

WI Light

August 27 –
September 9, 1998

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Vol. 11 • No. 18
Issue 264

Milwaukee Stripped of Gay World Series Crown

by Bob Melig and Bill Meunier

Atlanta — After 20 years of Gay World Series competition, a Milwaukee team finally won a championship. The South Water Street Docks Pride Team captured the Class C crown at the North American Gay Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) Gay World Series.

Milwaukee came from behind in the late innings of the final game to beat a strong Boston team by a score of 14 to 5. Milwaukee, a charter member of NAGAAA, had never before won a World Series Championship. What could have been a source of pride for the City and its league, the Saturday

Softball League (SSBL), soon turned into a source of anger and frustration.

Within hours of its victory, the Pride had its title taken away as a result of a highly controversial decision made by NAGAAA officials. NAGAAA claimed the Docks team had underrated itself and should have been playing in a higher bracket. Docks' coach, players and other observers hotly dispute the ruling.

Under NAGAAA rules, every player in a NAGAAA affiliated league, including Milwaukee's SSBL, must fill out ratings forms. The forms ask specific questions about each player's abil-

ity. The more able the player, the higher his or her point total. The rating points for each team's top ten players are added up to determine in what bracket the team should play.

Based on the NAGAAA forms, Docks was rated a C Division team. The World Series has A, B and C brackets.

On Friday, the third day of the tournament, NAGAAA Secretary Jeff Chase filed a protest against Milwaukee. Chase said that the Docks team was underrated and should not have been allowed into the C Division. The protest was filed late in the game

see **STRIPPED OF CROWN** on page 5

Gay Games in Amsterdam



Part of the festivities of the Games included a celebratory canal parade.

More color photos on page vi in the Spotlight Section

On the Trail with Tammy — See Page 4



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Democratic Candidate for
ASSEMBLY

48th District

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Primary Election-Sept. 8, 1998 • General Election-Nov. 3 1998



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Candidate for the 48th Assembly District
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2035 Ellen Avenue, Madison, WI 53716-2414

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Dear GLBT Friends, Families & Neighbors:

As my campaign to be your next representative in the State Assembly intensifies, and as a long time "friend of the family" I feel compelled to reach out with a special message to those in the GLBT community who, in the wake of current events, may be feeling ostracized or disenfranchised from full participation in the life of our community.

Since day one, my practice as an attorney has been dedicated to representing the rights and interests of victims of discrimination based on age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race and union affiliation. It is that background and a strong commitment to equality that I will take to the Assembly.

In return for your support and your vote you can expect me to promote the issues that are important in your life, to return your phone calls and to listen to your concerns. I will support legislation to promote a better life for the elderly and to further benefits for domestic partnerships. **I will oppose any "defense of marriage" legislation or other anti-equality initiatives targeted against GLBT's, and I will be an unwavering vocal opponent against the forces of bigotry and discrimination when and where ever they surface.**

You know, political experts would probably tell me that the tone of this letter is too serious for a campaign piece, and maybe so. But I know of no other way to address an issue as important as this. Although we may not know one another personally, it's important that you know where I stand. **That even though the forces of hate, bigotry, discrimination and oppression are so visible all around us recently, they should have no place in government and no influence on public policy.**

To date there have been far too few voices of outrage heard from the halls of government in answer to these bigoted attacks and **it is time for that to change.** I want to be your advocate in state government and to that end I am asking for your support and your vote in the primary election on September 8th.

Our districts strongest assets are found in the diversity of it's people and the welcoming atmosphere they create. That didn't happen by accident, it was cultivated by the hard work and sacrifices of thousands of dedicated people who not only appreciate diversity, but welcome it because it enriches the quality of life for us all. We need to protect that - - It's a responsibility we all share because it's that right thing to do.

Please support me with your vote on September 8th.

Sincerely,

Helen Marks Dicks
48th Assembly Candidate

Paid & Authorized by the Friends of Helen Marks Dicks, Becky Westerfelt, Treasurer

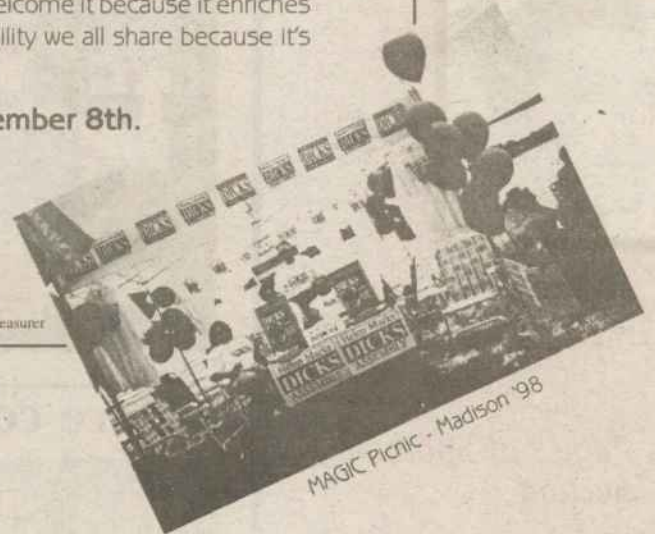
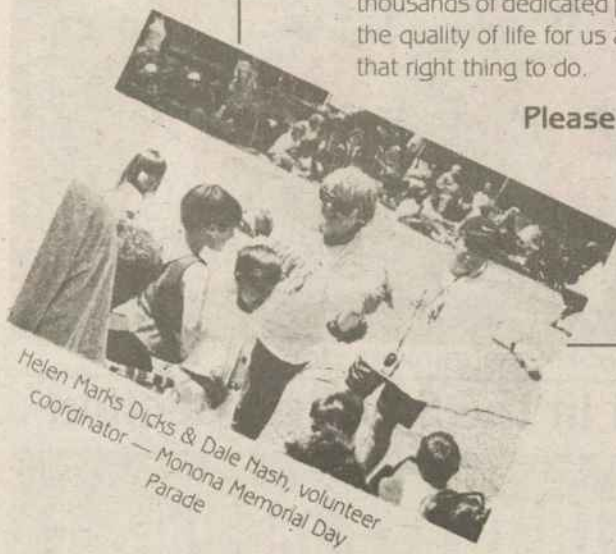
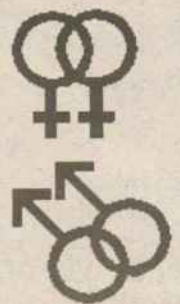
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AP Associated Press

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Competition is an interesting but also sometimes destructive facet of our society. It can foster pride, strengthen our resolve to do better and build bonds. It can also create hard feelings and bitter divisiveness.

In this issue we look at several competitions including Milwaukee's almost win at the Gay World Series.

We show you a glimpse of one of the most important competitions in our state this year, the race for the Democratic nomination to Congress in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District. Spotlight includes a color photo essay of the recently held Gay Games of Amsterdam.

SpotLight also contains an interview with Sean P. Hayes and a review of his new major Gay release, *Billy's Hollywood Kiss*. This is a movie where one man competes with others for the affections of the man of his dreams.

We, at *Wisconsin Light*, also always compete — mostly with ourselves. We strive for each issue to be better than the last. To that end, change has and will always be part of what we do.

You will see some of that change in this issue. We have added a new comics page, The Funnies, and wel-

come our new Sports Editor Bob Melig. SpotLight, our home for arts and leisure, is now more graphically defined. We hope you like it. Also, we are proud to present a new column, "So," written by Publisher Ron Geiman. As always, your feedback is welcome and indeed critical.

Getting back to competition and the Gay World Series, I want to offer my congratulations to the South Water Street Docks Pride for being the real winners of the Class C Championship. It was an historic accomplishment. As an SSBL coach myself, I know much hard work went into that effort.

Life and competition are *not* always fair, but try as they may, the folks at NAGAAA can't change what the team from Milwaukee accomplished. There may not be a "World Champions" trophy sitting on the bar at Docks, but the players who represent it are champs in every sense of the word. To the members of that team, I can only say you were not treated fairly, and guys, this one's for you.

Enjoy the *Light*!

Bill

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A Day on the Campaign Trail with Tammy Baldwin

by Bill Meunier

It's Saturday, August 15. There are 25 days left before the Democratic Congressional primary in Wisconsin's Second District.

It is Farmer's Market Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol. The farmers are setting up their booths. Early bird shoppers are hustling from stand to stand to get the best produce the day will offer.

A woman dressed in tan pants, a nice patterned blouse and tennis shoes moves

opponents are strong. Wienecke is concentrating on the rural areas of the district. Phelps and Baldwin have strength in the urban areas. Baldwin is said to be especially strong in the City of Madison, which contributes a little more than half of the primary vote.

On August 15, the campaign is concentrating on mobilizing voters in Madison. By the end of the day, Baldwin will have made contact with hundreds of people. She will have made two visits to the Farmer's Market. She will have spent time at a Senior Citizen

Saturday, so it is hard to get the media to come to an event," she says. The candidate goes through the cafeteria talking and listening to the diners. They receive her warmly. As she makes her way through, the staff and volunteers prepare a birthday cake and ice cream. Baldwin serves those sitting at the tables. When this is done, it's time for the next stop, a neighborhood festival.

The festival is held in the Southdale area of the Town of Madison. Whites, Blacks and Hispanics live in the area. Baldwin is greeted by Linda Hoskins shortly after she arrives. Hoskins is the kind of volunteer every candidate loves to have.

She guides her candidate through the event. Hoskins seems eager and proud to introduce Baldwin to everyone in attendance. Within a few minutes, dozens of people are sporting Baldwin for Congress stickers. Rick Phelps is at the event, too. There is little visual evidence of support for his campaign.

After about an hour, Baldwin gives a speech from the stage and leaves. It is time to get back to the office and on to the next stop.

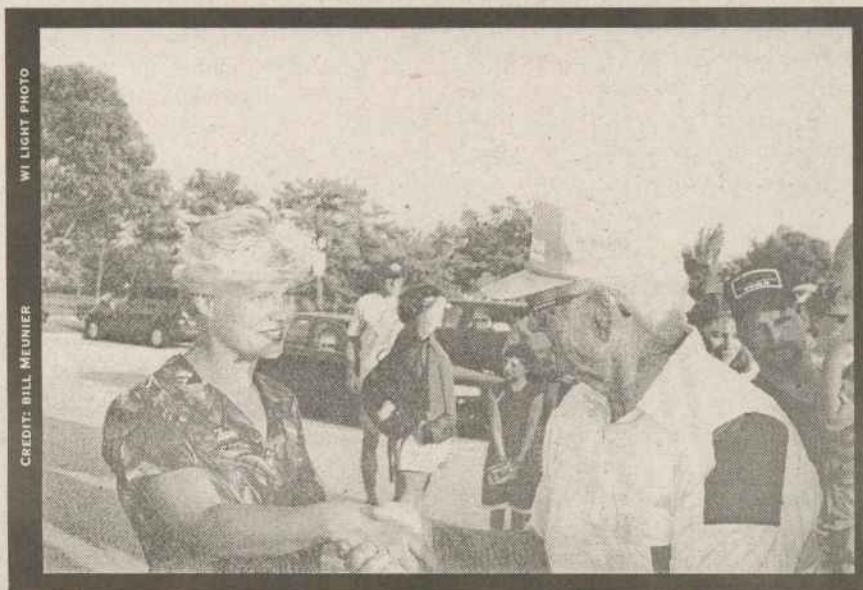
August 15 is "Moving Day" in Madison. That's because new leases on student housing go into effect that day. The Baldwin campaign knows the importance of the student vote. There are over 40,000 students living in the district. After checking in at the office, Baldwin leaves with several volunteers.

The candidate and Madison Alderman Mike Verveer work one side of the street, while three volunteers work the other side. They hand out "Tammy Baldwin's Top Ten Tips For Tenants." Baldwin introduces herself to the new tenants and tells them that she hopes they will vote on September 8.

After covering all of the streets around the office, the troupe heads back

excited about voting for you," he says. "I really like your health care plan."

Almost as soon as we arrive at the office, it is time to leave again. We are heading to the Mount Zion Baptist Church picnic. Mount Zion is known for two things; it is the largest predominantly Black church in the area, and Ron Greer was an Associate Pastor there.



Baldwin greets a fan at the Blackwolves game.

through the square, greeting the shoppers. Occasionally, one of the vendors yells encouragement to her. The woman is Tammy Baldwin, an openly Lesbian candidate for Congress.

The Saturday Farmer's Markets are a regular stop for Baldwin as she continues on a campaign trail that began well over a year ago. On Tuesday September 8, those on that trail will come to a fork in the road. The candidates who made the right stops on the way to that fork will go on to the general election. Those who didn't will be relegated to the side paths.

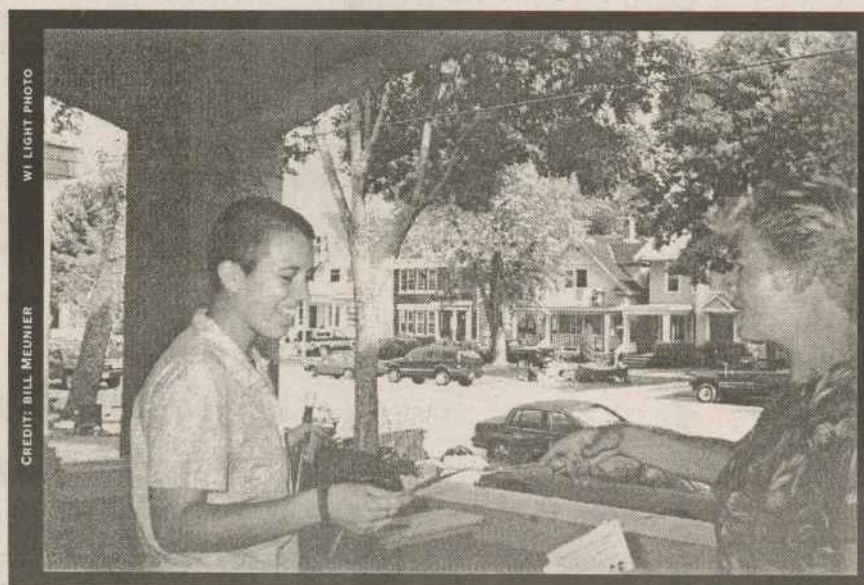
The average person reads about campaigns in newspapers like this one and assumes that they are exciting and glamorous. Nothing could be further from the truth. Campaigning is hard, hectic, grueling and repetitive work. Sometimes a candidate can walk down a crowded street and not be recognized, at other times everyone in a smaller crowd of people gathers and the candidate can't get away. I saw both extremes during the day I spent with Tammy Baldwin on the campaign trail.

Baldwin is locked in a tight race. Every poll, every political observer and every analysis says the same thing: Baldwin and her two main opponents, former Dane County Executive Rick Phelps and State Senator Joe Wienecke are in a dead heat. The Democratic congressional nomination in Wisconsin's Second District is up for grabs.

All three candidates know that they must energize their core constituencies and make forays into areas where their

housing project and a minor league baseball game. She will be at two Gay bars and a church picnic. She will greet students moving into their new apartments and she will spend time at a neighborhood festival.

Every campaign tries to schedule events for the media. On August 15, the Baldwin campaign had such an event,

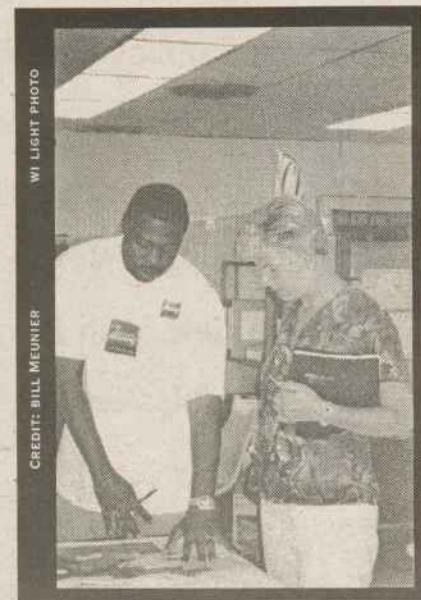


Baldwin greets a new student tenant.

the celebration of Social Security's 63rd birthday. The campaign arranged for a mini birthday party at Brittingham Apartments, a housing project for the elderly and the disabled.

I am the only media person present, but that doesn't phase Baldwin. "It's a

there. Baldwin expresses disappointment that no one asked any questions. "When I was a student, if a candidate came up to my porch, I would have lots of questions about where they stood on the issues," she says. One student did, however, voice an opinion. "I am so



Meeting with a staffer at the office.

Greer, a Republican candidate for Congress, publicly attacked Baldwin for running as an openly Lesbian candidate.

If Greer's viewpoint had any adherents at Mount Zion, it was not apparent at the picnic. Pastor Terry Thomas enthusiastically puts on a Baldwin sticker. Nearly everyone else who is offered one does the same.

Dane County Supervisor Regina Rhyn comes up to Baldwin and says, "You are the best person for the job. I know those other two, and you are the best person for the job." Madison Mayor Sue Bauman's Chief of Staff, Enis Ragland tells Baldwin that he, too, has decided to support her. "I decided to back you three weeks ago," he says. "I always see you at events that are important to me."

That was good news to Verveer. He tells me, "Now we have Bauman's entire staff supporting Tammy."

I comment to Pastor Thomas that I am amazed at the warm reception that Baldwin, an openly Lesbian candidate, is getting from a Baptist church. He responds, "Tammy gets a big gold star for being here. She is more than welcome to be here. We are trying to build community here. Everyone who shares that dream is welcome here."

As we ride back to the office, I ask Baldwin if she is pleased that even though she is running as an openly Lesbian candidate, she received a warm welcome from a Baptist Church. "It isn't about that," she replies. "These are people who are concerned about social justice, health care, social security and education."

The next stop is the Madison Blackwolves baseball game. Baldwin stands outside the box office greeting the fans. Some of them do more than

CAMPAIGNING WITH TAMMY

continued from page 4

just shake Baldwin's hand. They talk about issues like health care. Several are from out of state. One man tells Baldwin, "I would vote for you, but I don't live here. Come to Nebraska and run there."

Some of the fans also mention the Drag Queen fundraiser being held at a Gay bar, Kirby's Klub, that evening. The event got some unwelcome publicity from a local gossip column. On the way back to the office, I ask Baldwin about the Drag Show. She says that some people are looking at it the wrong way. "You can only do so many cheese and cracker events," said Baldwin. "This is something different. It's going to be fun."

Back at the office, Baldwin and I part ways. She goes home to make calls, eat dinner and go over various campaign details. I go, thoroughly exhausted, to my hotel to check in and rest.

Two hours later, I am at Kirby's Klub. The place is packed. A roar goes up as Baldwin enters. It takes nearly 30 minutes for her to make her way to the show area. Every time Baldwin enters another part of the bar, another cheer goes up, and there is a rush of people who want to shake her hand and tell her how proud of her they are.

The show is delayed because someone forgot to bring some of the music. That doesn't seem to bother Baldwin. She takes the opportunity to go from table to table, seat to seat, so that she can personally thank those who are there. At the end of the show, the candidate makes a short speech thanking everyone again.

Soon she is off to her final stop, another Gay bar, Manoeuvres. This is not a campaign stop; it is a battery recharge and a chance to be with her volunteers. After a hard grueling day, most of which was spent under a hot sun, Baldwin still looks fresh as she leaves the bar. Out in the parking lot, several patrons come up and talk to her about the campaign.

Finally, 20 hours after she began her day, it is time for candidate Tammy Baldwin to go home. She gets in the car driven by her Campaign Manager, Paul Devlin, and they drive off. It is now August 16. There are only 24 more days to go.

Be sure
to
VOTE
on
Sept.
8th!

STRIPPED OF CROWN

continued from page 1

during Milwaukee's semi-final victory over Boston. Boston was leading at the time. Boston's player ratings were not questioned.

A five-member panel composed of representatives from Portland, Fort Lauderdale, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh and New York denied the protest. Chase told *Wisconsin Light* that the panel did not make a judgment on his protest because not enough of the Committee members had seen Docks play. That is not what Tommy Salzsieder, who was in Atlanta to be inducted into NAGAAA's Hall of Fame, told *Wisconsin Light*. Salzsieder said, "I was at the meeting. The decision was clear. The protest was denied. There was a quorum, and that decision should have stood."

Docks Manager Todd Muma recounted that during the meeting Chase said, "We don't care whether you are a B or a C team. We want to see if the questions on the rating form were answered correctly."

Although Chase was denied on his first protest, he filed a second protest — on the same grounds — during Saturday's championship game between Milwaukee and Boston. Muma says that Boston was, again, leading in the contest when the protest was filed. Earlier in the day, Boston defeated third place Fort Lauderdale by a score of 27 to 4. No protests were filed in that game.

Salzsieder called the second protest "double jeopardy," saying that the team had already been cleared once and should not have had to face a second protest.

Following the game, a two-hour hearing was held. After an hour and half of presenting his case, Muma gave up and left. "I was never more humiliated and had my honesty and integrity questioned like this group did. It was devastating. It was 15 to 1 against... I could see that we didn't have a chance. After an hour and a half, I told them to make a decision. I wasn't going to subject myself to any more abuse."

Muma gave an example of the discussion at the meeting. "In one instance, they had seen one of our outfielders run about five feet and make a catch. They

claimed we mis-rated him because we didn't put down that he was able to make a running catch. My point was that running five feet to make a catch is not the same thing as running 20 or 30 feet. To me, moving over five feet and making a catch is not a running catch. I asked how many other managers viewed the forms the same way I did. They said, 'We are only talking about your forms — no one else's.'"

Those in attendance at the second protest meeting included representatives from leagues that stood to gain by Milwaukee's disqualification. For example, Washington DC's league, which would have gone home without a trophy, ended up receiving one for third place after Milwaukee was disqualified. Similarly, Fort Lauderdale moved up to second place.

Many of Milwaukee's SSBL managers found the forms — upon which the decision was based — to be confusing and subjective. The forms asked questions like: "Does this player consistently hit with purpose to the warning track?" "What is consistently?" asked one manager. "Is it once a week, once a month or every other time at bat?"

Chase, who designed the forms and was a party to both protests, was asked about the forms. He gave inconsistent answers on what the forms did and did not say as well as on other matters.

Others were disturbed that while Milwaukee's rating forms were so critically examined, those submitted by other teams were not. Milwaukee had three close games in the tournament and both protests were filed while Milwaukee was losing.

The fact that two protests were filed seemed to especially anger many of those who were in attendance at the SSBL's Saturday August 22 All Star Game. Some players went so far as to say that if the league remained part of NAGAAA they would quit playing softball in the SSBL.

A meeting to discuss an appropriate SSBL response to the games has been scheduled for August 25.

Time Line of a World Series Controversy

Winter of 1997 — North American Gay Athletic Alliance Secretary Jeff Chase promulgates a new player rating system. The system is to be used to determine player eligibility in NAGAAA's 1998 Gay World Series.

June, 1998 — Milwaukee's SSBL provides the rating sheets to teams and players interested in attending the World Series. The SSBL sends them to NAGAAA prior to the July 1 deadline.

August 11 — Gay World Series competition begins. South Water Street Docks, Milwaukee's representative, registers and is accredited as a C Division team. The team is composed essentially of the same players who finished fourth in the 1997 C Division World Series.

August 11 to August 14 — Milwaukee wins all of its games,

including a come-from-behind victory over San Francisco with an exciting late inning rally.

Friday, August 14 — Chase files a protest against Milwaukee during its semi-final game against Boston. Boston is leading the game at the time. Chase claims that Milwaukee has underrated its players.

Friday August 14 — At the protest meeting, Docks is ruled to be a legitimate C Division team.

Saturday August 15 — Late in the championship game against Boston, Chase files another protest on the same grounds as his earlier protest. Boston is again leading at the time of the protest. After a two hour hearing, NAGAAA rules that Docks should have been playing in the B Division and takes away its trophy.

OBITUARIES

I Remember Jerry

by Eldon E. Murray

IN MEMORIAM
Gerald Earl Myers
February 14, 1930 –
August 17, 1998

Gerald (Jerry) Earl Myers died on August 17 at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He had been suffering from chronic heart disease for several years and had been admitted the previous day after suffering a heart attack.

Jerry was born 15 days before me, but I didn't meet him until we were in our late 30s. He was an executive at Harnischfeger, since retired, and was well known for his contributions to various charities and his financial support for cultural institutions. In the early 1970s, when I was putting together a clinic to combat sexually transmitted disease among the Gay and Lesbian community, I approached Jerry and reminded him that he was known to support the symphony, the opera, the ballet and even the Lyric Opera in Chicago.

"Jerry," I said, "I wouldn't dream of telling you how to spend your money, but our community really needs this clinic. It could even save lives. I've already got the location and worked out many of the medical details, but we need to furnish the place. We need desks, chairs for the waiting room, filing cabinets, lamps, pictures, etc. I've located some beautiful furniture at reasonable prices, but we don't have the money to buy what we need."

Jerry, being the generous pacemaker that he was, came through with the funds to furnish the GPU (Gay Peoples Union) VD Center, which has evolved into the present BESTD (Brady East STD) Clinic.

Sometime thereafter, the church in which GPU was holding its meetings burned down. Jerry, again, came dashing to the rescue by renting, painting and completely furnishing a building on Farwell Avenue that became GPU's new headquarters.

He modestly refused our offer of naming the building after him and insisted that it be called the "Farwell Center" and suggested, since it had adequate room, that we move the clinic into the building. He continued to cover the rent and expenses for about four years and signed over some of the furnishings every year until they all were owned by GPU. In order to accomplish this, and to handle his other charitable activities, he established a private foundation called the GEM Fund. Those assets were used up several years ago.

Jerry will be remembered fondly by the many individuals and organizations he helped over the years. A celebration of his life is being planned and is expected to be announced in September.

Finally, I'm proud to say that, even in death, my friend Jerry is still setting an example. His executor tells me his entire estate is being given to The Cream City Foundation. Way to go Jerry.

The Fannies Fire — Did She Do It?

A *Wisconsin Light*
Investigative Report
Copyright by Bill Meunier

For more than a month, *Wisconsin Light* has been looking at the charges and evidence surrounding the arson at Fannies, a Lesbian bar located in Milwaukee.

Did Dixon burn down her own business or has the State ignored or overlooked important evidence in its quest to find a culprit? We make no judgments one way or the other. Our purpose is to present what we know both sides are saying, and let our readers decide for themselves.

Dixon was charged with Arson with Intent to Defraud, Possession of a Controlled Substance — Morphine and Possession of Explosive Devices. The latter charge was dropped due to a lack of evidence. Dixon is currently free on a signature bond awaiting trial.

Because of the complex nature of the allegations, our report is necessarily lengthy. Therefore we have divided it into three parts.

Part 2 of a 3 Part Report

Milwaukee — An indicator of an owner's involvement in the burning of a business is whether or not any items were moved from the business prior to a fire. The Milwaukee Police believe that Dixon did move several items from her upstairs home and from Fannies in the days before and day of the fire to keep them from burning.

Dixon does not dispute that some items were taken from Fannies. She does, however, dispute the State's contention on why they were moved.

Some of these items were found in a rented storage locker, others were given to or moved to the homes of friends. Some were personal items and some were business related.

Locker #88

On February 6, 1998, the Police searched storage locker #88 at the Metro Storage Business Center, 2922 South Fifth Court. The locker had been rented just three days before the fire by Dixon's cousin, Patricia Johnson. Johnson rented the locker at Dixon's request.

The complaint lists some of the items found in the locker. The list includes: family photographs, a gun, artwork, clothing, suitcases, items from Dixon's mother's funeral, a tent and what the complaint termed "explosives."

Here is where the plot thickens. Sharon Dixon along with a partner, Bob Chomlinski, owned Mike and Anna's restaurant. Chomlinski died in April of 1996. Dixon continued to operate the restaurant before finally closing it down in August of 1997.

Dixon says that the day before the locker was rented, she and an employee, Gail Gutjahr, went to Mike and Anna's. When they arrived, Dixon had to break into the restaurant because she said her key did not work.

Once inside they discovered that the restaurant had been broken into. Dixon says they called the police.

"While we were there talking to the Police, this guy comes in through the back door," said Dixon. "He said he was hired by the Chomlinski family to change the locks and move stuff out."

Dixon said that the Police officer on the scene took the man into custody. "Later they called me and told me the Chomlinski family confirmed that he had been hired by them," she said. Dixon said the Police viewed the incident as a business dispute and released the man.

Gutjahr confirms the incident. "It was about three or four days before the fire," she said.

Dixon says that as a result of this incident, she asked her cousin to rent a locker. Dixon told *Wisconsin Light* that she wanted to move her mother's things out of Mike and Anna's. "I was worried that the stuff would be gone," Dixon said.

The locker was rented in Johnson's name because Metro storage asked her to provide some ID. But for some reason, Dixon's name was not put on the application as a person who would have access.

Dixon's friend, Monica Balfour, however, was listed as someone who would have access to the locker. Balfour told the Police that she didn't know that she was on the rental application.

When asked why Balfour was listed on the application and she was not, Dixon could not provide an answer.

"I don't know," she said. "Maybe she (Johnson) was thinking ahead, thinking about the IRS problem. You'd have to ask her."

Wisconsin Light tried without success to reach Johnson, who lives in Michigan.

There are two items that indisputably were moved from Fannies just before the fire.

One was a carnival type booth that was moved from the bar on the night before the fire. The booth was used for the street parties held in front of the bar. Dixon enlisted the help of several Fannies customers to move the booth out of the bar.

Dixon says that it is foolish for anyone to think that she would have publicly moved the booth out of the bar to keep it from burning while leaving more valuable items left inside of it.

"Why would I move a \$200 tent out of the bar and leave a much more valuable \$2,000 tent in the bar, if I was going to burn it?" she asks.

There was a \$2,000 tent stored next to the pinball machine in the bar. "It was all folded up. It would have been easy to move out," said Dixon.

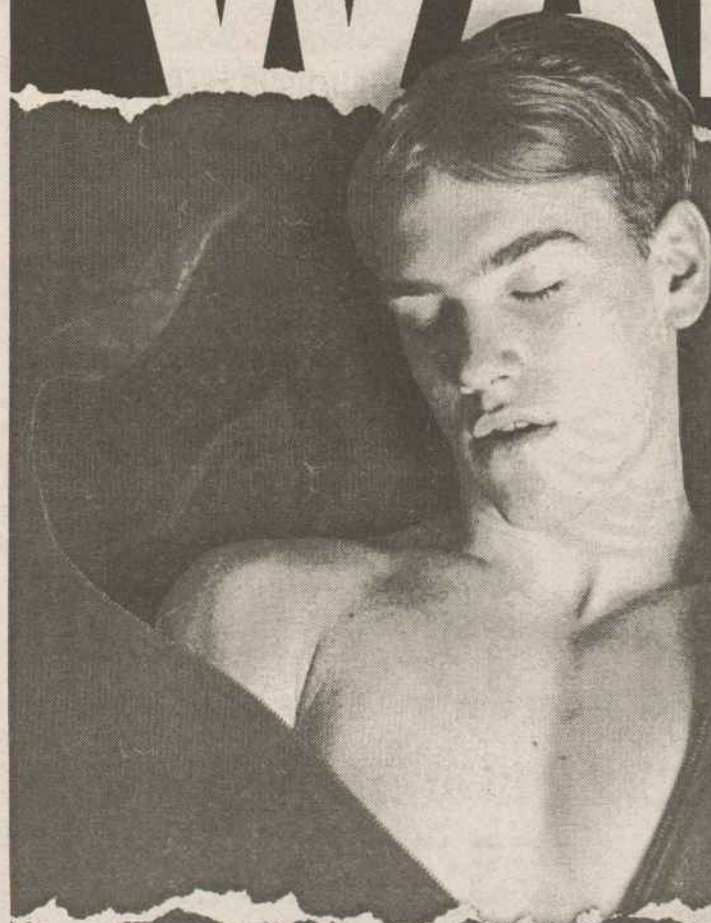
Another Fannies item found in the locker was a Karaoke machine. The criminal complaint makes much of this machine and how it arrived there.

Dixon's friend, Monica Balfour told the Police that before going to dinner with Dixon and her friends, she had used the machine.

According to the complaint, Balfour

see **FANNIES FIRE** on page 7

WAKE UP



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WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

FANNIES FIRE continued from page 6

said that after she had used the machine, Dixon dismantled it and moved it to a car owned by another one of Dixon's friends. Dixon said the machine needed to be fixed.

Balfour also stated that CD's for the Karaoke were also taken from the bar. The complaint says that according to Balfour, who did not work at the bar, whenever the Karaoke needed repair, it was serviced on site.

Dixon said the machine needed repair because the sound was muffled and because the CD's didn't always show the words on the machine's screen.

According to Dixon, a repairman was called to the bar on two separate occasions after it had been used at the Block Parties. "We had someone come in and reconnect it. This is the first time it actually needed to be fixed," said Dixon.

Dixon's attorney, David Garaghty, believes that the Police reached the wrong conclusions from the locker search. "It was coincidental timing," he said. He points out that since the locker was searched months after the fire, there is no telling when the items were moved there. "There was a good a reason to put things there after the fire because she didn't have a place to put anything," he said.

Other Moves

The complaint alleges that Dixon moved items from her upstairs apartment to the home of Karen, a friend of Dixon's. These items include "a large wooden antique cabinet and a commercial cooler."

Dixon said the cooler was from Mike and Anna's. She used the cooler for her Breastfest and Links Block Parties. "After the block party, we didn't need it anymore, and I had no room for it. Karen agreed to take it if I would let her use it, which I did."

The wooden antique cabinet was also from Mike and Anna's. Dixon said she planned to auction it off at Breastfest. "I had no room for it and I wasn't about to put it on my patio. But no one came forward with a high enough bid, so I let Karen use that too."

Before Dixon and her friends left for dinner on the night of the fire, she put bottles of champagne in Balfour's car. Balfour said these bottles included a 1962 Don Perignon.

Fannies bartender, Kelli Mouw, says that the bar always kept a bottle of Don Perignon on hand in case someone wanted to celebrate a special occasion. Dixon said the 1962 bottle was being saved for a special occasion.

According to Siegel's Liquor in Milwaukee, a bottle of 1962 Don Perignon is valued at \$622.

The John Doe

A "John Doe" proceeding is a rarely used investigative procedure in a criminal case. It is the State's equivalent of federal Grand Jury investigation.

The proceeding is secret. Attorneys, who represent the target of the investigation, are not allowed into the courtroom. The transcripts of the proceeding are sealed.

The purpose of a John Doe investigation is to compel witnesses to testify even though they might not wish to do so. A John Doe was called to investigate the Fannies fire.

The Criminal Complaint against Sharon Dixon contains a report on some of the

testimony given at the John Doe. That testimony, if accurately reported, is damaging to Dixon's case.

According to the complaint, two individuals, Balfour and Gutjahr, told the John Doe, a week before the fire, Dixon stated she would burn down Fannies to keep the IRS from getting it.

At a preliminary hearing on the charges, Balfour denied saying that Dixon had made the statement in the week before the fire. At the hearing, Balfour said that she could not remember when Dixon made the remark.

Indeed, the Criminal Complaint is confusing in its account of Balfour's statements on this matter. In one part it reads "...adult citizen Monica Balfour and adult citizen Gail Gutjahr both testified that approximately a week before the fire they heard the defendant state, 'I'll burn it down (referring to Fannies) before the IRS takes it.'"

On a different page the complaint reads, "Ms. Balfour stated Ms. Dixon had told her that if the IRS came too close she would burn her bar down. Ms. Balfour further stated that she did not recall exactly when the statement by the defendant had been made..."

Dixon admits that she did make a similar statement to both women, but denies that it was the week before the fire. "What I said was, 'I'd rather see this place burn down than see the IRS get it for 10 cents on the dollar.' But I was talking about Mike and Anna's and not about Fannies, because it was Mike and Anna's that had the tax problem," said Dixon.

William Zinthefer, a CPA contacted by *Wisconsin Light*, said that even though the Dixon's tax problem emanated from Mike and Anna's, it would have affected Fannies, too. "The IRS still could have and would have gone after her other assets including the bar," he said.

Dixon also challenges Gutjahr's credibility. The Criminal Complaint says that Gutjahr identified herself as "Fannies Manager." Dixon says that Gutjahr was not the manager and only did cleaning work for her and inventory work for her.

When contacted by *Wisconsin Light*, Gutjahr herself said that she was not the manager and denied telling the John Doe hearing that she was.

When asked if Dixon did in fact tell her that she would burn down the bar the week before the fire, Gutjahr replied, "Yes she did."

Dixon says that her attorney intends to issue a serious challenge to Gutjahr's credibility at the trial.

The complaint also says that during the John Doe, Balfour testified that after the fire Dixon said she wanted to put the insurance money in Balfour's name in a bank.

Dixon denies that was the case. She says that she had been thinking out loud and only said that she wondered if the IRS could get the money if it was in someone else's bank account. "I never asked her to do that for me," said Dixon.

See Part 3 In Our Next Issue

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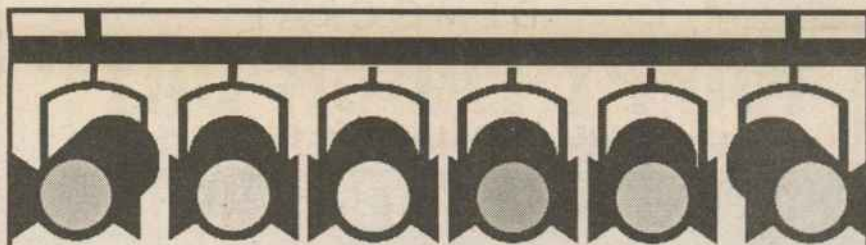


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Titletown Tidbits

by Mike Fitzpatrick

Musical Bar Stools: The word is out: **Napalese Lounge** will be moving to the east side after nearly two decades on South Broadway. Closing on the **Kozy Korner** building on North Irwin (about eight blocks north of the Gay bar "ghetto") will be at the end of September, and the new place will be open, with luck, in November.

Without luck is **Yuma's**, which has postponed its opening until further notice. The signs are up, but nobody's home. A complication with licensing is the word.

Za's will be going through some major second floor remodeling to add indoor table space for **Cafe Bourbon**; the patio is full at dinnertime most days, and those folks will need a warmer venue when the winds of autumn begin to blow off the Bay.

Also, kudos for **Za's** and **Cafe Bourbon** came in the form of a gushy feature article in the weekly *Rave* entertainment magazine section of the August 6 *Green Bay News-Chronicle*.

Gay Day at Disney, Pt. 2: Thanks to Dean at the **Blue Lite**, there was a large and visible Gay presence at the Disney Hometown Parade in Sheboygan on Saturday, August 8. The city was one of only four selected — because of its family and civic values — to have Mickey and company strut their stuff down Main Street in a touring company version of the Disney World extravaganza.

Because the **Blue Lite** was right by the parade route, Dean opened at 6am to serve Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers and breakfast items to our family who showed up in force and was in a festive mood by the 10am step-off.

A "tag along" group of "Christian" fundamentalists followed the parade protesting Disney's pro-Gay policies, receiving rounds of "boos" and catcalls from just about everyone along the parade route, including the **Blue Lite** gang.

Strike Up the Tournery: The annual **Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW)** 9-Pin Tap Tournament was held Saturday,

August 22 at Riveria Lanes in Green Bay. Nearly 180 bowlers signed up for the singles tourney, the proceeds of which benefited the ROW Community Fund.

First Pick is a True Winner: Speaking of community, the first ever "Gay Community Choice Award" was handed out to Paul "Cricket" Jacob at the **Gay Guernsey Gala** earlier this month. Cricket has been around the northeast Wisconsin Gay community for more years than I know he'd care to admit, and has truly done much for the community far beyond his job as a Prevention Specialist for ARCW.

Many know of his work as Co-editor of the *Gay Guide to Northeast Wisconsin*. But only a few are aware that he provided a terminally ill individual his home as a place to spend his final days, worked to get needed mental health treatment and commitment for another, and helped many more who had fallen "between the cracks" of the social services system due to injuries or health problems. Look for a future article about this new "People's Choice" type award.

Reggie Watch: My "born again" sources tell me that Reggie White recently announced to the congregation of a local fundie fellowship that he was negotiating to buy Heritage USA, fallen evangelist Jim Bakker's old amusement park, from a Japanese businessman.

In the last year northeastern Wisconsin has gone through Reggie the movie ("Reggie's Prayer"), Reggie the special edition Ford Truck, Reggie the Candy Bar (surprisingly, it wasn't a nut roll), Reggie the medicine (R-Gel analgesic balm), and Reggie the Chunky Soup. Now Reggie the Ride? The mind boggles.

I wonder how old or how tall you'll have to be? Considering the way Oakland mauled the "first team" defense in their own back yard August 17, what we'd really like to see is just plain ol' Reggie the football player...

—WI Light NE Wisconsin Bureau

GLEEDA Merges with Positive Voice

Appleton — Members of the Gay & Lesbian Education and Economic Development Alliance (GLEEDA) voted unanimously to merge with Positive Voice, Inc. at the group's annual meeting at the Liberty Hall Convention Center in Kimberly August 12. As part of the merger agreement, GLEEDA members will receive prorated memberships in the Green Bay based LGBT group.

Several traditional GLEEDA events will continue with Positive Voice assuming sponsorship. Former GLEEDA executive board members also will have first refusal rights in the filling of future vacancies on the recently elected Positive Voice board.

Following lengthy discussion, GLEEDA members decided to donate portions of the group's treasury to four Gay-positive entities. Receiving \$200

each were the Fox Cities chapter of PFLAG, Appleton's LGBT Partnership youth group, Action Wisconsin, and the Tammy Baldwin for Congress campaign. The balance of the treasury will be turned over to Positive Voice.

Founded in 1992 as GWEEDA (Greater Wisconsin Education and Economic Development Alliance) with a business oriented educational and political action mission, the group evolved into something completely different, according to former executive board member Marty Brown. "We really strayed from our original purpose and became much more of a social group," Brown said.

With the merger, membership in the six-year-old Positive Voice group will top 100.

—WI Light NE Wisconsin Bureau

Resignations at Madison's AIDS Network

by Ron Geiman

Madison — Two of the five members of Madison's AIDS Network management team have resigned. As *Wisconsin Light* went to press, it was learned that the group's Management Team was preparing a management plan for the Board of Directors. The plan would lay out the agency's governance during a transition period.

Mary Turnquist, Executive Director of the AIDS Network, Madison and South Central Wisconsin's AIDS Service Agency, submitted her resignation to Board President Todd Harshbarger effective September 11. Until then, she plans to work closely with the Board and Management Team to assure that the transition "is begun in a positive and planful manner."

Also leaving is Director of Services, Tatiana Dierwechter, effective the end of the month. Dierwechter has accepted a prevention position with the State Division of Health HIV AIDS Program in the office of Dr. James Vergeront.

Turnquist and Dierwechter make up nearly half of the five member Management Team at the AIDS Network. The other three members are Kevin Baird, Director of Administration; Suzanne Gillingham, Director of Finance; and Rudi Baker-Jambretz, Asst. Director of Services. There are 14 non-management staff members, with two vacancies. The Network's annual budget is \$1.5 million.

In her resignation memo to the staff, Turnquist wrote: "It has been my privilege to serve the AIDS Network the past three years. This is the right time to make a change in top leadership for the agency and in my life personally. I have achieved what I was hired to do...and can leave confident that the agency is strong and in very capable hands. I'm ready to start a fresh page in my own life and will pursue a long-time dream, that being to do freelance writing."

According to Turnquist, the Board and Management Team were about to hold a series of meetings to decide how to replace her. Harshbarger said "We have enough time before Mary leaves for our Management Team to set up a strong plan for the transition." Harshbarger and Turnquist said that among the possibilities are a self-directed Team, an Interim Director, or putting another person or persons in place until a new Director is hired.

"We're looking for someone to take us to the next level. We're in a better financial state than ever before, and our service programs are unsurpassed," commented Harshbarger.

Harshbarger is also the partner of Baird, Dir. of Admin. "Let me assure you that there is absolutely no possibility of a conflict of interest between myself as President of the Board, and my partner." He said guidelines were in place to assure that.

Turnquist claims the agency is in a strong position and that the potential for the future "is positively exciting." She explained, "The merging of our prevention and client services departments and the cross-training already occurring, put us ahead of the game and provide us the flexibility of moving quickly as the environment changes." She calls the AIDS Network's subcontracting of

housing and employment services as "effective collaborations."

She also comments that "Internal systems, policies and procedures are in place and provide a stable environment," and that a Management Team of "highly skilled professionals who work well together, share a common vision and are absolutely dedicated to our mission."

However, as pleasant as things seem on the surface, one source told *Wisconsin Light* Turnquist quit after disagreements with the Network's Board of

Directors. The source also indicated there was in-fighting amongst members of the Board, and that Turnquist was caught in the middle and decided she didn't want to "be a boss anymore."

Turnquist responded, "Not at all. There is a very good mix of people with invested interest on the Board. They all have their own opinions and I consider that healthy."

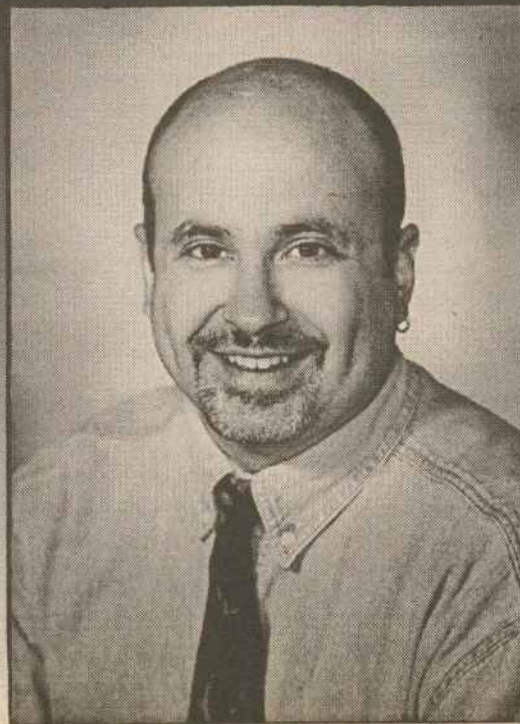
Associate Director of Services, Baker-Jambretz has worked as a team with Dierwechter for over a year, help-

ing to assure a smooth transition in Services which now covers both client services and prevention.

Board President Harshbarger commented, "It's really wonderful credit for the State to use Tatiana for prevention services. It shows the respect the state has for our programs here."

The AIDS Network "decided housing wasn't their responsibility and I was pleased when they went to generic local community housing agencies," commented Judy Wilcox, State Director of

see AIDS NETWORK on page 14



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AROUND THE NATION

HRC Report Attacks Ex-Gay Programs

Washington, D.C. — A new report commissioned by the Human Rights Campaign says that so-called Ex-Gay ministries and reparative therapy does not work.

HRC says that its report, entitled *Mission Impossible*, examines these techniques and finds them lacking in merit. The report also says that religious political groups have forced the recent rise to prominence of Ex-Gay groups.

"There has been no recent mad rush by Gay people to change into heterosexuals," said Kim I. Mills, HRC's education director and author of the report. "These programs have been thrust into the spotlight recently because James Dobson, head of Focus on the Family, wants the Republican Party to hew to his conservative agenda."

Mills adds that after Dobson's meeting with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Lott compared homosexuality with alcoholism, Congress began to consider several pieces of anti-Gay legislation, and Ex-Gay ministries were showcased in newspaper ads. "These are not coincidences," says Mills.

The report charges that Ex Gay programs make inflated claims of success without substantiation. For example, it cites the Public Broadcasting Service documentary *One Nation under God*. In a 1994 documentary, *Exodus*, an Ex-Gay ministry, claimed a "change rate" of 71.6%, yet could not provide documents to back up this precise figure. Four years later, *Exodus* still could not substantiate its claims to *Newsweek* magazine.

Trail Blazing Gay Paper Folds

Norfolk, VA (AP) — A Gay and Lesbian newspaper that began as a few mimeographed pages with handwritten headlines and grew into a computer-designed national publication is folding after 22 years.

The last issue of *Our Own Community Press* was distributed on Sunday, August 16, leaving Hampton Roads with a single Gay-interest newspaper, *Out & About*.

Kirk Read, Editor of *Our Own*, said the newspaper was built by indefatigable volunteers who saw themselves on the front lines of a civil rights struggle.

Current and former staffers gathered Saturday to put together the last, abbreviated edition — eight pages, much of it a retrospective of the paper's more than 250 editions.

"I'm struck by the spirit of that early newspaper, the people who put it out and their bravery," Read said. "It was their life, but many couldn't even use their last names at the time."

News of the paper's demise came as a surprise in a community that came to rely on the publication. "It's like losing a friend, and I've had that happen too many times," said Mark Powers, 43, of Virginia Beach. "It's been part of my life for so long, I just take it for granted it will always be there."

The Editor of *Out & About*, who goes by the penname Harry King, said he was stunned by the news. *Our Own* "did a lot of trail blazing," he said. "Particularly in the beginning, it filled a big need in the (Gay) community."

Out & About, with a statewide circulation of about 12,000, is more socially oriented, featuring coverage of Gay nightlife, entertainment and sports. King said he does not expect to significantly change *Out & About* to fill the void left by *Our Own*.

Campaign Against Anti-Gay Measure Heats Up

Honolulu, HI — A \$1 million campaign to defeat an anti-Gay constitutional amendment has been launched in Hawaii. Protect Our Constitution is hoping that a state-of-the-art media and grass roots effort will defeat a proposed constitutional amendment that could lead to banning same sex marriages in the Aloha State.

The referendum if passed would allow the State Legislature to ban Gay marriages. It is intended to undermine a current court case, *Baehr v Miike*. The case, which is before the Hawaiian Supreme Court, could lead to same sex marriages in Hawaii. The Court is expected to rule in favor of Gay marriages.

The campaign has already filed a complaint against the Hawaiian chapter of the Christian Coalition and Focus on the Family for failing to file campaign reports as required by Hawaiian law. Those two groups are backing the referendum.

Opponents of the referendum have been buoyed by a recent poll, which showed that it might not pass. Under the State Constitution, 50% of all voters in any election must approve a constitutional amendment in order for it to pass. The poll showed the measure getting a bare majority of all likely voters.

If the historical trend on Hawaiian Constitutional Amendments continues, an estimated 15% of the voters will not cast a ballot on the measure and it would fail.

Talk Show Suit Delayed

Pontiac, MI (AP) — Geoffrey Fieger's campaign for Governor could delay a \$50 million wrongful death suit against talk show host Jenny Jones.

Fieger is representing the family of Scott Amedure, a Gay man murdered by a fellow guest days after they appeared on Jones' show.

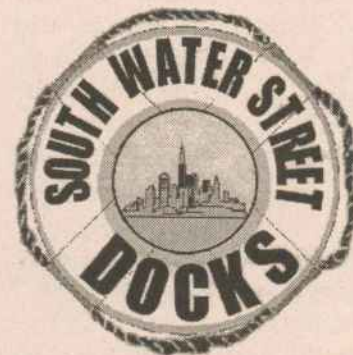
see **AROUND THE NATION** on page 14

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So... by Ron Geiman

So, I have a new job, with the "other" paper, three years after "retiring." Only now, instead of being Publisher/Editor/Ad Sales/Columnist/etc., I am just the Publisher, who gets a chance to do a column. *Nirvana!*

The past year, I've appreciated the opportunity to write "Tribal Talk" for Bill Attewell and Jorge Cabal, who bought *InStep* and continued my vision, when it looked like I wouldn't be around much longer. Thanks to the "Lazarus Effect" of some AIDS meds, I've been feeling better and better over the last year.

So, when this opportunity presented itself, I realized just how much I wanted to return part time to the world of Gay publishing. Especially to work on what basically would be an all new paper for our community, with the roots of a great staff already on board.

You saw the new look beginning with the last issue. All new logo, new and larger type styles throughout, and a renewed commitment to hard news of importance to our community. There are plenty more exciting changes in store in the area of content, which will appear as our advertising base expands.

As always, we continue to invite new submissions from all the divergent segments of Wisconsin's LBGT community. Women and people of all colors and ages from throughout the state are encouraged to consider writing for us.

We now have Madison and Fox Valley news writers, but are still seeking people to help write and take pictures of bar and social events across the state.

So... **PrideFest** is this weekend, August 28-30, and I hope everyone can spend some time at this fulfilling event. It's more than just a festival with bands, headline entertainers, drag queens, workshops, shopping and dancing. It's a celebration of who we are and how far we've come. Just look at how far **PrideFest** has come over the years. Past incarnations saw us at Cathedral Square, Juneau Park and Veteran's Park. Who would have thought five years ago that **PrideFest** would be entering its third year at the impeccable lakefront Summerfest Grounds?

Don't forget the **Pride Parade** on Sunday at 2pm. Because the date is in August this year, it has the potential of being the best **Pride Parade** Milwaukee has ever hosted. Do your part to make it so. The Fundies will be watching from their Juneau Park religious tent revival!

So... The Fundies, Religious Conservatives, the Political Right, whatever you want to call them. They don't have the communists, budget busters, welfare mothers or immigrants to go after any more, so this election year, we are their target. Gays and Lesbians have become the hot button issue they are using to build their agenda, spur organizing and raise funds.

The budgets for the Right's two largest groups total more than ten times what our largest Gay and Lesbian organization, HRC, has. They are using that money to scare and activate their followers who consistently show up at the polls and vote what they are told to vote. Meanwhile, their Republican Right puppets in Congress are spewing anti-Gay comments.

Their constituents are being told in national ad campaigns that Gays and Lesbians can change. That Gayness is a choice that can be altered through religion. It's an anti-Gay crusade that only promises to get stronger as the election season approaches. They've twisted studies to support their contentions that Gays can change "if they want to."

However, their strategy could backfire if their oft-times nasty anti-Gay assault causes mainstream American voters to turn out in force against them.

So, what can you do? Vote, first off, in the September 8th primary. But before then, **COME OUT!** I know you've heard it before, many times, but it is critical. If you come out to friends, family and other people who know you well, it softens their beliefs about what Gays and Lesbians are all about. Then when it's time to enter the voting booth, that anti-Gay rhetoric just might be softened by knowing someone close who is Gay or Lesbian.

View From Brewer's Hill by Terry Boughner

To me, the annual **Pride** celebration has never meant being "Proud of being Gay." I am Gay. I've always been Gay. I didn't have anything to do with that any more than I picked my height or the color of my eyes. I reserve pride for things over which I have some control: a piece of writing that's well done; a pie that I've made and comes out just right, to cite two examples.

What **PrideFest** means to me is a sense of triumph at having come through all the closeted years. Those were the times, the '50s and '60s, when the word "Gay" didn't exist for me; when the one or two Gay bars in town were regularly subject to police raids; when something like **PrideFest** hadn't been thought of; when a good friend of mine in college committed suicide after the campus minister — the so-called "Director of Spiritual Activities" — said in a sermon that all the "sodomites" were going to Hell.

I know that we have a long way to go before final victory is achieved, but when I see those rainbow flags flying, a thrill goes through me. I know how far we have come.

In celebrating **Pride**, each and every one of us asserts the ultimate human right: to be ourselves. However, there is more.

In celebrating **PrideFest**, we assert what is the ultimate American right: the

right to equal treatment under the law. We assert that there is no religion, no ideology, no philosophy that is sufficient to deny us that right.

The right to equal treatment includes non-discrimination in the workplace; in housing; in accommodations; in all places and situations whatever. Some of this we have achieved. Much remains to be done. **PrideFest** reminds us of both.

That right includes being able to join with someone in a legal union and receive all the legal benefits given now to different-sex couples in marriage.

PrideFest is a time for all of us to get together and have a wonderful time. There is more.

The first evening of the last March on Washington, I went to Dupont Circle. There were uncounted numbers of people there, women and men, old and young, all walking about. As far as I could see, everybody was wearing the rainbow colors in some form or another.

There was such excitement in the air. The whole of the vast space that the Circle is seemed to pulse with energy.

Suddenly, a young man stood up on the rim of the fountain in the center of the Circle and began to sing "I Am Who I Am" from La Cage aux Folles. I can still hear him today, even as I write. His voice was so beautiful, so clear.

A hush fell over that great crowd. Everyone's eye was on him, because

what he was singing so proudly was in all our hearts.

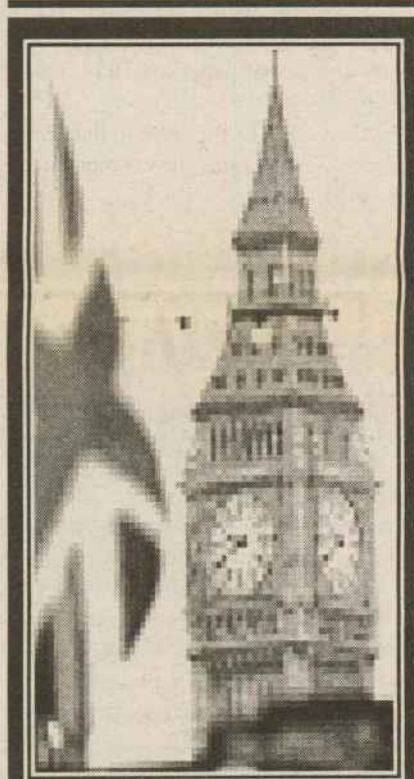
This is the "more" that **PrideFest** is. **PrideFest** is our time to re-charge ourselves and surround ourselves with the positive energy that allows each of us to say, "I am who I am." This is vitally important.

Consider this. Any person or group of people who cannot assert their individuality and assert it with pride, is engaged in self-destruction. Any person or group of people who denies to anyone dignity and self-worth are dealers in death.

Perhaps if there had been **PrideFest**, my college friend would still be alive. I often wonder about that.

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EDITORIALS

Pocan, Richards, Marks-Dicks for the State Assembly

On September 8, Wisconsin voters will go to the polls to select the party nominees who will compete in the November election. There will be a number of State Assembly primaries, but we have chosen to concentrate on three Assembly races that are occurring in districts containing large numbers of Gays and Lesbians.

In Madison's 78th Assembly — the downtown area and the Isthmus — we wholeheartedly endorse Marc Pocan, an openly Gay candidate. Pocan has a solid record of public service on the Dane County Board. After leaving the County Board, he continued his involvement in the community. His work on an intergovernmental task force was particularly impressive.

Pocan has won the support from a wide variety of residents and businesspersons who believe, as we do, that he is the right person for the job. Pocan's main opponent, John Hendrick, is a strong supporter of Gay civil rights and is an able candidate. Nonetheless, we prefer Pocan, not because he is Gay, but because we believe his record shows that he will do the best job of serving the people of his district and the State of Wisconsin.

In Milwaukee's 12th Assembly District — the East Side and Bay View — there are three candidates in the Democratic primary. Jon Richards should be the choice of voters in that district.

Richards takes a thoughtful approach to the issues that concern the residents of his district. His opponents, Al Campos and Tim Carpenter, who is not to be confused with State Representative Tim Carpenter, simply cannot match Richards' knowledge and abilities. We urge those living in his district to vote for Richards on September 8.

In Madison's 48th Assembly District, voters are faced with a pleasant surprise — four well-qualified candidates. We believe that Helen Marks Dicks is the right choice for members of Madison's LGBT community. In choosing Dicks, they are selecting an articulate woman who has made standing up to bigotry a hallmark of her campaign. Furthermore, Dicks has made major efforts to reach out to Madison's Gays and Lesbians. Our experience indicates this is a sign, that if elected, Dicks will place great importance on the concerns of Gays and Lesbians. We urge voters in the 48th to fill the void left by retiring State Representative Rebecca Young with another fighter for equality, Helen Marks Dicks.

NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Until It's Over... Keep Walking, With Chastity, Charity & Love

As a person with AIDS, infected before 1985 and testing positive in 1988, this marks the 10th year of the AIDS pandemic for me personally. AIDS Walk Wisconsin marks its 8th year as a tool in fighting AIDS with awareness and education to fight this modern-day plague that continues to devastate our planet.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin has raised \$4.8 million since its inception, including over \$800,000 last year. This year, organizers hope for 12,000 walkers representing a diverse cross section of Wisconsinites to help raise funds for 19 service organizations scattered throughout the state.

Last year's total was less than the previous year, reversing the trend of increased totals each year the Walk was held. Why? The perception that AIDS is over. False perception, to say the least.

One of every 250 people in the U.S. is infected with HIV. The rates are higher in foreign countries. The lauded "AIDS drug cocktail" works for only about one third of PWA's.

I'm one of those cocktail "failures." I'm a diligent patient. I didn't skip doses. I didn't fail the drugs... they failed me, as they have many others. The other "lucky" third may be experiencing a honeymoon — the lull before the virus reawakens.

You may see me now and think I look much better than I did three, four years ago; and I do feel better thanks to my meds. However, so-called "salvage therapy" is barely managing to keep HIV relatively in check.

The September 20th 10K walk along the shores of Lake Michigan, in Milwaukee's beautiful lake park system, will be led by Chastity Bono. Bono, the daughter of the late Sonny Bono and superstar, Cher, has come to the forefront of the fight for Gay and Lesbian issues.

This is fitting because, whether we like it or not, AIDS is still a Gay issue. Bono is a forceful touring speaker, and recent author, who has worked with several national Gay and Lesbian organizations since her public coming out.

Have you registered to walk? Have you donated money to a registrant?

Unfortunately, I personally can't walk because of neuropathy in my feet caused by the 11 AIDS drugs I've been on since I started treatment in 1989, and the course of HIV disease itself. Instead, I'll give what money I can to someone walking in my place. Even a few bucks — the cost of a bottle of beer or a Big Mac — from each of you, could help break the record for money raised.

I don't know what the future holds. None of us do. All I ask is that you support the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, because the future is in your wallet and rests upon your feet... Until It's Over, Keep Walking!

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

"Can homosexuals change?" But this complex issue needs more clarifying. Otherwise, the religionists and liberationists miscommunicate past each other, and worse, outsiders miscomprehend the issue itself.

- Yes, behavioral change is possible. But not for all, or even for as many as doctrinaire religionists enthusiastically claim.
 - But yes, change could be good, not oppressive. That is if one's valued religious faith, or one's secular need for social conformity, requires distance from homosexuality.
 - And yes, change can make religious sense. That is if one's faith states that Scripture is the truth; that homosexuality is a sin; and that salvation is possible.
 - But yes also, change-expectations could be bad, not liberating. That is if first, only one's outer erotic behavior changes, and not one's truer inner erotic-and-emotional identity. And if second, one's secular philosophy values seeking one's truest self, then living same — not with self indulgence, but with responsible integrity.
 - Which is worse? Religionists' mechanistically misleading uninformed folk (gay and straight) with unrealistic enthusiasms? Or liberationists' flatly ignoring conservative religion's inner logic — and its appeal for the faithful? To mislead, to ignore — both seem bad.
 - As for "choice" and "change." Yes, a few people's self-perceived sexual orientations do change. Both ways (let alone bisexuality!). And at various ages in life. Infrequently, however. Further — and important — nobody ever really chooses that change! People don't decide — they discover!
 - Major misconception: that "sexual orientation" equals only sex, the physically-erotic. That is, which gender one has sex with; or can; or would prefer to. But not so! .Primarily, S.O. is about love; the physical-emotional. That is, which gender one can bond with more spiritually, intimately, responsibly, fully. Many folk misunderstand this.
 - To their credit, candid religionists admit that usually, only behavioral change occurs — homo-sex discarded, hetero-sex performed — and not whole-person identity-change. Their doctrines can accept this "half a loaf onward." But some liberationists would judge it as dissonant self-destructiveness, maybe even a sin of sorts in their own books.
- My own "religion" and "liberation" is "education." Specifically, trying to think about any subject the best one can. To be incisively accurate plus fairly-mindedly sensitive. Like the other religions, it's arduous but rewarding.

Brian Kevin Beck
Whitewater, WI

An Open Letter to Gay and Bisexual Men in Milwaukee

I was recently fortunate enough to be able to attend the 20th Anniversary National Lesbian and Gay Health Association's annual health conference in San Francisco. Besides the obvious benefits of anything happening in San Francisco, I also found the conference to be incredibly challenging as an out Gay man confronted with issues of HIV prevention and Gay men's health in 1998.

I attended a track of workshops and discussions entitled Gay Men's Sexual Cultures that dealt with tough, often controversial issues like drug use, barebacking and leather sex. The purpose of the track was to get beyond the never ending debates and moralizations to openly discuss how these topics affect our sexual lives, as Gay and Bi men, and how we need to address them in the context of the health of our communities.

On a national level we debate circuit parties and Sex Panic!, on a local level we debate sex in parks and other public places. For the health and well being of our communities, we need to discuss these important issues with one another and how they impact our lives.

We need to ask questions such as: What are the meanings behind our sex lives? How do the kinds of sex we have define who we are as Gay and Bi men? How does sex fit into the rest of our lives and needs? And how can we respect individual choices around sex and sexuality that may be perceived as being outside of community "norms?"

If we can't discuss these issues among ourselves, then whom can we discuss them with?

I challenge all of us to get to know one another and explore who we are as Gay and Bi men. Talk with your friends and sex partners about these important issues. I also invite you to be a part of ARCW's Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program over the coming months and years as we attempt to raise the difficult questions and talk about our lives.

Our Boyz Nite group, workshops and discussion series, and future opportunities can help provide you with a comfortable, supportive, and confidential space to engage other Gay and Bi men.

If you would like to find out more or have any suggestions on what you would like to see happen in our community, please call me at (414) 225-1502. It will take each and every one of us to create a community of Gay and Bi men that promotes respect, individuality, support and health.

Andy Bagnall
Manager, Gay and Lesbian Outreach
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

Address letters to:

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225 South 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
or email to
wilight@aol.com

Letters must be signed and include the sender's name and address. We will withhold your name upon request.

Positive Outlook

Help AIDS Prevention Research

Milwaukee — In addition to watching entertaining stage performances and enjoying the company of old and new friends, PrideFest attendees can help AIDS prevention research by completing a short survey for the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR).

CAIR has conducted surveys at PrideFest since 1993. This year, two questionnaires will be offered: one for individuals and one for couples. Both surveys are anonymous and ask questions regarding intimate relationships. Responses to the surveys will be used by CAIR researchers to develop and evaluate programs to improve people's relationships and sexual health. Every adult, regardless of sexual orientation, is invited to complete a survey. CAIR's booth is located in the Marketplace area of PrideFest.

"It is important for us to hear from people at PrideFest about the ways they deal with relationship issues," says Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine and director of CAIR. "We can use the information they give us to hone our research efforts to develop better strategies to prevent future HIV infections."

Changing Landscapes for Lesbian/Gay Health

Washington, D.C. — The landscape for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) health care is changing.

That was one of the many conclusions reached at the well-attended 20th Anniversary of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and the 16th National AIDS/HIV Forum in San Francisco.

"Over the last 20 years, our health care has changed on a variety of different levels," said Beverly Saunders Biddle, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association. "Medical issues have evolved to include HIV/AIDS and breast cancer most notably, but STDs and addictions are also becoming more present. We're beginning to understand more of the complexities involved in psycho-social issues such as the high rates of LGBT youth suicide, issues surrounding gender-identity disorder, and the horrific impact that homophobia places on both access to and the quality of medical care. And with AIDS treatment and prevention, we're examining a lot of the social factors that influence successful programming."

Diverse Conference Issues

Another change in the discussion around LGBT health care issues witnessed at the conference was the

increased recognition of the diversity of issues involved. To that end, the conference offered more than 150 panels, discussions, and workshops.

In addition to providing critical new AIDS-related information, theory and discussions, the conference educated physicians, nurses, health educators, activists, and other health care professionals about critical health issues affecting LGBT people:

- New data on LGBT youth was unveiled by Callen-Lorde Health Center.
- Two new ventures were announced: (1) A new Lambda Medical Center for Gays and Lesbians in LA, including a 2,400 square-foot medical facility, offering a full-spectrum of health care for Lesbians and Gay men; and (2) The Lambda Center, a joint venture of Whitman-Walker Clinic and the Psychiatric Institute of Washington, to provide behavioral health care.
- AIDS updates. Updates from the World AIDS Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, discussed medical findings, new prevention theories, and epidemiological findings.
- A Viagra forum, co-sponsored with the San Francisco STOP

AIDS Project, attracted about 100 activists, dispelling sexual myths of Viagra, and pointing out potentially harmful interactions with poppers and AIDS-related drugs.

- The debut of new tracks on bisexual, transgender, and senior health at NLGHC, as well as expanded tracks on Lesbian health and youth issues.
- Awards given to the Transgender Community Task Force for their leadership on transgender issues, and Greg Merrill for his anti-violence work with the Community United Against Violence. Also recognized were Lorri L. Jean, Cornelius Baker, and Dr. Richard Isay.

Sights Set on Dallas for June 1999 Conference

"We're taking the momentum from this year's conference to build an even greater discussion next year in Dallas," said Saunders Biddle. "In 1998, we had more speaker proposals than ever before and across a greater diversity of topics. Our program was significantly strengthened this year, a trend that will continue in future conferences."

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AROUND THE NATION continued from page 10

The civil trial was set for September 14 before Oakland County Circuit Judge Gene Schnelz. Attorneys for both sides say there is a tentative agreement to postpone the case until after the November general election.

"Right now, in the middle of the campaign, I don't think it would be fair for either side," Fieger told the Detroit Free Press.

Amedure revealed that he was attracted to Jonathan Schmitz, a heterosexual, while on the talk show. Schmitz went to Chicago for the show thinking a woman was going to reveal a secret crush.

When the two returned to Michigan, Schmitz shot and killed Amedure at his home. He later told police he was humiliated by the surprise on-camera announcement.

Schmitz was convicted in 1996 of second-degree murder and is serving a 25 to 50-year sentence.

Amedure's family says Jones helped contribute to Amedure's death by playing on Schmitz's emotions. They are suing Jones, her show, Warner Brothers and Telepictures.

Man Convicted of Gay Slaying

Newport News, VA (AP) — A man was convicted Friday of a Gay sex slaying similar to 11 unsolved murders. The jury recommended a life sentence.

The murder of Andrew D. Smith, 38, was similar to the others in southeastern Virginia over the past decade. Elton M. Jackson was charged only with Smith's death.

Jackson, 43, had sex with Smith at Jackson's Portsmouth home, strangled him and dumped his nude body near a dirt road in Chesapeake. The body was discovered July 22, 1996, more than 24 hours after authorities say Smith went to Jackson's home, where the two had consensual sex.

Jurors were never told of the other slayings. Jackson was convicted of first-degree murder and will be sentenced October 27. During the trial, three other men testified that Jackson tried to throttle them with a leather strap during sex. Jackson admitted to having sex with two of the men.

The bodies, all nude except for the first, began turning up in 1987. Many of the victims were Gay. Some were hustlers, and nearly all were drifters or transients last seen in or near Gay bars in Norfolk or Portsmouth. Smith's body was the last to be discovered. There have been no other similar slayings since Jackson's arrest in May, 1997.

Gay Church Elder Keeps Position

Fort Lauderdale, FL (AP) — A Presbyterian Church (USA) court has decided that a Gay man may remain in his position as elder.

The decision Tuesday by the highest court of the 2.6 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA) ended a legal battle over Ray Whetstone's homosexuality.

Fellow church member Ronald Wier filed a complaint against Whetstone after his ordination in January, 1996. Wier cited a church law that bans Gays from ordained ministry.

The Permanent Judicial Commission ruled that while the ordination was "irregular," the panel lacked the authority to annul the position.

But the court warned that Second Presbyterian Church could not ordain another Gay elder. Whetstone also won't be allowed to serve another term under the court's agreement after his three-year term expires in December.

AIDS NETWORK

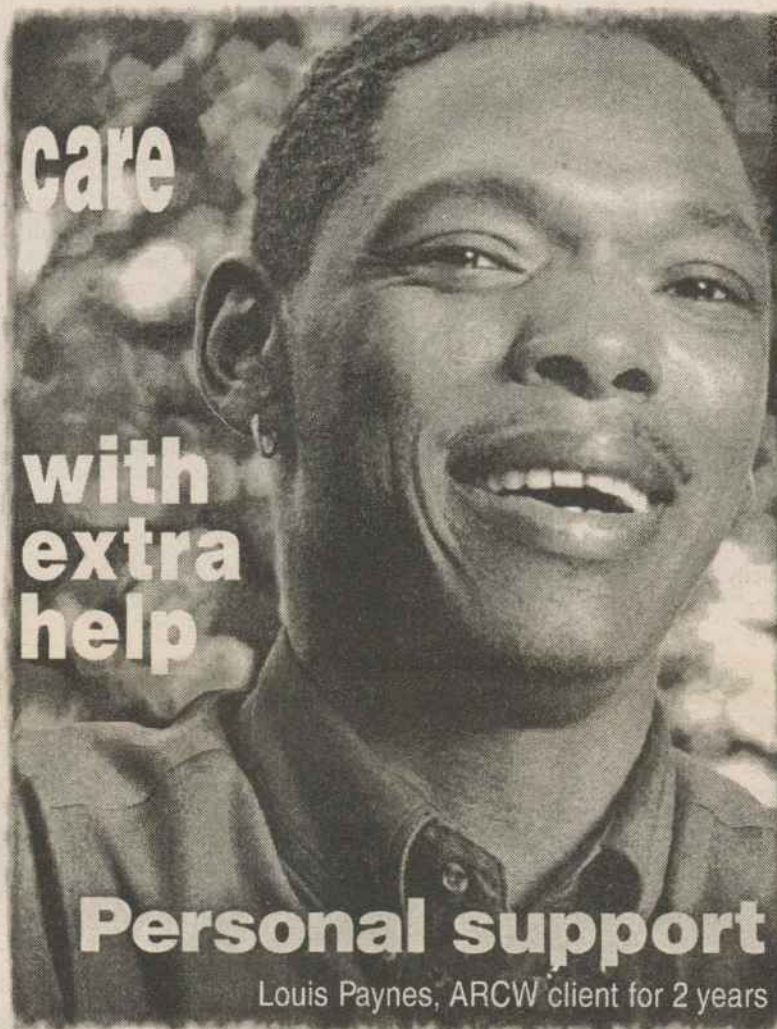
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Housing Opportunities for PWAs (HOPWA). "We're about to initiate the new HOPWA grant cycle and ARCW will be taking over the entire state housing program. Future HOPWA grants for the entire State will be administered through ARCW using the current local representatives and subcontractors. We're quite satisfied with ARCW's work."

In a letter to *Wisconsin Light* (August 13 edition) Turnquist said that instead of providing a "one-stop shopping center resource as ARCW" has done, the Network approached providing services by building a community of support to fight the AIDS pandemic. The result, she claimed, was a network of resources and service subcontractors. She concluded "The Milwaukee model [ARCW] "is not appropriate here."

In her resignation letter, Turnquist again reiterated that position. At an August 18 meeting with top officials of the Wisconsin Division of Health AIDS/HIV Program, Turnquist claims "they are absolutely supportive of the community-focused collaborative model of service provision. They emphasized this at the meeting."

"Taking care of myself can be tough, but I am doing well."



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Louis Paynes, ARCW client for 2 years

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Replete

It was Saturday afternoon at home and the phone rang. I hurdled a few chairs to arrive at the phone as the fourth ring kicked in the answering machine. I intercepted it just in time, breathlessly greeted the caller, and have remained in a breathless state ever since.

The caller was a co-worker who was assigned the tedious task of pulling a Saturday shift at our facility, poor dear. She was beside herself due to an encounter she had with some man. My friend, as co-workers so often are, is straight, pencil straight, and she's looking for Mister Right.

I tried to slow her down, but that girl had met a man who attracted her. Through hell or high water she was going to tell me everything she could about every detail of their interaction. After several laudatory adjectives about him, she granted me permission to put forth some general inquiries; "So, where's the boy from?" to which she responded with a puzzled "I'm not sure".

"Does he have an accent?" I probed. "Yes, kind of, but I don't know, its different." "Is he middle-easternish?" "Can't say." "Swarthy skinned?" "Well, sort of, very athletic built — lean and chiseled."

Then she told me his name, which, as neither of us knew at that time, was grossly misspelled due to a slight intercultural communication issue. For our purposes, we'll call the man Replete.

What I could ascertain from my co-worker was that Replete was not Caucasian or native-born American, but was instead from some "other place". Outside of his overall beauty, I knew nothing else.

I detected, ever so slightly in her voice, what began as a mere trickle and grew as she spoke into something resembling a flood of trepidation. I wondered why.

"So, what aren't you telling me?" "Well, his emergency contact on his employee card — is a man. A man living in California, San Francisco — to be exact. I have a feeling Replete is Gay."

A week or so later I was sitting at my station, working diligently, as I am often praised for doing. I suddenly found myself gazing upon a most handsome figure. This beauty could be none other than Replete. When he spoke, his mellifluous voice left me wishing dinner hadn't already been eaten.

Replete was sublime. The Count of Monte Cristo would have found cause to admire his poise and his ivory teeth — I had to glance down to blink and re-wet my eyes. "You must be Replete. I see you're new here."

I began with a thorough investigation of his past and heritage. I left no stone unturned. His coloring was as natural as genetics. His accent was a remnant of an adventurous youth spent overseas.

I figured I was off to a reasonable, if not exactly earthshaking, start. I kicked off our interactions with a familiar air and he responded with eloquence and

composure. Professionally speaking, I couldn't ask directly, "Are you Gay?"

I slipped on my Gay sleuthing gloves and began to sow the seeds from which a full disclosure could blossom. Meanwhile, my dreamy-eyed friend was demanding full-length, itemized reports on my progress.

We masterminded a flanking action. I wanted Replete to feel completely at ease with me. Like the wily chameleon, I took to dressing for work in a style remarkably similar to his dress: casual wealth with a hint of athleticism.

Having achieved a reasonable semblance, I then determined to directly target the cause of all the skepticism — the emergency contact in California. I cornered Replete and demanded he provide a local emergency contact.

His response was enigmatic at best. Evidently, his former "roommate" was the only person in the U.S. he'd trust with emergency decisions. He eventually allowed that his current "roommate", gender unspecified, would do and provided me with a number, but no name.

Next I tried the osmosis angle. I'd been reading a fabulous Gay adventure called *A Ghost in the Closet*. Whenever he's around I keep the book, cover up, on my desk. I toss it idly from hand to hand while Replete and I leisurely discuss the perils of daily living.

He's never once uttered an inquiry as to what I'm currently reading. A query to which I would happily reply, "A lovely Gay novella. It's really hits close to home for me."

Then, as if fortune had showered down upon me, Replete arrived one day with a man, who was unquestionably a flaming homosexual. This man's fire burned so queer that he wasn't just flaming, he was ablaze.

Replete introduced the very lovely person as his "colleague". I was thrilled. I practically fell over myself serving him. I was hoping to send out subconscious signals to Replete; out Gay people get special treatment.

You can imagine my surprise when, later that week, Replete declared that he wasn't interested in taking dance classes with my charming co-worker. How could that be?

He had an expressed interest in dance. All Gay men without dance partners who love to dance are looking for a partner. Right? Well, evidently not.

The shocker came when he said, "My colleague, who you met the other day, is looking for a dance partner. It would be great for him. He's looking for (look left, look right) someone special." To which I replied with an astounded, "What, he's Gay, Gay, Gay!" "Oh no Tina, he's looking for a wife. He's made that clear enough."

I couldn't believe we were having the long overdue talk, and Replete was not the center of discussion. In fact, he was incredulous as to how I could have thought his colleague was Gay, "not that there's anything wrong with it."

And that, as if a metaphor for life itself, is how the situation stands: replete with ambiguities.

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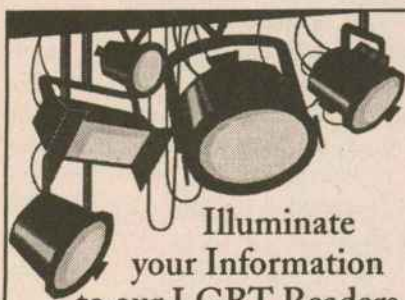
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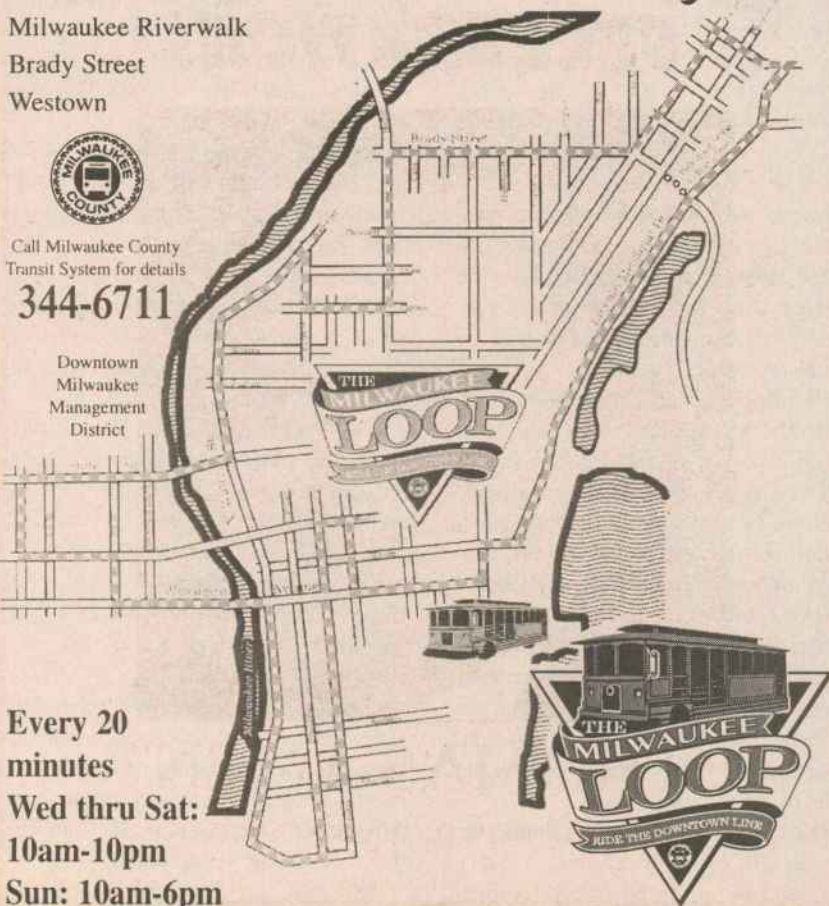
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AROUND THE WORLD

Sri Lanka Gays Want Target Anti-Gay Law

Colombo, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's only Gay rights group Wednesday is calling for the repeal of a 19th century law which makes homosexuality a criminal offense.

"Gay people don't even dare come out in the open while this law is there, branding them as criminals," Sherman de Rose, a spokesman for the group Companions On a Journey, told reporters.

The 130-year-old law, passed when the Indian Ocean Island was a British colony, makes homosexual acts punishable by up to 12 years in prison.

No studies have been done on the number of Gays in Sri Lanka, where homosexual issues are rarely discussed in the open.

De Rose said Gays are hopeful that their attempt would succeed. A 1992 move to repeal the law was approved by the country's Cabinet, but was never presented to parliament. De Rose said the law was even hampering AIDS and safe sex education for Gay people.

Sri Lanka has detected only 267 AIDS cases among its 18 million population, but some research groups estimate that there may be up to 8,000 infected cases who have not developed full blown AIDS.

Aussie Court Rules Against Lesbian

Brisbane, Australia (AP) — Queensland's highest state court ruled that a donor sperm clinic did not discriminate against a Lesbian when it refused to inseminate her.

Last January, the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal found the 24-year-old woman had been discriminated against by the clinic on the basis of her sexuality.

The woman, who is now a mother of two, has gone on record as saying she led the crusade for Lesbian access to the clinics because stringent testing meant the clinics did not carry the same risks as private donor insemination, notably the possibility of AIDS contamination.

However, the state Supreme Court overturned the decision after the clinic appealed, saying it had the right to refuse treatment because the woman was not infertile.

The Court of Appeal upheld the Supreme Court finding, saying the woman had not been directly discriminated against on the basis of her Lesbianism.

Big Ben Target of Protest

London — Data Lounge reports that members of the Gay British activist group YouthSpeak launched an unusual protest. The group painted London's most famous landmark, Big Ben with a laser projected Pink Triangle.

Youthspeak is angry at the failure of the House of Lords to approve a change in Britain's Age of Consent law. In June, the House of Commons approved a measure to lower the age of consent for Gay sex to 16 — the age of consent for heterosexual sex in Britain.

In July, the House of Lords rejected the proposal. While the House of Lords cannot kill legislation, it can delay it for up to a year.

Youthspeak demanded that the Home Secretary and Attorney General issue a waiver on enforcement of the law until both Houses of Parliament could pass the new law. The demand was refused.

After about 20 minutes, the Police surrounded the protesters and forced them to disband. Nevertheless, the group was pleased with the protest. YouthSpeak Chairman, Chris Morris, said, "Big Ben is one of the capital's biggest landmarks... It is the first time that a political message has been blasted onto Parliament for the whole of London to see."

French Protest Same Sex Couple Bill

Paris, France — The Reuters news agency reports French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin has been the target of a postcard campaign protesting a government bill that would provide benefits for same sex and unmarried heterosexual couples.

The French National Assembly will debate the idea on October 9. The bill is backed by Jospin's government and, if passed, would grant legal recognition to same sex couples.

In April more than a third of French mayors signed a petition objecting to the proposal. The government maintains that the proposal would not put same sex relationships on the same footing as marriages. The new law would forbid Gay couples from adopting children and from using artificial insemination to conceive children.

Reuters says that the proposal would give same sex couples the ability to file joint tax returns, share rights to common property, and give foreigners living with French citizens the right to claim residency after a five-year period.

The post card campaign has flooded Jospin's office with messages against the proposal. The campaign is being sponsored by The Future of Culture. The group says that the measure will "destroy the family." It claims that passage of the bill would "throw us back 20 centuries and destroy the remains of civilization that still separate us from barbarism."

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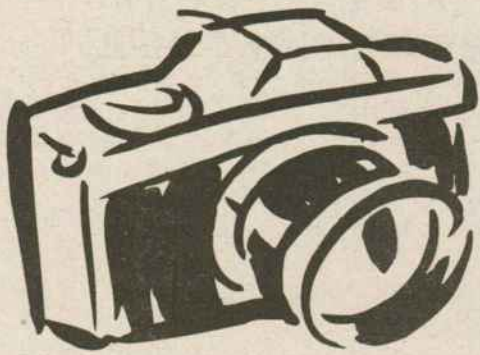
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Paul (Cricket) Jacob, AIDS Prevention Specialist at ARCW-Green Bay, received the first ever "Gay Community Choice" award at The '98 Golden Guernsey gala.



QUEST PHOTO
CREDIT: MARK ZA



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The Golden Guernsey Queen for 1998, Timmer, was crowned during the finals at ZA's in Green Bay. Timmer, representing the Napalese, raised over \$4,300.



TRIANGLE PHOTO

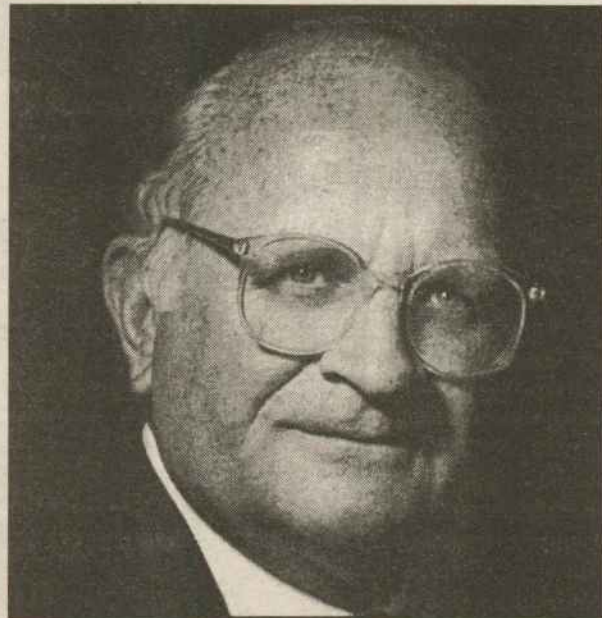
Rob (center) and staff show off their cake at the Triangle's anniversary celebration.



WI LIGHT PHOTO
CREDIT: BILL MEUNIER

Celebrants at the Triangle's anniversary party.

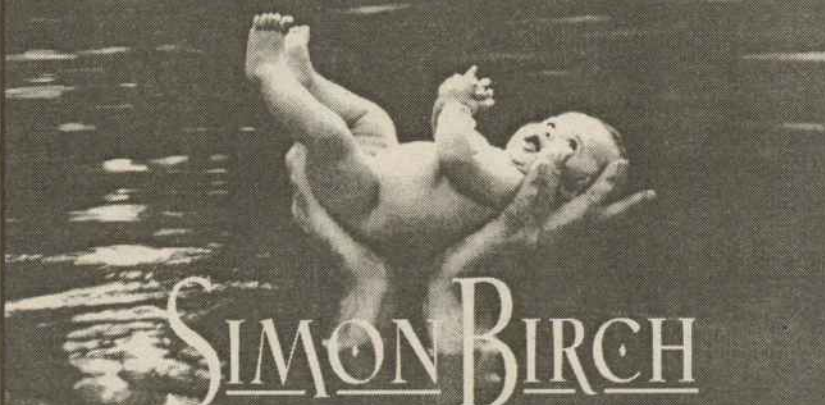
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AIDS Walk Wisconsin Queen Crowned

Dear Ruthie will wave at crowds during PrideFest and AIDS Walk

Milwaukee — An extraordinary turn of events at the 1998 Miss AIDS Walk Wisconsin Pageant resulted in the crowning of local heartthrob, *Wisconsin Light* advice columnist and trailer owner, Dear Ruthie as Queen.

Spectators and judges at the pageant were dumbstruck when a band of Possum Queen candidates (part of an entirely different pageant) stormed the AIDS Walk Wisconsin Pageant ceremonies and carried off all of the contestants but Dear Ruthie.

Dear Ruthie will wear her AIDS Walk Wisconsin Queen sash proudly throughout Milwaukee's PrideFest and during AIDS Walk Wisconsin on Sept. 20.

"As one of my first acts as Queen, I am asking all you good boys and girls to register for the Walk, and start collect-

time to be crowned Queen.

"We had no choice but to crown Dear Ruthie Queen, there were no other candidates," said pageant judge, Nosmo King. "Actually, I thought Ruthie's contribution to the talent section was particularly good. She's a great yodeler," King added.

When asked if she knew about the queen-napping of the other candidates,

Ruthie immediately fainted and didn't revive until the reporter left the room. It was later reported that Ruthie

made several calls to area bars where Possum Queens were raising money for local charities.

Ruthie told reporters it was pure coincidence. "I know nothing about those... what do they call themselves, poultry queens?" Ruthie said.

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PRIDEFEST 1998 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY • AUGUST 29
2-3 PM • Stonewall Tent • Reading & Book Signing
Soul2soul presents James Earl Hardy, author of *B-Boy Blues*
5:30-6 PM • Youth Stage • Queer Musical Chairs
An all-Queer version of your favorite kid's game

SUNDAY • AUGUST 30
5:30-6:30 PM • Stonewall Tent • Queer Pictionary
Win fabulous prizes in our Gayest rendition of this family favorite

THROUGHOUT PRIDEFEST
Information Booth
Featuring free condoms, lubricants and program information for Gay & Bisexual men, men of color, LBGTQ youth, along with other ARCW services. Condom distribution will occur outside the Summerfest grounds.

ARCW
AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN



Ilisa Trailer and Iona Trailer, two Possum Queen candidates, celebrate Ruthie's victory with *This Is It* owner Joe Brehm. Brehm is not believed to have been involved in the Queen-napping.

ing those pledges. We need all the money we can get. This is SERIOUS," said Ruthie shortly after her coronation.

"I'm not sure where the queen-nappers came from," a security guard reported after the crowning. "All I remember is a Possum Queen covering my face with a wig and I was overcome by the scent of cheap perfume!" The guard would only speak anonymously, due to his embarrassment about the wig episode.

Other guards later reported similar methods of distraction, allowing the Possum Queens to hog tie and blindfold the other AIDS Walk candidates. Dear Ruthie fainted during the surprise queen-napping, but was revived just in

efit from AIDS Walk Wisconsin 98. To Join Ruthie in the walk, pick up a pledge card or call 1-800-348-WALK.

Editor's Note — As editor of Wisconsin Light, I wish to categorically deny that the queen-napped candidates from the 1998 Miss AIDS Walk contest can be found underneath Ruthie's desk at our office. We did a thorough search of the space in question. There was not one candidate lying underneath all the Fabio pictures, moisturizers and cold nacho chips we found there. We did find a drunken Possum Queen candidate, but that doesn't prove a thing.

We offer our congratulations to Ruthie on her well-earned victory.

Tell Nike to Boot Reggie

Reggie White continues to ignore NFL policy by appearing in his uniform in full page anti-Gay ads in *The Washington Times*. Reggie has broken his promise to the NFL and the Green Bay Packers regarding the wearing of his uniform.

If you're interested in writing Nike and telling them to give Reggie the "Boot" (so to speak), reach them at: Philip H. Knight, Chairman and CEO, Nike, One Bowerman Drive, Beaverton, OR 97005-6453; (503) 671-6453 or fax (503) 671-6300.

Milwaukee Area Women's Resource Directory

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center for Women's Studies is taking orders for their 10th Annual *Milwaukee Area Women's Resource Directory*. The Directory has information on over 200 women's organizations with expanded contact information including e-mail, fax and web addresses.

It is easy to use and is indexed by category and subject. Organizations or individuals can purchase copies for \$10 each; students receive a 50% discount (\$5). You can send a check or money order payable to UWM Center for Women's Studies at UW-Milwaukee, Center for Women's Studies, P. O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Postage and handling is included in the cost.

LGBT Counseling Services Open in Appleton

The Fox Cities area will now have more choices for finding a supportive and affirming therapist with the opening of One Voice Counseling Services, 222 1/2 East College Avenue in Appleton.

The Center specializes in providing counseling services for LGBT adults and adolescents. The owner and therapist, Patti Jorgensen, is a Lesbian and has been an active part of the area LGBT community for over 20 years.

To receive more information, or make an appointment, call (920) 996-0055 or e-mail 1voice@prodigy.net.

A Special Offer for Small LGBT Community Organizations

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Call GLINN today at (414) 289-8640, 10am-10pm for more information.

Wisconsin Survey on Gender Expression

It's Time Wisconsin (ITW) is seeking to compile case studies of notable incidents of discrimination as well as instances of transgender success by taking a survey. The results of the survey will be used to promote anti-discrimination legislation in the State of Wisconsin.

The 21-question survey of multiple-choice questions is easy to complete and takes minimal time. The questions relate strictly to Wisconsin and cover schooling, employment, housing, public accommodations, legal harassment and hate crimes.

FMI or to get a copy of the survey and/or results call Debbie Johnson at (414) 697-1044 or Michael Munson at (414) 278-6031.

The survey is sponsored by **It's Time Wisconsin (ITW)**, **Gemini Gender Group (GGG)** and **Bi Definition of Milwaukee**.

Fall Support/Therapy Group Calendar

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Inc. has issued its fall support/therapy group calendar. There is a \$10 per group session fee for all groups. Sessions start mid-September or early October. Most groups meet in the evenings or on Saturday mornings. All sessions run 8-10 weeks. For more information call (414) 271-2565.

Help Children Learn to Read

Volunteer just once or twice a week for the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Reading Partners tutoring and mentoring program. Tutoring is done during the after school programs of neighborhood elementary schools in Milwaukee. Training will be provided.

Two tutor training sessions for new volunteers will be held in September. The first is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 6-9pm at MPS Central Services Administration Building, Room 210-211. The second will be held Saturday, September 12, 9am-Noon in Room 103. The MPS Central Services Administration Building is located at 5225 West Vliet Street.

For more information contact Susan Stuckert at (414) 475-8638.

Racine Area Church Awarded "Welcoming Congregation" Status

Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine has been recognized as an official "Welcoming Congregation" by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The Welcoming Congregation program was initiated by Olympia Brown to help the congregation be a welcoming place for all people, especially minority groups that have been traditionally discriminated against by society. Olympia Brown strives to include LGBT persons at every level of congregational life.

A new group called "Interweave" consisting of LGBTs plans on-going education for its members, outreach to youth and Legislative action updates on issues affecting LGBT persons.

Club & Organization Calendar

Friday, August 28

BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinics (Milw.), Noon-7pm, PrideFest '98, Maier Festival Grounds, BESTD Clinic Tent.

PrideFest (Milw.), Summerfest grounds, 5pm to 12 midnight.

Reception for James Earl Hardy (Milw.), Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th Street, 7-9pm. Skit from Hardy's first book, B-Boy Blues plus hors d'oeuvres. Sponsored by UJIMA.

Saturday, August 29

BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinics (Milw.), Noon-7pm, PrideFest '98, Maier Festival Grounds, BESTD Clinic Tent.

Frontiers (Madison), Hiking trip at Governor Dodge State Park, 1pm. FMI (608) 588-3073.

FrontRunners (Milw.), 9am, rain or shine. Meet at North Avenue Water Tower. FMI Joanne at 358-3608.

PrideFest (Milw.), Summerfest grounds, 11am to 12 midnight.

Sunday, August 30

PrideFest (Milw.), Summerfest grounds, 10:15am to 11pm.

Tuesday September 1

Boot Camp (Milw.), 14th Anniversary Party, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 4pm; free food at 8pm and midnight.

Thursday, September 3

BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinics (Milw.), 10pm-1am, La Cage, 801 South 2nd Street.

Club 5 Bar & Restaurant (Madison), opens. Featuring a full service restaurant, Planet Q video dance bar, The Barracks men's bar, and the Q Gift Shop.

Friday, September 4

Fluid (Milw.), Blind Date Party, sponsored by Miller. Great prizes, \$2 Miller. Continues Saturday & Sunday.

Saturday, September 5

Duluth-Superior Pride Celebration (Statewide), Weekend. 11am-6pm at Billings Park in Superior, picnic, entertainment, informational booths, food vendors and products.

Bi Definition Social & discussion (Milw.), 7pm at BestD Clinic, 1240 East Brady Street. Topic is Bisexual Marriage Issues.

Sunday, September 6

Duluth-Superior Pride Celebration (Statewide), Weekend. Walk with Pride parade on the Lakewalk in Duluth, noon-1:30pm. Boat Cruise at 2:30-5:30pm. FMI (715) 398-5404 or (218) 727-0750.

GLBT Catholics (Milw.), 10:30am-Noon at Holy Trinity/Guadalupe School, 621 S. 4th Street. Monthly discussion group. FMI Fred at (414) 481-8543.

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If you are HIV-positive and have experienced the loss of someone to AIDS, this therapy program will provide you with a safe and confidential opportunity to learn some effective ways of coping with HIV infection and AIDS-related loss. Up to \$200 for completion of the entire study.


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For more information, contact CAIR at 414-456-7731 or 1-800-644-1615

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WCTC



Venturing OUT

by Sasha Alyson

Discover Asia

Asia has long held an allure for travelers from the West. With the region now in economic recession, we have another reason to visit: The dollar buys much more than it did a year ago. Here are a few destinations to consider for a first-time visit.

Thailand

While planning our tenth-anniversary trip, my boyfriend and I investigated Gay Thailand tours. The leading company, we learned, offers no discount for double occupancy: Everybody gets a double room to themselves, with an unspoken assumption that the other half of the bed will get filled soon enough. This didn't seem like the ideal arrangement for our tenth-anniversary vacation, but for other travelers, it will be just the ticket. (Tours to Paradise: 213-962-9169, www.tourstoparadise.com)

For many, that's the appeal of Thailand: Sex between men is legal, accepted and available. Most contact between visitors and Thais is commercialized in go-go clubs staffed with young "masseurs," who often identify themselves as straight — but flexible. Clubs with a more western-style Gay identity have opened in recent years like Bangkok's Telephone (114/11-13 Silom Rd., Soi 4, +2/234-3279) or DJ Station (8/6-8 Silom Rd., Soi 2, +2/235-1227).

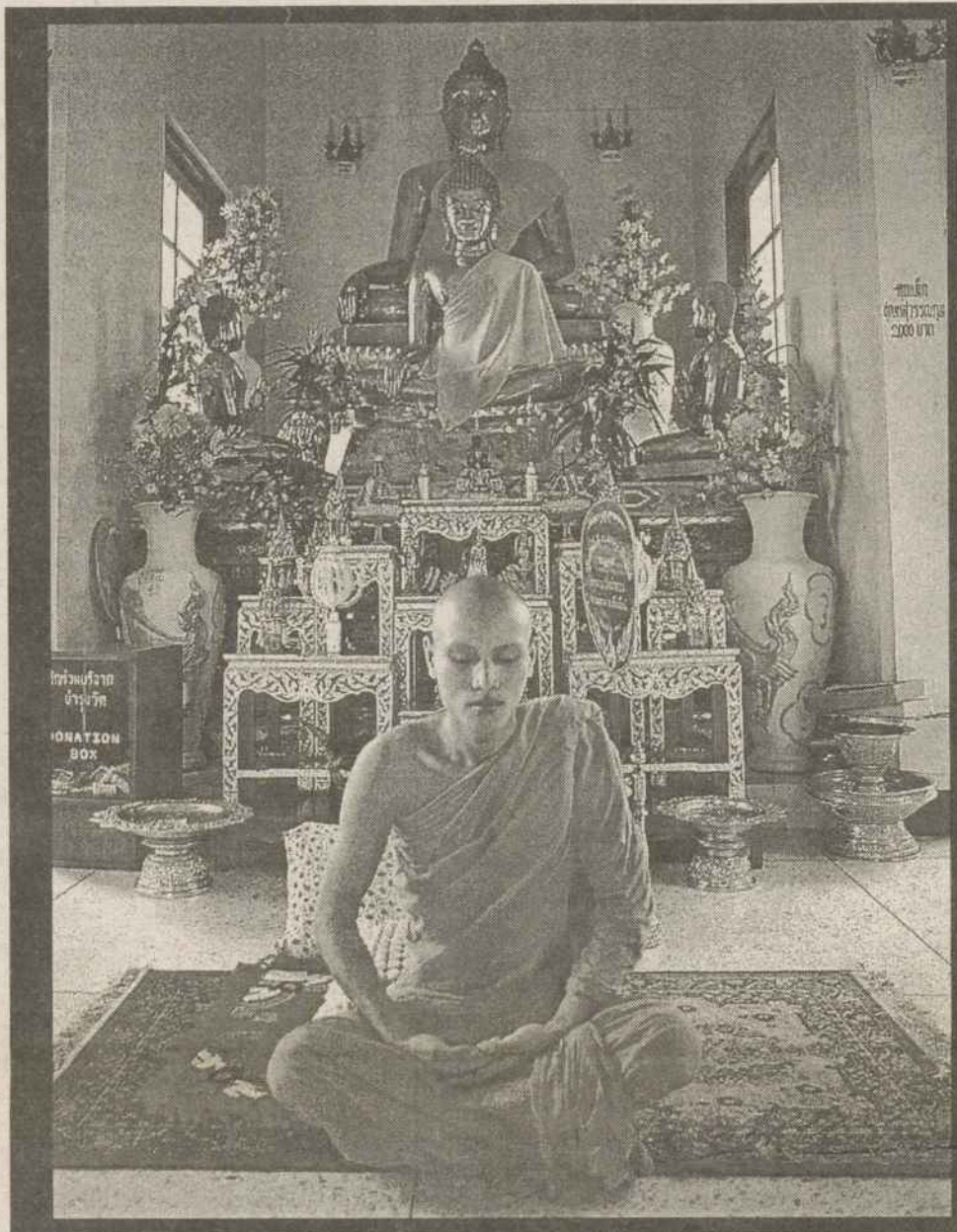
The north of Thailand offers a sharp contrast to urban Bangkok. You can visit an ornate Buddhist temple one day, raft in the Himalayan foothills the next. The hill tribes provide a fascinating cultural counterpoint to the rugged scenery.

Southern Thailand is known for its exquisite beaches and islands. The best-known beach resort, Phuket, has become congested, over-built, and a prime destination for sex tourists. Instead, consider Krabi on the mainland, or the islands of Phi Phi and Samui.

Bali

One of Asia's most popular destinations is Bali. Beautiful beaches ring this verdant island. Some of the most luxurious resorts in the world are found along these shores.

Don't confine yourself to the beach. The striking river gorges of Bali's interior are popular with intrepid travelers. Ubud, a city in the middle of the island, is Bali's cultural capital, with shops and galleries featuring art and handicrafts. The interior also offers hiking, river rafting, a Monkey Forest and the Pura Dalem Agung temple.



A monk meditates at a Thai Buddhist temple.

Vietnam

The freshest travel destination in Asia is Vietnam, which fully opened itself to tourism only in the early 1990s. While lacking the sophisticated resorts of Bali, or the sexual openness of Thailand, Vietnam offers enormous natural beauty and a fascinating culture that has long been isolated from the world. Intrigued? This is the time to go, as it won't remain unchanged for long. Many hotels opened just as tourism dipped, so luxury rooms are available for under \$100 a night.

Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in the south is the fast-paced capital. There are few venues at which you can meet Gays. One is Cafe 39 (Lê Thi Rieng St., Dist. 5), outside the city center. Another is Dem Mau Hong Disco (Ham Nghi St.) in the city.

Saigon also offers enough other attractions, such as the Reunification Palace, to keep you busy. If the city crowds prove overwhelming, about 130 miles north of Ho Chi Minh City lies Da Lat, a Vietnamese honeymoon spot noted for its beautiful scenery and relaxing atmosphere.

Hanoi, in the north, plays little sister to Saigon. Its charms include the old quarter whose crooked streets and

alleys contain thousands of vendors and artisans. A day trip from Hanoi, four hours southwest of the city, is the Perfume Pagoda, a Buddhist cave temple set deep in a fragrant forest.

The narrow center of Vietnam boasts two cities worth a stop. While in Hue, visit Thien Mu pagoda by riverboat. South from Hue is Da Nang and nearby China Beach.

Still undecided? Your travel schedule is a factor. October brings an end to the rainy season in Thailand and Vietnam; weather will be best from November into springtime. Bali's the opposite: The best months are May to September.

The Gay travel newsletter *Out & About* (212-645-6922, outandabout.com) has published several excellent articles about various destinations in Asia. Those interested in the sex scene should check out *The Guide* (www.guidemag.com/travel.html).

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/.

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From The Right

Commentary by James McFarland

A Long, Hot, Uncomfortable Campaign Season

It looks like we are in for a long, hot and uncomfortable campaign season for Lesbians and Gays, especially for Lesbian and Gay Republicans. Within a week of the publishing of my last column, Rep. Frank Riggs (R-Calif.) announced he would introduce an amendment barring Federal housing funds to any municipality that required employers to provide domestic partner health insurance benefits.

While this amendment passed the House of Representatives recently, it should be noted that it passed with only a two-vote margin (214-212). More importantly, the House soundly defeated the attempt to overturn President Clinton's executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by a vote of 252-176. 63 Republicans joined 188 Democrats and 1 independent in opposing this measure.

This means that not only did the 30 or so moderate to liberal Republicans in the House vote against the measure, but they were joined by thirty-some mainstream conservative Republicans. In fact, notable conservative Republicans, including Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) and Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-Va.), took the floor to oppose the measure.

While we are encouraged by the votes on these measures, the fact remains that the GOP leadership has and will continue to use Gay bashing to solidify its support from fundamentalist Christians. In my last column, I labeled this a dangerous gamble because it could alienate the mainstream swing voters in the suburban districts critical to Republican control. However, this may prove not to be such a dangerous gamble after all.

Why? Because voter turnout for this fall's election is expected to be at a record low. And the fact of the matter is that those mainstream swing voters are just not going to show up at the polls in any appreciable numbers. Both parties know this. Both the Democrats and the Republicans have foregone the traditional strategy of "moving to the center" during a general election to attract swing voters (after "moving to the right" for Republicans or "moving to the left" for Democrats in a primary election).

The new strategy, as outlined by an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, is to scare your party's voting base so much that they show up at the polls in larger numbers than their opponents. Thus, the Republicans, whose most reliable voters have been the fundamentalist Christians, will try to scare the bejeezus out of the fundies by charging that the Dems are promoting homosexuality and destroying family values, and by showing those voters that the GOP is willing to speak out and stop it.

The Dems, on the other hand, will try to scare the heck out of their most solid base, the senior vote, by charging that the GOP is going to destroy Social Security and Medicare by using the budget surplus from tax cuts for the rich. Of course, the truth will be sacrificed by both sides.

Thus, we can expect to continue to hear highly charged anti-Gay rhetoric from the GOP leadership all the way into November, and it will be very uncom-

fortable. What is the cause of this problem?

I'll be blunt. You, the readers, ask yourself this question: do you regularly vote in fall primary elections, or have you ever voted in a primary election? If the answer is no, then you have no one to blame but yourself for the fact that we increasingly see elections between far-right Republicans and far-left Dems.

If you are one of the many Lesbians and Gays who tell me that they are fiscal conservatives but consider themselves Democrats, or usually vote Democrat

because of GOP views on Gay issues, yet you do not vote in GOP primaries for Republicans with better views on Gay issues, you will be doomed to having to choose between a Republican who is a fiscal conservative but will make us feel like second class citizens by rhetorically attacking Lesbians and Gays, or a Dem who will do the right thing on Gay issues but will raise our taxes significantly.

The solution is for all of you fiscally conservative Lesbian and Gays to get involved with Log Cabin Republicans, and start electing fiscal conservatives

who are not anti-Gay in the GOP primaries. We will not win all of these races. The change will not happen overnight, but the more we get involved in these campaigns, the more success we will have.

Personally, I long for the day when I will not have to worry that the candidates with common sense, when it comes to the economy and government spending, will prove themselves to be homophobic ignoramuses when it comes to Gay issues.

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Spotlight

August 27 –
September 9, 1998

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss' Sean P. Hayes

by Mark J. Huisman

If the tone of his debut feature *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* is hard to describe, Sean P. Hayes has the synopsis down pat. "Boy meets boy. Boy wonders if boy is Gay or straight. Boy discovers boy is Gay. Boy is happy. Boy discovers boy likes another boy. Boy loses boy."

Over the phone from Los Angeles, where he has lived for many years, Hayes rattles this off without a breath, ending in a rollicking laugh. But his description eliminates a significant element of the story. Boy never really had boy. Boy's friends have been trying to tell him this. Does boy's problem sound familiar?

When Hayes's character, a photographer named Billy, first sees Gabriel (played by Brad Rowe), his slack-jawed first words are, "That boy is too beautiful to be slopping coffee." From this attraction flow all of Billy's subsequent romantic dilemmas.

"It's such a simple story," says Hayes. "Billy just flips over Gabriel and not necessarily in the right direction."

Has Hayes himself ever flipped for a Gabriel? Or Brad? "It was wild passionate sex every day," Hayes says of his co-star, quickly adding, "No, no, no. None of that. Just kidding." None? "Brad and I are great friends. We had a lot of fun."

Hayes never intended to make acting his life's work but first performed at a very early age. "I went for my first commercial when I was a child," he recalls, his voice sliding from a happy shout to a gentle whisper. "I don't even remember the first one."

Hayes grew up in the Chicago suburb of Glen Ellyn. He credits his mother with teaching him to look at the lighter side. "She worked secretarial jobs, which are no glamour and lots of hard work. Still, she raised all five of us — alone — and with this amazing sense of humor. Sarcasm was how we dealt with everything. Then again, maybe that's being Irish and Roman Catholic."

Hayes studied piano performance at Illinois State University, where he hung out in the theater department "because music majors were so boring." After graduation he was the Music Director at a small Chicago theater, where

he directed and starred, alternately, in war-horses from *Evita* to *West Side Story*. Hayes also performed at venerated places like the Steppenwolf Theater Company and Second City.

"I think I was always an actor but couldn't acknowledge it," Hayes continues. "I mean, I would find myself doing all these musicals! I would hear about people who made a living doing commercials, but it was a scary thing to let go of financial security and move to L.A."

It was no mistake. Hayes' bright-eyed, all-American visage (which is winningly tweaked by its mustache and chin beard) has been featured in some highly visible TV spots. He won an industry award for a Residence Inn commercial. In a spot for Pepsi, which has burned stars far bigger and brighter than his, Hayes played a man who is unexpectedly pursued by a strutting supermodel at a cocktail party.

"Madonna!" Hayes screams when reminded of her infamous battle over aluminum cans and crosses. "I'd forgotten all about that. Wow! She couldn't pull it off, but I did! Just kidding." Go ahead, laugh. Stardom, as many a famous face can attest, has often been preceded by advertising gigs and supporting roles on TV series, the latter which Hayes recently landed as well.

Hayes will play Jack McFarlane, a Gay guy whose best boy friend is the title character of "Will & Grace," NBC's fall entrant in the Gay man/straight girl combo comedy sweepstakes. "I play the neurotic, bitter kind of best friend," Hayes quips. "As my reference, I use Tommy O'Haver."

Given the chance to retaliate, O'Haver said, "Believe me, Sean P. Hayes didn't need any lessons in being bitter or neurotic." But the director is also quick to sing his star's praises. "Sean is a terrific actor," O'Haver says.

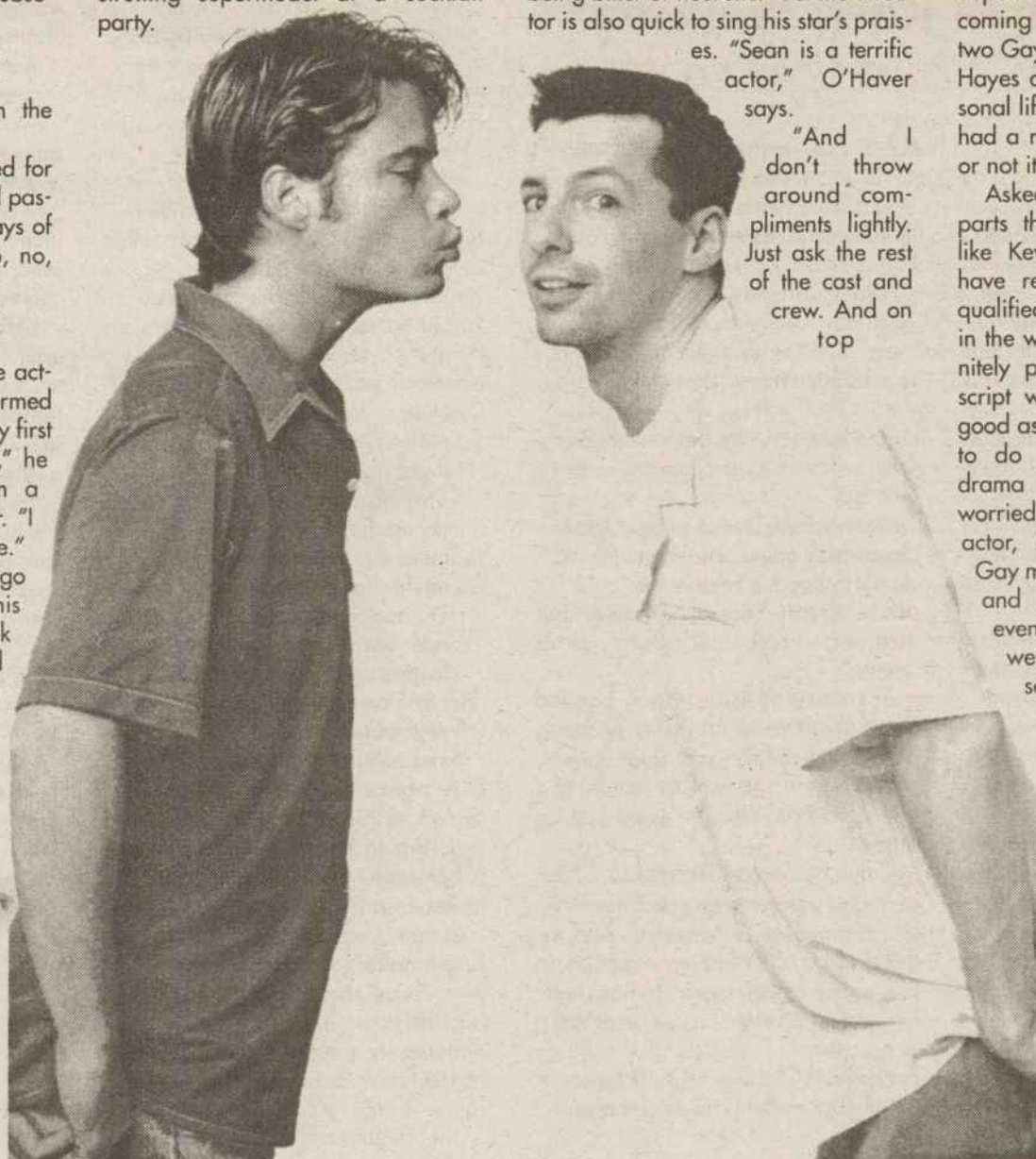
"And I don't throw around compliments lightly. Just ask the rest of the cast and crew. And on top

of that, he's just the greatest human being."

Will Jack and Will get boyfriends on the show? "I don't know," Hayes says. "[The producers] want to stay away from shoving it down people's throats. The goal is humor, not to make a statement." Asked if he worried about having the same fate as Ellen, Hayes said, "I'm definitely not going to be a spokesperson for anybody. But as for Ellen and Anne, everybody just needs to relax. If Anne plays a murderer in a movie, is Ellen's life in danger? If Ellen loves a man in her next series, should Anne be worried?"

It's a good point, but one that assumes Ellen is allowed to have a next series. That requires — for heterosexual viewers in particular — accepting openly Gay and Lesbian performers in all kinds of roles, which depends on Gay and Lesbian actors coming out. Even though he's playing two Gay roles in such close proximity, Hayes declined to talk about his personal life, including whether or not he had a romantic interest, and whether or not it was a man or woman.

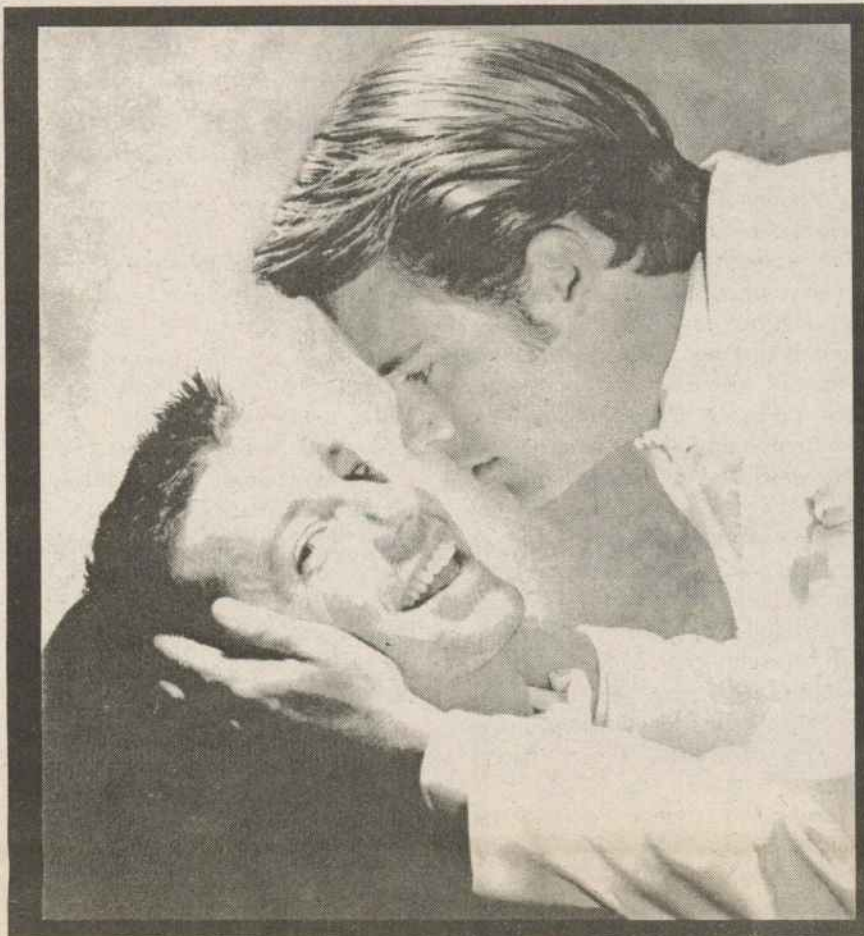
Asked if he'd like to get some of the parts that major heterosexual actor like Kevin Kline and Liam Neeson have recently had, Hayes offers a qualified yes. "I don't want to get stuck in the world of Gay comedy. I'd definitely play another Gay role if the script was amazing. You're only as good as the role or the movie. I'd love to do something I haven't done, drama in particular." Although he's worried about being limited as an actor, Hayes thinks perceptions of Gay men and Lesbians are changing and that the entire question will eventually be irrelevant. "I think we're getting to a better point in society. At least I hope so."



BRAD ROWE stars as Gabriel, the gorgeous musician Billy (SEAN P. HAYES) falls for in the romantic comedy *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*.

OUT on Film

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss is Light, Amusing and Clichéd



SEAN P. HAYES is Billy, a photographer and romantic who finds the model subject in BRAD ROWE (Gabriel) in Trimark Picture's *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*.

Reviewed by John Jahn

Light as a feather and just about as emotionally and intellectually substantial, the Gay-themed *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* is a flirty little film that has a good heart, but little staying power.

Billy (the cute-in-an-offbeat-way Sean P. Hayes) is a movie-struck photographer from the Midwest who has recently moved to L.A. looking for his "big break." The film begins with a series of Polaroid snapshots of and by the title character, as he introduces himself and amusingly "confesses" the fact he's Gay. He's also a romantic, still looking for the "man of his dreams." (Join the club, honey!)

One day, while in a trendy coffee shop with a gal pal, an adorable waiter pops over and Billy's enraptured. The new object of his attention is Gabriel (Brad Rowe), a gorgeous blonde boy blend of Brad Pitt and Rob Lowe circa 1985.

But Gabriel's sexuality remains obscure (Don't you just hate that!), and Billy becomes increasingly dismayed as Gabriel keeps bringing up his girlfriend in San Francisco and lacks, as Billy calls it, the "show tune gene."

Still, as Billy's friend and "big sister" Perry (Madison native Richard Ganoung) remarks, "Every once in a while, you get a vibe." We follow

Billy's adventures with hunky Gabriel, as the latter keeps himself tantalizingly available without ever committing himself to a specific sexual orientation.

Writer-director Tommy O'Haver calls *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* "a trifle," and that it surely is. Little more than a Gay-themed slice-of-life, it's flyweight and, frankly, all too familiar.

We've seen Billy before in several Gay romantic comedies: the lovelorn nice guy who falls for the seemingly unattainable, enigmatic hunk. The title comes from Billy's obsession with classic Hollywood screen kisses and his photo shoots recreating them, but involving lovely lads and drag queens!

The narrative is, however, bogged down by several intrusive, overlong and only mildly amusing movie-themed dream sequences featuring a trio of overacting, lip-syncing drag queens.

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss is likeable and unthreatening, but nevertheless disposable and clichéd. And for those of us often finding ourselves in Billy's shoes, don't expect to find many nuggets of wisdom... you're on your own here, girlfriends! *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* opens in September at the Oriental Theatre.

★★

Driver Fails to Engage Us as *The Governess*

Reviewed by John Jahn

The only thing that's truly kosher in *The Governess* is its heroine, and that's just because she's a 19th-century Jew. This mixed-up movie attempts to deliver a treatise on religious intolerance and a dollop of proto-feminism within the context of a tawdry love affair. Nice try, but on the whole, it just doesn't hold together.

Minnie Driver stars as Rosina da Silva, who lives in 1840s London. When her father (Bruce Myers) is murdered, the family is plunged into debt. Rather than go through with an arranged marriage to a wealthy but elderly fishmonger, Rosina decides to take the high road — to Scotland.

In order to get a job, she must hide her true heritage. In the film's wittiest scene, she gives herself a good Christian name, "Mary Blackchurch." She then accepts a position as a governess with a wealthy family, the Cavendishes, who live on a remote island.

Thus the elements are in place for a fascinating fish-out-of-water story. How will this Jewish girl from the city cope with a situation that's not only foreign to her (everything from ham

for dinner to Sunday church), but could have serious consequences should she be discovered?

Instead and unfortunately, Writer-director Sandra Goldbacher chooses to explore Rosina's growing interest in Mr. Cavendish (Tom Wilkinson of *The Full Monty*). He is a self-absorbed pioneer in the early study of photography. At the same time, she must fend off the rampaging hormones of the gorgeous, young Cavendish boy, Henry (Jonathan Rhys Meyers).

The movie's tone lurches from dead-ly solemn — the Cavendishes' offhand anti-Semitism — to inadvertently humorous. Driver acts herself almost to death. She's clearly an ambitious performer, and this is her first real lead since *Circle of Friends*, her breakthrough film. But Driver's approach to her often unsympathetic character is ultimately off-putting due largely to her overwrought exertions. Plus, for every compelling scene, there are half a dozen that just don't work. What's left is an over-busy film with under-realized potential.

The Governess opens Friday, August 21 at the Oriental Theatre.

★1/2

Simon Birch: A Tearjerker

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

As the opening credits rolled for *Simon Birch*, Glenn's attention was caught by the credit which rather intriguingly stated that the film about to unfold before this packed cinema was "suggested by" the novel *A Prayer For Owen Meany* by John Irving.

"Suggested by" the novel... Glenn pondered this concept for awhile and remains utterly clueless as to what that curious phrase actually means. Is it the same story? Will the characters from the novel appear in the film? Has Hollywood forced upon John Irving a cinematic happy ending he finds distasteful?

So many questions, so few answers. How like life.

So what about *Simon Birch*? Well... *Simon Birch* is just probably the most shamelessly manipulative tearjerker Glenn has even seen. More shamelessly manipulative than *It's a Wonderful Life*? Yep.

It comes as no surprise that the climax to *Simon Birch* occurs in the days following Christmas.

Simon Birch (Ian Michael Smith) is a tiny twelve-year-old. Virtually disowned by his uncaring, slovenly parents, Simon has been befriended by Joe (Joseph Mazzello) and Joe's mother Rebecca (Ashley Judd).

Simon is an obvious outsider in the rural small town in which he lives, due to his size. Joe, too, is an outsider because he is a bastard. Mom, Rebecca, remained unmarried and has refused to tell Joe who his real father is until he's ready.

The relationship between the two

boys is more like that of brothers than best friends. This situation is strengthened by the fact that Rebecca has taken Simon under her wing, acting more like a mother to the boy than Simon's own mother.

Through the course of the film, each boy is on a quest — Joe to find his real father, Simon to find that higher purpose he believes God has for him.

Like a particularly barbarous installment of *Touched by an Angel*, *Simon Birch* is a peculiar mix of faith and friendship, death and betrayal. In the course of a few short hours, Simon and Joe are subjected to such tragedies and moments of deepest despair, that only the most cold-hearted in the audience won't find themselves wiping away the odd tear.

If only writer-director Mark Steven Johnson could have been a bit less ponderous, trusting his audience to respond naturally to Joe's and Simon's story without the repeated use of cinematic emotional sledge-hammers. And if only cute little Joe didn't grow up to be Jim "I'm a Serious Actor Now" Carrey.

And yes, Glenn did wipe away the odd tear.

A special screening of *Simon Birch* will be occurring on Thursday, September 3, at 7:30pm at the Northshore Cinema, 11700 North Port Washington Road in Mequon. Tickets can be picked up at the Red Wheelbarrow Bookshop at 1213 East Brady Street on Tuesday, September 1 and Wednesday, September 2 from 11am to 8pm.

Rating: \$4.86 (Scale: No cents to \$7.00)

OUT in the Theatre

Gay Like Me Mirrors Real Life

by Chris Fallek

In public discourse, the discussion of Gay identity is often framed in terms of sex and morality. Broom Street Theater's production of *Gay Like Me*, an original play written and directed by Callen Harty, dives through the layers of sex

and morality, and brings to light other arguments based in justice and love.

Gay Like Me is a fast-paced story supported not by details like props and costumes, but by broad physical character strokes. Don't look for subtlety in the roles — Harry introduces each of the main characters as stereotypes, which

are converted through a series of almost physical blows into individuals.

All six cast members (Kevin Bosley, John Ferguson, Lauri Harty, Kathleen Martin, Stephanie Turner and Joe Wiener) give strong performances on Broom Street's barren, deconstructed set.

Kevin Bosley's portrayal of Griffin, a

see *Gay Like Me* on Spotlight page IX

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Thursday, August 27

John McGivern Live - Stories from the Midwest (Milw.), Comedy Cafe, 615 East Brady. Featuring John McGivern and Kenni Feinberg. FMI (414) 271-5653.

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milw.), 1801 East Royall Place. 1-5pm, Wednesday thru Sunday. Patrick Farrell Retrospective Exhibition continues through September 20. \$2 admission.

Thursday, August 27

Red Wheel Barrow (Milw.), 1213 East Brady. Writer's work group, share works in progress, 7-8:30pm. FMI (414) 223-4491.

Friday, August 28

Gay Like Me (Madison), Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson Street. A new comedy written and directed by Callen Harty. 8pm through Sunday, August 30. \$7 at door. FMI (608) 244-8338.

Saturday, August 29

Metro Cafe (Milw.), Hotel Metro, 411 East Mason. John Schneider and Dean Leo perform every Saturday at 9:30pm.

Sunday, August 30

"Like Our Sisters Before Us" (Milw.), Area writer and historian Jamakaya will discuss and sign copies of her recently published book about women in Wisconsin's labor movement at the Rainbow Cafe on the PrideFest Grounds at 11:15 am. FMI (414) 771-0700.

An Evening of Laughter & Song (Milw.), 7pm, Comedy Cafe, 615 East Brady. Featuring John McGivern and Kenni Feinberg. FMI (414) 271-5653.

Tuesday, September 1

"In the Life" Television Show (Statewide), 11pm, on Public Television channels.

Wednesday, September 2

Zeidler Park (Milw.), 11:45am-1:45pm. Great Music: Dick Polasky Trio.

Friday, September 4

Gay Like Me (Madison), Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson Street. A new comedy written and directed by Callen Harty. 8pm through Sunday, September 6. \$7 at door. FMI (608) 244-8338.

Wednesday, September 9

Zeidler Park (Milw.), 11:45am-1:45pm. Great Music: Ron DeVillers Quartet.

Saturday, September 12

Afterwords (Milw.), 2710 North Murray, "An Evening of Murder & Mayhem." Mystery authors Ellen Hart and Mark Richard Zubro talk about writing mysteries and read from their novels.

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PIZZA

Milwaukee's PrideFest - August 28-30

(This is just a quick recap from our extensive coverage in the last issue. Please refer to that for more detailed information, or pick up a PrideFest Schedule on the grounds.)

PrideFest celebrates "Many Worlds, One Community" with a three-day headliner and activity-packed festival on Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront Summerfest grounds. An additional stage has been added this year, more headline entertainment, an expanded Saturday children's line-up, plus all your favorites from past years. LGBT's, family and friends are invited to enjoy a diverse entertainment schedule, fabulous food, Saturday night fireworks, Sunday Wisconsin Pride Parade, shopping and presentations.

The main stage remains at the **Miller Oasis**, this year called the **Miller/Alyn Hess Stage** which is sponsored by **Miller Brewing**. Headliners include: Lesbian dance music diva **Joi Cardwell**; the outrageous a cappella Gay vocal group **Men Out Loud** (sponsored by the **AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin**); the retro dance girl group **Musique**, and the country western sounds of Gay singer/guitarist **Jeff Miller**. The Miller/Hess Stage will be up and running all three days.

The second main venue is the **Harley Davidson Roadhouse** renamed the **Harley/Ben Johnson Stage**, sponsored by the **Challenging Party**. This stage will showcase a diverse line-up of local and regional bands and performers on Saturday and Sunday.

The **Miller Lite Volleyball Tournament** will be held on bleacher-surrounded grass courts on the grounds just east of the fountain area on Saturday from 11am-5pm. Sunday, the courts will be open for everyone's enjoyment and exercise.

The **Dance Tent**, co-sponsored by **La Cage**, will be open all three days, with a special **'70s-'80s Retro Dance Party** on Friday night. Thanks to the sponsorship of **Dish**, **Ms. Cardwell** will perform a set at 9:30pm Friday.

Prices are \$5 at the gate, or purchase a \$12 3-day pass on Friday evening. You can get in free with the following deals: four or more food items Friday from 5-9pm or Saturday from 11am-2pm; All day, every day with the Pride Card; and on Sunday from 2-4pm with your *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* press card.

The other stages and their sponsors include: **Rainbow Cafe (Woody's)**; **Stonewall Stage (InStep/Q Voice)**; **Nelvin Johnson Youth Activity Area (Cream City Foundation)**; and the **Children's Variety Stage (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)**. Other areas available for your enjoyment include the **Channel 4 Children's Play Area**, **The Market Place**, **Food Stands**, **Beer & Beverage Stands**, and the **Lakefront Promenade** for a relaxing respite. **Wisconsin Light** will staff the **PrideFest Info Booth**.

Sponsors not mentioned above include the **Damron Company**,

Wisconsin Electric, **American Airlines** and **Instinct Magazine**. Everyone who wants to consume alcoholic beverages will have to prove their age with a valid ID at one of the Drink Ticket Booths or at the Info Booth. **ID Lube** has supplied different colored wrist bands for each day of the festival, and everyone trying to purchase beer will be required to wear one.

Other performers and events scheduled throughout the weekend at the various venues are vast in their diversity. They include: **Rufus & The Singing Machine**, **Possum Queen Finale**, **Josie Santiago Side by Side**, **Robert Nugent Jones**, **Pulsation**, **Ballet Wisconsin**, **Nuna**, **Diane McCarthy**, **Cream City Chorus**, **Dorrian Gray**, **Dykapella**, **Fweep**, **Magician**, **Jason and the Dancers**, **Fest City Singers** and **Lu Shanti & Steve Polifka**. Wait, there are more: **Framing Amy**, **Johnny B**, **Stardust**, **Power Play**, **Teri Vann**, **The Little People**, **Women Comedians**, **Mia Montenegro & Ronnie Nyles**, **Krystal Moon**, **Sometimes Y**, **Jerry & Heath Show**, **Rod Johnson's Group**, **Sara Jane Whitney & Co.**, **Cream City Squares**, **Zoinks**, **Atahualpa**, **Kenni Feinberg**, **Les Lokey Band**, **Co-Z Productions**, **Petra Luna Y Preciosas**, **Xanadu Dance Troupe**, **Jack Sunday** and, to wrap things up, the **B.J. Daniel's Revue**.

Don't forget the **Sunday Wisconsin Pride Parade** steps off at 2pm. Be sure to line up your float, car or group at the North Gate in plenty of time. Other special events include the **Saturday Children's Day**, **Saturday Night Fireworks**, **Sunday Interfaith Service** and the **Sunday Commitment Ceremony**.

Visitor Information: Driving? Take I-94 East from Madison, I-94 West (North) from Chicago, I-43 South from Green Bay to the downtown I-794 spur. Then follow the Summerfest/Maier Festival Park signs to the site. Or, hop the **PrideFest Shuttle** for free from one of the locations listed on the Shuttle Route Map elsewhere on this page. The shuttle runs both Saturday and Sunday, and if you park near one of the sponsors, you'll save parking fees at the grounds and get dropped off right at the front gate. Just look for the Shuttle Stop signs.

For more information, contact PrideFest at (414) 272-FEST, or log into their web site: **www.pridefest.com** For hotel and special travel information, contact the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 554-1448.

Just a friendly reminder that all state and local ordinances regarding public nudity and disorderly conduct will be enforced, and all apparel must comply with those codes. The following activities or items are not allowed at the festival: sale or distribution of any material without the express written consent of PrideFest Inc.; glass, bottles, cans; coolers or carry-ins; pets; and video equipment.

PRIDEFEST Highlights & Headliners

(Please see our last issue or the PrideFest Schedule handed out on the grounds for a full schedule.)

Friday, August 28

Festival Open 5pm-Midnight

7pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Opening Ceremonies

7:45pm - Dance Tent: '70s Dance Party

8:30pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Possum Queen Finale

9:30pm - Dance Tent: Joi Cardwell

10:45pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Josie Santiago & Co.

Saturday, August 29

Festival Open 11am-Midnight • Special Children's Day Programs

Fireworks 10pm • Competitive Volleyball 11am-5pm • Marketplace Shopping

5-11:45pm - Dance Tent: Your Favorite DJs

7pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Women Comedians*

7:30pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Joi Cardwell

8pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Men Out Loud

9pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Musique

10pm - Lakefront: Fireworks

10:30pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Mrs. Fun

10:45pm - Harley/Ben Johnson Stage: Jeff Miller

Sunday, August 30

Festival Open 10:15am-11pm • Pride Parade 2pm • Open Volleyball

Marketplace Shopping

10:30am - Rainbow Cafe: Interfaith Service

11:30am-10:45pm - Dance Tent: Your Favorite DJs

2pm - Wisconsin Pride Parade steps off

3pm - Harley/Ben Johnson Stage: Comedian Kenni Feinberg

3:30pm - Harley/Ben Johnson Stage: PrideFest Awards Presentations

4:30pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Men Out Loud

5:30pm - Miller/Alyn Hess Stage: Women Comedians

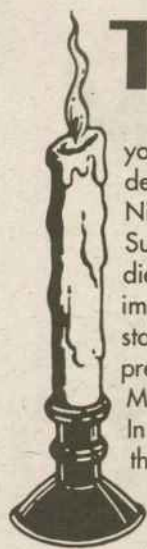
6pm - Harley/Ben Johnson Stage: Commitment Ceremony

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The Night Light

by Dusty Sass

News — I am sad to tell you that Keith Hill, a wonderful performer, Kierra Nichole, at **Club 219's** Sunday Night Show, has died. In addition to his impersonation skills on stage, Keith was also a pretty fair softball player in Milwaukee's SSBL league. In fact, he was one of those people you loved to see on the diamond because he was always so full of fun. He will be missed.

Recaps — I had a fun time at **Kirby's Klub** in Mad Town during the Tammy Baldwin for Congress Fundraiser there. The show was wonderful and really fun! The packed house seemed to enjoy it as much as I did.

Before the show I stopped in at **The Shamrock** where I also had a great time. The crew there is really first rate and friendly.

After the show, I went over to **Manoeuvres**. The place was packed — as usual. It will be soooooo nice when this club gets into its new location in early September.

The **SSBL All Star Game and Picnic** was a real hoot. It was great that the game was held at Mitchell Park, the leagues old stomping grounds. A large crowd — the likes of which hadn't been seen since the SSBL left the park — was on hand.

The food was great, and the action on the diamond was exciting. It's really a shame that the County made one of the diamonds into a soccer field, making the league's move a necessity.

Speaking of the SSBL, congrats to Docks for winning the Gay World Series.

After the game everyone went over to **Club 219** for the First annual SSBL follies. Kudos to owner Chuck Cicirello for hosting this very fun show.

Chuck donated \$1,500 to the league. The money was given to the bar by Camel Cigarettes to promote a special event. It was a wonderful gesture and very much appreciated.

Speaking of appreciation, the former owners of this paper, Jerry Johnson and Terry Boughner, threw a very nice backyard bash to thank all of those who had helped them put it out.

The atmosphere for this garden party was wonderful. While an antique Victrola played in the background, dozens of guests milled about sipping Sprecher Root Beer — straight from the barrel — and Miller Lite.

The drinks came in handy because there was lots of delicious food. The pig and chickens roasted by the Mikalovich family and salads, fresh veggies and desserts brought by the guests were first rate.

Typical of Terry and Jerry, the event also featured a Silent Auction to benefit the Cream City Foundation.

Personally, I think it's the rest of the

community who should be thanking them for all they have done.

Coming Up — Of course the big event is **PrideFest '98** on August 29-31. I don't know about you, but I can't wait. This year's headliners look better than ever. Joi Cardwell, Men Out Loud, Mrs. Fun, Steve Miller, John McGivern and Musique will wow the crowds.

I am also looking forward to the Possum Queen finals to be held on Friday night at the Alyn Hess/Miller Stage. It should be wickedly fun.

Of course there are loads of other great acts, too, and let's not forget the annual Pride Parade and the Saturday night fireworks.

The August dates should mean warmer weather, so there is absolutely no excuse for not being there. Here's hoping it doesn't rain.

While you are at **PrideFest** make sure you ride the **PrideFest Shuttle**. It stops at a whole host of bars.

Speaking of big events, there are three coming up in September.

On September 3, **Club 5**, formerly **Manoeuvres**, opens in Madison. I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see the new digs. My spies tell me that they are fabulous.

Imagine once again having room to move around and be comfortably accommodated while listening to the tunes put on by Tony R, or being butch in the leather bar.

Milwaukee's **Fluid** has a neat idea, a three day **Blind Date** party. Hey can

I play? The party goes from September 4 to the 6. The bar is giving away a trip to London, a 25" TV and a nice bike.

I want the trip to London. I can already speak the language!

On September 8, Wisconsin holds its primary for the September elections. I don't normally talk about politics in this column, but I want to remind everyone to vote.

When I go to Madison, I often hear people saying they want to advance our rights. On September 8 they have that chance by voting for Tammy Baldwin for Congress and Marc Pocan for the State Assembly.

The other big event is **AIDS Walk Wisconsin** on September 20. Keep in mind that the AIDS crisis is not over, not by a long shot.

If you've ever picked up one of those free condoms in the bars, if you've ever gotten some safe sex information from a volunteer, or been tested, you have benefited from the **AIDS Walk**.

For many of you, the **AIDS Walk** may have saved your life. It's time to return the favor by pitching in and helping out.

Most Wisconsin bars have registration forms, so please pick one up and use it. You'll be glad that you did.

That's it for now. Remember to stay safe and be proud. See ya at **PrideFest!**

STOP BY . . . Coming or Going to PrideFest '98

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GAY GAMES IN AMSTERDAM

photos by Stephanie Hume for WI Light



The arts and cultural part of the Gay Games drew more people than the sporting events themselves.



Hockey was one of many team sports.



Gay-friendly Amsterdam.



Madison's Bovine Babes women's soccer team.

Packer Games:

Aug. 28 at Miami: 6 p.m.

Regular Season

Sept. 6 at Lambeau: Detroit

Sept. 13 at Lambeau: Tampa

Both games begin at Noon

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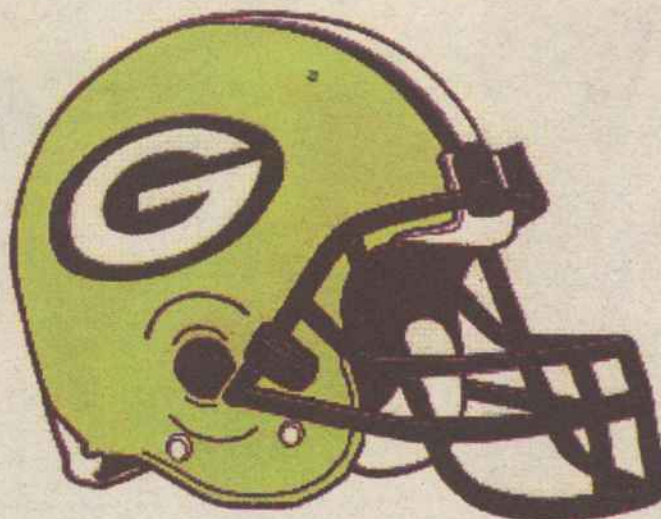
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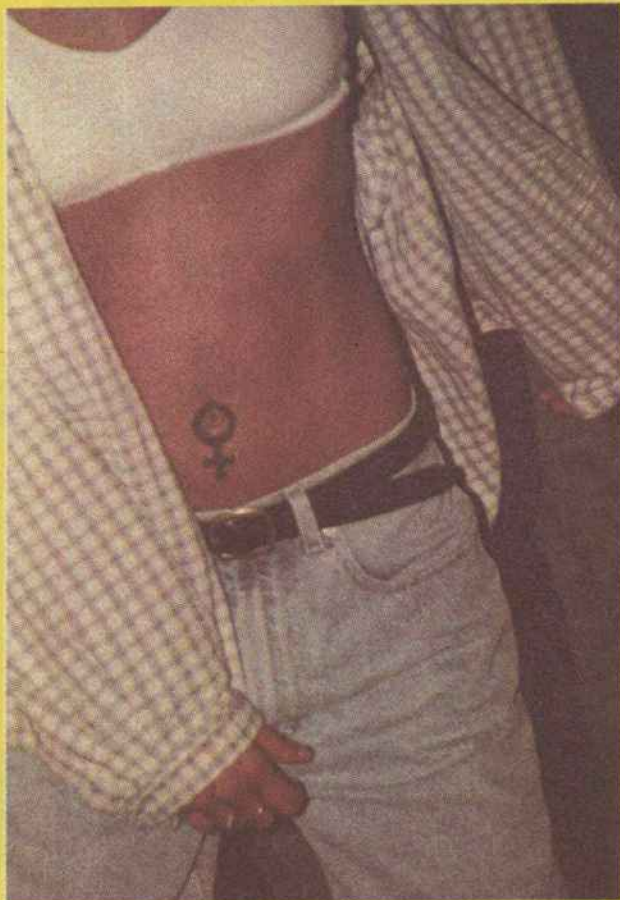
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Photos by Douglas Krimmer

See Us at
LA CAGE
later . . .

THE FUNNIES

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

it's a lifestyle choice

©1998 BY ALISON BECHDEL

SPARROW IS STILL SOJOURNING AT STUART'S...
GOD! THAT NEW NEIGHBOR'S DRIVING ME INSANE! HE'S PLAYED THIS MÖTLEY CRÜE ALBUM SIX TIMES SINCE I GOT HOME! AND IS THAT CIGAR SMOKE??

POOR BABY. SEE YOU LATER. I'M HAVING DINNER WITH LOIS AND GINGER.

SHORTLY...
THANKS FOR COMING, SPARROW. I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

GOOD! I MISS YOU GUYS TOO. I'M FEELING MUCH CLEARER ABOUT THINGS WITH STUART, AND I'M READY TO COME BACK.

HOW'S IT GOING, BABE?

EXCELLENT! ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHAT WE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

NOW WHAT? HAVE YOU INSTITUTED VISITING HOURS FOR MALE GUESTS?

HEY, STU CAN MOVE IN AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED. WE JUST WANT YOU TO CO-SIGN THE MORTGAGE AND SHELL OUT FIVE THOU TO HELP BUY THIS PLACE.

WHAT?
TURNS OUT GINGER CAN'T AFFORD THE HOUSE ON HER OWN.

AND MY CREDIT ISN'T SO GOOD SINCE I DEFRAUDED ON MY STUDENT LOAN.

COME ON! IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT! AND NOT JUST FINANCIALLY!

IT'S AN INVESTMENT IN FRIENDSHIP! A COMMITMENT TO SHARING RESOURCES! A TRIUMPHANT BLOW TO THE ALIENATING CORPORATE FORCES THAT ARE STEADILY ERODING HUMAN BONDS!

OKAY, WHAT THE HELL. I'VE GOT SOME MONEY SAVED UP.

REALLY? REALLY?
REALLY. I'VE BEEN GIVING A LOT OF THOUGHT LATELY TO HOW I WANT TO LIVE. IT'S BEEN NIKE STAYING AT STUART'S AND HAVING SOME PRIVACY. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT PERMANENTLY. THAT KIND OF ISOLATED, COUPLE-FOCUSED EXISTENCE, ALL CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD.

MEANWHILE, IN A DIFFERENT ZIP CODE...
...AND WITH THE ELECTRIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET OUT OF YOUR CAR TO GO INSIDE!

UH... I THINK WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE LESS... UH...
HERMETICALLY SEALED.

LATER THAT EVENING...
HI. LISTEN, I'M GONNA STAY HERE TONIGHT... I KNOW, ME TOO... WHAT?... WELL, I GUESS SO. BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY HEALTHY IF YOU CAN'T BE AWAY FROM ME FOR EVEN ONE NIGHT.

UH... I DO MUST YOU, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I WANT TO COME OVER.

Girls, Girls, Girls!
MACHADO EXHAUST

Biff 'n Bunky by Keith Anderson

MY NAME IS BIFF. I WAS MARRIED FOR 10 YEARS. BEEN DIVORCED FOR 23 YEARS. I HAVE 2 GROWN DAUGHTERS.

I'VE BEEN COMING TO THE GROUP FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS. I MET BUNKER HERE AND WE'VE BEEN DATING.

NOW WE'VE DECIDED TO LIVE TOGETHER.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU WON'T BE HITTING ON ME ANYMORE?

HUH?

WELL, I'M BUNKER. I WAS MARRIED FOR 30 YEARS. 2 KIDS NOW 24 AND 21. I WAS SEPARATED FROM MY WIFE WHEN I MET BIFF ON MY SECOND VISIT HERE.

I'VE NEVER LIVED WITH A MAN BEFORE AND I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

YOU WON'T GET YELLED AT FOR LEAVING THE TOILET SEAT UP.

THERE WON'T BE LINGERIE HANGING IN THE BATHROOM.

NOT NECESSARILY.

AY AND BI-SEXUAL MARRIED OR FORMERLY MARRIED MEN'S RAP GROUP

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JAYSON, GET OVER IT!
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE ROD THICK AGAIN.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

MEN ARE LIKE CARS. THEY SPUTTER INTO YOUR SERVICE STATION TO FILL THEIR TANKS AND LUBE THEIR BALL JOINTS.

THEN, BEFORE YOU CAN TIP YOUR HAT, THEY'RE ON THE ROAD AGAIN.

THANK YOU, MYRA METAPHOR. BUT WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ROD?

YOU SHOULD HAVE SLASHED HIS TIRES.

Available at bookstores nationwide and direct from Ignite! Entertainment, P.O. Box 2273, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. 176 pp. for \$16.95.

Gay Like Me continued from Spotlight page iii

journalist who decides to learn about the discrimination faced by "homosexuals" after watching the evening news, begins with a child-like enthusiasm. Leaving wife, family and friends, Griffin seeks to understand the Gay world through hormones and Billy-doll costumes.

Bosley escorts Griffin through that world. He allows the struggle faced by the closet heterosexual to illustrate heterosexual privilege and its accompanying paranoia, while reflecting the agencies of repressed identity.

Two women show the extremes of Griffin's seesaw world: his wife, Mary, portrayed by Stephanie Turner, and a radical lesbian, Silver Eagle, played by Lauri Harty. Each woman understands oppression in ways that Griffin can't. Their parallel experience brings perspective to Griffin's single-minded crusade.

Mary is an abandoned wife who struggles to find her own answers to the questions her husband has left her to find. Her quest leads her to medical "experts" and desperate religious tenets, as she tries her best to become a part of what she believes to be mainstream morality.

Turner plays Mary with an annoying whine. But her portrayal of a woman determined not to be victimized while playing into every conventional form of victimization is ultimately sympathetic, as she reveals Mary's slowly increasing desperation.

Lauri Harty's Silver Eagle angrily protests a world that has her lover performing in a strip club, even while she

lives off of her lover's income. One against the world, she carries signs and a chip on her shoulder as she tries her best to bring justice to an unjust world.

Harty is gruff, with convincing emotional barriers against a world her character battles daily. When the barriers slip, she allows Silver Eagle to be momentarily vulnerable, and her fearful hope to be glimpsed. But Harty then quickly hides Silver Eagle's "weakness," remaining loyal to her character's basic distrust of other people.

For many queer Madison audience members, *Gay Like Me* acts as a partial catharsis of emotions raised from the past few months' anti-Gay activities in the city. Director-writer Harty based several scenes on recent local anti-Gay events and personalities.

Griffin's journey from wide-eyed PC idealism to his saddened, yet determined pursuit of justice reflects the journey that Madison has made as a community. Queer and straight together, we have recognized, exposed and denied the hate in our midst.

But in the process, we have lost our innocence. Our lives have changed. Like Griffin, we are left to pick up the pieces of an illusion of safety and equality, while trying to learn how to face a world suddenly more hostile than we had believed it to be.

Gay Like Me is currently playing at Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson Street, at 8pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September 6, 1998. Tickets cost \$7. For more information, call (608) 244-8338.

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Za's/Java' MW, DJ 1106 Main St. 54301 435-5476

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Players S/G, MW 218 Main St. 54601 782-9279

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Emeralds Lounge MW 801 E. Hadley St. 53212 265-7325
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Fluid MW 819 S. 2nd St. 53204 645-8330
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CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

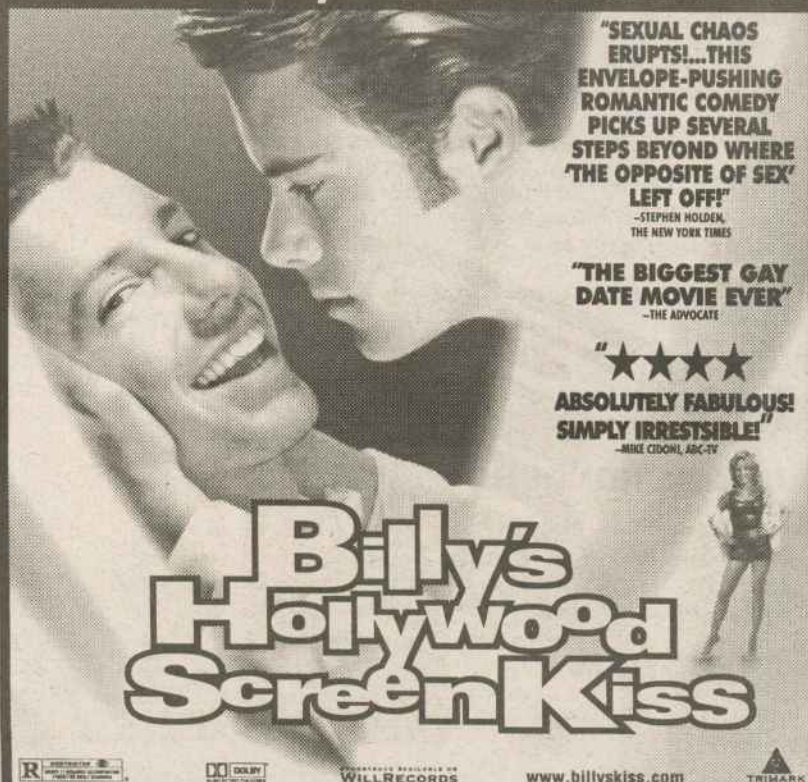
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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Chad Allen Grows Up

The baby-faced star of *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* is engineering a career makeover that has him starring as a Gay, HIV-positive junkie in the new play, *Change at Babylon*, now showing in Los Angeles.

Travolta on Trial

Questions about disco pioneer John Travolta's sexuality have dogged him through much of his career, though his high-profile marriage to actress Kelly Preston had put those rumors on the back burner. Expect that to change, however, with the announcement of a potentially explosive lawsuit that targets Travolta and his beloved Church of Scientology.

Beverly Hills artist Michael Pattinson is suing the organization over its handling of homosexuality, claiming he was duped into spending 25 years and \$500,000 by Scientology in an effort to "cure" his Gayness.

Why was Travolta named in the suit? According to Pattinson's lawyer, Graham Berry, the movement founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard uses the '70s icon as an example of someone who was cured of what the church allegedly referred to as "his ruin."

A church spokesman calls the suit "meritless" while Travolta's attorney told a New York newspaper that "John Travolta is a happily married man." Don't be surprised if some old photos that Gay porn star Paul Barresi sold to the *National Enquirer* in 1991, which showed him and Travolta "palling around," resurface. Barresi claimed at the time he was the *Saturday Night Fever* star's lover, publicizing what many had only whispered.

Welcome Back, Gorgeous!

Is Barbra Streisand rediscovering her roots? Apparently Mrs. James Brolin is starting to take herself less seriously, at least when it comes to her career. The diva is said to be interested in returning to lighter comedy fare, a la *The First Wives Club*.

Babs was reportedly taken with that film, so much so that she was rumored to be up for a part in the *First Wives* follow-up, taking over the Goldie Hawn role (Kurt Russell's better half was reportedly being difficult in salary negotiations) in *Avon Lady of the Amazon*. But that project, which was to re-team the trio of Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler, is now in jeopardy due to the problems Warner Bros. is having finding a director to helm the movie.

So now La Streisand is being considered for a role in *The Meddlers* (also by Warner's), about three conniving

women. The cast just might include Midler (who's dying to work with Streisand) and Whoopi Goldberg. This one could actually be interesting.

One last note about Babs. When asked recently by a magazine reporter about his worst jobs (and lately, he's had many), Elliott Gould responded with this gem: "As you know, I was once married to Barbra Streisand."

Paging Wonderbra

Jamie Lee Curtis, who, like many of us, can't understand why they're remarking *Psycho*, told a reporter that she's

equally confused about the casting of Anne Heche in the role her mother, Janet Leigh, made famous. Curtis said she can't see the *Return to Paradise* star filling out her mom's bra. And no, she wasn't approached for a role in the Gus Van Sant remake.

Meanwhile, Anne's lover is returning to the stage. Ellen is currently working on a new HBO comedy special and plans to resume stand-up full-time.

Her former nemesis, Jamie Tarses, the deposed ABC-TV honcho, deserves some credit for passing on the troubled new Nathan Lane sitcom, *Encore! Encore!* The show is having problems in reconciling Lane's "feyness" with his role as a womanizing former opera singer. Last spring, Tarses nixed purchase of the pilot by her network because she said the producers should just come out and say Lane's character is queer. No one will buy that he isn't, she said. We'll find out next month.

Boytoy of the Year

Expect *I Know What You Did Last Summer* stud Ryan Phillippe to leap into sex symbol status with his role in the just-released *54*, which chronicles the heyday of the famed New York disco.

The Delaware-bred blond spends most of the movie in little more than a tight pair of shorts, showing off a body to die for. Phillippe plays one of those famed "barbacks" that openly Gay Studio 54 co-owner Steve Rubell (played in the movie by Austin Powers creator Mike Myers) hired as eye candy for his A-list clientele.

By the way, Phillippe's character is bisexual, and has a kissing scene with male co-star Breckin Meyer (who played the stoner in *Clueless*).

Romeo San Vicente, who, like Monica Lewinsky, saves all of his semen-stained dresses, can be reached care of **Wisconsin Light**, 225 S. Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53204 or at **RSVicente@aol.com**. For more "Deep Inside Hollywood", visit **www.gay.net**.



Ryan Phillippe

OUT In Print



New on the Shelf

Fiction:

Blue Place
By Nicola Griffith
Avon Books; HC \$23.00

Aud Torvington, loves the adrenaline rush provided by a life-threatening situation. Walking the streets of Atlanta late one evening Aud runs into art broker Julia Lyons-Bennett, who's fleeing from the home of Jim Lusk, an art appraiser, when an explosion rocks the house. Julia hires Aud to investigate what happened. Aud is elated because the case is wrought with danger, taking her to that special Blue Place where she feels alive.

Misdirections in the (213)

By Dennis Hensley
Morrow; HC \$24.00

What *Tales of the City* did for San Francisco, *Misdirections in the (213)* does double for Los Angeles in this delightful comic romp of Craig, a would-be screenwriter, his bestest friend Dandy, star of the not-so-acclaimed sit-com, "That's Just Dandy" and their wacky, celebrity-seeking friends and their madcap efforts to make it to the top.

Non-Fiction:

Little Joe Superstar: The Films of Joe Dallesandro

By Michael Ferguson
Companion Press; Pb \$18.95

A youthful and popular AMG model, Andy Warhol made him famous. The underground films made him a sexual icon while his fabulous body has made him a legend. Little Joe Superstar reveals the life of the enigmatic and sexy Joe Dallesandro, Superstar of the 60s and 70s underground film movement. Filled with revealing photographs!

Telling Tales Out of School

Edited by Kevin Jennings
Alyson Pb; \$13.95

In this fascinating collection of over 30 essays, Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals reflect on their school days — some with wry humor while others with acknowledged pain. The personal memoirs collected here by range from the valiant struggles during the pre-Stonewall days and the harassment that became numbingly common on playgrounds to the love stories that made young students hopeful that there was a better life waiting for them out of school.

Books for Pride Season

By Carl M. Szatmary

What better time than as the third PrideFest celebration at the Summerfest grounds approaches to reflect for a moment on just how far the LGBT community has come since those celebrated drag queens fought the police for the Stonewall Bar way back in 1969!

Many wonderful non-fiction titles have found their way onto Gay Bookstore shelves this past summer, from fascinating biographies to revealing histories and books that explore the many aspects of our diverse community.

Hot off the presses comes *The Pleasure Principle* by Michael Bronski (St. Martin's Press, HC \$24.95). Subtitled, *Sex, Backlash and the Struggle for Gay Freedom*, here controversial critic and commentator Bronski explores mainstream America's curious fascination as well as its deep-rooted fear of Gay culture, resulting in the continued political struggle for the most basic of human rights!

Utilizing hundreds of personal interviews and archival sources, John Loughery has traced the impact of homosexuality on this century's turbulent times in *The Other Side of Silence* (Henry Holt, HC \$35.00). Exploring beyond the stereotypes of isolation and victimization, Loughery reveals Gay men as accomplished participants in some of the century's most

monumental dramas, including such figures as Harry Hay, Harvey Milk, Michael Callen and many other little-known activists.

In *Together Forever* (Anchor Books HC \$23.95), Eric Marcus takes the reader on a journey across America to meet and speak to forty deeply committed, happy Gay and Lesbian couples and asks them how they've managed to accomplish what many think impossible — staying together. What he found out may or may not surprise — that Gay marriage is a messy, complex, wonderful, indescribable and very, very rewarding.

Another fascinating historical work is *Improper Bostonians* (Compiled by the History Project Beacon HC \$30.00). Fun, often surprising and magnificently illustrated, *Improper Bostonians* depicts the last three centuries of Gay and Lesbian Boston — the American city with the longest recognized history of Gay and Lesbian life. *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.

A former Mr. Universe, Bob Paris is one of the most visible and widely sought-after motivational speakers. In *Generation Queer* (Warner HC \$23.00), Paris breaks new ground in a revelatory look at what it means to

see **Books for Pride** on Spotlight page xii

Don't miss these events at Afterwords! **a**

While you're in town for the big party, visit our booth, and later stop into Afterwords, and

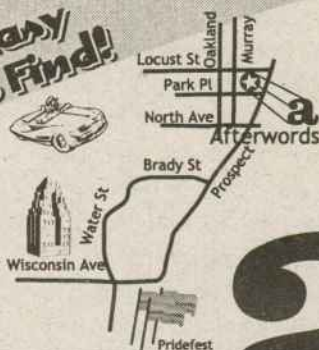
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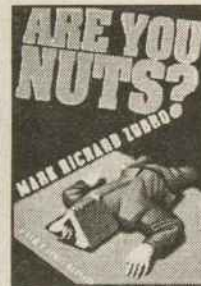


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Afterwords presents:

An Evening of Murder & Mayhem!

STOP INTO AFTERWORDS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH AT P.M. TO MEET MYSTERY AUTHORS ELLEN HART AND MARK R ZUBRO FOR READINGS, BOOK SIGNINGS AND FUN!



afterwords

Books and Espresso Bar
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EVERY SATURDAY

\$2⁵⁰ strawberry margaritas and blender specials all night (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)

EVERY SUNDAY

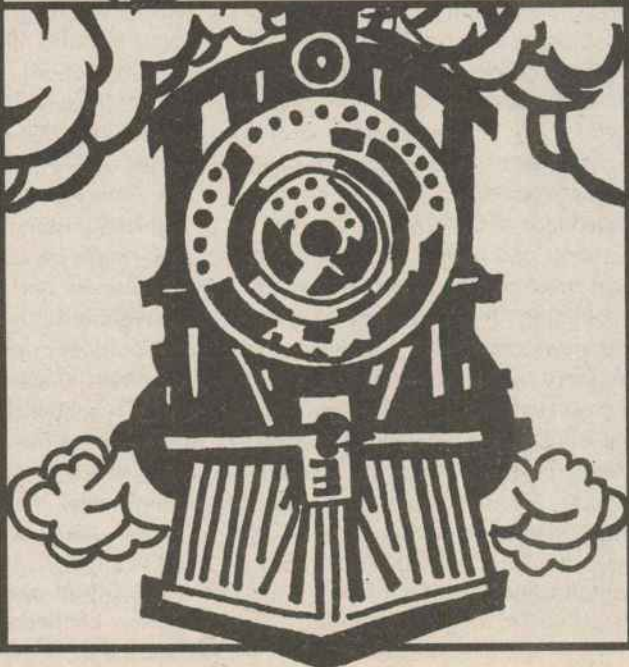
Bloody Marys \$2⁰⁰ • Open at 3 p.m.

MONDAY EVENINGS • 50¢ tap beer all night

THURSDAY EVENINGS • Mini pitchers \$2⁵⁰

Sept. 6th

Packer Party
Open 11:30 a.m.



Books for Pride continued from Spotlight page xi

be young, Gay and out in the age of liberation.

Another biography of particular note is *The Queen of Whale Cay* by Kate Summerscale (Viking HC \$21.95). British eccentric Marion "Joe" Carstairs (1900-1993) was a world-class speedboat racer, ruler of her own Caribbean Island... and a cross-dressing lesbian. During the permissive 1920s, Carstairs was able to flaunt her taste for women in the bohemian circles of London and Paris.

Come Pride season, many couples begin to think about commitment cer-

emonies. Paula Martinac's *The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage* (Broadway Books Pb \$18.00) is a crossbreed of a book that offers knowing, humorous insights on love in the Gay lane. Crossing romantic advice à la "Dear Abby" ("Meeting Ms. Right") with practical tips on Gay weddings that would make Martha Stewart proud ("Right in Your Own Backyard"), Martinac has assembled a book that is both frank and funny as well as practical and political.

The author is owner of Afterwords Bookstore in Milwaukee.

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Dear Ruthie

Hey everyone! Welcome to my area of the **Wisconsin Light** — and what a fine paper this is, isn't it? Does everyone like the new look? I sure do!

Hey — let me know what you think of the paper, and while you're at it, let me answer some of your questions and dilemmas. Yes, I'm one nosy ol' bitch, so tell me all!

Keep those letter and pictures coming! Each picture I receive goes up on my billboard, right in between my scratch-n-sniff Fabio poster and the Elvis bust made out of dried pasta.

Hey everyone — be sure to stop by the Possum Queen Finale at PrideFest on August 28 at 8:30pm. This year's Possum Queen will be crowned, we'll announce how much money was raised, and I'll be there too! I tried to get Pearl and Harriet on stage with me, but no dice.

Pearl offered to be the fluff girl if I was using male dancers, but I had to let her down. Why don't we read some letters? I've got my martini, the air is cranked in the trailer, and I've got a good 30 minutes until my fish stick/Cheese Whiz/vanilla wafer loaf is out of the oven.

Dear Ruthie,

My friend is in love with a pig. My friend is a lovely, nice, quiet woman with a great mind, spirit and talent; however, she has fallen for this obnoxious woman. This new lover is rude, crude and just awful to be around.

Now the two are about to move in together. In the past I've tried to do things with my friend where her girlfriend wasn't included. Now that will be nearly impossible. I don't know how to proceed with this friendship as I really don't like this dirty woman.

Her jokes are filthy and annoying, and her hygiene is disgusting. I don't know how my friend can stand her body odor.

— Help, Lonely Lesbian

Dear Lonely,

I had a husband once whose sister was like this. Damn thing smelled so bad she could peel the skin off an orange.

How crude is crude? Are we talking about telling dirty jokes or belching in church? Is she merely bawdy, or does she brag about her toe jam collection? In any event, if you love your friend so much, don't end your relationship with her.

Just try to continue doing things that don't involve her lover. Make an effort to really get along with this other



woman. Most of all, be happy that your friend found someone that she really cares about.

You may also want to voice, in a nice way, that you find the jokes offensive, and suggest that she not tell them in your presence. If this doesn't work, buy a nose plug for you and a mouth gag for her, and do the best you can.

By the way — send me some of those jokes.

Dear Ruthie,

What can you tell me about this AIDS Walk Wisconsin? My friends told me that 12,000 people get together at the Summerfest grounds and walk (do you believe they walk?) 10 kilometers along Milwaukee's lakefront. Why do they do it, Ruthie? I gotta know.

— (signed) 10 Kilometer Kerry

Dear Kerry,

Strap on your sneakers and find out yourself! Why don't you join the AIDS Walk participants on Sunday, September 20, 1998?

You'll see that people walk because they want to have a helluva good time, get some exercise and fresh air, make new friends, and most importantly, show their support of those whose lives are affected by this disease.

Get a group of friends together and see who can raise the most money, or call 1-800-348-WALK and ask about registering as a team! Volunteer your time to ARCW and help out before the walk.

Why do they do it? Why wouldn't they do it? What a better way to support the community and do some good at the same time!

I'll see you there! I may have to carry Pearl or Harriet on my back, but I'll be there!

You can write Ruthie in care of: **Wisconsin Light**, 225 S. Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53204. You can also e-mail her via editor@wil-ight.com.