

WI Light

October 22, -
November 4, 1998

Inside



Matthew Shepard

1976-1998
- Page 5



Halloween in Wisconsin

- Page 16

WI Light Election Endorsements

- Page 14

CLIP & CARRY ENDORSEMENTS

U.S. SENATOR - Russ Feingold

GOVERNOR - Ed Garvey

1st DISTRICT - Lydia Spottswood

2nd DISTRICT - Tammy Baldwin

4th DISTRICT - Gerald Kleczka

5th DISTRICT - Tom Barrett

7th DISTRICT - David Obey

8th DISTRICT - Jay Johnson

TAKE THIS TO THE POLLS
November 3rd

The Devil's Angels

By Terry Boughner

You leaving already?" Tom asked me through a knowing chuckle. "Why, Doctor Cantara, it's only nine o'clock," he teased.

"I'm tired." It was a verbal shrug.

"I've had a long day."

"You're bored, I'm bored," Tom said. He was referring to the welcoming reception of Parson College's president, Damiani Belfus. "C'mon David," he continued, putting a companionable hand on my shoulder. "I need some air. I'll walk you out."

We made our way through the crowd, finally gaining the front porch. A warm breeze off the mountains to the east rustled the leaves of the maples and sycamores that lined the brick-paved streets.

"So, what do you think of the place?" Tom asked.

"The college? It's okay; halls of ivy kind of school." I paused. "Okay, I'm new here. What's this about the Tuatha De Danann? The students keep talking about them."

"That's the old name," he answered. "Most folks call them the Devil's Angels. According to those who say they've seen them, they look like gargoyles with tails and cloven nooves. On Hallowe'en they go roaming, seize evil doers and whisk them away on broomsticks and carry them through the gate of Hell. They say, too, that if you put out a Jack-o-Lantern on Hallowe'en, you get a wish granted, like good grades or the love of your life. That's what the students want."

"Oh yeah?"

"Yeah, but don't shrug this one off. I was born and raised around here. Strange things can happen on Hallowe'en. Why don't you try it?"

"Me? Set out a pumpkin?"



"Yeah. You're young, single, a blond hair, blue-eyed boy. Ask for a girl. It couldn't hurt. Besides, if you're going to stay at Parson, you'll need a wife."

I didn't want that topic to go any further. "Yeah, sure, why not?" I said evasively and quickly changed the subject.

Another of the rituals of the first semester was convocation, held in the evening of the first Wednesday in October. According to Tom, there'd be prayers, hymns and Belfus would give a speech. It was part of "old time values" he said. I put in a call to see about getting a job back east.

The Field House was crowded that night. The president was all decked out in his robes, making

him look like a reprobate renaissance pope. Around him sat his court of assorted deans and the Board of Trustees on a broad platform draped all in red. Before them sat the "lesser sort"—faculty, staff and students. The townsfolk (peasants) packed the bleachers.

On the way in, I'd been handed a program, but hadn't looked at it. Taking time before the start of things, I did. To my shock, I saw that the title of Belfus's speech was "Sodomy Rears Its Head."

Some 20 minutes into the program, Belfus heaved himself up to the podium and launched in. The reason for his subject, he said, was that "two sodomites" had recently been discovered and, he was proud to say, duly expelled. He warned, however, that there were more. He was sure of that. Sodomy was infectious. The Devil, he raved, was at work at Parson College. It sounded like when it came to the train of thought, Belfus had been having cocktails back in the caboose. It was sickening.

As Belfus raved on—and on, I shifted uncomfortably in my chair.

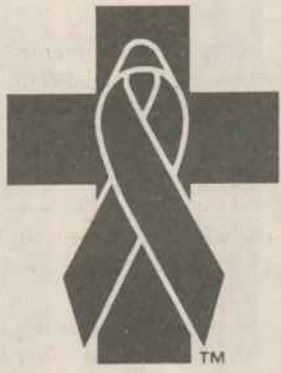
Suddenly, I saw a gargoyle crouched down on one of the exposed steel beams that supported the roof. I blinked and blinked again. It was gone, vanished as if it had never been. When the program was over, I left the Field House as quickly as I could. By the next morning, I'd convinced myself that my imagination had been working overtime.

A couple of evenings later, I was on campus. It was late. I was hurrying along when I heard a gritty male voice say "Goddamn Fag!" followed by a thud and a sharp cry of pain. I stopped. Beneath a campus light, I saw four guys standing over someone lying crumpled on the ground. "Queer boy!" one of them cursed and kicked the victim.

"What th' hell's going on here?" I demanded as I charged toward them. "Get th' fuck away from him!"

Continued on page 4

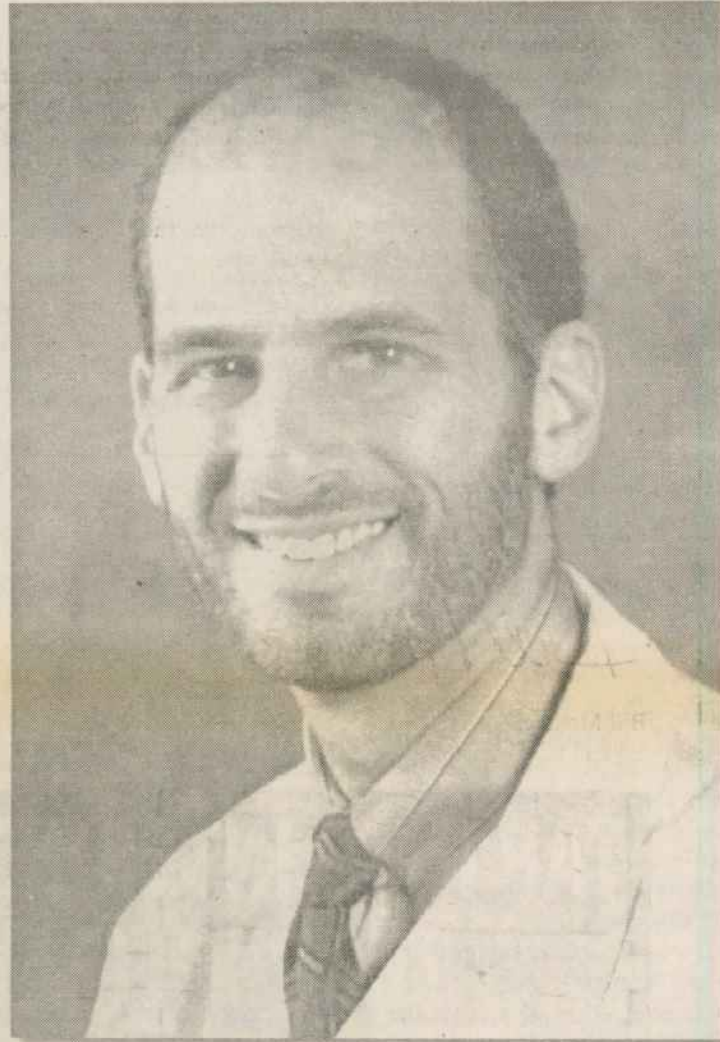




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Contents

- 5 Matthew Shepard
- 6 State News
- 9 National News
- 12 Positive Health Outlook
- 14 Editorials/Endorsements
- 13 Tineality
- Spotlight Section**
- 16 Halloween in Wisconsin
- 20 Out in the Theatre
- 21 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 24 Night Light
- 26 Bar Guide
- 28 Out in Print

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AP Associated Press

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Our staff is especially proud of this issue. It is truly an historic one. In our special Election '98 section and on the back cover of this section you will find ads from congressional candidates, the Democratic nominee for Governor, as well as national, statewide and local organizations and candidates. No major party candidates for these offices have ever before run ads in a Wisconsin LGBT publication.

Our Election '98 section also includes articles contributed by national and statewide political leaders. We view those ads and those articles as a compliment to our readers and to us as well. *Wisconsin Light* truly does have a national reputation.

Not even our feelings of pride could overcome the horror we all felt over Mathew Shepard's death. Throughout the week before we went to press, it hung over our office like a sad cloud. Mathew Shepard was not the first Gay person murdered this year because of his sexual orientation. Sadly, the statistics tell us that he probably will not be the last. But his death caught the attention of the media and all of us because of its brutality.

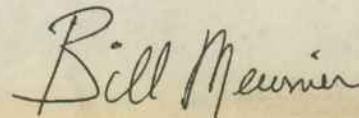
It stands as a terrible indictment against those who bash us on a daily basis with their claims to be able to "cure" us and their comparisons of homosexuality with alcoholism and criminality. In that sense, we were all tied to that fence, we are all Mathew Shepard.

Mathew Shepard's horrible ordeal and the reasons why it happened give us genuine reason to be concerned. The thugs who killed him brought home the reality that there are real monsters living in our midst. Those monsters don't just live in Wyoming, either. We have our share here, too. We must not, however, give in to fear. We must instead work to isolate the hate mongers with our votes in the November election and our voices throughout the year.

In memory of Mathew Shepard and the other victims of those monsters, we dedicate this journalistic equivalent of a moment of silence and reflection.

“ . . . ”

Enjoy the *Light*



Bill Meunier
Editor

TAP INTO INTERNET CONSUMERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



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The goons turned on me. I was ready to fight when, suddenly, things changed.

"No!" one of them screamed, pointing to a spot above my head. "No!" His companions looked and screamed in terror.

I turned my head to look, but could see nothing. When I turned back, they had taken to their heels and fled.

What had caused their rout I had no idea, but I didn't have time to care. I knelt beside the guy on the ground. "C'mon," I said softly. "It's alright now. They're gone." He raised his head. In the dim light from the walk lights filtered through the trees, I saw who it was. "Patrick."

Patrick Sanz was one of my students. He was of Mexican descent, short, slender and as cute as I thought it was possible to be. He had a way of smiling that made his soft eyes light up like stars while his brows arched into inverted V's. I helped him to his feet.

"Thanks, Doc," he said and collapsed into my arms.

The doctor at the emergency room said he'd suffered some bruised ribs. With some rest, he'd be okay. I took him to my apartment and put him to bed. The next morning over coffee, I told him what had happened to his attackers.

"Maybe it was the Tuatha De Danann," Patrick suggested. One eyebrow arched speculatively into an inverted V.

"Could have been," I replied.

It was nine o'clock when we started the drive to campus. Dark, ominous clouds hid the top of Laurel Ridge only ten miles distant. A block from the school, I stopped for a light. "Patrick," I began and stopped unsure of how to go on.

"You ever think of dating a student?" Patrick asked.

"No. Not until now, anyway. Dinner?"

"How 'bout lunch, too?" I quickly agreed.

When I got to my office, Tom was there and asked me if I'd heard what had happened.

"Suppose you tell me," I said and settled into my desk chair.

"The captain of the school's tennis team and our three star debaters were found early this morning on the roof of Old Main cackling like chickens. In fact, they think they are chickens, I hear. They were taken away."

"How sad. Maybe the gargoyles did it." I started to go through my mail.

Less than a week later, the roof of the Field House came off. I don't mean it blew off. It was as if it had been lifted off by some monster hand and placed upside down beside the building. That night, a fire of unknown origin consumed it all.

There was more to come. One morning in the third week in October, President Belfus's cherished Rolls was found on the third floor of the Fine Arts Building. The Silver Cloud, a present to Belfus from Lewis Bubwarpington (Bubby), the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, had been painted lavender and pink inside and out.

Belfus went ballistic. "All this is the fault of these homos," he raged at a meeting of the Faculty Senate. Everyone knows Fine Arts is full of 'em." He brought a ham hand down on

the table. "I will not have it! I will not have it, I say! We cannot have sodomites among decent folk! I want them rooted out and expelled like those other two!"

I was sitting at the far end of the table. Patrick, one of three students rep-

who had done this evil would get what was coming to them this night. But not only them. Those who had made the evil inevitable. They, too, would go through Hell's gate. I told this to Patrick and he agreed.



resenting the Student Senate, was sitting nearby in a chair against the wall. I gathered my books and rose to my feet.

"Where are you going, Dr. Cantara?" Belfus demanded. "The meeting isn't over yet."

"I guess, Dr. Belfus, I just don't wanta pollute you decent folk." There was silence in the room. "See, I'm Gay, a Queer, a homo."

Belfus went bug-eyed. His mouth dropped open making him look like a fish about to be deprived of its guts. At the same time, I felt a hand slip into mine. I looked and saw Patrick standing beside me.

"Look, look," Belfus screeched. "He's recruited the wet-back! I'll have you deported."

"To where?" Patrick snapped. "Madison, Wisconsin? I was born there."

"You're terminated!" Belfus shouted at me as Patrick and I walked out.

"Great. I quit."

The next day, the morning of Hallowe'en, campus security found Mark Rhodes's body. He was one of the four African-American students. According to the TV news, his corpse had been nailed to a tree and the word "Fag" cut into his brow.

There was blood on the campus now, innocent blood that cried out for vengeance. If the Devil's Angels existed—and, after everything that had happened, I was sure that they did—those

We spent most of the day packing the car with the stuff from Patrick's dorm room and my office. All morning, iron-gray clouds built up over the mountains in the east.

By that afternoon, the sky had begun to glow an angry shade of red.

After dinner in a local bistro, Patrick and I started to drive back to my apartment. Though night had fallen, it wasn't dark. An ominous, reddish light made it seem as if everything was bathed in blood. A wind had picked up. Lightning flashed in jagged streaks along Laurel Ridge and streaked the sky. Thunder rumbled so loudly that the noise shook the ground.

"Look," I said. "Look at the trees." A bright red liquid was running in streams down the trunks and dripping from the branches onto everything below. I turned on the wipers, but that did no good. Finally, by the eastern edge of the campus, I pulled over and stopped.

We got from the car. The wind howled. As we looked, jack o' lanterns, their lights still lit, bobbed and bounced in the air as if they were weightless. Lightning flashed around the roofs of the buildings. The air smelled of sulfur as if Hell itself had opened up.

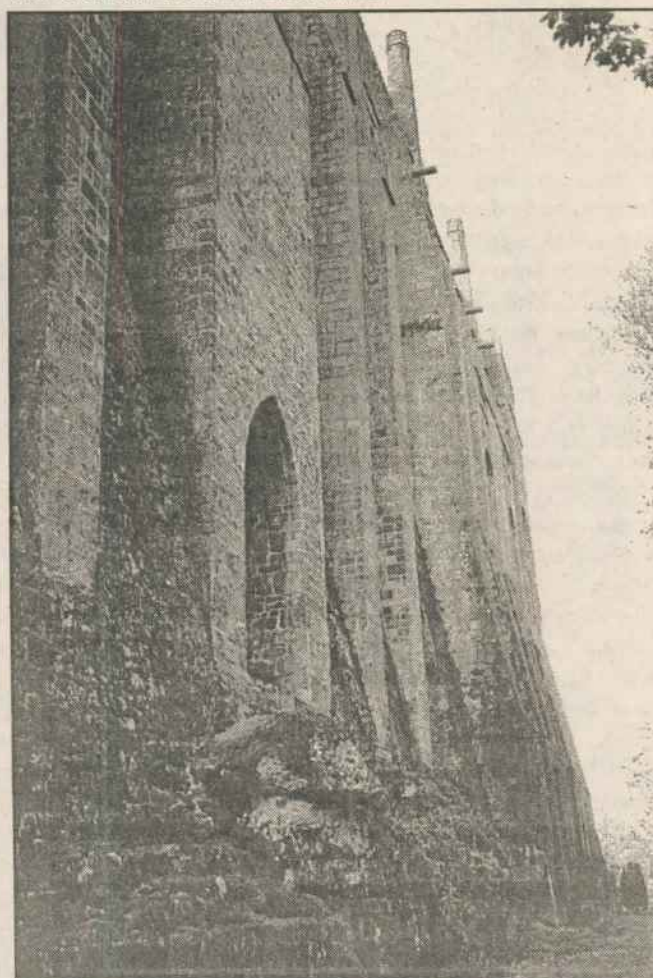
Suddenly, from overhead, I heard a fiendish, cackling glee. We looked up and saw a gargoyle riding a broomstick with Belfus on behind. Though the air was full of dust and leaves, and the scene was far above our heads, still I could make out the terror on the president's face.

The broomstick with its riders circled round Old Main's tower. As it did, it was joined by others, each one ridden by a gargoyle, each with a human hanging on behind. The pumpkins continued their demonic dance as a pillar of red-orange light appeared on campus. It widened revealing a raging inferno within. Hell's gate, I thought. There was a sucking sound, louder than the wind. Everything was pulled toward it, pumpkins, broomsticks, trees, even the buildings. In less than a minute, all was gone. The gate snapped shut with a thunderous clap.

"There's nothing left," Patrick said in an awestruck tone. He looked back. "Nothing of the town, either. It's all one big vacant lot."

Neither Patrick nor I felt any sorrow for Belfus and his ilk, but we talked a lot about all the others who had disappeared into the gate. Finally, we decided that those who don't resist evil become its partners. That seemed as good an explanation as any. Taking what we had in the car, we drove off that night and never looked back.

ALL PHOTOS FOR THIS STORY BY GREG QUINDEL



Shepard . . . The Bashing Continues

An Analysis by Bill Meunier

Since Friday, October 7, our offices have been fairly inundated with emails, faxes, letters and phone calls related to the death of Matthew Shepard. It is all there in the news reports or is it? We can't ask Matthew Shepard. He never got to read them.

By all accounts, Matthew Shepard was the kind of person you would want as a friend. He spoke three languages. He was intelligent. He had dreams of serving his country in the diplomatic service. His friends say that he was caring and personable, but not overbearing. Matthew Shepard was all of those things and now he is something else too - a victim.

Matthew Shepard went to a bar on the evening of Thursday, October 6. There he met Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. They told Shepard they were Gay. They convinced him that they wanted to be his friend. The got this 5'2", 110-pound youth to leave the bar and enter their van.

Matthew Shepard never got to enjoy his new friends very much. That's because of what they did to him. The beating began in their van. Ignoring his pleas that he be allowed live, they dragged him from the vehicle, tied him to a fence post, burned him, beat him some more and fractured his skull, crushing his brainstem. Satisfied that they could inflict no more pain and damage to the now unconscious Shepard, Mc Kinney and Henderson left him in the freezing weather to die. While Shepard's life was ebbing away, his attackers went to see their girlfriends. Together they laughed about how Shepard begged for his life.

But Matthew Shepard wasn't laughing. He would never laugh again. It would be 18 long, cold hours before a real human being would come into contact with him. A bicyclist riding down the road found what was left of Matthew Shepard. At first he mistook the battered body for a scarecrow. Only when he fell close to that body did he realized it was a human being.

The doctors at the hospital in Fort Collins said that Shepard's skull had been so badly damaged, they could not put it back together again. He was put on a life support machine. Matthew Shepard's brain was no longer capable of telling his lungs to function. The doctors probably wanted to tell Matthew Shepard how sorry they were. But Matthew Shepard couldn't hear them. Finally, even the machine didn't help. Matthew Shepard died.

Those are the bare documented facts. They do not tell the whole tale. Much of the reaction to this crime is almost as horrific as the murder itself.

The father of one of the accused murderers complained that the media was making too much of Shepard's death. He said that if Shepard had been heterosexual the news media would not be all that interested. If Matthew Shepard had been heterosexual, he would be alive today.

The police in Wyoming suggest that robbery not hate was the motive. I wonder if everyone who is robbed in

that state winds up hanging from fence posts with bashed in skulls.

As Shepard lay dying in the hospital at Fort Collins, there was a Colorado State University homecoming parade underway in that city. One of the floats featured a scarecrow. The scarecrow was painted "I am Gay" in the front and "Up my ass" in the back. The University is investigating 11 students over this incident. They can expel those responsible but they can't expel the revulsion we all feel over what those students did.

Apparently even in death, Matthew Shepard will continue to be bashed. The airwaves and the mainstream press have been filled with spokespersons for the religious right. They tell us that if only Matthew Shepard had been straight he would have avoided all this unpleasantness. They defend their latest ad campaign, which again focuses on how they can "cure" us.

Matthew Shepard would tell them that it is the hate mongers who need to be cured. But then again Matthew Shepard can't talk anymore.

As always, the purveyors of hate deny any culpability for the fruits that have sprung from the seeds of venom they have so carefully planted. Yet, we know that some of the same newspapers and television stations that this week denounced the Shepard murder as a hate crime will accept the religious right's money next week and run its ads.

One of the worst things we saw came from Wisconsin Christians United. It was a press release that denounced hate crime laws claiming that they provide special treatment, as if being protected against crimes based on hate is somehow special.

It went on to say that while Shepard's murderers should be punished if only he had followed "the law against sodomy," he would be alive today. It accused, Shepard - without any evidence whatsoever - of "cruising a bar for the purpose of finding a partner or two to commit vile acts." Matthew Shepard can't defend himself against Wisconsin Christians United anymore than he could defend himself against the two brutes who took his life.

We have seen other releases too. In one, a religious right group says that hate crimes laws would "intimidate the political opposition." I never knew that assaulting and murdering people were acts of political opposition.

The religious right says that every murder is a tragedy and that is true. In

a democracy, however, killing people because you hate what they are is murder of the worst kind. When that occurs, all of us die at least a little. Matthew Shepard can't tell them that. He can't tell them anything.

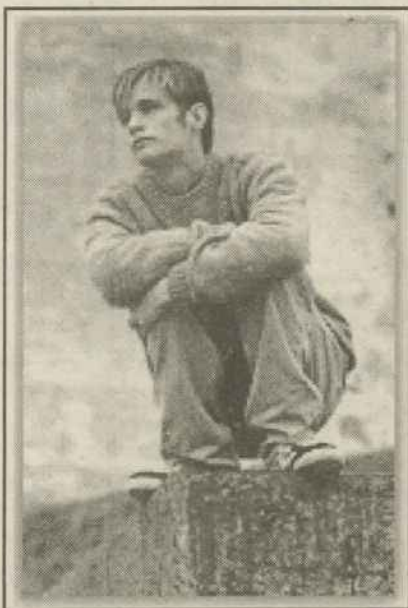
Then there are the outraged people of Wyoming, where Matthew Shepard went to school. I have read the sanctimonious statements from the President and Student Association of the University of Wyoming. "Oh yes," they tell us, "We are ever so concerned about the safety of our students." One

wonders where that concern was when their state on three separate occasions rejected a hate crime law. Matt Shepard might have asked that question but he can't ask anyone anything.

There have been other reactions too. In Madison 1,000 people marched up State Street and held a vigil at the State Capitol. In Milwaukee over 250 people mourned at a vigil and rally held on UWM's mall. In Eau Claire, Stevens Points and in other

places around the State and around the country there were rallies and vigils, too.

Appropriately, many of these events were sponsored by student groups. Matthew Shepard was a member of a Gay students group. His friends say that he really enjoyed meeting people through that organization. But



Matthew Shepard

PHOTO BY RON GEIMAN, WI LIGHT STAFF.



One of over 200 people at the UW-Milwaukee vigil lights a candle in Mathew's memory.

because Shepard lived in some hick town in Wyoming and the rest of us are safe, you are wrong.

In Chicago they are putting extra police on Halsted Street to combat the brutal bashings that are occurring there. Even liberal Madison has been experiencing a spate of Gay bashings. We have also received reports of bashings in Milwaukee's Gay bar district.

When we hear of these things, we try to get more information so we can warn our readers. But the victims never want to talk, never want to take the chance that their names might appear in the paper, even though we will not print the names without their permission. Matthew Shepard never had the luxury of anonymity.

The bashing continues. The right's new "ex-Gay" ad campaign is revving up. Some of our elected officials talk about "special rights" compare us to criminals and with assert that we are sick, diseased, immoral people. Thanks to them we are all Matthew Shepard, we are all tied to that fence every day of our lives.

We cannot escape the bashing. Until the purveyors of hate are isolated, ineffective and largely ignored, we must fight against them as best as we are able. Matthew Shepard can't do that either, but we can.



Shrine outside of Madison's Capitol building.

Matthew Shepard won't be attending anymore meetings.

President Clinton renewed his call for Congress to pass hate crimes legislation. Congress passed a resolution denouncing the killing, but the hate crime law is still stuck in the Judiciary Committee.

Newspapers across the country have raised the issue of homophobia, with many of them attacking the reli-

AROUND THE STATE

Madison

18-year-old Transvestite Stabbed, Beaten

An 18-year-old male, dressed as a woman, was stabbed late October 13 on South Park Street, just hours after a rally/vigil was held on the Capitol steps at State Street in memory of the murdered college student in Laramie, Wyoming. Madison officials originally considered adding Wisconsin's Hate Crime enhancement charge onto the charge against the perpetrator, but backed off after carefully studying the law, and realizing "it didn't cover cross-dressing."

Johnny Louis Ellis, 43, was tentatively charged with aggravated battery while armed with a dangerous weapon. He was also accused of bail jumping because he was out of jail on bail on a domestic battery case. Ellis said to the victim, "I know what you are — you're a man."

Police say Ellis' comments don't show he "picked his victim because he thought he was Gay." Police Officer Dave Gouran was quoted in the *Wisconsin State Journal* saying, "You can be a cross-dresser without being Gay and the (hate crime) statute doesn't specify cross-dressers."

The victim received about 60 stitches after being slashed in the abdomen — possibly with glass from a broken beer bottle. The attack occurred on South Park Street. After treatment, the victim fled the hospital fearing the police found out he was wanted for failing to appear in court on a charge of driving without a license. The victim has since been arrested and jailed for allegedly resisting officers, as well as the prior charge.

New Harvest Accepting Grant Applications

Madison and Dane County's New Harvest Foundation, which raises and distributes funds to support LGB well being in that area, is seeking applications for its Spring/Summer 1999 grant cycle. All organizations and individuals working on projects that benefit LGB's in the area are invited to apply before the Nov. 30, 1998 deadline.

Awardees must either be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization or use a qualifying fiscal agent. Grants focus on: social service, social change, public education, health care, arts, culture and LGB community development. Most awards are in the \$300-2,000 range.

For more information, or to request application materials, contact the New Harvest Foundation, PO Box 1786, Madison, WI 53701-1786, phone (608) 256-4204.

Milwaukee

AIDS Action Alert

Call your County Supervisor Today

AIDS Action Wisconsin, concerned citizens advocating for responsible AIDS policies, is asking Milwaukee County residents to call their individual council members and urge them to approve the \$100,000 in the county budget for needle exchange in the metro area.

While you're at it, County Exec. Tom Ament's office, (414) 278-4211, would like to hear from you too, since he is the one brave enough to include such a precedent setting public health initiative. As expected, a torrent of criticism has befallen him and all the board members thanks to heavy anti-needle on-air lobbying by some local radio talk show hosts.

It's been proven in study after study that providing clean needles does not increase new drug use and reduces HIV transmission by as much as 33%. Current IV drug users learn to keep their equipment clean with provided supplies, obtain fresh needles on a trade basis, and receive counseling. A good number of them eventually decide to enter rehab through the LifePoint needle exchange, provided by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Until now, LifePoint has had to depend entirely on public donations for this important health outreach to the highest risk group in the country today.

If you don't know the name of your County Supervisor, or even which one is yours, please call Laurie at (414) 225-1597.

PrideFest Returns to August in '99

After a record setting year in 1998, neither the PrideFest Council nor the Milwaukee World Festivals Board of Directors took long to figure out that a permanent move of PrideFest to August was The Right Thing.

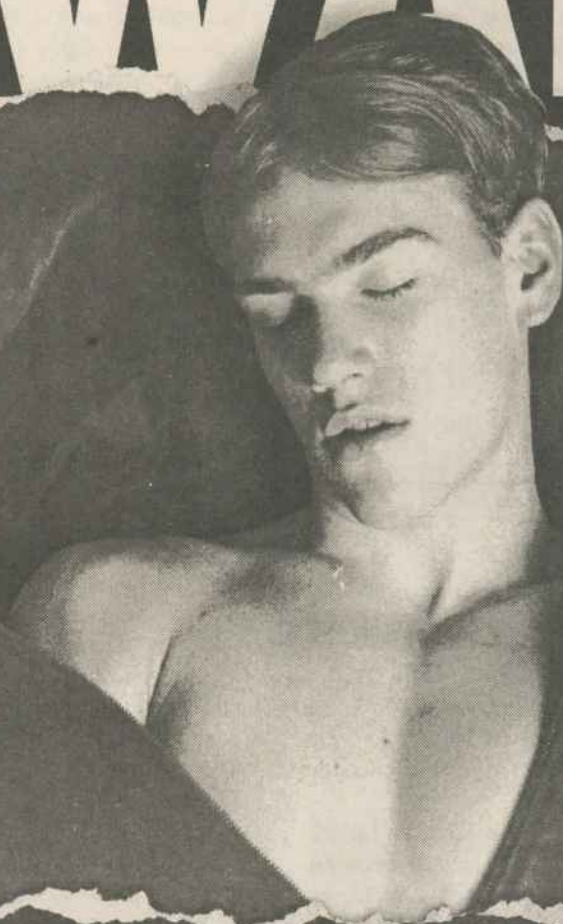
A different weekend this year, August 6-8 will not conflict with other regional LGBT events such as the Midwest Womyn's Music Festival or Chicago's Halsted Street Days.

The move was attributed, to a large part, to the August dates of the 28-30 this year, and buoyed by that success, organizers sent in their 1999 date request less than a month after PrideFest '98 ended.

PrideFest Co-Director Susan Cook commented: "We couldn't be any happier with our '99 dates. When we planned an August festival for '98, we were a little concerned that people would forget about our event when everyone else in the Midwest was doing June festivals and major parades."

WI Light called the ball on this one, when we, along with most of the people we had talked to, agreed it should be kept in August. The warmer weather and the fact there is no other Gay competition that month, gives a chance for LGBT Milwaukee and PrideFest to get its full share of the Gay media and public's attention. "By August,

WAKE UP



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

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

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WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

AROUND THE STATE

everyone is so tired of ethnic festivals and family reunions, an August PrideFest ought to drag 'em in from even more states than before," quipped one *Light* staffer.

'99 SLOGAN CONTEST

Members of the community are being urged to submit ideas for the 1999 slogan. Entries must be received no later than Thursday, November 5, and should include the author's name and phone number. Entries can be faxed to (414) 272-3391, e-mailed to pridemilw@aol.com, snailmail: PO Box 511763, Milwaukee, WI 53203. (Milwaukee doesn't wait to participate in the international pride committee decision because of the length of time it takes them to decide each year's theme.)

H.I.T. hits 20th

The Holiday Invitational Tournament, the oldest Gay bowling tournament in the world, celebrates its 20th year with the theme *Carnivale* Thanksgiving weekend, November 26-29. Over 300 bowlers from around the world are expected for the grand reunion.

Entry is \$75 and deadline is November 10. AMF Regency at 76th and Florist will serve as official lanes, with the Hilton downtown as official headquarters hotel. Registration begins Thursday morning, and bowling occurs from Thursday evening through Saturday afternoon. The tournament is surrounded by parties, special events, and a grand finale banquet with awards. For more information, call the HIT Hotline at (414) 332-7142 or 871-4172. *Roll a turkey!*

Eagle Hosts Mr. IML '98 for Fundraiser

The Milwaukee Eagle, a levi/leather bar, will host International Mr. Leather (IML) Tony Mills, for a fundraiser establishing the Eagle's Brotherhood Relief Fund, on Saturday, October 31.

Patrons will get to meet and greet Mr. IML and pose for photos — for a price. That money will then go to the newly established Brotherhood Relief Fund. According to Eagle Manager Mike Walsh the fund, "is very important to us and was started because one of our regular Chicago customers, 37 year old Steven Zielke was Gay bashed in Chicago and suffered major head trauma." His prognosis is good, but physical rehabilitation will take nearly a year. This is the least we can do to help a brother in need."

Now that it is established, the Brotherhood Fund will be an on-going fundraising device for those in the levi/leather brotherhood who need assistance. The organizers of the newly formed Mr. Wisconsin Leather Man Contest to be held February 20, 1999, will also receive a portion of the nights proceeds.

This Halloween night benefit coincides with the Eagle's 1st anniversary and *Fantasy in Black: an un-Halloween Event* with a request for all black attire. The evening kicks off at 8pm, and everyone wearing appropriate attire will receive a free drink.

Superior/Duluth

Conference on G/L Issues

Surviving and Thriving: 2000 and Beyond, a day-long conference on issues concerning the Northland's LGBT communities will take place Sunday, Nov. 21 at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Conferees will have an opportunity to network, share ideas, and build community — especially in small towns and rural areas. A registration fee of \$15 for the day will include lunch.

Workshops will cover a wide variety of topics, and vendor and organization tables will be available for information or to display wares. An evening concert, open to the public, will feature Lesbian singer-songwriter BeJae Fleming and drag entertainer Miss Richfield 1981. Conferees can attend for \$7; others will be charged \$10.

For more information, contact Stephanie at KUMD-FM, 130 Humanities Building, UWM, Duluth, MN 55812. Phone (218) 726-7181. E-mail kkersten@d.umn.edu.

Tidbits from Tiletown

By Mike Fitzpatrick, *WI Light* NE Wisconsin Bureau

Area LGBT Confab: The GLBT Roundtable, the semi-annual meeting of all the Gay groups in the Northeast Wisconsin area, will be held Tuesday, October 27 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Appleton office of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Out in Faith: Union Congregational UCC Church in Green Bay has started a new LGBT group for its members called *Union Out in Faith*. The social and discussion group meets regularly and welcomes non-members as well. For more information and next meeting time, contact the church at (920) 437-9266.

Supper's Ready: The Dinettes, northeast Wisconsin's Gay men's gourmet dining group, kicked off their 6th year of haute cuisine recently at homes around Green Bay and the Fox cities.

There's no politics, no hidden sexual agendas — not even a lot of rules — just good food enjoyed in good company. It's not a particularly unique idea is this part of the Gay world. The Fox Valley Womyn's Potluck has also been around for about the same number of years.

Gary Trudeau once waggishly suggested in his *Doonesbury* comic strip that possibly the only selling point to being Gay was the food. *In northeastern Wisconsin, that's no joke!*

Silent Night? : The recently formed Green Bay Gay Men's Chorus has finally found a musical director, according to chorus honcho Steve Jones. However, due to the late start-up the group is not likely to have the Christmas Concert they had planned to debut with.

With the Bay City Chorus — Green Bay's other LGBT chorus — taking a year off, there will be no Gay Christmas musicale in the area for the first time in seven years. In the immortal words of Ebenezer Scrooge: "*Bah Humbug!*"



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Milwaukee Community Center Grand Opening November 10

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Milwaukee — The night we've been waiting for will finally arrive on Tuesday, November 10 from 5:30-9pm when the new Milwaukee LGBT Community Center opens its doors to the community. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Milwaukee area.

It is located at 170 S. 2nd St., on most of the main floor, with the entrance under the marquee of The Downtown Mini Warehouse. When this reporter checked in there on Nov. 20, most of the final mudding and sanding were being completed. Mostly left to do by a large cadre of volunteers was painting, decorating, carpet installation, and finishing touches to the suite.

As you enter under the overhang awning, you go directly through the front doors, beyond which rests reception. To the left of that is a long hall leading back to the large public room library and lounges. Directly behind the receptionist are four private offices (three of which have been spoken for by major non-profits), then there is the

library/media center, and to the left is a large room which will be divided into eight cubicles to be available to various groups and individuals.

The location is just feet from Bus Routes 18 and 19, and 2 blocks from Routes 11, 14 and 15. And it's only 8 blocks south of Wisconsin Avenue, where all the above mentioned routes branch off and all other routes connect, making for easy access. The building will be comfortable for those with disabilities.

Co-Presidents Neil Albrecht and Sheila Zelenski brag, "There are less than 100 Gay Community Centers Nationwide . . . The Center was made possible by many pioneers who have been laying the groundwork for more

than 20 years." (In earnest, a little over 4 years ago.) "Organizations can share resources, volunteers, expertise, and their dedication to build the strength and capacity of community."

"The programming volunteers will hold focus groups...filling gaps where services are needed...Another focus will be youth services, including developing a safe place in the Center for LGBT youth."



"Mudding" the joints at the new Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Survival/Revival's annual Street Beat fashion show/performance was a raving success.



PHOTO BY PATRICK ROBINSON, WI LIGHT

PHOTO BY RON GEIMAN, WI LIGHT STAFF

PHOTO BY RON GEIMAN, WI LIGHT STAFF

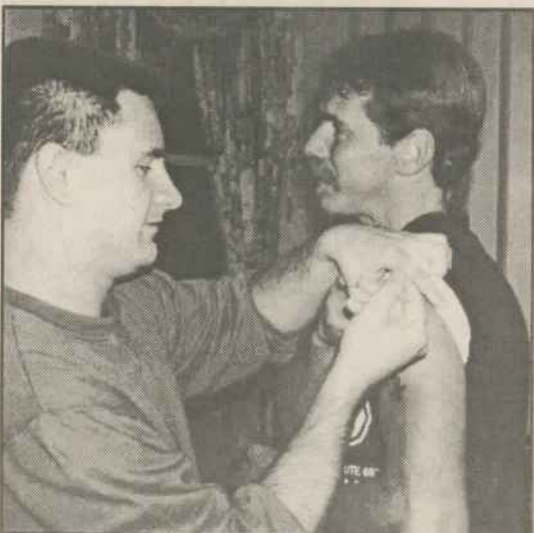


PHOTO BY KIM Z.



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AROUND THE NATION

NOW Condemns "Sugar-Coated" Gay-Bashing

Washington, DC - This month, October, NOW activists have organized Come Out Against Homophobia actions from coast-to-coast. "We are coming out against homophobia in October, and we're heading to the polls in November to support the candidates who support our issues and our families," NOW President Patricia Ireland said. NOW/PAC has field staff and volunteer activists working to elect openly Lesbian candidates for Congress Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Christine Kehoe (D-CA) and Margarethe Cammermeyer (D-WA).

Ireland's comments come on the heels of the so-called *Coming Out of Homosexuality* media campaign — which charges that homosexuality is a choice, not a sexual orientation. The campaign was launched by a coalition of radical right-wing groups.

"As the elections heat up, religious political extremists are trying to hide their hateful agenda behind a benign mask of 'hope and healing.' It's time for Focus on the Family and their cohorts to take off the masks and show the bigoted anti-woman, anti-Gay agenda lurking just beneath the surface. Feminists will not swallow sugarcoated Gay-bashing. And we will not let ourselves or our issues be shut out of Congress by their manipulative use of homophobia as a wedge issue in November," Ireland said.

As part of its ongoing national Lesbian Rights Program, NOW is organizing the national *Lesbian Rights Summit: A Feminist Strategy Session*, to be held in Washington, D.C., April 23-25, 1999. Lesbians and their allies will come together from across the country to develop a political agenda for the next millennium.

Gays' Battle Continues in Cincinnati

Cincinnati - A gay activist group promised to call for an economic boycott of Cincinnati, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has let stand the city's denial of legal protections for homosexuals.

Stonewall Cincinnati also said it will begin collecting petition signatures for a May 1999 ballot initiative. It would be aimed at repealing Cincinnati's 1993 charter amendment that forbids the city from enacting or enforcing laws based on sexual orientation. The voter-approved measure bans policies or ordinances that give homosexuals claims for legal protection from discrimination — in housing, employment or otherwise — based on their sexual orientation. It also bars "any claim of minority or protected status, quota preference or other preferential treatment."

The high court's decision Tuesday, October 13 not to hear arguments about the amendment means it is now in effect.

Opponents of the amendment argued that it was identical to a Colorado measure that would have nullified local Gay-rights ordinances in Aspen, Boulder and Denver. The Supreme Court rejected that measure in 1996. But the court said the Cincinnati issue was different because it was an action taken by voters within their city and did not interfere with local decision-making authority in other communities.

Candidate Defamed Gay Group Says Court

Detroit - *Gay People's Chronicle* reports that Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Susan Borman awarded \$15,000 in damages to the Triangle foundation after finding that State Representative Deborah Whyman defamed the group in her campaign literature.

Whyman's literature said that the foundation supports sex between adults and boys. The flyer explained that the claim was based on the foundation's bylaws, which say the group works "to improve the life of sexual minorities." According to Whyman, that included pedophiles.

Judge Borman said that since Whyman quoted portions of the bylaws that she was familiar with them and therefore knew that the group did not specifically support sex with minors. That meant she knew her statements were false and malicious.

Jeff Montgomery, Triangle's Executive Director, reacted to ruling saying, "Never before has a Gay and Lesbian organization successfully sued an elected official for defamation." He added that the ruling should "send a clear message to public officials everywhere...that they will be held personally responsible for their lies about us."

Texas Library Keeps Gay Children's Books

Wichita Falls, TX (AP) The City Council in this Texas city is struggling with how to answer protests over two Gay-themed children's books, *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

For six months, several area churches have been demanding that the books be removed from the shelves of the local library — or at least placed behind the counter. While no council member appears willing to ban the books outright, several members are leaning towards placing the books in an area where children would need an adult to read or check out the books.

Mayor Kay Yeager and city Manager Jim Berzina have said they will not bring the issue before the Council.

ADL Calls for Hate Crimes Laws Nationwide

New York, NY - Mourning the tragic murder of Matthew Shepard, a Gay student at the University of Wyoming, Howard P. Berkowitz, Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Chairman, and Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director, today called for every state to enact hate crimes laws.

ADL has been a pioneer in drafting and promoting hate crimes laws across the country since 1981. Forty states have now enacted statutes based on or similar to ADL's model legislation. The United States Supreme Court unanimously upheld the constitutionality of ADL's penalty enhancement approach in 1993. The League has

Continued on page 10



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also spearheaded efforts in Congress to secure passage of Federal hate crimes statutes, including the currently pending Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

Anti-Gay Slurs Shock Campus

Detroit - Thursday, a rock on Michigan State University's campus became a canvas for hate-speech directed at some MSU students.

The Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay and Transgendered Students had painted the rock in honor of National Coming Out Day. They woke the next morning to see that the rock had been repainted with anti-Gay slurs. The front of the rock read "no packing zone." Other slurs on the rock and garbage can next to it read "I kill fags," "Kill flames" and "Fags." Those messages stayed on the rock until after noon, when it was painted over by university workers.

MSU police Chief Bruce Benson said police still are investigating the matter.

Dockers: Not Just "Nice Pants"

New York, NY - In the November issue of OUT magazine, Dockers Khakis placed a 12-page advertisement celebrating the achievements of 10 Lesbians and Gay men, "heroes" who "show personal conviction - and how to be true to yourself."

Those portrayed in the advertisement: actor/writer Guinevere Turner (*Go Fish*); actor Mitchell Anderson, costar of *Party of Five*; Wilson Cruz, actor and former GLAAD board member; humanitarian Thomas Rollerson; Rea Carey, youth advocate and executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition; former Eagle Scout James Dale, who successfully fought the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory policy; writer Brad Gooch; Eve Fowler, photographer; television writer Max Mutchnick, co-creator and executive producer of *Will & Grace*; and Olympic athlete Bruce Hayes.

Corpus Christi Opens to Full House

New York, NY - On Tuesday, October 13, 1998 three-time Tony Award-winning playwright Terence McNally's new work, *Corpus Christi*, opened at the Manhattan Theater Club (MTC) to a full house - both in the theater and out. The lead character is Joshua, whose life and character bear a resemblance to those of Jesus Christ. The play depicts sometimes-erotic relationships with his disciples, and has been the object of controversy since its plot became known.

On opening night, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights organized a group of demonstrators opposing the play, while People For the American Way conducted a supportive action entitled "A Silent Walk For The First Amendment."

HRC Launches "Ray of Light" Project

Washington, DC - The Human Rights Campaign launched the "Ray of Light Project" at a press conference at the National Press Club. The project will highlight the abuses of so-called ex-Gay ministries and compile the latest research on the psychological effects of these ministries.

The press conference followed a press conference by the Family Research Council where a national television ad campaign featuring "ex-Gays" was announced.

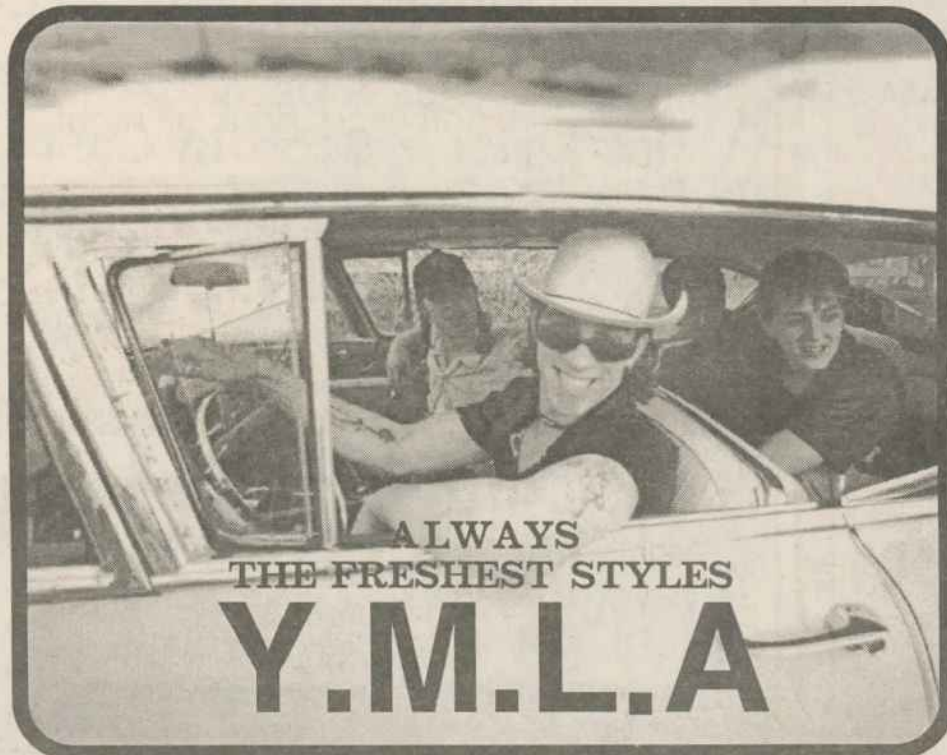
"Scapegoating Gay and Lesbian Americans is not going to heal what ails the American family. What is going to help is the hard work of building a family that is based on trust and mutual respect," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch in her statement.

The "Ray of Light Project" will invite former ex-Gays from around the nation to share their stories with the Human Rights Campaign and lift the veil of secrecy surrounding these ministries. The project will compile information by leading mental health and medical experts on the most recent studies available.

This project is an extension of the in-depth *Mission Impossible* report, released in August and conducted by HRC Education Director Kim I. Mills. *Mission Impossible* chronicles the misinformation and deception perpetuated by religious political extremists about these ministries.

In August 1997, the American Psychological Association overwhelmingly passed a resolution at their APA convention that asserts there is no sound scientific evidence on the efficacy of "reparative therapy," which seeks to "cure" homosexuals. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

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**POSITIVE
HEALTH
OUTLOOK**

**Midwestern Lesbian
Health Conference**

By Arlene Zaucha for "Her Turn," WORT-FM Community Radio

Lesbian health issues: that was the topic at a groundbreaking conference held in Chicago on September 11-12, 1998. Titled *Creating Healthy Lives-Exploring the Diversity of Lesbian Health*, the conference brought together over 150 Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, straight, and Transgender people from academia, public health and community organizations.

Michelle Hoersch is the Director of the Midwestern Regional Office of Women's Health, a division of the US Public Health Service. Hoersch says that women's health has often been relegated to the sidelines.

"In the field of women's health, we've had to fight to move health care as a whole beyond the myopia of the 180-pound white male and beyond the focus exclusively of our physiological ability as women to bear children.

And while we are making substantial strides to have the health care community better understand that women are in fact different than men, we still have far to go, and there remain groups of women whose health care needs continue to go unmet."

As one of the conference planners, Hoersch says she was often asked why a conference on Lesbian health was needed. "I would ask these individuals who would ask me with true sincerity about why this was important." I would ask "what if your health care provider just assumed something about you that inaccurately represented who you are and that was central to who you are?"

"I've come to understand that these assumptions and stigmatization are often offensive and create true barriers to care. If there's one thing that participating in the planning of this conference has done, is that it has caused me to heighten my own awareness of diversity and the importance of inclusivity in approaching public health education and the provision of sensitive and appropriate health care. If we strive to be sensitive to diverse needs, we are bound to be more effective health professionals in every aspect of our work, and we are bound to be empowered consumers of healthcare. My hope is that this conference serves as a catalyst to move us all in that direction."

Conference participants say these are exciting times for Lesbian health issues. The Institute Of Medicine (IOM) will soon be announcing its findings from a 1997 study on Lesbian health that was commissioned by such top governmental agencies as the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and the Office of Research on Women's

Health.

One of the keynote speakers at the conference, Judy Bradford, was a member of IOM's Committee on Lesbian Health Priorities. "Lesbians are both under-studied and under-served," she said. "For us, the challenge is, as members of the Lesbian health movement working in services, working in research, that these work together to make it difficult for progress to happen. An understudied population basically means that there's not enough research about them for people to be able to trust what they read. And as long as there's no strong commitment to research about Lesbians, we'll continue to be under-studied. This, we hope, is about to change."

More money for research on Lesbian health will make it possible to better serve the Lesbian community, argues Bradford. But another keynote speaker at the conference, longtime Lesbian health advocate Marj Plumb, asks if the Lesbian community is ready for the attention that the IOM's report is sure to bring.

"Do we have researchers with the expertise and credentials for them to compete for research grants? Is it safe enough in their institutions for them to be out and to participate in Lesbian-themed research? Does the mainstream

**"Lesbians are both
under-studied and
under-served."**

research community truly understand the importance of confidentiality and informed consent when researching this population? Do we have a community that understands the impor-

importance of this research and the importance of being fully educated in the research process? If not, we risk more than any of us can imagine. For in the name of science, minority communities have been exploited in considerable numbers throughout history, and we need to make sure that we are not next."

"From the Nazi experimentations on Jews during WW II, to the Tuskegee syphilis experiments on African American males which did not end until 1972, to more recent examples of unethical, blinded HIV drug and placebo trials currently happening in Africa on African women, medical research shows again and again that it is not benign. Research is an important tool, which is intended to provide invaluable information about the health risks, needs and behaviors of the individuals being studied. It is also a double-edged scalpel that is capable of harming as it is of healing."

Other topics addressed at the conference included barriers to care for all, including disability rights, youth issues, transgender issues and racism in health care.

Tineality

by Tina Lee

Culture

On Sunday I sat listening to my new favorite CD, *Indigo Girls*, the 1989 release. How I managed to pass through my post-pubescent years until just last month, not having coveted in my possession an Indigo Girls CD, is as mind boggling a mystery to me as the recent popularity of inflatable furniture. I hadn't ever been exposed to the Indigo Girls, even once, until my husband ordered me that CD. Or had I?

Perhaps I heard them once, long ago, in my father's truck. We were driving from Jacksonville Florida to his home in Tallahassee. I was in Florida then, visiting him and my stepmother as I sometimes did. I remember he was enthusiastic about some band and he was actually full of something resembling glee. He was proudly boasting that the band had been local or some such fact, and he popped the tape in the cassette player. The music fell on my deaf ears. It didn't move me, stir me, or arouse the least emotion within me that could heave my 19-year-old bosom. I must have been dead then, or worse yet, uncultivated.

I wasn't always 19, and I certainly hadn't spent my formative Lesbian years (otherwise known as the days of yore or my college daze) tied up in

some cave. So what could explain the absence of Gay pop culture in my unfolding life? Hadn't I dated a hot mama dyke role model? Didn't she shave her head and wear a nose ring? Hadn't she the fiercest ass tattoo on her belly? Why had she failed me? Why had the entire LGBT community kept secret the one vice that doesn't make you tired the day after you indulge in it? And, thank you, I'm referring to music.

Evidently, one of two things were the case; either there was no profound Gay cultural influence in my life or I had, without knowing it, lodged my head firmly and forcibly up my ass? The latter image shockingly being the more likely of the two. No one can see the light of day from that vantage-point, and no one can hear music. It's true, my life was a cultural abyss because my head was up my ass. I couldn't tell you beans about '80s and '90s Gay culture despite my having dated girls through them, gone to college through them, even bartended on Lesbian nights through them. I was and still am, to an extent that would shock a timid recluse, almost utterly culturally illiterate. Almost, not entirely. Osmosis is inevitable.

I adore the grippingly intense Melissa Etheridge and the startling Pussy Tourette; but whose life is compete without them? Believe it, it was-

n't until I was 22 that I saw the probing Gay drama *Maurice*, and it was chance alone that united that film to me, definitely not mandate. Eventually I saw *My Beautiful Laundrette*, another classic in Gay filmmaking, but that was for the singular perversion of getting a glimpse of a naked Daniel Day Lewis.

These days it's no different; I'm still so out of the Gay loop that I was genuinely shocked to discover that *Cabaret* addressed serious Gay issues. And as for literature, just tie me to the bench out back and tar and feather me (please), cause I haven't read a single Gay novel. Of course, that excludes Anne Rice novels, erotica, and many Lesbian short story compilations such as *Daughters of Darkness*, *Lesbian Vampire Stories* which, by the way, I really don't recommend.

You may be asking yourself, so what of all this? Tina's deprived along with be being depraved. What else is new? Well readers, this is my long-overdue, hitherto silent, cry. I would never have become the twisted wasteland of a woman I am today had I been exposed to a positive, adult Lesbian role model to hug and call my very own, and I most certainly would have by now completed a hardy chunk of the novels within the canon of Gay literature or - hum, well - at least those containing torrid sex scenes. But woe! I wade in the shallow end of cultural competence. I can't talk the talk. I can wear flannel, but I can't discuss Stonewall and the Gay '60s.

Every young budding Lesbian and bisexual needs someone to explain Gloria Steinem to them, in much the way that every young Gay buck

deserves tutelage in home decorating, as well as a mini-course in self esteem.

I stand on a ridge overlooking a valley, lush and green, and I cry out into the wind, "Would someone please pass on the benefit of your experience to those, like myself, who first learned about sex and primal desire from watching Brook Shields in *Blue Lagoon*? Would someone moderate please be a benefactor to an eager young adult in search of their identity?" No one should suffer the indignity of having an entirely hetero cultural perspective, and no one should pass into adulthood without claiming to have heard the likes of the Indigo Girls as a part of their collective experiences.

One thing is true though: Ignorance isn't all bad, at least it allows for the opportunity of discovery.

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— ENDORSEMENTS —

Re-elect Russ Feingold

When Russ Feingold ran for the US Senate in 1992, he was considered the longest of long shots. Faced with two heavy hitters in the Democratic primary, and an entrenched Republican incumbent, Feingold never blinked. He beat the field with refreshing honesty, and an innovative campaign.

That honesty and innovation have been the hallmarks of Feingold's first term in the Senate, and are among the many reasons why he should be re-elected by the voters for a second term.

When the odious Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA, came before the Senate, Feingold took the floor and scolded his colleagues for even considering it. He is a co-sponsor of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. He worked hard at changing the way the Federal government distributes money to fight AIDS. His efforts are credited with bringing a huge increase in AIDS funds to Wisconsin. He has consistently supported funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

His opponent, Mark Neumann, voted for DOMA, voted to overturn President Clinton's Executive order banning federal job discrimination, and voted against funding the NEA. He even voted to punish the City of San Francisco for passing a domestic partners ordinance and to overturn a D.C. ordinance that would have allowed hospital visitation rights for same sex couples.

Contrary to what Neumann would have us believe, Russ Feingold is not a "raise our taxes spend-thrift liberal." Feingold has been a budget watchdog saving millions of tax dollars and promoting a budgetary policy that will for the first time in 40 years bring a federal budget surplus. He has fought for education programs, and Russ Feingold is one of the best friends Social Security ever had.

Moreover, Wisconsin can take pride in Feingold's work to eliminate abuses in the raising and spending of campaign funds. The Feingold - McCain Campaign Finance Reform act has set the tone for a badly needed national debate on how to insure that the system of government by the people is in fact owned by the people and not by big money special interests.

Feingold's approach is more in line with what the voters of Wisconsin expect and demand from those representing them - honesty, integrity and a sense of fairness. He deserves another term.

Garvey for Governor

Tommy Thompson has been a popular Governor for 12 years. During Thompson's tenure, taxes have gone up dramatically, our prisons have become overcrowded due to wrong headed policies on crime prevention, and while the



rolls of individuals on welfare have decreased, the number of corporations on corporate welfare has increased.

Furthermore, Thompson's record on campaign finance is appalling. He has raised huge amounts of money, much of it coming from those seeking favors from the State. His Democratic opponent, Garvey, on the other hand has limited contributions to just \$100 per individual.

Thompson has been very supportive of the fight against AIDS. He's played a

key role in making sure that needed funds are allocated by State government. But his record on issues of Gay and Lesbian equality is disturbing. While in the State Assembly, Thompson voted against both our Gay civil rights laws, AB - 70 and the consenting adults bill.

During the last session of the legislature, Thompson announced that he would sign AB-104, an anti-Gay marriage law, if it reached his desk. The bill didn't get that far thanks to Democrats in the State Senate bottling it up in committee. Republicans are now in control of both houses of the legislature. If that remains the case, as many believe it will, Wisconsin's Gays and Lesbians will need a Governor who will say no to the radical right.

Ed Garvey would be that kind of Governor. Garvey makes no secret of his support for equality. In fact, he was the first major party statewide candidate ever to march in a Gay pride parade, which he did this summer.

It's time for a Governor who recognizes and will work to enhance the rights of all Wisconsin's citizens. It's time for a Governor who will owe nothing to the special interests. It's time for a change in the Governor's office. The voters would do well by making that change with Ed Garvey.

CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

FIRST DISTRICT - LYDIA SPOTTSWOOD

In the last election for this seat, Democrat Lydia Spottswood was barely edged out by Mark Neumann. This time with Neumann running for the US Senate, she is opposed by Paul Ryan, a former congressional aide, who can best be described as a Neumann clone. Although Spottswood's stand on gun control may disturb some, she deserves election to the post.

Spottswood has shown a genuine concern for ALL of the families of the district. Her campaign has correctly emphasized issues that are on the minds of the voters - Social Security, health care and education. There are serious problems in each of these areas. Spottswood recognizes that more of the same won't solve those problems. Spottswood would make an excellent Congresswoman.

SECOND DISTRICT - TAMMY BALDWIN

Voters in Wisconsin's Second District have an historic choice to make on November 3rd when they elect what could be Wisconsin's first congresswoman. The question is which woman will they pick? That choice should be Tammy Baldwin.

one can speak more forcefully or effectively on behalf of minority groups than someone who is herself a member of such a group.

On every level: experience, innovative proposals, ability and an understanding of the issues, Tammy Baldwin is clearly superior. She is the right choice for the voters in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District.

THIRD DISTRICT - NO ENDORSEMENT

Democratic incumbent, Ron Kind, has been a friend of the Gay and Lesbian community. Nevertheless, his vote in favor of the current charade in Washington, the Republican sponsored impeachment investigation, is disturbing. By voting for an open-ended, anything goes investigation, Kind has sided with those who are using the impeachment process for partisan purposes. A four-year investigation in to Clinton's affairs is enough. The American people do not need or want another expensive inquisition.

Kind is preferable to his opponent, but his indefensible vote for the GOP impeachment hearings gives thoughtful voters reason to pause.

FOURTH DISTRICT - GERALD KLEZCKA

Incumbent Democratic Congressman Gerald Klezcka has been basically supportive of Gay and Lesbian civil rights. He is far superior to his opponent, Tom Reynolds. Reynold's backing comes largely from Christian fundamentalists.

FIFTH DISTRICT - TOM BARRETT

Incumbent Tom Barrett has been an active and stalwart supporter of Gay and Lesbian rights. He fully understands that it is his job to represent the interests of ALL of his constituents. A consistent supporter of funding for the fight against AIDS and an end to discrimination against America's Gays and Lesbians, Tom Barrett deserves re-election.

SIXTH DISTRICT - DAVID OBEY

The Democratic incumbent in this district is one of the most respected members of Congress. While his record on Gay and Lesbian issues has been somewhat spotty at times, in general he has been supportive. He is far preferable to his opponent, perennial candidate, Scott West.

EIGHTH DISTRICT - JAY JOHNSON

The Democrat in this race, incumbent Jay Johnson, is locked in a tight battle against Republican State Representative Mark Green. Green is no friend of those who support equality for Gays and Lesbians. As the Majority Whip in the State Assembly, he led the charge for the odious AB-104, Wisconsin's proposed anti-same sex marriage law.

This is a district generally considered to be a conservative Republican one. Nevertheless, Johnson has stood on the side of equality and fair treatment. His votes have marked him as a politician who has the courage to stand up for his beliefs. He deserves re-election.



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Spotlight on

Halloween

IN WISCONSIN

October 22-November 4, 1998

Halloween Holiday Influence of the Druids

By Belle Pepper

Now a day of merry making, costumes, candy, parties and contests, Halloween is no longer the gloomy festival it once was.

Today's Halloween is the direct ancestor of the Druid "All Souls' Day," but practices which are still observed are far older. Bonfires which are still built outdoors, stems mostly from the worship of Baal, the Syrian sun-god.

Since our western civilization is heir mostly to Roman customs, another indirect ancestor of Halloween is the Feast to Pomona, goddess of fruits, which was held on November 1. These customs were combined with the Druid Thanksgiving for harvest which was the feast of Saman, lord of Death.

Saman called together the souls of all wicked ones that had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals during the year. The good souls were believed to take human form. During the feast, witches were free and in the mood to "tell things," so predictions in various forms took place.

Because of the old superstition that once a year the dead came to life, the festival came to be known as All Hallow Even or All Souls' Eve. In 837, Pope Gregory IV set aside November 1 as All Saints' Day for honoring the saints instead.

At first, the day was only observed by the church, but soon lower classes took an interest in the festival. They circulated weird tales about ghosts and goblins and built bonfires to keep them away. Groups



would gather together and feast on nuts, apples and other things from the summer harvest, and stay up all night because they were afraid to go to bed.

Halloween celebrations today reflect many of these early customs. Stores and homes decorate using the colors orange and black and put up figures of witches, bats, black cats and pumpkins.

HALLOWEEN SUPERSTITIONS

Ghosts: In ancient times, ghosts were believed to entertain in their former homes on Halloween, sitting around the fire with their living relatives serving them refreshments. The superstition: Ghosts remain on earth because they are in love with the living, comes from Egyptian times and parts of pagan Europe. Since ghosts are invisible and figments of imagination, children would and still do dress up and play the part of ghosts and witches, playing

pranks of all kinds.



The Black Cat: Satan, especially during the Middle Ages, was believed to take the form of a black cat while consorting with witches. Medieval people believed cats were inhabited by wicked souls. Dogs are said to be able to tell coming death and danger and can reputedly see ghosts. Cats, in the world of mysticism, carry a far higher magical power than man pretended to. The origin of cat-power derives almost certainly from the original Egyptian worship of the cat emblem, "Bast." The witchcraft of the Middle Ages turned the black cat into the "familiar"; a creature that could change shape and perform or help perform rituals and spells for the witch.

Jack-'o'-lanterns: An American custom, the carving of grotesque faces on pumpkins was also a form of thanksgiving of the harvest. Making jack-'o'-lanterns is reminiscent of the sun and the warmth which brought them out of the earth.

Fortune-telling: This superstition, or actually custom, continued through the Middle Ages and today is a lively feature at the modern Halloween party. It has several roots in history. The Celtic New Year was the time for marriage

prophecies as well as auguries of death. Roman women would eat an apple before a mirror on Halloween, giving the mirror the power to show her the face of her future husband.



Nights Out

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

Dish (Milwaukee), Special appearance by Candace Gingrich, nationally known Gay activist and half-sister of Speaker of the House Newt. An Endorsement party for Feingold for Senate, Barrett & Tammy Baldwin for US Congress, Garvey/Lawton for Governor.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Brandy's II (Green Bay), Leather Nite, 9pm, 50 cents off drinks for those in leather.

M&M Club (Milwaukee), Randy Frank's Birthday Bash and Eviline's HIT Fundraising show. 7:30pm, show time 10:30pm, raffles during evening.

Jo'Dee's Intl. (Racine), Jeff's 31st birthday bash. Free beer, soda, food from 9pm - ? Specials on shots of Dr.'s.

South Water Street Docks (Milwaukee), Jake's Birthday Party.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Club 5 (Madison), TSC's Halloween Drag Show, show time 10:30pm.

M&M Club (Milwaukee), Jazz stylings by vocalist Joey Cross and trio.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

In Between (Milwaukee), Smashing Pumpkins for \$\$\$\$\$.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Club 219 (Milwaukee), Lena Chavez presents the 1998 Miss Cosmopolitan Milwaukee US of A pageant. The final preliminary for the Wisconsin US of A before the finals in Green Bay. 11pm show time, featuring special guest Miss Gay WI-US of A Neely O'Hara.

Club 5 (Madison), Movie Night, featuring *The Witches of Eastwick*, 8pm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Club 5 (Madison), Kick off Halloween Weekend with *Michaels' Thriller '98* with special guest entertainers. Benefit for AIDS Network in memory of Jim Christian. Show time 10:30pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
HALLOWEEN EVE

Club 5 Video/Dance Bar (Madison), *Devil's Night!* Dress up as your favorite evil entity and boogie to the best in dance music. Hell of a good time!

Dish (Milwaukee), 1st Year Anniversary customer appreciation cocktail party, complimentary hors d'oeuvres 7pm-11pm. Roller skating waitresses! Prizes and drink specials all weekend.

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Pre-Halloween madness, Fortune teller, anyone in costume receives \$1 off every drink!

M&M Club (Milwaukee), 1st of our 2 frightful nights of Halloween. We'll turn more heads than Linda Blair.

Nights Out continued

South Water Street Docks (Milwaukee), 1st annual *Halloween Spooktacular*. \$2 door includes raffle ticket and is a HIT 20 fund-raiser. Costume contest, cash prizes, judging at 11pm. Drink specials, guest bartenders, pot-of-gold, snack buffet. 8pm-Midnight.

Station 2 (Milwaukee), Psychic Reader Monica will do her annual Halloween visit, 9pm-?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Barracks Men's Room /Club 5 (Madison), *Halloween Leather Style*. Come dressed in leather and get 50¢ off every drink all night long.

Blue Lite (Sheboygan), Halloween costume contest 12:30am judging for prizes.

Cafe Bourbon (Green Bay), Free hot apple cider and other treats with your dinner tonight.

Club 5 (Madison), Halloween Night: All the ghosts and goblins and other creatures of the night assemble at Wisconsin's newest Gay hot spot. Costume judging at Midnight with \$150/1st, \$75/2nd, \$25/3rd cash prizes.

Dish (Milwaukee), Halloween Costume Contest, cash prizes, raffle. Anniversary prizes and drink specials all weekend.

Eagle (Milwaukee), 1st Anniversary Party - *Fantasy in Black*, featuring un-Halloween dress in all black. Special appearance by Tony Mills, Mr. IML '98. Photo opportunity fund-raiser for The Eagle's Brotherhood Relief Fund.

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Halloween costume contest, judging at midnight. Over \$400 in cash and prizes. Witch n' Warlock Brew.

Fluid (Milwaukee), Voodoo at Fluid. Costume contest, 11pm, over \$500 in cash and prizes. Zombie martinis.

In Between (Milwaukee), Halloween Costume Contest. Cash and Prizes. You vote for the winners, First, Second and Third prizes.

Jo'Dee's Intl. (Racine), Halloween Party, prizes for best costumes. Drink and shot specials 10pm-close.

M&M Club (Milwaukee), 2nd of our 2 frightful nights of Halloween. We'll turn more heads than Linda Blair.

Main Club (Superior), Levi/Leather night.

Men's Room Bar (Ray's upstairs) (Madison), Underwear party for Halloween.

Ray's Bar and Grill (Madison), Halloween costume party.

Station 2 (Milwaukee), Halloween Costume Party, 11pm judging. \$50 in bar tabs, free beer for those in costume from 10pm-Midnight. Ghoulish midnight snacks for all.

This Is It! (Milwaukee), Howling Good Time Costume Party with prizes for everyone. Judging at the Witching Hour.

Woody's (Milwaukee), Halloween Trick or Treat? Costume contest from 7-8pm, over \$500 in prizes.

SUNDAY, NOV. 1

Club 5 (Madison), *Sugar and Spice all male revue*, 3 hot beefy stud puppies from Colorado entertain beginning at 10:30pm. Bar opens for Packer game 1/2 hour before game time. Restaurant open 5-9pm.

Dish (Milwaukee), 2-4-1 All Nite on all drinks, prizes to wrap up 1st Anniversary celebration.

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

In Between (Milwaukee), *Election Night Party*, a *Wisconsin Light* Spotlight Event. Free Beer, Food, Raffles, election coverage including "Live" reports from Tammy Baldwin's campaign headquarters. Come be part of history in the making. Drink specials for everyone wearing their "I Voted" stickers.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Karaoke vocalists *Singsational* 7:30-10:30.

THURSDAY, NOV. 5

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

Miss Gay WI-USA (Green Bay), Preliminary night at Za's video bar. 9pm, \$5 cover tonight only. Reserved table seating \$15 additional for table of 4. Finals tomorrow night.

Unicorns Club Night (Madison), Barracks at Club 5.

Firebirds Club Night (Milwaukee), Boot Camp Saloon.



The advertisement features a dark, atmospheric illustration of a witch flying on a broomstick through a night sky with a full moon. A large, gnarled tree trunk is on the left, and a tombstone with a jack-o'-lantern is on the right. The text is centered and uses various fonts to create a spooky and festive feel.

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Saturday, October 31, 1998
8pm Transit Center
Harbor Lights Ballroom
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*For the Scariest,
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Best Group Costumes*

*Beer, Wine,
Mixed Drinks and
non-alcoholic drinks
served!*

*Wear a Costume or come
as you are!*

*Professional DJ
Dance to the hits of
yesterday and today*

**Admission
\$8 at the Door**

How to find it: The transit center building is on the SW corner of Lake Drive & Michigan Ave. Take the escalator up one level to the Harbor Lights Ballroom. Follow the orange & black balloons.

THE FUNNIES

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

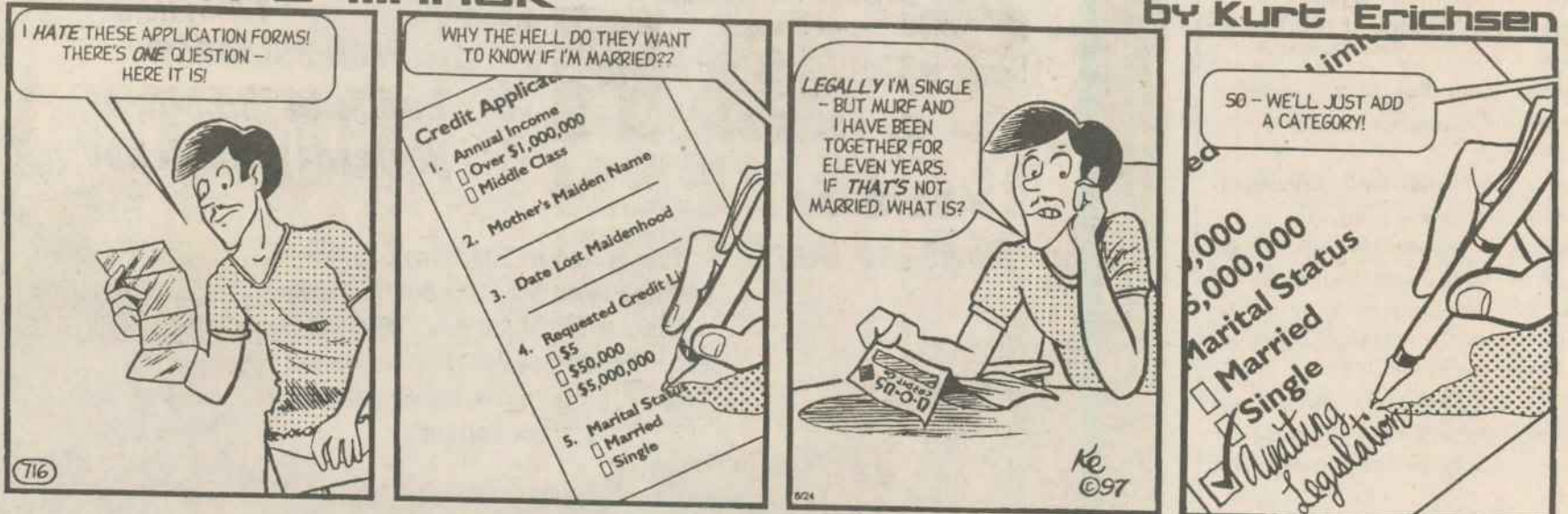


Biff 'n Bunky by Keith Anderson



MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



OUT ON FILM

Passion in the Desert: An Erotic Must See

By Terry Boughner

If the desert is nothing except God without the human race, what happens if a man intrudes? This is the question posed in the movie *Passion in the Desert*, taken from Honore de Balzac's story of the same name.

Augustine Robert (Ben Daniels) is a young captain in Napoleon's 1798 Egyptian campaign. Robert is a child of the French Enlightenment, living with the assumption that Reason is the crown of the human mind. Reality is ordered by Reason, so Robert thinks. Even Egypt is manageable. "You can't get lost in Egypt," Robert keeps saying. "There's the Nile and there's the sea."

Yet, he does get lost in Egypt.

After a battle with Mameluke warriors (one of only two all-Gay military orders known to history), Robert is separated from his regiment and loses his way in the howling wilderness. Here, he is confronted by that which does not conform to Reason, the preternatural forces, which rule this land, spirits known as jinns.

Wracked by thirst and hunger, Robert thinks he will die. Instead he is saved. A male leopard appears and leads him to a hidden pool of water. Afterwards it shares a kill with him.

Since jinns can assume any shape, the leopard may not be as it appears. That's not important. What is important is the warm and sensual relationship that develops between the two. It is a relationship in which Robert is stripped (literally and figuratively) of all human convention so that he might contact his humanity.

I don't usually review movies. The only reason I saw this one was that Jerry wanted to go. I was prepared to be bored, but I was not, not at all. I was both moved and intrigued by it. So when the editor called and said he would have space for one review after all, I decided to write this one.

Even so, I wouldn't have written anything about this film, were it not for the Gay angle which, though subtle, is there.

Number of stars? Who knows? All I can say is that I enjoyed *Passion in the Desert*. I think you will too. I recommend it.

Passion in the Desert is currently playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 26



SMASHING PUMPKINS for \$\$\$\$\$

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

COSTUME CONTEST

Judging at 1:30pm

CASH & PRIZES



You vote for the best costume. First, second and third prize.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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Food, Free Beer

Wear your "I Voted" sticker and receive 1/2 price drinks all night + an Extra Raffle Ticket.

Raffles for prizes, bar tabs & cash.

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Nov 1	SAN FRANCISCO	3:15pm
Nov 9	at Pittsburgh	7:20pm
Nov 15	at New York	3:15pm
Nov 22	at Minnesota	12:00pm
Nov 29	PHILADELPHIA	3:15pm
Dec 7	at Tampa Bay	7:20pm
Dec 13	CHICAGO	12:00pm
Dec 20	TENNESSEE	12:00pm
Dec 27	at Chicago	12:00pm

BADGERS

Nov 7	MINNESOTA	1:00pm
Nov 14	at Michigan	12:00pm
Nov 21	PENN STATE	1pm

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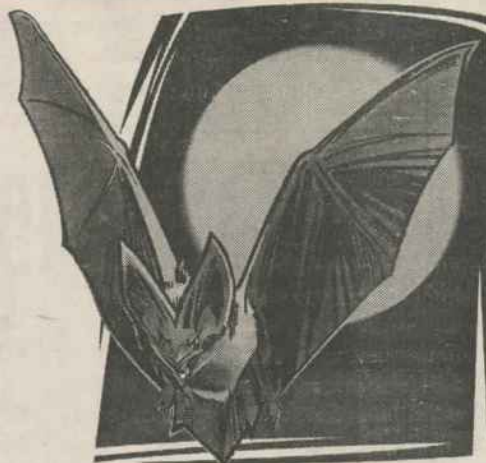
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 Friday, October 23
 9pm-12:30am

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 4 computers.
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PRE-HALLOWEEN PARTY

Friday, October 30

Fortune Teller

Come learn your future

Anyone in costume receives \$1.00 off every drink

FREE Witch and Warlock brew, 7-10pm

DJ & Hot music, past & present

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Saturday, October 31

Costume Contest

Over \$500 in cash and prizes

Judging around Midnight • Witch and Warlock brew

Wed, Nov 4 & Thur, Nov 19

Singsational

7:30-10:30pm



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OUT in the Theatre 

Victor/Victoria

Milwaukee - Blake Edwards' outrageous hit musical comedy about a woman posing as a man impersonating a woman (everyone got that?) will be presented at Milwaukee's Uihlein Hall from October 20-25. *Victor/Victoria* is the first installment of the MasterCard Broadway Series presented at Uihlein Hall by the PACE Theatrical Group, one of the nation's largest presenters of Broadway touring shows.

Victor/Victoria is the story of Victoria Grant, a strikingly beautiful woman who has fallen upon hungry times. In order to pay the rent she allows herself to be persuaded to headline at Paris' finest cabaret - as a female impersonator! Victoria pulls off the role in fine form, but her offstage love life becomes, shall we say, somewhat complicated by her gender-bending stage persona.

Victor/Victoria is based on the acclaimed 1982 film, which starred Julie Andrews in the title role. It received the Best Original Score Academy Award. Andrews reprised her film role for *Victor/Victoria's* theatrical debut on Broadway four years ago.

The current production stars Grammy Award winner Toni Tennille as Victoria Grant. Tennille is a well-known music star who burst upon the pop music scene in 1975 with *Love Will Keep Us Together*. She also co-starred with husband Daryl Dragon on an ABC television series. The talented couple hit the pop charts fourteen times in the '70s and '80s. In April of this year Toni Tennille released an album of classic jazz standards.

Victor/Victoria is written by Blake Edwards, directed by Mark S. Hoebee, choreographed by Dan Mojica and features a musical score by the late Henry Mancini.

Tickets can be purchased at the Marcus Center Box Office (929 N. Water St., downtown Milwaukee) and at all Ticketmaster locations. They can be charged by phone by calling Ticketmaster at (414) 276-4545; the Marcus Center Box Office (414) 273-7206 or toll free at 1-888-612-3500.



David Seelbach's

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 Sat., Oct. 31 - 1 pm Matinee, 6 pm/9 pm, Sun., Nov. 1 - 1 pm Matinee
 Evening Prices \$12/\$18/\$24, Matinees \$6 - \$24, Midnight \$7

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MODJESKA THEATRE
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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

By Romeo San Vicente

Buffy the Lesbian Seductress?

Tongues were wagging in New York's Central Park when onlookers spotted teen queen **Sarah Michelle Gellar** (TV's *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*) liplocked with another gal. But sorry to burst your bubble, ladies, she was just acting.

Gellar stars in Original Films' *Cruel Intentions*, a story with a *Dangerous Liaisons* spin set in the Big Apple's high school prep world. Unlike that movie, however, *Intentions* will have a strong dyke subplot, with Gellar's character not just manipulating the "competition" but seducing them as well.

This Encore More Like It

Taking time off from his lackluster NBC sitcom, **Nathan Lane** will return to the theatre, sort of, in the big-screen adaptation of *Schmucks*. The **Jon Robin Baitz** screenplay concerns two washed-up producers who try to salvage their careers with one last screen deal. Stage veteran **Joe Mantello** directs.

Family Fun

What's this preoccupation Disney seems to have with queer folk? First *Ellen* and now this: *The Wonderful*

World of Disney, which airs family-oriented movies on ABC Sunday nights, will address the delicate issue of - get this - transgendered basketball players with the film, *Honey Thunder Dunk*. Supermodel **Tyra Banks** stars as a WNBA guard who must fend off advances from a teammate (sounds believable enough). However, this teammate is actually a man gone undercover as a woman to fulfill his hoop dreams. The telepic is scheduled for next year.

In addition, openly Gay producing team **Neil Meron** and **Craig Zadan** are signed to produce one musical a year for the next four years for *Wonderful World*. The pair scored big with *Cinderella* last year.

Taking It Like a Man

Hillary Swank, who played the female *Karate Kid* in the final installment of that Reagan-Bush-era series, will go against gender roles again in the independent film, *Take it Like a Man*, the story of **Brandon Teena**. A documentary about the life of Teena, who lived secretly as a man in rural Nebraska before being murdered, is already playing in selected cities. **Kim Pierce** directs Swank, who most recently appeared on TV's 90210.

Fine Line Pictures was planning a Teena pic of its own, with **Drew Barrymore** rumored to star. Word on when and if they'll proceed with filming is unknown.

The "It" Couple to Show "It" Off?

Brad Pitt, after rejecting earlier overtures, has reportedly agreed to be **Calvin Klein's** next high-profile underwear model. And he'll have a megawatt co-star, the object of his affection **Jennifer Aniston**. The *Friends* star, who, rumor has it, has always wanted to model, apparently convinced her man to show off his bulge (though those who saw those famous pics of Brad in the buff are prepared for the disappointment). One stipulation: the couple will appear in all of the ads together.

The Dream is Over

Gay luminaries **David Geffen** (producer) and **Joel Schumacher** (director) had some disappointing news recently when Warner Bros. announced they were shelving the duo's planned feature adaptation of *Dreamgirls*.

The decision was said to be based on the poor performance of the studio's Frankie Lyman biopic *Why Do Fools Fall in Love?* Officially, WB is saying the film was postponed for a creative overhaul, which has to be a big disappointment for Schumacher, who had a tentative cast with singer **Lauryn Hill** set to play backstabbing diva **Deena Jones** (said to be modeled after **Diana Ross**) and *Out of Sight's* **Don Cheadle** pegged as singer **James "Thunder" Early**.

Speaking of films in trouble, Fine Line's *Orgazmo*, starring *South Park* co-creator **Trey Parker**, is fighting with the MPAA ratings board over their apparent decision to brand the porn industry spoof with an NC-17, which is a financial kiss-of-death. The movie was scheduled for release later this month but is on hold until producers can secure an R rating.

Lesbians Have Stalkers, Too

Pop star and dykon **Melissa Etheridge** can breathe a little easier now that **Heather Schleg**, 32, has been committed to a state mental hospital in Florida. Schleg, who called herself Heather Etheridge, was sentenced after attempting to steal a plane and fly to the singer's Kansas City, Missouri home.

Comeback of the Week

Yes, it's Chastity's mom's turn to be back in the spotlight, returning to her controversial roots in the new film, *The Breakers*. **Cher** plays an unscrupulous mother who hustles wealthy men into marriage, then enlists her daughter to seduce her stepfathers. The duplicitous duo then split the lucrative divorce settlements. Filming is set to begin later this year.

Romeo San Vicente, who offered **Monica Lewinsky** \$10 out of his own pocket for her first interview (and another \$10 for the semen stained dress), can be reached care of this publication or at RSVicente@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.gay.net or www.popcornq.com.

THE MILWAUKEE

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31 OCTOBER

FANTASY

IN

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8pm - close

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an un-halloween event

OUT ON TV.

Out of the Past
Channel 10 Milwaukee
October 27, 11PM

From the beginning of recorded history, LGBT people have been part of the social and political landscape. For example, the first Gay man of record was Pharaoh Akhenaton (1375-1356 BC). He was also the first monotheist.

The love of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (76-138 AD) for the beautiful youth, Antinous was the stuff of legends.

England's King James I, who ordered the translation of the Bible that bears his name, was in love with

several young men. When objections were raised in the Privy Council, the King is reported to have huffed, "Jesus did have his John and I have my sweet Bobby."

All this by way of saying that our history is deep and rich. It has also, until recently, been largely ignored, "a well-kept secret," as former President Jimmy Carter said. Increasingly, however, the "secret" is being uncovered.

October is LGBT History Month. In honor of that, PBS will air *Out of the Past*. The award-winning, hour-long film tells the story of Kelli Peterson, a teenager from Utah who founded a Gay-Straight Alliance at her high school in 1996. Her efforts provoked

a statewide backlash as the school board and the state legislature attempted to keep the group from meeting.

Out of the Past uses Peterson's story to illuminate the history of Gay men and Lesbians in America. In the film, Peterson's private reflections and public struggle frame portraits of people spanning the last 400 years in America.

For example, there is the story of the Reverend Michael Wigglesworth, a minister in the Massachusetts Bay Colony who agonized over his attraction to men. When he sought advice, he was told to "use marriage." He did. Nothing changed as his diary records in what is for many of us, all-too familiar excruciating detail.

The film notes that among Native Americans, there were berdaches (men who dressed as women). Early European explorers noted how "common" homosexuality was among the Indians.

Among the Maya, a young man was asked by his parents who he wanted as a spouse: a man or a woman. If he answered a man, fidelity was required in the marriage. If he married a woman, fidelity was not required. The early European explorers had a difficult time understanding this.

What Native Americans in both North and South America tolerated and even honored, English America treated as a crime. In 1642, for example, Elizabeth Johnson was whipped for having been discovered making love to another woman. As the film

shows, other women and men then and since have paid for their orientation with their lives.

Our struggle is brought dramatically to light by readings in the diaries, letters and other materials presented by actors, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Edward Norton, Cherry Jones and others.

Those interviewed in the film include Barbara Gittings, historian George Chauncy, Lillian Faderman and John D'Emilio.

Out of the Past premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, 1998, where it won the Audience Award for the Best Documentary. Zeitgeist Pictures has since released the film in commercial movie theaters in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The film has also appeared in more than 35 cities in the U.S. and abroad to rave reviews.

In Milwaukee, *Out of the Past* airs on October 27 on Channel 10 at 11pm.

The Assistant Program Manager for Channel 21, said that *Out of the Past* will be shown, but has not been scheduled as of yet. Channel 21 is based in Madison and covers all Wisconsin except Milwaukee. Call your local PBS station to inquire when it will air in your hometown.

Out of the Past documents the significance of Gay history to America and shows how that history continues to evolve. The program is not to be missed.

Any Day Now
Lifetime Television
November 3, 8PM

The Lifetime television series, *Any Day Now* presents a special episode, *It's Who You Sleep With*. In this episode, Birmingham Attorney, Rene Jackson (Lorraine Toussaint), defends a lesbian couple who are denied the right to hold a commitment ceremony in a local park.

In this same episode, Rene learns that her brother Elston is Gay and has yet to be accepted by his mother.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
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another
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READERS**

**HALLOWEEN
GET-TOGETHER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31**

STARTING AT 10 P.M.

COSTUME CONTEST 10:30 TO 11

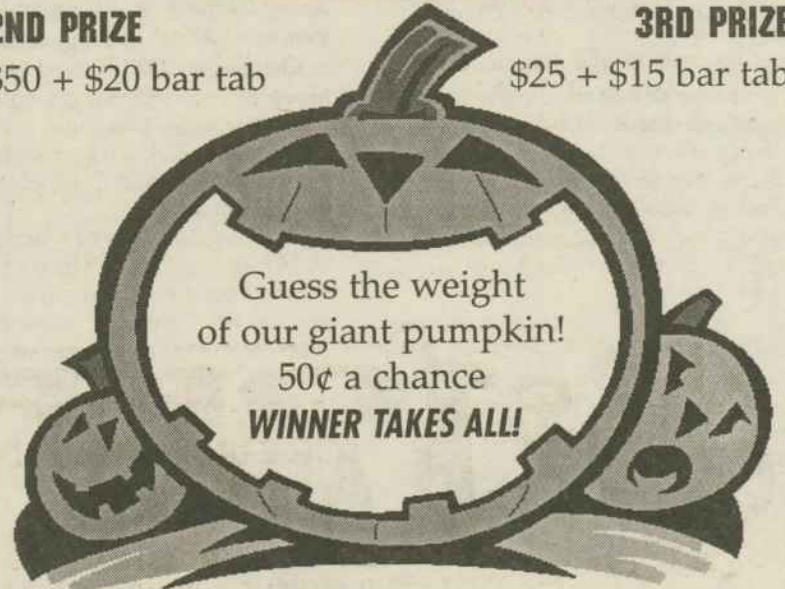
1ST PRIZE \$75+\$25 BAR TAB

2ND PRIZE

\$50 + \$20 bar tab

3RD PRIZE

\$25 + \$15 bar tab



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The NIGHT Light

By Dusty Sass

News . . . Things are not going well on Halsted Street in Chicago. The mecca for Gays south of the border is experiencing a wave of anti-Gay violence. One man well known to Madison's and Milwaukee's Gay leather communities, Steve Zielke, was beaten so badly that he was in intensive care. There have been other severe beatings, too. The Chicago police have announced they are beefing up patrols there.

And it's not just Chicago either. We have also heard of bashings in Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay. There is a rising wave of violence against us. There are people out there who will attack us when we are most vulnerable, at night after a few drinks in a bar. Please be careful out there. We don't want to lose anyone. Park in well-lit areas, go to your car in a group, and remember what your mother told you - don't take a ride from strangers.

Speaking of violence there was some at **La Cage** while I was there Saturday night, October 17. One guy on the dance floor bumped into

another guy and the guy who was bumped hit him with a beer bottle. This caused a lot of blood from what appeared to be a broken nose. Contrary to what some busy bodies are saying there was no stabbing, the bar did not close, the lights did not go up, except for the dance floor lights, the music did not stop and there were two squad cars that responded not 10 or 15 or whatever other number you have heard.

Speaking of **La Cage** they are remodeling again! Can you believe this? They just got done. Oh well, I guess George can't make up his mind. This remodeling job is not a major project like the last one was. George is moving the La Cage showcase over to the other side of the bar. Word is the work will be completed in time for the Miss La Cage pageant in mid November.

Which Gay owner of a straight bar in Milwaukee's Second Street bar district has been having some fun with a few of his "straight" customers? I won't tell. My lips are sealed, but his weren't. Neither were theirs. Let's just say that Monica Lewinsky has

nothing on this little group. Don't tell Ken Starr though. We don't need another \$50 million investigation.

Over at **Fluid** they have a new bar back. What a hunk! This guy looks like a 22-year-old Dolph Lundgren. Stop by and see him. Speaking of cuties behind the bar, I stopped by **This Is It** the other day where Tony and Jeremy were in fine form.

They're baaaack... The Saturday night drag shows are back at **C'est La Vie**. I stopped in to take a look, and I was pretty impressed with the talent that I saw.

Our Northeast Wisconsin Bureau chief Mike Fitzpatrick tells us that the **Platwood Club** in Stevens Point has reopened at least temporarily. It seems that manager Todd Pike, ended his ten year stint there. He left for a new job with only a letter as notice. Owner Hank Duda says that the bar will be open on Fridays and Saturdays for a couple of weeks. There will be a big Halloween Party on the 31st. Hank is a 70-year-old straight but not narrow pig farmer by day.

Mike also says the ongoing struggle of the Napalese Lounge to move to the East Side of Green Bay is still going on. The City is forcing the move with renovations on Broadway. The City's bid was for the amount it offered for the building next door, a nearly empty retailer. "The city never considered the thousands we spent on remodeling and putting in a brand new air conditioning system," co-owner Ann said. "We have all these built in fixtures, full bathrooms and refrigeration units and (the western

wear store) has four walls and some portable display units." Owners Ann and Nancy are getting an independent appraisal for the property.

Even when the city and Napalese Lounge come to terms on a price, where the bar will move remains up in the air.

Recaps... I had a great time at Milwaukee's **South Water Street Docks** the other day. That butch cutie Steve was bartending. Speaking of cuties and being butch, things are hopping over at **The Milwaukee Eagle**. Manager Mike is doing a great job. Of course we wish the Pack was doing a great job right now. Despite their lackluster performance the last couple of games, they still pack them in at **In Between**. Speaking of butch, **The Boot Camp** was just reeking of it the last time I was there. It will soon be too cold to hang out on the patio, so take advantage of Milwaukee's only outdoor space for the leather crowd while you still can.

Coming Up... Of course I will be out and about for Halloween, and I hope you will be, too. I plan on being in Madison on November 2nd and 3rd to help Tammy Baldwin get elected to Congress. While I am there, I will be checking out the doings at the **Shamrock, Kirby's Klub** and **Club 5**. Don't forget to vote! It really IS important. Vote like your life depends on the results, because as recent events have shown, it may.

That's it for now. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile, stay safe and vote with pride!

OUT and ABOUT

At Right - Simply Singsational at M&M Club.

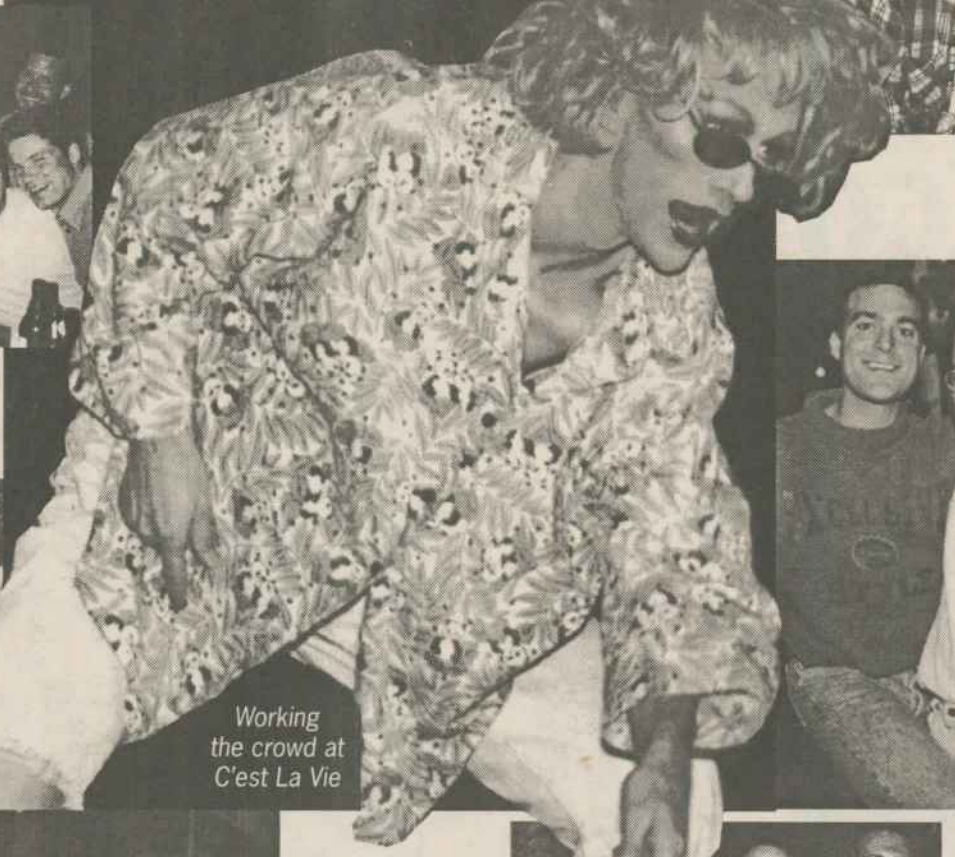
Below - Patrick (center rear) celebrated his Birthday at In Between.



Below - "John the Carpenter" and Wayne Schick caress the giant pumpkin at the Ballgame.



Working the crowd at C'est La Vie



Dishing it at Dish.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK ROBINSON, RON GEIMAN AND BILL MEUNIER, WI LIGHT STAFF

Friendly faces behind the bar (left to right, Tony & Jeremy) and in front of it (below, left to right, Sonny & Dave) at This is It!



Left - Enjoying cocktails, music and friends at La Cage. Right - Filling it up at Fluid's Libra Party. Bill Wardlow, second from left, is a co-owner



Events Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Boulevard Theatre (Milwaukee), 13th Season Premiere presentation, John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, (414) 744-5757. Thursday show at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday show at 8pm, Sunday Oct 25 at 7:30pm, Nov. 1 at 2:30pm. Thru Nov. 8.

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.

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.

Theatre X Late Nite (Milwaukee), *The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines*. Tickets \$10, 10:30pm showtime, (414) 291-7800, through Sunday.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

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.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Men's Discussion Group *The Question of Equality* open discussion. Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N Stowell, 6pm.

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.

Madison Gay Video Club (Madison), *Kiss Me, Guido*, *Catalinaville* 8pm, (608) 244-8675 (eves).

Ministry with G&L Persons & Families (Milwaukee), 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.

Madison LGB Business Alliance (Madison), An evening of fun and socializing, 3pm-on, Scavenger Hunt. Total cost \$20. Call Cliff at (608) 446-2017 for details.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Bld. 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 thru Nov. 9th.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Afterwords Books & Espresso Bar (Milwaukee), Lesbian Reading Group looks at *Strong Women*, *Deep Closets* by Pat Griffin.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee), *Wisconsin's Woven Heritage: Wisconsin Handweavers*, 48th annual juried exhibition. Thkrough Nov. 29. 1630 E. Royall Place.

David Seebach's 8th Annual Illusions (Milwaukee), *Thrilling Halloween Magic*, 7:30pm tonite, through Sunday. Modjeska Theatre, 12th and Mitcehl. See their ad, page 20.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Afterwords Books & Espresso Bar (Milwaukee), Afterword's Annual Halloween Bash with Vampire Mistress Elaine Bergstrom, popular author of *Window through Washington Square*. Chills, thrills, vampire stories galore and ghostly refreshments.

Latino Arts Inc (Milwaukee), *Day of the Dead, Dia de los Muertos*, featuring the Latino Arts/Theater performance of an original play depicting the history of Latinos in Wisconsin. Festivities include dance, music, visual arts, food. 10:30-11:30am, \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, children 16 and under. 1028 S. 9th St.

UW Madison School of Dance (Madison), *Molissa Fenley Dance*, Wisconsin Union Theatre, 8pm.

The Rep (Madison), Opening of *How I Learned to Drive* produced in collaboration with Next Act Theatre in Milwaukee.

Isthmus Playhouse, Madison Civic Center, 211 State St., Wed. - Sun, through Nov. 22. Tickets \$20-25, (608)266-9055. Opening night reception follows at Deb & Lola's.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

11th Annual Halloween Dance (Milwaukee), a Womyn Only Event. 8pm Transit Center, Harbor Lights Ballroom, 909 E. Michigan Avenue, Madison. Wear a costume or come as you are. \$8 at the door. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks served. Costume prizes.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum (Milwaukee), *Great Lakes Ghosts*, Halloween storytelling and song, presented by Lee Murdock. In the Great Hall overlooking Lake Michigan, 4pm, All ages. \$7 public, \$5 members, children free.

Madison Gay Video Club (Madison), *Love Bites*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Gayracula* 8pm, (608)244-8675 (eves).

Latino Arts Inc (Milwaukee), *Day of the Dead, Dia de los Muertos*, featuring the Latino Arts/Theater performance of an original play depicting the history of Latinos in Wisconsin. Festivities include dance, music, visual arts, food. 7-8pm, with a 6pm Candlelight Parade around Walker Square Park, \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, children 16 and under. 1028 S. 9th St.

Positive Voice (Green Bay), Annual Halloween Social and Dance. Liberty Hall Conference Center in Kimberly., 9pm-1am. FMI (920)435-4404.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee), 1584 N. Prospect, (414)276-5760, 3pm. Faculty Artists Series. Vocalists and pianist with guest artists for an afternoon of music from the Baroque to the Romantic.

Bld. 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.

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

Madison LGB Business Alliance (Madison), LGB's Goodwill Effort. Madison Thrift Store, Noon to 7pm. Help with donations of time or items for store. Contact Tom Neal at (608)256-2667.

Theatre X (Milwaukee), *Gint*, a play by Romulus Linney runs through Nov. 1st in the Studio Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI, tickets, (414)278-0555.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Red Wheel Barrow Bookshop (Milwaukee), Writers' group meets first Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30pm. Feel free to join us and write in a non-threatening, peer-group environment, free.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Older Women's League (OWLS) (Milwaukee), The Milwaukee chapter of OWLs will have their monthly meeting at Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St., from 103pm. General public invited, *Women, Work and Money: Improving the Odds for a Secure Retirement*.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

UW Madison School of Dance (Madison), Student Choreographers Showcase, featuring the works by emerging student choreographers, 8pm, Lathrop Hall, UW. Continues 6th and 7th.

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry (Milwaukee), Lecture Discussion Series, 7-9pm, St. Camillus Health Center, 10101 W. Wisconsin, Education Room. All invited, no fee. *Living Well With HIV*, facilitated by David Huibregtse.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Flirting With Intimacy (Milwaukee), Two-day workshop exploring intimacy and sexuality in relationships. This will be a practical skill building experience, sponsored by the Milwaukee POP Community (Process Work Milwaukee). Co-hosted by two Lesbians, UWM Union Milwaukee Room. FMI call (414) 964-6930 or email Milwpop@AOL.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Madison Symphony Orchestra (Madison), MSO performance conducted by Guest Conductor David Lockington and featuring pianist Stephen Hough. Madison Civic Center, 8pm tonight (tickets \$20-42); Sunday at 2:30pm (tickets \$15-35). FMI (608)266-9055. Prelude discussion with guest conductor in the Spotlight Room at 7pm on Saturday and 1:30pm on Sunday.

Alverno College (Milwaukee), The vocal harmonies and jazz improvisation of *Sol y Canto* 8pm, Wehr Hall, Alverno, \$14. (414)382-6044.

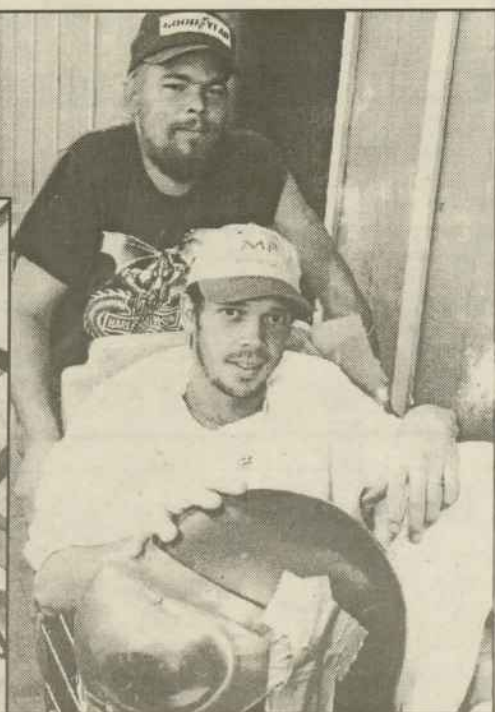
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (Milwaukee), *The Old Settler*, by John Henry Redwood, directed by James Tasse, through Nov. 29. Summer, Harlem, 1940s, two sisters share an apartment and their past and the entrance of a young male border who brings the heat to a boil. Milwaukee Theatre Center, Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. (414)276-8842.

OUT and ABOUT

ALL PHOTOS BY PATRICK ROBINSON, WI LIGHT STAFF

Kathy's Nut Hut recently had a Shopping Cart race to raise \$\$\$ for their AIDS fund.

Below, a time trial in progress. At right, "Curly, Moe & Larry" watch the excitement.



The Shopping Cart Race winners (at right): Booper (in the cart) and Ronnie with the winning time trial of 24.18 seconds.

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

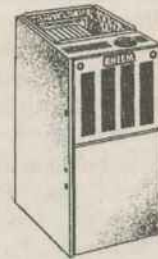


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Dear Ruthie



Green to a Two-Tone Yellow and Brown; Judge the Sauk Valley Deer-Gutting Competition; Attend Pearl's 3Ps Party (Pink Squirrels, Pedicures, and Pacemakers).

Saturday: Attend the Fish-White, Beer Belly, All-Male Dance Review.

Sunday: Make breakfast for then drive home lead dancer from the Fish-White, Beer Belly, All-Male Dance Review.

Hey! Send me your letters and stuff. I love to receive your questions, cards, pictures and things! You can reach me at: Wisconsin Light, 225 S.

Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53204. You can also e-mail me via editor@wilight.com.

Milwaukee's Third Ward was all a buzz on the night of October 9, 1998 as the Absolute Benefit III got underway. For the third year Absolute Vodka and Milwaukee Magazine sponsored this marvelous benefit for the Wisconsin AIDS Fund. And what a benefit it was!

Nearly 700 people packed the Third Ward Firehouse to enjoy a gourmet buffet, live swing band, auctions, and martinis! Martinis? Needless to say, I was there!

The silent auction featured over 150 plates, martini glasses, and tiles decorated by local personalities and national celebrities. Celebrities who

donated autographed dishes included Mel Gibson, Rosie O'Donnell, Glen Close, Whoopie Goldberg, Billy Crystal, Sarah McLachlan, Dustin Hoffman and Jay Leno. Autographed plates were also donated by local celebs Bud Selig, Mark Chmura, various radio personalities and, yes, yours truly, Wisconsin Light's Ruthie. Of course, mine was the only plate that still had food on it - but one lucky man took it home for \$100.00 after winning a short bidding war.

During the voice auction, the plate autographed by Madonna and her daughter ended with a \$2,000 bid. Elizabeth Taylor's plate went to the highest bid of \$1050.

Hey everyone. Well what's going on in your world this week? I'm telling ya. The whole trailer park is busy getting ready for fall - parking their kid's Big Wheels, taking in lawn gnomes, and wrapping up their Weber grills. My neighbor Betty is out there right now replacing her plastic flamingos with a life size, plastic nativity scene that lights up when cars drive by. She's got Mary, Joseph, the baby and the whole gang hooked up to motion detectors. Scared the hell out of me when I saw it for the first time last year.

There were lots of and continue to be many events going on in Wisconsin this month. Below I mentioned the incredible Absolute Vodka III party - boy was that a blast! I know that plenty of other bars are having Halloween specials and some crazy parties.

Don't miss M&M's Disney show on Saturday, October 24. Those kids know how to put on show! I'm sure it will be a blast. I've got a lot going on between all Halloween fun and preparing my hair for fall. Tonight's the night I wrap my hair in wet newspaper and sleep on the basement floor, so let's read a quick letter.

Dear Ruthie,

You are always giving people your advice on their lives. What is your life like? What is a typical day like for you? A typical week? Martha Stewart publishes her monthly schedule, why don't you?

- I Want to Know Ned

Dear Neddy,

Actually, I did explain a typical Ruthie day a few months ago. However, here's a peek at my to-do list for this upcoming week. Thanks for asking.

Sunday: Go to grocery store and buy breakfast items for upcoming week.

Monday: Attend class - *Decorating Your Lawn with Abandoned Automobile Parts*; Judge Omega Outboard Motor Repair Semi-Finals; Give away crown to new Miss Polaris Snow Mobile 1998.

Tuesday: Attend seminar: *Let's Get Naked and Shave*.

Wednesday: Buy Band-Aids.


Thursday: Make breakfast for and then drive home cashier who sold me Band-Aids; Attend seminar - *Hosting the Best Christmas Ever* for \$8.49; Visit ex-husband Vinnie in hospital after having his sixth toe removed.

Friday: Make breakfast for and then drive home surgeon who removed Vinnie's toe; Send toe to ex-husband Hugo as prop in threat for alimony; Go to class - *Painting Your Trailer* from a Two-Tone Pink and

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A Gay Halloween

By Carl M. Szatmary

There is perhaps no "Hallmark Holiday" more Gay than Halloween. Images immediately come to mind of decadent Halloweens past, when throngs of Gay men descended upon their favorite local bars and clubs donning the most lavish, the most decadent, the most outrageous costumes.

It should perhaps come as no great surprise that lurking on the shelves of your favorite Gay and Lesbian Bookshop are many examples of books filled with vampires and ghosts and werewolves and all matter of scary things that go bump in the night.

What follows are a few of popular titles to curl up with this Halloween.

HALLOWEEN STORIES FOR GAY MEN

Who hasn't gotten caught in the spellbinding web Anne Rice wove in her homoerotic vampire classic, *Interview with a Vampire*? Yet, besides the ever-popular Ms. Rice, Lesbian and Gay readers will find many more books perfectly suited for this spooky season.

Just in time for this Halloween is *Desmond* (Alyson Pb \$13.95), a debut novel by Ulysses G. Dietz. This modern day vampire tale introduces Desmond Beckwith, a man rich, successful, strikingly handsome and over 250 years old. That's right, Desmond is a vampire. And a very lonely vampire at that. At least he is until he meets and falls hopelessly in love with young Tony Chapman. Can true love survive the trials and tribulations of the life of the undead?

Another of the most popular Gay vampire novels is *Lost Souls* by Poppy Brite. Anne Rice and Dietz's *Desmond* seem positively tame compared to Brite's *Decadent Bloodfest*. Brite's protagonist is a lad named Nothing, a vampire orphan left to be brought up by an alcoholic father and mother. Nothing, now a bisexual teenager, decides to leave home and visit his idolized band at Missing Mile. Meanwhile, a trio of the rattiest white-trash vampires ever seen in fiction—Molochai, Twig and Zillah burn up the countryside in a broken-down van, draining hitchhikers and filling up whiskey bottles with blood. All in all a perfectly horrific Halloween read!

Also to Brite's credit are *Drawing Blood*, something of a twin to *Lost Souls*, only this time ghosts have replaced the vampires, and also *Exquisite Corpse*, a genuinely gruesome exploration into the mind of a serial killer.

From Jeffrey N. McMahan comes more Gay vampire tales. In *Somewhere in the Night*, McMahan offers up eight eerie tales of the supernatural including a gruesome Halloween party, a vampire whose conscience bothers him, and a suburbanite with a killer lawn. In *Vampires Anonymous*, McMahan offers a full-length novel expanding upon one of the popular stories in *In Somewhere in the Night*.

HALLOWEEN NOVELS FOR LESBIANS

Few movies captured the Lesbian imagination as did *The Hunger*, an erotically charged vampire romance starring the stunning Catherine Deneuve and Susan Sarandon.

Drawing upon this fascination, Pam Keesey has crafted two popular anthologies of Lesbian vampire stories, *Daughters of Darkness* and *Dark Angels*.

Collecting the best from the most popular authors of Lesbian erotica, including Katherine V. Forrest, Jewelle Gomez and Pat

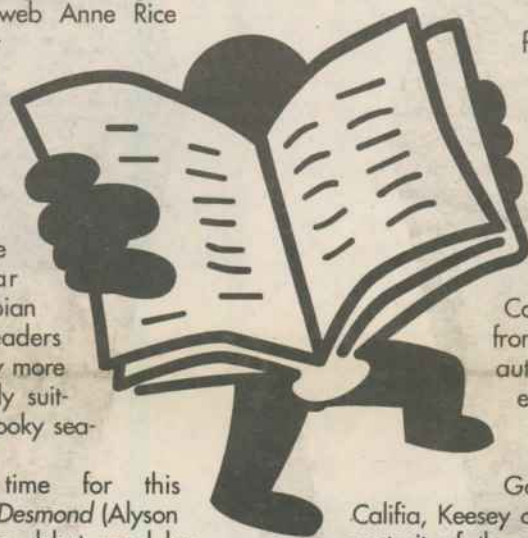
Califia, Keesey creates a dazzling portrait of the quintessential bad girl.

Next for Keesey would be a very different femme fatale, the female werewolf in *The Women Who Run with the Werewolf*. According to Keesey, the female werewolf is dangerous and alluring, often using her sexuality to destroy men, most often associated with raw lust and animal instincts.

For her first novel, acclaimed author Jewelle Gomez crafted the fascinating *The Gilda Stories*, a series of episodes in the life of Gilda, a vampire whose existence began in Louisiana in the 1850s and continues long into the future in the *Land of Enchantment, 2050*.

Ghosts are popular, too, in Lesbian fiction. From Brenda Weathers comes *Miss Pettibone and Miss McGraw*, a bewitching story of a young Lesbian couple, Tess and Ellie, who open up a B&B only to find the house is still inhabited by a pair of closeted lovers from an earlier generation.

In *NightVision*, lovely Julia Madison is having nightmares of a woman calling out for help, only to die horribly as Julia struggles to reach her. As the nightmares become worse, Julia seeks professional help, but to no avail. When she learns that she is not the only one to have these same visions, Julia decides that these are not mere nightmares and seeks to find the terrifying cause.



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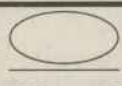
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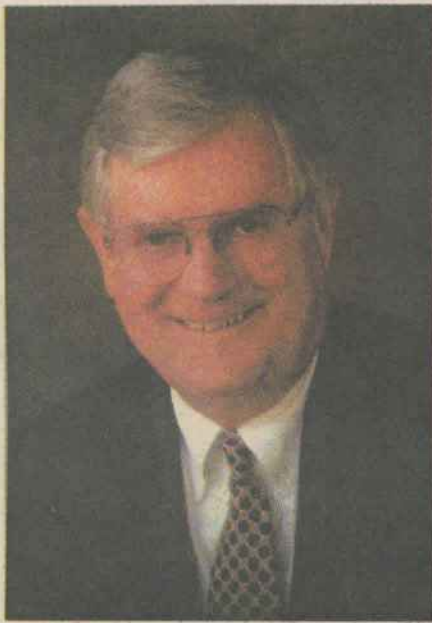
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