

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

The Wisconsin Light

See Our New Exclusive
"Cool Things"
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Substance in Urine of Pregnant Women May be Crucial in AIDS Fight

New York, NY—Something in a pregnant woman's urine can wipe out tumors of Kaposi's sarcoma, an AIDS-related cancer, and suppress HIV itself. But what is it?

After a false start, scientists, including Dr. Robert Gallo of the University of Maryland's Institute of Human Virology, say they're on the trail to finding out.

It all began with a chance observation a few years ago in a study of Kaposi's, a potentially lethal disorder that causes disfiguring skin lesions in people with AIDS. Researchers were creating Kaposi's in mice for study, and they noticed they couldn't get the disease to develop in pregnant females.

Apparently, something related to pregnancy was quashing the disease. A hormone called human chorionic gonadotropin, or hCG, is produced early in human pregnancies, so it seemed like a good candidate. Researchers reported in 1995 that doses of commercial hCG preparations killed Kaposi's cells in the laboratory and shrank Kaposi's tumors in mice.

The following year, scientists reported that injecting commercial hCG preparations into tumors could often make them disappear in human patients. In addition, in studies where patients got the preparations injected in their blood streams, they sometimes showed a decline in the amount of HIV in their blood.

But almost from the time of the first mouse study, researchers became suspicious about whether hCG itself was really doing all this. Commercial preparations are derived from pregnant women's urine and contain many contaminants, so one or more of these impurities might really be responsible.

Some recent studies have pointed to a contaminant, though nobody has actually identified it. The latest chapter of the story appears in the April issue of the journal *Nature Medicine*.

Scientists present evidence that an unidentified substance they call HAF is responsible, and that hCG is just a red herring. HAF can be found in hCG preparations and in urine from pregnant women, they reported.

Nelson Cites New Poll on Needle Exchange to Challenge Mayor Norquist's Position

Milwaukee—A majority of Milwaukeeans support needle exchange programs to fight AIDS and believe that tax revenue should help pay for them, a poll indicates.

The poll paid for by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and done by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Institute for Survey and Policy Research said 57 percent of those responding approved of needle exchange programs, 36 percent opposed them and 7 percent were undecided.

Asked whether government AIDS prevention money should be used to fund needle exchange programs, 55 percent said "yes," 40 percent said "no" and 5 percent were undecided.

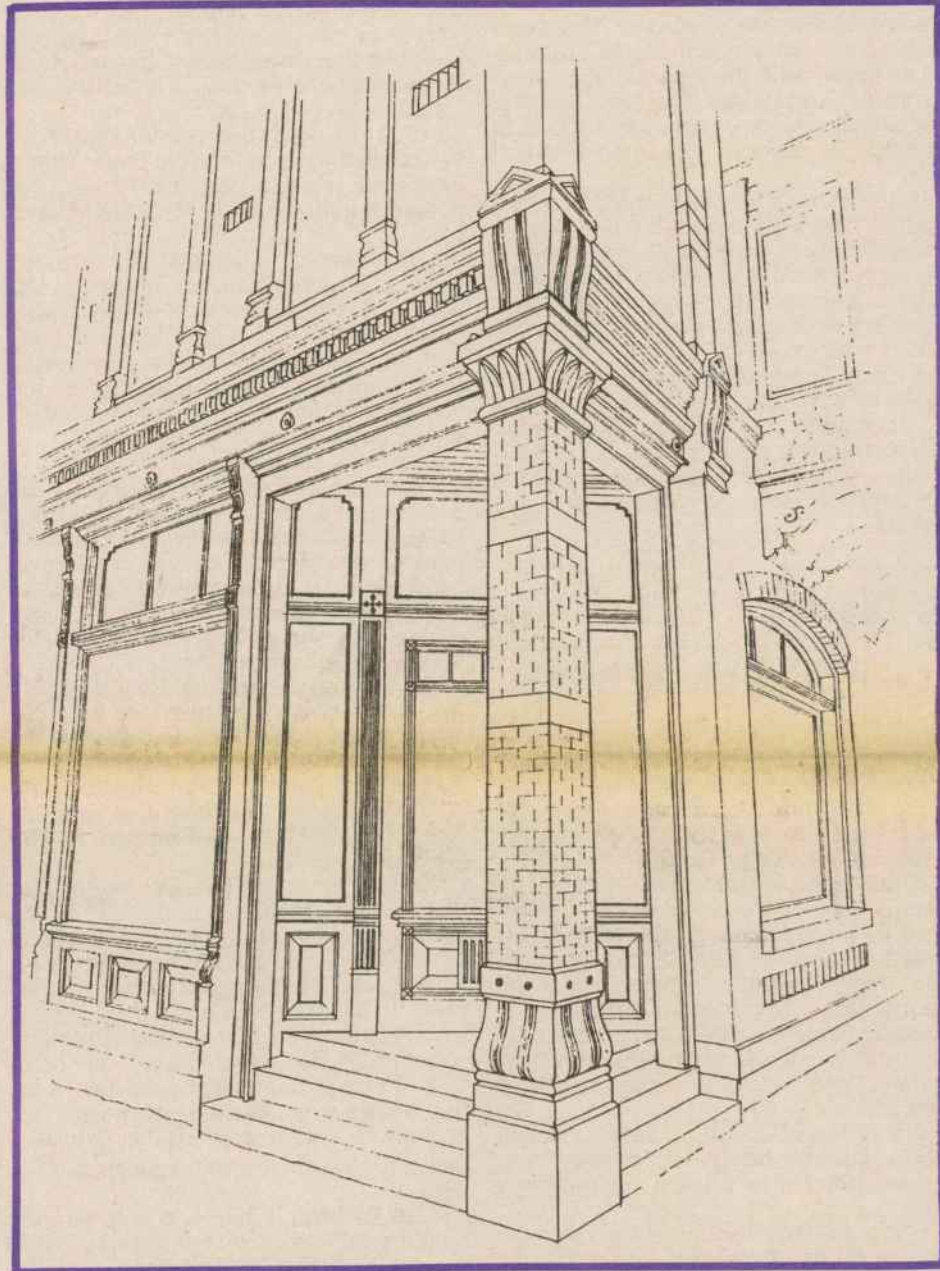
Health officials say one way in which HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is spread is when drug users share needles contaminated with blood.

The poll of 409 randomly selected adults in December was listed as having a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points.

The American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Bar Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors have endorsed needle

La Cage's \$750,000 Renovation Project Nearing Completion

Exterior Restoration, New Upstairs Performance Space New Bar Design Called "Exciting", "Outstanding"



A New But Old Look - Above is a drawing of what the main entrance to La Cage will look like once the exterior of the building at 801 S. Second Street, Milwaukee is fully restored to its original appearance. The exterior restoration is part of a \$750,000 restoration and remodeling project. The project includes remodeling of the basement bar area, the main floor bar area and adding a new club / live performance area on the second floor. For details see you lead story in this issue.

An Exclusive Wisconsin Light Report
By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee—Whoever said that you can only depend on two things in life, death and taxes forgot to include La Cage's remodeling projects. Over fifteen years, the bar has had several makeovers. But all of them pale when compared to the 18 month effort to restore and remodel the La Cage building located at 801 South Second Street.

The latest version of La Cage is scheduled to come fully on line by early Summer. Even before it is completed, the \$750,000 project is winning praise from local politicians, neighborhood activists preservationists and others.

The project includes an exterior restoration of the building to the appearance it had when it was constructed in 1887, the addition of a new dance club and performance space on the building's second floor and a major remodeling of the main floor and basement dance and bar areas.

According to Co-owner George Prentice the work should be finished by late June but then he adds the inevitable words "give or take a few weeks. It's hard to be on schedule with all the work that is being done here."

When the work is finished the neighborhood will have a fully restored 111 year old building that preservationists call "exciting architecture," the community will have a new, badly needed space for live performances and Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian bar scene will have two new spaces including a new upscale downstairs bar designed by nationally known bar and restaurant designer, Gary Wolf.

The Exterior Restoration

The restoration of the building's exterior has been a major undertaking. The work has included stripping off the old lead based paint, (every scrap of which had to be collected and disposed of as a hazardous waste) cleaning the bricks, installing traverse windows, putting in two new entrances, resizing and installing new windows on the first floor and redoing the building's trim.

When asked why he would want to go to

Please See La Cage Page 23

Reggie White Issues Apologia as Furor Over His Assembly Speech Continues

"Bigger Slaves Were Pretty Much Used as Studs," White Says

Milwaukee—Reggie White says he's sorry if he offended anyone in condemning homosexuality and using racial stereotypes in a speech, but a spokesman for a Gay rights group Friday remained upset with the football star.

Mr. White chose not to temper his anti-Gay remarks in the same fashion he chose to temper what were perceived to be racist remarks," said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign.

It is very sad that Mr. White is justifying his anti-Gay bias under the guise of religious beliefs," Smith said.

But Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said White's "apology was appropriate."

Whatever he wanted to say, the way it came out had a tendency to reinforce some of the very stereotypes he has worked so hard to tear down," Cooper said. "He is a big enough man to admit

the mistake and I think he learned an important lesson."

White received the center's "tolerance award" in 1996 for his "commitment to fostering tolerance and pursuing his vision for a better America."

The defensive end of the Green Bay Packers faxed a statement to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel late Thursday, saying he did not intend to slight anyone during a March 25 speech before the state Assembly.

"I must stress that I in no way intended for my comments to personally hurt anyone, and for that, I apologize," White said. "But I do not apologize for standing on God's word when it comes to sin in my life and others. My attitude is to hate the sin and love the sinner."

White used racial stereotypes in explaining the "gifts" of different races and ethnic groups, saying blacks were gifted worshippers, whites were good at tapping into money and American Indians weren't enslaved because they knew the territory and "how to sneak up on people."

Please See Reggie Page 4

Editorial

To Stop the Spread of HIV

Wisconsin Light firmly disagrees with those, such as the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC), who are advocating the mandatory reporting to the government of the names of those testing positive for HIV. Mandatory reporting of names would be counter productive, causing many to avoid testing altogether. Guarantee of confidentiality would simply not be believed.

Doug Nelson, the executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) took this position in his op-ed article in the April 5th edition of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. We agree with Nelson on his point that more, much more government money should be invested in AIDS prevention.

The problem is, at least in this article, Nelson neither went far enough nor was he firm enough. The following is a list of things we recommend.

1. Forget mandatory reporting of names. That will neither help in prevention nor in finding a cure. Besides, we believe mandatory reporting to be something of a red herring—either that, or perhaps there's a hidden agenda involved—i.e. find out who is infected, blame them for being infected, stigmatize them even further than society already does and isolate them. Of course, the names would never, ever, ever be found out, now would they?
2. Government money, city, state and on the federal level, **must be invested in needle exchange programs.** There are politicians who may not like needle exchange, but the program has this going for it: it works. All the studies indicate that. Since it works, use it. There are people dying out there when those deaths can be prevented. It is unconscionable, we believe, for any politician, any political leader worthy of the name, not to support needle exchange. The facts are out there. The political support is there. (Read the article in this issue.) Read all this and act! Either that, or become a contributor, a major contributor, to the spread of the disease and all the needless suffering and death.
3. We must put money into AIDS prevention programs in the schools. Yes, teach abstinence, but recognize that there are those who are not going to be abstinent no matter what any of us do. Since no one knows who these people are, everyone, every kid, should be taught how to protect themselves. Condoms and prevention literature should be distributed at government expense in every school in the land. Every radio and TV station should be required to carry prevention PSAs, no exceptions, no excuses.
4. No sex before marriage should be encouraged for both Gay people and straights. That means that same-sex marriage must become a fact under the law. This is not a religious issue. It is a legal issue and one of encouraging societal stability. It must be viewed as such. It should be kept in mind that not too long ago the same types of people who are now yammering against same-sex marriage, were hollering against African-Americans marrying each other as well as interracial marriage. They were wrong then and they're wrong now.
5. HIV/AIDS has been stigmatized by this society. Those who contract it have been blamed for doing so and they continue to be blamed. This is ridiculous, irrational and absurd. AIDS is a disease, not a moral condition. It is rampant. It is growing. This business about mandatory names reporting will not help, not in the least. All it is, so far as we can see, is a palliative to assuage the sensibilities of the Religious Right and to avoid doing the things (to some, very unpleasant) that must be done if the suffering is to be stopped.

Editor's Note

Being Politically Correct and Reggie White

By Terry Boughner

In all the furor over Reggie White's recent speech before the Wisconsin State Assembly, a number of things disturb me greatly.

For one thing, in his weekly commentary on WTMJ-4's late afternoon news on March 27, Charlie Sykes, conservative TMJ radio talkshow host, opined that White had a valid point to make. However, Sykes said, White was being condemned in some circles and lampooned in others because what he said was "politically incorrect." Charlie mourned the violation of free speech in all this.

No one is a greater champion of free speech than I am, but in this Charlie is way off base. White isn't being condemned for speaking. He's being condemned because he was wrong in what he said.

Incidentally, there are those, I heard, who excused White's comments on the basis of the fact that he's a minister. That doesn't work. Nowhere, so far as I know, is it written that the cloth not only covers error, but turns it into truth.

For example, if the Pope says that 2+2 is six, the Pope is wrong. He's in error.

I've also heard it said that White is a good man, a decent man. Perhaps so, but good people can be ignorant. There's no angel protecting them against that and when they are in error, they can commit all sorts of havoc as Reggie White has done.

In his rambling speech which took over an hour to deliver, White lurched from error to error with all the vim and vigor of a man lost in the haze of his own ignorance. Perhaps, as I think, he was trying to make a valid point, but sadly, he didn't have the knowledge to make it.

For example, in any discourse, avoid generalizations. White violated this rule with wild abandon.

In another example, he said Native Americans weren't enslaved. That's wrong. One has only to study the encomienda system of New Spain or look no farther than our own American South where some Native Americans were held to involuntary servitude.

To say then that Native Americans weren't enslaved—and being called on it—is not a matter political correctness, Charlie. It's a matter of citing someone for making an error in fact such as White did—and a lot of other errors besides.

As another example, White spoke about

can-Americans are not a "race." No matter how common the usage of the term is, there is only one race; the human race. All the ethnicities and cultures are simply variations on a single theme.

It may seem a minor point, but had he been aware of the unity of the human race, he might have been able to make his point. Instead, in part, his ignorance of that unity led him squarely into the stereotyping that was so offensive. It wasn't offensive because it was politically incorrect. It was offensive because he was wrong, dead wrong, as wrong as if he'd said 2+2 is 6.

It was also offensive because he should have known better—or would have known better if he'd taken Anthropology 101.

When it came to discussing Gays, he was so far off base it was pitiful. Had he been in the least bit acquainted with Gay people and the studies that have been made on sexuality, he would have known that sexual orientation is not a choice, not a "decision," as he said.

But even without the studies, a little common sense would have allowed him to realize how inane his comments were. What does he think happens? That a person gets up one morning and says, "Oh what the hell, I think I'll be Gay."?

A little common sense should tell him (and others) that being Gay is not a choice and it is not an act. One is not Gay only when one is having sex. One is Gay, period. It is a state of being. It is a part of who I am, an integral part of my makeup.

If Reggie White (or anyone else) is going to hate homosexuality, they have to hate me, all of me, because my Gayness is inseparable from me. My sexual orientation is very much a part of who I am.

Not to put too fine a point on it, I am Gay, not because of any physical activity. I am Gay because of who I love, because of who can fulfill me emotionally. White, obviously doesn't know any of this—or chooses to remain ignorant which is a worse "sin" than most. It is my belief that willful ignorance is an obscenity before Almighty God.

Reggie White's ignorance is dangerous because of the fact that he is a role model. Uncounted numbers of young people look up to him. Sadly, very sadly, many of these young people and others as well, will take his comments about Gays as a license to bash Gays. Not only that, but he

the "Black race" and other "races." Africa materially contributed to the anguish of Gay kids trying to come to terms with their sexual orientation. Countless numbers of them commit suicide because of what people like White say.

Stuart Briscoe, senior pastor of the Elmbrook Church of Brookfield is quoted by the AP in saying that White could speak again at his church. Is lack of knowledge tolerated at the Elmbrook Church, I wonder?

But there are other problems that I have with White's speech, some of which have nothing to do with him. One problem, above all, is with the members of the state legislature.

When White made his comments on Asians, some of the legislators laughed. They seemed to find it funny. Their laughter was easily heard on the tape played on the TV news. When he made his comments on Hispanics, some of them laughed. They seemed to find it funny.

How could anyone laugh, not at White, but at his remarks, how funny they were? I don't know.

There is one other thing that disturbs me.

I dearly hope that if I had been one of those legislators listening to White, that I could have had the courage, had the conviction to get up and walk out. I would hope too, that I had a seat in the middle of the room so I could create a disturbance as I went.

Let it be said that some legislators voiced their upset later to the press. That's great, but protests later don't make the point that a protest at the time would have made.

Is it too much to ask that one of those political leaders of ours, just one, would have said to themselves, "I've had it with this. I'm leaving. Goodbye" and with that, gotten up and gotten out. Isn't that what leadership is all about; standing up for your convictions—sometimes in a public way, a way that is costly to yourself?

Let me tell you a story, a true story.

There was a man from Kansas, a U.S. Senator, who, having listened to all the testimony, decided that President Andrew Johnson wasn't guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. He was badgered and he was bullied, but he had integrity. He voted against convicting the President and by his one vote, the impeachment was lost.

The Senator was vilified. He lost his office and retired to obscurity. He paid the price. History, however, records that he was right. History remembers him as a man of courage.

I hope this story, recorded in John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage* makes my point.

I truly believe that had Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., been present that day in the Wisconsin State Legislature, he would have walked out, shaking his head as he went. Sadly, Dr. King is gone now. In his place we have our legislators. Sad.

Days later, White decided he had to say something. He wrote what has been termed "an apology" and published it in the *Milwaukee Journal*. It wasn't an apology. It was a apologia, an explanation, and as such, it wasn't enough, not by far.

In his apologia, White says he's sorry if he offended anyone by his remarks. That doesn't do it. Does he understand why he offended people? Does he understand that his offense lay in the fact that he spoke from an ignorance so blatant as to make a college freshmen blush?

Finally, White says he could have a "homosexual as a friend" because he would know that whoever it was "had problems." No, no Reggie. Friendship is a two way street and you're the one with the problem. The problem, Reggie, is that you need education. That being the case, the only way, Reggie, the only way that you and I could have any relationship at all would be if you agreed to become my student and read every book I gave you.

Take close notes, Reggie. There'll be a pop quiz next class period.

Oh yeah, Charlie. I respect you and agree with a lot you say, but kneejerk conservatism is no service to anyone. You really ought to work on your commentary next time.

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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 publications This is general journalistic practice.

Deadlines

April 23rd Issue
Articles Friday, April 17th
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—April 17th
Camera Ready—April 20th
5:00 p.m.

May 7th Issue
Articles—May 1st
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—May 1st
Camera Ready—May 4th
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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Monday-Friday-10:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m.
24-Hour Recording

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AP Associated Press

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Duluth-Superior Pride Committee Plans a Bang Up, Pride-filled Labor Day Weekend

Superior—The Duluth-Superior GLBT Pride Committee is pleased to announce that the 1998 Twin Ports GLBT Pride Festival will again take place over the Labor Day Holiday Weekend, September 5th through 7th. The theme of the 1998 Festival will be "Celebrate Strength in Unity".

This year's festival will kick-off with a bonfire/beach party on Friday night, September 5th, at Wisconsin Point in Superior. The festival begins again on Saturday morning, September 6th, with a parade along Duluth's lakefront. The 1998 Twin Ports GLBT Pride Festival will follow the GLBT Pride Parade on Saturday afternoon.

This year's Pride Festival will be held in Billings Park in Superior. The Saturday activities will conclude that evening with a Pride Party at J.T.'s Bar and Grill in Superior.

The final day of the festival weekend, Sunday, September 7th, will begin that afternoon with a three hour cruise of the Duluth-Superior Harbor and Saint Louis Bay.

The "Fruit Float" cruise will be followed with a wind-down party at the Trio Bar in Superior. Then the weekend-long Pride Festival will conclude with a fundraiser to benefit local AIDS service organizations, to be held at the Main Club in Superior.

The "Celebrate Strength in Unity" Lakewalk Parade will be led again by the Minnesota Freedom Band. The Pride Festival at Billings Park will showcase live entertainment, and feature food and merchandise vendors, as well as, informational booths sponsored by local and regional GLBT and allied organizations.

The Sixth Annual Pride Harbor Cruise has been extended to three hours this year and has been booked aboard a much larger tour boat than in the past. The Vista Star can accommodate over 300 persons and boasts multiple service bars and a larger serving area for the on-board complimentary buffet. The pride Committee elected to book a larger tour boat after last year's Harbor Cruise sold out and several persons were turned away dockside. Live entertainment will also be featured on the Vista Star.

The Duluth-Superior area offers many leisure activities and attractions, as well

as, the natural beauty of the Northwoods and Lake Superior. Hotels, motels, B & B's, and camp grounds are abundant. And for those of a Country-Western bent; the City of Superior will also be hosting "The Great Northern Classic" pro-rodeo on the same weekend with rodeo shows all three days.

The Duluth-Superior GLBT Pride Committee and our Northland GLBT Community invites all our sisters, brothers, and friends from across the Upper Midwest and Canada to celebrate ourselves, our community, and the end of summer with us in the Twin Ports.

For further information; write: Twin Ports Pride at P.O. Box 3198, Duluth, MN 55803 or phone: Kat Summerchild, 1998 Pride Chairperson, at 218-728-5825 or E-mail: Kirk Nagel, Public Relations Committee DSCowboy@mirage.skypoint.com. For booth and vendor information; phone: Steve at 218-727-0750.

Wisconsin NOW Names Rep. Tammy Baldwin Feminist of the Year

Milwaukee—The Wisconsin chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) is honoring State Rep. Tammy Baldwin as their 1998 Feminist of the Year. The dinner to honor Rep. Baldwin will be held on Sunday, April 26, 1998 at 4:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Park in Madison.

Since 1978, Wisconsin NOW has sponsored a Feminist of the Year event to honor an individual woman who has championed the cause of fighting for women's rights. This year, at the 20th Annual Feminist of the Year dinner, Wisconsin NOW will honor Baldwin for her leadership on progressive issues throughout her political career.

Tammy Baldwin is a champion of reproductive rights, a defender of the environment, an advocate for children and seniors and an expert on campaign finance reform.

Baldwin was also the first openly Les-

bian or Gay candidate to win her state seat.

The National NOW PAC has endorsed Baldwin in her race for a seat in the U.S. Congress. Baldwin's Congressional campaign will emphasize education, family and medical leave, living wages, child care and health care.

Young Feminist Award

Wisconsin NOW will also be starting a new tradition. Beginning this year, Wisconsin NOW will be honoring a young feminist during the event.

This year, Wisconsin NOW will recognize the courage of Sol Kelley-Jones. Jones is an 11 year-old 5th grader who has submitted testimony during three legislative hearings, conducted a survey on attitudes about Gay people among 4th and 5th graders at her school, served on an in service training on homophobia for Madison school personnel and has created her own web page.

Advance reservations are required. Tickets for the event are \$40 per person. For more information on attending the dinner or making a donation to Wisconsin NOW, please contact Jennifer Olenchek in the NOW offices at (414) 276-3468.



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Bob Hartlan, Owner, Green Bay Packers, P.O. Box 10628, Green Bay, WI 54307, phone: 920.496.5700

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Consumer Relations, Campbell's Soup Corporation, Campbell's Place, Box 26B, Camden, NJ 08103, phone: 800.257.8443, e-mail via WWW:

<http://www.campbellkitchen.com/response1.asp>
Sean McManus, Sports President, CBS Sports, 524 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019-2902, fax: 212.975.4063, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.cbs.com/navbar/feedback.html>

Reggie White's Remarks on Gays to the Wisconsin State Assembly

Below are excerpts from Reggie White's speech to the Wisconsin State Assembly on Wednesday, March 25th.

"As America has permitted homosexuality to establish itself as an alternate lifestyle, it is also reeling from the frightening spread of sexually transmitted disease. Sin begets its own consequence, both on individuals and nations."

"Let me explain something when I'm talking about sin, and I'm talking about all sin. One of the biggest ones that has been talked about that has really become a debate in America is homosexuality."

"Now, I believe that one of the reasons that Jesus was accused of being a homosexual is because he spent time with homosexuals. I've often had people ask me, would you allow a homosexual to be your friend. Yes, I will. And the reason I will is because I know that that person has problems, and if I can minister to those problems, I will."

"But the Bible strictly speaks against it, and because the Bible speaks against it, we allow rampant sin including homosexuality and lying, and to me lying is just as bad as homosexuality, we've allowed this sin to run rampant in our nation, and because it has run rampant in our nation, our nation is in the condition it is today."

"Sometimes when people talk about this sin they've been accused of being racist. I'm offended that homosexuals will say that homosexuals deserve rights. Any man in America deserves rights, but homosexuals are trying to compare their plight with the plight of black men or black people."

"In the process of history, homosexuals have never been castrated, millions of them never died. Homosexuality is a decision. It's not a race. And when you look at it, people from all different ethnic backgrounds are living this lifestyle, but people from all different ethnic backgrounds are also liars and cheaters and malicious and backstabbers."

"We're in sin, and because this nation is in sin, God will judge it if we don't get it right. I want to read something about the Roman empire that's interesting to me when I look at our nation and see that we're going in the same direction."

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Letters

White is Wrong

TO THE EDITOR:

"Homosexuality is a decision," says Reggie White.

Right. Like White's decision to grow his hair black and tightly curled instead of blond and straight.

White needs to educate himself on other factual points as well. When he said, "In the process of history, homosexuals have never been castrated; millions of them never died," he was profoundly wrong on both counts.

Hitler murdered tens of thousands of Gays. American states punished sodomy with death during the time of slavery. Thomas Jefferson once proposed castration as an alternative to the execution of Gays. The suggestion wasn't accepted but many thugs took it to heart.

Gays have been castrated, lynched, burned alive, beheaded, murdered, mutilated, raped, and forced to endure every imaginable sort of violence.

White's comments further encourage hatred and the acts of violence that arise from it.

In 1996, White received the Simon Wiesenthal Center's "Tolerance Award" for his "commitment to fostering tolerance and pursuing his vision for a better America."

We should pass on his hateful vision and the Wiesenthal Center should retract their honor.

Taylor Jones
San Francisco

Cultural Dishonesty

TO THE EDITOR:

The one part of Reggie White's hour-long morality inductive against Gay people that we might all agree with is his emphasis on the value of truth. We share his commitment to the fundamental principle, and it is for this reason that we support the right of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered individuals to live open and honest lives free from harassment, discrimination, and fear.

It is the dishonesty of our dominant culture that has led to the astronomical suicide rate among LGBT youth.

It is our collective lying about our sexual diversity that has led so many Gay people to expend vast amounts of energy on hiding a fundamental aspect of their being.

It is our refusal to acknowledge the fact of Gay relationships that mandates that Gay families exist without legal status.

We assert that morality and sexual orientation are unrelated. We believe that all persons have value in a diverse-minded world.

We condemn discrimination against Gay people and advocate the protection of basic human rights.

We express our disappointment that Reggie White, who until now was a role model for youth everywhere, should crumble to clay so quickly.

UW-Madison Ten Percent Society
UW-Madison Amnesty International
UW-Madison Students for a Free Tibet
International Socialist Organization - Madison Branch
East Timor Action Network - Madison
Jason Rasmussen
Co-President, UW-Madison Ten Percent Society
Chair, TPS Technology Committee
Madison

Enough is Enough!

TO THE EDITOR:

It is beyond any words that I can say, for what I have heard on national television on the discriminatory comments for which one of the nation's most respected sports players as well as a National Baptist minister, for the word of "God" has the absolute audacity to speak of any and all types of people, for which I say, "THERE FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GOES I!"

I am a person of no pigment orient substance who happens to own the largest salon in the State of Wisconsin that is available to the African-American society as a full service, mind, body and soul salon in the City of Milwaukee. Yes, I am a homosexual and I only tan dark in the summer. Where does Mr. White get off talking about anyone?

I remember when some estranged persons burnt his church in his home town. Who was there? The people of Milwaukee and I am sure that there were a lot of homosexual persons that had a lot to contribute to the rebuilding of Mr. White's church.

This incredible CRAP about homosexuals is beyond acceptable. I personally have listened to the so-called majority of hetro-sexual persons in the media to be the first to condemn people that go far and beyond the call of duty to be better teachers, better doctors, better attorneys, better accountants, better state representatives, and better ministers. Where do you so-called STRAIGHT PEOPLE get off? HELLO! WAKE UP! DA DA DA DA DA DA???????

There is no such person that wants to be anything more than what they choose to be and God forbid if they choose to be anything more than "their parents would want them to be", but the fact of "life choices" are up to the person's born into this world called EARTH.

I, no should, any person's condemn any other persons for their life. Granted we as a human society may not agree with the choice of our fellow persons, but if you were them, what would you stand up for?

I personally am beyond appalled by Mr. White's outrages, ignorant, mentally of his so-called speech in front of the Wisconsin State Senate. Don't forget that Wisconsin is a Gay Rights State and does not tolerate any form of derogatory slander from anyone.

Do you not think for one minute that if I or any one person would make a racist, slanderous, discriminatory comment, that we would not be sued up the A**?

This world doesn't need a Reggie White in our society to be in any kind of public form as far as I am concerned, this feeds more young and old Americans the wrong message, and subjects the hate crimes to escalate far and beyond imagination. I don't know a lot of young African-American clients that patronize my salon and I have put every single last red cent I have into making my salon the safest and largest, full-service salon in the state for the African community and thank God my intelligence is not on Mr. White's level.

I could be anywhere in the world doing my craft; I made a choice to do this and I refuse to let any FOOL distort my personal choice. MY LIFESTYLE is none of anyone's business. I have never asked anyone what they did behind closed doors. I was taught better than that and my religious upbringing was very strict and righteous. I was never taught to hate anyone and I can't even grasp the concept of the knowing that my fellow person is of a difference. If I were God I think I would bring Mr. White back to school and re-teach him the word of God.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Davia'd J. Prouty
Milwaukee

White and the Bible

TO THE EDITOR:

Why do we take seriously the comments of someone who earns his living using his head as a battering ram?

If we follow the Bible as White suggests, then we'd have to visit him as he spends his time picking cotton.

Lev. 25:45-46—Moreover of the children of strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall you buy...and they shall be your possession...they shall be your bondsmen forever (Gen. 9:25; Ex. 21:2, 7; Joel 3:8; Luke 12:47; Col. 3:22)

The problem is the Bible itself. People who are free of theological bias notice that the Bible contains hundreds of discrepancies. Should it surprise us when such a literary and moral mishmash, taken seriously, causes such discord?

White's comments are just one more example of how divisive this evil book is. Hey, folks, we aren't ignorant shepherds anymore. Let's finally mature and grow beyond it! Doesn't someone have a closet they could make available to White and his ilk?!

We are the same people in appearance and ability that we were 50,000 years ago. The difference is our environment—education. If we insist on behaving as ignorant ancient shepherds, then that will be our fate.

The comments of White are not innocent errors; they are founded in blind belief of illogical mythologies long ago discredited and debunked. This mythology gone unchallenged, will destroy us. We must speak out loud and clear.

Today, 1998, a recent survey revealed 20% (50,000,000) Americans believe the sun goes around the earth???

If you don't speak up you are doomed to live by the backward ignorant rules of the Fundamentalists!

Jerry Ayers
Milwaukee

On Stereotypes

TO THE EDITOR:

Although I still don't "approve" of all Gay actions. Still, now I can accept some Gay abilities. And I'm not afraid to make this one small change public in my generally still non-Gay attitudes.

It all happened last week when our section head at work berated out against that art history teacher who was "that way" or "one of those" and bad for her son to be taking his course from. But right then somebody in the office reported back to here that we all have our own diverse abilities, each group should be respectful and valued in itself.

For instance, he said you Gay will usually have a superior artistic and aesthetic sense, as

in interior decoration. And so in her son's art class, it's not only just okay, it's an opportunity, not to be missed. To get visual design taught by a Gay man with his innate higher taste.

And so what if he is a "little light in the loafers" just so he doesn't disport himself improperly. And this person ended up asking the section head whether she would not want her son or daughter to take a music appreciation class taught by an African-American especially. Because of that group's natural sense of musical rhythm, and how many of the early jazz artists were black after all.

(Which is why we should have more Black athletic coaches, but that is another story.)

Anyway, this person made me think.

Let's condemn what we should in people morally, but let's praise the gifts of each group have. And you don't even have to say "praise the sin, but hate the sinner" either. This is hard to do, but it's a start.

After all would you want your house redecorated by some fag who knows opera up the old wazoo or by some macho lout who knows diesel engine repair in and out plus all the baseball scores ever written but nothing else! Oh, and who is better to fly your deregulated commercial airplane but a male pilot who is unemotional and not hysterical all days, and so can fly right and keep a straight steady firm course.

And who better but a female stewardess back in the cabin to respond maternally with the passenger's fears and empathy problems.

(Thought one should not forget here the male stewardess were a "hint of mint" is actually okay there.)

And who better to be your church organist, and your professional golf coach, respectively, other than a Gay man and a Lesbian woman in turn? You can't argue against Mother Nature, let alone statistics! And don't even get me started upon the overlooked Hispanic realtors and Jewish agriculturalists! So anyhow, the persons smart replies to the section chief got me thinking for sure. And I only hope my experience here can help another's close mindedness too.

Brian Kevin Beck, Ph.D.
Whitewater

Editor's Note: This letter is printed here exactly as it was received. Poor me. Here I am, a Gay man, and I don't have any artistic sense whatever. I think purple and orange go good together. I can only say that it seems Reggie White has an intellectual twin.

REGGIE

Continued From Page 1

The statement, published on the opposite page of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, was to clarify the "main message" of his speech, White said.

Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen believes the apology White offered was not needed, nonetheless it was "extraordinarily gracious," said spokesman Steve Baas.

"It is immensely disheartening when a person who is a role model uses this forum to engage in racial stereotyping and make derogatory statements about Gays, Lesbians, and women. I am saddened and angry," said Rep. Tammy Baldwin.

Rep. Tim Carpenter, who had called White's comments offensive and divisive, welcomed the apology.

"All I can say is better late than never," Carpenter said. "I only hope this is what he truly believes and the spin doctors didn't get to him. ... I think much more of Reggie White to apologize if he offended any one."

Fall Out

Fallout from Reggie White's comments on race and homosexuality have affected his product endorsement deals with two major companies and may have ended his hopes for a sports-broadcasting job with CBS.

Campbell Soup Co. and athletic shoe giant Nike said they were reviewing remarks that the Green Bay Packers star made in a speech to Wisconsin legislators. Citing the Bible, he called homosexuality a sin.

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"We have not made any judgments but it is under review," Nike spokesman Tony Tijerino said Friday.

Campbell spokeswoman Ronni Heyman said White's one-year contract to promote the company's products expires within a week.

"His comments are not consistent with the principles of Campbell but at this time, until we speak directly with Reggie White, we're not going to go any further in talking about the future," she said.

NFL spokesman Dan Masonson said the league had no comment.

The Packers declined comment.

Jimmy Sexton, White's agent, has no comment and all inquiries have been forwarded to White, a spokeswoman for Sexton's office, Amy Wilson, said.

Following the speech, White said he stands by his comments. He is not judging people and says only what he believes, he said.

CBS Sports spokeswoman Leslie Anne Wade would not say whether White had spoiled his prospects for an analyst's job for which he auditioned.

"CBS has a hard-and-fast corporate policy against bias of any kind," she said.

"Reggie White is not an employee of CBS so I wouldn't comment on Reggie White specifically."

White told Fox News Channel that he agreed with former CBS football analyst Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder, who was fired in 1988 after he said a black athlete was better than a white one because "he's been bred to be that way because of his thigh size and big size."

Snyder also said slave owners would breed a big black with a big woman so he would have a big black child, leading to superior black athletes today.

"I agree with what Jimmy 'the Greek' said when it came to, that slaves, bigger slaves were pretty much used as studs. And the comments that he made about that was true. That did happen," White told Fox.

Church colleagues said White, affiliated with a church in Knoxville, Tenn., is welcome to their pulpits anytime.

"I'm not his judge. God might be saying, 'Good job, Reggie,'" said the Rev. Andrea Dudley of Capital Christian Center in Milwaukee, where White has spoken.

Stuart Briscoe, senior pastor at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, a Milwaukee suburb, said White could speak there again, having preached there once before.

"I haven't heard him say anything that would disqualify him from being with us," Briscoe said.

Domestic Partner Benefits Policy Forum to be Held in Madison

Madison—Pride in Wisconsin Government is sponsoring a Domestic Partner Benefits Policy Forum on April 17, 1998, 3:00-5:00 p.m., in the G.A.R. Hearing Room of the State Capitol in Madison.

Invited panelists from state and local government, public employee unions, the private sector and the University of Wisconsin will attend. Each panelist will make a short presentation, followed by questions and facilitated discussion; audience participation is encouraged. The audience will include elected officials, members of Pride in Wisconsin Government and community leaders.

The final portion of the Domestic Partner (DP) Benefits Policy Forum will be used to announce Pride in Wisconsin Government's DP Benefits Project. There are two components to this project: a DP Benefits Guide, to include information on existing DP benefits and related issues; and a resolution supporting DP benefits. A large-scale copy of the resolution will be presented during the concluding remarks and attendees will be given an opportunity to sign on to the resolution at that time.

Pride in Wisconsin Government is a statewide, nonpartisan organization for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered government employees and their allies. Its target audience includes employees in these and other public sector entities: state, counties, cities, villages, towns, the University of Wisconsin System, Technical Colleges and K-12 public school districts.

Pride in Wisconsin Government can be contacted c/o The United, P.O. Box 310, Madison, WI 53701-0310; (608) 255-8582.

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Absolutely Fabulous Out and About Series - April 13-25, 1998

The Ten Percent Society (TPS) of UW-Madison announces it's *Absolutely Fabulous Out and About '98*. This, the 15th annual *Out and About Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Awareness Series* includes a variety of events. All events are free unless otherwise noted and open to the University community

Monday, April 13th

7:30 p.m. Tammy Baldwin Town-Hall. Check "Today in the Union (TITU) for location.
8 p.m. TITU Contemporary Woman's Issues: Do you have concerns about women in the world today? Join others as professor Audrey Sprenger facilitates a discussion based on your views, ideas and concerns. Bring some coffee and your opinions for a good opportunity to be social, meet some new people and learn.

Tuesday, April 14th

4:30-6:15 p.m. 5th Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Graduation Reception Alumni Lounge, Wisconsin Alumni Association, enter through 650 N. Lake St. Join staff, faculty, and the friends of Lesbian, Gay, bi, Transgender graduates to honor their academic success and celebrate their graduation. Hear from two of the graduates that have been forces for positive change in the campus LGBT community. RSVP (so there is sufficient food) to 262-5895. Graduates please email name, major and degree to rbetts@facstaff.wisc.edu Sponsored by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Council of WAA, the Dean of Students Office and The Ten Percent Society.

7:30 p.m. 1100 Grainger Hall "Homophobia in the Academy" A lecture by Professor Toni McNaron, professor of Women's Studies and English at the University of Minnesota and author of *Poisoned Ivy: Lesbian and Gay Academics Confronting Homophobia*, a study of long time academics and the challenges of being a Gay or Lesbian in academics. Based on interviews with over 300 Lesbian and Gay academics with at least fifteen years in their profession, Professor McNaron recounts the frequent stories of inhospitable or ambivalent responses from departments and colleagues. Reception following the lecture.

7:30 p.m. Patricia Ireland, *Feminism and Activism: Moving into the 21st Century*. Memorial Union's Wisconsin Union Theater.

Wednesday, April 15th

7:00 p.m. TITU Exploring your Erotic Self - presented by A Woman's Touch. This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to explore what they find most pleasurable in their erotic lives, and how to communicate this information to a partner. You will not be required to share this information about yourself with anyone but yourself. Be prepared to take a journey through your erotic experiences up to this point, and consider where you wish to go in the future.

Thursday April 16th

9:00 p.m. Fredrick March Play Circle LGBT Film Festival Wisconsin Union Directorate film committee will be showing *The Salt Mines, The Transformation* and *Zero Budget*. Approximate running time is 140 minutes.

Friday, April 17th

Rally

12:00 p.m. Library Mall Rally. There will be speakers, refreshments and lots 'o fun things to yell. The theme is to improve the relations between the administration and the LGBT students. Focus will be on the goal of a full-time liaison for LGBT students in the Dean of Students Office.

3:00-5:00 p.m. Domestic Partner Benefits Policy Forum. Invited panel members from local and state government, the University of Wisconsin, the private sector, and the legislature will participate in a moderate discussion on issues surrounding implementation of domestic partner benefits, especially in health insurance, in both the public and private sector. Location to be announced.

Monday, April 20th

All-Day Out and About with the Greeks In Conjunction with Greek Week '98, members of the Greek system will wear their letters to show their support of the LGBT community here at UW Madison.

Wednesday, April 22nd

7: p.m. TITU Sex Toys for the Curious - presented by A Woman's Touch. Join us on a journey through the world of sex toys. We believe that sex toys allow all of us to experience a wide range of safe sexual sensations both with ourselves and our partners. We will show you a wide variety of toys, describe how they can be used, and answer any questions you might have about toys.

Friday, April 24th

8: p.m. Great Hall Memorial Union - Out and About Dance. \$3 at the door with a cash bar. Great Hall, Memorial Union.

Saturday, April 25th

12:00 p.m. Absolutely Fabulous '98 Join us at the natatorium for the 1st ever Greek All-Stars vs. Queer Softball game. In conjunction with Greek Week '98, we'll see who's really concerned about breaking a nail.

8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Tripp Commons Memorial Union - Dyke Dance \$3 at the door with a cash bar. Open to women of the University Community.

Sunday, April 26th

7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Film: *Happy Together* While on vacation in Argentina, Yiu-Fai and Po-Wing break up. Each grapple with new solutions in a foreign land as their lives diverge. Sponsored by Wisconsin Union Directorate Film Committee/Madison Film Forum. 4070 Vilas Hall.

Sponsors: Campus Women's Center
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Ten Percent Society
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Woman's Studies Research Center
WAA Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alumni Council
University Health Services

U.S. Supreme Court Justices Spar Over HIV As a Federal Disability

Washington, DC—In an update to a story in the last issue, Supreme Court justices who sparred over whether HIV-infected people should be considered disabled because of dangers involved in sex and childbearing expect to rule by July.

The lawyer for Dr. Randon Bragdon, a dentist from Bangor, Maine, argued that Bragdon did not illegally discriminate against an HIV-infected woman by refusing to treat her at his office.

The patient, Sidney Abbott, suffers no AIDS symptoms and therefore is not protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act, said attorney John McCarthy.

But Abbott's lawyer said lower courts found that Bragdon violated the law, which bars discrimination against the disabled in jobs, housing and public accommodations.

The law, responsible for such aids as wheelchair ramps at countless public places, says people are disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."

HIV-infected people should always be

considered disabled because the contagious and fatal nature of acquired immune deficiency syndrome severely limits their ability to have sex and bear children, said Ms. Abbott's attorney, Bennett H. Klein.

Some justices disputed whether HIV infection really creates such a limit.

Justices David H. Souter and Antonin Scalia suggested an HIV-infected person faces a "moral choice" rather than an actual physical limit on his ability to have children.

"I'm not sure that's what the statute is talking about," Souter said.

However, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said that if a person with highly infectious tuberculosis stays away from other people, "we don't just call it a moral choice."

Someone with bubonic plague would be considered disabled, added Justice Stephen G. Breyer.

Bragdon's lawyer said the disability law aims to protect people whose disabilities affect their "day-to-day independent living and economic self-sufficiency," not HIV-infected people who suffer no symptoms.



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The disability-rights law says disabled people can be treated differently if they pose a "direct threat to the health or safety of others."

"Dr. Bragdon believes that when he provides a service in the face of the risk of death he should be allowed to take additional precautions" such as insisting on filling Ms. Abbott's cavity at a hospital, McCarthy said.

However, Breyer said that "after 15 years and hundreds of thousands of deaths" from AIDS there appeared to be no documented cases in which a dentist caught the virus from a patient.

"How can we say here that your client exercised reasonable medical judgment?" Breyer asked. McCarthy replied that there were seven possible cases of HIV transmission in dental procedures.

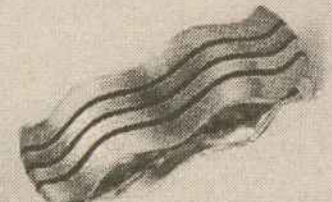
Klein said that unless HIV-infected people have clear protections under the law,

many will hide the fact that they carry the virus.

The justices' ruling could provide clues as to whether the law covers other kinds of disabilities, such as cases of epilepsy or diabetes that are controlled by medication.

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'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy Facing Legal Combat From ACLU & Lambda Legal

Washington, DC—The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (Lambda) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), having won a federal court ruling that the military's unequal treatment of Lesbian and Gay service members is unconstitutional, will fight the government's appeal in New York.

"This case is and always has been about just one thing," said Matthew Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "The government says that, unlike everyone else who serves, Lesbians and Gay men in the military have to be celibate. Its only explanation for doing that to Gay people is that it thinks straight soldiers and sailors are uncomfortable around Lesbians and Gay men. We say you do not discriminate

against one group of Americans to make another group feel better. That is the whole case."

Lambda's Legal Director Beatrice Dohm said, "It is time for the court to call an end to the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' charade. Qualified Lesbians and Gay men should serve under the same rules as non-Gay personnel." Dohm added, "Judge Nickerson said it best when he noted that 'don't ask, don't tell' creates a degrading and deplorable condition for remaining in the Armed Services."

The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on April 2, heard argument in *Able v. USA*, with the government appealing the first full defeat of the military's anti-Gay statute. Ruling in the case last July 2, Eastern District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson struck the ban as unconstitutional. He said, "It is hard to imagine why the mere holding of hands off base and in private is dangerous to the mission of the Armed Forces if done by homosexuals but not by a heterosexual."

Nickerson found that the special rules that the military imposes on Gay service members serve only to accommodate the anticipated anti-Gay feelings of other service members. "Don't ask, don't tell" bans all same-sex, but not mixed-sex, off-duty sexual and affectionate conduct, and also prohibits Gay personnel from making statements that refer to their sexual orientation.

Able differs from previous challenges in that six service members pro-actively sued, asserting that both the conduct and speech portions of the ban are unconstitutional. Other cases regarding 'don't ask, don't tell' have been in response to discharge proceedings and most have focused on the 'speech' portion of the ban and its presumption that anyone who speaks out also engages in prohibited conduct.

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Obituary

Trisha Jane Zera
 Trisha Jane Zera, (formerly known as Tom Zera), died suddenly at the age of 49 years. Zera suffered a massive heart attack in the early morning hours of April 5, 1998 at Raphael House where she has resided since last fall.

A veteran of Korea and Vietnam, Zera received Army commendations for distinguished military service. After an honorable discharge in 1970, Zera worked professionally as a book keeper at New York City's Bloomingdales Department Store for six years before returning to her native Milwaukee.

Zera, a Transgendered male to female, officially changed her name just weeks before her tragic death. "She was so proud of her new identification card," reflected Bro. Stephen Braddock. "It symbolized her emotional and spiritual journey of the last twenty years...she was a very special person with a deep spirituality, a devout Catholic."

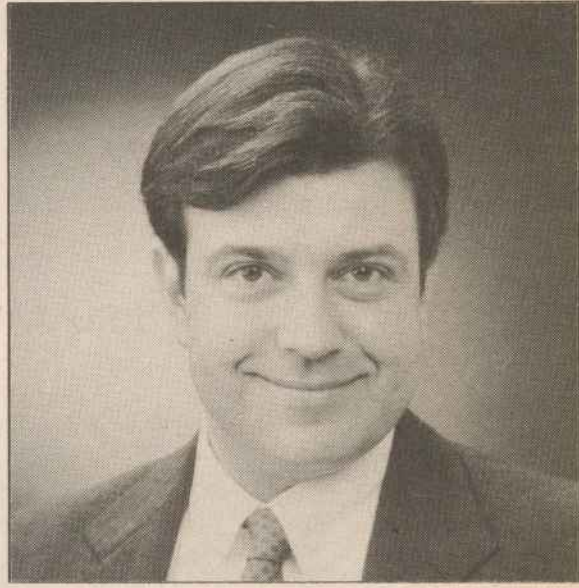
Zera will be remembered by loved ones as a card player and avid sports fan, always associating special dates and events with historic moments in sports.

"She also loved her music, oldies mostly. She would leave her bedroom door open in the evenings in order to share her music with me as I worked in my study down the hall," said Bro. Braddock who lives with the Raphael House residents in a building which formerly housed as many as twenty Camillian priests and brothers.

A memorial was to be celebrated in the Raphael House Chapel Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. Memorials to St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry for Raphael House would be appreciated. Arrangements by Becker Ritter Funeral Services, Elmbrook, (414) 782-5330.

Milmaids XIII
Madison—Madison will play host to a 9-pin bowling tournament with proceeds going to benefit the AIDS Network of Madison
 Saturday, April 25, starting at 9:00 a.m. registration for 1st round and starting at Noon for the 2nd shift. An awards banquet will immediately follow the end of the tournament.
 Milmaids was designed to raise funds for and create a greater awareness of AIDS services and support in the state. This is an excellent opportunity for Wisconsin residents to help their neighbors who are in need of assistance.

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Social Workers Condemn Religious-Based "Reparative Therapy" as Dangerous

Salt Lake City— Some religious therapists contend unhappy homosexuals can abandon what they call their "lifestyle" through so-called "reparative" or conversion treatment, but a Utah social-work group says they are wrong.

In a unanimous affirmation of a 2-year-old stance by its parent group, the Utah chapter of the National Association of Social Workers has adopted a policy discouraging reparative therapy.

The group's state board found there is no scientific data supporting the treatment.

"Social stigmatization of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people is widespread and is a primary motivating factor in leading some people to seek sexual orientation changes," the policy states. "Discomfort about working with this population may lead to inappropriate, ineffective and even damaging interventions by social workers."

Board president Joanne Yaffe said the action came after it received an anonymous complaint, redirected from the national committee.

"They told us they knew of Utah social workers who were practicing reparative

therapy and asked us what we were going to do about it," she said.

The state chapter's action was criticized by such groups as extremist religious groups like Evergreen International and Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Social Services.

"The LDS church's licensed professional counselors take the position that there is substantial evidence that individuals can diminish their unwanted homosexual attraction and make changes in their lives," said Mormon church spokesman Don LeFevre. "The church and these professionals are supportive of a person's right to seek assistance in doing so."

The American Psychological Association in August also passed a resolution opposing reparative therapy.

Reparative or conversion therapy attempts to change homosexuals to heterosexuals, and has existed for more than a century. Early practices incorporated electric shocks, castration, lobotomies and aversion therapy. Today, religious therapists instead use the Bible, prayer and cognitive or behavioral therapy techniques to diminish or eliminate same-sex attrac-

tion.

Critics who see homosexuality as a state of being rather than an activity, contend the therapies have a 60-70 percent failure rate, but supporters insist there is ample proof that homosexuals can change, or at least stop "acting out" (having sex).

NASW board member Shirley Cox, a Brigham Young University social-work professor and Evergreen International board member, said there is a distinction to be made between reparative therapy and what she calls "lifestyle-change" therapy.

"Reparative therapy assumes people are broken and in need of repair. I don't believe that," she said. "But I will help people who want to live as heterosexuals. They have a right to choose" if they want to have sex with a member of the opposite sex.

Evergreen Executive Director David Pruden said NASW made itself "vulnerable when, as an organization, they become the arbiters of lifestyle decisions. What happens if something goes wrong because they have affirmed a certain lifestyle?"

Pruden said about 40 percent of the people served by his organization stop having sex entirely and about 30 percent lessen their sexual activity.

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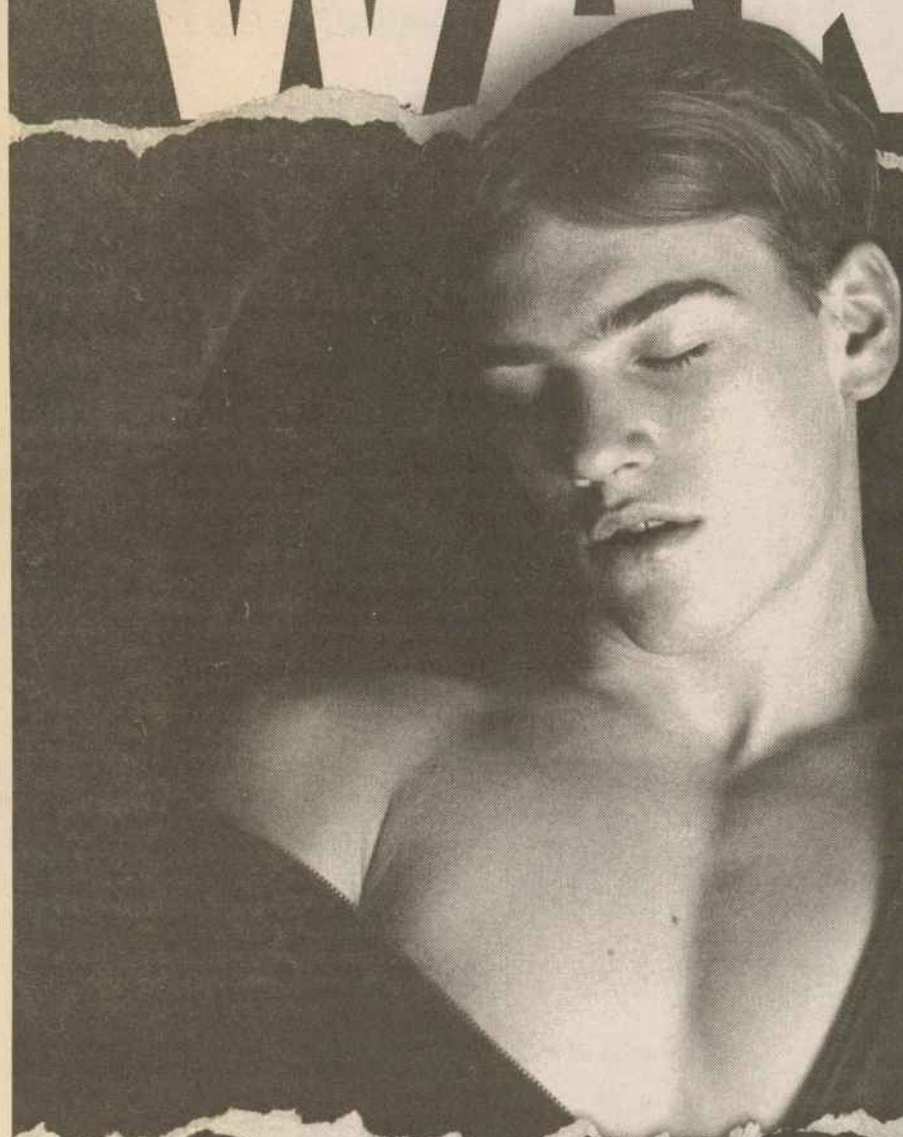
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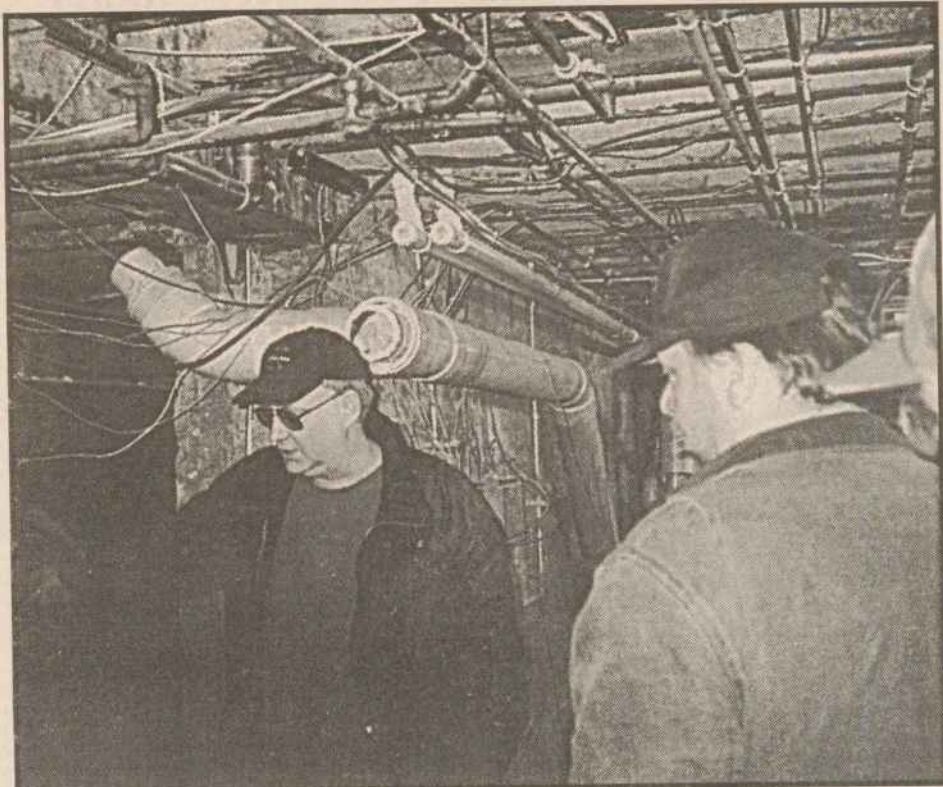
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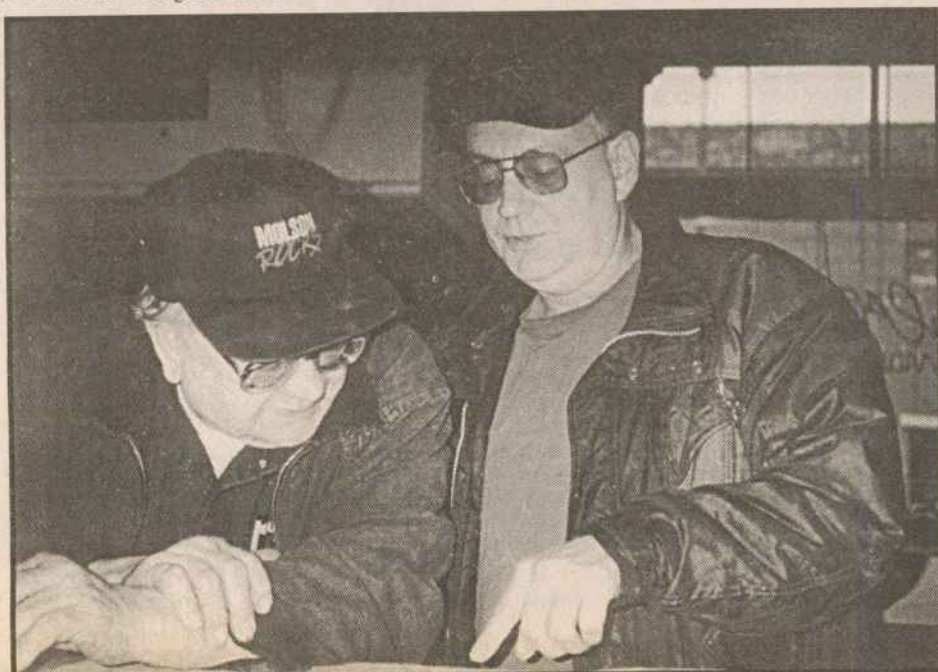
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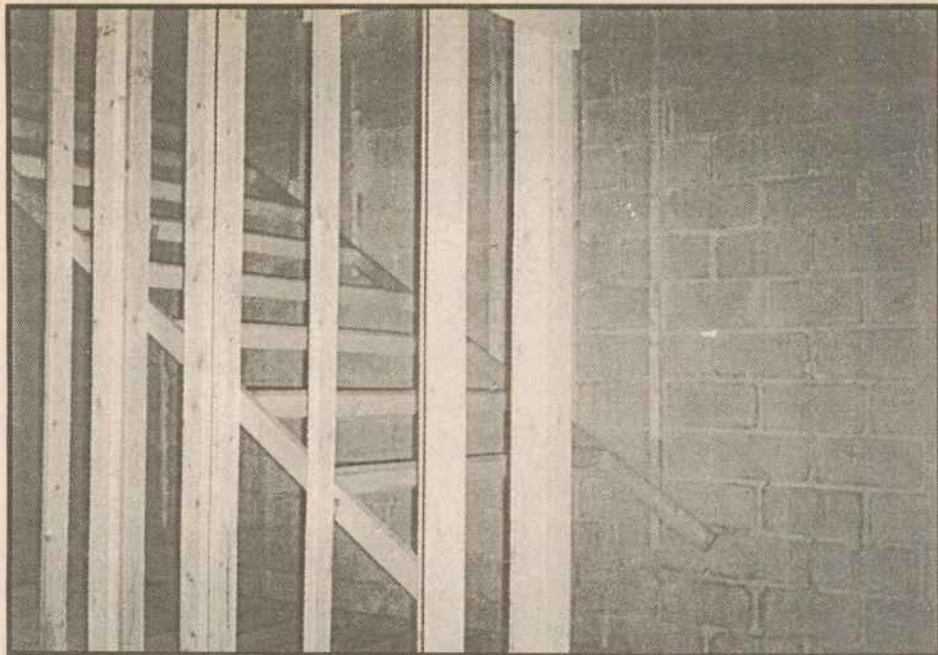
Renovation Work at Milwaukee's La Cage



Put It Here — George Prentice shows workers where he wants them to put in a new cooler.



The Plans — George Prentice goes over the blue prints for the interior remodeling of La Cage with one of the workmen's supervisors.



What's This? A new stairway leading from the downstairs bar area to the upstairs bar is being constructed at La Cage. Next to the stairs are the framework for new rest rooms that will be put in the basement.



Stacks of Vinyl! — Stacks of old records are piled on the bar in what was Grubb's Pub at La Cage. The downstairs bar space is being converted into an upscale bar with high end wines, glasses of champagne and high end cocktails such as martini's, and perfect manhattans will be served. The new bar to be called Jazz Again will be designed by the nationally known designer, Gary Wolf.



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Genital Herpes Rates Jump in Young Whites Since the 1970s a Study Shows

New York, NY—If, as the Far Right Religious extremists have wrongly contended, that AIDS is a "Gay disease," will they now call genital herpes the "straight disease?" The extremists may be forced into this uncomfortable position.

Despite the emphasis on safe sex to prevent AIDS, genital herpes has increased fivefold since the late 1970s among white teen-agers and doubled among whites in their 20s.

In all, about one in five Americans over age 12 has the sexually transmitted infection, and most of them don't know it, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention reported.

Dr. Michael St. Louis, who wrote the report with colleagues at the CDC, said it was surprising that herpes went up during the 1980s despite publicity about AIDS. Other sexually transmitted diseases, such as gonorrhea, declined.

He said other studies have shown that young people increased their rates of unprotected sex, premarital sex and multiple sex partners. And condoms appear to be less effective in blocking herpes than other diseases because the virus can be transmitted from parts of the body not covered by a condom.

Gray Davis, president of the Herpes Advice Center in Durham, North Carolina, said the study shows many people ignored safe-sex warnings about AIDS in the 1980s.

"What these numbers are telling us is that the young, sexually active white population didn't consider themselves at risk for HIV," she said. "So the HIV message, while it was very effective in the Gay population, where it was targeted to, didn't reach the rest of the population."

One reason for concern is that herpes sores may make a person more vulnerable to infection with the AIDS virus, the researchers said in the study, published today in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Experts said it is time to get tougher on herpes. They said new steps could include screening for it in patients at clinics for sexually transmitted diseases and in pregnant women, whose newborns could die if infected.

"We're screening for HIV, we're screening for hepatitis B, we aren't screening for genital herpes," said Dr. Lawrence Corey of the University of Washington.

Genital herpes is caused by the herpes simplex type 2 virus, and much less often by the type 1 virus. The study used blood samples from about 24,000 people to reveal the prevalence of type 2 infection.

The data were gathered between 1988 and 1994 and compared with a similar study done from 1976 to 1980.

The results suggest that 45 million Americans are infected, including 18 percent of whites and 46 percent of blacks.

Among whites ages 12 to 19, the infec-

tion rate jumped from slightly less than 1 percent to 4.5 percent.

The rate among whites in their 20s went from 7.7 percent to 14.7 percent. Among older whites and all blacks, the increases in each age group were too small to be considered significant.

Genital herpes causes occasional outbreaks of sores or itching in the genital areas and around the buttocks or thighs. The sores can look like ulcers or paper cuts, and they can be painful. No cure is known.

People can transmit the virus to a sex partner even when they don't have symptoms. Only 9 percent of infected people in the study even knew they had the virus.

Cathedral of Hope MCC Target of Internet Bomb Threat

Dallas, TX—The Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas, Texas, the world's largest predominantly Gay and Lesbian congregation, has been the target of a bomb threat posted on the Internet. The threat, received last Thursday, April 2, by *The Dallas Morning News*, is being investigated by the FBI.

The Rev. Mike Piazza, senior pastor of the congregation, said the church would continue to operate normally. "Our stance is that we need to release this information so our members know [and] can make their choice. We're going to have services, but people have a right to know what they are coming to," he said.

Piazza also noted that last year's bombing of an Atlanta Gay bar and more recent bomb attacks on abortion clinics have forced the church to view all threats with concern.

The threats affected attendance this past Sunday, but all services were held as scheduled.

The Internet threat contained condemnations of homosexuals and claimed, "You think Oklahoma City was bad, wait until you see this."

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the parent denomination of Cathedral of Hope MCC, noted: "We strongly condemn these threats to our constitutional rights to worship and free assembly. Over the past 30 years, more than 20 Metropolitan Community Church congregations have been targets of the hate crimes of arson or firebombing, and many more have faced threats to both worshipers and property."

"I call upon all people of goodwill to uphold the Rev. Mike Piazza and the congregation of Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church with their love and prayers during this time," Perry added. "I salute the church for keeping its doors open to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons. The Scriptures declare that 'perfect love casts out fear.' Thorough their boldness and love, our members and friends in Dallas are communicating the message that we don't have to be afraid anymore."

Duke, UNC, Teach Classes on Queer Studies Despite Alumnae Protests

Raleigh— Duke University is standing by its "Queer Studies" class in the face of national attention and criticism by some alumni.

Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offer classes that explore sexual identity, sexual ambiguity and Gay history. They have joined a number of top universities, such as the University of Chicago, Stanford and Brown, that see a need to explore how homosexuality helps shape literature, history and art.

"People do these things," Duke Professor John Younger said, "which is precisely why they must be talked about."

Some Duke alumni were displeased when Younger's class recently was filmed for a "60 Minutes" segment on the growing academic trend of sexuality studies.

One cut showed Younger, a classics professor, talking with his seminar students about sexual power relationships, and describing sadomasochism and black leather costumes, chaps, whips and chains and pain.

The disgruntled alumni called and wrote letters to President Nan Keohane's office enough that the school prepared a statement. John Burness, vice president of public affairs, said most of the criticism was that Gay and lesbian studies are unworthy of attention. "I understand the subject itself offends some people and that the report tended toward sensationalism, but everyone should know the student of human sexuality at Duke is neither flaky nor immoral," Keohane said in the release.

Keohane defended the classes.

"It's an intellectually challenging examination of a very complex subject from a variety of perspectives," Keohane wrote. Duke professors "don't try to indoctrinate students."

Supporters say "queer studies" is a legitimate examination of a group of people who traditionally have been excluded from college curricula—much as women and blacks were in the past.

Academics chose the word "queer" to cover issues related to lesbians, Gays, bisexuals, transgenders and intersexuals partly because the list of individual sexual categories has grown so long, Younger said.

Younger and Cecil Wooten, a UNC classics professor who teaches "Sex and Gender in Antiquity," say that many professors teaching "queer studies" are like them, homosexual.

"Most of the (queer studies) courses on this campus are probably not taught by Gays," Wooten said. "That's why I got interested in homosexuality in the ancient world, but I'm not trying to persuade one way or another."

Duke just this academic year began offering the equivalent of a minor in gender studies. UNC has offered a couple of classes for several years but now has about 15, including ones about homosexuality in movies, the effect of the legal system on Gays and lesbians, and their artistic contributions.

All but two of the UNC classes have been funded by a bequest from Charles Williamson, a 1968 graduate of UNC's School of Medicine. Williamson, a San Francisco physician, died of AIDS in 1992 and specified how his donation

would be spent.

Students in Wooten's UNC class read authors such as Plato to learn about human relationships and models of romantic involvement. They learn how women were viewed in Greek society as stupid and inferior to men.

"I'm an old-fashioned Latin grammarian," said Wooten, who has taught his class for seven years. "There's a lot of homoerotic material which has not been taught. The subject has been inherent in many disciplines, but for various reasons has not been addressed before. All we're doing is encouraging departments to right the imbalance."

Len Spicer, chairman of Duke's faculty governing group, defends homosexual studies. Peer review and time will determine whether they thrive, he said.

"Universities are full of efforts to discover what's important," Spicer said. "Along the way some fall by the wayside. Time will tell whether this will be sustained."

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Street Beat: Music and Fun on Gallery Night Benefits ARCW

Milwaukee— Milwaukee's best resale shop, Survival/Revival Resale located in the Historic 3rd Ward, is hosting "Street Beat" to benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) on Gallery Night, Friday, April 17 at 8 p.m.

This one-of-a-kind evening includes Master of Ceremonies - BJ Daniels, comedy provided by Bill Finn, main attraction Sister CashBox with her all-star revue, special guest Sage La Rue, Miss Gay Wisconsin 1998, with live music provided by Gladrags. The store will also be open for shopping during the event with mark-downs up to 80 percent.

"When you come to Survival/Revival Resale the evening of Street Beat, it's like passing through a doorway from Milwaukee to places like the Soho district in New York or Paris or anywhere," said Kathy Fortier, manager of Survival/Revival Resale. "It is an evening of indescribable fun."

Admission is \$4 for an unforgettable evening. For more information, call Survival/Revival Resale at 414-291-2856. Survival/Revival Resale is located at 246 E. Chicago St. in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

ARCW is among the nation's largest AIDS service agencies and leads the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin. ARCW provides aggressive HIV prevention services; access to comprehensive services for people living with HIV and AIDS; clinical research on HIV treatment; and HIV advocacy.

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Speaking From The Right

How Dishonesty Has Become a Virtue

Commentary by James McFarland
 There once was a time when honesty was a virtue, and dishonesty was a considered a vice. Today, it seems that the tables have turned, and dishonesty has become a virtue. How else can the dishonesty which runs rampant in this society be explained?

In the Gay community, we see it everywhere. In the bars, those who are cruising often do not give their real names.

In the classifieds, the rule of thumb is that you can always add at least ten pounds to the weight cited by ad's author, you can assume that someone who describes himself as "attractive" is really "average" or "less than average", and someone who says his hair is "thinning" is actually bald on top.

(A former friend of mine who was bald as can be actually used to describe his hair as "thinning" in classifieds.)

Now that we are in the high-tech age, the lying and deception has reached a new peak on the Internet. To begin with, Internet users adopt "handles" and e-mail addresses which are designed to prevent anyone from determining their true identities. This way, they can post comments on bulletin boards with impunity, spreading whatever lies they choose.

But what is even more appalling to me is the prevalence of false pictures used on the Internet. A friend of mine recently signed up for Internet service, and his experience has disheartened me considerably. Without failure, when he meets someone in the chat rooms and asks for his picture, he invariably receives a picture of a model-type gorgeous hunk.

Is everyone on the Internet really built like Jean Claude Van Damme and does everyone really have the looks of Brad Pitt?

Of course, he frequently receives the same picture from two, and many times even more, different people, clearly demonstrating the deception with impunity which occurs. Does this bother him? No, he merely picks the picture he likes the best and pretends it is his, sending it to all manner of people who ask for his picture.

Some might argue that this does not matter, since if my friend met with these people he would discover their true appearance. Another friend of mine just says that the Internet is "just a wild and woolly place". But that's just euphemistic; the reality is that it is a hotbed of lies and deception.

The reason it does matter is that it destroys trust. If one cannot believe that a picture which is sent over the Internet is actually the picture of the sender, how can one believe anything else which is said by that Internet user or any other? Do we really want to live in a world where we cannot trust anything anyone else says?

Lies and deceit are even more common in the political world, of course, and the disease starts from the top down. It is little wonder that people today think nothing of lying when it is obvious that our nation's leader consistently lies. But people just shake their head and say they don't care as long as he is doing a good job as President.

When President Nixon was caught in a big lie, the public was aghast, and the scandal caused voters to vote Democrat in droves, ushering in an era of liberalism from which we probably will never fully recover. Yet today, the voters merely state that they expect the President to lie just like every other politician.

Here in Wisconsin, where politics are relatively clean, we see that politicians are increasingly dishonest. What do we think of a State Representative who takes credit for the adoption of a bill which she almost single-handedly doomed to defeat due to her extreme partisanship and ego, takes credit for a county ordinance for which she was not the main sponsor, and engages in a disinformation campaign about a vitally important bill?

We lavish her with praise and campaign contributions, as if she is the savior of our community.

What do we think of a candidate for Alderman who tells some people that she supports privatization of some services, but yet receives the endorsement of the city's union (which would never endorse anyone who supported privatization)? We refuse even to consider the possibility that she might be dishonest, dismissing charges against her as attacks by her enemies, attacks which do not matter.

How about a State Representative who tells the Milwaukee part of his district that he opposed the property tax relief proposal because it sent too much school aid to the suburbs and not enough to Milwau-

kee, but tells the suburban part of his district that he opposed it because not enough school aid was shifted to the suburbs? He receives the endorsement of both the teachers' union and the local taxpayers organization, and we re-elect him by a wide margin.

How similar the situation with the President is. Here is a man who is an inveterate prevaricator, and we simply shrug our shoulders and say it does not matter because he is doing a good job.

It is bad enough that the public believes that the President's private life is none of our business and we should simply ignore his transgressions. What people seem not to understand is that the President is a role model for all of us, but especially for our children.

No one is demanding that any elected official, let alone the President, be perfect. One or two affairs could be accepted, as everyone is human. But this is a man who has repeatedly engaged in adultery, clearly showing that he thinks there is nothing wrong with adultery. What does this teach our children?! If it is acceptable for the President to commit adultery, surely it is acceptable for them, they must think.

But as bad as the public's rejection of the facts and its ambivalence toward their significance is, worse yet is the public's acceptance of the lying and the cover-up. Even the most ardent supporter of the President must now accept that he lied to us in 1992 when he said he had not had an affair with Gennifer Flowers, since he has now admitted to that affair in a deposition.

And now, woman after woman is coming forward and alleging that she either had an affair with the President or that he tried to force himself on her, and yet we are supposed to believe that this is nothing more than a right-wing conspiracy to destroy the President.

How naive have we become? If there was no truth to Monica Lewinsky's story, why would Vernon Jordan have gone to such lengths, with the President's full knowledge according to him (although the President's account differs), to secure her a job, just as he secured Jim McDougal significant contracts when he refused to testify in the Whitewater investigation? But we are told that it does not matter anyhow.

When President Nixon covered up the relatively minor crime of spying on the Democrats, the country howled bloody murder. But here we have a President who has engaged in an extensive cover-up operation to hide the fact that he has personally enriched himself and his family through his position as Governor of Arkansas and that he is a relentless adulterer, and no one cares.

Following the lead of the President and

other elected officials, the public has concluded that lying is acceptable, that it is even a virtue. This is the message our children our learning.

We now live in a nation where we increasingly find it impossible to trust others, because lying has become a way of life for so many. I personally do not look forward to living in a society in which I will always have to look over my shoulder,

unable to trust anyone, even friends and loved ones.

Yet the bridge to which the President is leading us will bring us to just such a society in the 21st century. As long as our public officials convey the message to our children that dishonesty is a virtue, how can we expect any other result? The public is clearly wrong, whether or not they can see it through their bias: it matters!

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Board of Directors Moves Ahead

Milwaukee - On March 24, the Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center completed the two-month process of transitioning from the Interim Board to an elected Board of Directors.

The full board of twelve met and assumed the tasks and responsibilities of the the previous Interim Board. On the agenda were officer elections, increasing diversity on the board, member services, and progress toward selecting a community center site.

In January, the Center's membership elected eight members to the board. According to the Center's bylaws, nine members were needed to enact business. Five additional people were brought onto the board, and the twelve directors are Neil Albrecht, Randall Brown, Denise Cawley, Julie Ellsworth, Joshua Feyen, Naomi Guzman, Stephanie Hume, Doug Johnson, Steve Markowitz, Debbie Weill, John Wirth and Sheila Zelenski.

Additionally, the board elected "start up" officers to coordinate activities during the next 60 days. Board Officers include Sheila Zelenski and Neil Albrecht as Co-Presidents, Steve Markowitz as Treasurer and Naomi Guzman as Secretary.

"The election of officers for a sixty day period allows us to fully transition into our roles as board members, assess priori-

ties and issues, and then elect officer's into their full two year terms," said Sheila Zelenski, Co-President.

The Community Center's Board is continuing the process of selecting candidates for the remaining three board positions. This will complete the full compliment of 15 board members.

"We are very pleased with the current strength and expertise of the Board. We are committed to board diversity, and are actively reviewing several candidates of color to serve as directors," said Neil Albrecht, Center Co-President.

Planning for the development of a Milwaukee Community Center began two years ago when Ross Walker and Erv Uecker pledged a \$1,000/month contribution to challenge the Milwaukee LGBT community to develop a center. Numerous people emerged to accept the challenge and completed a comprehensive planning and feasibility study. This study continues to give the board direction regarding programming, site selection and community needs.

"We are very grateful to the 'pioneers' of this project, particularly former co-chairs Jim Schleif, Karen Gotzler, Leonel Marchan, ReDonna Rodgers and the entire Interim Board for building the road to a Community Center," Albrecht said.

LGBT Community Center to Sponsor Free Home Buying Seminar for LGBT Couples

Milwaukee—Buying a house seems straight forward; decide on a price range, select a location, and arrange for financing. Gay and Lesbian couples face other challenges; will they own the property jointly, will it be a 50/50 split or another percentage, and what happens if the relationship ends?

"First Comes Love..." is a financial, legal and estate planning seminar for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender couples considering buying a home and planning a future together.

This free seminar is Wednesday, April 22 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Shorewest Realtors, 4559 N. Oakland Avenue. While emphasis will be on the needs of LGBT couples, single people are welcome to participate in the seminar.

The seminar is sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and will be co-presented by Carol Busche, Senior Financial Advisor with American Express Financial Advisors, Ruth J. Irvings, Attorney at Law with Moertl, Wilkins & Campbell, S.C. and Jack Smith, Associate Vice President at Shorewest Realtors.

Busche, Irvings and Smith offer financial, legal and real estate experience, applied to LGBT couples interested in financing and buying a home.

Busche, a certified financial planner, thinks many couples aren't aware of the financial planning needed before buying a home.

"Couples need to prepare in advance for a home purchase. They need to be financially prepared for a down payment, fees and new monthly budgets," Busche said.

Attorney Irvings will discuss some of the legal aspects of purchasing a home.

"Much of our legal system, including home buying, is designed for heterosexual married couples. For LGBT couples, some legal questions don't arise until there is a problem or an unforeseen event. It's far better to address these issues up front rather than wait until there is a misunderstanding, dispute or even a lawsuit," Irvings said.

Smith will share his real estate experience including information about selecting a location, securing financing, obtaining necessary inspections and weighing amenities with needs.

"Purchasing a home should be a fun, comfortable, relaxed process, not to mention the fact that it should be a highly informed purchase. Part of my job is to help people become educated buyers," said Smith.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 230 members. The Center's mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Milwaukee area. This mission is supported by the vision to provide a home for organizations, businesses, culture and diversity; advocate for and provide programs and services that meet the needs of our communities; and educate the public and our communities about our lives. For more information, visit the Center's web site at www.mkelgbc.com or call the Center's Hotline at (414) 483-4710. Please note that our address has changed to PO Box 93278, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0278.

"First Comes Love"

a free financial, legal and estate planning seminar for LGBT couples and single people considering buying a home and planning for the future.

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 Milwaukee

WHEN: Wednesday
 April 22
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A Free Event Sponsored By



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Co-presented by Carol Busche, Senior
 Financial Advisor with American Express
 Financial Advisors, Ruth J. Irvings, Attorney
 at Law with Moertl, Wilkins & Campbell,
 S.C. and Jack Smith, Associate Vice
 President at Shorewest Realtors.

Out In Print



Interviews



Just OUT



“Cavedweller” Author, Dorothy Allison, Looks at a Writer’s Life from ‘On Top’

By Debbie Fraker

Five years after her first novel, Dorothy Allison is once again on tour with her second novel, and sixth book, **Cavedweller**. “It’s deliberately as different from **Bastard** as I can make it,” says Allison.

Bastard Out of Carolina, Allison’s first novel, brought her into the literary light with a nomination for a National Book Award, critical acclaim and a place on the bestseller lists. Before **Bastard**, there was **Trash**, a collection of short stories, and **The Women Who Hate Me**, a collection of poetry, from Firebrand Books, a small feminist press. Since **Bastard**, she has written **Skin: Talking About Sex, Class and Literature** (Firebrand) and **Two or Three Things I Know for Sure**, a compact powerhouse of a memoir (Dutton Penguin).

With the publication of **Cavedweller**, Allison has been lauded as an established author with a new book that holds up to the reputation of her earlier work. But she’s taking it all in stride. “I’m a feminist,” she explains. “I’ve got a concept of how notoriety works in this culture. I’m trying not to take it too seriously.”

Dutton/Penguin Books, her publisher, realizes they have a viable product on their hands. They are publicizing this book heavily, and carefully, doling out appearances and interviews to the highest bidders, large volume bookstores and high circulation publications.

But Allison is maintaining perspective here as well. “One reason this book tour is so long and difficult (31 stops in 25 cities in about two months) is because I fight them,” she says of her publisher.

While Dutton’s publicity department set up appearances at large bookstore chains like Barnes and Noble, Borders and Davis-Kidd, Allison lobbied to add appearances at smaller stores like Charis Books and More in Atlanta. “I’m starting to figure out that I can win on some,” she says. “I still find it hard to believe that I find myself in this weird position of making money.”

Since she is making money now, she is also giving some back to the community that got her early career off the ground.

Through the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, she has established a new “Independent Spirit Award.”

“We’re gonna give money away,” she says excitedly. The cash prize of \$5,000 will go to “an individual or group whose work with small presses and independent book stores has helped to sustain that enterprise,” according to Astraea’s publicity. Allison will give away the first award this May.

As the mother of a five-year-old son, a healthy income is all the more important to Allison. **Bazaar** magazine recently printed an essay that Allison wrote about her family living arrangement, which includes her partner Alix, son Wolf and Wolf’s dad, Dan.

“They asked me to write something for them, and I said, ‘Do you know who I am?’” she laughs. “This living together in an extended family is really working out.” At the time of this interview, Alix had joined Allison on the New York City leg of the tour while Dan kept Wolf in San Francisco. “It’s like getting married,” she says, explaining



Dorothy Allison

that everyone must pay attention to each other emotionally and negotiate responsibilities.

She has gotten flack from all sides; Lesbians, Gay men and straight people who don’t understand their arrangement. But it actually seems to be a wonderfully creative twist on the classic extended Southern family. “People ask me ‘what if Lesbians and Gay men start getting together to raise children?’ and I say ‘yeah, what if?’”

Allison’s current family has a significantly healthier growing environment than the

Please See Allison Page 21

Author of Farm Boys to Appear at Afterwords April 14th

Milwaukee--Afterwords is pleased to welcome acclaimed local author Will Fellows on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:30pm for a reading and signing to mark the paperback release of his best-selling **Farm Boys** (University of Wisconsin Press Pb \$14.95)

In this collection of three dozen interviews conducted with Gay men ranging in age from 24 to 84 who grew up in the rural Midwest, Will Fellows uncovering a much neglected aspect of the Gay experience. The stories chronicled in **Farm Boys** are at times touching and also deeply disturbing as they reminisce about the rigid gender roles common to farming communities, social isolation, racism, religious conservatism, and little information to help them make sense of their identities.

Will Fellows also gives us the other side of the coin: the deep and loving feelings these men have for the land, their families, communities, and churches. Told sometimes from urban exile, and sometimes from the middle of the field, all the interviews have a brave openness in common.

“Farm Boys breaks the silence that has fallen on Gay rural life.”—David Bergman, editor of **Men on Men 5: Best New Gay Fiction**

“It is impossible to convey the richness of this book.”—Lambda Book Report

Will Fellows grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm. In the course of his research for this book, he interviewed seventy-five Gay men from farm backgrounds. He lives with his partner near Milwaukee and works as an educator and writer. This is his first book.

Will Fellow’s appearance at Afterwords is free and open to all interested individuals. For further information concerning Will Fellows’ appearance or any Afterwords event, please call (414) 963-9089.

New on the Shelf Fiction

Murder on the Prowl by Rita Mae Brown, Bantam HC \$23.95

In their sixth collaboration, Brown and her tiger cat Sneaky Pie move locale from historic Virginia sites to St. Elizabeth’s, the exclusive private school in Crozet where philandering headmaster Roscoe Fletcher hopes to establish a new film department with financial assistance from director Maury McKinchie. When fake obituaries of the two are followed by their actual demise, it’s up to Crozet’s postmistress Mary Minor (“Harry”) Haristeen and her fellow, four-footed amateur detectives—tiger cat Mrs. Murphy, fat cat Pewter, and corgi Tee Tucker—to sniff out what’s rotten in St. Elizabeth’s.

The Page Turner by David Leavitt HoughtonMifflin HC \$24.00

In **The Page Turner**, Leavitt returns to the style and type of story that made him famous. Noted pianist Richard Kennington is a former child prodigy now entering middle age. While in Rome he meets and begins an affair with Paul Porterfield, a young man who is poised to follow in his professional footsteps. The affair is complicated by the fact that Pamela, Paul’s mother, is also interested in Richard. The affair is short-lived, but the story—which might remind you of an updated version of a sophisticated 1940s Hollywood romance such as *Intermezzo*—takes several startling turns when Richard, Paul, and Pamela discover the power of love and eroticism; it is more complicated than any of them imagined.

Non-Fiction

Fodor’s Gay Guide to the USA 2nd edition by Andrew Collins, Fodor’s Pb \$20.00

The first edition won raves for its witty, candid coverage. The second edition is even better, completely revised and updated and now including many more popular destinations (including Milwaukee and Madison). **Fodor’s Gay Guide to the USA** continues to be amongst the most informative and candid resource of its kind, directing the Gay and Lesbian traveler to the many hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, nightspots, and other attractions in which they’ll be welcomed.

The Indelible Alison Bechdel by Alison Bechdel Firebrand Books Pb \$16.95

In the **Indelible Alison Bechdel**, Ms. Bechdel takes the reader behind the pen and into the deepest, most innermost reaches of the psyche of the most quick-witted and incisive social commentator of all things “Lesbian”. Filled with material from Alison’s childhood, a calendar com-

pendium and plenty of Dykes to Watch Out For, **The Indelible Alison Bechdel** is perfect way to celebrate Alison Bechdel’s 15th year as lesbian cartoonist extraordinaire!

Afterwords Schedule

Monday, April 13th 7:30pm

Afterwords Reading Group
City and the Pillar by Gore Vidal
& *Giovanni’s Room* by James Baldwin

Tuesday, April 14th 7:30pm

Meet Will Fellows!!!

Author of *Farm Boys*

Wednesday, April 15th 7:00pm

Lesbian & Gay Writers’ Group
New members welcome!

Friday, April 17th 7-10pm

Free anonymous HIV testing
courtesy of BESTD Clinic

Wednesday, April 22nd 7:00pm

Lesbian Reading Group
As Francesca by Martha Baer

April Events A Room of One’s Own

April 13

Monday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., State Historical Society Auditorium. Dorothy Allison, author of National Book Award Finalist, **Bastard Out of Carolina**, will read from her new novel, **Cavedweller**.

April 19

Sunday, April 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m.; Poets Vol. II, readings by Ann Shaffer, Angie Rydell, Eve Robillard, Susan Godwin and Elise Rose in the coffee house.

April 24

Friday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., Author Ellyn Bache will read from her coming of age novel, **The Activist’s Daughter**.

April 26

Sunday, April 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m.; Poets Vol. III, readings by Gay Davidson-Zielske, Elody Samuelson, Alison Townsend and Karen Schultz in the coffee house.

April 30

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., Author Nancy Manahan will read from **On My Honor: Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience**.

All bookstore events are free and open to the public. *A Room Of One’s Own* is located at 307 W. Johnson St., Madison. (608) 257-7888.

Dorothy Allison Appearances

Madison

April 13

A Room Of One’s Own w/Canterbury Books

7:00 p.m. at the State Historical Society Auditorium

Milwaukee

May 4

Harry S. Schwartz Bookstore

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Milwaukee's Gay Softball League Is a Very Cool Thing

Cool Things
by I.C. Cool

Milwaukee--Ah yes, Spring. The chirping of the birds, the fresh smell of renewal, the flowers, and the greening of the trees are all facets of one of my favorite times of the year.

For a growing number of people into cool things, Spring is also the time to oil up their gloves, clean off their spikes (as in sports shoes not high heels), work on their warm up routines and get ready to play softball in Milwaukee's Saturday Soft Ball League, the SSBL.

So you don't think playing softball is cool? Well you are wrong ei nerdo! The SSBL literally reeks of coolness. I mean where else can you spend some great times with some hot butch men, wear cool looking uniforms and make tons of new friends from local environs and from around the country?

Plus you get the chance to get some exercise and for many players, an

opportunity to visit other cities and be cool there too. What could be cooler than that?

Starting on Saturday, May 2, the league will begin a nine week schedule of fun, frolic and ball. The SSBL plays at Sijan field in Bay View. Don't have a team to play with? No problem call the league hotline at (414) 454-9204 to sign up.

The SSBL has been around for over 20 years now. It is one of the oldest Gay softball leagues in the country and one of the oldest organizations in Wisconsin. Over the years literally hundreds of people have made life-long friendships and more than a few have found the love of their life while trodding the base paths.

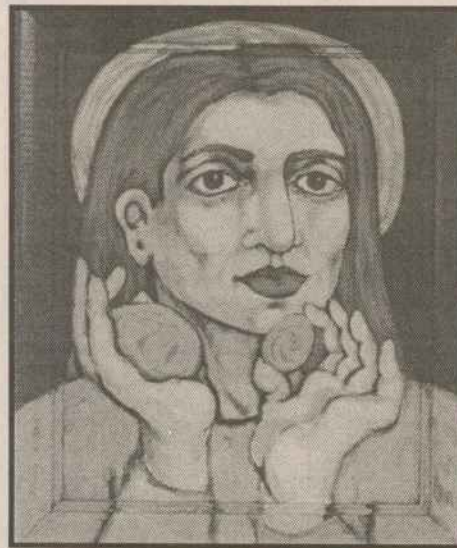
A number of players have also used the league to help themselves come out of the closet. Anything that helps with that process has to be ultra cool.

Don't let its age give you the idea that the SSBL is stale and stodgy. Far from it,

Please See Cool Things Page 21

Three Lesbian Artists Boldly Blaze an Art Showing

Madison--Three Madison artists: Gail Hutchinson, Jackie Ritke and Constance Tenhawks, explore the unlimited possibilities of creation through their paintings. The show, "The World Egg: Three Visions on a Theme," can be seen at the Rose Chiro-



A painting by Jackie Ritke

practic Atrium, 2158 Atwood Avenue in Madison, April 24 through May 22, 1998. The opening reception will be on Friday, April 24 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Hutchinson portrays the figure in the act of being alive. Her subjects dance across the canvas with swirling energy.

Ritke's paintings speak of the mystery of relationships. Each piece creates a narrative story with the promise of deep meanings.

Tenhawks paints what can be seen by the mind's eye. She uses pattern and bright color engaging the viewer with an optical and tactile delight.

In viewing the world as an egg, each artist portrays her own vision of this universal symbol. Through the vision of artists the world is created. The exhibit's brightly

colored paintings celebrate the world's potential.

Ruthie to Do Show at M&M Club

Wisconsin Light's own Ruthie will be taking time out from her jet-set schedule to make a public appearance at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water in Milwaukee. The show will be held on Saturday, April 11 and begins at 10:00 p.m.

As Miss Manners would say, Ruthie has undertaken this "most strenuous obligation" only after "due deliberation." She did have prior commitments, you know. For example, there was that little royal soiree at the Palace to attend for which Ruthie had purchased a 100 caret diamond.

Her Majesty, however, with characteristic gracious condescension, understanding the necessity of the show at M's (and not wishing to be upstaged), speaking with regal words, gave Ruthie her royal permission to attend. This was given under the sign manual, a rare honor.

Ruthie thanked Her Majesty, flipped her the stone and departed on the Prince's jet—with the Prince, he of the compulsive desire to be her knickers.

The cause, let it be said, for which Ruthie comes to M's is that of the Possum Queen Campaign, one of the finest charity benefits in the state.

The Queen was invited, but she declined. There would be so many queens there, Her Majesty said, how could you tell her from all the rest?

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Angela Iannone as Maria Callas. Photo by John Urban.

Curtain Calls

Boulevard Theater Has a Real Winner in "Glengarry Glen Ross"

By J. R. Baker

Over the last few years, the Boulevard Ensemble has presented a great variety of plays ranging from Shakespeare to Moliere to modern playwrights such as the recent successful production of Milwaukee native Michael Neville's *School Girls in Uniform*. Now we have the Boulevard presenting the stunning, angst-ridden comedy, *Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet, which opened on April 3rd for a month's run.

Glengarry Glen Ross gives us the world of small-time real estate salesmen and the story of their successes and failures, frustration and treachery, a world that fits nicely into the limited playing area of the Boulevard's storefront theater.

Dana Fralick has created a simple, but suitable design for the show. Act One is a Chinese restaurant with two tables, chairs and some Chinese décor. No distractions here as the audience concentrates on the angry confrontations and the scheming and dealing that goes on among the participants.

Act Two is set in the outer office of the real estate company. There is a real and very usable door centered at the back of the scene leading into the Manager's office, some chairs and a few pieces of office equipment and that's it. But again, it's what's going on between the characters that counts and even the unseen and unheard beyond the office door (as a policeman supposedly interviews several of the salesmen concerning a robbery at the office the previous night) engages our attention.

Mark Bucher's company has consistently attracted some of the best actors in the Milwaukee area and this production is no exception. All the performers acquitted themselves well. Under the expert guidance of Timothy X. Tray, they spoke their emotionally charged lines realistically and interacted quite believably.

The play had an additional interesting twist in that the director cast three of the leading salesman roles with women. An interesting choice and, as it turned out, a good one.

Michelle Waide as the older and most seasoned salesperson is terrific as hard-bitten and frustrated Shelly. And not to be outdone, Jacque Troy plays her younger and more successful sales competitor with great intensity, intelligence and sexual suggestiveness. And Georgie, the third salesperson of this trio, is realistically played as very troubled, unsure and self-defeating by Janet Riordan.

The rest of the cast includes: Rodd Walker, Kevin M. Morrow, Rich Townsend and Michael Chmiel. They all make this comedy both entertaining and disturbing as we watch ethics and morality take a beating, while the oft abused Office Manager (Michael Chmiel) tries to make some sense and order out of this world of moral mayhem.

All in all, this comedy is well worth seeing and will be running four times a week (Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) until May 3rd at Milwaukee's Boulevard Ensemble Theater, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. Call (414) 672-6019.

Melanec's Wheelhouse Theater Presents Premiere of "Nunsense Jamboree"

Milwaukee--Melanec's Wheelhouse Dinner Theater announces the Milwaukee Premiere of *Nunsense Jamboree*. This is the third chapter of the Nunsense story.

This delightful Musical Comedy comes to the intimate setting of Dinner Theater on the river, April 12, Easter Sunday for an open ended run.

This fun piece of musical theater will draw together a wide array of National and Local talent. Heading the list of National talent is Danny Goggin. He is the Author and Director of the *Nunsense Trilogy*.

Goggin has been directing *Nunsense Jamboree* all over the country and brings it to a Milwaukee stage for the first time at Melanec's Wheelhouse. The set is first class with Barry Axtell from New York doing the design. You can see Mr. Axtell's work daily on the Soap "The Guiding Light," for which he has been nominated twice for Emmy Awards for his set designs.

The many dance numbers are choreographed by Felton Smith from Boston. Felton is the Original Choreographer of *Nunsense I and II*, and has done *Jamboree* all over the country.

He is very excited to be in Milwaukee working with this talented cast. It is a Marquee on National talent supported by a sparkling ensemble of local singers and dancers.

Heading the cast as the lead Sister Amnesia is West Allis native Laurene Lembke. She is no stranger to the Wheelhouse. Her delightful voice was featured at Dinner Theater as Sr. Amnesia in *Nunsense I*, and more recently Laurene wows the Wheelhouse audience as "Patsy Cline." Some of her other credits include *Damn Yankees*, *The King and I*, and *No, No Nanette*.

Musical strength is added to the show by a trio of very talented performers from St. Francis.

Tami Rentmeester portrays Sr. Wilhelm, Head of Nursing. Tami has performed in *Nunsense I and II*. She has also performed in many other musicals on Milwaukee stages like, *The Sunset Playhouse*, and the *Milwaukee Opera Company*.

Also hailing from the St. Francis area is Linda Stieber in the role of Sr. Robert Anne. Linda recently appeared at Melanec's Dinner Theater in *Lend me a Tenor*. Some of her other credits are appearing in *The King and I*, and *Midsummer Nights Dream*.

Rounding out the St. Francis Trio is the musical talents of Mark Eagon on fiddle. Mark has a Masters Degree at the University of Memphis. He was recently heard at Melanec's in *Always Patsy Cline*, and has performed with such superstars as Tony Bennett and Smokey Robinson. The novice in the convent is Debbie Kissinger as Sr. Leo. Debbie is from West Allis and has appeared regularly at Melanec's Wheelhouse in the *Murder Mystery's*.

More local talent can be found in the Musical Director and Pianist Suzane Mallet from Greenfield in this production of *Nunsense Jamboree*. Suzane initiated Musical comedy at Melanec's with the presentation of *Nunsense I* and most recently she was the musical Director for *Always Patsy Cline*.

The troupe is rounded out with a Priest. Fr. Virgil is played in the person of Scott Oehme Sorenson.

His recent roles include parts in *Guys and Dolls*, as well as *The Three Penny Opera*, at the Skylight Opera Theater.

Melanec's Wheelhouse is located at 2178 N. Riverboat Road in Milwaukee. For tickets and other information, call (414) 264-6060.

Skylight Theatre's "A Chekhov Trilogy" is a Wildly Funny Good Time

By J. R. Baker

Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theater is presenting *A Chekhov Trilogy*, a trio of one-act operas based on turn-of-the-century Russian short stories by Anton Chekhov. To this reviewer, composer/librettist Richard Wargo brilliantly succeeds in the first and third acts.

The middle one, "A Visit to the Country," was a bit less successful as opera per se because it really is a short, musicalized play where the dialogue seems more dominant than the music.

Nevertheless, Wargo, with the help of a beautiful scenic and lighting design for the country estate, excellent costumes and some fine performances from the actors, succeeded in creating a summer evening in Chekhov's decaying world.

The first act, "The Seduction of a Lady," is based in part on Neil Simon's adaptation of "Boa Constrictor and a Rabbit." It proved to be delightful and entertaining theater indeed. Here were lots of comedy and laughs with the music played with grace by a trio and sung with pleasing tone and wit by the Performers. Irena (the rabbit) performed by Alicia Berneche, was a delight as the young wife about to be betrayed by her passions and the would-be seducer (the Boa) played by James L. Brown. Brown was a bit young to be convincing as a worldly roue. Nevertheless, he sang and acted the part well.

However, what really propelled this act to comic heights was the grand piano created by Peter Dean Beck, the set designer. This clever bit of machinery could not only be a piano, but turned vertically, became part of a ball room wall, horizontally, it becomes a pool table, then a bed where Irena and her foolishly duped husband, Nicky (played and sung with pa-

nache by Richard Lewis) retire for the evening.

The third act, "The Music Shop," was the best of all. It was a wonderful musical farce that has Ivan (played by Marc Molomot) coming into the shop (loaded with purchases that he has bought for his wife), with the purpose of getting a song that his opera wife must sing at the forthcoming wedding of a Russian prince. But he can't remember the title and the music shop is practically destroyed during the hectic and zany search for the right song.

Both proprietor (Michael Sokol) and his shop girl helper (Wren Harrington) grab song sheets and sing bits and pieces of everything under the sun. So we hear snatches of opera, Russian folk songs, oratorios, songs from music halls and theaters in a wild and wacky profusion while the paranoid Ivan fantasizes the angry appearance of his wife (Jennifer Clark) in a series of wildly funny confrontations if he should fail to find the right song.

When the right song is finally found, we see the roof lift up and the wife, now an angel instead of a terrifying Brunhilde, floating above the shop and playing a harp. And then the final twist of this marvelous farce is that Ivan has only enough money for his train trip home, but promises to return to pay for the sheet music the following Monday. The owner, who has been driven nearly mad by seeing his shop ("the finest music shop in all Russia") reduced to shambles and nearly destroyed, shoves Ivan out, barricades the door and, while the curtain descends and the audience laughs heartily, sinks to the floor bemoaning his fate.

A Chekhov Trilogy will be playing at the Skylight Opera Theater until April 12. For tickets, call (414) 291-7800.

Gutzman Brings the Humor and Pathos of "The Shadow Box" to the Stage

Milwaukee--Dale Gutzman, local producer and director whose work has often included Gay themes, has chosen for his next production the Pulitzer Prize winning drama, *The Shadow Box* by Michael Cristofer. The witty and moving play takes place in a cancer hospice and follows the stories of three patients and their loved ones.

The central story of the piece revolves around a Gay writer, Brian, living out his last days with his young lover, Mark. Brian and Mark are shocked to say the least, when Beverly, Brian's ex-wife shows up to "comfort" him. Mark is jealous of Beverly's attentions and of her rapport with Brian. He also wants Brian's last days to be calm and peaceful. Brian is forced to teach both Mark and Beverly, not how to die, but how to live. Their story is warm and witty and will also bring more than a few tears.

The second story concerns a middle class blue collar worker trying to bring his wife and son out of denial about his condition.

The third story features Agnes, a woman who has dedicated her life to caring for her invalid mother who has always loved her other child better. Agnes is forced to confront her true feelings about her mother and her own low self-esteem.

The three stories are interwoven with characters from one story walking through the others and the entire evening is orchestrated into a seamless tapestry of love and learning. This is a play that will leave

you with lots to think about and lots to discuss.

As usual, Gutzman has assembled one of the most talented casts around. Karl Miller, who has appeared in forty Gutzman productions, plays the Gay writer, Brian. A young newcomer, Phil D'Amore, who played Guiteau in Gutzman's production of *Assassins* to great acclaim, appears as Mark, Brian's ex-hustler lover.

Lisa Dames who starred earlier this year in *The Goodbye Girl* for Gutzman, appears as Brian's ex-wife, Beverly.

The most difficult aspect of the production for Karl, Mark and Lisa is getting used to the physical intimacy involved. First the actors must get comfortable with each other as actors and then extend that comfort into the bodies of their characters.

The rest of the cast includes Lawrence Lukasavage, veteran of 25 Gutzman productions, Janet Livingston, who just appeared as Sarah Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Mary Henrickson, Gutzman's managing director, Cathy Simerman, and making his first appearance in a Dale Gutzman show, 17 year-old Eric Nelson.

The Shadow Box will be performed three times only: April 24 and 25 at 8:00 p.m. and April 26 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 with student and senior discounts. Performances are at Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Public Library, 733 N. 8th St. Call (414) 327-3552.

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THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... The good news is that George Prentice has made a full recovery from his gall bladder operation and is back on the prowl. He told me that the surgery put him a week or two behind schedule in the remodeling project. The bad news is that I still can't seem to beat him at bar dice.

Fannies is still not open. Owner Sharon says that the pesky electric problems are almost resolved.

We hear that they don't have any electrical problems at **Kirby's Klub**. Bar manager Jim told me that they have installed a new lighting system.

In other good news the SSBL says that its Poker run netted almost \$800.00. No bad. Congrats to Rodney for a good job. By the way, the league is actively recruiting. You can sign up by calling the SSBL hotline at (414) 454-9204.

We have heard persistent rumors that porno star, Chase Hunter, who appeared at our "Decade of Light Gala" last November is coming back to town (He must miss me!) but we have been unable to pin down a date for his appearance.

We certainly hope that Mr. Hunter again graces us with his presence.

I am sad to say that **Walker's Point Café** may well be on its last legs. At press time it was still open. But owner, George has told people at several places that it would soon close.

Recaps... I took in John McGivern's show at the Milwaukee Rep. As usual he was hysterical. Later that evening I had a fabulous time at **La Cage** watching the Showcase and dancing to the tunes put on by that fab tag team of Dave and Tanya. Like the rest of you I can't wait for the Dance Dance Dance to open up. There is a big need for more dance floor space.

I also a great time doing my biweekly bar hop down Second Street. As usual **The Ball Game** was full of lively conversation and interesting people. **Cest Le Vie** had a enjoyable male dancer show going on. **Dish** was packed with women and men. This really cool bar is still growing in popularity.

Speaking of popularity **In Between** also seemed to very popular that night. The bar was full of hunky guys having a good time. Of course I had to stop at **Fluid** where I saw my good friend Al Thomas and his entourage. It's always a pleasure to see the former owner of the Triangle. Fluid is doing quite well.

The current owner of the **Triangle** wasn't there when I stopped in, but the bar's newest bartender Lana St. James was. I did a double take when I saw him behind the bar.

I also stopped in at **The Boot Camp** for its weekly Club Night. No I didn't win again, but that's okay, it was still a great time. I love watching Sy make deals.

Speaking of the leather scene, a nice crowd was on hand at **The Eagle** the evening that I stopped in there. The Shaft was hopping and there were plenty of people in the main bar area too.

This Is It was also real crowded the evening I was there. As usual there were plenty of folks to talk to and great music on the juke box. Joe's got all his Easter decorations up. It's good to see them, good to see him maintain tradition.

Coming Up... On **Saturday, April 11th** you can find me at the **M & M Club** for its "Trailer Trash Revue. This Possum Queen Benefit features Sage La Rue and our very own Wisconsin Light Queen of Trailer Trash, **Ruthie**.

Wednesday April 15 is a big day, no I am not talking about it being tax day. It is the day that the crown jewels of South Water Street Docks Anne Marie and the Infamous Topaz will have their big possum queen bash. The party starts at 6:00 and goes until 10 PM and there will be free beer and pizza.

Friday April 17 has two events that I want to be at, both are benefits for worthy causes. In Madison, it's The United's

Annual Wine Tasting and Jazz benefit at Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

In Milwaukee it's the **Street Beat Benefit** at Survival Revival, a benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. Street Beat stars two of my favorite performers, Sage La Rue and BJ Daniels. Since I can't be at both, I will probably flip a coin on Friday morning to decide which one I am going to attend. Heads or tails, I can't lose.

Saturday April 18, I will head over the Kenosha's Club 94 for its Miss Club '94 At Large Contest. Kelli Jo Klein, Jessica Anne More and Josie Lynn will be on hand.

Monday, April 20 I will be at **In Between** for its weekly Balloon Toss. The place gives away up to \$350 every Monday evening. I haven't won any of that cash, but I have seen plenty of others who have.

Wednesday, April 22 I will start out at **This Is It** for some good drinks and some great conversation. Then it will be off to **La Cage** for its fab Super Bust.

Friday, April 24 I may head up to Green Bay to see the Portfolio men (provided they promise to keep their hands off me). They will be performing at Za's. Otherwise I may do my Milwaukee Dance bar crawl. I will start out at **The Eagle** which boasts

of dance floor full of hot sweaty men. Then it will be over to **Dish**, followed by a stop at **La Cage**.

Saturday April 25 I will take in the Cream City Chorus concert. Don't you miss it, the Chorus needs and deserves your support.

Sunday April 26 will find me in Madison where I plan on visiting all my friends at

Kirby's Klub, the Shamrock and Manoeuvres.

Well that's it for now folks. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud.

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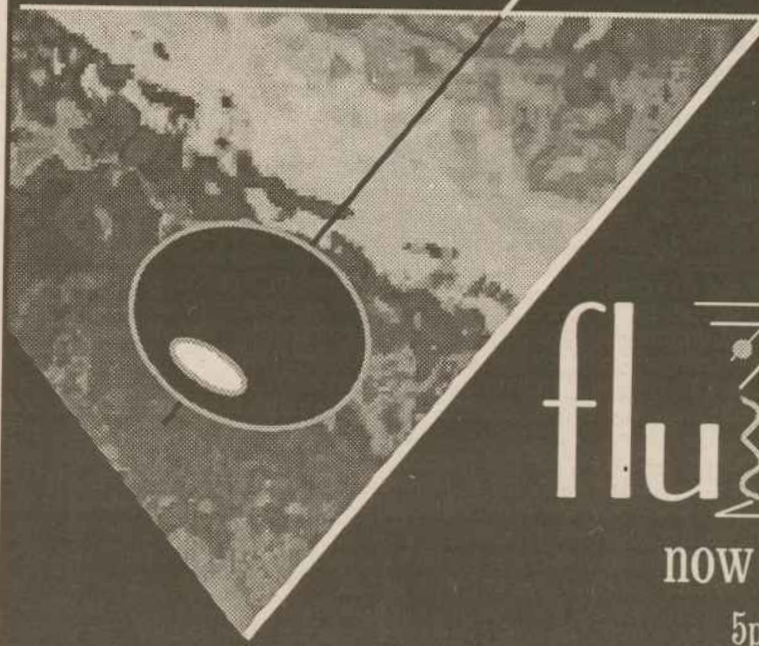
FRI, MAY 1 SAT, MAY 2 SUN, MAY 3

6-10pm Registration at Just Us	1-4pm Two-Step & Swing Workshop at Hyatt	11am Brunch at Just Us to 2pm
7-10pm Just Us Fish Fry	7pm to 6th Annual Country Dance Gala at War Memorial/Art Museum	12-4pm Line Dance Swap followed by Open Dancing at Just Us
10am Welcome to Milwaukee Champagne Party	12:30am Country Dancing at Just Us to 2am	
10pm Boots & Boxers to 2am Ball at Just Us		

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Alfred Hitchcock's Films Remain Mysterious, Frightening and Intriguing

By Steve Stavron

Part I

Alfred Hitchcock's reputation has proved to be more of an enigma to film historians than any of the tantalizing maneuvers in his most famous suspense films. The extreme popularity of his films within the limitations of the suspense genre has provided a source of frustration to critics who feel a need to rationalize Hitchcock's placement at the very forefront of the century's great directors.

The structural simplicity and the transparent clarity of his greatest films seem almost a challenge to ferret out "hidden meanings." Not even Orson Welles or Ingmar Bergman have been subjected to the endless scrutiny afforded Hitchcock's films. It seemed imperative to justify their growing reputation in the face of adverse snobism, which cannot conciliate his popular appeal with the demands of "art."

Hitchcock's films have been overanalyzed by historians as if they were decoding hieroglyphics. Cinemaddicts rhapsodize over *Vertigo*, *Psycho*, *Rear Window*, *Shadow of a Doubt*, *North by Northwest*, as if they were writing blank verse.

Amusingly, film historians, including a bevy of outstanding French directors [i.e. Francois Truffaut who lionized the aging Hitchcock in a published series of taped interviews] even try to rationalize Hitchcock's late inferior works: *Marnie*, *Torn Curtain*, as masterpieces of a declining genius, with endless references to even subtler undertexts which they attribute to the director's concealed psyche.

Hitchcock's most detailed biographer, Donald Spoto, in his fascinating study *The Dark Side of Genius*, becomes an embarrassed apologetic for Hitchcock's "darker" obsessions, which he examines in great detail, citing in particular food, heavy drinking, beautiful blond actresses, sexual frustration [Hitchcock though married and father of a daughter, was celibate for over 30 years], bathroom humor, cruel practical jokes, and sundry other insecurities stemming from lifelong obesity.

However, Spoto overreaches his otherwise brilliant analysis by assigning aberrant catharsis to some of Hitchcock's famous scenes. The double roles in *Vertigo* and the mother-son duality in *Psycho* become symbols of Hitchcock's dual personality as do the good-evil characters in *Strangers on a Train*. Not so. They were just part of the story. Neither was Hitchcock schizophrenic or symbolically abstruse.

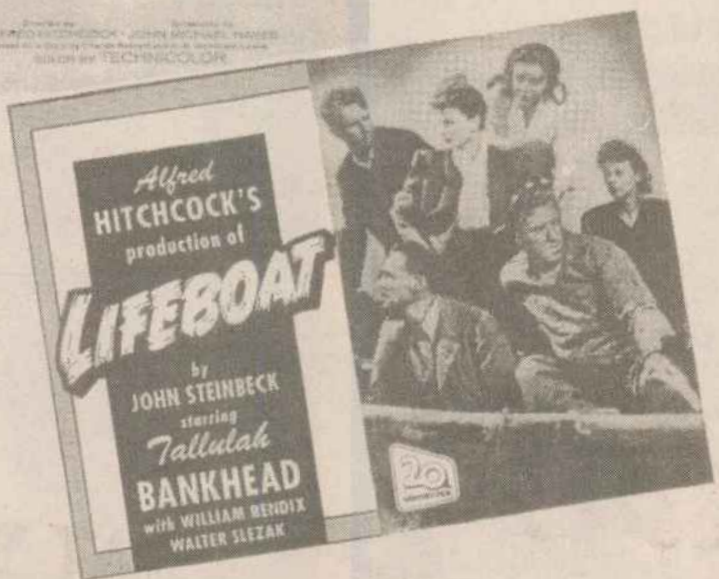
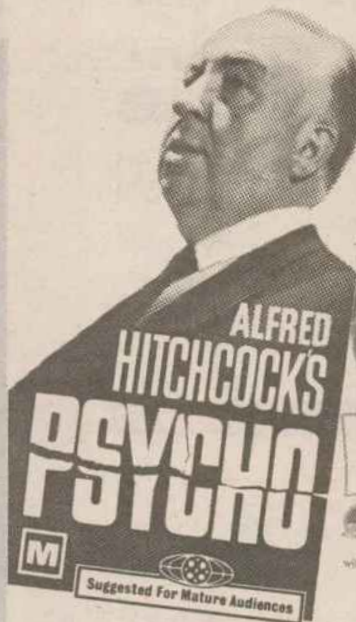
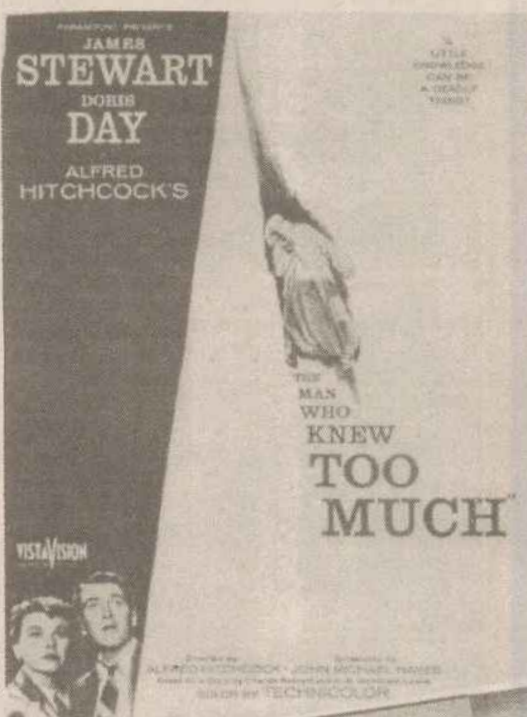
It's always dangerous to attribute personal characteristics of an artist to his work on a one to one basis. Whatever emotional baggage Hitchcock carried, it was always ameliorated by his eclectic sense of what was cinematically aesthetic, by his discrete use of the camera as an unobtrusive purveyor of mood and by a quietly wicked sense of humor which prevails all his major films. Hitchcock's films were never erratic or pathologically disjointed for extreme effect. His best films were extremely well integrated and deceptively low-keyed to underscore the strength of his "surprise" element.

Nor was Hitchcock one to self-consciously privatize his idiosyncrasies. In the manner of the introverted neurotic. Although very aware of the outward propriety expected of a good-natured corpulent individual [at times weighing over 350lbs] he had few intimate friends, but the macabre humor of his personal introductions added sparkle to his TV series later in the 60's. He himself designed the silhouetted profile logo which became his standard trademark.

Whatever Hitchcock's "dark side" may have contributed to his artistic conceptualization, the results on screen were always elegantly -and tastefully- original and accessible. Admittedly fascinated with murder and unsuspected danger, Hitchcock's creation of the famous shower scene in *Psycho*, the crop-dusting scene in *North by Northwest*, the rigor mortised corpse in the sack of potatoes episode in *Frenzy*, the hero and heroine handcuffed together in *Thirty Nine Steps*, are so delicately and minutely choreographed—each shot adding minuscule significance to the previous one—that the sequences are almost erotically enjoyable—but with a guilty smile.

Hitchcock could make us laugh at murder or the threat of it by his seemingly casual sleight-of-hand style laced with humor. Every shot in the shower scene in *Psycho* functionally combines terror with perverse delight.

But herein lies part of the Hitchcock



mystique that so tantalizes his analysts who feel it necessary to justify Hitchcock as a serious artist. He uses simple narrative camera movements unobtrusively to progress his all-seeing eye into unanticipated territory with the greatest economy. His films are structurally organic. Nothing is unnecessarily sensational. Hitchcock's best films deal with suspense, not the solution of who-dunnits. His camera work is sophisticated for its apparent effortless-ness. He never "intellectualizes" the narrative beyond its content, which is why Hitchcock films are always enjoyable. Their profundity lies in guiding the suspense motif into heretofore unsuspected psychological channels, most notably in *Vertigo*. Many distinguished directors call attention to the complexity of their cinematographic technique, but in Hitchcock there is a curious serenity and calm to the camera movements. The quiet layering of individual frames, deceptively peppered with humor, as in *Rear Window* deflects our sense of anticipation, but creates a subliminal psychic "unsteadiness" conjuring half-forgotten fears and irrational dreads which seem to have no logical basis in our adult psyche. Part of Hitchcock's universality is his ability to invoke the perpetual insecurity of our childhood fears.

Biographer Spoto places much emphasis on the strength of Hitchcock's images, but no single image prevails in isolation. Hitchcock works in terms of sequences. His camera angles, seemingly routine, sneak up on you and finally gather momentum as they approach a climactic point. The apparent simplicity of his technique—and his careful planning well in advance of shooting—transforms his films into strong unified entities which surreptitiously unravel forgotten routes to unpredictable and unfeasible fears long since reasoned away but which are somehow retrieved and disturbingly magnified for us.

In *North by Northwest* a man is suddenly kidnapped for no reason; a small prop plane becomes deadly; in *Psycho* the friendly motel keeper gradually becomes ominous; we dread our first shower after seeing the film initially; in *Shadow of a Doubt*, the adored uncle is a serial killer. False accusations and threats of imprisonment abound in *Saboteur*, *The Wrong Man*, *Frenzy*, *I Confess*. Even the famous Hitchcock kisses have a taste of the ominous.

The first, in *Spellbound*, is followed by a softly fused shot of an infinite series of opening doors—very memorable, but disturbing. The kisses in *Vertigo* and *Notorious* are passionate but curiously desperate and joyless, circled by an ominously

suspicious camera.

Unlike other directors, his films were planned on paper well in advance with scenarios so detailed that hundreds of camera angles are specified down to the lens setting. Hitchcock's films were so carefully integrated in the pre-planning stage, that Hitchcock himself often became bored with the actual shooting and felt almost superfluous on the set, being known to doze off during filming, especially after a heavy lunch. His sense of detailing included selecting every item of clothing and hair styling especially for the several actresses Ingrid Bergman, Grace Kelly, Vera Miles, and Tippi Hedron with whom he became enamored. His films, therefore, are lean with very few padded transitional sequences and always unpredictably witty, as in the elevator scene in *North by Northwest*.

Hitchcock's professional career began with surprising ease in 1920 at the age of 21. British films were regarded as plebeian pastimes for the under classes and were greatly underfinanced compared to the American and German motion picture industry. Young Alfred, with his talent for sketching and a background in art and advertising, had no difficulty getting employment designing title cards and simple scenarios for silent films. With little competition, his talents soon led him into directing—a role for which he had no particular ambition.

His first big success was *The Lodger* [1926], but his early silent and early sound films [*Blackmail* 1929 and *Murder* 1930] seems rudimentary and technically crude by today's standards, due largely to budgetary restrictions.

His better sound films—*The Man Who Knew Too Much* [1934] and *Secret Agent* [1936]—in which Peter Lorre's erratic but interesting performances were influenced by his cocaine habit—only suggest Hitchcock's later style with its unique idiosyncrasies.

These early movies include *Saboteur* [1936] in which the wife of the saboteur fully realizes her husband's guilt by watching a cartoon from behind a movie screen in which an arrow kills "Cock-Robin."

Much better yet was the famous *Thirty Nine Steps* [1935] in which Madeleine Carroll and Robert Donat are handcuffed together while pursued by foreign spies over the Scottish moors at night. Off screen, Hitchcock left them bound together for hours, claiming he had lost the key—one of his diabolical little jokes.

But *The Lady Vanishes* [1938] abounded with Hitchcock humor and clinched his international appeal. The story is air tight. An old lady disappears on a train and very one denies having seen her except a young woman. The tension of the intrigue is offset and compounded by two stuffy Londoners solely preoccupied by Wimpleton scores, plus a hilarious search for foreign spies among a magician's paraphernalia in the baggage car. The film remains very watchable today.

At this juncture in his career, Hitchcock was imported to Hollywood under contract to David O. Selznick.

Rebecca [1940] was Hitchcock's first American film and remains a classic, although Hitchcock tended to underestimate it, probably because he and Selznick had conflicting views. The producer wanted to remain faithful to du Maurier's excellent novel and [rightly] rejected Hitchcock's first proposed treatment. But the final results on the screen are first rate. The combination of Hitchcock's haunting cinematographic mysteriousness and Selznick's sweeping, but detailed sense of dramatic Romanticism produced a superb melodrama with production values at last worthy of Hitchcock's talents. It won an Academy Award at a time when—unlike today—that honor designated true movie-making distinction.

TO BE CONTINUED

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Don't miss this benefit for the Possum Queen Contest.

MONDAY APRIL 13

DOROTHY ALLISON IN MADISON

Noted author Dorothy Allison will be appearing in Madison at 7:00 PM at the State Historical Society Auditorium. The appearance is sponsored by Room of Ones Own and Canterbury Books.

TUESDAY APRIL 14

WILL FELLOWS AT AFTERWORDS BOOKS IN MILWAUKEE

Will Fellows, author of "Farm Boys" will be at Afterwords Book store and espresso bar for a 7:30 appearance. Afterwords is located at 2710 Murray, Milwaukee.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15

POSSUM QUEEN BENEFIT AT SOUTH WATER STREET DOCKS

South Water Street Docks located at 354 East National Ave will be the site for an exciting benefit for its Possum Queen candidates Aqua Marie and the Infamous Topaz.

Free beer and pizza will be served up while it lasts. The party starts at 6 and runs until 10PM.

FRIDAY APRIL 17

WINE TASTING AND JAZZ BENEFIT FOR MADISON'S UNITED

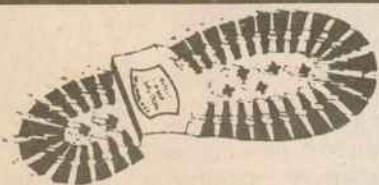
The fourth annual wine tasting and jazz benefit for The United will be held from 7:00 to 10:00 at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison.

This elegant affair includes wine tasting, a cash bar, jazz by "Expressions", and Hors D' Ouvres. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be obtained at Borders Bookstore, East and West Community Pharmacy, Home Environment, A Room of One's Own and the United.

STREET BEAT AT SURVIVAL REVIVAL

Just in time for Spring the annual Street Beat evening at the Survival Revival Resale Shop, located at 246 E. Chicago Street, Milwaukee. The fun features the Sister Cashbox Revue and also stars BJ Daniels, Sage La Rue and comic bill Finn. Tickets are just \$4.00 at the door. Show time is 8:00.

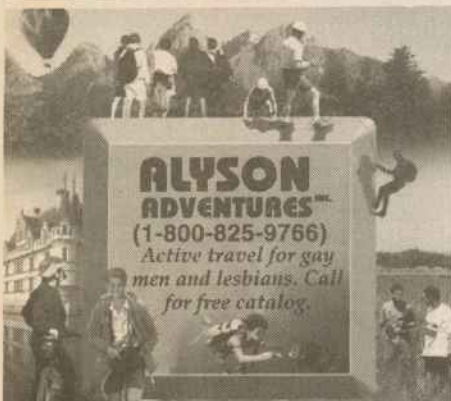
Street Beat and all sales at Survival Revival benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project.



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MISS CLUB 94 AT LARGE PAGEANT IN KENOSHA

Kenosha's Club 94 will be the site of a great show featuring Kelli Jo Klein, Josie Lynn and Jessica Ann More as part of the annual Miss Club 94 At Large Pageant.

Entry forms are available at the Club which is located at 9001 120th Street, Kenosha.

FRIDAY APRIL 24

PORTFOLIO MEN AT ZA'S

The Portfolio Men will make a return appearance at Za's, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay. Be on hand for all the Friday night excitement at Za's!

SATURDAY APRIL 25

SSBL SOFTBALL CLINIC

The annual Saturday Softball League Clinic to help teach new players the fundamentals of the game will be held at Milwaukee's Sijan Field beginning at 1:00.

CREAM CITY CHORUS PRESENTS

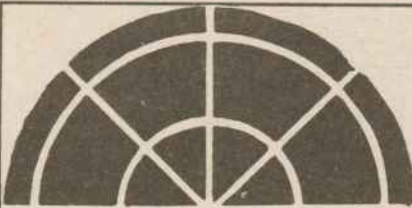
The Cream City Chorus presents its annual Spring Concert at St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee. The evening's program will include folk songs, spirituals and other selections.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Advance tickets are available at the M & M Club, BESTD Clinic and

Afterwords Books.

BREW CITY BEARS NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP

It will be Bear Hunting time at the Boot Camp located at 209 E. National Ave, Milwaukee. The monthly Brew City Bear Club night gets underway at about 10:00. Don't miss your chance to bag a big one.



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OUT on Film



D.W. Griffith's Epic 'Intolerance' to Be Screened at Oriental Theater

D. W. Griffith's 1916 epic silent film *Intolerance* has been recognized as one of the most influential films in the history of cinema and one of Griffith's most powerful works.

The film portrays the persistence and destructiveness of intolerance throughout human history, a theme that, unfortunately, remains relevant to this day. It weaves together four stories: the destruction of Babylon by the Persians in 538 BC, the crucifixion of Christ, the massacre of Huguenots in 16th century Paris, and a "modern" story set in the slum of an American mill town.

Although the events in these stories often involve massive sets and large numbers of people, the cost of intolerance in human misery is depicted by personal tragedies of individuals. The budget for the film was the largest to date.

The most famous of the enormous sets, a Babalonian city, was one mile long, three hundred feet tall, populated by thousands of extras.

Intolerance began on a modest scale in 1914 in the form of Griffith's then unreleased film *The Mother and the Law*, a story about the cruelty of a pious factory owner and the pain he inflicted on his employees. Griffith felt that this film did not make a strong enough statement against prejudice and cruelty, so he created *Intolerance* by adding the three other stories.

Each of the stories could stand on its own, but Griffith edited them so that they are told simultaneously. He intended them to, as he has said, "run gradually together until, in the end, in the last act, they mingle in one mighty river of expressed emotions." The stories are linked by the recurring image of Lillian Gish rocking a cradle, a reference to Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* "...endlessly rocks the cradle, Uniter of Here and Hereafter."

The most fundamental theme underlying the film is the struggle between Griffith's liberal, democratic ideals and totalitarianism. The protagonists in the stories are victims who advocate inclusiveness, individualism and pluralism. The antagonists advocate uniformity. They are dogmatic, treacherous, oppressive and violent. These two opposing world views are symbolized in the editing techniques used in the film.

The shifts between stories are non-sequential, metaphoric and modernist, and reflect the protagonist's point of view. Editing within stories is sequential and exclusive, reflecting the antagonist philosophy. Griffith rejects the 19th century notions of

expressivism by showing the repetition of similar events through history. Rather than evolving, growing and learning from past evils and mistakes, mankind is doomed to relive them.

Director David Wark Griffith (1875 - 1948) has been described as the "Father of the Motion Picture". He originated or refined many film making techniques that have remained fundamental tools of the film maker's art. The great director Sergei Eisenstein, a contemporary of Griffith, named him a "magician of tempo and montage."

In recognition of his great contributions to cinema, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gave him a special award "for his distinguished creative achievements as director and producer and his invaluable initiative and lasting contributions to the progress of the motion picture arts."

Griffith had great, almost messianic aspirations. He once said to Lillian Gish, one of his favorite stars, "We've found a universal language - a power that can make men brothers and end wars forever." He also spoke of movies acting like the "hands of God" with the ability to lift people out of their "commonplace existence."

To this end, he concluded *Intolerance* with images of perfect love and eternal peace.

Intolerance will be presented by the Kimball Theatre Organ Society on Sunday, April 19th at 1:00 PM at the Oriental Theatre at the corner of Farwell and North Avenues in Milwaukee. This powerful film will be enhanced by live musical accompaniment, in the style of the silent film era, by Dennis James playing the magnificent Kimball theatre pipe organ installed in the theatre.

Mr. James is a professional silent film musician who has played a pivotal role in the international revival of silent films presented with live music. He has appeared under the auspices of the Library of Congress, Museum of Modern Art, the Louvre Museum in Paris and the National Film Theatre in London. He is a featured solo performer at such annual film festivals as the San Francisco International Film Festival, the Toronto Film Festival and the Chicago Art Institute's film series.

KTOS is a non-profit corporation which owns, installed and maintains the organ in the Oriental Theatre. It uses proceeds from its programs and tax deductible contributions to fund continuing maintenance, restoration and public presentations of the organ.

When Viewed as a Fairy Tale, 'My Giant' Becomes Easy to Recommend

By John Jahn

Sammy (Billy Crystal) is a second-rate talent agent more devoted to his vain attempts to climb to the top of the Hollywood heap than to either his wife Serena (Kathleen Quinlan) or his young son Nick (Zane Carney). His work takes him to Romania where, during on location filming of a *Braveheart*-type action picture, his client unceremoniously dumps him.

By accident (literally), Sammy discovers a 7'7" giant of a man named Max (Gheorghe Muresan), a Shakespeare-quoting caretaker living in seclusion in a monastery. Although Max seems quite content to live out his life in his humble surroundings, Sammy discovers he has one wish - to see his long, lost teenage love Lillianna (Joanna Pacula) once more. She moved to New Mexico 22 years ago.

Max's desire leads Sammy to believe he may have found his ticket - a very tall ticket - out of mediocrity. Sammy convinces Max to travel with him back to the United States where he'll not only make him a big (no pun intended) movie star, but reunite him with Lillianna.

Together they travel from the forests of Romania to the suburbs of Chicago, the hustle of Times Square to the flashy glitz of Las Vegas. During the course of their journey, both men experience significant, unexpected transformations of the heart.

Fairy tales are like that sometimes, and if viewed as a fairy tale, *My Giant* succeeds most admirably.

My Giant's premise offers all the heart-

warming yuk-yuks the Crystal looks for. Despite the less-than-successful career of director Michael Lehmann (*Airheads*, *Hudson Hawk*), he does manage to help Crystal recover from the smarmy *Father's Day*.

The genesis of this film goes back a decade, when Billy Crystal was filming *The Princess Bride*, in which he met the huge professional wrestling star Andre the Giant (who was 7'5"). "Andre was a captivating character," relates Crystal, "who looked very menacing and was incredibly strong, but also very gentle." Getting to know what a truly gentle giant Andre was inspired Crystal for this film; "his spirit is throughout the picture," says Crystal.

My Giant features a few cameo scenes by Steven Seagal playing the one role he should stick to: himself. Of course it wouldn't have a chance without Gheorghe. He's a fine first-time actor, as things turn out, although he's about a year's worth of English lessons away from being totally and easily comprehensible.

Basketball fans will surely recognize him: he's a center on the Washington Wizards (formerly Bullets) NBA team; he's also the tallest player in the NBA today.

My Giant wears its heart on its sleeve, possesses many good laughs and paints in pretty broad strokes, but nevertheless provides for an evening's fine entertainment minus blood, explosions and four-letter words. It opens nationwide April 10th.



Lost? Heather Graham stars as Judy Robinson in "Lost In Space."

The Only Reason to See 'Lost in Space' is Over-Active Nostalgia

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The premiere of *Lost in Space*, Hollywood's latest effort to bring 60s television to the big screen 90s brought back many fond memories for Glenn.

The occasion was a rare sleepover of an older cousin of Glenn's. As an athlete and two whole years older, Glenn had long admired this handsome male cousin. On that fateful night so very long ago, Glenn would find himself initiated into two new worlds. In one lived Will, Dr. Smith and the rest of the Space Family Robinson. The other was of a more intimate nature.

But Glenn digresses...

Cinematic blockbusters of small screen favorites inevitably invite comparisons. As envisioned by director Stephen Hopkins and screenwriter Akiva Goldsman, this 90's *Lost in Space* substitutes the original's trademark campy dialogue and cheesy space aliens with an overload of computer-generated special effects.

Who isn't familiar with the story of the Space Family Robinson? Certainly no self-respecting baby-boomer!

The year is 2058 and Earth is dying. The Robinson Family must blaze a trail for the salvation of the human population! Blah, blah, blah...

While this is not a particularly novel premise for a sci-fi flick, little more is needed to re-introduce the characters many, like Glenn, have been watching and re-watching on television for over two decades.

Whereas post-Camelot America would never have accepted a less-than-perfect-family in space, here in the 90s, would anyone expect or for that matter accept the Robinsons as anything but exceedingly dysfunctional?

Angela Cartwright's pretty-little Penny is little more than a faint memory in the face of Lacy Chamberlaine's punkette Penny who is positively pissed about going on the Jupiter 2. When she isn't causing havoc at the mall, Penny is keeping a memory list of her favorite things (shades of Mary Poppins) on her video diary which seemed to Glenn to also double as a nifty wrist watch.

Older sister Judy (Heather Graham), too, has received a 90s make-over. A mere bit

of blonde window decoration in the television original, Graham's Judy is a hip smart 90s woman who has followed her family's scientific footsteps and manages to offer Matt LeBlanc's hot-as-a-pistol Major West more than he can handle in the romance department.

Less successful are mom and dad. William Hurt's Professor Robinson is a much more convincing "egg-head" than poor Guy Madison ever was but is shown to be a distant, somewhat neglectful father who sends his children belated apology videos whenever he misses an important family function.

Mimi Rogers cannot possibly compare to the incomparable June Lockhart but then who could compare with such a television icon. Although she, too, is supposed to be a scientist, mom Mimi does little more than offer the occasional piece of motherly advice.

Following a few happy cameos with some of the members of the cast from the original series, *Lost in Space* comfortably settles forth in predictable fashion: Dr. Smith (Gary Oldman) appears on the scene to complete his bit of sabotage and once again the evil Smith gets trapped on board. Before one can say, "Danger Will Robinson", the robot soon goes berserk and in a jiffy, the Jupiter 2 finds itself lost in space.

Sadly, the adventures that follow not only lack imagination but merely serve the marketing needs for the creation of cute little cuddly toys with which to entice families into buying over-priced "happy-meals".

Particularly irksome is the hokey "if only Dad played catch with young Will" ending. We saw this same nonsense in *Contact* last year and a slew of other films. Boring!

Although fans of the original series are sure to flock to *Lost in Space*, as did Glenn, other younger audiences are likely to be puzzled by this curious confection of elaborate effects, embarrassingly sophomoric dialogue, abundant violence and silly space-opera melodramatics.

Rating \$3.13 (scale No Cents to \$7.00)

'The Players Club' is Loaded with Racial Stereotypes and Can be Passed By

By John Jahn

In the 1970s, "Blaxploitation" made its debut with such "gems" as the *Shaft* films, *Blackula*, and the pre-*Jackie Brown* Pam Grier. This controversial genre has received somewhat of a revival in the 1990s, owing in no small part to the Hip-Hop and Gangsta Rap music cultures. The latest entry into this unusual field is pretty much the entire effort of rap singer Ice Cube - who directs, writes, stars in and produces *The Players Club*.

The action takes place in and around an all-black strip joint in Bryland, Georgia, where one is just as likely to find trouble as arousal (of the hot variety, of course).

Breaking somewhat with current trends, this film surprisingly isn't set in the Blaxploitation Era - the '70s, but in the here and now. The story unfolds through the eyes of a young stripper named Diamond (Lisa Raye), and involves behind-the-scenes interplay between club owner Dollar Bill (Bernie Mac), the comedic side-kick in the form of an underpaid deejay, Blue (Jamie Foxx), a voluptuous villainess (Chrystale Wilson) who wants some of the "action," and a small-time hoodlum (no surprise here - Ice Cube).

Cube thinks he can swindle everyone by playing the players against each other. Not

much originality here, folks, and plenty of embarrassing racial stereotypes sure to make Reggie White feel vindicated.

The Players Club comes to us via independent film company New Line Cinema, which has shown its willingness to tackle ambitious projects, and in this case continues to show New Line's support of African-American audiences.

Rapper-actor Ice Cube had a relatively tight budget to work with (\$4.5 million), but still managed for his filmmaking debut to assemble a fairly impressive cast of familiar colleagues, many of whom appeared with Cube (or is it Mr. Cube?) in previous movies like *Friday*.

So, can he actually write and direct a movie? Well, that would be easier to answer if he involved himself in something other than the world of "the streets," for there's really little here to distinguish *The Players Club* from an average rap/hip-hop music video. It has all the elements of a sordid little sizzler - perhaps even a good noir - but unfortunately Cube isn't quite up to the task of bringing us anything new or the least bit edifying. Expect this one to move quickly to home video. This film is currently showing nationwide.

★

Great Places In WISCONSIN

Appleton				
Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
Eau Claire				
Scooters	W,m	411 Galloway	54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	M,W	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
Green Bay				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main Street	53204	437-9256
The Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway	54303	432-9646
Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
Kenosha				
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
La Crosse				
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9279
Rainbow's End	Retail	417 Jay St.	54601	
Lake Mills				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
Madison				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	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
Milwaukee				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 nd	53204	273-7474
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 st Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
Designing Men	Retail	1200 S. 1 st	53204	389-1200
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Fannies	Wm	200 E. Washington	53204	649-9003
Fluid	MW	819 S. Second	53204	645-8330
Glass Menagerie	Fine Dining	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Grubb's Pub	MW, Food	807 S. 2 nd St.	53204	384-8330
In Between	MW, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	52304	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 th Street	53204	645-9888
M & M Club	MW, Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53202	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L	300 W. Juneau	53203	273-6900
Milwaukee Room	Fine Dining	316 N. Milwaukee	53202	277-7666
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
Silver Dollar Café	Food	831 S. 16 th St.	53204	645-8860
Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
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
Neenah				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
Racine				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
Sheboygan				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
Stevens Point				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
Superior				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373
Wausau				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225

'Men With Guns' Powerfully Unveils Cruelty & Horror in Latin America

By John Jahn

Humberto Fuentes (Argentinean actor Fererico Luppi), a wealthy El Salvadoran doctor approaching retirement, has never paid much attention to the realities of the political life of his country. He considers the greatest achievement of his life - his "legacy" - to be his personal training of a group of young students to work as doctors in El Salvador's poorest, rural, mountain villages.

Dr. Fuentes decides to visit his students to see how they're doing (and of course to evaluate his legacy in the process), but since they aren't accessible by telephone or mail, he must travel on his own to find them. As he makes his way from mountain village to village, he discovers that they've all disappeared. Villagers won't talk to him, except in the town of Rio Seco where an old blind woman tells him a horrible story.

Dr. Cienfuegos, one of Fuentes' trainees, was burned alive with gasoline by "men with guns." This mysterious description leads Fuentes to discover the awful, hidden and dangerous truth of what happened to his students, and to his country.

Director, writer and editor John Sayles, in the new motion picture **Men With Guns**, combines events that have taken place in

the last 20 years in Latin America and brings them powerfully to the dramatic screen. We experience the darker side of this region's political history quite effectively through the fictional Dr. Fuentes character, an educated man unaware of what is happening in his own country.

This is definitely a message film - totally unsubtle and obvious - but nevertheless a potent and timely one as well. **Men With Guns** is "about the responsibility to know," says Sayles. "What is your police force doing? What is your government doing?"

The strength of this film lies in the strong central character, superbly portrayed by Federico Luppi. There is that point between ignorance and willful ignorance that is interesting with him. It has a strong sense of time and place about it - an authenticity brought about by not only being shot entirely on location in Mexico, but also through its dialog in Spanish, English and four Central American Indian languages.

This 128 minute exploration of military junta thuggery - and American involvement which is implied therewith - is well worth seeing.

Men With Guns opens at the Oriental Landmark Theater on April 10th. ***

Sadly, 'The Odd Couple II' is Little More Than Just Another 'Grumpy Old Men'

By John Jahn

In characterizations that became comedy history, Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau return to the screen as the supremely mismatched Felix Ungar and Oscar Madison, ill-suited roommates once brought together by the economies of divorce. Reunited after 17 years by the necessities of an impending marriage, the older-but-not-necessarily-wiser Felix and Oscar find themselves on the open road with a common destination, but still driven to distraction by their polar-opposite personalities.

Neil Simon, the famed screenwriter for the original **The Odd Couple** (1961), returns to write the screenplay for **The Odd Couple II**, Lemmon and Matthau's 9th film together.

Director Howard Deutch worked with Lemmon and Matthau previously in **Grumpier Old Men**. The 3rd movie in that series is currently being worked on, but script problems have forced a postponement of it, thus giving Simon, Lemmon, Matthau and Deutch time to finally put together an **Odd Couple** sequel.

Unfortunately, this movie would have benefited tremendously had the "Grumpy" films never been produced, because Felix and Oscar just don't seem any different than the characters in those films - or those in **Out to Sea** for that matter. Thus,

The Odd Couple II is really just another thinly disguised "Grumpy" movie.

The Felix and Oscar characters just don't distinguish themselves nearly enough to make this film stand apart from similar Lemmon-Matthau pairings of the last several years (and they certainly do little to convince an audience that Felix and Oscar shouldn't look more like Tony Randall and Jack Klugman).

Which isn't to say it's a bad movie, just not everything the first one was, too derivative of recent movies and just too predictable. For virtually the whole movie Felix and Oscar are making their way along the highways and byways between LAX and San Malina, where the wedding of Oscar's son (Jonathan Silverman) and Felix's daughter (Christine Baranski) is to take place.

Much too little time is given to Oscar's card playing pals - a who's who of aged character actors - charming and funny as they are. Still, Lemmon and Matthau possess great comedic timing and chemistry, and I was also pleased that their characters are decidedly less prone to profanity than their **Grumpy Old Men** counterparts.

But the film's little more than a series of pratfalls, sight gags and fairly lowbrow humor - vastly inferior to the 1961 comic classic. **

A Thoroughly Ludicrous Premise Makes 'Mercury Rising' Very Missable

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn's fondness for a "Biggie" popcorn and "Biggie" Diet Pepsi during a movie screening is certainly well-known amongst the faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light*. But even Glenn met his match at a screening of **Mercury Rising**, the latest Bruce Willis action flick.

In the front row of the cinema was a gentleman even better prepared with refreshments than Glenn could ever hope to be. Lurking beneath his overcoat was a large-size Combos, a bag of bite-size Hershey bars, a surprisingly small bag of potato chips all which were all to be washed down with a one-liter bottle of Coke. This guy could have set up his own snack bar!

Yet even this amazing display could not seriously distract Glenn from the absolute ridiculous plotting of **Mercury Rising**.

The film opens as Art Jeffries (Bruce Willis), an undercover FBI agent is caught up in the middle of a robbery of a small South Dakota bank. Things goes terribly, terribly wrong. Guns a' blazing, macho FBI guys storm the bank. Fortunately Art survives the shower of bullets (the good guys always seem to, don't they?) but in the process two youthful accomplices are gunned down right before his very eyes.

Riddled with guilt and haunted this by nightmare, Art quite understandably goes right off the deep end.

After his flagrant misconduct, Art finds himself re-assigned. While working with a raw recruit on a routine wire-tap when, Art gets his reprieve. A kid is missing. The police believe the boy's parents are dead following a murder/suicide.

Those of us in the audience know differently. Nine year-old Simon (Miko Hughes) is an autistic savant with an obsession for puzzles. As a bribe to get Simon to inter-

act with his class, his caring and sharing teacher gave him a new puzzle book.

All Glenn can say is "Big mistake!"

As soon as he gets home Simon delves into the puzzle book. The camera zooms in for a close-up of a page of meaningless letters, numbers and symbols.

Is that eerie music Glenn hears?

As if by magic Simon somehow manages to decipher a super-secret government code which has for some preposterous reason has been included in a puzzle magazine by its geeky creators Dean Crandell (Robert Stanton) and Leo Pedranski (Bodhi Elfman). It seems that they wanted to test the code's "geek factor".

Simon follows directions given in the code and calls their Puzzle-line. Before you know it one real bad guy is hot on his trail. Mom and Pop are efficiently eliminated but Simon manages to escape detection by hiding in his closet!?

Enter the people's hero, Bruce Willis.

Bruce Willis's Art Jeffries is a weary and reluctant hero. Characters repeatedly ask Art why he keeps looking after Simon and his simple-minded response is always the same, "Well, somebody's got to" or some other such banal platitude.

While dodging bullets from some nameless, faceless, emotionless assassin, Art imposes his troubles on his friend and fellow FBI agent Tommy Jordan (Chi McBride) and a too-good-to-be-true-gal he meets in a Starbucks, Stacey (Kim Dickens). Why are people such fools in these movies?

There's a happy ending in the works. Big surprise.

The biggest problem Glenn had with **Mercury Rising** Page 20

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Dear Ruthie

I'm writing this from my motel room so I hope the hell it gets through these little e-mail wires and to my editors on time. I'm in California. Pearl and I flew out to go to the Oscars and had a hum-dinger of a good time. We had such a good time we decided to extend our stay.

There were so many stars at this year's Oscar show we could barely keep up with what was going on around us!

("Pearl - get your keester over here - I just saw Peter Fonda making out with the woman he brought - bring the camera - I think it's his mother!")

I haven't seen that many celebrities since the time I visited Harriet at the Betty Ford Center - "No Liz - you can't look through my purse! I know I don't have any Valium in there, now go back to your cot!"

We saw new talent and old talent. We saw Burt Reynolds, Shirley Temple, Genna Davis, and Mork. Kim Basinger was adorable. She was shaking more than my trailer the day I got my "Glow-in-the-Dark Jeff Stryker Doll."

I met Julie Christie in the ladies room--the bitch wouldn't spare a square--and Joan Rivers told us we looked like whores. Pearl spent most of the evening at the bar outside the theater, trying to make-it with the fat guy from *The Full Monty*. Anyway ... we had a helluva time.

I gotta get going, though. Tonight's the night I rub butter on my thighs and wrap myself in Saran-Wrap. Here's a brief summary of things I heard at the Oscars! Have a good week everyone!!!

Top Ten Things Ruthie Over-Heard at the Oscars

- 10) "Quick - wake Madonna up! They're introducing her!"
 - 9) "Who put the Easter basket on Cher's head?"
 - 8) "I don't know about you Pearl, but that Billy Crystal is making me moist."
 - 7) "Here to present our next award are three stars from *Titanic*. Please help me welcome Kate Winslet and her breasts."
 - 6) "Someone tell Matt Damon to shut-up and take his pants off."
 - 5) "Someone tell Ben Affleck to shut-up and take his pants off."
 - 4) "Leonardo DiCaprio could not make it tonight as he's filling in for the drummer from 'Hanson.'"
 - 3) "Is it me or does Nicholson smell like feet?"
 - 2) "My God, did you see Susan Saradin's dress? I've worn Band-Aids that were looser."
- And the number one thing Ruthie overheard at the Oscars...
- 1) "Whatever you do, do NOT refer to Gloria Stuart as 'The Old Lady from *Titanic*.'"

Dear Ruthie,

I'm at a loss. I met a man in November. After a few dates, he told me that he was a nudist. He said that anyone dating him would have to like nude beaches and events too. At the time I said I would love to go to a nude beach. I had two thoughts: One - there aren't any nude beaches here in Wisconsin and two - the summer is a long way off so why worry about this now.

Now that summer is just about here, he is talking about taking me to a clothing optional beach. I don't know what to do. I love him and don't want to lose him, but I'm too uncomfortable with myself to go to a nude beach. What if I get too excited? What if I get jealous of others looking at him? He doesn't have a perfect body, but it's better than mine. Should I just tell him that I'm not going, but that it's all right for him to go alone, or will he dump me. I like him a lot.

(signed)

To Be or Not To Be Nude.

Dear Nudie,

I married a nudist once. It was terrible - I always had to carry his wallet. He was 65 years-old and looked like someone left him in the bathtub for a week. He was the only man I knew who could get work as a cadaver.

We actually got married in a "clothing optional" commune by a priest wearing nothing but a collar and a smile. There was more clothing on the crucifix than at the ceremony. The marriage only lasted through the summer, but I got a great tan and saw enough weenies to last a lifetime.

I was glad I got out when I did. I was tired of seeing old men wearing nothing but flip-flops, black socks, and ankle bracelets - yes I thought that was weird



Ruthie

too - must have been some 70's nudist thing or something.

I grew tired of the activities - "Guess My Sex," "Find the Toe-Jam," and "How Much Does Stable Mabel Weigh." The sight of nude seniors with walkers had gotten to me and I couldn't stand to see Mabel squatting in her lawn picking weeds again. The Nudist Band wasn't bad - Stable Mabel played a mean bass. Anyway ... winter was on the way so I packed up my suntan oil and served Herbie divorce papers.

I personally don't think the nude beach is something to worry about. If you think you'll be doing head spins over all the hot men there, I'm here to tell you that you probably won't.

If you're jealous of others looking at your honey in social situations, then, yes, you most likely will feel some jealousy at the beach. That's really for you to deal with.

Uncomfortable with your body? Based on my one-summer experience, I don't think you have much to worry about. Unless you are going to some "Playgirl" Reunion event at the nude beach, I'm sure you'll discover that true nudism isn't about great bodies or even sex. These are just everyday folks who like to get naked and do stuff.

If this is nothing more than laying bare-ass on a beach, I say try it at least once. Show him you care about his interests and that you're willing to try it for his sake. Let your partner know your worries before you go, but tell him that you are willing to give it a try. Go wearing shorts and then disrobe if and when you feel up to it. I bet the novelty of your surroundings will relax you right away.

My only concern is that this is a way of life for a lot of people and, yes, many want their partners to share in it. If this is just a "summer fun" event, then maybe he isn't a die-hard nudie and everything will be fine. You'll both have to decide how important nudism is in your life as a couple and take it from there.

HEY EVERYONE - I'll be making a little appearance at a show at the M&M Club in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 11, 1998. I think the curtain goes up around 10:00 p.m. but don't hold me to that!

I'll be appearing to promote the Possum Queen. It's a GREAT cause, lots of FUN and FAB people.

I'd love to meet some of you folks!!!! If you can't make it, drop me a letter care of: The Wisconsin Light - 1843 N. Palmer - Milwaukee, WI 53212. Thanks!!!!

MERCURY RISING Continued From Page 19

Mercury Rising, besides its ludicrous premise was the difficulty in caring about most of the main characters. Glenn is clueless as to how accurately cute little Miko Hughes plays the autistic savant Simon but quite simply found the kid as annoying as all hell. Glenn isn't particularly fond of small children and Simon's constant screeching would have tested the patience of even the Virgin Mary!

Willis' Art Jeffries is a genuinely appealing character but the film's bloody opening moments offer less insight into his character than it succeeds in whetting the audiences expectations for the exciting action sequences which never happen.

Mercury Rising might be a great Pay-per-View choice during rerun season but

eminently missable at big screen prices!
Rating \$3.34 (scale: No cents to \$7.00)

'The Newton Boys' Is Proof that a Film Cannot Survive on Sex Alone

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

It is impossible to ignore the obvious appeal of bringing to the big screen the true story of the Newton Brothers, the most successful bank robbers that this great nation has ever seen.

Hollywood has a long and distinguished history of romanticizing hoodlums, gunmen and other assorted bad guys. And they've done so with great success, ever since those glorious gangster flicks Warner Brothers used to pump out with extraordinary frequency in the 1930s. As played by the likes of Bogart, Cagney and Robinson, these celluloid villains were the folk heroes for a generation of moviegoers.

Still, times have changed. Unlike the violent toughs of that earlier era, the Newtons were gentlemen, who never hurt no one, no how. How delightfully 90s.

Whatever wonderful Americana the Newton's saga might well be, there is one minor hitch, at least in cinematic terms. The saga of the *Newton Boys* has no spectacular climatic moment. The Newtons' final caper, an uncharacteristic train robbery just outside Chicago was successful but bungled. The Boys were caught, deals were made, short prison terms served and all lived to a ripe old age. All Glenn can say, "Boring."

Yet despite their spectacular success, the *Newton Boys* are hardly household names. Why? Maybe the Boys were just too efficient or gentlemanly. Director Richard Linklater, best known for *Before Sunrise* (also with Eathan Hawke) and *Dazed and Confused* seems to want to make Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid but doesn't have the material, the cast or the talent!

As if to make up for what the story might lack in narrative fireworks, director Richard Linklater chose to inject into *The Newton Boys* a generous dose of hot, virile male sex appeal: Matthew McConaughey, Skeet Ulrich and Ethan Hawke.

As Glenn watched *The Newton Boys*, Glenn couldn't help but ponder whether there an actor today that can hold a candle

(pun fully intended) to the pure, naked animalistic charisma of Matthew McConaughey? Wasn't it he who got Jodie Foster so worked up in *Contact* that she immediately transformed herself from a plain Jane to looking for all the world like a high-priced hooker?

Not that Mr. Matthew is necessarily a particularly fine actor. He may well be but who cares? Glenn doesn't. Matthew McConaughey simply oozes sexual heat!

Boy, the movie theater was awfully warm that night!

As the syrupy-smooth talkin' Willis Newton, Glenn images that Mr. Matthew could simply charm the money from any bank teller, male or female, without ever having to resort to guns or nitroglycerin. Mr. Matthew could easily talk Glenn into giving him anything (absolutely anything!!).

Yet, as he left the cinema, the brisk March night air worked a minor miracle in helping to bring Glenn back to his senses: Glenn decided never to be so foolish as to let this raw hunk o' man try to sell him a used car.

Ironically, the movie's best moments come during the final credits. As the names of the cast and crew scrolled across the screen, snippets of interviews with two of the aged Newton Boys are offered. These *Newton Boys* must have been some characters!

These *Newton Boys* were the real thing, a true slice of original Americana. It is just too bad that *The Newton Boys* doesn't similarly succeed.

Rating \$4.10 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

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Gay Discharges Up Sharply According to Pentagon Leaks of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Washington, DC—Discharges of Gay service members are up sharply, according to early accounts of a Department of Defense internal review of the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy barring openly Gay people from serving in the U.S. armed services. In response to Pentagon-orchestrated leaks of key aspects of the report, the Human Rights Campaign said today that the report's recommendations for fixing problems underscore why the policy is not working.

"Any policy that asks people to lie is bound to fail," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. "The policy itself is not being followed down the chain of command and the core problem of anti-Gay bias goes completely unaddressed."

Leaked accounts of the some of the contents of the report show that there was an increase of 67 percent in the number of Gay-related discharges since "don't ask, don't tell" was implemented in 1994.

Department of Defense spokespeople claimed the increase was due to service-members' using the policy in their first year of service to get out early.

"The policy is not working because commanders in the field are continuing to ask and pursue, hunting down Gay service members unabated," said Stachelberg.

"The military's explanations for the dramatic increase in discharges are self-serving and disingenuous. Anti-Gay bias continues to be the core issue, and the Pentagon has done nothing to address it."

HRC pointed to a ruling by U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin in January, who

ALLISON

Continued From Page 11

families she writes about. **Cavedweller**, however, is finally about a family with hope. The novel's main character, Delia Byrd, left her first two daughters to escape an abusive husband when the girls were very small. Just like the dream of many young girls in the rural South, she ran off to join a rock band. But the people of her tiny hometown, a fictional Cayro, Georgia, will never forget that she deserted her children when she left. Coming back to Cayro also means uprooting her third daughter, 10-year-old Cissy, from the only home she has ever known, in California.

Allison knows she has created a complex character in Delia Byrd. "She's a mother who returns and attempts to save what she's lost," says Allison. "She does something really hard. She seeks forgiveness and redemption. I was raised Southern Baptist, so I use these words." She adds, though, that she may not always use them the way most Southern Baptists do.

Forgiveness does not come easily in this small Southern town. But Delia stubbornly persists in proving herself to the people she grew up with, and some of them gradually accept her back into the fold, day by painful day. "My understanding of how things really happen is daily, deliberately, kinda like my sex life," Allison laughs. "I've never done anything in my life that was simple."

One of the things Delia does to get her daughters back is to move in with their father, who is dying of cancer. She promises to care for him until he dies in exchange for getting the girls away from their Bible-thumping grandmother.

Her care for this man, who's dying a wasting death, is reminiscent of the ways one cares for a person dying of AIDS. "It's how I got my information," says Allison, turning solemn. "In my life, I've taken care of people who've died of AIDS and people who died of cancer." Allison deliberately made one of Delia's best friends afraid of the cancer, refusing to help care for him because she was afraid to be in the same room with the disease. "I needed to have somebody that you liked be that afraid," Allison explained. In this book, nothing is simply good or evil.

Delia's daughters, Amanda, Dede and Cissy, are among the last holdouts to forgive her, each feeling betrayed and abandoned in her own way and each as stubborn as their mother.

"I tried to make sure that each of the girls has their own world, their own place," says Allison. "It's what you do to survive." The place where Cissy is most comfortable is in the caves near Cayro, where she can get away from the nosy eyes and questions of her schoolmates and their parents, and relax. Exploring the caves is also how she meets the Lesbian couple who opens up a new world of possibilities for Cissy.

"To go someplace where no one can see you, where you're totally in control of yourself, is just the most freeing experience," says Allison of Cissy's desire to return to the caves again and again. "It's one of the great sexual metaphors," she adds. "I love

found that the Navy went on a "search and out mission" by pursuing Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh. The Navy pursued McVeigh after learning the word "Gay" was in his personal America Online profile.

The internal review was ordered by Defense Secretary William Cohen in response to three annual reports from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group that works to assist Gay and Lesbian servicemembers and monitors the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The reports for the past three years have shown dramatic increases in discharges and reveal that witch hunts and unauthorized inquisitions continue to take place at U.S. military installations throughout the world.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy was adopted by the Clinton administration and Congress in 1993 as a so-called compromise measure that would allow Gay people to serve as long as they did not admit to being Gay.

"Lying cannot be the cornerstone of any U.S. policy. We need a policy that respects performance, ability, commitment and privacy," Stachelberg said.

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

a good sexual metaphor."

Cayro is a fictional town near Marietta, though Allison realizes there is a real, and similarly pronounced, Cairo in south Georgia. There is no deliberate comparison here. "I had researched it and didn't find Cairo," says Allison. "It took me five years to write the book, and they came back," she adds, noting the south Georgia town's recent reincorporation. "I love watching Yankees say Cayro," she adds mischievously.

There is an ironic metaphor in the book for Allison's own experiences with celebrity and publicity. At one point, Delia is trying to explain to her friends what it's like to be a rock star and be broke:

"Crazy how rich you can behave when you an't got a dime in your pocket. You learn to charge things to the company or borrow against your name. Old clothes had to be sent out to be cleaned by hotel staff, new clothes bought on credit. Underwear was the hardest. Delia pushed her hair back. 'I could get a fancy dress for a show charged to some fancy store on Wilshire, but I couldn't get panties, bras, or socks. If it couldn't be charged to some record company account, it couldn't be had."

"I'm talking about when I went on tour for **Bastard**, for Christ's sake," says Allison, though she admits that the music industry is more brutal than publishing. "It's a strange life, and it'll eat your heart if you let it."

There's more to the irony of celebrity that Delia's life has in common with Allison's. "Delia loves music, but she hates the music industry," says Allison. "I don't hate publishing, but I'm deeply suspicious of it." She is still a little wary of the fact that, in the publishing industry, she has gone from being an outsider to having a modicum of control over her career. "You have to change your way of thinking, to realize you have power," she explains. "Some of this stuff is about class," she adds. Having gone from "trash" to middle class, she's not one to be fooled by the temporary lure of celebrity.

COOL THINGS

Continued From Page 12

SSBL. There is always room in the league for players of all abilities. Many of the veteran players go out of their way to help novice beginners.

Furthermore the league has divided into competitive and recreational divisions.

The National Division will be composed

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Glamour Girls Vanessa Torrez (left) gave her farewell performance during the La Cage Showcase on Friday, April 3. Lana St. James (right) was also a special guest at the Showcase.

each year is different as new teams and new players enter the league.

This year's edition will have ten teams, the most the SSBL has had in several years. That means lots of new players to watch and play with.

Which brings up a nice point about the of last year's best teams, Docks (formerly Club 219), the Ball Game, Balistreri's Pizza, the M & M Club and In Between (formerly Mama Roux's).

The American Division is composed of teams that are more recreational in nature. These include three new teams, This Is It, which is managed by the way cool Tony M, the Triangle, which is being organized by the ultra cool Max Barnett of Possum Queen fame, and Dish, which is one of Milwaukee's coolest bars.

They will be joined by two teams which played last year for different sponsors, Woody's (formerly the Triangle) and Brew Bar (formerly Riverwest Neighborhood Association).

The idea behind the divisions is to allow players to compete on their own level. Each team will play two games against the other teams in their own division, and one game against the teams in the other division. Plus the league will have two position rounds to allow everyone to get an extra crack at the teams who are above or below them in the standings.

There are more cool things related to the SSBL. For example there is that annual softball extravaganza, the Milwaukee Classic. The Classic is Gay America's oldest softball tournament. Every year a couple dozen teams come together to

compete for the coveted title of Milwaukee Classic Champion.

The Classic brings plenty of hot players from all over the country to Milwaukee. This year is the 18th edition of the Milwaukee Classic, it will be played on May 23rd and 24th at Wick Field.

Of course Milwaukee teams return the favor and travel all over the country to represent Brewtown in Gay tournaments from coast to coast. And that our sources tell us is way ultra cool. There is nothing like being in a hotel with a few hundred, hunky softball players including a dozen or so close friends from your own team.

Then there are the trendy bar parties held during the course of the season. These parties which are disguised as a fund raisers for the teams hosting them, are a great time. Activities range from raffles where you can win some cool cash to shows and auctions where you can pick up some cool stuff for reasonable prices.

So if you are looking a cool way to spend some time this spring (and summer) consider joining with the in crowd at the SSBL. Call their hotline at (414) 454-9204.

See ya soon with more news of cool things in Wisconsin. Till then, be as cool as you can be.

Editor's Note: We are truly blessed that I.C. Cool has agreed to occasionally take time out from his travels around the world to give us the word on cool things on Wisconsin. If you know of an event, a group, or even a person that you think is cool enough to be worthy of I.C.'s attention give us a call at the Wisconsin Light, (414) 372-2773.

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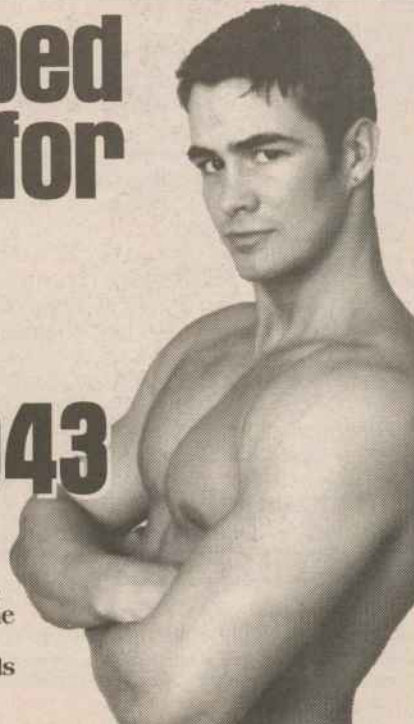



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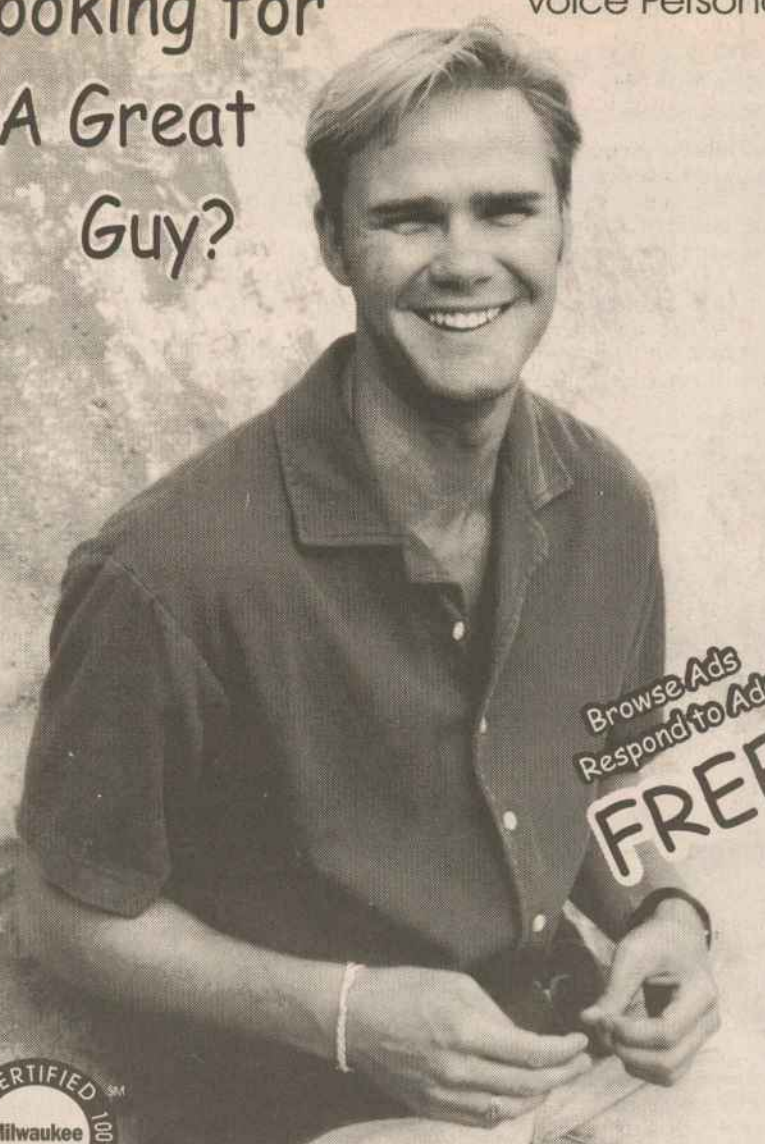
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TWO, FOUR, MORE? I'm a 26-year-old Male, 5'8", 160 lbs., height/weight proportionate, seeking Gay Men, Gay couples, or groups who are open to anything and want to get wild. (Rockford) ☎15918

ANY AND ALL I'm a Gay Male looking for any kind of Male who's Gay. ☎15533

ARAB ADMIRER This Hispanic Male, 33, 5'9", 165 lbs., masculine and straight-acting, seeks Arab, Middle-Eastern, or White Men who are masculine, good-looking, and height/weight proportionate for friendship and a possible long-term relationship. ☎15330

NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK I'm a Gay Male, 40, 5'10", 150 lbs., HIV+, with dark blond hair and blue eyes. I'm looking for a friendship and possible relationship with the right Guy. I particularly like dark-skinned Men, such as Blacks, Latinos, and Asians, but all interested Males are welcome to respond. (Rockford) ☎15982

ANYTHING FUN I'm looking for a Man, 18-26, who enjoys the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and anything fun. (Newton) ☎16489

READY FOR RELATIONSHIP? This Single Asian Male, 5'5", 130 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes seeks a Single White Male, 25-30, for a long-term relationship. I enjoy music, camping, and fishing. (Des Moines) ☎16450

THREE-FOR-ALL I'm a Gay White Male, 39, 5'11", 185 lbs., HIV-, looking for discrete 3-way action with a masculine, healthy, mature Gay White Male couple, 35-50, who have been together for at least two years. You should have average to nice looks, be versatile, and enjoy mutually satisfying activities. The possibilities could be endless. Ongoing encounters would be great. (Minneapolis) ☎16317

JUST THE GUYS This Straight-acting Single Male, 24, seeks a masculine, disease-free Male to hang out and enjoy life and good times with. Nothing serious. (Minneapolis) ☎16946

PASSIONATE AND BUILT I'm a clean-shaven, well-built Gay White Male, 6'2", 190 lbs., in search of other fit Gay White Males for passionate, discrete relationship. (Rochester) ☎16189

THE WETTER THE BETTER I'm a 39-year-old Male living in the downtown area. I'm very into water sports, so give me a call if you're interested. (Minneapolis) ☎15623

SERVE AND OBEY Slave wanted for ongoing training and absolute submission. Experience preferred, but novices will be considered. Applicant must desire to serve and obey. (Minneapolis) ☎5710

SHARE THE HEAT This 27-year-old Male, 5'11", 185 lbs., wants to hook up and share hot times with other Guys. (Minneapolis) ☎15423

DON'T HOLD BACK I'm looking for large, musclebound Men who are uninhibited and not afraid to show off what they've got. (Minneapolis) ☎15355

HERE TO PLEASE This Gay White Male, 41, seeks Married Men, attached Guys, inexperienced or curious Guys, or Males who haven't been with another Male for a long time. Let's get together and have some fun. (Rochester) ☎16283

A CONNECTION IS MADE I'm a good-looking Male, 35, 5'11", 185 lbs., with brown hair and green eyes. I like a lot of things and am very versatile. I'm hoping to connect with some new people. (Minneapolis) ☎16116

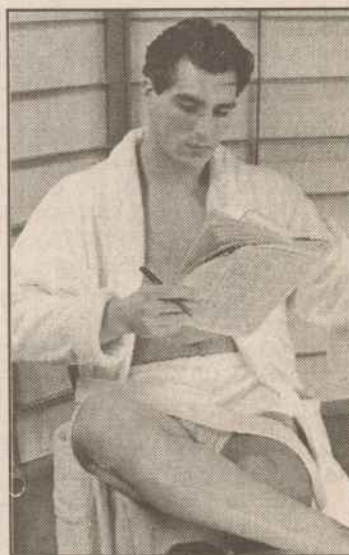
IT'S ALL GOOD This Bi Male, 20, 5'9", 150 lbs., is looking for Males 18-25 to do anything and everything with. ☎15236

LET ME SEE IT I'm a good-looking Male with brown hair, brown eyes, and a nice body. I'm looking for some Guys under 40 who are into J/O and showing off what they've got. (Minneapolis) ☎16320

EITHER WAY IS GOOD This versatile Male, 35, 5'11", 180 lbs., good-looking, with brown hair and green eyes, seeks someone similar. I'm into lots of different things. (Minneapolis) ☎16116

LIFE IS ART This art-loving Asian Male, 36, 5'11", is hoping to make friends and possibly have a long-term relationship. (Southwestern Minnesota) ☎16940

FEMININE WILES I'm an African-American Transsexual, 21, 5'7", 180 lbs., with light brown eyes and hair. I'm seeking an African-American or Hispanic Male between the ages of 18 and 35. I'll answer messages from any location. (Minneapolis) ☎16837



LIFT A LOAD This good looking, pretty well built, White male, college student and weightlifter, 23, 5'11", 235lbs, seeks other guys, around my age, to have fun with. (Oshkosh) ☎13457

DIAPER DADDY DESIRED This stocky, hairy, bear cub, 30, 5'7", 205lbs, seeks a papa bear who'll take care of me, change and bathe me, and screw around with me. I'll be your big, bouncing baby. (Green Bay) ☎9148

GREEN BAY BUILT This very good looking, well built, White male, 26, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks another adventurous, young guy, 18 to 24, who knows how to have a good time and can make me feel good. I'm into adult movies and trying new things. I'm looking for occasional get togethers and maybe more. (Green Bay) ☎10026

DIAPER DRAWERS I need an affectionate daddy to take care of me. I'm 30, 5'7", 200lbs, with a stocky, hairy body. I love to be treated like the baby I am. You should be patient, loving, and enjoy bathing and changing his son. I hope you're the type of parent who likes to fondle his children. We can play for an afternoon or all weekend. (Green Bay) ☎9148

SHEBOYGAN BOY This young, good looking, athletic, White male, 31, 5'8", 135lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, seeks other young studs, under 35, who are attractive, built, and enjoy working out with a pal and having good times. (Sheboygan) ☎10463

SHORT STUFF Attractive, Gay, White male, 5'10", 165lbs, seeks a man, shorter than me, who enjoys hanging out, movies, sports, and whatever fun we can find. (Oshkosh) ☎10537

A NEW BEGINNING This 30 year old, White male, just coming out of a rocky relationship, seeks new friends to pal around with. I live about 30 miles out of Appleton. (Appleton) ☎11492

RIDING THE TRAILS Fun loving, White male, 5'11", 220lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, wants to meet someone to spend time with. I like camping, long walks, mountain biking, and hanging out at home. (Appleton) ☎11582

HOUSEKEEPING! This Single White Male, 30, extremely submissive and petite, seeks a dominant master. I want you to humiliate me, totally control me, and make me serve you. I'll be your French maid, strip for you, or do whatever you want me to. (Milwaukee) ☎15914

DOWN FOR THE COUNT I'm a masculine, in-shape Male, 5'10", 185 lbs., looking for Guys to exercise with. I wrestled in high school, and am also interested in Judo. Let me know if you have experience on the mat. (Southeast Wisconsin) ☎15592

EARLY RISER This 38-year-old Bi Male bottom is looking for top action, preferably in the mornings. I need something big to fill me up. ☎14813

FRIENDS FIRST This good-looking professional Hispanic Male, 23, would like to make new friends, ages 20-30, with the possibility of a relationship later on. (Milwaukee) ☎15240

HOW BI AM I? I'm a Married White Male, very, very, very Bi, looking for a Guy to get together with on a regular basis. I'm 48, 5'9", 180 lbs., with a good build. I enjoy the outdoors and watching videos, and thong underwear really turns me on. Let's meet. ☎25097

I LIKE YOUR IMAGE This retired civil engineer and historian, 50, would like to meet some younger Guys, 20's to early 40's, who are beefy and well-muscled to photograph for my own personal collection. I'm not looking for any kind of relationship really, just the opportunity to appreciate young Male bodies. I'll treat you kindly. (Milwaukee) ☎15719

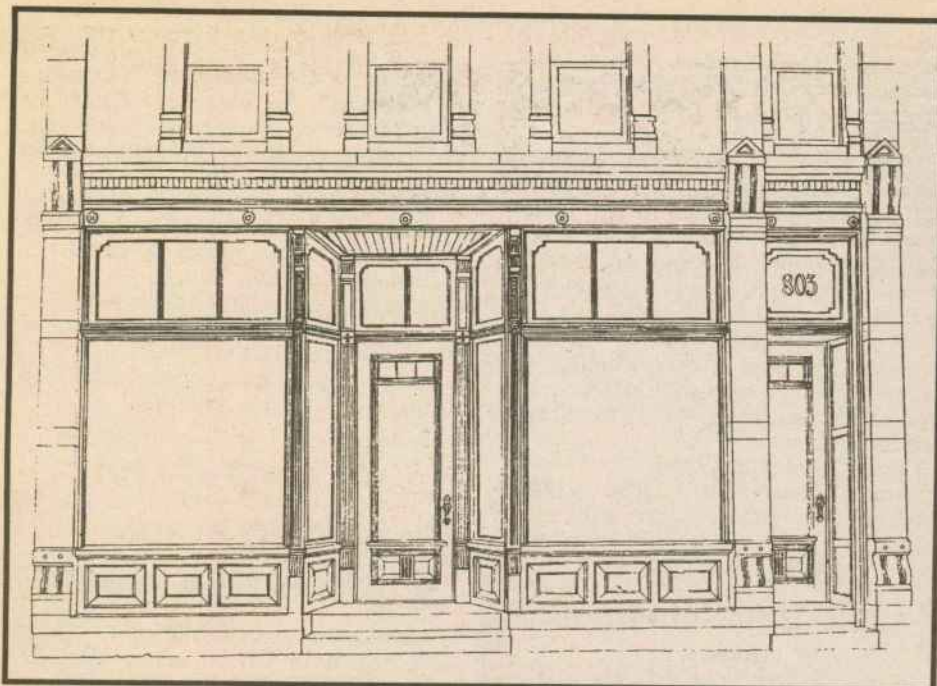
YOU ONLY I'm a very versatile Bi Male, 38, 5'7", 192 lbs., stocky and orally talented, with a beard, mustache, and a shaved head. I'm looking for you only. Race doesn't matter. ☎15525

ARE YOU BEING SERVED? This submissive Male, 40's, seeks an overweight White Male master into foot worship, humiliation, and oral servitude. Make me a slave. ☎15306

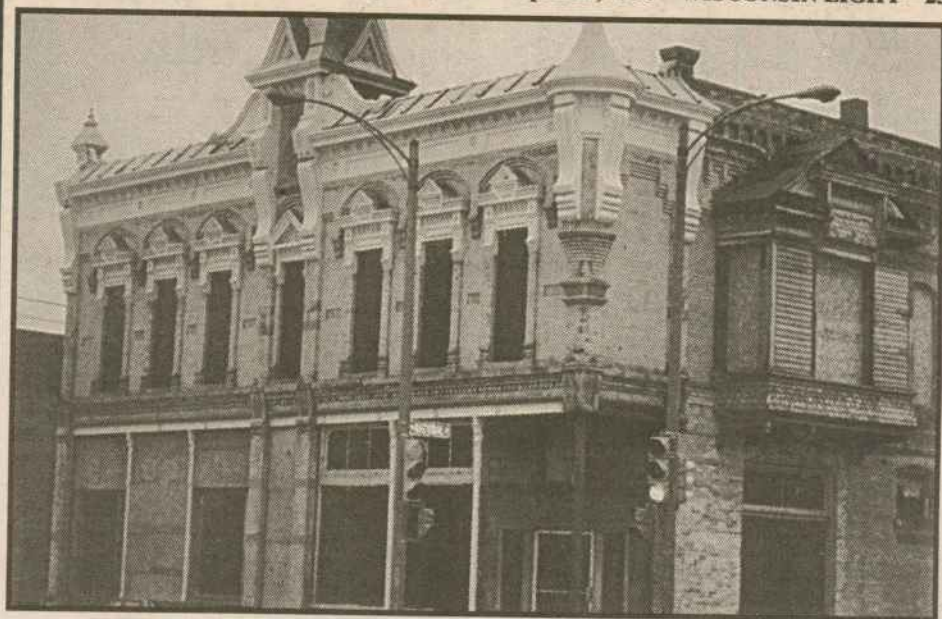
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New Look - A new storefront look is being installed as part of the La Cage exterior restoration. The view shown here is of the outside of Dance Dance Dance. The door at 803 will lead to a new upstairs club and performance space.



Under Construction - The work on the outside of La Cage continues. New traverse windows will soon be installed. In fact all of the windows in the building are being replaced to bring back the original look of the building which was constructed in 1887. The site which is listed on the National Register of Historical Sites, is considered one of Milwaukee's finest architectural gems. The exterior restoration is drawing rave reviews.

LA CAGE
Continued From Page 1

all the expense and trouble of restoring the building to its original exterior appearance, Prentice says, "It is one of the few remaining examples of tin over wood and mortar architecture in the nation. It looked like hell. I wanted it to be a source of pride to our community. I have wanted to do this since buying the building 15 years ago. Now I finally had the opportunity and I took it."

Local preservationists agree that the La Cage site is an important Milwaukee landmark.

Carlen Hatala of the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission is one of those who exude enthusiasm when discussing the La Cage site. Commenting on the architectural significance of the La Cage site, she calls it "an outstanding example" of tin over wood and mortar building. "Putting tin trim over wood and mortar was fairly common at the time this building was constructed, but this site is

probably one of the most flamboyant examples of this style you'll find anywhere. The work was truly outstanding. It's full of fussy and elaborate detail. There is really nothing like it anywhere else in the City."

Pictures of the building taken in 1927 were used to develop the design specifications needed to restore the building to its original appearance.

Hatala said that the building housing La Cage at 801 South Second Street was constructed in 1887 by Fredrick Bahr, who used half of it for his grocery business. The other half was leased to a local cigar manufacture, Henry Fishedick.

Bahr died in 1888, but his sons kept the grocery business going until 1917. After that the building was used for a variety of purposes, including storage, retailing and since the 1940's, a bar. Prentice and his partner Corey Grubb, opened La Cage at the site in 1983.

"The corner of Second and National was an important street car stop," said Hatala. "A major streetcar line turned around there. Bahr probably wanted to take advantage of that when he decided where to locate his building."

Hatala's excitement over the restoration of the building is shared by Alderman James Witowiak who represents the district that includes La Cage. "I am extremely pleased with the work that has been done at La Cage and the commit-



Heavy Lifting - Workman install a new 500 pound window at La Cage. The 2 inch thick, tempered, thermal pane smoked glass is one of two windows being put in outside of the Dance Dance Dance area. Raised seating areas with tables and chairs will be next to the windows providing patrons with a view of the busy Second Street bar area.

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ment shown by George Prentice. This is reflective of the significant contribution the Gay and Lesbian community has made to improving the neighborhood."

Witowiak's comments were echoed by Larry Stocks of the Walker's Point Development Corporation. "We certainly appreciate the good work that George Prentice is doing to improve the area," said Stocks.

New Club/Performance Space Upstairs

Stocks also indicated that he was pleased that the inside of the building will include a space suitable for theater productions.

That space will be located on La Cage's second floor. It will have its own entrance and exits. Patrons from the upstairs space will not be able to enter La Cage from inside the building.

When not being used for live entertainment, the new space will operate as a night club with its own dance floor, DJ and bar staff.

Prentice says that he hopes to have the new upstairs space ready by the end of June. He plans on making it available to music promoters and theater groups. "A couple of theater companies have already approached me about using it," he said. "It will also be used by the La Cage showcase on Friday and Sunday evenings."

A balcony in the upstairs space will supplement seating. "We will be able to put 400 to 500 people up there for live music and 200 to 250 people for theater productions."

Local observers say there are many activities that could use the new space. These include concerts by local Gay and Lesbian choral groups like the Cream City Chorus, and the Fest City Singers, concerts presented by Full Moon Productions, appearances by touring Gay and Lesbian performers, fund raisers, theater productions and large community meetings.

One local observer said that the new space has "the potential to bring a stunning new dimension in arts and culture to our community."

Prentice said the plans for the new second floor space including offering a Sunday brunch "along the lines of what you would find at Mader's or Pandl's or the Pfister." The catered brunch would be served from 11AM until 4 PM. "It would kind of segue into a Sunday afternoon tea dance. The tea dance would segue into the La Cage showcase." Tea dances are becoming popular among Gays in a growing number of large cities.

New Downstairs Bar

"Jazz Again" will occupy the downstairs bar formerly known as Grubb's Pub. That space will be completely redone. Nationally famous designer, Gary Wolf has been retained to come up with a redesign. Among Wolf's local projects are the Velvet Room, Senor Frog, La Perla, and Dancing Venetia. Wolf is currently working on a project in San Antonio, Texas and was unavailable for comment on his plans for this story.

Prentice says that the long bar that ran the length of Grubb's Pub will be replaced with a much shorter bar. The existing rest rooms are being taken out and relocated to a smaller space. Those two moves nearly double the space Wolf will have to work with.

The new club will offer upscale wines, glasses of champagne and upscale cocktails like martini's and perfect manhattans in addition to beers and regular rail drinks.

"Jazz Again" is scheduled to open in late May "hopefully in time for the Memorial Day weekend," said Prentice.

Main Floor Remodeling

Major renovations are also being done to the main floor bar area.

A new bar has been installed in the area that was occupied by Dance, Dance Dance. The main floor design allows the Dance Dance Dance space and the main bar space to be used separately or to be joined together providing Gay and Lesbian Milwaukee with its biggest single bar space since the closing of the legendary Factory bar in the early 1980's.

On Mondays and Tuesdays only the Dance Dance Dance space will be open to customers of La Cage. On Wednesdays and Sundays, only the Main Bar space will be open and on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays both spaces will be open and operate as a single bar.

A new light show has been designed for the Dance, Dance Dance space. The area will also include several raised seating areas with tables and chairs. Prentice says that he expects the tables and chairs to be among the most popular seats in any bar in Milwaukee.

The Main Floor work is scheduled to be finished by late April.

Prentice insists that after the current work is completed, there will be no major remodeling at La Cage. "Even I can't think of what we would do next," he said, "Once this is finished there isn't really anything we could do to reconfigure the space."

Sure George, like we said, death taxes and....

A Catholic Diocese Reaches Out to GLBT Catholics Alienated from the Church

San Bernardino, CA—The San Bernardino Catholic Diocese is aggressively courting Gay people in a dramatic turnaround from years of condemning Gay love as the surest route to eternal damnation.

"We are telling them they are totally welcome," said the Rev. Howard Lincoln, spokesman for the diocese and a priest at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Rialto. "All forms of prejudice are a fundamental act of disobedience against the Lord who creates us. ... It is profane to assume God values the souls of homosexuals less than heterosexuals."

The diocese, which includes Riverside and San Bernardino counties, set up a special committee in February to examine the needs of Gay people and now wants to establish a permanent office of Gay and Lesbian affairs.

"We think there are Gay people sitting in our pews suffering in silence who don't feel part of the congregation," said Joan Gonzales, chairwoman of the diocese's newly formed Ad Hoc Committee on Ministry to Gays and Lesbians.

"We want to open the doors to everyone. We want support groups for Gays and Lesbians. But we are going to go slowly," she said.

A committee member, the Rev. Patrick Kirsch of Our Lady of the Snows in Phelan, said: "If we don't reach out, we are alienating a whole population."

The change came in September when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops released a lengthy statement saying people don't generally choose their sexuality but are given it by God.

"By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes a freedom to choose," the statement said. The bishops called for compassion and love for homosexuals along with an end to stereotyping.

There was skepticism. Many priests tell homosexuals seeking counseling "you don't belong here," said Charles Cox, executive director of Washington-based Dignity USA, the nation's largest organization for Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Catholics.

For the past eight years, the Rev. Peter

Liuzzi has directed the Ministry with Gays and Lesbians for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He frequently counsels parents of homosexuals who ask, "Will my child go to hell?"

"I ask, does he feed the hungry, does he clothe the naked, does he grow in justice and compassion each day?" said Liuzzi, noting most of his work involves education about church teaching and directing homosexuals to parishes that are accepting of them.

"We have hundreds of Gays and Lesbians attending church every Sunday, but most Gay people who are Catholic are alienated," Liuzzi said. "We try to tell them that they can come back."

There is, however, a catch. Lincoln noted that biblical passages dealing with homosexuality talk strictly

about the sex act. "God does have non-negotiable moral codes, and one of them is no sex outside of marriage," Lincoln said. Since the Catholic Church doesn't recognize same sex marriage, celibacy is demanded for Gays.

"Just because we have a sexual proclivity does not mean we are without self-control. Priests are uniquely situated to understand that," Lincoln said.

But homosexuals have trouble with that. "I don't think we were all created to be priests. Their message is I am a sinner if I practice being a whole person," said Tony Aidukas, 32, of Palm Springs.

A Prom of Our Own: Some Enchanted Evening

Madison—April 18, 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., Madison Civic Center, Starlight Room. LGBT adult benefit to create a safe school climate for all students through the education efforts of GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network). Advance tickets \$20 each, \$25 each at door. To order, send checks made payable to GLSEN-WI, P.O. Box 259502, Madison, WI 53725-9502.

BestD Outreach Testing Schedule
Afterwords
Fri., April 17, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Hilel Foundation UWM
Sun., April 19, Noon-1:30 p.m.
Reformation Health Fair
Tue., April 21, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Boot Camp
Wed., April 22, 10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

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HIV & Renewed Health

Forums address the pros and cons of re-entering the work force.

Addressing Long-Term Money Management.....April 15

SPEAKER: Attorney Phil Rosenkranz @ ARCW
• Information for getting out of debt including maxed-out credit cards, viatical settlements, bankruptcy and college loans.

Sould I Return to Work.....April 22

SPEAKERS: Debbie Falk-Palec, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist; Victor Smith, District Director @ the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Attorney Jennifer Walther @ Buchanan & Barry SC.
• Focuses on the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees, services available to update job skills or learn new ones and educational opportunities.

LOCATION ARCW, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee
RECEPTION 5:30 PM
PROGRAM 6:00 PM

For more information, call 414-225-1523.
All forums are free for interested individuals.

RECONSTRUCTION

