

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

The Wisconsin Light

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Wisconsin Light Exclusives

50 color photos of the 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin
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Our Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film Fest Section
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Group Willing to Take Injections of Live HIV Strain

Chicago—A group of doctors and public health advocates say AIDS research is so important that they are willing to risk their lives by being the first human beings to be injected with a vaccine consisting of a live, though weakened, strain of HIV.

The International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, based in Chicago, wants to conduct the test involving about 50 volunteers. The group intends to talk with National Institutes of Health officials about the idea.

Gordon Nary, executive director of the Chicago group and one of the trial's volunteers, said the risks of being in the study were diminished by what could be learned from it.

AIDS vaccine development is a slow process because of the safety measures and rigorous animal testing needed before injecting human beings with a vaccine.

"Vaccine development has really dragged on because there is an assumption by conservative scientists that people won't step up and do this," Nary said.

AIDS research efforts have focused on vaccines that do not involve a live virus because of fear that even a weakened, live virus might be capable of causing AIDS or other problems.

Mark Grabowsky of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is skeptical of the proposed study and says it is premature to talk about injecting healthy people with a live vaccine.

The Chicago group wants approval from the Food and Drug Administration but promises to go on even if it does not receive an okay from the FDA, said Charles Farthing, the study's leader and medical director of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles.

The group can proceed with its trial without FDA approval by containing its study to one state or conducting it in Europe.

10,000 Walkers Raise \$800,000 At 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin



Cutting the Ribbon A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony began the 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Shown from L to R are University of Wisconsin Basketball Coach, Dick Bennett, Congressman Tom Barrett, Honorary Chair, Greg Louganis, Jim Schleif of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and ARCW Executive Director, Doug Nelson. Additional pictures are pages 16, 17 and 32.

By Terry Boughner
Milwaukee—Sandy Lewis is kind of a tradition now.

Every year Jerry and I go to the pre-AIDS Walk Wisconsin breakfast, held this year, as in preceding years, at the Italian Community Center. Sandy is always there, the first one I see, standing at the Center's door, a diminutive figure dressed in a clown's costume with face paint that accents her sparkling, impish eyes. She smiles, waves, "Hi, Terry," she says with a smile, cocking her head to one side. It's nine in the A.M. Knowing me, she adds quickly, "Coffee's inside."

Sandy is so typical of the thousands of people involved with this Walk, volunteers, sponsors and the thousands of walkers who engage the fight against AIDS as their own. It is the "Ask not

or whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee," kind of mentality, I think. On this metallic bright Sunday, September 21, reports of apathy in the face of the disease seem highly exaggerated, at least here in Wisconsin.

The Breakfast

The Italian Community Center's banquet hall is filled. As in previous years, Carole Meekins of Today's TMJ4 hosted the affair. She is an utterly delightful person whose wry personality sparkles with just a touch of vinegar.

The usual contingent of politicians is announced. There's Senator Herb Kohl, Congressman Tom Barrett, State Senators Alberta Darling, Rick Grobschmidt, and Peggy Rosenzweig; State Representatives Tammy Baldwin Peter Bock, Bill Moran, Barb Notestein, Sheldon Wasserman; Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament.

Milwaukee's Mayor, John Norquist was not at the Breakfast, but joined the walkers for the hike.

Doug Nelson, the Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), spoke firmly and with spirit

Please See Walk page 29

PrideFest '98 to Be Held in August at the Maier Festival Grounds

Milwaukee—PrideFest has announced that the dates for PrideFest '98 will be August 28-30. The celebration will be held, as in the last two years, at the Henry W. Maier Festival Grounds (Summerfest). According to the Pride Committee, PrideFest is Wisconsin's largest LGBT festival.

PrideFest has announced as well the official trademarking of the name "PrideFest."

PrideFest continues to sponsor events such as BreastFest '97, the Link's Block Party, HRL National Coming Out Week and LAMM Gayla Gala Auction.

PrideFest also provides opportunities for individuals to get involved. One thousand volunteers were the driving force behind the 1997 festival, keeping everyone fed, entertained and safe.

Wisconsin Assembly Adopts First Ever Bill That Protects Rights of Same-Sex Couples

Madison—On September 17, 1997, the Republican controlled State Assembly adopted Assembly Bill 397, the Hospital Visitation Bill, on a unanimous voice vote.

The bill, co-authored by Rep. Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) and Rep. Shirley Krug (D-Milwaukee), would ensure that Lesbian and Gay citizens, as well as anyone wishing the companionship of a loved one who may not be related by blood, could identify who would be permitted to visit them in the event they became incapacitated, and a medical facility would be required to permit their visitation, notwithstanding the wishes of the patient's blood relatives or anyone else.

The Bill moved unusually quickly, as it was only approved by the Assembly Health Committee the week before. Observers believe that the Speaker of the Assembly, Rep. Ben Brancel (R-Endeavor), and the Assembly Majority Leader, Rep. Steve Foti (R-Oconomowoc), wanted to

assist Rep. Jensen and the Log Cabin Republicans by scheduling the bill promptly after its favorable committee action.

When the schedule for the day which included AB 397 was brought up before the Republican Assembly caucus, not one

Please See Rights Page 31

HIV Notification Bill Passes State Assembly on Unanimous Vote

Madison—Legislation allowing notification of persons known by doctors to have been significantly exposed to HIV passed on a unanimous voice vote in the State Assembly on September 17.

State Representative Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee) and Senator Peggy Rosenzweig (R-Wauwatosa) co-authored Assembly Bill 280 to address concerns raised by the Medical College of Wisconsin's bioethics department. The department came to the Legislature for assistance after a patient refused to tell his wife about his HIV+ status and threatened to sue physicians who urged him to do so.

Rep. Wasserman, pleased by the Assembly's endorsement of the proposal, said, "By establishing a specific reporting mechanism for HIV notification, AB 280 will end the nightmare that sometimes faces doctors in Wisconsin because they cannot notify those at risk. It will help to protect the public from HIV exposure while preserving the anonymity of HIV+ persons." Wasserman is a Milwaukee physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology.

Sen. Rosenzweig added, "Wisconsin law already provides exceptions to patient-doctor confidentiality for reporting child abuse, suspicious gun shot wounds and non-sexually transmitted contagious diseases. An addition exception for AIDS makes common sense, in light of the threat to public health and the importance of early intervention."

Wisconsin's current confidentiality law

Please See HIV Bill Page 4



Toting It With Pride - AIDS Walk Wisconsin Volunteers hold up the numbers for this year's total \$807,461 to cheers and applause of the crowd. Additional pictures are pages 16, 17 and 32.

News From The Nation



Lesbians File Harassment Suit

Sioux Falls, SD-AP- Two former workers at the state Human Services Center have filed a lawsuit claiming that co-workers and bosses harassed them because they are lesbians.

Yvonne Nuzum and Carol Reining, now both living in Colorado, said they quit their jobs at what is now the George S. Mickelson Center for Neurosciences because employees tried to make them declare their sexual orientation. The pair lived together in 1996 when they worked at the center.

Attorney Timothy James of Yankton, who is representing the women, said the decision to file a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls was a tough one for the pair because it forces them to publicly discuss their private lives.

Bishop Bars PFLAG Religious Retreat

Bridgeport, CN-AP- A religious retreat for Catholic parents of Gay and Lesbian children has been canceled by Bishop Edward M. Egan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport.

The session had been scheduled for next month in Stamford at a diocesan facility. "This is going to bring additional confusion and pain to parents who feel some of the alienation of their children from the church when things like this happen," the Rev. Robert Nugent, retreat leader, said Tuesday.

According to diocese spokesman Tom Drohan, Bishop Egan was concerned about a nine-year-old investigation of Nugent's ministry by Cardinal Adam Maida of the archdiocese of Detroit.

FedEx Battles Domestic Partners Law

San Francisco-AP- Federal Express must extend benefits to its employees' domestic partners or move out of the San Francisco International Airport, city officials say.

FedEx and the city are in the midst of negotiating a \$2.1 million-a-year contract to move the package carrier into a new, larger cargo facility at San Francisco's airport.

But FedEx has made its opposition to the city's domestic partners ordinance very clear. The overnight delivery giant is party to the Air Transport Association's suit against the law and in public statements has argued it is subject only to federal regulations. The ATA represents 22 airlines.

The domestic partners ordinance, which took effect June 1, requires all companies doing business with the city to offer the same benefits to domestic partner relationships as they do to married couples.

Lawyers Back Same-Sex Marriage

San Diego-AP- Delegates to the State Bar's annual meeting approved two resolutions on same-sex marriages. One proposes repealing a state law that specifies that a valid marriage must be between a man and a woman.

The second would urge the California congressional delegation to seek repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows states to refuse to recognize such marriages in other states.

The conference declined to consider two resolutions under rules, based on a U.S. Supreme Court decision, that limit the bar's ability to take political positions not directly connected with the practice of law or the legal system.

Complaint Filed Against Pro-Gay Pastor

Omaha, NE-AP- A member of the First United Methodist Church has filed a complaint against the church's pastor for conducting a Lesbian commitment ceremony.

The Rev. Jimmy Creech performed the ceremony Sept. 14 despite warnings from Nebraska United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez that he such an action would probably trigger a complaint and possible disciplinary action.

Church member Bob Howell mailed a formal complaint to Martinez on Tuesday. He charged that Creech had violated church rules that prohibit Methodist pastors from performing union ceremonies and from allowing them to be performed on church property.

Howell's complaint is expected to trigger a review process that could result in disciplinary action against Creech. Possible sanctions include suspension, leave of absence or surrender of ministerial credentials.

The two women who took part in the ceremony are member's of the central Omaha church's 1,900-member congregation.

Business Leaders Back Pro-Gay Initiative

Eugene, OR-AP- Several of Oregon's top business leaders are backing an initiative that would prohibit workplace discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

Cheryl Perrin, vice president for public affairs at Fred Meyer, is one of three sponsors of the proposed ballot measure, which has been filed with the state Elections Division.

To get on the November 1988 ballot, supporters must turn in 73,261 signatures by next July.

Gay opponent Lon Mabon said he was neither surprised nor worried by the corporate backing for the initiative. Mabon said he expects to gather enough signatures to get a measure forbidding Gay marriages onto the same November ballot that would contain the Gay rights initiative.

Maine Faces Anti-Gay Initiative

Augusta, ME-AP- Maine's Gay-rights law was put on hold Thursday, one day before it was to take effect, after opponents gathered enough signatures for a possible referendum on the anti-discrimination act. Elections officials have 30 days to certify the signatures. If an insufficient number is valid, the law will take effect the following day, Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky said.

Otherwise, the law will remain on hold until the referendum, which would be scheduled after November and before April.

The law, approved by the Legislature earlier this year and signed by Gov. Angus King, bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, public accommodations, credit and employment.

Karen Geraghty, former president of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, said she was certain voters would uphold the law, which was 20 years in the making.

"I'm angry because we have to go through another referendum, and I'm disappointed because groups of fundamental Christians are unwilling to accept that the law has been (enacted)," she said.

In 1995, Maine voters narrowly defeated a referendum that sought to outlaw civil rights protections for Gay people.

Chicago Judge Denounces Haters

Chicago-AP- A Cook County judge has upheld a new ordinance that gives health benefits to the domestic partners of city workers, and said there would be a special place in hell for the people who sent him nasty letters about the law.

Judge Thomas Durkin announced his ruling to a packed courtroom Tuesday. He then addressed the dozen or so anonymous letter writers who lobbied him to rule against the ordinance.

"I have been described as being on a slippery slope to perdition for doing what I believe to be my job," Durkin said. "I am quite certain that if they are right, and I am condemned to hell, I will meet a goodly amount of them there because their attitude certainly shows a lack of a basic element personal charity toward others."

At least 13 city workers have been granted benefits for their partners since the ordinance took effect May 16, a city spokeswoman said.

Gay Character Bursts Out of Veronica's Closet

New York, NY- Beginning on September 25 at 9:30 ET/PT, NBC's new hopeful Veronica's Closet, starting Kirstie Alley, will feature a Gay character named Josh, played by Wallace Langham. Adding a fresh spin to a television Gay character, Josh premieres in the closet, even though the rest of the cast knows that he is Gay. While the cast's knowledge is assumption, it is not through traditional stereotypes by which he is defined. At one point, Josh is talking to Veronica (Kirstie Alley) about breaking up with his girlfriend. He ponders, "I don't even know why we broke up." Veronica looks at him and matter-of-factly replies, "I don't know...maybe its because you're Gay!" Josh begins to deny it and Veronica tries to assure him, "You are a Gay man!" He protests, "What is it? I mean, you and my mother." Veronica smiles at him and gives him a little kiss saying, "We just want you to be happy."

SF Chronicle Looks at Transgender Films

San Francisco- In anticipation of the release of the critically acclaimed film *Different for Girls*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* featured a September 6 article on the history of transsexuals in film. "Kim, the modest secretary in *Different for Girls*, isn't the first big-screen transsexual, but she's one of the first whose gender reassignment and surgical history weren't treated with freakish curiosity," it begins. Going back to "the dour biopic" *The Christine Jorgensen Story* in 1970, the article notes that "the movie manages to be simultaneously dull, lurid and embarrassed by itself."

Washington Governor Backs Gay Initiative

Seattle-AP- State voters have a moral and patriotic duty to approve an initiative to bar employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, Gov. Gary Locke said.

Initiative 677 "is one of the simplest, shortest and clearest initiatives ever put before the people of Washington," Locke told a luncheon fund-raiser for backers of the measure Thursday. "It also is one of the most important."

Locke said the "radical right" has waged a smear campaign against the initiative, which will go before voters at the Nov. 4 general election.

"They make the old, tired and utterly false claim that this simple act of justice will extend 'special rights' to Gays and Lesbians," he said. "We all know how utterly misleading that argument is."

Locke, the nation's first Chinese-American governor, said his family has struggled with the same problems of discrimination that many Gays and Lesbians face today.

Gay Cop Given Medal of Valor

New York, NY-AP- A police officer stabbed while struggling with a suicidal maniac became the first openly Gay city cop to be awarded the department's Medal of Valor at a ceremony also honoring five officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

For his "extraordinary bravery under extremely dangerous circumstances," Crespo was one of 69 officers awarded medals. In addition, five officers who died in the line of duty last year were given posthumous Medals of Honor.

Crespo was working a desk job at the 24th Precinct on the Upper West Side on Sept. 5, 1995, when a knife-wielding taxi driver suddenly appeared and lunged at a female officer.

As his colleague struggled with the attacker, Crespo tried to knock the knife away and was stabbed in the chest. He and another officer then shot the intruder dead, but a stray bullet hit Crespo in the knee.

Crespo recalled that as he was being wheeled into the emergency room, "I heard someone ask, 'Does he have a girlfriend? Does he have a wife?' And my response quickly was, 'No, I don't have a girlfriend. I have a boyfriend.'"

"And at that instant, they yelled and said, 'Get highway cops to go pick up his boyfriend.'"

Fund Honors Utah Gay Youth

New York, NY- Following the suicide of Utah Gay student leader Jacob Orozco, the Tzabaco Catalog's Safe Schools Initiative on September 11 formed a Memorial Fund to aid high school Gay-straight alliances across the country. Orozco took his own life after a two-year battle against the Salt Lake City school district for formal recognition of East High School's Gay-Straight Student Alliance, a support group for students dealing with issues related to sexual orientation and homophobia. He was to be the group's next president this fall. Tzabaco began the drive with a \$2,500 donation.

Gore Promises Support for LGBTs

Washington, DC-AP- Gays and Lesbians "certainly have my commitment to work as hard as I can" to stop anti-Gay hate crimes, find a cure for AIDS and end workplace discrimination, Vice President Al Gore promised. "It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face Gays and Lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights," Gore told the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at its annual awards ceremony.

The task force honored Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King; AFL-CIO President John Sweeney; and the Mautner Project, a service organization for Lesbians with cancer.

Researcher Says HIV Remains Dormant

Baltimore-AP- AIDS drugs that lower the virus to undetectable levels leave a silent infection in patients' immune systems that can rebound dangerously if the expensive treatment is ever stopped, new research shows.

Though combining protease inhibitors into a drug cocktail has produced dramatic improvements for thousands of AIDS patients, the new study dims hope that the "latent reservoir" of infection can be eradicated, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Monday.

"I'm quite skeptical about how long it's going to be before we can actually stop the drugs," Fauci said. "I'm not sure we can ever stop."

The idea that drugs could cure AIDS has been championed by Dr. David Ho, a prominent researcher in New York. Based on a mathematical model, Ho said the virus could be eradicated in three years.

Ho plans to take several patients off their drugs and monitor them for a resurgence of virus. The patients have been on the drugs two years.

Christian Group Okays Gay Day—in Private

Cincinnati-AP- A get-together expressly for Gays is getting support from an unexpected source.

The Christian Family Network, which has members in 40 states, said it supports a plan by Cincinnati's Gay and Lesbian Community Center to rent Paramount's Kings Island for a private party Friday.

Although it does not condone homosexuality, the network said a private party is preferable to informal "Gay Day" events of the past 13 years, when Gays and Lesbians visit the park en masse while it is open to the public.

In June, the Southern Baptist Convention voted to have its 16 million members boycott Walt Disney Co. because it extends benefits to same-sex companions of Gay employees and releases R-rated movies.

Deegan said the boycott has had no effect on the company.

Domestic Partner Benefits at UC

San Francisco-AP- In a last-minute reversal prompted by a request from Gov. Wilson, the University of California regents on Thursday delayed a decision on benefits for the same-sex partners of UC employees.

The regents earlier had decided to give UC President Richard Atkinson the power to implement his benefits plan as soon as Jan. 1, 1998. That would have given medical, dental and optical plans to same-sex partners who live together and share finances.

Under Atkinson's plan, chancellors at each of the UC campuses also would have been allowed to offer student family housing to same-sex couples, though students with children would have first priority.

But, acting as messenger for the governor, Regent John Davies said the governor, who is president of the Board of Regents, worried that the domestic partners issue could interfere with the university's budget in the state Legislature.

The regents are expected to vote on the matter in November. Atkinson said he will wait to take any action until that time.

National Coming Out Day Calendar of Events

Milwaukee—The 1997 National Coming Out Day Celebrations will take place October 4-13. The Human Rights League (HRL), Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and many other sponsors are proud to present a full week of receptions, workshops and award ceremonies.

Third Annual Friends, Families and Allies Reception

Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m., Milwaukee Art Museum (East Entrance), 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive. Invite your friends, families and allies to join you and the LGBT community.

The reception will feature guest speakers Emily Alpren and Sean Duerr, a skit by Marge Rock and Diane Bloom of Shorewood High School, a children's art project and docent-lead tours of the Milwaukee Art Museum. Tours start at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Platinum Sponsors are Hume Law Offices and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Financial Strategies for Gay Men and Lesbians

Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m., UWM Union (Milwaukee Room), 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. This workshop will provide information about sound financial planning and the unique financial challenges for the LGBT community.

Presented by Carol L. Busche, Senior Financial Advisor with American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. and Ruth J. Irvings, private practice attorney with Moertl, Wilkins, & Campbell, S.C. This event is sponsored by Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, HRL, Women's Resource Center at UWM, UWM Office of Student Life and the GLB Community at UWM.

Forming LGBT Communities at Work

Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m., M&M Club, upstairs, 124 N. Water St. Learn how to form a group of LGBT employees at your workplace.

Keynote Monice Bryand and a panel of representatives from LGBT employee groups at Ameritech, First Star Bank and Dehuxe Data Systems will answer questions and offer advice about why and how

to organize in the workplace. Bryand works at St. Paul Companies, which is ranked among the top ten LGBT-friendly companies nationwide and has a thriving LGBT employee group.

Public Officials Reception

Oct. 9, 6:15 p.m., First Unitarian Church Community Room, 1342 N. Astor. The Fourth Annual Public Officials Reception is one of the most important political events of the year for the LGBT Community.

Historically, Mayor Norquist, the County Executive, State Senators, Assembly Representatives, Alderpersons and County Supervisors have attended the reception. All have been invited to this year's reception, and this is a prime opportunity to speak with elected officials about issues that matter to you.

Platinum Sponsors are Hume Law Offices and ARCW. Silver Sponsors are Log Cabin Republicans and SAGE.

LGBT Community Center

Town Hall Meeting

Oct. 11, noon, M&M Club, upstairs, 124 N. Water St. Join the community center for a progress report. All are wel-

come to join discussions about the floor plan, resources, services, upcoming events and membership opportunities.

The Milwaukee LGBT community does not currently have a central place for gathering, organizing and advocacy. The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center sponsors educational and entertainment programming, and will provide meeting spaces and facility support under one roof in a safe environment when it opens in the Spring of 1998.

Outcoming Dance

Oct. 11, 8:00 p.m., Milwaukee Public Museum, 2nd Floor Uihlein Decorative Arts Gallery, 800 W. Wells St. The First Annual Out-Coming Dance will feature an Out-Coming Court, DJ music and non-alcohol and alcohol bars. Let this be your homecoming to our community. Advance tickets available at Afterwords, Designing Men and Outpost Natural Foods for \$8-single, couple- \$10, at the door \$13 single, \$15 couple.

This event sponsored by The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, HRL, GLB Community at UWM and the Marquette University Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual

Student Group.

Human Rights League Annual Meeting

Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m., M&M Club, Upstairs, 124 N. Water St. Wrap up Coming Out Week at the Human Rights League's (HRL's) Annual Membership Meeting. Topics for discussion will include domestic partnership benefits, the HRL political action committee, and addressing how Bisexual and Transgendered people might fit into the HRL bylaws.

Major sponsors include: Cream City Foundation, Miller Brewing Company, The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee National Organization for Women, Jack H. Smith of Shorewest Realtors, Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, PrideFest, Tammy Baldwin, Sherman Park Rainbow Association, Wisconsin Research Center, Busche, Lukovich, O'Donnell & Associates-American Express Financial Advisors, La Cage.

All events are free of charge and are open to the public. Please call HRL at (414) 228-1921 for more information.

COME OUT
for those who have
COME OUT



To kick off National Coming Out Week
HRL, PFLAG, NOW & GEMINI on Saturday, October 4th
invite family, friends & allies of lesbians, gays,
bisexuals and transgenders to
A TIME TO SHARE

Live music, refreshments, door prizes, guest speakers, skit by Marge Rock & Diane Blum, children's art projects and art museum tour

Milwaukee Art Museum
750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive (East Entrance)
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Call 228-1921 for further information.



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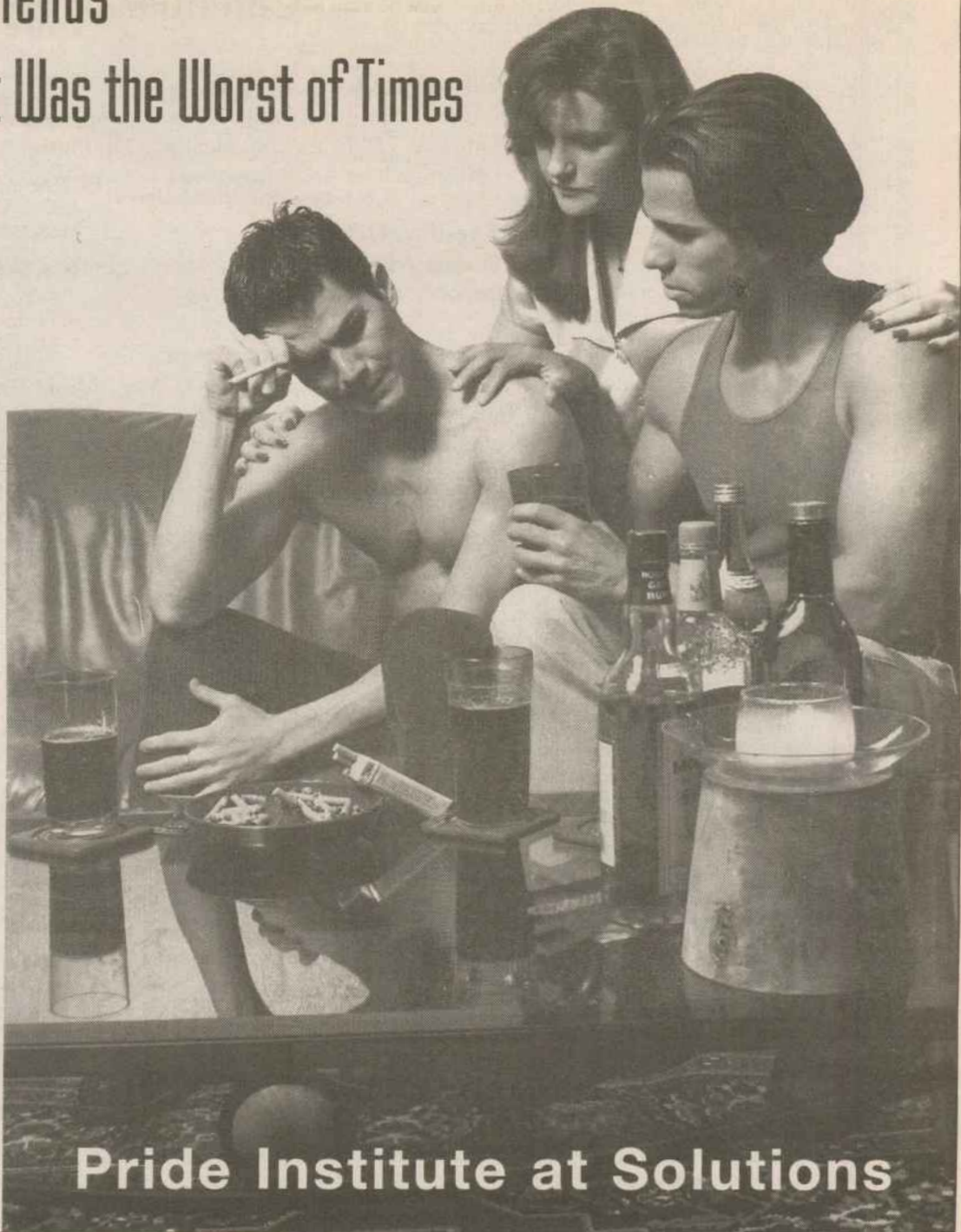
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New York Area
Washington, D.C.



Pride Institute at Solutions

Editorial

Shame on Mayor Norquist

AIDS Walk Wisconsin was another smashing success this year. As noted in our lead article, ten thousand people raised over \$800,000, an enviable achievement for any cause in Wisconsin. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) does a magnificent job producing the Walk which brings out the best in all of us.

It even brings out the politicians who like to be seen at this high profile event. This year, Milwaukee Congressman Tom Barrett was praised for his recent vote supporting government funding of needle exchange.

ARCW runs an excellent needle exchange program in Milwaukee, but a ridiculous federal ban on funding these programs severely limits the numbers of drug users who ARCW can reach. Wisconsin Light proudly joins in the praise for Barrett's wise and courageous vote.

Which brings us to Mayor Norquist.

For many years the Mayor's record on AIDS has been disappointing even though half of the state's people with HIV and AIDS live in his city of Milwaukee. The Mayor has always opposed putting AIDS funding in his budget. It's been frustrating to watch the Mayor fund his pet projects like Riverwalk while leaving AIDS out of his budget.

The Mayor also opposed city funding for needle exchange, which the *Journal Sentinel* called "a disgraceful display of political pandering."

Recently, in an interview, the Mayor offered a shocking explanation for his opposition to needle exchange, saying he didn't admire the people who are addicts to drugs and shouldn't have to support that lifestyle.

How sad it is that the Mayor has stooped so low as to use the demagogic tactics of Senator Jesse Helms who, for years has blocked AIDS fund and programs for Gay men because he doesn't admire Gays and Lesbians and doesn't want taxpayers to support our lifestyle.

The Mayor should be ashamed of his position on needle exchange. This issue has nothing to do with whether you admire a class of people. It has everything to do with saving lives and stopping the AIDS epidemic in Milwaukee.

The ARCW needle exchange is an easy one for the Mayor to support because it also gets drug users into treatment and off drugs—surely something the Mayor wants.

We urge the Mayor to follow the lead of Tom Barrett who also represents Milwaukee taxpayers. One thousand people have died of AIDS related causes in our city. We need leadership.

Please, Mayor Norquist, drop your reactionary posturing and help us save lives and put an end to AIDS. City funding of needle exchange is a way to start.

A Choice

The time of giving is at hand. TV and other ads are promoting the United Way as the organization to which you should make your charitable contribution.

We offer another suggestion.

When asked to give at your work place, give, but in your giving, consider A Choice.

A Choice member charities are among the most progressive in Milwaukee. Among them is the Cream City Foundation (CCF). The Foundation is a major sponsor of such things as PrideFest, the GLBT Film Festival and a host of other events in our community. It grants scholarships to GLBT students. It is the philanthropic institution upon which so much in our community rests.

Through A Choice, you can be sure that our LGBT community is well-served. You do have a choice. It is A Choice.

Letters

Gays and Religion

TO THE EDITOR:

Congratulations on publishing Terry Sanderson about Gays and Christian Churches. There are two great organizations for those who are not interested in trying to be part of religion. One is located in your state: The Freedom From Religion Foundation, Box 750, Madison, WI 53701. When my lover and I walked into our first convention of this group twenty years ago, we were instantly accepted. No judgementalism here.

The other is the Gay and Lesbian Atheists and Humanists, 1718 M Street NW, #157, Washington, DC 20036.

I was amused by Joe Zopp's letter in a subsequent issue. At least he admits that the Bible is a "sloppy collection of books." I would add that it is a collection of ancient folk tales. He tries to compare it to the US Constitution. I would point out that the Constitution is a carefully thought out document which can be amended in a logical way. The Bible is interpreted in a willy-nilly way by those who want

HIV Bill

Continued From Page 1

provides a criminal penalty of up to nine months in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 for unauthorized release of a person's HIV+ status. The legislation currently under consideration would allow doctors to supply the state epidemiologist with names of persons they know have been significantly exposed to HIV+ patients. The state may then notify the person who has been exposed. However, the state may not disclose the name of the HIV+ patient responsible for the exposure.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is supportive of the measure. Michael Gifford, Director of Public Policy for the organization, has called the bill "the most effective strategy to assure the highest level of confidentiality and yet address the physician's ethical dilemma."

Rep. Wasserman and Sen. Rosenzweig hope for swift action by the State Senate.

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.

it to say whatever meets their needs!

Dick Hewetson
San Francisco

Cops in the Parks

Milwaukee—By no means should anyone enter Juneau Park after closing and, to be safe, after dark, period.

The Milwaukee police are targeting that particular park for any activity, even simple walks, in force with the use of night vision binoculars and are ticketing violators approximately \$140 for "trespassing," "loitering," and who knows what else.

Happy Anniversary

By Terry Boughner

As my parents reached their 45th Anniversary, I asked my mother what the secret was.

She was sitting in her Boston rocker, knitting one of her eternal afghans. At my question, she stopped and said, "You love him. You make a commitment. You make compromises."

After that, she paused and I thought she had finished, but she turned to me and, with a conspiratorial look in her eye, she added, "And you know how to handle him."

I think often about what she said. It has always seemed to me that she'd summed it up; what a marriage was all about, why it lasted. I think too, that her formula applies to Lesbians and Gays as well as straights.

Now, to Ross and Robert. They recently celebrated their 27th year together. I heartily suspect that they have my mother's plan down pat, each of them. On that plan, they have built something quite beautiful with each other. A home, yes, but something, too, that is steady and good, something I can see in their eyes.

It's a glow. I can see it in Todd and Mark's eyes. I hope others see it in Jerry's and mine. It's soft, sometimes adoring, sometimes commanding, sometimes exasperating, but always it says, "You are the single most important human fact in my life. Above you and other than you, there is no one."

Happy Anniversary, Robert and Ross. May you see many, many more.

1997 National Coming Out Day Calendar of Events

Saturday, Oct. 4, 1-4 p.m.

Friends, Families & Allies Reception, Milwaukee Art Museum East Entrance, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. **Platinum Sponsors** Hume Law Offices and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

Financial Strategies for Gay Men & Lesbians, UWM Union-Milwaukee Room, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m.

Forming LGBT Communities at Work, M&M Club, 124 N. Water St. Guest speaker from St. Paul Companies and LGBT groups from three Milwaukee employers.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Fourth Annual Public Officials Reception, First Unitarian Church-Community Room, 1342 N. Astor. **Platinum Sponsors** Hume Law Offices and ARCW. **Silver Sponsors** Log Cabin Republicans and SAGE.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY - Saturday, Oct. 11

Noon, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Town Hall Meeting, M&M Club, 124 N. Water St. Reports on floor plan, services and upcoming events.

8 p.m. - 12 a.m., Outcoming Dance, Milwaukee Public Museum 2nd floor

Uihlein Decorative Arts Gallery, 800 W. Wells St. Buy advance tickets at Afterwords, Designing Men and Outpost Natural Foods, \$8/single, \$10/couple, tickets are \$13/\$15 at the door.

Monday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m.

HRL Annual Membership Meeting, M&M Club, 124 N. Water St.

All events are free. For more info, call HRL at (414) 228-1921.

Major Sponsors include: Cream City Foundation, Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee NOW, Jack H. Smith of Shorewest Realtors, LAMM, PrideFest, Tammy Baldwin, Sherman Park Rainbow Assn., Wisconsin Research Center, Busche, Lukovich, O'Donnell & Associates, American Express Financial Advisors, La Cage.

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October 9th Issue
Articles Friday, Oct. 3rd
Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Oct. 3rd
Camera Ready—Oct. 6th
5:00 p.m.

October 23rd Issue
Hallowe'en Issue
Articles—Oct. 17th
Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Oct 17th
Camera Ready—Oct. 20th
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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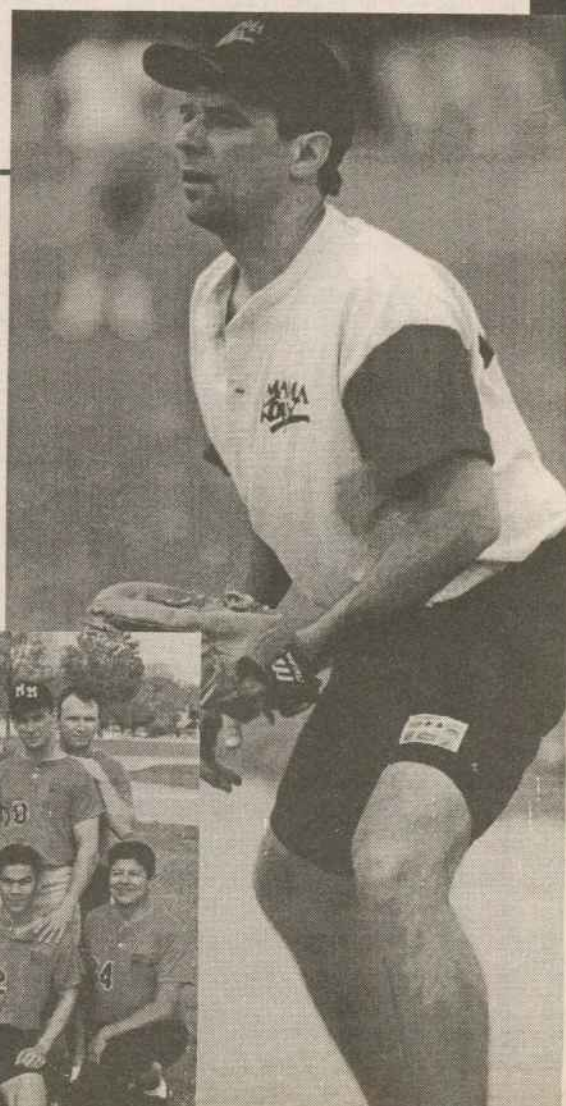
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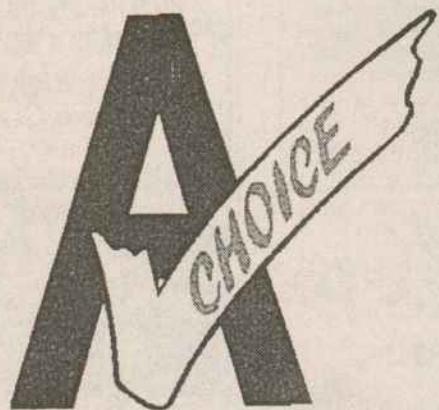
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Madison's Upscale Mansion Hill Inn Disputes Allegations that it is Gay Hostile

Commentary by Mike Leon

Madison—The Mansion Hill Inn, Madison's premier luxury hotel located just between the UW-Madison campus and the State Capital building, is the lodging site where guests can experience an unforgettable ascent into elegance and splendor. This posh, intimate 11 suite inn is lovers' paradise. A bit pricey but most come away pretty happy.

As the literature states, this stately, sandstone-and-wrought-iron example of Romanesque Revival architecture offers guests all the graceful comforts and personal attention of a small, European-style, plush hotel.

Afternoon spirits and refreshments, 24 hour valet service, silver service continental plus breakfast, delivered newspaper of choice, in-room fireplaces, whirlpool tubs complete with stereo headphones, today's weather report, and a private wine cellar—all are found in this beautiful inn.

Unsurpassed in lavish comfort and atmosphere, Madison's Mansion Hill Inn is gaining a well deserved world-wide reputation.

But underneath this striking beauty there's a streak of ugliness. Gays and Lesbians are not welcome there in paradise with open hearts, certainly not open minds. It makes me sick.

I worked at the Mansion Hill Inn for about 11 months as a housekeeper, among other duties, beginning in the fall of 1996. I recently quit, and moved on. The money was not too good and did not come close to sufficiently augmenting a freelance writing career. I would have quit earlier but most of the people I worked with were great people, humanistic, brilliant—true citizens of the Madison many want Madison to be.

Writing this piece I realize I may make some enemies among some of the Mansion Hill Inn management and investment syndicate. Or, maybe, I hope, rile a few feathers. That's probably more likely.

In any event I don't care. I think every opportunity a straight guy passes up to challenge bigotry in the form of homophobia is a missed opportunity. And I have an opportunity now. I guess that makes me a Queer lover.

Jane (not her real name) is the general manager. She is an attractive, witty woman exuding social graces and engaging charm as seemingly without effort as any person I have met. I like her. She is also a bigot.

Jane is the author of the petty, mean-

spirited, truly bigoted policy that same sex couples should not be treated to the Inn's amenities in the same fashion that straight couples are.

Bottles of complementary champagne are customarily offered by the Inn to observe the occasion of newlyweds and those couples celebrating anniversaries. But as one innkeeper said to me in a recent conversation, "Jane tells innkeepers not to serve Gay couples complimentary champagne. She says, 'They don't count.'"

She meant the Inn should not recognize their relationships. Another says, "Jane really has a bird when a Lesbian couple shows up." But it's an open secret, Jane dislikes homosexual relationships. I have personally spoken to 5 employees/ex-employees who report the same story of Jane's policy and stated feelings toward Gays and Lesbians.

Editor's Note: Nancy Finley, who identified herself as an innkeeper at the Mansion Hill Inn said that the charges of discrimination against same-sex couple are "groundless."

She said many same-sex couple have stayed at the Inn and were "happy" with the service they received. They are received warmly and treated well.

Finley said that champagne is given to couples celebrating special occasions. This holds for same-sex couples, too, "if they request it."

"Everyone is welcome," Finley said. Why bother mentioning such a comparatively minor policy? It's not the lack of champagne, it's the symbol of hate decent people should not have to have come to expect.

As anyone somewhat conscious can affirm we live in a culture today that accepts and encourages this kind of trash. I have friends that accept and encourage this kind of trash.

Because of the Inn's status in Madison society as the source of many a pleasant night, because of the utter beauty of the Inn as a fantastic architectural restoration of an old, decrepit mansion into something wonderful, bringing up this bit of ugliness seem to some to be an imprecation, it's like screaming 'fuck you' at a wedding.

I think this policy against recognizing homosexual relationships at the Mansion Hill Inn is akin to keeping blacks and Jews out of country clubs, a bit of ugliness that most of the Mansion Hill Inn employees object to.

A Remarkable Speech From One Very Remarkable Man

By Bill Meunier

It was as one man put it "A remarkable speech." A noisy crowd, many of whom didn't know who he was stood and sat in front of the stage. For once though that crowd wasn't sitting in a basketball arena, it was on the Summerfest grounds, gathering steam for the annual AIDS Walk.

The buzz of the four or five thousand people standing and sitting in front of him nearly drowned out his introduction.

Those who listened heard that he was Dick Bennett, the UW Basketball Coach. What most of them didn't know was that Dick Bennett is a Wisconsin Sports Legend, destined for Wisconsin's Sports Hall of Fame.

As Coach of UW-Green Bay, he consistently took underrated, outmanned teams to the NCAA tourney where they consistently defeated and gave fits to heavily favored opponents from Basketball powerhouses.

Bennett's teams lacked superstars. But what they lacked in individual ability they made up for with teamwork. That's what they call great coaching. Had he done for the Wisconsin Badgers what he did for UW-Green Bay Phoenix, Dick Bennett would be easily recognized everywhere he goes in the State.

What he did was harder because he had less to do it with. Finally at long last after laboring for years in the trenches in Green Bay, the call to come to Madison to coach the Badgers finally came.

It didn't take long and there was Dick Bennett back in the NCAA tournament boosting a moribund program back to prominence. As usual his team was tough, as usual Bennett got the most out of his players.

When he stepped up to the microphone to speak to the assembled crowd before the start of the AIDS Walk, there was no team to boost him up. There were no cheerleaders waving their pom poms and leading the crowd in an ovation.

There was only a man who had lost his brother to AIDS.

Throughout his coaching career Dick Bennett has given hundreds of pep talks to his players. While those outside of the locker room seldom hear what is said in those pep talks, we can be sure they are about game plans, the opposition and what needed to be done.

This pep talk would be different. This pep talk was about Dick Bennett. He began by telling the crowd that they were there because they believed as Mother Teresa did that "the worst disease is loneliness" a lack of caring, compassion and love.

He spoke about his own brother's death from AIDS. The crowd finally hushed as he said that his brother died in his father's arms and then a few months later his father had died as well.

Then he said that his brother's death had taught him not to be judgmental about people

and to be more compassionate and caring. He finished by telling the crowd "You are better people than I am, because you have been compassionate, you have been caring all along."

As speeches go it was short. There were no phrases that will be recorded as memorable, no sound bites. But at the end you could see tears welling up in the eyes of many of those who heard it and who understood his pain.

With a few short sentences, Dick Bennett, the hard disciplinarian, the man of very few public words, had evoked emotions that others couldn't provoke with volumes.

Most of that crowd was there to walk and hear Greg Louganis. But at the Packer Parties in Gay bars around Milwaukee, sports fans weren't talking about what Louganis had to say, they were talking about Dick Bennett and what he said.

"I could have cried," said one man. "He moved me more than he could have known," said another.

It's a shame that the reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel gave Bennett only two lines in his story about the AIDS Walk. It's a shame that his story contained so many words on the protestors. Dick Bennett never mentioned them, but he did provide one of the most eloquent answers to their hate that I have ever seen.

After the balloons were put away, Dick Bennett, basketball coach, father, brother and son went back to Madison, back to the Badger's Camp Randall Field House. He went back to his players; back to the preparations for what we all hope will be an exciting season of Badger Basketball.

Those of us who are sports fans have watched Bennett pacing the sidelines, exhorting his team, yelling at his players and the refs. We have always known that he is arguably one of the best College Basketball coaches in the country.

We have always known that he must care about his players, that he must be a great guy or he could never have succeeded on the hardwood court.

Knowing that and witnessing it are two different things. For a while, an all too brief while, we saw something those televised images of a basketball contest can never project, we saw a man standing tall even while he admitted his own shortcomings of the past. When that brief period was over, Dick Bennett was forever changed in our eyes.

For me he had gone from being a great coach to being a great human being.

I will watch the Badgers as I always do. I will cheer for their baskets and curse the refs as I always do.

But for me and for so many others there is more reason than ever to want the Wisconsin Badgers to do well this season. That reason stood in front of us on a bright Sunday morning and bared part of his soul.

It was a remarkable speech.

Politically Speaking

The Real Christians Were Inside

By Bill Meunier

There was a study in contrasts at the 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin Breakfast on Sunday, September 21st. Inside the Italian Community Center there were those who gathered early for the Breakfast. Outside were the so called Christians, peddling their hatred.

It's not that I really care about the handful of wacko imports lead by the head wacko, the so called Reverend Ralph Ovedahl.

(I say so called because I sometimes wonder if he got his title out of a Cracker Jack box, if he has any degree in theology at all?)

It is that I hate to see them pervert, misuse and twist a faith that I and so many other Gays and Lesbians have and always will hold dear.

The study in contrasts was indeed remarkable. Hundreds of people walked the little gauntlet Ovedahl and his band had set up. In so doing they showed the type compassion and caring that Jesus himself showed.

Meanwhile Ovedahl's little band of non-believers implored them not to do what Christ himself would have done.

I wanted to tell them that there is no record of Jesus picketing or even protesting those who were considered to be sinners in his time. I wanted to point out that he didn't even stand outside of Israel's Pagan Temples and tell the Roman's not to go in.

But engaging in loud arguments is what they want, and I didn't want to give them the opportunity.

If Ovedahl and his little band were true Christians they would have been outside praying for those who have contracted HIV and their families instead of trying to prey on them.

Most people hurrying into the Center didn't seem to mind Ovedahl and his ilk. The vast majority (some of whom were Christian ministers themselves) walked by the protestors with their pitiful lie-filled hand outs. Only a few took the brochure

with most thinking that it was something to do with the walk. Fewer still retorted when told "Don't go inside, repent."

They weren't there to argue, they were there to show support, to comfort, to give. They were there out of Christian compassion, not unchristian hate.

The dialogue and professed beliefs of the protestors led by a charlatan who has done his best to make a mockery of what Christ taught was contradictory. While telling us that they love us they also claimed that God and, by inference, they themselves hate us for what we are.

Born up by a need to feel superior to someone, Ovedahl and his group are almost to be pitied. You have to feel sorry for people who apparently can't seem to feel good about themselves unless they are telling you how they are superior to you.

While standing there at the door, I heard some of the most vicious things I have heard come from the mouths of human beings. That they were said by people supposedly acting on behalf of a man of love and compassion made them all the more tragic.

Even the recent drowning death of Club 219 Bartender Kevin Rotar was the subject of their scorn. They shouted to people, some of whom had lost sons and daughters to AIDS that "AIDS is God's judgement."

One woman turned and answered that her son was "an innocent victim." I wanted to hug her and at the same time tell her that everyone who has fallen to AIDS is an innocent victim, but she went inside in a flash.

These people live in some kind of fantasy land. They are the Mad Hatters of Christianity. To them black is white and white is black.

One gentleman kept complaining "They say we are narrow minded yet only about one in ten of your people will take our

Please See Political Page 29



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Pioneers to Celebrate Triumph Over Homophobia With Anniversary Event

By Tracy Thorsen

Richland Center, WI—Last year the Pioneers, a rural southwest Wisconsin Gay and Lesbian alliance located in Richland Center, published an ad in the local shopper for National Coming Out Day encouraging Gays and Lesbians to celebrate and be proud. In response to the ad, a small Right Wing religious contingency wrote a hateful editorial in the **Richland Observer** calling Gays and Lesbians child molesters and mentally ill.

The Right Wingers brought in anti-Gay supporters from outside the community and picketed a Pioneers' meeting, as well as the local high school and the downtown business district. They also circulated anti-Gay brochures and other hate literature. The group even attempted to bring in a nationally known anti-Gay speaker and tried to coax the Pioneers into participating in a public debate. And, when the Pioneers held an anniversary celebration dance in December, they threatened to picket the event.

The discord spurred several weeks of letters to the editor in the paper, which usually tries to avoid any controversy. This was big news for a quiet rural community. The majority of the letters endorse diversity and tolerance. One minister wrote a letter in support of tolerance, but unfortunately, most of the religious community in Richland Center was silent, a town with 20 plus churches.

The city government also remained silent despite prodding from concerned citizens (Gay and straight), who requested a resolution from the city council supporting tolerance and diversity in the community. Although the mayor and city council members agreed to discuss concerns, no action was taken on introducing a resolution.

In the end, things turned out well for the Pioneers. The ordeal mobilized a tremendous amount of support from straight allies in the community. The positive responses were huge and overwhelmed the anti-Gay opposition. Many new found allies volunteered to provide escorts at the door of the Pioneers' Anniversary Dance to protect against the threat of picketers.

(It ended up raining that night and no

pickers showed up.)

Following the December Dance, the letters to the editor subsided. Although a city resolution endorsing tolerance and diversity was not achieved, (not asking for much), the Pioneers did find much support in the community. The anti-Gay opposition's efforts diminished and further attempts to stir up anti-Gay sentiments have been largely ignored by the rest of the community.

This year, the Pioneers are sponsoring another anniversary dance and celebration called "Coming Out To The Country." For the past five years, the Pioneers have held anniversary celebrations, which usually occur in December. This year it was decided to avoid the Christmas rush and enjoy beautiful Autumn weather. It was the group's consensus that there would be no better day than National Coming Out Day, a day designated to express our true identities to others. And, for the Pioneers, a day that commemorates a local triumph over homophobia and hate.

The Come Out To The Country event will be held on Saturday, October 11, at the banquet room of the Old Oak Inn and Acorn Pub in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin. The event will be gin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$6 in advance, \$7.50 at the door and includes entertainment, door prizes, cash bar, free hors d'oeuvres, DJ and dancing. For tickets, send check to: Pioneers, P.O. Box 53, Richland Center, WI 53581. Tickets will be held at the door.

Information on accommodations is also available by contacting the Pioneers at 1-800-484-8131, code 4419. All are welcome.

Money raised from this event will help to support the Pioneers for the entire year. The Pioneers' mission is to assist Lesbians and Gay men in rural areas of southwestern Wisconsin to connect and provide support and social contact with each other. Regular meetings are held on the first Monday of each month in Richland Center at the Richland County Community Programs (next to UW-Richland campus).

Social gatherings occur every month or so and include potlucks, picnics, movie nights and more.

"Living Out, Loving Out" to be the Coming Out Day Theme at Cross Lutheran Church

Milwaukee—There's opportunity on Coming Out Day for those who are disillusioned with the closed mindedness of many churches, and for those seeking a welcoming church to call home. On Sunday, October 12, Cross Lutheran Church 1821 N. 16th Street in Milwaukee, will be hosting "Living Out, Loving Out; Taking your Place at God's Table."

Guest speaker for the service is Steven Sabin, Pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa, who will share his experiences as a pastor whose congregation has supported him during and after his coming out as a clergyman who is Gay.

Pastor Sabin's congregation has unanimously adopted resolutions in support of his decision to continue to serve his church despite the bishop's request for his resignation earlier this year based on his active Gay lifestyle.

Responding to the bishop, Sabin wrote, "I will not resign...I continue to pray...that the scales will fall from the eyes of the church and it will face the grave injustice it perpetuates."

Sabin will describe his church's process of accepting and supporting him.

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, which has been a welcomed participant in several past events at Cross Lutheran Church, will also be participating in the Coming Out Day service.

Visitors are encouraged to attend the day's events at Cross Church, starting with the 9:30 a.m. service. Following, approximately 11:30-12:30, Pastor Sabin will join resident Pastor Joseph Elwanger for the Pastor's Bible Study Class and continued discussion of Gays within the Church.

The public is also invited to attend a 3:00 p.m. panel discussion to be held in the Fellowship Room at the church. The panelists will be members of the Greater Milwaukee Synod that are "reconciled in Christ." These are congregations that have declared their acceptance of all people of Christian faith, regardless of race or sexual orientation.

The panelists, who will include both clergy and lay people, will talk about the process that they went through to become "reconciled" congregations. The discus-

sion will be informal and will be followed by light refreshments. Everyone is invited, especially those who are working toward reconciliation, or seeking a church home where they will find acceptance of their sexual orientation.

Pastor Sabin will also be a presenter at the North Side Strategy Meeting on Monday, October 13. His visit is sponsored by Lutherans Concerned, an organization within the church that supports understanding of Gays and Lesbians, as well as by Cross Church.

New Group for Gay Catholics

Milwaukee—"Rebuilding Faith," a monthly discussion group for Gay and Lesbian Catholics and those who love them, begins on Sunday, October 5th at Holy Trinity/Guadeloupe parish in Walkers Point.

For those who feel alienated, hurt, or just confused by the church, this is a safe and hospitable environment in which to share your faith experience, insight and hope.

The group will meet on the first Sunday of every month, October through May, at 10:30 am until noon. The location is the school building next to the church, 621 South 4th Street (first floor).

A wide range of topics will be presented by various speakers, followed by discussion and an opportunity for prayer. Coffee and snacks provided. For more information call: Fred Hang at (414) 481-8543 or Fr. Mike Michalski at (414) 271-6181.

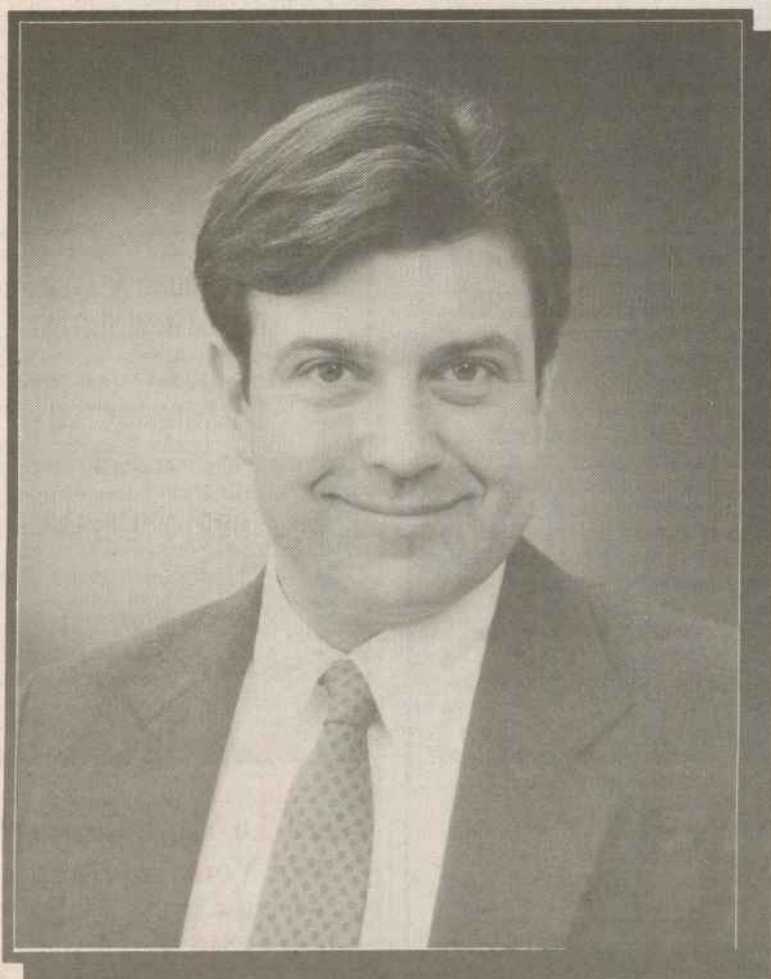
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Explosion Over Ethics Erupts About Placebo Experiments Abroad

By Patricia Conklin

More than a thousand children are slated to become HIV-infected in United States medical research studies currently being conducted in Africa, Thailand, and the Dominican Republic. The cause, according to harsh critics of the research, is the distribution to HIV+ pregnant women of placebo, or dummy pills.

Because of the high cost of AZT, reputed to be highly effective preventing the transmission of the AIDS virus to newborns, only half of the women enrolled in AIDS studies are receiving the drug.

Critics are comparing U.S. behavior in these foreign experiments to the outrageous Tuskegee experiment in which poor African-Americans suffering from syphilis were led to believe they were receiving treatment when, in fact, they were not.

Dr. Peter Lurie, of Public Citizen, an advocacy group, says "We have turned our backs on these mothers and their babies."

Responding to Dr. Lurie's criticism, U.S. health officials say that the financially strapped women in question would hardly be able to afford aspirin, much less AZT, and that U.S. experimenters are, at least, providing half of the women with medical treatment. What the remaining women do not receive, they seem to be saying, will hurt them, but they're no worse off than they would be otherwise if U.S. treatments were absent. At least half of the regimen AZT is real, they insist.

Needle Exchange Advocates Stage Massive Protest in Washington

By John Long

A major rally at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Wednesday, September 16, drew over 1,200 people conducting a dramatic citizen rebuke of "spineless, moralistic politicians" who have failed to move forward in the battle against AIDS with the highly recommended practice of clean needle exchanges for intravenous drug users.

Organizations including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the American Bar Association, and the American Medical Association, have all endorsed clean needle exchange on the basis of exhaustive studies showing that such exchanges produce dramatic drops in AIDS infections among drug addicts. Addicts are reputedly the main route for AIDS transmission to non-drug using heterosexual women and current statistics show high rates of the AIDS virus among such persons.

Even Health and Human Services (HHS) director Donna Shalala has admitted the efficacy of needle exchange programs, but has failed to promote them because of moralistic political concerns, namely those advanced by such politicians as Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, who believes, as do Right Wing Christian politicians, that free needles are endorsements for unbridled drug use.

Twelve chanting protestors were arrested at the rally for blocking the en-

tranceway to the HHS building. In a scene reminiscent of the great AIDS protests of the 1980s, police wore rubber gloves as they placed handcuffs on the arrestees.

As each person arrested was led away, applause rose to high levels from co-protestors expressing admiration for the arrestees.

A spokesperson for Health and Human Services insisted in a statement to reporters that while director Shalala accepts the protestors' premises, that the ball has been removed from her court because the Republican-controlled Congress has—on moralistic grounds—banned all federal funding for clean needle exchange.

The Republican congressmen insist that drug use will increase if clean needles are allowed.

The crowds of protestors wore syringes with red ribbons pinned to their clothing and carried what *The Washington Post* saw as "a sea of signs."

One group toted a 12-foot replica of the human spine and surrounding picket signs read, "Moral Backbone for Clinton" and "Moral Backbone for Shalala."

The protest emphasized that clean needle exchange is not a moral issue, but rather a health issue. One marcher critical of the Congress, said, "They put this whole thing on a political and moral basis, rather than seeing it properly as a health issue."

porated into age-appropriate safe sex messages.

Surgeons General like Elders and C. Everett Koop earned the respect and admiration of AIDS activists by standing up to politicians. "Who do you want leading the war on AIDS, Churchill, or Chamberlain?" adds Michael.

ACT UP Washington campaigned against the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster after Foster announced on ABC's *Nightline* that he opposed condom distribution as a component of HIV prevention.

States ACT UP member Wayne Turner, who was arrested after disrupting Foster's Senate confirmation hearing, "Take a good look at Satcher's AIDS record. AIDS patients got turned away from Meharry Medical Center while Satcher was its President, and Foster was its director. We have the newspaper accounts that prove it."

In the past four years, free condoms and water-based lubricants have disappeared from Gay bars, shelters, prisons, and schools.

"Under Dr. Satcher, CDC AIDS funding has gone to pay for high salaries, travel expenses, and conferences in resort cities for a bunch of bureaucrats riding the gravy train. Just think how many lives could be saved if money went to condoms and lube, bleach kits and clean needles," adds Turner.

Nation's Surgeon General Nominee Called an "AIDS Failure" by ACT UP-DC

Washington, DC—Surgeon General nominee Dr. David Satcher is unsuitable to fill the bully pulpit post vacated after the firing of 'Condom Queen' AIDS champion Dr. Joycelyn Elders, charges the AIDS activist group ACT UP, in Washington, DC.

Under Satcher's lackluster leadership at the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention since 1993, HIV infections have skyrocketed among a new generation of Gay and Bisexual men, injection drug users, their partners, and African-American women.

"Instead of targeting high risk populations with a hard hitting message, Dr. Satcher has wasted millions of dollars for HIV prevention and education on watered-down media campaigns that say nothing. He's been more concerned about funding the bureaucracy than saving lives," states Steve Michael, HIV+ spokesperson for ACT UP Washington.

Activists note that most new HIV infections result from needle sharing, and sexual intercourse without latex condoms and water-based lubricants. Yet even this most basic information fails to appear in CDC funded HIV prevention campaigns.

The Surgeon General's post has remained vacant since 1994, when President Clinton fired his long-time friend Dr. Joycelyn Elders, who suggested at a World AIDS Day event in 1994 that discussions suggesting masturbation might be incor-

AIDS Pandemic Worsening Among African-American Women in Particular

Chicago—The AIDS epidemic is worsening among women, especially those living in the South, and most of the blame has shifted from intravenous drug use to sex with infected men, researchers say.

The trend suggests that successive generations of young women will be at risk as they reach adolescence and young adulthood.

"Prevention efforts remain critical," the researchers said, particularly because the women most at risk can be difficult to educate because of poverty, substance abuse, alcoholism and other problems.

Between 1991 and 1995, the number of women diagnosed with AIDS increased by 63 percent. In that same time, AIDS rose by 12.8 percent among men. By the end of 1995, 67,400 women nationwide were diagnosed as having AIDS.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, the disease was spread in women primarily through injection drug use. But by 1993, sex with infected men had become the main culprit and two years later accounted for 52 percent of the cases nationwide. In the South, it was even worse, 58 percent.

The trend is particularly evident in women under 25, who are 2 1/2 times more likely to have been infected through heterosexual contact than injecting drugs, said CDC epidemiologist Dr. Pascale M. Wortley, chief researcher of the study published in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"So it's critical to reach young people before they reach the age of having sex and injecting drugs," she said.

The rate of increase has been particularly strong among black women, who now account for 57 percent of the cases, and Hispanics, 20 percent.

The findings highlight the continuing spread of the disease despite the success of new drugs in prolonging life for AIDS patients, said Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action, an advocacy group.

"There has been a lot of attention on the declining death rate ... this is the rest of the story," Zingale said.

The study also found evidence suggesting that many adolescent women become infected by older men and that where a large age gap exists, the women are less likely to insist on using condoms.

Prevention programs need to take this into account and not assign adolescent women alone the responsibility for adopting safe behavior, the researchers said.

"In terms of AIDS prevention, we know what works," said Zingale. "Tell the unvarnished truth about how to avoid it. Condoms cost 40 cents. AIDS drugs cost \$40 a day and may or may not work."

The rapid increase in AIDS incidence in the South is partly the result of the concurrent crack cocaine and syphilis epidemics, Wortley said.

People who are addicted to crack have more sex partners because they frequently trade sex for drugs. And syphilis is accompanied by sores that facilitate the transmission of the AIDS virus.

CDC Announces AIDS Ranks Second in Cause of Death; Good News or Bad News?

Commentary by Patricia Conklin

New York, NY—In a report released Thursday, September 11, based on birth and death certificates filed in each state and issued by the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) the AIDS map is seeing ripples, both positive and, perhaps, negative.

CDC reports also indicate a drop in sexual activities among teens and increased use of condoms. This is the good news. How one interprets what follows depends upon one's awareness of politics and finances in the AIDS struggle.

It is apparent, say CDC interpreters, that AIDS has fallen to Second Place as the killer of young adults 25-44, probably, a CDC spokesperson reflects, as the result of so many who now live longer because they consume drugs that assure enormous/alarming effects on the body.

The word is this: there's been a 26% overall drop in AIDS deaths between 1995-1996. Headlines say, "AIDS has lost its Place as the Number 1 Killer."

„Killer Number One? Accidents and/or auto crashes. Cancer ranks Three.

The making of such public announcements—the rankings of death causations—deeply concerns many who are involved in the struggle against AIDS and who believe that any such downsizing of AIDS leads to a general complacency. Others fear that if the government can—using statistics—easily decrease public alarm over AIDS, so too can it reduce public concern over emergency life and death funding for people currently affected.

Worse, it can bury significant life and death issues by ignoring them even more than it does now.

These are central dilemmas with which AIDS activists, no matter their locale, must contend daily. Volunteerism depends on the public's awareness of need. If that awareness is reduced due to certain narrowly focused statistical data, a data that looks less at infection rates and more at death rates, a kind of blindness-causing voodoo on the public will have been performed.

This announcement bears all the trappings of a political party's boast in store. In the middle of a great war being fought, some make take it as a burst of light on the horizon, offering hope to those now toiling nigh-thanklessly in real-life AIDS trenches. It is these people who know best that "AIDS is World War III."

"We can't sit down and say, 'Oh boy, we're winning,'" says one ACT UP sympathizer, "This is a war against a terrible disease and against all of those forces that make it even worse. We can't take time to breathe relief. We can hardly blink."

The drop in deaths follows earlier reports that offer similar government-announced encouragements. Last year, AIDS deaths declined for the first time since 1981 when the epidemic surfaced.

Dr. John Ward, the CDC's chief of AIDS surveillance says he's reassured but cautions, "You like to have multiple studies saying the same thing before you begin to consider what you're seeing is indeed the truth."

1996 AIDS death rates fell, says the CDC, to 11.6 deaths per 100,000 people, dropping 26 percent from a rate of 15.6 the previous year. For adults between 25 and 44, the rate fell to 27.2 deaths from a rate of 36.9 in 1995.

It was in 1994 that AIDS first rose in the ranks to top killer status.

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Milwaukee—The flu season is almost upon us. Once again, Flu shots will be offered at the M&M Club (in the upper level Banquet Room) on Thursday, October 16, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 21, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. The vaccinations continue to be recommended for individuals who are immune compromised and their care takers.

The community outreach is sponsored by The Gay and Lesbian Nurses Association, the M&M Club, The Milwaukee Health Department, BESTD Clinic, In Step, Q Voice and Wisconsin Light. The flu shots are free, however, donations are accepted.

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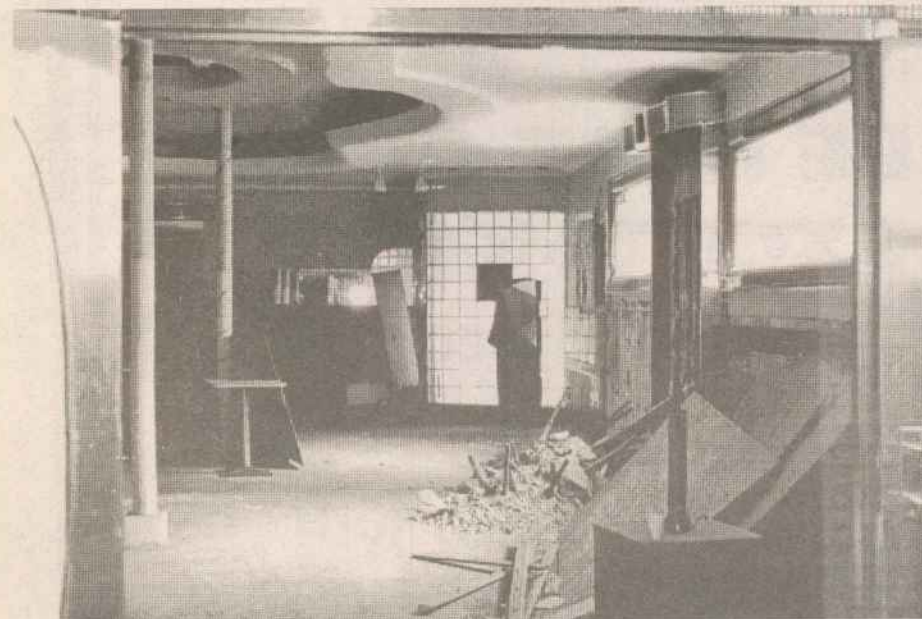
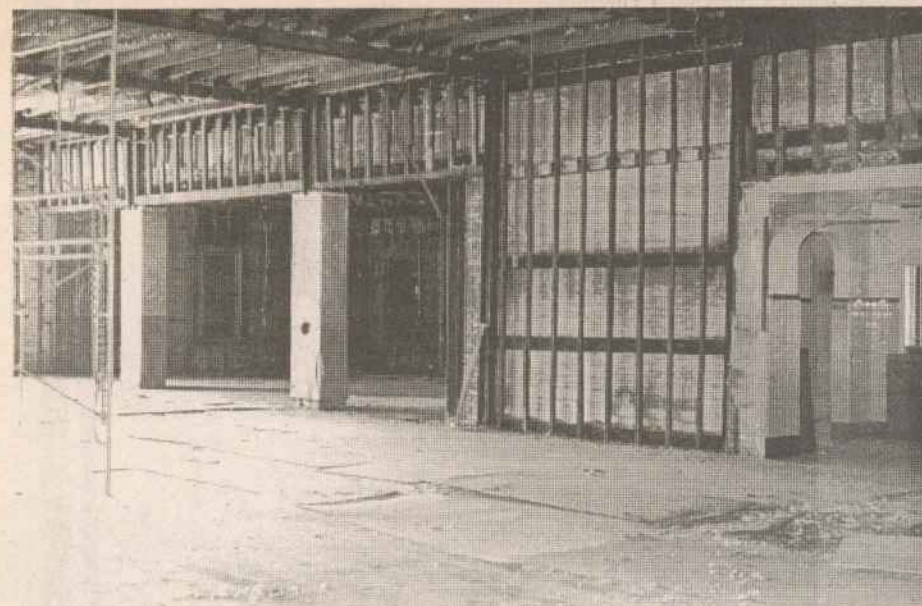
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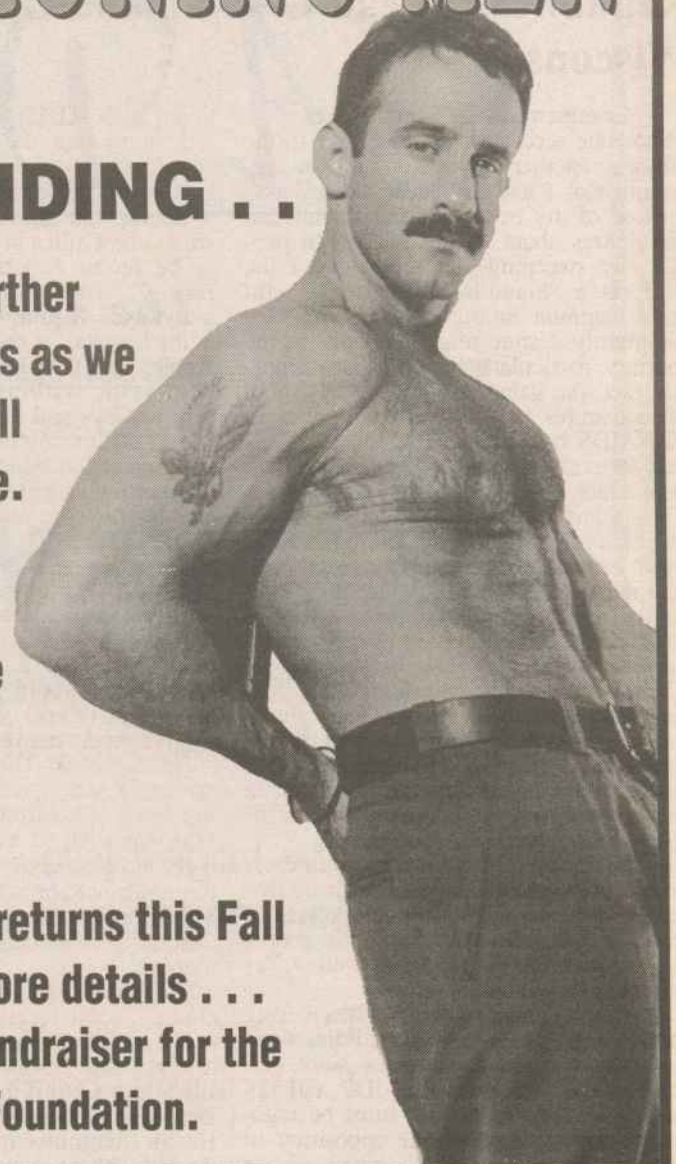
Getting It Ready! The site of the new Milwaukee LGBT Center has begun renovations to make it ready for the Center's expected opening in January. At the top is the outside of the building which is located on Martin Luther King Drive and Vine Streets. Next are LGBT Board members, L-R, Laurie Guibault, Larry Stocks, Karen Gotzler, Mason Sherwood (of the Dreamland Group) and Leonel Marchan. The second floor (second from the bottom) will be converted into loft apartments. The first floor (shown at the bottom) will house the Center.

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Speaking From The Right

Republicans Lead Lesbian and Gay Cause in Wisconsin

Commentary by Scott Evertz

Someone recently wrote a Letter to the Editor to another publication in town suggesting that I had my "head up my ass" because of my belief that the Republican Party cares about Gay and Lesbian people. Her sweeping generalization of the GOP as a "homo-hating" party is still quite common in the Lesbian and Gay community despite much evidence to the contrary, particularly here in Wisconsin.

In fact, the gains that Gay and Lesbian Wisconsinites and individuals living with HIV/AIDS have made over the past several years are a result of Republicans, not Democrats.

It is a fact that Wisconsin will likely be one of the first states, if not the first, to enact legislation to enable Gay and Lesbian individuals to identify that they want their partner to visit them should they be hospitalized. This is the result of Republican leadership.

Republican Representatives Scott Jensen, Scott Walker and Gregg Underheim and others were struck by stories of Gay and Lesbian partners of up to ten years being denied access to their loved one in the hospital and decided this was an injustice that must be corrected.

It is a fact that Wisconsin regulates viatical settlement companies, firms that offer to buy the life insurance policies of terminally ill individuals such as people living with AIDS. This is the result of Republican leadership.

Republican Senators Peggy Rosenzweig and Mary Panzer were horrified that many viatical settlement companies were ripping off individuals with AIDS and decided that such companies must be regulated despite their general opposition to intrusive government regulation.

It is a fact that legislation is being drafted as I write this column which would strengthen our state's Gay and Lesbian civil rights law which was weakened by a recent State Supreme Court decision. If this legislation passes, it will be the result of Republican leadership.

The Republicans drafting this legislation believe that discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation is wrong and that our state must preserve its heritage as the first state to extend civil rights protections to its Gay and Lesbian citizens. This legislation, by the way, was signed into law by Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus.

It is a fact that Wisconsin remains committed to funding essential programs for people living with AIDS and is a recognized national leader because of its funding initiatives. This is because of Republican leadership.

The list of Republicans from Governor Tommy Thompson on down, who have never wavered in their commitment to people impacted or affected by HIV is quite long. Recently, the Joint Finance Committee of the State Legislature approved an increase of \$500,000 for life care services for people living with HIV and AIDS even in the midst of a highly contentious budget debate during which many other programs were slashed and burned. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, in fact, has clearly stated that it relies heavily on the leadership of Republican legislators to advance their agenda on behalf of the clients they serve.

So, why is it that people continue to suggest that those of us who are involved in the Republican Party have our heads up our asses? I really don't know the answer to that question and, in fact, I would find such an assertion to be laughable if it were not so dangerous.

Gay and Lesbian people who continue to elect Democrats (even openly Lesbian and Gay ones) because of the belief that they will advance our cause need look no further than our own state to see that this is not true.

In fact, if you look at recent legislative initiatives protecting or advancing the rights of Gays and Lesbians or people

living with AIDS, identify those legislators promoting the legislation and then identify the sexual orientation, party and gender of those legislators, you would conclude that straight Republican males are our best allies in Wisconsin.

The recent experience with Assembly Bill 397, a bill to provide protections to individuals wishing to visit their partners in the hospital, is only the most recent example of Republican leadership and Democratic waffling on an issue of concern to Gays and Lesbians. As mentioned earlier in this column, Republican Representative Scott Jensen drafted and introduced this legislation, along with his Democratic colleague, Representative Shirley Krug.

The Log Cabin Republicans were thrilled that a Republican legislator was again taking the lead on a real life problem faced by Gays and Lesbians. Such legislation, had it been in existence in Minnesota, would have allowed Karen Thompson to visit Sharon Kowalski in the hospital and nursing home.

The Kowalski-Thompson case is one of the more widely recognized and frightening cases of a partner being denied visitation, but it happens all the time, including here in Wisconsin, and legislators like Republican Representative Gregg Underheim, Chairman of the Assembly Health Committee, decided it should happen no more.

The Democrats in the Assembly, including some legislators falsely recognized as champions on issues of concern to Gays and Lesbians, were very slow to support this bill if they did so at all. Some Democratic members of the Assembly Health Committee questioned the need for the bill. Others attempted to discredit it by suggesting it was being promoted by the "homosexual community." And Assembly Democrats, in general, downplayed the bill's importance, but indicated they would likely vote for it if it made it to the floor for a vote.

The bill did make it to the floor for a vote and the State Assembly voted unanimously in favor of it on Wednesday, September 18, 1997, but not because of the self-appointed, self-anointed, so-called "leaders" of the generally Democrat Gay and Lesbian community. In fact, this bill made it to the floor in spite of those individuals, some of whom actually admitted privately that they didn't want the bill to go anywhere because its author was a Republican.

The liberal left of the Gay and Lesbian community has long expected Log Cabin Republicans to support legislation regardless of its author if that legislation is in the interest of the community. And we have.

The liberal left of the Gay and Lesbian community has expected individual members of the Log Cabin Republicans to support the candidacies of individuals, regardless of party, if that individual is recognized as being good for the "cause." And we have.

And we are shocked and dismayed that the liberal left will not do similarly.

If, after having read this column, my friend still believes I have my head up my ass, so be it. The Gay and Lesbian cause is far better served by my working within the GOP, head up my ass and all, than by her kissing the asses of Democrats who promise a lot, but who do nothing.

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THE SPOTLIGHT



A SAGE Time! SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) Milwaukee, held a nice patio party at Milwaukee's Boot Camp Bar on Sunday, September 14. As you can see, SAGE isn't just for Seniors. The party featured some fine food, raffles and lots of great conversation.

"Ellen" Acclaimed as This Season's Most Promising Sitcom on TV

New York—That pervasive staple of U.S. publishing—*TV Guide's* Fall Preview (Sept. 13-19) — officially heralds the start of another television season. This year's issue includes a Queer-positive tidbit, from staff writer Daniel Cerone, who asked "Who Should Win and Who Will Win" the Emmy Awards?

Of the nominees for best comedy actress, Cerone insisted that Ellen DeGeneres should AND would win. "You'll be guaranteed at least one office-pool Emmy win if you check DeGeneres here," he wrote. "Ellen Morgan's tentative emergence from the closet was TV comedy at its best—funny and touching—made even more powerful by the coming out of DeGeneres herself."

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* TV critic agreed. Writing in the "TV" section of the paper's Sunday, September 20th edition, Joanne Weintraub "Ellen" looks like the winner (for the season). If settling on a sexual orientation was all it took to release this show's wit, it's too bad it didn't happen sooner.

Unfortunately, there are no guarantees in Hollywood and Cerone's prediction — while affirming—proved false. At the 49th Annual "Emmycast" (September 14), DeGeneres did not win the award for comedy series acting.

She did win the Emmy for comedy series writing, however—given in recognition of her coming-out episode.

DeGeneres accepted the award on behalf of "all the Gay teenagers out there." "There's nothing wrong with you," she said. "Don't ever let anybody make you feel ashamed of who you are."

The Emmy for best actress in a comedy series went to Helen Hunt ("Mad About You"). But even Hunt said, in accepting her award: "I was so blown away by Ellen DeGeneres' work in that episode, I just want to say I'm proud to be in the same list."

DeGeneres later told the Associated Press (September 15) that such Emmy-night recognition is a "big nod" of approval from the industry, and "she hopes her character will help viewers see that 'there are Gay people and we are OK, because growing up I didn't have that, Gay characters.'"

"Well, Mary Tyler Moore and Rhoda were lovers," DeGeneres added with a laugh. "But they didn't talk about it."

Though widely-condemned by homophobic critics, "Ellen's" historic outing last season proved a ratings success for ABC. Only one affiliate, Birmingham's WBMA-

TV, refused to carry the pivotal episode when it first aired—and even that station has since recanted. Recently, WBMA decided to broadcast the show after all, when it was rerun by the network.

The success of right-wing efforts to discourage advertisers from sponsoring "Ellen" also seems to be in decline, according to ABC president Jamie Tarses.

At a recent meeting of the Hollywood Radio and TV Society, Tarses told television executives that "if some advertisers don't like it, there are others willing to take their place. We're not having trouble selling the show," Tarses said.

Last April, several companies—including Chrysler, General Motors, and Johnson & Johnson—pulled their ads from "Ellen." According to Tarses, some of those same businesses have since "begged to get back in."

This year's premiere (Sept. 24) launches "Ellen's" first full season as a Lesbian-led sitcom—a first for the history of television, as well. In recent interviews, DeGeneres has hinted at the shape her character's love life might take over the next few months.

Ellen's first bout with unrequited love will unfold—naturally enough—at the gym. She becomes attracted to her trainer, played by "Cybill" co-star Dedee Pfeiffer. Though that relationship is written to fail, DeGeneres also told *TV Guide* that her character will definitely date—if not kiss—other women.

"I want to get into this sooner rather than later," DeGeneres said. "This is a delicate balancing act because we don't want to lose any of our audience, but she will get a girlfriend."

If they are so intolerant that a simple same-sex kiss offends them, perhaps some audience members are already lost—in more ways than one. Appealing to the "lowest common denominator," TV content standards are too frequently set by bigots, said a spokesperson for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Given years of practice, Lesbians and Gays are more likely to tolerate an "objectionable" (i.e., homophobic) program, or so the industry assumes. Spoiled by heterosexism, however, intolerant homophobes are used to getting their way—and would never settle for anything more.

Make Time for the Boulevard Theater's "The Children's Hour"

By Michael Neville

Mary Tilford in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* is arguably one of the most fiendish children in the history of the American theater. Beneath her coquettish exterior beats the heart of a juvenile Lucrezia Borgia skilled in the dark arts of poisonish innuendo and slander. However, it wasn't this devil's brat of a character that got the play banned in London by the Lord Chamberlain. It was not allowed to be mounted there because it deals with the topic of Lesbianism.

Milwaukee's Boulevard Ensemble opened its twelfth season with an excellent innovative production of this landmark play. In addition, to many deft directorial touches, multi-talented director Nancy Aldrich elicits excellent performances from her actors.

Jessica Pabst is smarmily effective as the lethal brat, Terry Tuttle and Tara McAllister-Viel give powerful performances as the boarding school mistresses, Karen Wright and Martha Dobie, who are undone by malicious gossip. Both Tuttle and McAllister-Viel are attractive young women who look haggard and spent by the conclusion of the play's harrowing ordeal. They hit just the right notes of ambiguity and angst in their pivotal roles. Maureen Kania does a fine job as Mary Tilford's strong-willed doting grandmother. Daniel Brugger is effective as Wright's stolid fiancée.

Nancy Aldrich, who is Artistic Director of Polaris Puppet Theater, uses marionettes for the roles of a teacher and most of the students. It gives the play the air of a Greek tragedy set in the Twilight Zone.

Timothy Brown has designed the puppets with haunting, spectral faces. The marionettes are ably manipulated and vocalized by Shannon Sloan-Spice, Thirza Defore, Daniel Brugger, Tara McAllister-Viel and Sarah Meyeroff.

James Ross works his customary "loaves and fishes" miracle with the lighting and scenery, coming up with a set that is simple, yet evocative, especially in the Ensemble's intimate 35 seat studio theater. Boulevard's Artistic Director Mark Bucher, has pulled together a stylish production at the start of what promises to be an outstanding season for his unique, adventurous theatre.

Unicorns and Castaways to Hold Joint Club Night

Madison—On Saturday, October 4th, 1997, between 10:00 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. at the 1100 Club in Milwaukee, the Castaways of Milwaukee MC and The Unicorns of Madison will be hosting a joint club night. This Milwaukee/Madison joint venture is to show the diversity and harmony found in the L/L communities of Wisconsin.

October is "National Gay/Lesbian History Month" and both clubs plan to "make history that night."

The Unicorns are putting their collective heads together and are planning on doing demonstrations for the enlightenment and entertainment of the crowd.

A raffle will take place all night. Winners can expect a veritable cornucopia of prizes. For a \$5 cover, one can have all the beer or soda he/she desires. Free snacks will be served. Both clubs will be hosting and ensuring that all have a good time. This is an invitation for any and all of Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian community to come and meet some of our members.

Unicorn proceeds will be donated to a charity to be announced later.

The *Children's Hour* continues Thursdays through Sundays through October 12 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. To reserve tickets for evening shows or matinees, or for further information, please call (414) 672-6019. Tickets are affordably priced, running \$9-\$14.

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The Milwaukee Rep's "Angels In America" is Smashing Good Theater

By Geno

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater production of *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner and directed by Eric Simonson, played to a sold out first night audience on Friday evening, September 18, beginning a run that will extend through October 19. The excitement surrounding this presentation of one of the most acclaimed plays of recent years was fully realized in an evening of mind-blowing theater.

A daring play for its revolutionary dramaturgy and despite its graphic language, nudity and Gay subject matter, it is nevertheless audience friendly as Friday's full house amply demonstrated.

Angels in America is subtitled "A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," and a synopsis of the three closely intertwined story lines indicated the pervasiveness of the Gay perspective. The marriage of Joe Pitt (Spence White) and his wife Harper (Diana LaMar), is falling apart and Joe suffers great guilt as his growing awareness of his homosexual nature makes him feel that his coldness toward his wife has turned her into a TV and valium junkie.

Louis Ironson and Prior Walker, a Jew and a WASP, are Gay lovers, but Louis abandons Prior when he learns that his lover has AIDS. He wanders about seeking to assuage his troubled conscience.

Dominating all of the action is the historical figure of Roy Cohn (Larry Yando) who, as Senator Joe McCarthy's right hand man, pursues Communists and homosexuals in government even though he is a closet homosexual himself. Even when dying of AIDS, he continues to deny his sexuality—"I'm a heterosexual who fools around with guys."

Two of the characters, Prior and Harper, have wondrous dreams in which we see them act out their fantasies, considerably enlarging the theatrical playing field. Prior, for example, is visited by two of his ancestors, one a foppish fellow from the 18th Century, the other a Norman seafarer who is 32 generations removed—"That is, if you don't count the bastards!"

Harper finds solace on an ice flow in the Antarctic and when she is told that there are no polar bears in the Antarctic, she replies, "This is my dream and I'll have polar bears in it if I want them."

There is a great deal of humor in this play in spite of the seriousness of the major themes: religion, politics, family, AIDS and sexual orientation.

Rabbi Isidor Chemelwitz (Rose Pickering) gets in a few zingers in a eulogy for the funeral of Joe's grandmother. In another scene, Harper greets her husband when he returns from his nightly rambles, trying to please him perhaps, by telling him that she has learned how to give a blow job. When Joe asks where she picked that up, she replies, "On one of my TV shows—there was a little woman with a German accent." The audience roared.

Diana LaMar portrays Harper Pitt as child-like, vulnerable and often very funny during her ditsy moods, so that her character of a TV watching, neglected wife never becomes tiresome. The audience sympathizes, really likes her.

Mark H. Dold must express a variety of emotions as a PWA who has been deserted by his lover. We experience his condition from the first discovery of a Kaposi's lesion to the conclusion of the play when an angel comes thrashing through the ceiling of his room. Dold takes us along Prior's solitary journey in a way that is deeply felt, never mawkish.

Larry Yando doesn't physically resemble Roy Cohn at all, fortunately for him, but he conveys the essential ugliness of his character as he rants, curses, and parades his infamous dealings with a villain's pride. It is a smashing characterization done with flair and enough tact so that he doesn't end up out-Heroding Herod.

Did I mention that all of the actors play at least two or three different roles? Why Kushner required this of his actors, even all the leading roles, goes unexplained, but ensemble acting directed by Eric Simonson meets the challenge convincingly, even with panache. Rose Pickering's portrayal of a rabbi fooled many who had not consulted their programs beforehand, and she also played a lawyer, Joe's other and Ethel Rosenberg who Roy Cohn made sure would be sentenced to death.

All these portrayals were amazingly convincing, sterling examples of top-notch acting throughout.

Just what does all this add up to? An



Mark Dold and Craig Swartz star in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's production of "Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches."

evening of superb theater, that's what—and in my case, a discussion of the play that went far into the night, so strong was the impact of Kushner's play and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's interpretation.

Part II, *Perestroika* of *Angels in America* will be produced by the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre from October 18 through November 9, with a different cast, director and directorial staff. Another theatrical challenge.

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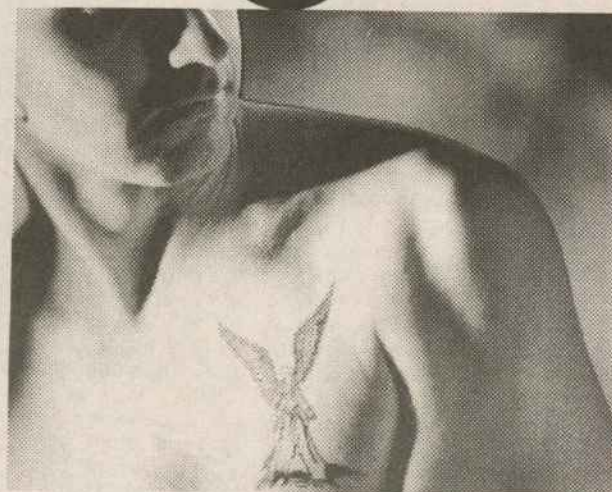


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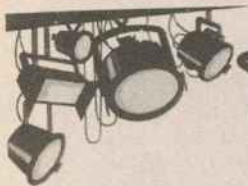
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Talking to the Stars

For The Indigo Girls, Coming Out Was a Serious Part of their Art in Music

By Jeffrey L. Newman

For 16 years, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, known as the Indigo Girls, have built a reputation as the queens of pop/folk music. With their politically correct, hearts-on-their-sleeves persona, they have been undaunted and uncompromising in their dedication to produce musically satisfying songs with a message.

While others singing sappy songs with forgettable lyrics and be-bopping melodies to garner platinum selling albums, Ray and Saliers have steadfastly remained true to that which they believe in, social and political causes, such as the fight against hate crimes and the environment. In turn they've traded top-charting albums for integrity. They even staged a gender-bending concert of Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, a few years ago, which is available on CD.

"We're songwriters who grew up in the folk tradition in true sense of word. Musically we were influenced by a lot of stuff from folk and pop to world music to soul and jazz. And we're very political in how we think. Everything we see is political. We don't get mellow, we get mad. It's not all anger, but it is what it is," says Ray.

"We're intense. We get a little mellow dramatic and self-involved," says Ray. "It's hard to write about anything except things you know and what you know a lot of times is things you're going through or are passionate about." "Our fans key into what we are about. They appreciate what we do and allow us to go our own way. They're pretty open-minded about the changes we go through and appreciate us for that."

Ray and Saliers, 33 and 34 respectively, are back on tour also (occasionally headlining on this summer's Lilith Tour, a summer rock fest of today's top female artists) after nearly a year-and-a-half hiatus to promote their newest Epic release, "Shaming The Sun."

The new opus, which is neatly grounded in Bob Dylanesque '60s folk rock with a '90s sensibility, tackles some of today's headline-grabbing issues, including homophobia, Mexican immigrants and attacks on African-American churches.

"I think it would suck to be known for a few hit singles -- to have this fame and burn your career out. The way we've done things, we've built a solid fan base and that's been a lot more gratifying," says Saliers. "People have poked fun at our politics and view of world and taken personal criticism rather than constructive review of album. Some people we just rub the wrong way. That's the stigma you get for being a politically correct, Lesbian, feminist folk group. It rubs people the wrong way."

The new album also finds the Indigo Girls less stripped down than on earlier releases. They still have their acoustic guitars and sweet harmonies, but tossed in amongst the tracks are electronic guitars and a looser, more rock sensibility.

"I'm very happy with this album," says Ray. "Usually after I make a record, I have to give it up and let it go. It's never quite right for me. But this album feels really good. I didn't have to compromise. I don't feel as if we quit before it was done. We did as much as we could have. If it isn't good enough, it isn't from a lack of trying. We really exhausted ourselves for this one."

While the Indigo Girls are open about being an "out" band, a somewhat mainstream group fronted by two openly Gay musicians, the road to get there was not an easy one. While Ray was less reserved or concerned about the public's image of her and her sexuality, Saliers was more uneasy about being public about her sexual orientation, mainly out of concern that they would forever be labeled a Lesbian band and that it would overshadow what their music was about.

"Emily and I grew at different speeds, when it came to what we wanted to say [about our homosexuality] and when. It's never been that big a deal to me. I've never felt limited by it. I think it has helped us gain a sense of community," says Ray.

"There was a time when Emily didn't feel comfortable about being open. She felt like there had to be something in her life that had to be private and she wanted to keep it out of the public eye," she recalls. "She hadn't necessarily come to terms with things. My concern was that if we didn't talk about it, I didn't feel as if we were being honest. We were asking people to be individuals and stand up for

themselves, so I felt like we had to also."

The duo reached a compromise. Ray talked about being Gay and Saliers talked about the things she felt comfortable talking about. But about three or four years ago, after doing radio interviews and seeing the need to be open, Saliers changed her tune.

"I don't regret coming out. I only wish I had done it earlier. I was just afraid of the stigma. I didn't want to be identified as a Lesbian band first and a musical band second. It was also my personal fear of rejection," says Saliers, who has been with her lover for three years. "Once we were both out, I was like, 'why wasn't it always that way.' It's better in the long run for more people to be out."

Ray and Saliers met when they were in the sixth grade and teamed up musically during their junior year of high school. (Contrary to speculation, they've never been lovers.) They started out grass roots, playing the clubs and earning a cult following. In 1985, they produced their first single and followed that up with a self-produced EP a year later.

Things changed in 1988, when Epic Records signed the duo. A year later they release their first major label album. The self-titled debut featured several guest musicians including Bill Berry and Michael Stipe of R.E.M. and spawned the hit single, "Closer Than Fine," which reached number 52 on the Billboard pop chart. They also earned two Grammy nominations and won for best contemporary folk recording.

Since then they have released six full-length albums, chalked up gold album, Grammy nominations and contributed to many benefit releases.

Their last full-length album, "Swamp Ophelia," reached breaks top 10 of Billboard's pop chart. Their highest ranking to date. It was certified gold within 12 weeks. Ray also formed her own record label, Daemon, based outside Atlanta, where the girls live.

Since they started, Ray and Saliers say they've never compromised their values. They haven't gone the mainstream pop route, and conversely have never had a hit single. They also get little to no coverage outside of the folk or Gay press, unless it's an article criticizing their overt political stance.

But while mainstream media has turned its cheek to the girls over the course of their career, they've learned to turn the other cheek and not allow it to underscore what they are about.

"I don't feel pigeonholed into being anything. If anything, we're given so little recognition from the mainstream press, or it's negative press if we get any, the pressure to conform isn't on. It's not like we have had all of this praise in the past that we have to live up to," says Ray.

"It's one of those things that if we had it, we wouldn't want it. We've learned that it can never really please the ego. I try to look at in realistic way," she adds. "I used to get bummed when I didn't feel mainstream gave us a chance musically. If they do talk about us, they make fun of our politics or our audience. I'd rather have some constructive criticism that has some clarity. I rather know why they don't like us or our music than have them just be nasty. To me, music journalist is at its finest when they tell you what the music is like. It's supposed to teach us something about the music. They talk about our lives, never the music. I feel like we've been together for 16 years and recording for 10, it's time to give it a rest. At some point we want someone to talk about the music."

Unlike their musical Lesbian peers, kd lang and Melissa Etheridge, Ray and Saliers feel they aren't mainstream enough to cause the type of sensation the other women did when they came out.

"Their music is a little more accessible and mainstream," Saliers says. "Kd's crooning and gorgeous ballads don't irritate people the way political or social issues do. Melissa's songs are about relationships and love. It's rock-n-roll. It's very mainstream. It's a lot different from what we do."

While their music is serious in nature and socially conscience lyrically, not everything is life and death, gloom and doom or even politically involved for the girls. They say people have a big misconception that they are always serious and never light-hearted.



The Indigo Girls

"People think that we are totally serious hardcore women. We're not always that way. We are in our lives when it comes to the things that we feel strongly about. And if you focus on that one thing, that picture comes across," says Saliers. "But the truth is, we laugh a lot. Life is hilarious."

Adds Ray, "People think of us as so intense and that we don't have fun. But in reality, we spend 75% of the time laughing. We just find things totally absurd. We have a really great time and we laugh a lot together."

And while they know being out Lesbians in a male-dominated industry, they plan to remain true to themselves and their music, and along the way help fight social and political battles that are important to them.

"I don't get tired of being identified as being Gay. The Gay movement is important to us. It always has been. I see a lot of

positive things and a lot of negative things going on in the fight for Gay rights, which is the way it is in any revolution. I see progress though. I see progress just in our audience alone and in the understanding we get around us," says Ray.

"Different things make the movement work. It's an evolution. I think one part is when people in public eye come out. Because of our culture, it trickles down. It makes homosexuality more acceptable to mainstream," she says. "People relate to famous people in a weird way. If we're going to use our being in the public eye, we're going to use in a good way in terms of the Gay movement. But we are just one of many. There are many others fighting the fight. People have died in this fight. It should never be about a small group of people, it's about everybody."

Expect Fall TV to Show More LBGTs—Who Don't Have a Clue About Sex

New York, NY--Over the past few years, there certainly have been more Lesbian and Gay characters on prime-time television. Yet, in many ways, these images are also more of the same, according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). Despite the recent increase in number, today's Lesbian and Gay characters share at least one unfortunate trait with their media ancestors—they are all, oddly, asexual.

That trend promises to continue into tomorrow, if the network's Fall plans are any indicator. As television's first Lesbian lead moves into the new season, for example, "Ellen" is not likely to get a girlfriend.

ABC's entertainment chief, Jamie Tarses, recently told a convention of TV writers that the network plans "to move slowly in developing the Ellen character as an open Lesbian" (Reuters/Variety, July 23).

"Ellen will, at some point or another, be dating or pursuing relationships, but that is a bit down the line," Tarses explained. "Our feeling is this is a realization that the character has just made, and now must explore making that decision.... It's going to be about baby steps for this character to get comfortable with the decision she's made."

In response, one reporter at the convention asked if "Ellen's" audience might "see any baby kisses." "You know, we haven't gotten that far down the line," Tarses replied.

In real life, ironically, sitcom star Ellen DeGeneres was able to come out and—without much deliberation—"pursue" an open, honest relationship with another actress.

As entertainment reporter Andrea Orr points out, however, ABC's homophobic hesitation is typical of most networks—which have permitted Lesbian and Gay roles "but have avoided heated controversy by denying those characters much of an on-air sex life" (Reuters, July 23) his Fall, a sitcom for the UPN network—"Head Over Heels"—will feature yet another asexual queer. In the new series, openly Gay actor Patrick Bristow will play "Ian," a celibate bisexual character.

At a recent UPN press party, Bristow explained: "My character has chosen celibacy as the most suitable way of life for himself. Instead of being someone who people try to figure out, 'Is he Gay or is he straight?', he's someone who we know has been omni-sexual in his past and has dated and had relationships with both genders. He has a lot of mystery."

Kinney Littlefield, a reporter for the Knight-Ridder News Service (August 1), found a simpler explanation in Bristow's tortured excuse. According to Littlefield, "Making Ian's love life past-tense is an easy way to avoid the on-screen conundrum of Gay or bisexual romance."

Even Bristow has complained that hetero- and homosexual characters "are not

equal yet." "I couldn't give an actor playing my partner even really a peck on the cheek without it raising somebody's eyebrows," he conceded. "And yet, straight people can French-kiss for 15 minutes without taking a breath."

Such heterosexist bias is not limited to television, but warps the roles of Lesbian and Gay film characters as well. A number of Hollywood movies have included a sort of "faux Lesbian" sexuality, entirely directed by the masturbatory fantasies of straight men.

For the most part, however, Lesbians and Gays on the big screen are not much more sexual than their small-screen counterparts.

As screenwriter Paul Rudnick ("Jeffrey") points out, the industry has yet to produce an "openly Gay film heartthrob."

"Gay characters are usually limited to being comical sidekicks, or deeply noble and tragic characters," according to Rudnick. Simply put: Hollywood's homosexuals are not very "sexy."

Whether in film or television, the unfair restraint placed upon sex, love and romance is especially problematic for Lesbian, Gay and bisexual characters. A character's whose life is defined by sexual identity is, in effect, denied an identifiable sex life.

Especially on television, Lesbians and Gays are not only rendered sex-less, but essentially love-less as well. Even when they are characters in late prime-time, adult Lesbians and Gay men are not permitted to kiss, cuddle or romantically hold hands—things that heterosexual children can do on Saturday morning cartoon shows.

Something of a "don't show, just tell" policy, this media bias diminishes the liberating capacity of all Lesbian and Gay characters. Without social or romantic elaboration, even breakthrough portrayals like "Ellen" will become increasingly less innovative—and more insulting.

As long as they are denied fuller lives, the message conveyed by such characters is essentially homophobic. Lesbian and Gay love is too sickening to be seen.

Along with other critics, media researchers Darelene Hantzis and Valerie Lehr agree that many of the television characters touted as "positive" may actually work toward a negative end. Inasmuch as homosexual desire challenges the most basic precepts of heterosexism, these sex-less media conventions represent "a containment of the threat."

Denied relationships with each other, Lesbian and Gay characters are ultimately deprived of "community." Not coincidentally, it is only through a sense of community that any minority group can convert personal pride into political action—and challenge the bigotries of an oppressive majority.

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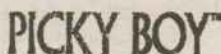
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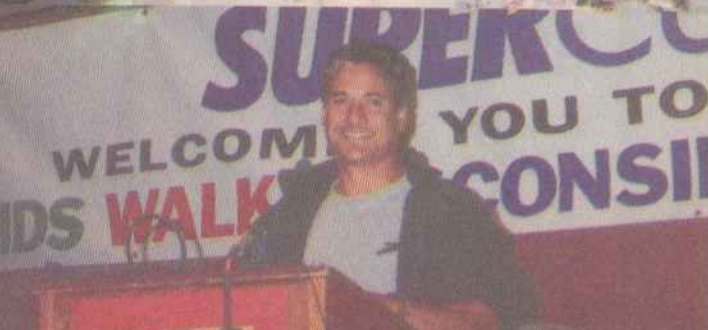
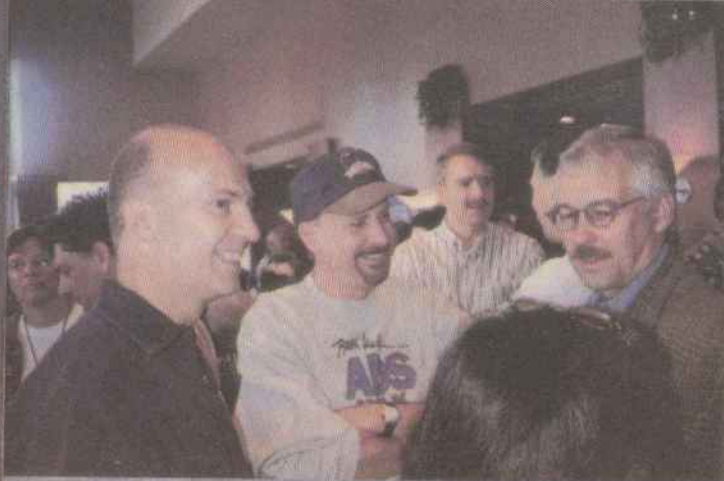
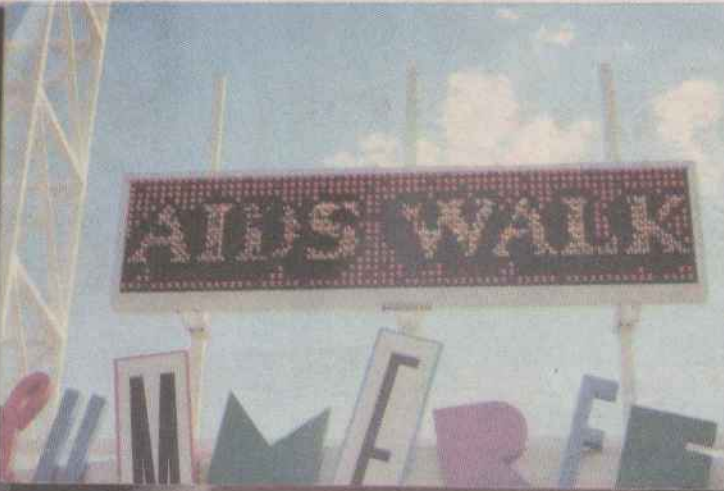
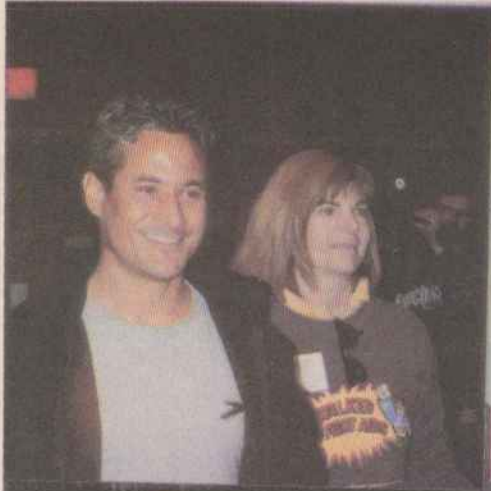
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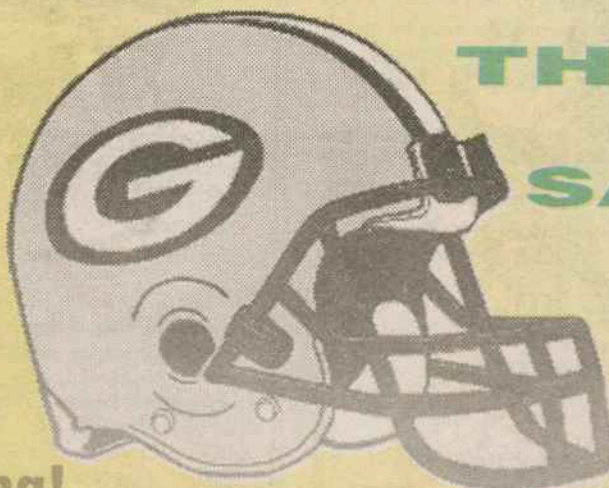
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COMING OUT WEEK GATHERING AT MILWAUKEE WAR MEMORIAL ART CENTER

PFLAG, the Human Rights League, NOW and Gemini will hold their annual

gathering for Gays and Lesbians plus their families, friends and allies at Milwaukee's Art Museum, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive (East Entrance).

There will be live music, refreshments, door prizes, guest speakers, children's art projects and an art museum tour.

The event has a number of fine sponsors including the Cream City Foundation, Miller Brewing, NOW, Jack H. Smith, LAMM, Tammy Baldwin, Sherman Park Rainbow Association, La Cage and American Express Financial Advisors.

The event will begin at 1:00 and continue to 4:00.

FIREBIRDS CLUB NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP SALOON

The Firebirds Leather Club will have another of their fine club nights at the Boot Camp Saloon, 209 E. National Ave.

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

SEND OFF TO STATE SHOW AT OZ IN WAUSAU

Everyone (even Auntie Em and Toto) will be Oz for its big send off to show to help Fifi LaMour, Miss Central Gay Wisconsin US of A and Killi Jo Kelin Miss Gay Wausau US of A get to the State Pageant.

The dazzling performances will begin at 10:30 PM. Oz is located 320 Washington Street, Wausau.

MONDAY OCTOBER 13

SAY GOOD BYE TO MILWAUKEE'S CAFÉ MELANGE

They say all good things must come to an end and a very good thing is coming to an end on Monday, October 13. It's time for Café Melange, home to so many wonderful parties and performers to hit the dusty trail.

Owner, Larry K., is working at his family business plus the Hotel Wisconsin (which is where the Café is located) was recently purchased and all the leases were cancelled.

The party begins at Noon and continues until the cows come home (or bar time whichever comes first).

There will be a rummage sale to get rid of the glasses, silverware, pictures and stuff on Tuesday, October 14 from noon until it's gone.

Café Melange is located at 720 Old World, Street Milwaukee.

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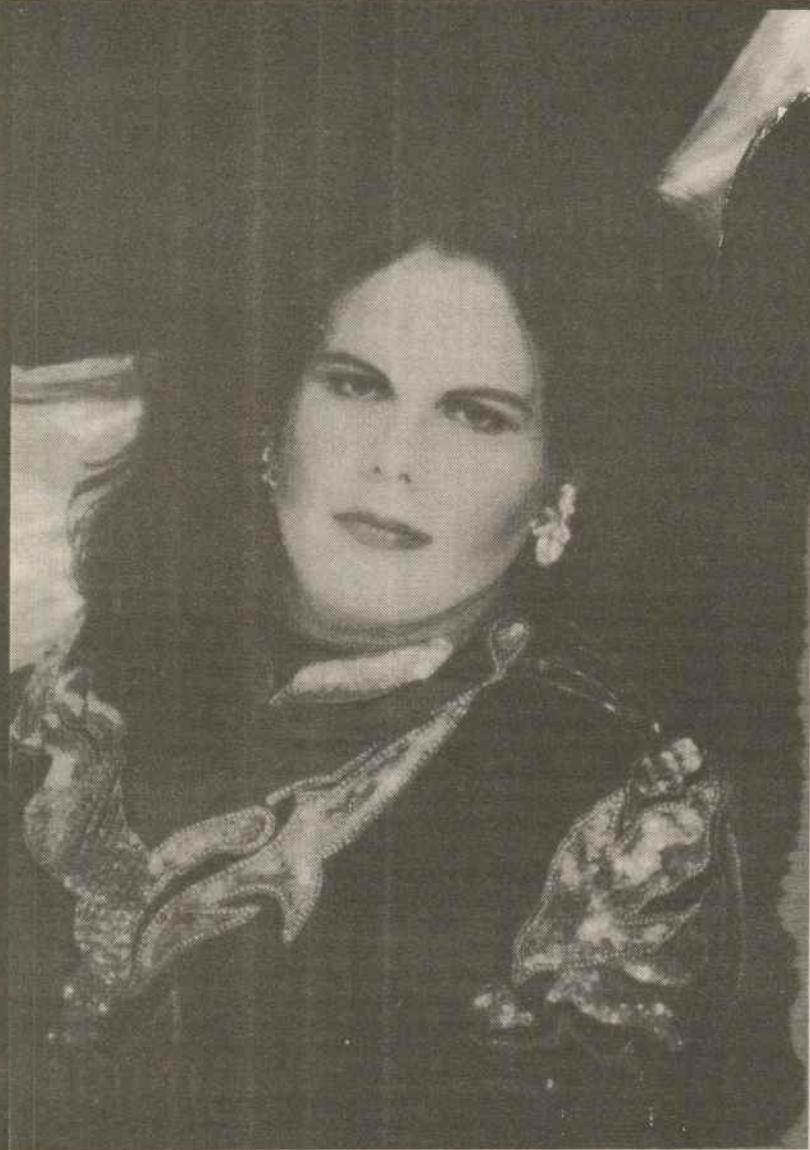
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A \$50 entry fee, check or money order payable to Pageant Productions must accompany this entry form. Official Pageant rules will be mailed to all contestants. All entry forms must be mailed, postmarked and received on or before October 29, 1997. You must be a Wisconsin resident as of May 1, 1997. You must be at least 18 years of age. Maximum 10 Mr. contestants/Maximum 10 Miss contestants allowed. You will receive an entry pass at the rehearsal on Sunday morning, November 2.

PENALTIES: You will lose 10 points for any deviation from the above instructions or Official Pageant rules: Non-mailed entry - 10 points; Late for rehearsal - 10 points; No tape at rehearsal (unless performing live) - 10 points.



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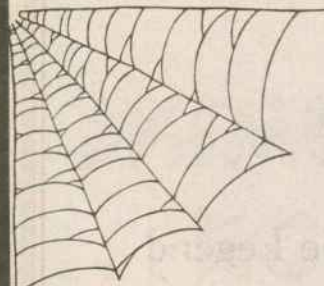
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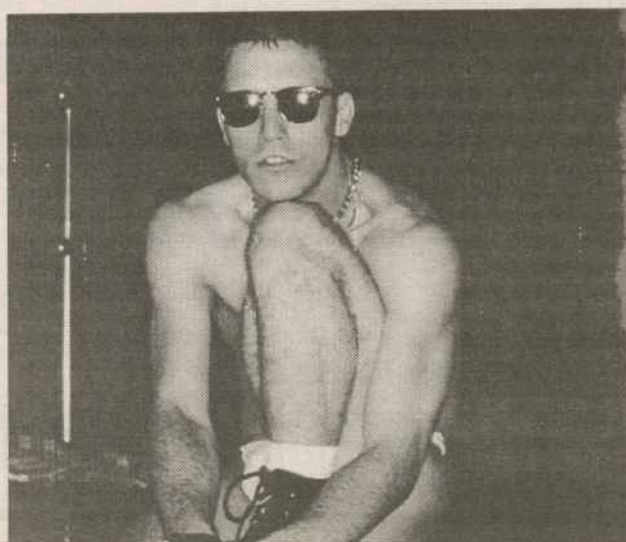
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Sunday Nights

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THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

News... The on again off again reopening of Yike's as a Gay bar appears to be off again. The bar was supposed to reopen around Labor Day and then around October 1st. We heard the financing fell through. That may or may not be the case but one thing is sure, there is a "For Lease" sign in the window.

We also hear the of a Gay friendly, straight bar in the area is thinking of buying another one of the bars in the area and opening it as a Gay bar.

And word has it that a major remodeling job is in store for B's when it changes over to become Woody's in mid-October.

La Cage has started it's southern expansion project. Milwaukee's biggest bar is going to expand and take in the patio area.

George and Corey also tell me that the work on the upstairs is proceeding ahead. A restaurant is planned for that space. The outside renovations are also going on.

There is one news item, that I know you would like to hear about, but we can't take the wraps off of it until our next issue when everything will be official.

Recaps... The last couple of weeks have been really frantic with the AIDS Walk and preparations for our 10th Anniversary issue. Nevertheless I did manage to get out and about to see what was going on.

I took in two Gay movie screenings. One for In & Out and the other for Kiss Me Guido. In & Out was by far the better of the two. In fact I must say I agree with In Step's photographer Jamie, who said that if it wasn't for the cute ex-Madonna boy co-star, I wouldn't have liked Guido at all.

In & Out on the other hand was funny, clever, well acted and in general one of the most entertaining movies I have seen in quite some time.

The Customer Appreciation Party at Mama Roux was a big success. The bar was really crowded (even more so than usual). It was especially nice to see the softball players from Mama's Team (and some other teams as well). It's nice to know that they continue to remember the team sponsors even though the season is over.

The Last Miss B's contest at B's was fun. Congrats to Monique who won the crown. Things seem to be moving along for the bar to become "Woody's" after mid October.

The SAGE Patio Party at The Boot Camp was a pleasant diversion. A nice sized crowd turned out and enjoyed a good picnic lunch, won prizes and chatted with each other.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin was its usual well organized self. The entertainment on the grounds was good. I was really moved by Wisconsin Basketball coach Dick Bennett's speech before the walk. Although I will say that I was less than impressed with what Greg Louganis had to say at the Breakfast.

Unfortunately an eye problem prevented me from making the walk, but I hear the entertainment on the route was very good.

Packer fever seems to be slow in takti. hold this year. A check of Packer Parties at several Milwaukee establishments showed crowds that were not as large as last year's.

The biggest crowds were at In Between and The Ball Game. Maybe it's the nice weather or the Noon start times or both. Nevertheless I always have a great time going out and watching the Pack. It really is much more fun in a group.

In Between has added a fun new twist to its parties. Every half time, the bar draws a ticket and the person holding that ticket gets to throw a football to a cut out of Chewy (If you don't know who Chewy is you aren't a REAL Packer Backer). Put the ball in his hole and win some cool cash.

I also had a great time one Saturday night at Just Us. Normally I don't like Country, but the guys and gals who come out for the bar's Country nights are a lot of fun.

Speaking of fun, the crowds at La Cage have been especially large lately. This is especially true on Saturday evenings. That place is really jumping.

I stopped by the Sunday Afternoon Beer Bust at Club 219. It was great fun sitting there and watching and listening to bartender Sofonda Cox. It's nice to see a bartender who is funny and fast.

Last but by no means least, I had a great time at This Is It after the AIDS Walk, where I ran into Quest publisher, Mark Za

and his business partner Ken (who owns ZA's with Mark). It's always a pleasure to see those two. They told me that The Wisconsin Light is doing very well in the Fox Valley area.

Coming Up...Thursday September 25. I will be at In Between for bartender Patrick's Birth Day Party. Pat is really one of my favorite Bartenders. Stop in, get to know him and find out why.

Saturday September 27 there are lots of things to do. I will stop by Just Us for its big Anniversary Show. This bar is only three year's old, but it has had a big impact. It's especially nice to see a Queer bar that serves an almost equal number of women and men be successful.

At some point I will have to get over to M & M to see Singational. They always draw a large crowd and they have extraordinary talent.

Sunday September 29 my partner and I are heading up to Door County to spend an evening at the fabulous Chanticleer. I hope to stop by Za's while we are up there.

Wednesday October 1st I will be at Mama Roux for its 2 for 1 Cocktail hour which goes until Midnight. Mama's is always a good place to get a drink and have fun.

Friday October 3 I will start out at This Is It. Joe and his staff (boy does he have some hot looking bartenders) always do a great job. Throw in a eclectic mix of people and great juke box and you have a great party bar.

Saturday October 4, I hope you will join me at the Coming Out Day Week Kick Off at the War Memorial Center from 1 to 4:00

That evening you can find me at the Boot Camp for the Firebirds Club Night. Ah yes, the smell of leather in that crisp fall air....

Sunday October 5 I will be In Between for it's Packer Party. This place goes all out to make sure everyone enjoys the game, no matter what happens on the field.

Tuesday October 7 I'll be at the Ball Game for its Cocktail hour. The Ball

Game has Milwaukee's longest cocktail hour which runs from 2 PM to 9 PM Mon-Friday.

Then it will be over to La Cage for their big Prize Night drawing. Tuesdays are really special there. The bar gives away a cash prize every Tuesday and then once every 3 months they give away a hot trip for two. In August they gave away a trip to Vegas. Tonight it will be a trip for two to San Francisco.

Friday October 9 I'll be at Just Us for a fish fry. They have great fish fry's at this bar.

Saturday October 11 I will be up in Madison. I want to personally thank Mike and Nancy at Scandals for saving that bar for the community. I also want to take in the US of A on parade show at Manoeuvres.

Monday October 13 I will be there to help bring down the curtain on Café Melange one of my favorite stops. Over the years, I have been to fund raisers, parties and even funerals at this Milwaukee landmark which also boasts some really fine entertainment. Now due to owner Larry Krueger running an out of town family business and a new owner of the Hotel Wisconsin, the bar will close. The party starts at noon and goes until ????

There will be a Café Melange rummage sale at Noon on Tuesday.

Well that about wraps things up for another couple of weeks. I hope to see YOU out and about soon. Meanwhile, stay safe and be proud.

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And the Winner Is!!! La Cage Bartender Paul, (left) looks over the winning ticket held by Scott Polinski in La Cage's drawing for a trip for 2 to Las Vegas held in July. On Tuesday, October 8, another drawing will be held and the lucky winner will receive a trip for two to San Francisco. The drawings are part of La Cage's weekly Tuesday Prize Night specials.

Street Beat: When Fashion Makes A Difference

Milwaukee-- Unique fashion, good prices, interesting people. For the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), this combination has a name: *Street Beat* fashion extravaganza, and it will take place October 4 at 8 p.m.

The event is produced by Survival/Revival Resale, located in the Historic Third Ward, one of the several fundraising programs developed by the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Beyond the people who volunteer at Survival/Revival daily, 16 models, two beauty salons, artists and performers will join the team during the show -- all as volunteers.

"Raising money is surely our focus and that couldn't be done without dedicated volunteers who believe in the cause. The effort that these people put into making this event fun and successful is phenomenal," said Kathy Fortier, manager of Survival/Revival since its creation, three years ago.

Nearly 300 people attended the *Street Beat* spring fashion show in April raising over \$3,000 in the fight against AIDS.

The fall *Street Beat* features the Milwaukee band "Bamm Bamm," fashion commentary by Sister Cashbox and BJ Daniels as the master of ceremony.

"We are happy and grateful to say that with every fashion show we can see the event increasing significantly in terms of participation by the community. It means more people are involved with the Milwaukee AIDS Project and its goals," emphasized Fortier.

The *Street Beat* fashion show will take



Survival Revival Models

place at Survival/Revival Resale, 246 E. Chicago in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward, and will start at 8:00 p.m. While attending, be sure to check out the great sale prices on items as shopping is encouraged all evening long. Ticket prices are \$8 for students and \$10 for the general public, however, there are \$2 coupons available. For more information, call (414) 291-2856.

Horoscope

October

By Dean Poh

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Happy Birthday, Libra. October greets you and oh, what a month it is. In the USA it is Halloween, but no matter where, there is a time of strength—especially if you are a man. Women recede now, man move ahead. Good fortune awaits you, Libra. Loved ones hover about. Your mother has something to say to you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Be careful, Scorpio. October has never been really great for you. Tread carefully. That costume you've been planning? Can you really afford it? Your best friend's right. Follow the advice and you'll be okay.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Be careful of one who is too free buying you drinks. Listen to your Gay radar. It's warning should be taken very seriously indeed. If you're planning a trip, this is a good time to get out of town.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan 19)

Candles and hats and a particular bar that's a favorite of yours. Do these have meaning for you, Capricorn? One is good, the other two have evil portent. Listen to your instincts.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

A real estate venture looks good. Be careful of stocks. You know the market's going to collapse, don't you? That's what the tigers here say. They are right.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

If you have a chance to change jobs, do it. Good fortune will result. Do not concern yourself with how impractical it seems. You're going to find a bargain. Be on the look out for it.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

All your life, you've dreamed of the "ideal one." That person is vividly in your dreams and fantasies and always has been. Things that powerful have a way of becoming real. Be patient.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You charge ahead, seldom looking to the right or left. Such a way can lead to imbalance in your life. Restore harmony by slowing down, especially this month.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Autumn has arrived in your part of the world. It is a time to gather your energies and prepare for winter's storms. Be careful and be good to yourself. You deserve it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

You are going to have an opportunity this month to be of great help to someone else. You may not want to do this. It isn't in your plans, but follow your best instincts.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Oh, Leo, you prowled around like the jungle cat you can sometimes be and now the price must be paid. Look to the stars. There is a message for you there.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

How is it Virgo, that you can be so orderly, so given to reason and yet you can get so swept away at times? In October's full moon, the answer will come to you, but be careful not to become moonstruck.

Editor's Note: Dean Poh is currently living in Manila. He is an astrologer of wide experience, but he is also a gifted seer who, as he says, uses many means

to divine the future. He ascribes his sensitivity to his being Gay because "Gay people are on the seventh and highest rung of spiritual evolution."

His column will be offered exclusively in *Wisconsin Light* for your entertainment once a month.

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UW Milwaukee Union Theater



Dee Hennigan (L) and Connie Nelson star in "Late Boomers" to be shown at the Milwaukee G & L Film Fest at 7 PM on Saturday, October 4.

'Late Bloomers' is a Fuzzy, Warm, Wonderfully Romantic Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn has many worries, worries such as whether Ellen is going to get a girlfriend this season (not to mention a goodnight kiss), worries that those Kids in the Hall might be given the opportunity to do another horrible motion picture, worries that there might be a sequel to *The Birdcage*, worries even that another Bruce LaBruce film might be snuck onto the schedule of this year's Milwaukee's Gay & Lesbian film festival.

A much bigger worry that Glenn has is that following the phenomenal success of everyone's favorite Lesbian erotic thriller, *Bound*, all subsequent Lesbian films will have to measure up.

How, for example can a warm, fuzzy puppy of a picture such as *Late Bloomers* with such marvelously endearing moments as the two romantic leads playing a bit of nude basketball compete with the cosmic eroticism generated by Gina Gershon and Jennifer Tilly?

This gentle romantic comedy focuses on two rather unhappy people. Dinah Groshardt (Connie Nelson) is the textbook lonely, Lesbian school teacher and girls' basketball coach who turns to the logical security of mathematics in the absence of the more elusive emotions associated with love.

School secretary Carly Lumpkin (Dee Hennigan) has reached middle age in an unhappy marriage. Dissatisfied with life, she increasingly finds solace in mounds of snack foods, her lack of self-image not even allowing Carly the merest fantasy of a romantic affair.

Ironically, Carly as the film opens, fancies that Dinah is having a bit of slap and tickle with her rather colorless hubby Rom (Gary Carter). When that little crisis is resolved satisfactorily, the ice is broken between the two women.

Their courtship is aptly consummated on a court, a basketball court that is, as Carly learns the secrets of the game and ultimately of her heart under the caring tutelage of Dinah.

There can be no motion picture without conflict and our enchanting protagonists find more than a few bumps along the way to the inevitably "happily-ever-after" resolution.

Gretchen Dyer's earnest screenplay offers few real surprises but is happily free of some of the more obvious stereotypes, not to mention filled with wry observations and moments of genuine warmth and humor.

Still, the success of *Late Bloomers* rests in the hands of the two leads and neither Connie Nelson or Dee Hennigan disappoint. Both film newcomers offer fresh, original perspectives on two characters that could have easily been played strictly for laughs.

Clearly filmed on a shoe-string budget, director Julia Dyer makes effective use of actual suburban Dallas locals, with wry commentary of the proceedings periodically turning up on the high school sign a particularly amusing touch.

Unabashedly optimistic, a more genuinely "feel good" Lesbian flick than *Late Bloomers* would be difficult to imagine.

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



What a Dress! Josephine Siao in "Hu-Du-Men" showing at the Milwaukee G & L Film Fest at 9:00 on Friday, October 3.

Schedule 10th Annual G/L Film and Video Festival

Thursday, October 2

7:00pm *Watermelon Woman* directed by Cheryl Dunye w/ short documentary TBA
9:00pm *Lilies* directed by John Greyson

Friday, October 3

7:00pm *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School* directed by Debra Chasnoff
9:00pm *Hu-Du-Man* directed by Shu Kei

Saturday, October 4

7:00pm *Late Boomers* directed by Julia Dyer
9:00pm *Boy Shorts*

Thursday, October 9

7:00pm *Bubbeh Lee and Me* directed by Andy Abrahams Wilson
Queer Son directed by Vickie Seitchik co-sponsored with PFLAG
9:00pm *Letters from Home* directed by Mike Hoolboom
I Shall Not Be Removed: The Life of Marlon Riggs directed by Karen Everett

Friday, October 10

7:00pm *Out at Work* directed by Tami Gold and Kelly Anderson w/ *Out There* directed by Mark Moody w/ *Two or Three Things But Nothing for Sure* directed by Tina DiFeliciano & Jane C. Wagner Co-Sponsored by Human Rights League
9:00pm *Girls Shorts*

Saturday, October 11

7:00pm *Murder and Murder* directed by Yvonne Rainer co-sponsored by the Center for Twentieth Century Studies
9:00pm *Boyfriends* directed by Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger w/ *Frankie and Fudgie Get Laid* directed by Jeffrey Adkins

All screenings are in UW-Milwaukee's Union Theater. For more information, call (414) 229-6971. The Festival is presented by the UWM Department of Film and the School of Fine Arts with major funding from the Cream City Foundation.

This Year's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is Not to be Missed

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* will undoubtedly remember that following last year's festival Glenn questioned many of the films screened last year. Two films, *Hustler White* and *Better Dead Than Gay* topped Glenn's Worst Ten Films list last year. Glenn is rather surprised they even returned his calls.

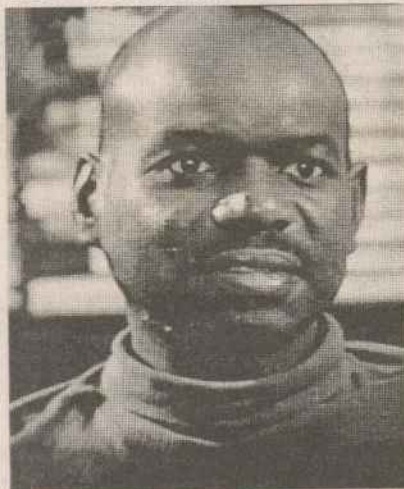
Not holding a grudge, festival organizers have gotten many advance screeners of this year's offerings and Glenn must report that Gay and Lesbian moviegoers need to block off the first two weekends in October in order to catch some of the best Gay-themed films to find their way into Milwaukee in some time.

(9:00 p.m.) which feature the wacky camp musical, *Sex Insurance, Inc.* as well as the wildly outrageous takeoff, *Karen Black Like Me.*

With so many terrific short films appealing to both Gay men and Lesbians, festival organizers might again try a "mixed night".

Glenn was dubious over the *Out in the World* program, Friday, October 10 (7pm) thinking these to be serious documentaries of questionable entertainment value but *Out at Work* is likely (hopefully) to make people think about heading off to Cracker Barrel in the future and the marvelous, *Two or Three Things But Nothing for Sure* which just might be the most moving piece of film Glenn has seen in some time.

This isn't to say that audiences will find all the offerings at this year's festival to be as worthy.



Drag King- An unknown actress from "Kings of New York," a look at Drag Kings in N.Y. It will be shown at the film fest on Friday, Oct 10 at 9.

Elsewhere in this paper, are full length reviews of several films showing this year. Since so very many films are being shown, Two of these films, *Lilies* by director by John Greyson and the wonderfully warm *Late Bloomers* should not be missed.



Marlon Riggs in "I shall Not Be Removed" to be shown at the Milwaukee G & L Film Fest at 9 PM on Thursday, October 9.

Still, Glenn wanted to take a moment to specifically mention a few terrific films that might otherwise get lost or forgotten.

Gay men should not fear the GRRLZ Shorts program on Friday, October 10th (9:00 p.m.) so as to see the hilarious short, *Good Citizen Betty Baker*, a wonderful spoof on Lesbians invading suburban America.

Conversely, Lesbians may well be pleasantly surprised by the program of *Boy Shorts* on Saturday, October 4th

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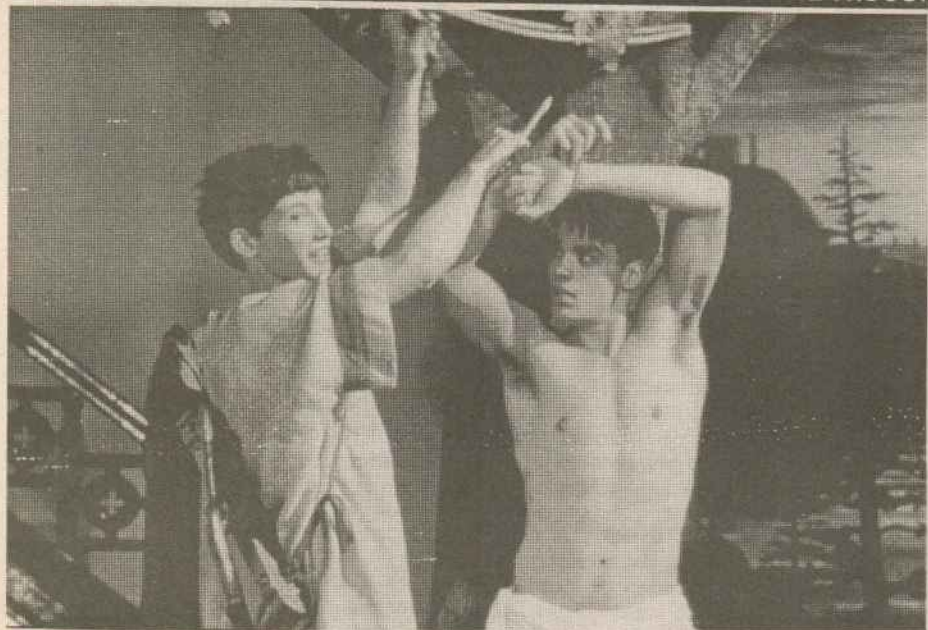
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Dennis Getto

Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel



Lilies Jason Cadieux (right) and Danny Gilmore star in *Lilies* which will be shown at the Milwaukee G & L Film Fest at 9:00, Thursday October 2.

'Lilies' is Explosive, Passionate, and a Gloriously Romantic Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Gay and Lesbian movie going audience are about to find themselves facing a somewhat perplexing dilemma, a veritable "embarrassment of riches", cinemas virtually overflowing with an abundance of terrific gay films (okay, add in the not-so terrific *In & Out*).

One film not to miss is *Lilies*, the sensational new film from director John Greyson who is perhaps best remembered for the memorably quirky AIDS-musical, *Zero Patience!*

Emotionally explosive, passionate and gloriously romantic, *Lilies* is structured along the lines of a memory play. The year is 1952. A Bishop (Marceel Sabourin) has been called into a federal penitentiary to hear the confession of a dying inmate, Simon (Aubert Pallascio).

Locked within the confessional box, the Bishop has been brought to the prison chapel not merely to hear the final confession of a dying man. Instead, as the other prisoners transform the space into a theatrical stage and to begin re-enacting the story of Simon's youth, Bishop Bilodeau can only helplessly, perversely assume the role as voyeur to the tale of betrayal in which he played such a pivotal part.

Back in 1912, young Simon (Jason Cadieux, an astonishingly beautiful young actor) has assumed the role of St. Sebastian in a school play (By an extraordinary coincidence, Glenn too had assumed the role of St. Sebastian in a school played, with decidedly marked results!). In love with him is fellow student Vallier de Tilly (the equally breathtaking Danny Gilmore),

who plays a soldier in the school play.

Young Bilodeau (Matthew Ferguson) is jealous of the relationship that he knows (and has become terrifically jealous of) has developed between the two youths. In one shattering moment, Simon unmasks the unexpectedly frightening sexual obsession that Bilodeau can no longer repress.

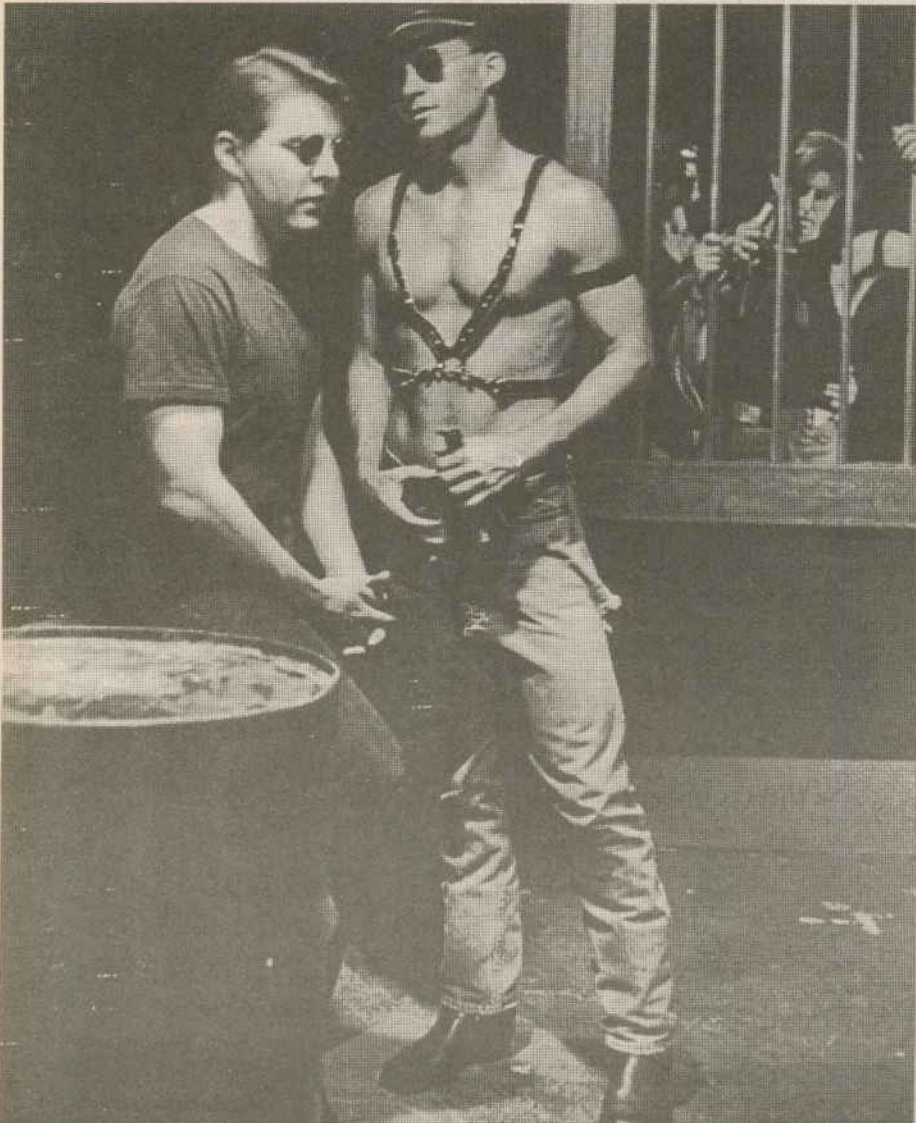
Some of the most memorable films are those which rely on passionate writing and great themes with nary a computer-generated special effect in sight and *Lilies* is just such a film.

Wonderfully, cleverly done, the play-within-the-play seamless travels from the prison's make-shift stage to back 40 years earlier with effortless grace, the same all-male group of inmates playing all of the roles, even the women. Amongst these, Tony-award-winning Brent (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*) Carver is particularly marvelous as the tragically doomed Countess de Tilly, clearly a soul-sister to Tennessee William's similarly tragic heroine from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Blanche.

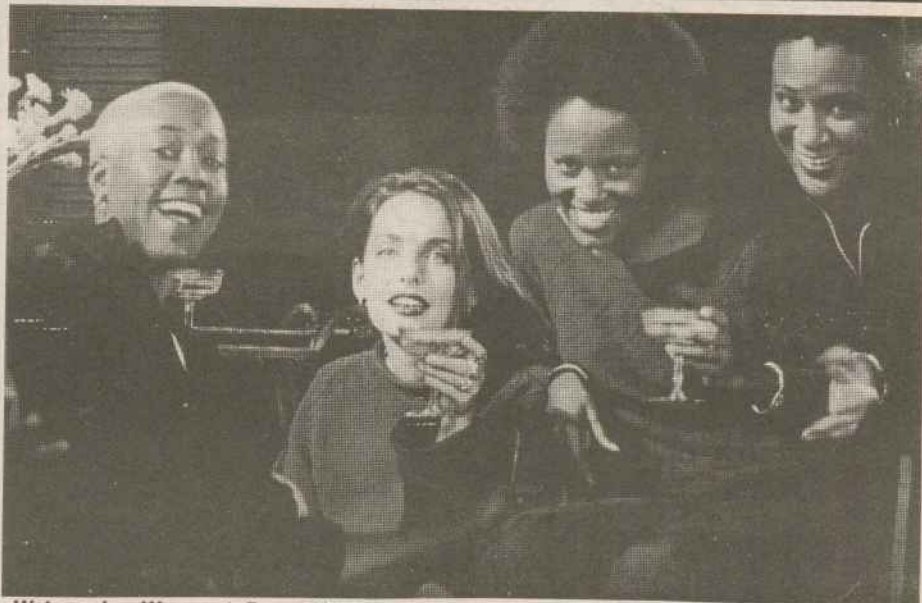
Rarely has a Gay love affair been captured on screen with such a glorious palate, in the hands of Jason Cadieux and Danny Gilmore.

Some of the most memorable films are those which rely on passionate writing and great themes with nary a computer-generated special effect in sight and *Lilies* is just such a film. Lushly filmed and beautifully scored, *Lilies* is a cinematic treat.

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



Boot Camp Matthew Solari, John Cantwell and Douglas Bradford and David Kibbe in "Boot Camp" a boyshort film shown with other boy shorts at the Milwaukee G & L Film Fest at 9:00, Saturday, October 4.



Watermelon Women L-R are Cheryl Dunye, Guinevere Turner, Lisa Marie Bronson and Valarie Walker in "Watermelon Women" which will shown at the Milwaukee G & L Film Fest at 7:00, Thursday October 2.

'Boyfriends' is a Film of Wondrous Low Key Performances by a Talented Cast

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Thirty-something Will (David Coffey), desperate not to face a country weekend with his best friends without a bedmate, asks young Adam (Darren Petrucci) to come along. It will be good for Adam, Will claims, to spend time with a group of happy, well-adjusted homosexuals.

"A film about a group of happy, well-adjusted homosexuals?" thought Glenn, nearly choking on a hullless kernel of popcorn, "Imagine that!"

Following this summer's glossy, Jason Alexander-starring *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, this little, low-budget British independent feature might look to many like a poor relation. Still, Gay audiences are likely to find much more heart and much more real in the aptly titled *Boyfriends*.

If you can imagine a group of happy, well-adjusted homosexuals, you can similarly imagine the lilting strains of a Sondheim tune as three couples venture forth on a weekend in the country.

Paul (James Dreyfus) and Ben (Mark Sands) have been together for five years. As they prepare for an Easter weekend away, which happens to coincidentally coincide with Paul's birthday, the formerly happy couple are increasingly finding it difficult to share any snippet of conversation that doesn't end in bickering. Even small, inoffensive houseplants appear at peril when Paul and Ben are around.

A more mis-matched couple than the romantically nerdy, blissfully clueless Matt (Michael Urwin) and the obviously naughty Owen (Andrew Abelson) would be impossible to imagine. A one-night stand that has managed to drift for three months, Matt feels they are ready for the big step

of shared, cohabitation. Owen is clearly dubious.

The third couple isn't really a couple at all. Perennially nice guy Will, a committed social worker, convinces his previous night's trick, the perpetually horny Adam, a youth for whom he once served as counselor, to accompany him on this country weekend.

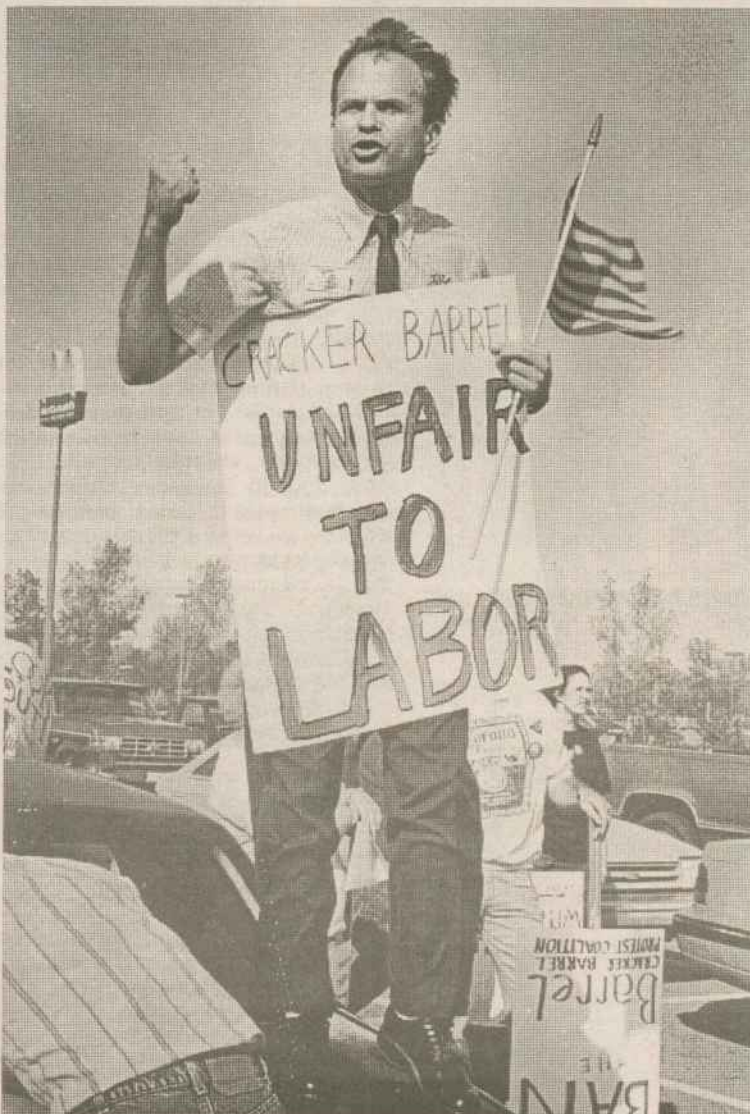
Predictably, very predictable events ensue which include various and sundry bed-swappings, assorted emotional truths bared, heated arguments raged, hearts broken, many potatoes furiously peeled and, of course, the obligatorily furtive "quick wank."

Lacking *Love Valour! Compassion!*'s constant stream of snappy one-liners and generous helpings of delightfully superfluous moments of Randy Becker's ...er, winning smile, collaborators Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger have instead opted for more real, surprisingly intimate moments between friends and lovers.

Particularly refreshing (and Glenn is sure he'll hear about this), *Boyfriends* collaborators had the courage to acknowledge AIDS in their view of contemporary Gay life without allowing the dark cloud of "The Crisis" to act as a constant menace from just beyond the horizon.

Technically, *Boyfriends* has that wonderfully gritty low-budget look of a film made for less than \$25,000 -- complete with some fuzzy sound and even more fuzzy cinematography. Still the naturalness of the filming compliment the fine, low-key performances, with Darren Petrucci's Adam, a wonderfully naive, albeit horny, lost little boy.

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



Protestor- Ron Woods a UAW member protests Cracker Barrel's homophobic and anti-labor policies in the film "Out at Work" showing at the Milwaukee G & L film fest at 7:00, Friday, October 10

OUT on Film

'The Edge' is a Truly Exciting, Action-Packed Thriller a la "Call of the Wild"

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Considering that he is seemingly permanently chained to his favorite and familiar aisle seat, Glenn rarely manages a true holiday.

Many of Glenn's friends have recently regaled Glenn with the fabulous trips they've taken this past summer. Glenn has heard himself "ohhhhhh" and "ahhhhhh" over gloriously super-sized photos of white-water rafting in Northern Minnesota, Door County backpacking not to mention a truly astounding mountain-climbing expedition in Wyoming.

These Lesbian friends of Glenn's are always planning some absolutely crazy adventure.

Like most of his Gay male friends, Glenn's holiday fantasies inevitably revolve around glamorous cities possessing wonderful little shops, fabulous theatre and adorable bed & breakfasts.

All of which leads Glenn to **The Edge**, a breath-taking outdoors thriller starring Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin.

Long on scenery, rather lacking in the plot department, **The Edge** has billionaire Charles Morse (Anthony Hopkins) accompanying his super-beautiful super-model wife Mickey (Elle McPherson) on a photo shot in the lonely wilds of Alaska. It's his birthday, you see.

Did Glenn happen to mention that the billionaire's beautiful wife is probably young enough to be his granddaughter?

While the billionaire immerses himself in a book (The film's working title was "The Bookworm") detailing wilderness survival techniques, photographer Robert (Alec Baldwin) is busily throwing a hissy-fit.

Desperately needing an authentic-looking, raw hunk o' man (and who, Glenn wonders, isn't?), Robert suggests to Charles a little expedition involving a small plane and a desolate cabin.

Before you can sing a single verse of the Gilligan's Island theme-song, Charles, Robert and Robert's assistant, Stephen (Harold Perrineau) find themselves lost in the frozen wilderness with nary a "Power-Bar" amongst them.

A Darwinian "survival of the fittest" drama emerges as men battle beasts and the beasts within.

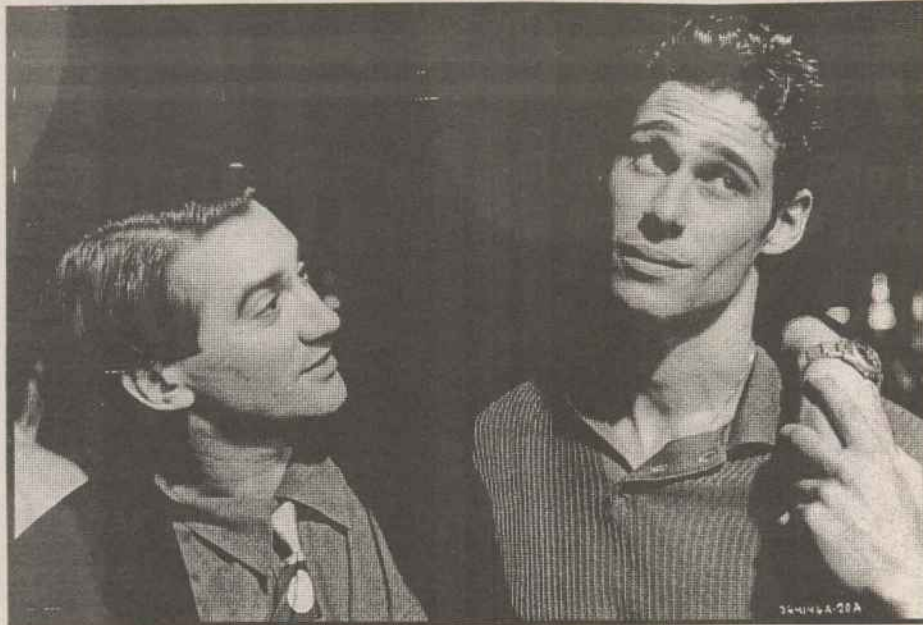
While our happy little trio are not forced to succumb to anything as perversely scintillating as cannibalism, their adventures include wondering aimlessly in circles, losing the odd body part while engaged in spear-making 101 and a genuinely thrilling episode involving a man-killer bear.

Anthony Hopkins struck Glenn as a rather curious choice as a hero in an action flick but succeeds marvelously, helped in no small measure due to the fact that his character is the only one to emerge with any semblance of a brain.

Glenn has always been immune to Alec Baldwin's supposed charms, a situation not changed much here. More interesting are Harold Perrineau's city-savvy Styles and L. Q. Jones's not-so down-home lodge boss.

Finally, kudos to the technical folks responsible for the spectacular images as well as a larger-than-life performance by Bart the Bear.

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



Roommates - Anthony Barrile (left) and former Madonna Boy Toy, Nick Scotti star in "Kiss Me Guido" a comedy about two mismatched room mates.

Straight and Gay Cultures Collide Comically in 'Kiss Me Guido'

By John Jahn

Frankie Zito (Nick Scotti) is a 24-year-old Italian-American who works at a pizza parlor in the Bronx part of New York. After coming home one night and finding his brother Pino (Anthony DeSando) having sex with his erstwhile girlfriend Debbie (Jennifer Esposito), Frankie decides he's had enough of his deeply provincial community and dead-end existence and seeks to follow his dream.

That dream is to become the next "Italian Stallion" of acting - to follow in the footsteps of Pacino, DeNiro, and most of all his hero, Sly Stallone. He's already memorized many of their most famous lines, it's just a matter of being discovered, and he won't be if he stays in "Da Bronx."

Meanwhile, Warren (Anthony Barrile), a Gay actor/choreographer living alone in the closely-knit province of the West Village, is getting over being dumped by his ex, Dakota (Christopher Lawford, son of Peter), who left him for a flamboyant playwright named "#". (David Deblinger).

Warren is under pressure from his high strung landlady Meryl (Molly Price) to get caught up on his rent - he's only 5 months late! Warren's flamboyant and queenly pal Terry (Craig Chester) tries to help him by placing an ad in **The Village Voice** on Warren's behalf (and without his consent) seeking a "GWM" roommate. I needn't explain to **Light** readers what GWM stands for, right?

The loveable, cute, hunky but ever-so-naive Frankie responds to the ad, thinking that GWM stands for "Guy With Money."

We now have the setting for a comic clash of cultures. Where differences between Frankie and Warren at first seem shocking and irreconcilable, common appreciations begin to appear. Disco is, after all, Disco.

A friendship develops slowly and hesitantly between the two as they become involved in their common passion for acting and a place to live comfortably. Warren has a guy to help pay the rent, Frankie has someone with ties to theater to help launch his career.

The collision between Frankie's conservative, old world family and ultra-hot friends and the often outrageous cast of characters in Warren's life becomes inevitable. Both communities reveal to great comic effect their prejudices, and perhaps reveal in the end that they're not so different after all.

Kiss Me Guido is a very funny movie, presenting in particular Gay audiences with humorous episodes in the life of Warren with which we can all identify to some degree. All the principle actors may seem remotely familiar to you because, with the exception of Scotti who makes his feature film debut, they've all had supporting roles in other films before. Obviously there are no big names here, however. Director/Writer Tony Vitale in **Guido** makes his film debut.

It's a charming little film with interesting and funny characters and great comedic writing, only flawed here and there by lapses into first film amateurishness.

One big negative is the sound quality. Whether a problem exists with the print being shown at the Downer, or with the Downer's sound system, it has a very muddy quality to it, making parts of the dialog incomprehensible without very careful listening.

Minus this unfortunate flaw, **Kiss Me Guido** will ensure a pleasant movie-going experience.

(3 stars)



Sitting Around - Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Jennifer Jason Leigh (L-R) star in the drama "A Thousand Acres," a female version of the classic Shakespeare tale "King Lear."

'A Thousand Acres' is More Like a Thousand Dysfunctions

By John Jahn

A Thousand Acres has a lot going for it. An all-star cast, high production values, a magnificently picturesque setting, a screenplay based upon a Pulitzer Prize-winning, best-selling novel (by Jane Smiley). But all those things somehow don't quite add up to the wonderful movie they were meant to be.

For one thing, the film is based upon a very lengthy and involved novel, and the screenplay by Laura Jones just doesn't condense it to a 104 minute film very well. There are so many wheels within wheels, so many dysfunctions going on within the Cook family, that your attention to any one character is constantly being pulled away by something else.

What happens is you don't really get as emotionally attached to anyone in this film as much as I'm sure you would reading the novel, and in the end you're left somewhat cold.

The Cook family is headed by an indomitable, aging patriarch, Larry (Jason Robards, in the best performance of the film). His personal kingdom, over which he's ruled with an iron hand, is a fertile Midwestern farm that spans 1,000 acres. It has passed down through generations of Cooks, and now Larry seeks to pass it down to his three daughters, Ginny (Jessica Lange), Rose (Michelle Pfeiffer), and Caroline (Jennifer Jason Leigh).

When the youngest, Caroline, says she wants a little time to think about dad's plan, Larry explodes in the first of many such outbursts in the film, clearly showing

us he's mentally losing it. The newly apportioned land begins to slowly eat away at the Cook family's veneer of unity and stability.

Long-guarded secrets, unspoken rivalries and denied desires, buried just beneath the surface of their respective lives, are unwillingly and disastrously unearthed, with profound, catastrophic effects. Ultimately, though, the movie's central character and narrator, Ginny, emerges liberated from a lifetime of denial and emotional repression.

It is an interesting set up for a movie, the potential is clearly there to tug at our heartstrings. But somehow, **A Thousand Acres** just doesn't deliver the emotional punch it could've. The characters are awash in every conceivable dysfunction possible: substance abuse, child sexual abuse, marital infidelity, insanity, sibling rivalry. It's surely enough for a decent multi-part TV movie-of-the-week, but way too much for a 104 minute feature film. With so much going on within such a confined space and time, it just gets to be distracting.

This film does boast a fine cast and over all decent performances. It's also beautifully shot (difficult not to do given the setting). The fatal flaw, however, is the everything-but-the-kitchen-sink screenplay, which would've worked well in the TV miniseries format, but fails to condense into a coherent, linear story as a theatrical release.

(2 stars)

First Movie on Andrew Cunanan Set to Begin Filming in Florida

Miami- A feature-length movie about Andrew Cunanan, who was suspected of killing fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men, is being produced in south Florida with a script written and directed by veteran movie maker Menahem Golan.

The production, expected to cost about \$5 million, will be filmed at sites across south Florida, including Vizcaya, a Mediterranean-style mansion on Biscayne Bay.

The project, which started filming Monday at a restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, should be wrapped up by Christmas, said Golan, who has made such movies as **Delta Force**, several of the **Death Wish** sequels starring Charles Bronson, and **Entebbe: Operation Thunderbolt**, which got an Oscar nomination.

"I think it is a very '90s human drama where violence is part of our life and where people like Cunanan can exist," Golan said of his latest project. "We have to understand where Cunanan comes from ... young people who are looking to be up there like Versace and cannot make it."

Golan, 67, has made more than 200 movies and directed a fourth of them. The Israeli-born Golan was a pilot and bombardier in Israel's War of Independence in 1948.

The movie stars Stephen Bauer as an FBI agent trailing Cunanan across the country, Italian actor Franco Nero as Versace and young stage actor Shane Perdue as Cunanan.

Sam Lupowitz, chairman of Pan Am Pictures Inc. in Miami Beach, said the film,

called simply "The Versace Murder," should be the first out after the sensational July 15 killing of Versace.

"When a movie is made about a news event, there's tremendous public interest," Lupowitz said. "It's important to be the first movie out because people lose interest."

He said the Cunanan saga "really is a strange love story."

"It seems that Andrew Cunanan loved Versace, wanted to be a Versace," Lupowitz said.

The film picks up Cunanan's story in San Diego before he leaves on a trip police believe was a cross-country killing spree. He was suspected of killing five men, including Versace, in Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida.

Cunanan killed himself July 23 in a Miami Beach houseboat as police combed the area looking for him.

While Versace and Cunanan died in Miami Beach, the film makers have not gotten any help from city officials to film in town. Vizcaya is in the city of Miami.

"We have not issued any permits yet," said Robert Reboso, film and print coordinator for Miami Beach. "We are going over their location requests."

While the movie may be the first completed, it is not the only planned film on the murder. Several other projects are in the works, including a possible ABC telefilm.

"We do have a project on this subject in development," said ABC spokeswoman Anne Riccitelli. "But we never discuss projects in development."

LGBT National Organizations Praise 'In & Out' for Sending Important Message

New York--The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) have praised the new film *In & Out*, stating that the movie brought audiences an important message about job discrimination facing the Lesbian and Gay community.

The Paramount film explores the media storm surrounding Howard Brackman (Kevin Kline), a small-town English teacher, being inadvertently "outed" when a hometown celebrity (Matt Dillon) wins an Oscar.

The announcement comes as a great surprise to the townspeople, most of all to Howard and his fiancée (Joan Cusack). The story brings a Gay tabloid reporter (Tom Selleck) to town to dig for the truth. Along the way, Howard struggles with his own self-identity as the townspeople play out and confront their own myths and stereotypes about gender and sexual orientation. Additionally, the film refuses to shy away from same-sex intimacy, and ends with the message of acceptance for Howard.

"*In & Out* explores stereotypes and assumptions many people still hold about the Lesbian and Gay community," observed Joan M. Garry, Executive Director of GLAAD. "With humor and wit, the film plays on these stereotypes to illuminate qualities all people share--the great expanse of our commonality, and how small the differences can be. Most importantly, *In & Out* portrays very real issues con-

fronting our community: The prejudice and discrimination in the workplace and in our towns that Lesbians and Gay men face every day."

With the nationwide release and Washington, DC premiere of *In & Out* on Thursday, September 18, GLSEN hosted a press conference with former high school teacher Rawley Farnsworth, applauded as "one of the finest Gay Americans" by actor Tom Hanks in his Oscar acceptance speech for the film *Philadelphia* in 1994.

Kevin Kline's role in *In & Out* was inspired by Farnsworth, and his celebrated friendship with Hanks. A press conference was held in the First Amendment lounge of the National Press Club. A fundraising reception for GLSEN, as well as to honor Farnsworth took place that evening.

"As an organization that works with Gay, Lesbian and supportive straight educators, we know well the ignorance that has surrounded and clouded these issues," said John Spear, National Field Director for GLSEN. "We know of many cases where, unlike *In & Out*, educators may be reprimanded, censured, and even fired because of their sexual orientation. This movie helps send the message that Gay teachers can be valuable role models, not just for actors preparing for a part, but for an entire town to learn about the importance of diversity, and what different people can bring to the table of the community in which they live."

What Was it Like? Kevin Kline, Star of 'In & Out,' Refuses to "Kiss and Tell"

By John Rogers

New York - Though he's far too much the gentleman to come right out and say it, one can sense that Kevin Kline would just about rather be sitting in the dentist's chair than crouched over a hotel-room coffee table discussing his movies, his life, his very reason for being.

"I've always resented it, the whole process," he finally concedes. "It's too late now, but I'd have rather been like those people like Picasso, who said, 'You want me to talk about it, to explain this thing? If I could explain this thing, I'd be a writer.'"

"I hate having to explain my work or talk about my work or talk about myself, which for the larger part is now expected," he continues quietly. "I hate having to be part of the studio marketing department."

But he does what he must.

It's now contractual," he explains, chuckling. "It's written into your contract."

Not that he isn't a friendly man or a captivating conversationalist, this soft-spoken actor who fiddles nervously with his cigarettes as he discusses his life in general and his new movie *In & Out* in particular.

Blessed with an ever-present sense of whimsy, he can be downright effusive when talking about how he discovered a passion for acting at a strict but "wonderful" boy's school run by Benedictine monks that he attended in his native St. Louis.

He can be emotional, too, declaring his love for his wife, actress Phoebe Cates, and their young children.

"It's the most important thing in my life," he says softly, then, realizing what he's done, shouts in embarrassment, "Oh, no, no, don't put that! Just say the whole family's great."

Dressed casually in tan pants and untucked blue shirt, his dark hair graying, Kline looks somewhat older (and, after three days of nonstop interviews and news conferences, decidedly more tired) than he does on screen.

But that same amiable, could-be-the-nice-guy-down-the-block personality that served him so well in movies like *The Big Chill*, *Grand Canyon* and *Dave* comes shining through.

He's the nice guy again in *In & Out*, a raucous comedy bordering on farce, though this time with a decidedly different twist. Kline's character, Howard Brackett, is a firmly closeted Gay drama teacher from the Midwest who is accidentally outed, on national television no less, by a bumbling former student played by Matt Dillon.

One reason Kline is loathe to talk about the work this time is because he has found reporters latching onto one scene in particular, and he fears the buzz about it will overshadow *In & Out*'s greater message, that nice people, good people, smart people, come in all sizes, shapes and sexual persuasions.

"Must we?" he asks, rolling his eyes, when warned the question is coming again. But then he braces himself and delivers a perfect sound-bite reply when asked what it was like to kiss the film's sleazy TV newsman, Tom Selleck, on the lips.

"I don't kiss and tell," Kline intones dramatically, then smirks.

He doubts Gay people will be offended by such shenanigans, believing their sense of humor will win them over to the movie.

Others he's not so sure about. "I think the Baptists are going to ..." he says, his voice trailing off. Then it rises suddenly in a rare flash of anger, and he continues: "The Baptists, who are protesting Disney because they employ homosexuals? People think they're going to go see the movie? Yeah, I think they're going to lose money on that bet."

Then, with more gentle sarcasm, he adds: "On the other hand, maybe the Baptists in charge will change their whole minds about homosexuality."

Whatever the case, Kline, will keep right on doing what he does, alternating between movies and the stage, seeking out roles he still hasn't done, and maybe fitting in some directing as well.

He both starred in and directed a 1992 production of *Hamlet* for New York's Public Theater, and said he "quite enjoyed that."

The stage was where he started out, and he has won Tonys for his roles in Broadway's *On the Twentieth Century*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

"I loved movies growing up," recalls Kline, 49. "I used to watch movies on television. My sister used to take me to see foreign films. When I was with my high school buddies we'd go see the latest commercial things. I didn't go to the theater much as a youth, but at my high school we used to put on a senior play, and when I was a senior I did this play, and I enjoyed it and found myself very much at ease on the stage."

After college, he spent several years touring the country, performing Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen and the like, while the movie offers were slow to come.

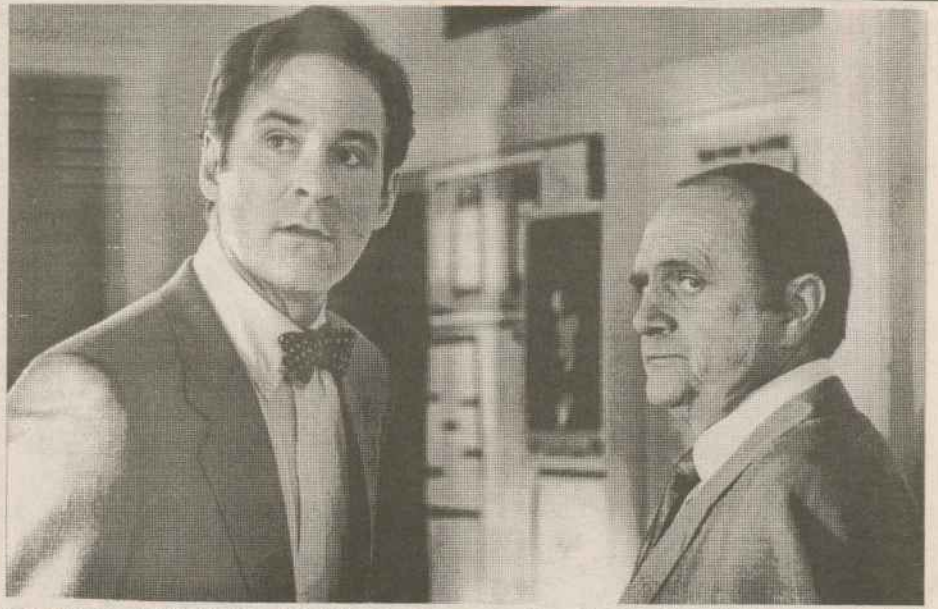
"I wasn't turning down great movies to stay on stage," he recalls. "I was hoping to do movies. I wanted to do movies. But I was also resigned to the fact that that may not happen and I may have had only a stage career, and that would have been fine, too."

When the right offer finally came, it did so in a big way. He landed opposite Meryl Streep in *Sophie's Choice* in 1982. She won an Academy Award and he was nominated for a Golden Globe. He got his own Oscar, for best-supporting actor, in 1988's *A Fish Called Wanda*.

Now, when he returns to the stage it sometimes confounds his movie audience, and he erupts in uncharacteristic full-throated laughter when telling a story about a fan who thought his career had tanked because he was starring one summer in a production of the prestigious New York Shakespeare Festival in Central Park.

"A friend of mine cut out a little thing from *Parade*, one of those letters in *Parade* magazine, that says, 'Geez, I thought Kevin Kline's career had taken off. But now I read that he's back to doing free Shakespeare in the park. What happened?'"

Kline, still chuckling, shakes his head at the memory. "That's America, babe," he finally says.



Conference- Kevin Klein and Bob Newhart in a scene from "In & Out," a hilarious comedy about a High School Teacher (Klein) whose life is turned upside down when a former student dedicates an Oscar to his Gay teacher.

If You Liked 'The Birdcage,' You'll Just Adore 'In & Out'

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Could it be Glenn's admittedly warped imagination but of late Glenn doesn't dare channel surf without fearing that he will again be confronted by yet another preview for *In & Out*, the new "Gay" comedy penned by Paul (Jeffrey) Rudnick.

These previews have proved to be not laughing matter, offering up snippets of gay stereotypes for the mass amusement of Middle-class mainstream Mall America.

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* might have sense that Glenn was perhaps just a tad apprehensive as he enter the cinema, "Biggie" popcorn in hand with his new dearest friend Lois DeMille (no relation to Cecil despite the most desperately outlandish claims).

All Glenn can say is that despite fearing the worst, *In & Out* proves to be mildly entertaining, relatively inoffensive entertainment.

It seems that Mr. Rudnick and company were inspired by the now legendary Oscar moment when Tom Hanks honored and outed a former high school teacher.

Hometown boy Cameron Drake (Matt Dillon offering up a deliciously wicked Brad Pitt parody) is Oscar-nominated for his performance as a Gay soldier and subsequently honors and outs his high school teacher Howard Brackett (Kevin Kline) during his acceptance speech.

For some unimaginable reason, pretty much everyone in the small, bucolic town of Greenleaf is surprised by Cameron's announcement. With nary an exception, those lovable Greenleafians believe Cameron that the bookish Howard is Gay is due, in no small measure Glenn is certain, because Cameron is quite likely the only

Greenleafian to escape to the big city.

Most surprised, quite naturally, is Howard's fiancée Emily (Joan Cusack) and his mother (Debbie Reynolds) who really doesn't care if Howard is Gay, so long as he goes through with the dream wedding she has fantasized over for years.

Howard's modest existence has no opportunity to get back to normal (But just what is normal, ponders Glenn?). As if a plague of locusts, America's finest tabloid journalists descend upon the humble hamlet, including the slimiest of them all, Peter Malloy (Tom Selleck), a self-proclaimed piece of "human garbage" and Gay to boot. (Does Glenn hear wedding bells between he and Howard?)

Glenn cannot imagine that he will spoil *In & Out* by revealing that Howard turns out to be Gay after all, his hilarious journey of self-awareness causing mainstream audiences endless moments of mirth.

Safe in the comfort of every Gay stereotype imaginable is trotted out by Kline and company (Not every Gay man has lost his heart, not mention his mind to Barbara Streisand, thank you very much), *In & Out* is sure to register with the millions of hets who loved the dickens out of *The Birdcage* and the equally crummy *To Wong Foo*.

Still, Glenn is sorry to say, huge numbers of Gay men will rush to the cinema to view the celebrated lip-lock between Kline and Selleck and in the process will once again tell Hollywood that we'll be quite happy to continue to settle for this crap.

And that's a darn shame!

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

Go and See 'The Game' and Get One Hell of a Good Ride for Your Time

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Imagine, if you will, that through the marvels of modern medicine and the emerging dawn of cyber-reality that Charles Dickens and Alfred Hitchcock were somehow cloned together and making movies in 1997.

The result might likely be akin to the new Michael Douglas/Sean Penn thriller, *The Game*, directed by David Fincher who brought the creepy *Seven* to the screen last year.

To give away too many aspects of *The Game*'s cleverer-than-you-think plotting would be to spoil half the fun but it all comes down to the fact that Nicholas Van Orton is about to 48.

It cannot be easy to find just the right gift for someone possessing more money than God and who is someone you're not that crazy about in the first place. That's the position blacksheep brother Conrad (Sean Penn) finds himself. Ultimately Conrad has decided to give big brother the most terrific birthday gift in the world, a game from the folks at CRS.

Too busy, too self-important, Nicholas is immediately placed on his guard, wondering just what nonsense Conrad has cooked up this time. In the end he decides to play along, going for the introductory session which ends up being a day-long, fully comprehensive physical, mental and emotional examination.

The delightfully sinister aspect of the recipient's game is that each especially tailored contest allows the player no advance warning or time for preparation. The game just simply begins. Not surprisingly, Nicholas immediately finds it impossible to differentiate between what is real and what is the game which might also be real, after

all, don't you see. Confused? You and Nicholas both.

Much like Hitchcock's protagonists, Nicholas, at least physically, is an ordinary man but as played by Michael Douglas, a not particularly likeable Scrooge-like character. Yet behind Nicholas's rich and powerful facade lay a sad, lonely man who as a little boy watched his father jump to his death from the roof of the family mansion. This haunted image has indeed haunted Nicholas throughout his entire adult life.

For all of the rampant cleverness in *The Game*'s, on more than one occasion, plot twists stretched even Glenn's demented imagination. Yet the marvelously hip screenplay manufactured by John Brancato and Michael Ferris seems to send to their hypnotized audience a cinematic wink, "Hey, just enjoy the ride and ponder how ridiculously preposterous this all is later, over Cappuccinos."

Michael Douglas does his usual accomplished job as Nicholas Van Orton, managing to juggle all of the film's improbable elements. Surprisingly, Sean Penn is something of a disappointment, his role little more than a cameo despite second billing.

Better are James Rebhorn as the CRS representative and Deborah Unger as a mysterious, cynical blonde who Nicholas falls for, but in a meaningfully distrustful way. And, isn't that Carol Baker playing Nicholas's loyal maid?

While *The Game* cannot help but pale beside a true classic as, for example, *North By Northwest*, it still manages to be a hell of a ride!

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



Regal Pose - Bette recreated her role of Elizabeth the First, in 1955's "The Virgin Queen."

Bette Davis In Retrospect

Last of a of a Series
A Wisconsin Light Exclusive

By Steve Stavron

All About Eve was Bette Davis's last really fine film and her most scintillatingly stylish self parody—as well as a self-effacing challenge to her would be imitators to try to match the sheer panache and humorous sparkle of her brilliantly caricatured tour de force.

Bette Davis had learned to laugh at herself, and to remind us that no one could do Davisism like Bette. True she's blessed with an outstanding cast and a marvelously literary screen play, which does not reserve the juiciest lines for the star alone but sprinkles them around deliciously, giving everyone a chance to match their skills against the Davis style. They do wonders with their lines.

Of course Bette's signature trademark: "Fasten your seat belts it's going to be a bumpy night" is the best known, but we also have Celeste Holme snapping "Stop treating us as if we were your supporting cast."

What's attractive on stage need not be attractive off, and Thelma Ritter, her maid, telling our sometime pretentious star to "get normal" Equally unforgettable is George Sanders's notable cynicism to neophyte Marilyn Monroe: "That's all television is, dear, one big rehearsal," later reminding everyone that actors fascinate because they have no resemblance to real people. It's a terrific film. Its lasting reputation coasts on its satiric wit.

However, All About Eve complements the Davis legacy rather than being an integral part of it. Bette Davis in her glory years was the screen's great tragedienne, if you will, and while this would not preclude her lighter side, one must wonder if Margo Channing could have done Bette Davis as effectively as Bette Davis does Margo Channing. It's hard to imagine Margo moving her audiences as deeply as Bette had done.

I like the film immensely, but must regard it as conjunctive rather than basic to a great career—a parallel addendum to an incomparable series of great performances.

Payment on Demand [1951], Bette's next film, was a decent enough study of the problems faced by a middle aged divorcee, but RKO's semi documentary approach seemed dull and constrictive for a full range dramatic actress. Bette is very proficient but the role seemed more designed for a hip Barbara Stanwyck than for the classy sophistication of a Bette Davis. But her reviews were excellent, overlooking her apparent boredom with the role. The film was never popular.

Age had not been kind to Bette Davis. She started putting on weight, and, lacking the obsession of a Joan Crawford about her appearance, she apparently let herself go. Unfortunately, by letting age have its sway, she also gave some of her worst characteristics full reign: a coarseness of manner and a tendency to uncontrolled raucousness began to creep into her performances perhaps as reactions to poor screenplays.

For years her movies were bad Another Man's Poison [1952] and Dead Ringer [1964] are best forgotten. Youth had given Bette the vitality to channelize her boundless creative to the greatest advantage, but control had always been a problem. Her superb sense of creative instinct had

always come to the fore to distribute her inner powers where they belonged, and perhaps it was the enormity of that power and the finesse of those instincts that collaborated to make her roles so memorable.

But now there was a sense of throwing caution to the winds, a sense that with the encroachment of age she would abandon that inbred quality of classic balance that graced her former roles, and rely solely on her raw God-given talent and let the results fall where they may.

And talent she still had aplenty. Her self concept had never been the strongest despite her fame and argumentative nature. Conceit of self image might have served her in good stead now as it had other fine aging actresses such as Katharine Hepburn, Stanwyck, Irene Dunne, Claudette Colbert, none of whom sacrificed as much dignity as Davis. But she always felt she lacked their charm and looks.

Yet she had surpassed them all. For all their versatility none quite equaled Davis's enormous range. One thinks of other actresses performances as indistinct composites of accumulated excellences. One thinks of Bette Davis in terms of very specific roles, good or bad.

Nor was she lacking in class. She was far too aristocratic to play the Bronx housewife in The Catered Affair [1956] or the floozy alcoholic in A Pocket Full of Miracles [1961], yet she received and deserved good notices. But did she have to look THAT dowdy?

Her Warner's persona kept creeping uncomfortably into memory. She was how-



Frightened Bette Davis being menaced in 1964 film "Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte."

ever, crass with age in The Virgin Queen [1955].

Trying too hard to make Elizabeth realistic, she made the queen excessively ple-

beian. Bette had set her own standards decades earlier, and they would return to haunt even the good performances of her later years.

Whatever Happened to Baby Jane [1961] is too well known to be discussed at length, having provided an endless feast of frenetic quirks for Bette's imitators. The performance is coarse, consistent with the early Mike Hammer school of B horror films, but provides Davis with enough raw character material for a good performance in the harridan manner. She attacks the role with an equally raw demonstration of her talents at their most primitive. The plot is cleverly aligned, and with a few moments of true pathos at the end, the ugliness of the performance—and her appearance—does not conceal her dramatic expertise. She was nominated for an Academy Award.

Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte [1964] was a much better role for Davis. As the ostracized and victimized recluse suspected of an earlier ax murder, now protecting her family estate, more of Bette's paradoxical vulnerability comes through, legitimizing her plaintive wails and desperate cries into something tragic, adding more variety to her performance.

There are touching moments, as when she asks Cecil Kellaway; "Do you think I'm really crazy." Surrounded by former Warner colleagues Joseph Cotton and Olivia de Havilland who replaced Joan Crawford from Baby Jane, Bette comfortably dominates.

No serious Davis biographer gives much space to the over publicized Davis-Crawford feud. They barely knew each other.

There had been friction on both sets, but Crawford was never in Bette's league as an actress and after feigning illnesses, she was released from Charlotte.

Bette Davis continued to act in films and on television until her death in 1989. She regained her prestige and some of her confidence, but the magic of her Golden years were sadly gone. She was not entirely to blame. She selected poor material, but age had eroded the control essential to harnessing her acting genius. She spilled over the top because she couldn't cap her boundless volatility, both on screen and off. Her performances were often un-

necessarily conspicuous and out of sync, although her natural gifts and professionalism pulled her through.

Her legacy, however, remains unsur-



Bette as the glamorous divorcee in "Payment on Demand" made in 1949 but released after "All About Eve" in 1951.

passed. Not even the durable, evenly polished Katharine Hepburn matched the breadth and power of Davis at her best,



Bette- At her best as Margo Channing in the 1950 film "All About Eve"

decades ago. Bette stated on PBS "An actor should know they're acting. If you want to see real people, you can stand on a street corner. I've always believed that acting should be larger than life."

And life had had always taken on a larger breadth of focus when sharpened through the images of Bette Davis's greatest characterizations. Her greatest roles are authenticated with her own brand of "realism"

For videophiles—even her lesser films seem to register, but watch the Golden List first in the following sequence:

THE GOLDEN LIST: 1 Jezebel 2 Dark Victory 3 Little Foxes 4 The Letter 5 Now Voyager 6 Mr. Skeffington

THE SILVER LIST: 1 All About Eve 2 Old Acquaintance 3 All This and Heaven Too 4 The Corn is Green 5 The Old Maid 6 A Stolen Life

HONORABLE MENTION: 1. Elizabeth and Essex 2 Marked Woman 3. In This Our Life 4 Juarez 5 Watch on the Rhine 6. Dangerous

STILL WORTHY: 1 Of Human Bondage 2 Winter Meeting 3 Deception 4 Beyond the Forest 5 June Bride 6 Hush Hush, Sweet Charlotte and—if you must have it—Baby Jane

Davis Photos are from the private collection of Dale Kuntz

Whitman
Continued From Page 27

New York publishing scene and Richard Berman, an independent scholar and consultant in Italian Baroque drawings whose interests extend to contemporary art, have, through their choices in this collection, created an unparalleled tribute to Walt Whitman and to the visionary world culture embracing passionate male love that the great poet prophesied.

OUT In Print



book reviews



Dr. Tom Dooley: It's Not Wise to Seduce the Admiral's Son

By Warren Arronchic

Dr. America: The Lives of Thomas A. Dooley, 1927-1961, by James T. Fisher, University of Massachusetts Press, hardback, 352 pp. \$29.95

For those old enough to recall the late 1950's, the name of Dr. Thomas A. Dooley rings bells. He was a foremost media-darling, touted as a caring hero, an American version of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, another hero of the times who'd lived and worked on behalf of natives in the African bush.

Dooley however, performed his "medical miracles" in Laos and Vietnam, a decade before major conflicts erupted in that area. Headlines everywhere praised him beyond measure. When he died in 1961, brought down by cancer, it seemed the nation had lost one of its dearest sons.

One of its dearest Gay sons. But this was a secondary fact that the media, of course, never mentioned. Nor, to be fair, did most reporters have an inkling.

And whether Dooley was actually a "fine" person or not is now, with the publication of James T. Fisher's *Dr. America*, open to debate.

It seems Tom Dooley flubbed the dub in medical school and decided, following his failures, to join the Navy. In Vietnam the Navy put Dooley to assisting Roman Catholic refugees move South following the French-Indochinese war. Though his collaboration with the CIA may have been unwitting, he became a pawn in its elaborate game to make increased American involvement in Vietnam more palatable to U.S. voters.

To do this, the armed forces commands wove a myth around his work, emphasizing his heroism, attempting to turn the

public's perception of the American presence in Vietnam into a tale that spoke of monumentally altruistic motivations.

Capitalizing on his unexpected fame, the effeminate male pop-star wrote a best selling book which drove his fame into high gear. But something unfunny happened on the way to receiving his Oscar. The Navy booted him out on account of his homosexual philandering.

The hero, if he'd only philandered with ordinary folk, might not have lost his military station. But he was a social climber. It is believed that he seduced an admiral's son.

Dr. America tells how as a religious person, Dooley, a Roman Catholic, was active homosexually in Catholic circles. He was, as said, also active homosexually as a military man. He made it--when still quite young-- to New York and Chicago where, apparently, he did serious cruising.

The focus of this book, however, isn't on Dooley's homosexuality, nor is it on his personal life. It is primarily an examination of those clandestine government forces using the would-be doctor to prepare ordinary citizens for their foray into America's tragic, misguided involvement in Vietnam.

TV talk-show host, Jack Paar, who was not exactly Gay friendly, called Dooley "very handsome in an androgynous sort of way." On Ralph Edwards' *This is Your Life*, Dooley wore eye shadow. But these tidbits do not a Gay biography make. *Dr. America* opens up cans of worms, however, and those worms--government agents--will squirm at what James T. Fisher has unearthed about their long-ago plans to bamboozle the public, readying the U.S. for a war it didn't win for a cause that wasn't just.

"Whitman's Men" is a Fitting Testimony to America's Greatest Poet

Review by Jack Nichols

Whitman's Men: The Calamus Poems by Walt Whitman, Poetry Selected and Introduced by David Groff; Photography Selected, Edited and Introduced by Richard Berman. New York: Universe Publishing, A Division of Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1996., 80 pp., hard cover, \$18.95.

Giving surprising credit to 19th Century male mores, masculine love is effectively resurrected in *Whitman's Men*, a book of fine photography, including evocations of 19th century scenery, exquisite and homey tokens of a period too often treated as unduly primitive by critics stumbling through these post-modern times.

The book's magnificent photographs, selected by Richard Berman, are accompanied by verses chosen by David Groff from the Calamus poems in Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, perhaps the most famous poetic cluster ever devoted to adhesiveness (the word selected by Whitman to celebrate those sweet passions inherent in male bonding).

It has long been the unwavering conviction of this reviewer that without the help these Calamus poems bring, backed by the expansive visions of Whitman's *Leaves* themselves, much that goes by the name of male homosexuality and American culture generally will continue to wallow needlessly in undeserved confusions and dissatisfactions.

Whitman, now finally recognized as our nation's greatest poet, laid the primary groundwork for the liberation of same-sex love, including within his vision the principle of the equality of the sexes. "The Female equally with the Male I sing."

The Calamus section of poems, however, are wholly in a masculine vein. If it is true, and I believe it is, that we are or we become what we absorb-- whether consciously or unconsciously--then the Cala-

mus poems require of us not only repetitive reads, but the necessity of very careful memorization.

The poems must be memorized not for their poetic perfection, since not everyone is open to poetry, but for their powerfully scripted philosophies, ideas, questions and behaviors that make the best portal in all of world literature to profound understandings of the self and of others emerging into our seemingly mysterious environs of male sexuality and love.

If you're a Gay male, in other words, or a "straight" one for that matter, you can't afford to be without old Walt. As he beckons, take him eagerly by the hand, which he boldly asks you to do, and travel with this seductive Muse to a realm where many love is linked to the fortunes not only of each love-longing individual, but to our currently scrambled ideals of democratic American life itself.

Walt Whitman's fusion of sexuality, nature, and spirit are sufficient to our highest purposes, and will unite us effectively, as Whitman promises in his Calamus poems.

The photographers chosen for this book have done a great cultural service to views that should rightly surround male homosexual love. While they do give focus to a sufficiency of those ever-sought-after bodies beautiful, more importantly, their work is a celebration of the ordinary man.

Looks-ism is hereby properly circumvented and daily realities-- a fellow with "ugly" hair on his back, for example--step bravely beyond today's airbrushed muscles and our current culture's alienating "pretty-boy" commercialism.

The featured photographers whose works so aptly celebrate Whitman are: Mark Beard, John Dugdale, Robert Flynt, Bill Jacobson, Russell Maynor, Steve Morrison, and Frank Yamrus.

David Groff, a long-time editor in the

Please See Whitman Page 26

New at Afterwords

Rachel Carson: The Life of the Author of Silent Spring by Linda Lear, Henry Holt HC \$35.00

A long-overdue biography of the courageous woman whose landmark book, *Silent Spring*, changed how we think about the world we live in. Based on personal documents and reminiscences previously unavailable, this book illuminates Carson's personal life as well as her contribution to the contemporary environmental movement.

Best American Gay Fiction 2 edited Brian Bouldrey, Back Bay Book Pb \$14.95

The second volume of this acclaimed anthology series captivates the full spectrum of Gay life in America today as it brings together a startling diverse array of voices, from outstanding new work by well-known writers such as Michael Nava

Upcoming Events at Afterwords

Milwaukee--Following his second exclusive interview in *The Wisconsin Light*, (the first one done by the editor), calls have inundated Afterwords over the possibility of an appearance this fall with Scott O'Hara. That much anticipated appearance will take place on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:30pm.

A celebrated performer in Gay porn, a magazine publisher, an AIDS/sex advocate and now a published writer, Scott O'Hara has created quite a name for himself. In *Autopornography: A memoir of Life in the Lust Lane* (Harrington Park Press Pb. \$14.95), O'Hara reveals his extraordinary life in a unique combination of the apologetically sex-positive and the warmly literate.

A career in Gay porn followed O'Hara gaining the reputation as having "the biggest dick in San Francisco". In the early 1990's O'Hara founded the immediately controversial *Steam* magazine and later, *Wilde*. Scott O'Hara will read from *Autopornography* and discuss his career at Afterwords on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:30pm.

The Afterwords Book Club will discuss Scott O'Hara's *Autopornography* during their October meeting on Monday, October 13th at 7:30pm.

Xena-Mania

Xena-mania arrives at Afterwords on Wednesday, October 8th. *Xena* episodes will provide the background entertainment throughout the day. Then in the evening, beginning at 7:00pm, a host of activities will take place including skits, Xena merchandise give-aways and much, much more.

The coming of age of two high school boys in rural New Mexico is the subject of Ronald L. Donaghe's moving first novel, *Common Sons* (Commonwealth Pub. Pb \$5.99). Tom and Joel are best friends but neither are ready for the the out-cry following a very public kiss. Ronald L. Donaghe's appearance at Afterwords on Thursday, October 9th at 7:30pm will mark the store's first event to tie into National Coming Out Day.

Packer Sunday

Looking for someplace to enjoy the rematch between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears on Sunday, October 12th? Think about stopping by Afterwords. October 12th is the first scheduled Afterwords Packer Sunday which will feature several televisions, special refreshments and a friendly, non-bar atmosphere to watch the Packers again trounce the Chicago Bears.

Celebrated poet Laurel Mills, who proved so popular at the *Literary Coffee House* at Pridefest this past June returns to Afterwords on Saturday, October 18th to offer a poetry workshop which will begin at 10:30 am and run for two hours. Space is limited. Please contact Afterwords for further information.

and Andrew Holleran to original stories by new African-American, Latino and Asian-American writers.

When the Dancing Stops by Therese Szymanski, Naiad Pb \$11.95

In a daring departure from the standard Lesbian mystery, Therese Szymanski offers up a brilliant crime novel of love, deception and revenge. *When the Dancing Stops* is a novel that will take you deep into the dark side of desires and engulf you in wave after wave of raw eroticism and heartpounding suspense.

The Gay Kama Sutra by Colin Spencer St. Martin's Press HC \$24.95

This lavishly illustrated gift book is the first Kama Sutra for Gay readers--and a celebration of the East's ancient tradition of spiritual sexuality. Each chapter is based on different lessons from the Kama Sutra, with sexual wisdom in a contemporary Gay context. 100 full-color and b&w illustrations.

New Fiction

The Farewell Symphony by Edmund White Knopf HC \$25.00

Named for the work by the composer Haydn in which the instrumentalists leave the stage one by one until there is only a single violin remaining, *The Farewell Symphony* is the story of a man who has outlived most of his friends. Having reached the six-month anniversary of his lover's death, White's protagonist embarks on a journey of remembrances that will recount his struggle to become a writer and his discovery of what it means to be a Gay man.

Afterwords Events

Thursday, September 25th 7:00pm

Lesbian & Gay Writers' Group

Thursday, October 2nd 7:30pm

Author Appearance:

Scott O'Hara --*Autopornography: A Memoir of Life in the Lust Lane*

Wednesday, October 7th

Xena-mania arrives at Afterwords

Thursday, October 8th

Author Appearance:

Ronald Donaghe -- *Common Sons*

Sunday, October 12th

Afterwords' Special Packer Sunday

Join us for the Packers-Bears game

Open at 11:00am

Monday, October 13th 7:30pm

Afterwords Book Group

Young Man From the Provinces by Alan

Helms

Wednesday, October 15th 7:00pm

Lesbian Reading Group

Am I Blue: *Coming Out of Silence* edited

by Marion Bauer

Saturday, October 18th

10:30am-12:30pm

Poetry Writing Workshop

Offered by Laurel Mills

author of *I Sing Back*

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Dear Ruthie

I never title my columns. My mouth is going nearly 24 hours a day so I figure what's the sense of trying to sum everything up with a jazzy sentence or two. I don't have much time to talk about this right now, however. I gotta get going - it's "Sponge Bath Night" at the male nursing school down the road and they pick the first 20 volunteers who show up. Let me tell ya, it's Cat Fight A-Rama as the students make their final choices.

Now what was I saying? Oh yeah; Headlines. If I had to give this week's column a headline, I guess I'd title it: "Gay Texas Guy Confused About Two Grooms, Swimming Lessons, Paul McCarthy and Wet Panties." Have a good week folks! Now where the hell is my Jeff Stryker soap-on-a-rope?

Dear Ruthie, I know this sounds terrible coming from a Gay man, but I'm not sure what to think of the whole same-sex marriage issue. I'm 22 years old and haven't had a serious relationship. When I do have a serious relationship, I hope I have a stronger opinion in this area. Tell your loyal Texas fans how you stand on Gay marriages. Would you be opposed to two men getting married? (signed)

Alone, Alone on the Range

Dear Ranger,

Would I be opposed to two men getting married? That's like asking me if I'd ever tell Fabio, "Not tonight sugar buns, I've got a headache."

Somewhere between the reading of my third husband's will and my sixth hus-



Ruthie

band's estate sale, I realized that marriage was a good thing. You see, I believe that a bride should only worry about two things: Number 1 - that her soon-to-be husband has a good life insurance policy and Number 2 - that he doesn't know how to swim.

Just kidding - relax everyone!

And, no, I didn't graduate from the Jerry Lee Lewis School of Marriage. Anyone who knows me knows that I'm a big fan of marriage. A fan? Hell, with all the practice I've had, I'm a guru. That's me - Guru Ruthie - the Wedding Goddess.

There's nothing like a wedding. I don't care if it's a man and a woman, two

women, or a man and another man, whenever you have the chance to break out a new pair of pantyhose, sit next to sweaty strangers in a crowded church, and throw rice at people - it's a celebration.

I also enjoy uncontrollably weeping at the church, but I've found that I usually do that after my own weddings more so than the ones I'm invited to.

Let me tell you a little something about the institution of marriage (yeah - yeah - I know, who wants to belong to an institution?) Marriage is an incredible bond between two people who love each other and want their family, friends, Church and State to recognize this commitment. Homosexuals deserve that right just as much as anyone else! End of story!

You're young. One day you'll fall in love and have a successful relationship. Then I bet you'll realize the importance of Gay marriages. When it happens, grab yourself that tuxedo clad beau, run a garter up your leg, and fling cake at one another. Hawaii or bust! Grass skirts a go-go in the Polynesian church of love. "Hey - Don Ho - Tiny Bubbles this! We're getting hitched!"

Sure, some folks say Gays and Lesbians are making a mockery of marriage - I say "they don't know about us, and they've never heard of love" ... to quote a song from my little friend Tracy Ullman. Anyone remember that song? Anyone remember that video?

Paul McCarthy was in that, wasn't he? Always loved Paul. I went to see the Beatles once and the girl next to me was screaming so loud that she wet her pants and ruined my sandals. I left early.

That night, however, I met my fourth husband Vick. He was a Ringo look-alike and had won a local contest the night before. All right, all right ... he didn't actually win the contest. Okay ... he wasn't even in the contest. He was the janitor for the auditorium where the contest was held. BUT .. he knew a few Beatles songs... well, sort of.

Ruthie just loves receiving your letters. Please send your questions, photos, gifts, and money to Ruthie's attention at: The Wisconsin Light/1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. You can also read Ruthie's column and send a question to her at our web site: www.wilight.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 383-8300	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. Waier 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



Photos by Bill Meunier

Out and About—Our photographer caught a few interesting people lately. At the top are In Between Owner, Curt Peck (center) and two of his bartenders, Tommy (left) and Patrick (right) spinning the wheel to determine drink prices during their Thursday Night Spin the Wheel Special. Next are (L-R) Steve, Chyna De Sade, Tyfanny Sweets, and Jennifer at Chyna's Birthday Party at Cest Le Vie, the bottom two pictures are from Mama Roux's Customer Appreciation Party held at the bar on Saturday, September 13. Second from the bottom are staff members (L-R) Pat, Jeanie, Tom and Gus. At the bottom are (L-R) Tom, Jeff and Gary who were among the crowd at the bar that evening.

Art for AIDS Brunch and Silent Auction

Milwaukee—Bid on over 250 fine works of art donated by prominent artists and gallery owners, at the Milwaukee Hilton, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., on October 26 for the sixth Art for AIDS benefit brunch and auction. In 1996, the event raised over \$49,000 for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

The brunch and silent auction begin at 10:00 a.m. and the voice auction, featuring pieces in a variety of price ranges, will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Art for AIDS is sponsored by Miller Brewing Company and is expected to draw more than 450 collectors, gallery owners, artists and art enthusiasts.

Tickets are \$30 which include the brunch and art catalogue. For tickets or more information, call (414) 225-1517.

Political

Continued From Page 6

brochure. They are ones who don't have open minds."

Open to what? Open to his lies and hate? Did he think that by handing someone a brochure they would become straight?

Open to what? Their kind of "facts" like those spouted off by the man with the U.S. Taxpayers Party T-Shirt on? Facts like how "Homosexual men have 500 partners in a year."

Speaking of which I guess we all better get busy, because I doubt that any of us have even come close to 100 this year. If we don't get at least 250 will our Queer cards be revoked for failing to meet even half of our quota.

The man never mentioned what the figure of sexual partners for Lesbians was. Maybe they are luckier than Gay men are. Perhaps they don't have a quota to meet. Or perhaps the U.S. Taxpayers Party is hoping that they do and that they will be allowed to watch and keep count.

Meanwhile inside the Italian Community Center, people embraced, and happily chatted. If anything said outside bothered them no one showed it. The few people who took the slick brochure from the protestors looked for trash cans to deposit it in.

People searched for their tables and looked for friendly faces to talk with. They were there for a reason, they were there because they cared, because they had compassion, because they embrace the principles of Jesus (and other religions) even as those principles are abandoned on the sidewalk by some of those professing to be his followers.

All of the brochures, all of the hate filled lies were left out on that sidewalk. Inside it was the warmth of love. And when Greg Louganis remarked that he once said a group of protesters "Need lots of teddy bears and hugs." The audience responded with loud cheers and applause.

Outside they didn't hear those cheers and that applause. They were too busy with other things. It's too bad because had they listened they might have learned that it takes more than quoting from a bible and demanding that people conform to make a Christian.

Had they been listening they would have found that the real people of faith were inside the building.

Walk

Continued From Page 1

about the need for needle exchange programs.

"It is time for the government to put science above politics," he said, "in setting public policy on AIDS."

As Nelson had said before when interviewed on Today's TMJ4, he said again here. Funding for needle exchange is of the "utmost importance."

Studies at all levels of government have shown that needle exchange is an effective way to arrest the spread of HIV—and does not encourage drug use as some would have it.

If for no other reason, needle exchange programs make economic sense. Clean

At the Maier Grounds

By the time I got to the Maier Festival Park on the Lakefront, the grounds were filling fast. Clowns and musicians enter-

tained. Multicolored balloons floated in the soft, warm air. People were in a jovial mood.

That night, TMJ4 News would report that there were 10,000 people in attendance. ARCW would report that 10,100 walkers raised over \$808,000, with the average dollars raised per person "higher than ever before."

Congressman Barrett

I ran into Congressman Barrett and thanked him for being one of the few so-lons on the Hill to have the guts to vote for government funding of needle exchange. Barrett's vote was the right thing to do and he did it. That's rare.

There is no way I'm going to try and mention all the groups I saw getting ready to walk. Madison was there in strength, though, as were contingents from across the state, "out-state" as I've learned they say here."

Mike Lisowski and a couple of others asked me if I was going to walk? Yeah, right, just step right out there at my wrinkled age.

There were people eating fresh melon—without salt. Amazing.

I managed to find myself a place on the bridge over Lincoln Drive, the route of the walk. From there I could look down on the seemingly unending line of marchers as they went by, waving to Greg Louganis and thanking him for coming to Milwaukee. Louganis took the salute diffidently, smiling, looking at times as if he wondered why people should be so happy to see him.

Some people identify themselves as "Christians" were out spreading hate.

needles and some bleach cost no more than a few dollars. By contrast, AIDS drugs currently run about \$40,000 a year.

"The long nightmare of AIDS is far from over," Nelson told the crowd. "We know that AIDS remains a deadly disease. We know there is no cure for AIDS."

A new generation is now at risk, Nelson warned the crowd, praising those who were there and asking them for their continuing support.

Greg Louganis

Greg Louganis was this year's honorary Chair of the Walk. The four-time Olympic gold medal winner, the finest diver in the world, is openly Gay and living with HIV.

Prior to the Breakfast, I had a chance to meet him again. He is shy man, self-effacing, a quiet person. He had come to Milwaukee bringing with him his little dog Nipper. Greg is wonderful, but the dog stole the show.

Louganis came into the Breakfast to a thunderous standing ovation. His head was down. There was a hesitant smile on his handsome face.

Louganis spoke to the crowd of his travels around the country, speaking to young people who, now, are very much at risk for AIDS. "Our young people must know how to protect themselves," he said.

He spoke of being disturbed by the media's seeming propensity to treat the AIDS pandemic as if it were over. "It's not," he emphasized.

Religious Right Wingers

He said that he found it "interesting," that as he was entering the Center, he saw some "religious people." To the general laughter of the crowd, he said, "I didn't know that God preached hate."

Louganis said that Fred Phelps had demonstrated against him when he was in Kansas. Louganis said he thought "Fred" needed teddy bears and "lots of hugs" because anyone with "that much hate must not like themselves too much."

The remark was greeted with a hearty round of applause.

"Gay people are just people," Louganis said. "We're your brothers, your sons. It is not a choice. I was born this way. I was born Gay. That's important for people to understand that. I am who I am."

On Coming Out

Louganis spoke of "letting go of secrets." Coming out, he said, is a "freeing experience, one that allows you to get on with your life. 'I'm a full person,' he said. "Being Gay is only one part of me."

He said also, that Coming Out is not a one-time thing. It's a process that goes on day after day.

"Be your own heroes," he told the crowd. "You have proven you are because you are here today."

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Illinois

I WANNA LEARN IT ALL

Novice, White male, 45 years old, 5'10, 186lbs, is interested in exploring all realms, including B&D and S&M. (De Kalb) #6241

CULTURE CAT I'm a small, trim, active, older, cultured, cut, White male, eager for a similar guy. (Evanston) #6057

PRETTY HORNY I'm 5'10, 140lbs, with short, Brown hair, Green eyes, and I'm horny as hell. Need I say more? (Joliet) #6766

BREAK ME IN SLOWLY This masculine, Gay, White male, 5'9, 165lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, is sort of new to this. I'd like to meet a guy who shares my interest in movies, quiet dinners, long walks, and getting to know each other. You should be in your 20's or 30's. (Matteson) #6436

HEART UP FOR GRABS I'm new in town and looking for love. This attractive, 40 year old, White male, 6'3, 180lbs, with long, light Brown hair, Green eyes, and HIV positive, seeks a long term relationship with a well built guy, 40 to 50. Touch me, hug me, kiss me all over, and steal my heart. (Oak Park) #6747

Iowa

ORAL IOWAN I'm an extremely well endowed, White male, 28, 5'10, 165lbs, with shaved chest and crotch. I love oral sex. I need a hot dude, like me, to help me get off. (Des Moines) #6701

LEMME GIVE YOU A HAND I'm looking for a real hard bodied, muscular guy to have fun with. I love massage. (Des Moines) #6413

Minnesota

METAL HEAD Good looking, masculine, White male, 5'10, 140lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes, into partying and heavy metal, wants to get serviced. Do me. (Austin) #6122

SHARE THE ROMANCE I'm a restaurant manager who loves to cook. I'm also interested in movies, reading, moonlit strolls, romantic evenings, and relaxing in front of the tv. I'd love to share these things with you. (Minneapolis) #6715

TWIN CITIES SHOPPER Attractive, Gay, White male, 41, 5'9, with Brown hair and Green eyes, seeks a Gay, Latin male, for long term relationship. Looks and age aren't important as long as you like to have fun. You must be willing to move to Minneapolis for a couple years. Then, maybe, we can move to the southwest. (Minneapolis) #6518

SPECIAL AFFINITY Slim, very nice, White male, in my early 50's, 5'11, 185lbs, has a particular affinity for attractive, slender, smooth, slightly built guys, under 150lbs. I hope we can get together for some weekend good times. Let's go out for a drink and see what happens. (Minneapolis) #6478

BODY OF ART I'm an artist and graphic designer, with an appreciation for anything artsy. I'm into film, theater, and going out dancing. I'm looking for fun and casual encounters with other guys in the area. (Minneapolis) #6525

JUST WHAT YOU'RE AFTER Are you a hot top looking for action with a sexy bottom? Give me a call. (Minneapolis) #6650

HEALTHY HOME OWNER I'm looking for a healthy, drug-free, companion for good times. This attractive, 36 year old, White male, home owner, likes dogs, sports, working out, and cuddling. I work in the hospitality industry. (Minneapolis) #6543

HIP HUGGER I enjoy biking, exercising, walking, the arts, and music. I'm into all kinds of things. I could be into you. If I fit your bill, leave a message (Minneapolis) #5690

ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE Slave training available, with experienced Minneapolis master, 42 years old. I seek a submissive, under 40, who is well built and experienced. You must desire to please and satisfy me. (Minneapolis) #5710

BROAD SHOULDERS Tanned, toned, broad shouldered, moderately hairy, White male, 31, 5'11, 155lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, seeks another cool guy for fun times. (Minneapolis) #5889

WIFE HASN'T A CLUE Discreet, Bi, Married, White male, 36, 5'6, 155lbs, seeks other Bi, or Married, (or both) men to hook up with. (Milwaukee) #5846

RIDE OF YOUR LIFE What more could you possibly need than this good looking, extremely horny, Bottom. Bend me over. I'll take you for a ride. (Milwaukee) #6098

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE I'll try anything once. This Bi, White male, totally inexperienced, wants to try it, out of curiosity. I need a discreet, gentle, friendly man. (Milwaukee) #6127

TAKE MY PIX Photographer wanted to take creative, magazine quality, photographs, of this good looking, in shape, 40 year old, White male. I'll also consider shoots including other hot, young guys. (Milwaukee) #6141

THE RIGHT PLACE This professional, Gay, White male, 5'8, 150lbs, likes movies, weightlifting, running, shopping, quiet dinners and sex. I'd like to meet a top, with a good job and a nice body. All ethnic groups encouraged to apply. (Milwaukee) #6142

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FREE THINGS IN LIFE I love to perform oral sex for anybody willing to receive it. Is that you? No strings attached, no reciprocation necessary. I'm from Dodge County. Call me, and see what I can do for you. (Milwaukee) #5896

BREAK INTO GROUPS I'm a horny, well endowed, White male, looking for phone sex and group encounters. I'm 33, 5'10, 160lbs, with Blond hair, a goatee, and good build. I'm always ready to go. (Milwaukee) #5642

ART APPRECIATION Gay, White male, 48, 5'8, 170lbs, enjoys Broadway shows, especially musicals. Also, into the arts, antiques, humor, conversation, and travel. I'm relationship oriented, looking for someone with similar interests, and fun to be with. Age and race are unimportant. (Milwaukee) #5767

LEVEL HEAD Attractive, 33 year old professional, looks more like 25. I'm a White male, 150lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. Seeking a similar guy, versatile, and level headed, who'd enjoy technical and spiritual talks, on a variety of issues. Leave a message. (Milwaukee) #3262

GETTING IN THE GROOVE I'm just coming to terms with my sexuality and would like to meet someone who can help me work through that. You can be inexperienced like me, or have something to teach. I'm a handsome, White male, 6ft, 220lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes. Ideally, I'd love to find a relationship. (Racine) #5909

YOUTHFUL YEARNING I wanna hook up with another young guy, 18 to 25, for hot times and friendship. This good looking, 25 year old, Gay, White male, 6ft, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, likes to do it all. (River Falls) #5452

FEEL THE TINGLING Nice looking, White male, 27, 6ft, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, seeks other attractive men, around my age, for good times. Let's hook up and see what happens. (Superior) #5572

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION I'm a spontaneous, romantic, Gay, White male, in my 40's, who's young at heart. I have Brown hair, Green eyes, and mustache. My interests include the outdoors, movies, moonlit walks, quiet times at home, and all the good stuff. I'd like to meet a Gay male, any age, to share friendship, love, life, and happiness. (Wausau) #5768

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BRING ME YOUR WARMTH This professional, 34 year old, Hispanic male, 6ft, 165lbs, hasn't felt the warmth of another body in months. I'm very versatile and would love to meet a guy, my age or younger, and around my same size, for fun. Are you hot enough to warm me up? (St. Paul) #6416

Wisconsin

ADVENTURE RIDE Picture this. Fit, masculine, Gay, White male, 37, 6ft, 170lbs, seeks a fit, masculine, Gay, Black male, whose interests include working out, movies, music, quiet dinners, and weekend adventures. (Eau Claire) #6752

BLOW HARD Good looking, masculine, White male, 35, 6ft, 190lbs, with dark hair and eyes, wants to hook up with other hot studs, in their 20's and 30's, for great times. (Eau Claire) #7099

EXPLORING, EXPANDING This good looking, White male, 30, mostly dominant, seeks bottoms, for hot times. I'm also interested in an older man to serve and obey. (Madison) #6953

THE BOND THAT TIES Good looking, 23 year old, White male, 6ft, 180lbs, seeks dominant, aggressive men who are into bondage. (Madison) #6419

HANDY HUNK This very attractive, certified massage therapist, is interested in giving hot oil, full body massages, to accomodating, professional, clean, discreet, masculine, intelligent guys. I'm a very mature, 24 year old, Black male, 5'9, 190lbs, with short, curly, Black hair, Brown eyes, and medium Brown skin. Feel my hands. (Milwaukee) #7031

LAKESIDE MASTER This good looking, 42 year old master, 185lbs, wants to meet a slave into bondage and discipline. If you long to serve a master, I'm the man to call. (Milwaukee) #7044

30 LOVE This fun loving, 29 year old, Asian male, 5'4, 120lbs, seeks friends and especially, a tennis partner. I love tennis but don't have anyone to play with. Let's start on the court and see what develops. (Milwaukee) #6797

KEEP AN OPEN MIND This masculine, White male seeks interesting, open minded people to get together with. Let's talk. (Milwaukee) #6750

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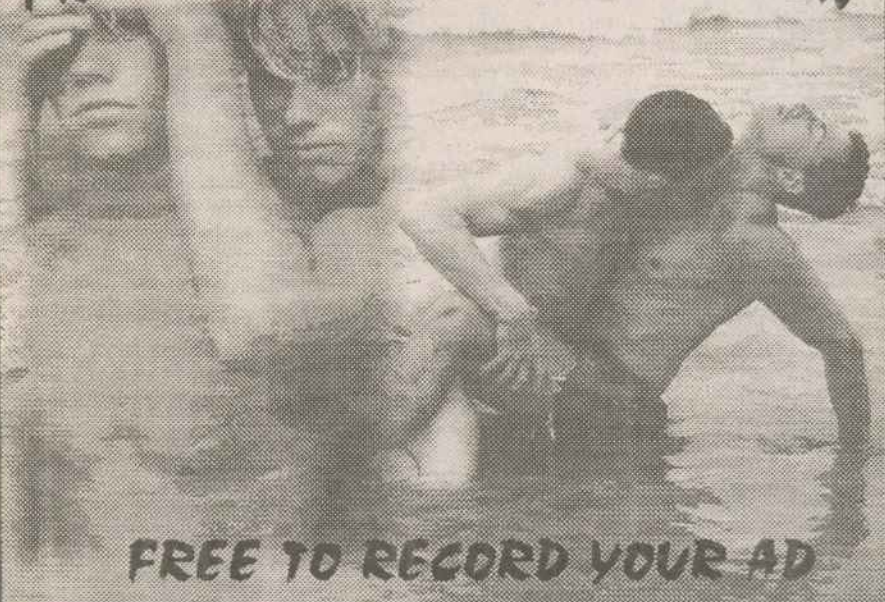
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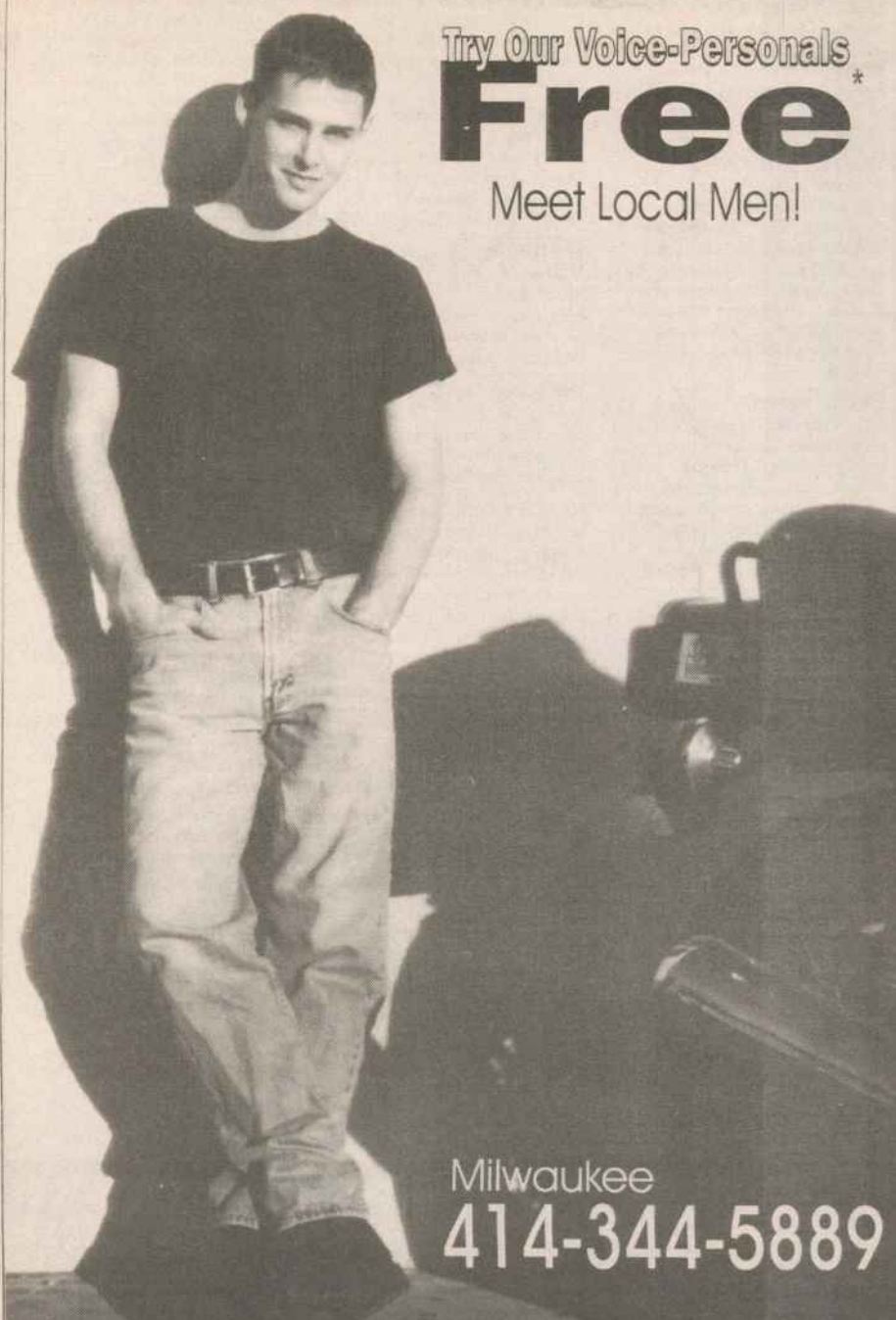
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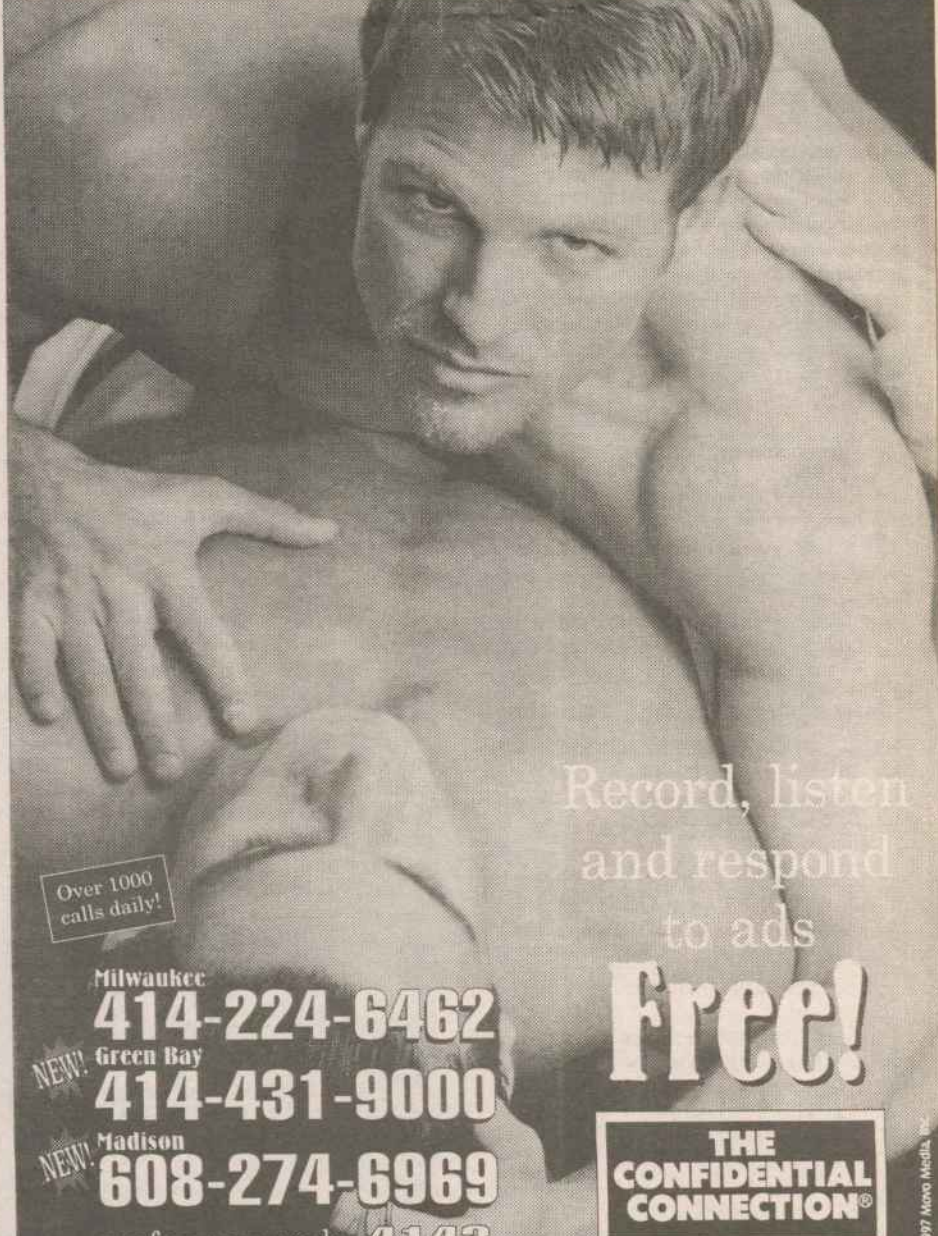
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America's New AIDS Cases Drop for the First Time in the Pandemic

Atlanta—The first-ever drop in the number of new AIDS cases in the United States last year is the latest proof that powerful new drugs seem to be slowing down the virus that causes the disease, the government said.

In 1996, an estimated 56,730 people were diagnosed with AIDS, down 6 percent from the 60,620 new cases in 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday, September 17.

AIDS deaths also dropped 23 percent, from an estimated 50,140 in 1995 to about 38,780 in 1996, a trend reported by the government earlier this year.

"This is remarkable evidence that our efforts in prevention and treatment are allowing more people to live free of HIV while we are extending the healthy lives of those who are infected," said U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

The CDC said powerful drugs such as protease inhibitors are apparently preventing HIV infection from progressing to full-blown AIDS, especially in patients who start taking the medicine early.

"We are going to see people living decades with this disease," said Dr. Bruce Rashbaum, who cares for AIDS patients in Washington. "Three years ago, we would have 10 to 15 patients in the hospital each month. Now, we have 10 to 15 each year."

Some figures remain troubling: AIDS cases diagnosed in 1996 rose 19 percent among heterosexual black men and 12 percent among heterosexual black women.

The number of women diagnosed with AIDS caught through sex with infected men rose 7 percent last year, the CDC said.

In the 1980s and part of the 1990s, AIDS spread among women primarily through the sharing of needles. But by 1993, sex with infected men overtook drug use as the leading cause of infection among women.

"We know that the Gay community has had a relatively thorough saturation of candid information on HIV prevention," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action, an advocacy group. "Women and people of color are not getting the same level of unvarnished HIV information."

New cases of AIDS dropped 13 percent among whites and 5 percent among His-

panics.

The CDC does not have information on the rate of HIV infection, which would give a far better idea of how successful the fight against AIDS has been.

The latest figures available, from 1987 to 1992, show there were about 40,000 to 80,000 new HIV infections a year. All states report AIDS cases and deaths to the CDC, but only 30 count HIV infection, too.

The CDC wants the remaining states to start reporting HIV. An editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine is also calling for that.

The decline in new cases of AIDS reached every region of the country. AIDS cases fell 12 percent in the West, 10 percent in the Midwest, 8 percent in the Northeast and 1 percent in the South.

The greatest drops were among Gay men and Gay men who inject drugs, 11 percent and 15 percent, respectively. New cases also declined among heterosexual men and women who inject drugs.

The CDC estimated that 235,470 people were living with AIDS in 1996.

Rights

Continued From Page 6

Republican registered an objection to the bill.

"We are extremely proud of the Republicans in the Assembly," commented Scott Evertz, Log Cabin's Legislative Director. "They have proven what we always knew: that they are fair-minded and are not interested in Gay bashing."

AB 397's adoption represents the first time a bill protecting the rights of Lesbian and Gay couples has ever been adopted in Wisconsin.

Evertz praised Rep. Scott Jensen for his work to get the bill approved. "Rep. Jensen has once again proven he is a fair-minded legislator committed to the concerns of all citizens of Wisconsin," commented Evertz. "Had we waited for a Democrat to take the lead on this real life problem, we would still be waiting."

Rep. Jensen also was pleased with the result. "I am very pleased AB 397 received such overwhelming support in the Assembly. I am confident that with the same sort of hard work from grassroots groups affected by this bill, we will see the same success in the State Senate."

This unprecedented action did not come easily. When the bill was up for a hearing in the Assembly Health Committee, a number of committee members, including Rep. Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Frank Urban (R-Brookfield),

questioned whether the bill was necessary and asked for examples showing that it was necessary.

While the bill was strongly supported by Rep. Gregg Underheim (R-Oshkosh), the chairman of the Health Committee, a number of Democrats who normally are leaders on Lesbian and Gay and AIDS issues, including Rep. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Peter Bock (D-Milwaukee), did not express strong support, although they ultimately ended up voting for the bill.

When the committee voted on the bill, it passed by a vote of 12-3. Voting against it were Rep. Wasserman, Rep. Urban, and Rep. Luther Olsen (R-Berlin). Rep. Wasserman again claimed that there was no need for the bill and that he had not been provided with examples showing its need, even though Log Cabin had sent a letter to each of the undecided or opposing committee members giving examples.

Rep. Wasserman later stated that he meant no one had provided testimony at the hearing giving examples (Log Cabin had not been informed of the hearing before it occurred).

Despite Rep. Wasserman's objections, the other members of the committee were swayed by Log Cabin's efforts, as well as the efforts of AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin lobbyist Mike Gifford, who contacted the Democrats on the committee and urged their support. Rep. Underheim's strong and vocal support, as chairman of the committee, also assisted in putting the bill over the top.

After the committee vote, Rep. Wasserman later agreed to support the bill. He added an amendment to the bill on the Assembly floor which would allow individuals to revoke the designation of individuals who can visit. The amendment also contained a statement that the revocation provision should not be construed to allow anyone other than the individual who had named the persons who could visit to revoke such designation.

Rep. Wasserman agreed to support the bill after the amendment was added, stating that he felt the bill would now have teeth.

While the bill seemed to be in trouble before the Assembly Health Committee, openly Lesbian Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) was noticeably missing from the fray. She did not appear in support of the bill at the hearing nor at the session when the bill was passed by the committee. Tim Russell, Secretary/Treasurer of

Log Cabin Republicans of Western Wisconsin, commented that he was not surprised at Rep. Baldwin's inaction on the issue. "We do know of at least one instance in which she articulated to a colleague's office that the bill was unnecessary," Russell said.

Rep. Baldwin was contacted and said she did not wish to comment.

LCR-WI Treasurer Jim McFarland could not disagree with Rep. Baldwin more. In the letter to the Health Committee, McFarland cited numerous examples, including a case of a Madison man who was prevented from seeing his partner who lay in a coma at the request of the dying man's parents, and the famous case of Sharon Kowalski, who was incapacitated in a car accident, and whose father obtained guardianship and proceeded to bar visitation by her partner, Karen Thompson.

In addition, McFarland cited an example involving a member of LCR-WI who experienced resistance on the part of a nurse when he attempted to join his partner during a procedure. The member was convinced that had he been the partner's spouse, the nurse would never have questioned his right to be present.

Asked why he thought Rep. Baldwin would argue against a bill that was clearly necessary, Tim Russell quipped, "This unfortunately could be a classic case of Rep. Baldwin not being pleased with anyone other than herself getting the credit for advancing the Lesbian/Gay cause. If that is the case, I guess we are wondering why she did not introduce this legislation first...or any other pro-Gay legislation, for that matter," Russell concluded.

LCR-Western Wisconsin notes that Rep. Tammy Baldwin has promised to introduce domestic partnership/same-sex marriage legislation since she was elected in 1992 and will likely leave the State Assembly without having introduced this or any other legislation which could be characterized as advancing the civil rights of Gay and Lesbian citizens of Wisconsin.

AB 397 now moves to the Democrat controlled State Senate where, ironically, its fate is uncertain.

Log Cabin Republicans hopes to enlist the support of its allies in the Senate to push the bill, but with the committees controlled by Democrats and floor scheduling controlled by Senator Chuck Chvala (D-Madison), the support of Democrats will be the key to its adoption.

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