



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

The Wisconsin Light

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
A PROSPEROUS 1998
TO ALL**

Same - Sex Couples Gain Adoption Rights in N.J.

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Releases State by State Survey of Equal Rights Fight

Washington, DC—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has released its annual survey of state legislation. Capital Gains and Losses: A State by State Review of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and HIV/AIDS Related Legislation in 1997 is a telling picture of the prominence of states in the national struggle occurring over the rights of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people.

Since the Task Force began tracking activity in state legislatures in 1995, the number of GLBT related measures has increased each year. The intensity of these activities also remains high.

"1997 was an unequivocal step forward on our march to justice," stated Kerry Lobel, Task Force executive director. "We've long known that the states and local communities are not only the barometer for the state of Gay, Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights in America; they are the eye of the storm," added Lobel.

New Hampshire and Maine's passage of comprehensive civil rights laws for Gays, Lesbians, and bisexuals, Washington State's statewide ballot initiative to ban employment discrimination based on sexual orientation - the first such measure ever in the country - were some of the year's highlights.

(Washington's initiative was defeated, and Maine's law will be put to a vote on February 10th.)

Also, the passage in 1997 of major domestic partnership initiatives in the state of Hawaii and the cities of San Francisco and Chicago, coupled with a record number of favorable domestic partner bills introduced, reflects the growing importance of family issues in the GLBT community.

The continued push forward for the freedom to marry during the past year was also a critical component in the effort for full recognition of GLBT families.

In the meantime, the right wing's rallying around a homophobic state adoption worker in Texas is indicative of the attacks on GLBT families that occurred in state legislatures in 1997 and foretells a likely increase in such attacks during the 1998 state legislative session.

1997 Summary Findings
The Task Force Tracked 248 pieces of legislation (compared with 160 in 1996):

- * 128 pieces of legislation classified as favorable appeared in 38 states (compared with 61 in 25 states in 1996).

- * 120 pieces of legislation classified as unfavorable appeared in 44 states (compared with 99 in 40 states in 1996).

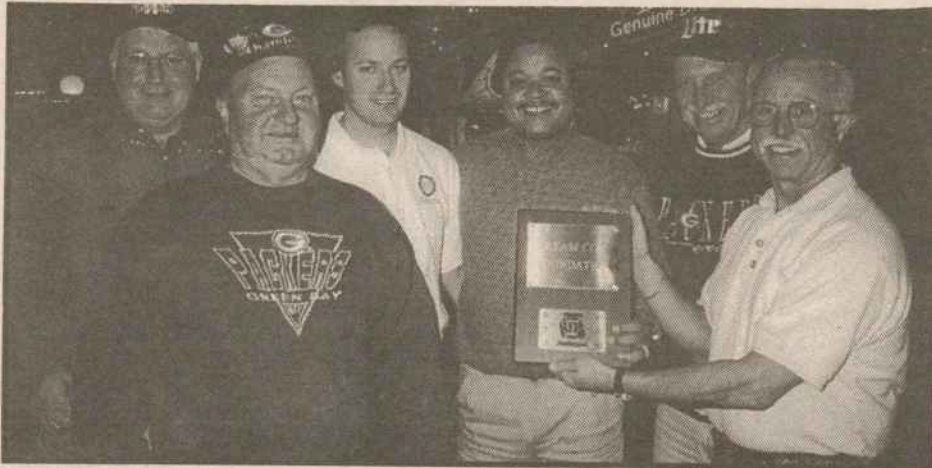
- * When marriage bills are removed, the figures show 124 favorable measures and 74 unfavorable measures (compared with 56 and 50, respectively, in 1996).

- * The 46 anti-marriage bills represented 38% of the unfavorable bills introduced, and 53% of all the unfavorable that were passed into law.

- * HIV/AIDS measures represented the largest percentage (23%) of the favorable measures introduced as well as passed (38%).

- * Civil rights measures represented the second largest percentage of favorable bills introduced (20%) and 8% of the favorable bills passed.

For a copy of Capital Gains and Losses: A State by State Review of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and HIV/AIDS Related Legislation in 1997, or for contact information of statewide political organizations, contact NGLTF's media director at (202) 332-6483 ext. 3314.



Thanks CCF - Members of the Saturday Soft Ball League were on hand to present Cream City Foundation Chair, Tony Rhodes with an award thanking CCF of its support of the SSBL. Shown above back row (L-R) are Tom Rowland, Mike Vukovich, Tony Rhodes, and Bob Melig. Front row, Tom Salzsieder and Dan Nelson. CCF gave the SSBL a \$1,500 grant to help fund the Milwaukee Classic and Midwest Invitational Softball Tournaments.

Civil Rights Stakes Will be Highest Ever for Lesbians and Gay Men in 1998

New York—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (Lambda) said on December 30, that the new year will see a record number of Lesbian, Gay and AIDS-related concerns in the country's highest courts.

In 1998, among more than 50 cases on its docket, Lambda anticipates a ruling from Hawaii's highest court that may make civil marriage available to same-sex couples for the first time in this country. State by state, Lambda also is fighting child custody and adoption rulings that discriminate against same-sex families. In one such case, North Carolina's highest court is expected to rule on whether Fred Smith, who is Gay, can have his two sons returned to his care, since his ex-wife won custody because of his sexual orientation.

In the US Supreme Court this spring, Lambda is coordinating "amicus" briefs challenging a Maine dentist's refusal to treat a woman with asymptomatic HIV. The case, "Bragdon v. Abbott, brought by the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, could determine whether the Americans with Disabilities Act covers hundreds of thousands of people who are infected with HIV, but show no sign of illness.

Also on Lambda's Supreme Court docket is a case on behalf of an Atlanta lawyer, who was fired from the Georgia State Attorney General's office because she is a Lesbian and had a private, religious wedding ceremony. Lambda and the ACLU are co-counsel for the lawyer, Robin Shahar.

Lambda awaits a Supreme Court ruling

Gay Group Praises Coors Brewing Co., But Calls for Continuing Boycott of Coors Beer

West Hollywood—In the third week in December, with a crowd of nearly 100 in attendance, the Stonewall Democratic Club held a community forum at the Metropolitan Community Church to discuss the issues surrounding Coors Brewing Company, the Coors family's support for right wing extremist causes and the 20 year-old boycott of Coors products by the Lesbian and Gay community.

At the conclusion of the community forum, Stonewall's Coors Advisory Task Force presented a resolution to its membership, simultaneously praising Coors for their strides in creating a positive and non-discriminatory environment for its Lesbian and Gay employees and calling on the community to refrain from purchasing Coors products until such time as the Coors family, its businesses, and foundations, cease funding or providing leadership to organizations whose mission includes the denial of fair and equitable

treatment of Lesbians, Gays, and other minorities.

In another employment-related case, "Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, Inc.", for which it authored an "amicus" brief joined by the leading women's organizations as well as Gay and other civil rights groups. In this same-sex sexual harassment case, heard by the Court December 3, Lambda urges that the federal law against sexual harassment at work be applied without regard to the sex or sexual orientation of the harasser or victim.

Another challenge to the widespread problem of anti-Gay employment discrimination is one of the first cases to test California's protections for Lesbian and Gay workers. Argument against California Casualty Management's firing of salesman Dan Kovatch is expected before a state court of appeals in the spring.

In the only active federal appeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," Lambda with the ACLU, has just filed its brief in "Able v. USA. A district-level court rejected the policy as unconstitutional in July; the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit is expected to hear the government's appeal early in 1998.

In a renegade decision last fall, a three judge federal panel disregarded the Supreme Court's ruling against Colorado's Amendment 2 and upheld Cincinnati's nearly identical Issue 3, which would prohibit legislators from approving discrimination protections for Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals. Determined to put an end to the country's last remaining anti-Gay ballot initiative, Lambda and co-counsel have appealed for a hearing by the entire Sixth Circuit Court.

Wendi Patella, a spokeswoman for the state Division of Youth and Family Services, said the agency now has custody of about 100 children who are eligible for adoption. In 1996, 687 children in the division's care were adopted, she said.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco, estimated there are 8 million to 13 million children being raised by Gay or Lesbian parents in the United States.

The task force interviewed a wide assortment of community activists, political activists, reporters, watchdog groups (such as People for the American Way), union officials and both line and management employees of Coors Brewing Co..

The Task Force analyzed the political contributions of Coors family-owned companies and foundations, and of Coors

Please See Coors Page 10

Newark, NJ—Gay and unmarried couples in New Jersey have won the right to jointly adopt children in a settlement hailed by Gay rights advocates as the first in the nation to put such couples on equal footing with married people.

While the settlement applies only to children under the state's custody, activists said it will streamline the adoption process for Gay and unmarried couples and provide permanent homes to more children now in foster care.

"The settlement guarantees that all couples seeking adoptions will be judged only by their ability to love and support a child," said Lenora M. Lapidus, legal director of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The settlement was flayed by conservatives.

"I think it's a sad commentary," said Republican state Assemblywoman Marion Crecco, sponsor of a bill banning same-sex marriage that has not yet made it to the Assembly floor.

"I think every child deserves to grow up with a mother and father. It's a very natural thing," she said.

Robert Knight, director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council, a Washington think tank, called the settlement "a victory for homosexual activism and a defeat for children already bruised in life and in need of an intact, committed husband-and-wife family."

The agreement by New Jersey authorities came in a class-action lawsuit brought in June by Gay and lesbian families with the assistance of the ACLU.

In about half the states, including New Jersey, each individual in a Gay or unmarried relationship could adopt a child, but the "second-parent" adoption required an additional petition, taking more time and money.

Florida and New Hampshire bar adoptions by Gays and Lesbians. The rest allow individual adoption by Gays and have not been tested for second-parent adoptions by a Gay partner, Adams said.

Under the settlement, the New Jersey must scrap its policy barring joint adoption of its wards by Gay or unmarried couples.

It may deny consent to them only by applying the same standards it applies to married couples, including "considerations such as the stability of the prospective adoptive couple's relationship," the settlement said.

In addition, it allows any Gay or unmarried couple who believe they are denied joint adoption based on marital status or sexual orientation to ask a state judge to enforce the decree and award them legal fees.

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A
Decade of
Light

News Briefs

New Zealand Court Nixes Same-Sex Marriage

Wellington, New Zealand-AP- An appeals court ruled out marriage for same-sex couples, but two of the court's five judges agreed that New Zealand's marriage laws discriminate against Gays and Lesbians.

The Court of Appeal judges were unanimous in deciding that the country's 1955 Marriage Act requires marriage to be between a man and a woman.

But two of the justices said the law violates the Bill of Rights Act by discriminating against same-sex couples. Nonetheless, the court found that that act cannot override the Marriage Act.

The judges were considering an appeal by three couples in long-term Lesbian relationships of a High Court decision last year that struck down their marriage applications.

The appeals court judges said only new legislation would allow the Marriage Act to accommodate same-sex marriage.

Psychoanalysts Support Same-Sex Marriage

New York, NY-AP- On December 18, the Executive Council of The American Psychoanalytic Association adopted the following resolution initiated by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund: Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the state should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage.

Marvin Margolis, M.D., Ph.D., president of the Association expressed his enthusiastic support for this resolution and congratulated those many psychoanalysts who have used political and judicial avenues against attempts to infringe upon the civil rights of all individuals.

State Commission Looking at Same-Sex Rights

Denver-AP- A state commission looking at the rights and responsibilities of same-sex couples won't meet a March 1 deadline to issue its findings.

The commission is charged with compiling a report comparing the legal and economic rights, responsibilities and benefits of same-sex couples and married couples.

Sen. Ken Arnold, R-Westminster, and state Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Fort Morgan, sponsored a bill earlier this year that sought to strengthen Colorado's ban on same-sex marriages. The measure passed the legislature but was vetoed by Romer, who appointed the commission without naming Arnold or Musgrave.

"The nature of families is changing," Anderson added. "It's important to examine what does that mean, for individuals in the relationships, the children, for property issues, inheritance, survivorship rights."

Leyba said the commission will look at "what barriers may be created by existing law" to same-sex partnerships. While the commission is unlikely to propose a law for the legislative session that begins Jan. 7, she said, "If we determine there are statutory barriers, legislation could be something down the road."

Australia to Look into AIDS Vaccine

Melbourne, Australia-AP- Researchers will use a grant from a U.S. AIDS group to study a crippled strain of the AIDS virus in hopes of developing a vaccine for the fatal illness, officials said Friday.

Professor John Mills, head of Melbourne's Macfarlane Burnet Center for Medical Research, said the research on HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, will take an approach similar to the methods used to produce vaccines for measles and polio.

The center was awarded \$415,500 for research by the nonprofit International AIDS Vaccine Initiative of New York.

Mills said the center will use the money to let five of its scientists spend three years researching the potential of the crippled strain of HIV, discovered in Australia in 1995.

Governor's Campaign Chair Won't Apologize

Montgomery, AL-AP- The chairman of Gov. Fob James' re-election campaign is unapologetic about using an offensive term for Gays during a television appearance.

Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar, himself the 1982 Republican nominee for governor, used the slur during the "Good Morning, Montgomery" television show aired last Thursday.

"I used the word 'queer' and I'll use it again. I'm not going to call them Gay. I don't approve of their lifestyle one bit," Folmar told The Montgomery Advertiser in a story published Tuesday, December 23.

The governor earlier this year called for the impeachment of Supreme Court justices and judges who have issued rulings that he calls fraudulent and illegal.

Canadian MD Convicted of Assisted Suicide

Toronto-AP- A doctor pleaded guilty Monday, December 22, to assisting the suicide of a man with AIDS, becoming the first Canadian physician convicted of helping a patient to kill himself.

Dr. Maurice Genevex, 50, was released on bail and will be allowed to continue treating patients pending his sentencing.

Genevex administered potentially lethal doses of sleeping pills to two HIV-positive men.

"If you've seen AIDS or looked in the face of AIDS you can see that the end should come when the dying person wants it, not when some other person decides."

Genevex is scheduled to be sentenced in March. The maximum prison sentence in Canada for assisted suicide is 14 years.

Supreme Court Rules in AIDS Insurance Case

Honolulu-AP- The Hawaii Supreme Court has overturned a Circuit Court order that allowed an insurance company to deny disability payments to an AIDS patient.

The high court sent the case back to Circuit Court for a jury trial.

The ruling came in the case of an unnamed dentist, who was identified only as John Doe. He died on Sept. 27, almost 12 years after Paul Revere Insurance Co. issued him a disability income insurance policy.

The man later filed a claim for benefits, saying he was totally disabled with an HIV infection.

The man's other attorney, Kirk Cashmere, said the Supreme Court was appalled that the insurance company denied the benefit even though the man paid his premiums and was entitled to receive his benefits.

Attorneys for the insurance company were not available for comment.

Hormel Nomination Block Continues

Little Rock-AP- Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., says he will continue to oppose the nomination of James Hormel to become ambassador of Luxembourg after meeting with the nominee in Hutchinson's Washington office.

Hutchinson said after the meeting Friday that he is opposed to the nomination because of what he says is Hormel's opposition to several U.S. policies.

President Clinton nominated Hormel, a homosexual from San Francisco who is heir to the Hormel meat fortune and a major Democratic donor, for the post in October.

The nomination has been put on a Senate hold by Hutchinson and Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., and some other senators.

Hutchinson and Inhofe blocked Hormel's confirmation last month because of concerns he would push a Gay-rights agenda they oppose. The action drew criticism from the White House and Gay-rights groups that called it discriminatory.

Graham Welcomes Gays to Crusade

San Francisco-AP- The Rev. Billy Graham, who has Parkinson's disease and prostate cancer appears to be in failing health again. He has, however, been able to make it to the pulpit and has addressed the most hotly contested issue of his trip to the San Francisco Bay area: homosexuality.

"Whatever your background, whatever your sexual orientation, we welcome you to-night," he has told crusade crowds in San Francisco.



Memorial - Viewers of the new Key West AIDS memorial are shown above. The memorial contains the names of 760 residents who have died from AIDS.

Key West AIDS Memorial Dedicated on World AIDS Day

Milwaukee—The Key West AIDS Memorial was dedicated on Monday, December 1, 1997, commemorating 760 persons with connections to Key West, who have died of AIDS. Many local residents were in attendance for the dedication ceremony, as well as representatives from Miller Brewing Company and Landmark Enterprises.

"Miller is proud to be a sponsor in this homage to those who have lost their lives to this devastating disease. We hope that they Key West AIDS Memorial will not only serve as a tribute, but as a reminder that there is still no cure for AIDS," said Tom Reed, director of government affairs, Miller Brewing Company.

Miller Brewing Company was the first corporate sponsor and the major contributor donating \$50,000 toward the AIDS memorial.

During the early planning stages, Landmark Enterprises, Inc., headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was contacted to develop sponsorships and acquire designs for the memorial. Landmark conducted an international design contest in which Perkins & Will/Wheeler, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was chosen to be the memorial's architect.

Design principals were David Spencer, AIA and James Young, ASID. They re-

ferred to the memorial as "...a powerful reminder of the importance of our memories. What better place to remember the warmth of our relationships than where the land, sea and sunny sky become one. We are honored to have been a part of the creation that provides a place to reflect on those we love."

Other members of the design team included Steve Busse, Greg Fait, David Frank, Stephan Hahn and Amy Kleppe.

"We are honored to have been a part of this memorial from the beginning," said Jim Moore, account supervisor, Landmark Enterprises. "This memorial's message goes beyond Key West and stands as a testament to all the lives that have been lost to AIDS throughout the world."

The memorial is located at the foot of White Street pier, selected for its natural beauty, it offers a view of both the sunrise and sunset. The names are etched into 300 Zimbabwe granite tiles and are highlighted by special lighting. The design also includes a map of the Florida Keys that stretches along the length of the memorial. Additional names will be added annually.

For more information on the Key West AIDS Memorial, contact Ron Heron at (305) 296-6196.

Microsystems Software Inc., Moves to Block Geocities' West Hollywood "Neighborhood"

By Don Romesburg

GLAAD Publications Manager

New York, NY—The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), reports that Cyber Patrol, a leading Internet filtering software being used in homes, schools and libraries across the country, has recently been blocking the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender area of one of the Internet's most popular communities, a "neighborhood" called "West Hollywood" on Geocities.

Geocities is a company that provides free Web space and archives sites into specific "neighborhoods" based on common interests. West Hollywood houses approximately 23,000 Web sites devoted to Lesbian and Gay interests (including sites such as Gay Hockey and the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum's Young Adult Program).

Microsystems Software, Inc. Cyber Patrol's manufacturer, said that the decision was made due to West Hollywood containing a large number of sites that displayed "nudity" or "pornographic images."

Cyber Patrol is used by Internet giant America Online, CompuServe and the Boston Library, whose users will no longer be able to access the area.

Bob Parker, Geocities' West Hollywood Community Leader Liaison, however, noted Geocities' clear guidelines to creating a Web page in the community.

Those who use Geocities are prohibited from: "Displaying material containing nudity or pornographic material of any kind; Providing material that is grossly offensive to the online community, including blatant expressions of bigotry, prejudice, racism, hatred, or profanity; Displaying material that exploits children under 18 years of age."

When GLAAD ran a spot check of 100 sites on Geocities, it found that 2/3 of the sites contained nothing that could even be perceived as nudity. The other 1/3 of the sites contained photos that had partial nudity (example - a shirtless man).

GLAAD also noted that West Hollywood was rich with important informational and support resources.

When GLAAD approached Dick Gorgens, CEO of Microsystems Software, he admitted, "Upon my review, you were absolutely correct in your assessment that the subdirectory block on West Hollywood is prejudicial to the Gay and Lesbian Geocities community. We took the 'easier' approach to blocking the small number of actionable non-nudity publishers in that area rather than individually sanctioning them. Taking that technique to the limit would have us pull the plug on the entire Internet which is obviously not our plan." Gorgens also pledged that, "The problem will be corrected."

However, the blocks still remain in place.

Southern Baptists Picket Disney Over Pro-Gay Policies

Kissimmee, FL—About 75 people, some carrying signs that read "Choose Jesus over Mickey," protested the Walt Disney Co.'s Gay-friendly policies on Monday, December 29.

Most of the protest took place in Orlando outside the entrance to Disney World, with a smaller group picketing about eight miles away at an intersection on a busy tourist strip in Kissimmee.

Protesters there backed up traffic for about two miles, said sheriff's office spokeswoman Carole Garcia.

"The conditions were very unsafe. There were verbal confrontations," Garcia said. "The deputies warned them several times."

Three people were arrested, including the leader of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, the Rev. Flip Benham. They were charged with obstructing public streets.

It was the first time Operation Rescue has publicly targeted Disney.

In May, leaders of the 15 million-member Southern Baptists voted to boycott Disney's "anti-Christian and anti-family direction."

Monday's protesters, mostly young people attending a youth conference at a church in Palm Bay, about 55 miles to the east, listed many of the same reasons as the Southern Baptists did for their boycott: Disney's granting of health benefits to same-sex partners of employees, allowing "Gay Days" at its theme parks and having Ellen DeGeneres, the star of the ABC show "Ellen," to come out as a ho-

mosexual. ABC is owned by Disney.

Benham said the protesters are considering establishing a regular presence at the theme parks, most noticeably during the next Gay Days in the first weekend of June, when thousands of Gays and lesbians come to Orlando to go to Disney World, Universal Studios Florida and Sea World.

The Disney protesters will buy tickets to get into the theme parks, pass out literature and read from the Bible, Benham said.

Bill Warren, a Disney spokesman, said the protesters will be asked to stop if they do that.

"We discourage anyone coming in with a personal platform or agenda, whether it's holding a political banner or setting up something for a statement," Warren said. "It's not a place for making statements or political causes."

Arrested along with Benham were Matthew Scott Bowman, 22, of Wheeling, West Virginia; and Seth Marschke, 19, of Orland Park, Illinois. Bond was set at \$500. If convicted, they could be sentenced to six months in jail.



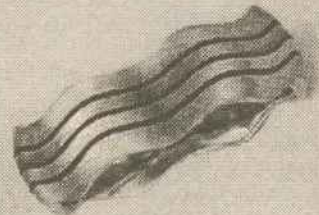
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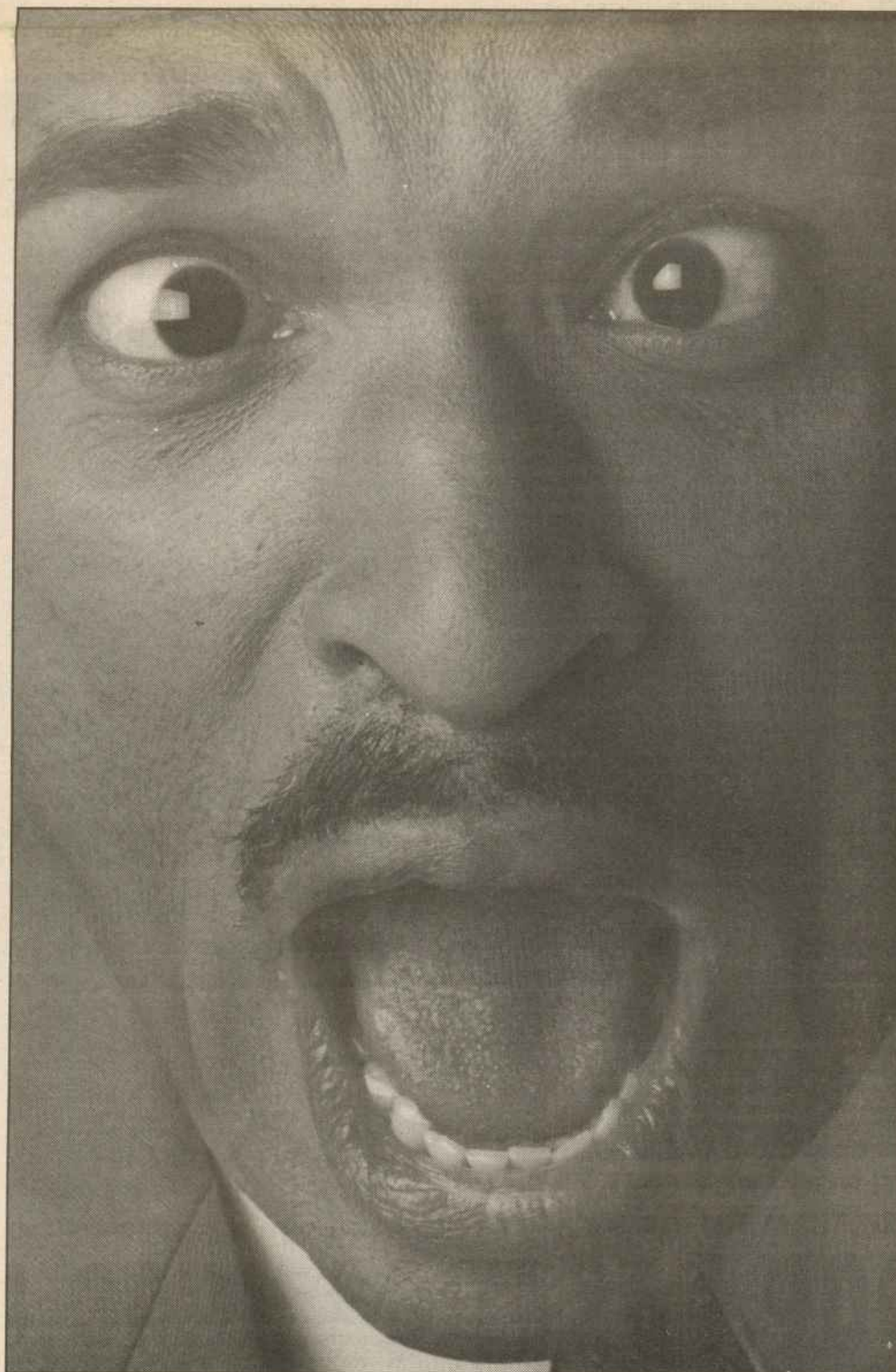
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Politically Speaking

1998 Promises to be a Volatile and Exciting Political Year

Commentary by Bill Meunier

The next 11 months will see a drastic increase in political activity as the mid-term elections are held in November of 1998. Wisconsin could become a key battleground state as the GOP seeks to hold onto both houses of Congress and the Democrats seek to regain power at least in the House of Representatives.

The Badger state will see four and possibly five hotly contested races that should be of interest to its Les/Bi/Gay community. These include Russ Feingold's bid for re-election, Tammy Baldwin's campaign to become the first open Lesbian in Congress and the first Congresswoman ever elected from Wisconsin, the Congressional race in Wisconsin's first district, Mark Pocan's bid to take Tammy's seat in the legislature and keep an openly

Gay presence in the State Assembly and possibly the Governor's race.

The US Senate Race

Most Gays and Lesbians assume that Russ Feingold will win re-election easily. Those assumptions could very well prove to be wrong when the votes are counted.

Feingold has done an outstanding job. His record of squeaky clean. But there are some flies in the ointment.

Private polls show his approval rating is not as high as it should be.

Feingold was hurt by his vote for partial birth abortions and his likely opponent, Republican Congressman, Mark Neumann has a history of dirty campaigning.

For the time being, Feingold is ahead of Neumann in the polls but that could change. Neumann who was threatened with prosecution by the Kenosha County DA for running a slanderous ad in his last campaign, can't be counted out.

Senator Feingold has angered powerful interests by attempting to limit the amount of money they can contribute to campaigns. Expect Neumann to get heavy contributions from many of them.

Furthermore, Neumann is expected to have the backing of the Christian Coalition. You can expect that churches throughout Wisconsin will be railing at that "pro-Gay, pro-abortion" Senator Feingold.

My best guess is that Feingold will win, but it will be closer than people expect.

The Second Congressional District

The Second Congressional District will be a key race for two reasons. One, the Democrats should be able to pick up this seat from the Republicans. Two, our own Tammy Baldwin has a solid chance of winning that seat.

Baldwin has made a fast start out of the blocks. She leads her Democratic primary opponents in fund raising.

She is working hard making appearances all over the district. Her major challengers for the Democratic nomination, former Dane County Executive, Rick Phelps and State Senator, Joe Wienecke have not been beating the bushes like Tammy has.

Furthermore, Baldwin is the only female in the race and she is running in a district, a good part of which just elected two women to major offices.

The real question for the Baldwin campaign will be the amount of support she gets from Lesbians and Gays and from straight progressives. If Gays and Lesbians work hard for her election she could very well become the first-ever open Lesbian elected to Congress.

The First Congressional District

A real donnybrook could develop in the First Congressional District. The seat is being vacated by Neumann so he can run against Feingold.

Lydia Spottswood who lost to Neumann in 1996 by less than 5,000 votes has already announced her candidacy. Spottswood, however, has a large debt left over from her last campaign, and her announcement didn't seem to generate any enthusiasm.

Other Democrats are reportedly considering the race. The Democrats would love to pick up this seat and have a solid shot at it.

The 78th Assembly District

Located on the isthmus in Madison, this district is considered to be the most liberal in Wisconsin. Tammy Baldwin has represented it for the last six years.

With her run for Congress, Tammy must give up her seat and the favorite to take her place is Mark Pocan, an openly Gay businessman and former Dane County Supervisor.

Pocan's election would ensure a continued voice for Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin in the State Assembly. He is as of now the only openly Gay or Lesbian candidate running for the State Legislature.

Pocan is running hard and has already lined up endorsements from a wide variety of activists, professionals, politicians and business people.

His main challengers will be in the Democratic primary. So far he looks like a winner, but remember, 11 months is long time in politics and like Tammy Baldwin, he will need money and volunteers to pull it off.

The Governor's Race

A funny thing could happen to Tommy Thompson (otherwise known as King Tommy) on his way to a fourth term. That funny thing is Senator Herb Kohl. Kohl is seriously considering making the

race for Governor.

This is important because he is the only Democrat who could mount a serious challenge to Thompson. Current polls show Thompson with only a slight lead in a race against the Senior Senator.

A Thompson-Kohl match up could also affect the Feingold-Neumann race. By refusing to give Thompson a free pass, Kohl would tie up money and volunteers who otherwise might have helped Neumann.

The Senator is reported to be under pressure to make a bid for Governor. He says he will decide soon.

Meanwhile Ed Garvey has already announced his candidacy and is trying to put together a grass roots campaign. Garvey would make an excellent Governor, but barring a monumental upset he will never occupy that office.

There is no way that Garvey can come close to matching Thompson's war chest. Thompson would roll over Garvey just as he has rolled over his last two opponents, drowning him in a sea of money.

If Kohl enters the race, however, things become very interesting.

All in all it should be a very interesting year politically speaking that is.

Former Employee Sues Russ Darrow Group for AIDS Discrimination

Milwaukee—According to the December 18 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, a former sales manager for the Russ Darrow auto dealership group says the company fired him in February, 1996, because he has AIDS and it feared his illness would produce big medical insurance and disability costs.

The manager is being allowed to sue under the pseudonym "John Doe" because of the "inflammatory and prejudicial nature" of the disease, according to Attorney Kathy Nusslock who is representing Doe.

Russ Darrow is Wisconsin's largest car dealer with dealerships in West Bend, its headquarters, as well as Waukesha, Cedarburg, Milwaukee, Mequon and Greenfield.

Doe worked for the Darrow Group from March, 1994 until February 13, 1996 when he was fired.

When contacted, a spokesperson for the company declined comment.

In papers filed in federal court in Milwaukee, Doe says his firing as the Russ Darrow Group's Toyota sales manager broke federal law that protects individuals with disabilities.

Doe also alleges that his firing violates the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act.

According to the suit, "Doe is a homosexual and is entitled to protection against discrimination...relating to sexual orientation."

Doe's lawsuit alleges that the Darrow Group knew that he had AIDS and was Gay and that he was fired so the company could avoid "the need to make reasonable accommodations to his possible future physical impairments."

The suit says Doe suffered economic losses, mental anguish and humiliation, because of his discriminatory discharge.

Doe is asking for reinstatement as Toyota sales manager, back salary and compensatory and punitive damages.

As of press time, there has been no further progress on the case, according to Nusslock's office.

Please Write to Me

TO THE EDITOR:

Probably you are surprised to receive a letter from Ukraine. My name is Igor. I am 20 years-old. I found your address in your paper and decided to write this letter.

The problem is that I don't know any Gay men here. I live in a big city, but there aren't any Gay magazines, clubs here. The public opinion to Gays is very negative. It's almost impossible to find the real friend in my country, so I am writing to you.

I hope you can help me find a real friend in your country. I will be very grateful if you can do it.

So they know what I look like, I am 5'10", 145 lbs, dark hair, very handsome, athletic, masculine.

Write to: Igor Mihatzkiy, P.O. Box 10150, Kharkov-2, 310002, Ukraine.

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

January 15th Issue

Articles Friday, Jan. 9th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Jan 9th

Camera Ready—Jan. 12th

5:00 p.m.

January 29th Issue

Articles—Jan. 23rd

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—Jan. 23rd

Camera Ready—Jan. 26th

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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Rick Fores Heads Up Gray Line Milwaukee to Show City and State Off to Visitors

By Terry Boughner

You have a few guests coming in from out of town and you'd like to show them around, but you really don't know Milwaukee all that well yourself. What to do?

Perhaps your friends would like to go to the theater, but what's playing?

Or—your organization or group is sponsoring a gathering of out-towners and you'd like them to see Milwaukee, but you just don't have the time to do all the necessary logistics. What to do?

How about a get-away? Escape from the rat race for fun on the slopes—or perhaps, to Mardi Gras in the Crescent City. How to do it?

The answer to those questions—and several others that will be noted later—lies in a new downtown business that had its Grand Opening in early November.

An office of Gray Line, a long-established tour company with operations world-wide has opened at 744 N. 4th Street, directly across from the new Midwest Express Center. The location makes Gray Line an integral part of the continued vitalization of the downtown area. The fact that Gray Line has operations in almost every major destination in America, means the Gray Line office here and the one in Madison, bring the two cities "up to speed."

The Dallas-based Gray Line is an association of 155 independent companies licensed to operate under the Gray Line name. The Gray Line license for Milwaukee was purchased by the Janesville-based Van Galder Bus Company.

Rick Fores, Director of Operations for the Milwaukee office, sits for an interview in his pearl-gray office with its broad expanse of windows looking out on rising convention center just across the street. He is an energetic young man with a way about him that makes him seem very much a part of a city that is forging ahead; a city that is proud of its past and what it has to offer, but looks eagerly to the future as well.

The Gray Line office isn't only for those seeking tours. In the spacious lobby there are brochures describing what's going on in Milwaukee's theater world. Fores proudly boasts that Milwaukee is the second largest fundraiser for theater in the

nation, which makes theater in the city one of its main attractions.

In addition to the brochures, Fores says that there will soon be a visitor service center in the lobby where people can stop in and find out about restaurants and "anything that is going on in the city and state," Fores says.

For those who are new to Milwaukee, they can stop in, Fores says, and take one of several tours. Which one depends on what the tourist wants to see.

For example, there's a tour that will focus on downtown. One that will focus on the arts, and one for the suburbs. There's one that will be an overall, "one that focuses on everything," Fores says.

The shortest is "Milwaukee in a Nutshell," costs \$19 and takes an hour and a half. It's ideal for someone (in between meetings, perhaps) who wants a quick view, but doesn't have much time. As part of the tour, the visitor will receive a packet of information about "what's doing in Milwaukee, where to go, what to see, where to eat."

"If I have guests coming in from out of town," I ask, "can I call you and get them a tour?"

"You bet," Fores answers quickly. He notes that Milwaukee is changing so rapidly and that many people are not really familiar with parts of the city outside their own neighborhoods, that it only makes sense to use a Gray Line tour to show guests the sights.

The tours will begin on January 1, 1998. There will be, Fores says, a morning and an afternoon tour, offered on a daily basis.

To provide the tours, Gray Line Milwaukee currently has four 26 passenger vehicles that are brand new. Eight 55 passenger vehicles will be delivered in March, 1998, he says, also brand new.

Fores notes proudly that Gray Line only keeps their equipment for three years, after which it is sold and new equipment purchased.

While Gray Line is known for its city tours, Gray Line also offers customized tours and tours beyond the city.

For example, for that get-away you'd like, Gray Line is offering a skiing weekend at Indianhead. You leave from Milwaukee Friday afternoon and return Sun-



Wanna Tour? - Rick Fores, operations manager of Gray Line Tours is shown standing in front of his office at 744 N. 4th Street in downtown Milwaukee. Gray Line will offer several package tours of the City in addition to charter services and trips to vacation stops, special events and theaters in other cities.

day evening.

Or how about Mardi Gras in New Orleans? That's February 20-22. Bring your own costume and have a ball.

Fores says that trips to Fireside Theater are planned. He also wants to get involved in the Chicago theater runs.

Gray Line Milwaukee, Fores says, can help with anything having to do with making a convention more pleasant: hotels, meals, etc.

Gray Line Milwaukee can also supply limo service for VIP guest that someone may be having come in from out of town. There are plans, Fores says, to buy two new limos for service by Gray Line.

In addition to the limos, there are also "executive vans," really rolling living rooms, that seat 24 people, ideal for meetings while traveling.

When all is said and done, the message is the Gray Line is now in both Milwaukee and Madison, ready to serve the in-

creasing tourist business in these cities.

"If you have a club or any kind of pre-formed group," Fores says, "We'll customize a tour for you at no additional charge."

Only a few of the tours and other Gray Line services have been mentioned here. For more information, call Gray Line Milwaukee at (414) 271-0996.

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GRAY LINE WISCONSIN

Lying Is A Virtue? Bill Bennett Caught With His Brain Down

Commentary by Mike Leon

It's not exactly a supreme revelation that the right-wing pundit and Shorewood native Bill Bennett is a mendacious, Queer-bashing warrior with all the intellectual rigor of a gaping, Christian-Right partisan.

But a recent Slate magazine piece by Walter Olson (December 19, 1997; "William Bennett, Gays, and the Truth, Mr. Virtue Dabbles in Phony Statistics") reveals with striking clarity the depths to which the virtuemeister Bennett is willing to sink in furtherance of his Gay-bashing agenda.

This latest episode in Bennett's anything-for-the-cultural-war-effort instructs for the coming fall elections—what promises to be a campaign of vitriolic attack on Gays and Lesbians unprecedented in Wisconsin politics as Rep. Mark Neumann's seeks to become a U.S. Senator.

After Bill Clinton's November 8, 1997, first-ever presidential address to a Gay-rights organization, the Human Rights Campaign, (see *Wisconsin Light* for a report on, and the text of Clinton's speech), the voices of the right immediately denounced the address in their worn, predictable fashion.

As Slate's Olson quotes the solemn voiced Bennett: "This is tough news. It's not pleasant to hear. But it's very important, and it's part of telling the truth."

The tough truth Bennett intrepidly told? Homosexuality takes 30 years off your life, the average life expectancy for Gays is 43 years. Clinton, damn him, was placing the presidential mantle of respectability on this baleful practice.

"The best available research suggests that the average life span of male homosexuals is around 43 years of age. Forty-three," as Olson notes Bennett later repeated in the conservative *Weekly Standard*.

As it happens Bennett's source was the right-wing Family Research Institute's Paul Cameron, a discredited, former academic now supplying canon fodder for the religious right. Cameron derived the life expectancy age by a method so thoroughly absurd no decent social-scientist would ever even dream of using it.

As Olson writes, "(Cameron) and two co-authors read through back numbers of

various urban Gay community papers...They counted up obituaries and news stories about deaths, noted the ages of the deceased, computed the average, and published the resulting numbers as estimates of Gay life expectancy." This is the scientific sample from which the statistic, 43 years, is derived. Religious Right scholarship at its finest.

Olson includes a couple knock-downs from trained statisticians who deride Bennett and Cameron's method as "just ridiculous." Olson then concludes his report of the episode by noting that Bennett continued to stick by his guns:

"Challenged by the Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch in the letters column of the Dec. 8 *Standard*, Bennett, remarkably, dug in to defend the Cameron numbers, which he said coincided with the views of other authorities such as psychiatrist Jeffrey Satinover.

Satinover's 1996 book, *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, does discuss Gay life spans, but cites as its authority...Cameron's study. In other words, Bennett is not adducing a second authority for his assertions but merely falling back on the first via its recycling by another writer. All too believable.

This statistic was repeated approvingly in the *National Review*, and may filter into the mainstream consciousness. But on a positive note (though a rational person would not dare traffic in the calculus of the credibility of right-wing pundits), it's difficult to believe that this episode won't result in some lowering of Bennett's perceived virtue and intellectual honesty.

As we begin 1998, it is heartening to take notice that 1997 did indeed see a historic affirmation of Queers by the President of the United States. And, it should be noted, the subsequent debunking of the right-wing hysteria was penned by Walter Olson—senior fellow of the Manhattan Institute, a main supplier of economic heavy artillery to the national Republican Party.

But don't get too excited. Wisconsin Republican Mark Neumann and the Log Cabin Republicans can still be counted on to do the wrong thing during the coming senatorial election.

Georgia's Bowers Admits to Being Moral Hypocrite in Lesbian Case

Washington, DC—Robin Shahar believes that being a Lesbian is why she's not working for Georgia's attorney general, but the state's lawyers say bias against homosexuals played no role. She lost the job, they say, only after deciding to "marry" another woman.

The legal dispute, carried to the Supreme Court by Gay-rights groups, has historic potential. And it already may have complicated the political aspirations of the man Shahar sued, would-be governor Mike Bowers.

He was the state's attorney general when, in 1991, he withdrew Shahar's job offer to become a staff attorney in the Georgia Department of Law. Bowers said her impending marriage would affect public perception of his office's dedication to enforcing the state's anti-sodomy law.

Shahar and her partner were planning to celebrate a lifelong commitment to each other in a religious ceremony, even though Shahar, who later got work as a lawyer for the city of Atlanta, says she knew the ceremony carried no legal significance.

Her lawsuit said Bowers violated her constitutional rights of association and equal protection.

Bowers' name already is attached to the Supreme Court's most important Gay-rights ruling, a 1986 decision called *Bowers vs. Hardwick* in which he successfully defended Georgia's anti-sodomy law.

Consenting adults have no constitutional right to engage in homosexual conduct, the nation's highest court ruled by a 5-4 vote then.

Bowers, who this year resigned to pursue the Republican nomination for governor in 1998, has since had to admit he was involved in an extramarital affair that lasted more than a decade.

Adultery, like sodomy, is a crime in Georgia.

Asked if he had been hypocritical in Shahar's case, Bowers said, "In a moral sense, yes. But legally, I do not believe there was any choice with the Shahar case but to do that. Did that make me a moral hypocrite? Yes."

Nevertheless, Bowers' decision to withdraw Shahar's job offer has been upheld in

court. A federal trial judge ruled that Shahar's relationship with her partner was a "constitutionally protected intimate association" but concluded that Bowers had not acted unlawfully.

The entire 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed last May, voting 8-4 that Bowers had not violated any of Shahar's rights.

The appeals court judged Bowers' action after assuming, only for the sake of argument, that Shahar had some constitutional right to be intimately associated with another woman.

The appeals court went on to say, however, it was reasonable to believe that Lesbians who profess to be married to each other engage in illegal homosexual relations.

Its decision added: "We cannot say that Georgia's attorney general is clearly wrong to worry that reasonable people, inside and outside the Law Department, in Georgia could think along these same lines."

Such assumptions, the appeals court said, could affect public confidence in the attorney general's office.

But three dissenting judges said that should not matter. "It is important to note that catering to private prejudice is not a legitimate government interest," they said.

In her Supreme Court appeal, Shahar's lawyers contend that Bowers' action "rests on irrational prejudice toward Gay people."

But Georgia's lawyers say his action was based on Shahar's "holding herself out as married to another woman, and was not precipitated by some generalized animus against homosexuals."

If the Supreme Court agrees to study Shahar's appeal, it will decide who's right.

From the Gay Right

"Following legalization of same-sex marriage and a couple of other things, I think we should have a party and close down the Gay rights movement for good." --Andrew Sullivan, in *Out Takes* (1997).

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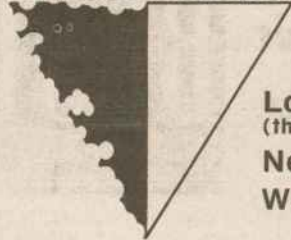
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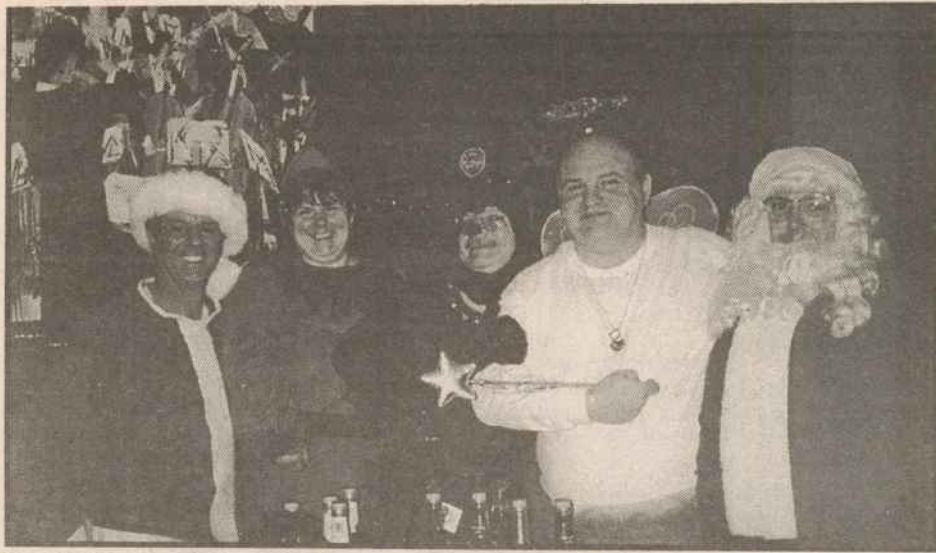
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Santa's Helpers - Santa and his elves were on hand to help Ted Berg raise money for MAP at a fund raiser held at Milwaukee's popular This Is It bar in early December. The event raised over \$300.00.

Three Lesbian Candidates for Congress are Giving Conservatives the Jitters

Washington, DC—Right-Wing Conservatives Worry Because Candidates Chances Are Good Margarethe Cammermeyer, Christine Kehoe, & Tammy Baldwin Running

"Worried" best describes the tone of an article in the new January issue of the ultra-conservative magazine, *The American Spectator*. The reason? The Lesbians Are Coming! The Lesbians Are Coming! They're seeking political seats that Republicans themselves believe are "up for grabs."

The *Spectator* reports that what it calls the "ultra liberal" fundraising group, Emily's List, as well as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), are backing three Lesbian candidates for Congress, running in California, Washington, and Wisconsin. The *Spectator* says these groups are reported to have helped raise nearly \$3 million for the women's campaigns.

The best-known of those running is also, The *Spectator* believes, the person best-suited to win: Retired Army Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer in Washington. This is because of her struggle against the Army and because her case was favorably publicized when she was played by Glen Close in a TV film.

San Diego's Christine Kehoe, according to the right-wing publication, is causing Republicans the greatest concern in her bid for the 49th Congressional District. After receiving an overwhelming percentage of the vote for her present seat on the San Diego council she is now, running against Republican Rep. Brian Bilbray who is labeled a "moderate" by *The Spectator*, and is dismissed as somewhat bland.

Tammy Baldwin, already a state representative in Wisconsin, is also worrisome to GOP strategists. While they attempt to put the best faces on the controversial Congressional races, the strategists seem clearly rattled, and are quoted in the Kehoe race as saying they're not sure that the help needed by Bilbray can be tendered.

Both The Human Rights Campaign and

the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund have announced endorsements of Christine Kehoe and Tammy Baldwin.

"Tammy Baldwin has long been an outstanding public servant and she will make an outstanding member of Congress, said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "Her record and commitment on a broad range of issues is superb."

Prior to Baldwin's tenure at the state level, she served four terms on the Dane County Board of Supervisors, to which she was elected at the age of 24.

HRC does not expect sexual orientation becoming an issue in the campaign.

"Tammy Baldwin is a distinguished and well-rounded public servant championing a host of sound public policies to make our country a safer, healthier and fairer place for all Americans," added Stachelberg.

"Christine Kehoe is a fantastic public servant, and she will make a fantastic member of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Stachelberg. "Her record and commitment on a broad range of issues are superb."

Active in San Diego politics and community affairs since 1978, Christine Kehoe was first elected to the San Diego City Council with Victory Fund support in 1993. Extremely popular with her constituents, she was overwhelmingly re-elected in 1996, garnering 79.5% of the vote.

She currently serves as the City's representative to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the Automated Regional Justice Information System Board of Directors, the Small Business Advisory Board, and the National League of Cities. In 1997, she was appointed to the prestigious California Coastal Commission to represent the San Diego Coastal Region.

If elected in 1998, Kehoe and Baldwin will make history as the first open Lesbians and the first openly Gay non-incumbents to serve in the United States Congress.

A Meditation on Gender; On the Realness of Gendered Subjects

Commentary by Debra Johnson

My last man-to-man talk with my father occurred during a moment of hesitancy in the men's room of the Fig Tree restaurant after a lobster dinner. He had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Would I, he asked me, think him any less a man, if he had his testicles removed?

A friend of mine contributed her reactions to a recent gender group newsletter about the concerns of Transgendered women to appear feminine.

Was her mother, she asked us, from whose deathbed she had just come, any less of a woman because her breasts and her hair were gone?

Equipment often comes up as an answer to the question: what makes a "real" woman or a "real" man? It's the perennial answer of the biological essentialists.

How important is equipment? To our last gender group meeting, we had invited the men of FORGE, a group of Transmen. All of them had started life with female equipment - and there they were, handsome, well muscled and bearded, cutting up as any group of men might on their night out. Whatever other facts biology bestows upon us, destiny does not seem to be one of them.

There are, of course, sociological answers to the same question. My daughter assures me she is a "real" woman because she has fulfilled the social expectations of womanhood demanded of her by her time and place in society. But if these expectations are set by a heterosexist culture

dominated by a patriarchy, wouldn't her meeting these expectations constitute an ironic surrender of her womanhood?

Was Marilyn Monroe the ultimate woman - or sellout?

The question: what makes a "real" woman? may be part of a discourse that has more to do with a search for power than a search for truth. In the women's movement of the 60s, Lesbians were excluded by some women's groups because they were "too male" to be "real" women; now Transsexual women are excluded by some Lesbian groups because they have too much "male energy".

And you get the dilemma of a transgendered woman who was refused entry to the women's bathrooms this year at Milwaukee's Pridefest and when told to use the men's rooms was refused entry there as well.

I believe that labels such as "man", or "woman" or "homosexual" or "transsexual" are verbal fictions - spells cast at particular historical moments by those seeking to identify our otherness in order to control it. Adopting these labels as if they described real and essentialized beings and then acting out their prescribed roles is dangerous. You get some organizations of heterosexual male crossdressers which ban Gays; you get some Lesbian separatists barring Transsexual women - each group, a little fundamentalist church; keeping others out and by doing so, imprisoning themselves.

Why do Transgendered people cling to



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some of these fictions? Well, there is not much else around. Some of us, like others of our gender, cling to the notion of an essentialized man or woman; others of us choose from the wreckage of gender those pieces which suit us, knowing they are arbitrary, but the only ones available; still others swim the waters between genders or toward something we believe is beckoning on the horizon, beyond genders. Personally, I believe that somewhere in the future there will be homosexual, bisexual and Transgendered behavior, but there will no longer be homosexual and Bisexual men and women or Transgendered people. At that happy time, society will no longer have a need to define itself

by creating "others" and alienating itself from its own creations.

So, I begin to understand that living my preferred gender is choosing live a fiction - but, unlike the dead fiction forced upon me for so many years, it turns out for me and for many of us a useful, happy and life-saving one.

Perhaps we can even turn away from the question at to what makes someone a "real" gendered subject and ask instead what makes any person "real". Wouldn't that have more to do with the capacity to give and receive love than possessing a particular set of genitals or experiences?

Editor's Note: The author is Co-facilitator of It's Time Wisconsin.

Controversial Circuit Parties Raise Eyebrows and Tempers Among Some Gays

Miami Beach—They've been compared to a cult, an estimated 30,000 Gay men who travel the world to attend wild parties where many engage in sex and drug use, all in the name of raising money for AIDS charities.

Welcome to the "Circuit," a party network that moves from one big city to another.

"It has turned into a cult," said Jonathan, a Circuit regular and flight attendant, who asked that his full name not be used. "But I prefer the word 'fraternity'."

The parties range from a week-long bash in Aspen, Colo. to a 12 Gods Party in Greece. This year, New Year's Eve parties are planned in South Beach, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Cape Town, South Africa. In Detroit, there's an annual bash called the GEAR Party.

The Circuit's popularity has boomed as has the controversy surrounding it. Critics and health advocates say drugs and unsafe sex makes Circuit parties a breeding ground for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"People are coming from around the country having unsafe sex and then dispersing around the country," said Michelangelo Signorile, a columnist for the Gay magazine *Out* and author of *Life Outside* which takes a critical look at the Circuit. "It's something that should be of concern."

The AIDS groups say the criticism is unfair and that events raise large sums. Health Crisis Network, the largest AIDS charity in South Florida, holds the annual White Party Week, with six days of all-night partying. It raised more than \$800,000 this year.

"We are very concerned about the emphasis that is placed on substance abuse," said Keith Cromley, development director for the Health Crisis Network. "Certainly there are things that can be improved. But the good outweighs the bad."

The Circuit advocates, mostly party boys, promoters and AIDS groups, say the party network is a good thing, creating a "community."

In addition to hardcore "circuit boys," mostly young, successful, wealthy professionals, tens of thousands more attend just one or two events a year, often in their region of the country.

"People can join in being together in the sense of community and positive enjoyment through dancing," said Robert Vezima, president of the Bad Boy Club of Montreal, which puts on the Black and Blue Ball the largest Circuit party with about 11,000 people.

"Looking at drugs, it has to be an enhancer not a disrupter," he added. "In moderation drugs make the event more enjoyable."

The nation's largest AIDS organization, Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, had to fend off demands that they shut down their annual Morning Party after an overdose required a trauma helicopter.

Drugs like Ecstasy, Special K, GHB or Crystal Meth are very popular on the circuit. Without them, the Circuit parties "wouldn't be on the scale that they are or go on for as long as they do because people couldn't physically do it," said John, a 40-year-old Miami attorney who did not want his full name used.

AIDS groups like GMHC and Health Crisis that host Circuit events are in an "unbelievable depth of denial," he said.

"We're evolving to the point where these agencies now have to think seriously about their responsibility in taking the money," said Stephen Fallon, director of education for Center One, an AIDS group that rejects the Circuit as a fundraising vehicle.

"If you raise tens of thousands of dollars at a Circuit party but you cause one or two or three new cases of AIDS you've cost the community much more."

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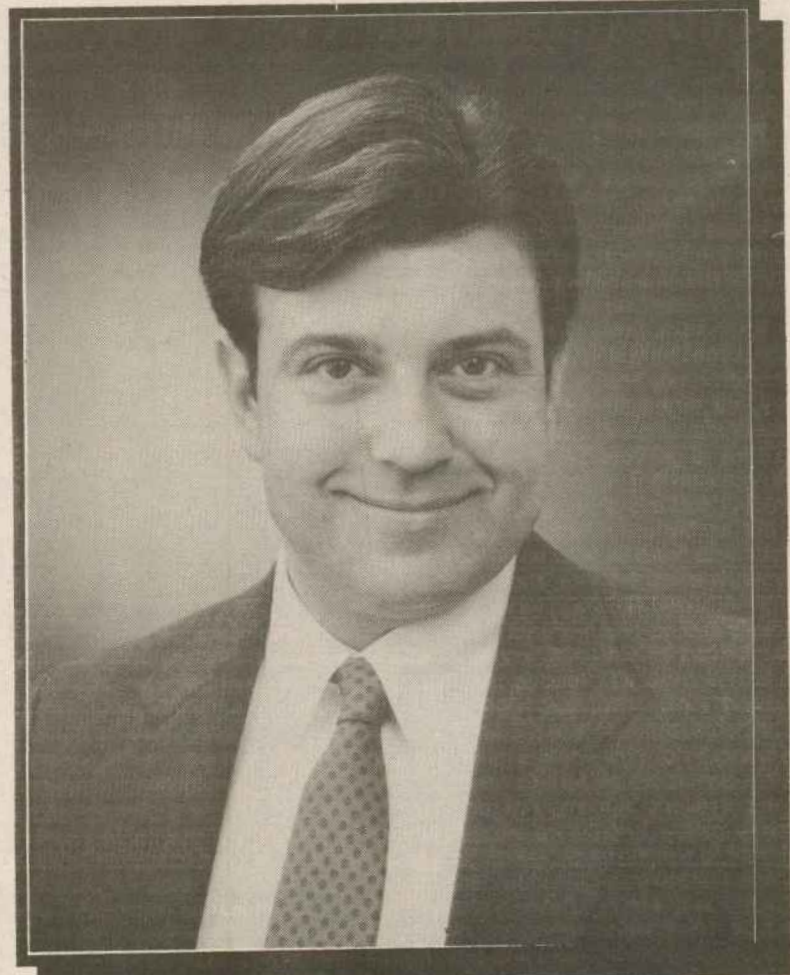
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Openly Gay Clergy Keep Issue of Same-Sex Relationships Before their Churches

San Francisco— He hardly looks the part of a renegade, this clean-cut pastor who hums to himself as he walks through the sanctuary of his tiny church with his black lab Murphy trotting at his side.

But there is something about the Rev. Jeff Johnson that many church leaders would rather you didn't know, something that led them to reject Johnson and the 55 members at San Francisco's First United Lutheran Church.

Johnson is openly Gay. He also refuses to take a vow of celibacy. And that is unacceptable in the eyes of the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the majority of faiths in this country and many others.

"As far as they're concerned, I no longer exist," says Johnson, one of a growing number of pastors who are challenging their churches' stances on homosexuality.

Leaders in many faiths are struggling with this question: What does it mean to be Gay or Lesbian and a person of faith?

The question seems particularly difficult when applied to pastors and rabbis.

"Twenty or 30 years ago the bold move would have been for a white church to hire a black pastor," says Rita Nakashima Brock, a religious expert and director of the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College in Massachusetts. "These days, it's the church that hires an openly Gay or Lesbian pastor that is scrutinized."

Until recently, it was the norm for Lesbians and Gay men, both pastors and parishioners, to hide their sexuality or to leave their faiths altogether.

These days, a very few Lesbian and Gay pastors, in the United Church of Christ, Metropolitan Community Church and some Reform Jewish synagogues, have their denominations' blessing to be openly Gay without requiring celibacy.

Other pastors and rabbis are willing to come out to their congregations. But the majority maintain a "don't-ask-don't-tell" policy with the higher ups, knowing that divulging too much would have swift and costly consequences.

The matter has been so tumultuous for Lutherans that church leaders withdrew a 1993 draft statement on human sexuality that argued that "responsible biblical interpretation" supported the blessing of committed same-sex unions.

"The Sunday following (the statement's release), I sure heard it in my congregation," says the Rev. Ronald Bagnall, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church of Trenton, New Jersey, and editor of *Lutheran Forum*, an independent publication for Lutherans. "Folks across the country from a variety of backgrounds in the church said, 'Wait a minute. What are we doing here?'"

Since then, the church, like many others, has shied away from making any statements regarding homosexuality. The ELCA is currently holding town hall meetings on the subject, while maintaining its biblically based policy that sex is not acceptable outside of marriage and what is not at all biblically clear, that marriage is only for heterosexuals.

Meanwhile, Johnson's openness has not always been easy for the 35-year-old pastor and his church. They receive financial support from a Washington-based nonprofit that supports Gay and Lesbian Lutheran pastors.

But, if they have any regrets over supporting him, his parishioners don't say so. "He is who he is, and we love him for it," 75-year-old May Vignola says of "Pastor Jeff."

Vignola, a member of First United Lutheran Church for more than 45 years, was one of several members who stood behind Johnson when the ELCA ordered the church to fire Johnson or be thrown out.

"The few people in the church who didn't agree, well ... they left" Vignola says. That was in 1995.

But Johnson's troubles began long before in 1987 when he and two Lesbians decided to come out to their bishops while in seminary at Berkeley.

"It was gut-wrenching," Johnson says. "As far as we knew, no one had ever come out and survived."

His bishop at the time was the Rev. Lyle Miller, a man Johnson had known since his childhood days in Simi Valley, Calif., and who was a close personal friend of Johnson's parents.

"Part of the reason I became a pastor was because of him," Johnson says.

That made it all the more painful when, in 1988, Miller called Johnson into his office to ask him to sign a lifelong vow of celibacy.

"What about unconditional love, unconditional grace?" Johnson asked.

Discussing the matter is still difficult for Miller, now a Lutheran pastor in Tacoma, Washington. He has recently rekindled his friendship with Johnson's parents but not Johnson.

"It was very painful and Jeff is a fine person.... He has good gifts and is a dedicated person," Miller says. "But if a person is Gay, he or she is not to be sexually active as a Gay person. Sexual activity belongs in the commitment of marriage."

Sex outside of marriage has, in fact, been the focus for many faiths when it comes to Gay clergy, making for often contentious church conventions and disciplinary hearings as a growing number of pastors, both Gay and straight, break their silence.

There also are a growing number of straight pastors who are speaking on behalf of their Gay and Lesbian counterparts.

In 1990, a small group of San Francisco pastors went against the church's wishes and ordained Johnson and the two Lesbian pastors. The church still considers the ordinations illegal.

In another move of defiance, Lutheran pastors in San Francisco have continually elected Johnson as their dean to represent them in the Sierra-Pacific Synod, 218 Lutheran congregations in Northern California and Nevada.

"There's a very clear intention to send a message to the church," says Bishop Robert Mattheis, who now oversees the Sierra-Pacific Synod.

Mattheis, who calls Johnson "very gifted and capable," says the synod has not challenged Johnson's election, though he cannot participate in official church business, such as ordinations.

But, beyond that, some sense a shifting in the synod's views on the matter.

Unlike his predecessor, for example, Mattheis opted not to punish St. Paul Lutheran Church, a large congregation in Oakland whose pastor is openly Gay and in a long-term relationship.

"I chose to say I'm just going to not deal with that and let it take care of itself," Mattheis says. "My sympathies lie more on the open and accepting side. The issue is not settled for me, but my sympathies are there."

In the meantime, Johnson is happy to continue to challenge the system by serving as dean. But his most important work, he says, remains in the day-to-day workings of his own parish.

"I perceived erroneously that the church was one of the greatest agents of social change," Johnson says of larger Lutheran church. "I still believe that to a point...."

"But my goal is not institutional change because that will happen long, long, long after real change has already taken place."

Lesbian Teacher Fights Utah for Free Speech, Her Dignity and Her Job

Salt Lake City— State attorneys late Friday, December 26, asked a federal judge to dismiss a Lesbian teacher's lawsuit challenging a school gag order banning her from discussing her sexual orientation.

Among other things, the Utah Attorney General's Office argued in briefs filed with U.S. District Court here that Wendy Weaver's comments regarding her homosexuality do not "rise to the level protected by the First Amendment."

Assistant Attorneys General Martha Stonebrook and Robert Morton also contended that Weaver's October lawsuit against the Nebo School District and 14 individuals was barred by the Constitution's provisions protecting government entities and state employees.

In July, after learning Weaver was Gay, Spanish Fork High School officials took away her job coaching the girls' volleyball team. Weaver also was ordered her not to talk about her sexual orientation at school or on her own time.

Weaver does not have a listed telephone number in Spanish Fork and could not be reached for comment. However, her Salt Lake attorney, David Watkiss, saw a glimmer of hope in the state's response.

"It is what I would have expected," he said. "Although they (the state's attorneys) do point out that the district wrote Weaver a second memo in which they tried to narrow the scope of the gag order that they gave to her in July."

That second memo, on Oct. 29, came nine days after Weaver and the Utah chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union had filed suit alleging the district's gag order violated her rights to free speech and privacy.

"(The second memo) was a step in the right direction," Watkiss said. "I'm hopeful that with a little dialogue, we will be able to solve this without protracted litigation."

Palmer DePaulis, spokesman for the Utah Attorney General's Office, was non-committal about prospects for a settlement.

"(The state) will probably want to mull that over and appropriately respond, but I have no idea right now what the response would be," he said.

The Salt Lake ACLU office was closed Friday, and a call to the organization's Gay and Lesbian Rights office in New York was not immediately returned.

In Friday's briefs, state attorneys argued that, "The right to privacy has not been extended to matters involving homosexual relationships" and that there exists no "fundamental right to engage" in same-sex behavior.

Further, Stonebrook and Morton wrote that the school district's decisions regarding Ms. Weaver fell within its "legitimate interest in maintaining the morale, integrity and public acceptance of the school system and in minimizing substantial disruption or interference in the normal activities of the schools within its boundaries."

Weaver's suit seeks a declaration that the ban is unconstitutional and an order that school administrators remove it from her personnel file.

The case has generated a storm of controversy in Spanish Fork, a predominantly Mormon community of roughly 12,000 in Utah County, 45 miles south of here. In early November, about 100 residents rallied, threatening to pull their children from Weaver's classes.

Nebo School District board members have repeatedly been pressured to fire Weaver, and Tuesday, December 23, a right wing morality group filed suit in 4th District Court.

The complaint by Citizens of Nebo

School District for Moral and Legal Values asked a judge to determine whether school and law enforcement officials failed to protect Ms. Weaver's students and team members.

Allegations in the suit involve purported incidents the group contends amounted to child abuse or contributed to the delinquency of minors.

Specifically, the suit alleges that the 40-year-old mother of two hosted hot-tub parties at her house with team members, had them play touch football clad only in shorts and bras, discouraged and punished team members involved with boys, and set up a mentoring network.

The group's lawsuit maintains some of those involved in the network later announced they were Lesbians.

Watkiss said those charges were baseless, springing from activities that in any other scenario would be considered harmless and common to athletes and their coaches.

Coors Continued From Page 1

family members individually. Linkages between Coors, its various foundations and right wing extremist groups such as the Heritage Foundation and the Free Congress Foundation were investigated.

With the help of the Teamsters union the Task Force was able to speak confidentially with openly Lesbian and Gay line workers at Coors.

Stonewall's Coors Advisory Task Force Chair, Alan Zimmerman, said, "In reaching our conclusions, there was as much confusion at the end as there was at the beginning of this process. We discovered during our very detailed review of this matter that, on the one hand, Coors is a company that demonstrates some of the most progressive employment policies and practices in the country and at the same time, control of the company rests with a family who vigorously support ultra-conservative politicians and right wing extremist organizations and think tanks."

"Similarly, we found the community divided three ways: favoring the boycott, opposing the boycott, or totally disinterested or unaware, the last group being the largest."

Stonewall President Eric Bauman said "In attempting to arrive at a valid conclusion about Coors, we were struck by the profound dichotomy we observed. It was impossible for us to arrive at a decision totally opposed or totally in-favor of Coors. The essence of our conclusion is that Coors Brewing Company has, in fact, made major positive strides towards creating a safe, nondiscriminatory and even embracing environment for its Lesbian and Gay employees."

"However, following the Coors-profit money trail took us directly to politicians and organizations which are profoundly homophobic and whose philosophy's directly contradict the progressive policies enacted by the Coors Brewing Company."

The Stonewall Democratic Club has committed to evaluating other companies doing business in the Gay community who may have links to politicians and organizations whose missions' includes the denial of fair and equitable treatment of Lesbians, Gays, and other minorities.

The Stonewall Democratic Club is southern California's largest and most influential political organization.

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SPOTLIGHT

Curtain Calls

Milwaukee Chamber Theater Presents America's Only Shaw Festival

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents the 16th Annual Milwaukee Shaw Festival, the only festival of its kind in the United States, February 7 through March 8, 1998. The festival will feature Bernard Shaw's comic parody of 1930's adventure movies "Too True to be Good" and Samuel Beckett's classic tragicomedy "Waiting for Godot."

Screaming Penguin Productions, in its fifth year of association with the Shaw Festival, will present two hysterically funny short plays: "Augustus Does His Bit" by Bernard Shaw, and "Box and Cox" by John Maddison Morton.

Also added to this year's Shaw Festival is a Staged Reading of "Jitta's Atonement" by Bernard Shaw, and a screening of Shaw's 1937 classic screenplay "Pygmalion" at the Landmark Oriental Theatre.

Package tickets and single event tickets for the Shaw Festival are available at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office, 158 N. Broadway, or by calling 414/291-7800.

Since 1983, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre has presented an annual festival of plays that celebrates the words, wit, and wisdom of the great 20th-century Irish dramatist, essayist, letter writer, critic, socialist, feminist, futurist, and vegetarian, Bernard Shaw.

The Festival consists of Shaw works and plays, both classic and contemporary, that reflect on Shavian themes. The Milwaukee Shaw Festival shares a unique heritage and status with the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake, Canada, and the original English Shaw festival at Malvern during his lifetime.

Written in 1931, "Too True to be Good" is Shaw's saucy comic parody of adventure movies and "smart young things" of the 1930s. A clergyman/jewel thief and his moll invade a young, ailing heiress' bedroom complete with complaining Microbe! The kidnapers whisk their willing victim off to Mediterranean sands swarming with eccentric military types (including Lawrence of Arabia) and dotty senior citizens. A surreal and funny "Pilgrims Progress" results as all search for the meaning of life.

This production is generously sponsored by Marquette Medical Systems Foundation.

The cast of "Too True to be Good" includes Bo Johnson, Mary McDonald Kerr, John Kishline, Daniel Mooney, Ruth Schudson, and James Tasse.

Making their Milwaukee Chamber Theatre debut for this production are James Ridge, who has recently been seen with First Stage Milwaukee, and Eunice Pappiatt, a UWM Professional Theatre Training Program student.

Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin in 1856. Motivated by socialist lectures, Shaw joined the Fabian Society in 1884, an influential group of evolutionary socialists dedicated to establishing a socialist democracy in Britain.

Shaw quickly became a major spokesperson for the Fabians and their ideas.

Throughout his long life span of 94 years, Shaw was the contemporary and correspondent with many notable individuals, among them Winston Churchill, the Duke of Windsor, Edward Elgar, Gandhi, and Nehru.

Shaw enjoyed his first popular success with "Arms and the Man", his fourth play. Other plays include "Major Barbara," "Man and Superman," "St. Joan" and "Caesar and Cleopatra."

"Waiting for Godot" is one of the great tragicomedies of the 20th-century and a fitting companion piece to Shaw's comedy

by fellow Irish Nobel Laureate Samuel Beckett. Two tramps, Gogo and Didi, maintain their eternal vigil interrupted by diversions from shoes, fleas, carrots, and a strange perambulating master and slave, Pozzo and Lucky. "Godot" premiered in Paris in 1953 and quickly became a classic that continues to fascinate and captivate audiences worldwide. "Waiting for Godot" is sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The cast of "Waiting for Godot" includes John Kishline, Dan Mooney, James Ridge, and James Tasse. J.R. Sullivan will make his Milwaukee Chamber Theatre directing debut with this production.

Samuel Beckett, born in Dublin in 1906, studied and taught in Paris before settling there permanently in 1937. His first novel, Murphy (1938), typifies his later works by eliminating the traditional elements of plot, character, and setting. Instead, he presents the experience of waiting and struggling with a pervasive sense of futility. In his theatre of the absurd, Beckett combines poignant humor with an overwhelming sense of anguish and loss. His other plays include "Endgame," "Krappp's Last Tape" and "Happy Days." Beckett was awarded the 1969 Nobel Prize for Literature.

This year, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre will add a staged reading of "Jitta's Atonement" a Shavian translation of Siegfried Trebitsch's German melodrama Frau Gittas Suhne on Saturday, February 7, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. Jitta's lover dies of a heart attack and she is desperate to hide the relationship from her husband, as well as her lover's wife and family. Her attempt is complicated by her lover having left a manuscript on psychoses in women - to be published by Jitta's husband who calls it "drivel."

By the end of the play, Shaw's characters drop their disguises and pretensions, including the widow's pretense of mourning. "Jitta's Atonement" is being presented as part of Milwaukee's premiere season of the International Arts Festival.

Scheduled for the entire month of February, this year's festival unites the performing and visual arts in celebrating the city's German/Austrian Heritage. A hearty German Buffet lunch is scheduled prior to the reading as part of the opening of the Milwaukee Shaw Festival.

On Monday, February 16 at 6:45 p.m., Milwaukee Chamber Theatre will present Bernard Shaw's 1938 Best Screenplay Oscar winner "Pygmalion" at the Landmark Oriental Theatre, 2230 N. Farwell Ave. Before "My Fair Lady" turned Shaw's masterpiece into a musical, Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller starred in this 1937 classic.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents a free speakers' series entitled MCT ViewPoints prior to every production during the season. "The Road to Absurdity: From Shaw to Beckett" will be the topic of this year's Shaw Festival MCT ViewPoints featuring Dr. Rhoda Nathan, President of the Bernard Shaw Society and Professor of English at Hofstra University in New York, on Monday, February 23, 1998, at 7 p.m. at Centennial Hall, Milwaukee Public Library. Dr. Nathan has lectured worldwide on Shavian themes.

For more information on MCT ViewPoints and other free MCT events, call the MCT office at 414/276-8842.

Asneak preview of the 16th Annual Milwaukee Shaw Festival will be held on Thursday, February 12, 1998 at 7 p.m. at the new Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, 2559 N. Downer Ave.

Boulevard Theater's "Found A Peanut" Takes You Back to Childhood Days

By Ruth Anne Boulet

Found A Peanut, the Boulevard Ensemble's current offering, will take you back to that time called childhood. Everyone has memories of that time (or not so long) ago: playing with friends, singing silly songs and hiding things from adults. **Found A Peanut** explores those elements of childhood and reminds you of some of those times that weren't all that idyllic.

The title, **Found A Peanut**, may be familiar to some as a childhood song where a child finds a peanut, discovers it's rotten and eats it anyway. That song, appropriately enough, creates a structure for the play. The children in this world are constantly discovering and making choices, some they understand, some they don't.

The plot of **Found A Peanut** is simple enough. A group of children, most ages 8-14, who all live in the same apartment building in Brooklyn, are spending their last day of freedom before school begins at the end of summer. The one thing just about all of these children want to do is play and some of them do get the chance to squeeze in some fun during their time together.

Little Earl gets to play the most, which is appropriate since he's five years old. Some of his playful moments are scene-stealing. The girls, Melody and Joanie also get to play. Well, they get to play whatever Melody wants them to play, anyway.

While none of the characters find peanuts (although the song is sung in the production, so if you can't remember it and you want to know how it goes, that's reason enough to attend a performance), the children find two other things: a dead bird and a sack of money. Finding these things leads to different actions, some compassionate, some selfish. Some of the characters find a bit of maturity and respect in making choices that help others more than themselves, most of the characters find their weaknesses in greed.

The script, written by Donald Margulies, does an excellent job of leading the audience through the children's very cut and dried way of interpreting the world around them and how making choices can sometimes smudge the lines.

The Milwaukee Symphony Chorus To Hold Auditions

Milwaukee—Imagine the thrill of a live performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Imagine how it would feel to be on stage, in the sweep of the orchestral sound, surrounded by hundreds of musicians. Now, imagine being in integral part of the experience, adding your own voice to the swelling of the "Ode to Joy."

This might sound like fantasy, but for hundreds of dedicated volunteer musicians, it's a regular occurrence. Members of the 175-200 voice Milwaukee Symphony Chorus routinely join the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in performances of exciting orchestral and choral repertoire.

The Milwaukee Symphony Chorus is formed mostly by volunteer, non-professional singers, with a small core of paid musicians who provide leadership for the entire group. The chorus is open by audition to anyone who loves to sing.

During the second half of the 1997-98 season, the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus will sing Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" in performances with the Milwaukee Ballet as well as in concerts with the MSO. In addition to collaborations with the MSO, the Chorus sings one acappella concert each season, conducted by Lee Erickson and featuring choral masterpieces such as Rachmaninoff's "Vespers" and Tchaikovsky's "Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom."

On January 9, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus will audition new singers to perform for the remainder of the season. Auditions will take place at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, call (414) 764-1905.

These kids have very concrete ideas of what's good and bad and how they behave according to their allegiances. They are also old enough to begin to understand that the world is far more complex than they realize.

One character who illustrates that complexity by his almost total lack of understanding of it, is Little Earl. A five year-old, Little Earl is still at the age where the easiest way to learn is to imitate. When he is shoved, he shoves back; when he is given attention, he shows loyalty. When the "good" kids scold or ignore him, he seeks attention from the "bad" kids or the bullies.

The older kids' overall abandonment of Little Earl is mirrored by their parents' abandonment of these children. The kids can't understand why mom isn't at home when she used to be and Little Earl can't understand how he fits into the nuances happening among his older friends.

All of the characters are played by adults. The cast is an ensemble that blends well together. Characters are well-defined in their loyalties and those who waver between sides because of their childish selfishness are humorously fickle.

Everything about the Boulevard Theater's production has been tightly crafted and although the show's themes will have you at the very least, reflecting on your own childhood dramas, they will also remind you of some of the fun times as well.

Found A Peanut runs through January 18 at the Boulevard Ensemble Theater. For ticket information call (414) 672-6019.

Dale Gutzman's "Holiday Punch" Packs a Comedic and Musical Wallop

By John A. Jahn

Has Dale Gutzman *really* been doing these annual send ups of the holiday season for 18 years!? Gosh, he must've done his first one in diapers (he'll like that). This was my second of those 18, and I must say he's 2-for-2 in my book.

The Gutzman Company of 11 local singers and actors of both sexes and sexualities presented us with their annual "Holiday Punch" at Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Public Library on December 19, 21, 27, and 31. The show was a combination of seriously performed holiday musical numbers, comedy sketches poking fun at cast or audience members, and holiday songs parodying the "real" lyrics of the songs or otherwise perverted to discuss news events of the year.

Not all the humor comes off as well as it could - you might be left wondering what it's all about if you're not up on your current events. It was also a rather more brief show than I wish it had been. But by and large the fine singing and comic timing of the cast help the show tremendously.

There's also the fact that Gutzman himself is not just a good actor and singer, but also an outrageous wit. A particular stand out in the performance is the company's spoof of the currently fashionable fascination with all things "Titanic."

A medley of songs are performed to music from various famed musicals, with lyrics altered as if they were written for the "Titanic" musical.

The emphasis is on fun and light-hearted enjoyment, and it was a delight when 12 audience members "volunteered" (read: were dragged kicking & screaming) to go up on stage and perform "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which Dale delightfully emceed.

Also, the "Holiday Punch '97 Company Biographies" which you get with the program is a hoot, again parodying the real thing.

Gutzman's next project will be "the most important musical of the decade" (according to the ad): Stephen Sondheim & John Weidman's "Assassins." It's due to be performed at Centennial Hall on Feb. 27 & 28, and Mar. 1st. Tickets are \$15.00. Call (414) 327-3552.

Celine Dion Tugs at the Heartstrings as She Sings of Life and Love

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Celine Dion greets you as an old friend. Sitting comfortably in a three-room suite in the posh St. Regis hotel in mid-town Manhattan, the Canadian singer looks remarkable perky and fresh, surprising considering that she has spent nearly 12 hours meeting with her record label and making various television appearances all day.

Looking radiant and thin, the 29-year old pop star is currently promoting her latest opus, the stunning "Let's Talk About Love" on Epic 550, a collection of pop ballads and dance-infused confections. With plush arrangements, deep orchestrations, Dion does what she does best - tug at the heart, inspire romantic yearnings and celebrate matters of the heart.

"I've never felt like I do about this album with anything else I've done," says the singer in her thick French accent. (She's only been speaking English for about four years.) "It's the strongest I've ever felt, and the happiest I've been with the result of an album."

"Let's Talk About Love" is Dion's fifth English language album and marks a milestone in her career, as it teams the chanteuse with such notable collaborators as famed Beatles producer George Martin (the fifth Beatle), Luciano Pavarotti, Carole King, the Bee Gees and Barbra Streisand, among others.

Her last album sold more than 25 million copies worldwide, and won her a Grammy award for album of the year and a World Music Award for best-selling album worldwide. It also spawned the top 10 hits "Because You Loved Me," "It's All Coming Back To Me Now" and "All By Myself."

"I was not supposed to record an album this year. I wasn't planning it at all. But then Carole King sent me a song and Barbra Streisand asked me to record with her. It just sort of happened," she says. "I never thought that Luciano Pavarotti and Barbra Streisand would be on the same album with me. I'm having the best time of my career."

Dion explores new musical avenues, as she experiments with other genres. She gets dancey on the disco-esque "Just A Little Bit Of Love," moves into a funky rap mode with Diana King on the dancehall-styled "Treat Her Like A Lady," and goes gospel on "Love Is On The Way."

But it's her duet with Streisand, "Tell Him," and the sweet "My Heart Will Go On," the love theme from the upcoming movie *Titanic*, that will boost this album and Dion's prominence in the pop charts.

Although, due to mixed reactions from radio dee-jays, the planned release of the Streisand duet as the album's first single has been nixed.

Dion, who met Streisand at last year's Academy Awards show, when Dion stood in for an ailing Natalie Cole who had been tapped to sing Streisand's theme song from "The Mirror Has Two Faces," says the chance to sing with Streisand has been a life-long dream.

"She's the one who I looked up to in my career. It made everything I've done in my career worth it," says the awed singer. "She knows what she wants. She's very disciplined and only accepts the best. There's nothing wrong with knowing what you want. If it's not done the right way, she'll take the steps to get it right and fix it. Her professionalism is amazing."

And like Streisand, Dion has earned herself a place amongst the gay community. "I love the gay fans. They're the best fans," she says. "I've been around Gay people since I entered this business. They are the most energetic, loyal and appreciative audience. As a performer, you are very lucky to have a following like that."

Dion knows that there are some critics you say her music lacks depth and borders on sappy—the singer has been criticized for relying on the likes of songwriters David Foster and Diane Warren, who churn out bubble-gummish tunes.

"All I can say is that if people think my music is too light, maybe they should talk to the 25 million people who bought my last album," she says. "If they call it light, well, then I like my music light. I like emotional things. The music I sing is life. And sometimes life is simple and light. Sometimes people try to get too complicated. The most important things in life are not that complicated. So let them call it light. I'm proud of what I do."

And while she gets mobbed wherever she goes, Dion says she doesn't believe in becoming a recluse or avoiding her fans. In fact, she says she lives for it and would feel incomplete without it.

"It's my decision to be in show business, and it would be inappropriate to ask people to leave you alone. If I went out and wasn't recognized, I'd miss it. I love that people can come up to me and ask for an

autograph or say hello," she says. "Sure there are days that I don't feel pretty or I have a pimple or I'm having my period. On those days I just stay at home."

Dion separates herself from the pack - Madonna, Mariah Carey and Janet Jackson - in some ways, however. The biggest and most notable is her refusal to use sex to sell her music.

"Sex is a very personal thing. It's something I prefer keeping for myself and not sharing with everyone else," the Canadian singer says. "Talking about it can be powerful. Showing it is a lot. If [the other singers] need to do it, that's okay with me. But for me, it wouldn't be right. I think you can be very sexy and very sensual, without being graphic. For me less is more. To go out and behave like that is appropriate for me."

She also prefers not to sing explicitly sexual lyrics. She says she prefers the sexual illusion created by love songs and doesn't see a need to so in your face about it.

"It has to do with who you are," she says. "For me, I'm not someone who can have sex on stage. I prefer to sing about love and about how powerful sex can be, but not about the act."

While Dion admits there is pressure to surpass the success of her last recording, especially with new albums by label-mate Carey and Jackson currently in stores, she says she's not in competition with the other pop superstars. The only one she says she competes with is herself.

"People like to say that a lot of what I do is similar to Mariah and that we hate each other," she says. "What I do is completely different. And we like each other a lot. I

admire her. There is no competition. The only one I compete with is myself. I always have to do better than I did before. If you try and compete with others, you may as well put an end to your career and your life. You can't be in competition with anyone else. You have to be yourself. There's room for all of us. If you do your best everyday, you will be your best every time."

As for her next venture, Dion says a new album is at least two or three years away. She will concentrate on her next tour, which begins in August, and finalize a deal to star in her first feature film, which will most likely be a film biopic of the late French vocalist, Edith Piaf.

Dion also hints that she's negotiating for a non-musical, dramatic role as well. It would not be her first foray into acting, as she guest starred for four episodes in a Canadian TV series as an abused woman.

Dion also hopes to start a family in a year-and-a-half, after her tour, and eventually she plans to retire from music.

"I don't live with my success. I'm aware of it. But I try not to let it consume me," she says. "I love what I do. I wake up grateful for what I have everyday, but I don't want to over stay my welcome. I want to leave the party at the peak."

Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer to Perform at UW-W

Whitewater—Lesbian stand-up comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer will perform at UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium on Friday, March 13, 1998, at 7:30 pm. Westenhoefer is the first openly Lesbian comic ever to have her own HBO special and has become one of the most recognized comedians around today. Her successes include an appearance on HBO's "Comic Relief VII," as well as her most illustrious moment to date, a nomination for the highest honor in cable programming—the ACE Award. Suzanne's first comedy recording, "Nothing in my Closet But My Clothes," was released in January, 1997, on the Uproar Entertainment Label.

Although Westenhoefer has the ultimate goal of having her own sitcom, she still hits the road, continually touring throughout the year. Her club performances have included headlining at Caroline's Comedy Club, Punchlines, Improvs, and Comedy Connections across the U.S.

Her theater performances have included playing to sold out audiences at major venues such as Town Hall, Zellerbach Auditorium, the Rainbow Room and the Great American Music Hall.

Tickets for Westenhoefer's performance are now on sale at \$2.50 and \$5 for UWW students with identification and \$10 and \$12 for the general public.

For tickets, call the UWW Ticket Center and charge by phone at (414) 472-2222 (Voice or TTY) or stop by the ticket outlet at the Young Auditorium weekdays from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm for tickets or more information.

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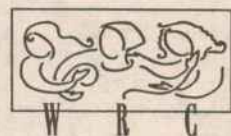


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The Miss La Cage Pageant - La Cage was the site of a fabulous pageant held on Monday, December 15. Shown above are Ron Geiman and friends enjoying the show, the contestants with winner Billie Blaze at the far right next to runner up Lana St. James, and "white trash" Sage La Rue, who brought the house down with a fabulous country medley.

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THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... Madison's **Manoeuvres'** long rumored move is still in limbo. Once again owner Ed was put off by the Madison Licensing Committee despite the fact that the Madison Police had no objections to the move. The committee, contrary to some rumors, did not reject Ed's request but delayed its decision until next month.

Ed is still confident that he will eventually win an okay. Meanwhile in two fund raisers held at the bar in December, Ed and his customers raised several thousand dollars for Camp Heartland and for Madison's homeless shelters. Way to go!!

Recaps... The holidays are almost over and I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did.

In Between's Christmas Party drew a nice crowd and was a lot of fun. The Balloon drop was a highlight of the evening, but unfortunately we don't have a lot of pictures of it to show you since the film got lost.

Also worth special mention was the **Just Us** Christmas show. This show featured many fine performers. Congrats to Starry Night for putting together one of the best Christmas shows I had seen in a while. It was a very upbeat show that made the audience feel good (and shouldn't that be the point of any bar show?).

Special guest Ronnie Marx was a real scream and had the audience in stitches and screaming for more and Sandy Beach really wowed them. The large crowd that was hand really ate it all up.

I wish we could show you pictures of that one too, but they are on the same roll as most of the In Between pictures were and were also lost.

The annual Holiday benefit at **Manoeuvres** was also a blast. Simply Divine was simply Divine and put together a dynamite production. I was simply amazed at how well everyone worked together with some performers even giving up numbers without complaint so others could get some stage time. All everyone was concerned about was raising badly needed dollars for Madison's needy.

After the show, I went to a fabulous party hosted by Loren. I was tired, but my spirits perked up when I saw all those people having such a great time!!!

Speaking of great times, I had a blast at **Mama Roux** on Christmas Eve. In the spirit of the season they extended their 2 for 1 special to run until close.

I was in Mad Town on Sunday the 21st so I missed two great parties in Milwaukee.

The elves told me that everyone had a fine time at **This Is It**. There was a load of food and people, old friends and new, wishing each other Happy Holidays. The decorations Joe and his staff put up are stunning. Great job Joe!!!

Speaking of decorations I just love the Christmas tree at **The Ball Game**. It's a huge flocked tree with green and gold lights and ornaments. Hope they keep it up for the Packer playoff games.

Speaking of great jobs, I hear that the **La Cage** Christmas party was a whole lot of fun. I was told everyone had a great time there too. I stopped in the Friday after Christmas to hear my favorite DJ Tag team, Dave and Tanya. As usual they kept the place hopping.

The Milwaukee Eagle's Tea Dance was also a great time. They had an open bar and a large crowd.

The Christmas party at **Dish** also had a large crowd. The buffet spread of "snacks" was ample and to die for. This bar keeps growing in popularity and rightfully so. It's a class act.

Christmas Eve at **Ces't La Vie** was a fantastic mix of old friends and John's usual ample board. Saw Baby Jane Hudson there. Speaking of a class act, that's her.

We really do need to thank the bars for remaining open and providing cheer on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There are so many of us who need a place to go to be "among ourselves" or just have a place to go.

Coming Up... The big thing that is coming of course is New Year's Eve. Which happens to be on the same day this



Hi Mom! Everyone had a great time at Dish's Christmas party held at the popular club on Thursday, December 18. A packed house enjoyed great food, music and drinks. Shown above (L-R) are Dish owner, Julia, her mother Joyce and her girlfriend Paige.

edition of our paper comes out. I hope that you will celebrate it safely and sanely and that the next year will prove to be a happy and prosperous one for us all.

Make sure you stop in at your favorite place and remember that just because it's getting cold outside is not a good reason to stay home. Those places that provide you with a place to go in good weather and bad need and deserve your support throughout the year.

On **Friday January 2nd** I am going to start the New Year right with a Fish Fry at **Just Us**, followed with a stop at **The Ball Game**. Then it will be off to **La Cage** take in the La Cage Showcase and dance the night away.

Saturday, January 3rd you can find me at **This Is It**, where the eclectic mix of people always keeps things interesting.

And speaking of **This Is It**, I don't want to miss **Jerry Grillo's** performance there on Sunday, January 18. Grillo is one fantastic jazz vocalist and not to be missed.

The 3rd will also be the **Firebirds'** first club night of the new year. It will be held at the **Boot Camp Saloon**, as usual, beginning at 10:00 p.m. The Firebirds meet the first Saturday of every month.

Hey, while I'm at it, congrats to the Brew City Bears whose Teddy Bear Drive netted more than 60 bears and some cash for

Milwaukee Children's Hospital.

Sunday, January 4th I will be at **In Between** to watch the Pack beat up on the those poor Tampa Bay folks.

Monday, January 5 I am planning on returning to **In Between** for its weekly balloon toss.

Wednesday, January 7th will find me at **Mama Roux** for its weekly two for one special.

Friday January 9th, I am going to head to Mad Town to visit my good friends at **Kirby's Klub**, the **Shamrock** and **Manoeuvres**. Kirby's has a couple of new DJ's I want to check out. Of course I always love checking out Tony Richards at **Manoeuvres** too!

Sunday, January 11 I'll be at **La Cage** for its weekly Customer Appreciation night. Drink specials and the La Cage showcase and it's free how can you go wrong?

The holidays are over and I'm exhausted, but not too tired to be looking forward to all the Super Bowl parties on January 25.

Of course the Packers are going to San Diego and of course every bar is going to hold a bash to cheer them on. Already news about them is coming in.

For example, at the **Boot Camp**, in

Please See Night Light Page 17

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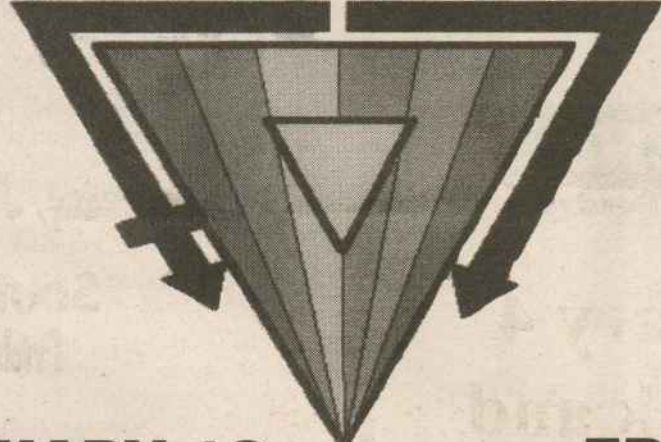
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OUT on Film

Scorsese's 'Kundun' is Visually Elegant and Emotionally Serene

By John A. Jahn

In 1937 a 2 1/2 year old boy from a simple family in Tibet was recognized as the 14th reincarnation of the Buddha of love and compassion, and therefore destined to become the spiritual and political leader of his country. None other than acclaimed director Martin Scorsese brings to the screen the true story of the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, told through the eyes of His Holiness (known to his people as "Kundun").

This intimate epic chronicles his early life, from simple, playful childhood, through the invasion and brutal occupation of his homeland by the communist Chinese (an occupation continuing to this day), to his final journey into exile in neighboring India (where he remains today).

Kundun is a story of indomitable will and fervent religious commitment set against a spectacular physical backdrop and compelling world politics. It's the true story of Tenzin Gyatso, the boy who became the 14th Dalai Lama.

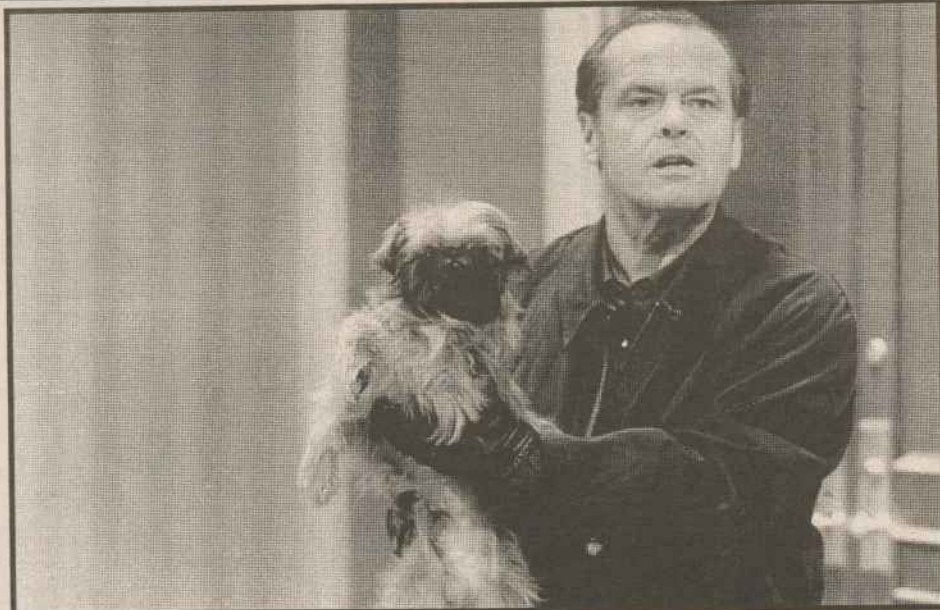
There is not one Anglo-Saxon in the cast of **Kundun**, but rather Chinese and Tibetan actors and actresses with such

rious film - clearly the subject made a great impression upon the Catholic Scorsese.

The unknowns in the cast are superb, with the sole exception of Chinese American actor Robert Lin, whose portrayal of Chairman Mao comes off as being rather more campy than imposing or threatening (he'd have made a better Madam Mao).

Kundun is voluptuously beautiful to look at, and is complimented by a terrific score by famed minimalist composer Philip Glass, a Buddhist himself with a deep understanding of Tibetan culture. The grandeur and spirituality of the score allows you to feel the pulse of the story as it unfolds; the images would sometimes seem slow and plodding were it not for the sensitive score woven within them. Glass employs not only a small Classical orchestra and synthesizer, but also Tibetan horns and cymbals and the eerie droning of a chorus of Tibetan Monks.

What **Kundun** may lack in dramatic story art (it's much more docudramatic than melodramatic; more art than simple entertainment), it more than makes up for in superb acting and directing; visual and



And the Little Dog Too! - Obsessive-compulsive disorder sufferer, Melvin Udall (played by Jack Nicholson) prepares to throw his neighbor's dog down the garbage chute.

Nicholson Delivers Oscar-Caliber Performance in 'As Good As It Gets'

By John A. Jahn

Right from its opening minutes, **As Good As It Gets** lets you know you're going to be in for a helluva fun ride. You see a little dog (Verdell) in an apartment building hallway, and some guy (not his owner) is trying to coax him into the elevator for an undoubtedly one way trip! Eventually, Verdell's scooped up and put down the trash chute by the guy (don't worry, he survives the experience none the worse for wear). Who'd do such a terrible thing? None other than the despicable Melvin Udall (Jack Nicholson).

Udall is a highly successful romantic novelist, loved by many - many people who have never had the displeasure to have met him personally. I say "displeasure" because Melvin's a compulsively neat, neurotic, obsessive sociopath.

He's gruff and distant to his neighbors, especially the owner of little Verdell, Simon (Greg Kinnear), a Gay artist struggling to get his works displayed and bought, and helped in this endeavor by his Gay art dealer friend, Frank (Cuba Gooding, Jr.). Both roles are refreshingly "Gay positive."

When Simon is beaten savagely and robbed by Randy (Skeet Ulrich), a street punk turned male model and his chums, Simon's forced to turn to Melvin to watch Verdell for him while he recuperates in the hospital.

Hesitantly, Melvin accepts, and in the touchingly funny scenes between he and Verdell, we finally come to see that the heretofore unlikable Melvin actually comprises the ability to be a decent human being, he just needs the appropriate stimulus.

If Verdell manages to bring the good out in Melvin to a small degree, Melvin's favorite waitress at the only restaurant he ever goes to, Carol (Helen Hunt) chal-

lenges him to try to become a better person in an overwhelming way. Through many angst-ridden ups and downs, Carol and Melvin become an unlikely couple embarking upon a stormy relationship.

Writer/director/producer James L. Brooks, who's given us such delightful TV classics as "Taxi," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Rhoda," and "Lou Grant," and memorable movies like **Terms of Endearment** and **Broadcast News**, delivers a terrific comedic and romantic punch with **As Good As It Gets**.

Nicholson's Melvin Udall is one of his best roles in years, and although Jack's getting a bit long in the tooth for romantic leads, the hot tempered egotist with a heart of gold is a role tailor-made for Nicholson's comic timing and expressive visage. There's great chemistry between Helen Hunt and himself, and it's honestly charming to see some of the icy glaze that seemingly seals in Melvin's humanity gradually melt away - thanks not only to Carol but also Simon and Verdell.

As Good As It Gets is not only one of the funniest movies I've seen in a while, but it's also a sincere, romantic charmer - a weightier, meatier, more fulfilling romantic comedy than the earlier success story of the genre this year, **My Best Friend's Wedding**. It would have been nice to see Carol and Melvin exchange "I love you's" at least once in this film (which they never quite manage to do), but enough emotional ground has been covered in the film's 2 hours and 18 minutes to tell you that they'll struggle through their still significant differences and "live happily ever after."

A comedy from the heart that goes for your throat, **As Good As It Gets** is well worth your time. ★★★1/2

As Good As It Gets is now playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

'An American Werewolf in Paris' is Nothing to Howl About

By John A. Jahn

An American Werewolf in Paris opens interestingly enough: three young, cute guys atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris - their latest stop on a "Daredevil Tour of Europe." They're preparing to bungy jump from the highest observation deck of the tower after it has been closed for the night.

Suddenly they discover they're not alone up there. A young woman is preparing to end it all. The cutest of the three guys, Andy (Tom Everett Scott) intervenes, but she jumps anyway. Some 10 or 15 minutes into the movie, it's going to take a suicidal plunge into silly dreck, and there's nothing anyone can do to stop it!

The suicidal mystery woman, Serafine (Julie Delpy) jumps, and Andy, bungy cord attached to his ankle, plunges after her several seconds later and catches her by the ankle as they near the ground!

It becomes immediately clear from the get-go that director Anthony Waller (notable for having previously directed over 200 TV commercials) and writers Tim Burns and Tom Stern (both of MTV heritage) have decided to make of this most recent take on the werewolf legend a silly, slapstick, but nevertheless quite violent movie.

Gone are the serious horror elements and gothic darkness of the Lon Chaney classics of the '40s, but not only that, this film doesn't even stand comparison to the 1981 film on which it has been loosely based, **An American Werewolf in London**. Instead, we get lots and lots of hard rock noise blaring through violent scenes in which fake-looking, computer-generated werewolves gorge themselves on hapless

victims.

There is nothing scary about this film which, with a cinematic heritage going back to 1941's **The Wolf Man**, couldn't offer us anything but a silly spoof (or badly attempted spoof) aimed at the clueless MTV/Generation-X crowd.

As an elder statesman of that much maligned group, I was profoundly insulted by the utter contempt these movie makers show for us time and time again. **An American Werewolf in Paris** is but the latest slap in our collective face. Ouch!

This film tried to have something for everyone: special effects wizardry, horror, comedy, sexiness. Well, the special effects were largely ineffective and not special (except when the werewolves were shrouded in as much darkness as possible), the horror was non-existent (being replaced with gratuitous violence, which is NOT the same thing as horror), the comedy was lame, and the sex, surrounded as it was by violence and gore, just makes you queazy (unless, of course, you prefer such things in your sex life).

The plot is about as stupid as you might imagine: Andy and Serafine fall in love, Andy becomes a werewolf, she's a werewolf, mayhem ensues...nuff said.

It could've made it as a comedy if the filmmakers went full throttle in that direction, or it might have made a really scary horror film. Unfortunately, the "let's please everyone" approach to filmmaking almost never succeeds...certainly not in the hands of TV commercial directors and MTV writers.

1/2★



Tenzin Gyatso, (seated) portrays the future Dalai Lama of Tibet in the drama "Kundun."

names as Tenzin Thuthob Tsarong, Gyurme Tethong, and Tenzin Chodon Gyalpo. Hopefully the lack of a Brad Pitt or someone else of Hollywood glamour and star quality will not keep audiences away from this visually elegant, emotionally serene film, expertly directed by Scorsese (**Taxi Driver**, **Raging Bull**, **Goodfellas**, **Casino**).

The last time he tackled a project like this was in the mid-'80s with **The Last Temptation of Christ**, which **Kundun** resembles stylistically (and in subject matter **The Last Emperor**). It's a devout and se-

emotional appeal. It's a fascinating story almost none of us know anything about, all the more important because it's true, and no doubt pertinent to Sino-American relations.

It also doesn't make overt and obvious efforts to manipulate your emotions - being content to tell its story with as little contrivance as possible. Some may find these to be drawbacks, but not I. ★★★1/2

Editor's Note: As of press time, the movie has no opening date.

Despite its Flaws, 'Amistad' is a Film Well Worth Seeing

By Steve Stavron

Steven Spielberg's new film **Amistad** runs over 2 1/2 hours and seems longer. Unlike **Schindler's List**, which offered at least a few options as to the fate of the Jews, everyone knows the Amistad story.

Having brought the ship into the abolitionist territory of a Connecticut port, we know what's going to happen even without the benefit of history. The benign presence of Morgan Freeman as a dapper Freedman and the earnest looking demeanor of Matthew McConaughey as their defending attorney are enough by themselves to ward off everyone including the pre-teen Queen Isabella II of Spain who lay claim to the slaves.

Unfortunately, Spielberg's polite approach fails to stir up the cinematic excitement that made **Schindler's List** so compelling at its best. The director seems a bit intimidated by his subject, and the political corrective groups have already pounced on this film, more for the subject matter than for the pluses and minuses of the movie itself.

The leader of the rebellious slaves, Sinc (also known as Cinque), is given center stage as the emblem of black freedom. But since the slaves can't speak English, the movie doesn't leave him much to do except look heroically angry. To make matters worse, the true horrors of slavery

- throwing shackled slaves overboard to lighten the cargo - are introduced discreetly as flashbacks in mid film weakening the dramatic structure.

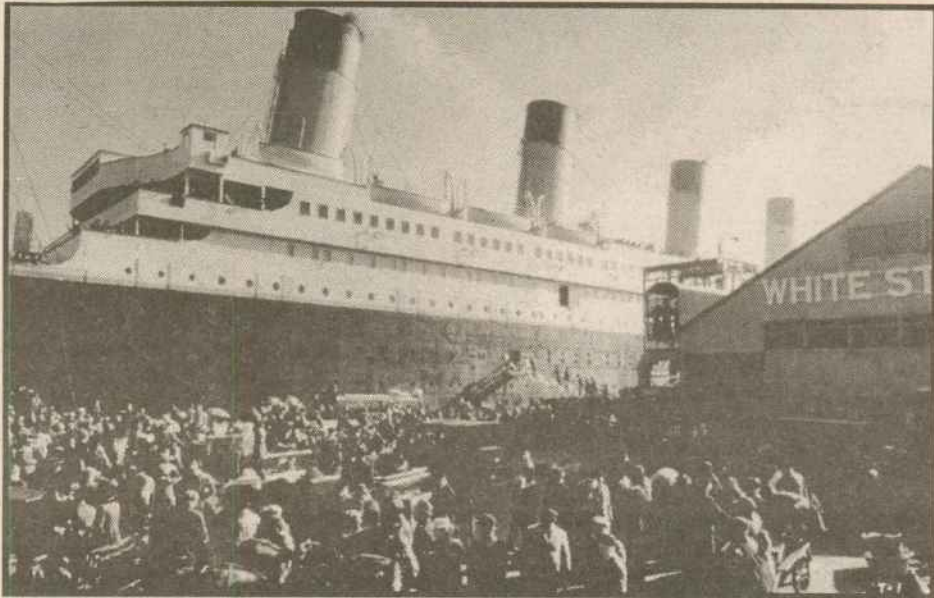
Even more annoying, John William's celestial choir which accompanies these horrors, is probably one of the most obnoxious soundtracks in history, not to mention a chorus of trombones which almost drown out Sinc's cry for freedom.

But taken on its own terms - that of a dramatized history lesson - the film is a good one. And it is difficult to criticize Spielberg's cinematic expertise.

But the true glory of the film rests almost exclusively with Anthony Hopkins' superb performance as John Quincy Adams. For those who must politicize this film, let me say that Hopkins' final appeal before the US Supreme Court more than compensates for those morally obsessed with the need to apologize for slavery.

Hopkins' performance takes care of that very nicely, even ripping a symbolic copy of the Declaration of Independence as a portent of the Civil War to come.

One cannot be too enthusiastic about a film so cautiously assembled but, intelligent conscientious films such as **Amistad** deserve commendation. But don't expect too many dramatic surprises and forget the media hullabaloo.



All Aboard - Passengers board the "Titanic" in South Hampton, before it leaves on its ill fated maiden voyage.

'Titanic' is a Film Flawed by Emphasis on Misplaced Sentimental Plot

Commentary by Steve Stavron

By now, it's becoming hubris to criticize the movie *Titanic*, and I've been thinking of changing my pen name to Steve Spoilsport. However it must be stated that *Titanic* does little to add to the immortal legend of that magnificent broken hulk at the bottom of the North Atlantic.

Director Cameron's valiant effort to salvage and reconstruct the myth of the "Titanic" as a great cinematic monument has plenty of heart, but the sentimental emphasis is misplaced.

No one can object to the tender love story of the steerage youth and the "first class" girl as a motif for getting this huge film off the docks, and I didn't mind DeCaprio's youthful, exuberant attempts to be a more innocent version of Brad Pitt.

Although I was a little bothered by Kate Winslet's barely perceptible discomfiture at dealing with turn-of-the-century Americanism, but she is a good little actress and quickly becomes aware that this is not Hamlet or Jane Austin. She is very winning. And a little corn doesn't hurt. Why not do an Irish jig in the bowels of the ship to lighten things up in preparation for—

Unfortunately, the real tragedy is that this ocean-borne bittersweet romance is the right kind of mini-drama, but on the wrong ship. We are dealing with THE "Titanic" and by maximizing the little tragedy and giving it constant center stage, we minimize the greater one—the mind boggling mesmerizing account of the sinking of the 20th century's greatest inanimate symbol of bygone elegance, grace, and security.

The innocent, self-assured smugness of that symbolism has stirred countless imaginations for decades. The search for the "Titanic" itself under 21/2 miles of ocean had become an inexplicable expression of the ship's compulsive hold on our imaginations. In the movie it almost becomes just another unfortunate shipping disaster—an underwater *Towering Inferno*.

Those familiar with "Titanic" history will feel that the dramatic truisms surrounding the tragedy have been thrown overboard to accommodate Cameron's fictitious yarn. No mention is made of the ship *Californian* which, only 2 miles away, had turned off its short wave radio for the night and ignored the "Titanic's" flairs. All who perished might have been saved—literally!

Leaving Southampton, the "Titanic's" first stop, a portentous near-collision took place with the smaller liner "New York" due to the greater suction of the "Titanic's" propellers. Cameron's ship of stories was evidently too crowded to accommodate the dramatic possibilities of these events.

The creme of the elite that perished that fateful night were themselves a legendary group, inseparably aligned with the "Titanic" mystique, but they are given short shrift in this film. John Jacob Astor, Guggenheim, the Strauses, [Macey's dept. store], George Widener, [transportation baron]. What we might view as snobbish elitism today, had a deeper cultural texture as well as economic stature at the turn of the century.

The age of sweatshops, immigrant tenements, child labor abuses was also the era of Henry James, Puccini, Edith Wharton, the French Impressionists and Carl Sandburg. The climate of opinion of that period underscored AND prescribed personal behavior standards of moral civility as well as the public trappings of gentility for the American aristocracy of a century ago. Their elegance was no less genuine and symbolically compelling than the veneer which bore them to their doom.

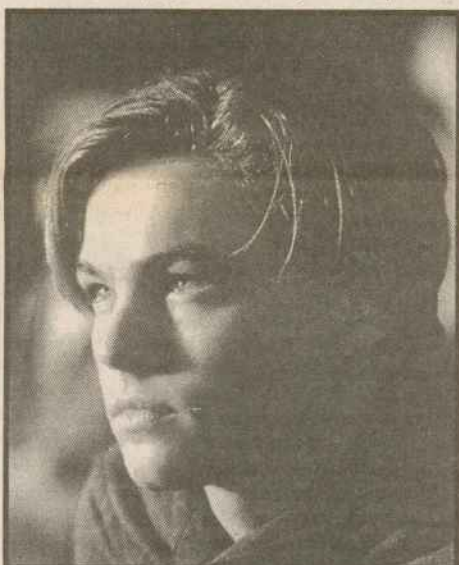
They did not rush to the lifeboats to save themselves. A closer inspection of them

would have added fuller flavor to the film.

Omissions are no reason to condemn a movie as well intentioned and as beautifully photographed as this one. Every detail of the "Titanic" is lovingly reproduced.

The camera has gone to the actual site of the magnificent ruin to transpose what IS into what used to be, with the magic of computerized photography. The present becomes the past before our very eyes. Although highly praised for the first-time use of special effects as artistic design, the film does not cheat. Many of the interiors are ravishingly constructed in their entirety suffused in soft dreamlike focus of remembrance.

The "Titanic" sails into a glowing sunset [with the lovers irreligiously but attractively at the prow]. She becomes a tiny speck on a large blue glass plain of endless sea. She moves noiselessly with the silence of death. The physical beauty of the promise



Leonardo DiCaprio

nade decks, the grand staircase, the ballroom, is too graceful to be a computer's handiwork. Having gone underwater to film the original, Cameron was fortunately inspired to insist on a near full-scale life size replica of the ship for the final horrific sequences.

Unfortunately another near disaster takes place. The plot gets in the way. As the great ship begins its agonizing, awe-some final plunge, Cameron undercuts some of the most magnificent disaster scenes ever put on celluloid with crosscuts of Kate and De Caprio running along water-filled corridors looking for handcuff keys and even getting shot at by her jealous fiancé while above deck, 100s are struggling upwards towards the stem to avoid being caught in one of the most awe-inspiring death rattles of the 20th century. Cameron had not fully recovered from his *Terminator* days.

This diminution of the real tragedy was clearly not his intention. He wanted to make an appealing but sincere film event and a great motion picture. He almost succeeds, but in a limited sense. The facts themselves are the stuff of great drama and required no romantic embellishment. Truth would have been more awesome than fiction here.

However, it's hard to resist the concluding shots of an aged Kate dreaming her dying wish of an eventual reunion with Jack on the pristine grand staircase of an immaculate "Titanic."

It's equally hard not to recommend this film to those who love the magic of the movies at their nostalgic best.

Perhaps the conflicting ambivalence of all who experience the story of the "Titanic" is best expressed by Dr. Robert Ballard, discoverer of the "Titanic" remnants in 1985.

Upon leaving the underwater sepulcher for the last time, he writes: "A melancholy feeling of emptiness came over me. How could I be experiencing this sense of loss, I wondered? After all, the "Titanic" was, in the final analysis, only a big wreck in deep water. Our mission had been a technologi-

cal success. I should be feeling jubilation. Instead, I felt like a high school senior saying good-bye to his steady girlfriend before heading off to college. I wanted to look to the future, but I couldn't help looking back."

'Tomorrow Never Dies', Like the Other 007 Movies, Be Better Left in the '60s

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Impossible as it might seem, Glenn has by hook or by crook or perhaps by sheer disinterest, somehow managed to elude Agent 007 in any of his varied testosterone-hyped incarnations. At least until now.

Finding himself the sole sober soul amidst a large rather rowdy band bussed in from a pre-film party at a local espionage-theme watering hole courtesy of a local radio station, Glenn prepared for *Tomorrow Never Dies*. Perhaps Glenn ought to have taken their clue.

The many and varied Bond flicks had always seemed to Glenn to be some exaggerated, infantile cinematic heterosexual male wet-dream. Be he played by the original, Sean Connery or the supremely stiff Roger Moore or even the occasional interloper, Glenn's image of Bond was that as the prototypical middle-aged fantasy: "A Dangerous Man", one with a smoking pistol in one hand and a hot babe in the other. Throw in assorted ingenious gadgets, a few nefarious villains and wrap up some fantastic, improbable plot with an exciting chase sequence and what you have has become a surprisingly successful and enduring series of films.

Tomorrow Never Dies, the second effort featuring Pierce Brosnan as the elusive 007, finds Bond hot in pursuit of Elliot Carver (Jonathan Pryce), a power-crazed media mogul. Before you can say Ted Turner, Bond is discovering a sinister plot to control the planet, one television set at a time.

In anticipation of the launch of his global network, Carver decides he can't leave to chance that his inaugural broadcast might happenstance on a dud of a news day.

One sinister plot involving hijacked satellite signals, MIG fighter planes and an invisible-to-detect stealth vessel finds the world on the brink of another world war.

What better moment for the arrival of the most auspicious cinematic good-guy, Agent 007? What better moment indeed!

A variety of the latest, devilishly clever devices in hand, Bond sets off to infiltrate Carver's treacherous network only to find around every corner his Chinese counterpart, the beautiful, but oh-so deadly, Wai Lin (played by Jackie Chan's co-star Michelle Yeoh).

Blithely exchanging double-entendre laced quips while narrowly escaping one explosive close call after another, the romance between Bond and Wai Lin is as improbable as the rest of Feirstein's awfully silly screenplay.

It may have been the staggeringly routine, standard-issue action sequences, the appalling number product placement shots or just maybe Bond's increasingly desperate boasts of (alleged) sexual prowess but Glenn thought very little of substance lay beneath all the hype.

Even without comparison to previous actors, Glenn couldn't help but feel Pierce Brosnan, sadly lacking necessary charisma, terribly ill-equipped (despite suitably appropriate gadgetry) to fill Bond's shoes. Michelle Yeoh has the film's few lively moments but neither Jonathan Pryce's cartoonish Carver nor Judi Dench's stoic "M" offer much evidence of the considerable talents of these two fine actors.

Glenn wasn't quite sure what to expect from this Bond adventure but somehow imagines that this might have been a series best left in the '60s.

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

Even Leslie Nielsen Can't Raise Disney's 'Mr. Magoo' Above Mediocrity

By John A. Jahn

Normally one laughs a great deal at films with a cast headed by Leslie Nielsen, the white-maned, expressive-faced comic of such slap-stick classics as the "Airplane" and "Naked Gun" films. Unfortunately, even the best efforts of Nielsen can't save Walt Disney Picture's latest effort, *Mr. Magoo*, which ends up clearly in the mediocre category of comedy films.

When a stolen gem from a fictional foreign country lands in the possession of near-sighted millionaire Quincy Magoo (Nielsen), a sinister plot is hatched to steal it back while maintaining Magoo as the fall guy.

Perpetually the target of evil culprits, the elderly Magoo manages to consistently escape harm, totally oblivious to the mayhem surrounding him. In fact, he thinks the fist-sized ruby is a toy for his dog, and keeps playing "fetch" with it!

Hunted by an international jewel thief (Malcolm McDowell), the FBI and CIA (Nick Chinlund; Ernie Hudson), and set upon by a conniving female thief (Kelly Lynch), Magoo ultimately nabs the villains, assisted by his nephew Waldo (Stephen Tobolowsky) and trusty dog, Angus.

Magoo is aimed squarely at the kid market, and while the slap-stick gags are generally worth a few chuckles here and there to the adults, children will probably laugh a little more.

Nielsen is well-suited to the *Magoo* role, and the film nicely adapts the cartoon character to live action by beginning and ending as animation. Unfortunately, the laughs are too few and far between, and there's really nothing here which adults will get much out of...no "high brow" comedy to keep adults interested while the kids enjoy the "low brow" stuff. Basically, the funniest gags are the ones you see on the TV ads, and that's really disappointing.

Perhaps the funniest part of *Magoo* is actually intended to be quite serious. It came in for great criticism even before being released because it supposedly makes fun of a blind man (or is it, "visually challenged"? Don't want to offend anyone, now). Actually, *Magoo* is near-sighted, and he's not being poked fun at. He's oblivious to the fact he even has a vision problem, and goes about his merry way, still managing to be a hero in the end.

Nevertheless, the film ends with a notice saying how it was never intended to insult anyone, blah, blah, blah. Political correctness is poison to good comedy.

I so wanted to be able to use the famous line, "Oh Magoo, you've done it again!" as

a compliment to a fine film, but unfortunately had to amend it: "Oh Magoo, you could've done it again!" ★1/2

Night Light

Continued From Page 15

In addition to the party, there will be a \$500 sweepstakes drawing. Thing is, to be eligible, you must stop in at the Boot Camp in January and fill out a sweepstakes card. Submit it before half time on Super Bowl Sunday to be eligible for the drawing to be held after the game.

As I said, that's only an example of what's been coming in. Stay tuned for more, much more info in our next issue.

That's it for now, I am trying to keep this short so we have more room for pictures. Hope to see YOU out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!!! Happy New Year.

Plymouth Church to Hold Service to Celebrate Epiphany

Milwaukee—Plymouth Church UCC, the first mainline Milwaukee congregation to officially welcome Gay and Lesbian persons, will hold a special service to celebrate Epiphany on Tuesday, January 6th. The Feast of Epiphany commemorates the journey of the three wise men to Jesus.

Plymouth's celebration includes a potluck dinner, a candle light tour of the church building and a short vespers service. The worship service will be led by children in the congregation. The dinner begins at 6:00 pm and the service follows at 7:00 pm.

Plymouth Church is located at 2717 E. Hampshire Street in Milwaukee. For more information, call (414) 964-1513.



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Dear Ruthie

Well, hello-hello! I've just returned from my Las Vegas Extravaganza - and let me tell you I kissed that sweet Wisconsin ground when I got off the plane. Of course, I had a few too many vodka slammers and fell face down on the baggage carousel, but I did so only as a sign for my true love of Wisconsin. It's great to be back.

My three friends, Pearl, Harriet, and I had a great vacation. I spent most of my time doing Black Jack. Unfortunately, I never got Jack's last name, but he was a helluva lover and knew how to make a great martini. That man knew how to drive more than just a taxi, let me tell ya.

Unfortunately, Harriet took one too many pills and we spent a good portion of the vacation convincing her that Wayne Newton wasn't stalking her. "Yeah, Harriet - your ass practically slaps you on the backs of your knees when you walk, and your boobs look like two nylons filled with wet cement - but Wayne Newton wants you!" Who does she think she is anyway? Jodie Foster?

We were able to catch the Granddaddy of all drag shows - "An Evening at La Cage" at the Riviera! What a night, what a night! If you ever get a chance to go to Las Vegas, be sure to stop by and see Frank Marino and the other "gals" as they entertain you with one spectacular number after the next. Boy - did they have a great legs. I haven't seen stilts like that since I was hired as the pedicure girl for the Rocketts - a disgusting job, by the way.

On our third night, Pearl and I found out the hard way that prostitution is NOT legal in Las Vegas. But we were only in our cell for a little while and the cops made it quite comfortable for us while we waited for Harriet to show up with the bail money.

We had two lovely cell-mates - Mistress Suzanne and Little Betty Peek-A-Boo. They worked at a nearby strip bar and were doing time for soliciting a group of tourists. We had a big cell that included a toilet and a sink, although, none of us could really tell which was which. I haven't seen anything so disgusting since that time I gave Gertrude Stein a bikini wax.

Anyway, it seemed like it took forever for Harriet to come and bail us out, but hey - we got a free meal, a jumpsuit, and, in Pearl's case, a lap dance. I left the police station a little upset because now that I have a record, I can no longer run for President of the United States. Neither can Mistress Suzanne or Little Betty, but I think the President's office is the last thing those girls are interested in. The Lincoln bedroom perhaps, but not the President's office.

Well, as I said before, it's great to be back! When I got to the Rusty Nail Trailer Park, I found a few letters in my mailbox. However, I'd love to hear from you so be sure to send your questions, comments, and cash donations (just kidding) to me care of The Wisconsin Light - 1843 N. Palmer - Milwaukee, WI 53212. You can also check me out at www.wilight.com. HEY- have a great New Year Everyone!!!! I wish you all nothing but success in 1998!!!!

Dear Ruthie,

I don't know what to do anymore, so you are my last hope. I think my partner is cheating on me. I love my partner very much and don't want to end this relationship. I'm afraid that if I confront him, I could lose him forever. Yet, the thought of sharing him with someone else sickens me and I know that I couldn't have that type of relationship with him. What should I do? Confront him? Wait for more evidence? Just ignore it?

(signed)

Helpless

Dear Helpless,

The only helpless thing here is your attitude. Sorry to sound so crass, but I've got calluses on my fingers from slot machines, and let me tell you - after a late night rendezvous with a roulette table captain, you putt those little plastic chips in the damndest places.

All of this and you think you have problems????

How about trying to convince one of your best friends that Tom Jones is not an underwear magnet, and that going to see him won't make your panties drop to your ankles and shoot up on stage? "For God sakes, Harriet, you can barely get your own girdle off - you think Tom's machismo can yank those bloomers right off you? Women throw those things up on stage themselves. Now lay off those damn blue pills."



Ruthie

Should you confront him? Of course you should. Sit down and calmly talk to him about your feelings. Let him know how you are feeling, but more importantly WHY you are feeling this way. Do you have any evidence? If so, explain it to him and what you think it means. He may have a good explanation for it. Be calm. Tell him you are scared of accusing him of such a horrible thing, but that you need to find out why you're feeling the way you do.

Obviously something is wrong in the relationship to make you feel this bad. If he loves you, he will understand your feelings and listen to what you have to say. Even if he isn't cheating, he should still be concerned that you have these worries about your relationship. If he is cheating, or if he flies off the handle due to your questions - you might want to rethink the relationship. There is nothing wrong with sharing your worries in a calm, non-accusatory, honest fashion. If he gets mad during the conversation, tell him "Hey - there's a bus leaving for Nevada in 30 minutes - be under it!"

New on the Shelf at Afterwords

Fiction

By Reservation Only by Jackie Calhoun

When Shelley inherits Pine Shore Resort in rural Wisconsin, she sees it as a chance of a lifetime - the opportunity to be her own boss.

Enter Emily who is returning to her hometown after her ex-lover bankrupts her bank account. As Emily seeks to rebuild her shattered life, a chance meeting with Shelley and her lover, Jan will set off a chain of events that will change their lives and the lives of everyone around them.

The Far Euphrates by Aryeh Lev Stollman

Set in Windsor, Ontario, during the 1950s and '60s, **The Far Euphrates** is a deep tale of isolation, secrecy, and eventual self-acceptance.

* Set in early 1960s Windsor, Alexander is the lonely son of a rabbi and his small world is made up of his parents and the Cantor and the Cantor's wife. As a young boy he is told a secret he cannot bear to know. In translucent prose, Stollman has created a stunning portrait of the coming of age of a young man's soul.

Non-Fiction

Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood by Cherrie Moraga

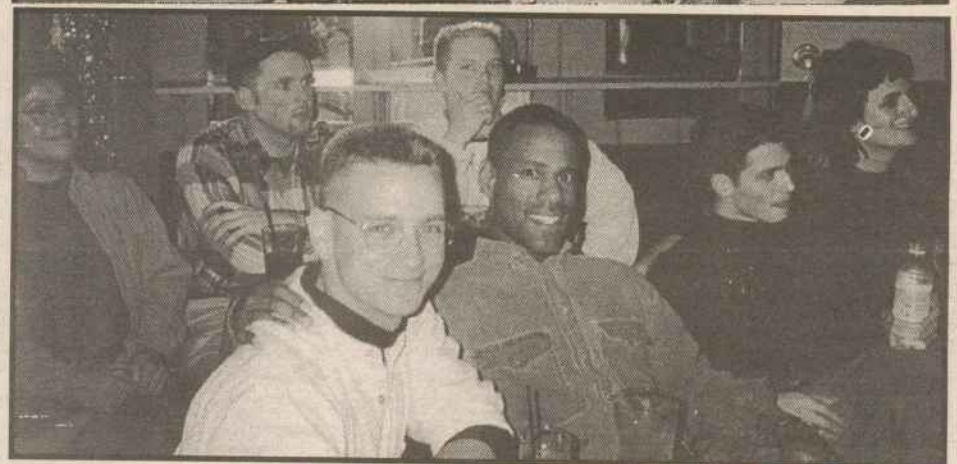
At age 40, Chicana writer and activist Cherrie Moraga decided she wanted to have a child. **Waiting in the Wings** comprises diary entries made during her pregnancy and the first difficult years of her son's life, as well as retrospective essays on motherhood, partnership, men and woman, and families.

Moraga's writing is a rich, fluid mix of English and Spanish that explores the personal, social, and spiritual consequences of Lesbian motherhood.

The Best of the Super Stars 1998: The Year in Sex edited by John Patrick

New edition of this popular annual classic provides a fun, informative and uncensored look at the personalities and entertainment that help shape of Gay sub-conscious.

Contained in the over 500 pages of sex, scandal and gossip are all of the gay favorites: the hunkiest, the sexiest young guys from television, theater, music, film and, of course adult video.



Manoeuvres - Madison's Manoeuvres has been a very busy place lately. Shown at the top are a Manoeuvres staff member with owner Ed, and manager Charlie during the bar's Milwaukee Bar Crawl on Monday December 15. The next picture is of DJ Tony Richards and friend also taken on the bar crawl. The last two pictures were taken during the Manoeuvres - Wisconsin Light benefit for Madison's homeless shelters, Sunday, December 21. Second from the bottom are Show producer, Simply Divine with Emcee Caroline and two handsome escorts and at the bottom is some of the huge crowd that turned out for the show.

Jerry Grillo To Perform at This Is It on Sunday, Jan. 18

Milwaukee—Renowned Jazz vocalist, Jerry Grillo will be appearing live at This Is It, 418 E. Wells Street in downtown Milwaukee on Sunday, January 18, 1998, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Grillo will be accompanied by Jazz guitarist Jack Grassel. Featured will be songs from Mr. Grillo's three compact discs, including his most recent CD, "Goody For You."

The discs will be on sale. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of "Goody For You" will be donated to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

"Goody For You" in which Mr. Grillo is accompanied by the Lynne Arriale Trio, costs \$10 and can be purchased in Milwaukee at Exclusive Company and Mainstream Records.

Check Mr. Grillo's website: <http://kspace.com/grillo>

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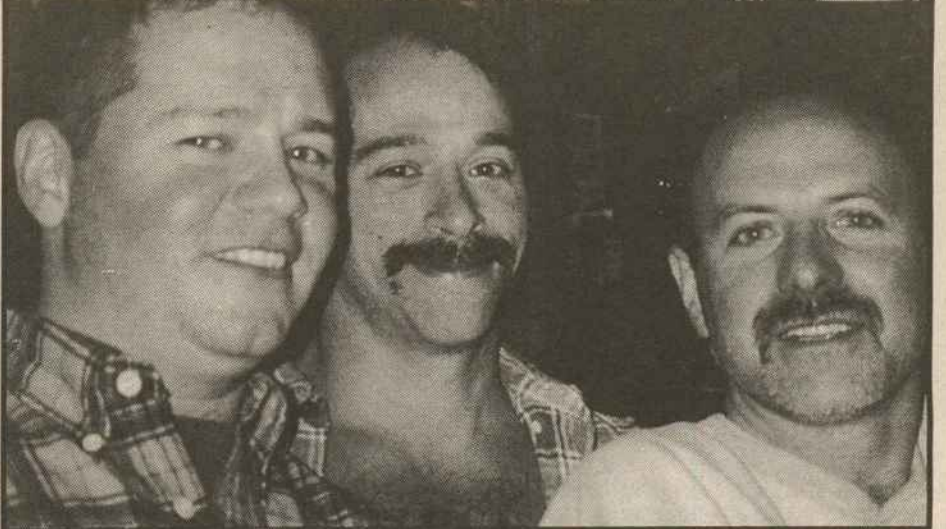
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MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock	MW	117 W. Main St	53703	255-5029
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Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National	53204	643-6900
Cest Le Vie	M Shows	231 S. Second Street	53204	276-8890
Clinton St. Antiques	Retail	1110 S. 1 st Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
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
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
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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
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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 Ave	54880	392-5373
Wausau				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225



**Read The Light
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Out and About - My we've been busy taking pictures everywhere. At the top are two pictures of the crowd watching a Packer Game at Milwaukee's In Between, next are two pictures from the Shoreline Christmas Party held at Milwaukee's Just Us on Saturday December, 13, second from the bottom are members of the Firebirds Leather Club along with Boot Camp owner, Si Smits. The photo was taken at the Club's annual Christmas party held at the Boot Camp Club house and last but not least are two of the performers at the Manoeuvres - Wisconsin Light benefit for Madison's Homeless Shelters. At the right is Duwanna Moore captured during her last number in Wisconsin. The popular performer is moving to San Francisco, despite our Dusty Sass threatening to have her "visa cancelled" to prevent her from leaving the state.

New Civil Rights Laws in New Hampshire and Athens, Ohio Protect Gay People

Concord, NH—A new law that grew out of years of contentious debate is expected to generate only a trickle of action.

Starting Jan. 1, New Hampshire's civil rights law will protect Gay people in jobs, housing and public places like restaurants and hotels.

But the state Human Rights Commission, which will handle complaints under the law, does not expect to be bombarded with calls.

"I don't expect there are going to be high number of complaints filed," commission Director Raymond Perry said. "It's still going to be very difficult to be Gay in New Hampshire. It was clear from the hearings that many people remain prejudiced."

Perry predicts his office will handle three to five complaints in 1998 from people who believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation. That is a drop in the bucket

compared to the 250 to 300 complaints filed by people charging discrimination based on race, religion and other protected statuses.

That doesn't mean the law won't make a difference. It will, but by producing peace of mind rather than complaints, said Marcus Hurn, a law professor at Franklin Pierce Law School who is Gay.

"It's not so much that there is such a great number of landlords and bosses who are on a witch hunt, it's that any time you hear a story about that you think, 'Next time it could be me,'" he said.

"Now, the law is clear, and we've got a pretty conservative but fair state organization, the Human Rights Commission, that conscientiously does its job."

The law will have a significant impact among public school teachers and state employees, he said.

"It's never been real clear in the past whether you were safe in your teacher

tenure or state employee status if you were Gay or Lesbian," he said. "Now they can rest easy because it's very plain in the law. A lot of worry hanging over people will lessen. I suspect that will be the biggest effect."

Gov. Jeanne Shaheen signed the bill in June. Earlier attempts to include Gays and Lesbians in the civil rights law failed due to pressure from then-Gov. Steve Merrill, who said it wasn't needed, and the Catholic Church.

This time, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester helped shape the language, which includes a statement that "New Hampshire does not intend to promote or endorse any sexual lifestyle other than the traditional marriage-based family."

Once the church endorsed the bill, "that started the ball rolling down hill at a pretty good clip," said Rep. Bill McCann, the bill's main sponsor.

He said Bishop Leo O'Neil, who died last month, was concerned about the bill's effect on schoolchildren. McCann, a Democrat from Dover, said he was able to persuade O'Neil that school boards would still be able to discipline teachers who act

inappropriately regardless of their sexual orientation.

"If you have a heterosexual teacher who is openly carrying on with two or three different people, that's something a school board would look at. The same is true of Gay people," McCann said.

Opponents say the law sanctions sin and asks people to embrace homosexuality as socially acceptable.

"I don't believe in adding a new classification outside of the realm of things you have no control over," said Rep. Gary Daniels, R-Milford. "In cases of race, color or creed, you don't have control over that, and those are constitutional. It wasn't right in my mind to raise sexual orientation to a constitutional level."

New Hampshire is among 11 states that have enacted similar laws.

Maine voters will decide on Feb. 10 whether to keep their Gay rights law. The law was enacted in June and signed by the governor, but opponents collected signatures to force the referendum.

In Ohio

A new sexual-orientation ordinance that Please See Civil Rights Page 23

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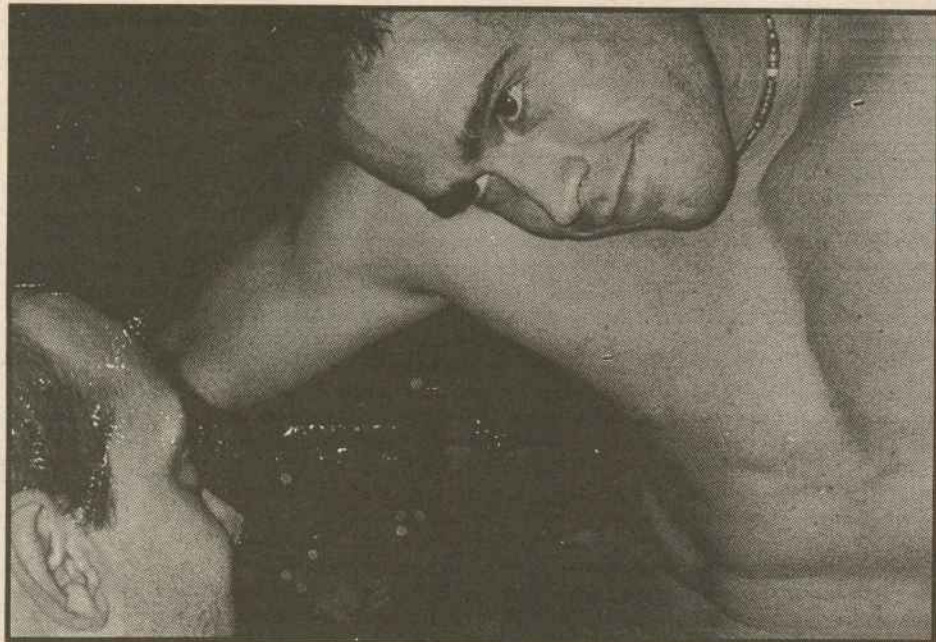
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And What Would You Like? - One of the performers at Manoeuvres Anniversary party on Wednesday December 10 greets one of the many people who were on hand. The popular Madison bar held a week long celebration. The celebration ended on Thursday, December 11 with the Lady Bunny Show. The show raised \$1565 for Camp Heartland.

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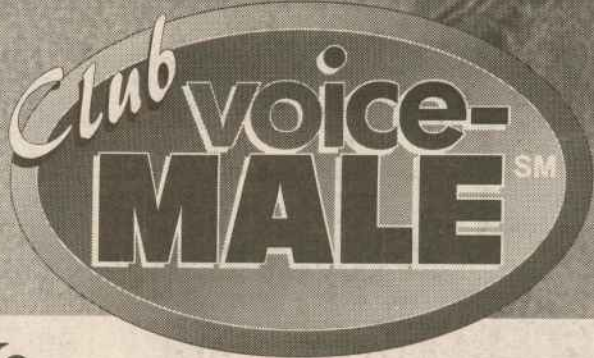
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Illinois

MANLY MENTOR I'm a professional, Italian male, 49, 5'7, 150lbs, with good looks and a fun loving attitude. I'm tired of going to the bars but want to meet a younger guy, 18 to 25, who wants the security and companionship only a more established man can give. (Aurora) #10454

OUT OF THE ORDINARY I'm a Single, Gay, White female, 33, interested in meeting muscular, smooth, Gay men, over 40, 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

MIDWEST IS BEST Boyish, good looking, 35 year old, White male, 5'10, 185lbs, with a husky build, medium length, dark Blond hair, and masculine demeanor, seeks other Gay, White males, 18 to 30. I'm attracted to clean shaven, masculine guys, with short hair and nice builds. I enjoy movies, music, bowling, gardening, biking, cooking, and spending quiet evenings with you. (Joliet) #10015

ALL THAT WAY Slim, attractive, 32 year old, White male, seeks another man, 22 to 40, for mucho, mutual pleasure. I'll travel, even to Chicago, for the right guy. (McHenry) #10898

GET ME HOT Clean cut, fun loving, White male, of Italian and Irish descent, 29, 6ft, 185lbs, with Brown hair and Brown eyes, seeks fun and friendship with masculine, White males, 21 to 25. Blond with Blue eyes are a big plus. (Oak Park) #9656

HAIRY IN CHARGE This hairy top seeks a financially stable, Asian male, for good times. I'm a good looking, White male, 47, 6'1, 240lbs, with Gray hair, a beard, and Blue Green eyes. (Des Moines) #10437

Minnesota

U.S.M.C. Masculine, Blond male, 5'8, 150lbs, good looking, hung, with furry pecs, seeks other masculine guys, for adventure and friendship. (Gaylord) #11065

CHANGE OF PACE Good looking, White male, 34, 6ft, 170lbs, with dark hair and Blue eyes, seeks cute, White and Italian men, who are spontaneous, fun, and passionate. (Minneapolis) #11067

NO RESTRICTIONS I'm a 35 year old, White male, open to just about anything with an older guy. (Minneapolis) #11025

BE MY MUSE Good looking, White male, 38, 6ft, with dark hair, eyes, and a mustache, seeks a hot, young guy, 18 to 30, to inspire me in my work. I need you to come over, strip off your clothes, lay around, and show off for me. You should be under 5'9, and have a proportionate, or slightly stocky build. (Minneapolis) #8907

TWIN CITIES WEEKENDER Ever find yourself looking for a good time on the weekend? I do. I live in northern Minnesota but come into the city for fun. This good looking, White male, in my 50's, 5'11, 185lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a slender build, prefers younger, well hung guys. (Minneapolis) #10521

HEAVY HITTER I'm looking for a casual relationship with another nice guy. I'm an attractive, rather heavy set, White male, 43, 5'8, 230lbs, with Blond hair and a goatee. (Minneapolis) #10125

BEDTIME BLISS This good looking, White male, 24, 135lbs, seeks a guy who wants to show me a really hot time in bed. (Minneapolis) #9763

MY BUDDY AND ME Me and my buddy want to hook up with other hot dudes for great fun. (Minneapolis) #9871

THAT'S MY BOY Don't you feel the need to talk to daddy about life? I'll be your father figure. This good looking, masculine daddy, seeks younger guys to get together with. We can talk or play, whatever you like. (Minneapolis) #9946

MIDWEST AMIGO I'm a normal midwestern guy, just looking to make new friends. Let's see what will happen. (Minneapolis) #9665

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

TIED UP-TRYST My partner and I are into group scenes and light bondage. We're both good looking and fit. I'm 33, 5'6, 145lbs, with dark hair and Brown eyes. He's 6'6, 200lbs, with Reddish Brown hair and Brown eyes. (Milwaukee) #2788

FATHER, MAY I? Seeking a father/son relationship. As your father, I'm nurturing, gentle, generous, respectful, affectionate, and open minded. As son, you're respectful, obedient, drug and alcohol free, full of love and patience, well mannered, clean shaven, smooth, thin, and 140 to 150lbs. You're able to think and act like a good boy. (Milwaukee) #11321

OIL IT UP This well built, White male, 5'9, 167lbs, with a nice chest and arms, and great legs and butt, seeks muscled, gym studs, who like to oil up, pose, and show off their bodies. I'll worship every inch. (Milwaukee) #10632

NEED A GENTLE TOUCH This attractive, shy, Bi curious, White male, 20, 5'9, 165lbs, seeks another White male, 18 to 30, to help me change the fact of my total inexperience. If you're honest and understanding, patient and gentle, you may be able to teach me all I need to know. If you're the man, I hope you'll call soon. (Milwaukee) #10543

MASTER OF THE GAME Master seeks slave. Slave should be 18 to 25, under 5'9, alcohol, drug, and disease free, and willing to submit to master at all times. He should be smooth or willing to be shaved, and accept all forms of discipline and training. Master is a strict, demanding, teacher who must be satisfied at all times, but who can be nurturing and generous. (Milwaukee) #10733

HALLEY'S COMET This masculine, total top, White male, in my 40's, 5'7, 160lbs, with Blond hair, Blue Green eyes, and various interests, seeks a spirited, Black male, for a sensual journey, and maybe more. (Milwaukee) #10756

WHAT'S BREWING? This good natured, White male, enjoys movies, tennis, walking, biking, and lots of other good times. I'd like to make some new connections. (Milwaukee) #10432

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE This attractive, 35 year old, White male, has an interest in hanging out with educated, well traveled, older men, who have what they consider to be exotic tastes. (Milwaukee) #10447

BEAR IN CHARGE I'm a firm, stem, but fair and loving bear, 35, of medium size. I'm strong with dark, Blond hair and Blue eyes. I need bare bottomed, clean shaven, boy toys, 18 to 25, who desire to play sex games and be dominated and punished by a stronger, older, wiser man, such as myself. Come on boy, let me show you what a man really is. (Milwaukee) #9837

KNOT'S LANDING This good looking, 37 year old, White male, 5'8, 160lbs, wants to get into the bondage scene. I've been longing to be tied up but I don't have any experience. I hope you'll call if you can show me what it's all about. Use a tight knot. (Milwaukee) #9928

YOUR BODY OBSESSER I'd like to meet a bodybuilder who likes having his body worshipped and serviced, by a smooth, in shape, good looking, White male, 5'9. I'm very versatile and can be submissive or dominant. (Milwaukee) #9635

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

ROOKIE WRANGLER This good looking, 20 year old, cowboy, in central Wisconsin, seeks another man, 18 to 25, who's just starting out. #10728

24 OR YOUNGER This handsome, masculine, 36 year old, can be your mentor and companion. I'm 6'2, 200lbs, with a construction worker's build. I'm active, versatile, and have many interests, including model trains, rock and roll, woodworking, 4x4s, camping, and traveling out west. I'm attracted to masculine, adventurous, boy next door types. #9659

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Iowa

HAIRY IN CHARGE This hairy top seeks a financially stable, Asian male, for good times. I'm a good looking, White male, 47, 6'1, 240lbs, with Gray hair, a beard, and Blue Green eyes. (Des Moines) #10437

Wisconsin

GOOD OL' COLLEGE TRY This good looking, horny, college student, 23, seeks someone into a little bit of kink. I'm submissive and will try anything. (Madison) #10844

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP Hot, built, Black college jock, 18, 5'8, 155lbs, with a worked out body, seeks other good looking studs, under 25, for discreet times. (Madison) #10470

MADISON MEETING Horny, Gay, White male, 19, wants to meet guys, 18 to 24, for hot fun. I won't tell anybody. (Madison) #10079

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

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

PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION I'm new to this area and want to meet guys to hang out with. I'm an attractive, White male, 26, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I like men around my age with Brown hair. We can work out together, listen to music, go out dancing, and enjoy each other's company at home. (Marshfield) #10849

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Obituary

Nelvin J. Johnson
1947-1997

Nelvin J. Johnson died on December 22, 1997 peacefully in his home. He would have been 51 on December 25.

Nelvin was a native of Sparta, Wisconsin. He graduated from Sparta High School in 1965. After high school, he studied accounting at WWTC in La Crosse.

Nelvin served his country in Vietnam as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division. He was injured in a booby trap explosion and spent 29 months recovering in the hospital.

Prior to coming to Milwaukee, Nelvin owned the Red Lion bar in La Crosse.

In Milwaukee, Nelvin served as a volunteer, working with the Cream City Foundation, both as a member of the Foundation's Board and as greeter and secretary in the Foundation office. He also did volunteer work for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, driving clients to appointments and on personal errands.

The funeral was held in Sparta. Visitation was on December 26. A funeral service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church after which Nelvin was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery with full military honors. His family was very gratified to see over 30 friends from Milwaukee in attendance.

Nelvin is survived by his father, Kenneth, mother Dorothy, two sisters Cheryl and Barbara, two brothers, Steven and Michael and numerous nephews and nieces.

A memorial service is to be held in Milwaukee on Saturday, January 10th at 3:00 p.m. in the upstairs banquet room of the M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street.

A Nelvin J. Johnson Memorial Fund for Youth has been set up. Donations will be gratefully received. The Fund will be administered by the Cream City Foundation.

"He was my bestest friend and I shall miss him dearly," said Ron Geiman, former owner and publisher of *In Step*. "Every now and then, I think about calling him because he was always up late."

Bi Definition Celebrates 2nd Year

Milwaukee—Nationally known Bi-sexual comedian, Myke Selha, who uses comedy to break down artificially imposed boundaries and create dialogue between communities, will be the featured event at Bi Definition's 2nd Annual Anniversary Party on Saturday, January 3.

Plenty of great food, fun, literature and laughs will begin at 7:00 pm at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street with a chili dinner, music by Bisexual performers and diversity games and exercises before the night of hilarious comedy.

Nominal cost of an annual Bi Definition membership is just \$10, otherwise \$5 covers the cost of the party alone.

For more information, call Steve at (414) 483-5046.

Civil Rights Continued From Page 20

prohibits discrimination against Gay people has been signed into law in Athens, Ohio.

Athens Mayor Ric Abel announced at a news conference Tuesday, December 23, that he had signed the ordinance. It prohibits discrimination against homosexuals in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations.

The City Council earlier passed the ordinance by a 6-1 vote. But Abel waited to hear from Athens Law Director Garry Hunter before signing the legislation into law.

The measure provides an exemption for churches and those that rent out rooms in private homes.

Opponents to the sexual-orientation ordinance have discussed a possible voter referendum. That would require a petition drive to place the issue on the ballot.

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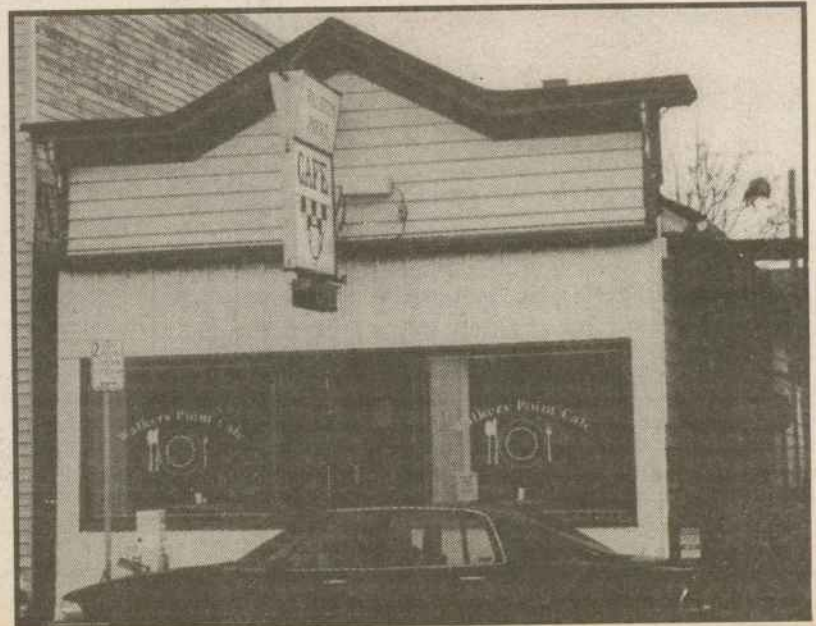
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Hard Working and Happy—Even though it was the holiday season, the work continues. Shown above are three staffers from State Representative Tammy Baldwin's office and Congressional campaign. The picture was taken at a fund raiser held for the Baldwin campaign in Madison on Wednesday, December 10. The large crowd that turned out put smiles on everyone's faces. If elected, Baldwin would be the first ever open Lesbian in Congress.

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Organizations

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DEADLINE for placing a classified ad in WISCONSIN LIGHT is noon Wednesday prior to publication. If you mail your ad we must receive it on or before Wednesday. **NO CREDIT** or **BILLING SERVICES** are offered, and we **DO NOT** accept any classifieds on the phone for placements or renewals.

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