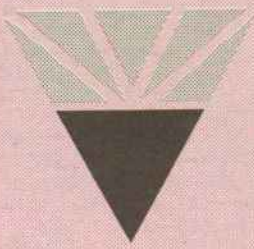


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.



# The Wisconsin Light

Our 250<sup>th</sup>  
Issue

## ARCW Needle Exchange Program Ranked Second Best in the Nation

**Milwaukee**— The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) was awarded a \$25,000 grant provided by the George Williams Fund of the Tides Foundation, San Francisco, Calif., for operation of its 1998 needle exchange program in Milwaukee and Racine.

ARCW ranked second out of more than 60 grant applicants nationwide for its successful needle exchange program LIFEPOINT by a committee of national needle exchange experts. ARCW's needle exchange program ranked second best in the country because of its harm reduction philosophy and its comprehensive, non-judgmental approach to working with injection drug users, their spouses and/or sex partners, a group increasingly at high risk for contracting HIV disease.

"We are proud that in Milwaukee we operate one of the finest needle exchange programs in the country," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "This grant not only recognizes ARCW's proven track record in this area, but it enables us to reach more people at risk for HIV and save more lives."

"The Tides Foundation grant along with the recent selection of ARCW to receive a \$103,000 needle exchange grant from the Wisconsin AIDS Fund will help ARCW expand programming and staff," said Nelson.

In 1997, through five prevention outreach workers, ARCW exchanged over 300,000 clean needles in Milwaukee and Racine. ARCW also referred 191 drug users into its AODA treatment program through its needle exchange program.

Nelson added ARCW will continue advocating for financial support from local, state and federal governments which have historically prohibited use of government funding for the successful needle exchange program.

## Nation's Leading LGBT Groups Planning March on Washington in 2000

**Washington, DC**— The nation's largest Gay and Lesbian political organization and the nation's largest Gay faith-based movement announced plans on February 4<sup>th</sup> to sponsor a march on Washington in the spring of the year 2000. The event will be produced by veteran march organizer Robin Tyler who brought the organizations together to formulate planning.

The two groups are the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). Spokespeople for HRC and MCC said that they are exploring dates in spring 2000 for the "Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights."

Several prominent organizations have signed on as endorsers, including the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Representatives from these organizations and others will be sought to participate on an organizing committee which will help facilitate the organization and presentation of the event.

"This march will set a new tone for a new century," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "Full equality under the law will be our achievement in the new millennium."

## Bill To Limit Domestic Partner Benefits Introduced In Wisconsin

Hearing Scheduled - 11:00 A.M., February 19, At State Capitol

A Wisconsin Light Report  
By Bill Meunier

**Madison**— A legislative hearing has been scheduled on a proposal sponsored by State Representative Stephen Nass (R-

### Gov. Thompson Chosen to Receive ARCW's Highest Award at Make A Promise Benefit

**Milwaukee** — The 12th annual Make a Promise dinner & auction Sterling Rose Award and Red Rose Award recipients have been announced.

These Community Leadership Awards are annual awards presented by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) to a person, organization or company for outstanding leadership and meritorious service to the community in response to the AIDS epidemic. There will be four awards presented at ARCW's Make a Promise fund raiser on Saturday, March 21.

The Sterling Rose Award, ARCW's highest Community Leadership Award will be presented to Governor Tommy G. Thompson. Gov. Thompson's leadership

### Statewide AIDS Hotline Established at ARCW for Teens

**Milwaukee** — Carrie Staller, 18, a student at Nicolet High School, has been answering phones on the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Wisconsin AIDSline during its teen hours since this new initiative began in July.

She and other teens working on the Wisconsin AIDSline want their peers to ask any questions about AIDS that they may have and encourage teens not to put themselves at risk of contracting HIV. All calls are anonymous.

"I think that it's important that teens volunteer, give something back to the community and prepare to take our positions in society," said Staller. "We are the new generation."

"Together, we will solidify the gains we've made over the past decades and call upon our nation to live out its promise of liberty and justice for all," said the Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. "This march will set the pace for social justice and human rights."

The organizations are working closely with Robin Tyler to produce the event. Tyler, was an instrumental organizer/producer of the past three marches on Washington dating back to 1979.

"Robin's depth of experience, community commitment and unstoppable energy uniquely qualify her to lead the organizing efforts for this historic event," said Birch and Perry.

"This is a historic time in our movement. Although we have much greater visibility and a measure of cultural acceptance, we must not be lulled into a false sense of security," Tyler said. "This march will once again show the self-esteem, strength and unwavering determination of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community."

The last march was April 25, 1993, and attracted more than 1 million participants, according to organizers.

The Universal Fellowship of Community Churches is the world's largest and oldest predominantly Gay Christian spirituality organization. Founded by Perry in 1968 with a commitment to social and spiritual justice and headquartered in West Hollywood, Calif., UFMCC is composed of more than 300 local congregations in 15 countries.

Whitewater) that would prohibit the use of state funds to pay for Domestic partnership benefits.

The proposal, AB-759, would in effect eliminate the possibility of the state pro-

and financial commitment continues to help lead the way for Wisconsin to maintain the seventh lowest HIV incidence in the country. He has also allowed ARCW and other providers to develop and sustain strong organizations which are equipped to meet the changing demands of the AIDS epidemic.

Red Rose Award recipients this year are: Ameritech, for continued and growing direct financial support along with creating a corporate culture which encourages employee community service and rewards employees for their involvement with non-profits like ARCW; the Center for AIDS Intervention Research

Please See Gov. Thompson Page 23

When working on the Wisconsin AIDSline, she finds that there is one question most commonly asked:

Caller: "Where can I get tested?"

Staller: "There are anonymous testing sites, where names are not kept on file and confidential testing sites, where medical records are kept but not revealed, in all Wisconsin counties. Would you like to hear about the ones in your area?"

She knows the answer to questions about AIDS because she and other teens who serve on the three-hour shifts, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, have taken extensive training at ARCW.

"The teen hours appear to be the practical way to supply correct information in an easily accessible form," said Neil Albrecht, ARCW regional director.

He explained that it began in response to suggestions from focus groups. "We wanted to learn what kind of prevention efforts would be effective with teens and the focus groups came back with peer education as the best tool," said Albrecht.

"Teens need to be able to talk to other teens. Peer education is a highly effective prevention strategy," said Albrecht. "In recent months, teen calls to the Wisconsin AIDSline have nearly doubled."

Estimates are that 50 percent of all new incidences of HIV infection are in people under the age of 24. One recent study co-sponsored by Yale University and MTV Cable indicated that many teens seem to be uninformed about the risks of contracting the disease through the exchange of bodily fluids, namely sexual intercourse.

Ten teen volunteers have completed a minimum 25 hours of training plus three, 3-hour shifts of observing other Wisconsin AIDSline operators. Teens staffing the Wisconsin AIDSline will be supported by an adult at all times and generally work two shifts a month.

Posters and informational flyers have been sent to principals at public middle schools and high schools across the state, and to some private schools. Posters and flyers have also been sent to coffee houses and other teen gathering places.

This program is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program, Madison.

Teens in the Milwaukee area may call the Wisconsin AIDSline at 414-273-AIDS, and those across the state may call 800-334-AIDS.

viding health insurance benefits for the partners of its unmarried employees involved in same sex and opposite sex relationships including those working in the state university system. In addition it would have what some call "a chilling effect" on efforts to convince local government units to offer such benefits by forbidding them from using state funds to pay for them.

The hearing on AB-759 will take place on Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in room 417 North of the state capitol. The hearing will be held by the Assembly Committee on Insurance, Securities and Corporate Policy.

According to a memo circulated by Nass prior to his introduction of the bill, AB-759 is a response to the Madison School Board's granting of domestic partnership health insurance to Madison teachers.

Domestic partnership benefits are growing in popularity throughout the country. A large number of corporations now offer them to their unmarried employees as do a growing number of local governments including the City of Chicago.

The Madison school board is reported to be the first local governmental unit in Wisconsin to offer these benefits.

Gay and Lesbian leaders were quick to condemn the proposal which has twelve co-sponsors, all of them Republicans.

Please See Benefit Page 22

## PrideFest Announces Addition of Youth Activity Area

**Milwaukee**, PrideFest is pleased to announce the addition of the Youth Activity Area to its 1998 line-up. Due to the success of the 1997 Youth Stage, and elaborating on the 1998 theme, "Many Worlds, One Community," PrideFest is expanding the stage to its own designated area for two full days of activities that will be of interest to Wisconsin's LGBT youth.

LGBT youth organizations throughout the state were contacted two months ago and solicited for ideas for the new Youth Activity Area. A youth/adult committee has been formed and is meeting periodically to plan different events, but most of the work has been done by the youths themselves.

"We are very pleased at how the younger members of our community have focused on this opportunity," said Michael Lisowski, coordinator for Gay Youth Milwaukee. "They realize that they have valuable input as to what they would like to see at PrideFest and the ideas they are coming up with will interest not just youth, but everyone."

Suggestions so far include a fashion show, skits and plays, a parody of a popular home fix-it program renamed to "This Dyke's House", a talent show, poetry readings, family and spirituality panels, performers, a dating game, and youth male and female impersonations.

The committee is also considering assembling its float entry in the Youth Activity Area before the parade on Sunday in an effort to get more youth involved.

The committee is actively seeking volunteer members to join. Dedicated, hard working volunteers with ideas and suggestions are encouraged to either call 414-272-FEST, write P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, 53203, e-mail pfyouth@aol.com or fax 414/272-3391 to get involved.

To keep up on the latest developments or to add you name to our mailing list, visit our website at pridefest.com. You can also e-mail PrideFest with any suggestions or comments at pride-milw@aol.com.

## News Briefs

### Suicide in Little Rock

Little Rock, AK—The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) reports that once again, a newspaper's irresponsible publishing of the names and addresses of men arrested in public sex raids has led to one of the victims committing suicide, this time following a January 30 story in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. In the story, "24 men are cited in 3-day park sting," the newspaper published eight men's names and addresses for being arrested on charges of "public sexual indecency: a misdemeanor." One of those men then killed himself. The *Democrat-Gazette* does not print the identities of others arrested in misdemeanor consensual sex-related offenses, or any other misdemeanors. When the newspaper ran a June 25, 1993 article on a major heterosexual prostitution sting, it did not identify any of the men arrested, and even blurred the photo of one man to protect his identity.

### Gray Lady Visits New York's Bourgeois Gay Bars

New York, NY—Examining the sociological reasons behind the development of a new aesthetic for the city's Gay bars, an article in the February 1 edition of the *New York Times* raises several interesting issues facing New York Gay men. "A new generation of Gay bars have all but jettisoned dark and dingy interior designs for cleaner, airier, more creative spaces," writer David Colman says. "[It] mirrors a broader change in attitude among patrons of Gay bars: a self-confidence about being out, a rising economic prosperity and less fear of harassment by non-Gays. Traditionally, Gay bars have been windowless dives that cloaked patrons in anonymous darkness while protecting them from the scrutiny of passers-by." The open, windowed new bars, Colman says, "illustrate that many Gay men appear to be embracing some of the values and freedoms of mainstream society, from which they have often been excluded. Although such bars still function as they always have—as pickup places—they are now also attractive meeting places for friends, where a Gay man can bring a heterosexual acquaintance without fear of complaint and even where Gay couples can go, undaunted by a heavy cruising scene." He cautions, "But the more wholesome-looking digs have not been universally embraced. The closing of [sex-oriented] back rooms has been attacked by Sex Panic, a vocal Gay group that advocates sexual liberation, for representing a crackdown on the freedom of Gay men."

### Arkansas Sodomy Law Challenged

Little Rock, AK—Local Little Rock, Arkansas, organizations joined with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF) on January 28 to announce a lawsuit on behalf of seven Lesbians and Gay men against the state's sodomy ban. Currently, the statute makes certain sexual behaviors, including oral sex between two same-sex consenting adults a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. LLDEF is seeking that the law be declared unconstitutional, with the plaintiffs arguing that the statute violates their rights of equal treatment and privacy.

### Marine Court-Martialed After Anti-Gay Bombing

Washington, DC—Groups monitoring the investigation of the July 12, 1997, bombing of a Washington, D.C. Gay bar issued guarded praise to the U.S. Marines for the punishment given to a Marine who plead guilty in the attack, but hastened to criticize the Marines for failed to identify the bombing as an anti-Gay hate crime. On January 29, Lance Corporal Ryan Barren admitted to conspiracy, assault and theft and was court martialed with a bad-conduct discharge and sentenced to 120 days' confinement.

### Lawmakers Ban Same-Sex Marriage

Olympia, WA— Washington lawmakers, with the help of the governor, have banned same-sex marriage, putting to rest a volatile issue that had threatened to overshadow the fall elections.

The choreographed, possibly unprecedented, action Friday, Feb. 6, included passage of the ban, a quick veto by Democratic Gov. Gary Locke and an override by bipartisan super-majorities in both houses.

All sides, even longtime backers of Gay rights, pronounced themselves satisfied with the result, since it avoids a November referendum.

Foes, including Rep. Ed Murray, who is Gay, said they will turn to the courts. Washington becomes the 27th state with such a ban. The bill, HB1130, defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman and says the state will refuse to recognize any same-gender marriages performed elsewhere.

### Bishop Prays for Bad Weather

Nassau, Bahamas— Bad weather prevented a cruise ship filled with Gay men from landing in the Bahamas, and clerics who opposed the visit said the storm was an answer to their prayers.

The Norwegian Cruise Line already had been refused permission to dock in the Cayman Islands with some 900 Gay people who have chartered its vessel, the *Leeward*, out of Miami.

Then the Bahamas government stepped in with an invitation. But the storm quashed that.

"The weather was a great factor because the government made it abundantly clear to us that they were going to allow that ship to come," said Baptist Bishop Harcourt Pinder, president of the Bahamas Christian Council. "But I still feel that prayer is the weapon we should use to fight a lot of the ills about us. Prayer fails not and history has proven that."

Church leaders had taken part in a demonstration Tuesday in downtown Nassau to protest the visit, organized by Atlantis Events Inc., a Gay tour operator in West Hollywood, Calif.

### King's Niece Urges Repeal of Pro-Gay Law

Augusta, ME— The niece of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. urged Mainers to repeal Maine's Gay rights law when they go to the polls on Feb. 10.

Alveda Celeste King told a rally of about 300 sign-waving people in the State House Thursday, Feb. 5, that the Gay rights movement should not be compared to the black civil rights movement.

"There is no similarity," she said. King told the crowd, assembled by fundamentalist Christian groups leading the assault on the newly enacted law, that she was not condemning homosexuals, but said Gay people violate God's laws.

Alveda King, who began her address by asking the crowd to kneel in prayer, said Gays are not told to sit in the backs of buses or barred from restaurant counters as blacks were in the South before the civil rights movement.

She also questioned claims of many Gay people that they cannot help the way they are, saying, "I've heard the 'I was born that way' story many times."

During the rally, Maine Won't Discriminate distributed photocopies of a letter from Coretta Scott King, in which the widow of the slain civil rights leader says "workplace discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians is real (and) widespread."

### Teens Arrested in Gay Bashing

Corvallis, OR— Police have arrested three teen-age boys suspected of beating a Gay student on Feb. 4.

Police arrested Robert P. Huffaker, 16, of Corvallis; Cyle A. Schroeder, 15, of Albany; and Michael B. Nash, 16, of Corvallis.

All were charged with intimidation and assault in an incident Monday, Feb. 2.

Paul Miller, 17, reported a group of four boys began following him, taunting him with slurs like "queer" and "faggot," police said. Miller said when he responded to one of the boys making the taunts, the boy slugged him in the mouth, knocking out two teeth.

Miller, a senior at Corvallis High School who leads a support group for Gay students, said two adults walked by as the name-calling was taking place, but did nothing.

The attack prompted support from residents of the community.

Onstad said people had called or dropped off supportive messages. "Paul, I was so sorry to see your face on the front page today," Onstad read from one note. "It sickens me to think that a town with a generally higher level than average of educated folk could harbor such idiots as those who attacked you."

### Drama Students Forbidden to Perform Gay Play

Spearfish, SD— The show won't go on for a group of high school students who wanted to perform a controversial play, and one South Dakota group is calling the situation censorship.

The Spearfish High School drama team planned to present the one-act play called "Removing the Glove," which is about discrimination against Gay people, at a state competition Thursday and Friday, February 5 and 6, in Vermillion.

Barry Wick, the group's executive director and board president, said not allowing students to perform the play the way it was written violates their right to free speech.

"The mere suggestion of homosexuality sends chills down the yellow spines of minister-bigots and legislator-loonies in the state of South Dakota," Wick said in a new release issued before his press conference Thursday, Feb. 5.

### Plan to Name HIV Patients Causes Worry

Austin, TX— A proposal to require people with HIV infection to report their names to local and state health officials is raising fears about privacy.

The Texas Department of Health, which is considering implementing the practice, is holding a series of public meetings on the issue. The Austin-Travis County health department is drafting a statement in favor of name-based reporting.

Although the proposal is preliminary, many advocates of people with HIV and AIDS oppose it.

Dennis Nelson, chief executive officer of the city's David Powell Clinic, an HIV treatment center, believes there is a need for accurate surveillance, but "I'm not convinced that tracking by name is a safe thing to do ... There are questions, always, about information stored by any large organization as to who has access to it."

### Birmingham Gay Bars on Alert

Birmingham, AL— A letter was received in the first week in February claiming the Birmingham bombing of a women's clinic was carried out by the Army of God, which previously claimed responsibility for last year's bombings of an abortion clinic and Gay nightclub in Atlanta.

Wary of what happened in Atlanta, where the bar blast followed the clinic bombing by about a month, Birmingham police have cautioned Gay bars and Gay-related service agencies against being an easy target.

"They've told them to clean up around their buildings, to make sure things aren't just lying around," said David White, Birmingham coordinator of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama. "The main thing is, since Birmingham is more of a close-knit community, to be more aware of people they don't know."

### Court Declines to Reconsider Pro-Gay Law

Cincinnati, OH— A federal appeals court on Thursday, Feb. 5, left intact a ruling that upholds Cincinnati's 1993 charter amendment that forbids the city to enact or enforce any laws based on sexual orientation.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals turned down a request for the full court to reconsider an Oct. 23 decision by a three-judge panel of the court that upheld the Cincinnati charter amendment.

Gay rights activists who oppose the Cincinnati amendment had asked the court to reconsider. They failed to get the required majority of the appeals court judges to go along with the request to reconsider.

The court did not disclose how all of the judges voted, but six of them dissented.

The Gay rights activists now plan to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case, said Alphonse Gerhardtstein, one of their lawyers. They have 90 days to file with the Supreme Court, he said.

### Chicago Cuts Ties With Boy Scouts

Chicago— The city has agreed to sever ties to Boy Scouts of America programs until the group accepts Gays and stops requiring a religious oath.

The agreement Wednesday, Feb. 4, settles a federal lawsuit filed against Chicago by the American Civil Liberties Union. In agreeing to settle, the city avoided accepting blame.

The ACLU sued last April seeking to end the city's sponsorship of 28 Scout programs. The lawsuit alleged the city's involvement violated the separation of church and state principle and that the Scouts' ban on admitting Gays is discriminatory.

The ACLU called the settlement a victory and urged other cities to "take a cue from Chicago's action and end their sponsorship of these discriminatory programs."

The city agreed to pay \$20,000 in court costs, said ACLU attorney Roger Leishman.

### Gay 007

London— A Gay couple is gathering intelligence for Britain's foreign secret service agency on an espionage mission to another country, newspapers reported.

The *Sunday Times* said the two men had been sent to one of Britain's largest overseas missions.

Sir Gerald Warner, the former deputy head of the MI6 spy agency, disclosed the information accidentally, the newspaper said.

"MI6 is the human end of the intelligence and operates in a straightforward way. It now has a staff of 1,800 and has just sent the first homosexual couple abroad," Warner said during a talk to a local group about his experiences.

The *Daily Telegraph* said the Gay spies were not seen as a security risk because their relationship was known.

### State Workers to Get Domestic Partner Benefits

Eugene, OR— A state panel has voted to extend health and other benefits to Gay and unmarried heterosexual partners of state employees.

The 7-to-1 vote by the Public Employees Benefit Board applies to all of the state's approximately 45,000 employees, making Oregon one of a few states and a growing number of cities and private companies to make such a move.

The policy is to take effect June 1 but hinges on a case before the Oregon Court of Appeals, which is expected to decide whether such a board has the authority to extend such benefits.

The state is appealing a ruling that says it must extend such benefits to employees at Oregon Health Sciences University.

### Actress Says She's Not TV's Resident Lesbian

Los Angeles-AP- Actress Lisa Darr wants to make it perfectly clear: She's not ABC-TV's resident Lesbian.

It's understandable that the first question of interviewers is, "Are you Gay?"

After all, Darr portrayed the lover of Officer Abby Sullivan on the network's "NYPD Blue" and she's currently playing with significant other of Ellen Morgan on ABC's "Ellen."

Darr says she's a single heterosexual with a boyfriend and that her casting on the two series is "a complete coincidence." She is savoring the attention, however, after a decade of steady but obscure work in such failed series as "Crime & Punishment" and "The Office."

"Playing characters like this is a non-issue for me, and I really don't think about it at all," she told the Los Angeles Times in Wednesday's edition. "These are two women that just happen to be Gay. Their sexuality is not the focus of who they are. I'm really proud to be able to bring this to the forefront."

"It's a part of life and should be accepted as such."

### U. of Georgia Panel Rejects Partners Benefits

Athens, GA-AP- A University of Georgia panel has rejected a proposal to extend fringe benefits to unmarried and same-sex partners after an outpouring of negative public comment.

The executive committee of the university's staff council voted Wednesday, October 15, to table the proposal "until such time as state law changes."

Supporters of the measure said they hope to revive the proposal at a full staff council meeting and to lobby students and faculty, said Michael Albert, a staff member who supports the proposal.

"I'm not surprised. I'm very disappointed that people will not overcome their prejudices," Albert said.

## Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Launches Web Site and Receives Grant

**Milwaukee-** The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center recently staked a claim on the World Wide Web with its home page at [milwaukeeelgbtcenter.com](http://milwaukeeelgbtcenter.com). The web site debuted at the Center's Annual Membership meeting on January 24 when the site went "live."

Eight volunteers, inspired with the vision to create a "Virtual Home of Our Own," worked for three months to plan, organize and create the site. Web site visitors can access the Center's calendar of events, newsletters, press releases, membership information and volunteer opportunities.

A page of links to other web sites helps visitors access further information about Milwaukee's LGBT community and community centers across the U.S. Upcoming features will allow web site visitors to register to receive Center news by e-mail, access information about the Center's board of directors, by-laws and history.

During the web site's debut at the annual meeting, one member commented "I've got goose bumps. Now people can easily get information about Milwaukee's LGBT community!"

"This would be a good site for tourists and people moving to Milwaukee to learn about the Center before arriving," said Joshua Feyen, Center spokesperson.

"Milwaukee's LGBT community will be able to learn about the Center's upcoming programs. This site will also be an asset for people who are coming out, especially youth who often are not aware of LGBT resources in Milwaukee," Feyen added.

In the meantime, efforts such as the web site launch and ongoing programs and collaborations take place throughout Milwaukee.

### American Express Grant

The American Express Foundation announced that the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center was recently awarded an \$800 grant from its Volunteer Action Fund.

Carol Busche and Deborah Lukovich, principles of Busche, Lukovich & Associates, an American Express company, are

active volunteers with the Center. Busche worked with the Center's grants subcommittee to pursue the grant.

"Every contribution that is made to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is critical to its existence. The need for continued funding is especially important considering the high cost of opening a community services center," said Julie Ellsworth, chair of the Center's Fund Development committee.

Busche said "I am proud that American Express established this Fund to support organizations like the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. American Express believes that the corporate citizenship has two components: the behavior of the corporation as a whole, and the behavior of the individual employees. With the Fund, American Express provides as much support as possible to those of us who are actively involved in our communities."

The Center is one of 87 organizations selected to receive a total of \$85,000 from the Volunteer Action Fund during this round of grants.

"The Volunteer Action Fund offers American Express employees the opportunity to contribute beyond their volunteer hours and provide critical financial assistance to organizations that are important to them," says Mary Beth Salerno, President of the American Express Foundation.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 230 members. The mission of the Center is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Metro Milwaukee area. This mission is supported by the vision of providing a home for the community, advocating for programs and services that meet the needs of our communities, educating the public and our communities about our lives, empowering ourselves and our groups, and cultivating diversity and inclusion in every aspect of the Center.

The Volunteer Action Fund, a program of the American Express Foundation, was instituted to recognize the contributions of its employees who volunteer in their communities. Including this round of awards, American Express has contributed a total of \$1,300,000 to employee volunteer efforts worldwide since 1994.

American Express Company is a global travel, financial and network services provider. Founded in 1850, the Company provides individuals with charge and credit cards, travelers cheques and other stored value products. It also offers financial planning, brokerage services, mutual funds, insurance and other investment products.

For more information about the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, visit the Center's web site at [milwaukeeelgbtcenter.com](http://milwaukeeelgbtcenter.com) or call the Center's Hot line at (414) 483-4710.

## LAMM to Hold Annual Meeting to Kick Off Year's Activities

**Milwaukee-**The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) annual membership meeting is set for Thursday, February 19, 1998 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Miller Inn, Stein Hall. The Miller Inn is located at 3931 West State Street. There is limited street parking near the Miller Inn. Additional parking is available at the Miller Tour Center, 4251 West State Street, three blocks west of the Miller Inn.

The Miller Brewing Company has generously agreed to sponsor this event resulting in no cost to members. A variety of Miller products and soda will be served along with a buffet dinner prepared by The Catering Company.

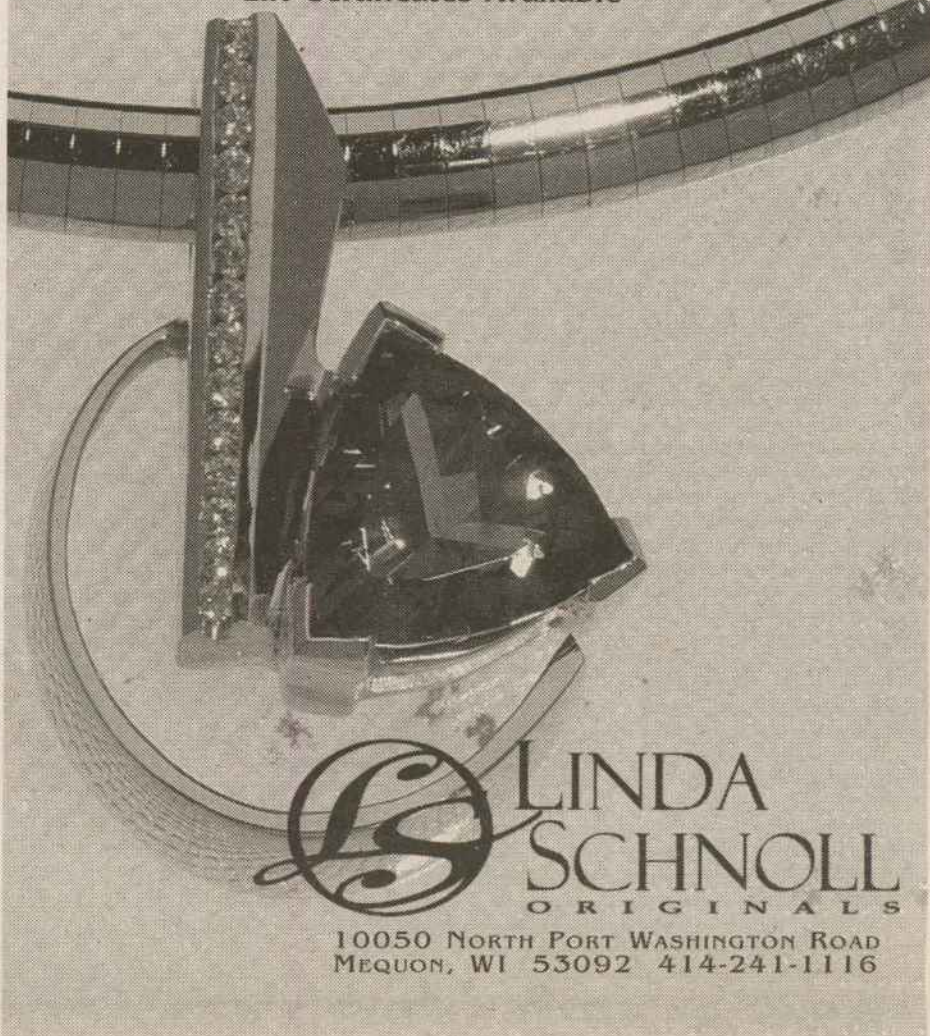
This meeting will be the kick off event for 1998 LAMM activities. This year LAMM will hold monthly member meetings on the third Thursday of each month upstairs at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street.

Other events will include a Spring Fling at Just Us, a Fall Frolic at Dish, Christmas in July, a golf outing, PrideFest activities and Friday night softball games for the LAMM team.

Come to the annual meeting to learn more about these events. Anyone interested in learning more about LAMM is invited to attend. If you plan to attend this event or have any questions, please call the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

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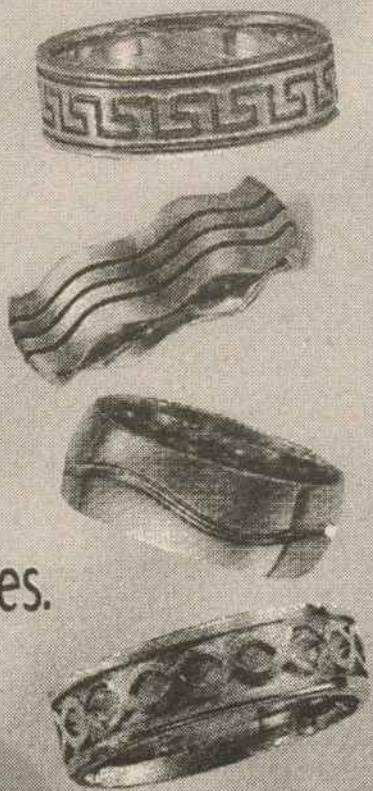
We have been Madison's source for homeopathics, herbs & supplements for over 10 years. We have an extensive health library, and a customer-access computer program covering herbs, supplements & more. Our staff is knowledgeable, & if we don't have what you're looking for we'll do our best to get it!

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## Editorial

### Help!

Recently we received a letter from Bro. Stephen Braddock, Executive Director of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry. The Ministry has received two gifts: \$100,000 from the Bradley Foundation and \$150,000 grant from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Supporting Fund (AMS). The AMS money is a challenge grant which means that it is dependent on the Ministry's raising another \$150,000. We strongly urge everyone to support this effort by sending a donation to: St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, 10101 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Bro. Braddock's plea comes at a crucial time for St. Camillus and all those agencies that are doing everything they possibly can to help those living with HIV/AIDS.

As reports in this issue show, the conferees at the HIV Conference in Chicago were told that people with HIV/AIDS are living longer. This is wonderful news, but it puts added strains on the care groups like the Brady Street Clinic (BestD) and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). These strains come as an unfortunate and mistaken public attitude grows: i.e. that AIDS has been licked. Not so! Yet we hear this over and over again.

To meet the new strains of added responsibilities placed on them, HIV/AIDS care groups need just as much help—if not more—than ever. Please, do what you can. The fight is not over yet, not by far.

Send a contribution to St. Camillus or to BestD. Attend ARCW's up-coming Make A Promise Dinner in March. If you can't donate a little money, give of your time. Become a volunteer. Join the hundreds of selfless people who work at the agencies.

If you are living with HIV/AIDS. If you know of or love someone living with the disease, you must know how great the need is yet. We urge you to help those who need you.

## Speaking From the Right

### No Virginia, There Isn't a Santa Claus

Commentary by Scott Evertz

A couple of years ago Madison's Hotel Washington burned down. This venerable institution consisting of bars, a dance club, a restaurant and hotel rooms was recognized as a Mecca for Gay and Lesbian Wisconsinites. It was a place where many partnerships were formed and where Gay and Lesbian students from the University of Wisconsin could go in peace. It was a place where you could watch porno flicks to the sounds of a group of guys jerking each other off in the corner. It was even the place where one Madison alderperson says he came out. Indeed, it really must have been an extra special place. I don't think I know of any other building for which memorial services have been held.

But, alas, all was not lost. The building's proprietors promised that, like the phoenix rising from the ashes, the Hotel Washington would rise again on the very same spot. They warned, however, that it would not be cheap and so there would need to be a fundraising campaign.

Oh yes, this place must have been a very special place indeed. Just as I've never heard of a memorial service for a building before, I've never heard of people making charitable contributions to the owner of a for-profit business, but make contributions they did. Struggling Gay and Lesbian couples who could hardly make ends meet made contributions so their beloved Hotel Washington would come back to life.

Unfortunately, even though the Hotel's owners were to receive a sizable amount of money from their insurance company and loyal patrons were making "contributions," there still would not be enough money to rebuild, so the aforementioned alderperson, who referred to the Hotel's owners as "wonderful people," helped them secure city funds and the necessary waivers to make the rebuilding project move closer to reality.

Now all they needed was a loan from a bank and the project would be on again.

The community rejoiced. We would not be without our place to watch drag queens and porno flicks for much longer. The owners indicated they were going to receive the much-needed loan. The Hotel Washington was coming back to life, or so it seemed.

But there were more glitches and the Hotel's owners finally declared that the project was dead for good. There would be no new Hotel Washington. Sobbing Gay and Lesbian Madisonians praised the Hotel's owners for their hard work and dedication to the community and listened with interest as they articulated a vision of another, less costly, club.

Now, I'll admit that I'm not in the proverbial loop in Madison so there may be

facts of which I'm not aware. I must say this from outside the loop, however. This entire Hotel Washington fiasco has made our Gay and Lesbian community look extremely naive, immature and prone to hero worship.

What would cause us to believe that individuals who would stand to gain a great deal by simply collecting their insurance check and selling the land on which the Hotel sat ever really were intending to rebuild except extreme naivete? The owners of the Hotel Washington were savvy business people and they had to be thinking that the land on which the former Hotel sat would be worth a great deal when the \$70 million Kohl Center opened a block away. Meanwhile, the Gay and Lesbian community elevated these individuals to hero status, even presenting them with community service awards.

Why, you may ask, have I spent so much time thinking and writing about something that happened some years back?

Well, I'll tell you. It's because the experience with the Hotel Washington is really a metaphor for what's wrong with our community. It seems we are still just as prone to buying goods from the proverbial snake oil salesman as ever. We elevate those who do very little for our community and ignore those who are making contributions in one form or another every day.

We fawn all over a mayor who may attend every AIDS event he can, but who consistently votes against increases in funds for people living with AIDS. We ignore, on the other hand, a governor who has a flawless record of support for people living with AIDS because we have not seen him cutting ribbons much.

We give standing ovations to candidates for Congress who have yet to introduce one piece of pro-Gay legislation and we don't even know the names of those legislators who have.

We refuse to believe a candidate for the Senate who will endorse efforts to end discrimination and we endorse a Senator who vowed to strip funds from schools which promote homosexuality.

We get up and walk out on speeches given by a Congressman who has worked to ensure that people living with HIV are not kicked out of the armed forces, but we scream our approval at a President who gives us "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Indeed, this hero worship would be laughable if it were not so dangerous. If we continue to follow those "leaders" who are really nothing more than real life Wizards of Oz while ignoring those who are truly interested in making a positive contribution to the Gay and Lesbian cause, we lose and we look stupid. It's time to take Joan Rivers' advice and "grow up!"

I wonder if Ms. King knows the price that many, many Gay people pay for living the closeted life? Does she know, has she any idea at all, the psychological cost of trying to deny who we are.

No, Ms. King, when I was in high school, no one knew I was Gay—no one except me, that is, and I was scared to death that someone would find out. If they had found out, God help me!

Ms. King, I remember Gordon and Nick. I've told that story in these pages before about how they fell in love and did what many people who are in love do about it. They made love. Gordon killed himself.

Their name is legion, Ms. King, legion. Yes, I can "sit in the front of the bus." Big deal! To do that, to have that "luxury," I and many others like me, have to deny and deny and hide and hide. We have to play the phony every day of the week, every hour of the day.

We have to lie.  
"Me? Have a girlfriend? No, I'm too busy studying." Or some other lame excuse. Ms. King, would you say lying is good for someone? You think it's healthy?

And it doesn't stop at high school, Ms. King. It goes on and on, sometimes throughout life. You can only live as a fake just so long.

Your people, Ms. King, have paid a terrible price for racism—and they're still paying it.

My people, Ms. King, have paid and are paying a terrible price for homophobia. Both forms of oppression are equally disgusting, horrifying, abhorrent and degrading.

And those Bible bangers you spoke before. God (their God) condemns us. Well, you should know that not too long ago, their God (so they said) condemned your people too if they "got out of their place."

And another thing, Ms. King. It wasn't all that long ago when there were laws preventing African-Americans from getting married. It wasn't "right," they said. God didn't approve. It wasn't "good for society." Yeah, right.

Equality is equality, Ms. King. It's indivisible. Both our peoples have paid and are paying a terrifying price in physical and psychological damage for being denied the fundamental right of human beings to dignity and equal treatment.

There is nothing, absolutely nothing wrong Ms. King, with being Gay. It is a normal variation on a human theme. It is not an act, Ms. King. It is a state of being, whether you and your religious bedfellows want to believe that or not.

There's going to come a time, Ms. King, when this country is going to live up to its promise of equality for all of its citizens, ALL of them, every single one. No God worthy of the name would want to stop that.

Ms. King, I want you to know that in your speech Maine, you have contributed, not to the good of people and the accomplishment of this country's highest ideal, but to the injury of people. You have added to their pain. You have contributed to having a society of non-equals. You have betrayed what your uncle stood for, what he fought and died for, Ms. King.

But I will say one thing for you, Ms. King. At least I know where you stand in all this. That's better, at least, than some of our political leaders who say they're for us—talk a good game.

Bill Clinton comes to mind. Oh, yeah, I know, the politically correct thing to say is that he's done more for us than any other President. More and more, however, I'm beginning to wonder if that "more" is enough and I'm beginning to think it is not.

Would it honestly be too much to ask of the "President who has done more for us than any other" to have gone to Maine and supported us? The governor of Maine did it. How come not the President?

If he couldn't go, how about a little note saying he believed in equality and everyone should have it before the law. Would that have been too much from the "President who has done more for us than any other?"

Silly me to ask that question of the President who signed DOMA and did a little soft shoe with those Baptist ministers.

Ms. King, why not try and learn a little about us? Barring that, why not just sit down and keep quiet. At least you won't hurt anyone that way.

## Deadlines

February 26<sup>th</sup> Issue  
Articles Friday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Ads  
Non-Camera Ready—Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Camera Ready—Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

March 12<sup>th</sup> Issue  
Articles—Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Ads  
Non-Camera Ready—Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Camera Ready—Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

## Caution

The fact that someone's name appears in this paper in no way implies sexual orientation.

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[www.wilight.com](http://www.wilight.com)

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## Editor's Note

### Alveda King, President Clinton and Equality

By Terry Boughner

The Associated Press reports that recently, Alveda Celeste King, the niece of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., went to Maine to address a group of Fundamentalists out to repeal Maine's pro-Gay law. In her remarks, she is reported to have said that she saw no similarity between the African-American struggle for

equal rights and the Gay fight for equality. Gays, she is reported to have said, don't have to sit in the back of the bus. Nor are Gay people denied a place at a lunch counter. (See "News Briefs" this issue.)

Yes, Ms. King, you're right. No one will discriminate against us—if we stay firmly hidden away in the closet and act "just like everybody else."

## 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.

## University Methodist Church to Hold Service to Honor Committed Relationships

### Move Part of Nation-Wide Effort to Show God's Grace to Same-Sex Unions

Madison—This Valentine's weekend University United Methodist Church of Madison is joining the United Methodist Congregations across the country to honor the committed relationships of all couples regardless of gender or affectional orientation. United Methodists and especially clergy and couples—Gay and straight—across the nation will participate in similar services as a protest against the United Methodist policy of not allowing ceremonies that celebrate same-gender unions.

The service will occur at the congregation's usual hour of worship, Sunday, February 15 at 10:00 a.m. at 1127 Univer-

sity Avenue, Madison. There will be special music during the service and a reception with refreshments will follow the service. The service will recognize and give thanks for persons who have made commitments to each other by public or private covenant, or in friendships whether same-sex or opposite sex.

In 1996, the United Methodist's top governing body, the General Conference, adopted a social principle forbidding United Methodist clergy from blessing the covenant commitments of same-sex couples. This action ended the long-standing custom of conducting such services in

## Planning Begins for Youth Pride Day in Washington on April 18

Washington, DC—The Youth Pride Alliance (YPA) announced plans on February 3 for the Second Annual Youth Pride Day. Youth Pride Day will take place on Saturday, April 18, 1998, in Washington, DC's Dupont Circle—the heart of the city's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community.

"This event promotes Pride in who and what we are," said Christopher Dyer, Chair and founder of the Youth Pride Alliance. "By creating a non-judgmental space for a day, we help empower youth to lead healthier and safer lives. This event is organized by youth for other youth."

Washington, DC's Youth Pride Day is one of three youth pride events in the country. "Youth Pride Day celebrates the dignity and courage of youth as they come to accept their sexual identity," said Youth Pride spokesperson Dana Palanker. "The three main goals of Youth Pride Day are to promote awareness of issues affecting GLBT youth, increase the visibility of this dynamic group and to foster pride in our community."

Youth Pride Day will continue to feature national celebrities, speakers from other states and several testimonials by youth in the Metro DC area. It will also feature performances by local bands and entertainers. Additionally, local and national

groups will set up tables and informational booths. The day will end with an evening dance at George Washington University. In coming months, Youth Pride will announce this year's celebrity speakers, performers and other participants.

Last year, over 900 youth and their supporters attended the Youth Pride Day. Speakers included former US Figure Skating Champion Rudy Galindo, noted Transgendered activist and GLAAD Spokesperson Jessica Xavier and youth activists from DC to as far away as Salina, Kansas. This year, organizers plan to increase their outreach to youth around the Metro area as well as continue to build outreach nationally.

YPA is a coalition of over 25 youth support and advocacy groups in the Metro DC area including Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, PFLAG, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, and seven campus student groups. It's mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identity as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or straight and challenge society to stop the hate, the violence, the fear, the isolation and the denial.

For more information, call Christopher Dyer at (202) 588-8008.

many local congregations, including University Church in Madison.

The congregation's delegate to the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Steven E. Webster, explained, "This action of our General Conference excludes loving couples from receiving the ministry of the church. In addition, it seeks to limit God's grace in the world. We at University Church are saying 'no' to injustice and 'yes' to love and life as precious gifts of God."

It has recently been announced that Rev. Jimmy Creech of Omaha, Nebraska will go before a United Methodist Church trial court for performing a same-sex union ceremony for two women who are members of his congregation, First United Methodist Church of Omaha. Though the ceremony was a private one, Creech let his Bishop know of his intentions before hand and refused to obey the Bishop's advice that charges would likely ensue.

1300 United Methodist Clergy across the country have signed a statement titled "In All Things Charity" protesting the denomination's ban on same-sex union ceremonies. By signing the document, these clergy people are challenging the United Methodist Church's official position that holds the practice of homosexuality to be "incompatible with Christian teaching."

Among the six points in the document

## H.I.T. To Hold Casino Run

Milwaukee—The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) would like to invite everyone on a casino fundraising trip, Saturday, February 28 to the Empress Casino in Joliet, Illinois. Cost per person is \$20 and includes the following: roundtrip bus transportation, continental breakfast, lunch and 3 gambling sessions aboard the boat.

Meet at the M&M Club between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. for eye opening bloody marys and screwdrivers. Departure will be promptly at 8:00 a.m. Return to the M&M Club will be around 7:00 p.m.

Sign up now. Reservations are limited to the first 44 people who sign up and paid in full.

For tickets and more information, call Peter at (414) 963-4037 or see your M&M bartender.

are commitments to support "appropriate liturgical covenantal commitments between same-gender couples" and to "work and pray for the ordination of Gay men and Lesbians who are otherwise called to and qualified for ordained ministry."

"The overwhelming response to the call for a witness of graciousness and justice makes it clear that the United Methodist Church must and will open its doors to all persons of faith. We believe that this is only the beginning of the movement within our denomination and others to reclaim the Gospel of grace and inclusiveness from forces of mean-spirited legalism and distorted literalism," said Rev. Gregory Dell of Broadway United Methodist Church, one of the initial 15 clergy-people who issued "In All Things Charity."

Clergy signers from University Church in Madison include the Rev. Dianne Reistroffer, the congregation's Pastor as well as the Rev. Robert Adams, Rev. John Kruse, the Rev. Cecil Findley, the Rev. Brian Rice McCarthy and the Rev. Amy Wyatt all of whom are affiliated with the congregation.



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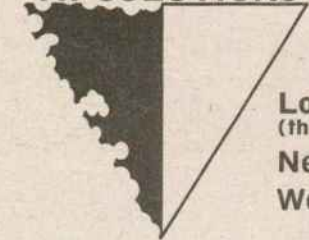
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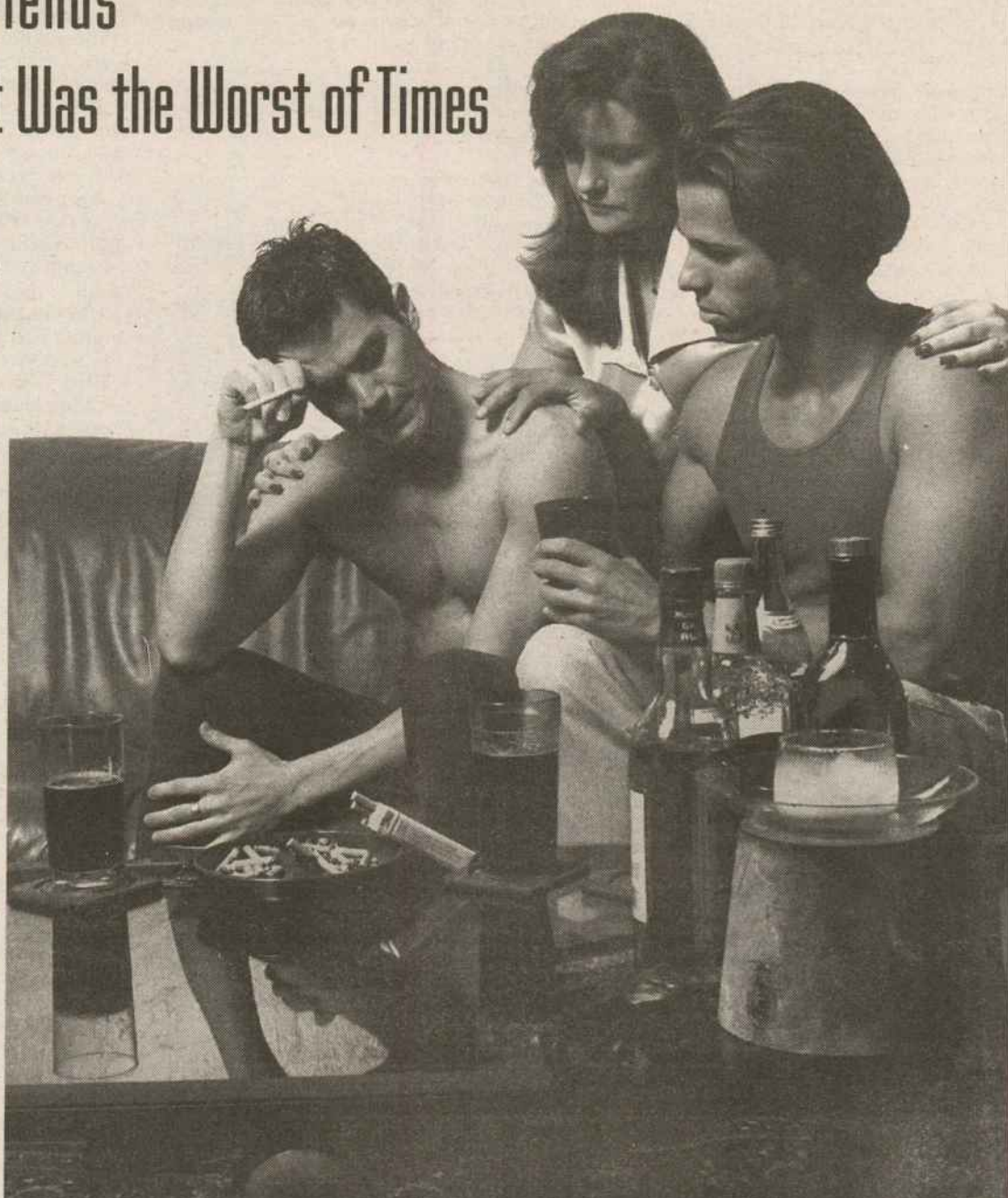
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# AIDS NEWS

## Clinton's Budget Proposal Has Good News and Bad News for Those With HIV/AIDS

Washington, DC—President Clinton's budget proposal includes increases for programs that deal with people living with HIV and AIDS, but shortchanges essential prevention programs administered through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

### The Good News

"The good news is that the president is asking for increases for care, housing, drugs and research in a budget that is balanced," Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director, said today. "Unfortunately, by calling for no increase for HIV prevention, we miss an opportunity because prevention is the only sure path we have right now to save lives."

Among the most significant increases in the president's overall HIV/AIDS budget for fiscal 1999 is 35 percent more for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which enables people with HIV and AIDS to obtain new, life-prolonging drugs. A year ago, the president's budget asked for no increase in the ADAP program.

"We are heartened that the administration has heard the message of the HIV and AIDS community and is asking for a significant increase for these programs," Stachelberg noted.

### The Bad News

A report last July by the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors and the AIDS Treatment Data Network, found that more than half of the 52 state ADAPs have had to impose limits on their programs because of inadequate federal funding.

Although the president's budget includes no increase for AIDS prevention programs at the CDC, it does earmark \$5 million in new money for HIV prevention in minority communities as part of \$80 million for a CDC program addressing racial inequities in health treatment.

"This is a good step, but small in light of the need," Stachelberg said. "As the president's own HIV/AIDS advisory council indicated in a report card last year, this

administration needs to exercise bolder leadership in HIV prevention efforts. We had hoped to see an indication of that leadership in the budget request and are still waiting for Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to allow some of those federal funds to be used for lifesaving needle exchange programs."

The president also requested a \$21 million increase in the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS program. This represents a 10 percent boost over fiscal 1998, when \$204 million was appropriated for HOPWA. About 90 percent of these funds go directly to states and cities to provide housing for people with AIDS.

In the area of care, the president asked for a \$165 million increase above the \$1.2 billion appropriated last year. Of that increase, about \$27 million would go to states under Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act, giving them the flexibility to earmark the funds for drugs.

Title I of the CARE Act would receive an increase of about \$25 million. Title I supports cities and counties hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic to fund primary medical care and essential support services like case management and transportation to and from the doctor. Title IIB of Ryan White, which provides funds for direct services to people living with HIV and AIDS, would get an increase of \$10 million, 13 percent above fiscal '98 levels.

"These increases are particularly welcome in light of the dramatic health improvements some people with HIV and AIDS have shown after taking the new drug combinations," Stachelberg said. "We continue, however, to call on the administration to find ways to allow more people with HIV to enroll in Medicaid. This more systemic approach is essential to provide early and comprehensive access to medical care for people with HIV."

The budget also calls for \$1.7 billion for AIDS-specific research at the National Institutes of Health, an 8 percent increase over fiscal 1998.

## New Study Places HIV Origins a Decade Earlier Than Was Thought

By Lawrence K. Altman

Chicago—An analysis of a blood sample preserved since 1959 from the oldest documented case of infection with the AIDS virus called HIV-1 shows that the first such infections probably occurred in people in the late 1940s or early 1950s, about a decade earlier than many estimates, scientists said Tuesday, February 3.

The researchers compared that sample with others to build a family tree to trace changes in the fast-mutating AIDS virus. The family tree, or phylogenetic analysis, is in the shape of a starburst, with branches radiating from the center, and the 1959 virus is close to the center. The scientists used calculations to estimate the date when the virus first developed.

The viral family tree cannot pinpoint where the AIDS epidemic began or how it was propelled so rapidly through the world, the researchers said.

But by providing a closer approximation to the date of the origins of HIV-1, the most common form of the AIDS virus, it can help scientists to better understand how the disease evolved into one of the deadliest epidemics in history.

The 1959 sample came from a Bantu man who lived in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo (now Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo).

In 1986, scientists used what were then the latest laboratory techniques to show that he had been infected by HIV-1. But only now could scientists, using the latest powerful tools of molecular biology, identify key fragments of the virus in the last few drops of the blood sample in a quest for the origins of the AIDS virus.

At a scientific meeting in Chicago on Tuesday, Dr. Toufo Zhu of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City said his team's conclusions derived from information from the fragments, or sequences of nucleic acids, of the 1959 virus.

Those sequences were then compared with those from hundreds of other virus

samples isolated from people infected since the AIDS epidemic was first recognized in 1981. The comparisons included data from a Norwegian family that was infected in the early 1970s.

Scientists study the evolution of viruses that cause epidemics in the hope of learning how to predict and prevent such outbreaks. In the case of influenza, for example, such information could lead to better flu vaccines. The knowledge of how HIV developed could someday help scientists prevent similar epidemics.

Many scientists have presumed that the current worldwide epidemic got under way when the virus was introduced on multiple occasions in people who were bitten or cut while butchering infected primates for food.

But Zhu's team concluded that the major subtypes of HIV-1 that dominate the current epidemic of AIDS in the world have evolved in humans from a common ancestor virus rather than arising from repeated cross-species transmissions from primates to humans.

The findings also give the lie to a widely publicized theory put forward by the Soviet KGB that the AIDS virus had escaped from a U.S. germ-warfare laboratory, Dr. David Ho, the head of the Diamond AIDS Center, said in an interview.

Ho said the findings indicated that the major group of viruses that "dominate the global AIDS pandemic at present shared a common ancestor in the late 1940s or 1950s."

The findings also pointed to the need for close monitoring of HIV strains because the virus was likely to diversify further in the future, Ho said. The virus could theoretically mutate to become more dangerous or less so.

Ho speculated that HIV-1 might have been spread by such means as reusable needles in large-scale immunization programs for diseases like polio and smallpox. But Ho said social changes, like

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## AIDS Conference Told of Dramatic Decline in AIDS Deaths Nationally

Chicago—AIDS deaths across the United States dropped a stunning 44 percent in the first half of last year and even more in California, showing the power of new treatments to control the disease.

Doctors have known almost since they began widely prescribing potent three-drug combinations two years ago that fewer people with AIDS were dying, but even the experts seem surprised by the scope of their success.

"We can't see the end of the epidemic, but it's the beginning of a new era," said Dr. Kevin DeCock of the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The latest evidence of this change came Monday, February 2, when CDC officials presented new data at the Fifth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

Deaths from AIDS peaked in 1994 and 1995, then nosed downward in 1996. Last year, that fall accelerated.

"Treatment is having a marked, dramatic impact on AIDS mortality," said the CDC's Dr. Patricia Fleming.

According to the CDC, 12,040 Americans died of AIDS in the first half of 1997, compared with 21,460 in the first half of 1996.

Meanwhile, California saw a drop of 60 percent in the first six months of 1997. There were 1,112 AIDS-related deaths

from January to June 1997, compared with 2,788 in the same period in 1996, according to the state Office of AIDS.

### As AIDS deaths decline, public apathy increases. AIDS care groups come under increasing strain to meet clients' needs

The total nationwide figures for last year will not be tallied until July. However, they are already in for New York City, and they show an even more impressive change.

Experts from the city Department of Health reported that AIDS deaths fell there 48 percent in 1997. This comes on top of a 29 percent decline in New York AIDS deaths in 1996.

The New York data show that both men and women and people of all races are benefiting from the lifesaving breakthroughs in AIDS treatment.

Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson, of the city Department of Health, said there was not a big decline in the death rate for women a year ago.

"The good news is this year, they are beginning to catch up," she said.

Sixteen percent of the nation's AIDS cases are in New York City. About 100,000 New Yorkers have had AIDS, and 65,000 have died of the disease.

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## HIV Conference Told Search for Better, Easier Treatment is On-Going

Chicago—The AIDS cocktail is being shaken and stirred.

More than 200 reports at an AIDS conference this first week in February describe new combinations of AIDS drugs, all intended to improve on the spectacular success of the three-drug mixes credited with the steep drop in AIDS deaths over the past two years.

The goal is to concoct new formulations that are more powerful, less toxic and easier to take.

Ideally, these new mixes will offer a second chance to those who failed to do well on the original combos. And they will require fewer pills, taken on less rigorous timetables, with fewer side effects.

At the Fifth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, a meeting this week of the world's top AIDS investigators, U.S. officials announced that AIDS deaths dropped by nearly half during the first six months of 1997. They said the reason was largely the use of the so-called AIDS cocktail, which is actually a combination of pills consisting of a newer medicine called a protease inhibitor and two older ones called nucleoside analogues.

Despite this surprising turnaround in the war on AIDS, there is no suggestion the virus is licked.

### AIDS Honeymoon?

Some people with AIDS cannot take the drugs or don't respond. In others, the virus grows impervious to the medicines after first seeming to succumb. And experts worry that many more are enjoying a sort of honeymoon, after which the virus will someday reappear with the upper hand.

"We've made progress, but the progress is not complete. Not everyone is helped by the new therapies," said Dr. Douglas Richman of the University of California at San Diego. "Potency, tolerability and ease of use are the real goals."

A few new AIDS drugs are nearing the end of human testing and will be submitted soon to the Food and Drug Administration for approval. Many more are in the test tube stage of development, and no one knows if they will pan out.

### Missing even a few doses allows the virus to... come roaring back

Taken diligently, the AIDS drugs often reduce levels of virus so low they cannot be detected in the bloodstream. But the side effects can include high cholesterol, diabetes, kidney stones, intestinal upset, fatigue and headaches.

And missing even a few doses allows the virus to develop mutations and come roaring back, impervious to the drugs. Experts say this is the most common reason

treatment fails: Patients simply cannot stick to regimens that require downing four or five pills at once, three times a day.

"The goal is to get that down to twice a day and to get the number of pills down substantially, too," said Dr. Emilio Emmini of Merck & Co. "This will make it easier for patients to adhere to lifelong therapy."

Several twice-a-day combinations were presented at the meeting, and evidence so far suggests they work just as well as taking the medicines three times daily.

Attempts at starting patients out on the standard triple therapy, then cutting back to two drugs, have not worked. Doctors at the meeting say the virus soon re-emerges, probably from hiding in dormant cells where it is shielded from the drugs' effects.

Eleven AIDS drugs are now on the market, and they fall into three categories—the protease inhibitors, such as Merck's Crixivan and Agouron Pharmaceutical's Viracept; the nucleoside analogues, a category that includes the older AIDS drugs, such as AZT and 3TC; and the non-nucleoside analogues, which like the nucleoside analogues block viral production of an essential protein called reverse transcriptase.

### Among other new developments:

- DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Co. plans to seek approval in the second quarter of this year for Sustiva, or efavirenz, a powerful new non-nucleoside analogue. Eight reports on the drug were presented at the meeting, including one showing that a two-drug combination with the protease inhibitor Crixivan kept virus levels below detection for 90 percent of patients after one year.
- Protease inhibitors may not be an essential ingredient of the cocktail. Studies of abacavir, Glaxo Wellcome's experimental nucleoside analogue, suggest it may be combined with two older medicines in the same category to suppress HIV. This could be an option for those whose virus has grown resistant to protease inhibitors.
- Several studies presented looked at four, five- and even six-drug combinations. The most common of these approaches test the idea of giving two protease inhibitors along with two older drugs in an attempt to knock the virus down more forcefully from the start.
- Hydroxyurea, a cancer drug, is being investigated by several teams for its apparent ability to boost the power of nucleoside analogues, such as ddI.

## HRL Announces Cream City Brick Award Winners

Milwaukee—The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL) is once again giving out the Cream City Brick Awards to those in our community who have made a positive difference. Each year people or organizations are nominated for these awards and the committee must painstakingly go through each nomination and decide which person(s) or organization(s) should receive an award. HRL gives these awards out to show our great appreciation for all the support and help that is given the LGBT community throughout the year. The awards being presented are for actions, commitments or support given the LGBT community through 1997.

- This year's award winners are:
- Pace Setter Award—Laurie Guilbault
  - Group Spirit Award—PrideFest, Inc.
  - Bridge Award—Tammy Baldwin
  - Spotlight Award—The Queer Show
  - Torch Bearer Award—Isaac Coggs Community Center-HIV/AIDS Intervention Team
  - Groundwork Award—Designing Men
  - Ambassador Award—Michael Lisowski
  - President's Award—Susan Cook
- These are the people, organizations and business that have helped to make a difference throughout the LGBT community.

HRL thanks them all for their efforts.

The Awards will be presented on February 24, 1998, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Village Church, 130 E. Juneau Avenue. The Awards presentation will be the main part of HRL's annual meeting which will also include the election of a new Board of Directors. All are welcome to come and give a personal thank you to those who have helped us all throughout the year. There will be food and beverages served and no admission will be charged.

The aim of HRL is to advance the political interests of the LGBT community in the Metro-Milwaukee area by influencing local, state and national politics, legislation and public policy. HRL is a membership organization which invites all interested persons to join and become involved. For more information, call HRL at (414) 228-1921.

HRL would like to thank the Village Church for its support and Buds by Brenda for their donation to this event.

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C'est la Vie

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Feb. 24—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



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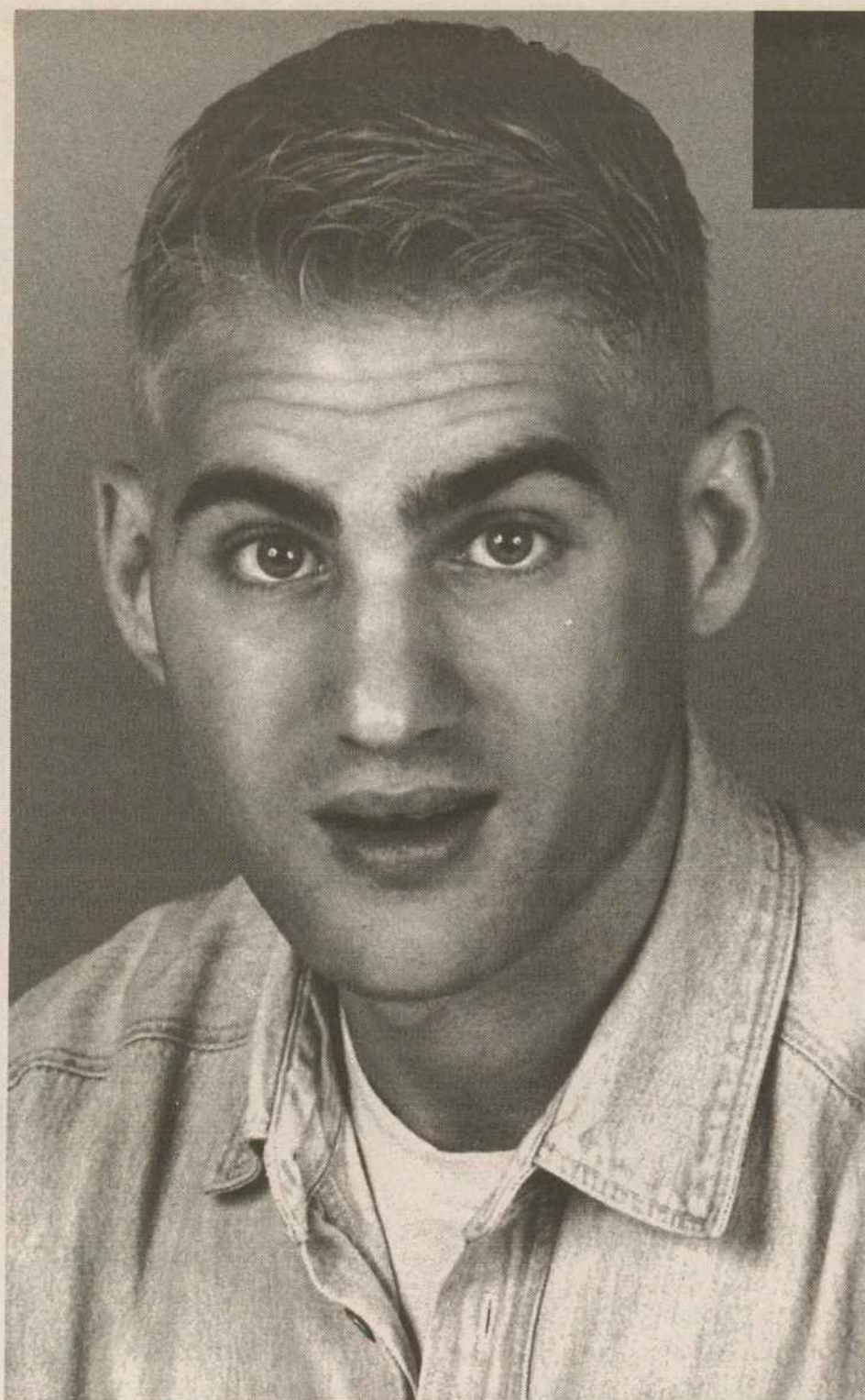
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## One Soldier Tells How he Lives in the Army Under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

By Peter Cassels

"When you're in a foxhole, you don't holler, 'Oh God! There's a faggot next to me.' You holler, 'Oh, God! Somebody help me!'"

That's how a senior non-commissioned Army officer who's Gay and agreed to an interview if he were not identified succinctly describes the senselessness of the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy and deflates the argument that it is needed to preserve combat effectiveness. He agreed to an interview on what it is like to live under the policy if he were not identified.

Paul (a pseudonym) tells a story to make his point: "I was in combat, but I can't tell you where it was. The operation never officially existed. I was in a small bunker with another guy. There was some heavy shelling and I woke up to this person - I'm going to say his name is John - wrapped around me like a python. He was laying on top of me crying his eyes out. He kept repeating, 'We're gonna die.'"

I said, 'There's a good chance.' I was scared, too.

When the shelling stopped, I grabbed him by the ears, pulled him up to me, gave him a kiss on the forehead and said, 'We're alive, John.' And he gave me a kiss. This was a straight man who knew I was Gay."

While Paul says he peacefully coexists with Don't Ask, Don't Tell, he would like to see the policy lifted. "I want to emphasize that you do need to have discipline and cohesiveness, because the military is teamwork," he cautions. "There still has to be something which says conduct unbecoming a soldier that can be applied and enforced equally regardless of sexual orientation. It doesn't matter whether you're a man or a woman. If you're a slut, that's conduct unbecoming a soldier."

He lives quite happily with the policy because, he says, he has always kept his professional and personal life separated.

"[My philosophy is] 'you don't play in your own back yard.' I maintain my own lifestyle outside the military. I have always been able to do that. I usually live away from the base and am more family-oriented. I don't go to clubs a lot, just

once in a while now that I'm single again. I had a partner for four years, who was  
**Please See Army Page 23**

## Shorewest Realtors to Honor Jack H. Smith for Outstanding Service

**Milwaukee**—Shorewest Realtors congratulates Jack H. Smith of their Northshore Office for both having been appointed Associate Vice President of the company and for his outstanding production of more than \$8.5 million in Real Estate Sales in 1997.

The honorary title of Associate Vice President is reserved for Shorewest's highest producers. A constant top producer, Jack has been in the real estate industry for 12 years and is a member of the Million Dollar Club. A life-long Wisconsin resident, Jack is a Relocation Specialist in the four county Metro Milwaukee area. He will be honored at a company-wide luncheon for sales associates and staff this month.

Smith joined Shorewest Realtors, formally Wauwatosa Realty, in June, 1997. Ted Dentice, Vice President and Northshore Office Sales Director said, "We could not be more delighted to have him as a member of the Shorewest team. He exhibits a sense of commitment and the stellar professionalism that are tremendous assets to someone in the real estate industry. Jack's enthusiasm, dedication and can-do attitude are what make him the outstanding success that he is."

Joann Glawe, Shorewest's Vice President of Sales said, "Everyone, and I mean everyone—clients, customers and co-workers love Jack Smith. He gets nothing but rave reviews. We're lucky to have him."

Shorewest Realtors, formally Wauwatosa Realty, has been Wisconsin's largest home seller since 1951. Shorewest has 13 offices throughout the greater Milwaukee area and more than 550 independent agents. Its corporate office is located in Brookfield.

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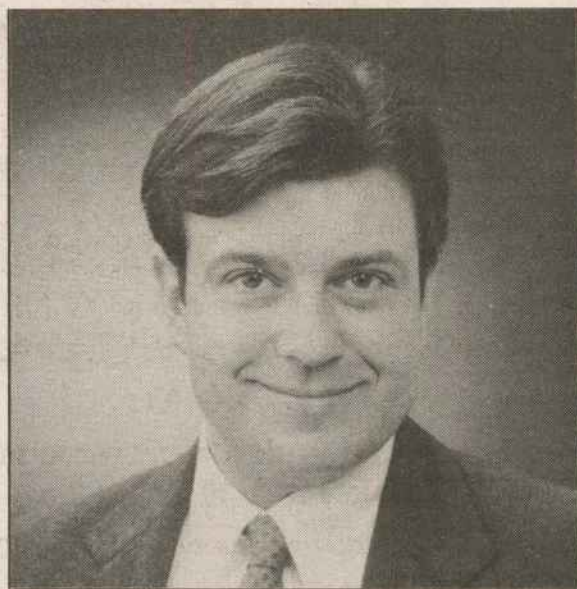
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# Politically Speaking

## Sex, Lies & Telephone Tapes

Commentary by Bill Meunier

The so called White House scandal continues unabated. News organizations continue to hammer away at non stories about who had sex with who, when they had and whether or not they will admit to it.

Yes, many people are concerned over whether or not President Clinton had sex with White House Intern, Monica Lewinsky. I would agree with those who say he was stupid if he did. But like most of the American public I don't care, it's none of my business.

What I do care about is letting our President stand or fall on his policy proposals, not on unproven allegations which have nothing to do with those policies. Like most Americans I am angry about the allegations spread by partisan political hacks who masquerade as Special Prosecutors.

Anyone who really believes that Kenneth Starr is impartial in his investigation should run (not walk) to the home for the terminally gullible. Just tell the nice peo-

ple at the admittance desk that you believe in Ken Starr and they will have a nice room waiting for you.

Starr has even more to answer for than Clinton does. He should be called into account for the false information provided to the press by his office. He should be called into account for wasting millions of tax payer dollars in a never ending witch hunt that justifies its continued existence by looking into every two bit allegation that comes along.

How Congress can beat up on welfare mothers for getting a lousy few hundred dollars a month for food stamps and let Starr spend tens of millions on a five year investigation that has produced nothing in the way of convictions is beyond me.

According to what we have heard this whole affair (pun not intended) blew up when a former Bush White House appointee, Linda Tripp illegally taped some phone conversations she had with Clinton's alleged mistress, Monica Lewinsky.

Now what do you think would happen if you or I went into Starr's office with tapes of say Newt Gingrich's phone conversations? Can you say "You're under arrest?"

In fact a Florida couple was arrested and convicted of a felony for taping a Newt Gingrich cell phone conversation they had accidentally. That was different though. Apparently the President and his friends aren't entitled to the same protection under the law, according to Starr and the three Reagan appointed clowns who get paid to be federal judges and who routinely grant Starr's every wish to look into every new allegation.

Not only did Starr not prosecute Tripp or turn her tapes over to the Justice Department for its review, he hauled a Justice Department official before the Grand Jury because the man had privately congratulated some Maryland Democrats for saying that Tripp should be prosecuted.

It is quite clear that Ken Starr is out of control. Unable to justify the waste of millions of our tax dollars in his never ending search to uncover dirt on Clinton, his office has resorted to leaking daily



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smears against the President. It is shocking, disgusting and disgraceful.

He isn't the only one who should be called on the carpet for his actions. Let's not forget the role of the media in all of this. The propensity that various news organizations have shown to print any piece of gossip they can get their hands on is equally disgusting.

For example, we had the rumor that a Secret Service man supposedly saw Clinton and Lewinsky in a compromising position. The Dallas paper that printed that one had to pull its papers off the street and apologize.

Then there was the rumor that Clinton had given Lewinsky a dress and that tests of the dress would prove they had sex. Lewinsky's lawyer said that no such dress existed. And there was the latest rumor that Clinton's own secretary, Betty Currie gave him up to the Grand Jury. Currie's attorney says that nothing of the kind happened.

The constant references to "The White House scandal" are troubling as well. Excuse me, but if its proven it's a scandal, if it's not it's an allegation.

I think that the mainstream press feeds

the frenzy with inflammatory rhetoric, and its failure to properly check sources for motivations. Remember the initial reports on Tripp that she was a Clinton appointee? Made her sound really credible till we found out that she was really a Bush White House appointee.

And why is no one in the media questioning Kenneth Starr about his relationship with Tripp. Can you imagine what they would say if Clinton had found a young woman doing something illegal and not turned her over for prosecution?

Why has so little press been devoted to the comments of Starr's former colleagues on the bench who are saying that he has gone too far?

Fortunately the American people recognize what the news media does not. They understand two things. They know that Clinton is a human being and if he did have sex with Lewinsky it's part of being human. Secondly they know that he is doing a good job and they want him to continue to do it.

The public also knows that the right wing has been after this man since he took office. There have been flyers handed out in churches, accusing Clinton of murder, drug running, flag burning, and spying for the Soviet Union, along with a number of other heinous crimes.

It's about time that this ends. Let Clinton and the rest of us put aside this episode of sex, lies and telephone tapes and get on with the business of making America a better place for all of us.

## Frank Backs Air Force Down on Base Sexual Orientation Policy

Washington, DC—Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) announced on February 9, 1998 that the Department of Defense, at his urging, has taken steps to require a correction in the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base non-discrimination policy for civilian employees so that it clearly protects employees against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Previously, base commander General George T. Babbitt had issued a base-wide anti-discrimination policy that omitted reference to sexual orientation. Gen. Babbitt has no reissued the non-discrimination policy with a specific reference to sexual orientation, after intervention from Defense Secretary Cohen, with whom Frank had raised the issue.

In a memorandum dated October 29, 1997, then Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall had reiterated the Air Force non-discrimination policy for civilian employees and included sexual orientation.

Notwithstanding that memorandum, in November General Babbitt issued a policy for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which was the same as the Widnall memo, but omitted any reference to sexual orientation.

In response to a complaint from the U.S. Air Force Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Employees, the Air Force at first refused to correct the omission, saying that the memos were essentially the same. Frank then asked DOD Secretary William Cohen to intervene.

"General Babbitt's inaccurate statement of Air Force policy and the Air Force's initial refusal to correct it were simply unacceptable," Frank said. "I am glad that Secretary Cohen did not allow it to stand."

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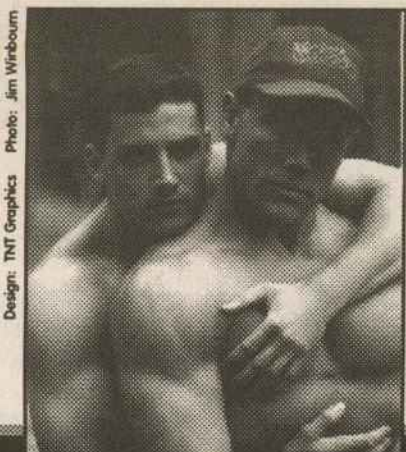
## Gay Harley Riders Need Housing

Milwaukee—Great Lakes Harley Riders (GLHR), an international network of Gay and Bisexual Harley men, is looking for housing to accommodate out of town members attending the Harley Davidson 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, June 10-14, 1998.

Most riders will be billeted with members in the Milwaukee area, but more housing is needed. The goal is to provide free or low cost space. All visitors are members of GLHR.

If you have a spare bedroom, rec. room, floor space or a place to pitch a tent, please call the housing coordinator at (414) 747-0703 or write: GLHR, P.O. Box 341611, Milwaukee, WI 53234-1611. Email: jakonabike@aol.com

For more information regarding GLHR contact the above P.O. address or email: BootedHOG@aol.com



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# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



## Man's Long Walk for Equal Rights Brings Out the Best in Maine

**Editor's Note:** As the people of Maine go to the polls on February 10<sup>th</sup> to vote for or against equal rights for Gay people, *Wisconsin Light* will be at press. So, you might say this story will be dated. Not so. Courage and determination to do what is right are never dated. Paul Fuller is the best of what our LGBT community is all about, in Maine and elsewhere.

By Bill Nemitz

**Portland, ME**—He'd covered only two miles of his Canada-to-Kittery walk when Paul Fuller saw the truck slow down and stop just outside of Van Buren. The driver, clearly troubled by the "Vote No on February 10" printed across the back of Paul's bright orange vest, motioned him over.

"You know, Jesus loves you," the man said patronizingly.

"Yes, I know," Paul replied.

The trucker picked up a flyer off his seat, handed it down to Paul and drove off. Paul walked on in the early morning stillness, marveling at the freshly fallen snow, the sun shining through the stately fir trees, the sheer beauty of the northern Maine woods.

Then he looked down at the flyer, boldly entitled "How to Get to Heaven."

"I wished he hadn't left so quickly," he recalled. "I would have told him heaven is right here, all around us. But he just couldn't see it."

Paul has seen it - and not just in the scenery. Since he began his 390-mile hike on January 15, he's seen time and again that Michael Heath and his band of Bible-thumping homophobes are nowhere near the majority they claim to be.

Rather, this 58-year-old antique dealer from Waldoboro, whose eyes keep smiling even as his feet grow more blistered, has witnessed the real Maine - the one he hopes will go to the polls February 10 and vote against repealing the new state law granting equal rights to Gay people.

"I hope it's working," he said, waving back to the tooting horns on Bath Road. "And I think it is."

The idea came to him - actually, it woke him out of a sound sleep - one night late last year. Long active in Gay politics, Paul wanted to do something to help preserve the equal-rights law... but what?

"I woke up and said, 'You know what you can do? You can walk.'"

That he can. He hiked the Appalachian Trail in 1990. Four years later, he trekked the 2,750-mile Pacific Crest Trail. Van Buren to Kittery? No problem.

He enlisted two friends - Larry Godfrey and Frank Hart - to escort him in a pair of support vehicles. He drove the route himself, logging landmarks down to the tenth of a mile and plotting out his three-week, 20-mile-a-day itinerary. Other friends lined up lodging - all donated - for each stop along the way. News releases went out... cell phones were distributed...

"It's amazing, just amazing, how it all came together," Paul said. Even more amazing, however, has been the response.

Sure, he's received the rare obscene gesture or cry of "faggot" from those too blind to see what he's doing. But when he reaches Kittery on Tuesday, February 10, those are not the people Paul will remember.

He'll remember the woman in Edgcomb who stopped one cold morning and told him he looked hungry. Before he could respond, she handed him a grapefruit and wished him good luck.

He'll remember the man in Presque Isle who pulled over his pickup and, while his wife and kids waited, walked over, took off his glove and shook Paul's hand.

"I want to thank you," the man said. "I know what discrimination is all about. I'm a native American."

He'll remember the two women in Caribou, both in their 60s, who handed him check - one of scores of donations totaling more than \$2,800 so far. They were Lesbians, the women explained, and after all

these years together, they're tired of life in the closet.

He'll remember another woman in Wiscasset who walked up to him, hugged him and suddenly burst into tears.

Why?

"She didn't want to say," Paul replied.

He'll remember the delegation of two dozen supporters, led by former Bath Iron Works President Buzz Fitzgerald, that proudly led him through downtown Bath. And the crowd 10 times larger that met

him as he crossed Tukey's Bridge one Saturday afternoon and escorted him to a reception and rally at Portland's First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church.

The celebration was a far cry from the solitude outside Van Buren, but for the man with the aching feet, it was yet another sign that the state he loves so dearly is already much closer to heaven than some might have us believe.

"I've never been so proud to be a Mainer," Paul said.

# Cellular One Presents Dining Out for Life

## Eat Your Heart Out Thursday March 12

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

## Skylight Opera's "Threepenny Opera" is a Sterling, Disturbing Performance

By J. R. Baker

Welcome to a musical nightmare where all the basic sins of mankind: greed, lust, betrayal, drug and alcohol addiction, robbery, murder, fraud and degrading poverty are thrust so strongly into your face in a series of scenes and tableaux that the audience found itself shocked into silence for the entire first act of **The Three Penny Opera**.

Of course, this look at the squalid world of pimps, beggars, thieves and prostitutes was a deliberate choice of director Paula Suozzi who decided to "go to the dark side and stay there." So, the audience, which was looking for pleasant entertainment, either had to leave the theater (which a few did), or stay there to admire the acting and singing abilities of the performers who portrayed so effectively this ugly world of lost and degraded souls.

Drab costumes, stark lighting and makeup, minimal walls of rusting meshed wire, ramps and platforms of varying heights, rotting boards and crates, wooden barrels, and scraps of old newspapers and yesterday's garbage all helped to create a forlorn slum that only the dregs of society could hope to find inhabitable.

But then, this is the gritty and gruesome life according to the lyricist, Bertolt Brecht, when one lives under Capitalism. With the help of Kurt Weill's music, Brecht set his manifesto of Capitalism's degrading and dehumanizing effects on people's souls, hearts and lives when money (the root of all evil) enters the picture and corrupts everyone.

The poor, in order to survive, not only beg for money, but flaunt fraudulent afflictions in order to elicit pity and thus, gain — more money. In turn, they are exploited by J.J. Peachum and his wife who organize them, demand half their earnings and have them beaten or worse if they don't comply.

Then there is Macheat also known as Mack the Knife, played very effectively by Norman Moses. Mack runs a gang of thieves, takes his cut from them, sleeps with every slut he can, even though he's married to the Peachums' daughter, Polly.

Mack's list of sins is celebrated by the drug addicted, leather-clad Street Singer (James Moye) in the chilling ballad, "Mack the Knife." While he sings, the blood spattered pictures of Mack's victims are projected on the wall behind him.

The Peachums, Mack, the Street Singer and all the rest, including the police, are all corrupted and thrive in the Capitalistic world according to Brecht.

It is only in the moments of the songs themselves, when the music delights the ear, does some hope shine through the hopelessness.

Especially to be noted are Kate Eagan (Polly) who has a beautiful voice that she uses effectively in songs like "Pirate Jenny." Michelle Smith's voice is slightly breathy, but is lovely as she sings the la-

menting "Barbara Song." Moments during the "Jealousy Duet," sung by both singers, turns the gray to pink.

The "Tango Ballad" sung by Mack and Jenny (who is played by that always wonderful performer, Leslie Fitzwater, is supremely effective.

Despite its portrayal of the "dark side," this show is a musical that is as thought provoking as it is alienating. Of course, that was Brecht's intention. Brecht intended to create "epic theater." In this Skylight production, he would be happy.

**The Threepenny Opera** will be playing at Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre through February 15. For tickets, call the Box Office at (414) 291-7800.

## A Room Of One's Own to Host Margie Adam in Concert

**Madison**—A Room Of One's Own is pleased to announce a benefit concert with acclaimed singer-songwriter and pianist Margie Adam on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Avenue in the Northgate Mall.

"This is music that sticks to your bones," said Studs Terkel of Margie Adam. "She unleashes a gorgeous deluge of music from the keyboard, more than you'd imagine possible from one woman's hands on just one piano," said Honor Moore.

The concert is part of a larger tour

Margie is doing to help expand awareness of and support for feminist bookstores nationwide.

Advance tickets can be purchased at A Room Of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson Street. General seating is \$15; preferred seating is \$25 and includes a dessert reception with Margie Adam after the show. On the day of the show, tickets will be \$17.

The concert is ASL interpreted and wheelchair accessible. For more information, please contact A Room Of One's Own at (414) 257-7888.

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<http://www.Wilight.com>

# Bernadette Peters & the MSO

Andrews Sill, conductor  
Bernadette Peters, vocalist  
Marvin Laird, musical director

Tuesday, February 24  
8:00 pm  
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## Perfect Harmony Holding New Member Orientations

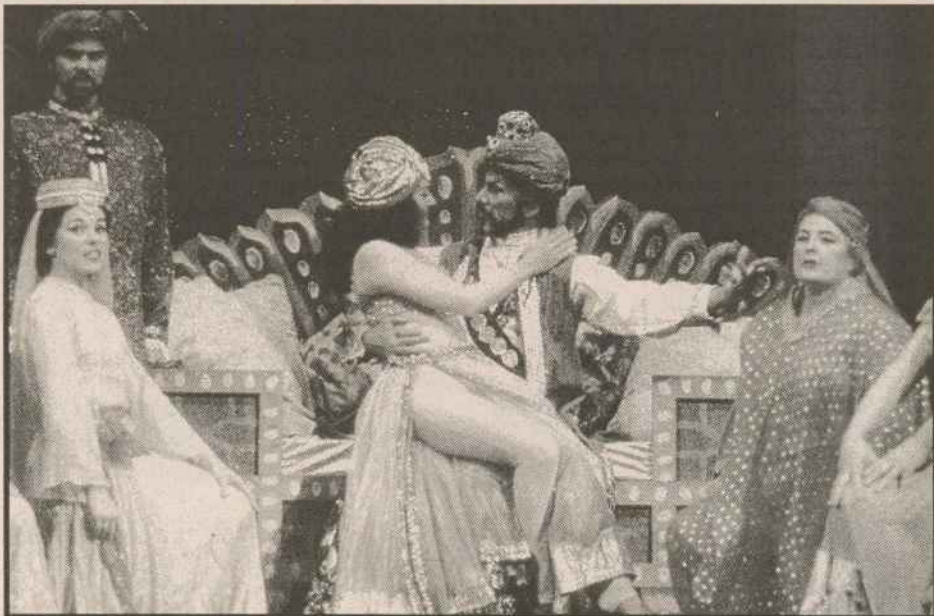
**Madison**—Perfect Harmony, Madison's Chorus for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men is having new member orientations on the following dates:

Sunday, February 15 and Sunday, February 22, starting at 6:45 p.m.

These orientations and the rehearsals following them will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, located on the Capitol Square at the corner of Carroll and W. Washington. Enter through the doors at the far end of the courtyard on the Washington Avenue side of the building.

Perfect Harmony performs two concerts a year, as well as making guest appearances at other Madison events. For more information, call Clay or John at (608) 232-0528.

Call 291-7605 for tickets;  
toll free 1/800/291-7605. Group discounts available.  
Or visit or call Ticketmaster 414/276-4545.



A Kidnapping? A Scene from the Milwaukee Florentine Opera Production of Mozarts Comic Opera, "Abduction From The Seraglio." It will be performed on February 20, 21 and 22 at Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets call 273-7206.

## The Boulevard Theater's Production of "A Delicate Balance" is Masterfully Done

By Ruth Anne Boulet

A message to Milwaukee theater audiences: you snooze, you lose. There are many shows to choose from in Milwaukee at this time of year. Many of you can attend simply by showing up as a warm body to fill a seat and occasionally pay attention. The latest offering from the Boulevard Ensemble, **A Delicate Balance**, is not one of those options. When making your reservation to see this dark comedy by Edward Albee, be aware that attending this show is going to take a great deal of active listening on your part.

**A Delicate Balance** examines the lives of a well-off family and their "best friends." Being well-off, of course, means that everyone is completely dysfunctional. (Hence the comedy.)

Agnes and Tobias are the central couple who we first meet at the beginning of the play. Enter Claire the alcoholic sister of Agnes who, of course, despite her addiction, sees the family situation most clearly.

Next, we meet Julia, Agnes' and Tobias' daughter. She's come home from husband number four and is ready to move back into her old room.

The real twist in this script is the characters Harry and Edna. They are Agnes' and Tobias' "best friends" and they've decided to move in. Permanently. What ensues is a great deal of discussion of who belongs where, why, and who makes that decision.

The reason to attend is simple enough: the entire cast of **A Delicate Balance** handles the difficult script superbly. The actors are able to connect to each other throughout the show very realistically. There's even an eerie physical likeness among the mother-sister-daughter trio of Agnes, Claire and Julia (played by Michelle Waide, Elaine Wyler and Cheryl A. Bruns).

Something that was a distraction for me was actually the script. I should note that Edward Albee won the Pulitzer Prize for **A Delicate Balance**. The highly stylized writing however, requires a great deal of attention from the audience from the moment the show begins. Because of the language the show is written in, the performance got off to a slow start. Once Claire enters the room, the dialogue becomes far more conversational, which proves to be a good break from Agnes' methodical discussion of her impending loss of sanity and creates distinction in character for Claire.

Also, the program lists the setting as occurring now, in this time. I'm not sure if that was the strongest choice given the dialogue. The discussions of gender roles were very dated although I know that, unfortunately, some people still do think men do one thing, women do the other and heaven forbid if you take a role not assigned to your particular gender.

The set also includes a "bar table" with a variety of liquors and their corresponding glasses out and at the ready. The style of the bar was reminiscent of the era of hard drinking and again didn't appear to support the addiction-aware contemporary time period. And although cocktails have come back into fashion, these people drink like fish. After two hours of watching the cast pound back martinis, a few scotches, cognacs and even anisettes, I wanted to mix myself up something. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, especially since you'll probably want to discuss the show with whom ever you attend.

The show is being billed as a comedy and I'm not sure if it was simply the chemistry in the audience on the night I attended, but there wasn't much laughter.

There were a few times, however, that I wanted to laugh, but not too many others did. Perhaps the extreme amount of dysfunction was too real for some to find funny. Thankfully that hasn't been my experience, so I was able to find the show satistically funny.

**A Delicate Balance** runs until Sunday, March 8. The Boulevard Theater is located at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee's near South Side. For tickets and other information, call (414) 672-6019.

## Scandalous Secrets Make Wilde's "An Ideal Husband" Aptly Contemporary

By John A. Jahn

Sir Robert Chiltern (Jonathan Smoots) is a well-to-do British politician, definitely an up-and-comer destined for the Cabinet - if not perhaps the Prime Ministership itself. He's built his reputation upon undisputed honesty and forthrightness - a fact which pleases the puritanical streak that's a mile wide in his adoring wife, Gertrude (Kate Goehring).

But Robert harbors a secret, the secret of the less than respectable origin of his fortune. Unfortunately for him, the secret is not entirely his, and physical evidence of his scandalous past reside in the possession of one who will not stop at blackmail, one Mrs. Cheveley (Elizabeth Norment).

Chiltern's well-constructed world is about to collapse around him, threatening to leave him broke, divorced, and a social outcast from the ruling class - the idle rich - of turn of the century English society.

If that scenario sounds vaguely familiar, it should - echoes of the latest presidential peccadillos, and that fact wasn't lost on the audience of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's current production of Oscar Wilde's **An Ideal Husband**.

The 3-hour, 3-act play focuses on four central characters at the center of a potential political storm set in London of 1895. That would be the above three aforementioned, plus the dandy and foppish Lord Goring (Arthur Hanket), closest friend of Sir Robert and past flame of Mrs. Cheveley. The writing is essentially flawless (this is Oscar Wilde, after all), and transports one back to the era of Victorian sophistication, elegance and indirectness.

It is a play full of talk about governmental

change - exactly what changes Wilde had in mind remain opaque - concealed behind a carefully constructed mask of aristocratic aloofness and decadent frivolity. Though a long play (there are two 10 minute intermissions) the comedy and drama keeps up a steady pace throughout.

The Rep's current production, led by the company's artistic director since 1993, Joseph Hanreddy, consists of an excellent cast of well-rehearsed actors, whose affected English accents deliver the sense of place without making it difficult to understand.

Likewise, the staging is authentic looking, consisting of beautiful light fixtures, paintings, a balcony and staircase, and turn-of-the-century furnishings on a marble-like floor (all thanks to scenic designer Scott Bradley). The costumes really make **An Ideal Husband** a feast for the senses, however, with the men sporting elegant evening wear and the ladies gorgeous gowns (thanks to costume designer Robert Morgan).

As an added touch, the opening and closing moments of each act are accompanied by excerpts of Sir Edward Elgar's sumptuously English orchestral music.

**An Ideal Husband** surely provides an evenings' entertainment well worth your time, and it's most aptly timed (coincidentally) to give you a new perspective of the potential scandals in 1998's America. The Rep production runs from January 21st through February 22nd. Tickets are \$8.00 - \$29.50. Call (414) 224-9490 for more information.

## Full Moon Productions presents

A Womyn Only Event



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.



## Gutzman and Company to Perform Disturbing Sondheim Masterpiece

Although when Stephen Sondheim's darkly comedic and sometimes shocking musical *Assassins* first opened, it was widely misunderstood as are most of his shows and, although its opening on the same day that the Gulf War broke out dampened its cynical examination of the collapse of the American Dream, it has, nevertheless, proven to be one of Sondheim's most popular and potent musical ventures.

*Assassins* is a dark, disturbing, bleakly comic, ultimately chilling bad dream of a vaudeville which explores everyone's need to belong and to receive some sort of attention. It examines the twisted American logic that now allows many to think that our country "owes" them something...some sort of prize just for living here.

This exploration is accomplished through subversive rewritings of American popular music as sung by nine women and men who tried to, and in four cases did, kill the President of the United States.

The show uses the assassins as a tool in the exploration of the ideas about violence, reward, dreams, desires, defeat and anger. The show makes no attempt to be historically accurate as it often has historical personalities from very different eras talking to each other. Neither does it seek to put to rest any of the controversies about the assassinations themselves. Rather, it seeks to probe the frame of mind of people suffering so much in one way or the other that they believe killing a powerful political figure will somehow ease their pain.

How can such a show be a musical and how can it entertain? That is the genius of Sondheim and Jerome Weidman (who wrote the music and lyrics and the book, respectively).

Sondheim and Weidman present in revue format a nightmare history of American entertainment from turn of the century folk songs through cakewalks and John Phillip Sousa-type marches, right up to modern pop rock and Broadway-style showstoppers. Each song gives a perspective or sometimes several perspectives on "Why I tried to kill the President."

A character called the Balladeer acts as a sort of media talk show host to challenge

## Gay Comedy Team of Smith and Kennedy Comes to Wisconsin

**Milwaukee**—Gaylapalooza, a Gay stand-up comedy show starring Bob Smith and Scott Kennedy will be performing in February in Appleton, Milwaukee and Madison.

Smith has had his own HBO half hour comedy special and was the first openly Gay comic to appear and perform on the "Tonight Show" with Jay Leno. He has published two books: *Growing Up Gay* and *Openly Bob*.

Kennedy is one of the co-founders of The Gay Comedy Jam. He has taken Gay comedy to over 150 cities in the U.S. and Canada. He has two CDs out: "Gay From Las Vegas" and "The Gay Comedy Jam LIVE" which also features Smith. He has toured in concert with Garth Brooks.

Gaylapalooza will be in Appleton on February 24 at the Skyline Comedy Café, 1004 S. Olde Oneida Street; in Milwaukee on Wednesday, February 25 at the Stooges Comedy Club, 639 S. Layton; and in Madison on February 27 at the Madison Civic Center, Starlight Room, 211 State Street.

the ideas of the assassins. The songs are some of Sondheim's most haunting and melodic. The dialogue is often very clever and cunning and the entire show is packed with every element that defines stunning musical theater.

Producer/Director Dale Gutzman, a Sondheim aficionado and contributor to the international Sondheim Review, will bring this powerful piece of musical theater to Milwaukee on February 27 and 28 and March 1 to Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Public Library.

Although *Assassins* has been presented in the area before in productions that were well-staged and well-sung, none of those productions came near the dramatic depth of the piece, Gutzman said. The show is meant to disturb as well as entertain. That's part of its very structure and previous productions have steered clear of its shattering power and its tragic depth, Gutzman believes.

The London production came closer to these truths than did the off-Broadway run and, consequently, Gutzman said, it was the most successful. The tendency of theater groups to stage Sondheim's shows as if they were presenting Rogers and Hammerstein really weakens the content and message of these shows, Gutzman said.

Tickets for *Assassins* may be ordered by calling (414) 327-3552. Tickets are \$15. Senior and student discounts are available.

## Playwrights Studio Theater to Present Neville's "Schoolgirls in Uniform"

**Milwaukee**—What do you get when you drop a crew of misfits into an ultra-orthodox military school? *School Girls in Uniform*, Michael Neville's new comedy opening March 14<sup>th</sup> at the studio theater at Milwaukee's Broadway Theater Center.

Cat LaRocque had been a street kid from a rich family. Her mother is international couturier, Nina LaRocque. Her father is a good natured ne'er do-well. She finds the family she never really had in the Charlotte Corday Military Academy for Young Ladies (named, no doubt, for the murderess at the time of the French Revolution).

Mystery lurks in Cat's personal and family background. She has always coped until now, when her life threatens to blow up in light of her sexual orientation. Her crisis intensifies when she is called upon to mentor Manuelita Maldonado, the daughter of the dictator of Tierra Del Culo.

The offbeat family members and pals who rally around Cat make her orientation seem positively staid. The triumphant human heart is revealed in 62 minutes of outrageous laughter.

*School Girls in Uniform* which Quentin Crisp, author of *The Naked Civil Servant*, calls "wickedly funny," is based very loosely on the scandalous German tearjerker, "Madchen in Uniform."

"The movie and the Broadway play, which were done a thousand years ago, were about subterranean, illicit quivering,"

said playwright Neville. "*School Girls* has subterranean quivering, but it's strictly rock and roll with a bottle of Wet."

*School Girls in Uniform* stars Sarah Behrendt as Cat. Elaine Thorton-Wyler plays Nina LaRocque. She is currently delivering a heroic Sapphic turn in *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* at Theater X. The play is directed by Mark Bucher, Artistic Director of the Boulevard Ensemble Theater.

Michael Neville has been produced on Broadway with adaptations of *Eileen*, starring E.G. Marshall (an associate member of Playwright Studio Theater's Board of Directors) and Maureen O'Sullivan; *One Touch of Venus* starring Susan Lucci, Peggy Cass and Jim Dale; and *Music in the Air* starring E.G. Marshall.

Neville was a writer for ABC-TV's "Ryan's Hope." His play, *Ballymurphy* was voted "Best of Season" by ACT Seattle's audience.

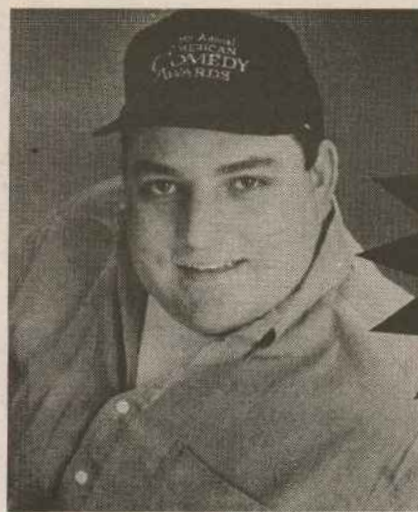
*School Girls in Uniform* is a Playwrights Studio Theater production in association with Pamela Brown and Amethyst Productions.

Performance dates are March 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22. Tickets are \$10. The Broadway Theater Center is located at 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. For tickets and other information, call (414) 291-7800.

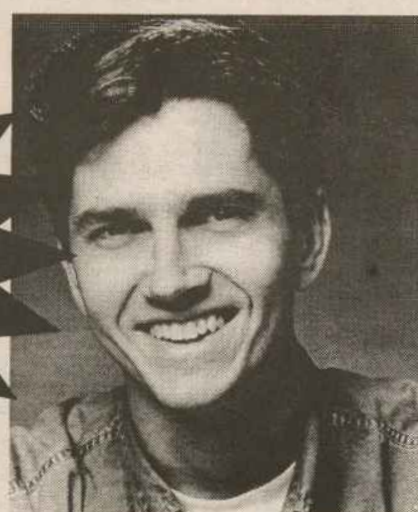
# GAYLAPALOOZA

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starring  
**Scott Kennedy**  
and  
**Bob Smith**



**— TUESDAY, FEB 24 —**

**Skyline Comedy Cafe**

1004 S. Olde Oneida St, Appleton

Showtime 8pm • Tickets: \$12 in Advance/\$15 day of the Show

**Call (920) 734-5653 for Tickets**

**— WEDNESDAY, FEB 25 —**

**Stooges Comedy Club**

639 Layton Avenue, Milwaukee

Showtime 8pm • Tickets: \$12 in Advance/\$15 day of the Show

**Call (414) 769-9300 for Tickets**

**— FRIDAY, FEB 27 —**

**Madison Civic Center, Starlight Room**

211 State Street, Madison

Showtime 8pm • Tickets: \$12.50 in Advance/\$15.50 day of the Show + Surcharge

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# You're Invited

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12

### VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY AT IN BETWEEN FEATURES DATING GAME

It will be a wild time at In Between, as the popular near South Side spot hosts it's annual Valentine's Day party. The festivities include In Between's ever popular Dating Game.

We were so impressed with last year's affair that we made this a SpotLight event. Don't miss it.

In Between is located at 625 S. Second Street, Milwaukee.

### KENOSHA AL-ANON

Gay AA and Gay Al-Anon meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 5810 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Kenosha and at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Racine, 625 College Avenue every Monday at 8:00 p.m. Phone (414) 694-0115. Ask for Bill or Art.

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14

### VALENTINE'S DAY SHOW AT KIRBY'S KLUB IN MADISON BENEFITS THE AIDS NETWORK'S EMERGENCY SERVICE FUND

Kirby's Klub will be the site of a spectacular Valentine's Day show featuring the talents of Madison's finest performers plus the talents of the Portfolio Men.

Everyone who enters gets a free rose. There will be drink specials, a fabulous show, and lots of fun.

The show is the wrap of Kirby's "Give Some Love" Campaign co-sponsored by The Wisconsin Light. During the campaign you can buy a valentine at the bar and help those with AIDS meet emergency expenses.

Showtime is 10:00 and there will be a \$5.00 cover (and it's worth every penny) so don't miss it.

Kirby's is located at 121 Main Street, Madison.

### VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE AT MANOEUVRES IN MADISON

Manoeuvres is throwing a great Valentine's Bash beginning at 11:00. Don't miss out on all the fun and excitement. Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair Street, Madison.

### GAY MEN'S CHORUS FUND RAISER AT BUDDIES

Green Bay's Gay Men's Chorus is holding its first fund raiser at Buddies, 1264 Main Street, Green Bay, and it promises to be a good time for all those in attendance. The fund raiser will include raffles from 8 pm to 1 Am.

The chorus is raising money so it can purchase music for its Spring Concert. So stop on by and check out Title Town's newest Gay bar at the same time.

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15

### THE PAGEANT IN MILWAUKEE

Wisconsin's original pageant is over two decades old. This year's version will be held at the Milwaukee Downtown Hilton

Hotel's Crystal Ballroom. Tickets are \$50.00 (dinner included) or \$25.00 for the show only.

Cocktails are at 5 PM, Dinner is at 6:30 and the pageant begins at 8:00. For tickets call 383-5767.

### LOVE ME TENDER AT DIVERSIONS

Diversions that hot Fox Valley Gay entertainment complex will have a hot revue to help make your Valentine's Day weekend complete.

The "Love Me Tender" revue will include live vocals, as well as comedy. Showtime is 8:30 PM. Diversions is located at 1413 Green Valley Road Neenah.

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19

### KIRBY'S KLUB OFFERS MADISON IT'S FIRST CLOSET BALL

Kirby's Klub is offering a new treat to Madison's Gays and Lesbians the first ever Closet Ball. This is a ball with a twist. In addition to a fine show filled with many of Madison's best performers, the closet ball will feature five studly leather men who will be transformed into drag queens as the evening goes on.

Be on hand to see who will be crowned Queen of the Closet Ball.

Kirby's Klub is located at 121 W. Main Street, Madison.

## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24

### MARDI GRAS PARTY AT MANOEUVRES

You know you always have a great time whenever Manoeuvres has a party and their Mardi Gras party will be no exception to that rule.

Sponsored by Manoeuvres and Zumbido, the party will include cajun food, hot dance music, and the awarding of a color tv to whoever collects the most beads and doubloons.

Don't miss out on all the fun be there starting at 10:00 and celebrate Fat Tuesday in style at Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair Street, Madison.

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

### TURN ABOUT AT ZA'S

One of the premiere events of the season will take place at Za's with its annual Turn About Night party. Turn about nights (for those who don't know) are parties where the bar tenders and the drag queens trade places.

It's all in fun and its always a great time. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

### NOWAP FUND RAISER AT SCOOTERS

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire, will be scene of a fund raiser for the NOWAP, the Northern Wisconsin AIDS Project. There will be a fine show and a tv giveaway, (the kind you watch at home not the kind you watch on the stage). So stop on in and lend some support to those trying to help us all fight against AIDS.

### MARDI GRAS PARTY AT MAMA'S

Nobody knows how to party at Mardi

Gras like your Mama does, so Mama Roux is throwing a combination Mardi Gras/Anniversary bash.

Mardi Gras is always special at Mama Roux which is known for its fine cajun food. The party will include prizes for the most elaborate, most original and sleaziest mask.

Plus you get half off your first drink when you wear a mask.

Mama Roux is located at 1875 N. Humboldt.

### BREW CITY BEARS NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP

It will be open season on Bears at the Boot Camp located at 209 E. National Ave, as the Brew City Bears hold a club night at the bar.

The party starts at 10:00 p.m.



Yeeehaaaah! There was a lot foot stomping, hand clapping two steppin, line dancing, eating and just in general carrying on at the Shoreline Dancers Anniversary Party held at Milwaukee's Just Us on Saturday January 31st. A large crowd turned out to help on of America's best Gay and Lesbian country dance troupes celebrate the occasion. Shown above a few of the members our cameraman was able to get standing still long enough to take a picture. Also in the picture are Just Us Co-Owners Steve and Jan. Just Us is located at 807 S. Fifth Street, Milwaukee. The bar features country nights every Saturday.



## THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

**NEWS...**We hear the Valentine's Sale at Kirby's Klub in Madison is going really well. You can buy one of your own for a minimum donation of a \$1.00. The entire donation goes to the AIDS Network's Emergency Services Fund which provides money to people with HIV who need help meeting emergency expenses.

**RECAPS...**The leather swap at Woody's was fun, there were a whole lot of people there and I think some of them were swapping more than leather, but hey whatever makes em happy. After leaving Woody's I headed over to the Shore Line anniversary party at Just Us. There was an even bigger crowd over there.

Shoreline and Just Us know how to throw a great party and this one was no exception.

The opening night of **The Milwaukee Eagle's** Golden Shaft club was tres butch! I personally couldn't find a golden shaft to take home with me, but I had had a good time nonetheless.

I stopped by **In Between** for their Monday evening balloon toss. I didn't win but I saw several people who did do well.

Speaking of winning, the **La Cage**, Tuesday night Prize night is worth checking out. There are winners of bar tabs and stuff every Tuesday night. Weekly winners are entered in a drawing

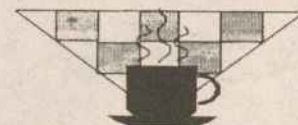
Please See Night Light Page 22

Coffee, Community and Cyberteria

Walkers Point

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Cafe'



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Mozz Logs Night 5 for \$4.00

Friday

Dessert Night - Free slice of pie with entree

PLUS

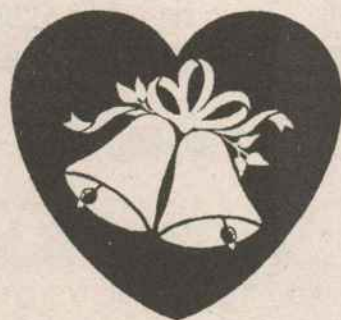
Every sandwich now includes a "fist full of fries"

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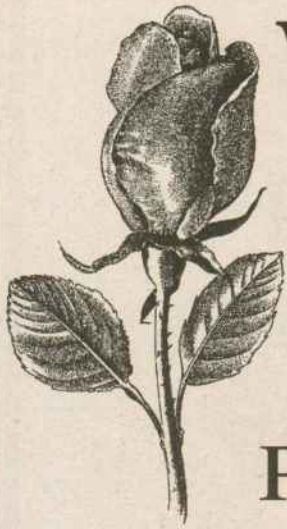


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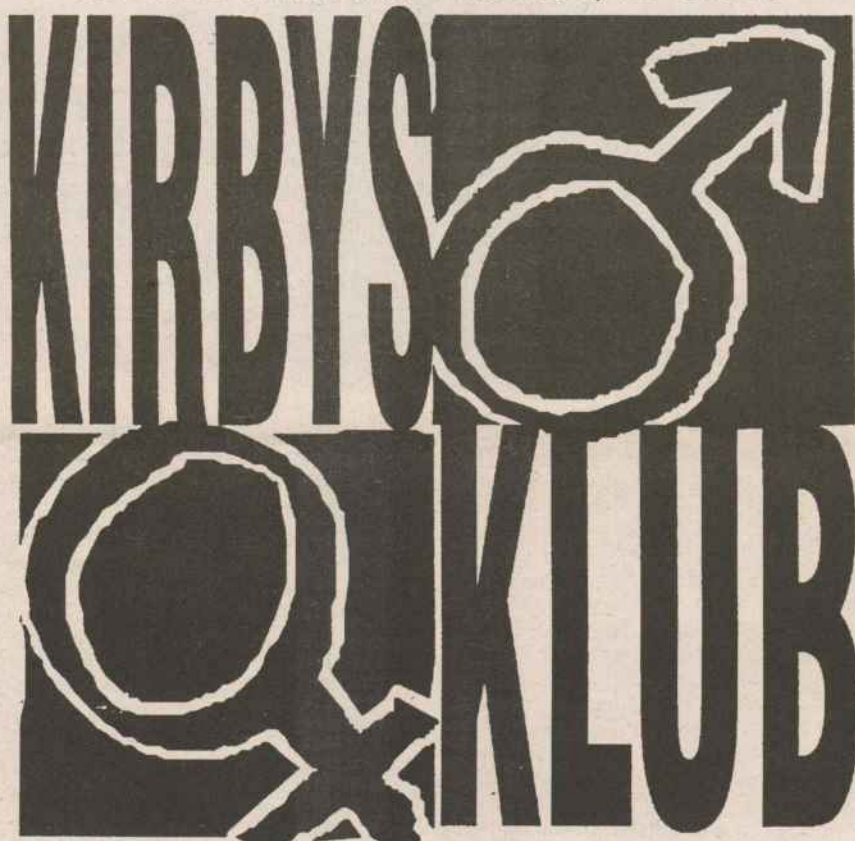
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# OUT on Film

## Despite a Few Faults, 'Oscar and Lucinda' is Absolutely Worth Seeing

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn has untold (at least till now, that is) admiration for those audacious filmmakers willing, often eager to take on the cinematic adaptation of celebrated novels. Such ventures are so desperately fraught with danger. One need only look to the recent and quite ghastly modernization of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*.

Few recent novels have as impressive pedigree as Peter Carey's quirky *Oscar and Lucinda*, winner of the prestigious Booker Prize for literature. To bring to the big screen this magical novel of two compulsive gamblers, director Gillian Armstrong set off on a similar wager.

As suggested by the title of both novel and film, this is a character study of two oddly matched lovers.

Following his widely acclaimed matinee-idol turn in *The English Patient*, Ralph Fiennes would seem a curious choice for the frail, twitching young minister. First captured as the son of a "fire and brimstone" puritanical Minster, Oscar will catch such a gambling fever not found on the big screen since fabled Barbara Stanwyck's delicious turn in *The Lady Gambles*.

Oscar's female counterpart is Lucinda (ravishing newcomer Cate Blanchett). A young heiress, Lucinda's love for all things made of glass results in her purchase of a glass-works factory. In the process, Lucinda develops two obsessions, one for the Reverend Hasset (Ciaran Hinds) and the other, gambling.

Fate, surely, rather than coincidence will bring together Oscar and Lucinda on a vessel headed for Australia. The oh-so tempting sounds of ship board gaming tables acting as the catalyst in introducing these two lost souls together.

Immediately drawn together in best storybook fashion, their lives will intertwine until drawn into an ill-fated, daring wager.

Glenn has the sad misfortune to admit that *Oscar and Lucinda* proves to be something of a disappointment. The film's pleasures are many, yet *Oscar and Lucinda* never quite adds up to a great and satisfying whole.

No faults to Armstrong's fine cast. Can the actor playing this gentle, timid Oscar be the same as the one who stole Glenn's heart in *The English Patient* or the grotesque embodiment of evil in *Schindler's List*? Under a mop of red hair, Fiennes' Oscar is nothing short of mesmerizing and a performance that is well worthy of Oscar consideration.

Her character perhaps somewhat less developed, Cate Blanchett's Lucinda still manages to match Fiennes' Oscar. Their relationship is haunting and haunted, yet the screenplay by Laura Jones leaves their romance undemourished. The one, tentative kiss between these two is ultimately too little, too late.

Gay audiences will be hard pressed not to raise an eyebrow at the touching scenes between Oscar and Percy Smith (Bille Brown), Oscar's protector on the doomed journey.

Purists might also quibble with some departures from Carey's novel, but few will not be moved by such extraordinary and unforgettable images impossible not to linger in memory: the Devon coast, the bursting of the Prince Rupert glass and finally, the eerie spectacle of Oscar's solitary figure in the church of glass drifting down the river.

**Rating: \$6.18 (scale No cents to \$7.00)**  
*Oscar and Lucinda* is currently playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

## Emotionally Stilted and Artsy, 'The Tango Lesson' is Simply Out of Step

By John A. Jahn

Writer/Director Sally Potter (*Orlando, Thriller*) was formerly a professional dancer. She stars in her latest film, *The Tango Lesson*, as Sally, a woman trying to get her scripts turned into artful film, taking tango lessons from a Latin heart-throb named Pablo. Pablo is played by real life professional dancer Pablo Veron - who also choreographed the film. With all this interaction of real life and the fiction of the motion picture, you'd expect something truly special and heartfelt to emerge. You'd be wrong!

I can already say this will in all likelihood go down as one of my least favorite films of the year. The supposed romance between Pablo and Sally is never convincing - not for one minute. This is largely because the only physical contact we see between them occurs when they're dancing together (or in many cases, Pablo dancing alone for Sally in an off-putting, egotistical fashion).

The only scene with them in bed together follows a fight, and Pablo lies in fetal position on the opposite end of the bed from Sally, looking at him forlornly.

There's not much plot here, either. Would be movie writer Sally decides she wants to learn the tango after seeing a stage performance of same (one which is far hotter than anything she and Pablo ever manage in 90-odd minutes).

She meets Pablo, the very cute, Latino dance instructor, and he agrees to give her lessons. Gradually, they fall in love

(though it's hard to tell), and then spend the rest of the film either fighting or dancing with each other, others, or by themselves. The film ends with them dancing on the nighttime streets of Paris as the music swells.

Potter strove to make *The Tango Lesson* artsy by not only filming it almost entirely in grainy black & white (for no apparent reason), and by using some unusual camera angles (lots of overhead shots), but also by limiting the dialog to such a degree you could probably fit it on a couple sheets of paper (or maybe it just seemed that way because what is said is so flat and lifeless). The latter was intended to allow the non-verbal communication to have free reign, and for the dance sequences to tell the story.

Sally and Pablo seem to be playing against each other in this film (you get the impression their both striving against the other for top billing), and the dance sequences - while fascinating in the first 10 or 15 minutes - become tedious and tiresome shortly thereafter. I don't think there's 10 solid minutes anywhere in this emotionally tepid film in which someone isn't dancing! You'll leave not wanting to see anyone dance a tango for months - if not years!

*The Tango Lesson*, is not exciting, nor is it good-looking, nor is it funny, nor is it the least bit emotionally engaging, and the dancing is so all-consuming that it becomes a tedious bore to watch. (1/2 star)

## Avoid at all Costs the Superfluous, Sappy, Sugary 'Spiceworld'

By John A. Jahn

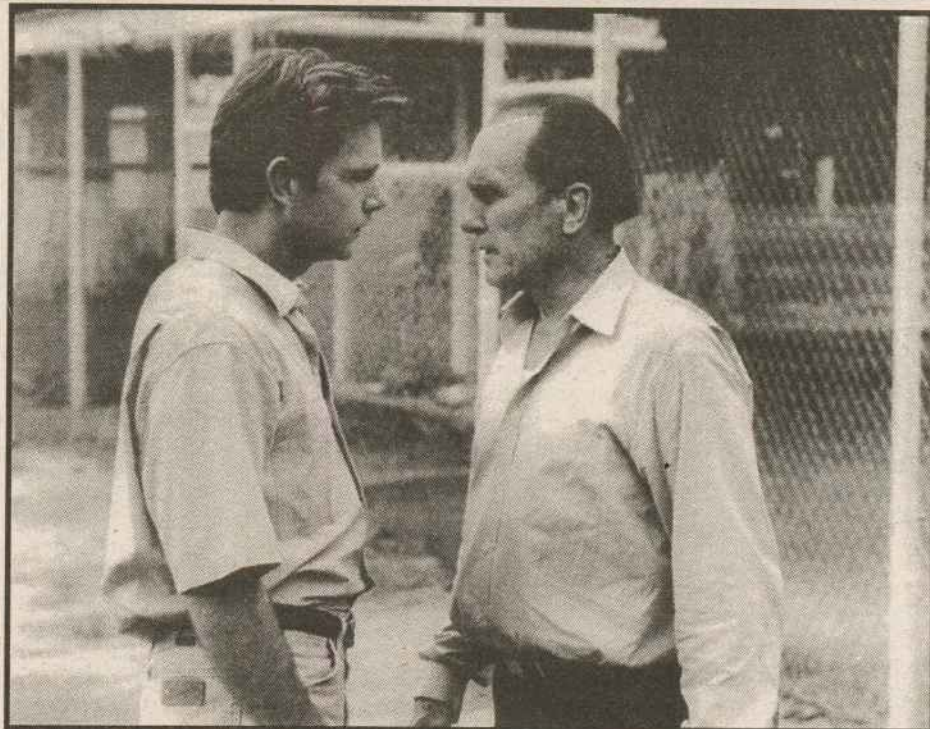
Has anyone not heard of the latest British Invasion - the prefabricated, interchangeable, cheesy pop group known as the Spice Girls? If you're one of the lucky few, consider yourself blessed. Now, I love movies. I even love light pop music. But somehow, neither of those loves was the least bit fulfilled by this God-awful movie. Go figure!

The setting is present-day London, England; Trafalgar Square, to be exact. Suddenly one of those inimitably British double decker buses (painted overall in the Union Jack) roars into view and hurtles towards the camera. Then, in an explosion of music, color, clothes, and platform

shoes, the five notoriously campy Spice Girls emerge from popping flashbulbs and screaming fans to descend upon London with annoyingly in-your-face fanfare.

The sugary pop quintet: Emma Bunton (Baby Spice), Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice), Melanie Brown (Scary Spice), Melanie Chisholm (Sporty Spice) and Victoria Adams (Posh Spice) have been given their first (count on it, there'll be more) feature film, *Spiceworld*. It's been billed as the 1990's version of the classic Beatles' film *A Hard Day's Night*, and if that's the comparison we are to make, then world pop culture has precipitously

Please See *Spiceworld* Page 19



Preacher Man Todd Allen and Oscar Nominee Robert Duvall in a scene from "The Apostle."

## Robert Duvall Excels as a Religious Fanatic in 'The Apostle'

By John A. Jahn

I've always appreciated the talents of Robert Duvall, and his career spans four decades: the '60s (*To Kill a Mockingbird*, *True Grit*), the '70s (*M\*A\*S\*H*, both *Godfather* movies, *Apocalypse Now*, *The Great Santini*), '80s (*Colors*, *The Natural*), and the '90s (*Days of Thunder*, *Falling Down*, *Stalin*).

He's at a point in his career where he can not only pick and choose acting roles, but also write, produce and direct. He assumes all four roles in the stirring and heartfelt drama.

A story about one man's journey on the road to redemption, *The Apostle* represents a tour de force for Duvall, who triumphs in the title role and thoroughly grabs your attention every second he's on the screen. This is partly due to Duvall's always strong screen persona, but also because his character, Sonny (later known as "The Apostle E.F."), is a complex, driven revivalist southern preacher...not normally the type of person one can easily ignore (even when you want to!). One gets the impression Duvall knew someone like Sonny very well in real life.

Threatened with the simultaneous loss of both his family and his church, Euliss "Sonny" Dewey, a Pentecostal preacher, is driven to commit a crime of passion, killing Horace (Todd Allen), a young preacher who's come between him and his wife Jessie (Farrah Fawcett). Sonny flees, even though it means leaving behind the wife and children he adores, his ailing mother (June Carter Cash), and the church he's worked so hard to make

flourish.

Leaving Texas behind for the bayous of Louisiana, he destroys all traces of his past and changes his name to the cryptic "E.F.," or just "The Apostle." Haunted by the past he left behind, E.F. works his way into the hearts and souls of the people now surrounding him in an unsuccessful attempt to forget the past and find personal redemption.

Duvall's central performance is riveting, indeed. Regardless of your taste for preaching and religious fanaticism (which his character surely represents), you'll either find it engrossing and inspiring or just downright silly...often a mixture of both.

Duvall surrounds himself with a fine supporting cast, including Billy Bob Thornton (*Sling Blade*) as an irreligious racist.

*The Apostle* is a long movie: 2 hours and 13 minutes long to be exact, but it moves along quickly - for the most part - thanks to the near constant, dominating screen presence of Duvall's Sonny/E.F. The film does, however, get a little tedious here and there as we're subjected to a few too many sermons (the climactic ending in particular is somewhat marred by the fact that Duvall's entire final sermon is given - it just eats up too much time and gets rather dull).

*The Apostle* comes highly recommended, despite its few flaws, and Robert Duvall deserves tremendous credit for bringing this passionate morality tale to the screen. (3 1/2 stars)

*The Apostle*, opens February 13th exclusively at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

## 'Blues Brothers 2000', a Musical—if Not Comedic—Tour De Force

By John A. Jahn

It's hard to believe it's been 18 years since the release of one of the coolest musical comedies ever, *The Blues Brothers*, with the late John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd as Jake and Elwood Blues, respectively. That film was notable for many reasons, among them the biggest car chase ever put on film (culminating in the biggest car pileup), great R&B music (provided by a whole slew of musical artists), and for Milwaukeeans, the scene taking place on the then incomplete freeway ramp connecting I-894 to the Hoan Bridge. It's a comedy classic, achieving legendary status partly due to the untimely death of Belushi, but mostly because it's just a darn good film.

Many of the same elements have come together nearly 2 decades later for the highly-anticipated sequel, *Blues Brothers 2000*, and, while in many respects musically superior to the first film, the comedic elements are nowhere near as strong.

I say that not just by comparison to the original, but also with *2000* standing completely on its own. This isn't to say there aren't laughs, but just that so many of the punch lines are blatant rip-offs of the first movie. And when you hear a joke the second time, no matter how good it is, it's just not as funny.

The first word that comes to mind when watching *Blues Brothers 2000* is derivative. Many, many scenes are just retreads from the 1980 film. For example, the original gave us those infamous Illinois Nazis, a scene where Reverend Cleophus James (James Brown) "zaps" Jake into his holy mission of reforming the Blues Band, and the massive car chase through downtown Chicago where police cars topple and

crash into one another, forming a huge pile of smoking, crunched up steel.

Well, *2000* gives us skinheads and white supremacists, Rev. James "zapping" Cabell Chamberlain (Joe Morton), an Illinois sheriff, into joining up with the band, and a massive police car pileup on a highway. "Been there, done that," is a common feeling one gets throughout this film, and there are many more obvious parallels.

Even if you haven't seen the 1980 film (a crime, indeed!), this film will still only leave you chuckling at best, since most of the comedy is, frankly, rather lame. Nevertheless, if you like rock & roll or rhythm & blues music at all, this film has loads of it, performed in nicely choreographed numbers throughout.

There are some 26 different songs, including "Respect," "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Green Onions," and "Funky Nassau." The movie's chock-full of musical legends and cameo appearances, including B.B. King, Nia Peeples, Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Steve Lawrence, John Popper ("Blues Traveller"), Paul Shaffer, Bo Diddley, Billy Preston...etc.

The plot, such as it is, serves only to move the Blues Brothers Band (and all the original members from the first film are back) from Illinois to the swamps of Louisiana and a "battle of the bands."

A decidedly mixed review - great music, relatively mediocre and highly derivative comedy. It could've had much better writing (and with Aykroyd and John Landis, you'd expect much better!). But it could've been much worse, too (let's say they brought in Jim Belushi to be Jake and hope no one noticed!). The soundtrack, certainly, comes more highly recommended than the film. ★★1/2

## Save 'The Wedding Singer' for a Time When You Have Nothing Else to Do

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Imagine, if you will, the all-too pathetic sight of an aging, jaded, Gay film critic sitting amidst a sea of middle-class mall America in anticipation of a silly, little romantic comedy about the foibles of that last bastion of heterosexuality: the big, white wedding.

Armed with a much needed "Biggie" popcorn, Glenn pondered just exactly who was Adam Sandler and what misdeed brought Glenn so low: to **The Wedding Singer**?

Adam Sandler plays Robby Hart. In high school Robby envisioned a glorious future as a songwriter/rock star. His vision won him the questionable charms of Linda (Angela Featherstone).

In the six long years that followed high school, Robby's rock & roll dream had faded. Reality finds Robby becoming his hometown's premiere **Wedding Singer**. Glenn isn't quite sure how **Wedding Singer** differs from Lounge Lizard?

While Robby might be content with his meager existence, living in his married sister's basement, girlfriend Linda is not. In proper sit-com etiquette, Linda leaves Robby at the altar on their wedding day. Boo-hoo!

Following Robby's horrifying humiliation, **The Wedding Singer** follows Robby as he puts his "career" on hold (but not before one last nightmarish turn singing at an unsuspecting wedding).

Finding considerable amounts of time on his hands, Robby is persuaded to assist

## 'The Replacement Killers' is a Movie for Those of Stout Hearts

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

**The Replacement Killers** would, at initial glance, seem an unlikely film to find Glenn and his "Biggie" popcorn. Never a particular aficionado of ultra-violent gangster flicks, Glenn must sheepishly admit to having neither seen Coppola's classic **The Godfather** nor any of Bruce Lee's antics.

Faithful readers of the **Wisconsin Light** must therefore pardon Glenn's lack of expertise. Still, nothing wrong with bringing a fresh, naïveté to the otherwise jaded business of film reviewing!

Top-lining **The Replacement Killers** is that international hunk o' man, Chow Yun-Fat. Never heard of him? Glenn neither! Press clippings suggest that the brooding Chow is Hong Kong's leading leading man. Whether he takes America by storm remains to be seen.

Chow plays an assassin with a decided sense of right and wrong. Right is killing bad guys -- even in huge, huge numbers -- while wrong is the killing of adorable little seven year-old boys while being hugged by their fathers.

Gee, Glenn has managed to offer up **The Replacement Killer's** scanty plotting with scant effort.

A brutal nightclub slaying, followed by the appropriately exciting chase sequence begin **The Replacement Killers**. When good-guy cop Stan Zedkov (Michael Rooker) is forced to kill the arrogant killer, he will learn that he has slain the son of underworld kingpin Mr. Wei (Kenneth Tsang).

Bad luck. Really bad luck. Wei persuades noble John Lee (the aforementioned Chow Yun-Fat) to accept the assignment to exact revenge. All seems to precede as planned. Lee has father and

## Violent, Brain-Dead and Derivative, 'Deep Rising' is One to Miss

By John A. Jahn

From the bottomless depths of the South China Sea, computer-generated creatures surface to attack and cannibalize the passengers on a luxury cruise liner, the "Argonautica." The first victim is killed as one of them sucks her down through the toilet upon which she sits.

From there it just gets worse.

You can't help but feel your soul being drained out of your body while watching **Deep Rising**, the mere existence of which seems predicated on the notion that people are far, far too easily entertained.

**Deep Rising** has everything you'd expect to find in a clichéd horror film, and less. It's full of cardboard cut-out characters for one, including the handsome leading macho guy who gets the girl in the end (Treat Williams), the hero's comic sidekick (Kevin O'Connor), the snarling bad guy who dies ever so slowly and horribly (Wes Studi), the corrupt, money-hungry Capitalist (Anthony Heald), and of course, the girl/romantic interest who ends up being the superheroine she never knew she could be (Famke Janssen; think of her

cute little Julia (Drew Barrymore) as she plans her wedding to slimy, Don Johnson-wannabe Glenn (Matthew Glave). Did Glenn forget to mention that **The Wedding Singer** is set in 1985?

In all too predictable fashion, **The Wedding Singer** offers up rather routine plotting. The likable hero, Robby must realize he isn't in love with Linda but with Julia who must likewise discover that her boyfriend is a complete shit.

**Wedding Singer** director Frank Coraci fortunately manages a few surprises up his sleeve, particularly in the whimsical casting choices of Steve "Fargo" Buscemi, Billy "Can you say has-been" Idol and Alexis Arquette in Boy George-drag.

Possessing a center as gooey as a marshmallow, **The Wedding Singer** is a lost little puppy of a picture, too warm and fuzzy for a critic like Glenn Bishop to enjoy putting the final touches of a truly scathing review.

This isn't to say that **The Wedding Singer** isn't a pretty dreadful film. It is. Best intentions notwithstanding, **The Wedding Singer** possesses too few amusing moments amidst some of the most sophomoric writing endured outside of public access television, Glenn predicts great success for **The Wedding Singer** once it reaches budget cinemas, where people will actually get their money's worth!

Rating: \$1.50 (scale: No cents to \$7.00)

son targeted, yet he fails to complete his assignment. Inquiring minds want to know why!

Now on the run, John Lee turns to Meg Coburn (Mira Sorvino) to fix him up with a fake passport, so he can hightail it to mainland China to protect his mother and sister. Meg is interrupted in her task and before she knows it she and John find themselves thrust together, unlikely partners against the evil Mr. Wei.

Mira Sorvino was something of a revelation to Glenn. As the tough-as-nails Meg Coburn, Ms. Sorvino was delightfully...well, tough-as-nails and Glenn isn't talking those fake kind you can purchase at your better convenience stores. Ms. Sorvino reminded Glenn of those wonderful gun molls in the 1930's Warner films that featured such memorable bad guys as Jimmy Cagney or Edward G. Robinson.

Initially Glenn thought Chow Yun-Fat something of an expressionless enigma. Highly skilled assassins might be trained to show little, if any emotion but such characters are difficult to elicit much audience sympathy. Even the deliciously wooden mega-hunk Arnold S. only became a superstar after revealing his humorous side.

Director Antoine Fuqua offers some nice stylish visual touches while keeping the action going along at a brisk pace.

Those faint of heart take heed, **The Replacement Killers** is not for the squeamish. A particularly unpleasant, barbaric murder of an innocent woman driving a van nearly had Glenn tossing up in his "Biggie" popcorn. Souls braver than Glenn however should get their money's worth!

Rating \$3.05 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

as a bargain basement Sandra Bullock).

Then, of course, there are dozens of automatic weapons that never need reloading, and a gang of bad guys, each representing a different ethnic group. There are also the big, disgusting, gruesome creatures - entirely computer-generated in this case, and not remarkably well, either.

A quote from writer/director Stephen Sommers perhaps sums things up best of all: "I saw something on television about a vampire squid - a really nasty-looking thing. I...did some research on giant sea anemones. And then decided to write a big thriller action movie." Revealing, is it not?

Essentially, **Deep Rising** is a violent, bloody monster movie, filled with every shopworn cliché of the genre. It's poorly written, directed and acted, and what suffices as the plot isn't worth analysis as it's so full of holes that the film becomes a 90 minute sieve of forehead-slapping nonsense. Summed up: a big body count, standard, cardboard action hero types, the girl, big, ugly creatures. Hey, sounds original and entertaining to me! NOT!

1/2★

## From the Start, a Film's Quality as Art Has Been Due to the Director

A Wisconsin Light Exclusive By Steve Starvon

Films have always been the director's medium. With the universal eye of the camera, directors were the original soothsayers conjuring up images and apparitions out of shadows and light, pioneering this great new technology of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, giving breadth and focus to what must have seemed an odd curio of an invention at the beginning of the century.

The magic of early movies was limited to constrictive stages, unwieldy immobile cameras and the need to create action out of silence. These early magicians of shadow-play seemed limited to what their cumbersome all seeing eye could reproduce on narrow strips of celluloid—and the need to coalesce these pinpoints of light into something resembling narrative coherence.

D. W. Griffith attacked the problem by taking his cameras outdoors, mounting them on movable transports, and creating the first story spectacles. Chaplin did him one better by producing, directing, and acting in his own films, setting a new standard of artistic coordination and foreshadowing the later efforts of Orson Welles.

But these were gifted men and their European counter parts—W. G. Pabst [not the beer!] Murnau, Dreyer Lang, remained less renowned but were no less influential. The **Cabinet of Dr. Caligari** [1919], **Nosferatu** [1922] and **Metropolis** [1926] were admired by cinema historians, but seemed too studied for general consumption. Danish director Dreyer's **Passion of Joan of Arc** [1928] introduced creative use of the close-up, but his later films were marked by an almost sadistic Puritanical religiosity [**Day of Wrath** 1943] which alienated audiences and limited his international appeal.

Then as now, movies are a curiously American phenomena, and attempts to over-intellectualize film has never been long lasting, or particularly popular. Movies at their best were a kind of glorious entertainment blending the artistic with an accessible vernacular and an easy-to-take style.

The "vision thing" [George Bush's favorite amalgam] in films was the director's main job. As in politics it was mandatory to combine these "pinpoints of light" into a coherent seamless audience-pleasing format, but it was American made films that dominated the movie world from the outset.

But if directors were the alchemists, movie stars were the lodestones of popular attraction.. Fairbanks, Chaney, Pickford, and, of course, Chaplin emerged out of these silent pinpoints of light and dominated the international scene as well as their successors—Garbo, Shearer, Davis, Stewart, Hepburn, Grant, and many others who would define and refine sound films into a more serious art form, challenging the stage as sound added prestige to films.

This was not lost on many talented directors, who, realizing that those who appeared before the camera would at least equal in importance those who operated behind the camera, became resigned to the emerging studio system which demanded that directors deal with given starring actors. This may in fact have been a blessing in disguise—there was an enormous amount of talent before the camera during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and with the technical as well as the monetary support that studios could provide, and combined with the personal dedication that executive producers such as Thalberg, Goldwyn, and Selznick had for films, it was not quite so difficult to blend commercial with artistic pursuits. A De Mille or a Capra had a much freer hand than is generally supposed [as long as they were commercial], and a great wealth of talent to choose from.

Many famous stars emerged as the result of a proprietary mentorship at the hands of a dominant director: Lillian Gish with Griffith, Garbo with Maurice Stiller, Dietrich with Sternberg and even Alfred Hitchcock allowed himself an obsessive fascination with his famous blonds: Madeleine Carroll, Ingrid Bergman, Grace Kelly, Eva Marie Saint. John Wayne did his best work under the direction of John Ford who elevated Westerns into a more respectable genre. The Golden Age of sound films lasted from about the 30s through the mid-40s, coming to an abrupt halt after World War II.

The post war depressive let-down dominated by the emerging Cold War and hearkening to the Korean conflict, combined with the realization that the recent war had not made the world "safe for democracy" resulted in a curious sense of denial of the for-

Please See Film Director's Page 19

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## From D.W. Griffin of the Silent Film Days to Rossellini, Bergman, Wilder and Kursawa, Film Directors Have Continually Advanced the Medium

Film Directors  
Continued From Page 18

mer war-time optimism that had given spiritual unity to the arts—this embarrassed revocation of faith in humanism would dominate the arts for the next half century.

A gradual unraveling of the balance between star and director gradually came into effect as a "new wave" of foreign films began to shift emphasis in favor of innovative directors who reflected the dark side of a new pessimism.

The first were the almost unwatchable hand-held camera movies—Rossellini's *Open City* [1945] and De Sica's *Bicycle Thief* [1947] that confused artistic laggardness with realism, although the latter film is still widely admired by film dilettantes for the "purity of its simplicity"—a favorite term of film connoisseurs at that time.

It is much better than the other initial neo-realistic films of this period. But these early Italian films served a masochistic post-war need to bury the audience in grit. The age of director-deifying films came into being in the 50s, but now their was a greater emphasis on the European product—always the home of post war malaise—and of malaise there would be aplenty. Soon foreign films would become more sophisticated and obscure.

Most prominent in Italy were Antonioni [*L'Aventura* 1960, *La Notte* 1961, *Red Desert* 1964] whose characters wandered aimlessly and scenario-less through city streets while taking their emotional temperatures in endless monologues about spiritual destitution; Federico Fellini who viewed surrealism as temporary psychosis [*8 1/2* 1963, *Juliet of the Spirits* 1965] and threw in some abstract eroticism [*Satyricon* 1970] along with a hand-slapping view of hollow merriment [*La Dolce Vita* 1960—very popular here] but came up with a real mini-tragedy in the ineffable self-induced loneliness and heart-sick pathos of *La Strada* [1954]—but this film unlike the others required star performances provided by Anthony Quinn and Guileta Masina (Fellini's wife) and survived its trendiness for quite a while.

The French, of course would regard their films as fit for the true epicures of intellectualism, but a certain urgency was lacking—like settling for a bon bon when the times demanded a steak. Francois Truffaut never equaled his film debut *The 400 Blows* [1959] a film still loved today for its delicate sense of unconscious parental lovelessness and the loneliness that ensues in children—but here again the famous final shot of the boy staring at the empty, endless sea is almost as fondly remembered as Garbo's in *Queen Christina*. His subsequent films *Breathless* [1959] and *Jules and Jim* [1961] suffered from a cold-blooded sleight of hand so often mistaken for sophistication—charming but forgettable—like trying to involve yourself in watching an accident from across the street.

Others, like Alain Resnais delved into the metaphysical aspects of sub-conscious memory blockage, producing films of brilliant incoherence with camera work so studiously [and slowly] elegant that you didn't mind if it seemed like a series of unedited sequences. He convinced unemployed coffee house intellectuals—and well-paid film aficionados—that it didn't matter if you could follow the film as long as you could savor its tastefulness. But his *Hiroshima Mon Amour* [1959] and *Last Year at Marienbad* [1961] are far more compelling than our contemporary psychiatric obsession with hidden memory recall.

Resnais's films capped nuclear age depression by denying the importance of personal experience—a dangerous concept in these politically correct times but probably close to the truth. The films retain a certain distinction despite their pervasive negativism, although no one cares to watch them any more.

But it was Swedish director Ingmar Bergman who garnered the most respected praise from American cinemaddicts. Basically a stage director, Bergman transformed his actors into speaking mannequins bearing long, long recorded messages emanating from the director's psyche—a form of free association dialogue with no beginning or end.

Bergman was not adverse to using extensive close ups but at his worst, as in the nearly unwatchable *Persona* [1966] (recently seen on TV), action comes to a dead halt, and one is aware of rapidly trying to decipher obtuse subtitles. At his best, as in *Wild Strawberries* [1957] and the *Virgin Spring* [1960], Bergman strives to create modern day morality plays out of the disillusionment of old age and the pointlessness of vengeful anger. His most remembered scene is the figure of death in the *Seventh Seal* [1957] leading his characters in a routeless circular dance of the macabre—very propitious of the post war dark ages.

From Japan, director Kurosawa earned a place of repute for more careful and certainly more spirited cinematography as in *Rashomon* [1950] and relieved cinema weary audiences with a bit of action in *Yojimbo* [1961] and the classic, but slightly overrated Japanese western - *Seven Samurai* [1954].

Of the many remakes, Sturges's *The Magnificent Seven* [1960] failed to capture Kurosawa's sense of serious-minded merry making, and Peckinpaw's overwrought [and overpraised] *Wild Bunch* [1969] failed to duplicate Kurosawa's sense of classic poise-within-motion.

On this side of the Atlantic, executive film producers such as Zanuck, Dore Schary, and Howard Hawks, took a more cautious view, and, with the studio system still in operation, left the darker side-soon to be known as "film noire"—to lower budget productions. Today, such overpraised films as *Kiss Me Deadly* [1955], *Crossfire* [1947], and *The Big Heat* [1953] are noted more as trend setters rather than for their intrinsic qualities. The dark ominous geometry of nighttime city streets dominated these films with a sense of nameless hostility which has a strange appeal even today. What they lacked was the scalpel-edged determination of their European cinema-verite counterparts. But they were easier to take if less ambitious.

Ironically, two of the finest film noir movies were made before 1945—the merciless *Double Indemnity* and the poetic psycho-romantic motif of *Laura*. Both were made in 1944, the same year as Bing Crosby warbled *Going my Way*. The enduring longevity of both these films might be attributed to exceptionally strong star performances, although their respective directors [Wilder and Preminger] valued star acting as well as structure. It was Wilder who was to give *Sunset Boulevard* its immortal "close up" line. But it was an era that was doomed to close  
Part 2, next issue.

Spiceworld  
Continued From Page 17

declined in every conceivable fashion.

First of all, unlike the Beatles, the Spice Girls do not write their own material, nor do they possess discernible individual personalities. However, a much more apropos comparison should be made with the Brady Bunch, the Partridge Family, or perhaps best of all, the Archies!

The film essentially follows them in their bus running around from (supposedly) comedic and musical scene after scene for two days, culminating in a performance at the Prince Albert Hall. Jokes aren't followed up on; characters come and go within a few minutes, never to be seen or heard from again; nothing ever seems to have any effect on what follows.

Sound like an overblown music video? Righto, that's exactly what *Spiceworld* is.

It's really too bad, especially given the

fact that the film contains some notable personalities: Elvis Costello, Bob Hoskins, Elton John, Meat Loaf, George Wendt, and even Roger "007 of the '70s" Moore. All that talent is wasted in this brain-dead movie which deserves consignment to the scrapheap of Krap for Kids.

But then again, what else *could* we have expected? The central characters are unable to act (much less lip synch accurately); the film's idea was dreamed up by the Girls while waiting in an airport one day; the writer (Kim Fuller) has a bunch of cancelled T.V. comedies on his resume; and director (Bob Spiers) was in charge of one of last year's worst movies, *That Darn Cat*. In the end, there was nothing, NOTHING, to recommend *Spiceworld* to anyone over the age of 13 (and even those 13 and under surely have better things to do than make their folks suffer through this mess of a movie). (zero stars)



## New on the Shelf at Afterwords

### Fiction

**One Must Wait** by Penny Mickelbury, Simon & Schuster HC \$22.00

Introducing rising black criminal defense attorney Carol Ann Gibson—in a highly charged new series by the Lambda Award-nominated author of *Night Songs*. When her husband, a high-powered corporate lawyer, ends up dead after meeting with a most unscrupulous client, Carol Ann travels from the nation's capital to the backwater swamps of Louisiana to find out the secrets behind his death.

Mickelbury's depiction of ecological destruction and the relationship between environmental politics and racism informs her novel with a depth and anger that parallels Carole Ann's search for the murderer.

**Venice Adriana** by Ethan Mordden, St. Martin's Press HC \$23.95

Sent to Venice to pull together the auto-

## The Number One Going to Holland? Get "Damron Amsterdam"

Quaint, Queer Amsterdam is the number one destination for Queers on vacation this year. Ask any savvy travel agent and they'll remind you that Amsterdam is hosting the Gay Games 1998, coming up the first week in August. Ask any Gay friend who's been to Amsterdam and they'll regale you with tales of the enchanting Dutch city that combines small-town friendliness, old world charm and thoroughly modern urban culture.

Crisscrossed by peaceful canals, Amsterdam is a traveler's dream. It's easy to get around the city, there are plenty of places to relax between museum visits and shopping trips. The tourist circuit is well organized and easy to navigate. And, according to reports, as many as one-third of Amsterdam's residents are Gay or Lesbian.

Homosexuality was given legal recognition in 1811 at the height of the Napoleonic Wars shortly after Holland had been annexed by France. When the Netherlands regained its independence, nothing changed. Following World War II, the Dutch put up what was for a long time, the only monument to the Gay and Lesbian victims of Hitler's Holocaust. The triangle-shaped memorial is right across the street from the Anne Frank House.

Dutch toleration in many areas of life will be strange—and welcome—to many Americans who live in a much more restricted society.

Soft drugs, including marijuana, hash and psychedelic mushrooms, are legal. So is commercial sex. If you can't find it in Amsterdam, the chance are that human beings can't do it. Amsterdam's Red Light District is government regulated and taxed.

If you're planning to go to Amsterdam for the Gay Games—or just planning a trip there, there can be no better resource for you than the new *Damron Amsterdam* just issued and put out by the people who have practically become synonymous with Gay travel in both this country and abroad.

You'll find it all in *Damron Amsterdam*, from listings of hotels, B&Bs, bars, clubs, bookstores, gyms, cafes, saunas, smoke shops and more. Also, there are convenient and easy to read maps letting you know where everything is.

*Damron Amsterdam* is available at fine Gay bookstores everywhere.

biography that the once great opera singer Adriana Grafanas had agreed to write, American Mark Trigger is drawn into her world—the hangers-on, the actor she passionately loves, the director courting her for a movie, and the princess trying to steal her lover. While trying to write her book, Mark instead discovers his own passions—men and Adriana's music

### Non-Fiction

**My Gender Workbook** by Kate Bornstein, Routledge Pb \$16.95

In *My Gender Workbook*, Bornstein has assembled a collage of simple exercises, quizzes, puzzles, and essay questions that systematically break down our ingrained ideas about how women and men—and whoever is in between—should act. Bornstein's breezy, "hey, let's all discover who we might really be" style works to make this potentially threatening material accessible and even intriguing to almost all readers. Just glance down, check out who-or what—you thought you were, and get ready to answer a few questions.

**Fodor's Gay Guide to Amsterdam** by Andrew Collins, Fodor's Pb \$12.00

Informative and candid, *Fodor's Guide to Amsterdam* is the perfect one-stop introduction to one of the world's most fabulous Lesbian travel destinations. Collins reviews Amsterdam's liveliest and Gayest sights and establishments, including a dozen day-trip excursions highlighting the best of Belgium and the Netherlands. Includes many detailed maps. Perfect for those planning on attending the upcoming Gay Games.

## Afterwords Bestsellers

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1. **Bel Ami: Photos of Johan**, Bruno Gmunder HC \$16.95
2. **Damron Address '97**, Damron Pb \$15.95
3. **Kept Boy** by Robert Rodi, Plume Pb \$12.95
4. **The Men from the Boys** by William J. Mann, Penguin USA HC \$22.95
5. **Tales out of School** by Benjamin Taylor, Warner Books Pb \$12.99
6. **Dancer from the Dance** by Andrew Holleran, Plume/Penguin Pb \$12.95
7. **Sex Toys of the Gods** by Christian McLaughlin, Dutton HC \$25.95
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9. **Straight Boys** by Steven Underhill, Bruno Gmunder Pb \$39.95

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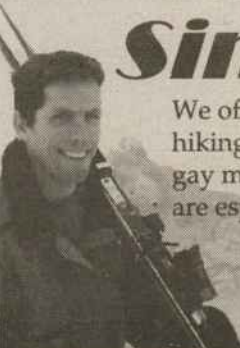
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# Great Places In WISCONSIN



Geoffrey Karen Dior (formerly Geoff Gann, Karen Dior) will guest star on NBC's hit Kirstie Alley sitcom, "Veronica's Closet." The episode, titled "Veronica's A Drag," taped January 20<sup>th</sup>, and is scheduled to air on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (the last week of the important "sweeps period") at 9:30 p.m. Dior (center) is shown above with Kathy Najimy-r-and Marta Kauffman-l.

<b>Appleton</b>				
Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
<b>Eau Claire</b>				
Scoters	W,m	411 Galloway	54703	835-9959
Trading Co.	M,w DJ	304 Eau Claire St.	54701	838-9494
Wolf's Den	M,W	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
<b>Green Bay</b>				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
The 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
<b>Kenosha</b>				
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
<b>La Crosse</b>				
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9279
Rainbow's End	Retail	417 Jay St.	54601	
<b>Lake Mills</b>				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
<b>Madison</b>				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	251-1030
MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock	MW	117 W. Main St	53703	255-5029
We Are Family	Retail/Expresso	524 E. Wilson	53703	258-9006
<b>Milwaukee</b>				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National	53204	643-6900
Cest Le Vie	M Shows	231 S. Second Street	53204	276-8890
Clinton St. Antiques	Retail	1110 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
Designing Men	Retail	1200 S. 1 <sup>st</sup>	53204	389-1200
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Glass Menagerie	Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Grubb's Pub	MW, Food	807 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	53204	384-8330
In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	52304	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	53204	645-9888
Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53202	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L	300 W. Juneau	53203	273-6900
Rene's Cozy Corner	MW	3500 W. Park Hill	53208	933-7363
S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
The Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	53204	273-7474
The M & M Club	MW, Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
This Is It	Mw	418 E. Wells	53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
Walkers Point Café	Food	1106 S. First Street	53204	384-7999
Woody's	M	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-0806
<b>Neenah</b>				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
<b>Racine</b>				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
<b>Sheboygan</b>				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
<b>Stevens Point</b>				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
<b>Superior</b>				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373
<b>Wausau</b>				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225

## Dear Ruthie

Well, it's that time of year again - Valentine's day. I've got myself a little Valentine this year. Earl lives a few trailers down and I've caught him looking at my legs for some time now. He asked me out the other day and I accepted. He's a nice enough man, I suppose. He has no hair to worry about ... no neck to worry about. I think his chest is bigger than mine and rumor has it he has an extra toe.

I told Pearl that I saw him at the pool last summer and didn't notice anything odd about his feet. Pearl pointed out, however, that, just because he has an extra toe doesn't mean it's on his foot.

On our first date he took me to meet his daughter at her work. I now have a whole new respect for girls who wrestle in mud.

Anyway, we are having our own little Valentine's date at his trailer. I think he plans on getting lucky. I figure, what the hell - it's time to shave my legs anyway. He wants to get married - I hope he finds someone nice. Have a great Valentine's Day!!!! Let me know how yours was!!!!

\*\*



Ruthie

Dear Ruthie,

As you can see, I need to pluck my brows. They are too thick and WILD-GIRL-WILD!

I'm only 19 and live at home. My friends think I should fix them. My parents don't know I'm queer. If I do this, they will freak and know something is wrong. What do you think I should do? (signed)

A Friend (picture included)

Dear Friend,

Well, thank you for the nice picture, honey. I'm gonna put your little face up on the ceiling - next to the Fabio poster - and look up at you each night before I go to bed. Do you like older women? Well, let's forget the older part and talk about any fantasy you have involving a red-headed goddess with a knack for advice and a fridge full of caviar, mustard, and spam. I am the Condiment Queen!

This reminds me of the time I was in New York City and Martha Raye and I snuck into Studio 54. Martha was banned from the club for plucking out Liza's eyebrows while Liza was unconscious in the ladies' toilet.

I, on the other hand, was asked not to return after the night I gave Halston the finger and mooned the black guy from "Welcome Back Kotter." Years later Martha married a hair dresser and left him all of her money. The only thing she left me was a box of Polident and a zip-loc full of eyebrows.

Now where was I? Oh - your face. Well, it's not like you have a Michael Landon thing going or anything. I'd just leave your face as is right now if you think it will cause that much trouble in your family. This is, however, really your call. You know your family better than I do. Would this push you out of the closet a little? You would know best. If you think it may rock the boat too much, why don't you wait until you're out on your own. Again, I think you're pretty darn cute so I wouldn't change a thing!

Dear Ruthie,

I invited a good friend of mine to a quaint little dinner party for eight people. My friend called me a few days before the dinner and asked if I could serve a dinner that was low in fat so he could stay on a diet he was on. I did so, but not without a lot of changes to my original menu, a lot of extra work,

and some additional anxiety.

Am I wrong for being upset with my friend for asking me to do this? Should I say something to him?

(signed)

Chef Calorie

Dear Chef

If I were you, I would have told this guy to sit home and ram carrot sticks and Styrofoam rice cakes up his back-side. Hey - Susan Powter - take a pill! Lay off the peanut butter covered potato chips and go for a walk! Eat some apples for God's sake. Why is this guy so worried? What do you usually serve at your parties, anyway? Pixi sticks, chocolate malts, and cheese curds? Your friend should know that this ain't no Denny's. He gets what you cook and if he's that worried about his diet then he should have declined.

Invite me instead. I'll bring caviar, mustard, and spam. I am the Condiment Queen! - Damnit - the Condiment Queen!

Yes, your friend was way off base. No, you shouldn't say anything now. It's over. Let it rest. If your buddy pulls this again, let him know what your menu consists of. Ask if he would like to bring anything to complement your meal, and if so, he is free to make it low-cal.

That reminds me ...

I caught my third husband, Vinnie, with a Geisha Girl named Lo-Kal. He was sprawled out on our living room floor and she was walking on his back. I paid her to do it again, only I wanted her to wear his golf shoes. A year later I married the doctor who gave Vinnie the tetanus shot.

Ruthie is so glad to receive your letters and questions. Please send them to her care of The Wisconsin Light - 1843 N. Palmer St. - Milwaukee WI - 53212 or email: [wnovo@mixcom.com](mailto:wnovo@mixcom.com)

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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) =11855

**A LITTLE BATTY** This dominant, Gay, White male, top, 34, 6ft, 175lbs, seeks submissive, White male, bottoms, 21 to 30, under 5'10, who get into role playing. I'm Batman. You're Robin. I want you to polish the batpole in my batcave. Then we'll go out, capture, and torture, the Riddler. No strings attached. Discretion a must. (Cicero) =10435

**SEX AND SOCIALIZING** Good looking, athletic, masculine, White male, 30, 160lbs, with a nice build, seeks discreet sex and good company. I like music, auto racing, and lots more. (De Kalb) =12789

**SCULPT A FUTURE** This big guy is looking for friendship and love with a tall, dark haired, hairy, gentleman, 21 to 39, preferably with a mustache and goatee. I'm a talented sculptor, interested in movies, theater, and cooking. You should be respectful and able to say "I love you". No drugs or alcohol, please. (Evanston) =7291

**GOOD AT WHAT I DO** Clean shaven, well built, Gay, White male, 32, wants to meet some new guys to have fun with. (McHenry) =13018

**THE LITTLE WOMAN** I'm an attractive, African American, Transsexual, 5'7, and I've been dressing like a woman all my life, I'm ready to meet a gentle, 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) =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

**INTRICATE LADY** This beautiful, intricate lady, a Transvestite on the way to becoming a Transsexual, wants to meet a dominant, but passionate, Black male, for a one on one relationship. I'm Black, 5'6, 165lbs, with long, Black hair. I can't wait to meet you. (Rockford) =7317

**MELT IN MY HANDS** Very fit, Bi, curious, Married, White male, 38, 5'10, 170lbs, seeks discreet, safe encounters with other healthy guys in the area. I'm interested in mutual massage, light oral sex, and clean fun like that. (Rockford) =7527

**LAIID BACK LAD** Fun loving, clean cut, Irish and Italian, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks other White males, 22 to 30, who are good looking, masculine, down to earth, and humorous. I enjoy movies, concerts, music, travel, dining out, and much more. I want to make new friends and hope to find a relationship with the right guy. (Western Suburbs) =12216

**Iowa**

**GOT WHAT IT TAKES** Attractive, smooth bodied, White male, 19, 5'10, 160lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a sexy, swimmer's build, seeks other men to hang out with. I'm well endowed and ready to go. (Des Moines) =12647

**Minnesota**

**SUBMISSIVE SORT** I'm a handsome, 48 year old, White male, 6ft, 220lbs, and I want to be your sex slave. I'll do whatever you'd like. (Burnsville) =12339

**PASSION PLAY** This sexy, twin cities boy, 5'9, 165lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, a hairy, lean build, and a very large, fat endowment, wants to play with other, similar boys. I'm not into anything rough. I like long, passionate sessions, with lots of kissing and body contact. (Minneapolis) =13145

**NEW FEVER** Nice looking, horny, 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

**HOT AND SWEATY** I love hot, sweaty sex, with other good looking, well built guys, under 35, with tall, lean bodies. I'm an attractive, well endowed, 35 year old, White male, 5'11, 165lbs, with Brown hair, Hazel eyes, a killer smile, and a lean, smooth build. I'm not concerned about race as long as you're hot and ready to go. (Minneapolis) =12470

**ALL SHAPES AND SIZES** This big, Black male, 6'2, 370lbs, seeks to meet smaller guys, in the area. (Minneapolis) =12701

**GOT TO GET YOU INTO MY LIFE** Good looking, slim, 27 year old, Gay, White male, with dark hair, seeks a very masculine, well built, Gay, White male, 30 to 40, who's interested in a special relationship. (Eau Claire) =12236

**WINTER SPORTSMAN** Very well built, good looking, masculine, White male, 28, 5'8, 170lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks buddies for good times. I like working out, the outdoors, 4-wheeling, jetskiing, snowmobiling, hiking, and many sports. (Ironwood) =9488

**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

**MUSCLED IN MADISON**

Muscular, very solid, professional, White male, 30, 5'10, 180lbs, seeks similar friends, 21 to 35, who are also muscular and big. I prefer guys around 200lbs who lift weights and work out. Hairy bodies are a plus. You should like to go out and have fun without smoking, drinking, drugs, and sleeping around. (Madison) =12638

**WAITING ON MY KNEES** This masculine, but very submissive, White male, in my mid forties, seeks a dominant master into foot worship, humiliation, verbal abuse, and being orally serviced. I'm very obedient but need a master to train me. Chubby guys are a big plus. (Milwaukee) =13175

**SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE** Submissive, petite, 30 year old, Single, White male, 5ft, 105lbs, likes dining out, music, and trying new things. I hope to meet a dominant guy with a taste for adventure. (Milwaukee) =13043

**PAPA INTO SIZE** This macho, papa bear, seeks Married, Bi, or Gay guys, 20 to 50, who are versatile and experienced. Your inches are more important than your pounds or years. Get with me. (Milwaukee) =12906

**I DO ALL THE WORK** This talented, White male, 55, 5'10, 165lbs, wants to orally please you, with no reciprocation. I prefer guys who don't sleep around very much. Call and let me know how you like it. (Milwaukee) =12740

**SOMETHING'S GROWING** This Gay couple wants to meet, and get together, with other couples and singles for friendship, fun, and more. We like gardening, walks, cooking, football games, and quiet times in front of the fire. I'm 6'2, 170lbs, and a former marathon runner. He's 5'10, 165lbs, with a hairy chest. Let's talk. (Milwaukee) =12243

**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

**CHECKERED FLAG** I'm a 27 year old, Bi, White male, into sports, watching NASCAR races, working out, and running. I'd like to meet some friends, 18 to 30, with similar interests. (Wausau) =7264

**MARRIED MASSEUR** I'm a Bi, Married, White male, in central Wisconsin, into the beach, videos, massage, and the outdoors. I'm seeking similar guys who want to hang out and have good times. =12899

**NATURAL WONDER** Nice looking, stable, Gay, White male, 5'7, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and a trimmed beard and mustache, seeks a romantic guy, 21 to 50, who knows what he wants out of life. I enjoy fishing, camping, nature walks, star gazing, movies, travel, quiet evenings in front of the fire, and more. =12562

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

TOP OF THE LIST I have a variety of interests but my main one is meeting a nice guy to have a relationship with. I'm a nice looking, White male, 5'7, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, into golf, bowling, movies, and lots more. I'm especially interested in meeting a man who's also involved with women. (Minneapolis) =12337

**PEOPLE PERSON** I like to do just about everything with all sorts of people. I'm a handsome, somewhat heavy set, White male, with a mustache and goatee. I smoke. Let's hook up and have some fun. (Minneapolis) =12149

**SHOW ME SOME SKIN** This attractive, hairy bodied, White male, 6ft, 170lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a good build, seeks an uncult 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) =11755

**TENDER IN YEARS** I live in the country but get to Minneapolis pretty often on the weekends and I'd like a slender, young friend to play with when I'm there. I'm a handsome, 49 year old, White male with a special taste for Asian men, but race isn't a problem as long as you're slim, smooth, and tender in years. (Minneapolis) =6478

**STIMULATION SOURCE** This very attractive, well built, White male, in my 40's, 6'1, 195lbs, loves to give massage and any other stimulation necessary, for the occasion. I like Black and White men, 20 to 40, who are in very good shape. (Minneapolis) =7313

**BUTT PLAY BUDDY** Good looking, masculine, White male, 34, 6ft, 185lbs, with a moderately hairy body, loves butt play. I have a large selection of dildoes, the hugest of which are my favorites. I'm seeking other anal enthusiasts who'd like to hook up and get down and dirty. (St. Paul) =12876

**EVERY ORIFICE** This good looking, 43 year old, Gay, White male, into oral action and butt play, seeks other hot guys, of any age and race, who want to have some fun. (White Bear) =5782

**Wisconsin**

**TONIGHT OR FOREVER** I'm a handsome, 27 year old, Gay, White male, 5'6, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, interested in a relationship, or just a couple nights of fun. (Ashland) =7164

**SOCIAL SCENE** I'm searching for friendship and fun times with other men in the area. I'm a Gay, White male, in my 50's, 5'8, 165lbs, who enjoys talking, socializing, movies, dinners, and more. (Columbia County) =12674

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# Tune Reviews

By Jeffery L. Newman

## The Spice Girls Are On the Shallow End of the Pool

**Spice Girls**  
**Spice World**  
*Virgin*

Just when you thought it was safe to turn back on your radio comes the return of the five dwarfs, er Spice Girls. Like a bad case of poison ivy, these uninspired Bananarama wannabes just won't go away. You scratch and scratch—and they do inspire you to scratch in places you shouldn't scratch in public—but they just won't disappear.

Barely nine months after the release of their first, insipid and tiresome debut recording—which went on to sell 19 million copies—comes their sophomore follow-up, which is only a preview to the Spice

Girls movie due out soon. How about the Spice Girls diaper rash cream?

In all fairness, the album isn't terrible. In fact, some of it is actually quite catchy, in a mindless, bubble-gum, Hanson-esque sort of way. (The only difference, of course, is that we expect that type of music from pre-pubescent boys.) And if you are willing to abandon all the rhyme and reason that you might otherwise apply when choosing your music and are able to accept that there is no depth or range of emotion—it's basically the shallow end of the pool, baby—than you could, and probably will, find yourself tossing this one into the CD player (when no one else with any sort of discriminating taste is around).

"Spice World" (god, is there an amusement park not to far off in the future) is better than its predecessor, and allows each Spice to have a moment of glory. There are some tasty nuggets, like "Spice Up Your Life," with its Latin-tinged rhythms and mono-syllabic words, and "Stop," a '70s-esqu, neo-disco confection. (Yes, confection.) Of course, some of it is lamer than lame. "Move Over," from their Pepsi commercial makes you run for the Coca-Cola, and "The Lady Is A Vamp," is an embarrassing foray into a Las Vegas showgirl revue.

Still, I say, give up the Spice and pass the Pepto Bismo.

### Benefits Continued From Page 1

"This bill is purely an attempt by a small clique of legislators to control local governments outside their own districts," said Walt Jackson, President of Action Wisconsin, a state wide organization that works on behalf of Gay and Lesbian civil rights. "It is undemocratic and insulting to local taxpayers."

State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) the only openly Les/Bi/Gay member of the State Legislature told *The Wisconsin Light* "It is vitally important that people concerned about access to health care speak out against this bill.

Domestic partnership health care coverage is an important tool to assure that all Wisconsin families can access comprehensive health care services."

Observers say that while AB-759 does not forbid local units of government from providing domestic partnership health insurance benefits, its passage would make it difficult for them to do so.

There are two reasons for this. A large part of local budgets comes from state revenue sharing. This is especially true of School Districts which also have their property tax levies (their other source of revenue) regulated by state law.

Furthermore, many local governments use a State funded local government health insurance plan. Leaving that plan and getting coverage on their own would

be costly.

AB-759 would effectively forbid the plan from offering domestic partnership coverage making it financially impossible for many local governments to provide them.

Sources at the State Capitol say that the Nass proposal is unlikely to pass in this legislative session which is scheduled to end in a few weeks. They say that even if AB-759 did get through the State Assembly, it would in all likelihood be bottled up in committee by the Democrats who control the State Senate.

"All the Republicans are doing is giving Gays and Lesbians another reason to help the Democrats take control of the State Assembly in next November's elections," said one State Senate Staffer.

Others, however, say that a high turnout of opponents at the hearing on February 19<sup>th</sup> is important. They point out that during the debate on AB-104, Lorraine Seratti's (R-Spread Eagle) bill to prohibit state recognition of Same Sex Marriages, the massive outpouring of opposition at the bill's hearing helped convince some legislators not to push for AB-104's passage.

The State Assembly did pass AB-104, but it has languished in the State Senate which unlike the Assembly is controlled by Democrats. In the State Senate, AB-104 hasn't even gotten a Committee hearing let alone a vote.

Unlike the fight over AB-104, Gays and Lesbians may find that they are not alone in their opposition to AB-759.

The bill would affect contract negotiations with a variety of public employee unions, many of which, especially the powerful state teachers union, the WEA, may decide to oppose its passage. Furthermore, AB759 would require an unfunded state mandate and put more controls on the use of state funds, two things are very unpopular with lobbyists for those interests.

Nevertheless, no one wants to take any chances. As Representative Baldwin put it, "We need to turn out in force on the 19<sup>th</sup> and let our voices be heard."

In addition to Nass who was first elected to the State Assembly in 1990, sponsors include State Representatives F. Lasee, Grothman, Ladwig, Owens, Schafer, Ainsworth, Hahn, Urban, Albers and Kreibich; and is cosponsored by Senators Fitzgerald and Zien. All are Republicans.

*Editor's Note Rep. Nass was unavailable for comment on this story.*

### Night Light Continued From Page 14

for the grand prize of a trip to two to a fab Gay resort. I know everyone can win here because I know I did.

A stop at Dish was also a great time. The place was packed, (as usual), the music was hot and there were lots of friendly people on hand. What more could you ask for?

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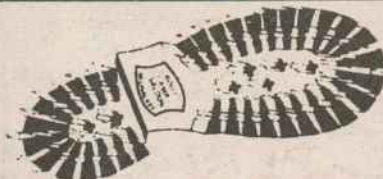
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**The Diva Speaks** - An interview with Disco Diva, Joi Cardwell (who appeared at The Wisconsin Light Decade of Light gala on November 9<sup>th</sup>) is one of the segments on the February/March episode of "In The Life." The episode also includes segments on the Gay community in Tijuana, Mexico, the Audre Lord project, Gays, Lesbians and the Internet, GID, Gender Identity Disorder, and mixing Jewish Culture with Gay identity. "In The Life" can be seen in Milwaukee at 11 PM on February, 18 on WMVS TV, channel 10 and on Wisconsin Public TV Stations on Friday March 27 at 11:00 PM.

**Army**  
Continued From Page 18

also in the military."  
Not that he stays in the closet while on duty.  
"Probably half my unit knows I'm Gay," he says. "They don't say anything. I think if you earn the respect of people who work for you, they don't care [what you do in your personal life]."  
He says as the Army has become what he calls a "techno-service," soldiers are more intelligent: "You have to deal with them on their intellectual level. You have to get their minds. They don't have to get yours. There are still some out there who are a little homophobic. But, for the most part, the Army's been pretty good. I'd say that out of all the services it's the best as far as Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The worst are the Navy and Marine Corps."  
Ironically, the most homophobic services may contain the most Gays and Lesbians in their ranks. Paul estimates as much as 35 percent of the Navy is Gay, "higher in the Marines."  
While the younger soldiers are, for the most part, not homophobic, "It's the old-timers who have not changed," he says. "They are the autocratic, dictatorial managers."  
It is they, he says, who conduct the witch hunts, which are illegal under Don't Ask, Don't Tell.  
"You might have a commander or a first sergeant who's homophobic. They might

see something that they don't like in a soldier. Maybe he's a little effeminate. I'll tell you there are a lot of straight people who are a little effeminate. Just as there are a lot of Gay people who show no signs of femininity whatsoever. So it works both ways."  
That's when the investigation begins.  
"An off-duty officer or NCO puts somebody under surveillance. They'll ask, 'Is he living on the base? Do girls come pick him up, drop him off? Does he go off by himself a lot?' Then, a non-commissioned officer will ask some junior non-coms, 'Isn't he a little strange?' That's when the harassment starts. It's very subtle. Like being shunned, being excluded. I've never encountered physical or verbal harassment, though."  
However, if superiors regard a soldier as an asset, someone who is an outstanding performer, they will look the other way, even if the person is very obvious.  
Paul recalls an instance where someone wanted to be discharged and played his Gay card, to no avail. He used Corporal Klinger, the M\*A\*S\*H TV character, as a role model.  
"He did everything to try to get out. He was one hell of a finance person and no one ever harassed him. I went over to visit him once on the base and he was prancing around the barracks in red silk panties. Everyone laughed at him, but they didn't kick him out. He did his six years and then left. But he loved every minute of it. I saw him after he was discharged and he said, 'you know all the time I was trying to get out, I had a good time. I can say it was the best time of my life.'"

(ASO). ASO's and other AIDS Service Providers (ASP) are now trying to meet demands for housing, rent assistance and other needs of those living with AIDS.  
This increased need for funds comes at precisely the time when giving and other sources of funding has decreased. This is due, experts say, to the fact that many people believe that the disease is licked. Not so, the researchers told the Conference attendees.  
"The AIDS epidemic is not over," said Dr. Thomas Wein. "It is not over by far. The public must not become apathetic. AIDS agencies need more funding, not less."  
While no one knows precisely how many Americans are infected with HIV, the CDC estimates this to be between 400,000 and 650,000 people.

**Gov. Thompson**  
Continued From Page 1

(CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin for its strong advocacy to help secure federal dollars to research risk reduction strategies as well as being a collaborator with and supporter of ARCW; and the Possum Queen Campaign, for its seven year history of raising dollars and awareness to fight the AIDS epidemic in Milwaukee's gay and lesbian community. The Red Rose Awards were added in 1994 to acknowledge those who have responded significantly to AIDS issues.

"This year's award recipients have each made remarkable contributions to ARCW and the care we provide for people with HIV and AIDS," said Lisa Wolter, deputy director of community relations at ARCW. "It is with great honor that ARCW recognizes these people and organizations for their significant part in the fight against AIDS and improved care for people living with HIV disease."

Award recipients are chosen based on four criteria:

- leadership -- activities to educate the public on HIV disease, promote the delivery of quality services for people with HIV and to advocate for AIDS issues;
- longevity -- length of time involved with ARCW, the AIDS epidemic and demonstrating a commitment to ARCW's mission;
- financial support -- value of financial contributions and in-kind donations to ARCW and other AIDS services in the community;
- community response -- role in mobilizing community support for ARCW, delivery of AIDS services and prevention through volunteerism, financial commitments and/or advocacy.

The rose is the symbol of the Make a Promise event and the Rose Awards represent life as flourishing, thriving, enduring and pure.

The Make A Promise dinner & auction will be held on Saturday, March 21, at the Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. This year's event theme, "VOICES" will include an original, live performance accompanied by a musical score and is dedicated to the strength and power of the many voices united in the fight against AIDS.

Master of ceremonies for the evening is once again Mike Gousha, anchor on TODAY'S TMJ4. Co-chairs are Dr. Timothy Lapp of Milwaukee and Paul Masterson of Bayview.

The Make a Promise dinner & auction has a limited number of seats, so be sure to reserve your tickets soon. Ticket prices are \$175, \$100 and \$75 per person. Tables of 10 may also be reserved. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 414-225-1577.

A highlight of the evening is the silent auction. Auction items will include: a pair of round-trip, economy tickets to Amsterdam, site of the 1998 Gay Games, a pair of first-class, round-trip tickets to Hawaii and a pair of first-class, round-trip tickets in the 48 contiguous states donated by United Airlines; a framed Robert Pence print valued at \$400 donated by Jeff Simon in memory of Dr. Robert Haney; a diamond cocktail ring valued at \$1,400 donated by Paul's Jewelers; two \$50 gift certificates for dinner donated by Palermo Villa; a \$160 gift certificate to be used at Willow Run Golf Club; and a Mach 7 Security system valued at \$1,800.

Principal sponsors for this year's Make a Promise dinner & auction are United Airlines, Miller Brewing Company and Schwarz Pharmacy, Inc.

Other sponsors include: Northwestern Mutual Life; Potawatomi Bingo Casino; Andersen Consulting LLP; Ameritech; Serono Laboratories, Inc.; T. Michael Bolger, Medical College of Wisconsin; Executive Director, Inc.; Groupware Technologies, Inc.; Family Health Plan; Columbia St. Mary's; Pfister Hotel; Rockwell Automation; Allen Bradley; Cousins Subs, Inc.; and CCU, Inc.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Employment**

**Youth Outreach Specialist**

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) is looking for a Youth Outreach Specialist to implement from its Milwaukee office an HIV prevention program targeting young Gay, Bisexual and other men who have sex with men ages 15-25. Position duties include outreach and education, coordinating social and community building events and training peer educators. Good oral and written communication skills are necessary and applicants must feel comfortable discussing issues of sexuality and sex. A bachelor's degree and/or experience working with the target population is preferred. Applicants must display a commitment to the health and well-being of young Gay and Bisexual men and be willing to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends. Send resume and cover letter with salary requirements by February 20 to: ARCW, Director of Operations, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202. EOE.

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**AIDS Origins**  
Continued From Page 6

easier access to transportation, increasing population density and more frequent sexual contacts, might have been bigger factors.

Those findings are also being reported in the scientific journal *Nature*. In a separate article in that issue, Dr. Simon Wain-Hobson of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, agreed that the worldwide epidemic had probably come from a single HIV ancestor. Wain-Hobson said findings of Zhu's team "all make good sense."

**AIDS Decline**  
Continued From Page 6

Experts attribute the improving figures to better treatments, not any advances in preventing people from catching HIV.

Prescriptions of so-called three-drug cocktails, two older AIDS drugs plus one of the newer class of medicines called protease inhibitors, have revolutionized AIDS care. Typically people start on them as soon as they learn they are infected, even before they get sick.

When all goes well, these medicines drive the amount of virus in the bloodstream so low that it cannot be measured. Many who were deathly ill when the combination therapy came into widespread use two years ago are now in outwardly good health.

**An AIDS Honeymoon?**

Still, the drugs fail for some, and the most common reason is that people stop taking the medicines. Patients must swallow 20 or so pills a day on a precise time schedule, and missing even a few can allow mutant unkillable strains to emerge in the body.

No one knows how long the benefits will last. Many wonder if even those who diligently take their pills will eventually succumb to a losing battle with a runaway virus.

"Are we in a honeymoon period?" asked the CDC's Dr. Harold Jaffe. "Is there something bad on the horizon?"

The New York City data offer no hint of a looming reversal of AIDS fortunes. In 1995, there were 19 AIDS deaths per day in New York. Last year, that fell to seven.

Between 1995 and 1997, AIDS deaths in the city have declined 71 percent among men and 63 percent among women. Among the women during this time, they fell 73 percent among whites, 66 percent among Hispanics and 59 percent among blacks.

The new treatments are also credited with keeping HIV-infected people well so they do not develop full-blown AIDS. Nationwide, the CDC reported that the number of new AIDS cases diagnosed in the first six months of 1997 fell 12 percent.

**AIDS Care Groups Struggle to Meet Needs**

With fewer dying, the number of Americans living with AIDS is increasing, up 13 percent to 259,000. This is presenting an increasing strain on the limited budgets of AIDS Service Agencies

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