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The Wisconsin Light

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Brewers' Hill Fund Raiser - A large crowd turned out for a Brewers' Hill fund raiser benefiting the Tammy Baldwin for Congress Campaign. Above are L-R Hostess Janet Fitch, Barbara Wyatt, Tammy Baldwin, and Emily's list founder Ellen Malcolm. Baldwin will be making her candidacy official on June 8.

Baldwin to Formally Announce Her Candidacy for Congress

Madison—Stressing the need for everyone to have a voice in the halls of power when issues relating to health care, education and the environment are debated, State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) will throw her hat into the ring for the Democratic nomination in Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District.

Baldwin will announce her candidacy on Sunday, June 7th, at 3:00 p.m. at University Hospital in Madison. The hospital is located at 600 Highland Avenue.

Baldwin's long expected announcement signals the formal beginning of her campaign to make history by being the first woman elected to Congress from Wisconsin.

In making her announcement, Baldwin will be joined by supporters at the hospital's picnic/recreation area to the right of the main entrance. In case of rain, the announcement will take place under the covered walkway at the main entrance. Risers, informational packets and a full text of her announcement speech will be provided by the Baldwin campaign at the event.

Clinton Signs Order Barring Job Bias Against Gays

Washington, DC—An executive order signed by President Clinton protects Gay and Lesbian federal workers from job discrimination.

"Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work," Clinton said in a statement accompanying the order Thursday, May 28.

Gay and Lesbian political activists heralded the move, which adds sexual orientation to the list of categories for which discrimination is illegal. The others are race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicaps and age.

Previously, the Clinton administration had instituted the policy agency-by-agency. Thursday's action ensures a uni-

form policy for civilian workers throughout the federal government.

"Since early in President Clinton's first term, most Cabinet-level departments and agencies have added sexual orientation to their equal employment policies, but these policies were not uniformly administered," said Kim I. Mills, education director for the Human Rights Campaign. "This executive order will remedy that situation."

Clinton, in his statement, added a pitch to Congress to pass a long-pending bill to extend protection from job discrimination to all American workers in both the public and private sectors.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Town Hall Meeting To Be Held

Milwaukee—In its continuing effort to keep the community informed about the Center's progress, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Board of Directors invites all to the next Town Hall Meeting, Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., 2nd floor of M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street.

The community will have an opportunity to learn about the Center's progress and meet the Board of Directors.

Sheila Zelenski, Center Co-President said, "We have come a long way since the January 24 elections that made the Board of Directors official. People will have the opportunity to learn about where we are and where we are going." Zelenski said that to move ahead, volunteers are needed, and that there are endless opportunities to help the Center grow.

In addition to learning about the Center's progress, membership premiums will be available to take home.

According to Board Co-President Neil Albrecht "We are proud of all of our more than 230 members, from the \$15 students to the major donors. We'd like to thank everyone for their generosity and vision to make this Center a reality."

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 230 members. The Center's mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Milwaukee area. This

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For "Wisconsin Light" the Old Order Changes and Gives Way to New

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee—And now the true story can be told—or at least begun.

The rumors have been flying for some time. One rumor that I heard, more fabulous than the others, was that the paper had been sold to straights. Not so. Wisconsin Light has been sold to a group of Gay and Lesbian investors, all local people.

If a moment's pause was given to thought, one might have wondered why, if we had spent 10 years + in running this as a Gay paper, we would turn around and sell it "straight?" That wouldn't make sense.

As to the investors, we will not be naming them in this issue. The reason is that additions are still being made. Also, some may wish to be named, others, not.

Another rumor was that the paper was going out of business. Not so. Wisconsin Light will continue in business, reporting

the news of interest to the LGBT community as it has for the past 10+ years. The only difference will be in who owns it.

Yet another rumor I heard was that Wisconsin Light had been bought by The Paper. Not so. The Paper has not purchased Wisconsin Light. That was never in the works. Neither was it ever thought of to somehow meld Wisconsin Light into The Paper. Wisconsin Light was and will remain an independent newspaper.

Jerry's and my decision to sell Wisconsin Light is not something that was reached over night. Indeed, it has been several years in the making.

We are both proud of the fact that Wisconsin Light has achieved a national reputation. We are proud of the 100s of distribution spots we have in Wisconsin alone, as well as the spots in cities coast to

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NGLTF's Groundbreaking Report: Most Americans Support Gay & Lesbian Rights!

"In its opposition to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender equality, it is the right wing that is out of step with mainstream America." — Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director

Washington, DC—A growing majority of Americans support Gay and Lesbian equality, according to a new report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task (NGLTF) Policy Institute. "From Wrongs to Rights: Public Opinion of Gay and Lesbian Americans Moves Toward Equality" is the most comprehensive analysis of trends in public opinion about Gay men and Lesbians during the past twenty years.

The report demonstrates overwhelming support for non-discrimination in housing and employment, as well as spousal benefits for same-sex couples. It also shows increasing support on issues such as same-sex marriage and adoption.

"In its opposition to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender equality, it is the right wing that is out of step with mainstream America," stated Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director. "This report empirically and objectively proves that

while the voice of the anti-Gay right wing may be loud in its opposition to equal rights, its claim to majority public opinion is unjustified."

Among other facts, "From Wrongs to Rights" shows that strong majorities of Americans now support equality in employment (84 percent); housing (81 percent); inheritance rights (62 percent) and social security benefits (57 percent) for same-sex couples; and Gays in the military (66 percent). In addition, disapproval of same-sex relationships dropped a substantial 19 points from a peak of 75 percent in 1987 to 56 percent in 1996.

The report also shows the percentage of people opposed to same-sex marriage (and those opposed to adoption by Gay and Lesbian couples) to be declining.

"These findings confirm that three decades of struggle for Gay and Lesbian equality has succeeded in winning greater understanding and significant change in public attitudes," said Urvasi Vaid, NGLTF Policy Institute director. "This report proves that over time and in dramatic fashion, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual

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All smiles - And who wouldn't be with Falcon Star Chase Hunter at their side? Above are some of those who attended SSBL fund raiser on Sunday May 31. To the delight of the guests, Mr. Hunter made a surprise appearance stopping by on his way to Madison. L-R are SSBL Asst. Commissioner Bob Melig, Commissioner Dan Nelson, Hunter, and SSBL Treasurer Mike Vukovich.

Gay Marches Bring LGBT Movement to Forefront of New Century

Commentary by Michael Grantham

Over the next year and a half, the LGBT community will be preparing for two of the broadest displays of civic awareness and determination. Through the 50 States March and the Millennium March, LGBTs from across the country will gather on Main Street America and the nation's capitol to stand for fairness and equality.

With the 50 State March now scheduled for spring 1999 and the Millennium March in the spring of 2000, a unified momentum toward mass visibility on key civil rights issues is beginning to take shape.

A recent call for the 50 States March on the grassroots level by the Federation of States, co-chaired by Dianne Hardy-Garcia of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and Paula Ettelbrick of New York's Empire State Pride Agenda, has challenged state groups to become more viable players in local organizing.

A national call by the Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in February for the Millennium March brought into question the allocation of community resources.

To resolve this, organizers of both events are now working together to involve contributions from national organizations that support both marches. National LGBT leaders are gearing up for a new century approach to a balanced grassroots and national agenda.

The National Mall in Washington, DC is the proposed site for the Millennium March in April 2000 and has played host to some of our country's most powerful movements. Images of MLK and the Promise Keepers are now historic icons for the nation's most powerful century.

LGBT marches in 1979, 1987 and 1993 provided life changes bringing LGBT America out of the closet. Grassroots initiatives against rising opposition transferred the visible strength of a national movement into proactive action in all levels of government.

Main Street America is the proposed site for the 50 States March and has hosted smaller scale Pride events annually. With the amazing work local Pride committees

continue to put into making these events all-inclusive, 1999 will be better than ever for local state marches.

Many activists embrace the challenge to become more organized as long over due. The goal of making close to 50 marches reverberate within the American consciousness requires state groups to reach beyond single-city politics. For most, the idea of having a presence in other state population centers will be a challenge of leadership.

Ideally, both marches will focus communities and law makers on America's overall belief in fairness and equality. Both of these events are responses to a troubling national agenda opposing civil rights for LGBTs.

Since the 1993 March on Washington, Americans have witnessed legislative attacks threatening to place civil rights on the defense. For religious political extremists, keeping the power of the LGBT movement isolated and in a reactionary position is a victory couched in "divide and conquer."

As one of the strongest elements of a broader civil rights movement, LGBTs are specifically targeted by mean-spirited legislation on all levels of government. A general assault is being waged on our coalition partners.

These assaults are often enabled by our own community's avoidable failure in our actions and language to capture the imagination and spirit of progress. In general, a lack of grace has always lent our opposition the opportunity to simply yield to our own undoing.

Both marches will marry halves of our movement already reflected in the structure of democracy that unites the states into one great nation. Over the next few months, grassroots and national groups will bring the maturation of our movement to the forefront of American politics.

As our national leaders converge for our birth into the new century, we must all yield to what may seem like painful contractions. After all is said and done, we will reflect on one of the greatest initiatives a movement could ever experience.

Editor's Note: Michael Grantham is a consultant living in Washington, DC.

Pope to Florida Bishop on Gays: "We All Need Redeeming, Don't We?"

By Jack Nichols

A twenty-minute audience with Pope John Paul II was granted recently to Bishop John J. Snyder who presides over the 17-county Diocese of St. Augustine in Northeast Florida.

The result of their conversation—one between religious administrators—has been the giving to Bishop Snyder of permission to establish the second Gay/Lesbian outreach in a Roman Catholic diocese and on American soil. This will be an outreach program that intends to reclaim into the fold of the Roman Catholic Church all wandering, skeptical, independent-minded Gay Catholics.

Lesbian and Gay Catholics, it is apparent, often feel easily estranged by the hostility lurking behind the Vatican's "Attila the Hun" sexual policies. Such estrangement, say critics, costs the Vatican financially, and this is why it is attempting experimental Gay and Lesbian outreach programs.

Many estranged Catholics, it is now recognized, are both males and females who can no longer deny their innate same-sex affections and their loves in spite of powerfully organized Catholic opposition groups that work to assure the continuance of centuries-old second-class citizenship for persons who bond with their own gender.

Roman Catholicism's crusades find hosts of value-judgment missiles fired regularly into Gay civil rights legislation nationwide at the same time that two "outreach groups" now operate. Some of the worst of Catholic abuses, in fact, have originated from the pen or mouth of ailing Pope John Paul II himself.

Asked by late 80s reporters if AIDS was God's punishment for homosexuals, His Holiness replied in a suspiciously evasive fashion, saying "it is not easy to know God's intentions."

It is due to Vatican opposition that worldwide population controls and condom distributions are regularly thwarted.

Most telling about Bishop Snyder's audience with the head of the Roman Catholic Church, however, was the clergyman's unembarrassed report about the Pope's behavior as the Pontiff was compelled to face up to the Church's latest

anti-homosexual crusades, namely the loss of numberless tithe-paying Gay and Lesbian church-goers.

After Snyder had explained to the Pope that he intended to maintain conventional Church teachings about same-sex contact, but that he wanted to reach out to Catholic Gays and Lesbians and their families, John Paul II pondered the matter.

Snyder reported that he sat quietly for a few minutes, then said, "We all need redeeming, don't we?"

Approximately 300 Gay men and Lesbians jammed Jacksonville's Assumption Church on May 23rd weekend. A smaller group, according to Jacksonville's Florida Times Union, prayed outside and held signs protesting the outreach event.

No changes in Roman Catholic Teaching may be expected by "fallen-away Catholic" attendees. Instead there are only a Bishop's local assurances that as long as Gays and Lesbians live the lives of chaste, non-sexual beings they're welcome to gather under Northeast Florida Roman Catholic Church roofs and to take the priest-administered sacraments. Such rituals are reported to assure eternal salvation to chaste Roman Catholic Gays in the afterlife.

"What's new about all this?" asked critics.

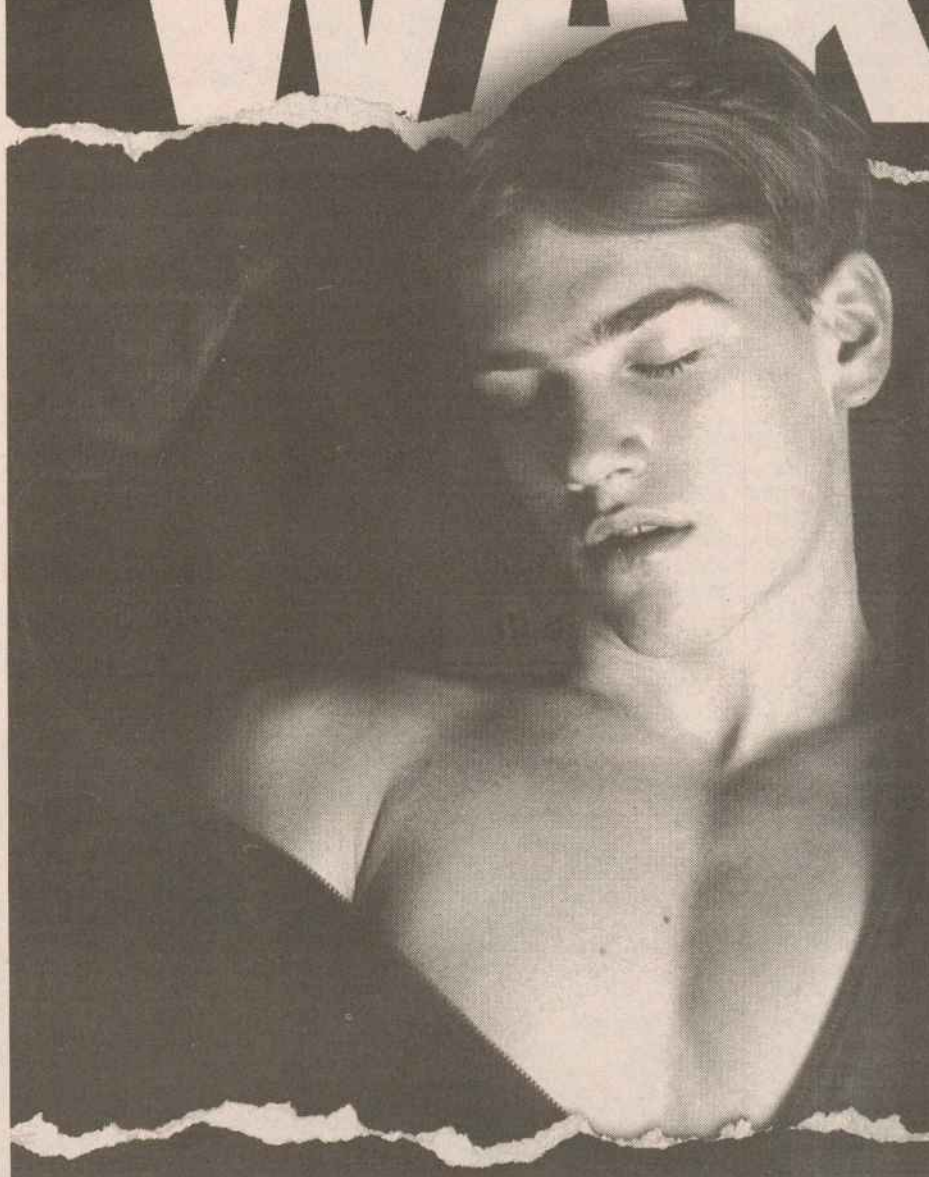
Catholic Gays and Lesbians, they fear, seem too willing to forgive the church's negative fulmination against Gays, saying "it was kind of backward before," remaining unaware that the Roman Catholic Church currently opposes civil rights for Gays from Maine to California and in the Councils of Europe.

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WHILE YOU STILL CAN.



AIDS Walk Poster Blast to Take off in Wisconsin—Wisconsin, May 4, 1998 — Join the ARCW Special Events Staff for the 1998 "Poster Blast" to place AIDS posters and registration materials in stores, churches, businesses and schools throughout the state. The first Poster Blast will take place on Saturday, June 6 in southern Wisconsin, while volunteers in Northern Wisconsin will deliver posters on Saturday, June 13.

To participate in the Poster Blast, call (414) 225-1521 or 1-800-348-WALK. Pictured here is Kelly Collins of ARCW's Special Events department, with last year's AIDS Walk Wisconsin materials.

Benjamin E. Johnson
1947 - 1998



The beloved partner of Stephen M. Byers and loving son of Excel and Catherine Johnson of Gary, Indiana passed away on 30 May 1998 at the age of 51. He is further survived by one brother, James, nieces, nephews and many caring and devoted friends.

Ben spent 24 years as a Capuchin Franciscan Friar, during which time he devoted his energies to teaching, and health care nursing at local hospitals and clinics. Ben was a devoted volunteer at the BEST Clinic, the Milwaukee AIDS Project, and many other community-based organizations in Milwaukee. He received numerous awards for volunteer activities, including the Cream City Brick Award from the Human Rights League in 1996, the Black health Care Professional Award in 1990, and the Professional Service Recognition Award from the Wisconsin Chapter - National Black Alcoholism Council. Ben worked for many years at the Milwaukee AIDS Project in care and education, and most recently worked as a nurse at Isaac Cogg's Community Health Cntr.

Ben's partner and family are deeply grateful to the many friends who gave Ben extraordinary care, love and support throughout his illness. Special thanks to all those who offered assistance in Ben and Steve's home during this difficult time.

A celebration of Ben's life will be held at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1015 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, on Tuesday, 9 June at 7 PM.

The Dynamics of Privilege to be Bi Definition's June Topic

Milwaukee—Bi Definition, metro Milwaukee's Bisexual social support and activist organization, will gather on Saturday, June 6 and Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street, to explore various privilege ramif

cations for Bisexuals and others in "gray areas" of society.

Young, Caucasian, heterosexual, able-bodied, Christian men enjoy the most privileges in North America, but what about the majority of individuals who don't fit this narrow mold and how do we attempt to balance the scales?

In addition, ample time will be spent for those in need of support regarding dual attractions, along with numerous hand-outs, flyers, newsletters, books and other means of community building.

An annual membership is just \$15 or a one-time admittance of \$5 is asked at the door. Those experiencing financial hardship can barter/trade for the meeting.

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

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

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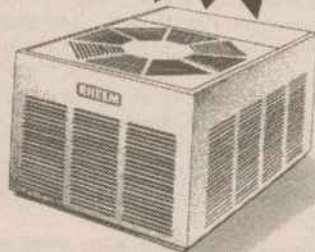
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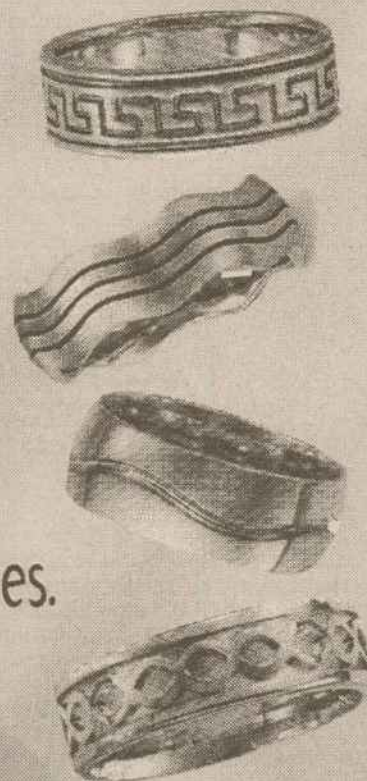
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Speaking From The Right

Eliminate Social Security

Commentary by James McFarland

As we move toward the election season, the new rallying cry of the Democrats is "Save Social Security First" and the Republicans, not to be outdone, have taken up a similar cry (perhaps best described as "Save Social Security and Cut Taxes"). The problem is that none of the politicians have the guts to bear the wrath of the senior vote and say what needs to be said: Social Security cannot be saved.

It is ridiculous, of course, to expect the Democrats to be responsible enough to say what needs to be said. And the Republicans are paralyzed with the fear that if they tell the truth, the Democrats will, as usual, distort the facts and claim that the Republicans are trying to hurt the elderly by taking away their Social Security income.

The problem Social Security faces cannot be fixed because it faces a massive demographic crunch. Social Security has ceased to be the supplementary retirement program it was originally intended to be and has become the sole retirement income of the majority of Americans. Therefore, it can remain in the black only if there are more workers paying Social Security taxes than there are retirees. It has become obvious even to the most naive that the Social Security taxes we pay cannot be considered savings for our own retirement but rather payments toward the retirement income of those who are now retired.

When the baby boomers retire, the Social Security Ponzi scheme will collapse even if Congress stops using the current surplus in the program for other spending programs. It is simply impossible for Generation X and Generation Next, with its smaller numbers, to support the huge numbers of retirees who will be dependent on Social Security when the baby boomers reach retirement age, especially since they live much longer in retirement due to advances in medical care.

The result will be a generational war, as the majority (the baby boomer retirees) impose higher and higher Social Security taxes on the workers to maintain their standard of living. The workers will only stand for this so long before they rebel, and eventually the system will crash (and/or we will have a civil war).

The only way to avert this disaster while maintaining Social Security would be to increase Social Security taxes right now to the point where the very same baby boomers would not stand for it. Thus, the only responsible action would be to change Social Security into a true retirement savings program for those under a certain age (e.g. 55) while those over that age would be guaranteed the Social Security benefits they expected (this would be funded by using the current surplus that Social Security is generating and through spending cuts).

Under the new program, there would no longer be Social Security taxes, but rather contributions by employees to their own individual retirement account (similar to a 401(k) account). Each employee would

then control how the account is invested in a number of approved mutual funds.

Employees could invest portions of the accounts in various stock mutual funds, various bond mutual funds, various money market funds, and various hybrid funds. This would allow workers to take advantage of the double digit returns available in the stock market which obviously exceed the extremely low "returns" which are being obtained by government on behalf of the baby boomers and the negative returns facing the rest of us.

Of course, any proposal that makes so much sense will be strongly opposed by the Democrats and the labor unions. They have too little faith in the ability of the American worker to make good investment decisions, and are convinced that workers will lose all of their retirement savings because of poor investment decisions. These detractors forget, however, that the current system guarantees that workers will have no retirement income because of the impending bankruptcy of the Social Security system. At least with the privatization proposal, workers will have a chance.

This privatization program is not without precedent. Chile engaged in a similar program years ago, and it has become a model for the entire world. Workers have not lost their life savings and thus their retirement income, but instead have benefited from huge earnings on the amounts contributed to their retirement funds, earnings which will provide them retirement income much greater than that which they would have had in the old system (which was similar to ours). Many other countries, both in Western Europe and in Asia, are considering adopting a Chilean style privatization program to avert a similar disaster in their country's programs.

In addition to shoring up a system that is destined for failure, a privatization program will also end the negative incentive created by the Social Security system which discourages workers from saving for their retirement and encourages them to rely on big brother to feed them after they can no longer work. This reliance on the government is not only dangerous, but corrupting. Just as those on welfare have been corrupted by the easy money of welfare, reliance on government by workers will ultimately corrupt them as well. It will make them unable to take responsibility for themselves and cause them to believe they have a constitutional right to live on money earned by others.

Already we have seen that Americans have become too reliant on government programs. This is one of the main causes of the lack of personal responsibility in this country, and it is an epidemic not only among the poor but also among the middle and upper class. It is time for Americans to throw off the shackle of government reliance and take responsibility for themselves. It is time to eliminate Social Security and replace it with a true, privatized retirement savings program.

group of us together to work very visibly in the campaigns of various candidates for the State Assembly. Often both he and I were doing this for different candidates, sharing volunteers between us. With these volunteers we built a cadre of legislators who would we hoped would vote for justice when the time came.

Finally Leon decided that the time was right. He went to our good friend Dismas Becker who was then representing a State Assembly District on Milwaukee's near West Side. Becker agreed to have his Social Services Committee introduce the bill.

I wasn't there on the day the bill went into the hopper, but I was told that as the bill went up to the Speaker's Desk, David Clarenbach came up and asked that he be the main sponsor. Becker agreed and after some quick paper work, Clarenbach's name went on it.

Clarenbach proved to be an able advocate of AB-70, but the idea and the force behind it remained Rouse.

What followed was an exhausting but exhilarating period of late night calls, constant trips to Madison, button holing and soothing.

Leon would sit in Assembly offices for hours waiting to get a word in. He lived, ate and slept his dream.

Leon neutralized the religious groups who were opposed to the bill by bringing in those who were in favor. When Archbishop Weakland endorsed AB 70, it was a watershed event.

We used Weakland's letter to help get the Catholic legislators in support of the bill. The Moral Majority (the forerunner of the Christian Coalition) showed up at the State Assembly hearing, but they were drowned out by a chorus of nuns, priests, ministers and rabbis. It was beautiful to watch.

The vote was going to be close and we knew it could go either way. We held our breaths, crossed everything we could cross and hoped for the best. We had been promised enough votes, but we also knew that the Moral Majority had mounted a desperate phone calling and letter writing campaign. Some of our supporters were wavering.

In the end though the bill passed by three votes. One of those in the majority made an immediate motion to reconsider the bill's approval. That meant we had to endure more of the torturous waiting. The motion to reconsider failed.

In the end, all but seven of the majority party Democrats voted for AB 70, while all but three of the minority Republicans - including now Governor Tommy Thompson voted against it. We lost another vote on the motion to reconsider but the result was still a one vote victory. The bill had moved to the State Senate.

For the first time in American history a State legislative body had endorsed equal treatment for Gays and Lesbians.

Again it was mostly a partisan battle but now buoyed by the Assembly vote, Gays and Lesbians began to believe in Leon's dream and came forward with their calls and letters. With the State Senator Jim Moody (D-Milwaukee) as AB-70's floor leader, the Senate passed AB 70, on a party line vote.

That was not still not the end of it. The Moral Majority joined by some Republican legislators mounted a phone call and letter campaign to Governor Lee Dreyfus, a liberal Republican.

We countered with a campaign of our own, but we knew they had more money, bigger lists and would probably turn out more troops than we could. It availed them not. Dreyfus passed the word to us that he would ignore his party and the bigots, and sign the bill.

Leon had proven something beyond showing that the time was right to move the battle for Gay civil rights to the State Houses of America. He had shown that an average citizen armed not with money, but with good rationale arguments could still make a difference.

That is an important thing to remember these days when so many of us think that we will never win the right to be married or serve in the military or any one of a number of other rights we are denied.

I thought about all of this as I watched the man who voted and spoke against us and who now occupies the Governor's chair gush on about what a great state Wisconsin is and what great people live here.

His comments reminded me of what I told a Madison Gay leader who called me to ask me "to reign Leon in." I told him "Someday you will be proud to say that Leon Rouse is from Wisconsin."

I have always been proud to say that and you should be too. So as we celebrate 150 years of being part of the Union and we hear about Bob LaFollette, Rufus King and the rest of them think about Leon Rouse. He will never be as famous as the rest of them are, but in his own way he achieved greatness in that progressive Wisconsin tradition too.

Deadlines

June 18th Issue
Articles Friday, June 12th
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—June 12th
Camera Ready—June 15th
5:00 p.m.

July 2nd Issue
Articles—Friday, June 26th
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—June 26th
Camera Ready—June 30th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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The Wisconsin Light



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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday-10:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m.

24-Hour Recording

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AP Associated Press

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THE WISCONSIN LIGHT is published biweekly by NOVO GRAPHICS, LTD., with offices at 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Advertising and copy deadlines: the Thursday prior to publication. Opinions expressed by writers in WISCONSIN LIGHT are not necessarily those of the publisher, editor, or our advertisers. Any reference made to any individual or organization should not be construed as an indication of the same's sexual or affection orientation or preference. All copy, text, design, photos, and illustrations in advertisements are published with the understanding that the advertiser is fully authorized and has secured proper written consent for the use of names, pictures, or testimonials of any living person, and WISCONSIN LIGHT may lawfully publish and cause such publication to be made; and the advertiser agrees by submitting ads to indemnify and save blameless the publication of any error that may be contained in said ad. WISCONSIN LIGHT does not accept any responsibility for any claims made by advertisers. The entire contents of WISCONSIN LIGHT are © Copyrighted and protected under the Federal Copyright Act and International Conventions. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without express written permission of NOVO GRAPHICS, LTD. Legal venue is Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Printed in the U.S.A.

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Politically Speaking

On Wisconsin!

By Bill Meunier

On Friday, May 29, Wisconsin celebrated its 150th Anniversary. Over the next twelve months we will read about, hear about and possibly participate in one of the many planned Wisconsin Sesqui-centennial celebrations. That is good, Wisconsin is a great place to live and we should be proud of that.

It is doubtful, however, that many if ANY of these events will acknowledge let alone celebrate our contribution to Wisconsin History as Gay and Lesbian residents of the Badger state.

America's first ever Statewide Gay Civil Rights law came not from the coasts (which always seem to think that they are the center of the Gay universe) but from its heartland here in Wisconsin.

It is important to put that passage in the context of the times. Mr. Donahue and Ms. Winfrey weren't on the airwaves talking about fair treatment of America's Gays and Lesbians. Police raids on our bars were still common. There was no Coming Out Day and no real national organizations. In fact having Gay or Lesbian sex was felony in Wisconsin.

To many, the idea of a Gay civil rights law was laughable given the public attitudes about Gays and Lesbians, our lack of organization, and the fact that probably

fewer than 1% of us were willing to publicly admit to our sexual orientation. Fortunately for us there was one young man who wasn't laughing, Leon Rouse.

Not many people believed in Leon. In fact more than a few people considered him to be eccentric at best. He never got invites to the best parties, had little money, lived in a rooming house, wasn't a great dresser and was a constant talker.

But Leon was one of those rare individuals who saw things not as they are asking why, but as they never were and asking why not? He set about to climb the political equivalent of Mount Everest.

Not many people expected him to even get to the bottom of the mountain, let alone the top. In fact some of our so-called leaders did everything they could to stop him from even trying. "He'll be an embarrassment," they said, "He had the wrong strategy, the timing wasn't right, he's just not the right person for the job."

Leon's worst offense was that he wasn't one of them and didn't care to be. Leon Rouse wasn't interested in style, he was about substance.

He had the kind of annoying irascibility that you often find in people who are consumed by the fire driving them. But he also had patience.

For several years, Rouse had gathered a

June 19, Sixth Annual Day of Compassion, to Educate Millions Via All Media

New York, NY—Media outlets across the country will call attention to the continuing crisis of HIV/AIDS on Friday, June 19th. On this sixth annual Day of Compassion, network and cable television, print media, Internet providers and radio stations will air special programming specifically geared toward educating and raising awareness about those living with the disease, those working on research and advocacy fronts, and friends and families who have-on a multitude of levels-been touched by HIV/AIDS.

Among those scheduled to appear on morning news programs are Jeanne White (mother of the late Ryan White) on Good Morning America and reigning Miss America Kate Schindle on CNN.

Talk shows scheduled to participate on June 19 include: Leeza, Sally Jesse Raphael, Jenny Jones, Cristina and Maury Povich.

Daytime dramas include Days of Our Lives, All My Children, General Hospital and The Young and the Restless.

Over 300 cable networks and systems will be telecasting AIDS-related PSAs and programming, including E! Entertainment Television and MTV.

"Over the past five years, Day of Compassion has demonstrated the unparalleled ability of the media to call attention to compelling social issues such as HIV/AIDS," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD Executive Director. "While it is important to highlight the remarkable progress being made in the medical arena, it is critical to remind the public that this is not a time to be complacent. Now-more than ever before-education and accessible information are essential elements in the prevention of this disease."

Day of Compassion is an annual project of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and is co-sponsored by Until There's a Cure Foundation, the Names Project Foundation and Cable Positive, the cable industry's AIDS action organization. Day of Compassion began in 1993, when Los Angeles-based actor Neil Patrick Harris viewed an AIDS-themed episode of One Life to Live. Inspired by that candid portrayal of the to the Day of Compassion site may

download their button from that same site. AIDS crisis, he contacted other daytime drama producers, many of whom agreed to air episodes devoted to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Day of Compassion Web site can be accessed via GLAAD Online, located at <http://www.glaad.org>. Those who wish to participate in "Show Compassion On Your Site" by displaying a button linking

Pride T-Shirts to Support Victory Fund

Milwaukee—Specially designed Pride T-shirts designed by the national Gay and Lesbian marketing firm, Landmark Enterprises, will help benefit the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

The shirts come in several designs which can be ordered by phone at 800-713-4398 or by signing on to the website www.pickyboy.com/pride.html.

Prices for the shirts are \$10 with 20% going to the Victory Fund.

Shirts available are: **And Proud Of It** featuring a colorful rainbow flag with the words in bold type;

Pride Is Within Ourselves, a black and white eye-chart design in bold type;

And **A World Without AIDS**, a hand-colored world design with the statement running around the globe.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund provides resources, political experience and visibility to support open Lesbians and Gay men who seek to serve society as elected or appointed officials. Brian Bond, executive director of the fund can be reached at (202) 842-8679 or through the website at VICTORYFUND.COM.

Landmark Enterprises, Inc., is an award-winning marketing and public relations firm experienced in working with the Gay and Lesbian market segment. Landmark excels at teaming companies to develop strategic marketing opportunities, create public and private partnerships and provide impactful public relations programs. They can be reached at (414) 276-6355.

Starbucks Coffee Makes Generous Gift to BestD Clinic

Milwaukee—Starbucks Coffee opened their newest Milwaukee location with a bang and some bucks. The east side location at Brady and Farwell, donated a portion of their grand opening receipts to their neighbor, the BestD Clinic. The Grand Opening was held on Saturday, May 15th and featured free gifts, music and the opportunity to support BestD.

Sarah Johnson, the Manager of the Brady Street location, arranged with Starbucks Corporation to offer this unique gift. She reported that as a result of the excellent turnout, Starbucks was sending BestD Clinic a check for \$500.

BestD Clinic is an all-volunteer health care provider which has been located at 1240 E. Brady for 16 of its 24 years of service. Ross Walker, President of BestD, offered the gratitude and a tip of the BestD hat to Starbucks for their gracious and generous gift.



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Busche Recognized as One of Nation's Top Financial Advisors

Milwaukee—Carol L. Busche, Financial Advisor with the Milwaukee office of American Express Financial Advisors, has been awarded the 1998 DALBAR



Carol L. Busche CFP

Seal for Financial Professionals, recognized for her accomplishments for clients over her 12-year career in financial services.

DALBAR's rating program, called Excellence & Trust, was created in 1997 to help consumers identify the nation's most trusted and qualified personal financial advisors, as well as to help advisors improve their service to clients. DALBAR, founded in 1975, provides customer-focused research for the financial services industry.

The DALBAR Seal is awarded to financial professionals who meet stringent requirements acknowledged by the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) and who receive above-average ratings from their clients for financial results, trust, satisfaction and overall advice quality.

The DALBAR program measures actual experiences of clients with their financial professional. Those advisors who earn the DALBAR rating are not only highly rated in terms of service to clients, they must meet standards of excellence and maintain a clear regulatory record.

"This recognition comes at a time when consumers are looking for professionals they can trust, especially in terms of financial futures," said Louis S. Harvey, DALBAR's president. "The award reinforces the credibility this advisor already has with her clients and positions her among the top financial professionals nationwide."

Busche specializes in retirement and estate planning and has been with the Milwaukee Office of American Express Financial Advisors for eight years.

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 Fri., June 19, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

formerly IDS, offers financial planning and the products and services to implement those plans through a nationwide network of more than 8,700 financial advisors. The company, founded in 1894, owns or manages more than \$195 billion in assets.

Eighth Annual Boat Cruise to Benefit AIDS

Kenosha—"Cruise Geneva '98" will set sail from the Riviera Docks in downtown Lake Geneva to benefit AIDS services in southeast Wisconsin. The eighth annual twilight cocktail cruise of Geneva Lake will take place Saturday, June 20. The cruise is a fundraising benefit for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Members of the Walworth County HIV/AIDS Task Force who lead the cruise's steering committee invite passengers onto the elegant paddle wheel excursion boat, Lady of the Lake, a replica of the historic boats that sailed Geneva Lake

century ago. According to Neil Albrecht, ARCW regional director, "The Lake Geneva Cruise presents an excellent opportunity to experience the elegance of a paddle boat, learn the history of Lake Geneva and enjoy exceptional hors d'oeuvres. And this year's raffle prizes are outstanding."

Tickets for the three-hour excursion are \$50 and include entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, an on-board auction, and plenty of time to view the stately and historic mansions that surround the picturesque lake. Raffle tickets are available before the cruise, and tickets will be drawn during the trip.

Historically, the cruise has been a highly successful event for ARCW, last year raising over \$20,000. Funds help ARCW provide aggressive HIV prevention education; access to comprehensive services for people living with HIV and AIDS; clinical research on HIV treatment; and HIV advocacy.

Call Jennifer at (414) 657-6644 or 800-924-6601 for raffle and cruise tickets and information.



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Life Took a Different Course After Parents Learned Their Son Is Gay

Bloomington, IL— His trouble at school started with a few pushes in the hallway. Tables would empty when he sat down in the cafeteria. He regularly found the word "fag" scrawled across his locker.

By January 1996, the harassment had escalated to threats of death and other violence.

"You know what we do to Gays?" one boy told Tom Cadonic, who had put his head down on his desk and pretended to sleep. "We cut them open, dig out their insides and shove them..."

His parents didn't need to hear any more.

"I don't cry over much. But I cried when my son said, 'I hate myself because God made me a freak,'" says Craig Cadonic, whose son finished his senior year in work-study program at another high school.

It was enough to turn two mild-mannered parents into activists who lobby for Gay rights legislation, started a drop-in social center for Gay teens and founded a local support group for parents.

"If it's happening to my kid," says Tom's mother, Carol, "it's happening to other kids."

It wasn't a vocation Carol and Craig Cadonic had planned on.

They always knew their two adopted boys weren't much alike. Michael, the eldest, was their "Evil Knivevel," a rambunctious boy who was often tearing around outside. Tom was quieter, preferring to play the piano.

But when the family moved from Indiana to Bloomington in 1991, Tom, just entering his teenage years, began to withdraw. A teacher told the Cadonics their son was depressed, even suicidal.

Noticing his son's apathy about girls, Craig wondered if Tom might be Gay, something that had never occurred to Carol. She decided to sit him down on the couch one day after school.

"Do you like guys?" she asked, holding his hands.

"Yeah," Tom replied in a hushed voice.

It was a painful revelation for Carol, who in those days couldn't even say the word "Gay."

"I will tell you, as a mother, my heart broke," she says. "Not because I was ashamed of him, but because I knew how hard his life was going to be."

The Cadonics eventually found support from other parents with Gay children in Chicago. They drove 400 miles round-trip each weekend to attend meetings of the group Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, also known as P-FLAG.

Meanwhile, a more confident Tom decided to come out to a schoolmate, a move that backfired in gossip that culminated with the death threats.

Now 21 and working at a gas station and occasionally as a DJ at clubs, Tom is reluctant to talk about it.

"I don't care what anybody thinks," he says. But he keeps a low profile in Bloomington.

Tom's parents haven't followed suit. Two years ago, they formed the first Illinois chapter of P-FLAG outside metropolitan Chicago. In addition to the teen social center they founded, the Cadonics chaperone an annual Gay prom for down-

state teens.

Tom appreciates his parents' work but wouldn't mind if they weren't quite so vocal.

"You're afraid your old mom's going to get shot?" Carol says, giving her son a playful jab.

"No, I'm afraid I'M going to get shot," he replies.

He's kidding, at least in part.

Reports of Gay bashings in Bloomington and Normal are rare. But officials say most go unreported, especially if there are no specific civil rights protections based on sexual orientation.

The Cadonics lobbied unsuccessfully for Gay rights ordinances in 1996 in Bloomington and Normal. Such laws are on the books only in Chicago, Cook County, Champaign and Urbana.

They've also lobbied on Capitol Hill and in Springfield. In particular, they've hounded their own state representative, Rep. Bill Brady, who has voted against Gay rights bills in the past. Brady did not return messages from The Associated Press seeking comment on the issue.

Such legislation is not without its detractors.

"I believe this is special rights ... trying to paint themselves as a victim group. Every group in America is trying to do that right now," says Glenn Gordon, who fought against the proposed addition of sexual orientation to Normal's civil rights ordinance.

Opposition to Gay rights also comes in a more veiled form.

After a radio interview last summer, Carol Cadonic came home to find a message on an answering machine. A male voice said, "You make me angry. You make me very, very angry."

More often, however, the voices on their answering machines are those of young people looking for support.

"Please, please call me back," pleaded one boy, who called repeatedly.

"This kid was just so desperate," Carol says. "It just breaks your heart."

But the Cadonics see signs of hope, such as the \$900,000 settlement won by a Wisconsin student after a jury found that school administrators failed to protect him from years of Gay bashing.

They also take heart in the stories about parents, including Judith Tuuri Ulseth, a mother from Webster, Minn., who told her state lawmakers how her son, Julian, was teased from the minute he started kindergarten because he was so effeminate.

"I literally pulled down the shades," Ulseth says. "We didn't know how to help him."

Minnesota passed statewide protections in 1993, largely because of testimony from parents, says Ann DeGroot, executive of the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council in Minneapolis.

"The legislators could relate to them," DeGroot says. "They said, 'This is another parent like me.'"

The Cadonics say they're not looking for pity, just for help protecting the son they adore.

"I'd put him up against any football player or prom king any day," Carol says. "He's A-number one in my book."



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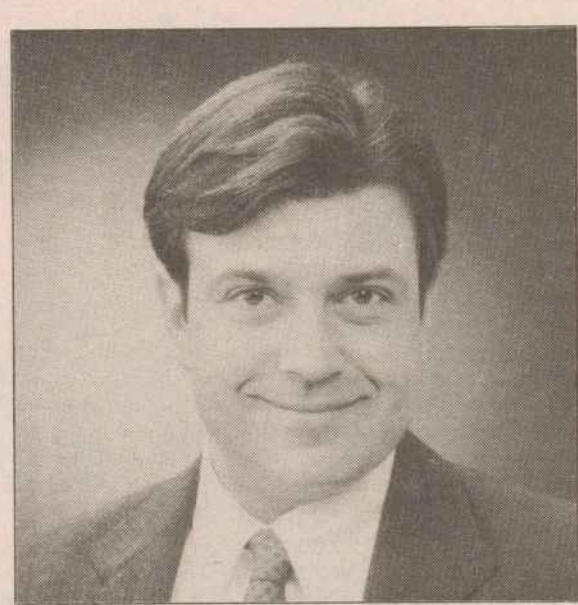
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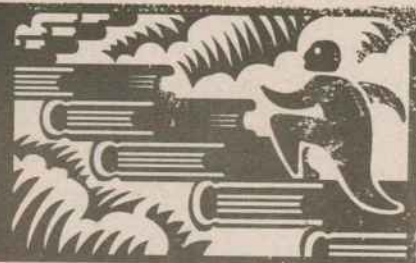
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Out In Print



Kate Clinton Book Signing — Nationally famous Lesbian Comic, Kate Clinton was at Afterwords books for a book signing of her book, "Don't Get Me Started." The signing took place on May 27.

Friendly, Funny Kate Clinton Visits Milwaukee

By John Jahn

Kate Clinton has been to Milwaukee about ten times, going back to 1982, mostly to attend some of our theatrical or musical productions. But her visit to Milwaukee on Wednesday, May 27th at Afterwords Bookstore was for quite a different purpose. Ms. Clinton was here that day to promote her first book, the anecdotal, semi-autobiographical **Don't Get Me Started**. She also currently has 4 CDs out, with a 5th one due for release at the end of summer entitled "Comedy You Can Dance To."

When asked about what response she hopes to get from her readers, Kate said simply, "It's funny, you'll laugh," thus emphasizing the light-hearted, comical subject matter of the book.

All told, some 60 people showed up not only to meet her and receive autographed copies of **Don't Get Me Started**, but also to listen to her read excerpts from it for roughly 45 minutes, much to everyone's delight. She did this right in front of the bookstore with the listeners gathered around, including some folks getting their clothes washed and sitting on the steps of the Murray Park Kwik Wash next door!

Milwaukee was but one of 15 cities Kate will be traveling to in the coming weeks to promote her book (Chicago is next on her schedule). In addition, she told me she will

be performing at Gay Pride events this summer in Boston, New York and San Francisco.

Afterwords Bookstore still has some autographed copies of **Don't Get Me Started** available, in addition to the CDs/cassettes "The Best of Lesbian Comedy," "Babes in Joyland" and "Live at the Great American Music Hall," and the videocassette "Queens of Comedy," which has Kate Clinton as a featured performer. The bookstore & espresso bar is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee (414-963-9089).

1997 Lammy Winners

Lesbian Fiction

Beyond the Pale by Elena Dykewomon
Press Gang

Gay Men's Fiction

The Far Euphrates by Aryeth Lev
Stollman, Riverhead

Lesbian Studies

Does Your Mama Know? ed. Lisa C. Moore, Redbone Press

Gay Men's Studies

Gay Metropolis by Charles Kaiser
Houghton Mifflin

Lesbian Poetry

Cold River by Joan Larkin
Painted Leaf

tie

School of Fish by Eileen Myles
Black Sparrow

Gay Men's Poetry

Beautiful Signor by Cyrus Cassells
Copper Canyon

Bending the Landscape ed. Nicola Griffith & Stephen Pagel
White Wolf

Lesbian Mystery

Father Forgive Me by Randy Lordon
Avon

Gay Men's Mystery

The Magician's Tale by David Hunt
Putnam

Lesbian Biography/Autobiography

Blue Windows by Barbara Wilson
Picador

Gay Men's

Biography/Autobiography

The Poetry of Healing by Rafael Campo
W.W. Norton

Fiction Anthology

His (2) ed. Robert Drake and Terry Wolverton
Faber & Faber

Nonfiction Anthology

Queers in Space by Gordon Brent Ingram, Annr-Marie Bouhillet & Yolanda Retter
Bay Press

Photography/Visual Arts

Naked Men ed David Leddick
Universe Publishers

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Particular Voices by Robert Giard
MIT Press

Spirituality/Religion

Like Bread on the Seder Plate by Rebecca Albert
Columbia University
**Science Fiction/Fantasy
Children/Young Adult**
The House You Pass on the Way by Jacqueline Woodson
Delacorte

Transgender

The Last Time I Wore a Dress by Daphne Scolinski with Jane Adams
Putnam

tie

PoMoSexuals ed. Carol Queen & Lawrence Schimel, Cleis

Small Press

Does Your Mama Know? ed. Lisa C. Moore
Redbone Press

Drama

Gross Indecency by Moises Kaufman
Vintage

Humor

Openly Bob by Bob Smith
Rob Wiesbach Books

Editor's Choice

Billy's Boy by Patricia Nell Warren
Wildcat Press

Pioneer Award

Bookazine

Ron Hanby, Jay Henry, Richard Kallman & Kathleen Willoughby

Don't Let the Summer Slip by Without Adding a Little Mystery to Your Life

By Glenn Bishop

Come summer in Milwaukee, you're most apt to find Glenn Bishop out at the beach -- no, you very naughty boys and girls, not at any of the nude beaches. Glenn is at that time in life when less is more, that is the less flesh seen the better.

Originally Glenn would pack a book along so that he could discretely watch the cute boys frolicking in the water in their oh-so scanty bathing suits. Glenn still does that of course but now actually does get around to reading the books he brings along.

Last week those lovely folks at *The Wisconsin Light* asked Glenn to peruse some of the new books that have come out this spring in time for June, designated National Lesbian and Gay Book Month. Would Glenn like to offer some summer reading suggestions?

Sure, what the hell!
Glenn loves a good mystery. Who doesn't? Last summer Glenn discovered Michael Craft's first Mark Manning mystery called **Flight Dreams** (which is now conveniently in paperback). Glenn's review was so glowing that the publisher has included an excerpt of the review on the back cover.

In his second mystery, Michael Craft's protagonist finds himself caught up in the mysterious death of a colleague who had just interviewed a top astrophysicist who claims to have discovered a tenth planet of our happy little solar system. Who murdered Mark's colleague? More importantly, can Mark have an affair with his cute 23 year-old assistant while keeping the home fires burning with two-year lover Neil Waite?

Glenn'll never tell.
The title of Fred Hunter's second Alex Reynolds mystery caught his eye, **Federal Fag**. Glenn isn't sure if he approves.

Glenn has it on the very best authority that Fred Hunter's first book, **Government Gay**, was a thorough delight. In his first outing, his protagonist Alex Reynolds is assaulted in the restroom of a Chicago Gay bar by two men in black demanding to know where "it" is. Alex escapes and assumes it was a matter of mistaken identity. Then a man turns up dead outside the bar. When an FBI agent shows up at Alex's

door asking some very confusing questions, it all becomes very North By Northwest.

Government Gay is also new in paperback.

In **Federal Fag** -- Glenn does despise that title -- Alex spies an old college boyfriend starring in a porno (Glenn's fantasy to a tee!). In as much as he's bored in L.A. while his hubby is attending a high-school reunion (Ugh!), Alex decides to look up the still hunky ex never expecting to find him on the floor of his apartment, dead.

Naturally everyone read that oh-so smart little mystery, **Death Wore a Smart Little Outfit**. Just perfect for the beach is the second adventure in the divinely popular new series starring Doan McChandler and Binky Van de Kamp, San Francisco's most dazzling detective team. Doan's the slinkiest sleuth to slip into a slip. Binky's his best friend and a trust fund darling, with expensive tastes to match.

Only in **Death Wore a Fabulous New Fragrance** disinherited socialite Binky Van de Kamp, hotfoots it to L.A. when a closeted Gay movie star is killed at Macy's San Francisco during the launch of his fresh, woody cologne. Before they know it, Doan and Binky find themselves entangled in a conspiracy that involves closeted movie stars, the publicists who keep their secrets hidden, the cults they join to ease their troubled consciences, and the men they hire to use the iron hand when the publicists' velvet glove fails to persuade.

If you love Hollywood insider dish, this one's for you!

Afterwords Best-seller List

Books Mostly Enjoyed by Lesbians

1. **Making Up For Lost Time** by Karin Kallmaker, Naiad Press Pb.....\$11.95
2. **Best Lesbian Erotica 1998** edited by, Cleis Press Pb.....\$14.95
3. **Women's Traveller 1998**, Damron Pub. Pb.....\$12.95
4. **Old Black Magic** by Jaye Maiman, Naiad Press Pb.....\$11.95
5. **Hot, Throbbing Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel, Firebrand... \$10.95
6. **As Francesca** by Martha Baer, Broadway Books Pb.....\$13.00
7. **Fourth Down** by Kate Calloway, Naiad Press Pb.....\$11.95
8. **By Reservation Only** by Jackie Calhoun, Naiad Press Pb.....\$11.95
9. **Murder She Meowed** by Rita Mae Brown, Bantam Books Pb.....\$6.50
10. **Lesbian Love Stories** by Irene Zahava, Alyson.....\$10.95

Books Mostly Enjoyed by Everyone

1. **Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA** by Andrew Collins, Fodor's Travel Pub.. \$20.00
2. **Read My Lips** by Riki Anne Wilchins, Firebrand Pb.....\$16.95
3. **Ferrari Travel A-Z**, Ferrari Travel Pub. Pb.....\$16.00
4. **Putting Out** by Edisol Dotson, Cleis Press Pb.....\$14.95
5. **One Teacher in Ten** by Kevin Jennings, Alyson Pb.....\$9.95
6. **Inn Places: Gay & Lesbian Accommodations**, Ferrari Travel pub. Pb... \$16.00
7. **Barbie Unbound** by Sarah Stohmeyer, New Victoria Pb.....\$12.95
8. **My Gender Workbook** by Kate Bornstein, Routledge Pb.....\$16.95
9. **Intimacy Dance** by Betty Berzo, Plume Pb.....\$16.95
10. **What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality** by Daniel Helminiak, Alamo Square Pb.....\$9.95


Books Mostly Enjoyed by Men

1. **Jocks** by Dan Woog, Alyson Pb.....\$12.95
2. **White Rose of Night** by Mel Keegan, Gay Men's Press Pb.....\$14.95
3. **Damron Address Book**, Damron Pub Pb.....\$14.95
4. **The Gay Metropolis** by Charles Kaiser, Houghton Mifflin HC.....\$27.00
5. **Execution Texas, 1987** by D. Scott Travers, St. Martin's Press HC.....\$20.95
6. **Making it Big** by Chi Chi LaRue, Alyson Pub. Pb.....\$12.95
7. **WiseoCracker: Life of William Haines** by William J. Mann, Viking.....Pb\$29.95
8. **Best of Gay Adult Video - 1998** by Mickey Skoe, Companion Press.....Pb\$12.95
9. **Editions Euros #8: Photos of Johan, Bruno Grmunder** HC.....\$16.95
10. **Farm Boys** by Will Fellows, University of Wisconsin press Pb.....\$14.95

Afterwords Schedule

- Monday, June 8th 7:00pm**
Afterword's Reading Group
Object of My Affection by Stephen McCauley
- Wednesday, June 17th 7:00pm**
Lesbian & Gay Writers' Group
New members welcome!
- Wednesday, June 24th 7:00pm**
Lesbian Reading Group
Don't Get Me Started by Kate Clinton

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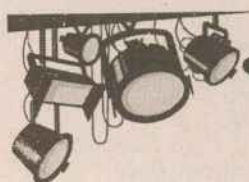


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T H E SPOTLIGHT



Talking to the Stars

"Intimate Portrait" TV Series Shines the Spotlight on Two Different Divas

By John Jahn

In June, LIFETIME Television (a cable station) focuses on two remarkable women, both award-winning entertainers in their own, very different disciplines.

Songstress Patti LaBelle and actress/clothing designer Delta Burke have both found happiness after years of personal trials and professional accomplishments. "Intimate Portrait: Patti LaBelle," narrated by actress Lynn Whitfield (*The Josephine Baker Story*), premieres Sunday, June 14th from 9-10pm, and "Intimate Portrait: Delta Burke," narrated by former Miss America Mary Ann Mobley, premieres Sunday, June 28th from 9-10:00 pm.

Patti LaBelle's life in music began in her childhood, singing with her church and school choirs. She became lead singer of a girl group called the "Bluebelles," and finally became a commercial success with hits like "Lady Marmalade." On the heels of such successes, however, Patti lost a sister to lung cancer, and she embarked upon a solo career, filling her songbook with ballads and hits like "New Attitude." Patti has learned life's hardest lessons at

the peak of her career, when she lost her remaining two sisters to cancer, missing the chance to make a final peace with one of them. Included in her Intimate Portrait are interviews with family, friends and fellow performers.

Delta Burke started out as a precocious southern belle, being enrolled in modeling classes and a theater company. But as her personality began to flourish she suffered a terrible setback: childhood flashbacks made her realize she had been molested by a friend's brother, leaving her afraid of men and emotionally scarred. Despite this, she became the youngest-ever Miss Florida, but her modeling career was hampered by a weight-control problem and frequent use of diet pills.

Burke became a household name with the success of her comedy series, "Designing Women," but even this took its toll on her, and when it wasn't renewed for a sixth season, Delta was left devastated. Included in her Intimate Portrait are interviews with colleagues, friends, family, her husband Gerald McRaney, and "Designing Women" costars Jean Smart and Meshach Taylor.



Gloria Estefan Continues to Turn the Gay Beat Around

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Gloria Estefan's new opus is sure to be a welcome arrival in Gay clubs and discos around the world. With its retro '70s disco sound and continuous play remix format, the beat-heavy, all-dance opus "Gloria!" on Epic Records is tailor-made the Gay dance bunnies.

"Let's face it, everything filters out from the Gay community first. Gay people are always far more along with things than the rest of the world," says the 40-year old singer.

"Gloria!" is also her most innovative and creative recording. It's the summer album we've been waiting for. On it, the continually changing pop diva reinvents herself, bringing a fresh flavor of disco-infused delights, with a '90s twist to the musical arena. The continuous-play CD was also recorded with some of today's hottest remix artists, including Tony Moran, Soul Solution, Love to Infinity and the Fugee's Wyclef Jean.

"The Gay community and the dance community are the one who really latched on to us and made us who we are," she says. "With 'Conga,' (her first major hit), it was the Gay clubs that made it a hit before anyone else and took it to the top."

In fact, in the early-80s, when Gloria and

Emilio were still yet undiscovered by the masses, they traveled to Puerto Rico and hired Pablo Flores, then a DJ in an underground Gay bar there, to remix their song, "Dr. Beat." Flores' sterling version of the song became a top-selling import and put the singer on the dance map.

(Flores still works with Estefan, including on her new opus.)

The song went to number one all over Europe and Latin America. And in 1994, when a-then eight-month pregnant Estefan was physically unable to film the video to her song retro dance hit "Everlasting Love," the singer hired half-a-dozen drag queens to impersonate her.

"I love seeing the drag queens do me. It's such a compliment," she says. "The new album is full of songs the impersonators are going to jump all over. I can't wait to see what they do with 'Real Woman.' They're going to field day with it."

(On her last tour, during its last leg in Ireland, the entire crew surprised Estefan by coming on stage during "Live For Loving You" in full drag, including her 18-year-old son, who wore her silver dress from the cover of her "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" album.)

Despite hours of traveling and an im-

Please See Estefan Page 19

The Classic Results In Good and Not So Good Surprises for Milwaukee Teams

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee Classic number 18 was a pleasant surprise for SSBL fans as two of the hometown teams kept the first place trophies from leaving town.

Balistreri's Pizza shocked the field by winning the National Division, while the M & M Club moved up from three consecutive third place finishes to capture the crown in the American Division.

Meanwhile Docks and In Between and the Ball Game all of whom had been hoping to do well in the tournament turned in disappointing results and Woody's which was not expected to do well made the semi-final game of the American Division before falling out of contention.

The tournament played in decent weather attracted 21 teams including the five from Milwaukee. The other teams came from St. Louis, Chicago, the Twin Cities and Toronto.

In addition to Balistreri's other trophy winners in the National Division were the Dunn Brothers Spurs from the Twin Cities (Second place) and the Chicago Hitman (Third Place)

The runners up in the American Division were Toronto Remington (Second Place) and the Melrose Rockers from Chicago (Third Place)

A run down of the local favorites:

The Ball Game - the Ball Game won the American Division last year but this year found itself unable to get on track after winning doing well enough in the Robin Round to make the upper division. The

Rangers opened with a 19 to 11 loss to the Buzzards of St. Louis but rebounded with a 21 to 4 win against the Over the Rainbow Tomatoes from Minneapolis.

In the tournament, the team had a tough loss to eventual champ Balistreri's by a score of 8 to 7. They were eliminated from the tourney in the next round losing to Milwaukee's Docks team by a score of 21 to 8.

Balistreri's Pizza - Coach Dan Nelson said it best when he announced that he "never expected to be up here" as he accepted the first place trophy. Neither did many other people, but Balistreri's proved itself with some convincing wins and well played ball.

In the Round Robin, the pizza guys started with a 9 to 9 with the Brass Rail, a good team from the Twin Cities. In their second game, they edged the Melrose Rockers by a score of 14 to 13.

The opened up double elimination play with a hard fought 8 to 7 win over the Milwaukee Ball Game. Followed by an exciting 14 to 9 win over Dunn Brothers and a 17 to 15 win over the St. Louis Buzzards.

That win was followed by a 10 to 7 victory over the Chicago Hitman. The Championship game was against Dunn Brothers again.

Docks - The team from South Water Street Docks made a good start beating the Twin Cities Storm by a score of 18 to 7

Please See Classic Page 19



Champs - Two Milwaukee teams were the surprise winners of their divisions in the Annual Milwaukee Classic held at Milwaukee's Wick Field on May 23, 24. At the left are Balistreri's Pizza, which won the National Division and at the right are the M & M Blow Pops which won the American Division. Twenty-one teams from five cities engaged in the weeklong event of fun and competition.

Curtain Calls

Classic Hollywood Film Music Gets the Highly Talented MSO Treatment

Reviewed by John Jahn

On the evenings of May 29, 30 and 31, a nice breeze from the direction of Hollywood, U.S.A. swept into Uihlein Hall as Resident Conductor Neal Gittleman led an all-movie music Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Pops concert. It was not only exciting to hear both familiar and unfamiliar excerpts from classic film scores "live and in person," but the whole experience was significantly enhanced by the addition of a large screen suspended over center stage. On that screen, in time with the music, the audience viewed scenes from eight motion pictures. It was a fine blending of sight and sound, one which the MSO should be sure to repeat.

To movie and music nuts like this reviewer, the names of the composers were quite familiar, as were the films. Perhaps this wasn't the case for the average person, however. Mostly, we tend not to notice background music in movies unless there's something about it which causes it to intrude upon our consciousness, but when hearing a film score in a live setting, it can't be tuned out. I'd like to see more concerts like this to further enlighten people as to the validity of music for the movies as something worth paying more "conscious" attention to.

On the concert were two pieces by Max Steiner: "The Empire State Building" finale from *King Kong*, and as an encore, "The

Burning of Atlanta" and the finale to part one from *Gone With the Wind*; these - as with all the selections - were accompanied by the appropriate films themselves on the screen. Conductor Gittleman, in order to keep time with the action, had before him a small monitor as well as a clock - devices used by film composers today while recording their scores. I was very impressed with the professionalism and preciseness the obviously well-rehearsed orchestra exhibited. You had the sense of sitting in on a film recording session.

The 2-hour concert also had the benefit of variety. Rather than filling the bill with action and adventure, it was widely varied. Particularly compelling were "Drunk Driving Scene" and "Mr. Rushmore" from Hitchcock's classic *North By Northwest* (music by Bernard Herrmann) and "The Duel" from *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (Erich Wolfgang Korngold). Tender and lovely moments were provided by excerpts from *The Yearling* (Stoarth & Mendelssohn) and the 17-minute ballet from *An American in Paris* (Gershwin). Narration was entertainingly provided by the statuesque former Milwaukeean Kristen Johnston, who portrays the alien Sally Soloman on NBC's "Third Rock From the Sun."

All-in-all, it was a delight to both see and hear, one which this reviewer would like to see much more of.

Off-Broadway Theater Agrees to Produce Play, Despite Threats

New York, NY-- An off-Broadway theater reversed itself and agreed to produce a controversial play about a Gay Christlike figure, despite several anonymous death threats.

"In our 25-year history, we have never censored a play nor turned a play down because of content," Lynne Meadow, Manhattan Theater Club's artistic director, said Thursday. "The only issue for us has been safety and security."

The theater had canceled the production of Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi* in the face of anonymous threats made against the building, its audience and the playwright.

Meadow said the theater club reversed its decision Thursday, May 28, after New York City Police Commissioner Howard Safir promised to ensure safety if the play was produced. Meadow would not elaborate on those measures.

At a news conference, Meadow played a tape of one of the phone calls the theater received. The raspy, possibly computer-distorted voice was difficult to understand, but Meadow read a transcript of the message, which was addressed to McNally.

"Because of you we will exterminate every member of the theater and burn the place to the ground. This is a message from National Security Movement of America," part of it said.

The group's background was not immediately clear, but most thought it came from some Christians. The theater received many protests and five specific death threats, beginning on May 11, said Barry Grove, the theater's executive producer.

Neither Meadow nor Grove would discuss the play's subject matter, which, according to accounts in the *New York Post*, deals with a Christlike young man who has sex with his disciples.

Grove said no details about the play's plot would be released beyond a description in a brochure sent to potential subscribers earlier this year.

"From modern day Corpus Christi, Texas, to ancient Jerusalem, we follow a young Gay man named Joshua on his spiritual journey, and get to know the 12 disciples who choose to follow him," the brochure reads.

McNally, author of the Tony Award-winning *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class*, was traveling and unavailable for comment.

"Wait for the production to be finished and on stage and, we assure you, the play will speak for itself," Grove said. "You can come and judge for yourself when the play is on stage."

Exact dates were not announced. The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which disavows violence, be-

gan a letter-writing campaign after reading the initial *Post* article.

"We will simply continue to publicly challenge their moral right to put on something that is this offensive to Christians," league spokesman Rick Hinshaw said after learning of the theater club's latest decision.

The Catholic League is headed by Dr. William Donohue, former professor of sociology at La Roche College outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Donohue had written to McNally, urging him to get rid of offending passages.

Editor's Note: I spent many, many evenings with Bill Donohue drinking beer in the North Park Lounge. I could not begin to count the times I heard him condemn censorship of any kind. How ironic and how sad it is from me now to read about him asking a playwright to censor a script. I am ashamed to have ever called him friend.

IN THE LIFE seeks Television Segment Producers

New York, NY-- IN THE LIFE, public television's award-winning Lesbian and Gay newsmagazine, is looking for segment producers from all regions of the country with strong writing skills, creativity, and major market experience; great storytelling and solid news and entertainment judgment a must.

Proven high production values with limited resources under tight deadlines as well as working knowledge of Gay and Lesbian issues and culture preferred. On-air work great but not necessary. Must be proficient in all areas of post production. Experience with betacam ENG crews required. Avid experience preferred.

Fees for independent segment producers range from \$700 to \$1000 per segment. Packages are 6 to 9 minutes in newsmagazine format.

Send nonreturnable reel (VHS) and resume to:
In the Life Media Inc., 30 W. 26th St., 7th Fl
New York, NY 10010; Attn: Prod. listing.

No calls please. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. EOE.

IN THE LIFE is produced by In the Life Media Inc., a not-for-profit, member-supported organization, and is presented by public station 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.

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THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... We are happy to tell you that **Fannies** is now reopened. You can hardly recognize the place, it looks fabulous. Check it out. We are also happy to tell you that the **Milwaukee Eagle** will be reopening on Friday, June 5. The fire that occurred upstairs from the bar did some damage but it will be repaired by then.

In other news, **In Between's** popular bartender, Tommy, is back from his New York trip. We hear that he missed his plane back and wound up with a big parking bill at O'Hare field where he had left his car. Tip him well and welcome him back.

Speaking of **In Between** they have another new stud behind the bar, Alex. Check him out. Hot stuff!

Speaking of bars on Milwaukee's Second Street, we hear that Manager Chuck Cicerello is working out a deal to buy **Club 219**.

As you know, (if you read the front page), **The Wisconsin Light** has been sold. I have several things to say about that. First and most important, I will continue to write for the paper. Second, I want to thank Jerry Johnson our publisher and Terry Boughner our editor, for keeping this publication going for so long. No one knows what they have given up to keep you informed. They are truly remarkable people. Last, having heard some of the rumors in the bars concerning the sale, let me say this. Yes and No.

Yes the **Wisconsin Light** will continue to be owned members of our Gay and Lesbian community.

No Jerry Johnson was not 'pushed' into selling by Terry Boughner. Pushing Jerry into anything is about likely as pushing a full grown elephant into a beer bottle.

The bottom line is that both of these two wonderful gentlemen decided that it was time to move on to new challenges.

They told me that the funniest question they get asked these days (to them, it's hilarious), is "What are you going to do?" asked in a tone of voice that implies there's no life beyond **Wisconsin Light**.

Jerry wants to work on their house—which is enough for anybody. Remember, there's 25 rooms in that place of theirs.

Terry will write—stop with the porn and do—or finish—some serious stuff. He tells me that after June 17, if anyone calls him and asks, "Is this **Wisconsin Light**?" The answer will be a firm "No."

Recaps... The Milwaukee Classic was great. The weather cooperated (for once) and there were a lot of fans on hand to cheer on their favorites. Congrats to **Balistreri's** and to **M & M** on winning the championship of the National and American divisions respectively.

The bar parties were great. I was tired after a day of playing of ball, so I wasn't able to make them all, but I will say that **In Between**, **the Ball Game** and **M & M's** all had great crowds and were a whole lot of fun.

The Possum Queen Fund raiser at **South Water Street Docks** was also a real gas. Thankfully it was on a holiday, Memorial Day, otherwise we would have had to post a guard to keep the Sanitation Department from sweeping up Possum Queen candidates, Aqua Marie and the Infamous Topaz with the rest of the trash.

I had planned on seeing Chase Hunter at the **Milwaukee Eagle** but unfortunately, the fire prevented that from happening. It's always hot at the Eagle but this was too hot! There is no truth to the rumor that Chase and I were dirty dancing at the bar and the heat we generated caused the fire. (Not that it couldn't have happened).

I did hear that Chase wowed them at **Club 94** in Kenosha and at **Manoeuvres**.

Since I was not able to see Chase (who I am sure was coming back to Milwaukee just to see me!) I had to console myself. Which I did quite nicely by taking in the **La Cage** showcase at La Cage of course and stopping in at **The Boot Camp** (which happened to be especially butch that night), **Fluid** which had a big and very friendly crowd, **In Between** which also had a nice sized friendly crowd and **Dish** which continues to draw large crowds of men and women both. I made a stop at the **Triangle** which had some cute bartenders on duty.

I finished consoling myself with a stop at **This Is It** where as usual I met some really friendly folks. This Is It is always crowded, but with summer, it's wall-to-wall. Visitors stop in from the surrounding hotels, while the festival goings on nearby bring in even more. You get to meet so many new people from out of town.

The special screening of "The Last Days

of Disco" was great. Loved the music! And the party that followed at **La Cage** was equally fun. The only thing missing was a pair of platform shoes and some bell bottoms.

Coming Up... Well there aren't many special events on the schedule for the next couple of weeks. But that won't stop me from going out and having a good time and it shouldn't stop you either.

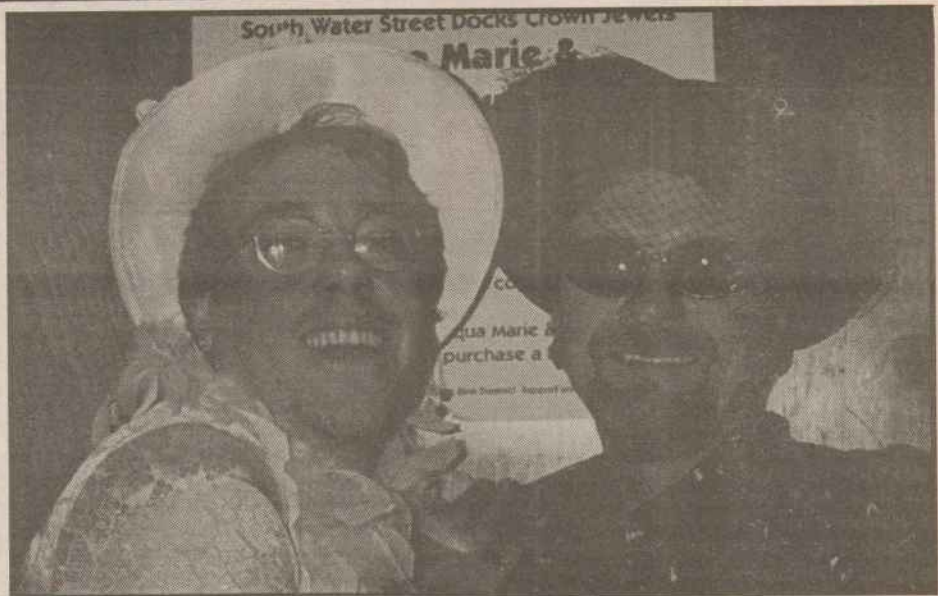
On **Friday, June 5**, I will be starting out at the **M & M Club** for a taste of Gay Milwaukee's longest running fish fry. I will be sure to say hi to Rona, Boo Boo and all the gang for you.

Then it will be off to **This Is It** for some good conversation followed by a trip to **The Ball Game** where the "world's greatest cocktail hour" goes until 9 PM.

After that it will be across the street to **Dish** where Amy holds court in the DJ booth. Then down the street to **In Between**, which always seems to have some hot guys on both sides of the bar.

I will arrive at **La Cage** in time to catch the Show Case. After that it will be off to **Fluid** where Billy and Jimmy hold court.

On **Sunday, June 7** I will be in Mad Town to hear my good friend Tammy Baldwin officially announce her candidacy for Congress. Later that evening you will find me at **Kirby's Klub**, **the Shamrock**



Jerry Johnson

Trashing It Up—If total trash is your thing, you should be backing these two in their campaigns for Possum Queen. At the left is the Infamous Topaz joined by her fellow "jewel" Aqua Marie. You can help these two "ladies" (and we use that term loosely) ascend to the throne by stopping by their campaign headquarters at South Water Street Docks, 354 E. National, Milwaukee.

Wednesday, June 10 I am doing leather. I will start out at the **Eagle** and the move south to the **1100 Club** and **Docks** before I end up at the **Boot Camp** for its weekly Club night drawing.

Friday, June 12 is my birthday (yes I will be 30 give or take a few years). Needless to say, I will be out and about all over Milwaukee but don't anyone make a fuss. Just pour me in a cab when I am done and make sure I get home.

Wednesday, June 17 is **Wisconsin Light** distribution night. So get those

Miller Lite tappers ready for me. It is also the last distribution night with Terry as Editor and Jerry as publisher. It would be nice to see some folks come out and personally thank them for 10 years of service to our community.

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

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Take the Bus to Chicago's Gay Pride Parade, June 28

Milwaukee—Gay Youth Milwaukee is sponsoring a bus to Chicago for the annual Gay Pride Parade, Sunday, June 28th. The bus will leave Milwaukee at 10:00 a.m. and arrive back in Milwaukee at 10:00 p.m. The cost is only \$10. You can enjoy the ride to Chicago with your friends and avoid the stress of traffic and parking.

The parade begins at 2:00 p.m. so you will have plenty of time to cruise Boystown before an to join in the festivities afterwards. The parade attracts over 150,000 party people and is an annual MUST attend event. It's the Midwest's Gayest party except, of course, for Pride-Fest.

The no-alcohol bus will depart from Washington and South 1st Street (Walker's Point Café). When the bus is filled, it's filled.

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June 21

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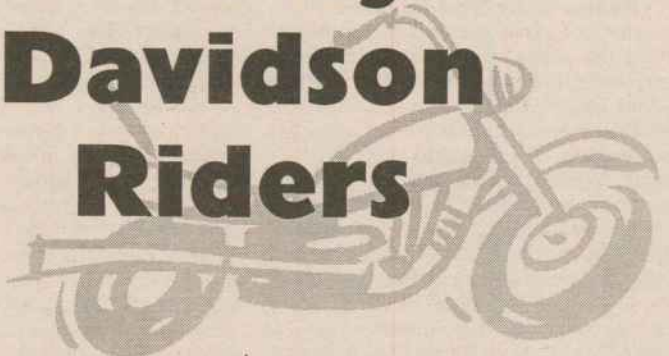
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OUT on Film

That 'Wilde' is a Success, is Due Largely to its Star, Stephen Fry

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

One cannot have passed the introductory course titled, *Foremost Homos in History* without first learning by heart the tragic history of Saint Oscar, he of the green carnation and scathing wit who died for our sins so very long ago.

Oscar Wilde's continued magic and mystique is really quite simple. Long before it became chic, Oscar Wilde relished flaunting in public his sexual preference not to mention his extraordinary ability to catch the most beautiful of boys, none more beautiful or more deadly than his beloved "Bosie", Lord Alfred Douglas.

If he miraculously turned up today in Greenwich Village or the Castro or even Chicago's fabled Boystown, Oscar Wilde isn't likely to merit much more than the merest flicker of interest. Still, what an extraordinarily gust of fresh air he must have brought to the very musty, straight-laced society of Victorian London.

As the centennial of the death of Oscar Wilde (in 1900) approaches, there is renewed interest in him, his writing and especially his decadent life.

Hence another film bio.

Let Glenn join the roster of critics to start off by saying that Stephen Fry was born to play Oscar Wilde. Regardless of Fry's future successful endeavors or his past success in playing P. G. Wodehouse's most famous creation, Jeeves, manservant Bertram Wooster, Fry's immortality will forever rest with his portrayal of Wilde in *Wilde*.

Mores the pity the film isn't just a little bit better.

Unlike those filmed biographies of Wilde in the 60s featuring the likes of Peter Finch and Robert Morley, *Wilde* is very much a film for the oh-so Gay 90s. Less a literary biography, Julian Mitchell's screenplay

'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas' is a Bad Trip Back in Time

Reviewed by John Jahn

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas also leads to fear and loathing in the movie theater - it's a real bummer. It begins with substance abuse, segues into audience abuse, and pretty much stays there for the remaining 80-odd minutes. It wastes lovely Johnny Depp's clenched-teeth performance as journalist Hunter Thompson, whose trip to Vegas with his slob lawyer (Benicio Del Toro) might have been a fun nose-thumbing at Nixon's America had this picture been made a decade or more ago, but the story simply has not dated well. All of writer-director Terry Gilliam's (an ex-Monty Python cast member) efforts at druggy outrage are hopelessly misapplied and wholly unwelcome in late '90s America.

The opening scenes - in which Depp and Del Toro stuff their trunk with a minimart of drugs, then floor their Chevy convertible pointed towards Las Vegas - pretty much sums up all that is to follow, and shallow,

'Junk Mail' is an Understated Film, Perhaps Too Much So to Hold Interest

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

It was with considerable expectation that Glenn settled in to his seat for his first Scandinavian film, *Junk Mail* with "Biggie" popcorn and "Biggie" Diet Pepsi in hand.

When Glenn thinks "Scandinavian", immediately images of long-legged, lean-limbed blond Adonises with huge, dazzling er,... smiles and delightful accents spring to mind.

Tragically, no such hot male fantasies types seem to inhabit the bleak and oh-so miserable Oslo depicted in Pal Sletaune's off-beat romantic postal thriller. That's right! Postal thriller.

Anything but a long-legged, lean-limbed blond Adonis with a huge, dazzling er,... smile and a delightful accent, *Junk Mail*'s protagonist, Roy (Robert Skjaerstad), is one of life's less significant losers, a man who is very nearly invisible except to bullies who see him as an easy mark. Short, a bit pudgy, ambitionless and definitely amongst the great un-showered, Roy is a mail man.

Holy Shades of Cliff Clavin, Batman!

A mail man he may be but not a happy mail man. When he isn't being tormented by one of his fellow co-workers, Roy is dumping in a railway tunnel he doesn't feel like delivering or opening the letters of others in compensation for those he doesn't receive. A boring, solitary job for a boring, solitary man.

places the films focus squarely on Wilde's romantic affairs with men, first with Robbie Ross (Michael Sheen) and later, his infamous tryst with Bosie (Jude Law).

The opening moments of *Wilde* are nothing short of sensational. On a literary tour of America in 1882, Wilde is shown speaking to a group of hunky, shirtless Colorado silver miners. The scene reeks with heady, rampant sexual tension as Wilde's eyes scan the group and then singularly caresses every dazzling curve of the sweaty, muscular bodies of the shirtless men. For their part, these clearly illiterate miners appear genuinely interested in yet thoroughly clueless of their guest.

Then it is back to London for Wilde and marriage to Constance (Jennifer Ehle). Seemingly happy, Wilde and his bride are nevertheless shown to be dear friends and companions rather than passionate lovers, two sons notwithstanding.

Enter Canadian Robert Ross, a houseguest who seduces the surprisingly speechless Wilde into a physical, sexual relationship. It is a moment of revelation of Wilde.

Although his feelings for Ross soon cool to that of devoted friends, Wilde is quickly portrayed turning head-over-heels in love with the gloriously handsome visage of one young Lord Alfred Douglas.

There's to be no going back for Wilde.

Here Mitchell glories in bringing to life, through the eyes of Oscar Wilde, the shocking, daring and so very deliciously decadent homosexual underground that seemed to coexist peacefully within Victorian society. Mitchell, too, seems to gleefully relish portraying the silent outrage exhibited by the outraged Victorian society forced to watch Wilde parade his affair

Please See *Wilde* Page 19

inappropriate and ugly stuff it is.

Their trip is full of drug abuse, smugly superior attitudes and abuse of common, decent, hard-working folks they encounter along the way. It's an hour-and-a-half drug commercial consisting of bad trips, a lot of barfing and trashing of hotel rooms, and fit after fit of drug-induced paranoia, often accompanied by loaded pistols.

Despite Depp's strong performance, you can't help but wonder what kind of audience this film is looking for. Don't we see and hear about these kind of misshapen souls enough in "real" life today so we can presumably avoid them during 90 minutes of theatrical escapism?

Effectively erasing any distinction between harmful drugs and contemptible dregs, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* will surely convince those who were either not around during the early '70s - or too young to remember about the time - that they didn't miss a thing. *

Then Roy's life makes an abrupt u-turn. While perusing some skin magazines, Roy watches a pretty blond woman (Andrine Saether) steal a medical book - an act he seems to think will bond them together. He learns that she works at a dry cleaners and is deaf. Still, it isn't until she accidentally leaves her mailbox key in the lock (along with the rest of her keys) that Roy begins to stalk her.

Only the pretty blond woman, Line (Glenn puzzled long over the meaning of her name) is caught up in some further criminal shenanigans, a fact Roy learns after he breaks into her apartment, eats her Frosted Flakes and sleeps in her bed (Holy Shades of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Batman!).

Obviously these two social misfits are destined for each other... or are they? Glenn'll never tell.

Creating a film which faithfully portrays a character or characters who are dull, boring, unpleasant or merely average yet which nevertheless manages to entertain or engage a movie going audience is a difficult task indeed. Not, Glenn is sorry to report, a task in which Pal Sletaune succeeds.

Robert Skjaerstad's Roy proves to be too understated, too ineffectual to hold an audience's interest much less their sympathies. Nor is Andrine Saether's Line given much of a chance develop. Sadly,

the few truly interesting, quirky characters in *Junk Mail* are relegated to the fringes of the story and all too quickly gone.

Still, *Junk Mail* is likely to make one pause and wonder just where your mail

man is stashing your undelivered mail.

Rating \$3.45 (scale No Cents to \$7.00)

"Junk Mail" opens Friday, June 5 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater for a one week run.

Gripping and Darkly Comic, 'A Friend of the Deceased' is Well Worth Seeing

Reviewed by John Jahn

Ukrainian film maker Vyacheslav Krish-tofovich has used his latest film, *A Friend of the Deceased*, to take a darkly comic look at the current economic and social climate in the former USSR. The director is on record saying the "human warmth" evident during the height of socialism has been replaced by solitude and self-interest in the new, free era. He says he made this film "about people whom I pity. And whom I love."

Today's Ukraine is painted in dark, depressing colors. It's a Black Market country where almost anything can be bought and sold, not unlike the inner cities of our country.

In such an environment, someone like Anatoli (Alexandre Lazarev), an intellectual trained to be an English and French translator, finds himself unemployed and disrespected. His wife is about to leave him for another man, and when his friend Dima (Eugen Pachin) suggests putting a "hit" on her boyfriend, Anatoli accepts, sort of.

He makes the deal over the phone with the contract killer, Kostia (Constantin Kostychin), but instead of giving him his wife's lover's description, he describes himself, figuring that arranging his own

'Hope Floats' Provides the Escapist Pleasure of a Movie Romance

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn as well as the rest of America first took notice of an attractive young Sandra Bullock in the blockbuster from a few summers past, *Speed*. Despite the virile heat which seemed to engulf co-star Keanu Reeves, Bullock nevertheless managed to steal the film by registering just the right amount of spunkiness with the delicious glow of the girl-next-door. A star being born?

If she was noticed in *Speed*, Sandra Bullock would become America's newest sweetheart in the delightfully slight romantic comedy, *While You Were Sleeping*.

It's been downhill ever since.

Much like the character she plays in *Hope Floats*, poor Sandra Bullock is a woman who's early special sparkle seems to have faded as time has passed. Following a series of cinematic mis-steps, most notably a Keanu-less *Speed 2*, Ms. Bullock finds herself desperately needing a hit.

She probably hoped to do a little bit better than *Hope Floats*.

Meet Birdie Pruitt (Sandra Bullock). As the film begins, Birdie is sitting in a sound-proof room waiting to be told on a nationally syndicated talk show that her best friend has been having an affair with her hunkily handsome hubby, played by the hunkily handsome Michael Pare.

Yes, that is the delightful Kathy Najimy as the talkshow host most resembling Ricki Lake.

Following her televised humiliation, Birdie decides that she needs some time away from her straying hubby to think things over. Packing up her irritable little girl, Bernice (Mae Whitman) Birdie heads for home, that is to her childhood home of Smithville, Texas where Mom (Gena Rowlands) still stuffs animals on the front lawn while caring for the abandoned son high school. Left to wait for ages and

murder offers a quick and easy way out of a dreary existence. As luck would have it, a tryst with a prostitute (Tatiana Krivitska) re-invigorates Anatoli's interest in life, but it's too late to call off the hit!

With a script (by Andrei Kourkov) that combines dark comedy, drama and suspense, *A Friend of the Deceased* proves a fascinating and engaging look at a country in turmoil. The story develops with a number of inventive twists overlaying the Russian sense of tragedy, and fairly drips with irony.

The only real problem with *A Friend of the Deceased* is that there are occasions when things seem a little overplotted, and we're sometimes aware that a character is acting a certain way because that's what the plot demands, lending a feeling of contrivance.

A Friend of the Deceased's main strength lies in its insider's perspective on the turmoil taking place behind the shattered Iron Curtain. It's a plus that the movie is well-acted, gripping, and populated with bizarre twists to keep you involved.

A Friend of the Deceased has been held over for one final week at Milwaukee's Oriental Landmark Theater. ★★★

of Birdie's long-absent sister.

Perhaps this is beginning to sound like some routine offering of the *Lifetime Channel - Television for Women?*

Not surprisingly, this small hometown is not all that kind to an ex-prom queen who married the handsome, virile star quarterback yet somehow hasn't managed to live happily-ever-after. Glenn images few small hometowns would be very forgiving - especially those small hometowns who had the happy chance to see the fall from grace on TV.

Smithville is certainly no exception.

One particularly memorable moment has Birdie, pretty much at the end of her rope, seeking employment at an agency run by one of the unpopular girls from Birdie's ages, when Birdie finally gets an interview, she finds herself facing a woman who has held a lifelong grudge but whom poor Birdie can barely recall. A wonderfully real moment.

Most of all Birdie can boast the support as well as the unconditional love of one Justin Matisse, played by Harry Connick, Jr. Like Birdie, Justin too left the smothering confines of Smithville, in his case for California. Only California didn't suit him and he has returned home to paint houses.

Predictably romance follows.

Not perhaps the most truly blessed of actresses, Sandra Bullock finds Birdie her most comfortable acting role for some time. Likewise Harry Connick, Jr. Much better is the always wonderful Gena Rowlands who seemingly make any role convincing.

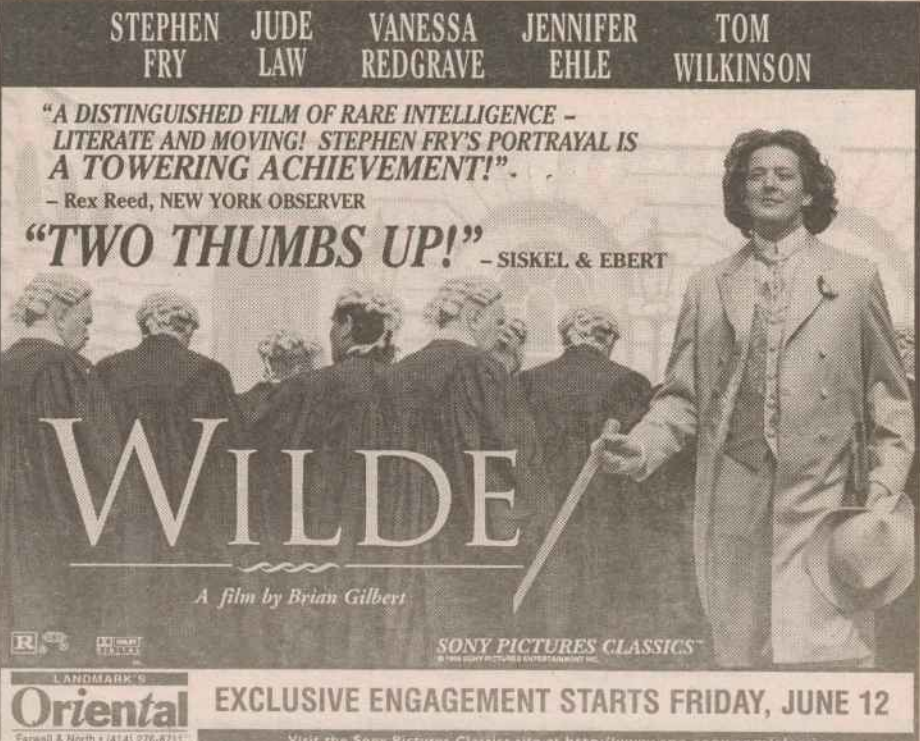
Hope Floats might offer little that is truly original but is likely to appeal to those moviegoers tired of computer-generated fantasies and seeking the escapist fare for which only a cinematic romance will do.

Rating \$4.11 (Scale No cents to \$7.00)

STEPHEN FRY JUDE LAW VANESSA REDGRAVE JENNIFER EHLE TOM WILKINSON

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WILDE

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'The Truman Show' is a Uniquely Thought Provoking Summer Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Faithful readers of *The Wisconsin Light* know that lurking behind his "Biggie" popcorn is a Glenn Bishop ravaged by cynicism, occasioned by the occasional moment of bitterness yet still remaining hopeful, hopeful that a Prince Charming will once again appear in the seat across from Glenn. An attractive man with a friendly smile always cheers Glenn's all-too-real heart.

A smile held too long makes Glenn nervous.

In Glenn's experience a smile held too long isn't usually a good thing, all too often the mark of someone trying to sell something that Glenn doesn't want.

Such is the world acclaimed Australian director Peter Weir creates in his new film, *The Truman Show* which stars American cinema's favorite (as well as still alive) funny guy, Jim Carrey.

As Glenn may have mentioned in past reviews of the films of Jim Carrey, Glenn is not a particular Jim Carrey fan. Still, Glenn has that one pesky dream which just won't go away involving a very naked Mr. Carrey. Glenn digresses yet again...

Not as dark but twice as creepy as *The Cable Guy*, *The Truman Show* is a fascinating film but one which is quite unlikely to be greeted with open arms by Carrey's multitude of die-hard fans.

Carrey plays Truman Burbank, a thirty-something insurance salesman living a perfect life with a perfect best friend (Noah Emmerich), a perfect wife (Tales of the City's Laura Linney) in a perfect town called Sea Haven.

As *The Truman Show* opens, Truman emerges from his house to go to work. Under a cloudless sky, a sun-drenched Truman greets his smiling and cheerful African-American neighbors (for it seems *The Truman Show* is also perfectly P.C.).

Glenn began to grow uneasy. The sun was too bright, the neighbors too cheerful. Truman's world was too perfect.

Of course there is a simple explanation for all of this perfection: Television. Truman Burbank is the star of his own television show. A rather unique show telecast twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, year in and year out. A world-wide audience in

the millions huddled daily in front of their televisions watching Truman's every action, every word, every breath, every snore.

Glenn half expected to start hearing the theme to *The Twilight Zone*.

Everyone who lives in Truman's world, his neighbors, his best friend, even his devoted, loving wife is an actor playing a role.

Everyone except Truman himself. For Truman, it is all real.

As more and more of Truman's life is revealed, Glenn felt the movie get more and more creepy. Here is "big brother" possible with today's technology.

After a sensational beginning, Weir seems to lose steam.

Truman's world must unravel for there to be a movie in all of this, but does so abruptly, somewhat unconvincingly and all too quickly. Weir throws in an ill-conceived romantic fling between Truman and a pretty, young actress (Natascha McElhone) who tries to blow the whistle on the show by telling Truman the truth.

Worse, the genius lurking behind *The Truman Show* is a disappointingly ordinary one-dimensional omnipotent creator annoyingly named Cristof (Ed Harris).

Glenn has never seen such an extraordinarily revealing portrait of television as in *The Truman Show*. Director Weir manages on one hand to lampoon the millions hooked on their daily fix of TV while offering a scathing critique of the often theatrically enhanced version of our "real world" depicted on television.

Casting Jim Carrey as Truman was a calculated risk. Sure, Carrey's name above the title will bring into the cinema his legion of fans, at least initially, but conversely may well put off the sort of moviegoers who'll most appreciate a film such as this but would not normally be seen dead at a Jim Carrey flick. Nor is Carrey particularly known for his emoting.

Carrey neither falls on his face nor entirely embodies Truman Burbank in *The Truman Show*. Carrey is likeable enough but all-too-often looks desperate to win the audience over with one of his trademark funny faces. At his best moments, Carrey achieves an appealing and endearing

Please See Truman Show Page 18

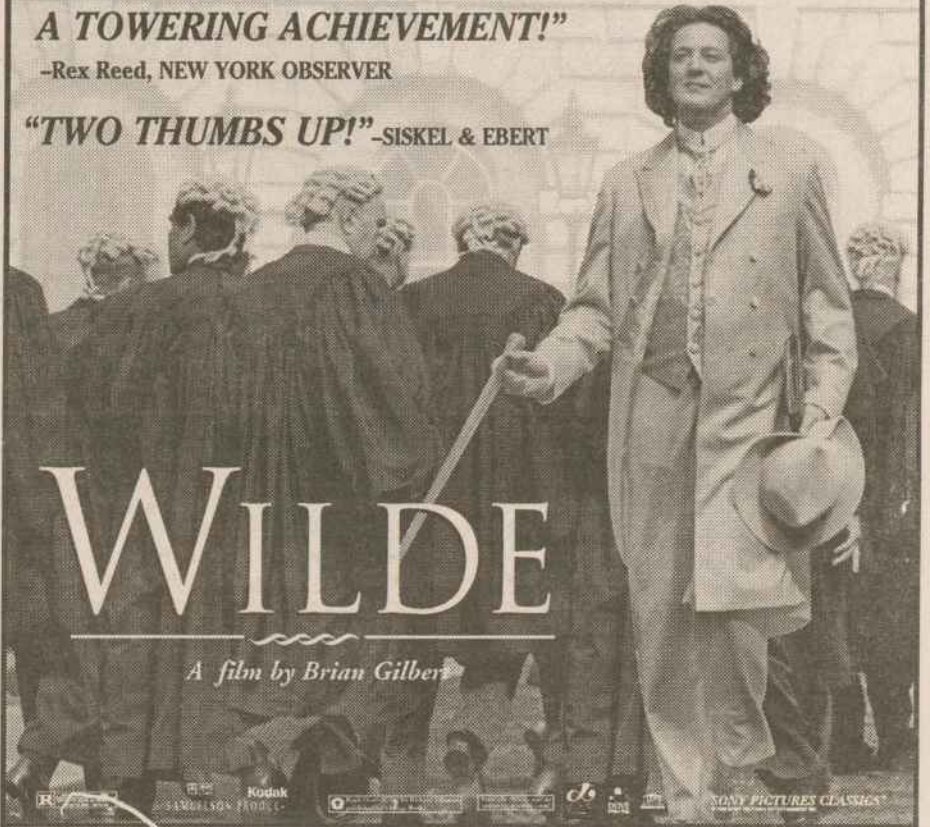
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Dear Ruthie

Hello Everyone! How the heck are ya? I'd like to take a moment to thank the lovely Iona Trailer and the wonderful Star E. Night for inviting me to their show on May 15 at Just Us! What a great bunch of people - both behind and in front of the stage! I had a fantastic time - I hope everyone else did too!!

I was also asked to do a number for the Divine Ms. Buzz at her Possum Queen event at M&M's on May 30th. Honey - thanks for the invite! I love working with you and everyone at M's! Good luck to you girls and all of the Possum Queen contestants out there!

Life's weird. Isn't it? I mean one day, "60 Minutes" is calling to question you about your pedicure night with Gerald Ford, and the next thing you know, you're in Mike Wallace's trailer, trying to untie a naked Andy Rooney. Read on.....

Dear Ruthie,

Would you be interested in getting involved in a bondage scene with an old Daddy and his Boy? We'd like to invite you to our dungeon for a B&D session. You will be pleased.

(signed)

Master/Daddy

Dear Daddy-Person,

B&D? What does that mean? Breakfast and dinner? Blemish and dimple? Bondage and dominance? Oh ... dear ... that is it, isn't it? Actually, I've never been into that whole, tie 'em up, ride 'em down, slap 'em around hanky-panky. Unless you count that afternoon with Andy Rooney.

I had just gotten done talking to Mike Wallace about a certain president and an alleged foot fetish. Anyhow ... I pop into Wallace's make-up trailer to use the little girl's room, and to my surprise I find Andy Rooney naked and hog tied on the floor.

I ran over to him and started to undo the straps of the rubber ball gag that was in his mouth.

Who did this to you, I asked. It was that bastard Morley Safer, wasn't it? The orange ball popped out of Rooney's mouth. Are you okay, Honey? I said.

Rooney looked up at me and with tears in his eyes, he said:

"Ever wonder where rubber comes from? I mean that ball gag really hurt, but it tasted worse than it felt. Who makes things like that? Rubber, that is. And Styrofoam? Is there some magical fairy who flies from shipping dock to shipping dock filling boxes with the stuff? Sure - I know that Styrofoam is a man-made product. Probably huge factories someplace filled with hard working people - but it sure is fun to think of the Styrofoam fairy, isn't it?"

Before I could open my mouth, he says, "Ever notice that no one talks about fairies anymore? Why not? Seems kids now-a-days are more into space ships, or God-awful looking creatures - aliens of some sort. I don't know why. I certainly don't find them fun or exciting. But then again, I'm not a kid anymore, am I?"

A moment of silence passed between us. Rooney opened his mouth and said, "Ever wonder -?"

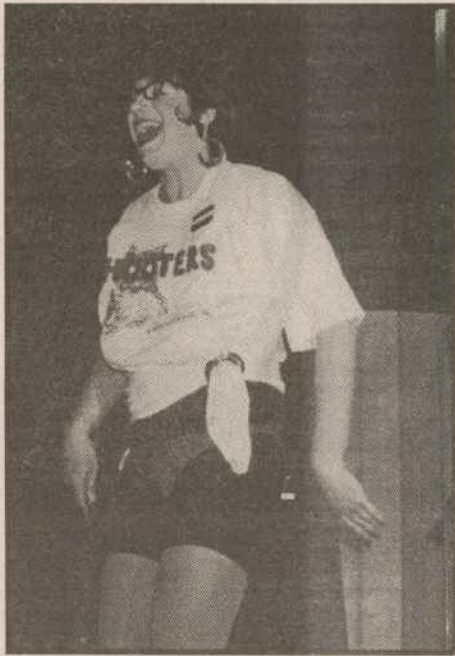
And with that I shoved the ball-gag back into the old man's mouth and quickly tied its stings in a knot. I covered his head with a plastic bag and grabbed my purse on the way out of the trailer.

I saw Mike Wallace having a smoke outside the studio. We exchanged knowing glances and a wink, and we never talked about the incident again.

I think that life's hard enough without being hung from the ceiling and beaten with a stick. I have no moral objection to what you two do sexually. Hell - you can beat the tar out of one another for all I care - I'll just have to take a rain check on this invitation. Thanks anyway!

Dear Ruthie,

I've been with a terrific man for 3 years. We share a home and are very happy together. Long story short - I think he is too attached to his mother



Ruthie

and this bothers me as I feel it's odd. My biggest complaint is that he calls her every single day. She lives in town so I don't see the need for these calls. We have fought about this for all three years of our relationship and nothing I say seems to curb the daily call. Could you settle this argument? I don't want to keep fighting about this. Please tell us who is right and who is wrong - although I'll send you flowers if you say I'm right. Don't you think calling every day is a bit excessive?

(signed)

One Ringy-Dingy

Dear Dingy

I know you want tell your mamma's boy to hang-up the phone and give you some lovin'. Hey - Alexander Graham Bell - stop playing Anthony Perkins and let me see your telephone pole. Deep inside you are on the verge of ripping that phone out of his hand and yelling into the receiver, "Listen, Sister Christian - this man's gotta go cause there's a fire in my kitchen and he's just the fireman I'm looking for! Adios - talk to you at Christmas - click. I know you want to tell him these things but you can't.

You said that you've argued about this for three years. Do you think he's changing after three years? Do you think anything you say at this point will change him? Do you think the advice of a big boned, red head, is going to make him change his habits? Hell no! You knew the relationship was like this three years ago. Let it go. I'm sure you can live with the phone calling once you accept that you're not going to change it. Otherwise, keep your guy away from the phone and buy him a rubber ball gag.

Hey everyone - I'd love to hear from you. Please send your questions/comments/etc to Ruthie care of: The Wisconsin Light/ 1843 N. Palmer Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Fire of Suspicious Origin Damages Milwaukee Eagle

Milwaukee--An early Wednesday, May 27th, morning fire of suspicious origin forced the temporary closing of the popular Milwaukee Eagle Bar. The bar will re-open for business on Friday, June 5.

The fire which began in Beck's Books, an adult bookstore on the first floor of the historic Sidney H.H building, which also contains the Eagle. The building is located at 300 W. Juneau, Milwaukee.

The blaze began at about 2:30 AM. It burned a hole in the floor of the Book Store and into the ceiling of the Eagle.

"The bookstore (Beck's books) has had trouble with religious groups in the past," said R.J. Manville, Manager of the Milwaukee Eagle. Manville told The Wisconsin Light that the store's troubles with religious groups included vandalism to books, and broken windows.

The Fire Marshal has officially declared that the blaze was caused by arson. Damage to the Eagle was in estimated to be in excess of \$30,000. Beck's books was a total loss.

Manville said that the Eagle will be re-opened on Friday June 5th. "Right now we are repainting and replacing the lighting," he said. "We thank our loyal patrons for their patience as we paint and clean. We look forward to seeing them all again on Friday June 5."

Bay View GAYS to Plant Firehouse Garden on June 13

Milwaukee--The Bay View Garder and Yard Society (a.k.a. Bay View GAYS) holds meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street. The next meeting is June 24. Dues are \$5 per month. Funds support community service projects.

The Bay View GAYS is a group of Gay, Lesbian and Gay-friendly people living in Bay View who share a love of gardening, the community and the neighborhood. It's a casual way to meet neighbors and work toward common goals. Activities of the Society include maintaining public gardens, field trips, social gatherings and educational speakers.

The Bay View GAYS has been instrumental in planning a public garden at the firehouse on Kinnickinnic Avenue in Bay View. The City of Milwaukee and the Fire Chief have been very supportive of the

project. The garden will be planted by Society members on Saturday, June 13 at 9:00 p.m.

"One of the goals of our organization is to develop and maintain public gardens in Bay View. We selected the firehouse on KK because of its central location, heavy traffic and apparent need," explained Dan Austin, president and founder of the Bay View GAYS. "We want as many people as possible to enjoy the garden."

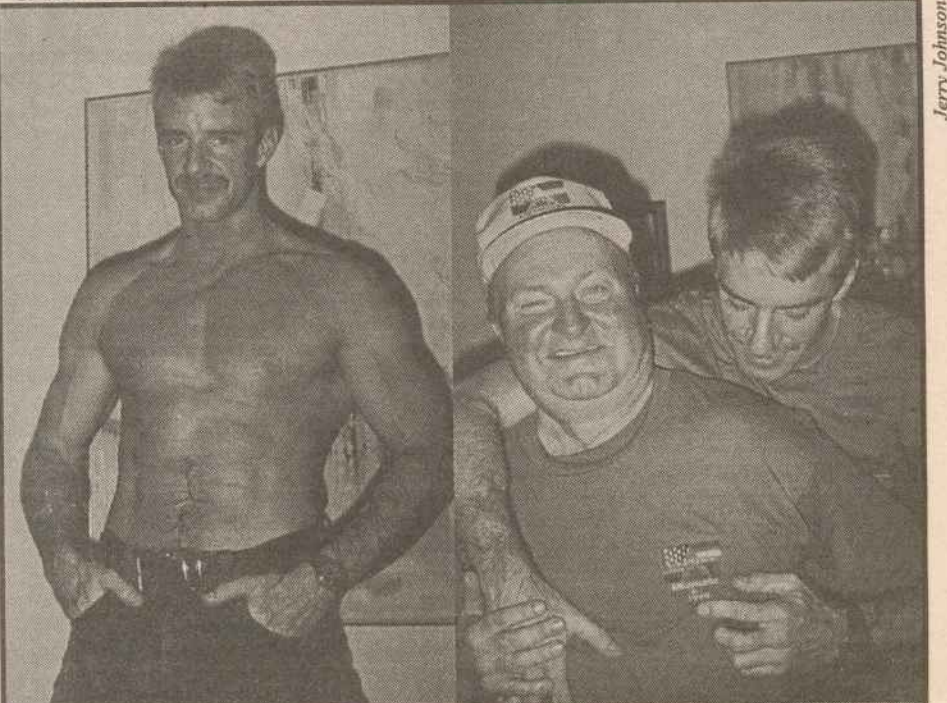
Those interested in attending a meeting and learning more about the Bay View GAYS, may contact Dan Austin at (414) 482-3796.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Continued Page 1

mission is supported by the vision to provide a home for organizations, businesses, culture and diversity; advocate for and provide programs and services that meet the needs of our communities; and educate the public and our communities about our lives.

For more information, call the Center's Hotline at (414) 483-4710.



Pitching In For the SSBL - Falcon Video Star, Chase Hunter donated his services and attended a private party to benefit the Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League on Sunday, May 31. Hunter stopped by on his way to Madison where he appeared at Manoeuvres. At the top left is Mr. Hunter, next is Chase and Milwaukee Classic Tournament Director, Tom Salzieder. In the middle are (L-R) Cohost Wayne Wagner, SSBL Treasurer, Mike Vukovich, Chase Hunter, Tommy Salzieder, and Co-Host Jim Ruff. At the bottom are Wisconsin Light film critic, John Jahn and Hunter. The benefit raised over \$1,000 for the league.

LARK Newsletter

Kenosha--The Lesbian Alliance of Kenosha and Racine (LARK) has created a monthly newsletter to inform area women and their friends of local activities. LARK members come together for good talks, dinner, sports and whatever. This is not a dating service or therapy group.

Please contact LARK at (414) 657-6566. Leave your name and address and an issue of the newsletter will be mailed. For questions, ask for Jane P. or Kelly.



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Photos by Ted Berg



Pitching In At The Ball Game - The Ball Game had two fabulous fund raisers for their Possum Queen Candidates. On Sunday May 10, they celebrated Mother's Day with their infamous "No More Wire Hangers", Mommie Dearest party and raffle, which featured a special screening of the movie "Mommie Dearest" complete with running commentary. On Sunday May 17, the bar had a large crowd for its Steak Dinner fund raiser.

Possum Queen Campaign Brings Trashy Fun to Just Us to Help Fight AIDS

By Ted Berg

Milwaukee--If you are sophisticated, you were not there. If you have class, you were not there--unless you spelled class with a K. If you were dressed in a three piece suite, you were not there. If you use words with more than two syllables, you were not there. If all your married relatives were not cousins, you are not there. If you hate Hee Haw, you were not there.

On May 15th, Iona Trailer, Possum Queen Candidate from Just Us, invited everyone to sit a spell, take your shoes off, especially if they were high heels, have a bit of Moonshine, and enjoy the best Drag Show this side of the Appalachians.

Just Us was decorated in pink flamingos, clothes lines and the worst artificial flowers this side of the dollar store. Lisa Traylor, Iona's main squeeze, resplendent with a mustache and dress sold Jello Shots, the Possum Campaign drink of choice. Iona is a family outcast. Yes, Lisa Traylor is not a relative. It is a Trailer Family disgrace!

The show was star studded. The great talents of Starr E Nite coordinated the show. Her talent was evident in the way the show was run. Steve Byers, one of the owners of the bar, emceed the show. Ruthie, of Wisconsin Light's "Dear Ruthie" fame, had us with tears in our eyes. In two numbers, we saw her with buffalo buns. She was definitely a Buns of Iron drop out. She saluted Hooters with a number with saggy tits.

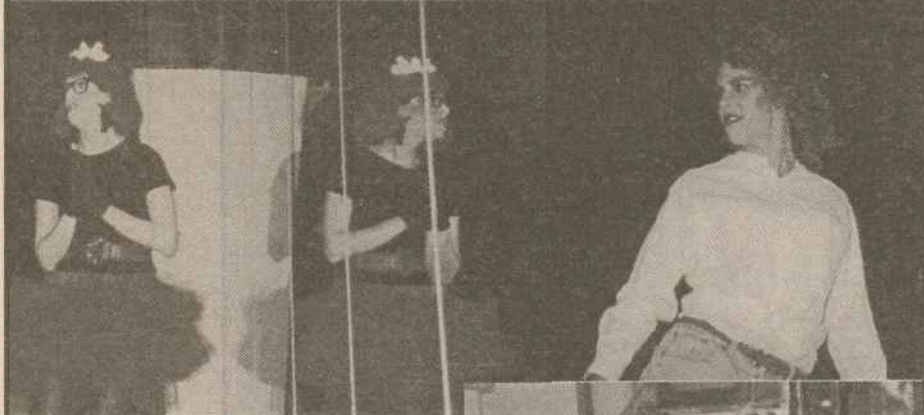
Susan Sarawrap gave us a bit of class with her artistry. Lona St James's Cheri was a crowd pleaser. Yuri Keegstra, of the condom brigade, donned boots and revealing shorts to raise funds as Barb

Wire. Most of A.R.C.W. showed up to witness Yuri and get some blackmail material. They surrounded him, digging deeply in the pockets to support Iona's campaign. I bet the inter-office gossip was fun on Monday.

Other Possum Queens showed up. Amanda Hunt of the Ballgame was in disguise as Jeff Butler. The infamous Topaz and Aqua Marie represented the South Water Street Docks. A nice size group from M's showed up. Max Barnett, a Possum Queen from 1992, was there to lend support by doing a number and being there.

The funds were raised for Wisconsin House, a shelter for people with H.I.V. disease and AIDS. Iona at the end of the show gave each of her performers a rose as a thank you. Iona said that special thanks go out to Doug, who worked the sound system; the owners Steve Byers and Janet Mueller, like all owners that sponsor a candidate need to be thanked for their support of our community; Shore Line Dancers who regularly meet at Just Us. Darrell, who bartended and all the bartenders that have helped the campaign.

The trashy fun was sure joy. It is almost a sin to have so much fun at a fund raiser. The artistry of the nites shows that there is a bright star in Iona's Campaign. It is hers and our caring and love. It is a caring that can conquer anything. A love that can heal people. No, there is no cure for AIDS, but with people like these we will be able to deal with AIDS with compassion, until there is a cure.



The Trash Comes Out to Party - Milwaukee's Possum Queen Campaign which raises thousands of dollars for local AIDS and Gay related charities. These pictures were from the Just Us Possum Queen fundraiser. Top is a group of wanna be courtesans at Just Us. Next (L) is Star E. Nite and (R) Ms. Barb Wire during the Just Us Fundraiser. They are followed by Max Barnett (L) and Just Us Possum Queen Candidate, Iona Trailer. At the bottom is our own Dear Ruthie as she performs and shines the moon on the audience.

Possum Queen Campaign Continues in Force at the Ball Game

By Ted Berg

Milwaukee--On May 10th, at the Ballgame Bar, Amanda Hunt, their Possum Queen Candidate, hosted a fundraiser for her campaign. Rick, the bar's owner, supplied refreshments for the festivities. Possum Jello Shots made the 40 attendees more festive.

To honor the day, which was Mother's Day, Amanda, a.k.a. Jeff Butler, had a special showing of the film **Mommy Dearest**.

There were two raffle questions: How many times did Joan Crawford hit her daughter with a hanger? What was the number of clothing changes during the film? To think of the dedication to the Possum Queen Campaign, Amanda viewed this movie over and over again to get a correct total.

For those who'd like to know the answer: there were 13 hits and 42 changes of clothes in less than 2 hours. That is more clothes changes than a Gay man does in one week. What do you think?

The movie was acted out by Amanda with the unwilling participation of Lady Gale. Lady Gale with attendee had a running dialog with the movie. It was a Gay Science Mystery Theater 2000. It was 2 hours of laughter and fun.

Some of the V.I.P.'s that attended were: Sofonda Cox of the Club 219, who is selling Possum items for Amanda's Campaign; Iona Trailer, Possum Candi-

date for Just Us, who won the correct count of clothes changes; Dinah Thirst, Possum Queen from 1996, made the fundraiser enjoyable.

A.R.C.W.'s condom brigade was present, represented by Yuri Keegstra and a volunteer. The Gay and Lesbian Outreach supplies the condoms in the fish bowls at local bars and Gay businesses. They are involved in Peer Counseling at a few local bars.

Boyz Night out on Tuesday is also sponsored by A.R.C.W.. Chris Braman is look for volunteers to help on these and many more projects. If interested contact him at 225-1556.

Amanda said there were too many people to thank. The campaign's true guardian angels are the bar tenders: Rick, Dick, Adrian, Dale, Don and David. The money raised will go to S.T.D. Specialities Clinic.

Amanda did a bit of camping by questioning another Possum Queen's Campaign. She wondered how Fondu Daily could represent 3 bars for Possum Queen? Did it not take time away from her two jobs and her job at the corner? Can we say, hi sailor?? This is in fun as we raise money with catty remarks.

The afternoon was fun. I spent it with not **Mommy's Dearest**, but our community's Dearest people, those who have taken on a commitment to fight AIDS.

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Awwww- Openly Lesbian candidate for Congress, State Representative Tammy Baldwin checks out someone who is too young to vote for her during her Brewer's Hill Fund raiser on May 28. We hear she told that youngster to grow and be big and strong and vote Democratic.

H.I.T. Announces Upcoming Events

Milwaukee—The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) invites you to join them for fun and excitement during the following events:

They kick off June with a HIT Rummage sale to be held June 6th and 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days at 1501 E. Newport Avenue in Milwaukee.

Then it's time to go bowling with "HIT Against AIDS." It's HIT's annual 9 pin tap tournament to raise money for HIT and local AIDS organizations. Bowling will be on Saturday, June 13th, at the Ori-

ental Landmark Lanes. Registration and sponsor sheets are available in bars where you see HIT's posters or from any of the HIT board members.

Next, it's time for the "BIG Bang." On July 3rd, HIT will hold its annual cruise aboard Milwaukee's very own Celebration Boat. Cash bar on the dock begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Then, it's out to view Milwaukee and the big fireworks while cruising on Lake Michigan from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. The cost for the evening is \$45 per person.

For further information, call the HIT phone line at (414) 332-7142 or talk with any of the board members.

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TRUMAN Continued from Page 15

childlike quality. Although Weir ably concludes *The Truman Show* with a satisfying resolution, Glenn wished that Weir would have simply allowed his existential protagonist the chance to stumble upon his reality in the isolation in which he truly lived.

Ultimately *The Truman Show* proves to be an unusual summertime treat: a serious, thought-provoking and wonderfully moving film with nary a special-effects created monster or an annoying product placement in sight.

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WILDE

Continued From Page 13

with Bosie in the most fashionable London restaurants and hotels.

Wilde is unfortunately far less successful in conveying either the drama of Wilde's trial for indecency or Wilde's devastating term at hard labor in Reading Gaol which would extinguish his spirit and soul, if not actually kill him. Thus Wilde falls short of real genius or true greatness.

On the plus side, director Brian Gilbert, clearly with an eye towards his intended audience of Gay men, has filled Wilde with long, lush, languid images of a nude Bosie (albeit no frontal views) and Glenn must admit that Jude Law's yummy tush would be well worth a visit to Reading Gaol.

Wilde is filled with fine performances. Jude Law is a singular sensation (even fully clothed) as the often petty, always petulant Lord Alfred Douglas. Fleeting seen in big-budget misadventures, particularly the dreadful *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* as well as *Gattaca*, Law is something of a revelation here, stealing virtually every scene he's in (in addition to Glenn oh-so fickle heart).

No less of a revelation is Michael Sheen's noble, devoted Robbie Ross. Poor Vanessa Redgrave and Jennifer Ehle are sadly ill-used in under-written roles as Wilde's mother and wife.

Still, Wilde remains a success due largely to its star, Stephen Fry. Seemingly a veritable body double for the real Oscar, Fry's Wilde is thoroughly endearing, filled with both intelligence and poignancy.

ESTEFAN

Continued From Page 10

pending date with her four-year old daughter Emily to see the "Lion King," Estefan greets you like an old friend she has known for years, with warmth and an illuminating glow. Less the ball of the frenetic Cuban energy often seen on stage, the two-time Grammy winner is a different ball of fire off stage. Funny and engaging, her irreverent wit can send a room into laughter the minute she slips a zinger, which she is quick to do often.

With an auburn twist and some blonde highlights to her once-brunette tresses and looking fitter than ever before, the 40 year old singer is beaming these days. And well she should be. Her first album in two years is her most engaging (if not her best) album to date.

"It's top to bottom dance. There are no ballads. It's very much what I am feeling right now, which is partying to the millennium. I wanted to re-ignite that feeling of the '70s—those innocent times when sex was still not a death sentence, before all the danger. I wanted to capture that feeling with the cutting edge of

the '90s," says Estefan.

"The remixes are the album. There are no other versions," she adds. "We wanted it to be something people could listen to and dance to, so we kept it very close to that pop/dance edge. Usually people remix after the song is produced, but we produced those tracks the first time around on here. It's really amazing."

"Gloria!" is poised to be Estefan's most successful album ever. Epic Records is launching a major campaign behind the new set, including heavy promotion on VH1, the 24-hour cable music network, and a new, nearly unrecognizable retro-glam look for Estefan.

Her recent stints in New York, first as part of a divas concert with Donna Summer and Chaka Khan, and then as part of the recent sold-out divas concert with Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey and Celine Dion, haven't hurt either. She'll also participate in VH-1's story-tellers series and be part of a live program, on which viewers can phone in song requests.

Though she's tired of the diva title, she has earned the right to be called one.—"I am diva-stated," she jokes. "I'm diva-fied, diva-ed-out, and over divadom." In the last 13 years, Estefan has knocked out 13 major label recordings, including this one and three with the Miami Sound Machine. (Her and husband Emilio self-produced six others prior to their 1985 Epic debut). Eight of those releases have sold more than one million copies to earn multi-platinum status.

The singer has also scored 11 top 10 pop singles, five of which were certified gold, and was named Billboard's number one dance artist in 1996, with nine consecutive top five singles.

"Gloria is an amazing singer and performer," says label mate Celine Dion. "She's truly magnificent and has a lot of energy. I admire her and consider her to be one of the best out there."

Estefan's last release, 1995's brilliant "Abriendo Puertas," which spawned two number one dance songs, including the title cut and "Tres Deseos," drew from her Afro-Cuban roots. With "Gloria!," the enigmatic singer goes deeper into the dance trenches to create an exhilarating and saucy dance set.

Originally, Estefan was not planning to record an album of new music. The idea was to put out a remix compilation. But not too long into the process, the singer decided she wanted to make an album of all new material—one that harked back to her days with the Miami Sound Machine on such notable hits as "Conga" and "Dr. Beat."

"We thought it would be fun to revisit that sound and use everything we learned along the

way. It's very much the sound heard on the 'Conga' rhythm, with a '90s twist," she says. "It's a fusion of many styles, but with a dance motif."

Much of the inspiration behind the new album comes from Estefan's desire to celebrate the coming of the millennium, as well as her reemergence at 40 as a woman.

"With my daughter almost four, I feel like I am reemerging as a woman," she says. "I feel I've come full circle in my life. I'm very confident with who I am. As a woman, I'm very fulfilled."

Except for giddy, retro-splashed "Touched By An Angel," the tracks on the album are all about love and passion, two important consistencies in Estefan's life. It's also about capturing the carefree essence and energy of the 1970s -- a time long forgotten by today's generation.

"The '70s were about a freedom that a lot of people have forgotten about—the days of 'Solid Gold' and 'Dance Fever,' and a sexual exploration and freedom that people don't know about today and never experienced."

This album is about recapturing that feeling of freedom and celebration and living life," says Estefan. "For so long AIDS has loomed over us and cast this dark cloud, and took away that passion and freedom. But AIDS is no longer a death sentence. There is a lot of hope on the horizon now, which there wasn't a few years ago. It's time that we tried to recover that hope. It would be a shame to lose that spirit."

Estefan's involvement in the fight against AIDS dates back nearly a decade. The singer served as Grand Marshall of the 1993 AIDS Walk in Miami, an event which has been attended each year since then by her, her husband and her 18-year old son Nayib, who's band opened the event last year.

Estefan was also a part of the AIDS anthem single, "The Day After That," written by John Kander and Fred Ebb and sung by Liza Minnelli. The singer wrote the Spanish translation for the single's release. "It's such a beautiful song. And such an important cause," she says. "Liza called me in a panic from the studio. I didn't even have to think twice."

And when all is said and done, Estefan hopes people walk away after listening to the new dance album with a feeling of hope and celebration. "We need to regain that feeling of optimism and spirituality. I really want people to walk away with a positive, good feeling," she says. "We've been through some really dark times and now it's time to feel good and party on into the millennium - party in a good way, not with drugs, but with music and celebration - and just have fun."

Editor's Note: Jeffrey L. Newman is a New York based writer.

CLASSIC

Continued From Page 10

and then the Chicago Annex by a score of 10 to 6 in the Round Robin. In National Division play, however, the team was eliminated early.

After falling to a strong Chicago North End team by a score of 13 to 7, Docks rebounded with a 21 to 8 pasting of the Ball Game. Their next game, and last game, was against the Rainbow Road runners which beat them by a score of 10 to 9.

In Between - In Between was hoping to do well but it was not to be. The team started off with an 18 to 17 win over the Minnesota Crushers before falling to Chicago North End by a score of 25 to 9.

In American Division play, In Between suffered a heart breaking one run loss to eventual champs M & M. The team came back pounding Scott's from Chicago by a score of 20 to 6 before getting pounded by the Melrose Rockers by a score of 16 to 2.

M & M - M & M was pounded in the Round Robin but it didn't seem to matter. Some would say the club looked like a different team once tourney play started. The Blow Pops lost to the Rainbow Roadrunners 20 to 5 and to the Chicago Hitmen 36 to 5.

In American Division play the Blow Pops put up two consecutive come from behind one run wins over Chicago Annex, 15 to 14, and In Between, 8 to 7, before belting Woody's by a score of 15 to 2. In their next game M & M's beat a strong Toronto Remington team by a score of 10 to 8. They faced Remington again in the championship game and beat them 19 to 13.

Woody's - Woody's made the most of its debut in the Classic. In its opening game, the team lost to Chicago Sidetracks (last year's National Division winner) by a score of 14 to 9, but then won against ROR Finance of the Twin Cities 15 to 13.

That was good enough to earn them a bye in the first round of American Division play. They used that to good advantage beating the Minnesota Crushers 22 to 10, but the Woody's express was quickly derailed after that. The M & M Blow Pops beat them by a score of 15 to 2. In their next game, the Twin City Storm eliminated Woody's by a score of 20 to 8.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS:

I read all about it in

The Wisconsin Light

WISCONSIN LIGHT

Continued From Page 1

coast.

We are proud of the support we have received both from inside the community and without. However, one thing became increasingly clear over time. That was that the paper needed to continue to grow if it was to serve the community. It could not do this without major changes.

We knew that the time was coming when we could not publish it out of the front parlor of our house any longer.

We knew that it was going to have to expand its pages and its distribution area.

We knew that to accomplish all that, there would have to be a major investment in new equipment.

We knew that we would have to begin hiring staff.

We talked a lot about these things and decided that if we could find a buyer, it was time to quit. We had taken the paper about as far as we wanted to go.

We had a number of criteria in any sale. We would sell only to those within the community; the paper would remain an LGBT publication and it would stay local. I am pleased to say that all those criteria have been fulfilled.

Jerry and I would like to assure everyone that we have complete confidence in the new ownership.

Are there going to be changes? Of course there are—and many changes need to be made. Jerry and I have done our best, but that leaves plenty of room for others to do their best. But in the changing, Jerry and I have good reason to have complete confidence that Wisconsin Light will continue to be operated in the best interests of the LGBT community.

The next issue—the June 18th issue—will be one of transition. While Jerry and I will participate in its publication, we will be working closely with the new editor and staff. They will introduce themselves and discuss some of their plans for the future.

At that time, the paper's new fax and phone numbers and the email address will be printed, along with the new deadlines—if they are new. In the meantime, all of the organizations, both local and national, with which the paper has dealings, will be notified.

Also, since the paper will no longer be published from this office (our house's front parlor), the new address will be given.

As the plans are now, the paper's publication will proceed from old ownership to new without a hitch.

Between now and the June 18th issue, I am sure that there will be many more rumors. I know that this article doesn't answer all the questions. However, until the June 18th issue is out, Jerry and I and only Jerry and I can speak for Wisconsin Light.

RIGHTS

Continued Page 1

and Transgender movement is winning the battle of public opinion on civil rights issues. Our effort to reach the hearts and minds of the American people by being open and honest about our lives holds the key to our success," added Vaid.

"From Wrongs to Rights" also demonstrates the paradoxical nature of public support, showing that despite the significant gains in positive attitudes regarding legal equality, Gay men and Lesbians remain unpopular. Despite the persistence of anti-Gay sentiment, however, the report shows that the public's censure of Gay and Lesbian relations is declining over time.

"In this report, the continuing paradox of the Gay and Lesbian experience is laid out before us. Our gains in some ways have been as great as the resistance we still face," said Vaid. "The dislike and disapproval we continue to face should serve as a call to all supporters of Gay equality to redouble our efforts to educate mainstream America about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people's experiences and lives."

"From Wrongs to Rights" is published by the Policy Institute of NGLTF and authored by Alan Yang, doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University. An introduction is provided by Dr. Kenneth Sherrill, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Hunter College, City University of New York.

The report examines public opinion polls over the last two decades that measured attitudes toward Gay and Lesbian people and equal rights issues. The author reviewed only the most credible polls: those that measured opinion among systematically selected and representative samples of the U.S. adult population as a whole.

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Friday, July 17, 1998, 8:00 pm - Midnight
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Saturday, July 18, 1998, 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
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All events are accessible to people with disabilities. ASL interpretation will be provided at all events except the 10% Dance.