

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

The Wisconsin Light

Join Us In Celebrating

A Decade of Light

Madison's LGBT Past Leads to the Future

By De Ette Tomlinson

Madison has a history of progressive activism that spans decades. But during the past ten years, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people have been building an inclusive, progressive Gay community that is gaining national attention.

Why do LGBT people come from all over the country to live in this small city cradled by four lakes?

A recent survey by Madison Gay and Lesbian Resource Center shows that less than a fifth of Madison LGBTs come from Madison, while nearly half of us come from outside of Wisconsin.

Many of us are from bordering states or the East Coast, especially New York. Though in the past the University was a magnet for many, now it looks like our LGBT community is building a reputation for itself that transcends the draw of an educational institution.

Through the work of LGBT activists over the past ten or more years, Madison has become -- cool. We're happening. In the atmosphere the activists' dedicated work created, Lesbians and Gays have integrated their lives into the fabric of the city.

We have more than 90 local LGBT or allied groups to choose from (over three quarters of which were formed in the past ten years), a domestic partnership ordinance, two Queer city council members and Wisconsin's only Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and allied social service, community advocacy organization and community center, The United (see sidebar).

The Advocate recently profiled two of our Gay politicians, and named Madison one of the top five "surprise" most livable places in America.

Madison is Wisconsin's political arena, and LGBT rights are often in the ring. Ten-plus years of Madison legislators from David Clarenbach to Tammy Baldwin have worked to create fair, non-discriminatory law.

Madison LGBT and allied citizens have furthered legislator's battles with courage and determination. The public hearing for last spring's State Assembly passage of AB 104, the unnecessary and discriminatory bill banning same-sex marriage in Wisconsin, was moved outside of Madison

to find a venue isolated enough for conservatives to try to control the public hearing process. Even so, Madison residents outnumbered all other Wisconsin constituents who attended the hearing, and underlined the dedication of the city's LGBTs and our allies to fight for Gay rights.

More and more often, Madison Gays and Lesbians are involved with the political process as citizens, lobbyists and candidates.

Our energy isn't confined to the political arena, though. Over the past ten years, artists and musicians have come from all over to explore Madison's cutting edge arts scene.

The annual Lesbian Variety Show, *I Got This Way From Kissing Girls*, showcases Lesbian talent from around the city, and generates funds for Kissing Girls Productions' artistic grant program.

Several years ago, the LGBT group New Harvest funded George Segal's sculpture, "Gay Liberation" (depicting two affectionate same-sex couples). The sculpture was originally in Madison's Orton Park and now lives in Central Park in New York City.

Several Gay men's choruses have found their homes here, the latest one being Perfect Harmony. Madison writers like Will Fellows (recently moved to Milwaukee) and Claudia Card generate national attention for their studies of Gay and feminist culture.

West Coast filmmakers Helen Cohen and Debra Chasnoff selected Madison as one of five locations nationwide for their award-winning Lesbian and Gay documentary, *It's Elementary*.

And Madison houses a very active and inclusive locally produced theater scene that celebrates not only original Gay-

themed productions, but supports LGBT writers, actors and technicians.

Through these and other LGBT contributions, Madison has become a trendsetting community for LGBT people in America. Wisconsin was the first state to pass a law protecting Gay rights, and Madison was one of the first cities in America to provide a domestic partnership registration. Madison ordinances have protected LGBT rights even when challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court.

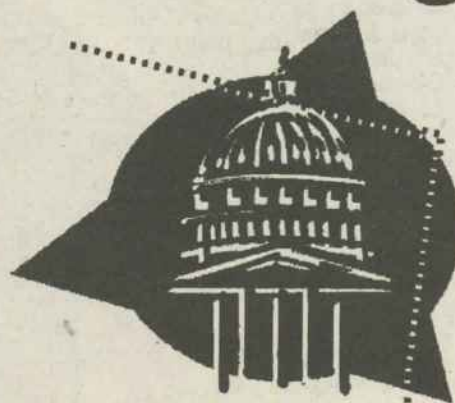
Over the next ten years, Madison will undoubtedly continue to lead the way for LGBT rights and lives in Wisconsin, and provide a model for other communities to follow across the country. Safe schools, legally recognized partnerships and inclu-

sive public policy are rights which we all deserve.

We will advocate for domestic partnership benefits for the State employees' insurance pool, which would help people not only working for the state, but who work for municipalities like Madison that participate in the State benefits pool. Tammy Baldwin is well on her way to being the first out Lesbian congressperson in the House of Representatives.

Artists, families, writers, businesses, politicians, theorists, musicians and other LGBT people continue to flock to this city of four lakes. We're all looking for and creating a community that celebrates its diversity while embracing its common goal: equal rights for all.

Congratulations on a decade of light!



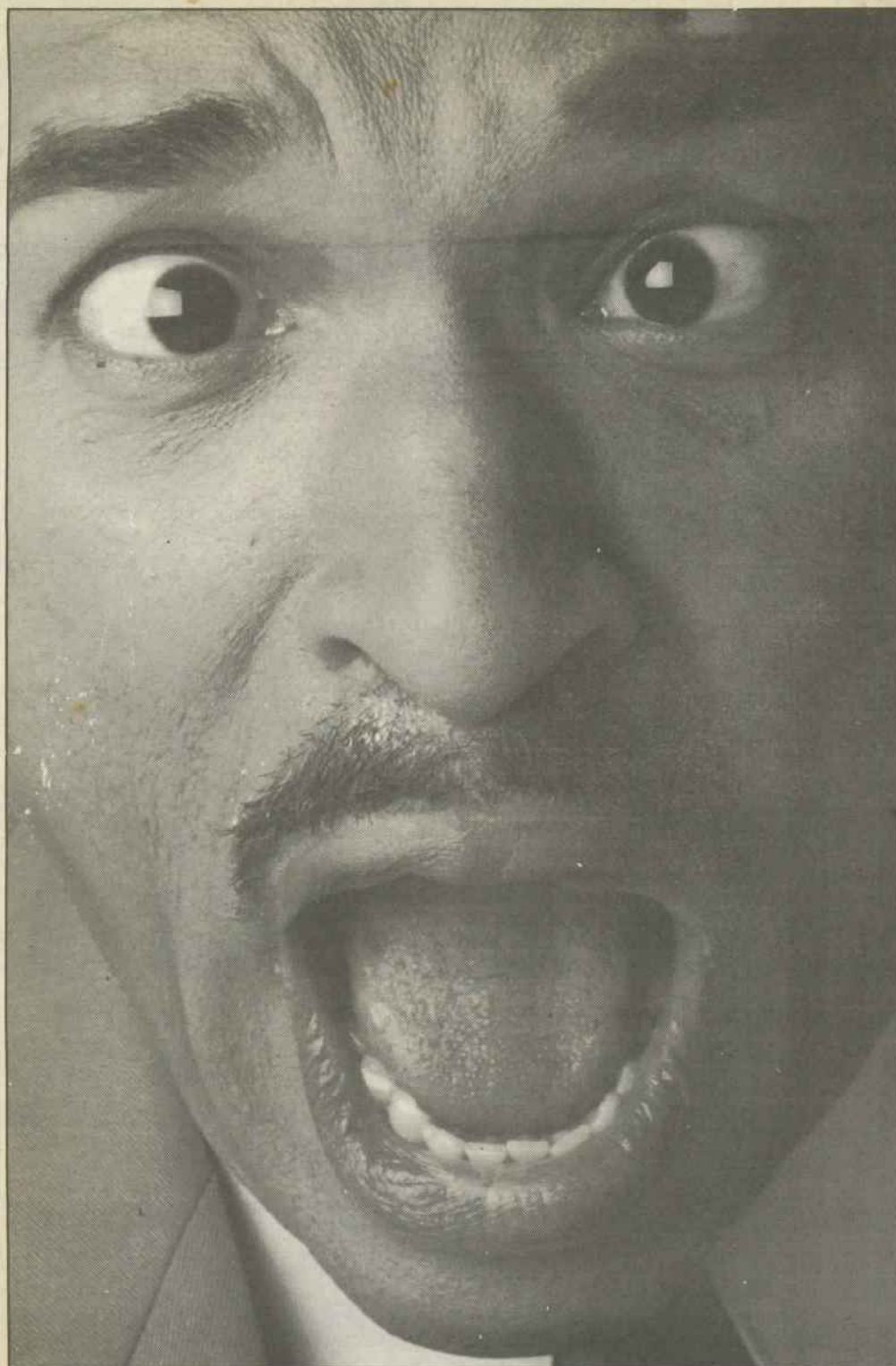
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 Circulation — 15,000
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Federal Domestic Partnership Act Introduced in Congress

Green Bay Man Convicted of Hate Crime Against Gays

Green Bay—When Mark Anderson maced a young couple in a parking lot near a local gay nightclub last July he did so out of hate, according to a jury in Green Bay this afternoon, October 28.

A jury of four men and eight women found Mark Anderson, 1008 Cherry Street, guilty of disorderly conduct and a hate crime based on the couple's sexual orientation in Circuit Court, Branch 8, Judge Sue E. Bischel presiding.

The jury deliberated four and half hours prior to reaching a verdict. According to Assistant District Attorney Dana Johnson as reported by David Washack, one of the macing victims, this is the first successful prosecution of a hate crime based on sexual orientation in the history of Brown County and one of very few in the state.

Following a polling of the jury on the verdicts requested by public defender Robert Sweeny, Judge Bischel admonished Anderson for both the crime and the deportment of witnesses presented by the defense.

Washack believes that the jury saw through the fabrications of the defense witnesses. "The jury was told two completely different stories - one by my brother, the arresting police officer and myself and the other by (Anderson's) friends who claimed they were bashed because they were Bisexual," Washack said. Sentencing will be November 24.

Two strong messages have been sent by this trial, according to Action Wisconsin regional director Mike Fitzpatrick.

"Brown County is not a place for hate and our law enforcement and justice systems are working hard to reinforce that idea," Fitzpatrick said. "And the Gay community has been told that their lives are important to this community and that they must follow David's example and stand up for their basic civil rights if they ever want justice to prevail."

ARCW Receives Historic State Contract to Provide AIDS Services to Most of State

Milwaukee—The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has been named the AIDS service organization to provide AIDS services and prevention programs statewide, with the exception of the Madison area. The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) has awarded ARCW the contract, a significant expansion in service area, which will provide the agency with \$3.3 million in AIDS funding over the next four years.

"Wisconsin's investment in local AIDS services is among the very best in the country," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "These state resources will enable us to deliver comprehensive AIDS services in cities, towns, and rural areas throughout the state."

"Since the beginning of AIDS, we have worked hard to build a public/private partnership that will meet the demands of the epidemic," said Nelson. "The state's decision to award ARCW with over \$3.3 million strengthens this partnership and will enhance HIV services in Wisconsin."

Over 2,070 people living with HIV and AIDS in Wisconsin will now have direct access to ARCW services such as early medical intervention, clinical drug trials, case management and support services including housing, financial and legal assistance.

ARCW's prevention programs will also expand statewide to aggressively reach

the general public and at-risk populations such as men who have sex with men, injection drug users and their partners, youth and women engaging in risk behaviors and people already living with HIV disease.

The DHFS contract is the result of a comprehensive, competitive bid process to officially designate AIDS service organizations in Wisconsin. Few, if any states, have used such a process to designate agencies as official providers of AIDS services. ARCW's successful applications combined years of experience in AIDS service delivery with multiple community based collaborations with other agencies.

DHFS also awarded ARCW the contract to continue operating its Wisconsin AIDS Library and Wisconsin AIDSline, which were also competitively bid on.

The new state contracts will be effective on January 1, 1998.

ARCW expects to maintain an \$8 million budget in '98, placing the agency as the sixth or seventh largest AIDS service organization nationwide.

Nelson said that ARCW will raise over \$3 million annually from the private sector, virtually matching the state's investment. "Our partnership with the state is cost effective and truly makes Wisconsin one of the few states in the country to collaborate this way."

Mayor Declares November 5, 1997, as The Wisconsin Light Day in Madison

**By Susan Bauman
 Mayor, City of Madison**
 Six months have passed since my election! People keep asking me to comment on my first half year in office and what the future holds.
 I'd have to say one of the biggest thrills was the grand opening in mid-July of the Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

The project remained a shadowy dream in the minds of many for nearly 60 years before it was infused with brick and mortar and brought to life on the shores of Lake Monona. A beautiful two-block promenade has been added to link Monona Terrace with the nearby state Capitol.

Within three years, a headquarters hotel

Please See Light Page 9

Washington, DC—U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) held a press conference Wednesday, October 29, to announce the introduction of the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 1997, a bill to make domestic partnership benefits available to federal employees.

Sponsors of the bill include Congresswomen Nita Lowey (D-MA), Elizabeth Furse (D-OR) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) Bob Filner (D-CA) and nine other members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Frank was joined at the press conference by Lowey and Furse, along with representatives from a number of organizations supporting the legislation, including federal employee labor unions; gay, lesbian and bisexual rights groups; religious and educational institutions; and private sector firms.

Under Representative Frank's proposal, the domestic partner of a federal employee would be eligible for benefits in the same manner and to the same extent as the spouse of a federal employee. The term "domestic partner" is defined to mean "an adult person living with, but not married to, another adult person in a committed, intimate relationship."

This eligibility would extend to retirement benefits, health insurance, life insurance and compensation for work injuries. To be eligible, same or opposite sex couples would file an affidavit certifying, among other facts, that they are living together in a committed, intimate relationship, that they are responsible for each other's welfare and financial obligations and that they are not related in a way that would prohibit legal marriage in the state in which they reside.

The proposed bill sets forth the process of eligibility for domestic partnership benefits and for the cutoff of such benefits if a partnership is dissolved.

The following was a statement given by Helen Gonzales, Public Policy Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) at yesterday's press conference:

"NGLTF applauds Representative Barney Frank and the other 14 lead co-sponsors of this legislation which could just as easily be entitled 'The Workplace Equality Act.' The proposal introduced today gives recognition to the diversity of families in our country.

According to a 1991 U.S. Census Bureau report, fewer than 30% of American families fit the traditional definition of family -- that is, two heterosexual parents living with children under 18. Yet, it is this definition of family which is the key factor in determining the type and amount of benefits a federal worker and his or her family receives.

"A married heterosexual federal employee with a spouse and child can be eligible for a host of benefits, including health insurance, life insurance, and participation in a federal employees' retirement program. Yet, another federal worker with a partner and a child who does exactly the same job would not qualify for the same benefits. That's the same as advertising a job in a newspaper saying 'salespeople wanted: salary for married heterosexuals, \$12 an hour, salary for unmarried heterosexuals and gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered persons, \$7.20 per hour. We would all recognize that as unfair, illegal and discriminatory.

"The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has estimated that up to 40% of a worker's remuneration comes in the form of "fringe" benefits. Clearly, some federal employees are getting paid more than others when fringe benefit payments are included.

"It is time," said NGLTF, "to stop this discrimination in how we treat similarly situated federal employees." The proposal by Representative Frank would, for the first time, provide equity in pay, including benefits received, for all eligible federal employees. NGLTF lauded Representative Frank's introduction of this legislation, which represents another step forward in the fight for equality for all.

Reports on Lack of Effectiveness of Protease Inhibitors are Exaggerated

Commentary by the AIDS Writers Group

About a month ago, it was widely reported in the press that over half of those who used protease inhibitor therapy were beginning to fail that therapy. These misleading reports were based on a single study whose data was presented at the Inter-sciences Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapies (ICAAC). The AIDS Writers Group which attended this Conference is concerned about the ramifications of these misleading reports and wishes to set the record straight.

The press reports were based on a single study presented by Dr. Steven Deeks on drug failure rates in 1996 at San Francisco General Hospital's clinic. The AIDS Writers Group has studied the data in this report and later interviewed Dr. Deeks.

It should be first understood that this report was one out of 250 regarding HIV presented at the Conference, many of which contained good news showing that powerful combination therapies are working in most people now using them.

Dr. Deeks' report was not a study of what is happening to people undergoing combination therapy today under average conditions. Instead, it is data on some people who began combination therapy with either protease inhibitor indinavir (Crixivan) or the protease inhibitor ritonavir (Norvir) in March, 1996, the month when they were first available, before clinicians knew how best to use the drugs.

Most of the failures had occurred by the fall or winter of 1996.

(This makes the Associated Press report of this September 28 which stated that "Widely heralded AIDS drugs...are now beginning to fail in about half of those treated" especially irresponsible.)

Had clinicians known in early 1996 what they now know about prescribing these drugs, different choices would have been made at San Francisco General, and there would have been different results.

The Facts
 First, it was not clear in early 1996 that

people who failed what was then a weak early protease inhibitor, saquinavir, would also fail later protease therapy, and people who had failed saquinavir are included in the data.

Secondly, it was not understood in early 1996 that people with very high viral loads would not do well with a standard triple combination of drugs (a protease inhibitor with two of the older drugs known as "nukes") and would need something stronger.

Thirdly and most crucially, for the majority in the study who were already on nukes, such as AZT and 3TC, the protease inhibitor was just added on top of what they were already taking (and often already failing). By the fall of 1996, scientists knew this was a mistake. But they only knew it was a mistake by looking at results from those who tried this in the spring of 1996, including most of those in this study.

Finally, the people in the study were a group of people in a clinic that had on nurse per 300 patients, rather than the typical one nurse per 20 or 30 patients. Given these staffing levels, the importance of compliance (or adherence) to antiviral regimens, crucial when using present protease inhibitors, could not be stressed enough to those taking them to make a difference.

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WELCOME
 New Owners of
City Edition
 to the World of
NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHING

Editor's Note

Of Tuxes, Friends and Family

By Terry Boughner

As I write, it is three o'clock in the morning. All is quiet now. I sit with a candle burning beside my computer. It's light reminds me that despite all the necessary modern technology, I am still a civilized man.

I am told I must go and be fitted for a tux. I sigh over that, not because I know I won't look good (Actually, I'll look like a sack of wheat tied in the middle), but because a tux isn't me. "Me" is denims and sloppy sweaters—and never, ever a tie, not in the last 30 years. "Me" is the candle flame. The tux is the computer.

But, for the same reason that I use the computer, I'll wear a tux for the paper's 10th Anniversary bash.

Nevertheless, I went to a tux store, told the clerk what I wanted and what I wanted it for. When she asked me what shoes I wanted, I told her "pumps."

Blank stare.

"You know, opera pumps?"

Not the slightest comprehension of what I was talking about.

"Slip ons?"

Ahh, that struck a bell, but the worse was still to come. I wanted a shirt, I told her, one with lots and lots of frills at the collar and cuffs.

"Oh," she said, "are we celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the reign of Charles II?"

I yield. I give up. Give me anything, but let me out of here.

"Sizes?"

As I flee, I rattle off the measurements, fully expecting her to say something about tents being sold just down the street. She's kind, however, says nothing and I scam.

Oh, hell, my frustration isn't really over the monkey suit. It's over the fact that I don't like anniversaries, not of any kind. I don't like them for the same reason I don't like birthdays. I don't like change. Both anniversaries and birthdays symbolize the passing of time and the ever changing nature of things.

They do have their good side, however. They give me pause to look back at the past which never changes. That's where I'm most comfortable and that's what I've been doing these past weeks, looking back.

What impresses me, first of all, is the vital dynamism of this Wisconsin LGBT community. Though I've doubted it sometimes, yes, I really do believe that we have a community, formed half by intent and half in a fit of absence of mind, but a community nonetheless.

I do believe that we are a people, joined together by a common interest in pursuit of a common goal: equality under the law.

Over the past ten years of plugging away at this, I've come to believe that we really do have a culture. No, I'm not at all ready to define it—though I've given it a lot of thought—but I know we have it, our ways of doing things, our particular outlook on life. Conservative or Liberal, young or old, male or female, we all take part in it. I think that's good.

The other night I slipped out to a bar, a necessity over these last few weeks. There I met a good friend and fell to talking. I told him that there were so many, many

people to whom I would like to say "Thanks." The problem was, I said, words seem so damned inadequate—which is frustrating as hell because I'm supposed to have some facility with words.

As good friends do, he listened to me rattle on, bought me a beer and then said, "Well, just say it. Say Thank you. In a the paper, at the dinner, in little notes, it makes no difference how you say it, just say it and they'll understand."

So here goes—a beginning, as they say. To some I'll say it here, to others later.

First of all, I heartily second all the people Jerry mentioned in his "Publisher's Note." That goes especially for Ron Geiman who has and always has had my unbounded respect and admiration.

There are so many, many people to whom I would like to pay tribute.

God, Ron, here it is, four in the A.M. and I'm thinking of something I used to put in the paper about you, remember? "How did you do it so well for so long?" Hats off to you, Ron. You're an inspiration to us all.

I want to thank Bill Meunier. In the beginning, Bill was to do advertising, but things quickly expanded. Now he writes, does interviews, copyreads, types, and does God knows what else—all for free. He even seems to "know" when I'm out of cigarettes and comes through just in time. Thank you, Bill, thanks for everything.

There's Anabelle Havlicek. It's 4:00 in the A.M. "Anabelle, can you work up this ad?" or "Anabelle, can you quick scan this picture?" The reply is always a groggy, "Yeah, sure."

In so many, many ways, Anabelle has given to this community. It's in that spirit of giving that she has given to us. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Let me say "Thank you" to State Reps Tammy Baldwin and Barbara Notestein. Tammy, every gracious, ever articulate, knows what TR knew: public office is a "bully pulpit." Speaking to countless organizations and groups, Tammy says what many of us are thinking, but are not able to put into words. And, because, she could charm birds off trees, even our enemies listen.

Barb works tirelessly, quietly, pushing, probing, doing what politicians must, especially those who fight for equal rights. Like Tammy, Barb is a person of courage and integrity.

Had Tammy and Barb been at Vienna in 1815, Tallyrand could have gone home and Europe would have stayed French.

I want to thank Ross Walker and Erv Ueher. They have been faithful friends as well as serving the community without stint.

Thank to Jim McFarland for all the support—and writing. Thanks to Pat Prudlow. Oh yeah, Pat, I am getting so old. Scott Evertz is one of the best. He always manages to call at down times and by the time we're done talking, I feel good again. Almost you guys make me a Republican.

Let me thank Allan Eslinger (did I spell it right, I hope?). Allan's always been there when we needed him—even if, one time, he showed up in pink tights.

Tom Reed, Jon Martin, Robert and

Ross? God in Heaven, how do I ever begin to thank you guys? I don't know. I wish I did. I love you guys, I really do.

Doug Nelson, too—and Jeff Kelly. These have been two wonderful friends, kind, compassionate, understanding. I appreciate them more than they will ever know.

I want to thank Shirley Fitzpatrick. She's a great Gay lady, a woman with class, who has never failed to cheer me up when the bee stung. And Jet. God, there's one sweet lady. That poster still hangs on my wall, Jet, and I see it as I write and think about you.

There's one person more I want to thank here. That's Jamakaya. She and I have disagreed (quite heatedly) on a number of things. Yet, despite that, she gave a lot to this paper and I learned a lot from her. She has my respect.

For those of you reading this, please know that I've just scratched the surface. I think how wonderfully fortunate our community is to have people like these, how tremendously lucky—and they're not all there is! There's Dale—a genius with flowers, there's Scott Gunkel, Steph Hume, Gary Hollander, Rona, Carl Szatmary, B.J. Daniels, Karen Gotzler, Todd and Mark, Tommy and Loren, Miriam Ben-Shalom, Si, Joe, John, George, Sharon and the list goes on and on.

Thank you all. Thank you so very, very much. I wish I could say more, something inspired, but I can't.

All I can say is that other cities may brag that they've got this and that. Maybe they do, but they don't have what Wisconsin's got—the hard-working, dedicated, people that we have.

Bicker though we do, fight as we do, too, are we not really all family? I think so.

The sun is coming up now. I know it sounds like purple prose, but my heart is full as I think of all the people. I wish I could say something more than "Thank you." I can only hope that Tony's right; that "Thank you" will do.

Letters

Hats Off!

TO THE EDITOR:

I just want to take a short breath at this most exciting time of my life to thank June and Joe of "This is It" for asking me to have a spotlight event to showcase my new CD "Goody For You!" at their establishment and to Landmark Enterprises for allowing me to be a part of the "Decade of Light" celebration at the Hilton Hotel on November 9.

When you're finally on the brink of something you've been striving for all of your life, you start to think of all the positive energy you've been given. Another thing you try to forget is the negative energy that pervades many of those in and outside our community who don't want to see anyone succeed.

I accept that because we have been conditioned to hate ourselves and each other from childhood. Well, kids, it's all over because when all is said and done, truth prevails and it's a quiet thing.

Hats off to Terry and Jerry and (why not) myself for prevailing and surviving.

Here's to life!

Jerry Grillo
Vocalist
Milwaukee

Re: Andrew Brett

TO THE EDITOR:

I read Andrew Brett's Letter to the Editor in the 10/9/97 issue of the *Light* and thought he didn't know what the hell he was writing about. I was anxious to read the next issue, 10/23/97, to see how Representative Baldwin responded and to set the record straight, but she did not nor did anyone else! In that same issue of 10/23/97, I read Scott Evertz' commentary "From the Right" on AB397 and that commentary reiterated Brett's letter, but in more detail.

I really thought Representative Baldwin was a champion and leader for the GLBT cause, but have come to learn and read that she is not, sad to say.

I can't in good faith endorse a candidate merely on the basis of sexual orientation and with total disregard for proof of objective qualifications. Therefore, this WOMYN DEMOCRAT will not be endorsing nor supporting Baldwin for Congress.

Marth Jose Soares
Madison

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.

Deadlines

November 20th Issue

Articles Friday, Nov. 14th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Nov. 14th

Camera Ready—Nov. 17th

5:00 p.m.

December 4th Issue

Articles—Nov. 28th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Nov. 28th

Camera Ready—Dec. 1st

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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www.wilight.com

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Publisher's Note

Ten Years of "The Wisconsin Light"

By Jerry Johnson

Ten years. 3653 days. Untold sleepless nights! It's time to celebrate a milestone. For some who read this, my first column ever for *Wisconsin Light*, ten years might not seem like much of a milestone. But ten years is a major milestone—a miraculous one at that—for this newspaper.

There were so many times, countless reasons why, Terry and I should have given up on the paper—especially in the early years of publication. Somehow, through it all, we persevered against nearly insurmountable odds. Yes, the time has come to celebrate—in glorious style at that!

A year ago I was thinking about doing something to celebrate the paper's Tenth Anniversary. What that might be, I didn't know. However, I had decided that whatever was done, it should be a benefit for the Cream City Foundation. And indeed it will be—all proceeds from the November 9th gala will go to the Cream City Foundation endowment fund. Terry and I are very pleased about that. But enough of the present. Let's backtrack to 1987.

We learned that summer that Wisconsin's GLBT newspaper, Madison-based *Out!*, was going out of business. On a stifling hot day in August, community activists from Madison and Milwaukee gathered in our back parlor to decide what to do. Should there be a new paper?

The answer was, yes. The community needed a newspaper. When Ron Geiman, then editor/publisher of *In Step*, who was there declined to change *In Step* from a magazine to a newspaper, Terry and I said we would do it.

Let me pause here and pay tribute to some people. One is the late Peter Johnson who paid the incorporation fees.

Another is Orloff who designed the paper's logo. Certainly, there is Mark Hauptert who came up with the name, *Wisconsin Light*. Jeff Kirsch of Madison, *Out!*'s editor, whose advice in getting the paper started was invaluable. Also, Bob Melig whose perspective and genial good humor were invaluable to us. Bob also worked his butt off

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Late Breaking Bulletin ELECTION RESULTS

As we went to press, the Wisconsin Light received late breaking news on the Tuesday November 4, election results.

According to results by the Victory Fund in Washington DC, 10 of their fifteen endorsed candidates have won election. Three others won a spot in run off elections. A major Gay Civil rights initiative was defeated in Washington State.

The winners include Mary Wiseman, the first ever openly Gay elected official in Ohio. Wiseman won a seat on the Dayton, Ohio City Commission.

Other first time winners include Phil Reed, New York City Council, Deborah Silber, Brooklyn, NY, Civil Court Justice, Jay Fissette, Arlington, VA, County Board, Ron Krueger, Minneapolis Library Board.

One of the candidates facing a run off, Cathy Woolard finished just 1% behind the incumbent in her race to represent Atlanta's District 6 on the City council.

In an interview with **The Wisconsin Light** Kathleen Debold, of the Victory Fund said she was especially pleased with Fissette's win. "His opponent really used Gay baiting in the campaign," said Debold. Fissette won with over 60% of the vote.

The Victory Fund is a national organization which helps fund openly Gay candidates around the country. They recently endorsed Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin's bid for Congress in Wisconsin's Second District.

In other election news the first ever State wide referendum proposed by supporters of Gay Civil Rights went down to defeat in Washington State. The measure would have outlawed job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

John Mc Mullen, of Planet Out's GLOW Radio told **The Wisconsin Light** that other measures on the ballot drove out conservatives in force. "The NRA poured millions" into opposing a measure requiring that hand gun owners have trigger locks and take safety courses.

With 74% of the vote counted the measure was losing by a 59% to 41% margin.

Rainbow Alliance Serves Community in Northeast Wisconsin

Stevens Point—Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance (CWRA) is a social/support group formed in July of 1997 to meet the needs of that areas Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered members. We currently have members from the

counties of Adams, Marathon, Wood, and Portage.

We meet once a month at a location decided by the members, which numbers over 40 now, and generally tends to be at the home of one of the members or a nearby park/public facility. CWRA has planned a Thanksgiving Event at a members home in Marshfield on the 22nd of November between 2 and 7 pm.

To obtain more information about this event and other future events CWRA may be contacted at P.O. Box 390 Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by calling (715)592-6245 and entering the voicemail box # 5920200 immediately after the opening message. A flyer will be mailed upon request with directions to the events and the names of the host(s), their address and home phone number.

Currently there is no membership fee but goodwill offerings are greatly appreciated to offset the costs of the mailings and other operating expenses.

Any other pertinent information may be obtained by calling Steven Schreier at (715)424-5712 or writing to 2541 2nd Ave. S. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 or e-mail at <jschreier@wrcw.net>

A Letter From David Clarenbach

My dear friends,

This is a special milestone in the history of our state's Gay rights movement, and I want to add my voice to the thousands of people throughout Wisconsin in congratulating you on your many accomplishments.

For ten years, **The Wisconsin Light** has meant so much to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender community. At a time when our civil rights are under constant assault and as the AIDS crisis continues to grow (despite a loss of public interest), **The Light** has been essential in keeping us on track.

I cannot think of a more important component of Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian movement than **The Wisconsin Light**. Even here in Washington DC, I know that I can always rely on a crisp and accurate statewide perspective from your outstanding publication.

My only regret is that I am not able to join your week of celebration in-person. But, please know that I am very much with you in spirit, and that I look forward to another decade of excellent journalism and advocacy from the pages of **The Wisconsin Light!**

In solidarity,
David Clarenbach

Editor's Note: David Clarenbach is the former Speaker Pro-Tem of the Wisconsin State Assembly. He was the main sponsor of Wisconsin's AB 70, the first statewide Gay and Lesbian civil rights law in the country, and he served as the Executive Director of the Victory Fund. We are honored by his letter.



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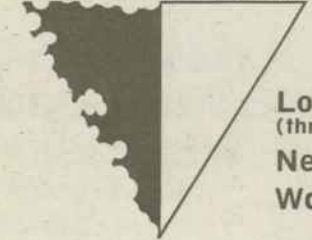
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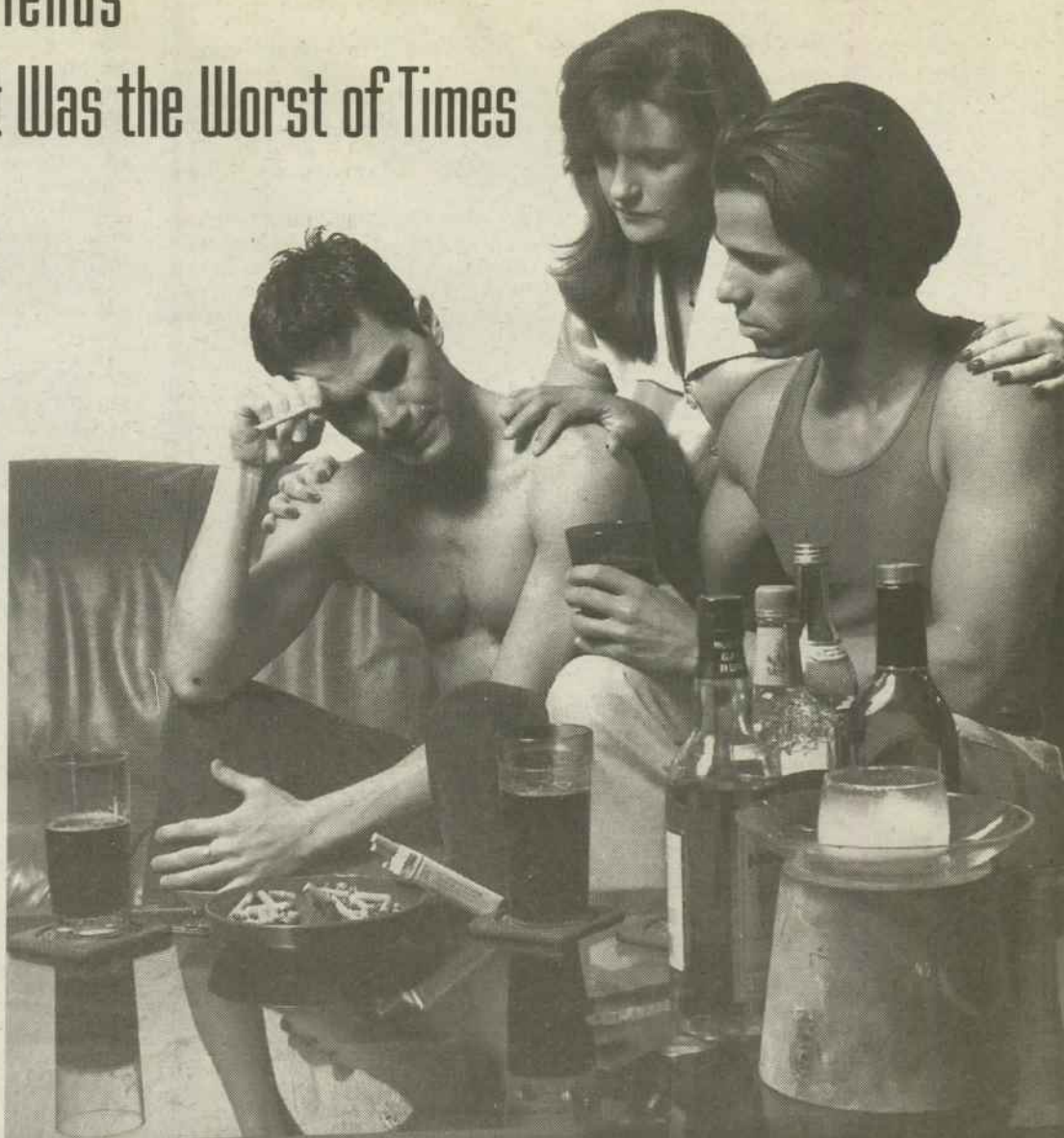
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A Note From Karen Lamb



DR. KAREN LAMB

Jerry Johnson

ice to Wisconsin and the nation.
How very much like you both to take no financial remuneration for the hard, hard work you do publishing our beloved newspaper.

And how exactly like you to donate the proceeds of our gala to a foundation that has helped so many!

A Decade of *Light*

I have been privileged to watch you both at work for (is it really?) ten years?

Down South, we have an expression about when close friends of a family get together. We call it making memories."

My memories are extensive: when you both arrived in my office to ask me to write! What has a First Lady of a city have to say to a community suffering excruciatingly? I recall Jerry watched quietly. Terry wove his magic.

And write I did!

But, Darlings, in spite of this battle that we share, haven't we had fun!

Eating! Most often at your home! Thanksgiving, Christmas! Tell me! How many of us have enjoyed your hospitality?

Such special memories. Our private times. Crawdads, frog legs, Jambalaya, viewing old homes as we traveled through some seventeen states, doing a national political convention here; presenting a paper there. Oh! So many memories!

Memories of how welcome you have both been in our home. How you've watched our lives unfold. Mostly for the good! You know how tickled I am about that!

And sometimes when things are really tough around here, you were still here! Thank you, thank you, thank you, precious boys!

So. Now we all get to see you two decked out in tuxedos or tails?!!!

I am absolutely rushing to my closet to find the prettiest thing I own!

I'm going to celebrate "memories" with **Wisconsin Light**, and its staff of wonderful contributors. But most of all, I am going to celebrate two gifted men!

Good night, Angels! With love from your,
Karen Lamb.

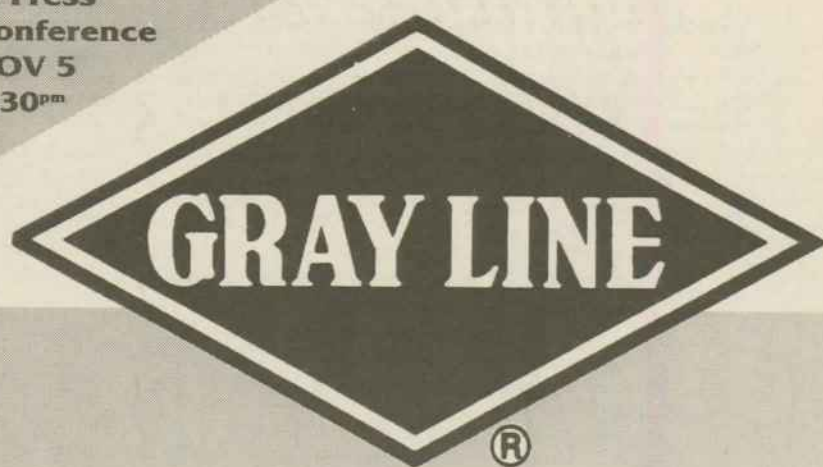
Dear Jerry and Terry,
Ordinarily I write to our community. Tonight is a different story. Tonight, it is my pleasure to add my congratulations to the accolades you are about to receive for your decade of serv-



Jerry Johnson

Dr. Karen Lamb is solemnly reading names of Wisconsinites who have died of AIDS and whose names appear on the panels in the National AIDS Quilt during the Die In Demonstration at the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta in 1988

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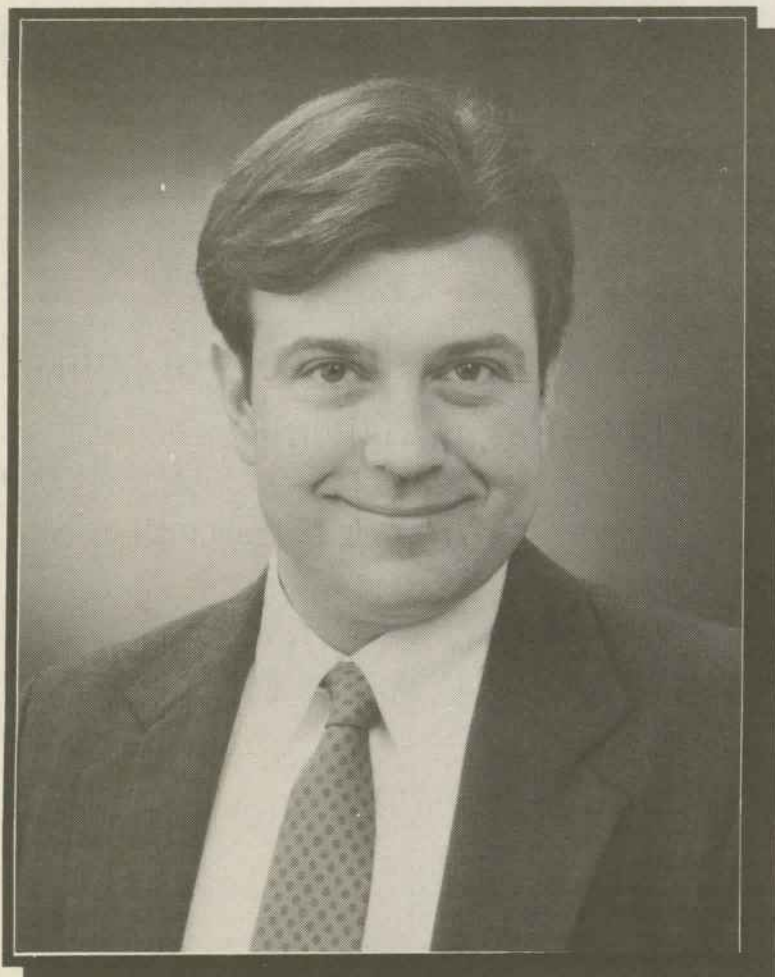
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AIDS: Looking Back, Looking Forward

By Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D.

Any look back over the past 10 years in the life of a Gay and Lesbian community in the United States, and any look back at the accomplishments of a newspaper that serves it, reveals how enormous has been the impact of AIDS. Throughout the past decade, AIDS has been a constant part of the landscape—the entire social fabric—of the Gay community not only in Wisconsin but everywhere.



Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D.

Some of the impact of AIDS has come in the form of loss...the loss of lovers, friends, co-workers, and community leaders to the disease, and the profound and repeated hurt from the bereavements so many of us have experienced over the past 10 years.

Another impact of AIDS on the Gay community is that of fear, the fear that seropositive persons have about whether they will develop AIDS and the fear among HIV seronegative persons about whether they will do something to contract HIV.

The impact of AIDS has been felt throughout the past decade as sexuality is always defined by its safety, and as we are reminded, everywhere it seems, of the virtues and importance of maintaining safer sex. The impact of AIDS has been cruel and harsh, and our losses of friends—taken from us too early in their lives by this disease—have been great.

But, in spite of all this bad news, AIDS has also brought out some good things in our community and among its members. Throughout Wisconsin—and time and time again over 10 years—literally thousands of Gay men, Lesbians, and their friends have walked, marched, donated

their time and money and volunteered their services to support the missions of AIDS prevention, research and care and just to help out their brothers, sisters, and children with the disease.

The capacities of AIDS organizations and the services they can provide have been multiplied many times over because volunteers have stepped forward and been willing to pitch in to help.

Gay bars, clubs, and businesses all over Milwaukee and all over Wisconsin have taken on important and lifesaving roles by educating persons about AIDS, by encouraging safer sex, and by fund raising on behalf of AIDS causes. Sociologists sometimes define a "community" as a group of people who are willing to help out one another in a time of need. Although AIDS has hurt our community, it has also done much to prove that we are a community whose members have shown how very much they will do to help each other.

What is behind us, though, and what lies ahead for AIDS in the next 10 years?

HIV Prevention Efforts Have Been Working in the Gay Community, But Much More Needs to Be Done

About 3,700 persons in Wisconsin have been diagnosed with AIDS since the start of the epidemic, and approximately 6,000 persons are living with HIV infection. Most are Gay men. Compared to the early- to mid-1980s, the number of new HIV infections—the number of people contracting HIV—has slowed, and this decline is because safer

sex has gradually become an accepted norm among most Gay men. A decade of AIDS prevention efforts has had an effect, and we know that sound prevention programs can work.

But, all is not good on the prevention front. While the number of new HIV infections has declined among older Gay men, it has remained high among young men who have sex with men and, especially, among young men of color.

Several studies confirm that 2% to 4% of young Gay men contract HIV infection each year. Projecting ten years into the future, that annual statistic means that 20% to 40% of young men will become infected by the time they reach their mid-adult years. Much better HIV prevention programs are needed to reach young Gay men, young men of color, and others who are hard to reach. Because AIDS is a long-term threat, Gay men of all ages, colors, and backgrounds need constant support to maintain their safer sex efforts.

A Gay and Lesbian community is part of a larger community, and our community has much experience in HIV prevention to share with others in the country and through the world. In many developing countries, the HIV epidemic is raging out of control, with tens of millions of people affected by the disease. In the U.S., AIDS has become one of the leading causes of early death among women, mostly disadvantaged women in our inner cities.

Successful approaches to HIV prevention originated in the Gay community—outreach, mobilization, organizing efforts, advocacy, and efforts to reshape sexual behavior norms to promote safety need to be shared with other communities threatened by AIDS. We have a responsibility to do this. Others have a responsibility to listen.

HIV Treatments Have Dramatically Improved But Are Still Not Good Enough

Through most of the past 10 years, antiretroviral treatments like AZT for HIV and AIDS held off illness for awhile but did not alter the fundamental course of the disease. About 18 months ago, the picture changed. A new class of drugs called protease inhibitors appeared. When used together with other antiretroviral drugs, these new combination therapies proved able to dramatically reduce the ability of HIV to reproduce in the body, to reduce virus quantity to very low levels, and to greatly improve immune functioning and health. The advent of protease inhibitor combination therapies has lowered death rates due to AIDS and has contributed immeasurably to the health and well-being of many persons living with HIV.

Yet, it is becoming clear that these new medications aren't cures. Some people don't respond to the new drugs, and others respond only initially. While many persons highly adherent to the regimens continue to benefit dramatically from them, others have difficulty sticking with the difficult dosage schedules and become resistant to the drugs effects.

The medications are expensive, and many states have begun to ration them for persons without insurance due to their cost. People have long hoped for the day when HIV disease would be a serious, chronic, but manageable illness. For some, it now is, although no one knows for sure how long the benefits of currently-available medications will last. For other persons, the available drugs aren't yet good enough, and the search for the right combinations—probably involving drugs still in development—will have to continue.

Still, the overall treatment picture is much brighter than it was just a few years ago, and continued research in HIV therapeutics is likely to bring still more advances in the decade ahead.

An HIV Protective Vaccine is Not Around the Corner

Few areas have received as much scientific attention, and have also proven as frustrating, as the search for a vaccine that can protect against HIV. To launch large scale trials of an HIV protective vaccine, it is necessary to first demonstrate that the possible vaccine will be safe and won't cause the disease.

It is then necessary to show—based first on small studies—that the possible vaccine confers some immunity to the disease. No candidate vaccines have yet made it past these hurdles with good enough initial success to warrant a large-scale vaccine trial in

Please See AIDS Page 15

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Light
Continued From Page 3

will be added connecting Monona Terrace through an all-season enclosed walkway.

The end product is going to be a dramatic urban setting that integrates some of the most beautiful historic aspects of Madison with an ultra-modern architectural masterpiece. This enhances Madison as a tourist destination, while making the city a more attractive place for people to live, learn, work and play.

One of the main themes of my administration will continue to be making Madison, an already great place, an even better place. An open door policy is one of the hallmarks of this mayor's office.

I meet regularly with citizens to make myself, and city government, more accessible to our residents. I've held numerous listening sessions at local libraries where everyone is invited to bring concerns about problems currently facing the city and those which might be confronted in the future directly to my attention.

I ask people to tell me what things the city is doing well and where improvement is needed.

One thing that is readily apparent from these sessions is the tremendous reservoir of talent and energy that exists in our neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods and families are the backbone of our community and getting people involved in strengthening them constitutes a high priority. One of the best ways to accomplish that is by enlisting volunteers in programs that foster positive relationships between caring adults and at risk youth.

The City has recently secured multi-year federal funding for some programs of this type. There are, however, many examples throughout the community of how individual involvement has improved conditions for themselves and others. Our city can only get better by having more people involved in defining the community and participating in it.

Budget times are very difficult. We find it necessary to find the delicate balance between many competing forces. As a city, I believe we must set our priorities and follow them to ensure the quality of life in Madison, while realizing that we cannot be everything to all people.


Madison is a city that celebrates diversity. One of my goals is to ensure that all groups are represented in city government and on city committees, boards and commission. Madison has an admirable record of support for organizations and community services that have a positive impact on Gays and Lesbians, including the Aids Support Network and Madison

Community United.
Congratulations to **The Wisconsin Light** for the prominent role it has played during the past decade in the effort to achieve equality for Gays and Lesbians. In honor of that achievement, and with best wishes for the future, I have declared Wednesday, November 5, 1997 as The Wisconsin Light Day in the City of Madison.


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Rudy Galindo: Gay, Latino Hero, Skates His Way into People's Hearts

San Jose, CA—It seems like a lifetime has passed, but it was just two years ago that Rudy Galindo was peddling his bicycle to practice at the local ice rink each day, barely scraping by to get his final shot at being a champion.

Today, Galindo marvels at how things have changed, thanks to one dramatic moment on the ice at the 1996 U.S. Figure Skating Championship.

He can still hear the applause, the hometown crowd in San Jose chanting his name, the adrenaline rush of the performance of his career. He had won.

"It was a miracle," Galindo said. "Everyone will always remember me for that moment; people come up to me all the time and say, 'I was there when you won. I cried.' Nothing can ever take that moment away."

What made it all the more fantastic was the way Galindo got there.

In the space of a few short, painful years, he lost his father to a heart attack, and his brother and a coach to AIDS. His doubles partner, Kristi Yamaguchi, dropped him to focus on her successful singles career. And Galindo, who had always been on the fringes of amateur skating, fared poorly at the 1995 nationals in Providence, Rhode Island.

Tired and heartbroken, he considered calling it quits.

But with the next year's nationals in his hometown, Galindo decided to give it one more shot.

With little money, he lived with his mother in a trailer park and rode his bike to the San Jose Ice Centre for practice.

"He had a different frame of mind and you could see a whole different person out there training," said Laura Galindo, his sister, coach and manager. "I didn't have to yell at him and tell him to do the programs. He did what he had to do."

What he did, coming out of nowhere to win the national title, put a storybook spin on his amateur career. In the process, he also became the first openly Gay and Mexican-American U.S. champion.

"My life has changed a lot. It's a lot better now. With all the struggles I've been through, I think I finally deserve a break, and this is a good break," he said. "I don't have to worry about where my next dollar is coming from."

Now a professional, Galindo is no longer eligible for competitions like the nationals or the Olympics. He skates in ice shows and participates in the pro competition circuit, very lucrative pursuits.

"I take care of my mom and my sister now," he said. "My dad did it for so many years, so now, I have a chance to do it for them, so it makes me feel good inside to do that."

Most recently, he skated to second place behind Victor Petrenko in the U.S. Professional Figure Skating Championships. He's also scheduled to appear in the world championships in Washington in December.

For Galindo, the years of training and sacrifice have paid off. No longer constrained by amateur rules and strict judging, he is clearly relaxed on the ice. In one of his newer programs, he wears a fringed red jumpsuit and performs to music from television's "The Brady Bunch."

"I'm so excited to be part of the professional tour. I've always watched it on TV and I always thought it would be great to make it to that level so you can be creative, and skate to music with words, and be able to enjoy it," he said.

Laura Galindo's life has changed, too. "I went from teaching 9-to-5 to traveling all the time and making sure he's doing what he needs to do," she said.

Looking back over the past two years, Galindo shakes his head in amazement. Then his face lights up with a smile and he talks about how lucky he is to be able

to do what he has always wanted to do: Perform.

"What gets me psyched is the applause at the end," he said. Knowing that from the beginning, you learn your program, you get the music, your choreographer, then you hear the audience applauding you and you get your final bow. I look forward to that. That's what keeps me going."

Three Faces of Rod

By Carmen Murguia

Rod Johnson, well-known African-American and Gay Activist and AIDS Educator in Milwaukee and throughout the country, is now a respected choreographer. Rod makes his debut work in "Struttin' Uptown" an original Motown review by CAPITA Productions, Inc., City At Peace In The Arts. In addition to his choreography, Rod was also recently



Rod Johnson

A Decade of Light

appointed to serve on CAPITA's advisory board.

Rod's lead performance as the Scarecrow in CAPITA's 1996 production of *The Wiz* is well remembered throughout the community.

"*The Wiz* was an outlet for me creatively. It was a good fit and people responded well to my performance in a way I hadn't imagined," Rod said. "This entire experience with CAPITA really en-

courages me to continue my life in the performing arts."

Rod celebrates 10 years of activism and salutes *The Wisconsin Light* on their 10th Anniversary!

CAPITA's original Motown Review, "Struttin' Uptown" premieres at the Lincoln Center of the Arts, 820 East Knapp St., Nov. 7, 8 & 14, 15. For ticket reservations, please call: (414) 299-0243.



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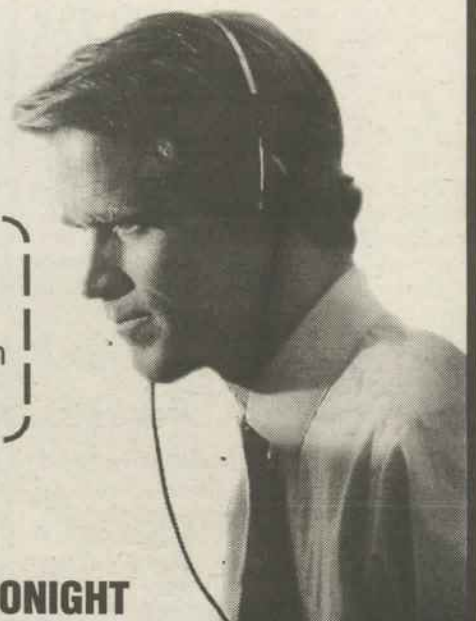


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Top Stories From The Decade Of Light

Below is a listing of what we consider to be our top 12 stories during the "Decade of Light." We have chosen not rank these stories. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Amendment 2 Overturned

There's an old saying "Be careful what you wish for, you may get it." The members of Colorado For Family Values probably weren't thinking about that adage when they proposed Amendment 2, an amendment to their State constitution, but they should have.

Amendment 2, which was an effort to deny Lesbians and Gays their civil rights, actually gave advocates of those rights their biggest judicial victory ever. Amendment 2 was approved by the Colorado electorate. It voided Lesbian and Gay civil rights laws and forbid the passage and enforcement of additional Gay rights laws by any unit of government within state boundaries.

Amendment 2 was one of a series of state wide ballot measures designed to curtail attempts to promote equality for Lesbians and Gays. Others states where voters considered these ballot questions include Oregon, Idaho and Maine. Some of these referendums would actually have mandated discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. In addition to these referendums there were efforts to put similar questions on the ballot in a number of other states.

The existence of this new Radical Right strategy was demoralizing to say the least. Suddenly hard fought victories were under attack. Resources especially money and time had to be poured into campaigns to turn these attacks back. Furthermore efforts to put these questions to the voters and the ensuing campaigns were so hate filled that in most cases, radio and TV stations refused to air ads put forth by their supporters. In state after state they inspired large increases in Les/Bi/Gay bashings. Amendment 2 was the only one of these referendums to win a majority of votes at the ballot box.

Its approval outraged Lesbians and Gays from coast to coast. A spontaneous boycott of the state and its products was underway within a few days after the last votes were counted. Colorado was now known as "the hate state." Mainstream newspapers like *The New York Times* ran editorials supporting the boycott and in Denver alone an estimated \$100 million in convention business was lost. That boycott had a chilling effect in other states where similar measures were proposed.

It wasn't until May, 1996 that the final votes on Amendment 2 were counted. Those votes came from the nine Supreme Court Justices sitting in Washington DC. The Court handed a stunning victory to advocates of Gay and Lesbian Civil rights. Not only did the Court overturn Amendment 2, but it issued a decision that said Lesbians and Gays were a legitimate minority whose rights could not be abridged by putting them up for a vote. In their 6 to 3 vote, the Justices made it clear that Amendment 2 and others like it were inspired by hate.

After that historic decision there were no more referendums to pre-empt advances in Lesbian and Gay rights.

Bar Fires in 1996

Two fires devastated two different Les/Bi/Gay communities in 1996, when the Hotel Washington burned down in Madison and the Main Club was destroyed in Superior.

In February, 1996, the landscape of Madison's Les/Bi/Gay community changed with the burning of the landmark Hotel Washington. The Hotel which had served as Madison's unofficial community center, contained a restaurant, four Gay and Lesbian bars,

an alternative music club and a barber shop.

Lesbians and Gays wept openly as they watched fire fighters battle the blaze. The community responded by raising thousands of dollars to help those who had lost their homes, or their jobs or both. After a valiant effort to find the financing to rebuild the Hotel, owner Greg Scheel finally gave up and announced that the landmark complex, which had attracted visitors from throughout the country, would not be rebuilt.

Superior and Duluth's Les/Bi/Gay community also suffered a blow when their most cherished bar, the Main Club was destroyed by a fire at the end of December in 1996. The blaze killed two men.

The Main Club was Northern Wisconsin's first Les/Bi/Gay bar. In fact many Gays and Lesbians in Northern Wisconsin "came out" at the popular club. the bar's owner,

Bob Jansen was able to find the financing to re-establish the club. The Main Club reopened in a new location in September of 1997.

Bill Clinton Elected

It was during Bill Clinton's initial campaign for President in 1992, that Lesbians and Gays became recognized as a serious political force. Angered by Conservative Republican rhetoric calling for war against them, they poured into Clinton's campaign offices by the thousands. They also donated millions to his effort.

The outpouring of support was so overwhelming that on election night, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist told the local media that "the biggest mistake the Republicans made was angering Gays and Lesbians. It cost them the election." During the Democratic convention in 1996, Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore told the Gay and Lesbian Caucus, "Without you we would not be asking for a second term because we wouldn't have won the first one."

The effect of the support Clinton garnered in 1992 had a major impact. When they next met to nominate a President, the Republicans toned down their speeches and tried as best as they could to look friendly even though they still denounced Gay rights in their platform. On the other side of the coin, in 1996, hundreds of openly Gay and Lesbian delegates were in Chicago at the Democratic convention.

While many Lesbians and Gays were disappointed by some aspects of the Clinton administration, particularly his inability to lift the ban on military service and his signing of DOMA, a federal anti-Same Sex marriage law, there is no question that Clinton has done more to advance Gay and Lesbian rights than all the Presidents who preceded him combined. Among his accomplishments all of which have been documented in *The Wisconsin Light* are:

- Increases in AIDS funding even while the rest of the federal budget was being cut.
- The appointment of qualified openly Gay and Lesbian individuals to positions at the highest levels of government.
- Using the resources of the White House in the battle to have the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) passed.
- Issuing an Executive Order revoking the long standing policy of denying Lesbians and Gays employment in sensitive positions both in government and with Defense contractors because they are "security risks."
- Revoking the administrative rule that kept HIV + foreigners from visiting the United States
- Allowing persecuted Lesbians and Gays to seek political asylum in the US
- Using the office of the President to campaign against state wide referendums that were targeted at Gay and Lesbian rights.

Dahmer

In late July, 1992, Milwaukee Gays and Lesbians were stunned by revelations that a serial killer had been living in their midst. Jeffery Dahmer, had killed at least 11 Gay men. As if these needless deaths weren't enough, the community was sickened by the discovery of heads, skulls and bones in his near West Side apartment.

Outraged built over the use of words like "homosexual overkill" to describe Dahmer's Please See Stories Page 12

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Stories
Continued From Page 11

actions. Death threats, bomb threats and bashings directed at Lesbians and Gays became wide spread.

When it was revealed that three Milwaukee Police officers had turned one of the victims, a young Laotian man, over to Dahmer after the teen had fled from Dahmer's apartment, Les/Bi/Gay rage began boiling over.

Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola launched an investigation and fired two of the officers over the protests of the Police Union. Dahmer was convicted and sentenced to hundreds of years in prison, where he himself was later killed. But the scars he left have still not fully healed five years later. Many members of Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay community will never again trust or forgive the Police Union due to its defense of the dismissed officers.

If any good can be said to have come out of the incident. It would be the actions of Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. Norquist appointed a "Blue Ribbon" panel to look at the question of Police-Community relations. The Les/Bi/Gay community pressed that panel to include a wide range of concerns from our community in its final report. The Commission did so and most of the recommendations made by Lesbians and Gays, such as sensitivity training on Les/Bi/Gay issues, became policy.

Domestic Partnership Advances

One of our first stories was about a Domestic Partnership ordinance in Madison. One of the last stories of our first ten years, was about a Domestic Partnership ordinance in Milwaukee.

In between those articles we have documented substantial growth in the number of cities, corporations and individuals who recognize the validity of Gay and Lesbian relationships. Hundreds of companies and dozens of cities now offer family leave and health insurance coverage for their partners to their Lesbian and Gay employees.

In Hawaii, the State Legislature passed a law mandating the provision of 60 "marriage like" benefits to domestic partners including Gay and Lesbian couples. That law came after the Hawaiian Supreme Court ordered the State to give compelling reasons as to why Lesbians and Gays should be denied marriage licenses.

The Court ruling sparked a spate of legislation in states, including Wisconsin, around the country to ban recognition of same sex marriages performed in other states.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue"

Millions of Lesbians and Gays were shattered when the President they helped to elect told them that he could not lift the ban on service in the military. Even before he announced his candidacy for President, William Jefferson Clinton had told **The Wisconsin Light** that he favored lifting the ban on military service.

But after the election opposition to lifting the ban mounted. Day after day there were news reports of jammed Capitol Hill switchboards and mountains of letters and telegrams pouring into the Congressional offices demanding that the ban not be lifted.

After a delay of months during which he hoped the opposition would subside, President Clinton finally recognized the political reality and tried to come up with a compromise plan to allow Gays and Lesbians to serve in the military as long as they were not open about their sexual orientation.

Under the Clinton plan, the military would not be allowed to ask anyone about their sexual orientation nor would they be allowed to launch investigations into service members unless there was an actual charge supported by hard evidence of sexual activities. It was called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue."

In the end though even that plan was scotched by Congress, which voted to codify existing discrimination in the military. All Clinton wound up with was an agreement that he could order recruiters not to ask anyone about their sexual orientation.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of Gay and Lesbian service members who came out thinking that the ban was about to be lifted suddenly found themselves facing discharge. Furthermore the rewritten regulations were vigorously enforced and the number of dis-

charges based on sexual orientation went up not down. After Congress was done, the policy was simply "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Many Gays and Lesbians felt betrayed by the man they had put in the White House, while others felt that the massive outpouring of calls, letters and telegrams from opponents of lifting the ban made it impossible for Clinton to keep his promise.

The President would keep his word on supporting ENDA, appointing Gays and Lesbians to the highest levels of government, increasing AIDS funding and working to end discrimination against Lesbians and Gays, but his image was badly damaged among America's Lesbians and Gays, many of whom would never forget or forgive him for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue."

ENDA

ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, has been an ongoing story since the founding of **The Wisconsin Light**. ENDA grew out of the Federal Gay Civil Rights Act which would have offered protection from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Realizing that Act would not pass, activists changed strategies and decided to concentrate on the issue of employment.

The strategy worked. In 1996, ENDA came within a vote of being approved by the US Senate. A new version of the bill was introduced in June of 1997 with 150 House sponsors, including Wisconsin Congressman, Tom Barrett, and 35 Sponsors in the Senate including both of Wisconsin's Senators, Kohl and Feingold.

Marching On!

The three national marches of the last ten years have played an important part in energizing our community. In October 1987, an estimated 500,000 Gays and Lesbians gathered in Washington. Then in April of 1993, a million of us marched past the White House demanding equality. The Stonewall 25 Celebration held in conjunction with Gay Games IV in June, 1994 attracted about 500,000 marchers.

Each of these events provided more than a spectacle. They were an opportunity for cross fertilization of ideas as people from around the country met and discussed their perspectives, they lent visible proof to the diversity of our community and they sparked new ideas, brought out new volunteers and gave us increased visibility that made a lie of the claim that we are less than 1% of the population.

Pride Is Busting Out All Over

The growth of Pride celebrations in Wisconsin has truly been remarkable. When **The Wisconsin Light** first began publication there was only a small festival in Milwaukee held at Cathedral Square, plus a celebration held in Superior. As we mark our 10th Anniversary, celebrations in Eau Claire, the Fox Valley and Madison had been added to the list.

Furthermore in Milwaukee, new leadership led by Bill Meunier and Roberta Nigge-meier was able to revamp its Pride week turning it into PrideFest and leading the celebration to the Henry W. Maier Festival Park the home of Summerfest. Since then, the numbers of attendees has continued to grow. PrideFest is well on its way to becoming a national LesBiGay festival.

Taking to the Airwaves and the Silver Screen

TV shows like "Northern Exposure," "Thirty Something," and "Roseanne" had recurring Lesbian and Gay characters. It was probably inevitable that eventually a show's title character would be a homosexual. Finally on April 30, 1997 it happened when Ellen Degeneres came out during her "Ellen Show."

But television isn't the only medium that's been used to expose middle America to Lesbians and Gays.. A number of hit movies that have done the same. "Philadelphia," "Longtime Companion," "Fried Green Tomatoes" "The Bird Cage" "Pricilla Queen of the Desert," and most recently "In and Out," and other films had audiences laughing.

Please See Top Stories Page 13



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Top Stories
Continued From Page 12

crying and most importantly identifying with Lesbian and Gay characters. Taken individually these films and shows have been small steps, taken together they have helped foster a climate of acceptance.

Tammy Baldwin Elected to State Assembly

Madison has been a hotbed of Lesbian and Gay political activity. In fact Dane County can rightfully boast that it has more openly Lesbian and Gay elected officials than any other city or even state in the country. So it was fitting that Madison elected Wisconsin's first Openly Lesbian State Representative, Tammy Baldwin.

Dane County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin had a tough battle to win the Democratic primary in Wisconsin's 78th Assembly District in September, 1992 but she triumphed with hard work and solid support from Gays, Lesbians and their allies.

That victory made Tammy Baldwin, the undisputed leader of Wisconsin's Lesbian and Gay community. It showed that there are no limits to what Gays and Lesbians can do. It gave Tammy a statewide platform to speak out about the injustices we face in every day life. She has used that platform well not just to speak about Gay related issues but to speak out on behalf of the working poor, minorities, the elderly, farmers and others who needed someone to give voice to their dreams and aspirations.

In 1997 Tammy Baldwin, "our Tammy" as so many in Wisconsin's Les/Bi/Gay community call her, began preparing a bid to run for Congress and achieve two more firsts, the first Openly Lesbian member of the US House of Representatives and the first woman elected to Congress by Wisconsin voters.

Wisconsin Fights AIDS

The AIDS epidemic continues to rage here in Wisconsin and across the country. Over the last ten years, *The Wisconsin Light* has run hundreds of stories about the progress and setbacks in fighting this devastating killer. We have printed the obituaries of too many fine men and women needlessly cut down and taken from us.

Far too often we have seen hopes raised and then dashed. For example, the last issue of our first ten years contained an article about the new "protease inhibitor" drugs. At least initially, these drugs had shown great promise in reducing if not eliminating the HIV virus in those who have been infected by it. Now it turns out that they are ineffective in at least half of those living with AIDS.

While we have been frustrated and saddened by this disease and the toll it has taken, we have also proudly printed articles about Wisconsin's response to the AIDS crisis. There is no question that the Badger state has done its share in the fight against AIDS.

The Wisconsin Medical College CAIR program led by Dr. Jeff Kelly is one of only three national centers for research on AIDS prevention and intervention. Kelly has been able to garner millions of dollars for innovative projects that are making a real difference in reducing the spread of AIDS and helping to improve the lives of those living with it.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin under the direction of its Executive Director, Doug Nelson has grown into the largest AIDS Service Organization in the Midwest. Furthermore, Nelson led the national effort to change federal AIDS funding formulas so that people living with AIDS in smaller so called "low incidence" cities would receive just as much care as those living in places like San Francisco and New York.

The BESTD Clinic and St. Camillus in Milwaukee, the Blue Bus in Madison, the Center Project in Green Bay and other organizations have provided testing, services and education for tens of thousands. The Rodney Scheel House in Madison is a model for AIDS housing projects around the country.

Together with thousands of others, the staff and volunteers of these organizations have provided a rich, varied, often based grass roots response to AIDS. We have seen members of our community take to the streets to focus attention on AIDS. We have seen up to 12,000 marchers raise up to a \$1,000,000 at AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Unlike some other cities and states, Wisconsin's AIDS organizations have not engaged in fights over funds and work well together. The Wisconsin Health Department's AIDS program led by Jim Vergeront has been praised for staying out of politics and working with the state's AIDS programs.

That is not to say that enough has been done. Only AIDS is totally vanquished will it be enough. Until the day that happens (and we firmly believe it WILL happen) we can take pride in knowing that the people of Wisconsin are working together in the fight against AIDS.

G/L Community Center Trust Fund Gets Tax Exempt Status

Milwaukee—The G/L Community Center Trust Fund, which was originally started by the Beer Town Badgers Corporation, is pleased to announce that it has received its 501 C(3) tax-exempt status. The new corporation was formed to more easily distinguish between the B.T.B. Corporation and the goals of the Trust Fund.

In the fall of 1995, the corporation started two funds to serve the G/L community. The first was the Endowment

Fund, which will continue providing assistance to a Community Center for the long-term.

The second is the Building Fund to help purchase or rent a space for a community center.

This past year the Trust Fund was able to make one grant from the Endowment Fund to a Milwaukee organization that met the qualifications of the Fund's charter. The Building Fund has also earmarked several hundred dollars for the new community center once it becomes operational.

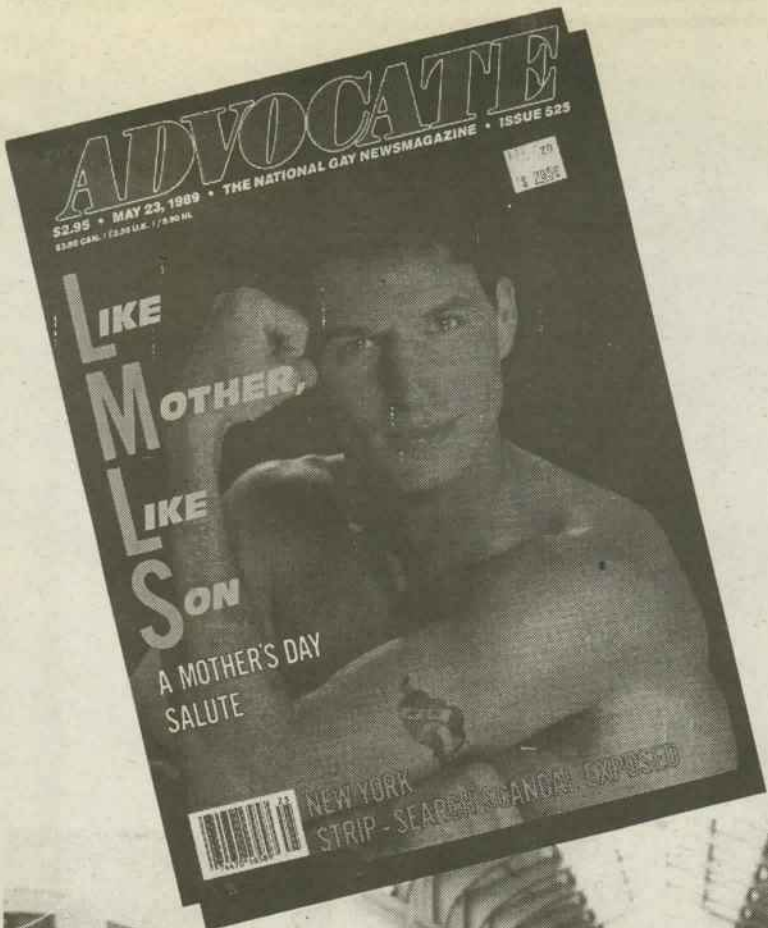
The organization is always looking for new members and volunteers to help us with our goals. Anyone interested can contact the Fund at (414) 643-1652.

The annual fund raising drive will be held this fall and gifts may be sent in care of P.O. Bo 1686, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

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COMMUNITY

Two Men and a Paper

Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson Bring a Light to Wisconsin

by ROGER A. EDMONSON

It's 7 o'clock on a Friday evening, and Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson slip into a booth at the Harvest House café. Johnson sighs in exhaustion. He's been up for almost 48 hours, doing layout, checking proofs, making a 50-mile round-trip run to the printer, and then, finally, picking up his lover so they can make deliveries to all their regular outlets.

The waitress ambles over and pours coffee. The two men clink their cups together gently and exchange relieved smiles. Another issue of *The Wisconsin Light* has been born, slapped on the ass, and sent on its way out into the world.

What would drive two otherwise sane and articulate men to undertake publication of a gay newspaper in Milwaukee, Wis., when several other groups have already tried and failed? For that matter, what would drive them to start restoring a run-down Victorian mansion, to pursue a relationship sparked by a chance ad in a newspaper, or to become gay activists in the first place? The answer is optimism, courage, a political awareness forged in the 1960s, and at least a touch of inspired madness.

"It almost never happened," Johnson chuckles, thinking back. "After Terry answered my personal ad, it took me 18 months and three false alarms to even get him to leave Pittsburgh and come out for a visit. He finally showed up on the Fourth of July while I was out watching the fireworks. I got home and found a cryptic note on the door, then spent the rest of the night looking for him. It was hard work."

Shortly after Boughner finally pulled up stakes and went West, the only gay paper in the Milwaukee area folded, prompting gay leaders in the city to call a powwow.

"It was a variation on the 'Little Red Hen' story," Boughner recalls. "Everyone wanted a paper, but no one wanted to do the work. The upshot was that Jerry and I scraped together \$3,500 and took the plunge."

The plunge got them in deep. Their printer reneged two days prior to press time when he found out that the paper was gay. Desperate, they took their proofs to a printer in Chicago who agreed to do the

job. And so the premiere issue was released—headlines missing, the layout in chaos, and several days behind schedule—but there for all to see.

Now, over a year later, the two men effectively are the paper. Boughner edits and writes, while Johnson handles photography, layout, and printing arrangements; together, they do the biweekly distribution. As for the editorial policy, Boughner puts it quite simply: "We strive to educate and inform, not to promote a particular point of view." To do this effectively, they have recruited a diverse group of contributors—the speaker pro tem of the state assembly, the wife of the ex-mayor, and people as far afield as Tokyo and New Delhi.

The education angle is a natural for Boughner, who taught history for 14 years at La Roche College, a small Catholic school on the outskirts of Pittsburgh. He enjoyed teaching but was really beginning to feel the urge to write. It was the content rather than the concept that brought Boughner into conflict with the Sisters of Providence, the order of nuns in charge of La Roche.

"I wanted to write gay history and gay love stories," he says. "I decided that I was too proud of being a gay writer to hide behind a pen name, so I told the sisters that I was gay. 'I'm out,' I said. 'Get out,' they said—or something to that effect."

He's had little cause to regret his decision. In addition to his work on *The Wisconsin Light*, Boughner has recently had a book, *Out of All Time*, published by Alyson Publications. He has had two other manuscripts accepted by his publishers and is working on a book about gay victims of the Holocaust. He firmly believes that gay people have much to be proud of and wants to do his part to correct the historical neglect of our segment of society.

Johnson, on the other hand, is a self-confessed career changer. He's tried everything from a two-year stint in Nigeria as a Peace Corps volunteer to teaching grade school and running a movie house. Starting up a newspaper seemed another link in the chain. His artistic and technical skills have made it possible for the two men to produce *The Wisconsin Light* basically

unassisted. They rely on outside services only for the actual printing.

Johnson does express some doubts about the project. "It's a bit like living with an elephant in your living room—in our case literally, since we publish it out of the house. It involves an incredible amount of time, taking Terry away from his other writing, bringing our restoration work to a halt, and making it virtually impossible to get away from town for more than a few days at a time. Financially it has also been exasperating—we have yet to turn a profit. Gay newspapers in the Milwaukee area have come and gone in the past, so people are skeptical about putting their advertising money with us, although recently this has begun to change."

Their status as the paper men makes Johnson and Boughner highly visible in the community. Milwaukee currently boasts 23 gay bars, and the men make an effort to stop in at each of them at least once a week.

"It's important to be on the scene," Boughner asserts. "People who would never dream of calling the office will talk if we are there. We hear lots of idle gossip, but we discover important stories as well."

One story they recently ferreted out centered on a report by the Milwaukee Human Rights Commission, which indicated no instances of violence against the gay and lesbian community. They found this difficult to believe, so they went out into the bars and culled enough material for a series on gay-directed violence.

Boughner and Johnson savor the rare moments of domestic privacy that come their way. "Terry and I somehow find time to cook and garden and sit in front of the VCR, arguing about Joan Crawford's acting ability—just like normal couples do," Johnson says with a wry laugh. "Our friends have been very forbearing—they plan dinners and parties around our deadlines so we can attend."

Although it is perhaps not quite the life they had envisioned when Boughner moved to Milwaukee to join Johnson, they seem to have few real regrets. They met through a newspaper, and now they're living in the middle of one. In their case, poetic justice has been well served. ■

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



"Having a dentist who is sensitive and knowledgeable about my HIV status gives me something to smile about."

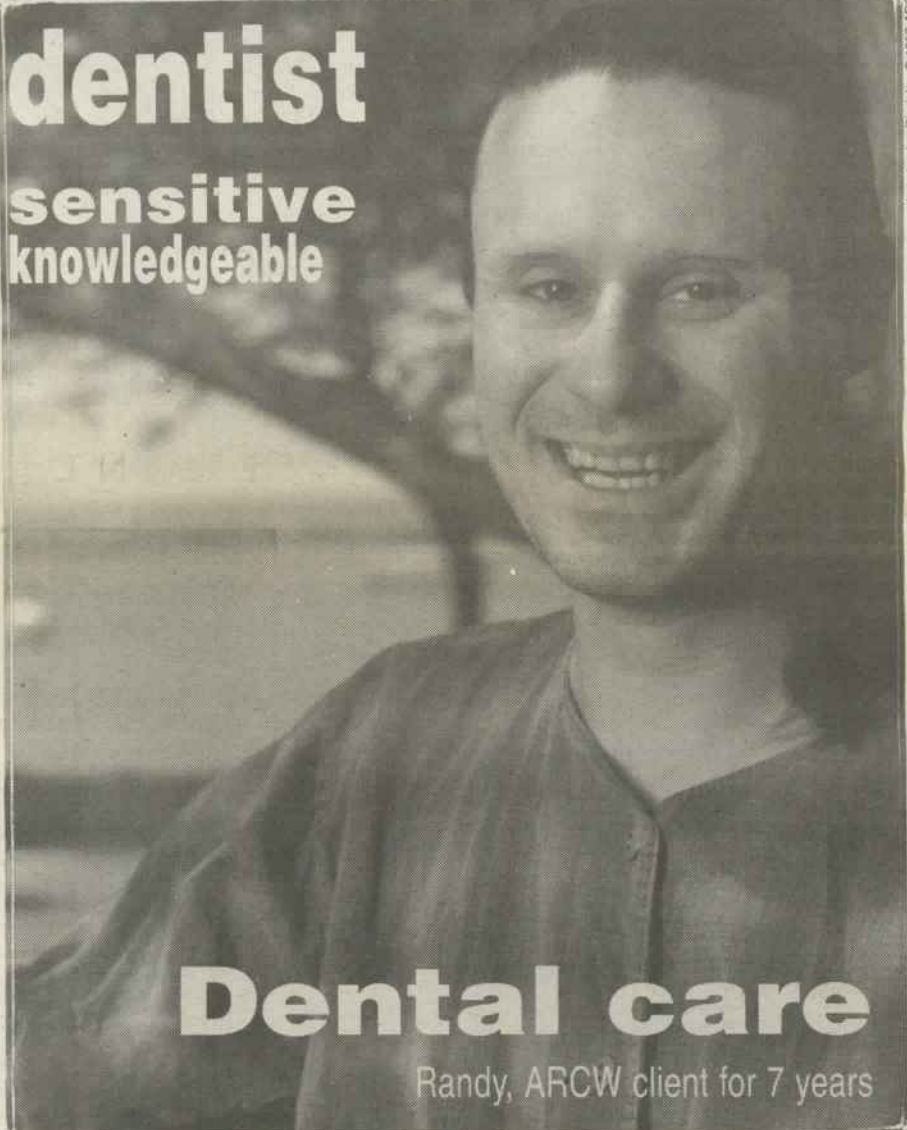


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State Representative Tammy Baldwin Reflects On Progress In The Last Decade

By State Rep. Tammy Baldwin

I cannot begin a reflection on the last ten years without first paying tribute to the many people who have contributed to the Wisconsin Light over the past decade.

The Wisconsin Light would never have succeeded without the commitment of Terry Boughner & Jerry Johnson, and the



Dane County Sup. Tammy Baldwin - 1988

many columnists, reporters, photographers, sales staff, graphic designers, distributors; all of whom have worked together to give us a decade of enlightenment.

Ten years has brought many changes for the LGBT community—in politics, popular culture, academia, private business, and activism. We've taken many steps forward, and thankfully, only a few steps back.

I want to begin by describing the incredible political strides that we have experienced (perhaps this reflects my personal interest in politics). In the last decade, the number of openly gay and lesbian elected officials has increased tenfold from 14 to 140 nationally.

Congressmen Barney Frank, Gerry Studds, Jim Kolbe, and Wisconsin's own Steve Gunderson stepped from the closet into the light. We elected Bill Clinton as our first President who was not only willing to publicly acknowledge the LGBT community, but had the courage to appoint a record number of Gays and Lesbians to federal positions, including Roberta Actenbun and Bruce Lehman to important subcabinet positions.

Although we have made great political strides forward, our progress has not been without a well-organized backlash. Even as a record 11th state passed a Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Law, opponents from the religious right began their efforts to "prohibit gay marriage" at the state and federal level.

In Wisconsin, so far we've been able to stop this unnecessary, mean-spirited legislation through an extensive organizing effort. Ten years has made us strong enough to meet this battle head on.

In popular culture, LGBT visibility has increased dramatically. Gay and Lesbian pop icons are enjoying success among both gay and non-gay audiences.

Ellen Degeneris is the most recent manifestation of the trend begun by k d lang and Melissa Etheridge.

At long last, gays and lesbians are being represented as an integral part of contemporary American life. In 1987, who would have believed that Roseanne's fictional mother would come out? What a difference these proud images will make for future generations both Gay and straight.

Again, progress in popular culture has not eliminated prejudice. In response to pro-gay employment policies, the Walt Disney Co. faced a boycott from religious conservatives who accused Disney of undermining "family values."

But through our struggles of the last ten years, we have learned to take action in the face of adversity. Our community organizations have fought back and supported pro-gay policies by purchasing Disney products and donating them to children's hospitals. We've turned an attack into an act of compassion.

In Wisconsin's universities, we've made great strides by winning a Gay and Lesbian studies certificate program at UW-Milwaukee.

The UW Alumni Association's GLB Alumni Council was founded and the UW-Madison Faculty Senate has a committee to address Gay and Lesbian issues.

We have not been able to win domestic partnership benefits for students and their partners, or for faculty and staff, and recently Yale University rejected Larry Kramer's multi-million dollar contribution for an endowed chair in Gay and Lesbian studies. But the organizing efforts on campuses across the nation are leading to new victories.

The battle for domestic partnership benefits continues to move forward, with UW-Madison's student government voting unanimously just last week to support them.

The corporate world is no longer a place in which coming out means being kicked out. More corporate leaders are pushing open the closet door. Workers locally and nationally are organizing LGBT employee groups. A growing percentage of Fortunes 500 companies have recognized that non-discrimination policies are simply good business. And more and more executives realize that their failure to recognize LGBT family issues will result in a loss of talented employees to the competition.

Our gains have come about because of individual courage and collective action. On the national level, organizational strength is growing with record numbers of members joining the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

In Wisconsin, strong state and local organizations have formed to help fight for our rights. Action Wisconsin provides coordination for statewide actions, while local groups like Human Rights League,

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry to Commemorate World AIDS Day

Milwaukee—On Sunday, November 30, the eve of World AIDS Day 1997, St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry will host its annual prayer service as well as a concert featuring nationally known musician Jeanne Cotter. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Admission is free. Those who attend are asked to bring donations of new toys or clothing items for children affected by HIV/AIDS. These gifts will be distributed during the holiday season.

Jeanne Cotter has won the ears, hearts and souls of listeners throughout the United States and Canada through her gifts of song-writing, singing, storytelling and piano performance. She has written and recorded several liturgical music collections with GIA Publications, Chicago, and has been an invaluable contributor to the music repertoire of the wider church.

Cotter will be joined at the event by two other vocalists involved in Mythic Rain Productions, the company she started a few years ago.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is "Give Children Hope in a World with AIDS." The aim of this theme is to em-

phasize that even persons under the age of 18 are affected—directly and indirectly—by HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day this year aims to increase understanding of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, its global dimensions and that it continues despite new hope in treatment.

It emphasizes promoting action and sound policies to prevent HIV transmission and to minimize the epidemic's impact on children, their families and their communities. One hundred ninety one countries around the world are celebrating this day to draw attention to the AIDS pandemic.

In this country, World AIDS Day will link communities in a unified observance of dimming lights. In Washington, DC, the White House will dim its lights from 7:45 to 8:00 p.m. on December 1 as a visual demonstration of the commitment to fight against the AIDS pandemic and in tribute to those living with HIV/AIDS and to those who have died from AIDS.

For more information about the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry commemoration of World AIDS Day on November 30, contact Kathryn at (414) 259-4664.

Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, GLEEDA, Positive Voice, Pioneers, and GALVANize have formed to build a grassroots movement.

Despite our growing numbers, the religious right has increased its membership faster. The next ten years require a renewed effort so that we can move forward.

The past decade has proved our move-

ment's central organizing strategy is on target—that coming out and visibility is a powerful force for change. Our visibility in every aspect of society leads to a stronger tomorrow. I know that the next ten years will see even more progress toward LGBT equality. We can do it together.

As Harvey Milk said "Come out, come out wherever you are."

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry

1997 Holiday Ornament

SECOND EDITION



This second edition ornament beautifully captures a symbol of peace... the white dove holding two long stemmed calla lilies. Intertwined with the dove is a flowing red ribbon representing the international symbol of AIDS awareness. This collector's edition ornament is solid brass with a 24 kt. gold finish and brightly colored enamels.

Please reserve ___ holiday ornaments for me!

Ornament price: \$12.00 each. Shipping: 1-10 ornaments \$3.95, 11 or more \$5.95. Please make checks payable to: St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry. Send check or money order to: St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, 10101 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53226. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. For more information call: (414) 259-4664.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

AIDS

Continued From Page 8

the United States, even though some vaccine projects are underway in developing countries.

The problem that has confronted HIV vaccine researchers is that HIV mutates rapidly creating many different viral strains. In the case of a more successful viral vaccine—that for the flu—vaccines are developed to target the particular strain expected to be worse in a given flu season.

The flu vaccine works against those flu strains but will not protect well against others. In the case of HIV, there are so many different and changing viral types that it has proven impossible—thus far—to target them with a protective vaccine. Most researchers believe that vaccines, when developed, are likely to confer only partial and—not total—immunity. Much work remains to be done if we are to see an even partially-effective HIV vaccine.

**Societal Change and Community Structures
Can Reduce the Threat of AIDS
in the Years Ahead**

Preventing new HIV infections in the Gay community requires more than teaching people the technical skill of knowing how to use a condom right. Motivation to protect ourselves and to assume the responsibility of protecting our part-

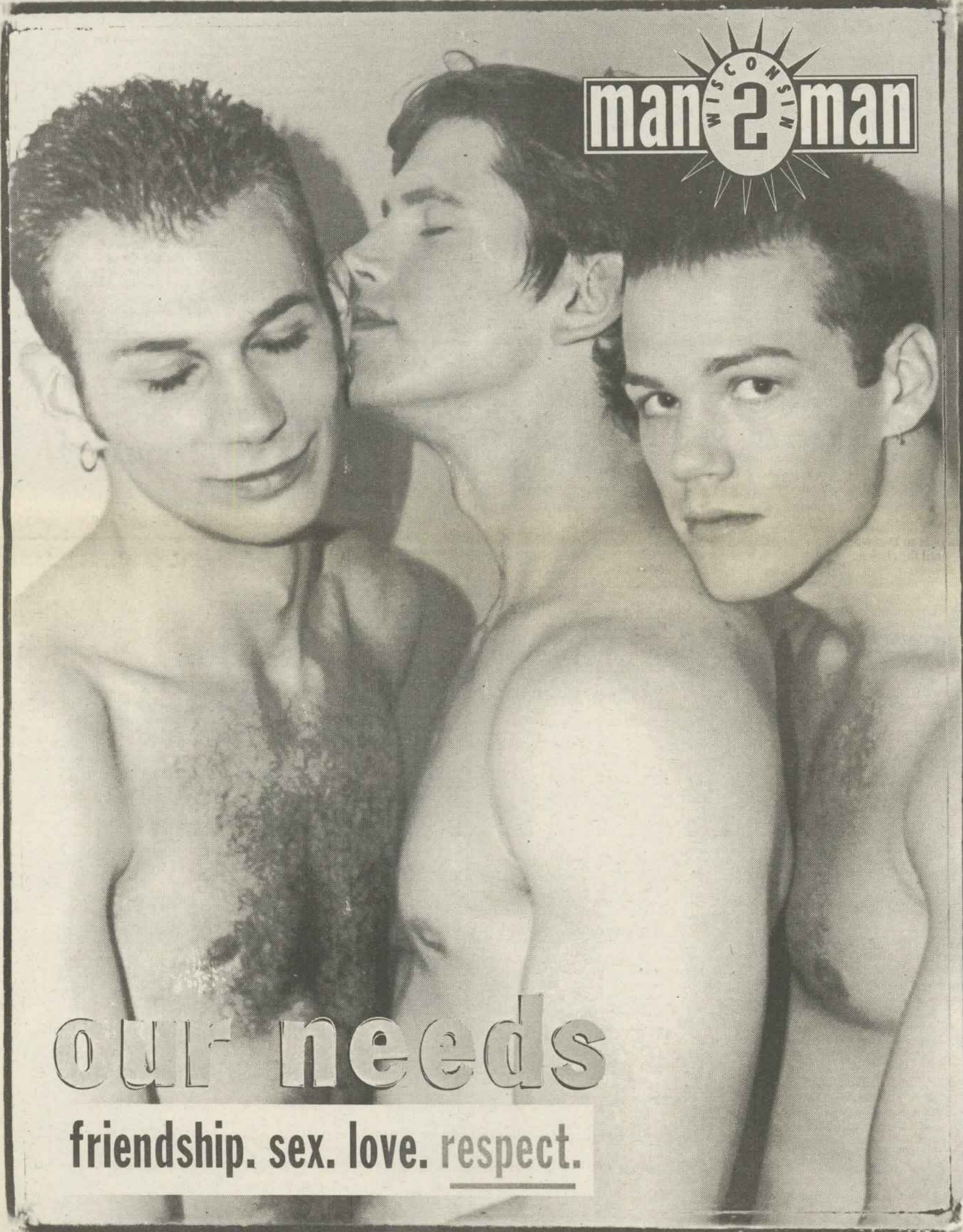
ners is grounded in the context of personal and community pride, self-respect, and knowledge that we deserve long, healthy lives and good relationships. Only when young people just coming out—and those who have been out for a long time—learn to view themselves and their relationships with pride, is there a foundation in place for effectively stopping AIDS.

AIDS will not flourish in a community characterized by collective pride; by social structures that recognize and support stable, loving, life relationships for couples who want them; and by successful programs that prevent HIV infection among its young people.

Over the past 10 years, **The Wisconsin Light** has been a strong, clear, credible voice in the Wisconsin Gay and Lesbian community. **The Wisconsin Light** is much more than a newspaper. It is an important community resource, defining as its mission the reporting of critical AIDS prevention issues, treatment advances, and care needs.

All of us at the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) of the Medical College of Wisconsin congratulate **The Wisconsin Light** on its tenth anniversary, but—more than that—deeply thank you for the work you do and the commitment you have ore than that—deeply thank you for the work you do and the commitment you have made to our community.

Editor's Note: The author is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Director, Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) Medical College of Wisconsin



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Publisher
Continued From Page 4

getting advertising for us in those early years.

And absolutely, there is Ron Geiman. Besides being a through-going professional, he is an incredibly decent man. It has seldom been my good fortune to meet such an outstanding individual, one thoroughly deserving of our respect, not only for all he has done for our community, but for selfless dedication to our cause. Ron helped, encouraged, listened, advised and in a thousand ways did yeoman service.

When the paper finally got underway, Ron carried a boxed greeting in *In Step*, saying, "Together We Cover Wisconsin." That was deeply appreciated.

Admittedly, when the decision was made by Terry and I to begin publishing *Wisconsin Light*, we were immediately "in over our heads." Perhaps, fortunately (?), didn't realize it. Terry was a fine writer and loved to write. A plus. He had also worked with Pittsburgh's Gay paper, *Out*. Another plus. I withdrew my life savings of \$3400 from a local savings and loan and we were ready to publish a paper. So we thought.

We hired a local attorney to do the necessary legal work, hired a member of the Cream City Business Association to do the layout and typesetting and arrange for a printer.

While the first issue had a fair amount of advertising, with the second issue onward, advertising was scarce. There was certainly not enough revenue to pay the printing bill and other costs. Quickly, the \$3400 was depleted. Until the phone ads started in March, 1990, the paper's financial condition was dire.

I was determined, however, that *Light* would succeed. I had sent out scores of solicitations to businesses seeking advertising. Contacts were made to little avail. The paper was new, unproven and, therefore, for many—GLBT and straight—wasn't worth serious consideration.

What few advertisers we had, that first year were the life blood of the paper. But with slow payments by some advertisers and a few not paying at all, the struggle to keep the paper alive was only beginning.

Terry and I suffered enormously while trying to keep the paper alive during those first several years. Our health, food on the table and a roof over our heads became second in importance.

Cases in point:

Though I had hired someone to do the layout of the paper for the first issue, that didn't work out. Terry and I were expected to be there while layout was being done to approve all layout prior to and after it was done. Typesetting was being done ten miles away, which didn't allow for any changes in headline sizes or column widths.

I also realized that the person we had hired knew very little about layout and had hired a second person to help. It was obvious to me that I needed a "crash" course to learn layout techniques.

From the second issue to this issue you are reading, I have done the layout—with old fashioned wax and paste method.

(To date, the paper has never been able to afford a printer with 11 1/2" x 17" print-out capacity.)

In addition, there were some serious layout problems with the first issue, including a missing headline and front page lead story.

With the first issue out, we had to find someone new to do the typesetting. As we did so often when we needed good advice, we went to Ron Geiman. He came to the rescue, suggesting Dan Schramm who did *In Step*'s typesetting. His rates were low—a requirement for us and he had the time to do the work we required. Plus, he had light tables, waxes and other equipment necessary for me to do the layout at his place.

Dan is another person who deserves a hearty round of applause from us all. Though he keeps a low profile, his work for the community, much of it gratis, is extensive. He's one of those in our community who go about unheralded, doing what needs to be done.

This is how it was done.

Terry typed the articles on a typewriter (the old-fashioned kind). The typed sheets were sent over to Dan who had to re-type them all into his typesetting machine. And so it went—until the change.

I was at work, but as Terry tells it, one day he heard a knock on the back door. He opened it to find Jenean Sharpe with two "burly types, who were carrying a computer. She was having some work done on the interior of her house, she said, so could she leave her computer at our place? We could use it, she said.

I would never have let it in the house. I'd have been afraid to have been responsible for it. But, as I say, I wasn't home.

Terry told her to bring it right on in, which is surprising since he'd always said that when it came to writing, it was "Forward to the quill pen." As it turned out, it was to him like a new toy. Things speeded up considerably.

It quickly became evident that we needed a bigger computer. Where was the money to come from? The Milwaukee AIDS Project had already committed to a year's worth of ads. We went to them and asked if they could pay for the whole year at once? They agreed. The check arrived the next day and two weeks later, we had our computer.

In the meantime, however, finances got worse as the months passed. Our checks were bouncing, while accounts receivable grew and slow payments by some accounts continued. What to do? Pull the ads for slow account and lessen future income or somehow tolerate the situation while trying to collect faster.

Sleepless, worrysome nights became the norm. I told Terry little of this as I didn't need both of us in total worry. This went on for a couple of years or more. It wasn't until the third year of publication that the financial condition improved—in the nick of time. More on that later.

But that was not the worst of it. I had a part-time job which worked well in putting out the paper. I could have the time off I needed to shoot photos, put the paper together and deliver it.

To have that time, it helps to have an understanding boss, one who has the community at heart. Don Bohatka of Video Adventures Superstore deserves our thanks.

(I continue to deliver the paper in Milwaukee to this day although I have had some help with some portions of the route in the past.)

One of the people who has helped with delivery—and in so many other ways as well—is Tim Hancock. Week after week, Tim would come over to our house. His back was giving him terrible pain, but he smiled through it and with his usual enthusiasm, sorted and toted papers around. Tim's family.

Much of the money that I made at my job was going into the paper, which created major problems in day-to-day-living for Terry and myself.

One Christmas Eve things were bad, really bad. Terry and I went out. There is a man in this community whose name I may not say or identify him in anyway, but while we were out that Christmas Eve, he pulled me aside and stuffed money, a lot of money, into my hand. I nearly cried. There was dinner the next day.

Another time, Karen Lamb, the wife of then Milwaukee Mayor Henry W. Maier, came to our house unannounced. An angel must have sent her.

I wasn't home. She asked Terry if she might get some cold milk to drink from the refrigerator. Moments later, out she came and asked where the food was? All she could see was a can of string beans.

She took Terry and off they went to the Milwaukee AIDS Project's Food Pantry. No one's supposed to go behind the counter, but Karen whirled in and bags in hand, started taking things off the shelf.

The paper had survived—again.

But another crisis loomed.

The house I had bought in 1980 in Brewers' Hill was paid for, fortunately. However, with the paper draining money, I got behind in paying the real estate taxes. Foreclosure loomed.

A Gay friend and neighbor found out about our dilemma and, with himself and two other neighbors chipping in—and what I could get up—the taxes got paid.

This was about the time when we got behind in our printing bill—way behind. It was the Pride Issue. It was printed, but we couldn't pick it up until the bill got paid—in cash.

Three bar owners came to the rescue. The bill was paid and the paper got out. I guess that's one of the reasons why I get upset when people complain about the bar owners. In this business you get to learn a lot and one of the things I've learned over the years is that the bar owners do more, a great deal more, than anyone knows.

Eventually, things got better. The phone ads kicked in. Some people complained about them, but neither Terry nor I cared. The news was important to get out.

There's been humor that leavened the frustration.

For example, Terry was on TV with a panel that had an "ex-Gay" on it. On camera he said that he was "So glad he was straight because now the men took him hunting in the woods."

Afterward, outside the station, he told me that, well, yes, he did still have "thoughts." It wasn't too long before I heard he'd gone to New York to live with his new boyfriend.

There's Sen. Herb Kohl. Every time Terry calls his DC office to get a comment from him about something, the response is always the same. "I'm sorry, the Senator is not available. He's on the floor."

I have met a lot of famous people: Jesse Jackson, Tipper Gore, Carol Channing, David Mixner, Greg Louganis, Bette Midler, Magic Johnson, Sen. Russ Feingold, the late Mayor Maier, current Mayor Norquist, David Clarenbach, Tammy Baldwin and the list goes on and on.

There are others, people like Vic Eliason and Mark Belling. Though I've never met them, Terry says that on the train of thought, they're having cocktails back in the caboose.

We have gone from 12 pages to a regular run of 32. Revenue is good, but all of it goes back into the paper in some way or another—equipment, paper, printing bill, phone, etc. Terry and I have never paid ourselves.

I remember one time when he wanted me to pay for cigarettes from the paper's account. His reasoning was that if he didn't have cigarettes, there'd be no paper. He got his cigarettes, alright, but not from the paper's account.

In these past 10 years, we've had our rough spots, but there've been the good times, too. The best of times revolve around the friends we've made, ones I've mentioned above and a host of others as well.

For example, this Anniversary Issue has been a real grind to get ready. My special thanks to Bill Meunier who has spent countless hours compiling the history of the years. He has done a magnificent job and has our most profound thanks.


Thanks, too, to John Jahn who labored over getting the negatives ready for the printer. He saved me precious hours.

So many, many people. Thanks to Jon Martin and his crew at Landmark. Fantastic work!

Let me thank Miller Brewery and Tom Reed. Nationally and locally, Miller has been and is on the fighting front of civil rights for all people.

But don't you see? It's all these people who have made the crises endurable. That's why this Anniversary Gala—or Gayla—must be for the Cream City Foundation. It is the Foundation that makes possible the work of so many other organizations in our community. It follows the motto, "Service to Others is Service to One's Self."

Am I glad we did it? Oh, you bet. It's been troubling, funny, frustrating, nerve-racking and a whole lot more. One thing, however, it's never been and that's dull.




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How Far We've Come in the Last Ten Years and Where We Must Go in the Future

Commentary by Sloan C. Wiesen
As we reach the end of 1997 -- and the 10th anniversary of *The Wisconsin Light*—it is a good time to take stock of our movement, and our national organizations.

A decade ago, we were on the cusp of enormous growth and activity within the Gay movement as the AIDS epidemic galvanized many of us to come out and take action, sometimes in the streets. From this terrible pain and adversity came a large measure of good. Today, we are strong and thriving, more integrated as people into the everyday fabric of society.

Yet even with these gains, we still face discrimination, we still suffer horrendous hate crimes and we still remain outside the protection of federal civil rights laws. Much work remains for each of us to do. Fortunately, we have reason to be optimistic.

The Way We Were: 1987

This was the year of the second march on Washington for Lesbian and Gay equal rights, which drew hundreds of thousands to our nation's capital in support of a lengthy agenda that included equal rights.

A year earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in *Bowers vs. Hardwick* that Gay people had no constitutional right to privacy. We were in the seventh year of the AIDS epidemic, yet our nation was governed by a President who could barely bring himself to say the word.

Wisconsin was the only state with a civil rights law that included sexual orientation. Efforts to amend federal civil rights laws to add sexual orientation were in their second decade with no movement in sight. AIDS discrimination was legal in most of the country, and, indeed, many Americans were still unclear about how HIV was transmitted.

The federal response to the epidemic was far from adequate, and our community had long ago recognized that no one was going to help us until and unless we helped ourselves.

We were deeply involved in taking care of our own, doing the direct service work, the education, the prevention, the caring for our sick and dying.

By the mid-1980s, our community had recognized that we had to make the public more aware of our issues, and we had to become more politically active as citizens. More non-Gay Americans, in and out of our legislatures and Congress, needed to hear our voices. We needed to help them begin to understand our concerns about AIDS and civil rights as fundamental human rights—not as some sort of "special interest," but as part of the public interest.

The Human Rights Campaign (then the Human Rights Campaign Fund) occupied a small office in downtown Washington. The space had the scruffy, underdog character of many non-profits, especially one engaged in a David-and-Goliath struggle against better-funded adversaries.

Even today, as the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization, HRC is still on the "David" side of the equation—but both David and Goliath are a whole lot bigger.

The Way We Are: 1997

In the last decade, HRC and a wide range of coalition partners at the local and national level have come together and changed the laws of our nation for the better. Among our accomplishments:

- the Americans with Disabilities Act, protecting disabled Americans from discrimination, including protections against AIDS-related discrimination;
- the Ryan White CARE Act to answer the call of local communities needing resources to care for men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS;
- the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the first federal law to include sexual orientation in its scope, mandating that the FBI collect data on hate crimes based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and disability;
- election of the first President of the United States ever to include Lesbian and Gay people in his vision of America;
- victory over the wave of statewide anti-Gay ballot measures pushed by the extreme right in the early to mid-1990s;
- victory over numerous amendments in Congress aimed at singling out Lesbian and Gay Americans and people with HIV and AIDS for discrimination;
- inclusion of Lesbian health concerns in the Department of Health and Human Services efforts to advance women's health;

- inclusion of sexual orientation in the office non-discrimination policies of a majority of members of both houses of Congress, crossing party lines;
- the first vote in Congress on a civil rights bill to protect Americans from sexual orientation discrimination, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA);
- victory in the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Romer vs. Evans*, overturning Colorado's anti-Gay Amendment 2. The case has also laid the groundwork for future court victories in finding that anti-Gay sentiment is not a sufficient reason for a government to deny Americans the equal protection of our laws.

While contributing to all this hard work, the Human Rights Campaign grew enormously. We now have more than 200,000 members and an annual budget of more than \$10 million. In the 1986 election cycle, HRCF's campaign contributions totaled just over \$250,000. In the 1996 election cycle, HRC's contributions totaled \$1.1 million—and 83 percent of the candidates we supported won.

Our field organizing and lobbying efforts have also expanded, and both have played a central role in the progress our community has made over the last decade. HRC has also taken the lead in sponsoring professional, independent public opinion research that has given our community a window into the thought processes of Americans.

The signs are hopeful. Support for equal rights for Lesbian and Gay Americans continues to rise, including broad support for ENDA in particular—crossing party lines and geographic boundaries. Americans overwhelmingly believe Gay people should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities.

Support for basic fairness in the workplace is so strong, in fact, that most Americans are surprised to learn that federal law does not yet prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

According to HRC's most recent bipartisan poll, conducted in April, 68 percent of Americans support passage of ENDA when informed of the current lack of legal protection from job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Furthermore, support for basic civil rights for Gay people is encouragingly strong across religious denominations.

For example, a November 1996 poll commissioned by HRC and conducted by Greenberg Research Inc. found that Christians favor a measure like ENDA by a margin of more than two to one when informed of the current lack of legal protection. The poll indicated strong support among Protestants as well as Catholics.

Today, we have a President who will be the first ever to address a Gay and Lesbian civil rights event. (President Clinton will deliver the keynote address at the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner on Nov. 8.) And though no one can deny the disappointments of the last few years, the progress under this administration has been remarkable.

President Clinton has:

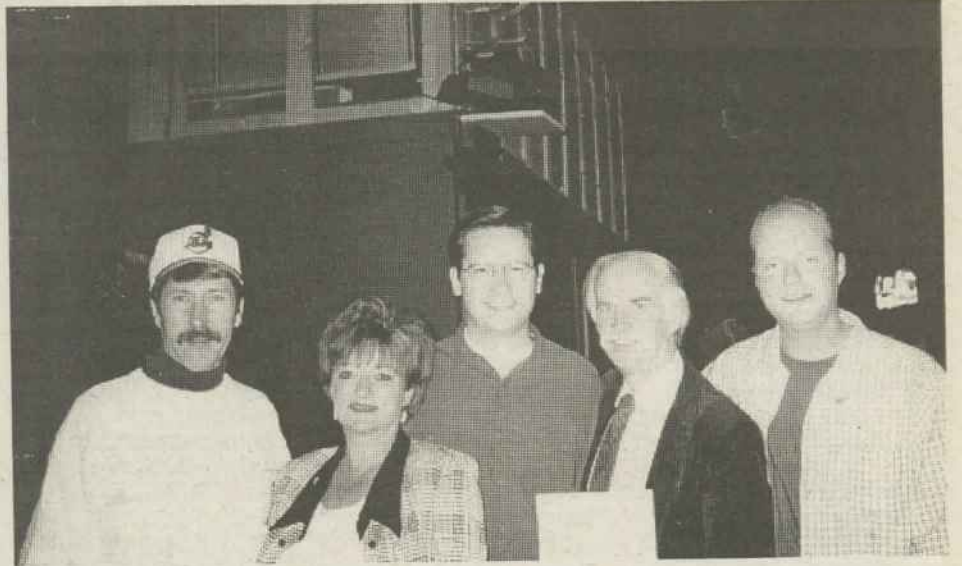
- ended discrimination based on sexual orientation in the issuing of security clearances, as well as in civilian federal employment;
- secured record levels of AIDS funding;
- endorsed and worked for passage of ENDA—making him the first president ever to support a piece of civil rights legislation to include sexual orientation;
- and made high-level appointments of openly Gay people to his administration—based on their merits as outstanding public servants, not their sexual orientation.

Since 1987, 10 more states have joined Wisconsin in including sexual orientation in their civil rights laws, and, depending on the outcome of ballot measures in Maine and Washington state, there may soon be 12.

That still leaves most states without protection from such discrimination. And while we made history by bringing ENDA within one vote of Senate passage last year, it is not yet law. Also, denial of equal rights in marriage and discrimination in the military still persist. And hate crimes based on sexual orientation—unlike many other types of bias crime—are not yet against federal law. And we must not forget that the AIDS crisis is far from over.

**Millennium Passes:
Where Will We Be in 2007?**

It is not too much of a stretch to predict



Madison Salutes the Wisconsin Light — The picture above was taken at Kirby's Klub during our Men Out Loud CD release party there. Members of Madison Mayor Susan Bauman's staff were on hand to present *Wisconsin Light* publisher, Jerry Johnson, with a proclamation declaring Wednesday, November 5 as *Wisconsin Light Day* in the City of Madison. Shown above (L-R) are Ryan Mulcahy, and Brenda Perry of Mayor Bauman's staff, openly Gay Alderman, Mike Verveer, Jerry Johnson and Kirby's Klub owner, Kirby Sheldon. The *Light* extends its sincerest thanks to Mayor Bauman and to Kirby's Klub.

that by 2007, Congress will have passed—and President Gore will have signed—the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Building on that foundation, our federal legislators will also have passed bills to protect Americans from discrimination in housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

In the wake of the legalization of same sex marriage in Hawaii, the U.S. Supreme Court will have found the 1996 anti-Gay Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.

The court will also have overturned the military's anti-Gay policy, recognizing—finally—that all our troops should be held to the same high standards of conduct.

HIV and AIDS may very well still be with us. But all Americans will have access to life-prolonging therapies and care that are currently giving hope to some of us while remaining out of reach for many of our most vulnerable citizens.

There is a strong likelihood that we will have developed a vaccine, and perhaps even a cure.

Of course, none of the above will happen without the work of concerned citizens. As Republicans and Democrats, people of all faiths and races, women and men, and people of all orientations, we will each have to do our part. We must join our local and national organizations.

We must elect good people across the political spectrum to serve at all levels of government.

We must keep in contact with our lawmakers—for when they don't hear from us, they are surely hearing from those who are promoting discrimination against us.

We must continue to come out to our families, and our families must continue to actively come out for fairness.

And what of the Human Rights Cam-

aign? HRC will continue working through grassroots organizing, advocacy, public education and campaign support to help our lawmakers become more fair-minded—and to help more fair-minded people become our lawmakers.

By then, HRC will surely have reached its goal of more than one million members—Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and heterosexual alike—all committed to consigning discrimination based on sexual orientation to the history books.

Working together, we will make it so—for all Americans.

Editor's Note: The author is communications coordinator for the Human Rights Campaign. HRC is the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that Lesbian and Gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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T H E S P O T L I G H T

Gutzman & Co. Brilliantly Recall the Life and Music of Noel Coward

By John A. Jahn

Noel Coward, the legendary Gay playwright, composer, song writer, actor, novelist, and filmmaker was brought back for one last on-stage performance at Centennial Hall at the Central Library, Downtown Milwaukee, on the evenings of October 24-26.

"Coward's Last Concert," as the show was billed, seemed to this reviewer to transport the audience back to the earlier part of this century when Noel Coward was making headlines around the world, and not all of them flattering.

As Noel Coward, Dale Gutzman was simply terrific and mesmerizing. The musical play his production company presented us gave Gutzman center stage for virtually the entire program, and if you didn't buy into his impersonation, you were really in for a looong night!

But that would be difficult to do, because Gutzman was not only dead-on in accent and mannerisms, but he also bears a resemblance to the real McCoy...if you squint a little.

Gutzman had to memorize huge amounts of both spoken and sung verbiage - and deliver it in a sometimes rapid-fire style which would leave many of us

totally breathless. Remarkably, there was nary a stumble, and thus Coward's wit, cynicism and sarcasm freely flowed in a highly entertaining way.

The performance retold Coward's interesting life of ups and downs, affairs, triumphs, and bitter defeats. We saw both his stage persona as well as his real self - someone tormented by a life bereft of a single, loving relationship.

The stage didn't change between acts. Rather, it was set up to appear as a night club sometime in the '30s or '40s perhaps. The other dozen or so characters mostly acted as Coward's audience, though some had supporting singing and dramatic roles to fill as well. For the most part, it was a "one-man show," however.

Musical numbers included some 27 of Coward's songs, ranging from the highly comedic "Mad Dogs and Englishmen," to the campy "Forbidden Fruit," the patriotic "London Pride," the languid "Mad About the Boy," to the perfect closer, "I'll See You Again." The songs were for the most part superbly sung and well choreographed.

Coward's life and times were retold mostly by Gutzman in character in an effective narration, though it would have

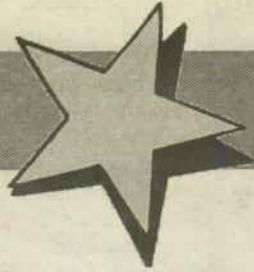


Terri and Corliss - Two of our absolutely all time favorite singers will be performing at the "Decade of Light" Party at the Milwaukee Hilton on Sunday November 9. The singing duo will provide reception and dinner music at the biggest party of the year. The celebration of **The Wisconsin Light's 10th Anniversary** is a benefit for the Cream City Foundation. Other performers include the nationally known, Lesbian Disco Diva, Joi Cardwell, the fab and hunky LA group, Men Out Loud, former Falcon video star, Chase Hunter and nationally famous DJ, Billy Caroll. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door or you can purchase a VIP ticket which includes dinner and drinks for \$100.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 276-6355.

to this could have been made up for by sacrificing a couple of the more marginal musical numbers.

Nevertheless, Gutzman Productions' "Coward's Last Concert" was a fine recounting of the life and talents of this ex-

been interesting to have introduced a little more variety into the show by dramatically recreating some of the fascinating episodes from his life. The extra time allotted traordinary man, as informative as it was amusing and entertaining.



Tune Reviews

Joi Cardwell's New CD is a Tour de Force of Creativity

SOUL TO BARE
Joi Cardwell
Eightball Records

By John A. Jahn

Joi Cardwell continues to earn her coveted Diva of Dance credentials with the release of the CD single containing "Soul To Bare" and "Stop and Think." Both songs are taken from her forthcoming album, "Joi Cardwell."

Cardwell is an exceptional performer, possessing not just physical beauty and a lovely voice, but also intelligence and creativity. Unlike many pop stars, she doesn't just churn out covers of other people's compositions. She also writes her

own material, and superbly well, too.

The single version of Cardwell's newest CD contains two edits of the title song in "single," radio-playable format - one a little under 5 minutes, the other just over 3 1/2 minutes long.

Following them is a 13 1/2 minute "club mix," and finally a 9 1/2 minute "dub." The total effect of all this is to let you know you've heard everything there is to hear in this song. Essentially, "Soul To Bare" is a typical late-'90s-style pop/dance tune, one of clean sound and top-notch production.

The CD also contains a "bonus track" of a 5 1/2 minute dance tune called "Stop and Think." You won't do much soul-searching listening to "Soul To Bare" and "Stop and Think," but you will find yourself bop-bop-bopping along!

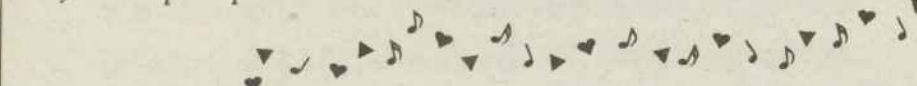
Joi Cardwell will be performing live at **Wisconsin Light's 10th Anniversary** party on November 9.

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus presents

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 3:00 P.M.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee



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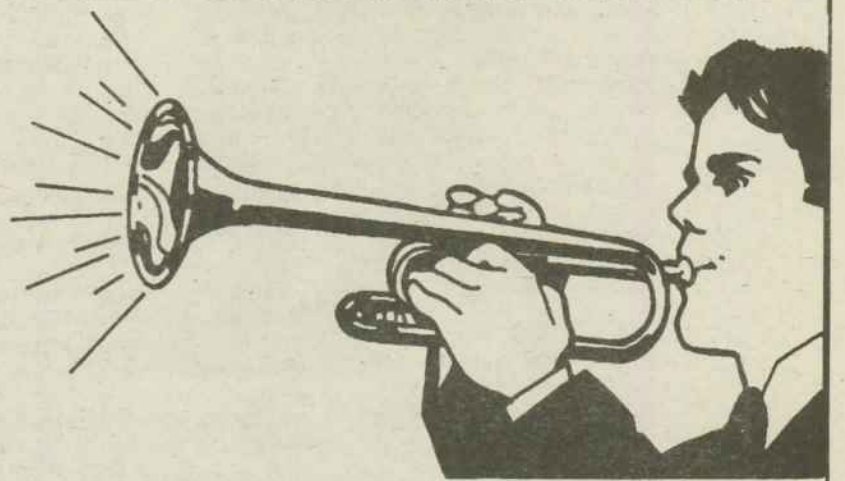
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Curtain Calls

"Angels in America": Tragedy or Travesty

By Steve Stavron

Tony Kushner's fine play, *Angels in America*, was an attempt to read the homosexual AIDS crisis as a monumental tragedy symbolic of the human condition in our time. His dramatic rhetoric is very compelling.

Certainly this brilliant, sweeping play had much to say about the emotionally pathetic hollowness of our cynical times. Whether or not Kushner has made an artistic statement applicable to all humanity for all time is another matter. For one thing his characters are small scale human beings, not large enough to suggest Everyman, including the bombastic Roy Cohn.

The program notes indicate Kushner's commitment to activism. What he achieves is a kind of spiritual anger that carries the play forward with surprising momentum despite some stereotyping: we have the repressed Gay, the flagrant Gay, the politically powerful, evil Gay all doomed by the approaching Angel of Death heralding the new millennium.

That the author makes all this powerful, poetic, AND humorous is a tribute to his writing skill. How often do we see a play as consistently well written as this one? The 3 and a half hours pass unnoticed. Good writing compensates for more than the multitude of sins which Kushner's characters think they've committed.

Despite Kushner's own commitment to activism, like many talented people, he may not be completely aware of what he hath wrought. Artists are notoriously bad judges of the end result of their own works.

Only in the third act does the play falter a bit. The author cannot resist bringing in a long tirade, not only about ethnicism and racism, but about the lack of a common spiritual heritage in America, hence re-

mind us of "politicizing" as the only common bond—cynical, yes, but probably untrue—a round-about way of addressing Gay alienation.

The question remains as to whether or not a tragic pestilence has the same import as TRAGEDY, which addresses irresolvable conflict on a greater, enigmatic scale.

But Kushner's sense of wit saves the day, making it unnecessary to take issue with him. He should have let his play speak for itself all the way through. The ending is powerful, not just THE ANGEL appearing, but Kushner's unique way of mingling the delusions of the characters with actual scenarios without confusing the audience. It verges on the metaphysically poetic and is very moving in a strange way.

As one who detests the degrading effects of political correctness upon our current art forms, I must say that Kushner's play lives up to its reputation. I don't know yet if it's Great Art, but it's very, very good.

In part 2 of *Angels in America*—**PERESTROIKA**—Kushner ups the ante with ambitious boldness. Having established fairly predictable characters and situations, he now pushes for greater artistic symbolism, transcribing his characters' delusions into an ongoing surrealistic fantasy. He is aspiring to create a great humanistic statement about the sadness of contemporary man who still stubbornly persists in a blind affirmation of the joy of being alive—sort of emulating Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from the Ninth, all this while dealing with the AIDS crisis as massive tragedy. He almost succeeds.

In attempting to operate at a more exalted level, Kushner gets away with murder.

The Angel reappears and speaks profusely (and unintelligibly, miked over a loud Bruckner symphony) ostensibly preparing our abandoned AIDS sufferer for the hereafter, but providing him with a spiritual orgasm in the here and now as a last lease on life. This weakens the first act.

Not much new happens in the lives of

most of the characters since part 1, but the play never seems padded or loses momentum. The faithless lover and the closeted husband fail to win back their rejected spouses. They are not among the symbolic "angels" of the play.

Still, Kushner cannot resist his activist tendencies. Later, Ethel Rosenberg will appear to forgive Roy Cohn his injustices, and the faithless lover [who abandoned his dying companion for the closeted husband], will launch into a tirade against the hypocrisy with which Gay rights are proscribed within our legal system. Roy Cohn, the quintessentially cynical homosexual, puts aside his racism and learns to like his detested Black male nurse.

Still Kushner sweeping sense of dramatic theater overcomes his potential tendency to bring the play close to cliché. He continually sweeps the field with his humorous rhetoric, and saves the best for last.

In the controversial third act, the dying young victim struggles with the now dark Angel of Death but goes reluctantly to Heaven. Here he debates with an imaginary council of angels that Heaven does not seem to be his home and pleads to go back to earth (memories of Wuthering Heights and Wizard of Oz flashed by) and fight his affliction with courage [and AZT]. He returns, becoming the spokesman for the hapless doomed "angels", concluding the play.

Perhaps God has paid too little heed to these earthly sufferers who are the true *Angels in America*—the true champions and victims of a dark new millennium. Roy Cohn even threatens to sue God from the hereafter for his "neglect".

Kushner's brilliant writing overrides the transparency of his obvious political activism with a surreal sense of an enhanced poetic spectrum, giving the play a surprisingly tender concluding note, and expanding its too apparent purpose into something dangerously close to art. This is no mean feat.

To transpose the increasing momentum of the AIDS plague, which could be aborted by a vaccine discovery at any time, into a commentary on mankind requires a sense of the universality of the human struggle as well as an awareness that serious contemporary issues do not define all men for all time. Wittingly or not, Kushner strives for greater timeless imagery, perhaps at war with his own political altruism. Good writing is all too rare in

our theaters and on our silver screens, and it's the touch of the poet that gives Kushner's monolithic play its real vitality.

His characters are small people, but if one believes that the meek shall inherit the earth if they're not first swallowed up by it, it's still the power of the pen that gives this fine epic drama its stature.

Politics has nothing to do with it although the author may disagree. Perhaps Kushner's greatest shortcoming is that for the better part of 7 hours, he failed to bore his audiences.

A CD-Party with "Men Out Loud" at Afterwords

Milwaukee—Afterwords will be rocking with the danceable pop, doo-wop sounds of *Men Out Loud* on Saturday, November 8 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm when the popular openly gay *cappella*-based vocal quartet appear for a CD-signing party.

In Milwaukee to perform at the "A Decade of Light" Party, *Men Out Loud* will stop by the popular East-side Bookstore-Espresso Bar to promote their first CD, "Sweet Enuf 2 Eat."

Men Out Loud are: Steve Steinberg, Santo Ragno, Joseph Pearce and Rob McElroy. The Los Angeles based group has established themselves on the Gay and Lesbian scene, performing in a variety of high-profile events including 1997 Gay Pride Festivals in San Francisco, Las Vegas, New Orleans and New York City.

On their debut, *Men Out Loud* recorded several favorite tunes, including a fabulous rendition of Madonna's "Express Yourself", a tongue-in-cheek version of "More Than a Woman" off the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack and a poignant "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" (Les Miserables), dedicated to the memory of loved ones who have died of AIDS.

Want to hear more from *Men Out Loud*? Stop in at Afterwords anytime to hear selections from *Sweet Enuf 2 Eat* and then come and meet the group from 3:00pm to 4:00pm Saturday, November 8th.

The *Sweet Enuf 2 Eat* CD-signing party is free and everyone is welcome to join in on the fun!

For further information concerning this or any Afterwords event, please contact Afterwords at (414) 963-9089.

MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER



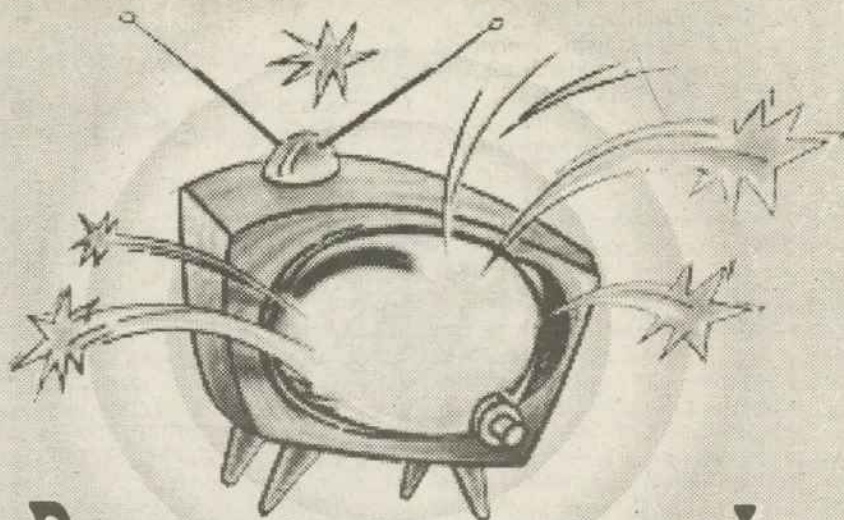
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by **Roger Bean**

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108 E. Wells Street
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Tune Reviews

By John A. Jahn

A Run-Down of Some New CDs from k. d. lang, Chris Isaak, and others

k. d. lang--*All You Can Eat*

If *Ingenue* was an album to sit at home alone and sulk to then *All You Can Eat* is an album to share. Songs rub up against each other in a friendly fashion carrying the groove and the mood forward until "I could have anything if I were you" becomes simply "I want it all."

All You Can Eat is an adult makeout album full of Al Green tinged soul and almost no angst. The band is tight, the arrangements are full, and lang's voice is in fine form. Don't be afraid of titles like "Infinite and Unforeseen" or "Acquiesce." lang has "Sexuality" on her mind and now that she's out of the closet nothing will stand in her way. This is the most playful outing yet from the diva.

Chris Isaak--*Forever Blue*

Chris Isaak has been suffering Roy Orbison comparisons since the beginning of his career and it's easy to see why. Isaak has a taste for nostalgia and a falsetto that is downright eerie. This release is moodier than anything he's done before and accordingly it sounds more like "Running Scared" than "Pretty Woman"—and that's a good thing. To be fair, Isaak does vary his approach some on *Forever Blue*: "Goin' Nowhere" is country/rock and "Baby Did a Bad Bad Thing" sounds almost like George Thorogood and the Destroyers, but when "Somebody's Crying" explodes into first person falsetto in the chorus you can almost hear the ghost of Orbison singing along. A fine album to sit at home alone and sulk to.

Cassandra Wilson *New Moon Daughter*

Miss (yes, she is a diva) Wilson's *New Moon Daughter* is packaged quite extravagantly for a jazz album. Apparently Blue Note Records believes she has some pop potential. I'm not so certain. She seems too intelligent for top 40. The arrangements on *New Moon Daughter* are hard, angular, percussive and bass heavy. Miss Wilson's voice is somewhat like Sarah Vaughan's but smokier, duskier, sexier. Surprisingly good original songs are mixed in with the most unusual collection of covers—though everything she touches is hers. From standards like "Strange Fruit" and "Skylark" to "Last Train to Clarksville" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", Miss Wilson creates her own space and invites you in. Simply amazing.

Steve Earle--*I Feel Alright*

Steve Earle is not another pretty boy in a hat. There are no line dances here. He doesn't even sound Nashville—harmonica replaces fiddle and steel guitar is noticeably absent. Steve Earle has nothing in common with Garth Brooks. Steve Earle is the real thing. Yes, occasionally he sounds like John Mellencamp (the drums are high in the mix) or early seventies Rolling Stones but his roots go back through Johnny Cash all the way to delta blues. When he sings "I never meant to be cruel or untrue / I'm just hurtin' me when I'm hurtin' you," he doesn't mean it as an apology or excuse—he knows some things cannot be forgiven. "Cocaine Cannot Kill My Pain" is probably the standout track though the duet with the underappreciated Lucinda Williams is awfully interesting. For those who like their country straight up, no chaser.

Original Broadway Cast *"Victor / Victoria"*

Victor / Victoria is back, Queerer than ever, and billed as a "new musical comedy." Does it live up to the movie? Judging by the soundtrack it does. Miss Andrews' voice is still perfect and she is surrounded by a good cast. The soundtrack is augmented by quite a few new songs and snippets of dialogue from the show. If that's not enough (and it is) there is always the synopsis provided by lyricist Leslie Bricusse, not to mention the essay on Miss Andrews by Andre Previn. I always wonder where classical labels get the budget for these extras. Anyway, old favorites like "Le Jazz Hot" are as hot as ever but the highlights are the new songs: Miss Andrews sings "Louis Says" as a woman pretending to be a man pretending to be a woman pretending to be Marie Antoinette and it's a hoot. Rachel York stands out in "Paris Makes Me Horny" and Michael Nouri stops the show with

"King's Dilemma"—should he or shouldn't he? You should.

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds *Murder Ballads*

Most critics have approached this as a concept album. They point to the title and the fact that all of the songs are indeed murder ballads. If this is a concept album then Nick Cave has had a concept career. There really isn't much difference between this and his previous releases except *Murder Ballads* is more consistent. "Stagger Lee" is an old R & B song updated and X-rated. "Song of Joy" quotes Milton. "Where the Wild Roses Grow" is a duet with Kylie Minogue (!) and works like crazy. P. J. Harvey and Shane MacGowan (ex of the Pogues) also appear and Anita Lane has a cameo. As usual Cave is an acquired taste and not for the weak stomach.

Soundtrack *Postcards From America*

Like most movie soundtracks these days this one is a mixed bag of old songs with a couple new ones. Like the movie it was culled from it has a decidedly non-commercial bent. And I do mean bent.

Judy Tenuta *In Goddess We Trust*

Judy Tenuta is not a diva. She is a Goddess. If you care to argue the point



Jerry Johnson

Arson Strikes Fannies—Fannies, Milwaukee's oldest Lesbian Bar was the scene of an arson fire in the early evening hours of Tuesday, October 28th. The bar was closed at the time. An as of yet unidentified perpetrator broke a window and entered the bar early in the evening. A flammable substance was poured on the dance floor and the bar was torched. The fire caused substantial damage both to the bar and to the upstairs apartment occupied by Fannies owner Sharon. As of press time there is no word as to when or if Fannies will reopen or any possible motives for the fire.

There are two Connie Francis songs and three from the New York Dolls. Throw in a rock song from Jimmy Somerville (in which he drops the falsetto and sings bass!) and shake well. The album is a good reflection of the movie but probably not of much interest to the casual listener. For those of us with more eclectic tastes it's a treat.

then you have missed it and you have no hope of ever rising beyond the level of Tupperware Princess. I pity you. Judy (Ju-u-u-u-u-u-dy) is living proof that more is MORE and louder is better. She recycles a few jokes, briefly takes on OJ, Tupperware Gore and a host of minor deities before demolishing Barbra Streisand with a spot on impersonation. Along the way she tortures her accordion and warns her audience: "Do not possess the chocolate!" Elvis made me do it.

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Circle Of Friends Seating: \$35.00

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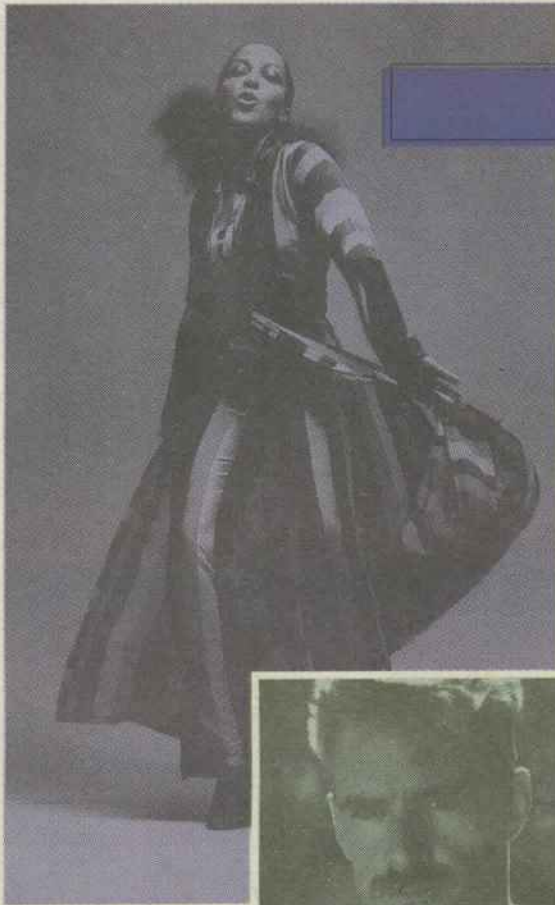
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Men Out Loud — *dance-able a cappella quartet*
Chase Hunter — *"Falcon Superstar"*
Billy Carroll — *NY disc jockey*

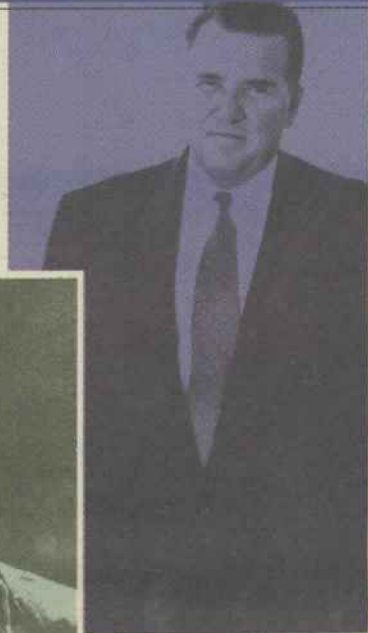
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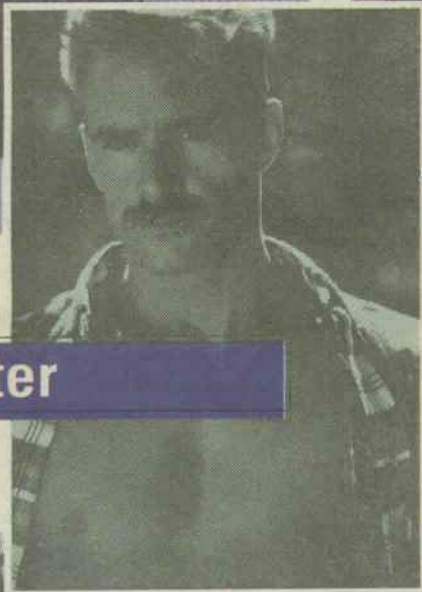
10TH ANNIVERSARY



Ms. Joi Cardwell



David Mixner



Chase Hunter



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The girls got style! - Miss Sandy Beach herself made a fabulous personal appearance during the Just Us Halloween show. The place was packed and Miss Beach was hot! She is one of the Just Us Divas. Just Us is located at 807 S. Fifth Street. In addition to Sandy they have fabulous fish fries every Friday.

New Harvest Dinner Dance November 15

Madison—The first Les/Bi/Gay event to be held at Madison's new Frank Lloyd Wright designed Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center will take place on Saturday November 15 with the New Harvest Foundation's "Black and White Tonight" Dinner Dance.

It's the party of the season for Madison's Les/Bi/Gay community, it's an elegant affair, and it's a major fund raiser for Dane County's Les/Bi/Gay foundation, New Harvest. Every year New Harvest gives

Oshkosh Opera House to Present "Miracle on 34th Street"

Oshkosh—The Oshkosh Opera House Foundation will present "Miracle on 34th Street" as part of the 1997-'98 Touring Artist Series. This musical delight will be performed at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 30 and will be welcomed by WOSH AM 1490 and WNAM AM 1280.

Rediscover the magic of believing that wishes can come true and miracles still happen. "Miracle on 34th Street" is the all-new musical production of one of the best loved contemporary holiday tales ever written and is brilliantly brought to life in a fully staged production.

Troupe America, co-producer of the show with Mainstage Management, is in their 10th season of producing touring theater in the US and Canada.

Featuring an imaginative set, stylish costumes and period choreography, the wonderful sound of the big band holiday music in the spirit of America's Golden Age of Swing, this holiday plum of a show is sure to leave every audience believing in love and miracles—and perhaps even Santa—once again.

For tickets and other information, call (920) 424-2350.

Cream City Chorus Presents "Home for The Holidays"

Milwaukee—Traditional Christmas music is the fare at the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus' holiday concert this year. "Home for the Holidays" will take you back to memories of voices raised in praise and celebration, including many of the standard and most beautiful songs of the Christmas season.

This concert marks the first major performance under the direction of Ken McMonagle, who assumed the role of Musical Director in September.

"Home for the Holidays" will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 7th at St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door and are available at BestD Clinic, M&M Club, and Afterwords Bookstore. Tickets are also available through Chorus members, or by contacting the Chorus office at (414) 344-WCCC, or P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1488.

Jerry Johnson

7:00 PM, Dinner will be served at 8:00 PM. Dinner will be followed by a musical interval provided by Madison's new Gay chorus; Perfect Harmony and then a wonderful evening of dancing on the lake shore with Mad Town's favorite DJ, Tony Ritschard now of Manoeuvres. Formerly of the New Bar.

Tickets are just \$40.00 and can be purchased by sending your menu choice and check to: New Harvest Foundation,

Jerry Grillo to Debut CD at "Decade of Light"

Milwaukee—Jerry Grillo, vocalist, with Jack Grassel on guitar and Doug Hayes on bass will be performing in the Juneau Room of the downtown Milwaukee Hilton Hotel as part of Wisconsin Light's 10th Anniversary Party.

The trio will appear from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the "Decade of Light" party on Sunday, November 9, 1997.

Grillo will be debuting songs from his new compact disc, *Goody For You!*, which features the Lynne Arriale Trio from New York City backing him on 12 classic tunes.

The CD will be officially released and available for the first time that evening a part of the celebration.

A portion of the proceeds from the sales of *Goody For You!* will be donated to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

PO Box 1786 Madison, WI 53701. For more information call The New Harvest Foundation at (608) 256-4204.

Afterwords Events

Saturday, November 8th
3:00pm to 4:00pm
CD-Party with

Men Out Loud

Sweet Enuf 2 Eat

Monday, November 9th 7:30pm

Afterwords Book Club

Young Man From the Provinces

by Alan Helms

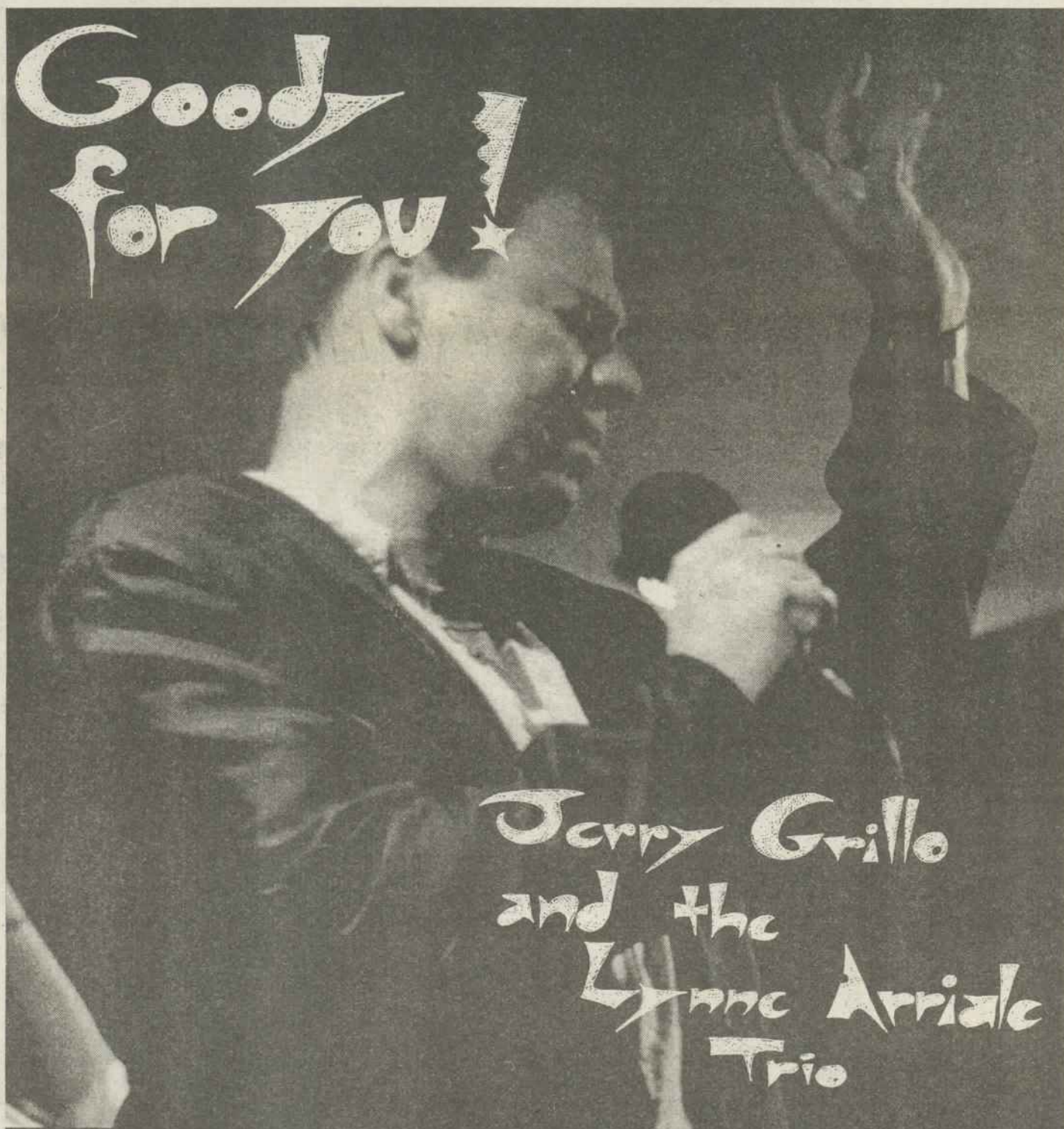
Wednesday, November 19th 7:00pm

Lesbian Reading Group

The Girls Next Door by Lindsay van Gelder and Pamela Robin Brandt

A White Christmas

Join us for a gay men's week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the last week of the year. Call for details.



Jerry Grillo's new CD "Goody for You!" will be released Sunday, November 9, 1997 as part of the "Decade of Light" 10th Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Grillo will be performing songs from the new CD in the Juneau Room of the Downtown Milwaukee Hilton Hotel from 9:30pm to 12:30am. Jack Grassel will be on guitar and Doug Hayes will be on acoustic bass. A portion of the proceeds of the sale of "Goody for You!" will be donated to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. The CD may be ordered nationally through North Country Distributors, Redwood, NY 13679 (315) 287-2852, or locally at Exclusive or Mainstream or through Mr. Grillo's web site: <http://kspace.com/grillo>. For live performance bookings call (414) 332-3989. Featured songs on the CD include: Secret Love, Goody Goody, Autumn Leaves, Willow Weep For Me, When Sunny Gets Blue, What a Difference a Day Made, I Ain't Got Nuthin' But the Blues, Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most, They Can't take That Away From Me, The Shadow of Your Smile, I've Got the World on a String, Moonlight in Vermont.

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CONGRATULATIONS

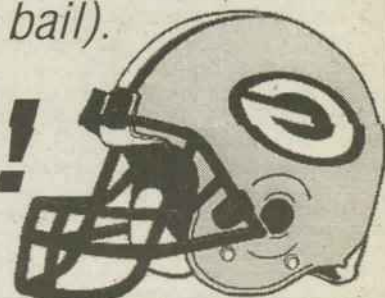
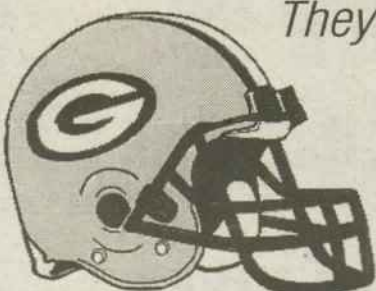
Wisconsin Light

*on a decade of success. You have served our
Community well and we Thank You!*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - NOON
DALLAS at LAMBEAU
AFTER MANY YEARS**

They will suffer our wrath . . . (provided they're out on bail).

The Pack Is Back!



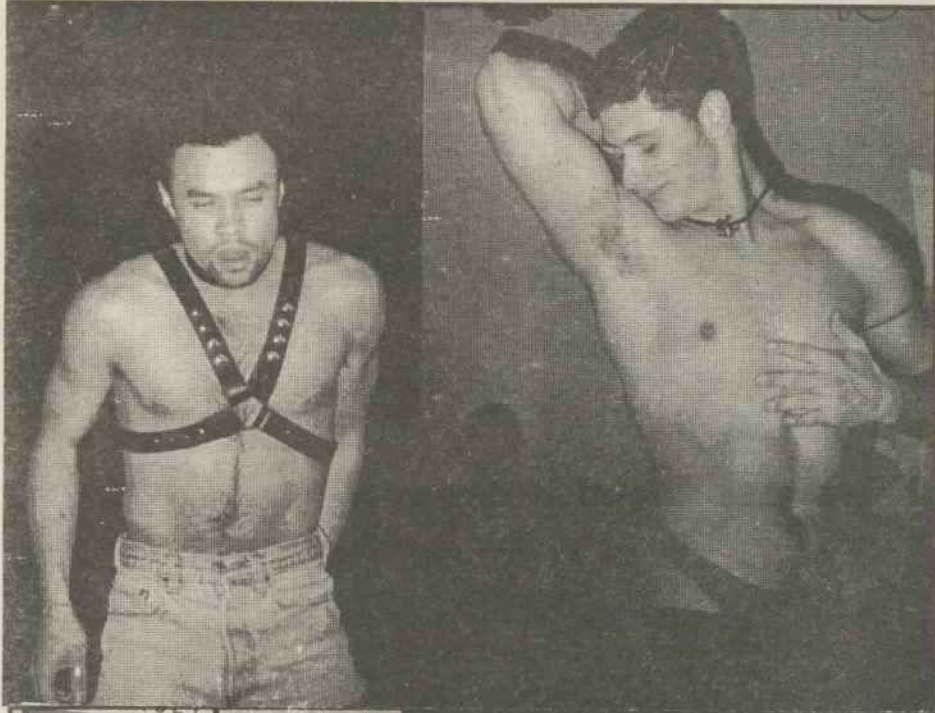


Photo by Bill Meunier

Madison Salutes The Wisconsin Light - It was two hot (and hard) nights in Mad town as Madison saluted the Wisconsin Light with parties at Kirby's Klub and Manoeuvres. Both were a blast (like when would a party at either of these places not be fun?) At the top are two of the Naughty By Nature strippers at Manoeuvres, next are two friends at Kirby's Klub (L) and Margo at Manoeuvres, then we have a close up of a Naughty boy, and last but not least are (L-R) a friend and the lovely Derrick. Derrick helped to sell loads of raffle tickets to benefit the United at the Manoeuvres party. At the bottom is the new kid on the block, Kirby Sheldon shown hugging one of his bartenders during our Men Out CD Release party at Kirby's Klub.

KIRBY'S Q KLUB

121 West Main Place • Madison, WI 53703
(608) 251-1030

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 1 TO THE 8TH

\$2 Rail Drinks

\$1 Taps

Get a ticket with every drink you buy.

Drawing on Nov. 8

1st Prize:

A Trip to San Francisco

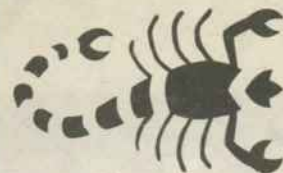
2nd Prize:

\$100 Bar Tab

3rd Prize: \$75 Bar Tab

4th Prize: \$50 Bar Tab

Friday, November 14



SCORPIO PARTY

Calling all Scorpios

Free Shots if you're a Scorpio

Saturday, November 15

PORTFOLIO MEN

Showtime 10pm

\$3 Cover

Saturday, November 22

Our First

KIRBY'S KLUB SHOW

10pm • No Cover

LaCage

DISCOVER WISCONSIN'S GAY
ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX!
4 Different Places to Party, Dance or Relax
7 Bars • 2 Dance Floors • 4 Sound Systems
Video • Food • Games • Dancing

Open Nightly at 8pm

CONGRATULATIONS

Terry & Jerry for a
"DECADE OF LIGHT"



The "La Cage
Showcase"
FRIDAY &
SUNDAY
11:30pm

Our Famous "Super Bust"

WEDNESDAY • THURSDAY • SUNDAY

Beginning Wednesday, Nov 12

in Dance • Dance • Dance

LATIN/AMERICAN NIGHTS

Your Latin Diva VANESSA TORRES with your Spinologist "DJ WIZZY JUAN"
direct from NYC. No Cover Till 9:30pm

DJ & DANCING 7 NITES A WEEK

801 - 807 South 2nd Street • Milwaukee • 383-8330



What's the Dish? - Dish, Milwaukee's hot new Lesbian bar opened over the Halloween weekend and as you can see it was an instant hit. At the top is a shot of just part of the crowd that turned out. Next are Dish owner Julie (L) and two of her staff members. Dish is located at 236 S. Second St.



LAMM: Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee—From the Beginning

In the summer of 1989, 150 women gathered together to unite their voice against the homophobic actions of the Milwaukee Board of Supervisors, anti-Lesbian and Gay organizing by religious right and to address the lack of Lesbian representation in the media and in the community.

And so, began the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, commonly known as LAMM. It was only the beginning.

In February of 1992, LAMM Education Fund (LAMM EF) was founded as a not-for-profit "sister" organization to LAMM, focusing on community education.

LAMM and LAMM EF work vigorously to empower Lesbians and Bisexual women in our community through such services and activities as the Career Workshop, Lesbian Health Fair and educational presentations and panels presented at membership meetings.

Voices of Diversity, the speaker's bureau of LAMM EF, seeks to break the silence and break stereotypes associated with our community.

Showing the video *Visible Women, Invisible Lives*, created through the talents and energy of LAMM members, seeks to further educate the community and break down the myths associated with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

LAMM answers over 2,000 phone calls a year. The calls come from people new to town, looking for a lifeline, a connection to our community. The calls come from women crying because they are being thrown out of their home after coming out, or because they have been physically assaulted for who they are.

The calls come from women looking for referrals ranging from medical or legal referrals, to photographers, to who will do a commitment ceremony, to where's a place to go for fun.

Some people call just to talk. LAMM is here to listen and to continue working for the social and economic empowerment of Lesbians and Bisexual women. LAMM and LAMM EF will continue to focus on those issues important to women: health care, family issues,

safety, education, equal legal representation, equalit

LAMM is here to listen and to continue working for the social and economic empowerment of Lesbians and Bisexual women. LAMM and LAMM EF will

continue to focus on those issues important to women: health care, family issues, safety, education, equal legal representation, equality in employment, and ways to increase the quality of life.

Please continue to look for news on LAMM and LAMM EF events and activities in *The Wisconsin Light*, the news

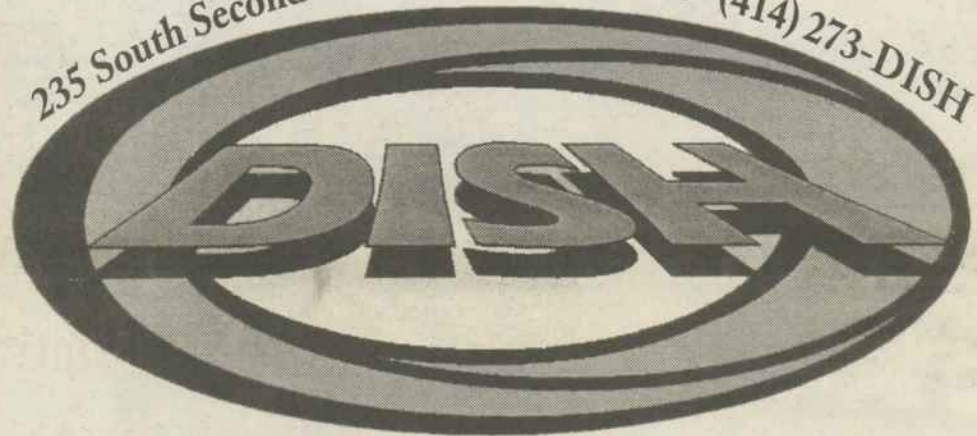
source that reflects our past, spotlights our present and provides a beacon for our future.

If you would like to know more about LAMM or are interested in joining LAMM, please call us. Our number is: (414) 264-2600. Or you can email us at: lamm@excpc.com

Exotic

Euphoric

235 South Second Street • Milwaukee, WI • (414) 273-DISH



Enticing

Exquisite

The New WOMEN'S Night Spot & Party House



NOW FEATURING COSMO SUNDAYS



COSMOPOLITANS



MARTINIS



LOUNGE DRINKS



Open 7-days-a-Week

Rock 'n Resale

Milwaukee—Survival/Revival Resale's Rock 'n Resale - December 6: To celebrate Survival/Revival Resale's third year anniversary, Milwaukee's best resale shop is throwing a shopping party featuring live music provided by "The Lovelies."

Survival/Revival Resale is your headquarters to "rock 'n shop" Saturday, December 6 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at its Rock 'n Resale party, 246 E. Chicago St., in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

Merchandise will be marked down up to 80 percent. Admission is a \$3 donation at the door with all proceeds benefiting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. For more information, call Survival/Revival at 414-291-2856.

*A
Decade of
Light*

C'est La Vie

231 S. 2nd Street • Milwaukee

OPEN: Sat/Sun, 2pm

Mon-Thur, 3pm • Fri, 2pm

Sunday Nights
w/Alvin

\$1 Tacos

Beer Bust

\$1/25¢ Thereafter

Tuesday
Nights

\$1.25 Shots

Thursday
Nights



Friday Nights

**The Lovely
Ladies of
C'est La Vie**

Hosted by Mia Moore

Sunday Nights

MORGAN KNIGHTS

presents

*"The Anything
Goes Revue"*

starring:

Aaija,

Britt,

Kelly,

TJ

10pm

Special Guests each Sunday



Saturday Nights

The Male

Review

Strippers

Hosted by TJ



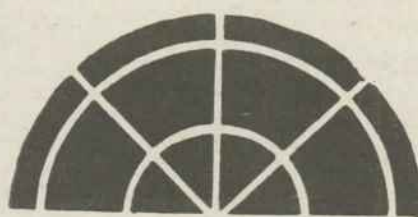
Bill Meunier

The Results of the Pumpkin Carving Contest at The Boot Camp

*Our Warmest
Congratulations to
The Wisconsin Light
on its
10th Anniversary

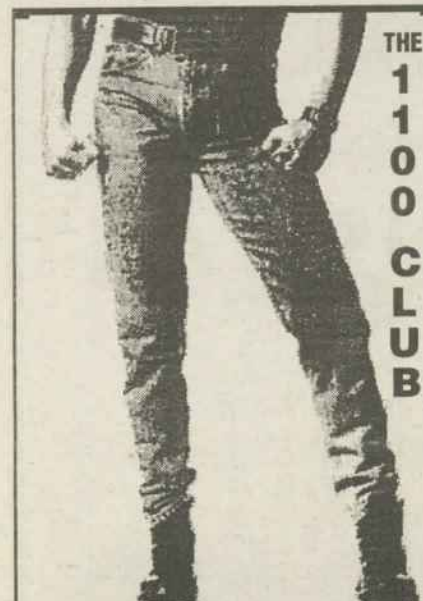
Thanks for a
Decade of Light*

Joe, June and Staff



THIS IS IT!

418 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 278-9192



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1100 S. 1st • Milwaukee
647-9950

Bar opens at 7^{AM}
7 days a week

Happy Hour
Mon-Fri 4-7^{PM}
2-4-1, Tap, Rail &
Domestic Beer

Kitchen Opens:
7^{AM} Tues-Sat
7^{AM}-2^{PM} Sunday

**CONGRATULATIONS to
the
Wisconsin Light
for 10 Great Years
of Service to
Our Community**

CONGRATULATIONS
on the occasion of
**Wisconsin Light's
10th Anniversary**

from the

**TRIO BAR THE MAIN
820 Tower Avenue CLUB**

1217 Tower Avenue

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

CONGRATULATIONS
Wisconsin Light
*on a Decade of Balanced
and Fair Reporting*

807 S. 5th Street • Milwaukee • 383-2233

Friday Fish Fry
5-10pm
Also serving
sandwiches,
Weekly Specials,
Baked Fish,
Appetizers, Soups,
etc.

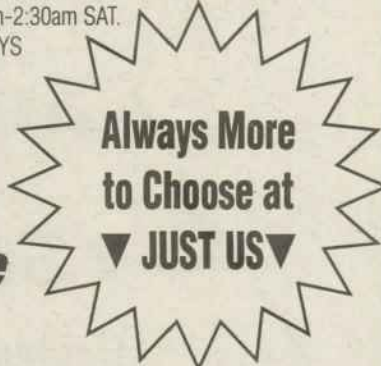
JUST

US

**Thursdays &
Saturdays**
6-8pm
Sandwiches &
Appetizers
New, EXPANDED
Menu

JUST US is open 5pm-2am SUN thru
THUR; 4pm-2:30am FRI; 6pm-2:30am SAT.
CLOSED MONDAYS

**Join the LGBT
Community at
Milwaukee's Favorite
Friday Fish Fry!**



A Decade Of Dancing

By DJ Tonya

La Cage & Dance Dance Dance

Isn't it funny how time flies when you're having fun? It's hard to believe ten years ago, Dance Dance Dance (in La Cage) opened up, Wisconsin Light newspaper was just beginning, and a new generation of dance music was born.

When we first opened La Cage on March 21, 1984, slower, down tempo music was popular like Tina Turner's "What's Love Got To Do With It," Bananarama's "Cruel Summer," or the ever Gay popular hit "Relax" by Frankie Goes To Hollywood. When we opened Dance Dance Dance ten years ago, the music trends started to change.

In 1987 the popular dance music was a bit slower in tempo. We were dancing to hits like: "Lean On Me" by Club Nouveau, "Human" by The Human League, "Looking For A New Love" by Jody Watley, and "Word Up" by Cameo.

In 1988, the popular music was a little bit faster. Hits like Eurythmics' "I Need A Man," Kon Kan's "Pushin' Boots," and Janet Jackson's "Miss You Much" were pretty popular on the dance floor. There were popular songs that were still down tempo like: "Girl You Know It's True," "Blame It On The Rain," and "Baby Don't Forget My Number," all of which were done by Millie Vanilli.

1987 marks the year in which Millie Vanilli's career began, and ended with a big scandal because they never really did sing with their own vocals to any of those songs.

In 1988 and 1989, some older artists like Grace Jones, The B-52's, Adam Ant, and Dead or Alive came back to make smash hits like: "Love On Top Of Love," "Love Shack," "Rough Stuff," and "Baby Don't Say Goodbye," respectively.

1990 was a year that showcased new talent, sounds, and names in the music industry that would be remembered in history. Names like Cliviles & Cole (C&C Music Factory), Lisa Stansfield, Betty Boo & Cathy Dennis made their mark in the dance music industry.

Cliviles & Cole were responsible for remixing many songs, and producing many artists like Seduction & Black Box. This was also the time I began to work for Billboard Magazine as a Club Dance Music reporter, on a panel of one hundred DJ's around the country which compiles the national Club Dance Music Charts each week.

In 1990 & 1991, the techno era was just hitting our area. The popular dance music

had a very fast beat and lots of synthesizers and samples. The courts ruled it was okay to use bits and pieces of other songs, and incorporate them in a new song. This process is called "Sampling," and you will usually find a "Sample" of someone else's song in many new songs being released. Some of the great techno artists were: Njoi, Mig29, GTO, 2 Unlimited, and Hysteria.

Around 1992 through 1996, the techno era was getting tired. The popular dance music was still fast paced, had more vocals than the usually vocal-less techno songs. This was called High Energy.

Some of the hits you may remember are: DJ Miko's "What's Up," "Sound Factory's" "Good Time," "Living Joy's Dreamer," La Bouches' "Be My Lover," and Ace Of Base's "Beautiful Life".

Slower songs were not completely out of the picture. Songs like Bjork's "Big Time Sensuality," Janet Jackson's "Runaway," and En Vogue's "Don't Let Go" gave a refreshing break from all the fast dancing to catch your breath.

1997 marks a year for new artists emerging. Some of the new songs currently working on the dance floors include: The Blackout Allstars' "I Like It Like That," Daft Punk's "Around The World," Savage Garden's "To The Moon & Back," 3rd Party's "Love Is Alive," and of course Aqua's "Barbie Girl".

It seems the trend is still keeping with a high energy pace and not too fast as techno was - thank God! So far, this year's music is abundant with meaningful messages and lyrics, positive vibrations, driving dance beats, heart throbbing bass, and excellent instrumentation.

With all the new lighting & sound technology available to enhance all the great music currently being released, we should look forward to another ten years of exciting great dance floors and dance music to keep us in shape! Congratulations Wisconsin Light!

1506 North 3rd Street • Superior, WI



(715) 394-2580

Thursday • Karaoke - 8pm
Friday & Saturday • DJ - 9:30pm
• NIGHTLY SPECIALS •

MANOEUVRES

One-Fifty South Blair Street, Madison, Wisconsin
608.258.9918

Congratulations to Wisconsin Light on a "Decade of Light"

MEN OUT LOUD
Nov 8 - 10:30

National recording artists perform live.
CD Signing at We are Family, 6pm
Proceeds go to local charities

LADY BUNNY
December 11

From New York
Advance Ticket Sale begins November 17.
Proceeds go to local charities

ZUMBIDO PARTY
December 9

WE ARE FAMILY FIRST ANNIVERSARY SALE Nov 11-16
10% to 70% Off Selected Merchandise

MAD BAR

150 S. Blair Street
Madison, Wisconsin
608.258.9918

3rd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
December 10

Special HAPPY HOUR from 4-8pm
Festivities begin at 8pm
Lots of Food, Drink Specials,
Male Strippers

Backstage Productions proudly presents

Traveling AMERICAN Style

Benefit Show to Help Send these 2 girls on to the Miss Gay America Pageant in Charlotte, NC - November 18-25, 1997

Susan Saranwrap DuWanna Moore

Miss Gay Wisconsin America 1998

1st Alternate Miss Gay Wisconsin

Come out & show your support for these girls as they go on to represent YOU, the State of Wisconsin.

LAST WEEKEND

SHOW DATES:

11/7, 10:30pm - Sass GREEN BAY

11/8, 11pm - Club 94 KENOSHA

(Home Title Bar to the 1997 & 1998 Miss Gay WI America)

11/9, 10:30pm - Manoeuvres MADISON

(Hometown Bar to Susan Saranwrap, Miss Gay WI America)



THE GREATEST COCKTAIL HOUR EVER

2-9pm Monday - Friday

THE BALLGAME

196 South Second Street
Milwaukee
- 273-7474 -

- ➔ Mondays 9pm to Close
Domestic Beer \$1.25 • \$1.75 Rail
- ➔ Tuesdays 9pm to Close
\$2.50 Top Shelf • \$1.75 Rail
- ➔ Wednesdays 9pm to 1am
Beer Bust \$4 or 80¢ Glasses of Beer
- ➔ Thursdays 9pm to Close
\$1.75 Rail
- ➔ Saturdays Tap Beer 80¢ ('til 6pm)
Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2.25 (until 6pm)
- ➔ Sundays Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2.25 (until 6pm)
Tap Beer 80¢ ('till 6pm)
\$1.75 Rail (9pm 'til close)

Saturday & Sunday Specials: Food, Shots & Fun
Pizza Served Anytime! Party Room Available!



THE NIGHT LIGHT

Night Light

By Dusty Sass

News... Well I suppose by now you have heard about the tragic fire at Fannies. At least no one was hurt. I am sure I speak for many when I say that my heart goes out to Fannies owner, Sharon. She's a wonderful person and I hope she knows how many people out there are pulling for her.

Recaps ... I have been to so many places the last few weeks that they are starting to blur together, but I will try to keep it all straight (if you'll pardon my use of the "s" word) for you.

Our publisher, Jerry Johnson and I had a great time at Kirby's Klub for our Men Out Loud CD release party. Kirby is a lot of fun and the place was hopping. We were joined there by openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer, and Brenda Perry and Ryan Mucahy from Mayor Susan Baumann's staff. They gave us a proclamation from the Mayor declaring "Wisconsin Light" Day in Madison on November 5.

I had another blast the next night at **Ma-noeuvres** for our Joi Cardwell CD release party, which was a benefit for Madison's United. Thanks to all of you who bought raffle tickets from the lovely Pat and the lovely Derrick. The Naughty By Nature strippers were well...what can say, the word hot doesn't quite describe it. Let's just say that they were well worth the cover charge.

Halloween was a very busy time. I was able to take in parties held at **In Between**, **The Ball Game**, **La Cage**, **the Boot Camp** and **Mama Roux**. I had a great time at all of them. I heard from other staff members covering things at **Just Us** and **This Is It** that a wonderful evening was had by everyone at those places too.

This Is It's Hallowe'en Party was on November 1. As usual, a fun time was had by all. Joe had great prizes. But moi was more intrigued by the bartenders, Tony and Louie. They were dressed as South Sea Island boys, right out of "South Pacific," and oh my, moi and everyone else

there was suffering from vapors.

(Note: Joe, if you hadn't inhaled, I'd have thought it was Jerry.)

It was great to see Rick and Nettie at the Ball Game. La Cage was really mobbed. It took me ten minutes to go from one end of the bar to the other. I had so much fun doing that that I had to walk back and do it again. The Boot Camp's Pumpkin Carving Contest was great. And there was a lively bunch at Mama Roux.

I also managed to stop in at Milwaukee's new Women's bar, **Dish**. The opening night crowd was huge. I really liked the décor. It's kind of casual elegance. They did wonders with the old Phoenix bar. If you remember the Phoenix you won't recognize the place.

I also loved the décor at **The Eagle**, Milwaukee's new leather and levi bar. It's located in the Sydney HIH building in the spot formerly occupied by the old Unicorn.

The walls are textured to look like the place was hollowed out of a coal seam and all painted black. The bartenders are super—Ron, you're great!

Last but not least I had a great time at **In Between** watching the Pack beat up on the Detroit Lions. The game was a good one, the crowd was large and lively and there was great food provided by Walker's Point Café.

Coming Up... On **Wednesday November 5** I will be at our Milwaukee Salutes The Wisconsin Light parties at **Mama Roux**, **This Is It**, **In Between** and **La Cage**. Stop in and say hi. Mama's will be hosted by the Riverwest Rainbow Neighborhood Association. The Cream City Foundation will be at **This Is It**, **MAP**, the **BESTD Clinic** and the **CAIR Program** will be at **In Between** and we have a fab show lined up at **La Cage**.

Thursday November 6 it will be **In Between's Second Anniversary party** Curt is giving away over \$300 in cash and prizes with a gayla balloon drop. Plus there will be great food, drink specials and lots of fun. Stop in and congratulate Curt and his staff for two great years.

Friday November 7 I am going to check

out the Light's Out Party at **The Triangle** things go bump in the dark can be loads of fun.

Saturday November 8 you can join me at Kirby's Klub in Madison for their big Grand Opening drawing. They will be giving away a trip to San Francisco.

Sunday November 9 I will be at our big "Decade of Light" party at the Milwaukee Hilton. I can't wait to see Chase Hunter take his clothes off, hear Joi Cardwell and Men Out Loud sing and hob nob with all the other celebs.

Friday November 14 you can find me checking out **Woody's** Milwaukee's newest Gay bar for its Grand Opening celebration. Woody's is located where B's was, so it's easy to find. Be sure to stop in and pay a visit.

Then I will race up to Diversions for the last benefit to send Susie S. to the National finals of the Miss Gay America pageant. I will probably grab a fish fry at **Just Us** on the way.

Please See Night Light Page 37

A Bar for Everyone

JJ's Shamrock Bar



117 W. Main • Madison, WI

608/255-5029

The Oldest Gay Bar in Madison

1413 Green Valley Road • Neenah, Wisconsin • 725-3374 • (Exit Hwy 41 at Breezewood, South on Green Valley)
OPEN: Tuesday thru Saturday, 7-Close • Sunday, 3-Close

HUGE
Dance Floor
Game Room
Pool
Darts

DIVERSIONS



Wisconsin's
Newest &
Largest Gay
Entertainment
Complex

Congratulations & Thanks for a Decade of Light ...

Fri, Nov 14
A Benefit Show to help
Miss Gay
WI America
go to the
Nat'l Finals
\$3 Cover

Show Time at **10:00**

The CC Rae
Show
with her all new
Comedy
Revue
Wed, Nov 26
\$5 Cover

Show Time at **10:30**

ALL NEW WEEKLY SPECIALS

New & Improved Game Room
Ride our Crotch Rocket
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY - 25¢ Tappers
\$1.50 Absolut Drinks
WEDNESDAY - \$6 Beer Bust
THURSDAY - Retro Night
\$1 Rail Drinks
DJ spins the best of the 80's
FRIDAY - \$1.50 Rail & Domestic until Midnight
DJ spins the best of the 80's
SATURDAY - Where NE WI parties with our DJ
SUNDAY - \$1.50 Bloody Marys

You're Invited

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5

MILWAUKEE SALUTES THE LIGHT WITH FOUR GREAT PARTIES

It will be party time in Milwaukee as it welcomes the largest Gay publication ever produced in Wisconsin, **The Wisconsin Light's** Decade of Light, 10th Anniversary Issue.

RIVERWEST RAINBOW ASSOC. JOINS A.L.D. D'AMATO AT MAMA ROUX

The first stop of the evening will be at Mama Roux, located at 1875 N. Humboldt. The popular East Side hang out should have a nice crowd as the Riverwest Rainbow Neighborhood Association, Alderman Mike D'Amato and many of Mama's Boys and Girls welcome the Decade of Light Issue.

Mama is going to have her normal, 2 for 1 Wednesday night drink special and there will be plenty of good fun.

The party starts at 6:00 and runs until 8:00. We anticipate the paper's arrival at around 6:30.

CCF AT THIS IS IT

Join the folks from the Cream City Foundation in welcoming the Decade of Light issue at This Is It, 418 E. Wells.

Joe and his wonderful staff will be rolling out the red carpet to welcome 10 years of history at their bar.

This Is It has always been a favorite stop for many people because of its eclectic mix of customers, great juke box and great service.

Come and see for yourself. The party begins at 7:00 and runs to 9:00. We anticipate the Decade of Light issue arriving there at around 7:45.

THE CAIR PROGRAM, ARCW AND BESTD CLINIC AT IN BETWEEN

In Between located at 625 S. Second Street will be holding a gayla affair. The staff and volunteers from organizations in the front lines of fighting the war on AIDS will be on hand to welcome The Decade of Light.

Staff from the Medical College's CAIR program, and staff and volunteers from the Milwaukee AIDS Project, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and the BESTD Clinic will be there to join in the celebration.

There will be food and free beer for this fab event which runs from 9:00 to 11:00.

The party is sponsored by Jack Smith of Shorewest Realty and In Between.

LA CAGE - THE LAST STOP

The last stop of the evening will be La Cage where friends of and staff from **The Wisconsin Light** will be treated to a fabulous show starring the La Cage Showcase, the Shoreline Dancers, Members of Singsational plus the fabulous Susie S - Miss Gay Wisconsin America, Cass Marie Domino - Wisconsin's Gay Entertainer of the Year, Sage La Rue - former Miss Gay Lakes At Large, and Billie Blaze.

The party will also feature La Cage's famous Super bust. There will be prizes and best of all IT'S FREE!

Now you know there is absolutely going to be something for everyone so stop in and join us at La Cage located on the corner of S. 2nd Street and National.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6

IN BETWEEN IS TWO YEARS OLD

In Between will be celebrating its second birthday with a party at the bar located at 625 S. Second Street, Milwaukee.

There will be great food, drink specials and over \$300 in cash and prizes given away in the big balloon drop.

Stop on by and say Happy Birthday, win some prizes and toast one of Milwaukee's most popular Gay and Lesbian spots.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7

LIGHTS OUT PARTY AT THE TRIANGLE IN MILWAUKEE

The Triangle will be site of a Lights Out party that begins at 11:00. Free flashlights will be given out to the first 50 people so they can find their way in the dark.

Otherwise bump, feel and grind your way through the bar (that sounds like fun) which is located at 135 E. National.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8

GRAND OPENING DRAWING AT KIRBY'S KLUB IN MAD TOWN

Kirby's Klub, Madisons fun new Les/Bi/Gay bar will conclude its week long grand opening celebration with a drawing for a ticket to San Francisco.

From November 1 to November 8, you can free tickets for the drawing at the bar.

Kirby's Klub is located at 121 Main Street. Stop by and say hi!

MEN OUT LOUD AT MANOEUVRES

Those hunks from LA, Men Out Loud, America's hottest Gay men's group will be doing their stuff at Manoeuvres in Madison. You've heard their CD, you've seen their video, now see and hear them live and person.

Show time is at 10:30 PM. Plus Men Out Loud will be at We Are Family at 6:00

PM to sign CD's and posters. All proceeds from these appearances will be donated to local Madison charities. Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair Street, We are Family is at 524 E. Wilson.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

DECADE OF LIGHT GALA AT THE MILWAUKEE HILTON

It's the party of decade at Milwaukee's Downtown Hilton Hotel. Milwaukee finally hits the big time with a fabulous celebration that benefits the Cream City Foundation.

Tickets for the bash are just \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door and include an opportunity to see and mix with national entertainers and personalities. That hot African American Lesbian Disco Diva, Joi Cardwell will be performing. So will Men Out Loud, who are on a national tour to promote their hot new album and dance video. Nationally known DJ, Billy Carroll will be on hand along with former Falcon Video Star, Chase Hunter (yum). Bill Clinton confidante, David Mixner will be there as well.

Not only that but special performances will be presented by the La Cage Showcase, and Josie Santiago along with other local performers.

All that plus local luminaries like Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist, County Executive Tom Ament, openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin and of course a large crowd.

To get your tickets call 276-6355. Don't miss the party of the decade call today!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14

BENEFIT SHOW AT DIVERSIONS

Divisions the Fox Valley's hot dance bar will host a special benefit show to help Susie S get to the nationals of the Miss Gay America Pageant.

There is a \$3.00 cover. Divisions is located at 1413 Green Valley Road, Neenah.

WOODY'S GRAND OPENING IN MILWAUKEE

B'S is gone, but now Woody's is taking its place in Milwaukee's line up of Gay bars.

We don't know much about what Woody's will be like because the owners have been so busy they haven't stopped by to tell us.

We guess you'll just have to see it for yourself. Woody's is located at 1579 S. Second street.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15

THE NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION'S DINNER DANCE "BLACK & WHITE TONIGHT"

It's the party of the season for Madison's Les/Bi/Gay community, it's an elegant affair, it's a major fund raiser for Dane County's Les/Bi/Gay foundation, New Harvest.

The annual Black and White Tonight Dinner Dance will be the first Gay event at the brand new Frank Lloyd Wright designed Monona Terrace Community and Convention center in Downtown Madison. In addition to a fabulous dinner Rosemary Grilled Chicken, Garlic Shrimp or a vegetarian dish, Ratatouille in puff pastry.

There will be a social hour at 7:00 PM, Dinner at 8:00 PM, a musical interval

provided by Madison's new Gay chorus, Perfect Harmony and then a wonderful evening of dancing on the lake shore with Mad Town's favorite DJ, Tony Ritschard of Manoeuvres.

Tickets are just \$40.00, (and that's not much considering how great this evening is going to be) and can be purchased by sending your menu choice and check to: New Harvest Foundation PO Box 1786 Madison, WI 53701. For more information call The New Harvest Foundation at (608) 256-4204.

MS. GAY WISCONSIN US OF A PAGEANT AT ZA'S IN GREEN BAY

Be on hand when the real girls get together for the big Ms Gay Wisconsin US of A pageant at Za's, 1106 Main Street Green Bay.

The pageant begins at 9:00 and will be followed by dancing.

MADISON'S LESBIAN CULTURAL WEEKEND BEGINS

Madison's annual treat for Lesbians everywhere begins. On Friday November 21 there will be a Lesbian Art Show & Silent Auction from 7:00 to 9:00 at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin Street, Admission is \$2.00.

Friday will also see the Caberet Night, "An Evening of Love and Lust Songs" also at the Senior Center admission \$7.50.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER AT MILWAUKEE'S CENTENNIAL HALL

One of America's funniest Lesbian comics will be making an appearance at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall.

Suzanne Westenhofer will be bringing her all new show to the hall which is located at 733 North 8th Street. As anyone who has ever seen her on TV or in person can tell you, the woman is a riot.

Tickets are \$17 in advance or \$19 at the door. Or you can have "Circle of Friends Seating" for \$35.00. This includes reserved front section seats, and a reception with Suzanne after the show. A portion of "Circle Of Friends" ticket sales will be donated to the Milwaukee AIDS project.

Tickets are available at Afterwords Books, 2710 N. Murray, Outpost Natural Foods, 100 E. Capitol or by mail Full Moon

Productions, N235 Cty Hwy W, Campbellsport, WI 53010. Circle of Friends tickets are available by mail only.

STEVE KELSO TOURS MILWAUKEE

That hot hunk Steve Kelso the guy who so many people lined up to have their picture taken with is making an encore appearance in Milwaukee.

Kelso will be at Designing Men, 1200 S. 1st Street at from 2:00 - 4:00. This Is It, 418 E. Wells at 8:00 to 10:00 and South Water Street Docks, 354 E. National beginning at around 10:00 PM.

Kelso's appearance is sponsored by Designing Men. It will be a benefit for the Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay foundation.

HIT BENEFIT AT THIS IS IT

A fun time will be had by all at This Is It, HIT Fund raiser. There will be raffles, guest bartenders and surprises.

The fun begins at 7:00 This Is It is located at 418 E. Wells.

MADISON'S LESBIAN VARIETY SHOW

Kissing Girls Productions presents the 12 Annual Lesbian Variety Show at Madison's Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave. This is the centerpiece event of Madison's Lesbian Cultural Weekend. Admission for 3 great hours of entertainment is \$12.50. Showtime is 7:00 PM.

Also on Saturday is the Lesbian ART Show and Silent Auction and the Carnival and Craft Fair. Both are at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin. Both run from 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is \$2.00 (or free with your variety show ticket) for the Art Show and Silent Auction. The Carnival and Craft Fair are free.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23

MADISON LESBIAN CULTURAL WEEKEND CONCLUDES

Madison's Lesbian Cultural Weekend concludes with a flourish. There will be a Lesbian Art Show and Silent Auction Wrap at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. and a Poetry and Story Telling Showcase also at the Senior Center. Both events are \$2.00 or free with your variety show ticket stub.

GRAND OPENING PARTY

Sat, Nov 22

Festivities begin at 4pm
Black & Blue Ball - 8pm

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OUT In Print



The Most Important Gay and Lesbian Book Titles of a Decade

By Carl M. Szatmary

1. **Becoming a Man: Half a Life** by Paul Monette Harper San Francisco Pb 1992 \$12.00

Winner of the 1992 National Book Award in 1992, *Half a Life* is an extraordinarily honest, revealing memoir of Monette's long road to acceptance of his homosexuality, his becoming a man.

2. **Daddy's Roommate** written & illustrated by Michael Willhoite Alyson Pb \$9.95 1990

A simple, sweet children's book but one which has caused extraordinarily vicious battles in school and public libraries across America. It is hard to imagine what all the fuss is about.

3. **The Unofficial Gay Manual** by Kevin Dilallo and Jack Krumholtz Doubleday Pb \$12.95 1994

Essential Gay reading? Well, probably not. Still, a landmark book that proved that there is such a thing as Gay humor and, more importantly, caused mainstream publishers to sit up and recognize the profitability of Gay and Lesbian titles.

4. **And The Band Played On** by Randy Shilts Penguin Pb. \$15.00 1987

Gay journalist Randy Shilt's controversial, if meticulously researched account of the early days of the AIDS crisis took no prisoners.

5. **Stone Butch Blues** by Leslie Feinberg Firebrand Pb \$12.95 1993

Feinberg's autobiographical novel is at once a thoroughly absorbing piece of writing as well as a shattering account of Lesbian work before Stonewall. A remarkable work by a remarkable "Transgender warrior".

6. **B-Boy Blues** by James Earl Hardy Alyson Pb \$11.95 1994

An enjoyable, sexy romp, *B-Boy Blues* shattered Gay Literature's color barrier, helping to make acceptable (i.e. potentially profitable) to publishers other works by Gay African-American writers.

7. **Breaking the Surface** by Greg Louganis with Eric Marcus Plume Pb \$12.95 1995

A Gay Olympian? Impossible. At least until Louganis's amazing story propelled *Breaking the Surface* onto the top of every best-seller list and resulted in candid discussions of AIDS and homosexuality in the homes of middle-class America. An incredible story that touched the hearts of many.

8. **A Place at the Table: The Gay Individual in American Society** by Bruce Bawer Simon & Schuster Pb \$12.00 1993

Not all will embrace Bawer's notions of what may be required to transform our GLBT community to sit at America's "Table" but few books have elicited such discussion and controversy.

9. **Queer in America** by Michelangelo Signorile Anchor Books Pb \$14.00 1993

Radical Gay bad-boy journalist Signorile riled up America by outing influential, closeted individuals. In *Queer in America*, he exposes the "closets of power" in American media and government.

10. **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers** by Lillian Faderman Penguin Pb \$12.95 1991

A surprise best-seller, Faderman's well-researched, lively chronicle was among the first to explore the heretofore unknown history of Lesbian life.

Several other titles are also worthy of mention.

Permanent Partners by Betty Berzon Ph.D. Plume Pb \$14.95 1988

Coming Out: An Act of Love by Rob Eichberg Ph.D. \$13.95 1990

The Celluloid Closet by Vito Russo HarperPerennial Pb \$14.00 1987

Conduct Unbecoming by Randy Shilts Fawcett Pb \$16.00 1993

Virtually Normal by Andrew Sullivan Vintage Pb \$12.00 1995

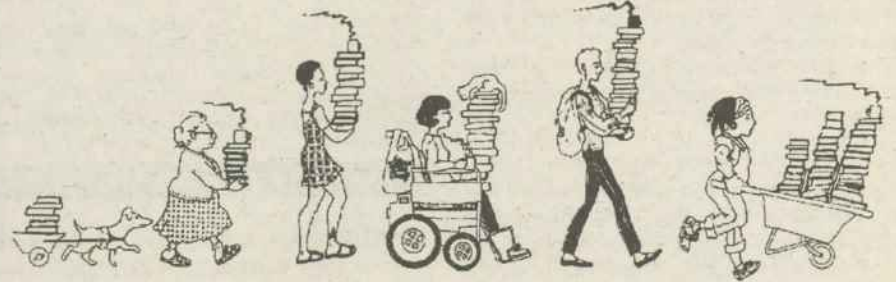
What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality by Daniel Helminiak Alamo Square Pb \$9.95 1994

Macho Sluts by Pat Califia Alyson Pb \$11.95 1988

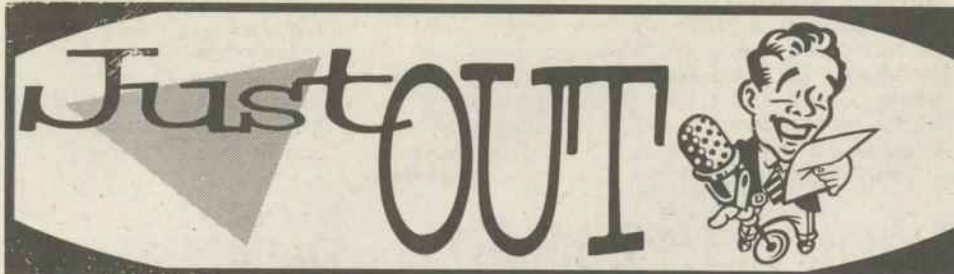
Closet by Vito Russo HarperPerennial Pb \$14.00

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New on the Shelves Fiction

Plays Well With Others by Alan Gurganus Knopf HC \$25.00

In his first novel since the wildly popular, *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, Allan Gurganus turns his comic eye to Gay Manhattan of the 1980s. In 1980 Hartley Mims, Jr. reached his long desired goal: New York City where he will find both career and a brilliant group of friends.

By 1995 Hartley has seen his friends disappear, victims of the epidemic. Part obsessive love story, part commentary on our recent past, *Plays Well With Others* is an engaging, deeply felt novel by a great writer.

Solitaire and Brahms by Sarah Dreher New Victoria Pb \$12.95

Author of several, hugely successful Stoner McTavish mysteries, Dreher changes directions with *Solitaire and Brahms*, a vividly funny, touching novel of Lesbian life in the pre-Stonewall 1950s. Through her memorable protagonist Shelby Camden, Dreher offers the devastating conflict in that era between one's public and one's private life. An unforgettable novel!

Non-Fiction

The Lesbian Health Book edited by Jocelyn White M.D. and Marissa C Martinez Seal Press Pb \$18.95


The Lesbian Health Book brings together a wide range of voices from the Lesbian community—doctors and other health care providers, women facing illness or life changes, health activists and many others. Continuing a national conversation among Lesbians, this book is an

invaluable resource highlighting personal and community efforts to make health care accessible and responsive to lesbians.

Shirts & Skin by Tim Miller Alyson Pb \$12.95

In this fascinating, riveting, often very sexy memoir, Tim Miller, one of the famed NEA Four, looks at some of the major events in his life, from the growth of his first pubic hair and becoming the love-slave of a John Travolta look-a-like to shopping for a dog and deciding whether to take the HIV antibody test. Tim Miller dares to expose himself again, in print.

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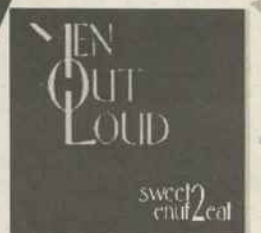
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Afterwords Salutes the Wisconsin Light!
Ten Years!



To help The Light celebrate 10 years as Milwaukee's LGBT News Source Afterwords is offering a 10% discount on the 10 Most Important GLBT Books of the last decade:
Becoming a Man: Half a Life · *Daddy's Roommate* · *The Unofficial gay manual* · *And the Band Played On* · *Stone Butch Blues* · *B-Boy Blues* · *Breaking the Surface* · *A Place at the Table* · *Queer in America* · *Odd Girls and Twilight lovers*

And Then Meet **Men Out Loud** CD Signing party On Saturday November 8 3:00PM



Afterwords Books & Espresso Bar
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OUT on Film

Human Rights Concerns in China are Deftly Examined in 'Red Corner'

By John A. Jahn

In real life, Richard Gere is seriously interested in human rights issues around the world. The current controversies surrounding Sino-American relations due to China's many human rights abuses have been receiving a great deal of attention not just because of the ongoing talks between the US and Chinese governments, but also because of the release of powerful feature films dramatizing situations in modern Communist China.

Seven Years in Tibet provides a sympathetic look at the country of Tibet, which has been forcibly annexed to China and whose Buddhist religion is suppressed.

Martin Scorsese directed another Tibet-based film, the soon-to-be-released **Kundun**.

Richard Gere stars in the currently released **Red Corner**, which involves a man unjustly jailed, psychologically tortured, physically roughed up, and finally placed naked in solitary and deprived of light in present-day China.

Red Corner is not just an ode to the freedoms we enjoy in the Western world and an indictment of the abuses inflicted on people in the authoritarian Chinese state. It's also a rattling good murder mystery/thriller, with the daughter of a Chinese general lying dead in a Beijing hotel suite after a night of drinking and sex with American businessman Gere, who's in China attempting to strike a lucrative deal.

He's arrested, interrogated, and urged to plead guilty just to avoid the death penalty (he's warned that in China, death penalties are carried out within a week).

Gere's performance is superb and convincing. But he's almost upstaged by his Chinese court-appointed lawyer played by

Bai Ling, 27, in her first, and career-making, big role. At first she's almost her client's adversary, but gradually becomes convinced of his innocence, and proceeds thereafter with singular tenacity to find out what really happened that night.

A compelling, exciting mystery unfolds over the film's two hour span, gripping and terrifying at the same time.

Gere was denied a visa to enter China, where part of **Red Corner** was shot. He tried more than 20 times in 4 years to get in. "They're basically afraid," he has said. "This (country) is the last vestige of a bully."

The film's most resonant line is uttered by Ling when Gere asks her why she goes so far as to jeopardize her career in order to save Gere; she answers "I no longer wish to be silent." She speaks not only for herself but for generations of Chinese who've grown up under a totalitarian state and corrupt judicial system.

Writer Robert King, director Jon Avnet, and the entire cast of **Red Corner** have created an important, entertaining film which manages to avoid most of the pitfalls of political message films. It's a bit slow at times, but the story keeps you glued, and Gere's and Bai Ling's chemistry makes their scenes together quite powerful and moving.

It's often said that fact is stranger than fiction, and such may be the case here. Bai Ling is in the US on a green card. Her family's still in China, and her worst fear is that because of her part in this movie she might not be allowed to see them. Ling responds: "A lot of people in China (are) being silenced. We need to end it. Why can't we tell the truth? What are we afraid of?"

(3 1/2 stars)

The Importance of Fantasy is Explored in 'Fairy Tale-A True Story'

By John A. Jahn

Two young cousins, Elsie and Frances, allegedly took photographs of real fairies in a backyard garden in England in 1917. Their story didn't come to the world's attention until Elsie's mother, Polly, brought the photos to the attention of E. L. Gardner at a Theosophical meeting in 1920.

He in turn took them to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose "Strand Magazine" published them in the Christmas of that year. The world was amazed and the two girls were hounded by the press: local, national, and international.

All of the above really happened, and it's what amounts to the "True Story" in Paramount Pictures' new film about the importance of fantasy as a bulwark against the harsher realities of life.

But the movie's sense of what's real or not is a little confusing and murky, making this movie - supposedly a kid film - probably unsuitable for anyone under 12 - younger than that they just won't get it.

Fairy Tale effectively brings to life England during the height of World War I, and it possesses a charming story pitting the beliefs of children against the skepticism of adults.

The film also boasts some strong performances, including the legendary Peter O'Toole and multi-talented Harvey Keitel as two of the world's most popular historical figures: Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini, respectively.

The production designer, Michael Howells (**Emma, Orlando**) certainly kept pace with his earlier movies' evocative settings.

'Gattaca' Effectively Explores the Dangers of Genetic Engineering

By John A. Jahn

The new science fiction thriller **Gattaca** begins with what may be a real warning to the world today: "The not too distant future." That is when this film takes place, and the world portrayed in it is at once wonderful and horrifying.

The not too distant future world of **Gattaca** is one in which, to be considered a "valid" person, you must have been genetically engineered by your parents.

It's common practice to go to a doctor and order the child you want. As parents, you choose everything about the infant: skin, hair, eye color, physical qualities, etc. It's not a subject explored in the film, but we can just imagine that in this genetically

"purified" world, no one selects children genetically predisposed to be homosexual. After all, this is hardly a world in which prejudice no longer exists.

If you were conceived naturally, you're called a "God child"; the more unfortunate term used to describe you is that you're "invalid." The "valids" get all the best jobs, while the "invalids" are society's garbage men and janitors. The only escape an invalid has from a life of drudgery and second classedness is to try to pass yourself off as valid.

There are underground elements ready to help, for the right price.

Please See **Gattaca** Page 37



Eve's Bayou - Lynn Whitefield stars as Roz Batiste and her children are portrayed by (l-r) Meagan Good, Jake Smollett and Jurnee Smollett in *Eve's Bayou*. It opens at Milwaukee's Downer Theater, Friday, November 7.

Creole Culture and Voodoo Bring an Other-Worldly Aspect to 'Eve's Bayou'

By John A. Jahn

Eve's Bayou is the directorial debut of actress-writer-director Kasi Lemmons, and as a first offering, it packs a powerful emotional punch. The film is a deeply poetic sojourn through Tennessee Williams country - a moss-draped, humid landscape evocatively nothing but Southern.

Using the point-of-view of a 10 year-old, often overlooked middle child - Eve Batiste (Jurnee Smollett), Lemmons' ambitious, sprawling independent production uses a pastiche of images, employed like verses of poetry, to create a haunting portrait of a seemingly prosperous - but morally compromised - family.

Eve's Bayou is much more than the story of a family and all its trials and tribulations, told in a straight-forward, matter-of-fact style. Instead, it takes the complex story which follows several characters at once and tells it in a startlingly original way.

In fact, this particular method of storytelling has its roots in the same Southern Gothic tradition that encompasses such films as **To Kill a Mockingbird** and **A Streetcar Named Desire**.

Though set in the Louisiana bayou country during the early 1960s, the true topography of **Eve's Bayou** lies somewhere between the material and spiritual worlds, where truth can change shape, depending on the light of day.

This is most emphatically a "woman's movie," in that all the major characters we

follow are women - with the sole exception of Dr. Louis Batiste (Samuel L. Jackson). It follows the events of a particular summer in the life of his daughter, Eve, and all the events more or less revolve around her - she is, after all, the story-teller.

The film is filled with excellent acting - the title character and Jackson, Meagan Good as Eve's troubled but sophisticated older sister Cisely, the elegant and beautiful matriarch, Roz Batiste (Lynn Whitefield), and Aunt Mozelle (Debbi Morgan), who works as a seer but has been plagued with bad luck with the men in her life.

Eve's Bayou contains several themes. First there is the motif of trying to divine the truth in the material world by accessing the spiritual world. Secondly, there's the undercurrent of sisterhood which serves to bond the women of the movie together - even through lies and indiscretions. Though the entire cast of the film is Black, that's not what it's about - it's not about the "hood," but about a family deeply influenced by mysticism and spirituality.

Set in a fascinating, little-filmed culture, containing strong performances and excellent writing, and a riveting story told in a fresh manner, **Eve's Bayou** allows us the chance to go inside people's private lives and feel the love and despair, as well as the spirituality. **Eve's Bayou** opens Friday, November 7th at the Downer Theater.

(3 stars)

'A Life Less Ordinary' is a Delightful Film, a Romantic Romp

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Perhaps made hesitant from the considerable hype generated by **Trainspotting**, Glenn seriously underestimated the combined talents of director Danny Boyle, screenwriter John Hodge and actor Ewan McGregor.

Armed with his familiar "Biggie" popcorn and "Biggie" Diet Pepsi, Glenn was almost giddy with expectations as he settled in for **A Life Less Ordinary**.

Despite the film's quirky opening scenes and divine intervention, **A Life Less Ordinary** emerges as a gussied up version of the familiar "bumbling-kidnaping-the-heiress" scenario, especially reminiscent of Bette Midler's wacky **Ruthless People**.

Robert (Ewan McGregor) is one of life's likable losers. A janitor who fantasizes writing dreadful best-sellers, Robert loses job and livelihood to a midget robot. Going from bad to worse, his girlfriend dumps him for an aerobics instructor. Did Glenn fail to mention that Repo Men come and take all of Robert's worldly, material possessions.

Despondent, Robert decides to take matters into his own hands. Looking for all the world like a would-be Jimmy Stewart with a Scottish brogue, Robber decides to confront boss Naville (Ian Holm). As if to prove just how bad things are going for Robert, instead of getting his job back, he somehow ends up kidnapping Naville's spoiled little girl Celine (Cameron Diaz).

Enter O'Reilly (Holly Hunter) and Jackson (Delroy Lindo), couple of down-and-out angels sent on a mission, to get Robert and Celine to fall in love. Or else!

Robert proves to be as inept a kidnapper as he was a janitor, nor does his heart truly seem to be in it. Having her own

grudge against dear ol' dad, Celine quickly becomes the brains of the operation, suggesting to Robert, for example, that a ransom demand is usually called for under such circumstances.

Clever sequences, such as a delightful karaoke duet fantasy and energetic performances from McGregor and Diaz cannot entirely make up for a screenplay that ricochets in more directions than does a pinball game.

Ewan McGregor does a nice job in a change of pace role as the genuinely sweet if a bit dim Robert. His Robert is such a nice guy that it is impossible not to wonder if he mightn't be better off without the neurotic Celine.

Sadly, Boyle and Hodge pretty much wastes the film's talented supporting cast. As the angels responsible for Robert and Celine's eternal happiness, Holly Hunter looks for all the world as if she wandered in from a **Pulp Fiction** outtake and partner Delroy Lindo merely looks lost.

Fans of last year's surprise sleeper, **Big Night** will spy Stanley Tucci as a perverse dentist as well as Tony Shalhoub effective in a brief cameo as Al who offers Robert some sensible advice about love.

Imagine "Touched by an Angel" on crack and you have the often forced craziness of **A Life Less Ordinary** in a nutshell. An enjoyable enough of a romantic romp, Glenn wistfully wished for the delicious black comedy and the explosive spontaneity of their earlier films.

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

Our Reviewers Pick The Best Films of The Decade Of Light

The Gay and Lesbian Films Of the Decade Glen Bishop's Picks

What a great and grand honor for Glenn to be selected to choose the best, the brightest, the hottest in Gay & Lesbian cinema over the past ten years in this special commemorative issue of *The Wisconsin Light*!

Over the course of the past few weeks Glenn has spent hour upon hour reviewing a shortlist of films, puzzling over their respective merits and pondering their flaws. Films were selected, dropped only to later reappear.

Here goes.

1. **Maurice** (1987) What better credentials than having been based on one of the most celebrated Gay novels ever written, produced by the marvelously meticulous team of Merchant/Ivory and boasting a stellar, stunning cast which includes Hugh Grant and Rupert Graves. A wonderful, ravishing film with a rare willingness to depict Gay male sexuality in a mainstream film.

2. **Tales of the City** (1993) The lives of the inhabitants of 28 Barbary Lane are as familiar to many readers as are their own. This rare collaboration of British Channel 4 and PBS resulted in revolutionary television in addition to being a warm and wildly original film.

3. **Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** (1994) Outrageous chronicles of two drag queens and a Transsexual on an amazing road trip through the wilds of Australia. Boasting fabulous costumes and a terrific soundtrack, this thoroughly entertaining romp presents its Gay characters in a warm and positive fashion.

4. **Tongues Untied** (1989) An intensely personal and impassioned cinematic exploration of what it is to be black and Gay in America by acclaimed filmmaker Marlon Riggs.

5. **Go Fish** (1994) A delightful warm romantic Lesbian comedy on a shoe-string budget by Chicago filmmakers Rose Tro-

che and Guinevere Turner. If occasionally lapsing into film school pitfalls, *Go Fish* offers a refreshing portrayal of dykes in love.

6. **Wild Reeds** (1995) Director Andre Techine's autobiographical poignant, bittersweet coming-of-age film, set in France in 1962 follows four teenagers awakening to love, including a young man, Francois, who learns to accept his same-sex attraction to handsome classmate, Serge.

7. **My Own Private Idaho** (1991) An extraordinary film about a Gay, narcoleptic street hustler looking for his long-lost mother (played by River Phoenix) and his unrequited love for the ravishing Scott (Keanu Reeves). The stuff of many a Gay man's dreams.

8. **Forbidden Love** (1992) An entertaining, informative documentary of Lesbian life in Canada in the 1950's and 60's, a time when Lesbian love was "the love that dared not speak its name". Set against a backdrop of the fabulously lurid Lesbian pulp novels, nine women recall a surprising time long before Stonewall.

9. **Law of Desire** (1987) Acclaimed Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's tale of sexual obsession is joyously erotic, outrageously camp and very, very funny. Features a young Antonio Banderas and the amazing Carmen Maura as a Transsexual. Unmissable!

10. **Lilies** (1997) Recently screened at the Milwaukee Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, *Lilies* takes on classic themes of love, jealousy and betrayal. A ravishing film and terrific love story.

10.5. tie: **Torch Song Trilogy** (1988)

When Night Is Falling (1996)

Beautiful Thing (1996)

Incredible Adventure of Two Girls in Love (1995)

Sum of Us (1995)

Bound (1996)

Priest (1995)

Harvey's classic plus a gaggle of popular, entertaining mainstream ventures into Gay and Lesbian life. These titles form the cornerstone of many queer video libraries.

cle, featuring wonderful performances throughout (including Joan Chen and Peter O'Toole). You grow up with Pu Yi and experience all his triumphs and defeats with him amidst war and revolution-ravaged China.

MISSISSIPPI BURNING (1988; Director: Alan Parker)

Willem Defoe and Gene Hackman are FBI agents on the trail of three disappeared civil rights workers in 1964 Mississippi in this fact-based tale of racial hatred. The film has the strongest period feel of any film made on the subject and includes superb supporting characters, including Frances McDormand as the battered but warm-hearted wife of a despicable small-town deputy sheriff. Defoe and Hackman are two very different kinds of men, and the chemistry between them is explosive. Hackman gives his finest performance to date in this terrific, moving film.

DANCES WITH WOLVES (1990; Director: Kevin Costner)

A magnificent widescreen, intimate epic and ode to the Native American (some of the dialog actually in Sioux with subtitles). Costner's fabulous film is based upon the actual diaries of a 19th century westward trekker named John Dunbar. It's as enchanting a Western as ever was, rich, lyrical, full of exciting action, beautifully shot and sumptuously scored by John Barry. It's an evocative and enjoyable epic, closer than most films to accurate recreation of the early Indian way of life.

GOODFELLAS (1990; Director: Martin Scorsese)

Another true story, *Goodfellas* is based upon the memoirs of Henry Hill, now in the witness protection program, and recounts his extraordinary life within the mafia. This film elevated the gangster movie to a new level of style and realism in a way that was in some regards even superior to the "Godfather" films.

This electrifying and troubling examination of the underworld starring Ray Liotta, Robert DeNiro, and Joe Pesci, brilliantly interweaves biography, social observation, and black comedy.

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (1991; Director: Jonathan Demme)

Jodie Foster gives an extraordinary performance as an FBI agent on the trail of a brutal serial killer named Buffalo Bill. She enlists the help of an ensnared serial murderer named Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter (Anthony Hopkins). Lecter is so powerful and unsettling a character that, although a supporting role, he dominates the whole film.

Based upon Thomas Harris' novel,

"*Lambs*" is tautly directed, gripping, and eerie. A psychological thriller that avoids sensationalism, it's great with some farthing beans and a nice Chianti.

THE FUGITIVE (1993; Director: Andrew Davis)

Following the '90's trend of bringing classic TV shows to the big screen, this is clearly the best of them so far. Harrison Ford is superb as the wrongly-accused Dr. Richard Kimble, and Tommy Lee Jones arguably even better as the tireless cop Sam Gerard on his trail.

It's a breathless manhunt, an exhilarating non-stop chase. We follow plunges down a waterfall, a cat-and-mouse jaunt through a Chicago St. Patrick's Day parade, and witness the best train wreck ever committed to film. Fine performances throughout bring all the characters to life and you come to really care about them. As fine a thriller as ever was.

SCHINDLER'S LIST (1993; Director: Steven Spielberg)

I promised I'd tell you which of these films is the best, and it should come as no surprise this is it! Liam Neeson stars as the real-life German businessman Oskar Schindler, who rescued over 1,000 Jews from the Nazi gas chambers...all while a member of the party himself.

This documentary-style production features an intelligent script, superb cast (including Ben Kingsley and Ralph Fiennes), and telling black-and-white cinematography (with brief, effective uses of color). *Schindler's List* is an unforgettable homage to survival, recreating history with restraint.

As emotionally gripping as it is throughout, perhaps the finest part is the epilogue: actual survivors portrayed in the film, accompanied by the actors who played them in some cases, including Schindler's widow, filing past this complex man's grave in Israel.

FORREST GUMP (1994; Director: Robert Zemeckis)

Tom Hanks portrays the title character, a dim-witted but sweet-hearted innocent, and we follow his path through some 30 years of turbulent U.S. history. Gump becomes a sports star, war hero, business tycoon (the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.), and all the while he remains touchingly true to his lifelong love Jenny (Robin Wright).

Her journey through these decades is a wretched wandering, contrasting sharply with Gump's. Hank's performance is enchanting and unpatronizing, and he's surrounded by an excellent supporting cast. Baby Boomers in particular will relate to Gump's life, and the film's evocative soundtrack will find them wallowing in nostalgia.

Zemeckis directs with great agility Gump's hilarious and touching adventures. The film also boasts remarkable special effects which add Gump to real-life scenes from the '60's and '70's, including his encounters with presidents.

CASINO (1995; Director: Martin Scorsese)

This film is similar in many ways to *Goodfellas*, but in nearly every way is even better than its predecessor, although it gained less attention and honors. It boasts a terrific cast of unforgettable characters, most notably DeNiro, who plays Sam "Ace" Rothstein, the mob's front man in Las Vegas, Sharon Stone, who plays Ginger McKenna, his fatal attraction, and Joe Pesci as the brutal enforcer Nicky Santoro.

The film is set in 1970's Las Vegas, the period when the mafia, which started the gambling mecca back in the early '50's, loses its vice-like grip once and for all on the place. The characters and action are real, making it all the more fascinating. *Casino* is a riveting look at how blind ambition, passion, and greed toppled an empire in an era of over-the-top glitz. Like *Goodfellas*, it also has an excellent soundtrack.

FARGO (1996; Writers and Directors: Joel and Ethan Coen)

Fargo is a skillfully explored true story of a 1987 arranged kidnapping for money scheme which quickly dissolved into murder and mayhem. It's a unique blend of horror with a sense of black humor. Set in Minnesota (the birthplace of the Coen brothers), the film possesses an expert eye for detail and setting.

The frozen region is imbued with an almost ghostlike quality. Roger Deakins (director of photography) magnificently frames every scene; landscapes literally melt into the sky and whiteouts gradually reveal their hidden secrets.

The central figures are all wonderfully acted and the characters superbly written, in particular Frances McDormand as the pregnant sheriff of Brainerd, Minn. A brilliant film throughout!

FILMS:1987—1997

Steve Stavaron's Picks

It was an unexpected pleasure to discover that I could give a nod to some distinguished and competent films released within the last 10 years, but what surprised me even more was that a closer survey revealed that many of them were rapidly becoming completely forgettable.

It's as if most contemporary movies become quickly encapsulated within a vague, rapidly shortening microspan of memory, limiting our recollection of them to composites of indistinct blurs of color and light, but without those specially focused details which serve to illuminate the imagination. The best of them leave us with no lingering sense of wonder and anticipation which earlier films of greater emotional range entrenched into our hearts and minds.

Even such a fine film as *Schindler's List* is remembered mostly for its superb camera work which doesn't entirely compensate for lack of a major star characterization [Ralph Fiennes stole what there was].

Who remembers *The Fugitive*, *Unforgiven*, *Wall Street*, *Moonstruck*, or *Dances with Wolves* except as rapidly fading, transitory images which tickle and tease our memory banks with a challenge to recall? We remember some kind of general effect but not the totality of the film experience. Yet these recent movies were pretty good—two even won Oscars.

Most forgettable were the independent "art" films that garnered so much praise. *The Piano* *The Crying Game*, [Anyone remember even the title of that one?] *Leaving Las Vegas* [ugh!] and even *Pulp Fiction* are threatened with obscurity, I feel and not just because I didn't care for any of them [except *Pulp Fiction*].

What's gone wrong?

Too many films trivialized by movie houses in shopping malls? Too many films to choose from? Failure to engage audiences away from the artificial precanned television mentality? Confusion by filmmakers of the banality and ugliness of the ordinary for the empathy provided by greater human dramas?

But for whatever reason even the better films of the last decade—and for that matter the last THREE decades—have failed to capture our enduring collective imagination.

Some of the British "literary" films may fare better in the long run since they have more style and class—perhaps more style than class—or could it be more class than style—or perhaps too much of an uneven balance of each—I don't know which—but these would include *Remains of the Day*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Howard's End*.

Despite a tendency to be too tidy with an abundance of passionless restraint their sheer intelligence holds up well—up to a point.

And a nod to the Bard: *Henry V* [better than Olivier's] and the greatly undervalued verbal [and virulent] *Hamlet* proved a fitting tribute to the greatest of all "screen writers" even if he was heavy into iambic. Forget the kiddie *Capulets*, the inner city *Othello*, the Wehrmacht *Richard II*—we're having enough trouble dealing with the arts of our dislikeable times without eviscerating masterpieces to make them resemble the films we're stuck with.

Ironically, there were individual performances that seem to out last the films themselves: Al Pacino's superb and moving performance in *Scent of a Woman* [which he continues to parody, unfortunately], Tom Hanks' wondrous farewell to life duet with Maria Callas in *Philadelphia*, Anthony Hopkins's classic Hannibal Lecter [who enjoys friends for dinner], Dustin Hoffman's plaintive Rainman and—yes—even Madonna's exquisitely saddened *Evita*—an unexpected reminder that inspiration is as important as dubious talent.

These performances seem to linger beyond the life expectancy of the films themselves and the reminder is twofold—either the lack of great acting talent on our screens [Madonna not withstanding] or the commitment of talent to strive for the excruciating banality of the most commonplace and secondly, the dismal uninspired detachment with which most films are constructed.

Many mature filmgoers have stated that there are no good films being made any more. It might be more fair to say that there are few lasting films being made. Our fast moving culture doesn't allow for posterity. Our movies seem ever frag-

Please See Top 10 Films Page 37

LIGHT AT THE MOVIES

John A. Jahn's Picks

The 1980's saw several trends in film develop which by-and-large are still being followed today.

The "social relevancy" that swept through Hollywood and the foreign film industry during the late '60's and early '70's was pretty much done away with (though the AIDS epidemic has renewed interest in social commentary in films in recent years).

Starting with the late '70's, there was a decided lurch towards lighter-hearted fare and escapism. Movies returned to being fun for fun's sake as they had been in the '50's and early '60's.

Staples of the silver screen during the '80's included family-oriented spectacles, gung-ho (often unabashedly patriotic) action films, and big-budget escapism. Social comment, ugly themes, and threatening or cautionary tales were pretty much left up to small, independent filmmakers and Third World cinema.

The '90's have been a continuation of the themes of the previous decade, with some modifications here and there.

The movie scene continues to be enlivened by emerging independent filmmakers, foreign films are more prominent than ever before, the special effects/high tech gadgetry continue to dazzle us (often becoming the dominant force in a movie by itself), and sequels abound like never before.

All in all, the period during *Wisconsin Light's* existence (1987-97) has not been a great one for the film industry. Decades from now perhaps only one or two movies from this period will be remembered and considered classics.

Nevertheless, there have been several very good films, and I've compiled the following top ten list from this period. I present them in chronological order rather than trying to list them according to which is better than the other. In my book, these are all easily 4-star films of the highest artistic order. I will tell you which one I think is head-and-shoulders above them all, however. Read on!

THE LAST EMPEROR (1987; Director: Bernardo Bertolucci)

The poignant tale of the last Manchu emperor of China, Pu Yi (John Lone), covering 60 years of fascinating history during the turbulent 20th century. It's a sumptuous epic and a magnificent specta-

'The Ice Storm' is a Very Convincing Recreation of the Early Seventies

By John A. Jahn

It's November, 1973 in New Canaan, CT. The country is wrapped up in Watergate, the ongoing Vietnam War, and the closing days of the counter-culture revolution. **Jonathan Livingston Seagull** and **Human Sexual Response** are best sellers, and wife-swapping parties are all the rage in suburbia. In New Canaan, the Hood family is skidding out of control amidst the country's moral crisis.

The befuddled antihero Ben Hood (Kevin Kline) has an affair with the next-door neighbor's wife Janey Carver (Sigourney Weaver). Janey is one of several adults in the film trying to "find themselves." Ben's wife, Elena (Joan Allen) is losing patience with her husband's barely disguised infidelity.

Teenage daughter Wendy (Christina Ricci) is finding new games to play with the next door neighbor boys, Mikey Carver (Elijah Wood) and his younger brother Sandy (Adam Hann-Byrd). Jim Carver (Jamey Sheridan), an up-and-coming businessman, is strangely detached from his wife and boys. The Hood's eldest son Paul (Tobey Maguire) is in love and lust with an alluring but uninterested rich girl from his prep school.

The first half of **The Ice Storm** acts as a time machine to acquaint us with those turbulent, confused times. We're taken back not only by glimpses of Nixon on T.V., but also by those horrible early-70s fashions! Double-knit slacks, bell bottoms, platform shoes, gaudy costume jewelry, women in wigs and crocheted sweaters, gleaming polyester print shirts with BIG collars, massive ties.

By the way, if you want to see some of these items for yourself, just head to your local Boston Store...they're back! Cudos (I guess) to costume designer Carol Oditz.

Additionally, the period is perfectly reborn on the screen by all those big '70s cars (Ben Hood has a blue Riviera that is to die for), and snippets of '70s AM pop and progressive rock on the soundtrack. The film is essentially a social study of a period, and as such it exceeds all too well.

The second half of the film revolves around several simultaneous events taking place during the area's worst ice storm in

IMAX Film, 'Africa-The Serengeti', is a Nature Gala Writ Very Big

By John A. Jahn

I've always been a big fan of those PBS nature documentaries which catalog the flora and fauna of our world. They take you to places you'll never see, and help you understand the many varieties of life with which we share this world. Now, a wonderful example of such a film has come to the Milwaukee Public Museum's Humphrey Dome Theater in IMAX format ("IMAX" stands for "maximum image," and at 10 times the size of standard 35mm film, it's the widest on the planet).

Africa-The Serengeti is the latest offering being shown at the downtown IMAX theater, and it's essentially the land lubber's counterpart to their earlier film, **The Living Sea**. Narrated by James Earl Jones, the film evokes the beauty and drama of life in and around the great nature preserve of the Serengeti Plains of east Africa - Kenya and Tanzania, to be exact.

We encounter giraffes, hippos, lions, leopards, zebras, and alligators. For the most part, though, the film follows by far the most numerous of the Serengeti's inhabitants, the 1.5 million strong roving herds of wildebeest. They make annual treks to both the north and south extremes of the vast region, and along the way suffer enormous casualties - in the neighborhood of 250,000, to all sorts of causes. However, they're replenished by the births of about three times that number.

Africa-The Serengeti is very much like a standard nature documentary, only so much bigger on the inside of the Humphrey dome, and shot on IMAX film. The sight you get from the air is the next best thing to being there - you can see for a hundred miles off into the horizon, and below you run tens of thousands of wildebeests! Truly an awesome sight.

This film began its run on October 25 and is scheduled to remain at the Humphrey Dome until June 5, 1998. Future presentations will be **Titanic**, opening December 6th, and **Everest**, opening March 7th. Call 319-IMAX for show times.

(3 stars)

30 years. Members of the two central families embark upon their separate sexual odysseys, and the events of that night are by turns ribald, comic and tragic. Both the Hoods and the Carvers will be brought face-to-face with one another for the first time when they meet again, in the cold early light of the morning after the ice storm has passed.

The Ice Storm is a fascinating and thought-provoking film, ably directed by Ang Lee, director of another superb period piece, **Sense and Sensibility**. It will bring memories flooding back for anyone alive at the time. I, for instance, fully identified with the experiences of the adolescents (I was 10 in '73). The film is filled with messages and metaphors too numerous to explain. I wouldn't do so anyway, since they're up to you to discover when you see this excellent film.

Ice Storm is now showing at Milwaukee Oriental Theater.

(3 1/2 Stars)

Reeling '97: 17th Annual Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

The Midwest premiere of the highly anticipated screen adaptation of Martin Sherman's award-winning and groundbreaking stage play **Bent** will open Reeling '97: The 17th Annual Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival on Friday, November 7 at the Music Box Theater.

Featuring over one hundred full-length features and shorts, Reeling '97 will run through Thursday, November 20. All festival programs beginning with the opening night screening of **Bent** through Thursday, November 13 will take place at the Music Box Theater at 3733 N. Southport Ave.

Remaining film programs through Thursday, November 20th will take place at Chestnut Station at 830 N. Clark Street.

Other special features of Reeling '97 include a party in honor of Cheryl Dunye, director of the hit lesbian film, **Watermelon Woman** which was featured at this year's Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Film Festival. The party is at Girbar at 2625 N. Halsted Street immediately following the film's 9:15pm screening on Thursday, November 13th at the Music Box.

Admission to both the screening and **The Watermelon Woman** Party is \$15.00.

There is special focus on the early German cinema at Reeling '97 with the screening of four historically important films made in Weimar Germany beginning with **Different From Others** (1919) with Conrad Veidt plus **Sex in Changes** (1928), **Victor and Victoria** (1933) and the lesbian classic, **Madchen in Uniform** (1931).

In conjunction with the Goethe Institute Chicago, Reeling '97 will present two photo exhibitions: "The Legacy of Magnus Hirschfeld: One Hundred Years of the Gay Movement in Germany" and "Transvestites". The exhibitions will open with a reception on Thursday, November 6 at 3641 N. Halsted St. and will continue on display until Sunday, November 8th.

Ticket prices for individual programs are \$7.00 with advance tickets available from Chicago Filmmakers, 1543 W. Division St. For further festival information, contact the Festival Hot Line at (773) 384-5533.

Gattaca

Continued From Page 35

Ethan Hawke plays Vincent, an invalid who wants to prove himself the equal or better of his valid counterparts. He's spent all his life fighting his physical imperfections, challenging his valid brother, Anthony (Loren Dean) every step of the way.

Vincent strives to become part of the space program - more specifically, to take a trip to Titan, Saturn's biggest moon, which the aerospace firm at which he works, Gattaca, can help him achieve. Gore Vidal is "The Director" of Gattaca who's taking a liking to Vincent (hmmm...)

But Gattaca doesn't know Vincent's invalid because he's been passing himself off as someone else, a valid who has sunk into seclusion after a disabling accident, and who has essentially agreed to "sell" his identity to Vincent. This character, Jerome, is excellently played by British newcomer Jude Law.

Vincent's plans become threatened by a murder of a Gattaca executive, and now the cops, led by the gruff Alan Arkin, are snooping around the place. Law enforcement has some powerful weapons in the world of **Gattaca**, and a person's identity can be discovered through the tiniest eye lash or a single body hair.

Gattaca has enough tension and drama going for it to recommend it to anyone, especially sci fi fans, of course. It's an intelligent sci fi film, sans the usual laser blasters and big, menacing aliens. The story is easily on a par with "Brave New World" and "1984," and presents a future Earth just as harrowing.

Above all, this film should be a warning to all of us as to just where genetic engineering may one day lead us. It's certainly a path down which we want to go very, very slowly.

Gattaca also stars Uma Thurman as Vincent's lovely love interest, and a couple scenes have Ernest Borgnine "gracing" the screen. It also has a superb score by Michael Nyman, and is written and directed by New Zealander Andrew Niccol in a stunning and intelligent feature film debut.

The only negatives I can think of are Hawke's and Thurman's somewhat flat, detached acting (perhaps a stylistic choice) and the fact we never do get to see Titan up close. Bummer!

Gattaca shouldn't be missed, and will provide you with both food for thought as well as the only opportunity you'll ever have to see Gore Vidal and Ernest Borgnine in the same movie! Now THAT's recommendation enough!

(3 stars)

Top 10 Films

Continued From Page 36

mented into trivial bits and pieces edited in fast moving sequences which don't allow for much absorption—like a labyrinth of computer icons which lead us endlessly to sources that don't feel quite right.

Action films are the worst offenders relentlessly and senselessly pushing us into "hard drive overload" [metaphor] and ultimately just wearing us out. It's scary to think that many filmgoers convinced themselves that **Air Force One** was a good movie because likable Harrison Ford was in it.

But there were, arguably, some good films in the last 10 years—with reservations. The best ten? Posterity [and some readers] may wreak havoc with this listing but here goes :-

Schindler's List [1993]—only a notch away from being great—leading performance under characterized—the great cinematography was the star—almost a later day **Potemkin**;

Dangerous Liaison [1988] good 18th cent. dialogue helped this fascinating study of the self destruction inherent in predatory sex games—a masterpiece of cynicism;

Sense and Sensibility [1995]—not enough sensibility, but Emma Thompson's rewriting of Jane Austen made the most sense—very watchable if a bit sec;

Howard's End [1992] Emma Thompson reminded us that charm [remember what that was] can transform and uplift an overly complex period piece into delightful literate narrative

Nixon [1995] Greatly underrated due to Oliver Stone's earlier historical travesties [JFK], it was 75% accurate and dramatically engrossing; too intelligent for its own good, marred only slightly with a too tentative star performance by an outstanding actor. Overly detailed but brilliant and mature in its execution;

Sleepless in Seattle [1993]—two terrific stars who never meet—and memories of Cary Grant—made this one into a bitter-sweet romantic comedy that challenges the best of the past—a lovable little film [in the 90s yet!];

Remains of the Day [1993]—strong characterizations by Thompson and Hopkins might have reached tragedy, but too much reticence and restraint almost underdoes the intended drama of severe repression. [Bette Davis, where are you?]-but strangely moving nonetheless

Silence of the Lambs [1991] a classic performance—a brilliantly conceived psychological horror film which beggars comparison with the usual trash of this genre, but will it become a classic?

Philadelphia [1993]—petty sub-group political agendas have harmed the reputation of a beautifully rendered movie. What you really have is a mini tragedy of impending doom greatly enhanced by the Denzel Washington -Tom Hanks symbiosis; an unforgettably tragic duet with Maria Callas,—and—Bruce Springsteen's haunting credit music. The most underrated urban folk film since **Breakfast at Tiffany's**.

Evita [1996] and **Hamlet** [1996] a dynamic duo: two films that added new dimension and a curious emotional power to older source material, irrespective of controversy regarding interpretation. Credit here goes to an unexpectedly exquisite conceptualization by Madonna and Branagh's dedication to a great text in its entirety. Two of my favorites—greatly underrated.

Other worthy films .not necessarily in-

ferior, but which seem to be fading from memory more rapidly or lack the possibility of long term substance:

- 1) **Rainman** [too much of a good thing]
- 2) **Moonstruck** [loses some charm on repeated viewings]
- 3) **Unforgiven** [much respected but seems too meandering now]
- 4) **Driving Miss Daisy** [good, but forgettably cozy]
- 5) **Shawshank Redemption** [lost in its own wordiness]
- 6) **Pulp Fiction** [satire dated by its own trendiness]
- 7) **Reversal of Fortune** [Von Bulow case-remember?]
- 8) **Wall Street** [curiously dated by its own naive cynicism]
- 9) **Henry V** [just not the greatest of Shakespeare, but fine film]
- 10) **Forrest Gump** [fading fast despite fine lead performance].

Honorable Mention

Gettysburg [1993] breathtaking docu-drama marred by Martin Sheen miscast as Robert E. Lee—a major flaw with this material

Night Light

Continued From Page 32

On **Saturday November 15**, I am going up to Madison to watch our Wisconsin Badgers take on Michigan. Then it will be the New Harvest Foundation's annual Dinner Dance, Black and White Tonight (geez two elegant parties in the same week). After the party, the Dinner Dance Chairman, openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer and I will trip the light fantastic with stops at Madison's hot spots, **Kirby's Klub**, **the Shamrock** and **Manoeuvres**.

Sunday November 16 you'll find me at my favorite place to watch the Packers, **In Between**.

And as if that wasn't enough I will take in the Suzanne Westenhofer show at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall on **Saturday November 22**. I saw Suzanne when she was in town each of the last couple of years. The woman is funny, hysterical and well worth the price of a ticket.

The United: Twenty Years of Service

Madison—The United will celebrate its twentieth anniversary in 1998 — twenty years of being Wisconsin's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender social service, advocacy and community center.

In 1978, The United was a vocal group of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and allies who defeated an attempt to repeal a new City of Madison ordinance. The ordinance banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Because of United activists, it still upholds all Madison residents' rights, regardless of their sexual orientation.

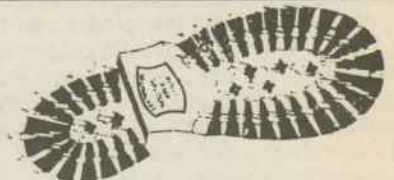
After that initial success, United activists turned their energy to providing services for Gay and Lesbian people in Madison. Ten years ago, The United moved from the basement of the University United Methodist Church to a small storefront on East Williamson street. Now The United proudly sits across from the Capitol Building in downtown Madison, the pink triangle on our door a constant reminder to state legislators that Wisconsin is the "Gay Rights State."

Over the years, The United's services have grown. In 1990, we provided services to about 3,000 people; in 1997, we will provide services to more than 10,000 people.

We house the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center's library, which is the largest Gay library in Wisconsin. United peer counselors staff phone lines twelve hours every week day, United support groups run several nights a week and United representatives advocate for LGBT rights in state, local government and private forums.

The United is truly "united" — a group of over a hundred individuals who donate their time, their talents and their enthusiasm to helping other LGBT people and our allies.

We're looking forward to the next twenty years!



BOOT CAMP SALOON
MILWAUKEE'S
LEATHER/LEVI BAR

209 E. National
Milwaukee, WI

414-643-6900 • e-mail BCSaloon@aol.com

Dear Ruthie

Hello everyone! Did ya all have a good Halloween? I love that holiday. There's nothing like dressing up in an unusual costume, eating, drinking, and partying with friends. Sort of fun, very scary. Hey - this sounds like one of my weddings.

I'm gonna sit back and have myself a cup of "Tijuana Coffee"- that's warm prune juice with a dash of soy sauce and a shot of tequila. I learned how to make it when I was in actually in Tijuana.

I met this little cabana boy while vacationing there a number of years back. I caught him trying to throw little peanuts down my bathing suit when one accidentally hit me in the eye. My date - Bob Barker - got up to set him straight (that Bobs got a pair of legs on him that wont quit)!

Well, anyway, the 20 year old pool boy, beat the hell out of him, and Bob walked away mumbling about pregnant dogs or something. Long story short - the cabana boy and I spent the rest of the week together in the hot sun. He'd put lotion on my back, I'd pick bugs out of his hair. He'd rub my shoulders, I'd scrape chlorine deposits off the bottoms of his feet - it was magic.. and medicinal. The only thing he left me was this coffee recipe ... well ... and a scorching case of crabs, but it was worth it.

Hey - on another note - I'd like to give a special message to Jerry and Terry the editor and publisher of the Wisconsin Light newspaper. The paper is celebrating 10 years of success. I raise my spicy laxative to both of you boys and wish you and the paper nothing but the best. Congratulations to you. You've got a fine paper there fellas. Keep up the good work. Now let's read some letters!

Dear Ruthie,

I am recently new to the area and have read your hilarious column a couple of times and am now asking for your advice. I am in my mid thirties and have moved here to further my career. The problem? I don't know anyone.

I am a professional and work only with straight people which is fine, but I need a circle of good-hearted, discrete, Gay friends to socialize with. I've read all the ads in the local papers, and while they provide ample opportunities for sex, they appear to be lacking in the areas of friendship and substance. Though I love sex too, for now I am more interested in feeding my need for belonging to a group.

I enjoy three to four close friends who appreciate small dinner parties, catching a movie, occasional shopping and a great cup of coffee. My bar hopping days are long gone though I admit I can't resist a little country and western dancing now and then.

What I want to know is, where do I meet white collar professionals in their 30's and 40's who are sincere, down to earth, unpretentious and discrete, and would welcome a newcomer into their circle of friends?

Signed,
Another Blockbuster Night in Milwaukee,

Dear Blockbuster,
All alone in cheese town, huh? Tell me, how would you like the company of a bawdy red-head with a big mouth and a varicose vein that looks like Elvis? Of course, we'd keep it strictly platonic. C'mon let's try it! I have three friends. You'd love Harriet, Pearl, and Gert. Well ... maybe not Harriet. When she forgets her medication, she grabs her grandson's BB gun, rips her blouse off, straps on a headband, and becomes "Hambo." Two times a month I look out my window and see this topless 70 year old running around the trailer park threatening dogs, squirrels, and garbage cans.

You and I could still "hang out" - as the kids say. Why not? I like the movies. I like dinner. And best of all - I also like men in their 30's and 40's (and 20's and 50's but that's beside the point)! We could hit the town and check-out cute guys together.

On second thought, let's forget it. I get enough competition from girls, let alone a coffee drinkin', movie catchin', line dancin' stud like yourself. Besides, we'd have too many martinis one night and I'd put the Frankie Sinatra records on. You'd start line dancing for me and before we knew it, we'd be sharing a cigarette in my water-



Ruthie

bed and wondering how my bra got on the ceiling fan.

Listen-up, you country and western bumpkin - I think you've touched on something here. Flip through those local papers you mentioned and see if there isn't a line/square dance group you can join. This would be a great way to meet some amigos! No dance groups? What about volunteering for something? I know there's a lot of organizations out there looking for help.

See if your local AIDS/HIV center could use your services somehow. You're bound to meet some great people there - many of which will surely fit your criteria for good friends. If this isn't your speed, Harriet and I do one helluva "Boot Scoot Boogie" - well .. when she isn't picking off neighborhood cats.

Dear Ruthie,

I decided, after much debate, to let my friend move in with me. Big mistake. My roommate is always late with the rent, very messy, doesn't help out with the chores, etc. He says that because it's my house and my mortgage, he shouldn't have to help out where certain house keeping concerns are.

His boyfriend is over ninety percent of the time. NOW he wants to set up a schedule where each of us has the house all to themselves once a month.

He can go to his boyfriend's house on my weekends. Where am I supposed to go during his?

I understand his need to be alone with his lover, but this is my house! How can he have the guts to ask me to leave once a month? This person WAS my friend, now I want him out. What do you suggest?

Signed,
Hellacious House Guest Host
Dear Host,

I would never put up with anything like this from anyone! I'd never let someone stay in my home who took advantage of me. Well ... except for Fabio... and maybe Hugh Downs - and the guy who cleans the septic tank. OH! And the guy from the car alarm commercial ...and the clerk at the fish store. Where was I?

Oh yes! Give your roommate's greedy, little tush a swift kick out the door! "Shove it with walnuts, Barney! Find another sucker to live with! Your free loading days are over, Uncle Fester! There's a train heading for Loserville. Be under it."

Tell your sex-crazed buddy to go get his own place. There he and his partner can do it till the paint chips off the walls and it wont put you out one bit.

Sorry your friendship had to go down the tubes, but you'll be glad when you get rid of him. Hey - maybe you'd find a better friend in the "Another Blockbuster Night in Milwaukee" guy from the letter above? Hmmm.....

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.wlight.com or to: wlv97@mx.com

A Decade of Light



Out and About - Our photographers have been busy going around the state to bring you some fresh new faces to admire. At the top is Brian, the manager of The Shamrock in Madison, next are (L - R) Sonny, Gary and David at the Mama's Family Softball team banquet at Mama Roux in Milwaukee. We couldn't resist showing you these Demons we saw at La Cage, Milwaukee's hottest dance bar, then there is the crew from the Milwaukee Eagle, Milwaukee's new leather bar, (L - R) are Alex, Ron, Gradey, Eddie, Miguel and Gus and last but not least are those friendly gals at Station 2 in Milwaukee, where the smiles are free and the laughs are on the house.

Great Places In WISCONSIN

Appleton				
Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
Eau Claire				
Scooters	W,m	411 Galloway	54703	835-9959
Trading Co.	M,w DJ	304 Eau Claire St.	54701	838-9494
Wolf's Den	M,W	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
Green Bay				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
The Napolese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway	54303	432-9646
Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
Kenosha				
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
La Crosse				
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9279
Rainbow's End		417 Jay St.	54601	
Lake Mills				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
Madison				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	257-5455
MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock	MW	117 W. Main St	53703	255-5028
We Are Family	Retail/Expresso	524 E. Wilson	53703	258-9006
Milwaukee				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
10 % Club	MW	4223 W. Fon Du Lac	53216	447-0910
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National	53204	643-6900
Clinton St. Antiques	Retail	1100 S. 1 st Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
Designing Men	Retail	1200 S. 1 st	53204	389-1200
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Fannies	Wm	200 E. Washington	53204	643-9633
Glass Menagerie	Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Grubb's Pub	MW, Food	807 S. 2 nd St.	53204	384-8330
In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	52304	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 th Street	53204	645-9888
Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53212	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L	300 W. Juneau	53203	273-6900
Rene's Cozy Corner	MW	3500 W. Park Hill	53208	933-7363
S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
The Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 nd	53204	273-7474
M & M Club	MW, Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
This Is It	Mw	418 E. Wells	53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
Woody's	MW	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-5580
Neenah				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
Racine				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
Sheboygan				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
Stevens Point				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
Superior				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower	54880	392-5373
Wausau				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225

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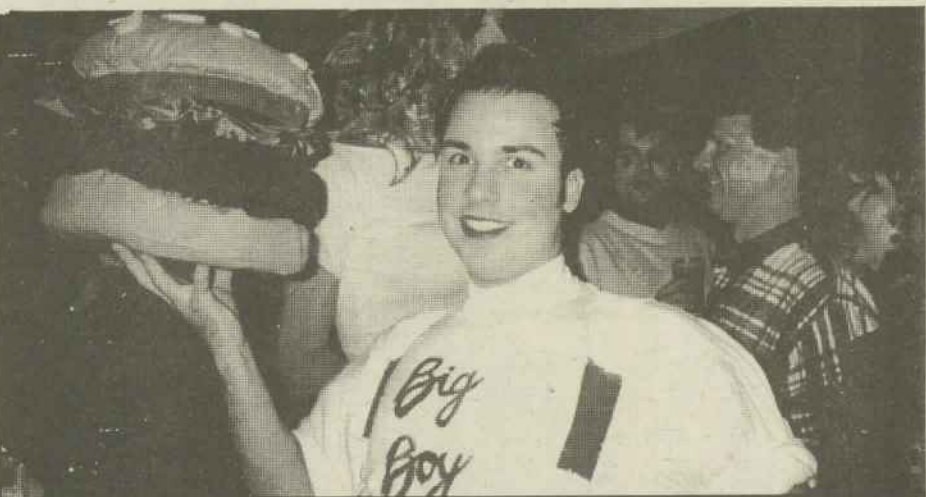
Our Dear Ruthie At This Is It



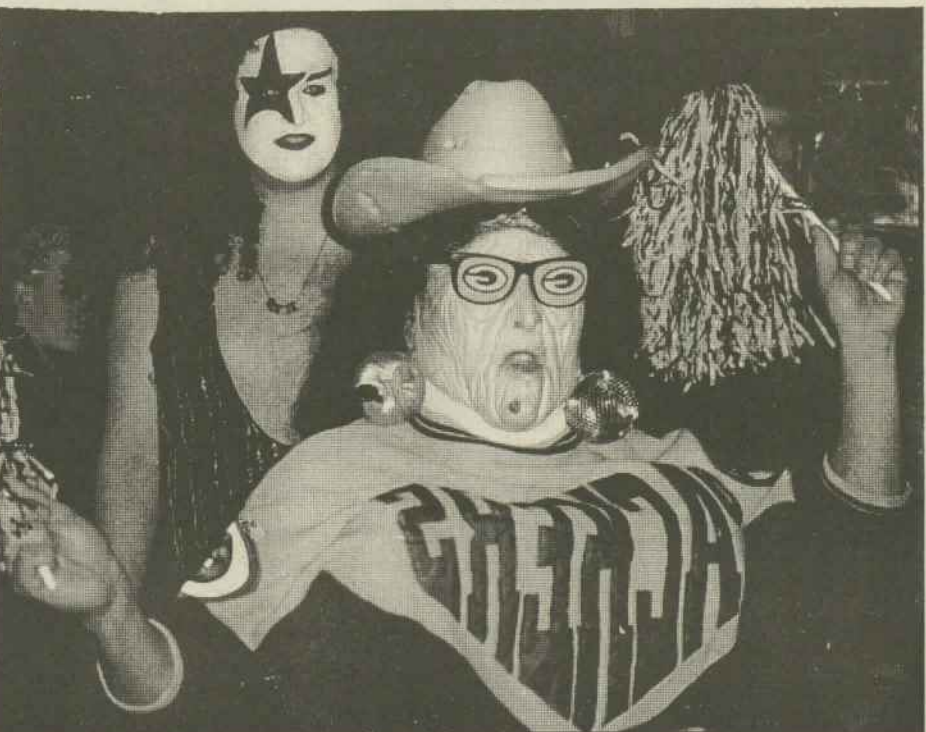
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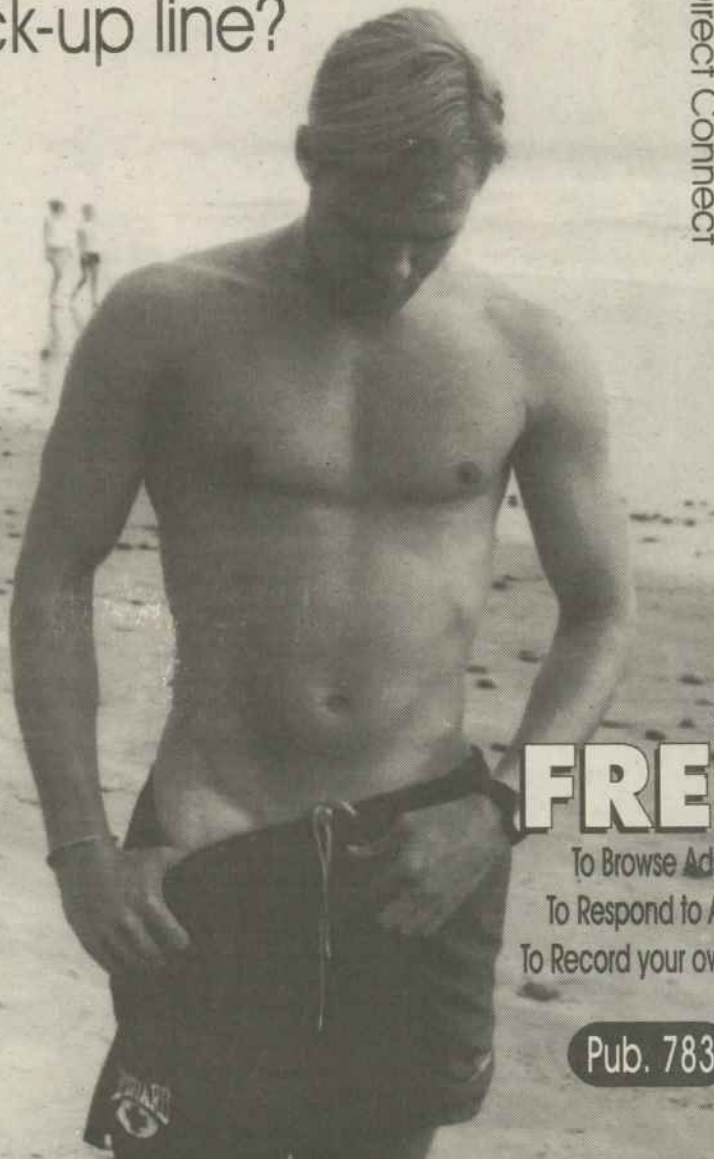
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Illinois

BATPOLE'S ALL LUBED UP This dominant, aggressive, White male (Batman), 6ft, 170lbs, seeks a submissive, White male, (I'll call you Robin), 21 to 35, preferably under 5'10, to help me capture and interrogate the Riddler. If you have an adventurous spirit, have an open mind, and think the balcony sounds like a fun place for sex, let's meet for some no strings, no holds barred, fun. (Cicero) #10435

IT'S DEFINITE I wanna have safe sex with a real man. This young looking, 44 year old, Gay, White male, definite bottom, 5'9, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, a fit body, and handsome looks, seeks a definite top, 20 to 45, who's ready to go at it. (Downer's Grove) #8527

OUT OF THE ORDINARY I'm a Single, Gay, White female, 33, interested in meeting muscular, smooth, Gay men, over 6ft, who are into lots of hand and mouth movement. I'm down to earth, personable, good looking with measurements of 36C-30-35. People enjoy being with me. Maybe we can please each other. (Evanston) #8254

DYING FOR DIRTY SOCKS This 29 year old, White male, needs the dirty socks of young guys. Call me so we can make the swap. (Evanston) #8063

TAKE THE PLUNGE I'm a very good looking, well built, White male, 44, 5'9, 150lbs, HIV positive but healthy. I want to meet a guy who's into having anal sex. You should be primarily a bottom, over 30, with a decent body, and ready to go. (Evanston) #7972

TEACH ME TRICKS Very attractive, White male, 27, 5'9, 220lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a stocky build, seeks a real person for a real relationship. Ideally, you'll have a decent body, be well hung, and enjoy teaching me how to be a great bottom. (Joliet) #7660

WEAR ME OUT I'm a very attractive, White male, in my 30's. I need to meet a dominant, professional male, in his 50's, who wants to train me to do his bidding. I'm thinking of moving to Chicago. (Oak Park) #7765

SUNDAY RELAXER I'm a good looking, masculine top, sort of an amorous adventurer, seeking other creative men, 30 to 40, for fun times. I'm 6ft, 185lbs, with Blond hair, Blue eyes, and a stocky build. I'm HIV positive but healthy. I enjoy jogging, working out, movies, romantic dinners, being spontaneous, and the Sunday newspaper. (Streamwood) #8798

Iowa

A LITTLE KINKY This 44 year old, leather top, a little on the chunky side, loves hot bottoms, into oral and anal pleasure. I love sexy men in leather. I can also be a little kinky. (Cedar Rapids) #7400

ATHLETIC ACQUAINTANCE I'm a light skinned, Black male, 20, 165lbs. I dress nice and look good. I'd like to make friends with other young athletes, 18 to 25, and have some good times. (Fort Dodge) #8347

Minnesota

DAD SEEKS SON I'm looking for a younger, slender, probably Blond haired, Blue eyed, Gay, White male, interested in lots of passionate sex and a long term relationship. (Minneapolis) #8864

MY FANTASY This good looking, 37 year old, White male, with dark hair, dark eyes, and a mustache, wants a young, perfect guy, 18 to 30, laying around my house, waiting for me to service him. To me, perfect is under 5'9, totally smooth or willing to be shaved, with a small endowment, and a round, firm butt. You can expect a very erotic massage, lots of oral attention, and more. (Minneapolis) #8907

WONDER WHO'LL CALL I'm just checking out this system. I'm a White male wanting to meet other men. (Minneapolis) #8695

FOR YOUR SATISFACTION This expert in pleasure wants to meet Black men, over 30, who need to be satisfied. (Minneapolis) #7615

CLOSE ASSOCIATION I'm a very masculine, handsome, hairy, aggressive, White male, 6'2, 195lbs. I'm a versatile top and I like similar guys, so we can each have it both ways. I'm well built with a full beard. I'd like to meet a Single man, who's hairy with facial hair, for lots of fun and a possible close association. (Minneapolis) #8782

THE IDEA MAN This uninhibited, submissive, drug and disease free, Bi, White male, 31, seeks an imaginative man, or couple, for wildly erotic, fantasy fulfillment. (Minneapolis) #8637

SILVER STREAK Attention seniors. This attractive, well built, Gay, White male, in my 40's, seeks in shape, senior, Gay, White males, in their 60's, 70's, or early 80's. White hair and a hairy chest are big pluses. I'm willing to travel to Milwaukee. (Madison) #8322

YOU WEAR THE PANTS This hot, Bi, White male, seeks men to dominate me. One at a time or groups. I'm especially interested in Transvestites and Transsexuals. (Madison) #7890

FOREVER YOUNG I'm a very young looking, 25 year old, White male, 5'11, 145lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and good looks. I wanna meet other guys, 18 to 27, for fun. (Milwaukee) #8835

THE LOOK OF LOVE I'm looking for a tall, masculine guy, over 6ft, either Black or White, who has varied interests. I'm a 46 year old, White male, who's kind, loving, and enjoys nice people and good sex. I'm the type who prefers a quiet night at home. I'm very oral and into kissing, hugging, and making love, not just having sex. (Milwaukee) #8741

MASTER ME This good looking, masculine, well endowed, White male, 31, 6'2, 185lbs, with Blond hair, seeks a master into serious bondage and discipline, light S&M, creative humiliation, and occasional crossdressing action. I'm also into nature, nudism, movies, and more. I'm sweet, sincere, honest, loyal, and can't wait to meet you. (Milwaukee) #8395

AT MY EXPENSE This good looking, fun loving, passive male, seeks a dominant, aggressive top, who likes to enjoy himself at the expense of another person. I'm into leather, bondage, and slavery. I'm all yours. (Milwaukee) #8045

OUTGOING HOMEBOY I'm looking for a sensitive someone who likes to explore sexually. I hope you're an outgoing person who's also a bit of a homebody and who enjoys entertaining friends. (Milwaukee) #8391

PARENTAL UNIT WANTED I'm an attractive, clean shaven, submissive, 24 year old, White male, 6'3, 190lbs, with Blond hair and Green eyes. I love older men. I need a father figure who can help me when I've been bad and show me what to do. I'll bet you know all the right ways to punish me. (Milwaukee) #8423

I'M CUMIN TO TOWN Good looking, versatile, Black male, 26, 6'3, 210lbs, seeks other masculine, versatile guys, 25 to 45, over 6ft, for good times. I live in Chicago but visit Milwaukee frequently. (Milwaukee) #8511

HANKY BROWNIE I'm looking for hot, White males, who know what a brown hanky means. I'm good looking, sexy, 6'5, 190lbs, and am an expert in this unique scene, as a top or bottom. (Milwaukee) #7412

MAN OF COLOR ONLY Very masculine, 20 year old, Bi, Black male, seeks other Hispanic, Asian, and African American males for fun, dating, and a possible relationship. (Milwaukee) #7738

LET THE MUSIC PLAY Attractive, White, band musician, 25, 5'8, 135lbs, seeks a guy for friendship or more. I'm in pretty good shape because I'm a runner and I work out. I'm young looking and am attracted to similar guys, 18 to 30, who are smooth and fit. If you like to go out to dinner, see movies, or kick back and talk, we'll get along just fine. (Milwaukee) #7979

ANY HAIR THERE? Youthful, handsome, White male, 39, 6ft, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a husky build, seeks guys for good times. I'm masculine and have regular guy interests, like watching football and more. I'd like to meet men between 21 and 45. I'm especially attracted to hairy guys with facial hair. (Pestigo) #7675

ACTIVE PASSION This masculine, White male, with a mustache, Brown hair, Blue Green eyes, and a swimmer's build, seeks an aggressive, yet passionate, Black male, who's active but can also kick back and relax. Let's have some one to one fun. #6752

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THRILL SEEKER I'd like to meet some guys to have fun with. I'm an attractive, 30 year old guy, with Brown hair and Green eyes. (Minneapolis) #8689

TWIN CITIES PILGRIM This attractive, masculine, Chicago, Black male, 26, 6'3, 210lbs, with an athletic build, visits Minneapolis often and wants to meet someone to spend time with. Be over 6ft tall, masculine, and versatile. (Minneapolis) #8509

ONE SIZE FITS ALL I just moved to the area and want to make friends. I like masculine guys, feminine guys, Transsexuals, Transvestites, everyone. I'm a good looking, White male, 43, 6'3, 195lbs, with light, Brown hair and Hazel eyes. I'm mature and responsible. You can be of any age and race as long as you like to have fun. (Minneapolis) #8554

SHOW ME SOME SKIN Attractive, masculine, White male, bottom, 6ft, 175lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a good build, seeks versatile, uncultured guys, for mutual, uninhibited, man to man action. Hispanics, Asians, and other darker men are a plus. (Minneapolis) #29332

GOTTA START SOMEWHERE Masculine, athletic, attractive, Asian male, 27, 5'7, 140lbs, seeks a masculine, lean, well built, Gay, White male, under 32, for hanging out, movies, coffeehouses, and wherever we decide to go. I'm stable, laid back, intelligent, easy going, and hopeful that you're the same. (Minneapolis) #3875

NOT ONE, BUT TWO My wife and I are looking for two, well hung studs, for mutual friendship. Don't keep us waiting. Cum join us. (Minneapolis) #7628

TONGUE IN CHEEK This attractive, 35 year old, Black male, 5'7, 170lbs, has a hidden talent. I like to orally service the rear entrances of good looking, White males, 18 to 23. My tongue's the best in town. (St. Paul) #8162

I'M NOT PICKY White male, in south central Minnesota, seeks a man, of any age and race. Let's talk about it. #7989

Wisconsin

VIDEO VENGEANCE This good looking, White male, 39, 5'11, 180lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a mustache, is totally into videos and having good sex, at least once a week. Let's have a blast. (Baraboo) #8229

PROVE MEN ARE BETTER This very well endowed, Bi, White male, 6'2, 220lbs, with a hairy chest, needs to find another well hung guy, to prove to me that it's more fun with men. I'm totally new to this but am all jacked up for it. I can last for hours. (Madison) #8776

DO THE RIGHT THING I need a daddy to show me the ropes. This very submissive, White male, is attractive, smooth, and ready to do the right thing. (Madison) #8327



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Inhibitors
Continued From Page 3

Given all of the above, the surprise is not that 53% of people failed the combination, but that 47% thrived under it. Dr. Deeks (who heads up the San Francisco clinic the data came from) was very surprised that his findings were used to question the effectiveness of therapies when used correctly. His data pointed out that for people who had either never used antivirals, or who began their protease therapy while changing the other drugs they were on, the new treatments worked about 85% of the time.

What this report really shows, therefore, is very simple—if these drugs are prescribed incorrectly, they don't work very well.

What is disturbing about this is that the media seemed more interested in getting an exciting story than in reporting the facts. But secondly, the story as reported was used by people in the HIV-impacted communities to push any number of agendas served by spreading the mistaken pre-

sumption that the once over-hyped HIV drugs were now going to fail huge numbers of people. The facts, whether good or bad, should be dealt with honestly and openly.

The bad news is that the combination therapies are very expensive and many cannot afford them. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which was intended to help these people, is a poorly designed program in that each state administers its own program. As a result, ADAP coverage varies from state to state so many in need of these drugs cannot receive them.

Recognizing that for most people the highly active anti-retroviral treatments of the late '90s do work, means the priorities of the ASOs must change. The ASOs must understand that making these treatments available regardless of ability to pay is the HIV+ community's greatest need and should be the ASO's highest priority.

Even as health improves and the rates of the spread of the disease have leveled off, we can not let down our guard. For sev-

eral years now, we have seen HIV that is resistant to AZT spread by unsafe behavior. Just recently, the first signs of 3TC-resistant HI being spread are being reported. Protease resistant strains of HIV being spread can not be far behind.

Maintaining safer sex practices is as important as ever, not only to protect HIV negative individuals, but also to protect HIV positive individuals from getting drug resistant strains or additional sexually transmitted infections.

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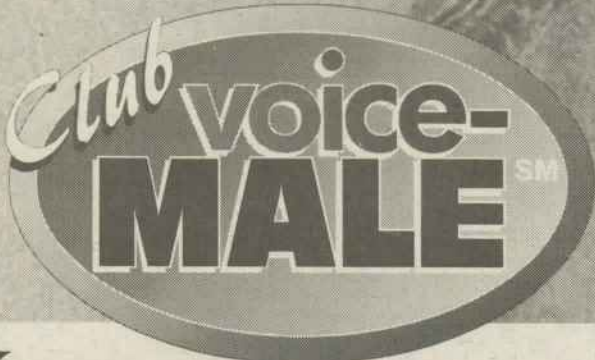
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Mark and the Masking Tape

Editor's Note: Every so often you come across one of those stories and you think, "I wish I'd written that." This is one of those. It's not LesBiGay, it's just good. For that reason, I'd like to share it with you.

By Sister Helen P. Mrosia, CDP

He was in the first third grade class I taught at Saint Mary's School in Morris, Minn. All 34 of my students were dear to me, but Mark Eklund was one in a million. Very neat in appearance, but had that happy-to-be-alive attitude that made even his occasional mischievousness delightful.

Mark talked incessantly. I had to remind him again and again that talking without permission was not acceptable. What impressed me so much, though, was his sincere response every time I had to correct him for misbehaving - "Thank you for correcting me, Sister!" I didn't know what to make of it at first, but before long I became accustomed to hearing it many times a day.

One morning my patience was growing thin when Mark talked once too often, and then I made a novice-teacher's mistake. I looked at him and said, "If you say one more word, I am going to tape your mouth shut!"

It wasn't ten seconds later when Chuck blurted out, "Mark is talking again." I hadn't asked any of the students to help me watch Mark, but since I had stated the punishment in front of the class, I had to act on it.

I remember the scene as if it had occurred this morning. I walked to my desk, very deliberately opened my drawer and took out a roll of masking tape. Without saying a word, I proceeded to Mark's desk, tore off two pieces of tape and made a big X with them over his mouth. I then returned to the front of the room.

As I glanced at Mark to see how he was doing he winked at me. That did it! I started laughing. The class cheered as I walked back to Mark's desk, removed the tape and shrugged my shoulders.

At the end of the year I was asked to teach junior-high math. The years flew



Some of our favorite people - Are the left are Tommy Kuehl of Landmark Enterprises and one of the winners of our Joi Cardwell CD Release Party held at La Cage earlier this month. At the right are Kirby Sheldon, the new owner of Kirby's Klub in Madison and JJ, owner of the Shamrock.

by, and before I knew it Mark was in my classroom again. He was more handsome than ever and just as polite. Since he had to listen carefully to my instructions in the "new math," he did not talk as much in ninth grade as he had in the third.

One Friday, things just didn't feel right. We had worked hard on a new concept all week, and I sensed that the students were frowning, frustrated with themselves - and edgy with one another. I had to stop this crankiness before it got out of hand. So I asked them to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then I told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish the assignment.

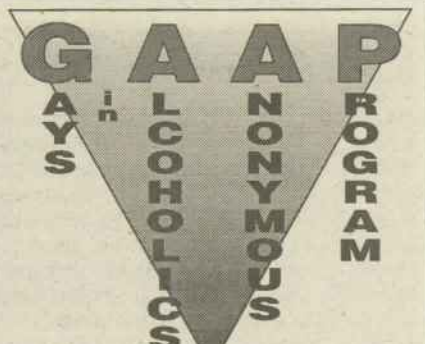
That Saturday, I wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and I listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday I gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" I heard whispered. "I never knew that meant anything to anyone!" "I didn't know others liked me so much!"

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. I never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter.

That group of students moved on. Several years later, after I returned from vacation, my parents met me at the airport. As we were driving home, Mother asked me the usual questions about the trip - the weather, my experiences in general. There was a light lull in the conversation. Mother gave Dad a side-ways glance and simply says, "Dad?"

My father cleared his throat as he usu-



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Tim Majkowski
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Dad responded quietly. "Mark was killed in Vietnam," he said. "The funeral is tomorrow, and his parents would like it if you could attend." To this day I can still point to the exact spot on I-494 where Dad told me about Mark.

I had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. Mark looked so handsome, so mature. All I could think at that moment was, Mark, I would give all the masking tape in the world if only you would talk to me.

The church was packed with Mark's friends. Chuck's sister sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Why did it have to rain on the day of the funeral? It was difficult enough at the graveside. The pastor said the usual prayers, and the bugler played taps. One by one those who loved Mark paid their respects.

I was the last one to bless the coffin. As I stood there, one of the soldiers who had acted as pallbearer came up to me. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. I nodded as I continued to stare at the coffin. "Mark talked about you a lot," he said.

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates headed to Chucks farmhouse for lunch. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting for me.

"We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. I knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which I had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. "Thank you so much for doing that" Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

Mark's classmates started to gather around us. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home." Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put this in our wedding album." "I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said without batting an eyelash.

That's when I finally sat down and cried. I cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

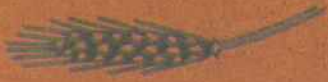
Pride in Wisconsin Government Holds Awards Night

Madison—Pride in Wisconsin Government is pleased to announce its First Annual Awards Reception to be held Saturday, November 15, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Ancora Coffee Roasters, 112 King Street, Madison. The awards program will begin at 6:30 p.m., and a \$5 donation will be accepted at the door. Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive, will be the invited speaker and award presenter.

This year's award recipient is the Teaching Assistants Association, the graduate student assistants' union at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in recognition of their continuing efforts to obtain health insurance for domestic partners of graduate assistants.

Pride in Wisconsin Government is an organization for the LesBiGayTrans public sector and government employees in Wisconsin and their allies. As part of its mission statement, Pride in Wisconsin Government seeks to recognize contributions by and for LGBT public employees.

For more information, contact Pride in Wisconsin Government, c/o The United, P.O. Box 310, Madison, WI 53701-0310; (608) 255-8582. On the Web: <http://www.execcpc.com/~dross/pride/>. Email: dross@execcpc.com



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