

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

The Wisconsin Light

Bahamian Prime Minister Condemns Christian Right for Being "Un-Christian"

New York, NY—The Bahamian clergy's behavior—and its anti-Gay campaign titled "Save the Bahamas" is proving to be an international embarrassment to the non-discriminating government of the Bahamas.

On Monday, April 13, a large segment of Nassau's springtime tourists, Lesbians, affection, were greeted by a disgruntled coalition of enraged clergy leading their flocks of angry believers in protest.

The believers, up to 1,000 strong, marched only a block from where 800 Lesbians were docked aboard a cruise ship, The Seabreeze. They chanted "We don't want sissies," "Go Home," and "God made woman for man!"

"That last slogan—'woman for man'—probably didn't go down too well on a Lesbian cruise ship," reflected Jeanette Prather, a tour guide.

Most of the Lesbian passengers opted to steer clear of Nassau's shopping district, which is what the "Christians"—hoping to block Lesbian access to shops—had intended. Local Nassau businessmen and women were hardly amused, however, by the "Christians' antics.

A few angry Lesbian women, resenting that they were being made victims of "religiously-inspired" expulsions, confronted the crowd. Five, however, returned to the ship as the "Christians" turned on them in frightening fury. Three of the women, however, forged ahead into town, chased by a group of six believers who wished to demonstrate to the world the transforming power vouchsafed by their "holy" doctrines.

The Bahamas incident marks the second time the vacation plans aboard a cruise ship have been thwarted simply because it carried large numbers of individuals and couples openly espousing the joys of same-sex love.

In fact, mainland Florida too is catering to an ever-growing Gay tourist population. A Washington Post writer, Donald P. Baker, found his recent news report on Ft. Lauderdale reprinted in U.S. papers as distant geographically as The Dallas Morning News.

(See article on Fort Lauderdale in this issue.)

Prime Minister Speaks Out

On Wednesday, April 15, Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister of the Bahamas went on TV to explain the Bahamian government's position of Gay tourists.

The Bahamas is a nation "based upon Christian principles," Ingraham said. As such, the Bahamian Constitution "provides guarantees for the protection of human rights and liberties of all persons" including those visiting the Bahamas.

After condemning "hysteria" as "breeding a mob mentality," Ingraham said, "My government rejects bias in any form and finds discrimination repugnant. My government repudiates hate mongering."

"I have been chilled by the vehemence of the expressions against Gay persons made by some of our newspapers and over our radio talk shows," Ingraham said. "I have been particularly pained by the position taken by a segment of the leadership of The Bahamas Christian Council."

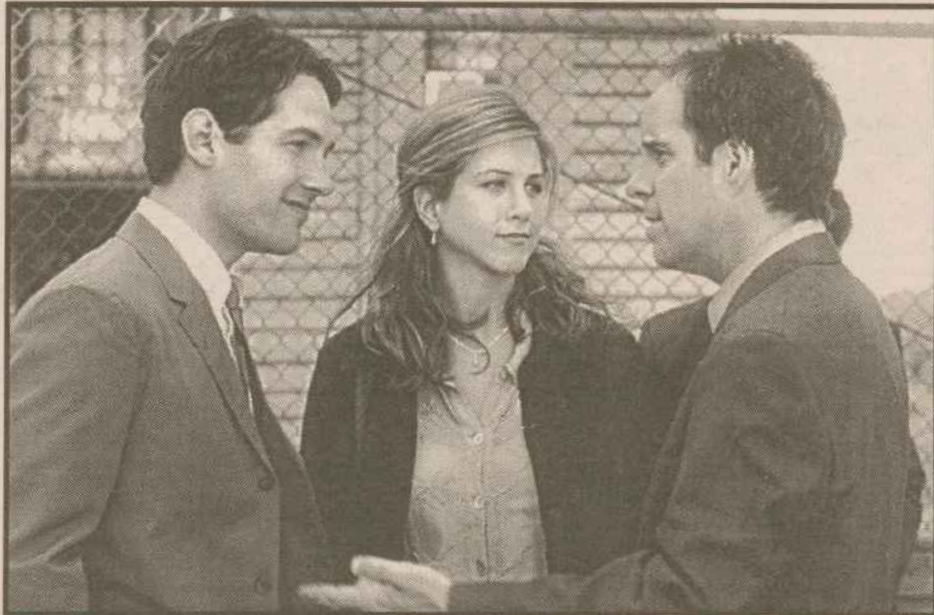
"I believe that the hysteria being created by certain individuals against Gay persons visiting the Bahamas and who represent themselves as the leadership of the Christian Council is becoming irresponsible," Ingraham noted. "It is also un-Christian."

Ingraham chastised the "Christians" for failing to focus on "serious social problems" instead of focusing hatred on "innocent people."

Ingraham concluded by welcoming all who wish to visit the Bahamas, including Lesbians and Gay men.

Feds Say: Needle Exchange Helps Prevent AIDS Yet Refuse Funding

Activists Say Decision Will Cost Lives



Threesome? Vince — John Pankow, (Right) confronts his girlfriend Nina — Jennifer Aniston, and her new Gay friend, George — Paul Rudd in the smash hit comedy, "Object of My Affection." The Gay themed movie can be seen throughout Wisconsin. (See our review on Page 18.)

Challengers Name Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as Fund Recipient

Milwaukee— The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center was recently selected as one of three recipients of the 1998 Challenging Party, a fund-raising event started 10 years ago to support Gay and Lesbian organizations.

"Recipient organizations are selected based on their impact on and value to the LGBT community," said Shelli Marquardt, one of the eight Challengers. "We see a tremendous value in the establishment of an LGBT community center in Milwaukee, and we want to give our wholehearted support to this effort," she added.

"We are pleased that the Challengers recognize the Center as a worthy cause. It says a lot about their faith in our mission and vision," said Neil Albrecht, Center Co-President. "Funds raised at the Challenging Party will benefit the Center's programs and provide vital start up funds to open a 'Home of Our Own,'" Albrecht added.

Originally started as a fund-raiser for the Milwaukee AIDS Project, the Challenging Party has developed into one of the LGBT community's largest fund-raising events. Marquardt explained that the eight "Challengers" fully underwrite the expense of the event, which is held in a different location each year with gourmet hors d'ouvres and distinctive cocktails.

"We raised over \$210,000 in the first nine years. Last year, over 80 guests attended

the party raising an astounding \$24,475.

In 1998, the Challengers hope to exceed that," said Marquardt. Party guests allocate their donations of at least \$250 per person in any proportion to one, two or all three of the beneficiaries.

"The LGBT community is very fortunate to have a group of such dedicated individuals to organize this incredible event. The Challenging Party has provided crucial funds to many organizations serving the LGBT community. As a recipient, we are grateful beyond words," said Albrecht.

The Challenging Party will be held on Saturday, May 30th, when guests will be treated to hor d'ouvres, cocktails (bathtub gin?) and live music. For more information about the Challenging Party, please call John Wirth, (414) 332-4811.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 240 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, call the Center's Hotline at (414) 483-4710.

Sex Panic Supporters are Not the Monsters Their Detractors Make Them Out to Be

Commentary by Jim Baxter

Every publication I open these days—mainstream or Gay-oriented—seems to have something about a group called "Sex Panic." And most of what I read is either misinformation or lies.

Larry Kramer got the ball rolling in the New York Times (December 12, 1997) when he referred to Sex Panic as "an advocate of unsafe sex..." and complained "not one AIDS organization or national Gay and lesbian group has been willing to speak out and condemn or even criticize what Sex Panic is saying."

Never one to miss a moment of martyrdom, Kramer added: "There are only a few Gay men willing to take on the group and we have been vilified..."

Not to be outdone, Rich Tafel — execu-

tive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, a Gay political group — decided to join in the grandstanding with an opinion piece in the San Francisco Chronicle (January 7, 1998).

Sex Panic, he said, promotes "thoughtless unsafe sex complete with HIV infection as the ultimate liberation," and urged "that every Gay and Lesbian organization in the country denounce the antics of... Sex Panic..."

I would like to think that the reason that Gay and Lesbian organizations across the country have not jumped on the bandwagon is because they have actually listened — unlike Kramer and Tafel — to what the members of Sex Panic are say-

Washington, DC — Programs that let drug addicts exchange used needles for clean ones fight AIDS and do not encourage illegal drug use, the Clinton administration declared today, April 20—but it will not allow federal tax dollars to fund the programs.

The administration hopes that Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala's strong endorsement will encourage communities to start their own needle exchanges. But AIDS activists have said that federal money—so far banned—is key, and they see Shalala's decision as a defeat that will result in a great loss of life especially in minority communities.

Reaction came quickly on the Administration's announcement.

"Tens of thousands of additional lives may now be lost because President Clinton and Secretary Shalala have abdicated their leadership role by not allowing Federal funding of these critical needle exchange programs," said Paul Akio Kawata, Executive Director of the National Minority AIDS Council. Kawata went on to say that by leaving it to state and municipalities to fund needle exchange, the Federal government is placing "thousands of Americans at risk for HIV/AIDS."

The CDC has reported that people of color account for 72% of the male and 78% of the female cumulative AIDS cases directly and indirectly related to IV drug use.

"It is an act of audacity for the Clinton Administration to call for a Race Initiative on Health Disparities for 1999, when they have all the power at their disposal in 1998 to make huge inroads in slowing the HIV epidemic in African-American and Latino communities and refuse to employ it," said A. Cornelius Baker, Executive Director of The National Association of People with AIDS.

Baker went on to say that African-Americans and Latinos are communities that the Administration "does not care about."

The Human Right Campaign (HRC) denounced the Administration for the decision.

"It is unconscionable that the Administration can acknowledge that needle exchange programs save lives and then deny funds to implement them," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director.

HRC joined seven national HIV and AIDS organizations in sending a letter to President Clinton condemning his Administration's failure to life the funding ban.

"The Administration has chosen the politically easy path," said Stachelberg.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) called on Shalala to resign.

Secretary Shalala's failure to lift the federal ban on needle exchange is an abdication of national leadership in the fight against AIDS," Nelson said. "As the country's top health official, if she cannot provide desperately needed leadership on policies that will save the lives of those at highest risk for HIV then she should resign and be replaced by a public health official with the courage to lead."

"Secretary Shalala has established a public health policy that is killing people," Nelson emphasized. "Everyday in America 33 people needlessly become infected with HIV through drug-related behaviors. While Secretary Shalala affirms that needle exchange can save these lives, she has prioritized politics over lifesaving public health policies. This continues the shameful legacy of public health failure in America to aggressively defeat the AIDS epidemic."

"The scientific evidence does show

Please See Sex Panic Page 10

Please See Needle Exchange Page 4

News Briefs

Perot Company Back Tracks on Domestic Partners Benefits For New Employees

DALLAS (AP) Newly-hired employees at Perot Systems Inc. will no longer be allowed to get health insurance for their same sex partners, according to a policy instituted by Ross Perot, who has moved back into the chief executive role at the company he founded.

Perot's change in policy at the computer services provider won't affect Gay employees who are already on the payroll. According to the company's human resources department, current employees will be allowed to continue insuring their same-sex partners.

Kim Mills, a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign, denounced the decision.

"This is tantamount to ending the benefits," said Ms. Mills. "Granted they're taking care of the few employees who currently have the policies, but going forward it's over."

Perot said the issue is not news. "Do we discriminate against people who are homosexual? No we do not," he said. "These organizations are very aggressive in trying to embarrass anybody that doesn't do what they want to do. It has nothing to do with homosexuality. If we made this benefit available to everyone living together in the same apartment the cost would be through the roof."

Alabama House Passes Same Sex Marriage Ban Amid Fights and Insults

Montgomery, Ala. -- The Alabama House voted to ban same-sex marriages, but not before two lawmakers scuffled on the House floor and another got two got married on a break in the debate.

The 71-12 vote Thursday sent the bill to the Senate with four meeting days remaining in the Legislature's regular session. The bill's passage followed an acrimonious debate that resulted from an anonymous flyer which threatened lawmakers who had voted to adjourn without debating the bill.

The flyer angered some of the lawmakers who were named. The House clerk had to separate Rep. Blaine Calliher, D-Gadsden, and Albert Hall, D-Gurley, as they started shoving each other while attempting to throw punches. Hall said Calliher had accused him of putting the flyer out.

The debate was later interrupted briefly for a wedding on the House floor. Rep. Johnny Ford, D-Tuskegee, married Romanita Braggs of Montgomery, with Rep. Thomas E. Jackson, D-Thomasville, officiating. Just as that ceremony ended, debate on the bill resumed.

"This is a political ploy in order for them to get their names in the newspaper," Rep. Alvin Holmes, D-Montgomery, said of the bill supporters, who also alleged that some of the bill's supporters were themselves Gay.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Phil Crigler Jr., R-Irvington said the legislation, which would not recognize same-sex marriages is not unfair to homosexuals. "I don't think it in any way is insinuates that we are trying to snuff out that lifestyle as it exists," Crigler said.

Local Maine Group Abandons Proposed Gay Rights Ordinance

Brunswick, Maine (AP) - A group of Brunswick activists have abandoned their push for a municipal Gay rights ordinance, and say they will now concentrate their efforts on the passage of a statewide law.

"We were trying to think of what really would make Gay and Lesbian people feel more safe in their community, and an ordinance may not do it," said Judy Lloyd, media co-ordinator for the local chapter of the National Organization for Women and an organizer of the Brunswick coalition. "In fact, it may bring out the opposition."

"One thing is universally agreed upon, and that is that we need to do much more education, especially in the non-urban areas, about what the bill does and does not do," said David Garrity, a board member of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance.

"There's a mistaken belief that we're somehow protected in some other way, and we're not," he said.

Betsy Smith, president of the MLGPA, said a variety of local efforts could drain resources needed for a statewide Gay rights campaign. Local ordinances also face the same repeal efforts that brought down the state law. Smith said activists should be gearing up for an organized grass-roots campaign, because the law eventually will be decided by voters, either in a referendum, or in an attempt to repeal a legislative act.

"This is going to end up at the polls," Smith said. "The people will decide this issue."

Nationsbank Employees To Get Domestic Partner Benefits

Charlotte, NC -While many consumer advocates are decrying big bank mergers, at least someone- Nationsbank's Gay and Lesbian employees will benefit from the recently announced merger between Nationsbank and Bank America.

Nationsbank assistant VP, Shelly Schoenfeld announced that the new combined financial institution will offer Domestic Partnership benefits. Bank America already offered the benefits to its Gay and Lesbian workers. Details and timing for Nationsbank's acceptance of the policy are still being worked out according to company spokeswoman Mary Waller.

BankAmerica's "extended family benefits" policy lets employees enroll in their health plan another qualifying adult in their household: a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, a same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partner.

"It's much, much broader than domestic partners," said BankAmerica spokesman Dennis Wyss. "... It's a realization that the dependents our employees support might be parents, siblings or domestic partners." Its equal employment opportunity policy also protects Gay employees from being fired, denied a promotion or harassed just because of their sexual orientation.

NationsBank, like nearly half of all Fortune 500 firms, doesn't include homosexuality in its nondiscrimination policy. "That issue has not been addressed," Waller said.

Applebee's Accused of Discrimination

Benton Township, MI (AP) -- Former workers at an Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar here have accused the restaurant of discriminating against Blacks and Gays.

About 20 ex-workers picketed the Berrien County restaurant Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They planned to continue picketing this week and are meeting with a lawyer about filing a wrongful termination suit. The South Bend Tribune of Indiana reported Thursday.

The workers say Applebee's harassed black workers, unfairly fired them and forced a group of homosexual customers to leave the restaurant last year.

Bill Lackey, a spokesman for the restaurant's parent company Applebee's International in Overland Park, Kan., said Applebee's does not tolerate discrimination.

One picketer, Roby Caughn, 30, said she and other black employees put up with constant harassment. She cited one case where a white manager called a black server a racial slur. "When the black girl went to the manager, they didn't even look into it," she said. Ms. Caughn said the manager threw some paper in her face when she complained.

"I said, 'I'll call the corporate office.' He laughed and said they probably wouldn't believe me. He said, 'You people are always complaining.'"

Lackey disputed the charges and also said managers at the Benton Township restaurant know of no alleged incident with homosexuals.

Opponents Of Colorado Human Rights Ordinance Force Vote

Fort Collins, Colo. (AP) Opponents of a revision to the Fort Collins' Human Rights Ordinance have turned in enough petition signatures to force a referendum on the issue. The new ordinance changes the procedures for filing discrimination complaints and extends protection to Gays and Lesbians.

The City Council passed the ordinance six weeks ago. Opponents collected the signatures of 1,783 registered city voters needed to force the council to reconsider its decision.

Businessman Greg Snyder, who led the petition drive, said his main concern is with the first ordinance, which he said is unconstitutional.

"I don't want to get sidelined by the Gays-vs.-straights thing," he said. "But that's going to be hard to do."

Ten years ago, a similar Gay-rights ordinance was soundly defeated by Fort Collins voters following a bitter election campaign.

Mims Harris, chairwoman of the Fort Collins Citizens for Human Rights Committee, said her group plans to educate the public about the ordinance and sexual orientation.

George Michael Comes Out on CNN After Being Arrested on Lewd Conduct Charges

Los Angeles--British pop star Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou (George Michael) was arrested allegedly "for engaging in a lewd act" in Will Rogers Memorial Park by plainclothes Beverly Hills Cops at 4:48 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 1998. The London *Mirror*, quoting a police source, said that while being arrested, Michael started to cry.

The singer is best known for such songs as "I Want Your Sex" and "Freedom."

Rogers Park is listed in several Gay websites as being particularly cruisy.

The *Mirror* reports that the plainclothes policeman who arrested Michael had been lured by the singer into a restroom. There, according to the *Mirror*, each man sat in a separate cubicle and the *Mirror* accepts that it was Michael, not the policeman, who initiated the activity.

Michael was booked on a misdemeanor lewd conduct charge and was released after posting a \$500 bond. An arraignment of the star is scheduled for May 5.

According to *Newsweek*, after being released, Michael spent some time at the home of David Geffen. Geffen is openly Gay.

On Friday, April 17, Michael appeared on CNN and said that he is Gay.

Michael's arrest sparked frenzied eruptions in the British press which is parroting police reports about a cop's too-cozy

tryst with the handsome 34-year old singer.

According to the *Mirror*, the singer's arrest bore all the marks of standard-brand police enticement and entrapment. Such practices are favored by some Beverly Hills' policemen who spend afternoons and evenings in public locales in an act that some of them reportedly call "fag-fishing."

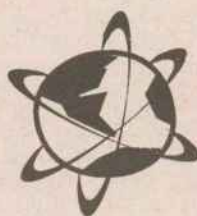
Activist Bob Kunst, who was arrested by peephole police during a tryst with another man on Miami Beach, refers to such arresting officers as the "orgasm orderlies."

Kunst insists that such park and restroom arrests are part of a nationwide sexual morality crusade, spurred on by the kind of hubris shown by Kenneth Starr's investigation into the private sex life of President Clinton.

Kunst calls on the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to speak out against police practices such as enticement and entrapment and urges others to do likewise. GLAAD has already taken a stand about such matters, he notes.

Boy George expressed solidarity with Michael, quipping "We're all sisters under the skin."

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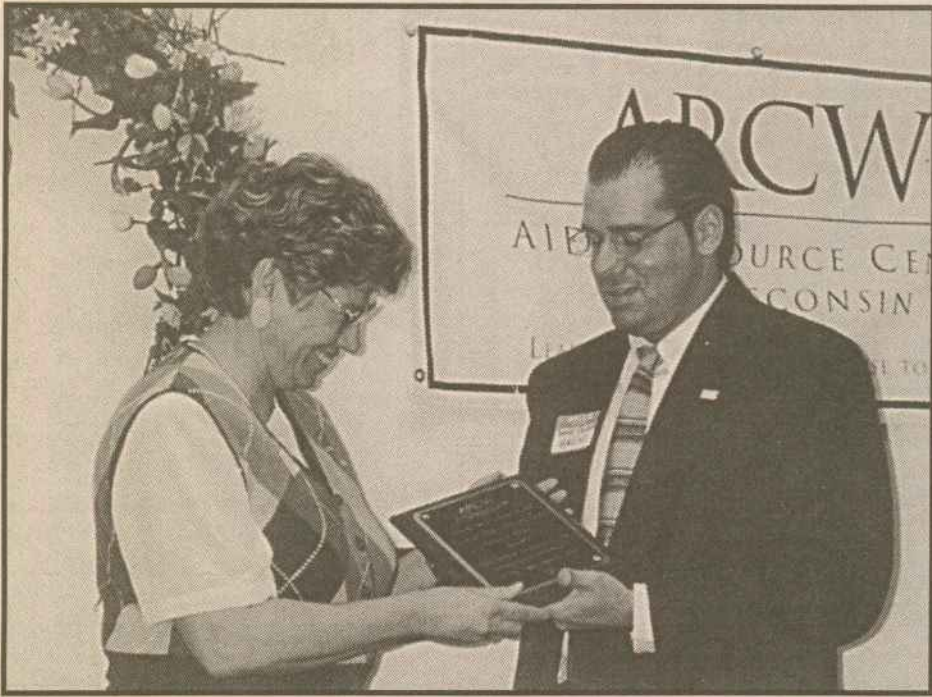


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Recognition- Jamie Sorenson, ARCW Regional Director presents Marge Schumann of the Central Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Ministry a plaque of recognition during ARCW's Wausau Office Open House on April 8

ARCW Holds Open Houses in New Offices in La Crosse and Wausau Areas

Northwest Wisconsin -- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) officially opened its new La Crosse and Wausau offices on April 7 and 8, pledging to implement aggressive HIV prevention programs for those at highest risk for HIV infection including Gay and Bisexual men, drug users, women at risk and Gay youth.

In remarks delivered during last week's two open house events, Jamie Sorenson, ARCW regional director, announced that "ARCW will also provide anonymous, free HIV testing for those at highest risk."

"Our aggressive AIDS prevention efforts will build on the outstanding work done by the local county health departments," Sorenson said. "In La Crosse and in Wausau there is a great tradition of supporting quality AIDS prevention programs which is very helpful to us as we carry on the fight against AIDS."

He added that individual responsibility and aggressive prevention work by organizations like ARCW are the most effective means of stopping the spread of AIDS, reminding that "a cure for AIDS has not been found, a vaccine is not in the near future, and that HIV drug treatments are not working for up to one-third of the people taking them and the long-term effects are unknown."

Sorenson said that anonymous HIV testing is an important and beneficial distinction for people who want to get tested because they may have put themselves at risk but are fearful of disclosing their names.

"This fear is common and sometimes leads to an individual not getting or putting off testing, which is detrimental since early detection is key to living longer and healthier with HIV," Sorenson said.

It is estimated that almost 300 individuals in both the La Crosse area and Wausau areas are living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Sorenson said ARCW provides people with HIV and AIDS direct access to free services such as early medical intervention, clinical drug trials, case management, and support including a hard goods pantry, housing, financial and legal assistance.

ARCW also provides educational information to schools and the general public. Individuals interested in learning more about AIDS may contact ARCW's AIDS Library or its Wisconsin AIDS line at 800-334-AIDS where callers can ask questions anonymously. The free hot line also offers trained, teen operators from 3:00-9:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday to talk with other concerned teens.

"Since the beginning of AIDS, ARCW has worked hard to build public and private partnerships that will meet the demands of the epidemic and we are glad to extend this relationship and opportunity to the people of the La Crosse and Wausau areas," Sorenson said.

The La Crosse open house included remarks from Mayor John Medinger, who welcomed ARCW to La Crosse and strongly supported its background and mission to end AIDS.

Plaques were presented by ARCW to the La Crosse County Health Department Teen AIDS Prevention Program and the

Coulee Region YWCA—Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth (GALAXY) for their progress and hard work around HIV.

A donation of \$1000 was presented to ARCW by each the Lutheran Hospital Foundation Inc. and Franciscan Skemp Foundation, Inc.

In Wausau, State Representative Bill Murat welcomed ARCW to his district. A plaque was presented by ARCW to the Central Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Ministry Project for their dedication to helping people affected by HIV and AIDS.

Since January 1, 1998, ARCW has been serving the La Crosse area counties of La Crosse, Jackson, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon and the Wausau area counties of Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Taylor and Wood, when the state awarded the nonprofit social and health agency the contract to provide HIV/AIDS services to the areas.

For more information on ARCW HIV/AIDS services available, call the Wisconsin AIDS Line, 1-800-334-AIDS.

Baldwin Files Campaign Finance Report Electronically

Madison—State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) is using technology to provide full disclosure of who is funding her race for Congress in the 2nd District. She will file her current Federal Elections Commission report electronically in order to promote one of the key issues of campaign finance reform.

Electronic filing will provide immediate access to information regarding sources of campaign funds and who is funding her race. It makes the information available instantly to anyone with email access as opposed to the practice of filing on paper, which can take months to decipher.

"I firmly believe voters deserve easy, immediate access to information on who contributes what to political candidates," said Baldwin. "Procedures for electronic filing are the type of cutting edge campaign finance reform measures that we need to ensure a fair an open electoral process."

Baldwin authored the Citizens Right to Know bill in the Wisconsin legislature that provides for electronic filing of campaign finance reports on the state level. The bill is the only campaign finance reform bill that passed both the Assembly and Senate in the latest session and is expected to become law soon with Gov. Tommy Thompson's signature.

Baldwin's report will additionally include a list of each and every donor to her campaign. This is not required by Federal law, which requires that only large donors be individually listed.

"I believe it is necessary for those people in public office to be held accountable for making funding information accessible to the general public," Baldwin said. "If elected to Congress, I will continue to fight for meaningful finance reform and a more fair, open political process."

The life-long Madison resident has served in the Wisconsin State Assembly since 1992. Baldwin is running for the Democratic nomination in the 2nd Congressional District and is seeking to become the first woman from Wisconsin to win a seat in Congress.

Exceptional ARCW Volunteers Recognized at Awards Banquet

Milwaukee— A Milwaukee attorney who works with people living with AIDS and a student who brings the issue of AIDS to her high school classmates received Volunteer of the Year Awards from the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Saturday night, April 18.

Mary Read, an attorney who helps the agency's clients with estate planning, wills, powers of attorney and other legal matters, received the award from the ARCW's Milwaukee and Kenosha area offices.

Receiving the award from the Green Bay and Appleton area offices was Sarah Johnson, of Sobieski, a student at Pulaski High School. She was honored for planning and implementing activities for World AIDS Day at her school, for teaching about AIDS and for getting other students involved.

The awards were presented at a dinner at the Bavarian Inn, 700 W. Lexington Blvd. Glendale. State Rep. Rosemary Potter (D-Milwaukee), who has long been concerned about the issues of HIV and AIDS, was the featured speaker.

"Our 1,400 volunteers are the foundation of care, treatment and prevention services provided by ARCW. Additionally, we would not be able to raise critically needed funds to support programs without the many volunteers in Special Events," said Neil Albrecht, Regional Director.

Read has been volunteering with the agency since 1996, devoting two afternoons a week in the legal program. Based on this schedule, she has contributed hundreds of hours of free legal advice and counsel to clients.

As an estate planner, she drafts health care powers of attorneys, financial powers of attorney, living wills and other wills, each individually tailored to the client. In addition, her dedication to serving clients shows through with her willingness to meet clients wherever is necessary, not only at 820 N. Plankinton, but in their homes, hospitals, nursing homes and hospices. Thus, she provides services to clients which preserves their autonomy in the most fundamental areas, medical decision-making and financial planning.

Besides ARCW, her commitment is evidenced by her involvement in other community-wide HIV issues. Read also volunteers for HIV-related programs at Children's Hospital, where she serves on the Board of Directors, and as a member of

the Wisconsin AIDS Fund.

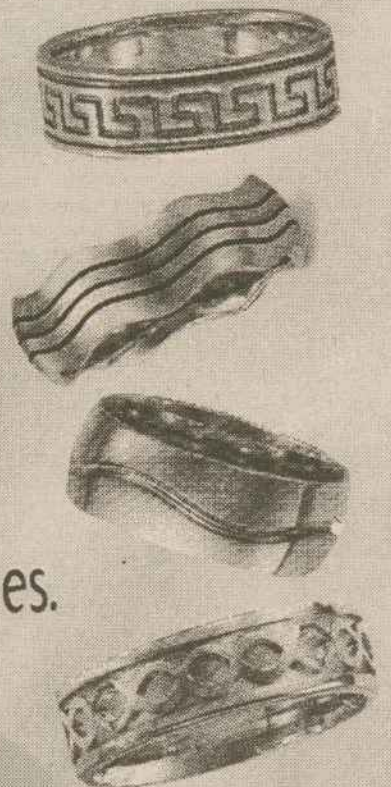
The award for Johnson noted that she "is an effective teacher, making sure that her audience understands her point by making the information relevant to teens' lives. She is constantly thinking of ways she can help and get other students involved. She has been an integral part in planning and implementing numerous activities and education sessions for World AIDS Day for the last two years in her school."

More than 1,400 volunteers in the state work with ARCW in helping clients, spreading prevention messages and with fundraising events. Christopher Braman, director of volunteers for the Southeast Region, said: "The Volunteer Recognition Dinner is a celebration of the invaluable commitment volunteers have made to the AIDS epidemic. ARCW owes a world of gratitude to the volunteers who are the backbone and driving force of AIDS prevention and service in this part of the state."

Anyone interested in volunteering for ARCW should call Chris Braman at (414) 225-1556.

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Editorial

Reggie White and Brothers Touch

Reggie White's announcement of his retirement from football is sad for two reasons. One is that a great athlete is hanging up his cleats. There is a certain melancholy nostalgia in that.

The second is that when it comes to history and society, in all probability, White is leaving professional sports no wiser than when he came in. He probably does not realize, probably doesn't have a clue, as to the potential for harm and damage done by his thoughtless and ignorant remarks made before the State legislature.

Sometime last night (April 19, 1998), Brothers Touch Bookstore in Minneapolis had bullets shot through its window—right through the Pink Triangle painted there. This is not the first time something like that has happened to the bookstore. There have been other cases of hate-ridden vandalism done to the store.

Did anything Reggie White had to say cause this at Brothers Touch? No, of course not, not directly, anyway. But it is thoughtless, judgmental, bashing words like White's that cause the harm. White added to the mix.

Like so many others, White probably doesn't realize that words have power. They can change behavior. They affect action, action of the kind that assailed Brothers Touch.

Where is it written that Christianity sponsors ignorance?

If humans are created in the image of God and one of God's attributes is knowledge, then is not willful ignorance a slap in the Creator's face? Does not willful ignorance diminish a person?

It's sad that Reggie White, a minister, seems not to understand the true meaning of Christianity. It's equally interesting that it takes the Prime Minister of the Bahamas to tell Christians how to act like adherents of their faith.

Reggie White needs to learn. He needs to wipe away his ignorance.

He needs to know that the only way to spiritual maturity is through intellectual growth.

Play Ball!

They won't get any high priced contracts. There will be no cards bearing their pictures. Nor will there be any big endorsement deals netting them millions.

There will also be no drug tests no player strikes. We won't pick up the morning paper and read about the outrageous things they said or did.

Yet on Saturday, May 2 when the players of Milwaukee's Saturday Soft Ball League take to the field and launch the league's third decade they will speak volumes about the true nature of sports: striving to do your best to be your best, and playing hard to make the next play, not to make the next contract.

We live in a time when a football hero can come before the State Legislature and spout bigotry, when pro athletes say that they are being mistreated because someone else is making an even more obscene pile of money than they are, while families can't afford to see games in person. It's nice to know that there is still a place for the SSBL.

That place is Milwaukee's Sijan field, 2821 S. Kinnickinick Ave. We extend our best wishes to all of the players and teams. And we urge everyone to catch SSBL fever. If you aren't a player don't let that stop you from enjoying this summer time treat. Stop in and cheer for your favorite teams. Admission is free and so is the excitement, the fun and the competition.

Letters

Christian or Jew?

TO THE EDITOR:

One more comment re Reggie White. Why was he even invited to address the Assembly? Who is he? A god, an intellectual, a wise man or role model? Enough of celebrity worship!

A puzzlement: I do not understand so-called Christians who are forever quoting (and believing in) the Old Testament. What are they, Christians or Jews? No offense, but I don't hear Jews quoting the New Testament and what it stands for. Why are so many Christians so hung up on the Old? They are schizophrenic and righteous at the same time.

Do they not know that the New Testament supercedes the Old? It is the fulfillment of the latter. If one truly believes in Christ and His message of love and forgiveness, it is hypocritical to always reference a vengeful, stern, harsh and punishing God. Again, Christ says nothing about homosexuals—so what is the problem? Either one accepts His message or not. Enough of this moral and/or religious dichotomy.

Question: Is Reggie White a Christian or Jew? How can he be both?

James Henderson
Milwaukee

Reggie and Jesus

TO THE EDITOR:

It's been an interesting year already for our nation in it's agonizing over our place in society. Those of us who care, know what is happening around the country. The mainstream media may publish reports of the occasional local, or high profile national events, but only the Gay media can make us and the general public aware of the overall trends and legal/emotional confusion.

Clearly, our nation is experiencing a wrenching change of spirit on this social issue. Americans, struggling with their innate sense of fairness and a growing awareness that this bogeyman is a fraud, remain conflicted about our rightful status.

But hey, Wisconsinites have Reggie White to set us all...uh, straight! By now, we've all heard how he tossed off one racial stereotype after another, saving his worst for homosexuals in a preposterously ignorant diatribe that stunned our state Assembly.

Reggie took the rostrum to a standing ovation. By the time he finished, you could have heard a pin drop. His rambling speech took about an hour and filled 18 typed pages...both sides! I received a copy of the text from Speaker Jensen's office and slogged through

every word. I knew before I finished the first page that it was going to be a chore.

Never have I seen such a display of incredible ignorance; of language use and structure, of history, of social issues. The more I read, the more embarrassed and insulted I became that this man was given such an honorable forum for such a dishonorable screed.

For a state "hero," and a supposedly educated man (ministers are presumed to be well educated, aren't they?), there is no excuse for it.

Nevertheless, he has his (notably few) apologists. The reflexive, unscholarly praise is a nauseating example of abject genuflection to yet another of the new messiahs of our time, the pompous prophets of ignorant celebrity religiosity.

It is an ignorance born of a self-righteous arrogance that prompts otherwise good people like Reggie to spout off about social concerns of which they obviously know little or nothing.

In the matter of homosexuality and religion, has our "hero" seen fit to avail himself of the new scholarship and theological developments on this issue, or has he limited his "study" of the matter to the Bible and rote fundamentalist rhetoric?

One of those apologists has stated that, "(Reggie White's) reflections on homosexuality are controversial only insofar as the Bible is controversial" (*The Wall Street Journal*, Mar 31). Well, duh! The Bible controversial? What else is new?

Half of Christianity has begun to re-evaluate its reprehensible traditional attitude toward homosexuals, but Reggie is "not going to back off" what I know God has put in my heart to share.

If Reggie's own words are a valid indication, God talks to him quite a lot! No mention of what Jesus might put in his heart. But we may get a clue of the true nature of the man from his book, *In The Trenches* (a term from warfare!), where he answers this question: How does he reconcile his faith with his bruising presence on the packer line? "I hit hard for the glory of God," writes Reggie.

Well, glory to God in the highest and on earth, pound 'em for money, fame, and ego gratification!

God may be very real indeed, but how each of us conceives of Him/Her/It is an abstract construct easily created in the image of our own experiences, desires, and fears.

What "God" put in Reggie's heart, therefore, may well have been what Reggie wanted to see and hear according to his own pre-conditioned ideas about that subject. Not so Jesus, a live, historical human being who challenged us to have a more inclusive and compassionate

image and word of God than that which comes from the mouth of Reggie White, and uttered not a syllable about homosexuality.

It is telling, I believe, that when fundamentalists expound upon the subject of homosexuality, they do so in the name of God, but not of Jesus.

When the sexual orientation clause of the non-discrimination laws of Maine was recently repealed by referendum, the incidents of violence against homosexuals in that state shot up. Message received.

What message is received from the Word of Reggie, "a genuinely righteous man" according to the Wall Street worshipper? He is also an author (wrote every word of his book, right?) and, as a sports hero, a role model for our children. Awesome! I take comfort in knowing that, as a Gay man, I am so much safer in a world imbued with Reggie's fine toned intellect and hard hitting love.

Bill Steffenhagen
Onalaska

NEEDLE EXCHANGE

Continued From Page 1

needle exchange programs reduce the risk of infection with HIV and do not encourage the use of illegal drugs," admitted an administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. But "the administration has decided that the best course at this time is to have local communities use their own dollars to fund needle exchange programs."

In Wisconsin, Shalala's decision is a lost opportunity to save lives," Nelson said. "Applying only ten percent of the state's \$2.4 million in federal AIDS prevention funds to needle exchange would reach all of the drug users at risk for HIV. Shalala's decision means that without this federal financial support we will lose hundreds of lives in Wisconsin to AIDS."

Shalala will tell state and local officials that to start a needle exchange, the programs must be part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy that includes referring participants to drug treatment and counseling. Also, needles must be made available only on a replacement basis, the administration official said.

Needle exchange programs are one of the hottest topics in the AIDS crisis. Half of all people who catch HIV are infected by dirty needles, sex with injecting drug users or are children of infected addicts—totaling 33 people every day, AIDS experts say.

Numerous scientific studies and public health groups have declared that needle exchanges reduce that risk, and 88 needle exchanges operate around the country with private, state or local funding.

But Congress had banned letting communities use federal tax dollars to pay for needle exchanges until Shalala certified that scientific studies proved they both reduced spread of the HIV virus and did not encourage drug use.

After a months-long review by her top scientific advisers, Shalala decided that needle exchanges are scientifically backed.

The scientific review found that the needle exchanges that work best are part of a larger anti-HIV program that pushes addicts toward drug treatment.

Indeed, one study of a needle exchange in the Bronx, New York, found that providing clean needles to heroin addicts in addition to offering them methadone treatment both lowered the risk of HIV infection and lowered their overall drug use.

But whether to allow federal funding was a politically charged question that administration officials debated heavily over the weekend. Ultimately, Shalala decided that whether to fund a needle exchange was up to each community.

The decision came after Republicans in Congress had threatened to ban federal funding of needle exchanges altogether if Shalala did decide to attempt it.

And President Clinton's own drug policy chief, Barry McCaffery, has vigorously fought that attempt, saying it would send the wrong message to children.

"Such a program would in reality use tax dollars and the authority of the federal government to push drug paraphernalia into already drug-ravaged inner cities. This is reckless and irresponsible," Sen. Chuck Grassley, (R-Iowa), said in a weekend statement.

Public health experts directly dispute that: "Does needle exchange promote drug use? A preponderance of evidence shows either no change or decreased drug use," an NIH consensus conference concluded 14 months ago, saying the ban on funding for these programs will lead to "many thousands of unnecessary deaths."

Shalala last year agreed that science proved that needle exchanges were effective in fighting HIV, but said at that time that she needed to review further data on how they affect drug use.

Deadlines

May 7th Issue

Articles Friday, May 1st
Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 1st
Camera Ready—May 4th
5:00 p.m.

May 21st Issue

Articles—Friday, May 15th
Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 15th
Camera Ready—May 18th
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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Log Cabin, Son and Ex-Wife Go to Bat for James Hormel's Nomination

San Francisco—James Hormel Jr. was 11 when he learned that his father was Gay. "It was kind of a shock to me," he says. "I knew what society thought being Gay was. I'd heard fag jokes growing up. It was a burden to me in that sense. But it wasn't a burden to me in being close to my father. I'm proud of my father."

Now, at age 37, Mr. Hormel works with his father in his investment business in San Francisco. And this month he came out himself -- not as Gay (he's heterosexual, with a wife and two young children) but as a fighter for Gay rights. What prompted his activism was major-league bigotry directed at his dad.

The elder James Hormel, 65, was nominated six months ago by the Clinton Administration to be ambassador to Luxembourg. A philanthropist, former University of Chicago Law School dean and delegate to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, he's ludicrously overqualified; he was quickly approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But his nomination has been put "on hold" by three G.O.P. Senators -- James Inhofe of Oklahoma, Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, Robert Smith of New Hampshire -- eager to pander to far-right hysteria about a "Gay agenda" that might cause Judy Garland impersonations to break out in Luxembourg.

"My father never tried to influence my sexuality in any way," the younger Hormel, known as Jimmy, wrote in a widely syndicated article responding to his father's antagonists. "What he did teach me was kindness, acceptance of others, honesty, self-esteem and standing up for what you believe."

Over the phone, Jimmy Hormel expanded on how "extremely close" his large extended family remains. "In my family, yes, things changed," he said. "My parents' marriage didn't work out. But it didn't take them long to remake their relationship. . . . There are many different ideas of family."

Today his own 6-year-old son has "a vague idea" of his grandfather's sexuality: "We've talked about it, but he's growing up in a society that's totally different from what I grew up with. . . . It's much more normal for him; it's like no big deal. He's around dad and his partner all the time."

Richard Tafel, of the Log Cabin Repub-

licans, has been working on Capitol Hill to try to break the Hormel logjam -- in part, he says, because the G.O.P., as "the party of individual rights," maintains that "merit should be the sole criterion by which all Americans are judged in the workplace."

But he also argues that it's in the G.O.P.'s own selfish interest to act. "As long as an intolerant few can succeed at defining what the Republican Party stands for," he says, "Hillary Clinton can blame the President's scandal on a 'vast right-wing conspiracy' and America will immediately believe her."

Many G.O.P. senators, including such non-liberals as Orrin Hatch and Gordon Smith, have said they will vote for Hormel if the nomination makes it to the Senate floor. But the majority leader, Trent Lott, who can make that happen, has not done so. This week Senator Lott was sent a letter urging him to let the Senate vote from a most unlikely correspondent -- Hormel's former wife, Alice Turner, a retired psychologist.

"I have known Jim for 46 years," Dr. Turner wrote Mr. Lott, "and for ten of those years I was married to him. During those ten years we had five children. So for many years he tried his hardest to live what was a lie. Of course, you might say I was the 'injured party,' but I grew to understand the terrible prejudice and hatred that he knew he would have to face . . . and is facing as he goes through the difficult process this nomination and its opponents have put him through. . . ."

"I share with you these personal things because I gather his personal ethics have been questioned. If anyone on this earth could come close to judging that, it would be me. He is a wonderful father, grandfather and friend. We have a very powerful, close family. My present husband considers James Hormel one of his closest friends. Jim Hormel has given enormously to his family, his community and to this country. He is just asking to be allowed to give one more time. This is a good man. Give him a chance."

How often does anyone write a testimonial like this about a former spouse?

In the battle between James Hormel and the homophobic right, just who has the family values and who is queer?

Two Reports Indicate Hollywood Becoming More Comfortable with Gay Themes

Hollywood—In light of the new Gay-themed movie, *Object of My Affection*, both the *Miami Herald* and *USA Today* recently provided reflections on lesbian and Gay representations in Hollywood past, present and future.

The April 12 *Miami Herald* story, by staff movie critic Rene Rodriguez, notes that *Object* "breaks new ground: Here, at last, is a Hollywood movie, aimed at mainstream audiences, in which a Gay man is not suffering from AIDS, does not keep a dress in his closet, does not need to be taught how to walk like a 'man.'"

George, the Gay protagonist, doesn't even feel alienated or maladjusted. He's a fully dimensional, self-assured individual who is not defined solely by his sexuality."

The story also notes that, unlike the Gay characters in *As Good As It Gets* and *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *Object*, "shows George expressing physical affection for other men; those moments are presented

Annual Cream City Foundation Benefit to Have 'Titanic' Theme

Milwaukee—The Victory Fund benefit that was announced earlier in this paper, has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts. The benefit was to have been held on Sunday, May 17. The benefit will be rescheduled for a date later in the year.

However—on that same date, May 17, the *Cream City Foundation* will hold its annual major donor fundraising event at the *Boulevard Inn*.

The event will be a "Titanic High Tea" featuring some selections served on RMS *Titanic* along with champagne and tea.

There will be a silent auction featuring memorabilia from the movie and the actual ship.

Suggested donation to the event is \$250 and is completely tax deductible.

For more information regarding this event, please contact Landmark Enterprises at (414) 276-6355. For more information regarding the Cream City Foundation, call (414) 265-0880.

with casual frankness—not melodramatic music."

The story also gives examples of an increasing casualness with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual characters in recent films like *Clueless*, *Primary Colors* and *Wild Things*, noting that, in the last, while the women have sex with each other, the "director removed a scene in which [Matt] Dillon was to jump into the shower with Kevin Bacon; the studio must have thought we weren't quite ready for that."

The story explains how the bottom line in the entertainment industry is money. *The Birdcage*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *In & Out* and *As Good As It Gets* all earned more than \$100 million, and in Hollywood, any trend that sells tickets is a good trend," it says.

It also discusses GLAAD's role in preventing negative stereotypes that still occur in Hollywood movies. Finally, it points to independent films as pushing the envelope. A sidebar provides a limited lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender filmography since the 1980s.

The April 7 *USA Today* article, "Love's Latest Hurdle: Sexual Orientation," by Janet Weeks, also uses *Object* as a launching pad for a broader discussion of Lesbian and Gay representation in the entertainment industry, incorporating movies and television programs, such as the Lifetime movie "Labor of Love," premiering May 4, *Will and Grace*, NBC's show in development for the fall, and the debut episode of UPN's "Love Boat: The Next Wave"

"The trend can partly be explained by the dynamics of Hollywood. Hit movies spawn imitators and pave the way for other projects once considered risky," Weeks writes. "But there may be another explanation: Some say stories of Gay-straight romantic entanglements are emerging because it is a safe way to introduce Gay characters to a mainstream audience."

She also points to how far the industry has come since *Philadelphia* five years ago, when the Gay protagonist "was denied anything more intimate on screen than a slow dance with his partner. A kiss was taboo."

Drugs, alcohol and depression are the first problem The next problem is finding a treatment center where you can safely be yourself and talk about the things you need to.

Fortunately, Pride Institute, the nation's leader in providing mental health & addiction treatment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, has a number of programs nationally.

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Financial Planning

Estate Planning For Unmarried Couples

By Carol L. Busche, CFP

Your estate is everything you own—bank accounts, stocks, IRAs, house, car—plus your life insurance. Estate planning is the process of planning to conserve and distribute your estate in accordance with your wishes.

Probate is the process of going through the Probate Court to settle a person's estate. What you owned and who you left it to becomes public record that anyone can look at. Most people want to avoid this because of the time and cost involved, not to mention the inconvenience and lack of privacy.

trust at any time. In addition, a trust preserves your privacy. Nothing gets filed with the probate court and only your trustee knows what your assets were and your beneficiaries are.

Another important part of your estate planning is a durable power of attorney. This is a document that designates who you want to be responsible for managing your affairs if you are incapacitated and can't do it for yourself. Without a durable power of attorney, your blood relatives may obtain complete control if you were sick or injured and couldn't take care of things yourself; this includes managing your financial affairs, signing your tax return, selling assets, making medical decisions and hospital visitation.

If you want your partner to have control of these things, you need a durable power of attorney to cover both your financial affairs and medical decision-making. Most estate planning attorneys can draw up these document for you at the same time you do your will and trust.

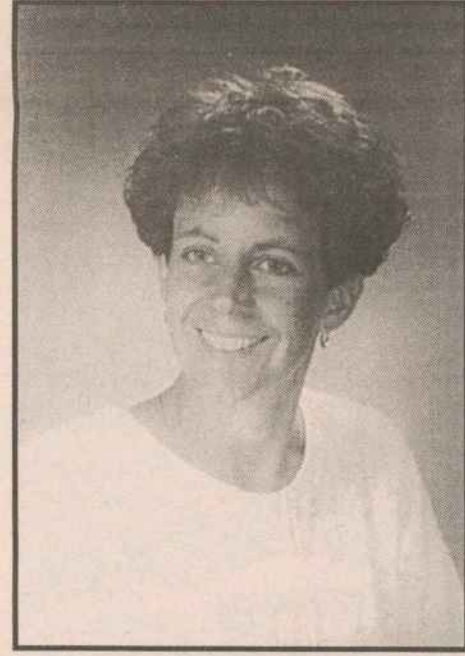
Estate planning also may substantially reduce your Federal estate taxes. The estate tax begins at \$600,000 and is graduated. It's steeper than the income tax, going up to 55 percent. If a significant portion of your assets are in an IRA, 401(k) plan or other type of retirement plan, your partner (unlike a married spouse) will not have the option of keeping these as retirement assets.

They will have to withdraw the funds and pay Federal and state income taxes on top of the inheritance taxes. If this forces their income into a higher bracket that year, the total tax depletion of your retirement money could be 80 percent or more.

There are a number of techniques you can use to reduce these taxes, including trusts charitable contributions and the use of life insurance. If you think you may be in this situation, or if your assets are growing so that you will be at a future date, you need to sit down with a financial advisor who is familiar with domestic partner situations who can help you develop a strategy. In addition, most advisors can either recommend an attorney or will work with one you've already chosen.

None of these steps will guarantee that your relatives will not be able to contest your will. Good estate planning may help to eliminate the possibility that anyone could successfully contest your arrangements.

Editor's Note: Carol L. Busche, CFP is Senior Financial Advisor American Express Financial Advisors Inc., 1110 N. Old World Third Street, Suite 218, Milwaukee, WI 53203; Phone (414)-224-1430; Fax (414)-224-1680



Carol L. Busche CFP

Estate planning is especially important for unmarried couples. If you're not married, have no children and die without a will, all of your assets could be inherited by your blood relative.

If you have a partner, he or she may not receive a share of your assets. A will allows you to provide for each other. Simply having a will, however, does not avoid probate. There are three ways to handle assets without going through probate: joint ownership, a beneficiary designation, or a trust.

Joint ownership and beneficiary designations are sometimes called a "will substitute"; but, there may be dangers. Consider what would happen if you and your partner own everything jointly and then you are in a fatal accident together. Let's assume that you die first and your partner dies an hour later. They inherit everything from you when you die.

With no time to make other arrangements, their relatives will inherit all the assets when they die: your family gets nothing. If they died first and you died a few minutes later, your family would get it all, and theirs would get nothing.

To minimize these problems, you both need a will and a revocable living trust. You'll reduce probate and you can make provisions for alternate beneficiaries, including charitable organizations and worthy community groups.

You have complete control of your assets and can change the provisions of the



Carol L. Busche, CFP
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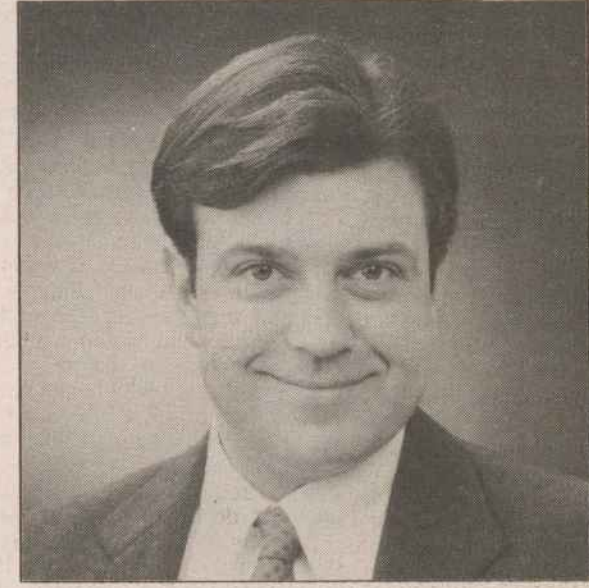
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Politically Speaking

Yes, Let's Talk About Honesty

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Just when you thought it was safe to start reading the newspaper and watching the TV news again, Paula Jones and Ken Starr take to the airwaves to tell us all about how they are redoubling their efforts to bring down the President.

We saw Paula's tears and we heard that phony call for justice. Then there was Starr solemnly telling us that he had spurned a job offer in order to continue as the Special Prosecutor.

If you think the timing of their pronouncements (both were given on the same day) was merely coincidence, you probably also think that Santa Claus was just too busy to answer that letter you sent to him last December.

And let's not forget about the raucous chorus of Republicans and radical right politicians along with their minions bemoaning the "lack of values" in America and/or stating as *Wisconsin Light* "Speaking From the Right" columnist, Jim Mc Farland did that "dishonesty has become a virtue."

If the Republicans, the radical right and their camp followers want to talk about honesty that's fine with me. A good healthy discussion of dishonesty, along with hypocrisy could do us all some good.

Let's start with Paula Jones. Here is a woman who waited until the last possible moment to file a lawsuit against the President over an incident that may or may not have occurred four years earlier.

She claimed sexual harassment yet there is no record of ever being denied a raise, a

Bill Schumacher

Accepts Position in Tampa Bay

Tampa, FL—Tampa Bay Arts, Inc., parent organization of Crescendo: The Tampa Bay Womyn's Chorus, Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus, has announced the appointment of Bill Schumacher as their new Director of Marketing. Bill succeeds Joe Lonaway, who left Tampa Bay Arts to pursue a career position with Watermark Media.

Bill comes to Tampa Bay Arts with six years of experience as a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus in Milwaukee, where he served as President, Vice President and as their marketing coordinator. Bill holds an MS in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin and has closed his private psychotherapy practice to work full-time in his position at Tampa Bay Arts.

UJIMA is Seeking Volunteer to Help With On-Going Renewal

Milwaukee—UJIMA, Milwaukee's only non-profit organization serving the African-American LGBT community, seeks volunteers and coordinators for its exciting new year.

Founded in 1992, UJIMA has provided support services and has hosted special events for over 700 LGBT youth and adults. UJIMA is one of the seven principles of Blackness from the celebration of Kwanzaa meaning "collective work and responsibility" and with new board members and restructuring, 1998 will prove to be a year of renewal for the organization.

In 1997, UJIMA moved to its current offices in the Milwaukee Enterprise Center. This spring, UJIMA will host an Open House for the entire community.

1998 projects include: Adult Support Group; Youth Support Group; Hosting an African-American Theater group from Chicago—"A Real Read"; Creating a resource library; Drop-in hours.

To volunteer, please call or write to: UJIMA Volunteer Coordinator, 2821 N. 4th St., Suite 530, Milwaukee, WI 53212; (414) 263-5330.

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promotion or a good work evaluation. She claimed that this incident put her under severe emotional distress, but admitted under oath that she was not upset about it.

Her legal expenses are being totally paid for by the Rutherford Institute. Yet Ms. Jones received \$250,000 from a fund raising firm as an advance on their national campaign to raise money for her legal fees. Yes, that was real honest wasn't it? We can sure trust her to tell the truth, can't we?

In this corner we have Ken Starr. Despite the fact that he has had five years and spent millions of dollars, Ken Starr has yet to prove that Bill or Hillary Clinton did anything wrong in the Whitewater affair.

But that hasn't stopped Republicans like Mc Farland from making statements about how the President "has engaged in an extensive cover up to hide the fact that he personally enriched himself and his family through his position as Governor of Arkansas."

In order to understand the warped logic of that statement you have to understand how these people think. First they automatically assume that the President is guilty. Then, when after years of investigations, payments to witness, threats and intimidation they are unable to prove anything, they conclude that since Clinton is guilty he must have covered up his guilt. After all these people are paragons of wisdom. They don't make mistakes like condemning innocent men.

The truth is that if they were all that concerned about honesty, Clinton's critics would admit that one of two things must be true. Either the President is not guilty of any wrong doing with regard to the Whitewater affair or their boy Ken Starr is the most inept prosecutor ever to disgrace the bar.

In their wilder moments there are those who compare Clinton's actions with Richard Nixon's saying that Nixon did relatively little compared to crimes of Clinton.

Let's be honest about that too. What Bill Clinton is alleged to have done to a White House intern, Richard Nixon tried to do to the entire country and our constitution.

The Watergate burglary was more than a minor incident. It was part of a calculated plan to subvert the electoral process by deliberate sabotage. Watergate was only a small part of that effort. It also included ordering tax audits and FBI investigations of Nixon opponents.

If Bill Clinton had done everything they claim he did, his crimes would pale in comparison to what Nixon did. In fact there are legal experts who say that since the Jones case has been dismissed, even if Clinton did lie under oath about his affairs, it would not constitute perjury.

The problem the Republicans have right now is that like Jack Nicholson said in "A Few Good Men" they "can't handle the truth."

The truth is that they know they are under the firm control of Radical Right Wing fundamentalists. They have to throw some bones to their rabid religious blood hounds in order to keep them from a feeding frenzy.

They go on the news and without any proof, talk about Clinton's alleged affairs and then they cry about how Clinton is setting a bad example for our children.

The truth is that there is probably not one of them who hasn't had sex outside of marriage, yet they want to condemn the President for doing what they themselves have done.

The honest truth is that the Republicans just don't get it. The American people thought that Clinton was a philanderer when they elected him in 1992. They correctly decided that what someone does in their private moments is their own business and no one else's.

That is not an endorsement of adultery. It is a statement that kids killing kids in schools, drugs on the streets, terrorists around the world, the potential insolvency of the social security system and other problems are just a teensy bit more important than whether or not the President is having marital problems.

Last but not least, the truth is that American people are not fooled by the Republicans. They know that the party in power in Congress has wasted millions of tax dollars and a tremendous amount of time trying to use their offices in a shameless partisan attempt to regain the White House.

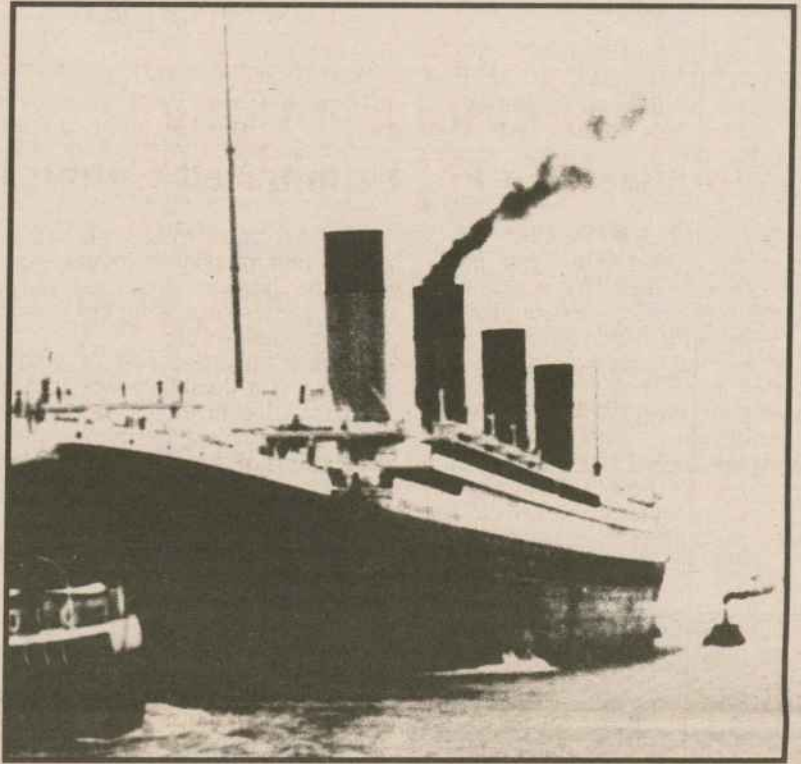
Come November's mid-term elections, the Republican Party just may find out that is the most painful truth of all.

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Lesbomania

The XX Files

By Jorjet Harper

MEGAHOOCIE, AK 10:32 P.M. Car headlights cut through the fog as FBI special agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully drive down a deserted country road.

"Mulder, there has to be a rational explanation for the sightings of these so-called UFOs," says Scully, puckering up her mouth skeptically. "A mass hallucination of some kind. Or possibly some as-yet unknown meteorological epiphenomenon..."

Mulder is patient. "Scully, where have these spacecraft been observed?"

Scully thinks. "Provincetown Massachusetts, San Francisco, South Beach Florida, West Hollywood, and Fire Island New York."

"Right. And what do all these places have in common? Large Gay and Lesbian populations."

Scully shrugs. "So maybe Lesbians and Gay men are mistaking frisbies on the beach for flying saucers."

Mulder sighs. "In five separate locations?" He stops the car in front of a huge abandoned warehouse. They get out. Their flashlight beams eerily reflect the jagged broken windows. "This is the place my informants told me about."

Mulder pulls his gun out of his London Fog trenchcoat. Scully follows behind him, pulling her own gun from an inside pocket of the stylish navy blue notched-collar blazer she wears over a petite heather silk shirtwaist. She steps around mud puddles, graceful yet businesslike in her no-nonsense mid-heel matching navy

leather pumps.

WASHINGTON D.C. 11:03 P.M. The mysterious Cancer Man sits in a leather chair in a darkened office, impassively chain smoking. The telephone rings. On the fourth ring, he answers. "Yes?" *Closeup of his sagging jowls.* "Security breach? Then we have no choice." He hangs up the phone amid billows of smoke.

U.S. GOVT. SECRET LABORATORY. 12:31 A.M. Mulder discovers a secret trapdoor in the deserted warehouse. He and Scully skulk down six flights of stairs, their guns at the ready. Then they crawl through a subterranean drainpipe to emerge in bright fluorescent lights.

Mulder now looks attractively dishevelled, while Scully is still impeccably neat; her belted two-pleat navy blue casablanca trousers are wrinkle-proof and dirt-resistant.

They find themselves in a huge high-tech underground laboratory. At the far end of a room filled with computers and test-tubes, four naked figures lie on their backs, each in its own lozenge-like transparent glass capsule. Their inhumanly large eyes are closed. Their faces look ancient, wise and benevolent. Their breasts and crotches are discreetly hidden by patches of frost on the glass. Scully moves toward them, fascinated.

"They're being kept in suspended animation," Mulder whispers.

Scully looks in disbelief, then whispers back. "Mulder...they're all..." she chokes out the words, "all...Lesbians!" Her wide eyes grow even wider.

New York's GOP Mayor Giuliani Seen by Gay Republicans as Moderating Influence

Phoenix -- Brenda from the Upper East Side complained that riders in New York City buses do not give up their seats to the elderly anymore. Joe over in Brooklyn has a serious problem with his sidewalk in Gerritsen Beach.

So went the calls to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's radio program Friday, April 18. But the Republican Mayor of New York City tended to the complaints about life in the five boroughs while broadcasting from more 2,000 miles west of the Hudson, where he was making his first extended trip outside New York to raise his national profile and solidify his sometimes shaky standing in the Republican Party.

On Thursday night, in nearby Scottsdale, Mayor Giuliani stood in front of three gently swaying palm trees near a hotel swimming pool, his silhouette cast against the soaring backdrop of Camelback Mountain. Flanked by Arizona Republicans at a news conference, Giuliani—who endorsed Mario M. Cuomo over George E. Pataki and gave only a luke-warm nod to Bob Dole -- waxed eloquent about the Republican Party and tried to find common ground with the state's socially conservative Republicans.

His trip to the Southwest amounted to the first significant look at how a man so tied to New York City would play in the heart of Barry Goldwater country. In recent months,

In a 30-minute speech, Giuliani clearly impressed about 250 Republicans with his unscripted talk about New York's rising fortunes, its drop in crime and welfare rolls, and his continuing campaign against drugs.

"Excellent!" Conrad Tvedt, a retired banker, said, describing Giuliani's speech. Tvedt, 74, who was hearing Giuliani

speak for the first time, said "all of America needs to know about" his message and described him as a "viable candidate" for national office.

But the expression on his face darkened when he learned that Giuliani supports domestic-partnership benefits for Gay couples and backs abortion rights.

"Well," Tvedt said, pausing. "I think that's probably a negative. He needs to rethink that. And Gay rights, you don't need special privileges any more than anybody else."

To some degree, Giuliani's reception here underscored a central debate in the Republican Party: Does it need to move closer to the center if it wants to regain the White House in 2000?

Asked about Giuliani's potential for national office, Mike Hellon, chairman of the Arizona Republican Party, said that above all, voters "want government to work better."

"And I think," he added, "that is one of the attractions of Mayor Giuliani, who has brought success to a city where only failure prevailed before. A lot of people west of the Hudson are sort of intrigued by the story."

But Neil G. Giuliano, the openly Gay Republican Mayor of Tempe, said that the strength of the religious right left him pessimistic about the electability of moderate Republicans.

"I see him having a significant role in the party, whether it's as an actual candidate I don't know," Giuliano said of New York's Mayor. "But after a Republican primary, we've got to pull the Republicans back to the middle, and that's where a leader of his caliber can do that --working within the party structure. I'd like to see him give a big speech at the convention."

"What makes you say that?"
 "...I recognize the iconography. See the earring on that one? And the pendant on this one? And the shoulder tattoos on the other two? It's the sign of the labyris, the secret amulet of the sacred Lesbian sisterhood."
 "How do you know that, Scully?"
 Mulder whispers softly, almost affectionately.

Scully lowers her head. "My...my...my sister is a...was a..."

"I'm sorry," Mulder hurries to be comforting. "I didn't mean to bring up a painful subject." After a moment, Scully regains her tough, plucky scientific demeanor. "They appear to be in some kind of biological stasis," she says evenly.

"Of course they are, Scully!" he whispers back. "Do you think our government wants people to know that the most advanced alien species in our galaxy is Lesbian? They're trying to steal the alien Lesbian technology, and study the Lesbian extra-terrestrials themselves as lab specimens!"

"That's a pretty outlandish theory, Mulder," Scully says, peering at each figure in turn.

"I know, Scully, but here's the direct evidence we've been looking for! These Lesbians, who came here to help advance human civilization, were taken prisoner by shadow forces inside our own government—forces that feel threatened by the knowledge, the power, and the erotic energy embodied in these superior beings! We've got to let the world know what's been going on here!"

Suddenly they are both attacked from behind and stabbed with hypodermic needles. When they regain consciousness, they are surrounded by bare walls. The equipment, the aliens—everything has been removed.

"Well, so much for our evidence," Scully sighs philosophically as she gets up off the floor, rubbing the back of her still-immaculately coiffed auburn hair.

Mulder spots something shiny on the floor. He picks it up: a labyris pendant on a broken chain, made of some unknown metal. He shows it to Scully, who raises an eyebrow silently. Then he pockets it.

They trudge back to the car. It is now dawn, and the fog has lifted.

"Well, at least we've learned one thing from this, Scully."

"What's that?"

"Now we know why they call it 'Outer Space.'"

"Why, Mulder?"

Mulder looks up to the sky. "Because they're more Out than we are here on Earth. Because, Scully, The Truth Is Out, There."

Jorjet Harper is the author of *Lesbomania* and *Tales from the Dyke Side*.

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All Smiles - Our photographer caught up with one of our favorite people, Shirley Fitzpatrick (left) and a friend recently at The Ball Game. They were obviously having a great time. We hear that Ms. Fitzpatrick will be celebrating her 65th B-Day on April 25th.

Gay Magazine's Influence Among Thinkers Far Exceeds Its Circulation

The current issue features an article about Gay characters in prime-time television, a review of an anthology of Gay Buddhist writings, an essay that asks, "How Gay Was Walt Whitman?"

There is also a series on "The New Sex Wars," the debate over whether homosexual promiscuity irresponsibly perpetuates the AIDS epidemic.

It is the mix that Richard Schneider Jr., the editor in chief, said he wanted five years ago when he started *The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review*, a quarterly compilation of essays, book reviews and poetry.

"In 1993 there was nothing in the Gay world corresponding to 'The New York Review of Books' or 'The Times Book Review' or *Atlantic Monthly* or *The New Yorker* or any publication that featured intelligent essays," he said. "There was a huge niche or vacuum in Gay and Lesbian letters which I hope we have somewhat filled."

Since it started, *The Review* has featured an impressive lineup of prominent Gay writers and thinkers, including Barney Frank, Tony Kushner, Sarah Schulman, Edmund White and Andrew Sullivan. The circulation has grown from about 1,000 to 7,500, most of which is from newsstand sales.

"It's our intellectual journal, for better or worse," said Larry Kramer, the Gay writer and activist, who has been interviewed by *The Review*. "If you want to deal with scholarly intelligent arguments, there's really no place else we can publish."

Schneider said he wanted to get people talking, "I try to feature controversies."

Last summer, for example, the magazine ran opposing pieces by Patrick Giles, a writer, and Tom Bianchi, who has published several books of naked men. Giles accused Bianchi of reinforcing the stereotype that Gay men must have perfectly sculptured bodies.

Bianchi, who wrote *In Defense of Beauty*, (Crown, 1996), countered that he has simply "identified a generalized idea of male beauty and shown that it exists in real life within our Gay culture, where it was previously thought not to exist."

And the journal's current issue features a series of articles about the latest sex wars, including an interview with Camille Paglia, who argues that decadence is fine as long as Gay men don't whine about the results.

Also weighing in on the discussion are Michelangelo Signorile, who characterizes the group Sex Panic! as nostalgic for a Gay sexual freedom that is an unrealistic relic of the past. And Frank Browning ar-

gues that people looking to curb Gay sexual behavior are trying "to police rather than to liberate."

But while Gay writers and thinkers say they admire *The Review*, several bemoaned the fact that it was not getting people talking enough, mainly because not enough people are reading it.

Some say that is because more and more mainstream publications are covering Gay issues and more and more Gay people are writing for general-interest publications.

"In many ways, the best writing about Gay and Lesbian issues can be found outside the Gay press," said Mark Schoofs, a columnist at *The Village Voice*.

Kramer says Gay publications are an important forum, yet he says that because of the Review's limited readership, he would be less likely to write for the magazine. "I think you could safely say it's the best we have, but it's not good enough if nobody reads it," he said. "Why should I write for them when I can get wider circulation elsewhere?"

But others counter that *The Review's* circulation is impressive, given the highly specific subject matter.

"Anybody who's anybody in the Gay world tends to read that publication," said Gabriel Rotello, a Gay author and columnist. "So its influence far exceeds its circulation."

Schneider said he was not discouraged. In fact, he argues that subjects discussed in *The Review* find their way into the mainstream. "Many times, if you look back at the kinds of debates and discussions that have been raging in the Gay world, five years later they are the debates that are raging in the straight world," he said. "I think we're often a bellwether."

"We know in the Gay world that it is possible for two people to be completely in love, completely dedicated to each other but not sexually faithful," Schneider said. "I think that's an issue that the straight world is just beginning to explore as a possibility."

Though it resembles "The New York Review of Books" in appearance, Schneider said that was unintentional. Publications that come closest in theme and content are "The Lambda Book Report," published by the Lambda Literary Foundation in Washington, and "The James White Review," a literary magazine for Gay men also published by the foundation.

For female readers, there is "The Lesbian Review of Books," published in Hawaii, and "The Women's Review of Books," published in Boston.

The Review grew out of Harvard's Gay and Lesbian newsletter, which Schneider, 43, edited in the late 1980s. The magazine, a nonprofit organization supported by advertising and subscriptions, operates out of Schneider's home in Boston and does not pay writers. Everyone except Schneider works part time and free.

Although nearly all *The Review's* readers are Gay, Schneider said he hoped the magazine would draw straight readers as well. "I would love to be able to communicate with the straight world more than we do," he said. "At this moment, I think Gay culture is somewhat ghettoized."

Counseling Center Announces Spring and Summer Groups

Milwaukee—The Counseling Center of Milwaukee announces its summer sessions of Support Groups for Gay Men and Lesbians.

Some groups are on-going, while others are eight weeks in length. All groups are held at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Avenue on the city's East Side. There is a \$10 fee per group session, unless otherwise stated. The eight week groups will be starting in late May, early June, 1998. For more information about these groups or to learn about the Center's other support groups, call the Support Group Program at (414) 271-2565.

Bi Definition to Hold Discussions on Polyamory in May

Milwaukee—Bi Definition, metro Milwaukee's Bisexual social, support and activist organization, will gather on Saturday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss polyamory and other issues pertaining to Bisexuality at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St.

Polyamory is openly and honestly loving more than one person at any given time. It challenges the widely held belief that monogamy is the only acceptable form of relationship.

Meetings are held on the first Saturday and third Tuesday of each month and provide numerous handouts, flyers, fact sheets, books and newsletters regarding Bisexuality.

A nominal cost of \$15 for an annual membership or \$5 for a single even is asked at the door. In cases of extreme financial hardship, fees can be waived in exchanged for a donation of time served to the organization.

Bi Definition strives to have a diverse membership, so a special invitation is extended to all various ethnicities, ages, abilities and orientations.

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

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Gay Men's General Issues. This group focuses on issues of sexual identity, coming out, intimacy, HIV, relationships and self-esteem.

On Going Groups

Silver Space. An on-going drop-in discussion group held on the third Sunday of every month for older Lesbians to meet and talk about mutual interests and issues. Continuing in May, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$3 donation requested.

Male Partnered Women. Dealing with questions of affectional/sexual orientation. Anonymity provided. This on-going group meets one evening a month, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



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Wed., April 29, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

South Water Street Docks

Fri., May 1, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Milwaukee Eagle

Sun., May 1, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Fluid

Thu., May 7, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

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Hurry Up Already! Where's Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center?

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's "A Home of Our Own" membership campaign says it all; the community wants a home for organizations, businesses, culture and diversity. Many wonder what's taking so long to open the doors.

"What's up with the Center?" is the question on many minds. It is asked out of loss; we were so close (then it burned) and without another site publicly announced, everyone is wondering, "What's next?"

According to Marianne Burish, co-chair of the Center's Facilities Committee, "Significant and meaningful progress is being made toward establishing a home of our own."

The Center's new board of directors has met weekly since January to rejuvenate the Center's momentum. The momentum slowed during the board's recent transition from an Interim Board to an elected Board of Directors. However, it is heartening to recall that over 240 people financially support the Center with membership contributions and donations.

In addition, over one hundred people have volunteered time and energy to make the Center a reality. Many are waiting to contribute and get involved until a site is announced, and there is much work to be done before that happens.

"The Center's Board of Directors asks for the community's patience in allowing the site search and transaction to evolve. It is slow-going, but will assure results of which we can all be proud," said Neil Albrecht, Board Co-President.

"The Center's Facility Search Committee, along with the board, is responsible for selecting a suitable site for the Center," explained Burish. "It's a group of real estate and commercial property experts," she added.

At a recent board of directors meeting, Burish brought the new board up to speed on the committee's progress. However, actual information on sites currently being considered cannot be revealed to the community, since public awareness or support could negatively impact negotiations with prospective landlords.

Burish explained that the committee began a facility search in early 1997. At that time, it identified over 40 potential sites.

In the summer, the Sander's Bowl building in Brewer's Hill topped the list of potential sites for the Center. The unfortunate November fire sent the committee back into action.

"Finding a suitable site is only the first step in a long process," said Burish. "The Center is about to get involved in a commercial real estate transaction. This is inherently more time-consuming and complicated than a residential search, like finding an apartment or house," she added.

According to Burish, commercial and business property transactions involve large amounts of space, great sums of money and all the parties involved; landlord, tenant, buyer, seller, developer, environmental issues, site, building inspectors and the lenders.

"Each of these parties are meticulous and comprehensive in doing their financial and property homework," Burish said. "Not only does the site need to be located and a real estate deal negotiated, but sources of financial backing, solid operation plans and strong community support must be in place before we can open our doors," said Albrecht.

Burish said that in an ideal transaction, a group can move into a building in six to twelve months. "However, if the use is specialized, such as an LGBT community center, and things don't go smoothly, like a fire burns the first building you liked, a group can expect to spend upwards of 18 to 26 months of advance work before opening the doors!" she added.

"We hope to identify a site by early summer," Albrecht said. "But it is going to take some time. We all need to be patient, and it will be worth it!"

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization. It'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, call the Center's Hotline at (414) 483-4710.

Record Numbers Attend 5th International Conference on Bisexuality

Cambridge, MA—The Bisexual Resource Center announced on April 10, that a total of 910 attendees from around the world came together at the 5th International Conference on Bisexuality held April 3-5, 1998 at Harvard University. Attendees represented over a dozen countries, including Argentina, United Kingdom, India, Peru, Australia, Mexico, Canada, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, France, Japan, Switzerland, South Africa, and Finland.

The conference, organized primarily by Boston's Bisexual Resource Center (BRC) and the Harvard Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Graduate Students (LBGGS) with support from the Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC) and BiNet USA, brought together Bisexuals from around the world.

Extensive media coverage before, during, and after the conference included local and national television attendance, extensive print press, and bountiful radio coverage including a live broadcast from the conference on Houston's After Hours radio show.

The excitement generated by the large international crowd will enhance footage shot throughout the weekend by Director Elaine Holliman for her new movie, "Gone Straight - to Hell". Interest in the conference ran so high that a record 910 attendees arrived, an overflow of 30% over the expected number.

"This conference will be seen as a watershed in the world Bisexual movement," promised primary conference organizer Wayne Bryant from the Bisexual Resource Center.

"We're seeing unprecedented interest in understanding Bisexuality in a serious multicultural fashion. The Bisexual movement has arrived at a new level of maturity. From here on, we'll begin to see large-scale regional conferences held in conjunction with the international conferences to accommodate the rapidly increasing global demand."

Several major United States national Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender advocacy organizations were presences at the conference.

At the conference, the global conference planning workshop set the location of the 6th International Conference on Bisexuality as Rotterdam in the Netherlands in 2000. Sydney, Australia has been chosen for the subsequent international conference in 2002.

To accommodate the dramatically increased interest in hosting large-scale international Bisexual conferences, organizers announced that regional conferences, covering major geographical regions, will be planned for the intermediate years. This model is expected to apply in the future.

Groups from Vancouver and Rio de Janeiro, which both expressed strong inter-

Rainbow Heights Assc. To Hold 2nd Giant Rummage Sale

Milwaukee—The second annual Giant Rummage Sale will be produced by the Rainbow Heights Association on Saturday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (earlier if everything sells fast). All fortunate persons appearing at 1722 N. 52nd Street (next to the corner of beautiful Washington Boulevard) will be able to purchase a surprising variety of household items, valuable objets d'art, green plants and cheap stuff. Also available will be choice home-baked goodies.

Last year's sale was a smash hit, netting over \$1,000 for North Avenue beautification. This year's proceeds will go to projects for needy children. Donations of goods, services or contributions may be made by calling (414) 778-1269.



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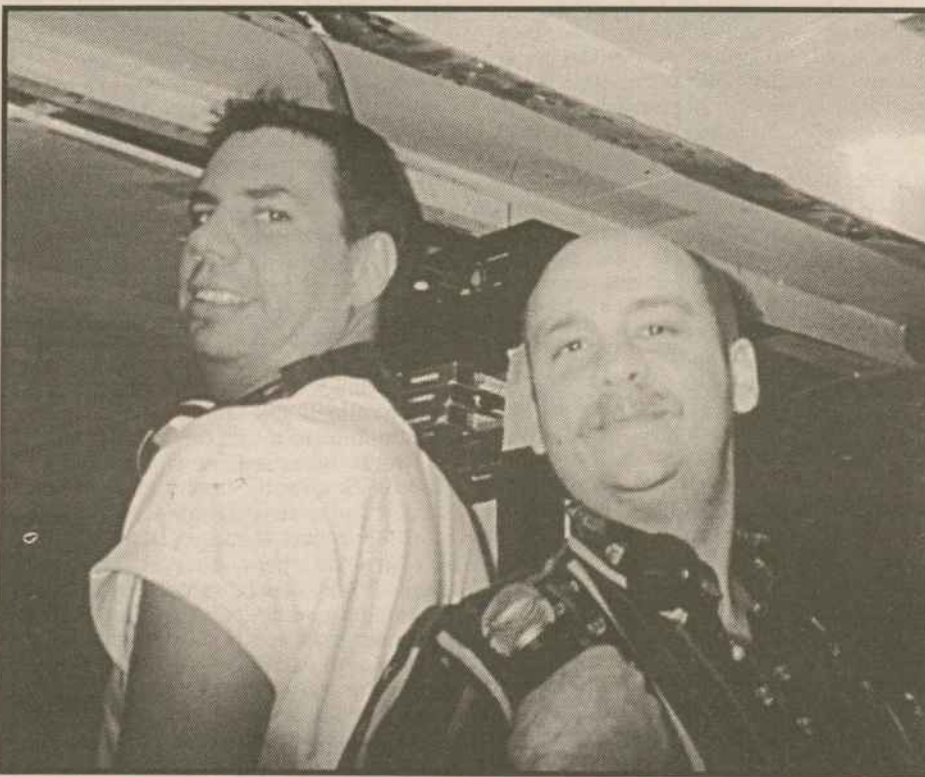
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In conjunction with the end of the conference, the Bisexual Resource Center announced its new website, <http://www.biresource.org>, and plans to issue an updated copy of its flagship publication, the **Bisexual Resource Guide**, later this year. The **Bisexual Resource Guide** lists all known Bisexual groups, internet resources, and organizations worldwide.

The conference organizers have also announced plans to assemble an extensive post-conference review document to be archived at the Bisexual Resource Center and forwarded to the organizers of future international conferences. This step will insure that the global knowledge base is preserved for the expected future large-scale Bisexual conferences.

The Bisexual Resource Center is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing information and educational resources to Bisexual groups around the world. The center has hosted six regional conferences on Bisexuality and three BiFests since 1984 and publishes the **Bisexual Resource Guide**.

The conference was not sponsored by Harvard University nor by the Harvard University Science Center.



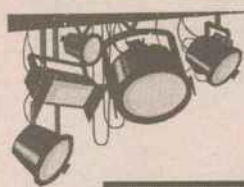
The Men Behind the Music - Our favorite DJ tag team, La Cage's Dave and Tanya (L-R) took a quick break from rushing around to all the players, computers, light switches and stuff to pose for this shot on a busy Saturday night.

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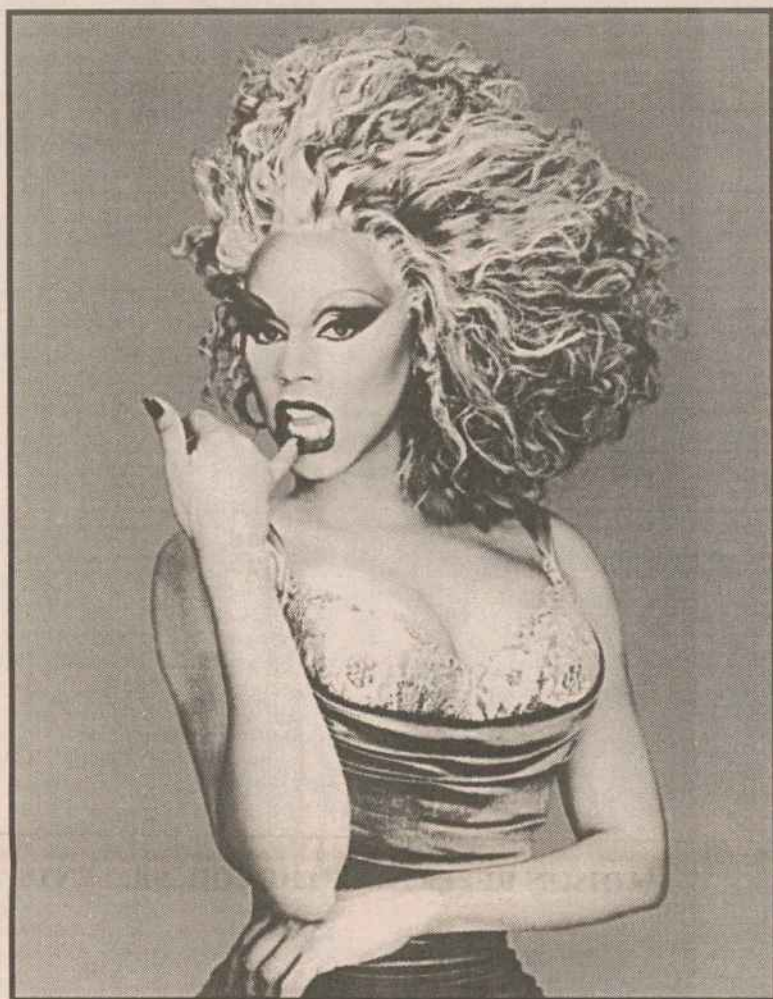
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THE SPOTLIGHT



Talking to the Stars



Ru Paul

RuPaul Has Hit the Heights by Breaking All the Rules

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Andy Warhol once said that everyone gets their 15 minutes of fame. If that's true, then drag diva, TV and radio personality, author and singer RuPaul is on his ninth life.

After 17 years in show business, the man who made "Supermodel" a number one dance tune, counseled Jan Brady on the silver screen and made donning drag glamorous and chic, has far surpassed his 15 minutes and earned his place in the annals of pop culture.

The singer, performer and author, was honored in March, as this year's recipient of the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards' Out Music Award, which is given to an openly Gay artist who has done extraordinary work in the entertainment industry.

"It actually means more to me to get the Out Music Award, then any other award, because it comes from my Gay brothers and sisters," says the 36-year old performer and Mac Cosmetics spokesperson. "In this world that is so masculine- and male-based, where anything that goes against masculinity is put down, to be honored for what I've done is a real achievement, because it shows that people understand what it's like and what it means to be against the grain."

With a career based on gender bending, RuPaul, who currently hosts his own variety show on cable TV's VH1, is proud to be honored for breaking the stereotype and not limiting himself to society's designated male role.

"Anyone who is pumping femininity or pre-fab femininity into society is a hero in my book," he says.

RuPaul is also set to release "RuPaul's Go-Go Box Classics," a dance compilation on Rhino Records paying homage to his days as a club dancer.

"When I moved back to Atlanta (in the early 80s), I was a go-go dancer for two-and-a-half years. This album reflects that time in my life," says the singer, who

handpicked each of the tunes on the set, including his recent duet with Martha Wash.

"The CD is for people to go and be a go-go dancer at home. The songs are all tried and true classics, and not the same old ones you hear on every other CD either."

Born RuPaul Andre Charles in San Diego, California, RuPaul began performing on stage in the early-1980s. Fame only found its way to the six-foot-seven diva after he released the drag-anthem, "Supermodel," in 1993. The single topped pop and dance charts around the world and made him an international star.

"The biggest difference between Andre and RuPaul is that me off stage is much more Scorpio-istic and intense. I tend to be somewhat heavy and introverted," the singer/performer says.

"RuPaul on stage is outgoing. Outrageous. Very accessible. It's a balance for my Scorpioism. But RuPaul on stage is an act. Entertainment," he adds. "I'm much more subdued. I'm a man living a human life, which is very different from being a super human on stage. Even I was on stage as Andre, out of drag, I'd still be a lot more animated. When you are on-stage you pump up the volume."

Since 1993, RuPaul has released three full-length albums—"Supermodel of the World," "Foxy Lady" and last year's successful Christmas opus, "Ho, Ho, Ho." He scored four top 10 dance hits, including 1997's number one smash "It's Raining Men—The Sequel," a remake of the disco camp classic with Martha Wash.

He also hosted his own morning show on New York's WKTU for two years. He recently resigned from the job to begin work on a syndicated radio show, which is expected to launch this summer by Chancellor Media, the same company that owns WKTU.

"Ten years ago I was in L.A., with hole in my shoes, wishing that one day my name

Please See Ru Paul Page 24



Packed House - A huge crowd thoroughly enjoyed itself at The M & M Club during the Possum Queen Kick Off, the Trailer Trash Show. The Possum Queen campaign is now in full swing. Support your favorite candidate! (More pictures from the show are on pages 21 and 23)

Possum Queen Campaign Kicks Off at M&M Club With a Wild and Crazy Show

By Ted Berg

Milwaukee—The night may have been overcast on April 11, but the Stars shown brightly at the M&M Club. To honor our Annual Possum Queen Campaign, the bar was decorated in Early American Trailer Trash. Condoms were drying on hangers suspended from the ceiling—condoms used only once, with the hope of their owners that they'd be used later on a non-relative.

There was a backdrop of various assorted and decorated under garments. Usable trash was everywhere, like a Hobo's Rummage Sale. It has been rumored that Wisconsin Light's own Ruthie had a good part in the stage design. We'll have to ask her next time we see her.

The special guests were in their Easter best, hats and all. The shimmer of silk, the elasticity of knit and the exotic feather trimmed outfits made the night special.

Between 100 and 150 people were there with one mind: "Fun for All, All for Fun!" That is one of the many mottoes that can describe the Possum Queen Campaign.

Another is: "Beg...Borrow...or Heels." The Possum Queen Campaign in 1997 raised \$26,012.02 for agencies that give direct services to people who are HIV+ or who have AIDS. In its seven year history, the Campaign has raised \$88,000.

Some may ask, What is a Possum Queen? In this instance, the Boob Tube spawned a good idea.

In 1991, Jon Bauer, aka Lizzie Bordeaux, and Charles XXX, aka Charlotte Lorraine, copied the Beverly Hillbillies episode where Mr. Drisdale held a contest for Possum Queen so the Clampetts would not leave. Lizzie and Charlotte decided to do a similar contest as a joke.

Signs went up: "It's a bad year for Bordeaux" and "Don't get caught in Charlotte's Web." Like a political campaign, they soon acquired campaign managers. Knowing Gay people never go overboard on a joke, people started donating money. Supporters paid one dollar per vote, which would bring a smile to any Chicago politician's face.

The first campaign raised \$800. That was a pretty good joke. The money raised went to people with AIDS and HIV disease. That started the annual event enjoyed today.

The Drag Show at M's Fundraiser kicked off the Possum Queen for 1998. The show was emceed by Lizzie Bordeaux, Charlotte Lorraine and Karen Valentine. Sage La Rue, Miss Gay Wisconsin, and many guest artists, including this paper's Ruthie, Candy Stripe and Lona St. James, performed to applause from the crowd.

Boo Boo La Roux did a spectacular job on sound. Three times during the night, the crowd cheered for Boo Boo to perform.

If you go to M's and see Boo Boo, ask him to perform at the next event. Maybe even pledge an amount to the Possum Queen Campaign if he does it.

At the festivities, the Divine Ms. Buzz, aka David (Buzz) Thompson, was pro-

claimed M&M's Possum Candidate. The event also was attended by Iona Trailer, Possum Candidate from Just Us; Aqua Marie and the Infamous Topaz from South Water Street Docks; and Fondu Daily from Woody's and Fluid.

If I missed anyone, I apologize in advance.

There were many past Possum Queens, including the 1997 Possum Queen winner, Jackie Ogasm. Many former candidates were in the crowd.

Charlotte said that the performers looked better with large quantities of alcohol. I disagree. To me, they were the best examples of our community.

From April 19 to June 6, we will see these crazy loving people act silly to combat a killer. This year the Campaign was recognized at the Make A Promise Dinner of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and won the Red Rose Award. Mr. Max Barnett accepted on behalf of the hundreds of volunteers and candidates who have made this campaign a success.

I can't sufficiently express my gratitude to Bob Schmidt, the owner of the M&M Club, for hosting this fun. He should be thanked, along with all the bar owners who allow the Possum Campaign to take place in their bars. They help us to make a difference.

In closing, I am not a gossip. At the show, one of the performers got so into her song she that she didn't notice that her shirt fell down. All the emcees had a hard time keeping the microphone had on. Just figure!

Another customer spied a good looking gentleman and gave a performer a note to give to him. Of course the artist gave it to the wrong man. This got a lot of laughs from the crowd. Don't worry, the correct men were talking together when I left.

Yes, we Gay people have a lot of fun.

Gay Youth Dance @ Dish

Milwaukee- So you heard about how cool the bar Dish is, but you can't get in? Now's your chance!

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Youth Group is holding a free Dance @ Dish, 235 S. 2nd St. on May 3rd, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. There is normally an admission charge, but we REALLY want to meet you, so dance for free this time!

The Youth Group meets regularly at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays at Walker's Point Cafe. Upcoming meetings are April 30, May 14 & 28. Or, check out the calendar on our web site at www.mkelgbt.com to find Youth Group meeting dates. Stop in and join us. Help plan youth events that YOU want to do. For more information about the Youth Group, call Naomi at (414) 769-7193.

Melanec's "Nunsense 3" is Riotous, Completely Must-See Fun

By Bill Meunier

The Melanec Dinner Theater's production of **Sister Amnesia's Nunsense Jamboree** or **Nunsense 3** for short, presented one of the most entertaining evenings I have had in the theater in a while.

There was nothing deep about this production, no moral to the story, no catharsis. Instead there was riotous, clever, well produced, must-see fun!

For those unfamiliar with the story of the Little Sisters of Hoboken let me explain. In **Nunsense I**, (which played to large crowds at Melanec's last year), we were introduced to a zany assortment of characters including Sister Mary Leo, a ballerina wannabe, Sister Robert Ann, a former car thief from Brooklyn, and Sister Mary Amnesia, who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head.

In **Nunsense II** we learn that Sister Mary Amnesia is really Sister Mary Paul who had always dreamed of being a country singer. In **Nunsense II**, the Reverend Mother decides to get Sister Amnesia a recording contract.

Which brings us to **Nunsense III**, the beginning of Sister Mary Paul's national tour to promote her album.

Like the first two parts of the trilogy, **Nunsense Jamboree** is full of great one liners, jokes about being Catholic, and good music.

The **Nunsense** composer, writer and director, Dan Goggin came to Milwaukee to personally select the cast, and direct the production. It shows. This cast shines. The production values are excellent and so is the stage direction.

The piece consists of a series of songs and bits performed on a set that would make Hee Haw proud. It was designed by Emmy Award nominee, Barry Axtell. It is worth noting that although the word "Jamboree" is in the official title of the show, there is not much in the way of country music in it.

There are, however, many fine moments. The commercials for the sponsors, Ascension Air, which lifts you up every Thursday, Manger Inn, where there is always room for one more, and Franciscan Fodder, food fit for a pig were very clever.

The Technicolor Woman was brilliant. So to was "Play a Country Enut," that's

country tune backwards. The tribute to St. Catherine Laboure was hysterical as was "Mini Pearls of Wisdom" to name just a few of this show's many highlights.

I won't spoil the auction by telling you what was up for bid, but I will warn you to keep your hands firmly fastened to your seat when the bidding starts (or actually doesn't start)

As was the case with **Nunsense**, part of the appeal of **Nunsense III** is the interaction between the cast and the audience.

For example, Sister Mary Wilhelm, well played by Tami Rentmeester, is in charge in Reverend Mother's absence. As part of her duties she admonishes anyone who laughs too hard at the misbehavior of her charges.

Of course her stern looks and wagging finger only make the audience laugh harder. How she could keep a straight face without in the face of a full house laughing is beyond me.

The interaction is so well done, that towards the end of the second act, nearly the entire audience joined in to sing the chorus of "We Miss You Patsy Cline."

Everyone in the cast was more than adequate. Worthy of special mention (besides Ms. Rentmeester) are Laurene Lembke, who plays Sister Mary Paul (aka Amnesia), and Linda Stieber who plays Sister Robert Anne.

Sister Amnesia's **Nunsense Jamboree** will be playing at Melanec's Wheel House at on weekends through mid July, but additional performance times are anticipated. Call (414) 264-6060 for times

New at Melanec's Wheelhouse The Speak EZ Murder Plot

An interactive Murder Mystery is now playing at Melanec's Wheelhouse Dinner Theater 2178 N. Riverboat Rd., Milwaukee WI thru May. Dinner/Show 7pm Friday and Saturday-5pm Sunday. Tickets are \$27-\$37 for Dinner and Show \$15-\$18 for Show only For Reservations call (414) 264-6060.



The cast of **Nunsense** - Standing Laurene Lembke - Sister Amnesia, Sitting L-R, Tami Trentmeester - Sr. Wilhelm, Scott Sorensen - Fr. Virgil, Linda Fieber - Sr. Robert Anne, and Debbie Kissinger - Sr. Leo.

Fest City Singers Debut Artistic and Musical Direction

Milwaukee—The Fest City Singers are excited to announce that their spring musical revue, "Thank You for Being a Friend," will debut under new artistic and musical direction.

Fest City Singers' accomplished new artistic director is David Flores. Well-known and respected in the Milwaukee theater community, David has worked for more than a decade with a variety of groups as actor, singer, dancer, choreographer and director. Among his credits are the Florentine Opera Company, Wild Space Dance Company, Theater X, Boulevard Ensemble, M&W Productions, Dale Gutzman Productions, Amethyst Productions, Bi-alystock and Bloom and Circle Stage.

New musical director and accompanist for the group is Rosalyn ("Roe") Fosco. Having grown up with parents who worked

in vaudeville, Roe turned to music early in life. A self-proclaimed "lounge lizardess," she began playing piano in lounges and supper clubs while she was still in her teens. She has directed and acted in community theater for 35 years and has taught piano and vocal music for 18 years.

"Thank You for Being a Friend" concerns present friends, past friends, not-quite friends and more-than-friends. The show is a sometimes sweet, sometimes bitter and often nostalgic look at our need for soulmates, their meaning in our lives, our joy and gratitude in finding them and our sadness at their loss.

"Thank You for Being a Friend" will be presented on Friday and Saturday evenings May 29-30, June 5-6 and June 12-13 at Marcia's Second Time Around Furniture Store, 6803 W. National Ave., in West Allis. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be available at 8:00 p.m. and the show will start at 8:30 p.m. Reserved ticket prices are \$10, tickets are \$12 at the door. For ticket reservations, group rates or more information, call the Festline at (414) 263-SING (7464).

Fest City Singers


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Angela Iannone as Maria Callas. Photo by John Urban.



"In The Life" Goes Global, Featuring On Location Reports From Five Countries

By John Jahn

This month's episode of *In the Life* - shot in 6 countries on 4 continents - represents the Gay & Lesbian series' most ambitious installment to date, and looks at little-known and under-reported facets of LesBiGay life from a global perspective. From China, the Netherlands, Brazil, Great Britain, the Philippines and France, this episode will show you places where our rights in the United States are both out-paced as well as places where awareness and understanding of our issues lag decades behind us. Indeed, in some places it's downright dangerous - even life-threatening - to be openly Homosexual. Especially for world travellers, this episode is a must see. But even if you never plan to leave the good ol' US of A in your life,

it'll show you both how good we have it here, as well as how good we *could* have it in the future.

In the Life's stories are personal ones from average people, not politicians, activists and pundits, and thus more effectively illuminate the struggles, progress, and often the persecution.

It answers several good questions about the lives of fellow LesBiGays throughout the world. For example: How has communism affected our community in Hong Kong? How are things changing in "stiff upper lip," "tea & crumpets" Britain?

In the Philippines, which is 85% Catholic, how is it that Lesbian activism has been steadily rising for the past 5 years? Why is Brazil so full of contradictions - a country with glamorously Gay nightlife but also racked with a murder of a Gay person every 3 days?

What are the chances of success for a domestic partnership act in France? And finally, what are the prospects for the Gay Games being held in Amsterdam later this year?

This one hour episode of global reporting airs in Milwaukee on channel 10 Wednesday, April 29th at 11pm. It airs on Wisconsin Public TV throughout the rest of the state on Thursday, April 30th at 11pm.

May 1-3 Spring Round-Up to Benefit LGBT Community Center

Milwaukee—Shoreline's annual Spring Round-Up will benefit Milwaukee's new LGBT Community Center. The centerpiece of the Round-Up is Shoreline's sixth annual Country Dance Gala benefit at the Art Museum on Saturday, May 2, from 7:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Over 350 cowboys and cowgirls from throughout the Midwest are expected to attend this event.

Tickets are \$10 (\$12 at the door) and may be purchased at Just Us, Afterwords, Designing Men and from members of Shoreline. The party will continue after hours at Just Us with open dancing.

This year's Country Dance Gala benefit, which promises to be the best yet, will include lots of line dancing and two-stepping, raffle prizes and performances from three out of town groups—crowd pleasing Borderline and the Rainbow Cloggers from the Twin Cities and Madison's Dairyland Cowboys/Cowgirls making their debut performance. Milwaukee's own Cream City Squares will show the crowd how much fun square dancing can be. You'll also see a new routine from Shoreline's dancers who have been working hard at perfecting their new moves.

The Country Dance Gala benefit on May 2 is part of Shoreline's second annual Spring Round-Up to be held the weekend of May 1-3. The Round-Up begins Friday night at Just Us with a fish fry, followed by a Boots n' Boxers Ball that includes free champagne.

Dance workshops in swing and two-step (no partner required), will be offered on Saturday afternoon by professional dance instructors at the downtown Hyatt Hotel.

Saturday evening brings the Country Dance Gala benefit for the LGBT Community Center.

Sunday activities include a delicious brunch at Just Us, a dance swap and, of course...more dancing.

Weekend packages that include all Spring Round-Up events may be purchased for \$25. To register for one or all events, pick up a brochure at Just Us, Afterwords, or Designing Men. For more information, call Laura at (414) 747-0388.

Madison's Broom Street Theater Presents "Miracle Play"

Madison—We are all really saints at heart. Playwright-director Callen Harty proves it in his hilarious new comedy *Miracle Play Or Lives of the Saints* by taking famous old legendary saints of the past and interpreting them for modern audiences. The patron saint of music and the patron saint of travel get mixed up with the patron saint of radio and television. The happy moral of *Miracle Play* is: mankind is not only good, it is weird.

Miracle Play Or Lives of the Saints is Harty's sixth original play and Broom Street Theater's 201st experimental production. As a child in second grade Catholic school, Harty saw a film about a saint who flew up into the air. His positive reaction was, "I was blown away by this. I wanted to be a saint then and there because I thought it was so cool, sainthood that is."

Intrigued by Medieval theater, which was the first time that saints were portrayed on stage, Harty wanted to try to put saints into contemporary context.

For his play he used source materials from such fabulous books as "Lives of the Saints," "Martyrs and Miracles" and "The Picture Book of Saints." *Miracle Play* took

three years for Harty to write. Harty is certain that the play will appeal to non-Catholics one and all because "There is saintliness in all of us."

The cast of *Miracle Play* includes Broom Street veterans Robert Moccero as Saint Lawrence, Isa Norwood as Saint Claire, Brian Wild as Saint Francis and Katie Ruedi as Saint Cecilia. Making their Broom Street acting debuts are Phil Selman as Saint Christopher and Scott Feiner as Saint Nicholas. For the production, the stage lights are designed by Luke Kelwiche.

All performances of *Miracle Play* are at 8:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from April 24 through May 31 at the Broom Street Theater Building, 1119 Williamson Street. Tickets are \$7 at the door (Sorry, no reservations). Call (608) 244-8338 for information.



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Spring H.I.T League Seeks New Members

Milwaukee—Strike up new friendships.

The Spring H.I.T. League is now seeking bowlers to join them for ten weeks of bowling this summer.

Place: Landmark Lanes—2220 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee.

Dates: May 19-July 21

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$8 per week for 3 games. (Price includes banquet, trophies for top two teams and fundraiser for IIT Tournament.)

Teams consist of 5 bowlers per team. Form your own team or let us place you with others. (Space is limited to 16 teams so don't miss out on the fun!)

For further information and three free games of bowling courtesy of Landmark Lanes Management, join us at our organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Landmark Lanes.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Kim Wolfram at (414) 797-4835.

In The Life Visits Five Countries in its Most Ambitious Episode to Date

New York, NY--The April/May 1998 episode of *IN THE LIFE*, shot in six countries on four continents, represents the Gay and Lesbian series' most ambitious installment to date. This special edition of *IN THE LIFE* looks at Gay and Lesbian life from around the world.

From China to the Netherlands, from Britain to Brazil, from the Philippines to France, this episode will visit places where progress on Gay civil rights out-paces advances in the U.S. and places where awareness and understanding of Gay issues is decades behind, often dangerously so for Gay and Lesbian people living there.

The stories told will be personal ones, illuminating the struggles behind the politics, the progress, and often, the persecution.

Correspondent Tanya Barfield joins host Katherine Linton for the following stories on the April/May '98 episode of *IN THE LIFE*:

Hong Kong and China

A Tale of Communism and Culture

In 1997, Hong Kong was returned to China after a century of British rule. This historic event coincides with the gathering momentum of a new Hong Kong Gay and Lesbian movement, evident in the formation of numerous Gay and Lesbian organizations and handfuls of new Gay clubs. This segment starts in Beijing for a look at the situation for homosexuals in Communist China today.

The story then shifts to Hong Kong to gauge the future of its new movement, both in terms of the progress Gay and Lesbian people expect in light of the growing influence of mainland China, and the unique pressures and expectations of Chinese culture.

Of the situation in China, Jenny Lee of the U.S. based Chinese Society for the Study of Sexual Minorities says, "People who have authority, they can blackmail you, they can arrest you. Some are even being persecuted. They can do whatever they feel like..."

Great Britain

Transforming the Crown

Hong Kong was, of course, just one of Britain's many possessions. Today, many of the residents of Britain's former colonies are storming back to England in the form of cultural influence.

This story looks at how the image of Anglo-Saxon England as a "stiff upper lip monarchy" is slowly giving way to a different reality—that of a multi-cultural society with diverse racial and sexual identities.

"Transforming the Crown," a vast multimedia exhibit at the Caribbean Cultural Center, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and The Bronx Museum in New York, highlights the way black, Asian, Caribbean, as well as Gay and Lesbian artists from England are challenging the notion of what it means to be British. Moray Beauchamp, curator of the exhibit, says of Britain today, "It's not like a Merchant/Ivory film. It's not just tea and crumpets."

Philippines

A Growing Lesbian Activism

For this story *IN THE LIFE* travels to the Philippines where Lesbian activism has been on a steady rise for the past five years. Through interviews with women representing every social class, this segment examines how Lesbian visibility, in a country that is 85% Catholic, is possible. Women from the upper, middle, and lower class talk about the different issues they face as Lesbians of different social strata.

They also discuss what unites them—a struggle against attitudes formed by religion, the intense culture of the family, and Philippine law where homosexuals are not protected.

Because being homosexual is technically seen as a human "aberration" in Philippine law, being Gay or Lesbian can be used as a basis for denying certain rights. But whatever the struggles, it is clear that Lesbians of all backgrounds are helping to put the Philippines on the map as an emerging leader in Lesbian activism in that part of the globe.

Brazil

Culture of Contradiction

Behind its international reputation for welcoming sexual diversity, Brazil, the land of Carnival—and carnal knowledge—is full of contradictions. On one hand, there is Gay activity centered around the night life that makes Brazil famous.

On the other hand, activists are frustrated for the lack of a national Gay political movement, and while certain issues have received public discussion like Gays in the military, and a domestic partnership bill, discrimination toward sexual minorities can be seen in many aspects of Brazilian life.

And there is one alarming fact—a Gay person is murdered in Brazil every three days. Joao Trevisan, a Brazilian author and activist, sums it up this way—"We can't have a Gay movement, we can just have Gay moves: to the Gay ghetto, to one sauna, to a nightclub, to another bar, and this is the Gay movement we have here."

IN THE LIFE explores these contradictions about Brazil, and life for sexual minorities in what some would argue is South America's most liberal country.

IGLHRC

In Pursuit of Human Rights

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) works on local and global levels to heighten awareness of human rights abuses against Gay men, Lesbians and transgendered people around the world. Executive Director Julie Dorf takes a look at the world from IGLHRC's perspective, and

discusses how her organization works within a country's customs and constraints to accomplish its goals.

France

A New Social Contract

In 1997 during the annual "EuroPride" celebration in Paris, 300,000 Gay men and Lesbians marched under a banner that read "Rights for Gay Men and Lesbians in all of Europe". That same year in France, a powerful and progressive domestic partnership proposition, "Le Contrat d'Union Sociale et Civile," made its way to the highest ranks of government. This story examines the history, the development, and the future of this proposition, and looks at what its passage is so important to French Gay men and Lesbians.

Amsterdam

Gay Games 1998

The final story ends far from where this episode began. From Beijing to Amsterdam, perhaps no two countries better demonstrate the range of challenges and victories for Gay men and Lesbians today. This segment previews Gay Games 1998 to be held in Amsterdam this August.

The Games will attract hundreds of thousands of spectators and participants,

and it will perhaps be the event to sum up where Gay men and Lesbians around the world would all like to be at the end of the approaching millenium.

With Gays and Lesbians now registering as couples in civil marriage in the Netherlands, and with adoption rights secured, it seems fitting that Amsterdam will be the sight of this largest ever Gay and Lesbian event. Three athletes will be profiled as they prepare for the games to discover why they work so hard at being proudly "out" competitors.

Show Times

Milwaukee: WMVS channel 10 -- Wednesday, April 29, 11pm
Wisconsin Public TV: Thursday, April 30, 11 pm
Green Bay - WPNE/38; Madison - WHA/21;
Menomonie-Eau Claire - WHWC/28;
Wassau - WHRM/20; LaCrosse - WHLA/31; Park Falls - WLEF/36

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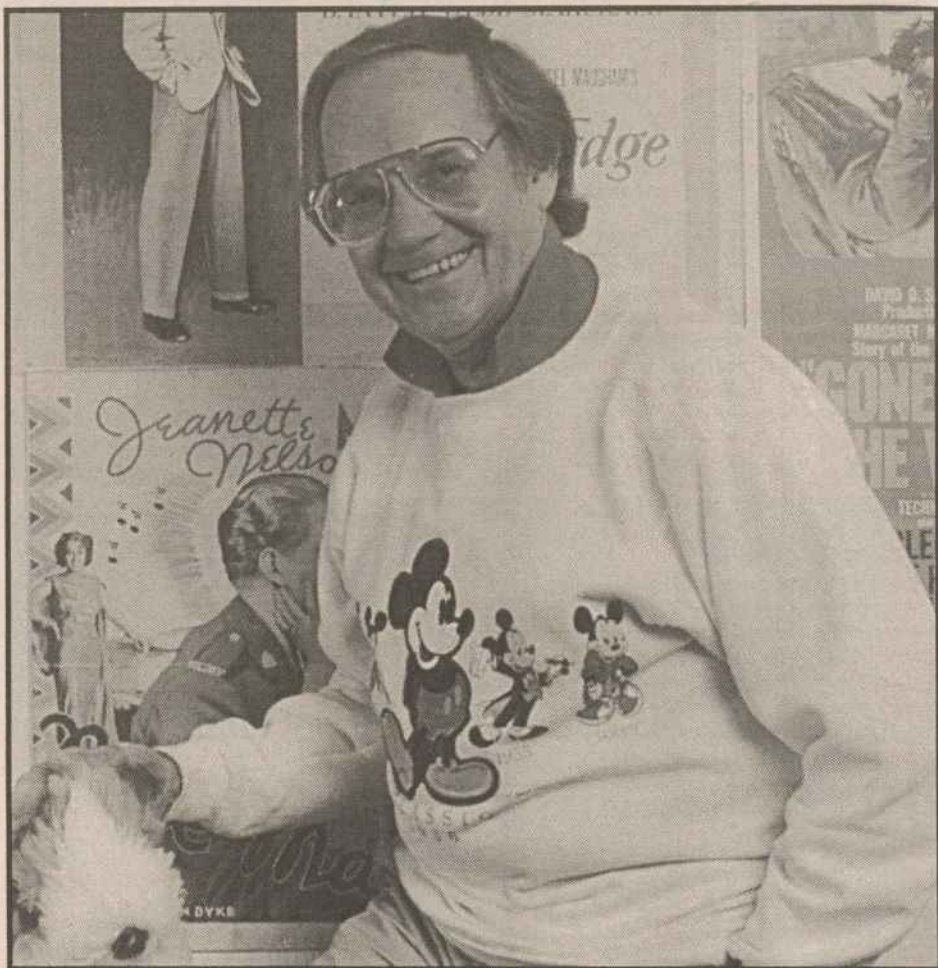
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Long Island & Mai Thai

You're Invited



Collectible! - Dale Kuntz President of Milwaukee Film Classics is getting ready for his Spring Movie Collectible Show. The semi annual event will be held at Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W. Burnham, Milwaukee. Show hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY APRIL 24

BACARDI PARTY AT THE TRIANGLE

Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of rum, Bacardi Rum that is. And what better place to get some then at the Triangle's Bacardi Party. They will have specials on Bacardi drinks, plus raffles and other surprises.

The Triangle is located at 135 East National, Milwaukee.

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.

DYKE DANCE IN MADISON

Calling all Dykes (and you know who you are) to attend a fab evening of dancing at the UW Memorial Student Union.

They will be playing all your favorites from 8 PM to 1 AM.

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.

FRIDAY MAY 1

SHORELINE'S ROUND UP WEEKEND BEGINS

The annual Shoreline Round Up Weekend starts off with a boots and boxers dance at Just Us, 805 S. Fifth Street, Milwaukee.

Admission is free.

SATURDAY MAY 2

SSBL OPENING DAY!

The Saturday Soft Ball Beer League opens its third decade with a full slate of games at Sijan Field, 2821 S. Kinnickinnic. The games start at 11:00 and will continue until about 4:00.

SHORELINE COUNTRY GALA

Yeeehhhhaaaaa!!! It will be a rootin tootin good time at the Shoreline Dance Troupe's annual Country Gala at Milwaukee's War Memorial Center.

There will be plenty of country guys and gals on hand as dancers from around the Midwest get together to show their stuff.

This is a benefit for the LGBT Community Center.

MR SSBL CONTEST AT WOODY'S

The annual Mr. SSBL: contest will take place at Woody's starting at around 5:00. Be on hand for this fabulous competition complete with great entertainment, raffles and lots of excitement.

This is a major fund raiser for the SSBL and everyone's support is appreciated.

Woody's is located at 1579 S. Second Street (2nd and Lapham), Milwaukee.

SUNDAY MAY 3

SHORLINE'S ROUND UP WEEKEND CONCLUDES

The Shoreline Dancer's annual round up concludes with a brunch and an Open Dance and Dance Swap at Just Us. Brunch will be served from 11 AM to 2 PM and the dancing gets underway at Noon.

Just Us is located at 805 S. Fifth Street, Milwaukee.

YOUTH DANCE AT DISH

Dish located at 236 S. Second Street, Milwaukee will be the site of a Youth Dance. The Dance is a benefit for the new LGBT Community Center. The doors open at 7 PM.

FRIDAY MAY 8

DRAG KING SHOW AT THE MADISON CIVIC CENTER

If you are tired of the same old thing then consider having a fun evening of male impersonation at the Drag King Show at the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street.

For the queer impaired, a Drag King show is one in which women impersonate men.

Don't miss this unique event!

WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE
HEARD IT ALL
TURN TO
THE LIGHT

Catch All Of The Fun, Excitement, & Competition

The 1998 SSBL Season Schedule

All Games are at Sijan Field - 2821 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee unless otherwise noted

May 2 11:00 - Triangle v This Is It
12:00 - Docks v Triangle
1:00 - Ball Game v In Between
2:00 - M & M v Ball Game
3:00 - M & M v In Between

Balistreri's v Docks
This Is It v Balistreri's
Dish v Brewbar
Woody's v Dish
Brewbar v Woody's

May 9 11:00 - Ball Game v Balistreri's
12:00 - Balistreri's v Woody's
1:00 - M & M v Woody's
2:00 - Docks v In Between
3:00 - Triangle v M & M

Docks v Ball Game
In Between v Triangle
Dish v This Is It
Brewbar v This Is It

May 16 (These games played at Wick Field)
11:00 - Woody's v This Is It
12:00 - Triangle v Woody's
1:00 - In Between v This Is It
2:00 - In Between v Brewbar
3:00 - Brewbar v Balistreri's

Triangle v Ball Game
Ball Game v Dish
Balistreri's v M & M
Dish v Docks
M & M v Docks

MAY 23 - 24

THE 18TH ANNUAL MILWAUKEE CLASSIC - Wick Field

MAY 30 OFF DATE

June 6 11:00 - Dish v Woody's
12:00 - Triangle v Dish
1:00 - Brewbar v Triangle
2:00 - Ball Game v This Is It
3:00 - Ball Game v M & M

Woody's v In Between
In Between v Balistreri's
Docks v Balistreri's
This Is It v Docks

June 13 Position Week Pairings and times to be announced

June 20 Rain Date/Off Day

June 27 12:00 - Balistreri's v Dish
1:00 - Docks v Balistreri's
2:00 - In Between v Ball Game
3:00 - Woody's v Brewbar

M & M v Dish
Brewbar v M & M
This Is It v Triangle

July 4 - Off Day

July 11 9:00 - In Between v M & M
10:00 - Dish v In Between
11:00 - Woody's v Docks
12:00 - Woody's v Triangle
1:00 - Brewbar v Ball Game

This Is It v Dish
Docks v M & M
This Is It v Brewbar
Balistreri's v Ball Game

July 18 - Off Day Magic Picnic Weekend

July 25 11:00 - Brewbar v Dish
12:00 - Triangle v Brewbar
1:00 - Dish v Triangle
2:00 - M & M v This Is It
3:00 - M & M v Balistreri's

In Between v Docks
Ball game v Docks
Balistreri's v In Between
Ball Game v Woody's
This Is It v Woody's

August 1 - Position Week - Pairings & Times To Be Announced

August 8 - Rain Date/Off Day

August 22 - All Star Games Site & Times To Be Announced

Support The SSBL & Your Favorite Team

Good Luck to All From
THE WISCONSIN LIGHT



THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

News... The Possum Queen Contest is in full swing. There are so many candidates that you can hardly go out without tripping over one of them. Well Spring finally seems to have arrived, (but I won't really believe it until the leaves are back on the trees) and that means its time for the Possum Queen contest.

The SSBL will be starting up soon. We hear that this year, the league has more even players than it did last year. That's great news for those who like to cruise the park, I mean for us sports fans!!! Unfortunately, Madison won't have a team in the league this year.

We now have a firmer date (pun intended) for Chase Hunter's return appearance in Milwaukee. We understand that he will be at the **Milwaukee Eagle** on May 29th. Mark your calendars.

Recaps... I had a great time at **M&M** during the Possum Queen kick off. It was great to see the original two Possum Queen candidates, Charolette Rae and Lizzy Bordeaux going at it on the stage. Our own Ruthie was there wowing them with her stunning routines. Miss Fondue Daily was a stitch. But the real show stealer was Ms. Sage La Rue.

She brought the house down every time she appeared on stage and even did an encore. You go girl.

Speaking of Possum Queens, Miss Aqua Marie and the Infamous Topaz were just the perfect hostesses at their opening fund raiser at **South Water Street Docks**, and a great time was had by all.

The Possum Queen Campaign is not the only contest in town. There's the Mr. SSBL contest. I met one of the candidates at **This Is It** the other night.

His name is Jeremy. He's sooo cute, dark, 5'5", small-boned, with soft doe eyes and a smile that would light up 7 states. He's **This Is It's** candidate for Mr. SSBL.

Well, as luck would have it, Rick was at **This Is It** and Rick had a limo. So, nothing would do but that we all go for a ride. Jeremy and Rick and I piled into the limo and went to **Fluid's**. The place was

packed with friendly people. We had a wonderful time before taking the limo back to **This Is It** for a night cap. Pardon my observation, but **This Is It** has a real winner in Jeremy.

Good luck to you, Jeremy and to all the Mr. SSBL candidates. Have a good season.

Speaking of fundraisers to fight AIDS (which I wasn't, but it's a good transition), the **Street Beat** fashion show at **Survival Revival** was wonderful. If you missed it, don't worry, there is plenty of good stuff left for you to buy.

Speaking of good stuff The United's **Wine Tasting And Jazz** party was a big success and a very good time too.

Coming Up...Friday April 24 there is a fun Bacardi party scheduled for the **Triangle**. Even if you don't like rum you can still win some cool merchandise so

Shoreline to Hold Dance Workshop at Just Us

Milwaukee—Tired of waiting for someone to ask you to dance?

Learn three line dances on Saturday, April 25 at **Just Us** beginning at 7:30 p.m. No partner required. Shoreline's popular dance instructor, Mark Duris, will teach a fun dance, the Texas Twist, at 7:30, done to "All You Ever Do is Bring Me Down Under" by the Mavericks, followed by the challenging Cowboy Hip Hop at 8:30 (Do the Funky Cowboy) for all you funky cowboyz and girlz.

A fun and very Gay mixer (this means you get to meet and greet new people), the **Renegade Switch**, will be taught at 9:30 p.m.

Free for Shoreline members. \$3 donation requested from all others.

Come on down to **Just Us** and warm up for the Spring Round-Up the weekend of May 1-3. For more information, call Laura at (414) 747-0388.

stop in. I intend to.

On **Saturday, April 25**, I am going to the Cream City Chorus concert at St. James Episcopal. It should be a fine concert. If I was a Dyke in Madison, I would head over to the Dyke Dance at the UW Memorial Union.

After the concert I'll make a mad dash home to put on my dead animal skin so I will fit right in at the Brew City Bear's Club night at **The Boot Camp**. Hey one of these times I might even win something in the drawings.

I don't want to forget to wish **Shirley Fitzpatrick** Happy Birthday. She'll be celebrating her 65th on April 25. I hear she'll be at the **Ballgame**. I'll be sure to be there that evening.

Speaking of winning things during the next week, I am going to make a concerted effort.

Monday April 27 will find me at **In Between** for their weekly balloon toss. They give away up to \$350.00 every week. Then on **Tuesday April 28** you can find me at **La Cage** for their weekly prize night drawing. On **Wednesday April 29** I will be over at **The Boot Camp** again for their weekly Club night drawing. Even if I don't win any cash at these places, it's still worth the trip. I have always have a great time at each of them.

Speaking of great times, **Friday May 1** I will make one of my grand tours of Milwaukee's bars. I will start at **This Is It** where the juke box and service are really great and the conversation is always interesting.

Then I will head over to **The Ball Game** which should be packed that evening in anticipation of opening day for the SSBL. From there it will be over to **Dish** to listen **Please See Night Light Page 23**

Gay youth DANCE @ DISH

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"One of four Milwaukee bar Highlights"
- 1998 **Genre** Magazine

"Milwaukee's Finest Antique Store"
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OUT on Film



Close Encounter? - George - Paul Rudd, encounters his former lover, Dr. Joley - Tim Daly in the movie "The Object of My Affection."

'Sliding Doors' is a Fascinating, Thought Provoking and Entertaining Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

What is the impact of the life of each individual? In that old Christmas chestnut, **It's a Wonderful Life**, fabled Hollywood director Frank Capra posed that very and quite irresistible existential puzzle.

Safe in the hands of America's favorite good guy, Jimmy Stewart, Capra's sugar-coated answer has become a perennial holiday classic, still managing to generate real tears in these oh-so cynical 90s.

Still, most of us are way too busy to ponder such monumental questions. At the end of a rough day, Glenn's mind might begin to wonder, wondering small moments of "what if".

What if what? Exactly!

In **Sliding Doors**, writer/director Peter Howitt follows the cinematic footsteps of Capra and many other filmmakers in this bittersweet romantic comedy about a young woman (Gwyneth Paltrow) whose entire future will be forever changed whether or not she does or does not catch a particular train on London's Underground.

Paltrow's Helen is a Public Relations executive who wakes up one morning, just like any other morning. She's late for work. Again, just like any other morning.

Only this day is quite different, this day she's sacked. Seems there is something about four missing bottles of vodka - a situation that Glenn can all too easily understand.

Helen returns home, returning again by the Tube. It is at this exact moment in the narrative that Howitt offers his radiant protagonist two alternative realities. In one scenario, a small child playing on the stairs causes Helen to delay just that split-second needed to reach the train before the doors close. In the other, the child's mother pulls her daughter out of the way and Helen sneaks on, just as the doors are closing.

It's just that simple.

Funny & Heartwarming, 'Paulie' Soars Above the Average Children's Fare

Reviewed by John Jahn

If you want to know what's on Paulie's mind, just ask him, and although he's a parrot, you won't exactly be getting your answers from a bird brain! You'd better be prepared for his responses, because Paulie doesn't know how to lie, and his biting wit (coupled with a New Yorker's accent) may ruffle a few of your feathers.

Paulie can actually converse, not just "parrot" what's said to him. Exactly how he can do this is never adequately explained - I guess the folks at Dreamworks figured anyone who's going to see this film knows it's fantasy, so why get bogged down trying to explain away the details to a scientific certainty?

Paulie's first owner - and first love - is a little stuttering girl named Marie (Hallie Kate Eisenberg), who raises him almost from the egg. When Marie's parents send the bird packing, the little loyal parrot begins a tenacious cross-country search for his youthful owner.

Along the way, Paulie has some remarkable encounters with a unique cross-

section of people - and here's where the film's comedy really shines. There's Ignacio (Cheech Martin) the street vendor; Misha (Tony Shalhoub), the immigrant janitor of a research lab; Ivy (Gena Rowlands), a widowed motor home driver; and Arty (Buddy Hackett), whose own irascible personality Paulie more than resembles.

Told through the eyes of the parrot, **Paulie** reveals the wonders - and heartbreaks - of his and our worlds through his funny and touching adventures, and if you're a big, sentimental ol' softy like me - and in particular an animal lover - it'll have you laughing through your tears.

Paulie is a real delight - featuring a cute central character - the bird - a fine ensemble of veteran actors and relative newcomers, and superior special effects which utilized real, animatronic, as well as computerized parrots.

Far superior to the average cinematic children's fare, **Paulie** soars to the level **Babe** achieved a few years ago, and will not only delight the little ones but the big ones, too.

From this moment on, the audience is treated to how this seemingly insignificant event will drastically change the course of Helen's life.

In one reality, Helen will arrive home early and find her live-in boyfriend Gerry (John Lynch) shagging another woman, Lydia (Jeanne Tripplehorn). She storms out of the flat and through the determined efforts of Fate, soon finds herself courted by the charming James (played by the charming John Hannah whose accent was so delicious, Glenn positively wanted to eat it up with a spoon).

In the other scenario, Helen misses the last train before an accidental (!) yet lengthy delay. Choosing to go by cab instead, Helen is mugged, taken to the hospital for a minor head injury and returns home just after Gerry's tryst with Lydia.

From there, Howitt joyfully explores Helen's parallel futures, delightfully juxtaposing the many places, characters, clue and events that both stories inevitably share.

The success or failure of **Sliding Doors** must ultimately rest upon the graceful shoulders of Gwyneth Paltrow and she succeeds wonderfully. Glenn was nothing short of intrigued while watching the two Helens develop into two distinct characters as Fate offers each radically different experiences and choices.

That she does triumph is in itself something of a minor miracle. At times during **Sliding Doors** Howitt seems too clever by half, burdening his simple and enchanting romantic story with too many inexplicably contrived plot devices.

Glenn must say he was quite happy that in the end Howitt proves wise enough to conclude this entertaining, thought-provoking film with an unexpectedly satisfying twist.

Rating \$5.43 (Scale: No cents to \$7.00)

'Object of My Affection' is a Wonderful Film, Beyond all Others of its Kind

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The **Object of My Affection** must be the most eagerly awaited Gay film ever. That's right! Ever!!

Imagine this fairytale scenario. Here is an acclaimed, openly Gay director (Nicholas Hynter) directing the oh-so yummy Paul Rudd in a cinematic adaptation of one of the most beloved of all Gay novels, Stephen McCauley's **The Object of My Affection**, one of the very few novels Glenn found an opportunity to read before joining the **Wisconsin Light**.

If this all sounds just too too, tragically Hollywood, it should.

Although Glenn can happily report that **The Object of My Affection** is thoroughly a cinematic delight, fanatic fans of the novel are likely to raise a quizzical eyebrow or two.

For those who haven't read the novel, please do but for the moment, skip the next paragraph.

Those familiar with McCauley's charming story of kindergarten teacher George Mullen and his quirky roommate Nina Borowski will find but few similarities in Wendy Wasserman's screenplay. Although theirs is a similarly complicated relationship, further complicated by Nina's pregnancy, at no point does the specter of a possible heterosexual marriage between the two ever rear its ugly head. Glenn must strongly advise true Stephen

McCauley fans to completely forget the novel and treat the film as the original work that it most certainly is.

Welcome back everyone.

The Object of My Affection is series of tales of unrequited love. At the center is George Hanson (Paul Rudd), an incredibly adorable twenty-something Gay man who produces dazzling musicales featuring 5 & 6-year olds. While at a party, George's live-in boyfriend Dr. Joley (Tim Daly) tells Nina (Jennifer Aniston) that George is looking for a place to live. The suitably shocked George is heartbroken that Joley could dump him in so callously a fashion. Not that Glenn was particularly surprised, know how men are!

So George indeed moves in with Nina, although he thinks only temporarily. Wrong. They immediately hit it off and before you (or they) know it, George, Nina and Nina's boyfriend Vince (John Pankow) are inseparable.

Then Nina finds out she's pregnant.

With the onset of pregnancy, this oh-so fragile relationship begins to deteriorate. As Vince becomes increasingly possessive of Nina, Nina turns to George. Only the most foolish (or else those of us used to Hollywood's usual treatment of Gay characters) might expect the relationship between Nina and George to reach another level, i.e. a heterosexual one.

Please See Affection Page 19

'The Spanish Prisoner' is Deliciously Sinister; a Really Great Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Sadly, Glenn was quite quick to learn that **The Spanish Prisoner**, the new film starring hunky Campbell Scott was not the lurid, historical Technicolor romance with S & M overtones that Glenn had so desperately hoped for.

Clearly Glenn has been reading much too much historical Gay fiction or, as his dear friend Lois de Mille keeps telling Glenn, "You gotta get out more!"

Instead, Glenn settled in with his "Biggie" popcorn and was treated to the latest cinematic effort from celebrated Chicago playwright, David Mamet.

Not surprising coming from the maker of the intriguing **House of Games**, **The Spanish Prisoner** is named for an elaborate confidence game. At the center of Mamet's sophisticated con is hunky, square-jawed good guy "Everyman", Joe Ross (Campbell Scott). Joe, a yuppie with solid "working class" values is an inventor whose "Process" is likely to make someone huge amounts of money.

Or will it? And for whom?

Having been flown to a secluded Caribbean island resort for a top-secret meeting, Joe's immediate superior, Mr. Klein (Ben Gazzara) can offer Joe only the vaguest promises of what he, as the inventor of "The Process" might expect as compensation.

At this point even the most trusting soul, a category into which Scott's Joe Ross definitely fits into, would begin to get a little concerned. Nope, not our Joe. A little concerned, perhaps, Joe seems content to pursue matters further when he and Mr. Klein return to New York.

Enter Jimmy Dell (Steve Martin), a mysterious millionaire (Glenn ponders whether there are any millionaires not mysterious). After a rather curious encounter on the island, Joe commits a cardinal sin: he agrees to take a package he's

not himself packed onto the plane back to New York. Jimmy says it that it is a gift for his sister.

Wrong, Joe. Wrong, wrong, wrong!

Those of us in the audience begin to learn in a hurry that nothing and no one is quite as simple and straight-forward as they appear to be. That Mamet gaily fills the screen with a series of inventive, yet witty visual clues cannot help but add to the fun.

Joe and Jimmy will again cross paths back in New York and as Joe's relationship with his company deteriorates, he becomes increasingly seduced by the charms of Jimmy Dell. But when Joe learns that Jimmy isn't exactly who he's represented himself to be, Joe finds himself caught in an intriguing web of betrayal and murder.

As the innocent man caught in a Hitchcockian nightmare, Campbell Scott is an appealing hero. Certainly Scott's Joe is easy on the eyes. He is also a man of intelligence and ethics, not guilty of any major deadly sins. He is just what he appears to be: a basically good guy but with just enough vanity to find himself easily exploited by clever group con men.

He could, in fact, be any of us in the audience.

Yet what kept Glenn precariously perched on the edge of his seat was Mamet's deliciously sinister puzzle. Like **The Usual Suspects**, **The Spanish Prisoner** offers layer after layer after layer of lies, deceptions and deceptions which Mamet and company expertly peel off as the films drives relentlessly to its inevitable conclusion.

Probably the best film Glenn has seen in 1998 and very highly recommended!

Rating \$6.88 (Scale No cents to \$7.00)

The Spanish Prisoner opens Friday, April 24 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.



Fedja van Huet in in "Character"

'Character' is a Compelling Story of Passion, Ambition & Father-Son Rivalry

Reviewed by John Jahn

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 1920s. An aspiring young lawyer, Katadreuffe (Fedja Van Huet - who's a spitting image of a clean & sober Robert Downey, Jr.), is arrested after the city's most feared court bailiff, Dreverhaven (Jan DeCleir) is found murdered - or so it appears. The young man claims innocence.

Through Katadreuffe's police interrogation we relive his life through a series of extended flashbacks, and how it intersected most tragically with Dreverhaven in *Character*, the Dutch Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Film of 1997.

Katadreuffe was born the illegitimate son of Joba (Betty Schuurman), a simple, quiet but proud woman, and the despised and feared Dreverhaven, whom she refuses to marry. Katadreuffe follows an austere and strict lifestyle, taunted at school by classmates as a "bastard," chilled by the emotional distance of his mother.

He emerges from this harsh upbringing a driven man, bent upon making something of himself - becoming a lawyer. All the

while his life is haunted by his father, with whom Katadreuffe has an emotionally complex relationship. He's so single-minded in his quest for "legitimacy" that he lets a lovely young secretary, Lorna (Tamar Van Den Dop) slip through his fingers.

His wily sense of initiative gains him friends and admirers, but his success is hampered at every turn by a history of bankruptcy and the constant, looming presence of his father.

As father and son seek to destroy each other, their struggle evolves into a compelling story of passion and ambition in which the wrong-doing of *both* of them is exposed.

Dutch director Mike van Diem, when asked what *Character* is about, responds: "In a nutshell, it's an epic tale about a young man's life-long struggle with his tyrannical father. Genre-wise, one can say it's a dramatic love story, wrapped in a thriller. The tone and atmosphere tend to make audiences...think of Charles Dickens."

Character's acting, cinematography, writing and costuming are all first-rate. I'm not surprised this film was an Oscar winner. All the more fascinating because this is van Diem's first stint as a movie director. Some may find its often slow pace and depressing, gloomy atmosphere hard to enjoy. There's also the fact that there's no genuine hero - even Katadreuffe is an infuriatingly repressed man; and as reprehensible as Dreverhaven is, we can actually sympathize with him now and then over his harsh treatment at the hands of his son - as well as Joba.

There's no clear-cut right/wrong, good/evil dichotomy in *Character*, which may turn off some viewers. There are no warm and fuzzies in this film, but loads of emotional barrenness and distance - a stark, compelling look at one really dysfunctional family. How about a happy ending? Need you ask?

Character - in Dutch with English subtitles - opens at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater on April 24th. ★★★1/2

Character opens Friday, April 24 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

AFFECTION

Continued From Page 18

At this point, George and Nina are thrown another curve. Re-enter the handsome Dr. Joley. Having thrown out George's much younger (Bisexual) replacement, he once again turns to the familiar (and did Glenn mention adorable) George. To woo and win him back, Dr. Joley plans a romantic weekend retreat. Predictably, things go awry but George nonetheless finds himself attracted to a handsome young actor, Paul (Amo Gulinello) who himself is the object of the unrequited passions of theater critic Rodney Fraser (Nigel Hawthorne).

The Object of My Affection is filled with warm and wonderful moments as well as a great many delightful humorous situations as Wasserman's delightful cast work through the many romantic entanglements to its satisfying if overly "Hallmark" ending.

Fine performances abound. As George Hanson, Paul Rudd is a complete and absolute delight and Glenn is a bit sheepish to admit that he has completely and totally lost his heart to this fine young actor.

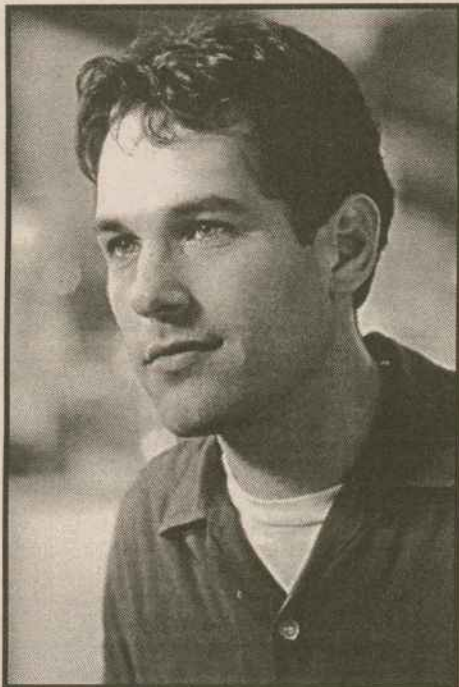
Jennifer Aniston is a pleasant surprise as Nina, investing far more depth to the character than written in by Ms. Wasserman. Glenn's dear friend Lois de Mille insists that Glenn mention just how absolutely dreadful were Ms. Aniston's hairstyles. Says Lois, "Shame, shame, Jennifer!"

Nigel Hawthorne again offers a stand-out performance as the unlucky-in-love theater critic and Allison Janney steals every scene she is in as Nina's acerbic step-sister, Constance.

Glenn would dearly love to see Mr. McCauley's marvelous novel brought more faithfully to the big screen but in the meanwhile, Gay audiences will find pleasures enough in *The Object of My Affection* to make them wonder why they ever settled for *In and Out* or *The Birdcage*.

Rating: \$6.45 for those who haven't read the novel

\$5.65 for those who have (Scale: No Cents to \$7.00)



Paul Rudd

Funny and Self-Serving by Turns, 'The Big One' Stabs Corporate America

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Upon receiving his assignment to review, *The Big One*, Glenn quizzically asked if this might be the latest (and mercifully the last) porno from the legendary if aging Jeff Stryker? No?

As it happens, *The Big One* is a mock-documentary of a book tour taken by heavyweight social commentator Michael Moore with the release of his New York Times best-selling book, *Downsize This: Threats from an Unarmed American*.

Borrriing? Actually, no. For the uninformed masses, Michael Moore is an unlikely celebrity. Overweight and something of a slob in a pair of ill-fitting blue jeans, Moore initially raced to fame with *Roger and Me*, a much acclaimed documentary of Moore's relentless quest to bring General Motors Chairman Roger Smith to Moore's hometown of Flint, Michigan following the devastating shut-downs of GM factories.

Imagine if you will something of a baseball capped Robin Hood for the 90s. Moore saw in the cross country book tour sponsored by his publisher, the corporate giant Random House, the perfect opportunity to meet one-on-one the huddled masses yearning to be free -- at least from the abuses of Corporate America.

At turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *The Big One* is a curious hodge-podge of a film.

Covering 47 cities in 47 days, Moore resisted the temptation to lounge in hotel rooms between appearances, choosing instead to explore the economic battlefield in each of the cities that he visits.

Although filled with generous offerings of Moore's delightful stand-up comedy routine, *The Big One* really comes alive when Moore presses the palms of the average man, then naively confronts representatives of major corporations.

Whatever city his book tour led him to, Moore was ready with seemingly absurd scenarios of diabolical corporate greed: layoffs and plant closures in times of escalating profits.

See Moore pleasantly chat with a raw, tattooed, pierced young man who informs Moore that he and his fellow convicts

worked as reservationists for TWA while behind bars. What makes the moment all the more chilling is when he oh-so calmly adds that he'd be just as happy killing Moore as to talk with him.

You won't be seeing Glenn flying TWA anytime soon.

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* will especially enjoy Moore's visit to the Dairy state.

Once in Milwaukee Moore decided to visit the corporate office of Johnson Controls which had just announced the moving of over 200 jobs to Mexico. With the much beleaguered, yet ever smiling, Mary Gielow on tow, his media escort, Moore sought to bequeath to Johnson Controls CEO a check for \$.85 to pay the first hour's wages of their new Mexican work-crew.

The folks at Johnson Controls were not amused.

Nor was Governor Tommy Thompson's press secretary when Moore brought to the State Capitol a few folks on welfare to clean the Governor's office. Thompson's clearly befuddled assistant was quite at odds as to what to do with this unexpected media stunt.

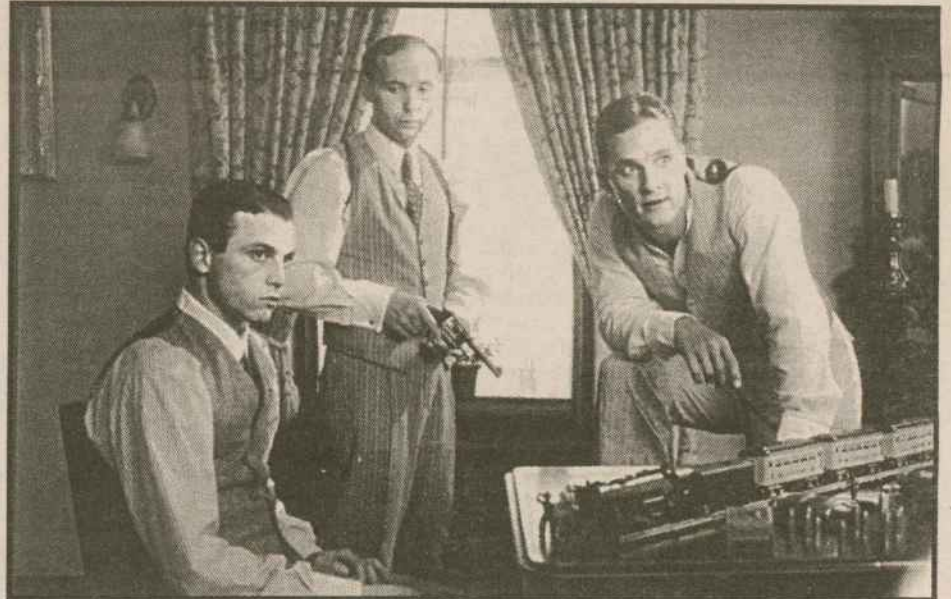
Whether pondering why one-time presidential candidate Steve Forbes never blinked or gleefully telling appreciative audiences how quickly Pat Buchanan cashed a bogus \$100 campaign contribution check from "Abortionists for Buchanan", Moore is savvy enough to infuse humor into his outrages.

Although thoroughly entertaining (Glenn's shrill laughter often rose above the crowd), *The Big One* is a not altogether successful film.

Lacking polish, *The Big One* is often distractingly grainy and choppy. More troubling to Glenn was a persistent, nagging feeling that *The Big One* was more than a wee bit self-serving for its star, writer and director Moore who repeatedly reports on his charitable acts yet is curiously seen flying in First Class.

Rating: \$5.27 (Scale No cents to \$7.00)

The Big One is now playing exclusively at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.



A Scene From the "Suicide Kings"

Young, Talented Actors and Chris Walken Enliven 'Suicide Kings'

By John Jahn

Christopher Walken gets to play his usual slick, quirky, sardonic character which he has appeared as in many films in the new comedic thriller *Suicide Kings*. He's one of my favorite actors, and thus I looked forward to his latest effort, only to find him duct taped to a swivel chair for almost its entirety! Well, believe it or not, it actually works for him!

In an act of reckless desperation, five Long Island, New York prep students (Jay Mohr, Henry Thomas, Sean Patrick Flanery, Johnny Galecki and Jeremy Sisto) kidnap a Mafia kingpin (naturally Christopher Walken) to use as a bargaining chip after one of the students' sisters (Laura San Giacomo) is kidnapped.

Hoping that holding the mobster will buy them time to negotiate for the girl's safe return, the boys want the mob boss to use his inside influence to find out who kidnapped her. Instead, they find themselves increasingly at odds with each other as their plot unravels, divided by greed, mistrust and broken loyalties.

Playing no small part in the collapse of their united, righteous front is the mobster, who uses his wit and knowledge to gain the upper hand.

Either this plot will interest you, and you'll sense its dramatic and comedic potential, or you'll cry out "Not another kid-

napping movie!" I pretty much had both reactions.

It seems like every film of this type will have to bear inevitable comparisons to the work of Quentin Tarantino, and this offbeat thriller stands up well by comparison to *Pulp Fiction* or *Jackie Brown*. Despite his immobility, Walken adds needed gravitas to *Suicide Kings*, whose cast is otherwise quite youthful and unknown.

Kudos also to Denis Leary as the kingpin's lieutenant, whose comedic diatribes give the film an added kick.

On a cool \$5 million budget, first-time director Peter O'Fallon has assembled a first-rate cast of young talent. In addition to Jay Mohr (who played Tom Cruise's predatory sports-agent rival in *Jerry Maguire* and did good work opposite Jennifer Aniston in the otherwise dreadful *Picture Perfect*), it's good to see Henry Thomas settling into a grown-up career of well-chosen roles that suit his growing talent.

Suicide Kings features a good cast headed by Walken, fine directing by O'Fallon, and sharp writing by Josh McKinney, Gina Goldman and Wayne Rice. It's a clever comedic thriller well worth seeing, even if the plot is getting a little shopworn.

Suicide Kings opens Friday, May 1 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

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Alfred Hitchcock Was the Master of Mystery and Inner Horror

By Steve Stavron
Part 2

Rebecca was the first film in which Hitchcock demonstrated that subtlety of characterization and attention to histrionic detail were as important to a suspense film as atmospheric cinematography. He carefully modulated Joan Fontaine's performance as the intimidated second wife of Lawrence Olivier, appearing in one of his best roles. Who could forget Judith Anderson as the sinister house keeper fanatically devoted to the memory of Rebecca, the deceased first wife?

Spellbound [1945] was Hitchcock's second collaboration with Selznick, but the film belongs to the director, whose luminous, camera work seems dream-inspired and forever ear-marked the mature Hitchcock style at its most luscious. Unfortunately, the brilliant dream sequences themselves, for which the film is famous, are surrounded by an overly simplistic view of psychiatric amnesia.

As the psychiatrist who falls in love with her patient, Ingrid Bergman's prevailing wholesomeness seems at odds with the serious tone of the material, but in the hands of her infatuated director [she was one of his most favored blondes] her beauty and intense, expert performance is every bit the equal of Hitchcock's lavish style. No director's tool, she illuminates the screen.

Though **Spellbound** is widely criticized for taking too cavalier a view of mental illness, in a film as "spellbinding" as this one, who cares?

In the interim Hitchcock had made **Foreign Correspondent** [1940] which seems today reverting to his British period but with more elaborate -and expensive- production values, the most famous being the chase atop the windmills and the airplane submerging in water.

concepts never neglected his famous humorous touches. Using a single set in the excellent **Lifeboat** [1944], the shipwrecked cast must deal not only with the unsavory Nazi, but with Tallulah Bankhead losing her jewelry piece by piece.

In **Rope** [1948], a fascinating failure, the action is filmed in long single takes on a stationary set with collapsible walls to accommodate the camera, but every one enjoys the buffet under which a fresh corpse is concealed. Ironically, the single set approach worked less well, and appears deliberately static in the later **Dial M for Murder** [1954] despite a brilliant screenplay and fine cast, including Hitchcock's adored Grace Kelly.

Notorious [1946] was Hitchcock's most sophisticated espionage film to date, and its polish derives as much from outstanding performances by Cary Grant, Claude Rains and particularly from Ingrid Bergman whose unsuspected sensuality gives the film erotic tension being radiantly photographed by her infatuated director as it does from Hitchcock's more subdued style which opts for character conflict in lieu of the more obvious spy melodramatics, giving the film its true distinction. By now he had become a master of unobtrusively sly suspense.

His brooding style of graceful camera movements across light and dark contrasts combined with speculative closeups is reminiscent of **Rebecca**, but with a more cynical up-to-date -edge. The scenes of the concealed key in Bergman's hand are Hitchcockian classic, as is the film itself.

At this point in his career, a certain baroque lethargy seems to overtake Hitchcock's output but with no diminution of quality. After **Paradine Case** [1947] which suffers from excessive elegance and a lugubrious screenplay by Selznick who had difficulties with screenwriters, resulting in an interesting but turgid courtroom drama, Hitchcock directed **Strangers on a Train** [1951] but this widely acclaimed film despite a fascinating scenario seems labored and spiritless compared to Hitchcock's own standards.

Despite a fine performance by Robert Walker as the psychopath that wants to exchange murders to avoid detection, the film seems like a master's bag of tricks. The superiority of the material failed to inspire that curious air of suspended animation that graced his greatest films. The movie is very good, but one cannot escape the feeling that this level of competence would seem more thrilling if one had expected less than one does from Hitchcock.

Equally competent and entertaining are **The Man Who Knew Too Much** [1956] with its famous climactic scene of the gunshot sound concealed by a cymbal crash during a musical finale but contained no new Hitchcock revelations. The beautifully photographed **Confess** [1953] is most remembered for its romantic scenes with Anne Baxter and Montgomery Clift. The sprawling **To Catch a Thief** [1955] popularized Grace Kelly and the increasingly suave Cary Grant, but where was the suspense?



Rear Window [1955] marks the beginning of the Hitchcock renaissance. The story of a housebound photographer who observes a wife-killer through his binoculars is unique for its constrictive camera approach. The main action occurs telescopically, with close-ups limited to a single room in James Stewart's apartment.

By narrowing his perspective to claustrophobic views of the rear courtyard and frustrating the viewer's curiosity to see more, Hitchcock masterfully increases tension to the maximum by showing least. If the film is a mite close to a tidy director's set piece, it is superbly photographed. The romantic counterpoint is, beautifully "graced" by the presence of the future princess of Monaco whose designer haute couture dresses do not deter her from dangerous undercover



But Hitchcock is not as spurious with special effects as Cecil B De Mille. The movie is expertly assembled if too timely for its own good, though the set pieces are a bit overrated in light of the best of Hitchcock. By comparison, **Saboteur** [1942] seems under-rated because of similarities to the earlier **Thirty Nine Steps** and the later **North by Northwest** but it's much fun to watch, because its lightness of style prevails over its patriotic overtones, and despite some recycled set pieces, it does contain the famous struggle on the arm of the Statue of Liberty.

What seems artificial with other directors acquires a curious, isolated poise in Hitchcock and gives pause for reflection, due largely to the reticence of his camera work which only intrudes with the slightest raising of the eyebrow. In **Suspicion** [1941] Cary Grant struggling to kiss Joan Fontaine at hilltop seems an ominous harbinger of things to come, as does the innocent glass of milk [poisoned?] he offers her. Despite a weak ending, Hitchcock once more reveals his ability to make the unlikely plausible. **Shadow of a Doubt** [1943] remains one of his most admired-and untypical-- films. Set in a quiet California town, the camera relaxes into a quiet perusal of the mundane aspects of everyday life both within families and on small town streets, that is until Theresa Wright discovers that her adored uncle, from the big city [masterfully played by Joseph Cotton] is a serial killer.

Wisely refusing to be a provocateur, Hitchcock increases suspense by leaving the serenity of his small town scenario undisturbed by the character's inner turmoil. The camera moves gingerly over threatening, dangerous events, but there are no obtrusive dramatic surprises-- until the end. By relinquishing his expected style of insidious surprises, Hitchcock creates a disturbing little film of terror amidst ordinary folks by letting "ordinariness" become ominous.

Hitchcock's film's from the 40's were always unique, and his experimentations with the camera as chief conduit of his

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exploits to prove her worth. The plot is almost too air tight, lacking only that last ounce of spontaneity that characterizes the magnificent film trio that follows

Vertigo [1958] is the only film made in the last 50 years to appear on two separate polls of international film directors and critics [Sight and Sound Magazine] as one of the ten greatest films of the century. It is also the most inaccurately analyzed of all Hitchcock's output. Some allude to necrophilia as its motif. A more sophisticated Spanish critic labels it the first great "surrealistic" film. Biographer Spot cites a "death wish" based on Bernard Hermann's superb score that resembles Wagner's "Tristan."

Nonsense! Hitchcock's story of the detective who brings back from the dead a woman who never existed is a searing tragedy of the metaphysical mystique of romantic delusion, but subtly disguised as a murder mystery.

Eroticism as transcendental mysticism is not an entirely new concept in music and literature or in films, but **Vertigo** is not particularly erotic and makes no mystic pretensions. The resurrection of the dead beloved is its major motif, but this somehow seems cathartic rather than pathological, due to exotic but sombre camera motions.

The film moves in a quiet melancholic labyrinth perched somewhere between acute depressive mourning and romantic psychofantasy, yet James Stewart never appears psychotic. The tragedy is fine tuned to the lowest possible emotional key. **Vertigo** is so exquisitely constructed that Stewart's anguished obsession is heartrending to watch, although we know he is being duped.

What hath Alfred Hitchcock wrought? Did he even know? Defying analysis, a film as beautiful as **Vertigo** is best left alone on the mystique of its own unassailable merits. It remains his greatest film.

No less a masterpiece and even more famous is **Psycho** [1960] which has been analyzed by film students shot for shot, less elusive than **Vertigo** and almost as subtle. Knowing full well what he was about, Hitchcock creates a mosaic of childhood traumas, disguised as a horror story. Everything is there--the old gothic house, lost on a rainy night, the silhouette in the window the fruit cellar, the flashing knife over a falling figure [the detective], trapped naked in the bathroom, the avenging angel-like figure lurking overhead, knife perched. The dream-like cinematography is so awesome that it seems almost sensual but with a "cutting edge." **Psycho** remains a comedy of evil little terrors--a psychological masterpiece of the first rank. Seen today, one is still tempted to glance over one's shoulder afterwards.

If **North by Northwest** [1959] seems just a small cut below the other two in the trilogy of misperceived reality, its because it is a genuine comedy-by far the most sophisticated of Hitchcock's espionage thrillers, every bit as elegant as **Notorious**, but richer in psychological irony and more free-wheeling in its visual imagery. Mistaken identity was always a favorite Hitchcock parable, but this film is wonderfully unpretentious and coherent despite its famous set pieces including the Mount Rushmore chase--a perfect blend of unanticipated humor within suddenly sinister circumstances that provide arbitrary jolts to our everyday equilibrium.

The same unity cannot be found in **The Birds** [1963] despite its famous scenes in the telephone booth and the diner. Hitchcock could not exercise control over a trained aviary, and the theme of nature gone wild seems curiously unmotivated and out of sync with the obvious attempt to allegorize its bearing on the human characters.

The threat from above is too isolated from ordinariness below, the special effects too glaring, and the film flattens out dramatically despite its expert sensationalism, but is still provocative and very watchable.

Frenzy [1972] was Hitchcock's last good film. It holds up well despite a pervasive ugliness, grainy photography, and an uncharismatic cast. A heretofore uncharacteristic cruel streak [the rape scene] almost mars the director's sense of humor but appears timely today. An interesting -even brilliant film -but without the elegance of **Psycho**, **Frenzy** remains Hitchcock's tribute to the ugliness of the contemporary. The detective who must endure his wife's gourmet cooking experiments is one of his best comic touches, almost alleviating a prevailing morbidity.

Hitchcock had become old, and perhaps had underestimated himself as a mere director of mysteries. Actually the intrigue elements in his films--the hidden microfilms, secret documents, encoded messages-- were often unexplained placebos of no consequence. Hitchcock's movies are qualitative explorations of the slippery side of the psyche. His best films deal with those precipitous corners of human nature that border close upon unpredictable psychological abysses which we would rather not acknowledge, but which clouds the precipice of our emotional comfort zones. Working in a genre often considered trite, the amazing thing is that Hitchcock's serene irony made his "precipices" seem less threatening than our most dreaded nightmares, and more beautiful than our prosaic islands of security.

End of series

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie - This picture was taken at the Trailer Trash Possum Queen Fund Raiser at the M & M Club on Saturday April 11.

I had a dream the other night. I dreamt I was married to past President, George Bush. Out of all my marriages, I've never walked down the aisle with a politician ... woke-up under a few ... but never married one.

Unless you count the time my fourth husband, Vinnie, ran for condo president. He would have won too... if some unfortunate pictures of me and the pool boy hadn't surfaced.

I still remember the terrible protest from the South Sea Condominium residents - The First Lady of South Sea shouldn't be someone who feeds Paco banana slices with her toes! and Death to Ruthie and her evil misuse of fine, yellow, fruit.

Thank God they didn't find that video of the pool boy and I on Mango Night.

Anyway - Vinnie and I had to flee the South Sea after the election as he only got one vote - from Paco.

So, anyway in my dream, George Bush and I are married and he gets real sick. They don't think he's going to make it and they say that the First Lady must take over as President. I pull out my leopard skin pill-box hat and pin a red, white, and blue ribbon to my bra. George takes a turn for the worse.

"Get Jack Kavorkian on the speed-dial, I yelled. George has a hemorrhoid! - Christ - someone yank that roid outta George's ass."

Before I knew it, George was gone and I had appointed Fabio as Vice President in charge of making me happy. I painted the White House pink and ordered all of my bodyguards to wear little black bow ties without shirts. Paco quickly became Washington's most popular pool boy. I made Gay marriages legal once and for all, and appointed George Michael my official bathroom attendant.

Anyone living in a trailer park immediately got a huge tax return and Fridays were Drag Day at the Pentagon.

Poppers for Everyone was my reelection campaign motto and I won a second term. Viva Dear Ruthie, the American people screamed as I dashed to and from my helicopter (with pilot, Eric Estrada).

I changed the black gowns worn by the Supreme Court to sassy little sequined numbers with fabulous necklines. Everyone in America had to donate 3% of their annual salary to AIDS research - except Reggie White who had to donate 40 percent.

Grade schools had mandatory classes on tolerance and humanity, as well as the History of Barbra Streisand, and The Effect of Madonna on American Culture. Americans were happy and peaceful, and most importantly, they cherished one another's differences. Then the guy I was sleeping with belched and woke me up.

Oh, well. It was a nice while it lasted. I rolled out of bed this morning, told the cable-guy he had to get dressed, put on my leopard skin pill-box hat, and pinned a little red, white, and blue ribbon to my bra.

I thanked God that I'm an American and prayed that George Bush never gets a hemorrhoid.

Dear Ruthie,

I have so many troubles that I had a hard time picking just one - but I thought this was a good one. Please pick my letter. I'd like to hear your answer. I met a man exactly two months ago. He now has to move nearly all the way across the country and has asked me to go with him. I think this could be the guy for me, but my history with men has been pretty poor. Do you think I should move with him and hope for the best? I hate to leave Wisconsin as my family and friends live here, but I really like this man. Any ideas? Am I too much of a stuffed shirt for not being more open to this move?

(signed)
Plane Jane
Dear Jane,

Please fasten your seat belt. Our pilot, Eric Estrada, has turned the seat belt light on and there is to be no moving around the cabin. Please return your tray to its upright position as we prepare TO LAND IN HELL!

Once in Hell, you'll find connecting flights to Regret, Frustration, and Despair. The flight to Despair, by the way, will be offering the movie, G.I. Jane, edited for in-flight viewing.

I don't know what you're thinking! I know what you're thinking with - but put that thing back in your pants for now! Why don't you just chew on a big ol' ball of aluminum foil, pour salt in some open wounds, or shove Super Glue and Play-Dough up your nose? Any of these would be less painful and you'd still have your job and family around you.

You just met this guy and have known him for about eight weeks. Now you're ready to just toss your family, friends, job, and life up in the air to follow Top Gun across the country?

You have no idea what this man is like in the summer. What is he like during the holidays? Throw the stress of relocating, adjusting to a new job, and having no friends around into the mix of a new relationship and you're on a blazing highway to Hell, Sister Christian.

Do you really think this young relationship is able to handle this much stress?

I know that long distance love affairs are tough, but I'd try it for a few months at least. Let your honey move, get settled in, get used to his job and new surroundings. Instead of moving with him, plan a trip out to see him - maybe a month after he leaves. Spend a week or a long weekend together. Then make plans for another reunion a few months later. All the while, keep communicating via letters, phone calls, or e-mail. After a while, reconsider making the move.

I know you probably hate this advice, so if you don't take it and move with Air Force One, I'd highly suggest getting your own place. At first you should share the new city and the move together - not the home.

If it doesn't work out - come back and live with me. There's plenty of room in my trailer, and the Rusty Nail Trailer Park needs a new pool boy. Do you like bananas?

I was lucky enough to do a couple of numbers with my good friend Karen Valentine at the M&M Club in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and I hope I get the chance to do it again real soon! What a great crowd! Good luck to the Divine Ms. Buzzy - Possum Queen hopeful from the M&M Club - and to all the Possum Gals out there. Many of those who caught the show mentioned that they wanted to write a letter/question. If you'd like to drop me a note, please do so care of: Wisconsin Light - 1843 N. Palmer - Milwaukee, WI - 53212. Thanks!!!!

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TANNED AND TONED This Gay White Male loves socializing, movies, dinners out, talking, and quiet times. I'm 34, 5'8", 160 lbs, with blond hair, green eyes, tan skin, and a muscular build. I'm seeking fun times with Guys in my area. (Appleton) ☎17202

SNAPSHOT I'm a hot, passable Bi White Transvestite, 31 years old, 6'0", 175 lbs, clean shaven. I'm looking for generous Males to photograph me in my slutty leather vinyl outfits and sexy lingerie. Click! Click! (Milwaukee) ☎17676

I WANT TO STRIP FOR YOU I want you to be my french mate. I am a 30 year old submissive Single White Male. I want you to tell me what to do, humiliate me and do what ever you want me to do for or to you. (Milwaukee) ☎17484

FILL MY VOID This is attractive Gay 21-year-old White Male with lots of interests inside the bedroom, and out. I am very attractive and well-hung, so please give me a call. (Milwaukee) ☎17597

RISE AND SHINE This masculine, dominant, White top Man, 37, 165 lbs, seeks a masculine, hairy-chested bottom. I work third shift, so mornings are preferred. (Racine) ☎16825

NOT ONE TO GOSSIP This Gay Black Male, 5'11", light-complected and positive, seeks friends for conversation and maybe more. I'm down-to-earth and don't like to gossip. (Swanson) ☎16828

STICKY - STICKY This Gay White, 46 year old, 5'7", 145 lbs, in-shape Male is looking for other White Gay Men who are into nipples and jacking off. (Milwaukee) ☎17692

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

SEEKING NEW FRIENDS I'm a Gay Asian Male who is looking for new friends. I like nature, art, and walking, so if you interested, please leave a message. (Winona) ☎17707

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

SEXY SCANDINAVIAN This attractive Nordic Male, 6', 168 lbs, well-endowed, with a muscular swimmer's build, blond hair, and blue eyes seeks other well-endowed Males of any age. (Minneapolis) ☎17147

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



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Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
Kenosha				
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Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
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In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
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S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
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Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
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Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
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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
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Hanging out at the Boot - We found these four butch hunks hanging out at the Boot Camp on a Saturday night.



Buddies - We found these three buds enjoying the atmosphere and the crowd at Milwaukee's In Between.

NIGHT LIGHT

Continued From Page 17

to some hot tunes from Amy and hob nob with the cool crowd.

In Between is just a short walk from Dish so that will be my next stop. I like their decor and their video games.

Then it will be off to **Fluid**, Milwaukee's hottest new bar with its hot bartender tag team of Bill and Jimmy.

Course we will finish the whole thing off with a night cap at **La Cage** where my fav DJ tag team of Dave and Tanya will be

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

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May 7 ___; May 21 ___; June 4 ___; June 18 ___; July 2 ___; July 16 ___ July 30 ___;

working their magic up in the DJ booth.

Saturday May 2 will find me at Sijan field for opening day of the SSBL. After signing all those autographs, I will head over to **Woody's** for the Mr. SSBL contest. Hope you will join me for this big league fund raiser.

Then it will off to the Milwaukee War Memorial for the **6th Annual Country Dance Gala**. The Gala will include raffles, groups from around the midwest and the Shoreline Dancers newest routines. (Plus more butch country western guys than you can rope) It's a benefit for the LGBT Community Center.

Sunday May 3 there will be a Youth Dance at **Dish**. It's a benefit for the Community Center. Admission is free so I am not quite sure how they are going to raise money.

Friday May 8 will see me in MadTown. There is a big "Drag King" show (that's where the women dress like men) in the Skylight Room at the Civic Center. After the show, I will have to hit all of Madison's hot spots, **Kirby's Klub, The Shamrock and Manoeuvres**.

Well that wraps it up for now kids. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile play safe and be proud!

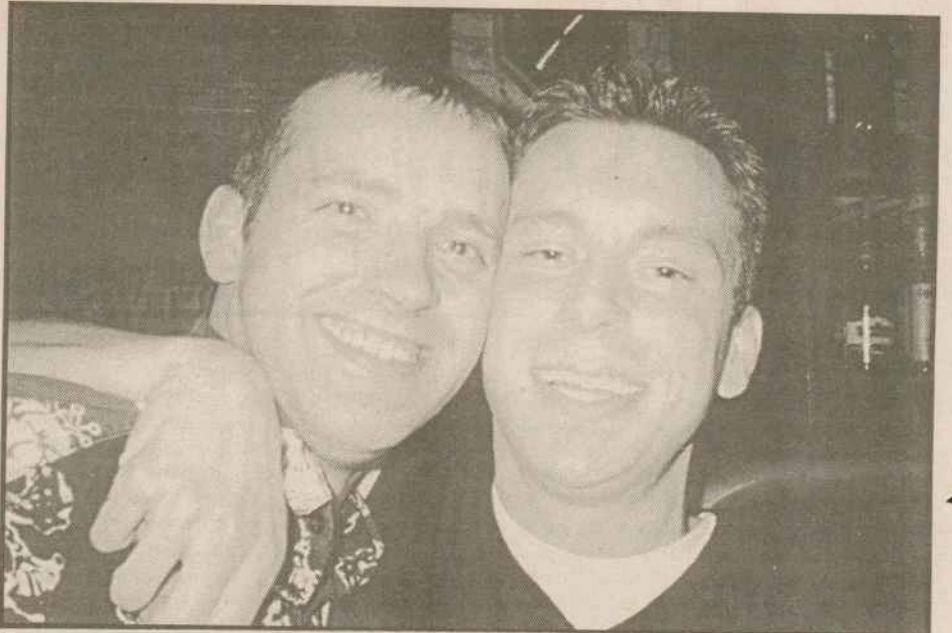
Organizations

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

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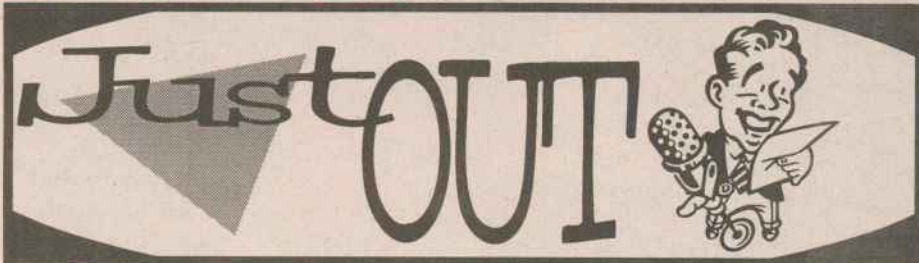
Aren't They Sweet? - JR, the new bartender at In Between (Left) and his boyfriend, Garth, the new Bartender at This Is It.

The Trailer Trash Possum Queen Fund Raiser



Trailer Trash! - We caught these folks doing being trashy at the Possum Queen Trailer Trash Kick Off at the M & M Club. At the top is Ms. Sage La Rue (is anyone trashier than her?) Next are three guys who have struck that delicate balance managing to bring out their butch and their fem sides. At the bottom is Fondue Daily, Possum Queen Candidate from Fluid and Woody's.

OUT In Print



Non-Fiction

The Lesbian Love Companion : How to Survive Everything From Heartthrob to Heartbreak by Marny Hall, Harper San Francisco Pb \$15.00

Here is a wise, yet hilarious book to inform one and all of the vagaries of Lesbian relationships. **The Lesbian Love Companion** is a smart and engrossing guide to the ups and downs of Lesbian love. Hall shows us how to survive by refining and retelling the stories of our relationships by using anecdotal and personal accounts of breakups, distancing and other lesser breakups, revitalizations, and splits, all to shed some measure of light and hope on the slippery slopes of Lesbian relationships.

In the Studio by Tom Bianchi, St Martin's Press HC \$50.00

In the Studio is fabled photographer Tom Bianchi's most daring and original collection of male erotic photography to date. While his trademark hunky models remain, here Tom Bianchi presents a body of work that will startle and challenge the world of photography and the notion of safe, "vanilla" coffee table books. Eschewing the settings normally associated with his work outdoors, Bianchi returns to the studio to create these raw, powerful, and intensely intimate portraits of dazzling Gay men.

Fiction

The Long Falling by Keith Ridgway, Houghton Mifflin HC \$22.00.

Sin and salvation are the two themes of Keith Ridgway's wonderful first novel, **The Long Falling**. But as in life and great art, the definitions of these terms are neither simple nor clear. Grace Quinn, an Englishwoman isolated by geography, nationality, and tragic circumstance in rural Ireland nearly all her life, has been brutalized by her husband since the accidental death of one child and the flight of another to Dublin after he revealed his homosexuality. Early in the novel, Grace kills her husband and travels to Dublin, but in the end, she is betrayed by a son whose motives are as flawed and mysterious as her own. Ridgway evokes place and mood beautifully, with shimmering description, and the reader feels Grace's "long falling."

Strong for Potatoes by Cynthia Thayer, St. Martin's Press HC \$22.95

Set on the eastern coast of Maine, **Strong for Potatoes** tells the story of Blue Willoughby, a lonely Native American girl, whose young life is defined by two events: an accident that left her with a glass eye and a scarred face, and the death of her twin sister, Berry, born without a brain and unable to survive beyond a few days after their birth. A memorable story of perseverance and triumph, **Strong for Potatoes** is a striking literary debut reminiscent of Dorothy Allison and Barbara Kingsolver.

RU PAUL

Continued From Page 12

would be on a billboard on Sunset Boulevard," he says. "Today my picture is up there. I feel like I have finally made it."

In his 1995 autobiography, **Letting It All Hang Out**, the Ru-meister offered an eclectic look at his accession to fame. From his dysfunctional relationship with his mother (whom he affectionately calls Mean Mrs. Charles) and his father, to his drug use (LSD was a regular dietary supplement between ages 20 and 30) to his days as a go-go dancer, RuPaul literally let it all hang out.

The darkest time in his life came when he turned 28. "I had just moved to New York from Los Angeles and couldn't get arrested to save my life. I had no money. No real place to stay. I was still doing the drugs. My sister had kicked me out of her house. It was a pretty dark time," the singer recalls. "I thought about committing suicide. But I never came close to doing it. I knew that if I just hung tight and kept the faith that I would get through it. I knew change was coming and I just had to hold on."

As for the future, RuPaul has no plans to slow down or retire the wig and pumps. (For those who can't get enough, he'll be forever immortalized in wax at the soon-to-open Madame Tussaud Wax Museum in New York.) With nearly a-half-a-dozen films, including Spike Lee's **Crooklyn**, **The Brady Bunch Movie** and **To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything ... With Love**, **Julie Newmar**, RuPaul hopes to explore more of his thespian side. In March he was seen in the made-for-television movie, "An Unexpected Life," with Stockard Channing on the USA Network.

RuPaul says, while being a celebrity has been great, he's never worried about losing his 15-minutes of fame. "Even if I had been a one-hit wonder, I'd still be working, I'd still have ideas and aspirations and I'd see my inspiration come to light," he says.

"Success is something that is between you and yourself. The most important thing is for you to love and adore yourself. That is true success. I've accomplished that. So, with or without the fame, I've been successful."

Lesbian Comedian Kate Clinton to appear at Afterwords

Milwaukee--Afterwords is particularly pleased to announce this spring's highlight author appearance with popular Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton. Clinton will launch an 11-city book tour with her appearance at Afterwords on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 p.m.

A self-described fumerist (feminist and humorist) Kate Clinton has appeared on HBO, PBS, Oprah, Good Morning America and is already booked on The Rosie O'Donnell Show to promote her first book, **Don't Get Me Started** (Ballantine HC \$22.00).

"(Don't Get Me Started) is a joy, filled with tasty, politically dangerous thoughts; Kate is the person you want to sit next to in the back row."--Paul Rudnick

Kate Clinton began her stand-up career in 1981 using politics, Catholicism and her Lesbianism as basic themes. She performs her one-woman shows across the country and has four comedy albums to



Kate Clinton

her credit.

For further information concerning Kate Clinton's appearance or any Afterwords event, please call (414) 963-9089.

book reviews



Grant Michaels' "Dead As A Doornail" is One Very Good Read

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn has long been a great fan of Grant Michaels' popular mystery series featuring Stan Kraychik, Boston's sassiest psychologist-cum-hairdresser. Since his hilarious debut in **A Body to Dye For**, Glenn has eagerly awaited each new Stan Kraychik adventure.

That a perfected sculpted male torso has graced the cover of each and every new Grant Michaels mystery has certainly never induced Glenn to purchase any of these books!

Glenn must admit that something horribly wrong happened in Michaels' last effort, **Time to Check Out**. In that misadventure, following the death of his lover, Rafik, Stan found himself rich. As an heiress fleeing his sorrow, Stan finds himself in Key West. Naturally a dead body turns up. Stan proceeds to investigate, but gone is his characteristic wit and infectious enthusiasm. **Time to Check Out** was a most dreary effort!

Right then and there Glenn decided to check Grant Michaels right off his list!

Now comes **Dead as a Doornail!**

It is with considerable consternation that Glenn curled up with this latest Stan Kraychik mystery. The book's cover was, after all, something of a disappointment!

Happily Glenn can report that the old Stan Kraychik, a wisecrack for every occasion, is back!

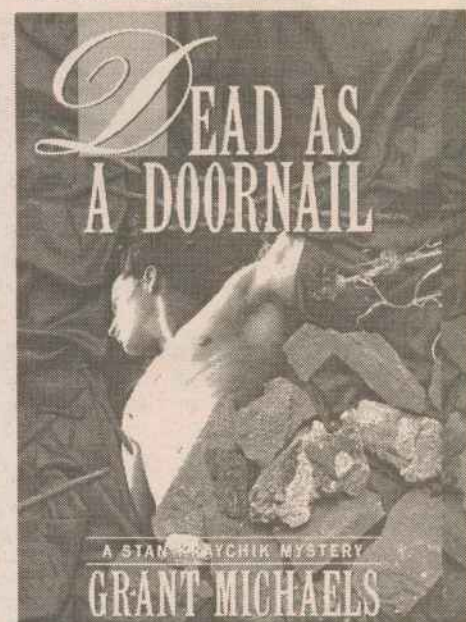
After the Key West fiasco (in more ways than one), Stan has returned to Boston. Although still rich, his best bud Nicole is still urging Stan to return to his favorite chair at the salon. Glenn was a bit surprised to learn that between books, Stan had gone through "cop school". But boredom soon set in and Stan washed himself out, greatly disappointing his beloved Lt. Vito Branco.

As **Dead as a Doornail** opens, Stan has purchased a dilapidated Boston townhouse in a suitably yuppie area and has hired a cute young Stan Kraychik-look-alike, Tim Shaughnessy as contractor for the much needed restorations. When Stan braves a blizzard to meet with Tim, he finds the pretty little contractor, you guessed it, dead as a doornail!

Despite warnings from all of his friends (Lt. Branco is particularly adamant, as he believes that Stan was the intended target) Stan gets a bad hair-don't, dons the dark glasses and proceeds to do his best Jessica Fletcher imitation.

It became quite clear to Glenn that far more was going on than a simple murder

as Stan begins questioning Michaels' usual unusual assortment of possible suspects. These include a vicious exercise-obsessed realtor, a deliciously mincing



storekeeper who specializes in authentic fifties home decor (his male dog is named Betty after Betty Furness), an ex-felon and quasi-pornographic photographer who spends way too much time drooling over his favorite "sure-he's-straight" model body-builder Chip Holton and finally, Angie, a neighborhood hairdresser who once yearned to turn Tim straight.

Dead as a Doornail finds Grant Michaels back on track with a mystery with a fast-paced story and filled with a great cast of characters and plenty of laughs.

Will Stan succeed in dodging bullets (as well as speeding cars) and find Tim's killer before the killer finds Stan? Glenn will never tell! Go read **Dead as a Doornail!**

Afterwords Schedule

- Wednesday, April 22nd 7:00pm
Lesbian Reading Group
As Francesca by Martha Baer
- Monday, May 11th 7:30pm
Afterwords Book Club
Heaven's Coast by Mark Doty

Room of One's Own May Events

Sat., May 2

Performance in the Coffeehouse at 8:00 p.m.—"Finger Rhythm Good" Drum Music by Kira Fobbs and Dana Beilke

Thur., May 7

Author Reading at 6:30 p.m.—U.W. Professor Emeritus Gerda Lerner reading from her new release, "The Feminist Thought of Sarah Grimke and from her book "Why History Matters"

Fri., May 8

"Poetry Jam" in the Coffeehouse at 8:00 p.m.—An open-mic night of "Pets, Petting and Pet Peeves. Bring and perform your pet poems for a raucous night of mid to low-brow fun

Sun., May 10

Celebrate your mother. Sunday, all day. Mother's Day High Tea in the Coffeehouse and live music by local flutist Joy Redmon.

Fri., May 15

Performance in the Coffeehouse at 8:00 p.m.—Comic poet Kealynn Kees and friends.

Sat., May 16

Performance in the Coffeehouse at 8:00 p.m.—Original folk music by local singer-songwriter Mary Waitrovich

Wed., May 20

Author reading at 6:30 p.m.—Madison-based author Margaret George reading from her latest novel, "The Memoirs of Cleopatra"

All events are free and open to the public

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