



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

# The Wisconsin Light

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

## One Word In AOL Profile Leads to Discharge of Navy Veteran

### "Many Worlds, One Community" is 1998 PrideFest Slogan

Milwaukee—The PrideFest Council has voted to accept "Many Worlds, One Community" as the 1998 festival slogan. After reviewing over 90 submissions, the Council determined "Many Worlds, One Community" speaks to the diversity of the community, while also embracing the unity of all its members. Over half of the submissions received contained at least one of the three words: "community," "diversity" and "unity."

This year's festival is scheduled for August 28, 29 and 30 at the Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee. The June weekend traditionally used by PrideFest has been scheduled for the Harley Davidson 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash.

The new PrideFest website: [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com) will allow web browsers to witness the unfolding of the festival. Members of the community can also request information by calling (414) 272-FEST; email: [pridemilw@aol.com](mailto:pridemilw@aol.com).



**Supporting Camp Heartland** - 1100 Club friends and patrons presented the Oberons with a check for \$1,000 to help with its drive to raise money for Camp Heartland for children with AIDS. Shown above are Grandma (aka Robert Mingloff) and Oberons President Stephen Polomis. Special thanks were given to Dennis Bartley for building the wishing well used by patrons to collect donations.

Washington, DC—The fact of witch hunts that weed out Gay and Lesbian military service personnel in violation of the Pentagon's "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy was denied in mid-December, 1996 by Navy Secretary John Dalton.

Stark evidence in the case of a 17-year Navy veteran, Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh (no relation to convicted Oklahoma City bomber), however, flatly contradicts the Navy Secretary's denials.

McVeigh, Chief of the Boat, the USS Chicago, a Pearl Harbor submarine, became the subject of an investigation after he used a single word that was included in an America Online user-profile.

Navy Secretary Dalton refused last month to discuss the Navy's investigation of McVeigh with reporters, though he defended Clinton administration's policy which says persons attracted to their own sex may serve in the military as long as they do not disclose their sexuality.

Major Gay rights groups have harshly criticized that policy. More military personnel, particularly women, have been discharged for homosexuality, they say, than before it went into effect. McVeigh's case, critics believe, illustrates that whatever the intention of 1993 policy, the military is now more aggressive than ever in going after Gay and Lesbian service members.

On January 5 the Chief of Naval Personnel approved a recommendation to discharge McVeigh, citing "Homosexual Conduct Admittance" as the reason for the discharge. The message says that

**Please See Discharge Page 33**

### Cayman Islands Denies Cruise Ship Entry Because Passengers are Gay

*Editor's Note: The following comes to us from Kevin Ivers, Log Cabin Republicans' Director of Public Affairs as a community alert.*

Enclosed below is an excerpt from the *Washington Blade* detailing how the Cayman Islands, a U.K. dependency, denied a Norwegian Cruise Line vessel landing rights because it was hosting a Gay cruise vacation.

To immediately register your opinion directly with the Cayman Islands Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Transportation, we are also providing you with the necessary contact information.

Be aware that the American Family Association is calling on its members to PRAISE the Cayman government for this action.

Attn. Ms. Angela Martin  
Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Transportation Government Administration Building Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands Telephone: 345/949-0623 Fax: 345/949-4053 Email: [cscayman@candw.ky](mailto:cscayman@candw.ky) mailto:[cscayman@candw.ky](mailto:cscayman@candw.ky)

By Kai Wright

Organizers of a Gay cruise vacation announced this week that the government of the Cayman Islands, a British depend-

ency, has denied their vessel landing rights. The Caribbean island's Minister of Tourism cited the group's inability to follow "standards of appropriate behavior" as cause for turning the group away.

The Motor Ship Leeward, chartered by Norwegian Cruise Line, was scheduled to dock at Grand Cayman on February 1. The stop was part of a seven-day cruise booked by Atlantis Events Inc., a West Hollywood travel group which specializes in organizing vacations for Gay people. A total of 910 people, primarily Gay men, made reservations for the cruise, which is still set to depart from Miami on January 30.

In a letter dated December 8, 1997, and addressed to Norwegian Cruise Line's port captain in Miami, the Cayman Minister of Tourism Thomas C. Jefferson stated, "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality."

The Ministry of Tourism did not return several phone messages from a *Blade* reporter. Kathy Owen of the New York-based firm Patrice & Tanaka Co., which handles some public relations for the

ministry, told the *Blade* that the office does not plan to discuss the matter and further.

Robert Chatterton Dickson, spokesperson for the British Embassy in Washington, told the *Blade* that the island's Executive Council—which is the executive body of the island, similar to a state governor—is expected to release a statement of "regret" for any offense cause but **Please See Cayman Islands Page 4**



### Woman of the Year Tammy Baldwin

Everyone we spoke with regarding Tammy Baldwin had the same things to say, intelligent, wonderful to work with and principled.

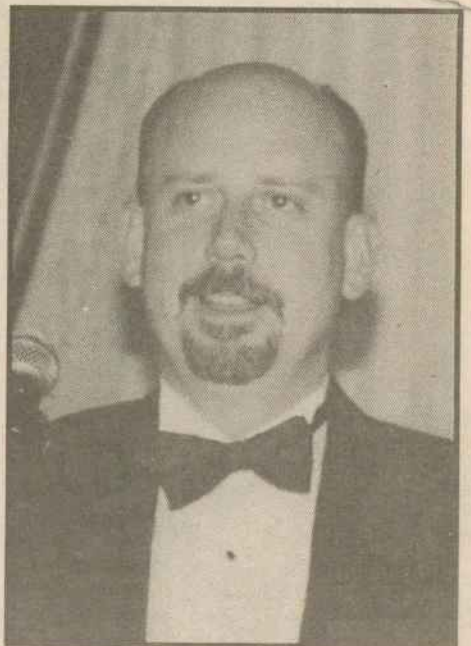
Baldwin is best known as Wisconsin's first (and so far only) openly Gay or Lesbian State Legislator. But her career of public service spans a wide variety of positions that have given her a wealth of experience on many issues.

As an undergraduate, she worked with the Criminal Division of the US Justice Department in the early 1980's. She also worked as an adviser to Governor Tony Earl in the mid 1980's.

Other elements of her service to the public include working with the Madison Technical College, the Wisconsin Department of Justice Victims and Witness Assistance program, the Comparable Worth Task Force and Action Wisconsin, the Board of Social Services, the Dane County Task Force on AIDS, the Unified Services Board along with numerous other positions.

Baldwin was elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 1986. She distin-

**Please See Baldwin Page 14**



### Our Man of the Year Tom Reed

For many activists here and around the country it is impossible to think of Miller Beer and not also think of Tom Reed. Mr. Reed after all is Miller's most visible representative to America's Gays and Lesbians.

His friends describe him as one of the hardest working people they know. He is a company man, incredibly modest and totally unwilling to talk about his accomplishments.

Ask Tom Reed about something he has done for the Gay community and all you hear is that he has done nothing, but work for Miller Brewing Company.

To be sure, Miller Brewing is a generous supporter of the fight for equality both here and around the country and not just for Gays and Lesbians but for other minority groups as well. Miller has a well known commitment to recognize diversity

**Please See Reed Page 14**



**A Blockbuster** - Blockbuster District Manager, Cynthia Trevison, gives ARCW Executive Director, Doug Nelson a check for \$9,984 which was raised from the Good Neighbor program for AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

## Debate Rages as Gay Intellectuals Weigh Sense and Sex in Gay Culture Today

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

New York, NY—One night last May, a handful of New York City's best-known Gay journalists, artists and academics called together some friends to bemoan what they viewed as a backlash against the sexual practices of Gay men. The turnout surprised them: five dozen people jammed into an overheated room.

They swapped stories of police crackdowns on sex in public restrooms and closings of Gay discos and pubs. And they complained about new books taking aim at what remains, even in the AIDS era, a central feature of Gay urban life: sex clubs, bathhouses and weekend-long drug parties where men may have intercourse with a dozen partners a night.

"It sounds like a traditional sex panic," someone declared, borrowing a term historians use to describe a wave of societal prudishness. Thus the group adopted a name: Sex Panic.

Gay activist groups are hardly in short supply. What makes Sex Panic different are its enemies: three of the nation's most prominent Gay authors, Gabriel Rotello, Michaelangelo Signorile and Larry Kramer. All sound alarms about the Gay male culture of sexual freedom, warning that its promiscuous pursuit by a core of Gay men threatens to perpetuate epidemic AIDS.

As viruses go, HIV is fragile and difficult to transmit. But in the late '70s and early '80s, Rotello writes in his new book, *Sexual Ecology* (Dutton), HIV found a home in the homosexual fast lane. As their movement for sexual liberation took hold, Gay men changed sex partners as often as some people changed clothes. But the very behavior favored by them -- anal intercourse -- was particularly conducive to the spread of AIDS. Gay men began dying.

When scientists learned that latex condoms blocked HIV, public health officials and AIDS activists created a "safe sex" strategy. But what Rotello calls "the condom code" -- the idea that the number of partners doesn't matter, so long as you always use a condom -- hasn't stamped out HIV, mainly because not everyone follows it.

Now, two decades into the epidemic, bathhouses and unsafe sex are coming back. "The whole culture has to change," Kramer said in an interview. "We have created a culture that in fact murdered us, killed us. What you can't help but think, if you've got any brains, is don't people ever learn anything?"

Such remarks have won him few fans at Sex Panic. "A culture doesn't kill people," retorted Kendall Thomas, a law professor at Columbia University and a founder of Sex Panic. "The virus kills people."

The volleying has deeply divided the Gay intelligentsia. For the first time since the publication in 1987 of *And The Band Played On* by Randy Shilts, there is open debate among Gays about promiscuity's

role in AIDS.

For many of them, it is a terrifying discussion, one they fear could fan the flames of discrimination as it becomes public by focusing on their behavior as a cause of the epidemic. "It is something a lot of people are really afraid to speak up about," Signorile said.

How this argument is settled will have broad implications for all of America as the financial, social and emotional toll of AIDS continues.

While death rates have been declining, studies show that men who have sex with men still account for the majority of AIDS cases, and that a young Gay man has as much as a 50 percent chance of acquiring HIV by middle age.

But the debate is about more than public health; it is about what it means to be homosexual. As Lesbians and Gay men press for same-sex marriage, adoption and other forms of societal acceptance, welcoming President Clinton's address to a Gay and Lesbian civil rights group (the first by a sitting President), others protest assimilation.

On one side are those like Kramer, who are beseeching Gay men to adopt a culture rooted as much in art, literature and relationships as in "what's between our legs and what we do with it."

On the other are those like Thomas and Michael Warner, an English professor at Rutgers University and a founder of Sex Panic, who argue that promiscuous sex is the essence of Gay liberation, and that any attempt to fight AIDS by changing the culture is doomed.

"It is an absurd fantasy to expect Gay men to live without a sexual culture when we have almost nothing else that brings us together," Warner said.

The debate occurs against a backdrop of evidence that homosexuals are returning to what they call "bareback sex," anal intercourse without condoms.

### Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Holiday Book Drive a Success

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and American Pride Associates (APA) collaborated during the 1997 holiday season to collect books for the Center's future lending and resource library. Fifteen businesses throughout Milwaukee provided space for collection boxes during the month of December. The community donated over 200 books covering a wide range of LGBT related topics.

"Thanks to all the businesses who participated in the book drive and to all the people who donated books. Their generosity demonstrates the high level of excitement and support the Community Center has in Milwaukee," said Community Center Programming Co-Chair, Laurie Guilbault.

APA President Queerscout said "We are very happy that this collaboration with the

In a survey of 205 Gay men in Miami's South Beach, Dr. William W. Darrow, public health professor at Florida International University, found that 45 percent had unprotected anal sex in the past year. Gonorrhea rates are up, too. During the mid-'80s, the disease -- a marker for exposure to HIV -- all but disappeared among Gay men because so many practiced safe sex. But from 1993 to 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported, a survey of clinics in 26 cities found gonorrhea among such men rose 74 percent.

The reasons aren't fully understood. Signorile blames the social scene; in his new book, *Life Outside* (HarperCollins), he attacks the "circuit," a national series of weekend-long bashes laden with drugs.

"What we are seeing," he said in an interview, "is a kind of live-and-let-live intense party scene that is very similar to the same scene that contributed to the AIDS epidemic exploding."

The myth of invincible youth is also a factor; a generation of young men has now grown up amid AIDS. Some men have simply grown weary of wearing condoms. And there is evidence that the life-saving promise of protease inhibitors is backfiring; as drugs extend the lives of AIDS patients, more people take risks.

"It is sort of like piling up wood for a bonfire in the middle of a conflagration," said Dr. Judith N. Wasserheit, who directs the CDC's prevention program for sexually transmitted diseases. "I think the Gay community is at a very dangerous place."

Last year alone, the government spent \$7.3 billion for AIDS research, medical care and disability payments. And if the epidemic continues in a core of Gay men in urban centers, experts say, it will thrive among all Gays. That, Rotello says, is what is occurring.

"There is a point in epidemiology," he said, "at which any epidemic grows or shrinks. Right now we are at the replacement level."

Also, as the number of partners goes up, use of condoms goes down, said Dr. Ron Stall, a behavioral scientist at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the Uni-

versity of San Francisco. He fears that if Gay men continue to have unsafe sex in the age of protease inhibitors, drug-resistant strains of HIV will spread. "We have then yielded the epidemiological nightmare," he said.

To Sex Panic, this sounds like an alarmist pretext for restricting Gay civil rights. Promiscuity and safe sex can co-exist, its members argue. And while it may be difficult for heterosexuals to understand anonymous sex with multiple partners, to many Gay men it is a cornerstone of liberation. Gay men had been discriminated against for the way they had sex; liberation meant having as much sex as possible, as publicly as possible.

"We want to reinsert sexual liberation back in our movement," said Tony Valenzuela, an actor in Gay pornographic films who organized Sex Panic's first national conference, held in San Diego. "For those of us who like anonymous sex, there is something very erotic," he said, adding that safe sex is standard in Gay porn. "The important thing is that it can be healthy."

The debate is only likely to intensify. "In the end," Stall said, "it is a cultural fight as much as an epidemiological fight. What is the future of Gay culture going to be like?"

Center was such a success, and look forward to working with them on future projects."

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center does not currently have a building or a library to house these books. But through the generosity of book donors, and the work of several volunteer librarians, when the Center does find a "Home of Our Own," the infrastructure for a library will already be in place.

The book drive is ongoing, and people are encouraged to continue donating books to the library. APA and the Center are planning another book drive during the August, 1998 Pride celebrations.

Books of all subjects are wanted, including LGBT history, politics, spirituality, erotica, coming out issues, philosophy, health, HIV/AIDS and cancer.

Books covering parenting, women, communities of color, gender studies, LGBT fiction and nonfiction are also needed. Please call the Center hot line at (414) 483-4710 for more information.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 200 members. The mission of the Center is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Metro Milwaukee area.

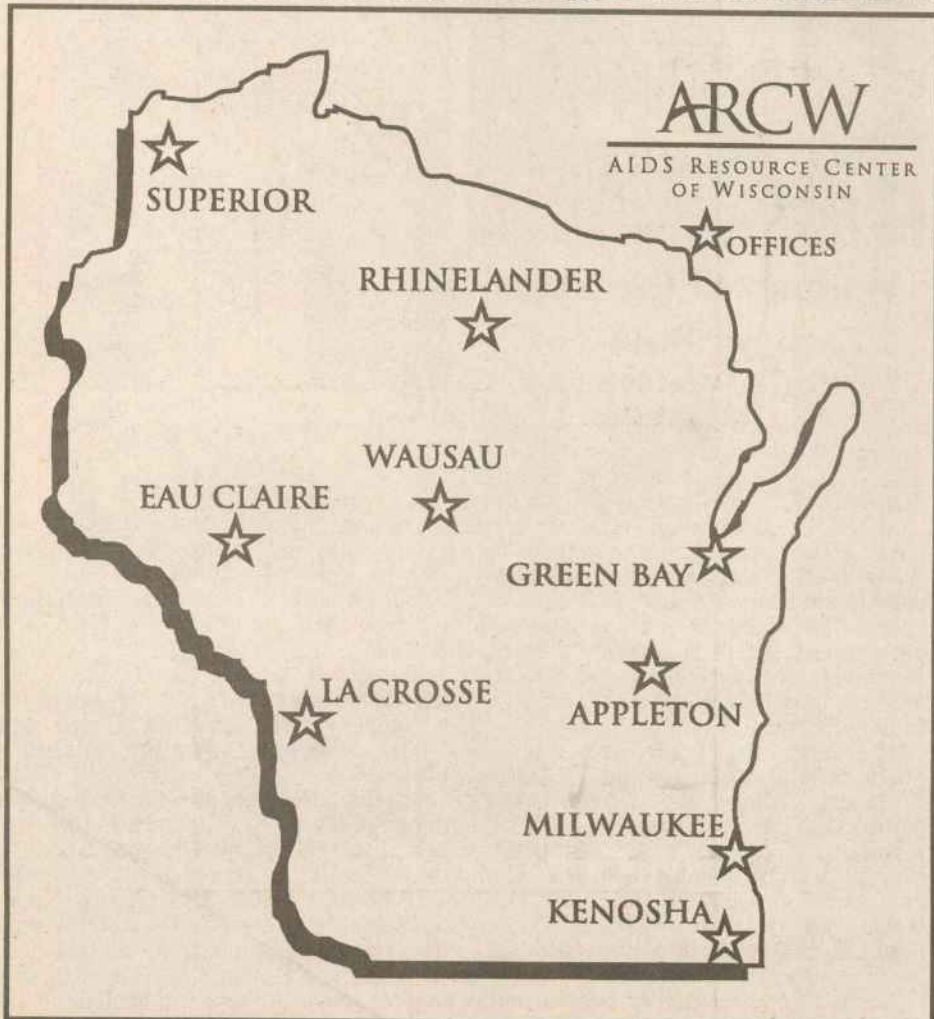
This mission is supported by the vision of providing a home for the community, advocating for programs and services that meet the needs of our communities, educating the public and our communities about our lives, empowering ourselves and our groups, and cultivating diversity and inclusion in every aspect of the Center.

### MAP Has Merged Into ARCW in 1998

Milwaukee—On January 1, 1998, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) officially merged with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), becoming part of its statewide system of AIDS services. MAP, which has existed for 13 years, now operates as ARCW.

The merger was prompted by the State Division of Health's decision to designate ARCW as the AIDS service organization to provide AIDS services and prevention programs in 59 of Wisconsin's 72 counties and the agency's desire to achieve greater cost efficiencies.

Beginning in 1998, ARCW will operate with offices in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Green Bay, Appleton, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Wausau, Rhineland and Superior.



ARCW Offices - The map shown above shows the location of Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin offices.

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## Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's First Annual Membership Meeting

**Milwaukee-** The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will hold its first Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, January 24, 1998 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the second floor room of the M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street, Milwaukee.

This historic meeting will be facilitated by the Center's outgoing Interim Co-Presidents Larry Stocks and ReDonna Rogers. Stocks and Rogers will welcome the Center's members, and will open with a year in review.

Committee Chairpersons will report on 1997 activities for Programming, Youth, Facilities, Fund Raising, Membership, Finance and PR/Communications.

After the 1997 review, the focus will shift to the Center's future with a preview of the Center's new web site. The membership will then approve the 1998 budget and vote on a proposed change to the by-laws.

Finally, the Co-Presidents will facilitate the election of the first member-elected Board of Directors, which will lead the organization into 1998 and beyond.

Over the last three months, a Nominating Committee has worked through the complex process of finding qualified persons to lead the organization. According to Fai DeMark, Nominating Committee Chair, this independent committee of the Board solicited nominations from Milwaukee's LGBT community, interviewed people who completed the nomination application, and selected eight candidates who were best qualified to serve as the organization's Directors.

According to DeMark, a total of twenty two people were nominated for the eight member-elected Director positions. DeMark explained that the goal of the Nominating Committee was to recommend eight Board members while adhering to the diversity requirements prescribed in the community-approved by-laws; 50% women, 50% men, 25% people

of color. The committee also worked to assure a diverse age and skill base.

"We had an outstanding group of nominations for the Board of Directors," DeMark said. "The challenge of the committee was to select candidates who possessed the skills necessary to lead the organization while also satisfying the diversity requirements prescribed in our by-laws."

At the Annual Membership Meeting, the Nominating Committee will recommend the following eight individuals to be elected to the Board of Directors: Elizabeth Brown, Denise Cawley, Julie Ellsworth, Joshua Feyen, Steve Markowitz, Debbie Weil, John Wirth and Shelia Zelenski.

In addition, nominations for Directors will be taken from the floor. Those members receiving the highest number of votes, in descending order, shall be declared Directors. The eight elected Directors will then seat the remaining seven at a subsequent Board meeting.

According to the Center's by-laws, in order to be considered for nomination and election to the Board and to vote at the meeting, an individual must be a member in good standing as of the end of the Center's fiscal year, December 31, 1997.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization made up of more than 100 volunteers and over 220 members. The mission of the Center is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Metro Milwaukee area.

This mission is supported by the vision of providing a home for the community, advocating for programs and services that meet the needs of our communities, educating the public and our communities about our lives, empowering ourselves and our groups, and cultivating diversity and inclusion in every aspect of the Center.

## HRL Seeks Nominations for Annual Cream City Brick Awards

**Milwaukee-**The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL) is seeking nominations for the annual Cream City Brick Awards. Nominations are due by February 3, 1998.

Presentations will be made at the Human Rights League annual meeting during the last week of February.

Originally created by the Cream City Business Association (CCBA) in the early 1980's, these awards have been given almost every year, first by CCBA, later by the Lambda Rights Network and now by the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays has the honor.

There are eight award categories:  
**Torch Bearer Award** - given to non-Gay or Lesbian identified person or group that had advanced understanding and acceptance of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) communities;  
**Pace Setter Award** - given to an LGBT person or persons who have promoted our communities in a positive fashion;  
**Group Spirit Award** - given to an LGTB group(s) or organization(s) whose efforts establish or promote our community in a positive fashion;

**Spotlight Award** - given to a media person(s), department or station or paper whose coverage best promotes understanding and/or acceptance of our community;

**Groundwork Award** - given to a business which has made a significant contribution to the LGBT community;

**President's Award** - given to a person(s) whose service to our community has been above and beyond the call of duty;

**Bridge Award** - given to a person(s) who has acted as a "bridge" between the LGBT communities and the broader communities by initiating programs or projects through his/her professional life that address LGBT needs and issues;

**Ambassador Award** - given to a LGBT person(s) who has made an outstanding, significant and long term contribution in the area of human rights, demonstrating the highest principles of the Human Rights League and representing our responsibility to participate as active citizens in a diverse world.

Nominations should include a description of the reasons for your nomination of the person, group or business and identify for which award you wish to nominate them. Have others who support your nomination sign on with you. Nominations also should include the name(s) and telephone number(s) of the person(s) making the nomination.

Nominations should be mailed to: Human Rights League c/o Awards Committee, P.O. Box 92674 Milwaukee, WI 53202.

## Blockbuster Video and ARCW Team Up to Fight AIDS

**Milwaukee-**The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and Blockbuster Video have become partners in the fight against AIDS.

As an extra incentive to raise money for AIDS care, research and prevention in Wisconsin, Blockbuster extended an offer through October 21, 1997, to join the Blockbuster Good Neighbor Program. Participants gave \$5 and got a card allowing a "rent one get one free" membership privilege. Blockbuster then donated the entire \$5 to AIDS Walk Wisconsin to benefit 18 AIDS service agencies throughout the state.

"Participating in AIDS Walk Wisconsin has been a great opportunity for us to

get involved in area communities by showing our support of ARCW and the work they do," said Cynthia Trevison, Blockbuster district manager. "Many Blockbuster Video associates took pride in our partnership with ARCW creating more unity internally as well. It has been a completely positive experience."

"Blockbuster has demonstrated a strong commitment to the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin," said Steve Atwell, development officer-corporate for ARCW. "Through their generous efforts and support of ARCW, an additional \$9,984 was raised for AIDS Walk Wisconsin from the sale of the Good Neighbor Program cards making their total corporate contribution nearly \$13,000."

Atwell added that ARCW has seen cause-related partnerships enhance corporate image and reputation, generate incremental sales and deepen relationships with customers.

ARCW looks forward to continuing its relationship with Blockbuster in the months ahead. If you are interested in other companies that support ARCW or want to get your company involved, please call Steve Atwell at 414-225-1570.

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## HELP DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF GAY MEN'S HEALTH IN MILWAUKEE

**Milwaukee --** The Gay and Lesbian Outreach Program of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is looking to pick the brains of interested Gay and Bisexual men in Milwaukee to determine program direction for 1998.

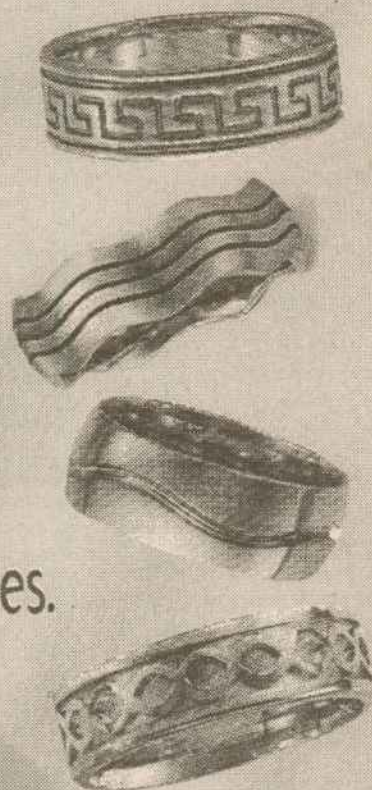
If you have ideas on HIV Prevention, Gay men's health and/or other related topics of importance to Gay and bisexual men, please attend a focus group of men on Wednesday, January 21, at 6 p.m. at the ARCW offices, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee. Validated parking is available across the street. Light refreshments will be served.

"Community input is key to the success of our programming," said Andy Bagnall, ARCW manager of Gay and Lesbian outreach. "Please consider adding your voice to a program that is truly by and for our community."

To attend or share your ideas if you are unable to attend, please call Andy at 414-225-1502.

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## 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 makes 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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## Serial Killer of Gays Believed to Be On the Loose in Rome

**Rome—Italy's** Gay community demanded a parliamentary investigation Wednesday, January 7, after the slaying of a nobleman who belonged to the Vatican protocol corps raised speculation about a serial killer.

Enrico Sini Luzi, 67, was found dead in his Rome apartment Monday, January 5, with his skull bashed in and a silk white scarf around his neck, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

ANSA quoted investigators as saying they had no suspects but there was nothing in how the slaying was carried out to confirm fears by some Italian Gay organizations that one killer might be to blame.

However, *Il Messaggero*, a Rome daily, said police believed there were elements "which lead investigators on to the trail of homosexual killing."

The Pope's aide was found in his Rome apartment wearing only his underwear, apparently strangled during a sexual tryst, according to police reports.

Sini Luzi's death was the latest in a string of slayings over the last seven years in Rome of 18 men authorities believe were Gay, police said. Police also have studied the slaying of a nobleman in his Florence apartment last year to see if there were links to the Rome cases. Only eight of the slayings have been solved.

Gay groups cautioned Gay men in Rome to be on guard.

"The crime involving Enrico Sini Luzi is only the latest in an incredible series of killings that seem to have no end," said Franco Grillini, president of ArciGay, an Italian Gay advocacy group.

ArciGay, estimates that 150-200 Gay men are murdered annually in Italy. Some believe that this is due to an influx of foreign immigrants into the country, spawning hustlers who do not adhere to more tolerant Italian sexual standards.

ArciGay, however, blames the Roman Catholic Church for its homophobic pronouncements, which, it says, encourages such murders.

ArciGay has also called on the Italian government to take action. ArciGay president, Franco Grillini said, "We are by now in the face of a real and true national emergency."

The Vatican, according to the *New York Times*, has thus far refused com-

ment on the murder.

According to the autopsy, Sini Luzi was killed Sunday night or early Monday. He was struck on the head with a brass candlestick, police were quoted as saying.

His elegant apartment had been ransacked and his Vatican medals were missing, but there was no sign of forced entry - leading police to believe that he knew his killer.

Sini Luzi belonged to "His Holiness' Gentlemen," a protocol group whose duties include ushering personalities during Vatican ceremonies.

Until 1968, when Pope Paul VI reorganized the group, the members were known as "Secret Servants" and had to have noble blood.

Members of Mr. Sini Luzi's family denied that their relative was "a person of certain habits" meaning Gay.

His 72-year old brother was quoted in *La Repubblica*, saying, "Such comportment cannot be reconciled with his morality and the Catholic education he always received."

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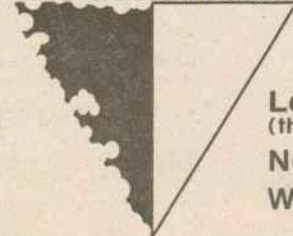
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## PlanetOut Launches New Website for Closeted Gays and Interested Straights

San Francisco—Closeted Gays and puzzled parents now have a new resource.

AllTogether.com has become the first free, non-profit, e-commerce website aimed solely at providing safe, confidential coming out answers and resources.

The website launches in time for the holiday season, often a trying time for families dealing with coming out issues. It is supported with wide acclaim from actors Judith Light and Danny Pintauro, as well as from ten of the nation's leading Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender organizations.

"I have talked to parents who have had no place to go where their anonymity would be respected and their feelings would be responded to," said actress Judith Light. "That's why I'm delighted with the advent of AllTogether.com."

Actor Danny Pintauro, who played Judith Light's son in the hit TV show Who's The Boss, said "When I first came out, I had trouble finding help, especially when I told my parents. AllTogether.com helps people find confidential answers to their own questions, and allows straight people to ask a lot of the 'dumb' questions

they're afraid to ask of their Gay children, friends, parents, or co-workers."

Light added, "When Danny was threatened with being 'outed,' I felt as much for him as I would if I were actually his mother. For some parents, the coming out of their child can be a confusing and lonely time."

### Customized Answers to Personal Questions

Sensitive to the many fears and concerns of parents and closeted Gays, AllTogether.com uses "intelligent agent" technology to let people ask questions in their own words. Visitors to the site can pick personal guides such as Gay priest, straight parents, a Lesbian teen, or a Chinese professor, among many others.

Jeffrey Seiff, who designed the site while at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, said that AllTogether.com is the first coming out website to offer help in such a targeted and user-friendly way. It provides not only recommendations but also tools to use right at the moment when a person comes out.

Seiff stressed that web-based information is much more effective when tailored

to each individual's needs.

"AllTogether.com doesn't assume that everyone has the same coming out issues. We affirm the diversity of our community by offering resources tailored to various issues such as sexuality, race, religion or gender."

### Tremendous Community Support

AllTogether.com is supported by some of the nation's leading Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender organizations, including Boston Gay Lesbian Bisexual Speakers Bureau, Community United Against Violence (CUAV), Digital Queers, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Gill Foundation, Log Cabin Republicans, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

### Six Features of AllTogether.com

**Non-Threatening, Customized Q&A** - Visitors can ask questions in their own words, and therefore receive information only as they request it. For example, one might ask, "How do I know if I am Gay?"

**Culture-Sensitive Guides** - Visitors also get to appoint their own personal "guides," such as Gay priest, Jewish teenager, Chinese professor, heterosexual parents with Gay children, and others. The chosen guides then offer answers.

**Virtual Bookshelf** - For each question, the website searches its database and suggests context-sensitive books, films, on-line articles and Internet links. The non-profit site also enables those without access to Gay bookstores to purchase with secured credit card ordering.

**Resource Compendium** - For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people, the site offers resource recommendations sorted by ethnicity, religion and issue area.

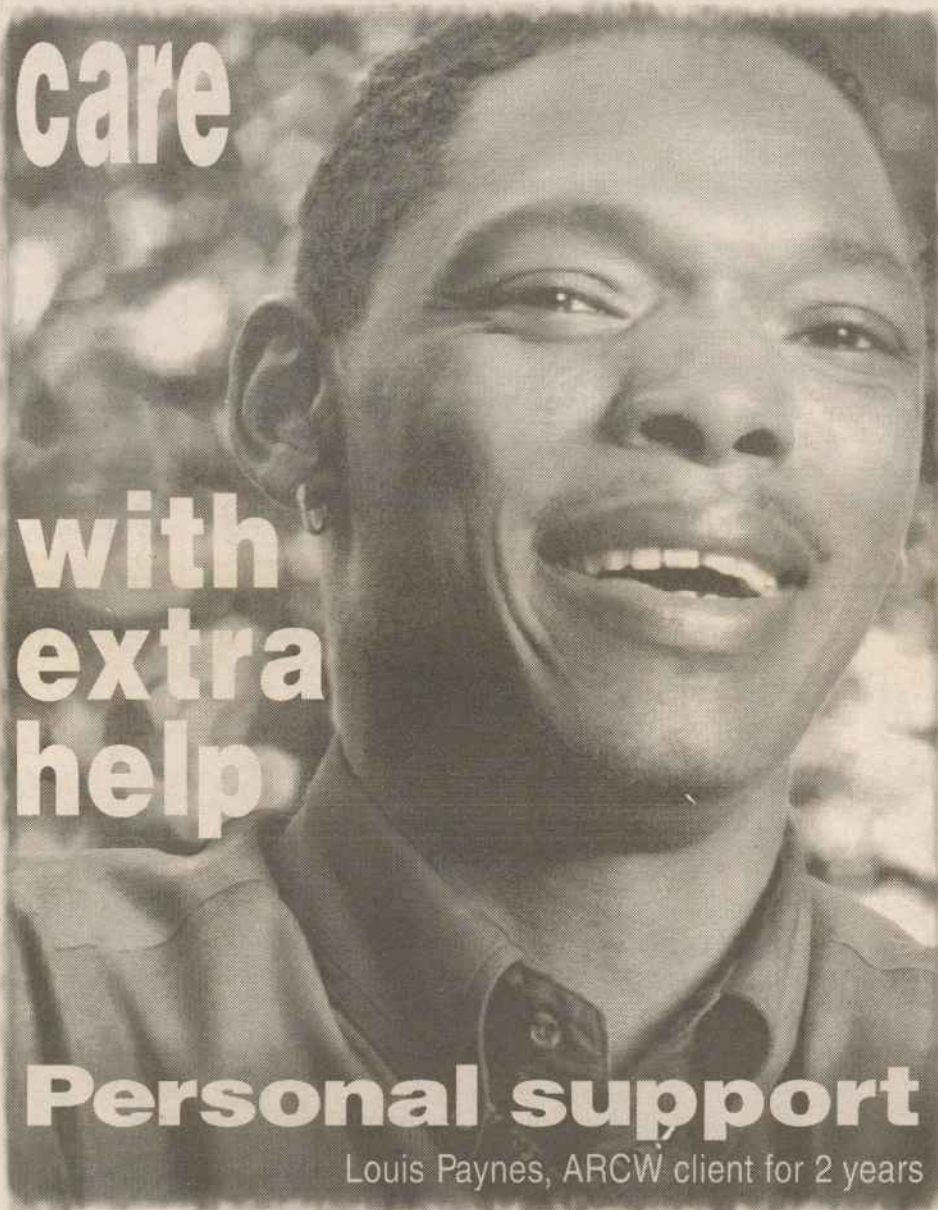
Many publishers have granted AllTogether.com permission to reprint excerpts from helpful works of fiction and non-fiction.

**Pro & Con** - Potential straight allies can feel alienated if they don't find their own views represented. AllTogether.com offers both sides of the debate on issues such as Gay marriage, adoption, and Gays in the military.

AllTogether hopes to make known that pro-Gay pieces are usually supported by scientific evidence while the opposing views are largely editorial.

**Bulletin Board** - Finally, users may browse and share their own feelings on a bulletin board discussion of themes such as "My Parents Won't Listen!" or "Is This the Right Time?"

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## Log Cabin Republicans Charge Group with Romanticizing Sex that Leads to Death

Washington, DC—In an explicit sign that divisive in-group fights have begun to erupt within at least a few Gay political circles, the executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian Republican organization, condemned the group Sex Panic.

This group, he charges, "advocates unprotected sexual acts among Gay men, including behavior which knowingly results in HIV-infection."

Sex Panic, a loose federation of academics, authors, and historians, and others denies this charge. Its members are quoted as saying they are an organization which hopes to alert American Gay males and others to a growing "sex panic" in the political arena, a panic, they say, that Republicans are encouraging.

Log Cabin's emergence into the sex debate marks the first such condemnation of the Sex Panic group by any national Gay organization.

In an op-ed published in this issue of **Wisconsin Light**, Log Cabin Republicans executive director Richard Tafel warns that Sex Panic is romanticizing deadly behavior, with potentially dangerous consequences for young Gay men.

"Fulfilling their own need for victim status," Tafel writes, "members of Sex Panic imagine themselves under assault for being Gay and view thoughtless unsafe sex -- complete with HIV infection -- as the ultimate liberation. Their callous selfishness has the potential to guide another generation of young Gay men toward potentially deadly choices."

"It is time for the Gay community to enunciate our values, such as individual responsibility," Tafel writes. "Let's stop blaming oppressive forces and take control of our lives to ensure we don't witness a second, more devastating generation of this plague."

Tafel also calls upon other national Gay organizations to come forward and denounce Sex Panic and to stand up for individual responsibility.

"It is high time that every Gay and Lesbian organization in the country denounce the antics of those within our community, such as Sex Panic, who romanticize sexual behavior that could lead to death."

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The Wisconsin Light**

## Anti-Gay Hate Crimes Decline in 1997, Report Shows, But Were More Violent

Washington, DC—Reported hate crimes against Gays and Lesbians declined slightly in 1996 but were more violent and more public than in 1995, with significantly more such crimes committed in commercial buildings or in fields and woods, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

"These statistics are further evidence of the need for a federal law enabling the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute such crimes on the same basis as crimes targeting people because of race, religion, color or national origin," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director.

"The federal government's hands are tied when it comes to investigating and prosecuting crimes aimed at people because of their sexual orientation. It's not enough to collect statistics. People who commit these crimes against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered people should face the same penalties as all other hate criminals."

The FBI released a report Thursday, December 8, that found 1,016 crimes were committed in 1996 targeting people because of their sexual orientation. This amounted to 11.5 percent of the total 8,759 bias-motivated incidents reported to the FBI for that period.

In 1995, the FBI reported 1,019 hate crimes based on sexual orientation. This was 12.8 percent of the total.

The Human Rights Campaign warned, however, that hate crimes targeting Gays are virtually always underreported by law enforcement agencies.

"Even though the rate appears to have declined, we know from experience that local law enforcement agencies are often reluctant to report bias crimes based on sexual orientation," said Stachelberg. "One state, Alabama, reported no hate crimes whatsoever in 1996, which seems highly unlikely. In addition, crime victims are often afraid to tell police that they were singled out because of their real or perceived sexual orientation."

A comparison of the 1996 and 1995 reports found:

Reported arsons targeting Gays increased from 3 incidents to 8;

Anti-Gay crimes committed in gas stations rose from 2 to 8;

In commercial buildings, from 18 to 28; And in woods or fields, from 6 to 13.

At the same time, the number of bias crimes against Gays in private residences rose 16 percent, from 267 to 318.

The Human Rights Campaign called on Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998, which was introduced in November by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, (D-Mass.), and Arlen Specter, (R-Pa.) President Clinton has endorsed this bill as part of his initiative, begun last year, to combat hate crimes in America.

"We applaud the Clinton administration for taking on the problem of hate crimes in America and are optimistic about the package of initiatives that came out of last year's first White House Conference on Hate Crimes," Stachelberg said.

Those initiatives included assigning 50 more FBI agents and prosecutors to work on hate crimes enforcement; establishing hate crimes working groups in the offices of all 93 U.S. attorneys; and distributing to the nation's school districts a manual encouraging schools to confront hate-motivated behavior among students.

Currently, only Wisconsin, 18 other states and the District of Columbia include sexual orientation in their state hate crimes statutes. Nineteen states have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation, and nine states have no hate crimes statutes whatsoever. Three states have laws that are unclear.

Two federal hate crimes laws include "sexual orientation" as a protected group. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, under which these data released Thursday were collected, and the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which provides for tougher sentencing when it is proven that the crime committed was motivated by bias.

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## The Wisconsin Light Bets Denver Paper on Super Bowl

Milwaukee — We all know that the Green Bay Packers are going to win the Super Bowl, so **Wisconsin Light** SpotLight editor, Bill Meunier called the publisher of Denver's Gay paper, **Out Front** to see if his staff would like to place a wager on the game.

Greg Montoya, of **Out Front** seemed less than enthusiastic about the prospect. "Can we take the Packers?" he pleaded. "No they are our team you have to find a team of your own to bet on, assuming you have one" replied Meunier.

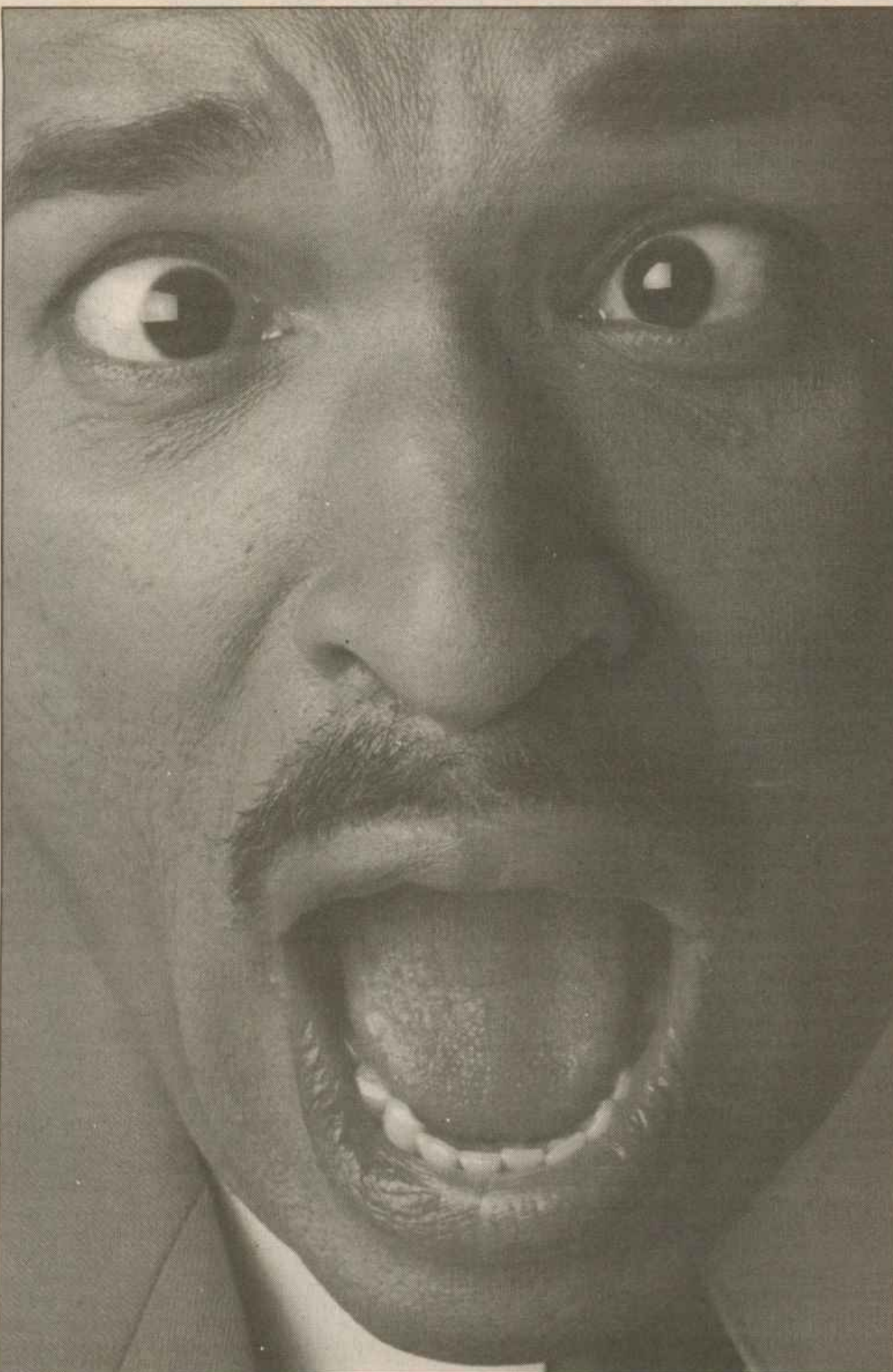
"Okay then I guess we will have to take the Bronco's" said Greg who then added that if the Colorado Avalanche could win the Stanley Cup that anything was possible, "Even a Bronco win in the Super Bowl."

Meunier offered to put up an assortment of fine Wisconsin foods like cheese, sausage and the like.

But Bill was concerned about what **Out Front** would put up considering that all Colorado has to offer is "Coors and snow. Being proud Gays we wouldn't drink Coors even if it did taste good and we have enough snow."

As we went to press, **Out Front** told us that they would put up some buffalo steaks. The staff of the **Light** are sharpening their steak knives even now.

In the unlikely event that the Pack loses, the food package will be provided by the Crock and Keg, (which is not Gay owned by is Gay friendly and which can meet all your Packer party needs. Simply call (414) 768-9657.



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## Speaking From The Right Dangerous Sex Rhetoric Threatens Gays

Commentary by Richard Tafel

"I'm an HIV anarchist!" railed Tony Valenzuela, a 25 year-old activist at a town hall meeting last summer in San Diego.

On a panel entitled Sexuality: Where the Personal Meets the Political at the Creating Change Conference of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, he boasted to the audience about being HIV-positive, a porn star and a prostitute. He described unsafe sexual behavior as "transformational," almost a spiritual experience, and explained all of this boasting under the principle of "sexual self-determination" -- no one had a right to tell him how to live his life.

A few weeks before Valenzuela's speech, former Secretary of Education William Bennett chided President Clinton on ABC-TV's "This Week" for not mentioning "the truth" in a speech before a Gay organization that the homosexual lifestyle leads to death. He cited scientifically discredited data arguing that being Gay in and of itself means preying sexually on children, leading an unhappy life and dying young. Bennett carefully couched his attack on Gays based on his 'genuine concern' for Gay people.

And so we have the sad state of affairs of the AIDS debate as we enter 1998. The more things have changed, the more they stay the same -- with a few important nuances.

Most frightening about Valenzuela's speech was that a small group of mostly middle-aged Gay leftist men, known as Sex Panic, are using him as their poster boy. These men pretend that the Gay community hasn't been decimated by AIDS, using the language of freedom and individual rights to justify sexual behavior that can be deadly.

The Gay community already debated whether to change its behavior or die, and for so many Gay men the option was offered too late. But today, with all of the risks known, Sex Panic romanticizes being HIV-positive, almost implying to young people that if you aren't positive, you're not fully Gay.

In their own desire to make their status normative and breathe some relevance into tired, Marxist politics, they've made

the connection between HIV, Gay freedom and oppressive conservative forces. Fulfilling their own need for victim status, they imagine themselves under assault for being Gay, with thoughtless unsafe-sex complete with HIV infection as the ultimate liberation.

Their callous selfishness has the potential to guide another generation of Gay young men toward potentially deadly choices.

And on the other extreme of the debate are the equally dishonest words of Bennett. During the Bush administration, he remained silent when Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan released a study that showed that suicide rates among teenagers who were coming to terms with being Gay were many times higher than any of their peers. But like the equally outdated Sex Panic, the hateful, blunt anti-Gay rhetoric that Bennett liked in the 70's and 80's just doesn't cut it anymore. So he cloaks his distaste for Gay people in 'concern,' by citing discredited researchers working for the religious right.

The President missed the chance to "tell the truth on this one," Bennett said, because "the best available research suggests that the average life span of male homosexuals is around 43 years of age." Forty three?

By challenging Bennett's lies, we let young Gay men know that they can have wonderful and fulfilling lives as openly Gay people. But equally important, it is high time that every Gay and Lesbian organization in the country denounce the antics of those within our community, like Sex Panic, who romanticize sexual behavior that could lead to death.

It is time for the Gay community to enunciate our values, like the importance of individual responsibility. Let's stop blaming oppressive forces and take control of our lives to insure we don't witness a second, more devastating generation of this plague. We cannot sit by while another generation is left with two hopeless extremes, each fostering deadly consequences.

**Editor's Note:**--The writer is the Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans.

## Charges of Discrimination Against Clients Rips San Francisco AIDS Foundation

By Peter Cassels

**San Francisco**--Charges of discrimination, sexism and classism are rocking this city's HIV community and putting the "San Francisco Model" of caring for people with the disease under the public microscope.

The spotlight is on the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, one of the nation's oldest service providers, but repercussions could affect every non-profit that has a city contract, regardless of their missions.

The foundation represents one leg of the San Francisco HIV model. In some communities, agencies provide a full range of services, such as education, counseling, housing and practical support. In others, like San Francisco, organizations specialize in a few services, such as education or housing.

The controversy began brewing after the foundation, which provides educational and a variety of other services to people with HIV, barred several clients from receiving benefits.

The agency only denies services to clients who have physically attacked other clients, volunteers or staff or have forged letters of diagnosis, according to Derek Gordon, its communications director. "Over the years, [that number] has been maybe a dozen out of 3,000 clients served," he says.

Critics, such as ACT UP Golden Gate and the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, charge that clients have been denied services for other reasons, such as blowing the whistle on policies and procedures that may violate funding contracts. The foundation and other non-profits, they say, operate behind closed doors, their board meetings are not open to the public, board members are not democratically elected and no board members represent clients.

"There is a serious issue of accountability," says Jeff Sheehy, president of the Harvey Milk Club. "We're extremely concerned that the foundation can terminate a client's services without due process. An appropriate analogy is when a person is accused of a crime, they have a right to an advocate who can present the

case and an impartial decision made."

Clients have been suspended because of personality conflicts with case workers, according to Sheehy. He reported that he asked Pat Christen, foundation executive director, for a copy of criteria under which a client can be, and the number of people who have been, suspended or terminated, but she was not able to provide the information.

Other agencies, such as Project Open Hand, which provides meals to people with HIV, were able to do so, he says.

Steven LeBlanc of ACT UP Golden Gate says almost none of the dozens of HIV agencies have a due process mechanism for terminating clients and all boards of directors are self-selected.

"There is a growing feeling among activists that these agencies are full of paid bureaucrats who are out of touch with what people with AIDS need today.

"Their critics are not dying as quickly now that our health has stabilized or getting better. We now have the time and energy to look at how dollars raised in our name are being spent and we are fairly horrified by it."

Gordon says the charges are unfounded. "Our board meetings are open to the public," he says. "We just require that people notify us 48 hours in advance so we will have a list of attendees."

He says the policy is necessary because of violent outbursts at past meetings. "We have restraining orders against those people, and bar them from attending board meetings. We have to protect our board members."

The restraining orders are against members of ACT UP San Francisco, a radical splinter group that has demonstrated, sometimes violently, in advocating for people with AIDS.

Gordon contends that foundation critics have another agenda. "They say we are out of touch with gay men, the people who founded the agency. Yet 75 percent of our clients are gay men, people of color predominantly, poor or homeless, struggling with addictions. The people who accuse us of not serving gay men would not recognize these people as being gay because they are not middle class whites.



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We view this as an issue of class." Another issue, Gordon says, is that Christen is a straight woman. "If she were a gay man, her leadership would not be questioned. It makes me sad as an HIV positive gay man to see our brothers behaving in such a sexist way."

Gordon singles out Mike Salinas, news editor of the **Bay Area Reporter**, a community weekly, for particularly sensational negative coverage of the foundation.

"He has very sexist and misogynist attitudes and has never missed an opportunity to attack [Christen] repeatedly with some of the most unprofessional and zero-integrity reporting that I've ever seen."

That criticism is misplaced, according to Salinas. "I'd like to know what personal attacks he's talking about," he says. "In an editorial several months ago in which I suggested she resign, I made no mention of her gender, just that she is a white heterosexual HIV-negative East Bay resident. [Any criticism] is met with a stone wall of denial, counter-charges and de-

## Rev. Mel White, Former Jerry Falwell Speechwriter, Receives ACLU Award White Joins UW-Madison Professor in India

**Atlanta**--On Saturday, December 6, 1997, the Rev. Dr. Mel White, Minister of Justice and Reconciliation for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), was presented the ACLU's National Civil Liberties Award for his efforts to apply the 'soul force' principles of Gandhi and King to the struggle for justice for sexual minorities.

White, an openly Gay clergyperson, is the former ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. Since his coming out, White has renounced his former Religious Right ties and become active in international human rights and Gay rights causes.

At the ACLU presentation, Dr. White handed his award to a very surprised Lynn Cothren, the local Gay activist who founded Atlanta's Queer Nation chapter and headed the successful campaign to reform the Cracker Barrel Restaurant chain. In handing on the award to Cothren, who is also Coretta Scott King's executive assistant, Dr. White asked his friend, Lynn, to keep it temporarily, "At least until I've earned it."

It was Lynn Cothren who encouraged Dr. White to base his UFMCC justice ministry on the Satyagraha or 'soul force' principles of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

During the past five years, White and his partner, Gary Nixon, have traveled across the country, speaking on university

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ception."

All non-profits receiving city funds may be forced to open their books, meetings and decisions to more public scrutiny under a proposal by Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who will conduct hearings early this year on extending the city's sunshine law to such groups. The foundation controversy "certainly was a focus" of the proposal, Ammiano says.

"Such an ordinance would just increase bureaucracy," Gordon contends. "The city contracts with non-profits because they perform services more efficiently."

"That's just a red herring," Ammiano responds. "It appears to me that they are just trying to hide something. The ordinance would increase accountability, not bureaucracy."

Salinas agrees. "[Gordon] works for the biggest, most multi-layered bureaucracy in the history of the epidemic and Christen says [the ordinance] would be 'literally deadly'. Perhaps it will be the death of business-as-usual there, but that's the best thing that could happen."

campuses, teaching principles of militant nonviolence to injustice of any kind, organizing people of faith to do justice locally, and confronting religious leaders whose anti-Gay rhetoric White believes, "leads to the suffering and death of God's Lesbian and Gay children."

On Sunday, December 14, White flew to Delhi, India, to begin study tours with Arun Gandhi, the Mahatma's grandson, and professor Joseph Elder, a PFLAG parent and a leading Gandhi scholar from the University of Wisconsin.

White will be meeting with Gay activists and with leaders of the nonviolent justice movement. He will visit the historic sites of India's struggle for independence, Gandhi ashrams, archives, and study centers.

Dr. White and his partner, Gary Nixon, have just released their new Soulforce video, **How Can I be Sure That God Loves Me, Too?**

Taped live, Mel uses the life and teachings of Jesus "to confront those who misuse the Bible to make God's Lesbian and Gay children feel like outcasts." Videos can be ordered by sending a check made out to Video 2 for \$10 each (to cover the costs of duplicating, packaging, and mailing) to Soulforce Videos, P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652.



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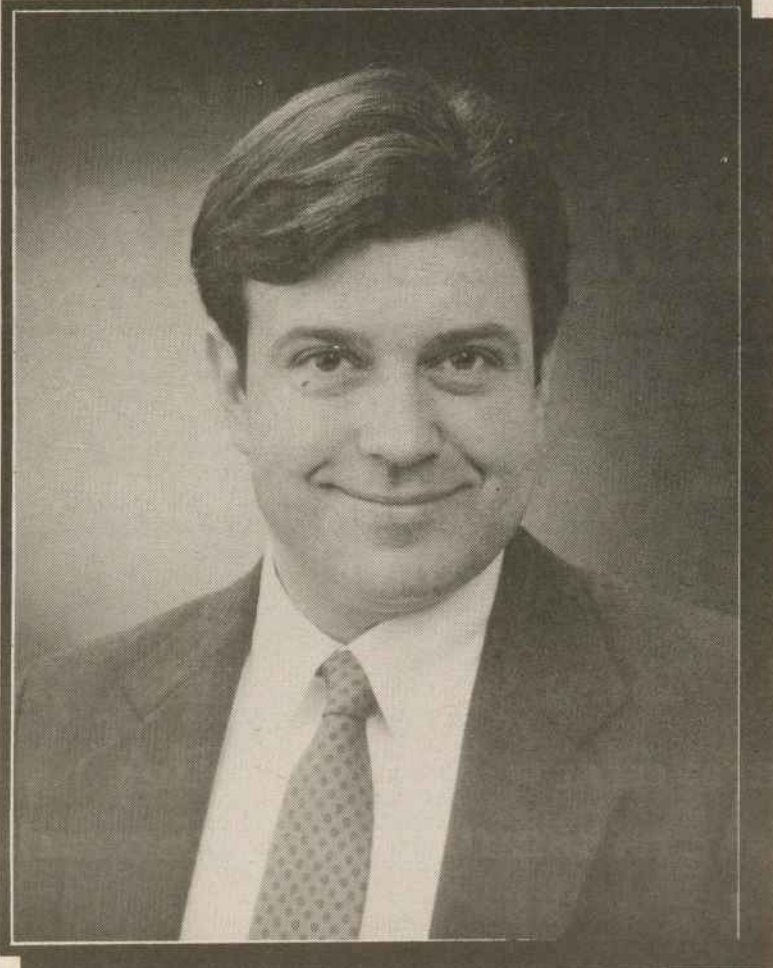
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# 1997 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Over 1997, The Wisconsin Light has published many stories, pictures and reports about Gay and Lesbian life here and around the country. Below is compendium of some of those stories. While not all inclusive, we believe that it will give our readers an understanding of the important events, trends and people of the last year.

## 1997

At this writing, 1997 is complete and it has been a very interesting year. We began 1997 with the news that a tragic fire in Superior took the lives of two Gay men and destroyed one of Northern Wisconsin's finest Gay gathering places, the Main Club.

We saw the bigotry of the Religious right surface in Wisconsin during the debate on the Anti-Same Sex Marriage bill. The bill passed the State Assembly, but the debate convinced many State Representatives that something had to be done to protect the rights of Gay and Lesbian couples.

We also saw the US Supreme Court refuse to even consider overturning the hated "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on Gays and Lesbians in the military.

On the plus side President Bill Clinton made more Gay and Lesbian appointments. Tammy Baldwin began preparations to run for Congress and Milwaukee's new community center is getting off the ground.

Ellen came out of the closet and this past fall there are more Gay and Lesbian characters on TV than ever before.

The AIDS crisis continues. The hope raised by the new protease inhibitors has begun to fade with the news that they will work on only half (or less) of those suffering with HIV. Nevertheless the fight against this killer goes on as it must. The Center Project in Green Bay merged with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, MAP began a new Dental Clinic and AIDS Walk Wisconsin raised over \$800,000.

All that and more happened in 1997.



Going out with Tammy! Some of the people who came to Wausau a day early to get ready for the Anti-Gay marriage bill hearing went out on the town to relax with openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin. Our photographer caught up with them at a local restaurant and got them to pose.

## January

### STATE WIDE NEWS

**Two Die In Superior Bar Fire** - The year began on a sad note as word spread that two Gay men had died in a fire that consumed Superior's landmark Les/Bi/Gay bar, The Main Club. Laird Rengo, 40 of Duluth and Montrie "Troy" Burchard 34 of Superior, were killed in the blaze which broke out in the early morning hours of December 27. A shocked Twin Ports community was left to mourn the loss of two of its members as well as Northern Wisconsin's first Gay bar.

**Evita Screening** - A special advance screening of "Evita" was sponsored by The Wisconsin Light on January 7<sup>th</sup>. A packed house enjoyed the film which was followed by a special Madonna Party at La Cage.

**Wisconsin Light Names Woman, Man of the Year** - The Wisconsin Light named Madison's Greg Scheel as its man of the year and Karen Gotzler of Milwaukee as its woman of the year. Scheel has been working hard to rebuild the Hotel Washington. Furthermore he is instrumental in making sure the MAGIC picnic continues, helped to found the Rodney Scheel House for people with AIDS and has supported a variety of Gay and Lesbian causes. Gotzler is a long time Lesbian activist. Gotzler lost a bid for alderman last year. Both were cited for the strength and courage they have shown in the face of adversity.

**Run Dick Run** - Former Dane County Board Chairman, openly Gay Dick Wagner, is engaged in the political fight of his life. Wagner is in a close race for Dane County Executive. The other major candidates are Attorney Kathleen Falk and current County Board Chairman, Michael Blaska.

### NATIONAL NEWS

**US Gives Asylum to Gays and Lesbians** - In a quiet change in policy the Clinton administration has ordered the Immigration Service to consider granting asylum to Gays and Lesbians who were forced to flee their country due to homophobic persecution. More than 40 Gay men and Lesbians have been granted political asylum because of the persecution in their homelands.

**Talk Show Murder Conviction** - On December 4 Jonathan Schmitz was convicted in the shotgun slaying of Scott Amedure. The March 6, 1995 murder attracted national attention. Schmitz was angry because Amedure identified him as the object of a secret crush on the "Jenny Jones" show. Schmitz was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison. His attorneys say they will appeal.

## February

### STATE WIDE NEWS

**"Wisconsin Light" Web Site Debuts** - The Wisconsin Light has begun traveling on the Information Super Highway with its own Web site at [www.wilght.com](http://www.wilght.com). The site includes a news ticker with the latest information on breaking stories, articles from our current and back issues, letters to the editor and more. There are even web pages that can be used to send The Light letters to the editor and press releases.



1997—A very special night—Milwaukee's first Annual Gay Youth Prom held at the Park East Hotel on Saturday, April 19, was a big success attracting over 100 celebrants. Seen above (l-r back row) are: Kelly Chech, Franklin; Heather Thompson, Chris, Waterford; Chris, Milwaukee; Knutson VerBunker (Prom King); Shalimur Vega, Milwaukee (Prom Queen); Alisha Hunt, Milwaukee; Melanic J. Keller, Kenosha; Amanda Henes, Franklin; seated are: Chryl Angelroth and Nikki Hass, Milwaukee; Best Female Couple.

**MAP Opens Dental Clinic** - The Milwaukee AIDS Project opened the state's first dental clinic intended to provide dental services to those who are living with HIV.

**Same Sex Marriage Debate Expected** - Activists on both sides are gearing up for a battle over State Representative Lorraine Seratti's (R-Spread Eagle) to ban Same Sex marriages.

**Hotel Washington Project Dies** - Just one month after getting the last piece of financing to rebuild the Hotel Washington in place, owner Greg Scheel threw in the towel. Scheel told The Wisconsin Light that unexpected rises in costs plus the emotional toll the project has taken on him and his family were the straws that broke the camel's back.

**Packers Win Super Bowl Gays and Lesbian Celebrate** - Thousands of Gays and Lesbians celebrated the Packer's first Super Bowl win in 28 years with parties at bars, clubs and homes around the state on Sunday January 26.

**Openly Gay Wagner Loses Race** - Openly Gay Former Dane County Board Chairperson lost his bid to become the first openly Gay or Lesbian County Executive in the country. Wagner finished third in the February primary.

### NATIONAL NEWS

**Feds Investigate Atlanta Bombing** - Two nail filled pipe bombs brought terror to the crowd at an Atlanta Lesbian bar on Friday February 21. One of the bombs exploded inside the club, the other was detonated in a street outside of "The Otherside" bar. Federal officials from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, descended on the site to begin an investigation. Two groups "The Army of God" and the Sons of the Confederacy Klu Klux Klan claimed responsibility for the blasts.

## March

### STATE WIDE NEWS

**Gays Outnumber Bigots at Anti-Gay Marriage Hearing Draws Hundreds to Wausau** - Gay civil rights activists were delighted and Gay rights opponents seemed stunned during the hearing on AB-104, State Rep. Lorraine Seratti's (R-Spread Eagle) proposal to ban recognition of Same Sex marriages. Those opposed to the bill clearly outnumbered those in favor. Despite the heated rhetoric of the Christian Right (one man was congratulated for calling for the public execution of Gays and Lesbians) Gays, Lesbians and their supporters kept their cool. A highlight of the hearing was 10 year old Sol Kelly Jones who read a letter to the Family and Children's Services Committee of the State Assembly. In her letter, (which was printed in its entirety by The Light), Jones asked the Legislators to show the same kind of courage that the founding fathers did in granting African Americans the right to marry whoever they chose.

**Center Project, ARCW Merge** - Green Bay's AIDS Service Organization, the Center Project and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin announced that they will become one organization on April 1, 1997. The merger was the result of several months of negotiations between the two groups. It was unanimously approved by the Board's of both groups. With the merger, ARCW will have a budget of \$7.5 million, 130 employees, and over 1,400 volunteers. It is the largest AIDS Service Organization in the Midwest.

**Tammy Baldwin Preparing Congressional Bid** - Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin is preparing a bid for the congressional seat in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District. Baldwin in an exclusive Wisconsin Light interview said that she was considering making the race even before incumbent Republican Scott Klug announced that he would not run for re-election.

**SSBL Turns 20** - Milwaukee's Saturday Soft Ball League will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The SSBL was one of the first LBGT leagues in the country and runs the Milwaukee Classic, America's first and oldest Gay softball tournament.

### NATIONAL NEWS

**Texas Court Says GOP Can Discriminate Against Log Cabin Clubs** - A Texas Judge has ruled that the State Republican Party has the right to deny a GOP Gay and Lesbian group an exhibit booth and space at the party's state convention.

## April

### STATE WIDE NEWS

**Wisconsin Public TV Refuses to Pull Program** - Wisconsin's Public TV network refused the demand of State Senator Scott Fitzgerald, that it pull an episode of the nationally syndicated Gay and Lesbian program, "In the Life" from its line up. Fitzgerald was upset because the episode will contain a segment filmed in Wisconsin. The segment shows rural Gays and Lesbians and talks about their lives.

In an interview with The Wisconsin Light Senator Fitzgerald admitted that he had not seen and would not watch the segment. Fitzgerald said he knew it would be offensive because he said it was based on Will Fellows book "Farm boys: Lives of Gay Men From the Rural Midwest". Fitzgerald also said he hadn't read the book but claimed he didn't have to after reading the jacket cover.

A Spokesperson for Wisconsin Public TV said the network had no plans to pull in the Life and that it was receiving more calls in support of showing it than calls objecting to the airing.

**Over 100 Attend Gay and Lesbian Prom in Milwaukee** - Over 100 Gay and Lesbian Youth attended the first Gay and Lesbian Youth Prom at Milwaukee's Park East Hotel despite Christian right wing protestors who picketed the event. The prom King and Queen were Knutson Ver Bunker and Shalimur Vega.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**British Set to Lift Ban** - According to the London Times the British military is set to lift the bans on Gays and Lesbians. A new code of moral conduct that has been drawn up effectively would remove the ban on military service for the UK's Lesbians and Gays.

**Ellen Comes Out** - Ellen Degeneres became the first TV title character to come out of the closet both on the screen and in real life. Degeneres' "Coming Out" episode won rave reviews. The Wisconsin Light's "Ellen parties" held during its airing attracted large crowds of cheering patrons at Scandals in Madison and La Cage in Milwaukee.

**Hawaii Legislature Agrees to Ban on Same Sex Marriage** - In a last ditch effort to avoid an Hawaiian Supreme Court decision mandating Same Sex marriages, the Hawaiian Legislature has reportedly agreed on a state constitutional amendment to ban them. The compromise includes a promise to grant same sex couples at least some of the benefits enjoyed by married couples.

**May**

**STATE WIDE NEWS**

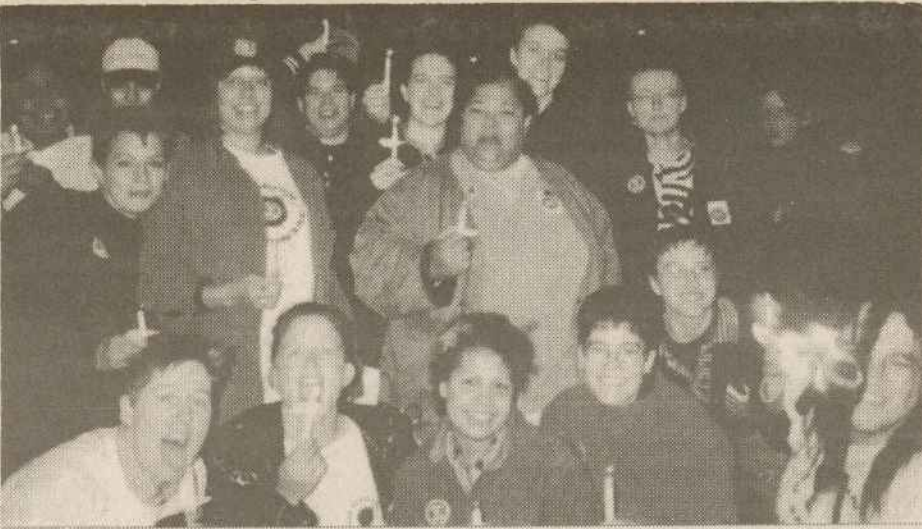
**Anti Gay Bill, AB 104 Passes State Assembly 78 to 20** - Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay marriage bill, AB 104 passed the State Assembly by a wide margin after a day long debate, during which the bill's proponents spoke in favor it only once. Throughout the day opponents of the bill railed at the legislation and the "hateful" comments made in support of it at the March hearing on the bill which was held in Wausau. A particularly bitter pill for activists to swallow was the fact the a majority of Democrats voted for the bill. Voting against were 19 Democrats and 1 Republican. The Assembly vote was preceded by rallies in Milwaukee and Madison denouncing what many felt was a thinly veiled attempt to Gay bash. Wisconsin already has laws prohibiting Same Sex marriage.

**Milwaukee Center Picks Name** - The new Milwaukee Community Center will be known as the LGBT Community Center. Plans are well underway for the selection of a site for the center. It is hoped that it will become a focal point of Gay and Lesbian life in Milwaukee.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Clinton, New HRC Poll Boost ENDA** - President Clinton issued a ringing endorsement of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and a new HRC polls shows that a growing number of Americans believe the bill should be passed. The President said that ENDA, "is about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance in our country and in our hearts." The HRC poll shows that 80% of Americans believe it's wrong to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians and that 68% support passage of ENDA.

**President Clinton Calls For AIDS Vaccine Program** - President Clinton evoking the memory of John F. Kennedy's challenge to America to put a man on the moons in the 1960's promised that the United States would find an AIDS vaccine within a decade. Clinton said that a special research center would be established at the National Institutes of Health to spur the effort.



**Out In Force** The Lesbian Avengers were out in force at the No on AB 104 rally held in Madison on Monday May 12. After delighting the crowd of over 500 people by literally eating fire the Avengers joined others in lighting candles.

**June**

**STATE WIDE NEWS**

**Congressman Mark Neuman Blasted for Homophobic Remarks** - US Senate candidate, Congressman Mark Neuman (R-WI) was criticized from all sides after he told a Christian Coalition that he wouldn't hire anyone who was openly Gay or Lesbian. Conservatives are angry because Neumann signed a pledge not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring his office staff. Progressives are angry because Neumann apparently will break his word. Neumann's remarks brought to light a little known article run in the New York Times Magazine last November. In the article, Neumann was quoted as saying "If I were elected God for a day, homosexuality wouldn't be permitted."

**PrideFest Celebration** - The annual PrideFest celebration had great weather and had an attendance of 12,600. The attendance figure was 33% above last year's attendance when it rained heavily all three days.

**Milwaukee Classic A Success** - Twenty teams from Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati competed in the annual Milwaukee Classic. The National Division Crown was won by the Side Track Rage, with Milwaukee's Club 219 finishing second and the Cincinnati Comets coming in third. In the American Division, Milwaukee's Ball Game team finished on top. The Saint Louis Buzzards finished second and the M & M Mustangs from Milwaukee earned third.

**Superior's Main Club Rises From the Ashes At New Location** - The Main Club, a landmark Superior Wisconsin, Gay and Lesbian bar is open once again. The club which burned to the ground in a late December fire that took the lives of two Gay men is now located at 1217 Tower Ave.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Maine Becomes a Gay Rights State** - Governor Angus King signed a statewide Les/Bi/Gay civil rights bill into law on May 16. The Governor said he would work to keep the law from going before the voters in a referendum. Maine had a referendum on Gay rights last year. The ballot measure would have prohibited Les/Bi/Gay civil rights protection. Maine voted it down by a 52% to 48% margin.

**ENDA Reintroduced With Wide Support** - The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that would prohibit job discrimination against Gays and Lesbians was reintroduced with 150 House and 35 Senate Sponsors. The bill lost by just one vote in the US Senate last year.



1997—Ribbon Cutting opening the New Main Club in the summer of 1997 by the Superior, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.

**July**

**STATE WIDE NEWS**

**AIDS Activist Found Dead in Green Bay Hotel Room** - Jeff Whalen, 45, an AIDS activist was found dead in his Green Bay hotel room on Tuesday June, 24. He was found laying next to his bed by the staff of the Motel 6. Whalen had checked into the hotel the previous day.

**Thousands At Madison's Pride Weekend** - For the first time organizers of the MAGIC Picnic, Pride Parade and festival and other events held around them have gotten together to present a united celebration. The result was highly successful as large crowds attended a variety of events throughout the weekend of July 17 to July 20. The Wisconsin Light joined in with a float in the Pride March and by sponsoring a bachelor auction to benefit The United.

**Tom Martin Dead in Suicide** - Tom Martin, a brilliant Gay lawyer killed himself by jumping off of the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee. Martin was a former Deputy US Attorney who helped in a major prosecution that broke up a Mafia family in Milwaukee. He left the Justice Department following charges that he had sex with a minor he had picked up hitch hiking from Illinois. Then he began a new career of helping serve his community. Friends say that Martin was very distressed over the recent death of his father. A memorial service from Martin attracted a capacity crowd to an East Side Milwaukee church. Among those in attendance were local judges and politicians.

**Two Men Attacked in Green Bay Hate Crime** - Two Gay men were maced in the face by two Green Bay men who said it was "to teach you faggots a lesson," early Monday morning July 14. The attackers reportedly saw the men holding each other in a parking lot used by patrons of Za's, a Green Bay Gay club and other bars. Following the attack the brother of one of the victims, who had witnessed the encounter, tracked the attackers down to an apartment house. He shouted out of his car for someone to call 911. After the Police arrived, he identified the attackers and the Police arrested them.

**Madison Homophobic Firefighter Suspended Plans Suit** - An African American clergyman plans to sue over his suspension from his job as a Madison fireman for handing out homophobic literature while at work. Ron Greer contends the City's action was censorship and his attorney, Michael Dean of Waukesha plans to file suit over the disciplinary action taken against Greer by the Madison Fire Department. Greer's pamphlets called homosexuality "a filthy scourge" and recommended discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

**Milwaukee's New Center Has Site** - Milwaukee's proposed LGBT center has selected a site at 1801 N. Martin Luther King Drive ( the corner of Martin Luther King Drive and Vine) as its new home. It is hoped that renovations to the building can be completed by January.

**Domestic Partnership Benefits Proposed For City of Milwaukee Workers** - Milwaukee Alderman Paul Henningsen has submitted a proposal calling for the City of Milwaukee to provide Domestic partnership benefits for it's employees.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Hawaii Partnership Benefits Not Enough Say Activists** - Recently enacted legislation allowing unmarried couples to obtain some of the rights afforded to married couples does not go far enough say activists involved with the issue. The Hawaiian Legislature approved 60 "marriage like" benefits to domestic partners out of the hundreds of such benefits that exist under Hawaiian law. The measure passed as compromise to get the votes need for approval of a constitutional amendment banning Same Sex marriages.

**Dade County Says No Again** - The Dade County Board of Commissioners killed a proposal Gay rights law without even debating it. The action reminded many of Antia Bryant's successful effort 20 years ago to overturn a Dade County Gay rights ordinance.

**August**

**STATE WIDE NEWS**

**Popular Bartender Drowns** - Club 219's Kevin Rotar, one of Milwaukee's most popular Gay bartenders drowned in a boating accident on August 9. Rotar who was with a group of friends on a boat owned by Club 219 owner, Chuck Cicerello, had jumped into Lake Michigan to retrieve a hat that had blown into the lake. After getting the hat, Rotar had trouble swimming back to the boat and disappeared under the water.

**Victory Fund Backs Tammy** - The Victory Fund, America's largest supporter of openly Gay and Lesbian candidates for elected office has announced that it will support openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin's (D-Madison) bid for the US Congress. If elected Baldwin would be the first open Lesbian elected to Congress and the first female Congressional Representative from Wisconsin.

**Breastfest A Success** - Breastfest, a fund raiser to raise money to fight against Breast Cancer was a huge success. The street party held outside of and sponsored by Fannies on Sunday, August, 31 raised over \$6,000 for a Breast Cancer foundation.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Pro-Gay Initiative On the Ballot in Washington State** - For the first time voters will vote on Pro-Gay civil rights referendum. The measure proposed in Washington State would allow people who believed they were discriminated against based on sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation to sue for damages. It would exempt work places with less than 9 employees.

**Psychologists Denounce So Called Reparative Therapy** - The American Psychological Association passed a resolution that attacked "conversion" therapy which some say can "convert Gays into straights." The resolution came about as a result of requests from "reparative therapists" that their theories be validated by the group. It passed overwhelmingly.

**New AIDS Drugs Not a Cure** - The new protease inhibitor drugs used in "cocktail" combinations to fight against AIDS are not a cure for AIDS. Furthermore the effects of the drugs which seem to slow down HIV may not be permanent say researchers.

# September

## STATE WIDE NEWS

**AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raises \$800,000** - The 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raised over \$800,000 as 10,000 marchers joined Honorary Co-Chair Greg Louganis and Badger Basketball Coach, Dick Bennett in fighting against AIDS in Wisconsin.

**Assembly Adopts Visitation Rights Bill** - The State Assembly adopted a bill to allow hospital patients to name those who are allowed access to them and their medical records. The bill if enacted into law would ensure that Gays and Lesbians as well as anyone else wishing the companionship of loved ones who are not blood related can get it. Critics say that the bill doesn't go far enough and only codifies what already exists.

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Disney Gives Them Cookies** - Disneyland employees served lemonade and cookies to Right wing Christian protestors who were picketing the theme park to protest its pro-Gay policies.

**Another Fight Looms In Maine** - Maine's new Gay rights law was put on hold after its opponents gathered enough signatures for a possible referendum. The opponents turned in their signatures the day before the new law would have taken effect. In 1995, Maine voters narrowly defeated an attempt to outlaw Gay civil rights.

# October

## STATE WIDE NEWS

**Madison Mayor Declares "Wisconsin Light Day"** - Madison Mayor Susan Bauman declared Wednesday November 5 as **Wisconsin Light Day** in the City of Madison to commemorate the publishing of the Decade of Light Anniversary Issue of **The Wisconsin Light**.

**Milwaukee Domestic Partnership Proposal Falls Short** - A Milwaukee Common Council Committee voted against recommending approval of Ald. Paul Henningsen's Domestic Partnership proposal. The Finance and Personnel Committee said that the cost of the proposal was too high. The committee heard evidence that the cost of the proposal could be as high as \$900,000 and would be at least \$300,000. Proponents of the proposal disputed the numbers.

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Supreme Court Refuses Don't Ask, Don't Tell Appeals** - For the third time in the last year, the US Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal on the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of ousting Gays and Lesbians from the military. Air Force Captain Richard Richeberg, a decorated veteran of the Gulf War had appealed a decision against his reinstatement in the military. Richeberg was thought to have a chance for hearing based on his superiors testifying on his behalf during his discharge hearing.

**Clinton Makes Another Lesbian Appointment** - Virginia Apuzzo, the former Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was named as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration. Apuzzo who headed NGLTF from 1983 to 1985 has been serving as the Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor at the US Department of Labor. Her new post is highly visible and includes responsibility for White House administration. She began her new job on October 2.

**Catholic Bishops Speak Out For Gay Civil Rights** - A statement from the US Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops calls on the parents of Gay and Lesbian children to love their children regardless of church doctrine. It also calls for the end of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

# November

## STATE WIDE NEWS

**The Decade of Light** - Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin celebrated the first ten years of **The Wisconsin Light**. Several hundred people attended a gala party at Milwaukee's Hilton on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Hotel They ate a fabulous dinner, and were entertained by national stars, Joi Caldwell, Men Out Loud, Billy Carroll and Chase Hunter. In a big surprise, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist sang "Out Love Is Here to Stay" prior to the dinner. The gala was a benefit for The Cream City Foundation.

**Black White Tonight A Hit** - Over 300 people turned out for the first ever Gay event at Madison's new Convention and Community Center, Manona Terrace. The annual party is a thank you to supporters of Madison's New Harvest Foundation. The dinner dance raised several thousand dollars for New Harvest.

**Community Center Site Burns** - The proposed site of Milwaukee's new Community Center suffered serious damage in an afternoon fire on November 13. The fire was stated by a renovation worker's torch.

**Fannie's Burns** - Milwaukee's landmark Lesbian bar, Fannie's, suffered heavy damage in a fire started by an arsonist. The bar is closed pending repairs and remodeling.

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Election News Mixed** - While many Gay and Lesbian candidates did well enough to win their races or at least to force run offs, Washington State voters soundly rejected a referendum that would have allowed those who are discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation to sue for damages.

**Clinton Speaks to HRC Dinner** - President Bill Clinton became the first sitting President to ever address a Gay and Lesbian gathering when he gave a speech to the Human Rights Campaign Dinner on Saturday, November 8.

# December

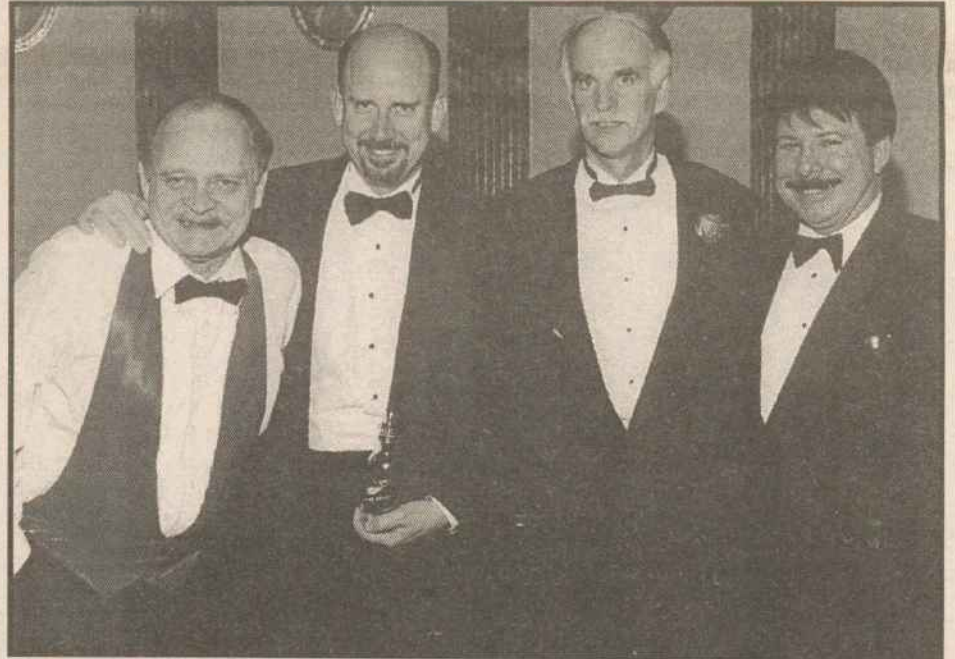
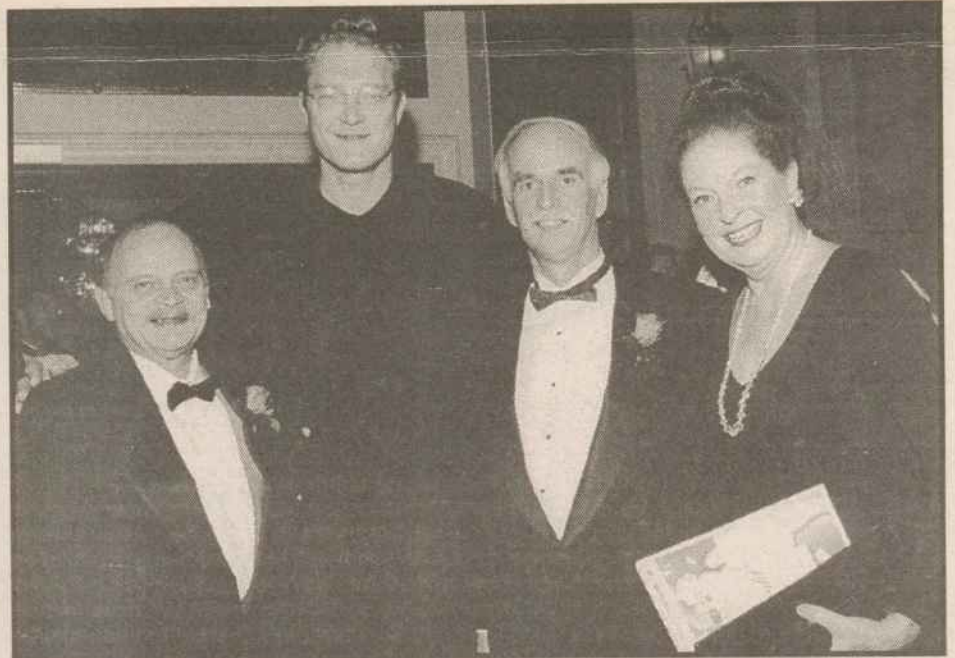
## STATE WIDE NEWS

**Holly Jolly Fund Raiser** - ACRW's annual holiday fundraiser was a smashing success. Over 500 people enjoyed delectable food prepared by over 25 of Milwaukee's finest restaurants and were then treated to an outstanding evening of theater, the Milwaukee Repertory's production of "Having Our Say."

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Calls for Bud Boycott** - Supporters of a fired Anheuser-Busch employee, have called for a boycott of the brewer's products including Budweiser beer. Tom Martin has sued the company alleging that was fired for telling employees that he is Gay. An exclusive **Wisconsin Light** investigation showed that depositions from Busch's own LA Plant supervisors confirmed at least some of Martin's allegations. The company responded to Martin's suit with a brief asking that it be dismissed because it said that being Gay was not a permanent or immutable characteristic. The suit was settled out of court, but many Wisconsin bars said they would continue to boycott Bud products.

**Gay Rights Bills Surveyed** - A survey conducted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force showed that 128 pro-Gay Civil rights bills were introduced in 1997 versus 120 anti-Gay civil rights bills. When anti-same sex marriage bills are removed from the total, only 74 anti-Gay bills were introduced. NGLTF Executive Director, Kerry Lobel called the year "an unequivocal step forward in the march for justice."



A 1997 Highlight - These pictures taken at the "Decade of Light" party celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **The Wisconsin Light**. The gala which was a benefit for the Cream City Foundation was attended by several hundred people. Four national acts, Joi Caldwell, Men Out Loud, Falcon Video star Chase Hunter and DJ Billy Carroll performed. At the top (l-r) are Editor Terry Boughner, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist, Publisher Jerry Johnson and Dr. Karen Lamb, next is Milwaukee County Exec, Tom Ament presenting Johnson and Boughner with a proclamation declaring Sunday, November 9, as Wisconsin Light day in Milwaukee county. Second from the bottom are (l-r) Boughner, Miller's Tom Reed, Johnson and Jon Martin of Landmark Enterprises which produced the event and at the bottom (l-r) are Madison Alderman Mike Verveer, Johnson, In Step founder, Ron Geiman, Video star, Chase Hunter, Boughner, State Representative Tammy Baldwin and nationally known political activist and Clinton confidante, David Mixer.

## The Answer to Sex Panic is Not Celibacy or Monogamy, But Condoms

Commentary by  
Joseph Sonnabend, MD  
and Richard Berkowitz

Although it is uncertain whether a second wave of AIDS is occurring now, it is clear that the possibility of such an event must concern all of us. There has been a substantial reduction in HIV seroconversion rates since the early days of the epidemic.

Even those who advocate an end to sexual promiscuity as a response to a second wave acknowledge this decline; after all, a second wave implies that the first wave has subsided. However, they attribute the fall in seroconversion rates to a saturation of the AIDS-susceptible population and the second wave to a presumably delayed influx of new susceptible individuals.

They appear to believe that the introduction and practice of safer sex has played no significant role in curbing the epidemic. However, the striking reduction of all sexually transmitted diseases among

Gay men and the correlation of reduced HIV transmission with the adoption of safer-sex practices found in many studies attest to the success of safer sex.

For example, in Washington State, 658 cases of rectal gonorrhea were reported in 1982, while there were 49 cases in 1996. In San Francisco, over 4,000 cases of rectal gonorrhea were reported each year between 1976 and 1982; the numbers in 1993 and 1994 were 66 and 57.

In New York City, there were only about 30 cases reported for both 1995 and 1996, a remarkable drop from approximately 2,000 cases reported in 1982.

However, in some cities these encouraging trends are no longer being sustained. Increases in the incidence of gonorrhea among Gay men were reported in several large cities in 1995 and 1996. Interestingly these increases were not reported for New York City, but sadly, we must admit that such increases may well be occurring here now.

This is a tragic turn of events.

Anecdotal accounts suggest that Gay men are now relaxing their safer sex practices, and this is the worst time to be inundated with messages that safer sex cannot work.

Further evidence that safer sex can work is provided by the Multi-center AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) which followed 3,262 initially seronegative Gay men; by the end of five years about eleven percent had become HIV seropositive. Black, Latino and young Gay men were at higher risk than older white men. Such differences are that it is also morally wrong.

Attacks on sexual promiscuity may therefore not only endanger the health of Gay men but also engender a sense of shame and loss of self-esteem. We had come a long way to accepting that sex is one of life's great joys, but the current attacks on sexual promiscuity - even by those who claim to be concerned only with AIDS prevention - may in today's conservative climate undermine this acceptance.

Support of promiscuity must be coupled with demands for greater and sustained targeted safer-sex educational campaigns. This is even more urgent in light of the recent reports of rising rates of gonorrhea among Gay men. Sadly, current educa-

tional efforts fall far short of what is needed. The most important challenge facing the Gay community is the creation of a coordinated effort to produce and disseminate targeted safer-sex educational material to encourage and support Gay men in maintaining the practice of safer sex.

An indication of just how urgently these efforts are needed is the recent decision by the federal government to give \$250 million to states that implement celibacy campaigns as the means to prevent AIDS among young people. Alarming, safer-sex education would be prohibited in programs receiving these funds.

Attempts to control how people choose to express themselves sexually are not new and have always resulted in misery - and now may also promote the spread of AIDS.

The most effective way to combat AIDS and prevent a second wave is intensive and well-crafted targeted safer-sex education, not telling people with whom they should or should not have sex.

Highly suggestive that safer-sex education can work, as those showing the greatest risk are the ones least likely to have been reached by it.

The efficacy of consistent condom use in reducing HIV transmission has been shown in numerous studies of Gay men, female sex workers and HIV-negative partners in serodiscordant couples, both Gay and straight.

The contention that safer sex cannot work is not only wrong, it is dangerous. The condemnation of promiscuity and the promotion of monogamy as the only way to save the lives of future generations of Gay men could in fact be the greatest threat to their health. This advice rests on a belief that safer sex does not work, and consequently, efforts at intensive targeted safer-sex education could be undermined and even discouraged, as they will be seen as a license to promiscuity.

Monogamy is not a workable option for some nor is it the choice for many others. If the opponents of sexual promiscuity have their way, those who cannot or choose not to heed their message will be deprived of safer-sex education so essential to keeping them alive.

Ironically, in 1983, before the introduction of safer sex, we, along with the late Michael Callen, pointed out the dangers of a way of life that promoted the spread of STDs. We went to great lengths to point out that our attack on promiscuity

was not judgmental but based solely on health concerns.

Safer sex changed everything - it has enabled promiscuity - while it is the call for sexual restraint and monogamy with its inherent de-emphasis of safer sex that now constitutes the greater hazard to the health of Gay men.

Unfortunately, in the prevailing conservative climate, messages condemning promiscuity will have no difficulty being disseminated. Such messages fall neatly into a conservative agenda that places a moral value on sexual restraint.

There is a danger that added to the notion that sexual promiscuity is physically unhealthy will be the dreadful implication

## BestD Clinic Offers "Out Extra: A Consumer's Guide to HIV Care"

**Milwaukee**—In confronting HIV/AIDS either in ourselves or a loved one, many of us have come face to face with technical jargon that is difficult at best, to understand. Now there is help.

**Out Extra: A Consumer's Guide to HIV Care** has been compiled by the editors of **Out Magazine**. Done in a glossy, full-color, magazine size format, the attractive contains articles on HIV, what it is and why it is so difficult to kill and information on the newest drug therapies as well as the latest news on what is going on in the area of a vaccine.

**Out Extra** is geared for all people, young and old, women and men, all ethnic backgrounds. The terminology used to discuss the disease is made easy, while the every article is readable and easy to understand.

If you or someone you know is HIV+ or has AIDS, this little magazine will tell you most of what you need to know. It should be read and belongs on your coffee table for easy reference.

**Out Extra** is available free at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street on Milwaukee's East Side. Either visit or call (414) 272-2144.

## MG/LRC Looking for Volunteer to Help Put Out "The Directory"

**Madison**—The Madison Gay Lesbian Resource Center (MG/LRC) is pleased to announce that the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of "The Directory: A Guide to the Organizations Serving Madison's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Communities" will be published. "The Directory" contains information (including history, purpose, size, address, contact person, phone number) on nearly 100 community organizations which serve or support Gays, Lesbians and/or Bisexuals.

Publication costs of "The Directory" are underwritten by advertisements placed by businesses and professionals in Madison and the surrounding area. Thus, "The Directory" also functions as a guide to businesses which have demonstrated their support for the GLB community.

At this time, "The Directory" committee is looking for volunteers to help out. No experience is necessary. Anyone interested, please call the MG/LRC volunteer hotline at (608) 256-4204, ext. 2.



We're looking for HIV-positive individuals willing to participate in a 15-minute by mail survey on attitudes toward new HIV/AIDS treatment regimens such as protease inhibitors. YOU'LL EARN \$15 FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

**For more information call 414-456-7746**



A research project of the

**CENTER FOR AIDS INTERVENTION RESEARCH (CAIR)**

Medical College of Wisconsin • 1201 North Prospect Avenue • Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-456-7700 • 1-800-644-1615



Part of the crowd at the memorial service for Nelvin Johnson is shown above. Nelvin who was a hard working volunteer for the Cream City Foundation and other groups died shortly before Christmas. The service was held upstairs at the M & M Club and included humorous and serious remembrances of his rich and fruitful life.

## Supreme Court Won't Hear Case of Woman Refused Job Because She is a Lesbian

Washington, DC—The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) expressed disappointment today that the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to hear the case of a Lesbian attorney who was denied a job with the Georgia attorney general's office because

**Tammy Baldwin**  
Continued From Page 1

gushed herself there serving on a variety of committees including the Children Youth and Families Committee and the Finance Committee.

In all of these positions, Baldwin worked hard to familiarize herself with issues of the day.

Then in 1992 Tammy Baldwin tried to do something no one else had ever done, run for and win a seat in the State Assembly as an open Lesbian.

Conventional wisdom said she couldn't win, even in Madison's 78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, considered to be the most liberal in the state. Conventional wisdom was wrong.

Her aggressive but friendly campaign style carried the day. She easily won the Democratic nod and cruised to victory over her Republican opponent in the general election.

Suddenly Baldwin was thrust into a state wide spotlight. But if the glare of that light bothered her she never has never let on. From her first days in the Assembly to the present she has made it clear that there is more to Tammy Baldwin than being a Lesbian. She has worked not only on issues of fairness to Lesbians and Gays but also on behalf of Day care, children issues, the working poor, the elderly, farmers and others who needed her voice and her help.

Her dogged determination to stick to her principles has earned her respect even if she didn't always win on every issue.

One of her colleagues, Scott Walker, himself a moderate conservative Republican when asked about Baldwin had this to say "I have found that she's willing to listen, where some of our colleagues automatically assume there's no working with those on the other side of the spectrum. I think she is by far one of the brightest minds in the state legislature."

Walker went on to say that he enjoys working with Baldwin even if he doesn't always agree with her.

That is remarkable praise coming from a member of the opposite party. But Republicans aren't alone in singing Baldwin's praises.

Rebecca Young, who like Tammy Baldwin, is a Democrat representing a Madison district said "Tammy Baldwin is a person who can steer way through the shark infested waters in our current legislative arena. She can work successfully with some of those sharks to promote some positive legislation."

Young adds "She absolutely has the respect of her colleagues."

It is that intelligence, that willingness to listen and her ability to find common ground that has endeared Tammy Baldwin to friend and foe alike.

In the coming months she will need all of that ability as she makes a bid for Congress. No open Lesbian has ever been elected to the US House of Representatives. No woman has ever been elected to Congress from Wisconsin.

Just as when she ran for the Assembly in 1992, Baldwin is not intimidated by those political facts. Unlike that race, however, there is no one who is not taking her candidacy seriously.

Whether that will be enough remains to be seen. But one thing is certain, no matter what 1998 holds for her, Tammy Baldwin has earned the respect, the trust and the admiration of Gays, Lesbians and straights alike.

We are proud to name her our Woman of the Year.

of her sexual orientation.

"Robin Shahar's job offer evaporated solely because she is a Lesbian— exactly the kind of situation the majority of Americans believe is unfair," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of HRC, the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization. "Shahar was offered job because she was qualified, and she should have been judged solely on that basis. This case points up the clear need for a federal law to protect Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation."

HRC renewed its call to Congress to pass in 1998 the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that would protect Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Supreme Court said on January 12, it would not hear the case of Shahar, who had been offered a job in 1990 in the office of then-Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers. Shahar had worked as a clerk in the Georgia Department of Law that summer and was offered a job as a staff attorney when she graduated from law school. She accepted, and was to begin work in September 1991.

In July of that year, Shahar and her partner participated in a religious commitment ceremony to celebrate their union. A few weeks before the ceremony, Shahar received a letter from Bowers rescinding the job offer.

"As chief legal officer of this state, inaction on my part would constitute tacit approval of this purported marriage and jeopardize the proper functioning of this office," Bowers wrote.

Shahar sued. Last May, the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Bowers, leading Shahar to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We are disappointed that the justices declined to hear this case," Stachelberg said. "However, we know that most Americans believe that job discrimination based on sexual orientation is wrong."

Last year, HRC commissioned a bipartisan poll that found 68 percent of Americans support passage of ENDA, and that 80 percent of the public believes Gay people should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities.

**Tom Reed**  
Continued From Page 1

ing to put it on the line and take the opportunity to help educate and foster support that support would be far less.

### ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
6-8:30 pm

### BESTD MEN'S CLINIC

STD Diagnosis & Treatment  
Tuesdays 6-8:30 pm • Walk-In

### BESTD WOMEN'S CLINIC

1st and 3rd Thursday (Monthly)  
6-8:30 pm • Walk-In

### SUPPORT GROUPS

For Gay HIV+ Men and Their Partners

### HIV EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Call for information

**BESTD**  
C·L·I·N·I·C

1240 East Brady Street  
414-272-2144

Call for information and appointments

volunteers serving the community since 1974

We wish we could tell you our readers about some of the things we have heard Tom Reed doing. But in the world of corporate board rooms, private meetings and privileged conversations not much if anything ever leaks out.

What we can tell you is that everyone we talked to, from local groups like the Cream City Foundation to national organizations like the Victory fund, sing Tom Reed's praises and credit his work with Miller for much of their development.

His admirers include his co-workers one of whom is Patti McKeithan Vice President Corporate Affairs at Miller Brewing. "Tom does what's right for the community, he's a good family member, he's an all around good person. Because of our commitment to the community, Tom walks through many different doors, and he does it appropriately. Tom has a wonderful way of balancing things out. In his position he has many constituencies to deal with. And he handles them very appropriately. He is well respected in the various communities he deals with. People like him."

Due a reorganization, Reed is on the payroll of Phillip Morris, Miller's parent company. For a while there was talk that he would have to move and work out of Washington DC. Reed worked hard to stay in Milwaukee. In the end he got his wish and was able to continue working out of the Miller Corporate headquarters.

McKeithan says, "I feel very fortunate that even with this change we still get to work with each other every day."

Another Tom Reed admirer is Brian Bond the Executive Director of Victory Fund "Tom is really good about understanding the need to strategically help organizations carry out their missions like the Victory Fund." Bond also said that Reed has "been instrumental in the Victory Fund since day one. He has helped open doors for us around the country."

One example of Reed's work cited by Bond was a fund raiser held during the Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1996. "Tom worked very hard to make sure that all of the diverse elements of the Chicago community came together for the various events. Somehow he managed to get everyone from a very diverse community together. He worked with me to educate me on the intricacies of Chicago's Gay and Lesbian community."

Bond adds that when he is having prob-

lems reaching out to people in other cities, Tom Reed is the one he calls upon for help. "He has an incredible network of contacts and he is willing to use them to help," he says.

"He has a very good national business sense. He's been very successful at helping the business community and the Gay community understand one another and in our society."

But Miller, like any company, is directed by a group of key people who help steer it in the right direction, and take advantage of the opportunities it offers. Tom Reed is one of those people.

Had Tom Reed just worked to help increase Miller's realization of the advantages of supporting the struggle for equality on the part of America's Gays and Lesbians that would have been enough reason to recognize him for what he has done. But Tom Reed has done more, much more.

Reed's strengths are many. He is called a "class act," "a brilliant mind," and "an outstanding leader." His greatest strength though is his willingness to give.

We have seen many highly placed corporate executives hiding in their closets, afraid to be out. People who think "I've got mine you get yours."

Tom Reed has never felt that way. He has taken full advantage of the friendly corporate environment offered by Miller Brewing. In his fifteen years at Miller, he has worked to make sure that our community was one of the diverse set of communities helped by his employer.

Literally hundreds of Gay and Gay related events, fund raisers, causes and organizations are helped by Miller Brewing every year. The company's AIDS contributions alone dwarf what is given by every other brewer combined.

Reed himself says that the credit for all of this goes to Miller and Miller alone. Clearly Miller is an enlightened company that deserves much credit but according to the people we talked to, so too does Tom Reed.

He is what you would call "a go to guy," "the person you call on when you need Miller's help." For all the credit that any company deserves for being supportive the fact is that without good people will work together for the benefit of everyone. He is bigger than life. Like the Packers, Tom Reed is a real winner."

We agree and that is why we are proud to name Tom Reed as our Man of the Year.

## Great Business Opportunity



With over 1300 square feet of space, Milwaukee's popular Walker's Point Cafe, sandwich shop holds a world of opportunity for the enterprising investor. Facilities include central air, dining area, back game room, full basement, all furniture and fixtures.

**At just \$79,900 this is a great buy.**  
**A land contract is available.**

For more information contact  
**Jack Smith of Shorewest Realty**

Office (414) 962-4413  
Home (414) 224-1452



## If You're Looking for a Gay Friendly Trip, Here's How to Find it

By Tom Roth

Okay, so what does "Gay friendly" really mean when we are looking for a vacation destination? Well, bottom line, we want to travel to places where the natives are at least not hostile to Gay and Lesbian travelers, like some "couples only" Caribbean islands (Cayman Islands; heterosexual couples only, please) or a few Fundamentalist Islamic countries are known to be. Ruling these out, we are still left with quite a few options. How do we get beyond just "not hostile" and get ourselves to a truly enjoyable Queer-welcoming place?

First, you have to ask yourself what you are looking for in a "Gay friendly" destination. Unlike even a few years ago, there are many options out there now, we really do have a choice in the matter! Tours and trips are available ranging from a full-on Gay experience to a solo trip to a Gay friendly destination.

Are you looking for a social scene? Arts and culture? Active adventure? Busy trips that visit several countries, or a relaxing stay-put resort? Answer these questions first (along with how long do you want to travel and how much do you want to spend), well before you even call your travel agent or decide where to invest your hard earned vacation dollars.

### The Big Gay Experience

Are you looking for an exclusively Gay or Lesbian experience? If so, that's cool. There are opportunities available for you. Try a Club Atlantis vacation in Puerto Vallarta, or an Atlantis Caribbean cruise. The women's counterpart is Olivia Cruises, well known among the Lesbian community with cruise vacations in Mexico, Hawaii and Costa Rica.

Destination events also include ski weeks (Aspen, Whistler, Tahoe, Innsbruck) and rafting parties where crowds gather each year not only to party, but also for some good clean fun.

"Women's Fest" in Key West is a continuum of Lesbian parties.

However, the "monarch" of all destination events is the upcoming Gay Games in Amsterdam this coming August.

### Small Group

If a big crowd is not your style, you can select from a myriad of tours, adventures and destinations that feature Gay and Lesbian groups. Like a Thailand adventure with Progressive Travels in November. Sailing the Caribbean in an historic schooner with Tall Ship Adventures this April. St. Petersburg and Moscow with Departures International in May.

Why not try Gay friendly Iceland with I.Arc en Ciel? Yes, Iceland. Why not?

### Solo or With Your Lover

For me, a destination starts to be Gay friendly when there is a Gay infrastructure. That means Gay and Lesbian newspapers, bars, clubs etc. In the United States and Canada, we are at the point where every large city and most smaller ones has a Gay community and social life.

For the quintessential Gay experience, however, try Key West, Provincetown and Palm Springs or see what "Visit Gay-Friendly Quebec '98" is all about.

Outside North America most major capital cities have at least the beginnings of a Gay social life—and some, such as those in Europe, dwarf even our best.

London offers the greatest variety of Gay bars, pubs and clubs that I have ever seen. Page after page of options are listed in the weekly "Pink Pages," Amsterdam, Paris, Barcelona, Mykonos, Berlin and Cologne.

Somewhat off the beaten track, but well worth considering is St. Petersburg, Russia, Cape Town, South Africa (Gay rights were written into the new constitution), Prague, Bratislava (Bel Ami territory), Bali and Australia and New Zealand.

### Guides

There is no scarcity of guides. Check out your local Gay bookstore. Or use the best guide on the net, "Over The Rainbow" on the Planet Out web page.

### Getting There

Sure an airplane seat is an airplane seat—but try Gay friendly American Airlines which has genuinely supported our community for years. Or British Airways, Lufthansa, Air France or others who donate tickets and support our non-profits.

For cruises try Carnival, Celebrity or Windjammer. Rent a car from National with this code: 5435776. You'll get a nice discount and 1% of your rental fee will be donated to the AIDS/HIV Nightline. And National waives the "extra driver fee" for same-gender couples.

To locate a Gay friendly (and Gay travel savvy) travel agent, call 1-888-TAG-0411 from any phone in the country. TAG is a consortium of travel professionals serving the Gay community, which educates agents and offers the familiarization trips to popular Gay destinations.

If you can't find a TAG agent in your area, look for an IGLTA Certified Travel

Professional. These are agents who have completed an educational course of instruction about Gay travel and popular destinations. For a referral, call IGLTA at 1-800-448-8550.

Editor's Note: Tom Roth volunteers as

a Board Member of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association and is President of Community Marketing, Inc., which produces the International Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo.



**THIS IS IT!**

**TO ALL OUR FRIENDS:  
THANKS FOR MAKING 1997 A GREAT YEAR.  
A BETTER ONE YET TO EVERYONE IN 1998  
JOE, JUNE AND STAFF**

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

## Full Moon Productions presents

A Womyn Only Event



**First Annual  
Valentine's Day  
Dance**

Join us for a romantic evening at Milwaukee's Lakefront.

Our professional DJ will play your favorite music.

Beer, wine, mixed drinks, and non-alcoholic drinks available.

**Saturday, February 14, 1998, 8:00 pm  
O'Donnell Park - Harbor Lights Ballroom  
900 E. Michigan Ave.**

Corner of Lake Drive and Michigan Ave. in the O'Donnell Park complex. Look for the red and pink balloons.

Tickets available at the door \$8.00

The Harbor Lights room is a VERY private and elegant space.

## 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>



### Gay Erotic Video Awards Ceremony Brings Out Stars

On December 8, the annual GV Guide Gay Erotic Video Awards ceremony was held in Hollywood's Palace Theater. According to published reports, anyone who is anyone in the Gay adult film industry was there; models, producers, directors, the stars of the industry. The following received awards for being the best in their field.

- BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**  
Vidkid Timo in "Mardi Gras Cowboy" - All Worlds Video
- BEST PACKAGING**  
Titan Media
- BEST NON-SEXUAL ROLE**  
Jack Francis in "Hard Core" - All Worlds Video
- BEST NEWCOMER**  
Jim Buck
- BEST CUM SHOT**  
Paul Morgan in "Hawaiian Illustrated" - All Worlds Video
- BEST BOTTOM**  
Derek Cameron
- BEST TOP**  
Tom Chase
- BEST MUSIC**  
Dance with "Fallen Angel" - Titan Media
- BEST DEPICTION OF SAFER SEX**  
"Positively Yours" - All Worlds Video
- BEST EROTIC SCENE**  
Jeff Palmer and Jeremy Penn in "The Freshmen" - Falcon Studios
- BEST ORAL SCENE**  
Mike Branson and Derek Cameron in "The Chosen" - Falcon Studios
- BEST GROUP SCENE**  
Tyler Grey, Rafael Perez, Steve Sax in "Gangsters at Large" - Kristen Bjorn Productions
- BEST BISEXUAL VIDEO**  
"Night of the Living Bi Dolls" - Catalina Video
- BEST INTERNATIONAL VIDEO**  
"Gangsters at Large" - Kristen Bjorn Productions
- BEST ACTOR**  
Jim Buck in "Dr. Jerkoff & Mr. Hand" - B.I.G. Video
- BEST VIDEO OF THE YEAR**  
"Naked Highway" - B.I.G. Video

### Second Annual Leather Swap Meet to Be Held

Milwaukee—Woody's (2<sup>nd</sup> and Lampham in Milwaukee) will be the site of the second annual leather swap meet on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The event, a social gathering of the local Great Lakes Harley Riders and the Wisconsin Boot Men, offers all leatherfolk an opportunity to sell or trade or buy new and used leather garments and gear at reduced prices.

Walk-in vendors are welcome on a first come, first served basis. Those wishing to reserve a table may obtain an application at Woody's.

The regional representative of West Coast Boot Company will again be available to answer your boot questions and needs.

The Argonauts of Wisconsin and the Castaways M.C. will host an 8:00 p.m. beer bust. Door prize gear will include a custom-made upper body harness.

**BESTD Outreach HIV Testing Clinics**

**Friday, January 16**  
Ballgame—7:00-10:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 23**  
Woodies—8:00-11:00 p.m.

**Saturday, January 31**  
Galano Club—6:00-8:00 p.m.

1506 North 3rd Street • Superior, WI



(715) 394-2580

Thursday • Karaoke - 8<sup>pm</sup>  
Friday & Saturday • DJ - 9:30<sup>pm</sup>  
• NIGHTLY SPECIALS •

# SUPERBOWL PARTY

**GREEN BAY PACKERS vs. DENVER BRONCOS**  
**SUNDAY, JAN. 25 • STARTING 3PM**  
**WIN A \$500 SWEEPSTAKES GIVE-A-WAY!**

*Stop in and register for the Sweepstakes with a bartender before January 25.*



**MILWAUKEE'S LEATHER/LEVI BAR**  
209 East National Avenue • Milwaukee • 414/643-6900

## My Thanks to:

*Douglas, my staff, Tom, Pat, Ray, James, Harvey, George & Corey, Bill, Jerry & Terry, The Quigley Family, Rob, Craig M. Noel & Mike, LT and Jeff, Jim Hagen, Beth and everyone else - who with their friendship and condolences, helped me through the loss of my father.*

*- Love, Curtis*

Proud to be Milwaukee's Ultimate

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**IN BETWEEN IN**

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**SUPERBOWL HEADQUARTERS**

**THE PACK - Back-to-Back!**

**IN BETWEEN IS YOUR PLACE FOR THE ULTIMATE SUPERBOWL PARTY**



**Packers vs. Broncos**

**SUNDAY, JAN 25**

# You're Invited

**SATURDAY JANUARY 17**

**STARR E. NIGHT BENEFIT AT JUST US**

Starr E. Night wants to go the pageant and she needs your help. Okay so the pageant is in Milwaukee, and Starr E. Night lives there but the poor girl thinks she doesn't have a thing to wear and wanting to look her best and everything her friends and Starr E. are putting on a great show. The show is free but bring lots of money for tips.  
Just Us is located at 807 S. Fifth Street in Milwaukee.

**STRIPTease OF THE SOUL**

Sterling Jones, Lesbian singer and songwriter who has given several

passionate performances in Madison" Lesbian Variety Shows, accompanies Jinx Davis at The Mode Theater, 121 S. Monroe St., Waterloo, WI. Show starts at 8:00. More info? 1-800-280-9632.

**MISS GREEN BAY WISCONSIN AMERICA PAGEANT AT ZA'S**

There will be a hot time at Za's as the Miss Green Bay Wisconsin America pageant is held at Title town's most popular bar. Special performances by Susie Saran Wrap the reigning Miss Wisconsin America and Duwanna Moore are on tap.

Admission is just \$3.00 and well worth it. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 18**

**JERRY GRILLO AT THIS IS IT**

Gay Milwaukee Jazz vocalist, Jerry Grillo will be This Is It for a special performance of music from his three CD's including his latest, "Goody For You." Grillo will be accompanied by Milwaukee Jazz Guitarist Jack Grassel. The performance will begin at 7:00 PM and run until 9 PM. Be there early for a good seat.  
This is It is located at 418 E. Wells St, Milwaukee.

**TUESDAY JANUARY 20TH**

**PRIZE NIGHT DRAWING FOR TRIP AT LA CAGE**

One of the weekly Tuesday night winners from the past few weeks will be going home with a fabulous vacation in South Beach in his/her pocket.

There will be other winners too. Every Tuesday La Cage's Prize night offers cash and stuff to eight lucky winners. Every three months one of those weekly winners gets a big trip to a great Gay destination.

Be there for all the excitement. La Cage is located at 801 S. Second Street,

Milwaukee.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 24**

**PROFITS FOR PETS AT KIRBY'S KLUB**

There will be a great show at Kirby's Klub in Madison as Cass Marie Domino and her friends get together to help out the Madison Humane Society. No Cass is not getting neutered, neither is Kirby (ouch that would hurt) But the Humane Society needs some cash anyway so it can continue to do the wonderful work it does.

Admission is just \$3.00 or bring a can or bag of pet food for a buck off. Showtime is at 10:30. Kirby's Klub is located at 121 Main Street, Madison.

**WALKER'S POINT GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**

Yes, we know Walker's Point is already open, but this is a special celebration of its new menu, new look and new majority owner. There will be great food special surprises, a chance to look at the Internet on the new cyberteria computers and more.

Stop in and say hi. Walker's Point is located at 1106 S. First Street, Milwaukee

**SATURDAY, JAN 24**

## PROFITS FOR PETS

*A Special Benefit for the Madison Humane Society*



presented by  
**Miss Cass Marie Domino**  
Entertainer of the Year

**\$3 Cover**  
(bring pet food for reduced admission)

121 West Main Place • Madison, WI 53703

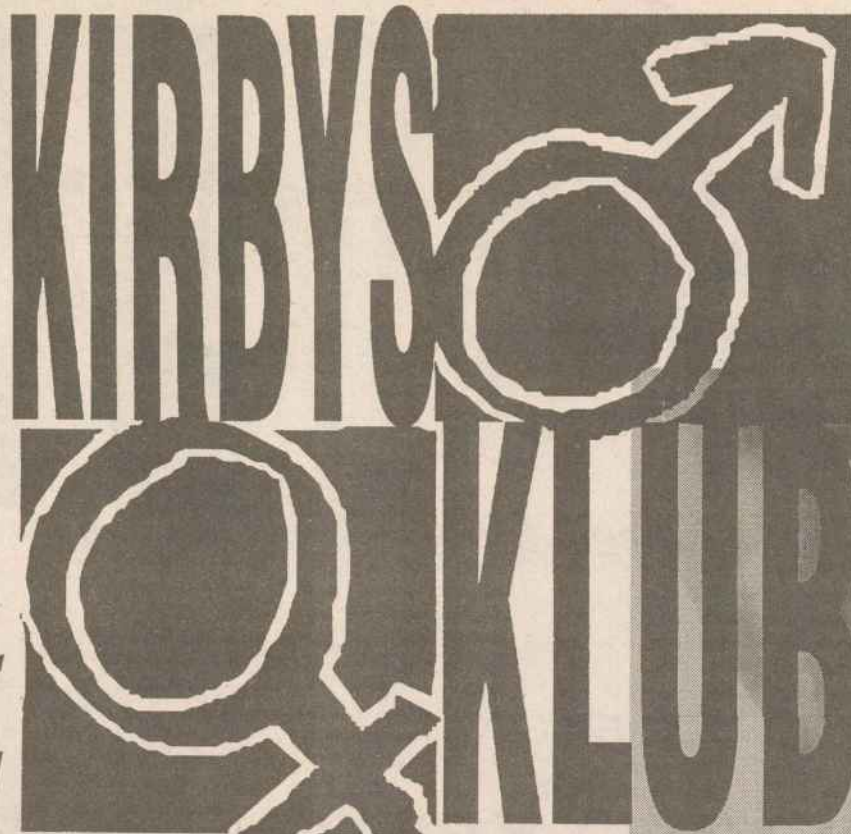
## EVERY TUESDAY is Fetish Night

**\$50 Bar Tab for Best Fetish Costume**

**\$2 Rails • \$1.50 Taps**

(if you wear a Fetish outfit)

ALWAYS THE HOTTEST MUSIC THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY



(608) 251-1030

DON'T FORGET OUR NEW DJ'S: TODD & SHAWN

**SUN, JAN 25**

Watch the Pack on our **BIG SCREEN**

**TV**

## SUPERBOWL PARTY

**\$5 5-Hour Beer Bash** starting at kick-off

**\$1 Shots of Doctors**  
**Food, Fun & More!!!**

EVERY THURSDAY is

## 20'S NIGHT

Drink Specials - 21 to 29 years old, 9pm-Close

**50¢ Taps**

**\$1 Rail • \$1 Shots**



## THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

**News...** I was really saddened to learn of the death of Nelvin Johnson. I agree with Ronnie Geiman, Nel was a heck of a class act, he was always there for the community whenever he was asked. In fact I think the word "No" wasn't even in his vocabulary.

The tributes paid to Nel at the Memorial Service at the M&M Club on Saturday, January 10, were especially moving. They ranged from the serious to the humorous, fond memories all. Nel would have loved it, especially the fact that smoking was allowed.



At the Memorial donations were accepted for the Nelvin Johnson Fund for Youth. The fund will be administered by the Cream City Foundation.

We hear that George Prentice of La Cage won't be racing in Florida this February after all. George said he has decided to stay in Wisconsin the entire winter so he can continue to work on the remodeling of his bar. Phase 2 is going to be really exciting.

We also hear that Ed from Manoeuvres was taken ill, now before you rumor mongers start (and you know who you are) it's nothing serious.

And Julia from Dish has to say good bye to her girl friend Peggy for a little while. Seems Peggy was transferred out to Boston for a six month stint. What a bummer that has to be for the both of them.

**Recaps...** New Year's Eve was a blast. My annual "freeze my butt off bar crawl" was a huge success. Many thanks to the folks at Mama Roux, the Ball Game, This Is It, In Between, La Cage, the Boot Camp, Dish, South Water Street Docks, Just Us and the Triangle for showing me such a good time.

My first stop after New Year's was at This Is It where I love the juke box and the men who play it. As usual the place was packed. Joe had hats, noisemakers and all that stuff to hand out—plus glasses that when you looked through them at the Christmas lights, formed snowflakes around each one.

I had a wonderful conversation with Cliff (I wish I could remember what it was all about). Anyway, it was a good time.

I went down to Chitown with the La Cage crew on its annual Holiday bar crawl the Monday after New Year's. It was wonderful.

The evening started with a great dinner at that trendy new Gay hot spot to eat, The Milwaukee Room. The food was great and owners Mark and Steve were just the perfect hosts. There are other fine Gay eating establishments in Milwaukee but it's nice to know that we are developing a variety of choices. If you haven't been to the Milwaukee Room yet, I must ask why not? Are you ANYBODY????

Had a great time at the Lucky Horse shoe and Little Jim's. Of course being with the cast of characters from La Cage is always fun. This is one of those bar staffs that's really together. They take pride in their work and it shows. In fact they have

more long term employees (many of them have been there for more than five years and a few for more than ten years) than any other bar I know of.

That's a credit to George and Corey because good staffs start with the people who hire and manage them.

The Packer's playoff games were a blast too. The crowd at the Ball Game was its usual festive self. For most of the game I was at In Between where absolute pandemonium reigned as the Pack stuff the 49ers. At games end, Curt broke out the champagne and more than a few of us polkaed our way around the bar (well part of the bar it was way too crowded to dance through the whole thing).

Last but not least, I was unable to the nasty weather to accompany the La Cage showcase up to Diversions, but I heard two things about their trip. One they were fabulous (natch) and Two they had a great time.

**Coming up...** Well its January so there aren't many special events coming up. But that's okay after the holidays we need somewhat of a rest.

**Friday January 16<sup>th</sup>**, I'll be at the M & M Club for a sizable helping of Milwaukee's longest running Gay fish fry. I love those waffle fries they serve with it.

Then it will be leather night. First Dr. Shovelit and I will stop at The Eagle. She'll be the one in the harness and the leather panties. After that we are heading

to The Boot Camp. Too cold for the patio but who cares, there's plenty on the inside to keep you warm.

**Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>** we'll trip the light fantastic with some discoing at Dish and La Cage. My "big city" friends say both of these places can stand up to anything they have been to in Chicago, New York, or San Fran. And I agree.

I don't want to miss Jerry Grillo singing at This Is It on Sunday, January 18. If you're wise, you won't miss him either.

If I was in Green Bay I'd be at the Napalese for their big beach party. What a great idea! Sort of the reverse of a Christmas in July party. Then I would head over to Za's for the Miss Green Bay Wisconsin America pageant.

But I am not in Green Bay so I will go to Just Us for the Starr E. Night Benefit show. The girl needs help getting to the Pageant. The show is cheap (so is Starr E.) it's free.

**Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** is the big prize night drawing at La Cage Someone is going to win a fabulous trip. They give away a dream vacation every 90 days. Toc bad they don't give away a dream man to take with you, but I hear they are working on that. On the other Tuesdays you can win up to \$50.00 plus other prizes at Milwaukee's hottest men's dance bar.

**Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>** there are too many things going on. I will be in Madison for Kirby's Klub big "Profits For Pets" show. NO it's not about petting (the heavy or the light variety) it's about the four legged kind of pets. They are going to have a fabulous show put on the ever fabulous Cass Marie Domino (one of my all time favorite entertainers, she's such a lady). Admission is just \$3.00 and everything goes to help the Madison

Humane Society, where a few of Dr. Shovelit's dates now reside. Bring a can or bag of pet food for a buck off on admission.

That means of course that I will miss the big celebration at Walker's Point Café. They have a private party planned for 6:00 PM and a public bash on tap starting at 8:00. Stop in and peruse the new menu and decore. Keep in mind that this is a work in progress. When it's all done it's going to be fabulous.

**Sunday, January 25** is SUPER BOWL Sunday and for the second year in a row we get to watch the PACK in the big game. I know there are many fabulous bar parties planned to celebrate the occasion. I will be making the rounds camera I hand to record all the action. Among my stops will be South Water Street Docks, This Is It, Dish, the Ball Game, La Cage, (yes even La Cage is having a party complete with a half time show) Station 2, Mama Roux, and of course In Between. Joe, at This Is It says he'll have TV sets set about as last year and lots of snacks.

Other folks from The Wisconsin Light will be making other stops so wear your best Green and Gold attire and smile for the camera. YOU could be in our next issue.

Course we know that they will have some fabulous parties in other parts of the state too, but we can't be everywhere at once. If I was in Mad Town, I'd be heading over to Manoeuvres or Kiby's Klub Remember watching the big game is much more fun with a crowd.

Well that's it for now. Hope you are staying warm and I hope to see YOU out and about soon. Meantime stay safe and be proud.

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# LaCage

## SUNDAY, JAN 25

# SUPER BOWL PARTY

Watch the Pack **REPEAT**  
on our 26 Screens

• Snacks •

• Half Time Buffet •

• Pitcher Specials •

• Shot Specials •

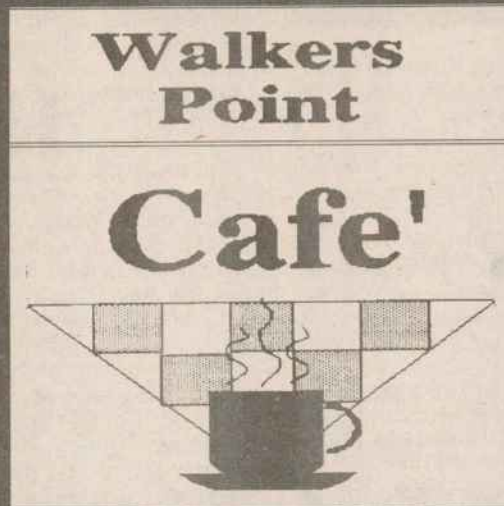
• Raffle for Packer Gear •

• Open at 4pm •

• Half Time Show •

presented by the La Cage Showcase

★ Coffee,  
Community  
★ and  
Cyberteria



Open ★  
Daily  
10am  
to  
4am ★

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*Many Old Friends: Brittany, George, Tabby  
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Direct Connect Internet Access*

*Our Community's Only After-Bar & Non-Alcoholic Hot Spot*

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*including Pasta, Cheesecake and  
Gourmet Coffee*

**MONDAY & TUESDAY**

*Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Dinner Special*

**WEDNESDAY**

*Mozzarella Logs Night*

**THURSDAY**

*Coffe Special  
\$4 Pots All Night Long*

**FRIDAY**

*Family Dinner Night - A New  
Specialty Each Week, served  
Family Style for Friends and*

**CALENDAR**

**GRAND REOPENING  
PARTY**

*January 24 from 6pm  
(Invitation only)*

**WISCONSIN LIGHT  
SPOTLIGHT PARTY**

Open to the Public from 8 PM

**PACKER SUPERBOWL**

*January 25 • 5pm  
Party with  
All-U-Can-Eat Pasta & Projection TV  
\$10 & reservations required*



# Tune Reviews

By Jeffery L. Newman

## Paul Simon's Capeman Is Controversial, Great

Paul Simon  
Songs From The Capeman  
Warner

Paul Simon has come along way since his singing days with Art Garfunkel. In recent years, the rocker has drifted through a myriad of musical styles from introspective rock to Latin-infused pop to his stellar Grammy award winning turn with the world beat-infused "Graceland."

While he has remained somewhat low-key during the last few years, releasing one unmemorable recording, "Rhythm of the Saints," Simon's newest release is thrusting him full-force into the spotlight.

"Songs From The Capeman" is Simon's own interpretation of the music from his upcoming, extremely controversial Broadway musical, "The Capeman," which is slated to open at the end of January. It is based on the true story of Salvador Agron, a sixteen-year-old Puerto Rican gang member who killed two teenage boys in New York in 1959 and was sentenced to death. The musical pays homage to Agron's life, by examining how he tries to come to terms with his crime and educates himself in prison.

The musical has raised the ire of many who remember the horrid event and claim Simon has glorified Agron and taken a liberal view of the tale.

Musically, however, this soulful recording is one of Simon's finest works. Aided by several of the members of the Broadway cast, Simon, ignites an honest, moving fire into the music and weaves a tale of passion, destruction and emotion. "Can I Forgive Him," a dialogue between Agron's mother and the mother of one of the victims, tugs at every emotional chord and is both musically satisfying, as well as intellectually invigorating.

The Latin-esque, "Time Is an Ocean," a duet between Marc Anthony (as a young prisoner) and Ruben Blades (as the older, wiser Agron), is riveting. And the salsa-like

"Vampires" is glorious. The album could have done, however, without the doo-wopness of "Quality." Poetic and introspective, "Capeman" is a magnificent piece of work.

## Everybody Dance Now!

Various  
Twist This Pussy  
Twisted America

Everybody dance now! When the folks at Twisted Records decided it's time to bring in the new year, they don't hold back, as proven by their first release of 1998, the almighty real and pumping, "Twist This Pussy." This 14-track collection of Twisted's top dance acts is a non-stop party that gets the blood rushing and the feet stomping on high-speed mode.

Celebrating the year of the dance, when the label's leading artists Danny Teaglia became the king of underground dance music and Club 69's front man Peter Rouhofer became house's leading man, Twisted showcases the diverse range of dance music in 1997 on this fierce collection.

Mixed by Rouhofer, who's credits include Club 69, House Heroes and the circuit-boy, club bunny hit Size Queen, this compilation reaches new heights, as far as dance collections go, by really maintaining the focus of what's important: the beat, the rhythm and the ecstasy rush of the groove.

Leading off with Club 69's brilliant "Drama," featuring the spoken vocal power of Kim Cooper, the set follow up with Twisted's talented artists, including Johnny Dangerous, "Dear Father in Heaven," House Heroes' "Magic Orgasm," Moo-groove's "Bambo," Dirty White Boy's "Triple XXX Porn" and The Water Chamber's "Get Funky," among others.

Two standouts that really showcases Rouhofer's mixing talent are Superchumbo's "Get This!" and Size Queen's "K-Hole." This is proof that dance music has returned to the mainstream and isn't going any where soon. If this doesn't get the go-go boy and girl in you up and pumping, nothing else will.

# THE GREATEST COCKTAIL HOUR *EVER*

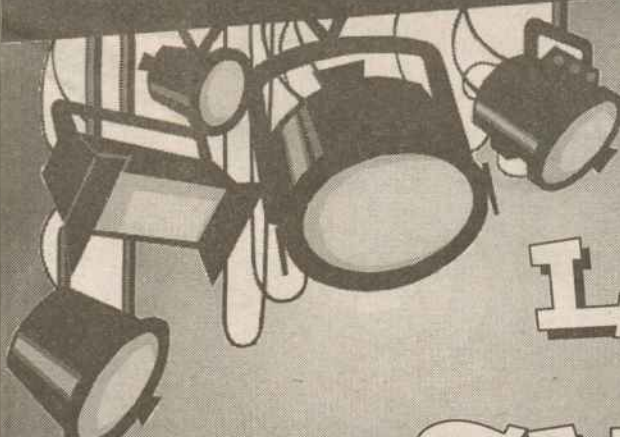
2-9pm Monday - Friday

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

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# WELCOMING 1998 NEW YEARS EVE IN MILWAUKEE



This Is It - 418 E. Wells Street



The M & M Club - 124 N. Water Street



The Milwaukee Eagle - 300 W. Juneau Street



Station 2 - 1534 W. Grant Street



The 1100 Club - 1100 S. First Street



Kathy's Nut Hut - 1500 W. Scott Street



South Water Street Docks - 354 E. National Ave.



La Cage - 801 S. Second Street

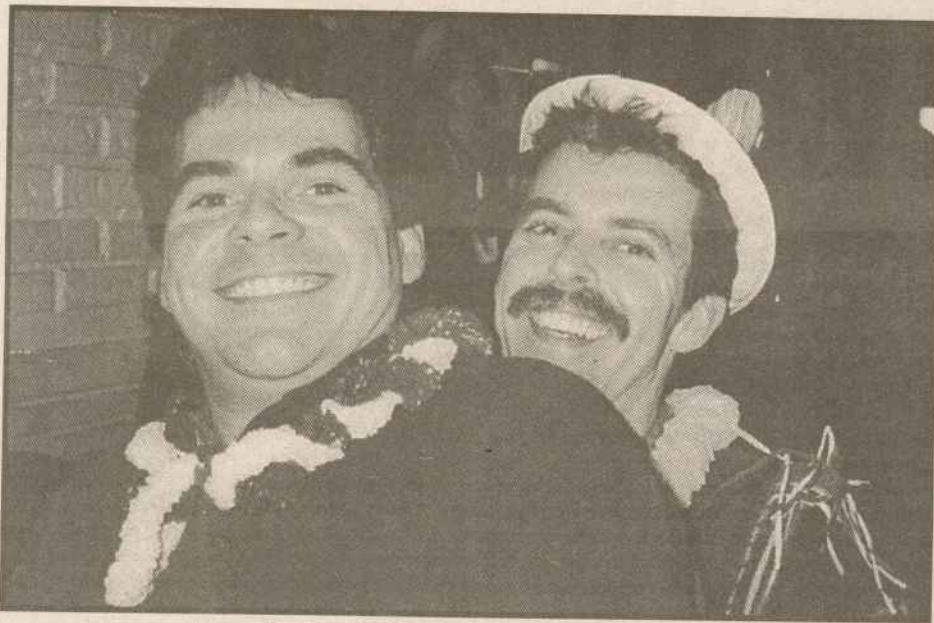


Dish - 236 S. Second Street



The Boot Camp - 209 E. National Ave.

# WELCOMING 1998 NEW YEARS EVE IN MILWAUKEE



Mama Roux - 1875 N. Humboldt Street



Woody's 1579 S. Second Street



In Between - 625 S. Second Street



Cest Le Vie - 231 S. Second Street



Just Us - 807 S. Fifth Street



The Ball Game - 196 S. Second Street



The Triangle - 134 E. National Ave.

# SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

**Sun, Jan 25**  
**Half Time Buffet**  
**Featuring 2-4-1**  
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# Dear Ruthie

Hello dear friends!!! Well, I hope you all had a great New Year! Time to get cracking on all those resolutions I made. Let's see, I promised myself I would cut back to 3 packs a day, fumigate the cat, get married, peel the grout off my shower wall, and finish that damn 3,000 piece Fabio puzzle. Oh well, screw it. I've got over 350 days to get that crap done! Let's read a letter.

Dear Ruthie,

Here are three questions. It is now going to be a full year that I know I have been having feelings of wanting sex with men. I am not sure if it is because I want to have anal sex or do it to another guy. I am not sure if it is just a turn on for me at the age of 48. I am married for twenty years with children. I had met with another man twice last year who was also married and we only worked each other's [privates]. The second time I [ejaculated]. He never did. I feel I am interested in finding someone for pleasure because I am willing to do sex during my lunch hour if it was possible.

I have been in several Gay bars to feel what it is like and there are thoughts to do it again. That too felt like a turn on. I am going on some Gay sites for chat or pictures then question myself on it because it seems to be only a waste of internet time. Can't do anything through a computer. I still have sex with my wife. We don't do it very often. She never seems to start that action. I also feel I would have anal sex with a girl if that chance came to me. I know the word "CAUTION" for HIV. I better end so I can mail this off.

Question 1) Do you think that I am a Bisexual?

Question 2) Do you think it is a mid-life crisis?

Question 3) Am I just a sex starved person?

(signed)

A Person Feeling Lost Somewhere!!!!  
Dear Somewhere,

My-oh-my-oh-my! What a predicament we have here. Geez! So ya got a yen for some male lovin', huh? Well, there's nothing wrong with two roosters going at it until the sun rises, unless one of them already has a hen in the coop.

This whole letter reminded me of my sixth husband. I can't help but think of the time I caught him getting it on with the male blow-up doll I got at my bachelorette party (yes, we had bachelorette nights back then too - only we called them "Tupperware Parties"). I was so upset. I caught Hank in bed, naked - all wet and smelly - his head tossed back in ecstasy - his skin red with the burning tension of man-to-man sex ... and my husband seemed to be having a damn good time too!

The S.O.B. wound up poking a hole in Hank sending the doll up in the air, bouncing off the walls like Anna Nicole Smith on a trampoline. There's nothing more unappealing than having to mummified your favorite sex toy in duck tape.

Shortly after this, my husband left me for a flotation device. Sorry. Let's get on to your questions.

Do I think you're bisexual? Honey, it took me four years to figure out what the hell sex my cat was! I couldn't decide what shoes to wear this morning, and I can't identify half of the items in my freezer. There's no way I can play "Name Your Favorite Sex Partner" from a letter. You're going to need to look at yourself. No - don't squat over a mirror or anything. I mean look at what you're feeling on the inside.

Do YOU think you're bisexual? Do YOU think you're Gay? I've noticed that the "G" word was missing in your letter. Think about this a little. Come to terms with the possibility that you might be Gay or Bisexual and then come to terms with the fact that you are a Gay or Bisexual man married to a straight woman (if indeed, that does become fact).

No one can tell you what your sexual orientation is - although my high school softball coach often tried. That's for you to work through. The fact that you are going to Gay web sites and Gay chat rooms as opposed to Bisexual chat rooms, tells me something however.

The idea that you "would have anal sex with a girl if that chance came," really means nothing. If this is the case, then why haven't you investigated this option with your wife?

As for your second question: A man having a mid-life crisis does not get a new sexual orientation. He may get a new



Ruthie

Camera, but not a new orientation. For some reason, you are just more able to come to terms with your sexual feelings now than you were 20 years ago.

If you really, really, look at yourself, I'll bet you'll find unresolved sexual feelings

from years past. Not necessarily homosexual or Bisexual feelings, just unresolved or confused feelings where sex is concerned.

Are you just a sex nut who can't get enough? That could be - but that really has nothing to do with you thinking about other men. Gays and Bisexuals lead just as varied sex lives as heterosexual folks. Some can't get enough, some don't want a lot, and like my sixth husband, some just can't get any. That really has nothing to do with your sexual orientation. It has to do with your sex drive, but not your sexual orientation. These are two different things.

So what's my advice? First of all - Stop cheating on your wife. I don't care who you're fooling around with. Don't hurt her because you've discovered some new feelings.

Please don't use the "I need to experiment" excuse. You've experimented. You must have liked it as you are still thinking about sex with men and that's the only sign you need to know that it's time to investigate these feelings from within.

Don't rehash the fact that "she never seems to start that action" in the bedroom. There are obviously problems with the sex life between you and your wife so don't use this as an excuse to cheat either. If you like having sex with your wife, then this becomes a separate issue that you two need to work out (in addition to the Bisexual confusion thing).

If you need a sexual outlet, continue using the internet. You're right - you can't do anything too sexual through a computer and the only virus you'll have to worry about catching is a computer virus.

If anything, use the internet to help yourself. See if you can't find some research on Bisexuality. I'm sure there's a lot of

information out there about men in your situation. Learning about what you're facing may help you work things out with your own feelings. You may even find some sort of support group for men who are, or were, in your exact situation! That's a chat group that could really help you and answer some questions.

Last of all - you really should seek the guidance of a therapist. You're in pretty deep here with your own confused feelings, not to mention a wife, kids, and family responsibilities and expectations. Don't be too stubborn in getting some professional help. Find a therapist who can help you sort through things. I'm sure this paper alone has listings of professionals who can help you get to the heart of your feelings.

You will make your own choices, but I think at this time, you need a little guidance to clear-up some issues. Tell your wife? I can't say from this letter alone, but I would at least tell her you're in therapy and that you have a few issues with yourself to work-out. Even though it would hurt her at first, telling her the absolute truth would benefit her the most (remember she's fifty percent of this relationship). You, however, might be the better judge of that right now. Perhaps this could be the topic of your first therapy session.

Let me know how things work out. This is serious - too serious for me. I've got to go to the store now and buy another rubber patch kit for Hank.

Hey-hey-hey - send Ruthie your questions today. I take all my mail Care of: Dear Ruthie - The Wisconsin Light - 1843 N Palmer St - Milwaukee, WI 53212. You can also send me e-mail via our internet site at [www.wilght.com](http://www.wilght.com) - Or at [whovo@mixcom.com](mailto:whovo@mixcom.com)

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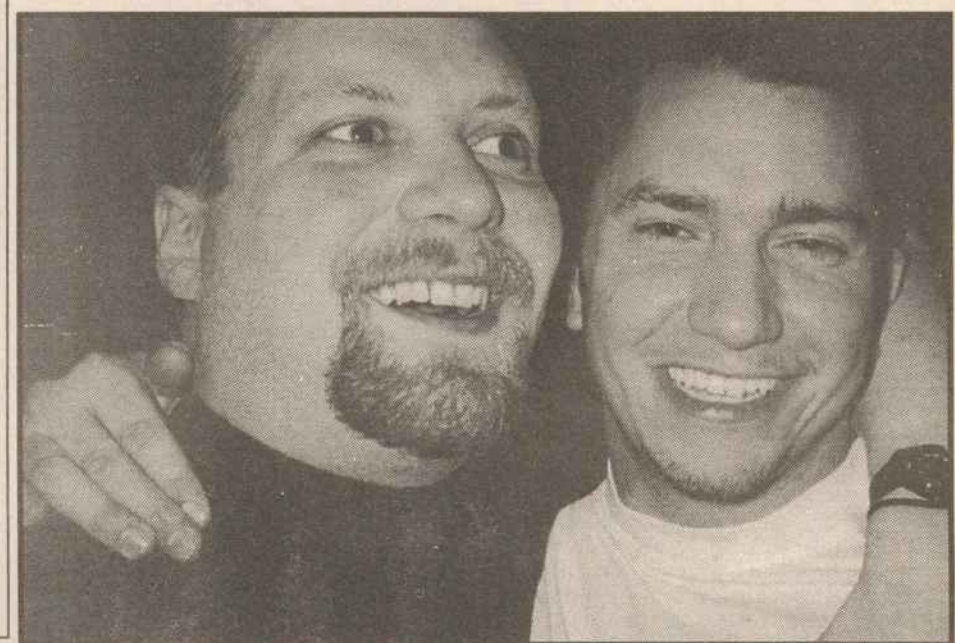
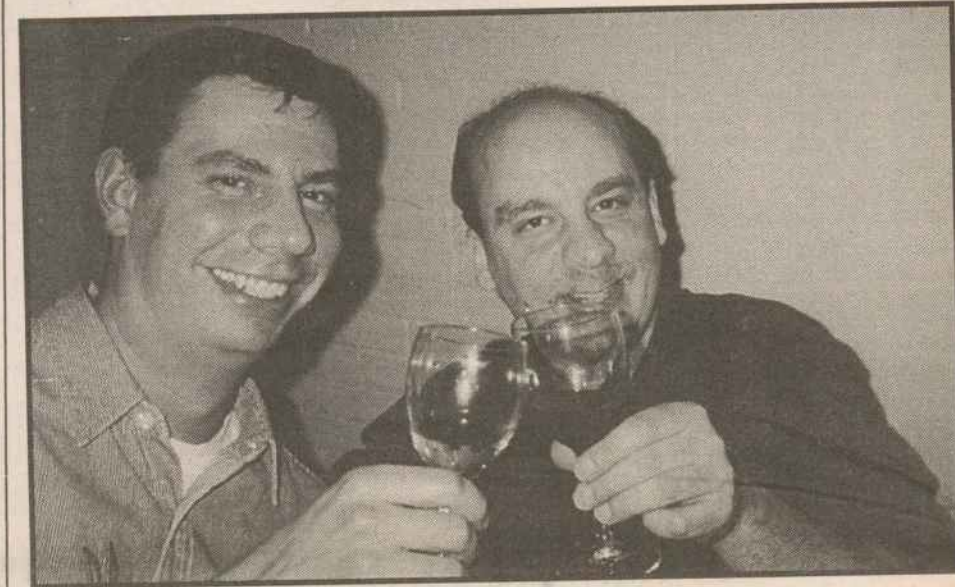






# Great Places In WISCONSIN

|                      |                  |                                |       |          |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------|
| <b>Appleton</b>      |                  |                                |       |          |
| Rascals Bar & Grill  | MW, Food         | 702 E. Wisconsin               | 54991 | 954-9262 |
| <b>Eau Claire</b>    |                  |                                |       |          |
| Scooters             | W,m              | 411 Galloway                   | 54703 | 835-9959 |
| Trading Co.          | M,w DJ           | 304 Eau Claire St.             | 54701 | 838-9494 |
| Wolf's Den           | M,W              | 302 E. Madison                 | 54703 | 832-9237 |
| <b>Green Bay</b>     |                  |                                |       |          |
| Brandy's II          | Mw               | 1126 Main Street               | 54304 | 437-3917 |
| The Napolese Lounge  | MW, DJ           | 515 S. Broadway                | 54303 | 432-9646 |
| Sass                 | WM               | 840 S. Broadway                | 54304 | 437-7277 |
| Za's/Java's          | MW, DJ           | 1106 Main St.                  | 54301 | 435-5476 |
| <b>Kenosha</b>       |                  |                                |       |          |
| Club 94              | MW, DJ           | 9001 120th Ave                 | 53140 | 857-9958 |
| <b>La Crosse</b>     |                  |                                |       |          |
| Cavalier Lounge      | Mw               | 114 N 5th St.                  | 54601 | 782-9061 |
| Players              | S/G MW           | 218 Main Street                | 54601 | 782-9279 |
| Rainbow's End        | Retail           | 417 Jay St.                    | 54601 |          |
| <b>Lake Mills</b>    |                  |                                |       |          |
| Cross Roads          | G/S MW           | W6642 Hwy B                    | 53551 | 648-8457 |
| <b>Madison</b>       |                  |                                |       |          |
| Geraldine's          | WM, DJ           | 3054 E. Washington             | 53704 | 241-9335 |
| Kirby's Klub         | MW, DJ, Shows    | 121 W Main St                  | 53703 | 257-5455 |
| MAD Bar              | M, L/L           | 150 S. Blair                   | 53703 | 258-9918 |
| Manoeuvres           | MW, DJ, Shows    | 150 S. Blair                   | 53703 | 258-9918 |
| Room of One's Own    | Books/Expresso   | 307 W. Johnson                 | 53703 | 257-7888 |
| Shamrock             | MW               | 117 W. Main St                 | 53703 | 255-5029 |
| We Are Family        | Retail/Expresso  | 524 E. Wilson                  | 53703 | 258-9006 |
| <b>Milwaukee</b>     |                  |                                |       |          |
| Afterwords Books     | Retail/ Expresso | 2710 N. Murray                 | 53211 | 963-9089 |
| 1100 Club            | M, L/L, Food     | 1100 S. 1st St.                | 53204 | 647-9950 |
| 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup>        | 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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.                  | 53204 | 383-8330 |
| La Perla             | Mexican Food     | 735 S. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street  | 53204 | 645-9888 |
| Mama Roux            | Mw, Food         | 1875 N. Humboldt               | 53202 | 347-0344 |
| Milwaukee Eagle      | M, L/L           | 300 W. Juneau                  | 53203 | 273-6900 |
| Rene's Cozy Corner   | MW               | 3500 W. Park Hill              | 53208 | 933-7363 |
| S Water Street Docks | M, L/L           | 354 E. National                | 53204 | 225-9676 |
| Station 2            | Wm               | 1534 W. Grant                  | 53204 | 383-5755 |
| The Ball Game        | M, Sports Bar    | 196 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | 53204 | 273-7474 |
| The M & M Club       | MW, Food         | 124 N. Water                   | 53202 | 347-1962 |
| This Is It           | Mw               | 418 E. Wells                   | 53202 | 278-9192 |
| Triangle             | M                | 135 E. National                | 53204 | 383-9412 |
| Walkers Point Café   | Food, Open 24    | 1106 S. First Street           | 53204 | 384-7999 |
| Woody's              | hrs              | 1579 S 2nd St.                 | 53204 | 672-5580 |
|                      | MW               |                                |       |          |
| <b>Neenah</b>        |                  |                                |       |          |
| Diversions           | MW, DJ           | 1413 Green Valley              | 54911 | 725-3374 |
| <b>Racine</b>        |                  |                                |       |          |
| JoDees               | MW, DJ           | 2139 Racine St.                | 53403 | 634-9804 |
| What About Me?       | MW               | 600 6th St.                    | 53403 | 632-0171 |
| <b>Sheboygan</b>     |                  |                                |       |          |
| The Blue Lite        | MW               | 1029 N. 8th St.                | 53081 | 457-1636 |
| <b>Stevens Point</b> |                  |                                |       |          |
| The Platwood Club    | G/S, MW DJ       | 701 Highway 10W                | 54481 | 341-8862 |
| <b>Superior</b>      |                  |                                |       |          |
| 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 |
| <b>Wausau</b>        |                  |                                |       |          |
| Oz                   | MW, DJ           | 320 Washington                 | 54401 | 842-3225 |



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Crawling Along- The La Cage crew went on its annual Holiday Bar Crawl on Monday, January 5. The evening started with an elegant dinner at the Milwaukee Room which was followed by a trip to Chicago's Halstead Street bars. At the top are La Cage co-owners, George Prentice and Corey Grubb, flanked by Mark (left) and Steve co-owners of the Milwaukee Room, Gay Milwaukee's hot new restaurant, next are members of the La Cage Showcase hamming it up. In the middle is Dusty Sass' favorite DJ tag team, Dave (left) and Tanya. Next bartender Paul makes eyes with our camera while his partner smiles. At the bottom are more of La Cage's hot bartenders enjoying the evening. As you can see by all the smiling faces, everyone had great time.

**Pack**  
Continued From Page 15

Packer party at places like This Is It, In Between, the Ball Game, Manoeuvres, Kirby's Klub, Station 2, Just Us, or any one of the other Les/Bi/Gay bars which host them. You feel it when go out shopping and see all those Packer sweat shirts, jackets and hats being worn by just about everybody.

It's a feeling that comes around only once in a great while. We felt it when the Brewers went to the World Series in 1982, when the Badgers went to the Rose Bowl in 1992 and now for the last two years we have experienced it thanks to the Packers.

We can show it to you in the pictures of the fans at bar parties that we run in these pages but the reality is that we can't describe that feeling, you have to feel it for yourself.

What we can do is tell you to enjoy it and revel in it while it lasts. It may (or may not) be awhile before it comes around again. For right now though we can say it's been a wonderful ride and it's about to get even better.

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# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



## '97 Films Continued From Page 27

**TITANIC** still floats on its elegant decor undaunted by its soporific, sinkable romantic dialogue which turns what should have been a first class trip into third class tripe, but the photographic beauty of the ship—past and present—gives this film its true panache. Very watchable.

**WAG THE DOG** requires that you buy into its overly-clever satirical cynicism, which is easy to do if you're caught unaware, and it has sparkling dialogue to back it up, along with Hoffman and De Nero's super competence, but the downbeat ending belongs in **Godfather**.

**AS GOOD AS IT GETS** is even more witty, but Jack Nicholson, playing against type as an insecure neurotic, resists the temptation, unlike his costars, to succumb to the brittle, overly bright—but admittedly hilarious—Actor's Studio dialogue and gives a truly engaging performance—one of the best in this lean year. Both films ARE funny, but in a smug, smart-ass sort of way which may not wear well.



Greg Kinnear in "As Good As It Gets"

Anderson's **BOOGIE NIGHTS**, influenced by **Pulp Fiction** transforms Tarantino's "up yours" style of gutter-based trauma into tenderness—quite a feat when soft peddling an inside look at the hard core porno people as warm folksy urbanites just doing their job.

It works fairly well just this side of superficiality, due largely to a carefully modulated characterizations, and a surprisingly sensitive and nuanced performance from Mark Wahlberg who appears to have raw, nakedly [no pun intended] undeveloped talent. When was the last time you saw a young aspiring stud player who could demonstrate unselfconscious vulnerability as a major acting resource? He may go far with the right kind of training.

Some of the other potential nominations to date are particularly amusing in the acting category: Jodie Foster in **CONTACT**—grimacing and tightening her brow most unpleasantly, probably because she not only had to ride through space in that silly looking contraption that looks like a kid's gyroscope from Toys R Us, but her ticket to space requires faith in God who seems to turn up anyway as a reasonable facsimile of her father in a place resembling Hawaii.

There is even a subversive rumor that Leonardo Da Caprio can act based upon that swelling romance in **TITANIC** that almost reduced the majestic ship into a quaint tugboat, but he and Kate Winslet look nice, and that's almost as good as

acting, I suppose.

The New York critics gave the best supporting actor award to Burt Reynolds for **BOOGIE NIGHTS**. He performs like a used car salesman trying to conceal flaws in his products, which may be appropriate since his character espouses a soft look at hard porn in an offhand manner so characteristic these days of the prerequisite common denominator of all-purpose "natural acting" methodology.

Burt is good, but is somewhat eclipsed by Mark Wahlberg's surprisingly sensitive performance which redefines the trend towards the natural vernacular in more sensitive terms.

And somewhere I heard that Jessica Lange's brow-furrowing performance with her usual broken diction in **1000 ACRES**, and Helena Carter's pained, pinched-face post-Edwardian look in **WINGS OF THE DOVE** might garner these ladies academy nominations, although I hardly recall their performances in these rather cluttered films of no real distinction.

But no film of 1997 is as indicative of what's wrong and right about current serious movies as the very undercluttered, distinguished AND disturbing **SWEET HEREAFTER**. The story of a northern Canadian town that has lost 22 children in a school bus accident and the lawyer who casts a further shadow over the town's sorrow by trying to recruit parents in a class action lawsuit against "those responsible" is filmed in such quiet dark hues and with such quiet understated anguish that one is reminded of the early Ingmar Bergman studies in classic symbolism.

This movie is so excruciatingly tasteful that, combined with such explosive subject matter, reviewers greeted its forced reticence with a sense of relief, and convinced themselves that it must be art. Even the accident itself—the bus slowly sliding underwater on a half frozen lake—is filmed in distant long-shot—mercifully minus children's screams.

To counterpoint the theme of loss of children, the attorney who doesn't really have a case, and is somewhat blandly played by a compassionate-looking Ian Holm—has his own problems with a drug-addicted daughter who keeps harassing him on his cellular phone. This sub-theme is at odds with the unique power of film's main texture and seems an unnecessary sop to realism, as does the reading of the *Pied Piper of Hamelin* [who stole all the children] by the sole student survivor—a teenage girl.

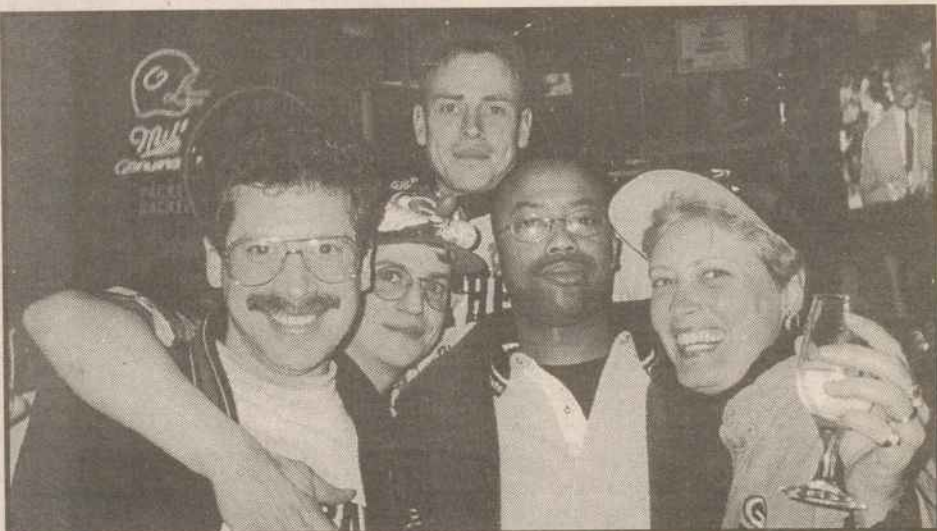
The only other survivor, the bus driver, is curiously devoid of blame by the townfolk, and they in turn are portrayed as so somnambullistically under motivated by their sorrow, that, rather than relieving the audience's anxiety by giving us a bit of the drama behind the trauma, the film while beautifully and discretely photographed, punishes the viewer with its torturous reticence.

Determined to be realistically bare bones and sincerely sublime at the same time, the movie downslides into a state of unbearable depression that is more torpid than tragic. Unlike literature, the film medium can easily lose momentum by excessive understatement.

Tragedy should have a cathartic ingredient, but there is no wonder or terror here. A pity, because this film deserves much of its admiration. I question that realism requires this much unsaid and undone. I left the theater depressed—but haunted by shots of the retrieved bus, standing reproachfully alone in back of the car wash. The film's unrelenting restraint may confuse sensitivity for art, but it malingers in memory. Its ascetic purity makes it the only truly distinguished film this year despite the disappointment of its sense of incompleteness.

I'm going to force myself to see the other "major releases" coming up, but hope does not spring eternal THIS SPRING. However many films are making money.

These are the best of times and the worst of times. [ie. Charles Dickens] for entertainment.



**Cheering on the Pack**—Part of the crowd at In Between is shown celebrating after the Packer victory over the San Francisco 49ers. Pandemonium broke loose in the closing minutes of the game and continued for some time after its finish. Most of Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin's bars are planning Super Bowl parties for Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>.

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