

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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Wisconsin Governor Thompson Signs Historic Hospital Visitation Bill

**Madison**—Following in the footsteps of Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus who signed into law the first state Gay rights bill in the country, GOP Governor Tommy Thompson has become the first governor to sign into law a piece of legislation (Assembly Bill 397) which protects Gay men and Lesbians who wish to visit their partners in the hospital.

The "hospital visitation bill," as it came to be known, was drafted by Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen (R-Brookfield) after hearing stories of Gays and Lesbians being denied access to their loved ones in the hospital because they were not blood relatives.

Scott Evertz, Legislative Director of Log Cabin Republicans (an organization which strongly supported the bill), praised Governor Thompson upon his signing the bill, saying, "Governor Thompson has just provided Gay and Lesbian couples with a right we previously did not have and in so doing, has shown once again that Republicans are the true leaders of the Gay and Lesbian cause here in Wisconsin."

Evertz continued, "We all know that Governor Thompson is a very decent man committed, as are most Wisconsin citizens, to fairness. The idea that anyone—straight or Gay—may not be able to see someone they love in the hospital just struck him as mean and unfair and he corrected that."

Mike Gifford, Director of Public Policy for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), was excited upon learning the Governor had signed AB 397, commenting from the Washington, DC offices of the AIDS Action Council, "ARCW is pleased Governor Thompson has signed the hospital visitation bill. It reaffirms his commitment to people living with HIV and AIDS. The Log Cabin Republicans should be applauded for their leadership in this issue."

The passing and signing of the bill was not, however, free from controversy. Upon learning that Rep. Jensen was going to introduce this bill co-authored by Rep. Shirley Krug (D-Milwaukee), many Democratic legislators long cited as strong advocates for the Gay and Lesbian cause, began voicing opposition to the bill, arguing that it was unnecessary and was, as Rep. Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee) said, "a do-nothing bill."

At the time, Evertz expressed disbelief at what he was hearing from Democrats. "I find it absolutely unbelievable that Democrats—particularly those who are said to be friends of the Gay and Lesbian community—would try to sabotage this bill simply because they did not draft it and introduce it."

Asked to comment on the controversy surrounding the bill and suggestions that

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## Sharon Dixon, Fannie's Owner, Responds to Recent Article, "Fanning the Flames"

An article about Fannie's bar owner Sharon Dixon appeared in the May issue of Milwaukee Magazine. The article, written by Paul Burkhardt, was titled "Fanning the Flames," referring apparently, to the disastrous fire Fannie's bar suffered in October, 1997. Amidst all the work getting Fannie's ready to reopen, Sharon sat down to talk about the article; to give the community her side of the story.

**Wisconsin Light:** Sharon, what do you think about the recent article in "Milwaukee Magazine?"

**Sharon Dixon:** I was somewhat upset by it to say the least. It's very inaccurate in many ways and I believe that it tried me, convicted me and sentenced me.

**WL:** Can you give some examples?

**SD:** Yes. If the question is, have I had financial difficulties, I have. The problem

## March On Washington Set For April 30, 2000

### Billy Rosenbaum, Popular Milwaukee Man, Found Murdered in Chicago

**Milwaukee**—Wisconsin resident William "Billy" Rosenbaum, died Saturday, April 25, 1998. He was 33.

According to the **Chicago Tribune**, Billy had left his home in St. Francis, Wisconsin on Friday, April 24, with a friend to go to Chicago. One report said that Billy gave his wallet to his friend for safe-keeping. The paper reported that Billy spent some time at The Eagle, a popular bar in the city's North Side. The **Windy City Times** reported that Billy was last seen alive at The Eagle, where he was allegedly spotted with Patrick Bailey, 33, of Des Plaines, Illinois.

About 2:00 a.m. on April 25, Bailey checked into the Eden's Motel, 6020 N. Cicero Avenue. Billy was with him, police report. Bailey used his own name and address to register at the motel.

The **Tribune** reports that police say there was an altercation between Billy and Bailey. During or after that, Bailey allegedly strangled Billy and mutilated the body. A cleaning woman discovered the body on Sunday morning and reported it to police.

The **Times** reported that using information from the motel's register, detectives apprehended Bailey and charged him with first degree murder. Bailey was ordered held on \$1 million bond at the Cook County jail. As of press time, he awaiting arraignment.

The **Times** reported that Eagle owner Chuck Renslow said that detectives had interviewed bartenders at his bar on April 25, but that no one who worked there remembered seeing the alleged murderer.

Investigators are reported to be creating a psychological profile of Bailey to see if they can link him to other unsolved murder cases in the area. One of those cases involved another Gay white man who was killed in Chicago late last year in a similar fashion.

Toni Carrigan, anti-violence director of Horizons Community Services, said "When a killer goes well beyond what it takes to end the person's life and carries out added aggression, it often has something to do with some kind of bias."

Billy was well-known in both Madison and Milwaukee. The news of his death shocked and greatly saddened all who knew him.

"He was one of the nicest guys I've met in Milwaukee," Tony said. "He was doing well in school (UW-Milwaukee). He was a lot of fun."

Many others echoed Tony's sentiments. Along with Ruthie, Billy had ridden in Wisconsin Light's float at the Madison

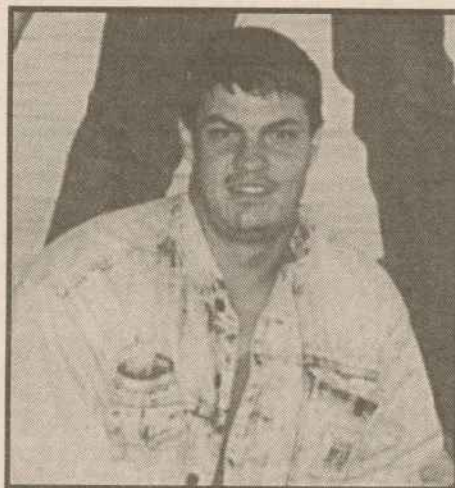
started with Mike and Anna's (a famous Milwaukee restaurant). My partner at Mike and Anna's, Bob, fell ill with brain cancer from which he eventually died. Before his death, I started getting bills from the IRS, the State of Wisconsin, telling me that taxes hadn't been paid. I checked and found out that the checks had been written, but never mailed.

It was a mess, a mess, that to this day, I'm still dealing with. Many of my friends in the business community are well aware of this. It's not something that I tried to hide.

**WL:** The article speaks about you having a "monopoly" on the Lesbian bar business. What's your response?

**SD:** (chuckles softly) I take issue with that. There are other bars that cater to

Please See Fannie's, Page 23



Billy Rosenbaum

Gay Pride parade last year. A friendly wave and a telling smile were characteristic of him.

Billy is survived by his parents, William F. and Sylvia B. Rosenbaum, his brothers Lee, Keith, Michelle (Joe), Wolf, the late Gregory, Thomas (Carol) Rosenbaum and Alex Rosenbaum.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, May 3, 1998, at the Schramka-Rembowski Funeral home in St. Francis. There was a private burial on Monday, May 04, 1998, at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

The family asks that memorials be sent in Billy's name to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

## Equality Begins At Home to Bring Week of Action in All 50 States in March, 1999

**Washington, DC**—The Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Organizations will sponsor an historic, coordinated week of actions focused on state government and statewide organizing.

The Federation is a network of statewide LGBT political organizations whose purpose is to facilitate cooperation and communication between groups; establish a clearinghouse for the exchange of information and ideas; and assist existing and new groups in addressing their organizational development needs. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) serves as the Federation's coordinator.

After many national and statewide discussions and after conducting a state-by-state assessment of its members, the Federation has decided to focus its energy on the states.

Under the theme "Equality Begins At Home," each state is being called upon to plan an activity—a march, rally, lobby day, press conference, or any other visibility campaign—in their respective state capitals during the week of March 21-27, 1999.

Equality Begins At Home will provide an opportunity to focus the national spotlight on the organizing challenges and legislative battles faced by LGBT people in state houses across the nation. The goal is to build statewide organizing capability across the nation and promote LGBT equal rights in every state.

"Clearly more and more battles are fought in the states," said Paula Eitelbrick, Co-Chair of the Federation and Legislative Director of New York's Empire State Pride Agenda.

Please See Equality, Page 2

**Washington, DC**—Organizers for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community's fourth March on Washington have announced that the event will be held on April 30, 2000. The march aims to articulate the concerns of our community and focus our nation's attention on our quest for equality in all aspects of life.

"We expect one million of my Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered sisters and brothers and our enlightened allies to stand on the Mall and call upon our nation to live out the promise of equality under the law," said Rev. Troy D. Perry, long-time Gay activist and founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Organizers have taken to begin incorporation of a non-profit entity to handle planning, production and financial arrangements. Efforts are underway to make this is a democratic process where all segments of our community are represented.

"The millennium march promises to continue its bold commitment to all people of color. I am hearing from Native Americans, Asians, African Americans, Latinos and Pacific Islanders who are ecstatic about participating," said Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive director of the Latino Latina/o, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Organization.

### March on State Capitals

Organizers also expressed their support for the "Equality Begins at Home" actions on all 50 state capitals set for 1999.

"The Equality Begins at Home" actions enjoy the full and enthusiastic support of the organizers of the Millennium March," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "It's imperative that we focus our energies as a movement at both the state and federal level. These two events will complement each other as together we build the momentum to achieve equality in the next century."

"I am glad to see both of these events moving towards a more collaborative process," said Jubi Headley, executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. "This is a positive sign of progress."

"Our greatest hope as a movement lies in our commitment to work together for social change. Our passion for justice and our pledge to lift up every voice has the potential to transform town halls, state houses, and our nation's capitol," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"I remain hopeful that the "Equality Begins at Home" actions and the Millennium March will help build our grassroots movement at the state, local and national level," said Dianne Hard-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and co-chair of the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Organizations. "I believe that working together these actions can strengthen the state and federal organizations that fight daily to end discrimination."

Paula Eitelbrick, legislative director of the Empire State Pride Agenda and the other co-chair of the Federation added, "The Equality Begins At Home actions will fortify our strength at the statewide level and set the stage for the millennium march event in Washington in 2000."

For further information regarding accommodations, travel agents and groups please call the March on Washington, (818) 891-1748.

**Anti Gay Bill  
AB 104 Dies  
See Page 8**

## Speaking From The Right

### AIDS and the White House

Commentary by J. Alan

The details of President Clinton's 1999 budget proposal have begun to become known to those in the media. For HIV+ people, the proposed budget may still be inadequate.

This article will focus on an HIV program within the Ryan White Care Act called ADAP. ADAP is a program that implements new HIV treatments and directly saves lives. In essence, ADAP helps circulate on a state-run basis HIV combatants to those who could otherwise not afford them.

According to a press release from Washington, DC, released February 2, 1998, as many HIV+ people are aware, the Clinton Administration has for 2 years ignored the medical benefits to Americans who are HIV+ of implementing new treatments for the disease. Apparently, through the course of two appropriation cycles, the Clinton Administration responded inadequately to the needs of Americans who are HIV+. The Republican Congress since has countered with \$169.5 million in emergency funding increases.

Fortunately, on February 2, 1998, the Clinton White House issued a request for a \$100 million increase in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). That program is within the Ryan White Care Act and the request is for its fiscal 1999 budget. The request of the Clinton Administration on this topic will undoubtedly be applauded by many Gay organizations from the Log Cabin Republicans to the Human Rights Campaign.

Unfortunately, for an administration elected due to, in large part, the assistance of many minority communities, this does not seem to be enough of a funding request from a Democratic Administration. State AIDS Directors on an individual basis administer ADAP. They had projected a need for \$175 million in additional funding in the program.

Consequently, organizations such as the Log Cabin Republicans, a group of Lesbian and Gay Republicans, in conjunction with multiple allied organizations, are looking into ways to raise the additional needed \$75 million. Richard Tafel, Executive Director of the Log Cabin Republicans, is taking the lead on the issue of needed additional funding for the program based on the belief that the pursuit of saving lives as opposed to increasing dollars directly to the AIDS bureaucracy should be the gauge for resolution of the issue.

"The AIDS priorities of this budget boil down to three words: 'Save lives first,'" said Tafel. Tafel also argued that approximately \$46 million may be reallocated from other, lower priority sections of the Ryan White Care Act to bridge the gap.

To the Clinton Administration's credit, the explosion in needed funds for ADAP was not to be anticipated. The source of the problem in funding stems from "Protease Inhibitors"—a medical breakthrough that effectively combats the HIV virus. These inhibitors may be provided through ADAP for persons who do not qualify for Medicare.

In 1996, Congress took the lead on the issue and approved \$50 million in emergency funding over the President's 1997 Fiscal Budget. As the crisis drew on, the Clinton Administration flat-funded ADAP. Consequently, many state ADAP programs shut down or had to ration the program's limited resources to those who were in most need. The White House was repeatedly called upon to reverse its stance.

Unfortunately, the Administration refused. With such a refusal as a tangible example of the Administration's true view of the AIDS issue, the Log Cabin Republicans went forward and testified before Congress in April, 1997. They did for HIV+ people what the Clinton Administration refused—the Log Cabin Republicans requested an increase. The Republican Congress agreed and approved \$118.5 million in increased funds for 1998. Now we are getting to the 1999 budget and again the Clinton Administration fails to meet the literal dying wish of a body of terminally ill American citizens who elected him as their leader. Again, the Administration offers only a token of support even when, under a new balanced budget, there may soon be hundreds of millions of dollars of surplus in sight that should be directed toward such life-saving programs as this. ADAP is a program that directly elongates the lives of terminally ill, HIV+ Americans, many of whom may be able to return to the work place or be

productive citizens very possibly years longer with basic treatments such as these.

As the Clinton Administration and the Republican Congress prepare to go into battle over differences in the budget, when asked of the under-funding of ADAP, they will most likely tell HIV+ people that those "evil Republicans" are fighting them on these issues.

However, when one really analyzes the issue at hand, while the Administration may offer token increases, such as a mere \$21 million to AIDS housing, when it comes down to direct, life-saving action on this issue, there is little to be found from the Clinton White House. Despite years worth of requests from HIV advocates and years worth of cries from dying Americans, the Administration continually fails to respond with full force, even when "political enemies" are not fighting them.

As the President's Administration has found itself in time of crisis, they will tell you all the good they have done. They will tell you of all the bad Republicans have allegedly done. Case examples of individual hatred will probably also be cited from the few and far between extremists within the GOP; leaving mention of those same problems within the Democratic Party unaddressed.

As the Democratic Party becomes more financially beleaguered, Democrats are searching for a wedge issue. Clinton's proposed budget, thought filled with popular programs, is full of wedge issues. Furthermore, within its attempt to divide people, it mis-allocates funds within popular programs just like ADAP and may make them as ineffectual as any big Government programs of the past. Do not allow yourself to be fooled.

Instead, contemplate and re-read this material. Share it with a friend. In addition, please, shudder for a moment at the thought of what position the HIV+ people you may love would be in if it were not for Republicanism—not only within the Lesbian and Gay community, but especially at large.

Jason Alan is the Regional Director of the Southeastern Wisconsin Log Cabin Republican Club. He may be reached for comment at: Log Cabin Republicans, P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

### EQUALITY

Continued From Page 1

"With anti-Gay initiatives and referendums from Colorado to Maine, and the Right Wing organizing against our families, we must build a stronger grassroots movement," Ettlbrick said.

"More states than ever before are facing anti-Gay measures and/or are fighting for pro-Gay civil rights protections," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, Co-Chair of the Federation and Executive Director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

"Nearly every state has faced a bill banning the recognition of same-sex marriages in the last two years," Hardy-Garcia said.

The Equality Begins At Home actions will be organized by each of the existing 36 political organizations active in the Federation. Each state will design an action that best fits with their state and their political goals. Each state will develop a plan for integrating local groups and our allies into the action.

NGLTF will help organize the states that do not have existing statewide political groups. The Equality Begins At Home actions have been given office space in the NGLTF office.

Several national and local groups have joined in supporting the Equality Begins At Home actions by helping with resources, fundraising, publicity and expertise. There will also be a powerful effort to make sure that both the Equality Begins At Home actions and the Millennium March complement each other and share resources.

### HIT Fundraiser

**Milwaukee**—The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT), will be sponsoring a casino run, Saturday, May 9, 1998 to the Empress Casino in Joliet, Illinois. Cost per person is \$20 in includes round-trip bus transportation. The bus will depart at 9:00 a.m. from the M&M Club and will return at 7:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for HIT.

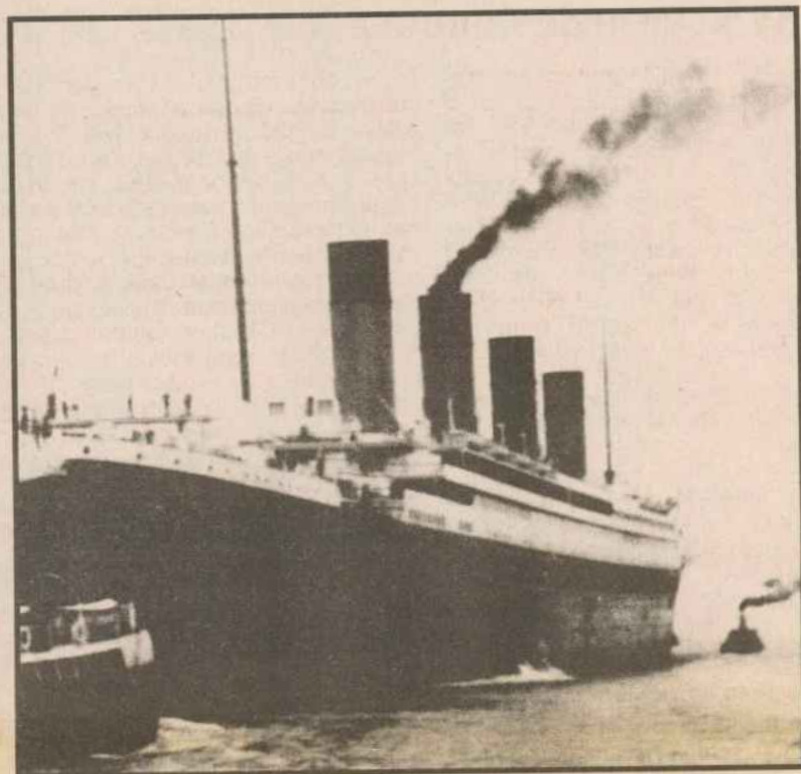
It's not too late. Call Peter at (414) 963-4037 or the HIT Hotline at (414) 332-7142.

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Winners! Mary Read (L) and Sara Johnson were presented with awards at the ARCW Awards banquet held on April 18. Their work to fight AIDS makes them winners in anyone's book!

## Exceptional Volunteers Recognized at ARCW's 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.

## Wisconsin Residents Return from Successful HIV/AIDS Lobbying Trip to Washington

**Milwaukee**—Eleven Wisconsin residents just returned from Washington, D.C. where they lobbied their members of congress on HIV and AIDS issues.

"A lot of people have the misperception that AIDS is over and that's not true," said Paul Lewis, a Merrill resident.

Lewis and ten other AIDS advocates from across Wisconsin attended AIDSWatch '98, a three-day lobbying event to educate Congress about the need for expanded funding for HIV prevention, care, research and effective AIDS public policies.

The Wisconsin delegation is organized by AIDS Action Wisconsin, a grassroots program coordinated by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

"AIDS advocates took the local concerns of AIDS to Capitol Hill," said ARCW director of public policy Mike Gifford. "They brought a powerful message that the challenges of AIDS are still significant in Wisconsin."

According to Gifford, the annual AIDS Watch brings individuals from every U.S. congressional district to Washington, D.C. for the event. The Wisconsin advocates joined an estimated 400 others from across America.

"We met with all nine Wisconsin representatives and our two senators," said Gifford. "Our message was clear, 'Now is not the time to relax in the fight against AIDS.'" He added that constituents from six of nine Wisconsin congressional districts participated in AIDSWatch. The AIDS advocates asked their congressmen to do more, not less, to support HIV and AIDS.

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.

"Hope is Not Victory," the 1998 AIDS Watch theme, stemmed from recent advances in the treatment of HIV that resulted in some unexpected consequences. AIDS Action Wisconsin is a network of over 750 Wisconsin AIDS advocates from all nine congressional districts.

"The advocates regularly work directly with their elected officials regarding local, state and national HIV/AIDS funding and policy issues," said Gifford. "Just last year, Wisconsin advocates worked with ARCW to rescue federal funding to help people with HIV/AIDS stay in their homes," he added.

The three days of AIDSWatch included education on the federal legislative process and an update on the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress. In addition to maintaining AIDS funding, one of this year's key issues was addressing the ban on federal funding for needle exchange programs.

"Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala recently decided not to lift the federal ban for needle exchange funding despite scientific evidence that it reduces HIV infection, saves lives and actually reduces injection drug use," Gifford said. "Her decision is bad for Wisconsin. It will mean needless new HIV infections and more AIDS deaths."

This was the seventh year of AIDS Watch, a project of the national AIDS community, in partnership with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and over 40 national and regionally-based organizations. AIDSWatch is the largest annual constituent-based federal HIV/AIDS education and lobbying event in the U.S.

## LAMM To Hold Mother's Day Celebration

**Milwaukee**—Celebrate Mother's Day, whichever way you define it, with The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM). LAMM announces their First Annual Mother's Day Celebration to be held on Sunday, May 17, 1998, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Betty Brinn Children's Museum which is located at 920 E. Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. Admission to the event is \$2 per person (admission price to the museum); children under 2 are free. The event will be held in the NML Quiet Room on the second floor. Refreshments will be provided.

Current exhibits on display include: My Body Works, which teaches children about their bodies and how to stay healthy, A Trading Place, which helps children understand the marketplace and gives them a chance to role-play, and Play Port where children 3 and under can have fun in a busy port (& playground).

For more information, or the RSVP to the event, please contact the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

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## Editorial On Life

Many times (more times than we care to think), things happen for which there seems no reason. Someone like Billy Rosenbaum dies. His death seems so senseless and we ask why. He was a nice guy. He smiled a lot. He made people feel good when he was around. There aren't many like him in this world. Why did he have to be taken from us like he was? Things are a little darker now. Why did it happen. Why?

There are no answers to that any more than there are answers to most of the major (and minor) questions of life—far, far fewer answers than we care to admit. We are more like little children than we like to think, kids, scared kids, huddled around a campfire on a moonless night and shivering as the wolf howls. We think we know what's out there. We tell ourselves we do. But we don't know. Maybe we never will.

One thing, however, we can be certain about. That is that each and every one of us is an event, an absolutely unique happening that was never known before and will never be seen again.

Billy was like that. He was here. He made life happy for all who knew him and now he's gone. We don't know why he went any more than we know why he came—any more than we know any of that about each other and our selves.

Perhaps there is one thing more of which we can be certain. There is a mind far greater than our own, one that holds the very best of all human events in its fullness so that they live on, forever being, forever happening, eternally becoming. That is Billy now.

Be confident. Life has meaning. The manner of our dying, no matter how senseless and painful, does not destroy that. Death is not the ultimate reality. Life is the ultimate reality and Billy's life had meaning, a meaning unique to himself. His life has meaning yet, here and on as he continues to grow. One time, we will know that when we are all together again.

Wisconsin Light would like to extend the deepest sympathy of all our people here to Billy's family and his many, many friends.

## Editor's Note

### We Can Forget Reggie White

By Terry Boughner

In all this business about Reggie White, there are a couple of things I think that we should keep in mind.

One is that regardless of what Reggie or others like him say, their words are not inspired by Christianity. I say that because I've heard people say, "Oh well, what can you expect (from Reggie)? He's a Christian, isn't he?"

Christianity is, at its heart, about life and love. It teaches that love is the ground of all being. It teaches that God is love and that God gives that essence to us when we are open to receive it. At that time, when we love, we are most in the image of God.

When love is in us, we feel full, overjoyed, ecstatic, bathed in a mystery almost beyond our comprehension. In the eyes of our beloved as he looks at us, we see that and know a little of what God is. This is beautiful.

Christianity, like all great religions, holds out the promise of that beauty both now and forevermore.

I've known many Christians in my life. The ones who seek to live their faith go about quietly, doing what good they can, helping, not judging, believing in the power of love to see us all to a safe and secure place in the scheme of things.

The Christians I've known are not puffed up. They don't think they have the ear of God. They hope that their doing what's good and right and get on with life.

Christianity is a magnificent faith, something full of love and beautiful. Do not let what Reggie White says lead you to give it up.

The second thing is that I've met Lesbian and Gay people who have read what he said and seem so discouraged by it. It's more of the same; the homophobia that we've heard all of our lives. What can we do?

What we Lesbian and Gay people can do is to know, absolutely know, that there

is nothing to be ashamed about in who we are. We have no reason, utterly no reason to hate ourselves.

I can honestly say this: if they developed a pill tomorrow that, if taken, would turn me straight, I would tell them to "Get the hell out of here." Yes, it's been difficult being Gay and living in this society. There've been a lot of struggles, but life's full of struggles no matter who you are.

I am proud of me. I like my Gay side, the integral part of me, the facet that is Gay.

Look at it this way. Though there are a lot of people who say that Reggie is being criticized because what he said was "politically incorrect." That's foolishness. He's being criticized because most, if not all, of what he said was wrong.

For example, he said sin brought down the Roman Empire. Oh yeah? If it did, it took its own sweet time doing it. The Roman Empire was around a lot longer than the U.S. has been.

But nowhere was he more wrong than when he said that being Gay was a choice. It's no choice. It's the way things are with me and you know something? I like that.

We Gay people have every reason, every right to feel good about ourselves. We live, we fall in love, we work, we pay taxes, we build families, we have fun, we laugh, we have sorrow, we cry. What's wrong with any of that?

Does God condemn us? No! God is love and when we love—as we do—we partake of the very essence of the Creator. We can be sure of that.

Forget this sin and damnation bit. Let's get on with being loving, proud, self-confident, self-accepting Gay people. That is where our faith should be. Those are the ingredients from which we should construct our self-image. Not from anything that Reggie White has to say.

Let's ignore him and get on with being a good, proud people.

### Help for Football Players and Others Who Become Addicted to Thinking

By Vincent Cantara

Word has just been received about the problems facing a certain professional football player who we will call "Skippy." According to the report, it all started out innocently enough. Skippy began to think at parties now and then, he said. Even though one thing led to another and his thinking increased, he was still convinced he was only a social thinker.

Eventually, however, he began to think alone. As time went by, thinking became more and more important to him. He couldn't stop. He began to avoid his teammates at lunch so he could read books. Sometimes he would even sneak off to a library for a quick dose of philosophy. He would return to practice dazed and confused by all the thoughts swirling around in his head.

Things began to disintegrate at him. One evening he turned off the TV and asked his wife about the meaning of life. She spent the night at her mother's.

Not too long after that, the coach called him in and said, "Skippy, I like you. The team likes you, but if you don't stop thinking you're going to have to retire

from football."

That afternoon, his teammates told him that his thinking was making him a disgrace to the game. If that wasn't enough, later that same day, he got a phone call from a company that wanted him to endorse its shoes.

"We don't want you endorsing our shoes," the man at the other end of the line told him. "People who buy our shoes don't think."

Skippy decided to do two things. One is

that he retired from the game. The second is that that evening, he confessed to his wife that he was a "problem thinker."

"I know," she replied. "You're acting like college professors or writers. I want a divorce."

Skippy plunged further into despair.

One day when he was driving to the field, he found himself thinking about Kipling and Shakespeare. Suddenly a billboard caught his eye. It was an ad for Thinkers Anonymous (TA).

Skippy knew about the group. It was sponsored by the Republicans and Democrats and funded by the state legislature where no thinking had gone on in years. The bill funding the organization had been signed into law by the governor who said he couldn't understand thinking people since he'd never done any himself.

Skippy joined TA. He never misses a meeting where they watch movies like *Paulie* and *Spanish Prisoner*. Afterwards, everyone shares how they've avoided thinking since the last meeting.

Since then, Skippy has decided not to retire. The state legislature invited him to speak. The politicians said they were pleased that his speech showed no thinking at all. The shoe company has rehired him. He's happy. Having stopped thinking, he can now believe six impossible things before breakfast without any trouble at all. "Ignorance truly is bliss," Skippy said. "And it's profitable."

### VISITATION Continued From Page 1

the bill was unnecessary, James McFarland, an attorney and Treasurer and founding member of the Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin, said, "Before AB 397 became law, there was nothing that would require a hospital to allow a partner to see his or her loved one. In other words, if a homophobic parent had wanted to bar a partner from seeing the patient, the hospital could have readily agreed to that and probably would have."

McFarland further refuted claims made by some Democrats and a Gay political columnist that there has never been a case of a Wisconsin hospital refusing to allow a patient to determine who can or can't see him or her. He cited two specific situations where this had occurred including a situation involving a member of Log Cabin Republicans in Madison.

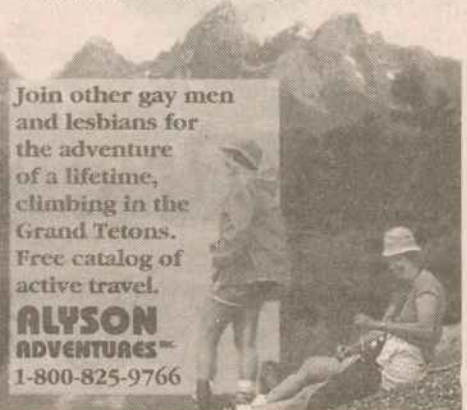
Asked what Gay and Lesbians should do now that the Governor has signed this bill, McFarland said, "Log Cabin Republicans urge all Gay men and Lesbians to inform their physicians either orally or in writing (although it would be best to put it in writing so one's partner has proof that the doctor was so informed), of his/her visitation wishes."

"If this is done, the hospital must permit visitation regardless of the wishes of the blood relatives of the patient or the wishes of anyone else."

Evertz added, "Even if a Gay or Lesbian person has durable power of attorney for health care, this does not guarantee that the hospital would have to allow them to visit with their partner if blood relatives wished otherwise. We urge all to take the added precaution of putting in writing who you wish to visit if you should be hospitalized."

Evertz concluded, saying, "Put one more thing in writing, too—a thank you note to Governor Thompson."

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Articles Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Ads  
Non-Camera Ready—May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Camera Ready—May 18<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

June 4<sup>th</sup> Issue  
Articles—Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ads  
Non-Camera Ready—May 29<sup>th</sup>  
Camera Ready—June 1<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

### Caution


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

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## Federal Judge to Hear Case Challenging Public Use of Blocking Software

Washington, DC—A federal judge in Virginia has agreed to hear a precedent-setting lawsuit that will challenge the public use of "blocking software"—those much-hyped programs that are intended to restrict access to "obscene" and "adult" content on the internet.

Judge Leonie Brinkema explained that, "The central question before this court is whether a public library may, without violating the First Amendment, enforce content-based restrictions on access to internet speech."

The case was filed against Loudoun County Library in northern Virginia, which requires the use of "X-Stop" software on its computers. Alleging that this policy abridges First Amendment freedoms, the plaintiffs include the American Civil Liberties Union and San Francisco Examiner columnist Rob Morse.

Morse reports that sections of the Examiner's web site have been blocked simply because he reports—from time to time—on Lesbian and Gay subjects.

On their own behalf, the producers of "X-Stop"—Log-On Data Corporation—claim that this product does not block access to Gay or Lesbian news sites, unless they are legally obscene. However, company promotional materials have boasted endorsements from some of the nation's most homophobic groups—including the American Family Association, Family Friendly Libraries, Focus on the Family, and the Family Research Council.

In a press release issued last August, the American Family Association breathlessly announced "an alliance with Log-On Data." "We recommend the X-Stop filter because it has real muscle," gushed AFA president Donald Wildmon.

Log-On Data touts that same "muscle" in ads that seem to suggest its software brawn will make the user's brain obsolete. Lending credence to complaints that such "filtering" programs are simply "censorware," X-stop is promoted with this chilling promise: "If it's BAD it's blocked, before the computer even knows it! INSTANTLY... no time wasted!"

Attorney and censorware critic Jonathan Wallace argues that "X-Stop blocks numerous sites that cannot possibly be obscene... because they contain no explicit sexual material of any kind." According to Wallace, one version of X-Stop software indiscriminately blocked web sites for the "AIDS Memorial Quilt," "The National Journal of Sexual Orientation Law," and "Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting" (a progressive media watch group, which regularly challenges homophobic bias in the mainstream press).

Along with web sites, access to Internet newsgroups seems unfairly limited. According to the Censorware Search Engine, alt.politics.homosexual and alt.journalism.gay.press have both been blocked by X-Stop.

The software does NOT block social and political newsgroups with a homophobic bent, however, such "alt.religion.christian.teen and alt.religion.christian.baptist."

The latter group regularly includes rants about "Vile Hateful Homosexuals" (April 16).

Responding to such concerns, X-Stop's CEO recently issued a press release in which he now claims that his product is "new and improved"—and that the opposition's "portrayal of filtering software is outdated."

"X-Stop offers a product called the Librarian II to address the uncomfortable position of librarians across the country," Bradshaw announced. "Our software blocks the exact address of a site that is without-a-doubt pornographic, not 'possibly' pornographic because it contains certain words—the technology now is deadly accurate."

"We understand the libraries are getting it from both sides, having to answer to parents and the American Library Association's supposed stand for First Amendment rights," Bradshaw explained. "So, we made the Librarian II with a very narrow focus—it blocks only the really bad stuff."

around the country have committed to a major demonstration and civil disobedience in Washington DC within 6 weeks, as well as ongoing confrontations with Shalala, President Clinton, and drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffery.

"We can no longer sit back and watch this trio kill our families, our lovers, our friends and our communities, vowed ACT UP's Earl Driscoll. "We will persist in spreading the truth, so they will be forced to stop the spread of HIV."

Last September, ACT UP Philadelphia

and the National Coalition to Save Lives Now organized a massive demonstration in Washington to lift the funding ban. 2000 needle exchangers and supporters came to the HHS building in Washington DC, and several dozen were arrested in an attempt to deliver a 15 foot tall moral backbone to Shalala and Clinton.

ACT UP vows to dramatically step up its pressure campaign on the Administration. The group brought 50 members to Congress in an emergency lobby effort on April 22.

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## ACT UP Preparing March on Washington Over Needle Exchange

Philadelphia—Monday, April 27, at the Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania Presbyterian Church, hundreds of AIDS activists disrupted U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Service Donna Shalala's appearance. The activists targeted the Secretary for her failure to fund needle exchange programs.

People with HIV, people in recovery, and syringe exchange users from ACT UP Philadelphia, Community Living Room, One Day at a Time, Phoenix II, Prevention Point Philadelphia, Project TEACH and We the People Living with HIV/AIDS, Inc., packed the room with signs bearing the names of those killed by AIDS during the funding ban, and loudly and clearly educated the Secretary about the disastrous effects of the Federal funding ban on syringe exchange.

"It's nine cents for a new syringe, and over \$100,000 for the lifetime care of a person with AIDS. Do the math," said Joyce Hamilton of ACT UP Philadelphia. "The syringe exchange ban isn't just a slap in the face to our communities—it's an economic disaster for the whole country."

"I'm a person living in recovery from drug addiction," she added. "I am clean from drugs, but can never get rid of the HIV I contracted through a syringe. Syringe exchange stops people from getting HIV, and dead addicts don't recover. Shalala knows this, and doesn't think we're worth the money. She needs to resign."

In 1989, Sen. Jesse Helms passed legislation banning syringe exchange funding until the HHS Secretary determined that programs prevented HIV without increasing drug use.

On April 20, Shalala announced that the Clinton Administration had determined that needle exchange programs are an effective means of preventing the transmission of HIV and do not increase drug use, but that the funding ban would be retained.

The federal government funds the majority of disease prevention efforts in the US.

Needle exchange prevents HIV transmission by exchanging sterile syringes for used ones. 33 people are infected with HIV in the US each day via injection drug use with contaminated syringes. Over half of new HIV infections in the US, and over 60% of infections in women and 75% of infections in children, are attributed to injection drug use.

"For years, the Secretary has ignored the scientific evidence that needle exchange

works. She had the data on her desk and she didn't do a damn thing about it until last week," recalls Julie Davids of Project TEACH. "She could have spent this time publicly fighting for syringe exchange funding, rather than allowing Congress and the President to figure out ways to keep the ban. How dare she continue to serve as the top public health official in this nation."

Rates of injection-related HIV infection for people of color are twenty times the rate for white injection-drug users.

"The President's so-called 'Dialogue on Race-based Health Disparities' is a fraud. How can Clinton apologize for the infamous Tuskegee study on one hand, and deny funding for syringe exchange on the other?" said ACT UP Philadelphia's John Bell.

"The current policy is nothing more than an official statement of cowardice and racism on the part of a Presidential administration that sees people of color as expendable. It is time for Shalala to take a stand against this genocide—she must step down in protest."

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has also called for Shalala's resignation over the ban on funding for needle exchange.

In Philadelphia, where the majority of HIV infections are due to injection drug use, ACT UP forced the city health department to fund a syringe exchange program in 1991.

Prevention Point Philadelphia has reduced infections by at least 33% in zip codes with exchange sites, and is the largest source of referrals to drug treatment programs in the city.

Many neighborhoods with high rates of injection-related HIV infection remain unserved, however, due to the lack of access to Federal HIV prevention funds.

In Milwaukee, ARCW conducts a needle exchange program using private funds. Without government funding on the local or federal level, Nelson said, ARCW is only able to reach about one-third of IV drug users. Two-thirds continue at risk for HIV.

On Friday, April 24, Shalala was confronted in Berkeley, California, by over 200 protesters from ACT UP East Bay and ACT UP Golden Gate, chanting "Clean needles save lives, it's time to resign."

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## Reggie White Speaks Out Against Equality at Michigan Extremist Rally

**Ypsilanti, MI--** Green Bay Packers star Reggie White told a rally against a Gay-rights ordinance that he promotes the word of God when citing the Bible's criticism of homosexuality.

Six weeks after sharing his opinions on homosexuality with Wisconsin legislators, White received a standing ovation from a campus audience containing some people wearing Packers jerseys.

"If there's anything that I'm anti-against, it's sin," White told the rally Thursday, April 30.

"I don't mind taking the ridicule," he said. "I say to the press, you would hear the same thing in church if you brought your cameras there."

White was invited to speak at the rally by the all-black, regional Ministers Alliance. Ypsilanti votes in a referendum Tuesday, May 5 on the ordinance that forbids discrimination against Gays, Lesbians and Minorities.

Supporters of the ordinance say Thursday's event exemplifies ignorance. It attracted about 350 people.

"It's really a homophobia rally," said Beth Bashert, a leader of the Ypsilanti Campaign for Equality.

A member of the audience shouted to White: "You're promoting Gay bashing." White responded: "I'm promoting the word of God."

White said homosexuality is a sin against the human body.

"How can this be represented as hate? How?" White asked. "I don't see how this can be an anti-Gay rally."

"You asked us to be tolerant but you're not tolerant with us when we give you what the Bible says."

By eliciting White's endorsement, the ordinance's backers said, those seeking the ordinance's demise are using celebrities to distort what should be a local issue.

"It's part of an orchestrated campaign from the upper echelon of the extremist, right-wing movement," said Jeffrey Montgomery, interim director of the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based Gay rights group.

"The outside influences and money coming into these races are driven solely by anti-Gay bigotry and the extreme desire to prevent and subvert any effort to extend total equality," he said.

The ordinance was passed by the city council in December, then suspended in February after petitioners gathered enough signatures for a referendum.

It would outlaw discrimination in 14 areas, including race, height, weight, dis-

ability and sexual orientation.

Convictions of discriminating in housing, employment and city contracts carry a \$500 fine.

The measure followed publicity over Standard Printing Co.'s February 1997 refusal to print raffle tickets for a fundraiser by an Eastern Michigan University group of Gay social work students.

The print shop's owners, Carole and Loren Hansen, say they oppose printing Gay and Lesbian literature, citing their Christian beliefs.

"We don't apologize for that," Mrs. Hansen said Thursday.

"I don't believe the Gay community needs special protection. They already enjoy the same rights I do. They shop where I shop, buy cars where I do, buy homes and have police and fire protection," she said. "There is not one right they've been denied."

The Rev. Levon Yuille, Bible Church's pastor who helped organize the rally, called the ordinance an unworthy "attempt to change the moral atmosphere of America" and legitimize homosexuality.

Yuille said White and other rally speakers were compensated for their air fares and hotel accommodations but waived their speaking fees.

Also appearing at the rally were gospel singers Angie and Debbie Winans.

**Campaign For Equality**  
 On the other side is The Campaign for Equality. It was to unveil a letter of support from King's widow, Coretta Scott King. The group also has sought the support of the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Both have often backed civil rights for Gays and Lesbians, the Press said.

Both sides have complained about campaign tactics.

Campaign for Equality officials said opponents' yard signs reading "Yes on C for equal rights" distort the fact that a yes vote will be to repeal the ordinance.

"The anti-Gay group has been throwing out such misinformation that it's making it difficult for us to do our job," said Paul Heaton, co-chairman of the Campaign for Equality.

Opponents of the ordinance say Gay and Lesbian groups have labeled them as pro-discrimination forces.

"I'm against discrimination," said Cevin Taylor, leader of Citizens Opposing Special Treatment, one of the groups against the ordinance. "My wife is Hispanic. As far as equating race with sexual orientation, that is wrong."

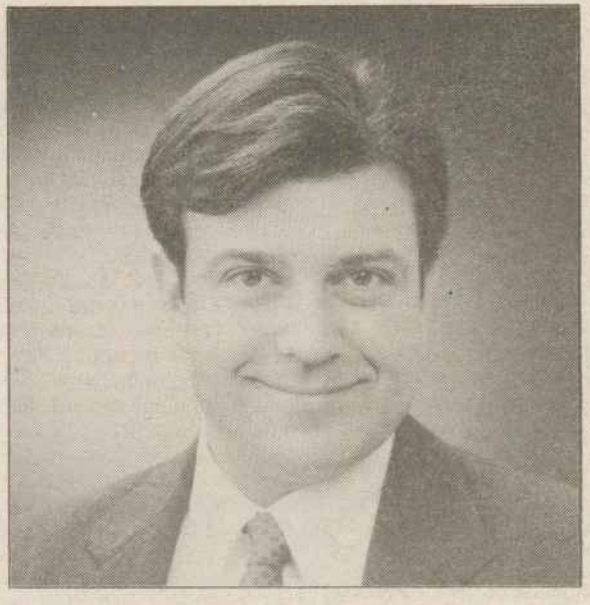
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## George Michael's Coming Out Shows How it Should Not Be Done

Commentary by Al Kielwasser

That was then . . .  
 . . . "Singer George Michael was... dancing the night away Axis, a West Hollywood club catering to a mixed Gay and straight crowd. But when he had to use the little boy's room, George suddenly turned shy, say witnesses... and ordered his bodyguards to clear the bathroom so that he could have complete privacy!"—*Globe*, May 13, 1997.  
 This is now . . .

. . . "Pop star George Michael... was charged on Thursday with lewd conduct stemming from his arrest this month in a public toilet."—Reuters, April 17, 1998.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Following his recent arrest for lewd conduct, singer George Michael "decided" finally to come out of the closet—during an exclusive interview on CNN, no less (April 11).

A flurry of press interest quickly followed, revealing the media's chronic misunderstanding of "the closet."

In the mainstream media, lying (and being forced to lie) about sexual orientation is often rationalized as a "right to privacy." Keeping with that unfortunate custom, most new stories confused Michael's "closeted life" with his "private"—a mix-up that the singer himself encouraged in the past, and fails to challenge even now.

Of course, sexual ACTIVITY is a "private matter"—but sexual ORIENTATION is not. Reporting that someone is Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual is hardly the same as reporting when, where or with whom they have sex.

Michael was never protecting his "privacy" when he denied being Gay (or bisexual), and it would be inaccurate to report that now, by stating the fact of his sexual orientation, something "private" has been exposed. Yet, that is exactly what most journalists reported.

About his decision to come out, for example, CNN reporters asked Michael "why he felt compelled to open up a part of his PRIVATE life" (April 11).

Likewise, Reuters first reported: "The 34-year-old singer, who has long drawn a discreet veil over his PRIVATE life, broke his silence" (April 10). A week later, the wire service continued to suggest that: "Michael, who has tried to keep his PRIVATE life secret, broke his silence because he said he wanted to let his fans know he was ok" (April 17).

An article in *The Irish Times* (April 11) was headlined: "Star's PRIVACY Goes Wham As Incident Is Exposed." Yet the ensuing story reported ONLY that Michael was Gay; it revealed NOTHING about private life, per se.

A more accurate headline would have substituted "secrecy" or "deceit" for the word "privacy." Even Michael now admits that he intentionally deceived music consumers for decades, on the assumption that a "borderline" sexual identity would earn him more money and fame.

Unfortunately, Michael still maintains that another reason he remained closeted was "that he didn't feel like publicizing his private life" (PlanetOut, April 13).

That excuse is especially unbelievable, considering it comes from a man who once gave an interview about his testicles to the *London Daily Mirror*.

("They were recently twice their usual size," confesses George, relaxing at his north London home in a pair of baggy tracksuit bottoms. "Now the swelling has gone down and they have returned to normal—unfortunately. In fact, I think they might even be a bit smaller than they were before.")

In the annals of show business, such deceit might be common. But it is no more defensible for its excess. With far less

money, safety, support and prestige than George Michael, queers come out every day (instead of waiting until they are "caught").

Not only the reporting leaves room for improvement, in this case, so does the story himself. In both timing and tenor, Michael also undermined his own outing.

When reporters asked about his reasons for coming out, Michael replied: "This is as good a time as any." "I want to say that I have no problem with people knowing that I'm in a relationship with a man right now," he methodically explained. "I have not been in a relationship with a woman for almost 10 years" (Associated Press, April 11; CNN, April 11).

Of course, when you have been you are arrested for having sex with yourself in a toilet stall, it is always a good time to harp about "honest" relationships -- and swear, to the court of public opinion at least, that "I'm in one now." Michael might just as well have said: "Now that I am facing criminal charges, I have no problem with people knowing that I have decided to stop being an inveterate, greed-driven liar."

Even granting him the best of intentions, Michael's timing could hardly be worse. Following his outing, however, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) issued a hackneyed press release commending the singer "for his honesty and courage" (April 13).

"GLAAD congratulates George Michael on his courageous decision to publicly come out," said executive director Joan Garry. "Obviously, the circumstances were less than ideal," she conceded. "But Michael's honesty and openness will serve as an inspiration for countless lesbian, gay and bisexual people. It will help foster a safer atmosphere within the music industry for all artists."

Given GLAAD's vital role—as the only national Gay and Lesbian media watchdog in the U.S.—such a simplistic response is especially disappointing. Garry's "less-than-ideal" assessment is as delusive a bromide as Michael's "good as any." Rather than raising the critical bar, it encourages diminished expectations.

The same language has been used, without distinction, for describing the coming out sagas of other celebrities. When Ellen DeGeneres left the closet, for example, GLAAD issued a virtually identical press release—which "congratulates" the actress and "applauds Ellen DeGeneres' courageous decision to come out" (April 7, 1997).

Surely, there are important differences between the two outings. But GLAAD's take on Michael suggests none.

An evolving approach to media activism requires more than a passing notice that, while every act of coming out is a good thing, not all are best. Certainly, Michael's inspirational service to "countless Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people" is diminished by his circumstances—which are hardly incidental (or entirely beyond his control).

By coming out essentially after being outed, Michael's newfound "openness" suggests as much coercion as courage. Identifying as Gay only—and specifically—in the wake of a "lewd conduct" arrest, Michael lends an even less-affirmative tone to his claim: "I don't feel any shame." It has the ring of a confession given after torture.

Significantly, in his press statements, Michael chose not to say "I feel pride." Rather than question the homophobic forces that compel celebrities to keep closets—and the police to entrap Gay men—Michael said only: "I want people to know that I feel stupid and I feel reckless for having allowed my sexuality to be exposed this way."

In a media-saturated and homophobic society, the celebrity who is visibly queer holds an extraordinary potential for creating change. As rare as it is great, that potential is needlessly squandered by "reckless" Gay icons.

Celebrities who have spent inordinate time planing ways to stay IN the closet, could give at least half as much thought to how they come OUT. Is that too much to ask?

**Editor's Note:** Al Kielwasser is the editor of *Gay People, Sex and the Media* (New York: Haworth Press) and his media criticism and research have appeared widely, in both popular and academic publications; he was twice elected Chair of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area.

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## AB 104 Dead; Baldwin, LGBT Community Victorious in Fight for Equal Rights

Commentary by  
State Rep. Tammy Baldwin

History is replete with attempts by majority groups to limit the civil liberties of minorities in their community. They have done so by discriminating on the basis of race, gender, religion and sexual orientation. These groups have attempted to abuse our democratic system of government by drafting legislation that would codify their bigotry and establish law based on a denial of civil liberties to their fellow human beings.

Disgracefully, some of these attempts have been successful.

Government-sanctioned assimilation attempted to destroy Native American culture. "Jim Crow" laws and segregation attempted to systematically suppress African-Americans, restrictions on reproductive freedom continue to deny women's rights and most recently Congress shamefully passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which, like earlier laws banning interracial marriage, denies Gay and Lesbian couples the right to marry.

Regrettably, the Wisconsin legislature is not immune from divisive, and hateful rhetoric. Assembly Bill 104 (AB 104) was introduced by Representative Lorraine Seratti (R-Spread Eagle). The bill prohibits marriage between people of the same gender. Opponents of AB 104 were quick to point out that same-gender marriage is not currently legal in Wisconsin. Therefore, it is not hard to imagine this bill's intent.

I believe this bill to be nothing more than a divisive and mean-spirited attempt by radical-right legislators to deny the rights of Lesbians and Gay men to equal protection under the law. This outrage was shared by members of the legal community. "The ACLU of Wisconsin believes that the prohibition of something not currently allowed is...foolish public policy," Christopher Ahmuty, executive director of ACLU Wisconsin said.

History is replete with shameful acts of discrimination, but it is also full of examples of people who stood up in the face of attacks on their civil liberties. We did just that. We were not willing to stand by and let others relegate us to a position of second-class citizenship based on our sexual orientation.

Together, with my legislative colleagues and pro-active voices within Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian community, we launched a campaign against AB 104.

We sent out "Action Alerts" to inform the community about this bill. We informed Gay and Lesbian people statewide of public hearings, where they could exercise their democratic right to have their voice heard. The response was overwhelming.

At the first public hearing, held in

Wausau, we were met by a barrage of hateful and intolerant speakers. But opponents of AB 104, some 300 strong, stood with dignity and strength. Many of us stayed all day without being able to testify. The Assembly shamelessly passed the bill on May 13, 1997.

It seemed a major defeat. We could have thrown up our hands and given up. But it is not in my nature nor the nature of Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian community to easily concede defeat. We regrouped and concentrated on the State Senate. We lobbied the Senate vigorously, in an effort to keep the bill from coming to the floor.

Our efforts appeared successful. It seemed as if AB 104 would die in committee. Then we were told that the Committee on Judiciary, Campaign Finance Reform and Consumer Affairs had scheduled the bill for a public hearing, just weeks before the end of the current legislative session.

My office and I quickly alerted the community of this last-ditch effort by the religious right to pass AB 104.

The public hearing room on March 18 was filled with people from the radical-right. We were forced to listen to opponent after opponent attempt to devalue our relationships and stigmatize our community. However, brave people from around the state passionately offered their testimony that validated the strength and commitment of our families. Our message was "Value All Families."

I am proud to announce that on April 1, 1998, Assembly Bill 104 was officially declared "dead" by the State Legislature. Its failure to pass both houses of the State Legislature means that it will not be signed into law. Furthermore, I was assured by members of the legislative leadership that it would not be addressed in an extra session called by the legislature. I have received the list of bills to be addressed in this special session and AB 104 is not one of them.

The Gay and Lesbian community of Wisconsin, our families, friends and allies, have something to be proud of. We have stood together and done what few other states in the nation have done. We have stood against mean-spirited and divisive legislation, which sought to deny us our basic civil liberties, and have emerged victorious.

I want to thank all of you who helped in this effort and to encourage you to continue to stand up, speak out, and fight for the rights of Gay and Lesbian families everywhere. Standing united, we can make a difference. We can go down in history as those, who in the face of all-out adversity, planted our feet and stood up for the rights of tomorrow's Gay and Lesbian community.



**115 Years of Love** - Five couples celebrated their anniversaries together with a dinner at Milwaukee's 1100 Club. At the (L-R) are Tom and Gordy (3 years), Wayne and Josie (41 years), Rick and Jim (18 years). Not shown are Papa Smurf and Gramma (25 years) and Nick and Jim (26 years). Papa and Gramma were in the kitchen cooking and Nick and Jim were unable to attend.

## Things About Social Security that People Living with HIV Should Know

**Milwaukee**—New drug treatments have meant substantially improved health for many individuals who are receiving Social Security or SSI disability benefits because of HIV infection. However, many persons with HIV fear their disability benefits may stop because of their improved condition even though they have not yet returned to work.

Social Security disability benefits are paid to people who have a physical or mental condition so severe it prevents them from working for at least a year or is expected to result in death.

Persons with full-blown AIDS generally qualify because their condition typically is so severe that they are unable to work. People with HIV infection who do not have full-blown AIDS also may qualify for disability benefits if their condition prevents them from working.

Social Security has special disability rules that permit people to work without losing all their benefit eligibility. These rules allow cash benefits and Medicare or Medical Assistance to continue, provide help with work expenses, and help in finding a new line of work. Other rules exclude from the individual's countable income that portion of his or her earnings needed to pay for work-related expenses.

The rules are different for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), although both programs are administered by the Social Security Administration and designed to accomplish the same ends: to help the beneficiary return to the workplace and become financially independent once more.

Under Social Security, a person may work for at least 12 months while receiving full benefits. This includes a "trial work period" of nine months plus three additional months during which the ability to work is evaluated before cash benefits are stopped. If the individual is still unable to do substantial work, benefits continue.

For Social Security, earnings of \$500 a month or more are generally considered evidence of substantial work.

Even if payments stop because of a successful trial work period, the Social Security disability beneficiary receives an "extended period of eligibility"—36 months during which benefits may be reinstated for any month earnings fall below \$500 and the individual is still disabled. No new application or waiting period is necessary for bene-

fits to start again during this period.

Under SSI, where benefits are paid on the basis of need, the earnings limits are built into the program, benefits decrease as earnings increase. In 1998, a person who has no income other than earnings can earn as much as \$1,073 a month before all SSI payments are stopped.

Under both the Social Security and SSI programs, deductions may be approved for work-related expenses. Medicare continues for 36 months following a successful trial work period, and Medical Assistance may continue as long as SSI benefits continue. For individuals who are not eligible for SSI payments because they are earning too much, Medical Assistance can continue, with certain restrictions, as long as the disability has not improved.

The result is that disabled beneficiaries who attempt to work will find it easier to do so. The risk of losing their income and medical help is greatly diminished. For many, that will make the difference between success and failure in their efforts to return to the workplace.

For more information, call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, and ask for the booklets, "If You Become Disabled... How We Can Help" and "A Guide to Social Security and SSI Disability for People With HIV Infection."

## BestD Clinic Honors Gremminger and Warzyn for Years of Volunteer Service

**Milwaukee**—Recognizing a combined 35 years of volunteer service, BestD Clinic recently thanked Roger Gremminger, MD and Jerry Warzyn at a special dinner given in their honor.

**Dr. Roger Gremminger**  
Dr. Gremminger came to BestD Clinic in 1978 as a medical resident and has been continuously involved as physician and clinician, medical director and board member. In 1983, Dr. Gremminger was appointed Medical Director of the Herpes Clinic at St. Anthony Hospital, the precursor of STD Specialties Clinic, where he continues to serve as Board Chair and Medical Director.

Dr. Gremminger was instrumental in working with a small group of BestD volunteers in initiating the first response to HIV/AIDS as part of the Milwaukee AIDS Project Committee, which was transferred to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in 1986. He also gifted his equity in the building at 1240 E. Brady to BestD, which has owned it since 1990.

**Jerry Warzyn**  
Jerry Warzyn came to BestD as a Volunteer in 1983 and has served in a variety of capacities including Manager of the STD Clinic and Board Secretary. Professionally an attorney, Warzyn has offered his help informally in legal and real estate matters affecting the Clinic.

Warzyn and Gremminger were each given a watch commemorating their 15 and 20 years of continuous volunteer service to BestD Clinic, an all volunteer health care provider serving Milwaukee since 1974.

**Thank You**  
Thanks to all of those who helped me raise money for Mr. SSBL. It was greatly appreciated.  
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## Human Rights Campaign Slams Nike for Welcoming White Back to NFL

**Washington, DC**—The Human Rights Campaign assailed the Nike Corp. for welcoming Reggie White back to the Green Bay Packers two weeks after White made a speech to the Wisconsin Assembly filled with racial, ethnic and anti-Gay stereotypes.

"Contrary to what Nike claims, White did not apologize to those who may have been offended," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director. "I, for one, heard no apology to the millions of Gay and Lesbian Americans, and our friends and families, who were gravely offended by White's remarks."

Birch sent a letter to Philip H. Knight, Nike's chairman and chief executive officer, expressing dismay that the company put out such a statement about White.

"It is especially distressing to hear a statement like this from Nike, which has a non-discrimination policy that covers sexual orientation and offers domestic partner benefits to its Lesbian and Gay employees. It is incomprehensible that your company could have such policies yet fail to see how hurtful and divisive Reggie White's remarks were to our community."

In the speech delivered last month to the Wisconsin Assembly, White, an ordained minister, called homosexuality a sin and asserted that it was a chosen "alternative lifestyle." He equated Gay people to "liars, cheaters, [those who are] malicious and back stabbers."

In response, the Human Rights Campaign, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and the Latino/a Gay and Lesbian Organization sent a letter to the

Campbell Soup Co. asking that the company reconsider its continued use of White as a spokesman.

"We sincerely hope you will reconsider using White as a representative for your products," leaders of the three groups wrote to Campbell President and CEO Dale F. Morrison. "Given that the Campbell Soup Co. has as a non-discrimination policy that covers sexual orientation, as well as race and ethnic origin, it would be inconsistent to employ as a company spokesman a man whose beliefs and public statements contradict that very policy." In addition, they asked NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue to publicly censure White. "He appeared before the Wisconsin Legislature because of his public profile as a football hero," they wrote. "The NFL has an obligation to make sure that players, including White, do not abuse their positions as professional athletes to put forward political and personal opinions that contradict the tradition of fairness that is the hallmark of the NFL."

HRC, through its website, is urging its members and supporters to write to the heads of Campbell Soup Co. and other companies that use White as a spokesman, including Nike and S.C. Johnson Wax, to reconsider their arrangements with the football star.

**Tell Your Friends That You Read All About it in The Wisconsin Light**



## Congress Moves Quickly to Ensure Additional HIV Infections

Washington, DC—In what was called "a glaring display of political pandering," the U.S. House of Representatives passed a gratuitous bill on April 29, banning federal funding for needle exchange programs, despite conclusive scientific evidence that these programs save lives, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

This political maneuver was pursued even though the Clinton administration said they would not allow federal funds to support needle exchange programs earlier this month.

"The bill's sponsors are unabashed stage horses who have placed their political careers ahead of people's lives. In this election year, scientific evidence apparently has no role in shaping public health policy," said HRC political director, Winnie Stachelberg.

Early on the afternoon of April 29, Congress passed H.R. 3717 prohibiting the use of federal funds for needle exchange by a wide margin, with a vote of 287-140. The bill was sponsored by Republicans Gerald Solomon (N.Y.) and co-sponsored by GOP whip Tom DeLay (Tx.), Rep. Dennis Hastert (Ill.), Rep. Roger Wicker (Miss.), and Rep. Bob Barr (Ga.).

*Democrats voted 128 to 74 against the bill. Republicans voted 213 to 11 in support of the bill*

*In the Wisconsin delegation, only Tom Barrett and David Obey voted against it.*

*All the others voted to ban funds for needle exchange including Mark Neumann and Scott Klug.*

The vote follows Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala's April 20th announcement that needle exchange programs prevent the transmission of HIV and do not encourage the use of illegal drugs.

In a clear display of political calculus, however, the Administration denied federal funds to local communities that choose to implement these life saving programs.

The need for needle exchange programs is underscored by the fact that approximately one-third of reported AIDS cases

are related to intravenous drug use. Needle exchange programs provide intravenous drug users with sterile syringes in exchange for used ones. Such programs have been implemented in more than 100 communities around the country, and have been shown to stem the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases transmitted through the sharing of injection equipment.

The need to address the twin epidemics of HIV and substance abuse, particularly in communities of color is clear. In 1996, AIDS death rates declined by 32 percent for whites, but only 13 percent for African Americans and 20 percent for Latinos. As of June 1997, people of color represent 72 percent of the male and 78 percent of the female AIDS cases directly and indirectly related to intravenous drug use. In the African American community, 48 percent of AIDS cases are related to intravenous drug use.

"As many members of Congress articulated in today's debate, the science supporting needle exchange is incontrovertible. This reactionary measure is a classic case of putting elections before leadership," said Seth Kilbourn, HRC's senior health policy advocate.

The effectiveness of needle exchange programs have wide range of support among health policy organizations. They are endorsed by the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Public Health Association, the Association of State, and Territorial Health Officials, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.

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## PrideFest Kicks of 1998 Proud Crowd Campaign Fundraiser

Milwaukee- PrideFest's annual Proud Crowd campaign has officially kicked off. As the main pre-festival fund-raiser, monies raised are used to help promote the festival throughout Wisconsin and the U.S. These efforts help make PrideFest the largest Pride event in Wisconsin and one of the largest in the Midwest.

In 1997, the campaign helped pay for the printing of 30,000 brochures and letters; participation in the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau festival promotions which went to 600,000 households in eleven major cities in the U.S.; and the production of 200 information packets which went to businesses and organizations throughout the nation. The 1997 campaign raised over \$8,000.

Proud Crowd sponsorship has four donation levels: Bronze (\$25 individual/\$40 couples); Silver (\$50 individual/\$70 couples); Gold (\$75 individual/\$100 couples); and Platinum (\$125 individuals and couples).

All Proud Crowd sponsors receive the official Pride Card, a sturdy plastic card that allows for free admission during all three days of the festival, a \$15 value. In addition, the card can be used to save additional money when presented with purchases at the businesses listed on the reverse side of the card. Offers include discounts or premiums with purchases and can be redeemed any time before December 31, 1998.

Sponsors at the Silver and Gold levels also receive Proud Crowd polo shirts or mock turtle necks respectively. Shirts are 100 percent extra heavy 7-ounce cotton with double stitching and ribbed sleeve cuffs. These generous cut shirts are medium ash in color with a full-color Proud Crowd emblem printed on the left breast.

Platinum sponsors will receive 3 foot by 5 foot Rainbow Flags. They also have the option to have their flags flown at the festival grounds prior to receiving them along with a certificate of authenticity.

To personally thank sponsors, a special Proud Crowd reception will be held at the festival on Friday, August 28. Proud Crowd sponsors will be able to bring one guest with them for an evening of food and beverage, and to enjoy the opening

festivities.

Proud Crowd brochures can be picked up at many Milwaukee LGBT businesses and bars. If you are interested in receiving a Proud Crowd sponsorship brochure by mail, please call the PrideFest office at (414) 272-3378. People with world wide web access will be able to download and print a Proud Crowd form and mail it in with their donation. PrideFest's web site can be found at [PrideFest.com](http://PrideFest.com).

## PrideFest to Hold Food Drive at This Year's Festival

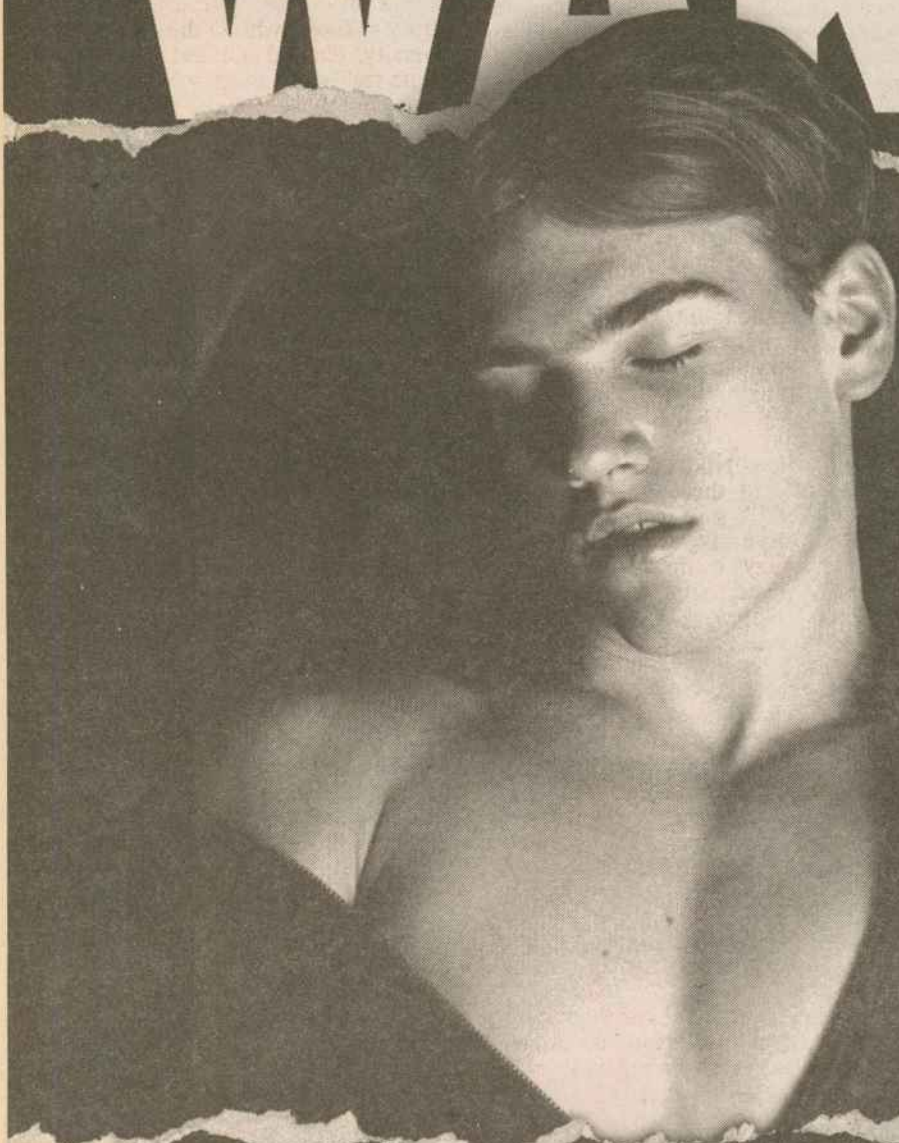
Milwaukee— In an effort to bring attention to the needs of those people less fortunate than ourselves, PrideFest will host a food drive at this year's festival.

Festival go-er's are encouraged to bring items of non-perishable food on Friday, August 28 between the hours of 5:00 and 9:00 PM and Saturday between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. All food collected will be donated to the Hunger Task Force which will distribute the food to pantries in the Greater Milwaukee Area. The Hunger Task Force distributes food to 91 food pantries.

"The Les-Bi-Gay-Trans community is extremely generous." Said PrideFest Co-Director Susan Cook. "LGBT organizations and clubs routinely donate to charities throughout the year. Given the increase in the number of people who are turning to the food pantries to make ends meet, the PrideFest Council recommended that we do our part to help keep the pantries stocked."

Hunger Task Force and PrideFest volunteers will collect food donations at the front gates. All festival go-er's who donate 4 or more items will receive free admission during the designated times. Food barrels will be placed inside the gates during the rest of the festival for people who wish to make donations, but are unable to attend while the volunteers are on duty.

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# WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



## Once Again Catholic University Tries to Limit What Can be Said on Campus

Washington, DC—Officials of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, refused to allow Candace Gingrich, sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to speak on campus on April 22 despite the fact that she was invited by the Rev. Robert M. Friday, vice president for student life, and the university's Organization for Lesbian and Gay Student Rights.

The school's decision follows a letter written earlier in the week by representatives of Graduates For Life, an anti-abortion student group, who asked the university president to rescind Gingrich's invitation. The letter said that Gingrich's message "directly contradicts the truth of Catholic moral doctrine."

"Religious disagreements do not justify suppression of free speech," said Elizabeth Birch, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) executive director. "Apparently, administrators at Catholic University do not have enough faith in their students to allow them to hear different points of view. The students at the university are the big losers today."

Gingrich, who is HRC's associate manager of the National Coming Out Project, said she was disappointed that she would be prevented from talking to the students.

"I'm surprised that this happened in our nation's capital, where major issues are freely debated every day," she said. "Catholic University has sent the message that they choose to be an island of ignorance in a sea of free speech."

In a one-paragraph statement, Catholic University President Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C. said, "I have concluded that the presentation could not be compatible with the Catholic identity of the Catholic University of America."

Ellis's statement contradicts the university's history of frequently inviting speak-

ers whose views are in opposition to those of the Roman Catholic Church. These guests have included speakers who favored abortion rights and supporters of the death penalty. The late astrologer Jean Dixon spoke on campus three or four times a year. She had "foreseen" John F. Kennedy's assassination and her hall was always packed.

Still, CU's record is not without blemish. According to Dignity USA the university rescinded an alumni award to Joseph Sicari after learning he had once been a member of ACT UP.

This is not the first time CU's Rector has tried something like this. In 1967 Fr. Charles Curran was teaching about abortion. The Rector, backed by Cardinal O'Boyl, decided to fire him.

The faculty and student body went out on strike and closed the whole school down for a week of picketing and demonstrations. The Rector backed down.

Cardinal O'Boyl came to speak at graduation. He condemned the strike heatedly saying he could understand how lay people could "sin so easily," but "for

clergy and nuns, it was incomprehensible."

Dignity USA joined HRC in condemning Ellis's action.

"The decision to cancel the speech sends a very clear, but disturbing message, not just to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community, but to all people," said Charles L. Cox, Executive Director of Dignity USA. "Namely, intolerance is an acceptable form of behavior on the campus of Catholic University."

CU's decision sparked disagreement from some students and faculty members. "My understanding was that Gingrich was going to speak about what life was like as a gay person in America," Friday told the Human Rights Campaign. "I do not think what she was going to say was incompatible with the Catholic identity or the university. This is a place where diverse points of view should be heard and the students can make up their own minds."

Gingrich's speech however, was not going to focus on religion, but on her own personal experiences as a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign. She has given similar talks at colleges and universities across the country, but this was the first time she was forbidden to speak at a university.

## St. Camillus to Hold Remembrance Service

Milwaukee—St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry will conduct its third annual "Service of Remembrance" in celebration of those who have died and those who continue to live with AIDS on Memorial Day, May 25, at 11:00 a.m.

The service will take place, weather permitting, in the Memory Garden at 10101 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Everyone is welcome to attend. In case of rain, the service will be held in the Zingsheim Multi-Purpose Room at the St. Camillus Health Center, 10101 W. Wisconsin Avenue.

The mission of St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry is to mitigate the suffering and enhance the quality of life of those affected by or infected with HIV disease. This is accomplished through providing practical, emotional, physical and spiritual support for persons with HIV disease and their loved ones. This assistance and care is provided without regard to religious belief, gender, sexual orientation, disability or socioeconomic status.

The core values of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry are wholistic care, community, compassion and hope and built around these cornerstone values is a full continuum of care and services, including: education and prevention, early intervention, supportive housing, support groups and retreats, a Sensitive Care Program, skilled nursing and cutting-edge treatments and end-of-life care.

For more information regarding the Service of Remembrance, contact Rev. Kathryn Kuhn at (414) 259-4664.

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## Connecting the Community, A New Series of Gay and Lesbian Forums and Discussions

**Milwaukee** --The Gay and Lesbian Outreach Program at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Milwaukee office will host several upcoming activities to create opportunities for discussion on important issues in our community.

Connecting the Community is a series of events that promise to be informative, fun, and a great way to meet men and women in a relaxed atmosphere.

"Throw Away Those Condoms?" is a workshop and discussion for Gay men in relationships that want to learn how to stop using condoms safely. It will be held on Wednesday, May 6 from 6:30-9:00 PM at Just Us, 807 S. 5th St.

"During the AIDS epidemic, many Gay men in relationships have decided to stop using condoms. Up until this point, however, we've never been able to openly discuss this issue and how it impacts our lives. This discussion will be very lively and important to the health of our community," says Andy Bagnall, manager of the Gay and Lesbian Outreach Program.

The workshop will be followed by a four week discussion group for Gay men in relationships called "Boyfriends," on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM at the North Avenue library, 1910 E. North Avenue.

The series runs May 14 through June 4. Topics will include communication, trust, dealing with outside temptations and

keeping your sex life interesting. Bagnall encourages participants to share their struggles and successes with other Gay men in relationships and help create solutions to deal with these issues.

The third event, called "Soul2Soul," is an evening of discussion, entertainment and fun to bring together men and women of color in the LGBT community. The event is on Saturday, May 16, 6:30 PM at Centennial Hall in the downtown public library, 733 N. 8th St. (8th and Wisconsin).

A group of volunteers planned an event that invites Gay men and Lesbians of color to talk about what it means to be a person of color and be Gay or Lesbian in Milwaukee.

The discussion will be in Oprah-like fashion, and the panel moderated by Ashlee Brawley, Edward Carr, Traci Ross, James Pekrul, Barbie Doll Williams, Marie Hill, John Adejoke, and others.

After the discussion, Lady Symone and Traci Ross will perform for the crowd, followed by good food and a chance to see old friends and make new ones.

"Don't miss what promises to be one of the best events this Spring" said Edward Carr, Men of Color Outreach Specialist for ARCW Milwaukee and coordinator of the event.

All events are free and include food and refreshments. Call Andy Bagnall at (414) 225-1502 for more information.

## Alabama MCC to Continue to Hold Holy Union Ceremonies Despite New Law

**Birmingham, AL**—The Covenant Birmingham Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Birmingham will continue having wedding ceremonies for same-sex couples, despite the state legislature's ban on same-sex marriages in Alabama.

Rev. Marge Ragona of Covenant MCC said she performs 15 to 20 of the "holy union" ceremonies for same-sex couples annually, and lawmakers' actions won't stop her.

The legislature, responding to a massive lobbying campaign by religious extremists, agreed Monday, April 27, to ban same-sex marriages and not recognize those from other states, even though no other state currently allows same-sex marriages. Gov. Fob James said he would sign the bill.

"I don't think they have the right to tell clergy what rites they can do and can't do," said Rev. Ragona, who has performed the ceremonies in Alabama for more than a decade. "As far as I'm concerned it's business as usual. We've got three this month."

The legislation does not contain any criminal penalties for clergy or judges who solemnize same-sex unions. But a leader of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama said he was saddened by the Senate's 30-0 vote for final approval.

"It's not going to change a thing. It's just going to make Gay and Lesbian people feel like they're second-class citizens," said David White, Birmingham-area coordinator for the organization.

The sponsor of the bill agreed the Legislature cannot stop a Gay or Lesbian relationship. "But we can keep it from becoming the moral, right way," said Rep.

## Police Link Deceased Man to Murders of Sixteen Young Gay Men

**Indianapolis, IN**—A businessman who committed suicide two years ago as investigators were digging up human bones at his rural home killed 16 men in all, most of them Gay, investigators say.

The businessman had led a double life: a man married to a woman who also frequented Gay bars.

Police had already identified thrift shop owner Herbert Baumeister as the suspect in the slayings of at least seven men whose remains were found in the woods behind his suburban Indianapolis home.

Now investigators have concluded Baumeister probably killed nine other men whose bodies were found dumped along rural roads in Indiana and Ohio between 1980 and 1990.

Police consider the cases closed.

"If somebody has any information, we don't care who it is, we'd be happy to look at it," Hancock County Sheriff James Bradbury said. "But Herb Baumeister is the only suspect we have in any of them."

In February, 1998, a witness identified Baumeister through a photograph as the man seen leaving an Indianapolis nightclub with Michael Riley in 1983. Riley's partially nude body was later found in a stream outside Indianapolis.

Phil Crigler, (R-Irvington).

Sen. Bill Armistead, (R-Columbiana), has been trying to pass the legislation for three years. He credited its passage to court decisions in other states that may clear the way for legalization of same-sex marriages and to a huge lobbying effort by Right Wing church groups, particularly the Mormons, to stop such vows from having legal standing in Alabama. The church groups ran ads in Sunday newspapers and spent the weekend calling legislators before they met Monday for the final day of the legislative session.

Democratic Lt. Gov. Don Siegelman, who had not made the bill a priority before, announced to the Senate Monday morning that he intended to see the legislation passed. "It's something that needs to be in the law," the gubernatorial candidate said.

So far, no state has legalized same-sex marriages, and Gay people in Alabama have not been pushing for official recognition of such relationships. But Republican legislators and Right Wing religious groups have been concerned because of the "full faith and credit" clause in the U.S. Constitution which says that the laws of one state must be recognized in all the others.

In 1997, Congress passed and the president signed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to deny federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allowing states not to recognize same-sex unions licensed in other states.

Alabama is the 30th state to ban same-sex unions, Armistead said. The legislation would replace an executive order that the governor signed two years ago to deny recognition to same-sex unions.

That information led investigators to conclude that Baumeister was behind the killing of Riley and eight other men whose nude or partially nude bodies were found in shallow streams across central Indiana and western Ohio.

Police said the nine slayings, committed between 1980 and 1990, have striking similarities: All the victims were partially unclothed, found near water, and most had been strangled. The victims were all from Indianapolis.

Baumeister, who was married and had three children, frequented Gay bars in Indianapolis and met many of his victims there, police said.

His wife, Juliana, has said she was unaware of her husband's double life and stunned to learn he was under investigation in a string of killings. Baumeister shot himself to death in Canada in 1996. He was 49.

Ted Fleischaker, who publishes a newspaper for the Indianapolis Gay community, complained that police don't have solid evidence linking Baumeister to the nine slayings.

"They just decided to take some stuff out of old files, dust it off and say we solved this," he said. "It's a neat election-



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year play to get some sheriffs, and some people who are incompetent, re-elected."

Wally Paynter, president of Justice Inc., an Indiana Gay rights group, says police shrug off crimes committed against homosexuals, especially those who abandon families and hometowns to seek anonymity in larger cities.

"That's why Baumeister chose these victims, because he believed the law enforcement agencies would be lax in their

## Illinois Considers Requiring Disclosure of HIV-Positive Patients' Names

**Chicago**—The idea of the state health department tracking HIV-positive people by name is unsettling to some AIDS activists, even though 31 states already have that policy.

The proposal, which supporters say would allow more accurate tracking of AIDS, has the support of the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society and other medical groups. But AIDS groups throughout Illinois vehemently oppose the state Department of Public Health plan.

"This is a social contract that the community entered into to help fight AIDS, and now the department is proposing to render this social contract null and void," said Mark Ishaug, a spokesman for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. "This is wrong. This is unfair. And this is bad public health (policy)."

Ishaug was one of several people who testified at a public hearing Monday in Chicago. The health department will issue its decision after a second hearing scheduled next Monday in Springfield.

Currently, the state only tracks names of people with AIDS. But state and federal health officials say that, while the number of patients who develop full symptoms of AIDS is dropping, the rate of transmission is not.

"AIDS will represent something increasingly different than HIV," said John Ward, chief of HIV/AIDS surveillance for the federal Centers for Disease Control. "That is just a fact of life as the epidemic evolves."

He said linking names to HIV data increases the accuracy and quality of the information. For one, statisticians can weed out duplicate data for people who've been tested more than once.

response," Paynter said. "And he was right."

But Bradbury said Indiana and Ohio investigators had been cooperating on the cases since 1990, when an FBI computer analysis suggested the deaths might be linked.

"If we didn't care about it, we wouldn't have kept working on these cases all this time," he said.

Once the data is analyzed, the state would encrypt the names so they could only be read by researchers.

But officials at AIDS groups are calling for the use of "unique identifiers"—Social Security numbers, for example—rather than names. Maryland and Texas are both testing such methods, which AIDS officials say would provide better data and still ensure anonymity.

That is key, they say, citing a University of California survey conducted in 1996 that found that one in five people would avoid non-confidential AIDS testing.

Dr. Scott McCallister, a doctor who treats HIV-positive patients at Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, says he sees patients every day who are already reluctant to be tested. He gives the example of an HIV-positive man he called "Willie."

"If we add just one more obstacle ... I don't know how many more Willies those of us who are providers are going to see," McCallister said, adding that he and many doctors he knows in the Chicago area would likely ignore a mandate to report names.

But, while she says concerns over confidentiality are "real and legitimate," at least one HIV-positive woman says preventing transmission is worth the breach of privacy.

Leslie Soifer, a North Chicago mother whose 3-year-old daughter was born with the AIDS virus, says names should be released, in large part to protect unborn children and others who might be at risk of contracting the virus.

"Children have a right to be born without HIV," said Soifer, who testified at Monday's public hearing. "This should be our overriding concern."

# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Lesbian Comic Kate Clinton Brings Unique Humor to Milwaukee

Forget Ellen, Kate Clinton is America's premiere "fumerist" - her own term which combines feminist with humorist and her comic agenda features political material as fresh as the daily news, savvy send-ups of modern family relationships and illuminating perspectives on life as a gay American.

On May 27th, Kate Clinton will return to Milwaukee not just as a brilliant stand-up comic but as a talented writer to boot! Afterwords Bookstore is throwing a publication party for Ms. Clinton to celebrate the release of her first book titled **Don't Get Me Started** (Ballantine HC \$22.00).

Fans of Kate Clinton will be pleased to learn that **Don't Get Me Started** is based upon her hilarious past and present monologues, often riotous but always filled with wit and insight.

*Now I've written a book. It's not as easy as it looks. One night, I was working on my computer when a little message came up on the screen, "You are almost out of memory" -- from Don't Get Me Started*

When not taking her wonderful one-woman show across the country, Kate Clinton writes a monthly column for *The Progressive* in which she waxes both comical and philosophical about the state of the nation -- and her favorite "brother" Bill Clinton. She recently started writing a quarterly column for the popular lesbian gay newsmagazine *The Advocate*. Also Kate served as a writer on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* during its roll-out period in 1996.

In 1993, Kate's one-woman show, "Out Is In", debuted in Los Angeles to rave reviews and then moved to New York where it enjoyed a 3-month, held-over run off-Broadway. Throughout 1996, Kate's one-woman show, "All Het Up", toured cities across the country.

Amongst Kate Clinton's other career highlights are a variety of television appearances including *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *CNN*, *C-Span*, *Entertain-*



Kate Clinton

ment Tonight. Kate has also hosted *In The Life*, and *The World According To Us* and also participated in a staged reading of Tony Award-winner Tony Kushner's play, "SLAVS" with Olympia Dukakis, Tracey Ullman and Madeline Kahn at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York.

In addition to **Don't Get Me Started**, Kate has four comedy albums to her credit including the perennially favorites *Live at Great American Music Hall* and *Babes in Joyland*.

Kate Clinton's sole Milwaukee appearance will be at Afterwords Bookstore & Espresso Bar on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00pm. For further information, please contact Afterwords at (414) 963-9089.

## Recent Story on "In The Life" Greatly Assists Tijuana AIDS Group

New York, NY-- ACOSIDA (Alliance Against AIDS), a Tijuana based clinic that treats people with AIDS, reports that it has received over five dozen inquiries from those wanting to help the organization due to a recent *In The Life* story shown nationally on public television in the U.S.

The vital work of ACOSIDA was featured on the February 1998 edition of *In The Life*, America's Gay and Lesbian television series.

ACOSIDA provides home care, education, and medicine to AIDS patients in Tijuana. It stocks over 550 different medications including reverse transcriptase inhibitors, protease inhibitors, and the most modern antibiotics—all donated from friends and relatives of persons with AIDS.

The recent *In The Life* story has generated over seventy calls from people in the U.S. wanting to donate drugs and assist to ACOSIDA, including one man pledging 2000 AZT pills. These drugs are sent by family members of people who have died of AIDS, or by people whose prescriptions have changed. It is illegal to pass these drugs on to others in the U.S. ACOSIDA puts the drugs to use in Tijuana where the drugs are too expensive for the patients.

For more information about ACOSIDA: ACOSIDA, c/o Fred Scholl, 1415 San Alitos Place, Lemon Grove, CA 91945. Phone (619) 697-9440.

*In The Life* is a one-hour television newsmagazine that is broadcast six times a year on public television stations across America. The goal of *In The Life*, the only national television series of its kind, is to introduce accurate imagery of the Gay and Lesbian community into the national media, and to educate and reach both the straight and isolated Gay and Lesbian population.

It is produced by *In The Life Media Inc.*, a not-for-profit, member-supported organization, and is presented by Thirteen/WNET in New York. The public-affairs series airs on over 100 public television stations nationwide, reaching nearly one million individuals. *In The Life* is distributed by the American Program Service.

## Room of One's Own May Events

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"

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# Curtain Calls

## Lessons of Life & Loss Passionately Portrayed in Gutzman's "Shadow Box"

Reviewed by John Jahn

Director Dale Gutzman said of his recent production of Michael Cristofer's *The Shadow Box*: "I've wanted to do this powerful Pulitzer Prize-winning play for years, so when the chance came along, I grabbed it. There are so many wonderful ideas about love and hope in this little drama, that each night after rehearsal, I'd feel as if I learned something about how to live."

That's not only a very good assessment of the emotions and thoughts Cristofer himself wanted his audiences to go home with, but also what I feel the Dale Gutzman Theater Company brilliantly accomplished with their recent production (Centennial Hall, April 24, 25 & 26).

*The Shadow Box* is a dramatic play involving the stories of individuals inhabiting three cottages on the grounds of a hospital in California, each containing a terminally ill patient and his or her loved ones.

Cottage One was occupied by Joe (Lawrence J. Lukasavage), whose wife, Maggie (Janet Livingston Hartzell) travels across the country with their teenaged son, Steve (Eric Nelson) to be with him. Joe has an unidentified terminal illness, which he's shocked to discover Maggie hasn't fully accepted herself - let alone told their son about.

Cottage Two contains Brian (Karl Miller), a Gay writer dying of AIDS and his lover, Mark (Philip D'Amore). Brian's alcoholic floozie of an ex-wife (oops, he prefers former wife), Beverly (Lisa Hazlett) arrives, much to the consternation of Mark. They get along about as well as you might expect an ex-wife and same-sex lover would. Still, they keep their personal animosity away from Brian as much as possible to save him from potentially toxic stress - not entirely successfully, however.

Finally, Cottage Three contains an elderly, wheelchair-bound woman named Felicity (Cathy Eimmerman) and her long suffering daughter, Agnes (Mark R. Henriksen). Felicity has been desperately clinging to life in hope of a final reconciliation with her long lost daughter, Claire, from whom she has been occasionally receiving letters for 2 years. But, as it turns out, it has been Agnes writing them, and now she doesn't know what to do, since the letters seem to be prolonging her mother's suffering instead of easing her mind.

## Terrence McNally Working on Play that Portrays Jesus as Gay

**New York, NY--** Acclaimed playwright Terrence McNally is working on a play featuring a Christ-like character who has sex with his apostles, the *New York Post* reported Friday, May 1.

"Corpus Christi," likely to open on Broadway or off-Broadway in September or October, features a character called Joshua, the newspaper said. The name Jesus is Latinized version of the name Joshua.

Gilbert Medina, an assistant to McNally's agent, confirmed that the play is being produced by Manhattan Theater Club, the paper said. A reading of the play was held Tuesday, April 28 at the club, and about three dozen people attended.

The sex in the play is offstage and just talked about, the newspaper said.

The play borrows dialogue from the Bible's New Testament, paraphrasing Pontius Pilate's questioning of Jesus Christ before his crucifixion, the paper said.

"Art thou king of the queers?" McNally's Pontius Pilate character asks instead of "Art thou the King of the Jews?"

"Thou sayest," the Joshua character answers.

Roman Catholic leaders denounced the portrayal.

"If that were true, that would be horrifying," said Joe Zwilling, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of New York. It was not clear whether Zwilling was referring to the play or if it were true that Jesus was Gay.

William Donohue of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights called the play "sick beyond words."

Linguists agree that it would have been impossible for contemporaries to call anyone Gay or homosexual since there are no words for the orientation in Aramaic, Latin, Hebrew or Greek.

Various members of all three cottages occasionally speak to an unseen "Interviewer" (Dale Gutzman), who helps them cope and search their feelings while remaining as professionally detached as possible.

The performances were quite excellent by the entire cast. There was but one snafu I noticed: when Brian arrives home and Beverly sees him for the first time since her arrival, she shouted "Karl! Karl!" Oops! However, overall the performances were dramatically effective and the cast was obviously up to their usual level of rehearsal - the play contains almost continuous dialog and there was nary a flub to be found.

I was particularly impressed with Lukasavage's Joe - he evoked just the right amount of tenderness, sadness and resignation before imminent death from his character; a true stand-out among a superb cast.

Scenic elements by Christian Boy were simple: a free-standing door & frame, a couch, tables, chairs, a park bench - understated so as not to overwhelm the characters.

Finally, the stage was managed effectively by Michael Fromme (with, no doubt, Herr Direktor's helping hand), which involved the same exact stage elements for all three cottages - and in many cases characters from all three on stage - utilizing them simultaneously.

Although on the surface this play might be seen as relentlessly depressing - and indeed the Gutzman cast made it quite easy to feel for these people - the message is one which is uplifting and motivating.

We're all going to die someday, let's face it. As the characters say in unison towards the end: "This living, this life, this lifetime - it doesn't last forever." Don't, therefore, moan and groan and get depressed over your mortality, but rather enjoy each day you have on this Earth. Go out and enjoy life...and if you don't have one, GET ONE!

The next Gutzman production will be the Midwest's professional theater premiere of the longest running musical in British history, Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*. Performances will be at Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Central Public Library June 5, 6 & 7. For reservations call (414) 327-3552.

Father Irvine Cabrara, professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic University said that Jesus's sexual orientation was an "oft debated topic among seminarians."

In a letter, Clement of Alexandria writes about the apocryphal "Secret Gospel of Mark," in which Jesus is clearly depicted as being in love with another man.

McNally, a three-time Tony Award winner who has written numerous Gay-themed plays, was quiet about his work. His previous works include *Master Class* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

"I don't want to say anything about it. It's new," McNally said Thursday, April 30.

## Gutzman Holding Auditions for Wilde's "Salome"

**Milwaukee--**Local Producer and Director Dale Gutzman is starting a second theater company called "Off The Wall Productions." It will present experimental shows often with Gay themes.

Gutzman's first production will be Oscar Wilde's *Salome* and will be presented in July.

Gutzman is looking for a wide variety of Gay actors for the show: young and old, drag queens, muscle boys, musical and non-musical performers. The show will feature semi-nudity and explore the Gay themes underlying the famous play.

Experience is less important than a willingness to participate in an experimental theater piece. You will work alongside gifted professional actors and it will provide and excellent learning experience.

Wilde's *Salome* is a decadent and po-

etic retelling of the story of John the Baptist and his death at the hands of Herod, the ruler of the province of Galilee. Urged by her mother, the young and beautiful Salome tells the lustful king that she will do her dance of the seven veils, but only in return for the head of John the Baptist.

Parts available include: a handsome Bisexual captain of the guard who betrays his Gay lover for Salome; the captain's lover who also services the king; a decadent Roman scholar and advisor to the king; two cynical soldiers who carry out the

king's bloody order; an African-American executioner; and three drag queens who tell all the court gossip.

Costumes will be exotic and erotic. Interested in getting into the theater? This is the perfect way to begin and also learn how to speak beautiful poetry while developing acting skills. It's a great way to spend a summer you'll never forget.

*Salome* will run for two or three weekends at the end of July. For more information, call Dale Gutzman at (414) 466-4049.

## Powerful Voices, Music, Strive to Overcome Poor Stage Directing in "The Flying Dutchman"

Reviewed by John Jahn

To an 18th century Norwegian fishing village comes the tragic, legendary Flying Dutchman - a sailor cursed by Satan to sail the seas forever, unless he can find a woman who will remain faithful to him unto death. Once every 7 years he is permitted to come ashore in just such a quest.

While off the coast of Norway he encounters Captain Daland aboard his ship who, impressed by the Dutchman's treasure chests full of jewels and trinkets, encourages him to follow him home and meet his daughter, Senta.

Senta has long been fascinated by the Dutchman legend, and upon meeting him and realizing who he is, immediately wishes to be his salvation. The huntsman, Eric, stands in her way, but he is no match for the powerful, grim majesty of the tragic Dutchman.

*The Flying Dutchman* (premiered in Dresden, Germany in 1843) was Richard Wagner's first attempt to create a unique opera - or as he preferred to call the form - *music-drama*. As such, it combines Germanic mythology with the theme of redemption through love - elements that would comprise nearly his entire future output.

While still imbued with much of mid-19th century German romantic opera tradition, *The Flying Dutchman* nevertheless shows the composer breaking new ground. It contains no real set-piece arias. Rather, solo and choral songs are frequently interrupted by real events in the dramatic action. These unfinished songs cause there to be no room to stop the action for a round of applause.

Eventually, Wagner would attempt to eliminate breaks between entire acts in his *music-dramas* in order to achieve his ultimate vision.

The fact that this piece is still vaguely rooted in more traditional opera and not nearly as lengthy as any of his subsequent works has often led to its being called "accessible." That it is, and the Florentine Opera Company was quite up to the task of pulling off this more modest of Wagner's operas, but just barely, which doesn't bode well for his later output.

In the Florentine's May 1 & 3 performances, *The Flying Dutchman* himself was portrayed by John Cheek, a strong voiced bass-baritone with a powerful stage presence. Cheek has performed with the Florentine since 1991.

Also excellent was Louis Leberz as Daland, with his rich bass and animated, scene-stealing acting. Leberz is a Florentine veteran - performing with the company for 21 years. Making her debut was Frances Ginzer who performed Senta.

Indeed, the central performances were quite excellent. The Florentine Opera Orchestra led by Joseph Rescigno in his 15th season filled Uihlein Hall with Wagner's rich, harmonic, storm-tossed score beautifully. But all was not particularly well with this particular Dutchman.

For one thing, the Florentine Chorus really possessed poor German diction - sloppy even. Sitting in the 3rd row as I was, it was clear to see many of them struggling with the language, and others seemingly lost in the crashing waves of the orchestra's nautical harmonics.

They were also poorly managed, often milling about not knowing what to do, crowding around the principals and thus blocking one's view of them.

Definitely the worst aspect was the stage directing of Dejan Miladinovic, the Artistic Director of the National Theater of Belgrade. The same stage floor was used for all three acts: the upsloping bow of a ship - even when the scene was a room full of women spinning threads and sewing! Thus, everyone walked carefully so as not to slip off.

Secondly, there was a thin mesh veil over the entire front of the stage throughout the performance - an artistic device used to great effect in Act I, but totally superfluous to Acts II & III. Light and shadow played well on the mesh, and it gave the impression of a light fog - again, en-

effective when the setting was aboard Daland's ship at sea. But why would it still be there for the interior of Act II or the calm beach of Act III?

Stage settings were sparse, indeed. Only one big sheet hoisted aloft served as the sails of Daland's ship. The haunting approach of the Dutchman's ship was ineffectively achieved by having a shadow of it grow too rapidly across this sheet. There were no walls of any sort to Daland's house - furnishings were bare minimum.

For such a fascinating opera filled with such potential for real visual dramatics, Miladinovic's artistry was quite disappointing and more on a par with a college production than a truly professional one. Modern technology seems to have escaped him.

Nevertheless, despite the production flaws and ill-trained chorus, the costumes, acting and powerful voices of the central cast, as well as the orchestra, saved the ship...but it was a close call.

The Florentine's 1998-99 season has been announced. This November will feature the traditional pairing of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*. Next February will bring *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Lowell Liebmann. Finally, next April & May we'll be treated to Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. For tickets and information call (414) 291-5700, extension 24.

## Cream City Chorus Concert Mixes Sacred with Popular Music

Reviewed by J. R. Baker

The Cream City Chorus presented a pleasant evening of singing with folk spirituals, B'Way tunes, and a Gloria by Mozart added for good measure. This time they chose to present their program in Milwaukee's St. James Episcopal Church at 833 W. Wisconsin and it turned out to be a good choice. The church has a cathedral-like vaulted ceiling and the acoustics definitely enhanced the group's singing. I especially noted a very good blend of these 18 male and female voices and there were a number of moments of pure, soft singing that were very telling.

A couple of constructive suggestions to this Gay group of dedicated choristers would be:

(1) let the audience know that while this concert is committed work on your part, you are enjoying sharing it by smiling a bit more and arranging some movement within or between songs so that the "stand up stiff and deliver" appearance doesn't distract from your good vocal performance.

(2) The group certainly has an excellent and experienced Musical Director in the person of Ken McMonagle, but I would urge him and whoever else has an input on program selections, to vary the songs in a group so that they alternate fast and slow or soft followed by a more a dynamic selection.

The audience of about 75 was always appreciative of the chorus's renditions, but there was especial prolonged applause for "Down in the Valley" by the men of WCCC in the first part of the program and "All I Ask of You" (from Weber's "Phantom of the Opera") which was nicely sung by Timm Ollman & Emilie Verolino.

The evening ended joyfully with some highlights from a variety of B'Way shows and the pleasant surprise of an invitation to join the chorus in the church rectory for something to eat; and most of the audience did just that.

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## While Seeking Capital and Partners, ArtHouse Café's Vision Stays Strong

**Madison**—Four ago when the ArtHouse Café moved into the old Leske's Supper Club on Atwood Avenue in Madison, the area seemed to come alive. Visionary and owner Karen Milan Kass knew what the community needed and put it into place. She created a cultural meeting place that provided an atmosphere where people could soak up art, cultural diversity, good music, good food and good times. The ArtHouse has been in a state of evolution from its first day up until March 6, 1998, when it was forced into chapter 7.

The reasons why the ArtHouse was forced into chapter 7 can be summed up in two areas:

1. Too much capital was spent on renovating and developing the building;
2. There wasn't enough management personnel or financial resources to properly promote the company.

Kass took her vision into an underdeveloped area and risked everything to become the cultural southern gateway to the Schenk-Atwood community. Now, four years later, Atwood Avenue is home to the Kingsfoot Gallery and Braveheart's Theater.

"These additions to the community reaffirm that the development of the neighborhood is heading into the direction of an art district," Kass said. "Despite my inconsistencies in running the business, I truly feel the ArtHouse strongly contributed to kick-starting the redevelopment of the area."

The inconsistencies in the business can be summed up by Kass' statement: "My original vision was a coffee house with light fair and limited hours. This vision quickly turned into a full service restaurant, music club, art gallery and general cultural meeting place—all in one. It was too much for one person to manage."

In spite of her lack of management resources like additional managers to lighten her workload, the ArtHouse flourished to become a business that was recognized throughout the Midwest.

The ArtHouse walls became the home to a variety of works from artists ranging from the kids at Madison east side schools, to the famous Simon Sparrow. Additionally, it was stage to national music acts like Leon

Redbone as well as numerous local talents.

The ArtHouse is currently down, but certainly not out. Kass has received numerous phone calls and letters from people strongly supporting her and the work she has put into the café.

Kass is seeking working partners and capital investors in whatever combination, to work alongside her to take the ArtHouse to the next level—whatever that may be.

The ArtHouse Café is located at 2827 Atwood Avenue in Madison. For further information, please contact Karen Milan Kass at (608) 839-3085.

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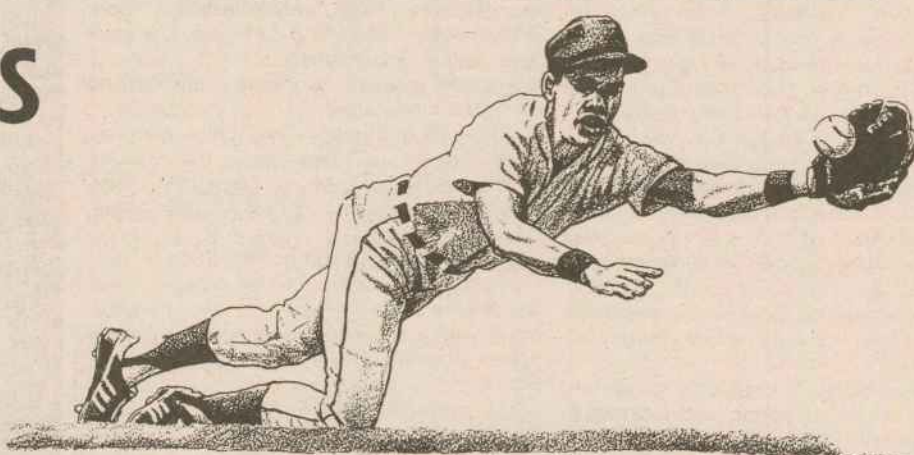
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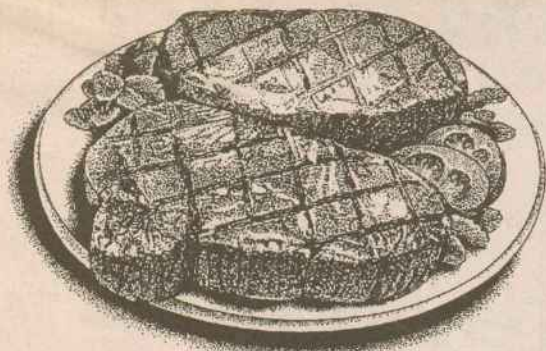
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# SUNDAY, MAY 17, 5<sup>pm</sup>

## Amanda Hunt's Steak Dinner & Raffle



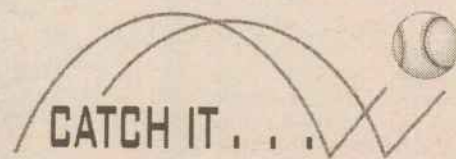
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## THE NIGHT LIGHT

**News...** Well the SSBL campaign was supposed to open on Saturday May, 2<sup>nd</sup>, but the games were washed out. In a really good move, League Commish, Danny Nelson called the teams the evening before. The fields were so wet from the recent rain that it was clear they would not be playable the next day. This is the second year in row that Opening Day has been rained out.

In another really good move, the SSBL rescheduled its annual Mr. SSBL contest until June 20<sup>th</sup>, which is when the May 2<sup>nd</sup> games will be played (weather permitting of course.)

The remodeling at **La Cage** goes on (and on and on). George and Cory say "We just want it to be done." (I am sure they do) but George's gall bladder surgery threw everything behind schedule. Ask George when the new stuff will open and you will hear "When it's done." And as badly as we all want to see the marvelous changes we must realize that no one wants to see them more than George and the staff at La Cage.

Speaking of remodeling, Mark Mariucci, **Za's** co owner told me that he is putting in a new outdoor terrace and a kitchen that will serve up some great food. Both will be welcome additions to the Green Bay Bar scene.

I ran into Larry Krueger, former owner of the former **Café Melange**. He had stopped at **In Between** for a few drinks. Larry is working at the family lumber business (well actually they do more than lumber). He says his business is doing really well, but that he misses the people from the Café. I am sure they miss him too.

Speaking of missing things, **Fannies** is still not open, but Sharon says it will be re-opening on Friday May 8. Problems with permits and contractors have caused the delay but Sharon is confident that things will be finally ready then.

Sharon let me have a quick peek inside. It's really classy, all done in shades of gray, lavender and pink. The inside is larger than before, less cramped, with a really big dance floor and an overhanging deejay booth.

Speaking of bars that primarily, but not exclusively cater to Lesbians, **Dish** is going great guns. I stopped in there the other night to say to owner Julie, but was having such a good time listening to the music and enjoying the atmosphere I stayed for a few hours (my apologies to all those other stops I didn't get to.)

Kudos to Jamie (*In Step* photographer) who jumped behind the bar when the on-duty bartender at **the Triangle** could not finish his shift. Jamie works there part time.

Speaking of bars in downtown Milwaukee, **Fluid** continues to draw large crowds. It is located where Zippers used to be, (before Zippers, it was the Mint II), but you wouldn't recognize the place. It's nearly always crowded.

I remember the days when bars were dark places, often with sticky floors—if you know what I mean. No more. Like Fluid, bars have an up-scale, bright, classy look.

Speaking of downtown, I had a great lunch at **The Milwaukee Room** the other day. It's on Milwaukee just a block or two south of downtown. This trendy Gay owned establishment is well worth a stop. Co-owner, Chris, a former Mr. Gay Wisconsin, said business is good and from what tasted it should be.

I wasn't able to make it, but I hear that Shirley Fitzpatrick had quite the B-Day party at **The Ball Game**. Shirley is one of my all time favorite Gay women, she hates being called a Lesbian. A co founder of the SSBL, Shirley celebrated her 65<sup>th</sup>. Congrats Shirls and many happy returns.

Speaking of great times, the Shore Line Country Dancers had a rooting, tooting time at their annual round up. The big bash at the War Memorial Center was a benefit for the the new LGBT community center. It drew a large crowd of cowboys and cowgirls from around the Midwest.

**Coming up...** The big event coming up is of course the Milwaukee Classic, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday May 23 and 24, but there are other things in the works too. Hope you don't miss any of them.

On Friday May, 8 why not join me in Madison for the Drag King show at the Civic Center. This is a Lesbian drag show where the women dress as men. (Get it Drag KING instead of Drag QUEEN) I have never been to one of these, but I am very much looking forward to it. Also as long as I am in Mad Town, I will be stopping some of my favorite places to party

at, **Kirby's Klub**, **Manoeuvres**, and **Shamrock**. I ALWAYS have fun at these bars and if you haven't been to Madison lately why not make the trip and check them out for yourself.

**Friday May 8** is also the Milwaukee Eagle's First annual Black Party. It's a benefit for ARCW. There will be raffle prizes and champagne and all those butch hunks dressed in black.

**Saturday May 9** will be the SSBL's second attempt to have an Opening Day. The games are at Sijan Field and they are free! So if you are tired of hearing about high priced athletes who literally think they are God's gift to sports then check out some real sports at Milwaukee's Sijan field, 2821 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. (that's in Bay View across from the Kohl's food store for the Milwaukee impaired)

By the way there is not truth to rumor that "God told me to play" in the SSBL.

After the games, I will hightail it up to Green Bay, to take in the Mr. Gay Wisconsin US of A pageant at **Za's**. (No I am not entering it just wouldn't be fair). Mr. Gay US of A for 1997, Christian will be on hand and so will Jeff Jennings, Mr. Gay Wisconsin US of A, for 1997.

If I have time I will be stopping by Hahn's bowling alley in Appleton. **Rascal's** is hosting a nine tap tournament there as a

benefit for Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

**Sunday May 10** is Mother's Day, and what better way to celebrate than the "Mommie Dearest" Possum queen fund raiser at Milwaukee's Ball Game bar. There will be drink and shot specials, plus Muffin's Raffle (speaking of which has lots of great prizes) and it runs from 2:00 to 5:00

**Monday May 11** will see me at **In Between** for their weekly balloon toss. No I still haven't won anything, but even if you don't win, it's always a good time at this popular near South Side bar.

**Wednesday May 13** is the **Boot Camp** weekly Club night drawings. If you haven't been to one of these check it out. They draw tickets and if yours is picked you get pick out an envelope. Owner Sy Smits otherwise known as the Monty Hall of the Milwaukee Bar scene will try to buy back. I love it when people get zonked winning only 99 cents when they could have taken Sy's offer and gotten much more.

There will be another great show at **Za's** on **Friday May 15**. It's "Dallas Tour '98" the big send off to Wisconsin's own Neely O'Hara and Lorretta Lamour. They will be competing in the national finals of the Miss Gay US of A pageant in Dallas the week of May 17 to the 23. Good luck girls.

I won't be available to see them off because I will be at another great show, this one is at **La Cage** which has a great showcase every Friday and Sunday evening.

**Saturday May 16** the SSBL will move its act to Wick Field for a full slate of games. The idea is to give the teams a chance to play on the fields they will be using the following weekend for the Milwaukee

Classic. Wick Field is located at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Vliet.'

That night I will be out and about in Milwaukee. I will start at **This Is It** which is one of my favorite stops because I love the people there and the service is just great. It's the truth. After your first time there, the bartenders not only know your name, they know what you usually like to drink.

From there it will be over to **The M & M Club** They always have great live entertainment on Saturdays and interesting crowds too.

Then it will be over another interesting place, **The Ball Game**, where you'll always find someone nice to talk to.

Then it will be off the **Club '94** for the Miss Gay Kenosha - America pageant. One of my favorite performers Miss Susie Saran Wrap will be there among other stars.

After that I will save my strength for the Memorial Day weekend. Of course there is the aforementioned Milwaukee Classic at Milwaukee's Wick Field. There will be tons of people from throughout the country and Canada playing ball and having fun.

Then too there is the Walker's Point Association Block Party on Sunday May 24 and Monday May 25. It should be a real good time.

On a personal note, our community lost one of its finer members with the murder of Billy Rosenbaum in Chicago. I didn't know Billy that well, but I did like what I knew, and my good friend Curt Peck of In Between who knew Billy since grade school confirms my opinions, he always

Please See Night Light, Page 17



# RE-OPENING

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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!

SATURDAY MAY, 9

## BOWLING TOURNAMENT IN APPLETON

Appleton's Rascal's is sponsoring a Gay 50's Lapoolooza Bowling Tournament. The nine pin tap tourney starts at 3:00. It will be held at Hahn's Bowling Lanes 618 W. Wisconsin Ave. Appleton. By the time you read this entries will be closed, but you can still head on down to the lanes and cheer for your favorite bowlers.

## MR. GAY WISCONSIN PAGEANT US OF A PAGEANT AT ZA'S

The finals of the Mr. Gay Wisconsin US of A '98 pageant will be held at Za's 1106 Main Street, Green Bay. Mr. Gay US of A '97 Christian and Jeff Jennings, Mr. Gay Wisconsin US of A will be on hand. Advance sale tickets are \$8.00 and highly recommended.

SUNDAY MAY 10

## Mommie Dearest Day at the Ball Game

No more wire hangers!! Join your friends from 2 PM to 5 PM at the Ball Game, 196 South Second Street for this very special Possum Queen Fund Raiser. There will be drink and shot specials plus plenty of great prizes in Muffin's Raffle. Help the Mother of them all become the new Possum Queen and have a blast in the process.

FRIDAY MAY 15,

## DALLAS TOUR '98 HITS ZA'S

Neely O'Hara and Loretta Lamour are leaving (for Dallas) so they can compete in the national finals of Miss Gay US of A pageant. The Dallas Tour '98 at Za's gives you a chance to give them a great send off. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

SATURDAY MAY 16

## MISS GAY KENOSHA - AMERICA PAGEANT AT CLUB 94

The new Miss Gay Kenosha - America will be crowned at Club '94. The show will be hosted by Vicki C, and stars Miss Susan Saranwrap, Miss Deserea Triumph, Shaw along with Live vocalist Patrick O'Brien, and a special guest performer.

Show time is at 10 PM. Club 94 is located at 9001 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. Kenosha.

SUNDAY MAY 17

## STEAK DINNER FUNDRAISER AT THE BALL GAME

There will be plenty of meat at the Ball Game for Amanda Hunt's Steak Dinner and Raffle. It's just \$15.00 per person. Here's a great chance to win some fab prizes, have a great dinner and support a worthy cause. Limited tickets available so get yours now. The Ball Game is located at 196 S. Second Street, Milwaukee.

SATURDAY MAY 23,  
SUNDAY MAY 24

## THE ANNUAL MILWAUKEE CLASSIC

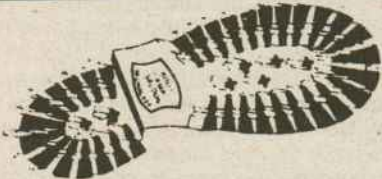
Players from around the country and Canada will come together to compete in the America's oldest Gay softball tournament, the Milwaukee Classic.

Games will be played at Milwaukee's Wick Field, located at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Vliet. Admission is free.

SUNDAY MAY 24 AND  
MONDAY MAY 25

## WALKER'S POINT BLOCK PARTY

There will be lot fun, entertainment and food at the Walker's Point Association's Block Party located at second and national. This is a great event where straights and Gays mix and mingle together.



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## NIGHT LIGHT Continued From Page 16

had a smile, never said a bad word about anyone and was just an all around nice guy.

The Billy I knew was a great bartender at

This Is It and had a great time with me riding in the back of the Wisconsin Light float at the Madison Pride Parade last year.

My heart goes out to his family and close friends. He will be missed.

Hope to see you out and about soon. Till then, PLEASE stay safe and be proud.

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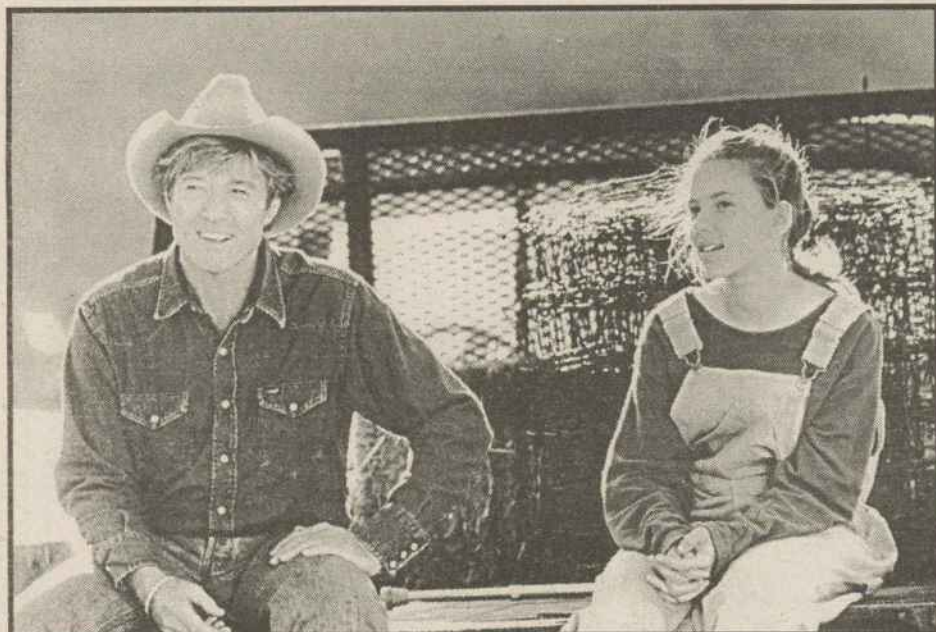
Coming Up...

## Walker's Point Association Memorial Day Block Party

2 Big Days & Nights  
May 24 & 25 = Plan Now



# OUT on Film



Horse Whisperer Robert Redford and Scarlett Johansson star in "The Horse Whisperer" the summer's first major release. See ad on this page for ticket information about the free Touchstone pictures, Wisconsin Light's advance screening.

## 'Deep Impact' is a Serious, Enthralling Look at Humanity Facing Extinction

Reviewed by John Jahn

Take a 7-mile wide comet, slam it into the Earth and what do you get? Something called an "E.L.E." and believe me, it's nothing you want to have happen in your lifetime.

The acronym stands for "Extinction of Life Event." It's what happened to the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago. Astronomers tell us it's only a matter of time before a major asteroid or comet has a rendezvous with planet Earth...not if but when.

Such a catastrophic scenario is played out in utter seriousness and with all the obvious potential for horror in the first of this year's two space-borne impactor movies, **Deep Impact**.

Tea Leoni portrays an up-and-coming news reporter for MSNBC, and she thinks she's onto a sex scandal involving a person named "Ellie" and a recently resigned cabinet member (James Cromwell). For her silence, she's given the national exposure she seeks, but her silence has nothing to do with a person named Ellie and everything to do with the E.L.E.

All the secrets are soon revealed to a stunned nation & world by the President (Morgan Freeman) - a huge comet is on its way, but there is a plan to stop it. Will it work?

**Deep Impact** involves not only the obvious impact a comet would make upon the Earth's surface, but also the impact

knowing it's on its way would have upon civilization - not surprisingly society begins to come unglued - reminiscent of **War of the Worlds** and **Independence Day**. As such, it's highly realistic, emotionally charged, and thankfully takes itself seriously enough that you can leave the theater wondering how you would react and what you'd do with your last hours on Earth, instead of slapping you forehead and saying how silly and stupid it all was.

Directed by Mimi Leder (**The Peace Maker**), and starring Robert Duvall (as the veteran commander of the spaceship "Messiah"), Vanessa Redgrave, Maximilian Schell and the adorable, blue-eyed Elijah Wood, **Deep Impact** is a thought-provoking, highly entertaining look at a terrible "what if."

The special effects are tremendous - from the realistic scenes in space to the devastation on Earth - thanks to Industrial Light & Magic. A heroic but heartfelt score accompanies the dramatic action thanks to James Horner (**Titanic**).

**Deep Impact** can be looked at superficially as just another "disaster movie," which seems to be part of our ongoing '70s nostalgia craze. But that would be diminishing its earnest tone and well-developed characters. This is everything **Independence Day** should have been. **Armageddon** has a lot to live up to!

★★★1/2

## 'The Butcher Boy' is a Mesmerizing, but Not a Pleasant Film-Going Experience

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Leaving the cinema following the preview to Neil Jordan's **The Butcher Boy**, Glenn could not help but wonder how such a well crafted film, a film filled to the brim with heart and soul, dazzling performances, perceptive directing and captivating dialogue could prove impossible to recommend.

Anyone knows that it is film critic's job to recommend well made films and offering scathing reviews to incompetent trash. Even Siskel and Ebert!

Yet **The Butcher Boy** is anything but your typical well made film.

Based upon a Patrick McCabe novel, **The Butcher Boy** tells the strange story of twelve year-old Francie Brady (Eamonn Owens). At first glance Francie seems a pretty typical kid. Freckled-faced and possessing a disarmingly mischievous grin, Francie spends most days with his best friend Joe (Alan Boyle) exploring a Cold War induced (**The Butcher Boy** is set in Ireland of the early 1960s) fantasy world inhabited by all manner of brave cowboys, evil aliens and even that legendary television fugitive, Richard Kimble.

Sadly, little Francie's reality is a whole other matter. His father Benny (Stephen Rea) is the town drunk who is slowly poisoning not only his life, but the lives of all those around him.

Francie's still young and attractive mother (Aisling O'Sullivan) cannot accept the direction her life has taken and has slowly, perhaps, but steadily, descended into madness. In one horrifying moment early on in **The Butcher Boy**, young Francie arrives home just as his poor, put-upon mom ponders an attempt at suicide.

Francie's frequent escapes from this dreadfully dysfunctional existence is not especially surprising. What is curious is that Francie sets the blame for all of his woes squarely on the shoulders of Mrs. Nugent (Fiona Shaw), the mother of one of Francie's primly-proper school-mates and basically the neighborhood's most self-righteous busy-body.

Although Fiona Shaw's Mrs. Nugent radiates an absorbingly cool malevolence, we know she is not to blame in Francie finding himself losing each and every person in his life he loves until he is frighteningly alone. Neither she nor, indeed Francie, deserve their respective fates.

Jordan effectively manages to bring small town Ireland on the eve of the Cuban missile crisis vibrantly alive through sensational attention to even the smallest details in the lives of a townful of colorful characters.

Particular mention must be given to young Eamonn Owens who keeps the audience's sympathies through scenes that are alternately heartfelt and harrowing. Stephen Rea is a Jordan favorite but here is given little opportunity to shine as Benny's drunken father but is captivating as he offers Francie's poignant voice-over narration.

The casting of bad-girl Sinead O'Connor as a potty-mouthed Virgin Mary might seem little more than a gimmick, albeit a deliciously ironic gimmick yet Ms O'Connor acquits herself quite nicely.

True, **The Butcher Boy** is a mesmerizing if not actually a pleasant film going experience and one which all but the truly hearty might prefer to skip.

Rating \$6.17 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

## 'He Got Game' is a Fascinating Film, if a Little Too Heavy on the Sub-Plots

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

An especially long line at the concession stand resulted in Glenn entering the already darkened cinema during the opening moments of **He Got Game**, the new film from the always fascinating Spike Lee and starring our own Ray Allen, resident superstar for our own Milwaukee Bucks.

But what an opening! Accompanying the stirring musical melodies of fabled classical composer Aaron Copeland is a fabulous montage of that great game of basketball as it is played on playgrounds and gyms across this panoramic American landscape. Perhaps just a wee bit too "We are the world" for Glenn's usual sensibilities but sensational and quite moving nevertheless!

Anyone for a game of hoops?

Those familiar with Spike Lee's films will not be terribly surprised to learn that **He Got Game** is filled with Lee's customary agendas, particularly the obsessive drive amongst Africa-American youths that basketball is their one and only ticket to a better life. Glenn started to count how many times trains featured prominently in Lee's scenes but soon ran out of fingers.

For good measure Lee throws in a dysfunctional father-son relationship as well as the dangers from evil money-grubbing sports agents. So there, Jerry Maguire!

Surprisingly, Lee feels the need to go somewhat over the top with the inclusion of a pretty hokey and quite unnecessary sub-plot about a basketball obsessed state governor and a corrupt prison warden.

**He Got Game** focuses on the latest American Hoop Dream: one Jesus Shuttlesworth (Ray Allen). Jesus is a high school kid with a big talent. Everyone wants a piece of Jesus. Virtually every college in the country is offering the lad the anything and everything under the sun, including the moon! Even Jesus's lecherous Uncle sees Jesus as his personal ticket to a life of luxury.

Then there is Jesus's girlfriend Lala (Rosario Dawson) who thinks there is nothing wrong in her taking money from a high-powered sports agent for setting up her innocent boyfriend.

Sheesh, this is one bad world.

To make matters even worse, Jesus's father Jake (Denzel Washington) is serving a prison sentence for the death of his wife, Jesus's mother. This proves a welcome opportunity for the unnamed governor who wants Jesus to go to his alma mater and is willing to allow Jake a week out of prison to convince his son to go to Big State. If Jake is successful, the warden promises that governor won't forget Jake. The suggestion is, of course, that he will intervene on Jake's behalf and reduce his remaining prison time.

Only there is one rather big problem: Jesus hates his father for killing his mom. Jesus also hates his name, yet something else he blames on dear ol' dad. Yet, since Jesus's cousin is called Booger, Glenn thought that Jesus actually had little to complain about.

As if to further complicate Jesus's decision, each and every school is offering cars, girls, money, girls, girls, and, you guessed it, more girls. No school seems to lack its own "girl-groupie" squad.

What's more, Lee weaves into his story of Jesus numerous flashbacks of Jake's obsessively driving little Jesus to be the star he never was plus an unnecessary present-day subplot that has Jake befriending an abused prostitute with a penchant for bad wigs.

You'll likely need a program to keep track of all of the characters in **He Got Game!**

Glenn was curious about Lee's decision about casting Ray Allen as Jesus Shuttlesworth. Allen does a fine job and the casting of a fine professional basketball player does add to the authenticity of the film but **He Got Game** is decidedly light on the sort of game action that makes such casting necessary.

Denzel Washington too does a fine job, managing to keep our sympathies while still effectively revealing Jake's demons.

In the end, Glenn found **He Got Game** fascinating but thought there to be just too many stories going on and a shameful absence of gratuitous male nudity in superfluous shower room scenes.

Rating \$5.83 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

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## "Double Indemnity" is a Splendid Example of the Noire Films

By Steve Stavron

**Double Indemnity**, Billy Wilder's classic crime drama, considered to be the definitive high point of film noir will be shown at Milwaukee's Times Theater in May as part of a 50's "dark film" festival

Although **Double Indemnity** preceded the cultist era of the noir films, its eerie, sadistically grim emotional detachment and its severely economical style served as a beacon lighting the path for an entire generation of down-in-the-mouth "realistic" films.

The film noir genre, intended to capture the post-war depressive mood, consisted largely of small films wallowing in the limited framework of opaque shadows of night-time city streets. With danger lurking in every corner, crimes to be solved, and a pervasive sense of helplessness which seemed to dominate narrowly framed characters, these films blended an indistinct milieu of urban geometry with an all-consuming pessimism.

However the standard set by **Double Indemnity**, made before the war ended, [1944], was rarely equaled by later dark films as the genre became more popular. Wilder's air tight direction produced a film that was considerably more substantial and less pretentiously atmospheric in psychological content than those that followed.

**Double Indemnity** was a major studio product sporting a remarkable stellar cast made by a first rate director noted for structural directness and moving with stark pinpoints of inexorable fatalism that resemble classic drama. By condensing the narrative to bare essentials, Wilder systematically increases tension, but much depends on the outstanding starring trio bringing enough individually focused characterization to their roles to substantiate the grim elements in the film. They come through superbly. The star system of the 40's, was never to put to better advantage than in **Double Indemnity**.

Filed in murky soft focus never penetrated by the California sun, the story

## "Possum Love" Glows at South Water Street Docks

By Ted Berg

**Milwaukee**—On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Aqua Marie and the Infamous Topaz were introduced to the South Water Street Dock's patrons as their Possum Queen Candidates. It was a special day for the two candidates. They also celebrated their second anniversary of their love for each other. They met at the bar on April 15, 1996. This was not Muskrat Love, but Possum Love!

The 50 people who attended were served pizza and free tappers to make the night festive.

The bar quickly became decorated with diamonds that they sold for a dollar, which they called "the family jewels." The money collected will go to the Brady East Clinic.

Also present were precious gems from other Possum campaigns.

Iona Trailer from Just Us did a special number and donated the money raised to the Crown Jewels of South Water. In disguise were David (Divine Ms. Buzz from M's) Thompson and Fondu Daily representing Woody's and Fluid. Charlotte Lorraine who ran in the first Possum Queen Contest in 1991, graced us with his royal presence.

Many Possum supporters tried on Iona's feathered hat and modeled for possible Possum Candidates in years to come. All through the party, Max Barnett, Possum Queen Steering Committee Co-ordinator, talked the serious talk of Drag Queen fundraisers, if you could do that with a straight face.

One could easily see that the Possum Campaign was alive and well at Docks. Patrick XXXXX, the Diamond in the Rough, or the Campaign Manager-bartender, donated time to make this night sparkling.

We must thank two jewels of our community who made this fundraiser possible: James Weston, the owner and Daniel Kimse, the Manager of South Water Street Docks.

It's an honor to be a Possum Campaign Camp Follower. The Possum Queen Campaign is a true story of love. It's one of the few times people like you and me can make a difference. You don't need a college degree to run. What is truly needed is a heart filled with love for our brothers and sisters with AIDS and HIV disease. When you see a silly looking Drag Queen with a bucket running for Possum Queen, dig deep. Be a part of our success.

based upon "pulp fiction" novel by James Cain is simple enough. A cynical but weak-natured insurance agent, convinced that he can orchestrate the "perfect crime", is seduced by a client's wife into murdering her husband. This age old scenario is given a powerful bare bones treatment without a shred of human remorse—as relentlessly fatalistic as Greek tragedy.

Each major character is resigned to the inevitability of their deserved fate with no instinct of self pity. They will get what they deserve. Mystery writer Raymond Chandler's rock-hard dialogue glistens with a diamond's cutting edge in keeping with Billy Wilder's concept of the film.

A definitive cast fleshes out the basic outlines of their characterizations without adding an ounce of histrionic fat. What fascinates film buffs is the prevailing sense of destiny which they bring to their roles. As the insurance investigator who relishes his job of cracking bogus claims, Edward G. Robinson is almost frightening in his good natured determination to unravel the threads of the crime he does not realize his friend/colleague has committed. His sense of unintentionally ominous innocence is so threatening, it focuses tension early in the film upon the inevitable outcome.

Cast against type, Fred MacMurray transforms his nice guy affability into a grim but beautifully underplayed portrait of a man without any ennobling capacity, trapped between two stronger characters, forced to control his inner desperation and finally resorting to the lowest extreme to extricate himself. His characterization is exemplary. Although a lapse in the otherwise brilliant screenplay requires him to show too much sympathy for the victim's daughter, it does not mar MacMurray's performance.

As for Barbara Stanwyck, the wife, her cool-edged antiseptic performance would have done credit to Lady Macbeth. Her restrained sensuality is all the more insinuating for its calculated indifference which cannot mask an iron-clad will. Her quiet delivery never misses a beat, giving the film its most insidious flavor. Her most famous scene shows her in sunglasses in a food store while making sinister plans with MacMurray. The face of evil is hidden.

"We're both rotten" she later tells Mac Murray.

"But you're a little more rotten," he replies. This is arguably Stanwyck's finest screen role

Made near the close of Hollywood's Golden Age, **Double Indemnity** still owes its stature to that classic era which highlighted outstanding star performances as the director's chief raw material, serving as an object lesson for today's unskilled actors, in demonstrating that even "natural" acting requires a substantial degree of professionalism.

Highly recommended even for those who are not film noir aficionados

Showtimes for **Double Indemnity**: 7:00 p.m. nightly to May 15 [with **Blue Dahlia** 1946], May 16 [with **You And Me** directed by Fritz Lang, 1938], May 17 [with **Big Clock** 1948]—Times Theater phone: (414) 453-2436.

## Possum Queen Campaign Red Rose Award is Traveling

**Milwaukee**—On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin bestowed the Red Rose Award for Community Leadership upon the Possum Queen Campaign. This beautiful crystal vase was gratefully accepted by Max Barnett on behalf of the campaign.

### 1998 Possum Queen Candidates

Queen Mary-----Kathy's Nut Hut  
Fondu Daily-----Woody's & Fluid  
Amanda Hunt-----BallGame  
Dexter-----Barbie's Playhouse  
Sour Mash-----Mama Roux  
Eady A. Pea Pea  
& Wanta Pea Pea-----In Between  
Les B. Anne-----Dish  
Sophyllia Glanns-----1100 Club  
Amanda & Juan Dume-----Station II  
The Divine Ms. Buzz-----M&M Club  
Iona Trailer-----Just Us  
Aqua Marie &  
The Infamous Topaz---South Water  
Street Docks

As always, late campaigns are welcome and encouraged.

half of the Possum Queen Steering Team and the hundreds of volunteers and candidates who have participated over the last seven years and eight campaigns. Since this campaign's success depends upon the participation of countless hundreds in the community, the Steering Team unanimously decided that the award should be enjoyed by all.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Hiza Kite (the newest member of the Steering Team), delivered the vase to the M&M Club (home of the current reigning Possum Queen, Jack E. O. Gasm). The Award was transported to the Ballgame on April 28<sup>th</sup>, where it will reside until May 7<sup>th</sup>.

From the Ballgame, it will move to Kathy's Nut Hut until it is transported on

May 17<sup>th</sup> to In Between, where it will stay until May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The next stop for the traveling award will be St. Francis Bank (a major contributor of money and human resources to the campaign), where it will be on display until June 4<sup>th</sup>, whereupon it moves to Mama Roux. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the award will make its way to Just Us, where it will be displayed until June 24<sup>th</sup>, when it will wind its way to La Cage.

Once the Steering Team decides upon the remaining itinerary for the award, that schedule will be issued. Please take an opportunity to view and enjoy the award, as it most definitely can be attributed to each of you and your efforts.

## The Trailer Trash Possum Queen Fund Raiser



1 - (L-R) Iona Trailer, Aqua Marie, Infamous Topaz, Fondu Dailey. Front- Dan Manager of Docks, 2 Candy Stripe, 3- Lana St. James, 4 - (L-R) Henry, Steve, and Patrick



1- Boo Boo, 2- Susie Saranwrap and friend, 3- Max Barnett, Aqua Marie and Topaz, 4- (R-L) Lizzie Bourdeaux, Charollette Lorraine and Karen Valentine

# Dear Ruthie

*Hello everyone out in newspaper land! How the hell are ya? I'm sitting here reading some letters waiting for my toenails to dry. Before we get started I just wanted to say that the lovely Possum Queen candidate Iona Trailer has invited me to do a number or two at her show on Friday, May 15, 1998, at Just Us.*

*"Iona, honey, I'll be there with bells on, and maybe some Velcro, and beads, and whatever else I can glue-gun to a halter top."*

*The show starts at 10:00 and should be a helluva time. I hope to see you all there. Hey - Iona - say 'Hi' to your sister Ilissa Trailer too! SO, grab your favorite pal and head on over to Just Us in Milwaukee for a great time that goes toward a great cause. Now, lets read some letters!*

*And now on a very serious note. Last summer one of the nicest young men I've met in a long, long time, rode with me on the Wisconsin Light float in Madison's Gay Pride Parade. His name was Billy.*

*Billy is gone now. I would like to offer my most sincere sympathy to his family and all of his many, many friends. He will be so much missed.*



Ruthie



Billy Rosenbaum and Ruthie in The Wisconsin Light truck during the 1997 Madison Pride Parade

Dear Ruthie,

Help us solve this problem. We met one another and fell madly, head-over-heels, heart-to-heart in love 5 months ago. Since then I have moved into his house - a tiny house that I now call home. He told me that this house was mine too, and that I should treat the house as such and do as I please. After all it is my house now too, Lady Ruthie.

I had a few days off, and instead of buying a pride flag for the front porch, I painted a pride flag on the garage door. A work of art if I do say so myself. Well, my lover freaked when he saw it. He went on about the neighbors, the fact that it was gaudy, and the fact that this was his house too and I should have asked him first.

I think he's wrong. It caused a huge fight that has yet to be resolved. He has bought paint to cover it, but I said I'd leave if he covers it. Who's right? (signed)

Pride Painter  
Dear Painter,

This reminds of the time my sixth husband, Gus, painted the entire back of our trailer home with a picture of a naked lady eating a hot dog. Now, Gus was a helluva painter and normally I wouldn't have cared about his "Ode to the Trailer Woman," except that the woman in the picture was our next-door neighbor, Maureen. Never trust a girl named Maureen - I don't care who she is.

I don't know that I would say the girl in the picture was really eating that hot dog either. She was sort of licking it and giggling. It wasn't ... well... it just wasn't right that's all - particularly since our trailer faced the highway.

Sure, weeks after the unveiling the Piggly Wiggly still couldn't keep hot dogs in stock, but I was a little put off by the whole thing.

Gus said it was merely a coincidence that the girl in the painting looked like Maureen, but how many models are 300 lbs with a "Sara Lee Sucks" tattoo, and wear a neck brace? I said, "Damn it Gus, that's the same neck brace Maureen had on after she tripped over her kid's Big Wheel." I also pointed out that Maureen had the same tattoo on her bosom but hers was spelt incorrectly. Gus shrugged it off and I demanded that he paint over the scene. He agreed.

On the afternoon that he was going to repaint, I came home early only to catch a naked Maureen digging through our fridge holding a jar of relish in one hand and a hot dog bun in the other. I stormed into

the bedroom and told Gus that he'd have to barbecue his wiener someplace else, because this cook was closing the kitchen once and for all.

After the divorce, Gus married Maureen and they bought one of those wiener mobiles and drove it across the country. Last I heard, Maureen got arrested for indecent exposure while on a tour of the Johnsonville Brat factory.

So now, where was I? Oh - yes - painting garages. Here's my take on it. You made one big mistake. Painting? Pride Flags? No. How about moving-in after five months? Five months! Honey, I've spent more time getting my hair done. How did you think you knew this person after five months? What is he like in the summer time? The winter time? What is he like around the holidays? What is he like with his family? Your family? How does he feel about acknowledging his sexuality to his neighbors? You couldn't have known the answers to all of these questions before you moved in, and you certainly didn't know the answers before you painted the garage.

I hate to say it, amigo, but I think he was right. You should have talked to him and asked what he thought before painting the garage. I don't care whether you painted it blue, painted a pride flag, or painted some fat-ass slut eating Ball-Park Plumper, if you two are going to share the house, you both need to make decisions regarding its upkeep. While I appreciate your pride, I have to say you need to let him paint over it and agree to form mutual decisions on changes regarding the home. Better yet, why don't you paint over it, apologize, and spend the rest of the night making-up.

Dear Ruthie,

I have a work problem. I haven't read any of these in your column, so I hope you answer me on this query - dearie. There is a woman at work who is a born again Christian. I am Christian too, but this person won't stop preaching to everyone. While everyone laughs off her constant "Bible Talk," I can't because a lot of her preaching is against homosexuals.

It's gotten even worse since this whole Reggie White thing started. Everyone at work knows I'm a Lesbian - including her. No one else has a problem with it-except her. She has never said anything directly to me, but talks about how homosexuality is evil and a sin, and that gays will burn in hell. She says this in my company and even if she's talking one-on-one with someone, her tone is loud enough for me to hear.

Should I confront her directly? Should I take this a step higher and talk to our boss? We have the same boss. Let me know what you think! Please!

(signed)

Lady Love

Dear Lady,

Go tell your co-worker to bang her Bible somewhere else! Slap a Reggie White jersey on her back and tell her to shove it with acorns! "Listen Sister Christian - these boxes at work are called cubicles, not confessionals. Leave your halo at home and your keester in gear. This is a place of work, not 'The 700 Club.' You leave your religious beliefs at home - and that's where I'll leave mine."

Actually, it may be best to take your complaint up a notch. I have a feeling that if you confront her one-on-one, you're just going to fuel her fire and then she'll really

be out of control. I'll also bet that if you confront her, she'll be the first in the boss's office complaining about you.

Trying to discuss this in a normal manner may also result in a quest to "convert" you. You really don't want "Connie Convert" chasing you all over the office playing Melissa Etheridge music backwards and offering burnt pictures of Ellen DeGeneres.

Is your company one that would stand behind you? Is it one where they value the rights of everyone to feel comfortable at work? If so - and I'm willing to bet it is - talk to your boss. Tell your boss that things are being said in the office that are making you uncomfortable, and you don't think these discussions have a place at work. Tell your boss that you enjoy working there, but you want to work in a place where you are not made to feel uneasy about your personal life. If your boss is sympathetic at this point and agrees that

you need to feel safe and comfortable, go ahead and explain the situation at hand.

You have rights too, and this preaching could be a form of harassment - that's a big word when dealing with these issues. Use the big "H" if you feel your boss isn't going to back you up. Let you employer - or Human Resources department - know that there is no reason that she needs to discuss sexual orientation in the workplace.

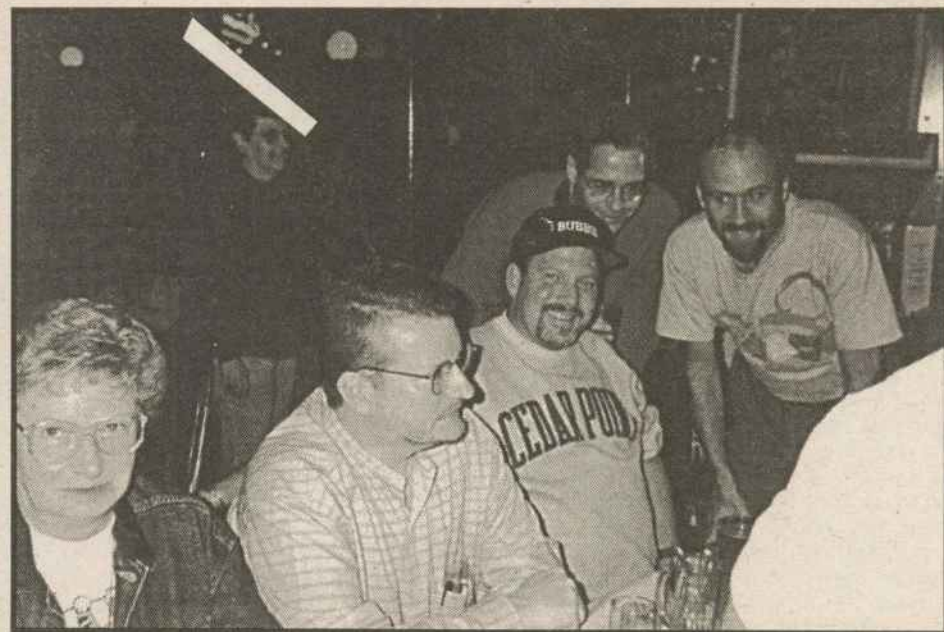
If this doesn't work, go to her house and paint a big old pride flag on her garage - KIDDING - MY STARS I'M JUST KIDDING!!!!

Hey - send me your letters and stuff. I love to receive your questions, cards, pictures, and things! You can reach me at: The Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. You can also e-mail me care of the Wisconsin Light's web page at [www.wilight.com](http://www.wilight.com)

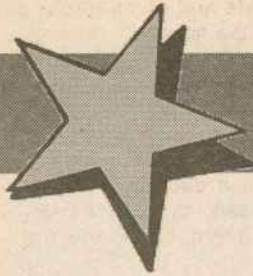
## IN THE PUBLIC EYE



Jerry Johnson



Shirley's B-Day - Shirley Fitzpatrick celebrated her 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a party at the Ball Game on April 25, showing that you don't get older, you just get more experienced. At the top is the B-Day girl herself, looking young as ever. In the middle are some of Shirley's friends from the West and East Coast who flew in for the occasion and at the bottom is the lovely Miss Fitzpatrick with her friend, Barb and a male friend. The party raised over \$1,000 for seven different charities. Shirley wants to thank everyone who came and donated.



# Tune Reviews

## "Ray of Light" Marks a New Madonna

RAY OF LIGHT  
Madonna  
Maverick/Warner Brothers Records

By John A. Jahn

Brimming with techno-influenced rhythms, "Ray of Light," Madonna's 11th album (and her first collection of new songs since 1994's "Bedtime Stories") clearly illustrates a distinct change of direction from her signature pop-diva sound. This album is as different from her other albums as Madonna "The Material Girl" is from Madonna as "Evita."

A deep, dark, introspective album, "Ray of Light" contains 13 songs of electronica-based beats which accompany her crisp, melodious voice. The song lyrics (all by Madonna and producer William Orbit) are earnest, reflective and poetic. "There's nothing left to try. There's no place left to hide. There's no greater power than the power of goodbye." Thus go the words to "The Power of Goodbye," and thus is further proof that Madonna has changed...whether it be because of motherhood, age or both. Frankly, I find this a welcome change, indeed.

While the album as a whole stands in stark contrast to her previous 10, the songs within "Ray of Light" have a sameness about them - sounding too much alike - and that's its major weakness: not enough variety. A few stand-out songs include "Shanti/Ashtangi," based on a Hindu text and full of cultural and aesthetic appeal, "To Have and to Hold," and her new hit single, "Frozen."



Madonna

"Ray of Light" marks a musical departure astonishing even for this quintessentially chimerical artist. Alternately elusive and explicit, playful and profound, risky and welcoming, it is the most audacious and atmospheric song cycle in Madonna's career to date, and that's saying plenty!

### BestD Outreach Testing Schedule

Fluid

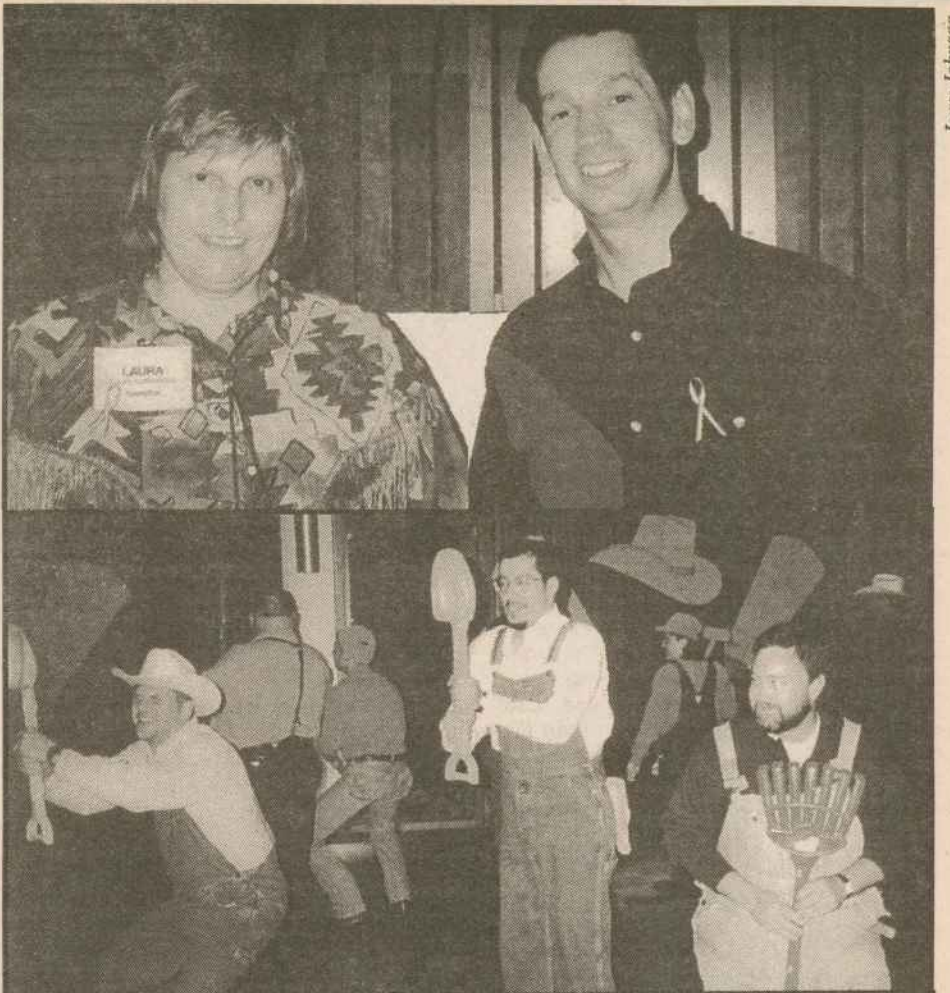
Thu., May 7, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

Mama Roux

Wed., May 13, 9:00 p.m. to Midnight

In Between

Thu., May 21, 9:00 p.m. to Midnight



Jerry Johnson

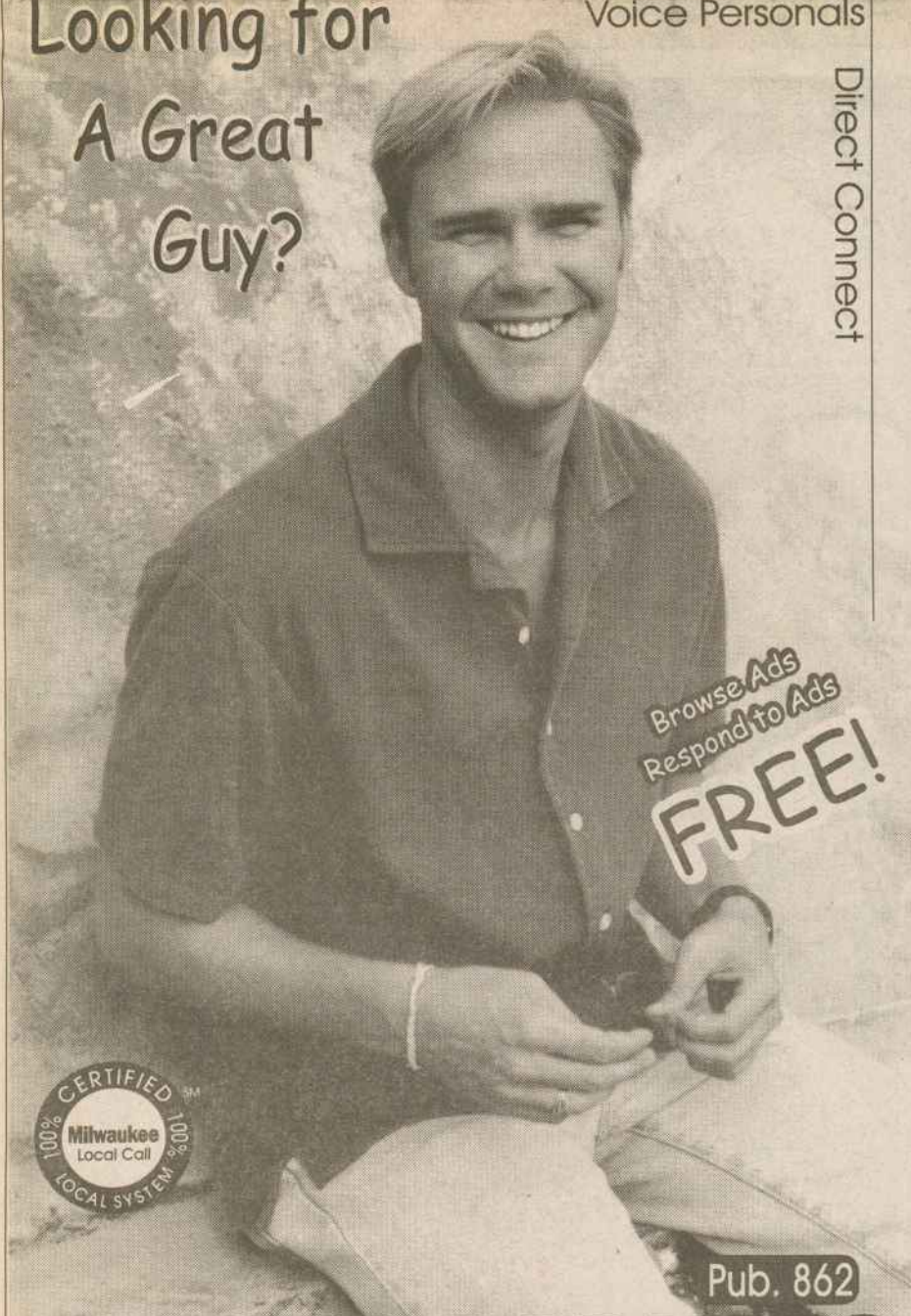


YEEHAAA! A wild and highly successful Shore Line Dance troupe Round up was held the weekend of May 1-3. At the top are Shore Line President, Laura Sutherland and Round Up Chair, Alan Karbel, next is a guest dance troupe, then we have two of the many celebrants, second from the bottom is a cow milking, and at the bottom are two cowgirls.

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Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
<b>Eau Claire</b>				
Scoters	W,m	411 Galloway	54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	MW, G/ S	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
<b>Green Bay</b>				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main Street	53204	437-9256
The Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway	54303	432-9646
Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
<b>Kenosha</b>				
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
Filling Station	MW, Food, DJ	6325 120th Ave	53140	857-3744
<b>La Crosse</b>				
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9279
Rainbow's End	Retail	417 Jay St.	54601	
<b>Lake Mills</b>				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
<b>Madison</b>				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	251-1030
MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock	MW	117 W. Main St	53703	255-5029
We Are Family	Retail/Expresso	524 E. Wilson	53703	258-9006
<b>Milwaukee</b>				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	53204	273-7474
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National	53204	643-6900
Ces't La Vie	M Shows	231 S. Second Street	53204	276-8890
Clinton St. Antiques	Retail	1110 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Fannies	Wm	200 E. Washington	53204	649-9003
Fluid	MW	819 S. Second	53204	645-8330
Glass Menagerie	Fine Dining	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	52304	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	53204	645-9888
M & M Club	MW, Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53202	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L	300 W. Juneau	53203	273-6900
Milwaukee Room	Fine Dining	316 N. Milwaukee	53202	277-7666
Rene's Cozy Corner	MW	3500 W. Park Hill	53208	933-7363
S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
Silver Dollar Cafe	Food	831 S. 16 <sup>th</sup> St.	53204	645-8860
Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
This Is It	Mw	418 E. Wells	53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
Walkers Point Cafe	Food	1106 S. First Street	53204	384-7999
Woody's	M	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-0806
<b>Neenah</b>				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
<b>Racine</b>				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
<b>Sheboygan</b>				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
<b>Stevens Point</b>				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
<b>Superior</b>				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373
<b>Wausau</b>				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225

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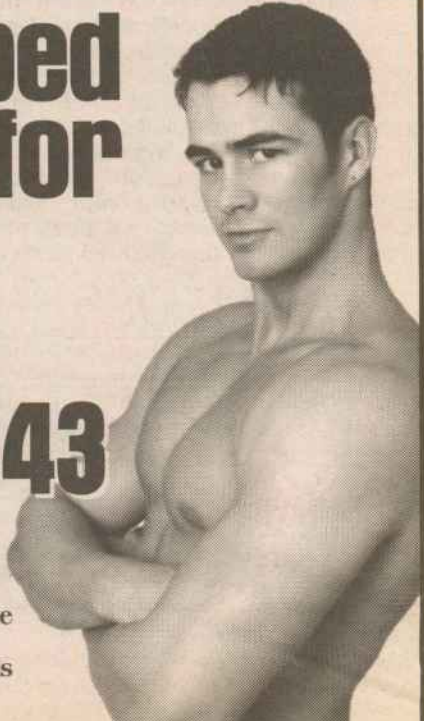


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## Fort Lauderdale Cashes in Big on Gay Tourist Dollar

Fort Lauderdale—For a quarter century after Connie Francis crooned "Where the Boys Are" in a 1960 movie set in Fort Lauderdale, civic boosters capitalized on the fame to make the city the spring break capital.

But this spring, the boys romping on the sandy beaches and filling Fort Lauderdale's bars are more likely to be Gay than not.

The change from beer swilling frat boys staging belly flop and wet T-shirt contests to well-groomed hand-holding men who favor art galleries and fancy restaurants did not happen accidentally.

Beginning in 1985, with as many as 350,000 college students changing a chamber of commerce dream into a nightmare, the city adopted a successful campaign to discourage spring breakers.

And for several years, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau (GFLCVB) has deliberately courted Gay tourists, following a trend that is growing around the country in places like the Twin Cities and Milwaukee.

This spring, the GFLCVB placed full page ads in two Gay publications that say "Greater Ft. Lauderdale rolls out the rainbow carpet."

"We want to be known as a welcoming destination," said Francine Mason, the bureau's vice president for communications.

"This town has grown up," said city Commissioner Jack Latona, who cited a \$26 million oceanfront face lift along with ordinance changes that allowed outdoor

dining for the first time, as making the city "more sophisticated which is attractive to high-income Gays."

Latona helped to persuade the bureau to invite travel writers from Gay publications in the US and Europe for a familiarization tour, and he has appeared in a promotional video that features Gay bars and restaurants.

While the bureau is these steps to woo Gay tourists, Mason emphasized that the city also is making a special pitch to African-Americans, scuba divers and post-cruise vacationers.

In any case, the appeal to niche markets is paying off. Since the city cracked down on the college crowd—by enforcing laws governing overcrowded rooms, underage drinking and rowdy behavior—the number of tourists has nearly doubled, up 6.4 million from last year.

More importantly, Mason said, the tourist season has been extended from six weeks in the spring to year-round. Twelve years ago, hotel occupancy hit 85% to 90% in February and March, then tumbled to 40% to 50% in the summer and fall.

Last year, while spring occupancy registered at earlier levels, the rest of the year registered from 55% to 70%. Overall, oc-

cupancy of the city's 28,600 hotel rooms averaged 71% last year, 20% than for 25,000 rooms in 1985.

Although only 8-10% of current visitors are Gay, they are big spenders, according to Richard Thompson, executive director of the 1,320 member International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA). A survey conducted for the visitors bureau, found that the estimated 500,000 Gay tourists a year who visit Fort Lauderdale spend about \$1,800 each.

Because many Gay couples have two incomes and no children, the don't have to be professionals to have ample discretionary income.

"Gay and Lesbian travelers are the fastest growing segment of the travel industry. We get 500-800 calls a month from consumers looking for Gay-friendly travel destinations," Thompson said.

Thompson, 56, who owned a mainstream travel agency on Cape Cod before moving to Florida for a second career with IGLTA, said that as the demographics of Gay travelers becomes better known, more and more airlines, cruise ships and resorts court them. He noted that five years ago, only three airlines paid dues to his associations. This year, 57 are members.

### FANNIES Continued For Page 1

Lesbians. For example, there's Just Us, Kathy's Nut Hut, Station II and Dish. There's been Hot Legs, Nightingales. There's always been other bars [for Lesbians]. There's always going to be other bars, old and new. That's why I really take issue with the idea of my having a monopoly. I'm not Ma Bell.

I've been waiting years for another [Lesbian] bar to open to work with, do things with. It's easier in the community to do things with two businesses than it is one.

I honestly thought that when Julia (Dish owner) was going to open another bar, catering to another clientele, that we could work together.

WL: As most people know, Fannie's was severely damaged by fire. The article mentions a dollar amount. Is this correct?

SD: No. The article says \$100,000. The damage was \$150,000.

The article was incorrect in other ways. Tony Harvey didn't own the River Queen [a Gay bar, which burned down]. He managed it. Tony Harvey never hired me. Jimmy O'Connor, the owner, hired me. Yes, when I worked there, I had a reputation for being very direct, to the point. I was in good condition. I was able to handle myself well.

One thing the article got right. That was that Tony Harvey and I became friends.

One of the things about the article that was really awful was when it said that in 1988 Tony sold Mike and Anna's on the condition that the buyer make me a co-owner. What a crock! I don't know where they got their information on that, but it's absolutely not true.

Actually, it was somewhat the other way around. I had already agreed with Tony to buy Mike and Anna's. Bobby who was manager and a waiter at the time, came and said he wanted to buy in, too. I said fine. Bobby, Tony and I had been friends for years. Bobby could run the restaurant and I could spend more time here [at Fannie's].

WL: The article, citing an unnamed, former bartender of yours, talks about your using guns. Would you comment?

SD: I think Annie Oakley died a number of years ago. I do have some guns, yes. If there was something going on that was so terrible that a gun had to be used to protect my customers, I wouldn't hesitate to protect my customers or anyone's life. But I don't run around the bar with a gun on my hip.

A couple of other points I'd like to make. One is that yes, I went to Las Vegas. I had a free trip and I had money wired to me while I was there on vacation.

As far as my South Side duplex, it's been in and out of foreclosure a couple of times. We sold it on a land contract and got shafted. The guy never made the payments. It cost us thousands of dollars to get it back and it was just a mess. We never did get a dime. The guy filed bankruptcy.

WL: The article says you've been sued over unpaid bills. Can you comment?

SD: I had disagreements with an insurance company. Over the disagreements, I refused to pay and I dropped them. They said I still owed them money and said, 'Sue me.' They might have filed a suit against me. I don't know because I was never contacted.

As to the credit card, that part is true to the point that I did owe a credit card company money. I did negotiate with them over it. One of the five wouldn't negoti-

ate. I had numerous other credit cards that I took care of. The one they fixated on in this article is the only one I wasn't able to take care of.

Quite honestly, because of my bills, I thought of filing bankruptcy. I fought that. I didn't want to do that.

As to the Department or Revenue trying to hold up my license, of course they did. That's a given. They wanted x amount of dollars for one business. They had gone into my account and taken money. I was not aware that had happened which created a further hardships for me at Mike and Anna's as well as at Fannies, a lot of hardship. I've never tried to hide this.

One of the worst parts of this article is where it says that Fannie's hadn't been insured in years and that I took an unprecedented step in insuring that. That's not true. I was insured for years and years and years until October of 1996. I didn't get insurance again until I began looking in May, 1997 because I was going for a loan and using my bar for collateral. You have to have insurance to refinance a bar, any bar. I looked for a policy that was 'no frills,' basic. I wasn't expecting a fire.

I had no insurance, for example, on my upstairs apartment and all my personal belongings.

I also take issue with the fact that the article said that I bartered for the appraisal in bar credit, not cash. That's totally untrue. What happened was the person, Connie, who was arranging for the loan for me, ordered the appraisal. She eventually paid for it when the first loan didn't go through because I refused to go through with it because I didn't like the arrangement.

A couple of months later, Connie came to me and reminded me that she'd paid for the appraisal. She said, 'How about if you give me a bar tab for the amount and do it that way?' I said, fine. She was not the appraiser.

The other thing I didn't like, of course, was the implication that perhaps I had something to do with throwing a Molotov cocktail at Dish. That is so absurd. I was insulted and I'm still insulted by it. What else can I say?

To date, I have not gotten one penny for the fire from the insurance company. I have borrowed money against the bar and from some of my friends. So, I guess my credit is good with some people.

People don't know that I turned down two or three different loan packages for various reasons so I didn't need a fire to remodel my bar. Even with a burned bar I was still able to refinance the bar for more than I will probably get from the insurance company. A \$200,000 policy doesn't mean you'll get \$200,000. You have to take 20% off the top of your agreed settlement plus co-insurance to say \$150,000 agreed settlement would end up being around \$115,000, not even enough to redo the bar.

The insurance company will settle. They're just doing now what they have to do.

WL: Have you contacted "Milwaukee Magazine" about this?

SD: Yes. To this date [April 28], I've talked twice to the man who edited the article. He told me they were looking into it. He has mentioned the possibility about putting something in the next issue, but the harm's been done.

To top it all off, when this article appeared, I got a call from the man who's trying to find me insurance to cover me for the bar. Anytime after a fire, particularly an arson, insurance is difficult to get. I had been told that finally that I was going to have insurance and it was going to be reasonable.

When the article came out, the insurer called my agent and said that because of the article, he would not insure the bar. In the end, he did agree to insure me, but at a much higher rate.

WL: What are you going to do?

SD: I'm seriously considering suing them. I feel the article is slanderous. No one is named in this whole article other than me, Julia from Dish, Tony Harvey—he's deceased—and Mary Connel who, they say, is a 'long-time' friend. What they forgot is that Mary Connel's a long-time employee. She's not my lover. She is a friend and an employee who's coming back to work for me.

The article is named right, "Fanning the Flames." That's exactly what it has done.

But you know, it's the anger I feel at all that's happened to me, all the gossip, that has given me strength to start over.

WL: Is there anything else you would like to say?

SD: Yes, absolutely. I've been through some pretty rough times. They would have been rougher, a lot rougher, without all the help and support I've received from friends, straight and Gay. I want to thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Massage

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Full-Time—Under the direction of the Director of Operations and supervision of the Office Manager to perform a variety of duties involving: data entry on Macintosh (with knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Power Point & Act), answering phones, taking messages, taking reservations for daily city tours, making reservations as needed for tour stops, preparing mass mailings, stuffing folders and brochures, assist in the overseeing of charters, assist in planning new custom tours, write thank you notes, send out evaluations, greet walk-in customers, and perform related duties as assigned.

Requires education as is normally acquired in four years of high school with training in data entry, typing, office machines, proficient knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Power Point & Act programs, excellent writing ability and phone skills. Related work and Macintosh experience of between one and two years required to perform work proficiently.

In addition to all of the above mentioned skills, must be energetic, extremely organized, personable, able to laugh, communicate well and perform duties in a fast-paced environment.

Please mail resume to: Receptionist, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

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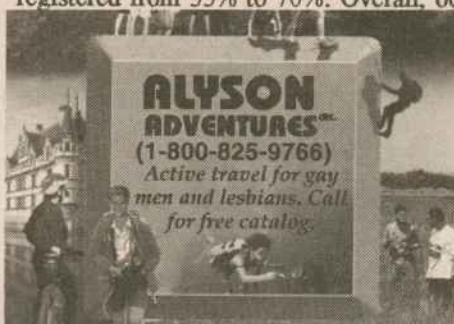
RATES ARE \$2 for each line. Each line can contain up to 42 characters, (including spaces). Indicate if you would like a BOLD HEADLINE of up to three words above your ad for an additional \$2.50. Also indicate classification under which your ad is to be run.

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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PLEASE CHECK THE ISSUE(S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD TO APPEAR.

May 21 \_\_\_; June 4 \_\_\_; June 18 \_\_\_; July 2 \_\_\_; July 16 \_\_\_ July 30 \_\_\_;



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For rent—2 bedroom upper. West Milwaukee, natural wood throughout, formal dining room, C.A., garage, July 1. (414) 672-2138, \$575.

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### Organizations

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

### Phone Encounters

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## Three Recipes from "Wisconsin Light's" "Cooking With Pride" Cookbook Selected as Among State's Best

**Milwaukee**—Selected recipes from 94 Wisconsin cookbooks have been published in a new cookbook titled **Best of the Best From Wisconsin**. Published by the Quail Ridge Press in Brandon, Mississippi, the book is one of a series published for 24 states.

Included in the **Best of Wisconsin** cookbook are three recipes from **Wisconsin Light's** own **Cooking With Pride** cookbook.

Published in 1993, readers of **Wisconsin Light** were asked to send in their favorite recipes. Some 400 were printed. The three winning recipes are printed elsewhere on this page.

**Cooking With Pride** was originally published as a fundraiser for PrideFest, the annual GLBT festival held annually on Milwaukee's lakefront.

A variety of Wisconsin's ethnic backgrounds have brought their culinary heritage to life in the **Best of** book. Included are Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, German, Czech, Slovak and Belgian recipes, among others.

Both cookbooks are available for purchase by mail order or at **Wisconsin Light's** office. See details elsewhere on this page.

### The United Forming Support Groups; Seeking Volunteers

**Madison**—The United, Madison's GLBT social services agency, is forming men's and women's coming out support groups for the summer. Both groups will run for 10 weeks, beginning in early June, and will meet at The United.

The United's coming out support groups are peer-based groups led by trained fa-

ilitators. A full 10 week commitment is asked of all participants. Those interested should call The United at (608) 255-8582 for further information.

The United is also looking for volunteers for all of its services and activities, including Out-Line (telephone and drop-in peer counseling, as well as information and referral), Support Group Facilitation and Speaker's Bureau. Training is provided for all of these opportunities. If in-

terested, contact Callen at the above number.

For those interested in volunteering, but only able to help occasionally, The United is also seeking volunteers to help with Special Events, Float, Pool and Committees. This includes event set-up, coat check and various types of shift work at community events. The next event will be the annual awards banquet. If interested call and ask for Joe.

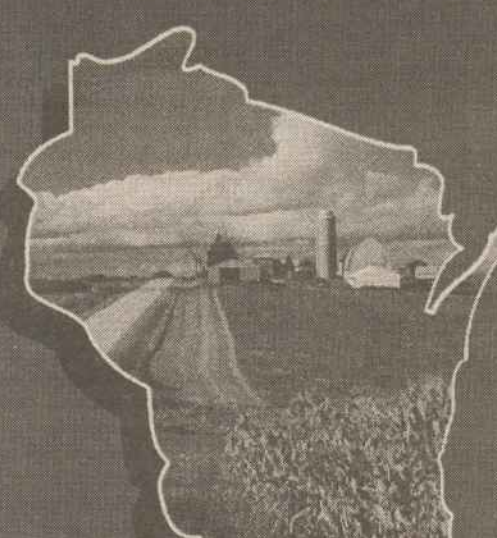
### LAMM Reschedules

**Milwaukee**—Due to inclement weather, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) has rescheduled their highway clean-up, of Hwy. 41 just north of Chicago Avenue, for Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. The original event was scheduled for Sunday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m.

The "Green Team," a group of volunteers who clean this section of highway twice a year, will meet at the Hardee's Restaurant at 10:00 a.m. for an informal breakfast (not provided) and then will proceed to clean the highway. The event is scheduled to last until 11:30 a.m.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

BEST of the BEST  
from  
**WISCONSIN**



Selected Recipes from Wisconsin's  
**FAVORITE COOKBOOKS**

### Wisconsin Light's "Cooking With Pride" recipes selected for the "Best of the Best from Wisconsin" cookbook

#### Best in All the World Mustard

4 ounces dry mustard	1 cup sugar
2/3 cup white or cider vinegar	3/4 teaspoon salt
	2 eggs

Cover dry mustard with vinegar and let stand 8 hours or overnight. Place in a double boiler. Add sugar, salt, and eggs. Just beat well, cook until thick and this will keep for months in the fridge.

*Cooking with Pride*

#### Awesome Sloppy Joes

*Interestingly delicious!*

1 1/2 - 2 pounds ground beef	1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1 tablespoon oil	1 teaspoon chili powder
1 medium onion, chopped	1 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup hot water	1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 cup catsup	1 (15-ounce) can (2 cups) pumpkin
1/2 cup tomato juice	8 hamburger buns
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg	

Brown the ground beef in a heavy skillet with the oil. Add chopped onion and cook for 5 minutes. Drain. In a large saucepan, cook the following: water, catsup, tomato juice, nutmeg, cloves, chili powder, salt, and pepper. Bring to a rolling boil. Add the meat, onions, and pumpkin. Simmer for 20 minutes. Serve on hamburger buns, or your favorite roll.

*Cooking With Pride*

#### Classic German Chocolate Pie

1 (9-inch) pie crust

**FILLING:**

4 ounces (1 bar) sweet cooking chocolate, chopped	1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter, softened (no margarine please)	2 tablespoons flour
	3 eggs, separated
	1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large saucepan over low heat, melt chocolate and butter, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat. Add sugar, flour, egg yolks, and vanilla; stir until well blended. In small bowl, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold into chocolate mixture. Pour into pie crust-lined pan. Bake 24-30 minutes or until filling is set. Remove from oven; cool while preparing topping.

**TOPPING:**

1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)	1 cup flaked coconut
1 egg	1/2 cup chopped pecans
	1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In small bowl, combine all topping ingredients; blend well. Drop by teaspoonfuls over baked filling; spread very carefully. Broil 6-8 inches from heat for 2-3 minutes or until coconut begins to brown. Watch carefully; do not burn crust. Cool on wire rack 30 minutes. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours before serving.

*Cooking with Pride*

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## ALSO AVAILABLE

The Original **"Cooking With Pride" Cookbook** featuring 400 recipes submitted by **Wisconsin Light** readers. \$6.95 each plus \$3 shipping per book (if ordering by mail). Make checks payable to: **PrideFest** and mail to 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212