

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

▼ The Wisconsin Light

Party of the Decade To Celebrate 10 Great Years of *The Wisconsin Light*

National Entertainers, Celebrities To Join In the Fun Sunday, November 9th

Kevin Rotar, Popular Milwaukee Bartender, Presumed Drowned

Milwaukee—Kevin Rotar, one of Gay Milwaukee's most popular bartenders, is missing and presumed drowned after a boating accident which occurred on Saturday August 9, 1997.

The incident which occurred at around 4:00 in the afternoon took place about 50 yards from the Lake Michigan shoreline off of St. Francis, a Milwaukee suburb.

Kevin had joined a group of friends for a fun afternoon of boating on the lake.

According to Mathew Brooks, a spokesperson for the Milwaukee Coast Guard, Rotar and a group of friends were aboard a 30 foot cabin cruiser the "Just Right," owned by Club 219 Manager Chuck Cicarello. Rotar worked at the Club.

An eyewitness on the boat who asked not to be named in this story told *The Wisconsin Light* that the boat was heading south in choppy waters while the people on board debated whether to cruise the Milwaukee River or what is commonly called "Bare Ass Beach" when a baseball hat blew into the water.

According to Brooks the hat was owned by Cicarello.

The eyewitness said "Everyone on the boat told Kevin to forget about the hat, but he kept insisting on retrieving it." Before anyone could stop him Rotar "executed a perfect dive into the Lake."

Rotar who was a good swimmer managed to fight strong currents and retrieve the hat. The witness said "Even as he swam, you could see the current was strong and the hat was drifting away, but he got it and turned to come back."

While swimming back to the boat, Rotar started bobbing up and down in the water and began calling out for help. The horrified group on board began throwing life jackets and ropes but Rotar was too far away to reach them.

Please See Rotar Page 31



Doing Time—The jail was a popular attraction at BreastFest, a fund raiser to help fight Breast Cancer. The day long block party was held outside of Fannies in Milwaukee, on Sunday, August 10. The event sponsored by Fannies drew hundreds of women and men and raised over \$6,000 for the cause. Over 180,000 American women and men will die from Breast Cancer this year. Lesbians are at higher risk for this killer which has no known cause, prevention or cure.

Personal Pride Can Save Lives Says Medical College of Wisconsin Study

Milwaukee—A new research study shows that personal pride and a positive outlook toward the future play an important role in preventing HIV infections among Gay and Bisexual men.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin, shows that Gay and Bisexual men who engaged in unprotected anal intercourse outside of a monogamous relationship were more dissatisfied with life, expected a shorter life for themselves, and had a more fatalistic outlook than men who practiced only safer sex. By contrast, men who avoided risk behavior had a greater satisfaction in their current life, had an optimistic outlook for their futures, and wanted to live a long life.

"The areas we surveyed involve elements of pride and self-esteem," said Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D., the study's lead author. "Our results strongly suggest that HIV prevention programs that encourage personal pride and affirm self worth will be more successful."

The research results also raise the possibility that some Gay men may put them-

Please See Pride Page 31

Victory Fund Backs Tammy Baldwin for Congress

Washington, DC—The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has endorsed Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) for the Second District seat currently held by retiring four-term GOP Congressman Scott Klug.

"We're extremely proud to support a candidate of Tammy Baldwin's caliber," said Victory Fund Executive Director Brian Bond. "With the election more than a year away, Tammy has already built a phenomenal grassroots campaign and a war chest of over \$100,000."

Baldwin has high name recognition and a long history of community service in both the City of Madison and in the surrounding Dane County, which together account for 70% of the vote in this Congressional District. Baldwin was one of the Victory Fund's earliest winners, making history in 1992 as the first openly Gay person ever elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly.

The Victory Fund is the only national organization whose mission is to help qualified openly Gay and Lesbian candidates overcome the obstacles that have historically denied them fair and equal political opportunities.

Contributions to Tammy Baldwin's campaign should be made out to "Baldwin for Congress Committee, and mailed to the Victory Fund at 1012 14th St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.

By Terry Boughner
Milwaukee—As the Publisher and Editor, respectively, of *Wisconsin Light*, Jerry and I are pleased and very proud to announce a major event titled "A Decade of Light," to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the paper. "A Decade of Light" will be held at the downtown Milwaukee Hilton Hotel on Sunday, November 9, 1997.

And I do mean major event. I mean a star-spangled (in every sense of that word) event, a glittering gala. In fact, I have been told that it will be the largest LGBT event of its kind ever held in Wisconsin.

I can believe that because I know the names of some of the people who are coming, either to entertain (a star-studded cast, as they say), or to attend the celebration as guests. Guests will be coming from across the country and Wisconsin, including political leaders and members of the press.

I don't want to reveal the names now. Let that be for future issues of the paper. But I can tell you this. "A Decade of Light" is going to be an event that you will not want to miss.

Now before I go any further, let me say that I haven't worn a tie for over 30 years. I didn't even wear one to teach. This event is going to be a black-tie optional affair.

(I haven't had a tux on since I got dragooned by my mother into going to my high school prom. I went with Shirley Winnet. We had a "wonderful" time. I wanted to dance with Steve Hays, but that's another story.)

Things have changed. This is not the prom and I will make an exception. The reason is that this celebration is a benefit for the Cream City Foundation (CCF) endowment fund. Proceeds will go to CCF. In all seriousness, such is my respect for the Foundation and the work that it does, that I will stuff myself into a boiled shirt and undergo near strangulation for them.

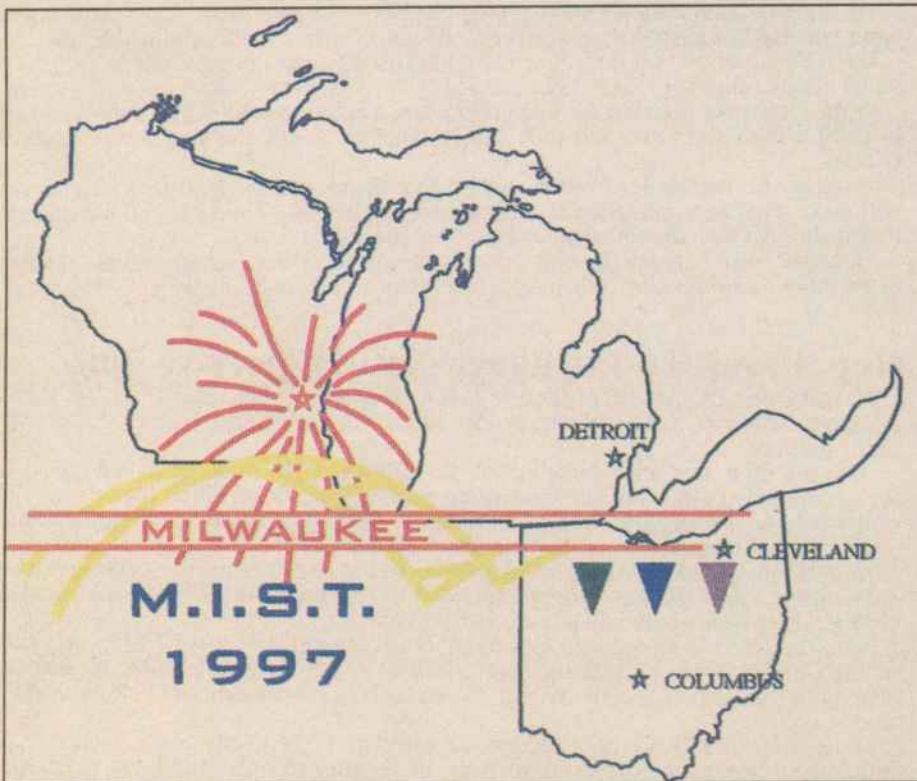
There will be a VIP dinner in the hotel's Empire Room for 200 followed by a dance and entertainment in the Grand Ballroom upstairs. As you may know, the Ballroom has been beautifully restored; a room of candlelight and gold, a truly magnificent setting.

There will also be a room where every issue of *Wisconsin Light* from the past 10 years will be on display. There will also be framed photo displays and other artifacts and memorabilia from the paper's history.

To help commemorate the anniversary, a limited number of complete sets of the paper will be on sale. The price and availability of this slice of Wisconsin LGBT history will be announced soon.

That's about it. That's what I can say right now, except to add that more—and more—information will be published in the paper as the time goes on.

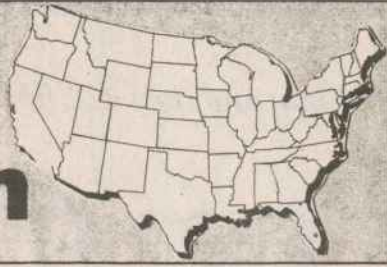
I do not say this lightly, not at all. This is going to be the party of the decade. From the information to which I am privy, this is going to be, as I've said, one very grand and glorious affair. It is something that you are not going to want to miss, not at all.



MIST - The Midwest Invitation Softball Tournament comes to Milwaukee for the first time on August 30 and 31st. The two day event will include 28 teams from around the country. It will be played at Wick Field.

For More Details on
The Wisconsin Light
Party of the Decade
See Pages 16 & 17

News From The Nation



Man Demands Jury Trial on Indecency Charge

Denver-AP- A Gay man charged with indecency is demanding a jury trial, claiming he is innocent and was charged because police were targeting homosexuals.

James Baca, 30, of Denver, was one of 11 men arrested July 13 in the city's Cheesman Park.

Baca claimed that he was walking through the park when he became stomach sick, and stood next to a tree after being overcome by pain.

"I had my hand between my legs to hold me up and the other holding my guts," he said. "All they (police) said was that I had my hand in front of me. They said, 'You were masturbating.'"

Baca says the charge isn't true and that he was targeted because he is Gay.

His attorney, Julie Tolleson of the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project, says police went too far.

"We do not defend anyone's right to engage in public sex," she said. "But that still didn't give police the right to cast a net over the entire park. We are going to trial."

No Shortcuts to Beating AIDS

Great Falls-AP- Drug combinations known as "cocktails" may extend the lives of people infected with the AIDS virus, but a vaccine is the only way to slow the global spread of the disease, AIDS researcher David Baltimore said Thursday.

"A good vaccine could eradicate HIV from the face of the Earth," the Nobel laureate said in an address at the MSU-College of Technology.

More than 100 people attended a two-day seminar sponsored by the McLaughlin Research Institute, and an additional 50 to 80 attended Baltimore's talk.

A Great Falls man who has tested positive for the virus for 11 years said he wanted to find out about new treatments.

"I totally believe HIV is already curable," he said.

Baltimore said protease inhibitors have changed the landscape of AIDS research and, "It may no longer be a death sentence."

Though rates of new cases have slowed in the United States, they are exploding in countries such as India and Russia.

While there are about 1.5 million cases of AIDS in the United States, there are 30 million globally, and that number is growing rapidly.

AIDS Drug Available to Certain Adults

Washington, DC-AP- Adults who are not responding to standard HIV therapy now have access to an experimental drug still awaiting government approval.

Glaxo Wellcome Inc. will give 2,400 adults with advanced AIDS its experimental drug called 1592, the company announced Wednesday.

The drug 1592 is a member of an older class of AIDS medicines called nucleoside analogs, but it is generating interest because of preliminary evidence that it may penetrate the central nervous system.

While the Food and Drug Administration awaits proof from strict clinical trials on whether 1592 works, it allowed Glaxo to offer the drug for free to certain children desperate for new AIDS therapies.

On Wednesday, Glaxo announced a similar "compassionate use" program for adults. Physicians may obtain information for enrolling patients by calling 1-800-501-4672.

Aetna To Offer Domestic Partner Benefits

Hartford, CN-AP- Aetna Inc. will begin offering health care benefits to domestic partners of its Gay employees, making it one of the largest insurance companies in the country to offer such benefits.

About 300,000 employees will be eligible for the benefits when the package begins in January, said Patricia Seif, company spokeswoman. Details of the offer will be ready in September. The benefits do not extend to unmarried heterosexual couples.

Gay and Lesbian employees approved of the offer, but few are likely to take them, said Marybeth Shay, a member of the Aetna Network of Gay and Lesbian Employees.

These health care benefits will be treated as income for the employee, meaning they are subject to federal taxes, Shay said.

Also, Aetna will require applicants for the benefits to sign an affidavit swearing they are committed to their partners. Shay said some Gay workers might forego the benefits, since they will have to come out of the closet to their bosses.

Aetna joins The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., Xerox and the city of Hartford as some of the major Connecticut employers to offer same-sex benefits.

Prison Denies Lesbian Couple's Bid for Wedding

York, NE-AP- Cheryl O'Dell wants to get married again.

After enduring years of abuse at the hands of her former husband, the 30-year-old woman says she has found true love.

"I've found my soul mate," O'Dell said. "People tell us when they see us together it's like they can see a halo over us."

The couple wants to exchange vows in a simple religious ceremony. But it is not that simple. Both are incarcerated in a state prison and both are women.

"What is the problem? We're not trying to do anything illegal," says O'Dell's companion, Tammy Stearns, 35, of Alliance. "It's not about sex at all. I've found my soul mate and she's found hers."

Larry Wayne, warden at the Nebraska Center for Women in York where O'Dell and Stearns are imprisoned, has denied their request to hold a "handfasting" ceremony in the prison chapel.

Wayne, backed by legal counsel for the state Department of Correctional Services, said such a ceremony would violate Nebraska's ban on same-sex marriages.

Court Says Lesbian Adoption Can Be Considered

Ledyard, CN-AP- The state Adoption Review Board can consider a Lesbian's petition to adopt the 5-year-old son of her partner, a Superior Court referee has ruled.

The ruling overturns a Probate Court decision, which denied the petition on the grounds that current law did not allow for it.

The adoption is in the best interest of the child, Superior Court Referee Hadley W. Austin ruled this week.

Austin ordered the Probate Court to send the adoption petition to the state Adoption Review Board, which will consider a waiver of the statutory parental requirements.

Book for Gay Teens to Stay in Library

Brownsville, PA-AP- Despite a parent's objections, a high school library book that advises teens about homosexuality is back on the shelf it occupied for seven years.

A committee of educators and parents at Brownsville Area High School said it will keep in circulation the 56-page book, *Understanding Sexual Identity; A Book for Gay Teens and Their Friends*.

After listening to students, parents and the American Civil Liberties Union, the committee allowed the book to remain in general circulation.

But parents can notify the librarian if they do not want their child to read it, school Superintendent Dexton Reed said.

The committee reviewed the book after a parent, Gina Wellington, asked in May that it be removed.

Among passages that she and other parents found objectionable are descriptions of how to use a condom and a vignette describing a fictional 7-year-old boy's fascination with an altar boy.

Wellington did not return phone calls to her home, but Reed said he thought she was "satisfied."

New Insurance Company First to Aid Gay Couples

Honolulu, HI-AP- If Dr. Robert Jenkins just mentioned the words Gay and Lesbian, doors slammed shut. Few would take his pink business card. Few would return his phone calls. Claims of non-discrimination were not reality, he said.

As head of the first insurance agency to help same-sex couples obtain benefits under Hawaii's new reciprocal benefits law, he's seen discrimination firsthand.

With a colorful rainbow as its logo, Hawaii-based Pride Insurance & Financial Services Inc. opened for business this summer, just as the new law, the nation's first, came into effect, giving couples who can't legally marry a taste of the married life.

A major provision grants insurance benefits to same-gender couples.

All summer, Jenkins and his nine employees have been on the hunt for companies that will help Gays and Lesbians who want to sign up for joint life, health and homeowners' insurance.

So far, they've found 16 in the entire nation. The number is small, but it's enough of a start, Jenkins said.

About two clients a day come in to inquire about insurance or how to sign up as beneficiaries under the new law, he said.

The law grants any adult couple who can't legally marry, Gays and Lesbians, parent and adult child, siblings and roommates, about 45 of the 400 legal benefits of marriage.

Pride Insurance also helps same-sex couples in other states and countries apply to become reciprocal beneficiaries under the Hawaii law, which has no residency requirement.

After First Seven Months, Wisconsin's Only HIV Dental Clinic Exceeds Expectations

Milwaukee—In its first seven months of operation, 250 clients have received dental care at the Milwaukee AIDS Project's HIV dental clinic through more than 600 encounters, 329 of which have had no insurance or needed financial assistance.

On January 6, 1997, the Milwaukee AIDS Project opened the state's first-ever HIV dental clinic and the success has been overwhelming. With the dental clinic's patient load growing, the hours have expanded from 18 hours a week to 39 hours a week.

"We will not turn anyone with HIV or AIDS away," said Neil Albrecht, deputy director of programs for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. "For those who don't have private health insurance or don't qualify for Medicaid, we are making the commitment that we will pay for people who might be considered indigent or very low income. Our ability to do that is because of the very extensive fund raising that we do throughout the year with individuals and through events such as AIDS Walk Wisconsin."

The dental clinic is a collaboration between the Milwaukee AIDS Project and Rainbow Community Health Centers. It

was largely furnished with about \$50,000 worth of equipment donated by Milwaukee County and Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital in the aftermath of the closing of Doyne Hospital and the Doyne dental clinic last year, which had a large HIV positive clientele.

The need for an HIV dental clinic was evident when nearly 450 individuals with HIV and AIDS were unable to receive quality care after the closing of Doyne Dental Clinic. The Milwaukee AIDS Project's HIV dental clinic gives individuals access to dental services like preventative, restorative and cleaning, not just emergency care. Helping meet the demand, Steve Debbink, DDS, employee of Rainbow Community Health Centers, provides dental services to HIV positive adults as lead dentist at the Milwaukee AIDS Project's HIV dental clinic.

Currently, the HIV dental clinic is open Monday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment with the dental clinic, call 414-225-1571.

ARCW Receives Donation From Cartoonist

Milwaukee—The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has a rather "comical" new donor: cartoonist Owen Dunne.



Owen Dunne

Dunne is the author/artist of the comic strip "You Damn Kid," which has been running in the *Shepherd Express* since March. He is donating the weekly proceeds from the strip to ARCW.

"It is important to remember the people who are suffering now," said Dunne. We so often concentrate solely on finding a cure for AIDS. Although that is very important, the short term needs are often overlooked. ARCW is there to help people now, and I feel that makes them a worthy cause for my contribution."

The cartoon features humorous incidents that happened to Dunne and his friends and family, as told by a child.

"A good portion of the incidents I write about are true," said Dunne. "I've had the idea for this character for about ten years, and now it's actually in print."

Dunne is currently seeking other papers throughout the nation who are interested in "You Damn Kid." If the strip grows, Dunne plans to increase his donation.

"Hopefully there will be more papers like the *Shepherd Express* around the country that see fit to print it," Dunne added. "I believe in the work ARCW does and would like to help as much as possible."

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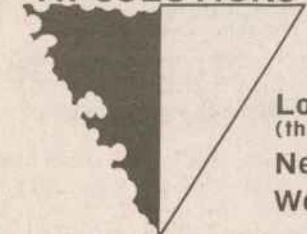
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In Memoriam Kevin Rotar

"He was a lovely, lovely man, very open. I've known him for over 20 years. It's a stunning loss. I feel deeply." Ron Geiman's voice shook as he recalled his long friendship with Kevin Rotar. In the end, he cried softly, a prayer of tears.

Kevin was boating with friends on Lake Michigan on Saturday, August 9, 1997. About 4:00 p.m. the wind blew his hat off. Reports say he reached for it and fell into the water. Though the body has not yet been found, he is presumed drowned. He was 41.

As of press time, the St. Francis police say that the search continues in which they are being aided by the Milwaukee police. The lake, however, is stormy and is hampering the search.

Those are the bare facts of the passing of a man whose absence will leave a stark void in our community. For one thing, he was a bartender at The Triangle, the YP, the Wreck Room and, finally, at Club 219. He was more than a bartender. He was a professional. Some bartenders put your order in front of you, take your money and go, leaving the customers to their own devices.

Kevin did not do that. He was a gentleman professional, caring about his customers, treating each one with dignity and a genuinely felt concern. Kevin always had time for a friendly word, no matter how busy the bar was. We can say that from experience. We will not soon forget his shy, quiet smile and the twinkle in his eye. Neither will we forget his laughter, low, rumbling, yet soft in his throat, a laugh that drew you to him and, like a blanket, enfolded you in its warmth.

"He was a sweetheart," said Rick Formankiewicz. "He got along with everyone." Rick, who works at the Ballgame, said he'd known Kevin for over 20 years.

None of us can know the circumstances into which we will be born. Neither do we know how we will meet our separate ends. All we do know is that every one of us is a light, tiny, fragile, flickering here for awhile and then is gone. Though the lights disappear from our view, they do not go out. They join the millions that glow in the beyond and await the rest of us coming along behind.

This is how we should remember Kevin. Not for how he met his end, but for the light shown on us while he was here. Nor should we forget that his flame still shines. It awaits us.

Wisconsin Light joins Kevin's partner, his family and many friends in remembering him with respect and with love.

Editor's Note

The Ideal of Equality

By Terry Boughner

While most of us know about the American Revolution, to many, at this distance, it has the appearance of a foregone conclusion—something that had to happen in the right course of things.

No way. As I used to tell my students, the Pilgrims didn't hop off the Mayflower, look at their watches and shout with one voice, "Hurry up, we gotta get Plymouth built! It's only about 150 years to the American Revolution!"

Nor were the Founders all that sure of themselves. From 1763 onward, as much as their own wills, events drove them on. You have to remember that aside from Sam Adams and a few of his kind, these were a very conservative bunch. They took their allegiance to the Crown very seriously indeed. The mantle of treason didn't sit well on their shoulders.

So, when the issue of independence came up, many of them shrank at the thought. After all, it was in the history of things that colonies went from being the possession of one country to that of another. Colonies didn't proceed to assume independent status.

Yet, independence took place. Whether it happened before or after the Declaration is a matter of debate, but it happened, a truly revolutionary step.

What was even more revolutionary, however, was the ideals proclaimed in the Declaration and various other documents in which the work of the Revolution is enshrined. Prime among these was the proposition that everyone was equal before the law.

The concept of human equality, arising out of the Enlightenment, was explosive, hitting the highly structured 18th century society of deference like a bomb. The effects are still being felt.

Look at it! You may be richer than I am. You may be more intelligent, but before the law, we are equal. The laws that apply to you, apply to me and vice versa. There's no exceptions.

There's no "some are more equal than others." There's no, "Everyone's equal, but there is a critically thinking elite." There's no exceptions. Everyone's equal. The laws apply to all.

Equality is such an obvious ideal and should have been so easy to accomplish. It has not proven to be so. Look at the barriers that had to be swept away.

For example, the idea that one could hold property in another person (slavery), had to go. So did a lot of other irrationalities that made some people unequal to others: women's subordination to men; ethnic prejudices of all kinds. The list goes on. The task is not completed yet, not by far.

The ideal, as I see it, works this way. If you, as a law-abiding citizen, have rights under the law, I, having the same status must have them too, by virtue of my humanity. You cannot exclude me, not for any reason except due process of law. You may not like me because of the color of my skin, my sexual orientation, my ethnic background, or something else, but

you cannot exclude me.

You—as a male—may think I, as a woman, am inferior to you, but you cannot exclude me from equal rights. You cannot exclude me and remain faithful to what America is all about; remain faithful to one of the great ideals that has made this country what it is.

Your interpretation of religion may tell you I shouldn't be equal to you and have the civil rights you enjoy. You may believe that that's sufficient reason to deprive me of my equality, my civil rights, my dignity as a human being and an American citizen. It is not.

In the issue of marriage, what I see is that differing sex couples have legal rights that same-sex couples do not have—hundreds of legal rights, in fact. Same-sex couples are, therefore, unequal, denied the fullness of their just dignity as human beings in a country where equality is one of the founding ideals. This is wrong. It cannot be allowed to continue.

There are politicians—Alderpeople, state legislators, members of Congress, who, very obviously, do not understand the concept of human equality. To my way of thinking, they are a blot of the escutcheon of America. They do not deserve to hold office since they are not willing to uphold what America means.

Once upon a time there was a woman who was fed up with being treated as a second class citizen in this country. Besides, she'd been shopping and her feet hurt. She took the first seat on the bus she could find. Her name was Rosa Parks.

Her act gave rise to a glorious page in our country's history. Led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., African-Americans rose up, not to defend the idea that they should have equal rights, but to claim them. In language that stirred souls, words rarely heard, King called on America to be true to itself. The call continues.

We who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered, must do the same; must claim the rights that are ours by birth. No "go slow." No surreptitious slinking around the dark edges hoping no one will see. No more sitting in the back of the bus.

The rights belong to us. Human dignity belongs to us. Freedom and equality must be ours. We cannot live as second class citizens. We cannot live in bondage to prejudice. We cannot live as other than we are, free and equal citizens of a great republic, one born in the light of a most radiant ideal. We can require nothing more and nothing less.

Homophobia must be made odious. Our country's ideals demand nothing less.

Policy Letters to the Editor

As a matter of policy, Wisconsin Light will not print a Letter to the Editor sent to or appearing in any other publication. This is general journalistic practice.

Letters

A Salute to SSBL

TO THE EDITOR:

A Salute to the SSBL and all the Folks Involved in This, Our 20th Year!

To the "Ed Beckers" of In-Between—who didn't give up, but started all over again from scratch.

To the "Lady Gails" and the "Rays" of the Triangle—who show us each week that we can still have fun even if we lost by thirty runs...Again! There is a team reminiscent of my own 10 years ago.

To the "Bob Meligs" of Ballgame—who put in countless hours of work "behind the scenes."

To the "Tom Salzeiders" and "Joe Apple-mans"—who got us here during the league's first 20 years—thanks for sharing your invaluable experience.

To the spirit of the "Cream City Foundation Team"—whose initiative and interest to form their own team continues to help form the foundation of the league's next 20 years.

And lastly, to the folks on your own team—who remind you of some of the people mentioned above—we all have them.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—THIS IS YOUR SSBL. Give them a salute—even if you're standing alone in your living room when you read this.

Rodney Stockel, Fundraising Chair
Milwaukee

Transsexuals and PrideFest '97

TO THE EDITOR:

We have been informed that a Transsexual woman was refused entry to a bathroom appropriate to her gender during Pridefest '97. As we understand it, she was refused entry to the women's bathrooms and when told to use the men's bathrooms was refused entry there as well.

Pridefest is the last place we should expect gender police patrolling the imaginary boundaries created by society's obsession with bipolar gender categories. Although a Transsexual woman was the victim this time, it could just as well be a butch Lesbian, a mannish appearing woman or a feminine appearing man, the next.

As for the issue of documentation, Heterosexuals are not required to carry and show documentation to prove they are heterosexual males or females. Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexual men and women are not required to carry documentation to certify their orientation or their gender. Self-identification is sufficient for them. Self-identification is sufficient for transsexuals. We will not participate in our own discrimination.

In short, we ask that you either require documentation of everyone using the bathrooms or no one. Use the park police when there is a disturbance in the bathrooms - not to bust bladders.

Debra A. Johnson,
Cofacilitator, It's Time Wisconsin
Milwaukee

Thanks CCF

TO THE EDITOR:

Of the many great articles in *The Wisconsin Light* (July 31-August 13), I would like to comment on two: "PFLAG and Other Gay Leaders Meet with Clinton" regarding "safe space" for all young people in schools and the community; and the Cream City Foundation Fundraiser, including the tribute you paid to CCF.

I thought your readers might like to know that PFLAG-Milwaukee has been involved for more than two years with the Milwaukee Public Schools Task Force on GLBT issues to Create a Safe Climate in Schools for Students and Staff. On March 4, 1997, all MPS principals—elementary, middle and high school—received a resource notebook followed in April by a letter from PFLAG-Milwaukee offering a variety of opportunities (inservices, videos, panels, books, etc.), to help as needed in each school.

Some schools have already begun at act. On September 26th, a "Safe Climate" presentation will be made to MPS Guidance Counselors, Social Workers and Psychologists. In addition, PFLAG materials and similar offers regarding creating a "Safe Climate" have been sent to the principals of 40 suburban high schools, with follow-up to occur in the fall.

PFLAG-Milwaukee joins *The Wisconsin Light* in publicly acknowledging its contribution to the community and to thank the Cream City Foundation for awarding us a grant this year so that we can carry out our educational projects.

Our PFLAG brochures are excellent (but expensive) and the grant is making it possible for us to gradually expand our outreach. It is through education that we will find safety and equality.

Please See Letters Page 31

Read All About It
On the Web

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August 28th Issue
Articles Friday, Aug. 8th
Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Aug. 22nd
Camera Ready—Aug. 25th
5:00 p.m.

September 11th Issue
Articles—Sept. 5th
Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Sept. 5th
Camera Ready—Sept. 8th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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The Wisconsin Light



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St. Camillus Plans Retreats; Needs Caring People as Volunteers

Milwaukee—St. Camillus-Durward's Glen Retreat is accepting reservations for retreats scheduled to be held in August and September.

Durward's Glen is sponsored by the Order of St. Camillus and offers a place for quiet relaxation and reflection. Located in the beautiful Baraboo bluffs, the center is only 90 minutes from Milwaukee, 30 minutes from Madison.

Upcoming weekend programs include: August 17-22—"Walks in the Woods—Words from the Wind." Lovers of nature will be encouraged to capture their experiences on paper.

September 12-14—"Step-Parenting, Step Families."

September 19-21—"Interpreting nature in watercolor"

September 19-21—"Motherhood: A Sacred Journey."

September 23-25—"Cancer & Hope: Developing a Battle Plan."

September 26-28—"Exploring your Dreams"

September 26-28—"Reuniting with Nature."

For more information, call 1-800-756-9415 or (608) 356-8113.

AIDS Retreat

Wisconsin women living with HIV disease will come together Sept. 5-7 to explore spiritual, physical and emotional issues of life with HIV/AIDS.

The retreat is sponsored by St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, SET Ministry, Visiting Nurses of Wisconsin, ARCW and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The retreat is offered free of charge to eligible participants. Financial sponsors are still being sought. Donations can be made payable to: St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry and mailed to: 10101 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

To register, call Jennifer at MAP: (414) 225-1574 or 1-800-359-9272, ext. 274.

Volunteers Needed

If you have an interest in working with persons living with HIV/AIDS, opportunities are available now at St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry and Marian Catholic Home. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Transportation: Provide transportation to appointments, support groups, etc. Must have valid driver's license and insurance.

Emotional/Spiritual Support: Provide one-on-one support to a person living with HIV/AIDS in their own home, in the St.

Camillus Health Center (10101 W. Wisconsin Ave.), or at Marian Catholic Home (33rd and Highland).

Bereavement: Provide spiritual support to persons grieving the loss of loved ones due to AIDS.

Children's Closet: Organize donated clothes, toys, etc., and schedule appointments for families to visit and select items from the Closet at St. Camillus Campus.

Special Events: Assist in preparation and/or on the day of events such as picnics, retreats, etc.

Participation in volunteer training sessions is required. The next scheduled training for placements at St. Camillus and Marian Catholic is for Thursday, Sept. 11th, and Thursday, Sept. 18th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Camillus. To fill out an application and/or register for training, please call Karen at (414) 259-4664 by Friday, Sept. 3rd.

Medical College's Holtgrave to Head CDC's HIV/AIDS Prevention Division

Milwaukee—David R. Holtgrave, Ph.D., a faculty member at the Medical College of Wisconsin, has been named the new Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention-Intervention Research and Support at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In his new position, Holtgrave will supervise the division responsible for funding for most CDC-sponsored HIV prevention programs in the U.S. In addition, he will oversee the evaluation of HIV

prevention programs and ensure that community services receive appropriate technical assistance.

Holtgrave has spent the past two years as an associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine at the Medical College's Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR). He specializes in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

"Dr. Holtgrave has a proven record of excellence in HIV prevention research, especially the economic evaluation of prevention programs. His expertise lends itself perfectly to his new position at the CDC," said Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., director of CAIR and a professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine.

Holtgrave believes his experience at CAIR and in Wisconsin has helped prepare him for his move to the CDC. "I've had the opportunity to review data on the effectiveness of HIV prevention interventions, focusing on effective interventions developed at CAIR and gaining perspective on interventions nationwide. In addition, my involvement with the Wisconsin HIV Prevention Community Planning Council gave me insight into the practical issues that planning agencies face when developing prevention strategies," Holtgrave said.

Since 1996, Holtgrave has been a member of the planning group, which provides the state with community input about distribution of federal HIV prevention funds.

Holtgrave, along with Kelly, was awarded the C. Everett Koop National Health Award in 1996. In addition, Holtgrave received a U.S. Public Health Service Special Recognition Award in 1995. He has written and co-authored more than 70 journal articles and other publications.

Prior to joining the faculty of the Medical College, Holtgrave worked at the CDC from 1993 to 1995 as the acting assistant director for behavioral science. He earned

his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign with a major in quantitative psychology.

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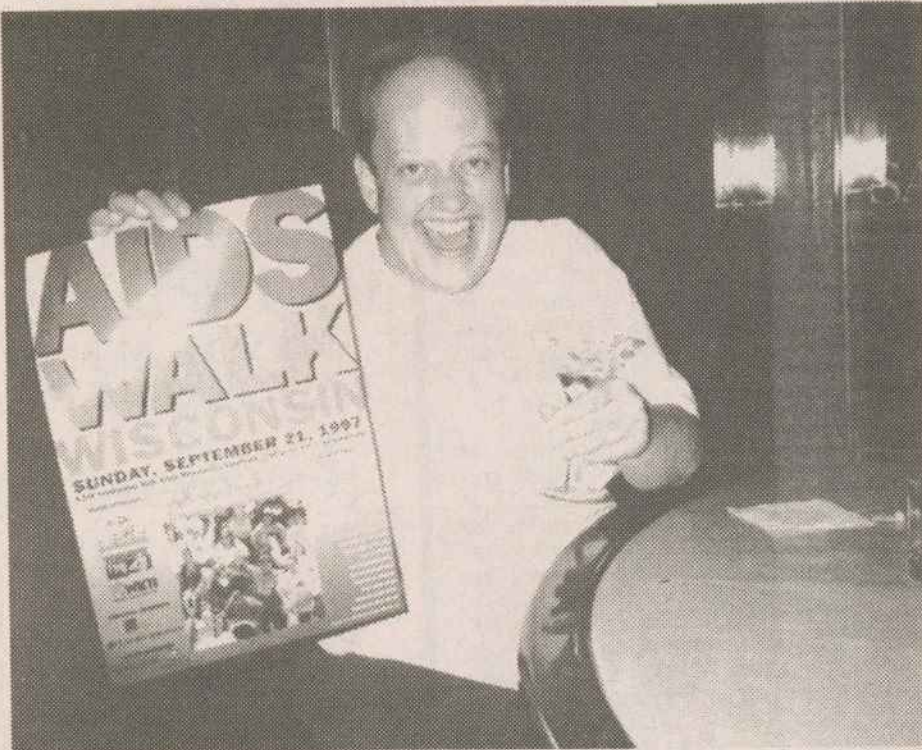
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Toasting A Success - Dean Dayton owner of Sheboygan's Blue Lite bar toasts all those who are participating in this year's Bar Competition for AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Third Annual Gay & Lesbian Bar Competition in High Gear for AIDS Walk

Milwaukee—Register for AIDS Walk Wisconsin as a member of your favorite bar's Walk team and help them win the third annual Gay and Lesbian bar competition. Last year the friendly competition among Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian bars raised over \$20,000 with more than 500 individuals participating.

New for 1997

Roland Hoffmann, will be organizing the statewide bar competition for 1997's AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Hoffmann will be working closely with the bar team captains to organize their team registration through special registration nights at your favorite bars across Wisconsin.

"I look forward to this year's expanded friendly competition," said Hoffmann. "Not only will it bring the community together across the state, it is for a great cause—the fight against AIDS."

Walk organizers are certain this year will be even more successful with several new bars across the state signing up for the competition.

The three bars raising the most money for the 1996 Walk were M&M/\$4,701, Blue Lite/\$4,394 and Mama Roux/\$2,910. Other bars that participated last year include Club 219, Fannies, In Between, Just Us, Kathy's Nut Hut, This Is It, The Triangle and Wreck Room.

This year, bars from across the state are urged to participate. Some new bars already signed on for 1997 are Geraldines/Men's Room in Madison, Ozone in Wausau and Napalese Lounge in Green Bay.

Join the Fun and Raise Funds for AIDS Walk Wisconsin

More than 5,500 people and 915 teams have already registered to participate in the eighth annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Coretta Scott King to Receive NGLTF's "Honoring Our Allies" Award

Washington, DC—Human Rights activist Coretta Scott King will be honored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) for her efforts on behalf of Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons in the struggle for civil and human rights. Mrs. King will receive the "Honoring Our Allies" award from NGLTF at an awards ceremony to be held on September 15, 1997 in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. King, founder of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, has been a strong advocate for peace and justice through non-violent action across the nation and throughout the world.

She has been outspoken on Lesbian and Gay issues for years and has appeared at press conferences and pride rallies throughout the country. She has often spoken of the Lesbians and Gay men who were involved in the civil rights movement all throughout its history, notably Bayard Rustin, the organizer of the famous 1963 March On Washington, at which Dr. King gave his famous I Have A Dream speech.

Most recently, Mrs. King has spoken in support of legislation in Congress that would make it illegal to fire someone on the basis of sexual orientation. The bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Sunday, September 21, beginning on the Summerfest grounds. AIDS Walk Wisconsin is produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. and benefits 18 AIDS education and service providers throughout the state.

In addition to the prizes available to individual walkers, the Gay and Lesbian bar competition features a grand prize of two round trip tickets to any United Airlines destination in the 48 contiguous states for the bar team member who turns in the most amount of money on September 21. The top three teams raising the most money will be recognized, and a certificate will be awarded to the top team captain.

So, be sure to register for AIDS Walk Wisconsin at your favorite bar. If they do not already have a team started, encourage them to start a team or consider being the bar's team captain yourself. For Walk information or to be added to a team roster, you can call 800-348-WALK or visit us online at www.arcw.org.

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Sponsors of the event include Miller Brewing Company, TODAY'S TMJ4, 94 WKTI, Wisconsin Energy Corporation, United Airlines, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Aurora Health Care, P & C Media, Inc., Oneida Nation/Oneida Bingo & Casino, Cellular One, National Association of Theater Owners of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Ace Chemical Products, Inc., American Family Mutual Insurance, Bank One, Blockbuster Entertainment, Mortgage Guarantee Investment Corporation, Pick 'n Save Supermarkets, Starbucks Coffee, Time Insurance/A Fortis Company, Aveda-Salon Systems, Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc., Humana Health Care Plans and Lab Safety Supply, Inc.

"Mrs. King has been a tremendous ally in the effort to achieve fairness for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people" said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director. "She truly embodies what this award is about and we're very honored that she will be here with us as we celebrate her thirty-plus year commitment to the principles of equality for all people. The vision of she and Dr. King in the civil rights movement has set the standard for fighting back with dignity. They demanded that this nation examine its core principles and their struggle has created the handbook for human rights movements that followed."

John J. Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO will also be given an Honoring Our Allies award. Sweeney will be honored for his efforts to further include Lesbians and Gays in the labor movement. He has been involved in the labor movement for over thirty-five years and is the former president of the Service Employees International Union.

The Mautner Project, this year's third honoree, is a service organization for Lesbians with cancer. The project, named for Mary-Helen Mautner who died of breast cancer in 1989 offers a variety of direct services, support and outreach and education.

The Mautner Project was formed in 1990 in Washington, D.C.

Don't be a Chicken; Join This Year's Wisconsin AIDS Walk

Commentary by Ted Berg
a.k.a. T-Burger, the Clown

My best friend is T-Burger, the clown. Each year he drags me to AIDS Walk Wisconsin. I help him and thousands of walkers across the street by St. Mary's Hospital. You could say I'm very instrumental in the safety of the walkers.

Everyone knows me. I even received honorable mention at MAP's Volunteer Dinner. When people see me they smile, some giggle, others laugh out loud. Yes, I was the trouble maker at the Walk in 1995.

Well, they didn't have a T-shirt in my size, prompting me to write a formal protest. In 1996, I was really upset that they had a dog sign-in sheet and I had none. Again, I had to lodge an official protest for not being allowed to sign in.

T-Burger was telling me about the need AIDS Walk Wisconsin has for our continued help. Sometimes I am such a bird brain. I hear the President commit to a vaccine in ten years.

I hear of new drug combinations and positive results. I have a false sense of optimism about a disease being licked by modern science. That just is not true.

AIDS is still a pandemic afflicting 16,000 people in Wisconsin. One out of every 250 people in the US is infected with HIV. AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans aged 25-44.

My time, talents, and funds are needed to make the lives easier for people who are infected with HIV and AIDS. 18 agencies benefit from this one day fund raiser. In a lot of agencies this gives them the largest part of their budgets.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin provides many services with the money raised from the Walk: over 13,000 men, women, and children with HIV received case management and support services in the last year. 5,612.5 bags of food were prepared and deliveries were made to 592 consumers from January to May of 1997. Many other services are provided that are too numerous to recount here.

This year the Walk is on September 21st starting at the Summerfest Grounds. There will be a lot of fun. You can meet other caring people. You can bring your family.

There's lots of good food. I recommend the BEEF DISHES. ARCW needs people

to volunteer the day of the event and do registration at festivals before the Walk.

We need walkers to raise the money. Possibly start a team at work. Best of all you'll see me! Lo Cal, T-Burger's Rubber Chicken. I'm the smart looking one helping walkers cross the road to get to the other side. The orange haired person is T-Burger.

Yes, if I share this joke I'll get a spanking from T-Burger. You only live once! Besides T-Burger hits like a wimp.

Why did the Chicken cross the road? To raise money for AIDS, of course. See you there. Don't be a chicken! For information call 800 348-WALK or check out ARCW's new website www.arcw.org.

Volunteer the day of the event and do registration.

HRL Seeking Nominees

Milwaukee—The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL) is once again going to present the National Coming Out Day Awards, during this year's Public Officials Reception which will be held on October 9, 1997. These awards are designed to recognize efforts of those who are promoting and who reflect a positive LGBT image through participation in our community.

HRL is asking members of the community to submit nominees for these awards. Nominees must be "out" and have been active in our community 3 years or less.

The categories for nomination are: Individual person; Business; and Organization.

The name of the nominee(s) must be in writing. The following information must be included: Nominee's address and phone number; Nominator's phone number; Reason(s) for nomination.

All nominations must be sent by September 15, 1997. Send nominations to: Human Rights League, c/o Awards Committee, P.O. Box 92674, Milwaukee, WI 53202.



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Fannies

True Extent of AIDS Pandemic Begins to Be Recognized in China

Linxia, China—Coral from Taiwan, rugs from Xinjiang, knives from Inner Mongolia, the trade goods of centuries, line the tidy, brimming shops in Linxia's bazaar.

Behind the far-flung traffic in exotic wares that long kept this Muslim trading town in western China prosperous now sinks a more modern commodity, heroin, and with it, AIDS.

On the back of a flourishing drug trade, AIDS has crept up an ancient caravan route linking China's Southeast Asian border to its remote frontier with Central Asia. Along the way, the virus has hit tens of thousands of China's most vulnerable, disaffected people: poor minorities on the fringes of Chinese-dominated society.

The epidemic is a silent one, officially. Its scope and the identity of its victims have shocked Chinese health policy makers and confounded communist leaders nervous about ethnic rebellion.

Little has been said in the state-run media about the outbreak. Western AIDS experts working with the government fear little is being done, even though Chinese officials had time to prepare.

"Government leaders think it's not a thing to be proud of, people having that kind of habit or behavior are bad. Good people don't get this," said Zhang Konglai, a professor of epidemiology at Beijing Union Medical College and an AIDS education campaigner.

AIDS incubated on China's border with Burma for five years starting in 1990. The confined epidemic ravaged hill tribes in four counties in Yunnan province as members turned to the heroin pouring across the border and, out of poverty and ignorance, shared needles.

In 1995, the virus went north with the drugs. Within a year, HIV began tearing through heroin users in Xinjiang, China's northwesternmost region 1,500 miles north of Burma.

"It's an epidemic," said Zheng Xiwen, the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine professor who runs the government's AIDS monitoring program.

No one in Xinjiang tested positive for HIV in 1995. By the end of last year, nearly one in four drug addicts out of a sample of 400 did, Zheng said.

He refused to estimate how many people in Xinjiang may be infected. But a Western specialist familiar with the testing data said they may number as many as 50,000, a third of all addicts in Xinjiang and the largest number in the country. Many are Uighurs, a Muslim minority grown restive under Chinese rule.

The source of the virus is not in doubt. Zheng said the strain of the virus, known as HIV-C, matches that found along the Burma border and is distinct from varieties detected in Xinjiang's Central Asian neighbors.

An AIDS epidemic also has struck the Yi, another desperately poor minority living in hilly Sichuan province, according to a U.N. agency report, a draft of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The Yi straddle the trade route that for centuries brought tea and gems up from Yunnan and Southeast Asia and horses and knives down from north China and Central Asia.

That route goes through Linxia, a legendary commercial hub in a fertile valley in Gansu province 500 miles north of the Yi and 750 miles west of Beijing. It now is a notorious drug trafficking center that AIDS experts fear will be the virus' next target.

"Linxia is one of China's heroin hot spots," said Ma Weimin, a grain trader working out of one of Linxia's bustling markets. "It's in all the villages. It's everywhere."

Linxia's dominant Muslim community, from the Hui minority, is as famous for skill in trade as for the Islamic ferment that earned the town the nickname "Little Mecca."

Dozens of mosques, some with the curved roofs of Chinese temples, others with the onion domes of Arabia and many newly built make the low skyline stand out against brown, arid hills. All attest to the wealth trade has brought Linxia.

Shops along the clean main bazaar burst with trade trinkets: coral beads from Taiwan, incense from India, turquoise from East China, carpets from Pakistan and fox furs from Tibetan lands. Saddles, swords and holsters give off a frontier atmosphere.

Everyone is involved in trade, according to merchants, truck drivers, restaurant owners and retired officials. Everyone knows the drugs come from Yunnan, although no one interviewed admitted to being involved. No one has heard about AIDS.

"Outsiders, people from Linxia too, are all bringing it in because they can make money," said one resident who identified himself only as "Ma," the most common Hui surname.

Migrants from Xinjiang living in Linxia were cagey about their knowledge of the drug trafficking. When pressed, one said they trade everything; they have to to make a living.

"The illegal trade follows the legal trade," said Dru Gladney, an expert on China's Muslim communities at the University of Hawaii. "It's all kinds of trade, not just drugs."

Police plastered Linxia with notices of a drug crackdown in March, part of a nationwide crusade. New posters were put up in mid-June warning drug offenders of stiffer penalties and that family members and businesses could be considered accomplices.

"Police have set up checkpoints around Linxia," said one driver, also surnamed Ma. "No matter how many people they catch, there's no end."

Linxia has so far avoided an AIDS epidemic, because heroin is so cheap that users smoke rather than inject it. But if the police succeed in making supplies scarce, addicts will turn to needles, said Zhang Konglai, the Beijing Union epidemiologist.

China's AIDS epidemic so far fits the pattern of the outbreak in Thailand, said Emile Fox, director of the China office for UNAIDS, the U.N. agency coordinating AIDS eradication.

AIDS first struck Thailand's drug users and then spread to prostitutes, their clients, women and finally babies, Fox said.

Thailand has an estimated 750,000 HIV cases. Officially, China has 5,157 people infected with HIV, 133 with full-blown AIDS, but officials guess HIV infections may be nearer to 100,000. Fox believes the real figure may be three times higher.

Fox and other experts suspect a growing sex trade, not needle sharing, will cause China's worst and most widespread epidemic, although testing has so far failed to confirm their fears.

Even though China's first AIDS case was discovered 12 years ago, the government is still reluctant to discuss its AIDS problems in detail publicly.

Ministry of Health officials refused to discuss the epidemic in Xinjiang. Likewise the Xinjiang government could not provide specifics on the epidemic and efforts to fight it. Officials with Xinjiang's government and its state-run television said, on condition of anonymity, that almost nothing has been reported.

An outbreak among the Uighurs is an especially frightening and sensitive prospect for Chinese leaders.

The Uighurs, one of many Turkic-speaking, Muslim groups that are a majority in Xinjiang, have never fully submitted to Chinese rule. They are also highly mobile, with large communities in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and other major cities.

In the absence of information about the epidemic, rumors have spread of government plots and fanned concerns about domination by the Han Chinese. Uighurs fear that Han Chinese, migrating in large numbers, are taking the best jobs and that strict government control is wrecking the practice of Islam. As a result, they feel marginal.

"They have become a natural population to be involved in that (the drug trade)," said Gladney, the expert on Chinese Muslims. "Chinese officials ... are creating an underclass that's not participating in the system."



Raising fun and funds—A great time was had by all at Breastfest held outside Fannies bar on Sunday August 10th. At the top are some clowns outside the Silent Auction tent. Next are some of the wonderful volunteers cooking up some great food. In the middle are two zealous "deputies" working the jail. At the bottom is a group waiting to race. The event raised over \$6,000 to fight Breast Cancer.

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AIDS Grows in Thai Sex Industry; Number of Deaths Continues to Climb

Lopburi, Thailand—These are the last minutes of Supan Banyam's life. Covered with flies and agony, she cries: "I'm already dead."

Her body, ravaged by full-blown AIDS, is motionless. Her lungs cease to function. Her skeletal fingers, tightly clasped in the healthy hand of a Peace Corps volunteer, go limp. With seeming indifference, she is pronounced dead. Lids are lowered on dead eyes.

These are her last rites: No one speaks. Lunch is served to other patients who will surely die soon, while Supan's orifices are packed with cotton to prevent seepage of contaminated blood.

Just before her body is shoved into a crematory, a Buddhist monk ceremoniously pours water over her hand, where deep pink orchids rest between bony fingers.

"Our Buddha teaches us that we must live together with kindness and mercy," says Phra Alongkot Tikhapanyo, the monk who runs the AIDS hospice on the grounds of a Buddhist temple outside Lopburi, a city 75 miles north of Bang-

kok.

With an accepting attitude towards male promiscuity and as many as 2 million prostitutes, Thailand's huge commercial sex industry is creating a population of walking dead. It is estimated that more than 750,000 Thais are infected with the AIDS virus.

The hospice is where those in the final, ghastly stages of AIDS come to die with dignity.

Simple fiberboard coffins are stacked closely by the temple's main hall. In the first five months of 1997, 133 men and 22 women died here.

Phra Alongkot founded the hospice at Phra Baat Nam Phru temple in 1992 with three patients.

It wasn't an easy beginning. Within the first two weeks the other eight monks at the temple left, fearing they too would become sick with AIDS. He was criticized by local residents.

Fear and ignorance of AIDS is why even today in Thailand most people infected with the virus are shunned by family, friends and society as a whole, says

Brooke Alison Shippee, a Peace Corps volunteer from Marlborough, Massachusetts.

About 135 patients live at the temple. A thousand more visit for outpatient care.

The main building, housing 40 people with full-blown AIDS, is surrounded by Thai-style bungalows where less critically ill patients stay. One full-time nurse and several volunteers tend to the patients.

Seven Buddhist monks attend to spiritual needs and perform last rites. Most of the monks are infected with the AIDS virus themselves, some who scandalously engaged in sex as monks and some who became monks after getting infected.

The high-priced medicinal cocktails that extend the lives and lessen the symptoms of AIDS sufferers in wealthy nations aren't available at the hospice. Some solace comes from traditional medicines and hot herbal massages to ease the pain.

But when a patient comes to Phra Baat Nam Phru temple, it is usually too late anyway. It is a place for the dying.

There is prayer, meditation and the comfort of a sanctuary where for a brief time they are blessed with kindness and relative peace.

Then they die, and others arrive to take their place.



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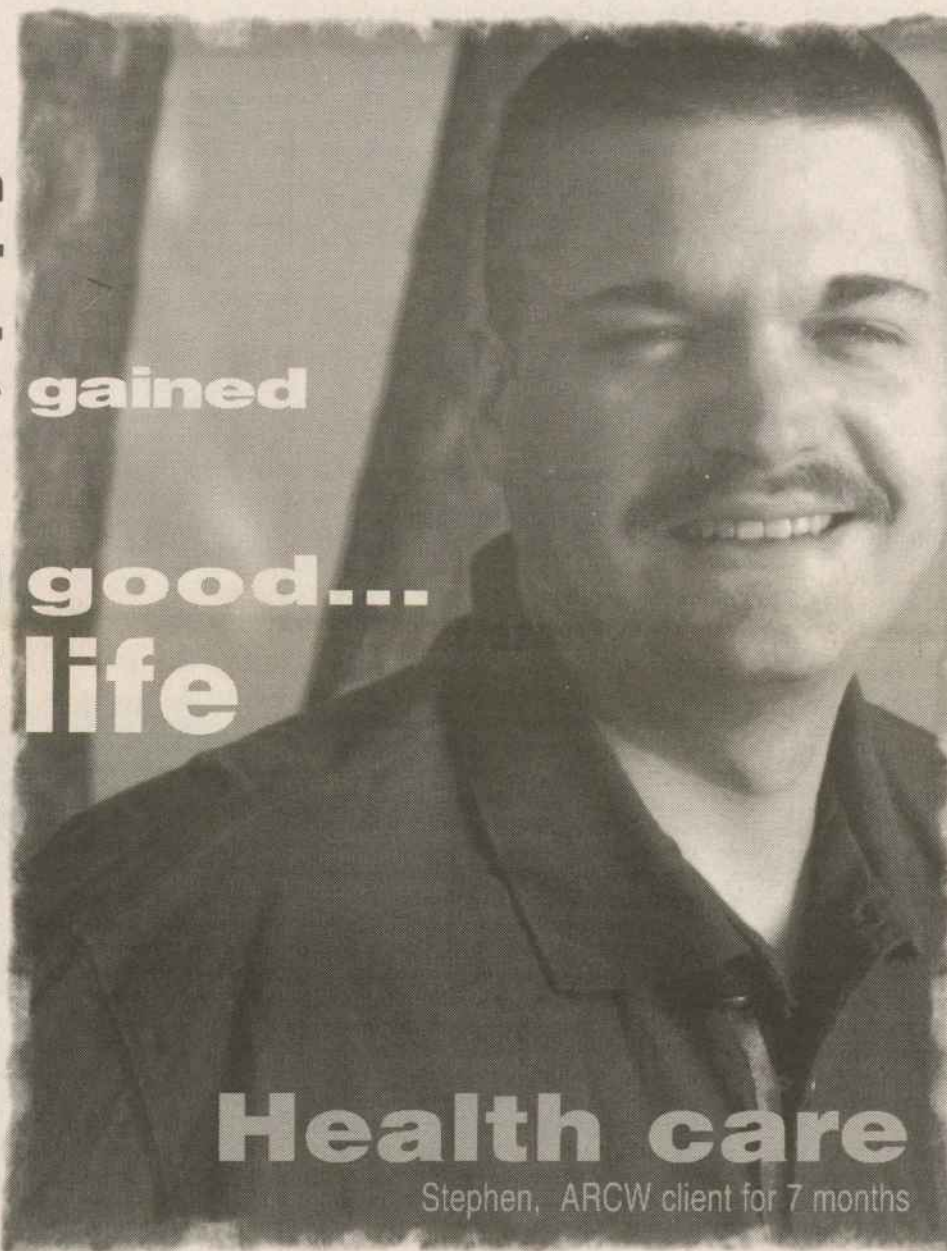


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Family Values; a Look at Pride and the Unifying Power of Love

Commentary by Reverend Ted Berg
 In pursuit of my responsibilities as a minister, I recently traveled to Green Bay to baptize twin girls. Most ministers talk about family and their value to society. Many ministers never really define family when speaking. Being a bit anal retentive, I decided to ponder the issue of what is a family?

The dictionary defines it as: a fundamental social unit in society consisting of a man and a woman and their offspring, who share a common ancestry.

I thought of what was the essence of a family? What held it together in good times, as well as bad? What is the essential building block of the thing we call family?

Like most people can attest to, it is a simple word called love. Our Bible says, "God is love. He, who abides in love, abides in God."

A family built on love has an invisible member called God to protect it. Christianity is based on the life of Jesus, who on the day before He was to die, took His friends together and shared the heart of His teachings in two sentences: "Love one another as I have loved you. No greater love then a man (or woman) lay down his (her) life for a friend."

Now I took that ideal and looked at the two families gathered with friends to baptize Maya Basha and Sierra Ray. The family members all brought a plate to pass.

(I thought it was a LESBIAN Tradition only.)

There were brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles mothers and grandmother there to show their love by their presents. The parents came from Polish and American Indian ancestry.

Maya and Sierra have a brother who was a problem child in school and is now an honors student. Dennis is even becoming a Camp Counselor for disabled children. He proudly shared the sign language he learned at the family celebration. His success is due to the love he received from his adoptive parents. No small part of his triumph is he worked hard to get there. It was and is a cooperative effort, a family endeavor for excellence, and thus took a bit of time to achieve.

The godparents by example showed they understood love. Three have been in love partnerships for 5 years and one for 7 years. They were a bit refreshing.

The parents had gone over all their responsibilities with them. I don't want you to think I had a baptism at Ward and June Cleaver of "Leave it to Beaver" fame. They all had disagreements, fights and stress but love tempered their hard times into something beautiful. It was a joy to be there to celebrate.

What is different about our family is the parents are two men. Mark Madison tends to be the stricter of the two. Lorretta La

Mour is the pussy cat of the couple, although the volume of her voice was always to be reckoned with.

I knew I was a part of the family when the voice from on high instructed me on what she wanted done. I immediately complied. Would you cross a Drag Queen? Lorretta was Miss Gay Wisconsin a few years ago.

June and Ward Cleaver didn't have godparents like Maya and Sierra have. Ted and his lover, Aaron, were the first set of godparents. Victoria with her lover, Annie, at her side was one of the second set of godparents. Joel was the last godparent, with Neely O'Hare sharing his lover's joy at this special occasion.

Is everyone confused with the pronouns I've used in the last couple of sentences? To sum it up, 3 Gay men and 1 Lesbian were godparents to the twins.

The Religious Right would want all three children to be placed back with their biological parents or in a foster home, so they wouldn't be tainted by our sexuality.

The truth is they were up for adoption because the biological parent put them there. A Foster Home is a joke. Would they get more love than they have in Mark and Lorretta's household? I think not!

When you hear the twins call Lorretta mom and get very upset when she doesn't respond at once, they scream her name till she comes over. Lorretta is their mother.

Mark's eyes light up as do theirs when they see one another. He is their father and anyone can see the love if they're not blinded by hatred.

Jesus cured the blind. My prayer is that His love remove the scales of hate from the eyes of the fundamentalist. Let us evaluate people by the love they have and not by what they may wear or who they choose to love.

Let that same love define the American Family. Let's shake the Religious Right a bit more. The godparents also have a family with their commitment to one another first, then to the twins.

In closing I'd like to quote St. Paul from the first letter to the Corinthians: A family or "Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails."

Let us evaluate people by the love they have for each other.



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Nine Wisconsinites Attend Log Cabin National Convention in Washington

By James L. McFarland

Milwaukee—We have just returned from the annual Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) national convention, held this year in Washington, D.C. It was the largest meeting of Gay Republicans ever held. Over 300 Republican Lesbians and Gays were in attendance, and Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin was well represented with nine members attending.

We were treated to a number of nationally known and respected speakers, including Gay author Michelangelo Signorile, former Wisconsinite and Gay activist Jamie Nabozny, Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), and Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), the only openly Gay Republican member of Congress.

The activities began with a briefing on Capitol Hill held the morning after the House GOP's closed-door meeting focusing on the failed attempt to oust Speaker Gingrich. We were privileged to hear all about the meeting before much reached the press from the following members of Congress: Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT), Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA), Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD), Rep. Rick Lazio (R-NY), Rep. Tom Campbell (R-CA), Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY), Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-PA), and Rep. Jon Fox (R-PA).

They also discussed the budget deal, AIDS funding, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and FDA reform.

At the banquet that evening, Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) received the Spirit of Lincoln Award for his leadership on equal rights and AIDS funding, and gave an emotional speech about the discrimination that his Italian-American family faced a generation ago. He spoke of his uncle, who anglicized his name to find employment, and his father who kept his name and suffered discrimination.

Drawing a parallel to Lesbians and Gays who face the choice between the closet and coming out, he reiterated his support for allowing Lesbians and Gays to serve openly in the military and for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, of which he is an original cosponsor.

Senator D'Amato represents something that is still unusual in Washington, D.C. (though not so unusual here in Wisconsin): a conservative, pro-life Republican who opposes discrimination against Lesbians and Gays. Members of Log Cabin Republicans were pleased to raise around \$10,000 for Senator D'Amato's reelection campaign.

Noted author Michelangelo Signorile spoke to us during a luncheon about his latest book **LIFE OUTSIDE: The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscles and the Passages of Life**—a critique of the Gay circuit party culture and its consequences for the Gay community, as well as a celebration of those who have formed monogamous relationships and have settled down outside the party atmosphere that pervades the community.

In his speech, Signorile warned that the Gay and Lesbian community must confront the problems which created this sub-

culture, and work to prevent a surge in HIV infection and drug addiction among the next generation of Gay men.

State Rep. Chuck Carpenter (R-OR), the openly Gay legislator who shut down the Oregon House to force a vote on an employment non-discrimination bill, accepted the LCR Leadership Award at the convention banquet. Carpenter spoke of the long days spent planning and executing his strategy for Oregon ENDA in the state House, and the impact that the experience had on him personally.

Youth activist—and Gay Republican—Jamie Nabozny accepted the Courage of Lincoln Award for his successful fight against the Ashland, Wisconsin public school district which permitted anti-Gay harassment and abuse against him when he was a student.

In his remarks, Nabozny commented that while touring the country speaking on his fight against intolerance for being Gay, he has faced intolerance from Lesbians and Gays over the fact that he is Republican.

The keynote address was given by Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), the only openly Gay GOP Congressman, who delivered his first speech before a national Gay and Lesbian organization. He spoke movingly of the events leading to his coming out last year, telling the story of a distinguished career in public service as a leader on a wide array of issues faced with the prospect of a simplified label: "the Gay Congressman".

"I was simply reasserting myself as the Congressman from Arizona's Fifth District, the acknowledged Republican leader for free trade and open markets, the new advocate of Social Security reform, the proponent of less government, lower taxes and more individual responsibility," Kolbe said. "Oh yes, I happened to be a Gay person too. But being Gay was not—and is not today—my defining persona."

Kolbe also laid out his vision for the Lesbian/Gay movement for the first time in a public forum. Bringing the crowd to its feet several times, he excoriated both the Gay Left and its control of the movement's direction, and the fundamentalist Christian movement within the Republican Party.

"We must not let the religious fundamentalists use 'morality' as a cudgel against us," he emphasized.

But he also asked, "Why are [Gay Democrats, who are] committed to expanding government control over our lives in housing and education, who would nibble at our freedom through use and abuse of the tax code and regulatory system—why, how, are they presumed to speak for Gay rights?"

"What distortion of the definition of freedom and liberty has given them unfiltered access to the megaphone to trumpet the views of Gays?" Kolbe asked.

"Why are the ones committed to expanding government control over our lives in housing and education—why, how, are they presumed to speak for Gay rights?"

"We are a minority within the Republican Party when we think of ourselves as Gays," Kolbe said. "But when we other

Log Cabin Republicans Praise Rep. Porter's Leadership in AIDS Funding Fight

Milwaukee—Log Cabin Republicans applauds Rep. John Porter (R-IL) for the \$132 million increase he has steered through his subcommittee for the Ryan White CARE Act's AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

"Chairman Porter has shown true humanitarian leadership where the Clinton Administration has only offered lofty rhetoric," observed Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR).

Porter, chairman of the House Labor/HHS appropriations subcommittee, and the Republican controlled subcommittee, approved a \$132 million increase for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program in Ryan White Title II is in crisis around the nation as more patients are seeking access to a combination of breakthrough drugs. Many states have either stopped accepting new patients into the program or imposed lotteries for determining who will have access to the drugs because of a lack of funding.

Despite this crisis, the Clinton Administration shocked the AIDS community by offering no increase for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. It was incumbent upon Log Cabin Republicans to work with the Republican Labor/HHS appropriations subcommittee to secure the necessary in-

crease in funding.

Praising the subcommittee's action, Jim Driscoll, national AIDS policy advisor to the Log Cabin AIDS Policy Institute, observed: "Many politicians would have used the Clinton Administration's lack of leadership on AIDS as an excuse not to increase the Ryan White CARE Act's funding. In what many have dubbed a "do-nothing" Congress, Chairman Porter has really done something important that will literally save lives."

Tafel, Log Cabin's executive director, agreed: "Who would have believed a few years ago that Republicans would be teaching Democrats a lesson about compassion for people with AIDS. The only thing worse than the Clinton Administration's lack of leadership on this issue is the lack of criticism against the White House from AIDS and Gay organizations who have so visibly supported this President."

Log Cabin Republicans was the only Lesbian/Gay organization to testify this year before the House Labor/HHS appropriations subcommittee in support of appropriate AIDS funding.

LCR has been lobbying Republicans in Congress to ensure proper access to the new breakthrough therapies for all Americans, which is the organization's number one AIDS funding priority.

Americans who won't be identified with a party, all those who do not want the government telling them what to do, then we are a majority. When we understand this simple fact and act like majority Republicans, we will win."

The convention ended with the adoption of resolutions calling for the GOP to remove anti-Gay planks from the party platform and for state legislatures to repeal antiquated sodomy laws. Delegates also voted to commend the GOP leadership on AIDS funding and advancing employment non-discrimination legislation, and called on "non-partisan" national Gay and Lesbian organizations to endorse Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) for re-election in 1998.

One resolution on abortion rights, which engendered considerable debate, called on the GOP "to officially take a neutral stance on the issue of choice". Supporters of the resolution made it clear that its passage would not alter LCR's neutral position on abortion, and that the organization would continue to be equally inclusive of pro-choice and pro-life Lesbians and Gays.

This was a fitting statement for an organization which has dedicated itself to "Building the Big Tent" within the Republican Party, and LCR activists came away from the convention re-energized and ready to continue that fight.

Same-Sex Marriage Coming Sooner than Many Think, Lawyer Says

Denver—Gays and Lesbians may be able to obtain civil marriage licenses alongside heterosexual couples sooner than many think, said an expert attending the Colorado Bar Association convention.

"Some state is going to go first, most likely Hawaii, in issuing same-sex licenses, and some states will respect and honor it, while others won't, starting waves of litigation," said lawyer Evan Wolfson, who successfully argued the first same-sex challenge before the Hawaii Supreme Court.

At a workshop Thursday, August 7, Wolfson said the issue would likely carve the United States into a patchwork in which a couple could get arrested after crossing certain state borders.

That's how it used to work with divorce, he said.

Wolfson said people used to go to Nevada to get divorced, but later learned their divorce was not recognized in their home state.

"But we're going to get to the point where everybody's citizenship and marriage is treated equally," he said.

Wolfson compared the same-sex marriage issue to other once-banned unions, including post-divorce remarriage and interracial marriage.

The California Supreme Court was the first to strike down prohibitions on interracial marriages in 1928.

"It took another 20 years for interracial marriage to get to the U.S. Supreme Court," Wolfson said.

Wolfson said same-sex couples want the legal right to marry because of significant benefits, including tax breaks, spousal insurance coverage, child custody rights, even being counted as family when visiting a hospitalized partner.

Since 1995, Colorado lawmakers twice have killed bills to void same-sex marriages sealed in other states. Although there is not an office anywhere in the U.S. that issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples, 25 states already have passed laws to ban or nullify such unions.

A move to do the same thing in Wisconsin, passed the Assembly, but stalled in the Senate.

Wolfson and another attorney represent three Hawaii couples denied licenses when they tried to get married.

The couples sued, and in 1993 the state supreme court said the denial violated their constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

The Hawaii Supreme Court sent the case back to state court, saying the state must stop discriminating or show a reason why they should continue to deny same-sex marriage licenses.

At trial, the state lost, and a judge ordered the government to stop discriminating on the basis of sex when issuing marriage licenses.

The case is before the state supreme court again, and Wolfson is filing the same case on behalf of several couples in Vermont.

More than 700 attorneys are attending the Colorado Bar Association Convention, which continues through Saturday.



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Politically Speaking

Homophobia Is With Us in Many Forms

By Bill Meunier

The other day I was perusing some of my favorite sites on the Internet and I came across an item about a columnist by the name of Bill Morrison. Morrison writes for the *Rolla (Missouri) Daily News*.

It seems that Morrison wrote a column about the Cunanan episode. In this column Morrison writes "Cunanan's killing spree involved homosexual people he probably had had past relationships with. Which leads me to wonder, where's the downside to this story?"

Morrison goes on to conclude his column by saying "On reflection, I believe what happened was for the best. Cunanan is dead and he took along several people who were ultimately contributing to the erosion of the moral state of the country."

Before you rail about how such hate filled rhetoric is to be expected from the South consider what happened during the Anti-Gay Marriage hearings in Wausau earlier this year.

When a right wing bigot from Wisconsin got up and publicly called for the execution of Gays and Lesbians, he has congratulated on his statement by some of his fellow bigots.

Furthermore not one member of the Republican majority at that hearing said one word to him objecting to what he just said. The official record includes his call for our deaths and the silence of the majority party.

Now if I were to print this individual's name and address and suggest that he be summarily dispatched from this life, this column could well end up being discussed on nearly every Right Wing Christian talk show in the country.

Yet the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in reporting on that hearing mentioned the booing that took place when this person shared his beliefs, but said nothing about his call for our public executions. It was if our booing this man because he called for our deaths was some kind of outrageous act.

I was thinking about those two things

Lesbian Avengers Plan Day Out at Six Flags America

Chicago—Chicago Lesbian Avengers is calling for "A Day Out" at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois on Sunday, September 7th. The group and all who wish to join in will meet at the reflecting pool in front of the double-decker carousel at Noon.

Lesbian Avengers is contacting groups of all types: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, people living with AIDS, leather and others. They are contacting churches, family organizations, social groups, activist groups, bars, newspapers, and radio. They hope that this event will be an opportunity for many types to come together for a day of fun.

For more information, call (312) 409-3705; or dykes@mom.MageNet.com

Candle Light Vigil

The Lesbian Avengers will be having a candle light vigil in remembrance of Caitie Mahoney at the Belmont Rocks on Friday, August 22nd, at 8:00 p.m.

Mahoney was a founding member of the Baltimore, Maryland chapter of Lesbian Avengers. She was killed in a triple murder at a coffee shop in the Washington, D.C. area.

and then I thought about the treatment that Tammy Baldwin is receiving in the Madison area press. In reporting on her bid for Congress, the Madison area papers refer to her as "the Lesbian candidate."

Of course they don't refer to her opponents as "the heterosexual candidates." Apparently the *State Journal* and the *Capital Times* think that what some people do in the bedroom should be private what others do shouldn't be.

If they found out that Rick Phelps engaged in S & M sex with animals would they call him the "heterosexual S & M candidate?"

While mulling these things over, I received a phone call from a member of Milwaukee's Common Council. This Alderperson told me that the proposal to grant Domestic Partnership benefits to Gay and Lesbian City employees would probably not pass.

I was told that the lack of visible organized support before the proposal's introduction was to blame. Later I found out that several alderman including James Witkowiak, whose district includes a large number of Gays and Lesbians along with a number of Gay businesses, have said that since the State doesn't recognize Same Sex marriages they don't think they should either.

Excuse me, earth to Witkowiak, that's why we need Domestic Partnership legislation. Get a clue okay guy?

You may be wondering what all of these things have to do with each other. I can answer in one word, homophobia.

Like other evils, Homophobia takes all sorts of forms. It is pervasive in our society.

The statements by the newspaper columnist and the man at the Wausau are extreme examples of it. But that doesn't excuse those who practice it in more moderate doses either by ignoring it as the *Journal Sentinel* and those Republicans did, by trying to find justifications for it as Alderman Witkowiak has, or pandering to it like the Madison papers do.

In ignoring the call for our executions, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and the Republicans on the Assembly's Children's and Family Services Committee gave that call their sanction. As Edmund Burke once said "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

The Madison media does or should know that Tammy Baldwin's sexual orientation has nothing to do with her qualifications to be in Congress. But mentioning it stirs things up so the papers go ahead and pander to the bigots.

I would agree with those who say that more work should have been done in advance of introducing a Domestic Partnership ordinance in Milwaukee. But I won't fall into the trap of blaming the victims of oppression for failing to properly address the situation.

The fact is that Witkowiak and others on the Common Council should support, Domestic Partnership benefits out of a moral certainty that it is the right thing to do, regardless of anything else that may have or may not have been done.

All the smokescreens they can come up won't change the basic fact that they are unwilling to treat us equally.

So they will cast their votes against fairness. They will deny their bigotry and moan about being called homophobes, but the reality is that it is a title they richly deserve because they brought it on themselves.

You may wonder what all of this has to

do with you. In Green Bay an AIDS activist was found dead in a hotel room. A couple of weeks later man putting up AIDS Walk posters was attacked. In Marshal Wisconsin, a Gay café owner was killed. In a Madison Gay bar, two men who were trying to convince patrons to come to an after hours party were overheard privately talking about the beatings that would administered to those who accepted the invite.

You never can tell for certain when you may be the victim of one of these acts of physical homophobia. It is the little acts, the moderate doses that make the extremes seem to be acceptable to the warped minds that foist them upon us.

A handful of us, a preciously small handful, speak out and up against the insidious hate, but more help is needed.

We can start by calling on the members of the Milwaukee Common Council to ensure fairness but that won't be enough.

Yes we need more the letters to the editors of various papers around the state. But even more than that action is needed at the dinner table, at family gatherings and in the workplace. We need to make our case, we need to speak to America one person at a time.

Edmund Burke was right.

HRL to Sponsor Media Workshop

Milwaukee—The Human Rights League (HRL) along with Progressive Milwaukee, is co-sponsoring a Media Activism Workshop on September 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. The workshop, led by Robert Bray, will cover the basics of media relations including: press releases, media contacts, press conferences, tactics, media damage control, on-camera soundbite interview practice, handling media problems and more.

Bray, presently of the Institute of Alternative Journalism and formerly the Public Relations Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will lead a highly interactive, activist friendly seminar. You need not be an established media activist to participate in this workshop.

The cost of the workshop, which includes food, is \$10. Advance registration only. Send check made out to HRL to: Media Activism Workshop, c/o HRL, P.O. Box 92674, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0674.

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As Many as Five Serial Killers Stalking Gay Men Believed Still At Large

San Francisco—Andrew Cunanan's suicide halted one of the nation's most lurid cases of serial murder. But from New Jersey to Virginia to Texas, the slayings of as many as 30 Gay men or transvestites, which activists believe are the work of five serial killers, remain unsolved.

In some cases, investigators have been hindered by lack of resources and, some allege, lack of interest.

"What's the difference between my son and Versace? Money and notoriety. If you've got money and fame, it's going to get solved," says Donna Smith, whose 18-year-old son's strangled body was found 10 years ago in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Smith, who now lives in Cocoa, Florida, does not believe her son, Charles, was Gay, although he frequented the Gay scene, as did most of the 11 victims who followed him in death.

She watched the Cunanan chase in south Florida with fascination and with anger that the Virginia serial killer has not been sought with the same fervor as the man suspected in the murders of fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men.

"All the victims were seen as expendable," Smith says of the murders linked to her son's slaying. "They labeled them as Gays and druggies, so nobody cared."

Activists who track violent crimes against Gay men and Lesbians acknowledge some police departments, even the FBI, are beginning to reach out to the Gay community to build trust and understanding.

"On the local level, many of us have seen day-and-night changes in the last five to 10 years," says Jeffrey Montgomery, a spokesman for the Michigan Anti-Violence Project. "In Detroit, for example, there's been a 180-degree change in the way they handle cases, from very, very badly to extremely efficient and

good."

Other activists, however, remain frustrated and say it still takes pushing to get many officers to take seriously any crimes involving Gay victims, even homicides.

"Gay-related cases aren't popular cases. And whether it's ignorance or homophobia, it's a big problem," asserts Bea Hanson, director of client services for the Anti-Violence Project in New York.

The possible serial killings include the 1994 stabbing deaths of three Gay men in Irving, Texas; the shooting deaths, from 1987 to 1992, of six Atlanta men dressed in women's clothing; and the 1992 stabbing deaths of four men who were last seen in Denver Gay bars, according to Anti-Violence Project statistics and newspaper accounts.

Hanson has also helped police link at least three murders in the New York metropolitan area, although she thinks as many as five may have been killed from 1991 through 1994.

Four of the victims were last seen in Manhattan Gay bars. Their bodies, hacked to pieces, were dumped in New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Rockland County, just north of New York City. The killer stuffed one man's body into a trash barrel and left his hands and head in plain sight on top of the lid.

To date, police have no suspects. But investigators reject the suggestion they treat murders of Gay people differently.

"That would be a real cheap shot," says Detective Sgt. Glenn Miller of the New Jersey State Police. "That's like saying an agency wouldn't investigate the death of a Black person as much as they'd investigate the death of a white person."

Miller, who has worked on the killings with police in New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, says he has 300 unsolved homicides in his files and all carry the same weight.

"It's a dead person," Miller says. "I don't care what their lifestyle was."

In the Virginia cases, one man was acquitted for Charles Smith's murder and another is in custody for the slaying of the 12th victim in 1994.

Law enforcement officials in Virginia defend their investigation as vehemently as Miller does his.

"We have thousands of hours logged on this," says Officer Dave Hughes, a spokesman for the Chesapeake Police Department. "It's been an all-out effort. It's just a difficult case."

Community Activists Wary.

When Shirley Lesser, executive director of Virginians for Justice, a Gay advocacy organization, was asked if she thought police response had improved over time, she replied, "In the incidents that we have had, whether it involves murder or harassment or property damage against Gay people, I don't know of any case that has been solved through police effort."

Some Gays think the FBI should get involved in the murders, but federal law limits FBI jurisdiction. They could pursue Cunanan, for example, because he fled across state lines. They worked on the

bombing of an Atlanta Lesbian bar this year because explosives were used.

In June, President Clinton devoted one of his weekly radio talks to hate crimes and specifically cited violence against Gay people. The White House has scheduled a conference on hate crimes for November.

Activists expect Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and other members of Congress to introduce an amendment to the federal hate crimes law after the August recess. It would include sexual orientation, disability and gender, all classifications now unprotected by that law.

Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have sexual orientation protections: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

"People may disagree or agree about homosexuality," says Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based Gay political group. "But they certainly agree that there's no place for violence against anyone."

See Us On the Internet

<http://www.Wilight.com>

The Cunanan Tragedy May Teach Us to Come Together

Commentary by Jim Mangia

As with every tragic situation of such magnitude, the Andrew Cunanan murder spree and his subsequent suicide under pressure from the "better late than never" manhunt, raises many more questions than it answers. The bizarre transformation of one human being, (who went from a popular, well-liked figure in San Diego's Gay community—to a murderer of Gay people), coupled with the violent deaths of five other human beings, leaves many of us wondering about how this could have happened. Why would Cunanan do such a thing?

The Gay community was traumatized and fearful in the midst of the manhunt. Many of us in West Hollywood were looking over our shoulders before we opened our front doors. The Gay communities of Miami and San Diego were even more alert. There was a great deal of anger about the insufficient attention paid to the Cunanan case before the Versaci murder by law enforcement authorities. America got to see first hand how the priorities of law enforcement can be impaired by homophobia.

While the media sensationalized the story, one unreported by-product of the tragedy was that for a brief moment, Gay and straight communities came together. Unified public pressure was brought to bare to catch Cunanan, and the (unfortunately) normal rift between Gay and straight was briefly overcome.

The non-sensational question raised by this tragic situation is whether it opens up an opportunity to build more understanding between Gay and straight America? Are violence and tragedy the only circumstances that will bring people together these days? As a Gay political leader who works everyday to build bridges between Gay and straight America, I consistently ask myself and others what needs to happen in this country to close the gap. Is there opportunity for greater growth and understanding between Gay and straight America? What would it entail?

Ironically, the Cunanan tragedy may have shown us a bit of the way. The Gay community—which has shaped its politic by emphasizing its differences with straight America, (and ended isolated as a result)—found itself emphasizing its commonality with the rest of America, and we became closer for it. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all Americans to learn.

Editor's Note: The writer is a Gay activist in California and the national Secretary of the Reform Party.

man 2 man

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Free Flow of Safe Sex Thought Stopped in Sex Education Classes

Commentary by Patricia Conklin

The U.S. federal government has presented its united but disquieted states with a killer idea: that they must not mention condoms or any other birth control devices in public school classes. The singular "technology of control" in sex education is to be instead an unworkable, unrealistic methodology: abstinence.

Congress has temptingly offered to distribute \$250,000 far and wide if America's state school boards will agree to teach abstinence only.

This offer, to their great misfortune, has been seized upon by nearly every hand-out-ready state, each eager to enter into a bad bargain that spells rampant disease and death to the ignorant.

Young people who are at war with their biological urges are, hereafter, to be given no trusty weapons should their much vaunted front-line of defense—abstinence—fail them in daily experiences. Not only disease but, without the technologies of protection, the undeclared war against teen pregnancy is also at stake.

For the sake of imposing fundamentalist religious control over all reproductive matters, politicians at the service of religious ideologues are willing to risk the lives of America's children. They stand ready to enforce, even with increases in terminal diseases or spates of unwanted pregnancies, their pleasure-denying sex-control programs.

"Would that nature" would "sign on" to

such a plan sighs Deborah Mathis, a syndicated columnist. "Children need information," she writes, "as much as we can give them. It's a jungle out there."

It appears to Mathis and to many others that no educational programs that are worth their salt leave untutored teens without prerequisite knowledge as to how to administer vital self-protection in matters of sex.

Surely no one would want to object to the teaching of abstinence as preferable for teens, but since hormonal energies so often win out over religious ideology—and they do—teaching abstinence alone leaves youth in significant peril while educators fail to mention condoms—technology's first line of defense—during the penetrative sex act—against death-dealing bodily invaders.

Voters must understand that their representatives in the Congress are foolishly spending tax moneys collected in order to promote a deranged anti-sexual religious fantasy. Each school board that accepts promotional moneys to support this fantasy strikes a bad bargain, one that will reap despair and havoc in their communities as school officials preside over haywire transmissions of STDs and HIV infections.

Benighted 20th century primitives in fundamentalist sheep's attire will, because they have compromised with the equivalent of religious witchdoctory, live to painfully watch many of their offspring perish as a result.

Study Shows HIV/AIDS is Growing Among Young People of Color

Madison—According to documents supplied by the AIDS Network from the National Association of People with AIDS, the face of AIDS in America is changing.

SAGE Milwaukee To Offer Bereavement Sessions

Milwaukee—SAGE Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment), a group of persons of all ages whose major thrust is toward older Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals, is planning to offer to the entire LGBT community, regardless of age, a bereavement support group beginning in September. Has someone close to you passed away; a family member, a good friend, a lover? Don't try to deal with your sense of loss and grief alone. Sharing your feelings with others who are experiencing the same feelings can be helpful.

SAGE's sessions will be led by Arlene Kochman, MSW, formerly the Executive Director of SAGE New York. Kochman has successfully led many bereavement support groups for Gays and Lesbians. Her program consists of twelve 2 hour sessions covering a different area each week.

Call the SAGE line at (414) 271-0378 if you would like to register. There are no charges for this new service to the community.

It's a younger (13-25 years) race than it used to be. It's more likely to be a face of color than it used to be. And more and more people with HIV and AIDS are from areas outside major cities.

Through December of 1996, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had received reports of 581,429 cases of AIDS. Almost 50%—287,576 were men whose sole reported risk category was that they had sex with other men (MSM). Although the proportion of adult/adolescent AIDS cases who are MSM, has declined to 50% of 54,653 men reported in 1996, MSMs continue to account for the largest proportion of reported cases.

(The term MSM includes all men who have sex with men, whether or not they identify as Gay or Bisexual.)

MSM comprise an even higher proportion of total AIDS cases when MSM who also inject drugs are included.

Among MSM with no other reported risk factor, 10,485 were 13 to 24 years-old at the time of their AIDS diagnosis.

Men of Color

MSM of color in the US are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic.

By the end of December, 1996, the cumulative racial/ethnic distribution of AIDS cases among MSM is as follows:

White men, 65%; African-American men, 20%; Latino men, 13%; Asian-Pacific Islander men, 1%.

These percentages for AIDS cases among MSM of color are significantly higher than the representation of men of

color in the overall population.

Trends

Overall numbers of AIDS cases among MSM also hides the risk for young MSM. By December, 1994, the total number of AIDS cases reported among young MSM was 8,527. By December, 1996, this number had risen by 22% with 1,918 new AIDS cases reported among young MSM in the two year, 1995-1996 period.

Among Adolescents

The number of AIDS cases reported each year among US adolescents (13-19 years) has increased from 1 case in 1981 to 2,754 cases in 1996. HIV/AIDS is the sixth leading cause of death among 15 to 24 year-olds in the US.

Among adolescents reported with AIDS, older teens, males, and racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected.

However the proportion of females among US adolescent AIDS cases has almost tripled—from 14% in 1987 to 37% of reported cases in 1996.

CDC studies conducted every 2 years in high schools (grades 9-12) consistently indicate that by the 12th grade, approximately 3/4 of high school students have had sexual intercourse; less than half report consistent use of latex condoms, and about 1/5 have had more than four lifetime sex partners.

Tell Your Friends That You Read All About it in *The Wisconsin Light*

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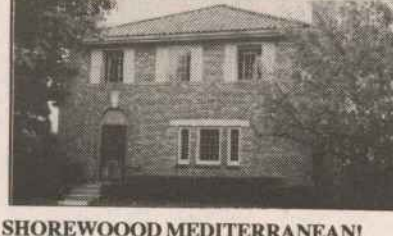
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SPOTLIGHT

Big Labor Day Weekend Of Events On Tap Throughout Wisconsin

By Dusty Sass

I certainly hope that you haven't been partied out by all of the great happenings this summer. We've had the Milwaukee Classic, the Madison Pride Weekend, the 20th Anniversary Season of Milwaukee's Saturday Softball Beer League, tons of parties, shows, pageants and more things than even I can remember. (Okay so all those drinks at all those events didn't help the memory any)

Nonetheless as your official Party Time Keeper, it is my duty to remind you that it ain't over. Nope, nada, nil. The Summer of '97 rages on and the Labor Day weekend is going to be just fantastic.

On tap are two Pride celebrations, a second national Gay Softball Tournament in Milwaukee, two huge block parties in Milwaukee plus all the other stuff that

happens on Labor Day weekend.

So if you don't think there is anything to look forward to, take off that blind fold honey and get ready, because the big send off to Summer may even be just as good as everything that came before it.

The Mist Tournament

For the first time ever, the Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament will be hosted by Milwaukee's SSBL. MIST is a joint project of Gay leagues in Milwaukee, Cleveland, Detroit and Columbus.

Teams from around the country and Canada will compete against each other in two divisions. All told there will be 28 teams of hunky men to look at, I mean fine athletes to cheer for.

The tourney starts on Saturday August 31 and runs through Sunday September 1st.

Superior - Duluth Celebrate Pride On Labor Day Weekend

Superior --The Duluth-Superior Les-Bi-Gay-Trans Community will celebrate Pride on Labor Day Weekend, August 29th through September 1st.

The Celebration kicks off on Friday evening, August 29th, with a Community-wide Pride Bonfire on the beach at Wisconsin Point in Superior Wisconsin.

The bon fire will be hosted by Aurora: A Northland Lesbian Center and will begin at dusk. For more information on the Pride Bonfire, contact Aurora at 218-722-4903.

Also on Friday evening, J.T.'s Bar and Grill, located at 1506 North 3rd Street in Superior, will be hosting a Pride Button Night. From 9pm until closing, all drinks will be 50 cents off for all those wearing a D-S GLBT Pride Button.

Pride buttons may be purchased at JT's, the Trio Bar, the Main Club and other businesses in the area.

The button night party at JT's will include complimentary hor d'ourves and munchies and several special surprises throughout the evening. For more information contact J.T.'s at 715-394-2580.

Pride Parade and Festival

On Saturday, August 30th, festivities continue with the "Walk With Pride" parade along Duluth's lakefront boardwalk beginning at 11am in Canal Park.

The Minnesota Freedom Band will be leading the parade with their music and good spirits again this year.

Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) will be the parade Grand Marshalls. The parade will include P-FLAG chapters from throughout North-eastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin.

Anyone wishing to march with the P-FLAG contingent may contact Brooks Anderson of P-FLAG Duluth at 218-727-6455.

The Parade will begin at the Endion Station (located behind Park Inn International in Canal Park-Duluth) at 11:00 am. Participants are urged to gather between 10:30 and 11:00 am

The Parade will proceed along the lakefront to Lief Erickson Park the site of the Pride Festival

The Festival will feature entertainment on the Pride Stage by Miss Richfield 1997 (sponsored by The Minnesota AIDS Project-Duluth), and many others.

An open mike time will also be provided for politicians, organizations, the Pride sponsors, and anyone else who wishes to address and/or entertain the crowd. Open mike time will be limited to five minutes.

The Pride Festival will also have great food, drink, and merchandise vendors on hand, as well as, information booths sponsored by local and regional GLBT organizations.

Helium-filled balloons in the colors of the rainbow will be available at Endion Station and Erickson Park (a 50 cent donation will be appreciated). There is also a possibility of persons available to do commitment ceremonies.

Cruise the Harbor

The annual "Fruit Float" Pride Harbor Cruise will happen on Sunday, August 30th. The Vista King charter can hold up to 250 persons and will leave the Vista Fleet docks at 3pm and return at 5pm.

The Vista Fleet docks are located behind the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) in Downtown Duluth. There will be a buffet dinner served on board which is included in the price of the tickets and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the dock the day of the cruise. There is no age restriction on the cruise and the Vista King is handicapped accessible.

Tickets are available at The Main (1217 Tower Avenue, Superior), J.T.'s (1506 N. Third Street in Superior), The Trio Bar (820 Tower Avenue in Superior), Over the Rainbow (249 West Seventh Street in St. Paul), or by mail (pre-paid): D-S Pride, P.O. Box 3198, Duluth, Minnesota, 55803-3198.

For more information contact: Kirk Nagel, D-S GLBT Pride Cruise Coordinator at 218-728-4396.

Pride Barbeque at Trio

Following the Pride Harbor Cruise, The Trio Bar (820 Tower Avenue in Superior) will host the Pride Barbeque. For more information contact The Trio at 715-392-5373.

The BBQ is expected to run from 5 PM to 8 PM.

AIDS Fund Raiser At the Main Club

The Main (1217 Tower Avenue in Superior) will be hosting a Fundraiser benefiting The Northern AIDS Network (serving the seven-county Northern Wisconsin region in conjunction with the Douglas County (Wisconsin) Health Department) and The Awakenings Program (at the Duluth (Minnesota) Community Health Center).

The Fundraiser which begins at 9:00 PM is being organized by The Main and the Triangle of Hope Players of St. Paul, Minnesota. It will feature performances by The Triangle of Hope Players and other special guests. All proceeds will go to the designated charities. The show will begin at 9 pm and will require a \$3.00 cover charge.

Special Gay and Lesbian objects d'Art will be raffled and/or auctioned during the event to raise further FUNDS FOR THE DESIGNATED CHARITIES.

For further information or if you would like to perform in this benefit: contact The Main at 715-392-1756 ask for Bob or Kirk.

Superior Pride

Did you know that people who live in the Twin Ports Area (Superior and Duluth) are Superior lovers? Well that's what they tell me.

You can find out for yourself by heading up through the North woods to take in the Superior WI -Duluth MN, Pride celebration.

There are a variety of events including a Pride Parade and a Pride Festival. Plus you get a chance to see the new Main Club Bar.

Such a deal! How can ya miss out on this one.

LINKS Block Party

The annual LINKS Block Party will be held on East Washington Street on Sunday August 31st. The party which will feature the nationally known, Tina and the B-Side Movement benefits several AIDS related charities, MAP, St. Camilius AIDS ministry as well as Breast Cancer research.

This year Fannies will be the sole business sponsor of the event.

There Will Be A Rainbow of Pride at ROW's Pride Celebration

Milwaukee-- The second annual Rainbow Over Wisconsin Pride Celebration will take place on August 30 and 31st in Green Bay and Forest Junction.

This special celebration starts out on Saturday, August 30, with a 9 Pin Tap Bowling Tournament at the Riviera Lanes, 2450 University Avenue in Green Bay. The tourney features some fabulous prizes.

Registration is 1:00 p.m. and the bowling begins at 2:00 p.m. Your \$25.00 entry fee includes shoes, a ball, a nice buffet and a donation to Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

For more information on the tournament contact Stephen Gerrits (920) 430-7785.

Then on Sunday, August 31st, the Annual ROW Pride Picnic will take place at N8287 Hwy 57 in Forest Junction. This farm has been the site of the famous Gay farm parties.

The picnic features great food, live entertainment, a dunk tank and lots of games. It runs from Noon to 6 PM.

"We are going to have some people in the dunk tank that folks will want to take a shot at," said Mark Mariucci, owner of Quest and Za's. Mark admits that he is one of those folks.

LINKS Block Party Features National Entertainment August 31st

Milwaukee--That annual Labor Day Weekend Treat, the LINKS Block Party will take place on Sunday August 31, on East Washington and Barclay (the 200 Block of East Washington), on Milwaukee's near South Side.

Great food, booths, fine entertainment and loads of fun await the hundreds who are expected to be in attendance.

There are several changes to the party. One of the most important changes is the addition of a nationally known act to the entertainment line up. Tina and the B Side Movement, a group that wowed everyone at Summerfest will be on hand for a 9:30 p.m. appearance.

Tina's appearance is sponsored though the generosity of the Miller Brewing Company which is also donating 30 barrels of its fine products.

Another change involves sponsorship. The party will have only one local business sponsor, Fannie's. This seems appropriate since the party grew out of Fannie's Customer Appreciation Picnics.

In addition to Tina and the B-Side Movement, entertainment will include the

Walker's Point Block Festival

This is a new event and a very unique one at that. It's a collaborative effort between two Gay bars, La Cage and Zippers and six straight bars, Mugshots, Louies, Steny's, Fritz's, Wild Times and Zur Krone.

The party will be held on Saturday and Sunday August 30 and 31st. It begins at 3 PM each day and goes to bar time.

The party will be held on National Ave from First to Second Street and on Second Street from National to Walker. La Cage and Zippers will have food booths and shot bars set up.

There will also be live entertainment including the Love Monkeys on Saturday night.

ROW Pride Celebration

Rainbow Over Wisconsin, that wonderful group of businesses that works hard to raise money for Gay related charities in Northern Wisconsin is at it again.

Their annual Pride Celebration will include a bowling tournament on Saturday August 30 at Green Bay's Riviera Lanes, 2450 University Ave and a fabulous Pride Picnic at N8287 Hwy 57 in Forest Junction.

The picnic will be held on a wonderful Gay friendly farm that was the site of the famous Gay Farm Parties in the past.

Please See Labor Day Page 28

Mark also told **The Wisconsin Light** that this year the organizers are working hard to expand their offering of games. Several new picnic type games including MTV's Singled Out will be offered.

If Entertainment is your thing, the ROW picnic has some fine acts for you to enjoy. The entertainment is headlined by Terry Van, who will be in Wisconsin to perform at the Calumet County Fair.

Ms. Van is known for her fine country western vocals. She will be joined by over 20 other acts.

Admission to the picnic is free, but you have to be 21 or older to attend. Organizers were worried about the potential for underage drinking.

Money raised from the sale of food and drink and the games will go towards Rainbow Over Wisconsin. Last year's event netted over \$9,000 which was divided up among various organizations in Northern Wisconsin.

Beneficiaries of \$1,000 from last year's proceeds included the Center Project, the Fox Valley AIDS Project, GLEEDA, the Argonauts AIDS Charities Fund, Positive Voice and G.L.E.E.D.A.

fabulous La Cage Showcase Girls, the alternative rock band, FWEED, the Martins, Jill Clarke, Lu Shanti, Venis and the ever popular Mrs. Fun in addition to many others.

There are still a few spots available on the entertainment schedule. Entertainers who wish to perform should contact Fannies at (414) 643-9633 or (414) 649-9003.

The majority of proceeds from the party go the Milwaukee AIDS Project and with some funds also going to help fund Breast Cancer Research.

Asked why she would take this responsibility on this time by herself, Fannie's owner Sharon commented, "I love this party. We always have lots of people and they always have a great time. Plus the money we raise goes for very good causes."

There will be merchandise and information booths lining the street. Those interested in renting a booth should call Fannies.

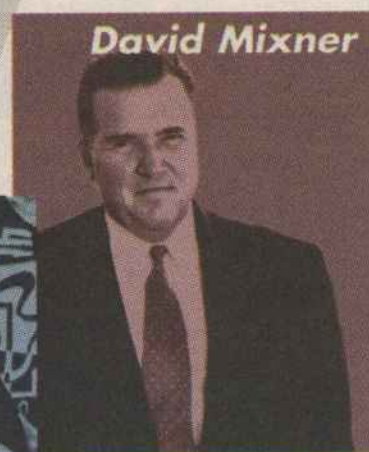
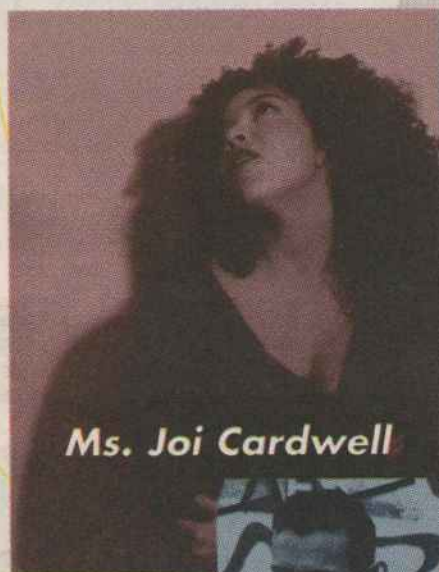
So if you are looking for a great time and a good cause check out the LINKS Block Party. You won't be disappointed.

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Curtain Calls

Benefit Performance of "Dames at Sea" Scheduled by Madison Rep

Madison—The cast and crew of Madison Repertory Theatre's production of *Dames at Sea* are donating their services for one special performance to raise funds for two AIDS charities. The benefit performance is scheduled for Sunday, August 24 at 2:00pm in the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street.

All proceeds from the benefit will be divided between two AIDS related charities: The AIDS Network in Madison and the STD Specialties Clinic in Milwaukee.

Dames at Sea is a delightful tribute to the musicals of the 1930's, specifically the musical films of famed director and choreographer Busby Berkeley. It is full of delightful melodies, toe tapping rhythms, and a story of love and Broadway dreams.

In *Dames at Sea*, we are introduced to

Madison Reps "Dames At Sea" Makes A Nice Season Opening Splash!

Reviewed by Brian Harder

If you want to treat yourself to an evening of fun and frolic, why not check out The Madison Reps 1997 season opening offering of *Dames at Sea*. This show is sure to bring a smile to your face. But brush up on your Busby Berkeley movies first.

You remember the ones where loners found each other, all problems could be solved with enthusiasm and the spunky people always succeeded. But mostly, you should remember the lavish chorus girl scenes, whether on a large stage or diving into a pool. Berkeley was best known for his overhead shots of chorus girls creating intricate patterns that marvel the eyes. But don't expect to see any of that here, because *Dames at Sea* is a scaled down tribute, very scaled down.

Dames At Sea has only 7 actors and a small stage but it all works together to bring to life the story of Ruby (Tonya Kay) who just stepped off the bus in New York with only a suitcase and a dream. She just happens to stumble into a theater where one of the dancers has just quit. The wise-cracking chorus girl Joan (Becky Spice) and her roommate Ginger (Kelli Clement) convince the stage manager/director Hennesy (Norman Moses) to give her a chance.

While rehearsing, the theater diva, Miss Mona Kent (Carolynne Warren) tries to make her moves on Ruby's true love, Dick (Tony Clements) a good looking, songwriter and sailor. Hennesy loses the theater right before opening night, but Dick saves the show when he and his sidekick, Lucky (John Staniunas) convince the captain of their ship (also played by Norman Moses) to let the show go on on deck.

The show's musical numbers are performed with camp style which works in its favor. Only this way can one then find the humor in its tribute/spoof of Berkeley. Tony Clements sings beautifully and looks good too (wink, wink boys). Carolynne Warren gets our funny bone ticking with "That Mister Man of Mine." But while the first act played well, it pales in comparison to the second act.

Here we are treated to the most memorable numbers. "The Beguine", performed by Warren and Moses, chronicles the love affair of Mona and the Captain in such a well choreographed and humorous way, that the audience couldn't stop the applause after it was over. These two actors are truly seasoned veterans and deserved all the praise. "Raining in My Heart" features Ruby singing a sad love song while the rest of the cast backs her up in minimalist Busby Berkely style, complete with raincoats and umbrellas. And the big "Star Tar" number at the end really sizzles with some great tap by the cast and especially Tonya Kay. Here is the big break Ruby was hoping for, and of course, she shines!

Dames At Sea runs through August 31st Wednesdays through Sundays. *Dames at Sea* will also be performed on at 2:00, Sunday August 24th as a benefit for Madison's AIDS Network and the STD Specialties Clinic in Milwaukee. Proceeds will go to these groups to help with their ongoing struggles to provide AIDS care and more. If you decide to see *Dames at Sea*, this would be the one to go see. It is being sponsored by **The Wisconsin Light**, the

Ruby, just off the bus with only a suitcase and dreams of stardom. She meets Joan, the wise-cracking showgirl with a heart as big as the Bronx who convinces the dubious manager/producer Hennesy to give Ruby a chance in his upcoming show.

Soon, Ruby finds herself sharing the stage with the temperamental Broadway star, Mona Kent. While they rehearse the play, Mona makes her move on Ruby's true love, Dick, the good-looking, song-writing sailor. When Hennesy loses the theater right before opening night, it's Dick's heroic idea that saves the show. The cast is complete as Dick's sailor sidekick Lucky enters the scene, along with Ginger, the gum-smacking showgirl.

Dames at Sea opened on July 25 and will run through August 31 in the Isthmus

Madison Rep and The White Horse Inn. The performance will be followed with a special reception at the White Horse Inn. Tickets are \$25.00.

Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center. The musical is directed and choreographed by Pam Kriger who is assisted by Richard L. Carsey in the role of musical director.

The cast is made up of Tony Clements (Dick), Tonya Kay (Ruby), John Staniunas (Lucky), Becky Spice (Joan), Carolynne Warren (Mona), Norman Moses (Hennesy/The Captain) and Kelli Clement (Ginger).

Since 1985, AIDS Network (formally the Madison AIDS Support Network) has provided critical AIDS care and prevention services to south central Wisconsin. Client services provide case management services for people living with HIV and AIDS and to their families. Programs address the medical, emotional, legal, and social service needs commonly associated with HIV/AIDS.

Clients receiving case management and other program participants benefit from a range of services including volunteer resources, emergency financial assistance, transportation, mental health and support groups, early intervention, legal assistance, information and referral, and housing assistance. All assistance is provided free of charge.

The STD Specialties Clinic, Inc. in Milwaukee is a not-for-profit community based clinic dedicated to providing health care services with an emphasis on selected infectious diseases, including HIV, to any person without discrimination.

Recognizing the sacredness of life and the dignity and worth of every person, the clinic strives to provide each client with sensitive, holistic, discrete, and non-judgmental quality care. Services are provided at out clinic and to the disenfran-

chised, through community outreach, in a cooperative manner.

All proceeds from the benefit will support the AIDS Network in Madison and the STD Specialties Clinic in Milwaukee. The benefit performance is scheduled for 2:00pm on Sunday, August 24. Tickets are \$25 per person, general admission. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Madison Civic Center Ticket Office or by phone by calling (608) 266-9055.

The event also features a light reception at the White Horse Inn. Sponsors of the event include **The Wisconsin Light**, The White Horse Inn and Madison Repertory Theatre.

Boulevard Theatre to Hold Auditions for Two Plays

Milwaukee—Joint auditions will be held from Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 13, for the Boulevard Ensemble's production of Donald Margulies' play *Found A Peanut* (running December 19 through January 18 and to be directed by Mark Bucher), and Edward Albee's play *A Delicate Balance* (running February 6 through March 8 and to be directed by Maureen Kilmurry).

The audition will be held at the Boulevard Ensemble Theatre, located at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee.

Found A Peanut features seven actors (five men, two women), who play children who discover a bag of money. The director is seeking actors in the age range of 20s. Please See Boulevard Page 20

MADISON REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS

Dames at Sea



Runs through August 31

Isthmus Playhouse

Madison Civic Center • 211 State St.

Tickets: 266-9055,

TDD: 267-2674



Corporate Sponsors: Wisconsin State Journal/The Capital Times

Special Benefit Performance

Sunday, August 24

2:00 p.m.

Isthmus Playhouse

Madison Civic Center • 122 State Street

\$25 per person • General Admission

All proceeds benefit the STD Specialties Clinic in Milwaukee and the AIDS Network in Madison. Post-performance reception at the White Horse Inn.

Tickets: 266-9055

The performance is supported by these businesses

The Wisconsin Light



White Horse Inn

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Block Fest



SAT, AUG 30



SUN, AUG 31

3pm to Bar Close

3pm to Bar Close

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LIVE MUSIC . . .

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and the

and

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THURSDAY AUGUST 14

CURT'S B-DAY PARTY AT IN BETWEEN

Well it's that time again, time for In Between Owner, Curt Peck's Annual 30th Birthday party.

What's that you don't believe that Curt is really 30? Well then you can join the crowd of disbelievers at In Between, 625 S. Second Street.

Anyone who has been to one of Curt's special parties knows that they are fabulous. As usual Curt has the birthday but the patrons get the gifts.

So be on hand to wish Curt a happy 30th (remember practice makes perfect)

SATURDAY AUGUST 16

MISS GAY WISCONSIN FINALS AT DIVERSIONS

The Miss Gay Wisconsin America Finals will be held at Wisconsin's newest and biggest Gay entertainment complex, Diversion located at 1413 Green Valley Road, Neenah.

Contestants from around the state will compete for the coveted crown. The festivities will include Vicki C, last year's winner and the reigning Miss Gay America, Lauren Taylor.

This is a two day event with preliminary competition on Saturday and the finals on Sunday.

SUNDAY AUGUST 17

RIVERWEST RAINBOW PICNIC

The Riverwest Rainbow Association will be holding its annual picnic at Kern Park, (Keefe and Humboldt) from 2 PM to 5 PM.

The event is free. Veggie and non veggie burgers, buns and soda will be provided. Bring a dish to pass.

The party also features a "Percussion Jam" bring your own instruments, spoons, rattles, washboards, drums etc.

In the event of rain the picnic will be held at the Riverwest Art Center, 3178 N. Fratney.

SATURDAY AUGUST 23

MISS GREAT LAKES AT LARGE PAGEANT AT ZA'S

Green Bay's premier showbar, Za's 1106 Main Street, will be the site for the 1997, Miss Great Lakes At Large Pageant.

This fun event sponsored by Jingle Productions will begin at 10 PM. It will feature many of your favorites including Celeste Olds.

Call Za's to reserve your table seat today.

GAMMA CRUISES ON THE IROQUOIS IN MILWAUKEE

GAMMA will be holding its annual cruise on the river and lake on Saturday August 23rd.

The two hour excursion includes music, dancing and a cash bar. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance or \$18.00 at the gate. Boarding begins at 5:30, the boat leaves at 6:30.

For more information contact Rich at 548-4526.

SUNDAY AUGUST 24

DAMES AT SEA BENEFIT TO FIGHT AIDS

The Madison Rep's smash hit "Dames At Sea" will have a special performance to benefit Madison's AIDS Network and Milwaukee's STD Specialties Clinic at 2:00 at the Isthmus Play House inside the Madison Civic Center.

Tickets are \$25.00 and include the play and a reception at the White Horse Inn. The performance is sponsored by the Madison Rep, the White Horse Inn and The Wisconsin Light.

FRIDAY AUGUST 29

SUPERIOR'S PRIDE CELEBRATION BEGINS

Superior and Duluth kick off their big Pride Weekend long celebration with a big bonfire at dusk on the beach at Wisconsin Point.

Other activities include Saturday's Pride Parade and Picnic and Sunday's "Fruit Float" harbor cruise.

All of the events are free and open to everyone.

SATURDAY AUGUST 30

MIST GAY SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT IN MILWAUKEE

Loads of exciting action (and some pretty good softball too) will be on tap at the Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament to be held at Wick Field (52nd and Vliet) in Milwaukee.

Twenty-Eight teams from all over the country (including 8 from our own SSBL) will be competing in this fall classic.

The tournament concludes on Sunday August 31st. Admission is free.

ROW BOWLING WITH PRIDE NINE PIN TAP TOURNAMENT

Rainbow Over Wisconsin's annual Nine Pin Tap tournament will take place at Riviera Lanes, 2750 University Ave, Green Bay.

The toumey fee is \$25.00 and includes a buffet, shoes, bowling and a donation to ROW.

WALKER'S POINT BLOCK PARTY

For the first time the Gay and straight bars in Walker's Point are combining to put on a huge block party.

The Party which will run on National Ave from 1st to Second Street and on Sound Second Street from National to Mineral will include plenty of great entertainment, food, and loads of fun.

La Cage and Zippers will have shot bars on the street and will be open during the entire event.

The party includes entertainment from the Love Monkeys on Saturday and Interbang and Mount Olive on Sunday. Admission is free!

SUNDAY AUGUST 31

LINKS BLOCK PARTY TO BENEFIT AIDS CHARITIES AND BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

The annual LINKS Block Party will be held outside of Fannies, 200 E. Washington from 1 PM to 11 PM.

This year's party includes the nationally known Tina and the B-Side Movement plus many other fabulous entertainers, food, fun and booths.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project and Breast Cancer Research.

ROW PRIDE PICNIC IN FOREST JUNCTION

The second annual Rainbow Over Wisconsin Pride Picnic will be held on a farm located at N 8287 Hwy 57.

Great entertainment headlined by Terry Van, fun games, food, merchandise booths and more will be on tap.

You have to be 21 or older to get in.

Boulevard

Continued From Page 18

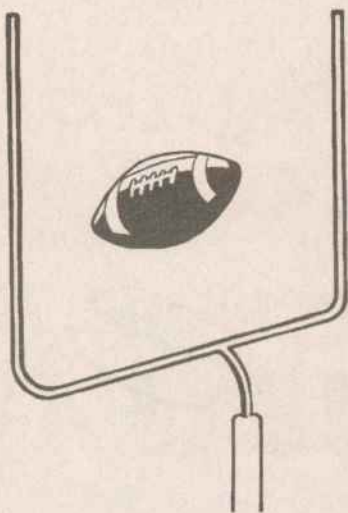
to 30s for this 90 minute production.

A Delicate Balance features six actors (four women, two men), who vary in age, but the bulk of this cast should fall between the brackets of mid-40s to late 50s. One woman is younger, approximately late 20s to late 30s. The play is three acts in length.

Those auditioning should prepare a one minute monologue appropriate for the play for which they are interested in appearing (or prepare two monologues if interested in both). Cuttings from the scripts will be available should the directors wish to read you. Those auditioning should also bring a resume and photo. Both productions run five weeks.

For more information, call Mark Bucher at (414) 672-6019.

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MILWAUKEE
IN
BETWEEN
MILWAUKEE
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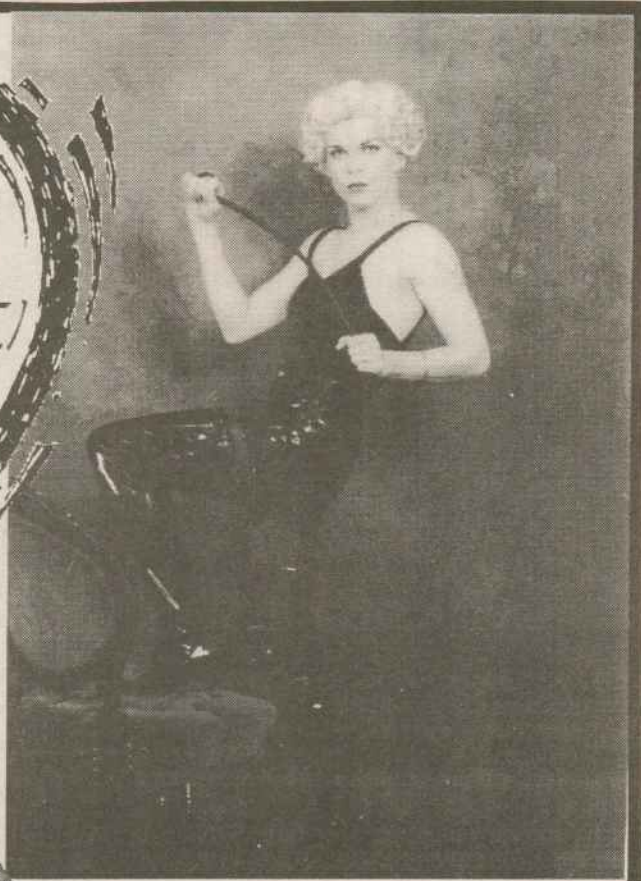
MILWAUKEE IN BETWEEN
 CURT & the staff of In Between express our condolences to Ricky & the family of Kevin Rotar as well as to the many people whose lives he has enriched. He was and is loved greatly.

Packer Regular Season begins

September 1st

Join us - The Ultimate Packer Party, all season long . . .

(Packer games are played on all monitors without any audio interruptions from the juke box or bar music)



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EVERY FRIDAY
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Call 291-9600**

Beer Bust

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Sunday thru Thursday

Sunday Nights

at C'est La Vie

J. Jay presents

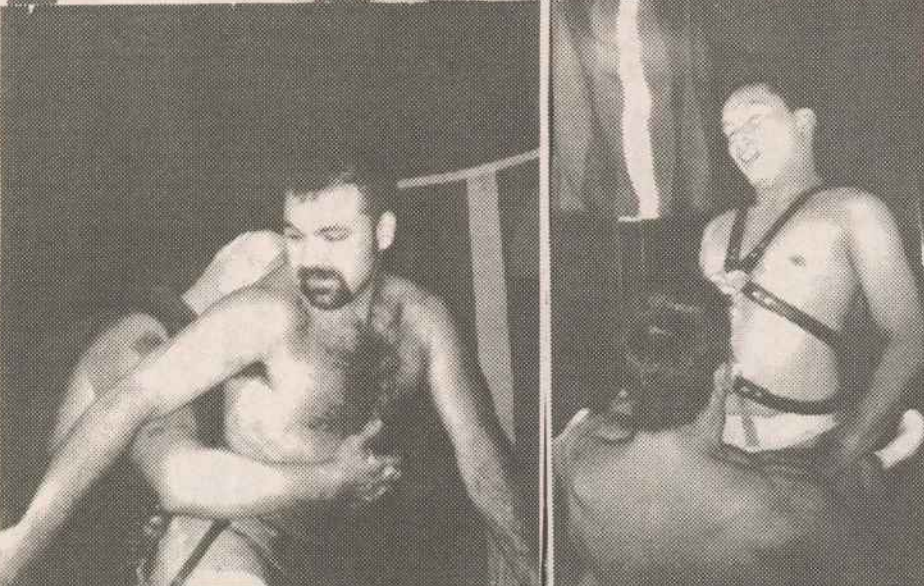
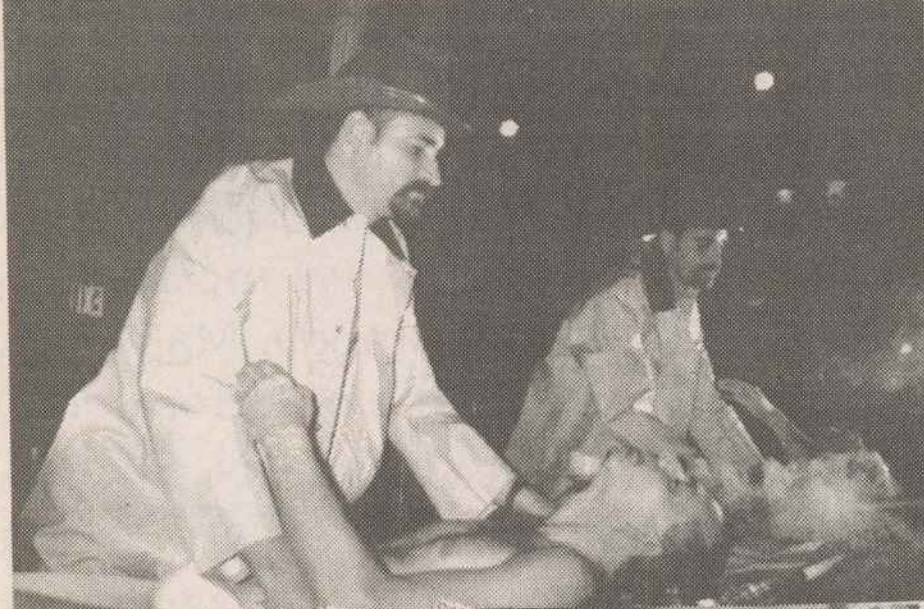
SUMMER HEAT



Join J. Jay and
Milwaukee's
Hottest Boy Toys
For Your Pleasure.



Bill Meunier



Mr. Milwaukee Drummer The first annual Mr. Milwaukee Drummer contest attracted a large crowd to South Water Street Docks on Saturday evening, August 9. At the top (L-R) are contest organizer Warren, winner Ray, 2nd Runner Up Joe and 1st Runner up Matt. Next are some hot action that went on during the fabulous fantasy competition. (Didn't we see some of those scenes in a video somewhere?) At the bottom is the line up of contestants before the winners were announced. Our congrats to Warren, Docks and everyone involved in this successful event. Ray will be going to Columbus Ohio for the Mr. Great Lakes Drummer Contest. He was sponsored by the Boot Camp Saloon.

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COCKTAIL HOUR 5 to 8pm

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FRIDAY

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\$2

TUESDAY

Domestic Taps
\$1.50

SATURDAY

Rail Drinks
\$2
Domestics
\$1.50

WEDNESDAY

Rolling Rock
\$1.50

SUNDAY

Beer Bust, 4-8pm
\$5

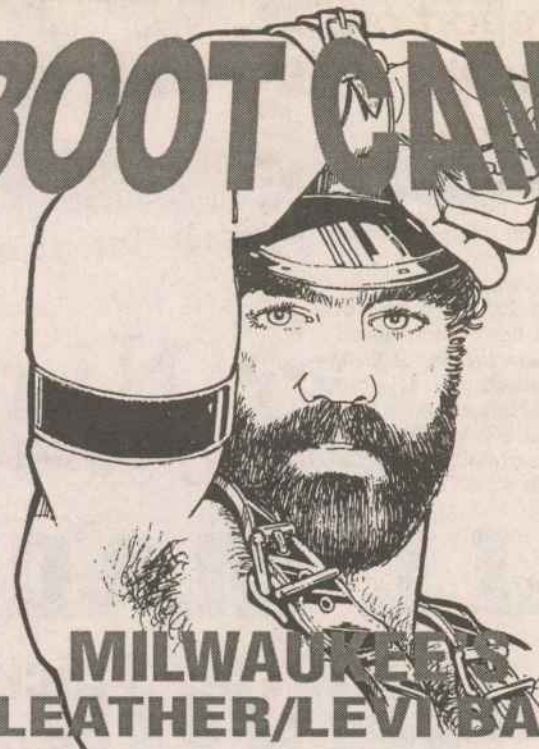
THURSDAY

Rail Drinks
\$2
Domestics
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Stop in and
vote for your
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Scandals
Bartender!

Live DJ
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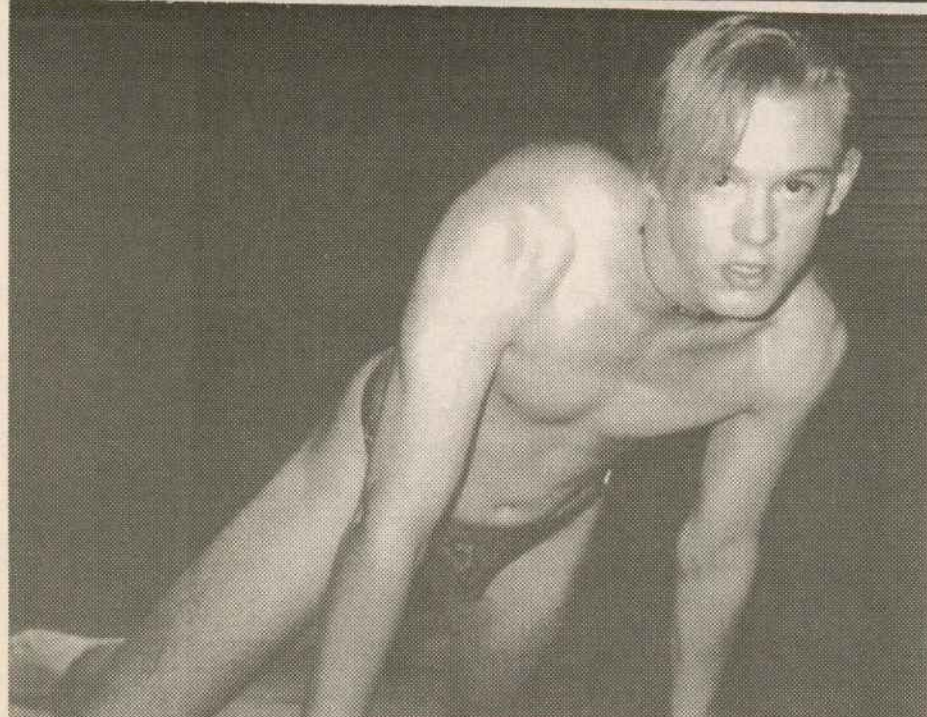


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SUNDAY BEER BUST

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Jerry Johnson

Ready to pounce? This hot little number can be seen at Cest Le Vie's Saturday Night Strip show.

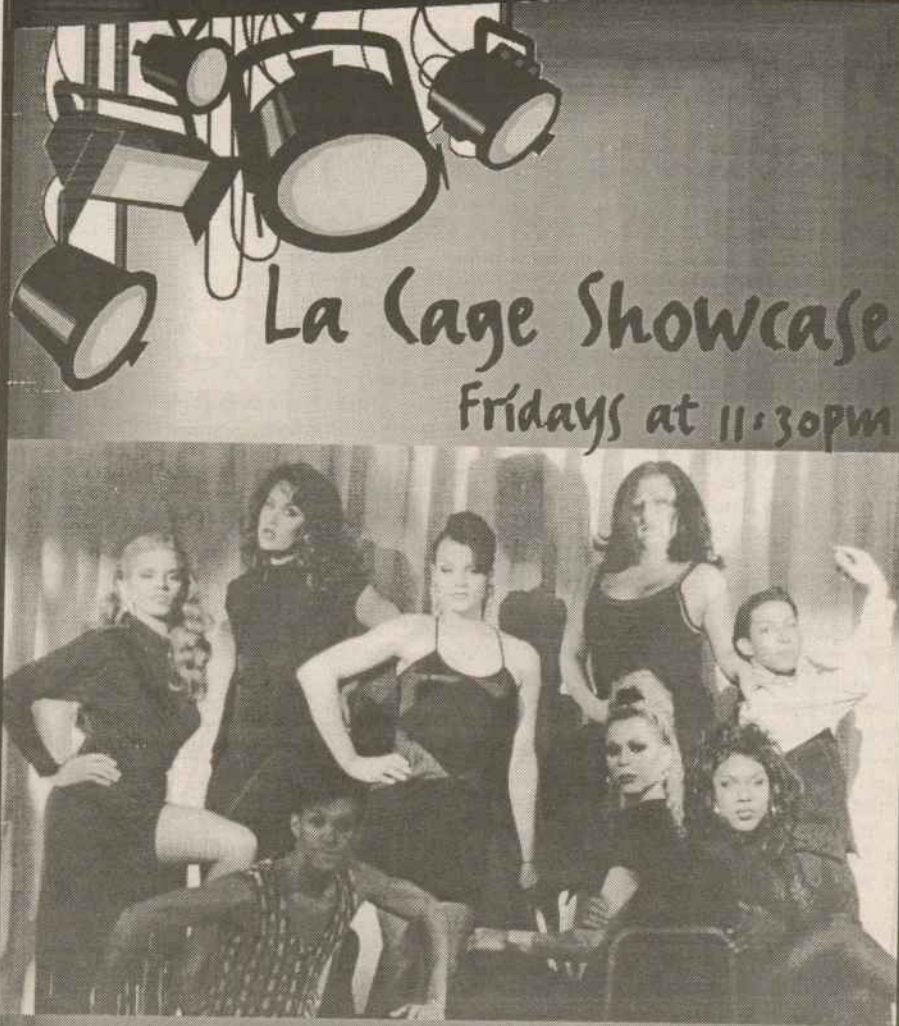


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Life Outside; The Signorile Report on Gay Men and the Passages of Life

By Richard Tafel

Michelangelo Signorile, the King of outing has put a new twist on a familiar word. The word is "out."

In case you're not familiar with him, Signorile is most famous for his outing of famous people (his last book was entitled *Out in America*). He now writes for *Out*, which many have told me they enjoy. His coverage of Log Cabin Republican (LCR) at the San Diego convention was actually very entertaining and insightful.

But Signorile takes the word "out" (as in outside) to actually look "in" on the Gay male community. What he finds is-and isn't-very pretty.

Signorile focuses much of his book on the international circuit party scene, and any LCR members who attend those parties will find his observations both accurate and frightening.

The Gay culture, Signorile observes, is excessively hedonistic and superficial. If someone doesn't have the right body or the right looks, they are ignored. If they don't go to the certain parties, they aren't on the "A list."

Signorile examines the underside of this world narcissism, with its rampant chemical drug abuse, and the widespread steroid use within the Gay ghettos.

Like Gabriel Rotello, Signorile asks the Gay community to take a look at itself and challenges us to change the way we look at ourselves and others.

This is not a moralizing book about how bad Gay men are. Instead, it asks the fundamental questions of the Gay rights movement: what culture or way of life are we fighting to protect?

What has been the impact of internalized homophobia on the way we establish our brave new Gay world?

I think Signorile is asking the questions that will dominate the next generation of community debate and I strongly recommended his book.

Editor's Note: The reviewer is the national Director of Log Cabin Republicans.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Sunday, Aug 31

Cook Out

Chicken, Burgers,
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*The Naughty by Nature
Dancers Sunday Night*

Monday, Sept 1

Labor Day

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SPORTSCOLUMN



THE NIGHT LIGHT

Milwaukee's MIST Softball Tourney August 30 - 31 Features 28 Gay Teams

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee- What do you get when you put twenty eight of the best softball teams from the Midwest and Canada together for a weekend of fun? The Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament (MIST) which comes to Milwaukee for the first time, over the Labor Day weekend.

Twenty Eight Gay teams including 8 from Milwaukee and 20 from Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and Toronto will compete in this annual season wind down classic.

This is Milwaukee's second national Gay softball tournament of the summer. It is following up on the successful annual Milwaukee Classic which is held over the Memorial Day weekend.

Like the Milwaukee Classic, MIST will be played at Wick Field, 52nd and Vliet. Games will begin at around 9:00 on both Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday morning the tournament field will compete in a two game round robin. After the round robin all of the teams will be seeded depending on how well they did.

The top 10 seeded teams will play in the National Division and the lower 18 seeded teams will compete in the American Division. Trophies for first, second and third place in each division will be awarded at a banquet on Sunday evening.

MIST began in 1987 when players from Columbus, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Detroit decided to hold an informal, season ending tourney. The tournament site rotated between the four cities until 1991, when Pittsburgh's league disbanded.

Up until 1994, the tournament field basi-

cally consisted of around 10 teams from the core cities plus a couple of others. In that year, Cleveland hosted an expanded tournament that featured 20 teams from all over the country.

The MIST tournament field has been growing ever since.

"It's organized and unorganized," said Cleveland's Steve Arnold, who along with his partner Joe Krall helped to found MIST. "Its individualistic in that each of the four cities gets to run the tournament in a manner they find best."

Arnold said that the tournament has a major "and very expensive" traveling trophy. The trophy is passed on between the host cities.

The commissioner for this year's tournament is Danny Nelson, who is also the Commissioner for Milwaukee's SSBL.

"We are looking forward to holding this first MIST tournament for Milwaukee. I think the fans and the players will be very pleased with what is in store for them that weekend," said Nelson.

Milwaukee has a national reputation for holding top notch Gay softball tournaments. It could also be said that the site of the MIST tournament is ideal for the fan. With up to seven games going on at once there will plenty to look at and plenty to cheer for.

And some of Milwaukee's SSBL teams are hoping for a big turn out of fans to cheer for the local teams. Said one manager "It's our home field. Having local fans there to cheer for us as we take on teams from out of town, can really give us a big boost."

No one, not even the umps could argue with that.

Night Light

By Dusty Sass

News... Like many of you, I am saddened by the death of Kevin Rotar. I've known Kevin for many years. He was a great guy and a fantastic bartender. He was one of the few career bartenders on Milwaukee's Gay scene.

He always had a smile and a great attitude. He will be missed more than he ever could have realized.

On another sad note, mid October will sound the end of Milwaukee's **Café Melange**. Owner Larry Krueger told me that the Hotel Wisconsin has been sold and the new owner had given everyone an eviction notice (including about 100 permanent residents) Rather than try to renegotiate his lease, Larry who is working for his family business now, decided to call it quits.

It's too bad. The Café was a great source of all kinds of entertainment from poetry nights to the hijinks of Dale Gutzman.

Recaps... I had a fun time at **Triangle's** Ninth Anniversary party. Unfortunately, I missed the balloon drop by just a few seconds, but the drinks were great and the people were friendly. Congrats and many happy returns to Rob and his staff.

I also had loads of fun at the SSBL's Milwaukee Mustang Fund Raiser. The league got 40 tickets (20 were donated by the Mustangs) and sold them to players and fans.

The game was exciting (we won) and the crowd was very cruisy.

The **Ball Game's** Team fund raiser was also a great time. I wound up winning two Badger-Michigan tickets in the Silent Auction. Go Bucky! As usual Rick and staff did a bang up job.

This is one of the friendliest bars in town, stop in anytime.

In **Between** Packer Parties are already getting real crowded. A large crowd packed the bar for the Pack's win over the Oakland Raiders. Now I know there are some of you in Milwaukee who haven't been to a Packer Game at In Between and to both of you I say "Where the hell ya been."

The Mr. Drummer Contest at **South Water Street Docks** was a good time. (My thanks to Jamie from **In Step** for giving me some film when mine ran out) There was so much to take pictures of. Especially during the "Fantasy" portion of the competition. I didn't know you could do that with motor oil.

Congrats to Ray from the Boot Camp on winning the title.

Breastfest at **Fannies** was a real hooter (pun intended). Seriously it was a great time. There was plenty of good food and lots of money was raised. One disappointment was that only a few men showed up.

Come one guys, if you want community then realize that Lesbians are part of that community. They needed your help and support, the same kind of help and support they have given to us in fighting AIDS.

Don't miss the next one okay? (Bitch mode off now)

Coming Up... On **Wednesday August 13**, you can find me at **The Boot Camp's** weekly Club night. You can win the jackpot and you don't even need to be wearing leather.

Thursday August 14 I will be **In Between** to help Curt celebrate his (ahem) 30th Birthday. Yes he says he's 30 but mentally who knows??? There will be presents for everyone in attendance.

SSBL Standings (As of August 2, 1997)

1. Club 219	17	1
2. The Ball Game	14	4
3. Mama Roux	12	6
3. Balistreri's	12	6
5. M & M Club	10	8
6. Manoeuvres	6	12
7. Triangle	4	14
8. CCF/Riverwest	4	14
9. In Between	2	16

The Final Week of the Regular Season is scheduled for August 23

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

Close Games Highlight SSBL Action

By Bill Meunier

First of all let me apologize for not having a Sports column in our last issue. I was so busy covering a breaking story that by the time I was able to write the Sports Column it was too late to get the SSBL scores.

Not to worry though we have the scores from the last three weeks of play.

Position Week July 19

The first position week of the season included what many fans and players called the best game of year and one of the most exciting games of the past few seasons.

The contest between **Mama Roux** and **Club 219** was also one of the best attended games in memory with dozens of players and fans most of whom were rooting for Mama Roux in attendance.

The lead changed hands four times in the hard fought contest. Neither team wanted to give in.

Need proof? How about the two out, two run homer by Steve Vergitis to give Mama's a one run lead in the top of the seventh? Then in the bottom of the seventh Club 219 came back with two runs of their own to win it 13 to 12.

The players from these two excellently matched teams enjoyed the prolonged cheers of the crowd as they shook hands in the middle of the field following the game. For the old timers in the league the game brought back memories of large crowds at Mitchell Park, the former venue for the SSBL.

Club 219 followed up their exciting win with another victory in a close contest with the **Ball Game Rangers**. The Pride won the defensive struggle by a score of 4 to 2.

The **Ball Game** then defeated **Mama's Family** in another exciting one run game by a score of 7 to 6. Mama's staged a bottom of the seventh inning rally to get within one, before the final out was recorded with runners on first and second.

All of which goes to show you how closely matched the top echelon of the SSBL is this year.

In other games played that day the **Cream City Foundation** picked up two wins for its first double victory ever. The Riverwesters beat **In Between** by a score of 20 to 19 and then defeated the **Triangle** 15 to 6.

The **In Between** team lost a second heart breaker this one to the **Triangle** by a score of 14 to 13.

Balistreri's Pizza delivered a 14 to 5 drubbing of **The M & M Club**.

Manoeuvres did not play that day due to the MAGIC picnic in Madison. Their scheduled games against Balistreri's and the M & M Club were played on July 26.

July 26

A fifteen run inning lifted the **Ball Game** to a 24 to 12 win over **Mama's Family**. The **Rangers** then went on to defeat the **Triangle** by score of 14 to 3 while **Mama Roux** picked up a win by forfeit over **In Between**.

The **M & M Mustangs** stampeded all over CCF's two game winning streak by a score of 21 to 3, but lost to **Club 219** 17 to 1. CCF rebounded by beating **Manoeuvres** 12 to 11.

Balistreri's also defeated **Manoeuvres** in a make game by a score of 15 to 4 and then beat the **Triangle** 18 to 6. The pizza guys couldn't do it against **Club 219** though, losing by a score of 23 to 3.

Manoeuvres forfeited their make up game to **M & M's**.

August 2

In yet another close contest between the top teams, **Mama Roux** defeated **Balistreri's** by a score of 17 to 14. The well played game saw the lead change hand several times before Mama's Family pulled away in the late innings. A furious Balistreri's rally in the bottom of the last inning fell short.

Balistreri's played another great game against **The Ball Game**. The game was so close that it took 2 extra innings for it to be decided with the **Ball Game** winning it in nine by a score of 7 to 5.

Mama Roux stopped CCF cold winning by a score of 26 to 1.

CCF's 4 to 0 lead in the top of the first didn't hold up and they lost to **Club 219** by a score of 24 to 4 in their second game of the day.

The **Ball Game Rangers** completed their tune up for the Gay World Series beating **In Between** by a score of 20 to 5. The **In Betweeners** also lost their second game of the day as the **Triangle** beat them by a score of 25 to 12.

M & M's raced out to a big lead in the process of defeating the **Triangle** 19 to 4 and **Club 219** picked up a forfeit over **Manoeuvres** when one of the Madison players was injured and unable to finish the game.

The final week of the season will be played on August 23 at Sijan Field. The MIST tournament will be played on August 30 and August 31 at Wick Field. See ya at the fields.



Friday August 15 I will have a fabulous fish fry at **Mama Roux** then it will be off to La Cage to for the La Cage Showcase.

Saturday August 16 I'll be at **In Between** to watch the Pack beat up on Buffalo. Then that evening you can find me at **Diversions** for the fabulous opening night of the Miss Gay Wisconsin America.

This Miss Wisconsin America system is owned by Z & L Productions and if you have ever seen one of their shows you know that it is first class all the way.

Sunday August 17 I am stopping in at La Cage for it's weekly Customer Appreciation night. They have a super bust (no we aren't talking about the last time I played Black Jack) the La Cage Girls and of course great dancing. All this for no cover such a deal!!!

Monday August 18 I'll be stopping in at the **Ball Game** for their world famous Cocktail hour. It's always a pleasure to go in this bar. People of all ages (all right none of that I know what you were thinking) and all backgrounds can be found here.

Tuesday August 19 me and Ruthie are going to be at **This Is It**. Like the **Ball Game** this is another very friendly bar with great service and lively conversation. At **This Is It**, you'll always find that they know your name and what you like to drink. Just like Cheers.

Friday August 22 I will stop in at **Just Us** for another fab fish fry.

Sunday August 24 I will be in Mad Town for the benefit performance of "Dames At Sea." This Madison Rep play is a smash hit and the proceeds go to Madison's AIDS Network and the Milwaukee STD Specialties Clinic.

After the show, I will hit **Scandals** for its Sunday Beer Bust. There always seems to be something going on at the bar. Later it will be off to **Manoeuvres** for its Sunday Night Show.

The rest of the week I will be resting for the big weekend. Which reminds me to ask this question "Is there some kind of plot out there?"

I mean whose idea was it to schedule so many great events all over the state in just one weekend? Even if I was Sybil, I wouldn't have enough personalities to make all of them.

Saturday August 30 you can find me pounding the base paths at the MIST tournament at Wick field. Come out and root for your favorite team. After the games I will take in the food, and fun at the Walker's Point Block Fest.

This fest is a great idea. Straight and Gay bars pitching in to throw a joint party. Saturday's entertainment includes the Love Monkeys. Now if only this idea could catch on with others.

If I was in Superior I would be at the Pride Parade and Picnic (which will actually be held in Duluth). Happy Pride Weekend to my friends in the North woods.

Sunday August 31 I will be back at the MIST tournament playing ball (hopefully). Then it will be off to the **LINKS Block Party** outside of **Fannies**. This year they have national entertainment, Tina and the B-Side Movement. Don't miss it.

If I was in the Fox Valley area, I would take in the annual **ROW Pride Picnic**. There will be food, games, fun and great entertainment.

Now one last thing. Of course I'll be talking a lot about this later, but right now I'll tell you that **Wisconsin Light's** 10th Anniversary Party at Milwaukee's downtown Hilton Hotel on November 9, 1997, is going to be fabulous. From what I hear, it's going to be the biggest thing going. The cause is good—a benefit for the Cream City endowment fund, so circle that date. More later.

Well that's about it for now folks. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!

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FICTION

Statues of the Sacred Band



A SERIALIZED NOVEL

By Terry Boughner

The story so far: Tony Martinelli, a statue of David look alike, has been sent by his editor to Washington, D.C. to search out the cause of Bobby Calder's disappearance. Bobby is Gay and is the son of virulently homophobic Senator Chris Calder.

When Tony arrives in Washington, he links up with a reporter with a major newspaper, Mary Ann Allen. Together, they begin to track down the mystery, not only of Bobby Calder's disappearance, but of the disappearance of many young Gay men.

What they discover is that Nicholas Bardi, a Georgetown florist, is somehow involved. They also discover a proliferation of statues and allusions to the ancient Theban Sacred Band.

In the process, the President of the United States drops dead.

Tony has met a young man named Rudy. They fall madly in love. He also meets Johnny Chang whose lover, Tom, worked for the Speaker of the House until Tom disappeared like all the others. They decide to pay the Speaker a visit.

While the Speaker and his wife go off to the White House for funeral ceremonies, Rudy and Tony take the opportunity to make love. They have just finished when Johnny summons them urgently.

Johnny met Rudy and me at the bottom of the stairs. From the look on his face, I knew something was up. Maybe something he'd seen on TV, I thought. I was wrong.

Instead of going to the family room where the TV was, he took us through the living room to the back of the house and into what was obviously, the Speaker's study.

"What were you doing, casing the joint?" I asked Johnny, letting my sarcasm show.

"I was going to the kitchen," he replied.

"The door was ajar."

"We shouldn't be here," Rudy said apprehensively. "What if they come home?"

"They won't," Johnny answered. "Last time I looked, just before you two came down, they were still waiting for Heyl's coffin. Now, quit worrying. I've got something to show you."

The study was about what one would expect of such a room; a comfortable space with built in bookshelves, wood paneled walls, and a large desk facing french doors that gave a view of the garden beyond, now softly illuminated by ground lights. There was a computer to one side of the desk. The monitor was on, showing a screen saver that displayed a picture a statue known as The Wounded Gaul. As Johnny sat down in front of the machine, the picture melted away. It was slowly replaced by one that I recognized as being a statue showing Caesar Augustus as a young man.

Johnny sat in the desk chair, leaving Rudy and me standing behind him. "That's what attracted me in the first place," he said, pointing at the screen.

"What?" Rudy asked, "Caesar?" He gave me a questioning look.

"No, not just Caesar," Johnny replied. "It's all the others, too, a whole series of others, statues, Greek, Roman, Renaissance. One appears, then another and another and so on."

I couldn't see what he was getting at. It was just a screen saver. So what? There were thousands of them, I guessed, all varieties, on sale at any computer store, which is what I told him, adding as an afterthought that every computer at The Trib had one just like it.

"Oh yeah?" Johnny swiveled in the chair to give me a look that said both surprise and interest, before turning back to face the computer. "Lemme show you something." He punched a key. The screen saver vanished instantly to be replaced by a window labeled "search." Johnny punched in a number: 328. "I tried a lot of things, but it wouldn't let me in," he said. "Then, I hit on this. 328. Bingo." He pressed enter. The window disappeared. To my surprise it was replaced by the now familiar figure of a seated lion.

"That's on Bardi's trucks," I said.

"And on that card you found at Garreth's," Johnny added.

The computer made clicking sounds. Superimposed over the lion, another window appeared. "Enter Password," was

written at the top.

"This took me a long time to figure out," Johnny said. "But I figured I had time since you two weren't coming down in awhile."

Rudy and I exchanged sheepish looks. His hand slipped into mine and I cleared my throat. "But you did figure it out?" It was less a question than a statement of fact.

"Uhm-hum," Johnny murmured.

As Rudy and I watched in fascination, he typed in the word, "Boeotia." As I knew, it was the part of Greece where the ancient city of Thebes had stood.

Johnny punched "enter." The window disappeared. In its place was what looked like a page from an accountant's book. On the top in black 18 point letters, were the words, "Legion of the Sacred Band" and beneath the words, in living color was a single, long-stemmed red rose.

Along the left hand side was a list of names, some of which I recognized, names of national leaders, military, religious, and business people of the highest rank. Right at the top, in my perception standing out from all the rest, was Senator Chris Calder.

"328 names, I'll bet," I said, thinking it didn't take a Perry Mason to figure that one out.

"You got it," Johnny replied. "Exactly 328 names, the number in the original Theban Sacred Band, only these people aren't Gay, not as I can see, anyway."

"The Speaker's name?" Rudy asked.

Using the mouse, Johnny scrolled down the list and stopped. There it was, the name of the Speaker of the House.

"Christ! The man's in on this."

"Looks that way," Johnny replied. "Why else would he be on the list, have it on his computer walled behind a bunch of arcane passwords? No, he's involved, alright. Bet on it."

"You don't sound surprised," I said.

Johnny swiveled his chair around to look at me. "Why should I be? Tell me?" he asked bitterly. "This is Washington, remember? Why should the Speaker be any different from most of the rest of 'em, corrupt to the core. The only thing that surprises me at all is that Bardi's name isn't on the list." He paused. "Look at the rest of it." He pointed back at the glowing screen.

Beside each name was a set of numbers, some with dollar signs before them, some with signs symbolizing other currencies: British, French, Japanese, Chinese and Russian.

"My God," I said. "Look at all that money."

"Billions of dollars," Johnny said. "Close as I can figure out, anyway."

"Jesus!" Rudy swore softly. He paused.

"What's it mean?"

"I don't know," Johnny answered, "but one thing I can guess, and that's that there's a group of people, very powerful people in this country, people called the Legion of the Sacred Band—and they've got money, tons of money..."

Rudy broke in. "And they're up to no good."

Johnny returned a mirthless, cynical chuckle. "Putting it mildly, Rudy, putting it very mildly. A President's dead. There're tanks in the streets. Yeah, really no good." He got from his chair. As Rudy and I stood back, Johnny went out into the room.

A coup? The thought had crossed my mind before. As I knew, twice before in American history, there'd been rumblings of a coup, but each time, the military wouldn't go along and the plan had fallen flat. But now?

Rudy took out two cigarettes, lit them, and gave me one. I looked over at Johnny and saw a deeply troubled expression on his handsome face. Was he thinking the same thing I was? But with the expression, there was one of hurt, pain, one I didn't understand at all.

He took a cigarette from the pocket of his shirt and with a small, black plastic lighter, lit up. "Rudy?"

"Yeah."

"You were there, those nights Tom 'd come home an' act like he'd just heard that they were gonna declare World War III 'r that aliens had invaded 'r something?"

"Yeah. You think he knew about this—whatever it is?"

For a couple of seconds Johnny didn't say anything, but smoked his cigarette, letting the iron-gray smoke drift out from

between his shapely lips. "Knew about it? Uhm-hum, maybe. And maybe he was in on it, got caught up in it. I don't know. He had a streak of homophobia in him. I know that. I knew that before I married him. Thing is, I thought I could change him. Stupid me."

Johnny had a lot of internal strength in him. I was seeing that more and more. But now, as he stood there in the center of the room, I was seeing a vulnerable side to him, a side that was as tender as flesh rubbed raw.

"Did he ever say anything?" I asked.

"No," Johnny answered, shaking his head. "Never. Those nights, he wouldn't say anything, wouldn't let me near him. They got worse toward the end." He smoked his cigarette.

"I think we better get outta here," I said. Where we would go, right then, I hadn't a clue, but I didn't think it made sense to stick around.

Both Johnny and Rudy agreed. Before we left the room, however, Johnny took the time to copy the page from the computer onto a disk. Finished, he put the floppy into his pocket and turned off the machine.

"Let's see if we can get hold of Mary Ann," I suggested.

"No, no way," Johnny said. "I mean,

"What the Bible Says Really Says" Author to Appear at Afterwords

Milwaukee--On Saturday, August 16 at 1:00pm, Afterwords will welcome Daniel A. Helminiak, the author of the best selling book *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality* (Alamo Square Pb \$9.95) for a reading and discussion.

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality has been a Gay and Lesbian Best-seller for over a year. In a clear and lucid prose, Helminiak reveals what the Bible really says about homosexuality. This ground-breaking work shows that those who perceive Bible passages as condemning homosexuality are being misled by faulty translation and poor interpretation. The Bible has been used to justify slavery, apartheid and the subjugation of women.

Early this year, Daniel A. Helminiak pub-

lished *The Human Core of Spirituality: Mind as Psyche and Spirit* (State University of New York Press Pb \$21.95).

Daniel A. Helminiak's appearance at Afterwords will include a reading and time for questions and discussion. This appearance is free and is open to

she's probably okay, but better leave her to her own devices—Julie, too—than regret it."

I nodded, accepting that. Maybe Mary Ann was on Calder's shit list, but still, there'd been things with her going on that I couldn't explain; things like she and Julie showing up in that car just when Rudy and I needed rescuing; like every time she and I were together, goons showed up. Maybe things like that were all coincidences, but I had a sinking feeling in my gut. Who could be trusted anymore?

We left the house via the french doors, going out onto a flagstone patio. The air was cooler now after the rain, almost fresh.

"Johnny?" I asked. "That building up there on the hill, the old French Embassy? You got any idea who's there now?"

"No. Why?" Rudy told him about the truck we'd seen from the upstairs window.

"Oh yeah? Maybe we'd better take a look."

We left the patio and went down into the yard. According to Johnny, Rock Creek Park lay to our front. We'd go there, he said, circle around, and approach the Embassy from the rear.

We'd just reached the edge of the park, when all hell broke loose.

TO BE CONTINUED

Afterwords Events

Saturday, August 16th 1:00pm

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Author of

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality and *The Human Core of Spirituality*

Wednesday, August 20th 7:00pm

Lesbian Reading Group

In a Family Way

By Rochelle Schwab

Thursday, August 28th 7:00pm

Gay & Lesbian Writers' Group

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OUT on Film

Women in Combat Units? 'G.I. Jane' Gives an Emphatic "Yes!"

By John A. Jahn

Demi Moore appears as a young Naval officer whom everyone expects little from, somewhat looks down upon, but who they eventually come to grudgingly respect and accept. I am, of course, speaking of Moore's new picture, *G.I. Jane*, but I'm also speaking of her earlier vehicle, *A Few Good Men*.

G.I. Jane is Hollywood's answer to the military's on-going gender-related problems, and, while it faithfully exhibits many a shopworn cliché of the military movie genre, it also surprises us with a few unexpected plot twists now and then. It also suffers from predictability—but again, not without unexpected turns along the way.

G.I. Jane is the story of a Naval Intelligence Officer, Lt. O'Neil (Demi Moore), who's selected by a powerful U.S. Senator (Anne Bancroft) to be the first woman to attempt to make it through the Navy's SEAL school. It's unbelievably tough training conducted by some sadistic drill instructors, in particular, Master Chief Urquay (Viggo Mortensen). O'Neil is confronted at once by the macho ol' boys network, but the harassment she undergoes initially is tempered by the Master Chief and the base C.O.

There is a definite struggle in these men between the desire to slam dunk this female invading their sanctuary and the knowledge that they have that any harassment of her will likely explode in their faces if and when she goes public with it. All of this makes *G.I. Jane's* plot taken right from today's often scandalous headlines.

The bulk of this film involves O'Neil's SEAL training, and her demand to be treated in every way exactly like one of the

boys...she gets her wish, alright. The many graphic scenes of harsh training really makes you feel like you're right there with 'em. I don't know if "real" SEAL training is quite so brutal, but if it is, God bless 'em!

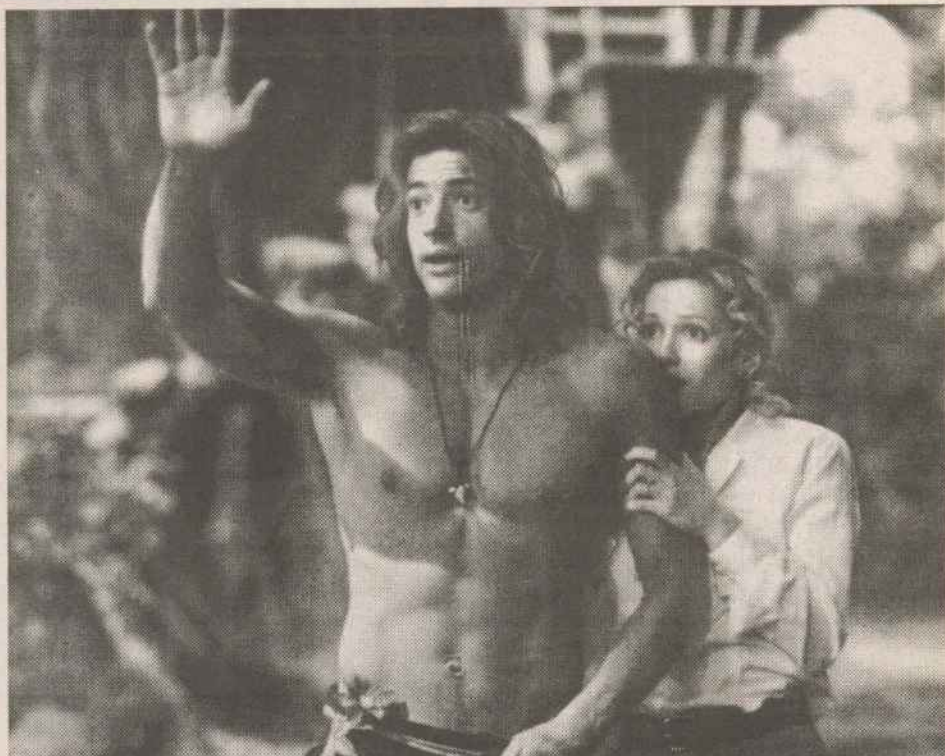
What writer and director Ridley Scott's *G.I. Jane* has going for it is sharply written dialogue, a look and feel of realism, unexpected turns of plot, and it leaves you with at least a modicum of respect for the military (some patronizing officers excepted). It also is a message film: women should be able to serve with men in combat situations, but they must get to that point by being treated fairly and consistently...just like one of the guys. O'Neil doesn't ask for a helping hand because she's a girl, and she gets her wish.

Does she make it through? Well, of course, she does! But, like I said, there are a few twists along the way, and it's the unexpected which helps save this film.

To its detriment, *G.I. Jane* has a surprisingly weak supporting cast of one dimensional characters. Moore's character is, in fact, the only person in this 2 hour movie we ever feel we get to know in any way...and she's even somewhat of a thin, underdeveloped character. Thus, the major weakness is we remain emotionally detached from the action...a major failing, indeed, although we do feel O'Neil's triumph at the conclusion.

G.I. Jane certainly succeeds in delivering its message about expanding the role of women in the military, and in giving them the respect they deserve. Let's hope Hollywood now gives us the same for a Gay soldier ("G.I. Mary"?).

★★1/2



Brendan as George Brenden Fraser stars in the film version of the popular "George of the Jungle" cartoon series. The film is playing at theaters throughout Wisconsin

'Picture Perfect' is Actually a Picture That is Less than Perfect

By John A. Jahn

Director Glenn Gordon Caron's romantic comedy *Picture Perfect* seems to have been aimed squarely at a particular audience: the Gen-Xers. The central characters are all in their 20s and 30s, the story revolves around the pressures of career and romance (often goals which are at odds with one another), and general Gen-X angst, and the pop tuned-laden soundtrack contains various Gen-X bands as well as a healthy dose of '70s music (currently all the rage). I guess I was supposed to find *Picture Perfect* all that.

The New York City-based story revolves around a young, single professional woman named Kate (Jennifer Aniston of TV's "Friends" in her first starring role). This attractive and talented ad exec is having trouble moving up the corporate ladder, and wonders why. The answer is that her boss, Mr. Mercer (Kevin Dunn) patronizingly won't even consider her for a promotion because she's unattached, supposedly without responsibilities, living as if she were "still in college," and thus, he fears, liable to leave the firm at the drop of a hat.

This scenario, therefore, puts Kate squarely in the scenario faced by many Gen-Xers. Kate, with a little unwanted help from her best friend and colleague, Darcy (Illeana Douglas), sets about to fulfill her boss's requirements, and feels she can also kill two birds with one stone by using the same scheme to get a sexy coworker named Sam (Kevin Bacon) to fall for her. The set up of this film is an interesting

one, and certainly one filled with comic potential.

The trouble is, not only are there very few laughs in this less-than-perfect movie, but the outcome is fatally predictable. Especially for a romantic comedy, a predictable outcome is indeed a fatal flaw. It was, in fact, unpredictability which aided the vastly superior *My Best Friend's Wedding* earlier this summer. Within 15 or 20 minutes, you know how this movie will turn out, so the only thing that can save it is for the getting there to be very funny. Trouble is, the screenplay (by the director, plus Arleen Sorkin and Paul Slansky) is downright lame.

You also find it hard to really like the often cold, shrewd, manipulative Kate. She treats the loveable, kindhearted guy she enlists to help her, Nick (Jay Mohr), like dirt while he's obviously falling in love with her. She predictably comes around in the last act... a point where the mistreated Nick should've taught Kate a lesson in honesty and true love and told her where to go. Instead, they embrace and (gag!) live happily ever after. The writers failed to take a big chance here and teach self-absorbed Gen-Xers a good lesson...one beginning, "Oh what a tangled web we weave..."

Picture Perfect is far removed from its title. Rather, the comedy is flat, the romance tepid and mislaid (no pun intended), the characters two dimensional, the plot predictable.

★

'Spawn' is a Devilishly Delightful Film With Wonderful Special Effects

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Though always a vociferous reader, Glenn was never much caught up in the wild and wacky world of comic books. Not that Glenn wasn't exposed to them. On his occasional sleep-over, Glenn's older, more worldly and decidedly yummy boy cousin continually sought to engage Glenn in his current favorite action heroes. Sadly, inevitably, Glenn's attentions would lay elsewhere.

Thus clueless, Glenn would wander to his usual seat, "biggie" popcorn and "biggie" Diet Pepsi in hand and patiently wait for the big screen adaptation of Todd McFarlane's cult creation, *Spawn*.

Bringing a comic book alive on the big screen effectively is a task beyond most filmmakers. For example, see any of the Batman flicks or even worse, far, far, worse, that perfectly dreadful *Flintstone* fiasco from a few summers ago.

Nor do the first fifteen or so minutes of Mark Dippe's *Spawn* hold much promise. Following some suitably predictable apocalyptic twaddle comes the now obligatory dare-devil explosion sequences so absolutely necessary to prime adolescent audiences for a routine, low-budget action flick.

Glenn was not amused.

Then, as Glenn's mind began to wander, Michael Jai White's assassin-with-a-heart-of-gold suddenly became "Spawn", tormented by the black-hearted, "Clown-from-Hell", played to the hilt by John Leguizamo. Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* might fondly remember Mr. Leguizamo as the saving grace of the dreadful, *To Wong Foo...*

Aided by the best special effects that Hollywood can buy from the great and almighty folks at Industrial Light and Magic, *Spawn* comes magically alive.

There are great themes at work here. In proper, comic book fashion, "ultimate evil" is dispatched with a mission to wreck havoc on the entire planet. 'Course you know (as do the makers of the comic books) that good, as embodied by the heroic action hero (here the reluctant *Spawn*) will, in the end, be victorious but also that evil will continue to lurk, awaiting its chance in the upcoming sequel.

What elevates *Spawn* is a devilishly delicious sense of humor and an attitude which defies the audience to quibble over minor implausibilities.

The real star of *Spawn* are some of the most fabulous special effects that Glenn has seen in some time, making it seem possible, if not actually believable, that a comic book hero such as *Spawn* might exist.

While Michael Jai White's *Spawn* is suitably noble and inevitably colorless, John Leguizamo gleefully renders his evil Clown in true, glorious comic book fashion and just about steals the film. Similarly, Martin Sheen, too, understands that as a bad guy in a film such as *Spawn*, there can be no such thing as overacting.

Glenn imagines that *Spawn* might not everyone favorite cinematic entertainment but it is hard to imagine the heartless moviegoer charmed by the cute dog and the adorable little boy who befriend our ugly hero as he saves our planet!

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



Award Winner Victoire Thivisol stars in the critically acclaimed "Ponette." The actress won the Best Actress Award at the Venice film Festival for her role.

'George of the Jungle' is Refreshing, Pleasing, and So Easy on the Eyes

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn knows exactly what enticed him to venture to *George of the Jungle*: the thought of watching a full-length major motion picture featuring the ever adorable Brendan Fraser frolicking for 92 minutes wearing nothing more than a loincloth.

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* might be surprised to learn that Glenn hadn't spent his youth watching Jay Ward's classic 1960's cartoon program upon which this live-action cinematic venture is based. But Glenn has watched plenty of Tarzan flicks, so he knew just what to expect!

Like Tarzan, George (luscious Brendan Fraser) has been brought up in the wilds of deepest Africa. George's faithful companion is an ape (voice by Monty Python's John Cleese) with a surprising command of the English language and a superiority complex to match. George lives in peace and harmony with all of the animals. His only problem: he keeps smacking himself into trees.

Enter Ursula Stanhope (Leslie Mann), an American heiress on an expedition in the jungle seeking the great white ape. She is pursued by her snooty fiancée Lyle Van de Groot (Thomas Haden Church). When the two venture off alone, a lion attacks. Lyle Van de Groot tries to flee but just in the nick of time there is brave George of the Jungle ready to rescue the beautiful but unconscious Ursula.

The rest of this rather silly picture has

George falling in love with Ursula and Ursula falling in love with George. Oh, there is also some far-fetched nonsense involving some evil poachers who view the talking ape as the next big Vegas act.

Along the way are a variety of some of the most mind-numbing gags this side of a *Three Stooges* short, like Shep the elephant who thinks he's a dog or the cartoonish villains arguing with the film's narrator.

Nevertheless Glenn must admit that he found *George of the Jungle* refreshing and surprisingly entertaining.

For one thing, Brendan Fraser looks fabulous in a loincloth. Glenn imagines that he looks fabulous out of a loincloth but Glenn digresses...

Happily Brendan also brings a heart-warmingly good-natured goofiness to George and generally seems to be having such a marvelously good time while all of the witless shenanigans going on around him that it is impossible not to fall in love with George.

In fact all of the cast appears to be having such a good time that it seems almost criminal not to kick back, open up that package of Milk Duds and enjoy.

Be warned, however. Any adult entering *George of the Jungle* is destined to have that supremely idiotic theme song repeating over and over and over... just as Glenn is right now!

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



Bette - These two photos show Bette Davis in memorable roles. At the left is Davis playing the vain selfish Fanny Skeffington in *Mr. Skeffington*, a 1945 release. At the right is the classic open shot of "The Letter." Photos are from the private collection of Dale E. Kuntz

Bette Davis In Retrospect

Part Four of a Series
A Wisconsin Light Exclusive

By Steve Stavron

Now *Voyager*, (1942), seems to hold a special place of affection, for Davis aficionados, especially those fortunate enough to have seen it on the large screen. Although sometimes regarded as a grandiose soap opera, it is the most popular of the Davis films, perhaps because it is a quintessential reminder of a period of Hollywood moviemaking in which many Golden Age films supplied a valuable experiential component to our daily lives rather than a redundant digression into "topical realism."

The greater of the Golden Age films often had an elusively bittersweet quality which somehow added a greater emotional focus to everyday reality capturing essence rather than specifics.

Made shortly after the more acclaimed *Casablanca*, *Now Voyager* is hardly less noteworthy than its famous predecessor. Like *Casablanca*, the film transcends the events of its screenplay scenario and leaves moviegoers wondering why they like it so much. Still immediate and compelling with a lingering sense of timeless angst, the film has never been relegated to that quaintly dismissive dustbin of old-fashioned memorabilia. It is a fine, beautiful film and deserves popularity and reputation.

Bette Davis plays Charlotte Vale, the repressed daughter of an aged, first-family-of-Boston matriarch who keeps her "late unwanted child" fat and dowdy. Recovering from a nervous breakdown at an upscale sanitarium, Charlotte embarks on a recuperative ocean voyage to South America on the advice of her doctor (Claude Rains). She meets and discreetly falls in love with shipboard passenger Paul Henreid from *Casablanca* whose unhappy marriage to a neurotic wife has affected his daughter.

Having shed her "ugly duckling" mantle for "butterfly wings" Charlotte must eventually try to forget Paul and return to face her mother.

Davis is nothing short of superb. She moves slowly and deliberately, savoring the bittersweet quality of the role. One becomes aware that her famously large eyes are truly sad and compassionate and that she herself, as Charlotte Vale, embodies the "inner beauty" which she will later bring forth in another ugly duckling—Paul's daughter.

This is one of Davis's warmest and most beautiful performances with an unexpected world-weary tragic eloquence.

Bette's scenes with her mother [magnificently played by Gladys Cooper] are remarkable—a study in the dichotomous polarity in the struggle between parent and child. She realizes that her mother is in-

capable of comprehension, inevitably of-fendable, and beyond compromise and that she can do nothing about it, but must still assert her independence without defiance.

Bette plays these scenes with a thinly veiled sense of resignation and exhaustion. But her quiet dignity earns her mother's admiration.

This classic struggle elevates the film onto a more profound level. Also, the maturation of the Davis style is truly a wonder to behold. *Now Voyager* remains one of her most beloved films, and a model of restrained creative acting.

But the film has its detractors as well. Many find it necessary to disap-

cigarettes at once, not to mention Max Steiner's fine musical score including the main theme "Wrong" which became an instant pop hit

But if this material seems a bit over-ripe at times, there's no denying that Bette and the film had ennobled sentimentality with a special kind of ambiance which holds up well.

Bette was a major contributor to the home front war effort. As co-founder of the "Hollywood Canteen" for servicemen she, and other Warner stars appeared briefly in the movie of the same name, being as gracious as her reputation required.

Much more fun was *Thank Your Lucky Stars* [1943]—a kind of amateur night at the Warner studios with major stars doing untypical [for them] comedy skits. Bette was to SING! "They're Either Too Young or Too Old" and be tossed around by a jitterbug expert. She was great and the song became an instant hit. The onscreen comment "Oh look! We're going to see Bette Davis next. She's my favorite star."—was Warner's tribute, probably shared by most of the real audience.

Old Acquaintance [1943] reunited Bette with Miriam Hopkins who allegedly resented Bette's greater box office appeal.



Dancing the Night Away - Bette does the jitterbug in Warner's All Star War time Tribute "Thank Your Lucky Stars."

prove of its obvious melodramatic sentiment, but the film is irresistible. Even noted critic Pauline Kael, affectionately refers to it as a "crummy classic," but *Now Voyager's* subtle undertext is a bit loftier than is immediately apparent.

Realizing that consummation of love is not the only route to romantic fulfillment, the now self-actualized Charlotte will use her newly inherited fortune to help other disturbed young people including sharing Henreid's daughter. She and Paul will remain platonic with no foreseeable possibility of divorce.

Bette Davis uncannily convinces us that Charlotte Vale remaining an old maid after all, is an inevitable, if unexpectedly ironic, outcome of her careful structuring of the character. "Let's not ask for the stars, we have the moon" is her much parodied, over-exposed closing line, as well as the famous sequence of Paul lighting two

It's a good film' but with the accent on "quaint." Based on a John Van Druten play, the story of two lifelong literary friends—one kind-hearted, loyal, moderately successful, the other mean-spirited, self-centered, and successful at writing pulp novels—seemed a natural for these two actresses.

Bette wisely chose the more sympathetic role, giving Miriam free reign, but Bette's quiet underplaying, patiently tolerating her friends selfish caprices, predominates. The story is a bit too tailored and tidy, but she manages to make her noble character interesting. In the most publicized scene, an exasperated Davis, having endured the last straw, walks slowly to Miriam, shakes her hard by the shoulders, slowly picks up her coat, says "Sorry" and exits quietly. Audiences loved it. The film is well written and still enjoyable.

Mr. Skeffington [1944], often under-

rated as a super-grandiose soap opera contains one of Bette Davis's greatest performances. The "grandeur" lies in her magnificent acting. The "Soap" is in the eyes of the beholder.

It couldn't have been easy for the intense Bette to play a character as shallow and vapid as Fanny Skeffington—a beautiful New York socialite concerned only with her looks and her endless parade of suitors. Eventually she marries the wealthy Job Skeffington whose proverbial "patience" allows a continuing circle of suitors to flatter his wife's vanity. "She doesn't encourage them," he states.

Bette gives the illusion of beauty by sheer willpower and the carefully structured magnetism of her performance. She uses three different vocal patterns to develop the characterization.

As young foolish Fanny, the voice is high, light and airy, with a polite superficial grace. Fanny hates unpleasantness. Learning of her brother's death as WW I pilot, she goes into hysterical shock—one of Davis's most brilliant transitional scenes—after which Davis alters Fanny's persona with a sharper more cynical tone, as her charm becomes more studied and her self absorption increases. She divorces her husband who leaves for Germany with their daughter.

For the final sequences, ravaged by diphtheria, her beauty and suitors gone, Bette affects an unsteady weak rasp, shoulders slightly forward with an uneven gait, and, completing the transformation with grotesque make-up emphasizing extreme hair loss, Bette creates a pleading frail character who had never developed the strength necessary for adversity.

Davis's superb performance not only captures the pathos of age and vulnerability, but she transforms the struggle between selfish vanity and loneliness into a kind of high tragedy. The sophistication and complexity of her approach still amazes.

Refusing at first, but finally agreeing to meet with her husband [superbly played by Claude Rains], now poor and broken by the Nazis, she discovers he is blind and will always see her as she was.

The last few scenes with Claude stumbling over a footstool, and Bette's sudden shock of remorse are very moving. Never before had she developed a role with such exquisite care and minute detail. The scope and depth of her of her emotional range is without parallel here.

It is said that Davis used her considerable authority to commandeer the production. If so her Fanny Skeffington is a testament to her intelligence and integrity and, of course, to her inestimable talent.

Probably the most widely remembered scene is the climactic episode in which the aged Fanny, alone and deserted, stands in her large darkening living room and tearfully watches her dilapidated image in a series of mirrors which the camera circles. The scene is doubly symbolic. It gives pause to absorb the depth of Davis's characterization and proclaims the apotheosis of BETTE DAVIS—GREAT ACTRESS. She was never quite to match this moment again.

Jack Warner ought to have taken a second look at what he had under contract. She was to leave Warners within a few years.

Dear Ruthie

Hello all! A few weeks ago, I was lucky enough to have a cocktail party thrown in my honor at Milwaukee's, This Is It bar. What a treat! The men at the party were wonderful and the men who came home with me after the party we're even better!

And to Hank - don't worry about my ex-husband, Lenny. He shouldn't have stopped by unexpectedly and deserved that black eye. I'm sure his collar bone will heal quickly. It has in the past.

Anyway, a lot of the boys and girls at that party jotted down some questions they had. I thought this would be a fine time to answer some. I hope your month is going well and I'll see you soon!

**

Dear Ruthie,
What is your perception about Donna Summer if any.
(not Signed)

Dear Friend,

That Donna Summer is just one of those "Bad Girls." Is this the "Last Dance" for Donna? Will we ever hear her songs playing "On the Radio" again? Is she still "Hot Stuff," or has the public said, "Enough is Enough?" I have to say, "She Works Hard for the Money," but "Heaven Knows" what will become of the heel wearing, hair tossing, spandex loving, radio sitting, disco diva. "There Goes My Baby." She's become a "Wanderer."

Poor Donna. Just as she was about to be admitted into the Diva Hall of Fame, she decided to join the Anita Bryant Fan Club. She had the nerve to say some ignorant things about the fans who quite possibly loved her the most.

Little Donna ... she can't help herself ...



Ruthie

she was born with a silver disco ball in her mouth. Only time can tell if Donna will graduate from the "John Travolta Come-Back College," or the "Margot Kidder School of Bush Camouflage."

We have all said things we regret. I'm sure that if you think back 10 or 20 years ago, you'd see that you believed things then you would never believe today. Everyone is like this and Donna Summer is no exception. She said some dumb things 20 years ago. She's since admitted this was a mistake. Take her for what you will. Play her records (they were called records back then, kids) and enjoy them or use them as hot pads and roofing shingles.

Dear Ruthie,
Do you leave your high heels on in bed?
(not signed)

- Only when I'm sleeping with a short man.

Dear Ruthie,
How long does it take you to do your hair in the morning?
(not signed)

Dear Ruthie,
Your hair is flawless! How do you get it so big?
Signed,
D.

Dear D. and Friend,
Well boys, when you got it, you got it. It takes a long time to look like Ruthie, even when you ARE Ruthie! Thank God for hair spray, pool repair kits, kool-aid, rubber cement, vegetable oil, and tequila. A little sip of this, a little shot of that and I'm raring to go. I also roll my hair with one gallon paint cans before I go to bed every night. On occasion, I'll roll over and injure the cat, but we all have to pay for beauty.

Dear Ruthie,
How do I find a true lover? What signs tell me it's for real?
(not signed)

Dear Ruthie,
How do I find true love for me? And will I ever find true love?
signed,
Customer

Dear Customer and Friend,
Well hell! You were both at the party that night! Why didn't you find each other? I, suppose, however, that that was sort of my job wasn't it? Sorry. Why don't you boys stop by the trailer park, and I'll make it up to you? One by one. Okay... okay, both at the same time.

Anyway, I've gotten this question more times than Rush Limbaugh gets turned down for sex. I know that you will both find true love and when it happens, you'll know. You may have been hurt in the past (maybe by some hateful words from a bitchy disco singer), but those experiences mold you.

They make you a better partner for someone else. Try to be happy with who you are and the rest will follow. Don't spend too much time looking for Mr. Right. Just make new friends, and enjoy life. You'll find your man sooner this way. I've said it before, and I'll say it again - do some volunteer work. Not only will you be helping someone in need, but you'll meet a lot of great and caring people. If you're

feeling down in the dumps about this, do what I do to cheer up - wrap your entire body in saran wrap and go greet the sailors.

Dear Ruthie,
How does one get rid of week old (sperm) stains from Grandma's antique linens?
signed

Yellowed, Spotted, and Sticky

Dear Yellow,
That's easy. Stop making love to Grandma.

I know I'm running behind in answering your letters, but please continue to send them. I receive mail at: Dear Ruthie c/o the Wisconsin Light/1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. I'm also your cyber - gal. Feel free to e-mail questions to me at www.wilight.com

Tell Your Friends That You Read All About it in The Wisconsin Light

Labor Day
Continued From Page 19

Packer Parties

And let's not forget that our beloved Pack begins its regular season on Monday September 1st. What better way to celebrate the holiday and finish off the weekend than at a Packer Party at your favorite bar.

Great places to watch the Pack in action in Milwaukee, include In Between and the Ball Game.

In Madison, Manoeuvres will offer a beer bust and a free buffet. In Green Bay the Napalese Lounge and Sass are said to be popular places for Packer fans to congregate.

Bible
Continued From Page 25

the public.
For further information concerning Daniel A. Helminiak's appearance or any Afterwords event, please call (414) 963-9089 or visit the Afterwords website at www.afterwords.com

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
DOOR COUNTY	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
Chanticleer Guest House 4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 746-0334	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
EAU CLAIRE	Prairie Garden Bed & Breakfast W13172 Hwy 188 Lodi, WI 53555 1-800-380-8427	Fannies 200 E. Washington Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-9633	Zippers 819 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-8330
The Trading Co. 304 Eau Claire St. Eau, Claire WI 838-9494	Scandals 121 W. Main St. Madison, WI 53703 251-1030	In Between 625 S. 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 278-96114	NEENAH
The Wolfs's Den 302 E Madison EauClaire, WI 54703 832-9237	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
GREEN BAY	We Are Family 524 E. Wilson Madison, WI 5303 258-9006	La Cage 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 52304 363-8300	RACINE
Brandy's II 1126 Main St Green Bay, WI 54301 437-3917	MILWAUKEE	La Perla Restaurant 734 S. Fifth St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-9888	JoDees 2139 Racine St. Racine, WI 53403 634-9804
Napalese Lounge 515 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 432-9646	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
Sass 840 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54304 437-7277	B's 1579 S 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 672-5580	M & M Club 124 N. Water Milwaukee, WI 53202 347-1962	SHEBOYGAN
Za's/Java's 1106 Main St. Green Bay, WI 54301 435-5476	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
KENOSHA	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
Club 94 9001 120th Ave Kenosha, WI 53140 857-9958	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
LA CROSSE	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
Cavaller Lounge 114 N 5th St. La Crosse, WI 54601 782-9061			JT's Bar 1506 N 3rd St. Superior, WI 54880 394-2580
LAKE MILLS			Trio Club 820 Tower Superior, WI 54880 392-5373
Cross Roads Bar W6642 Hwy B Lake Mills, WI 53551 648-8457			WAUSAU
			The Mad Hatter 320 Washington Wausau, WI 54401 842-3225

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Dames At Sea The Madison Rep's smash hit *Dames At Sea* will give a benefit performance for Madison's AIDS Network and Milwaukee's STD Specialties Clinic on Sunday August 24.

South Water Street Docks to Hold Carnival as Benefit for AIDS Walk

By Ted Berg

Milwaukee—On August 23rd, between 2:00 and 10:00 PM, at South Water Street Docks, located at 354 E National in Milwaukee, there will be an Ole Fashion Carnival. If you have a bit of saw dust in your veins, you can't miss this opportunity for fun. It's a must for kids of all ages.

See the friendly bartenders: Ray, Warren, Joel, Steve, Pat, and Mike.

Have your chart astrologically consulted by the famed Jim and see if you'll meet a tall dark stranger.

On the lighter side laugh with the talents of the MAP Clown Troupe. Have your face painted or sport a new Gay balloon hat for the festivities.

What is a carnival without a Dunk Tank? If time permits and victims—oh, I mean volunteers, come forward—we will have a tug of war.

You know how the Gay Community is always looking for a few good men? Dan, the manager of the bar, says there will be games for the carnie-goer to enjoy. He also said that if anyone would like to do-

mate their time and or artistry to please contact him or leave a message at the bar at 414-225-9676. There is a possibility of a stage being set up.

All this and it's a fund raiser for AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

For hungry carnie patrons you can partake in Chicken, Burgers and Corn on the Cob at a nominal donation. All money raised from the food and games will go to the AIDS Walk Wisconsin South Water Street Dock's Team. For those folks afraid of dehydration there will be a Margarita Bar.

A special benefit of going is that you can also sign up at the festivities to walk on their team. There will be volunteers there to sign you up.

The bar is looking into sponsoring a cook out after the Walk for those who volunteered for them. In the past year the bar has helped the Possum Queen Campaign raise money for many candidates.

I'd like to thank Jim Weaton and his partner Carl, and all bar owners who sponsor events to help our community.

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Illinois

GET INTO MY TRUNKS You'll definitely be won over by this hot, 22 year old, college student, and former swimmer. I'm awesomely built, with equipment to match. (Chicago) #3912

SHINE THE BATPOLE This hot, healthy, dominant, Gay, White male, top, 34, 6ft, 170lbs, needs a totally submissive, White male, bottom to act out my fantasy with. I'm Batman and you're Robin. I want you to polish the batpole in the batcave, then assist me in interrogating the Riddler. (Cicero) #10435

WILLING TO EXPLORE Novice, White male, 44, 5'10, 186lbs, seeks top men and daddies. I'm willing to explore with the right guy. (DeKalb) #4008

TWO ON ONE BALL Two sexy, Latino, tops seeks a young, hairy, bottom stud, for hot and horny anal fun. I'm Puerto Rican, 35, 5'10, 190lbs. He's Mexican, 28, 5'8, 175lbs. We've got the goods to fill you up for hours. (Evanston) #4502

A YEN FOR MEN I'm looking for new friendships with other fun loving guys in the area. I'm a good looking, 29 year old, White male, 5'10, 150lbs, with long dark hair, Green eyes, and a nice build. I like to work out, lift weights, jog, and go out on the weekends. (Joliet) #3557

MARRIED ON A MISSION Horny, Bi, White, Married male, 35, 5'10, 175lbs, with Brown hair and eyes seeks other Married men for discreet fun. (Pontiac) #3837

Iowa

WHAT'S GOING ON? Shy, fun loving, guy wants to talk to other guys in the area. Let's hang out together. (Cedar Falls) #3352

NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST I wonder if leaving this ad will be a good way for me to meet a nice guy to hang out, and do stuff with. I'm a nice looking, 27 year old, White male, with sandy Blond hair, Blue Green eyes, and a stocky build. I like to go to sporting events, out to dinner, to movies, and various other things. Wanna tag along? (Des Moines) #3795

CARE PACKAGE This sexy, White male needs someone to take care of me. I'm into just about anything. (Des Moines) #3304

PAGAN PAL I want to correspond, and bond spiritually, with other men interested in paganism. I have a relationship so am just interested in friendship. (Des Moines) #3219

Minnesota

SERVE ME I love to be serviced and wanna feed you a mouthful. This handsome, 27 year old, White male, 5'10, 140lbs, is in the mood. (Austin) #4678

CLEAN CUT CAPERS Attractive, clean cut, Bi curious, White male, 26, 5'10, 155lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks other healthy, masculine, clean cut, guys, 20 to 30, for friendship and good times. I'm clean shaven, well endowed, uncut, and lots of fun. (Chanhassan) #3580

YA GOTTA CALL FIRST Wanna make friends with a good looking, 20 year old, White male, 6'3, 220lbs? Give me a call. Let's hang out and take it from there. (Lindstrom) #4102

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE Two hot Black males, both 6ft, 165lbs, one light skinned, one Brown skinned, are looking for some fun to get into. Can you take us both on? (Minneapolis) #4662

SHE MALE FUN Interested in she males? I'm a good looking, White male, 5'10, 175lbs, thoroughly interested in she male fun. (Minneapolis) #4250

SMOOTH AND MUSCLED? I want to meet a tall, muscled, top, with a pretty smooth body. I'm a very good looking, slender, 27 year old, White male who can make you feel great. (Minneapolis) #4109

PLANT YOUR APPLESEED I'm a very well built, smooth, Single, White male, 28, 5'7, and I'm ready to serve guys who need special attention. If you have a big, hard, problem, my mouth and throat can make it all better. I like guys 18 to 28. (Appleton) #4096

FREE IN THE FOOTHILLS Boy, am I glad to be back in the foothills. I'm a good natured, laid back, White male, 25, 6ft, 180lbs, looking for friends and, eventually, a relationship. I'm a farm kid who loves the country and can't deal with the fast pace, and insincerity, of the city. (Baraboo) #3027

BE MY FRIEND Nothing complicated here. I'm a young, White male just looking for someone to talk to who'll be my friend. (Beaver Dam) #4006

CHISELED MUSCLE STUD I'm a 5'6, 135lb, natural bodybuilder and swimmer, and I love to show off my defined, muscular body. Let me flex it. Go ahead, feel me, I like it. Ooh, I know what you're feeling, the huge bulge in my jock strap. It's as well built as the rest of me and loves to be licked. If you're another well built dude with a barbelled body, it's all yours. (Madison) #2120

READY FOR ACTION Gay, White male seeks hot, young, Gay friend for good times. (Madison) #4166

THE WEE HOURS I want to hook up with hot guys in the mornings or late evenings. Let's party. (Madison) #3606

BODY SAFARI Young, White male, 19, wants to meet men in the area for hanging out, and physical exploration. (Menasha) #3777

ALL WORKED UP Married, middle aged, Bi, White male, 6'4, 300lbs, a former athlete, is into just about anything, as long as it's not too kinky. I like men of all ages and races. (Milwaukee) #4494

FOOT LONG AND FANCY FREE It's a foot long and I love men. That's right. A foot long. Get to know me. (Milwaukee) #4345

VIDEO VOYEUR I want to meet other guys who like to watch porno videos and get off together. (Milwaukee) #3759

LET IT BE OUR SECRET I want to have some discreet fun with another hot guy in the area. I'm a 20 year old, White male, 6ft, 160lbs, in good shape, with a worked out body. (Milwaukee) #3776

FOOT IN MOUTH Do you have a foot fetish? I sure do. Let's talk about it. (Milwaukee) #31763

END MY WAIT Good looking, 20 year old, Gay, Asian male, 5'2, is waiting for you in Oshkosh. (Oshkosh) #3913

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD This professional Single, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, with sandy Brown hair seeks a clean, discreet, healthy, well built, Bi, or Bi curious, man for friendship, exploration, and maybe a relationship. You should be a non drinker and non smoker, and enjoy the outdoors, fishing, camping, traveling, and the arts. (Steven's Point) #4395

WOW ME IN WAUSAU I've never been with a guy before. I guess I've pushed the idea from my mind but, suddenly, the desire has come over me and I can't wait any more. I'm a nice looking, good natured, 22 year old, White male, hoping you call right away. (Wausau) #3108

GET ON WITH THE SHOW Good looking, 30 year old, White male seeks hot, well built, Gay males, 18 to 20, only. I have lots of interests including X-rated videos. Let's get together and play. #4267

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Private Club

Nice looking, White male, 6'1, 190lbs, with Blond hair, seeks Married, and Bi, men for discreet encounters. Maybe we can even start our own private, discreet, club. I prefer well hung guys. I'm very talented and versatile. (Minneapolis) #4186

ROUGH AND RUGGED? I just moved here and want to meet a rough and rugged, very tall, White male, to give myself up to. I'm a virgin, Gay, Black male, 5'11, 190lbs, with good looks and a healthy attitude. I know the meaning of the word monogamy. (Minneapolis) #3988

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD? Attractive, submissive, Bi, White male, in my late 30's, seeks a mature gentleman to serve. How can I please you? (Minneapolis) #3963

ALL YOURS I want to meet one or two hot guys into hard-core kink, watersports, a little bit of partying, and more. I'm a good looking, well endowed, White male, 6ft, with Blond hair, a nice body, and it's all yours. I wanna serve. (Minneapolis) #4007

SWEET AND NICE I'm a little lonely and want to meet a sweet, and nice, young man, 18 to 24, for good times hanging out and messing around. (Minneapolis) #4032

YOUR PLEASURE IS MY AIM Attractive, masculine, Bi, White male, in my late 30's, is very submissive. I'm looking for mature gentlemen to serve. I hope you'll call and let me know how I can please you. (Minneapolis) #3839

SHARE MY PLANS Good natured, sincere, 18 year old, White male, 6'2, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, seeks a guy with whom to share my plans for a happy life. I'm very outgoing, enjoy almost all outdoor activities, and love to cuddle. (Minneapolis) #3123

MAKE A FIST I'm into red hanky play, both as a top and a bottom. I'm a good looking, Gay, White male, in my 40's, 6'2, 215lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, and a mustache. If you're a hot man looking for hot, red hanky, play, let's not waste another moment. (Winona) #4329

Wisconsin

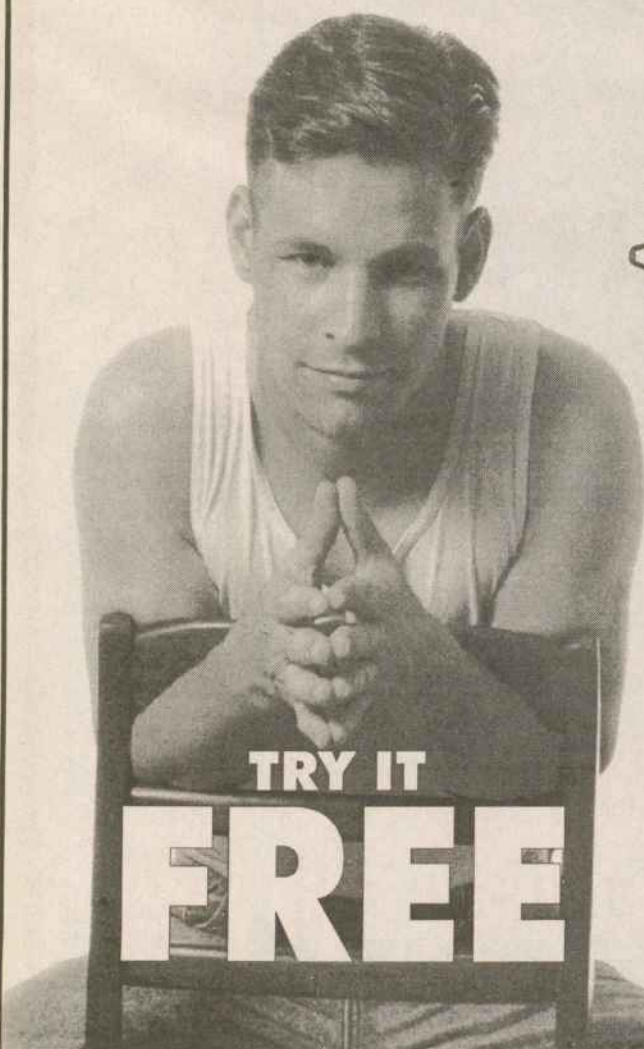
FUN ON THE PHONE I'm looking for guys to talk to on the phone and have some fun with. This good looking, White male, 33, 6'2, 175lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a mustache, can't wait to talk to you. (Milwaukee) #4845



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Montana High Court Strikes Down State's Sodomy Law

Washington, DC-AP-Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and Transgendered activists in Montana on July 2nd, celebrated a victory when the state Supreme Court unanimously struck down the state's sodomy law by ruling that sexual activity between consenting adults of the same-gender would no longer be illegal. The victory was nearly a quarter-century in the making.

Montana Gay and Lesbian activists worked hard to show that the law was unfair and denied them their guaranteed right to privacy. It was among the most severe of all the nation's sodomy laws because it prohibited same-gender "sexual contact"—not just the customary ban on anal and oral intercourse. Violators of the law could have faced up to ten years in prison and a maximum \$50,000 in fines.

Five states and the District of Columbia

have now decriminalized sodomy. While four other states have sodomy repeal measures alive, 28 states continue to have same-gender sodomy laws which make it illegal for some Americans to love whom they choose to love.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court found no constitutional right to privacy for same-gender conduct, the 1986 Bowers v. Hardwick decision permitted each state to decriminalize same-gender sodomy.

Please See Montana Page 28

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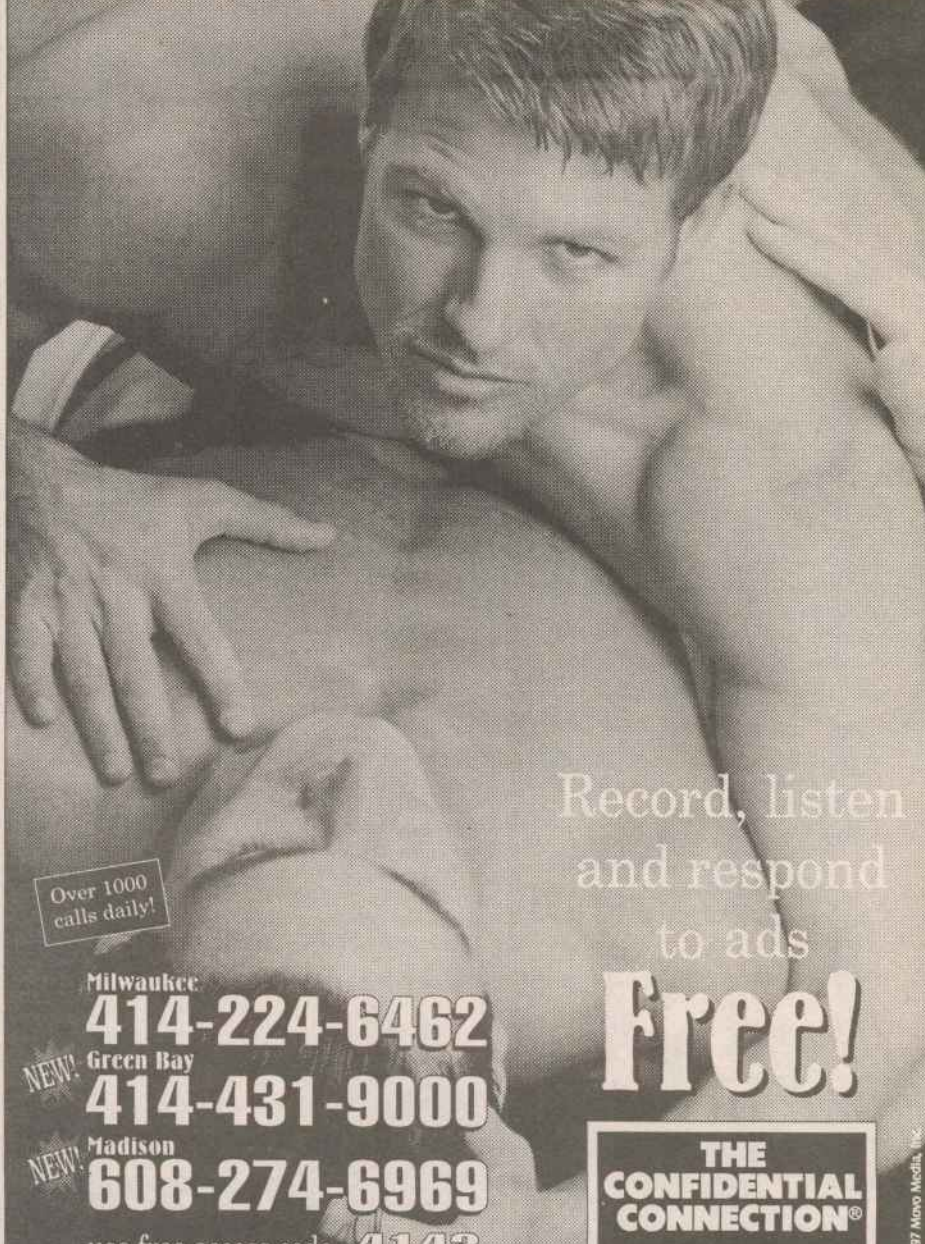
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Rotar
Continued From Page 1

Unfortunately, due to the current, the boat and Rotar drifted further apart. Suddenly Rotar disappeared beneath the three foot high waves and was not seen again.

The witness told *The Wisconsin Light* "It all happened in a twinkling of an eye. There was no time to react." He said that all those on the boat could do was scream for help and throw what they could to Rotar. He also said that no drinking or drug use occurred during the cruise.

According to the Coast Guard, a boater from a nearby craft, Richard Linsky, saw the commotion and placed a cell phone call to the St. Francis Police Department. A rescue effort that included units from that Department as well as the Coast

Guard and the Milwaukee Police Department was immediately organized.

Brooks speculated that Rotar may have developed cramps or become entangled in the large amount of seaweed in the area. Divers searching for the Rotar's body reported problems with accessing the area due to the high concentration of sea weed and the choppy, windy waters.

As we go to press, three days after the accident, the St. Francis Police Department reported that the search for Rotar's body is continuing with the assistance of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The body, however, remains missing. Officials say that due to lake conditions it may be some time before it can be recovered. The Milwaukee Police Department is making two passes a day over the area.

Kevin Rotar is survived by his partner Ricky, his family and his many friends.

Rotar was one of the few professional bartenders in Gay Milwaukee. In addition to his work at Club 219, his service to the community included stints at the Wreck Room, Your Place, the Triangle.

When asked about Rotar, *The Wisconsin Light's* Dusty Sass said, "I've known Kevin for about 20 years. He was some-

one who really cared about the community. Whenever I saw him he always had a smile and he would always make try to make everyone around him smile. He was one class person. He'll be missed."

Pride
Continued From Page 1

selves at risk for HIV because they don't believe they have much of a future.

"We must counteract these beliefs by developing AIDS prevention programs that not only teach HIV risk reduction skills, but also reinforce the message that Gay men can achieve successful relationships and long, productive, and gratifying lives," said Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., the study's co-author and director of CAIR.

Under the best circumstances, people often find it difficult to change behaviors that put them at risk for HIV/AIDS. It is even more difficult if they have many life problems and do not have a strong, positive outlook for the future. People with goals and aspirations are likely to take greater steps toward protecting themselves from HIV and AIDS, the study findings indicate.

The research also surveyed relationship status among the men. The study showed that men in exclusive relationships were more likely to be satisfied with their current life situations and had more hope for the future. However, the study could not determine whether stable partnered relationships produce greater present life satisfaction or whether men who already have these characteristics are more likely to enter and sustain exclusive relationships.

The CAIR study was based on a survey of 430 Gay and Bisexual men at an urban Gay pride celebration in 1995.

Dr. Kalichman was formerly at CAIR, and is currently an assistant professor of psychology at Georgia State University. Dr. Kelly is a professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

In addition to Dr. Kalichman and Dr. Kelly, the study was co-authored by David Rompa, a Research Coordinator at CAIR and Michael Morgan, formerly a CAIR Research Associate.

For more information on the study, see the August issue of the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*.

Montana
Continued from Page 30

"Sodomy laws are the linchpin in every attack against the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community. They are used to criminalize our behavior and as the basis for discrimination in employment, housing, health care and family issues. We applaud the court for its decision but salute the tireless work of Montana activists that made the victory possible," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Kerry Lobel.

Letters
Continued From Page 4

If anyone is interested in participating in these educational projects, either by relating personal school experiences, as parents of kids in school now, whatever—or who have family or friends who would help—please contact me at PFLAG-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 21853, Milwaukee, WI 53221-0853; (414) 299-9198.

Thanks for the continuous comprehensive sharing of information and inspiration.
Elna Hickson, Youth Advocate
PFLAG-Milwaukee

LBGT Christians

TO THE EDITOR:
Responding to Terry Sanderson's commentary of July 31st.

Most of us GLBT Christians don't bang our heads on the church door asking to be let in. WE ARE THE CHURCH as are all of our sisters and brothers. In reference to "the authoritarians that constitute the Christian Church," the Pope, the Bishop, as much as I, admire and respect Archbishop Weakland, are not the church. THE CHURCH is the whole body of believers with our good points and our faults.

It is interesting that people who don't believe in the Scriptures of the work of modern Scripture scholarship, are so quick to accept the Fundamentalist interpretation of them. Most modern scholars and theologians see the Christian Scriptures as living documents, much as we see the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, our understanding and interpretation is constantly growing and evolving in light of the individual and collective experience.

We must also realize that the Bible is not a neat book of rules, but rather a sloppy collection of 72 books (66 if you're Protestant), that explore and explain individual and/or community faith experience; books that confirm and/or contradict each other; books, though inspired by God, are written by men with prejudices from their space in history.

This does not invalidate their faith experience, but must be understood to understand their writings. Because of this, it is easy to pull out phrases or passages that would indicate that the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Jews, Christians and Moslems, is a judgmental, cruel, blood thirsty and homophobic God.

When one reads the whole of Scripture, especially in the light of the Gospels, which we who claim the name of Christ are called to do, a very different God, and therefore a different people emerges. These are a people of caring and concern, love and inclusion.

Yes, there is homophobia in the church and there is homophobia in the nation. Does that mean that we should throw up our hands and opt out? Or are we called to be prophets to our churches and to our world?

If one is to believe the polls, it appears that the work of the early, openly GLBT missionaries is paying off. Poll after poll shows that the Christian in the pew is much more accepting, much more pro-Gay than they were only 10 years ago. In most traditional Christian churches this is the majority; up to 75%.

Realizing that there are many in our community who have been so hurt that they, like the young child that is excluded from the game says, "I don't want to play. I don't even like that game."

Many of us are like the little girls who were told they couldn't play Little League and said, "The hell we can't," and fought until they were put on teams.

Please don't be embarrassed by GLBT people of faith any more than we should be embarrassed by Gay Republicans or Gay or Lesbian soldiers, or any other life choices we make. Diversity is what makes us such a rich community. Let's continue to celebrate it and stop attacking each other.

Joe Zopp
Milwaukee

No Reason to Leave

TO THE EDITOR:
Terry Sanderson's column advises Lesbians and Gays to give up on religion and head for the exit door. However, his commentary, and other commentaries like his, assume two fallacies pointed out by Alison Webster in the book, *Found Wanting* (pp. 164-165).

One fallacy is that religion is irrelevant. Whether a given religion is "true" or "false," the widespread persistence of religion in all

human cultures indicates that it is far from irrelevant.

The second fallacy is that in escaping Christianity (or any other religion), we thereby escape patriarchy and homophobia. The assumption is ridiculous even within Queer ghettos, and utterly absurd for those of us who live outside the ghettos.

Oppression can survive quite nicely outside religion, and even without religious backing. Those of us who remain within even the most oppressive of religious communities are quite aware of the negative aspects of our choices, thank you.

We happen to be gaining something here in spite of the atmosphere of rejection or condescension. Maybe we also are effecting some change. If we do decide to leave, I think we will have reasons with a bit more depth than those proposed by Sanderson.

Jim Miller
Madison

Gays and Christianity

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Terry Sanderson's article in the July 31-August 13 issue of the *Light*. I was originally going to respond with my usual smart-ass school of sarcasm style that I frequently use when writing to the papers. But this is too important for that.

I used to share Terry's view of religions in general and the Christian denominations more specifically. That has changed in recent years. I am happy to say that I have become active in religion again. I can thank two denominations for that; the Metropolitan Community Church and the Evangelical Church of America. As the tried and true saying goes: When God closes a door, He/She/It opens a window. Well, the windows are the MCC and the EACA.

Most Christian denominations have either rejected GLBTs or have some sort of tolerance agenda going on. I agree with Terry that this is an intolerable form of Christianity and I can't imagine anyone wanting to put themselves through the ordeal-by-guilt or the back-of-the-bus experience. But there are options out there.

Both the MCC and the EACA have emerged recently. The Metropolitan Community Church, which has an active parish in Milwaukee, led by Pastor Lew Broyles, doesn't tolerate the LBGT community, it celebrates it. The MCC does not allow the LBGT community to attend services, it beseeches, begs, invites, cajoles, and otherwise encourages anyone to visit or to join whether heterosexual, homosexual, or some-other sexual. This denomination has over 300 parishes world wide and celebrates diversity as evidenced by the variety of worship experiences one can have from one parish to the next. Decidedly Protestant, it offers a variety of spiritual environments and considerable flexibility of belief.

The EACA, or the Evangelical Anglican Church in America, is a more "catholic" denomination whose priests and bishops derive their apostolic succession through the Old Catholic Church. The headquarters of this denomination is near Los Angeles and is my own denomination, by the way.

This church follows the guidelines of the Book of Common Prayer of 1979 and the liturgy is virtually identical to what one would experience at St. James or All Saints Cathedral...on a somewhat more modest scale. While there is no parish in the Milwaukee area at this time, I hope to begin one following my ordination at some future date.

These are not efforts to "play church" and do "dress up." These are legitimate denominations that have a special outreach to the LBGT community, but encourage anyone who wishes to, to participate.

Terry, people may reject us, but God never would. I understand how you feel, having shared those feelings for nearly 30 years. There's plenty of information available on both those denominations and is available for those who want to learn more...God knows.

Richard Mence
Milwaukee
Editor's Note: Mr. Sanderson is a resident of the UK. I will forward this and other letters that came in response to his article to see if he would like to reply.

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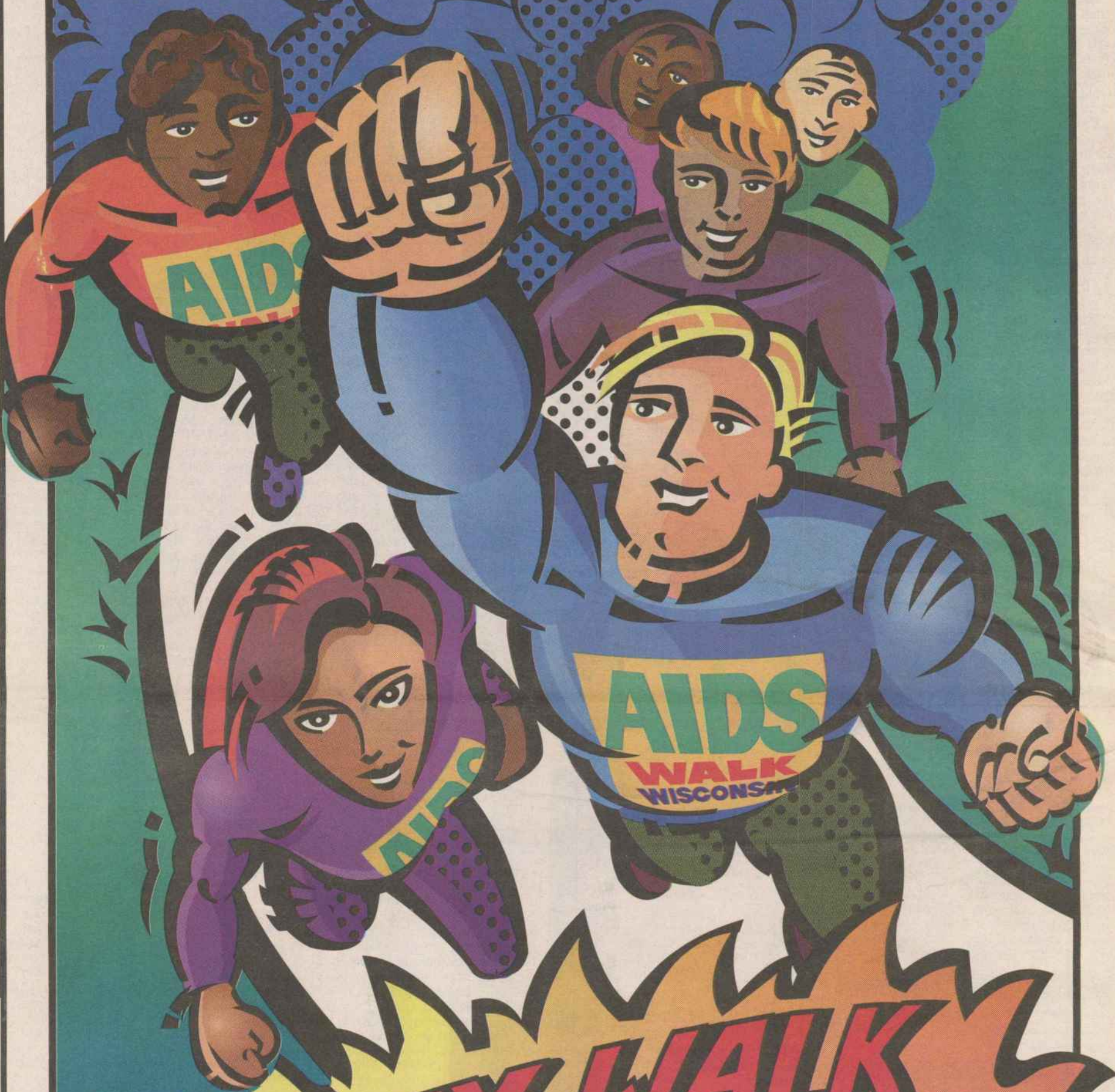
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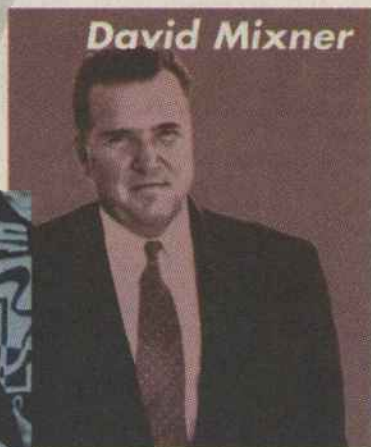
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