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

HAPPY NEW YEAR A PROSPEROUS 1998 TO ALL

"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 expressions. 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 95th

Anniversary Bash.

PrideFest new 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.

One Word In AOL Profile Leads to Discharge of Navy Veteran



\$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 Demis Bartley for building the wishing well used by patrons to collect donations.

Supporting Camp Heartland - 1100 Club friends and patrons presented the Oberons with a check for

Cayman Islands Denies Cruise Ship Entry Because Passengers are Gay

Editor's Note: The following comes to us from Kevin Ivers, Log Cabin Republi-cans' 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

Attn. Ms. Angela Martin

Hon. Thomas C. Jefferson Minister of Tourism, Commerce and Transportation Government Administration Building Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands Tele-phone: 345/949-0623 Fax: 345/949-4053 Email: cscayman a candw ky mailto:cscayman@candw.ky

By Kai Wright nounced this week that the government of 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

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

Robert Chatterton Dickson, spokesper-son for the British Embassy in Washington, told the Blade that the island's Ex-ecutive 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 de-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 Les-bian 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.

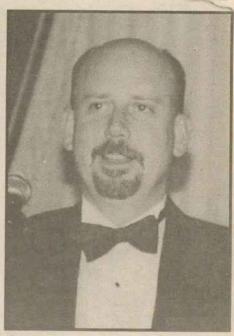
As an undergraduate, she worked with the Criminal Division of the US Justice Department in the early 1980's. She also worked as an adviser to Governor Tony

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 Count 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



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' pol-icy was denied in mid-December, 1996 by

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, be-

came 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.

fended Clinton administration's policy

which says persons attracted to their own

ever the intention of 1993 policy, the military is now more aggressive than ever in going after Gay and Lesbian service

On January 5 the Chief of Naval Per-

sonnel 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

Navy Secretary John Dalton.

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 crack-downs 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

As viruses go, HIV is fragile and diffi-cult 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 conduci6e to the spread of AIDS. Gay men began

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 al-ways use a condom -- hasn't stamped out HIV, mainly because not everyone fol-

Now, two decades into the epidemic, bathhouses and unsafe sex are coming

"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

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 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.

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 in-

tense 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 replace-

ment 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 coexist, 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 comer-stone 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 pomographic 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





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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 top-

"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

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, philoso-phy, 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

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 Cen-

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 statewide4 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, Rhinelander and Supe-

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN SUPERIOR COFFICES RHINELANDER WAUSAU EAU CLAIRE GREEN BAY LA CROSSE APPLETON MILWAUKEE KENOSHA

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

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's First Annual Membership Meeting

Community Center will hold it's 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

Committee Chairpersons will report on 1997 activities for Programming, Youth, Facilities, Find Raising, Membership, Fi-

nance 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 mem-bership will then approve the 1998 budget and vote on a proposed change to the by-

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 Mil-waukee'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. De-Mark 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 ter.

City Brick Awards

Milwaukee-The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL) is seeking nominations for the annual Cream City

February 3, 1998.

Presentations will be made at the Hu-

man Rights League annual meeting dur-

ing the last week of February.
Orginally 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

Torch Bearer Award - given to non -Gay or Lesbian identified person or group

that had advanced understanding and ac-

ceptance 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;

and Gays has the honor.

There are eight award categories:

HRL Seeks Nominations for Annual Cream

Milwaukee- The Milwaukee LGBT of color. The committee also worked to

ganization while also satisfying the diversity requirements prescribed in our by-

At the Annual Membership Meeting, the Nominating Committee will recommend

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 please call Steve Atwell at 414-225-1570.

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

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

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 Cen-

Spotlight Award - given to a media person(s), department or station or paper

Groundwork Award - given to a business which has made a significant contri-

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

Bridge Award - given to a person(s) who has acted as a "bridge" between the

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 re-sponsibility to participate as active citi-

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.

man Rights League c/o Awards Committee, P.O. Box 92674 Milwaukee, WI. 53202.

HELP DETEMINE 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.

assure a diverse age and skill base

"We had an outstanding group of nominations for the Board of Directors," De-Mark said. "The challenge of the committee was to select candidates who possessed the skills necessary to lead the or-

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.

subsequent Board meeting.

in good standing as of the end of the Center's fiscal year, December 31, 1997. The Milwaukee LGBT Community

whose coverage best promotes understanding and/or acceptance of our com-

bution to the LGBT communty;

LGBT communities and the broader communities by initiating programs or projects through his/her professional life that address LGBT needs and issues;

zens in a diverse world.

Nominations should be mailed to: Hu-

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" member-ship 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

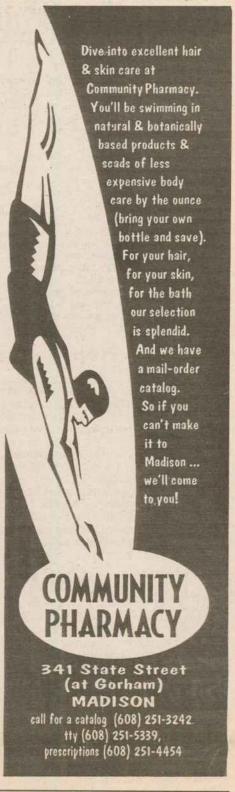
more unity internally as well. It has been a completely positive experience."

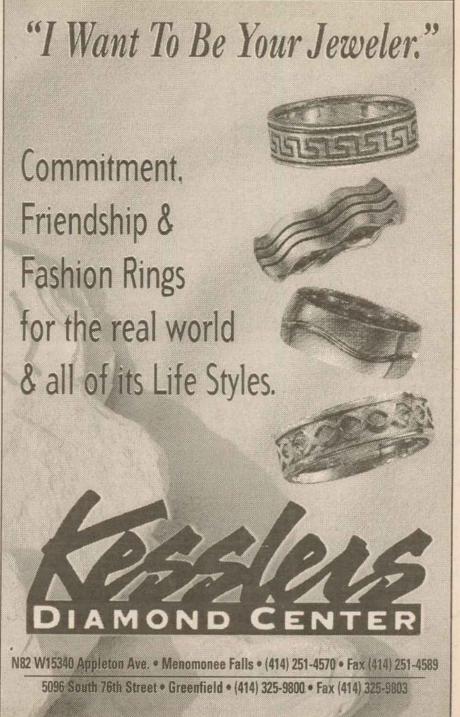
"Blockbuster has demonstrated a strong commitment to the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin," said Steve Atwell, development officer corporate for APCW ment officer-corporate for "Through their generous efforts and sup-port of ARCW, an additional \$9,984 was raised for AIDS Walk Wisconsin from the sale 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 in-cremental 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







Editorial

Support Civil Rights in Maine

We heartily applaud the efforts of LBGT activists here to come to the aid of our sisters and brothers in Maine as they wage a battle for their civil rights.

Right Wing zealots have forced a referendum on a measure passed by the Maine legislature and signed by the governor that would outlaw discrimination in certain areas against us, among them housing and credit. The election will be held on February 10,

Early reports from Maine were encouraging. However, there have been concerns that the Maine activists may not be able to roll back the minions of the Far Right.

One can be sure that the Christian Coalition, among other groups, is pouring money

and all sorts of other help into Maine. The fact that activists here are joining others throughout the nation shows, we believe, a good awareness that what strikes at one part of our community strikes at us all.

If you were not able to attend the fundraiser on January 14, held at the M&M Club, we strongly encourage you to send a check to support the efforts in Maine.

Mail checks to "Maine Won't Discriminate," c/o Flaherty, 3492 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Let those in Maine know that we in Wisconsin stand firmly by their side.

Woman and Man of the Year

Rep. Tammy Baldwin Tom Reed

In selecting our choices for Gay and Lesbian Wisconsin Man and Woman of the year, we considered many possibilities for Wisconsin's Les/Bi/Gay community has many outstanding individuals who deserve recognition for the work they do on behalf of all

In the end we selected two people who are nationally respected and who have had a tremendous impact on our community. Moreover, they have set an example we wish more of us would follow.

Perhaps their biggest impact have not been public. It is what they have done behind closed doors to convince others in a position to help achieve equality for all that they need to join in the fight. The two of them have opened doors and opened minds.

It is for that reason and many others that we have selected Tammy Baldwin as our Woman of the Year and Tom Reed of Miller Brewing as our Man of The Year.

Editor's Note

How 'Bout Those Packers?!

By Terry Boughner

I was out and about one evening the week before the Divisional Playoffs. Some friends and I began talking about them and which teams would wind up in the Superbowl. I said that I really hoped it would be Pittsburgh and Green Bay.

One of the guys leaned forward on the bar and said, "And which one will you

support?"
"My heart will be with Green Bay," I told him and he was satisfied. In all truth, before coming to Milwau-

kee, I paid little or no attention to football. When the Pittsburgh Steelers went to the Superbowl—4 times—I couldn't have cared less. Here in Wisconsin, things are different.

don't know why they're different. Maybe its because there seems to be a spirit here that I never noticed in Pittsburgh. Here, people a genuinely excited about the Packers in a way those from "the Burgh" never were. Here, it's like a holiday where everyone turns out to celebrate. There, it was kind of like an exciting little interlude from the tedium of everyday life.

Let me make one thing clear. I still don't understand the game, but I enjoy the spirit here and want to be a part of it. I want the Packers to win. I want that very much.

Oh yeah, I know, these players get paid plenty for what they do. I know, too, that there's homophobia in the NFL. Still, those things aside, the Packers provide people here in Wisconsin with a spirit of community, one where we all, Gay and non-Gay, can, for a moment, come together and be one social unit. I like that.

On Superbowl Sunday (which Congress, think, might as well make a national holiday), a great hush will fall over the state at 5:00 (or before), when the game gets underway. Every bar, Gay and non-Gay, in Wisconsin will be keeping festival. There'll be food and TVs in every Lesbian and Gay bar in the state. In homes and clubs the same thing will be happening. Green and gold will be everywhere (They already are).

So yeah, I'm excited.

Just today, we called the Denver Gay paper and made a bet. If the Packers lose (and they won't), Wisconsin Light will send their editor and staff good Badger State cheese and sausage. If the Broncos lose (and they will), the Denver paper will

Policy Letters to the Editor

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

send us whatever food is typical of Denver (Sorry, but I haven't a clue as to what

There are problems in this world. We have battles to fight. But just for a moment, a Sunday moment, I'm going to forget about all that and yell for the Packers, knowing that I'm yelling for Wisconsin when I do.

Letters

AIDSphobia in Madison

TO THE EDITOR:

Gay men and Lesbians in the Madison area may be interested—even surprised—to know that University of Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Room is not the best place to go in Madison if an emergency arises.

Last month my HIV-positive partner suf-fered a gash to the head, which required ten stitches. As his insurance is through University Hospital, we went to its emergency room. I repeated his HIV status and prescription drugs to medical personnel, as security guards stood by.

After an initial check by medical staff, we were left waiting for an hour, in plain view of security. As my partner was in great pain and distress, he requested physical comfort and affection, which I gave to him.

After I led him to the restroom, the security guards, otherwise unoccupied, evidently decided it was time to harass the "Gay guys." I was verbally abused-without specific anti-Gay epithets—by a security guard. After two torrents of abuse, I raised my voice, as my partner slumped to the floor behind me, no other witnesses being present. Instead of calling for medical help, she grabbed me by the arms and I shook hers off. She continued screaming and ordered me to leave the hospital. I complied, momentarily.

I reentered the hospital, checked on my partner's well-being, and inquired of medical personnel how to file a complaint against a security guard. I received the information, but was overheard by guards who had now stationed themselves outside my partner's room and refused to let me see him.

Knowing that a complaint was going to be filed, they concocted a lie to cover themselves. I was again ordered out of the hospital by the guards. When I was finally permitted to be with my partner, I was arrested by UW Police. whom security guards had called, for "attempted battery of a uniformed security offithe specific claim being that I tried to "slug her in the jaw." My blood alcohol level was taken (0.0), and I was locked in a squad car for an hour while the officer wrote the ci-

This charge was later thrown out by the District Attorney's Office. An informal survey of UW medical personnel and security guard supervisors informed me that those guards employed at UW Hospital Emergency Room are

the most "out of control" in Madison's emer-

Although UW Hospital provides excellent medical care, I would recommend that all Gay men and Lesbians who are able to, or who have no insurance, go to another emergency room if the need arises. Anyone who experiences similar treatment at UW Hospital Emergency Room, should file a complaint through UW Patient Relations and to Chief Susan Rieselling of UW Police and Security to help insure that all officers and security guards receive sufficient training about homophobia and AIDSphobia.

J. Allen Kirsch Madison

Editor's Note: The writer is the author of Madlands and God's Little Isthmus.

Survival/Revival **Resale Shop Needs** Your Help

Milwaukee- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Survival/Revival Resale needs your help.

If you have experience doing profes-sional window dressings and would like to donate your talents to Survival/Revival Resale for its monthly display window updates, please call or stop in and talk to Kathy Fortier, Survival/Revival Resale

manager.
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"We need eye-catching windows to help pull in shoppers who would normally just drive by, and this is a great way to make a donation to ARCW."

Survival/Revival Resale is also looking

for donations of furniture. So, instead of waiting until spring to do your spring cleaning, start now by calling Survival/Revival Resale to schedule a pick up or a time to drop larger items at the store.

All proceeds from Survival/Revival benefit the programs and services pro-

vided through ARCW.

Survival/Revival is open seven days a week: Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m., and is always looking for customers, volunteers and do looking for customers, volunteers and donations. If you are interested in how you can make a difference, call the resale shop at 414-291-2856. Survival/Revival is located in Milwaukee's historic Third Ward at 246 E. Chicago.

Cayman Islands Continued From Page 1

fending the decision to deny the group landing rights. Dickson said the British government was "surprised" by the Min-ister of Tourism's actions but noted that the affair is an internal matter for the Cayman government.

This is not the first time the Cayman Islands have been hostile toward Gay vaca-

In 1987, RSVP Travel Productions sent what is believed to be the first large group of Gays to the islands. RSVP President Charlie Rounds said he thinks the circumstances of that trip led to last month's rejection of the Norwegian Cruise Line ves-

The controversy in that incident began when RSVP booked a trip to Grand Cayman on a cruise liner which maintained a regular weekly stop at the island. Through casual discussions with the crew of that ship, Rounds said, port authorities learned that the ship was planning to bring RSVP's group of Gay men. They began attempting to convince the crew not to bring the Gay group and when they failed, revoked the ship's right to dock.

According to Rounds, the vessel defied the authorities' rejection and docked anyway. After several hours discussion in the port, the authorities finally relented and allowed the vacationers to come ashore, Rounds said

Rounds said there were no major problems with the authorities but that the vacationers received a "hostile" reception and were "closely watched." He added that a religious organization protested their six-hour stay.

Since that flap 10 years ago, the Gay travel industry has considered the Caymans to be hostile territory. No sizable group of Gays or Lesbians has attempted to visit for several years.

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Non-Camera Ready-Jan 23rd Camera Ready-Jan. 26th 5:00 p.m.

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February 12th Issue

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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

Welcome to the "Circuit," a party net-work that moves from one big city to an-

'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 'fratemity."

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 dis-persing around the country," said Michel-angelo Signorile, a columnist for the Gay magazine Out and author of Life Outside which takes a critical look at the Circuit. "It's something that should be of con-

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 em-phasis 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 re-

gion 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 en-hancer not a disrupter," he added. "In moderation drugs make the event more

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 Extasy, Special K, GHB or Crystal Meth are very popular on the cir-cuit. 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 "umbelievable 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

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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Controversial Circuit Parties Raise Eyebrows 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 pro-nouncements, 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

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 ran-sacked 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 du-ties 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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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 Ju-dith 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 then 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 Chinacon and Chin

nese 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

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

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 Violence Digital 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 teena person comes out.

Seiff stressed that web-based information is much more effective when tailored chosen guides then offer answers.

Virtual Bookshelf - For each question, the website searches its database and suggests context-sensitive books, films, online articles and Internet links. The nonprofit 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-

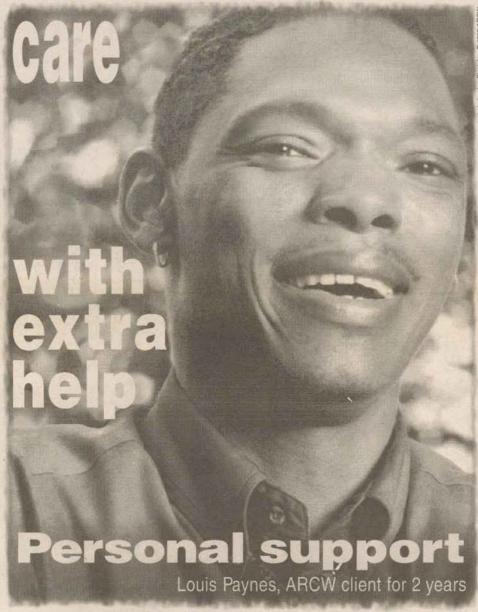
Pro & Con - Potential straight allies can feel alienated if they don't find their own views represented. AllTogether.com offers both sides of the debate on issues such as Gay marriage, adoption, and Gays in the military.

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?"

"Taking of myself can be tough, but W

lam doing well."



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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 organiza-tion, condemned the group Sex Panic.

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. This group, he charges, "advocates un-protected sexual acts among Gay men, in-cluding 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 po-litical 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 con-trol 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.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS: I read all about it in 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 significant cantly 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

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.

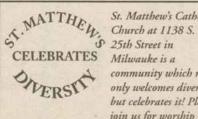
The Human Rights Campaign called on Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998, which was introduced in November by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, (D-Mass.), and Arlen Specter, (R-Pa.) President Clinton has endorsed this bill as part of his initiative, begun last year, to combat hate crimes in 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 statues. Nineteen states have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation, and nine states have no hate crimes statues 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



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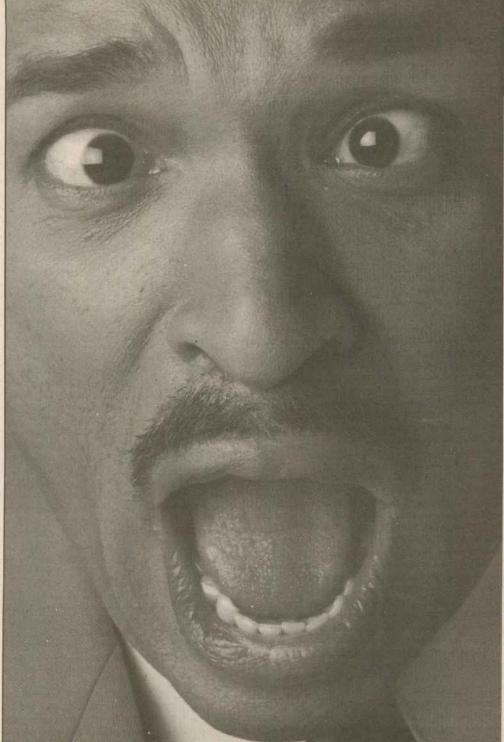
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Speaking From The Right

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 Di-

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

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 set their cally 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 ALDS debate as we enter 1008. The

of the AIDS debate as we enter 1998. The more things have changed, the more they stay the same -- with a few important nu-

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

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

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

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 homo-sexuals is around 43 years of age." Forty

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 con-trol 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 conse-

Editor's Note:-The writer is the Ex-



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

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

ceiving 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, Bi-sexual, 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

"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 infor-

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 qu 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.

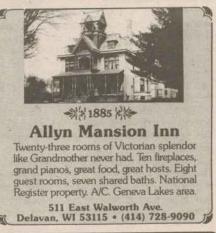
He says the policy is necessary because of violent outbursts at past meetings. "We have restraining orders against those people, and bar them from attending board meetings. We have to protect our board members."

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 hristen is a straight woman. "If she Christen is a straight woman. 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 Salimas, news editor of the Bay Area Reporter, a community weekly, for particularly sensational negative coverage of the founda-

"He has very sexist and misogynist attitudes and has never missed an opportunity to attack [Christen] repeatedly with some of the most unprofessional and zerointegrity 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 het-erosexual HIV-negative East Bay resident. [Any criticism] is met with a stone wall of denial, counter-charges and de-



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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 contro-versy "certainly was a focus" of the pro-

posal, 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."

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

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 minori-

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 interna-tional 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

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

Atlanta--On Saturday, December 6, campuses, teaching principles of militant 997, the Rev. Dr. Mel White, Minister of nonviolence to injustice of any kind, or-Justice and Reconciliation for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), was presented whose anti-Gay rhetoric White believes, 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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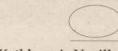
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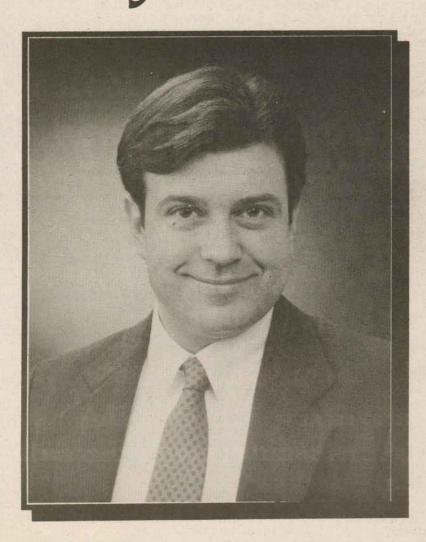
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A L T o D

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 began 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.

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 Montrio "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 7th. 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 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 wilgibl 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 (1-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.



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.

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

Hotel Washington Project Dies - Just one month after getting the last piece of financing to rebuilt 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 it's 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. 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 safe 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 20th 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 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 I nreal 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 LBGT 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 was criticized from all sic emman 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 he ground in a late December fire that took the lifes 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 cleryman plans to sue over his suspended plans Suit - An African American cleryman plans to sue over his suspended plans Suit - An African American cleryman plans to sue over his suspended plans Suit - An African American cleryman plans to sue over his suspended plans Suit - An African American cleryman plans to sue over his suspended plans Suit - An African American cleryman plans to such as a Madison fireman for

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 LBGT 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 Bryrant's successful effort 20 years ago to overturn a Dade County Gay rights

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 same 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.

January 15, 1998—January 28, 1998—WISCONSIN LIGHT—12

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. 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-

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 Richenberg, a decorated veteran of the Gulf War had appealed a decision against his reinstatement in the military. Richenberg was thought to have a chance for hearing based on his superiors testifying on his behalf during his discharge

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

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 9th. 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

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 rejecte 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

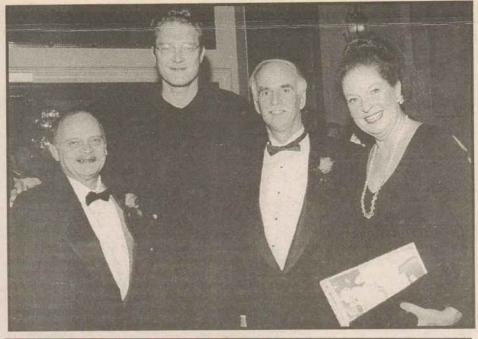
STATE WIDE NEWS

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 Anneheuser Busch employee, have called for a boycott of the brewer's products including Budwieser 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 bill 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 10th 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 Caroll performed. At the top (1-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 (1-R) Boughner, Miller's Tom Reed, Johnson and Jon Martin of Landmark Enterprises which produced the event and at the bottom (1-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

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 sec-ond 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 epi-

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 intro-duction and practice of safer sex has played no significant role in curbing the epidemic. However, the striking reduction of all sexually transmitted diseases among

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 10th edition of "The Directory: A Guide to the Organizations Serving Madison's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Communities" will be published. "The Directory" contains information (in "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 Bisexu-

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 busi-nesses 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 inter-ested, please call the MG/LRC volunteer hotline at (608) 256-4204, ext. 2

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 re-ported 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 Co-hort 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 ac-

Support of promiscuity must be coupled with demands for greater and sustained

tional efforts fall far short of what is was not judgmental but based solely on needed. The most important challenge health concerns. facing the Gay community is the creation of a coordinated effort to produce and dis-seminate targeted safer-sex educational material to encourage and support Gay men in maintaining the practice of safer

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. Alarmingly, 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

The most effective way to combat AIDS and prevent a second wave is intensive and well-crafted targeted safer-sex educa-

tion, 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.

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 introduc-tion of safer sex, we, along with the late targeted safer-sex educational campaigns. Michael Callen, pointed out the dangers of a way of life that promoted the spread of STDs. We went to great lengths to among Gay men. Sadly, current educa-

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 several restraint. 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.

s a license to promiscuity.

If you or someone you know is HIV+ or Monogamy is not a workable option for 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)



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



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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

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

Washington, DC--The Human Rights of her sexual orientation. Campaign (HRC) expressed disappointment today that the U.S. Supreme Court solely because she is a I 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

guished 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 78th 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

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 port that support would be far less 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 re-

spect 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 mat-ter 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.

"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 orienta-

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 be-

gin 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 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Bowers, leading Shahar to appeal to the U.S. Supreme

"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 sup-

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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 or-ganizations 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 commu-nity, 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 "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 "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.

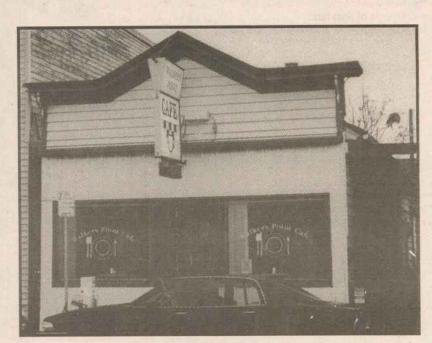
Reed himself says that the credit for all of this goes to Miller and Miller alone. Clearly Miller is an enlightened company that deserves much credit but according to the people we talked to, so too does Tom

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 willwork 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.

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SPOTLIGITE IN THE SECOND STREET OF THE SECOND STREE

Milwaukee's Walker's Point Café Gets Trendy

By Dusty Sass

Milwaukee-- Walker's Point Café, one of Gay Milwaukee's spots to meet and eat, is getting a new face lift, a new name and an upscale look and feel and the Walker's Point area is gaining a new trendy place to go in the process.

Okay so you've all been going to Walker's Point Café for years and you wonder, "What's the big deal?" Well outside of a new look, a new expanded menu (with some upscale items), new staff, new majority ownership, a new manager, gournet coffees and Milwaukee's first cyberteria, absolutely nothing.

For the computer impaired, a cyberteria is a place where you can sit, have some great coffee and connect to the Internet. And if you didn't know that, you should definitely stop in at Walker's Point and take advantage of their free lessons in how to get the most out of the Information Superhighway.

By the way when I say FREE I mean free. Unlike other places, Walker's Point Café will not (at least for the time being) charge anyone for using their computers and internet connections. Keep in mind that Kinko's charges \$12.00 an hour for using its computers to hook up to the net

so this is quite a nice feature.

Other cities like New York and Chicago are said to have several of this type of establishments serving their Lesbian and Gay populations. This would be Milwaukee's first so those of you who like being on the cutting edge (and you know who you are) will want to be among the first to take advantage of that fact.

But the cyberspace addition is not the only change at Walker's Point Café. Remodeling of both the interior and the menu is well underway.

With an invitation only Grand Opening set for Saturday, January 24, and some elements of the new menu and other new features already in place, Walker's Point is poised to make a serious bid to become one of Milwaukee's most popular Gay and Lesbian non-alcoholic alternative to the bars.

That in fact is exactly what the new majority owner, Dennis Hill is hoping for. Hill, also owns Web Blazers, the host for our Wisconsin Light web site, (www. wilight.com) and as can be expected he has already established a web site for his newest venture. It's located at www. Yourcafe.com.

Hill seems totally committed to making his newest venture work. He has already started remodeling the inside and he has added some pasta dishes, a new "authentic philly steak sandwich" (Hill is from Philadelphia) and new gourmet coffees to the menu.

"We are still working on the menu," said Hill. "Some things will be changed, some things will be dropped, and there will be some price reductions before we are through."

Hill says that the process of putting everything together will take time. When asked if he will be adding the type of gournet desserts often found a coffee shops in other areas he answers with a definite yes, but says it will take some time, "probably in March."

"We can't do everything at once, even though we would like to," he says. We want to make sure we get it right and that means taking our time."

When asked why with all of his other ventures, he decided to get involved with Walker's Point, Hill laughs. "A lot of people are asking me that," he says.

But then he turns serious and says "Because it's good for the community. It's one of a kind. While there are many Gay bars and a couple of Gay stores, there is no non-alcoholic café and meeting place in the Third Ward - Walker's Point area, where so many of us live."

Hill says that there are many fine coffee shops and cafes on the East Side of Milwaukee but the Walker's Point area needs a trendy place where neighbors can go, read the paper, have some great coffee, good food and in Walker's Point's case hook up to the Internet.

Hill said he would love to get the non drinking, after work crowd to stop in for a non-alcoholic alternative to Milwaukee's famed happy hours. "One of my focal points will be to offer an after work socializing opportunity to for those who don't drink alcohol."

But don't get the idea that Walker's Point Café and Cyberteria won't be bar friendly. "We have a great late night after bar time crowd," said Hill. "We very much appreciate their support. They will always find us to be a great low cost stop on the way home. But now they will find more menu choices for late night dining as well as an upscale atmosphere without the upscale prices."

Who can argue with that? Certainly not me and hopefully not you either. So next time you are out and about, looking for a late night stop to eat or hankering after a great cup of coffee or just wanting to sit and chat with friends, you might want to consider a stop at Walker's Point Café. It's located at 1106 S. First Street.

"Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" Returns to Theater X

Milwaukee—By popular demand, Milwaukee's Theater X Late Night will again present Charles Busch's outrageous comedy Vampire Lesbians of Sodom. If you did not see this deliciously camp comedy the first time around, do not miss it again. Otherwise, you might find yourself turned into "a creature of the night."

Return with us now to Sodom (or someplace in the vicinity) where an "innocent" virgin (?) is sacrificed to an evil force to terrible to be written about here—except to say that the "force" much resembles the third day of a lost weekend.

Poor innocent virgin, (neither poor nor innocent any longer), she drifts through the centuries to 1920's Hollywood and finally winds up in the Midwest. In the process, she tangles with the one who made her a vampire in the first place.

Exactly how all that happens is a delightfully sordid tale involving the most hideous puns ever to fall from a writer's pen and a lot of depravity that could be called "smoldering" except the fire's gone out so it just sort of sits there like oatmeal.

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom is one of those delightful romps that would make you shake your head—if you weren't laughing so hard.

We reviewed the play the last time around so we'll leave that to someone else. However, we will not miss it, not on your life!

The show opens on January 22 and runs Thursdays, Friday and Saturday evenings beginning at 10:30 p.m. All tickets are \$12. For reservations, call the Broadway Theater Center Box office at (414) 291-7800.

With the Packers, It's Been a Wild Ride and It's About To Get Even Better

By Bill Meunie

So far it's been a wonderful ride. Since August we have watched the games, lived with the apprehension caused by injuries, cheered for the good plays, and moaned over the bad calls. Now for the second year in a row, we are preparing to cheer our Packers onto to victory in the Super Bowl.

Although they started out slowly, Farve, White, Chumura, Brooks, Joyner, Brown and company have shown themselves to the class of the National Football Conference of the NFL. They did it the hard way making their stretch run with four of their last six games (including the playoffs) on the road.

In many ways this season's trip to the big game is sweeter than last year's. We finally saw the Pack beat the tar out of the despised Cowboys and defeat the Vikings on their home turf.

Their dominance of the hated Bears continued. They dispatched the upstart Tampa Bay Buccaneers, pounded last year's AFC champ, the New England Patriots and for the third year in a row, eliminated a good San Francisco 49er team from the playoffs.

Yes there were some bumps along the way. The loss at Detroit and especially the loss at Indianapolis come to mind. None of us liked those games very much, but the reality is that in the end by reminding us that even the Pack can be beaten, those losses made the season just that much more exciting.

Now there is just one more game to go, the Super Bowl. Does Denver have a chance to win? Yes they do.

The odds makers have installed the Pack as 13 point favorites, but Denver has been impressive all season long. They won two tough playoff games on the road, they are peaking.

On the other hand Denver is 0 - 4 in Su-

per Bowls, while the Pack is 3 - 0, and the same San Francisco team, the Pack beat so soundly to earn the right to go to San Diego, hammered the Broncos just a few weeks before. Plus the NFC has a 13 game winning streak in the big game.

Do I think the Packers will win? Yes I do, but I wouldn't be surprised to see a close game.

Regardless of how it all turns out. There are some things that you can be certain of.

There will be a lot of hype surrounding the big game. Every local newscast in the state will be leading with a Packer story for the next two weeks. And for a while at least we are all entitled to say "We're number one."

There are those who will tell you that trouble lies ahead. Next year the contracts of several key players are up for renegotiation and the salary cap will make it impossible for the Packers to keep them all. Some say It is unlikely they will make it back to the Super Bowl for a third straight year.

They may be overlooking the ability of the Packer brain trust of Wolf and Holgram. These are the guys who took a little known quarterback that no one wanted and turned him into the leagues first ever three time MVP. The naysayers may also be right, but that's a problem to worry about later.

For right now, the Pack has brought us together. They have given us something to cheer about and made the long winter a much more interesting time of year than it would otherwise would have been.

Perhaps that's the major value of professional sports, the uniting of a entire community, the creation of a common bond that exists far too seldom in a diverse society.

You feel that bond when you go to a

Please See Pack Page 31

Curtain Calls

"State Fair" Provides a Grand Night of Good Old Fashioned Fun

By J. R. Baker

"State Fair" opened Tuesday night, December 6, at Milwaukee's Marcus Center without its star John Davidson who has been temporarily hospitalized with back spasms. Nevertheless, the cast delivered a charming and lively show with Davidson's understudy, J. Douglas Blevins, doing a find job as Abel Franke, the lowa farmer who, along with his wife Melissa, son Wayne, daughter Margy and one large pig, take off in the family's pickup truck and head for lowa's State Fair circa 1946.

The plot is simple. Both son and daughter, who have recently left their teen years—behind, find romance at the State Fair. But, true to life, the pathway of love is strewn with both happiness and disillusionment.

Meanwhile, it seems, even pigs can fall in love, which temporarily creates difficulties for Abel's hog on its way to winning the Grand Championship.

Happily, Melissa's mince meat entry goes on to win a blue ribbon in the cooking contest with the aid of a liberal amount of liquor that has been added by Abel.

There are a few minor story lines as well, such as the nerdy neighbor farm boy, Harry, who has an unrequited love for Margy; and the five dollar bet at the beginning of the show between Abel and Dave Miller, the local storekeeper, concerning Dame Fortune not letting the family's trip to the State Fair end up 100% happily with Abel betting it will.

Fortunately for all concerned, after an entertaining two and a half hour musical roller coaster ride, Able wins the bet. The audience showed its appreciation with lots

of laughter for the comedy scenes and extended applause for the various vocal and dance numbers.

Special mention should be made of the painted drops and various platforms that helped to create a three dimensional look to the scenery an made for very quick scene shifts which kept the musical comedy going at a sprightly pace. The small, but effective orchestra, conducted by John Mezzio, contributed a lot to the show's pleasures.

Practically everyone breaks into song at some time or other during the show—be it solo, quartet or ensemble, but a special mention must be made of the excellent dance and song numbers by Mark Martino as Pat, the career-minded newspaper reporter who falls for Margy, charmingly played and sung by Valerie Accetto.

Also, Deborah Foley, featured as Emily Arden, the Band vocalist, who's headed for Broadway, but has a romantic interlude with Wayne who is portrayed and sung very well by John Simeone.

Of course, this stage version of the motion picture, "State Fair" is loaded with songs—some borrowed from other shows, by Rodgers and Hammerstein, but all adding to the fun of a good family show.

Starting with the lyric dreaming of Margy's "It Might As Well Be Spring" through the ensemble singing "Our State Fair" and the quartet of farmers singing a humorous ode to a pig, "More Than Just A Friend" to the wonderful rousing song that closes the first act—as everyone sings "It's A Grand Night For Singing," all adds up to a happy evening for all.

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 be-yond 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 were 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,

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 acompanied 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

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.

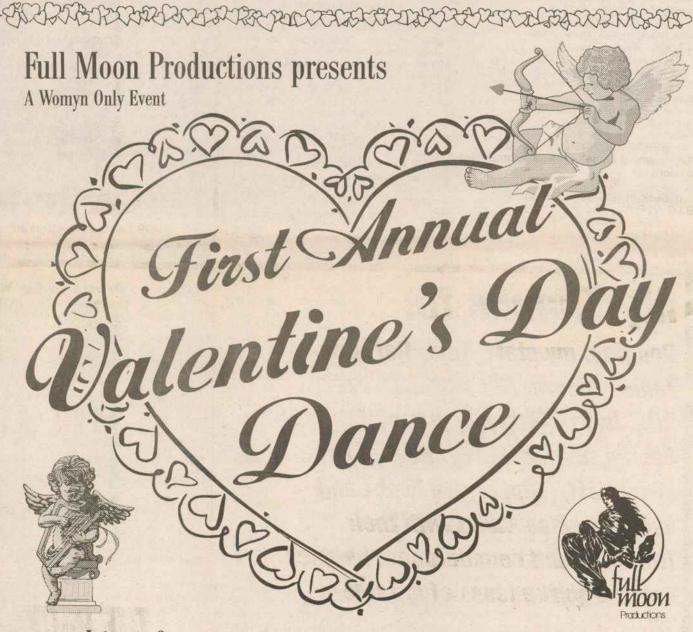
If you can't find a TAG agent in your area, look for an IGLTA Certified Travel

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.





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.

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

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

BEST NEWCOMER

Jim Buck

Tom Chase

Video

BEST CUM SHOT Paul Morgan in "Hawaiian Illustrated" - All

BEST BOTTOM

Derek Cameron **BEST TOP**

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 Pro-

BEST BISEXUAL VIDEO "Night of the Living Bi Dolls" - Catalina

BEST INTERNATIONAL VIDEO "Gangsters at Large" - Kristen Bjorn Productions

BEST ACTOR Jim Buck in "Dr. Jerkoff & Mr. Hand" -

BEST VIDEO OF THE YEAR "Naked Highway" - B.I.G. Video

Second Annual **Leather Swap Meet** to Be Held

Milwaukee-Woody's (2nd and Lampham in Milwaukee) will be the site of the second annual leather swap meet on Saturday, January 31st 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 re-

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

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



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



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 6 2 5 S S 9 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

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

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

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. 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

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

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

SUN, JAN 25 Watch the Pack on our **BIG SCREEN**

TV

(608) 251-1030

SUPERBOWL PART

\$5 5-Hour Beer Bash starting at kick-off \$1 Shots of Doctors Food, Fun & More!!!

THURSDA İS

20'S NIGHT

Drink Specials - 21 to 29 years old, 9pm-Close 50¢ Taps

\$1 Rail • \$1 Shots

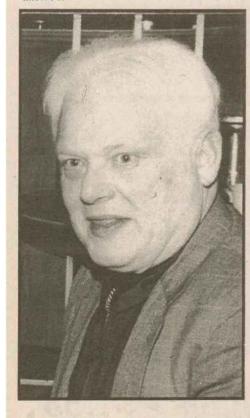


NIGHT LIGH

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



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 mongerers 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

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

ask why not? 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

Coming up...Well its January so there at Milwaukee's hottest men's dance bar.

ren't many special events coming up.

Saturday January 24th there are too aren't many special events coming up. But that's okay after the holidays we need somewhat of a rest.

waffle fries they serve with it.

Shovelit and I will stop at The Eagle. all time favorite entertainers, she's such a She'll be the one in the harness and the lady). leather panties. After that we are heading everything goes to help the Madison

but who cares, there's plenty on the inside to keep you warm.

Saturday January 17th 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

Tuesday, January 20th 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. Too 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

many things going on. I will be in Madison for Kirby's Klub big "Profits For Pets" Friday January 16th, I'll be at the M & M show. NO it's not about petting (the heavy Club for a sizable helping of Milwaukee's or the light variety) it's about the four longest running Gay fish fry. I love those legged kind of pets. They are going to have a fabulous show put on the ever Then it will be leather night. First Dr. fabulous Cass Marie Domino (one of my Admission is just \$3.00 and

to The Boot Camp. Too cold for the patio 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.

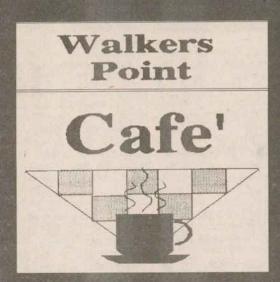
Course we know that they will have some fabulous parties in other parts of the state too, but we can't be everywhere at If I was in Mad Town, I'd be heading over to Manoeuvres or Kiby's Klub Remember watching the big game is much more fun with a crowd.

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

DJ & DANCING 7 NITES A WEEK DISCOVER WISCONSIN'S GAY 801 - 807 South 2 nd Street **ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEXI** Milwaukee • 383-8330 Open Nightly at 8pm SUNDAY, Watch the Pack on our 26 Screens Snacks & Me 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
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10am
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MANY NEW MENU ITEMS & NOW: A CD Juke Box

Private Meeting Room Available

Many Old Friends: Brittany, George, Tabby

and a few new ones, too!

Our Historic District's Only Spot for High Speed

Direct Connect Internet Access

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

CHEF'S SPECIALS

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



• 1106 S. 1st Street • Milwaukee • 384-7999



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."

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.

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.

lectually 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 doowopness 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 1997on this fierce collection.

Mixed by Rouhofer, who's credits include Club 69, House Heroes and the cirucit-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," Moogroove'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

Tuesdays 9pm to Close \$2.50 Top Shelf • \$1.75 Rail

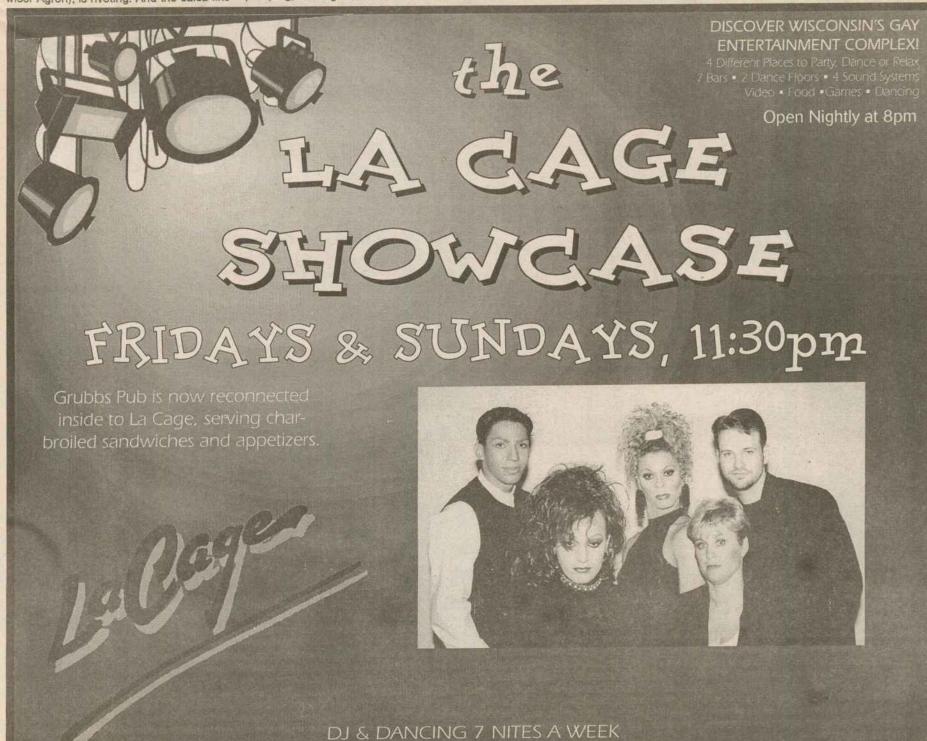
Wednesdays 9pm to 1am Beer Bust \$4 or 80¢ Glasses of Beer

Thursdays 9pm to Close \$1.75 Rail

Saturdays Tap Beer 80¢ ('til 6pm) Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2.25 (until 6pm)

Sundays Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2.25 (until 6pm) Tap Beer 80¢ ('till 6pm) \$1.75 Rail (9pm 'til close)

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



WELCOMING 1998 NEW YEARS EVE IN MILWAUKEE



This Is It - 418 E. Wells Street



The Milwaukee Eagle - 300 W. Juneau Street



The 1100 Club - 1100 S. First Street



South Water Street Docks - 354 E. National Ave.



Dish - 236 S. Second Street



The M & M Club - 124 N. Water Street



Station 2 - 1534 W. Grant Street



Kathy's Nut Hut - 1500 W. Scott Street

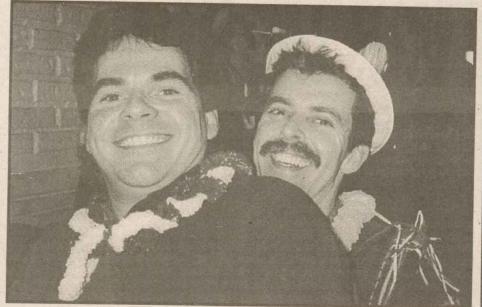


La Cage - 801 S. Second Street



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



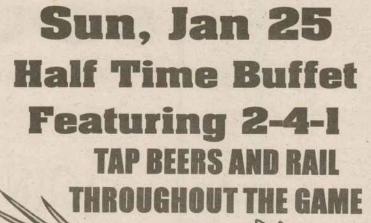
In Between - 625 S. Second Street





Just Us - 807 S. Fifth Street







The Ball Game - 196 S. Second Street



The Triangle - 134 E. National Ave.



DJ Tuesday thru Sunday

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

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 midlife crisis?

Question 3) Am I just a sex starved

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

My-oh-my-oh-myo! 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 bachlorette party (yes, we had bachlorette 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-toman 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 then 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.

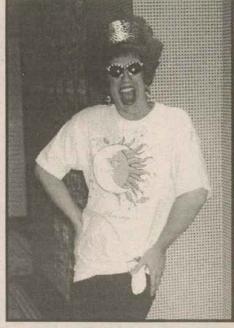
Do I think you're bisexual? Honey, it took me four years to figure out what the hell sex my cat was! I couldn't decide what shoes to wear this morning, and I can't identify half of the items in my freezer. There's no way I can play "Name Your Favorite Sex Partner" from a letter. You're going to need 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

Camero, but not a new orientation. For some reason, you are just more able to come to terms with your sexual feelings now then 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

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

Please don't use the "I need to experi-ment" 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 you 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 feel-

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 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 rub-

ber patch kit for Hank.

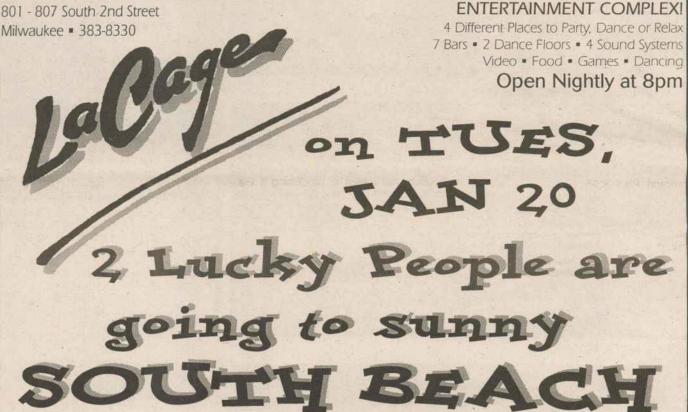
Hey-hey-hey - send Ruthie your ques-tions today. I take all my mail Care of: Dear Ruthie - The Wisconsin Light - 1843 N Palmer St - Milwaukee, WI 53212. You can also send me e-mail via our internet site at www.wilight.com-

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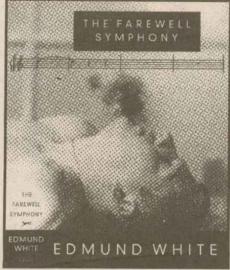
NOTE: Grubb's Pub is now reconnected to La Cage from the inside! Serving char-broiled sandwiches and appetizers, Wed-Sat, 8pm to after hours.

1997 Proved to be a Somewhat Indifferent Year for GLBT Books

By Carl M. Szatmary

1997 proved to be neither a great, nor disappointing year in the publishing of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender titles. Many interesting titles were published but probably less than a couple of years ago. Behind such notable titles as The Gay Metropolis and The Farewell Symphony remains the threat from superstore chains who order but often in too insignificant quantities titles from both mainstream and small Lesbian and Gay presses. Many observed less variety of titles, but fans of Lesbian mysteries and lavishly illustrated books of naked male photography found much to enjoy in 1997.

The following ten books are a purely subjective group, covering the wide range of books of interest to the G/L/B/T com-



Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender by Riki Anne Wilchins Firebrand Pb \$16.95

Over the course of the past decade transgender politics have become the cutting edge of sexual liberation. In Read My Lips, which is equal parts autobiography, feminist theory and humor, Riki Anne Wilchins has brought the dialogue on gender up to date. While the sexual and political freedom of homosexuals has yet to be fully secured, questions of who is sleeping with whom pale in the face of the battle by Transgender activists to dismantle the idea of what it means to be a man or a woman.

How can there be a genderqueer dialogue, if the language itself is heterosexual? It is impossible to read Wilchins's ideas and not be provoked in fundamental and mysterious ways

Apparition Alley by Katherine Forrest

Berkeley H \$21.95 Lesbian fiction continues to be dominated by the mystery genre and Katherine Forrest's Kate Delafield series remains head and shoulders above the crowd. Apparition Alley is an exciting, well-written police procedural with an original perspective: the alleged perpetrator is a police officer. This provides the reader with a into the political m social biases prevalent in the police force. This thought-provoking novel is multilayered, rich in characterizations and subplots. Well done, Katherine Forrest!

Naked Men: Pioneering Male Nudes 1935-1955 by David Leddick Universe HC \$35,00

Shelves today are filled with glorious photography books filled to overflowing with images of the male nude. Yet this is a recent phenomenon. Long before Stonewall and the Gay pride movement, a small, tightly knit group of daring men helped pave the way for male sexual liberation, Mapplethorpe and the Bel Ami boys! Through extraordinary research, David Leddick has traced the modeling careers of these artists, writers, and photographers, from the 1930s to the 1950s, as they gave birth to new notions of male beauty and desire.

Profiles include Yul Brenner, Tennessee Williams, and Paul Cadmus.

Plays Well With Others by Allan Gur-

Allan Gurganus achieved national fame in 1988 for his award-winning Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All. In Plays Well with Others, Gurganus turns his unique perspective to the New York

Gay art scene in the 1980s, just as AIDS is appearing. Narrated by Hartley Mins, a young artist who "came to New York to the novel is an elegiac reminiscence of a culture that, by encouraging personal and sexual freedom, instilled in its artists the ability to create in the face of mortality, love in the midst of loss, and care in a world in which hope is vanishing.

The Last Time I Wore a Dress by Daphne Scholinski, Jane Meredith Adams Riverhead Books HC \$23.95

In 1981, at the age of 15, Daphne Scholinski was put in a mental hospital for what her psychiatrist called "failure to identify as a sexual female" and had the dubious diagnosis: Gender Identity Disorder.

Though the facts are truly frightening, The Last Time I Wore a Dress is a haunting expose of a shameful medical sham that destroyed countless childhoods. This is an extraordinarily powerful and important book.

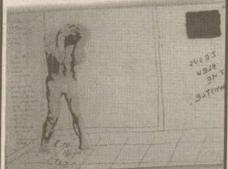
Scholinski is a psychiatric memoirist with a powerful voice and a mission: to debunk doctors who continue to diagnose gender identity disorders.

The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture by Daniel Harris, Hyperion HC \$24.95

Daniel Harris's first collection of essays is a curious artifact, a book that declares dead the phenomenon of which it is itself a product. For Harris, Gay culture as we know it is a post World War II occurrence, and each of his essays outlines the history of a particular object or phenomenon of the past 50 years, either those that Gay men developed themselves-pomography, leathermen, drag--or those claimed from mainstream culture, things like Hollywood actresses, gym culture, the personal ad.

Subterfuge, Harris argues, born of oppression, not only necessitated creativity on the part of Gay men as they built their subculture but fueled it, producing a Gay renaissance in both the public and private spheres throughout the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

THE LAST TIME WORE A DRESS



DAPHNE SCHOLINSKI

WITH JANE MEREDITH ADAMS

Stealing Jesus by Bruce Bawer, Crown

Most famous for his controversial A Place at the Table, Bruce Bawer turned his critical eye towards Fundamentalism in Stealing Jesus.

Over the book's 300-odd pages, Bawer has opened a floodgate of acute religious criticism that will reverberate across the American panoramic landscape. In eloquent and decisive language, Bawer proves what many mainline Christians and non-Christians have long suspected-namely that Fundamentalism isn't Christian at all.

Bawer succeeds in revealing a so-called Fundamentalist movement that readily

Afterwords January Schedule

Lesbian and Gay Writers Group Thursday, January 22nd 7:00pm Lesbian Reading Group Solitaire & Brahms by Sarah Dreher Wednesday, January 28th 7:00pm

displays a blatant disregard for the most important message of the Gospels: that of Please See '97 Books Page 33

New on the Shelf at Afterwords

Execution, Texas: 1987 by D. Travers Scott, St. Martin's HC \$20.95

D. Travers Scott's debut novel is a sharply original coming-of-age story about a 17-year-old in the small town of Execution, Texas. Seeger King's struggles with his identity are complicated and complemented by those around him. This story introduces a startlingly original new voice that shows a depth and complexity of character, time, and place that far exceed expectations of a debut novel.

Offseason by Naomi Holoch, Faber and Faber HC \$23.95

Miriam, who has been in love with Gabriella, becomes alarmed when her friend suddenly ceases her regular correspondence from Paris. Impulsively she flies off to Paris to find her. Offseason tells the story of this bittersweet visit. Miriam has only one week to discover the truth about her friend's life. A spare and intense novel that raises issues of memory, obsession, helplessness and abuse, and the influence

Non-Fiction Gay Men at the Millennium edited by Michael Lowenthal, Putnam Pb \$15.95

With Gay culture at a turning point, many assumptions within the Gay community, many which have been held true for years. are now being questioned. With contributors like Michelangelo Signorile. Fenton Johnson, Bruce Bawer and Andrew Sullivan, Gay Men at the Millennium offers a provocative and insightful debate on the themes of sex, spirit and community.

Backstage Pass: Interviews Women in Music by Laura Post, New Victoria Press Pb \$16.95

For anyone who has an interest in women's music, Laura Post's Backstage Pass is a must! Here is a terrific collection of intimate, behind-the-scenes interviews with some of the hottest names Ani Di-Franco and the Topp Twins to Cris Williamson and Alix Dobkin.

On Those Winter Nights, How About a True Crime Story of Lesbians or Gays?

By Cindy Van Vreede The release of the film Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil has brought even more attention to the book of the same name by John Berendt. The book has garnered attention on its own for two big reasons: its time on the New York Times bestseller list (over three years), and the fact that it has not been issued in paperback

In the Garden of Good and Evil is a true crime story that takes place in Savan-nah, Georgia. Gay millionaire Jim Williams shoots his young stud lover. Is it murder or self-defense? Williams was tried for the crime four times.

Outside of a few Jeffrey Dahmer and Andrew Cunannan books there are very few true crime books about Gays and Lesbians. I think this is a good thing. Outside of a couple serial killers, we are the "gentle, loving people" Holly Near likes to sing about.

We have, unfortunately, learned firsthand that Gays and Lesbians can kill. One true crime book of interest to Lesbians is Parker and Hulme: A Lesbian View by Julie Glamuzina and Alison J. Laurie. This book is a look at the 1950 New Zealand murder case, which was made into the film Heavenly Creatures.

(Which begs the question of why movies about Gay men get big-time directors like Clint Eastwood with ka-billion dollar budgets while films about Lesbians are made on maxed-out credit cards and hit the art house circuit, but I'll leave that for another time.)

Juliet Hulme and Pauline Parker were teenagers when they killed Pauline's mother. Back then, the murder resulted in a sensational court case and associated lesbianism with evil and violence.

With this book, Glamuzina and Laurie explore the issues of racism, classism, and homophobia that surrounded the case at the time. Interestingly enough, Juliet Hulme was "outed" as famous mystery

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writer Ann Perry.

Another true crime book of interest to Lesbians is All She Wanted by Aphrodite Jones. It's the sad story of Teena Brandon, a twenty-one year old woman living as a man in the small town of Falls City, Nebraska. As a boy, Brandon was very popular with the girls. Some of the jealous local boys discovered Brandon's true sexual identity and raped her. After she reported the rape to police, the local boys murdered her, her roommate, and a friend.

Jones interviewed Teena Brandon's family and friends. She also poured over seven thousand pages of police reports, psychiatric records, and court transcripts. Jones shows us a part of America where many young people experiment with gender identity and challenge conventional ideas of male and female, Gay and straight.

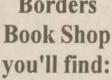
A book of interest to Gay men is not a true crime book in the purest sense. It's a true story with a bit of fiction added. book is The Good Life by Gordon Merrick and Charles Hulse. It's about a 1943 highsociety murder case that drew attention because of the violence, scandalous sex, and enormous wealth of the participants.

Perry Langham was a poor boy who met and married Bettina, the daughter of his Theirs was a life of wild parties, traveling through Europe, and meeting fa-Then Bettina discovered mous people. the relationship between her husband and She threatened to expose her father. them, but before she does, she is mur-

While Merrick and Hulse put their fictional stamp on this story, The Good Life gives us a fascinating history of Gay life in New York in the 30s and 40s.

As always, you can write to me in care of the Wisconsin Light, or e-mail me at

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OUT on Film

'The Sweet Hereafter' is the Most Compelling, Thoughtful Film of the Year

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

At first, Glenn was rather surprised to learn of a Christmas Day opening for The Sweet Hereafter, an Atom Egoyan cinematic adaptation of a Russell Banks novel. This moving exploration of a small community's grief following a school bus accident would hardly seem like traditional holiday fare.

Closely following Banks' story, The Sweet Hereafter has a deceptively simple plot. It is winter in a small, fictional closely-knit Canadian town. On one fateful day, a day much like any other, the school bus driven Dolores Driscoll (Gabrielle Rose) inexplicably swerves off the road, crashes into a frozen lake, in the process, killing fourteen children. A tragedy, plain and simple.

Not so simple is how the survivors have responded to the accident, each of whom has sought relief from their pain in various ways. While some have mourned in silence, others have looked for a place, a person, anything to place blame upon.

Enter one big-city lawyer type, Mitchell Stephens (played by the always marvelous lan Holm) bringing with him promises of big-money compensations to the bereft families.

A fascinating portrayal of the community emerges through the series of devastating encounters Stephens has with survivors like Delores and young Nicole Burnell (Sarah Polley) as well as with the grieving parents. Seemingly preying upon these tormented souls, Stephens doggedly works toward mounting a class-action lawsuit.

Yet Stephens himself is a grieving man, his beloved daughter Zoe (Caerthan Banks) struggles with a drug addiction and is apt to call up at all hours of the day and night, with wild pleas for money and love. His scars so visible, his pain so naked,

there is little wonder why the grieving parents respond to the almost fanatical Stephens.

Although Stephens and the proposed lawsuit initially act as a curious sort of conduit for the community's anger and bewilderment, before long divisions appear. As the sole child survivor, Nicole is placed in the critical role of establishing the basis for the lawsuit. Well-known family financial problems provide Stephens with an easy tool of leverage.

But unlike those surrounding her who become convinced that sums of money can easy pain, Nicole finds the key to the first step to bringing healing to the community, the sweet hereafter.

Unlike this fall's more shrill, superficial The Ice Storm, Egoyan's The Sweet Hereafter is ablaze with emotions and heartfelt moments, Egoyan beautifully spins the many and varied collective memories of the survivors in a web of lyrical flashbacks.

The Sweet Hereafter is filled with wonderful performances, beginning with Holm's mesmerizing performance as the tortured Mitchell Stephens who with effortless grace manages to worm his way into family after family with vague promises of huge settlements. Also worthy special mention are Gabrelle Rose's Delores, a woman devastated by the lost "her children" in the accident and young Sarah Polley as Nicole, wrestling with the guilt she feels for having lived through the accident.

All told, Glenn cannot more highly recommend this thoughtful, compelling film, clearly the best film Glenn has seen all

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

'The Boxer' is that Rare and Wonderful Film That Engages Heart and Mind Reviewed by Glenn Bishop and the wife of an imprisoned IRA a

Following Firestorm, Glenn's fragile state of mind was nothing short of disheartened. Sure, trashing a bad movie in

print has a delicious if fleeting pleasure. But, gosh darn it, Glenn doesn't need to waste night after night enduring dreadful, ill-conceived motion pictures.

That said, as Glenn walked through the parking lot on his way to see **The Boxer**, Glenn could not have predicted, not in a million years, that in his second review of 1998, he would bestow his highest rating.

In The Boxer, Daniel Day-Lewis is reunited with writer/director Jim Sheridan (My Left Foot, In the Name of the Father). Day-Lewis plays Danny Flynn, a former boxer just released from prison following a 14-year term for IRA activities.

Despite the promise of yet another cease-fire, the Belfast that Danny finds upon his return continues to be patrolled by uniformed soldiers. Even the city's continually overcast sky have the omnipresent presence of helicopters, keeping an ever watchful "eye". Utilizing images graced with a gritty, understated realism, director Jim Sheridan with deceptive simplicity, draws moviegoers into this world where violence and hatred remain a daily occurrence.

Nor does Danny Flynn find welcoming arms upon his return. All eyes are upon him as he strides up to his flat, sledge-hammer in hand to break down the cinder block walls that have sealed every door and window.

All question why Danny has returned. Little of his previous life remains. His youthful sweetheart Maggie has married his best friend, another imprisoned IRA agent. Gone too is the gym Danny trained at, his longtime friend and trainer, Ike (Ken Stott) has given up, hustling money for vine, sleeping it off in a men's shelter.

With steely-eyed determination, Danny resolved to begin again. Alone if necessary, Danny will start up a gym that will once again welcome both Catholic and Protestant. Facing even greater odds, Danny seeks to reclaim Maggie (Breaking the Waves' Emily Watson). As a mother

and the wife of an imprisoned IRA agent, Maggie faces censure and worse if she is unfaithful.

As Maggie's father Joe (Brian Cox), an IRA leader maneuvers through difficult cease-fire negotiation, his key deputy, a man consumed with hatred, proves an obstacle for Danny Flynn.

Although a film about "the troubles" in Northern Ireland, The Boxer is a sensational film about believable, often memorable characters caught up in a conflict beyond their control.

Daniel Day-Lewis dominates the screen as a good man wanting, simply, to come home again. No less terrific is the radiant Emily Watson. These two marvelous performers work wonderfully together, beautifully capturing the tentative, stumbling steps such estranged lovers take in rekindling the romance they once shared.

Yet much of the impact of **The Boxer** comes from the wealth of unforgettable supporting characters which Sheridan masterfully weaves into the rich texture of the film's narrative.

Brian Cox's Joe is an old warrior who, after year after year of fighting, finds himself sick of the unending death and destruction. Somehow he seeks the impossible, an honorable peace, one which won't diminish the memory of those lost in the struggle.

The trainer-with-a-heart-of-gold is something of a cliché in the boxing film genre. See, for example, Rocky for Burgess Meridith's seminal performance. Ken Stott takes a familiar role and makes it his own. Stott's lke, like Danny, sees a glimmer of hope. Yet his hope to reclaim his gym's tradition and for his own salvation is fleeting, beaten down before ultimately shattering.

The Boxer is that rare film, one which can engage both the heart and mind. Go see The Boxer!

Rating \$7.00 (scale No Cents to \$7.00)

The Nicest Thing to be Said About 'Firestorm' is that it's Short

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Having Firestorm as the first review of 1998 worries Glenn. Worries Glenn a lot. Once upon a time, Glenn found his schedule filled with fabulous independent films that dazzle the senses, challenge the mind and tug at the heart.

What does Glenn find himself at to start off the new year!? Firestorm! This major motion picture features the dubious acting talents of Howie Long. Never heard of him? Neither had Glenn. Glenn called friend after friend, near and far to learn more of this new Hollywood leading man. Finally it would be a helpful Lesbian colleague who, chuckling, told Glenn to watch the Fox Network football pre-game show.

Howie Long is an ex-football player now commentator. Where else do ex-football players go when they hang up their cleats, Glenn ponders.

Truth be told, Howie Long is also one mega hunk-o-man. Sad to say, even that is not enough to salvage this perfectly dreadful film. At least since he kept all his clothes on.

Someone must have thought what a great film could be made featuring unbelievable forest fire special effects. To bad they forgot that even terrific special effects do not a successful film make. Oops, Glenn forgets that Lost World managed to rake in over \$200 million with no evident plot.

Here's the story. Some psycho named Shaye (William Forsythe) is planning a prison break. Knowing that convicts are bused in to fight local forest fires, Shaye masterminds himself on to the chain gang and has his toadie lawyer set up the required blaze.

Cut to the fire station. Wynt (Scott Glenn) is forced to retire due to a burn leg he got when saving the day during the

opening credits. He passes his reigns of command to Jesse (that afore-mentioned hunk-o-man, Howie Long).

Guess what? A fire starts! Shaye murders some other convict, dyes his hair, gets on the bus and off they go. Is Shaye going to help put out the fire? Glenn doesn't think so. Neither did the group of teenage girls who sat behind Glenn and kept up a running dialogue with the screen. After the film Glenn asked them if they moved their lips while the read. "Read?", one puzzled.

Shaye and his convict cohorts manage to imprison everyone on the bus (including one hunky firefighter who spend the rest of the film on the bus shirtless, sweating magnificently) and their escape seems a cinch.

Enter a collector of rare bird eggs, Jennifer (Suzy Amis) who happens to stumble upon the convicts who are now dressed like firefighters. They decide to take her along as a hostage – and as a lively romantic love interest for hunky Jesse, Glenn cynically muses.

Many inordinately, indescribably unbelievable stunts later, the obligatory happy ending, the fires extinguished less by the pitter-patter of the soul-cleansing rain shower than by the buckets of testoster-one produced by Howie Long (and to a lesser extent by an equally butch Suzy Amis).

On the plus side, Firestorm, at barely over 90 minutes is at least blessed short.
Rating \$1.12 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

(Please note: Glenn's rating scale is changing for 1998, to better reflect just

what a movie is worth in real money.)

When it Comes to Gay Film Disappointments, '97 Has Plenty

Commentary by Glenn Bishop

Glenn has many disappointments, not the least of which being the ever increasing price of a "Biggie" popcorn! In anticipation of the year's Top Ten Movie List to be found elsewhere in this issue, Glenn took a moment to reflect on Cinema '97. Glenn found many areas of disappointment!

After the phenomenal mainstream box office success of last year's dreadful The Birdcage, a film that Glenn trashed in a much maligned review, many of you faithful readers of The Wisconsin Light told Glenn in a variety of unpleasant ways that America's cinemas were now destined to be filled with absolutely fabulous Gay and Lesbian films! And Hollywood made, to

Now that all the chestnuts have been roasted and Jack Frost has been nipping at Glenn's nose, time has come to decide if this rainbow-tinted promise fulfilled on the big screen in 1997?

Glenn must say: No! Absolutely and categorically: No!

Glenn's biggest disappointment of Cinema '97 is not that Hollywood continues to portray Gay characters as sexless, ineffectual collections of stereotypes. They do, but as disappointing as that scenario continues to be, even worse is that so many Gay men and Lesbians seem willing to continue to buy into the mass produced product meekly accept such portrayals.

Nowhere was this more evident than in one of 1997's biggest box office sensations: In and Out.

It is difficult to imagine a more appropriate successor in the hearts and small minds of middle-class Mall America than an equally dreadful In and Out. Drawn in by the hype surrounding "the kiss", an extraordinarily sexless smooth between Kevin Kline and that aging sex symbol (dare one breathe, has-been?!) Tom Selleck, countless Gay men made In and Out an unmissible cinematic event.

What was so offensive about In and Out, you might demand? As penned by Paul "Jeffrey" Rudnick, In and Out featured the forty-plus Kline an the eve of his wedding to that perennial bridesmaid, never a bride, Joan Cusak. Except that he's really Gay but just doesn't know it. At least until a former student outs him during an Oscar ceremony (Heaven forbid what Kevin Kline might reveal should he get an Oscar nod!?) and Rudnick then proceeds to trot out every conceivable Gay stereotype before Kline embraces his newfangled sexual preference.

In and Out graciously enabled the whole family, throughout the barren American panorama, to giggle at that oh-so silly Gay man, all the while congratulating themselves on how "liberal" they've become.

As disturbing a scenario this continues to be for Glenn, far worse is that so many of Glenn's friends succumbed to this non-sense, perhaps seduced by all of the hype generated by the media, even within, as well as on the covers, our own national news magazines.

Yet where are these same Gay and Lesbian audiences for films that challenge rather than acquiesce to the traditional "family values" of the heterosexual statusquo?

How many saw Love! Valour! Compassion!? An entertaining if not especially noteworthy portrayal of the Gay experience, LIVICI total gross box office total was far less than In and Out managed to rake in in just one weekend!

What about films like Alive and Kicking, All Over Me, Hollow Reed, When the Cat's Away, Kiss Me Guido, Love and Other Catastrophes or the many fine offerings at this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival including Lilies and Late Bloomers?!

How often does one hear complaints that good Lesbian and Gay films never make it to Milwaukee by those who never make an effort to attend those that do!

On to other disappointments!

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil! Did Mr. Eastwood even bother to read Berendt's best-seller? Much better is the A&E special, Murder in Savannah.

Glenn must salute Rupert Everett, that devilishly handsome romantic lead courageous enough to be openly Gay! While many Lesbians prominent in the entertainment world have come out, Glenn wonders when Hollywood's closets will open on many of those male celebrities we now only whisper about!

Where are the Lesbian films? After the box office success of **Bound** and with the emergence of *Ellen* on television, one might have thought that Lesbian chic would have been all over the big screen in 1997. Not the case.

One could have blinked, as many did, and missed the two fine Lesbian flicks to briefly screened in Milwaukee, All Over Me and Love and Other Catastrophes. The only mainstream film with a key Lesbian element was the excellent Chasing Arny which proved problematic to many.

On a lighter note, Glenn must once again bemoan the continued lack of superfluous male nudity on the big screen. Sure, Randy Becker gave us his all in Love! Valour! Compassion! (as did a few others in that cast that needn't have bothered!) but meanwhile Glenn, like other faithful Wisconsin Light readers, will simply have continue to explore those infamous internet sites for our faves in the

In 1997, Hollywood Goes from the Lushly Romantic to the Blockbuster

By Glenn Bishop

1997 was the best of years. 1997 was the worst of years. Okay, perhaps not terribly original but as Glenn pondered which titles to include on a 1997 Top Ten list, Glenn could not help but find cinemas in1997 filled with mindless, special-effects laden blockbusters which seemed even more mindless and special-effects laden than ever before. Giving Titanic it's due, Hollywood proved with Lost World, Batman and Robin, Anaconda and Con Air, among the year's top-grossing films in addition to being amongst the least inspired.

Still, there were many wonderful, engaging films to be found in 1997 and what follows is Glenn's purely personal list of favorites:

1. The Sweet Hereafter. No "ifs", no "ands", no "buts" about it! The best, the very finest film screened in Milwaukee during the 1997 calendar year was this haunting cinematic adaptation of Russell Banks' novel of the same title. Beautifully filmed and acted, this memorable exploration of grief is guaranteed to pull at the heartstrings of even the most jaded moviegoer. Starring lan Holm, The Sweet Hereafter explores personal loss and the disintegration of a previously close-knit community following a tragic school bus accident, which killed many but not all of the children on board.

2. Lilies Many faithful readers of the Wisconsin Light blinked and missed this unmissible film when it was screened at the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and that's a darn shame. Lilies is the story of a tentative, youthful romance between two handsome young men and the unrequited passion of a third which ultimately romance tragedy. Director John Greyson filled this glorious and imaginative film with grand emotions and betray-

3. Titanic Glenn would have been horrified had anyone even hinted that James Cameron's mammoth Titanic would grace Glenn's Top Ten list. Yet possessing the vision and the audacity of any great storyteller and with a canvas as big as the Atlantic, Cameron does the impossible: create a Hollywood blockbuster with a heart! A spectacular recreation of the splendor that was the Titanic, truly special effects plus the radiant Kate Winslet make this an unmissible Hollywood event!

4. The Full Monty Clearly the sleeper film of the year, The Full Monty followed an unlikely collection of lovable losers who come up with an equally unlikely get-richquick scheme: create a local Chippendales ensemble. Featuring an enchanting performance from Robert Carlyle, so memorable as the psychotic Begbie in Trainspotting, The Full Monty was the little film that did — have people cheering in the aisles.

5. The Pillow Book Director Peter Greenaway inevitably crafts some of the most visually stunning films, managing to combine the exotic and the erotic in deliciously intoxicating ways. The Pillow Book is no exception. Greenaway takes the memoir of the famous 10th century Japanese courtesan as a starting point in this tale of love, obsession and betrayal. Need Glenn mention that the gloriously nude Ewan McGregor is a book that Glenn would take to bed any night?!

6. Wings of the Dove With increasingly few Jane Austen novels left to be brought to the big screen, filmmakers in 1997 turned to Henry James with Washington Square and in this sumptuous cinematic adaptation of Wings of the Dove. Lushly filmed, emotionally complex, this mesmerizing turn of the century love story featured Priest's Linus Roche.

7. As Good as it Gets Once in a while Hollywood gets it right and there is no better example than James L. Brooks quirky As Good as it Gets which is pretty much as good as Hollywood gets. With Jack Nicholson in Oscar-winning form as racist, homophobic, obsessive/compulsive Melvin and Talk Soup's Greg Kinnear marvelously sympathetic as a bashed Gay artist, As Good as it Gets is a warm and fuzzy 90's spin on life, love and friendship.

8. Chasing Amy Not a popular film with many Lesbian readers of the Wisconsin Light, Kevin Smith's Chasing Amy is the smartest, freshest, funniest and most truthful exploration of the love and sex in the 90's that Glenn has seen in a month of Sundays. Acknowledging that sexual attraction is often surprisingly fluid in nature, Chasing Amy features yummy Ben Affleck as Holden who falls in love with Alyssa, a Lesbian while being forced to deal with the homoerotic feelings of his best friend.

9. In the Company of Men Not for the weak of heart or those looking for light, mindless entertainment, In the Company

of Men is a devastating spin on the war of the sexes. First-time director LaBute elicits strong performances for his unknown cast in this bleak story of two men who plan a heartless prank, courting the affections of a woman before humiliating her. Never less than mesmerizing, In the Company of Men is as chilling a film as 1997 had to offer.

10. (tie) Star Wars and Pink Flamingos
Two classic films from the 1970s returned
to the big screen in cinemas across
America in 1997 to tremendous success
with re-mastered prints, restored scenes
and enhanced visuals and proved once
again that despite the popularity of home
video, that movie were, are and always will
be meant for the big screen (with a "Biggie" popcorn, of course).

A few honorable mentions
Rupert Everett stealing the delightful My
Best Friend's Wedding

Judi Dench's marvelous performance as Queen Victoria in Mrs. Brown

The winning ensemble including TV's Jason Alexander in Love! Valour! Compassion!

L.A. Confidential brought noir into the 90's

Starship Troopers, a dazzling cinematic comic book

Kissed, an enthralling mediation on death and desire

The quirky and unexpected Men in

JOHN JAHN'S TOP TEN MOVIE LIST OF 1997

1997's come and gone, and for me it will be a memorable year, having just completed my first full year working as an entertainment reporter for *The Wisconsin Light*, striving to en*Light*en its readers concerning theater, music, and of course, movies! Working in this capacity enabled me to see far more movies than I ever have in a single year before in my 2 1/2 decades of moviegoing: I saw some 70-odd films this past year!

I'll remember 1997 for other reasons, too. It was the year of the anticipated Jurassic Park sequel, The Lost World (which I liked more than most critics), the world's most expensive movie, Titanic, and arguably the motion picture event of the year: the theatrical release of the "Star Wars Special Edition Trilogy."

Another highlight was the release of the director's cut of Wolfgang Petersen's 1980 war epic **Das Boot**. I had to disqualify these four fine films because, though substantially changed from the originals - especially the latter, they weren't "new" films, otherwise all would certainly have made my list.

Even without the re-releases, however, it turned out to be a surprisingly good year for the big screen.

1997 was as loaded with forgettable dreck (That Old Feeling, Money Talks, The Man Who Knew Too Little) and special effects showcases (Batman & Robin, Lost World, The 5th Element) as any recent year, but it also witnessed some fine dramas and outrageous comedies which managed to climb to the top of the heap and escape the run-of-the-mill.

Perhaps the most notable theme that ran through '97 was that of nostalgia, particularly so for the 1970s, whether in actual setting or only in soundtrack. Either way it was quite refreshing for this reviewer who revisited his teens, thanks to pop culture's current fascination with all things '70s.

I'm not so presumptuous as to say that my "Top 10 List" should be everyone's, but nevertheless out of the 70-odd movies I saw, these rose to the top for yours truly. In ascending order they were:

10. GOOD WILL HUNTING The charming, touching, funny tale about ultimate triumph over childhood neglect and abuse, this emotionally uplifting film stars the adorable Matt Damon in the title spot, and provides Robin Williams with one of his finest performances in years as the Vietnam veteran widower turned psychology teacher who brings out Will's humanity at

9. THE SWEET HEREAFTER The tragic story of a school bus crash that wipes out virtually all the children of a small town, and the ambulance-chasing lawyer who must do long distance battle with his drug-addicted daughter while building his case on behalf of the bereaved. It's a fine drama indeed, deftly examining the themes of loss and recovery on a heart-wrenching, personal level. Ian Holm as the lawyer is finally given a leading character, and shows what an excel-



Everybody Bow Now – Tulku Jamyang protrays the Dali Lama at age five in "Kundun" the story of the life of the Dali Lama of Tibet from his childhood through his journey into exile following the Chinese attack and take over of his country in the 1950's.

lent actor he truly is. Atom Egoyan's directing expertly avoids melodrama and sentimentality.

8. AS GOOD AS IT GETS The chemistry between Jack Nicholson as obsessive-compulsive novelist Melvin, and Helen Hunt as Carol - the only waitress he'll tolerate in the only restaurant he ever goes to, is at once explosive, passionate, and romantic. Nicholson excels as the emotionally challenged Melvin, struggling with his inner demons while attempting to win the heart of the woman he loves. As romantic comedies go, this is As Good As It Gets. A rom-com with edge!

7. COP LAND The fascinating, roughedged story of a small town, Garrison, NJ, just across the river from New York City, which is run by a group of corrupt NYPD men, led by Harvey Keitel. Sylvester Stallone is terrific as the dragged out, paunchy, overlooked and ridiculed town sheriff, Fred Heflin, who's ultimately urged on to restore true law and order by hardnosed Internal Affairs officer, Robert DeNiro. The plot twists and turns, the script is intelligent and realistic, and Stallone's Heflin is undoubtedly the finest performance of his career since the original Rocky.

6. THE ICE STORM Set in 1973 New England during a fierce Thanksgiving ice storm, director Ang Lee brought us this thought-provoking, metaphor-filled drama involving two dysfunctional, neighboring families and in particular the events of the night of the storm, which are by turns ribald, comic and tragic. Superb period feel, thanks to ultra-seventies costume & production design, and fine ensemble acting, including Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, and in particular the teenagers of the cast (for it is through youthful eyes that this story is told) make The Ice Storm unforgettable).

5. L.A. CONFIDENTIAL 1950s Hollywood, while as glamorous and alluring as most of us imagine it to have been, has its artifice blown off, exposing a corrupt core in this stylish homage to some of the great film noires of the past. It featured a cast of good young actors (Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger) playing sharply drawn characters caught up in a web of police corruption. It's a violent film to be sure, but lustrous looking in its '50s nostalgia, and as well written as any film noire from the period it depicts. A lurid look at the debauched flip side of the Eisenhower

4. KUNDUN The true story of the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, forced into exile in neighboring India by the ruthless Communist Chinese, Kundun is a remarkable historical drama lovingly brought to the big screen by one of my favorite directors,

Martin Scorsese. The visual appeal and authenticity of this film gives it an almost docudramatic flavor, and the accompanying score by Philip Glass literally caresses every scene. Further authenticity is provided by an all-Tibetan cast. Unfortunately, **Kundun** is not currently scheduled for a Milwaukee area release at yet, but keep your eyes open for it!

3. THE FULL MONTY Set in Sheffield, England, this low budget British comedy revolves around the efforts of a group of unemployed steel workers to find a new calling in life. Robert Carlyle has an even higher purpose: his lack of income has meant he can't pay child support to his ex, and thus is prevented from spending 'quality time" with his teenaged son. What the group decides to do is put on a Chippendales-style strip show, except they will go all the way, The Full Monty, as it were. Needless to say, these blokes are far from Chippendales calibre. It was a delight, one of the funniest movies I'd seen in years, and like my review from last September said, "one of the best films of the year, mate." Proof positive that you don't need hundreds of millions of dollars to pull off a good flick

2. BOOGIE NIGHTS Another '70s based film, Boogie Nights follows a "family" of adult filmmakers who struggle to legitimize themselves, and ultimately to move beyond their seedy exploits, with varying degrees of success. Burt Reynolds, as the family's" father figure Jack Horner, gives his best film performance to date. Mark Wahlberg, however, truly carries the film as the star struck teenager who rises to the top in the porn industry (adopting the ludicrous name, Dirk Diggler), and ultimately discovers that fame and fortune do not fulfillment make. Again, costume and production design are extremely attractive and effective at bringing the late '70s and early '80s to life.

1. TITANIC There has already been so much publicity surrounding the release - at long last - of the most expensive film ever made, James Cameron's 200+ million dollar Titanic. Therefore, I can't add any superlatives to the discussion other than to say that, although over 3 hours long, literally every minute of this remarkable film grabs your attention and imagination. Leonardo DiCaprio is surprisingly effective as the cute male lead from steerage, and the ship is so intricately and accurately detailed that its interiors dazzle, and the sight of its massive hull slicing through the icy North Atlantic on its way to doom gives one goose bumps. A film made with loving detail and perfection in mind, and it delivers. I Itanic ranks right up there with the finest epics ever made.

For 1997's Films, It Was the Best of Times and the Absolute Worst

By Steve Stavron

Like children engaging in the annual White House Easter egg hunt which usually occurs after Academy Awards time, it's not difficult to visualize reviewers "scrambling" through their august files of brilliant journalism and ending up with a variety of over-ambitious but underdeveloped embryonic film concepts which have been laid half- hatched upon a weary, unsuspecting public starving for good entertainment.

Movies have become more complex and less intelligible, as if complexity of purpose can obfuscate the lack of artistry or conviction. Detailing has become the name of the game. Great films are usually simple in content but with subtle subliminal power based on developing the least obvious inferences [More about this in future issues].

1997 was a bad year. Don't believe Dudek, or Siskel and Ebert They're analyzing story details rather than truly evaluating films, and beware of "Best Ten" blessings. The newer films range from muddled to mediocre—the best ones that is...

So were there ANY good films last year? Not if you're looking for movies with emotional magnitude, psychological resolution, or the integrity of artistic imaginativeness that will grace the slate of memorable movie experiences for future film lovers in times to come. Movies have become spuriously forgettable. But for a few hours of superficial pleasure—the raison d'etre of most urban pastimes anyway—a few films might suffice for diversion every now and then, but look hard.

Ice Storm, Wings of the Dove, Face Off, Donnie Brasco, Contact, In and Out have very little to offer, now or for posterity, but much depends on your tolerance level. Mine is low.

Please See 97 Films Page 34

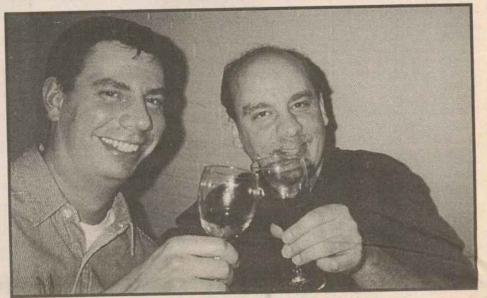
Great Places In WISCONSIN

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Appleton				001.0000
Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
E CL.				
Eau Claire		411 (7-11)	54703	835-9959
Scooters Trading Co	W,m M,w DJ	411 Galloway 304 Eau Claire St.	54701	838-9494
Trading Co. Wolf's Den	M,W	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
Won's Den	114, 11	302 27 17444		
Green Bay				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
The Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway	54303	432-9646
Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
**				
Kenosha	very my	0001 1201 4	52140	957 0059
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
I a Cunasa				
La Crosse	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Cavalier Lounge Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9001
Rainbow's End	Retail	417 Jay St.	54601	102 1217
Kambow's Lind				
Lake Mills				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
		N EASTERN ST		
Madison				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	257-5455
MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock Wa Ara Family	MW Potoil/Expresso	117 W. Main St	53703 53703	255-5029 258-9006
We Are Family	Retail/Expresso	524 E. Wilson	33703	236-9000
Milwaukee				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
Afterwords Books	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
Boot Camp	M, L/L, Food 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. 1st Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
Designing Men	Retail	1200 S. 1 st	53204	389-1200
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Glass Menagerie	Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Grubb's Pub	MW, Food	807 S. 2 nd St.	53204	384-8330
In Between Just Us	Mw, Sports Bar WM, DJ	625 S. 2nd St. 807 S. 5th St.	53204 53204	273-2693 383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	WM, DJ Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	52304	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 th Street	53204	645-9888
Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	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 nd	53204	273-7474
The M & M Club	MW. Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
This Is It Triangle	Mw M	418 E. Wells 135 E. National	53202 53204	278-9192 383-9412
Walkers Point Café	Food, Open 24	1106 S. First Street	53204	
Woody's	hrs	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-5580
THE PARTY	MW		23231	-12 3300
Neenah				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
Racine				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
3-42				
Sheboygan				THE FA
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
Stevens Point	No No. of Street, Stre			
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
		HER MAY THE LIKE TO		
Superior				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373

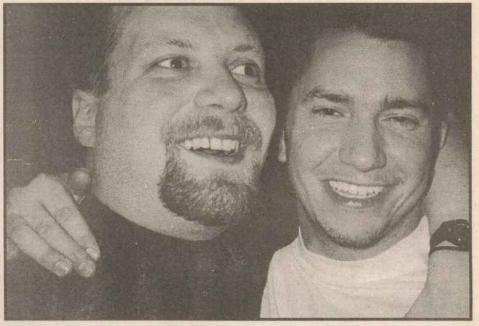
Wausau				ang Hillian.
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225
				4.











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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

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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Illinois

ROB LOWE LOOKALIKE
Handsome, smooth, 21 year old,
White male, 5'11, 165lbs, with dark
hair and Blue eyes, is a virgin looking
to change into something more. If
you're around my age and can help
me gain some experience, give me a
call. (Aurora) #1855

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

DYING FOR DIRTY SOCKS This 29 year old, White male, needs the dirty socks of young guys.

Call me so we can make the swap. (Evanston) #8063

TAKE THE PLUNGE I'm a very good looking, well built, White male, 44, 5'9, 150lbs, HIV positive but healthy. I want to meet a guy who's into having anal sex. You should be primarily a bottom, over 30, with a decent body, and ready to go. (Evanston) #7972

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

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

THE LITTLE WOMAN I'm an attractive, African American, Transsexual, 57, and I've been dressing like a woman all my life. I'm ready to meet a genite, Black male, who's a real man, to share my life with. I'm financially secure and stable, I just need some romance to make my life complete. If you need companionship too, we might be fated for each other. (Rockford) \$\infty\$11405

THE HANDY MAN Friendly, personable, educated, healthy, Bi, White male, senior, working in advertising and public relations, seeks a casual and safe JO buddy, for hot fun. Age and race are not important. (Rockford) =11411

lowa

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

Minnesota

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

SHOW ME SOME SKIN This attractive, hairy bodied, White male, 6ft, 170lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a good build, seeks an uncut guy, for mutual, uninhibited, man to man contact. (Minneapolis) \$29332

SIMPLY RED Smooth, lean, well muscled, well endowed, White male, 5*10, 160lbs, with dark hair and eyes, is mostly into red hanky play, although I can get into lots of other stuff. Call and find out. (Minneapolis) #12060

NOT QUITE BUSY ENOUGH Very well built, White male, 25, into exercise and working out, seeks to date someone, 25 to 35, who also takes care of his body. I work full time and am a part time student. (Minneapolis)

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

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

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

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

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

NEW FEVER Nice looking, homy, White male, 34, 5'8, 135lbs, seeks hot top men for fun times. I've been thinking about trying some 2 on 1 action, or light B&D. (Rochester) ≈11628

SEXUAL BIZARRE My husband and I are looking for passable, altractive Transvestites, Transsexuals, and full figured She-males, to help us fullfill some of our more kinky and bizarre fantasies. The more feminine and beautiful, the more my old man gets off. We have a beautiful Harley Davidson for ride taking, and it also makes a great prop for hot photo shoots, which I love. [Rochester] #10615

I'M NOT PICKY White male, in south central Minnesota, seeks a man, of any age and race. Let's talk about it.

Wisconsin

VIDEO VENGEANCE This good looking, White male, 39, 5'11, 180lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a mustache, is totally into videos and having good sex, at least once a week. Let's have a blast. (Baraboo) #8229

HEAVY METAL MEN Bi, White male, 40, and a Bi, White male, 22, seek other Bi and Gay males, under 26, for fun times. We like heavy metal music and concerts, not bars. We're social drinkers but we prefer to do it at my home. (Kenosha) =11979

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

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

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

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

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

START OF SOMETHING GOOD
I'm a good looking, 18 year old,
White male, 6'4, with Brown hair
and eyes. I'd like a relationship with
someone, 21 to 27, who will love
me. I'm a unique, caring, humorous
guy, with lots of good qualities. I
have good self esteem and feel that
I'm a pretty nice catch. I hope you'll
agree. (Milwaukee) #11895

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

FATHER, MAY 1? Seeking a father/son relationship. As your father, I'm nurturing, gentle, generous, respectful, affectionate, and open minded. As a son, you're respectful, obedient, drug and alcohal free, full of love and patience, well mannered, clean shaven, smooth, thin, and 140 to 150lbs. You're able to think and act like a good boy. (Milwaukee)

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

(Milwaukee) #10632

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

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

(Milwaukee) #10733

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

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

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

MAN OF COLOR ONLY Very masculine, 20 year old, Bi, Black male, seeks other Hispanic, Asian, and African American males for fun, dating, and a possible relationship. (Milwaukee) #7738

LET THE MUSIC PLAY Attractive, White, band musician, 25, 5'8, 135lbs, seeks a guy for friendship or more. I'm in pretty good shape because I'm a runner and I work out. I'm young looking and am attracted to similar guys, 18 to 30, who are smooth and fit. If you like to go out to dinner, see movies, or kick back and talk, we'll get along just fine. (Milwaukee) #7979

ANY HAIR THERE? Youthful, handsome, White male, 39, 6ft, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a husky build, seeks guys for good times. I'm masculine and have regular guy interests, like watching football and more. I'd like to meet men between 21 and 45. I'm especially attracted to hairy guys with facial hair. (Peshtigo) #7675

HAIRY, BLOND SOUP Sexy, hairy, Blond bottom, 38, 190lbs, in southwestern Wisconsin, seeks other hot guys for fun times. #6299



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Boston, MA-AP- Two top AIDS experts have resigned from the New England Journal of Medicine's board to protest an editorial that likened AIDS studies in the Third World to the notious Tuskegee experiment.

Dr. David Ho, head of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City, and Dr. Catherine M. Wilfert, a pediatric AIDS expert at Duke University, said as board members they should have been consulted about the editorial before it was pub-

The editorial criticized several studies, mostly in Africa, that are intended to see if brief, inexpensive doses of the drug AZT will keep HIV-infected mothers from passing the virus to their babies. Some of the women are receiving dummy pills instead of

AZT.

Dr. Marcia Angell, the journal's executive editor, said in the editorial that the studies are unethical. She likened them to the Tuskegee study in which poor black men in the South with syphilis were left untreated even after penicillin became available.

The editorial upset many AIDS researchers, including Ho and Wilfert, who believe the African studies are the only practical way to prove that a simple approach works better than nothing at all. Wilfert and others worried that the influential journal's criticism could bring the studies to a halt.

Discharge Continued From Page 1

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

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Walker's Point Café and Cyberteria is looking for wait staff and kitchen help. Good wages, great working atmosphere. Apply in person at Walker's Point Café 1106 S. First Street.

The United

The United, Madison's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community and Service Center is looking for enthusiastic queer positive people for the following jobs.

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Requires exceptional written and verbal communication skills to coordinate fundraising efforts, including direct mailings, grant writing, special events and membership program. Experience in training and supervising volunteers helpful. 30 hrs/wk, \$15,600-17,460 (based on experience) full

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Outgoing individual with great communication skills to coordinate direct services and direct 100+ service volunteers. Experience recruiting, hiring, training and supervising volunteers needed, nonprofit social service experience preferred. 30 hrs/wk, \$14,975-15,990 (based on experience) + full benefits

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Organizations

Galano Club A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA and Al-anon, ACOA and other 12 step meetings. Openly nightly, 2408 N. Farwell Ave., (414) 276-6936

NAME

McVeigh is to be discharged from the military on January 15.

McVeigh says investigators decided that he was Gay because of an inquiry that began when a civilian employee alerted Navy brass to his profile on AOL. His user name "Tim," in the profile, had the word "Gay" in the section for marital

According to the military's sworn testi-mony, it was AOL that informed them of McVeigh's full name and state of resi-

Supporters of the embattled veteran, certain that the official investigation into his background failed to produce evidence supporting suspicions leveled against him, agree with McVeigh that under "Don't ask, Don't tell," there's an agreed upon concept-a zone of privacy-in which members of the military may have "wiggle room." Private statements made on AOL, they insist, are not a proper focus of ONI investigations.

McVeigh says his use of the term "Gay" did not mean he was claiming to be homosexual. He has declined to reveal his sexual orientation.

McVeigh believed that the Navy's Secretary "showed support for the policy, but the issue here is that the policy was not followed in my case. Testimony given at my administrative board supports this.

When McVeigh's military lawyer had asked his superior, "What actions did you take as Commanding Officer, pursuant to any of the rules that require CO's initiation of action investigation?" CDR John Mickey, replied "I took no actions. I don't know what is required. I didn't research it. I sent Senior Chief McVeigh to squad-

Prior to the Chief of Naval Personnel's

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recommendation that McVeigh be discharged, the long-time Navy man reflected on his immediate superior's shows of procedural ignorance.

And of Secretary Dalton, he said, : "I am hoping that he will demand to see the facts pertaining to my case and listen to the administrative board tapes. I want him to see for himself, how, contrary to his beliefs, his Navy, in fact, violated the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy."

The loyal military man also said "I feel Secretary Dalton's statement that he knows that the Navy has not been en-gaged in witch hunts is because he doesn't hear about them. I think that many people who are accused aren't fully aware of their rights and the Navy's regulations. They routinely become victims of a hard hearted military system and feel they have no recourse, even when unjustly accused." Since the Navy's initial intrusion into

McVeigh's private on-line life, the 35-year old Senior Chief Petty Officer has continued to draw national attention to the Navy's violations of " Don't Ask, Don't

"I was removed from my job and forced to take a \$745 per month pay cut because of someone's exaggerated interpretation of the word Gay," he said.

To start off his campaign for vindica-

tion, he has opened a world-wide Web site at: www.geocities.com/Pentagon/9241,

This site contains up-to-date information about his military record and the ongoing legal battle in which the Navy now plans to discharge him.

the Navy wants to throw the book and accusing the military of five pages of fairness out, I will still go by the book, perjured testimony. and in human fairness, lead the fight against them for the benefit of all."

The Navy has thus far declined to comment on the McVeigh case, which questions the credibility of merely the word front page story about him. "Gay" to be a statement of homosexuality. McVeigh's defense also rested on other questionable factors, including the way his profile was obtained and verified. This, he says, is in addition to the fact that the investigation was not authorized in accordance with current regulations and contained unfounded charges of sodomy and indecent acts.

"The investigating officer said she looked in my record and noticed that I had never been married and went from there,' said McVeigh, referring to the way he later found out that the investigation had

"I'm sure she also did not find that I have a dependant mother either."

He added: " I think my commanding of-

ficer, Commander John Mickey, summed up the Navy's position during my administrative separation board when he said that he didn't know what the regulations were, hadn't looked at the regulations since, and didn't plan on looking at the regulations.

The discharge recommendation went to Captain John F. Dohse, Commander Submarine Squadron Three, and was thereafter forwarded to the Chief of Naval Personnel in Arlington, Virginia for final

The Navy has not yet offered any explanation to answer McVeigh's contention that he admitted nothing and that the Navy has not followed the rules of the

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January 15, 1998—January 28, 1998—WISCONSIN LIGHT— "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy and is being

wrongfully discharged.

"The Navy has continually failed to answer why they don't have to follow the policy," McVeigh insists. " During my November 7th administrative board, the government lawyer said that the policy violations were irrelevant."

When Captain Dohse, Commander of Submarine Squadron Three, sent his endorsement letter to the Chief of Naval Personnel, he failed to state why regula-tions were not followed and the Chief of Naval Personnel failed to address this issue as well.

Congressional letters inquiring about the case, including one that specifically stated "I concur that this investigation and removal proceeding should never have been initiated" and recommended that "the discharge proceedings be dropped immediately" have gone unanswered by the

McVeigh knows of over 1,800 letters of support that have been sent to President Clinton, members of Congress, and the Navy. He said there were also 2 letters expressing the view that he should be dis-

"I find it incredible that such blatant disregard for regulations occurred and then were endorsed by the Navy at higher lev-els." McVeigh said, adding " Who is it that makes the Navy follow the laws passed by Congress for the people of the United States?

Editor's Note: As we go to press, email was received notifying us that according In an email message to Wisconsin to McVeigh's mother in Hawaii, on Mon-Light, McVeigh said, "I have been trained day, January 12, AOL has denied that Light, McVeigh said, "I have been trained day, January 12, AOL has denied that to be a leader, fair and by the book, and if they told the Navy anything—in essence

On Sunday, January 11, AOL shut down McVeigh's account that he uses to converse with his lawyers and supporters. This follows the Sunday New York Time's

selfless love and service to all.

Walt Whitman: A Gay Life by Gary Schmidgall, Dutton HC \$32.95

Walt Whitman's place in American literature, as a the poet of democracy and individual freedom cannot be challenged. Yet Whitman and his work have long been misrepresented by scholars. Only recently has Whitman's homosexuality been acknowledged and examined with regard to its effect on his work.

Gary Schmidgall's bold and wellresearched Walt Whitman: A Gay Life offers clear, abundant and irrefutable evidence of the poet's vibrant sexuality, detailing Whitman's sexual and romantic Gay affairs and illustrating how Whitman's attraction to men was at the root of his poetic vision. Farewell Symphony by Edmund White,

Knopf HC \$25.00

Edmund White has long been praised as one of America's finest Gay novelists. The Farewell Symphony, the final volume in White's autobiographical trilogy that began with A Boy's Own Story, is a fictional account of one man's struggle to succeed as a writer and to discover what it means to be Gay, offering a journey of remembrance that ranges from the 1960s to the present, celebrating the power of friendship and love to change his life.

White has captured the soul of the American experience-in this case a Gay male experience--and made it into art. Outstanding Lives: Profiles of Lesbi-

ans and Gay Men edited by Michael Bronski Visible Ink HC \$24.95

While many heterosexual celebrities become Gay icons, recognition is all too often rare for those Gay men and lesbians who have accomplished much in enhancing our culture and experience.

Outstanding Lives is a book of photographic portraits and short essays about 70 contemporary Gay men and Lesbians. Ranging from political figures such as Roberta Achtenberg, the first openly Gay person to be nominated by the president

and confirmed by the Senate, to Rudolf Nureyev, one of the world's greatest ballet dancers, the people given the spotlight in this marvelous book attest to the tremendous variety of contributions Gay and Lesbian people are making to the world today.

Other Noteworthy Titles Sexual Ecology: AIDS and the Destiny of Gay Men by Gabriel Rotello, Dutton

HC \$24.95

Life Outside by Michelangelo Signorile, HarperCollins HC \$25.00 The Gay Metropolis by Charles Kaiser

HoughtonMifflin HC \$27.00 Out Magazine Gay & Lesbian Guide to the Web Lycos Press Pb (with CD-Rom)

Gut Symmeties by Jeanette Winterson Knopf HC \$22.00

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

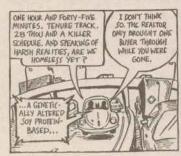








tainment.





acting, I suppose.

sensitive terms



The New York critics gave the best sup-

porting 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 prerequi-

"natural acting" methodology.



"major releases ' coming up, but hope does not spring eternal THIS SPRING.

However many films are making money.



l'este

of times. [ie. Charles Dickens] for enter-

'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 unawares, 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.

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

ous movies as the very undercluttered, distinguished AND disturbing SWEET HEREAFTER. The story of a northern Ca-SWEET nadian 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.

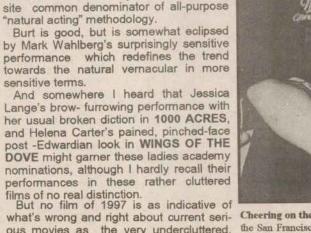
This movie is so excruciatingly tasteful that, combined with such explosive subject matter, reviewers greeted its forced reticence with a sense of relief, and convinced themselves that it must be art Even the accident itself -the bus slowly sliding underwater on a half frozen lake-is filmed in distant 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 lan 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 Hamlin [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 somnambulistically 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 reti-

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 incompletion.



what's wrong and right about current seri- 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



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 CON-TACT-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

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