

# WI Light

September 10 –  
September 23, 1998

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Vol. 11 • No. 19  
Issue 265

# Totally Tammy!

## Baldwin Wins Primary

By Bill Meunier

Madison - State Representative Tammy Baldwin, the first openly Gay candidate to win a seat in the Wisconsin legislature, added another first to her remarkable political career. On Tuesday September 8, she became the first Lesbian ever to win a major party congressional nomination when she captured the Democratic nomination in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District.

Baldwin, who was generally viewed as an underdog in the race, edged out former Dane County Executive Rick Phelps by a margin of 1,514 votes out of 65,373 votes cast in the Democratic

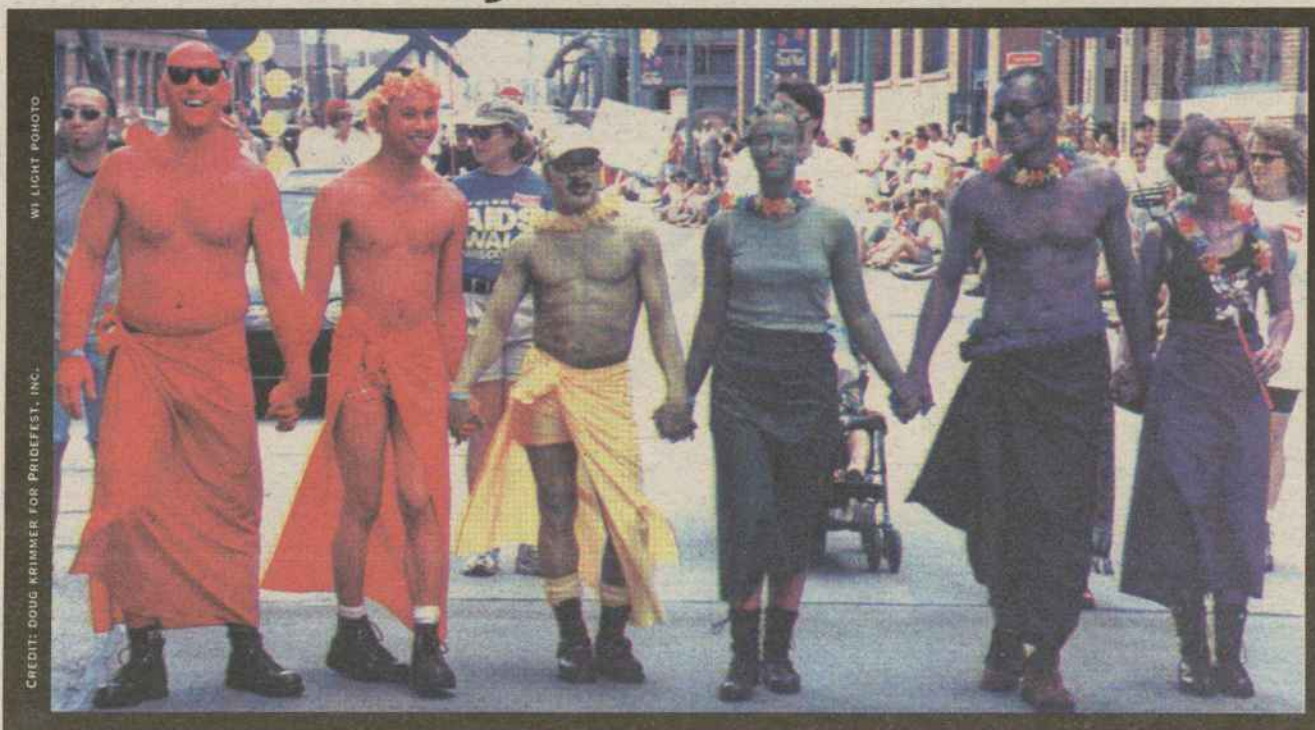


primary. State Senator Joe Winecke (D-Verona) finished third in the race. With 397 out of 398 units reporting, Baldwin had 24,210 votes. Former Dane County Executive Rick Phelps, who had been seen as the favorite in the race, had 22,696. State Senator Joe Winecke attracted 17,431. Patrick O'Brien, a self-described house husband finished far back with just 1,036.

In the November 3 general election Baldwin will face Republican nominee, former State Insurance Commissioner Josephine Musser. If she defeats Musser, Baldwin would become the first woman ever sent to Congress by Wisconsin and the first openly Lesbian Congresswoman in American history.

see **TAMMY** on page 4

## PrideFest '98



WI LIGHT PHOTO  
CREDIT: DOUG KRIMMER FOR PRIDEFEST, INC.

The "Rainbow People" led off the joint parade entry by ARCW and **WI Light**. The unit won "Best Use of Theme."

More PrideFest photos on Spotlight pages iv and v

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# WI Light

September 9 - September 10, 1998

Vol. 11 • No. 19

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,  
Being special...

For the first time in our ten plus year history, *Wisconsin Light* came out a day late. Normally our paper is sent to the printer every other Tuesday but that would have meant going to press on Tuesday September 8, without the results of the primary election.

That was unacceptable to us. *Wisconsin Light* has always prided itself in bringing its readers complete, locally produced news coverage. We arranged to have it printed a day late so you would have all the news you need to know.

This issue is special in other ways too. It contains our full-color spread of PrideFest photos, an op-ed piece written for us by Senator Russ Feingold, the latest updates on AIDS Walk Wisconsin, our theater guide, and complete advance coverage of the UWM Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

The Baldwin victory is special to all of us but perhaps even more so, to our staff. It was in March of 1997 that I broke the story about Tammy's bid for Congress in the pages of *Wisconsin Light*. Since then, we have provided complete in-depth coverage of her campaign. We will continue to do so.

I was at PrideFest nearly every hour that it was open and judging from what I saw, so were many of you. I think the Pride Committee did a great job that attracted

record attendance. It was a very special weekend for all those involved. For more on PrideFest please see our editorial on page 12.

I want to thank the literally hundreds of people at PrideFest who told us how much they like the new *Wisconsin Light*. When we took over the paper we promised the same great news coverage but with an updated look. From what our staff heard, it appears that you've noticed and appreciated our efforts.

It is nice to know that you like those new features we have already put in place, like Deep Inside Hollywood, the Funnies Page, and our expanded state-wide news coverage. We can assure you that we are not resting on these laurels. You can continue to look forward to exciting changes at the new *Wisconsin Light*.

Speaking of excitement, congratulations also go out to Mark Pocan, whose victory in Madison assures us that the state legislature will have at least one openly Gay member. Pocan takes over Tammy's 78th District seat in the state legislature that she vacated to run for the Congress.

We look forward to more out of Madison and the Baldwin campaign. Tammy, we are so proud of you. This one is for you!

Enjoy the *Light*!

Bill

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Our Bed & Breakfast Feature  
Makes Its Appearance  
NEXT ISSUE

# TOTALLY TAMMY continued from front page

Baldwin's candidacy won widespread support from Lesbians and Gays throughout Wisconsin. They contributed to and volunteered for her campaign and were joined by hundreds of others from around the country who sent campaign donations to Baldwin at the urging of

pleas to vote. Special "Action Teams" were sent to boost the turnout in wards where Baldwin was expected to do well. Other volunteers staffed seven phone banks. Still others stood at busy intersections holding "Baldwin For Congress" signs.

this race to keep Tammy from winning," he warned. Then, to thunderous cheers, he said, "If you promise to work hard, I will promise you that I will do everything I can to make sure Tammy gets the votes she needs in the suburbs."

Winecke was joined at the Baldwin party by a host of other politicians, many of whom were interviewed on the scene by *Wisconsin Light*. State Assembly Minority Leader, Shirley Krug (D-Milwaukee) said that Baldwin's win was "exciting and historic." Congressman Tom Barrett said that the Democratic Party wants to pick up the Second Congressional District seat, which was held by retiring Republican Scott Klug. "The party will be providing help for Tammy," he said. Dane County Exec Kathleen Falk said that she endorsed Phelps because he had endorsed her during her campaign

from women and Gays poured in and hundreds of volunteers flocked to her campaign, the race tightened. In the last week of the primary campaign several polls showed her in the lead for the first time.

Baldwin's general election opponent, Josephine Musser, edged out archconservative Ron Greer in the Republican primary. Greer had attacked Baldwin for running as an openly Lesbian candidate. At the Baldwin party, the crowd made it clear that they wanted to take on Greer in the general election. Republican primary returns broadcast on TV were often met with the chant "Go Ron Go!"

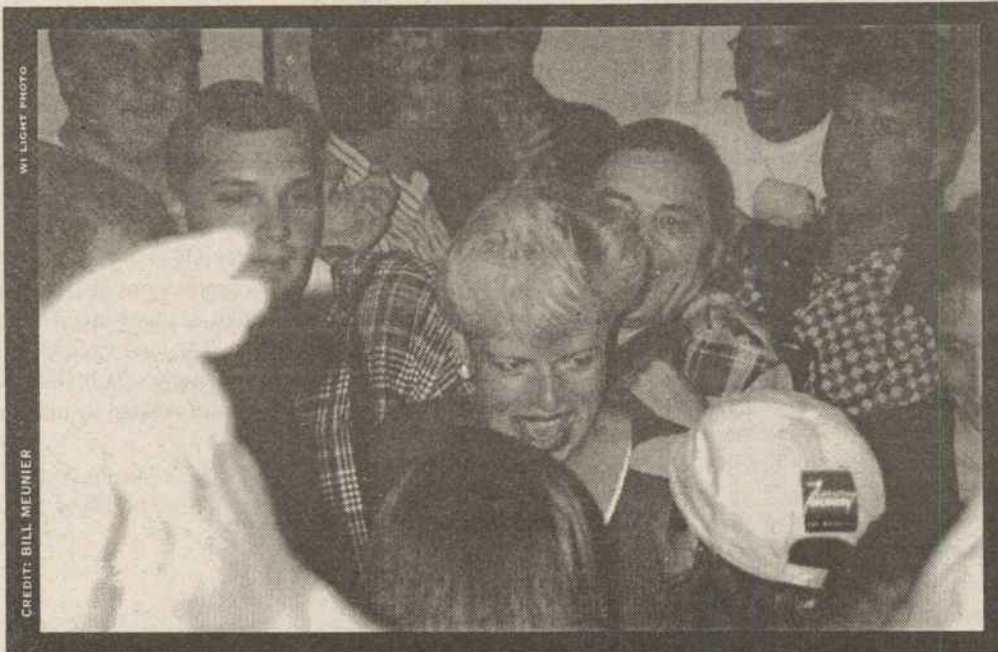
Greer who lost to Musser by less than 250 votes told the press that a recount was possible because of the narrow margin of Musser's victory.

On Primary Election night, some observers were saying they felt that Musser's nomination might cut into Baldwin's pro-women vote. Others said that Musser was vulnerable because of her record as Insurance Commissioner. Musser was widely expected to have an easy time winning the GOP nomination but struggled throughout the night finally taking and keeping the lead very late in the evening.

Musser is viewed as a Republican moderate and she joined other Republican contenders in condemning Greer for his anti-Gay attack on Baldwin. However, members of Action Wisconsin told *Wisconsin Light* that while she was Wisconsin's Insurance Commissioner, Musser rejected a plan that would have provided domestic partners health insurance benefits to UW-Madison students.

The Republican Party hopes to keep the Second Congressional District in the GOP column. Party leaders say that the district is not as liberal as it once was. It is likely that GOP strategists will view Baldwin as more vulnerable than Phelps or Winecke.

Whether or not they are correct will be known on November 3 when Baldwin and Musser meet in the general election. As one activist put it, "We have just seven weeks to make history. We have to make the most of every day."



Tammy mixing with her supporters at the victory party held at Fife's Corner Bistro.

the Victory Fund, a national GLBT political group that supports Gay and Lesbian candidates.

Kathleen De Bold, Deputy Executive Director of the Victory Fund was elated by the news of Baldwin's win, "how can you type out me screaming? It's like three Mark McGuires. Your Wisconsin fair-minded voters have spoken. They've chosen based on her qualifications and sent a clear message that Greer's brand of hate politics has no place in mainstream America. People have to get out and vote and support Tammy. Give money and vote if she's to win in November."

Walt Jackson, President of Action Wisconsin echoed De Bold's sentiments calling Baldwin's victory, "a proud moment." Jackson said that Baldwin had "risen above the labels and the hatred to find support in people, Gay and straight alike, in the cities, towns and farms across the district."

Throughout the campaign, Baldwin focused on three major issues, health care, education and preserving social security. The other Democratic candidates also addressed those issues and there appeared to be few policy differences between the three candidates.

Baldwin focused her attention on her legislative roots, the City of Madison. She was also successful in her efforts to attract student support. In addition to the Victory Fund, she was endorsed by Emily's List, a national women's political action fund. Those two endorsements helped Baldwin to boost her fund raising total to over \$650,000 which was well above funds raised by any of the other candidates.

Baldwin used her resources to get name recognition and to build a solid base of volunteer support. By primary day, the rolls of Baldwin volunteers had swelled to over 1,500. Those volunteers were very much in evidence throughout the primary election day.

At UW Madison "Chaos Captains" blanketed the campus with literature and

A huge throng turned out for Baldwin's election party at Fyfe's Bistro. Baldwin jumped out to an early lead provided by returns from the City of Madison. The question on everyone's mind was whether or not that lead would be enough once the votes from rural and suburban areas of the district were counted.

Baldwin was expected to do well in Madison. What wasn't expected, though, was her strong showing in rural areas of the district, where she garnered nearly 30% of the votes cast in the Democratic primary. While Phelps led Baldwin in the rural parts of the district, his lead was not large enough to overcome the margin she had accumulated in the urban areas.

After reviewing voting data, *Wisconsin Light* projected Baldwin the winner of the race at 9:40pm but it was not until shortly before Midnight that Baldwin arrived at her party to claim victory. Pandemonium broke out as the candidate took to the podium. In her speech, Baldwin credited her win to her campaign's focus on issues that "people care about because they affect their everyday lives." Baldwin said her win proved that "in a democracy, we the people decide what is possible."

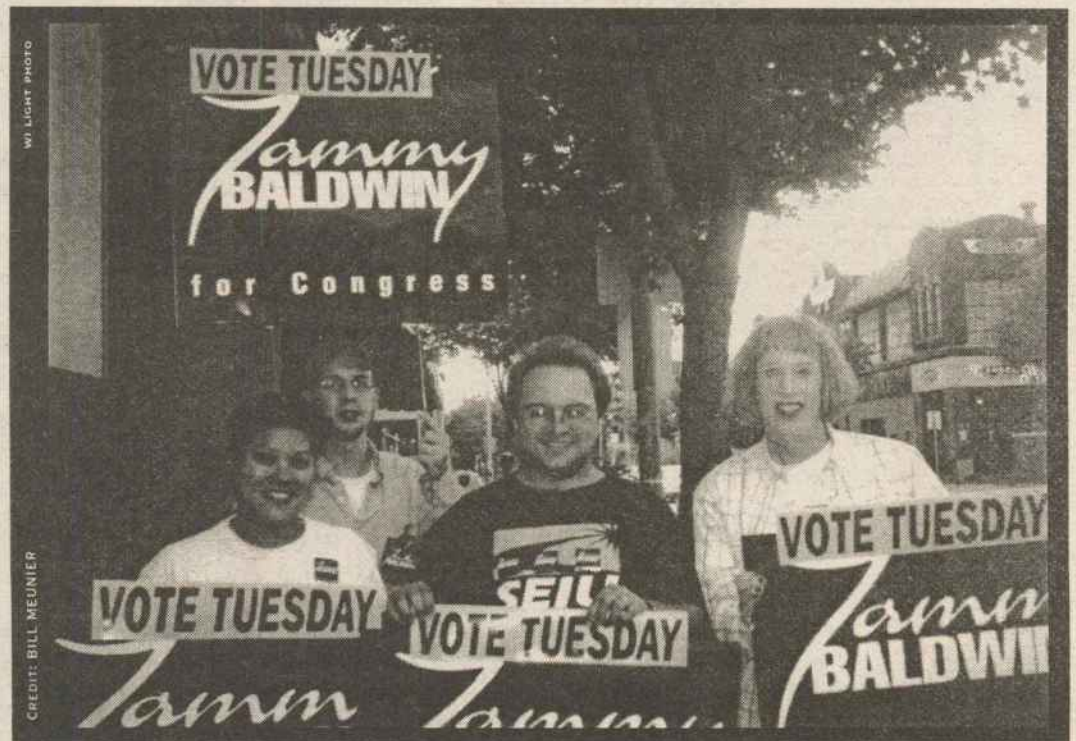
Later, Baldwin was joined on the podium by Winecke, who reminded the crowd that they would have to work even harder to win the general election in November. "The right wing of this country will pour \$1 or \$2 million into

to succeed him as County Executive but added that she would be supporting Baldwin in the general election.

Baldwin began her campaign in early 1997. The March 26, 1997 edition of *Wisconsin Light* broke the story of her impending bid. During an interview with *Light* Baldwin confided that she had planned to make the race even before Klug announced his retirement from Congress.

Baldwin said that she had two days of meetings in Washington during the same weekend that Klug made his announcement. "I came back to Madison on Sunday and saw the banner headline 'Klug Is Not Going to Run Again.' I had no inkling that he was not going to run. It was great fortune. In view of Klug's announcement, people I had met with in Washington have been calling and saying 'It's an open seat Tammy — go for it.'"

Her candidacy was initially viewed as a long shot. But when contributions



Volunteers on Election Day.

# AIDS Walk Wisconsin '98

## Need Is Greater Than Ever Say Walk Supporters

by Bill Meunier

**Milwaukee** — Over 10,000 people are expected for the Ninth Annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin on Sunday, September 20. The success of the event, which is the largest single day fund raiser in Wisconsin, is viewed as critical by the 19 organizations who depend on the funds it generates to fight AIDS through prevention, testing, education and patient services.

AIDS Walk Co-Chair Richard Strong says, "We have to realize that the AIDS crisis is not over. We are well on our way to finding solutions; however, support is still needed, not only in terms of money, but volunteers and community support. The walk is an opportunity to provide these."

Strong is referring to the new drug therapies that have helped about a third of those living with AIDS to live healthier, more productive lives. While these therapies seem to be dramatic breakthroughs, they come with some caveats.

*Wisconsin Light* Publisher Ron Geiman, who himself has been living with AIDS for over 10 years, is one of those who has failed all currently available approved therapies. Geiman says, "Even when the therapies do work there is no telling how long the honeymoon will last."

In truth, researchers say that there is no way to know how long the effects of the new drug therapies will last. They simply are too new. What can be said for certain is that the percentage of those who are successfully using these therapies is shrinking.

While the new therapies may be seen as wonder drugs by those for whom they work, they have also created additional needs for more funds to fight against HIV. Those for whom the therapies do work are living longer. This has put a strain on AIDS housing, legal and medical service programs.

Additionally, numerous studies have shown that growing numbers of Gay men and young people under 25 are practicing less safe sex in the belief that the danger has passed. This has created a need for more funds for prevention, testing and education.

In other words, as many people affected by and worried about AIDS would say, "This is definitely NOT the time to ease up on the battle." For those who realize that, it is time to gather pledges, work hard and keep walking until it's really over.

As Doug Nelson, Executive Director of AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin puts it, "AIDS Walk achieves important results in the fight against AIDS. The funds raised make the difference between increasing HIV prevention programs or more new infections, access to effective care and treatment instead of disease progression, aggressive political advocacy instead of government inaction on AIDS."

Nelson adds, "The hope of new HIV drug therapies cannot be confused with victory over AIDS. There is no cure or vaccine, and the rate new infections remains unacceptably high."

Despite the warnings, there are still those who think the war on AIDS is over. So organizers see every person who contributes to the AIDS Walk's success as another victory in the fight against AIDS. Strong, Nelson, the over 3,000 Wisconsin persons with AIDS, and the thousands more who are infected with HIV are hoping for more than 10,000 victories on Sunday, September 20.

## Have FUN at AIDS Walk

by Dusty Sass

AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1998 has a serious purpose, but that doesn't mean it won't be fun. AIDS Walk organizers have lined up a bevy of entertainers and other features to help walkers have a great time, even as they contribute to a worthy cause.

For example, the Yell Leaders, one of Milwaukee's best pop/soul bands, will be providing pre-Walk entertainment at Henry W. Maier Festival Park, the Summerfest Grounds, gathering place for the Walk. The first time I went to see this group, I thought it was supposed to be a pep rally. Was I surprised to find out that they are really good musicians and vocalists.

In fact, even before walkers get to the main stage, they will be greeted by mimes, clowns, strolling musicians and other artists who are there just to make sure

Which is okay with me, because then I can concentrate on cheering for Chastity Bono, the honorary Chair of the Walk, and grooving to the tunes of all the other great entertainers.

And there is more than entertainment at AIDS Walk Wisconsin. They even have massage therapists. "Hey a little lower where that mosquito bit me please."

Plus, there are face painters. Hey, I know what you are thinking, but my face does NOT need any painting. Thank you very much. And you can help make memory squares for the AIDS Walk Wisconsin quilt.

As if that isn't enough, you will thoroughly be entertained once you leave the grounds. The various rest stops will have bands and entertainment troupes to keep you charged up and going strong.

Speaking of going strong, there is a hot competition to win the Gay and Lesbian bar team competition. Team Ballgame is in first place — as of this writing — with the Milwaukee Eagle hot on its heels. Mama Roux is in third place. The competition between these and other bars is so close we won't know who won until September 20, so there is still time to help your favorite bar jump into the lead.



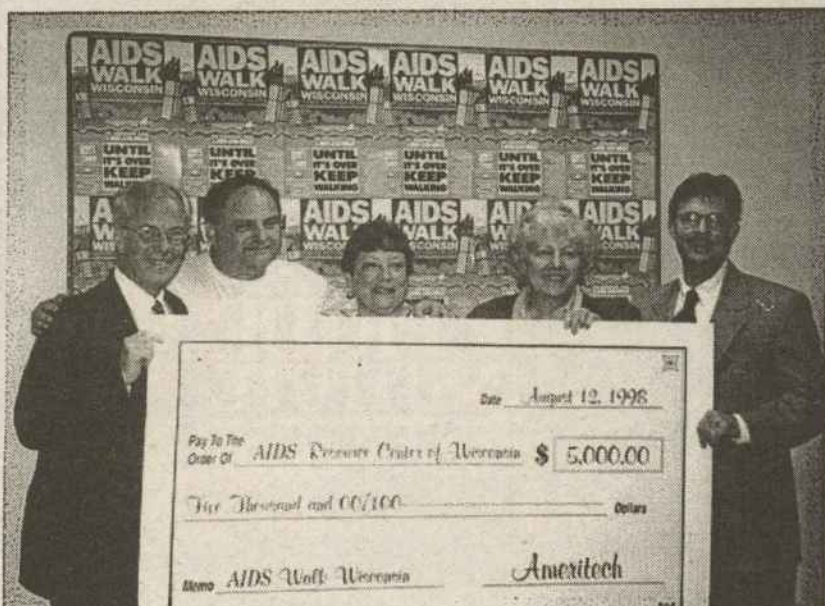
Chastity Bono  
AIDS Walk Wisconsin '98  
Honorary Chair



Clockwise from top, the Yell Leaders, Delusions of Grandeur and Uptown Soundz will providing entertainment at this year's Walk



## Ameritech Presents AIDS Walk Wisconsin with a Check for \$5,000



(From L to R): Doug Nelson (Executive Director, ARCW), Ted Berg (Ameritech; Vice-President of Gay Lesbian Employees of Ameritech [GLEAM]), Marge Beil (Director of Special Events, ARCW), Carla Butenhoff (Ameritech; Vice President of External Relations) and Exor Cote (Ameritech; President of GLEAM)

you have a good time. I offered to contribute my musical skills, but they said they didn't need any kazoos. So, I demonstrated my ability to hum, and they said that would be okay, provided I did it very quietly.

There is another competition, too. The person who raises the most money can win a trip for two from American Airlines. Look out South Beach, here I come!

So what's the bottom line? Simple. Go out and get a registration card from your favorite bar, or by calling 1-800-348-WALK; sign up as many pledges as you can and then head to Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds to have a good time. Show you care. Take it from Dusty, you will be very glad that you did.

## Free Buses from around Wisconsin to AIDS Walk '98

To help make it easy for people from around Wisconsin to attend AIDS Walk Wisconsin, FREE bus service will be provided from locations throughout Wisconsin. Riders must call in advance to reserve a seat. Buses will make stops at the following cities:

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Stevens Point, Wausau  
Call (715) 355-6867

**South Central Wisconsin**  
Madison, Janesville, Beloit  
Call Tom at (608) 249-7453

# UW to Appeal Court Decision on Student Funding

by Mike Leon

**Madison** — The historical diversity of the University of Wisconsin is being threatened by a recent federal appeals court ruling that if upheld on appeal may mandate substantial de-funding of student groups, say some student activists and other observers.

In a surprise move, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled August 10th that students cannot be required to help fund groups they do not agree with.

Five Evangelical Christian UW students were plaintiffs in the Southworth v. Grebe case claiming that mandatory funding of groups they disapproved of violated their First Amendment rights.

Among the 18 groups objected to by the plaintiffs were the LGBT Campus Center, the Madison AIDS Support Center, and the Ten Percent Society. Pending appeal, the current fee structure remains operative and student groups continue to function.

The UW Board of Regents announced August 27th it will petition the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit for a hearing before the full Seventh Circuit. The petition will likely be granted because of the social repercussions and significant legal questions raised in the decision.

The ruling in Southworth v. Grebe continues a national trend by the religious right, challenging the culture of American universities and liberal arts colleges where diversity and tolerance of different sexual orientations are both prominent cultural features and official policy.

"I would rather not pay for someone who is working for something that is directly against my beliefs," said Southworth plaintiff Rebecca Vander Werf, a senior majoring in interior design. "It's clearly spelled out in the bible that homosexuality is wrong. Homosexuality is a sin, I am not going to condone homosexuality, murder, theft or any sin."

Ms. Vander Werf added, "Going to the UW, you are surrounded by all sorts of liberal groups advocating things you are against and then attacking you. I'm giving them money to attack me. That's not what America is about."

Other parties to the suit contend that the sifting and winnowing of conflicting belief systems and ideologically hostile groups are precisely what America and educational institutions are about.

"It is not as though the students here are required to directly fund money to an organization they don't like. What they're doing is funding money to a pool of funds — which creates a public forum. Once you create this public forum of money, so long as the money is distributed to groups in an evenhanded way, the expenditure is appropriate," said attorney Jon Furlow, outside counsel for an Amicus party to the Court, the ACLU of Wisconsin.

"That's recognized as 'public forum analysis', a fairly common analysis. That's what we urged the court to accept, and the court did not address the question at all. Once you fund the public forum, that public forum can be accessed by a variety of groups without

the funder being linked with a particular group's message. The whole point here is to encourage and facilitate more rigorous speech on all subjects, regardless of their political or ideological view," said Furlow.

Student leaders expressed outrage at the decision, which would affect all campuses in the UW System.

"Focusing on the legitimacy of funding Gay and Lesbian groups is to miss the broad nature of the lawsuit, which attacks the very heart of the overall educational mission of the University of Wisconsin at Madison," said Jason Rasmussen, Co-president of UW's Ten Percent Society. "But the LGBT Campus Center deserves the unequivocal support of the University. It is the only resource on campus for students in the coming out process. Knowing the statistics for suicide among LGBT youth, it would be criminal for the University not to fund support for this center."

The decision reads in part: "Funding of private organizations, which engage in political and ideological activities, is not germane to a university's educational mission, and even if it were, there is no vital interest in compelled funding, and the burden on the plaintiffs' First Amendment right to 'freedom of belief' outweighs any governmental interest."

The Evangelical Christian plaintiffs were aided by religious right legal foundations, the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund and the Virginia-based Northstar Legal Center.

The Alliance Defense Fund, which is

closely aligned with other religious right organizations, including Focus on the Family, and Don Wildmon's American Family Association's (AFA). Wildmon has long been known for the anti-Gay stances he has taken in his capacity as head of the AFA, formerly the National Federation for Decency.

If UW loses its appeal to the full Seventh Circuit, it may petition the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

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# AROUND THE STATE

## Milwaukee

### Cream City Foundation Announces Grant Recipients

CCF's third quarter review of five applications has resulted in the awarding of grants to five Wisconsin LGBT organizations.

The Grant Committee reviews all applications, asks questions where needed to make sure funds are used wisely and for the benefit of the LGBT community in the state. CCF takes the financial responsibility to all those who have donated to the foundation seriously, and awarded the following grants with pride:

- The Wisconsin Research Center (WRC), \$1,000 grant for the fourth year. The grant is specifically for WRC to outreach to the LGBT community. WRC monitors the Religious Right's activities and distributes information to organizations about their bigoted, hateful legislation and policies.
- Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival, \$1,000. The festival has received funding from the Foundation many times in its 11-year history. The festival drew nearly 2,000 diverse people last year and enriched them by exposing the diversity of the films and videos presented.
- Holiday Invitational Tournament, \$1,000 for the annual Thanksgiving Day bowling tournament that hosts bowlers and friends from all over the world. HIT also brings in revenue, and according to CCF, "Proves just how diverse a city Milwaukee is in which to live."
- Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay and Transgendered College Conference, \$2,000. This six-year-old annual event will be held February, 1999 at Madison's Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. With the theme "Moving Forward, Looking Back," it alludes to Wisconsin's state motto and celebrates our progressive legacy as the first Gay-rights state. Topics will focus on health, politics, academia, identity building and cultural construction. Speakers Larry Kramer and Virginia Apuzzo have been invited to speak.
- Human Rights League, \$2,200 to develop a program booklet listing the series of events for National Coming Out Day. HRL is working with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and PFLAG in co-sponsorship of NCOD events. This year's theme is "Opening Closets, Opening Minds" and runs from October 5-16.

### Lamon Announces for 19th Assembly Seat

An openly Gay Republican, Curtis Lamon, has announced his candidacy for the 19th Assembly district seat currently held by State Rep. Barbara Notestein. Notestein is not seeking re-election.

Lamon says that his campaign will focus on the issues of lower taxes, a commitment to accountable education, and zero tolerance for violent criminals.

An eastside Milwaukee resident, Lamon is currently President of Log Cabin Club of Eastern Wisconsin, past President of Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin, and has served on the boards of many community groups. He was an Assistant Manager with Kohl's Department Stores.

"Wisconsin taxes are still amongst the highest in the country. Milwaukee Public Schools are in trouble. If elected I would help facilitate a group to do this."

### Local Activist and Volunteer Dies

George C. Yehling, III, died on Friday, August 14th at St. Camillus Health Care Center. The cause of death was complications due to AIDS. Yehling had been a long-time AIDS educator and activist, volunteering at several agencies since learning of his HIV status 10 years ago.

He devoted much of his time as a HIV testing counselor for the BESTD Clinic and STD Specialties Clinic, both of Milwaukee. He also facilitated a support group at the BESTD Clinic for Gay HIV+ men.

Yehling, an expert in computer program design and maintenance, used that expertise in assisting both agencies in maintaining up-to-date data processing and entry.

He was a graduate of Duke University, where he received a Masters. For the past six years, he sang with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus.

Yehling is survived by his mother, Elizabeth, of North Carolina; his brother, Victor, of Rockford, IL; and his sister, Ellen, of Florence, Ky. A memorial service was held at the Raphael House Chapel at St. Camillus on September 5th.

### Symphonic Marching Band Being Organized

Plans are underway to organize a symphonic marching band for the local Gay and Lesbian community and friends. Goals include performing concerts and marching in parades, which may include some travel. Auditions will be conducted by appointment.

Organizers are looking for individuals 18 and over to join them in making this venture a success. Rehearsals will be held weekly for the first few months and then go to biweekly. For more information call (414) 453-1868.

### Civil Liberties Activist to Speak September 23

Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AUSCS), will speak on "Religiously Right, Radically Wrong: The Erosion of Church-State Separation in America". The speech will be at 7pm, Wednesday, September 23 at Congregation Emanu-El B'Ne Jeshurun, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Rev. Lynn, an attorney and ordained United Church of Christ (UCC) minister, is a longtime civil liberties activist. He has held the Executive Director position at

see **AROUND THE STATE** on page 8

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MLS



## AROUND THE STATE continued from page 7

AUSCS since 1992. Previously, he was legislative counsel for the Washington, D.C. office of the ACLU, as well as for the UCC's Office of Church in Society.

### Madison

#### Madison Book Fair

The fourth Madison Book Fair will take place on the Capitol Square and Martin Luther King Blvd. at East Main on Saturday, September 12 from 9am-4pm. The event is sponsored by the Madison Area Independent Booksellers' Association, and benefits the Dane County Library Service.

The outdoor event features exhibits and sales, author appearances, children's entertainment, storytelling, presentations, music, poetry readings and book signings. Friends of the Library will present a silent auction of autographed books.

For more information on schedules and highlights, call Sandi Torkildson at A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, (608) 257-7888.

#### Greer Asks for Job Back

Madison, (AP) — Ron Greer, a former City of Madison firefighter and anti-Gay crusader, who had engaged in on the job anti-Gay activities, has told a federal court that his free speech rights were violated when he was fired for criticizing Fire Chief, Debra Amesqua.

Greer was dismissed on July 31 because he distributed a press release claiming that Amesqua had not properly disciplined Deputy Fire Chief, Marsha Holz. Greer's release said the Chief was lenient because both women are Lesbian. Neither woman has acknowledged their sexual orientation.

Through his attorney, Greer asked for a temporary injunction restoring him to his job, while his suit continues.

Greer's attorney Michael Dean told U.S. District Court Judge, Barbara Crabb, the news release was a matter of public concern and the Police and Fire Commission failed to investigate the incident.

Madison City attorney Michael Modl said Greer has not shown there was irreparable harm to his rights. Crabb said she saw "little basis" for a temporary injunction.

Greer is running for the Republican nomination for the 2nd Congressional District.

### Waukesha

#### LGB Education Issues Confab

The Waukesha County and Madison Area Technical Colleges are sponsoring a conference called "Opening Doors to Understanding: LGB Issues in Higher Education," Thursday, September 24 from 8am-5pm and Friday, September 25 from 8am-1:30pm at Olympia Resort and Spa in Oconomowoc.

The conference will look into the experience and issues facing LGB students and staff in institutions of higher learning. The keynote speaker on Thursday is Donna Redwing, Human Rights Campaign National Field Director.

The Friday luncheon will feature *A Real Read*, an African-American performance ensemble presenting original works of poetry and prose.

Registration is \$75 (\$50 students) for the program, breakfast, lunch and breaks. For more information or to register call Deborah Walldendal at (414) 691-5346, or e-mail her at [dwallendal@waukesha.tec.wi.us](mailto:dwallendal@waukesha.tec.wi.us)

## Story Correction

In our last issue, we ran a story about Milwaukee's South Water Street Docks softball team being disqualified from the Gay World Series Class C Division after it had won the championship. After our paper had gone to press, we learned that the story contained three factual errors. These errors were caused either by incorrect information given to our staff or through misunderstandings.

Our story said that both of the protests filed against Milwaukee came while it was playing Boston. We later learned that the first protest was filed while Milwaukee was playing Atlanta in the semifinal game of the Championship bracket. We reported that the first protest was filed while Milwaukee was playing in the semifinal game of the tournament against Boston. The article was accurate in saying that the second protest was filed while Milwaukee was playing Boston in the championship game.

We were told that Milwaukee was losing when the protests were filed. In reality Milwaukee was ahead.

We also reported that the score of the Fort Lauderdale — Boston semifinal game was 27 to 4. A Fort Lauderdale player, Calvin, who was visiting Milwaukee, called us and said that the score was 21 to 14. He added, "Boston really spanked us." Calvin said that Boston was way ahead until the last inning or two when his team rallied.

Calvin acknowledged the accuracy of our statement that Fort Lauderdale Commissioner David Liddy was present at the second protest meeting. However, Calvin said that Liddy felt Milwaukee was being treated unfairly and told his team that he had left the meeting because he didn't feel right being there.

Calvin felt that the top six teams in the C Division could have been challenged as Milwaukee was. He said that his team didn't feel Milwaukee should have been disqualified, even though that disqualification moved Fort Lauderdale from third to second place.

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# AROUND THE NATION

## Rutgers Protests Military Recruiters

Newark, NJ — Faced with a federal law requiring that it allow military recruiters on campus or lose its federal funds, Rutgers University came up with a solution — a Pink Day on campus.

The Rutgers administration working with its law school's Lesbian and Gay caucus co-sponsored a teach-in that branded the military's ban on Gay service as "unconstitutional."

"We think that any policy of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is wrong, including 'don't ask, don't tell,'" Eric Neisser, Acting Law School Dean, told the *Bergen County Record*. He added the university has taken the official position that the military's policy is unconstitutional.

A 1996 federal law sponsored by Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-NY withholds federal aid from institutions that deny campus access to military recruiters. The law forced colleges nationwide to grant renewed access to military recruiters.

Rutgers Law School could have lost \$700,000 in scholarship and aid money if it would have denied the Air Force request to recruit its students.

Anne Marie Pinarski, student and Co-chairwoman for the Lesbian and Gay Caucus, said, "The armed forces have bulldozed over New Jersey's law against discrimination which also prohibits employers from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation."

## Openly Gay Man Elected Judge

Miami, FL — Openly Gay candidate, Scott Bernstein, won the September 1 general election to the Dade County Circuit court, beating his opponent by a margin of 2 to 1. Bernstein's election comes just a few weeks after the Dade County Commission refused to even consider a proposed Gay and Lesbian civil rights law.

"His election to the Dade County Circuit Court is yet another victory for the fair minded majority," said Victory Fund Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold. The Victory Fund supported Bernstein's campaign. Bernstein joins several other early Victory Fund winners including Tempe Arizona Mayor Neil Giuliano, San Diego Judge Bonnie Dumanis and Los Angeles County Assessor Ken Hahn.

## Former Students Sue Over Harassment

Louisville, KY — The *Louisville Courier-Journal* reports two students from Spencer County have testified to years of anti-Gay harassment in a federal court case. Spencer County is a rural area outside of Louisville.

Alma McGowan, 17, told jurors she left Spencer County public schools three years ago after suffering years of near constant harassment. McGowan said that her pleas to school administrators fell on deaf ears. In one instance, she said a deputy principal dismissed her complaint about a rape threat, telling her that the boy merely had a crush on her.

McGowan also testified that she faced increased harassment after she had revealed support for abortion during a class room discussion. McGowan said that other students reacted by accusing her of not being "a good Christian," tearing up her homework and saying that she "slept with the devil."

McGowan was joined in her testimony by Steven Vance who told the court that he had experienced similar incidents while attending public school in Spencer County. Vance says the students regularly demanded that he provide them with oral sex and taunted him by accusing him of being Gay. The two have filed a lawsuit under Title IX. The suit alleges their civil rights were violated.

Bob Chenoweth, a lawyer for Spencer County schools said school officials did all they could, given what they knew at the time. Chenoweth said in his opening statement that school officials will testify they cannot recall being told the incidents, though McGowan says they were.

## PFLAG Billboard Defaced

Nashville, TN (AP) — A billboard message that asks family members to support their Gay and Lesbian relatives lasted less than two days before it was defaced by vandals.

Vandals painted over most of the words "Someone You Know and Love is Gay." The vandalism occurred sometime late Wednesday or early Thursday, said Gene Floyd, a member of the Nashville chapter of PFLAG — Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The billboard included PFLAG's local phone number, which also was covered by paint. "They think if they obliterate the message they obliterate the people. That's just not going to happen," Floyd said.

"It's extremely depressing that there are people who think they have the right answer to everything, and no one else is allowed to express their opinion."

A Chicago company that owns the billboard, located along a busy downtown street and visible from Interstate 40, said it will clean up the vandalism and step up security.

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# 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 bail awaiting her trial.

Because of the complex nature of the allegations, our report is necessarily lengthy. Due to new information that has come to light since this series was started, we have added at least one additional installment that will be printed in our next issue.

## Part 3 of a Series

### Dixon's Financial Health

If the State can not prove that Dixon had a motive to burn down her bar, it will be hard pressed to get a conviction.



A burned award is one of many irreplaceable items lost in the fire.

The Criminal complaint against Dixon strongly implies that the State is contending that Dixon burned down her bar for financial reasons.

Dixon and her former attorney deny that was the case.

*Wisconsin Light* found evidence that seems to support Dixon's contention that while she did have some debts from her restaurant business, Mike and Anna's, Fannies was in good enough shape to make it.

According to Dixon her Mike and Anna's debts amounted to \$40,000. The IRS was demanding payment on

\$30,000 of employee with holding taxes including penalties for late payment. The State of Wisconsin wanted \$10,000 to cover unpaid sales taxes. In addition to those debts, Dixon says that Mike and Anna's owed another \$10,000 to various creditors.

The criminal complaint says that Dixon had applied for a \$100,000 commercial loan, but the loan was denied. That's not what Carol Goffinet of First Source Mortgage Company told *Wisconsin Light*.

Goffinet says that while she was working for Freedom Financial, she had

gotten approval for a \$98,000 loan for Dixon.

Dixon said she rejected the loan because one of its conditions was that the lender would hold \$30,000 in escrow to pay the IRS taxes that were owed from Mike and Anna's. Goffinet confirmed that some money would have been withheld in order to pay off Dixon's bills and that had led to Dixon's rejection.

Dixon and Goffinet differ in what they told *Wisconsin Light* happened after that. Dixon says that Goffinet had gotten approval for another loan that offered better terms than the first one.

Goffinet says that Dixon did call her a few weeks before the fire and asked her to look into getting a loan. Goffinet said she contacted the company that offered Dixon the original loan. That company had gotten out of the commercial lending business and was no longer interested.

Goffinet said that she relayed that news to Dixon and was waiting for her to get back in touch when the bar burned. Goffinet also said that she was certain she could have gotten approval for a loan from another source. She added, however, that any loan to Dixon would have undoubtedly had the same encumbrances the first loan offer did.

Dixon said that the building containing Fannies was appraised at \$200,000. "The building was worth more than I could have gotten from the insurance.

see **FANNIES FIRE** on page 11

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Formerly Manoeuvres

## FANNIES FIRE continued from page 10

Even if it had burned to the ground, the most the insurance would have paid is \$160,000. I only had \$15,000 left to pay on the mortgage. It would have made no sense for me to burn it down," she said.

Goffinet agreed that an appraisal had been done as part of the loan process. She said the appraisal was for \$198,000.

In 1996, the year before the fire, the City of Milwaukee Tax Assessor's office valued the building and the land it is on at \$60,000.

When asked why there would be such a big difference between the two figures, Goffinet said that her appraisal included the value of the building as a business and residential property.

Even after the fire, Dixon was able to get a \$120,000 line of credit from her accountant, Boyd Perlson. Dixon says that she has not yet used the entire line. "I also got some loans from other sources," she said.

### Economic Sense

"It would have made no economic sense for Sharon to burn Fannies," said David Garaghty, Dixon's attorney at the time this was written. Trying to show that he was right in making that statement will be a major part of Dixon's defense when the case comes to trial.

Fannies' insurers had estimated losses due to the fire at \$137,704.32. Of this amount, \$23,040.00 was taken off for depreciation. After a \$1,000 deductible, Dixon was left with a claim for \$113,664.31.

Dixon said that one of the first things her insurance adjuster said was that she would not get enough money to repair the bar and replace all of the equipment she had lost. The adjuster, when contacted by *Wisconsin Light*, declined to comment on the case.

He referred us to Ms. Laura Metz of the Burns and Wilcox insurance agency, which is located in Southfield Michigan. Repeated calls to that agency were not answered by either a live person or an answering system.

Calls to Jim Baxter, of Baxter, O'Meara and Mathie, a Milwaukee law firm representing the companies that had insured Fannies, were not returned.

Dixon said, "I have spent over \$120,000 on repairs and new equipment." She adds, "I am not done yet. I have probably another \$25,000 to \$35,000 worth of work left to be done. Why would I burn down Fannies to go deeper into debt?"

When asked if her accountant would have records to verify the amount Dixon claims to have spent on redoing the bar, Dixon said he would not.

Dixon said that the accountant wrote out some checks from the line of credit he had given her, but other people were paid in cash or by cashier's checks. She also said she did not have some of the receipts for some of her expenses, because she trusted her contractors to have good records.

George Prentice, the owner of La Cage, is arguably the king of Gay bar remodeling. Prentice had seen the damage done by the fire and had also seen the remodeled bar. When asked about Dixon's remodeling figures he replied, "From what I saw that she did there, I would say that amount is very reasonable."

Many observers feel that Dixon need-

ed to remodel to compete with Milwaukee's new Lesbian bar, Dish.

Dixon says, that even if that were the case, the fire didn't help her to do that. "I could have done the remodeling for around \$20,000 without the fire. I wouldn't have had to replace the floor, redo all the wiring and the plumbing plus replace all the equipment and everything else. The fire hurt me financially."

She adds, "People forget that I had no income all those months while I was getting the bar redone. My insurance didn't include making up for lost income, and I had no insurance on my

apartment upstairs. I lost nearly all my personal possessions. I was only able to salvage a bed, a TV and a few clothes. The rest was too damaged by smoke and water."

Furthermore, Dixon says that even if she had burned down her own bar, she certainly would not have done it before one of her busiest weekends of the year, Halloween.

### To Be Continued

*In our next issue: the other charges against Dixon, a question of sloppy police work, the battle to reopen the bar and...*

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# EDITORIALS

## PrideFest

Milwaukee's annual Pride celebration was, in a word, fabulous. The entertainment was worthwhile, the food was varied and tasty, and the fireworks were spectacular. Anyone who didn't have a good time almost had to be trying not to have fun.

The Sunday afternoon parade was especially impressive. For the first time, this event drew a large crowd that lined almost the entire route. That crowd was treated to a colorful display of floats, cars and marchers. With over fifty quality entries, Milwaukee's Pride Parade looked and felt like a "big city" pride parade.

The weather was outstanding which partially leads us to urge the PrideFest Committee to permanently move the festival back from its early June date. While June is the traditional Gay pride month, there seemed to be a clear consensus that most would gladly trade that tradition, along with jackets, gloves and umbrellas, for tank tops, T-shirts and shorts of a mid to late summer festival. The considerably earlier sunsets also seemed to offer a better ambiance for evening entertainment. Late July through early September dates, without the many competing pride events, may just be the catalyst needed to escalate attendance at Pridefest, and its parade, to truly regional, or even national, status.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without more than a little hard work. Putting on an event of this magnitude requires a year-round commitment from a dedicated group of volunteers. Fortunately, Milwaukee has such a group. The PrideFest Committee and the volunteer army they recruited to staff the booths, take the tickets and patrol the grounds are owed the thanks and gratitude of our entire community.

The PrideFest Committee did its part and did it well. Now, it is up to the rest of us to take the spirit of pride and unity we felt throughout that entire weekend and keep it alive for the rest of the year. Thanks to PrideFest we have a good start on doing just that.

## Another Wisconsin First

Tammy Baldwin's exciting victory in the September 8 Democratic primary marks another first in her career. Wisconsin's first openly Gay State Representative has become the first openly Lesbian candidate to win a Congressional primary anywhere in the country.

Now she will seek to add another one in the general election when she takes on former Insurance Commissioner Josephine Musser. If successful, she will be the first open Lesbian ever elected to Congress.

That fight will not be easy. Political analysts expect the religious right to pour money into Musser's campaign, despite the Republican's pro-choice leanings.

Tammy Baldwin has done her part to add an exciting chapter to the history of Gay and Lesbian Wisconsin. Historic Gay and Lesbian firsts are not new to Wisconsin. The Badger State led the way with the first statewide Gay civil rights law. Madison was the first city in the country to require that companies offering discounts to married couples also offer them to registered domestic partners. The first re-elected openly Gay Republican Congressman, Steve Gunderson was from Wisconsin. In fact, at times, it seems that those living in areas more commonly thought to be the centers of Gay and Lesbian political power are rushing to catch up to us.

Now it is up to Baldwin's supporters to add another historic first by electing her in November. As difficult as the primary campaign was, the November election will be an even more daunting task. But it is a doable task, if everyone works together. That means giving more money and volunteer time to help put Baldwin over the top.

The Badger State's record of achievements in Gay and Lesbian rights is exceeded by none. Once again Wisconsin's Gays and Lesbians can show San Francisco, Washington, New York and the rest of those places that think THEY are leading our national community, who is really doing the leading and who is doing the following.

## Filling Tammy's Shoes

In all of the excitement over Tammy Baldwin's primary victory, it would be easy but unfair to overlook the efforts of Marc Pocan. Openly Gay Pocan won the Democratic nomination in Wisconsin's 78th Assembly District. With only token opposition from an independent, his primary victory virtually assures him of election in November and a place in Wisconsin history as the first openly Gay man to win election to the State Legislature.

Pocan's victory is an important one. It assures Wisconsin's GLBT community that it will have a voice in the Wisconsin Legislature. That voice will be an articulate, intelligent and forceful one. It will be raised by a distinguished and able leader. As both as a County Supervisor, and as a community leader, Pocan has shown that he can build consensus just as ably as the woman whose chair he will soon occupy.

Pocan now takes Tammy Baldwin's seat in the State Assembly. We expect Pocan to ably fill Tammy's shoes, but not her heels.

### Address letters to:

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

# LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As the summer festival season comes to a close for yet another year, many are looking forward to relaxing, sitting back in our easy chairs to watch a little football, and regenerating our energies in preparation for the 1999 festivals. The greatest challenge for many will be the timing of the pizza delivery during the big games! For others, challenges will persist and rest is unfortunately out of the question.

These individuals have been doing a bang-up job for the Milwaukee Gay community, from protecting our social and individual rights by being involved in the political process, to educating and explaining our spiritual being when countered with the viewpoints of Reggie White; from promoting unity and pride by leading the establishment of a community center and hosting Pridefest, to addressing our physical well-being against AIDS through support of those with HIV and those AIDS care providers and educational outlets such as the ARCW.

These individuals are special and invaluable to each of us. However, the journey they lead requires the horse-

power of the total community through volunteered time, talent, monies and support. Instead of sitting back in the easy chair this winter and looking for someone else to carry forward the many initiatives, I'd like to challenge everyone in the Gay community to get involved.

An easy way one can get involved immediately is by taking part in AIDS Walk Wisconsin on Sunday, September 20, 1998 at the Summerfest grounds. Starting at noon, the 10K Walk kicks off with Chastity Bono in its annual effort to raise funds for AIDS prevention, research and support services.

You can take part by raising pledges and being a part of the Walk; attending the annual AIDS Walk Breakfast at the Italian Community Center; volunteering at the Walk or ARCW; supporting your friends, co-workers, or family members who may be walking; and/or patronizing the many sponsors and friends of the Walk and ARCW. To be a part, simply call Walk Central at 800-348-WALK.

Working together, we can succeed. Stay involved!

Richard Strong  
Volunteer Co-Chairperson  
AIDS Walk Wisconsin

## Community Voices



### Support AIDS Walk Wisconsin

by Senator Russ Feingold

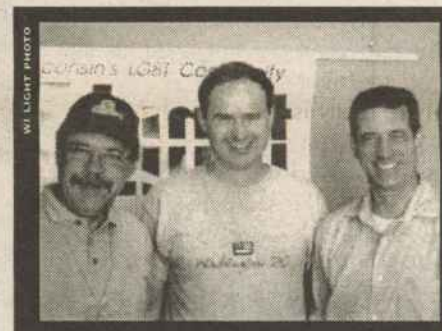
On Saturday, September 20, more than 10,000 people will take to Milwaukee's streets in the fight against AIDS. The 9th annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin, which will begin at the Summerfest grounds and wind along the Lakefront, will raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for 19 agencies that help Wisconsinites who are battling HIV or AIDS.

I will be proud to participate in the day's events at the AIDS Walk breakfast on Saturday morning. It's vital that Wisconsinites show their support for those suffering from HIV or AIDS, and that we show our determination to stop its spread through education and prevention.

In Wisconsin, we are lucky to have a well-organized network of health care and social service providers who are equipped to assist people with HIV or AIDS. In addition to medical care, this network provides housing assistance, legal assistance, case management and transportation assistance. It is the organizations in this vital network that AIDS Walk Wisconsin will directly benefit.

While community-based organizations are doing a great deal in the fight against HIV and AIDS, they need support at the federal level. Since coming to the U.S. Senate in 1993, I have worked to pass legislation that would support the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic through research, social services and education.

During consideration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1994, I voted against legislation to restrict local school boards' ability to provide counseling or supportive programs to students. In the 103rd Congress, I voted to establish an Office of AIDS Research as part of the reau-



Wisconsin Light Editor Bill Meunier, Greg Quindel, and Senator Russ Feingold at PrideFest

thorization of the National Institutes of Health. I was an original co-sponsor of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act reauthorization.

While federally funded research has enabled a great deal of progress to be made in AIDS treatment, prevention and research, there is still much more work to be done. According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there were approximately 250 AIDS cases in Wisconsin, and some local estimates put HIV infections in the state well into the thousands.

As those of us in the federal government work to make sure that federal assistance in the fight against HIV and AIDS continues, we also need to pull together in our communities to make sure that we continue to have a strong infrastructure available to care for those living with HIV or AIDS.

I encourage everyone to participate in AIDS Walk Wisconsin to show your support for people living with HIV and AIDS, and your determination to stop the spread of this disease through education and prevention.

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# Spotlight

September 10 –  
September 23, 1998

## The 11th Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival

by Glenn Bishop

Can there be a more exciting cinematic event for the LGBT community here in Milwaukee than the annual Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival, now in its eleventh year?

If there is, Glenn isn't aware of it!

Beginning Thursday, September 24 and spanning the course of the following two weekends, Milwaukee will be treated to a feast of Gay and Lesbian cinema that can't be found anywhere else, not on cable, not at the local multiplex and certainly not even at the Blockbuster near you!

There really is something for everyone at the 11th Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival.

Unlike the typical innocuous images produced in Hollywood, the films to be screened at this year's festival are by, about, and for Gay and Lesbian audiences.

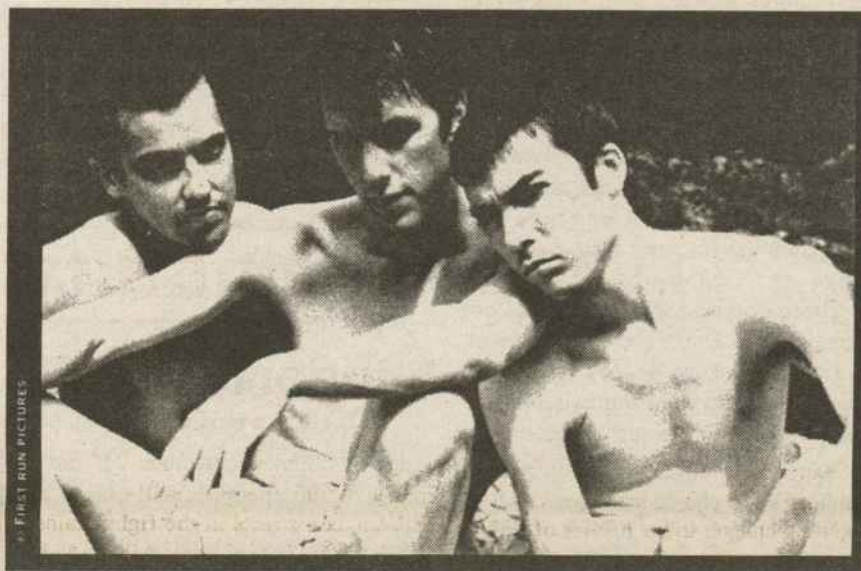
While some moviegoers may be disappointed that the festival might lack anything to compare to the ridiculous kiss between cinematic has-beens Kevin Kline and Tom Selleck, most audiences are sure to be captivated by this year's lineup.

The first weekend is loaded with highlights.

In *Dear Jesse* (Thursday, 9/24 7pm), filmmaker Tim Kirkman offers homophobic North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms a warm, personal portrait of Gay life in their home state. It includes interviews with celebrated Gay novelist Alan Gurganus, the first openly Gay mayor in NC as well as the ex-Republican leader of Mothers Against Jesse in Congress.

Another worthy documentary is *The Brandon Teena Story* (Friday, 9/25 7pm), the extraordinary story of Brandon Teena. Teena born Teena Brandon was raped and then murdered for crossing so-called accepted gender rules in small town, middle America.

Lesbian features figure prominently the first weekend. *The Sticky Fingers of Time* (Thursday, 9/24 7pm), is a time travel Lesbian love story. (Please see review on the next page.) Also being presented the first weekend is *Troika* (Saturday, 9/26 7pm), from "occa-



*SPF 2000* - a film by Patrick McGuinn, plays on October 3, 9pm, at the UW-Milwaukee Union Cinema.

sional" Milwaukeean Jennifer Montgomery.

*TreyF* another Lesbian film shown with *Nana George & Me* (Sunday 9/27, 7pm). *TreyF* examines secular Jewish Lesbians.

The programs of boy and girl shorts are always a festival favorite. In *Loss, Longing, Teenagers, Home Decorators, and a Couple of Cows* (Saturday, 9/26 9pm), festival goers will find a cornucopia of celluloid treats including Gordon Wong's *Star Trek Disco Generation* and Steve Kokker's loving tribute to hunky Joe Dallesandro in *Happiness is Just a Thing Called Joe*.

Lesbians will have to wait until the second weekend to see *Barbies, Riot Grrrandmas, Some Beauties & Some Communities, Grantity & Levity & Girls' Shorts!* (Friday, 10/2 9pm).

Highlights from the second weekend in addition to the Lesbian shorts

program include the latest film from legendary Lesbian filmmaker Barbara Hammer, *The Female Closet*; and *Dakan*, the first Gay film from a West Africa program.

Also on the second weekend is *We're Funny That Way* (Saturday, 10/3, 7pm). This documentary/concert film shows a group of comics —

including Milwaukee's John McGivern — who have gathered for the First International Festival of Gay and Lesbian Humor.

From the *Archives: Some Essential Queer Cinema* is an unbeatable, not-to-be-missed compilation of some of the very best works by some of the best very queer filmmakers, including such classics as Kenneth Anger's *Fireworks*, Jean Genet's *Un Chant D'Amour*, Barbara Hammer's *Dyketactics* and Marlon Riggs' *Anthem*.

Considering the ambitious pro-



*SLEEPING BEAUTIES* - a short by Jamie Babbit will be shown on October 2 at 9pm.

gram, Glenn was surprised to learn that the Festival rests primarily in the hands of two individuals, programmer Carl Bogner and Administrative Executive Annie Melchior, who is also Program Manager of the Film Department at UWM.

The Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival in fact rests with the UWM Film Department, although it is supported by other organizations including the UWM Women's Resource Center, the Gay and Lesbian Certificate Program, and the Cream City Foundation from which the festival has received a grant.

Beginning months in advance, Festival programmer Carl Bogner searches for the best, the brightest, the newest and most provocative Gay and Lesbian films. Besides attending the prestigious San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Carl spends "hundreds of hours" screening tapes of potential films.

Says Bogner, "One of my frustrations is that I could have easily spend even hundreds of more hours watching films". Administrative Executive Annie Melchior stressed that the festival receives no funding from the State of Wisconsin.

Bogner and Melchior both expressed confidence that this year's festival will top and perhaps even double last year's attendance of 1300.

The 11th Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival will be held from Thursday, September 24 through Sunday, September 27 and from Thursday, October 1 through Saturday, October 3 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Cinema on the second floor of the UWM Union, 2200 East Kenwood Blvd. Screenings are held nightly at 7pm and 9pm.

Tickets to individual programs are \$6.00 (\$5.50 for students & seniors). Festival passes are available for \$50.00 (\$45.00 for students and seniors). For more information on the 11th Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival, call the Department of Film at 229-6015.



# The Festival Reviewed

By Glenn Bishop

## The Sticky Fingers of Time

Faithful readers of *Wisconsin Light* know that Glenn does enjoy Lesbian films — some say perhaps a little too much, but that's a discussion for another issue.

Opening this year's festival on Thursday, September 24th is the most disturbingly titled *The Sticky Fingers of Time*, which Glenn approached with considerable trepidation. Could this be some "new-age" Lesbian erotica where "Time" is some ravishing lipstick Lesbian or ever-so butch baby Lesbian?

Indeed not, Glenn is relieved to say. *The Sticky Fingers of Time*, written and directed by Hilary Brougher, proves to be an intriguing blend of existential science fiction, '40s noir atmosphere and dynamic '90s Lesbian relationships. Who could ask for more?

At the center of *Sticky Fingers* is hard-drinking, chain-smoking crime novelist Tucker "Don't Call Me Violet" Harding (Terumi Matthews) who inadvertently becomes a reluctant time traveler following her eye witnessing of an H-Bomb test in 1953.

On a day like so many other days, Tucker is sent on the oh-so mundane task of buying coffee for her enchanting girlfriend Ofelia (Belinda Becker). Suddenly a "black & white" Tucker slips through a hole in time and, before she knows it, is in "color" in 1997. That fickle hand of fate will bring together Tucker and Drew (Nicole Zaray), herself a novelist but a desolate woman on the verge of suicide. Even the hard-hearted Glenn knew right off the bat that this was a match that would endure decades — sort of.

Perhaps a bit too leisurely paced and decidedly overly encumbered with too much time travel mumbo-jumbo, *The Sticky Fingers of Time* is nevertheless a highly original and winning addition to the list of cinematic Lesbian romances.

## Uncut

Of all of the films to be presented at this year's Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival, Glenn was most excited about *Uncut*, the new film from Director John Greyson, whose *Lilies* was the hit of last year's festival.

Well, Glenn has previewed *Uncut* twice and must sheepishly admit to remaining pretty clueless.

*Uncut*, set in 1979, focuses on three cute guys each named Peter and Pierre Trudeau, then Prime Minister of Canada.

Each of the three Peters harbor harmless obsessions, but that fickle hand of cinematic fate brings them together with extraordinary and rather tragic results.

Peter No. 1, Peter Cort (Greyson regular Matthew Ferguson), is obsessed with circumcision. He has written a scholarly tome on that fascinating topic, "The Psycho-Sexual Meanings of Circumcision and the Foreskin."

Peter brings his precious manuscript to Peter No. 2, Peter Denham

(Damon D'Oliveira), a typist whose office is inexplicably the roof of a skyscraper. This Peter's obsession is PM Trudeau, whose images grace all the walls of his tiny apartment, and to whom he sends daily typed (naturally) correspondence.

After a tough day typing, this Peter No. 2 meets Peter No. 3, Peter Koosens (Michael Achtman) in a bar where the two chat each other up in a truly original, if in fact implausible way. Peter No. 3 is obsessed with breaking into the world of music videos.

Later that week, Peter No. 3 meets Peter No. 1 at the same bar.

Promising to be uncircumcised, Peter No. 3 lures Peter No. 1 home for... well, you can probably guess. The video camera is rolling, but when Peter No. 3 proves to be skinless, Peter No. 1 flees. Confused yet?

Combining Peter No. 2's collection of Trudeau pictures with homoerotic clips of his encounter with Peter No. 2, Peter No. 3 creates a music video which causes Trudeau to wind up comatose in a hospital bed.

Interwoven within this overwrought narrative, Greyson includes documentary footage of artists taking issue with copyright laws. Glenn isn't quite sure why.

Those hoping for another *Lilies* are going to find *Uncut* a disappointment, but Greyson is an always fascinating filmmaker, and then there is the fact the three Peters are just so gosh-darn cute.

## The Brandon Teena Story

*The Brandon Teena Story* is just the sort of a film that needs to be screened at Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals. Glenn applauds Milwaukee programmers for including it on this year's schedule.

Brandon Teena was actually born Teena Brandon in Lincoln, Nebraska. At the age of twenty Teena became Brandon, moved to another town and began living as a man. When Brandon's "actual" gender was discovered, she was raped.

Police questioned but did not charge the men Brandon accused. Less than a week later the two men, wanting to silence Brandon, stalked him and then on New Year's Eve killed him and the two friends with whom he sought protection.

Directors Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir have tirelessly interviewed everyone who played a role, be it large or small in this tragic story. These interviews ranged from several of Brandon's girlfriends, who all found Brandon a wonderful lover to be, to the indifferent police officers to the coolly unrepentant rapists/killers themselves.

The resulting story is at once horrifying as the film reveals the homophobia and misogyny that continues to simmer, barely concealed beneath American society.

Yet *The Brandon Teena Story* is also the extraordinarily powerful story of an individual determined to live free of the arbitrary rules of gender that society imposes. Highly recommended!

# Organization & Bar Calendar

## Friday, September 11

**Eagle (Milwaukee)**, AIDS Walk Fundraiser, 10pm-close, drawings every half hour.

## Saturday, September 12

**Gemini Gender Group Meeting (Milwaukee)**, Unitarian Universalist West, Brookfield. FMI 297-9328.

**LGBT Community (Milwaukee)**, Lakefront Picnic, noon-4pm at McKinley Marina Park. Fly your kite with us! Bring a picnic lunch and your own beverages.

## Sunday, September 13

**GAMMA's 20th Anniversary Party (Milwaukee)**, 1pm at Lake Park. Food will be available for \$7 fee. Rain will not inhibit GAMMA. FMI Bob at 414/425-2146.

## Monday, September 14

**MCOW (Milwaukee)**, Center for Intervention Research (CAIR), 11am-12:15pm, HIV/AIDS in Russia: Epidemiology, Policy & Social Aspects. FMI 414/456-7731.

**Marshfield G/L Organization (Marshfield (Central WI))**, MGLO social, 130 S. Central Avenue, #3. 7pm. Bring dish to pass. *Too Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar* will be shown. FMI 715/387-2068.

## Tuesday, September 15

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

## Wednesday, September 16

**BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinics (Milwaukee)**, 9pm-Midnight, Mama Roux, 1875 North Humboldt.

**Ballgame (Milwaukee)**, "Sinking of the Titanic." Bring your life jacket, hors d'oeuvres and drink specials.

## Friday, September 18

**Club 5 (Madison)**, Grand Opening Party weekend through Sunday.

## Saturday, September 19

**Silver Space 10th Anniversary Party (Milwaukee)**, Falk Park Pavilion, 1-6pm. FMI Mary 258-2991.

**Madison Gay Wrestling Club (Madison)**, Kick-off Party, 8pm. FMI 608/244-8675 (evening) for location.

## Sunday, September 20

**AIDS Walk Wisconsin (Statewide)**, Along Milwaukee's Lakefront.

## Monday, September 21

**Wisconsin Council of Churches (Statewide)**, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Members in God's Family, through mid-afternoon Saturday, September 26 at St. Benedict Center, Middleton, WI. Call 608/837-3108 FMI or e-mail wcc@ecunet.org.

**Oberon's ACORN XI (Statewide)**, Under Construction weekend in Milwaukee. Headquartered at the Wisconsin Hotel. Planned events include the IMAX Dome Theater, a Walking Enduro and a Leather Swap & Sale. Register today. FMI 414/265-8587.

## Saturday, September 26

**RDA Fall Frolic (Statewide)**, 5549 Hwy J, Mt. Horeb. It's picnic time with the Lesbians. Games begin at 4pm (volleyball, croquet, relays). Potluck at 6pm. Bring a dish to pass and something to grill. FMI 414/437-3637.

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# DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

## Banderas Dons Another Mask

Mask of Zorro star, Antonio Banderas, has pulled off an upset, snagging the title role away from John Travolta in the movie adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*.

Travolta was considered a shoe-in for the role, which he's been dickering about taking since the troubled production's inception five years ago. During this time, Lloyd Webber began warming to the idea of the Latin heart-throb as his phantom. The courting started in earnest last April when the famed musical producer flew Banderas to London to sing at his 50th birthday party, a kind of public audition.

## Schizo Leo

With the release of *Titanic* in video stores and the Sept. 8th publication of nude pictures in *Playgirl*, Leomania continues to sweep the country. But when you'll see him again on screen remains a mystery.

Partying like a dog on both coasts (and eating like one too, judging from his expanded belly and double chin), DiCaprio doesn't seem to be in much of a hurry to return to work, nixing the

title role (and the \$20 million he would've received for it) in the big screen adaptation of Gay novelist Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho*.

This comes just days after Leo participated in a script reading with Oliver Stone, who was said to be interested in directing the destined-to-be-controversial film. The reported reason for DiCaprio's change of heart was a disagreement with producers about a start date.

## Taking on the Trash

Legendary Gay director John Waters will have the camera turned on him in the documentary *Mondo Trash*, set for release next year from director Steve Yeager.

In the meantime, Waters is promoting his new film *Pecker*, hitting theaters next month. As usual, the director has assembled an intriguing cast of young actors.

Furlong plays Pecker, a Baltimore boy whose raw amateur photos attract the attention of a New York art dealer (Taylor). Pecker's shock snapshots of rats fornicating and his little sister eating a Fudgesickle lead to his becoming the art world's latest sensation. Sounds kind of autobiographical to me.

## Take It Outside!

Autobiographical works seem to be in vogue these days, and newly outed singer George Michael is not one to miss a trend. So his upcoming greatest hits CD (slated for an October release) will include a new song, "Outside," in which the Wham! graduate addresses the subject of outdoor sex. Michael, you'll remember, was arrested in Beverly Hills last spring for lewd conduct.

## Big Screen Boy

Comeback hopeful Boy George's autobiography *Take It Like a Man* is being turned into a feature film by the husband-and-wife producing team Erica Spellman-Silverman and Ethan Silverman. Casting has just begun, but there's no chance Boy will be playing himself.

In other '80s icon news, Brooke Shields returns to the big screen in next year's British feature *The Misadventures of Margaret*, in which the former teen idolette plays a lesbian. Finally, a woman will get in between Brooke and her Calvins.

## Daddy's Little Girl

Tori Spelling seeks to reinvent her wholesome reputation with a revealing interview in *Playboy*, where the 90210 star says she would love to have a threesome with Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. Other tidbits from the interview: she enjoys stripteasing by herself in front of a mirror; she is a member of the Mile High Club; and Madonna has the best cleavage in show biz.

## Hot Rumor of the Week

Maybe this item is the project of someone's overheated imagination, but Boston boys Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are rumored to be hitting the range in Gus Van Sant's *Brokeback Mountain*, the story of two Gay cowboys in love.

Van Sant directed the pair in *Good Will Hunting*, so the rumor may not be as outlandish as it seems. Despite delusions to the contrary, Damon and Affleck have been the very models of heterosexuality in their private lives.

## Romeo Plugs...

Explicit depictions of Gay sexuality are just a part of the in-your-face HBO drama series *Oz*, which I believe is TV's best hour-long drama (by a mile). Full frontal nudity and blow jobs are the norm in this series, which takes place in a maximum-security prison. Of course, the sex isn't that glamorous — this being prison — and the Gay characters aren't role models — this being prison — so politically correct types best turn away. Those interested in bold, brave and often twisted plots, however, will be riveted.

Romeo San Vicente, who has never worn any of the ties his lovers have given him, can be reached care of this publication or at [RSVicente@aol.com](mailto:RSVicente@aol.com). For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit [www.gay.net](http://www.gay.net).

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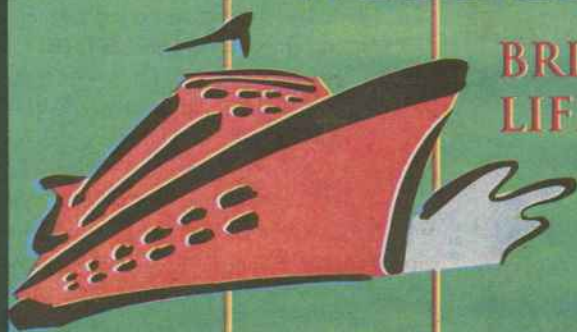
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# PRIDEFEST 1998

**So...** by Ron Geiman

## Performances...

WI Light photos by Ron Geiman and Yuri Keegstra



So... what about PrideFest? Except for the flying, biting bugs (fruit flies?) that invaded the grounds periodically, how about this description... **Perfect.**

A record-smashing crowd of 14,744 enjoyed the weekend festivities that celebrated "Many Worlds, One Community." The theme was well represented throughout the weekend, with a wonderfully diverse representation of our community. Youths, seniors and people of all colors and genders reveled in the spirit of COMMUNITY. Smiles were the uniform of the weekend.

The gorgeous late August weather assured people-watchers of seeing skin instead of raincoats. The expansion into the Harley stage area provided for a plethora of food, drink and entertainment to satisfy the most jaded amongst us.

The teaming on Friday night of the Possum Queen finale and the retro music party in the Dance Tent drew a nice kick-off crowd of over 1,600, proving it was a popular pairing. The Possum Queen contest made over \$19,000 for ARCW, with Jackie O from M&M capturing the crown for the second year in a row. In an act of selfless charity, she turned the crown over to co-hostess Lizzie Bordeaux for her annual work in organizing the fundraiser.

Good thing the Possum Queen show went a little long... Josie Santiago was a no-show for the second year in a row.

Lesbian dance diva Joi Cardwell's teaser spot at the Tent saw her throw a pre-performance diva-fit about the lack of a spotlight for her four-minute number. Honestly, the lack of follow spots on the stages for every evening performance did present a visibility problem.

Saturday was the biggest day in PrideFest-history with over 7,500 going through the turnstiles. Appropriately, there was a large infusion of alternative families drawn by the expanded Children's Day activities. Face painting, puppets, performances, dance and magic provided a full slate of fun.

The Youth Area drew a large number of teens who planned and ran all their own events. Obviously, word is getting out to youth that there is a community here to support them.

The action was hot and heavy on the Volleyball Court in its new location on the grounds, with lots of visitors enjoying the Miller Lite Invitational. The teams, some of whose players participated in the recent Gay Games, played so hard that they all missed the planned Awards Ceremony because they were too busy eating and quenching their thirst.

In tournament finals, Madison's No She Didn't cooled off the Milwaukee 6 Pack for 1st place. In the 3rd place consolation game, the Madison Dairy Queens paddled Madison's Spank 'Em. In the 5th place consolation game, Milwaukee's BESTD Effort bested Madison's Spik'n.

I was a bit set back by the profanity of the Hysterical Women comedians at their 7pm Miller Stage show. There were still plenty of kids on the grounds, and the vulgarities spewing forth would have made Possum Queen blush. (The night before, the Possum contest was warned about language.)

Later Saturday night, Cardwell charged up the crowd for the following headlining act, Men Out Loud. The outrageous a cappella quartet wowed the crowd and elicited a big cheer when they commented, "We were at 18 pride festivals last year, and 16 so far this year — and no one, nobody has a venue anywhere near like this." (Guess they thought it was just So...)

Retro dance music vocalists Musique were the next headliners and the ladies charged up the crowd for the *Light Up The Sky With Pride Fireworks* sponsored by Miller. After that fabulous rush from the bombastic display, only the unique talents of Mrs. Fun, dancing in the tent, or swooning along with Gay country artist Jeff Miller could wrap up the evening.

Sunday's Pride Parade was Milwaukee's biggest ever with 58 registered entries exhibiting pride and talent. Besides bigger participation in the parade, there were portions of the route with large clumps of sup-

## People...



# PRIDEFEST 1998

porters to cheer it on. It finally felt like a "big city" pride parade.

Hate to brag, but *WI Light's* Dear Ruthie took 2nd place in the decorated car category, and our joint entry with ARCW won Best Use of Theme. (We were So... Proud!)

Other winners: 1st place car, Jackie O'Day; 3rd place car, Cream City Chorus. In the Marching Unit category, Chicago's ROTC twirled into 1st place; River West Rainbow Association shouted their way into 2nd; and the Youth Area group charmed their way into 3rd. For floats, Milwaukee Eagle/Leather Community tied up 1st; Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) was graced with 2nd; and HIT bowled 'em over with 3rd.

Milwaukee County Supervisor Dorothy Dean and Alderman Paul Henningsen made encore appearances as parade judges, and were joined by Paul's wife, Margaret, and Alderman Michael D'Amato.

There were three political entries in the parade: Jon Richards (D) and Curtis Lamon (R), both running for the 19th District Assembly seat, and Ed Garvey/Barbara Lawton for Governor.

More politicians were on the grounds during the PrideFest awards presentations. County Executive Tom Ament presented a proclamation, as did Mayor John Norquist, who also officially declared it PrideFest Weekend in Milwaukee. Susan Cook read a proclamation from President Bill Clinton. Henningsen presented a special proclamation in honor of the civic nature of J. Robert (Bob) Moore.

Moore died just weeks before he was to receive the PrideFest Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to a close friend to give to Bob's family. Bob was poignantly honored in the parade by an empty car bearing his name on the side.

Parade Marshal's included local-boy-gone-national Gay comedian John McGivern, Men Out Loud, and PrideFest Award winners Jan Uebelherr, Marc Mariucci, Scott Gunkel and the family of Sunshine Jones, Joann Kelly and their daughter Sol. The Jones-Kelly family was a hit when they spoke at the ceremony, and young Sol proved that education and articulation are not solely adult characteristics.

Thirty-two couples managed to find the MCC's booth in time to pre-register for the popular annual Mass Commitment Ceremony. Many others just joined in the rites and celebrated their relationships. I always cry at weddings, but was careful not to get the awesome wedding cakes all tear-stained. The cakes were So...

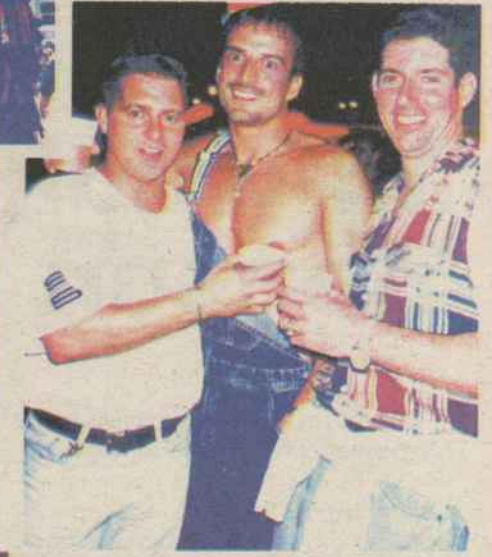
After Men Out Loud's encore performance, it was a perfect time to roam the grounds and partake in the variety of entertainment, food, drink and people in the perfect weather. I lost count of how many hugs and kisses I got; it was just that kind of enjoyable day, and weekend, really.

Now, if the Sunday Night drag show was named for someone else next year, B.J. Daniels would really be happy. He told me, "I suppose they think they are honoring me, but I'm not dead; and it gives people the impression I'm going to come out of retirement, and/or select the performers, neither of which is true."

I can't complete this article without mentioning the protesters. The ones with the signs and flyers in front of the gate were bad enough, then there was 'da plane, 'da plane overhead during the start of the Parade. (Boo, hiss Ralph Overdahl and your group of wayward Christians!) To make matters worse, the guy with the trailer and loud speaker system berating us from a rented space in the Italian Community Center parking lot was particularly loathsome.

Alderman Henningsen told me a suburban church applied for a permit for that weekend, requesting reservation of an entire block on Chicago Street. Their representatives bragged they were going to line it with protesters, big signs, and sound trucks spewing out their fundamentalist Christianity.

So... Henningsen refused their request.



# FINE ARTS THEATRE PREVIEW

## SPECIAL SECTION



## Milwaukee's "Gay" Theater Season

by John Jahn

Can you imagine what a community's theatre, opera or musical season would be like without Gay- or Lesbian-themed works, or works authored by Gays or Lesbians? Can anyone say, "nonexistent?" In terms of presenting works of particular interest and relevance to the Gay and Lesbian community, the various companies in and around the city of Milwaukee will certainly not disappoint. Here's a brief rundown of what's in store for us during the upcoming seasons.

The Bel Canto Chorus will perform a work by the late Gay American composer Aaron Copland, entitled *In the Beginning*.

The Boulevard Ensemble's season

opener is *Six Degrees of Separation* by John Guare, a Gay-themed study of human relations.

The Broadway Series of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts will present *Victor/Victoria*, with its unique perspective on a cross-dressing performer. Grammy Award-winning recording artist Toni Tennille (of the '70s pop duo Captain & Tennille) assumes the starring role. Next March, the Broadway Series brings to Milwaukee the Pulitzer Prize-winning, Gay-themed musical *Rent*, which won a Tony Award for Best Musical.

The Florentine Opera offers the American premiere of Lowell Lieberman's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, with a libretto that is based

upon the novel of the same name by famed Gay British playwright Oscar Wilde.

Dale Gutzman is arguably one of the premiere Gay showmen in Wisconsin. His production company presents the Gay-themed *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, his Thailand review entitled *Celebration* and *M Butterfly*, the dramatic musical involving a man unwittingly involved with another man masquerading as a female Chinese opera performer.

The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre offers works by three prominent Gay authors: Mishima's *Madame de Sade*, Tony Kushner's *The Illusion* and Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana*.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre produces another of Tennessee Williams' plays, *The Glass Menagerie*.

Present Music's season opener will be a tribute to that flamboyant, Gay Milwaukee native, Liberace, in a new work called *Le Tombeau de Liberace*.

Theatre X will present Gay author and playwright Truman Capote's (*Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *In Cold Blood*) *Holiday Memories*. Also, Gay Milwaukee playwright and musical showman John Schneider will be premiering his new work, *Jazz — A History of Jazz in Milwaukee*.

With these and other offerings, Milwaukee's theater season is sure to be of interest.



*The Illusion*, an adaptation by Gay playwright Tony Kushner will be presented by the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre April 16 - May 2.

## Milwaukee Theater Schedule

### BALLET WISCONSIN

Ballet Wisconsin, formerly Et toi, tu danses?, is a chamber ballet company dedicated to maintaining the classical repertory as well as presenting new works. Information and ticket purchases may be obtained by writing or visiting the Ballet Wisconsin, Ltd. office at 3514 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211.

#### *Alice in Wonderland* October 18

A ballet for all ages based upon the classic tale by Lewis Carroll at Milwaukee's Pabst Theatre

#### *Stories from Afar, Danses Tziganes, Firebird* February 27 and 28

The world premieres of three new works: *Stories from Afar*, *Danses Tziganes* (Gypsy Dances) and *Firebird*, at MATC's Cooley Auditorium.

#### *Women Stories* May 22 and 23

A series of anecdotes honoring women by choreographers Janet Lilly,

Neta Pulvermacher, Lisa Sherman-Colt and Yves de Bouteiller, at Marquette University's Helfaer Theatre.

### THE BEL CANTO CHORUS

Milwaukee's oldest continuing performing arts ensemble presents a season of contemporary and classical music. For further information, call (414) 476-6640.

#### Concert 1 October 24

Romantic and Neo-Romantic compositions by Fauré, Bloch, Delius, Rachmaninoff and Boulanger, at the Pittman Theater, Alverno College.

#### *Nine Lessons of Christmas* December 5

The featured work on this holiday concert will be *The Nine Lessons of Christmas* by LaMontaine, as well as Christmas songs for the whole family at St. John Vianney Parish (Waukesha).

#### Concert 3 March 27

Three 20th century sacred master-

see **Theater Schedule** on Spotlight page vii

pieces, Gay American composer Aaron Copland's *In the Beginning*, Thompson's *The Peaceable Kingdom* and Daley's *Requiem* at St. Joseph Convent Chapel.

**Evensong  
May 15**

The world premiere of *Evensong*, a dramatic work composed by Bel Canto Music Director Richard Hynson, at St. Joseph's Basilica.

**THE BOULEVARD ENSEMBLE**

Milwaukee's only storefront theatre has announced an eclectic roster of plays for its upcoming 13th season. For more information concerning the Boulevard Ensemble's new season, as well as its popular series of acting and auditioning workshops, call (414) 672-6019.

*BOULEVARD SERIES (5-WEEK RUNS EACH)*

**Six Degrees of Separation  
Beginning October 9**

John Guare's Gay-themed study of human relations, a humorously rich portrait of the rich insider versus the poor outsider.

**Don Juan in Hell  
December 18**

George Bernard Shaw's witty, diverting discourse on love and politics.

**Shirley Valentine  
Opening February 12**

Love is the theme of Willy Russell's one-woman comedy, a passage of romance and adventure sure to win over the hardest of hearts.

**Double Indemnity  
Opening April 16**

Pierre de Marivaux's bewitching classic French comedy pitting one pair of lovers against each other in a war of roses and laughter.

*ALLEY SERIES (3-WEEK RUNS EACH)*

**Wilder Wilder  
Opening October 25**

An evening of Thornton Wilder one-act plays, including seldom performed *The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden* and *The Long Christmas Dinner*.

**Decadence  
Opening January 3**

The Milwaukee premiere of Steve Berkoff's comedy of ill-manners. The chronicles of the "Seven Deadly Sins" with humor and bite.

**Irish Alleys  
Opening February 28**

Staged readings featuring new and local Irish-American playwrights.

**Playwrights' Consortium  
Opening May 3**

The Ensemble's first annual, full-length playwrights' consortium, in which three new scripts will be selected to receive rehearsal and publicly staged readings.

**DALE GUTZMAN  
PRODUCTIONS**

Dale Gutzman Productions will be initiating its season of musical and dramatic plays with the Wisconsin

premiere of the Tony Award-winning Broadway hit, *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Set in a prison in Latin America and revolving around the friendship between two prisoners — one Gay — the powerful story might at first seem an unlikely source for a musical, but it fairly well sparkles with vibrant song, dance and charming wit.

In addition to *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Gutzman has planned an ambitious theatre season for all to enjoy, each playing at Centennial Hall of the Downtown Milwaukee Public Library. For tickets call (414) 327-3552, or for further information call Dale Gutzman at (414) 466-4049.

**The Kiss of the Spider Woman  
September 18 - 20**

An award-winning musical by Kander and Ebb, filled with passion, politics, prison and patriotism in which two men — one of them Gay — learn to understand each other and escape their shared nightmare through the magic of musical dreams.

**Celebration  
October 23 - 24**

Gutzman will be performing this Broadway revue later this year in Thailand: In Milwaukee it will be at Circle Stage Theatre.

**Gutzman Goes Gershwin  
November 6 - 8**

Over forty George & Ira Gershwin songs, served up with comedy, dance and dance.

**Holiday Punch  
December 18 - 20 and 31**

Milwaukee's longest continuously running holiday season production is a comic and musical romp through the year's headlines and an irreverent send up of the holidays themselves.

**Into the Woods  
February 19 - 21**

Stephen Sondheim's sly, sometimes cynical look at the world of make believe, a comic musical that teaches a lesson or two about personal responsibility.

**M Butterfly  
April 23 - 25**

Henry Hwang's tale of a diplomat's obsession with a Chinese Opera performer who, in reality, is a man posing as a woman.

**Harry & Al  
June 4 - 6**

The world premiere of this Gutzman piece imagines a meeting between legendary escape artist Harry Houdini and one of the century's greatest singers, Al Jolson. Songs from the period and vaudeville routines spice up the duel between two giant show business egos.

**THE MILWAUKEE  
BROADWAY SERIES**

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts fourth season of Broadway plays includes two musicals that will have high interest in Wisconsin's LGBT community. *Victoria/Victoria* is a tale of a woman

see **Theater Schedule** on *Spotlight* page viii

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# Theater Schedule continued from Spotlight page vii

impersonating a man impersonating a woman. *Rent* has a strong Gay theme. Additional information can be obtained by calling 1-800-905-7469.

## **Victor/Victoria** October 20 - 25

Grammy-winning recording artist Toni Tennille stars in this story of Victoria Grant, a strikingly beautiful woman who has fallen on hungry times. In order to pay her rent, Victoria is persuaded to headline Paris' finest cabaret — as a man impersonating a woman.

## **Evita** January 5 - 10

The colorful story of Argentina's charismatic First Lady, Eva Peron, who rose from poverty to become one of the world's richest and most powerful women. *Evita's* score is composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

## **Rent** March 9 - 14

Capturing the heart and spirit of a generation and inspired by Puccini's opera "La Boheme," *Rent* is a joyous, Gay-themed, often heartbreaking musical that celebrates a community of artists.

## **Miss Saigon** July 7 - 31

Broadway's blockbuster musical from Claude-Michel Schonberg and

Alain Boublil. It's the saga of two young lovers torn apart by the Vietnam War, but held together by burning passion.

## **MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATER**

Gay playwrights & Gay-themed works abound in the Chamber Theatre's Season. The season contains works by Yukio Mishima, Tony Kushner, Bernard Shaw and Tennessee Williams. For further information call the Box Office at (414) 291-7800.

## **Skylight** October 17 - November 1

The Wisconsin premiere of an extraordinary love story by David Hare.

## **The Old Setter** November 7 - 29

The Wisconsin premiere of John Henry Redwood's simmering story set in 1940s Harlem. An award winning comedy/drama.

## **Mrs. Warren's Profession** April 16 - May 2

Society's gender hypocrisy is skewered by Bernard Shaw's unparalleled sharpness of wit and lightness of touch.

## **The Illusion** April 16 - May 2

Tony Kushner, author of the AIDS epic *Angels in America*, adapted this

fantastical comedy from Pierre Corneille's 1636 *L'illusion Comique*.

## **Madame De Sade** by Yukio Mishima January 16 - February 7

The Wisconsin premiere of this exotic blend of East and West traditions, translated by Donald Keene, reveals where total freedom can lead us.

## **The Night of the Iguana** February 20 - March 7

An improbable but totally human gaggle of characters gather at a seedy, seaside Mexican hotel just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A Tennessee Williams classic.

## **THE MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER**

The Repertory Theater's season of classic and contemporary comedies, tragedies and dramas includes productions in all three of its theaters, the Powerhouse, the Stiemke and the Stackner Cabaret. For information call the Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

## **Quadracci Powerhouse Theater**

### **Amadeus** September 9 - October 11

Peter Schaffer's award-winning tale of the volatile relationship between the upstart musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Vienna's court composer Antonio Salieri.

## **Blues for an Alabama Sky** October 21 - November 22

Pearl Cleage's story set in 1930s New York City, follows a small circle of friends who strive to keep their hopes and dreams alive during very difficult times.

## **The Last Night of Ballyhoo** December 2 - January 3

"Ballyhoo" is the elite event of the Jewish social season. This lighthearted play from Alfred Uhry will take you through the twists and turns of a not-so-typical family life.

## **Picasso at the Lapin Agile** January 13 - February 14

Comic Steve Martin's comedy depicts a hypothetical meeting in which Pablo Picasso, Albert Einstein and a time-traveling visitor from the future engage in a hilarious battle of wits in a Paris bar at the dawn of the 20th century.

## **Servant of Two Masters** February 24 - March 28

Filled with physical humor and mistaken identities, this comedy of errors by Carlo Goldoni features two pairs of frustrated lovers and a hungry servant who works for two masters.

## **Force of Nature** April 7 - May 9

A world premiere, the Steven Dietz drama of a husband and wife at the crossroads of their lives.

see **Theater Schedule** on Spotlight page ix

## FLORENTINE OPERA COMPANY 1998-1999 SEASON

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA & I PAGLIACCI  
November 13, 14 & 15, 1998

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY  
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6 *West Side Story*  
7 *Idols of the King*  
9 *Busytown*  
16 James Galway  
20 Ballet Stars of Moscow  
23 Big Top Chautauqua  
25 Chanticleer  
28 Glenn Miller Orchestra  
31 *Big*

### NOVEMBER

1 *Magic School Bus*  
3 Hubbard Street Dance  
6 *Patsy!*  
8 Vienna Choir Boys  
11 *Beehive*  
12 Preservation Hall  
13 Spirit of the Dance  
14 The Nylons  
21 Tom Rush  
27 Winter Solstice

### DECEMBER

3 *Fiddler on the Roof*

22 *Miracle on 34th Street*

### JANUARY

25 Russian National Ballet:  
*Swan Lake*  
29 *Momix*  
30 Four Bitchin' Babes

### FEBRUARY

5 *Brigadoon*  
6 *Riders in the Sky*  
10 *A Great Day in Harlem*  
11 Li Chiao-Ping Dance  
12 Philip Glass/Robert Wilson:  
*Monsters of Grace*

13 McCoy Tyner Trio

16 *Funny Thing ... Forum*

19 WO'SE

23 Hubbard Street Dance

26 Tito Puente Latin Jazz

27 Irish Rovers

### MARCH

5 Dave Brubeck Quartet  
6 *Meet Me in St. Louis*  
7 NYCO: *Madama Butterfly*  
8 Moscow Philharmonic  
11 Doyle's Irish Cabaret

12 *The Island of the Skog*

13 The Capitol Steps

14 *Smokey Joe's Cafe*

19 *The King and I*

21 The Peking Acrobats

23/24 Alvin Ailey American  
Dance Theatre

25 The Artie Shaw Orchestra

26 Kronos Quartet

27 Hal Holbrook/Mark Twain

28 Tango Buenos Aires

31 *Porgy and Bess*

### APRIL

8 Smithsonian Jazz

24 The Ink Spots and  
The Four Freshmen

29 River North Dance

30 *Treasure Island*

### MAY

1 Reduced Shakespeare  
Company: *Millennium*

2 *The House at Pooh Corner*

7 Milwaukee Ballet: *Giselle*

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convenience fee per ticket on phone & TicketMaster orders • TTY users only: (608) 267-2674



## Stiemke Theater

### Resident Alien

September 18 - October 11

This comic spoof, by Stuart Spencer shows a "close encounter of the Wisconsin kind," as 12-year-old Billy is "borrowed" by aliens during a weekend visit to his father, Michael.

### The Glass Menagerie

October 30 - November 22

Famed Gay playwright Tennessee Williams creates an unforgettable picture of an aging Southern belle who aspires to build a bright future for her fragile daughter in 1940s St. Louis.

### Rocket Man

January 22 - February 14

Steven Dietz's comic adventure about a wannabe landscape designer who empties the contents of his house and rummages through the memories and mementos in his attic in preparation for a journey that transcends the boundaries of his life.

### Stackner Cabaret

#### A Gershwin Serenade

September 11 - November 1

The unforgettable music of George & Ira Gershwin by Larry Deckel.

### Guys on Ice

November 13 - January 3

Fred Alley & James Kaplan salute Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial with this

comedy of life, love and the "one that got away" - taking place in a fishing shanty!

### Carolin' Carolynne Rides Again!

January 8 - February 14

Carolynne Warren combines her over-the-top sense of humor and her voice to bring to life a unique, entertaining collection of characters.

### An Irish Reunion Concert

February 19 - March 21

Steve Hickman, Edward Morgan and Jon sing and play a rollicking mixture of traditional gems, popular favorites and their own brand of blarney.

### The Marvelous Wonderettes

March 26 - May 9

From Roger Bean, the creator of last season's Don't Touch That Dial, comes this reminiscent look at the famed "girl groups" of the 1950s - 60s.

### A Christmas Carol

December 4 - 26

This brand-new version, which will include some new scenes as well as Christmas music, is adapted from Dickens by the Rep's Artistic Director Joseph Hanreddy and his Associate, Edward Morgan.

## THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's 40th Anniversary season will be a star-studded one.

The Pops concerts led by Principal Pops Conductor Doc Severinsen features guest appearances by Milwaukee native Al Jarreau, mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, the Canadian Brass and the Trinity Irish Dancers. "I'll be conducting four programs next season," says Severinsen. "Everyone who knows me knows I can't stay away from Milwaukee!"

The classical concert season of the MSO will feature some innovative programming as well, including the premiere of a concert performance of Puccini's opera, *Turnadot*, a screening of the classic film, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, and the world premiere of a new work by acclaimed American composer Michael Torke.

The MSO's 1998-1999 season will also bring to town some of the world's greatest musicians and conductors. There will be appearances by violinists Itzhak Perlman, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg & Sarah Chang; pianists Emanuel Ax and André Watts; and conductors Keith Lockhart, James DePriest and Helmuth Rilling.

Entering into his 2nd season as Music Director, Andreas Delfs will conduct 10 of the 18 classical programs. "Expect the unexpected," says Delfs. "Our goal is to make every concert an event - a transforming, powerful experience that people will carry with them out into their lives."

For ticket and subscription information or for a free 1998/1999 Season Schedule, call the MSO Box Office at (414) 291-7605.

## NEXT ACT THEATRE

Next Act Theatre will bring a 1998-1999 season "full of twists and surprises." The schedule features plays dealing with revisited pasts, holiday anxiety, a theatrical troupe struggling for survival during wartime and a futuristic fantasy. For further information call (414) 278-7780.

### How I Learned to Drive

October 1 - 25

A thirty-something woman revisits her adolescence where she learned life's lessons behind a steering wheel in this play by Paul Vogel at the Next Act Studio Theater.

### Greetings!

December 3 - 20

Tom Dudzick's play about what happens when a young man brings his Jewish-atheist fiancée home for the

see **Theater Schedule** on

Spotlight page x

# MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE

## 98/99 SEASON

### Skylight

by David Hare

Oct 17 - Nov 1, 1998

### The Old Settler

by John Henry Redwood

Nov 7 - 29, 1998

### Madame de Sade

by Yukio Mishima

translated by Donald Keene

Jan 16 - Feb 7, 1999

### The Night of the Iguana

by Tennessee Williams

Feb 20 - Mar 7, 1999

17th Annual Milwaukee Shaw Festival

Apr 16 - May 2, 1999

### Mrs. Warren's Profession

by Bernard Shaw

### The Illusion

by Tony Kushner

from Pierre Corneille's

*L'illusion Comique*

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The Illusion image: Ruth Schudson. Lynn Rohmann, stylist; Christina Grant, mask. Season image: Natasha Piletich. Sarah Salvatori, stylist. Scott Rött, costume coordinator. Original season brochure design by Culver Advertising & Design. Photography by Tom Fritz Studios.





# Theater Schedule continued from Spotlight page ix

poignant tribute to the theatrical spirit concerns "Sir," who is struggling to keep his Shakespearean troupe together in Britain during World War II. At Marquette's Helfaer Theatre.

## **Below the Belt** April 15 - May 2

In a desolate, futuristic industrial compound, three investigators are pitted against each other in this comic romp by Richard Dresser at the Stiemke Theater.

## **PRESENT MUSIC**

Present Music offers five concerts in their upcoming season. For further information call (414) 271-0711.

## **Let Us Break Bread Together** November 22

Members of the Indian community, including the Ojibwe Choir, join the Present Music ensemble for this annual Thanksgiving concert at St. John's Cathedral.

## **Let's Dance** January 8 & 9

Danceworks Performance Company will join Present Music for a concert of new dance routines set to music by Astor Piazzolla, Lukas Foss, Conlon Nancarrow, Johann Strauss, Jr., Michael Nyman, Thomas Ades, Joseph Schwantner and Donald Erb at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

## **Diva Madness** March 6

New York's "Urban Diva" Dora Ohrenstein is coming to Milwaukee, bringing with her selections from her Urban Diva collection, including music by Ben Johnston, Charles Ives, Thomas Ades and George Antheil at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

## **Earth Day Concert** April 24

Nature-inspired music including At the River by Ingram Marshall, The Lake by Paul Halley, Acid Rain by Michael Gordon, and Mother Earth Song at St. John's Cathedral.

## **Season Finale & Party** June 12

Music from a variety of composers including Jay Cloyd, John Adams, Eve Beglarian, Paul Dresner, and a world premiere by Milwaukee favorite Roberto Sierra are featured.

## **THE SKYLIGHT OPERA**

In its upcoming 40th Anniversary season, the Skylight Opera Company is presenting an intimate and innovative celebration of opera, operetta and musical theatre performed in English. For further information, call the Skylight's Box Office at (414) 291-7800.

## **The Pirates Of Penzance** September 25 - October 11

Gilbert and Sullivan's swashbuckling tale of genteel pirates, a coward-

ly constabulary, naive, young love and stinging satire.

## **The King & I** November 27 - December 13

A hot-headed, macho Siamese king at first angers then fascinates a proper English school teacher in Rodgers & Hammerstein's classic musical.

## **Ballymore** January 29 - February 14

The world premier of Composer/Librettist, Richard Wargo's new work based upon the play *The Lovers* by Ireland's Brian Friel.

## **Don Pasquale** March 19 - April 4

Italian composer Gaetano Donizetti, gives us a touching, comic piece about a crusty old bachelor's last fling.

## **The World Goes 'Round** May 14 - 30

Broadway's John Kander and Fred Ebb's biggest hits, including *Cabaret*, *Funny Lady*, *Chicago*, *Zorba* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

## **THEATRE X**

Theatre X's five-play season includes several plays that are either world or Milwaukee premieres highlighted by Gay playwright John Schneider's new work, which traces the history of Jazz music in Milwaukee. For ticket information, call

(414) 291-7800.

Theatre X's Late Night Series and Tuesday/Wednesday Series schedules were not available at press time. You can get them by calling (414) 278-0555. These were unavailable at press time.

## **Gint** October 9 - November 1

Critically acclaimed playwright Romulus Linney's adaptation of the classic play *Peer Gynt* by Henrik Ibsen, relocating the time and setting to the Appalachian Mountains in this century.

## **Holiday Memories** December 4 - 20

Two of Gay playwright Capote's holiday-centered works: *A Christmas Memory* and *A Thanksgiving Visitor*.

## **Jazz: A History of Jazz in Milwaukee** February 18 - March 14

With a live combo on stage and singers galore, this world premiere play by Gay Milwaukee's John Schneider is the second part of Theatre X's "Wisconsin Series" — plays written from a historical perspective and intending to shed light on the diverse cultural and social phenomena that influence our state. Schneider traces the Jazz movement in Milwaukee from its roots to its peak of popularity, focusing on how it became a catalyst for social change.

see **Theater Schedule** on Spotlight page xi

## MADISON REPERTORY THEATRE

# Power. Passion. Performance.

**Three Viewings**  
by Jeffrey Hatcher  
September 4-27



**How I Learned to Drive**  
by Paula Vogel  
October 30-November 22

**The Man Who Came to Dinner**  
by George Kaufman and Moss Hart  
December 11-13



**Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill**  
by Lanie Robertson  
January 8-30



**The Cripple of Inishmaan**  
by Martin McDonagh  
March 12-April 4

**Sherlock's Last Case**  
by Charles Marowitz  
April 16-May 9



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**Isthmus Playhouse**  
Madison Civic Center  
211 State Street  
Madison, WI

the diverse cultural and social phenomena that influence our state. Schneider traces the Jazz movement in Milwaukee from its roots to its peak of popularity, focusing on how it became a catalyst for social change.

**The Woods**

**April 2 - 25**

David Mamet's work about two young lovers, Nick and Ruth, who spend a passionate night in a cabin in the woods and must confront their different ways of dealing with love.

**A Night Of Terror**

**May 7 - 30**

Live actors, actors in masks and life-sized puppets tell seven of Edgar Allen Poe's tales adapted for the stage.

**UWM PROFESSIONAL THEATRE TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of the Arts has made some changes to their previously announced season.

Four productions are on the 1998-1999 UWM PTTTP season, each of which will be performed at the UWM Fine Arts Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. For performance times and ticket information, call the Fine Arts Box Office at (414) 229-4308.

**Our Town**

**December 3 - 19**

This Pulitzer Prize-winning classic by Wisconsin native Thornton Wilder involves the inhabitants of Groves Corners, NH as they assemble throughout the holiday season to tell their tales of life and death.

**The Greeks**

**February 18 - March 13**

The Greeks, an adaptation by John Barton & Kenneth Cavander of ten one-act plays by Euripides, Homer, Aeschylus and Sophocles, will be offered as two single performances or in an all-day marathon format.

**The Art of Success**

**April 15 - May 1**

Nick Dear's drama about artist William Hogarth, a larger-than-life man who lived on the cusp of great social change.

**The Smell of Popcorn**

**April 20 - 25**

The season finale written by Jose Luis Ramos Escobar will be presented in both Spanish and English. It is the story of a young acting student, deep into rehearsals of Othello, who wakes to find an intruder in her apartment.

**From Presley to Puccini: Green Bay's Weidner Center**

by Mike Fitzpatrick  
WI Light NE Wisconsin Bureau

Green Bay — The remodeled and expanded Weidner Center held its grand reopening party Saturday, August 22, offering the public a sneak preview of the 1998-99 season. Arias, advice, blind bluesmen, Broadway blockbusters, classic rockers and Coach Vince Lombardi are just part of the varied bill of fare theater and concert goers can expect.

The national touring company production of the Jazz Age musical revival Chicago kicks off the season with a week long run starting September 1st. Other Broadway productions include A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to the Forum November 17-22, Footloose January 5-10, Tap Dogs March 2-7, Cats March 30-April 4, and Les Miserables May 4-9.

The city's Papiro Opera Company will present Puccini's tragic LaBoheme September 12, the first of two fall projects. Englebert Humperdinck's Hansel & Gretel will be performed October 26. English translations of the lyrics of both operas will be projected above the stage.

TV junkies will get a chance to tell all when MTV's Loveline advice show on sex, health and dating is recreated in a special non-broadcast version September 24. Radio lovers will get the chance to enjoy a Wisconsin Sesquicentennial edition of Wisconsin

Public Radio's popular Lake Superior's Big Top Chautauqua October 8.

Pop music for every taste is also on the bill. Baby boomers can reminisce with the likes of Johnny Mathis September 19-20, the Everly Brothers October 27, Joey Dee & the Starlighters January 17, and the Diamonds and the Crystals twin bill February 14. Folk legends Peter, Paul & Mary visit November 4-5.

Blues lovers can connect with Taj Majal and the Five Blind Boys of Alabama on November 24 or with Corky Siegal Chamber Blues and the Siegal-Schwall Band January 15. Idols of the King, a theatrical tribute to Elvis Presley screams onstage October 1, and A Tribute to Sinatra, featuring Ol' Blue Eyes' former drummer Duffy Jackson and jazz singer Todd Buffa, do-be-dooos the boards on November 8.

Classical music is well represented as the Green Bay Symphony strikes up September 26 for the first of six concerts this year. This year's holiday concerts (December 11-12) will feature the Collegiate Chorale of St. Norbert College. The annual pops concert January 22 will include regional jazz icon Janet Planet and a salute to the big bands. Internationally renowned flutist James Galway will return October 15, this time with a musical ensemble, which includes his wife.

Jazz buffs will groove with Afro-Cuban All Stars October 13 and rag-

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see **Weidner Center** on Spotlight page xii

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# Madison's Fringe Scene

by Chris Fallek

Madison has always had a healthy, vibrant theater life. The University of Wisconsin and other drama departments nurture talented performers. Theater companies like the Madison Repertory Theater, Savoyards and other groups contribute a continuous stream of mainstream popular theater.

Even more exciting — gritty, noisy, often exasperating — is Madison's fringe and community theater scene. Here, plays written by local writers premiere, talent that has never seen a university stage is displayed, and throw-the-book-away improvisational techniques create theater in the rough, with an occasional diamond resulting from all of the creative pressure.

The backbone of Madison's community theater scene is the nationally known **Broom Street Theater**, located at 1119 Williamson Street. Since

1969, Broom Street has been Madison's focal point of theater at its best: raw, experimental, extremely risky and controversial. It's quintessential community: actors take your money at the door and smoke cigarettes with you outside after the performance.

Broom Street's fall productions promise more of the same. Coming up this year: September 18-October 25 brings *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Dying* by Brian Wild, a corporate comedy murder mystery (but NOT a musical). November 6-December 13 is Joel Gersmann's *Make My Day: The Clint Eastwood Story*, based on an as-yet unpublished biography of the great Clint by Pat McGilligan. Shows are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 8pm, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Madison also has a history of the-

aters that provide homes for many companies. One such is **Brave Hearts Theater** at 1988 Atwood Avenue, in the heart of queer Eastside Madison. Brave Hearts is home to companies like **Mercury Players Theatre**, **Strollers Theater**, **Smart Dance** and others.

Brave Hearts embodies classical theater. Its philosophy is to give the audience members a better understanding of life: an increased sense of who and why you are. A dozen companies perform here, with something new all of the time. To find out what's playing, call (608) 249-9299 for the schedule.

Finally, I want to touch on a new kid on the block: the **Bartell Community Theatre**. Bartell is another multiple-company performance space, located in the old **Esquire Theatre** at 11 East Mifflin Street. The Bartell will contain

two performance spaces: the William T. Evjue Theatre, an experimental black-box theatre with 96 seats; and the Drury Theatre, with a traditional stage and seating for 220.

In ending, I want to remind you theater readers: community theater doesn't exist without your financial and audience support. These are not your NEA-funded, government-subsidized theater companies. These are people who do theater for the love of the performance.

So get off your comfy box seat chairs, fold up the opera glasses and hike on down to your favorite community theater to see something truly new, raw and often unpolished. Wallow in the atmosphere of real theater: sweat, makeup and energy to burn. You may be inspired, disgusted, or taken aback, but you'll never be bored!

## Check It OUT - Madison's Theatre Scene

by Chris Fallek

Culture: you gotta have it. If you're feeling a little culturally challenged, check out the following primo choices for Madison's fall and winter arts scene!

### Highbrow

Theater picks for the fall include **Madison Rep's Three Viewings** by Jeffery Hatcher, three monologues about a small town funeral parlor

(Sept. 4-27), and *How I Learned to Drive* by Paula Vogel, chronicling the damaging relationship between a girl and her uncle (Oct. 30-Nov. 22).

**Madison Civic Center** dance brings us Ballet Stars of Moscow. This all-star troupe is composed of principal dancers from Russia's leading companies: the Bolshoi, Moscow Classical Ballet and Stanislavsky Theatre Ballet (Tues., Oct. 20), and Momix, a company of dancer-illusionists who con-

jure up a world of surrealistic images using props, humor and the human body (Fri., Jan. 29).

The big buzz for Madison's fall music scene is the **Isthmus Jazz Festival**, featuring the Mose Allison Quartet and Kevin Mahogany at the Madison Civic Center on Sat., Oct. 3. Also not to be missed is

Chanticleer, the only full-time classical vocal ensemble in the United States (Madison Civic Center, Sun., Oct. 25).

For all you highbrow Lesbians, keep your eyes open for the gazillionth *I Got This Way Form Kissing Girls: Lesbian Variety Show Weekend* at the Barrymore Theatre in November. It showcases Lesbian comedy, art, music and theater from Madison and beyond. It's always a sellout!

### Lowbrow

The lowbrow pick of the lot is Madison Civic Center's *Four Bitchin' Babes*. This quartet of singing sirens takes audiences through the joys and dilemmas of love and life, fashion faux pas and telephone solicitors.

Love the name, baby!

### Camp

The absolutely not-to-be-missed camp event of the fall is *Beehive*. Put together some wailing women, a smokin' six-piece band, more than fifty costume and wig changes, fifteen cans of hairspray and the immortal music of Diana Ross, Tina Turner, the Shangri-Las and Aretha Franklin, to recreate the greatest girl groups and singers of the sixties. You go, girls!

For info on tickets, times and prices, call the following venues: Madison Civic Center (608-266-9055; TDD: 608-267-2674); Elvehjem Museum of Art (608-263-2246); Madison Repertory Theater (608-266-9055); Madison Art Center (608-257-0158); Kissing Girls Productions/Lesbian Variety Show (608-255-4297).

### Weidner Center

continued from Spotlight page xi

time artist Max Morath March 21. Also scheduled is the long running Jazzfest XXIX, January 16.

Dance aficionados will treasure Luis Bravo's *Forever Tango* September 29, the step-dancing *Spirit of the Dance* December 1-2, the River North Dance Company February 5, the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago February 18 and the hilarious *Second Hand Dance* April 25.

Other performers of note scheduled to appear are deep-voiced crooner Roger Whittaker October 11, Glenn Campbell's *Rhinestone Christmas* show December 8, Sheena Easton, Philip Bailey, Denice Williams and Jeffrey Osborne in *The Colors of Christmas* December 17 and comedian Paula Poundstone April 30. Nearly four dozen other international, collegiate and children's musical and theatrical productions are also on the program schedule.

Finally, two programs have been scheduled which remind us the Weidner is in Green Bay. First is the one man-show *Vince: the Life and Times of Vince Lombardi*, which details the events and words of the immortal Green Bay Packers coach September 27. Second is a one-night stand with the comedy and music of Northern Michigan's finest, *Da Yoopers* October 4.

For more information on any of the above shows or to order tickets, contact the Weidner Center at 920-465-2217 or 800-328-8587 or write to 2420 Nicolet Drive, Suite 304, Green Bay, WI 54311.

Look for our  
BED & BREAKFAST  
FEATURE  
in the next issue.

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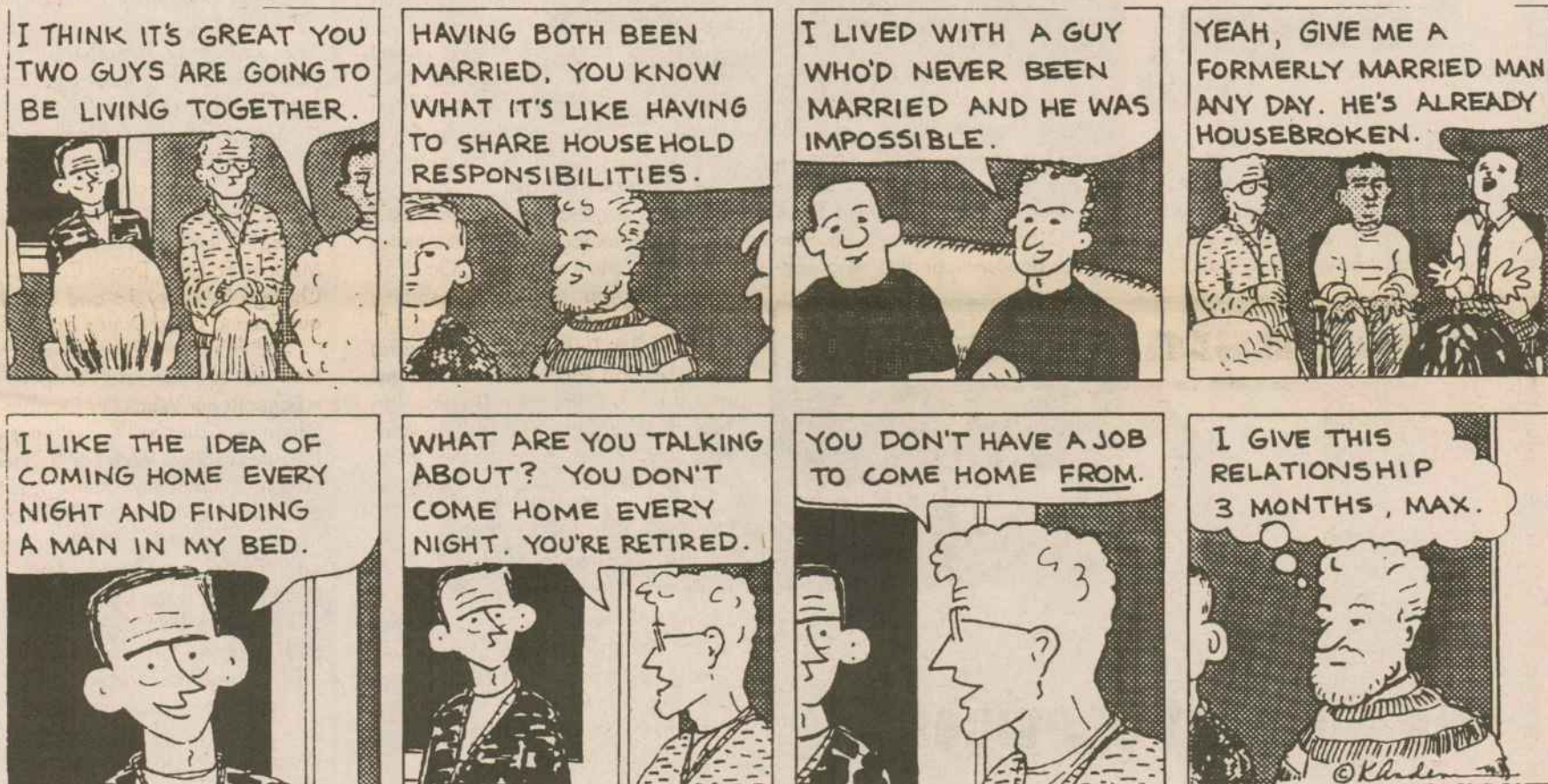
# THE FUNNIES

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

Allison's on vacation. This is an archive episode of Dykes To Watch Out For.



## Biff 'n Bunky by Keith Anderson



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WI Light photos by Bill Meunier

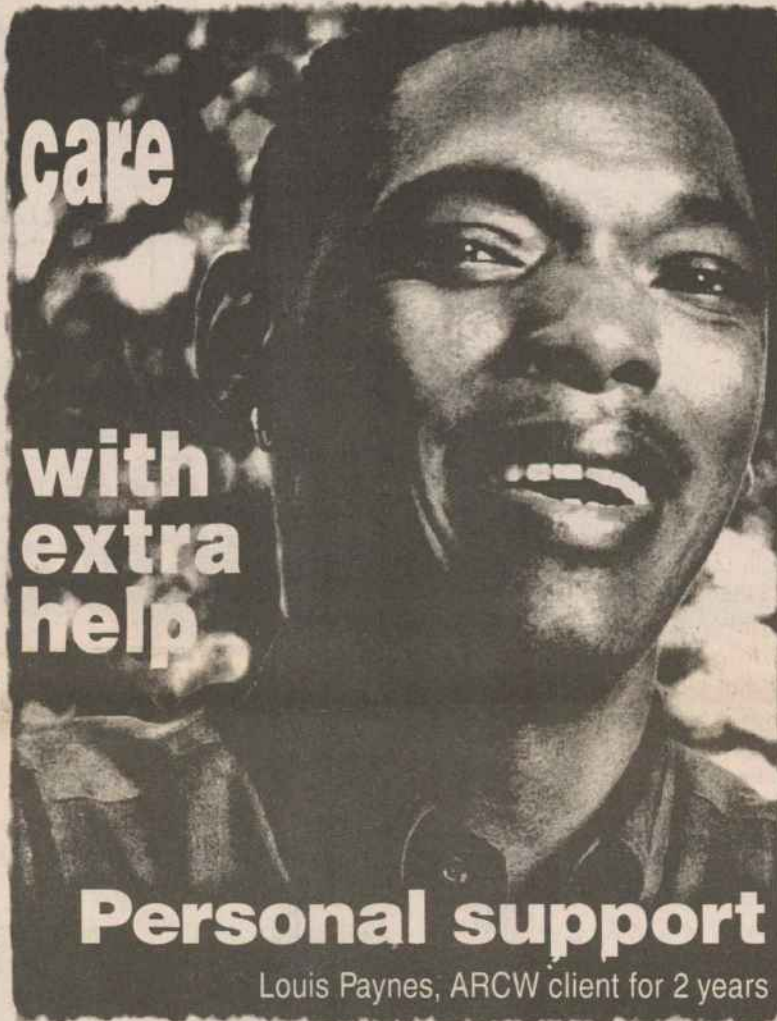


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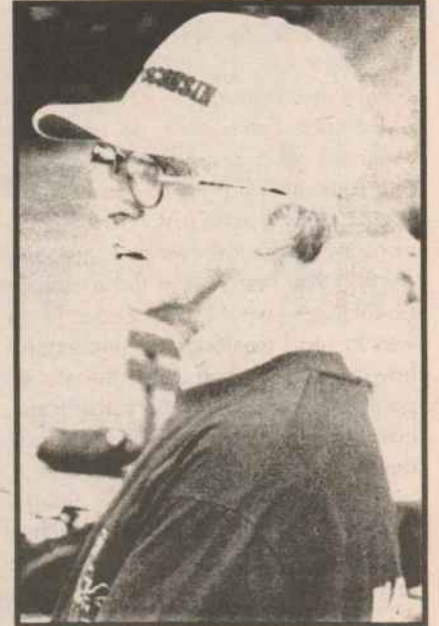
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Time out!

# An Interview with Ellen Hart

by Cindy Van Vreede

This interview took place with EH at *Sherlock Holmes* bookstore in Chicago.

**Wisconsin Light:** When did you get started writing and when did you get started writing mysteries?

**EH:** I got started writing and I got started writing mysteries at the same time. I think I've always been a pretty good academic writer. And that's where I had the main part of my writing. But I had always wanted to write a book. I don't know if I ever told anybody that, but in 1988 I started work on *Hallowed Murder*.

By trade I'm a cook, so I had my summers off. I started work early in the summer and wrote about 200 pages. And it was just horrible, just absolute garbage. And I thought, okay, if you really want to be serious about this — what I felt I needed to do was to read mysteries, to understand how to look at them from the standpoint of how they were constructed, how they developed tension, how they developed character.

Mysteries are very specific things. You can do many other things with a mystery, but there is a very specific architecture to a mystery. So I spent the entire winter reading P.D. James. I love P.D. James. And I read everything by her and everything by a number of other authors that I like.

At the time I really enjoyed Martha Grimes. I read everything she had written at that time. And I started reading other authors, too. And I tried to figure out what was happening in these books. What they did to move the book along, make sure the book was reading quickly, how they paced it. I went back, rethought *Hallowed Murder*, the plot and the characterizations. I started out the next summer and I think I was done by September. It took me about four or five months. And that was the first draft.

**WL:** Did you start out to write for the mystery or did you want...

**EH:** It was an interesting question someone asked. Did I start out wanting to write the book about two women who were close friends and explore that or did I want to write a mystery, first and foremost? And I guess the answer is I did want to do somewhat of both.

However, I do want to write a good mystery because I think that's fundamental. I think you've got to have a good read and an interesting book.

But within that, I guess I want to explore relationships between people because that's what interests me personally.

For people who haven't read the books, there are two characters in the books. One character is more main than the other. The one main character, who is the main person, is Jane Lawless. She owns a really interesting restaurant, the restaurant I would like to own, in Minneapolis. And she's very good friends with another woman.

They've been friends ever since high school. And this woman is somewhat more outrageous and very funny, and this large woman is very theatrical. She is the artistic director at a kind of Guthrie-like theater in St. Paul. They've been fast friends and I wanted to explore their relationship.

When I first wrote the book, I did not have both characters as Lesbian. I had one as a heterosexual, one as Lesbian. It didn't make any difference to me.

I saw their interaction and their relationship as the fundamental thing. Their sexuality was obviously important, but was a side issue. When I sent the book to the first press, they said they wouldn't publish it unless they were both Lesbian characters.

And I thought, okay. At that point I was certainly willing — I mean, I wanted to get the book published. I thought that would be very exciting. And since it wasn't a big issue, I did that.

And the humor. This character is very humorous. And the humor works either way. So I created her as a Lesbian, too. When I sent the book to Seal, I said, "You know, I will give you the option. Do you have a preference?" And they said, "Oh please, keep her as a Gay woman because she's so funny and she's so outrageous." And I thought fine. By then I had started to think of her in those terms and I liked her in those terms myself. So that's how that kind of developed.

*If you are interested in hearing more about Ellen Hart and her mysteries, she'll be appearing at Milwaukee's AfterWords Bookstore with author Mark Richard Zubro for an evening of murder and mayhem. Both authors will read from their new books and answer questions from the audience on Saturday, September 12th at 7pm.*

## Literary Calendar

**Saturday, Sept. 12**

**Afterwords (Milwaukee),** 2710 N. Murray. A Night of Murder and Mayhem with Ellen Hart (*Wicked Games*) & Mark Zubro (*Are You Nuts?*). 7pm.

**Monday, Sept. 14**

**Afterwords (Milwaukee),** 2710 N. Murray. Afterwords Reading

Group, *Boy Culture* by Matthew Rettenmund.

**Wednesday, Sept. 23**

**Afterwords (Milwaukee),** 2710 N. Murray. Lesbian Reading Group, *Chasing the American Dyke Dream: Homestretch*. Edited by Susan Fox Rogers.

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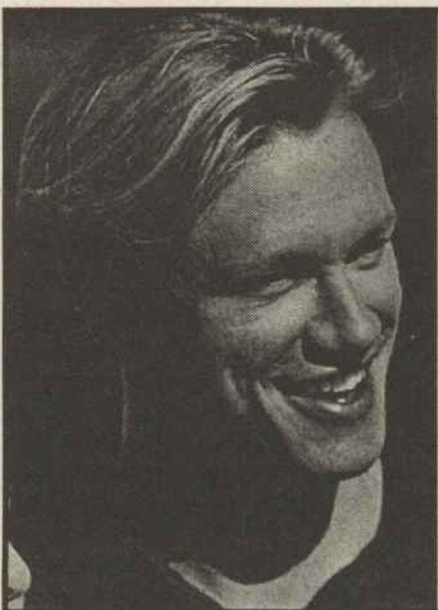
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# Dear Ruthie

Hello, Wisconsin! So much to talk about, so little time! I've got the trailer door locked and my Elvis phone off the hook. I've got a martini in hand and my feet are soaking in a Gold Bond/Ben-Gay/clam chowder mix. Let's talk!

I've had such a wonderful week in the dairy state! Who could forget PrideFest? What a terrific bunch of people — what a terrific bunch of hot looking men! My stars — I had to take at least 40 cold showers that week-end!

Thanks to everyone who showed up at the Possum Queen finale, and a special thanks to Max for his outstanding dedication to the project. Another thanks goes to Lizzie for being such an active part of the entire pageant and a congrats for taking the crown to M&M's.

It was wonderful being on stage that Friday night. I haven't had that many people smiling at me since my ex-husbands discovered Viagra.

The Pride Parade was also amazing. It was great to meet so many of you! My nipples were harder than two Tic-Tacs. What a great day — what a great bunch of sexy men! Oh no. I feel a shower coming on. I was so tickled to see Ruthie Rooter shirts along the route. My bra nearly burst when those cute boys in their white T's mounted my car. I'll have some hot pictures to hang in the trailer next to my Pride Parade award for 2nd Best Decorated Car. Oh! How I love to be decorated.

Anyway, I was lucky enough to introduce Candace Gingrich and Tammy Baldwin at a wonderful political fundraiser. Talk about two strong, smart, gifted people! Wow! It was an honor meeting both of them, helping to get the word out about voting, and getting involved with Tammy's campaign.

Tammy, Candace, and I agreed — we, as a community, need to get out there and vote! We can't make a difference if we don't accept our responsibilities to vote and get involved with campaigns, such as Tammy Baldwin's!

We need to tell the rest of society that this community has a voice. When we all work together, it's a strong voice. We can get the rights we deserve. We can change the way government views our community. The only thing we have to do is get involved.

Now, I gotta get going. One of the cable stations is running a CHIPS marathon, and Harriet and Pearl will be here soon. I've got Eric Estrada posters to hang and tequila shooters to mix. I love Eric Estrada and believe that one day, he and Fabio will oil wrestle over who can have me first.

I almost slept with Eric Estrada once. Okay, okay... I made it with a UPS man whose cousin knocked-up the hairdresser of Eric Estrada's mother — but I think that's pretty damn



close to sleeping with Eric Estrada himself.

The UPS man was a guy named Boner. He was dropping off the musical toilet seat I ordered from a Lillian Vernon catalog. Anyway, I asked if he could stay a few extra minutes and install the seat. He agreed.

The seat played "On Top of Old Smoky," and I guess it got him hot, because the next thing I knew he was naked and wanting me to join him on the bean-bag chair. Okay — now I really need that cold shower!

Let's read a letter!

Dear Ruthie,

I heard they were making a Sonny and Cher movie. Is this true? I'm a Cheraholic and must know. I love everything that Cher has produced.

Signed, Star E. Eyed

Dear Star,

Well, for a Cheraholic you're pretty slow on your gossip sister! They are making a Sonny and Cher TV movie. The beat goes on my friend. No word on whom will play the dark lady at the time I'm writing this, but open casting calls were held in Chicago and New York. (Move over Mary Hart.)

You can, however, see Cher's most incredible production right here in Milwaukee on September 20, 1998. The very lovely Chastity Bono will be in Milwaukee that day as Honorary AIDS Walk Wisconsin Chair. Find out how easy it is to register for the walk by calling ARCW at 800-348-WALK. Hope to see you 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@wilight.com](mailto:editor@wilight.com).

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