

MADISON'S PRIDE WEEKEND ISSUE

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

▼ The Wisconsin Light

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Tom Martin: A Life of Pride and Service, A Life Dedicated to the Community

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee—Thomas E. Martin, 47, died on the evening of June 25, 1997, ending his life in an apparent jump from Milwaukee's Hoan Bridge. According to one source, he was doing some legal work for St. Luke's Hospital and was expected there that night.

Tom was a native of Milwaukee, a prominent attorney, who expended himself in untold hours of service and support to the LBGT community. He leaves behind his life partner, Gary F. Swartz, his mother, Anna, brothers Albert and Robert, numerous other relatives and uncounted friends.

By all accounts, Tom was a brilliant man. He attended the University School of Milwaukee before going on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University. After which, he attended the University of Wisconsin Law School.



Tom Martin

There are those who believe in a Providence that acts in human lives. If so, Tom's life was proof. He began his career in 1975, working for the Milwaukee law firm of Shellow & Shellow before becoming a Federal prosecutor with the Justice Department. The way, Tom said one time, seemed "bright and clear."

His life took a sharp, right angle turn. Charges were brought. He resigned from the Justice Department. After some little time, he began what some would call his real calling, that of service to his own people in the cause of justice in which he so strongly believed.

The day after the news of his death was received, many phone calls came to this office. These were not from "prominent" people, but from "average" Lesbians and Gays who testified to Tom's unflagging efforts on their behalf.

For example, one woman, who did not give her name, said she "just wanted to talk." She told of Tom's drawing up her

Please See Martin Page 2

The MAGIC Picnic, the Pride Parade and Festival and More

Madison Gears Up For a Big Pride Weekend of Events

GALVANize & MAGIC Picnic
Presents



July 18-20 ▼ 1997

Madison Mayor Susan Bauman Speaks About Madison, the LBGT Community

An Exclusive Wisconsin Light Interview
By Mark Pocan

Mayor Sue Bauman has been in office as the new Mayor of Madison for just over nine weeks, and she is gaining a reputation from the media, city employees, elected officials and the community in general for her openness and accessibility. She sat down with Mark Pocan just one day after returning from the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in San Francisco to discuss Madison, the local LBGT community and other issues.

In the nine short weeks that Mayor Sue Bauman has been in office after defeating former Alderman Wayne Bigelow, she has been immersed with information and advice from a wide range of people on how to keep Madison the special place that it is.

During this brief period which she has been Mayor, she has met with city council members, department heads, staff, media and others. She has appointed local citizens to city commissions. She has hired her key staff.

She has arrived on the scene of local fires. She is negotiating a hotel site for Monona Terrace as well as arranging for the convention center's grand opening. She has approached state government leaders for more revenue for the city. She has spoken to dozens of area groups. And, in her spare time, she has been running one of America's top cities.

Her historic election as the first female Mayor of Madison would not have been possible without the support that she received from the LBGT community. The Mayor recognizes that one of the reasons that she is in office is due to the support she got from community Gays and Lesbi-



Mayor Susan Bauman

ans. She had the backing of both of the openly Gay/Lesbian elected officials on the city council, Alders. Mike Verveer

Please See Mayor Bauman Page 22

By Bill Meunier

Madison—Gay and Lesbian organizations and businesses in Madison are gearing up for the biggest weekend in their history.

The Madison Pride Weekend July 17 through July 20 will offer a wide variety of food, fun, parties, and events.

This year for the first time there is an effort to co-ordinate all of the various events taking place around the MAGIC picnic and Pride celebrations. Mary McBride, Chairperson of GALVANize is co-ordinating that effort.

"Our hope in the years to come is to promote sponsorships of this very special weekend," said McBride.

The center pieces of the celebration are Madison's M.A.G.I.C Picnic held on Saturday July 19 and the Madison Pride Parade and Festival held on Sunday July 20.

The M.A.G.I.C. picnic was begun as a customer appreciation party for patrons of the Backdoor Bar. It quickly grew into a community wide event that raises funds for a variety of community groups from the United to PFLAG, Apple Island and Lesbian mothers.

Please See Madison Page 2

AIDS Activist Found Murdered in Green Bay Hotel Room

By Bill Meunier

Green Bay—Jeff Whalen, a 45 year old AIDS Activist was found stabbed to death in his hotel room on Green Bay's East Side on Tuesday June 24th.

Whalen who had been working with the Center Project to form an AIDS Task Force in Marinette County received multiple stab wounds to his chest. He was found lying next to his bed by the staff of the Motel 6 in the early afternoon hours. Whalen had checked into the motel alone earlier.

He was last seen alive at Brandy's II. Patrons there say that he left that bar alone, in a jovial mood at about 1:30 a.m. early Tuesday morning. There were only four or five other customers in the bar at that time. No one else left the bar until closing time.

Lt. Craig Schyndle of the Green Bay Police Department told *The Wisconsin Light* that his department was pursuing a number of leads but had no "solid suspect at this point in time."

"We do not have a suspect, we have a lot of people of interest. We are getting a lot of information from the community and from his relatives and friends. As yet a solid suspect," said Schyndle.

He added, "Right now the investigation is very wide open. We are looking at it, as a possible hate crime, a total stranger, an acquaintance or a friend."

Schyndle asked that anyone with any possible lead in the case contact the Detective Devilo or the Department by calling (414) 448-3300.

Whalen was a big man, 6 feet and 200 pounds. *The Wisconsin Light* received reports that an autopsy report suggested that the murder was a hate crime because of the number of stab wounds, but was unable to confirm this before it went to press.

Please See Murder Page 2

Wilde Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"All authority is quite degrading."
19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS

- 1 large church
- 9 Postal Service abbr. for islands
- 12 7th tone of diatonic scale
- 14 burgh of S.W. Scotland at the mouth of the river of the same name
- 15 gay resort town in Mass.
- 17 agreement
- 19 objective case form of 'we'
- 20 epochs
- 21 S. Calif. gay resort in the desert, 2 words
- 26 time zone of N.Y.C.'s Greenwich Village, abbr.
- 27 last letter of the alphabet plural
- 29 noun suffix for realm
- 30 MAO in a mirror
- 31 Mary Tyler Moore's TV friend that had her own spin-off as Morgenstern
- 33 S. Fla. gay resort on an island, 2 words
- 36 seed of a leguminous vine
- 38 TIA in a mirror
- 39 conglomerate that once owned NBC
- 40 cast light back; ponder
- 43 master of ceremonies at a drag show
- 46 sticky stuff
- 48 savage; wild
- 49 'City of Brotherly Love'
- 52 relating to me
- 54 FDR's wife, initials ("No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.")
- 55 slang for no

- 56 First State, abbr.
- 57 official Postal Service abbr. for address 'trace'
- 59 departed sitcom host will become new talk-show host
- 60 'Somewhere over the

DOWN

- 1 historic Spanish Atlantic port city
- test sponsored by hard-core gay mag with finals in Sept. in S.F.
- 6 Perot's middle name
- 7 audio-visual abbr.
- 8 7th sign of the zodiac
- 9 religious image
- 10 direction S.F.'s Castro to L.A.'s West Holly-
- and terminator (Middle English for 'to hear and determine,' a hearing or trial)
- 34 makes lines with acid
- 35 Palmetto State, abbr.
- 37 noun suffix for recipient
- 38 German-born American theoretical physicist Einstein, initials ("Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.")
- 41 to become aware
- 42 brief appearance by a star in a movie
- 44 Irish name of Ireland
- 45 Spanish for 'the'
- 47 aged
- 50 newspaper advice columnist Landers
- 51 newscaster Rather
- 53 Land of Opportunity state, abbr.
- 58 late French actor Boyer, initials
- Solution elsewhere this issue
- c.1997 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE GAY 3
- 2 yes to a ship's captain
- 3 catch an animal
- 4 20th century American poet Pound, initials ("Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree.")
- 5 'Mr.' con-
- wood, abbr.
- 11 hide
- 12 rough woolen fabric
- 13 at once; forthwith
- 16 Officer of the Guard abbr.
- 18 woman of authority
- 22 ignoble
- 23 thick soup
- 24 not correct

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MURDER

Continued from Page 1

Wisconsin Light sources say that Whalen's wallet and credit cards were not taken ruling out robbery as a motive for the crime.

Sylvia Lee-Thompson, Director of Life Services for the Center Project called Whalen's death "A blow to the community." "He was someone we were working with. We had collaborated with Jeff's efforts to get an AIDS Task Force in Marinette Wisconsin. His death was a loss for the AIDS community and for North East Wisconsin." Said Lee-Thompson.

Whalen had in recent months tried to form an AIDS task force in Marinette county and served on the northeast regional Ryan White Consortia. He had recently joined the Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Prevention Planning Council, AIDS Action Wisconsin and Action Wisconsin.

Whalen worked at Lutheran Social Services in Marinette as a social worker and nurse's aid. He had recently moved into a one bedroom apartment in his mother's apartment building so that he could assist in taking care of her following her recent successful bout with cancer.

MADISON

Continued From Page 1

As it has in the past, the picnic will be held at Madison's Brittingham Park (a few blocks from the site of the former Hotel Washington.) There will be booths selling pride wear, picnic games (like the infamous purse toss and drag races) and other activities as Mad Town goes crazy for the day.

Those in attendance can purchase a ticket for \$10.00 and enjoy a fine meal and unlimited beverages throughout the afternoon.

Last year the picnic disbursed over \$5,000 to 15 different organizations serving the Madison area.

The Pride Celebration sponsored by GALVANize, is Wisconsin's fastest growing Gay Pride event. According to GALVANize, last year thousands of people were in attendance for the Pride Parade easily making it Wisconsin's largest Gay march.

There will be a pre-march rally at 1:30 p.m. at the State Street entrance to the State Capitol. Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin will be among the speakers.

In a change from previous years, this year's Pride Parade will head down W. Washington instead of State Street. A festival with entertainment, at Brittingham Park will follow the parade.

For Puzzle Answers See Page 3

But those aren't the only events taking place. Perfect Harmony, Madison's new Gay chorus will hold its first ever concert on Thursday July 17. The concert will feature a variety of American music. It will be held at the First Universal Unitarian church.

On Friday, July 19, the United will honor those who have contributed to the community. The United's Annual Awards dinner held at the Grand Ball Room of the Sheraton Hotel on John Nolan Drive will feature newly elected County Executive Kathleen Falk as its keynote speaker.

Also on Friday UW's 10% Society will host a free dance featuring Funkadesi on the U.W.'s open-air terrace at the Memorial Union. Funkadesi is a reggae/funk band.

On Saturday evening Dykeasaurus, a Lesbian improv comedy troupe will perform at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center.

Boyfriends, a Gay themed movie will be shown at the UW-Memorial Union on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The UW Gay and Lesbian Bisexual Alumni Brunch will be held on Sunday at the UW Memorial Union from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Among other benefits of the joint effort are Madison's Pride Weekend T-Shirts, a Pride Guide and joint advertising in state wide publications.

"Madison offers something for everyone with a variety of events including the largest Gay Rights March in the State of Wisconsin. I know everyone who comes to Madison that weekend will have a great time," said McBride.

See the SpotLight section of this issue for more detailed information on all of the events taking place during Madison's Pride Weekend

MARTIN

Continued From Page 1

will. Not a big thing, perhaps, "but when he found out I didn't have much money, he did it for free."

With an intensity that was typical of him, he devoted much time to defending those accused of police entrapment in the parks and elsewhere.

Several years ago, I attended a meeting at Tom's office in downtown Milwaukee that was to concern itself with the on-going problem of entrapment. Something had to be done.

I remember distinctly riding up in the elevator that morning with a woman who I knew. She'd been having some legal problems. "Tom saved my rear end," she said gratefully. She was far from being the

only one who might have said this.

In the meeting, I remember Tom's fervent determination that the abuse of entrapment and the consequence of lives ruined, must stop. "The community must know what's going on," he told us. "It must stop." This was the passion of an eminently decent man, a man who understood suffering and wanted it stopped. I remember thinking that at the time.

Afterward, Ron Geiman, who was also present, and I went for coffee in the Grand Avenue Mall. I told him what I thought. He agreed.

Doug Nelson, the Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), said much the same thing. Entrapment was continuing. Tom called him only a few weeks ago. They must meet. Something had to be done. Doug told me of the "caring and compassion" he heard in Tom's voice. Sadly, the meeting was never held.

In addition to all this, Tom gave of himself and his money to many, many community projects, groups, organizations and causes.

To cite only a few examples, he served on the Board of the Brady Street Clinic (See Letter to the Editor, "In Memoriam" this issue). He was a strongly supporting member of the Cream City Business Association. He gave to and supported the Cream City Foundation. He gave to ARCW, both in money and time. He attended political fundraisers, such as the recent one for Sen. Feingold. He supported the Community Center.

In fact, the last time I talked with Tom was at the Oriental Theater where he was attending a showing of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* that was being sponsored by this paper as a Community Center benefit.

After the movie, we stood in the lobby talking. He seemed thinner than I remembered, almost frail, but though we were only discussing Gay movies in general—and this one in particular—there was the same fire in his eyes that I'd seen always before. It was as if his body was barely keeping in the fire.

Tom loved his father, Dr. Albert Martin, deeply. The latter had been a longtime Milwaukee surgeon who had retired to Sarasota, Florida. When he died in March, 1996, at the age of 86, Tom took the death

Where in Madison Are You?

Commentary by Brian Harder

Wisconsin Light
Madison Correspondent

It's a case of simple math. How many Gay people are there in Madison?

If statistics are anything, we have two options. Option one is to take the more widely accepted figure of 10% and calculate that out of 200,000 people in Madison proper, (350,000 in Dane county), Madison should have about 20,000 homosexuals in it's midst, 10,000 Gay men if I take out the Lesbians on a 50/50 basis.

If we follow the rebuttal argument that the number is more like 3%, then perhaps we should have only 6,000 Gay people, 3,000 Gay men in Madison.

My question for either figure is- Where Are You?

As a bartender I've seen the desperate look on people's faces come the end of the night when the same people are ready to leave at bar time. Either they've had 'em, don't know 'em or don't want to know 'em. I know people who are always looking for Mr. Right. And when he doesn't show up week after week, they get frustrated. Give me a break, it's a bar!

I know full well that some great relationships have come out of chance meetings at Gay bars, including one I was in for three and a half years and my current one which has lasted a year. But there are many of you out there we never see who I'm sure have other stories to tell.

If I were to guess how many regulars we have at Manoeuvres and the Mad Bar, I'd have to say about 150. That would be 150 Gay men who come out at least once a week.

If I were to figure in the once a month crowd, I would say 400, maybe. So you can't find one person out of 400 to develop something good with? Well what's the problem?

The problem is you should have between 3,000 and 20,000 to choose from.

OK, according to a recent *Isthmus* newspaper survey of Madison's Gay and Lesbian population, 40% of the Gay males in Madison are in a relationship. That leaves between 1,800 and 12,000 single Gay males in Madison. I know lots of people that would love to meet you! Granted, many of you aren't bar people. Many of you prefer to keep to yourself. Many of you prefer to go to other cities. Maybe you're married, perhaps you hang in different circles or maybe you feel past your prime. But

very hard and, as reported in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, he seemed to find it hard to cope.

After Tom died, there were many who asked "Why?" There is no other answer than the death of a beloved parent. Many of us have been there. That can rip you apart.

None of us know what turns life may bring. We might say that Tom was laid low so that he could raise high. We might also say that in his life of service, he shot his arrow into the sky. It may have come down in flames, but oh, what a glorious light.

On July 1st, a picture-perfect, metallic bright day, a memorial service was held for Tom at Lake Park Lutheran Church on Milwaukee's upper East Side. It was the church where Tom had been baptized and where he had been confirmed. The congregation numbered approximately 250 of Tom's family and friends—including the State Attorney General John Doyle and Milwaukee Alderman Paul Henningson—filled the the gracious sanctuary to overflowing.

Eulogies were delivered by Tom's elder brother, Robert, Tom's colleague and friend Tom Zander, and Dr. Mark Huffman, a close personal friend. The organist was Gary Wood. The soloist was Mark Schmandt.

Robert spoke of the deep love he had for his "little brother," and of his brother's many accomplishments. Zander told of the respect he had for Tom and the influence Tom would always have on his life.

Dr. Huffington recounted personal memories of a dear friend now gone. Huffington spoke with great emotion of Tom's love for his life partner Gay Swartz.

The eulogists and the minister, Rev. Judith A. Crowley, in one way or another, asked "why?" I sat there thinking perhaps none of us can know "why."

Perhaps we must bow in deep humility, knowing that we cannot tell what life will bring, what turns it will take. Of Tom, I think, we can say this: he was laid low so that he could raise high. We might also say that in his life of service, he shot his arrow into the sky. It may have come down in flames, but oh, what a glorious light.

again I ask you, Where are you?

It's long been a curiosity of mine to wonder where all the men are. My roommate is Gay and hangs out with a different crowd than I do. He goes to potlucks and group meetings at other people's homes. There are lots of segments of the Gay society out there that each of us long to discover. But would you dare invite a stranger to the door and perhaps threaten the stability of your little groups?

It's a tough step to take but haven't we all wondered about other avenues to meet people? And I'm not just talking about finding sex but meeting new people for fun and growth!

When Madison holds it's annual pride weekend, you won't find 3,000 Gay men or 3,000 Lesbians at the Magic Picnic. You won't find 6,000 Gay people lining the parade route. You won't find 6,000 Gay people participating in a mass wedding, a drag race, a disco happy hour, a pride march or a candle light vigil. And if the other figure is correct, you certainly won't find 20,000 homosexuals all together in Madison. I ask you- Why Not?

We need to be proud in Madison. We need to discover our differences and our commonalities and get to know one another. We need to get over our self-consciousness as individual groups and find the love of a community. We need to replenish the dating pool (I do have a boyfriend but my friend Vern is looking).

Unfortunately, while I'm pointing out what I'd love to experience, I don't have the answers to the dilemma of how to accomplish all I foresee.

I can urge you to attend Madison's Pride Weekend festivities. I can try to convince you to stop by Manoeuvres and introduce yourself to me or Ed or Patrick or Brad or any stranger you might meet there. Perhaps you could plan a huge pot luck some fine summer day. Or advertise in the classifieds that you're planning a bus trip to a Gay themed play in Chicago.

Reach into your heart and then reach out to those thousands of Gay people in Madison. Those people we never see. If we all attended the Pride Festivities, went to the next rally on the capitol steps, if we all implement one idea, one social experiment, our cup and our lives could runneth over. So I ask you once again - Where are you?

ACLU Lawyer Discusses the Criminalization of HIV, and Same-Sex Marriage

By Terry Boughner

Jennifer Middleton is a staff attorney with the National AIDS Project and Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She had come from New York to Milwaukee on June 27th to speak to a meeting of the Wisconsin State Bar Association meeting in Milwaukee's Hyatt Hotel. She was kind enough to sit for an interview before catching a plane back to New York.

Terry Boughner: You're here in Milwaukee to speak about the criminalization of HIV. Could you tell me a little about that?

Jennifer Middleton: We discussed in the seminar today where HIV pops up in the criminal law. It comes up in a few different areas that came up in my address.

We're seeing more and more that people with HIV are being charged with higher offenses than if they didn't have HIV.

For example, there was an individual who is in a traffic altercation. A woman rear ended him. She claimed he spat on her. She then went to the police and said, "Oh, I think he has AIDS. He spit on me."

The police asked the man if he had AIDS. He said he didn't think the question was relevant. When the police threatened him with non-cooperation, he said he did have HIV. The cops charged him with reckless endangerment. He could wind up in jail for what is a traffic accident.

We have cases where people who are HIV+ get into fights. What would be cases of simple assault, turns into attempted murder.

Not only is this outrageous because HIV cannot be transmitted through saliva, but it also singles out people with HIV for differential treatment just because they have HIV. That's one thing we're trying to really fight.

The other area where HIV pops up in the criminal law is where the law says engaging in sexual activity or sharing needles if you're HIV+ is a crime by itself.

TB: Are there any states that do not criminalize HIV?

JM: Yes, quite a few. Wisconsin does not have a specific criminal transmission statute.

TB: Is there anything that you're trying to do with the Federal government about these kinds of laws?

JM: Actually, the Federal government has not been on the side of people with HIV. The Federal government has attached conditions to the Ryan White Bill, for example, and other bills, requiring the states to assure that they can use their criminal law power to charge people with HIV for engaging in acts that could result in transmission.

This has prompted the states to specifically single out HIV and say that if you spit on someone or you engage in sex and you have HIV, you get "special" treatment.

The position we take at the ACLU is that it doesn't make sense to single out HIV for "special" treatment under criminal statutes because it stigmatizes the disease further—and actually makes people better off if they don't know if they have HIV because an element of all these crimes is that you have to know if you're HIV+ or not. Thus, it discourages testing.

The problem is that these laws enhance the idea that people with HIV are "not



Jennifer Middleton

us." They are akin to criminals already, from the tradition of laws against sodomy in this country.

It's like 'These folks are criminals anyway, so why not just criminalize the disease.'

As far as education about how HIV is transmitted, there have been tremendous strides made, but there's still a long way ago.

For example, in this audience [of lawyers] I was addressing, I tried to convince them that you really can't get AIDS through spitting. One point that a doctor made was that Hepatitis B and C are far greater risks for health care workers for transmission than HIV. They can be fatal diseases, but there's no hysteria around them. We're not passing criminal laws about them.

Same-Sex Marriage

TB: Now to the next topic: same-sex marriage. There are people who say that this is not a battle we wanted to fight and not now. There are others who say we must fight it. What are your thoughts about this?

JM: I have a couple of thoughts on that. One is that I firmly believe that the Gay community has to fight for same-sex marriage. Regardless whether we, as individuals, think that marriage is a good thing, the fact that we're excluded from this institution that is the fundamental institution of our society, is the worst remaining area of legal segregation and discrimination that exists for Lesbians and Gay men. We have to eradicate that.

The fact that same-sex couples can't get married has numerous adverse affects. These include immigration, property taxes, family medical leave.

There are literally hundreds of legal rights that go along with marriage that we don't have because we can't enter the institution.

1,046 Rights We Don't Have

The General Accounting Office (GAO), when Congress was considering the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), reported that there are 1,046 rights and benefits that go along with marriage.

That's just at the Federal level.

TB: In your opinion, is same-sex marriage coming?

JM: Before I answer that, let me make this point. We have found that in the states, simply by having Gay men and Lesbians going to the legislatures to testify about their relationships, allows for tremendous strides. We educate legislators.

What we have is legislators come up afterward and say, 'I see now that you have tremendous problems with discrimination and we need to do something about that. I just don't want to call it marriage.' That, by itself, is really moving the debate.

We see that in Hawaii, where the legislature sent to the voters an amendment that would disallow marriage, but, at the same time, approved a partnership package that is THE most revolutionary domestic partnership package we've ever seen. It's more than we've ever fought for in any other state—even asked for.

I think we're going to see this more and more in other states, where the states will say, 'We're not ready for marriage yet, but we will do this.'

What we have to do now, is challenge marriage restrictions in other states.

What Does the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Coverage Act Mean For You?

New York, NY—Many lives have changed and been saved thanks to the dramatic developments in HIV-related treatments. But, contrary to the claims filling newspapers earlier this year, the new drug combinations have not meant the end of AIDS or of the epidemic of discrimination which has shadowed the millions affected.

With the availability of treatments which may eventually make HIV disease a manageable, chronic illness, the perennial problems of insurance and health-care access are even more pressing. Consequently, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's AIDS Project keeps these issues in its sights.

Because insurance is an immediate concern for anyone with HIV, it's also worth considering what the Kennedy-Kassebaum health insurance legislation offers when it takes effect this month.

After the dust settled over the monumental failure of health care reform, Congress and the White House cooperated in carving out a slice of common ground in the form of the Health Coverage Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The Act hardly represents a major overhaul, but it did produce some worthwhile improvements in health insurance. What will these reforms mean for you?

There is good news and bad news in terms of coverage access. This new law does nothing to make sure you can get the coverage you need to stay alive and healthy at a price within your means.

But the good news for people with HIV and AIDS is that the Act places some limits on coverage exclusions that are based on pre-existing conditions, and it expands both the availability and portability (the ability to change jobs without losing coverage) of health insurance.

It also prohibits discrimination in health insurance based on health status (e.g., companies cannot refuse to insure, or provide equivalent insurance to, people with HIV).

The new law means that insurers cannot exclude coverage for a pre-existing condition for more than 12 months after a policy goes into effect. Under the Act, a "pre-existing condition" is limited to medical diagnosis, advice or treatment of a condition during the six-month period before enrollment in the health insurance

plan. Pregnant women, newborn and adopted children are completely protected from any pre-existing exclusion under the Act.

These rules apply both to persons who are covered through an employer-based group health insurance plan and to those who purchase individual health insurance plans. However, those with individual plans are eligible for the pre-existing conditions protections of the Act, only if they have had at least 18 months of continuous private coverage (i.e., not Medicaid or Medicare) and have exhausted their benefits under COBRA (coverage which employers who offer group insurance and have 20 or more employees must offer you for 18 months after you lose your group coverage, or for 29 months if you were disabled when you left your job).

The Act also has provisions which require insurance companies to sell group health coverage to small employers (those with three to 50 employees). If an insurer offers individual policies at all, it must sell to any individual who qualifies as described in the paragraph above and not eligible for other group or public insurance.

However, the types of coverage which private insurers are required to offer to individuals are quite limited. Furthermore, insurers can avoid covering eligible individuals in states which provide alternative forms of coverage, such as high-risk pools or open enrollment periods by one or more other insurers.

At a minimum, persons seeking individual insurance coverage must have a choice that includes at least one option that is comparable to a standard group or individual health insurance plan in that state, and which eliminates pre-existing conditions exclusions.

While the Act makes barely a dent in a health care crisis in which so many of those with HIV are uninsured, the new law does ease the pressure on many who have stayed in bad jobs, or put off treatment, because of difficulty in getting or keeping insurance.

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Editorial

Pride Madison Style

It's called Pride and Madison rightfully has it. The schedule of events for Madison's Pride weekend show that. Sure there are no big names and no fireworks. There is instead a simple, grass roots-based series of events that clearly, simply and eloquently states, "This is who and what we are." This is more than a Gay party with Rainbow flags.

Madison's Pride Weekend will see the first ever performance of its new Gay chorus, Perfect Harmony, the Wisconsin premier of a fine Gay movie, *Boyfriends*, recognition of those who have made contributions to its community, Wisconsin's largest Pride March and of course the famous MAGIC picnic.

There is something for everyone to enjoy and thousands will take the opportunity to enjoy it all. We offer our congratulations and our thanks to all of those who have worked so hard to make the Madison Pride Weekend possible. We hope that at some point they find the time to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

We also urge everyone who can to make the trip to go to Madison. Join in the fun and the pride. Together we can help send a message of pride to our State Government. If it's loud enough, that message might even get through to those State Legislators who voted for AB-104.

Tom Martin

Tom Martin has left us, going, we don't know why. He has left us grieving, but before his leaving, he did what too few do. He left this world better than when he found it by giving of himself. If, as is said, morality is to be judged by how deeply one is willing to sacrifice one's self for others, Tom Martin was one of the finest people this community of ours has known. Put through the furnace, he came out gold. He found in himself a great willingness to give himself in the fight for the dispossessed, the downtrodden, the frightened, those oppressed by a system that threatened to take them, grind them up and spit them out with no concern at all. Tom was concerned. He understood. He stood by their side.

Tom gave of himself to the whole community. If there was a fundraiser for some cause that would benefit us all, he was there. If there was an organization or enterprise that needed support, Tom was there to give his help. If there was a battle that needed fought, Tom was on the front lines.

His family has left it to each of us to memorialize him as we will. We agree with Ross Walker and Erv Uecker that a most appropriate way to do this would be by giving a contribution to Tom's beloved LGBT Community Center.

There are other ways. In addition to money, follow Tom's example and give yourself. Go out into the community and get involved. Support a cause, back an organization with your time.

Follow Tom's example. There is no more fitting memorial to any person than that.

Editor's Note

Three Young Men

The other evening, Jerry and I went to watch the fireworks display that opens Summerfest. For those of you out-state and elsewhere in the nation, Summerfest is the country's biggest music festival and is held at Maier Festival Park on the shores of Lake Michigan. This year, the pyrotechnic display was to be really spectacular, marking as it did, the 30th anniversary of the festival.

The fireworks happened. Boom, pop, up they went. Ohhhh. Ahhhh. It was great.

Afterwards, we were walking up Mason Street, going along slowly because the street was packed with people heading home. Suddenly, I heard a male voice from behind me exclaim, "Look at all the straights!"

I turned to see three young men—early 20s, college students perhaps, walking along, laughing, having a good time for themselves.

As they came abreast of me, I heard one of them say to his friends, "You think there are any Gays here?"

I grinned. Jerry smiled. "Oh, I think you can count on it," he said.

There was an exchange of smiles and on they went. As they did, the three of them holding hands, I had to shake my head in wonder. How far we have come.

When I was their age, I would no more have acted like that than I would have gone to the moon. Talk about being Gay? In public? Right out loud? Right.

Holding hands with another man on a well-lit street with hundreds of people all about? Yeah, right. No way. I mean just to go to a Gay bar, I parked my car five blocks away.

But a lot's happened since then; a lot that has resulted in the fact that LGBT people like these three young men can walk along, being themselves, having fun, and not be afraid.

We, as a community, have stood up. We have marched on Washington. We lobby our legislators. We fly the rainbow flag. And we have our Pride Festivals, in Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago and elsewhere across the country. Every one of those festivals, every single one, large and small, is testimony to the fact of our celebration of ourselves as human beings.

Oh yeah, I know, I know too well, that there's an awful lot of hatred, bigotry, ignorance and discrimination still out there, but it's less, a lot less than it was 30 years ago—and it's going to get even less as the years roll on.

That's another thing I thought as I watched those three young men.

We of the older generation, "wrinkled" though we now may be, can rest content in the thought that we have passed the torch successfully. These three young Gay men—and uncounted thousands more like

them—are living testimony to that.

We, of the older generation, stood up slowly. It's almost as if these young men and their LGBT peers were born standing up, heads high, proud, confident, seizing the human dignity that is theirs by Heaven's right.

The bigots may rage, but they imagine a vain thing if they think they can ever down us again. It's not possible, and they won't.

Jerry and I walked on, eventually winding up at This Is It. I was standing there at the end of the bar, having a beer, when the three young men walked in. We exchanged smiles of recognition before they went to be with some friends; an older man, a young Latino, a couple of African-Americans.

That's good, I thought, before going back to my beer and cigarette. In my day and age, we weren't nearly as inclusive as that. They are, and because they are, and because a lot of people like them can ignore ethnic background and age, there is a marvelous hope for this great country of ours.

Hope and confidence that it is not the bigots who will define our culture in the 21st century, it is young people like these. I'd love to be around to see it.

Letters

On Crawling

TO THE EDITOR:

"Crawling into bed with a member of the same sex." That is what an irate letter writer to a local paper said was the specific part about (presumably Gay) "love" that he "didn't understand."

But instead of just a neat rejoinder, his misive is really a mega-sized insult! I, for one, have never "crawled" in my whole life! Nor "groveled," either. Oh, "climbed" in, maybe, when the bed was large. (You know some queen's apartments.) "Clambered" in often, as befits my athletic, macho physique. "Lighted" or "pirouetted" in even more often as befits my androgynous, light-in-the-loafers "tendencies." More recently, alas, "lumbered" in, as my "washboard abs" bloated up to become "washub abs" and I became rotundly debuffed. But, "crawl!" Not this individual "deviant" individual!

Indeed, "straight is great—if you are straight! Likewise, "Gay" is "more that just okay"—for those who are Gay. Simple garden-variety complexity, diversity, pluralism. Our letter writer missed it. But we know, and that's the important thing.

Brian Kevin Beck
Whitewater, Wisconsin

Presbyterians Wanted

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your recent article about the Presbyterian Church and its continuing struggle with the issue of ordination for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons. The action reported by the Milwaukee Presbytery in opposing the Church's new restrictions on ordination was indeed a bold step. By approving the Covenant of Dissent with the national church and declaring its intent to ignore the recent amendment to the church's Book of Order, they have sent a clear message to the Church's General Assembly meeting in Syracuse, New York.

Delegates from the Milwaukee area will certainly be questioned about their actions. Proposals to change the wording of the amendment will be discussed. The Milwaukee Presbytery may be asked to rescind its vote or face legal action in church courts.

As a Gay Presbyterian who has been denied ordination, I would like to meet with other Presbyterians in the Milwaukee area who support full participation in the church, with the initial goal of starting a local chapter of Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (PLGC). This group has been working for over 20 years on a national level to foster acceptance within the church.

Anyone interested in forming a local chapter of PLGC or supporting this issue, should contact me at (414) 228-7466.

We need to work now to make sure the bold step the Milwaukee Presbytery has taken is not withdrawn, and the national Church will follow the motto of your newspaper "Give the People Light, and They will Find Their Own Way."

Richard A. Myers
Bayside, Wisconsin

Tom Martin In Memoriam

TO THE EDITOR:

It will take a long time for the reality of Tom Martin's death and the depth of loss to the Community to sink in and truly be felt. Tom touched and supported the lives of those who knew him and countless others who didn't. As a professional, he stood at the side of those who felt the pain of domestic abuse, entrapment, discrimination and vindictive actions following the disintegration of a relationship.

Several weeks ago, Tom spoke to us about his deep feelings regarding the LGBT Community Center soon to be a reality in Milwaukee. He saw it as both a refuge for those who had been shut out of many areas of society and also a clear message to our City of who we are and the significant role we play in the life of the broader community.

Since Tom's family has left the choice of memorializing him up to each of those so moved, we, along with BestD Clinic (on whose Board he served and for which he performed many services), and several others, have decided to make contributions to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Perhaps others might wish to consider doing the same. We ask the permanent Community Center Board, when it is seated, to consider using these funds in an appropriate way to both pay tribute to, give thanks to, and remember this giving man.

Ross Walker and Erv Uecker
Milwaukee

Reconstructionism

TO THE EDITOR:

Lieutenant Flinn is very lucky that Ralph Ovadal is head of Wisconsin Christians United and not Secretary of the US Air Force. From recent remarks of Mr. Ovadal, we're led to suspect that under his control, Lt. Flinn would not have been discharged from the Air Force for her adultery, but would have been stoned to death.

The inference stems from Rev. Ovadal's recent admission on his radio program that he believes in the goals of the Christian Reconstruction movement. That group seeks to establish in the United States a government that operates strictly according to Christian law, by which they mean Old Testament Law.

Christian Reconstructionists doubtless have the variety in their beliefs that characterizes most religious movements in a country where religious freedom is absolute, but some leaders of the movement have called for literal implementation of Old Testament Law in the United States, including the death penalty for adultery, fortune telling, and many other offenses.

Rev. Ovadal said Reconstructionists are his "very, very close friends" and "fine, fine people." He doesn't consider himself a Reconstructionist "in the strictest sense of the word," however, because he differs with them on theological points of "prophecy and end times and things like this." The implication one is tempted to draw from those remarks is that Pastor Ralph endorses the death penalty provisions of Reconstructionism.

While Lt. Flinn is lucky, Wisconsin is not.

Please See Letters Page 31

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Non-Camera Ready—July 11th
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Caution

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

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Openly Gay Mark Pocan Prepares Bid for State Assembly Seat In Madison

A Wisconsin Light Exclusive
By Bill Meunier

Madison- It's an axiom of politics that when one politician makes a bid for a higher office others line up for their position. Tammy Baldwin's expected bid for Wisconsin's Second Congressional District seat now held by retiring Congressman Scott Klug, is no exception.

Baldwin's current job of representing Wisconsin's 78th Assembly District is of special interest to Gays and Lesbians throughout the state. That's because it is the only Assembly seat held by an open Gay or Lesbian.

"I had an impact on the Dane County Board as a County Supervisor from this area, and I know that I can have a positive impact on people's lives through working on the State level."

The 78th District is considered to be one of the most progressive in the State. In the 1996 Presidential Election, Green Party candidate, Ralph Nader garnered 33% of the vote easily outpolling Bob Dole.

Pocan says that he will focus his campaign and tenure in office on three issue areas.

"Some of these issues are a continuation of what Tammy Baldwin started and some are my own ideas on issues of importance," he said.

Pocan said he wants to emphasize protecting the environment.

"The current legislature and governor have had a greater emphasis on road building than on land preservation and planning. It's time to have a greater emphasis on land use policies in the State of Wisconsin, in order to preserve the environment."

Another area of interest for Pocan is continuing the fight for civil liberties that he says, "Tammy has done so well in bringing to the forefront." His concern in this area embraces a wide spectrum of issues that runs from being pro-choice to Gay and Lesbian rights to personal civil liberties questions.

Pocan also expresses concerns that as federal revenues to the State and local units of government shrink government programs funded by those bodies to help the disadvantaged must be continued.

"We must find ways to continue programs of importance to disadvantaged segments of the population. Given my past experiences both on the County Board and as a small business owner, I know the importance of ensuring that as federal revenues decline programs like aid for the disabled and the elderly are fully funded," said Pocan.

"The state needs to find more creative ways of ensuring that its people are taken care of. It's time some people realized that there is more to state government than just building prisons and roads."

Pocan knows that in order to get to the State Legislature, he will have to work hard. A number of candidates including John Hendrick, who finished fourth in Madison's Mayoral Primary last February, County Supervisor Regina Ryan and Attorney Jeff Spitzer - Resnick have been mentioned as potential contenders to succeed Baldwin.

In order to insure victory in the September, 1998 Democratic primary, Pocan is already working to secure support.

He currently has over 100 names of people who are endorsing him. Those names include elected officials, and small business owners, as well as neighborhood, environmental, civil rights and Gay and Lesbian activists and leaders.

Pocan says it may be necessary to raise as much as \$80,000 to win the seat.

"When Tammy won for the first time she had raised \$66,000 to win. Depending on who gets in, this it could again be an expensive race, but I am confident that I can raise what I need."



Mark Pocan

In fact counting Baldwin's predecessor, David Clarenbach, a Gay or Lesbian has held the sway in the district for over 20 years.

Former Dane County Supervisor, Mark Pocan hopes to pick up where Clarenbach and Baldwin left off. The openly Gay politician is lining up support for a bid to succeed Baldwin if and when she enters the Congressional race.

Pocan was an openly Gay member of the Dane County Board from 1991 to 1996. While in that capacity he distinguished himself by having an impact on a wide variety of issues. Observers say that he was one of the most effective progressives on the Board during that time period.

His latest project was Co-Chairing the City/County Task Force on Service Consolidation. The recently released Task Force recommendations have won praise for local officials, the press and a cross section of leaders from throughout the area.

In an exclusive interview, the 32 year old Pocan told *The Wisconsin Light* that he decided to run because of his experience in working on public issues.

"I served three terms on the Dane County board and I enjoyed serving the public. After having worked on State issues like AB 104 (Wisconsin's anti-Gay marriage bill) I thought that the next logical step would be serving the people of Madison's 78th District.

BestD Clinic is the Recipient of Generous Gifts From Many Fundraisers

Milwaukee- BestD Clinic has been the recipient of an outpouring of generous gifts which were the result of various fundraisers. During one recent week, over \$14,000 was given to BestD by two fundraising events.

As one of the recipients of the proceeds of the Challenging Party on May 31st, at the home of John Wirth, \$7,485 was raised for BestD's HIV Early Intervention Program to cover laboratory costs.

Several days later, the 1997 Possum Queen Contest presented BestD with \$6,668.84, designated for the same program.

For a small volunteer Agency with an annual operating budget of about \$50,000, Early Intervention lab costs have been a significant expense, averaging \$2,000 monthly during April and May. These are the only direct costs for Early Intervention since everything else is provided by volunteers and in-kind donations. The Challenging Party and Possum Queen gifts will cover seven months of these costs for newly diagnosed HIV+ persons to receive prompt and thorough medical work-ups, usually within 24 hours of receiving their HIV test results.

Early Intervention is a key factor in pro-

viding the bridge from diagnosis to entry into the health care system for medical therapy and care, so critical now in the effective management of HIV infection.

The 100 BestD volunteers extend their thanks for these gifts.

Other Fundraisers

Recently there have been a number of other fundraisers for the benefit of BestD Clinic. These have included:

Boulevard Theater Ensemble's staged reading--\$175; BEST Bowling League--\$154; Boot Camp Fundraiser and Matching Gift--\$690; The Triangle's Poster Auction--\$300; Sherman Park Rainbow Association and Ten Percent Club--\$786; The Imagine Club--\$705; The Hillel Foundation of Milwaukee--\$200; B's Bar's Shows and Fundraisers--\$392.

All of these generous and unsolicited gifts, along with memorials and the contributions of many individuals facilitate the BestD staff in devoting 100% of their time and skills to serving clients.

BestD extends its thanks to all of these wonderful people.



MAP At Juneteenth Day MAP volunteers and staff manned an AIDS Prevention Booth at Milwaukee's Juneteenth Day Celebration.

MAP is Proud to Have a Presence at Juneteenth Day

Milwaukee- The Milwaukee AIDS Project had a presence once again at this year's Juneteenth celebration with its "Pride is Protection" booth.

Many celebration participants visited the booth for information on HIV and AIDS while others stopped by to pick up registration cards for the 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin on September 21.

"It is important for everyone to celebrate Juneteenth Day and what it represents," said Scott Stokes, director of prevention services at the Milwaukee AIDS Project. "However, along with freedom

comes certain responsibilities to ourselves and our fellow community members, and AIDS education and prevention are a top priority."

HIV and AIDS prevention strategies at the Milwaukee AIDS Project include targeting populations who are at high risk for contracting HIV disease in the still-spreading AIDS epidemic. The Milwaukee AIDS Project is making a concerted effort to provide HIV education and prevention materials to all ethnic/racial groups, injection drug users, teens and men who have sex with men.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for a free and anonymous HIV test, call the Milwaukee AIDS Project at 414-225-1571. For information on AIDS and other walk-in testing sites in your area, call the Wisconsin AIDSline at 800-334-AIDS.



A Group Shot - Richard Elovich, Director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York (front row left) posed for this shot with participants in the workshop he led at the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Milwaukee AIDS Project Hosts CDC Funded Prevention Workshop

Milwaukee- The Milwaukee AIDS Project recently held a two-day HIV prevention workshop funded through a Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant as part of an ongoing Opinion Leader Program.

Richard Elovich, director of HIV prevention at Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, New York, led the workshop which focused on HIV prevention for Gay men based on the philosophy of harm reduction in HIV prevention programs.

"The most striking piece of information from Richard's workshop dealt with the empowerment of Gay and Bisexual men," said Andy Bagnall, Gay outreach manager at the Milwaukee AIDS Project. "As AIDS prevention educators and advocates, we need to provide Gay and Bi men with opportunities to engage one another in lifesaving discussions about sex, self-esteem, loving other men, HIV and protecting our lives and the lives of those we love."

The 20 workshop participants included collaborators from AIDS Network in Madison, Northern AIDS Network in Superior, LaCrosse County Health Department, Milwaukee AIDS Project staff members, Center Project staff members,

Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project staff members and Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project staff members and individuals throughout the state of Wisconsin who do HIV prevention with Gay and Bisexual men.

"It is so important for us to hear from other agencies and individuals in major epicenters like New York to learn and share collective knowledge," said Bagnall. "Richard brought us new insight from his experiences in New York, other workshops he has led and the research he has done for articles he has published."

Several points of Elovich's presentation reiterated the strategy behind the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (supporting administrative agency of the Milwaukee AIDS Project) current "man2man" advertising campaign which focuses on building the self-esteem of young Gay men through positive, affirming messages about living and staying HIV negative. The prevention campaign which has already featured the "Our Dreams" and "Our Community" posters, bar napkins and advertisements, will unveil a third message, "Our Values" statewide in July.



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Both Clinton and DCN Send Greetings for Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebrations

Milwaukee—Addressing Gay men and Lesbians in a manner that would have been unthinkable in centuries past, both William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States and the Chairs of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), issued "warm greetings to all those participating in the 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration."

The text of the messages was faxed to LGBT publications and organizations nationwide.

Timed to coincide with June weekend pride parades nationwide, both statements are a clear reflection of Gay and Lesbian victories that are being won on political fields.

The President's message comes directly on the heels of publicly stated objections, as a Southern Baptist believer, to boycotts of the Disney company decided upon in Dallas of the Southern Baptist Convention. In the wake of that convention polls show that Americans, on the whole, decry institutionalized anti-Gay measures.

In his message, titled "Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration, 1997" the President says:

"Throughout America's history, we have overcome tremendous challenges by drawing strength from our great diversity. We must never believe that our diversity is a weakness. The talents, contributions, and goodwill of people from so many different backgrounds have enriched our national life and have enabled us to fulfill our common hopes and dreams.

"As we stand at the dawn of a new century, we must all rededicate ourselves to reaching the vital goals of acceptance and inclusion. America's continued success will depend on our ability to understand, appreciate, and care for one another.

"We're not there yet, and that is why our efforts to end discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men are so important. Like each of you, I remain dedicated to ending discrimination and preserving the civil rights of every citizen in our society. We have begun to wage an all-out campaign against hate crimes in America—crimes that are often viciously directed at Gay men and Lesbians.

"I have also endorsed and fought for civil rights legislation that would protect Gay and Lesbian Americans from discrimination. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act now being considered in Congress would put an end to discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians in the workplace—discrimination that is cur-

rently legal in 39 states.

"These efforts reflect our belief in the right of every American to be judged on his or her merits and abilities, and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

And they reflect our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance in our country and in our hearts.

"My Administration's record of inclusiveness is a strong one, but it is a record to build on. I am proud of the many openly Gay men and Lesbians who serve with distinction in my Administration, and their impact will continue to be significant in the years ahead. I pledge to you that I will continue striving to foster compassion and understanding, working not simply to tolerate our differences, but to celebrate them.

"Best wishes for a memorable celebration. Bill Clinton"

Skeptics

While the President's statement of good will toward his Lesbian and Gay constituency will be read coast to coast as Lesbian and Gay pride rallies, there are many who remain skeptical about his commitment to absolute equality. They recall that Clinton and many of his Democratic supporters in Congress, stood squarely behind DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, designed and passed to prevent same-sex marriages.

AIDS activists remain apprehensive or scornful about the lack of government AIDS funding, fearing that the President's latest AIDS policies, including a controversial AIDS vaccine research program, writes off the AIDS community. Vaccines hold little hope for people, they say, who are already infected and who would prefer a massive government-backed research project aimed instead at a cure for the disease.

DNC

The statement from Steve Grossman, DNC National Chairman and Roy Romer, DNC General Chairman, thanks "our nation's Gay and Lesbian community" for its support for Clinton-Gore in 1996.

The message goes on to assure the community that the "Democratic Party is committed to ensuring that all (sic) Americans have the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

Romer and Grossman assure the LGBT community of the Party's support for ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act).

Controversy Erupts Over Book that Claims That AIDS Is "Man-Made"

Atlanta—Controversial Book on AIDS-linked Vaccines Feared? Public Health Authority is Invited & Dis-Invited

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director David Satcher, challenged by scientists, black leaders, and citizen groups concerned about vaccination risks, declined to discuss AIDS as a possible outcome of contaminated vaccines with the author of a new and highly controversial book that documents the CDC and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) helped manufacture a vaccine that might have transmitted AIDS worldwide.

The exchange between the author of *Emerging Viruses: AIDS and Ebola—Nature, Accident or Intentional?* (Tetrahedron Publishing Group, 1997), Dr. Leonard Horowitz, a Harvard graduate, independent investigator, and internationally known public health authority, and Dr. Satcher, followed a recommendation for a moratorium on vaccines by the Nation of Islam's Health Minister, Dr. Alim Muhammad, and a special legislative committee meeting of the National Medical Association, representing black physicians of America, in which the book's main thesis, and supportive documentation, was considered.

All parties agreed that growing fears over vaccine contaminations, and associated health risks, should be addressed at another meeting proposed, then canceled, by Dr. Satcher.

Dr. Horowitz, supported by thousands of concerned citizens in a rapidly growing grass roots coalition, accepted Dr. Satcher's invitation in writing contingent upon an official investigation into the role the CDC played in "developing the vaccine that most plausibly delivered AIDS to the world."

In his book, two man-made theories of AIDS's origin are advanced and bolstered by government documents including National Cancer Institute reports showing how much U. S. taxpayers spent for contracts to develop and test immune system destroying viruses on monkeys and humans.

According to Dr. Horowitz's theory, the CDC, FDA, and Merck & Company, a leading vaccine manufacturer, developed 200,000 human doses of a potentially contaminated experimental hepatitis B vaccine that was given to thousands of Central Africans, Gay men in New York City, and mentally retarded children on Staten Island, simultaneously in 1974—perfect timing for the initial outbreak of AIDS cases in these areas by 1978.

In an official letter to Dr. Horowitz in which he withdrew his invitation to meet, Dr. Satcher stated the "CDC believes that scientific evidence is the foundation for sound public health policies," and that Dr. Horowitz's allegations "do not appear to be based on credible, evidence-based information."

Responding, Dr. Horowitz reported to thousands of internet-workers, and the press, that Dr. Satcher's comments were false and misleading. "If the CDC truly demanded rigorous scientific proof to support its public health policies," Dr. Horowitz said, then the CDC would also be calling for a moratorium on virtually all vaccinations "which, to date, lack definitive scientific analyses showing positive risk/benefit ratios."

In fact, Dr. Horowitz wrote Dr. Satcher, CDC and pharmaceutical company experts "don't really know whether vaccines are harming or killing more people than they are helping or saving."

Likewise, Dr. Horowitz questioned how much scientific evidence the CDC and FDA officials demanded when their "mutual consent was given to blood and pharmaceutical interests to sustain the use of HIV contaminated clotting factor VIII and blood supplies to the public between 1983 and 1986," despite the fact that these officials predicted thousands would die as a result.

Furthermore, in 1984, when the hepatitis B vaccine link to the AIDS epidemic was first advanced then investigated by CDC and Merck, Sharp & Dohme collaborators, homosexual men in New York City were known to be the primary and earliest test subjects for the suspected vaccine.

Yet the CDC omitted the New York City gay men from their investigation and

focused only on Denver and San Francisco populations that had not been immunized using the earliest, most implicated, vaccine lots.

"No wonder your 'expert' CDC authors remained 'Anonymous' on this Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report," Dr. Horowitz chided. I too would feel ashamed to affix my name to such bogus 'science.'"

Regarding Dr. Satcher's inability to see any "credible evidence-based information" in Dr. Horowitz's writings, the author/doctor replied, "If he did, he would also see himself and his agency are now fully exposed."

President Clinton, reportedly, is considering Dr. Satcher for the Surgeon General's post.

Central Wisconsin Gay Group is On the Move

Plover, WI—A beautiful first day of summer rang in the first group activity for the Central Wisconsin Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Organization. The June 21st picnic held at Standing Rocks Park east of Plover was, in one word, "great!" Abundant food was blessed by gorgeous weather and pristine views. Reports are that 34 people attended from the counties of Marathon, Portage, Adams and Wood.

The group has maintained that the members will decide the group's function. With that goal in mind, there were three consistent themes that came forth in the discussion following the meal.

Gay Youth—establish a mechanism so they can feel welcome in society;

Social—create "local" opportunities for both couples and singles outside of the bar scene;

Political—awareness and or presence in the Central Wisconsin area.

The group has yet to select a name. The next event will be—yes, another potluck on Saturday, July 26th at the home of one of the members. For information and directions, you can call (715) 677-4996. Our hosts will provide beverage, plates, and flatware. Bring a dish to pass and a chair.

People are encouraged to bring proposals for a group name. A mailing list of participants is being compiled. The group will also continue working to establish a stronger presence in the Central Wisconsin area.

SEWAP Receives Funding From Kenosha County

Kenosha—Thanks to \$35,000 in funding from Kenosha County, the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project is expanding its Peer Mentor Education Program with another comprehensive program targeted at youth at risk of HIV infection due to the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

The Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project's prevention educators have formed a working coalition with area agencies and three area community centers to recruit high-risk youth to participate in a comprehensive eight week program to be offered in each of the community centers.

"Participating youth will be trained in HIV and AIDS instruction as well as participating in a number of sessions dealing with the development of life skills and self-esteem in order to give them the foundation necessary to make healthy choices in their lives," said Michael Obinger, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project director.

In addition, each program will include a mentor component. Mentors are community volunteers who have been significantly affected by the use of alcohol and/or drugs and who have made positive changes in their lives as a result.

The Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project's goal is to train 45 youth, representing a diversity of culture, class, gender and sexual orientation, who will take information learned back to their neighborhoods and social structures and share with their peers medically accurate information about AIDS and HIV prevention.

Madison's AIDS Network Grows in Service With Name Change

Madison—AIDS Network, formerly MASN, has had a bustling 1997 so far. All corners of the agency have seen new challenges and new victories.

By far the most profound development is the arrival of a new class of drugs, protease inhibitors, which raise new hopes and new complications for people living with HIV. These medications so far seem to lengthen life for those who can both afford their high cost and tolerate their sometimes severe side effects.

While the drugs are a tantalizing advance, they force people living with HIV to revisit long-term nuts-and-bolts issues of life. How does a person manage the shift from a terminal diagnosis to a chronic, lifelong one?

In an effort to meet these changes, AIDS Network's Client Services staff has instituted a series of public discussions on Living Well with HIV.

The first talk, in March, brought to Madison Dr. Ann Webster, Program Director of the Mind/Body Medical Institute at New England Deaconess Hospital and Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her compelling topic was How Do One's Stress and Emotions Affect the Immune System?

"Research shows that reducing stress boosts immune functioning in HIV-positive patients," said Dr. Webster. "Almost inevitably, when patients start taking care of themselves on one level it affects all other levels."

Dr. Webster took the audience through several stress-reduction exercises and encouraged their daily practice.

AIDS Network, in conjunction with the UW Hospital & Clinics Department of Immunology and Infectious Disease, offered the workshop to clients, staff, volunteers and interested community members. Future events include a discussion of Transgender issues, a Body/Soul/Spirit exploration series and an on-going Nutrition Now hands-on workshop.

Prevention Services staff spent lots of

time on the airwaves last week spreading the word about National HIV Testing Day, June 27, informing audiences about risk behaviors and the ins and outs of testing.

In a further exciting outreach, AIDS Network staff are teaming up with Briarpatch and PICADA to sponsor Teens Like Us, a group for GLBT teens in south central Wisconsin. Teens Like Us provides area teens both an opportunity to meet for socializing and a safe place to talk about issues important to them.

Agency staff, along with Rock County allies, celebrated the opening of AIDS Network's Beloit office with a ribbon-cutting ceremony (gigantic scissors and all!) on April 30.

AIDS Network's Beloit presence is the most tangible evidence of an ever-growing commitment to providing the entire 13-county service area with a web of outreach and client services.

Development staff have been busy planning and throwing AIDS Network's parties, better known as fund-raising events. June brought the tenth Sweet Sunday Brunch, an occasion for friends and supporters to gather, schmooze and eat luscious food, all contributed out of the love and the generosity of Madison's food community.

In its ten years of life, Sweet Sunday has garnered over \$200,000 for the programs of AIDS Network. Not too shabby for what Paul Harrison, Sweet Sunday co-chair, called "The Mother of all Bake Sales!"

Mark your calendar and strap on your hiking boots for AIDS Walk Wisconsin, a 10K stroll on Milwaukee's lovely Lakefront, Sunday, September 21.

AIDS Walk benefits AIDS Network and 17 other AIDS service, care and education organizations throughout Wisconsin and is always an invigorating show of love and support for people living with HIV. For more information or to register, call 1-800-348-WALK.



MADISON'S PRIDE WEEKEND
JULY 18, 19 & 20

From Supreme Court's Decency Act Ruling, A Global Impact, Experts Say

By Pamela Mendels

When the United States Supreme Court gave a green light to freedom of speech on the Internet in a historic decision issued on Thursday, June 26, the justices were in essence telling millions of ordinary people online to go ahead and speak their minds.

But unlike other free speech rulings handed down by the high court in the last 200 years, this decision is likely to dictate far more than the parameters of discourse in the United States.

In striking down the Communications Decency Act, the Supreme Court sent a clear "hands off the Net" message, a decisive act of jurisprudence that many lawyers and Internet experts say will resound far beyond U.S. borders, because it carries the weight of the court's own prestige backed by the technological pedigree of the democracy that invented the Internet.

"A number of countries used the Communications Decency Act as justification for their own Net censorship; Singapore comes to mind," David Banisar, staff counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest group, said on Friday, June 27. "Now they can no longer claim we are the ones practicing it. A lot of countries look to the U.S. for guidance on the Internet, both on the technology and the resulting issues that come up."

Barry S. Steinhardt, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union and a founding member of the Global Internet Liberty Campaign, a year-old group founded to advocate Internet freedoms, predicted that the decision would have a "profound" impact around the planet.

"If the United States, which holds itself out as a leader of the free world, had engaged in wholesale censorship of the Internet, it would have encouraged nations around the globe to follow its lead," Steinhardt wrote in e-mail response from Brussels to a reporter's questions.

Many nations have either considered or are already regulating the Internet in some way, by criminalizing certain content, for example, in the case of Germany and Singapore or by restricting access to cyberspace altogether in the case of Iran.

A report by Human Rights Watch last year found that at least 20 nations had Internet restrictions in place.

In Singapore, for example, Internet

service providers must abide by strict content regulations. And in Germany, a university student was recently charged in connection with posting a home page that contained a link to an online left-wing newspaper that is supposed to be blocked within that nation.

The global nature of the Internet, however, can undermine such efforts to regulate online content.

In a brief filed against the Decency Act, for example, the American Library Association argued that no United States law restricting indecent speech could be truly effective, because so much sexually explicit content originates overseas.

Justice John Paul Stevens, in a footnote to his opinion, conceded that this argument raised "difficult issues," but he said the court did not have to consider those issues to decide the case.

Stevens recognized the huge variety of Internet speech — some of it innocuous, some incendiary — throughout his opinion. He ignored the suit's well-known plaintiffs, like Microsoft Corporation, and instead made direct or indirect references to the "little guys" — the publishers of small Web sites devoted to AIDS prevention information, for example, or to the uncomfortable subject of prison rape.

Heralding the possibilities of the new medium to give real impact to these speakers, Stevens noted that in a chat room any person "can become a town crier with a voice that resonates farther than it could from any soapbox."

Likewise, he noted that by using a Web page, automated mailer or newsgroup, "the same individual can become pamphleteer."

But what if the electronic pamphleteer's message, considered within the bounds of rational discourse within his community in the United States, is regarded as beyond the pale on the other side of the globe?

Jay Friedland, an executive of the company that sells SurfWatch, a filtering program that blocks access to potentially objectionable sites on the Internet, said that customers in different nations take umbrage at different things.

"Sex is a much lower concern in Europe than in the United States," he said. "Everybody wants to stop child pornography, but many Europeans would say the U.S. is

very puritanical."

Germans, he said, are more worried about neo-Nazi propaganda than other nations are. Scandinavians are more leery of sites promoting alcohol use. And some Muslim nations are sensitive about sites perceived to be anti-Islamic.

Apart from these differences, most people share certain universal concerns: child pornography, vicious hate speech and depictions of brutal violence — all of which can be found in corners of cyberspace, though they make up a minuscule proportion of the Internet's content.

There is also the possibility on the Internet for what Mike Godwin, staff attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, calls "the Pierre Salinger syndrome" — that is, the ability of the global network to spread utterly unfounded rumors around the globe in seconds.

Still, Godwin said, with the Decency Act as precedent, governments worldwide may have to learn to live with the bazaar of speech that is the Internet — with junk hawked in some booths, jewels in others.

"On the Internet," Godwin said, "everybody has a loud voice."

Pilot Study of AIDS "Morning After" Pill to Begin This Fall

Seattle—In an update to a story in the last issue, Seattle will be the site for one of the first studies in the nation on giving "morning after" pills to people who have sex with AIDS-infected partners.

The six-month pilot project, to begin this fall, will enroll 60 Gay or Bisexual men.

Thirty of the volunteers will have 24-hour access to a three-drug combination should they think they might have been sexually exposed to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Another 30 will be told of private doctors who may provide the medications.

The study will examine which types of sexual exposure prompt the men to seek treatment. It also will observe how well they comply with the rigorous medication schedule of about 10 capsules a day, as well as tracking the drugs' side effects and impact on behavior.

The drug combination is AZT and 3TC, which interferes with an early stage of HIV's replication process, and nelfinavir,

July 3, 1997—July 16, 1997—WISCONSIN LIGHT—7

one of the new, powerful anti-AIDS drugs called "protease inhibitors."

If the pilot study is successful, a larger nationwide study next year will test the effectiveness of treating exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, in this way. Researchers also are considering later studies of using the treatment after HIV exposure from injection drug use.

"We hope we can further reduce the number of new infections and really be in a position to compare the effectiveness of different AIDS-prevention strategies," Dr. Connie Celum, medical director of the clinic for sexually transmitted diseases at the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, told *The Seattle Times*.

Nationally, the study involves health departments or university medical centers in five other cities. In addition, a second pilot study will be conducted here and in the other cities to compare counseling strategies in preventing risky sexual behavior.

The National Institutes of Health is funding the studies nationwide with a \$1.3 million grant for the pilot sexual-exposure study and \$1.6 million for the pilot counseling study. Locally, funds are going to the University of Washington.

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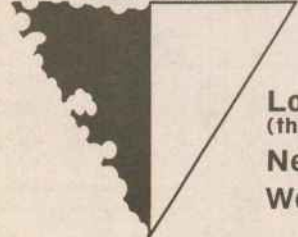
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Best Experimental AIDS Vaccine Is Too Risky to Test on People

Southboro, MA—Locked inside the Level 3 biohazard lab at Harvard's New England Regional Primate Center are a pair of 20-pound (9-kilogram) macaque monkeys code-named 71-88 and 255-88.

They should be dead by now. In November 1991, scientists gave each a big injection of simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV, the monkey version of the AIDS virus.

The shot was 1,000 times more SIV than it usually takes to cause an infection. Ordinarily, this starts an insidious disease process that eventually destroys the monkeys' immune systems and kills them just like its cousin, HIV, does to people, only faster, usually within two years.

Yet nothing happened. By every measure, these animals, and two others that got lower doses, are entirely healthy. There is no sign of SIV in their blood or anywhere else. They simply did not catch the virus.

What saved the monkeys was an experimental vaccine. Two years earlier, scientists had given them a weakened, or attenuated, form of SIV. The virus was normal in every way except that one of its nine genes was clipped out.

Losing this gene, called nef, throttles back the virus's ability to make new copies of itself. Crippled, it caused a low-grade infection but did not seem to hurt the monkeys at all. And somehow it primed their immune defenses to ward off real SIV.

"After seeing this protection in monkeys, I became an advocate," said Dr. Ronald Desrosiers, a microbiologist at the primate center.

Virtually everyone agrees that Desrosiers' experiment is a landmark in AIDS research. It is the first, and still the best, proof that a vaccine to protect people from catching HIV is even possible.

This alone is a crucial discovery, since a vaccine is the only sure way to stop the AIDS epidemic. It is the same strategy that has erased smallpox from the planet and tamed many other big killers.

Since SIV and HIV are so similar, an AIDS vaccine can be made with exactly the same genes missing. Many believe this should work as well for humans as it does for monkeys. Moreover, nothing else in development seems anywhere close to being this effective.

But that's where agreement ends. Desrosiers and some colleagues would like to begin testing this kind of vaccine in people. Many others are adamantly opposed.

The reason: This vaccine may well protect against AIDS, but no one knows what else it might do. And there's no easy way to find out.

Just like ordinary HIV, the genetically truncated form used in the vaccine would cause a lifelong infection in otherwise healthy people. Could the virus somehow regain its lost genes and turn nasty, causing the very disease it was meant to stop? Could it trigger some other unforeseen disease 10, 20 or maybe even 30 years after vaccination? Could it harm newborns or people with weakened immune systems, even if it is safe for everyone else?

"Safety is the first, second and third issue with this," said Dr. Norman Letvin of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, one of those opposed to trying the vaccine on humans.

Yet in a way, nature already has conducted human experiments.

At the University of Massachusetts, Dr. John Sullivan has been following 183 hemophiliacs who caught HIV from contaminated clotting proteins in the early 1980s. Among them were five who still showed no signs of disease. Could weak viruses explain their good fortune?

Desrosiers analyzed their viruses and found that one's HIV was indeed missing part of its nef gene, just like the virus he crafted for the monkey experiment.

In essence, this man had been vaccinated. Here was the first tentative evidence that it was safe.

In Australia, meanwhile, doctors were puzzled by an especially odd cluster. Seven people had caught HIV from blood donations given by one infected man in the early 1980s. Yet neither the original donor nor any of those who got his blood showed any signs of AIDS. After hearing of Desrosiers' discovery, the doctors found they all carried a strain of HIV that was missing part of nef.

While these serendipitous discoveries suggest HIV without a nef gene does not trigger AIDS, intentionally infecting people to prove the point is another matter entirely.

In fact, the idea of using this as a human vaccine seemed all but dead two years ago, when Dr. Ruth Ruprecht of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston found

the SIV version caused simian AIDS when given to newborn monkeys.

Desrosiers countered that no one would vaccinate a newborn with this. His later studies also suggested that only extremely high doses of the vaccine were harmful to the newborn monkeys, and that passing the virus from mother to child does not seem to be a hazard.

Still, talk of putting a live, mutant form of HIV into uninfected people was dismissed by the scientific establishment as simply too dangerous.

But that may be changing. No absolutely safe alternative is close. And as David Gold of the American Foundation for AIDS Research notes, "The need for a vaccine is more desperate than ever."

Around the world, about 29 million people have been infected with HIV. In some African cities, more than 10 percent of pregnant women already have it. And 80 percent of the world's infected people live in Africa, India and Southeast Asia, places where new AIDS treatments are simply too expensive ever to be much help.

History is on the side of live, attenuated vaccines; it is a classic approach. Examples include the Sabin oral polio vaccine and shots to prevent smallpox, mumps, rubella, measles and yellow fever.

Vaccines offer a kind of biological mughshot for the body's defenses. Alerted by the harmless lookalike of what it should be on guard against, the immune system kicks into high gear as soon as it spots the real thing and immediately attacks it. Even if the virus worms its way into some cells, the quick response enables the body to thwart a devastating full-blown infection.

HIV, though, is different from other invaders. Once it gets a toehold, there probably is no way to get rid of it. So an AIDS vaccine has to prevent even that first tentative infection, something the body's own immune defense system cannot seem to do by itself.

"If we say we have to prevent infection, that is a new criteria that has never been met in the history of vaccines," said Dr. Robert Gallo of the University of Maryland, the co-discoverer of the AIDS virus.

Vaccine researchers have tried to do this by injecting synthetic copies of fragments of the virus. They are safe. But unfortunately none seems to work very well.

This failure makes an attenuated vaccine worth studying, say federal health officials, if only for the clues it may offer for creating other, safer vaccines. But they show little interest in giving a crippled form of HIV to people.

"That will be a very hard sell," said Dr. Carole Heilman, associate director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy Infectious Diseases.

Those who believe in this approach, and Desrosiers says the numbers are growing, acknowledge the need to be extremely cautious, but they are frustrated that safety worries have blocked its development almost entirely.

They agree that even a small chance of an adverse reaction may make this vaccine too hazardous for the general U.S. population, which is at little risk of AIDS. But for those at high risk, young Gay men and drug addicts in the United States and millions of adults in other parts of the world, the benefit of evading AIDS may well outweigh any hazards.

"Our concern is five years down the road, what if none of the current vaccine candidates work, but we continue to have a raging epidemic?" said Dr. Margaret Johnston, head of the Rockefeller Foundation's international AIDS vaccine initiative. "We need to be able to make a decision about whether this will go into humans based on data."

To help get this information, her organization plans to finance a \$1 million-a-year study, involving perhaps 200 monkeys, to look at the long-term health effects.

Others would like to start giving the human version of the vaccine to small groups of volunteers right away.

Sullivan proposes trying it out first on terminally ill cancer patients. While this would not prove it prevents AIDS, the experiment would at least offer some initial information about how the body responds to it.

Dr. Charles Farthing, medical director of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles, is talking about recruiting a group of doctors who would take it themselves, without bothering with regulatory agencies or hospital committees.

"We've got to be courageous," Farthing said. "If 20 or 100 doctors are willing to give this to each other, certainly we can do a trial with young gay men at risk in this country."

Another idea is to convince a country in

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Africa or Asia, where the need is clearly much greater, to manufacture the vaccine and carry out large-scale testing with outside help. Desrosiers and others plan to go to Africa this spring to talk it over with scientists and government officials.

Supporters concede this, too, may be a hard sell. Africans will naturally wonder why they should inject themselves with a vaccine that is deemed too dangerous for Americans to take.

Once human experiments start, Desrosiers estimates it will take another decade to prove the vaccine safe and effective.

"Even the most vocal opponent would argue this is the best vaccine you could make," he said. "The big issue is safety, safety, safety."

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Survival/Revival: Shop 'Till You Drop and Help Fight AIDS

Milwaukee — For everyone who thinks that giving a donation just means writing a check, the opportunity to change this perception is available by visiting the Milwaukee AIDS Project's Survival/Revival resale shop located in Milwaukee's historic Third Ward at 246 East Chicago Street.

Everything associated with Survival/Revival is a donation. The volunteers working in the resale shop are donating their time to help customers find items from a wide array of clothing, housewares, records, books, computers, furniture, collectibles, posters, shoes, sports equipment, costumes and more. Plus, all of the items found at Survival/Revival are donations from the community and area companies. All proceeds from the shop benefit the programs and services provided at the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

"The resale shop is a way we found to raise money without simply asking for it," said Kathy Fortier, Survival/Revival manager. "Here we offer something back. People come, choose what they need or want, buy it for a good price and, at the same time, help in the fight against AIDS."

More than just a resale shop, Survival/Revival offers special sales, a frequent buyer bonus card and a bi-annual spring and fall fashion show. The "Street Beat Fashion Extravaganza" is an evening of alternative fashion, bargain hunting and

music. "It's a great feeling when we see the reactions of new customers. Shoppers are curious when they first enter, but then they start realizing all we have to offer at very reasonable prices and by the time they are ready to pay for their purchases they're hooked," said Fortier. "Most people do come back. We have several individuals who have been visiting Survival/Revival every week since we opened in 1994."

For some of the shops customers, finding out the resale shop proceeds benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project has made them want to do more than just shop. Many now bring in their own items for a tax-deductible donation as well as volunteering in the resale shop which rewards them with a 25 percent discount on purchases.

The energy from Survival/Revival has extended to area companies and organizations that have made the initiative to donate items when they move, remodel or close.

How You Can Start Helping

Survival/Revival is looking for new volunteers to help with the daily activities of the shop such as organizing donations, cleaning and helping customers in commitments of four hours a week.

The resale shop is always accepting donations which can be delivered at the shop during store hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. For large item donations or lack of transportation, pick ups can be scheduled by calling Survival/Revival at (414) 291-2856.

Woman Suspected of Defrauding Madison Priest of Thousands of Dollars

Milwaukee—The Roman Catholic Order of St. Camillus has provided the Columbia County District Attorney with information they expect will result in the filing of a criminal complaint against a 42 year-old Wisconsin Dells woman.

The Order of St. Camillus alleges that the woman absconded with thousands of dollars from an elderly Camillian priest through deceptive and fraudulent means.

The Order alleges that the woman has been targeting the semi-retired, 75 year-old priest since November, 1996. The priest is pastor of two small parishes in the Madison Diocese.

Bro. Stephen E. Braddock, spokesman for St. Camillus' leadership council in North America, indicated that the religious order made the decision to press charges and go public to prevent innocent citizens from "falling victim."

"There appears to be a pattern here," Braddock asserted. "We have evidence this is not the first incident. Other well-respected local citizens may have been similarly victimized and we urge them to

contact the Columbia County District Attorney's Office."

Bro. Braddock noted that private investigators hired by St. Camillus, conducted a background check which revealed the suspect has a history of aggressive and violent behavior.

"We believe she presents a very real threat to public safety and security," Braddock said. "We believe strongly that we have a moral responsibility to warn the public and try to prevent others from being hurt or taken advantage of."

The Order of St. Camillus acted immediately upon learning of the matter. An internal investigation and audit indicates that the Camillian Order has lost in excess of \$55,000 to the woman's scheme.

"I hope our coming forward will protect others from this woman's schemes and get her the help she so desperately needs," Bro. Braddock said.

Religious Faiths

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Madison's Gay Community is Politically Active, Fighting for Equal Rights

By Steve Starkey

Madison has been a national leader in political activism by Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual people for the last two decades. More openly Gay politicians have held elected office in Madison than almost anywhere else in the country, and the local Gay community has had considerable clout and influence in the political arena here.

People from other parts of the state and the U.S. have often wondered why this is, and what lead up to the current powerful position Madison Gays have in their city. To begin to answer this question, it is necessary to go back to the '70s.

During that period, a few Gay bars were almost the only place where the local Gay community met. The Gay social groups, media and nonprofit organizations that Madison Gays now take for granted didn't exist back then.

The public awareness of Gay issues was much less than it is now, and the bars were more "underground" and much less well known or public as well. In those years right after the Stonewall Rebellion, homosexuality was still "the love that dare not speak its name" — even in ultra-liberal Madison.

One of the bars that was a well-known hangout and had a loyal clientele at that time was the Back Door, which was owned by Rodney Scheel. Scheel would later open the famous Hotel Washington, and helped to form the MAGIC Picnic, which is an annual public gathering that has taken place in Madison for the last 24 years.

It was originally a political event when it began in 1973, although now the picnic is mainly a social function.

As the 70's drew to a close, a Gay advocacy agency called the United was formed. The United was founded in 1978 in order to defend the city ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Since then it has had a major impact on the community in Madison.

The United has played an important role in providing an umbrella for other small emerging Gay organizations, a safe place for community members to have support groups and receive counseling, and has provided the media — both Gay and straight — a contact whenever important events have happened in the Gay community.

The United has also held public workshops and lectures that have addressed homophobia and other important issues. Even today, it is the only agency of its kind in Wisconsin that has paid staff and is open weekly during business hours.

The local foundation that was laid in the 70's was built upon during the '80's. The first statewide Gay newspaper, Out! started to publish in Madison in 1982. The United moved to bigger and better offices and began to receive city funding.

The New Harvest Foundation was formed to help fund emerging Gay groups, and the Madison Gay and Lesbian Resource Center collected a large Gay library that has been housed at the United offices.

Later in the 80's, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize) was formed and held its first march, which drew 8,000 people in 1989.

At the same time, elected Gay people began to come out in office, or to announce that they were Gay even before they ran for office. The thriving community that supported the Gay groups and social life also began to contribute to the campaign funds and volunteer to help candidates get elected.

One of the most important things that happened in the early 80's to politicize Madison and statewide Gay people was the fight for AB70, which is now known as the "Gay rights" bill. Authored by David Clarenbach, it was one of the first of its kind in the U.S., and the first one in the country to actually become law.

Since that time, many Gay and Lesbian Madisonians have been elected for local and statewide office, including Mark Pohan, Mike Verveer, Dick Wagner, Tammy Baldwin, and many others. They have played an important role in the political scene, and have been powerful advocates for the Gay and Lesbian community.

During the 90's, many new groups have formed, and today Madison holds no less than 100 Gay or Gay friendly groups and organizations. These institutions continue to provide the Gay community with places to meet, socialize, create art and theater, organize, support each other, and worship.

These groups have also helped to support Gay politicians and their campaigns.

Politics, nonprofit organizing, and the Gay social scene have gone hand in hand since the Gay community began to emerge in the 60's and 70's.

Openly Gay elected politicians have formed nonprofit groups or served on the boards of existing groups, and the groups and bars and businesses have helped to support the candidates. The community has grown together, and no part could have developed without the support of the other parts.

This is not to say that things have always been harmonious in the Madison Gay community. There have been turf wars between agencies, and there has been a division between bars and the nonprofit groups. Some people have been in one camp, and have disliked another faction of the community.

There have been divisions among Gay politicians over issues or votes. But for the most part, the Madison Gay community has grown and flourished over the past two decades, and the community has benefited from having openly Gay elected officials representing us.

MAYOR BAUMAN

Continued From Page 1

and Judy Olson. She had broad LGBT community support including business leaders, activists and citizens advocating on behalf of our issues.

And she has not forgotten that support. So far, she has already appointed several community leaders to city commissions, including Cindy Domais, Dick Wagner and Mark Pohan. And she has given powerful city council committee appointments to both Olson and Verveer.

In fact, Bauman wants to strengthen the city's warm relationship with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered community.

"The diversity of the community is what makes Madison terrific," said Bauman. And she backs up what she says. One of the top three challenges she sees facing Madison is celebrating diversity — getting all of our communities to work together for a common good. That includes the LGBT community according to Bauman.

It also appears Bauman will continue the City of Madison's providing of some funding to The United and AIDS Support Network. "They provide a needed service. I wish we were at a point in society where we didn't need to fund them, but we will continue to fund them, the question will be at what level," said Bauman.

Another area Bauman could see the City working with the LGBT community is in assisting in the establishment of a community center. Bauman thinks perhaps the city could help by trying to co-locate other community centers/services in a single parcel, on a "collaborative" basis with one of those partners being the LGBT community. There have been recent discussions towards establishing a community center in Madison, and Bauman appears to want the city to be there if necessary.

When it comes to extending health benefits to domestic partners of city employees, Bauman again is very supportive. "I wish I could find a way to force (the state) to do something," said Bauman.

She added, "When the state insurance fund allows the extension of benefits, we will provide them."

Currently, the state insurance package, which the City of Madison pools with, does not allow for this extension. It would take a change of state law/policy to negotiate this provision.

Beyond the LGBT community, Bauman is also making her mark.

Throughout Madison, Bauman is being hailed for her approach as Mayor. Many say she is much more accessible and personable than her predecessor, allowing for a much more open office style of government.

Unlike former Mayor Paul Soglin, she is reaching out to Dane County government by working with Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk on a variety of issues, including governmental cooperation, collaboration and consolidation. They have even gone as far as to have joint stationery with both of their names to show the level of cooperation.

And in talking with her, she warmly and genuinely cares about Madison and all its citizens. After speaking with Bauman in her office for a morning meeting, I felt as though we could have been on the Terrace at the Memorial Union, kicking back with an old friend watching the sunset over Madison.

In addition to her opinions on issues specifically affecting our community, she offered other comments on a range of is-

suess affecting Madison.

Monona Terrace: "I wonder when I will be able to talk about Monona Terrace without gushing!" "It's like fairyland; it's magical, so exciting!"

Monona Terrace Hotel Sighting: "That's a dirty word. It's our biggest problem right now, but I'm very optimistic."

The Effect of the State of Wisconsin's Budget on Madison: "Devastating. State legislators don't realize that the City of Madison needs help from the State. They look at our construction, our low unemployment, but they don't see the incredible amount of money spent by people on property taxes."

Top Three Challenges Facing Madison: "Finding a Monona Terrace Hotel, Money (for the City of Madison) and Celebrating Diversity"

City/County Collaboration: "I'm very excited about the prospects of greater cooperation and collaboration with Dane County. In regards to outright consolidation, show it to me."

Ronnie Greer: "I was glad to see yesterday's Madison's Police and Fire Commission ruling upholding the City's position (two month suspension without pay). The city will prevail on this issue, but at what cost. And I don't mean just money."


Favorite Madison Feature: "There's not one defining feature, but its when you look around Madison and see the excellence of so many things in Madison."

Leadership Style: "I listen a lot, try to find out where people are at on issues, Please See Mayor Page 31

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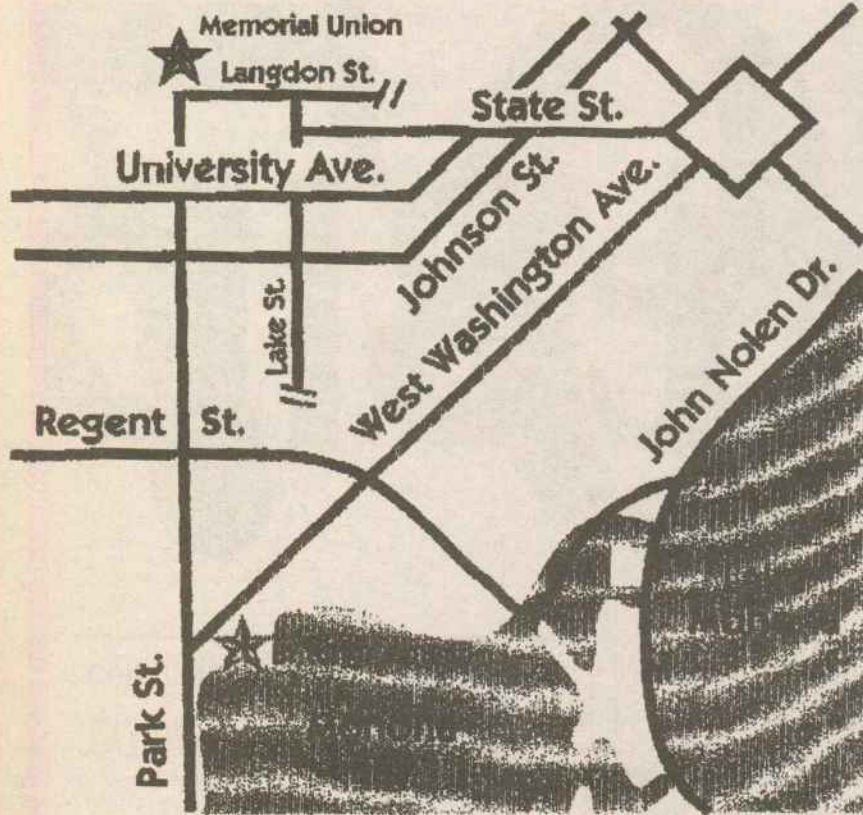
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Parade Route

Madison Pride March Route - From the State Capitol, West on W. Washington to Brittingham Park

M.A.G.I.C. Picnic Balance Sheet

Madison—The M.A.G.I.C. picnic is more than a big party and a good time (although it certainly is both of those things), it's also an important fund raiser for Madison area Les/Bi/Gay organizations.

Last year the picnic was able to disburse \$5,408.09 to 15 organizations who contributed volunteer labor to help the picnic be the big success it was.

Revenues

According to financial records forwarded to *The Wisconsin Light* last year's picnic netted a total of \$14,667.00

That figure included the following:

Donations at the Door	\$11,642.00
Private Donation (Fyfe's)	\$200.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$1,238.00
Booth sales (advance)	\$938.00
Booth sales (day of)	\$175.00
Booths (receivables)	\$40.00
Beverages & Ice Cream	\$289.00
Darts and Ball Toss	\$153.00
Total Revenues	\$14,667.00

Expenses

Of course there are expenses involved with putting on the picnic. These include food, equipment, and permits.

Expenses Included:

Queen Anne's Catering	\$4,312.56
Hometown Ice	\$118.69
Bucky's Toilets	\$620.00
Pepsi	\$526.95
Good n' Loud (sound system)	\$342.87
Sam's (stamps/tickets etc)	\$15.66
Menards (cords, pwr strips etc.)	\$174.53
Sam's (ice cream)	\$106.80
City of Madison (Permit, Equip.)	\$635.30
Drag Race Clothes	\$50.00
Kinko's Copies (Printing)	\$183.90
A to Z Rentals	\$616.28
Security	\$165.00
Parking Shuttle	\$245.00
Beer Kegs (2 Kegs)	\$100.00
Kessenich's (Beer Cups)	\$61.85
Royal T- Promos (T-Shirts)	\$751.17
City of Madison (Insurance)	\$544.50
Advertising	\$187.85
Total Expenses	\$9,758.91

Disbursements to Groups

Disbursements to various Madison area Les/Bi/Gay organizations are based solely on how many volunteer hours they provided for the picnic. All of the hours provided are added up. Each organization is then sent a percentage of the proceeds based on that group's percentage of the total volunteer hours worked.

Disbursements from the 1996 picnic were as follows:

WYOU/Shake It Up	\$682.04
Madison G/L Resource Cen.	\$647.87
The United	\$603.70
Frontiers	\$603.70
The Unicorns	\$387.74
Bi/Shy/Why?	\$323.93
Apple Island/Wish	\$313.93
Gay Fathers	\$289.39
Comm Thrift Store	\$260.13
Rodney Sheel House	\$250.00
Scheel Family for PWA's	\$250.00
Rainbow Comm. Co-op	\$215.96
Lesbian Parents Network	\$215.96
PFLAG	\$196.13
GALVANize	\$127.61
Total Disbursed	\$5,368.09

The GALVANize Gay Pride March And Festival: Fun With A Message

Madison—The Madison Pride March is only four years old, but it's already the largest Pride March (or parade) in Wisconsin and this year it is hoping to grow even more.

The March is viewed as being especially important because it begins at the State Capitol, the seat of government for the Badger State.

In fact some would say with the State Assembly's passage of AB-104, Wisconsin's Anti-Gay Marriage bill, there has never been a better time to show Gay Pride in Madison.

With an expected attendance of 3000 to 5,000, the Madison Pride March is described as not only the largest Gay demonstration in Wisconsin, it's also one of the largest demonstrations of any kind in Wisconsin.

The festivities get underway with a pre-march rally at the State Capitol. The rally begins at 1:30 at the State Street Entrance of the Capitol. Featured speakers include Openly Lesbian State Representative, Tammy Baldwin.

Baldwin is considering a bid for Congress and her speech gives us all a great chance to show our support for her.

The March itself gets underway at 2:00. This year for the first time, the march will go down West Washington. It will end at Brittingham Park site of a post march festival and party.

The fest will include lots of great food

and drink and some pretty fine entertainment too. A beer garden will be set up and unlike last year's crowded post march rally, this year's event will have plenty of comfort facilities and food and drink stands to satisfy the large crowd expected to attend.

Entertainers expected to appear include Perfect Harmony, Madison's new Gay/Bi/Trans chorus, Dykapella, an absolutely fabulous acapella quartet, Mary Waitrovich, Ben Doran, Flaming Dykasaurus, a hilarious Lesbian Comedy improv troupe, and many of Wisconsin's best female impersonators.

The parade and fest won't be PrideFest, but then again it's not trying to be either. This event isn't intended to be just a party.

Instead of being content with just having a party with thousands of Gays and Lesbians showing visibility, the Madison Pride March and Festival's purpose is to have fun, but with an underlying message of pride woven into the proceedings.


For more information on the Pride Parade and festival contact GALVANize at (608)

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Drink Specials All Night	Drink Specials All Night	4-8pm

Sunday, July 20

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outBID

During Magic Picnic/Pride Weekend, place bids on date packages with some of the most eligible men and women in Madison! Starting on Friday evening at The United Awards Banquet, and going throughout the weekend, place your bids in the silent auction for the date packages. Watch the totals throughout the weekend at The United table at the Magic Picnic and GALVANize Pride March. On Sunday at 4:00 PM the top bidders will win their date packages! Help The United and have fun.



Judy Bauman

I am a recently turned 40 year old who works for the University. I've lived in Wisconsin most of my life, but detoured to California (LA and Bay Area) for seven years. I enjoy nature, camping, playing sports and am interested

in Easter Philosophy. I'm spontaneous, easy going and believe life should be experienced with passion, a sense of humor and an appreciation for what we have, not just the materialistic.

Our date will be a picnic at Spring Green, catered to suit your taste, and will be followed by a show at the American Players Theater. Help me support a good cause. It'll be great!



Kelly Doering

Proprietor of Home Environment, a Downtown Madison business selling environmentally friendly products. My business reflects my personal commitment to environmental and social justice. I am a three-year

resident of Madison and enjoy outdoor activities such as biking, sailing, long walks and good conversation. I also enjoy vegetarian cooking, music, photography and travel.

A date with me will include a downtown shopping and dining experience at some of Madison's most eclectic shops, with gift certificates from The Soap Opera, Home Environment, The Puzzlebox, and Community Pharmacy.



Wendy Fern Hutton

I am a 52 year old artist and performer. I'm interested in just about everything and enjoy traveling.

Our date will start with a ride to Milwaukee in my sage green Toyota Tercel.

We will walk by Lake Michigan and enjoy an afternoon at the Art Museum. After this we will have a drink at the bar that's a railroad car - and we'll end our date with dinner at some exotic Milwaukee restaurant and a relaxing ride back to Madison.



Richard Kilmer

I am a pharmacist at Community Pharmacy in Madison. My hobbies include gardening, biking and spending time on my farm. I am president of The United and have volunteered with AIDS Network and GALVANize.

I love living in Madison, where I co-parent my nine year old son with two lesbians.

A date with me will include a trip to American Players Theater in Spring Green. Before the play we will enjoy a picnic lunch of smoked salmon, cheese, wine and fine chocolates.



Bryan McMaster

I am a 25 year old southern Wisconsin native who currently works for one of the largest insurance companies in Madison. Just a step or two into the bizarre side is where I like to take my life.

"The Date" - we'd start with a leisurely (wind and waves permitting) canoe trip on Lake Mendota to Picnic Point where we'd enjoy a picnic spread of my own design. Yes, I do cook. We would then lounge at the Union Terrace for a time to relax from the trip back. And finally, to finish off the evening, a show (to be decided) at the Civic Center.



Martha Popp

Spend a wild and exciting Saturday motoring through the countryside in a vintage VW bug convertible, the "Bee Out." For your date, we will wander through small towns antiquing and looking for wildflowers. I

will provide fresh scones and a thermos of coffee to start our day. In the afternoon we will stop for a refreshing dip in a picturesque pond surrounded by breathtaking gardens. I will have a picnic basket full of tasty morsels and a pitcher of Nantucket Peach Bomb! If you find the perfect drop leaf table or moose head I will arrange for it to be delivered to your home. I am the same vintage as Martha Stewart but I never say "it's a good thing," and I would never lock anyone in the closet during a dinner party.



Paul Wesselman

Paul Wesselman, through his company Stone Soup Seminars, employs his energy as a motivational speaker and trainer. He breaks away from his speaking and volunteer efforts to enjoy volleyball, dancing, biking and

exploring Madison's restaurants.

Paul will treat his date to an evening on the "Four Lakes" of Madison. You'll start on Lake Wingra with appetizers and a stroll on the beach. After dinner on Lake Waubesa, you'll head over to watch the sunset over Lake Mendota at Tenney Park (and cool off with a quick dip?). The evening will end on Lake Monona with Michael's Frozen Custard at Olbrich Gardens.

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Highlights of Madison: A Great Place to Live or to Visit Any Time of the Year

By De Ette Tomlinson

Madison is a great place to live—no question about it! The Advocate just listed Madison as being one of the top five most livable "surprises" in America for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people and their families. But we don't need a national publication to tell us what we already know.

When Bill Meunier called and asked me to write an article covering Madison for the Madison Pride Week issue of the Wisconsin Light, I was both honored and alarmed.

Honored that Bill thought I could do justice to such an article, but alarmed by its scope. How do you describe a city that has as diverse a range of GLBT lives and interests as this town surrounded by four lakes has?

But I'll try to give you an idea about the great things that happen in Madison by describing some of the things that have happened here lately. Here's a taste of GLBT life in Madison for the past year: political, public and social.

GLBT/Madison Politics

Between city, county and state governments, Madison GLBTs live in a political whirlwind. We have "out" representatives in all areas of government.

Madison city council member Mike Verveer helped Greg Scheel win city funding to rebuild the Hotel Washington (which had housed several Gay businesses), though the effort fell through when other funding failed. Another city council member, Judy Olson, works with the Madison Police Department on the reporting of hate crimes against GLBTs and others.

Dane County Supervisor Scott McCormick is actively seeking insurance companies that will put together domestic partnership packages for Dane County businesses. And State Representative Tammy Baldwin won national fame for her efforts to defeat AB104, the discriminatory Assembly bill that bans same-sex marriage.

The introduction of AB104 stimulated Madison's GLBTs to action. Ironically, its blatantly discriminatory language united not only diverse GLBT communities, but built strong ties with GLBT allies.

Television, newspaper and radio stations around Madison took editorial stands against the bill, and hundreds of non-Gay allies rallied in support of same-sex families' rights. Madison-based Action Wisconsin, the statewide GLBT political lobbying group, spearheaded a grassroots response to the bill, and played a significant role in educating the public about the issues the bill doesn't address: civil rights and legal protection for GLBT families.

Local and state governments don't supply all the political action in Madison. The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a Madison nondiscriminatory ordinance when it rejected an appeal from a woman fined for refusing to accept a Lesbian housemate.

And the University of Wisconsin also influences political thought in the city.

In May, the Faculty Senate Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues released a report that found UW-Madison had missed opportunities to serve and support LGB students, faculty and staff, stating that LGB contributions to the civic, academic and residential life of the campus are often blunted or delayed by fear or prejudice.

The committee made many recommendations to the executive committee of the faculty senate, including the establishment of an interdisciplinary LGB Studies program and domestic partnership benefits.

This year the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center (MG/LRC) released

information gathered during a year-long survey of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals. In combination with a random phone survey MG/LRC conducted of Dane County residents this spring, there is strong evidence of the Gay-friendly community Madison has become.

73% of Madison and Dane County residents support Gay and Lesbian rights and acceptance, and 80% would be likely to vote for a qualified Gay or Lesbian candidate for public office.

This is great news not only for GLBTs, but for community leaders like Mark Pocan and Tammy Baldwin, who both plan to run for major political seats in 1998.

GLBT/Madison Public Life

Perhaps because of our intense political involvement, Madison is home to more than 90 GLBT organizations, ranging from the Gay Fathers Group and Lesbian Parents Network to the Madison chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); from Teens Like Us to Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE).

There are GLBT service organizations, cultural/social groups, funding, media, political, spiritual, sports, student and support groups.

Many of these organizations have annual public events that are attended by Gays and non-Gays alike.

In the fall of 1996, Gays, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity in Education (GLADE) and Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) brought the Midwest premiere of *It's Elementary*, a documentary about how tolerance toward and acceptance of Gays and lesbians are taught in classrooms around the U.S., to Madison. *It's Elementary* was filmed in part at Hawthorne Elementary School in Madison, and went on to be nominated for an academy award.

GLADE and GLSTN were instrumental in persuading Hawthorne administrators to allow the filming of their classrooms. The premiere was attended by hundreds of GLBT and straight teachers, parents, administrators and others.

Eleven-year-old Kissing Girls Productions continues to hold the annual Lesbian Variety Show, "I Got This Way From Kissing Girls," on the third Saturday of November each year. The event has grown from a single night of Lesbian performance to a weekend-long festival of Lesbian performance, art, music and poetry.

The Ten Percent Society (TPS), the UW's GLBT student organization, sponsors monthly GLBT dances in the Memorial Union's Great Hall during the fall and spring semesters. Often, over a thousand people come out to dance and mingle.

TPS also sponsors the extremely successful Out and About Week in April (this year it was two weeks!) with speakers, films, events, demonstrations and another dance, and the equally successful Coming Out Week in October.

The non-profit New Harvest Foundation raises and distributes funds to GLB groups and individuals to advocate the Civil rights of Gays and lesbians, achieve public understanding of the community, assist parents and youth with personal concerns, maintain health and caring for the ill, deal with problems related to sexual identity and relationships, and support creative expression through the arts and writing.

New Harvest is a leader in Madison's GLBT communities, by funding innovative and cutting edge programs that benefit our lives. They host the yearly see-and-be-seen Black and White Dinner Dance, held in late November or early December.

The United, Madison's GLBT service organization, hosts some exciting events, too. They hold an annual wine tasting event, An Evening With Friends, in April at Olbrich Gardens; recognize outstanding GLBTs and allies at their Awards Banquet every July; and hold the not-to-be-missed huge New Year's Eve Pink Party Dance, that attracts people from all over Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.

This year, The United plans to add a Masquerade Ball to its repertoire of events, and on November 1 will invite GLBTs and straight friends and families to show off their costumes, listen to great music and dance the night away! And of course, The United still provides a wide range of services for GLBTs and others, including peer counseling, support groups, information, referral, meeting space, speakers bureau and many other supports to nearly ten thousand people

per year.

Madison's Pride Weekend has become a community-coordinated gala of events. Centered around the 24-year-old MAGIC Picnic, the weekend starts Thursday, July 17 with a performance of the men's chorus, Perfect Harmony.

The weekend continues on Friday, July 18, with The United's Awards Banquet and the Ten Percent Society's Queer Dance on the Terrace.

MAGIC Picnic festivities take place on Saturday, July 19. The weekend is capped by the GALVANize Pride March and Rally, where thousands of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders and their friends, families and supporters march from the Capitol down West Washington Avenue to an afternoon of music, games and fun at Brittingham Park!

GLBT/Madison Social Scene

If you like to mix and meet other GLBTs, Madison has many active GLBT social groups, including Frontiers, Shake It Up, Unicorns, Womonsong and Perfect Harmony, among others. Many of the groups have activities one or more times a week, so there's always something to do. If you are looking for something a little more spontaneous, Madison has it. Shopping is a time-honored pastime, and the downtown and State Street areas are always a good place to start. Visit We Are Family (524 E. Wilson) to pick up the latest queer t-shirt and hang out with a cup of cappuccino and a pastry.

Have a bite to eat at Out to Lunch (125 W. Mifflin), then stop by The United (14 W. Mifflin) for information about GLB-owned businesses in town, special events, or which bars are Gay-friendly. Look

through Home Environment's (216 N. Henry) selection of enviro-friendly home and family products.

Check out the cool videos at Four Star Video Heaven (315 N. Henry) and pick up a queer newspaper to peruse at your leisure. Stroll past State Street buskers and stop by Madison's funkiest pharmacy, Community Pharmacy (341 State Street), or buy an afternoon's reading at Room of One's Own Bookstore (317 W. Johnson).

All along State Street are great little coffee houses, restaurants, bookstores, clothing stores and benches to rest your weary feet. Many people end their State Street jaunt at the Memorial Union, with an ice cream cone and a chair by Lake Mendota on Memorial Terrace, watching windsurfers and sailboats breeze on by.

After a lazy afternoon on State Street, Madison's busy night life offers a change of pace. Many GLBTs go to Fyfe's Corner Bistro (1344 E. Washington) for a relaxed dinner, then head out on the town. In addition to bars and dance clubs, Madison has theater companies, music venues and movie theaters.

This is a thumbnail sketch of Madison, and I've left out infinitely more information than I had room to include. If you would like more information about Madison, please call The United at (608)255-8582, or pick up a copy of MG/LRC's *Directory* (which lists all the GLBT organizations in Dane County, and includes advertising from Gay-owned and Gay-friendly businesses and professionals), the *Wisconsin Light* or the *Isthmus* (all available free at The United or several downtown stores).

Mark Pocan
Owner



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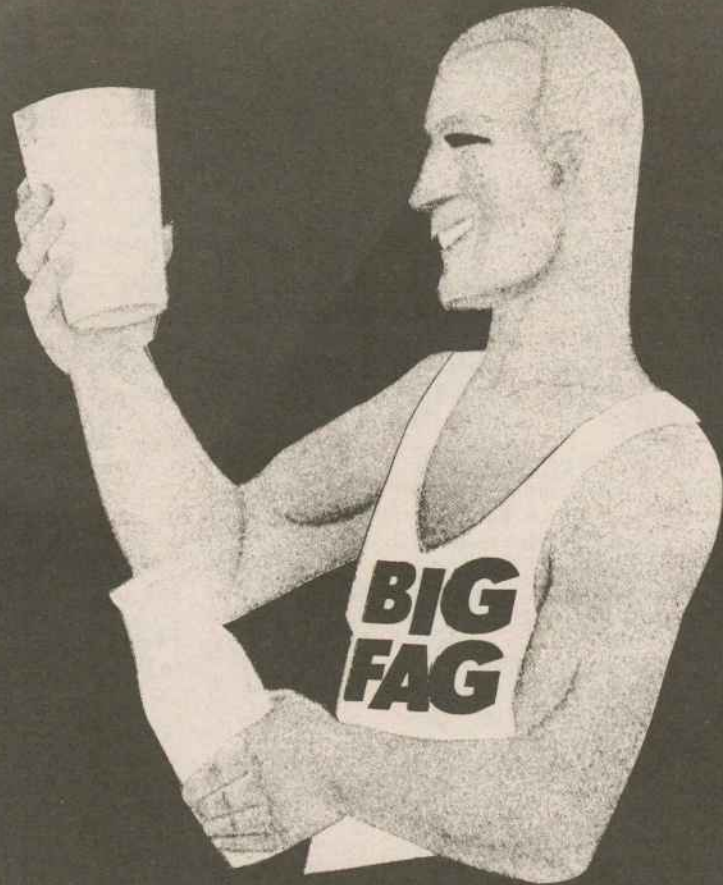
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Kick Off Pride Weekend with Perfect Harmony's Premier

Madison—Reserve Thursday night, July 17th for the premier concert of Perfect Harmony, Madison's only Gay men's chorus. The concert, a blend of Americana ranging from spirituals to Aaron Copland, will be at 8:00 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Society, 900 University Bay Drive. Join us for an entertaining evening of music and community pride.

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United's Awards Dinner Recognizes Contributions to the Community

Madison—Five individuals and a community organization will be honored at The United's 5th Annual Community Awards Dinner on Friday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Madison's Sheraton Hotel, John Nolen Drive at the Beltline.

Speaking at the dinner will be recently elected Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk.

Tickets are available by advance purchase only. To order, call The United at (608)-255-8582.

The United, south central Wisconsin's social service agency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, was founded in 1978. Since then thousands of people have benefited from its counseling, advocacy and outreach services. Proceeds from the dinner go to benefit the organization's work.

Each of this year's award recipients is someone whose hard work for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender rights usually goes unrecognized. Their work in turn reflects the unrecognized work of many individuals in our communities.

Recipients are chosen by a committee made up of Madison-area Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community members.

Woman of the Year Award Martha Popp

Martha is a teacher at Middleton High School and has been active in creating a safe environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students and staff in Madison area schools.

She is a member of Gays, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity in Education (GLADE); a founding member of the regional chapter of GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network); presents workshops at state and regional conferences for teachers on LGBT issues, and is an "out" role model for her students.

Martha has been involved in numerous groups and demonstrations for LGBT rights and lives, and exemplifies volunteer involvement in her community.

Man of the Year Paul Hugnet

Paul manages Fyfe's Corner Bistro in Madison. He has been active in Madison's LGBT business community for many years, and is active with MAGIC Picnic and other community events.

The United has special reason to be proud of Paul's selection, since he has served in the past on The United's Board of Directors, and continues to lend the organization his talents for Speakers Bureau engagements and special events planning.

He continues to work toward a time when Madison has its own Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community center.

Ally of the Year Sol Kelley-Jones

Many will remember Sol's testimony at the Wausau hearings on AB104, the bill that will discriminate against same-sex marriages if passed.

Ten-year-old Sol spoke movingly of her family and how it would be affected by the hate-based bill, and her words started a series of television and newspaper interviews and inspired many to write letters in support of civil rights for Lesbians and Gays.

She carried her work into her school, and often talks to other children about what it is like to have two moms.

United Volunteer of the Year Marjorie Ward

Marjorie works at Magic Mill in Madison as an assistant produce manager, and has volunteered three hours a week for the past two years at The United as a phone line volunteer and peer counselor.

Her peer counseling skills, good judgement and commitment are invaluable to the agency. Outside of her hours at The United, Marjorie plays the cello, guitar, fiddle, mandolin and "a tiny bit of banjo" with groups like the UW All String Orchestra, Madison Community Orchestra, MATC Performing Pit Orchestra and the Dark of the Moon Contra Band.

Organization of the Year Frontiers

Frontiers is a Madison-based Gay men's social club providing recreational, cultural and education activities for its members.

Over the past 16 years, Frontiers has evolved into a varied and inclusive organization that currently boasts 120 members. Activities are diverse, and cover everything from personal relationships to home improvements, from bridge to bicycling, from health concerns to religion.

Frontiers has also reached beyond Madison by sponsoring joint programs and activities with Milwaukee's GAMMA (another Gay men's organization). They are a visible part of the Madison community and regularly advertise their events in community calendars.

Special Recognition Award Jamie Nabozny

The United also recognizes significant social contributions in periodic special awards. The United is proud to announce a special recognition award to be given to Jamie Nabozny, for his courage in challenging the Ashland School District.

Jamie was severely beaten by other high school students for being Gay and sue the school when it failed to enforce its non-discrimination policy to protect him.

Last year his case came before the Federal Appeals Court, where he won his case and was awarded damages for his injuries. Jamie's actions will make schools safer places for Gay and Lesbian students and staff, and his courage is an inspiration to us all.

Dusty's Must Stop in Mad Town List

By Dusty Sass

So you are going to Mad Town for the big Pride Weekend. That's good. Congratulations on making an excellent choice of weekend activities.

Of course you will want to take in all the big events, but you also might want to do some clubbing, eating and shopping too. So here's Dusty's personal list of places to stop (listed in alphabetical order)

Geraldine's 3054 E. Washington This is the first place to stop on any tour of Madison's Gay bars. It's right off the freeway. (How convenient for the thirst impaired)

Saturday night is country western night at Geraldine's so if putting on cowboy boots (or the men/women who do) are your thing make sure you stop in.

Geraldine's has a big dance floor, a volleyball court, and a men's bar upstairs. During MAGIC picnic weekend the bar will be having some great volley ball matches.

The bar's clientele is mixed with about half of the patrons being Gay men and half being Lesbian.

Fyfe's Corner Bistro 1344 E. Washington Great food reasonable prices and nice ambiance. What more could you ask for?

Manoeuvres/The Mad Bar 150 S. Blair Street. Located in former Hotel Wilson, this popular bar can be counted on to have a huge crowd on any weekend night especially during Pride Weekend. There are actually two bars here.

Manoeuvres is a fun dance club and the Mad Bar is a Leather club. Expect good service and friendly people in both.

To handle the crowd, owner Ed G. is planning to have a block party out in front of the bar on Saturday night. As of press time he had not yet secured a permit for this.

Room of Our One's Own Books 317 W. Johnson This popular book store is located just off of State Street. They have a wide selection of feminists and Gay literature, t-shirts, buttons, flags and other items too.

Scandals 121 Main Street This is another popular stop. Located just a block from the State Capitol Scandals has a nice dance floor, a great DJ, and loads of nice folks.

This bar is known for its great drinks and its fine service. The customers here are very friendly and so is the staff. And it's the closest bar to the site of the MAGIC picnic and the Pride Parade and festival.

The Portfolio men will be on hand on Sunday July 20 to keep you amused and entertained.

The Shamrock 117 W Main Street. The Shamrock is owned by JJ, one of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet. Located two doors away from Scandals, the Shamrock also has great service and very reasonable prices.

The bar itself (as you can guess) is decked out with an Irish decore. It serves a very eclectic mix people.

We Are Family 524 E. Wilson Forget to bring your Pride wear along? No problem, We Are Family has a very complete line of Gay and Lesbian merchandise and some pretty good espresso too!

Located right around the corner from Manoeuvres, the store is Madison's favorite outlet for Gay merchandise and is the only Gay boutique in the area.

So there you have it folks everything you need to know about where to go and what to do in those few moments when you are not celebrating pride Madison style.

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SPOTLIGHT

Talking to the Stars



k.d. lang

k.d. lang: Glad to be Out, Proud of Her Work, Proud of Ellen and Melissa, Too

By Jeffrey L. Newman

k.d. lang has never been known for being conventional. So it's little surprising that the 37-year old singer would veer comfortably off the road she's traveled before to create her newest Warner Bros. opus 'Drag' - a torch song storybook devoted to the artistry of cigarette songs.

The title is lang's coy play on words for her fascination between cigarette terminology - fag and drag - and it's tie-in to Gay terminology.

"I find it interesting how there are all kinds of connections. It's pretty interesting how cigarettes historically have been used in art, throughout history, literature, and music. It's very fascinating. And certainly, I love the link between references people make to cigarettes and those they make to the Gay culture," she says.

"The subject is inspiring. I'm totally intrigued by cigarette songs. I'm interested in contemporary conversation of cigarette smoking. I felt it was a timely perspective."

Don't be alarmed. The avowed non-smoker, vegetarian Lesbian is not promoting an unhealthy cause. Granted, from the outside, "Drag" would seem to glamorize cigarette smoking, with its beautifully photographed cover, and its tobacco laden ditties.

But, once examined and listened to, "Drag" is clearly lang's metaphoric way of examining addiction and its tie-in to relationships of amour.

"I'm no more glamorizing cigarettes than someone who writes an article about smoking or someone who has a photo essay about it. Anything that provokes thought is bound to come up against adversity," lang says.

"I'm not making a political statement with this album, either for smoking or against it. What I wanted to do was explore the idea of addiction and how powerless an addict

is under the strong arm of addiction. The objective was to create an exploration by using cigarettes metaphorically. To me, 'Drag' is a musical documentary of cigarette smoking through song," she says.

"With that said, it also boiled down to songs I liked musically and lyrically. I've always loved songs about cigarettes. 'Don't Smoke In Bed,' is a song I've wanted to record for a long time and really was the impetus for this album," she adds. "On the lighthearted side, I hope people use my CD as a musical replacement for smoking."

And while she's never had any substance addiction herself, she admits to having had addictive behavior in relationships.

"But also, part of being an artist is being able to create a character or a story," she says. "A filmmaker doesn't have to be a murderer to make a film about murder. I'm able to visualize and simulate emotion through imagination."

With minimal backing, lush strings and jazz overtones, lang sought out songs from the '50s through the '70s, including the campy theme from "Valley of the Dolls," to piece together this musical tapestry. She left behind her comfort zone of long-time producing and writing partner Ben Mink for the first time in a decade and hooked up with producer Craig Street, who previously produced jazz diva Cassandra Wilson.

From such as Steve Miller's "The Joker," where she changes the gender from the way it was originally written - the original was written as a very male, macho song - and "My Last Cigarette," a song about realizing you have an addiction and conquering it, to "Don't Smoke In Bed," which she relates to the possessive power of re-

Please See kd lang Page 25

The Annual Possum Queen Contest is 88,000 Ways to Say, We Care!

Commentary by Ted Berg

The American Indians of Virginia called them: White Animal. The Tree Dwelling American Marsupial brings smiles in our community. One hears quotes like: "Fun for all. All for fun." "Beg...borrow...or heels!" Yes, I'm talking about the Possum Queen Campaign.

In 1997, at PrideFest, the campaign ended netting \$26,012.02. The money will be divided between the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the Brady Street Clinic, the Cream City Foundation, St Camillus and STD Specialty Clinic.

"The goal of this satin and lace drag fund raiser is to enrich the lives of brothers and sisters living with AIDS and HIV disease," said Max Barnett.

Max was the Co-Director of the 1997 Campaign. He has coordinated the campaign, since 1994 and was Possum Queen in 1992. Being a transplanted Flatlander, I never really understood the history of the lipstick, wigs, heels and things fund raiser till I talked to Max.

In this instance, the Boob Tube spawned a good idea. In 1991, Jon Bauer, a.k.a. Lizzie Bordeaux, and Charles XXX, a.k.a. Charlotte Lorraine, copied a Beverly Hillbillies episode where Mr. Drisdale held a contest for Possum Queen, so the Clampetts would not leave.

Lizzie and Charlotte decided to do the same as a joke. Signs went up: "It's a bad year for Bordeaux" and "Don't get caught in Charolette's Web." Soon each candidate had a campaign manager.

Knowing Gay people never go overboard on a joke, people started donating money to the two opposing campaigns. Supporters paid one dollar per vote, which would bring a smile to a Chicago politician's face.

The first Possum Queen Campaign raised \$800.00. Pretty good for a joke. They decided to donate the money to people with AIDS and HIV disease.

That started the annual event that we enjoy today.

The list of Possum Queens is inspiring and shows a lot of dedication: Charlotte Lorraine from the M&M Club in 1991, Victoria Maxwell from the Triangle in 1992, Dee Dee from the Ballgame in 1993, Wednesday Addams from Club 219 in 1994, Althea Later from the Triangle in 1995, Dinah Thirst from the Ballgame in 1996 and Jackie O'Gasm from the M&M Club in 1997.

In its existence these winners with many candidates, some running more than once, have raised \$88,000.00. They did more than take their shoes off, sit a spell and did all come back as the Beverly Hillbillies Theme goes and made lives easier for people dealing with the AIDS Pandemic.

There is a sad part to our story, which friends and relatives changed to a positive memorial. The Possum Queen for 1994, Wednesday Addams, passed due to AIDS.

His family and friends formed the Tommy Award. This award is given to a person, who goes above and beyond the call in promoting the Possum Queen Campaign. The design for the award was done by his brother, Peter Polubinsky. Renee Polubinsky, his sister, was Co-Director for the Event in 1997. The Polubinsky Family funds the Award.

The winners have been Jackie O'Gasm from the M&M Club in 1996 and Kathy Kau Proprietor of Kathy's Nut Hut Club in 1997. If you like to see the Award stop there. It is on display.

I asked Max, what did he think were the successes of the Possum Queen Steering Team?

"The fact that the women have felt comfortable and joined the campaign is a reflection of our goals to unite the community as a whole," Max said. "The interaction was fun. One of my personal goals is to see this fund raiser become statewide."

I asked him what he got out of volunteering many hours for this cause.

"It is very satisfying. I believe in the Please See Possum Queen Page 23

Join Us for Our Second Annual Amendment 2 Party at Mama Roux

It will be a Red, White and Blue Fourth for those celebrating OUR independence at Mama Roux's (1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee) Amendment 2 SpotLight party on Sunday July 6 from 4 to 9 PM.

The Party is a celebration of the Supreme Court's decision in May, 1996 to throw out Colorado's Infamous Amendment 2, which forbid the state or any city in Colorado from passing Gay civil rights laws.

Last year's party was a huge success and this year should be the same. The staff at Mama's is pulling out all the stops (and a few other things too). There will be a beer bust from 4:00 to 8:00, a buffet and plenty of special surprises.

"We feel that it's important to remember

that while we are proud to be Americans, the fight for Gay civil rights is far from over," said Joe St. Claire Manager and Co-owner. "The Amendment 2 decision was an important victory for us all and it should be celebrated as 'our Independence Day.'"

Mama Roux's is known for its great food and the Amendment 2 Party buffet will no doubt live up to that reputation. Plus the bar will be decked out in special decorations and everyone will be on hand to wind up the Fourth of July weekend with a bang.

So make your Independence Day Weekend complete. Stop by Mama Roux and celebrate our independence with your friends.

Ruthie Holds Court At SpotLight Party at This Is It Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 to ?

The one and only Ruthie, Wisconsin Light's exclusive advice columnist has graciously agreed to make a public appearance at our "Ruthie Holds Court" SpotLight party at This Is It, 418 E. Wells, on Tuesday, July 22nd from 9 PM until?

Ruthie was quite taken aback by the adoring reaction she received while riding in the Milwaukee Pride Parade, and after the Wisconsin Light received numerous requests for her to make another public appearance she agreed to make this one.

The party has already caused quite a stir. We have learned that the Queen of England cancelled a state visit from the President of China. Apparently the Queen was concerned when well over half of her Court announced they would be at This Is It instead.

Prince Charles himself is said to be dis-

appointed that the Royal Yacht "Britannia" won't be available for him to sail to Milwaukee in. Apparently he wanted to sail directly from giving away Hong Kong to the Chinese around South America and then through the St. Lawrence Seaway to Milwaukee. Of course he was planning on picking up some of Ruthie's many friends on the way. "It's a bloody bummer," he was heard to have said.

Joe Brehm and his staff are readying the bar for the anticipated influx of princes, kings and potentates that always seem to come around whenever Ruthie goes out.

For her part Ruthie remains nonplused about the whole thing. "I think it will be a marvelous party and that everyone will have a great time," she said.

On that you can depend.

Bette Davis In Retrospect

Part One of a Series
A Wisconsin Light Exclusive
By Steve Stavron

Bette Davis was never Baby Jane or Sweet Charlotte. These were bursts of afterglow of a great declining career so easily caricatured by the terminally talentless, who perceive the decline of great careers as a distortion of their own unfulfilled hopes and dreams. Nor was Bette Davis truly Margo Channing. Margo was a free-hand fresco; a parody of Bette Davis and her countless imitators. **All About Eve** after all, is about a stage actress who plays Bette Davis. True, she and the film are brilliant, but the real Davis legacy lies within a period more than half a century ago from 1935-1946.

With the possible exception of Greta Garbo, whose poetic screen imagery seems lost in a 19th century time warp, Bette Davis was probably the greatest of all screen actresses. But if the incomparable Garbo seems to have stumbled onto the 20th Century MGM lot by mistake, Bette Davis was very much a modern self assured woman of our time.

Unlike Garbo, she was at her best in contemporary drama, or, as in **Jezebel**, playing characters that defied social boundaries and defined self-actualization as primal human nature. But if Davis' basic nature was almost too primal for the 1940s acting style, and if her energetic forcefulness seemed too excessive at times, she brought a classic grandeur to her "modern woman" unlike that seen previously on the screen as Garbo had done in her 19th century Camilles and Queen Christinas. Watch Davis' wordless last scene in **The Letter** (1940).

At a time when there was no shortage of outstanding screen actresses—a condition which no longer exists—Davis superceded even the likes of Claudette Colbert, Irene Dunne, Barbara Stanwyck, Jean Arthur—to mention a few. Lacking the gracious demeanor of the traditional movie star and considered "unbeautiful" even in her time, she demonstrated that the range of the long dramatic line was not just an elocutionary technique used by stage actresses, but that in proper proportion, and honed down strategically to suit the terse demands of up to date dialogue, screen actresses—at least this particular one—could equal Broadway's greatest.

If Garbo reminded us as to what Sarah Bernhardt and Eleanora Duse might have been like, Davis' screen performances were no less to be compared in stature to the then prominent Katherine Cornell, Lynn Fontaine, and Helen Hayes.

Bette Davis' style was all her own. Others walked gracefully. She bounded. Others spoke rapidly, but modulated her tones. She clipped her words and used an off-pitched voice, often on purpose. Her features were unusual and unforgettable.

In addition to her famously large eyes, which often spoke the "truth" behind her lines, her mouth had a downward turn which made her seem easily irritated and constantly displeased. This added to a curious sense of unpredictability, often describes as "volcanic," which fascinated audiences and seemed to intimidate co-stars.

Yet, her irritability also indicated a carefully disguised vulnerability. Not being a great screen beauty, she was giving us all she had, and she, like us, was concealing her insecurities with an outward show of strength. Even at her "wickedest" (**In This Our Life** and **Beyond the Forest**), we pitied her. She played evil with a capital E but was never completely hateful.

Her enormous dramatic range was accountable to her more peculiar individual characteristics, and in this respect, she was the genuine forerunner of what came to be known as method acting. However, Davis never reached within herself for emotions that she could not outwardly sustain and expand upon. She knew how to aim her dramatic missiles.

True, all of her characters were built upon her peculiar idiosyncrasies, but which she controlled more carefully than is generally supposed. Her famed mannerisms were punctuation marks, not basic content. Where other great actors played at one or two emotional levels, she played at several with smooth shifts, but with razor sharp distinctiveness, as in **Jezebel** and **Dark Victory**.

The extent of her dramatic range is best illustrated by her unmatched ability to change her characterization within a short period of time without make up or time lapse. In her greatest roles, no Davis character was left at the same stasis at the film's end, the metamorphosis often occurring within a single sequence. Today, this is done by careful editing and

makeup/costume alterations.

Davis needed none of that. She transposed her characters developmentally in truthful human moments (**Mr. Skeffington** (1944) and **Now Voyager** (1942)).

Her early films of the 1930s are largely trite and forgettable with the exception of **Of Human Bondage** (1933) and **Dangerous** (1935). As Mildred, the slutty waitress in **Bondage**, her performance shares the curse of early "talkies" in being stiletto-spiky and overly earnest, but remains effective.

She had not yet tamed her unleashable capacity for ballistic attack. However, the film was poorly crafted to begin with.

As Joyce, the alcoholic actress in **Dangerous**—for which she received her first Academy Award—Davis is considerably smoother and has the benefit of stardom. Her style is more modified, better integrated, and serves as forerunner of her increased capacity of varying the modality of her character and achieving that level of "class" shared by stage actresses. Still, the performance is a bit too "quick."

Her next film, **Marked Woman** (1937), is



her first really good film. In the very plebeian role of a questionable dance hall prostitute trying to protect her innocent sister from gangster boss, Eduardo Ciannelli, Bette could exploit her nervy, contemporary style fittingly, but with a developing, elegant, hauteur of a truly first class performer. The film contains one of her first memorable lines. To gangster Ciannelli she states chillingly, "If anything has happened to my sister, I'll get even with you even if I have to come back from the grave to do it."

And **Jezebel** was still to come.

The Eyes have It! - Bette Davis' eyes are vividly captured in these shots. At the top is an early publicity shot taken when Warner Brothers thought Bette should be a blonde. Bottom Left is a scene from "Dangerous" Bette's first Academy Award winning role. Bottom Right is the original newspaper ad for **Dangerous**.

All Stills and photos are from the personal collection of Dale E. Kuntz.

'Men In Black' Is a Surprisingly Funny Romp That Will Appeal to All

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Welcome to Blockbuster Summer 1997. In a sequel dominated season featuring a return to the isle of the dinos (**Lost World**), runaway ocean liners (**Speed 2**) and even more far-fetched escapades of the caped crusaders (**Batman 4**), jaded moviegoers driving to their local multiplex this summer aren't likely to expect much cinematic originality.

As Glenn waited patiently in line at the concession stand, desperate for refreshment, Glenn expected the worst. The insufferable smug Will Smith in a sci-fi farce that might even make **Mars Attacks** look like genius. At best, Glenn hoped, **Men in Black** might reach the joyous level of true and total awfulness that make **Plan 9 From Outer Space** and **Revenge of the Killer Tomatoes** such classics.

Instead, **Men in Black** director Barry Sonnenfeld dares his soda slurping, pop-

corn munching audiences to be far more hip than is usually demanded in such special-effects driven masterpieces.

Men in Black's staggeringly simple premise has aliens from throughout the galaxy near and far, already living amongst us. A super secret agency, INS Division 6, headed by the seemingly clueless Zed (Rip Torn) is responsible for keeping the Earth running smoothly.

As **Men in Black** opens, crack agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) is hot on the tale of a runaway alien, hiding within a caravan of a different sort of "alien", illegally crossing the border into the U.S. Special Agent K unmasks his query and skillfully removes this potentially newsmaking memory from the minds of all concerned with the help of a handy-dandy memory-eraser, a device looking suspiciously to Glenn like a garden variety pen light.

Sadly, there's a surprising causality:



Special Agent K's trusted partner. With stars in his eyes, both men know it's time to put the black suit into mothballs.

Enter a young New York cop (Will Smith) who has an unlikely encounter of the alien-kind. Agent K is on the job in two shakes of an alien's tale and spots the young cop's potential. Agent J is subsequently born.

The remainder of **Men in Black** concerns some overbaked nonsense of an alien-takeover of the known universe with the zombie-like assistance of a bodysnatched dirt farmer (Vincent D'Onofrio).

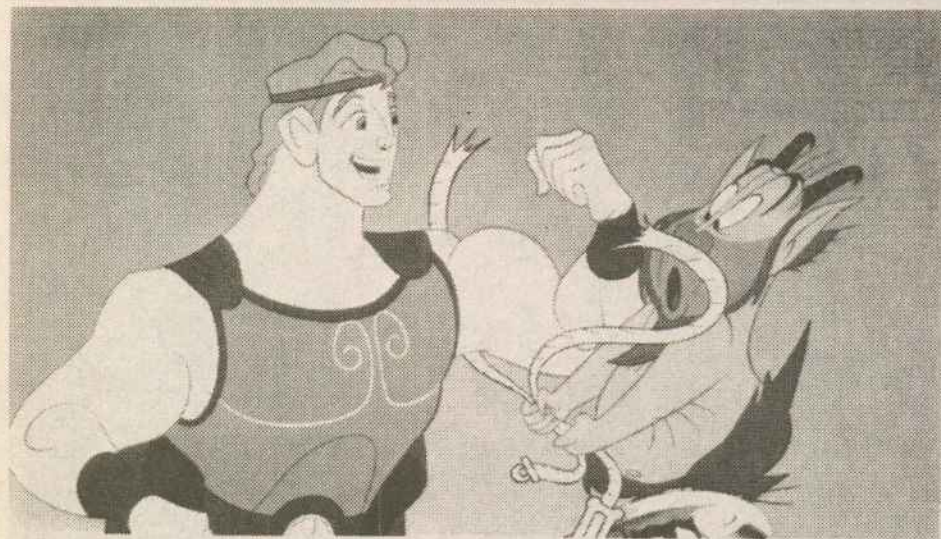
Tongue firmly in cheek and with more than a few winks, **Men in Black** in the end is alternately hilarious and just plain dumb with a child-like obsession with creepy aliens and plenty of gooey, slimy effects.

Just as Glenn feared, Will Smith proves once again to be annoyingly smug although he is happily kept in reign by director Barry Sonnenfeld who smartly keeps the camera poised on the fabulously deadpan Tommy Lee Jones who is surprisingly adroit at farce.

All in all, **Men in Black** is a happy, delightful treat, a special-effects laden blockbuster with a sly sense of humor!

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

Men in Black is now playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre and at theaters everywhere.



In Training- Hercules gets a crash course on becoming a hero from legendary trainer., Phil the Satyr in Disney's new animated comedy adventure "Hercules."

'Hercules' is Disney's Best Film Outing Since 'Aladdin'

By John Jahn

Rarely do we movie goers get the chance to accomplish two different, but important, goals by attending a movie, but Disney's latest animated, feature length film, **Hercules**, gives us such a chance.

One: we can see a wonderful film. Two: we can stick it to all those bigoted Southern Baptists who recently voted overwhelmingly to boycott everything and anything related to the Disney Company because of the latter's allegedly "anti-family," "immoral" stance. In particular, the Right Wing religious zealots are upset that Disney offers benefits to its Gay and Lesbian employees comparable to their straight ones, and accommodates "Gay Days" at their theme parks.

Hercules certainly is a well-timed release: opening only a week after the boycott was announced, it's everything you'd expect from the makers of such fine, "family" entertainment as **The Lion King**, **Beauty and the Beast**, **Snow White**, etc. It also shows that the folks at Disney can respond to the movie-going public (all the more reason to bash the boycott into insignificance). When the more adult-oriented **Pocahontas** and **Hunchback of Notre Dame** did relatively poorly at the box office, Disney decided to return to the more traditional and successful path blazed by **Aladdin**. As a result, **Hercules** doesn't disappoint in any way.

To be sure, the story does to real Greek mythology what **Ben Hur** does to the Bible, but who cares? The story line is propelled forward in song by a quintet of female singers in a style which is part Gospel choir, part Supremes. The infant Hercules is kidnapped from his immortal parents, Zeus (voiced by Rip Torn) and Hera by the cowardly, imbecilic helpers of the evil god of the underworld, Hades (James Woods). Hades' plan is to do away with the youngster whom the Fates have

foretold may present him with serious trouble in his "hostile takeover bid" of Mt. Olympus—the home of the gods. Hades' helpers, Pain and Panic (Bobcat Goldthwait, Matt Frewer) succeed in making Hercules mortal, but he retains his god-like powers.

We follow the young Hercules as he undergoes training by the ever cantankerous satyr, Phil (Danny DeVito). Hercules becomes the hero of Thebes as he successfully battles every monster Hades can throw at him. A more problematic situation arises when Hercules is confronted with the beautiful Meg (Susan Egan), a young woman forced into servitude of the underworld boss, Hades. What will happen? Here's where I pause and say, "See the movie!"

The characters in **Hercules** are interesting, well-written, very funny in a slapstick way. There are lots of parallels drawn to present times which draw laughs. Hercules himself is marketed like an ancient Michael Jordan, a trapped young boy cries out "Someone call IX-I-I," etc.

The animation is gorgeous in the backgrounds, while the upfront characters are more obviously cartoonish, there's no comparing the animation of this film with that of **Hunchback**, which was breathtaking. There really aren't any stand out, show-stopping songs in **Hercules**, which is the film's one true weakness. Even so, Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken and Tony-winning lyricist David Zippel do provide us with pleasant, unassuming numbers such as Hercules' "Go the Distance" and Meg's '60s girl groupish "I Won't Say."

See **Hercules** not only for the sheer enjoyment that it'll bring you, but also for the equal enjoyment of telling those Baptist hatemongers just what they can do with their boycott!

Hercules rates an 8.

'My Best Friend's Wedding' is a Spry, Delightfully Unpredictable Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Even the most loyal and faithful readers of the **Wisconsin Light** are unlikely to remember Glenn's very first movie review, from way back in 1984, of **Another Country**. Another Country was a British film featuring the movie debut of the divinely handsome Rupert Everett.

Glen was truly, madly, deeply in love. Sadly Rupert Everett's subsequent film career has largely failed to match this dazzling debut. Openly Bisexual and with a deliciously wicked novel, **Hello Darling, Are You Working?** to his credit, substantial film roles for Rupert have been disappointingly few and far between.

Rupert Everett fans take heart, he can be found in the current romantic comedy, **My Best Friend's Wedding**, stealing the film right from under the noses of topline Julia Roberts and Dermot Mulroney.

My Best Friend's Wedding has Julia Roberts playing unmarried food critic Julianne Potter. Out of the blue she receives a call from her best friend, Michael O'Neal (a dazzling, toothsome Dermot Mulroney), a sports writer in Chicago. Much to Julianne's surprise and dismay, Michael has called to invite her to his wedding, only days away.

Juliaane doesn't take the news well. Both she and Michael had long been unlucky in love. They promised that if neither had married upon turning 28, they would settle into married life together. Michael has ruined that plan by falling in love with Kimmy (Cameron Diaz). When Julianne arrives upon the nuptial scene, it is with renewed determination she, not the cloying cute bride-to-be is the best mate for

Michael.

What follows are Julianne's increasingly desperate maneuvers to breakup the happy couple while acting as Michael's "unofficial best man". Whether she is maneuvering the staggeringly untalented Kimmy into a keraoke nightmare or chasing Michael through the busy streets of downtown Chicago in a "borrowed" laundry truck, Julia Roberts invests Julianne with tremendous warmth and a surprising depth behind her patently resplendent smile. Julia Roberts is a truly gifted comic actor and here has her best role since **Pretty Woman**.

Following roles in **Longtime Companion** and more recently in **How to Make an American Quilt**, Dermot Mulroney has developed a substantial following amongst many of Glenn's friends, none of whom were disappointed with his romantic stint here in **My Friend's Wedding**. Thankfully cast as "the other woman", Cameron Diaz invests a fresh and winning sincerity into the put-upon Kimmy.

Even better is Rupert Everett, cast as Julianne's boss and confidante. The Gay best friend may be increasingly a cinematic cliché but Rupert Everett, with a knowing wink, rises above the romantic hijinks and provides the film's unexpected yet satisfying conclusion.

Ronald Bass's screenplay is refreshingly unpredictable, deftly walking a fine line between some unanticipated and quite startlingly nasty bits and the genre's usual shamelessly good-natured shenanigans.

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

OUT on Film

'All Over Me' Is a Good Film, Albeit a Little Too Shocking, a Bit Too Sad

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

For many, perhaps the strongest, most poignant memories of growing up are those of friendships, special relationships with "best-friends" which for many Lesbians and Gay men, would become colored and deepened by emerging awareness of sexual attraction. Rarely have commercial cinema or popular television sit-coms attempted to portray these wonderful perplexing, confusingly thrilling relationships we all had, even Glenn. Relationships that, at the time, we knew would be the most important in our lives and which we knew that we would not live through, only of course, most of did.

All Over Me, a new adolescent drama written by Sylvia Sichel and directed by her sister Alex Sichel offers such a scenario featuring **To Die For's** youthful sensation Alison Folland as the enigmatic baby dyke, Claude.

This earnest film debut could well have been subtitled "Desperately Seeking Ellen" as **All Over Me** follows fifteen year-old Claude struggling with her sexuality and her increasingly sensual feelings for her longtime best-friend, Ellen (Tara Subkoff, a talented young actress, platinum blonde, who seems desperately trying to portray Rosanna Arquette). Fate, plus Ellen's unseen, dysfunctional family finds Ellen spending more nights sleeping over with Claude than she spends in her own bed.

Over the course of a few days, **All Over Me** has Alison and Ellen's school year winding down, their initial summer plans finding them determined to start their own grrrl band.

Or at least Claude is determined, while Ellen seems increasingly preoccupied with her new boyfriend, Mark (Cole Hauser), a

dangerously hunky neighborhood thug.

Enter into their lives Luke (Pat Briggs, front man for the band Psychotica), an out and proud young Gay punk who moves into the apartment building Claude lives in. Luke, perhaps recognizing in Claude a kindred soul (both are musicians, both are Gay), seeks out her friendship despite antagonism from Claude's friends.

It will be Luke's brutal murder, in a park across the street from Claude's apartment building, which provides **All Over Me** with most of its dramatic tension.

Glenn wishes he could more enthusiastically endorse **All Over Me**. Earnestness and an almost painful sincerity abound in the film, Glenn certainly doesn't question that. Even Claude's budding relationship with pink-haired musician Lucy (Leisha Hailey) is simply and positively explored, although sadly with few surprises.

Performances by all of the principals are fine. Alison Folland provides her mostly silent character with more shadings than actually provided by the script. Pat Briggs' Luke is intensely appealing and Wilson Cruz, from television's **My So-Called Life** has a few nice scenes as Claude's friend and co-worker.

All Over Me features a hot, hip soundtrack featuring the likes of Ani DiFranco, Babes in Toyland and Helium which is a big plus. Despite Sichel's seemingly arbitrary mandatory happy ending, most in the audience are likely to find **All Over Me** a little too shocking and sad.

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

All Over Me opens on Friday, July 11th, for a one week run at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre.



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Curtain Calls

The La Cage Show Case: A Breath of Fresh Air For The Gay Show Scene

Reviewed by Bill Meunier

The Wisconsin Light has never reviewed, an impersonators revue before, but about half way through the opening night of the La Cage Showcase, performed in the bar's Dance Dance Dance room, I realized this show contained more than enough theatrical elements to warrant such attention.

Dance Dance Dance has been remodeled to make it into a good show room. Owner, George Prentice, made a bold choice in design. Rather than build a stage along with south wall, he put it on the West wall. But Prentice kept the long platform on the south wall allowing performers to easily go from stage into the audience without tripping over tables and spilling drinks.

The set up wasn't the only fresh concept you will see in the Show Case. This is a revue that has choreography, costuming and production numbers. Those are elements Milwaukee's Drag scene hasn't enjoyed on a regular basis for many years.

Using those elements, the Show Case proved that it is not going to be your typical drag show. The cast of this troupe is committed to bringing its audiences good

theater, with a fresh new show every week.

Directed by Sasha Mitchell, and Jeanette Terry, choreographed by Christopher Alex, emceed by Jackie Roberts with costuming by Tabitha Stevens and Billie Blaze, the opening night of the La Cage Showcase showed that a breath of fresh air had arrived on Milwaukee's Gay entertainment scene.

The seven member cast, Jackie Roberts, Sasha Mitchell, Jeanette Terry, Christopher Alex, Julio, Billie Blaze and Rudi Di Angelo were very talented. The dance numbers were excellent and the production numbers were on a par with anything seen in the famous Holly Brown shows done at La Cage in the early 80's.

Emcee Jackie Roberts did a good job in keeping things moving. Over the last year or so Jackie has begun to really develop her stage presence. The work she is putting into to honing her skills is clearly paying off.

Rudi Di Angelo was wonderful. Using just the right facial expressions and gestures, the girl showed that she can do more than lip synch. She is an impersonator. Her "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" brought the house down.

Billie Blaze and Sasha Mitchell shined in their duet "The Grass is Always Greener" where they played two drunken women bitching at each other.

Alex and Julio are two very good dancers and they aren't bad at lip synching either. Their "Grease" medley which included three costume changes right on stage was a hoot.

The show included three big production numbers that featured nearly the entire cast: an opening overture using music from Swing Machines "Jazzin," an En Vogue medley that had the crowd cheering and the big finale "All That Jazz."

These numbers (new ones will be performed each week) offered vibrant entertainment.

There were some dead spots and problems in the show. The show needs a second follow spot and Show Directors Mitchell and Terry should consider cutting it back by about 15 minutes.

One performer did not have the stage presence, costuming or choice of material to match what the others were doing.

But these problems did not seriously detract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation.

The evening was made even more remarkable by the fact that the stage cast performed on wasn't completely ready until a few hours before show time.

The Show Case will bring forth new material every week. Alex who has a job doing choreography down in Florida for a few weeks, said that he and Julio would be developing a set of dance numbers for the cast.

Special guests stars including some live performers will be brought in each week to add something different to look and feel of the troupe.

The La Cage Show Case can be seen on Fridays at 11:30 p.m., with a shorter version of each weeks show on Sundays at 10:30 p.m.. There is a \$4.00 cover at the door on Friday on \$3.00 on Sundays and it is well worth the money.

LAMMEF Variety Show Talent Search

Milwaukee--Bright lights and big applause could be yours at the event of the season, the Fourth Annual Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Education Fund's (LAMMEF) Lesbian Variety Show.

LAMMEF is seeking everyone's help in finding the hidden talent within our Lesbian and Bisexual community. The organization is looking for comedians, bands, skits, actors, dancers, instrumentalists or other talent to star in the spotlight.

This year the show is being redesigned to take on more of a Rosie O'Donnell, Tonight Show, Saturday Night Live-ish type of format. So, your talent might be stupid pet (or human) tricks, funny Gay & Lesbian headlines, or an androgynous "Chris" stealing the show.

The Variety Show is Saturday, August 23rd and will be held at the elegant Skylight Opera Theatre. Anyone interested in auditioning should contact Shelli through the LAMMEF office at (414) 264-2600.

Pamela Brown to Play Kate in Bard's "Taming of the Shrew"

Milwaukee—From Verona, Pisa and other far-flung parts throughout Italy, suitors, scholars, wooers and rascals of all descriptions converge on Padua as beautiful, but shrewish, Kate Minola encounters the amorous adventurer Petruchio in William Shakespeare's delightful classic "The Taming of the Shrew."

Produced by Pamela Brown of Amethyst Productions, this updated version of Shakespeare's romantic romp, set in "La Dolce Vita" era 1960s Italy, will be staged in the warm Mediterranean surroundings of The Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, located at 2220 North Terrace Avenue in Milwaukee.

In this production, directed by Maureen Kilmurry, Brown will be playing the high-strung Kate. In case you haven't seen Brown at the Boulevard Ensemble or other Milwaukee stages, hers is a talent not to be missed.

In my mind, there is no doubt about it. Brown has the talent and range of Helen Hays. I don't say that lightly, not at all. I've seen her perform many times. Each time, she's magic. She could do "Victoria Regina" or Shaw's Joan without a hitch. The only one who could have possibly exceeded her would have been Lynn Fontaine.

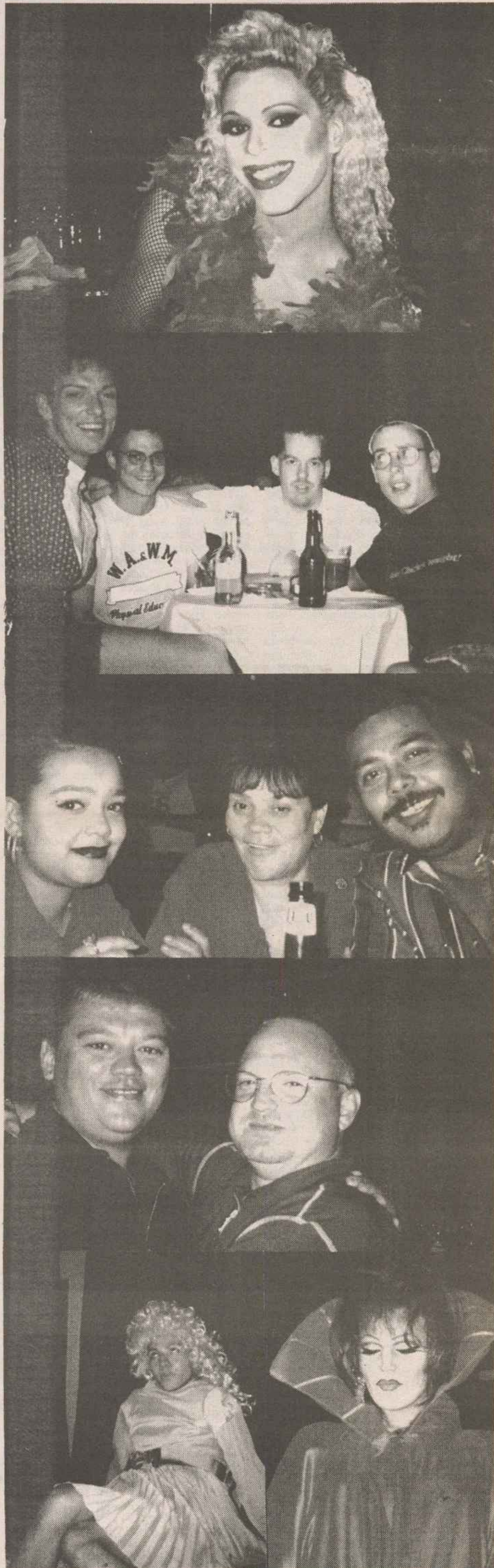


Mark Bucher as a child

Others performing in "Shrew" are Tom Schimmels as Petruchio, and a cast of local favorites including: Julie Boyd, Mark Bucher, William Clifford, David Flores, Jim Gallagher, Jane Hanley, Robert Bruce Janacek, Robert W.C. Kennedy, James Konicek, David Oswald, Megan Powell, and Terry Tuttle.

"The Taming of the Shrew" will open on July 10th and run Thursdays through Sundays until July 27th. Tickets are \$19.50. For more information, please contact Amethyst Productions at (414) 299-0435.

This is a show that should not be missed.



Bill Meunier

A fab show night- The premier of the La Cage showcase brought out lots of people along with lots of talent. At the top is Co-show Director Sasha Mitchell, next at the folks from In Between who came to enjoy the event, in the middle is a family pose from some folks obviously having a good time, next are two "hunks" getting to know each other, second from the bottom is Julio during the hilarious "Grease" medley he performed with master Choreographer Christopher Alex and last but not least is Emcee Jackie Roberts.

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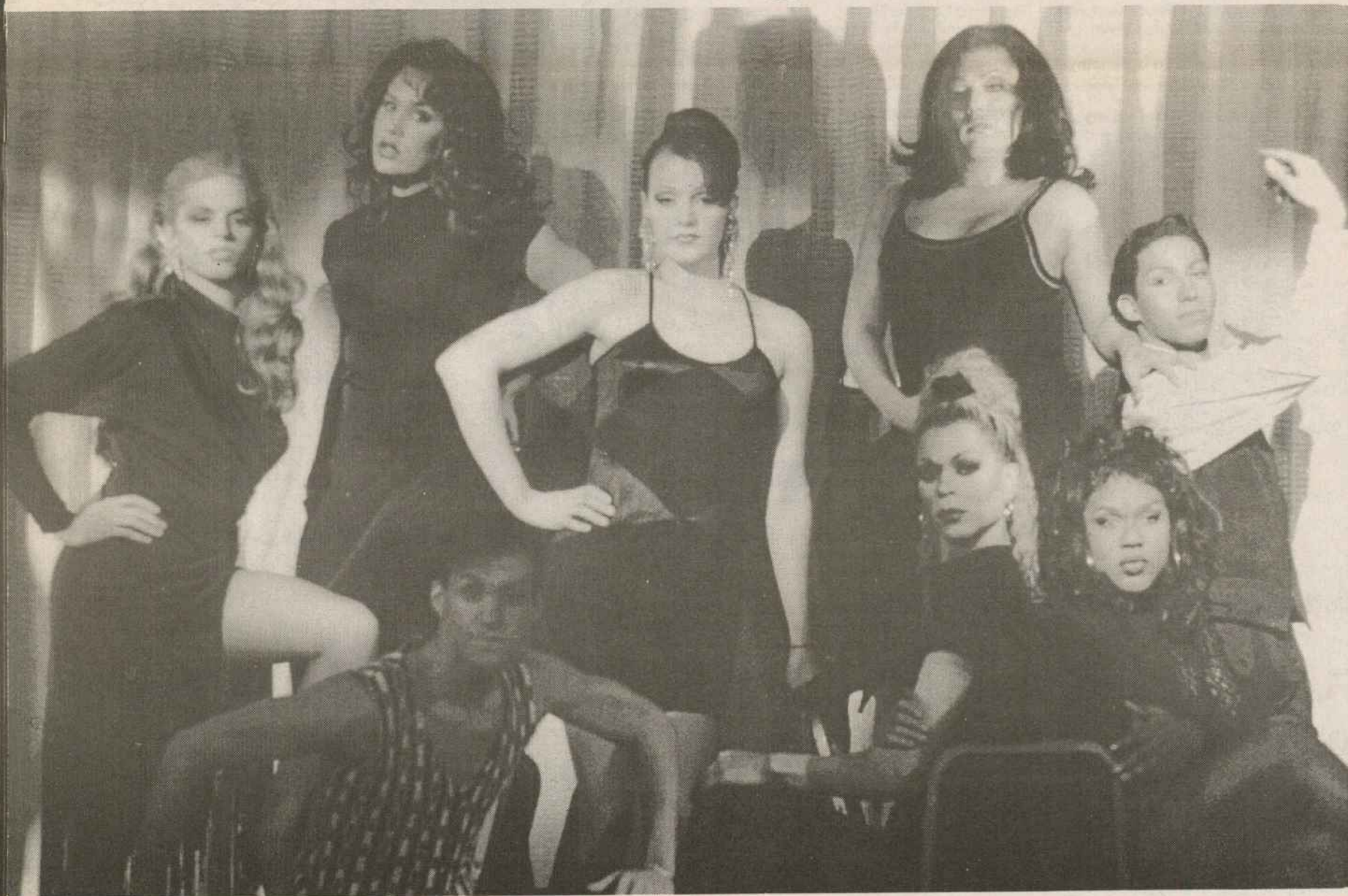
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Taking Aim - A customer at In Between takes aim at the Balloon Dart Board before launching her missile during In Between's Flag Day Party on Monday, June 16. The popular South Side watering hole offers up to \$300 in cash prizes every Monday starting at 9:00.

Bill Meunier

ond victory of the season with a 22 to 2 win over CCF/Riverwest. CCF had defeated In Between the first week of the season.

Manoeuvres kept their record at the 500 level by winning a 16 to 7 decision over the Triangle.

The M & M Mustangs team did the same with a win over the Triangle keeping that team winless for the day.

In other games, Club 219 defeated Manoeuvres 24 to 2, Mama's Family beat CCF/Riverwest 32 to 2, Balistreri's defeated In Between 24 to 3, and the Ball Game beat the M & M Club 16 to 4.

No league games are scheduled for the July 4th weekend due to holiday tournaments. Manoeuvres and Club 219 will be playing in the St. Louis Fourth of July tourney and Mama's Family will join in the fun at Chicago's Windy City Classic.

SSBL Schedule For July 12

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

Schedule for July 19

(Position Round Schedule will be determined after play on July 12)

SSBL Standings

(As of June 28, 1997)

1. Club 219	9	1
2. Balistreri's Pizza	7	3
Mama Roux	7	3
The Ball Game	7	3
5. Manoeuvres	5	5
6. M & M Club	5	5
7. Triangle	2	8
8. In Between	2	8
9. CCF/Riverwest	1	7

SPORTSCOLUMN

Mama Roux Hands Club 219 Its First SSBL Defeat of the Season

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee--What a difference a few weeks can make. The last time the SSBL was in action, June 7, the Club 219 Pride pounded out an 18 to 3 victory over the Mama's Family team from Mama Roux.

On June 28, however, with both teams at full strength, **Mama's Family** used some spectacular defensive plays and a balanced offensive attack to knock **Club 219** from the ranks of the undefeated with a hard fought 12 to 8 victory.

The Pride scored single runs in each of the first two innings, but then the Family came roaring back with a five run rally in the top of the third. Those tallies were followed by seven more unanswered runs as the Family raced out to a 12 to 2 lead.

Club 219 rallied, scoring six runs in the late innings but it wasn't enough and when the final out was recorded, there was a wild family reunion on the pitcher's mound as Mama Roux celebrated.

In another key SSBL match up, **Balistreri's** lost for only the third time this year as the **Ball Game** beat them by a score of 11 to 7.

The two fairly even matched teams played solid defense in the well played match.

The game combined with Mama Roux's victory created a three way tie for second place between the Ball Game, Mama Roux and Balistreri's.

In Between lost its manager earlier in the week, but managed to pick up its sec-

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Dennis Getto
Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel

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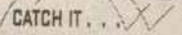
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Bill Metzger

Booster Fun! - A few members of the SSBL Booster Club posed for us during a party thrown in their honor following an SSBL Managers Meeting. The Booster Club is a new and popular feature of the league this year to find out how you can join contact your favorite team.

Possum Queen

Continued From Page 17

campaign, because I've seen it work. I also feel I need to contribute to our community and I love the interaction of our community," Max said.

Max shared with me the gratitude he has for everyone who worked on the Possum Queen Campaign. He is very proud of them. He said he could not find a way to express his love.

I'd like to personally thank some people who were tireless in their commitment to our campaign.

Lizzie Bordeaux choreographed the Possum Queen Show. Roxy La Tour and Boo Boo La Roux acted as Treasurers for our group at PrideFest.

Larry Stussi's support was helpful for the success. Jackie Roberts was a resource that networked performances and contributions from the start of our campaign. David Howse was a creative inspiration behind the scenes. Corliss Morgan vocal abilities made the Possum Rally special.

I had the honor to be with Max while he delivered thank you gifts to the 14 candidates. At all the places people expressed how much fun they had and that they would definitely support it next year.

Some new first time bars were planning meetings to start their 1998 campaign. All of a sudden possums are becoming my favorite animal and I will have to take in a few shows of the Beverly Hillbillies on Nick at Night on cable.

I join Max in expressing my gratitude and love for a job well done. I too look forward to 1998's Possum Campaign. Is it November? No, I will not run! The thought is tempting, after seeing all the fun the candidates have. Watch for more Possum Droppings, when the Steering Team starts planning 1998's Campaign.

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THURSDAY JULY 3

RED WHITE AND BLUE PARTY AT IN BETWEEN

Get a bigger bang for your buck at In Between's Red, White and Blue Party. Curt and his crew get in a patriotic mood as they serve up three different kinds of shots (one for each of our national colors) for just 50 cents.

Wear any type of military clothing or show a current or former military ID and get two for one drinks all night long.

The fun starts following the FirstStar Fireworks. In Between is located at 625 S. Second Street, Milwaukee.

CELEBRATE AT THIS IS IT

This Is It will be decked out in red, white and blue. Stop in after the FirstStar fireworks, see old friends and make new ones. And while you're at Bastille Days, stop in too. You can always be sure of a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

FRIDAY JULY 4

CHICKEN BOUYAH AT THE NAPALESE IN GREEN BAY

The Second annual Chicken Bouyah gets underway at 5 PM at Green Bay's Napalese Lounge. The action includes a great view of the fireworks.

The Napalese is located at 515 S. Broadway.

Saturday July 5

Sandy Beach's B-Day Show at Just Us In Milwaukee

Believe or not the fireworks in the sky won't be the only skyrockets going off over the Fourth of July. There will be plenty of red, white and blue at Just Us, located at 807 S. 5th Street, as Sandy Beach celebrates her Birthday.

The special FREE Birthday show includes Ms. Beach (like she'd miss a party, yeah right), Mona, Marlene, Starr Night and some very special guests.

SUNDAY JULY 6

Amendment 2 SpotLight Party at Mama Roux

Last year we helped you celebrate the Fourth with an Amendment 2 Party at Mama Roux, 1875, N. Humboldt, Milwaukee. The place was packed and everyone had such a good time that Mama herself called and asked us to do it again.

How could we refuse? It isn't polite to say no to your Mama so of course we said yes.

Mama wants us all there to celebrate last year's Supreme Court decision where they finally recognized that we have rights too.

This year the party will include a beer bust, a free buffet and some special surprises.

So join us as we celebrate OUR independence. The party starts at 4:00 and last until 9:00.

SATURDAY JULY 12

Entertainer of the Year Contest at Manoeuvres

The fabulous Divine is producing another fabulous night of entertainment at Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair Street. This time the excuse (um we mean occasion) is the annual Entertainer of the Year contest.

There will be lots to cheer about and many fine entertainers to keep you amused.

Showtime is at 8:00 sharp (Believe it or don't!) Reserved tables are \$25.00.

Bar Crawl to Diversions

So you have heard all about Diversions Wisconsin's newest and biggest Gay entertainment complex, but you haven't been able to get out there yet? Well here is your chance.

Mama's Family, the Mama Roux softball team, is sponsoring a bus to Diversions. The bus which will leave at about 8:00 costs \$20.00, which includes a drink at

Mama Roux, a drink at Diversions and complimentary beverages during the trip.

Once you get to Diversions there will be raffles and a fabulous show awaiting you.

Proceeds will benefit the Mama's Family team travel fund. To get your ticket stop by Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt.

THURSDAY JULY 17

Madison's Pride Weekend Begins with Concert

Madison's Pride Weekend begins with a concert provided by Perfect Harmony. Other events held during the weekend include, the United's Awards Dinner, a Free Dance at the UW Student Union, the MAGIC picnic, a showing of the film "Boyfriends" and of course the Madison Pride Parade and festival.

For details on all of these activities see articles elsewhere in this issue.

SATURDAY JULY 19

Chi Town's Rodeo Riders at the Boot Camp Saloon

Yeeeeeehah! Ride em cowboy! Chicago's Rodeo Rider Club will be at the Boot Camp Saloon for a special party.

Even if you aren't into busting broncos you will still probably want to be on hand when this fresh meat (we mean fine gentlemen from Chicago) hits town.

The Boot Camp is located at 209 E. National.

TUESDAY JULY 22

The Fabulous Ruthie Holds Court at This Is It!

The one and only Ruthie, The Wisconsin Light's exclusive advice columnist will be holding court at This Is It, 418 E. Wells, Milwaukee, at our fabulous SpotLight Party.

Ruthie has been known to frequent This Is It on occasion and she simply couldn't resist our invitation to meet her many adoring admirers in a more official (and upright) capacity.

"Well the dears really want to see me that badly, I will just have to cancel out of that charity bachelorette auction at Monaco, those Saudi princes will be so disappointed." Said Ruthie.

Bring your questions and yourself over to This Is It to meet the world famous Ruthie, live and in person. The festivities get underway at around ninish.

Support Group for Female to Male

Milwaukee—Do you identify as a female to male Transsexual or Transgenderist; butch; drag king; gender queer or gender radical; gender outlaw; gender blender; gender bender; androgyne; a person assigned female at birth who currently identifies as male/masculine/man? Are you a significant other of one of the above?

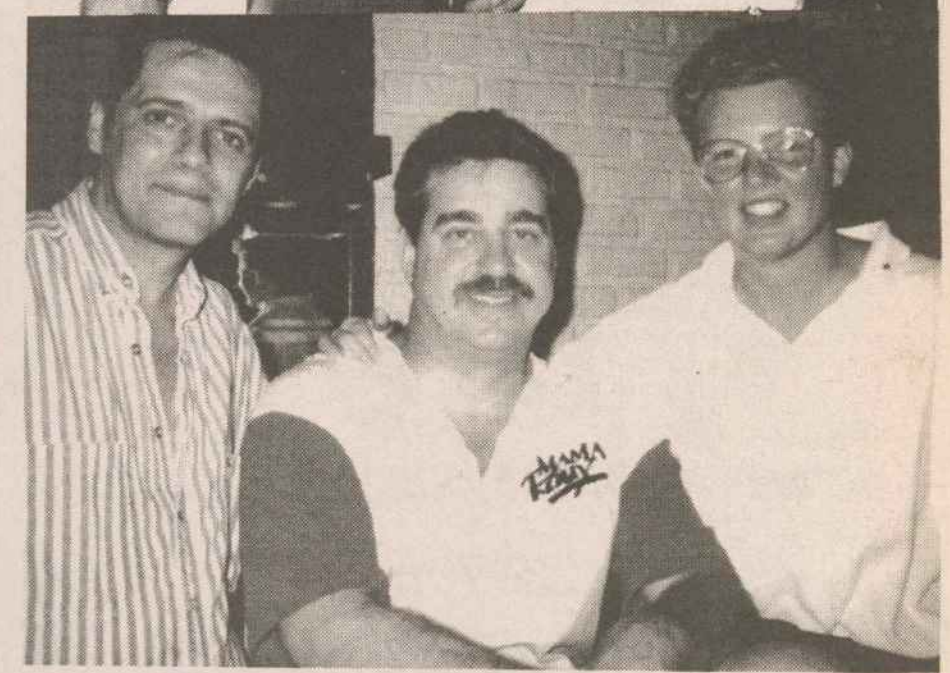
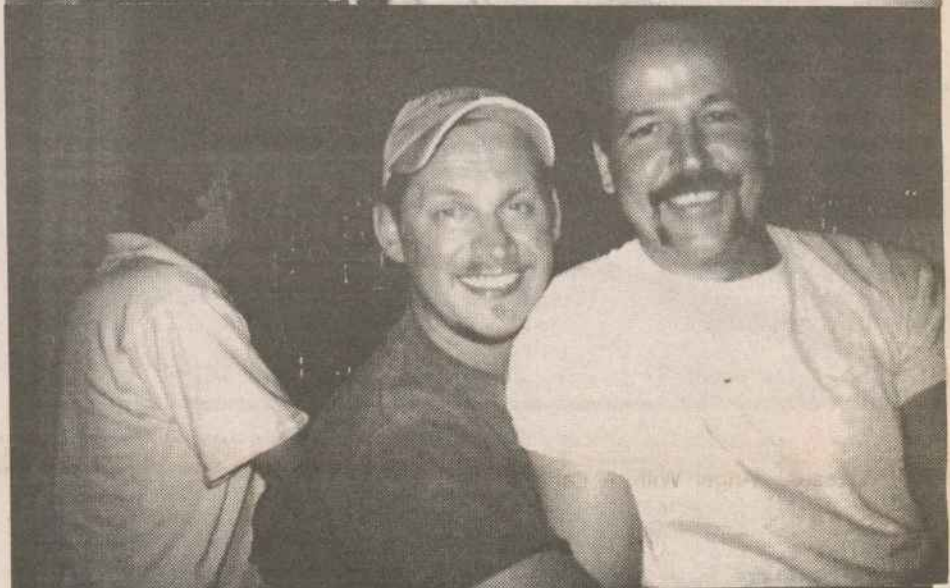
If yes, you may be interested in FORGE—For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression—a monthly support, educational, rap group that meets in Chicago. FORGE is the first such group in the Midwest.

If you recognize yourself in any of the terms above, or are just interested in learning more about yourself by exploring your gender identity with others, contact FORGE, Michael Munson, P.O. Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201; (414) 278-6031; or email: dmmunson@execpc.com



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Raising Money for Softball at Club 219 and the Ball Game - As you can see by the smiles a good time was had by those in attendance at the Ball Game's SSBL Fund Raiser held on Saturday, June 21 and at Club 219's SSBL Fund Raiser on Saturday, June 28. At the top are three happy players from the Mama Roux's Mama's Family team enjoying the festivities at Club 219. Next are three members of the Triangle team also at Club 219. In the middle are two close team mates from Manoeuvres' team at Club 219. Second from the bottom are League Board members and players at the Ball Game event and at the bottom are three members of Mama's Family (Boy they do get around don't they?) at the Ball Game. The Ball Game Rainers and the Club 219 Pride are planning to go the Gay World Series in San Diego in August.

Bill Meunier

k.d. lang

Continued From Page 17

relationships and "The Air That I Breathe," about giving your all for love, "Drag" offers lang the opportunity to explore channels, vocally and artistically, that she's never tried before.

"Drag" is a departure for lang from her previous two pop albums. But then this is nothing new for the chameleon-esque vocalist, who has shaped her entire career around being eclectic and unpredictable.

"People would be surprised if I didn't depart. For me, being eclectic is a compliment. It's about being free to express various sides. It shows an openness to understand and be interesting," she says. "Drag" is fairly intimate. It was recorded intimately. The subject matter is intimate. Its approach is intimate. It's a bit of a head-phone record."

The new opus is lang's first album since 1995's disappointing "All You Can Eat," and her third since coming out publicly about being Gay five years ago. (Who can forget the controversial 1993 Vanity Fair cover of supermodel Cindy Crawford wearing a silky, sexy teddy, seductively shaving lang's face?)

Her first album post coming out, the gorgeous "Ingenué," sold two million copies and swept the Grammy Awards that year. "It took me 10 years to [come out]. It was a very tough decision. I had to decide if it was necessary to draw the distinction between myself as the singer and myself as the private person. Or if it was worth putting my family and my career in such a compromising position" she says.

"At the time no one had come out in the pop music scene. I didn't really know how it would affect my career. It could have ended it. Homophobia was reeking havoc on any forward movement and there was a big backlash on Gays and Lesbians by the right wing. But I felt that if it were a tool that was going to be used against me, I would be the one in control of it. . . . I also felt a responsibility to the Gay and Lesbian community to be honest to say 'I am Gay, I am a Lesbian and that is who I am.'"

Born Kathy Dawn Lang in Consort, Alberta in Canada, the singer began playing the guitar when she was barely 10-years old. By 13, she had reduced her name to lower case initials and was writing and performing her own music.

In the early-1980s lang formed her own band, k.d. lang and the Reclines, and released a country album. Their subsequent country releases, "Angel With A Lariat," "Shadowland" and "Absolute Torch and Twang," each went gold and earned lang a healthy cult following.

But the country music establishment refused to embrace lang because of her androgynous appearance and sexual ambiguity. So the singer abandoned her roots for a more pop sound.

The result was "Ingenué," a slick collection of love-tom songs. It was a sweet victory for lang, who at the same time came out on the cover of the *Advocate* and a slap in the face to the radio pro-

Could You Qualify for a Free Trip to Thailand? Read On

Milwaukee—Local theater producer Dale Gutzman takes a Gay oriented nightclub revue to Thailand each November, where he performs in the supper club of the chic Café Royale, a British-owned Gay hotel and nightclub. Gutzman takes with him five talented performers, and each year they play to nightly standing ovations. This year, the show will be called "Show-stoppers" and will contain Broadway, Hollywood and pop tunes.

Gutzman is currently looking for a piano player/music director to accompany the two week tour.

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Duties will include helping Gutzman to create and rehearse the Revue, performing it twice in Milwaukee prior to the trip, and performing eight shows on the 14 day trip to Southeast Asia. The tour this year lasts from November 10th to November 22nd.

Gay tourists interested in going along with Gutzman and his gang can do so for a very modest fee. Gutzman personally leads guided tours, boat trips, bar crawls, and mountain and temple treks.

For more information about the piano player position or the tourist package, call Dale Gutzman at (414) 466-4049.

grammers who turned a homophobic cheek to the singer.

"Coming out was the best thing I ever did," lang says. "It was totally liberating to take all the walls down. It took all the fears away. It was total emancipation."

While lang' two follow-ups to "Ingenué," the soundtrack to Gus Van Sant's Lesbian cinema fete "Even Cowgirls Get The Blues," which she calls her favorite album she's ever made, and 1995's "All You Can Eat," failed to mirror the success of "Ingenué," lang says she doesn't see them as the disappointments she did initially when the sales figures fell short of both her own and her record label's expectations.

"Of course you are disappointed when one album sells less than another, but that's strictly when you are talking about the number of albums sold. At first it was devastating.

But looking back now, it was as satisfying and highly transitional for me as anything else I had done. It was very rewarding for me in the long run," she says. "All three albums are connected. They're all continuations of the other. They're expressions of me and show evolution and growth."

"To me, 'Drag' is the after cigarette to 'All You Can Eat.'"

lang is also beginning to look at other paths not yet traveled, including that of producer, for her next venture. The singer has just completed producing six tracks on the upcoming sophomore release by MCA recording artists, the Mumurs, featuring lang's girlfriend Leisha Hailey.

She may even try her had at acting, having landed a handful of acting gigs over the last six years, including a cameo on



The Moon's Out Tonight! Krystal Moon performed before a large and appreciative crowd at Fannies on Friday, June 20.

the infamous coming-out episode of "Ellen," which she admits having still not seen.

"I'm proud of her (Ellen DeGeneres) on a personal level," she says. "But she is just one person in a huge struggle for equal rights. Her coming out is not the biggest thing, but it's not the smallest thing either. She's one piece in a long, long road to freedom"

And as for her own role as pop music's first commercially successful lesbian, she coyly plays down her significance. "I don't think my coming out is what's really important. I'm just one of the people who

have helped to make inroads. There will be many more people after me," she says.

"There have been people from the beginning of time who have struggled to help break down barriers through art, literature and music. I'm just one of many people. Things will begin to change when we see more people, like doctors, steel workers, nurses, mothers, mailmen and so on come out. It's a huge struggle. It's everyone's struggle, Gay and straight."

"People like me and Ellen and Melissa are just a few of the players. We're a positive part, but a small part. We still have a long way to go."

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Thursdays & Saturdays

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Women's Night

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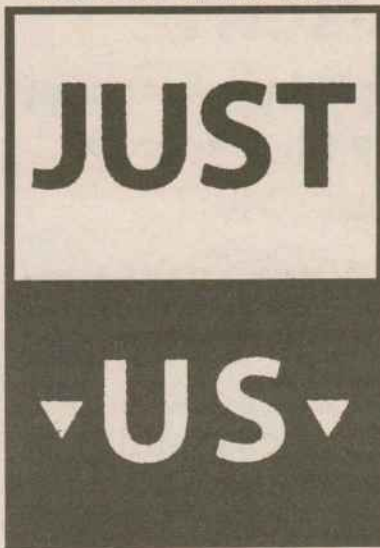
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Out In Print



Book Signing - Andrew Hallaron signs a copy of his book "The Beauty of Men" for Afterwords owner, Carl Szatmary during his appearance at Afterwords on Wednesday, June 25.

Author and Former Porn Star, Scott O'Hara, Talks About His Life

Wisconsin Light: Why did you begin an autobiography?

Scott O'Hara: It wasn't a decision to write a book. I had written various pieces already about my life... it was about two years ago I began getting jabs in the ribs from people saying: "You really ought to write your memoirs."

I like being public, being out. I don't like having secrets and this book is an effort to open up all those closets. Although I didn't have many to start with.

WL: A clever, distinct title, how did you come to call your memoirs *Auto-pornography*?

SO: I have to credit a friend of mine, Stan Persky, an academic in Vancouver I

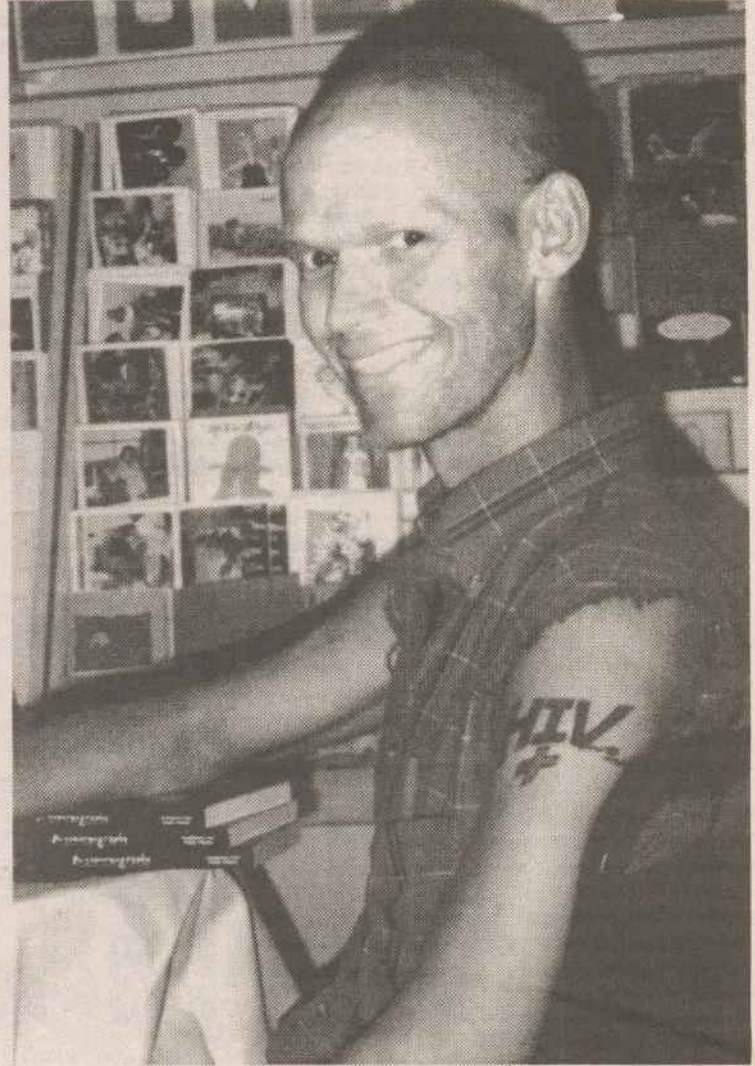
met ten years ago. I hung out with him for a while and he came up with the title.

WL: Why an academic press like Haworth? Why didn't you go with a Gay press like Alyson or Richard Kasak?

SO: Richard Kasak certainly would have published it, since I already had one book with them. I really wanted to diversify. Alyson... maybe they would have, maybe they wouldn't have. Sometimes they've been very sex positive, other times they haven't.

WL: So Haworth was your first choice?

SO: They actually contacted me, through Steve Zealand who's a friend of mine. He mentioned to them I was working on a



Jerry Johnson

Scott O'Hara

memoir and they called me up and said, "We're looking for a book just like that." They've been very supportive... I've had no problem with content.

I think it will be treated differently in bookstores because it is from them, which I appreciate. Yes, it is a Gay book but I

Please See Scott O'Hara Page 30

Afterwords is 4 Years Old!!!

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FICTION

Statues of the Sacred Band



A SERIALIZED NOVEL

Chapter 9

By Terry Boughner

Before the Speaker and his wife, Mary Rae, left, they told us to make ourselves at home. There was plenty to eat in the frig, she said. If we wanted to shower, "to freshen up," as she put it, feel free. They had two sons, Glenn and Mark, she told us. Mark lived with his wife in Boston. Glenn lived in Paris.

"Glenn's room has a bathroom attached to it," she said. "And I'm sure he won't mind if you borrow some clothes. His room's in the front, to the left, just after the stairs."

After that, she and the Speaker left, heading for the White House to join other dignitaries in receiving President Heyl's coffin.

Johnny went off to the kitchen to fix himself a sandwich to eat while he watched TV. Rudy and I went on upstairs. The house was cool and so quiet, an oasis in a hectic day. We found Glenn's room easily enough. It was an average size bedroom, pleasantly furnished with a bank of three windows overlooking the road out front. There was nothing unusual about it, except for on thing.

On the wall above the computer was a large, full-color poster showing a darkly handsome young man with wind-blown hair and deep, suggestive eyes. Clad only in a bit of white cloth draped about his narrow hips, his lithe physique radiated sensuality. Rudy and I exchanged a speculative look.

"You think...?" Rudy began and stopped. One dark eyebrow arched toward his hair.

I nodded. "Glenn's Gay? Oh yeah."

For a moment more, we stood looking at the poster, before Rudy turned to me. We embraced and kissed before I began counting his strong, white even teeth with the tip of my tongue.

"Uhhmmm," he purred. His hands pressed hard against my butt. His fingers dug in.

I pulled his shirt out of his belt and started to undo the buttons, nibbling his right ear as I did. "I love you, Rudy." My voice was rough, barely above a whisper. A volcanic heat was beginning to build in my loins.

"Love you too, Tony." He undid my belt and clasp. My pants dropped away. I kicked them off my feet.

His shirt fell open to reveal a nicely molded torso. He took my head in both his hands, kissed me, and then stepped back. I gave him a wondering look.

"Tony, there's somethin' you gotta know about me." As far as I could think, there was only one thing that could be. I was wrong. "I don't have HIV," he went on. "I couldn't. I've never had a blood transfusion, and it's the truth, Tony. Like I told you, I didn't hustle, and truth, too. I never gave myself away."

"You're telling me you're a virgin?" It was a statement of fact more than a question.

"Uhm-hum. Yes. See, the thing is, Mrs. Prosser, well, she believed that sex was good, but that it was a commitment and an offering of yourself in love. Without love, she said, it was empty. I never forgot that, not even when I was down and out. Then, when I got to know Tom and Johnny, they backed that up. See, Tom was handsome. He looked a lot like the guy in that poster over there. So, he could have had sex any night of the week—Johnny too, for that matter. But neither of them did. You know what they told me?"

"What?"

"Their first time together was the greatest thing because they were giving to each other what no one had ever had before." He paused to run an index finger down the bridge of my nose. "Tony, I guess I'm only telling you this 'cause, well, be gentle with me, okay? I'm not experienced."

I smiled, kissed him on the tip of the nose. "That makes two of us," I said. "Cause I'm a virgin too."

His dark eyes sparkled. I picked him up and with his arms wrapped around my neck, I carried him to the bed and laid him gently down. With one knee between his nicely rounded thighs, I put my hands on either side of him and bent down. "You are Heaven's gold," I told him, and kissed him, once on each eyelid, on the tip of his nose and then on his sweet, moist lips.

There was an urgency to our lovemak-

ing, but there was great tenderness too, many gentle caresses, and a lot of talk. I don't mean the grunts and groans I'd read about that came during sex (there were those, too), but talk, real communication between us. Talk that allowed each of us to learn about the other; talk that allowed each to give to the other the maximum pleasure possible. That is what I wanted; to give to Rudy everything I could. That's what he wanted to do for me as well. In the end, we succeeded in giving to each other a powerful physical expression of the raging feeling inside of us that knitted us together and transcended us both.

At one point, I saw tears glistening on Rudy's cheeks. I asked him what was wrong? Had I hurt him in any way?

"No, no," he answered in a soft and tender voice. "I'm so happy, so happy, Tony, so happy."

Tenderly as I could, I licked his tears away.

I'd heard it said that God is love. I'd always believed that, always thought that that was the closest the Christians or any other faith, had ever gotten to the truth.

From that I'd figured that only in love could anyone know God; only in love could mere mortals have any hope at all of experiencing even a spark of the divine. That evening, in Rudy's arms, I felt that spark for the first time, felt its terrible and wonderful heat burning in my soul, felt the searing pain of ecstasy and the passion of the ineffably sublime.

My literature courses at the university had led me through all the great romantic tales. There was Dante and Beatrice, Romeo and Juliet, Robert and Elizabeth Browning, and so much more. Reading those things, I had marveled at the fantastic power and beauty of their love. Somewhere I read of that kind of love being compared to a great rose window full of the morning's sun. It was radiant and solemn, peaceful and glorious, a blazing symphony of color, a poem made up of light.

I believed all that, but I didn't know it. Now, as Rudy covered my face and neck with kisses, now as I cuddled him to me and he held me tight, I didn't have to believe any more. I knew and understood.

There was a time, too, when I had wondered if the love a woman and a man could share was the same for those like me, for Gay people. I believed that it was the same. I did not know.

Belief was over now. As I bathed Rudy's golden body with my tongue; as I looked into those deep, dark eyes of his, as we held each other and confessed our love, I knew love was exactly the same. It was the same in power, the same in majesty, the same in heat and glowing tenderness. It was the same when it called on two people to abandon themselves to gain unity with another. Man and women, two women, two men, gender made no difference at all. I knew that. I didn't have to believe that anymore.

We lay together in the afterglow, smoking cigarettes.

"How do I love thee?" I said to Rudy. The first line of the sonnet was going over and over in my mind.

He stubbed out his cigarette and cuddled against me. One leg was flung over my thighs, the fingers of one hand gently kneaded my chest. "To the breadth and depth and height of all my being," he answered, his voice like a breeze whispering through pines.

"One soul in two bodies," I replied.

He raised himself up to look into my eyes. "It'll always be that way, Tony," he said as with an index finger, he traced the line of my jaw. "Always. In your dreams, in your heart, turn to me and always, I will be there for you." He took my head in both his hands and pressed his lips against my own.

The light was fading, still we lay abed. I told him about Hastings. "I wanta go home, Rudy." There was an urgent, longing tone in my voice. "I wanta go home to my mountains, home and take you with me, put a ring on your finger, settle down."

"You're asking me to marry you?" His tone was soft, very serious.

"Yes. And I don't mean move in together or anything like that. I mean vows, the works. I mean, maybe it's soon, and I don't wanta push you or..."

He placed a hand gently against my

mouth. "No, no, no, you're not pushing me, Tony, and it's not too soon. You know that and I know that. With what we feel, what's going on inside us, not too soon at all. I'm ready. I think you are, too. So, yes, I want to marry you. Yes, yes, yes, yes."

I took his hand and kissed the palm. He gazed at me with a soft, sweet smile. "Ahhh, Tony, I love you. I love you so much, so much, it hurts."

A tear welled up in his eye and trickled down his cheek. I took him in my arms, cuddling him, caressing him.

"And I love you, Rudy. I love you true. Everything I have or am or ever will be is yours."

To some, I thought, it is given to compose great chords of music. To others is granted the gift of poet's words. But maybe, perhaps, to only a few comes the rapture of high love, flashing out of the heavens like lightning to ravish hearts at will.

He smile returned, only broader so that even in the dimming light, his ordinarily luminous eyes seemed to sparkle and glow. "I'll make a good farm husband," he said. "But there's only one thing."

"What's that?"

"I put a ring on your finger, too." He took my hand and kissed the finger where he would put the band.

"Rudy, how long it'll take you to get ready?"

"Not long. Pack some clothes—I haven't got much. Get my teddy bears and..."

"And what?"

"Uhhh, well, I've got this kitten and, Tony, I can't leave her."

"Why would you leave her? Her home's with us."

"When?"

"Now, tomorrow, yesterday. As soon as we can get out of this hell hole, this city, this political shambles. Let Mary Ann or Johnny find what happened to Bobby Calder, 'n about the statues and everything

else. Where they're goin', I don't know, but you 'n me? Let's get off here."

"Tony, Tony, I wanta go too, but we can't. You gotta finish this up. You gotta do what you were sent here to do. But Tony, the instant, the second, that's done, we're history around here."

"On the train and gone."

"Uhm-hum." He kissed me on the forehead.

Rudy was right. Of course, he was right. I knew that. We couldn't just up and leave. But had he agreed with me, I'd have gone. Right that moment, I would have gone.

We showered together after that. We figured that the Speaker and Mary Rae would be home soon and we tried to be quick. We really did. Afterwards, we found some fresh clothes in Glenn's closet and dressed. While I splashed on a little cologne, Rudy went over to a window and looked out.

"Tony, c'mere."

I went over to where he was just in time to see a panel truck go slowly by. In the light from the street lights I could see that it was white and see a seated lion outlined in black on its side. It went up the road and stopped before making a turn into former French embassy's drive.

"One of Bardi's trucks," Rudy said.

"Yeah. Wonder what it's doin' here? Delivering roses, maybe?"

"There's one way to find out," Rudy suggested.

Before I could reply, I heard Johnny's voice calling out our names and telling us to get downstairs. Maybe it was the urgent tone in his voice, I don't know, but whatever it was, I had the feeling it was going to be a long night.

But there was another feeling, too. As Rudy and I went downstairs, going hand in hand, there was an uncomfortable sensation of apprehension in me, an unwelcome sense of foreboding, that I didn't like at all.

TO BE CONTINUED



Nava's "The Death of Friends" Will Absorb You and Touch Your Heart

Reviewed by Robert Butler

The Death of Friends by Michael Nava is the fifth in Henry Rios novel series. Henry Rios, for those unfamiliar with Michael Nava's popular mystery series, is a Gay Mexican-American Criminal Defense Attorney. His law practice fluctuates between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Death of Friends opens with a ground-shaking jolt, literally. Los Angeles is rocked by an earthquake, which sends Henry and his neighbors scurrying out into the streets. Returning home, after the quake, Henry finds a young man sleeping on his porch. He introduces himself as Zack Bowen, Chris Chandler's lover. Zack then tells Henry that Chris is dead, murdered!

The news sends a wave of mixed images in Henry's mind. Chris and Henry Rios had dated, years before in college, while both were law students. Chris's dominating ambition to be a judge and also his pursuit of Bay Kimball, the daughter of prominent attorney Joseph Kimball, caused Chris and Henry to separate. Chris and Bay had married and had one child, Joey who was Zack's age.

Henry doesn't want to become involved in another case. Josh Mandell, Henry's

friend and another former lover is retrogressing from A.I.D.S. Josh persuades Henry to take the case.

In the process, Henry meets McBeth, a black female homicide detective who informs him that Zack is a rent boy and that Zack works for a man named Sam. As the list of suspects continues to grow, all of whom seem to want to pin the murder on Zack, you will find yourself becoming totally absorbed and emotionally touched.

When the last page is reached, you will be surprised at the identity of the murdered. Upon closing the book, you will quite possibly look and feel differently at Michael Nava's *The Death of Friends*.

Just Out on the Shelf

Gay Money by Per Larson D.T.P. Publishing Pb \$12.95

Practical, authoritative, and uniquely empowering, *Gay Money* explains how and why Gay and Lesbian financial opportunities and problems are different from the married-with children majority. In *Gay Money*, Per Larson offers all the tools needed to understand and maximize each decade of a financial Gay life.

His Hers edited Robert Drake and Terry Wolverton Faber & Faber Pb \$15.95

Continuing in the strong literary tradition of the first editions of this acclaimed, ongoing series, editors Robert Drake and Terry Wolverton have assembled dazzling collections of stories by both long established writers as well as stunning new voices. These two titles are perfect for everyone who loves provocative, engaging fiction.

Outstanding Lives: Profiles of Lesbian and Gay Men, Michael Bronski, Consulting Editor, Visible Ink HC \$24.95

A welcome reference work and a handsome gift idea, *Outstanding Lives* is a remarkable work recognizing the extraordinary diversity in the Lesbian and Gay community with biographical profiles of individuals ranging from writers Edward Albee and Dorothy Allison to entertainers k. d. land and RuPaul to such legendary activists Frank Kameny and Del Martin. Highly recommended.

In *Autopornography: A Memoir of the Life in the Lust Lane*, O'Hara has not only done all but now tells all. As a unique survivor in the sex industry, O'Hara is unapologetically sex-positive and, not surprisingly, is articulate and literate. After all, he did found and edit *Steam* magazine. This book is engrossing and highly-charged reading.

Afterwords July Calendar

Friday, July 4th

Holiday hours: 10:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.

Wednesday, July 9th

Afterwords celebrates its four-year anniversary

Big sales, special refreshments and more...

Monday, July 14th

Afterwords Book Club 7:30p.m.

Wonder Bread & Ecstasy by Charles Isherwood

A Boy Na.m.ed Phyllis by Frank DeCaro

Thursday, July 17th

Lesbian Reading Group 7:00p.m.

Screening *Desert Hearts* & Discussion of *Desert of the Heart* by Jane Rule

New members always welcome

Thursday, July 31st

Lesbian and Gay Writers Group 7:00p.m.

Dear Ruthie

Dear Ruthie,
I have a friend who was once as over weight as I am. We both tried to lose weight several times and failed. My friend finally succeeded and now looks great. He's down to a 32 inch waist and his chest is getting very toned. He is living my dream. Some people don't even recognize him. I, on the other hand, am heavier than I was when he started working out. I'm not jealous. I really am not. What I hate is that he keeps harassing me about my weight, telling me what to eat, how and when to work-out, etc. He takes any opportunity possible to point out how different the two of us look, even though, we were in the same boat a few years ago. He goes on and on about how many men want him now, and that he is always being approached by cute guys. I'm this close to telling him off. Help me before I ruin a friendship.

(signed)
Wisconsin Weight Watcher
Dear Watcher,

You remind of me a little girl who grew up near the backwoods of Lake Schmuckawatha. Pretty young thing. A tuft of vibrant, red hair. Spunky. Lovely complexion. Little cat-eye glasses. She had a yen for giving advice and just knew she'd make it big by offering her words of wisdom.

Well, this little girl was the daughter of a sauerkraut factory worker and a toe dancer. She was shunned by her school-mates, however, because it was her father who was the toe dancer. While the girl's



Ruthie

mother slaved 13 hours a day in a hot sauerkraut factory, stirring huge vats of cabbage with a boat oar, her father fussed over toe shoe fittings and dance steps. It didn't help matters that the father was a lousy dancer as he lost 3 toes in WW II, was 65 pounds overweight, and had a third nipple - - on his forehead.

Every day the children made fun of the little girl's family. But she didn't let that get her down. She dreamt of writing advice columns in papers across the country - becoming well-known - dining with diplomats—dating European princes and

sleeping with their fathers. She shared her dreams with her mother one day.

Her mother, reeking of cabbage, told her, "Dear, when you grow-up, I'm afraid you'll have to go to work in the sauerkraut factory because we need the money."

But it was her father - the family's only link to the upper-class - who took the little girl aside, and whispered, "Dear, when you grow-up, I'm afraid you'll have to go to work in the sauerkraut factory because we need the money." The little girl cried, yanked his third nipple and ran up to her room.

Well, that little girl kept working and she turned her dreams into reality. And do you know who that little girl grew up to be? Yes ... it was Charo. Or maybe it was Charo's half-sister, Gert. I can't remember. I didn't care for Gert. She did my make-up for a canceled "Reggis and Kathy Lee" appearance. I caught her stealing cigarettes out of my purse and selling them to Cody.

Now where was I? Why did I tell you all of this? Well, anyway, tell your friend to knock it off. "Take your SlimFast and shove it Uncle Fester!" Tell him that his constant prodding about your weight hurts you. Let him know that your weight is a personal thing and his comments are doing more damage than good.

As far as your friend boasting about the magnetic attraction he gets from men, I think it was Bette Midler who once said, "Getting a man is easy ... it's keeping him that's the hard part." Ignore your friend's comments about flirting. I'll bet sooner or later either the flirting will stop or he'll realize that he needs to stop talking about it. In any event, tell your friend that he looks great, but his words and actions are hurting you and putting a strain on your friendship.

Dear Ruthie,

My new boyfriend has a rubber fetish. I don't. He loves wearing it, smelling it, and finds it erotic. I do not. What do you suggest? How should I proceed?

(signed)
Mr. No-Fetish
Dear Fetish,

A rubber fetish? I assume we're not talking condoms here. If we are, then that's the best kind of fetish to have and one you should pursue. Rubber, huh? That must be like sleeping with a scuba diver. I've never tried rubber. Tried burlap once, but that's another story.

Have you given your boyfriend's fetish a chance? Who knows? Maybe you'll like it. Things could be worse. My last husband, Sylvester, had a costume fetish. He had me dressed up as everything from Betsy Ross to Darth Vader. Some nights I was a nurse, a geisha, or a housewife. Other times, I was a headhunter, an astronaut, or a proctologist. Don't ask.

Has your boyfriend tried things your way? If he has, and things just aren't working in the bedroom, you might need to discuss this problem and work things out. Remember, each of you deserves a fulfilling sex life and can't expect the other to change fantasies. If he insists on the rubber stuff, "crack him to the curb" as the kids say. "Hit the bricks - Michelin Man." Don't give in to things you are uncomfortable with - particularly sexual things. If the two of you can't find a happy medium, tell him to go wrap himself in a pool liner and find yourself a new mate.

I would just love to receive your letters, pictures, marriage proposals, etc. Please send them to: Ruthie c/o The Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Hey - "I'm hip to the scene" - email me at www.wilight.com. Bye for now!

Editor's Note: As I write, Ruthie is in Hong Kong, on the "Britannia," consoling "dear, dear Charles" for the "regrettable loss of the Crown Colony—and after all those years!

However, she could not miss Madison's Pride Parade. She will be there in all her bangles and bugle beads (whatever bugle beads are).

And she will be at This Is It on July 22 for a Spotlight Party in her honor. Here is a chance to meet Ruthie, talk with her—even have your picture taken with her—if you bring the camera. Mark it on your calendars: This Is It. July 22nd.

Entertainment Guide

APPLETON	MADISON	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE
Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin Appleton, WI 54991 954-9262	A Room of One's Own Book store 317 W. Johnson Madison, WI 53703 257-7888	Continued Club 219 219 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 271-3732	Continued This Is It 418 E. Wells Milwaukee, WI 53202 278-9192
Chanticleer Guest House 4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 746-0334	Geraldine's 3052 E. Washington Madison, WI 53704 241-9335	Designing Men 1120 S. First Milwaukee, WI 53204 389-1200	Triangle 134 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-9412
The Trading Co. 304 Eau Claire St. Eau, Claire WI 838-9494	Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair Madison, WI 54703 258-9918	1100 Club 1100 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 647-9950	Walkers Point Cafe 1106 S. First St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 384-7999
The Wolfs's Den 302 E Madison EauClaire, WI 54703 832-9237	Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast W13172 Hwy 188 Lodi, WI 53655 1-800-380-8427	Fannies 200 E. Washington Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-9633	Zippers 819 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-8330
Brandy's II 1126 Main St Green Bay, WI 54301 437-3917	Scandals 121 W. Main St. Madison, WI 53703 251-1030	In Between 625 S. 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 278-96114	NEENAH
Napalese Lounge 515 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 432-9646	The Shamrock 117 W Main St. Madison, WI 53703 255-5029	Just Us 807 S. 5th St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-2233	Diversions 1413 Green Valley Neenah, WI
Sass 840 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54304 437-7277	We Are Family 524 E. Wilson Madison, WI 5303 258-9006	La Cage 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 52304 383-8300	RACINE
Za'si Java's 1106 Main St. Green Bay, WI 54301 435-5476	MILWAUKEE	La Perla Restaurant 734 S. Fifth St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-9888	JoDees 2139 Racine St. Racine, WI 53403 634-9804
Club 94 9001 120th Ave Kenosha, WI 53140 857-9958	Afterwords Books 2710 N. Murray Milwaukee, WI 53211 963-9089	Mama Roux Bar & American Grill 1875 N. Humboldt Milwaukee, WI 53212 347-0344	What About Me? 600 6th St. Racine, WI 53403 632-0171
Cavaller Lounge 114 N 5th St. La Crosse, WI 54601 782-9061	B's 1579 S 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 672-5580	M & M Club 124 N. Water Milwaukee, WI 53202 347-1962	SHEBOYGAN
Cross Roads Bar W6642 Hwy B Lake Mills, WI 53651 648-8457	Ball Game 196 S. 2nd Milwaukee, WI 53204 273-7474	Rene's Cozy Corner 3500 W Park Hill Milwaukee, WI 53208 933-RENE	Blue Lite 1029 N. 8th St. Sheboygan, 53081 457-1636
	Boot Camp Saloon 209 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-6900	S. Water St. Docks 354 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 225-9676	STEVENS POINT
	Cafe Melange 720 N. Old World St. Milwaukee, WI 53203 291-9889	Station 2 1534 W. Grant Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-5755	The Platwood Club 701 Highway 10W Stevens Point, 54481 341-8862
	C'est La Vie 231 S. Second St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 276-8890	10% Club 4223 W. Fon Du Lac Milwaukee, WI 53216 447-0910	SUPERIOR
			JT's Bar 1506 N 3rd St. Superior, WI 54880 394-2580
			Trio Club 820 Tower Superior, WI 54880 392-5373
			WAUSAU
			The Mad Hatter 320 Washington Wausau, WI 54401 842-3225

THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

I've been having a great time the last few weeks. Summer is finally here (unfortunately my air conditioning isn't) and all is right with the world.

Krystal Moon at **Fannies** was fantastic. I really like that place, but before anyone says I am turning into a Lesbian, let me say that men have always been welcome there.

I had a good time at the Bear Club night at the **Boot Camp** too. The **Ball Game's** fund raiser for their Rangers Soft ball team was really fun. (Like any party at the Ball Game isn't?) Those jello shots were great, but next time I don't think it would be a good idea to have one for each color in the Rainbow flag.

The Club 219 fund raiser for it's team the **Club 219 Pride** was fun too. I can't believe how cheap some of the things in the auction were (and the stuff they were auctioning off went for pretty low prices too)

The SSBL party for its managers and booster club was graciously hosted by Tommy Salzsieder. What a great idea. Get everyone together in a friendly atmosphere. Okay it was friendly AFTER the managers meeting.

I also had a great time at **This Is It** after the Big Bang at the Big Gig fireworks. The place was packed (as usual) with friendly people. Ross and Robert were there—and Andy, too. So was Louie—and Rich, the new bartender is not only cute, but knows his literature from Alcott to Zola.

Last but not least, I really enjoyed the premier of the La Cage Show Case. This is a show worth checking out. They have production numbers, choreographed routines, costuming the whole nine yards.

There will be a new show each week, Fridays at 11:30 and Sundays at 10:30. If you are looking for something different and fresh, I suggest you check it out.

Coming Up...On Thursday July 3, I will check out **In Between's** Red White and Blue Party. The party starts after the First Star Fireworks and is always the case at In Between it should be a hot time with some of Milwaukee's hottest men.

Saturday July 5th you can find me at Sandy Beach's Birthday Show at **Just Us** I mean how can you go wrong, great entertainment, it's free and you get to see Sandy admit to being a year older! What a deal.

Sunday July 6 you can find me at **Mama Roux** for their second annual Amendment 2 Party. This is always a great place to party at. And it's really nice

that over the Independence Day weekend they found a way to celebrate OUR independence in a special way.

After the party I will head over to **La Cage** to catch this week's installment of the La Cage show case.

Monday July 7, I'll be back at **In Between** again for their Monday Night balloon toss. Kurt keeps giving it away (the money that is) Okay so I haven't won in awhile but that's only because so many of the rest of you keep winning. In fact I can almost guarantee that if you come you will win and I won't so there!

Wednesday July 9 I am planing to stop in at **The Ball Game** for their world's greatest cocktail hour. This is a great bar to have a drink and strike up a conversation.

Friday July 11 it's off to Milwaukee's oldest Gay fish fry, (no I don't mean the fish are old) at **M & M's**. It's always a great place to grab a bite.

Saturday July 12 After the SSBL games at Sijan Field, I will be off. (On a bus this time.) That bus will be going to **Diversions**, Wisconsin's newest Gay complex. It's a benefit for the **Mama Roux** softball team. You can get a ticket at Mama's, for just \$20.00 bucks including drinks at both bars and on the bus that's a real deal.

Thursday July 17 I will be up in Madison for the premier concert of Perfect Harmony and the start of Madison's Pride Weekend. (sorry I won't be doing an aria I save those for special guests and the shower)

Friday July 18 I'll still be in Madison so I can go the United's Fifth Annual Awards Dinner and the UW .10% Society's Dance at the UW Memorial Union.

Saturday July 19 is Magic Picnic time (no I am not going to be on spit with the rest of the pigs). The MAGIC picnic is always a great time. I am working on purse throwing every chance I get.

Sunday July 20 is the Madison Pride Parade, Wisconsin's largest. It will be followed by the Pride Festival at Brittingham park (which is nice since the park is located at the end of the parade route).

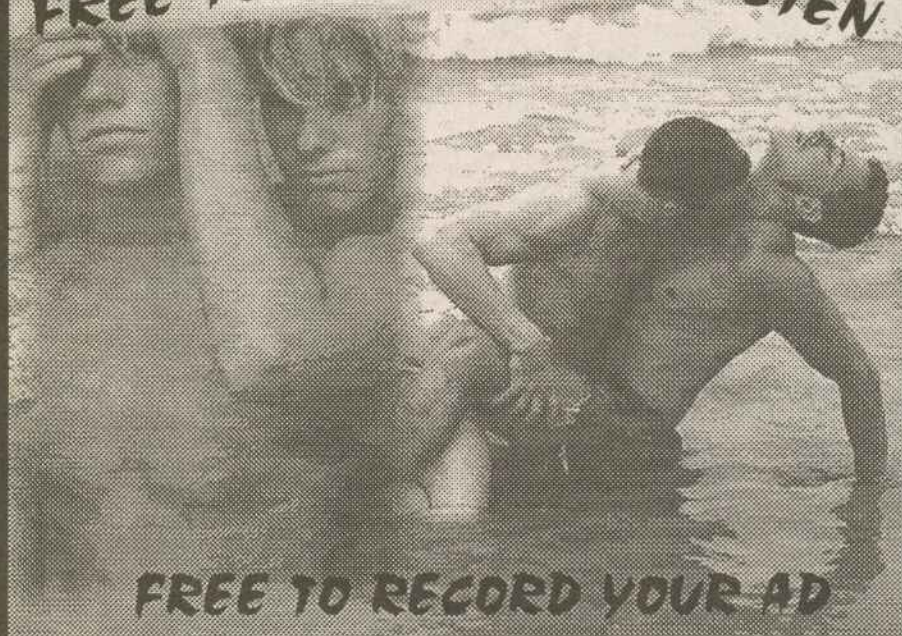
Tuesday July 22 you can find me at **This Is It** for our SpotLight party holds court. Yes, Ruthie our world famous advice columnist has agreed to appear live and in person to answer those searing questions in your life.

Well that wraps it up for now. I do hope to see you out and about soon especially during Madison's Pride Weekend. Meanwhile play safe and be proud.

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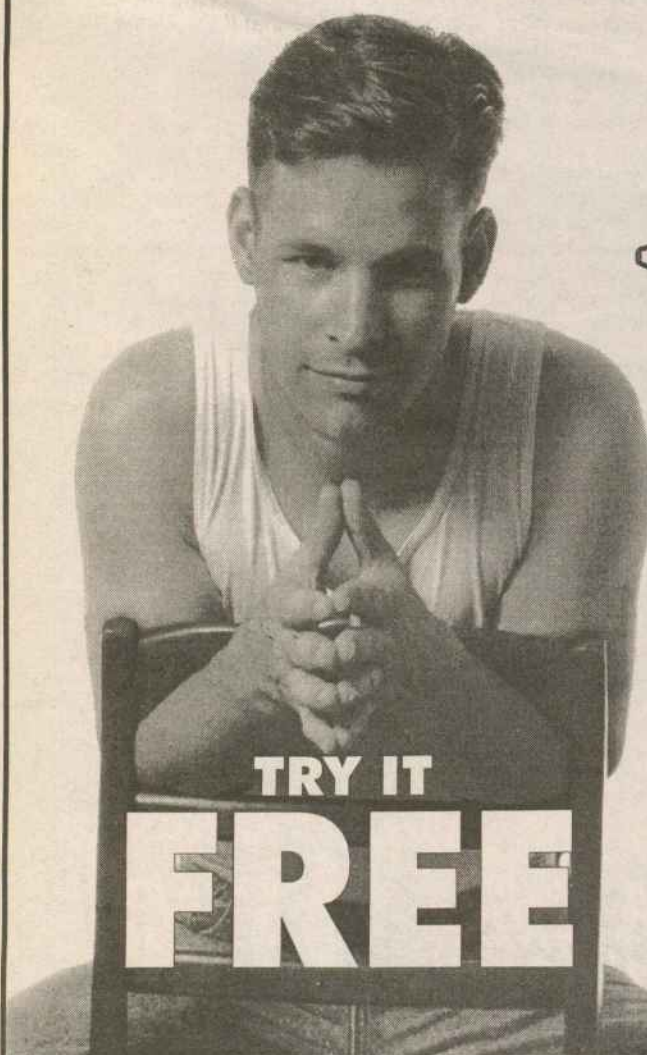
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Illinois

DISCIPLINE AND STUFF I wanna get together with someone, 25 to 45, for a little discipline and stuff. I'm a handsome, 45 year old, Italian male, 5'11, 165lbs. (Evanston) #2505

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

Minnesota

GOLD HEARTED I'm kind, caring, and have a heart of gold. I want to meet you if you can honestly describe yourself in the same way. This 27 year old, Gay, White male loves the outdoors, walks, animals, and cuddling on the couch. I especially like hairy chested men, but that's not a requirement. (Cannon Falls) #1025

WILLING TO LEARN This 26 year old, White male, 5'10, with a nice build, short Brown hair and Brown eyes, seeks other nice guys for fun get togethers. I'm very versatile and into just about anything. If I don't know it, I'm willing to learn. (Chanhassen) #2749

IT'S PARTY TIME Wanna guaranteed good time with another hot man? I'm very good looking, and extremely sexy. I want to get off with you. (Minneapolis) #2257

MR. NICE GUY I have a particular affinity for slender, attractive, Asian males. I'm a good looking, White male, in my 50's, 5'11, 185lbs, with a nice build, Brown hair and Blue eyes. I'm a very nice guy with lots to offer. (Minneapolis) #25674

PRIVATE ENJOYMENT Wanted: One muscular, built, young man, in his 30's or 40's, for private enjoyment at my place. I'm an attractive, 42 year old, Gay, White male. (Minneapolis) #1937

BLUE EYED STRANGER I'm a good looking, southern boy, recently transplanted in Minneapolis. This 26 year old, White male, 5'11, 170lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, is masculine, in good shape, and HIV positive. I like rollerblading, candlelight dinners, music, intimate talks, honesty, and sincerity. I seek a masculine man, around 30, preferably with dark hair, eyes, and complexion, for a relationship. (Minneapolis) #1904

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

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

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

FROLIC BY THE LAKE I'm looking for fun and frolic with versatile guys in this area. I'm a good looking, 48 year old, White male, 5'11, 175lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. (White Bear Lake) #2874

SLOPPY PHONE FRIEND Phone sex gets me off. How about you? Don't you need to let your tongue flow freely? I have a great imagination and I'm always horny. (Milwaukee) #2647

LOVE OF LIFE I'm a Black, African male, 33, seeking other, similar, guys to hang out, and kick it, with. I enjoy baking, walks by the lake, and having fun. I try to enjoy every minute of my life and appreciate being around people who do the same. (Milwaukee) #2066

YOU AND ME AND THE VCR I love to watch porno videos with other dudes and get off together. I'm a good looking, well built, 25 year old, White male, 6'1, 165lbs, with a lot of energy. I'm looking for casual fun, not serious relationships. (Milwaukee) #2011

WRESTLE VESSELS I'm into the sexual and dominant aspects of sweaty wrestling. I'm a hot, worked out, White male, 40, 5'9, 180lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I'm looking to meet other wrestling enthusiasts, 20 to 40, who are smooth and in shape. If you're a rookie, you'll definitely be glad you tried it. (Milwaukee) #1847

SPRING FLING I seek men of all races for flings, friendship, fantasy, and fun. Maybe something long term will develop. I'm a good looking guy, 57, 165lbs, of African American, Native American, and British ancestry. If you're 18 to 35, and fun loving, let's talk. (Milwaukee) #1817

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

ON THE PRACTICAL SIDE I'm an easy going, open, honest, pragmatic, White male, bear, in my late 40's. I seek a Gay male, 30 to 45, who's interests complement my attributes, for friendship or more. (New Richmond) #1787

ALL OUT FOR FUN This very easy going, attractive, White male, 30, 6ft, 150lbs, with a nice, tanned, body, seeks a man, 18 to 35, for friendship and more. I enjoy sports, the outdoors, going out on the town, and quiet evenings at home. (Oshkosh) #2490

A WALK IN THE PARK This 29 year old, White male, 5'11, 190lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a hairy body wants to meet a Gay, White male, 26 to 39, for walks in the woods, and fun outdoors. I'm also into computers and repairing farm equipment. (Portage) #2243

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

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

Wisconsin

SUMMER STUD Good looking, down to earth, very well built, 36 year old, Bi, White male, 6'2, 185lbs, with Brown hair and Green eyes, seeks in shape men, 18 to 35, for fun. If you're Bi curious, or new to the scene, that's a plus. Experience is nice too. I'm pretty available all summer. (Adams) #2936

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

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO This 19 year old, White male, wants to get to know other guys, under 30. In my world, everything is go. I like men who are intelligent, humorous, and compassionate. (Eau Claire) #3074

DON'T PULL THE PLUG I'm here to plug up some holes. This horny, masculine, top seeks hot bottoms for long sessions. (Fax River) #1570

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

TREAT ME RIGHT I'm looking for a man who can do just that. I'm an 18 year old, White male, 155lbs, with Brown hair and Green eyes. I'm into good times, and would love a relationship, but want for us to be friends first. You should be thin, easy going, and enjoy doing fun stuff. (Kaukauna) #2173

SAUT... AND PIERCE My varied interests include cooking, farmer's markets, body piercing, and alternative music. This attractive, 25 year old, White male, 185lbs, seeks other Bi, or Gay, White males to have fun with. (Madison) #2891

ANXIOUS AND EXCITED Like most guys looking for their first experience with some sex, adult, pleasure, I'm shy and excited at the same time. I'm an open minded, uninhibited, White male, 36, recently Divorced, and looking for muscular, wild looking, guys, in their 20's with long hair, tattoos, and faded jeans or cut-offs. I'm into phone fun, photography, and videography, as well as doing the deed. I'll try anything but pain. (Madison) #2270

ROCK HARD I'm an avid bodybuilder and swimmer, 5'6, 135lbs. My tight, muscular, body consists of thick, full pecs, a broad back, biceps that feel like billiard balls, defined, cut abs, and a pair of thick, hairy, muscular legs. You should see what I'm packing between them. If you're the same type of guy, well built and endowed, let's have some fun. (Madison) #2120

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

BARBER OF BODS I specialize in body barbering work. If you'd like to experiment in full, or partial, body shaving, or would like to have some hair trimmed, let me hear from you. No request is too unusual. (Milwaukee) #17826



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SCOTT O' HARA

Continued From Page 26

think as a Haworth book, it will get a lot more cross-over exposure.

WL: *Autopornography's* cover is more...

SO: explicit?

WL: Yes, explicit than one might expect from a press like Haworth.

SO: I did not expect them to use it.

Initially we were going to use a painting that Don Barchardy had done of me.

I was very pleased with that idea but the publisher decided he didn't want to use a painting, he wanted to use a photograph.

So I provided this one that was taken 7 years ago.

WL: In a recent interview in the *Wisconsin Light*, Andrew Holleran said he believed what we all really want to read about is the private lives of porn stars, do you think that's true?

SO: Yes, unless you've happened to have been a porn star and you know about them and know that they're not particularly glamorous. The life of a typical modern porn star is not one I'd care to lead.

WL: In *Autopornography*, you name the real names of several legendary porn stars, is Scott O'Hara your real name?

SO: Yes, it is my real name. I do believe very firmly in using one name because porn is not a separate category of my life. It is part of my life. It's the same as my interaction with friends. It offends me to see people cutting off their sex lives from their "real" life. That's one of my major missions, to integrate sexuality into life. It seems schizophrenic.

WL: How did a nice kid from rural Oregon become a legendary porn star?

SO: It all seemed to come so naturally to me. I was Gay in the womb, I believe. I do not remember any time I had any doubts about my sexuality.

When I left home and went out into the Gay world, it was just a wondrous experience for me to finally interact and have sex with all these men. A kid in a candy store.

It seemed perfectly natural for me to get up on stage and do jack-off shows. It was wonderful fun. It was what I loved doing. And I got paid for it. Doing films was just the next logical step.

WL: What was your first film?

SO: "California Blue." It was cast with

performers from Savages Theater, where I was doing stage shows. We were all having fun.

WL: Do you have a favorite film?

SO: Usually I say "Oversize Load" by Al Parker just because I had three scenes in it and they're all different. In one I top, in one I bottom and in one I watch... It shows three different facets of me to the audience.

WL: A favorite scene?

SO: The scene that probably turns me on the most is the one in "Sex Hunt" in which I'm mercilessly mauled by two men, in a sling.

WL: When did you start *Steam* magazine?

SO: The end of '92. My friend Keith Griffith suggested to me since I traveled so much and since I was a character people would be interested reading about, that we should publish the Sex Journals of Scott O'Hara a guide to the bath houses if the world.

Bath houses have always been my favored venue for sex. I had been to a lot of them and I had very definite opinions about what makes a good bath house.

WL: Promoting bathhouses in the late '80's and the early '90's must have been an unpopular stance?

SO: Not as unpopular as promoting public sex in parks. You're probably right. I didn't pay much attention, frankly. I tend to be blissfully unaware of what the public's attitude is towards such things. Occasionally I get rudely reminded.

WL: What was the response to *Steam*?

SO: By and large the response we got from people was incredibly positive.

"Gawd, why hadn't anyone done this before?" We built up a subscriber base

very quickly and they proved to be extremely loyal.

WL: You were writing and producing *Steam* while you were living in rural Wisconsin, what did your neighbors think?

SO: I frankly don't know. I never interacted with my neighbors. I was literally living on 47 acres and the point of living there was isolation. I met perhaps a total of a dozen people in the five years I lived there. I expect there was gossip about me - certainly after I got my tattoo. I was never bashed.

WL: Then you moved back to San Francisco?

SO: Yes. After the breakup of a very long and tortured relationship. My ex got the farm in the divorce. I hope to end up in the country again. That's what I am: A Country Boy. I like being isolated, listening to the crickets at night.

WL: There was another magazine, *Wilde*?

SO: *Wilde* was to be a magazine for the total Gay man, not just sex, not just fashion, not just physical fitness or any of these other niche Gay magazines that are out there... but it wouldn't ignore sex. I still think that it was a good idea, I didn't have

enough money.

WL: *Wilde* lasted only a few issues.

SO: *Wilde* cost several arms and several legs and I didn't have them. It took the company so far into debt, we were out of business inside a year. *Steam* was relatively inexpensive to produce and after three years was just about breaking even.

WL: What else have you been working on?

SO: I just finished a play, a musical actually called "Ex-Lovers" and it is being produced by Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco. Theater oddly enough has always been my first love. I always regarded it as an unreachable fantasy, me writing a play and getting it produced. That makes getting a book published look easy.

I write for myself. To my delight Theatre Rhino was interested. So, that's next.

WL: So know you've become a playwright?

SO: Does that mean I've become a playwright now? Partly but not totally. I expect a book of essays will be somewhere in the near future. Essays are really my forte. I'm a very opinionated person. Of course everyone wants to know

Please See Playwright Page 31



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PLAYWRIGHT

Continued From Page 30

if there's a novel. No, there isn't yet.

I have doubts about my ability to write a novel. It is an extended outlook on writing that doesn't seem to mesh well with my style.

WL: A few more personal questions. Your first boyfriend?

SO: Mark Miller. He lives in Memphis. He's talked about in the book a lot. That was when I was 19 and we moved to San Francisco together. It lasted all of the summer.

WL: Are you in a relationship now?

SO: I am. Surprising as that may seem to those who have followed my cynicism of the last couple of years.

Yeah, I haven't had a good history of relationships generally. They tend to end unhappily. But the last six months have been extremely happy with a man in San Francisco who has taken me places I've never been.

WL: When did you learn you were HIV+?

SO: It wasn't exactly a revelation to me. I have lived in San Francisco for all of the '80s. There really was never much doubt in my mind that I was infected. It wasn't until '88 that I faced up to it, when I saw the first KS. lesion.

WL: Did you begin practicing safe sex?

SO: I began considerably earlier. It

wasn't an all at once, everything changes sort of change. Except for my porn films which at that time condoms were not used.

WL: And now?

SO: Now, no I don't. As a positive I have decided that I am not concerned with being re-infected.

It's possible I may be and there are worse things that can happen to a person. You find an acceptable level of risk, everyone has to.

I should add that the issue of my infecting someone else is no longer an issue since I haven't been able to get a hardon in a year, maybe two.

WL: Your tattoo, HIV+, that's a bold statement.

SO: There was a brief article in the *Advocate* about someone in Seattle who had gotten such a tattoo on his thigh I believe, so that partners would see it. I immediately identified. It was exactly what I wanted.

I would rather that everyone knew. My only complaint with this tattoo is that it is too inconspicuous, if I wear a long sleeve shirt, its invisible; if I'm in a dark room, people can't see it.

I would like to have it in glow-in-the-dark letters on my forehead because it is important to me people know, especially in Cazenovia Wisconsin, that there is someone with AIDS living there.

In San Francisco it's pointless, of course. It meant a lot to me that people in rural Wisconsin were exposed to that, a lot of them for the first time.

WL: How is your health?

SO: There have been a lot of ups and downs. I feel better than I've felt in 15

years. It's amazing. I am a Protease Wonder-Child. Last winter I was pretty sure I was dying and then I started taking the three drug combination and suddenly I was out hiking the hills of the Rim. The change in the last six months has been remarkable. I will also give a portion of the credit here to Chris, my boyfriend.

It's amazing what being in love will do.

MAYOR

Continued From Page 12

find common threads and try to weave them into something. When I make my final decision, I will stick with it."

Role Model: "No particular person, really a combination of qualities of many people. But I will always remember what my father said to me when I was a sophomore in college. Don't take any shit from anyone."

Advice to LGBT Community: "Be what you want to be. Don't let anyone put barriers in front of you. And don't apologize for who you are. That's the same advice I gave to a group of girls during Take Your Daughter To Work Week."

Biographical Data: Mayor Susan J.M. Bauman. Resident of Madison since 1963. Married for 29 years this December to Ellis Bauman. Former jobs include: research chemist, school teacher, attorney and Madison Common Council member for 12 years, representing the city's near south-side. Next election date: April, 1999.

Letters

Continued From Page 4

Rev. Ovadal never has a chance to be Secretary of the Air Force, unless, perhaps, under a Reconstructionist government, but he does have the ear of the Wisconsin legislature. He paid a large part in passage of the anti-Gay marriage bill in the State Assembly, and he has great influence over Congressman Mark Neumann. He claims his radio and TV shows can elicit hundreds of phone calls from listeners to legislators, and, whatever the true numbers, he's right. On the radio program where he spoke about Reconstructionism, he also claimed his broadcasts had generated a huge number of phone calls to a judge now hearing the case of an anti-abortion demonstrator.

Unfortunately the media ignore Ralph Ovadal, seldom ever mentioning his name. That's no doubt standard journalism procedure for dealing with kooks, but Ovadal's not an ordinary kook. He's a kook who wields considerable influence with legislators in his sphere of interest.

Pastor Ovadal may be a clown, but he's a clown who needs watching. He does have influence and he does produce results.

Al Geiersbach Milwaukee

Editor's Note: According to Frederick Clarkson in his book, *The Struggle Between Democracy and Theocracy in the United States*, Christian Reconstructionism is "the driving ideology of the Christian Right in the 1990s."

The significance of the Reconstructionist movement, Clarkson writes, is not its numbers, but the power of its ideas and their surprisingly rapid acceptance. Many on the Christian Right are unaware that they hold Reconstructionist ideas. Because as a theology it is controversial, even among evangelicals, many who are consciously influenced by it avoid the label.

Generally, Reconstructionism seeks to replace democracy with a theocratic elite that would govern by imposing their interpretation of "Biblical Law."

Reconstructionism would eliminate not only democracy but many of its manifestations, such as labor unions, civil rights laws, and public schools. Women would be generally relegated to hearth and home. Insufficiently Christian men would be denied citizenship, perhaps executed.

So severe is this theocracy that it would extend capital punishment beyond such crimes as kidnapping, rape, and murder to include, among other things, blasphemy, heresy, adultery, and homosexuality.

The Reconstructionist movement calls on conservatives to be Christians first, and to build a church-based political movement from there.

Reconstructionism is a theology that arose out of conservative Presbyterianism (Reformed and Orthodox), which proposes that contemporary application of the laws of Old Testament Israel, or "Biblical Law," is the basis for reconstructing society toward the Kingdom of God on earth.

Reconstructionism argues that the Bible is to be the governing text for all areas of life--such as government, education, law, and the arts, not merely "social" or "moral" issues like pornography, homosexuality, and abortion. Reconstructionists have formulated a "Biblical world view" and "Biblical principles" by which to examine contemporary matters.

Reconstructionists believe that there are three main areas of governance: family government, church government, and civil government. Under God's covenant, the nuclear

family is the basic unit. The husband is the head of the family, and wife and children are "in submission" to him. In turn, the husband "submits" to Jesus and to God's laws as detailed in the Old Testament.

The church has its own ecclesiastical structure and governance. Civil government exists to implement God's laws. All three institutions are under Biblical Law, the implementation of which is called "theonomy."

The original and defining text of Reconstructionism is *Institutes of Biblical Law*, published in 1973 by Rousas John Rushdoony--an 800-page explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Biblical "case law" that derives from them, and their application today. "The only true order," writes Rushdoony, "is founded on Biblical Law."

Rushdoony and a younger theologian, Rev. Greg Bahnsen, were both students of Cornelius Van Til, a Princeton University theologian. Although Van Til himself never became a Reconstructionist, Reconstructionists claim him as the father of their movement.

Van Til stopped short of proposing what a Biblical society might look like or how to get there. That is where Reconstructionism begins. While Van Til states that man is not autonomous and that all rationality is inseparable from faith in God and the Bible, the Reconstructionists go further and set a course of world conquest or "dominion," claiming a Biblically prophesied "inevitable victory."

Reconstructionists also believe that "the Christians" are the "new chosen people of God," commanded to do what "Adam in Eden and Israel in Canaan failed to do...create the society that God requires."

Further, Jews, once the "chosen people," failed to live up to God's covenant and therefore are no longer God's chosen. Christians, of the correct sort, now are.

Reconstructionists see themselves as the theological and political heirs of Calvin. The theocracy Calvin created in Geneva, Switzerland in the 1500s is one of the political models Reconstructionists look to, along with Old Testament Israel and the Calvinist Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Epitomizing the Reconstructionist idea of Biblical "warfare" is the centrality of capital punishment under Biblical Law.

Doctrinal leaders (notably Rushdoony, North, and Bahnsen) call for the death penalty for a wide range of crimes in addition to such contemporary capital crimes as rape, kidnapping, and murder. Death is also the punishment for apostasy (abandonment of the faith), heresy, blasphemy, witchcraft, astrology, adultery, "sodomy or homosexuality," incest, striking a parent, incorrigible juvenile delinquency, and, in the case of women, "unchastity before marriage."

Women who have abortions should be publicly executed, "along with those who advised them to abort their children." Rushdoony concludes: "God's government prevails, and His alternatives are clear-cut: either men and nations obey His laws, or God invokes the death penalty against them."

The Biblically approved methods of execution include burning (at the stake for example), stoning, hanging, and "the sword."

Gary North, the self-described economist of Reconstructionism, prefers stoning because, among other things, stones are cheap, plentiful, and convenient.

Punishments for non-capital crimes generally involve whipping, restitution in the form of indentured servitude, or slavery. Prisons would likely be only temporary holding tanks, prior to imposition of the actual sentence.

As a movement primarily of ideas, Reconstructionism has no single denominational or institutional home. Nor is it totally defined by a single charismatic leader, nor even a single text. Rather, it is defined by a small group of scholars who are identified with Reformed or Orthodox Presbyterianism.

Reconstructionist leaders seem to have two consistent characteristics: a background in conservative Presbyterianism, and connections to the John Birch Society (JBS). In 1973, Rushdoony compared the structure of the JBS to the "early church."

An Omission?

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for your articles on the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

It strikes me as strange that you could write all about straight restaurants, the Mall of America, etc. yet not mention either Amazon books, the country's oldest feminist bookstore or a Brother's Touch, which has been selling Gay/Lesbian books for 14 years.

Harley Hertz Owner of A Brother's Touch Minneapolis, MN

Editor's note: Like any reporter, ours can only write about things they are aware of. The Gay media tour sponsored by the Minneapolis Convention and Visitor Association and the Twin Cities Quorum, did not stop at any Gay owned restaurants nor did it visit any book stores at all. A review of the huge volume of materials provided to the tour did not turn up any mention of either Amazon Books or A Brother's Touch. If the tour had stopped at these places or been given information about them, they would have been mentioned.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Inn at Pine Ridge B & B esp for women, hot tub, sauna, good brunch, hike, bike rest. Near Eau Claire by reservation (715) 984-2272.

Employment

Bachman Furniture

Interior Designer. Bachman Furniture has an immediate full-time position open for an interior designer. Individual must be self-motivated, professional, with a strong desire to succeed; enthusiastic, and sales oriented. As a member of our team, you will represent Milwaukee's most unique store in furnishings and design. We offer highly competitive pay and bonus package. Contact Diane at (414) 461-9000 to schedule an interview

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Call (414) 291-9600

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ORDERS: Completely fill out this form and mail to WISCONSIN LIGHT, 1843 N Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

RATES ARE \$2 for each line. Each line can contain up to 42 characters, (including spaces). Indicate if you would like a **BOLD HEADLINE** of up to three words above your ad for an additional \$2.50. Also indicate classification under which your ad is to be run.

DEADLINE for placing a classified ad in WISCONSIN LIGHT is noon Wednesday prior to publication. If you mail your ad we must receive it on or before Wednesday. **NO CREDIT** or **BILLING SERVICES** are offered, and we **DO NOT** accept any classifieds on the phone for placements or renewals.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

PLEASE CHECK THE ISSUE(S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD TO APPEAR.

July 3, July 17, July 31, Aug 14, Aug 28, Sept 11

Public Notices

Emerald's Bar and Lounge

801 E. Hadley Street, Milwaukee
Sunday—Men's Night; Rail \$1 6-10pm
Monday—Margarita Mondays; \$2 8-12
Tuesday—Beer Bust, \$5, 8-12pm
Wednesday—Ladies Night 2 for 1 8-12
Thursday—Tea Thursday, Long Islands \$2.50 8-12
Mon thru Fri: After Work Cooldown, rail drinks, \$1.25
 Every First Friday, Kickin' it live, with a DJ

Personals

Lesbian, white, 41, looking for fun, friendship in Kenosha/SE area of Wisconsin. Reply to Wisconsin Light, Box 201, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Lesbian, white, unattached, 41, looking for friendship and fun in Kenosha or SE Wisconsin. Respond to: Wisconsin Light, Box 85, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

FOR SALE

AVON Representative Avon products for sale. Proceeds of sale go to AIDS Walk Wisconsin. For details call Sandy (414) 962-1427.

Phone Encounters

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ManScan, Personals, More

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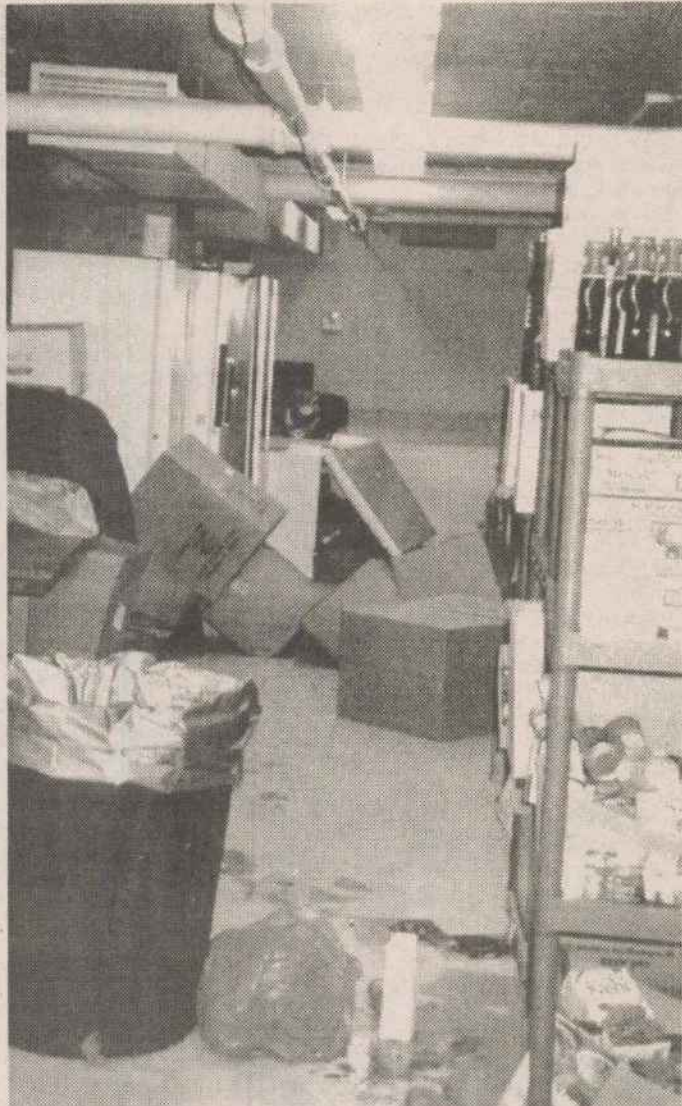
18+ - Only LD Rates Apply

Organizations

Galano Club A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA and Al-anon, ACOA and other 12 step meetings. Openly nightly, 2408 N. Farwell Ave., (414) 276-6936 x

National Gay Pilots Association

welcomes all aviation enthusiasts. Newsletter, Events, Personals
 NGPA, Dept. MKE PO Box 27542
 Washington, DC 20038-2742
 (703) 660-3852 n



Damaged Goods - The photos above show some of the extensive damage done to food pantry and medical supplies in the Milwaukee Flood of 1997.

JUNE FLOOD HITS MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT HARD

WHAT: The Milwaukee AIDS Project has hotline numbers set up. Community support needed.

WHO: Milwaukee AIDS Project

WHEN: 24-hours-a-day, through July
WHERE: 414-225-1570 or 414-225-1572; 820 N. Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee

WHY: To collect critically needed donations (see attached list) and dollars needed to sustain local HIV/AIDS food pantry, prevention and health care programs.

Also, a printer is desperately needed to donate printing of AIDS Walk Wisconsin promotional material to replace items that were destroyed in the June flood.

Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline Seeks More Trainees

Milwaukee—Gay Youth Milwaukee is currently seeking LGBT youth who are interested in working on a state-wide, toll free hotline targeted for GLBT youth 12 to 21 years of age.

Gay Youth Milwaukee and BestD Clinic were recently awarded a grant from the Diverse & Resilient Program of Wisconsin AIDS/HIV program to continue operating the Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline for BGLT youth.

The purpose of this peer oriented hotline is to break down the isolation that many GLBT youth experience, provide peer support, referrals and HIV risk reduction information. The hotline will continue operating Friday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline began operation in August, 1996.

Interested youth need to apply for training which will begin in mid-July. Trained youth hotline workers will receive stipends for the hours they work staffing the hotline.

Interested persons can write to: Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 09441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, or call (414) 265-8500 for an application or additional information.

June Flood Devastates MAP's Food Pantry and Other Services

Milwaukee—The June flood has devastated the Milwaukee AIDS Project, 820 N. Plankinton Ave, which provides services to thousands of individuals affected by HIV and AIDS. The Milwaukee AIDS Project's basement is its main storage area and houses the agency's food pantry. While there is no way to calculate the total damage as of yet, early estimates are over \$55,000. Immediate help is desperately needed.

FOOD PANTRY

The Milwaukee AIDS Project receives 450 requests per month for food and supplies from the food pantry. These requests feed nearly 1,500 individuals □ consumers and their family members.

The June floods destroyed nearly all of the food stocked in the food pantry as well as personal care items. Some of the most critically needed items are: diapers, fresh produce, bottled water, paper items, cereal, dry food items and health care items. Items lost to flood damage:

- Nearly everything other than canned goods;
- Two freezers;
- Three refrigerators;
- One computer;
- Office furniture;
- Children's gifts collected so far this year.

HEALTH SERVICES

Items lost to flood damage:
• The HIV Dental Clinic had to be shut down for a day and all appointments re-

scheduled.

- medical supplies such as gauze, rubber gloves, cotton swabs, etc.;
- agency washer & dryer;
- wheel chairs and walkers.

PREVENTION SERVICES

Prevention materials lost to flood damage:

- cases of condoms;
- cases of syringes for the agency's needle exchange program were destroyed.

RESEARCH

Items lost to flood damage:
• hundreds of needles and vials for research.

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

AIDS Walk Wisconsin is Wisconsin's largest AIDS fund raising event scheduled for September 21 has lost nearly all of its printed pieces: envelopes, registration material, stationary, etc. This is a critical time for AIDS Walk as walker registration is key to this event.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other items that need to be replaced in the building include: fluorescent tube lighting, ceiling tiles, desks, chairs, tables and computer equipment.

Cash donations are also critically and immediately needed to purchase items destroyed by the floods so that the Milwaukee AIDS Project may continue providing services to the many consumers who rely on the agency. Hotlines have been set up for those who can help □

(414) 225-1570 or (414) 225-1572.

thing we could do would be to make a claim against the City of Wauwatosa," Braddock explained.

Braddock remains optimistic and vows to have the cleanup and repairs completed as quickly as possible.

Individuals wishing to contribute replacement items can call St. Camillus and arrange for pickup. Contributions can be made out to St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry Flood Fund, and mailed to: 10101 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Raphael House and Emmaus House Suffer Extensive Flood Damage

Milwaukee—St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry reports that Raphael House and Emmaus House were among properties damaged by the severe weather on June 21.

Heavy rains caused flash flooding throughout Southeastern Wisconsin, dumping as much as nine inches of rain on some areas. The Menomonee River overflowed its banks and rushed into dozens of nearby homes.

Raphael House and Emmaus House, two of the supportive residences operated by the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, flooded as the result of a failed city sewer line.

"The water came right up through our basement drains," said Bro. Stephen Braddock. "Lightning knocked out our electricity...so the sump pumps were useless."

Raphael House opened its doors to HIV+ people in October of 1995. Since then, there has been a consistent waiting list for admission. In response, the Order of St. Camillus designated another nearby residence to meet some of the additional

housing needs.

"The renovation on Emmaus House was finished Friday morning and we were planning to move people in over the weekend," said a frustrated Bro. Braddock. "Finding 26" of water in the lower level changed those plans."

The flooded finished basement was furnished to serve as a recreation and TV room for the residents. All of the contents were destroyed, including a 25" TV, sofas, and recliner that had been delivered that very afternoon.

Similar water damage losses occurred at Raphael House. According to Braddock, none of the six residents who were home needed to be evacuated and no one was harmed.

This is the second time Raphael House has been damaged. An electrical fire last year caused a full evacuation and over \$30,000 in damages. St. Camillus was fortunate to have insurance which covered the cost of most repairs. This time is different.

"We're not covered for these losses... the insurance company told us the only

Quality Dental Care

Steve Debbink
D.D.S.



for the HIV/AIDS Community

MAP

MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT

Wisconsin's First HIV Dental Clinic

MAP is pleased to announce expanded hours of its dental clinic, dedicated to caring for adults living with HIV and AIDS. Services include examinations, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, partials, oral hygiene education, dental assessments & referrals. Clinic hours are Monday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. All forms of insurance are accepted. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability to pay.

CALL 225-1571 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

MAP is a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW).

Dental services are provided in collaboration with the RAINBOW