

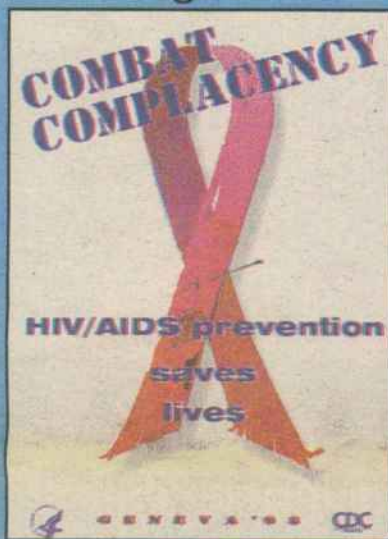
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Wisconsin Light

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The United
+ MGLRC
(Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center)

Outreach

A Historic Merger

by Bill Meunier

Madison — Two organizations with a combined 45 years of service to Madison's LGBT community will announce their merger at the United Award's Dinner on Friday, July 17. Officials of the Madison Gay Lesbian Resource Center, MGLRC, and The United have told *Wisconsin Light* that the two groups have agreed to merge into a new organization to be called Outreach. All services currently offered by both organizations will be continued.

MGLRC was founded in 1973 as the Madison Gay Men's Center. The United was founded in 1978. In 1997 their combined efforts brought a total of over 30,000 service contacts.

Chad LaFlash, President of MGLRC, told the *Light* that the merger process was set in motion "a little over a year ago." LaFlash said, "We were at the point where we needed to hire someone part-time if we wanted to continue to grow. We had even borrowed The United's staff and reimbursed them a few times. It just made sense to merge."

Richard Kilmer, President of The United agreed. "I thought it was a great idea when Chad first approached us. It was amazing to me how many people would come up and thank me for services done by the Resource Center. People thought the agencies were intertwined. We've been working very closely for two years."

Observers in Madison say that The United

has been more of a direct service agency than MGLRC has. Its programs include: support groups, peer counseling, a speaker's bureau, advocacy and a telephone referral and help line.

The Madison Gay Lesbian Resource Center's services include: a lending library, a video library, production of Madison's annual Community Directory, production and distribution of a monthly calendar of events, and the Pink Pages, a community calendar published in Madison's alternative weekly newspaper, *The Isthmus*.

LaFlash said there were some issues that the Merger Committee had to address. These included how the organizations functioned and the focus the new group would have. "The United has a very formal structure to its board. It has to be because it gets government funding and has a staff," he said. "Our organization is totally based on voluntary contributions."

He added, "The United started with a focus centered more on women, while we were the Madison Gay Men's Center. For years there was a discomfort feeling."

That feeling started to disappear for good in 1987. That is when the two groups worked out an agreement not to duplicate services. Under the terms of that pact, MGLRC dropped its counseling and support group programs while The United ended its library. The groups also agreed to consult with each other on their program plans to avoid future

RELIGIOUS RIGHT ATTACKS BALDWIN'S CAMPAIGN

Madison — A Republican Congressional candidate, Ron Greer, has asked Christian fundamentalists around the country to send him money in order to keep openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin from winning election to Congress.

The letter asks for "emergency donations" of \$25 or more. In it, Greer claims that Baldwin "wants to force her radical anti-family agenda on all Americans." The letter also says that Greer was asked to run for Congress by "very prominent Christian Conservatives" who "are scared to death" that Baldwin may win. Greer concludes the letter saying that he has the support of "Christian leaders across America."

A spokesperson for the Greer campaign, Mike Maxwell, told *The Wisconsin State Journal*, that the letter was sent to "tens of thousands" of conservatives. *The Capital Times* quoted a Republican insider as saying, "Greer's appeal could bring in as much as \$125,000 if sent to the right mailing list."

Greer is rumored to have raised tens of thousands of dollars to fund an appeal of his dismissal from the Madison Fire Department. Greer claims that he was fired because he was anti-Gay. Greer's supposed success at raising money for his legal fund, would mean that he has developed a solid list of contributors to turn to for support of his congressional bid.

Baldwin and Greer are running in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District. Baldwin faces two strong opponents in the Democratic primary. Greer has four opponents in the GOP primary. The primary election will be held on September 19. Republican Scott Klug currently holds the seat. Klug is not seeking re-election.

This is not the first attack the Baldwin campaign has received from the religious right. In July of last year, Ralph Overdahl, the leader of Wisconsin Christians United sent Baldwin a letter warning her that "We certainly have no intention of sitting as quiet bystanders while you flaunt God's law and attempt to assume an office which would put you in a position of direct authority over us and our loved ones."

On June 7 of this year, religious right protestors attempted to picket Baldwin's official announcement speech. The protestors carried anti-Gay and anti-abortion signs.

Kathleen Debold, a spokesperson for the Victory Fund, a national LGBT political group that has endorsed Baldwin, said the right wing attacks are not surprising. Debold told *The Light*, "Religious political extremists have transformed Gay bashing into an art form." Debold added "The only way to stop Ron Greer and the extremists that are bankrolling him is to put our time, money and votes where our convictions are. You can't sit at home and watch these things as they go by. You have to get involved."

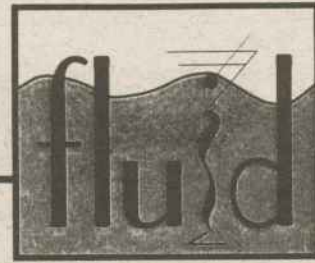
Debold and others point out that those living outside the district can play a role in the campaign. Baldwin's supporters are urging those who want to send a message to the religious right by donating time and money to call the Baldwin campaign headquarters at (608) 258-9800.

Other candidates in the race — including some Republicans — have denounced the Greer letter. "This Greer letter is distasteful and we should all sign up on another letter that we are not going have this stuff in this campaign. We have to say 'no' to hate," said Don Carrig, a beer distributor and a candi-

Please see Merger, Page 13

Please see Attack, Page 6

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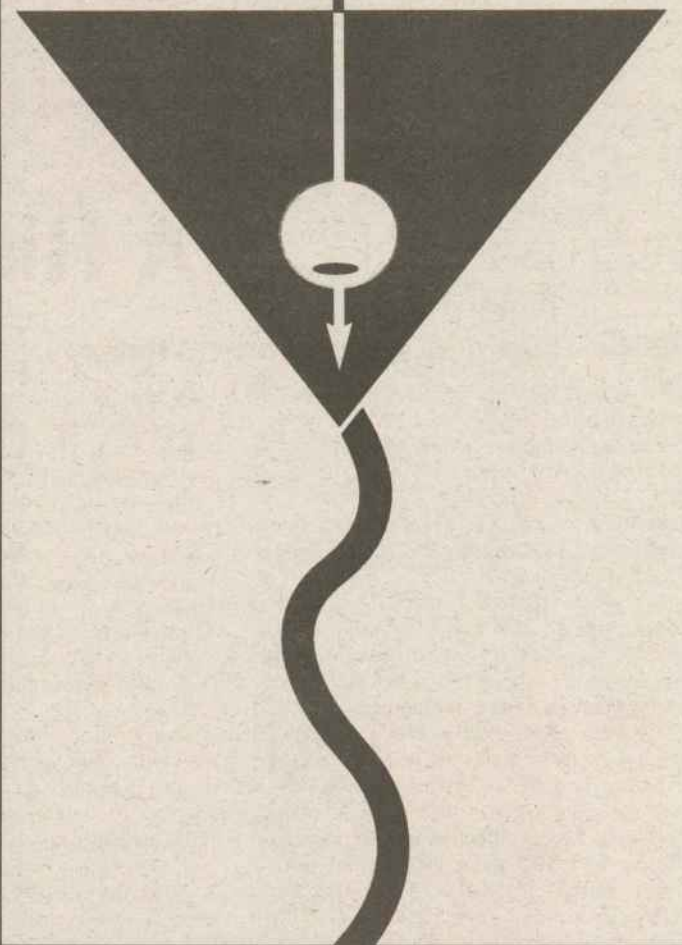
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State News Briefs



STATEWIDE

Action Wisconsin Annual Meeting Sunday, July 19

Action Wisconsin, a statewide organization working for LGBT civil rights will hold its annual meeting in the North Hearing Room of the State Capitol on Sunday, July 19 from Noon to 1:15pm. The meeting agenda includes elections for the Board of Directors and a discussion of issues and strategies for the coming year.

A statement issued by the organization details the activities the group and its members were involved in during the last year. These include:

- Working to defeat Assembly Bill 104, which would have banned recognition of Same Sex Marriages, even if they are legally performed in other states.
- Mobilizing resources to defeat AB 794, which would have hampered efforts to win domestic partnership benefits for government employees
- Monitoring activity in the State Legislature
- Responding to local issues and providing assistance with LGBT events held around the State.

Action Wisconsin is currently working on the development of Voter Guides, for the upcoming elections, and a quarterly newsletter.

Membership in Action Wisconsin is open to any individual who wishes to support the work of the organization. Membership dues are based on a sliding scale that ranges from \$10 to \$25. Those interested should send their name, address, and phone number to Action Wisconsin, P.O. Box 342, Madison, WI 53701-0342 or call Action Wisconsin at (608) 283-3251.

LA CROSSE

Candlelight Vigil Set for Sunday, July 19

The Gay Alliance for La Crosse Area Youth (GALAXY) is sponsoring a candlelight vigil at the Riverside Park bandshell on Sunday, July 19, at 9:30pm.

Organizers say that they want to provide concerned local citizens with the opportunity to express their concerns over Gay related hate crimes and homophobic activity, such as the anti-Gay billboards recently put up in the Madison area.

Several La Crosse community leaders have accepted GALAXY's invitation to voice their stance at the vigil. There will be an open microphone for any other interested individuals to share their experiences, hopes and prayers.

GALAXY is a support and activist group for Gay youth in La Crosse and surrounding communities. The group started in 1996 as a program of the Coulee Region YWCA. For more information, call (608) 781-2783.

MADISON

Manoeuvres Announces Move to New Location

Construction and renovation is underway for a new addition to Madison's LGBT nightlife scene, Club 5. Club 5 will contain Planet Q, a dance club, The Barracks, a Leather and Levi Bar, and a full-service restaurant.

The new facility is being opened by Ed Grunewald, owner of Manoeuvres and the MAD bar, who will relocate his businesses there. Club 5 will be located in the former home of the Bombay Bicycle Club at 5 Applegate Court, Madison — just off Fish Hatchery Road and the Beltline Highway.

The new club will be approximately five times bigger than the existing Manoeuvres/MAD bar complex. It has a large adjoining parking lot, in addition to an ample amount of on street parking.

The restaurant will offer a full service, fine dining menu. It will be open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. A late night menu will be offered after bar hours on Fridays and Saturdays.

Current plans also call for the addition of patios for the restaurant and each of the bars. These will be added sometime in the next year.

Sources say that most of the Manoeuvres/MAD bar staff will be moving to Club 5. An additional 20 to 30 full and part time employees will be hired.

The announcement culminates Grunewald's 18 month search for a new location for his businesses. Grunewald had centered his efforts on finding a downtown area location. In the end, though, he found that the costs of purchasing and renovating a building in downtown Madison was prohibitive.

In a statement given to *Wisconsin Light*, Grunewald expressed his thanks for the support he has gotten from the LGBT community. "The support I have received over the last three and half years has been wonderful," said Grunewald. "I promise to do everything I can to make Club 5 a place for all Gays and Lesbians. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to give you something back, and that will be Club 5."

Club 5 is scheduled to open in mid August.

The United Announces Award Winners

The United will present awards to four individuals and one organization at its Sixth Annual Awards dinner on Friday, July 17. The awards and their recipients are as follows:

Woman of the Year — Colleen Kellog. Ms. Kellog is a teacher of English and Drama at Malcolm Shabazz City High School. She has initiated outreach and advocacy projects to help establish a safe place for LGBT youth.

Kellog has also helped to organize staff and student training sessions on homophobia. Her drama classes involve students in educational and outreach efforts that center on contemporary social issues such as AIDS.

Man of the Year — Chad LaFlash. LaFlash has been active in the Madison Gay Lesbian Resource Center (MGLRC) for more than 10 years. He was instrumental in establishing the monthly Pink Page in *The Isthmus*, Madison's alternative weekly newspaper. LaFlash has also been one of the driving forces behind The Directory, a guide to the organizations and businesses serving Madison's LGBT community.

Volunteer of the Year — Todd Hensley. Hensley has been an outstanding volunteer at The United for several years. His work has focused on the Hotline and Special Events Committee.

Ally of the Year — Thelma Johnson. Johnson became a key PFLAG volunteer after her son, Keith, came out to her in 1989. Johnson maintained her involvement even after Keith's death from AIDS in 1992. An effective outreach speaker, Johnson has also raised her voice on legislation affecting the LGBT and AIDS communities.

Organization of the Year — The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Wisconsin, GLSEN-Wisconsin. Formed in 1996, GLSEN-Wisconsin's mission is to promote positive and productive experiences for students in school. It is part of a national network of similar groups.

GLSEN-Wisconsin's activities during the past year include: an open conversation with the State Superintendent of Schools, support for the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances in area schools and the Expanding Knowledge Conference, which was attended by over 270 state educators, students, parents and community members.

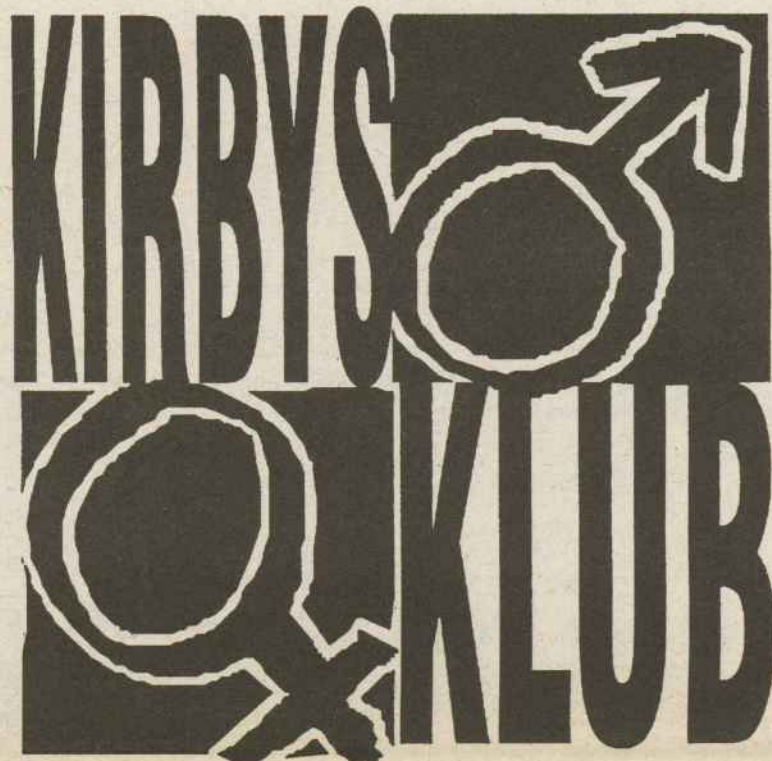
Community Thrift Store Opens

Several hundred shoppers attended the grand opening of the new Community Thrift Store on Sunday, June 28. Earnings from the store will benefit 52 Dane County organizations including the AIDS Network, the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center and The United.

The store sells a variety of items ranging from clothing and books to appliances and furniture. The Community Thrift Shop hours are: Wednesday through Sunday from 11am to 7pm. It is located at 1814 S. Park Street, Madison.

Please see State Briefs, Page 23

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Editorials

Soaring Ahead By Coming Together

The merger of two of Madison's oldest organizations, the Madison Gay Lesbian Resource Center and The United is a welcome development. It is a prime example of how we can soar together by setting aside individual concerns for the good of the community.

There was a time when these two groups fought some nasty "turf wars" with each other. Thankfully, that time has long since past. Over the years, debates over who was stepping on whose toes have been replaced by discussions about how these two dedicated groups can better serve the community by working together. The result is their merger into a new organization, Outreach.

It takes courage and foresight to vote a successful major organization out of existence by merging it into a new entity. That is especially true when the organizations are well established institutions, as was the case here.

We extend our congratulations to all of those who had that courage and vision. Together they have created a new, vibrant organization that will serve the community well.

While the work of formally merging has been completed, it is important to recognize that more needs to be done. It is one thing to merge Boards of Directors and write new bylaws. It is quite another to blend together all of the programs offered by these two groups and get them to run smoothly. We urge the rest of the community to lend its support to that process by being generous in donating its dollars and volunteer time.

Renewed Danger Among Us

Some very disturbing news came out of the Twelfth World AIDS conference held earlier this month in Geneva. In Europe and America, the presence of a new strain of HIV that is apparently impervious to ALL existing drug therapies has been detected. That discovery is especially ominous in light of new research on safe sex attitudes presented at the conference. These studies show that many Gay men are increasingly practicing unsafe sex in the mistaken belief that the AIDS crisis is over.

It's not over. In fact, it's not even close to being over as the discovery of the new strain and the documentation of decreasing vigilance show.

At the beginning of the AIDS crisis many people took the attitude of "It's only a few cases and they aren't here." Hundreds of thousands of deaths later we should know better. Unfortunately, there is mounting evidence that a significant number of us don't.

To put it bluntly, anyone who thinks that the worst part of the AIDS crisis is behind us should remember the old adage: "Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Our front page story about the right wing attacks on Tammy Baldwin got me to thinking about recent events.

It occurred to me that Tammy and James Hormel, the openly Gay ambassador designate to Luxembourg, have more in common than would appear to be the case at first glance.

Both are fighting to win an office they are well qualified for. Both are being attacked by religious extremists determined to punish them for being open about who they are.

Hormel's confirmation as America's first openly Gay ambassador has been blocked in the US Senate. Several Republican Senators have been quite candid about their objections to Hormel. As Senator Hagel from Nebraska put it, "They are representing our lifestyle, our values, our standards, and I think it is an inhibiting factor to be Gay - openly aggressively Gay like Mr. Hormel -to do an effective job."

While Hagel was spouting his bigotry, Ron Greer, was preparing and sending out a letter

that said Tammy Baldwin should not be allowed to serve in Congress because she is a Lesbian.

What these bigots are doing is far more insidious than it appears. Their attacks go much deeper than trying to keep Hormel out of the Luxembourg embassy and Tammy out of the House of Representatives. They are openly saying that we are second class citizens and as such we are not entitled to represent our country or any part of its people.

They want to ingrain that message on the collective psyche of this great land. It is a message we much counter with every fiber of our being. The bottom line is that they can't make us feel or be second class citizens unless we let them do it.

The war rages across this country, and in Washington and in Madison the battle has been joined. The question each of us must answer is: "Will we join the battle?"

Enjoy the *Light*

- Bill Meunier

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UPCOMING DEADLINES

July 30th Issue

Articles
Friday, July 24

Ads
Non-Camera Ready: Friday, July 24
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5pm

August 13th Issue

Articles
Friday, August 7

Ads
Non-Camera Ready: Friday, August 7
Camera Ready: Monday, August 10
5pm

Caution

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

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Wisconsin Light

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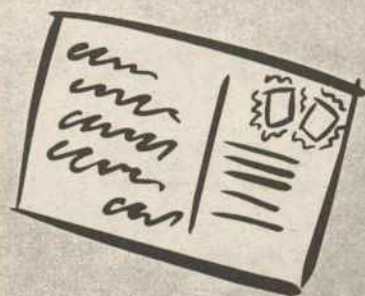
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Community Voices



Take Control of Your Conflict

By Joanne Sznajder

A disagreement with your business partner threatens to destroy your company. The dog next door continues to bark even though you've talked to your neighbor. After the break up, you and your partner still can't agree on how to divide things up.

How do you resolve these difficult conflicts? Most people turn to the legal system, which may mean a lawsuit, a lengthy court hearing, or an expensive attorney. Recently, however, individuals are choosing mediation as a way to solve their disputes. By taking control of their situation, they find mediation a sensible, confidential, and cost effective way to resolve conflict.

Almost 20 years ago, Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger observed, "The notion that ordinary people want black robed judges, well dressed lawyers, and fine courtroom settings to resolve their disputes is incorrect."

"People with problems, like people with pains, want relief. And they want it as quickly and inexpensively as possible."

Over the past five years, the trend toward "private justice" has grown both in personal and business conflict resolution. Companies and individuals are tired of the time, energy and expense of litigation. Many find that mediation resolves differences more effectively than that of the legal system.

Mediation is effective in resolving disputes such as:

- Workplace conflict including employee grievances, customer complaints, and discrimination suits
- Interpersonal disputes
- Divorce and custody settlements
- Domestic partner disputes
- Civil court cases
- Insurance claims

"When we go to court, we believe that the judge will be fair and find in our favor," comments Robert D. Benjamin, JD MSW, Director of Mediation and Conflict Management Services in St. Louis, Missouri. "Unfortunately, most judges do not rule exclusively in one party's favor." With the guidance of a trained mediator, parties to a dispute can identify issues, negotiate settlements, and control the outcome of the situation.

Unlike litigation, mediation is a cooperative process based on mutual trust and fairness. Benjamin, who has provided mediation for

business and families for over 20 years, states, "I find that when disputing parties work together to find a solution, they are likely to develop an agreement that is fair and acceptable."

Advantages of mediation include:

- Safe
- Legal Rights Protected
- Confidential
- Fair
- Cooperative rather than adversarial
- Less expensive than litigation
- Takes less time to resolve issues
- Acceptable settlement reached in 75%-80% of cases

Mediation does not replace legal counsel and the mediator does not function as an attorney. In cases such as divorce settlements, each party is encouraged to retain an attorney to review the final settlement. Most mediators have experience in negotiation, business and basic counseling techniques and have a minimum of 30 hours training in mediation.

Occasionally, a mediator will refer the parties to another professional, such as a financial planner or counselor to get an expert opinion on an issue.

"Our primary goal in mediation is to help the parties find a solution that they can live with," states Amy Schwartz, a mediator and partner at Eastside Collaborative Solutions, Inc. "We take the time to understand the problem and work with the parties to develop an agreement that is fair to everyone. No one is taken advantage of in mediation."

While there is no way to avoid conflict in our life, mediation proves to be an effective method of resolving difficult situations. To learn more about mediation, check out the following resources:

- *A Guide to Divorce Mediation:* Gary J. Friedman
- *Getting to Yes:* Roger Fischer and William Ury
- www.colorado.edu/conflict
- www.Conflictnet.org
- Academy of Family Mediators. (781) 674-2663 or www.mediators.org

Joanne Sznajder, CICSW is a mediator and partner at Eastside Collaborative Solutions Inc. in Shorewood, Wisconsin.



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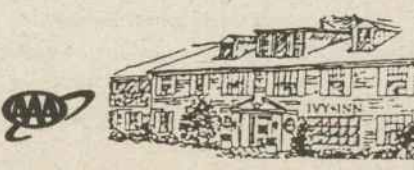
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TINEALITY

The Realization of One's Own Arms — And Other Things

By Tina Lee

I had passed through a lot of days and nights. I had attended lectures and been employed. I knew people, had some friends, and generally thought of myself in the highest of terms. To be quite honest, I was a conceited wench.

Few knew that though, so it didn't affect my social life too badly. Of course back then, some eight years ago, when I was but a fair and nimble 20-year-old, my conception of a social life was vastly different than it is now.

If I had company for dinner once a week, made an appearance at my mother's church for Easter and Christmas brunch as well as the annual chicken barbecue, attended all University multicultural events, and was seen biking to work when the weather was fair, I declared myself a social success.

Everything changed one summer day, the day I really took notice of my arms. That was the day I determined that I'd never really know myself, until I'd been personally introduced to all the vast and numerous forces that control and dictate what my body could do. Until that day, I hadn't the foggiest idea what my arms were capable of.

On that glorious day, I would have had to been blind not to notice the damn things. Until that sultry afternoon, my arms had never once incited the least of my attention. Then — kaphlammy! I caught sight of them. There they were, tan and slim, engaged in the perilous act of caressing a woman.

Not in a disgusting way, mind you. I was but a petrified young blossom of budding bisexuality, humble and reserved. True, how they arrived there was in part my fault. When I found myself confronted with such an unfamiliar and extraordinary opportunity, a woman, exhibiting all the signs of interest in me under my roof, I had no better recourse than to work the couch back-rub angle.

You know the one. "Oh, you look a little tense. (Which, she didn't in the least.) Would

you like me to rub your back?" or some such rubbish. Obviously it worked, so I won't knock it.

There I was, a rogue warrior; little Tina, completely inexperienced with the ways of women, rubbing this young woman's shoulders, caressing her smooth, pale arms, and as you might expect, gawking shamelessly at her colossal breasts. Yikes!

Outside of my mother's side of the family, I had never beheld, in person, such monuments to female anatomy. Despite what you may think, I never actually touched them. Really. How I managed not to was a mental feat of unparalleled self-control.

I familiarized myself with every free inch of her upper body, except her breasts. I touched between them, around them, beneath them, every damned place except upon them. At that instant, I was an innocent after all, and she was, well — not innocent exactly, though she was younger than I was.

She had a unique character, brusque and candid, developed I suppose in part because of her line of work. She was a stripper. The first stripper I ever met.

I remember how I first learned of her profession. One day I noticed bruises on her willowy, pale legs and I inquired as to how they got there. She told me she was a dancer and that "swinging around on a pole all night could really be hard work."

I believed her. I trusted her sincerity. I really believed that she did work very hard and I admired her for it. Consequently, I blame her for my complete adoration of all bad girls now. All that being said, it didn't advance that first encounter a smidgen.

My mind may have been swimming the backstroke through the gutter, but my arms weren't. I slowly became aware that I wasn't there to grope about that woman. I was there simply because she allowed me to be there.

I learned that my arms, when given absolute

Please see Tineality, Page 13

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From The Right

GOP Leadership Engages in Dangerous Gamble



Commentary by James McFarland

It seems that the GOP leadership in Congress is running scared again. Senator Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader from Mississippi, stated that homosexuality is like alcoholism and that Lesbians and Gays need to be cured. He not only exposed his own ignorance; he also won points with the fundamentalist Christians.

In the House of Representatives, four Republicans, including Minority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) — who is number three in the House leadership — have introduced a bill to reverse President Clinton's historic executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Federal government employment.

The genesis of these bald appeals to the fundamentalist Christian movement were the stunning victories achieved by Bauer and Dobson in three recent GOP primaries.

The first of these occurred in a special election for a California House seat. Anti-Gay State Assemblyman Tom Bordanaro faced off against moderate State Senator Brooks Firestone, who opposed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Campaign for Working Families, the PAC created by Dobson and Bauer, poured in millions of dollars and ultimately defeated Firestone. Bordanaro then went on to lose by a wide margin to a Democrat in a slightly Republican district.

Similarly, the Campaign for Working Families poured in millions to defeat moderate Republican Loleta Didrickson in the Illinois U.S. Senate primary. This set up a likely loss by anti-Gay Republican Peter Fitzgerald in his race against Democrat Senator Carol Mosely-Braun.

Bauer and Dobson have subsequently had some stinging losses, including one to a Log Cabin Club endorsed Republican, Matt Fong, in California's U.S. Senate primary. Lincoln, Nebraska's Mayor Mike Johann won over an anti-Gay Republican in that state's Republican primary for Governor. They also had a more recent success in Alabama assisting anti-Gay Republican Governor Fob James as he staved off a strong challenge from a moderate businessman in the primary.

Combined with the threat by Bauer and Dobson to withhold support for Republicans if they do not advance their anti-Gay agenda, these victories have the GOP leadership running scared.

For many years now the Republican strategy has been to give the fundamentalist Christians a few bones in the form of strong rhetoric, but not to back it up with real legislation. This will probably prove to be no different.

It is unlikely that the House leadership will actually move the bill to repeal Clinton's executive order to a vote. The leadership, particularly Speaker Newt Gingrich, who still has Presidential ambitions, will be afraid of looking too intolerant. Even if it does come to a vote, it is likely that it will be defeated by a coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans. Log Cabin Republicans are already hard at work to make sure this happens.

Similarly, Senator Lott's statements will not necessarily translate into legislation, and none of us were particularly surprised by them. In fact, the worst part about Senator Bob Dole's nomination to run for President was that we were losing a key ally in the U.S. Senate as Majority Leader.

We knew that it was unlikely that whoever replaced him would be as supportive. Senator Lott's election to Majority Leader represents the ascendancy of the new Southern Republicans in the GOP.

Most of these Southern Republicans are unreconstructed Neanderthals when it comes to Lesbian and Gay issues. It puts Gay Republicans in a difficult spot indeed when our strongest supporter in the GOP leadership is Newt Gingrich, which shows how far we need to go in changing the party.

What is most upsetting about the Senate leadership however, is that while they are quick to condemn homosexuality and derail openly Gay James Hormel's nomination as Ambassador to Luxembourg, they have shown themselves incapable of getting behind true spending cuts which could provide needed tax cuts and payments on the national debt.

While the recent rhetoric may not translate into damaging legislation, the danger for the GOP is that the increasingly hostile rhetoric will turn off the suburban swing voters who are the key to the GOP keeping control of the House. The GOP margin in the House is so razor-thin that some analysts have given the Dems a 50/50 chance of regaining control of it.

The danger zones for the GOP are the Northeast, the West Coast, and the Midwest, which are exactly the regions where the GOP strategy will hurt Republicans the most. The anti-Gay rhetoric plays well in the South and the Mountain states, where the majority of the population is ignorant, like Senator Lott. The majority on the coasts, however, understand the reality that homosexuality is genetic and not a choice.

In the Midwest, while many still do not accept the scientific facts regarding homosexuality, the majority takes a live and let live attitude. They would rather not hear politicians repeatedly picking on Gays and Lesbians. This is why the GOP leadership's gamble is likely to fail.

The long-term solution to the problem is for Log Cabin Republicans to continue to identify conservative Republicans who will reject the ignorant rhetoric of Senator Lott and support anti-discrimination policies but will likely hold the Republican base vote. We need to get these Republicans nominated in the primaries, and then work to elect them in the general elections.

The national Republican Party is much like the 1982 Wisconsin Republican Party when Wisconsin became the first state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Then, only a handful of bold Republicans, including Governor Lee Dreyfus, supported the ban in the face of great opposition from their party. Today, I would wager that the majority of elected Republican officials in the state legislature support the state's anti-discrimination law.

This change came about for two reasons: Republicans have seen that the sky did not fall as a result of the anti-discrimination law; and, Republicans have increasingly found that they actually know Lesbians and Gays, whether in their personal life or through the Log Cabin Club.

Republicans are also realizing that we are, for the most part, no different than anyone else. Only time will tell if the national Republican Party undergoes a similar metamorphosis, or instead will be splintered irrevocably by the disloyal Christian fundamentalists who would allow the Democrats to take back our government rather than keep the Republicans who might not always push their narrow religious agenda.

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Attack, Continued from Page 1

date for the Republican nomination. "This weekend I will be attending my 700th event. I'm not a professional politician but I know people don't want negative hate talk. And neither do I."

Former Dane County Executive, Rick Phelps, a Democratic candidate for the seat, was also critical. His campaign released a prepared statement that quoted Phelps as saying, "Instead of outlining a proactive vision to strengthen all our families and communities, Ron Greer has chosen to use the politics of division to tear us apart. I stand against the actions and attitudes of Ron Greer with all of my being."

Baldwin refused to get into a rhetorical battle with Greer. As has been the case throughout her campaign, she chose to concentrate on the issues that she feels are of importance to the district instead of making an issue of her sexual orientation.

Baldwin said, "I am pleased that so many people have spoken out against the divisive

politics of intolerance that we've seen injected into a campaign that should focus on issues important to people's lives — like health care and education. The issues that matter most to Wisconsin's families are what this campaign is about."

Some observers say that a general election match up of Baldwin and Greer is possible. Private polls are showing that Baldwin is in the thick of the hotly contested Democratic primary race.

On the Republican side, no clear front runner has emerged. Several analysts say that with strong backing from the religious right, Greer could win the GOP nomination.

Despite having a Republican Congressman, the district is considered to be solidly Democratic. Many observers expect the winner in the Democratic primary to win the November election.

Should Baldwin be that person, she would be the first open Lesbian ever to win election to the House of Representatives.

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Madison Common Council Responds to Billboards and Bashings

News and Commentary By Mike Leon

Madison — Love, compassion, and tolerance. That's the statement the City of Madison officially delivered to its citizens on Tuesday, July 7, amid a spate of recent area hate incidents and an anti-Gay billboard campaign sponsored by Wisconsin Christians United, making many Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals feel under a state of siege.

On Tuesday night, July 7, the City of Madison Common Council unanimously adopted a resolution declaring Madison a "city of tolerance" that values freedom of religion and that accepts homosexuals as equal citizens rightfully entitled "to live in peace as valued members of the family which makes up our community."

The resolution was spurred largely by five large rented billboards around Madison that read: "Homosexuality is not a family value. Homosexuality is a sin." The sponsor of the billboards is the Monroe-based religious right group, Wisconsin Christians United. Several Gay bashings were reported to Police following the placement of the signs.

The City Council vote, was seen by many as historic. "I am proud of the way so many people in Madison have come together to reaffirm the diversity of our community. It is another illustration of Madison's basic goodness and strength... Madison is a city which not only tolerates people who may be different from us, but welcomes and embraces diversity," said Mayor Sue Bauman.

Other citizens fairly danced over what was not so much a slap in the face to the religious right, as it was an affirmation of equality.

"This is a fabulous victory for the whole City of Madison that recognizes that people of all sexual orientations are simply put, people," said Marc Pocan, an openly Gay candidate for the 78th Assembly district in Madison, being vacated by State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison).

"This is a ringing declaration from city hall that love and tolerance will lead the way. High fives and hugs for everyone," added Pocan.

Openly Lesbian Alderwoman Judy Olson (6th District) and openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer (4th District) say they drafted the resolution in the wake of recent Gay bashings, hate literature drops, and the billboards which were the final straw.

Both spoke of their intimacy preferences with intensity during the long meeting. "The extremely high level of emotions that these billboards evoked in the community, especially the tremendous anger, fear and frustration that so many of us are feeling, needed to be addressed in a public setting and challenged," said Verveer. "The controversy these five billboards has created isn't really about a fringe out-of-town hate campaign. The hate runs far deeper and closer. It's a matter of valuing the diversity of our community."

Verveer added, "The crowd attending the council meeting lived the spirit of the Council resolution. Since I have been elected Alderman, this was the largest, most respectful, tolerant crowd I've seen. Not even a single audible hiss was uttered as the three people who spoke against the resolution were heard."

A large rally was held before the meeting. An estimated 300 people poured into the Common Council chambers afterwards. The crowd seemed determined, but its high spirits were obvious.

"The fact that the Madison City Council unanimously voted to name Madison as a city that values the diversity of the people and responded as well they did to the attacks against Gays and Lesbians to me is a shining example of leadership not only in Wisconsin but in the country," said De Ette Tomlinson, Executive Director of the United. "I think that we will see other cities considering doing this kind of thing. Hate is so rampant. It infuriates communities. And hate is not what most communities want."

The Madison tolerance resolution, besides offering metaphorical hugs of encouragement to the religious right, demonstrated the growing clout of Gays and Lesbians in Madison politics and in the political system at large.

In Madison, being anti-homosexual is regarded as immoral by the majority of the citizens. It is also said to be politically suicidal.

Two days after the vote, *The Wisconsin State Journal* (July 9, 1998) ran a cover piece entitled, "Council Vote Shows Gays Have Political Clout In Madison." This may have been news to that conservative newspaper, but observers say that this political dynamic is well known among the Madison Gay/Lesbian community and its allies.

In Madison, because of numbers, organization, and commitment, the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community has always been a political force to be reckoned with," said Pocan. "This resolution is simply an affirmation of that fact. You cannot peddle hate and expect to go anywhere in the Madison political scene. It's a source of pride among people who live here."

Pocan's sentiment is widely echoed.

"What we saw this last Tuesday was the product of 30 years of Gay and Lesbian activism, people who have been involved with the political system for decades. There cannot be an expression of hate directed at our community in this manner that will not be responded to. We're tight, united and we faced many battles over the years and won," says Ricardo Gonzalez, a former Madison Alderman and owner of the Cardinal tavern.

He added, "I was particularly pleased to see that a new generation has picked up the torch. They're committed to the proposition that Gays and Lesbians will fight back against bigotry and will win."

Gonzalez also noted that in the 1970's Madison was the first city in the nation to make discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation illegal as further evidence of Madison's historically activist community.

The Madison School District, where progressives enjoy a majority, recently enacted a policy guaranteeing health benefits to the domestic partners of Gay and Lesbian employees. The Madison Common Council is expected to vote this coming fall on a similar policy for City employees.

"Tuesday's vote on tolerance bodes well for the coming domestic partners' vote," said Alderman Verveer. "I'm very optimistic."

Wisconsin Light is pleased to announce that Mike Leon has agreed to serve his community as our Madison Bureau Chief.

Mike is an independent journalist living in Madison. His work has appeared extensively in the Capital Times, the Progressive, In These Times, The Shepherd Express, The Isthmus Corporate Report Wisconsin, In Business Magazine and other fine publications.

If you have a Madison story or news tip you can reach Mike by email at maleon@terracom.net or by calling Wisconsin Light at (414) 226-0075.

Text of Madison Common Council Resolution

A RESOLUTION DECLARING MADISON A "CITY OF TOLERANCE"

WHEREAS the people of the City of Madison gain quality, strength, and richness of life from the contributions and character of all Madison citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gays and Lesbians have been singled out by a recent billboard campaign questioning the value of contributions made by Gays and Lesbians to their family and to the community as a whole; and,

WHEREAS Lesbians and Gays have felt under attack by these billboards and challenges made by individuals and groups; and,

WHEREAS, an attack on any of our citizens is an attack on the community as a whole,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Madison Common Council declares Madison to be a CITY OF TOLERANCE in which all people, including Gays and Lesbians, have the right to live in peace as valued members of the family which makes up our community; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Madison values free speech and freedom of religion and encourages respectful, non-threatening, and mature dialogue between its citizens who hold differing views on issues.

Thompson's Campaign Shuns Right-Wing Group — Sort Of

By Mike Leon

Madison — The national religious right watchdog group, the Institute for First Amendment Studies, IFAS, has announced the membership list of the clandestine, right-wing Council for National Policy, CNP. This is the first time the CNP's membership has been revealed.

The Institute's web page lists Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson as a member of CNP. James Dobson, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and other anti-Gay leaders are also listed as members.

The Council for National Policy is a national political group that has become the worst kept secret in right-wing politics. The IFAS calls the Council's membership "a virtual who's who of the hard right... (comprising)... the right's Washington operatives and politicians, its financiers, and its hard-core religious arm."

Thompson's inclusion in the group's membership list is a surprise to some as the Wisconsin Governor is generally thought of as a political moderate.

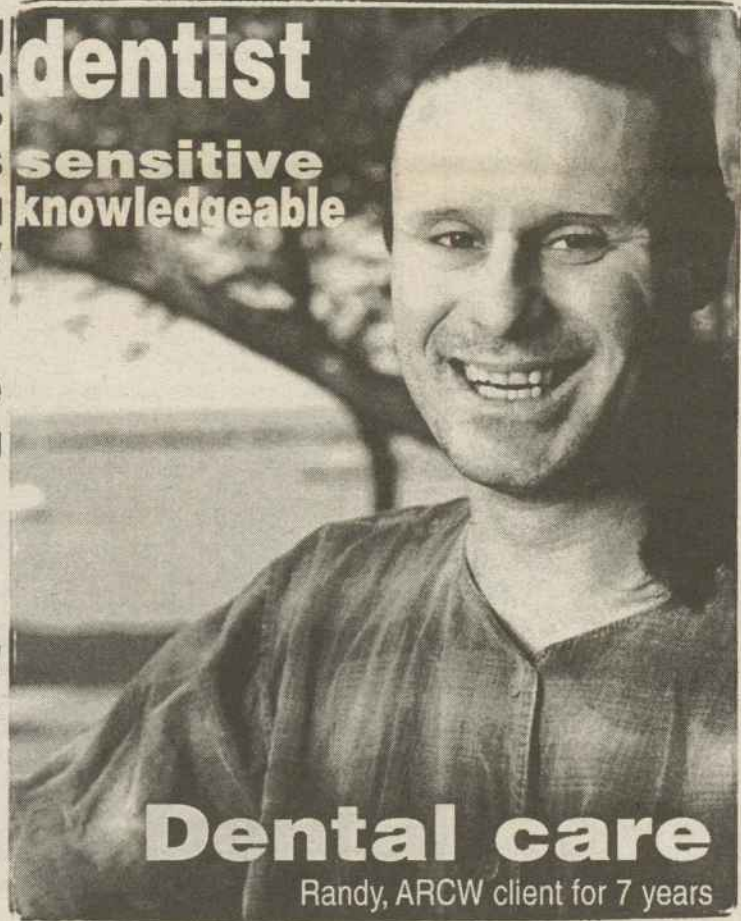
He is seeking a record fourth term and is often mentioned as a possible contender for the Republican Presidential or Vice-Presidential nominations in the 2000 elections.

The Thompson campaign distanced itself from the CNP. "The Governor has not been involved in any of the development of policies for this organization and wouldn't expect that he would be for the future," said Thompson's Campaign Manager, Bob Wood. "There are a number of organizations seeking his leadership, and are trying to understand the successes that we are living here in Wisconsin."

Ed Garvey, the presumptive Democratic nominee for Governor, criticized Thompson for

Please see Thompson, Page 12

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National News Briefs



Maine Selectman Resigns Over Gay Flag Dispute

Ogunquit, ME — An Ogunquit Selectman resigned after failing to convince the Town Board to oust its Chairman, John Miller, because Miller allegedly made anti-Gay remarks. Robert Brown left the Town Board saying he cannot serve on a board that supports discrimination.

Brown's resignation came the day after the Board rejected his attack on Miller. He had asked that Miller be removed from his office for telling the owners of a local bed and breakfast that their rainbow flag must be taken down. Miller denied ordering the owners to remove the flag.

Miller said he merely informed them that the flag violated a zoning ordinance against decorative flags. He also said he did not realize at the time that it was a symbol of Gay rights.

David Mills and Garry John, the two Gay men who own The Admiral's Inn, say that Miller was retaliating against them because they unsuccessfully urged the Town to adopt a Gay civil rights ordinance.

Judge Rules In Favor Of Man Discharged from National Guard

San Francisco — A number of state jobs in the California National Guard could be available to Gays and Lesbians if a recent ruling by California Superior Court Judge David Garcia stands. Garcia ruled that the Federal "don't ask, don't tell" policy violates the State of California Constitution.

The decision came in a class action lawsuit brought by former 1st Lt. Andrew Holmes, who was discharged from the Guard in 1995. Holmes was dismissed after telling a superior officer that he is Gay.

"This is a total victory for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community," Holmes said in a statement. "I'm thrilled that the court has upheld the rights of Gay men and Lesbians. The Guard must now open state active duty jobs to everyone."

Holmes' attorney, Elizabeth Scott, said a person who has been discharged from the California National Guard on the basis of sexual orientation could now apply to rejoin it. She said they will be able to serve in a state capacity but cannot be activated to Federal duty due to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"This victory is especially important for the many men and women who serve in fear that 'don't ask, don't tell' will end their military careers," Scott said. "Those people can now apply for state military jobs without hiding their sexual orientation."

Holmes' based her case on the fact that the Guard is both a Federal and a state organization. California National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Douglas Hart said the ruling would be appealed. "We have to follow the rules and the laws of Congress, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice is basically Federal law that can only be changed by Congress," Hart said.

Last Defendant in Lesbian Slaying Sentenced

Richmond, VA — A woman convicted of killing another woman, whom she claimed interfered in a Lesbian relationship, was sentenced to life in prison.

Kelly Ann Tibbs, 19, burst into tears Thursday as she turned to face the mother of her victim, Stacey Hanna, and apologize.

Chesterfield County Circuit Judge William R. Shelton also sentenced Tibbs to 10 years in prison each on conviction of robbery and abduction. The sentences were those recommended by the jury that convicted her on April 23.

Hanna was beaten, slashed and stabbed at a secluded area near the county airport, taken down a gravel trail, stabbed again and left to die in July 1997, shortly after she had moved to the Richmond area. The medical examiner said her body had at least 65 stab wounds.

Tibbs and three other women were charged in the slaying. Tracy Lynn Bitter and Dominica C. Winckler also were convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison. Stephanie Cull was sentenced to 20 years in prison for first-degree murder.

According to court testimony, Hanna became obsessed with Tibbs, who had recently ended a Lesbian relationship with Bitter. The testimony showed that all four women believed that Hanna was trying to interfere with their relationships.

Helms Calls Papers Gay Enclaves

Washington — Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) may have inadvertently given a publicity boost to Dear Jesse, a documentary film that is critical of the Senator.

Written and directed by Tim Kirkman, a Gay filmmaker from North Carolina, Dear Jesse focuses on the attitudes North Carolinians have about Gay men and Lesbians.

When he was asked about the documentary by The Congressional Quarterly, Helms said, "These people are intellectually dishonest in just about everything they do or say. They start by pretending that it is just another form of love. It's sickening."

Helms also said he was not surprised that the Washington Post had reviewed the independent film. "Just about every other person down there is homosexual or Lesbian," he said. Helms added that the New York Times, which also reviewed the movie, "is infested with homosexuals themselves."

Man Pleads Guilty to Defecating on Gay Library Books

Dayton, OH — Carl E. Lenhof, 49, pleaded no contest to charges that he defecated in books at Miami Valley public libraries. He will have to pay more than \$500 for the damage and will likely lose his library card.

Lenhof entered the plea to two counts of criminal damaging and one count of telephone harassment. He must pay \$518 in restitution. Lenhof also faces up to six months in jail for each count.

In all there were 40 known cases of vandalism centered on books dealing with homosexuality, the United Nations and the Federal Reserve. The books were found in mens bathrooms and the book return areas of several local libraries.

Lenhof may also face discipline from his employer. A statement from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where Lenhof works as an electrical engineer, said that, "appropriate action will be taken against Lenhof." Officials declined to discuss what action they may take. Lenhof also owns a shop that specializes in Catholic books.

Dayton police Detective Dan Hall said the vandalism happened at libraries between 1994 and 1997. Greene County Public Library officials said the Yellow Springs and Beavercreek branches were also hit by the vandalism in 1997. Three books relating to homosexuality were damaged. Officials there said they would seek restitution but did not want to press charges.

Lenhof was originally charged with four counts of criminal damaging and one count of telephone harassment, for placing threatening phone calls to the Dayton Lesbian and Gay Center and the Dayton chapter of the National Organization for Women. In exchange for the plea, other municipalities agreed not to press charges.

After accepting Lenhof's plea, Dayton Municipal Judge Bill Littlejohn said, "I certainly think he should not go to the library." A sentencing date has not been set.

Ohio School Board Appeals Teacher Reinstatement

Cincinnati, OH — A suburban Cincinnati school board has appealed the court-ordered reinstatement of a Gay teacher, Bruce N. Glover.

Last month, U.S. District Judge Susan J. Dlott ruled that the Williamsburg School Board violated Mr. Glover's constitutionally guaranteed right to equal protection when it denied him a contract because of his sexual orientation. She awarded him \$71,492 in damages and ordered his reinstatement.

Judge Dlott told the Board to give Glover a two-year contract. The board objected, claiming that the teacher was only entitled to a one-year contract. Glover's lawyer, Alphonse A. Gerhardtstein, said he expected the Board to let Glover teach while the appeal makes its way through the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Robertson Says Fires are Divine Retribution

Orlando, FL — Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson claims that recent fires ravaging parts of Florida is the divine punishment he warned about last month.

In June, Robertson said the city of Orlando was courting God's wrath by allowing Gay organizations to put up rainbow flags in support of a Gay Pride celebration. Robertson said the City was

inviting retribution from hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, "and possibly a meteor."

Referring to the fires that have erupted in most every county in the state, as well as in parts of Georgia, Robertson said, "You know, as I've been reading and praying, we had quite a flap the other day when we were talking about that Gay Pride Day in Orlando and everybody laughed," he said. "What happens to these fires in Florida could be a prelude to some things that are going on all around the world."

Robertson also told his television audience that Floridians must "turn from their wicked ways" and pray for rain.

Two Suspected Killers Captured in Nevada

Anaheim, CA — Two fugitives from Louisiana, who were wanted in connection with the brutal murders of two Gay men, were arrested on July 2.

The FBI said the suspects, Gary "Duck" Harrall, 21, and Travis "Sugar" Johnson, 18, were captured after authorities were tipped off by a pawnshop owner in Anaheim.

According to the televised report from KNBC, the two men were ejected from Knott's Berry Farm for causing a disturbance the night before their arrest. They left a Hollywood motel, boarded a bus and were arrested when it arrived in Henderson, Nevada.

Harrall and Johnson are suspected of killing two prominent Gay men in New Orleans. The first victim, 47-year-old Curtis Moon, a lounge owner known to carry large amounts of cash, was found in his apartment, tied up with his throat slashed.

Ten days later, 74-year-old French Quarter musician, Johnnie Bachemin, was found dead in his apartment. Bachemin's car had been stolen and torched in what police say was an attempt to cover up evidence.

George Stahle, the owner of the East Side Jewelry pawnshop, said that the men came into his store to sell some jewelry. They returned three times, looking at jewelry and guns. The shop owner said their mood and manner were highly suspicious.

Their arrest ended a nationwide manhunt for the two that had been going on for two weeks. After the men were spotted by the pawnshop's surveillance camera, the FBI warned Orange County residents that the two suspects might again target Gay men.

Gore Speaks to Gay Leaders

Santa Monica, CA — The Washington Blade reports that at a recent meeting in California, Vice President Al Gore told Gay and Lesbian civil rights leaders that while Gay rights have been moving forward, there is still a long way to go.

During the June 13 meeting, Gore engaged in what White House Gay liaison, Richard Socarides, called a "candid discussion" with Gay and Lesbian political leaders on a wide range of issues. The Blade reports Gay family issues were a major focus of the hour-long meeting.

"There was a strong concern that the next line of attack on our community would be our ability to serve as adoptive parents or as foster parents," said California Assemblywoman, Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles).

Gore vowed that he and President Clinton "would stringently oppose any Federal legislative effort that would make it more difficult for a Gay person to adopt," said Socarides. "The Vice President reiterated the administration's position that in all cases the only factors that ought to be considered on adoption are what is in the best interest of the child."

The leaders also raised their concerns about the military's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy governing Gay and Lesbian service in the military. Gay civil rights advocates have been demanding that the White House take concrete steps to ensure "overt violations" of that policy would not continue to happen.

Gore seems "intrinsicly supportive of our inclusion and equality," Kuehl told *The Blade*. "We essentially asked him to use the bully pulpit that the Vice President and the President naturally have around the country [to] include [Gays] in the larger picture," Kuehl said. "He said that he would do his best."

Texas Group Protests Against Kids Books

Wichita Falls, TX — A controversy over Gay themed children's books in the public library has heated up this Texas City. Members of a local Christian group appeared before the city council to protest *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*, two books about children with Gay and Lesbian parents.

In June, Public Library Administrator Linda Hughes responded to protests about the books by moving them from the Children's Section to the Juvenile Area.

Two churches and several residents have continued to publicly argue that the books should be removed altogether or at least placed behind a desk so that a patron must ask for them.

Members of the God is Love Ministry from Iowa Park warned that the books are the first step in a plan by Gays and Lesbians to "take over the City."

"Homosexuals are aggressive and militant when they take over a city," said Ministry founder Janie Hill. "By leaving those books in the library, we will be opening a crack in the dike to the flood of homosexuality and Lesbianism into our city and our state."

According to City Manager Jim Berzina, the City Council doesn't have the authority to order the Hughes to remove the books, but could establish a policy on what types of reading materials it considers to be acceptable.

"Friends" Attack Gay Man's Home

Lutz, FL — Authorities have charged ten men with hate crimes after they allegedly invaded a friend's home, where they destroyed china, punched holes in walls and broke windows because he is Gay.

The men attacked the home of James Kilgore, 20, who lives with his mother, 6-year-old brother, 8-year-old sister and a friend. "I can't believe that people who used to call themselves my friends can do this to me," he said.

When Kilgore's mother awoke due to the commotion, she found several men were in her home. They were smashing things with a baseball bat, brass knuckles and their fists. Kilgore said many of the attackers had been harassing him since last October, when he announced he was Gay.

According to Hillsborough County Sheriff Detective, Dean Santos, the men gathered earlier on the evening of June 27. When their conversation shifted to Gay bashing, they decided to go beat up Kilgore.

As the gang smashed things in the Kilgore home, causing an estimated \$2,000 worth of damage, Mrs. Kilgore ran from the house dialing 911 on a portable phone. When one of the attackers caught up with her out on the street, he grabbed the telephone and smashed it on the ground.

"I looked out the window and there's this guy standing over my mom with a baseball bat," Kilgore said. "I grabbed my machete and went running outside."

The attackers fled before sheriff's deputies arrived. Authorities tracked them down over the next few weeks. Detective Santos said most of the suspects had admitted taking part in the attack.

Most were charged with felony criminal mischief and burglary with assault. Karnado "Papa" Brown, 22, who police said was wielding the bat, faces more serious charges of aggravated assault, armed burglary and kidnapping. The hate crime classification upgrades the possible penalties if the men are convicted.

Church Halts Giving Over Gay Issue

Nashville, TN (AP) — A Savannah congregation is withholding an estimated \$15,000 or more from the United Methodist Church because it feels that the denomination does not condemn homosexuality strongly enough.

The United Methodist Church teaches that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching but calls Gays and Lesbians "people of sacred worth." The church's leaders believe the denomination teaching should also say that homosexuality is a sin requiring repentance.

"It's not a Gay-bashing thing," said Kirk Crotts, a lay leader at the East End United Methodist church, which is located near the Mississippi-Alabama border. "We're all ailing in one category of sin or another. But homosexuality is one of the things in the Bible we have to stand firm on. The Bible says it's an abomination."

Nashville's Methodist Bishop, Ken Carder, said that withholding the money, or apportionment as the church calls it, only punishes the many ministries of the denomination. "There are more creative ways of dealing with issues than withholding support from children in Africa and Savannah and our 950 missionaries," Carder said. "Apportionment is part of what we mean to be in covenant with one another."

About 170 people attend weekly worship at the church.

World News Briefs



Clinton Visit Causes Bar Closing

Shanghai — Shanghai police told the owner of two Gay bars to close during U.S. President Bill Clinton's three-day visit to the Chinese City. "The Public Security Bureau came to tell us to close down for a few days for security reasons because Clinton will be having a party near us," said owner Wang Guanghui.

Wang said Eddie's and Eddie's Two were closed on Saturday, June 27. The bars were scheduled to reopen on Friday, July 3, after Clinton left the country. He fears the closure of the bars, which are popular with expatriates, will scare off regular customers.

An expatriate teacher who frequents the bars said he was outraged at the closure because authorities had allowed other bars "crawling with [female] prostitutes to remain open."

Wang was forced to shut down another bar last month after the police raided it and several other pubs and restaurants frequented by expatriates. Sources said two other Gay bars in Shanghai were left alone by authorities and allowed to stay open during Clinton's visit.

Spanish Province Gives Marriage Benefits to Same Sex Couples

Madrid — A new bill endorsed by lawmakers in one of Spain's most populated regions, Catalonia, gives unmarried same sex couples the same inheritance and alimony rights as married couples. The new law does not allow same sex couples to adopt children.

Gay civil rights advocacy groups hailed the law, but said the ban on adoption was discriminatory. "The law is a positive step because for the first time the homosexual couple is being recognized as a form of marriage, and is being given rights accordingly," said Jordi Petit, Secretary General of the Barcelona-based International Gay and Lesbian Association. "It shows that Spain is evolving, modernizing, shunning machismo. But the bill is not perfect. It is discriminatory in that it has excluded adoption rights to couples of the same sex," he said.

Israel's Gay Culture Coming of Age

Tel Aviv — Orthodox Jewish men in black hats and overcoats averted their eyes as drag queens, lesbians and bare-chested men danced in Israel's first ever Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. More than 2,000 participated, waving rainbow flags and cheering as the hit song "Diva" blasted from loudspeakers.

Gay and Lesbian Israelis say "Diva," the winning entry by Israeli transsexual Dana International in last May's Eurovision song contest, was a huge turning point for them. Since the entertainer's surprise victory on the world stage, the Gay community has found new courage in making its presence and its demands on the rest of society known.

Tel Aviv, Israel's secular capital, is the center of the community's new visibility. Less than a month after Dana's Eurovision triumph, Gays clashed with police there during Wigstock, a music and drag festival.

Protesters blocked major streets for two hours after police, wearing latex gloves, tried to close the show an hour before organizers said their permit was due to expire. Many called the clash with the police "Israel's Stonewall."

Romania Rejects Repeal of Gay Sex Ban

Bucharest — The Romanian parliament rejected a government proposal to amend its criminal code and remove punitive anti-Gay laws from its books. The rejection could set the country on a collision course with the Council of Europe.

"It would be immoral to legalize homosexual sex," said Emil Popescu, a member of the Christian Democrats, the main party in the centrist coalition government. "Homosexual couples are sterile. They cannot breed. We want a healthy nation," he said to loud applause before the Romanian Chamber of Deputies.

Romania has been the target of repeated condemnation from international human rights organizations for its violent repression and harassment of Gays, Lesbians and its large Roma (Gypsy) community.

Private, consensual Gay sex is no longer illegal, but two anti Gay provisions remain in force. Article 200, paragraphs 1 and 5, threaten prison terms for "public homosexual acts" or those "causing a public scandal."

Finland's Gunnar Jansson, a spokesman on Romanian affairs at the Council of Europe, said that the vote would delay Romania's efforts to

join European economic and social institutions.

Zimbabwe's Anti-Gay Campaign Condemned

Harare — Keith Goddard, Program Manager for Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) has been formally charged with sodomizing at gunpoint. Goddard was charged even though his accuser, Sipephule Vuma, has admitted that he tried to extort \$2,000 from Goddard in exchange for his silence.

GALZ says Goddard went to the police in late 1997 with extortion letters from Vuma. The police refused to act. GALZ also contends that the extortion attempts grew more hostile and that authorities are using Vuma as part of an overall strategy to discredit the group and its members.

The pro-government *Sunday Mail* newspaper has run a series of anti-Gay articles charging, among other things, that GALZ operates a brothel for foreign tourists. The group has threatened to sue the *Mail* for defamation, unless it issues a public retraction of its allegations.

The International Gay Lesbian Human Rights Commission, (IGLHRC) and the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality in South Africa have accused the Zimbabwe government of pursuing a coordinated attack against Goddard designed to force GALZ to disband. IGLHRC spokesman, Sydney Levy, said Goddard's arrest last week represented the latest move in a mounting campaign of repression against the country's Gay and Lesbian citizens.

The groups say Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe, is behind the new wave of repression. They accuse Mugabe of trying to ease the political fallout he has suffered due to the sodomy trial of his trusted friend and associate, Canaan Banana. Banana has been charged with 11 counts of sodomy and indecent assault.

Defiant Congregation in Quebec Votes To Keep Gay Minister

Montreal (AP) — Members of a Presbyterian congregation have voted to keep their Gay minister, Darryl MacDonald, despite a threat of expulsion by the denomination's national leadership.

The secret ballot was conducted on Gay Pride Day, Sunday, June 28, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Lachine, Quebec.

The Presbyterian Church of Canada has repeatedly ordered the congregation to fire MacDonald over the past three years. The congregation refused, insisting MacDonald is an effective pastor and that his homosexuality is irrelevant.

Earlier this month, the highest court of the Church gave the parish a final ultimatum to either find another minister or face expulsion.

"When it came time to cast that ballot, it was really difficult," said Suzanne West, 34, a St. Andrew's churchgoer for six years. "It was hard for me to look around and see the people around me. People were crying."

MacDonald, who was not at Sunday's meeting, told The Montreal Gazette that the dispute was about more than homosexuality. "It's the question of the Presbyterian Church putting more stock in its rules than it does in the membership's beliefs and convictions," he said.

Polish Gays Hold First Festival

Warsaw (AP) — Polish Gays announced that they will hold their first public festival, but said they still dare not hold a parade in this predominantly Roman Catholic country. The festival, to be held in Warsaw's Old Town Square, will inaugurate the Gay community's new "Rainbow" counseling center.

Poland's Gay monthly magazine *New Man*, a partial sponsor of the festival, will hold a dance. An exhibit of works by American Gay photographers is also planned.

"The approach of Polish society to homosexuals is so unfavorable that organizing a parade would risk unpleasant incidents," Krzysztof Garwatowski of *New Man* told the news agency PAP.

Discrimination against homosexuals in Poland is widespread and accepted. The Solidarity-led government has strong links to the Catholic Church, which traditionally opposes homosexuality. About 95 percent of the population of 39 million is Roman Catholic. The minister in charge of family policy, Kazimierz Kaspera, has publicly said that Gays and Lesbians are deviants.

Congressman Frank, Partner Split

Boston (AP) — They were Washington's most prominent and influential Gay couple. But now U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), and his partner, Herb Moses, have ended their 10-year relationship.

"They provided the definition for how elected couples can serve public life with dignity and authenticity," said Kerry Lobel, Executive Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "They did it in ways nobody had done before, and they accepted nothing less than other elected couples should accept."

Frank, 58, said in a telephone interview Friday that the reason for the relationship's end "is nobody's business." He added that he and Moses split amicably. The two never held a marriage ceremony, Frank said.

Their Washington townhouse is now for sale. Moses, 41, who moved out of their home and left an executive position at the Federal National Mortgage Association to open a pottery studio, could not be reached for comment.

Frank and Moses formed a partnership, and often appeared inseparable while attending

White House dinners and other state functions. Moses was the first partner of an openly Gay member of Congress to receive spousal access privileges through the Capitol, although the decision to grant them was controversial.

While they were supported by advocates of equal rights, members of Congress did not always welcome the two. "I think we made some progress in combating the prejudice, but there continued to be some," Frank said Friday. The association of congressional spouses, he said, ignored Moses.

"I know I speak for most members when I state that the only Moses we like to hear about on this House floor is our Moses of Exodus, Moses the lawgiver, Moses of the Ten Commandments," Former Rep. Bob Dorman, R-Calif., said to the House in 1996.

Still, Lobel said, Frank and Moses continued their mission to improve the status of Gay and Lesbian couples. "They wanted the same treatment people gave Bill and Hillary and Ron and Nancy," Lobel told The Boston Globe. "And they did it with grace, just as they will break up with grace."

Anti-Gay Group May Disband

Salem — The Oregon Citizen's Alliance, OCA, may disband after failing to get its fourth anti-Gay referendum on the ballot. OCA which had been successful in getting three other anti-Gay referendum questions put before Oregon's voters fell 20,000 signatures short of qualifying an anti-same sex marriage law for the November elections.

OCA may have also failed to get an anti-abortion question put to a vote. The group turned in 100,711 signatures — just 3,000 more than is needed for a referendum to ban second and third trimester abortions. In order for it to be put on the ballot, 97% of the signatures must be ruled valid. No one has ever turned in a referendum petition with that ratio of valid signatures.

Oregon Citizens Alliance Chairman, Lon Mabon, said that he will call the group's Board of Directors to the group's headquarters in Brooks for a private meeting on July 18. He said that if the Board doesn't want to participate in another initiative drive in 2000, he will ask for a vote to dissolve the 11-year-old group.

Mabon said, "I'm going to say to our people: 'What do you want to do?' I am going to go on. If they want to go on as OCA, we will

go on."

Ron Liedkie, Marion County OCA chairman, said he will vote against disbanding. "We will keep going as long as we are able," he said. "We need to be there." Liedkie said the state needs a group that will fight against abortions and minority status for homosexuals.

The OCA has not had a statewide ballot measure since 1994, when voters rejected its anti-Gay rights initiative. Two years earlier, Oregonians rejected a similar measure.

The group reached a high water mark in November 1988, when Oregon voters approved an OCA-backed measure that revoked then-Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's executive order giving Gays and Lesbians protected civil rights status within state government. OCA volunteers collected 125,000 signatures for that measure in just 60 days.

Some OCA members have been dissatisfied with Mabon, who was beaten in a Republican primary race for the US Senate by Gordon Smith. The group has also had financial problems as membership has declined by more than 1,000 people. Mabon says OCA's roster now includes about 2,000 members, and he stressed the group is not in financial crisis.

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World AIDS Conference Closes on Somber Note

The 12th World AIDS Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland closed on July 3 on a much different note than the Conference in Vancouver in 1996.

In 1996 the word out of Vancouver was "eradication" and "cure." At the 1998 Conference it became apparent that HIV cannot be eradicated from the body in a couple of years; at best it could take 10 years and some scientists speculated that it might never be able to be completely eliminated.



"It may be that you don't have to eliminate it," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Fauci proposed that it may be possible to weaken the virus to a point where the immune system can keep it under control — but admitted that this was not currently achievable.

Other reports dashed hopes of vaccines that are in the works and drew a much more realistic picture of how well new drug regimens are working.

The treatment of HIV is becoming increasingly more complex. According to Dr. Richard Horton, editor of the British medical journal *The Lancet*, there will soon be 204 possible regimens for triple-drug therapies and 1,028 possibilities for quadruple-drug therapy. Dr. Julio S.G. Montaner of the University of Vancouver also noted that HIV therapy has become so complex that even experts have difficulty following advances.

With the Vancouver hype from two years ago dissipating, many participants were even more convinced that prevention strategies must be placed at the forefront in the fight against AIDS.

VACCINES

Dr. Ruth Ruprecht of Harvard and the Dana Farber Cancer Center presented data showing attenuated live vaccine injected into monkeys caused progressive immunosuppression, leading



photo by S. Gray

Arrival — Delegates head towards the Session Halls at the 12th World AIDS Conference begins.

to illness or death. The vaccine initially protected the monkeys, but eventually the vaccine virus mutated into a more dangerous strain.

"We think that the current way of attenuating the SIV and HIV by decreasing replicative capacity of the virus strains is not going to lead to a safe vaccine," she said.

Dr. Robert Gallo of the University of Maryland commented that if the live attenuated approach proves to be unsuccessful, vaccine development is no further along than in 1984. "We have no guarantee that we will ever have a vaccine," he commented.

Meanwhile, the AIDSVAX vaccine, created from recombinant copies of the gp120 protein from the surface of two types of HIV, Phase III trials continued, with volunteers in St. Louis joining those in Philadelphia in being inoculated. In coming weeks, clinics in Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles are expected to begin vaccinations and several other sites are in the final stages of planning to join the trial, which will eventually include 30 to 40 sites throughout North America.

VaxGen, the developer of AIDSVAX, expects the Phase III trial of a slightly different formulation of the vaccine to begin in Thailand later this year. This trial will involve injection drug users, while the North American trial is primarily aimed at Gay males and individuals whose partners are HIV-positive.

The formulation of the vaccine being administered in North America is designed to protect against infection by the major types of HIV-1 virus, which is responsible for most of the infections in the Americas, Australia, and Europe. The vaccine that is to be used in Thailand is designed to protect against the viral strains most common in Southeast Asia.

VaxGen states that their vaccine poses no risk of infecting participants with a virus that will cause illness or death. However, the vaccine conceivably could cause participants to test positive for HIV antibodies, which could result in discrimination in areas ranging from health insurance to employment.

TREATMENT PROBLEMATIC

While the latest research presented in Geneva confirmed that protease inhibitors do indeed help extend the lives of many patients, there was troubling news concerning side effects, resistance, and regimen adherence.

Otherwise thin patients are developing dan-

number of HIV-positive individuals are not adhering to their combination therapy as prescribed. Furthermore, adherence lessens over time as the length of treatment increases. The CDC warns that non-adherence is seriously dangerous, both for the health of the individuals being treated and for the future spread of the epidemic.

"Clearly, new treatment regimens pose complex challenges for prevention. If people miss doses of their medication, they may be at increased risk for developing drug-resistant strains of HIV," said Helen Gayle, M.D., M.P.H., Director of CDC's National Center for

Continued Risk Behavior Among Young Gay Men in the U.S.

Study Points to Need for Sustained Prevention and Suggests a Focus on Social Influences

Geneva — Young Gay men in the U.S. are more likely to practice unsafe sex and become infected with HIV than are older Gay men, partially because of a perception that their peers are not practicing safer sex, according to a new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The study presented by Gordon Mansergh, Ph.D., at the 12th World AIDS Conference, sought to identify factors that may contribute to continued risk among HIV-negative Gay and Bisexual men in Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco. Nearly two-thirds of Gay men reported engaging in unprotected anal sex at least once during the previous 18 months. Additionally, 56 percent of Gay men aged 25 years or younger reported having unprotected receptive anal intercourse in the previous 18 months, a behavior that poses substantial risk for HIV infection, compared to 46 percent of older men.

Findings indicate that perceived peer norms (beliefs regarding what peers are doing) for unprotected anal sex and a strong tendency to use bars to meet and socialize with Gay men may play a role in increased risk for young Gay and Bisexual men.

"These findings underscore the fact that prevention is not as simple as people would like to believe. These young men grew up in the era of AIDS information, but clearly, the facts alone are not enough to change behavior," said Helene Gayle, M.D., M.P.H., Director of CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. "Prevention programs must recognize the numerous influences on young people's lives and strive to intervene at multiple places."

These findings suggest that support for safer sex among their peers and in settings where they meet and socialize with partners may be critical to further reduce risk among Gay and Bisexual men, particularly young men.

"Social influences appear to be having a major impact on risks among young Gay and Bisexual men. The young men placing themselves at greatest risk believed their peers were also having unprotected sex," explained Mansergh, lead researcher on the analysis. "And young Gay men who have a strong tendency to socialize and meet their sexual partners in bars are more likely to have unprotected sex, independent of their alcohol and drug use."

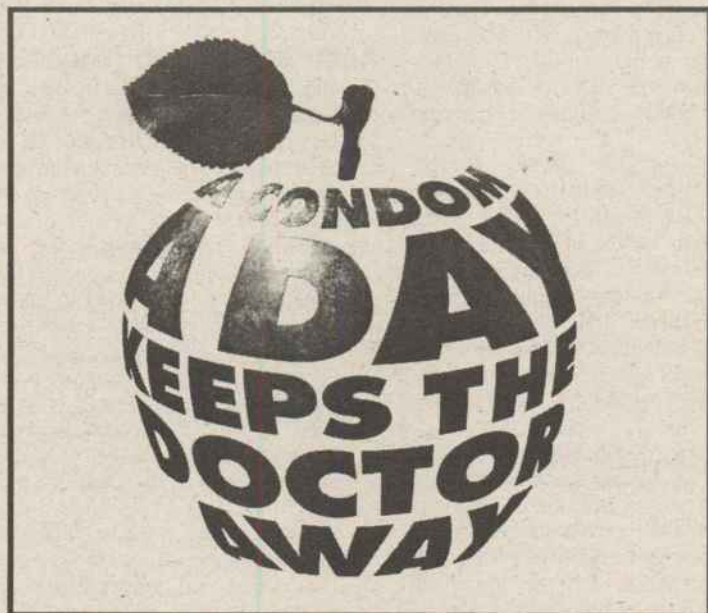
CDC stressed that prevention programs to reduce risk among these young men should include a focus on altering peer norms and reaching young men at highest risk in bar settings. Some communities have already found programs to influence peer opinion leaders in bar settings effective in reducing risk behaviors among Gay men. CDC researcher Ellen Sogolow, Ph.D., will discuss one of these intervention programs, using a peer opinion leader model, in a related presentation on Wednesday, July 1, 1998.

Dr. Gayle further stressed the need for sustained prevention among Gay men. "Nearly two decades into the epidemic, prevention is more important than ever. Despite a great deal of success in slowing the epidemic among Gay men, we must continuously reach new populations at risk," said Gayle. "As each generation comes of age, we must provide young adults with the information, skills, and support to protect themselves from HIV."

CDC Researchers Present Mounting Evidence that HIV Prevention Saves Lives and Dollars

Geneva — New cost-effectiveness estimates, combined with the most comprehensive evaluation to date of available prevention research, leave no doubt that the nation's efforts to prevent HIV infection have paid off. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes the findings, presented at the 12th World AIDS Conference, will help HIV prevention programs make the best use of limited resources by basing program decisions on the science of what works best for populations at risk.

"We have more evidence than ever before that prevention works and that it saves dollars in addition to lives," said Helene Gayle, M.D.,



Hot images for a cool reason. The 1998 Swiss STOP AIDS Campaign focuses on using witty, provocative imagery to help raise awareness.

gerous fat deposits and some are experiencing incredibly high cholesterol levels which could lead to serious heart disease.

Data presented by Dr. Allyn Nakashima, a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found that a substantial

HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. "If these strains are transmitted to others and spread widely, HIV infection could become again more difficult to treat."

Nakashima and colleagues analyzed adherence among over 1,200 HIV-positive patients at

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AIDS News Briefs

From the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's Daily AIDS Summaries.



New Drug Mix Would Simplify HIV Therapy

Geneva — Researchers at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva report that a new combination drug therapy that only requires patients to take three pills a day — as opposed to at least 10 with the now-standard AIDS "drug cocktail" — has the potential to improve patient compliance and change the way doctors treat HIV infections. The new therapy combines DuPont's once-daily Sustiva, which is expected to be approved in the United States later this year, with a twice-daily pill called Combivir, which is manufactured by Glaxo Wellcome and two older drugs, AZT and 3TC. Research has shown the drugs to be at least as effective as therapies that include protease inhibitors, which doctors and patients hope to replace because of significant long-term side effects in some patients. Despite the enthusiasm by many researchers, some have cautioned patients about the hype and pointed out that even the new therapy has some drawbacks; some patients have reported emotional problems while using the drug, and the drugs carry a potential for birth defects.

New U.S. AIDS Office Head to Boost Research Funds

Geneva — Neal Nathanson, the new director of AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health, announced Monday he intends to allocate more resources for AIDS patients and for clinical tests of AIDS vaccines. At the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva, he explained that he planned to increase funding for intervention programs geared toward certain groups affected by AIDS, such as women and drug addicts. Although he offered no specifics, Nathanson said the government budget for fiscal year 1999 for intervention programs would be substantially higher and that support for vaccine studies was rising much faster than for other projects.

Some Scientists Are Hopeful Again for an AIDS Cure

Geneva — Even though researchers at the 12th World AIDS Conference Tuesday said there were still many barriers to the development of a cure for AIDS, many also expressed hope and optimism over the current developments in AIDS research that could eventually lead to the discovery of an effective treatment, cure, or vaccine. Today, doctors can eliminate the amount of the virus in some patients' bodies to below detectable levels using so-called drug cocktails, but experiments have shown the virus continues to remain hidden in certain cells waiting for a stimulus to re-start the production of HIV. One method proposed as a cure is to develop a drug that eliminates all the hidden cells from the body, while another strategy would use one drug to flush out the hidden cells and another drug to kill the fleeing virus. The goal is to eliminate all the memory CD4 cells, but researchers do not know how long the cells survive and studies suggest it only takes a small amount of HIV replication to maintain a sufficient level of hidden cells.

Cancer Drug Called 'Impressive' in Effort to Eradicate AIDS Virus

Geneva — Hydroxyurea, a 130-year-old prescription drug that is primarily used to treat cancer and sickle-cell anemia, may work against HIV by blocking the enzyme used by the virus to replicate its genetic code. For treatment of HIV, the drug would be taken in doses up to 100 times smaller than those used for cancer treatment. The drug has few side-effects, and it costs about \$1,800 per patient annually — much less than the \$10,000 a year that highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) costs. Hydroxyurea is also effective in inhibiting HIV in resting white blood cells. It is believed that HIV latently infects memory T-cells, which can persist in the host system for about 10 years. HAART treatment does not affect these reservoirs, and researchers are attempting to find ways to purge the system of the latently infected cells.

AIDS Triple Therapy Can Help Even When It Fails, Study Says

Geneva — Research presented at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva suggests that combination therapy can be beneficial even when it fails to reduce HIV levels in the bloodstream. While the evidence is mostly still at the anecdotal level, according to National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony S. Fauci, it appears that people on the drugs who do not show complete suppression of the virus may still have an increase in CD4 cell counts. In one French study, patients receiving protease inhibitors who showed an increase in CD4 cell counts, yet no decrease in viral load, did as well as patients who showed both viral load decreases and CD4 cell increases. Conversely, those patients who showed a drop in viral load, yet had no increase in CD4 cell counts, fared as poorly as those who failed treatment completely. Swiss researchers found that the phenomena may be prolonged. Patients who showed an increase in CD4 cell counts in the Swiss study maintained those levels for nearly two years after the initiation of treatment and were relatively immune to opportunistic infections, while those who had a decrease in the CD4 cell counts showed an increased risk of complications. In both studies, the partial-responders completely followed their prescribed regimen.

Immune System Can Revive After AIDS, Studies Suggest

Geneva — French scientists presented findings Wednesday at the 12th World AIDS Conference that indicate the body's immune system can recover to a certain extent even after being damaged by advanced AIDS. The findings suggest that persons with AIDS may not need drugs that offer protection against the potentially deadly infections that can occur as the disease progresses; the study is the first evidence scientists have had that suggests the immune system can survive and recover from HIV. The study, led by Brigitte Autran of the l'Hopital Pitie-Salpetriere in Paris, involved a small number of AIDS patients who had been receiving AIDS drug cocktails for 24 months; Autran noted that the immune system's recovery was directly related to the extent to which HIV had been suppressed by the drug cocktails. After therapy was initiated, the patients' immune system cells returned at high speed for the first two months and at a slower pace thereafter. Autran estimated that full recovery of the immune system could occur in about four to eight years, but researchers are not certain how long anti-HIV drugs can be tolerated or of their long-term safety.

Scientists Hope to Fix AIDS-Damaged Immune Systems

Geneva — The 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva ended last Friday with reports indicating that it may be possible to restore immune system components for people infected with HIV. Bruce Walker of Massachusetts General Hospital and Fred Valentine of New York University Medical Center found that long-term nonprogressors have white blood cells that alert helper T-cells. HIV usually attacks the helper T-cells, but it appears that long-term nonprogressors have some immunity against these attacks. Walker and colleagues showed that early combination therapy treatment of HIV-infection can help infected patients retain their helper cells. This may allow patients to end drug-therapy in the future, since their immune system will be capable of fighting the HIV infection on its own. Valentine and fellow researchers found that patients taking combination therapy who were also inoculated with Immune Response's Remune vaccine once every three months showed evidence of the reemergence of helper T-cells. Remune — a weakened version of HIV developed by Dr. Jonas Salk in the 1980s — contains the proteins inside the center of HIV, without the outer envelope. Scientists believe that combination therapy reduces the HIV viral load enough to allow the immune system to create helper cells when Remune is introduced. As compared to patients who were receiving only combination therapy, those who took a Remune shot showed greatly increased helper cell levels. Also reported at the conference was news that hydroxyurea — a anti-cancer agent — appears to work synergistically with Bristol-Myers Squibb's antiviral drug ddI to stimulate helper cells.

Please see AIDS Briefs, Page 24

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Register for AIDS Walk Wisconsin at the TMJ4 Information Booth at Milwaukee's Festa Italiana, and at Madison's Pride Celebration, both run July 16-19.

Study Finds Connection Between Gay Men's Self-Esteem, Unsafe Sex

San Francisco (AP) — A University of California - San Francisco study says that young Gay men lacking self-esteem are more likely engage in unsafe sex more often than other Gay men.

The study, presented at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva, surveyed 302 young Gay men in Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara and Eugene, Oregon.

The participants, ages 18 to 29, were asked to respond to three statements:

- I am glad to be Gay.
- My Gay male friends are good at helping me solve personal problems.
- At times, I think I'm no good at all.

Those who answered yes to the first two questions, and no to the third, were more likely to practice safe sex, said researcher Craig Waldo, who helped conduct the study.

Waldo said that among those men "who accept themselves as Gay the most," 30 percent had engaged in unsafe sex. That contrasted with 46 percent among those who "accept themselves the least as Gay," he said.

The conclusion drawn by Waldo: Young Gay men who are comfortable with their sexuality are more psychologically healthy and more likely to practice safe sex.

"It's a good idea to help Gay men accept themselves because it makes them less risky sexually," he said. "As time passes, if they get more support for their identities, it will ultimately have a favorable effect on their health."

In a separate but somewhat related study conducted by UC researchers, the psychological well being of HIV patients was linked to their likelihood of seriously treating the disease.

That study surveyed 727 patients in seven U.S. cities. Patients who felt they were part of a community and involved in their own care were more likely to take medication, keep medical appointments and follow their caregiver's advice.

In contrast, patients who feel detached from their surroundings or were depressed were found to be more apt to disregard medical treatment.

"The psychological well-being of HIV patients plays a role in their adherence to treatment," said William Holzemer, the study's lead investigator.

White Supremacist Group Wins Suit to Have Anti-Gay Parade in Boston

Boston (AP) — A federal judge has ruled in favor of a White Supremacist group that sued the City after it was banned from holding an anti-Gay parade.

Four years ago, the City denied the Nationalist Movement, a Learned, Miss.-based organization, a permit to conduct a parade in the city's South Boston area. U.S. District Court Judge George O' Toole ruled the denial was a violation of the group's right to freedom of expression and awarded it \$700 in compensatory damages.

The group held a march in May 1994, in violation of the City's ban, to show support for sponsors of Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade. The sponsors had canceled their parade rather than comply with a Federal Court injunction that forced them to allow a group of Irish Gays to join in the march.

"Our victory is a victory for the majority and a victory over the homosexuals, the leftists... and the minorities," said Richard Barrett, who described himself as General Counsel for the group.

O'Toole noted the Nationalist Movement was actually helped in the case by constitutional provisions and precedent designed to protect the very people the group opposes, minorities. "Not insignificantly, much of the

law that protects the plaintiff's rights here developed as a result of the courage of the pioneers of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s," said O'Toole in his ruling.

After the 1994 South Boston St. Patrick's Day parade was canceled, the Nationalists filed an application to hold a rally on May 7. Barrett called the rally a "resurrected St. Patrick's Day Parade." The city subsequently denied the group a parade permit, citing traffic and public safety issues.

Barrett and about 20 supporters went ahead with the march. Without a permit, they marched on the sidewalk. Protected by a phalanx of riot police, the small Nationalist contingent was met by 300 to 400 hostile counter demonstrators. Despite the tension, the event disbanded without any arrests or injuries.

The Nationalists eventually filed a First Amendment lawsuit against the city.

The Boston decision is the latest in a decade-long string of court victories the Nationalists have won in cities across the country, including Houston and Forsythe, GA. Barrett has become known for demanding the right to assemble, then suing municipalities that resist. He compares himself to Rev. Martin Luther King, a civil rights leader whose holiday he has protested in the past.



Cruise Geneva ARCW '98 Committee Members — Back row from left: Terry Cummings (Raffle); Stu Rau (Communications); Gerry Stewart (Raffle); Don DeBaere (Chairman); Al Gruling (Entertainment); Dale Hagen (Entertainment). Front row left: Rick Noah (Raffle); Jennifer Baumer (ARCW Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator, Kenosha).

Thompson, Continued from Page 7

his membership in the right-wing group." It appears that Tommy Thompson is portraying himself one way to the people of Wisconsin, and another to the folks in Washington," said Garvey.

"It's nice to know the names of the groups and the people the Governor meets with when he's outside the state of Wisconsin."

Thompson recently hedged on the question whether he would finish his 4th gubernatorial term if elected this November. Some Wisconsin political observers believe the Governor is tacking to the center to capture the Wisconsin Governorship before entering the national scene as a more tangible national contender.

Wood says, "The Governor has never been involved with this group for the purpose of fundraising or soliciting dollars, and is not an active member." He adds that Thompson has not addressed the group since 1992 when he spoke on welfare reform.

Thompson remains an inactive member.

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How Old Are You???



Happy Birthday to You! — A birthday party was held at Milwaukee's South Water Street Docks bar on June 27 to celebrate the birthdays of Scott "Scooter" and Al (front left and right). Helping celebrate (left to right back row) was Jese, bar manager Dan, time and Merv. Photo by Jerry Johnson.

Merger, Continued from Page 1

conflicts. Shortly after that agreement, the Resource Center closed its office. "The Center felt that without the counseling and support groups, there was no need to maintain its own space," said LaFlash. The MGLRC book and video libraries were moved into The United's office.

Despite their close working relationship, the two organizations continued to operate separately for the next 11 years. The United concentrated on direct services to clients such as its referral and information line, while MGLRC focused on information providing projects like the library, the Community Directory and the Pink Pages.

The process of merging was a carefully thought out one. A Merger Committee was formed. It consisted of representatives from the boards of both organizations as well as carefully selected community members who were not affiliated with either group.

Kilmer told *Wisconsin Light* that in addition to the many meetings of the Merger Committee, there were three meetings with members of the community to get input from those who were not in leadership positions. One meeting was held with major donors. Another meeting garnered input from the organizations' volunteers and the third meeting was an open community meeting attended by about 40 people.

LaFlash said, "The meetings gave very constructive feedback. There were some warnings and suggestions. Overall everyone came away saying they were supportive of it."

Kilmer and LaFlash say that one point, which was emphasized at the meetings, was a desire for the new organization to be more political and proactive in nature.

Kilmer said, "People were saying that we need to be more on the offensive rather than on the defensive. We are always responding to things that come up instead of being out there bringing the issues out ourselves. We have to play catch up after we've been attacked."

How the new organization, which has a 501c(3) tax-exempt status, will be able to take a more aggressive political stance is still being discussed by the new Board. Federal statutes severely limit the amount of resources a 501c(3) organization can devote to political activity.

In response to the encouragement given by those involved with the two organizations and the community as a whole, both groups agreed to the Merger Committee's proposals to combine into one new organization.

The Boards of both organizations resigned. A new joint Board of Directors, which will govern Outreach, composed of individuals selected from the Boards of Directors of the two organizations, has replaced them. The Merger Committee reviewed applications and submitted its choices for the new board to The United and MGLRC for the approval of their Boards of Directors.

The new Outreach Board of Directors is scheduled to elect its officers at a meeting on Wednesday, July 15. De 'Ette Tomlinson, who has been serving as the Executive Director of The United, will be the Executive Director of Outreach. Two new employees will join her. Callen Harty will be the Direct Services Coordinator and Joe Bednarowski will be the Development Coordinator.

Tineality, Continued from Page 5

dominion over another's flesh, could conduct themselves modestly and judiciously. Perhaps it was cowardice mingled with a biting realization that my arms had gotten me into something I'd most likely spend my life trying to understand.

I must have disappointed that poor, crass, fabulous creature terribly. How could she have known that my fascination with her gorgeous breasts was secondary to my delight and astonishment in being the sole proprietor of an honorable pair of arms?

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Gutzman Brings Out the Color of Wilde's Salome

By John Jahn

Milwaukee's Dale Gutzman is a master of the theater. Clearly one of the most creative and interesting theater personalities in Wisconsin, his work has rightfully won critical acclaim.

Gutzman's latest venture is a production of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*.

Salome is a verse play that Wilde composed before going to prison for his affair with Alfred Lord Douglas. *Salome* foreshadowed Wilde's own fall from grace at the hands of love. The great German composer Richard Strauss created one of the world's great operas directly from Wilde's text. *Salome* will be performed this July 23-25, 30, 31, and August 1 at Milwaukee's only theater in the round, the Circlestage at 783 N. Jefferson St.

It will be performed by members of Dale Gutzman's new company, OFF THE WALL. The company is dedicated to producing experimental plays considered to be too controversial for his mainstream theater company.

Tickets are \$12.00 and may be reserved by calling (414) 466-4049.

I sat down with Mr. Gutzman at The King & I restaurant to discuss this upcoming production.

Wisconsin Light: Your ad describes it as a "very adult production" and "a very naughty play." What makes you describe it as such?

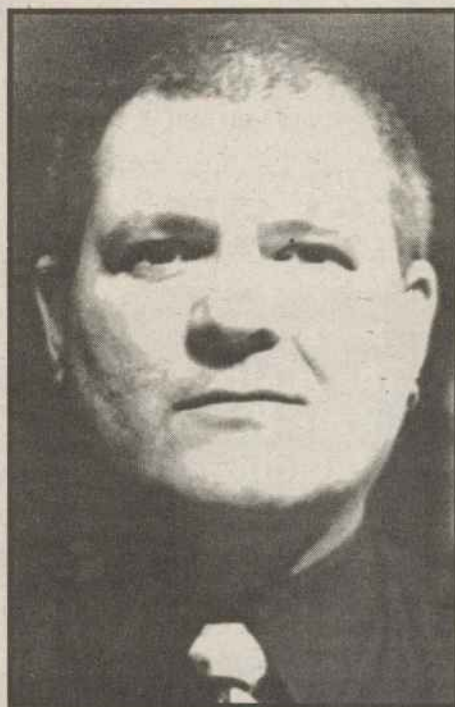
Dale Gutzman: Right off the bat it challenges sexual rules: a young Syrian captain who's involved with *Salome* is found at the beginning of the play to be having sex with his male lover. There are, of course, the teasing and seductive qualities, too.

There are times when Herod talks about the beauty of the young captain but at the same time he's obsessed with *Salome's* beauty, so rules are broken, relationships are broken.

Indeed, *Salome* is the daughter of his wife, so it breaks all kinds of rules. A lot of it is very subtle...it's under the surface, given the time it was written. It's just filled with "in jokes" that the Gay audience will surely get, whereas some of the heterosexual audience might miss.

What we have done is bring this play to life. We've taken some of these things that were under the text and brought them out. Some would argue, "Well, it should stay subtle, it should stay hidden." But unfortunately if you do that too much the play becomes boring, it's almost better to read than to do it that way.

We have made it vivid and colorful, they way I think Oscar Wilde is almost begging you



Dale Gutzman

to do. And since our language today isn't nearly as poetic as it used to be, many productions today bring out the visual aspects, and so that's where our production gets very adult.

WL: How would you say that Oscar Wilde's take on the story of *Salome* differs from other versions, such as the Richard Strauss opera of the same name?

Gutzman: The Strauss opera is exactly Oscar Wilde's text. In fact, his was the first version to make the story accessible to the public. When Oscar Wilde first wrote the play, there were laws that prevented characters from the Bible appearing on the stage; it's very weird.

It actually wasn't an often-enforced law, they just used it when they wanted to - to get people like Oscar Wilde, because of his sexuality, his political beliefs and that kind of thing. It wasn't until Oscar Wilde was in prison that he heard it had been staged in France. Shortly after that, the opera was premiered in Germany and that's when it became famous.

It's actually very different from the other sources of the story, for example the Bible's version.

WL: Would you call the *Salome* a comedy, drama, or how would you describe it?

Gutzman: I'd say it's basically a comedy, although it follows the classical form, the rules of tragedy. Oscar Wilde's writing is very satirical, so I would also say it's a very black comedy that has some very serious moments.

For example, each of the characters talks about the moon at length, and what you realize is they're really just talking about themselves. They're projecting upon the moon what they think about and want for themselves.

After all these long and poetic passages, Herod's wife says, "Ah, the moon is just the moon!" It kind of cuts through all that...that's the kind of thing Wilde did on purpose.

It really jars you and it's quite funny, even though the play gets really quite grotesque at other moments.

WL: How does preparing for this play at the Circlestage differ from, say, preparing for a production at a more traditional venue, like Centennial Hall (where many other of his productions are held)?

Gutzman: My favorite kind of theater is a very small one where the audience is very close, so I love working in small theater's like Circlestage because the audience is part of the show.

A second thing is that everything you do has to be much more genuine. You can't fake an action or fake a look because if the audience is that close they're going to notice things like that. You have to be absolutely faithful and as real as you can be, which makes it much more difficult.

A lot of body contact between the actors simply has to be real. You can't fake it. If somebody gets slapped they have to really get slapped, if someone gets stroked they really get stroked. You can't fake it if they're right in front of you.

WL: Or if they're having sex they have to really have sex!

Gutzman: (laughs) Not quite, not quite! There's something that still has to have the illusion of theater.

WL: Oh, that's too bad. It would get you headlines...

Gutzman: Oh, sure, it'll get us closed, too. We've extended audience participation even more in a sense. For example when wine or food is passed around we include the audience so that they feel they're part of the orgy, the party.

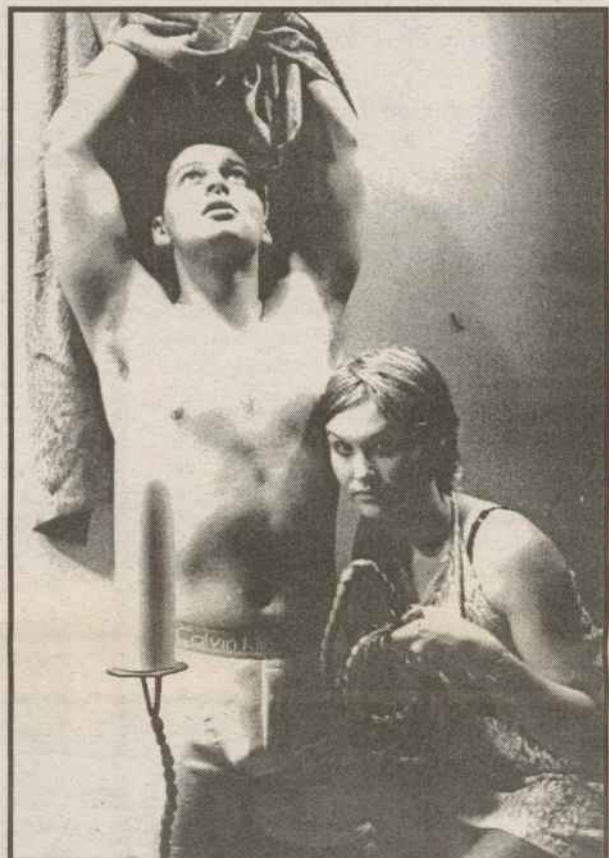
There's a section in the show where we dance, it's like a big ballroom dance where Herod is trying to get *Salome* to dance with him. Couples dance around and keep looking for partners, and we're going to draw people out of the audience to dance with

us, so they'll be part of that action.

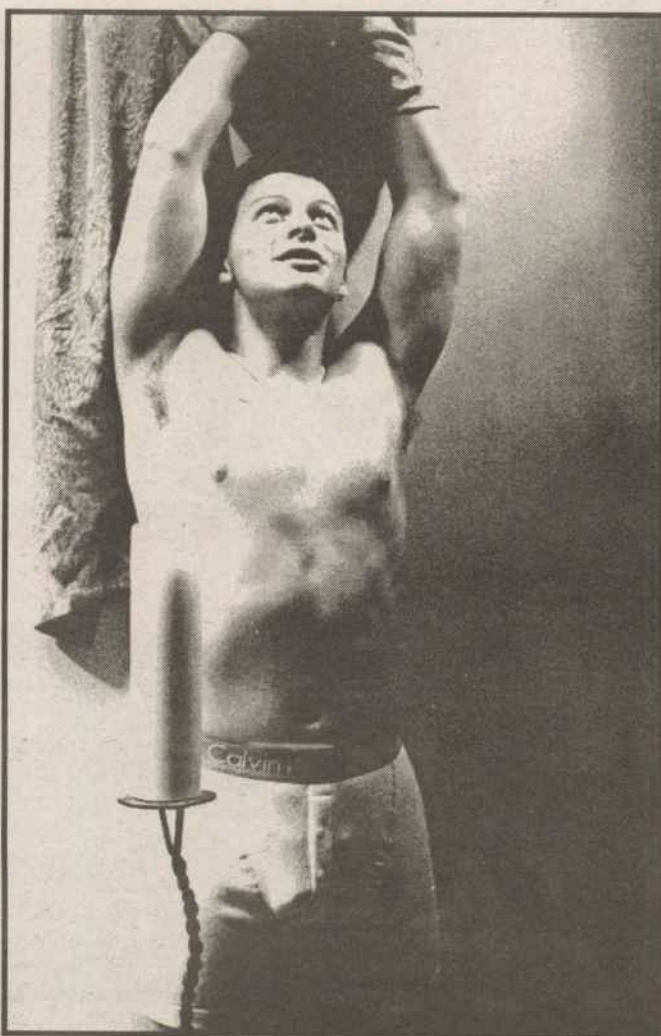
WL: How do you choose the plays you are going to produce? Is there a process you go through or people you talk to?

Gutzman: Party, in order to survive, you have to choose plays that you think the audience is going to come to, that's the first thing. Secondly, I have to do shows that I think have something to say, for example, *Blood Brothers*.

But unfortunately, in Milwaukee, it seems that if you don't know a show you often don't even give it a try, which is really shame, unlike St. Louis or Minneapolis or Chicago or



Bradren Moran as John the Baptist; Sarah Sokulovic as Salome.



Bradren Moran as John the Baptist.

Cincinnati. So, a show has to have some value in order for me to do it. Usually, a show will sit in the back of my mind.

Salome has been on my mind for about 10 years, but you have to wait until you feel it's the right time and you have the right people. If you can cast a show properly you have two thirds of your problems solved.

So you need the right time, cast and place - I wouldn't want to do *Salome* in a big theater. I want it to be close and to be radical in that respect.

So usually it sits in my mind and germinates for a long time. I sit back, read it, make notes. It takes about six months so that, at least in my mind, it all makes sense.

WL: And finally, I'd like to know what you have planned next, after *Salome*?

Gutzman: In September we open the Midwestern premier of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, for which I was lucky enough to be the first person to get the rights to do, and I can't wait to do it. It's going to be a powerful production. Then, in October, I'm going to be doing the Gay review that I'm taking to Thailand called *Celebration* at the Circlestage Theater. Then we're doing a big Gershwin review in honor of Gershwin's hundredth year - for the more traditional Milwaukee audience. I look forward to it nonetheless because I love Gershwin's songs. And that brings us to our traditional Christmas show, which is *Holiday Punch*, and this is its 19th year, the oldest Christmas show in Milwaukee.

WL: Well, thank you very much and best of luck with *Salome*.

Gutzman: Thank you, it was my pleasure.

Have a
MAGIC
Pride
Weekend
in Madison
July 16th
thru
July 19th

Venturing OUT

Montreal and Amsterdam: Two Warm Welcomes

By Sasha Alyson

The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association held its annual convention in Montreal in May. The 4-day event was a lively reminder to several hundred Gay and Lesbian travel professionals that we don't have to cross the Atlantic to get the charm of Europe.

MONTREAL

Montreal is blessed with a lovely location, extensive cultural life, a vibrant Gay and Lesbian community, and a friendly population. And English is the official second language, not the unofficial one.

Best of all, this is a region where a Gay group is fully welcomed. The province of Quebec issued a poster with the slogan "Visit Gay-Friendly Quebec '98," and I never heard a report of even a single anti-Gay comment from any of the hundreds of guests.

Montreal is an easy 60-90 minute plane ride from major cities in the Northeast and Midwest and just a 5-hour drive through scenic countryside from Boston. You can feel like you've really gotten away to Europe, but in less time, for less money, and with little or no jet lag.

MUST SEE STOPS

This column makes no effort to substitute for a good Gay guidebook, but three spots are high on my list for a return visit the next time I'm in Montreal: The Drugstore (a bar) for a beer on its breezy outdoor terrace, South Beach Grill for innovative cuisine and the vast dance club Unity. All are on, or near, the block of rue St.-Catherine known on Gay maps as "Le Super Block".

Party animals will want to visit Montreal in the autumn to catch the big Black & Blue Festival (Oct. 7 to 13), a weeklong gala of parties, culture and sports culminating in a 12,000-body party. Proceeds go to the non-profit

BBCM Foundation, which supports community and AIDS organizations (www.bbcm.org; 514-875-7026).

Montreal weather was sunny, and everyone was friendly. The weekend's only disappointment came at the airport, where some clueless bureaucrat had decided it would be clever to nickel-and-dime visitors one last time with an "Airport Improvement Fee" upon departure.

"I feel like I'm in a Banana Republic," gruffed the man ahead of me. He paid a tax on top of the tax. Having spent all his Canadian cash, he had to pay with American dollars. These were accepted, but he couldn't get change back.

Next year, perhaps the Montreal airport will distribute pistols to its staff, so everyone can shoot themselves in the foot and save on the cost of toenail clippers.

AMSTERDAM

The Gay Games open in Amsterdam on August 1, with large crowds expected — including some 15,000 athletes. Hotel rooms were booked up a year ago, but that doesn't mean last-minute travelers are out of luck.

As I write this, many tour operators still have space, and are eager to sell it. Try European Gayways (800-923-3308), Club Hommes (201-861-5059), Men on Vacation (800-959-4636) and Above and Beyond (800-397-2681).

The telephone may be better for booking rooms than the web, especially close to departure dates, because availability may change faster than web sites are updated.

Independent travelers also have a good shot at finding space. Tour operators often block out more space than they can fill, and by now, that's been released. A hotel that was booked up last month for the Gay Games may now offer a choice of rooms.

What are those hotels? Several Gay Amsterdam guidebooks are available. A new one that I like is Damron Amsterdam. It is packed with information from a well-respected publisher. Check your local Gay bookstore or call Damron: 800-462-6654. You can also get a good information kit from Netherlands Board of Tourism: 888-GOHOLLAND.

FRIENDLY HOLLAND

Holland is considered the Gay capital of Europe. Less known is the country's long history as a leader on Gay rights. At a time when so many corporations court us for purely bottom-line reasons, it's refreshing to visit a country with a long-standing commitment to our civil rights.

The pioneering C.O.C. began offering support and social opportunities for Amsterdam's Gay community in 1946, and continues to be active. The Dutch government launched an early, active, and explicit AIDS prevention campaign. Gay people have served in the armed forces since 1974, and same-sex marriages are recognized in many cities.

It's too late to participate in the Gay Games as an athlete, but for other information go to www.dds.nl/~Gaygames

GAY TRAVEL MERGER

Merger is in the air lately, and not just for the multinational corporations. Two of the leading web sources of Gay travel information have

joined forces: Planet Out Travel and Over the Rainbow. Look for them at [www.over-](http://www.over-the-rainbow.com)



Warm Welcome — Quebec wants to welcome Gays and Lesbians in a big way as evidenced by the above poster produced by its Board of Tourism.

therainbow.com; AOL users can just type in the keyword OTR.

Sasha Alyson coordinates active and adventure vacations for the Gay community through his company, Alyson Adventures. *Venturing Out* columns from past months may be found at www.fiveforthefuture.com/Gay-travel/.

COME ON DOWN . . .
AND MEET THE STAFF OF THE
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YOU'LL FIND US
ENJOYING THE
MAGIC WEEKEND
IN MADISON, JULY 16-19
LOOK FOR US AT OUR BOOTH
SEE YOU THERE . . .

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Dusty's Madison Pride Primer

By Dusty Sass

Madison - Okay, so you have decided to head to Madison for its big MAGIC/Pride weekend, or you live there and you are gearing up for all the activity. In either case, it is an excellent move.

The only other place I would rather be that weekend is in the middle of a nude pillow fight between Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt being held in my bedroom. Hey, it could happen!

Consider this article as a sort of primer for those who have never fully indulged themselves in the Madison Pride experience.

If you are planning to stay overnight in a hotel, I strongly advise you to make your hotel reservation ASAP. Madison has a shortage of hotel rooms, and the Madison Pride Weekend events aren't the only things going on that weekend.

The Inn on the Park — where Dusty and all the other hot men stay — has singles for just \$79. A big advantage of this place is its location. The Inn is right across the street from two popular Gay bars, Kirby's Klub and the Shamrock. It's also a short walk away from a third Gay bar, Manoeuvres. Furthermore, it's just two blocks to State Street, Madison's trendy shopping area. And who doesn't like to shop?

Next you will want to look over the various events that you are going to attend.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Madison's Gay Men's chorus, Perfect Harmony, is giving a concert. I won't tell you that this group is the Gay equivalent of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, but I will tell you that they are very entertaining.

There is no admission charge, but the chorus will graciously accept your donation at the door. Don't be stingy. Leave them a few bucks to help cover expenses.

The concert is at the First Baptist church on Franklin Street. It starts at 8pm. I would advise you get there early. This gives you a chance to scope out the crowd, er... umm... I mean chat with other music lovers, and it ensures you a seat.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

The United's Annual Awards Dinner at the Hotel Sheraton is almost a must stop. Yes, I know that awards dinners CAN be very boring — "And the winner is... Blah, blah, blah." But this one really is different.

Just Us Closes July 25

By Belle Pepper

Milwaukee — After almost 4 years in business, Janet Mueller and Steve Byers will be closing Just Us, 897 South 5th Street in the historic Walker's Point area. One of my favorite spots for Friday fish fry (I'm really going to miss those potato pancakes), and home to Shoreline, Milwaukee's country dance group, Just Us has provided some fine hospitality to Milwaukee's GLBT community.

Both Janet and Steve will continue their careers with Milwaukee Legal Aid Society. As Janet told me last week, "you don't quit your day job when you go into the bar business." But both have mixed feelings about closing Just Us.

Steve Byers still loves the bartending, the customers and the atmosphere. "I just don't want to get to the point where I hate it," he said.

Taking care of and recently losing his partner Ben E Johnson has taken its toll on his time, energy and emotions, too. He's very excited about having time to get involved in community activities and events. Such as... the Brew City Bears' Labor Day Weekend

The enlightened folks in charge keep things moving at a pretty good pace. There are always a few interesting speakers and the dinner provides support for a very worthwhile group.

Advance reservations for the dinner are required. You can make a reservation by calling The United at (608) 255-8582.

After dinner you will have a choice of two different dances.

The 10% Society is bringing its ever so popular dance to Monona Terrace. Monona Terrace is Madison's new Convention and Community Center. The 10% society is UW Madison's LGBT student group.

These dances are VERY popular and draw up to a couple thousand people. Can you say, "So many men and soooooo little time?" I thought you could.

On the other hand, if cowboys and cowgirls are your thing, dosey doe yourself and/or swing your partner over to the Sapphire Ballroom at 1133 Sherman. That's where the Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys are holding their Open Country Dance.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

I will be starting my day early at the 1998 MAGIC Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

Some of the best Gay V-Ball teams in the Midwest will be competing in this officially sanctioned tourney, which will be held at the Madison East High School, 2222 East Washington.

The tournament starts at 8am and goes until 4pm on Saturday. On Sunday, the games will be played from 8am until 6pm.

If V-Ball isn't your thing, after kicking last night's "love of your life" out of bed and sending him on his way, you may want to head to State Street for some cool shopping.

State Street is Mad Town's main drag. Think of a mall that goes on and on and on for blocks. Along State Street you will find dozens of interesting places to shop at.

But don't tarry over your purchases for too long. You don't want to miss any part of the big event of the day, the MAGIC picnic.

A word to wise here, parking at the MAGIC site, Brittingham Park, is very limited. The organizers have secured permission from the Group Health Cooperative to use its lot, which is just two blocks East of the Park.

Make certain that you bring some extra cash and a credit card or checkbook. Nothing feels

event "Le Bear Day." Bears from all over the U.S. will converge on Milwaukee that weekend to hold their annual event. They'll be headquartered at the Park East Hotel, for those of you who love hairy, beary men.

Shoreline will continue to use the Just Us space for rehearsals, and until they find a new home. But basically both the business and the building is for sale.

Saturday, July 25 Just Us is holding their "Retirement Party" and invite everyone to come down and enjoy 2-for-1 Till it's Done from 7-Close.

worse than finding that perfect T-shirt, necklace, book or button and then not having enough scratch to purchase it.

You will find there are lots of things — and people — to see and do. Don't miss the infamous picnic games, especially the drag race, the high heel race and the purse toss. They are a real riot.

You haven't lived until you have seen a bearded, burly, hair-on-his-back Leatherman racing across the grass in high heels while he attempts to put his bra on.

Back by popular demand is the Car Demolition or the "Wreck the Wreck" game. Start building up those muscles so you'll look especially butch when you swing that sledgehammer.

Make sure you stop by our Wisconsin Light booth. We will be selling helium filled balloons containing messages of love and hope. It is our way of answering the hateful messages on those anti-Christian billboards.

One other word to the wise here: for \$10 the picnic includes unlimited beer and soda. Some people need to be reminded that just because they can get another free beer doesn't mean they have to. Don't overindulge. There is nothing worse than an early evening hangover. Not that I have ever gotten one of those mind you, but I have seen those who have.

Saturday night there is nothing on the Pride calendar. That leaves you free to check out Madison's Gay nightlife and find out why they call it Mad Town.

Kirby's Klub located at 121 West Main is a nice place to start. It draws a good mix of people, is conveniently located and always has a friendly crowd.

Next, I suggest a stop at the Shamrock. This very friendly place is just two doors away from Kirby's. The Shamrock's owner, JJ, is a real sweetheart. If you are hungry, they will be happy to cook you up a great sandwich. They don't use any of that frozen, preserved microwave stuff either. You get the real thing here.

Ray's, 3052 E. Washington, is a bit off the beaten track, but worth a stop. Ray's has a large dance floor, an outdoor patio and lots of space.

Manoeuvres is a must stop. It's located at 150 Blair Street. Manoeuvres is actually two bars in one. The front bar is a dance club. The MAD bar is a Levi and Leather hangout.

Up front, DJ Tony Richards, one of my favorite DJs, keeps things very lively. Hunky Charlie, a former Mr. Leather Wisconsin, holds court in the MAD bar. The MAD bar also has an interesting selection of videos - not that I have EVER watched them. I heard about those too.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

If you closed the bars down on Saturday night, you will appreciate the wisdom of those who scheduled the Pre March Rally for a 1:30pm start time.

The Rally will be at the State Street entrance to the State Capitol. I don't know who will be speaking, but I am sure you will get a chance to cheer for Tammy Baldwin at some point. That's good, because I have been practicing my "Win Tammy Win" cheers.

The Pride March starts at 2pm. The organizers have wisely moved it back to State Street. This is Wisconsin's largest Pride Parade. With the controversy over those dam, bigoted billboards, this year's turnout is sure to set a record.

Expect a few protesters, but ignore them. Our photographers have fun with them. We like to take pictures of the bigots and then use them in "Get Out the Gay Vote" ads. The fools have absolutely noooooo clue. They always strike these fierce poses whenever they see one of our cameras.

A big GAYla at Brittingham Park follows the parade. The GAYla is similar to the MAGIC picnic. Unlike the MAGIC picnic, the emphasis at the GAYla will be on entertainment instead of games. All GAYla proceeds go to GALVANize, the organization that produces the Pride celebration.

If you still have any partying left in you, there is one more event to check out. It's the Miss Capitol City Pageant at Manoeuvres.

The winner qualifies for the Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A pageant. The competition is always fierce. Show time is at 10:30pm. A big crowd is expected so I advise you to get there early.

So there you have it. Everything you need to know about how to have a great time in Madison. Don't miss it. On the other hand, if Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt are having a nude pillow fight in your bedroom, give me a call and I'll be right over.



Steve Byers, co-owner of Just Us, will miss his customers.

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Possum Droppings



By Ted Berg

Possum Mania has bitten Ilease A Trailer. Ilease is Just Us Possum Queen candidate, Iona Trailer's main squeeze. Having thrown his high heels into the campaign, Ilease will represent This Is It. You know what they say, "A family that drags together fights over mascara, lipstick and jewelry too."

I hear they are buying dresses that they both can wear. That is scary!! Ilease A trailer will be raising money for ARCW's Gay and Lesbian Outreach.

Upcoming Events: On August 1st, South Water Street Docks will try to drown Possum Queen candidates in a dunk tank. Don't worry. It's ok because it's for charity. Each candidate will keep all money raised while they are being dunked. The night will be capped off with a drip-dry Drag Show.

On August 8th, Amanda Hunt is leaving town to spread Possum Fever at Halsted Street Days in Chicago. The Ballgame is chartering a bus for the fun. Call them for details: (414) 273-7474.

On August 15th, Ilease A Trailer is set to bust out all over with a beer bust and raffles at This Is It from 4pm to 8pm.

The Grand Finale for the Possum Queen campaign will take place at PrideFest on Friday, August 28th,

when the new Possum Queen will be crowned during a fantastic show.

Rehash... On June 27th, Charlotte Lorraine and Lizzie Bordeaux gave a party for the candidates. The guests were to bring a dish to pass, but they got confused. They thought they were supposed to bring someone to dish. At

to promote the Possum Queen Campaign. Past winners were Jackie O'Gasm of the M&M Club and Kathy Kau, proprietor of Kathy's Nut Hut.

Forty people remembered Tommy's life and enjoyed the Milwaukee skyline, fresh air, and the wit of Max Barnett. Renee said the money raised would go to ARCW. On a side note, Renee received a Master's Degree in Health Education. Congratulations on a job well done!



Possum Cruise — The Polubinsky family with Max Barnett on the Polubinsky Memorial Cruise.

The Possum Queen Campaign, now in its 8th year has raised over \$88,000. All donations have gone to services that improve the lives of people affected by HIV and AIDS and help prevent this

the party, the candidates received their sashes and exchanged tips on how to campaign, with bits of campaign gossip sprinkled into the conversation.

On July 1st, Renee Polubinsky sponsored a cruise as a memorial to her late brother, Tommy, who died from AIDS in 1996. Tommy, a.k.a. Wednesday Addams, was Possum Queen in 1994.

After his death, Tommy's family and friends created the Tommy Award. Tommy's brother, Peter, designed the award. It is given to the person who goes above and beyond the call of duty

disease. As Charlotte Lorraine, the first Possum Queen from 1991, said, "That is not bad for something that started as a joke."

In 1997, the campaign raised \$26,012.02. Each dollar you donate brings more services to a part of our community that is in need. This is a fun way to combat a killer and do it with a smile.

Yes, I'm bitten with Possum Mania and a love for a tree-dwelling American marsupial. Dig deep into your pockets when that not-so-perfect drag queen asks you for a buck!

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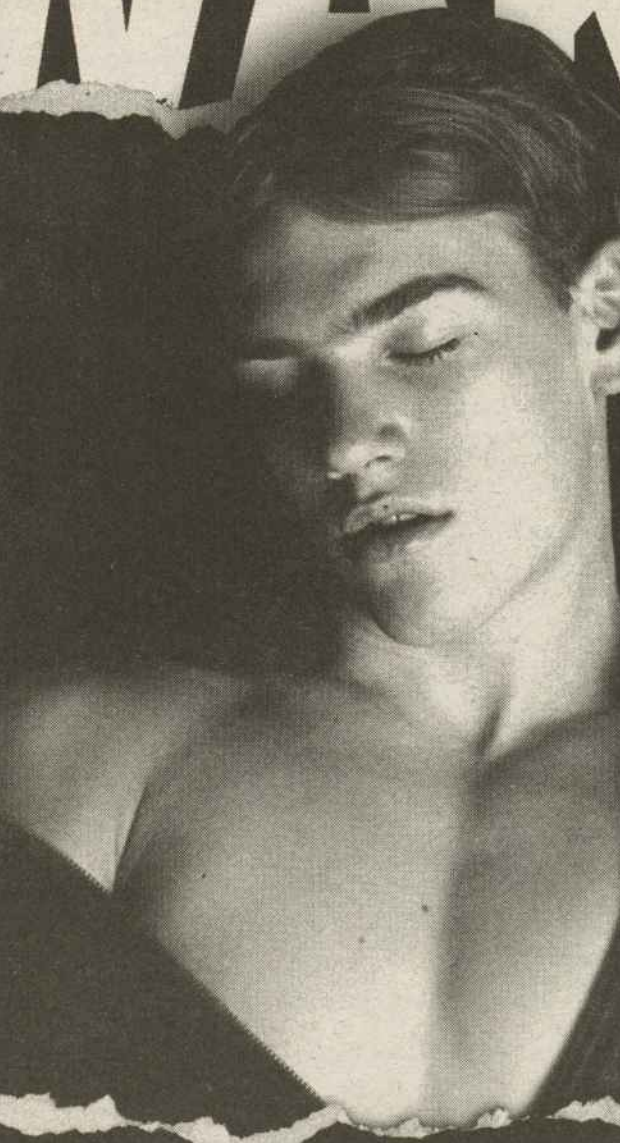
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WAKE UP



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

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

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OUT In Print



New on the Shelf

NON-FICTION

Improper Bostonians

Compiled by the History Project
Foreword by Barney Frank
Beacon; HC \$30.00

Fun, often surprising and magnificently illustrated, *Improper Bostonians* is the first book to depict the last three centuries of Gay and Lesbian Boston, the American city with the longest recognized history of Gay and Lesbian life. It is the most comprehensive history ever written of a Gay city.

Drawing on newspaper accounts, private archives, advertisements, and other sources, *Improper Bostonians* introduces us to men and women who flouted conventional gender rules, were unapologetic about their lifestyles, and tried to make sense of their sexuality — sometimes at great cost.

Husband Hunting Made Easy: And Other Miracles for the Modern Gay Man

By Patrick Price, Eric Orner (Illustrator)
St. Martin's Press; Pb \$12.95

Here is a must-have for every Gay husband hunter! Patrick Price has written a deliciously witty yet marvelously informative how-to for the modern Gay man.

Never fear, there is nothing dryly academic here. This book is wry, more than occasionally bitchy, and altogether forthright. Filled with fun quizzes, hilarious illustrations and photos, and lots of advice on what to do and who to avoid, it's the perfect handbook for anyone who's ever had a husband or even wanted one.

FICTION

Passing Remarks

By Helen Hodgman
Ballantine; Pb \$11.00

When middle-aged, academic Rosemary meets 27 year-old Billie, a woman with a tough bike and an even tougher attitude, she gets weak in the knees. When Billie takes off through the Australian outback, Rosemary is left to ponder love and longevity, and have a few adventures of her own.

Cooled up for the summer with Daphne, who is busy transforming her body into a tattooed biography of her mad mother's life, Rosemary unwittingly winds up with a leading role in a Lesbian porn flick, loses her car to a shears-wielding murderer, and still finds time to compost her garden and miss Billie.

Desmond

By Ulysses G. Dietz
Alyson; Pb \$13.95

Here is a first novel that hopes to redefine vampire lore by creating an immortal whose life is dominated by human desires and problems. And he's Gay. Openly.

But Desmond Beckwith, 250-years-old, still loves the hetero vampire romances of Anne Rice, though he knows they're trash and wishes someone would get beyond all that make-believe about mindless killers depressed with the misery of eternal life.

Old as he is, he looks a particularly well-tended 45. He loves his straight friend, Roger, but of course can neither bed nor bite him. Then he meets gorgeous, young Tony Chapman at a Gay bar and is swept away. This book is wonderful entertainment for a cold, gray day.

Gay Travel Guides

By Glenn Bishop

Sadly, Glenn Bishop doesn't travel. Not lately, at least. While Glenn's many friends have been gone helter-skelter near and far, Glenn remains in Milwaukee. Always in Milwaukee.

Not that Glenn doesn't enjoy traveling — Glenn does. Not so many years ago Glenn was quite the globetrotter. Before the plethora of Gay and Lesbian travel guides, Glenn blazed trails, both in the USA and Europe. One might say that Glenn was something of a bi-continental tourist.

Still, Glenn can often be seen perusing the many travel guides at Glenn's favorite bookstore. Heaven forbid Glenn buys one, but he can still read and dream.

Most often Glenn dreams of Europe, the place of Kings - not to mention Queens. London, Paris, Amsterdam and Prague, — home of those scrumptious Bel Ami boys — are just a few of the highlights.

The longtime favorite Gay Europe guide remains the annual *Spartacus International Gay Guide 1998/1999* (Pb \$32.95). For a hefty price, readers can find the most accurate info on Europe as well as the rest of the world — the bars, the baths, the best cruising, plus restaurant and hotel info.

Glenn is green with envy for those lucky enough to be headed to Amsterdam later this summer for the Gay Games. Many wonderful travel guides can be found on Gay Amsterdam.

The folks at Spartacus have brought out a special low price (\$12.00) guide to this fabulous city as have the editors from Damron. Glenn felt the nicest feature of the *Damron Amsterdam* (Pb \$9.95) is that it fits quite nicely in your pocket!

Sadly, Gay and Lesbian travelers will find few other city-specific guides for European destinations.

From Ferrari this summer comes a marvelously complete guide to Paris, *Gay Paris* (Pb \$17.95). Not only does it offer a complete portrait of the hottest Gay spots in Paris, it also includes all those unmissable mainstream tourist sights. Glenn hears wonderful comments about this very comprehensive volume and hopes to use it very soon.

To that end, might Glenn suggest donating any available loose change to the "Let's Get Glenn to Europe Fund?" Sadly, the IRS is not likely to find your donations appropriately tax deductible.

Moving right along...

Travelers to London can supplement their Spartacus with *Spartacus Britain & Ireland* (Pb \$24.95) or the wonderfully pocket-sized *London Scene* (Gay Men's Press Pb \$11.95).

Those with lengthy visits planned in various European capitals might also look towards a series of travel guides put out by Time Out. While not specifically Gay/Lesbian, these Time Out Guides include wonderfully comprehensive sections on accommodations, food and drink, the traditional tourist spots, and as extensive a Gay section that can be found in any mainstream guide.

While much of the world is ignored in Gay travel guides, those heading for Thailand can find a wealth of materials. Certainly the most comprehensive look at Thailand is rather curiously titled, *The Men of Thailand: Thailand's Culture and Gay Subculture* (Pb \$21.95). More than a guide, *The Men of Thailand* offers much information on customs and culture.

In a more convenient pocket-size is *Thai Scene* (from the publishers of *London Scene*, and *Paris Scene* among others).

But do they speak English? Worry not faithful readers of the new *Wisconsin Light*. Those with Thailand in their travel dreams need look no further than *The New WYSIWYS Thai Phrase Book* (Pb \$16.95). WYSIWYS? What You See Is What You Say. Need Glenn say more?

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

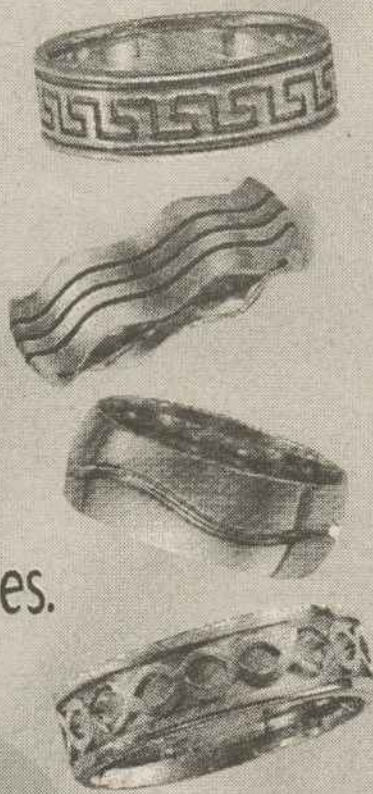
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July at Afterwords!

Wednesday, July 15th 7pm
Lesbian & Gay Writers' Group
New members welcome!

Wednesday, July 29th 7pm
Lesbian Reading Group
Read My Lips by Rikki Anne Wilchins

Tell them
you read all
about it in
Wisconsin Light!

OUT on Film



Fletcher (Joel S. Keller) and Rosemary (Kerry Fox) tie the knot in not-so-holy matrimony.

Gay-Themed *The Hanging Garden* Combines Surrealist Fantasy With Drama

Reviewed by John Jahn

On his sister's wedding day, William (Chris Leavins) returns to his rural Nova Scotia home after a decade's absence. When he left his parents and sister behind, William was an obese, introverted, unhappy, suicidal, closeted teenager. Now, he's thin, attractive, and openly Gay — though not altogether a well-adjusted man.

He's carrying some serious emotional baggage from a disastrous upbringing at the hands of a codependent mother and an abusive, alcoholic father.

Upon his arrival back home, William quickly realizes that his immediate family is as dysfunctional as ever. His foul-mouthed sister

Mac forced the pre-teen William to tend the family garden and memorize the names and characteristics of all the different flower varieties therein. As a 350 lb. teenager, he's reviled at school and beaten by his father at home.

There's a particularly funny scene in this very black comedy in which the teenaged William and Fletcher are fondling each other when his grandmother spots them from her bedroom window. She clasps one of her many Catholic statuettes and prays feverishly.

William's mother, Iris, wanting to do well, insists on "straightening him out" by having him visit a local tramp.

Things become serious again when, the next day, William seemingly commits suicide. How



Troy Veinotte, left, stars as the teenage Sweet William, and Joel S. Keller stars as Fletcher in Goldwyn Films' darkly comic drama *The Hanging Garden*.

Rosemary (Kerry Fox) is the not-so-blushing bride of Fletcher (Joel S. Keller). Fletcher is an adorable young man who "fooled around" with William when they were boyhood pals. He still shows interest in (at least) a one-nighter with the thin and cute William. A young girl, the sullen tomboyish Violet (Christine Dunsworth) is introduced as a sister William never knew he had.

Grandma Grace (Joan Orenstein) has gone completely senile and spends all her time feverishly practicing her Catholic devotions. William's mom, Iris (Seanna McKenna), seems to be slowly losing her sanity, too, especially after decades of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband, "Whiskey" Mac (Peter MacNeill).

Even the family dog is gassy, blind, and abused. This is truly the Family from Hell!

William's return to this highly dysfunctional environment causes him to be plagued by visions of his awful child and young adulthood.

Buffalo '66 is a Powerful, Gripping Film

Reviewed by John Jahn

Vincent Gallo has thrown himself into every aspect of the powerful, gripping, darkly comic new film, *Buffalo '66*. Not only does Gallo portray the main character, Billy Brown; he is also the director, writer (of both the original story and the screenplay) and the film's composer!

If this project — his debut at directing — is any indication of what his future output will be like, then folks, we have a major new force in

could he have done this when he obviously survived into adulthood? The film doesn't fully explain whether he actually died or not, a major, unnecessarily confusing flaw.

Writer/Producer/Director Thom Fitzgerald goes a bit overboard in his effort to bring to life this family and its myriad problems. Everyone is so terribly screwed up that they just don't seem like "real" people when taken as a whole.

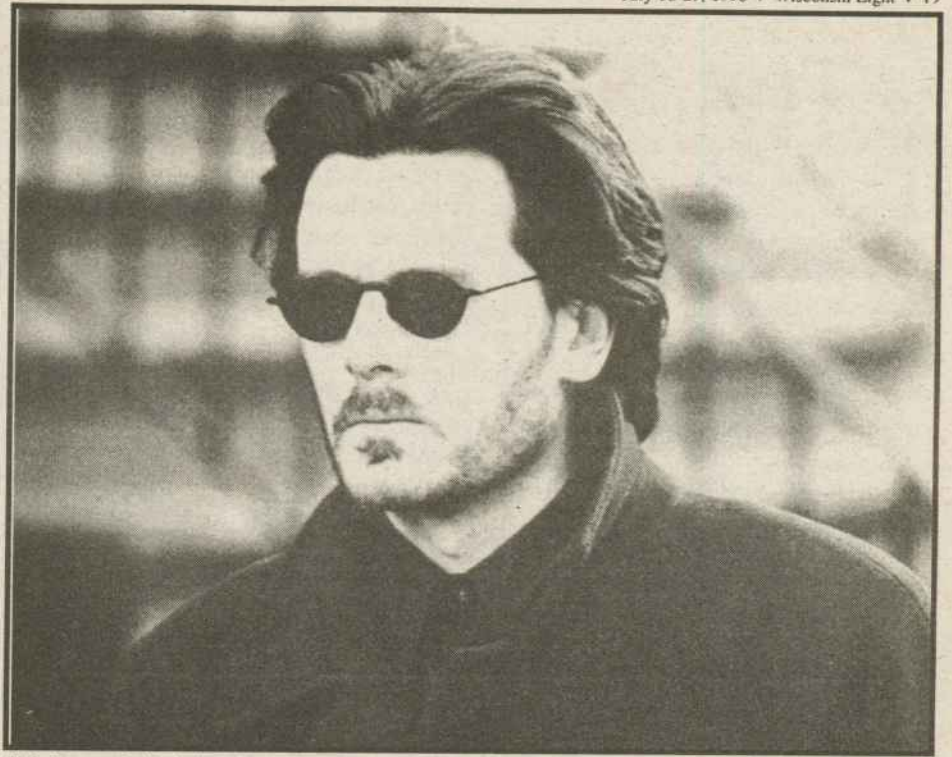
Individually the performances, in particular MacNeill's abusive father, are very good. But throwing them all together causes a sense of dysfunctional overload to envelop you. This somewhat obscures the film's message: that no matter how much you hate your life in its current moment in time, it's possible to become the person that you want to be if you just (no pun intended) hang in there! O.K., maybe it was intended.

The Hanging Garden opens at Milwaukee's Landmark Oriental Theater on Friday, July 17. ** 1/2

Buffalo '66 refers to the year and city in which Billy was born and raised. The film shows a few days in his life following his release from a 5-year prison term.

Billy was in prison because his bookie (Mickey Rourke) threatened him into taking the fall for a crime as a way of paying off a \$10,000 debt. He was one of the many Americans to have lost money betting on the Buffalo Bills in

Please see *Buffalo '66*, Page 20



Chris Eigeman in *Mr. Jealousy*.

Attempted Comedy *Mr. Jealousy* More Aptly Titled *Mr. Pathetic*

Reviewed by John Jahn

Lester Grimm (Eric Stoltz) is a man who believes in love even though it continues to elude him. He's continually hopeful that the next girlfriend will be his last. His dream seemingly comes true when he meets Ramona Ray (Annabella Sciorra).

Beautiful, spirited and charmingly idiosyncratic, Ramona has only one flaw (in Lester's eyes): she had a life before meeting him, including past boyfriends. In his more rational moments, Lester knows his jealousy is unreasonable. But the more he loves Ramona, the more he can't stand the idea that she's been with other men.

Things really come to a head when he encounters one of her past flames, the best-selling author Dashiell Frank (Chris Eigeman).

Mr. Jealousy follows the demented and pathetic exploits of Lester in his efforts to know everything there is to know about Ramona's past and to somehow placate his outrageous jealousy. He gets involved in Dashiell's therapy group posing as his snobbish best friend, Vince

(Carlos Jacott). He encourages Dashiell to talk about his past relationships, thus creating for himself an even more all-consuming jealousy as Dashiell begins fondly recalling Ramona. On and on it goes.

Mr. Jealousy is an attempted comedy. Apart from a few laughs here and there, it fails to engage you sympathetically in Lester Grimm's self-absorbed quest for love. The film is inappropriately titled. *Mr. Pathetic* is a far more apt title, for that's what Lester truly is.

It's difficult to find sympathy for this depressing guy, as cute as he may be. Add to that the cornball ending and you have a pretty dreadful film, dedicated once again to the care and feeding of twenty-somethings.

Generally there are good performances and writing and competent directing, but they fail to overcome the film's central and fatal flaws. *Mr. Jealousy* just isn't very funny and the main character is a pathetic little worm, who we develop zero sympathy for.

Mr. Jealousy opened at the Landmark Downer Theater on July 10th. * 1/2

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THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass

News... It is such a pleasure to tell you that Ed Grunewald at **Manoeuvres** has finally gotten all the pieces together for his relocation. The new **Club 5** will be a great addition to Madison — and to Wisconsin's — bar scene. Not that **Manoeuvres** is not a great place to party, it's just that Ed and his fine crew can only do so much with what the space they have. They did a great job at **Manoeuvres** and beginning in mid-August, they will do a great job at their new place, **Club 5**.

I hear that **Just Us** will be closing on July 25. That's too bad. This was a nice place. Their shows were great, so were the fish fries. My thanks go out to the management and staff for the many great times I have had there.

Recaps — Ah yes, summer in Wisconsin, the beer, the brats, the fireworks, the Brewer's and all those Pride celebrations. Did you have a great Fourth? I know I did.

The Firstar Fireworks were fabulous. My friend Dave, AKA Baby Huey, had his annual fireworks party down by the lakefront. He is an ever so gracious host.

Afterwards, I headed over to **This Is It**. A lot of other people had the same idea and the place was mobbed. I was really amazed. Even with all those people the bartenders — and owner Joe too — somehow managed to keep smiling. It's nice to go a place where they don't just push your drink and change at you no matter how busy they are.

Later that evening I hit some other places where I also had a great time. At **Dish**, DJ Amy had the crowd hopping. There were lots of smiles at **C'est Le Vie** as well. Not to be outdone, the patriotic fervor of the crowd at the **Ball Game** showed through.

There was a lively crowd at **In Between** as well as at **La Cage**. The leather crowd at the **Boot Camp** was out in force and the patio there was packed. I didn't get to the **Eagle**, but I heard they had a big crowd as well.

On the Fourth, I went to **Summerfest**. I saw our Congressman Tom Barrett, and his charming wife at the James Taylor concert. Tom's okay in my book. Too bad we have to have those others in Congress too.

Dr. Shovelit and I had a perfectly delightful lunch while sitting on **La Perla's** big deck. The food was great and so was the service. The chicken quesadilla (okay so I don't know how to spell it) is to die for.

There was a big crowd on hand at **South Water Street Docks** for their big Softball team fundraiser on July 11. I hope they raised lots of money. Their team is going to Gay World Series in Atlanta.

I didn't make it to the **ROW Pride Picnic**, but I heard that it was fabulous and that everyone had a great time. I heard this from two now ex-friends who called to thank the **Light** for bringing the picnic to their attention. Unfortunately they forgot to pay some attention to me by picking me up on their way out of town — the ingrates!

I consoled myself by going to **Bastille Days**, where I ran into some very nice Canadians.

Coming Up... The big event for the next couple of weeks is the **Pride Weekend in Madison**. I will be there for the whole thing and I can't tell you how excited I am about going mad in Mad Town. I could go on and on but instead I refer you to my **Madison Pride Weekend Primer** which is on Page 16 of this issue.

Za's in Green Bay is celebrating its Ninth Anniversary with a big bash the weekend of July 18 and 19. On Saturday, July 18, the bar will host the **Mr. Great Lakes US of A Pageant**. On Sunday, July 19, **Za's** will have a special "Open Bar" party for its VIP cardholders — hey, where can I get one of those cards?!

Seriously though, **Za's** is a great place. I am sure everyone in Green Bay is proud of the nine fabulous years that Mark and Ken have given to the community.

Speaking of Green Bay, the bars there are in the middle of their Guernsey contest. This is an annual fundraiser for **ARCW-Green Bay**. Make sure you support your favorite cow er...um candidate.

On Tuesday, July 21, the **Miss Gay Continental Wisconsin Pageant** will be at **Club 219**. By the way, new owner Chuck did a great job with remodeling the place. The pageant gives you an ever so convenient excuse to stop by and take a look.

There are other things going on as well. Like the big Grand Opening weekend at **Fluid** from July 24 to July 26. When I first heard about this, I thought, "Wait a minute they have been open for several months." But then a friend pointed out that it is one thing to be open and quite another thing to be "grandly open."

He then made some crude analogy about certain body parts, but I won't go into that here. I always thought that **Fluid** was a grand place to have a good time but I can't wait to see what Billy and Jimmy have cooked up to celebrate their success. Whatever it is, I am sure it will be done with the same sense of class and style that **Fluid** is known for.

Speaking of class and style, on Saturday, July 25 you will find me at the **M&M Club** to watch and listen to one of my favorite groups, **Singsational**. I give owner Bob Schmidt lots of credit for continually bringing live entertainment to this bar.

On Saturday, July 25, **LAMM** is holding a Lesbian Christmas in July party at **Jacobus Park**. How come the Lesbians get to celebrate Christmas in July? If I were a Lesbian I would certainly be there.

It must be like a Lesbian weekend, because on Sunday, July 26, **Ronnie Nyles** will be performing at **Rainbow's End** in La Crosse. Actually **Ronnie's** music is pretty universal, but she is a Lesbian — I am sure you are as shocked by that as I am — and there is a big women's softball tournament in Sparta that weekend.

Speaking of mysteries — no, we are not talking about my sex life — the folks at the **Triangle** say they want everyone to come by on Friday, July 31, for their "Party of the Decade." What this party will constitute has not been revealed. Even Dr. Shovelit says it's a mystery. Hmm... I guess we will just have to wait and see.

On August 1, **South Water Street Docks** is having a Possum Queen carnival. Your favorite candidate will probably be in the dunk tank so if there is a Possum Queen wanna be, who you want to drown, here is your chance.

That will be a busy day, because that evening, the **Miss Gay Kenosha Pageant** will be held at **Club 94**. **Miss Josie Lynn**, **Neely O'Hara** and **Susie S** will be there along with a bevy of others.

In between running hither and thither in my never-ending efforts to keep you, my faithful readers, fully informed, I am planning on other stops. I will be at **La Cage** where the hottest show in town, the **La Cage Showcase**, reigns supreme. I will also be checking in at **In Between** where I never fail to find someone interesting to talk to and someone interesting to look at.

The same is true of the **Ball Game**, which is one of my favorite places to stop in at cocktail hour. One of these nights, soon I hope I am going to don my dead animal skin and hit Milwaukee's leather bars: **The Milwaukee Eagle**, the **Boot Camp**, the **1100 Club** and **Docks**. I have never done a leather tour where I get to all of them. That's because I wind up having such a good time at one of them, that I don't leave and make it to the next stop.

Dr. **Susie Shovelit** told me that she would come along with me this time and bring her whip to force me along.

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

WISCONSIN LIGHT'S GUIDE TO GOING OUT

MILWAUKEE

- 1100 Club** • 1100 S. 1st St. • 414-647-9950 ♂ ♀ ☿ ☼
- Ballgame** • 196 S. 2nd St. • 414-273-7474 ♂ ☿
- Barbies Playhouse** • 700 E. Meinecke St. • 414-374-7441 ♀ 🎵
- Boot Camp** • 209 E. National Ave. • 414-643-6900 ♂ ☿
- C'est La Vie** • 231 S. 2nd St. • 414-291-9600 ♂ ☿ ★
- Club 219** • 219 S. 2nd St. • 414-271-3732 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵 ★
- D's Place** • 4025 N. Port Washington Rd. • 414-962-9487 ♀ ☿
- DISH** • 235 S. 2nd St. • 414-273-DISH ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Emeralds Lounge** • 801 E. Hadley St. • 414-265-7325 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Fannies** • 200 E. Washington St. • 414-649-9003 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Fluid** • 819 S. 2nd St. • 414-645-8330 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Glass Menagerie** • 124 N. Water St. • 414-347-1962 ♂ ♀ ☼
- In Between** • 625 S. 2nd St. • 414-273-2693 ♂ ☿
- Just Us** • 807 S. 5th St. • 414-383-2233 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Kathy's Nut Hut** • 1500 W. Scott St. • 414-647-2673 ♂ ♀ ☿
- La Cage** • 801 S. 2nd St. • 414-383-8330 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Mama Roux Bar & Grill** • 1875 N. Humboldt • 414-347-0344 ♂ ♀ ☿ ☼
- The Milwaukee Eagle** • 3rd and Juneau • 414-273-6900 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- M&M Club** • 124 N. Water St. • 414-347-1962 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Renez Co-Z Corner II** • 3500 W. Park Hill • 414-933-RENE ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Station 2** • 1534 W. Grant • 414-383-5755 ♂ ♀ ☿
- South Water St. Docks** • 354 E. National Ave. • 414-225-9676 ♂ ☿
- This Is It** • 418 E. Wells St. • 414-278-9192 ♂ ☿ 🎵
- Triangle** • 135 E. National Ave. • 414-383-9412 ♂ ☿
- Walker's Point Cafe** • 1106 S. 1st St. • 414-384-7999 ♂ ♀ ☼
- Woody's** • 1579 S. 2nd St. • 414-672-0806 ♂ ☿

MADISON/LA CROSSE

- Kirby's Klub** • 121 W. Main, Madison • 608-251-5838 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Manoeuvres & MAD (Manoeuvres After Dark)** • 150 S. Blair, Madison • 608-258-9918 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Players** • 218 Main, La Crosse • 608-782-9279 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Ray's Bar & Grill** • 3052 E. Washington, Madison • 608-241-9335 ♂ ♀ 🎵
- Shamrock** • 117 W. Main, Madison • 608-255-5029 ♂ ☿

RACINE/KENOSHA/SOUTHEAST WI/ROCKFORD IL

- Club 94** • 9001 120th, Kenosha • 414-857-9958 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵 ★
- Clubhouse Filling Station** • 6325 120th Ave., Kenosha • 414-857-3744 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵 ☼
- Crossroads Bar** • W6642 Hwy B, Lake Mills • 414-648-8457 ♂ ♀ ☿
- JoDee's** • 2139 Racine St., Racine • 414-634-9804 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵 ★
- The Office** • 513 E. State, Rockford, IL • 815-965-0344 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- OZONE** • 1014 Charles St., Rockford, IL • 815-964-9663 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- What About Me?** • 600 6th St., Racine • 414-632-0171 ♂ ♀ ☿

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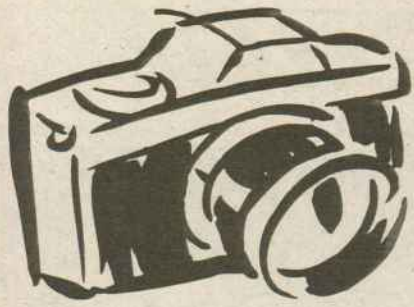
- Blue Light** • 1029 N. 8th, Sheboygan • 920-457-1636 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Brandy's II** • 1126 Main St., Green Bay • 920-437-3917 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Buddies** • 1264 Main St., Green Bay • 920-437-9256 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Java's** • 1106 Main St., Green Bay • 920-435-5476 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Napalese** • 515 S. Broadway, Green Bay • 920-432-9646 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Rascal's Bar & Grill** • 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton • 920-954-9262 ♂ ♀ ☿ ☼
- Sass** • 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay • 920-437-7277 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Za's/Java's** • 1106 Main St., Green Bay • 920-435-5476 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵

WAUSAU/SUPERIOR/STEVENS POINT/EAU CLAIRE/ESCANABA MI

- Club Xpress** • 904 Ludington, Escanaba, MI • 906-789-0140 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- JT's Bar & Grill** • 1506 N. 3rd, Superior • 715-394-2580 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵 ☼
- The Main** • 1217 Tower Ave., Superior • 715-392-1756 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- OZ** • 320 Washington St., Wausau • 715-842-3225 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Platwood Club** • 1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point • 715-341-8862 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Scooters** • 411 Galloway St., Eau Claire • 715-835-9959 ♂ ♀ ☿ 🎵
- Trio** • 820 Tower, Superior • 715-392-5373 ♂ ♀ ☿
- Wolfe's Den** • 302 E. Madison, Eau Claire • 715-832-9237 ♂ ♀ ☿

KEY

- ♂ = Men ♀ = Women ☿ = Bar/Lounge 🎵 = Dancebar
★ = Showbar ☼ = Restaurant



GOTCHA!!



Guess who raided the Domes? — This Is It



Guess who's the butchest — Boot Camp



Guess who's Canadian — This Is It



Guess who isn't posing? — This Is It



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Buffalo '66, Continued from Page 3

Bills in their many unsuccessful trips to the Super Bowl.

He has nowhere to go but back home to his folks. Billy wants to impress his parents not only by telling them he's been away on "government business," but also by claiming to be married. He kidnaps and terrorizes a young lady into accompanying him to his family home and playing his happy spouse.

Layla (Christina Ricci, seen most recently in *The Opposite of Sex*) goes along with the plan. She soon finds out what helped produce Billy — the unkempt, bullying, bullshitting ex-con: his highly dysfunctional parents!

Billy's mom, Janet (a barely recognizable Anjelica Huston) is obsessed with the Buffalo Bills. She watches videotapes of their Super Bowl losses over and over again, deluded into thinking that one of these days they're going to win. She recalls that the only Bills game she ever missed was the day she gave birth to Billy. It's an unpleasant memory.

Jimmy Brown (Ben Gazzara), Billy's father, is clearly a smoldering flame waiting to explode into a flash of violence. He barely restrains himself when Billy, Janet or even Layla start getting on his severely frazzled nerves.

Jimmy is a 60-something, working-

class man who knows his life is essentially over. He's just biding his time with nothing to do, nowhere to go, and nothing to think about except the unfulfilled dreams of his past.

Buffalo '66 follows the relationship between Billy and Layla as they move between the polar opposites of hatred to sympathy and even love. Layla eventually falls for the emotionally damaged Billy, and he has to deal with highly conflicted emotions inside himself.

The film is not only an off beat love story, but also a powerful depiction of the travesties of emotional and physical abuse and, quite frankly, untreated mental illness.

There would clearly be no film to see were it not for Vincent Gallo, a veteran of 17 independent films. His portrayal of Billy is superb. The character is loaded with shame, resentment and anger, but there's also a soft core there somewhere, if only Layla can find it.

Billy is too uncomfortable in his own skin, to be looked at too closely by someone else, thinking that they're identifying the billions of imperfections in his appearance, is overwhelming to him.

Buffalo '66 is a powerful testament to Gallo's singular vision, and well worth seeing. It opens at Milwaukee's Landmark Oriental Theater on July 17th. ***1/2

Dear Ruthie

Hello out there in newspaper land! I'm about to get ready to head on down to Madison, Wisconsin for their wonderful Pride parade and picnic, but had to stop at a friend's trailer park first. I'm writing this from my friend Pearl's Annual Fourth of July bash. "No thanks, Pearl, I don't like deviled eggs — particularly those red and blue ones."

I love the Fourth of July. As I've said before, it's the only holiday that combines two of America's favorite pastimes: explosives and alcoholic consumption.

Anyhow... I hope you're all enjoying the summer and the pride activities that go with it — like the one in Madison!!! I urge everyone to get out there — hang your pride flag, take off your shirt, slap on some tanning oil, and HEAD ON OVER TO MY TRAILER!

No, actually, head on out to the pride celebration in your community. It's a great way to meet people, have a few beers, get in touch with your community, have a few more beers, and most importantly show society that we're here — we're queer — and we're drunk... I mean, get used to it! Not the drunk part, get used to the part about being here. Oh forget it.

"Hey — Harriet hurry and get me another beer... I mean beer." Sorry. Boy — I'm starting to feel dizzy. Must be the heat.

So anyway, I've got a letter to read you. Just let me have one more sip... or two. Okay. Where the hell is that letter? Well... we're all here at Pearl's Fourth of July party... did I tell you this already? "Hey Harriet — I'm almost out of beer! Chop-chop with another one or I'm gonna flush your pills."

Okay... soooo... I'm Dear Ruthie and I have a little letter to read you all... my readers... my dear, sweet, wonderful readers.... I love you, reader person. "Pearl — get those damn eggs away from me." I can't stand Pearl's parties — she never has enough beer. "Harriet — You're not gonna find my beer down that guy's shorts, now get over here."

Boy — I'm dizzy. Hey — whatever happened to Mr. Rourke from 'Fantasy Island,' huh? He was so cute. I loved that Mr. Rourke... and Gopher. I must have a yen for men in white. Hey there's a song in there. "I have a yen... for white dressed men... Pearl did you hear my new song? I have a yennnnn for white dressed mennnnnn."

That little Gopher can plow my field any day. "What do mean 'I've had enough?' You've had enough Egg-Lady! You laid those eggs now you eat 'em!" God — I need another beer. "Hey — Harriet — what ever happened to Mr. Rourke? Harriet, are you a Gopher-Girl or an Isaac-Girl?"

"I'm a Gopher-Girl." A 'Gopher-Girl,' I think I paid \$2.00 to see her in a freak show once. "Pearl — go tell Harriet to take her lips off that man's neck." I have a yennnn for white dressed....

"Hey — what's your name? My friend Harriet is sucking beer out of that man for me. See her? Wave to her. 'Hello Harriet! What do you think of this one? Nice butt, 'eh?'"

I think I'm gonna lay down a bit and then answer a letter — if I can find it. I have a yennnn... oh dear...I'm not feeling well.

Dear Ruthie,

A few years ago I was married to a wonderful woman who blessed me with a son. He is now five. Since his birth I have realized my true sexual orientation and his mother and I divorced amicably.

My family was at first very upset and confused with my announcement regarding the divorce and my "new-found" sexuality. Most of my family has come around nicely — except my brother.

My brother refused to talk to me and basically ended our relationship. We did not even speak for the first eight months after my telling him. We do speak now,



but only at family events and only when we have to. It is obvious he has issues with my homosexuality.

While this situation is tiresome, stressful, and just plain sad, I have learned to live with his mean-spirited attitude. The problem is that he is getting married early next spring, and has asked me (via our mother) if my five year-old son could stand-up in the wedding.

My ex-wife has custody of my son, but I have complete visitation rights and he does spend two weekends a month with me. My son does have a decent relationship with his uncle — my brother. My ex-wife doesn't mind either way. Because it's my family she is staying out of this.

Should I let my son be a part of this wedding? I feel that because my brother is so rude to me, and has been for a number of years, I should not let my son participate in this wedding. On the other hand, they have a good uncle/nephew relationship, so I feel torn. Any suggestions?

(signed)
Parent Trap

Dear Parent,

Boy, are you asking the right dame! Honey, I've ran down the aisle so many times that my church had to install speed bumps. Out of all of my weddings, I've never noticed the ring bearer making or breaking the event.

Except when Vinnie and I got married at the circus. Jo-Jo, the world's smallest man, was our ring bearer and my maid-of-honor was a bucktoothed gal they called "Gopher-Girl." Sweet girl — flat feet. I don't know why I've been thinking about her so much lately. Anyway, the real problem is not the wedding party, it's the situation between you and your brother.

This is the perfect opportunity for you to sit down and talk to your brother. Tell him the exact question you're facing about the wedding and your son's part in it.

Tell him you'd like to see your boy in the ceremony, but feel strange about it since you and he seem to be at odds. This may be the wake-up call your brother needs, or he may let you in on some feelings that you aren't aware of.


Talk about the problem the two of you seem to have. Agree to keep cool heads before you begin and stay tactful if tempers flare. This discussion may help ease tensions, allowing you to make a better decision where your son's participation is concerned.

If, however, you don't want him to stroll down the aisle with some five-year-old honey, send me your number. I could use a better ring bearer for my next wedding.

Jo-Jo kept looking up my dress, and I caught him luring "Gopher-Girl" into his trailer with toothpicks and wooden matches.

Hey folks — these are real letters from real people! Send me your letters today! Dear Ruthie c/o Wisconsin Light, 225 S. Second Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204. You can also e-mail me at wilight@aol.com

Editor's Note — Ruthie would love to see her many fans at the Madison Pride Parade on Sunday, July 19th.



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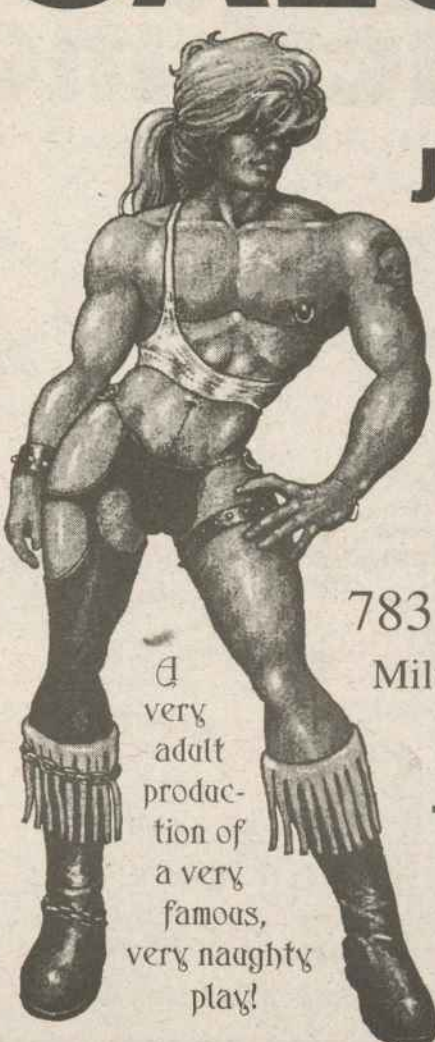
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State Briefs, Continued from Page 3

Retro Dance for Sinners Saturday, July 25

The Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys are holding a Retro Dance at the Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 Sherman, on Friday, July 25 from 8pm to 1am. This will NOT be a typical Dairyland country dance. It WILL be a full blown, all out 50's revival.

A Dairyland spokesperson promised that by the end of the evening, "Everyone who comes will know the answer to many burning questions, such as whether or not Little Richard really was 'Tuti Fruti,' what made the hippies tune in and turn on and how many Village people it takes to screw in a light bulb."

Mini dance lessons will be offered to teach retro moves like the Stroll, the Mashed Potato, the Night Fever and the Moonwalk.

Reduced admission of \$5.00 is being offered to those who come in costume. Those attending without costume will be charged \$8.00. For more information call The United at (608) 255-8582.

MILWAUKEE

BESTD Clinic Receives Donations

The BESTD clinic has announced donations from several recent fundraisers.

The Student Social Work Organization of Concordia University, SSWO, held a grab bag fundraiser for BESTD at the University as part of its community service work. SSWO President, Shelley Fredrick, and the Chairman of Concordia's Social Work Department, Joel Ambelang, presented BESTD with a check for \$177, which represented the proceeds for the fundraiser.

Gay Lesbian Community Center Trust Fund Chairman, Si Smits, presented BESTD with a check for \$484 during the Trust Fund's annual meeting on June 21. The contribution was a portion of the proceeds from the group's fund raising dinner held last November.

This Is It Softball Team Manager, Stu Feider, and This Is It owner, Joe, presented BESTD vol-



Milwaukee's This Is It softball team raised \$501 to help the BestD Clinic. Pictured above is Jeremy Barrett, Mr. Saturday Softball League 1998, presenting the check to Ross Walker and Irv Uecker of the clinic.

unteers Ross Walker and Irv Uecker with a check for \$501. The check represented the proceeds from a team fundraiser held in June at the bar.

The BESTD Clinic has expressed its deep appreciation to all of those who made these important contributions possible.

PrideFest Information

PrideFest has announced details for the annual Volleyball tournament, Family Day and the Pride Parade.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The Miller Light-PrideFest Volleyball tournament will be held in the heart of the PrideFest grounds on Saturday, August 29 from 1pm to 5pm. Winners in the 16-team tournament will receive trophies and prizes at a 5:30pm ceremony held on the Children's Stage.

The tournament fee of \$70 per team includes shirts and admission to PrideFest. Miller Lite and GAMMA sponsor the tournament. For a registration packet call the PrideFest office (414) 272-3378.

BALLET WISCONSIN PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS FAMILY DAY AT PRIDEFEST

Ballet Wisconsin's PrideFest debut will highlight the August 29 Family Day celebration at PrideFest. The troupe will give 12:30 and 4:30pm performances of the classic story of Peter and the Wolf on the Children's Stage.

As a means of teaching children about different musical instruments, the score of this piece assigns a different instrument to each character in the story. The production follows Peter to a meadow to meet his friends — a lively little bird, an accident-prone duck, and a sneaky cat — as they try to capture the ferocious Wolf.

Ballet Wisconsin was founded by its artistic director, Yves de Bouteiller, in 1991 as "Et toi, tu dances?" It was renamed early this year. The group performs classical repertory, presents new works, and educates through teaching, touring, and community outreach.

Other Family Day productions and activities on the Children's Stage, which is being sponsored by the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, include the sing-along group Side By Side, a magic show, the costumed characters from Little People and a chance to become a clown. The Children's Play Area will be open 11:00am to 7:00pm.

PRIDE PARADE SET FOR AUGUST 30

The PrideFest Pride Parade will take place at 2pm, Sunday August 30. The parade will again include three judging categories: marching unit, decorated car and float. A first place prize will be given out in each category. There will also be a special award for the best use of this year's theme, "Many Worlds One Community."

Parade Coordinato, Rick Finger says that he is looking for people who want to "float down Wisconsin" during the parade. This year's parade packet includes instructions on how to build a float. These instructions give tips on how build a frame onto a vehicle or trailer and how to apply streamers, crepe materials and sideboards. The packet also includes a parade application and rules. To obtain a packet call the PrideFest office (414) 272-3378.

Parade entry fees are \$25 if received prior to August 8 or \$35 if received after that date. The parade will begin at 2pm. Milwaukee native and nationally known Gay comic, John McGovern, has been named Grand Marshall of the parade.

Sherman Park Rainbow Assoc. Celebrates Anniversary

The Sherman Park Rainbow Association will celebrate its Anniversary with a party at the M&M Club, Saturday, July 18 at 7pm. The party will be held in the patio area of the popular Glass Menagerie restaurant. In the event of rain, the celebration will be held in the upstairs banquet room. A picnic supper and beverages will be provided. There will also be a silent auction.

LAMM Holds "Christmas In July Party"

The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee will hold a "Christmas in July" celebration at Jacobus Park, Saturday July 25 from 11am to 5pm.

Activities at the party will include a water balloon toss and a scavenger hunt. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Soda, cups, plates, utensils, napkins and grills will be provided for those wishing to grill meat items. Guests should bring a dish to pass.

There is no cost for attending, but LAMM asks that each guest bring two \$5 toys. Each child in attendance will be given one toy as a Christmas present. The remaining toys will be donated to a local women's shelter.

Jacobus Park is located at 6501 West Hillside Lane. It offers a wading pool for children, a pond, a playground and wheel chair accessible hiking trails.

To RSVP or to get more information, call the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

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AIDS Briefs, Continued from Page 11

New Study Helps Explain How STDs May Increase Risk of HIV Transmission: STDs Damage Cells That Normally Protect Against Infection

Geneva — Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that HIV transmission may be greatly facilitated by abnormally functioning epithelial cells lining the prostate and the cervix. The scientists compared HIV transmission in normally functioning epithelial cells — primary cells — from the prostate, to abnormally functioning cells — immortalized cells — from the cervix. The immortalized cells were infected with human papilloma virus. Immortalized cells do not function normally because of infection with a sexually transmitted disease or due to genetic factors. The researchers found that the primary cells formed tight gaps, preventing the transmission of HIV, while the immortalized cells did not form the tight gaps and facilitated the transmission of HIV. The research suggests that normally functioning epithelial cells may not be capable of spreading the disease. Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, said that the results further emphasize the need to increase STD treatment and prevention efforts in combination with HIV prevention strategies.

Even 'Dead' HIV Damages Immune System, Study Shows

Los Angeles — According to research by Irvin Chen of the University of California-Los Angeles School of Medicine and colleagues, HIV that was assumed harmless and "dead" after highly active retroviral therapy may still be harmful to the immune system by producing a viral protein, Vpr, which kills immune cells. In the journal *Science*, Chen noted that the researchers were surprised to find that the Vpr protein was still active, halting the cell cycle and ultimately causing apoptosis. Additionally, the virus does not have to replicate for Vpr to take effect. The findings could explain why recovery takes such a long time, even when patients have been taking the drugs for an extended period and have been symptom free.

Zidovudine Protects Against HIV-Related Dementia

London — Dr. Brian G. Gazzard of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London and colleagues report in the July issue of the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry* that the administration of zidovudine before the onset of AIDS and continued after the development of the disease helps protect against HIV-related dementia and opportunistic brain infections. The researchers examined the medical records of 1,109 AIDS patients between 1991 and 1994, looking for effects of zidovudine in relation to HIV-related dementia, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, cerebral toxoplasmosis, and primary central nervous system lymphoma. Zidovudine treatment was associated with decreased risk of the disease, with a 14 percent to 32 percent decrease in the incidence of the diseases for every six months of follow-up. None of the other drugs researched by the scientists showed protective value in the treatment of these disorders.

Prevention, Continued from Page 10

M.P.H., Director of CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

CDC scientists have developed important tools for estimating the economic impact of HIV prevention programs in the era of advanced combination therapies. The economic model estimates lifetime treatment costs (based on new treatment scenarios) and balances those costs against the current national investment in HIV prevention to determine what level of success is needed to save the nation money.

The findings indicate that only 3,995 infections must be prevented annually to actually result in cost-savings, and only 1,255 infections must be prevented for the investment to be cost-effective.

"We found that even if only a relatively small number of infections are prevented each year, HIV prevention programs save money," said David Holtgrave, Ph.D., Director of NCHSTP's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention B Intervention Research and Support. "Given what we know about prevention effectiveness, we believe that the number of infections actually prevented greatly exceeds the cost-saving level."

Holtgrave and colleagues estimate that the present cost of lifetime treatment for HIV now averages \$154,402. This amount represents the money saved per infection averted through prevention. By dividing the national prevention budget of \$616.79 million by the resources saved per infection prevented, he is able to determine the minimum number of infections that would have to be prevented to save money.

To determine the number of infections that would have to be averted in order to conclude cost-effectiveness, researchers add to the medical costs an estimate of what society is willing to pay per year of life saved. This estimate is derived from analysis of investment in other life-saving interventions, such as kidney dialysis and mammography. Researchers believe that the greatest benefit of these models will be to program planners attempting to make tough decisions about which prevention programs can make the biggest impact.

"Combining this tool with research on which interventions work most effectively to prevent infection will allow those who allocate resources to ensure they are used most appropriately," stressed Holtgrave.

Other CDC presentations at the conference present the most comprehensive evidence to date that HIV prevention programs are effective. CDC researchers have assimilated and analyzed all available studies to date that evaluate the impact of prevention programs and created a database called Prevention Research Synthesis (PRS). The PRS database incorporates all well-conducted evaluations of the full range of HIV prevention programs, from school-based education to street outreach for

injection drug users.

By conducting a meta-analysis on these studies, researchers can determine their overall impact. CDC researcher Ellen Sogolow, Ph.D., presented the overall findings, based on 46 U.S. studies of more than 18,000 individuals, indicating that participants significantly reduced their risk behaviors following the program interventions.

"The picture that results is clear. Well designed HIV prevention programs have had a positive impact," said Sogolow, "And they have made a difference for a wide range of populations at risk."

CDC behavioral scientist, Salaam Semaan, Dr.P.H., will present a subset of the overall analysis that looks at the impact of programs designed to reduce sexual risk behaviors among injection drug users, one of the most difficult to reach populations. Because of the dangerous intersection of drug-related and sexual risk behaviors, programs for injection drug users must strive to reduce not only drug-related risks, but also sexual risks.

Semaan and colleagues analyzed the combined impact of twenty-nine studies on the risk behaviors of over 11,000 injection drug users and found an overall positive effect. The vast majority of the interventions were effective in reducing sexual risk behaviors among injection drug users, and none of the interventions were harmful.

"Our findings suggest that effective behavior change programs can slow the sexual spread of HIV among injection drug users and their partners," said Semaan. "Our challenge will be to help communities design programs that combine these approaches with the most effective interventions for reducing drug-related risks."

An analysis of the effectiveness of programs to reduce drug-related risk behaviors is underway and expected to be complete in the coming months.

Sogolow will discuss several new CDC systems for putting the best prevention research into the hands of communities affected, including the PRS database.

Sogolow will also present CDC prevention modules which help communities reproduce effective HIV prevention programs. Several prevention modules will be discussed, including a video-based discussion group intervention for minority women at high risk and an outreach program to influence peer opinion leaders that reach young gay men.

"CDC's role is to provide communities the best science available to guide prevention efforts," said Sogolow. "Pulling the best prevention research together into a tool that can be used to analyze, evaluate, and replicate scientifically sound programs is the first step toward extending their reach."

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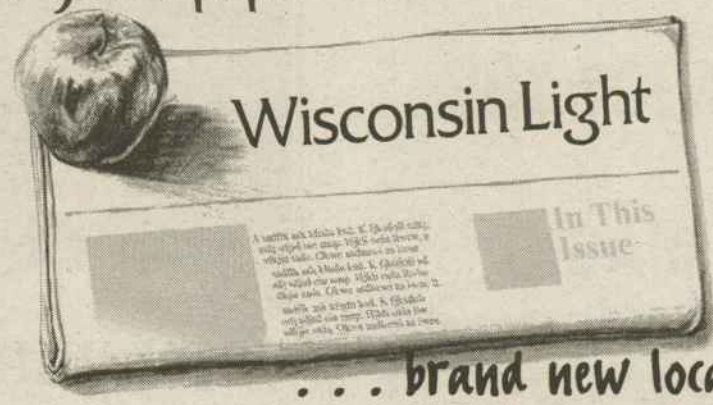
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Old Puss

By Terry Boughner

This is a memorial to a friend. It is by far the hardest thing that I have ever had to write. She wasn't Gay or straight. She was just a friend, a good friend who loved me without stint. That's all she did, love me.

Her life revolved around me. She shared my days and nights, summers and winters, my good times and my bad. She gave me memories, some of the best memories I will ever have.

Now I must write this and I'm not sure that I can. I'm not sure I can see to type.

I called her Popcorn after the cat in the Civil War song, but she didn't know that name. Jerry called her Pussy-Kitty and I just called her Old Puss.

Old Puss wasn't a she, not in the biological sense, anyhow. "She" was a "He," but when I was a kid, I thought all dogs were male, all cats, female. Ever since then, cats have always been "she."

She was born on July 3, 1986. I always remembered that because it was the exact date I came to Milwaukee. I was working at a video store and one of the clerks, Kevin, brought her in. Fortunately, Don who owned the store, liked cats because that little ball of mewling fur spent the day in the store. That night, he drove Old Puss and I home.

I knew Jerry didn't want a cat, but he wasn't home. I put her down and she disappeared into the environs of our very large house. The next morning, after I'd gone to work, Jerry heard this meowing and thought a cat had gotten in somehow. He got up to investigate. He didn't find her, but he saw two little bowls in the kitchen. That's when he knew, he said, that she had moved in.

"There is no way," he said, "that that cat is sleeping in our bed." He was firm about that. Old Puss had other ideas. After weeks of putting up every kind of barricade he could think of, he gave up. From then on, Old Puss would jump up on his side of the bed and walk slowly across him, pausing to give him "a look" before coming to snuggle next to me.

When I was writing, she would sleep nearby. When I had to go to the bathroom, she went to the bathroom, too. When I ate, she ate. When I went to get coffee, she went to get a drink.

She liked to curl up against me when I watched TV. She would go to sleep, awakening only when it was time for me to get up and change the channel. Believe it or not, she always knew.

In 1988, Jerry, Karen Lamb, and I went to the Democratic National Convention. Jim said he would pet-sit. Somehow Old Puss got out. When we got back, Jim said she was gone.

I went out back and called out the only words she knew — "Look what I gotch you" (Said real fast, it meant food.). Never, ever will I forget that little gray and white bundle hurtling across the yard toward me, coming as fast as her stubby little legs could carry her.

Oh, so many, many memories, good memories of my little friend.

She got a cancer. She ate, but couldn't hold anything in. She looked up at me with those big eyes and a silent meow. "Please help me," she seemed to say. "You've never failed me." But what in God's name could I do? How could I make her understand that I couldn't help. How could I make her understand that there was nothing I could do? She had given me so much, all the love she had and I could do nothing in return.

All she ever asked of me was love and I couldn't help her. I owed her and I couldn't pay the debt.

We humans think we know an awful lot. We think we're lords of creation. We're not. In the end, with the things that really matter, like Old Puss, we're helpless. We're no more than babies lost in some vast, dark woods.

This is supposed to be a column in a Gay paper about Gay people. Screw that, screw all labels. If that sounds angry, it is. I am angry at my helplessness — and I am hurting. I hurt so badly I can hardly see to type.

"Oh, you'll get over it," someone said. No, no, no I won't. I don't want to "get over" Old Puss. I want the memory always there, the memory of that good, dear little ball of fur racing across my back yard toward me, running to jump into my arms. I will never see that sight again — and I will never, ever forget it.

Good by Old Puss. I love you.

Conference, Continued from Page 10

select health facilities in twelve states. Researchers found that 81% of these patients were taking antiretroviral drugs, and more than 55% were taking one or more protease inhibitors.

These multiple medications must be taken several times each day. Some must be taken with food, and some must be taken on an empty stomach.

Only 65% of these patients report that they "always" take their medications as prescribed; 25% said they "usually" did; and 9% indicated that they "sometimes, rarely, or never" took their medications as prescribed. The most common reasons for not adhering to their therapy regimen were forgetfulness, difficulty working them into daily schedules, and side effects.

Researchers also found that patients were more likely to report that they "always" adhere

to their medication if they had been taking HIV treatments for less than 2 years, with adherence lessening the longer patients had been on therapy.

"I think these findings remind us that medical advances don't work by themselves. With each new medical development for HIV prevention or treatment, we have to also consider how to help people use them effectively," said Nakashima. "Recognizing that some people may be taking these medications for many years, simpler schedules and formulations will be critical."

Nakashima stresses that in the interim, efforts must focus on ensuring that patients understand the necessity of taking medications and have the support they need to adhere to very difficult treatment regimens.

CDC believes that the possibility of emerging drug resistance, combined with the

Please see Conference, Page 27



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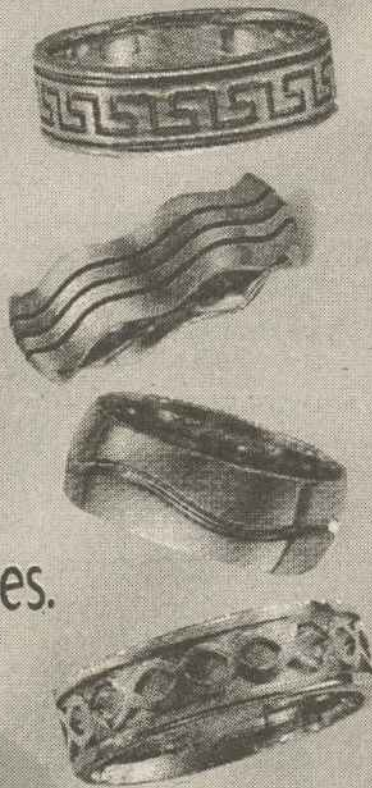
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Conference, Continued from Page 26

tendency individuals at risk may have to relax their preventive behaviors, poses a substantial risk. "The danger of complacency in HIV prevention may be greater than ever before," said Gayle. "We have to pay attention to prevention and work to prevent the emergence of resistant strains of HIV and to maintain the progress we've made to date in stemming the spread of this epidemic."

TRANSMISSION OF RESISTANT VIRUS

For the first time, the ominous spread of protease inhibitor resistant virus was reported. Dr. Frederick Hecht of the University of California-San Francisco reported a case of someone who was on therapy, inconsistently treated, developed a resistant virus, and passed it to another individual. The man's virus is resistant to four different protease inhibitors, AZT, and 3TC.

A Swiss presentation by Dr. Sabine Yerly and others from University Hospital in Geneva reported several more protease inhibitor resistant virus transmissions.

These infections will be difficult, if not impossible, to treat with therapies currently on the market.

No one knows yet how frequently these drug-resistant strains of HIV are spreading.

"This is a wake-up call to people who assume that since we have adequate therapy, if they can get infected they will be easily treated," Fauci said. "It's like going back to the early 1980s when we had no therapy."

A statement released by Doug Nelson, executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), from Geneva characterized these reports as the most critical announcements of the Conference.

"While drug resistant HIV is not new, protease inhibitor resistant HIV is a new, serious public health threat," Nelson said in the statement. "We need to enhance support services for people with HIV to help them comply with the regimens and benefit from these drugs. In Wisconsin, that means further strengthening the AIDS service organization system... to provide adherence services like case management, transportation, and health care."

Other AIDS experts cautioned that the appearance of resistant virus is not a reason to

panic. "It's happening but it's rare, and it would be wrong to say that this is a rampant phenomenon. It's not, but it's the beginning," said Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center.

RENEWED STRESS ON PREVENTION

With the sobering news of failed treatments, resistant virus, problems with vaccines, and complacency concerning HIV, many participants left feeling that the best strategy in the fight against HIV was one that has been present since the beginning of the epidemic — prevention.

Speaker after speaker exhorted the importance of sex education, condom distribution, and needle exchange programs. A number of health workers stated that programs to promote sex education, condom use, and needle exchange have been shown to work well and not to promote promiscuity or drug use. However, governments and community leaders are often barriers to such programs because they fear criticism from churches or political opponents.

There was also a call for more money and programs to treat sexually transmitted diseases because of their role in increasing the risk of spreading HIV.

Dr. Catherine Hankins, an epidemiologist at Montreal General Hospital in Canada, left the Conference saying she did not feel "terribly optimistic."

"Over 100 times more money is spent on therapeutics now than on the development of prevention technologies," she said. Among the technologies are chemicals that could be inserted into the vagina or anus before sexual intercourse to kill HIV.

In written statements from the Conference, Nelson stated that "Aggressive HIV prevention strategies and clear, consistent messages about the risks of drug use and sex behaviors must be increased. Without a cure or broad-based effective treatments, prevention needs to be a top priority. Yet, the federal government will not fund proven HIV prevention strategies and the state government continually flat funds life-saving HIV prevention programs."

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