments, would have enough votes to pass the Republican-controlled Senate. He said all 10 Democrats and seven Republicans are lined up in support of the measure.

Court Sides With State in Gay Case

Atlanta-AP- In a key Gay rights case, a federal appeals court has ruled that the Georgia attorney general did not break the law when he withdrew a job offer to a Lesbian planning to marry another woman.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Mike Bowers had the right to reject any employee whose conduct he believed might be at odds with his positions and undermine his credibility with the public.

The 8-4 decision released Friday, May 30, drew immediate criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union, which is considering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bowers, who has resigned to run for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, said he was pleased. Bowers was the one who defended the state's anti-sodomy law before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986.

Clergy Criticize Promise Keepers

Kansas City, MO-AP- A group of Kansas City clergy on Friday, May 30 criticized organizers of the Promise Keeper rallies as right-wing political activists, with repressive attitudes toward homosexuals and women.

The Rev. Susan Helm-Davis of Hillside Christian Church said the Promise Keepers view submission of women to men as honorable. Relationships are "more like an employer-employee" or "slave-master," she said.

Helm-Davis spoke at a news conference earlier Friday with three other local clergy, who said they wanted to divulge what they called the truth about the Promise Keepers.

"They are talking about keeping Gays in the closet and women in the kitchen," said the Rev. John Swomley, pastor at United Methodist Church.

The information the clergy presented in Kansas City is not true, Dave Townsend, a Promise Keepers spokesman, said in a telephone interview. Promise Keepers urge men to honor their spouses just as women are urged to honor their husbands.

Townsend said the Promise Keepers don't endorse Gay and Lesbians relationships but do not pass judgment on Gays and Lesbians.

"What they discuss in these accountability groups is very alarming," Swomley said. "They use the Bible in very dangerous ways, using only portions of the Bible that they support."

Mass Same-Sex Wedding Not Illegal

Bozeman, MT-AP- A wedding ceremony for Gay and Lesbian couples planned June 8 during the Pride! weekend in Bozeman does not violate the Montana law against same-sex marriages, two lawyers say.

"Anybody can have any kind of a ceremony they want," said Holly Franz of Helena, one of two lawyers who argued before the Supreme Court to overturn Montana's deviate sexual contact law. The case is pending.

However, she noted that the state will not recognize it as a valid marriage, and those participating will not have the legal rights of married couples.

Assistant Attorney General Clay Smith of Helena said the ceremony is "probably protected speech under the First Amendment."

The mass wedding is planned for 11 a.m. June 8. The ceremony is part of the Pride! celebration June 6-8, when an estimated 500 Gays and Lesbians are expected to gather in Bozeman.

However, a local Baptist minister said the weddings are illegal and represent a belligerent attitude on the part of the Gay and Lesbian community. Gays and Lesbians are acting "against the laws of God," he said.

University Prexy Accused of Raping Cop

Harare, Zimbabwe-AP- Former President Canaan Banana, under investigation for alleged homosexual rape of a police aide, has been fired from his teaching post at Zimbabwe's main university, the official news agency reported Thursday.

Banana, 61, a Methodist minister, academic and professor of classical studies, theology and philosophy, was relieved of his post at the Harare university and cleared out his desk earlier this month, the Zimbabwe Inter African News Agency reported.

Banana has refused to comment on allegations by former Police Inspector Jesta Dube that he was raped and forced into homosexual acts while on Banana's presidential staff.

Banana became non-executive president after independence in 1980. Robert Mugabe, then prime minister and the nation's only black ruler, became executive president in 1987. Banana received a pension and diplomatic and tutorial assignments from the government.

Police have said students, soccer players from a team sponsored by Banana and soldiers have come forward with reports of homosexual abuse by the former head of state.

Banana's predatory homosexuality was rumored long before Mugabe launched an outspoken campaign against Gays two years ago, describing homosexuals as "lower than dogs and pigs."

The ex-president is married with four adult children.

Maine Governor Tries to Stop Referendum

Augusta, ME-AP- Gov. Angus King will ask Gay-rights opponents to back away from their plan to challenge the civil rights bill he signed May 16.

King asked if he could meet with leaders of the Christian Civic League of Maine on June 6 at their headquarters in Augusta to make his case against the group's plan use the "people's veto" to overturn the law.

The governor will urge the civic league to drop its opposition to the law, or at least delay an attempt to repeal it for several years, to see how the law works.

The bill to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations takes effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns. State law already outlaws bias based on several other criteria, such as age, race, gender and physical handicaps.

"I appreciate the fact that he is talking to us," said Michael Heath, executive director of the civic league. But he said the group is unlikely to abandon its opposition to Gay rights because King asks it to do so.

The league will make a final decision on whether to seek a public vote no later than June 13, he said.

Sheriff's Chaplain Quits Over Lesbian Bigotry

San Rafael, CA-AP- A Novato minister who quit a ministers group after learning that a member is a Lesbian has resigned his post as a Marin County sheriff's chaplain.

The Rev. W. Lee Grady's resignation has been attributed to comments he made about homosexuality.

"My appeal to the ministers is, 'Don't let this split us up.' Satan is certainly an ace at doing that," Grady told the Marin Independent Journal last week in regard to the Novato Ministerial Association. "This lady, if she were living a clean life, my goodness, she would be welcome like all of us."

Sheriff Robert Doyle said that, if Grady had not resigned, he would have been removed from the program.

Yes, I Am A Gay Teen, Damn It. Do You Have a Problem With That?

Charlotte, NC—Tamara Fry felt shut in. Coming out meant telling the world she's Lesbian.

It meant telling her father, a Baptist minister. It meant she could lose school friends, be shunned by family members and condemned by the church.

"I knew I was different from the other kids," Fry said. "I needed to tell somebody."

In Mecklenburg County, one private agency provides emotional support for LGBT teen-agers, Time Out Youth. At their weekly meetings, Gay teen-agers are free to speak their minds, get advice and, at least for 90 minutes, be themselves.

In North Carolina, individual school systems can develop their health education curriculum, as long as it meets state requirements for heterosexual based "family living" education.

When the county's health education curriculum was approved by school officials in 1994-95, an advisory group recommended that homosexuality, masturbation and abortion be excluded from classroom discussions and counseling sessions.

"It's what the community wants," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools health specialist John Stoner. "Most of North Carolina has taken a conservative stance."

"If a kid asks a question about one of those three issues, we can give a simple definition and tell them to talk to a parent. If talking to a parent doesn't help, we can refer the parent and child, if they ask, to a school nurse. The parent should be the number one resource for the child."

Time Out Youth Executive Director Tonda Taylor has asked school officials to train guidance counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists to work with LGBT students. She also wants information about sexual orientation included in the health education curriculum.

"The omission of homosexuality from the public school curriculum just adds to the pain," Taylor said. "It's saying these youth don't exist."

The Rev. Joe Mulligan of St. Luke Catholic Church chaired the Interfaith Advisory Committee two years ago. Mulligan said Time Out Youth is filling the void "until more work is done. But the tenor of the community is such that it will be a knock-down, drag-out fight" to bring about a measure of acceptance and understanding. Mulligan said schools and churches should take part.

"We're at a crossroads in Charlotte," he said. "People need to have a better understanding. How this gets done will take a fair amount of diplomacy and wisdom."

When Fry realized at age 13 she was Lesbian, she coped by hiding behind her acerbic wit.

"In the eighth grade when girls were chasing boys, I was beating them up," said Fry, now a 22-year-old journalism student at Central Piedmont Community College.

Her family dismissed her behavior as tomboyish. Fry tried hard to conform.

"Once, I hung a poster of General Ulysses S. Grant on my bedroom door so I'd have some guy to point to and say 'isn't he cute?'"

She cautiously nudged open the closet door at age 17. The first ray of light came in the form of a flier about Time Out Youth.

"The first time I said it out loud, that I was a Lesbian, I was sobbing on someone's shoulder, but the feeling was wonderful," Fry said. "Sure, I've had to put up with the 'butch' and 'dyke' remarks, but I was ready to kick anybody's butt who laid a hand on me."

Time Out Youth members talked during a recent meeting about physical violence and mental harassment they face.

A 17-year-old said he was suspended for lashing out at a student who called him "faggot."

"The teacher said my presence in the class was disruptive," he said. "I get pushed, thumped on the head and called names when I walk down the hall. Some teachers will stop it and some will just look away."

An 18-year-old has a standard reply for those who call him derogatory names. He stops, stares and proclaims "Yes, I am Gay. Do you have a problem with that?"

Coming out is always a hot topic. How one goes about it varies, Fry said. For some, it's being honest with themselves. For others, it's telling friends and family, or going out in public with a partner.

What Gay teens fear most, according to Charlotte psychotherapist Jim Green, is the isolation.

"They hear it at home, at school, everywhere that being Gay is wrong," Green said. "They become depressed and withdrawn. Some turn to drugs and alcohol."

Parents suffer too, Green said. Desperate couples have gone to Green with children who said they were Gay.

"Some parents want me to change the child," Green said. "I tell them it can't be done. You can't turn a Gay person into a straight one. Some parents accept this, others will take their child to someone else."

"People just don't realize how difficult it is to be a young, Gay person," Green said. "In time, society will learn how to deal with its young, Gay people."

Some teens can't handle the pain and eventually commit suicide, he said. Green knows because of letters left behind or confessions to friends. And there are other painful results.

Fry has barely spoken to her parents in four years. She knows Gay teen-agers who dropped out of high school.

Some found their way to Time Out Youth. Founded by Taylor in 1990, the group has about 40 members ages 13 to 23. It's a nonprofit organization funded by private donations.

The group has blended into a supportive family unit.

Many of the teen-agers plan to flee Charlotte upon graduation. They want to live in cities like New York and San Francisco where the Gay communities are more accepted.

Fry says she won't leave. "To leave would almost be a cop-out," she says.

SEWAP to Hold Seventh Annual Benefit Cruise and Raffle

Kenosha, WI—The annual fundraising twilight cocktail cruise on Lake Geneva will again set sail from the Riviera Docks in downtown Lake Geneva, this year on Saturday, June 21st. The announcement was made by the Cruise Steering Committee of the Southeastern Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP), the agency serving Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth Counties that sponsors the event.

Again this year, the seventh year SEWAP has presented the fundraiser, the cruise will be aboard the elegant paddle-wheel excursion boat "Lady of the Lake," a replica of the historic excursion boats that sailed Lake Geneva a century ago.

The annual fundraising cruise has been highly successful for SEWAP, last year grossing over \$20,000 to be used to support AIDS care and prevention services in Southeast Wisconsin. The three-hour excursion, which is priced at \$45 per person, is highlighted by entertainment, an array of hors d'oeuvres, an on-board auction, and ample time to view the stately and historic mansions that surround the lake.

Raffle

Again this year, the cruise will be preceded by a raffle with the winning raffle tickets being drawn during the cruise.

Prizes that include airline tickets to anywhere in the continental US, and a complete above-ground swimming pool are being offered. These and other generous prizes have been offered by businesses throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

Grand Prize is a pair of round trip tickets on American Airlines to anywhere they fly in the US.

First Prize is a 21 foot Delaire, above ground swimming pool provided by Water Warehouse of Kenosha.

Third Prize is a carved jadeite pendant set in 14K gold, courtesy of China West Gems in Lake Geneva. Jadeite is the most choice cut of the jade, and the carved pendant is valued at \$600.

Other prizes include a two night package from the Abby in Fontana valued at \$450, and a night for two in the honeymoon suite of Milwaukee's Park East Hotel.

Funds from the raffle and cruise support AIDS care and prevention services. Raffle tickets are \$3 each, five for \$10 or ten for \$15.

Information on where to purchase both cruise and raffle tickets may be obtained from SEWAP by calling 1-800-924-6601 or 1-414-657-6644.

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Editorial

Recall in Wisconsin

At its inception, the idea behind a political recall was a good one. If a politician was engaged in some sort of nefarious or illegal activity, concerned citizens could mount a drive to force whoever it was to face the electorate before the regularly scheduled election. As we understand the recall, it was to be used sparingly and only after the most serious consideration and debate.

Things seem to have changed, at least in Wisconsin. Now, the recall is being used as punishment for a vote. As to the Republican Party's support of this recall, we think there is more political opportunism and expediency than anything else.

We have said over and over again in this paper that we come close to counting on the fingers of one hand the politicians we respect. Senator Russ Feingold is at the top of that list. We did not endorse him in the primary when first he ran. However, we have since learned to respect him highly, very highly indeed.

Senator Feingold is, sadly, a rara avis among political leaders. He is a man of conviction, a man of great honesty, a man of integrity, who does not blow this way or that with the popular wind.

That being said, regardless of your stand on partial birth abortion—and whether you agree or disagree with Senator Feingold's vote on the issue, to mount a recall against him on the basis of that vote is, we believe, not only silly and involving unnecessary expense, but dangerous to our country's political health and governmental stability.

Let us not get into the issue here of whether the people of a state can recall a federal official. Let us only say that we have elections, regularly scheduled elections, during which people can raise any issue they want and vote for who pleases them. An election is the time to call any politician to account—not now.

It is our belief that Senator Feingold is one of the finest political leaders this state has seen. Let him be judged on his whole record at the time of a regular election. In our opinion, this recall effort should be dismissed for what it is: frivolous.

On Congressman Neumann

Congressman Mark Neumann's remarks on Gays quoted in June 2nd's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* are both wrong and a mistake.

While his position on discrimination on hiring based on sexual orientation may not be clear, it is, perhaps irrelevant now. What is relevant is that he is wrong, very wrong, to demean and degrade a whole people the way he did.

It is wrong, very wrong contribute to the hatred, bigotry and violence directed against us as Congressman Neumann has done. He, and others, can deny culpability, but what he—and they—don't realize is that others, many others, unfortunately, will take Neumann's words as a license to bash.

The way the "thinking" goes is thus: *A Congressman, a political leader, said in the paper that Gays were unacceptable (read "no good"), that means we can kick their teeth in. Let's go get the dykes and kill the queers.*

Or another way: a teen struggles with her or his sexuality. Whoever it is reads Neumann's words, *I'm a sinner*, the kid thinks. *Congressman Neumann said God hates me.* And what happens? The suicide rate among LBTG teens is among the highest in the land.

The Congressman may deny his responsibility, but the fact remains it is not reality that most often determines thought and behavior, as it is the perception of reality.

We would like to ask the Congressman if he has ever been called filthy names for being who he is? Has the Congressman ever feared for his safety—or his life—because of who he is? Has the Congressman ever thought that one of his children might be Gay? What then, Congressman? What then?

We would like to tell the Congressman that if we were applying for employment in his office, we might indeed, tell him we are Gay. Why? Because being in the closet is a hell of a life. Better to get the truth out than to live, sweat-drenched in fear that it will be found out.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," someone once said, "for they will be called the children of God." The Congressman should reflect on that.

Finally, what the Congressman said was a mistake, perhaps a grave one. In this state, as in the U.S. as a whole, the majority vote tends to go to those who occupy the middle ground. By his remarks, Congressman Neumann has placed himself well away from the center. He has given proof that he is in the camp of the Far Right Wing. Not a good place to be, Congressman, not if you want to win elections, it isn't.

Editor's Note

Why I Am Not Proud

By Terry Boughner

Remember your first time? I remember mine all too well. It was 1969, August. I had driven to Baltimore on some matter or another and found I had an evening free. This was it, I thought. This is the time I'm going to do it. There was only one problem, I didn't know where any Gay bars were—or even if there were any in the city.

On East Baltimore Street, there was a magazine shop, the kind with sticky floors. I bought a newspaper. It wasn't Gay, but even so, I was scared out of my mind that the clerk would know exactly what I wanted the paper for. He couldn't have cared less. I gave him my money and scurried out.

In the back of the paper, I found what I was looking for. It was a bar called Mary's on Cathedral Street. I drove there, found it and parked five blocks away.

I mean, it was still daylight. Everyone who saw me would know what I was doing there, wouldn't they? Didn't I have my name and address written on my forehead?

Finally, I plucked up whatever gumption I had, went up to the door and slipped inside. Down the stairs I went. To my absolute amazement, what I found was—a bar. It looked exactly like any bar I'd ever seen. There were men sitting around. They were talking, that's all, talking in low, conversational tones, chatting over beers or drinks.

I ordered a beer and found to my surprise (and consternation) that, far from being importuned or hustled, no one was paying any attention to me at all.

Eventually, that evening, I got to know some people, and I've been to a lot of Gay bars since, but never will I forget that first time, going to Mary's. I was scared, very scared. What if I met someone who knew

me? (I told whoever I met that I was from Cleveland, thinking that if I mentioned Pittsburgh, I'd be pinpointed exactly.)

Fast forward almost 30 years. Jerry and I were driving down Wisconsin Avenue this past week. There, on a number of the lamp posts were Rainbow Flags, beautiful Rainbow Flags, fluttering in the wind, and I remembered going to Mary's that night.

There were no Rainbow Flags flying anywhere then (at least as far as I remember). I'd have been hard put to find a Gay newspaper. Equal rights laws were only a misty dream, while domestic partnership and same-sex marriage weren't even thought of when I slipped into Mary's that night.

I remembered all that when I saw those flags flying over Milwaukee's streets. I felt—what?—Pride? No, that's not the word for it, despite its use.

After all, I was born with brown hair. I was born with other characteristics. I like those things, but I'm not "proud" of them. I didn't have anything to do with them, any more than I had anything to do with my being Gay. I was born Gay, I am Gay, and I have always been Gay. That's it.

What I am is happy, happy to see those flags, happy that there are Pride celebrations now around the world, happy that in the last nearly three decades since I went to Mary's, people who have been born like me, LGBT people, have stood up.

Yes, we have battles to fight, lots and lots more battles on our road to freedom, but, by God, we have stood in ways I could never have imagined at Mary's that night.

What those Rainbow Flags mean to me is that even with all that still lies ahead of us, we will never, ever bow our heads again.

The feeling I have because of that is not pride. It's happiness, confidence, pleasure,

joy and, yes, relief.

It is so good to be free. Even partial freedom is better than none. It is so good, it feels so good, to be marching down the road to liberation instead of slipping into Mary's as I did.

Letters

Barb Notestein

TO THE EDITOR:

I enjoyed Bill Meunier's coverage of the Assembly debate of AB104. As I watched the proceedings from the gallery, I, too, was dismayed to see the number of elected officials who sat silently in their chairs, refusing to speak out against this hateful, unnecessary bill. One notable exception was Milwaukee State Representative, Barb Notestein.

During her floor speech, Barb expressed outrage at the vicious comments expressed by the bill's supporters at the public hearing in Wausau. She criticized the Republican committee members for their failure to condemn the suggestions of violence and killing.

She chastised the Right Wing's "slippery slope" theory, the idea that Wisconsin would see an increase in polygamy and incest if AB104 did not pass.

In Barb's words, "...the real agenda, the real slippery slope, is the slippery slope of hatred and intolerance. It is the slippery slope of bigotry that is the agenda of the radical right, the intolerant right. These are the people who would tell us all how to live. These are the people who would teach us all to fear. These are the people who would teach us all how to hate."

Milwaukee Gays and Lesbians who are her constituents and all of us across the state who care about civil rights, should be thankful the legislature still includes some members like Barb Notestein who aren't afraid to speak out against bigotry and hatred.

Margaret McMurray
Milwaukee
Former President of NOW

Mark Neumann

TO THE EDITOR:

I write regarding my colleague Mark Neumann's pronouncement that he would not hire openly Gay people to work in his office, as reported in the June 2, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

On Mr. Neumann's first day in Congress in 1995, the House passed the Congressional Accountability Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. This historic legislation which is now the law of the land, simply requires Congress to abide by the laws which it imposes on the public.

Because Wisconsin law prohibits discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation, Congressman Neumann is ignoring Wisconsin law, and the spirit of the Congressional Accountability Act with his office policy. In doing so, Mr. Neumann is sending a message to the people of Wisconsin that he holds his federal office here in Wisconsin above state law. That is wrong.

Discrimination, whether it is based on the color of one's skin, gender, religion, or sexual orientation, is wrong. That is Wisconsin law, and the members of our state's Congressional delegation should live by the same law that 5 million Wisconsin residents follow.

Rep. Tom Barrett
Congressman, 5th District
Milwaukee

The Pink Triangle

TO THE EDITOR:

The article, "The Pink Triangle" (May 22, 1997, issue) shared a compelling and horrifying story of death, love and the choice that one man made at Dachau. Your writer touches on a very important issue: the grave significance of the Pink Triangle and all that it symbolizes. Although I understand the initiative of the article and respect the writer's urgency to call our attention to this symbol, I must also remind others of the large responsibility we have, not only to this symbol—but to the meaning of it.

Klaus Muller, the Holocaust Museum's appointed historian for Nazi persecution of homosexuals, reminds us that symbols have a way of losing their meaning as they are absorbed into consumer culture. I agree. Too often I see the Pink Triangle used as clip art or as an advertising tool.

Most Gay men and Lesbians in Europe, especially Germany, will not wear Pink Triangles because they often become (in part) a fashion statement that trivializes the death camp experience. Some argue that it represents the idea of "never again," while others argue it represents the continued struggle of Gays and Lesbians today. Although I respect these arguments, it concerns me that many forget (or do not know) the meaning. I believe we must be responsible in how we choose to appropriate this symbol.

It is certainly a question of debate as to whether or not we can share this symbol with our own victimization. Does the discrimination

and harassment of the present equate the horror and the suffering of homosexuals during the Nazi regime?

Although we do hear rhetoric from the Far Right that has more than a hint of "uberlegenheit" to it, we should always be careful when drawing similarities to our lives today with

Please See Letters Page 11

Deadlines

June 19th Issue

Articles Friday, June 13th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—June 13th

Camera Ready—June 17th

5:00 p.m.

July 3rd Issue

Articles—June 27th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—June 27th

Camera Ready—June 30th

5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Window Corporation Combines Forces With Leading Gay Activist, David Mixner

Washington, DC—Window Corp., a Washington, DC-based public relations and marketing firm, has announced its affiliation with corporate and political strategist David Mixner and his firm, DBM Associates, as part of Window's expansion into California.



DAVID MIXNER

Mixner, an openly Gay man, has long championed the civil rights of Gay people. He has been in the forefront of leadership in raising money to expand research into the Gay Holocaust at the Holocaust Museum. He is a long-time friend of President Bill Clinton, but broke with Clinton over the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for Gays in the military.

"This new development, combined with my full-time return to Window, powers us up for top-notch service to clients," said William Waybourn, president of Window Corp.

Waybourn founded Window Corp., in 1995, after stepping down as founding executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. As part of Waybourn's client service to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), Waybourn served as Managing Director of the media watchdog group for the last two years. Waybourn will work full-time to market Window's expertise to corporations and organizations wishing to reach the powerful Gay and Lesbian market.

"Ellen proved that corporate America has everything to gain and nothing to lose, in reaching out to Gay and Lesbian consumers," Mixner said on the recent ABC episode which both swept ratings and sold out all advertising spots. "The economic power of the community is not to be underestimated by either corporations or the community itself."

Waybourn's Window Corp capitalized on that corporate interest in the Gay market on behalf of GLAAD. At recent media awards dinners in Los Angeles, New York and Washington, DC, the group garnered the largest corporate support in the history of the Gay civil rights movement.

"We were honored to have so many corporations represented at a Lesbian and Gay event—more than any other event thus far—and we were pleased at the interest in companies wanting to show their

AIDS Walk Wisconsin Awarded \$3,000 From Bank One

Milwaukee -- AIDS Walk Wisconsin has been awarded a \$3,000 contribution from the Bank One Wisconsin Foundation. Bank One's Foundation has made a contribution to AIDS Walk Wisconsin each year since the Walk began in 1990.

"We are focusing our contributions on organizations that are effectively achieving their goals and making a difference in our community," said Kelly Skindzelewski, Foundation board member and Bank One communications director. "AIDS Walk Wisconsin is a valuable asset to our community."

The funds contributed by Bank One will be invested in AIDS care, prevention and research statewide through the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Bank One receives many more requests for support than it can fill. "We are grateful that Bank One has chosen to support AIDS Walk Wisconsin for so many years," said Lisa Wolter, deputy director of community relations at ARCW. "I believe Bank One's gift is a vote of confidence in the important efforts needed to defeat this epidemic while allowing them to invest in an issue of concern to the bank and its employees."

support for our community," Waybourn said.

Waybourn presided over the restructuring of GLAAD from multiple chapters into a cohesive national organization with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and San Francisco. GLAAD will open offices this summer in Kansas City and Atlanta.

Mixner's work with Window Corp expands his corporate consulting, following several years of high profile work as a Gay activist and best selling author. Prior to that work, Mixner was a partner in Mixner/Scott, Inc., a prominent public affairs and public relations firm in California. Mixner/Scott served such clients as Chevron, ARCO, Actna, Fujisawa, Continental Airlines, AT&T, Miller Brewing, Westinghouse Group W, and many others.

With Window, Mixner plans to introduce more Fortune 500 companies to the Gay and Lesbian market, helping companies and the community at the same time.

"There is no question that emerging civil rights movements must maximize their economic power as part of any strategy in obtaining full equality," Mixner said.

Working with Mixner in Los Angeles will be Rick Ellsasser, a vice president of Window, who will also manage the firm's office on the West Coast. Ellsasser served as Deputy Director of the Victory Fund, and more recently as Deputy Managing Director of GLAAD.

Religious Faiths

**ST. MATTHEW'S
CELEBRATES
DIVERSITY**

St. Matthew's Catholic Church at 1138 S. 25th Street in Milwaukee is a community which not only welcomes diversity but celebrates it! Please join us for worship on Sundays at 10:30am.

414/645-8786

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You can reach thousands of readers for as little as \$15.00 per issue of Wisconsin's best source of news and information for Gays and Lesbians, **The Wisconsin Light**

Call The Wisconsin Light
(414) 372-2773 and ask for Bill.

Tenth Sweet Sunday To Be Held to Raise Funds for AIDS

Madison—For the 10th year, area chefs and restaurants will present Sweet Sunday, a dazzling dessert and brunch extravaganza. The June 8, 1997, event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Wilson Street Grill, 217 S. Hamilton Street in Madison. Proceeds from the event support the AIDS care and prevention programs of AIDS Network (formerly the Madison AIDS Support Network).

"Since 1987, Sweet Sunday has raised nearly \$200,000 to support people living with HIV disease and AIDS prevention activities," said Connie McElrone, AIDS Network Director of Development and Communications. "Hundreds of community leaders have personally sponsored Sweet Sunday over the years and along

with generous donations from restaurants and bakers, secured funds that are critical to the mission of AIDS Network."

In addition to over 75 individual sponsors, General Casualty and Pick n' Save are corporate sponsors of Sweet Sunday. Brunch will be provided by Art House Café, Atlas Pasta, Breadsmith, Brueggers Bagels, Collins House, Coyote Capers, Crandall's, Lisa Dziadulewicz, El Charro, Friday's, Sheila Green, J.T. Whitney's, LuLu's, Madison Concourse Hotel, Magic Mill, Maria Montello, Otto's, Pasqual's, Sophia's Bakery, Star Liquor, Sunporch Café, Sunroom Café, Susan Bostian, The Chocolate Shoppe, Victor Allen's Coffee and Tea, Wild Iris, and Whole Earth Foods.

Other donors to the event include B-Side Records & Tapes & CDs, Exclusive Company, Floral Studio, Home Environment, J. Kenney, Little Luxuries, Orange Tree Imports, and Rose Cottage.

Tickets for Sweet Sunday are \$30 per person and can be purchased by calling (608) 252-6540.

The Big Gig

June 26 - July 6, 1997

THE 30th BIG GIG SUMMERFEST

Summerfest will feature the hottest musical attractions in the nation. Everything from Rock 'N Roll, Zydeco, R&B, Jazz and Americana to Country, Alternative, Popular and Comedy can be found from 11:30am to Midnight daily on 11 different stages.

www.summerfest.com or 273-FEST

Thousands "Take Back The Trails" to Commemorate Murders of Two Women

Stony Man Mountain, VA—Julie Williams and Lollie Winans knew how beautiful the Shenandoah National Park is this time of year.

Violets and droopy, yellow orchids poke through the brown leaves of the mountain ridges. Warblers are nesting in the hardwoods. With the maples and oaks not yet at full foliage and the air crisp and clean, the vistas from the mountains onto the Shenandoah Valley below are breathtaking.

It was amid such splendor that Julie and Lollie pitched a tent on the eastern face of this mountain near the Appalachian Trail during the Memorial Day weekend last year. It was there that they were murdered.

The Lesbian couple were found at their campsite June 1 with their hands bound and their throats slashed. Their killer vanished without a trace.

This past holiday weekend, Julie's mother, Patsy Williams, is retraced her daughter's final hike in the Shenandoah National Park to be with her in spirit, to see what Julie saw in those final days and to spread a message.

"I guess I want people to know that I wouldn't want this to stop anybody from going out into the woods," said Mrs. Williams, 50, of St. Cloud, Minnesota. "I don't want anybody to feel intimidated. Julie would not have wanted that, either. It almost feels like an act of defiance."

She had plenty of company this past weekend. More than 20,000 hikers in every state along the trail, from Georgia to Maine, also hiked to commemorate the anniversary of the slayings, said Nina Roberts, coordinator of a campaign called Take Back the Trails.

"There is an escalation of fear," Roberts said. "Not for all women, but some women now hike in large groups now instead of alone or with one other person. Some women have told me they haven't been backpacking or camping in the past year, but this (campaign) has sparked a sense of confidence in them."

Rosemary Mirocco lives about seven miles from the campsite where the women were killed, and she took a group of women hiking in the area during the weekend.

"The fact that the murders are unsolved preys on everyone's mind," Mirocco said. "Violence against women is extremely prevalent, but for it to follow you all the way into the woods, where you expect to be safe, is enraging."

The slayings had a deeper impact in the Lesbian community, said Tracy Conaty of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

The group asked Attorney General Janet Reno if the FBI was investigating the slayings as a possible hate crime. Reno wrote back that the FBI was "pursuing all motives, including the possibility that the crime was motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims."

Last year's attack was not the first violence against Lesbians along the trail.

In 1988, Claudia Brenner and her lover, Rebecca Wight, were on a weekend camping trip along the trail in Pennsylvania when a fugitive hiding in the forest shot them with a hunting rifle. Wight died, but Brenner survived five bullet wounds. Stephen Roy Carr was convicted of the crimes and sentenced to life in prison.

Relatively speaking, the Appalachian Trail and national parks are safe. More than 3 million people a year use the 2,159-mile trail, and only nine people have been killed on or near it since 1974. Last year's slayings are the only ones that remain unsolved.

The number of visitors and backcountry

hikers at Shenandoah National Park has not decreased, spokeswoman Lynn Rothgeb said.

All of the visitor stations in Shenandoah National Park still display the posters offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the Winans-Williams slayings. But the pictures of the women, smiling as they sit together on a mountain crest, are fading.

"We're all realistic that the trail is cold," said Tom Williams, Julie's father. "There is somebody out there who is a pretty damn cold-hearted killer. The FBI is concerned about that and so are we."

Next to the reward posters are notices to hikers describing the crime and urging them to take such safety steps as being cautious when strangers approach and pitching tents well out of sight of trails and roads.

Jeanne Vandeweile, 40, of Eue Claire, Wis., was undeterred by the slayings. She finished a two-week vacation in the Shenandoah National Park on Monday.

"It scares our families and friends," she said. "They say, 'Don't you know you can get killed out there? I say that it's more dangerous on city streets. I can disappear and find my way out of here if I need to.'"

Vandeweile said she drew courage from the story of a woman who was raped in 1959 while attempting to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, from Mame to Georgia. "She finished the hike and then did it two more times. I've had a pretty good life. If something happens, it happens."

Mrs. Williams hiked with about 10 people in the Shenandoah National Park, including several of her daughter's friends.

"When dealing with grief, you try to find a positive outlet," she said. "This not only keeps Julie and Lollie's memory alive, it keeps attention on the case. Maybe it will spark someone's memory from last Memorial weekend."



Jerry Johnson



Team Awards AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin presented well deserved awards to the top teams in last year's AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Shown above are Dan's Dream Team - \$10,239- put together in memory of Dan Gordon. Shown (l-r) are Doug Nelson from ARCOW, Joyce Murray, Dan's mom, Peggy Bureh his sister and Michael Gordon his brother. Next is the team from Camp Heartland - \$10,022- accepting the award were Janet Osherow, Marge Beil and Neil Williamson. At the bottom is the team from Aurora Health Care - \$9,536- Collen O' Gorman, Kaaren Ivantec-Doucette and Doug Nelson.

Some Thoughts to Congressman Neumann An Open Letter to Congressman Mark Neumann from Scott Evertz

Dear Congressman Neumann,

I am writing in reaction to recent statements you made at a gathering of the Christian Coalition in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Let me begin by saying that I never have and still don't believe that you are a prejudiced individual. Despite your comments, I don't even believe that you necessarily favor discrimination against a particular class of individuals, namely Gay men and Lesbians. Nonetheless, I believe that you suffer, as do many Americans, from a severe lack of knowledge when it comes to the diverse group of some twenty million Americans we call the Gay and Lesbian community and I am hopeful this letter will provide you with some of that knowledge.

To begin with, to assume that twenty million citizens could possibly have a singular "agenda" is ludicrous. We are white, Asian, Latino(a) and African-American. We are rich and poor, and many of us, like most Americans, are somewhere in the middle.

We are parents and we are childless. Some of us are in long-term relationships. Others of us choose to remain single. Most of us pay our taxes. Some do not. We are stockbrokers and farmers and unfortunately, like many Americans, some of us are homeless.

We are Democrats, Socialists, and, yes, we are Republicans. We live in large urban centers like San Francisco and New York, but many more of us live in places like Janesville, Harmony and Sturtevant, Wisconsin.

So, Congressman Neumann, just because a farmer from Sturtevant, Wisconsin applies for a job in your congressional office and happens to inform you that s/he is Lesbian or Gay, please don't assume that they would approach their position with a particular ax to grind or an interest in promoting the "Gay agenda," whatever that might be. That's downright disingenuous. You certainly wouldn't necessarily assume that members of other minority groups are applying for a job in your office so they may promote their "agenda," would you?

Take me, for instance. Would you not consider my candidacy for employment simply because I may refer to my (same-sex) partner in a job interview?

Would you ignore the fact that I strongly support your fervent deficit-reduction policies and your commitment to the American taxpayer?

Would you ignore that my commitment to the rights of the unborn (straight and Gay) is so strong that I served as a staff member of the then Vice President of the Board of Wisconsin Right to Life?

Would you ignore the fact that I have political experience working for conservative Republican candidates for State Assembly, State Senate, the US House of Representatives and Senate, and President?

Would you really ignore my qualifications because you happen to know I'm Gay? I certainly hope you wouldn't accuse me of seeking employment on your staff to merely promote the "Gay agenda."

I've been asked many times by many different people the past two days why I believe you would first sign a pledge indicating you would not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring, firing, or promoting of personnel in your office, and then say that you did in front of the Christian Coalition. I've generally responded by indicating that I really don't want to attempt to determine your motives.

I do indeed know that you have received a lot of heat from individuals I would characterize as being a minority within a minority (i.e. the ultra-right wing of the religious right), for signing the pledge in the first place. Congressman, I respectfully ask you to step away from the situation and consider those who have given you this heat.

You have been criticized for indicating that you would consider only an individual's qualifications for a job, and that it mattered not to you that this individual may be Gay or Lesbian; that you were more interested in the content of their character. You now seem to be asserting that one's sexual orientation does indeed have something to do with their character, and, on this point, you are dead wrong.

Perhaps that's why the majority of citizens (in some polls as many as 70%), in all states and from all walks of life and political persuasions, indicate that they oppose discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in the work place.

By making the pledge not to discriminate, you were accurately representing the position of the majority of your constituents. Your seeming retraction of that pledge aligns you with a very vocal, but small minority of Wisconsin citizens.

Again, I don't want to assess your motives, but if I were a political consultant advising a Congressman thinking about running for the US Senate, I'd advise him against attempting to please such a small segment of the population.

I thank you for your time and consideration of the thoughts I have included in this letter. I look forward to any clarification you may wish to provide on this issue.

Editor's Note: The thoughts and opinions expressed in this letter are the author's own and do not represent those of any organization with which he may be affiliated. The letter to Congressman Neumann was printed on Mr. Evertz' personal stationery.

Programs Promoting Sexual Abstinence Show that Ignorance is Death

Commentary by Jack Nichols

The same intense struggles between differing approaches to living occur and re-occur. From decade to decade they seem to resurrect. One returning bugaboo reinvokes our nation's notorious romance with sexual suppression. And repression. Not homosexual repression, but sexual repression.

Gore Vidal informed Mike Wallace in a March, 1967 CBS documentary—"The Homosexuals"—that America is regarded with astonishment in other nations where sexuality—in its varied forms—hasn't been allowed such worrisome top-devil status.

There was something else Gore Vidal said in that 1967 documentary making him, in my view, one of America's foremost Gay liberation pioneers. As David Scott Evans puts it of Vidal, the great writer might soon react as startled if he were called a Gay lib pioneer. Pity. Because that's what he is, like it or not.

Yup, he sat right there with Mike Wallace in '67—two years before the Stonewall uprising—and defended same-sex erotic responses with dignity and with passion, while Wallace slammed forward with stupid, now-discredited psychiatric gobbledegook about homosexuality—the psychopathology, old-fashioned views which Wallace himself has since rejected.

"Homosexual behavior," Vidal told him, "is perfectly natural."

"Say's who?" challenged the Mike Wallace of 1967.

"I say so," Vidal replied authoritatively, embodying individualism in action.

Vidal, regarded by many as America's foremost historical novelist, and perhaps its greatest living essayist, has a wide-ranging knowledge of world-wide sexuality. He knows that strict sex control, an aspect of the Skygod religions, has stifled many natural sympathies.

Approximately a decade ago, the enthronement of prudishness—or, rather of abstinence, as the goal of high school sex-education classes nationwide seemed a possibility with a future.

Surely sex education, the sanest thinkers hoped, won't become a casualty of such church-state manipulators as Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schrafley, James Dobson and Pat Robertson. But what, since those scary days, has transpired in sex ed class?

Lets leap across the decade, from January, 1988 to the present—June, 1997. Congress has just recently been offering millions to the states if they'll simply teach public school students that the only thing—the singular thing—they must know about sex is simply that they must abstain.

No talk of condoms is to be permitted. Though teen-pregnancy is rampant, there must be absolutely no talk of birth control either.

Abstinence alone—saying NO to sex—will save the day, dream these fundamentalist-type-congresspersons. Just Say No ???

Fortunately, educators from coast to coast are, for the most part, loathe to take the citizenry's tax-payer offerings to promote this abstinence business as the only answer to the nation's longtime sexual dilemmas. It isn't an answer, they rightly seem to feel, that's practical.

Almost a decade ago, I wrote and published a piece critiquing the stupidity on a particular under-fundamentalist-control-school board.

Beginning with an observation that the school board was behaving with hell-paved good intentions and with ignorance, I explained how it was also waltzing in wonderland as it foolishly congratulated itself on a compromise: "condom use is not planned to be discussed by teachers in the classrooms" even though class videos will give some information about these unmentionables.

"What if a student who is sexually active asks for details about condoms? Is the teacher sworn to silence? If condoms have a ten percent failure rate, must the teacher bow before the Far Right's mistake and insist that 90% protection is bad and that there should be none at all for these sexually-active youths? Is the school board unwittingly a participant in a scheme of fundamentalist retribution for sex by death?"

I pointed to the rising AIDS toll among youth. "It will take smaller towns time to catch up but with AIDS incubation (five to ten years) we can look ahead to our present day youths dying like flies."

Whether fundamentalist religious-political activists liked it or not, this particular area's culture had always been laissez faire about sex. We're living, I wrote, in a climate hospitable to its (sex's) allure. Large segments are "youths much given to premarital posturing."

"Will we send them into the arms of

AIDS followed by the non-sound of our foolish silence?" I bellowed. "Will we then think kindly of our own lack of foresight and the school board's decision: that condoms are not to be spoken about by respectable teachers?"

"Or could it be," I ventured with my wickedest question, "that we will see the school board's NO condoms decision as one by 20th Century primitives who compromised with witch doctory and perished as a result?"

"Because of Far Right agendas that view all sexuality as a major threat, the teaching of comprehensive self-protection is being murderously thwarted. Is this sanity?"

I raved on: "Sad contrasts loom wherever sex and hypocrisy walk hand in hand. Our TV soaps focus for weeks on half-nude bodies in bed. Advertising pushes even the lowly toothpaste tube as the path to more passionate kissing. On the other hand, the school boards are willing to adopt this bizarre plan whereby they piously ask young people to abstain from acts of passion glorified for them daily from dawn to dusk."

"Very well then, let their plan—Abstinence from Sex—reign supreme. It is a plan devised by those who have forgotten what it is like to feel the tantalizing flames of sexual desire coursing through veins."

"Do they not know that youth imagines itself immortal? Are they not familiar with the 'denial factor' which sees AIDS al-

ways as 'their' infection, never 'ours'? The USA has taken too long to learn that this kind of denial is whistling in the dark.

"There is no them," wrote the brilliant *Growing Up Absurd* anarchist educator, Paul Goodman, 'there is only us.' "

And now, a decade later, what is happening across America demonstrates the sound good sense of people in the heartland, except, of course, in the voting booths. Their Congress—has (because of loony Religious Reich folk) set aside \$250 million, in a little-known provision of welfare "reform," to tempt local school boards everywhere to insist that only abstinence will be taught in sex-ed classes.

In an unexpected turn-of-events—the states have not been fast to accept such sex-hush- money, according to *The New York Times* (May 8).

To be eligible for this money, local governments would have to agree to teach, among other matters, that pre-marital sex "is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects."

States, according to the *Times*, have only another month to make claims on the \$250 million, but educational officials are clearly worried about undermining more practical efforts to teach safer sex. The local people are smarter in this instance, in other words, than the Congress.

"The limits on what you can say are so restrictive that we decided we could not use the money for classroom programs or anywhere else where there was face-to-face contact," said the director of Maine's health department. It might be wiser, she surmised, to use the abstinence money to make public service announcements.

Obviously, however, teachers sense

they'd make themselves objects of ridicule if they were to refuse to talk of facts with which students are already familiar, facts, for example, like the existence of condoms.

Similar reactions have come from educators and public school health specialists across the country, a sign that citizen awareness is growing slowly but surely. There's hope.

Extremists

Continued From Page 1

to urge Mr. Crandall to stop his airline's endorsement of a radical movement that seeks to use government and corporate power to impose obligatory acceptance of homosexuality on all of society."

The groups gave this collective statement:

"The national press has long been biased toward the homosexual activist movement, but now we are witnessing outright suppression of dissent. We support the existence of a free press. Newspapers have a right to print what they want, and to decline to print. But we also have the right to expose how they are actively suppressing one side of a major issue while posing as objective sources of information."

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A Call For A New Stonewall

By State Rep. Barbara Notestein

Editor's Note: In this month of LGBT Pride, and on the eve of Wisconsin's LGBT Pride celebration, I think it is very appropriate to print in full the text of a speech given by State Rep. Barb Notestein (D-Milwaukee) at a rally against AB104 held in Milwaukee on May 5th.

Rep. Notestein was one of the primary leaders against the forces of bigotry and hate that welled up to pass the anti-same sex marriage law (AB104). Her words at the public hearing on the bill, at the rally, and on the Assembly floor, are stirring and, I think, must be preserved so that everyone, including future generations, should read her clarion call to justice.

As evidence of her commitment to justice, Rep. Notestein will be riding in the LGBT Pride Parade on Sunday, June 8.

In 1969, Gays at the Stonewall Inn decided that the time had come for significant change in the way they were treated by the police and society. They fought back, they rebelled, and they resisted, creating momentum for real change.



State Rep. Barbara Notestein

And, in the years since then, much has changed, especially in states like Wisconsin where great progress has been achieved in the legal arena.

But now that progress is being threatened all over this country and in Wisconsin.

Given the ascendance of the purveyors of ignorance, bigotry and hate...

Given that the leadership of the Wisconsin State Assembly has recognized and legitimized that ugly voice;

Given that the Assembly is poised to pass AB 104 on May 13

We face a backlash—not from the vast majority of citizens, but from a very aggressive, vocal and determined minority.

They wish to impose their righteous and intolerant views on the rest of society;

They will not stop until their vile hatred spreads an ugly veil over all of society;

They don't care about the consequences of their hate;

They don't care that teenage Gays and Lesbians commit suicide rather than face parental and societal disapproval;

They don't care that many Gays and Lesbians feel compelled to lead closeted lives, fearful of losing jobs, friends, and family.

Just this week we learned that the pilot who slammed his Air Force plane into the Colorado mountains, may have committed suicide, fearing the consequences of being outed in the military.

And, in Milwaukee we see the *Journal Sentinel* editorial page dismiss the cultural significance of "Ellen" as a mere marketing gimmick when we know that a program which speaks so truly to the experiences of many Gays and Lesbians is perhaps a cultural milestone and ought to be heeded.

So where are we in this long fight for Gay and Lesbian liberation and acceptance of Gays and Lesbians?

We are at a new stage. We are at a juncture when efforts must be redoubled.

And when this long struggle must begin again.

We are at a point when I say to you that it is time for another but peaceful Stonewall. Not a violent Stonewall, but a political Stonewall. A Stonewall of such strength that politicians will never even consider legislation like AB 104, a Stonewall that sends the message in no uncertain terms that Gays and Lesbians must be, expect to be, and will be treated fairly.

I was at the public hearing on AB 104 in Wausau, the location an obvious attempt to silence the Gay and Lesbian communities across this state. But no one was silenced.

I heard Gays and Lesbians open their lives and hearts to legislators, speaking eloquently, patiently, tolerantly in an attempt to educate.

They spoke about themselves, their families, their children and their lives.

I heard 10 year old Sol Kelly Jones talk about her 2 moms and their lives together as a family in a way that brought tears to my eyes.

The speakers asked only that Wisconsin treat them fairly and with tolerance.

And so it is time again for the Lesbian and Gay communities to redouble political efforts to make a commitment to the second Stonewall.

The message must be sent forth that Gays and Lesbians will never again be the targets of hate, violence, and discrimination.

Gays and Lesbians will not be treated as second class citizens.

If there is anyone in the Gay and Lesbian community, who has not written, e-mailed or called his or her legislator opposing AB 104, now is the time to do it.

If there are people in rest of the community who have not sent the same message, now is the time to take a stand and demand that Wisconsin serve as a symbol of truth and fairness.

Wisconsin cannot pride itself as a great state if we allow AB 104 to become law.

The message must be sent and the lesson must be learned that Gays and Lesbians are first class citizens, that Gays and Lesbians deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, that Wisconsin rejects intolerance and hate. That Wisconsin stands above the ugliness that some would choose for us. For Wisconsin is a great state.

And above all else Wisconsin will not discriminate.

office and announce their sexual orientation. Who knows that may even fulfill one of his fantasies.

Personally I think Neumann is trying to become the Midwest version of Ex-Congressman Bob Dornan. It's just that he doesn't have Dornan's charisma and flair.

I also think that if the Republicans want to nominate someone like Neumann to run against Feingold they would be better off putting up someone like David Duke. Why go with the carbon copy when you can have the original?

Governor Kohl?

Word has it that Senator Herb Kohl is considering making a run for Governor against Tommy Thompson in 1998. Kohl is said to be happy where he is, but the Senator is coming under heavy pressure from fellow Democrats.

Mayor Norquist and other heavyweights have bowed out of making the race due to Tommy's big war chest. Private polls show that Kohl could beat Thompson.

Furthermore Kohl is probably the only Democrat who would match Thompson dollar for dollar.

The Democrats are concerned that a weak candidate for Governor would hurt their chances to regain the State Assembly and to re-elect Feingold who is up for reelection in 1998.

A Kohl-Thompson race would force the Republicans to put more of their resources into the race for the Governor's mansion and relieve the pressure on Democratic candidates, especially Feingold.

Privately the pros are saying that Feingold could be in trouble, especially if the GOP fields a strong candidate.

Those with inside information say that Kohl doesn't want to be Governor but may make the race anyway because he has always been a strong party man.

The Senator is said to have promised that he will make a decision on the race by the end of June.

Congressional Tidbits

Wisconsin Republicans are gearing up to try and take back the two Congressional seats they lost in November. They are raising big bucks to oust freshmen Kindt in Steve Gunderson's old district and Johnson in the Eighth Congressional District.

The Democrats meanwhile have their sights set on taking over in the Second District, where Republican Scott Klug has announced he will not seek another term, and in the First District currently represented by Neumann.

Politically Speaking

Mark Neumann and Other Things

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Congressman Mark Neumann's words regarding whether or not he would hire Gays have opened up a firestorm for the man who wants to replace Senator Russ Feingold in the U.S. Senate.

For those who haven't been paying attention, Neumann said that he wouldn't hire anyone who came into his office and said they were Gay and looking for a job. This should come as no surprise to anyone who has looked at the Congressman's voting record.

But despite the clarity with which Neumann spoke, some people (mainly Republicans) say they want Neumann to clarify his remarks.

The reason for this is that Neumann recently signed a pledge not to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in his employment practices.

It seems that some folks just can't believe that the man who talks so much about morals, honesty and ethics would talk out of both sides of his mouth.

I can see Jerry Falwell now, "Another miracle! Praise Jesus, here we have a Congressman who can discriminate and not discriminate at the same time!

Personally I am not at all surprised by Neumann's renegeing on his pledge. I never believed that he intended to honor it in the first place.

After all, we are talking here about a man who has exhibited a pattern of deceit in his political campaigns. In fact in the last election (which he narrowly won) Neumann was threatened with prosecution if he didn't stop airing a blatantly false ad that accused his opponent of enriching herself at the expense of the public.

Apparently it's okay for "Christian" Mark Neumann to lie as long as votes are involved. It must be nice to have a special dispensation from God.

Neumann's remarks would be laughable if they weren't so pathetic. He wants us to believe that he would hire Gays but only if we don't tell him that we are Gay. It's sort of like his own version of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

According to Neumann that's not discrimination. Uh-Huh and Joe Mc Carthy was a secret admirer of Joe Stalin too.

It's just this type of political double speak that turns people off on politics.

Neumann didn't mention Lesbians so I guess it's okay for them to march into his

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Tammy Baldwin is receiving much encouragement for her planned bid in the Second, but faces a stiff primary fight. A real donnybrook could develop in the First District especially if Neumann does run against Feingold which seems likely.

AB 104: DOA

AB 104, Wisconsin's Anti-Gay Marriage appears to be dead on arrival in the State Senate. It seems that the Senate is more interested in passing legislation that means something rather than posturing with bills that only repeat existing law.

Now there's a novel concept! I wonder if anyone has bothered to tell the State Assembly about this.

Interns Like Jennifer Smith Help Make A Difference at MAP

Milwaukee -- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is happy to announce that its Americorps Intern, Jennifer Smith, was honored for her services and commitment to the consumers and staff of the agency.

Smith was selected as a 1997 Tomorrow's Leaders Today Honoree along with other young interns in Milwaukee who were selected by the Public Allies program, a national program that annually honors young adults who are considered for their commitment in social services as a contribution to their community. The ceremony was held Wednesday, May 21, at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

It was through the Americorps program that Smith began working at MAP in the Social Services Department in November 1996. "It is important to show that there are young people who are really making a positive difference," said Laura Fiorini, food pantry coordinator at MAP and responsible for nominating Smith to be considered for the award. "We want people to know how people like Jennifer do make a difference. Her contribution has been invaluable."

At MAP, Smith has helped coordinate the Practical Assistance with Living Services (PALS) program which provides daily living services to consumers such as meal preparation, housekeeping, laundry, yard work, snow shoveling and grocery shopping. She also helps in the Housing Department, the food pantry, with transportation services, during children's events and with the holiday programs.

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Speaking From The Right LCR-WI Legislative Agenda Advances

Commentary by James McFarland
Since this year is not an election year, Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin (a Republican organization made up primarily of Lesbian and Gay Republicans) has been able to devote its time to its legislative agenda for the '97-'98 legislative session.

While we were, of course outraged at the State Assembly's adoption of AB104, the anti-same sex marriage bill, we knew that the die was cast when Rep. Ben Brancel won the race for Speaker of the Assembly by the one vote which was cast by Rep. Lorraine Seratti, AB104's primary sponsor. We still hope to stop the bill in the State Senate, but that remains to be seen, considering the fact that the vast majority of Wisconsinites oppose same sex marriage and a vote against AB104 can be falsely construed by opponents as a vote in favor of same sex marriage.

Despite our disappointment on AB104, several of the items on our legislative agenda have already been adopted by the Assembly, and others we expect will also soon be adopted.

Supermajority for Tax Increases

The Assembly has already adopted a constitutional amendment which would require a supermajority vote in both houses in order to raise the state income or sales tax. LCR-WI strongly supports this legislation, and applauds the Assembly's first step toward recognizing that taxes constitute confiscation of property from the minority by the tyranny of the majority.

The amendment must be adopted by the Senate, and then adopted by both houses in the next legislative session before it can go before the voters for ratification.

Adoption in the State Senate is seen as unlikely at this point because the Democrats control the Senate. The Democrats seem bound and determined to remain free to raise taxes whenever they wish.

Women's Health Initiative

Governor Thompson and the Assembly Republicans are proposing a Women's Health Initiative which will help address

some of the inequities in the health care system concerning women's health.

As the incidence of breast cancer in younger women continues to increase, too little is being done to bring attention to this critical problem. In addition, nothing affects the health of women more than the rising tide of domestic abuse.

The Women's Health Initiative will provide funding for a mobile mammography van which will target low-income women, funding for screenings, diagnostic tests, referrals and follow-ups for underinsured and uninsured women, funding for a Women's Health Officer who will coordinate educational programs for women concerning health risks, prevention and treatment and greater access to health screening programs, and funding of block grants for additional domestic abuse shelters in under-served areas of Wisconsin.

LCR-WI strongly supports the Women's Health Initiative, which is expected to be adopted by the Assembly.

Truth-In-Sentencing

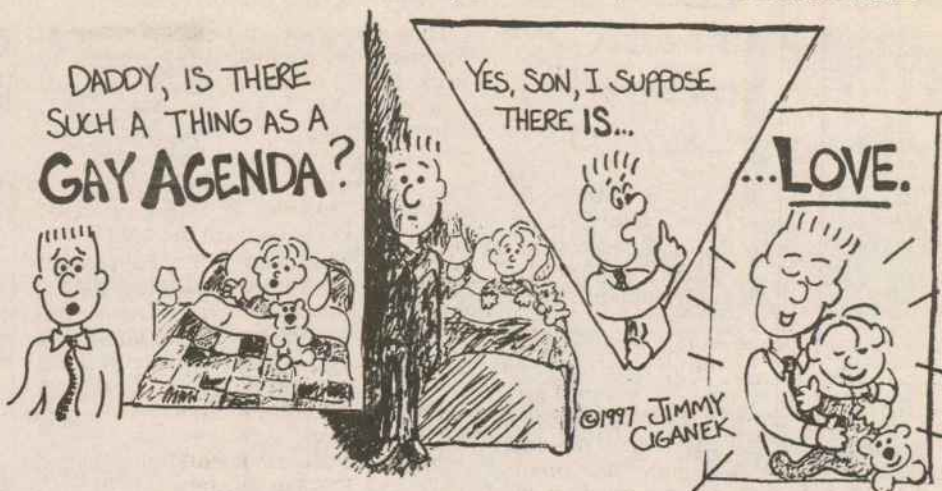
This initiative also recently was adopted by the State Assembly. It would require criminals to serve their entire sentence, rather than being eligible for parole prior to the end of their sentence, and would end the practice of shortening a criminal's stay in prison based on "good behavior"—instead, a criminal's stay in prison would be lengthened for "bad behavior".

This proposal will prevent the parole of hardened criminals who frequently commit crimes again. It will also provide certainty to the victims of crimes, who currently have no idea when the criminal who attacked them will be released by the parole board.

LCR-WI strongly supports this bill, but, lamentably, its fate in the State Senate is uncertain because the Democrats seem to care more about the rights of criminals than the rights of victims.

Hospital Visitation

Republican State Rep. Scott Jensen has introduced a bill which would require hospitals and doctors to allow patients to designate, prior to becoming incapacitated,



tated, those who can visit them if they become incapacitated.

While this will benefit more than just Lesbians and Gays, it will greatly assist those of us in committed relationships which might not be accepted by the parents of one or both of the partners. Cases in which a partner has been barred from seeing his or her incapacitated partner in the hospital by the patient's parents are well known.

LCR-WI strongly supports this proposal, which has a good chance of passing in the Assembly. We expect that other legislation protecting the rights of Lesbian and Gay couples will be introduced in the Assembly in the near future.

While the idea of allowing hospital visitation is accepted even by many of the fundamentalist Christians, the hospital visitation bill is the first bill protecting Lesbian and Gay couples from discrimination to be introduced in this legislative session.

We find it ironic that the two most high profile bills benefiting the Lesbian/Gay community or persons with AIDS introduced in this session and the last, the hospital visitation bill and the viatical settlements bill (which regulates viatical settlement companies—companies which purchase the life insurance policies of persons with AIDS but have been known to swindle desperate individuals—and was introduced by Rep. Jensen and GOP State Senator Peggy Rosenzweig), were introduced by Republican legislators who led

the fight for their adoption.

All of our legislative successes are the result of our hard work during last year's (and previous year's) elections, as members of LCR-WI donated their time and money to support Republican candidates in the Assembly and Senate. If you are interested in becoming a part of this success story, write to Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, WI, 53201, or call (414)299-9443 for information on joining our organization.

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Neumann
Continued From page 1

Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin told **The Wisconsin Light**, "Every employee should be judged on their ability to do the job. That Congressman Neumann would do otherwise is gratuitous Gay bashing and merely underscores why we need civil rights protection in employment. It also underscores the need to have Congressional representatives who will represent and fight for the needs and rights of all of their constituents."

State Representative Barb Notestein said "The man is a bigot." Notestein added "We absolutely must pass federal legislation banning job discrimination and that legislation must include Congress. In addition to that everyone must work as hard as possible to make sure that Russ Feingold is re-elected. There is no Gay agenda. The agenda is the agenda of the Radical

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NGPA, Dept. MKE PO Box 27542
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Right and that is to get rid of Gays and Lesbians. The agenda of Gays and Lesbians is only to be treated fairly."

Notestein, who was one of the leading fighters against the anti-same-sex marriage bill (AB104), will be appearing in the Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 8. Those in the LGBT community say she will be greeted as the valiant hero that she is.

Congressman Tom Barrett, (D-5th District) sent a letter to both **Light** and the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** condemning Neumann for his remarks. (See Letter to the Editor, this issue.)

Rich Tafel the Executive Director of the Log Cabin Republicans, a Gay Republican group, told **The Light** that Neumann doesn't want to deal with the issue of Gays and Lesbians. "What he has to realize is that it won't go away" said Tafel. Tafel also said "We see a huge contradiction. Assuming that because a person is Gay that they are bringing an agenda into his office which is going to be contrary to his agenda is a major misunderstanding about what Gay people are about. What he is implying is that to be openly Gay means that you will promote some agenda. That is not the case."

According to Tafel, Neumann said he stood by his pledge not to discrimination. "He just doesn't see the contradiction between what he signed and what he said. One of the ironies of all this is that based on his statements he wouldn't hire former Congressman Steve Gunderson."

The Wisconsin Chapter of Log Cabin Republicans issued an immediate press statement.

The statement expressed the need for Neumann to clarify his remark about not hiring an openly Gay person, and went on to give strong support for equality in hiring.

"We need to make it clear to Congressman Neumann," said Log Cabin president Curt Lamon, "that just because someone is openly Gay does not mean that he or she promotes an agenda which would be unacceptable to him."

Lamon continued, "We will continue to pursue opportunities to educate Congressman Neumann and other Republican officials, and once we ascertain Congressman Neumann's exact position on the discrimination issue, we will then be in a position to decide whether we can continue to actively support Congressman Neumann."

9to5, National Association of Working Women, denounced Neumann's vow that he would not hire openly Gay people.

"A Congressman or any other employer should hire based on applicants' qualifications, not based on their sexual orientation," said Carmen Murguia, a spokeswoman for 9to5.

Murguia added, "Unfortunately, the law does not prevent him from discriminating against Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals."

"It is an issue of our lives," Murguia said, "not lifestyles."

Others think that Neumann is aware of that contradiction. A statement issued by the radical right wing group, Wisconsin Christians United calls on Neumann to rescind his pledge to the Log Cabin group. The group's press release reads in part "The question must be asked of Congressman Neumann: Are you going to back our your agreement or are you just another politician caught with your hand in the cookie jar."

Local Log Cabin members were clearly angry or dismayed with the Congressman. Scott Evertz told **The Light** that a member of Neumann's staff privately told the group that Neumann's remarks were like "Don't ask, don't tell." That staff person said he didn't know what would happen if a Neumann found out that someone he had hired was Gay or Lesbian.

Evertz added An ultra conservative position. "He has now been on the front page of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

taking an ultra right wing position. That's not how you get elected in Wisconsin."

When asked whether Neumann would get support in the future from the group, Evertz said "We've not decided. If the possibility exist to continue to work with the Congressman we'd like to that door open. But based on what we saw in the paper today, the possibility doesn't look great."

The fact that Neuman would be breaking Wisconsin law if he chose not to hire a job applicant who announced they are Gay did not escape national notice.

David Smith, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign told **The Wisconsin Light** "First and foremost Congressman Neumann is saying that he would break the law in the State of Wisconsin. That law was enacted by the duly elected representatives of the people, and has been in effect since 1982. As it relates to federal issues, obviously this underscores the need to enact the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Anyone who doubts whether discrimination against Gay people exists, need to look only as far as Rep. Neumann.

His voice was joined with that of Mark Johnson of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force. Johnson said "When those kinds of comments get made some people think its Carte Blanche to gay bash. When a public official makes statements like this there are people who will think it's okay to hate."

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Alabama T.V. Station May Continue Ellen Black Out

New York— Following Allbritton Communications television station ABC 33/40's controversial blackout of ABC-TV's highly-rated sitcom *Ellen* in Birmingham, Alabama, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has condemned Allbritton for refusing to meet with lesbian and gay community leaders to address charges of homophobia. GLAAD also expressed outrage that *Ellen*'s upcoming fall season remains jeopardized by its local station's bigotry and intolerance.

In a letter sent this month to Allbritton Communication's Legal Affairs Department, GLAAD and a coalition of local organizations requested a meeting with company officials to address outrage sparked by ABC 33/40's censorship of *Ellen*, as well as the station's continued stonewalling of community concerns.

The proposed meeting was rebuked by Vice President of Legal Affairs Jerry Fritts who, according to GLAAD, passed the buck saying that "[our television station licensees] make their own decisions."

"Allbritton's refusal to be held accountable is both cowardly and counter-productive," said Kevin Snow, vice-president of Birmingham Pride Alabama. "Allbritton and ABC 33/40 are attempting to take away our right to make our own decisions about what we watch on television."

ABC-TV recently announced that it has renewed *Ellen* for its prime-time line-up. Allbritton's ABC 33/40 has not yet commented on whether it intends to continue to black out the sitcom when it returns to the network this fall.

In an effort to give Birmingham residents the opportunity to see the blacked-out *Ellen* coming out episode, Birmingham Pride Alabama and GLAAD organized a satellite downlink, ironically provided by another Allbritton owned station, of the history-making show at Boutwell Municipal Auditorium on April 30th, 1997. With an audience of more than 2,500 people, the live screening was the largest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender event in Alabama history.



Letters Continued from Page 4

those lives that ended during the Holocaust. The fact that we can participate in a Pride Festival makes this less of a "Dachau of a world" than others have met with. Yes, we are living in a political and social climate that often raises the waters of intolerance and hatred to such a degree that we become submerged, struggling to breathe our fair share of American air. But as the freedom flag reminds us, we have the power today to claim our presence and shape our own future.

At the risk of being perceived as "too sensitive" or "too political," I simply suggest that Gays and Lesbians explore the history of the Holocaust. As the writer from the May 22 issue knows, there is a great deal of strength to be gained from the documented stories of survivors. The Pink Triangle was worn by many who were taken from their homes and families, sent to death camps, and then forced to endure humiliating, degrading, extremely painful deaths simply because of their sexual orientation. This is what the Pink Triangle represents.

It is my personal opinion that the Holocaust was one of the most horrifying displays of inhumanity this century has witnessed. We have such a great deal of responsibility to both the memory of the holocaust and to the symbols that represent it. As we come across the Pink Triangle on shirts, buttons, and banners, we should not forget the silent voices it speaks for. We should be very careful not to trivialize such an enormous volume to our history book.

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SPOTLIGHT



Talking to the Stars

Ann Nesby: From Choirs to Disco A Singer With a Message For Us All

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Ann Nesby is the consummate performer. With a smooth as silk vocal prowess and the power to blow the roof off the house, the former Sounds of Blackness vocalist is at the height of her career. Her stellar A&M Records solo debut recording, "I'm Here For You," is currently climbing the Billboard top pop charts.

The set's first single, "I'll Do Anything For You," a soulful, emotion packed ballad, climbed the R&B charts. The follow-up release, "Let The Rain Fall," set the dance

clubs and charts on fire. And the new infectious confection, "Thrill Me," did the same. Her newest single, "Hold On," a fierce house anthem, is soaring up the dance charts.

"I'm very excited about this album and how well it's doing," says the forty-something diva. "I think the most excitement comes from knowing that we reach more than the adult/contemporary crowd who is the audience we thought we'd reach with this album. I'm reaching a lot of teenagers, whose parents bought the album and then went back and bought it for themselves."

Nesby knows she has a large Gay following, something she's enjoyed for more than a decade. "I cater to all people. Whoever loves my music, I want them to appreciate it. Whoever is encouraged, whoever is uplifted, whoever I can help feel good, I want them to listen," she says. "I sing music from the heart. There is nothing phony about me. Who I am is who I am. I love people. I write songs for people about things that affect everybody."

She's not sure why the Gay community has embraced her so strongly, but she's far from knocking it. "I think mostly they love that I am honest and that I encourage honesty and being who you are, expressing how you feeling, being totally honest with how you feel," she says. "I think it is really important to be honest with others. We'd be in a much better situation if everyone wasn't so worried about what was in their closet."

"I'm Here For You," is built around the theme of relationships. The exquisite "Can I Get A Witness" is about honesty, about letting your worries go, being who you are and respecting who you are. "Hold On," is about encouragement and realizing that whatever the problems are in your life, they're aren't going to last forever and that things will take a turn for the best.

"The album represents unconditional love, being who you are and saying who you are," she says. "The most important

Please See Nesby Page 16



The Winners! The team from Chicago Sidetracks won the Upper Division of the Milwaukee Classic, held at Milwaukee's Wick Field on May 24 and 25. Club 219 finished second and the Cincinnati Comets finished third. The lower bracket was won by the Ball Game's Ranger Team. Second place went to the Buzzards from St. Louis and third place was grabbed by the M & M Club.

The Milwaukee Classic Was A Well Run Softball Machine

By Bill Meunier

With sixteen other tournaments and two world series under its belt, Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League obviously knows how to run a good tournament.

Anyone doubting that needed only to watch the 17th Milwaukee Classic Softball Tournament which took place at Milwaukee's Wick Fields on May 25 and 26 to see visible proof. The Classic was in the words of one organizer, "an unqualified success."

Twenty teams from Milwaukee, Chicago, the Twin Cities, St. Louis and Cincinnati competed in two divisions.

The tournament started out with a round robin played on Saturday morning and early Saturday afternoon.

The robin round consisted of five groups of four teams. Each team played one game against the other three teams in its group.

After the round robin the field was divided based on how well the teams had done. Those with winning records in the round robin went to the National Division or upper bracket. Those with losing records played in the American Division.

Three Milwaukee teams, Balistreri's The Club 219 Pride, and Mama Roux's Mama's Family played in the National Division.

Three other Milwaukee teams, The Ball Game, the M & M Club and the Triangle played in the American Division.

The National Division was won by Sidetracks of Chicago. Sidetracks combined good defense, solid hitting and aggressive base running to prevent Milwaukee's Club 219 from successfully defending the title it won last year. Third place in the Upper Bracket was won by the Cincinnati Comets.

In the American Division the Ball Game successfully defended the crown it had won last year. Second place went to the Saint Louis Buzzards and for the second year in a row, third place was won by the M & M Club.

Many of the games played were very close with the winner being decided by just one swing of the bat. The weather also cooperated. It was cool but except for a few sprinkles during the late afternoon games on Saturday the predicated rain failed to show up.

Of course as usual there was one minor controversy. This year's came about when an umpire forfeited a game to ROR Tax of Minneapolis when several Milwaukee Triangle players showed up two minutes late to play.

Tournament Commissioner Tommy Salzsieder was unhappy with the ump's decision. "She was an out of town ump from Columbus. She won't be invited back to

ump in the MIST tournament," he said. "The idea is to let the teams play, she certainly could have done that in this situation."

Salzsieder was very pleased with how well the tournament went. "We had people here from New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Toronto even though those cities didn't send any teams. All of them said they had a great time."

Salzsieder singled out Mark Brown of San Francisco as one example of that. Brown founded Gay softball in San Francisco and was one of the founders of NAGAAA. NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance)

"Mark is a super guy, said Salzsieder. "He has been inducted into the Hall of Fame. After he went home, Mark made a point of calling to tell me how wonderful the Classic was and how much fun he had here."

The next Milwaukee Gay softball tournament will be held over Labor Day weekend. Between two and three dozen teams will compete in the annual Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament, MIST.

Please See Softball Page 27

"42nd Street" Cast Presents Special MAP Benefit at Club 219

Milwaukee -- In town June 10-15 is 42nd Street, winner of the Tony award for best musical. This high-stepping musical comedy ran for a remarkable 3,486 performances on Broadway with hit songs like "You're Getting to be a Habit With Me," "We're in the Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "About a Quarter to Nine," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and more.

While in Milwaukee, the cast of 42nd Street is presenting a benefit cabaret performance for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) on Thursday, June 12, at 11:30 p.m. after their performance at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Come see this talented cast come out of their usual roles for some fun and frolic.

If you have seen past touring companies performances such as Hello Dolly, One Night in Heaven or "The Phantom of the Opera's Phantom Voices," you know how fun and entertaining this night will be.

This special cabaret performance with a twist can be seen at Club 219 on 219 S. 2nd Street. Tickets are \$10 at the door or in advance by calling (414) 225-1549. Space is limited. All proceeds will benefit AIDS services and programs provided at MAP.

SpotLight Editor's Note

Recently a Milwaukee Bar owner and I had a conversation about our policy regarding which events we list and cover in this section of our paper. He was under the impression that his bar was not being included because he did not advertise.

On the other side of the coin, I have had conversations with bar owners and managers who didn't tell us what was going on at their bars because they felt it was wrong of them to expect us to list their events when they didn't advertise.

The fact is (as any regular reader knows) that we regularly list and cover events held at bars that don't advertise with us. Our only criterion is that the bar be located in Wisconsin and that it distribute **The Wisconsin Light**. As a newspaper we can and should do no less.

But that conversation made me want to restate our policy on listing and covering events. It is our policy to list events held in any bar that distributes **The Light**. It is also our policy to cover as many bar events as we can. Unfortunately given our small staff, it is not always possible to cover every event, especially on nights where three or four (or more) things are going on at once.

We are not psychic however, bars that do not advertise in this or other publications and who do not let us know what is going on at their establishment will not have their events listed. We simply do not have the time to call the 50 Wisconsin Gay and Lesbian bars to ask them what is going on so we can list their events.

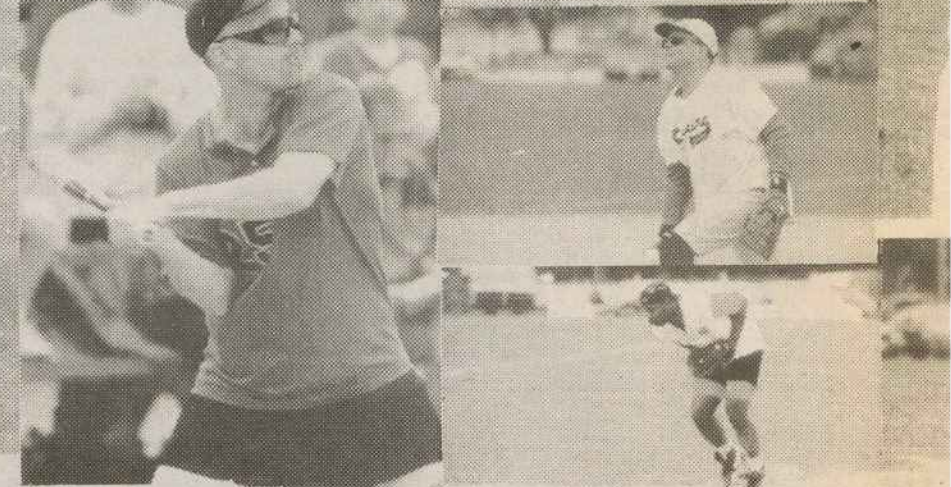
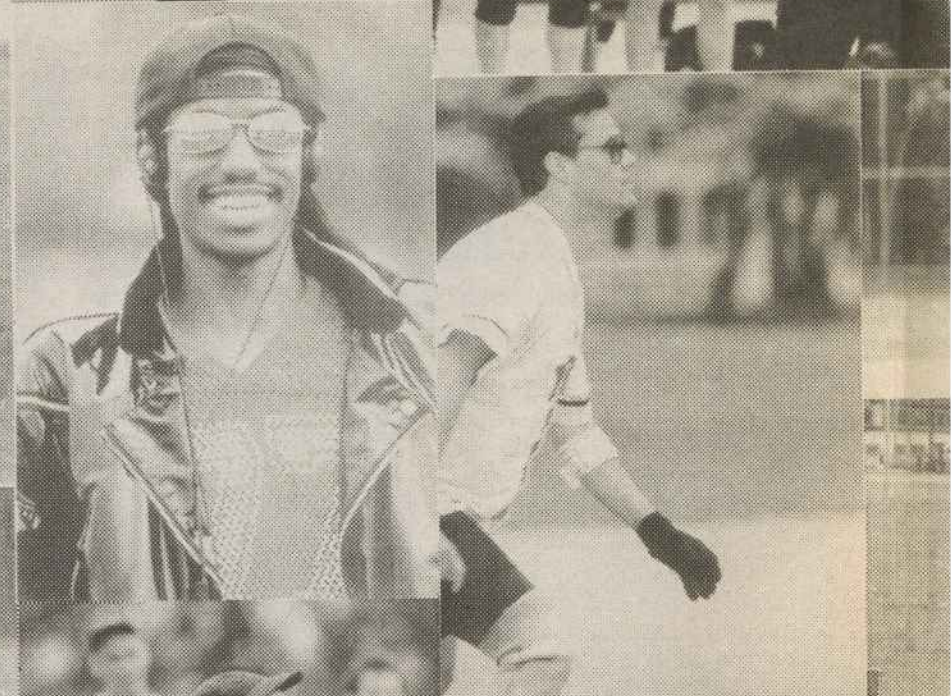
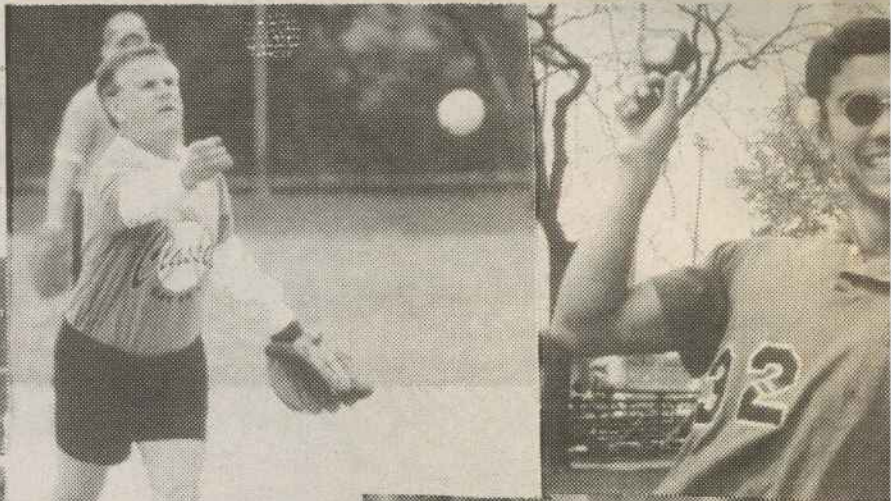
Furthermore because of limited space, we will not list regularly scheduled events such as Sunday Night shows in our You're Invited Calendar unless they are benefits for a Gay organization or charity. We generally reserve that space for special appearances, benefits and shows. Nevertheless we do list ALL special events we are aware of.

So if you are not reading about what is going on at your favorite establishment, it's probably because no one told us. But if you want to read more about what's going on at the places you frequent please ask the owner/manager to keep us informed about events coming up there. Send us a note in the mail, email us through our web site www.wilight.com or just pick up the phone and call us at (414) 372-2773.

Certainly we care about getting advertisers. Without them we would not have a newspaper for you to read. But when it comes to listings and coverage, where a bar puts its ad dollars are secondary, keeping our readers well informed is our primary concern. - Bill Meunier

The 17th Milwa

May 24th and 25th at Mil



Balistreri's Pizza (Shown middle far right)

Balistreri's Pizza was overmatched in the Upper Bracket but provided some exciting games in the Round Robin tying the Buzzards and beating Charlies, a good B team from Chicago.

Unfortunately for Balistreri's Charlies made them pay for their earlier win with a 33 to 5 victory in the rematch. **Round Robin** Balistreri's 8, Buzzards 8 Balistreri's 16, Charlies 13, Balistreri's 19 Saloon Spike 6 **National Division Play** Balistreri's 20, Classics 9 North End 26 Balistreri's 16 Charlies 33 Balistreri's 5

Club 219 (Shown above top far left)

Club 219 fell short in its effort to repeat as champs of the Upper nothing to be ashamed of. They played well throughout the tournament Chicago Bucks 4, Club 219 41, Rumours 2, **National Division Play** Chicago Sidetracks 15, Club 219 6, Club 219 35, Cincinnati Comets 14.

The Ball Game (Shown bottom far right)

The Ball Game lost to two good B Division teams in the Round Robin. But the Rangers repeated as Champs of the American Division. The Rangers were helped by some thrilling come from behind victory as they showed that they were not to be denied their second consecutive title.

Round Robin Brass Rail 21, Ball Game 9 Ball Game 23, Triangle 9 Hitmen 25, Ball Game 6 **American Division Play** Ball Game 30, ROR Tax 7 Ball Game 27, Saloon Spurs 2 Ball Game 18 Buzzards 17 Ball Game 24 Buzzards 16

The M and M Club (Shown above middle far left)

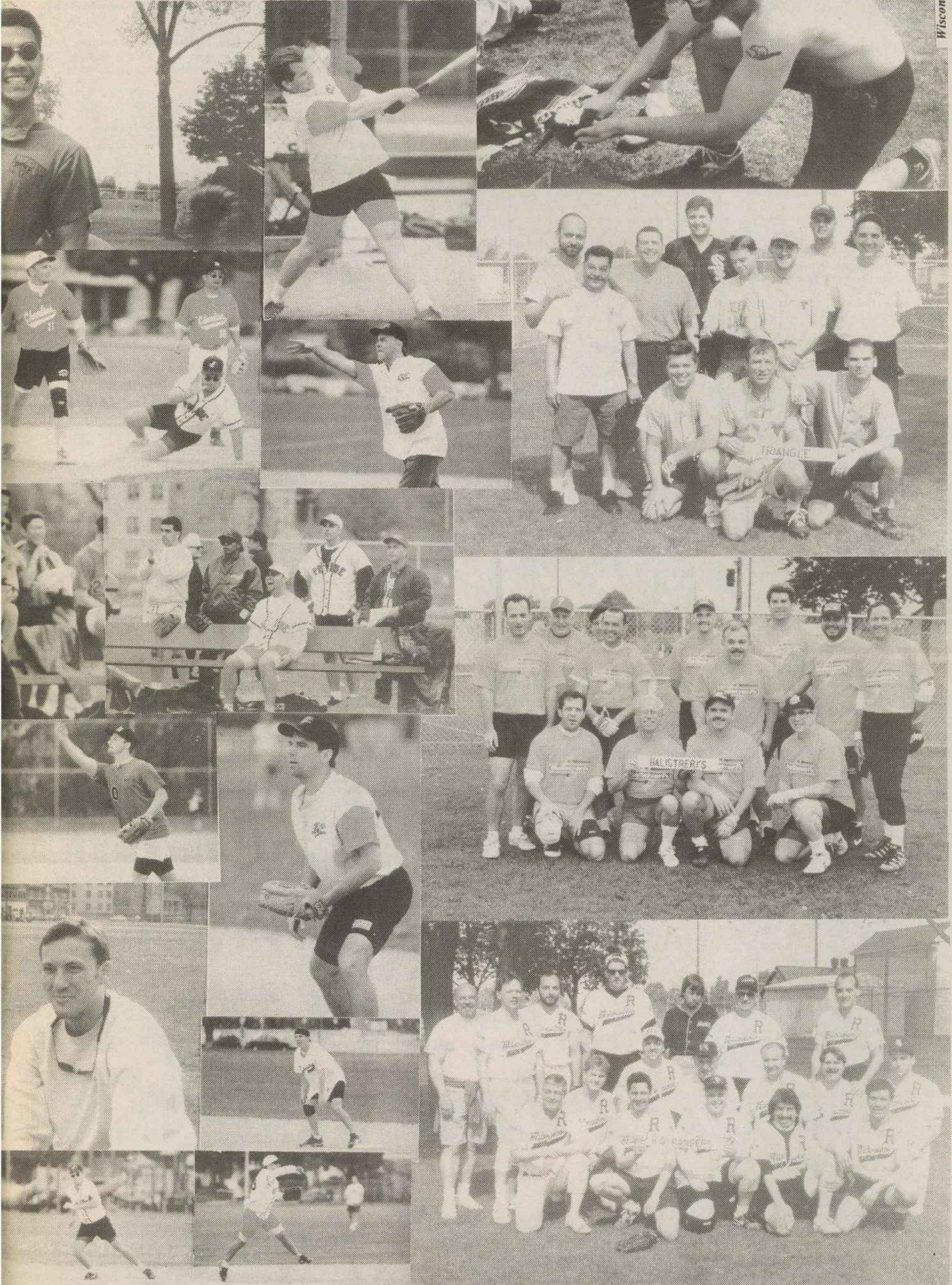
The M & M Mustangs had a tough time in the round robin where they Cincinnati, the National Division's third place team.

In the double elimination tournament though they rebounded to grab their Comets 21, M & M 7, Sidetrack 20, M & M 2, M & M 18, Twin Cities Sto 27, Twin Cities ROR 10, M & M 23, Saloon Spurs 3, Buzzards 18, M & M

Milwaukee Classic

Milwaukee's Wick Field

Wisconsin Light Photos



Mama's Family (Shown above bottom far left)

The Family played well in the Round Robin nearly beating a good team from Chicago and defeating two teams from the Twin Cities. A disastrous first inning against Charlies combined with six over the fence homers in the Family's match with the Brass Rail eliminated the Mama Roux team from its first ever tournament. **Round Robin Play** Mama Roux 23, ROR Tax 19 North End 10, Mama Roux 6, Mama Roux 10, Saloon Spurs 8, **National Division Play** Charlie's 14, Mama's Family 8, Brass Rail 30, Mama's Family 3.

Triangle (Shown above top far left)

The Triangle failed to win a game either in the Round Robin or the American Division. Nevertheless the team showed competitive spirit and played hard. Unfortunately for the Triangle several of their players were two minutes late for their last game and the umpire forfeited the match to ROR Tax from Minneapolis. **Round Robin Play** Chicago Hitmen 27, Triangle 5, Ballgame 23, Triangle 9, Brass Rail 21, Triangle 2, **American Division Play** Saloon Spike 29, Triangle 8, ROR Tax 7 Triangle 0 (Forfeit)

er Division of the Milwaukee Classic. Nevertheless the Pride have
ment. **Round Robin Play** Club 219, 18, Classics 13, Club 219 30,
Play Club 219 23. Chicago Charlies 16, Club 219 14, North End 13,
s 14, Sidetracks 23, Club 219 11

hey lost to National Division Champ Sidetrack and to the Comets from
b third place in the American Division. **Round Robin Play** Cincinnati
Storm 10, **American Division Play** Buzzards 24, M & M 13, M & M
& M 14

Nesby's Singing With A Powerful Voice and a Powerful Message Brings her Gay Fans

Nesby
Continued From Page 15

goal for me is to talk about relationships and honest, unconditional love."

One of the opus' most brilliant moments can be found on the title track, which was inspired by a close friend's battle with AIDS. "He's my confidante, a very dear friend, who really encouraged me and kept telling me I was going to make it," she says. "At the time I was making the album, he was very sick. My concern was that he wouldn't have the opportunity to hear the work from the album before he passed."

When it was finally recorded, I took him a studio tape, we hadn't even pressed the album, and put the headphones on him, 'cause I wanted him to hear everything I had done. He just looked at me and said, 'I'm coming home, this isn't my last trip.'"

Surprisingly, her friend pulled through. And has since bounced back to good health. Nesby credits the love of friends, hearing the words, "I'm Here For You," with helping him find the strength to fight back.

"'I'm Here For You,' is about educating people about AIDS. So many times when people are stricken with AIDS, friends turn their back, mostly because they are uneducated. They say a lot of people die from the disease, but I think a lot of them die of a broken heart. The people in their lives are not willing to get the education to love them back to health," she says.

"That's why I entitled project 'I'm Here For You.' It's about unconditional love. Being who you say you are. You have to be a friend to have a friend."

Born in a small Illinois town, Nesby grew up singing in the church choir. (Her father was a pastor at the local church.) Barely four-years old, she got her first taste of live performance, standing up and singing "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" with the choir in front of the parishioners.

"I was terrified. All these people were clapping and singing. I thought they were yelling at me. I thought I had done something wrong," she recalls, remembering that she was so scared she went and sat down in a chair and stopped singing.

"But my mother told me that they were clapping for me and encouraged me to get back up and sing. She told me that I had a Broadway at the Village Gate for a six-month run."

A year later she met Tim Lee, who later become her manager and husband, and recorded her first demo tape. The duo entered Nesby and her self-penned song, "Long, I Need You," into a Nashville talent contest, where she placed second.

Soon she found her calling in Minneapolis where she joined the acclaimed Sounds of Blackness. In 1988, she joined the group. And like Lana Turner at Schwab's, Nesby soon found herself being discovered.

Famed R&B producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis showed up at a Sounds of Blackness concert, with friend and client Janet Jackson. They duo quickly signed the group and helped them record their first album, "The Evolution of Gospel," which went on to win a Grammy. That album also spawned the top-10 R&B and dance hits, "Optimistic," "Testify" and "The Pressure."

After recording three more albums (and a second Grammy for a version of Handel's "Messiah," entitled "A Soulful Celebration") with Sounds and writing several of their songs, Nesby began to break out.

She sang backup for Janet Jackson on her "Janet" album and Patti LaBelle on her "Gems" set, as well as penned the top-10 R&B hit "The Right Kind of Lover," for LaBelle and "Home Alone," for Gladys Knight.

She also contributed several songs to soundtracks including "Batman," "Mo Money" and "Demolition Man," as well as lent her voice to tribute albums, such as those done for Curtis Mayfield, Marvin Gaye and John Lennon.

With the release of "I'm Here For You," the singer is racking up more attention, both as a singer and a songwriter. (She wrote or co-wrote several of the songs on the album.)

"This is a really hard business, especially when you are over 30 and not a mainstream artist, or a teenager," she says. "This industry can be very, very hard. Adult/contemporary artists don't have a big medium for video. That type of music is usually played after hours. If you are fortunate to have a video played in prime time, then there is something to be excited about."

gift, that God had given me this beautiful voice and to use it. If my mother had not sent me back (to sing), I probably would not be singing today."

After high school, her family moved to Rockland, Illinois. But soon she would seek musically richer pastures. In the late-1970s, she joined the James Cleveland's Gospel America Worship of America, a nationally renowned church choir. There she sang on three of the group's recordings.

"The church was where I got my formidable training," she says. "So many times the first training you hear that singers get was in church - people like Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin. I think a lot of times artists become very egotistical about what they do. But when you grow up in a choir, you have great singers all around you. It's not like you are the only singer. That's the great thing."

It was during this time that a young playwright offered her the chance to showcase her talent in his new gospel musical, "Sing Hallelujah." After premiering in Cincinnati in 1986, the show landed off-

Nesby definitely had something to be excited about. Not only did her first two singles get prime time airplay on cable music video networks VH1 and The Box, but she also began garnering attention in clubland.

"I've been very embraced by the dance community. I think that started during my days with Sounds and songs like 'Pressure,' part I and II, 'Optimistic' and 'I'm Going All The Way,'" she says. "It introduced me to the dance community," she says. "But I am very surprised by that. I

thought this was going to be a definite contemporary adult album."

And when it is all said and done, Nesby is pretty satisfied with the end result of her first solo endeavor. "I really can't complain. I had the opportunity with Jam and Lewis to be free to decide what I wanted to put on this album, with their expertise helping to guide me as to which songs would fit best and what would work."

"Between them and my brother, James Wright, who was also a producer and writer, I think we did a fairly good job."

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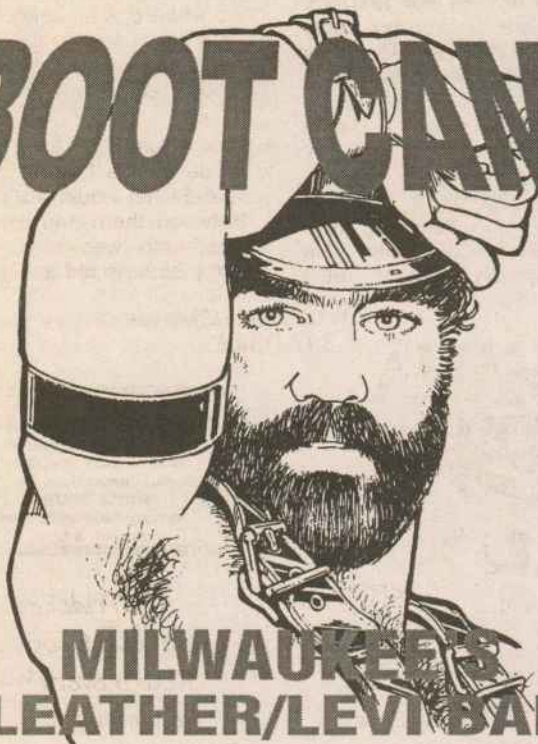
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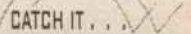
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LIVE!

JOHN MCGIVERN
STAR OF COMEDY CENTRAL,
A&E & VH-1

"A GAY ROBIN WILLIAMS" - THE WISCONSIN LIGHT

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

8-9PM, \$5 COVER

FIRST DRINK FREE

You're Invited

THURSDAY JUNE 5

JOHN MCGIVERN OPENS AT THE STIEMKE THEATER

Nationally known Gay comic, John McGivern opens at the Milwaukee Rep's Stiemke Theater for a three day run. McGivern who has starred on the Comedy Channel, the Arts and Entertainment Network and VH-1, brings his one man show "John McGivern Live," to his own hometown. The show will go on at 8:00 Thursday and Friday at 7:30 and 10:30 on Saturday.

NEW MAIN CLUB OPENS

The New Main Club, 1217 Tower Avenue in Superior, opens officially.

FRIDAY JUNE 6

PRIDEFEST BEGINS THREE DAY RUN AT SUMMERFEST GROUNDS

Milwaukee's annual Pride Celebration begins its three day run at the Summerfest grounds. Food, drink and plenty of entertainment to keep you occupied will be on hand.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BEGINS AT THE NAPALESE

Ann and Nancy kick off their first Anniversary celebration at the Napalese Lounge, 515 S. Broadway with drink specials and free champagne at Midnight. On Saturday June 7, Janet Planet will be on hand and your first drink is free. On Sunday June 8, there is free tap beer and soda from 3 PM to 5 PM and a buffet starting at 6PM. Congrats to Ann and Nancy.

LEATHER RECEPTION AT THE 1100 CLUB FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy will host a special reception to benefit Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center. The reception to be held at the 1100 Club will include a beer bust. The 1100 Club is located at 1100 S. First Street, Milwaukee.

SUNDAY JUNE 8

JOHN MCGIVERN AT SCANDALS IN MADISON

Nationally known John McGivern, star of Comedy Central, VH-1 and A & E, will be making a very special appearance at Scandals for a 10:00 PM show. McGivern who was born and raised on the East Side of Milwaukee is one of the funniest Gay comics around. There will be a \$5.00 cover. Scandals is located at 121 W Main Street, Madison. Don't miss this show!

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11

LOVE, VALOUR, COMPASSION WISCONSIN PREMIERE

The hit Broadway play, "Love Valour, Compassion" comes to the silver screen of the Oriental Theater at 7:30. This is a special benefit for Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center sponsored by the Wisconsin Light

THURSDAY JUNE 12

42ND STREET CAST THROWS BENEFIT FOR MAP AT CLUB 219 IN MILWAUKEE

The cast of Tony Award winning musical 42nd Street will be on hand at Club 219, 219 S. Second Street, to present a fun evening of special entertainment benefitting the Milwaukee AIDS project. Don't miss this chance to hob nob with the stars and help MAP fight AIDS. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door or in advance. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling 225-1549.

FRIDAY JUNE 13

MISS GAY GREEN BAY CROWNED AT ZA'S

Za's home of some of the best shows and pageants in the State will be the site of the exciting Miss Green Bay America Pageant on Friday June 13 at 10 PM. The pageant features the fabulous Miss Vicki C. plus Cass Marie Domino, Susan Saranwrap, Sara Jane Whitney and Celeste Olds. There is a \$3.00 cover Reserved tables are \$15.00. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

BARCARDI PARTY AT LA CAGE

La Cage will be hosting another of its popular Barcardi Parties. There will drink specials, free stuff and of course the fab Barcardi Boys. Don't miss all the fun when the Barcardi Boys and the hot music at La Cage mix. This could be explosive.

SATURDAY JUNE 14

THE GAY CONCERT III

The Cream City Chorus presents its 10th Anniversary concert, A Decade of Decadence, at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert will feature many of Milwaukee's best musical talents and plenty of humor and camp too. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance, \$10 at the door. They are available at AfterWords Bookstore, BESTD Clinic and Mama Roux. Show time is 8:00 PM.

FIREBIRDS CLUB NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP

The Firebird's Club Night for June will be held at the Boot Camp Saloon. Giveaways include a leather vest and gauntlet gloves. The Boot Camp is located at 209 E. National Ave, Milwaukee.

MISS CENTRAL GAY WISCONSIN PAGEANT

The fabulous Mad Hatter will be site of the exciting Miss Central Gay Wisconsin US of A. Anne and Vicki will be rolling out the welcome mat for one of their biggest nights of the year!

The Mad Hatter is located at 320 Washington Street, Wausau.

GERALDINE'S HOSTS V-BALL FUNDRAISER

Madtown's Volley Ballers want to get out of town, to go the Gay Games in Amsterdam. But they need your help to get there. That's why Geraldine's and the Men's Room the hot spot for Volley Ball in Madison is holding a fundraiser to help send our Badger Volley Ballers on their way. Stop in, donate some cash have a great

time and share in the glory when your team brings home the gold!!!

SUNDAY JUNE 15

JOHN MCGIVERN AT DIVERSIONS IN NEENAH

Nationally known John McGivern, star of Comedy Central, VH-1 and A & E, will be making a very special appearance at Diversions for an 8:00 PM show. McGivern who was born and raised on the East Side of Milwaukee is one of the funniest Gay comics around. There will be a \$5.00 cover. Diversions is located at 1413 Green Valley Road, Neenah.

MONDAY JUNE 16

FLAG DAY FREE SHOTS AT IN BETWEEN IN MILWAUKEE

Those true patriots at In Between will be celebrating Flag Day in a big way. Wear our national colors (that's red, white and blue for the Civic impaired) and get a free shot every 25 minutes!!! Plus In Between will have its regular Balloon toss that evening as well. Don't miss this great chance to salute Old Glory and have a great time too! In Between is located at 625 S. Second Street.

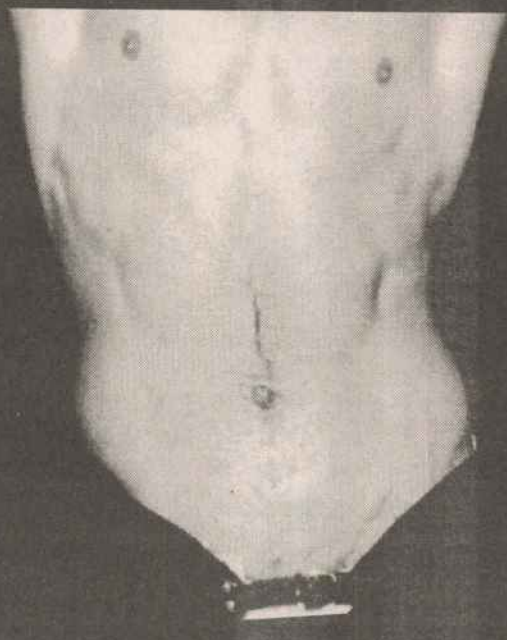
Please See Nesby Page 16

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TUESDAY

Short Cake Shots • \$1.50
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WEDNESDAY

Short Cake Shots • \$1.50
Beer Bust \$1 • 50¢ a Glass

THURSDAY

Beer Bust \$1 • 50¢ a Glass
Pizza

FRIDAY

Strip & Go Naked Drinks • \$4.50

SATURDAY

STRIPPERS • 10:30PM

Openings Available for Strippers

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Bill Meunier

The Art of Katt Yanda at the BestD Gallery

Milwaukee—"Cutting A New Path: The Art of Katt Yanda," will open at the BestD Gallery on Monday, June 16th. The one person show will feature a variety of works reflecting the life-long career of Yanda, a long-time Milwaukee resident, formerly of Appleton and Green Bay.

Yanda received her formal training at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, primarily as a student of Harold Huber. Her works cover a range of subjects and are very emotionally charged, provoking viewers to respond emotionally to them. Her work can be compared with that of the German Expressionists—full of emotion, atmosphere and mood.

Yanda chooses color spontaneously, rarely mixing, but often layering, to provide variation in tone and shade. While much of her work focuses on humans, often Native Americans, subjects also include winter scenes, dancers, cityscapes, horses, bar flies, and rock stars. Media are also varied, including soft pastels, conte crayons, charcoals, inks, oil pastels, and paints.

Yanda is a full-time artist who has previously exhibited at the Gallery of Wisconsin Art, Grava Gallery, Katie Gingrass Gallery, Beans and Barley Café, and the Milwaukee Art Museum. She has passed her love of art to her daughter, Shain, a promising photographer.

Katt Yanda was philosophically inspired by the poet Maya Angelou's words, "I looked up the road I was going and back the way I came, and since I wasn't satisfied, I decided to cut me a new path."

BestD Gallery is located on the first floor of BestD Clinic at 1240 E. Brady Street. Gallery hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. "Cutting a New Path: The Art of Katt Yanda," will run through August 29th. For more information, call BestD at (414) 272-2144.

Invited

Continued Page 18

SATURDAY JUNE 21

MR. GAY WISCONSIN PAGEANT AT ZA'S IN GREEN BAY

Za's will be site of the fabulous Mr. Gay Wisconsin US of A pageant. Contestants from around the state will compete for the right to go to the nationals and represent the Badger state.

The show begins at 10 PM. There is a \$7.00 cover and Reserved Tables are \$20.00

Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

POSTIVE VOICE PICNIC

Positive Voice, NE Wisconsin's LGBT support, education, social and outreach organization, is hosting their annual summer picnic at Wilder Park (Green Bay, east side). A family event, PV will provide the entrée, non-alcoholic beverages and "the fixings."

Wilder Park is located off Edgewood Drive behind the East Town Mall. For more information, call PV at (414) 499-5533.

SUMMER POTLUCK

Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Central Wisconsin will hold a Summer Potluck Picnic on Saturday, June 21, at 1:00 p.m. at Standing Rocks County Park, east of Plover, Portage County. Bring a dish to share. Cake provided. For more information, call (715) 592-5091.



Let's Get Dirty! The Mama Roux Possum Queen mud wrestling challenge held on Sunday June 1 was a big if messy success. Shown above left is Chanel as she pins Til in the championship match. Top right is a group from Rene's Cozy Corner who came to cheer for Chanel and have a good time. Bottom right is Ms. Nut Butt from Kathy's Nut Hut after she was defeated by Nellie Mae Jones from Mama Roux. The Ball Game and the M & M Club also held successful fund raisers that weekend. Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control we were not able to take pictures at those events.

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Live DJ • \$1.50 Taps • \$2 Rail

Friday

Live DJ • Shots of Doctors, \$2

Saturday

Live DJ • \$1.50 Taps • \$2 Rail
Doctors for \$2

Sunday

Beer Bust, 4-8pm

Saturday

Live DJ • \$1.50 Taps • \$2 Rail

Monday

Movie MADness, \$1 Taps
Free Popcorn

Tuesday

Taps are \$1 • Doctors, \$2

Wednesday

Rolling Rock \$1.50 • Doctors, \$2



LIVE SHOW!

Sunday, June 8

10pm, \$5 Cover

Nationally known Gay Comic
John McGivern,
star of Comedy Central,
the A&E Network, VH-1

SPORTSCOLUMN

Club 219 Continues Dominance of SSBL as the Season Continues for the League

Milwaukee—Following the exciting Milwaukee Classic, the SSBL resumed play at Sijan Field on Saturday May 31st. Madison's Manoeuvres and Milwaukee's Balistreri's Pizza moved up to a tie for second place as Mama's Family fell from the ranks of the undefeated.

Meanwhile Club 219 continued its dominance over the Ball Game and the rest of the league and In Between won its first victory of the season by beating the Triangle.

The league is showing incredible balance as five teams are within one game of each other after three weeks of play.

The scores: Club 219 pounded the CCF/Riverwest team 34 to 5. The Pride followed up with a big 18 to 6 victory over the Ball Game Rangers.

The Rangers took out their frustrations on In Between winning by a score of 28 to 6. In Between finished on a note though when it beat the Triangle 17 to 6.

CCF lost its fifth straight game to Manoeuvres by a score of 16 to 7. Manoeuvres followed up that win with an exciting 22 to 21 win over the M & M Mustangs.

Balistreri's Pizza won both of its game by beating Mama's Family, 11 to 8 and by defeating the Triangle.

The M & M Mustangs avenged an earlier loss to Mama's Family by a score of 11 to 6.

On June 7, the SSBL will play the games rained out on May 3rd. No games are scheduled for June.

In the event of another rain out on June 7, the May 3rd games will be played on June 14.

The schedule for June 7 at Sijan Field is as follows:

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

League Standings as of 5/31/97

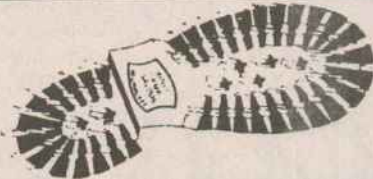
	Wins	Losses
Club 219 Pride	6	0
Balistreri's	4	2
Mama's Family	4	2
Manoeuvres	4	2
Ball Game	3	3
M & M Club	3	3
CCF/Riverwest	1	5
In Between	1	5
Triangle	1	5

On the Road to the Gay Games

Madison—There will be a fundraiser at Geraldine's Bar in Madison on June 14th, to help raise money for the Madison Volleyball team's projected trip to Amsterdam for the Gay Games next year. Not only will this be a trip of a lifetime for them, it will give these athletes a chance to represent Madison and Wisconsin in world class competition.

Make sure you mark your calendars on this one. Let's get behind this team!

On July 18th, there will be a registration party at Geraldine's for the Volleyball Tournament that will be at the MAGIC Picnic. Come, sign up, and enjoy the fun!



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OUT on Film

'Addicted to Love' is a Joy to All Those Who Have Loved and Lost

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn was already a most faithful fan of Matthew Broderick long before he dazzled our community as the deliciously adorable Alan in the big screen adaptation of **Torch Song Trilogy**. He was the cute kid with the easy wisecrack and the mischievous twinkle in his eye in such popular films as **Wargames** and **Ferris Bueller's Day Off**.

A far different Matthew Broderick is to be seen starring in the deadly romantic comedy, **Addicted to Love**. Glenn is most sorry to have to report that it is a fleshy, doughy Matthew Broderick.

Say it ain't so, Matthew Broderick, say it just ain't possibly so!

Pudgier but still with the same wry twinkle in his eye, Matthew Broderick plays Sam, an astronomer madly, truly, deeply and quite contentedly in love with Linda (Kelly Preston), a pretty little school teacher.

Fate (and an enterprising screenwriter) sends Linda to New York, the opportunity of a lifetime. As Sam puts the finishing touches to the perfect "welcome-home dinner", Linda sends her dear ol' dad over in her place, armed with a "Dear John-ogram" (Sounds like a possible business opportunity to the entrepreneurial Glenn).

Off to New York Sam goes, to get his gal back.

Linda has happily forgotten Sam having impetuously fallen in love with the former male model now restaurateur Anton (Tcheky Karyo). Just how impetuously her love Sam learns, as he begins to spy on her from an empty warehouse across

the way.

Enter Maggie (Meg Ryan), the self-same Anton's jilted fiancée. Absurdly dressed like a crash-test dummy wannabe, Maggie's, unlike Sam's, has love has turned. A bitter young woman (make that a very, very bitter young woman), Maggie will not, shall not, cannot rest until she's got Anton by a very intimate portion of his anatomy.

Aided by a cleverly crafted camera obscura, Sam and Maggie are able to watch Linda and Anton as if examining bacteria under a microscope as their fiendish plottings of revenge unfolds.

If Griffin Dunne's direction is often heavy-handed and Robert Gordon's predictable screenplay rather... well, predictable, **Addicted to Love** manages to succeed by the grace of its cast.

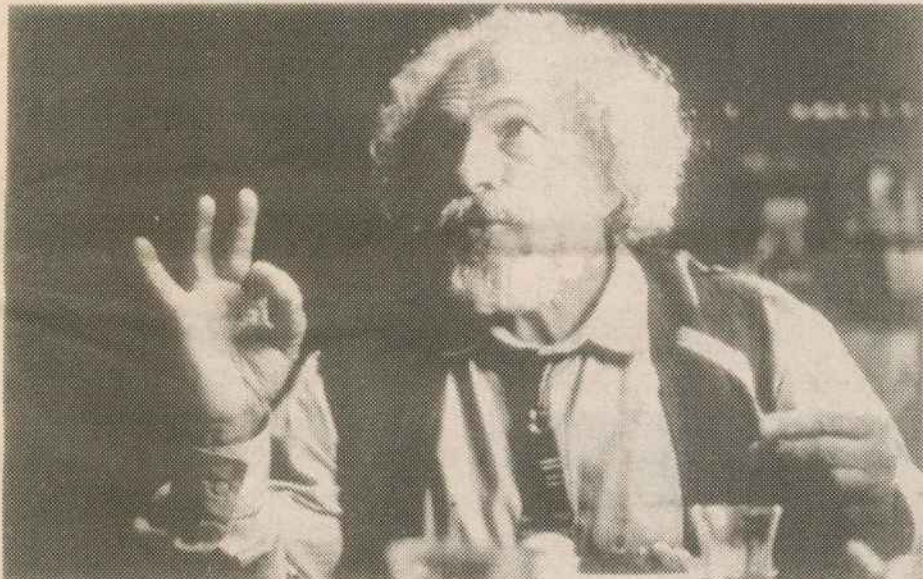
Meg Ryan is nothing short of terrific. As the vengeful Maggie, Ms. Ryan is smart, cynical and bitter. That she manages to keep the audiences' sympathies is nothing short of remarkable.

In the more traditionally warm and fuzzy role as the forlorn Sam, Matthew Broderick remains appealing but Glenn must admit a giggle or two during his tryst with Maggie.

Both Kelly Preston and Tcheky Karyo register nicely as the put upon lovers but poor Maureen Stapleton is sadly wasted in a throw-away scene as Maggie's Nana.

A joy for all who have loved and lost, **Addicted to Love** adds new a chapter to the "book of love."

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



Love at first bite! Pierre Richard stars as a pascal Ichac in the Sony release "A Chef in Love! It opens at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater on Friday June 6.

'Trial and Error' is Predictable, Not Funny and Just Bad, Bad, Bad

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Who is Michael Richards, Glenn pondered as he approached the overflowing preview audience for **Trial and Error**, a new romantic comedy also starring Jeff Daniels.

Armed with his usual "biggie popcorn," Glenn considered asking the adorably dressed little girl occupying the chair next to Glenn. How foolishly Glenn felt when she began to scream out "Kramer, Kramer". How sad Glenn was when she wouldn't stop.

Glenn is similarly sad to have to report that it was all downhill from then on.

So here's another big screen venture starring a small screen personality, the same said Michael Richards who is featured in the popular comedy **Seinfeld** (Okay, Glenn fesses up, he doesn't watch **Seinfeld**).

Richards follows some extraordinarily inept flops by such high-profile television personalities as Matthew "Fools Rush In" Perry, Fran "The Beautician and the Beast" Drescher and of course who can forget (no matter how much one might try in hours and hours of therapy) the perfectly dreadful **Kids in the Hall Brain Candy**?

Okay, **Trial and Error** isn't as bad as **Brain Candy**. How could it be, really? All **Trial and Error** is improbably predictable, staggeringly unfunny and generally undeserved of a theatrical release at all. Whew!

Within the first forty-five seconds, perceptive adolescents will recognize just where all of this silliness is headed. Much

put-upon good-guy lawyer Charles Tuttle (Jeff Daniels) is about to be wed to the daughter of his boss, a one-dimensionally drawn materialistic bitch named Tiffany (Alexandra Wentworth). Days before the wedding, Charlie is dispatched to some backwater Nevada town to bail out some family scumbag by the name of Benny Gibbs. Seems that Benny has this terrific scam going: he advertises "engraved copper portraits of Abraham Lincoln" to pathetic old folk. For the low, low price of \$17.99, Benny sends them each a penny. Get it, a penny. This is as funny as it gets.

Michael Richards is Richard Rietti, a sometime actor and best-friend to Charlie. Unlikely circumstances set in motion following a rather pathetic "bachelor bash" results in Richards somehow manages to find himself impersonating Charlie as Benny Gibbs lawyer.

All Glenn can say is bad, bad, bad! Michael Richards has a wickedly funny scene auditioning for a part but otherwise is betrayed by his material. Jeff Daniels tries to make a go of it but fares little better. Rip Torn is fun as the wily Benny Gibbs, Austin Pendleton has a few bright moments as the much amused Judge Paul Z Graff and Charlize Theron shines as Charlie's love interest, Billie.

Trial and Error is going to look a whole lot better as a \$99 Pick & Save video rental than after spending \$6.50 for a movie admission. Remember, Glenn told you so!

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



Nice shirt! Ramon Fomos (Randy Becker) is shown above in a scene from "Love! Valour! Compassion!". The film about eight Gay men spending a summer together opens at Milwaukee's Oriental theater on Friday June 13.

'Love! Valour! Compassion!' is a Film You Will Want to See Again and Again

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The year is 1970. This celebrated stage hit has just been filmed, much of its original cast intact. Might this just possibly be that breakthrough film, that mainstream Hollywood film that would present an honest representation Gay lifestyle? The film, of course, is **The Boys in the Band**.

Jump nearly three decades. Another celebrated New York stage hit has just been filmed, again with its celebrated stage cast nearly intact (Curiously missing is Nathan Lane). Will this finally be that breakthrough mainstream motion picture that the Lesbian and Gay community has for so long been waiting?

This film, of course, is the much heralded **Love! Valour! Compassion!** which stars **Seinfeld** mainstay Jason Alexander.

Based upon Terrance McNally's award-winning play, **Love! Valour! Compassion!** (or simply **LIVIC!**) follows a group of Gay men over the course of three summer holiday weekends spent miles and miles from another living soul in a fabulous home in the country.

The fabulous country home belongs to Gregory (Stephen Bogardus). Gregory, an aging dancer turned acclaimed choreographer lives there with his blind, younger and quite handsome lover Bobby (Justin Kirk).

Within Gregory's intimate inner circle are Perry (Stephen Spinella) and Arthur (John Benjamin Hickey), a longtime Gay couple who will, in the course of the film, celebrate their fourteenth anniversary.

Also on the guest list are Buzz (Jason Alexander), a show queen with a musical comedy lyric for any and all occasions and John (John Glover) who no one seems to like but whom Gregory felt guilty enough to invite anyway.

Adding dramatic as well as sexual tension is the inclusion of Ramon (Randy Becker), a hot young dancer John has recently met and has invited along. The group's second weekend finds one additional guest, John's sweet, identical twin brother James (also played by John Glover).

McNally possessing a keen eye and a quick wit, proves to be a wry observer of Gay life. In this screen adaptation to his

own play, McNally succeeds in depicting not only life's big dramatic scenes but also the small, intimate, often mundane moments with grace and subtlety.

Woven throughout **LIVIC!** are the loves, fears and betrayals of this collection of Gay men. Gregory is facing a block while working on creating his new dance piece. John seems desperate for others to like him but doesn't know how to change. Bobby's safe existence with Gregory is upset by the arrival of hunky Ramon. And so forth.

Lurking behind the much of the film's pithy, bitchy Gay humor and showtune snippets is the specter of AIDS. Buzz is HIV-positive and James is portrayed as slowly dying from AIDS. The touching relationship they forge is one based both upon equal measures of need and love.

Love! Valour! Compassion! offers Gay audiences many joys. Rarely, for example has the love and affection between Gay men, both between lovers and between friends been filmed as naturally and as sensitively. Although containing less nudity than the stage production could boast, there remains ample eye-candy in **LIVIC!**, particularly as embodied by the breathtakingly beautiful Randy Becker's Ramon.

Director Joe Mantello, also **LIVIC!**'s director on Broadway, elicits fine performances from all principals with a few standouts. Stephen Spinella (Prior Walter in Kushner's **Angels in America**) is sensational as Perry, one half of the "Gay role-model" couple. John Glover is equally astonishing as both the nasty, bitter John and the sweetly saintly James.

Special mention however must go to Jason Alexander. Replacing Nathan Lane is no easy task and it is remarkable how well Jason Alexander was able to fit into this ensemble. Alexander's Buzz is touchingly warm and human. How brave too, Glenn thought, for Mr. Alexander to dare to bare his pudgy little tush.

Love! Valour! Compassion! is a marvelous film. You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll want to see it many times. You'll want to buy the video. What better recommendation can one make?

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

"TWO THUMBS UP!"

-SISKEL & EBERT

LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!

"HILARIOUS!"

JASON ALEXANDER IS EVERY BIT AS IMPRESSIVE AS HE IS IN 'SEINFELD'.

-Andy Sotter, USA TODAY

★★★★★

THE BEST FILM OF THE YEAR.

-Sarah Allen, OAKLAND TRIBUNE

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Dinosaurs Are Awe-Inspiring in the Very Suspenseful, Entertaining 'Lost World'

By John A. Jahn

There's never been a more anticipated sequel. I remember my first thought after seeing *Jurassic Park* in 1993 was, "I can't wait to see the sequel," long before there was any official announcement of one. I just *knew* there had to be some kind of "Return to Jurassic Park" in the not-too-far-distant future. Well, four years and a billion dollars in movie revenues later, the desires of us dinosaur lovers have come to fruition with Director Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World*.

Quite naturally, everyone going to this movie who's seen the original, comes in with a lot of questions, such as: what happened to Jurassic Park and its surviving dinos on Isla Nublar? What future plans exist for them, if any?

The first half hour or so of the film is dedicated to re-familiarizing us with the main characters of the first film and tying up the loose strings it left behind. We find out that the park's creator, John Hammond (Richard Attenborough), closed down Nublar's attractions, but now plans to move several dinosaur species to a better location: Jurassic Park-San Diego!

To accomplish this task, he first wants a group of four experts to study and photograph the dinosaurs on a small island 87 miles from Nublar, known as "Site B." The knowledge of the existence of a completely wild environment filled with dinosaurs on this island comes to Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) as a great shock. Never a fan of the original *Jurassic Park*, Malcolm is horrified at Hammond's plans. Discovering that his paleontologist girlfriend, Susan (Julianne Moore), is already there studying the dinos, Malcolm decides

to go on this mission—if only to convince her and the others involved of the senselessness and unfeasibility of Hammond's dream.

The four scientists are joined on this trek by a stowaway: Malcolm's young daughter (Vanessa Lee Chester), further complicating things for the ever fretting Malcolm. As expected, dinosaur-human interaction begins to take nasty turns almost immediately, especially when Site B is deluged by helicopters full of hunters and trappers in Hammond's employ—their job being to capture many of the animals and prepare them for their trip to San Diego.

We now have an island full of vicious predators (including the horrific Tyrannosaurus Rex and cunning Velociraptor of the first film), and dozens of humans who, apart from Dr. Malcolm, have no idea how much trouble they're in. What follows is a sequence of highly entertaining, suspenseful, even frightening and awe-inspiring scenes as the humans' hunting and studying mission degenerates into one of mere survival.

Almost unbelievably, the dinosaurs in *The Lost World* are even more wonderfully realized and awesome than before. What's more, there are many more species to see, including one of my favorites, the scale-backed Stegosaurus with his spiked tail. More people are brutally killed by the predatory dinosaurs than in the first film as well (either a plus or a minus, depending on your own taste—no pun intended).

In fact, *The Lost World*, though rated PG-13, comes very close at times to earning an R rating. This is definitely *not* a movie about cute and cuddly Barney-saurs

for little kids to get all excited about.

The Lost World is a darker, more serious film than its predecessor. Even the lofty, noble score of the first film is replaced by one of darker hues and tension (both by John Williams).

I really have no complaints about this film. Sequels to great movies always have

a very high hurdle to jump. *The Lost World* clears that hurdle with room to spare. Whatever awe and wonder that may be lost is more than made up for in gritty tension, dazzling effects, convincing characters, and endless fascination. There's nary a dull moment. *The Lost World* rates a 9 out of 10.

'Lost World' is a Mass of Cliches Trying to Hide Behind Technology

By Steve Stavron

Lost World is an old fashioned "B" picture on which a great deal of money has been spent. The high tech computerized effects are more advanced than those in *Jurassic Park* so why grumble? If the new film eludes the sense of wonder and the carefully developed suspense sequences of the earlier film—not to mention an intriguing plot line—it's easier just to go with the flow and accept the fact that technology more than compensates for the artistic decadence, as long as you're having "fun." I wasn't. I missed a certain sense of awe.

I wasn't expecting a *Citizen Kane* or a *GWTW*, but there's something depressing and prophetically disheartening to think that the talented director of *ET*, *Schindler's List*, *Jaws* and *Jurassic Park* should trade off his sparkling originality for soul-less cliches. Is this what all movies are coming to? Computerized crap. But what is really frightening is the threat of films that continually depersonalize the movie goer's psyche.

King Kong remains a classic because they ape was more loveable than the human characters.

And the repetition of cliches! The Tyrannosaurus appears again on a rainy night and pushes the trailer to the cliff's edge (as in *Jurassic*); a baby Tyrannosaurus is kidnapped (as in *Jaws*); and—horror of horrors—a live Tyrannosaurus runs amok in San Diego occasioning more car crashes!! Spare us *Godzilla*.

The effect of watching screaming, running crowds is like an overlay of interchangeable shots from *Independence Day* and *Volcano* (sigh) with lava, space-ships, dinosaurs penciled in.

But the real panic is the enormity of Steven Spielberg's sell-out. Jeff Goldblum's clever line that new mistakes will replace old ones might well refer to this and subsequent movies. And we mustn't forget his politically correct unexplained Black daughter—the penultimate cliché.

Of course, this doesn't mean you should see the film. Think of all the money spent on this one. And why be a spoil sport when asked if you liked it? But make sure you know what you're buying.

As for myself, I couldn't help secretly wishing that word of mouth might kill off this film with a voraciousness that even a Tyrannosaurus might envy. Fat chance.

Entertainment Guide

APPLETON Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin Appleton, WI 54991 954-9262	MADISON A Room of One's Own Book store 317 W. Johnson Madison, WI 53703 257-7888	MILWAUKEE Continued Club 219 219 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 271-3732	MILWAUKEE Continued This Is It 418 E. Wells Milwaukee, WI 53202 278-9192
DOOR COUNTY Chanticleer Guest House 4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 746-0334	MADISON Geraldine's 3052 E. Washington Madison, WI 53704 241-9335	MILWAUKEE Designing Men 1120 S. First Milwaukee, WI 53204 389-1200	MILWAUKEE Triangle 134 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-9412
EAU CLAIRE The Trading Co. 304 Eau Claire St. Eau Claire WI 838-9494	MADISON Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair Madison, WI 54703 258-9918	MILWAUKEE 1100 Club 1100 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 647-9950	MILWAUKEE Walkers Point Cafe 1106 S. First St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 384-7999
GREEN BAY Brandy's II 1126 Main St Green Bay, WI 54301 437-3917	MADISON Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast W13172 Hwy 188 Lodi, WI 53555 1-800-380-8427	MILWAUKEE Fannies 200 E. Washington Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-9633	MILWAUKEE Zippers 819 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-8330
GREEN BAY Napalese Lounge 515 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 432-9646	MADISON Scandals 121 W. Main St. Madison, WI 53703 251-1030	MILWAUKEE In Between 625 S. 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 278-96114	NEENAH Diversions 1413 Green Valley Neenah, WI
GREEN BAY Sass 840 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54304 437-7277	MADISON The Shamrock 117 W Main St. Madison, WI 53703 255-5029	MILWAUKEE Just Us 807 S. 5th St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-2233	RACINE JoDees 2139 Racine St. Racine, WI 53403 634-9804
GREEN BAY Za's/Java's 1106 Main St. Green Bay, WI 54301 435-5476	MADISON We Are Family 524 E. Wilson Madison, WI 5303 258-9006	MILWAUKEE La Cage 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 52304 383-8300	RACINE What About Me? 600 6th St. Racine, WI 53403 632-0171
KENOSHA Club 94 9001 120th Ave Kenosha, WI 53140 857-9958	MILWAUKEE Afterwords Books 2710 N. Murray Milwaukee, WI 53211 963-9089	MILWAUKEE La Perla Restaurant 734 S. Fifth St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-9888	SHEBOYGAN Blue Lite 1029 N. 8th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081 457-1636
LA CROSSE Cavaller Lounge 114 N 5th St. La Crosse, WI 54601 782-9061	MILWAUKEE B's 1579 S 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 672-5580	MILWAUKEE Mama Roux Bar & American Grill 1875 N. Humboldt Milwaukee, WI 53212 347-0344	STEVENS POINT The Platwood Club 701 Highway 10W Stevens Point, WI 54481 341-8862
LAKE MILLS Cross Roads Bar W6642 Hwy B Lake Mills, WI 53551 648-8457	MILWAUKEE Ball Game 196 S. 2nd Milwaukee, WI 53204 273-7474	MILWAUKEE M & M Club 124 N. Water Milwaukee, WI 53202 347-1962	SUPERIOR JT's Bar 1506 N 3rd St. Superior, WI 54880 394-2580
	MILWAUKEE Boot Camp Saloon 209 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-6900	MILWAUKEE Rene's Cozy Corner 3500 W Park Hill Milwaukee, WI 53208 933-RENE	SUPERIOR Trio Club 820 Tower Superior, WI 54880 392-5373
	MILWAUKEE Cafe Melange 720 N. Old World St. Milwaukee, WI 53203 291-9889	MILWAUKEE S. Water St. Docks 354 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 225-9676	WAUSAU The Mad Hatter 320 Washington Wausau, WI 54401 842-3225
	MILWAUKEE C'est La Vie 231 S. Second St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 276-8890	MILWAUKEE Station 2 1534 W. Grant Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-5755	



A Classic Banquet-Shown above are the Ball Game Rangers winner of the C Division of the 17 Milwaukee Classic. Next are the Club 219 Pride which took second place in the B Division. Last but not least is the Milwaukee Committee. Top Row (L-R) Rodney Stockel, Mike Vukovich, Tom Rowland, Bob Melig and Tracey Kreisman. Bottom row (L-R) Danny Nelson, Joe Espinoza, Tommy Salzsieder,

'Love! Valour! Compassion!' Cast and Crew Talk About Making the Movie and Gay Life and Love in America

In 1994, Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!* opened off-Broadway to critical praise both for its direct portrayal of contemporary relationships among the Gay middle-class and its much broader theme of how the human heart has had to find new and challenging ways to connect and stay true in this day and age.

Also singled out for praise was the clarity, passion and wit of McNally's dialogue — which carries both the ring of truth and the sting of human comedy.

The stage play drew a loyal following both with mainstream and Gay theater audiences. At award time, it was honored with more accolades and nominations than any other play of the season, including the Tony Award for Best Play.

Joe Mantello, who directed the stage version, now makes his motion picture directorial debut with the film version of *Love! Valour! Compassion!*.

The original New York cast, has been reunited for the film joined by Jason Alexander in the role of Buzz. Terrence McNally is the author of the screenplay and the film is produced by Doug Chapin and Barry Krost. Diane Conn is the line producer. *Love! Valour! Compassion!* is being distributed in North America by Fine Line Features.

In the wake of "Love! Valour! Compassion's!" theatrical debut, the idea of a motion picture began to take root. Terrence McNally's stage play already read like a screenplay — it was full of underwater scenes and gleaming moonlight and lush gardens, all of which were recreated expressionistically on the stage. The play, which spoke to the core of the human spirit, called out for an even broader audience.

Producers Doug Chapin and Barry Krost, whose credits include *What's Love Got To Do With It* and *American Dreamer*, immediately saw the potential for a special motion picture.

Says producer Doug Chapin: "When Barry and I first saw the play we were struck by how humorously, gracefully and intimately Terrence and Joe communicated such a powerful notion: we are all mortal, so spend your time loving, laughing with and caring for those closest to you. That they were able to do this with a wit and charm that touched such a vast cross-section of people in the audience, convinced us that this was a wonderful movie waiting to be made."

Chapin approached Terrence McNally and Joe Mantello, who were both intrigued by the idea. But there was a caveat.

"Once upon a time it seemed inconceivable to me that *Love! Valour! Compassion!* would become a movie," says Joe Mantello, who is not only a director but an actor who received a Tony nomination for his acclaimed leading role in *Angels In America*. "Because we all agreed that it couldn't and shouldn't be done without the original cast, which of course rarely happens. There was no way I was going to enter this new world, take these characters into this new reality, without the support and love of the people who had been there in the beginning. So Terrence and I agreed we would only do it if we all did it together."

For Chapin, the task of reassembling a cast of some of theater's finest and most sought-after actors was no small thing.

"But because we realized the importance, it was a task we happily took on," recalls Chapin "and one that Fine Line courageously encouraged us in. And in the end you can see why it was so vital, how it kept the vision of the play pure, and the humor fresh, how the fact that all these actors were so close to the material made it something that could become intimate and very real on the screen."

The only major change in the casting for the motion picture was the addition of Jason Alexander in the role of Buzz, who as his name suggests, is the witty, unstoppable energy center for the whole octet. Alexander came into a potentially volatile situation: the outsider in a group of actors who had been working together for years.

Cast and filmmakers admit there was a lot of initial trepidation.

"But the amazing thing is that Jason just folded right into the production immediately," says Mantello. "There was a great deal of anxiety about him becoming part of the dynamic these guys had worked so hard to forge, but he made it easy for them to accept him and they made it easy on him."

Says Alexander: "I wanted the role because I saw the movie as a story of where we are now, as human beings. It's about how we succeed, we fail, we love, we lie,

and mostly we just hope to come through it together, laughing if possible."

"Also, playing Buzz was incredibly interesting to me. Doing 'Seinfeld' for so long has been a great experience for me, but after awhile it gets to be like putting on the same pair of socks every morning. It was nice to have something a little frightening

to do.

And when it came to taking on Buzz, who is not just Gay but very flamboyant, I took the whole thing very seriously. Because I get offended by portrayals of over the top Gay men by straight actors, I didn't

Please See Love Page 28

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 BOGARDUS JOHN BENJAMIN HICKEY JUSTIN KIRK RANDY BECKER AND JASON ALEXANDER ORIGINAL HAROLD WHEELER MUSIC BY JACKIE KROST
WITH COLLEEN SHARP PRODUCTION FRANCOIS SEGUIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALIK SAKHAROV EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RUTH VITALE JONATHAN WEISSGAL AMY LABOWITZ PRODUCED BY DIANE CONN
WRITTEN BY DOUG CHAPIN BARRY KROST SCREENPLAY BY TERRENCE McNALLY DIRECTED BY JOE MANTELLO
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The regular engagement of Love! Valour! Compassion! begins Friday, June 13 at the Oriental Theatre.

Out In Print



Interviews



Jackie Calhoun, Best-Selling Naiad Author, Talks of the Joys of Writing

By Cynthia Van Vreede
Wisconsin Light: You are Naiad's best-selling author. When did you start writing?

Jackie Calhoun: I started my first book, I think, it was in the summer of 1986. I finished it in December 1987, and it was published in 1990. The first book takes awhile.

WL: Were you doing any kind of writing before that?

JC: Well, I wrote some short stories but I didn't have much to do with them. I was running a business, I had a rental business, and I was married and raising my kids.

WL: Would you have ever predicted this kind of success?

JC: Well, I wouldn't think so, no. I was surprised. I mean Naiad was the second place I had the book, and the first one went to Little & Brown, which was foolish. Without a query letter or anything. So the success of getting published is, was surprising. But I did think people would like that book.

WL: Of all the books, which was the easiest for you to write?

JC: I started *Lifestyles* twice. I wrote it over. But once I started writing it over, it was pretty easy. So was *Friends and Lovers*. I would say those two, maybe *Triple Exposure*.

WL: Which was the most difficult?

JC: The most difficult was probably *Changes*.

WL: Yes. The woman with the accident. Did you have to do a lot of research for that one?

JC: No. I broke my neck.

WL: Really? That was you?

JC: Well, it was me and it wasn't me. I mean, the medical part is accurate... That was in '89, and that was a long time ago.

WL: Do you have a favorite book?

JC: The only book I read all the way through after it was published was *Friends and Lovers*. I have to say two or three I like. I like *Lifestyles*, *Friends and Lovers*, *Triple Exposure*.

WL: One critic called you the "chronicler of Lesbian life in the 90s." Do you see yourself that way?

JC: I don't know. I write midwestern books, so I represent maybe the midwestern realism. Lesbian realism. I think my books are pretty realistic.

WL: Your books do deal with real people, real issues, and day-to-day interactions. Do you have a lot to draw on?

JC: I think that real life -- it's much more exciting than something made up. It's something people can relate to. I have to say that since I became a lesbian things have been really in turmoil until the past three years. So I do have something to draw on.

WL: For me, your books are interesting to read because they take place in Northeastern Wisconsin, where I happened to grow up.

JC: It anchors me in some way, so that I can picture it. And I need to do that, picture my characters, picture the locations.

WL: When you get a chance to read, what kind of books do you like to read?

JC: Probably a lot of books. Let's see what I'm reading right now. Oh. I hate to tell you I'm reading a Jonathan Grisham book. (Laughs.) That's not what I usually read. My favorite author is Lisa Alther. My favorite book is *Other Women*. But I have lots of authors that I like, they're pretty down to earth... I like big books. I wish Naiad would let me write a book longer than a couple of hundred pages! Right now I'm working on a mainstream book.

If you're interested in Jackie's new projects, or want to know more about her books, please stop by the Afterwords/Wisconsin Light Literary Coffeehouse at Pridefest '97. Jackie will be reading from her latest book, Seasons of the Heart, at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Kenneth and finally onto coming out to his parent, Glenn imagines that many will find much in **A Boy Named Phyllis** that brings back memories, both good and some not-so good.

If occasionally DeCaro's raucous Italian-American New Jersey family does seem to resemble more closely those wacky '60's sitcom families than real, flesh and blood people, never does DeCaro's storytelling lose its warmth. DeCaro clearly loves Frank and Marian (his parents), crazy Nana Anna and all the rest.

As he read **A Boy Named Phyllis**, Glenn admits that he began to love the DeCaro clan just a little bit, too

of Pittsburgh Press)
Furious Cooking by Maureen Seaton (Univ. of Iowa Press)

Gay Men's Poetry
What the Body Told by Rafael Campo (Duke)

Lesbian Mystery
Robber's Wine by Ellen Hart (Seal)

Gay Men's Mystery
The Death of Friends by Michael Nava (Putnam)

Fiction Anthology
Women on Women 3 edited by Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch (Plume)

Nonfiction Anthology
Taking Liberties edited by Michael Bronski (Richard Kasak)

Lesbian Biography
Life in a Day by Doris Grumbach (Beacon)

Gay Men's Biography
Geography of the Heart by Fenton Johnson (Scribner)

Spirituality
The Good Book by Peter Gomes (Morrow)

Small Press and Transgender
Body Alchemy by Loren Cameron (Cleis Press)

Children's
Good Mooning Rising by Nancy Garden (FSG)

Photography/Visual Arts
Nothing But the Girl by Susie Bright and Jill Posener (Cassell)

Drama
Split Britches edited by Sue-Ellen Case (Routledge)

Humor
Homo Handbook by Judy Carter (Fireside Press)

Lambda Literary Awards

The Lambda Literary foundation hosted their ninth annual Lambda Literary Awards Friday May 31st at Chicago's Midland Hotel on the eve of the Book Expo America convention. Key winners include the following:

Lesbian Fiction
Memory Mambo by Achy Obejas (Cleis Press)

Gay Men's Fiction
Funny Boy by Shyam Selvadurai (Morrow)

Lesbian Studies
Love Between Women by Bernadette J. Brooten (Univ. of Chicago Press)

Gay Men's Studies
Boys Like Us edited by Patrick Merla (Avon)

Lesbian Poetry
(tie)
All American Girl by Robin Becker (Univ.



Famed Author Andrew Holleran to Appear at Afterwords

Afterwords is especially pleased to welcome Andrew Holleran, one of the most important Gay literary figures, to Milwaukee for a reading and book signing on Wednesday, June 25th at 7:30pm.

Since the publication of his classic **Dancer From the Dance**, and later **Nights in Aruba**, Andrew Holleran's reputation as one of this country's foremost Gay writers remains undiminished. Holleran returns after fourteen years with the publication of a long-awaited third novel, **The Beauty of Men** (Plume Pb \$12.95).

Holleran paints a stunning portrait of a man who represents a generation of Gay men. If **Dancer From the Dance** por-

trayed Gay men in the 1970's, **The Beauty of Men** takes the image through two more decades. **The Beauty of Men** tells the story of Lark, a man nearing fifty and in good health but obsessing over the beauty of youth and its inevitable passage.

Holleran's, **The Beauty of Men**, is a novel of tremendous poetic power, a universal tale of loneliness, aging and the obsessive desires of the human heart. At once moving and darkly humorous, **The Beauty of Men** is an astonishingly resonant and important work of fiction and a recent nominee for a Lambda Literary Award for Best Gay Men's Fiction.

Andrew Holleran will appear at Afterwords Bookstore & Espresso Bar at 7:30pm on Wednesday, June 25th. The event is free and open to all.

For further information concerning Andrew Holleran's appearance or any Afterwords event, please call (414) 963-9089 or check our website:

www.afterwords.com



Frank DeCaro's "A Boy Named Phyllis," Is the Gay World's Answer to 'the Beve'

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Brought up watching such idyllic suburban families as The Cleavers (*Leave it to Beaver*), The Andersons (*Father Knows Best*) and later, naturally, The Bradys (*The Brady Bunch*), Glenn was often left to ponder his existence. Could these be Glenn's real parents? Might have Glenn been adopted? How come no one's mother in Glenn's neighborhood offered Glenn milk and cookies after school?

Knowing he was Gay since entering puberty, Glenn increasingly found such programs unrecognizable. Neither Wally nor the Beav seemed to have any interest in the hunky, humpy boys in their class. None of the Brady kids ever mentioned the thrill of showering with the swim team.

Still, any budding Gay man might escape adolescence in the desolate American landscape known as "the suburbs" unscathed if adequately equipped with a sense of humor, as proved by Frank DeCaro's hilarious "suburban memoir", **A Boy Named Phyllis** (Plume Pb \$11.95).

From the opening chapter, when DeCaro


recounts his parents discovery of the fetus soon to be called Frank, hiding behind a melonsized tumor, it becomes clear that **A Boy Named Phyllis** is not another angst-ridden coming out saga.

Unlike Glenn, Frank DeCaro actually found a television family that did resemble his real family: **The Munsters**. "To me, the goings-on at 1313 Mockingbird Lane, where this clan of Transylvanian transplants lived in a decrepit mansion with a fire-breathing dragon under the stairs were like the DeCaro home movies..."

What is striking in **A Boy Named Phyllis** is that behind DeCaro's wise and wry observations of growing up, there is something so gosh-darn familiar. He may not have been "every Gay boy", but DeCaro's rites of passage has a surprising ring of universal truth.

From Frank's school-boy crush on Bobby Sherman (who didn't have a crush on Bobby Sherman back then, Glenn ponders?), his first experiences crossdressing (some pretty adventurous Halloween costumes), to stories about his first boyfriend

Meet Andrew Holleran
Author of
The Beauty of Men
and **Dancer From the Dance**
at Afterwords
Wednesday, June 25th - 7:00



For more info, call or stop in to
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FICTION

Statues of the Sacred Band



A SERIALIZED NOVEL

Chapter 7

By Terry Boughner

How we got there, I'm not sure. All my attention was on Rudy. I was on some sunlit, springtime hill where the warm, soft air was filled with the scent of apple blossoms and Rudy was in my arms.

Suddenly, that changed. I was shocked back to reality when the car plunged onto a ramp, spiraling down several levels before coming to a screeching halt in an underground garage. Instead of apple blossoms, the smell of oil filled the fetid air.

At Mary Ann's order, we all got out and ran about 100 feet to where a brown sedan was parked. The woman with her opened the trunk.

"Name's Julie," Mary Ann said, with a nod toward the woman, who was pulling stuff from a box in the trunk.

I had a lot of questions, but there was no time to ask any of them. Julie had pulled wigs, two floppy hats and a couple of pairs of glasses from the box in the trunk. As I saw her then, she was tall, in her 50s, perhaps, a motherly looking woman, lacking Mary Ann's intensity in her warm gray eyes.

The two women dressed quickly, applied some makeup and became a fair imitation of a couple of matrons out on a touristy romp. From a small purse Julie took a key and gave it to me. "This is to my apartment," she said. "It's 608. Take the elevator. Go there and wait. Don't answer the phone, dear hearts and whatever you do, don't let anyone in."

With that, they got in the sedan. With Mary Ann driving, they were off. Rudy and I stood there, listening to the squeal of tires as they roared away up the ramp.

We found the elevator easily enough. I pressed the button and we waited. All was quiet. No cars came, nobody was around.

"Why'd you kiss me?" I wondered, asking him softly, my head tilted a little to one side.

"Because..." He stopped.

I ran an index finger down the bridge of his nose. "Because maybe you feel for me what I feel for you?"

He nodded, once, shyly, yet with determination, too.

Still, the elevator did not come. Finally we took the stairs, going three levels up to the lobby. There wasn't much to differentiate it from others of its kind; soft carpeting, mirrors, lots of plants. We went to the elevators.

Several people stood waiting. One, a rump-sprung woman who was wearing a hat that looked like a seagull had died on her head. With her was a man who somehow reminded me of an hour glass from which the time had run out. He was complaining loudly to no one in particular that the "damn things weren't running" and that for all the money he paid for this place, you'd think...blah, blah, blah. I told Rudy that we'd go get some coffee.

We left the building. The heat and humidity were still oppressive but the sun had disappeared behind some clouds and there was a steady breeze. It was going to rain. As we walked, I kept an eye out for anyone suspicious looking, but there was no one who I could see. At a corner, we stopped for a light and watched as a convoy of military vehicles rumbled by, heading east.

A couple of blocks further on, we found a place, a small restaurant called the Chez Gaston. Inside was cool, dim lit, with a bar along one wall and tables and chairs filling up the rest. There was a crowd, but they were all at the bar staring at the TV set high on the wall. A news reader was talking about Heyl and all the good he'd done, etc., etc. We took a table in the back, away from the windows, lit cigarettes and ordered coffee.

"What's your last name?" I asked Rudy.

"Peralta," he answered, and went on.

He was born in San Jose to parents who had immigrated from Mexico. His mother had died giving him birth. His father, a truck driver, had quickly remarried. From that union came seven kids. The family was poor. Everyone had to work. At age 10, Rudy had found a job doing yard work for an old woman named Mrs. Presser who lived in the fashionable part of town. She took an immediate liking to

him and began treating him like a grandson. Eventually, she had asked him if he'd like to move in with her.

"Of course, I said, 'yes,'" Rudy continued. "My family didn't mind. By that time they had pretty well figured out that I was different and didn't want me around. The day I left, my father told me never to come back."

"Did Mrs. Presser know?" I wondered. "Uhm-hum. She knew because I told her in a speech I must have rehearsed a million times. I was so scared. But she said my being Gay didn't bother her. She still loved me."

Loved him, she did, but there were rules. One of which was that he go to school. He did, and to please her, he'd worked his head off, graduating from high school with academic honors and a letter in gymnastics. Afterwards, she'd sent him east, to her husband's alma mater, Georgetown. It was there bad luck struck.

"She died," Rudy said, "when I was just finishing my sophomore year. She had family, distant cousins or something. They descended and I was cut off. I cried my eyes out, not for the money. I couldn't care less, but for her. She had loved me, the only one in my entire life who ever had, the only one who wanted me. I felt so alone, so empty, like a big, dark hole had opened up inside me."

He'd dropped out of school and plunged into that hole, into the dark sloughs of pity and despond, drowning himself in booze and spacing out on drugs. There are a lot on the streets like me—like I was—but one thing, though. I never sold myself. I never hustled to get money. There was just enough self-respect left in me, I guess, to stop that. But I did everything else until I hit bottom. That was one evening I was thrown out of a bar, landing face down in the gutter. That's where Johnny Chang found me and had took me home."

Johnny had a lover, guy named Tom. "They offered me a home," Rudy said, "for as long as I needed it. At first I thought, you know, that they were into three-ways or something, but no way. They were totally committed to each other, really solidly in love. And that's what they taught me."

"What's that?" "Love. About love. That it's the strongest force in the universe; that it's the only thing worth having; that love was Mrs. Presser's legacy to me, Heaven's gold, they called it. They said I had two choices. One was I could deny my being and what love had in store for me—or, I could clean myself up. It was hard, maybe the hardest thing I've ever done, but I did it, and after maybe a year, I was strong enough to move out and get a little room of my own."

He stopped to sip some coffee, leaving me wondering that he could be so open and honest with me. He had known me only a couple of hours, yet he had allowed himself to be vulnerable to me. I was pleased about that, but I couldn't help asking myself, would I have done the same if the shoe was on the other foot?

"So, what about you?" Rudy asked. I told him my story, all of it. As I had with him, he listened to me closely, as if every word I said was the most important thing he'd ever heard.

"You don't know who those guys were who were chasing us?" Rudy asked.

"Not a clue." I took a drag from my cigarette. "All I know is that whoever it is thinks I know a hell of a lot more than I do." I drank some coffee. "You knew Bobby Calder?"

"Uhm-hum. I knew him. Not well. He was very quiet. Kept mostly to himself, so nobody knew him very well, nobody except Garreth, that is."

"You know anything about Garreth?" "Other than what you know already."

"And the Gays disappearing?"

"I don't know. There are a lot of rootless Gays around, in any city. Still, Johnny figured this was different."

"He ever say why?"

"Uhm, he had it figured that the disappearances began when Nick Bardi first came to town, at the start of the Heyl Administration. But Johnny hasn't any proof of that and he has good reason to hate Bardi."

"What?"

"It's this. Bardi comes into Ganymede's all the time, and every time he does, everybody breaks their neck to wait on him."

"Why? The tips?"

"Uhm-hum, that. He tips with \$100 bills, but there's something else, too. See, Johnny never waited on him and he told me to stay away, too. Not because we didn't want the money. That'd been good. We could've both used it. But Johnny was convinced that the money was dirty."

"What'd he mean?"

"Drugs. See, when I was buying stuff, I'd get it from any one of several guys. One I got to know kinda well, and he told me the trade was all controlled by one man, here in DC, anyhow. Who that was, he said he didn't know, but..."

"One man. And Johnny thought it was Bardi?"

"Uhm-hum."

"Did ever say why he thought that?"

"No. But see, Johnny hates Bardi. Like I said, Bardi comes into Ganymede's a lot, and when he does, he likes to pick the waiters who serve him, for of five of them, minimum. The one's he likes, he invites to work at his parties. He calls them his 'Sacred Band.'"

"Wait a minute. Sacred Band. The Theban Legion of Gay lovers?"

"Uhm-hum. 328 couples."

"328?! Project 328."

"Uhm-hum. Who knows what that means. Anyway, the guys who accept get \$1,000 retainer for the work. Thing is, he also likes to grope them, which is no big deal to most guys, but Johnny was different."

"How so?"

"It's like this. Bardi comes in one time and asks for Johnny. Johnny goes over to his table, but when Bardi started groping his crotch, well, I thought Johnny was going to break his arm. It took me and two others to pull the two of them away."

"So, lemme guess. Not too long after, Tom disappears."

"Uhm-hum. The thing is, Bardi had asked for me that same time. In fact He's asked for me more than one, but I've always refuse. So Johnny was running interference, but he was afraid for me."

"Is that why you got out of there with me?"

"No, Tony, no. I went with you because when I saw you, I knew you were the porter to let me in at Heaven's door. You were the guy Johnny and Tom had told me about, the guy who would fill me, complete me, and who I would give everything in return. When I saw you, Tony, I wanted to shout 'Eureka' so loudly that Mrs. Presser would hear."

"Maybe she didn't need to hear. Maybe she was kinda like Dolly Levi."

"Uhm-hum. I think." He paused.

"There's one thing more. Just before you and Mary Ann came in, Bardi was at the restaurant. He was catering a party, he said, and needed waiters."

"Catering? Him, catering? A man that rich..."

"Uhm-hum, I know, but this party was different."

"How different?"

"This party was in the White House tonight."

"Oh."

"Very quiet, very discreet, I heard him say."

"Did he invite you—I mean, to work?"

"Uhm-hum, but I turned him down."

"So, maybe you'll reconsider."

"Huh?"

"Okay, look. Suppose you call him, tell him you'll work. Suppose, too, you tell him you got a friend who'll work with you, a friend who's a handsome, well-built young Gay man, and..."

"Uhm, that wouldn't be a lie." He paused. "You know who you look like?"

"Yeah, I know, the statue of David."

"Uhm, well, maybe a little. But you look a lot more like Glenn Bishop. A male model, ancient, back in the '50s. I've seen his picture in old physique magazines they sell in the Stoa."

"I'll have to take a look—after they put the place back to rights."

"God, Glenn Bishop, he was gorgeous, dark, handsome, with a body to die for."

"As long as you think so."

"Oh, I do, I do. The problem is, Tony, right now, you're driving me wild. For the first time in my life, I'm like a tiger in heat."

"Yeah, me too. When you kissed me, I thought... Go make your call."

"Uhm, yeah. But one thing. If Bardi saw you on the train, won't he recog..."

"Like Mary Ann and Julie, there are disguises."

"Sounds good. I'll make the call." He got up, but stopped and looked back at me. "Tony?"

"Yeah?"

"You're into monogamy?"

"Totally. Like Tom and Johnny. You can't separate sex from love, not as far as I'm concerned."

"Uhm-hum." He smiled and ran the tip of an index finger down the bridge of my nose.

"Rudy, believe me, I want you. My God, how I want you. Physically, yes. God, I want you that way. But I want more than that. I want you, all of you, Rudy, I want all of you for myself and myself alone. I want to build a home with you, a family, you 'n me."

"Tony, listen to me. I want all that too, but one thing you gotta know, I'm all male—and I like that—but there's a lot of what they call feminine in me. There's a lot in me that'll be possessive, too, real possessive. I have my insecurities."

"Possess away, Rudy. I need somebody like that, like you are. I'm not real good on my own. I need to be possessed, enviously possessed, coupled if you will. If I'm reading you right, Rudy, you need love like a dry sponge needs water. I need someone who wants that."

"Uhm-hum. You're right. But you have him."

"I like that. And Rudy."

"Uhm?"

"I've never said that to any other man. But Rudy?"

"Uhm?"

"There's one thing you gotta know. I'm not a city boy. And I'm not a reporter, either."

"I know that. You're a country guy. You want to farm, like you said. You want to live in this place called Hastings, which is okay by me. I'll make a wicked farm wife. Wait 'til you see what I can do with an apple pie. And as far as being a reporter, well, your Mr. Simpson can take his paper and shove it. You're no reporter, Tony. You couldn't have fallen in love with me—or anyone—and be a reporter. Those people love themselves and no one else."

He gave me an infectious grin and went off. But I thought as he did, how much I really did love him. Love at first sight? Yeah, I guess. My God, the power of it.

TO BE CONTINUED

Just Out
On the Shelf

The Men From the Boys by William J. Mann Dutton HC \$22.95

Meet Jeff O'Brien, a free-lance writer, Gay and at 33, feeling every year of his age. His life begins to feel like a soap opera as Jeff becomes filled with illicit desires, broken promises and betrayal. **The Men From the Boys** is an erotic, compulsively readable romantic Gay romp.

The Love of Friends: An Anthology of Gay and Lesbian Love Letters, edited by Constance Jones, Simon & Schuster HC \$26.00

This anthology provides readers with the most extraordinary and comprehensive collection of Gay and Lesbian correspondence ever compiled. Filled with grand passions, where celebrity glamour mingle

with the most mundane, **The Love of Friends** is essential reading.

The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture by Daniel Harris, Hyperion HC \$24.95

Prize-winning essayist and critic Daniel Harris traces the historical development and meaning of the rituals and artifacts of Gay culture in **The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture**. But what will happen to the Gay sensibility when homosexuals find themselves increasingly assimilated into the mainstream? A fascinating read.

Terminal Velocity by Blanche McCrary Boyd Knopf HC \$23.00

Ellen, the delightful narrator of Blanche McCrary Boyd's previous novel, **The Revolution of Little Girls** returns in this novel which explores the sexual revolution of the early 1970's. Her quest is to find a woman hero or - by default - become one herself. Filled with emotion and humor, **Terminal Velocity** will delight readers.

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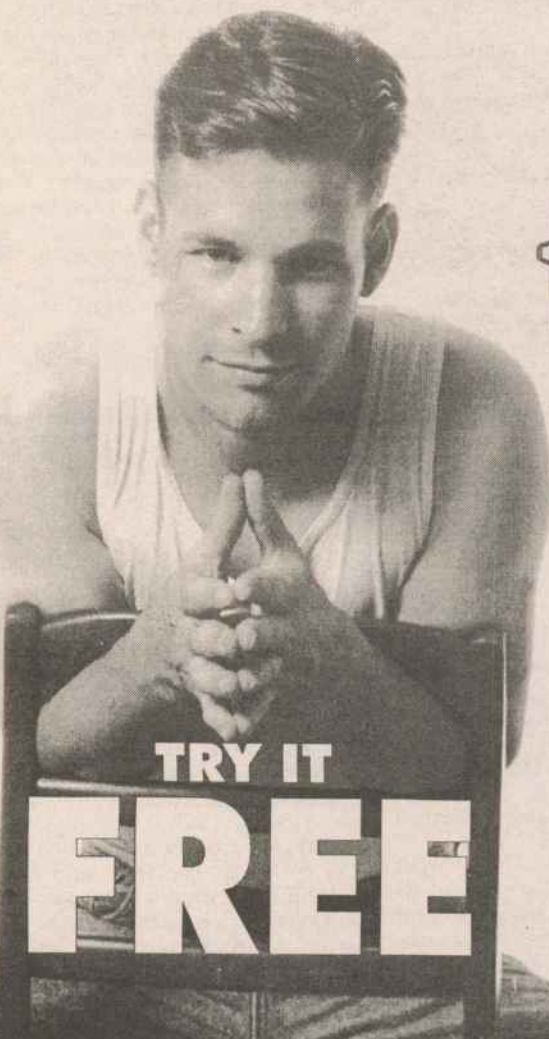
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ILLINOIS

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

MUSCLE PLAY I'm an 18 year old, African American male seeking good looking, muscular, men, of all races, who wanna have a good time. I enjoy movies, skiing, swimming, biking, music, and staying home. (Evanston) #1248

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

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

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

MINNESOTA

THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE I'm an attractive, submissive, Bi, White male, in my late 30's. I want to meet a mature gentleman to serve. Let me know how I can please you. (Minneapolis) #1412

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

ROWDY IN RED WING I'm a good looking, solidly built, 27 year old, White male, 6'3, 200lbs, with Blond hair and Hazel eyes. I'd like to meet another versatile guy, 21 to 30, who enjoys good times in bed as well as going out dancing and partying. I enjoy all kinds of fun with other fit, good natured, guys. (Red Wing) #1662

NICE AND EASY I'm the quintessential nice guy. This 32 year old, White male, 6ft, with dark hair and a slim build, enjoys social activities as well as fun, private, activities. I'd like to meet you and explore new interests together. (Madison) #1079

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

NO MORE FANTASY For my first time, I want to have the best. I'm a good looking, well hung, White male. I seek an extremely well endowed, White male, to show me what man to man action is supposed to be like. I've been fantasizing for too long. (Milwaukee) #1530

WILD WEEKENDS Looking for fun on the weekends? Me too. I'm a good looking, 33 year old, White male, 6'1, 190lbs, with Brown hair and a tan complexion. I work out often and have a nice body. I'm interested in guys, 25 to 35, who like going out for dinners, movies, and hitting the beach. (Milwaukee) #1586

WHILE THE SUN'S UP Why spend your time in the parks when you can find your summer pleasure with me? This Gay, White male, 5'8, 150lbs, is a hot bottom seeking hotter tops for sizzling sex. I'm available mornings and afternoons. (Milwaukee) #1291

COME HOME AND KISS ME I picture myself meeting an attractive, Gay, White male, 20 to 35, who likes to go out, engage in long talks, and return to my place for kissing and more. I'm a nice looking, 25 year old, Gay, White male, (Milwaukee) #1265

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 around, 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

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

FREAKY PHONE FUN I totally get off on talking on the phone with other hot men. I can't wait to hear from you. (Milwaukee) #32501

HOW TO SPELL RELIEF This good looking, hungry, 22 year old, White male, seeks construction workers, truckers, and military types, who need to be serviced. Let me relieve you. (Milwaukee) #32260

KEEP IT QUIET I'm whispering because I don't want anyone to know what I'm doing. I'm an attractive, Single, White male, 6ft, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, seeking a clean, discreet, and serious, partner for my first sexual experience with a man. (Racine) #1273

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

ALL COOPED UP I live in northeast Wisconsin, north of Wausau, and I'm tired of being cooped up, in my house, all alone. I'm an attractive, 33 year old, White male. You should be between 18 and 30, and have some time to spend. #1280

RITE OF PASSAGE I wanna do it with an 18, or 19, year old guy who's never been with a man before and is horny as heck. Get ready. #32393

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

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

SMOOTH SATISFACTION This clean, discreet, White male, 27, 5'8, 175lbs, with a well built, smooth, body knows how to satisfy. I seek other White males, 18 to 27, for fun. Let's meet somewhere and decide where we want to go from there. (Appleton) #1148

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

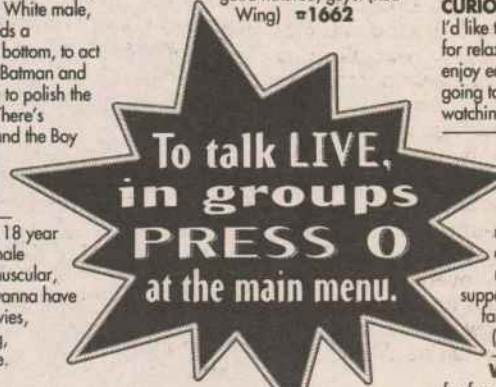
MORNING APPOINTMENT I like to get it hot and hard on weekday mornings, between 7 and 9 a.m. I'm a sexy, 39 year old, Bi, White male, 180lbs. I'm extremely horny and need it soon. Maybe we can make it a regular thing. The bigger your endowment the better. (Fox Cities) #14525

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

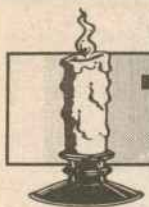
DICK AND JANESVILLE I want to meet a nice guy, interested in having fun and getting to know each other. I'm a 21 year old, White male, with Blond hair and Hazel eyes. I like tall, slim, muscular men, 20 to 30, who enjoy the outdoors. I hope you're masculine, but unafraid of your feminine side. (Janesville) #33674

DON'T LET THE CHAIR SCARE YA I have Cerebral Palsy and live in a wheelchair. I'm looking for a man between 20 and 50, to spend some quality time, and share hugs, with. I'm a 42 year old, White male, into swimming, and wrestling. (Janesville) #31871



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THE NIGHT LIGHT

Recaps...Wow there was so much good stuff the last couple of weeks that it's pretty clear Summer is here.

The **Milwaukee Classic** was fabulous. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. All that action was great. And the games were fun too!

Then there were some very special events. **Lana's Tribute to Broadway at B's** was really quite good. It's too bad that no youngins showed up for her all ages show. Perhaps you can help spread the word about the all ages shows at B's to those who otherwise can't go into a bar.

Then there were a bunch of Possum Queen fund raisers in Milwaukee—and, at least one I know about, to come.

First, the one to come. The Possum Queen contest party at **This Is It** will be in full swing on Thursday evening, June 5th. There will be prizes and fun galore. As of press time, I don't know what prizes This Is It will have—but, the fun part? I know it will be that: Fun!

And speaking of fun, watch for details of the **Ruthie Party** at This Is It. That is going to be fantastic, let me tell you!

The steak dinner at **Kathy's Nut Hut** was great and a real steal. The Chicken Shit bingo at **M & M's** was a real riot and the **Ball Game's** fund raiser and show was really special.

So was the Mud Wrestling challenge at **Mama Roux's**. It was made extra special by the crew from **Kathy's Nut Hut** and the crew from **Rene's Cozy Corner** that came to cheer for their favorites. It's too bad that John McGivern had to leave (after being there for two and half hours) before the real action got underway.

But when it did it was worth the wait. Congrats to Chanel from Rene's on winning the coveted bonnet. And thanks to Mama's for letting me get in on the action.

Coming Up

Thursday June 5 you can find me and a few of my closest friends at **John McGivern's** opening night at the Milwaukee Rep's Steimke theater. **Mama Roux's** is hosting a pre show party

starting at 7:00.

Golly, I wish I could get up to Superior for the official opening of the **New Main Club**. Bob Jansen and the whole community in the Superior area have worked hard, very hard, to re-open the Club. But I can promise you this. Come the Grand Opening in July, moi will be there, with bells on, moi will be there. **Congratulations, Bob and all.**

The weekend of **June 6, 7 and 8** I will be in Chicago so I can tell you all about the bars down there in our next issue. Yum.

If I was in Milwaukee I would want to go to the **1100 Club's** Leather reception to benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Center's Library. If I was in Green Bay I would be at the **Napalese Lounge** for the beginning of a weekend long celebration of Ann and Nancy's 1st Anniversary. Congrats girls.

On **Sunday June 8**, I would want to be in Madison to see **John McGivern at Scandals**. He's such a wonderful guy and so funny too! (Plus he's single believe it or not)

Tuesday June 10 you can find me at **La Cage** for its Prize Night. You can win some cool cash and be eligible for the grand prize drawing for a trip for two to Vegas!

Thursday June 12, I will celebrate my birthday with an appearance at **Club 219** The cast of 42nd Street will be on hand to help raise money for MAP. Don't miss it, it will be a great show.

Friday June 13 is the big Miss Gay Green Bay pageant at **Za's**. You know that this one is going to be great.

Then on **Saturday June 14** you can find me at the **Marcus Center** for the Performing Arts, during the **Cream City Chorus' 10th Anniversary Concert**. The theme for the evening is "A Decade of Decadance." Sounds perfectly sinful don't it? That's for me!!

Later in the evening I'll check out the **Firebirds Club Night** at **The Boot Camp** I love men in Leather.

Sunday June 15 you can find me at **Diversions** for **John McGivern's** show.

Then on **Monday June 16** I'll be decked out in red, white and blue for **In Between's** Flag Day party. (Okay, okay, so I've been told Betsy Ross didn't make the first flag—and, I've been told, too, there's some question as to whether she existed at all, but what of it? Celebrate the colors, I say. Everyone wearing the national colors in any combination gets a free shot at **In Between** every 25 minutes starting at 9:00.

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



Softball Continued From Page 15

MIST is a cooperative effort between Milwaukee's SSBL and Gay Softball leagues in Detroit, Columbus, Cleveland.

The MIST tournament is rotated between those cities with each of them hosting it once every four years. This is the first MIST tournament to be held in Milwaukee.

Dan Nelson SSBL Commissioner will be the MIST Tournament Commissioner this year. Nelson told **The Wisconsin Light** that he is hoping to repeat the success that the Milwaukee Classic had this year.

Given the fact that the SSBL has hosted more tournaments than any other Gay league in the country, the smart money is on Nelson's hope becoming reality.

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Dear Ruthie

Well, hello again my dear friends. Is everyone excited about upcoming Pride Festivities soon to be taking place in your area?

Milwaukee, my new home town, is gearing up for its "PrideFest," a crazy weekend of sun and fun with really good people. I've been asked to be in the Pride Parade here and am looking forward to it. I can't wait to meet more of the community.

Well now, on to some letters. Geez! A lot of odd medical problems here. Well, I'm no doctor. I did marry a funeral director once, but that's as close as I've gotten. I'll do my best anyway. Have a great week boys and girls, and remember to be proud of who you are and take pride in everything you do!

Dear Ruthie,

Hi there you sweet thing! I am writing to you to ask you if I could use a hair removal product like *Nair* around my genitals and around my [rectum] to remove all of this unwanted hair? I am getting tired of using a razor or my electric razor to shave these areas 'cause I always seem to nick myself and it takes awhile to stop the bleeding from these small nicks. So! Is it safe to use such a hair removal product like *Nair* or any other hair removal product around one's genitals and [rectum]? Hope that you'll respond to this.

(signed)

Waiting to be Unhairy
Dear Hairy,

What am I? "Dr. Ruthie, Medicine Woman?" "Trapper Ruthie M.D.?" You sometimes use an electric razor for this? I've never heard of such a thing! "This razor shaved my ass so well ... I bought the company!"

I say leave well enough alone. I like a hairy man. Take my ex, Vito, for example. That man was so hairy you could plant daffodils in his crotch. His crabs set up condos and a highway system.

But after all, I am hear to help anyone who writes, so here we go ... I did some research on this - don't ask- and here's what I believe to be the best advice.

While there are hair removal products specifically made to remove hair from pubic regions (if you're going to do this, make sure you get one of these), they are usually made for women. The difference is that a woman isn't actually applying such creams to her genitals, but rather using the creams to define a bikini line.

You, on the other hand, would be applying the creme to some pretty serious and sensitive areas. Should the cream react negatively with this sensitive area, you could be in for some very uncomfortable times.

Many of these products also have a horrendous smell and that alone may be enough to keep you away from them. If you insist on trying these products, you may want to call the manufacturer first. You'll usually find an 800 number on the product's bottle. Ask what they think. If you do try a product, use a small amount first, and see how your skin reacts over the next couple of days.

If I were you, I'd stick with shaving. Go slower and with more practice you should nick yourself less often. Try shaving in a new position. As I once told one of my ex-mother-in-laws: "Go squat over a mirror!"

Dear Ruthie,

I'm very much in love with a woman who we'll call "Betty." "Betty" is a great lady with a lot of style and a lot class. I love her very much. But, Ruthie, her feet smell. I mean bad like - wake you up in the middle of the night - bad. Our dog won't even play with "Betty's" shoes. How can we solve this problem? We've tried every type of medication on the market and nothing seems to work. If it does work, its only temporary. I'm particularly worried now that her softball season has started.

(signed)

Bull Dyke Gone Bad
Dear Bull Dyke,

Apparently someone has mistaken me for a physician this week. "I'm not a real doctor, but I play one in my column."

Listen, tell your honey to keep her tootsies under wrap. There's nothing worse than a woman with bad feet and coffee breath. Oopps! There I go writing about my ex mother-in-law again. Forget that coffee breath part.

If nothing seems to be working, I'd suggest seeing a foot doctor. Your lover may have some type of (for those of you reading this while eating breakfast, you'll



Ruthie

have to excuse me) foot fungus.

Over-the-counter stuff wont work very long if this is the case. You might also want to check the drains in your shower/bath tub and make sure the water goes down quickly.

Standing in puddles of dirty water for long periods of time (while taking a daily shower, for example) can lead to problems such as this. Okay?

Enough of the feet talk. Go see a doctor and send me questions about sex, love, or money. Are you sure your lover isn't cheating on you? I get a lot of those. Or how about a lack of sex in your relationship. A poor sex life is right up my alley. 'Cmon ladies, send me something juicy.

Dear Ruthie,

We loved your column with the "Ruthie's Top Ten Things a Gay Man Would Never Say." We were wondering if you plan on doing more of those. We also wanted to know, since you've had so many husbands, what it is that you hate in a man.

(Signed)

Blissfully Yours in Baltimore
Dear Blissfully,

That's easy. I can't stand hairless crotches and smelly feet.

Editor's Note: Ruthie is delighted to answer any and all of your questions. You can write to her: Ruthie, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer St., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Love

Continued From Page 23

want to do the clichés. I just wanted to create a guy who was outrageous in his unique way, but very real. And coming into it with this group of people was like having a built-in support network and some incredible guides."

Summarizes Joe Mantello: "In the end, Jason brought a truly fresh reading to the role. He brings a kind of vulnerability and gentle nature to the character that I hadn't really even thought about before — and yet without losing any of the outrageousness and spice that make Buzz so large a part of the story."

The story of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* falls into two distinct motion picture traditions: first, it is the latest in a growing tradition of Gay-themed theater and cinema; and second, it is one in a long line of entertaining motion pictures that explore the human condition with humor and imagination.

For Joe Mantello, both are equally important. "The story is really about how difficult and joyous making your way through this world with another person is — whether you're two men, a man and woman or two women," he says. "And as was shown by the response to the play, straight people who stay open to the material, who are willing to make that leap, find all sorts of connections to their own lives and relationships."

After all, Mantello and others in the cast point out, infidelities, temptations, the question of the long-term, anger, tenderness, death and hope are part of all human unions.

"And yet," says Mantello, "this is also a movie that is very much about what it is like for men to be affectionate with one another — to be friends and lovers and to be incredibly comfortable with one another physically. Not just sexually, but just hanging out and being together in a close way."

The movie also raises issues specific to Gay relationships — some of which have

required their own special forms of valor and compassion.

"There are certain things that make Gay relationships different, that require a certain very specific set of inter-relational skills," Mantello says. "But I wouldn't say it is more difficult to be in a Gay relationship. Just that it is somewhat different."

Exploring this difference is something that has been avoided by Hollywood for the most part up till now. Mantello hopes that eventually movies like *Love! Valour! Compassion!* will be seen as a stepping-stone to a greater diversity of motion picture stories with Gay characters.

"I hope this movie can be another important step forward for Gay cinema, a lighter look at certain aspects of Gay life today. I look back at a movie like *The Boys In The Band*, which is a favorite of mine and a real influence, yet so much has changed since then. The self-loathing and fear that were so much a part of that movie aren't there with these characters. It's a different time."

Mantello cautions that *Love! Valour! Compassion!* is not intended to be a definitive statement on Gay life in America. He hopes audiences will see the eight characters as one particular group of individuals, and not representative cross-sections of Gay men.

"I think when there are so few images in the media of Gay relationships, it is easy to give the ones that do make it through more significance," he says. "But this is just the story of eight particular men in one particular place. It doesn't purport to represent every Gay man who walks this earth, or every issue that affects Gay men. It is just a story that covers a lot of the things that concern Gay men and all human beings right now, in these times."

On Location

Although the original New York cast of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* remained primarily intact for the motion picture, the play and the characters had to go through some major changes to transition to the screen.

"The real advantage though is that we were all so familiar with the material, it made the changes possible without losing any of the original feeling," explains Mantello.

Key to bringing the play to life on the screen was the casting of what Terrence McNally refers to as "the ninth character" — Gregory's house — a place of strength, sturdiness and longevity, where all his

friends come to gather.

After much searching, the filmmakers found the perfect idyll just outside of Montreal — a charming, vintage Victorian with a vast, wood-laden attic.

"The minute I saw the attic, I knew this was the one," says Joe Mantello. "I thought: this is the house Gregory would have bought. The notion of him dancing over all of his sleeping friends was just so beautiful."

The production soon took over the house for three of the most intensive weeks any single abode has probably ever witnessed.

Ramon

The story's most catalytic persona is Ramon, played by Randy Becker, who drew lots of attention among theater audiences as the character who spends a good portion of his time on-stage unclothed.

"As an actor, Ramon really interested me and I was comfortable with him from the start," says Becker. "He comes into the story as an outsider in every way, not being part of their class, not being white, and being this young thing that everybody

wants to look at. So, he's got a bit of a swagger and he knows the effect of his body on people, but he also has this great vulnerability. I think that's why he's so attracted to Bobby — because Bobby's blind. He's the only one who can't see him."

Becker did end up stripping nude for the film's sunbathing scenes, but he thinks it will be less shocking on the screen than it was on-stage.

"On the stage, I started out the second act naked and stayed that way for over twenty minutes. In a movie, the nudity is there but it's only seen when the camera pulls back, which only happens when the shot requires it. So it feels very natural, very organic, it's just a guy who's swimming naked because he wants to get some sun."

Summarizes Spinella: "What was really exciting about making this movie is that I can't think of another Gay movie in which you get so involved with the characters. This play is very much about our times and about people just dealing with each other in very amusing ways — and every once in a while taking on the world's problems."

Horoscope

June Horoscope

By Dean Poh
Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Happy Birthday, Gemini. Spring and summer are feminine times when women are at the peak of their powers. If you are a woman, Gemini, this month is yours. You are bursting with creative energy. Your life-force surges. That project you have embarked up will succeed. If you are a man, however, hold off—or get in touch with the feminine within you. That will see you through.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

The dark cloud that hung over you last month, Cancer, is lifting. A silver lining can be discerned. You sense that and are moving forward. But a love will betray you this month. Be of good cheer. That person is better off gone.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your career is going to take a turn for the worse and will make you lose heart. Don't worry about it too much. Something new and wonderful is coming your way, out of the mists of evening. It will be a jade event.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept 22)

Your vacation plans are working out, although you may not be going as far as you thought you would. Still, you are going to meet someone who will make the fat in your loins bubble and boil. The sex you two will have will be the craziest and most wonderful in your life so far. Be careful.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Financial matters take a turn for the better, though you're still not out of the woods. Stop lending money. You know that you can't buy friends.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

June is Gay Pride month. Hold up your head. Be proud! If you're hiding who you are, that will come to an end this month. Someone close to you is going to make it known what you are. This may be done out of anger with you, but they will be doing you a favor.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your sensitive, very mystic Gay soul is

all a-tingle Sagittarius, as Mid-Summer's Eve approaches. On that night, go to some secret place and bathe your naked body in the light of the moon. The goddess will look with favor on you. A wish will be granted.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan 19)

The disharmony that has been plaguing you is beginning to decrease. You will begin to see things that have been obscured by your dysfunction. Ignore well-meaning family. They do not have your interests at heart.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Between June 8 and 14 you will be at a social gathering, a party, bar, it's hard to tell. A fantasy will be fulfilled, a dream of yours for a long, long time. Rose petals will cover your eyes. Be careful. Your fantasy could become a parody of itself.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

So, now you know, Pisces. Be happy. Every good fortune is coming your way as your life begins its new course. Beware, however, of someone who is a dragon. They are a danger to you.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have been concerned lately about many things. A word of advice to you, Aries. To everyone is given a power spot. If you do not know where yours is, search it out. If you do know, go to it. Stand on it and be refreshed. That is essential to you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are such a gentle person, Taurus, with much spirituality about you. You are so continually giving that you often exhaust yourself. Take this month as a refresher. You'll need it for what's coming next.

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

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

The 17th Milwaukee Classic

May 24th and 25th at Milwaukee's Wick Field



...es in the Round Robin tying the Buzzards and
 ...ctory in the rematch. **Round Robin** Balistreri's
 ...on Play Balistreri's 20, Classics 9 North End 26
 ...e repeated as Champs of the American Division.
 ...d that they were not to be denied their second
 ...ame 6 American Division Play Ball Game 30,
 ...zzards 16

Club 219 (Shown above top far left)

Club 219 fell short in its effort to repeat as champs of the Upper Division of the Milwaukee Classic. Nevertheless the Pride have nothing to be ashamed of. They played well throughout the tournament. **Round Robin Play** Club 219, 18, Classics 13, Club 219 30, Chicago Bucks 4, Club 219 41, Rumours 2, **National Division Play** Club 219 23, Chicago Charlies 16, Club 219 14, North End 13, Chicago Sidetracks 15, Club 219 6, Club 219 35, Cincinnati Comets 14, Sidetracks 23, Club 219 11

The M and M Club (Shown above middle far left)

The M & M Mustangs had a tough time in the round robin where they lost to National Division Champ Sidetrack and to the Comets from Cincinnati, the National Division's third place team. In the double elimination tourney though they rebounded to grab third place in the American Division. **Round Robin Play** Cincinnati Comets 21, M & M 7, Sidetrack 20, M & M 2, M & M 18, Twin Cities Storm 10, **American Division Play** Buzzards 24, M & M 13, M & M 27, Twin Cities ROR 10, M & M 23, Saloon Spurs 3, Buzzards 18, M & M 14

Mama's Family (Shown above top right)

The Family played well in the Round Robin. Unfortunately for the Mama Roux team from its first game against the Buzzards, Mama Roux 10, Saloon Spurs 8, National Division Play 10

Triangle (Shown above top middle)

The Triangle failed to win a game in the round robin and played hard. Unfortunately for the match to ROR Tax from Minnesota, Triangle 2, **American Division Play** 10