

Wisconsin Light

October 8 –
October 21, 1998

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Stark Contrast on Gay Issues in Senate Race

Neumann Embraces Religious Right Agenda

A *Wisconsin Light* analysis of the voting records and public statements of the two major party candidates vying to represent Wisconsin in the United States Senate shows a wide chasm between them on issues of concern to the LGBT community. The contrast between incumbent Democrat, Russ Feingold, and his Republican challenger, Congressman Mark Neumann, on Gay civil rights, AIDS and funding for the arts is so severe that perhaps the only thing they would agree on is that they are on opposite ends of the spectrum.

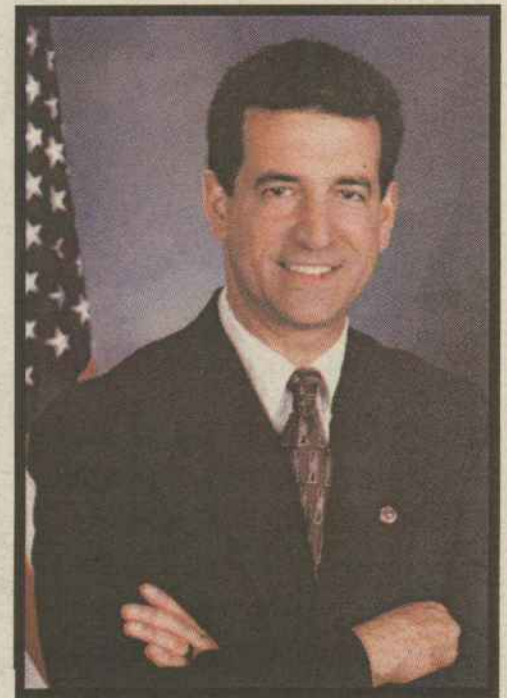
One sign of their disagreement is how they are rated by two groups: the Christian Coalition, which vehemently opposes Gay civil rights; and the Human Rights Campaign, HRC, America's largest Gay and Lesbian organization. The Christian Coalition gave Neumann a rating of 100% and Feingold a rating of 0 for their voting records in the 104th Congress. HRC scored Neumann's record as 0. Feingold, on the other hand, received a 100% rating from HRC. The two groups have not issued their ratings for the 105th Congress, which is still underway, but sources in Washington say that is unlikely the ratings for either man would change.

Christian Coalition Rating 100%



HRC Rating 0%

Christian Coalition Rating 0%



HRC Rating 100%

VS

Neither candidate has raised Gay and Lesbian concerns during the campaign, at least not publicly. But observers say that the Christian Coalition will make efforts to turn out the vote for Neumann, just as it did in his two successful congressional campaigns.

see **SENATE RACE** on page 4

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Looking over this issue as well as the last issue of *Wisconsin Light* I couldn't help but think about deceit.

In our last issue, we had two editorials and a lengthy story dealing with the Clinton crisis. Obviously Clinton would have been better off had he not lied to the American public about his affair with Monica Lewinsky. His deceit is mitigated in part by an understandable desire to protect the feelings of his family and his own reputation, but the impact of his denials have been nonetheless severe.

In this issue we have a front page story on the US Senate race between Senator Russ Feingold and Congressman Mark Neumann. What is not in the story are recent reports of false campaign commercials being run by the Neumann campaign. One of these ads does everything but say that Feingold wanted to give the Russians money to send monkeys into space. The fact is that Feingold sponsored a bill to cut off funding to the Russian space program.

Was the ad deceitful even though it didn't explicitly state that Feingold supported that program? I think that most reasonable people would say yes.

Then there is the Fannies fire. Our investigative report on this subject concludes in this issue. It seems obvious to us that someone is being deceitful on this subject too. At least one witness for the State says that Fannies owner, Sharon Dixon told her a week before the fire that she would burn the bar down to keep it from the hands of the IRS. Dixon denies this. Who is telling the truth? We will leave it for a jury to decide.

The vast majority of comments we have received from people about this series have been very positive. Quite a few readers have told us they have viewed it as fair and balanced. Of course there are some exceptions like the, anonymous letter writer, who accused us of "being in bed" with Dixon. The writer didn't believe Dixon's comments in several of the articles were truthful. That is an opinion shared by many. Conversely there are others who do believe Dixon.

What that letter writer doesn't seem to grasp is that it is not a newspaper's job to believe or to disbelieve in reporting the news. It is a newspaper's job to report as many of the facts as it can. What we reported was true. Sharon Dixon did in fact give those answers to our questions. That is not by the way the same thing as saying that what Dixon said was the truth. Our readers can judge for themselves whether or not they believe her. Our intent with this series was to give them that chance.

We have policies at *Wisconsin Light* to make sure that we don't deceive our readers. For example when we print quotes that we did not obtain ourselves, we credit the source. If we print articles that were commissioned by and run in other publications, we will note that at the top of the article. We will not claim that writers are members of our staff unless they are writing exclusively for us. We will not claim that an interview was ours unless we either did ourselves or it was done for us exclusively. If we make a factual mistake in a story — as we did two issues ago — we will correct it as soon as we become aware of the error — as we did in the following issue.

To do otherwise would, in our opinion, violate the canons of journalistic ethics and be deceitful to our readers. There is enough distrust of the media as it is. We work hard to make sure that we don't contribute to it.

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Bill Meunier

Bill Meunier, Editor

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Gay activists believe that behind the reasonable persona Neumann projects in his television commercials lurks a fanatical follower of the radical religious right agenda. More than a few progressives are concerned that Neumann is running a stealth campaign that will concentrate on fiscal issues while ignoring his right wing stances on social issues.

Recently, Senator Feingold accused Neumann of limiting his campaign to "appearances in Racine and Janesville" and his TV ads. The *Shepherd Express* quotes Feingold as saying, "He's (Neumann) hiding behind television, push polling telephone campaigns and very harsh direct mail pieces. He's the phantom candidate. He doesn't want people to confront him directly on the issues."

Wayne Beeson of the HRC says of Neumann, "Mark Neumann wants you to hear what he is saying to the Lion's Club, but what you should be concerned about is what he is saying to the 700 Club, which is exactly what Pat Robertson wants to hear."

In August of this year alone,

"The Gay and Lesbian lifestyle is unacceptable lest there be any question about that...A sin is a sin in God's eyes."

— Congressman Mark Neumann

Neumann voted for the anti-Gay civil rights Hefley and Riggs amendments.

The Hefley Amendment was an attempt to overturn President Clinton's Executive order mandating an end to federal employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. Proponents of Hefley claimed that Clinton's order provided "special rights" to America's Gays and Lesbians, and that it exceeded the President's authority.

Critics of Hefley, which was supported by the Republican Congressional leadership, said that amendment was a thinly disguised attempt to legalize discrimination. Hefley was defeated by a wide margin when 65 Republicans joined with nearly every House Democrat to vote against it.

Senator Feingold has consistently supported an end to employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. He is a co-sponsor of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. ENDA would outlaw job discrimination against Lesbians and Gays. Feingold told *Wisconsin Light*, "ENDA should have passed a long time ago." He blames the right wing leadership in Congress for its refusal to allow ENDA to come up for a vote. "If we had a vote

ELECTION '98

we might win on this," said Feingold. In 1996 ENDA came within one vote of passing the US Senate.

The Riggs amendment was seen by Gay civil rights advocates as an attempt to punish the city of San Francisco for passing a domestic partnership ordinance. That ordinance requires private employers doing business with the City to provide domestic partners health insurance benefits.

Riggs would have denied federal housing funds to any unit of local government that required those it does business with to provide these benefits. The amendment passed the House by only two votes. Had Neumann voted against Riggs, it would have failed. Riggs is not expected to become law. If it does, San Francisco will be faced with a choice: repeal the ordinance or do without \$61 million federal housing dollars.

His vote on Riggs was not the first time Neumann voted against domestic partnership rights. He also voted for a measure that would have repealed a District of Columbia ordinance granting hospital visitation rights to same sex couples. The amendment, which passed the Republican controlled House of Representatives, was defeated in a conference committee after intensive lobbying by the Human Rights Campaign.

Neumann also supported DOMA,

"No one has ever shown a greater open insensitivity to the Gay and Lesbian community. I don't think he has to say anything more to make that clear."

— Senator Russ Feingold on Mark Neumann

the "Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA forbids the federal government from recognizing same sex marriages even if they are legalized by one or more states. Neumann not only voted for the bill, but also voted against amendments that would have delayed or softened its impact.

Senator Feingold was one of only 16 Senators to vote against DOMA. Feingold told the *Light* he voted against the bill because "The DOMA bill was nothing more than an attempt to try and

"Mark Neumann wants you to hear what he is saying to the Lion's Club, but what you should be concerned about is what he is saying to the 700 Club, which is exactly what Pat Robertson wants to hear."

— Wayne Beeson
Human Rights Campaign

embarrass people in our country who should be treated like anyone else. It was nothing but wedge politics. These are just attempts to get us away from working together as a country to solve our problems. What they are is an attempt to divide people."

Neumann's public statements on Gay civil rights match his voting record. In November, 1996 he told the *New York Times Magazine*, "If I were elected God for a day, homosexuality wouldn't be permitted."

In June of 1997 Neumann was quoted by the *Monroe Times*, as having told a Christian Coalition Prayer Breakfast, "The Gay and Lesbian lifestyle is unacceptable lest there be any question about that...A sin is a sin in God's eyes. If somebody walks up me and says 'I'm Gay or Lesbian, I want a job in your office,' I would say that's inappropriate and they wouldn't be hired because that would mean they are promoting their agenda."

Just two months before he made that statement, Neumann signed a pledge not to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians when making office personnel decisions. Neumann's announcement that he would renege on that pledge brought him a firestorm of criticism.

At the time, David Smith of HRC told *Light* "First and foremost Congressman Neumann is saying that he would break the law in the State of Wisconsin." Even Rich Tafel, the Executive Director of the National Log Cabin Republican Clubs, took Neumann to task telling *Wisconsin Light*, "He just doesn't see the contradiction between what he signed and what he said. One of the ironies of all

this is that based on his statements, he wouldn't hire former Congressman Steve Gunderson."

When asked by *Light* if he thought that his opponent would continue to make anti-Gay statements, Senator Feingold replied, "He has already been as strident on these issues as anyone has ever been. No one has ever shown a greater open insensitivity to the Gay and Lesbian community. I don't think he has to say anything more to make that clear."

On June 26, 1996, Neumann voted against an amendment sponsored by Republican Christopher Shays (R-Conn) to add \$15 million to the Housing for People With AIDS program. In July, 1995 he voted against continued funding for programs that provided federal workers with information about how HIV is transmitted.

Senator Feingold has consistently supported the provision of safe sex information to all interested parties. Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, credits Feingold for helping to change the federal AIDS funding formula. Nelson says that Feingold's work resulted in a large increase in AIDS funds for Wisconsin.

Neumann also voted against continued funding for the National Endowment of the Arts, the NEA. The annual battle over NEA funding has pitted liberal against conservative. The Christian Coalition, which claims the NEA provides support for "tax funded pornography", has placed a high priority on de-funding it.

Senator Feingold has supported funding for the National Endowment of the Arts.

Most observers expect the Senate race to tighten. Right wing, Republican and conservative groups are expected to pour up to \$2 million into the campaign in an effort to help Neumann. For his part, Feingold, who is a co-sponsor of the Feingold — McCain Campaign Finance Reform act, has asked that groups opposed to Neumann not make independent expenditures on his behalf. Feingold-McCain, which has not become law, would outlaw campaign ads run by independent groups.

Feingold remains in the lead in the polls, but no one can predict the impact that the ads run by conservative and right wing groups will have on the election. Most analysts believe that Neumann could win. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Editor's Note — The Neumann campaign declined to answer Wisconsin Light's questions concerning his positions on issues of concern to Wisconsin's LGBT community.

New study of the GLB vote by Rutgers University

By Urvashi Vaid
NGLTF Policy Institute Director

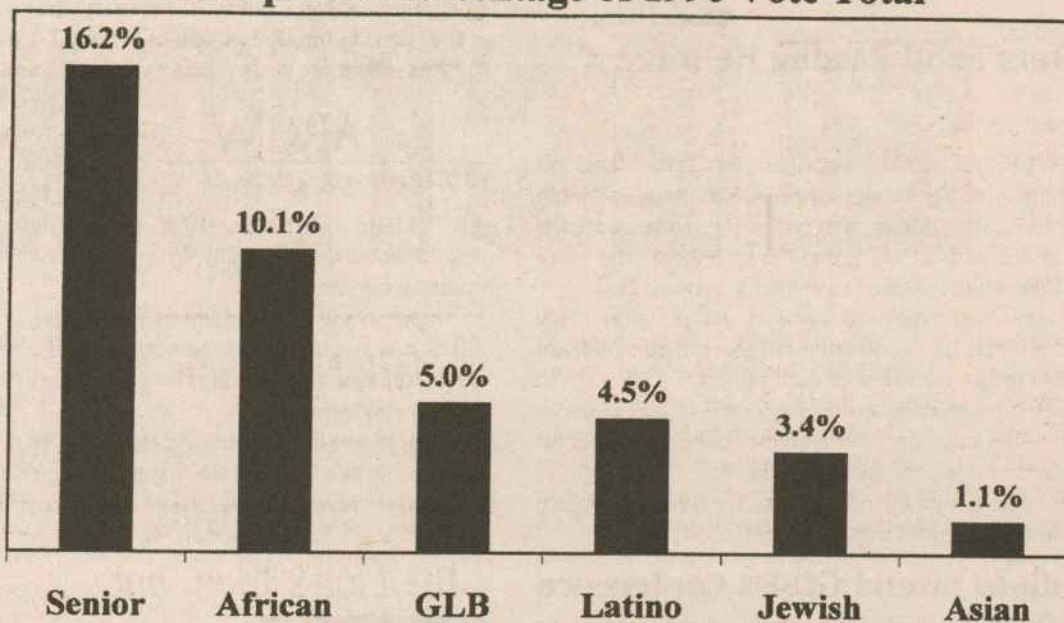
Out and Voting — The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Vote in Congressional House Elections, 1990 — 1996 chronicles an unheralded revolution: It marks the steady coming out of a Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual (GLB) electorate (data do not yet track Transgender voters). This report represents the first-ever analysis of the impact of this emerging GLB constituency in national congressional elections.

Through a dispassionate analysis of exit-poll data gathered over the past four mid-term election cycles, Rutgers University Professor Robert Bailey paints a picture of a substantial vote, which surprises not only in its size but its distribution nationally and its bi-partisan nature. For a country and political parties not used to seeing the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community as an identifiable electorate, the 5 percent of the vote that GLB people represented in 1996 exit polls, (8.9% in mid-size cities), will come as a startling revelation. In the context of the extraordinarily low voter turnout during the past five-midterm elections, averaging 37.9 percent according to Roll Call's political analyst Stuart Rothenberg, the GLB vote becomes even more important.

Out and Voting uses, as its base, the exit poll data gathered nationally for news organizations by Voter News Service (VNS) and Voter Research & Surveys (VRS). Bailey's report confirms that the GLB vote is a sleeping giant, as yet largely untapped by either major party, but available to both. It suggests that in low-turnout elections, an electorate that is motivated by issues, as the GLBT community is, can be an important base for moderate candidates who are Republican, Democrat or Independent. And Bailey's review of data suggests that a concerted effort to mobilize GLB voters in swing districts might be a profitable strategy for the Democratic Party in particular.

Based on exit poll data gathered by independent news organizations during the past four election cycles, this report

Groups as a Percentage of 1996 Vote Total



establishes what may turn out to be the floor of a GLB vote in America to be five percent (5 percent). This number might well be the floor because so many GLB Americans remain in the closet to this day. Also, as Bailey notes, even higher rates of GLB self-identification are reported by voters under 40 (6 percent). This suggests that fear of disclosure of one's sexual orientation is abating for new generations of GLB people, and that younger voters may self-identify in larger numbers.

"The numbers in this report should send a signal to both parties that a significant community (and voter base) awaits candidates who court it."

The sheer size of this vote is important for a few reasons. First, much debate exists on how many GLBT people there really are. The extremist right has argued that the GLBT community is tiny (1 percent) and that it inflates its size. Bailey's review of the VNSNRS

data suggest that the GLB community is likely larger than the right pretends. As Rich Tafel, Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans, argues in his introduction to the report, while it is true that size does not matter and discrimination is always wrong, the numbers in this report should send a signal to both parties that a significant community (and voter base) awaits candidates who court it.

Interestingly, the GLB vote, in national elections is as significant as other definable segments of the electorate. By comparison, African-Americans comprised 10.1 percent of those voting in 1996, Latinos 4.5 percent, Jews 3.4 percent, and Asian Americans 1.1 percent. Ethnic and racial voting blocks garner far greater attention from the major parties, candidates, and the media than the GLB vote ever has. Bailey's report should go a long way to redressing this disparity in attention.

Bailey also makes some useful observations about the increase in GLB self-identification over time. Self-identification among GLB voters has grown dramatically — from 1.3 percent in 1990, to 2.2 percent in 1992, to five percent of the electorate in 1996. The increase in voter self-identification over the six years of data studied must be interpreted in context: as part of the broader emergence of millions of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Americans, Bailey is appropriately cautious not to ascribe the increase in self-identification only to one or two factors: he carefully accounts for methodological changes in the VNS polling but concludes that even so, self-identification rates may rise even higher.

Out and Voting confirms some conventional wisdom and contains some clear surprises about the ideological and party-alignment of GLB vot-

ers. On the one hand, the GLB voters identified through exit polls are more liberal on general issues than the average American voter and tended to vote Democratic during the national elections studied. On the other hand, Bailey's analysis reveals that a significant pro-Republican GLB vote also exists, and that conservatives and moderates comprise a significant sector of the GLB vote; in the 1996 election, approximately one in four GLB voters voted Republican. In fact, as Rich Tafel observes, the GLB community is one of the more diverse electorates in America, harboring a significant independent streak. The report shows that the GLB vote

does move and shift allegiance, in response to what each party is doing on issues of importance to the GLB community.

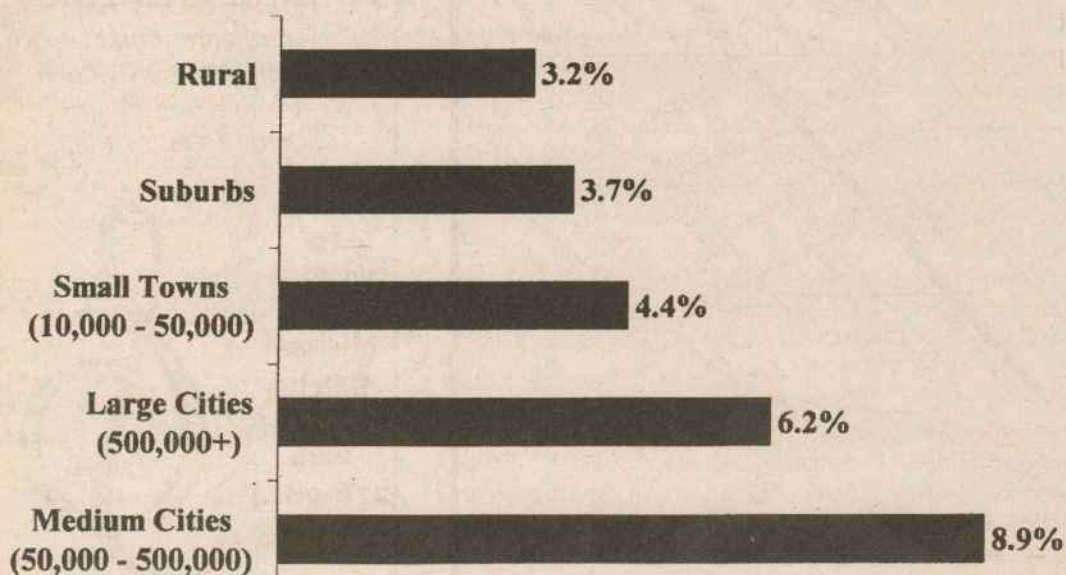
"... in the 1996 election, approximately one in four GLB voters voted Republican."

Such electoral diversity and fluid loyalty could ultimately be an important ingredient in the role the GLB vote plays in future elections. The message that GLB voters are weighing all their electoral options should send a signal to Democrats that this vote should not be taken for granted and suggests to Republicans in swing districts that they dismiss this vote at their own peril.

Given the historically low turnout in mid-term elections, conventional wisdom holds that the House elections in November will be won by the party able to turn out its base. With the Clinton presidency in the midst of its greatest crisis, there is great concern among Democrats that many voters, particularly Democrats, may choose to stay home this November. There are great hopes among Republicans that their voters will turn out in greater numbers than anticipated in reaction to President Clinton's trials and tribulations. Some analysts believe that voter turnout among GLBT people will increase as fears rise that the Clinton crisis may threaten to produce a more homophobic Congress. In a low turnout election, specific voting blocks are even more significant than usual. *Out and Voting* suggests that the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual vote could make a measurable difference for Democrats and Republicans alike this November.

The story of the GLB vote is just beginning to be told. We remain a vote that is untapped by major parties and only just beginning to be harnessed by the GLBT political movement itself. Massive voter registration, voter identification, voter education and turnout efforts could help shape the impact of our vote in future elections. The Bailey report should send a signal to the major parties and to GLBT political activists that the votes we cast add up — but we must take our power at the polls seriously.

Gay, Lesbian & Bi-sexuals Voters As a Percentage of 1996 Totals



AROUND THE STATE

State Wide

Community Fund Offers Fund Raising Help for LGBT Groups

Wisconsin Community Fund (WCF) has received a special grant from Madison's LGBT New Harvest Foundation to provide fundraising assistance to groups working on Gay/Lesbian/Bi issues. WCF's Capacity Building program will provide an experienced professional to work one on one with LGBT groups to help them raise more money with greater efficiency, all the while building a stronger grassroots base.

WCF will provide a project consultant who will work to design tailor made fundraising recommendations and projects. The consultant will also provide guidance to implement the plans and evaluate the performance of each project.

Organizations who hire fundraising professionals often pay over \$40,000 a year or more for their services. Due to the support of the New Harvest Foundation, the cost for groups wishing to take advantage of this program is only \$350.

For more information on how to take advantage of the Capacity Building Project, contact Steve Starkey at Wisconsin Community Fund, (608) 251-6834.

Scholarships for Youth to attend GLSEN Conference

Dockers Khakis has funded a national scholarship program for youths to attend the 2nd annual Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) National conference, October 30-November 1, 1998 in Oakland, California. GLSEN is the largest national organization that brings together teachers, parents, students and concerned citizens to work together to end homophobia in our schools. The Dockers Khakis Youth United Against Bias Scholarships will allow young men and women from all over the country to attend the GLSEN conference titled, "Teaching Respect For ALL."

At the GLSEN conference, scholarship recipients and attendees will learn practical skills and techniques to help and end anti-Gay bias in their schools. For more information about the Dockers Khakis Youth United Against Bias Scholarships, please call GLSEN at (212) 727-0135 or (415) 551-9788.

Eau Claire

Harvest of Hope Benefits ARCW

The annual Harvest of Hope, an elegant dinner and voice auction held to benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, will take place on Saturday, October 17.

Congressman Ron Kind is the honorary chair of this year's event, which will be held at the Ramada Inn. Judy Clark of WEAU T-13 will be the Master of Ceremonies.

"It is now more critical than ever that community members and advocates in rural Wisconsin support HIV/AIDS care, research, prevention and advocacy efforts through fundraising events such as Harvest of Hope," said Jamie Sorenson, ARCW Regional Director.

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

"This event is the single largest fundraising event occurring in western and central Wisconsin to benefit crucial lifesaving HIV/AIDS programs in our area."

Sorenson added "The Centers for Disease Control reports that from 1991 to 1995, AIDS cases increased 80 percent in rural areas, compared to 47 percent in urban areas. The rate of AIDS is now growing faster in rural areas of the country than in many major cities."

Auction services by Jerry Andrews will provide a lively auction with items such as four tickets to a Chicago Bulls game, a signed Jacob Leinenkugel Canoe Paddle, and Miller Beer neon signs of Packer and Chicago Bulls designs.

Tickets are \$50 per person. To make reservations by credit card, call (715) 836-7710 or (800) 750-2437.

Madison

Democratic Stars Campaign for Baldwin

House of Representatives Minority leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO) became the latest of a line of Democrats coming to or working within Wisconsin's Second Congressional District in support of State Representative Tammy Baldwin's bid to become the first Lesbian ever elected to Congress.

Gephardt visited Madison on Wednesday, September 30 to hold a press conference and meet with Baldwin supporters. Gephardt told the press conference, "We have tremendous respect for the campaign and the candidacy of Tammy Baldwin and what she has done to bring this candidacy to the people of the Second District. This is one of our top races that the Democratic Congressional Campaign committee has at the top of its list, and we believe we have a wonderful, excellent chance of winning."

Four days earlier, Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, was in Madison to hit the campaign trail for Baldwin. Shalala, a former chancellor at UW-Madison is well known and liked in the Madison area. She accompanied the candidate as she greeted voters at Madison's Farmer's market. Calling Baldwin "an independent thinker," Shalala urged voters to support her because, "I need help in Washington."

Shalala also attended a reception honoring the 20th anniversary of Access to Independence, a group that promotes independent living for people with physical disabilities. Baldwin was given the "Giraffe Award" for "sticking her neck out for people with disabilities" during the reception.

Former Texas Governor and home-spun philosopher, Anne Richards, will be in Madison to support Baldwin on Tuesday, October 13. Richards is best known for her folksy comments to the media and for an electrifying speech she gave at the 1988 Democratic convention in Atlanta. For more information on her appearances, contact the Baldwin campaign (608) 258-9800.

see **AROUND THE STATE**
on page 7

WE'RE MOVING...



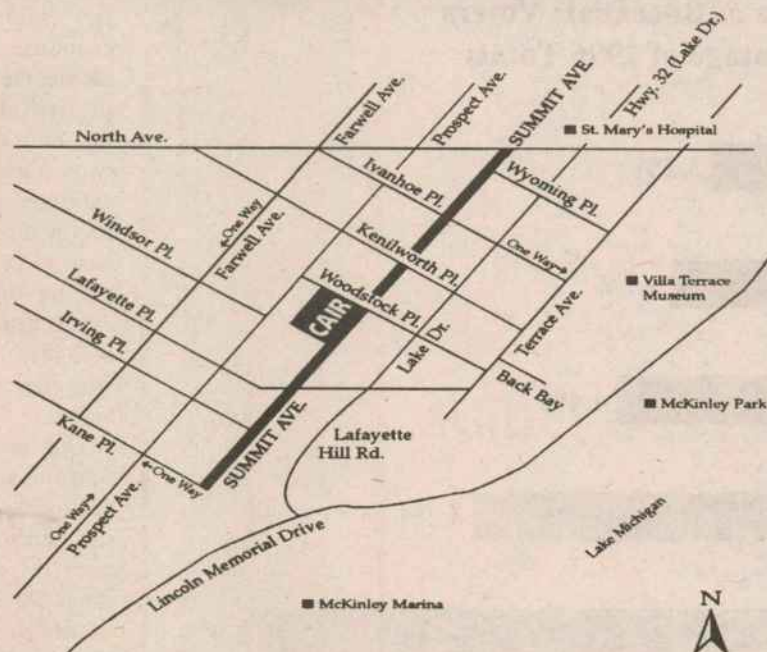
As of Monday, October 12, 1998, the
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AROUND THE STATE continued from page 6

Locally, former Congressman Robert Kastenmeier has hit the hustings for Baldwin. Kastenmeier, who represented the District in Congress for 32 years, appeared at coffees for Baldwin in Lodi and Baraboo.

Former Dane County Executive Rick Phelps, who narrowly lost to Baldwin in the September 8 primary, has renewed his call for Baldwin's election. In a letter to *Wisconsin Light*, Phelps said, "...it is time to direct all our attention to electing Tammy Baldwin to Congress. As we all acknowledged throughout the primary, the real enemy is the current leadership of the House of Representatives. His extremist agenda is not good for our families, our communities or nation. We must begin the process of change here at home by electing Tammy Baldwin."

Milwaukee

Free Flu Shots at M&M Club

Free flu shots will again be offered in the upper banquet room of the M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street. The shots will be given on Thursday, October 15 and Thursday, October 22 from 6pm to 9pm.

Flu vaccinations are recommended for individuals who may be immune compromised and their caretakers. The shots are sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Nurses Association, the M&M Club, the Milwaukee Health Department, BESTD Clinic, *Wisconsin Light* and *In Step*. The shots are free, but donations are accepted. For more information, contact the BESTD clinic at (414) 272-2144.

9 to 5 Celebrates 25th Anniversary

9 to 5, the nationally renowned working women's rights group headquartered in Milwaukee, will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a luncheon at the Midwest Express Center on October 16.

The luncheon will feature five nationally recognized leaders on women's issues: former Colorado Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, long time civil rights leader and Myersville, MS mayor Unita Blackwell, business consultant and Northwestern University professor Delle Chatman, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO Linda Chavez-Thompson, and 9 to 5 founder Karen Nussbaum.

The anniversary celebration is expected to attract up to 1,000 guests from Milwaukee and around the country. 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women, has over 15,000 members in 25 chapters. Its mission includes educating the public

about the need for workplace and public policy reform to strengthen the ability of women to make their workplaces more fair, flexible and family friendly.

Over the last 25 years, 9 to 5 has won policy changes impacting millions of women and men across the country. The group's Job Survival Hotline 1-800-522-0925 provides an ongoing resource for information and referrals on workplace rights issues.

For more information on 9 to 5's anniversary celebration, contact the group at (414) 274-0925.

Pioneering Minister Dies

Rev. Carl A. Olson, 48, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on Sunday, September 28. Olson who was a United Church of Christ minister had suffered from severe depression for many years.

Ordained in the Lutheran Church, ELCA, Olson served as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Milwaukee and conducted interim ministries at Plymouth Church UCC and the United Church of Christ in Williams Bay. He also served as a counselor at the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Olsen was among the members of clergy known to be Gay in Milwaukee. He admitted his sexual orientation after being outed by a parishioner. A longtime friend, Bill Frank, told *Light*, "He will be remembered by his parishioners, fellow workers and friends as a fine pastor, an exceptional preacher and as a warm caring person. He will be greatly missed by many who knew him and counted him as their friend."

A memorial service will be held for Olson at 1pm on Saturday, October 10 at Plymouth Church UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire Street (one block East of UWM).

CAIR Program on the Move

In response to a need for additional space, the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center of AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) will move to a new location in October. CAIR's new East Side location will be 2071 N. Summit, near the corner of Summit and Woodstock. The move will take place on October 12. CAIR's main phone number, (414) 456-7700, will not change.

An internationally recognized leader in the field of AIDS prevention research, CAIR has been located in three historic buildings near the corner of Juneau and Prospect. An increase in staffing to nearly 70 persons made a move and space consolidation necessary.

The new location will maintain the standard of community accessibility set by the old location. "Although we loved the old buildings, CAIR needed more space to accommodate the center's growth," said Dr. Jeff Kelly, Director of CAIR. "The new location allows us to bring all parts of the program under one roof, which we believe will have many advantages over our current situation."

see **AROUND THE STATE** on page 8

You'll want to get your
STICKY fingers on the
next issue of

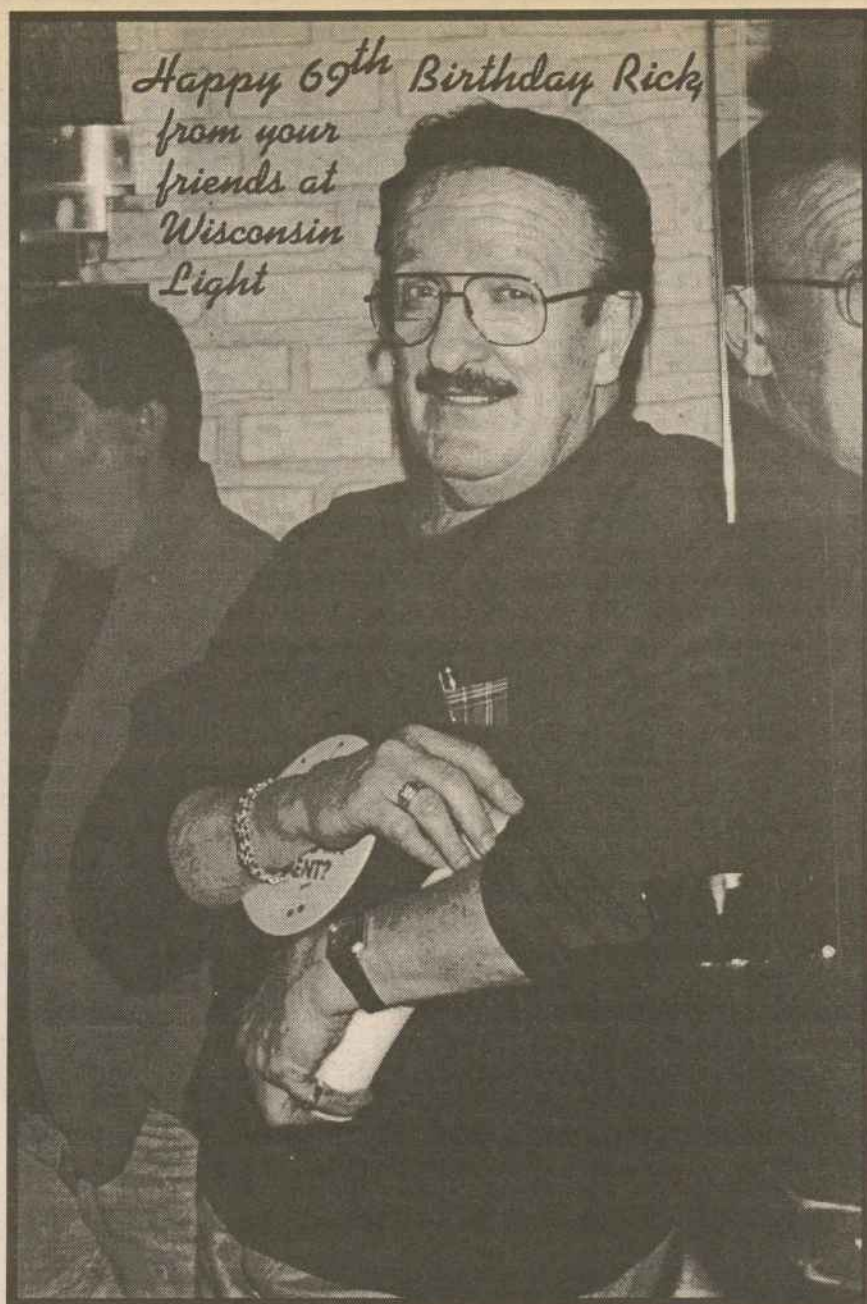
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AROUND THE STATE continued from page 7

CAIR is one of only three national centers for research into AIDS prevention, and the only center between the East and West coasts. Its work, which includes promoting the health of those with HIV and their loved ones, has won it widespread national and international acclaim.

Cross Lutheran to Hold Coming Out Day Program

Churches supporting the LGBT community will be the topic at a special multi-denominational day of celebrating Coming Out Day on Sunday, October 11. The celebration will be held at Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th Street.

Deborah Click, a Lutheran pastor from Ganville, Ohio, will be a guest speaker. Click established PRISM ministries after being removed as a pastor following her outing by a member of her congregation. PRISM works towards acceptance and opportunity for all, including Lesbian and Gay Christians.

The day will begin with a 9:30am service featuring a sermon by Click. At 11:30am there will be a "Meet the Guest" session during which Click will speak about her experiences. At 2:30pm "The Road to the Rainbow; Celebrating our Strides Together," will look at the accomplishments of the church and the LGBT community. For more information, contact Cross Lutheran church at (414) 344-1746.

The Madison GLB Business Alliance



The Board of the Madison L/G/B Business Alliance (left photo): (front row, l-r) Randy Page, Secretary; Connie James, President; Clifton Eserman, Treasurer; (back row, l-r) Tom Neal, Emeritus; Todd Schliesman, VP.

The hosts for the evening (right photo): Bruce Hansen and Kassy Bratkowski, partners in Triology Construction Corporation.

Titletown Tidbits

by Mike Fitzpatrick

Tight Fit: Da boss sez I gotta squeeze a thousand words into five hundred... Here goes...

Ump on the Stump: Dave Pallone, the openly Gay former major league baseball umpire will appear at St. Norbert College in DePere October 21... Pallone's 1991 bestseller *Behind the Mask* detailed his double life as a Gay man in the hyper-masculine world of pro sports... Free tickets are available by calling (920) 403-3950. The event is co-sponsored by the college's cultural diversity program and Green Bay's Positive Voice...

Vital in the Valley: Positive Voice is demonstrating their commitment to former GLEEDA members by scheduling two events in the Appleton area this month... The monthly meeting October 19 (6:30pm) and Halloween dance October 31 (9pm - 1am) will be held at Liberty Hall Conference Center... Get details at (920) 435-4404...

Haul Stalled: Plans for Napalese Lounge's move to Green Bay's east side are on hold thanks to process and politics... Full details next column... On schedule, however, is the return of Naps' popular Monday Night Bingo games starting October 12... The gals start pulling the balls starting at 9pm sharp...

Heavenly Hosts & Hot Biscuits: Green Bay's Angels of Hope MCC celebrates their first anniversary in their beautiful church on Libal Street October 18... Following the 11am service, there will be a broasted chicken dinner...

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass... In the last year, the Angels of Hope building has become the unofficial Gay community center in northeast Wisconsin with a dozen LGBT groups taking advantage of the church's hospitality...

Even nicer to hear is that the building is close to being half paid off... Kudos to Reverend Ken Hull who has grown this ministry from a half dozen folks meeting in a motel hospitality room to a vibrant congregation with churches in Green Bay and Appleton... When they say the Lord moves in mysterious ways, they must have been watching the 70-something Pastor Ken doing twice the work of men half his age... Which of course brings us to...

Reggie Watch: The "minister of defense" continues to show the world just how small a 300+ lb. man can be... It turns out that six years ago, Reggie asked his alma mater (University of Tennessee) to retire his jersey in honor of his NFL accomplishments; apparently he was told it could happen if he made a donation to the school...

Although Reggie is very good at begging others to sponsor his various causes (whatever happened to the more than \$100,000 that people donated to rebuild Reggie's burned-out church... just wondering), the thought of actually donating for the benefit of someone else appears to have been enough to can the deal...

And now, word has leaked (along with official denials) that when fellow alumnus Peyton Manning's jersey was retired last Spring, a certain nose really got out of joint... Reggie has suggested to the media that U of T jerseys should be retired by chronological order... My suggestion is let all honors be freely given, not sought or bought...

A day after the above flap became public, Packer fan John Eisinger claimed in a letter to the editor that Reggie rudely rebuffed his request for an autograph, and that an airport security staffer, apparently taking his cue from Reggie's demeanor, further harassed him...

Buddies Bar in Green Bay has the perfect antidote to these shenanigans: the "No Reggie" T-shirt... The Packeresque green shirt has the number "92" in gold overlaid with the universal symbol for "NO" — a slashed circle — in (of all colors) white... To get one, contact Don or Phil at (920) 437-9256...

Mike Fitzpatrick is Wisconsin Light's North East Wisconsin Bureau Chief



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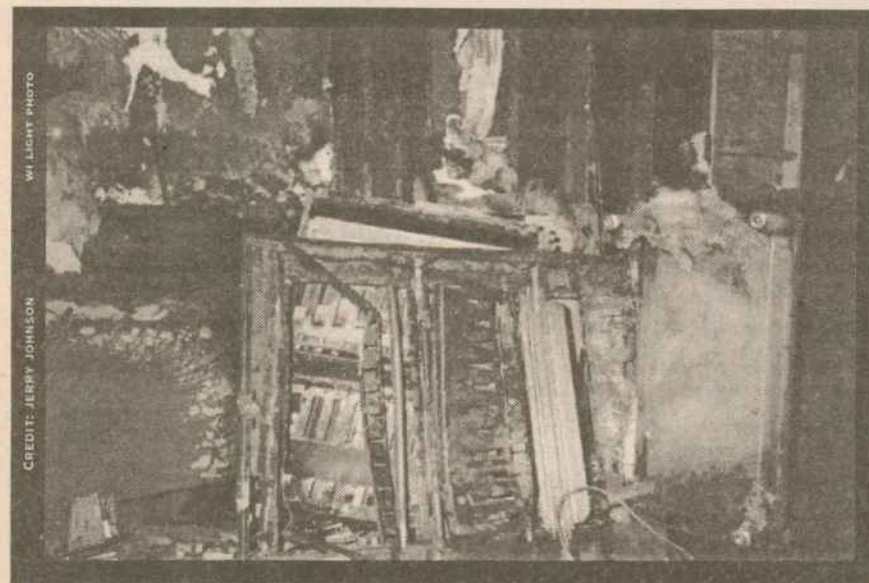
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TUES, NOV. 3

The Fannies Fire

Did She Do It?



A cigarette machine was a casualty of the Fannies fire.

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. Fannies owner, Sharon Dixon, was arrested and charged with arson with intent to defraud, possession of explosive devices, and possession of a controlled substance — morphine. She is currently free on bail and is awaiting her trial.

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 as to Dixon's guilt or innocence.

Our purpose is to present what we know both sides are saying, and let our readers decide for themselves. Our series does not include all the evidence that will be presented at Dixon's trial. It is based on the allegations contained in an eight-page criminal complaint that was used to convince a judge to issue an arrest warrant. Criminal complaints typically contain only enough allegations and supporting evidence to justify an arrest.

Nonetheless, that complaint laid the basis of the State's case against Dixon.

This is the final article in our five part series.

If Not Sharon Dixon, then Who?

If Sharon Dixon didn't hire someone to burn her bar, then why did someone set fire to it?

Dixon offers her own theory. She points out that there have been four Gay-related arson fires in a six-month period.

These were, in order of occurrence, Fannies, The Red Corvette, Dish and Beck's Books. Dixon says that she believes there may be a serial anti-Gay arsonist on the loose.

The Red Corvette was not a Gay bar, but it did have a heavily advertised "Gay Night" on Sundays. In December, 1996, the bar burned in a fire caused by arson.

In March, 1998, someone threw a makeshift "Molotov cocktail" on the roof of Dish. The device reportedly con-

sisted of a plastic bottle filled with gasoline. It did not do much damage. The owner of Dish declined to discuss the incident for this story.

In the late spring of 1998, Beck's Books, a downtown Milwaukee bookstore, was destroyed in a fire caused by arson. The store had been the target of vandalism directed at its Gay and straight adult books.

It was also located directly above the Milwaukee Eagle, a Gay bar that caters to the Leather crowd. Smoke and water damage caused by the fire forced the Eagle to close for a brief time.

No one has been charged in any of these incidents, and there is no known evidence that they are related.

A Vendetta?

If Dixon did not arrange to have her own business burned down, it is possible that someone who may have had an ax to grind with her did.

Those working on the bar's reconstruction say that a person or persons made threatening phone calls to Fannies while the construction work was going on.

Mary Linscott volunteered her time to help Dixon. She was one of the people who took one of the threatening calls. Linscott told *Wisconsin Light*, "The caller said something along the lines of 'Why are you trying to open the bar again? Didn't you get the hint the first time? What do we have to do, blow your ass up?'"

There were other incidents as well. Dennis Bernitt says that he and his lover were at the bar when it was vandalized. "It was right after Christmas," he said. "Some people spray painted 'Big Bitch' on the door. It happened in the morning. We were working in the building and didn't even know it. We came in and it was fine and then later, when we left, we saw it on the door."

Bernitt also says he was at the bar when the occupants of a passing car made a threatening remark directed towards another worker. The worker, Chris, was outside throwing out garbage.

Bernitt was not outside and didn't see the car or hear the remark, but he did see

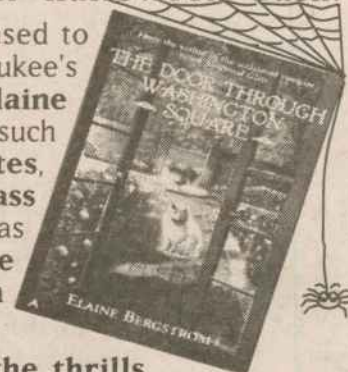
see **FANNIES** on page 10



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FANNIES Continued from page 9

the reaction of the person who did. "Chris came in frightened," said Bernitt. "She said that a car drove by and someone yelled 'Burn the Bitch Out.' Everybody was frightened at that point." *Wisconsin Light* was unable to contact Chris to ask about this incident.

It is possible that Dixon could have hired or asked someone to make the threatening calls and take other actions to make it look like someone else had burned down the bar. But the people we talked to seemed convinced that the individuals behind the calls, vandalism and drive-by were out to get Sharon Dixon.

Both Bernitt and Linscott said that the Police were called when these incidents occurred. Both also said the police didn't seem very interested in them.

Perhaps the police felt the incidents were staged, or that they were pranks, or that there was nothing they could do about them.

The Verdict

We have heard from different individuals who have given us information about Sharon Dixon. Some of this information has been supportive of Dixon's character; some of it has not. None of it was relevant to this series.

A person with good character can still commit a crime if circumstances drive them to it. Conversely a person's bad character traits in some situations do not necessarily mean guilt in all instances.

The evidence detailed in this series is not all-inclusive. It is, however, the evidence and arguments that are available to us as of this writing. During Dixon's trial, it is expected that both sides will present additional evidence and arguments.

The Fannies Arson case is a hot topic (pun not intended) in Milwaukee's LGBT community. Ask anyone who is aware of it, and you will get an opinion on Dixon's guilt or innocence.

In reality, though, the only opinion that counts is the one that the jury delivers after hearing and weighing all of the evidence. That opinion will be sometime in coming. The date for Dixon's trial will be set on October 30.

On August 6, 1998, at her arraignment, Sharon Dixon faced two charges. Count one was a charge of Arson with Intent to Defraud. It carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 40 years. Count two was possession of a controlled substance — morphine. It carries a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine or imprisonment for one year or both.

Sharon Dixon pled "not guilty" to both charges.

Time Line on the Fannies Fire

April, 1996 — Bob Chomlinski, Dixon's business partner at Mike and Anna's restaurant, dies. Dixon says that for the first time she discovered that Chomlinski failed to pay all the taxes owed by the restaurant.

June, 1997 — Dixon is offered two loans — one from her accountant for \$120,000 and one from a commercial lending firm for \$98,000. She rejects both offers. The Police would later say that Dixon was unable to get a commercial loan.

Late July, 1997 — Mike and Anna's Restaurant closes.

August 4, 1997 — Dixon's Mother Dies. Dixon moves her mother's possessions into Mike and Anna's.

October 21, 1997 — Dixon discovers that the locks were changed at Mike and Anna's by someone she says was hired by the Chomlinski family. Dixon confronts the individual; she says he told her that he that was hired to move her out of the closed restaurant. According to Dixon, the Police refused to intervene calling the matter a business dispute.

October 24, 1997 — Dixon's cousin opens a rented locker for her. Dixon's name is not on the application, nor is it listed as someone who would have access to the locker. Dixon begins moving things to the locker that evening.

Tuesday October 28 — Fannies burns due to arson. The fire begins while Dixon was out to dinner with friends. Prior to going to dinner, Dixon takes several items from the bar and puts them in the cars of her friends.

December, 1997 — Dixon begins remodeling Fannies.

February 6, 1998 — The Police search Dixon's locker and find things they believe may have been moved there to prevent them from burning.

March, 1998 — A John Doe investigation is convened. Several Milwaukee bar owners are subpoenaed along with Fannies employees and several of Dixon's friends. During the John Doe, at least one witness testifies that Dixon told her she would burn down Fannies rather than let the IRS seize it over the tax problems at Mike and Anna's.

June 1, 1998 — Fannies reopens.

June 12, 1998 — Dixon is arrested. The City closes Fannies.

June 17, 1998 — Dixon is released on a signature bond.

August 6, 1998 — Dixon pleads not guilty to the charges. The possession of explosive devices charge is dismissed.

September 5, 1998 — Fannies reopens after receiving a final okay from the City of Milwaukee.

October 30, 1998 — Dixon's trial date is scheduled to be set.

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AROUND THE NATION

Hawaiian Marriage Campaign Heats Up

Honolulu — Charges and counter charges were flying about as Hawaiians were treated to two groups of clergy attacking each other over ads being run in the campaign to ban same sex marriages in the Aloha State. On November 3, Hawaiians will vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow their State Legislature to ban same sex marriage.

The referendum is in response to an expected State Supreme Court decision that would rule the denial of marriage licenses to same sex couples in violation of Hawaii's state constitution. Groups on both sides of the issue are pouring money into the referendum campaign.

The Human Rights Campaign, America's largest Gay and Lesbian organization, is raising \$1 million to convince Hawaiian voters to cast a no vote. The Christian Coalition and a local group, Save Traditional Marriage, are expected to spend even more trying to win the amendment's passage.

According to *The Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, on Wednesday, September 30, a group of clergy opposed to the amendment attacked the campaign of those who favor its passage.

Barbara Ripple, head of the United Methodist Church conference, told the *Star-Bulletin*, "I'm hearing there is a them and an us... 'If you are truly a Christian, believe as we do. If not, you're not truly a Christian.' I resent that."

One of the ads paid for by Save Traditional Marriage features a small boy reading from the book *Daddy's Wedding*, which shows a picture of two men kissing as they get married. The ad says, "If you don't think homosexual marriage will affect you, how do you think it will affect your children?"

Rev. Joan Ishibashi, of the United Church of Christ Hawaii Conference, said the ads "appeal to our deepest prejudices. We urge them to stop their campaign of intolerance." She said, "Using the child for their purposes is a very subtle way to hit the triggers of intolerance."

Don Johnson, pastor of Lutheran Church of Honolulu, told the newspaper that ministers were being targeted too. Johnson said that ministers were being sent mailers to convince them to support the amendment. "What would Jesus do?" asked Johnson. "He'd vote no, because he was concerned about justice for everyone."

The following day, ministers supporting Save Traditional Marriage responded with an angry broadside. "The ads clarify exactly what is at stake in a charitable and clear way," declared the Rev. Marc Alexander, a Catholic priest who is on the Save Traditional Marriage advisory committee. "As far as the notion [the ads] are hateful and bigoted, I absolutely disagree. They are not meant to be homophobic," said Alexander.

Jennifer Diesman, a media consultant who helped design the advertising campaign, said, "Sometimes the ends justify the means. Homosexual marriage advocates are being deceptive, telling people the issue isn't about marriage, when in fact it is only about marriage."

Opponents of the amendment have directed at least part of their advertising to native Hawaiians and Hawaiians of Asian descent. Those groups make up a majority of the state's population. Their ads state that if Gays lose their constitutional rights in the November referendum, other groups may lose some of their rights next.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell Wins Again

Washington DC — The Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a decision issued on September 23. The judgment came in the *Able vs. USA* case. The court has now joined with three other Federal appellate courts that upheld the policy, which bans service members from being openly Gay, and which forbids the military from asking about the sexual orientation of those in uniform.

The Court's verdict reversed a lower court decision by Judge Eugene Nickerson who ruled on July 2, 1997 that the military's policy creates "special rights" that treat Gay service members differently from heterosexual service members for saying and doing the same things.

The reversal may have ended, at least temporarily, legal challenges to the policy. At present, there are no pending cases before any Federal court challenging "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on Gays in the military.

The court ruled in favor of the policy shortly after the Service Members Legal Defense Network (SLDN) released a new poll showing a significant decrease in opposition to Gay and Lesbian service members within the military itself.

The study, conducted by Professors Charles Moskos of Northwestern University and Laura Miller of UCLA, was released on September 4. Only 36% of Army personnel strongly oppose the presence of Gay men and women in the military. That figure is down from 67% in a 1992 survey.

Gay Vote '98 Site Launched

Washington DC — The Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Victory fund have launched a web site to provide specialized coverage of Lesbian and Gay issues and races beginning in October. The site www.Gayvote98.com will provide updates on various campaigns, online election information and candidate score cards.

"We know that this partnership will ensure that the Gay and Lesbian community will be informed as to how their races and issues are being played across the nation," said Brian Bond of the Victory Fund. "Our issues are and will be front and center this year."

see **AROUND THE NATION** on page 12

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Online Petition Attracts 150,000 signers in 10 Days

A diverse bipartisan group of citizens has launched an Internet petition demanding that Congress censure President Clinton over the Lewinsky scandal and move on with the business of the country. The petition, which can be signed via email at www.moveone.com, attracted over 150,000 signatures in just the first 10 days of the drive.

Censure and Move On, the group behind the petition, says that "the vast majority of the American public understands that a continuing obsession with this scandal will do great damage to our institutions, our economy and our power and prestige in the world."

The petition web page simply states the Congress must, "Immediately Censure President Clinton and

Move On to pressing issues facing the country." In addition, the page includes directions for sending campaign email to friends and associates, and directions for becoming more involved in the campaign should the petitioners choose to do so.

Consumer Buying Network Targets Gays and Lesbians

Las Vegas, NVV — A new nationwide network of Gay and Lesbian consumers was announced during the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association's annual convention here. Access Alliance will seek to harness the buying power provided by thousands of Gays and Lesbians to provide increased savings on a variety of products and services.

"Our goal is twofold," said Joel Raznik, Executive Vice President and Co-Chair of the company. "First to provide products that meet the community's needs like home and auto insurance that gives committed Gay couples the same benefits that married couples receive. And second to harness our community's buying power for increased savings on a variety of products from travel and entertainment to legal and financial services."

According to a statement from the company, Access Alliance will begin marketing memberships to the Gay and Lesbian community in October. The \$20 annual memberships are currently available through the Internet at www.accessalliance.com or by calling Access Alliance at (800) 693-2394.

Members will receive an introductory consumer manual detailing available benefits and toll free numbers to providers. Members will also receive an introductory coupon for up to \$100 off airfare on several major airlines. Additional monthly mailings will follow with special offers from participating companies.

Minister Remains Defiant

Chapel Hill, NC (AP) — A controversial United Methodist minister took to the pulpit and reaffirmed his willingness to celebrate same-sex weddings in defiance of his denomination. The Rev. Jimmy Creech told an overflow United Church of Christ congregation on Sunday that Christians are not fully sharing the gospel until they embrace homosexuals into the kingdom of God.

"I think the church has been wounded by prejudice and bigotry toward Lesbians, Gay men and bisexual persons that compromise its ability to speak truthfully and clearly the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Creech, who was removed from his Nebraska congregation after officiating at a Lesbian wedding last year.

Last year, Creech officiated in a covenant ceremony for two Lesbians at First United Methodist Church in Omaha, Nebraska. That prompted a theological showdown within the 9.5 million-member United Methodist Church, the second largest Protestant denomination in the United States after the Southern Baptists.

Creech was acquitted at a church trial on charges that he disobeyed the church's moral guidelines by performing the ceremony. Last month, the denomination's highest court met in Dallas and strengthened its rules, saying pastors could be defrocked for performing the ceremonies.

Creech, 53, is on a voluntary leave of absence from the Methodist Church. The North Carolina native plans to write a book on his experiences of the past year. He and his wife have returned to their old home in Raleigh.

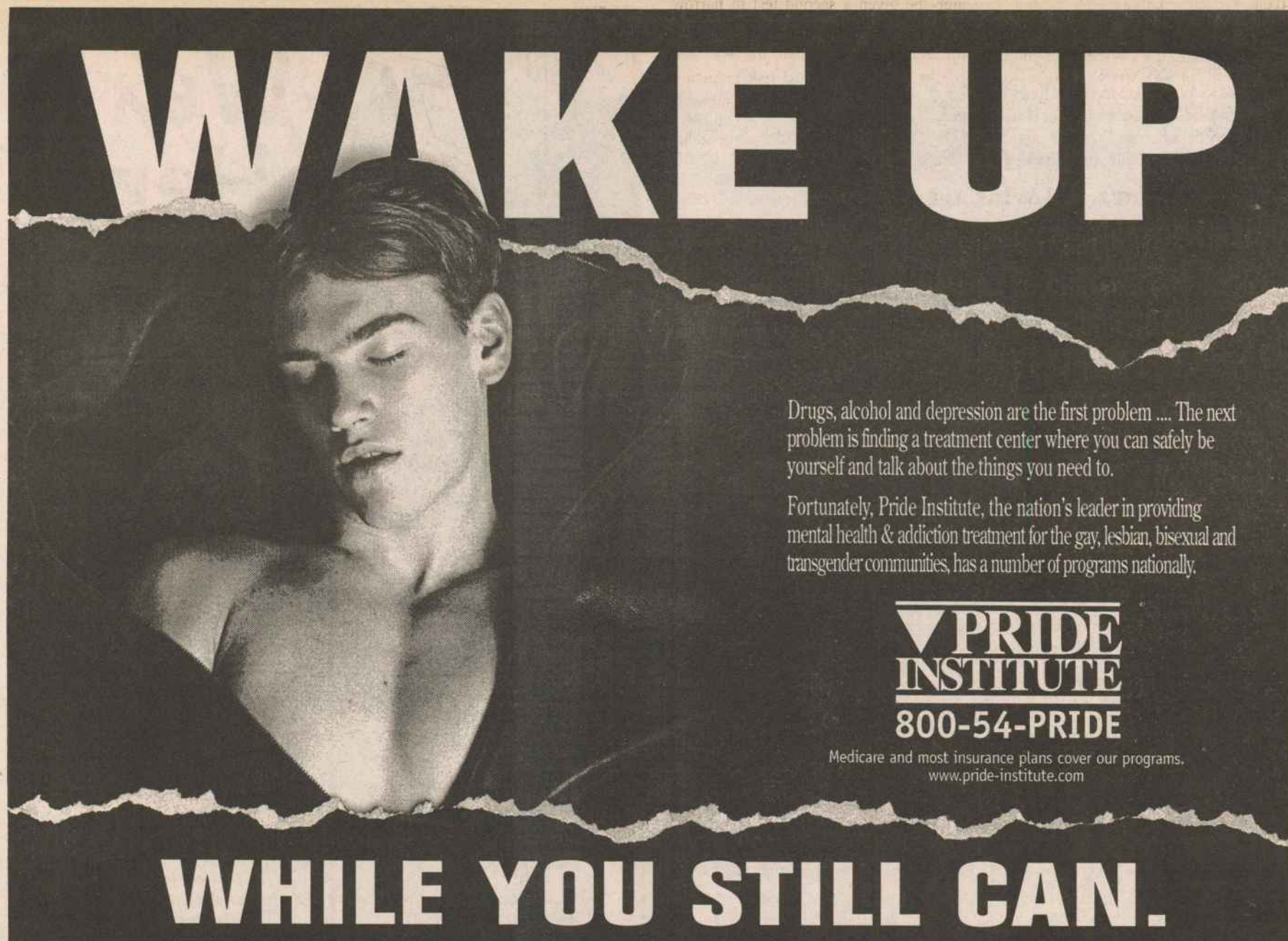
Clergy Rally for Gay Civil Rights

Indianapolis (AP) — About 200 people sang hymns and prayed for lawmakers to adopt laws allowing homosexuals to marry and adopt children during a protest on the west steps of the Indiana Statehouse.

Organizers said Saturday's prayer protest was aimed at rallying public opposition to recent anti-Gay adoption laws proposed by two Republican state representatives. The event was planned by a coalition of 14 Indiana churches.

"This is the latest ploy by religious fundamentalists to purge America of anything they don't understand," said Rev. Jeff Miner of Indianapolis' largely Gay Jesus Metropolitan Church. "They don't want us to have rights, they don't want us to have children."

About ten counter-protesters shouted anti-Gay slogans at the rally. They waved large handwritten placards from the periphery of the meeting. "Liar, liar, liar," bel-lowed 57-year-old Larry Adams of Indianapolis, as Miner preached that homosexuals were God's creation. Adam's thoughts were advertised broadly, in red, on a large placard he hoisted above his head: "The Bible says execute homosexuals," read the piece of cardboard.



WAKE UP

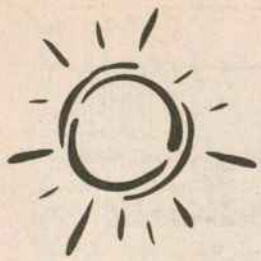
Drugs, alcohol and depression are the first problem The next problem is finding a treatment center where you can safely be yourself and talk about the things you need to.

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Positive Health Outlook

WI AIDS/HIV Confab Learns of Controversial Study on HIV Re-Infection

by Ron Geiman

Madison — Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention Epidemiologist Bernard M. Branson, M.D. stunned the Wisconsin Division of Health's AIDS/HIV Program's biannual conference in Middleton on September 28-29 with his disclosure of a study that indicated re-infection by different strains of HIV1 does not occur between positive sex partners. The crowd of over 400 AIDS medical professionals, educators and activists attending were told the study results were determined by genetic/DNA sequencing.

Branson did admit "there is a debate over this issue" [of re-infection] especially concerning the potential of drug-resistant strains of HIV1 being passed from one partner to another. Other AIDS experts contacted expressed alarm about the veracity of the study and collectively brought up the problem of drug-resistant strains. There have been documented cases of people being initially infected with drug-specific-resistant strains of HIV1.

Several strains of HIV exist in other countries, and in the US there are some people infected with HIV2 and the new HIV-O. However, the vast majority in the US are cases of HIV1.

The study Branson referred to used genetic sequencing, which showed that all versions of HIV1 have the same base structure. Those genetic studies led Branson to declare that the issue of re-infection is "not a public health issue, but is a personal health decision."

It has been a standard of public health policy to recommend that partners, even when both are infected, continue to have sex with barrier protection to assure that

re-infection does not occur. Branson said the study of the genetic structure of the HIV1 strain that infects most Americans proves that "if you're infected, you're infected, and the idea of re-infection, in reality, does not occur."

Rapid HIV Testing Data

Branson is the CDC's chief architect of surveillance studies, rapid test strategies and harm reduction for HIV prevention. The main focus of Branson's presentation was the results of those programs at publicly funded counseling and testing (CT) programs around the country.

His studies show that the use of instant tests (1 hour or less) or rapid assays (RAs) at CTs resulted in a 19% increase of people finding out their status over the two week period of awaiting results of the more traditional enzyme immunoassays (EIAs) test. However, the downside was a much larger percentage of people received a false positive reading from the rapid test.

Branson recommended that people who test positive on the RAs immediately be given a second test to narrow the possibility of false results. Overall, the studies showed that the RA test results, and the personal risk reduction counseling given at CTs, could substantially improve the delivery of services at those sites, at a lower cost.

The RAs should be approved here in the US in early 1999. Currently available home tests require users to return blood or urine samples to the manufacturer for testing. It is assumed that some of the rapid tests, once approved, will be authorized for home use.

Branson also expressed concern that those using rapid home tests will bypass the traditional test site system that

comes complete with harm reduction education, counseling and referrals.

Other Conference Highlights

The semi-annual conference had a special focus on youth this year, with the opening day featuring a keynote address and three breakout sessions focused on youth, one of the fastest rising populations at risk for HIV infection.

Barry N. Bernstein, MD, opened the conference with the topic of *Medical Management of HIV Disease*. Formerly the Medical Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin-Milwaukee office, he is now with the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center. He reviewed where Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy (HAART) is currently, the potential of achieving viral suppression, and resistance issues. In the area of adherence to drug regimens, Bernstein urged discipline by patients coupled with a strong social support system.

The second opening day plenary featured Loretta Sweet Jemmott, PhD, RN,

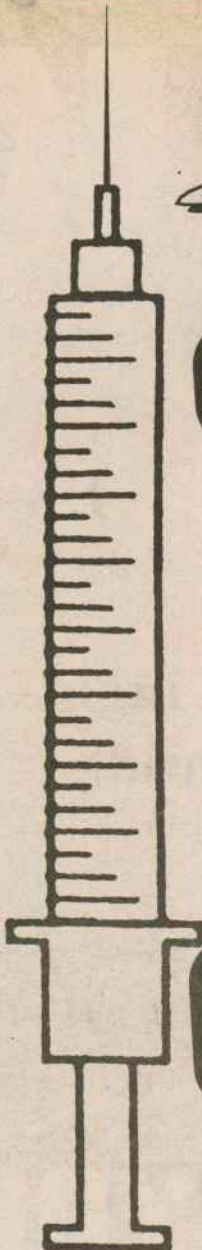
FAAN, speaking on HIV/AIDS Prevention for Populations at High Risk: What Works for Youth. The effervescent, strong willed Black woman from New Jersey wowed the crowd with her strong presentation focusing on her "Be Proud! Be Responsible!" curriculum. That curriculum was designed with the direct input of often-poor urban youth, and Jemmott explained how that model could be adapted for use with other youths.

Tuesday, after Dr. Branson's speech, the Keynote Address was presented by former Wisconsin Congressman Steve Gunderson and his partner, architect Rob Morris. Their tag-team speaking style delighted the crowd with personal anecdotes and political insider tidbits, but then hammered home the importance of continuing the fight against AIDS. "We have come here because AIDS is not over. And though you are tired, and challenged, and anxious, and angry — you will not give up."



WI LIGHT PHOTO
CREDIT: RON GEIMAN

Wisconsin Dept. of Health HIV/AIDS Programs' Holly Dowling, Michael McFadden, and Dr. James Vergeront; Rob Morris and former Congressman Steve Gunderson; guest speaker Dr. Bernard M. Branson of the CDC.



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View From Brewer's Hill

by Terry Boughner

The Homosexual is Speaking Tonight

Is there a Gay sensibility? Is there something, subtle but discernable, in each of us who is Gay, that can be picked up by others like ourselves?

In years gone by, I would have answered no, a hesitant no, but a no nonetheless. Other than our desire to find physical and emotional fulfillment in someone of the same sex, I would have said we are just like everyone else.

I would have added quickly that there are Gays, especially men, who effect certain, what are called "stereotypical mannerisms": the limp wrists etc. Overall, however, I would have said even other Gays can't pick another Gay out of the crowd. In short, there is no "Gaydar."

Yet increasingly, I'm not so sure. I've come to think that perhaps there is something there. We grow up Gay. We face many of the same experiences — dealing with self-acceptance, homophobia, rejection and fear, among other things.

I am becoming more and more convinced that these experiences that we go through write upon each of us with an indelible pen. The marks are subtle, but we cannot completely hide them. They are visible to those who share them for the rest of our lives.

For example, there's a new show on NBC on Monday nights called *Will and Grace*. For those of you who haven't seen it, the story line concerns a Gay man, Will, and his best friend, a straight woman named Grace.

I like the show. It shows Gay men as many of us are. Will is at peace with his orientation, makes a good living and goes about his day to day life. Also, as the show makes clear, there is no chance that Will is going to have anything more than a friendship with Grace.

The point is, as I watched the show, I figured that Eric McCormick, who plays Will, couldn't possibly be Gay. The nuances just weren't there.

(As it turned out, I was right. In the show's publicity, McCormick makes a point of saying that he isn't Gay.)

Now, there's nothing wrong at all with a straight person playing a Gay role. After all, Gay people play straights all the time (more Gays than the public imagines). But I think that it takes far more acting talent for a straight to play Gay than the other way around, far more acting ability than most people have.

The reason, I think, is simple. After all, Gays act all the time. Many of us (less than formerly, thank goodness), play straights in our day to day lives.

We're very good at it. We have all the subtleties down pat—most of the time. Straights, on the other hand, operate in society playing only themselves. They only have to play themselves.

A truly great actor wants to get out of him or her self and "become" the role they are to play. From what I've been told, that takes a lot of effort, time and work. I suspect that like many non-Gay people, straight actors think there's not much to us.

After all, what is there to being Gay? You smile at someone of the same sex, wink, even kiss — maybe — say the appropriate words. That's it. Yeah, right.

In my mind, it all comes down to this. As is the unfortunate habit nowadays as regards a lot of people, straights define us (and many condemn us) because of outward appearances. They never take the trouble to learn about us.

Insensitivity, prejudice or ignorance gets in the way. I remember one time I was asked by the leader of a local church group to give a talk about what it was to be Gay. When I got there, I found a good crowd waiting. An usher approached and asked politely if he could find me a seat. I told him, "No," that I was the evening's speaker.

He gave me the once-over, me in my gray pullover sweater and jeans, and shook his head.

"You must be next month's speaker," he said. "The homosexual is speaking tonight."

Later, after I'd given my little talk, the usher apologized adding, "You just don't look like one," he said. "We don't have any of your people here." His tone wasn't patronizing in the least. I think he genuinely believed what he said.

Before I could make some reply, however, out of the corner of my eye I saw a young man. He was somewhere in his middle teens. Our eyes met for a split second before contact was broken.

I don't remember what I said to the usher, but I know this. It would take the talent of an Alfred Lunt or a Helen Hayes to accurately capture that moment for the stage.

Sadly, TV rarely has the likes of Hayes or Lunt.

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EDITORIAL

Tom Ament Doing the Right Thing

In these days of 30 second sound bites, it takes courage for public officials to do what they know is right, even if the voters may not agree. On no issue is that truer than on the debate over needle exchange programs designed to fight against HIV transmission. Fortunately, Milwaukee has a farsighted man of courage, its County Executive, Tom Ament. Ament has included \$100,000 for needle exchange programs in his proposed County budget.

There is ample scientific research showing that needle exchange programs drastically cut into the rate of HIV transmission among drug addicts, WITHOUT increasing the number of those abusing illegal drugs. In fact, as shown by the experience of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, needle exchange programs can even help addicts seek help and make permanent changes in their lives, which reduces the number of people abusing drugs.

The reality is that needle exchange programs not only save the lives of the addicts; they also save the lives of their sexual partners. Such programs can also help addicts to rebuild their lives and become productive members of society. Moreover, they save millions of tax dollars that would have otherwise been spent on medical care for indigent addicts and their loved ones who contract HIV.

The reality is also that many politicians, afraid of voter reaction, have refused to support needle exchange programs. President Clinton, who has made many improvements in the federal response to the AIDS crisis, refused to support them. The same is true of Ament's counterpart at Milwaukee's City Hall, Mayor John Norquist.

It would be easy for Tom Ament to come up with the same tired, worn out excuses that have been used by others to justify their intransigence on this issue. Tom Ament is different. He recognizes his responsibility to do what is right for the community, regardless of what some critics may say or think. He realizes that when the lives of his constituents are on the line, it is time to take action and not make excuses. He understands his responsibility to safeguard the well-being of the public.

Tom Ament's proposal to fund needle exchange in Milwaukee county has set an example for others to follow. We hope other politicians will follow and serve the voters instead of playing to their fears.

OP ED

The Gay Mystique

by Steve Stavron

Terry Boughner's recent article on the historical continuity of Gays throughout the centuries raises other questions as well. The moral majority and its most vociferous flank, the religious right, have never denied that homosexuality is an acknowledged facet of many revered historical figures, if they bother to think of it at all.

Their most venial thrust has been that homosexuals commit unnatural acts and that those acts, while ameliorated to some extent by the greater gifts that a Michelangelo, for example, has given to the world, still remain unnatural. According to them, this is contrary to nature's intention that all living creatures reproduce "according to nature's and hence God's divine plan." It is the biology rather than the ethics of homosexuality that so disturbs them, since Gayness poses no real threat to the "normal majority" except that it challenges the "moral equilibrium" of those who are sexually naïve.

A case could be made that those who condemn homosexuality are in self-denial of their own mammalian instincts: drives which are universal among higher animals and not as distinguishable from lower case species as our human conceits would lead us to suppose. Specific sexual gratification is not limited to or determined by specific sexual preferences.

Human orifices and external sex organs are not as discriminating as to their source of stimulation as we would like to believe. The female who performs oral sex upon the male is no more a surrogate homosexual than the male who enjoys anal penetration of the female. Nor can these now "acceptable" practices [according to countless magazines at the supermarket checkout bins] be taken for granted as sophisticated forms of foreplay.

What better example than Monica Lewinsky's eager ministrations to the "Presidential privates", so similar in execution and setting to the much desecrated homosexual "tea rooms?" All sexual activity is common to both homosexuals and heterosexuals, and is limited only by the mechanics of our sex organs. Furthermore, the line of demarcation between homo and hetero is far more tenuous than the religious right would choose to believe.

Bisexuality inadequately describes this sexual transfer point, since science has yet to discover what determines gender consciousness in the development of the erotic image, and whether or not it fixates upon specific bodily characteristics. We only know that gender preference occurs, and does not seem to change much, although the interchange of stimulation sources may vary or shift.

Though many will scream 'heresy' at the following supposition, it can be demonstrated that hetero men who "experiment" with a Gay partner do not always restrict that activity to being "serviced." Some are intrigued by the sensation of performing orally themselves, as well as being anally penetrated. Sensual variety has always fascinated. No part of the human body is exempt. We are animals under the skin.

Of course the extreme historical ecclesiastical position of the early Christian Church has been that ANY pleasure derived from even the most basic sexual conjugation is a source of evil, and must be morally justified by the desire to reproduce the species. Hence the origin of the religious right's obsession with homosexual perversion. This confusion over the pleasure/utilitarian function of sex has been a problem even for some Gays, since they cannot reproduce themselves.

LETTERS



Support Clinton

To The Editor,

Your front-page editorial, "Standing up for OUR America," makes an excellent case for Gays and Lesbians to get up off their butts and support both Bill Clinton and his party.

The political motivation for the investigation of President Clinton was obvious from an early point, and Gays and Lesbians have been as much a target as the President. The president made powerful and bitter enemies by advancing the cause of Gays and Lesbians, especially on the issue of Gays serving in the military. The right-wing conspiracy reacted with a vengeance. Vitriol so corrosive has not been seen since the same groups attacked John F. Kennedy and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Right-wing Conspirator and Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr almost quit the Clinton investigation to become dean of the law school at Pepperdine University, affiliated with the Church of Christ, a fundamentalist body that can claim both Kenneth Starr and Jeffrey Dahmer as living/deceased members.

One of Pepperdine's distinguished law school professors wrote a book entitled *Sodom's Second Coming*, and you can easily guess that Gays are the author's target. That's the company that Ken Starr keeps, and anyone still sitting on the fence about supporting Bill Clinton and the Democrats has to be crazy to join Starr and his cabal.

Bill Clinton has shown himself to be a quick thinker, extremely intelligent and quick to grasp his opponent's weak points and exploit them. Isn't this the kind of leader we want to guide us through the world of our enemies?

Al Geiersbach, Milwaukee

Support Baldwin

To the Editor,

Door County is well known as a resort community. As one of Wisconsin's artist communities, it is full of beautiful vistas, roadside stands, excellent restaurants and quaint little inns.

There is another side of Door County. It was one of the first communities in Wisconsin. Settlers from Europe built their towns there. My great grandparents came from Amsterdam. One built a blacksmith shop and wagon factory in Brussels, just south of Sturgeon Bay. Another opened a dance hall in Karlsville, south of Bailey's Harbor.

My grandparents moved south for more opportunities in Green Bay, my parents south again to Milwaukee for the industrial years. Here in Milwaukee, I am very comfortably out.

But back in Door County, strong feelings for the area held some families there. They formed small proud communities, who were represented this year at PrideFest. Proud members of pioneer families came to Milwaukee to tell Wisconsin Gays that we are welcome and embraced throughout Wisconsin.

We owe these pioneer Gay families thanks. Running family businesses in rural Wisconsin, they are not out to win political rights, just respect. In gaining the respect of family and communities, they have furthered why we are proud to be Gay in Wisconsin.

Paul Toonen, Milwaukee

Support Feingold

Dear Fellow LesBiGays:

We are hearing/seeing over the airwaves much about the upcoming election battle between Mark Neumann and Russ Feingold. It is very important for all of us to remember who has continuously backed us up in recent struggles for our equality—SENATOR RUSS FEINGOLD.

Please plan to vote for our dear friend, Russ Feingold, on Tuesday, November 3! We cannot let someone like Mark Neumann take away what has so long been fought for in our state—equality in the workplace, and much more! It's most important for us to solidify our efforts and elect the man who will be more than a friend to us. BE SURE TO TELL ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS TO VOTE TOO!!

A very concerned voter,

Keith D. Veenhuis

This may explain the growing number of religious and therapy support groups through which a minority of Gays seeks to change its sexual orientation, according to a recent *Newsweek* article. Sexual guilt dies hard in the Western Judo-Christian legacy.

Finally, fear is the predominant motive for all forms of bigotry, and the fear of man's own biological instincts has dominated the ethics of Western Culture since its inception. The ancient Greeks made no distinction between platonic and carnal love. They knew the difference but accepted both.

Being Gay is as natural a phenomena as any other evolutionary process in the development of given living organisms. Homosexuality further demonstrates that human eroticism is unique in that the urge to be conjunctive with a similar organism has a more complex physiological and psychological attribute apart from procreation.

Love, as well as sex has never been completely understood. Hence, the poets and musicians have had license to rhapsodize for centuries. And its hardly likely that an anthropomorphic Supreme Being, having no use for corporeal parts Himself, would inflict man with natural instincts which contradict nature itself.

Homosexuality is a part of nature. As far as Scripture is concerned, Adam and Eve were enjoying unrestricted sex. If only she had followed the rules and stayed away from that damned apple. So much for the religious right!

And for the present day Gays? It seems to me that self-acceptance and personal self-direction must be a mandatory prerequisite for GAY PRIDE.

From The Right

Commentary by James McFarland

By now, many of you should know that one of my friends from Log Cabin Republicans, Curt Lamon, is running as an openly Gay Republican for State Assembly in the 19th Assembly District (the eastside of Milwaukee and Bayview). Of course, I wholeheartedly support him and hope that you will also. But support him for the right reason, not just because he is openly Gay.

There was a time when I believed in supporting any openly Lesbian or Gay candidate regardless of the candidate's views on issues. I believed that it was so important to "get a place at the table"

that it did not matter that I might disagree with the candidate's views on nearly every issue other than what we describe as "Gay issues". I also felt that it was extremely important for young Lesbians and Gays to have role models in the form of openly Lesbian/Gay elected officials. So, I supported many openly Lesbian or Gay candidates with my money, my time, and my endorsements.

Since then, my views have changed considerably — not just because some openly Lesbian/Gay elected officials have proven to be poor role models, and

not because some openly Lesbian/Gay elected officials have proven to be less effective and/or less supportive on "Gay issues" than many heterosexual Republican elected officials in this state. Nor because of the double standard which exists (Lesbian/Gay Democrats always expect Lesbian/Gay Republicans to support openly Lesbian/Gay Democrat candidates, but Lesbian/Gay Democrats almost never support openly Lesbian/Gay Republican candidates). Rather, it is because implicit in a philosophy of supporting openly Lesbian/Gay candidates regardless of their views on

issues is the viewpoint that sexual orientation is a qualification one should use in determining whether or not to support a candidate. This is completely contrary to everything for which we are fighting.

We argue on the one hand that sexual orientation should never be a factor in an employer's hiring decision, and that voters should not disqualify someone just because s/he is Lesbian or Gay. But on the other hand, in supporting openly Lesbian/Gay candidates with whom we disagree on most issues, we are essentially saying that we will not vote for a candidate who is closer to our views on issues just because that candidate is heterosexual. It is simply contradictory.

Moreover, supporting someone based on that person's sexual orientation implies that "Gay issues" are the only issues that influence our voting choices. While it may be necessary for Lesbians and Gays in some states (such as Texas where discrimination is rampant and fundamentalist Christians control the Republican Party and are attempting to cast Lesbian/Gay Republicans out of the party) to elevate "Gay issues" to the top of the totem pole, in a state like Wisconsin, where discrimination is not nearly as widespread and is illegal in most areas (except the all-important area of our families), and where both parties openly accept Lesbians and Gays within their ranks, it does not make sense to make "Gay issues" the only issues on which we vote.

Does it make sense to vote for a candidate who will attempt to protect us from losing our jobs to discrimination but will at the same time make it more likely that many people, regardless of sexual orientation, will lose their jobs due to higher taxes and more government regulation? Does it make sense to vote for a candidate who will attempt to protect our livelihood by banning discrimination but will at the same time vote to increase our taxes and thus threaten our livelihood? I think not.

This is not to say there is no value at all in having openly Lesbian/Gay elected officials. The willingness of these people to be open and honest about their sexual orientation, which teaches the general public that there is nothing wrong with homosexuality and nothing to be ashamed about, should be praised and should be one factor among many in deciding whether to support them. But it should not be the only factor.

So when you vote this fall, consider voting for candidates like Curt Lamon, not just because they are openly Lesbian or Gay, but also because they want to bring about real reform for our public schools. They want to reduce the size of government and reduce our tax burdens, and they want to continue reductions in the crime rate by making criminals serve their full sentence. And consider not voting for openly Lesbian/Gay Democrat candidates, unless you really want your taxes increased, increased government involvement in your life, public school reform to be thwarted due to union opposition, and a return to higher crime rates due to coddling of criminals.

James McFarland is a founder and leader of the Wisconsin Log Cabin club, a Gay Republican group.



The poster features a dark, atmospheric background with a large, gnarled tree on the left. At the top, a witch on a broom flies across the sky. In the upper right corner, there is a circular logo for 'full MOON Productions' depicting a figure in a dark, hooded cloak. The text is arranged in a central column, with the event title in large, stylized letters. Below the title, the date and location are clearly stated. To the left of the date, there are sections for prizes and admission. To the right, there are sections for drinks and DJ services. At the bottom, there is a 'How to find it' section and a small illustration of a ghost and a tombstone.

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Spotlight

October 8 – October 21, 1998

John Maybury: Unconventional, Nontraditional

by Mark J. Huisman

Editor's Note – With this article we begin a series of interviews and articles intended to give our readers a look at Gay and Lesbian films from the perspective of those involved in making them. We will not be examining Hollywood made films such as *In and Out* or *Birdcage*. We will be exposing the view point and thoughts of Gay filmmakers whose work is about and for Gay audiences.

"The most interesting thing to me about Francis Bacon is his relationship with George Dyer," says filmmaker John Maybury. His first feature, *Love Is The Devil*, examines the life and work of one of modern art's most celebrated painters. "In all the books I read, including the Bacon biography, Dyer is hardly mentioned. Most artistic muses in history have had biographies written about them. But not Dyer. It's as if he's been erased from everything. It is, I think, a form of homophobia."

Sitting in a SoHo restaurant, Maybury's trim frame and slight features belie his conversational ferocity, which is hinted at only by his spiky bright blond mop of hair. He takes a drag on his cigarette and blows the smoke out with a grand gush. "I'm not supposed to smoke in here am I?" Another drag. Another gush.

"The Bacon estate and the critics who were Bacon champions really didn't want the film to be made," he continues. "They are trying to sanitize him, because he's this great artist. But this element of his life is part of what made him great."

Maybury based the film in part on longtime Bacon intimate Daniel Farson's biography, *The Gilded Gutter Life of Francis Bacon*, but the estate would not allow any of his canvases to appear in the film or be photographed for it.

Maybury, however, found freedom in this limitation. "How interesting is it to watch paint dry? Or look at a canvas? When the estate refused permission, that was the most liberating thing of all."

Maybury's film, which fashions a dissection of Bacon's approach to painting, may not be traditional storytelling, but it's gripping nonetheless. Maybury cites influences from the poems of T.S. Eliot – "The fragmentation of shots has the same fragmentation of language in *The Wasteland*" –

and Greek Tragedy – "The Colony Club people are the Greek chorus, commenting on things as we go along." Maybury immersed himself in writing by Gay authors from Jean Genet to Oscar Wilde. He re-read all the plays of the famously irreverent, sexually daring Joe Orton, "to try and get myself in that mindset. That transgressive, weird, homo attitude." But Bacon reigned supreme.

"The shots and sequences are like brush strokes. And at the end, you have an entire composition. It didn't need to have a flow the way linear narratives flow. It's not a mystery. It's about the dynamic, the sexual masochism and sadism and all of it they had with one another. But I also like the idea of moving towards something but never really getting there."

Something like the sexual relationship between Dyer and Bacon who, in one scene, spots a squabbling couple and sighs, "Oh, they're not happy. That's what love is." Is this a real Baconism?

"No, it's me-ism," Maybury says through a deafening laugh. "There's as much of me in the film as there is of Bacon. I think that really pisses some people off, especially my friends, who are a bunch of evil, vicious queens. They recognize me in the film, but they also recognize themselves." Those very words deftly describe some of the film's characters, people for whom mum would probably not like to pour tea.

"When I was researching the work, about three weeks in, I thought 'Why am I making a film about these hideous fucking people? I hate these people!'" says Maybury. "But in the end, it's about Dyer and Bacon." Maybury, who wrote his first screenplay for the film, trusts his audience to follow the story.

"There's a kind of visual language, with more abstraction, that people are

able to understand now. Audiences are as smart as you let them be. I very much wanted to put the relationship between George and Francis in a film that visually did them justice, and I think I quite carried it off." The accomplishment was decades in the making.

A London native who celebrated his fortieth birthday last spring, Maybury attended art school at North London University in the 1970s and began making Super 8 films. He also met two people pivotal to his eventual artistic path.

"I was great friends with Siouxsie and the Banshees, so I was hanging around that scene, making films. And I met Derek, who was also making Super 8s. That changed

everything."

This is the legendary late filmmaker Derek Jarman, whose films like *Caravaggio* and *Edward II* (both of which starred Swinton) are renowned for their visual style and politically informed texts. Maybury was set designer on *Jarman's Jubilee* (1977), edited *The Last of England* (1987) and designed and edited the war sequences for the directors highly acclaimed version of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* (1988).

"The thing I learned most from Derek was generosity of spirit. He had an amazing ability to leave everyone to do what they did best. When I worked on *War Requiem* he never even came to see what I was doing or asked about it.

He trusted me and just left me alone. That was extraordinary. I'm just so terribly sad he can't be here to see this film. I think he'd quite like it." (Jarman died of AIDS-related complications in February of 1994. Although we were not acquainted at the time, Maybury and I discovered during this conversation we had both attended his funeral that March, in a beautiful sunlit stone

cathedral on the Kentish coast near his weekend cottage.)

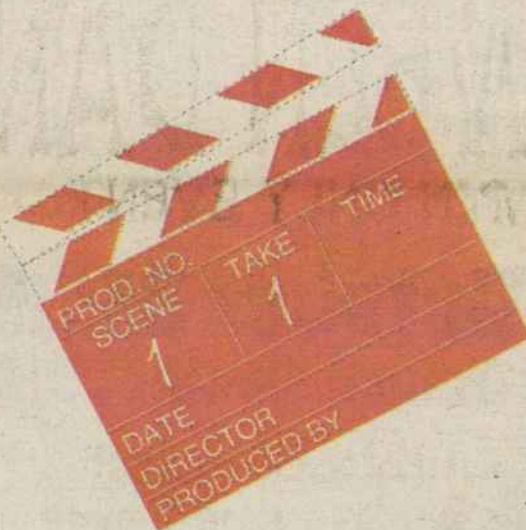
After his first solo film and painting shows at London's prestigious ICA in the mid-1980s, Maybury turned to music videos for badly needed cash. By 1990, he'd racked up a slate of work with *Everything But the Girl*, Boy George and, most famously, Sinéad O'Connor, winning four MTV Awards for *Nothing Compares 2 U*. Maybury returned to making his own videos and films early in this decade, including an experimental film called *Remembrance of Things Fast for Channel 4*, one of Britain's national networks, in 1993.

"They got more complaints than anything ever shown before," he smiles, cigarette smoke again swirling about his head, the gold ring on one forefinger flashing in the light. "My favorite comment was 'This director should burn in a lake of fire.' Which is quiet poetic, really." A seasoned traveler on the European film circuit, Maybury is not the least bit worried about his stateside debut.

"It's almost shocking how much interest there is and how well the film is doing. It's number four in the box office in London. Those two words have never really come out of my mouth before – box office." Maybury quivers, momentarily racked by a disapproving twitch. "And the negative reaction we've gotten, well, you have to expect as well. I'd be kind of worried if there were none. There are a lot of intelligent people here who would like to be treated better by the arts in general. And this film's for them."

Good buzz, bad buzz. Maybury is perfectly willing to live with the dilemma, and is already plotting his next cinematic tricks. "Tilda and I are thinking of doing an electronic version of *Medea*. I like the idea of coupling with my new discovery of actors with a classic text and a modern medium. I'd like to apply the visual techniques of my video work to a narrative and see what happens."

Rather than set his sights on Hollywood, Maybury is looking just to the north. "I've optioned a book about the early years of counterculture in Haight/Ashbury. I actually think I could do something quite interesting with that." A final drag. A final gush. "I like the idea of filming someone falling down-the DNA strand."



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OUT on TV

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9
US Senate Candidates Forum
9pm Wisconsin Public television stations in Madison, Green Bay, Wausau, Park Falls, La Crosse, Menominee-Eau Claire

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
The Homosexuals
This CBS News' ground breaking and very controversial 1967 documentary will be broadcast for the first time in over 30 years.

The Homosexuals broke a major taboo by becoming the first television documentary on homosexuality. CBS Television Network executives agonized for nearly two years before it was telecast on March 7, 1967, and since no sponsor would participate, commercial breaks were filled by public service spots from the Peace Corps and the IRS.

The program reflects the prevailing view of homosexuality back in the '60s. It focuses on the fear and shame that Gay men felt at that time. It includes interviews with Gays and psychoanalysts whose view of homosexuality was far less advanced than it is today.

The Homosexuals will be telecast on CBS, Saturday, Oct. 10 (4pm-5pm, ET and 10pm-11pm, ET). *The Homosexuals* is being presented as part of the CBS 'Eye On People' weekly series of vintage CBS News documentaries, CBS CLASSICS, anchored by CBS News Correspondent Morley Safer.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
In Through the Out Door

This new series features a comedy troupe comprised solely of Gay and Lesbian comedians. The sketches and stand-up routines address Gay stereotypes, Hollywood's portrayal of Gay people and other timely and hilarious issues. Among the comics included in this show are Lea Delaria, Bob Smith and Susanne Westenhoefer. On Showtime, Sunday, October 11 at 9pm. Also on Tuesday, October 27 at 9pm.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Will and Grace

Sitcom about a Gay lawyer who moves in with his best friend, a straight woman. 8:30pm NBC - check your local listings.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
The Queer Program

Features news and interviews from a Gay Milwaukee perspective. 7pm on Milwaukee Cable channel 47. Rebroadcast Thursday at 4pm and Saturdays at Noon.

Gay by God's Will

Presented by Milwaukee's Metropolitan Community Church. 8pm - Milwaukee Cable channel 47. Rebroadcast Saturday at 2:30am and Sunday at 9am.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16
Lt. Governor and Attorney General Candidates Forum
9pm Wisconsin Public television stations in Madison, Green Bay, Wausau, Park Falls, La Crosse, Menominee-Eau Claire

MONDAY OCTOBER 19
Will and Grace
See October 12 listing.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20
The Queer Program
See October 13 listing.
Gay by God's Will
See October 13 listing.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
In the Life

America's Gay and Lesbian news-magazine series returns to national public television this fall with six all new stories for its fall season premiere. Featured stories include: the referendum on outlawing changing the Hawaiian constitution to ban Gay marriage in the Aloha State; an examination of the controversies over children's books that deal with Gay issues; an assessment of the housing



A scene from *Patience and Sarah* (Lori Phillips and Elaine Valby), an opera about two women from the 1880s.

for Gay and Lesbian senior citizens; a look at R&J, an all male adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, and the Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company which is devoted to producing all women productions of Shakespeare; and *Patience and Sarah*, a new opera about two women who fell in love and shred their lives in the 1800's.

Shown on Milwaukee's Channel 10 at 11pm. Also shown on Wisconsin Public Television on Tuesday, October 27 at 11pm and Duluth Public Television on Thursday, October 29.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23
Governor Candidates Forum

9pm Wisconsin Public television stations in Madison, Green Bay, Wausau, Park Falls, La Crosse, Menominee-Eau Claire.

Touch of Evil

by Steve Stavron

Orson Welles' supremacy as a master cinematographer remains the chief rationale for the recent acclaim that the re-mastered 1958 *Touch of Evil* is receiving. But this is no *Citizen Kane*. Editing improvements do not change the premise of this film as a hard sell — difficult to watch.

The rather uneven story deals with a honeymooning Mexican narcotic agent (Charlton Heston) who witnesses a car bombing in a border town and, while offering to help out, is confronted by a self-righteous, corrupt detective (Welles) with a penchant for planting false evidence (his wife had been brutally murdered) to punish universal guilt.

Heston has been targeting an underworld family, led by Akim Tamiroff, who conveniently arranges to have the young wife (Janet Leigh) kidnapped and drugged at Welles' instigation, since he, too, feels threatened by Heston.

This dense, gnarled admixture of conflicting emotions and unnecessary loopholes is presented in a detached "cinematic" manner, which seems to wash out performance values. The director is more concerned with manipulating his camera than what transpires in front of it — a common failing even in his *Macbeth* and *Othello*.

Lacking real interest in fleshing out his characters (except his own) as he had done in *Kane*, Welles ends up with a brilliant textbook treatise on cinematography that is often curiously static. It may well be a "masterpiece" compared to the flash flood kaleidoscopes of split second crosscut editing that pass for cinema these days, but the precious chunks of Welles "vision" still do not always coalesce into dramatic development.

At times the movie seems like a series of tantalizing curtain raisers designed to taunt us, including a delightful cameo appearance by Marlene Dietrich. Otherwise, we are constantly aware of watching "cinema".

By now everyone knows that Welles' 58 pages of notes inspired changes to improve much needed

coherency. The widely discussed opening tracking shot now seems more menacing, because the doomed car is inadvertently following the unsuspecting honeymooners. However, the final episodes, which include a brilliantly filmed murder and the final demise of the corrupt Welles character, are better.

The cinematography finally breathes life into the action rather than recording it from a distance. Some of the other changes suggested by Welles consist of equalizing the episodes involving Janet Leigh, who is off screen for a long period in the original version.

Although Welles' indifferent approach to his characters is hailed as quintessential film noir, it seems more accurate to describe *Touch of Evil* as his foray into the subjunctive mode of filmmaking. "If we try doing it this way, then maybe—" Or one might say that Welles never finished a cinematic sentence.

However, the film does not lack for unnecessary dialogue, particularly in the middle episodes when a suspect is being interrogated. A stasis sets in which delays cumulative momentum.

Unfortunately, the major stars seem out of place, especially Charlton Heston who had never been this tentative previously. It seems he had no righteous anger remaining from *Ten Commandments*, and was no doubt very uncomfortable with his "Mexican" persona. By contrast, Janet Leigh is foolishly feisty with a maddening lack of danger antennae. She was soon to acquire that in *Psycho*. Akim Tamiroff overacts with his usual accomplished brilliance, never out of place.

Welles' fine performance dominates and intimidates, spilling over the screen like a giant disintegrating amoeba. His acting is not as much over the top as it is larger than life—but so was he, both as personality and artist. Even this imperfect work is never less than masterwork.



Curtain Call



Gutzman's Gay Nightclub Review to Play Milwaukee (and Thailand!)

For the 5th year in a row, Director & Producer Dale Gutzman will take a Gay-themed nightclub revue to Thailand. It will be performed in the Gay supperclub/hotel Le Café Royale, located in the heart of "Boystown" in Pattaya.

However, before embarking on his Southeast Asian theater tour, Gutzman will be previewing his routines locally in order to gauge how it plays before a live audience. This year's revue, *Celebration*, will be performed four times at Milwaukee's only theater-in-the-round, the intimate Circlestage Theatre, which is located at 783 N. Jefferson St. Performances are slated for October 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 8pm each evening.

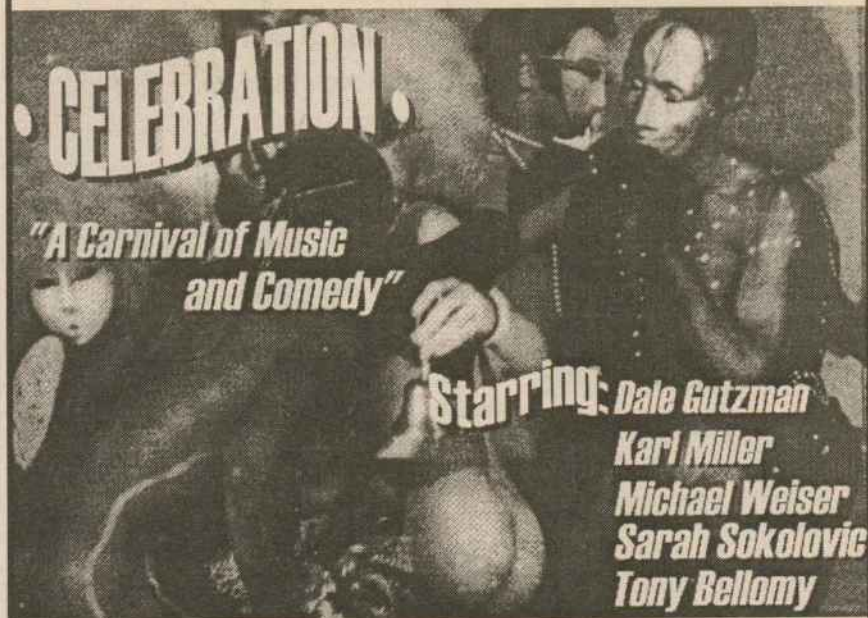
Celebration is being billed as "an hour and a half of song and comedy

with many a Gay slant and twist." The cast will include Mr. Gutzman himself, Karl Miller, Michael Weiser and Sarah Sokolovic. Accompaniment will be provided by pianist Tony Bellomy.

Celebration's highlights include medleys of Frank Sinatra, Burt Bacharach and current Broadway hits, a parody of songs from *The Sound of Music* (with Gutzman playing "Maria von Crapp"), and a raunchy medley from *Cabaret*. As always, Gutzman & Company will run the show with a freewheeling, improvisational manner that pretty much allows anything to happen.

Seating is quite limited at Circlestage, thus orders placed well in advance are recommended. Tickets are \$12 and may be ordered by calling (414) 466-4049.

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An Interview with the Boulevard's Mark Bucher

by John Jahn

Mark Bucher describes the Boulevard Ensemble as "an arts warehouse for new and emerging talent," and claims that in doing so, it "fills a niche in the theater community really not filled by anyone else." The charming, two-storefront theatre is nestled between a thrift store and a liquor store (the latter of which Mark says often comes in handy). Indeed, the liquor store was once Milwaukee's first nickelodeon movie house. The Boulevard Ensemble Theatre is located at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue on Milwaukee's South Side.

What prompted my desire to interview Mr. Bucher was his Milwaukee premiere production of the Gay-themed John Guare play, *Six Degrees of Separation* (to be presented October 9 - November 8). In addition, on October 8 he's having a Gay-la \$30 per person fundraiser to officially open the season and raise money for the company. Tickets and further information can be obtained by calling (414) 744-5757.

WL: Maybe we should begin with a brief autobiographical sketch for the benefit of our readers who may not be familiar with you or your work?

MB: Well, let's see. I attended UWM, I attended Marquette, I acted with the Milwaukee Rep and in the old Pabst Theater. I write for *Art Muscle* and do some freelance writing around town also. I founded the Boulevard Ensemble 13 seasons ago this coming October.

Right from the beginning I was mainly interested in presenting plays that were both challenging and entertaining, and working in a rehearsal manner that was both entertaining and fun - not that it wasn't hard work! Unfortunately, sometimes I had some bad directors to work with, but they ended up actually being some of my best teachers, because bad directors can show you how *not* to direct. Those experiences led me to want to control the productions myself.

I originally started off just doing one show, but we had such good reviews and then people starting ask-

ing, "Well, what are you doing for the rest of your season?" But I hadn't even given any thought to a whole season! So, I hired an administrator, a publicist and a director. I didn't want to do any of those things myself because I was still an actor at that point. But, of course, now I don't act anymore, and now I'm the administrator, publicist, the director and I even clean out the johns.

Our first season eventually had three shows and a total of six performances. After that first season we found this place (south Kinnickinnic & Lincoln), the site of a former adult book store, which explains the bars on the windows, and like I've always said, this place has a history of "performance" behind it!

Over the years we grew from 20 performances to this season, in which we're going to have 104...that's a lot of performances! Today, we're here to present opportunities for emerging talent, and also for women and minorities, however you want to define that. So that's our thrust, so to speak.

WL: Your first production this season is the Gay-themed *Six Degrees of Separation*. For the benefit of our readers who may not be familiar with it, can you give us a brief synopsis?

MB: In *Six Degrees of Separation* by John Guare the lives of two socialite New Yorkers are interrupted by the intrusion of a young, African American male who drops in on their party and claims to go to school with their children who are away at college. He claims he was mugged, so they take him into their house and give him refuge. At this point, he also claims to be the son of actor Sidney Poitier. He's very charming and charismatic, so they welcome him into their home.

Only later on do they discover that he's snuck out and hired a male prostitute, and is not Poitier's son but just a scam artist. They discover that he has scammed some of their friends, so they put their kids on the case to find out what exactly it is he's up to.

I don't want to give away much more than that, but I will tell you that what Guare attacks in this play are issues of identity and the connection of all of us. Are any of us really who we say we are? How much of our lives can we account for? And also the issues of racial, sexual orientation and economic prejudices are examined by Guare with an amusing, absurd touch of comedy.

WL: If our readers are familiar with this story at all, it is probably through the movie from a few years ago as you've mentioned. Would you care to compare and contrast what you're doing with this movie version?

MB: Well, we don't have \$20 million, so that's the first and crucial difference in presenting it! Visually, the movie is very beautiful. But I think it fails to maintain a sense of movement and connection by adding all kinds of little additional scenes (which were not in the original play by Guare). They also tacked on three or four different endings to it. Channing's character is supposed to be discovering that she's really not much better off than Paul (Will Smith's character); that she's been living in a kind of gilded cage. I think that the movie did not bring that out.

The movie version seems to ignore the thrust of the play and has a happy, Hollywood ending. The play doesn't have a happy ending. It has an ambiguous ending, and that's the point of the play: we don't know that we're all connected to each other, and when we try to live like we're not, bad or certainly sad things may result.

WL: Finally, would you like to tell us something about your cast for *Six Degrees of Separation*?

MB: Our cast is about 14 people, only 4 of whom have worked here at the Boulevard Ensemble before, and whom you might say are second tier professional actors.

A wonderful young man named Joseph Mays is Paul the African American supposed son of Sidney Poitier. He came to us totally out of the blue, so he brings a fresh viewpoint. Joe's a Marquette University student of public relations and so will be receiving his baptism of fire. I think he's doing a wonderful job.

WL: That certainly ties in with your mission statement to use new and emerging talent.

MB: Talk about new! Very new! They bring a joy and enthusiasm to a production. Joe Mays and many others will be making their theater debuts. You'll have the chance to support some very good people.

We're very Gay-friendly... many people who have worked here at the Boulevard have emerged on many levels, shall we say. And that's all I'm going to say.

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SPORTS

Who Drove The Wedge Between NAGAAA & Milwaukee?

Commentary by Bob Melig,
Sports Editor

Milwaukee's SSBL, the Saturday Softball League, has resigned from The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). As of December 31, 1998, Milwaukee will no longer be a member of the organization it co-founded 20 years ago.

Do the National Organization and SSBL not get along? NO way! Milwaukee has three members

installed in the NAGAAA hall of fame. A Milwaukee softball person has held at least one of the National Board officer positions since the founding of NAGAAA. Milwaukee hosted two World Series, one at the last minute, when a month before the Series, the host city dropped out. Milwaukee, with so little notice, saved utter embarrassment for NAGAAA. With such ties, why did the SSBL drop out?

It all comes down to a 30ish young man, Jeff Chase, a loose cannon, who has blackened the name of the SSBL. He conducted a "witch hunt" which destroyed Milwaukee's 20-year reputation.

There was more to the disqualification of Milwaukee from the Atlanta World Series than a simple protest that Milwaukee's representative, South Water Street Docks, underrated itself. The tactics used, the kangaroo court atmosphere, the prosecutorial questioning, the riling of teams against Docks, cast the deciding stone. Chase's conduct calls for an immediate firing from the National Board of Directors. Note: I said, "firing." Resignation would be too easy.

NAGAAA in trying to gain control of a sticky situation — how to rate teams — lost its course. The simple solution would have been to split the "C" division into Recreational and Competitive. Instead, NAGAAA recruited Chase, its newly elected National Secretary, to tinker with a revision in the rating system. He lost sight of the goal. He fell in love with a paper form — his form.

Never mind that Chase's player rating form didn't account for individual differences — ages, sex, injury, playing out of position, etc. Never mind that over the years on a national level there has been an appreciation of what a "C" team is — and there is a very real difference from a "B" team. Never mind that the real goal is sportsmanship. By God, those round pegs were going to fit into that square hole, if Chase had to pound them in.

His paper form created an ominous unanticipated result. NAGAAA may very well have to go through endless challenges to its champions every

year. The precedent, deadly as it is, has been set. Thanks from your NAGAAA board, Jeff.

If Docks was not evenly matched with others in the division, this piece would not have been written. San Francisco won 3rd in the C Division last year. Its team played Docks twice. Docks won the prelim 9-1 — no run-away. In the second contest, Docks was behind in the 6th. Docks pulled it out winning 13 to 9.

In the semi-final game, Docks played Boston. Milwaukee barely won 9-4. In the final game, Boston came off a 24-12 win (a big score so late in the tournament — yet, no protest). Milwaukee was down after 5 innings 4 to 2. Docks scored 3 runs in the 6th to go ahead. Clearly, the game showed Docks was within the limits of "C" competition. When there are doubts, let the competition be the determining factor.

Chase wouldn't do that. He became the "enforcer". Milwaukee only sends one team to the World Series. Forget the historical ties. If Milwaukee opts out of NAGAAA, there are 70 others who will still come to the World Series.

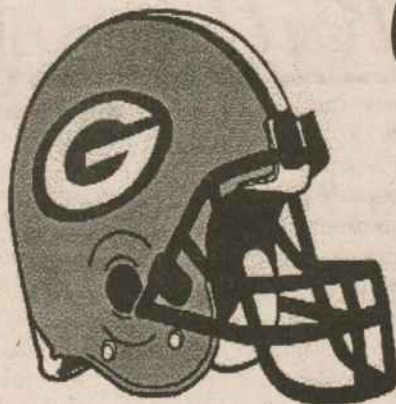
However, he misjudged his strength. Chase found no willing allies among the other teams to mount a protest. So, he filed two protests on his own. The first came during the quarterfinal game. Having lost the first protest, he rallied his friends and made a second protest during the Championship contest.

After a 2-hour meeting, nothing had been decided. NAGAAA, as any national group must, felt compelled to side with its Secretary to preserve a semblance of decorum. Chase had gone over the edge, but all institutions needed to save face publicly. Docks was disqualified — and all this over a form.

Milwaukee hadn't even placed since 1985. Yet, Docks players were verbally assaulted with taunts of "Milwaukee always stacks the deck". There was booing in the stands at the last two games. This cacophony was conducted by teams who could gain by a disqualification. This aided Chase's personal cause, while he sat in the stands. His filing of the second protest during the late innings of the final game fed the American penchant to distrust.

This built until Docks was booed off the field after winning the championship. Hysteria unchecked by NAGAAA was ruling this tournament. This is sportsmanship?

The solution: NAGAAA, cleanse your house. Fire Jeff Chase, now, for what he did — to you and to us.



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dec 20 TENNESSEE	12:00pm
dec 27 at chicago	12:00pm

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CLIP AND SAVE!

Dear Ruthie

What a terrific couple of weeks it's been! Have you attended any of the Absolute Vodka parties? Raffles and Absolute drinks added to the fun of these benefits with proceeds going to the Wisconsin AIDS Fund. I was lucky enough to co-host two of these parties at This Is It and M&M's, and what a fun group at both spots! Make sure you check out the big Absolute party on the 9th of October.

Pearl and Harriet were over Saturday and we noticed a new stud in the courtyard. Well — not really a

new stud — maybe a retired stud. But in any event, there was a stranger in the trailer park who definitely had experience in the stud department sometime in his life. The three of us grabbed several bottles of Harriet Haus and headed outside to meet the guy.

Harriet Haus is Harriet's homemade beer. She went through this beer-making phase after refusing to enroll with Pearl and me in a belly dancing class. Anyway, the stuff tasted awful, so she sold it at a rummage sale. Pearl and I

found that it didn't taste bad after a few martinis, and if worse came to worse, we could resell it at the Senior Citizen Home up the block.

So anyway, we raced over to the new guy and introduced ourselves. I told him my name was Ruthie, and that I was a single gal who loved a stiff drink and a stiffer man. Pearl introduced herself as Doctor Scholl's 1978 Miss Corn Pad, and Harriet just screamed and dashed back to my trailer. The man introduced himself as Tommy and ran a hand through his thick, curly, brown hair.

I unbuttoned the top button on my blouse and Pearl winked at him as she handed him a beer. Suddenly, we

heard a woman call his name. "That's my wife, Sandy," the man explained. I re-buttoned the top of my blouse, and Pearl charged him 50 cents for the beer.

We learned that when not sitting at the M&M Club, Sandy and Tommy lead a wild life. It turns out that Sandy has such a successful Avon business that the two spend most of their time touring America in their trailer, selling Avon products to truckers. They loved the Harriet Haus, and we made enough money off them to buy all of Sandy's Crusty No More elbow cream. They're good neighbors. Speaking of which, let's read this letter.

Dear Ruthie,

There's an older man in my apartment building. Occasionally, his wife asks if I can come lift him off the floor because he fell down. She is too small to help him. I go and lift the man as best as I can to the nearest chair. The problem is that he is very heavy as he doesn't (or can't) use any of his own muscles.

I think that I have even hurt him a few times lifting him the way I do. I heard you weren't supposed to move someone who may already be hurt, so I'm afraid I might seriously hurt him. It's hard to pick him up due to the way he falls. I'm torn between being a good neighbor and hurting this man even more. What do you suggest I do the next time his wife asks for help?

(signed)

Paranoid Paramedic

Dear Paranoid,

A few nights ago I had a gentleman caller spend the night — no it wasn't Tommy! Anyway, from the shower I hear the guy yell, "I've fallen and I can't get up." I told him to help himself to a few Viagra pills, and I'd join him in a minute. Well, the phone rang, and before I knew it, two hours had past.

I found Vinnie lying on the shower floor looking like a 200 lb. hairy raisin. I called 911 and the paramedics were there in no time. After exchanging phone numbers with the cute ambulance driver, I led the paramedic to Vinnie. I was told that it was a good thing I called, as Vinnie cracked a rib, and I could have really damaged it had I picked him up myself.

I understand your concern for good neighbor conduct, but the next time your neighbor needs your help in this matter, I think you better call a professional. Follow her back to her apartment, assess the situation, and explain to her that you are concerned that you could hurt the man even more. Call for help with her and stay there until it arrives.

You and she should then ask the paramedic what to do in future situations. You'll have helped the woman, the man will be safe, and you may walk away with the ambulance driver's phone number.

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STRAY VOLTAGE

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WOW, YOU'RE ONLY WIRED FOR SIXTY AMPS. LOTTA ROXENT DAMAGE TOO, I'M SURPRISED THIS PLACE HAIN'T BURNED TO THE GROUND.

UH... REALLY?

SO, CAN YOU GIVE US AN ESTIMATE?

LEMME GO OUT TO THE TRUCK AND WORK IT UP.

IN A MOMENT... LOOK, I'M NOT ASKING STUART TO MOVE IN. I'M NOT READY FOR THAT KIND OF COMMITMENT. I DON'T CARE HOW BADLY WE NEED THE MONEY.

SPARROW, THIS IS NO TIME FOR INTIMACY ISSUES. JUST THINK OF IT AS HAVING A TEMPORARY ROOMMATE TIL WE PAY OFF THE REPAIRS.

DON'T LECTURE ME ABOUT INTIMACY ISSUES, YOU'RE THE ONE OBSESSED WITH A MARRIED WOMAN. AT LEAST STUART IS AVAILABLE!

WHY DON'T YOU ASK CLARICE TO MOVE IN, GINGER. YOU'RE GENERATING ENOUGH ELECTRICITY WITH YOUR CRUSH, WE WON'T NEED TO REWIRE.

MEANWHILE... THANKS FOR THE BOKES, MORTON! LL CREAM. SHE'S SO EXCITED ABOUT THE MOVE, SHE'S DEVELOPING A CARDBOARD FETISH.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO THRILLED.

I'M A WRECK. I'M THINKING ABOUT GINGER ALL THE TIME. IT'S CRAZY. I'M AFRAID TON KNOWS SOMETHING'S WRONG.

CLARICE, YOU'VE GOTTA RECONCILE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT LEAVING THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IT'S NOT GINGER YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO, IT'S WHAT SHE REPRESENTS, THE CO-OP, THE PARK, THE BLOCK FESTIVAL, THE COMMUNITY!

OH, SO IT'S REALLY THE COMMUNITY'S INNER THIGHS I WANT TO DRIZZLE WITH MAPLE CRÈME ANGLAISE, WHICH I THEN SLOWLY LAP UP WHILE STRADDLING THE DENTALIZING TONGUE OF THE CO-OP.

UH... WELL, SORT OF...

MEANWHILE, IN ST. LOUIS, JEZANNA AND AUDREY ARE PACKING UP JEZ'S FATHER TO COME BACK AND LIVE WITH THEM.

IT'S BEEN LONGER WITHOUT YOUR MAMA, BUT I'M GONNA MISS THIS HOUSE.

YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND. WE HAVEN'T SOLD IT YET, AND I CAN ALWAYS RETURN THE U-HAUL.

UH... LOTTA MEMORIES HERE, HUH, DAD?

REMEMBER THIS BURN MARK ON THE BASEBOARD, FROM THE TIME YOU STUCK THAT PIECE OF ERECTOR SET IN THE OUTLET? YOU WERE ALWAYS POKING INTO SOMETHING.

BACK AT THE RANCH... OF COURSE, THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE REPAIRING THE WALLS AFTER I'M DONE.

I KNOW, MAYBE MY RELUCTANCE TO COMMIT IS A TAD UNHEALTHY.

\$\$\$ INCLUDING UTILITIES.

Biff 'n Bunky by Keith Anderson

I SAID ONE BEDROOM BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT YOU WANTED.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'M USED TO HAVING MY OWN BEDROOM. I'VE BEEN SLEEPING ALONE FOR 20 YEARS.

WELL THEN LET'S GET 2 BEDROOMS AND WE'LL HAVE ROOM FOR BOTH OF OUR DRESSERS AND BEDS...

...AND THAT WAY PEOPLE WILL THINK WE'RE JUST ROOMMATES.

BUT WE'RE NOT JUST ROOMMATES.

AND WHICH ROOM WILL WE SLEEP IN?

HELL, WE LIVE IN TWO DIFFERENT CITIES AND WE'RE SLEEPING TOGETHER NOW...

... IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT TO GET TOGETHER IF WE'RE IN ADJACENT BEDROOMS.

MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen

Jerry - what do you think you're doing?

I'm honing my computer skills on Internet User Groups

"Montague Lewinsky"?

Nobody uses their real name in cyberspace, Mr. Robinson.

We boy interns are dedicated. We work long hours with that personal touch.

Jerry! Get a life!

I am. Several lives. I'm also the fourth Hanson brother - the gay, tone-deaf one.

His name's "Zeppo," isn't it?

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WI Light GOING OUT GUIDE

APPLETON (920)			
Rascal's Bar & Grill	MW, F	702 E. Wisconsin, 54991	954-9262
BELOIT (608)			
Kloset	MW, DJ	232 Shirland Ave, 53511	363-8764
CENTRAL WISCONSIN (715)			
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington, Wausau, 54401	842-3225
Platwood Club	G/S, MW, DJ	1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point, 54481	341-8862
EAU CLAIRE (715)			
Scooters	Wm	411 Galloway St., 54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	MW, G/S	302 E. Madison, 54703	832-9237
GREEN BAY (920)			
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main St., 54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main St, 54304	437-9256
Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway, 54303	432-9646
Sass	WM, S	840 S. Broadway, 54304	437-7277
Za's/Java'	MW, DJ, E, F, V	1106 Main St., 54301	435-5476
RESTAURANTS			
Cafe Bourbon		1106 Main St., Upper, 54301	435-5476
LA CROSSE (608)			
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N. 5th St., 54601	782-9061
Players	G/S, MW	218 Main St., 54601	782-9279
LAKE MILLS (608)			
Cross Roads	G/S, MW	W6642 Hwy. B, 53551	648-8457
MADISON (608)			
Club 5	MW, F	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington, 53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, S, E	121 W. Main St., 53703	251-5838
Planet Q	MW, V, DJ, E	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
Shamrock	MW, F	117 W. Main St., 53703	255-5029
The Barracks	M, L/L	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-8700
RESTAURANTS			
Club 5	Fine Dining	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
MILWAUKEE (414)			
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
Ball Game	M, S	196 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-7474
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National Ave., 53204	643-6900
C'est La Vie	M, D, E	231 S. 2nd St., 53204	291-9600
Club 219	Mw, DJ, E, V	219 S. 2nd St., 53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N. Port Washington, 53212	962-9487
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-DISH
Emeralds Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley St., 53212	265-7325
Fannies	Wm, DJ, E	200 E. Washington St., 53204	649-9003
Fluid	MW	819 S. 2nd St., 53204	645-8330
In Between	Mw, S	625 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-2693
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm, S	1500 W. Scott St., 53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw, DJ, E, V	801 S. 2nd St., 53204	383-8330
M&M Club	MW, E, F	124 N. Water St., 53202	347-1962
Mama Roux	Mw, F	1875 N. Humboldt, 53202	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L, DJ, D	300 W. Juneau, 53203	273-6900
Renez Co-Z Corner II	MW, DJ, E, F	3500 W. Park Hill, 53208	933-RENE
Shaft Bar	M, L/L	300 West Juneau	273-6900
(Open Fri & Sat, 10pm-Close, Dress Code)			
South Water St. Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National Ave., 53204	225-9676
Station 2	Wm, S	1534 W. Grant, 53204	383-5755
This Is It	Mw	418 E. Wells St., 53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National Ave., 53204	383-9412
Woody's	M	1579 S. 2nd St., 53204	672-0806
RESTAURANTS			
Annex Cafe	Late Nite	1106 S. 1st St., 53204	384-7999
Glass Menagerie	Fine Dining	124 N. Water St., 53202	347-1962
RACINE/KENOSHA (414)			
Club 94	MW, DJ, E	9001 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140	857-9958
Filling Station	MW, Food, DJ	6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140	857-3744
JoDee's	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St., Racine, 53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St., Racine, 53403	632-0171
SHEBOYGAN (414)			
Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St., 53081	457-1636
SUPERIOR (715)			
JT's Bar & Grill	MW, DJ	1506 N. 3rd St, 55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave., 55880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave., 55880	392-5373

KEY Is your listing and code(s) correct? If not, call us at (414) 226-0075.

M	Men	E	Entertainment
W	Women	F	Food
L/L	Levi/Leather	S	Sports Bar
D	Dancing	V	Video
DJ	Disc Jockey	G/S	Gay/Straight

Night's Out

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
M&M Club (Milwaukee), Singational Karaoke.
Oberons Club Night (Milwaukee), 1100 Club.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
BestD Clinic HIV Travelling Testing Clinic (Milwaukee), M&M Club, 124 N. Water St., Noon to 3pm.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Napalese Lounge (Green Bay), The return of Monday Night Bingo, 9pm sharp.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
Fluid (Milwaukee), Libra Party, 9pm, tarot card readings, prove you're a Libra and get a free gift.
In Between (Milwaukee), Patrick's Birthday Party, 9:30, Food, prizes & raffles.
BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinics (Milwaukee), 10pm-1am, Boot Camp Saloon, 209 East National Avenue.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
1100 Club (Milwaukee), Traveling Sheepshead Tournament, sign-up at 2:30, play cards at 3pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
M&M Club (Milwaukee), Singational Karaoke.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
Fannies (Milwaukee), Live music featuring Ronnie Nyles, 9:30pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
M&M Club (Milwaukee), Miss Evileen's H.I.T. Benefit Show.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
M&M Club (Milwaukee), Miss Evileen's H.I.T. Benefit Show.
M&M Club (Milwaukee), Jazz Vocalist Joey Cross with piano & drums.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
Napalese Lounge (Green Bay), The return of Monday Night Bingo, 9pm sharp.



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Bar Guide information is updated monthly. If you have changes, please fax 414/226-0096 or mail them to: WI Light, 225 South 2nd Street, Milw., WI 53204. SORRY, we will not list retail stores in the Bar Guide.

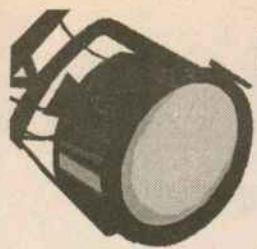


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The Night Light

News... George Prentice, co-owner of **La Cage**, cracked up his racecar during a race in St. Louis. He was doing well in the race at the time, too. Anyway... he came into the bar and all these people kept coming up and slapping him on the back or trying to rub his shoulders since he was hunched up. Problem was that George had wrenched his neck in the accident. OUCH!

George was feeling pretty poorly for a few days, but then he finally went to a doctor, who told him had a concussion.

George will be okay, but the \$40,000 car is a total loss. His business partner, Cory Grubb, upon learning this was heard to say, "And I thought I would get yelled at for spending too much to have the carpets cleaned." The insurance George had on the car doesn't cover accidents during races.

But cars can be replaced, insured or not. Not so with George.

Jimmy, co-owner of **Fluid**, took a trip to San Francisco. His biz partner, Bill, said he thought Jimmy was looking for some slaves to bring back, but we thought it was more likely that he'd bring a master.

We hear that **Kirby's Klub** wants to move. If they do, it apparently won't

be too far. In fact it will be just a few doors down on Main Street. Hmm... now that **Manoeuvres** closed, moved away from downtown and reopened as **Club 5**, maybe the Kirby folks see a chance to become THE bar with a bigger space downtown.

Rick Koval owner of **The Ball Game** turned 69! A huge crowd turned out to help him celebrate the occasion with a surprise birthday party on Sunday, October 4. I know I was surprised. I had no idea that he was even in his 60's let alone a 69'er. Okay so I couldn't resist saying that. The rest of us should look that good and be that energetic at that age. Happy B-Day Rick and many happy returns.

Speaking of **Club 5**, I hear that it is going great guns. There were those who said a lot of people wouldn't take the few minutes of extra time to drive to the new digs. Maybe there are a few, but my spies tell me that if there are, they aren't missed by the large crowds that are heading there.

When the SSBL pulled out of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance due to NAGAAA's disqualification of our World Series champion, **South Water Street Docks**, the rumor was that at least one bar sponsor, Bob Schmidt of the **M&M Club**, was not happy about the deci-

sion. But at the SSBL meeting, M&M Coach Chuck Braatz let the group know in no uncertain terms that Schmidt, having read the letter sent by the league to protest what happened to the Docks' team, had no problems with ending Milwaukee's 20-year affiliation with the group. Milwaukee was a founding member of NAGAAA.

The letter was a four-page listing of what had happened during the World Series. After it was distributed to the managers and sponsors, there were quite a few people who were even angrier with NAGAAA than they were in the first place.

Coming Up... On Saturday, October 10, **Singsational** is doing their regular gig at the M&M Club. I am going to stop in and say, "hi." But don't expect me to sing along. Last time I did, the phone never stopped ringing. It's hard to tell the **Backstreet Boys** that you don't want to join their group. All right, so it wasn't the **Backstreet Boys**, it was the back alley boys. Okay, they didn't want me to join their group; they threatened to beat me up if I ever disturbed the peace again. But they did call.

On Monday, October 12, Green Bay's **Napalese Lounge** brings you "The Return of Monday Night Bingo." Kinda sounds like a horror movie title.

I hear that this is a pretty popular event, so you might want to arrive early. The numbers — for the bingo cards — start rolling out at 9ish.

Wednesday, October 14, **Fluid** is holding a "Libra party." There will be tarot card readings, so instead of getting your beads read, you can get your cards read. Prove you're a card carrying Liberal, oops Libra, and you get a gift. No, Bill is not giving away his chest hairs or any part of his anatomy either (sigh).

Saturday, October 17, the **1100 Club** will be the site for the **Sheepshead Traveling Tournament**. Sign up is at 2:30pm and play starts at 3pm. **Sheepshead** is the one card game where you can never have too many queens, so stop by and enjoy. This tournament travels from Green Bay to Milwaukee, so there will be some fresh victims, er I mean some new faces and hands, to play with.

Friday, October 23 the fabulous **Ronnie Nyles** will be at **Fannies**. Ronnie is a great singer, and she is from Wisconsin. So, if you are looking for some good live music that night, stop by and listen.

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

WI Light OUT and ABOUT



Fabulous faces at Madison's Club 5/Planet Q.

WI Light photos by Ron Geiman



Miss Gay Great Lakes at Large USA, Celeste Olds, hosted entertainers at Madison's Club 5/Planet Q.

WI Light photos by Ron Geiman



Events Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Madison Art Center (Madison), Surreal Wisconsin Surrealism and It's legacy in Wisconsin Art, 211 State St., (608)257-0158. Continues through Nov. 15.

DeRicci Gallery, Edgewood College (Madison), *Fragments of Time* rich textural machine embellished fiber surfaced art by Patricia Kroth. 855 Woodrow St. Through Oct. 16.

UW Madison School of Dance (Madison), *Odyssey*, A premiere multi media adaptation of Homer's epic with guest artists, 8pm, Lathrop Hall, UW. Continues on 9th and 10th.

NCOD Event, Hate Crimes Prevention Workshop & Panel Discussion (Madison), UW Madison Memorial Union, see TITU. An explanation of the process of reporting and prosecuting LGBT specific hate crimes.

Gallery 218 (Milwaukee), Lisa Gima, printmaker exhibition *Planktonic Spirit*. Runs through Nov. 1. 218 S. 2nd St. FMI (414)535-7886.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre (Milwaukee), 13th Season Premiere presentation, John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* Opening night champagne reception, 8pm. 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, (414)744-5757.

Alverno College (Milwaukee), Dan Hurlin *The Shoulder* with Dan Moses Schreier, 8pm, Pitman Theatre, \$14-16. An original chamber opera about a man's trip on a riding lawn mower across the state of Iowa. (\$14)382-6044.

Gay Wrestling Club (Madison), New members welcomed, 8pm, (608)244-8675 (eves) Every Friday.

Gallery H2O (Milwaukee), *PrideFest Portfolio*, a photographic celebration of WI. LGBT Pride by photographer Douglas Krimmer. 221 N. Water St, through Nov. 1st.

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee), Film Benefit, Matinee screening at 1pm (\$5) and benefit screening with party at 7pm (\$10). *Death of a Corner Drugstore*, a video documentary which depicts the last days of Milwaukee's Oriental Drugstore. Allis' Margaret Rahill Great Hall.

NCOD Event, 10% Society Dance (Madison), UW Memorial Union Great Hall, 8pm. DJ, cash bar, \$3. Open to UW system students, faculty and guests.

Michael H. Lord Gallery (Milwaukee), Misaki Ando Mixed Media, Opening Reception tonight from 6-8pm. 420 E. Wisconsin Avenue.

Tap It New Works (Madison), *Face the Music* with musician-songwriter Jim Schwall, with Donna Peckett and Daneille Dresden, 8pm, \$9, 1957 Winebago St. (608)244-2938. Continues tomorrow evening.

Harry W. Schwartz Bookstore (Milwaukee), Author appearance and signing featuring Dan Savage of *Savage Love*, 8pm.

UW-Whitewater Young Auditorium (Whitewater), Romanovsky & Phillips live in concert, Gay humor and music in their *Let's Flaunt It* world tour.

7:30pm, sponsored by Party at Lrv's, tickets at (414)472-2222. Concert is preceded by an hour of live piano music and refreshments at the Auditorium's Fern Young Terrace.

MGLO NCOD Event (Marshfield (Central WI)), Coming Out Day House Party with dancing. Bring a dish to pass and a CD. 130 S. Central Ave, #3. (715)384-6731.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

East Town Farm Market (Milwaukee), Cathedral Square Park, 7:30am-12:30pm through Oct. 17.

Ko-Thi Dance Company (Milwaukee), Studio/Community Classes, every Saturday at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts, African American dance for ages 5-105. (414)273-0676.

Madison Symphony Orchestra (Madison), Symphony performance conducted by John DeMain featuring Robert McDuffe, violinist. Oscar Mayer Theatre, Madison Civic Center, 8pm tonight (tickets \$20-42), 2:30pm, Oct. 11 (tickets \$15-35). (608)266-9055. Prelude discussion in the Spotlight Room at 7pm Sat., and 1:30 on Sun.

Pabst Theatre (Milwaukee), Celebrate 150 years of Wisconsin statehood with the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's *30th Star*, 8pm. A songwriting account describing the state with songs, dramatic readings, storytelling and photos. Box Office, 144 E Wells St., or Phonecharge at (414)286-3663.

Madison Gay Video Club (Madison), *In & Out & Manwatcher* 8pm, (608)244-8675 (eves).

Latino Arts Inc (Milwaukee), Mariachi Mass, *Mis con el Mariachi Cobre*, in the restored Basilica of St. Josephat, 2233 S. 6th St. 4:30pm, free admission.

NCOD Event, Dyke Dance (Madison), UW Memorial Union Tripp Commons, 8pm. DJ, cash bar, \$3. Open to self-identified women from the UW system, students, faculty and guests.

NCOD Event, 2nd Annual Coming Out Day Dance (Milwaukee), New location - Turners Restaurant, 1034 N. 4th St. 8pm, Singles \$10, couples \$15. This semi-formal dance hosted by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will feature an Out-Coming Court, music, both alcohol and non-alcohol bars. Call (414)483-4710 for advance tickets or FMI. Sponsored by ARCW and LAMM.

Borders Book Shop West & Cafe (Madison), Author appearance and signing featuring Dan Savage of *Savage Love*, 7:30pm. 3416 University Avenue. (608)232-2600.

Survival/Revival's Street Beat (Milwaukee), Fashion extravaganza, featuring performance art, fashion, shopping and dancing to live music by Immortal Plants, Morse Code and Lonestar YoDells. 8pm, hosted by Sister Cash Box and BJ Daniels. Benefit ARCW. 291-2856. \$10/\$8 students.

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

DeNiro and the Drag Queen...

Despite the *Batman and Robin* debacle, fey director Joel Schumacher is still able to attract big names to his projects, with **Robert DeNiro** attached to his latest work. Schumacher wrote and will direct *Flawless*, about a retired security guard — DeNiro — whose recovery from a stroke includes vocal sessions with a drag queen.

Philip Seymour Hoffmann (who played the nerdy techie obsessed with Dirk Diggler in *Boogie Nights*) was just signed to play the drag queen who, believe it or not, forms an unlikely bond with DeNiro's gruff working class character. I must say I'm looking forward to hearing one of the *GoodFellas* sing show tunes.

Honorary Queer... Hetero star **Robert Downey Jr.** is making quite a living playing Gay in movies such as *Home for the Holidays*. He's at it again in James Toback's upcoming film, *Black and White*, which stars Brooke Shields as a documentary filmmaker chronicling two white Manhattan teens' obsession with hip-hop. Downey Jr., who was in Toback's last movie, *Two Girls and a Guy*, portrays Brooke's queer husband.

The Fashionable Miss DeGeneres... Ellen returns to the spotlight October 27th to host VH-1's Fashion Awards. Fortunately, it seems her departure from the closet left room for better wardrobe decisions.

Whoizit?... He plays the All-American boyfriend on one of those "TGIF" sitcoms, and his face is a mainstay in teenybopper mags. But teen idoldom comes with a price, as said young actor discovered during a recent outing to West Hollywood's "Boystown." Hoping to remain anonymous in the crowded clubs, the late teens star was anything but — as boy-crazy patrons were quick to notice his presence, causing a quick departure.

Accolades for Elton... John's new Disney-produced musical *Elaborate Lives: The Legend of Aida*, previewed recently in Atlanta, the pop star's part-time home. The project re-teams the designated mourner with Lion King lyricist Tim Rice. Advance word is excellent. Expect to see the show premiere on Broadway sometime next year.

Beauty or Beast?... Stardom has brought fame, fortune, and self-confidence for recently outted actor **Kevin Spacey** (he won't confirm or deny the rumor). So his latest project shouldn't be much of a stretch. *American Beauty* is a dark comedy starring Spacey as a working class lug with a loveless marriage and boring job who transforms

himself into a hunk.

Debbie Does Dyke?... Wholesome '80s popster **Deborah** (formerly **Debbie**) **Gibson** continues her career makeover that began with Broadway musicals and is now taking her to the big screen. Her new film, due later this month in limited release, is a Gay comedy called *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*, in which Debbie plays the jilted lesbian. Maybe she'll write a song about it.

Will it Fly?... The first episodes of NBC's allegedly groundbreaking sitcom *Will and Grace* give some indication as to how the Gay angle will be played, er, underplayed. From watching the premiere, it's easy to miss the fact that lawyer Will Truman is even Gay — a fact that straight actor **Eric McCormack** admitted recently. The sitcom will eventually address his character's sexuality, though it won't be a big issue since, unlike Ellen Morgan, Will has been out of the closet for a while.

Famed television director James Burrows (who'll helm the first 13 *Will and Grace* episodes) has been quoted as saying the show is primarily about two friends, one of whom happens to be Gay. But he hinted that Will and Grace might be the first TV show to feature a man-on-man kiss, though not until the public is "comfortable" with McCormack's character. Of course, that all depends on the unlikelihood of the show surviving its tough competition, namely Fox's *Ally McBeal* juggernaut.

Inside Biz... Former Warner Bros. marketing chief Chris Pula, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Seven*, who is openly Gay, is in talks to head a new "genre division" within the aforementioned company. If all goes through, Pula will be the only openly Gay man in Hollywood in such a high position, with the ability to green-light several films a year.

Coming Soon... The advance word on some hot upcoming Gay-themed releases isn't great. The British press is lambasting Gay filmmaker Todd Haynes' latest, *Velvet Goldmine*, which explores the music and the open sexuality of the '70s glam rock movement. Still, I'm curious about the film, what with hotties like **Ewan McGregor**, *Trainspotting*, and **Christian Bale**, *Empire of the Sun*, playing key roles and with Haynes' strong track record (*Poison*, *Safe*).

Romeo San Vicente, who's looking for an intern to call his own, can be reached care of this publication or at RSVicente@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.Gay.net.

see **CALENDAR** on page 27



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OUT in Print

Coming Out Day: Sunday, October 11th

by Carl M. Szatmary

Held every year October 11, National Coming Out Day commemorates the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Community organizations across the country plan events and provide public education campaign on radio, television and in magazines. With hundreds of events in all 50 states, National Coming Out Day increases visibility and raises awareness about equal rights for Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

National Coming Out Day also provides an opportunity for each and every one of us to examine the need for and the means of "coming out" in our own lives. On the "coming out" bookshelves in community bookstores, as well as selections in many of the larger chain book stores, individuals will be able to find a wealth of resources, from classic "how-to" titles to many and quite varied personal testimonies.

Readers will find two new prominent and particularly noteworthy titles, Andrew Tobias'

The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up (Random House HC \$23.95) and Chastity Bono's *Family Outing* (Little, Brown HC \$24).

Generations of Gay men have found inspiration in Tobias' classic coming-of-age, coming out story, *The Best Little Boy in the World* first published in 1973 under the pseudonym John Reid. That John Reid was really best selling financial writer Andrew Tobias who would emerge only many, many years later. Now, in *The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up*, Tobias reveals his continued story. With surprising warmth and candor, Tobias includes many accounts of love and heartbreak as well as including such political episodes as coming out to the President of the United States.

In 1990 the supermarket tabloid *The Star* outed Chastity Bono. Although she had come out to her show biz family (Sonny being more supportive than was mom Cher), Chastity recoiled from the publicity and retreated back into the closet for five years before coming out publicly in a cover story printed in the popular LesBiGay newsmagazine, *The Advocate*. In *Family Outing*, Chastity reveals her own dramatic story in addition to providing sound and safe advice for those thinking about coming out.

Also new this year are two intriguing anthologies chronicling the high school recollections of Gay men and Lesbians. Clifford Chase's *Queer 13* (Weisbach/Morrow HC \$24) has a notable list of Gay and Lesbian writers, including Andrew Holleran, Jacqueline Woodson, Rebecca Brown and Michael Lowenthal, who reveal

their deepest, darkest memories of seventh grade, from gym class and kissing parties to obsessive crushes and after-school pummelings.

Popular editor Kevin (*One Teacher in Ten*) Jennings is back with a new collection of essays, *Telling Tales Out of School* (Alyson Pb \$13.95). In these personal memoirs, over thirty Gays, Lesbians and bisexuals look back at their high school days with a mixture of wry humor and acknowledged pain that made them hopeful for a better life beyond school.

While many books focus on how to come out as a teen, what about those individuals whose awareness comes later in life? Linda Handel's *Now That You're Out of the Closet* (Pilgrim Press HC \$20.95) opens the door to a consistent, mature lifestyle for Gay men and Lesbians living in a heterosexual world. As a former spouse in a heterosexual marriage, a mother of two and a licensed therapist, Handel, is able to explore the full spectrum of life concerns with a refreshing honesty and directness.

The following list includes a wide spectrum of titles which explore the "coming out" process, from such timeless titles (and in some cases revised versions) as Rob Eichberg's *COMING OUT: An Act of Love*, Ann Heron's *TWO IN TWENTY: Writings by Gay & Lesbian Youth*, and Brian McNaught's *ON BEING GAY* to books specifically for family and friends such as *Now That You Know* by Betty Fairchild and Don Clark's *Loving Someone Gay*.

Additional Titles

Free Your Mind by Ellen Bass and Kate Kaufman

Positively Gay: New Approaches to Gay Life and Setting Them Straight, by Betty Berzon

Try This at Home!: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Winning Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights by Matthew Cole

Joining the Tribe: Growing Up Gay & Lesbian in the '90s by Due, Linnea

Beyond Acceptance revised ed.; by Carolyn Griffin et al.

Reclaiming Your Life: The Gay Man's Guide to Love, Self-Acceptance, and Trust by Rik Isensee

Coming Out Every Day by Bret K. Johnson

On Being Gay by Brian McNaught

Is It a Choice? by Eric Marcus

Does Your Mama Know: Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories by Lisa Moore

...And Then I Became Gay by Ritch Savin-Williams

Not Like Other Boys by Marlene Fanta Shyer and Christopher Shyer



CALENDAR continued from page 26

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

National Coming Out Day (Nationwide), Come out to someone you love!!!

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee), 1584 N. Prospect, (414)276-5760, 3pm. Faculty Artists Series. Master flamenco guitarist Peter Baime and a guest dancer.

Plymouth Church Benefit Concert for PFLAG (Milwaukee), 7pm, featuring jazz historian and pianist Tim Clausen. Tickets \$5 at the door, all proceeds benefit PFLAG-Milwaukee. Refreshments follow the concert. 2717 E. Hampshire Avenue.

NCOD Event, Sneak Preview of A Home Of Our Own (Milwaukee), The new Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., opens its doors from Noon to 3pm for a speak peek and to check out the work in progress while the Center prepares for its November opening.

NCOD Event, PFLAG Workshop (Madison), LGBT Campus Center, 406 W. Gilman, 7pm. The Parents, Friends, Families of Lesbians and Gays organization facilitates a discussion on its important work.

Cross Lutheran Church Coming Out Sunday (Milwaukee), Special multid denominational day of celebration. Three events: 9:30am Worship Service with special guest preacher, Deborah Click, founder of PRISM Ministries. 11:15am Meet the Guest session and learn about Deborah's struggle after a congregation member outed her and she was removed. 2:30pm program *The Road to the Rainbow: Celebrating our Strides Together*. 1821 N. 16th St., (414)344-1746.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Afterwords Books & Espresso Bar (Milwaukee), Reading group attacks Ulysses G. Dietz' *Desmond*.

NCOD Event, OutReach Open House (Madison), The perfect opportunity to meet the staff and board, see the offices, and learn about new services., Refreshments provided, 4-6pm, 14 W Mifflin St., Suite 103.

NCOD Events: 5th Annual Public Officials Reception & NCOD Awards (Milwaukee), First Unitarian Church Community Room, 1342 N. Astor, 5:30pm. Hosted by the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays. Reception offers a perfect chance to talk directly with your local public officials. The Awards follow the reception and honor the significant contributions and commitment of those who have been out and supportive in the Milwaukee LGBT community.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Milwaukee Art Museum (Milwaukee), 1:30pm, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive. Gallery Talk, informal tour of the Auction artworks by MAM Director Russell Bowman. Free with admission.

NCOD Event: Before Stonewall: A History of the Gay and Lesbian Press (Madison), UW Campus Memorial Library, 4:30pm. Lecture featuring Dr. Roger Streitmatter, Journalism Professor at American University and author of *Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America* (1995).

NCOD Event: AIDS, Love and Staying Alive (Madison), UW Campus (Call 256-8361 for time and location). Scott Fried, author of *If I Grow Up* shares his compassion and knowledge as an HIV+ Jew. Presented by the Jewish Grek Council and Hillel.

NCOD Event: Jean-Marie Salem Performance (Madison), UW Campus (Location TBA, call 256-8361), 7pm. Artist and musician whose work explores being an African American Lesbian in a white man's world.

NCOD Event: How to Achieve a Feminine Voice (Madison), OutReach, 14 W. Mifflin, Suite 103 (Time to be announced, call 255-8582) Transgender issues workshop.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Fest City Singer Open Call (Milwaukee), Milwaukee's LGBT cabaret group is recruiting actors and singers of all genders for it's January musical revue. Experience is desirable but not necessary. Rehearsals every Wednesday at 7:30pm, 2311 N. Booth St., FMI (414)263-SING.

Let's Talk About Sex! Politics of Sex in the '90s (Milwaukee), Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd Street, 7pm, Hosted by the Community Center. Panel discussion looking at how sex, gender, and orientation affect our perception of day to day events.

Family Service Assn. of the Fox Valley (FSA) (Menasha), Free 90 minute workshop for LGBT's and families, 1488 Kenwood Center, FMI (414)739-4226. This weeks topic: Parenting skills.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Boulevard Ensemble (Milwaukee), 13th Season premiere with John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*. Every Thursday at 7:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm. Sunday, Oct 18 at 7:30., Tickets from \$10-15. 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., (414)744-5757.

Free Flu Shots (Milwaukee), Provided by Gay and Lesbian Nurses association and their sponsors. M&M upstairs banquet room from 6-9pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Wild Space Dance Company (Milwaukee), *Heartland* a choreographed premiere by Allyson Green and Danceres (NYC) with Wild Space, plus other premieres and a reprise dance concert. 8pm, Alverno College, Pittman Theater. Continues Oct. 17th. FMI call (414)271-0307.

Gallery H2O (Milwaukee), Opening Reception of *PrideFest Portfolio*, a photographic celebration of WI. LGBT Pride by photographer Douglas Krimmer. 221 N. Water St, through Nov. 1st. Tonights reception features music by The Dangers from 6-10pm.

9to5 National 25th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon (Milwaukee), Milwaukee Anniversary Luncheon features former Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder as the keynote speaker. Other speakers of a diverse background will address the common thread of leadership. Midwest Express Center. For more information and tickets call (414)274-0925.

see **CALENDAR** on page 28

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee), Classic Movies in a Classic Mansion, Margaret Rahill Great Hall. Celebrating Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial with Wisconsin's Movie Stars. The Egg & I, 1947. 7:30pm, Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets \$3, children and members \$1.

Circle Stage Theatre (Milwaukee), Dale Gutzman and Company in *Celebration*, a Carnival of Music and Comedy. 783 N. Jefferson St, tickets \$15, call (414)466-4049. Also tomorrow night.

Gallery 218 (Milwaukee), Gallery Night Reception, 7-10pm. Lisa Gima, printmaker exhibition, *Planktonic Spirit*. Runs through Nov. 1. 218 S. 2nd St. FMI (414)535-7886.

Not-for-Profit Forum Deadline (Madison), Forum will be held November 18 and will address pre-eminent issues facing organizations today and into the 21st Century. Develop tools, strategies and competencies to fulfill your mission in a changing and competitive environment. Cost is \$85 and includes instruction, materials and brochure. Call UW-Oshkosh Divn. of Continuing Education at (920)424-1129 or (800)633-1442.

Frontiers Men's Group Dining Out (Madison), Imperial Garden Chinese Restaurant, 2039 Allen Blvd, 7:30pm. Call Randy at (608)278-9708 to make arrangements. Pre-dinner cocktails at the Shamrock Bar at 6pm.

Michael H. Lord Gallery (Milwaukee), Gallery Night — Misaki Ando Mixed Media, Reception tonight from 6-9pm. 420 E. Wisconsin Avenue.

Tap It New Works (Madison), *Face the Music* with vocalist Lynette with interwoven stories by Danielle Dresden and dance by Donna Peckett. 8pm, \$9, 1957 Winebago St. (608)244-2938. Continues tomorrow evening.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Milwaukee Art Museum (Milwaukee), 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive. Live auction and black-tie dinner-dance, 6:30pm-Midnight. FMI (414)224-3815.

Alverno Fine Arts Festival (Milwaukee), 3401 S. 39th Street, \$2, 10am-4pm. 50+ artists exhibit and sell paintings, sculptures, textiles, jewelry and other works. Food available all day. FMI (414) 382-6090.

Art Elements Gallery (Mequon), *Interiors* - 32 artists present furniture, lighting, screens and home accessories. 10050 N. Pt. Washington Rd. (414)241-7040. Through Nov. 21.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (Milwaukee), The Wisconsin Premiere of *Skylight*, a chamber piece by David Hare. Through November 1 in the Cabot Theatre. 158 N. Broadway, (414)291-7800. Tickets range from \$19-25.

Harvest of Hope ARCW Benefit Dinner (Eau Claire), Dinner, Voice Auction, and Volunteer of the Year Award dinner with Honorary Chair Congressman Ron Kind and M.C. Judy Clark of WEAU-

TV-13. Ramada Inn-Eau Claire. Tickets are \$50 per person, to make reservations by credit card (715)836-7710 or (800)750-2437.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
PFFLAG (Madison), Meetings held at 1704 Roberts Court, Friends Meeting House, 2-4pm (608)256-4687. This month first half of meeting is sharing and support, second half - How do we respond in this political climate?

Bi Youth (Milwaukee), Meets at 7pm at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St.

Angel of Hope MCC (Green Bay), 1st Anniversary celebration in their Libal Street church. Special service at 11am, followed by a broasted chicken dinner with the works, including a special cake. Bring a dish to pass.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
Lakeshore Gallery (Shorewood), An impressionistic art show featuring the works of Frederick McDuff, Janet Lippmann, Nancy Sims and Buck Nelligan through November 13. 4401 N. Oakland Ave. (414)964-2540.

Positive Voice (Green Bay), General Membership Meeting, will be held in Appleton to demonstrate the commitment to GLEEDA members. Liberty Hall Conference Center in Kimberly, 6:30pm. FMI (920)435-4404.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
Bi Definition (Milwaukee), Social/Discussion, topic: Coming Out as Bisexual, BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 7pm.

Frontiers Men's Halloween Bash (Madison), Buffet supper and cocktails, costumes encouraged for this pre-bar party. 7:30pm, call Larry at (608)244-8675 for details.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
Zeidler Park (Milwaukee), 11:45am-1:45pm. Great Music: Lenny Waraksa Quartet.

Fest City Singer Open Call (Milwaukee), Milwaukee's LGBT cabaret group is recruiting actors and singers of all genders for it's January musical revue. Experience is desirable but not necessary. Rehearsals every Wednesday at 7:30pm, 2311 N. Booth St., FMI (414)263-SING.

Family Service Assn. of the Fox Valley (FSA) (Menasha), Free 90 minute workshop for LGBT's and families, 1488 Kenwood Center, FMI (414)739-4226. This weeks topic: Taking Shame Out of Sexual Orientation in the Family System.

St. Norbert College/DePere (Green Bay), Openly Gay former major league baseball umpire Dave Pallone, author of *Behind the Mask*, appears. Free. Call (920)403-3950. Sponsored by the Colleg's cultural diversity program and Positive Voice.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum (Milwaukee), Kenro Izu: *Light Over Ancient Angkor*, 65 large platinum-palladium photographic prints of the 12th century Cambodian temple. Opening from 5-8pm, Refreshments, music.

Free Flu Shots (Milwaukee), Provided by Gay and Lesbian Nurses association and their sponsors. M&M upstairs banquet room from 6-9pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
UW Madison School of Dance (Madison), Peggy Choy Dance Concert, Madison Civic Center Spotlight Room, 8pm.

Re-Formed Congregation of the Goddess-Intl. (Madison), Author of *When The Drummers Were Women*, Layne Redmond. Weekend event. th rough Oct. 25. On-site registration is \$175. Friday, 7:30pm, First Sound and Being in Rhythm; meditations, slide presentation and performance \$15. Sat., and Sun. Intensive Frame Drum Workshop, 10am-5pm both days.

Circle Stage Theatre (Milwaukee), Dale Gutzman and Company in *Celebration*, a Carnival of Music and Comedy. 783 N. Jefferson St, tickets \$15, call (414)466-4049. Also tomorrow night.


Tap It New Works (Madison), *Face the Music* as Joan Wildman and Jane Reynolds interpret their own keyboard and electronic compositions. With word and dance by Danielle Dresden and Donna Peckett. 8pm, 1957 Winebago St. \$9 (608)244-2938. Continues tomorrow evening.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
Bel Canto Chorus (Milwaukee), Season premiere concert under the direction of Music Director Richard Hynson with soloist Debra DeNoon. 8pm, Alverno College's Pittman Theatre, 3401 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. (414)476-6640.

UW Madison School of Dance (Madison), *Dancing for the Camera* featuring cutting-edge dance film and videos from around the world. Presented by Asst. Professor Douglas Rosenberg, 7:30pm, Lathrop Hall, UW.

Ministry with G&L Persons & Families (Milw), Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, 2366 N. 80th St., welcomes all to participate in a day long workshop. Special Guest Sylvia Thorson-Smith, author of *Reconciling the Broken Silence: The Church in Dialogue on Gay and Lesbian Issues* conducts workshop and discussions from 9:45am to 3pm. \$10 includes lunch, call (414)475-4211 for tickets and info.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Blvd. Ensemble's New Alley Series (Milwaukee), Wilder Wilder, featuring two one-act plays by Thornton Wilder, *The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden* & *The Long Christmas Dinner* 7:30pm, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. (414)744-5757. Every Sunday and Monday through Nov. 9th.

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So... Now that I've been healthy enough to go back to work two months ago, not only have I been busy in the office, but my life has filled with more activities. What's strange is that lately it's been AIDS, AIDS and more AIDS. Just can't seem to get away from dealing with it one way or the other.

First, I was asked to join a group who would look into our crystal ball and help the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) plan for the future. The state has a consultant (kinda looked like a leaner version of a graying Christopher Reeves) traveling around visiting the different AIDS Service Organizations and doing evaluations with staff, volunteers and clients.

As clients of ARCW-Milwaukee (this ASO is getting to be like the UW system... branches everywhere) we were asked to assess what they offer now, how well they provide it and what changes I perceived needed to be made for the future.

So... I was the White Gay Male client, there was a White Heterosexual Male IV Drug/Alcohol User client and a Hispanic Heterosexual Woman IV Drug User. Several others didn't show up... We needed a Gay Black Man, an Urban Heterosexual Black Woman, a Youth (any Ethnicity or Gender would do), and a Suburban Grandmother to round out the spectrum that makes up AIDS in the late '90s.

Second, I started my new expanded access (not yet FDA approved) HIV anti-retrovirals on September 24: Preveon (adefovir/bis-POM PMEA) and Abacavir (1592U89). Those were added to my current regimen, which includes: Zerit (stavudine/d4T), Viramune (nevirapine), and Hydroxyurea. Five drugs go into this old dog's HAART (Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy)... but at least every one of them is either once or twice a day dosing, with or without food, which makes life So much easier.

Third, I had an educational and interesting time attending and participating in the State HIV/AIDS Conference in the Madison suburb of Middleton September 27-29. Over 400 doctors, nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, AIDS educators and activists were at the Marriott. (A typical open atrium Hyatt-style clone design.)

I reconnected with many people I knew from around the state, and others I wished I knew. With a capital "K". Sorry Mom, I didn't find myself a doctor for a husband... much less a companion to share my king-sized bed. Oh well, we had to be "in class" by 8:30am both days, So... that's probably for the best.

Hell, there wasn't even any cavorting in the pool/hot tub area. I always take advantage of a pool for some wallowing in the water and then relax in the hot tub. I finally disengaged myself from

the pleasures of this particular jet of water when I started to smell like boiled ham...

So... the reasons for my attendance were twofold: to cover the conference for the *Light*; and to be a panelist during the "Persons Living With HIV" workshop. We shared our thoughts and feelings on the health and social issues we face in the light of combination therapy, and our hopes and fears for the future.

Well, if you know me — detail-oriented Virgo that I am — I was prepared... with a five-page script and accompanying graphics. Ten years on various AIDS meds, most of which have failed me, gave me plenty of material. I figured if I had all these health care professionals trapped in a room, I was going to give them a realistic insight. And then, at the end, acknowledged my doctors — and my own research and lifestyle changes — for keeping me relatively healthy.

The 1998 Keynote Address featured a "tag-team speech" by former Wisconsin Congressman Steve Gunderson and his architect partner Rob Morris. The obvious affection they have for each other and the concern they have for community was evident as they spoke two days after a weekend long celebration of their 15th anniversary.

When they met at a D.C. Gay bar, Rob had no idea Steve was a Congressman, much less... a Republican. "Rob was so indifferent to politics that I doubt he knew we had a two-party system, which may be one of the reasons I was so intrigued by him."

Once together, keeping Steve's personal and political life separate worked out well. "If you think it is difficult being Gay in 1998... consider the pressures against it during the Reagan years as a young Congressman."

By early 1990, AIDS was getting close to home and then several mutual friends died. Rob related how at the August '92 Republican Convention, Pat Buchanan "lead the parade of ignorant remarks... His closest friends were dying of a disease they promoted as God's wrath." It was the night they decided they could not remain silent.

As a member of Congress, Steve faced the public policy of AIDS in an atmosphere of those who sought quarantine, and the right to fire any American worker with HIV... it was that atmosphere that convinced Steve to drop his re-election bid. He was then recruited by Mary Fisher (who spoke positively about AIDS at that same convention) to work for Mary's Family AIDS Network as Executive Director.

Steve is now the D.C. Manager for the Greystone Companies, and Rob is co-owner of an architectural firm. It's too bad Steve decided to not run for re-election, but I'm glad they decided they could no longer remain silent.

Fashion and Roasted Coconut

I was just out in New York for four days. I was visiting my deliriously Gay friend, who we'll call Kendall. Ken for the Ken doll he'd love to have modeled after himself if the doll industry allowed for a sleek, Gay, East Asian prototype. What a little fashion plate he is. Every fiber of every sweater he wears, every woolen crease in every pant, a delicate weave designed by some colossal, famous designer.

Kendall looks delicious in whatever he wears; he has sculpted his body to perfection and has become the righteous owner of the clothing he lovingly wears and the lifestyle he voluntarily promotes. Of course, I've never been sure that those threads aren't in fact wearing him, but it doesn't matter. He looks divine.

A decadence so unlike mine, yet decadence nonetheless, is his reality. Raw ambition and the single desire to make it in the fashion industry drive from his presence the pathetic, the ill mannered and, certainly, the shabbily dressed. And this is my dearest friend.

Now accept that I was there visiting him. Chic Tina, with her fashion from the cheapest clearance racks of Madison's vintage re-sellers and also, even better, from the exchange box in the basement of my apartment building.

How Kendall looked upon me and subdued what must have been nausea or worse, fear, I'll never know. You understand, he and I have been friends for years, so during my visit we went almost everywhere together, sometimes arm in arm.

It wasn't as if the poor guy could have explained to everyone we encountered that I was an "out of town guest". Although I'm sure he wished he could have, at least now and then. I helped out as best I could. Introducing my humility away with a blanket statement "Hi, I'm Tina. I'm from Wisconsin." At which point I was generally bathed in smiles and pleasantries or simply ignored. The latter not always being the worst of the two.

Kendall and I had a ball. We drank bottles of wine, danced at hot nightspots, even saw Cabaret at the Kit Kat Klub. We examined every overpriced trinket at the Chelsea Street Markets and recklessly ate the roasted coconut provided by New York's ethnically diverse street vendors.

We even went to a body building competition, where my eyes bulged out of my head as the Adonis's paraded before me. The women were ripped and the men, chiseled and massive. Of course, all the boobs were fake and most the penises were non-existent, but what

did I care in the face of all that beauty?

When I had my New York photos developed, I practically collapsed when I discovered that in two roles of film, every stinking photo but one was of the bodybuilders I'd so shamelessly gawked at. My New York experience had been reduced to some 63 photographs of straining, taunted, sculpted beefcakes.

Somehow, nestled there safely in that unfamiliar audience, I had been reduced to a primitive brute that yelped and groaned aloud. I was beside myself. And I was not alone; Kendall sat beside me throughout the 3-plus-hour performance, eyes open, saliva trickling rivulets down the corners of his brown lips.

On Kendall's left sat his delightful benefactor, or sugar daddy, as they're more frequently referred to. We'll call him Grace, for a princess he

would most certainly have been, if fate had dealt him a generous hand. Fate had been kind to Grace, though, and bestowed him with the gift of gab, generosity, and wealth. Lots of wealth.

Grace allowed us to dine on his generosity. We ate at the fanciest of restaurants, the names of which I can't now recall and certainly couldn't pronounce even when reading them on the menu. We also had the unusual distinction of dining with two of Manhattan's local celebrities, a porcelain goddess who built a name for herself by being a fierce socialite with a knack for throwing amazing parties attended by no less than two thousand eager participants an occasion. She amassed her fame and fortune by throwing parties. (Sigh!)

Now she's married, is 48, has a son, and a drag queen named Baroness, who she adores, begrudgingly baby sits when push comes to shove. That party diva showed up to dinner with her breasts propped to high heaven and clad in black elastic designer labels, teetering about on 10 inch pumps also bearing some prestigious name.

She was accompanied by her husband. He is a very short, exceedingly handsome bodybuilder and athletic club owner, who was certainly not over 33 years in age. I was so seduced by every feature of his beautiful face, that I wasn't much put off by his shocking eating habits and the food that fell off his fork and lips, as if mastered by gravity and not by the man.

While Grace talked of popularizing bodybuilding competitions, I, as if in some dream, ogled Diva's hoisted bosom, wishing to the powers that be that I had a single photo left in my camera to capture the curiously intoxicating charm of our motley crew.



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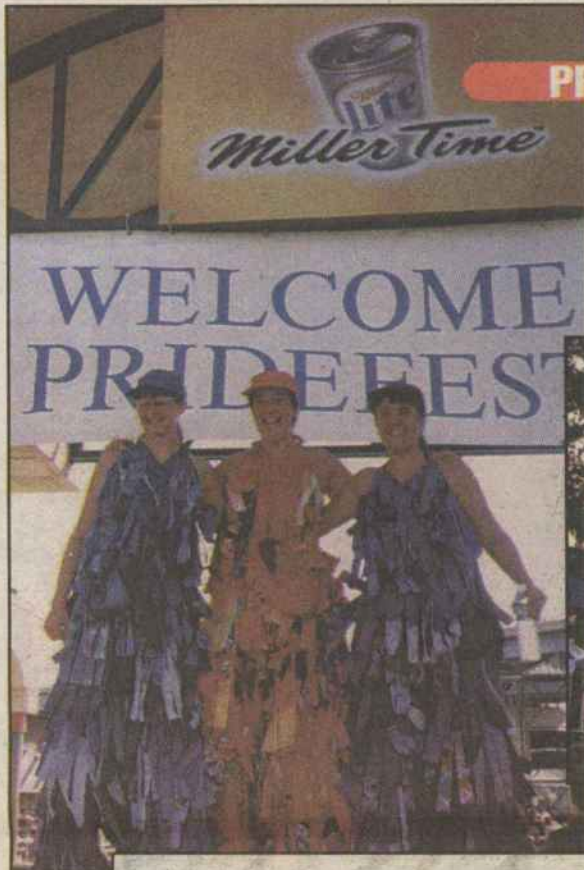
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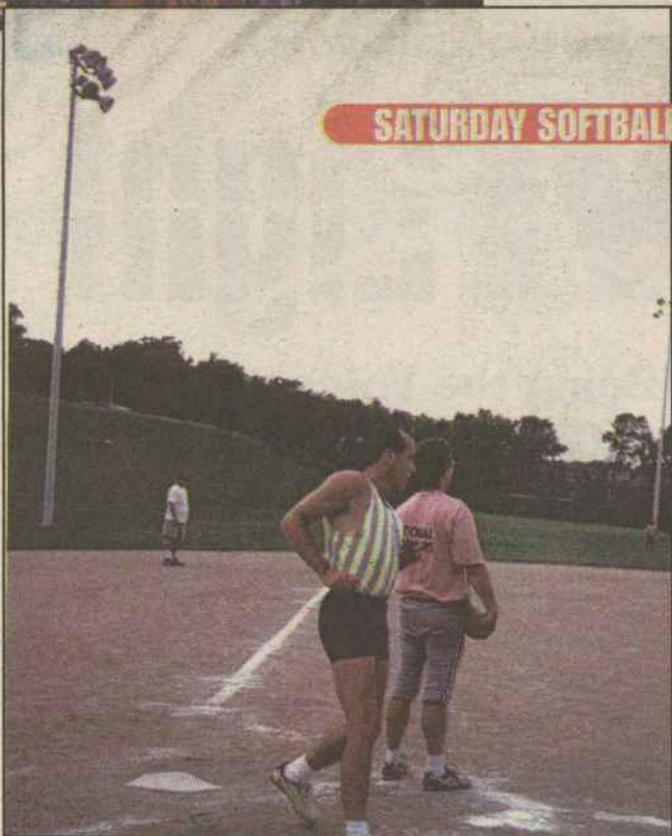
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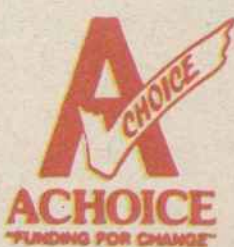
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Photos from WI Light Archives

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