

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

The Wisconsin Light

The United Calls for Nominations for Awards Banquet

Madison—The United, Madison's LGBT and Allied Social Service Agency, is accepting nominations for its Sixth Annual Community Awards Banquet to be held Friday, July 17th as part of Madison's Pride Weekend.

Interested people are urged to submit nominations for awards in the following categories: Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Organization of the Year, Ally of the Year (referring to individuals or groups that have worked to support LGBT rights from outside the LGBT community), and United Volunteer of the Year. Help us to honor the individuals and groups that serve as your role models, your inspiration or your helping hand.

Nomination forms are available through The United. Please call (608) 255-8582 or stop by the office at 14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 103 in Madison to pick up materials. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 1998. Late nominations will not be considered.

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of community members who will select the award recipients. Recipients will receive their awards at The United's Sixth Annual Community Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison.

Recognizing our local community members and their talent and dedication is important to us all, especially in the face of recent challenges to our civil rights, our family rights and freedom in our schools. The purpose of The United's Community Awards is to honor all who are fighting for our rights and lives.

Past award recipients include David Clarenbach, Jamie Nabozny, Sol Kelly-Jones, Kissing Girls Productions and the Hotel Washington, among many others.

As a part of our twentieth anniversary celebration, this year The United wishes to recognize all of the people who have worked for and volunteered at The United, and to recognize 25 years of service for the Madison Gay & Lesbian Resource Center. Thank you to everyone who made these great organizations the unique community groups they are today.

Marshfield Man Survives Gay-Bashing With Both Anger and Hope

Marshfield, WI—On Friday night, May 8, 1998, one of the leaders of the Marshfield Gay and Lesbian Organization was victimized by a Gay-basher who struck him on the head five times. The suspected assailant is currently in police custody in the Wood County jail in Wisconsin Rapids.

The victim was Victor Pilsner, 30, who had been attending a neighbor's party, not knowing he was being set up for a Gay-bash. According to those who witnessed the scene, there were five men dressed in camouflage suits with black paint on their faces. Half the group stayed at the party and, later, invited Victor to a bar.

Victor asked them if it was safe to go. They assured him that it was safe. Victor went to the bar, ordered a soda and smoked a cigarette. While he was doing this, he was hit from behind five times. Victor went to the bartender, got a phone and called 911. Six squad cars answered the call. The suspect ran through the back door and went to Cheers where he was arrested.

Victor has recovered well and will continue the struggle for Gay rights.

"Gay-bashing is a hate crime," Victor said. "It is illegal here in Wisconsin. No matter where you live in the State of Wisconsin, the law exists."

"The police were very helpful and supportive. They understand the hate crime laws. They got as much evidence as they could to lock this man up. This basher deserves to be brought to justice and be put in prison."

"I will not stop my fight against hatred. This incident gave me the push to fight more. I am still not afraid, instead I am

Gay Medical Association Issues Caution on Use of Viagra



Brewer's Hill Tour - The gothic cottage home of Michael Weber, built in 1876, is one of the stops on the Milwaukee Brewer's Hill Home and Gardens Tour. The Brewer's Hill area offers an eclectic mix of residents combined with many fine homes.

Milwaukee's Historic Brewers' Hill to Hold House and Garden Tour on June 6

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee—Every two years, the Historic Brewers' Hill Neighborhood Association holds a house tour. This year is the third time for "the House and Garden Tour." It will happen on June 6, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be bus service between sites, lectures, food vendors and a variety of entertainment. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. For ticket information, call (414) 299-0746.

There will be a lecture by former Milwaukee Mayor Frank Zeidler.

That's all the essential information. Now, let's get on with what this house and garden tour of Brewers' Hill is all about.

For those of you who don't know about Brewers' Hill, it, along with Walker's Point, is the oldest neighborhood in the city—perhaps the oldest. Neighborhood legend has it that a fur trader had his cabin rammed into the side of the hill, facing the Milwaukee river.

True or not, Brewers' Hill is still a fascinating place.

Back in the 1970's, the once magnificent neighborhood had become a pale shadow of the high toned place it once was. The houses were falling apart. This one, where Jerry and I live, was doomed to see the city's wrecking ball.

However, people, like Jerry, with a deep and abiding interest in renovating Victorian homes, began moving in here and fixing things up. Today, over 100 homes have undergone—or are undergoing—restoration and rehabilitation. (It's an eternal process, believe me.)

Walk the quiet, tree-shaded streets and you'll see the rich variety of architecture. There's Italianate, Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Federal Style designs, among others.

This year, the tour will include 9 homes and 4 commercial buildings. For example, Mason Sherwood and Mark Franke are opening their beautiful Stick-Style Car-

Please See to Brewer's Hill Page 9

Attorney Christopher Krimmer Named to Head ARCW's Expanded Legal Program

Milwaukee—The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has announced the statewide expansion of its Legal Assistance Program that provides free legal services to people with HIV and AIDS. Effective immediately, the program will expand from a Milwaukee-based service to one that is available to all people living with HIV and AIDS throughout Wisconsin.

The Legal Assistance Program provides HIV-related legal services on issues such as discrimination, access to benefits, and estate planning.

The expansion will be led by Attorney Christopher Krimmer of Milwaukee who has been named by ARCW as the director of the Legal Assistance Program. Krimmer, a Cum Laude graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, brings to ARCW a powerful background in areas of family, creditor/debtor and estate planning law and civil rights advocacy.

"With over half of the people living with HIV and AIDS residing in greater Wisconsin, the need for legal assistance is

San Francisco—The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) recently met with representatives of Pfizer Inc., which launched Viagra. At this meeting, GLMA and Pfizer discussed concerns about the impact of Viagra on the health of some Gay and Bisexual men.

Viagra and Protease Inhibitors

Specific interaction studies with Viagra and protease inhibitors have not yet been done. Thus, HIV-positive men who are taking protease inhibitors and who are considering using Viagra should carefully review what is known about Viagra with their physician. It is not known how Viagra will interact with protease inhibitors, thus caution should be taken and patients should be monitored carefully. It is believed that protease inhibitors could enhance some of the side-effects of Viagra, such as headaches and flushing.

Viagra is metabolized by the cytochrome p450 enzyme in the liver. Medications which inhibit the p450 enzyme system (specifically the 3A4 isoform) may affect the metabolism of Viagra. These include medications commonly used by HIV infected persons, such as protease inhibitors and some antibiotics, such as the newer macrolides e.g. clarithromycin and azithromycin.

When Viagra and protease inhibitors and/or antibiotics are taken together, they could cause an elevation in Viagra plasma concentrations. Medical providers should therefore consider starting these patients at the lowest possible dose of Viagra (25mg).

Viagra's approved package insert states, "higher plasma levels may increase both the efficacy and incidence of adverse events."

Viagra is a major advance in the management of erectile dysfunction, but people with HIV and their providers should remember that there are many reasons for erectile dysfunction, ranging from low levels of testosterone to depression, and that a full medical work up is indicated prior to initiating therapy with this agent.

Viagra and Poppers

Consistent with the way Viagra produces its beneficial effects, it may potentiate the hypotensive effects of nitrates in any form (particularly inhaled forms such as amyl nitrate—poppers—and is therefore contraindicated.

Poppers act by dilating blood vessels and the concurrent use of poppers and Viagra could result in sudden and marked lowering of blood pressure, which can be potentially serious or even fatal.

increasing in every region of the state," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson. "Our commitment is to assure that everyone with HIV and AIDS in Wisconsin has access to legal services."

Nelson praised the selection of Krimmer to lead the statewide Legal Assistance Program.

"Christopher is an outstanding public interest lawyer with a deep commitment to the fight against AIDS," said Nelson. "His legal expertise, leadership and advocacy skills are a tremendous asset to ARCW and guarantee that Wisconsin's AIDS community will be well served."

Krimmer expressed great enthusiasm for his new responsibilities. "I believe that directing the Legal Assistance Program will be a great opportunity to address the legal issues a person with HIV and AIDS may have, regardless of where that person resides in Wisconsin. I hope to make the Legal Assistance Program at ARCW a model to be followed by other AIDS

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**Welcome
Milwaukee Classic
Players & Fans
Good Luck to All!**

News Briefs

Navy to Promote "Don't Ask" Sailor

Washington, DC—Just months after losing a court decision for breaking the government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy in pushing officer Timothy R. McVeigh out of military service, the Navy has selected him to be promoted to its highest enlisted rank. In January, U.S. District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin ruled the Navy broke its own rules in investigating McVeigh, especially in seeking out his America Online (AOL) screen name identity. The judge further stated the Navy had violated the Electronic Communications Privacy Act by seeking the AOL information without a court order. McVeigh, an 18-year Navy veteran, was part of only 15 percent of those eligible for promotion to Master Chief Petty Officer. "I see this as a very positive development, and McVeigh has a stellar record," said Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) Staff Attorney Dixon Osborne. "I'm pleased that the Navy has seen fit to promote him."

Boy Scouts Ignore Own Policies

New York, NY—Despite exclusionary policies which ban Gay youth and atheists from becoming Boy Scouts, ostensibly because it goes against policy, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have flagrantly ignored another policy in order to honor an owner of numerous gambling casinos.

At a recent fundraiser, the Boulder Dam Area Council of the BSA awarded Las Vegas mogul E. Parry Thomas the "Good Scout Award," even though the Cub Scout Leader Book explicitly opposes gambling, and the BSA Finance Division adds that "General guidelines for money-raising projects include...no gambling." The event was held at the Treasure Island Gambling Casino.

In addition, the BSA faced a protest of concerned parents and defenders of diversity at the May 9 Orange County (California) Scout-O-Rama. On May 6, the Berkeley (California) City Council voted 8-1 to deny free marina space to the Sea Scouts, an affiliate of the BSA, because local ordinances make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or religion.

Pennsylvania Moves for Civil Rights for All

Pittsburgh—On the heels of a successful May 7 Philadelphia City Council vote for domestic partnership benefits for Lesbian and Gay city workers and tax-breaks for recognized same-sex couples throughout the city, fair-minded Pennsylvanians are seeking support for the Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative. The Initiative is focused on the introduction and adoption of twin civil rights bills to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act to include "sexual orientation" as a category in which people would be protected from discrimination. Currently, the Initiative is supported by nearly 30 diverse state organizations, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Council, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Organizers hope to have the Initiative introduced into the State Senate by early June.

Voters Dump "Gang of Five"

New York, NY—In a county where for the past year arts and education were held captive by a zealous radical religious group of county commissioners bent on an anti-Gay agenda, voters in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, primaries disbanded the "Gang of 5." One member of the gang, Commissioner George Higgins (R-Dist. 5), was trounced by challenger Tom Cox. He will face openly Gay Democratic candidate Andrew Reyes in the general November election. Councilmember Hoyle Martin (R-Dist. 2) lost his seat, but is attempting to get on the November ballot as an independent candidate. The other three won, but according to local observers, Tom Bush [R], who leads the field of the at-large position, faces strong competition from both Democrats and Republicans. "Voters are tired of the direction they [the Gang of 5] were headed in," said Jerry Fox, Assistant Campaign Manager for Reyes. "But we're not finished. We need to make sure to elect those who will make real change."

Minneapolis Paper Features Transgender Person

Minneapolis—The May 5 Minneapolis Star-Tribune featured an in-depth profile of Debra Davis, a local transgender librarian. Davis, who was born David Nielsen, is the head librarian in a Minneapolis high school and recently underwent gender reassignment surgery. The article follows Davis through her first week back at school. "Quietly, over the past six weeks, Davis and officials of the Minneapolis public schools and other advisers have been putting together a plan to help make the transition from Nielsen to Davis in the workplace. It has not been easy. Their hope is that the change will be minimally disruptive to students, faculty and parents," writes reporter Rosalind Bentley.

"The topic is not an easy one for many people to understand. Davis is not a cross-dresser, which usually is defined as a person who merely enjoys dressing as the opposite sex. Nor does Davis identify as transsexual—people who decide to have their body surgically altered to correspond with the gender they identify with. Davis falls under the broader term 'transgender,' applied to people who live as the opposite gender in appearance and behavior but may or may not have their bodies surgically altered."

She continues to say that "[a]lthough Davis is not the first educator nationally or locally to come out as transgender, it appears that she is the first secondary school educator in the state—and possibly the nation—to have direct, daily contact with students."

Please thank the Minneapolis Star-Tribune for their lucid discussion of sexual identity, and for their very human portrait of a courageous, transgender educator. Contact: Pamela Fine, Managing Editor, Minneapolis Star-Tribune, 425 Portland Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55488, fax: 612.673.4359.

KCET Moves "In The Life"

Los Angeles—After requests from In the Life and GLAAD, Los Angeles' public television station KCET-TV recently decided to move the time slot for In the Life. The program, seen on over 100 public television stations nationwide, is an award-winning Gay and Lesbian series. Previously, the program had no secure time slot on the station, and was aired at midnight or 12:30 AM. In a letter sent to KCET this week, GLAAD wrote, "As the only television series devoted exclusively to the issues that face the Lesbian and Gay community, In the Life is a resource of unquestionable quality. GLAAD strongly encourages KCET to move the program to 11:00 PM so that more individuals have the opportunity to watch this excellent show." On May 7, the station decided to begin airing the program this July at 11:00 PM.

Besides the inconsistent air times, In the Life's late time slots made building an audience of loyal viewers almost impossible. "We are very pleased that KCET has committed to a better time slot," John Catania, In the Life's Director of Communications, told GLAAD. "An airtime of 11:00 PM or earlier is consistent with stations in other major television markets and gives In the Life a better chance to build an audience in Los Angeles, an important media and television center home to a large and vibrant Gay and Lesbian community."

Juneau Empire Jabs Anti-Gay Judgement

Juneau, AK—On May 1, the Juneau [Alaska] Empire featured an op-ed by Janice Gregg Levy urging state legislators to dump a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. "I enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of marriage," Levy writes. "My husband and I are secure in knowing that we can and will take care of each other - physically, emotionally, financially and legally." She points out a number of financial protections she and her husband share, including joint insurance and estate planning as well as legal protections such as power of attorney and next-of-kin authority in medical emergencies. "These effects of a government-recognized relationship have nothing to do with sex....The state neither requires sex within a marriage, nor prohibits sex outside of it," she says. "She adds, "Reexamination of societal beliefs and traditions eventually broke down 'core family values' such as segregated schools, prohibition of marriage between [races], prohibition on women voting and many other forms of discrimination....Please abandon all efforts to amend our constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage."

Black Caucus Seeks AIDS State of Emergency

Washington, DC-AP- The Congressional Black Caucus wants Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna Shalala to declare a "state of emergency" in the black community over HIV and AIDS, which is the leading killer of blacks 25-44 years old.

"This is a national crisis ... and we cannot rest until it is considered as one," Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said. She chairs the 39-member caucus.

An HHS spokeswoman said the department was reviewing its options.

Waters announced the decision to call for the HHS designation after a meeting at the Capitol involving caucus members, AIDS activists and medical professionals.

The government allocated about \$3 billion for AIDS this year; President Clinton has proposed increasing that to \$3.8 billion in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Benny Primm, executive director of the Addiction Research and Treatment Corp. in New York, said blacks, who are 13 percent of the population, account for 36 percent of all AIDS cases.

Anglicans May Approve Same-Sex Unions

Vancouver, BC-AP- This province's Anglicans have given a cautious thumbs-up to the blessing in church of same-sex couples.

But final benediction for the move will have to await the approval of New Westminster Bishop Michael Ingham, who said he won't make a decision until he has talked with fellow bishops.

After a vigorous debate, Anglicans representing the diocese's 80 churches voted 179 to 170 in support the blessing at their annual meeting, held at Capilano College.

As passed, the motion would allow individual priests to opt out of giving the blessing.

Ingham's final decision on the motion will follow a summer conference in Canterbury, England, attended by Anglican bishops from around the world.

"The issue of homosexuality will be a major issue at that worldwide conference and I intend to go and listen to the discussions before I make up my mind," said Ingham, who can veto the B.C. vote.

Ingham said the blessing is not a wedding, but rather an acknowledgement of a commitment made by two people of the same sex to each other.

The United Church of Canada has blessed same-sex couples for the past 10 years, and also supports the ordination of homosexuals.

Some European churches also recognize homosexual unions, as do some Episcopal churches in the United States.

"Sun News" Shows Its Pride

Myrtle Beach, SC—Ever since organizers announced that South Carolina's Pride98 would be held in Myrtle Beach and subsequent controversy erupted, the Myrtle Beach Sun News has provided accurate, in-depth reports of all points of view. The week leading up to and the week of Pride98 saw a flurry of interviews, columns and features about Pride98, and about the local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community in general.

Also, during each day of the festival, the Sun News ran a schedule of that day's and week's events. In its weekend section, it featured a dance party with RuPaul along with the city's other weekend events, avoiding the temptation to partition the Pride98 events into an exclusively Gay section, or worse, not even mention them at all.

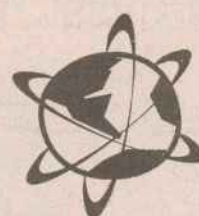
The Sun News ran so many stories over the past few months there is not space to credit them all. Noteworthy ones included: "Lesbian couple proud of life they lead," (April 24) by Yolanda Jones, which is a sensitive profile of a local Lesbian-headed family; "Struggle for Gay rights not new," (April 30) by Katie Merx, chronicling the history of the struggle for civil rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people.

Since November 1997, the Sun News has published about 40 stories on Pride98, including stories on the opponents of the event and equal rights for Gay people.

Please share your appreciation with the Myrtle Beach Sun News for its fair, inclusive and accurate portrayals of its Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender neighbors.

Contact: John X. Miller, Managing Editor, The Sun News, 914 Frontage Road East, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29577-6700, fax: 803.626.0356

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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Hosts National Community Centers Conference

Milwaukee—Milwaukee was host to the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Community Centers conference for the Western-Midwest Region April 24-26, 1998.

More than 31 board members, staff and volunteers from nine community centers shared stories, participated in seminars and taught each other how to build successful community centers.

Representatives from Horizons Community Services - Chicago, Illinois, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center - New York, New York, Gay and Lesbian Community Center of the Ozarks - Springfield, Missouri, Out Front Minnesota - Minneapolis, Minnesota, Gay Lesbian Resource Center - Des Moines, Iowa, Lesbian Gay Community Center of Greater Kansas City - Missouri, Central Minnesota Lesbian Center - St. Cloud, Minnesota, Aurora Lesbian Center - Duluth, Minnesota and Milwaukee LGBT Community Center participated.

Stephanie Hume, a member of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center board of directors, was integral in organizing the conference and securing Milwaukee as the location.

"In order to have our center be successful, it is important we utilize the strengths of other community centers in our region," said Hume. "Meeting people from the other community centers gave us a sense of the bigger picture. We met people who run their centers entirely with volunteers and others who have 25 people on staff," Hume reflected.

Carlie Steen and Carmen Vasquez staff members at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York, led a session called *Promote the Vote*, to encourage community centers to register voters and make their communities aware of political issues.

Ann DeGroot, Executive Director, at Out Front Minnesota and Milwaukee LGBT Community Center member, Karen Gotzler taught participants about board development. A fundraising and membership development seminar was presented by Jen Enka from Milwaukee's 9 to 5 and Sheila Zelenski, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Co-President.

Another topic during the conference was volunteer recruitment. Participants become involved with their local community centers for a variety of reasons.

DeGroot works to "bring diversity together and build true community." One of the most popular reasons for becoming involved with a community center was to create a better coming out experience for youth.

Others reported they became involved with their community centers because someone recognized their talents and asked them to be involved. Some became involved because they recognized a need in their community.

Such was the case with Charles Ewing, who got involved when he and his partner were driving by to see where the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of the Ozarks was located. Upon seeing the appearance of the center, Ewing's partner, an interior decorator commented, "This is not going to work." Ewing's partner redecorated the community center and Ewing later became vice-president of the board.

Hume concluded, "The best thing about the weekend was hearing the stories about the other community centers -- the challenges, knowing we aren't alone and see-

ing where we are at in relationship to other centers."

Participants agreed the experience was valuable and agreed to meet again in four months.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 240 members. The Center's mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Milwaukee area. This mission is supported by the vision to provide a home for organizations, businesses, culture and diversity; advocate for and provide programs and services that meet the needs of our communities; and educate the public and our communities about our lives. For more information, visit the Center's web site at www.mkelgbt.com or call the Center's Hotline at (414) 483-4710.

HIV Prevention Workshop Presented "Anything Butt..."

Milwaukee—"Anything Butt..." an innovative Gay men's health workshop, was among the many examples of HIV prevention programs brought to Wisconsin during a recent statewide training.

The Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program of ARCW's Milwaukee office recently hosted a day-long workshop on HIV prevention and Gay men's health. Twenty five AIDS prevention educators from across Wisconsin attended the workshop, led by Chris Bartlett, Project Coordinator for the Safeguards Project at the AIDS Information Network in Philadelphia.

Bartlett presented his research about incorporating Gay men's health issues into an HIV prevention program in Philadelphia. He shared examples of health programs that educate and empower Gay men including a Hepatitis vaccination campaign and a service directory of Gay-friendly health care providers.

One highlight of the training was a presentation about Bartlett's unique workshop series about healthy anal sex called "Anything Butt." "It was such a unique concept to have a group of Gay men get together to talk about anal sex and what it meant to them. It makes a lot of sense to incorporate this kind of dialogue into an HIV prevention program," said Andy Bagnall, Manager of the Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program.

Bagnall coordinated the workshop, which was made possible through Centers for Disease Control supplemental funding.

"In the late 1990's, HIV prevention programs are challenged with the task of reintegrating HIV and AIDS back into the larger health care needs of Gay and bisexual men without losing the important messages of safer sex and HIV. Chris helped us to begin to think how this might work in Wisconsin and gave us some great examples of programs that could meet the needs of men in our community," said Bagnall.

HIV prevention staff from all ARCW offices, the AIDS Network in Madison, BESTD Clinic, Center for AIDS Intervention Research, the State HIV/AIDS Program, STD Specialties and UMOS the attended the workshop.

St. Camillus Opens New Residence for PLWA's

Milwaukee—St. Camillus Manor, a newly renovated central city apartment building, officially began operations on May 1. Under the sponsorship of the Camillian priests and brothers, the facility provides safe, supportive and affordable housing to individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The program is under the direction of Camillian Brother Stephen Braddock.

Capuchin Franciscan Fathers Robert Wheelock and Mike Sullivan are living in residence as part of a collaborative ministry with Bro. Braddock and St. Camillus.

"We saw a need for additional housing opportunities in the central city for persons with HIV disease," Braddock said. "While autonomous, St. Camillus Manor and Raphael House residents do interact and support each other."

The property was purchased and renovated with funding from the Camillian Order's North American Province. The new facility will be dedicated during a ceremony on an undetermined date in June.

Circus Weekend at St. Camillus Campus

Milwaukee—A fun Fathers Day weekend will be had by young and old alike as the Junior Chamber Mission Inn Foundation and St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry host the Liebel Family Circus on June 19-21, 1998, for five performances under the Big Top.

Clowns, elephants, monkeys, horses, dangerous high wire acts and more all come together in the one ring European

tradition.

"We're inviting as many handicapped and underprivileged children as we can and just as importantly, the proceeds will be used to help benefit the Mission Inn—dedicated to helping children with HIV/AIDS," said Camillian Brother Stephen Braddock.

Show times are: Friday, June 19th, 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, June 20th and 21st, 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Ticket prices in advance are \$6 children and adults and can be ordered by calling toll free: 1-877-494-7469.

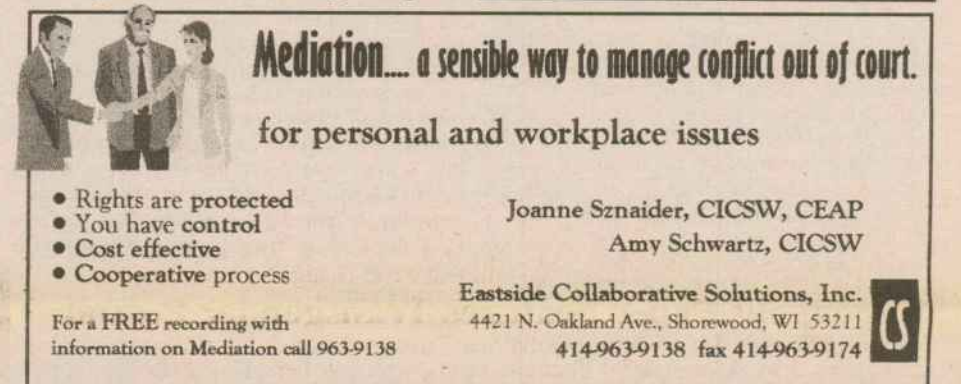
Tickets will also be available at the gate and are \$8 adults and \$6 children 12 and under.



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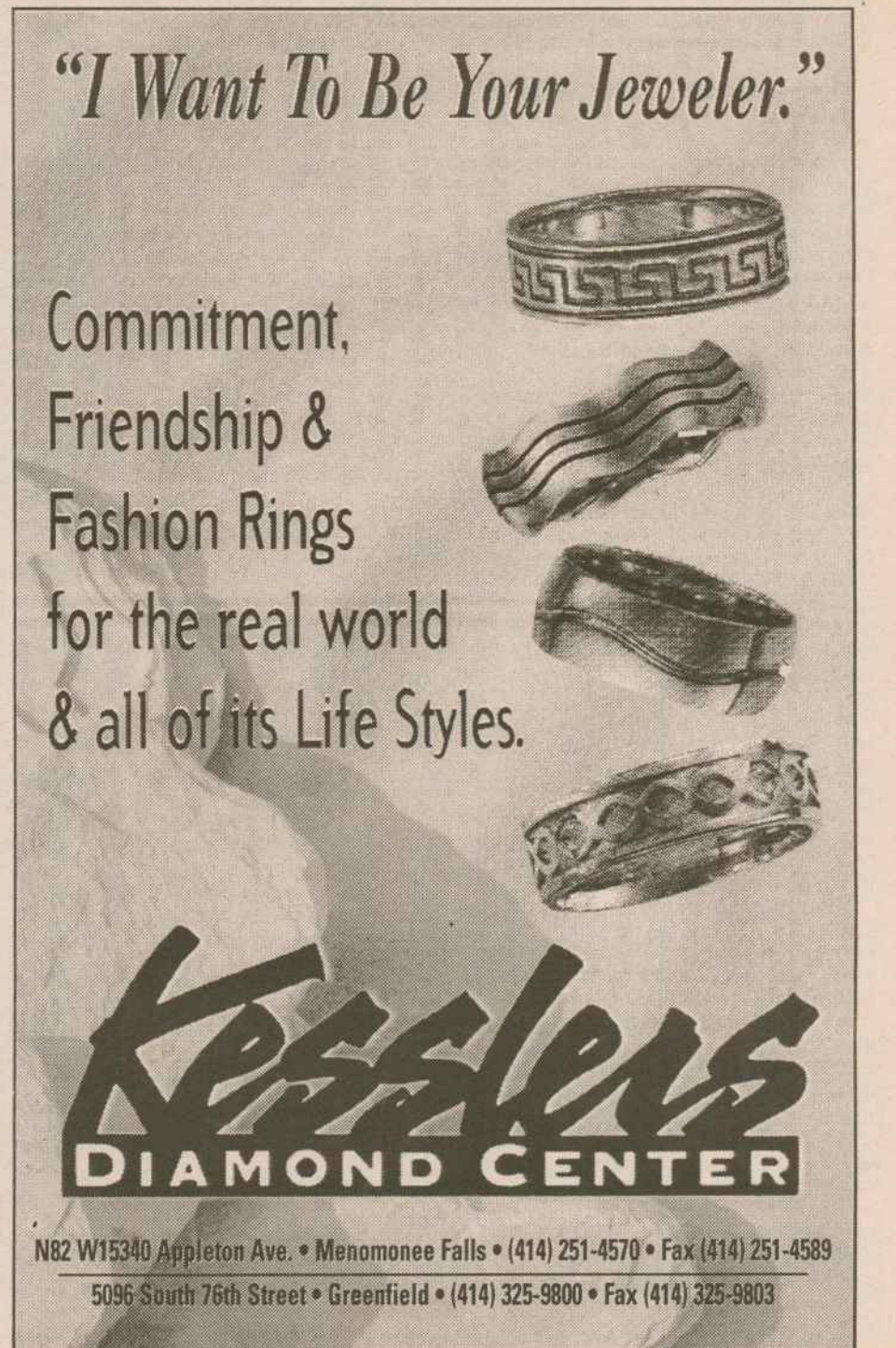
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Editorial

Welcome Milwaukee Classic

On May 23 and 24, a Gay and Lesbian sports tradition, The Milwaukee Classic will again make its annual appearance. Milwaukee's Wick Field will again be the site of fierce competition, great plays and a good time.

The Classic is special to Milwaukee. It is Gay America's first Softball tournament. Although it has changed somewhat over the years, the same spirit of friendly competition, building bridges between Gay communities in different cities and fostering friendships remains its central focus.

Tournament Commissioner, Tommy Salzsieder and his volunteers are owed the thanks of our community for all of their efforts. We are proud to say they are part of our Wisconsin community. We also extend our thanks to the Cream City Foundation and the Miller Brewing Company for the financial support they have once again extended to the Classic.

Last but by no means least, we thank all of those players from around the Midwest and Canada who have honored us with their participation. Welcome to Milwaukee and good luck to all of the teams.

Letters

Texas Politics

TO THE EDITOR:

From mid-April to mid-November of 197, I lived in Austin before moving to San Francisco. During my stay there, I worked in the fundraising call center for the Republican Party of Texas for about seven months before I finally left Austin. I made phoner of the month in June and July and second place in September and October while working there. This created two first place monthly bonuses of \$100 each and two second place bonuses of \$50 each for me.

I do believe that my native deep Southern accent and voice was a major asset for my GOP fundraising there. This made me sound very believable over the phone as a good ol' boy, Southern "redneck," conservative Republican. I am really a liberal Democrat with most issues and candidates.

I had to contend with constant subtle and overt homophobia, favoritism, mismanagement etc., from supervisors and co-workers while working for the Texas GOP. The much-needed huge amount of pledge money that was coming in from my phone calls is why the two homophobic (of the three) supervisors (and their higher-up protectors in office) did not engage in a vicious effort to fire or harass me into quitting. I finally left on my own.

I experienced a lot of jealousy from co-workers about my fundraising ability and often overheard homophobic remarks from some of them about me.

Several months after I began working there,

the supervisors enacted an assigned seating arrangement for phoners that changed on a monthly basis. Some of my co-workers did not want to sit next to me because they knew and hated the fact that I am Gay. Supervisors and co-workers candy-coated this behavior with other excuses.

I don't believe that changing jobs would have made an improved difference for me or any other known or suspected Gay person in Austin.

Before my departure, I had some discussion about my allegations and experience with higher-up officials in the Texas GOP office including the finance officer, Jill Johnson. She got her position after state party Chairman, Tom Pauken, resigned to run for Attorney General and was replaced by long-time vice-chair, Susan Weddington while I was working there. Susan is not related to Sara Weddington who successfully argued the "Roe v. Wade" case before the Supreme Court.

Over the years, Pauken has aligned himself and the Texas GOP with the radical right. He has become a constant rabid critic of Governor George W. Bush (a moderate Republican who has progressively distanced himself from the radical right since his election). Pauken's endless feud with Bush has ended any chance of him being elected Attorney General or to any other statewide position in Texas. I am quite sure that the popular incumbent, Dan Morales (a Democrat) will easily win re-election in November.

David Raffield
San Francisco

In Space, No One Can Hear You Scream Or Why We Should Care About "Babegate"

Commentary by Mary Shafer

Borrowing popular outer space metaphor: I believe Commander Billy has been launching his rocket into the wrong black holes. Frankly, I couldn't care less. But I have to.

Since I was old enough to vote, I watched with dismay as twelve years of oppressive federal administration systematically beat the spirit out of this country. I saw the effects of policies of two radically conservative, out-of-touch old men: a failing economy, a demoralized citizenry, and the subtle but insidious approval of institutionalized hatred against all that wasn't white, middle class, straight and Bible-believing.

Then, in 1992, I watched with glee as an unlikely character from the South accurately gauged this zeitgeist and somehow managed to become its voice.

His campaign was riddled with allegations of a tendency to dabble in conjugal relations outside his marriage. Several times, it appeared the newcomer was down for the count, but he pressed on, earning the sobriquet "Comeback Kid."

In the end, he parlayed his ability to perceive and address the real needs of our nation into an unexpected upset of the prevailing regime. I was thrilled.

I didn't care if he liked women other than his wife. She didn't seem too concerned, either. After awhile, I developed my own theories about that relationship.

Anyway, he was speaking to issues that concerned me. And he was the first president to ever publicly utter the "L" word—and I don't mean "liberal." Things were definitely looking up.

But the demons never really went away. They just seemed to lie cocooned for a time while the country allowed him to actually lead, get us back on our collective feet, make us feel better about ourselves.

He did, by reminding us to take responsibility for our behavior, embrace our differences, learn to get along. It was a real and palpable morality—not the kind you just give lip service to—and it affected everyone.

Now, well into his second term in of-

office, the demons have leapt, Alien-like, from the shadows. What roused them? It's really not hard to figure out.

In November, Congressional races will be decided, and GOP members are desperate to hang on to their majority. In a period of prosperity and general contentment such as we haven't experienced in 30 years, the Republican party—that of mean-spirited divisiveness and exclusion—is hard-pressed to give anyone a reason to vote for them. The sting of their trickle-down hatred and fuzzy economic thinking is still felt.

In the absence of any substantial legislation to offer, they need political lasers to shoot. Conveniently disregarding the dalliances of their own highly visible members (anyone recall Newt Gingrich leaving his wife on her deathbed for a younger woman?), they cloud the screen with these "moral" allegations.

They dredge up case after case of alleged "sexual harassment" by the President, hoping this controversy will be some ammunition, however feeble, against an administration that has clearly served the majority of the people well for nearly six years.

So, what does all this have to do with the LesBiGay community?

Plenty. Generally, an incumbent party will remain in office when people are, on the whole, satisfied. Under such circumstances, the populace becomes complacent; voter turnout drops significantly. Low voter participation always bodes well for the Republican party; in fact, they count on it for much of their success.

While more liberal and progressive forces rest on their laurels—a dangerous game—the GOP can rely on its core constituency, Right-Wing fundamentalists, to be its stalwarts at the polls.

While this wealthy and politically active group is being whipped into a righteous frenzy, a president who has—however imperfectly—addressed our needs, now requires our support.

Lulled into false security, many of us won't go to the polls. Into my mind springs the image of Robot from the

1960s TV drama "Lost In Space," madly flailing his dryer-vent arms and warning loudly, "Danger, Will Robinson! Danger!"

Even without the threat of impeachment of our most politically effective ally, we should realize this is a time when, with fewer votes being cast overall, each one we create or sway in service to our issues has unusual political potency. Now is the time for us to mobilize around strengthening our hand on the issues of equal civil rights for people of alternative sexual orientation. Who knows what the outcome will be of this latest Washington circus?

Conveniently forgetting that most of our most effective presidents have been avid skirt-chasers, pundits have equated Clinton's sexcapades of (what was meant to be) a private and personal nature with the very public and political transgressions of Nixon during Watergate.

This questionable comparison only points up the desperation of conservatives to inflate a non-issue to crisis proportions. Unfortunately, the sick hunger of the media for something to take up the slack of

sensationalism left in the wake of O.J. Simpson, JonBenet Ramsey and Princess Diana is playing right into their hands, and may actually sway opinion enough to remove the president from office.

Regardless, in recent years we truly have "boldly gone where no man has gone before." In November, whether we're voting for Al Gore as sitting president, Al Gore the pretender to the presidency, or some other voice that has the possibility to carry on our struggles, we need to make sure progress continues by making our voices heard. Without continued vigilance, we may find all the gains we've experienced being threatened by a collision with the dreaded Republican asteroid.

KRIMMER

Continued From Page 1

service organizations across the nation," said Krimmer.

One way he hopes to achieve this goal is for ARCW lawyers to zealously represent people with HIV or AIDS, connect them with other ARCW resources and alleviate some of the practical and personal ramifications of a person's legal case.

"The legal process is often quite confusing and frustrating if people with HIV and AIDS are in poor health or are working hard to maintain their health. The last thing they need is the burden of fighting through this legal maze," Krimmer said. "I believe that the essence of being a lawyer is to be a strong advocate for the client, and I look forward to representing and assisting clients with HIV and AIDS in their legal endeavors."

Krimmer has been a Cooperating Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin where he assisted in representing Gay and Lesbian clients, and worked with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

Krimmer has volunteered with The United of Madison and in the Legal Department of AIDS Network in Madison. He has lectured on the dynamics of same sex domestic violence to organizations such as Dane County Advocates.

Krimmer also assists in the Gay and Lesbian sensitivity training for Milwaukee Police Department recruits. He was a Cum Laude graduate from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1993.

At ARCW, Krimmer assumes responsibility for the delivery of a wide array of HIV related legal services including estate planning; insurance and public benefit assistance; disability benefits; civil rights; discrimination; breach of confidentiality; landlord/tenant and debtor/creditor issues; child and family issues; municipal ordinance violations; consumer and criminal law.

Krimmer is available by appointment to meet with individuals with HIV and AIDS at ARCW offices located in Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Rhinelander, Superior and Wausau. ARCW's Legal Assistance Program is also available to the HIV/AIDS community in Madison and South central Wisconsin.

Funding for the ARCW Legal Assistance Program is provided by the State of Wisconsin Division of Health and private donations to ARCW.

Prior to the statewide expansion, ARCW had subcontracted with the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee for legal services.

"We are grateful to the Legal Aid Society for their support of ARCW clients over the past nine years," Nelson said. "They have served Milwaukee area clients well. ARCW is pleased to expand these services throughout all of Wisconsin."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact ARCW at (414) 273-1991 or 800-359-9272.

Deadlines

June 4th Issue

Articles Friday, May 29th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—May 29th

Camera Ready—June 1st

5:00 p.m.

June 18th Issue

Articles—Friday, June 12th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—June 12th

Camera Ready—June 15th

5:00 p.m.

Caution

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GOP Will Lose the House if it Endorses Right Wing, Log Cabin Head Warns

New York, NY—One-time Nebraska front-runner Rep. Jon Christensen's last-minute attacks in the Republican gubernatorial primary backfired as Lincoln, Nebraska Mayor Mike Johanns easily won the nomination Tuesday, May 5.

Christensen, wept as he gave his concession speech, then looked down at a row of photographers in front of him. "You guys up front here taking my picture -- I beg...that you don't use one of me crying," he said. "This may be the last time I'm in the paper."

With 64 percent of precincts reporting, Johanns had 41 percent of the vote. State Auditor John Breslow was second with 29 percent, while Christensen trailed with 28 percent.

Christensen had been a front-runner in the race after a late entry. In the final days of the campaign, Christensen announced he would never hire a Gay or Lesbian person to work in his state government.

In Wisconsin, Congress Mark Neumann told a Right Wing group the same thing. Neumann is currently running for the U.S. Senate.

Christensen's anti-Gay stance won the endorsement of religious extremist leader James Dobson of the Colorado-based Focus on the Family.

Christensen also bragged to reporters that his fiancée, a former Miss America, was a virgin and unleashed a barrage of negative attacks against Johanns, who positioned himself as the centrist in the race.

Christensen, a 35-year-old fundamentalist Christian, stood by the attacks, saying they would "be a rallying cry for social conservatives."

Johanns welcomed the backlash. "Thank you, Jon Christensen, for energizing my team with your shabby campaign tactics," he said. "They are motivated and going to be out there in droves."

Log Cabin Republicans had joined others in condemning Christensen's tactics. "It's the kind of extreme and hateful Gay-washing that makes a substantial number of swing voters disgusted with the Republican Party at a national level," said Richard Tafel, Log Cabin's executive director.

"Jon Christensen not only endorsed discrimination, he promised to practice blatant discrimination against people in his own office by dismissing a person's merit and focusing on their sexual orientation," Tafel said. "It's ridiculous to believe that there will not be a single Gay person working anywhere in the entire state government, so what he is proposing is off the deep end."

In recent weeks, Dobson has issued public threats against the GOP that unless it adopts his far right social agenda, he will lead a revolt against the party among his followers. Dobson and anti-Gay ac-

tivist Gary Bauer have funded a number of far right candidates in GOP primaries this year with the aim of defeating moderate Republican front-runners.

Dobson demanded a high-level meeting with GOP Congressional leaders last week, at which he reportedly repeated his threats of a revolt again.

"It's clear that Jon Christensen is a foot soldier in the Dobson and Bauer army," Tafel said. "And if the Republican Party marches with him, it will march off a cliff -- we will lose the House in 1998."

AT&T and Unions Reach Accord on Domestic Partners

Washington, DC—The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) praised AT&T and two of its unions for reaching agreement on a contract that includes domestic partner benefits for the company's Gay and Lesbian employees.

"Every time a Fortune 100 company institutes these benefits, it demonstrates that domestic partner benefits make good business sense," said HRC Education Director Kim Mills, who oversees workplace issues for the organization. "AT&T and the unions agreed to these benefits in one of the most congenial negotiating sessions ever—further evidence that these benefits are a cost-effective means of attracting and keeping good employees."

"This is historic," said Linda Escalante, Co-President of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgendered United Employees at AT&T (LEAGUE). "LEAGUE congratulates AT&T, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) on treating AT&T employees with equity and fairness in the bargaining process."

Founded in 1987, LEAGUE at AT&T is the oldest LGBT employee organization and serves as a model for many other employee groups around the country.

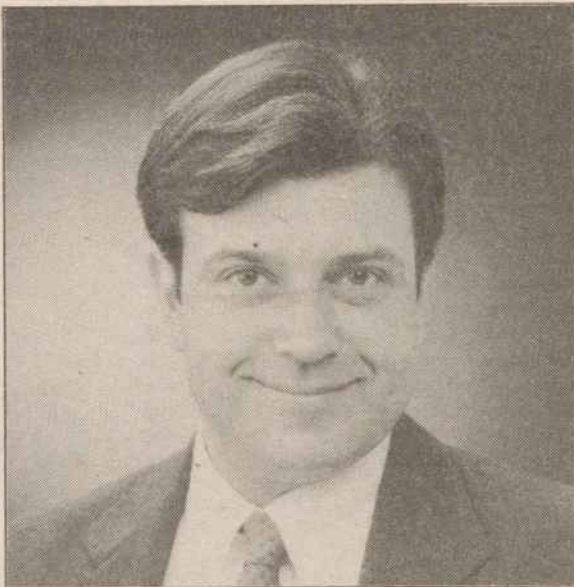
AT&T, CWA and IBEW announced today that they have reached a tentative agreement on a four-year contract. The settlement came nearly three weeks before the expiration of the current contract.

"Once this contract is ratified, AT&T will join the growing ranks of major U.S. corporations that have realized domestic partner benefits amount to equal pay for equal work," Mills said.

The Human Rights Campaign has documented more than 500 U.S. employers that offer such benefits to their Gay and Lesbian employees. Among them are such household names as Disney, Kodak, IBM, Hewlett Packard and Reebok.

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New Study Finds HIV Patients Not Taking Medications or Take "Drug Holidays"

Wilmington, DE—A new national survey examining patients' compliance to HIV medications found that 43% of patients admit to not taking their medications as prescribed.

HIV-treating physicians also estimated that 54% of their patients do not properly adhere to medication requirements, therefore dramatically reducing the effectiveness of potent new drug "cocktails" and potentially resulting in multi-drug resistant strains of HIV.

The study, "Adherence to Antiretroviral Regimens in HIV Infected Patients: Results of a Survey Among Patients and Physicians" was published this month in the *Journal of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care* and was sponsored by The Dupont Merck Pharmaceutical Company.

The study demonstrates that while new drug cocktails for the treatment of HIV offer hope to physicians and patients, sometimes these regimens may fail. Treatment failure may result from pre-existing drug-resistant strains of HIV or from resistance that develops during antiretroviral therapy.

On average, six percent of anti-HIV prescriptions are never filled by patients

"Resistance to HIV medications can quickly occur because of inadequate drug combinations or inadequate adherence to therapy," said Joel E. Gallant, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of medicine, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"Even mild degrees of non-compliance can lead to resistance," Gallant said. "Once resistant strains of HIV are present, the patient's treatment options are narrowed and sometimes entirely exhausted."

According to the study, nearly all patients (93%) understood that taking anti-HIV drugs properly would prolong their lives. Despite this high level of awareness, one-fourth of patients (26%) disclosed personal non-adherence in the prior day and almost half (43%) admitted to non-adherence in the prior week. Furthermore, slightly more than half (54%) professed to know others who were non-adherent because of complicated dosing regimens.

In the HIV-treating physicians segment of the study, doctors estimated that more

than half (54%) of their HIV patients missed doses or were otherwise non-compliant with medication in the previous month. Physicians estimated that on average, six percent of anti-HIV prescriptions are never filled by patients.

The study also identified an alarming trend among HIV patients who—because of new drug cocktails—are living longer. Non-compliance appeared to become worse in patients with prolonged use of anti-HIV drugs.

Drug holidays—periods during which a patient stopped taking the drug regimen completely—increased from an average duration of 6.2 days for patients on therapy for two to 12 months, to an average duration of 14.4 days for those on therapy for more than 25 months. Nearly one-fourth (23%) of all patients reported having taken an drug holiday.

According to the study, many HIV-treating physicians may solely rely on limited indicators to identify patients who are non-compliant. Physicians typically realized patients had been non-compliant when they observed an increase in a patient's viral load (62%), when a patient informed them of non-compliant behavior (42%) or when they asked their patients about non-compliance (12%). Other indicators included decreases in CD4 cell counts (15%) and increases in symptoms (13%).

Increases in viral load or decreases in CD4 cell counts may not necessarily be the result of patient non-compliance. Pre-existing viral resistance or ineffective drug regimens may also be the cause. However, many physicians continue to rely upon viral load and CD4 count measurements as indicators of non-adherence. As a consequence, the majority of the physicians (84%) reported limiting certain drugs due to concerns about patient compliance.

When asked for suggestions on how to improve adherence, 74% of physicians identified simplification of the dosing regimen as the most important intervention and 24% of patients identified this as a potential solution. These simplifications included using medications without food restrictions, using one-daily dosing regimens or having medications with simpler regimens and fewer doses per day.

Please Read

By Gerardo Montemayor

Victim Advocate, Anti-Violence Project

For many people, Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer and has become a busy weekend for activities and nightlife. For some, Chicago has become a tourist destination for this weekend and other weekends throughout the year. Welcome to all the Bear Pride or International Mr. and Ms. Leather participants and other visitors this Memorial Day weekend and visitors throughout the year. Whether you live in the Chicago area or are visiting us, here is some important reading.

In preparation for summer and warmer weather, Horizon's Anti-Violence Project, a victim assistance and advocacy program serving the LGBT or HIV/AIDS impacted victims of violence and discrimination since 1988, wants to share information regarding prevention of violence and protection in the event violence occurs.

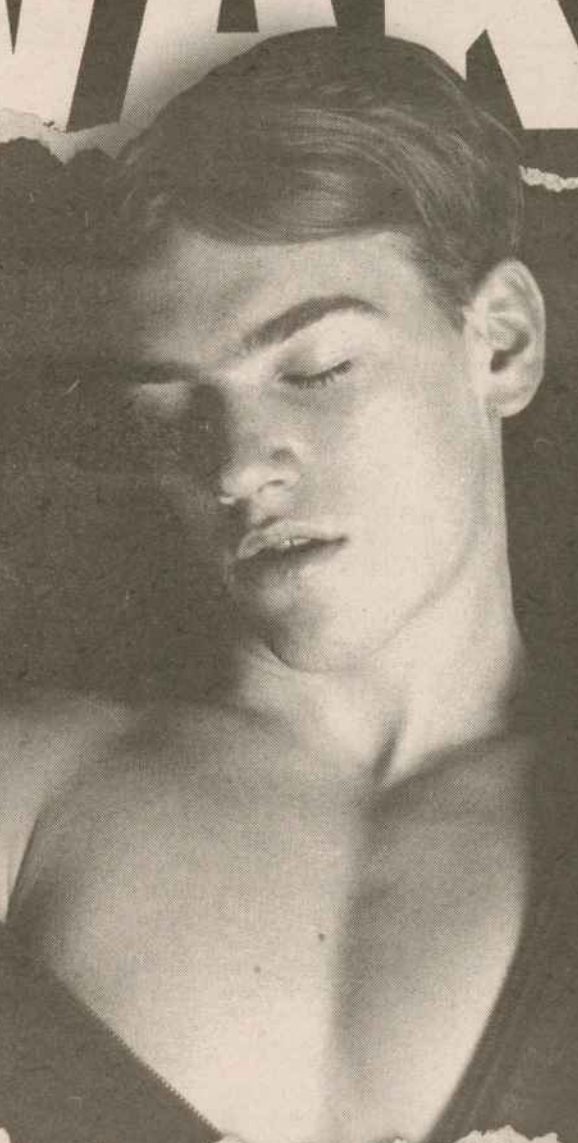
For Prevention, We Suggest the Following:

- Hang out in groups of people instead of being alone. There's strength in numbers. Realize that no neighborhood is safe. Violence can occur all over the city and suburbs. Stay in well-lighted, higher traffic areas if possible.
- Always stay aware of your surroundings and people in your surroundings. Stay sober and mentally alert if you plan to be out in public. Trust your instincts to avoid someone by crossing the street, walking away, going indoors, etc.
- Stay focused while on the street. Consider how headphones, drugs, alcohol, emotional stress and discussion can distract you from keeping safe. Asking for a match or change or asking the time of day is a common means of distraction used by street criminals just before committing a crime.
- Carry a noise-making device to sound an alarm if there is an attack. Have your keys available (in your hand) for quick entry into your car, home or apartment. If you choose to carry mace or pepper spray, realize it can be taken from and used against you. If you carry chemical protection, be mentally prepared to use it and be informed on its proper use.
- Use caution when meeting people via the internet, e-mail or classified ads. Meet in a public space and realize that at any point you can say no to further activity. Be aware of the risks taken when you socialize (go home) with a stranger.
- If you go home with a stranger, introduce that person to your friends beforehand. Let them know the time frame you plan to spend with that person and ask them to worry about you (and perhaps, call the police) in the event you are missing too long.
- Watch out for "roofies" or other drugs that can affect your mental awareness being added to your drink. Get your own drink, hold on to it at all times (even in the restroom) and stop drinking immediately if you notice odd side effects. You can also make sure to order closed-container drinks, such as beer, soda or bottled water and open yourself.

If Violence Occurs

- Prioritize your personal safety first. Get away from whoever is hurting you. It's okay to run in order to protect yourself. If attacked, protect your head, eyes and midsection from too much damage. If you are hurt or suffer several blows to the head, get medical attention.
- Write yourself a narrative of the incident with as much detail as possible to keep details accurate. Call the police if you want to press charges. Call the AVP Hotline—773-871-CARE—for documentation, referrals, information and support. Don't blame yourself for someone else's violent behavior.
- Be aware of options available if you are victimized by hate crime, domestic violence, discrimination or police misconduct/abuse. Horizon's Anti-Violence Project operates a 24 hour crisis line which provides counseling, referrals and information and advocacy.

WAKE UP



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

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WHILE YOU STILL CAN.



Meeting of the Minds - HIV prevention specialists from throughout Wisconsin met in Milwaukee to learn about incorporating Gay Men's Health Issues into HIV prevention.

HIV Prevention Workshop Presented "Anything Butt..."

Milwaukee—"Anything Butt..." an innovative Gay men's health workshop, was among the many examples of HIV prevention programs brought to Wisconsin during a recent statewide training.

The Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program of ARCW's Milwaukee office recently hosted a day-long workshop on HIV prevention and Gay men's health. Twenty five AIDS prevention educators from across Wisconsin attended the workshop, led by Chris Bartlett, Project Coordinator for the Safeguards Project at the AIDS Information Network in Philadelphia.

Bartlett presented his research about incorporating Gay men's health issues into an HIV prevention program in Philadelphia. He shared examples of health programs that educate and empower Gay men including a Hepatitis vaccination campaign and a service directory of Gay-friendly health care providers.

One highlight of the training was a

presentation about Bartlett's unique workshop series about healthy anal sex called "Anything Butt." "It was such a unique concept to have a group of Gay men get together to talk about anal sex and what it meant to them. It makes a lot of sense to incorporate this kind of dialogue into an HIV prevention program," said Andy Bagnall, Manager of the Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program.

Bagnall coordinated the workshop, which was made possible through Centers for Disease Control supplemental funding.

"In the late 1990's, HIV prevention programs are challenged with the task of reintegrating HIV and AIDS back into the larger health care needs of Gay and bisexual men without losing the important messages of safer sex and HIV. Chris helped us to begin to think how this might work in Wisconsin and gave us some great examples of programs that could meet the needs of men in our community," said Bagnall.

HIV prevention staff from all ARCW offices, the AIDS Network in Madison, BESTD Clinic, Center for AIDS Intervention Research, the State HIV/AIDS Program, STD Specialties and UMOS the attended the workshop.

HRC Announces Plans for OutVote '98, National LGBT Political Convention

Washington, DC—The weekend of September 17-20, is shaping up to be one of the most exciting ever for advocates of Lesbian and Gay equal rights as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) presents OutVote '98, its second national political convention, and the Second Annual HRC National Dinner.

OutVote '98 is expected to draw 1,000 Lesbian and Gay activists to Washington for the most cutting-edge political training available. The two-day convention culminates with the Second Annual National Dinner September 19.

Among the dinner speakers will be the world-renowned poet Dr. Maya Angelou. HRC will also present its first National Family Civil Rights Award to rocker Melissa Etheridge, her partner, actress/model Julie Cypher and their daughter.

"These two events are extraordinarily important for the Lesbian and Gay political community because of the caliber of trainers and speakers participating in both," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Putting them together in the same weekend was a logical combination."

OutVote '98 will offer the most cutting-edge political training for HRC members and allies. More than 20 workshops will be divided into four tracks: candidate/electoral; grassroots activism; workplace issues; and youth/campus issues.

People who complete three sessions in a track will receive a certificate of completion from HRC.

"If people wish to concentrate on a particular area, the certificate recognizes that they've obtained the entire skills set," says Kim Mills, HRC's education director and OutVote program chair. "But there will be plenty of variety for everyone and attendees are free to pick and choose from a giant menu of options."

The candidate/electoral track will consist of workshops that train people in the fundamentals of working in campaigns, from message creation to fund raising to getting out the vote, and workshops for people who plan to run for office themselves. People concentrating in this track can round out their experience with one or more of the "universal electives" such as public presentations and speech making; how, when and why to talk to the media; framing the issues; and an update on legal issues/legislation.

The workplace track will zero in on the

skills and information people need to go back to their employer and make the best possible cases for a non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation and/or domestic partner benefits.

The activist track will offer workshops on working in coalitions; mobilizing communities of faith; lobbying; state and federal issues; and much more.

And the youth track will help participants learn more about organizing on campus and in the community; on planning and executing successful National Coming Out Day events; and on the role of young activists in political campaigns.

"OutVote '98 will take place the same weekend as the Christian Coalition's Road to Victory conference which gives us the opportunity to contrast our messages with the extremist messages of the Christian Coalition," said HRC communications director and senior strategist David M. Smith.

The weekend will begin early for dedicated activists, who are invited to Washington on Thursday, September 17, to lobby their senators and members of Congress.

"We encourage everyone who can spare the time to come to Washington that day and visit their elected representatives," says Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. "Get in touch with us and we'll help you coordinate these visits and provide whatever background materials you might need to talk to your congress people about ENDA, hate crimes, Lesbian health, HIV and AIDS or other subjects."

The Second Annual National Dinner promises to be as exciting as the first. The black-tie gala will feature poet Dr. Maya Angelou as well as national political leaders.

HRC has developed a special pricing schedule for people who register early for OutVote and for those who wish to purchase combination tickets to OutVote and the National Dinner. For registration and pricing information, call Box Office Tickets at 1-800-494-8497.

Early Registration (Before August 1), \$105; Registration (After August 1), \$135; Onsite Registration, \$150 OutVote '98 National Dinner Package (Until August 1), \$299.

Travel-On is HRC's official travel agency for the weekend. We urge you to make your airline through them at 800/333-1225 or 301/495-5990, account #410.

Nike Chairman Calls Reggie White "Crazy" But Continues to Work with Him

Washington, DC—The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has called on the Nike Corp. to explain why, if it believes Green Bay Packer Reggie White is "crazy," it continues to use him to sell their products.

"Nike's posture with regard to Reggie White makes no sense and is a clear attempt by the company to have it both ways," said Kim I. Mills, HRC's education director.

"Nike claims to disagree with White's virulently anti-Gay statements while it continues to use him to represent the company in public. Gay Americans, and our friends and families, are not fooled by this kind of phony lip service," Mills said.

"Reggie White is, in simplest terms, not evil—he's just crazy." Nike Chairman, Philip Knight

On Tuesday, May 12, Nike Chairman Philip Knight addressed a luncheon at the National Press Club at which he said, in response to a question about White's anti-Gay activity: "Reggie White is in simplest terms not evil — he's just crazy. And essentially we have, in more diplomatic language than that, said that. We don't agree with his statements, but we think that he does have the right to speak his mind. But they really go against what we stand for as a company."

In a speech delivered March 25 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."

He repeated those assertions several

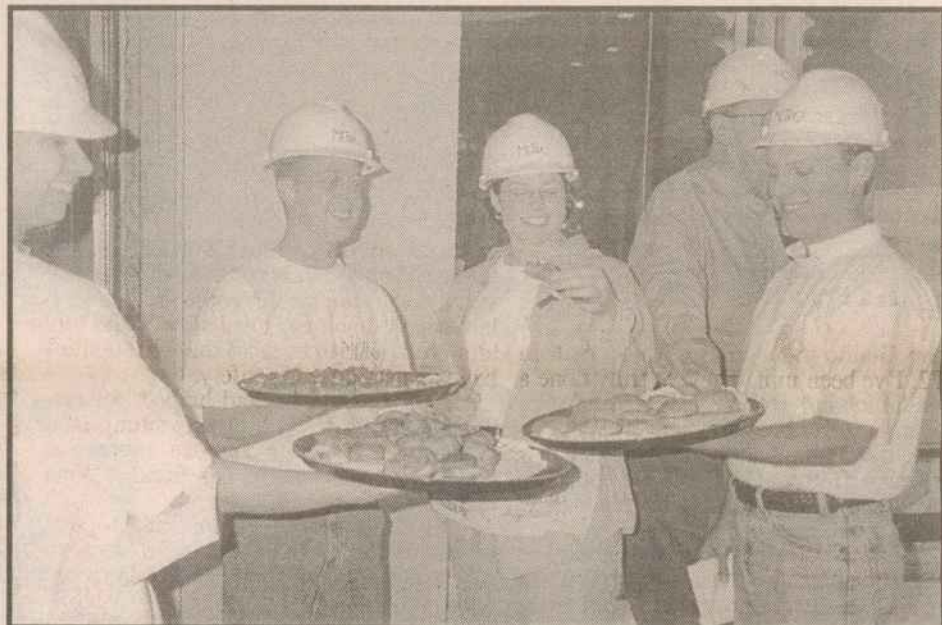
weeks later on ABC-TV's "20/20," and on April 30, he appeared with anti-Gay activists Alveda Celeste King and singers Angie and Debbie Winans at a rally against a non-discrimination ordinance in Ypsilanti, Mich.

"This is not a question of Reggie White's private, personal opinions. He has now joined forces with some of the country's staunchest anti-Gay activists working to overturn non-discrimination laws," Mills said. "Nike's non-discrimination policy and its domestic partner program—both of which cover Lesbian and Gay workers—lose all meaning if this is what their spokesman does in his free time."

On April 23, HRC assailed the Nike Corp. for welcoming White back to the Green Bay Packers two weeks after his speech to the Wisconsin Assembly, which was 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 April 23 to Knight expressing dismay. Thomas E. Clarke, Nike's president and chief operating officer, wrote back, saying the company disagreed with White but, "Reggie is entitled to his opinions, regardless of how misguided and insensitive we believe they are. It's on this basis that we plan to continue our relationship with Reggie."



At The Metro - ARCW volunteers served guests at the Hotel Metro "Under Construction Party" held at the hotel on Saturday May 2. The event raised more than \$12,000.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin Getting in Gear; Volunteer Today!

Milwaukee —September 20 seems a long way off, but preparations for AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1998 are already underway. Now in its ninth year, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) will produce AIDS Walk Wisconsin to raise money for AIDS service organizations throughout the state.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin looks forward to registering over 15,000 walkers and breaking the \$1 million mark. This can only happen with the help of many dedicated volunteers. In 1997, ARCW and AIDS Walk Wisconsin was supported by over 930 volunteers, each one had their own reason to help.

"Among the many reasons to volunteer with the AIDS Walk Wisconsin are:

No one has been cured of AIDS

There is no HIV vaccination

One half of all new HIV infections in the U.S. occur in people under age 25" said Marge Beil, Director of Special Events. These motivations runs deeply throughout the corp of volunteers that make the AIDS Walk Wisconsin such an exciting and successful fundraising event.

The first opportunity to volunteer is the annual "Poster Blast" to place AIDS Walk posters and registration materials in stores, churches, businesses and schools throughout the state. The Poster Blast will take place on June 6 in southern Wisconsin, while volunteers in Northern Wisconsin will deliver posters on June 13.

Other volunteering opportunities include team organizing; summer festival and event outreach; working with one of many

committees such as decorations or entertainment; day-of registration; rest stop coordination; and many more. Office help is also key to a successful walk, and volunteers are needed for data entry and phone banking.

If you would like to register for the Walk or get more information on volunteering, please call (414) 225-1521 or 1-800-348-WALK.

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GOP Mayor Leads New York City into Granting Domestic Partner Benefits

New York, NY— In what is touted as an important advance in Gay and Lesbian rights, New York City plans to ensure that unmarried couples are treated the same as married ones on everything from housing to parking permits to burial rights.

The legislation "moves closer to the ideal of human rights, and treating everyone fairly," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican whose office drafted the proposal.

"I believe New York is setting the pace for the rest of the country," he said.

For years, the city has been recognized for accommodating policies toward Gay and Lesbian couples. A series of directives, at least one of which dates to 1989, extended to domestic partners the rights once reserved for spouses and family members, such as visitation in city jails and hospitals, and succession for city-supervised housing.

Giuliani's legislation, proposed Monday, May 11, and written in cooperation with advocates for Gay rights, would make those policies permanent by writing them into law. It would apply to heterosexual and same-sex domestic partnerships registered with the City Clerk.

There are about 8,700 registered domestic partners in the city, and at least 55 percent are heterosexual couples, according to the mayor's office.

The proposal is likely to receive quick passage in the Democratic City Council, where it has the support of Speaker Peter F. Vallone.

Since the settlement of a lawsuit in 1993, the city has provided health and dental benefits to the domestic partners of city workers. Under the proposed legislation, labor negotiations would be required to extend to employees' partners the same benefits provided for employees' spouses, potentially opening the way for those benefits to be expanded.

But the legislation also would venture into new areas, like allowing domestic partners of police and other uniformed employees to be eligible for death benefits if the employee is killed in the line of duty.

A domestic partner would also have the

right to be buried with a partner in the city-owned Canarsie cemetery, a right now reserved for spouses. Other changes involve rights to parking permits (an invaluable commodity in New York City) and disclosure statements filed by city employees.

"The thing that's really important in this law is it does as much as the city can do to recognize domestic partner relationships.

That's not what other cities have done," said Matt Foreman, executive director of Empire State Pride Agenda that worked on the bill.

Similar issues have been debated around the country.

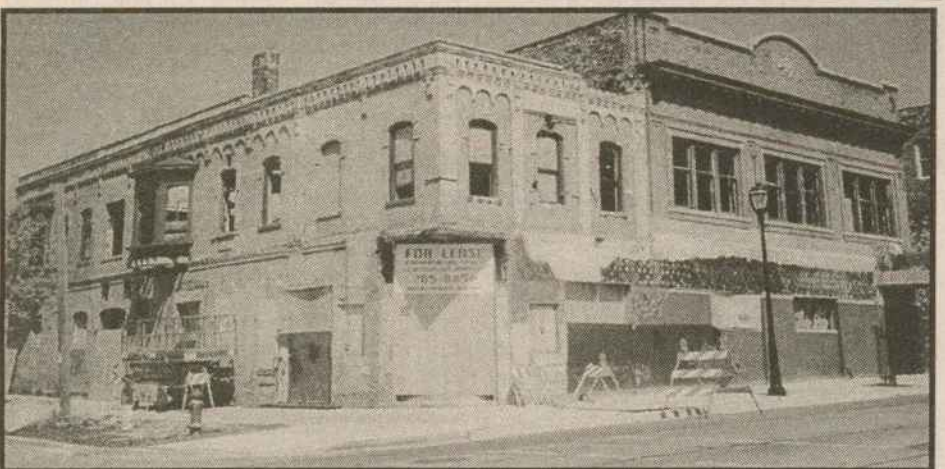
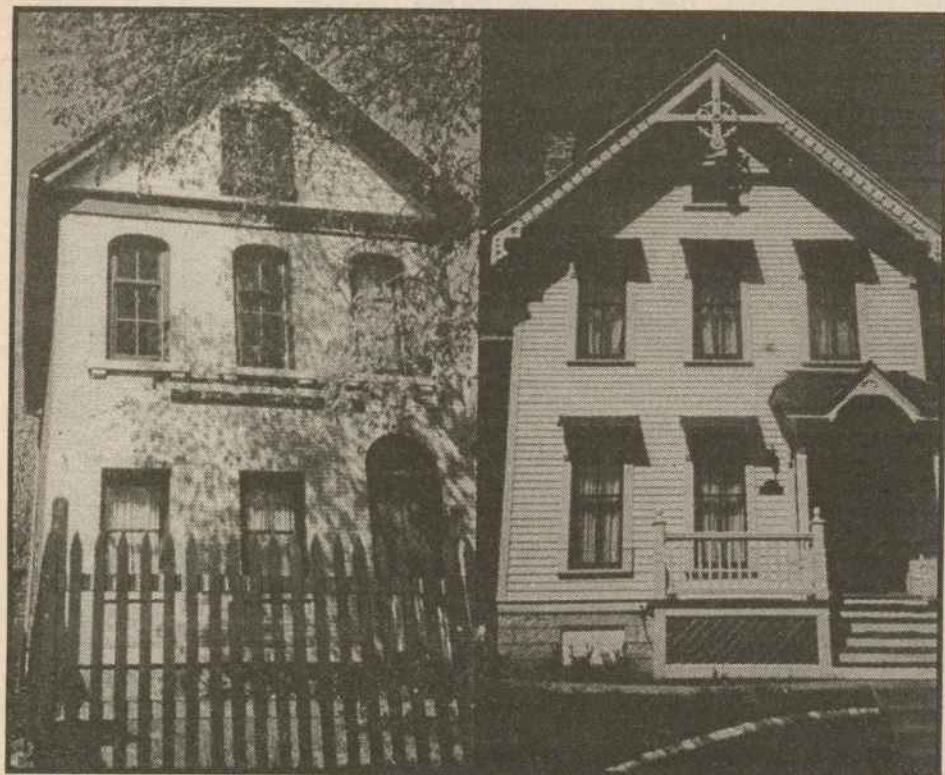
After a five-year fight by Gay activists, Philadelphia's City Council approved a measure to extend health and pension benefits to same-sex partners of city workers. San Francisco has faced court challenges in its attempt to force the roughly 6,000 companies doing business with the city to offer the same benefits to employees' unmarried domestic partners, Gay or straight, as they provide to spouses.

At a time when some states have been passing laws barring same-sex marriage, the New York legislation sends a powerful message, advocates said.

"We applaud Mayor Giuliani for taking this important step," said Kim I. Mills of the Human Rights Campaign.

Giuliani fulfilled a campaign pledge in proposing the bill, but the legislation is likely to hurt him among conservatives. The mayor has been trying to raise his national profile in recent months, and aides have said he could be a candidate for national office.

The mayor "has done a swell job cleaning up the streets, but the real problem is in the culture," said Robert H. Knight of the Family Research Council, which lobbies on conservative causes. "He is marginalizing himself, and will not be taken seriously as a national figure by introducing radical proposals like this."



The Tour — Above are three stops on the Milwaukee Brewer's Hill Tour to be held on Saturday, June 6. At the top left is the home of Kenny Pinard and Michael Bakho at 2019 N. Palmer, top right is the home of Mason Sherwood and Marc Franke at 1843 N. Second Street. At the bottom is the former Sanders Bowling Alley located at the corner of King Drive and Vine.

BREWERS HILL Continued From Page 1

penter Gothic frame house. It was built in 1872. I've been in it. They've truly done a splendid job in restoring the place.

Another example is Michael Weber's home. It was built around 1876 and is a Carpentry Gothic Cottage. He, too, has done a great job in bringing his place back to what it once was.

Yet another example is the home of Kenny Pinard and Michael Bakho. It's a beautiful small cream city brick Italianate that they've done wonders in restoring.

I can't applaud these people enough who are opening their homes. Jerry and I did it the last time and I can tell you, there is a fantastic amount of work to be done to get ready for the tour. We were up all night before tour day. Sleep? Forget it. During the day, while Jerry gave the inside tour, I sat outside, handed out copies of the paper and punched tickets. 1500 people went through the house that day.

We have the largest house on Brewers' Hill. It has the only chisel-shaped roof tower on a house in Milwaukee (That tower is half as tall at "Titanic.") It's a stately, grand old place and people were very curious about it.

Sometime that morning, a woman paused on the front steps and asked me if the house was haunted. I told her that, yes, it's supposed to have two ghosts. Her eyes lit up. I couldn't resist.

"And," I added, "I shouldn't tell you this. Jerry won't like me telling you, but there's the door in the basement that we don't dare open. It's so cold when you walk past it."

Her mouth dropped, while others nearby moved closer so they could hear. One man asked me if he could come by on Halloween. I shook my head slowly and told him (with a straight face) that we couldn't be responsible for his safety.

Alan Eslinger who had helped out getting the house ready and was sitting next to me, looked at me with an expression that said I was out of my mind. "What door?" he whispered.

I gave him a look that told him to shut up and went on with my tale. Needless to say, it got more elaborate as the day wore on.

All this by way of explaining that the Brewers' Hill Tour is not just any old neighborhood tour. It's like a small town holding festival; like a lawn fete. It's fun, a really fun way to spend a Saturday.

One thing first-time visitors to the area often wonder about. That is that they see large, stately mansions standing cheek by jowl with little workman's cottages. That's the way people lived in those days, not segregated by wealth as now. Transportation, for one thing, wasn't as good and people wanted to be near to where they worked.

Oh yeah, don't be surprised at all if you see rainbow flags flying. There'll be one at our house, of course, but others as well. Brewers' Hill has Gay couples, straight couples, singles, African-Americans, Hispanics, all kinds of people. That's part of what makes it fun to live here and to see.

If you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of some of the wildlife that live here. There's skunks, groundhogs, coons, possums, rabbits—by the score. You won't see the bats. They come down into our house in the evening, fly around up near the ceiling and then go out. I love those bats. They eat 1200-1500 mosquitoes an hour.

There's a lot more to say, but I haven't got the space. Let me close by saying that if you want to treat yourself to a really fun day, come by on June 6 and take the tour of Brewers' Hill.

For tickets and other information, call the Brewers' Hill Hotline at (414) 299-0746.

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Students and Faculty Fight Racism and Homophobia on Campus

Middlebury, VT—The TV is on in the living room of this gray house that has become a sort of mecca for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual students at Middlebury College.

The rented house sits off campus, separated from the college by a tall picket fence. On the other side of the fence looms Middlebury's science center; farther up the hill, preppy-looking students stride across greens and sidewalks carrying books, tennis rackets and Frisbees.

Here on this side of the fence, over the gray porch, through the cluttered kitchen, past a huge poster of Bjork, the Bisexual rock singer from Iceland, and into the living room, four Gay students are talking about a recent demonstration spurred by a racist ad in the April Fools' Day issue of the college newspaper.

The students are watching a taped news broadcast of the rally, which was organized to protest not only racism on campus but many "isms," including sexism, heterosexism, classism and campus-wide oppression of all people who are different. The students laughed a little when the broadcast showed Middlebury President John McCardell reading a prepared statement to heckling students.

"We aspire to something better than the real world, and you're helping us in that aspiration," McCardell said. "Are we perfect? No. Do we engage in discussion here civilly and respectfully? Yes. And that will continue as long as I'm president."

What the broadcast didn't show was a confrontation spurred by Economics Professor Richard Cornwall, a Gay man who has been at Middlebury more than 20 years and is finally quitting in frustration over what he says is a hostile campus climate around Gay issues.

Cornwall challenged McCardell at the rally for failing to respond to a letter he sent four years ago. The letter listed several homophobic incidents and suggestions for improving the atmosphere for Gays at Middlebury.

"The heart of the issue is whether Middlebury can be a productive place for Queer scholars," Cornwall wrote in the March 1994 letter. "We do not have much evidence on this, though the fact that only a small fraction of the faculty are out, and none of the Lesbians, is a severe enough indicator."

Cornwall said in an interview that he confronted McCardell because he wanted to pressure him for not responding to his concerns. "I wanted it on the public record," he said.

Back at the house, students said they were frustrated with the contradiction between McCardell's "one-big-happy-family" language and his lack of real support for Gays and Lesbians. Students would like to see the college institute several programs, a residential gender studies house, for example, and an office of minority affairs and issue a statement declaring support of Gay members of the community.

They would rather not have to go off campus to find a house in which they can gather and hold meetings. Other students live in special interest houses, they say. They mention a minority student house, foreign language houses, and even an environmental house.

"There's no proactive anything (from McCardell)," said Donald Eggert, a senior. "Even when he comments, it's in a way that doesn't address the issue itself."

"We're not asking him to understand what it's like to be Gay," said Carolyn Ashby, a recent graduate who works in town. "That's not the point; the point is he

has an obligation as the college president to respond to the needs of the students around our experience of being Gay at this school."

Queer Alliance

The students here are four of about 30 active members of MOQA — Middlebury Open Queer Alliance, a group that has become increasingly vocal on campus. Those students are part of a larger Gay community at Middlebury that is harder to estimate.

MOQA members presented a list of requests to college trustees that included creating an on-campus, residential house that would serve as a center for students and faculty interested in gender studies and "queer studies," a relatively new theoretic discipline that sprang out of gender and culture studies in the late '80s and early '90s.

The field, pioneered at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and UC-Berkeley, studies gender and social construction of gender, as well as the history, literature and culture of homosexuality.

Several other colleges and universities now have gender or "Queer" studies departments, including small Amherst College in Massachusetts, City University of New York, Duke University, and San Francisco State University all have similar programs.

Middlebury College, a school of about 2,300, has a women's studies program, but not a department, which means that students cannot major in it.

There has been a recent spate of hostile events on campus that concerns Gay students and faculty. Stanley Bates, professor of philosophy, cites a lack of respect for diversity and a trend toward more destructive behavior. "We have significant and serious problems with the social life on this campus," Bates told trustees at a meeting Friday.

Last fall, for example, when MOQA members constructed a closet on campus to draw attention to the isolation Gays and Bisexuals can feel at Middlebury, the

The Tenth Annual Challenging Party to be Held on May 30

Milwaukee—The tenth annual Challenging Party, a very special event to raise money for organizations which provide services to Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community, will be held on May 30, 1998 at a private home on Milwaukee's East Side. The theme will be "The Roaring Twenties." The recipient groups selected this year are the LGBT Community Center, PrideFest and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Previous recipients of funds totaling over \$210,000 have been the Milwaukee AIDS Project, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, the Human Rights League, Senior Action in a Gay Environment and the Brady East STD Clinic. The minimum donation of \$250 per person is completely tax deductible and can be allocated to any one or more of the recipient groups.

The fundraiser is underwritten entirely by the Challenging Party hosts and local businesses so that each dollar donated, including employer matching funds, will be given to the selected recipient organizations.

For information on attending, call Dave at (414) 962-7366 or John at (414) 332-4811. Mention the Challenging Party.

closet was promptly knocked down and hacked apart. The administration never found the culprits, nor did it respond with a swift and direct condemnation of the action, students say.

Why the issues have come to the surface now is a question McCardell struggles with. Many students and faculty say discontent has been simmering under the surface for some time.

"It is interesting that it has come to a head over a racial incident," McCardell said, referring to the recent ad in the school newspaper, *The Middlebury Campus*. "I think it is a reflection of the changing times we live in, and that a population does not always move at the same speed toward greater enlightenment."

The advertisement in the April Fools' issue of *The Middlebury Campus* carried a photo of three black men under the headline: "Drug dealers, gang members, rapists and arsonists." Below the photo in smaller type was text saying that such individuals were admitted to "increase excitement" at "sleepy" Middlebury and counter the image of the typical students, described as a "pansy."

A retraction in the paper's April 3 issue was deemed insufficient by many members of the community. About 40 students and some faculty walked out of a Campus-sponsored forum held April 6 in response to the incident. The Student Government Association, the paper's publisher, held a special session to vote on whether the paper's editor-in-chief, Lela Moore, should step down from her position. The Student Government Association failed to get a two-thirds vote; Moore retains her position.

The advertisement galvanized campus minority voices of all stripes.

"It's important to stress that the rally was not just about race," said Russell Plato, a member of the SGA and MOQA who spoke at the rally.

Suzanne Minott, a black student from Jamaica, said that while race issues triggered the rally, "the emphasis right now is on 'queer' issues."

"People were waiting for the appropriate people to respond," Minott said. "If the administration won't say anything, we will."

McCardell frankly can't recall whether he responded to Cornwall's letter. He was angered by the confrontation, which he called "uncivil and unconstructive."

"The role of the university is not to insist upon or to impose a point of view," he said. "It is to create a climate in which competing points of view ... can co-exist with civility and respect."

Granted, sexuality, race and gender are "more than a point of view," he said. People are born the way they are. "But a community such as ours need not be expected to endorse or approve of any particular thing in order to create a climate in which that thing may be allowed to exist."

In other words, he said, Middlebury College need not endorse or approve of homosexuality simply so that homosexuals can live their lives with dignity and respect.

"My sexuality is my business, yours is yours and theirs is theirs," McCardell said more than once during the interview. The

Victory Fund Endorses 27 Gay Candidates

Washington, DC—In a number of upcoming elections around the country, openly Lesbian and Gay candidates will enjoy endorsements from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, who recently announced 12 newly-chosen candidates, bringing their supported total to 27. Among the 12 latest to receive Victory Fund support are: Matt Solberg [I] for Lexington (KY) County Council, Bonnie Dumais [R] for San Diego Superior Court, Steve May [R] for Arizona State House, Evelyn Mantilla [D] for Connecticut State House and Andrew Reyes [D] for Mecklenburg (NC) City Council [See below]. "The incredible depth and breadth of this formidable slate of candidates shows how far our community has come in the political arena," said Victory Fund Executive Director Brian Bond.

question of whether Middlebury should support homosexuality is a complex issue, McCardell said. "It assumes that matters which, for a great many people, still lie within the realm of personal privacy ought somehow to be a matter of institutional concern."

Homophobia on Campus

Several hundred people gathered on the college green to hear students complain to McCardell about what they believe is the administration's inadequate approach to problems of racism, sexism and homophobia on campus.

McCardell pointed to the reinstatement of the Human Relations Committee to evaluate minority concerns on campus, upcoming diversity training for faculty and staff and the creation of a committee to evaluate campus security.

Members of the Student Coalition for Community gave McCardell a contract asking for a diversity affairs office and a statement saying that racism and sexism were problems on campus.

McCardell said he would read the contract before commenting on whether he would sign it.

Ironically, in the early '90s, Middlebury was one of the nation's first colleges to introduce domestic partner benefits to its employee insurance policy. McCardell supported this policy when he arrived in 1991.

But very few faculty are out about being Gay, and discussion of Gay issues "is done with white gloves on," Cornwall said. The environment either keeps Gay students and faculty in the closet or forces them to leave, some faculty say.

In an attempt to change that, Russian Professor Kevin Moss sent an all-faculty e-mail Feb. 26, inviting all faculty to that Sunday's MOQA meeting.

"Where are all the queer female professors?" Moss wrote. "As long as any of us can remember, there has never been a visible Lesbian presence on the faculty."

This situation has decidedly taken its toll on the Queer women students, who never see any faculty like them. And it is a situation mirrored neither at other institutions like ours nor in Vermont where more gender parity is the rule. Why is Middlebury particularly Lesbian challenged?"

The e-mail brought out one Lesbian staff couple willing to talk to any students who needed support.

It also caught Moss some flack. "One Gay colleague and one straight administrator chided me for putting pressure on my Lesbian colleagues," he said.

A female professor who is a member of the college's women's studies program and who wished to remain anonymous, said tension around gender and minority issues on campus "is very palpable."

"I'm not so sure a visitor would pick up on it," she said. "But under the surface, there are all kinds of things twisting and turning."

She said she is one of many faculty who are "not just dissatisfied, but disgusted" with the administration's response to issues of diversity and community. She called McCardell's statement at the rally "too little, too late."

"His sights are on other priorities," she said.

Politically Speaking

Political Changes Blowing in the Wind

Commentary by Bill Meunier
The Beating Goes On

The gloves have come off and the truth about the Republican persecution of President Clinton has now been laid bare.

First we had Whitewater Prosecutor, Kenneth Starr comparing Clinton to Richard Nixon and then we had the antics of Congressman Burton (R-IN) who actually said he was "out to get President Clinton."

Now that may be acceptable if those words were spoken by some partisan crank, but Burton is heading up the House Investigation into Clinton. Not only did his statements make it clear that his "investigation" is a farce but his other actions were even worse.

Burton released a doctored transcript of a taped telephone conversation between a jailed former Clinton crony and his wife. The released text made it sound like both Bill Clinton and Hilary Rodham Clinton were guilty of high crimes.

As it turns out certain words and entire lines were left out of the transcript which had been released by Burton's office. The actual taped conversations made it quite clear that the Clintons were NOT involved in any illegal activity regarding Whitewater.

One would think that out of common decency, the Republicans would have replaced Burton as head of the investigation. No chance of that happening. Quite to the contrary, they rushed to his defense.

When the Democrats on Burton's committee refused to cooperate, with this political hack, the GOP House leaders simply announced they would move the investigation to another committee where they had a 2/3 majority so they would not have to bother with even the appearance of impartiality.

Meanwhile Ken Starr admitted that he could find no wrong doing on the part of the President and his wife by dismissing the Whitewater Grand Jury in Little Rock Arkansas. Apparently those rumors about how Hillary was going to indicted turned out not to be true.

When one considers the low level of proof needed to get an indictment out of a Grand Jury, Starr's move betrays his abject failure to prove anything.

Notestein Retires

The Gay community lost a good friend when State Representative Barb Notestein announced that she would not seek another term.

Notestein has been a stalwart advocate of equal rights for Wisconsin's Gays and Lesbians, often taking the lead on issues of importance to them.

So far no openly Gay or Lesbian candidates have surfaced for her seat. That would be a shame. Notestein's district is most liberal in Milwaukee.

Insiders say that County Supervisor Anthony Zielinski is going to move into the district and run for Notestein's seat. Zielinski is known as a conservative on the County Board where he has proposed some pretty outlandish things regarding

the treatment of prisoners at the County Jail.

Because his County Board district includes part of Notestein's Assembly District, Zielinski would have to be considered an early favorite for the seat if he would make the race.

But he failed miserably when he ran for the State Assembly last time out. There are those who say that his style and politics will not mesh well with the more progressive voters on Milwaukee's East Side and in Bay View.

Pocan Doing Well

One State Assembly candidate who is doing well is Mark Pocan who is running for Tammy Baldwin's seat.

Pocan is openly Gay and a former Dane County Supervisor. He has amassed an impressive list of supporters ranging from small business owners to community activists and environmentalists.

The district is without question the most liberal in the State, and Pocan's sexual orientation should not be an issue there.

He is facing at least one well heeled primary opponent, but if he can raise the money he needs, Pocan should be the favorite to take the seat and insure that there is at least one openly Gay member of the State Legislature.

Baldwin Campaign Rolling

The Tammy Baldwin for Congress Bandwagon is rolling. Baldwin continues to impress observers with her fund raising ability and has raised more money than either of her two major opponents for the Democratic nomination.

Her campaign has opened up a new storefront office on Johnston street to accommodate the volunteers that are coming in.

Baldwin also deserves credit for her efforts to stop Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay marriage bill. While some people seem to prattle on and on, she works quietly behind the scenes and gets the job done.

I have heard that some people in our community say they don't believe in marriage and didn't care if Seratti's bill passed or not. They are missing the point.

The point is equal treatment under the law. As long as the State grants straight couples the right to be married, it should provide the same right to Gay and Lesbian couples too.

Miller Vs. The Mayor?

Word on the street is that Mayor Norquist is not on the most favored person list over at Miller Brewing.

It seems that Mayor's appointees to the Metro Milwaukee Sewerage District voted to change the way they levy charges. After winning a nearly decade long battle, to levy taxes based property values, the District decided to levy them on the basis of use.

That move didn't sit too well with Miller Execs since the brewery uses more water than anyone else in the district. Sources at Miller say that is now cheaper to make and ship beer to Milwaukee from other locations than it is to make and sell it here.

Voters Turned Off By Vitriolic Messages of Reggie White, Alveda Celeste King

Washington, DC—The rejection by Ypsilanti, Michigan voters on May 5 of an attempt to repeal a city ordinance protecting Gays and Lesbians from discrimination shows the new trend by national right wing organizations to focus on the repeal of anti-Gay initiatives has backfired, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest national Gay and Lesbian political organization.

This new strategy was announced by The Christian Coalition in February after Maine's anti-discrimination law was narrowly repealed.

"The recent victory in Maine lulled the right wing into grossly miscalculating where America stands on issues of Gay and Lesbian equality. The results in Ypsilanti reflect the attitude of fairness shared by most Americans. The Christian Coalition will soon realize their strategy has boomeranged," says HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

Local activists in favor of keeping the ordinance formed a coalition that effectively mobilized voters despite a high profile lineup of anti-Gay stars including Reggie White, Alveda Celeste King and the Winans Sisters.

At a rally in support of repealing the anti-discrimination ordinance, Green Bay Packer's star and ordained minister

Reggie White said, "If there is anything I am anti-against, it's sin."

"Most people were repulsed by the circus of stars who traipsed through town with their message of intolerance. They spoke of love, but it was pretty obvious that they only loved people who were exactly like themselves," said Stachelberg.

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."

The Ypsilanti ordinance was upheld by a 56 to 44 percent vote in this city of 25 thousand people, about 25 miles west of Detroit. The outcome is in line with March, 1998 Human Rights Campaign poll, conducted by the firms American Viewpoint and Lake Sosin Snell Perry & Associates, which showed that 59 percent of Americans oppose repealing state laws that protect Gays and Lesbians from workplace discrimination.

Even in the Maine defeat, which inspired the new right wing strategy, pre-election polls consistently pointed out that more than 60 percent of people were in favor of voting for equality.



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However, the Maine referendum was defeated in part because of low turnout due to the fact that it was a single issue vote. The referendum attracted only 30 percent of the voters, which is in sharp contrast to general elections in Maine, where the state leads in the nation in voter turnout with more than 63 percent.

"The organizers and activists who crafted the victorious strategy in Ypsilanti should be applauded. They had the will and strength to overcome a lot of adver-



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city, considering the right wing brought in Reggie White and other high profile individuals," says HRC National Field Director, Donna Red Wing.

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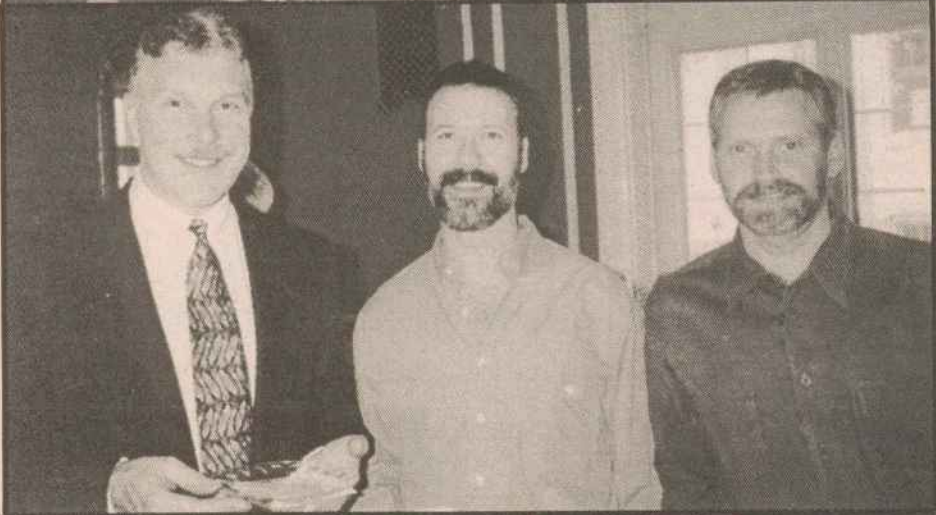
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the community

community connecting

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

High Tea Time — The High Tea on the Titanic fund raiser for the Cream City Foundation held at Milwaukee's Boulevard Inn on Sunday May 17 was a big success. The party featured fine food, and a Silent Auction of Titanic Related Items including videos, posters and even a piece of coal recovered the wreck of the ill fated ship. The event was produced by Milwaukee's own Land Mark Enterprises.

“U.S. News & World Report” Ignores James Dobson’s Dark Side, GLAAD Says

New York, NY—The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), reports that the cover story of the May 4 U.S. News and World Report (USN&WR) is an uncritical look at radical religious leader James Dobson which completely avoids his connection to hate groups and active, aggressive fight against equal rights for Lesbians and Gay men.

Solely looking at his call for the G.O.P. to kow-tow to a far-right Christian party line, USN&WR paints Dobson as “not a preacher or political activist. He is a psychologist, and his authority comes from an ability to connect with people right at the level of their problems....The effect is completed by the slight drawl on a country doctor.”

It hails his view as “a traditionalism humanized by common sense and flexibility....He urges discipline for the big issues and tolerance on the smaller stuff.” It discusses disagreements Dobson has had with other radical religious groups opposing equal rights on the basis of sexual orientation.

But it side-steps views of Dobson by major mainstream organizations, including those seeking to ensure basic rights for Lesbians and Gay men.

Coming away from the article, a reader could see Dobson, his non-profit group, Focus on the Family (FOF), and his \$100 million media operation as homespun Christians looking out for what they see as the moral and political needs of the country.

A closer look at Dobson, however, reveals a much darker side totally hidden by USN&WR. During the battle over Colorado's anti-Gay Amendment 2, which was later ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, the anti-Gay group leading the charge was Colorado for Family Values (CFV).

FOF is one of five national radical religious groups represented on their board. According to anti-Gay Christian group watcher Jean Hardisty, “it is widely agreed that the 1991 arrival in Colorado Springs of James Dobson and Focus on the Family was an important catalyst for...CFV.”

In 1992, FOF gave an \$8,000 donation to CFV. From 1988-1992, FOF was merged with the virulently anti-Gay Family Research Council. Together they published and distributed a false, Gay-baiting tract entitled **The Homosexual Agenda: Changing Your Community and Nation.**

Creative Work Awards Given to Landmark Enterprises

Milwaukee—Landmark Enterprises, Inc., a national integrated marketing communications agency, won several awards for their marketing communications work for clients marketing to the Gay and Lesbian community.

Two awards were received in the 1997 Summit Creative Awards multi-national competition. A silver award was received for a holiday advertisement for the Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, entitled, “Midnight 1997,” and a bronze award for “The Wisconsin Light’s 10th Anniversary Event Invitation.”

The Crystal Award of Excellence was received for a 1997 holiday advertisement created for Miller Brewing Company, “Believe in the Spirit of Giving.” The Communicator Awards is a national awards organization recognizing outstanding work in the communications field. Over 2,300 entries, from 44 states and Canada, were judged for talent exceeding a high standard of excellence and serving as a benchmark for the industry. Of the entries received, less than ten percent were honored with a Crystal Award of Excellence.

Landmark Enterprises was also honored with an award from The Advertising & Marketing Club of Southeastern Wisconsin 1997 American Advertising Awards (ADDYS) for Miller’s “Midnight 1997.” The ADDYS recognize the best in creative advertising in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Landmark Enterprises, Inc., is an integrated marketing communications agency specializing in assisting businesses in reaching the Gay and Lesbian community. Their headquarters are located at 735 North Water Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 with affiliate offices in Los Angeles and Washington, DC. They can be reached at (414) 276-6355.

FOF separated from the Family Research Council only after the IRS questioned FOF’s ties to the Council’s anti-Gay lobbying efforts.

In a 1990 FOF newsletter, Dobson claimed “I am familiar with the widespread effort to redefine the family. It is motivated by homosexual activists...who see the traditional family as a barrier to [their] social engineering.”

In a 1991 article, he equated sexual orientation to bestiality, saying, “There are people in our society who find sexual satisfaction from engaging in intercourse with animals...Would anyone suggest that these groups deserve special protection?”

As Hardisty said, “The skillful manipulation of homophobia by the right wing creates anti-Gay sentiment and actions that bolster and promote intolerance.”

Would this be the “common sense” or the “flexibility” to which U.S. News & World Report refers?

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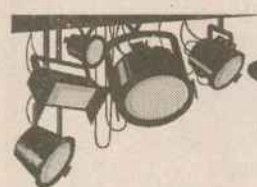


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Talking to the Stars

Chase Hunter, Adult Video Superstar, Is Coming to Wisconsin this Month

Chase Hunter is an adult film superstar. Outrageously handsome with smoldering eyes, his thighs are a force of nature in themselves. He made his name in such videos as *Basic Plumbing*, *The Chase is On* and *Hold Me Again*.

The last time Chase was in Milwaukee was for *Light's* 10th Anniversary bash. I expected him to have attitude big time, but no way. He is a kind young man with a sparkling smile and a genuine desire to please. In short, you couldn't meet a nicer guy.

Now, Chase Hunter is returning to Wisconsin. On May 29th, he'll be in Milwaukee. After that, on May 30, he'll be in Kenosha at Club 94 and then, on May 31, he'll be in Madison appearing at Maneuver's Bar

Wisconsin Light: You have a particular image—a mustache. That's rare among adult video stars. Have you always had it?

Chase Hunter: As long as I've been making films. They want me to keep it. They are adamant about it. Like someone once said, it makes me seem a cross between a boy and a man. That's flattering. Now that I'm older, I don't mind the "boy" part at all.

WL: Do you consider yourself Gay?
CH: Yes.

WL: When did you first discover sex?
CH: Around when I was 12 years-old.

WL: When did you realize you were Gay?
CH: Actually I didn't figure it out until I was 18. I was seeing a guy who was about my own age and a couple of girls and he moved away to school and I missed him so I realized I was Gay. I played around with him every weekend, but that didn't mean anything. See, I was a redneck before I was a gay.

WL: Would you talk about your family? Your background?
CH: I was born and raised in central Ohio, in Cincinnati, out in the cornfields. I'm the last of six kids, four boys. Yes, they know I'm Gay. They know every thing except the movies.

WL: When did you get into the adult video business?
CH: A boyfriend got me started in dancing when I was 24 and in Denver at the time. That was part of it, the beginning. The rest is that I was dancing in a club and someone from a video company, Falcon, saw me and I saw other video stars and I said I can do better than that.

WL: How did it happen?
CH: They, the video company people, from Falcon, called me for a year and I always resisted. But then they flew me out to California so I guessed they were serious.

WL: Were you in a relationship when you got into films?
CH: Yes. The same guy who got me dancing. For me it made it easier to make the first film because we did it together. Eventually, though, he got jealous. That was the beginning of the end for us.

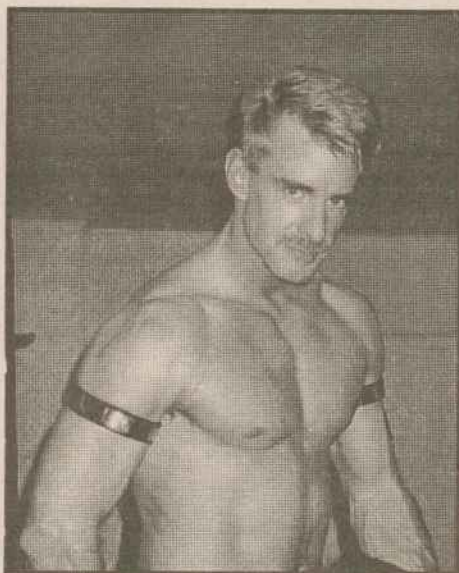
WL: How long does it take to make your average film?
CH: Anywhere from 6 to 12 hours.

WL: What do you consider your best video?
CH: Hold Me Again.

WL: Are you top or bottom or doesn't it matter?
CH: It's easier to be on top, but we all need it once in awhile.

WL: Talk about your latest video.
CH: It'll be out in July.

WL: Do you watch your own films?



Chase Hunter appeared during the Wisconsin Light Decade of Light Weekend last November.

CH: Oh yes. Super impressed.
WL: Who are some of your favorite guys to work with in films?
CH: Scott Baldwin, Jesse Tyler.

WL: What does the future hold for you?
CH: I don't worry about it. I'd like to go back to school and do some work with computers. We'll see.

WL: You're touring now to promote your video. What other cities besides Milwaukee will you be going?
CH: Rockford, Office bar, Thursday, May 28. There'll be dancing. I'll be answering questions, doing anything they want...

WL: You better be careful. People could take that the wrong way.
CH: (laughs) Let 'em. Anyway, I'll be in Milwaukee and Madison. I'll be signing pictures. I'll happily sign copies of any of my videos.

I'll be in Madison on Sunday, May 31, at Maneuvers. Before that, I'll be in Kenosha at Club 94 on May 30. Then it's off to Chicago where I'll be appearing at Vortex on Friday, June 5.

Bialystock & Bloom Presents "Boys in the Band" in June

Milwaukee—On an evening in June, 1969, a Gay revolution began in the streets of New York City. When police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular Greenwich Village Gay men's bar, they got more than the arrests they expected to make that night. Indeed, what was to begin that night was an awakening of American Gays calling out for an individual and respected voice. The Stonewall Gays fought back that night and created a wave against public tyranny opposing Gay life that spread quickly throughout New York and to major cities like Chicago and San Francisco.

A year prior to this revolt, Mart Crowley's landmark play, *The Boys in the Band* opened off-Broadway in New York. What the play showed was a different side of homosexuality than that which would be displayed a year later on a hot summer night.

The Boys in the Band takes a look at the lives of a group of Gay men celebrating one of the reveler's birthdays. But these "boys in the band" are not a vocal group. They hide their sexuality, lie to the world and loathe what they are. Liberation is near for "the boys", but it has not yet come.

Please See Boys In the Band Page 14

The Milwaukee Softball Classic Set for May 23 & 24 at Wick Field

By Dusty Sass

Okay so you have decided to attend this year's Milwaukee Classic. Well here are some handy dandy tips for you to make sure you are prepared.

The Tournament

The Milwaukee Classic is America's oldest softball tournament. Now, now, let's not get into the age thing. Older can be better and it certainly is this case. The Classic is considered one of the best run softball tourneys anywhere. Course it helps to have folks like Tournament Commissioner Tom Salzseider at the reigns. Plus a small army of experienced and dedicated volunteers.

Games will begin on Saturday, May 23 at 9:00 AM and the last game is scheduled to start at 5:00 that day. On Sunday, May 24, games begin at 9:00 AM again, with the championship games scheduled to start at around 3:30.

All games are played at Wick Field, located at 50th and Vliet Street.

The opening two rounds on Saturday are a round robin. Teams will be divided into two divisions following round robin play. The purpose of the round robin is to help sort out the better teams and classify them according to the skill levels.

After the round robin, everyone starts over from scratch. This is a double elimination tournament. That means that after the round robin teams continue to play until they have lost two games or won the championship which ever comes first.

The Teams

This year's edition of the Classic includes 21 teams from five cities, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis/ St. Paul, Toronto and of course Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee teams are: Balistreri's Pizza, the Ball Game, Docks, In Between, Woody's, and the M & M Club.

With fifteen out of town teams, there will be lots of new guys to look at. I mean outstanding athletes to appreciate.

Party On!

For those who like to party (and you know who you are!) there will be a bunch of fun events on Saturday night. No I am not talking about that private party you would like to have with that shortstop you were eyeing up all day.

Five Milwaukee bars are hosting three out of town teams each. I am not sure what the parties will include (besides hot fresh meat from out of town) but most will

probably include some type of food and drink specials.

The host bars and the teams they are inviting as their special guests are:

The Ball Game- Toronto Remington, St. Louis Buzzards and the Twin City Misfits
In Between, Chicago Side Tracks, North End of Chicago and the Twin City Storm
Woodys - ROR Financial Services from the Twin Cities, Chicago Hitman, Minnesota Crushers

Balistreri's Pizza is hosting a party at **Club 219** it has invited - Over the Rainbow from the Twin Cities and two Chicago Teams Scot's and Annex.

The M & M Club - will host two Twin Cities Teams Rainbow Roadrunners, the Dunn Brothers Spurs plus the Melrose Rockers from Chicago.

So if you see someone you would like to meet write down his team name and show up at appropriate party that evening.

There is also the tournament banquet which will be held at the Downtown Hilton on Sunday evening. The players all get tickets but the fans have to buy theirs. There are a limited number of tickets that will on sale at the field. The cost is just \$25.00

Be Prepared

You can never tell how good (or bad) the weather is going to be at the Milwaukee Classic. One year the temperature dropped down to 35 degrees and with a stiff 30 mile per hour wind to boot. It was not much fun playing in those parkas but somehow the games went off and the tourney was held.

On the other hand we have had some really nice weather as well. The best that can be said is hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Personally I always bring along a few hefty trash bags (Not because I am trash! PALEEEZE!) but because they make excellent makeshift rain coats and can double as windbreakers too.

I also bring along some sun screen, (can't let the sun's rays damage my ever so delicate skin), and a hat.

Be Butch

Now if you are aiming to make sure our out of town guests feel right at home, I suggest you keep in mind what kind of event this is, a butch one.

Please See Classic Page 22

Art by Bofil and Alex Are Being Featured at the BestD Clinic

Milwaukee—Pride 365 is a one-person show which recently opened at BestD Gallery featuring the collages of Milwaukee artist and entertainer Felix B. Bofil. The show will run through the end of June at the Gallery on the first floor of the BestD Clinic.

This is the first show by Bofil, well-known as a staff person and producer at Milwaukee Area Access Telecommunications. This visual art talent "happened by accident 10 years ago," according to Bofil, "when I sought a way to promote my theater comedy by creating collages of stage characters."

From there to doing composites of vacation pictures to a collage of his family who had shunned him, finding this way of feeling closer to them, he has perfected his talent to the current works.

The show is called *Pride 365* as a call to the LGBT community to expand that euphoric pride month feeling to 365 days a year. Bofil is seeking a sponsor to underwrite his production of a *Pride 365* calendar.

In addition to his appearing on Channels 14/47 in Milwaukee, he has also appeared in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Press Card commercial and on Channels 4, 6 and 12 news. His performance credits include Comedy Café, Funny Business and The Milwaukee Players. All of the collages

by Bofil in this show are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds being donated to BestD Clinic.

Art by Alex

Visual art in another form covers two walls of the second floor North Meeting Room at BestD. The hand-painted walls are the work and gift of Sheila Alex of Milwaukee.

The walls are swirls of earth tones and gold and accent the neutral décor of the room. Alex has been creating wall art in both residential and commercial settings since 1994. Some of her recent works can be seen at In Between, Suite 105 Hair Salon, El Morro Lounge, Airport Lounge Miss Katie's Diner and Murphy's on Wells Street.

She also assisted OH Mona Designs in producing the elegant décor of Mimma's Café on Brady Street.

In addition to this gift to BestD Clinic, Alex recently donated art to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's Make A Promise Silent Auction.

BestD Clinic is located at 1240 E. Brady Street in Milwaukee and is open to the public Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call (414) 272-2144 for more information and additional viewing times.

Gutzman to Present Milwaukee Premiere of Britain's "Blood Brothers"

"A thrilling, original and important piece, altogether bigger and more ambitious than almost any other modern work one can think of. Brings the audience cheering to its feet and roaring its approval."

Jack Tinker, Daily Mail

"One of the great musicals of the decade."

Sheridan Morley, International Herald Tribune

"Astonishing...a significant milestone in British Musicals!"

Clive Hirschorn, Sunday Times

These critics are writing about **Blood Brothers**, Britain's longest running musical now in its fifteenth year. That's right, the most popular musical in England isn't **Cats** or **Phantom**, but **Blood Brothers**, Willy Russell's powerful modern fable of love and family bonds. **Blood Brothers** holds the unusual record of having gotten standing ovations at every single production. The same was true when it played for two years on Broadway, except for one snowed out matinee.

Now, Dale Gutzman brings to Milwaukee the professional premiere of this heart-warming musical of a working class mother and her twin sons. **Blood Brothers** is a rags to riches story of Mrs. Johnstone, deserted by her husband and with a house full of kids to feed, who learns she is expecting twins, whom she cannot possibly afford to keep.

She chafes for the wealthy and childless Mrs. Lyons, and in a moment of foolish desperation, promises to give her one of the babies.

The two boys grow up streets apart, never learning the truth, but becoming firm friends and falling in love with the same girl. Fate, however, has some unusual

twists in store for these two boys, one rich, one poor, and for their distraught mother as well.

Gutzman has assembled a first rate cast for this, the most ambitious production of the season. Playing Mrs. Johnstone is Dena Rude, who last starred as Katherine in Gutzman's **Kiss Me Kate** and who began her career years ago with Gutzman in productions directed by Robert Pitman.

Gutzman regular Karl Miller, who celebrates his 51st Gutzman show, plays Mickey, the poor twin, while Phil D'Amore, who appeared in **Assassins** and **The Shadow Box**, plays Eddie, the son who is given away. Phil is a graduate of Marquette and works at various theaters in Milwaukee.

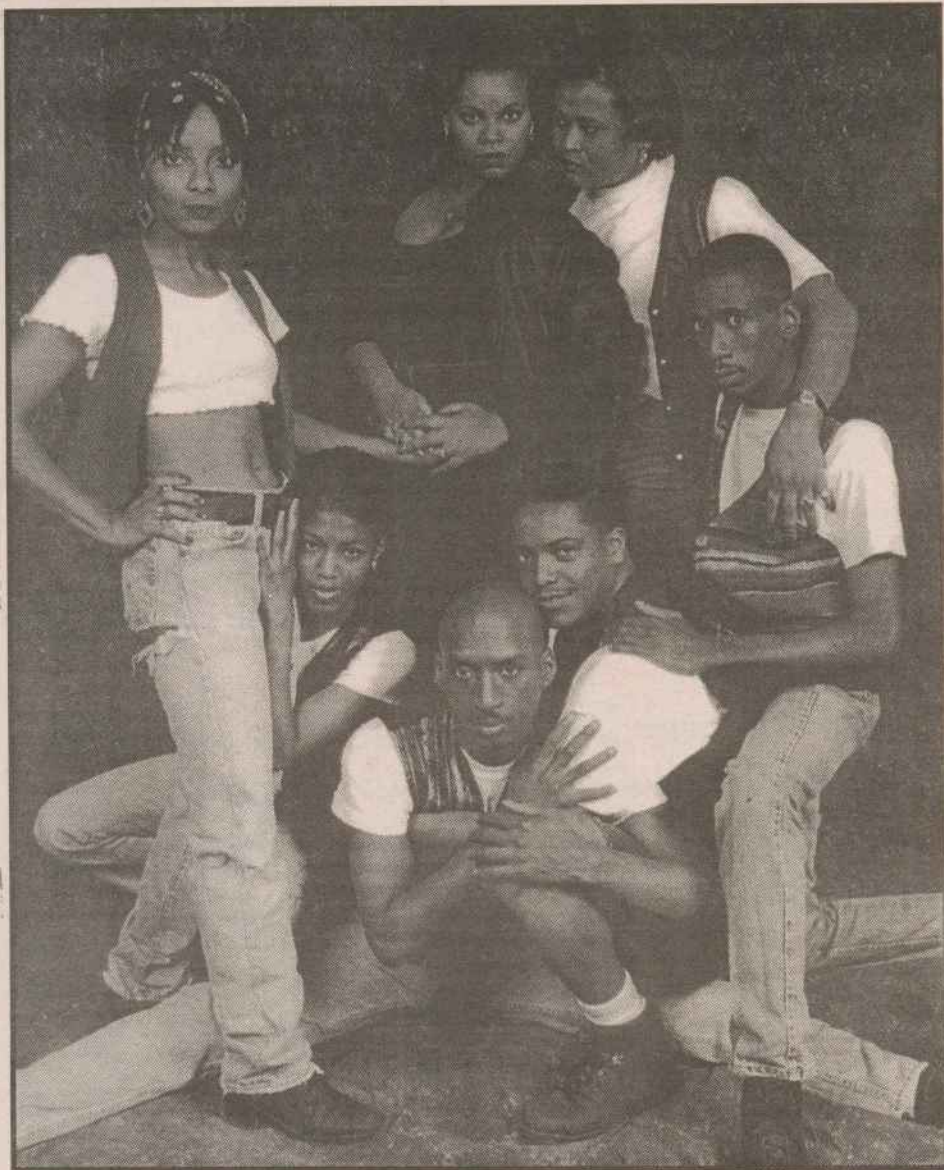
Robert Hirschi, who just finished playing Sky Masterson for the Patio Players and appeared in Gutzman's **Assassins** and **Three Penny Opera**, plays Sammy, the twin's older brother and his talented wife, Carol Hirschi plays Mrs. Lyons.

Sarah Sokolovic, the amazing 18 year-old actress who toured Thailand with Gutzman's nightclub show this year, plays Linda, the girl both boys love.

The musical director for the show is one of Milwaukee's unsung heroes. Tony Bellamy pops up all over town shaping musical performances and productions and is as yet unknown to the theater going public. That won't last for long. Gutzman plans several exciting projects involving Tony in the coming year.

Blood Brothers will play at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall in the Public Library on Friday and Saturday June 5 and 6 at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, June 7, at 2:00 p.m.

For tickets and other information, call (414) 327-3552 or (414) 466-4049.



The Cast of "A Real Read." A musical about Black Gay culture. The show will be at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall on Friday June 19 and Saturday June 20. For tickets call (414) 263-5330.

It's a Razzle Dazzle Broadway Theater Season at Green Bay's Weidner Center

By John Jahn

Officials from Green Bay, Wisconsin's Weidner Center for the Performing Arts have announced the scheduled 1998-99 Broadway Theater Season - their 5th - and it contains a variety of world-class shows that will delight audiences of all ages. Subscriptions are no longer being accepted, but single ticket sales have been underway since May 3rd. Call the Weidner Center Ticket Office at (920) 465-2217 or 1-800-328-TKTS for more information.

Big

(May 26-31, 1998)

This is a wondrously musical adaptation of the 1988 Tom Hanks motion picture - the story of a 12 year-old boy named Josh who magically gets his wish to be big. There's only one catch - physically he's an adult, but emotionally he's still 12.

Annie

(June 23-28, 1998)

That button-eyed, carrot-topped moppet is back! The original creative team that first brought **Annie** to Broadway now brings you this 20th Anniversary production of the Tony Award-winning Best Musical by Charles Strouse and Martin Chamin.

Chicago

(September 1-6, 1998)

In a plot that sounds as if it was ripped from today's tabloid headlines, **Chicago** tells the story of Roxie Hart, a murderess who manipulates the media and uses her notoriety to become a star. **Chicago** contains a fine Kander and Ebb score and choreography reminiscent of Bob Fosse. It won 6 1997 Tony Awards, including Best

BOYS IN THE BAND

Continued From Page 13

Crowley's play was a sensation when it first opened in 1968 and Bialystock & Bloom is proud to bring this revival to Milwaukee audiences. The playwright's candid presentation of a group of men who reveled in a polished elocution of Gay culture was unlike anything audiences had seen before. Crowley's treatment is not sentimental. It is often campy, rarely gentle and always harshly self-loathing and deprecating. The comic drama that is **The Boys in the Band** gives a glimpse into the difficulty of being "totally out" as a Gay person in 1960's America.

Show dates for **The Boys in the Band** are June 5 (8:00 p.m.), June 6 (9:00 p.m.), June 10 (7:30 p.m.), June 12 (8:00 p.m.), June 13 (5:00 and 9:00 p.m.) and June 14 (2:00 p.m.). All performances take place at the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theater, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

Tickets for the production are \$12 and may be reserved by calling Bialystock &

Bloom at (414) 291-9642. Ticket prices for groups of 10 or more at \$10.

Musical Revival, Direction and Choreography.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

(November 17-22, 1998)

Forum is the hilarious musical comedy about life in the Roman Empire, and Jo Anne Worley, of **Rowan & Martin** fame (infamy?), stars as Pseudolus the slave; also starring Roger Perry.

Footloose

(January 5-10, 1999)

A high energy new musical featuring multi-platinum hits such as "Footloose," "Almost Paradise," "Let's Hear it for the Boy," and "Holding Out for a Hero," and nine new Dean Pitchford (Fame) and Tom Snow songs written expressly for the stage. Based upon the Tom Cruise film of the '80s.

Tap Dogs

(March 2-7, 1999)

An exciting theater experience that combines dance, theater and rhythm set against a unique construction site background. **STOMP** fans take notice!

Cats

(March 30 - April 4, 1999)

The Andrew Lloyd Webber mega-hit, winner of 7 Tony Awards, vehicle for the all-time favorite, "Memory." What more needs to be said? It's **Cats**.

UJIMA and LOC/Women of Color Presents A Real Read

Milwaukee—UJIMA, Inc., Milwaukee's only non-profit organization serving the African-American LGBT Community and LOC/Women of Color, Milwaukee's longest running group for African-American women cordially invites everyone to share in a celebration of triumph with Chicago's African-American LGBT Performance Ensemble **A Real Read**.

A Real Read will perform two shows at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. to commemorate Juneteenth Day in Milwaukee. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at Afterwards, Reader's Choice, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin or by calling UJIMA's office at (414) 263-5330. All proceeds will benefit UJIMA, Inc., and LOC/Women of Color.

Through original works of poetry, prose and vignettes, **A Real Read** testifies to the

distinctive experience of a minority within a minority. Their performances take on various issues within our community using language, the humor, the sadness and the joy that are specific to our own lives, with the goal that other communities can find something they can relate to as well.

A Real Read has been featured and has performed for various organizations and events. Among them are: Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, The Na-

tional Council of Churches, The Dusable Museum of African-American History, Bailiwick Arts Center Pride Series and The Black Ensemble Theater.

UJIMA Inc., and LOC/Women of Color hope that all can join them in this powerful evening of theater created by **A Real Read** where themes will emerge from cultures silenced edges that are uncompromisingly African-American, uncompromisingly Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and yet remarkably universal.

Fest City Singers Present Thank You For Being A Friend (A Musical Revue)

She asked Ellen to marry her on day four!

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6803 W. National Ave - Milwaukee

Friday - Saturday Nites May 29 & 30

June 5 & 6 and June 12 & 13

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres • 8 PM

Curtain • 8:30 PM

Tickets \$10 / \$12 Door

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OUT In Print



Kate Clinton

Kate Clinton Talks About Life Searching Out Titles for Chapters

By Cynthia Van Vreede

Cynthia Van Vreede: So you've become an author. What made you decide to write a book?

Kate Clinton: Well, I've always considered myself a writer. Performance came because I couldn't type. I would type up these manuscripts—this was before word processing—there was such a time. And I decided I would just go out and say these things instead. That's how I started performing. So it's actually coming around full circle to actually write a book.

CVV: I was surprised to read that it took you four years to write the book. Besides being a slow typist, why did it take so long?

New on the Shelf

Fiction

Love in the Balance by Marianne K. Martin Naiad Pb \$11.95

Accountant Connie Bradford feels her life in changing for the better. Riding high on the crest of a huge promotion, she has finally ended the unsatisfying relationship with her boyfriend. Everything is moving in logical transition. Until she meets Kasey Hollander. Since Kasey's ex-lover left her hurt and humiliated, Kasey is determined to play it safe — and what could be safer than a platonic friendship with a straight woman? What indeed?

Kooloids by Rabih Alameddine Picador HC \$23.00

Kooloids is not just a good book. It is angry (Remember when people were angry?), funny, queer and smart. Both heart-achingly sad and hilariously funny, it shines through with a remarkable wit. Detailing the impact of the AIDS epidemic and the Lebanese civil war in Beirut on a circle of friends and family, **Kooloids** tells the stories of characters who can no longer love or think except in fragments of time. A book for everyone.

Non-Fiction

Badertscher: A Photo Book, St. Martin's Press HC \$13.00

Another entry into the popular series of small format photography books, **Badertscher** features the lyrical and intense male nude photography of Amos Badertscher which is garnering increased acclaim and recognition across the country. This utterly compelling collection focuses on a world largely made up of hustlers, drag queens and runaways. It is an experience that is simultaneously forbidding and alluring.

Girl's Night Out by Chloe Atkins, St. Martin's Press HC \$13.00

For nearly a decade, photographer Chloe Atkins has been a part of the San Francisco nightlife. **Girl's Night Out** is the realization of Atkin's dream to offer to a large audience a collection of fabulous women out to have a good time, evoking the energy, sexy playfulness and diversity of Lesbians out on the town. In **Girl's Night Out** are fresh life-affirming images of, by and for Lesbians!

Kate Clinton: Actually, I kept performing and not making time to do it. Then I went and worked on the *Rosie O'Donnell Show* and uprooted my life to New York. That took up a bit of time. But as soon as I really seriously made the time for it, it took about a year to do. The hardest part was getting organizing principles. Once I hit on the idea of the "Kate" of "Pontifi-Kate, then I was off and running.

CVV: I wanted to ask you about the title of the chapters. They are very clever.

Kate Clinton: Why thank you. A couple of years ago I was kidding around with somebody—an interviewer—and I said I should have an advice column and call it Communi-Kate. And it always stayed in my head.

Originally my idea for the book was to do about ten full routines since I started in 1981. So I started in the present going backwards. By the time I got to '89, I was sick of it myself. So I started to look for some other way to organize it. I don't know what happened—I was looking through some old papers or something and I remembered the Communi-Kate and I drove myself crazy thinking of titles.

CVV: You had friends contribute ideas for titles?

Kate Clinton: Oh yeah. I was actually at the gym one day. I told this wonderful young man about the titles of the book. I had a huge weight over my head, trying to lift it and he came up to me and said, "Have you thought of ices-Kate?" I was right in the middle of writing that chapter and it was more in the pla-Kate. I said, "Oh thank you."

CVV: Have the Presidential peccadilloes been good to you?

Kate Clinton: Yes, it's been kind of an easy time. Actually, I think it's destroying humor because it's almost too easy. Anybody can do it—you just say what's going on.

CVV: You're out of a job when everyone becomes a comedian?

Kate Clinton: Since I call myself a feminist humorist I have a job for a little longer—until there is no oppression of women. A few years.

CVV: You were a writer on the *Rosie O'Donnell Show*. On June 1st, you'll be

Please See Kate Clinton Page 19

Afterwords Events

Wednesday, May 20th 7:00pm

Lesbian & Gay Writers' Group
New members welcome!

Monday, May 25th 7:00pm

Memorial Day
Hours 11:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday, May 28th 7:00pm

Lesbian Reading Group

Working Parts by Lucy Jane Bledsoe

Wednesday, May 27th 7:00pm

Book Signing

Kate Clinton!!



Rita Mae Brown

Three Leading Lesbian and Gay Writers Discuss Gay Life in America Today

By Mary Shafer

Special to Wisconsin Light

For a few hours on April 30, Philadelphia's William Way Community Center played host to three of the brightest stars in the firmament of modern American Gay and Lesbian literature. The first of its kind, the National Gay and Lesbian Authors Panel included pioneering feminist, Lesbian rights activist and best-selling author Rita Mae Brown, whose latest offering is her **Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble Rouse** (Bantam); Charles Kaiser, longtime journalist and author of **The Gay Metropolis: 1940-1996** (Houghton Mifflin); and provocative OUT columnist Michelangelo Signorile, currently on tour to promote his latest book, **Life Outside: The Signorile Report on Gay Men — Sex, Drugs, Muscles and Passages of Life** (HarperCollins).

In a lively presentation moderated by Philly's *City Paper* editor David Warner, the three authors responded to questions by Warner and others by members of the standing-room-only audience. What follows is a re-cap of some of the evening's highlights.

Warner: "Is the sexual orientation of public officials relevant, and should the media, particularly the Lesbian/Gay media, concern itself with asking or 'outing' those public officials who are homosexual?"

Signorile: "Yes, just as heterosexual public figures' orientations are sometimes relevant in certain stories."

Kaiser: Agreed, asserting that sexual orientation is of particular concern "especially in cases of hypocrisy," where officials with alternative sexual orientations

Please See Writers Page 23

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Nice Horsey - Robert Redford and Pilgrim two of the main characters in "The Horse Whisperer"

"The Horse Whisperer" is an Intimate Epic About the Quiet Power to Heal

Reviewed by John Jahn

Although taking place in the wide open country of Montana, one hesitates to call Robert Redford's new film, *The Horse Whisperer*, a *Western*. *Westerns* are not about healing, they're about killing. This magnificent, intimate epic is all about the quiet power of healing - of a 14 year-old girl named Grace (Scarlett Johansson), of her horse, Pilgrim, eventually of a family.

On the surface, the plot involves a girl who suffers a crushing accident while horse riding and overcomes it, sometimes with the help she's offered, sometimes in opposition to it. Such an intimate subject occupies just short of 3 hours of screen time, a remarkable achievement indeed.

Though a busy career woman, Grace's mother Annie (Kristin Scott Thomas) senses that the cure and comeback of her daughter after the traumatic accident is inextricably linked to the cure and comeback of Pilgrim. Annie leaves her magazine editor's job and drives her spooked daughter and spooked horse from New York to Montana after being turned down by the healer she contacts on the phone, Tom Booker (Robert Redford). If he won't come to the horse, why not bring the horse to him? Annie's obviously used to getting her way, and Booker's rebuff isn't going to stop her now.

Redford's natural reserve has never worked better for him than in his role as Tom, the Horse Whisperer, and he seems a man innately bonded with the spacious terrain of the West. He's about as far from the shoot 'em up cowboy persona as one can get, though undeniably he's a man of the West.

Beginning the slow healing process by

first gaining the horse's trust, and then the girl's, he allows them into his space, which includes his brother Frank (Chris Cooper) and sister-in-law (Dianne Wiest). Cooper and Wiest play these characters with the same ease and naturalness that this entire film comprises.

The Horse Whisperer reminds us all that natural healing takes time, and that the natural way is the only really successful way to do the job. As to the building romance between Annie the revitalized Easterner and Tom the Western rancher, it doesn't end the way you think it's going to, although the film leaves the door wide open for whatever future developments you might wish there to be, thanks to Annie's understanding husband, Robert (Sam Neill).

When Annie and Grace arrive out West, the screen literally widens - the somewhat cramped New York scenes broaden to 70mm vistas and horizons - a brilliant device employed by Redford to reinforce the vast physical and cultural differences between the starting and ending points on their journey.

Johansson's cruelly challenged teenager unflinchingly holds the screen with Scott Thomas and Redford, matching the strength and complexity of the adults. As for Redford, his acting has always impeded a proper appreciation of his directing talents, and *The Horse Whisperer* is his best directing yet, as well as the venue for one of his finest acting performances.

This remarkably generous film about achieving wholeness will exert an enormous appeal this summer - and will be heard from again in a big way at Oscar time - deservedly so. ★★★★★

'Bulworth' is a Soulless Film That Ultimately Wimps Out in the End

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Who amongst us continues to believe, really believe, in the honesty, the integrity and the sincerity of politicians in the 1990s? Certainly not Glenn Bishop!

Glenn can listen to all of the gilt-edged promises made every four years by presidential candidates knowing all too well that the only true allegiance these (invariably) men have is to those who have poured ill-gotten gains into their campaign coffers. Cynical? Glenn?

Well, apparently so does Warren Beatty. Written, directed and starring Mr. Warren Beatty (such a remarkably talented man), *Bulworth* finds an aging liberal white senator (Warren Beatty, of course) facing an election campaign but clearly having reached the tattered and frayed edges of his remaining sanity.

Eyes glazed over, just the merest speck of drool seeping from the corner of his chapped lips, Bulworth mindlessly stares at the over-sized television screen that plays a seemingly endless spool of "campaign spots".

Over and over and over again, Bulworth (as well as those of us in the audience) hears, "We stand at the doorstep of a new millennium." Over and over and over again this is repeated, Glenn muses, so those truly gullible in the audience will eventually catch on to just what a load of bullshit this slogan truly is.

In any case, it seems that Bulworth has peeped into that doorway and clearly what he saw wasn't very pretty. After trading some political favors for some free life insurance (a mere \$10 million worth), Bulworth sets up his own assassination.

The hit is to happen sometime over the

weekend only he doesn't have a clue when. However he warns, "If I'm not dead by Monday, I'm going to stop the check."

Then it is back to the campaign trail for Senator Bulworth.

Only something in *Bulworth* finally snaps. While speaking to an all-African-American congregation, Bulworth is unable to regurgitate his platitude-filled speech. Throwing caution (not to mention political correctness) to the wind, Bulworth admonishes his audience for the amount of malt liquor they drink and for supporting that "running back who stabbed his wife".

From here, *Bulworth* is on a roll, blasting corporations, particularly insurance companies as well as Hollywood power-brokers.

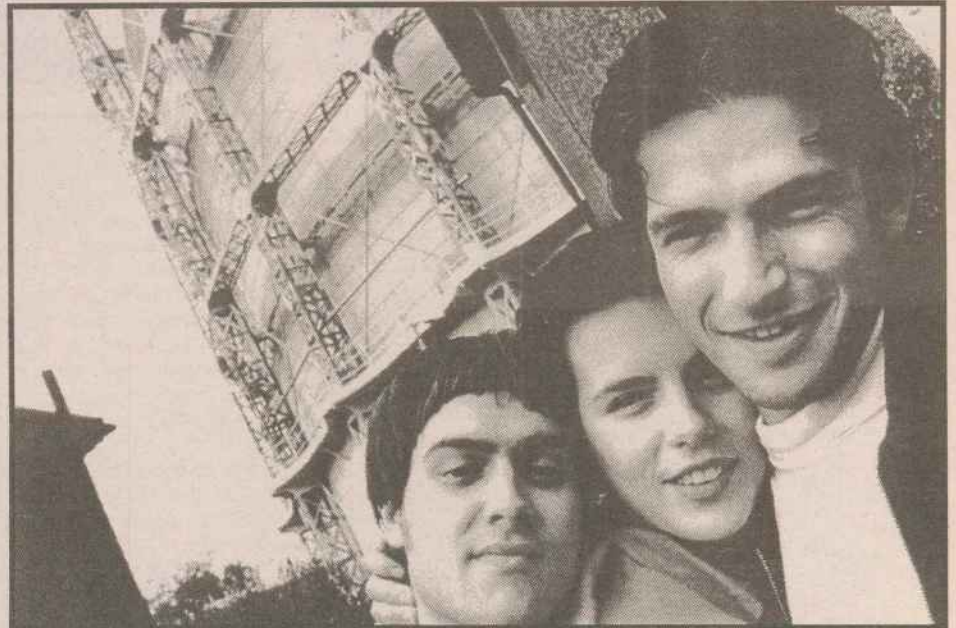
Imagine poor Bulworth's dismay when he has a change of heart but then learns that his only link to calling off his assassination has had a stroke and has been left speechless. When he isn't offering some pretty lame rap lyrics, Bulworth starts ducking every time a car backfires.

Much will be made about Bulworth's refreshingly blunt approach to national politics and the influence of special interest groups, but Glenn is sad to have to report that Bulworth, both the man as well as the film is not only without soul but ultimately wimps out at the end.

Warren Beatty struggles with a role that Jack Nicholson was born to play. Glenn must give credit where credit is due and admire Beatty for looking every one of his 61 years as Bulworth reaches bottom. Less successful is his romantic fling with lovely Halle Berry, who is wasted in an

Please see *Bulworth* Page 17

OUT on Film



Shooting Fish - Stewart Townsend, Kate Beckinsale and Dan Futterman star in "Shooting Fish"

Dramatic Potential is Squandered in the Inconsequential "Chinese Box"

Reviewed by John Jahn

An educated concubine in feudal China (*Raise the Red Lantern*). A prostitute caught between two childhood friends during the 1940s (*Farewell My Concubine*). A wife and mother facing tragedy in the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution (*To Live*). A sultry temptress in the ganglands of 1930's Shanghai (*Shanghai Triad*). These are some of the more prominent roles essayed by Chinese actress Gong Li over the past several years.

In a way, she's reprising these roles in a contemporary setting in *Chinese Box* as Vivian, a Hong Kong nightclub owner and former prostitute. She's a luminous, eye-catching, scene-stealing actress, and although she has trouble forming the English words that form much of her dialogue, her screen presence holds sway. Sadly, *Chinese Box* is not the best forum for a display of her talent (for that I'd much more strongly recommend any of the aforementioned films).

Instead of adopting a strong, dramatic tone that might have worked better, director Wayne Wang opted for melodrama for this examination of Hong Kong during the final months of its independence from mainland, Communist China. Given the tension and cultural upheaval generated by the events of July 1, 1997, this would seem to be capable of inspiring a great motion picture. Unfortunately, Wang chooses to plunge viewers into soap opera, a decision which robs *Chinese Box* of much of its potential for emotional bang.

Jeremy Irons, looking gaunt and unhappy, plays John, a British photojournalist living and working in Hong Kong, and suffering from an unrequited love - indeed, obsession - for Vivian. The bulk of the film follows him as he desperately attempts to win her over, record the "human interest" story of a disfigured street hustler named Jean (Maggie Cheung), and deal with the exceedingly bad news he's received from his doctor.

Irons makes a strong effort to be the sympathetic character you're supposed to get emotionally involved with as a viewer, but doesn't quite connect. He's lifeless in

this role, uninspired, even for a very ill man. I was much more interested in the film's setting and background than I was in its foreground.

The John-Vivian relationship didn't draw me in at all. It was an obvious allegory for what was going on in the larger, historical sense, but why bother with metaphors when you can do an inspiring film on the



The Chinese Box - Gong Li stars as Vivian, a bar owner and mistress in "The Chinese Box."

real thing? Instead, we learn almost nothing about the historic Chinese takeover, or its effects on anyone interesting in particular, and are left watching developments on CNN along with John.

Chinese Box is not a terrible film - the performances of Li, Cheung and Ruben Blades (as John's friend, Jim) are strong, and it offers a series of semi-satisfying moments for those into sudsy romantic tragedy - but at base it is a disappointment. The real puzzle of this *Chinese Box* is how so much dramatic potential could result in a film of so little consequence. *Chinese Box* opened at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater May 15th. ★★

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From Here To Eternity: The Motion Picture Legacy of Frank Sinatra

By John Jahn

Everyone's waiting for January 1, 2001 - the day the 20th century comes to an end. But I'd argue that we've already experienced the end of our current century. It happened the moment that Frank Sinatra died in the wee, small hours of the morning of May 15, 1998. His music & artistry will define this century the same way that Bach, Mozart and Beethoven did theirs. But there was much more to the Sinatra Century than his extraordinary recording legacy of over 1,800 songs spanning 6 decades. There was also Sinatra - the movie actor.



Frank Sinatra - Circa 1968

next to *Eternity* his best dramatic film role. Unfortunately it was abruptly pulled from movie theaters when President Kennedy was assassinated the following year, largely due to its dark political message. The rest of the decade saw the series of "Rat Pack" films, none of which artistic masterpieces, but all quite watchable and entertaining in a light, *ring-a-ding-ding* sorta way. He ended the decade with performances as a kind of alter ego private eye, Tony Rome, and a doomed war hero (*Von Ryan's Express*).

By 1970, the curtain fell on Sinatra's 30 year film career. There would be only one more - 1980's *The First Deadly Sin*, in which he played a hard-bitten police detective opposite Faye Dunaway.

Whether he was in light-hearted comedies or serious dramas - musical or not - Frank Sinatra put his indelible stamp upon each and every film role of his career. He seemed to bring at least one of his many

artistic gifts to each part - his coolness, sophistication, vulnerability, romantic passion, temperamentalism, his unique personification of the American Dream, whatever it may be. When you hear me say this, it may sound ridiculous. You just have to see it for yourself. Thank goodness we have his extraordinary film career readily available to prove it; a fine accompaniment to his recording legacy.

All told there were some 60 movies, from 1940's *Las Vegas Nights* to 1980's *The First Deadly Sin*, and they span the vast chasm between God-awful dreck to film classic. But despite the quality of the films themselves, Sinatra made a mark for himself - to much critical acclaim - in virtually every role, and this despite the fact that he hadn't had 1 hour of acting school. He was a natural actor - even his concert performances bear this out.

He started out simply as the band vocalist in his films of the early '40s - *Las Vegas Nights*, *Ship Ahoy* (1942) and *Reveille With Beverly* (1943). His feature acting debut was in the RKO film of 1943, *Higher and Higher*, in which he played himself. There then followed 5 musicals in 4 years, topped off by the wonderful MGM film *Anchors Aweigh* (1945). Movie roles streamed in, and Sinatra had made almost a dozen films by the end of the '40s.

The first few years of the next decade brought debacle on all fronts. His marriage to Ava Gardner crumbled, two films flopped (*Double Dynamite*, *Meet Danny Wilson*, both of 1951), Columbia Records and MGM Studios both cancelled his contracts and his vocal chords hemorrhaged. Interestingly enough it was a film role - "Maggio" in 1954's *From Here To Eternity* - that saved him from oblivion, not a hit record. Indeed, he would win the 1955 Best Supporting Actor Oscar for that performance. Though he was only paid \$8,000 for his work on *Eternity*, he was so desperate at that point in his life he'd have done it for free.

With critical success once more his own, Sinatra added non-singing, dramatic roles to his musical ones in the 1950s. As "Frankie," a strung-out drug addict in 1955's *The Man With The Golden Arm*, Sinatra was nominated for a Best Actor Oscar.

The 1960s started off with another classic Sinatra screen performance - a soldier in 1962's *The Manchurian Candidate* -

Tune Reviews

In Her New Album, Dobkin Looks Back at Her Musical Roots

Living With Lavender Jane
Alix Dobkin
Ladyslipper Records, Inc.

By John Jahn

Over 20 years ago Alix Dobkin released her first album (an LP back then, of course) entitled "*Lavender Jane Loves Women*." Riding the cresting wave of emerging feminist spirit, women began producing, recording and engineering music by and for fellow women. This came to be known as "women's music."

Today, women's music is well-established and available almost everywhere, but Dobkin's new album invites listeners to take a step back and see where it all started.

"*Lavender Jane Loves Women*" (1973) was followed 2 years later by "*Living with Lesbians*," a scandalously unabashed title that left no question as to the record's intended audience as well as its performers.

"*Living with Lavender Jane*" is a compilation of both of those history-making LPs onto a single CD, and as such is a wonderful look back at the musical roots of Lesbian/feminist activism.

The songs themselves are reminiscent of protest and folk traditions. Dobkin's radical perspective is clear and obvious as she sings of love between women and social rebellion. The "love that dared not speak its name" had found voice, accompaniment, studio and publisher and *Her-story* was made!

This CD is an aural history lesson - in fact, in many ways the songs themselves are history. Unapologetic and uncompromising, it stands as an archive to which modern, independent female performers can look with gratitude and for inspiration.

The early and mid-70s was a fascinating and important time full of social change and evolution, and thanks to this new CD, one aspect of those turbulent times can be experienced again!

BULWORTH

Continued From Page 16

under-written and rather ambiguous role.

Much better is Oliver Platt who plays Murphy, Senator Bulworth's long-standing, much put upon chief-of-staff. Platt is a delight to watch as he desperately tries to put a positive spin on each new and ever increasingly outrageous antic Bulworth comes up with while clinging to his ever diminishing self-respect.

Although offering moments of pure comic genius, *Bulworth's* curious, unpleasant ending is sure to leave audiences puzzled as they leave the cinema.

Rating \$4.85 (scale: No cents to \$7.00)

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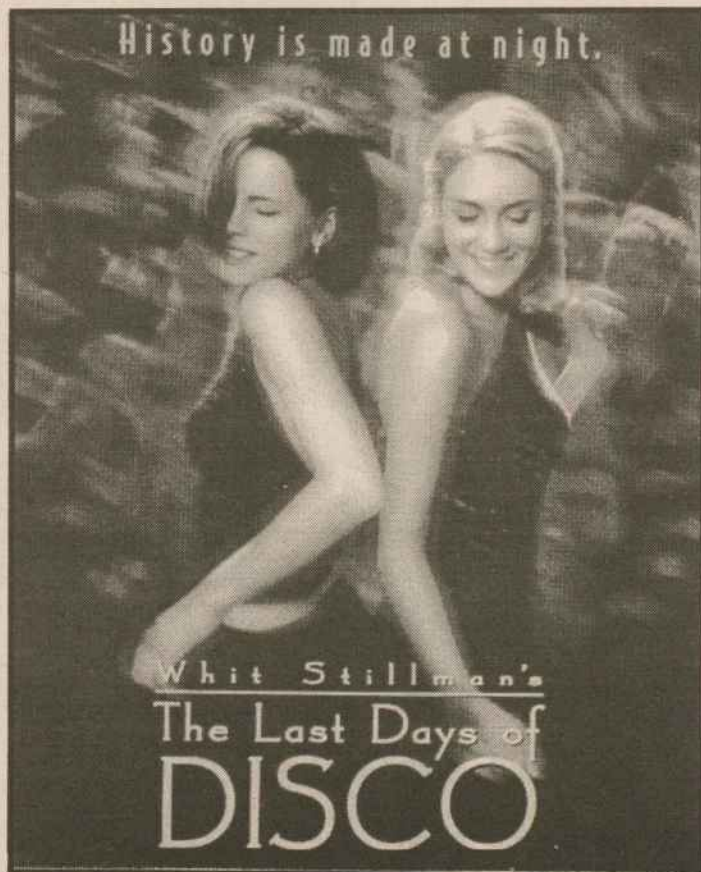
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Dear Ruthie

Bad investments. My life is full of bad investments. I've invested years in bad marriages, bad cars, leaky trailers, and cheap bras. Sure - I've slept with royalty, government officials, and parking attendants - but my life hasn't always been a pot of gold you know.

For example, there's the time I lost thousands of dollars after investing in an ice show. I truly thought Gardetto's on Ice was going to be a hit. I should have known better when Scott Hamilton pulled out. No one plays a Rye Crisp like Scott Hamilton! No one, damn you! No one!

Two months later I was \$40,000.00 in the hole and stuck with 77 pretzel costumes. Damn figure skaters - they're all too proud to dress as America's favorite party snack!

Do you think the skaters in the Frito-Lay Follies have such bad attitudes? Do you? Peggy Fleming is skating her heart out six nights a week - and let me tell you - she plays one helluva Cheeto!

I could have invested in Post-It Notes - instead I invested in EpiLady razors. What was I thinking? EpiLady? I've had root canals that were less painful.

My friend, Pearl, bought stock in Pepsi Cola. I bought stock in the Vanna White Doll. I bought stock in New Coke, The Clapper, and the TV show "Saved by the Bell."

I helped produce a line of health and fitness videotapes by Joey Buttafucchio and invested in the B.B. King Blow-Up Love Doll. I gave John Wayne Bobbit money to start a sausage company, and I helped fund the release of a Debbie Gibson album.

Last year I gave the Duchess of York some money to help her bottle The Queen Mum's Wart Remover, and I thought the Jesse Helms cologne, H.A.T.E., would make me rich.

And remember Porky's 3? - guess who you have to thank for that!

I need help! I'm out of control. I do think, however, that things are about to turn around. I understand that Goldie Hawn is looking for investors in her Do-It-Yourself Varicose Vein Removal Kit and Acidic Peel Lotion. I'm going to send Goldie a letter tonight! There's money to be made here Goldie-baby! Tell that cute boyfriend of yours to throw on a g-string and mix us up some martinis! We'll write ourselves an infomercial featuring you, Joyce DeWitt, and Alyssa Milano. My check is in the mail!!!

Well enough of my financial status. Let's read a letter!

Dear Ruthie,

My good friend, who shall remain nameless, fixed me up with this man. She talked about him for weeks and how perfect we were for each other and that we have to meet. Well, we did meet and did hit it off quite well. However, after a few dates, the guy tells me he's HIV positive. He also told me that our mutual friend knew.

While I like the guy and we will most likely continue dating for awhile, I am upset with my friend as I feel that she should have told me his HIV status since she knew it all along. She told me everything else about him, how could she leave out such an important thing? Particularly since it was my life that could have been endangered. What if he hadn't told me and I became infected? She put me at risk.

The question is: What do you think I should do? Should I forget the whole thing and forgive my friend, or should I confront her? (signed)

Questioning Queen

Dear Queen,

You're wrong.

This reminds me of the time I got set up with a guy. I met this woman, Sylvia, in 1973 at a Tupperware party thrown by our mutual friend Rita Coolidge. (A little known fact about Rita - the bitch loves Tupperware - can't get enough of it.)

So anyway, I sneak out during the lettuce crisper demonstration to have myself a smoke. I was thrilled to meet Sylvia in the driveway doing the same thing - except she managed to hustle a flask from the gardener.

Anywho, Sylvia went on and on about this guy she knew who was not only single, but was good-looking and loved to dance. Well, let me tell ya - the guy could've had a hunch back and I still would've jumped him just to get away from Rita Coolidge and the locking in freshness fiends in her living room.

Besides, in the seventies, it was a rare



Ruthie

thing to meet a good-looking man who loved to dance and wasn't Gay.

Sylvia gave me her address and I headed back to the trailer park to get ready.

At 7:00 p.m. I ran up the stairs to Sylvia's apartment - anxious to meet my next husband. I rang the doorbell and was greeted by the 70's god of platform shoes and polyester shirts. He was 6'2", with a full head of hair, a mustache, a tight little tush, and muscles for days. He was an acre of flesh that I couldn't wait to run my bare feet across. I was going to sink my teeth so deep into this man, that I figured I may not get them all back.

I've heard a lot about you, he smiled. I think we'll have fun tonight.

Sylvia was still in the shower getting ready to go out with us. I figured, Screw Sylvia! I didn't need a chaperone - hell - I didn't even know her. Let's get out of here, Sugar-Booger, and paint the town red.

Before I knew it, the beefy pillar of man-flesh and I were out the door, in his Trans Am, and back at my trailer. Well ... we

could barely keep our hands off each other. Five hours, eight cigarettes, a busted bean bag chair, and a bottle of vodka later, the guy tells me that we'd better think of a good excuse to tell Sylvia.

He wanted to explain why we left without her and why we didn't wait for my date to show.

You guessed it! Turned out the guy lying next to me was Sylvia's husband - not the guy I was supposed to meet at all. My blind date hadn't even gotten to the apartment when I arrived! I kicked Sylvia's husband out of my trailer and that was the last I heard from either of them.

So what's the moral? Stay away from cigarette smoking hussies at Tupperware parties. Oh - yeah - and if the guy you're sleeping with has the name Sylvia tattooed on his chest, you might want to ask him what it's about.

But back to your story - it isn't your friend's responsibility to tell you the STD status of anyone! I'm guessing your friend set you up with this man because your personalities made a good match - not because of the type of sex partners you two would make. What happens under the sheets is your responsibility - not your friend's.

She did not put you at risk. Honey, you're responsible for your own risk taking. I'm sure your friend thought you were responsible enough to discuss sexual histories before sex and to play safely once the relationship got that far. She didn't put you at risk.

Besides, to tell you about his status would have been gossiping. Surely she knew that this guy was responsible and believed he would discuss this with you. Remember he's her friend too.

Don't mention this to your friend at all. It sounds like she's a good match-maker as you plan on seeing this person again. Don't let his status get in the way of building a wonderful relationship and don't let your friend's proper discretion get in the way of your friendship. Give them both a big hug and surprise them with a nice gift. How about Pretzel costumes? What about a dozen bottles of wart remover?

Hey - send me your letters and such! I love getting your questions and comments. You can reach me care of: The Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. You can also email me via the Wisconsin Light web page at www.wilight.com.

Daddy/Daddy's Boy Contest to be Held at Eagle Bar

Milwaukee—The 1998 Wisconsin Mr. Daddy/Daddy's Boy Contest will be held Saturday, June 6, 1998 at the Milwaukee Eagle Bar, 300 W. Juneau starting at 9:30 p.m. Tickets for the contest are available at any of the participating bars or at the door. Ticket donation is \$10.

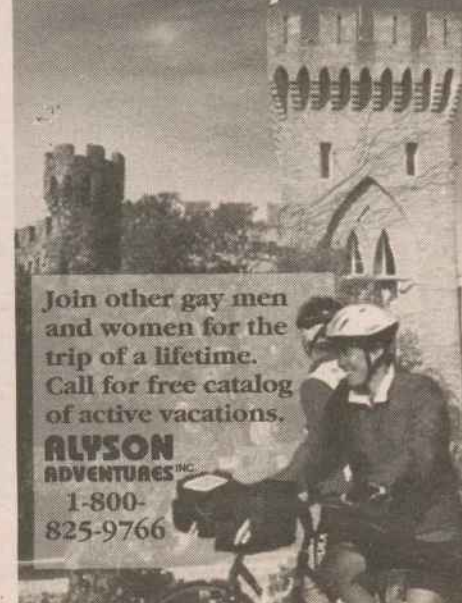
The evening will begin with a get-together at the South Water Street Docks from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. A spaghetti dinner will be served. There is a \$5 donation.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may do so up to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Flyers with the contest application and rules are available at the participating bars. There is no entry fee. Contestants do not have to be from Wisconsin.

On Sunday, June 7, an auction will be held at the 1100 Club starting at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the charities of the sponsoring club's choice.

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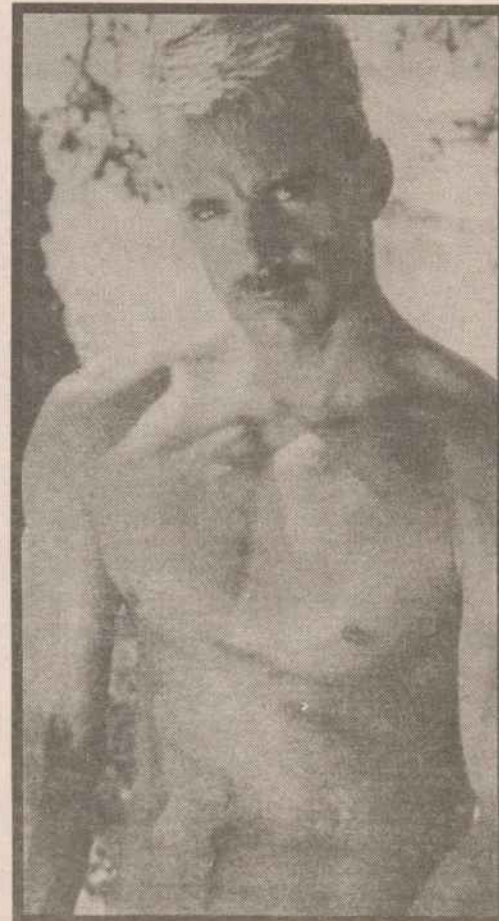
CHASE HUNTER

Sunday
May 31, 10^{pm}



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**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 52nd 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.

MONDAY MAY 25

**SOUTH WATER STREET DOCKS
POSSUM ROAST**

It's a roast, it's a buffet, it's a Possum Queen Benefit for the Infamous Topaz and her sidekick Aqua Marie.

That's right you can complete your Memorial Day weekend with a fabulous party at South Water Street Docks, 354 East National Ave, Milwaukee.

There will be scrumptious buffet for just \$5.00, Pitchers of Gay Milwaukee's favorite beer, Miller are just \$4.00. And it's a benefit to help Dock's Possum Queen candidates ascend to the throne.

Festivities get underway at 2:00 and go to about 7:00. Proceeds benefit the BESTD Clinic.

FRIDAY -SUNDAY MAY 29 -31

**CHASE HUNTER TOURS
WISCONSIN**

That fabulous Falcon Video Star, Chase Hunter returns to Wisconsin for a some special appearances in Milwaukee on May 29. On Saturday, May 30, Chase will be at Kenosha's Club 94, 9001 N. 120th Ave, and Madison's Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair Street will host Chase on Sunday, May 31.

Don't miss this unique chance to meet and greet one of Gay video's hottest men. Check with your favorite bartender at these establishments for details.

FRIDAY MAY 29

**FEST CITY SINGERS SHOW BE-
GINS THREE WEEKEND RUN**

They're baaaccck. The Fest City Singers are bringing you an all new sassy musical revue "Thank You For Being a Friend." The show opens on Friday May

KATE CLINTON

Continued From Page 15

going back as a guest. How will it feel to go back?

Kate Clinton: It'll be fun. You know, I stayed in touch with her—followed her success. She lives around the corner in New York, so I've seen her. It'll be fun to go back and see the old gal.

CVV: How was working on the show? I heard it wasn't an easy time for you.

Kate Clinton: No, it was very, very intense—like 14 hour, 15 hour days because basically we were doing a weekly variety show on a daily basis. I think it settled down some now because...the show was a hit so fast. We were just slammed by the success of it.

We were trying to keep our head above water most of the time. And it is a pretty—it reacts pretty quickly to what's going on. It was all kinds of changes all the time. It was fun and she certainly is a wonderful woman who knows exactly what she wants and that's always fun in a gal.

Kate Clinton will be in Milwaukee signing her book at AfterWords Bookstore on May 27th at 7pm. Her new CD, *Comedy You Can Dance To*, will be in stores at the end

29th and will run on Friday and Saturday evenings through June 13th.

All performances are held at Marcie's Second Time Around Playhouse, 6803 W. National Ave, Milwaukee. For Ticket info call (414) 263-7464.

KEVIN'S BIRTHDAY BASH

R.J. and Pete are throwing a party for the Milwaukee Eagle's resident deejay, Kevin. It's private, so get your tickets at the bar. The fun starts at 9:00 p.m. There's to be a very special guest on hand to make things really hop.

TUESDAY JUNE 2

**LAST DAYS OF DISCO SCREENING
PARTY AT LA CAGE**

A very special screening of that hot new flick "The Last Days of Disco" will be held at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

This movie about the end of the so called golden age of disco will be hitting the theaters soon but you can see it first by picking up your FREE pass for two at La Cage, Dish or Afterwords Book store.

The screening will be followed by a special party at La Cage. Music from the 70's and 80's will be accompanied by special drawings for cd's of the movie soundtrack and other prizes.

La Cage is located at 801 S. Second, Milwaukee.



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April May
& Horrida Bella Black

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Poppa
(Michael) Smurf
Celebrates their
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MAY 29TH DJ KEVINS

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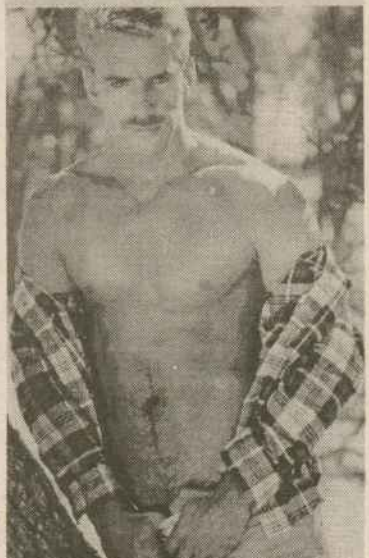
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MAY 28TH

TICKETS ARE \$7-PERSON & \$10-COUPLE

**GUEST JUDGE
CHASE HUNTER**



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PARTY WILL BE HELD AT 300W. JUNEAU AVE.**

**1998 MILWAUKEE CLASSIC SCHEDULE
SATURDAY, MAY 23RD**

9:00 SCOTS	<u>2</u> VS DUNN BROS	CHI HITMEN	<u>3</u> VS RAINBOW RD	SIDETRACKS	<u>4</u> VS WOODY'S
9:00 BUDS BUZZ	<u>5</u> VS BALLGAME	TC STORM	<u>6</u> VS DOCKS	MISFITS	<u>7</u> VS BALISTRER'S
10:00 NORTH END	<u>2</u> VS CRUSHERS	DUNN BROS	<u>3</u> VS REMINGTON	RAINBOW RD	<u>4</u> VS M & M
10:00 SIDETRACK	<u>5</u> VS ROR FINANCE	BUDS BUZZ	<u>6</u> VS OVER RAIN	ANNEX	<u>7</u> VS TC STORM
11:00 MELROSE RK	<u>2</u> VS BALISTRER'S	CRUSHERS	<u>3</u> VS IN BETWEEN	SCOTS	<u>4</u> VS REMINGTONS
11:00 CHI HITMEN	<u>5</u> VS M & M	ROR FINANCE	<u>6</u> VS WOODY'S	OVER RAIN	<u>7</u> VS BALLGAME
12:00	<u>2</u> VS		<u>3</u> VS		<u>4</u> VS
12:00 ANNEX	<u>5</u> VS DOCKS	MELROSE RK	<u>6</u> VS MISFITS	NORTH END	<u>7</u> VS IN BETWEEN

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

CHICAGO

ANNEX
CHICAGO HITMEN
MELROSE ROCKERS
NORTH END
SCOT'S
SIDETRACK

MINNEAPOLIS

BRASS RAIL MISFITS
DUNN BROS SPURS
MINNESOTA CRUSHERS
OVER THE RAINBOW TORNADOS
RAINBOW ROAD ROADRUNNERS
ROR FINANCIAL SERVICES
TWIN CITIES STORM

MILWAUKEE

BALISTRER'S
BALL GAME RANGERS
DOCKS
IN BETWEEN
M & M BLOW POPS
WOODY'S

OTHERS

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Tuesday, June 2

at Milwaukee's Downer Theater

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Followed By

"The Last Days of Disco Party!"

**Dance Music from the 70's and 80's
Giveaways From Wisconsin's #1 Dance Club**

June's "In The Life" Takes a Close Look At GLBT's and the American Pie

New York, NY--For its second annual "American as Apple Pie" episode, IN THE LIFE, the national Gay and Lesbian newsmagazine series, examines Gay participation in some of the most traditional institutions in American society: the military, marriage, politics, the church and the family. It is in these areas that Gay people across the nation are struggling for a piece of the most sacredly guarded portion of the American pie.

To illustrate this point IN THE LIFE talks to: Virginia Apuzzo, White House Assistant to President Clinton for Management and Administration; Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, long term partners who created the multi-media company World of Wonder; Reverends Jimmy Creech and Cecil Williams, two dynamic religious leaders who are challenging old notions by welcoming Gays and Lesbians into their churches; and Gair Bridges and Ron Travis, Iowa's foster parents of the year.

IN THE LIFE 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 bi-monthly newsmagazine series chronicles the history and contemporary experience of the Lesbian and Gay community, and airs on over 100 public television stations nationwide.

Los Angeles correspondent Bill Britt, and political "fumorist"—that's feminist/humorist—Kate Clinton join IN THE LIFE host Katherine Linton on "American as Apple Pie 1998," the Gay Pride Special. Story by story description:

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—Seeking Inclusion

The lead story examines how over the past two decades everyday Gay and Lesbian citizens have challenged state and federal laws to fight for their civil rights. More recently they have fought for even greater inclusion with battles surrounding America's most sacred institutions — marriage, the military, parental rights, even the Boy Scouts.

To bring perspective on these intense debates, IN THE LIFE interviews: Michelle Benecke of the Service Members Legal Defense Network; Kerry Lobel, Executive Director the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Noemi Maslah of the Immigration Rights Task Force.

This segment maps a shifting focus in the Gay civil rights movement and illustrates how far Gays and Lesbians have come in the eyes of the law—and how far there is still to go.

A Day in the Life of Virginia Apuzzo

Few careers reflect the changes in America's Gay rights struggle as clearly as that of Virginia Apuzzo. In 1987 she was arrested for demonstrating in front of the White house. Now she is involved in running it. For 30 years she has been one of the Gay and Lesbian movement's most visible activists. Now, working in the White House as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration, she is the highest ranking openly Gay official ever to serve in the federal government.

"I didn't imagine myself here 25 weeks ago. I don't think you begin as an out Gay person in government thinking that someday you'll end up in the white House," Apuzzo said.

This segment shows how Virginia Apuzzo's activist ideas reach President Clinton's ear.

Fostering Small Town Values Iowa's Foster Parents of the Year

For this story IN THE LIFE travels to rural Iowa to visit with Gair Bridges and Ron Travis, two Gay men who over the past decade have made their home a safe, loving environment for 18 foster children. They were Iowa's 1996 Foster Parents of the Year and are further distinguished by being the first Gay couple to be honored by any state with this award.

Gary, one of their foster children tells IN THE LIFE of his first days in their care: "My world was turned right upside down. I just didn't know what to think. And then I heard about their (Ron and Gair's) lifestyle. I was kind of afraid—you know the stereotype, the images were coming to my mind—until I finally met them. After a week it was great. They were there for me. I could trust them. I consider them my dads—my two dads."

World of Wonder The Selling of Gay America

This story profiles Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, the dynamic Gay duo who created World of Wonder, an independent multi-media production company that produces programming for Showtime, HBO, and VH1 as well as England's Channel 4



Katherine Linton host of "In the Life"

and the BBC. Bailey and Barbato bring to an international audience a hip, cool, and often Queer vision of America in the 1990s, turning Gay fringe images such as Ru Paul into mainstream phenomena.

"We've always felt that things that peo-

ple have traditionally dismissed as marginal are in fact potentially mainstream," said Fenton Bailey. Bailey and Barbato are not only partners in business—they have been longtime companions for sixteen years.

For God and Country A Tale of Two Reverends

In this story IN THE LIFE examines the efforts of Methodist ministers Rev. Cecil Williams and Rev. Jimmy Creech, both of whom, despite stern reprisals from church hierarchy, openly and eagerly welcome Gay and Lesbian worshippers into their congregations. Rev. Cecil Williams runs the dynamic and diverse Glide Church in San Francisco.

Rev. Jimmy Creech of Omaha, Nebraska, recently caused a storm in the Methodist Church and was recently put on trial for performing a commitment ceremony for a Lesbian couple.

Awards Gay American Style

Perhaps no other American tradition is so constant and so public as the proliferation of award ceremonies. Every year millions of viewers tune in for events like the Oscars, Tonys and Grammys. Now the Gay community has adopted this grand American tradition and made it their own.

This story looks at three awards: the GLAAD Awards, those given to media by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; GLAMA, the Gay and Lesbian Music Awards; and the Annual Easter Bonnet Competition held by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

This segment, hosted by political humorist—and a veteran MC of numerous award events—Kate Clinton, examines

how the Gay and Lesbian community has adapted this awards tradition as a strategy to increase its visibility and to raise funds for vital projects.

Snapshots and Sounds Recording Lesbian History

Just a few decades ago images of Lesbians were virtually non-existent to the greater public. But the 1970's, following on the heels of the 1969 Stonewall riots, were a time when many Gay and Lesbian American's came of age politically. During those years a photographer named JEB, and a recording company called Olivia Records saw that the awakening of Lesbian ideas and identity was the stuff for history.

The groundbreaking work of JEB and the women at Olivia Records captured and preserved the spirit of the lives, work, and struggle of Lesbians during a time of dramatic change. Without their efforts to record history, many of the images and sounds of that crucial period of the modern Gay movement would have been lost forever.

This story looks at the work of some important chroniclers of the 1970's Lesbian feminist movement.

Milwaukee, WMVS channel 10 -- Thursday, June 25, 11pm *Wisconsin Public TV -- Thursday, June 18, 11 pm *Green Bay - WPNE/38; Madison - WHA/21; Menomonie-Eau Claire - WHWC/28; Wassau - WHRM/20; La-Crosse - WHLA/31; Park Falls - WLEF/36

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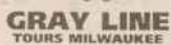
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THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... Things have been pretty quiet lately, but we do have some things to report.

One thing right off the top. Have you seen the rainbow flags flying again downtown—Wisconsin Avenue and Water Street? Don't they look great? I mean, fab'ulous! I get such a feeling of Pride when I see them. How long ago was it that those flags flying there would have been beyond conception. But there they are! While **PrideFest** is weeks away—the last weekend in August this year—seeing those flags lets me know the festival is coming. Congratulations to the **Pride Committee**.

Manoeuvres continues to inch towards moving to its new location, the site of the old Bombay Bicycle club. Owner Ed G is just waiting on the financing. The new digs for the Madison impaired are just a hop skip and jump from the site of the old Hotel Washington. Hopefully Ed will have better luck on the financing than they did.

Fannies is still not reopened. We talked to Sharon and she said that really does expect to reopen soon. First, she had a problem with her roofer. After that, apparently there are some permit problems which should be resolved shortly.

Jeremy that hot little bartender from **This Is It** won the Mr. SSBL contest held at **Woody's**. Heartiest congratulations to both he and the team from **This Is It**. The large crowd that's always there at the bar, was pleased as punch about it. Joe put the trophy up high for all to see.

Recaps... I had a wonderful time at the "Mommie Dearest Day" Possum Queen fund raiser at **The Ball Game**. Muffin did a great job with the raffle (like when doesn't he) and as usual there was a friendly crowd on hand.

I also had a fun time at the previously mentioned Mr. SSBL Contest held at **Woody's**. There were a ton of people on hand scrambling to sell raffle tickets and a good time was had by all.

The Milwaukee Eagle was packed for its first annual Black Party. This was a benefit for ARCW and the leather community—and a lot of others, too—was out in force to show support. It was a great party.

Realtor Jack Smith treated me and a few hundred of his closest friends to a great brunch at the Villa Terrace. It was delicious and elegant and what a great setting. It was so nice to see someone who works so hard and is so successful take some time out to say thanks.

Another great setting was at the **Boulevard Inn**, where the Cream City Foundation held its "Titanic High Tea"

CLASSIC

Continued From Page 13

The means leave the mascara, the tutu, the pumps and those fishnets at home. They may work wonders for you in other scenes, but will probably not win any points for you here.

It also goes without saying that you should at least be somewhat familiar with the rules of the game. Nothing can blow a promising evening more quickly than asking why that guy is out just after you assured your new friend that you have all state status in softball.

Definitely do not yell "Goes Over" if there is a call you don't like. But do understand the game a little.

Softball is a lot like baseball but with some important differences. There are no lead offs, no base stealing, the pitches are thrown underhand and must have an arc of at least six feet and not more than 12 feet from the point of release. Also in tournament play you get three strikes of any kind so if the third strike is foul the batter is out.

Amenities

Unfortunately, the Milwaukee Classic played in a City Athletic facility not a county park so there are no concessions on site. However, there are rest rooms and Dana's Fieldhouse which is across the street from the diamonds is a great place to stop.

Beside getting some of the friendliest service you will see anywhere, you also will get a crack at their famous all you can eat buffet (just \$5.00 and quite a bargain.)

If you prefer you can bring your goodies to snack on while you watch all the fun and excitement.

So there you have it folks, everything you need to know to enjoy yourself at Gay Wisconsin's premier sporting event, the Milwaukee Classic. Enjoy. See you at Wick Field.

fundraiser on Sunday May 17. The food was fabulous and a nice crowd was on hand. Kudo's to Landmark Enterprises and CCF for a job very well done.

There was a nice crowd at the **M & M Club** Team fund raiser on May 16. A \$3.00 beer bust, a golf game, raffles and some entertainment topped off a great day on the ball diamonds. Tony from **In Between's** team won the putting championship.

Speaking of **In Between** I had a great time there the other day with George from **La Cage** and owner Curt Peck. I finally beat George in Bar dice, but then found out what happens when you shake five ones. (Don't try that one at home)

Course we moved over to **La Cage** which was also hopping. Once there I found out that I should have quit while I was ahead.

Speaking of hopping, I hopped did the Milwaukee leather bar crawl the other day. **The Eagle** had a nice crowd as usual and so did **The Boot Camp**. The folks at **The 1100 Club** were friendly as well.

After all that butchness, I escaped to see the **La Cage Showcase** the next evening. The girls were in fine form (like when aren't they?)

After the show I stopped at **This Is It** for

a night cap (okay so it was more than one night cap). A packed crowd was enjoying the music on the juke box and still congratulating Jeremy on winning the coveted title of Mr. SSBL.

Coming Up ... The big event is the Milwaukee Classic on May 23 and 24. It which will feature fifteen out of town teams. The tourney is held at Milwaukee's Wick Field. It is free and there are enough games going on at once to satisfy every sports fanatic.

Besides making the tournament, I will also be hitting the parties at **In Between, Woody's, the M & M Club, Club 219 and The Ball Game**. These five establishments have graciously volunteered to throw a shindig for the out of towners on Saturday evening.

But that is not all that's going on that weekend. The fabulous Walker's Point Memorial Day weekend Block Party will take place on Saturday and Sunday as well. **Fluid** and **La Cage** will be participating in the festivities which includes great food.

On **Friday, May 29**, R.J. and Pete are throwing a party at the **Milwaukee Eagle** for resident deejay Kevin. It's to be a birthday bash—Kevin's 21st. I hear. Anyway, it's a private bash, so I want to be sure to get my ticket at the bar. The fun starts at 9:00 p.m. and I hear that there's to be a very special guest on hand. I don't want to miss that.

Adult video superstar Chase Hunter is returning to Wisconsin and I can't wait to see him again. If you missed Chase when he was in town for **The Decade of Light** party last November, don't miss him this

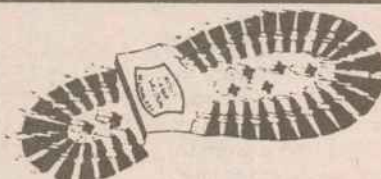
time. He is gorgeous and a real sweet heart to boot. He will be at **Club 94** in Kenosha on Saturday, May 30 and at **Manoeuvres** in Madison on Sunday, May 31.

Saturday May 30th I'll be checking out **The Fest City Singers** new musical revue, "thank You For Being a Friend." This hard working group is always entertaining. They will be at **Marcie's Second Time Playhouse**.

I can't wait to see "The Last Days of Disco" at the special screening on **Tuesday, June 2**. You can join me by picking up a free pass for two. They are available at **La Cage, Afterwords Books** and at **Dish**.

The screening will be followed by a party at **La Cage** complete with 70's and 80's music ("Oh my this is the first time I have ever heard that song") special prizes and more.

Well that wraps it up for now. Hope I see you out and about soon, meanwhile stay safe and be proud.



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

**ONEIDA
BUS TRIP &
GREEN BAY
BAR CRAWL
- May 30th -**



WRITERS

Continued From Page 15

come down against equal civil rights for others sharing their differences simply to keep themselves out of the spotlight of suspicion.

Brown: Also agreed, saying she believes media coverage of Lesbian/Gay private and public figures reflects the negative effects of "the entire anti-woman, anti-sex, anti-joy culture that beats us over the head" every day.

"I most emphatically want to know," she continued, "about (the orientation of) our public officials whose fingers aren't far from the buttons, whether they be nuclear buttons or budget buttons."

W: Asked the panelists to reflect on how they believe a neo-Puritan "sex panic" has affected both Gay culture and how it is covered by the media.

Brown asserted that, at least for Lesbians, it probably didn't resonate as much as with Gay men. She believes it's just more reactionism taking hold of mainstream culture.

"It's entwined with the oppression of women. I don't want to bitch about it," she responded with characteristic candor, "because it's just the way it is. But there's one day when (as a woman), you wake up and realize the world is tilted."

She explained that most of the world is just not in favor of women, and women are pretty used to that by the time they are making sexual choices, so the "panic" really doesn't come as any surprise or extreme difficulty to them. "I don't think any woman in this room suffers from it." (Wicked grin) "And if you do, call me later and I'll tell you how to overcome it."

S: Admitted that Gay male culture has a lot of unhealthy aspects: obsession with body image, the party life and self-hating behavior like substance abuse. He feels that, with the appearance of effective drugs for HIV-positive people, there is false confidence that soon there will be a cure for AIDS and therefore safe sex practices are no longer important.

"If things stay the same as they are now, fifty percent of today's 18-year-olds will be HIV sero-positive by the end of the century." He feels the media treatment of this behavior is rooted in fear and backlash. "To me, (the sex panic) has been people trying to deny what's happening. We're dealing with denial."

W: Confronted Signorile with an apparent dichotomy. "How do you maintain a balance between criticizing (Gay male) obsessiveness with the 'ideal' and then showing it on the cover of your book?"

S: "Being healthy, comfortable with your body and safe (in sex practices) doesn't mean giving up caring about how we look, dress, et cetera."

K: (Coming to Signorile's defense) "The purpose of the Gay movement is to celebrate every kind of diversity." He feels that to write critically about the reality of circuit parties, cruising and other less-than-laudable lifestyles in Gay culture was not to "turn" on that culture, but to expose the dangers of irresponsible behavior in an effort to prevent further spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"Circuit parties are one or two percent of Gay culture," he admitted, but went on to describe the other 98% as being composed of "regular people," upstanding and responsible men. He believes the hysteria of the "sex panic" has been promulgated by a hostile media looking for tabloid stories, which has created a false issue with the either/or question. "I don't think we have to choose between monogamy and promiscuity."

W: "How can Gay and Lesbian writers be responsible to Gay or Lesbian kids in Podunk, USA?"

B: "In this country, children are chattel, property, effectively non-persons." She believes that material that reaches alternatively oriented teens with factual, non-threatening information can only help, and that the Gay media is primarily responsible for publishing that information so it is available. She feels the Internet is already and will become even more a great force in this effort.

Still, she laments the fact that young people, by their nature, believe they are indestructible, and that no amount of good information can change the behavior of someone who believes "it can't happen to me." "Try telling a sixteen-year-old his dick is gonna kill him."

K: "We in New York and L.A. live very privileged lives and forget how unprivileged those are who don't live in big cities," referring to the availability and visibility of alternative cultural resources and communities. "It's up to us to reach out" and let them know others like them exist.

S: "Cities aren't necessarily havens. GLSTN (Gay and Lesbian Student Teacher Network) has 35 chapters nationwide. PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has over 300 chap-

ters. MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) is the largest Gay and Lesbian religious organization in small towns."

He feels that with a concentration of attention on urban Gay/Lesbian populations, the media neglects rural populations. "Groups like these don't get funded (to the extent that urban organizations do)."

K: "What about 'Ellen'? What about t Gay male shows on mainstream television? Will they ever happen?"

B: "Yes, but I'll be long past menopause when it happens!"

K & S: Concurred, and the conversation came around to "Ellen's" demise.

B: "It's as much because the writing wasn't fabulous" in the last season as it was about having an out Lesbian star. Addressing her fellow panelists and other men in the room, she said she feels Gay men take the brunt of the abuse from straight society. Women, being relatively ignored in society except as they relate to men, are usually left alone. But men are always being sized up by each other, making an out Gay man much more visible and easier to target. "Gay men are much more threatening to straight men on a very deep level."

S: (Nodding) "All men are insecure about being men." He exhibited some distaste with a remark that attempting to "pass" is one way Gay men try to avoid harassment and violence.

W: "Isn't what you're critiquing is Gay men appropriating the costume of the oppressor?"

S: (Nodding and mimicking a personal ad) "I'm a straight-acting Gay man.' What the hell is that?"

K: "In the Fifties, Gay men resisted being defined as 'top' or 'bottom.' (This categorization) is a very post-Stonewall attitude... not everything being a Gay male means."

W: "What would you say are the differences between (pre-Stonewall) 1968 and 1998?"

K: "No one was out of the closet (then). There were no outwardly or admittedly Gay men or women. There was a lot of sex, but it was very self-hating."

Warner opened the floor to questions from the audience. One woman observed that a majority of the panel discussion centered around issues of interest to Gay men and stated that she would like to talk about more Lesbian issues.

B: Stated that she felt this event was a microcosm of society at large, wherein women's issues are usually subjugated to those of men, and that this stemmed from the fact of most women having less money and therefore being less empowered.

S: (Agreeing) "I would like very much to see more dialogue" about Lesbian and feminist issues among Gay men, and a recognition that so much more could be achieved if Gay men would be less self-absorbed and more open to cooperation with Lesbians on a personal and political level.

Q: "What effect did your own personal coming out have, relevant to your careers as writers?"

B: Allowed that it really wasn't a factor, that her decision to be a writer was based more on the fact that "I'm just no good for anything else."

K: "I'm a much more clear and more honest writer now that I identify as a Gay man."

S: (Relating experiences from his childhood, when his stories always revolved around aliens from outer space who didn't fit in here on Earth) "I knew I was different, and my stories were my way of dealing with it." Since his writing had always dealt with such fantastic creations, he expressed surprise at having wound up as a journalist. "I never knew I was going to go into non-fiction."

A last question was put to the panel concerning what they would write about if a spirit appeared to them telling them that the next book they wrote would be a socially important and definitive work.

K: "The family."

B: "I'd be much more open about my true passion, the belief that the world expands and contracts with the breath of all living creatures on it."

S: "I think I've been visited by that spirit before." He explained that he feels his position of being widely published and widely read always give him the feeling that what he says does, in fact, have an effect on the opinions and actions of his readers. He takes this responsibility to heart, and admits that he's at his best while working on a new title. "In between books, I'm horrible."

Brown wrapped up the presentation with her statement that, as a culture, "In the beginning, the struggle was simply to survive. The reward is that we're in this room together."

© 1998 Mary Shafer

Editor's Note: Mary Shafer is a long-time activist in our community and a former resident of Milwaukee. She now resides in Pennsylvania.



Dressed in Black - A huge crowd turned out for the Milwaukee Eagle's First Annual Black Party, a benefit for the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin. The party was held on Friday, May 8.



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- Wisconsin Tribune
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- The Wisconsin Boiler
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- The Wisconsin Escape
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TEACH ME THE TRICKS I'm a White Male, 5'6", 125 lbs., with brown hair and brown eyes. Sadly, I'm very inexperienced. I'm looking for a Male, 18-mid-20's, who can teach me the tricks of the trade. (Kenosha) ☎16554

LET'S PLAY! These two in-shape Gay White Males in their early 30's, good-looking, would like to meet a third Male or another couple for fun times and adventure. Let's try some new things. (Milwaukee) ☎17313

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

NEVER DONE THIS This Bi-virgin, 34, with black hair and brown eyes, seeks another Male who's a virgin to the Bi thing to experiment with. I have a disability and am looking for fun and a short-term relationship. Show me the way. (Wausau) ☎17280

COVER BOY This smooth, good-looking model, 25, seeks young Males, 18-25, for lots of fun. (Madison) ☎17265

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

THE HEAT IS ON I'm a Bi Married Male, 5'9", 180 lbs, with brown hair, blue eyes, and a good build. I enjoy the outdoors, beaches, hot weather, and massage. I'm looking for that special Guy, Black or White, for regular get-togethers. (Wisconsin Dells) ☎17154

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

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

SOMETHING GOOD This 33-year-old Gay Black Male would like to meet another Gay Black or Latino Male who's interested in a long-term relationship. I'll show you something good. Peace. (Milwaukee) ☎16517

I LOVE LATINOS I'm a Bi White Male, 34, 6', with dark brown hair, blue eyes, a mustache, otherwise clean-shaven. I'm looking specifically for some nice-looking, in-shape Latinos or Hispanic Males, 21-35, to have a good time with, although I'll answer anyone who responds. I'm nice-looking and easygoing. Give me a call. (Madison) ☎16445

WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD? I'm a Bi Native American Male, 22, 6', 200 lbs., with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for intellectual Guys my age who want to have good conversations and good times. (Northeastern Wisconsin) ☎16118

ON MY KNEES I'm a submissive White Male, 40, with a foot fetish. I'm looking for dominant Males for master/slave games and to orally service. Heavy or chubby is a plus. I'll be on my knees waiting. (Milwaukee) ☎16005

NEW TO ALL THIS I'm a 42-year-old Male, 6'3", 220 lbs., with graying brown hair and green eyes. I've been in the closet my whole life and am just coming out a little bit. I'm looking for understanding Gay Males to talk to. I'm trying to figure out just what it is that I want. (Milwaukee) ☎15863

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

FACE THE MUSIC These Bi White Males, 40 and 21, into heavy metal music, seek Bi or Gay Guys under 25 for concerts, fun, and casual drinking at home. We're not into the bar scene. Give us a call. (Kenosha) ☎16974

SHOW ME A GOOD TIME I'm a 21 year old, very good looking Gay White Male, 6'1", with blonde hair and green eyes. I'm looking for other Gay White Males who are 20-24 years old and would like to meet and maybe do something later. (Madison) ☎18039

TAKE ME OUT I'm a 55 year old, 5'5", 140 lbs. Man who has brown hair, blue eyes and a little on the husky side. I'm a home body looking to go out with a Hispanic or Black Males, 18-30 years old, around my height. I don't drink, smoke or do drugs and I am interested in a monogamous relationship. (Milwaukee) ☎18501

LITTLE STEPS This Gay Male loves to dance and go to the movies. If you're a Man and want to have a real down to earth friendship, possible relationship, call me. (Bennington) ☎18608

PRO STYLE OR FANTASY I'm looking for guys between 20 and 40 years old, that are smooth, muscular, White, and good looking, into pro style wrestling. I'm 5'9, White, 180lbs, very discreet, good looking, with a good body and want to get together for hot wrestling. (Milwaukee) ☎13476

AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND This attractive, 20 year old, White male, 5'8, 165lbs, with Blond hair and Brown eyes, into alternative and techno music, seeks a companion to have fun with. I love dancing, weekend getaways, and the casinos. I also play guitar. ☎13899

ALL MAN Hey Guys, I'm a very good looking White Male, 6'3", 185 lbs, 45" chest, 32" waist, smooth, clean shaven and work out a lot. I'm looking for someone who is also very good looking, under 35 years of age and wanting to have fun, possibly starting a relationship. (Madison) ☎18287

THRILL SEEKER This attractive, masculine, well built, White male, 27, 6ft, 180lbs, with light, Brown hair and Blue eyes, is looking for friendship and hot fun, with other good looking, muscular guys, 21 to 35, who, like me, are well educated and adventurous. I enjoy working out, the outdoors, dining out, dancing, the beach, and road trips to Chicago, among many other things. (Milwaukee) ☎13032

PLEASURE WITH YOU This very versatile Black Male, 38, 5'7", 190 lbs., dark complected, with a shaved head, beard, and mustache, seeks a well-endowed Man of any race, preferably a top, for mutual pleasure. I'm stocky and very talented orally, and I'm waiting to meet you. (Milwaukee) ☎15624

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

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

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

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

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

SERVITUDE SLUT This handsome, very submissive, White male, 42, seeks a dominant master, preferably White, to use me. Overweight or chubby guys turn me on. I'm into foot worship, humiliation, and oral servitude. I'm very eager to serve. (Milwaukee) ☎13468

GREEN BAY BOY I'm hot to meet someone for good times. Let's get together and make our fantasies come true. (Green Bay) ☎12744

WAYWARD IN HAYWARD I'm a nice looking, romantic, White male, 22, 5'9, 180lbs, with short, light Brown hair and glasses. I hope to meet some other guys, around my age, with interests similar to mine. I enjoy horseback riding, moonlit walks, hiking, camping, fishing, road trips, and lots of other fun. I'm a submissive bottom, especially interested in hot tops. (Hayward) ☎44165

BOY NEEDS DADDY I'm 18 years old and I'm looking for someone 30 or older, in my area. I want to service a hairy, daddy type, and let them have me anyway that they want. (Oshkosh) ☎13708

FIRST TOUCH I'm a very horny, Bi curious, White male, 40, seeking another Gay, White male who's willing to help me with my first time. I want you to everything to me, then I want to do everything to you. ☎14008

FEELS GOOD ALL UNDER This attractive, Gay, Black male, 28, 5'11, 163lbs, into really hot, steamy phone talk. If you're into physical pleasure, please leave an evening message and I'll give you a call back. (Milwaukee) ☎18025

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

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

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

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

LET ME SUCK YOUR TOES This 30 year old, White Male is looking for younger Guys, 20-29 years of age, who are into foot fetish. I'm into white socks, tennis shoes, bare feet and I want to service you, so let's hook up. (Milwaukee) ☎18284

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



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REALLY GET INTO IT Hello out there. I'm a Black 42 year old Male, who is looking for a very submissive Guy, more submissive, the better. Call me if your interested. (Milwaukee) ☎18291

WANNA BE SMOOTH I'm a 44 year old Gentleman, 5'7", 178 lbs, who would like to hook up with other Guys who enjoy body shaving. If you would like to try something new, give me a call, any race and age is very acceptable. (Milwaukee) ☎18139

LET'S GO I'm looking for a Man with a beard, maybe a motorcycle, but you don't have to be a Hell's Angel or anything. I'm a Gay White Male, 5'2", 160 lbs, you should be loving and caring. (Spring Green) ☎17982

SEASON TO TASTE This attractive Gay White Male, 25, 5'11", 180 lbs, seeks someone to hang out with. I like alternative music, techno, cooking, and going to farmer's markets. Let's get together. (Madison) ☎17401

LICK MY TOES Hello. I'm a Black top Man in my 40's. I want someone who is very submissive and likes to worship feet. Let me know if that's you. (Milwaukee) ☎18056

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

BEAT ME, WHIP ME This Gay Male is into really hot, steamy phone talk. If you're into physical pleasure, please leave an evening message and I'll give you a call back. (Milwaukee) ☎18025

LET'S COOL DOWN Yo, what's up? I'm a 20 year old, 5'11", 175 lbs Gay Black Male. I am really cool, down to earth, very discreet and I love to have fun. If you like the way this sounds, give me a call. (Milwaukee) ☎17842

LET'S WORK OUT Hi Guys. I need an exercise partner who is around 180 lbs and in good shape. I like judo and wrestling, so if you want a really hot work-out, call me. (Milwaukee) ☎15592

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

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

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

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

LET'S KICK IT Yo, what's up? I'm a 18 year old Gay Black Male who is looking for other Males between the ages of 18-30. I'm ready to kick it and have a really fun time. (Milwaukee) ☎18137

LOOK INTO MY EYES This Single Male with dark blonde hair and hazel eyes finds black-haired Males with green, blue, or grey eyes attractive. I have a variety of interests and don't like gay bars. ☎15057

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Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
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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
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Milwaukee				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 nd	53204	273-7474
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
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Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
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In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
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Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53202	347-0344
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S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
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Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
Walkers Point Café	Food	1106 S. First Street	53204	384-7999
Woody's	M	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-0806
Neenah				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
Racine				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
Sheboygan				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
Stevens Point				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
Superior				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373
Wausau				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225

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GLBT Travelers Can Get Help on the Net, If They Have the Right Search Engine

By Sasha Alyson

Would you like to go hiking with other Gay men and Lesbians? The following information should be helpful: Gay sex photos free naked men xxx pictures nudes males Gay sex jeff stryker erotica stories underwear briefs.

What? You didn't find that helpful? Actually, neither did I. Yet that was the "description" of the #1 site that came up on a popular search engine, when I asked it to find websites that included the concepts "Gay" and "hike".

Experienced web surfers are accustomed to this. The problem is compounded for Gay and Lesbian users, however. That's because much of what's on the web is porn-for-pay, and those porn sites work overtime to pump up their ratings with the various search engines.

Once you type the word "Gay" or "Lesbian" to help define your search, you open the door to these hordes.

Fortunately, some search engines prove smarter than others at detecting which sites are most relevant to your inquiry. After too many frustrating hours of watching search results download, only to find a list of spam, I undertook to test them.

I took eight queries—word combinations such as "Gay hotel paris", "Gay hike", "Lesbian vacation" and "Gay cruise ship"—then called up the major search engines, and looked at the first ten results provided by each engine to each of my queries. If you think I must have been bug-eyed by the end of all this, you're right.

I scored the results by asking, of each site listed, "How relevant is this likely to be for the typical user who types in the same query?"

In response to the query "Gay cruise ship", a listing for RSVP Travel received a top score. The site of a Gay travel agency that sells cruises also got points, but not as many. Porn, spam, and irrelevant sites lost points.

So did the home page of Mark, who is Gay and writes of a memorable night on a cruise ship. Good for you, Mark, but that page doesn't belong in the top ten listings.

And the winners are:

InfoSeek (97%) and Search (96%) came out on top—a surprise to me, as I had barely heard of either one. They share a database, but InfoSeek consolidates all pages from the same site into a single listing, yielding a more concise list. Both did an excellent job at filtering out spam, and getting most of the best sites.

Alta Vista (89%) was strong all-round, but especially with hotel listings.

HotBot (84%) found more right-on-target sites than any other engine, but was weaker at filtering out the porn and spam.

Lycos (78%) was generally strong, but weak at finding hotel information.

Yahoo (72%) actually hires human beings to look at each site before it gets listed. (The others use software that records frequency of word use, and attempts to determine content from those statistics.) Consequently, for most topics, Yahoo produced fewer junk sites than anyone else.

Yet occasionally, your subject just doesn't fit into their scheme: I had no luck tracking down Gay cruises, for example, on Yahoo. It also has a smaller database, and missed many relevant listings. Those humans go home at night, while computers keep on analyzing.

Excite (10%) and Webcrawler (4%) got rock-bottom scores. These turkeys share the same database, but apply different search algorithms, and so yield slightly different results. But "Garbage In, Garbage Out," as they say in the computer business, and both these search engines proved virtually useless at producing relevant listings.

(It was Excite, by the way, that came up with the odd response to my search for the "Gay hike" query. The porn site that got #1

listing includes the phrase, "If you are offended by the Gay lifestyle, homosexuality, images of naked men, Gay sex, or any type of sexual talk, take a hike. Leave now." None of the higher-ranked search engines made the error of believing that this site was about hiking.)

Two major search engines were not rated:

GoTo is undergoing a major overhaul. Commercial sites can now pay to get a top listing; GoTo claims this will help increase relevancy. They could well be right; it's worth trying them out in a few months.

Northern Light is heavily oriented towards news and text. It's not the place to

look for Gay vacation ideas, but for current events, it's the place to start.

My conclusion: No one search engine will find everything you want. Get in the habit of using any two or three, from the top six. If you've been relying on Excite or Webcrawler, and could never understand why other people found the web so useful and you didn't—well, now you understand.

Editor's Note: Sasha Alyson coordinates active and adventure vacations for the Gay community through his company, Alyson Adventures.

Big Groups, Small Groups or Alone and a Caribbean Paradise

By Sasha Alyson

When you plan a vacation, you make a number of choices—often unconsciously. One such choice is: How big a group do you want to travel with? Your decision will greatly shape your experiences.

Anonymously Big

In a group of over 75 people, you won't get to know everybody by name on a week-long vacation. (If it's over 300 people, you'll see faces at week's end that you could swear you've never seen before.)

Amongst this many people, there are undoubtedly quite a few whose company you'll enjoy. But will you find them? If you're on the shy side, ask the organizer what type of opportunities will exist for breaking the ice.

Somewhat Big

In a group of 20 to 50, if you make an effort, you'll know most people by name within a few days. If you're traveling alone, you'll probably have no trouble finding others to join you for an excursion, dinner, or whatever. Unless "whatever" is a hot date—as the group gets smaller, the odds of finding that special chemistry diminish.

Small

My favorite experiences are with groups of 10 to 20. Everyone knows one another within a day, yet you can sit next to someone new at dinner every evening. It's easier to make friends in a group of 15 than in 50. But again, if romance is your primary goal, the odds would improve with a bigger group.

Just below this in size, but much different in group dynamics, falls the awkward number of six to eight. This group is small enough that people may feel excluded if you don't do everything together—yet big enough that it's not always fun to do everything together. As long as you're aware of that tension, however, you can make it work out.

Very Small

Just as a group of 10 to 20 works well, so do 4 or 5—but only if you're already good friends. In such a small group, a little bad chemistry goes a long way.

Two Friends

Years ago, I spent two weeks in Europe with a casual friend. Toward the end of a six-hour train ride to Barcelona, he revealed his only interest in this beautiful city: He wanted to find out if the french fries at the Barcelona McDonalds were as perfect as when he'd visited five years earlier.

When he had his answer (sadly, the food quality had gone downhill), he was ready to leave town. We found ourselves often going separate ways on that trip. Traveling with a friend can be fine—but discuss your goals, interests, and travel styles first. A weekend together is a good investment before you commit two scarce weeks of vacation time.

One Couple

That advice goes for romantic two-

somes, as well. Naturally you want to vacation with your new sweetheart. But spend a couple of three-day weekends traveling together before planning your week abroad. Discover any incompatibilities. I've seen several couples whose joint vacation outlasted their affections. It wasn't pretty, it wasn't fun, and it wasn't cheap.

Solo

Many people would never think of traveling alone. But there are three good reasons to do so. (1) You don't know anybody with a compatible schedule, destination, and travel style. (2) You're looking for romance, and you're headed to a destination where you just might find it. (3) You want to experience the culture and people of another country, a goal accomplished far more easily if you're alone.

Yes, the single traveler may have moments of loneliness—but he or she also has the best chance of making some wonderful new connections.

A Gay cruise ship has been refused entry to Grand Cayman; and anecdotes of homophobic treatment in the Bahamas and Bermuda regularly filter through. So it's refreshing to report on truly Gay-friendly Caribbean island.

The tiny Dutch island of Saba, near St. Martin, has grown famous in the past decade as a scuba diving destination. I've just returned from my company's first Gay dive trip on Saba, and we could not have received a warmer welcome.

Our accommodations were at Captain's Quarters, a Gay-friendly guesthouse rated by **Out & About** as one of their five favorite romantic getaways. Some twenty Gay islanders and visitors showed up to greet us at an opening night reception—among them, Saba's Director of Tourism, sporting Freedom Rings around his neck and a rainbow flag on his cap.

The handsome skipper of our dive boat, fresh out of the Scottish Navy, was straight, to the great regret of many aboard, but he accepted our compliments (and bad kilt jokes) with good humor and grace.

Saba has no beaches, so it won't be everyone's idea of paradise. But if you enjoy spectacular diving, want to learn scuba skills, or simply want a quiet and friendly getaway, check out Saba. Captain's Quarters: 800-446-3010.

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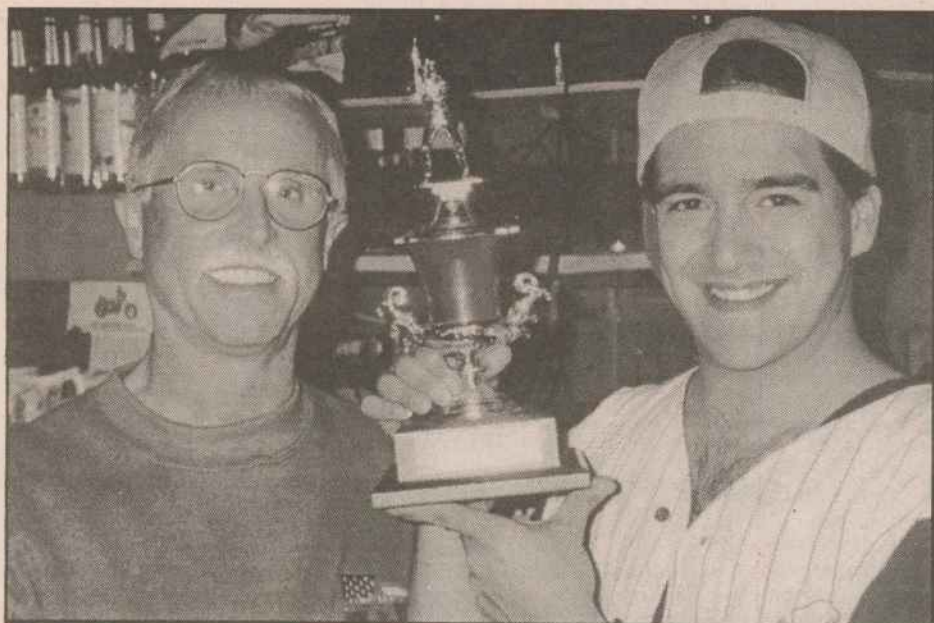
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Mr. SSBL — A fine time was had by all at the Mr. SSBL Contest held at Woody's on May 9. The contest raised over \$800 for the league. The winner was Jeremy from the This Is It team.

ARCW Provides Nutrition Screening and Muscle Testing

Milwaukee — The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Milwaukee office will provide free nutrition screening and lean muscle mass testing (BIA) on Thursday, May 21, 3rd floor ARCW Health Services, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

According to Joelle Lefevre, ARCW nutrition counselor, the tests are part of an ARCW study concerning muscle wasting in HIV-positive individuals.

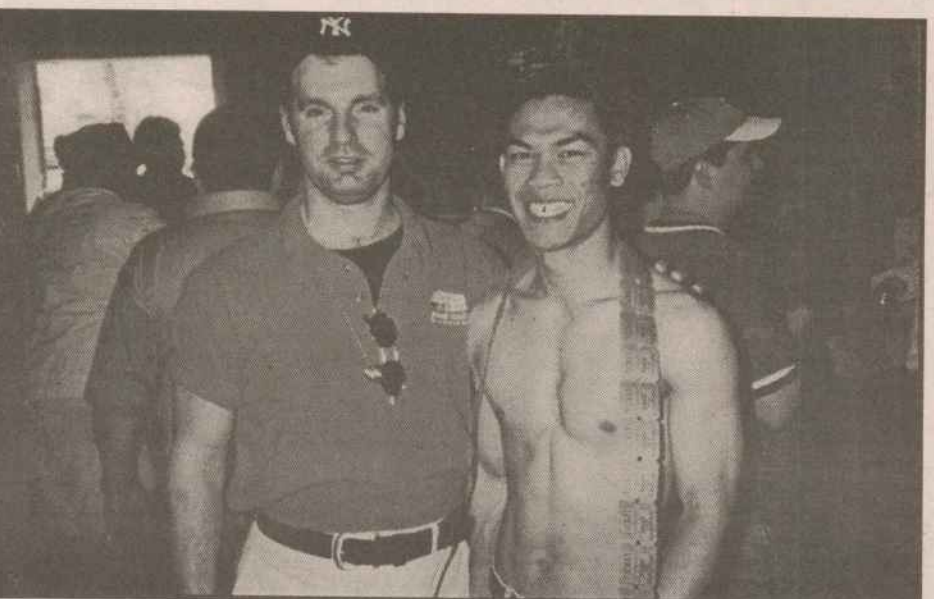
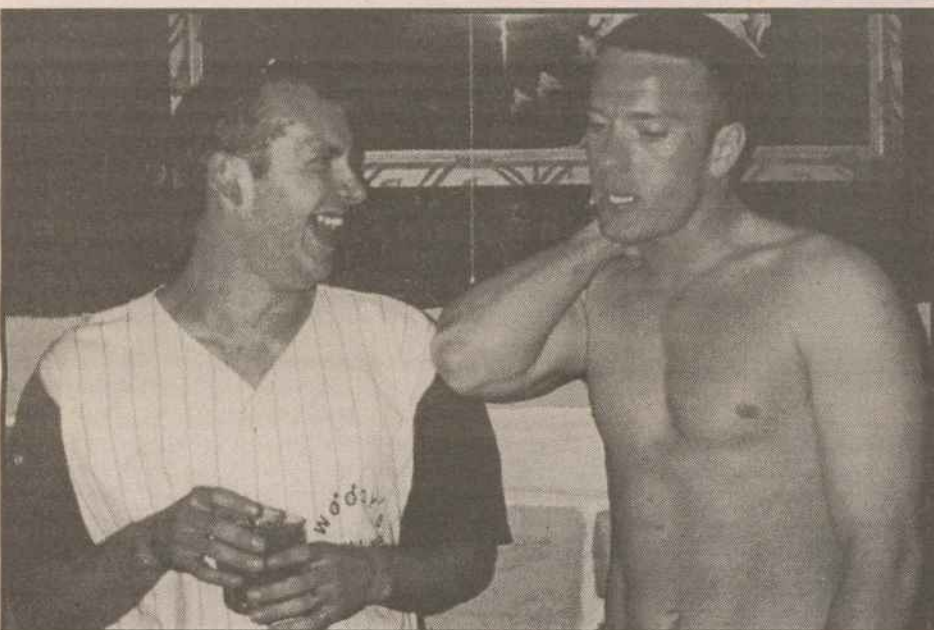
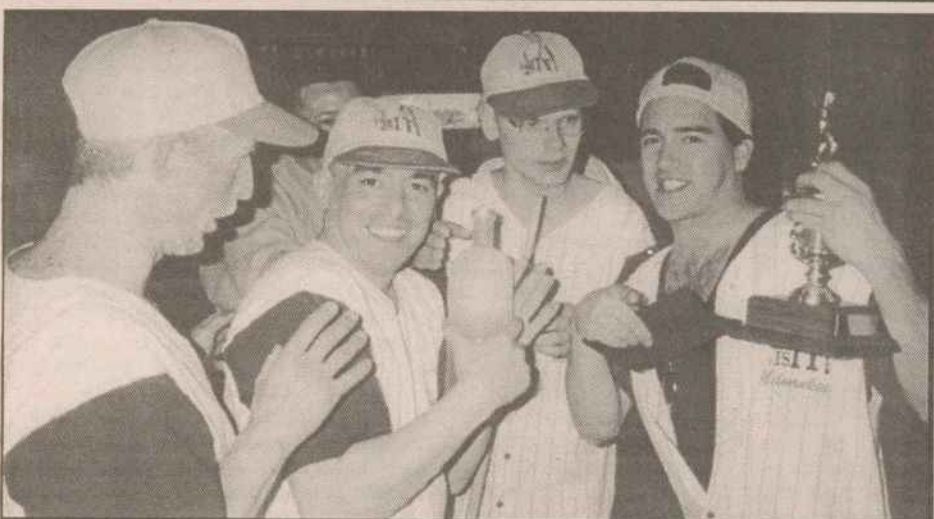
"BIA testing can identify if a person with HIV/AIDS has wasting syndrome, and good nutrition can improve the health and delay the onset of wasting syndrome," said Lefevre.

Michael Blackwell of Serono Laboratories will conduct the 15 minute BIA test, which helps identify if muscle wasting is occurring. At the same time, a nutrition screening will be conducted by Lefevre.

Some HIV-positive individuals experience muscle wasting, or "HIV wasting syndrome," causing weight loss and a weakened immune system. During the BIA testing and nutrition screening, Lefevre will stress the importance of good nutrition, offer informational handouts, and healthy snacks after the testing. For more information, call Joelle at ARCW, 225-1571.



Laura Sutherland of the Shoreline Dancers presents a \$500 check to the Milwaukee LGBT Center Co-President Sheila Zelenski. The money was the proceeds from Shoreline's 1998 Spring Round Up Raffle. Over 250 people from throughout the Midwest Attended the round up.



BestD Outreach Testing Schedule

In Between
 Thu., May 21, 9:00 p.m.-Midnight
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