January 27-The Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community **February 9, 1999**



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NEW COLUMN!



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nside Clinton to Congress: Pass ENDA & Hate Crimes Law

by Bill Meunier

Washington — For the first time in the history of the Republic, a sitting President has used a State of the Union address to tell Congress and the American people to support passage of LGBT civil rights legislation.

"Discrimination or violence because of race or religion, ancestry or gender, disability or sexual orientation is wrong, and it ought to be illegal. Therefore, I ask Congress to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act the law of the land," said President William Jefferson Clinton. With those words the President brought the debate over two of the most important Gay civil rights measures ever proposed into the living rooms of millions of his fellow citizens.

ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, would provide federal protection from job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would empower the federal government to investigate and prosecute crimes based on the victim's race, religion, and national origin, and, for the first time, sexual orientation, gender and disability.

President Clinton has spoken out in favor of both pieces of legislation in the past. However, those statements were made in press releases sent to the LGBT media or at LGBT gatherings. The President's inclusion of these measures as part of his legislative agenda during his State of the Union address is seen as almost certain to accelerate the debate



and to increase pressure on Congress to pass them.

Excited activists hailed the President's address as a positive development. Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign called the President's statement "an act of bold leadership." She added "Establishing the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act as national priorities reinvigorated momentum for both bills in the 106th Congress."

"We are very pleased that the President acknowledged the importance of hate crimes legislation and employment discrimination for the LGBT community," said Rebecca Isaacs, Political Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force. "It raises the visibility of these issues and offers a challenge to Congress to step up to the plate and pass this legislation."

"I am very encouraged that the President chose to use suchan important forum as the State of the Union Address to call for the passage of hate crimes legislation and E-N-D-A. His emphasis will raise

ENDA continued on page 4

Offensive Language Creates Internet Controversy

By Bill Meunier

The Internet - When Mike Webb, a Seattle talk radio show host, logged onto AOL to do some routine research on Thursday, January 14, he was shocked by what he saw. Webb found that the online Merriam-Webster Thesaurus used by AOL contained some very questionable references to homosexuality.

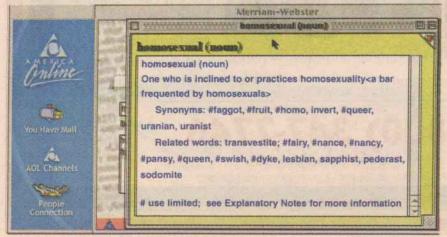
The thesaurus listed synonyms for the word "homosexual" like "fag, faggot, fruit, homo, queer, uranian, nancy, fairy and pederast." The latter, which means child molester, was seen by online activists as a particularly offensive term. These, and other slurs, were included in the Thesaurus despite a 1998 Merriam-Webster promise to eliminate offensive words describing minority groups from its publications.

A search for the synonyms for the word "Bisexual" using the Thesaurus turned up the word "hermaphrodite" and suggested a link between Bisexuality and "lower animals." Webb immediately sent an email

message to a friend at GAYBC radio, which is owned by GLOradio, an Internet radio service. The staff at GAYBC was outraged when they checked the online thesaurus themselves. What followed was a textbook example of Internet activism that resulted in AOL and Merriam-Webster shutting down the online use of the

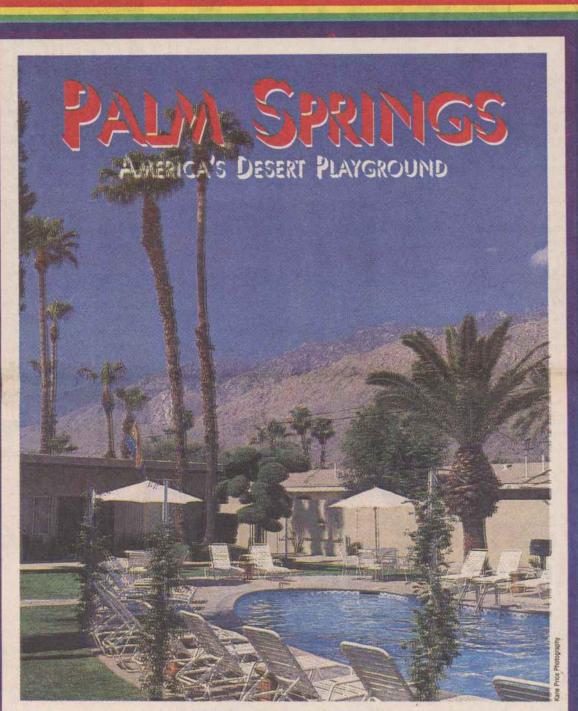
By Friday morning, an LGBT Internet service, Wired Strategies and GAYBC along with the Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD, and more than a few LGBT Internet users, had fired off messages to AOL. By Friday evening, less than 24 hours after the controversy erupted, AOL had shut down its use of the Thesaurus.

Internet continued on page 4



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Wilight

Jan 27-Feb 9, 1998

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Staff

Publisher: Greg Ouindel

General Manager: Ron Geiman (RonGeiman@aol.com)

Editor: Bill Meunier (Editor@wilight.com)

Graphic Designer: Scott Deibel

Arts & Entertainment Editor: Jerry Johnson Sports Editor: Bob Melig

Director of Sales: Annabelle Havlicek (adswilight@aol.com)

Copy Editor: Rick Haag

NE Wisconsin Bureau Chief: Mike

Columnists & Reporters: Glenn Bishop, Dr. Terry Boughner, Lisa Dillenburg, Chris Fallek, Margaret Flood, Tina, Virginia Harrison, John Jahn, Jim McFarland, Eldon Murray, Belle Pepper, Dusty Sass, Carl Szatmary,

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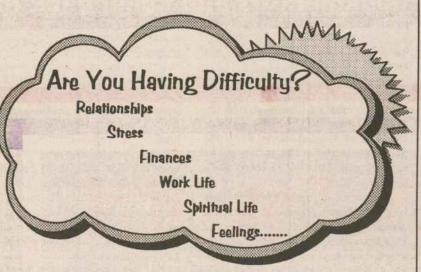


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This issue covers: Feb 10 - 24, 1999 Valentine's Day & The Pageant

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awareness on these crucial civil rights issues. You can be assured that I will do all that I can to see these bills enacted into law," said Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).

Isaacs told the *Light* that ENDA does not include all employees. Those working for the military, religious groups or employers with fewer than 15 employees will not be covered.

Wisconsin's Gays and Lesbians have some protection from employment discrimination under AB-70, America's

...passage of ENDA would substantially increase job protection for Gay and Lesbian employees in Wisconsin.

first ever statewide Gay civil rights law.

Nonetheless, passage of ENDA would substantially increase job protection for Gay and Lesbian employees in Wisconsin according to Milwaukee Attorney Brenda Lewison. Lewison, who specializes in employment discrimination law, told Light that ENDA's passage would allow those who are victimized by employment discrimination to seek remedies not allowed by existing state law.

Under Wisconsin law, those who are discriminated against in hiring and firing decisions can sue for reinstatement, back pay, and a cease and desist order. Financially, that means that a victim of discrimination can sue for the difference between what they did make and what they would have made had the discrimination not occurred, plus their attorney fees. More often than not that difference is not great enough to economically justify filing a suit.

Under Federal employment law, victims of job discrimination can sue for punitive damages as well. These are punishments levied against the discriminator to make up for what Lewison calls "the humiliation and pain" that often accompanies the loss of a job due to discrimination.

Lewison adds that under State law, employees who have not lost their jobs but face discriminatory harassment, can not sue for monetary damages. Under Federal law they can. Passage of ENDA would make it financially risky for an employer to attempt to harass Gay employees until they quit their jobs.

In 1996, ENDA came within one vote of passing in the U.S. Senate. Some

observers say that ENDA would pass both houses of Congress if the Republican congressional leadership would allow it to come up for a vote. The President's use of his State of the Union address to call for ENDA's passage makes it more difficult for those leaders to refuse such a vote.

In the recently concluded 105th Congress, ENDA had 157 sponsors in the House of Representatives: 144 Democrats, 12 Republicans and 1 Independent including Wisconsin Democrats Johnson, Kind and Barrett. In the Senate, ENDA had 35 sponsors: 32 Democrats and 3 Republicans including Wisconsin Senators Kohl and Feingold.

Some Washington observers give the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) a better chance of being passed by Congress than ENDA. In the wake of the Matthew Shepard murder a national poll showed that 70% of the public believes that anti-Gay violence is "a serious problem."

In addition to including hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender or disability in the federal hate crimes law, HCPA would expand the federal government's response to crimes motivated by hate. Isaacs told the *Light* that the current law covers only those hate motivated crimes that violate other federal laws. These would include an assault that occurred on federal property or the violation of an individual's civil rights, such as an attempt to stop someone from voting because of their race.

If passed the HCPA would allow federal investigation and prosecution of ANY hate-motivated crime committed against a member of a protected group when local authorities are either unable or unwilling to take action. The law would "bring federal resources into play when necessary," said Isaacs.

The Hate Crimes Act of 1988 requires the FBI to collect statistics on hate crimes committed against Gays and Lesbians, but does not allow it to investigate or prosecute those crimes. The 1994 Crime Act signed by the President included a provision allowing Federal judges to give longer sentences to those who commit hate motivated crimes against Gays and Lesbians, but only when they are federal offenses.

In over half the country, members of the LGBT community are not protected by statewide hate crimes laws. Of the 41 states with hate crimes laws on the books, 19 do not include sexual orientation as a protected category. Wisconsin is one of only 22 states that includes Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in a hate crimes law. Like nearly every other state, Wisconsin's law does not cover crimes committed because an individual is Transgendered. HCPA does not include hate crimes motivated by an individual's Transgender status either.

Wisconsin's Hate Crimes law is a penalty enhancer. Those convicted of offenses, like assault, can have additional jail time and/or fines added to their sentences if it can be shown their attack was motivated by hatred of the victim's sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnic origin or gender.

Activists say that the major benefit of HPCA is the resolution of problems associated with the enforcement of local hate crimes laws. In some localities, including many where a hate crimes law is on the books, law enforcement officials are reluctant to enforce or prosecute offenders under these statutes. At times this is due to a lack of resources. Often it is because the police are homophobic themselves. Many say the only solution to the uneven enforcement of local hate crimes laws is an all-encompassing federal hate crimes law.

Not everyone agrees with the need for hate crimes legislation that includes Gays and Lesbians. Religious right activists claim that these laws are "special rights." They contend that the legislation would punish individuals for their thoughts. Some religious activists have gone so far as to claim that anyone who disagrees with providing Gay civil rights could be prosecuted.

Advocates dismiss those claims. They argue that individuals face punishment, not for what they think, but for what they did. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of narrowly defined hate crimes laws.

HCPA had 163 sponsors in the House in the last Congress: 147 Democrats, 15 Republicans and 1 Independent, including Wisconsin Democrats Kind, Kleczka, Barrett and Johnson. It had 32 sponsors in the Senate: 28 Democrats and 4 Republicans, including both Wisconsin Democrats Feingold and Kohl.

Whether or not ENDA and the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act will be passed by this Congress is the subject of debate among political observers. But even those who don't think that the legislation will make it through agree that the President's historic speech raised the stakes and increased the chances for its passage.

ENDA, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act

Who Would It Cover?

All employees would be covered except for those working for religious organizations, the military and employers with fewer than 15 employees.

What Would It Do?

ENDA would amend the 1964 Civil Rights act to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation

How Would It Help Wisconsin Gays and Lesbians?

Under state law anti-Gay employment discrimination is illegal, but victims of job discrimination can only recover the difference between what they did make and what they would have made had the discrimination not taken place. Often that difference is not significant enough to justify filing a lawsuit. Under Federal law, victims of employment discrimination can sue for punitive damages as well.

In addition, State law does not allow victims of on the job harassment to sue for monetary damages. Federal law does. That makes it risky for an employer to try to harass someone into quitting his or her job.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act, HCPA

What Would It Do?

HCPA would add sexual orientation, gender and disability to the federal hate crimes law. In addition, it would expand that law to include hate motivated crimes that would not otherwise be a federal offense.

How Would HCPA Help Wisconsin Gays and Lesbians?

Under HCPA, Wisconsin Gays and Lesbians who are victims of a hate crime could appeal to federal authorities to investigate and prosecute the crime if local law enforcement officials refuse to invoke Wisconsin's Hate Crimes law.

Internet continued from cover

Merriam-Webster ended all access to its online Thesaurus at about the same time.

"AOL is the world's largest Internet provider, and Webster's its primary source on the English language," said John Aravosis, President of Wired Strategies. "When a tag-team like that broadcasts to the world that Gays are fags and possibly child molesters, the dehumanizing impact is overwhelming."

In a prepared statement Merriam-Webster said that its Thesaurus uses symbols to advise readers that certain words are considered inappropriate for general use. The company said it was not aware that the symbols were omitted from its online edition and apologized for that omission. The Company promised to review its policies with regard to the inclusion of offensive language.

Yet Merriam-Webster said it had done nothing wrong by including the slurs. "The thesaurus is not a political tool, but rather is a reflection of the language used in our society. The thesaurus doesn't attempt to label any segment of society in either positive or negative ways. In order to change the words found in references such as thesauruses and dictionaries, our language must change," said the statement.

The Merriam-Webster statement did nothing to mollify Aravosis. "Describing Gay people as child molesters isn't just obscene, it's inaccurate. No policy review or warning labels will change the fact that Merriam-Webster screwed up. Their thesaurus is wrong and needs to be fixed," said Aravosis.

In 1998, Merriam-Webster said it would begin a search for offensive speech in its thesaurus after the NAACP and other African American organizations complained about racial slurs the book used to define the word "Black." An online search conducted after the anti-Gay language was discovered did not uncover any racial slurs directed at Blacks, Hispanics, Jews or Asians.

"Merriam-Webster just doesn't get it," said Aravosis. "We don't need a change of policy, we need a consistent policy," he said. "Merriam-Webster excludes slurs against other minority groups from its thesaurus but finds nothing wrong with calling Gays 'faggot.' Gays and Lesbians should be treated the same as other minorities in the guide, and they're not," Aravosis said.

"This isn't an issue of censorship or political correctness, it's an issue of fairness. The Merriam-Webster thesaurus singles out Gay people for its hate speech, while other minorities are spared the insult of being described with tasteless slurs," he added.

Despite the shut down of the online 'Thesaurus, tens of thousands of printed copies containing the offensive language remain. There is hope that the Internet action will cause its removal when the next edition of the book is printed. Deborah Burns, Director of marketing at Merriam-Webster told the Wall Street Journal that the company would immediately remove the inflammatory words. "We're sorry about the problems," said Burns.

AROUND THE STATE

Klan Opponents Rally In Madison

A LGBT Wisconsin Exclusive

Madison — Despite the cancellation of a planned KKK rally, hundreds of its opponents attended events on Saturday, January 16. The anti-Klan demonstrations were organized in response to a KKK request for a permit to hold a rally at the State Capitol. The request came from Michael McQueeny, a self styled Grand Dragon of the KKK who lives in Northern Wisconsin. McQueeny, who has said that homosexuality disgusts him, claimed that 200 members of his group would attend the rally.

Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson refused to give him a permit. Aided by the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union, McQueeny went to court. The Thompson administration argued that because of the violence that erupted during a 1997 Klan rally held in Beloit, it was within the law to deny the permit. On January 4, Federal Judge Barbara Crabb disagreed and ordered the State to allow the rally.

Crabb's order was followed by vacillation on the part of McQueeny. He announced

that if Governor Thompson would apologize for not issuing the permit, he would call off the rally Thompson refused to apologize. Meanwhile anti-KKK groups began putting up organizing protests. Faced



Scene from the anti-Klan demonstrations

with the possibility that he may be

confronted with several thousand demonstrators without the benefit of police protection, McQueeny cancelled the event.

Nonetheless, organizers of the anti-Klan activities went ahead with their plans. Hundreds marched down State Street behind banners, chanting "We don't want your racist hate," and "We stopped the Klan."

On the State Street steps of the Capitol a crowd of about 500 marchers listened to and cheered a dozen speakers, many of whom mentioned "Gay and Lesbian oppression." One woman from a small town in Texas spoke of the fear the Klan evokes there. "They control things down there," she said.

Wisconsin Light Editor Bill Meunier also addressed crowd. "You can't chant or march the KKK out of existence," he said. Meunier called upon the marchers to "bring racism, homophobia and sexism out of their closets and into the open where they can be confronted and destroyed."

Other anti-KKK events included an interfaith gathering held at a Madison church. Some of the marchers were critical of that gathering, which was scheduled to begin an hour after the march and rally began. They said the alternative event was organized by "establishment types," to keep down attendance at their more confrontational event. One Madison resident who was part of the planning process for the interfaith gathering told the *Light* that part of the reasoning behind the church meeting was to keep things non-confrontational and non-violent.

Dennis Hill Convicted

Milwaukee — A Gay businessman, who has been active with several groups in Milwaukee, was convicted of second degree sexual assault as a result of charges that he had sex with a 15-year-old boy. A jury convicted Dennis C. Hill after a four-day trial that ended on Tuesday, January 12. He was acquitted of having sexual relations with another man, who claimed that Hill forced him to have sex in order to keep his job.

Hill denied having sex with either of his accusers. His arrest in February of last year had many in the LGBT community buzzing about what some called "high drama on South First Street." Hill's attorney argued that his former business partner, George Kruzner, framed him. Kruzner sold Hill a majority interest in his business, Walker's Point Café late in 1997.

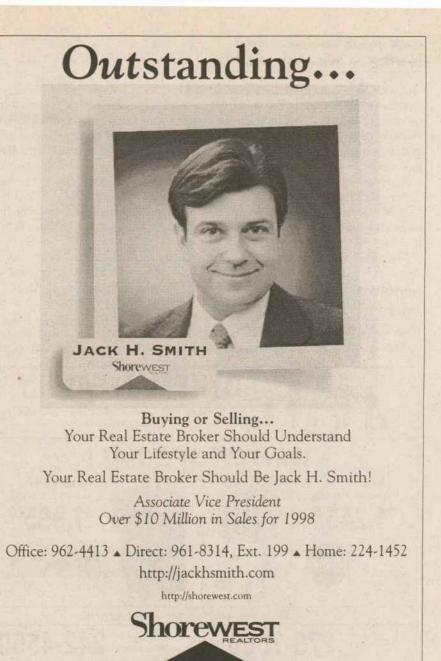
The two soon had a falling out. Kruzner, who remained a part owner, accused Hill of pocketing all of the receipts from the business and of writing out bad checks. Hill said that the receipts were put in a new bank account that Kruzner did not have access to. Hill and Kruzner have filed lawsuits against each other.

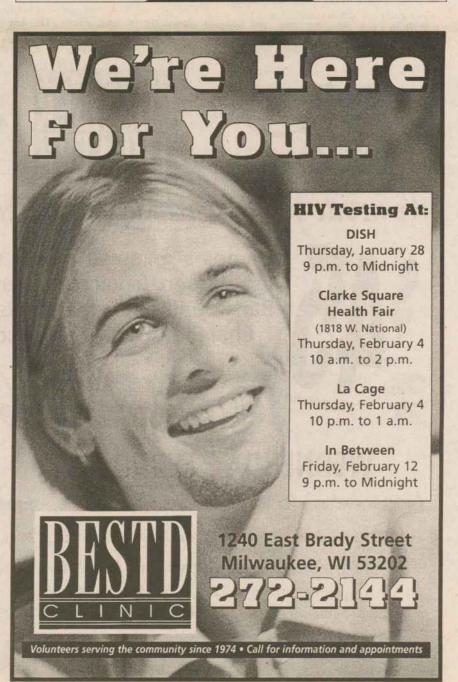
During the trial, the defense team argued that Kruzner convinced the 15-year-old to claim he had sexual relations with Hill in order to regain control of the business. The defense attempted to subpoena Kruzner but was unable to find him until the day before the trial began. Following Hill's arrest and the sale of Walker's Point, Kruzner moved to Portland Oregon where he lives with relatives. It is widely believed that Kruzner made the initial complaint about Hill to the Milwaukee Police.

The 15-year-old testified that he tried to kill himself and spent a month in a hospital for psychiatric treatment after Hill's arrest. He said that had not wanted to press charges against Hill, a man he viewed as a friend.

A tearful Hill was remanded into custody immediately after the verdict was announced. He is scheduled to be sentenced on February 10. Hill could receive a 20-year prison sentence.

Around The State continued on page 6





Northeast Wisconsin Bureau

Action Wisconsin Plan For EB@H

Stevens Point — During its January 17 quarterly board meeting at UW-Stevens Point, the board of directors of Action Wisconsin approved plans for the group's participation in "Equality Begins at Home, EB@H." Equality Begins At Home is the largest coordinated, grass roots lobbying and organizing event in the history of the American LGBT civil rights movement.

The yearlong project was created and is sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, NGLTF. It places particular emphasis on EB@H week, March 21-27,1999. Last December NGLTF designated Action Wisconsin (AW) the state's official coordinator of EB@H, awarding the organization a \$5,000 grant from the Gill Foundation to help fund AW's efforts.

The Board approved a three point EB@H program which consists of a yearlong statewide networking outreach, the funding of individual groups' EB@H actions, and the "Sweeten 'Em Up" lobby day effort to be held in Madison on Wednesday, March 24.

The networking phase of the project is already underway. Last November 20-21 the AW executive board traveled to Duluth/Superior to attend the "2000 & Beyond: Surviving and Thriving" international conference on LGBT issues held at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. During the conference AW board members met with representa-



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tives of OutFront Minnesota, Ashland's Out Up North, Twin Ports Pride and other Northland LGBT groups.

The Board also held a quarterly meeting following the conference in Superior and met with representatives of the City's Human Rights Commission, the Main Club and JT's Bar & Grill.

The Stevens Point Board meeting was the culmination of two days of meetings with regional LGBT entities such as the Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance, the 10% Society at UW-SP and representatives of Wausau's Oz bar.

Regional and at-large AW board members living in the Milwaukee metro area have formed an EB@H task force to network and organize activities with organizations in Wisconsin's largest LGBT community. On January 19 they met with representatives of the Human Rights League and other groups.

More networking will take place throughout 1999. In February and March AW has scheduled meetings with local and regional groups in Madison, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Green Bay and Appleton/Fox Cities. Other meetings already scheduled through 1999 will occur in Janesville/Beloit, Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls, and Richland Center. Additional follow-up meetings will be held in Madison, Milwaukee, Superior and Green Bay. All meetings will be held in public but LGBT-comfortable sites such as libraries, campus student centers, supportive churches, etc.

The second, funding/sponsorship phase, providing funding for regional groups who create and sponsor their own EB@H events, has also begun. Several events have already been funded.

Action Wisconsin will be involved in EB@H informational and organizational events at the 1999 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender College Conference (MBLGTCC) to be held in Madison, February 19-21, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. AW will also fund an EB@H sign-up booth at the conference.

Northeast Wisconsin's largest LGBT organization, Positive Voice, Inc. of Green Bay, has designated its 6th Annual Day of Self-Discovery as an official preliminary event to EB@H. The daylong conference features an appearance by author David Kopay, the only openly Gay pro football player in NFL history. It will be held March 6 at the Liberty Hall Conference Center in the Appleton suburb of Kimberly.

AW will fund the appearance of Scott Fearing of OutFront Minnesota who will give presentations on gender identity and homophobia, similar to those he presented at the Duluth conference last Fall. Fearing will also give an AW-funded presentation on gender identity issues and how they impact HIV-related risk behaviors to the regional staff and other invited service providers of ARCW on March 5.

"Sweeten 'Em Up," the third and most ambitious portion of Action Wisconsin's "Equality Begins At Home" plan involves a day-long visitation and lobbying day at the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 24. The goal is for every state representative and senator to be visited by a constituent who is a member or ally of the LGBT community during that day.

Participants will be encouraged to make advance appointments, to be used as an opportunity to introduce themselves and offer homemade cookies to the legislators and

their staffs in appreciation for doing the hard work of representing all of those in their districts, including those from the LGBT and allied communities.

It's time for the LGBT and allied communities to get back to the "basics" according to Action Wisconsin President Mike Fitzpatrick. "We need to know our elected officials first as people and vice versa," Fitzpatrick said. "They need to know us as people who happen to be Gay or Lesbian just like we're also left or right-handed."

"Sweeten 'Em Up' has been designed to help those who wouldn't normally dream of meeting their legislators," Fitzpatrick said. "To that end, Action Wisconsin will be sponsoring several 'how-to' sessions in the coming weeks, including the evening prior to 'Sweeten 'Em Up' Day on March 24." The first session will be conducted by representatives of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the national media watchdog group, on either February 19 or 20 in Madison. Details were being finalized at press time.

More complete details on the "Sweeten 'Em Up" project and additional information on "Equality Begins at Home" will be published in the winter edition of the AW newsletter next week. AW will provide additional information to the LGBT and allied media as it is finalized.

Individuals wishing to obtain information on "Equality Begins at Home," the "Sweeten 'Em UP" lobby project or Action Wisconsin can call (608)-283-3251, write via email to AW at ActionWi@execpc.com or U. S. mail to P.O. Box 342, Madison, WI 53701. Internet users may also access information at the AW website: http://www.execpc.com/~dross/aw

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DINNER & A PLAY

AROUND THE NATION

LGBT Teens Sue New York

New York — A class action lawsuit has been filed in Federal Court on behalf of LGBT teens in New York's Foster care system. The suit alleges that New York authorities have not protected LGBT teens placed in foster care.

Six plaintiffs in the suit describe experiences ranging from harassment to broken bones and rape by their peers, foster parents and even Child Welfare Agency staff members. The suit says, "The defendants' failure to protect members of the class from bias-related aggression results in extreme physical, psychological, emotional and developmental injury."

The plaintiffs want the court to order New York to establish safe houses for LGBT teens and mandate training and intervention to ensure their safety in foster care situations.

What A Wedding!

Sacramento, CA — In open defiance of their church's law, more than 90 United Methodist Ministers officiated at a union of two Lesbians in front of over 1,000 witnesses. The Ministers could be defrocked for their action.

The women, Ellie Charlton, 63, and her partner of 15 years, Jeanne Barnett, 68, promised to love each other for the rest of their lives during the ceremony held at the Sacramento Convention Center to accommodate the large crowd. Then came the pronouncement from the assembled Ministers, "O God, our maker, we gladly proclaim to the world that Jeanne and Ellie are loving partners together for life." That single line could spell problems for those whom officiated at the ceremony.

Rev. Donald Fado, a suburban Sacramento pastor, organized the ceremony. Fado said, "In our church, unfortunately, I'm allowed to come into their home and bless their house, bless their car, bless their tractor and even bless their dog, but I am not allowed to bless them."

Report: Lesbian Health a Mystery

Washington — A government funded study on Lesbian Health, conducted by the respected Institute of Medicine, has concluded that it can not reach any conclusions because doctors and the scientific community have ignored the Lesbian population.

Among the reports findings:

While there is some evidence that Lesbians may be at higher risk for breast cancer, no one can say for certain that they are.

Lesbians need pap smears just as much as heterosexual women do, but some may not be getting them due to what the report calls a "myth" that Lesbians do not need the test, which detects cervical cancer.

The stress caused by dealing with attitudes towards homosexuality may affect Lesbians' physical and mental well being, but so little research has been done on this question that it's impossible to reach a conclusion.

The study also found that doctors have little or no training in treating Lesbians. The Institute's report says that research is lacking because of the difficulty involved in defining Lesbians and recruiting them for studies.

President Nominates Gay Man Again

Washington D.C. — For the second time, President Clinton has nominated James Hormel for the post of Ambassador to Luxembourg. Clinton originally named the Gay businessman and philanthropist to the post during the last Congress.

The Senate never voted on the nomination because three Republican Senators put a hold on a confirmation vote even though over 60 Senators said they supported Hormel.

The nomination became a major issue on the radar screens of LGBT activists last year. They accused the Senate's Republican leadership of refusing to confirm Hormel because he is Gay. For their part, Republican conservatives denied that charge, arguing that a Gay Ambassador would offend heavily Catholic Luxembourg's Ambassador to the United States countered that saying that his country would welcome Hormel "with open arms."

Hormel's appointment has been endorsed by a wide variety of officials including some in the Reagan and Bush administrations. He had previously served in several diplomatic posts at the United Nations.

Wyoming May Pass Hate Crimes Law

Cheyenne, WY — After four tries at passage, Wyoming may finally get a hate crimes law. According to the *Billings Gazette* key legislators have indicated that they are ready to pass the state's first hate crimes law.

Legislators deny that they are responding to the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard,

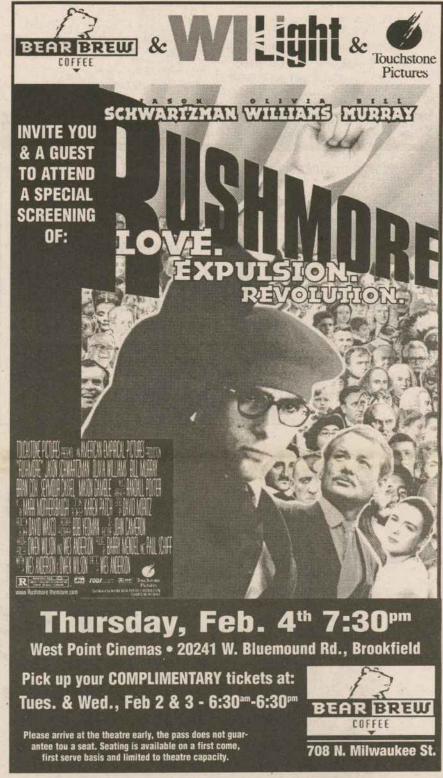
a Gay, 22-year-old university student last October. Four other versions of the bill have been introduced since 1985. None of them were ever voted on by either chamber of the State Legislature.

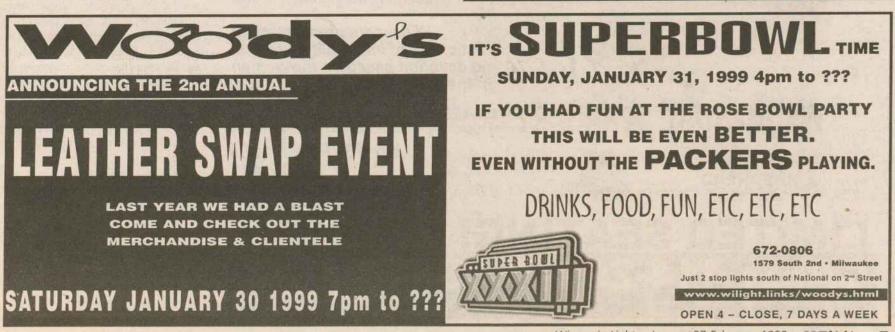
California May Get Domestic Partnership Law

Sacramento, CA — In a development that seems certain to impact the debate on domestic partnership, America's most populous state appears headed towards passing a statewide domestic partners law. The bill, which would provide health and workplace benefits for domestic partners, has the support of California's new Governor, Democrat Grey Davis.

Previous attempts to establish a statewide domestic partners law failed when former Governor Pete Wilson vetoed them.

A recent poll shows that while the majority of Californians oppose allowing same sex marriages, they favor legal recognition of Gay relationships and the granting of some marriage like benefits to same sex couples.





COMMUNI

CommUNITY Profile -Mike Fitzpatrick

Mike Fitzpatrick has been highly active in Wisconsin's Gay community for nearly two decades. In 1982 he helped co-found the Monday Night Dance Club (MNDC), a social group for LGBT people in Stevens Point and the Central Wisconsin area. MNDC sponsored a members-only Gay night at Fitzpatrick's nightclub, The Flame, and numerous picnics and outings during the '80s.

In 1987, following the death of one of his employees from AIDS, Fitzpatrick helped co-found the Central Wisconsin AIDS Support Group, Inc. (CWASG), the region's first life care services group for people living with HIV. He also served as the group's only

In 1988 Fitzpatrick was a charter board member of the Central Wisconsin AIDS Network (CWAN) and served on the agency's Community Review Board. Following the passage of the Ryan White Care Act, the two groups merged, with CWASG's client emergency "Slush Fund" remaining active until 1994.

Fitzpatrick moved to Green Bay in 1993 to take a position with Center Project, Inc., the AIDS service organization serving northeast Wisconsin at that time. He is currently in his sixth year as case manager in what is now the Social Services department at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

He also has been involved with Action Wisconsin, Inc. (AW), the statewide LGBT civil rights group, since its inception, serving as northeast regional director for the last four years. In October, 1998 he was elected AW's state president.

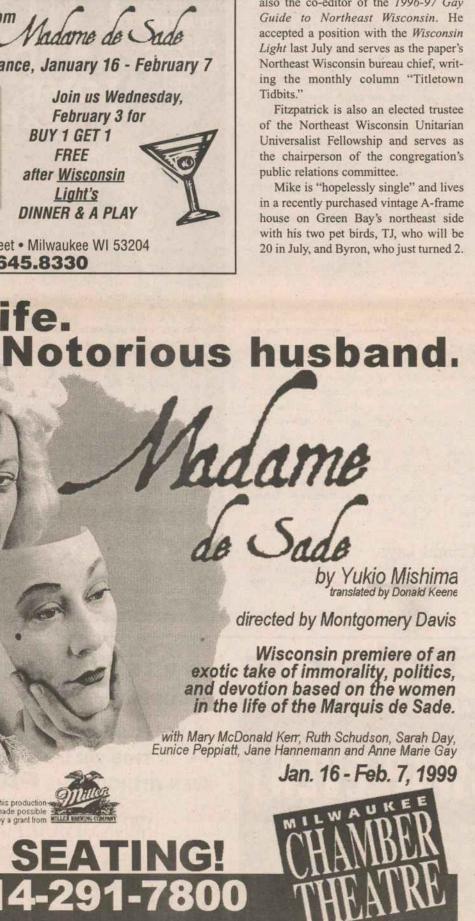
Fitzpatrick has also served as Vice President of Positive Voice, Inc., the Green Bay-based LGBT social and support group. Fitzpatrick remains a member in the merged Positive Voice/GLEE-DA, the Appleton/Fox Cities chapter of PFLAG, and the Dinettes, the northeast Wisconsin Gay men's gourmet dining

Fitzpatrick's more than thirty years of experience in journalism has a lavender tinge to it as well. He served as editor of the Positive Voice Newsletter for two years and currently edits the quarterly Action Wisconsin NewsNotes. He was also the co-editor of the 1996-97 Gay



414.645.8330

Loyal wife.



Community Center Holds Annual Meeting

Milwaukee - Over fifty people attended the Second annual LGBT Community Center annual meeting held at the Center on Sunday, January 24.

The meeting began with introductions of Board members and recognition of Denise Cawley, and Naomi Guzman two retiring members of the Board of Directors.

The 1998 budget was discussed. It was noted that although the Center is new, it didn't develop a deficit. "We're very proud of the fact that the Center ran in the black in 1998," said Joshua Feyen, spokesperson for the Center. The 1999 budget was also reviewed and discussed.

In other business Margaret Flood, and Mallica Sanders were elected to the Board of Directors and various committee reports were given. Information provided at the meeting showed that the Center has 250 members and 130 volunteers. It raised \$25,000 during 1998. The Facilities committee reported that all available office space has been rented and that the Center will be ADA accessible by Spring.

CAIR to Study Stress, Risk Reduction For HIV+ Adults

Milwaukee — The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin has begun a study to investigate methods of helping HIV-positive men and women cope with situations that might contribute to HIV risk behavior. The research is supported by a 4-year grant from the National Institute of Mental

"Some people with HIV have trouble staying safe because of significant life stressors," said Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine and principal investigator of the study. "This study will identify ways of helping HIV-positive persons cope with these problems so that they are better able to protect themselves and others from the adverse consequences of HIV."

Research shows that one in three HIV+ persons experience difficulty maintaining long-term safer sex practices. Persons who have lapses in safer sex can both contract and transmit drugresistant strains of the HIV virus, as well as other disease-causing agents that complicate HIV infection.

Problems that can be barriers to safer sex for HIV+ persons include depression, alcohol and drug use, and difficulty managing situations where HIV risk is involved. One of the most significant stressors involves the decision to disclose one's HIV serostatus to others. "By developing a repertoire of skills for managing disclosure situations, HIVpositive persons can reduce HIV risk for themselves and their partners," said Dr. Kalichman.

The study will test whether a small group behavioral skills intervention can lead to a sustained reduction in HIV-risk behaviors among the group members. Group members will meet for nine weekly sessions.

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Welcome to a new monthly column prepared by openly Gay State Representative Mark Pocan. Every month, Mark will share inside information on legislation affecting our community, political gossip and more to make the LGBT community politically aware of happenings in state government. We hope that you will enjoy it.

About Me

First off, I should share a little information about me. I was elected last November to fill the 78th district seat (Madison) in the state legislature, the seat vacated by now U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin.

Previous to that I served three terms as a member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors. I served the LGBT community as a founder of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Business Alliance and as a Board Member for the former Madison Gay & Lesbian Resource Center and The United (now OutReach, Inc.). I have also been a small business owner for the past ten and a half years in Madison.

My Committee Assignments

Traditionally, as a freshman legislator you get a smaller staff, a smaller office and less prestigious committee assignments. Assembly Democratic leader Shirley Krug, however, changed all of that. Instead, she immediately shared power with the energetic class of I1 freshmen, giving us prime committee assignments.

I am the ranking Democratic member of the assembly's Consumer Affairs Committee. I also serve on the Education Committee, the Corrections and the Courts Committee, and the Labor and Employment Committee. I will have the opportunity to serve on a variety of extremely important issues ranging from K-12 public education to prisons.

Additionally, I was named the Co-Chair of the Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee (ADCC). I share duties on this committee with State Representative Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee). This is the arm of the Assembly that recruits legislative candidates, develops Democratic strategy and raises funds for our candidates. I was extremely honored to be named to this leadership post, especially since I am a freshman legislator.

My Office

If you are in the State Capitol, you can visit me in Room 418 North. Our telephone number is (608) 266-8570 (the same as Tammy's old phone number). You can write us at: State Representative Mark Pocan, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708. Of course, you can email us at rep.pocan@legis.state.wi.us.

I am fortunate to have two great staff members working with me. My Chief of Staff is Glenn Wavrunek. He was my campaign manager for my election and is very skilled at working on a variety of policy issues.

Tim O'Brien is also working with us; he is a name you might know from his vast activity in our community. He was the founder of Mother Nature's Diaper Service and worked in the past at the Madison AIDS Support Network.

Feel free to contact either of them with concerns.

What's Happening at the Capitol?

Not too much as it relates to the LGBT community. So far, no one has introduced the hate-inspired anti-same sex marriage bill from last session. So far. But be prepared for it to raise its ugly head again.

In mid-February, the Governor will release his 1999-2000 budget for the legislature. This will take a good chunk of our time this winter and spring, and I will keep you posted on items affecting our community. I plan on reintroducing former State Rep. Becky Young's bill for non-married couples adoption. This will have significance for our community.

We'll also be trying to convene a community meeting to discuss how we want to strategically discuss domestic partnership and other legislation. Again, I will keep you informed as things progress.

Spring Election to Watch For

There is a tremendously important, but traditionally low key election to pay special attention to this spring, as the Supreme Court seat currently being held by Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson is on the ballot. A conservative Green Bay attorney, Sharren Rose, challenges Chief Justice Abrahamson.

BE AWARE. Chief Justice Abrahamson is a great friend of the community. She is a brilliant attorney who has fought for reproductive choice, civil rights and more. It is imperative that she be reelected.

Her opponent is a conservative attorney supported by Mark Neumann! Yup. Mr. Human Rights himself. Be sure to vote in the April election.

Time to Build Coalitions — Bill of the Month

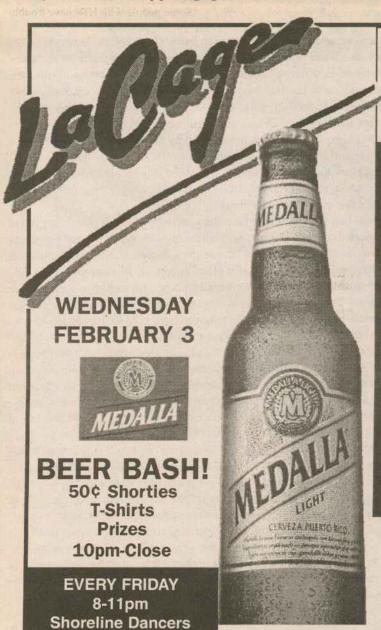
Another area I will focus on in this column is ways in which our community can build coalitions with other groups to advance the civil rights of everyone.

One such bill that has been introduced is the English only bill. This bill requires all state documents to be printed only in English and fails to recognize the diversity that makes Wisconsin great while treating Hispanics and others as second class citizens.

So, I propose suggesting a bill of the month. Let's show other communities that we are in solidarity with them for ALL of our civil rights.

Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472. Ask them to tell your legislator (they will know who he or she is) to not support hateful legislation like the English only bill. We need to support others, so that they will want to show their support for us!

That's all for this month. Have a great month. Keep in touch.



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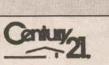
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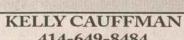
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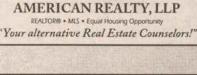
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BUSINESS

Retirement Planning Strategies by Carol L. Busche, CFP

Like other groups of hard-working Americans, Gay men and Lesbians are awakening to the need to start planning now for a secure retirement. Unlike most other groups, however, the Gay community faces some unique hurdles in ensuring truly golden "golden years." Some of these differences are philosophical, borne of experience and approach to life; others are structural, arising from a financial and legal system that does not yet fully accommodate the needs of Lesbians and Gay men. Regardless of their source, it is important for members of the Gay community to understand these differences in order to properly plan for and achieve their retire-

Retirement planning is needed. It's always risky to generalize, of course, but it does seem to be the case that many Gay men and Lesbians approach financial planning, and retirement planning in particular, from a somewhat different perspective than their non-Gay counterparts. It's also hard to pinpoint reasons for these differences, but several themes emerge when financial advisors talk to their Gay clients: a youth-oriented culture, a (mistaken) belief that retirement planning is more important for traditional families, and a general live-for-the-day philosophy that permeates much of modern urban Gay culture. AIDS, too, has had an impact on the way many in the community view retirement planning. Early in the epidemic the notion of planning for retirement seemed almost farcical. Lately, however, long-term survivors of HIV, encouraged by the results of emerging drug therapies, have actually begun to think again about the financial consequences of growing old.

Regardless of the unique attitudes that help shape the approach many Lesbians and Gay men take toward retirement, it's important to understand this: Gay people have to work at least as hard if not harder than most other people to plan for a secure retirement. That may seem like an awfully bold statement, but there are factors that must be taken into account when a Gay client plans for retirement.

Circumstances may require more money to retire. Generally, retirement planners recommend their clients plan to replace between 60 and 80 percent of their preretirement income. However, a higher range may be in order for Gay clients. The potential geographical or emotional isolation from their biological families suggests that the support system generally presumed in retirement planning may not exist for many Lesbians and Gay men. Simply put, there may not be a younger generation available or willing to assist in such routine matters as doing the grocery shopping or running a vacuum cleaner. In the absence of a family support system, it may well be necessary to hire help for even routine household chores. Similarly, in the event of a more serious disability, paid help may be required even in instances where others still may be in a position to turn to family for help.

Equal rights? Gay couples do not have the same rights in each other's retirement benefits as married couples do. First, Social Security survivor or spousal retirement benefits are, of course, unavailable to Gay couples. Moreover, traditional employer retirement plans (called "defined benefit plans") generally do not provide any benefits to a surviving Gay partner if the covered partner - the employee - dies before benefit payments begin. Couples who wish to consider Social Security or defined benefit payments in their retirement planning therefore need to use either additional savings or life insurance to protect against this risk.

Choose the correct payout method. Gay couples who have most any type of retirement plan have to be certain that the payout method they select for distributions in retirement adequately protects both the owner-partner and the non-owner-partner in the event the owner-partner dies sooner than expected. For example, if a Gay couple wants to select a payout over their joint life expectancies, they should confirm in advance that such an option is available under the rules of the owner-partner's plan.

Health care expenses. For those in the community who are long-term HIV survivors, retirement planning takes on a decidedly unique twist. These individuals likely face the double-whammy of depleted resources and much higher-than-average health care expenses both before and during retirement. The retirement planning of someone who is HIV-positive literally can involve life or death decisions.

Combined with the common retirement planning concerns everybody must face - adequate savings, health care, long-term care - these issues indeed may seem overwhelming. Rest assured, however, members of the Lesbian and Gay community are addressing them and meeting their retirement goals everyday. With proper planning and an early start, you can be amongst them.

Carol Busche is a Senior Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, Inc.

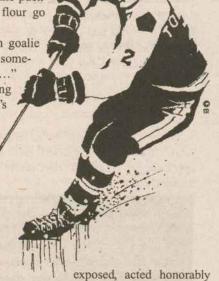


Goalie, Sieve!

In hockey, my favorite sport, it is customary (at least in Wisconsin) to chant "Sieve, sieve, sieve..." at the opponent's goalie after one's team scores a goal. A sieve is a utensil of wire mesh or perforated metal used to strain or sift, and the implication is that the goalie lets the puck go by just as a sieve lets the water or flour go

A rarer chant is used when one's own goalie makes a spectacular save. Then the fans sometimes chant "Goalie, sieve, goalie, sieve..." pointing at their goalie when yelling "Goalie" and pointing at the opponent's goalie when yelling "Sieve".

Lately, I have felt like chanting "Goalie, sieve" at Rep. Robert Livingston (R-LA) and President William Jefferson Clinton, respectively. Rep. Livingston, who would have been the next Speaker of the House had not his "occasional" extramarital "affairs" been 4



and responsibly when he announced that he would

not seek the office of Speaker. President Clinton does not know what honor means.

As I have said before, a President is a role model for our children and for adults as well. While the Speaker of the House is not as well known as the President, he still is an important leader of our country, in line for the Presidency if both the President and Vice President are killed, and the main spokesperson for the legislative branch.

A few extramarital affairs or trysts could be excused for both the President and the Speaker. But if we were dealing with only a few, Rep. Livingston would have announced that he had "three" affairs during his marriage. Instead he announced he had "occasionally" had extramarital "affairs", meaning it was probably quite a bit more than a few. This made Rep. Livingston a poor role model, just as the President is.

This is not to say that all elected officials should be held to high standards when they are in committed relationships. I do not believe that mere legislators, who do not act as leaders for a group of citizens but only serve as their representatives, generally serve as role models for our children. I doubt very much that any child in Rep. Henry Hyde's district knows about his affair, but I bet they know about President Clinton's affairs!

Some have argued that the kind of standard I feel our national and state executives and leaders should be held to would exclude Lesbians and Gays from serving in those offices because they cannot marry. This is not the case. My concern is that our leaders serve as good role models by being faithful to whomever they have vowed fidelity, regardless of whether a piece of paper issued by the government has bestowed any rights upon those involved. Lesbian and Gay national and state governmental leaders could and should serve as good role models by being faithful within their own committed relationships, even if the government does not recognize them.

It is difficult enough in this society to bring up a child to believe that infidelity is wrong without giving them a bad example in the President or the Speaker of the House. Thank heavens Rep. Livingston (goalie!) has saved us from the latter.

More distressing to me, however, is that the President (sieve!) is teaching our children that there is nothing wrong with lying and there is nothing wrong with breaking the law by lying under oath. The Democrats and the Senate seem intent on teaching our children that there should be no consequences to lying or even to breaking the law when the lying is about "sex".

One Democrat Congressman from Texas who was leaning toward impeachment gave us a startling demonstration of how low our standards have sunk. The Congressman said that if he had been in the President's situation (having committed adultery), the Congressman would have lied to his wife to save his marriage and would have lied to the press to save his political career, but he certainly would not have lied under oath.

Thus, we have a Congressman (sieve, sieve!) who is telling the children of his district that the only time it is wrong to lie is when it is illegal! That sieve should resign also. Sometimes I think that the fundamentalist Christians are right about one thing: This country is facing a moral decay the likes of which brought down Rome. When I said this to a friend, he corrected me and said the moral decay has already occurred. Let's hope it does not bring down our Republic.

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EDITORIAL

Equality Begins Here

Equality Begins at Home, EB@H, is a national effort sponsored by the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, NGLTF. It is intended to strengthen grass roots based statewide efforts to achieve equality under the law for the LGBT Community. Organizations in 50 states are participating.

NGLTF is correct in reasoning that educating politicians about the need for changes in public policies affecting Gays must start on the local level. A grass roots movement can not begin at the top and work its way down.

The problem faced by the LGBT community on a national level exists on a statewide one as well. We may soon see attacks on domestic partnership, another attempt to outlaw recognition of same sex marriages legally performed in other states, and other measures that are high on the agenda of the radical right.

Our response to them must be a united one, but the patchwork quilt of diverse communities that constitutes, LGBT Wisconsin must be knit together for that to happen. Action Wisconsin, a statewide organization that focuses on Gay civil rights issues has come up with a three point plan that could do just that.

The AW plan includes holding meetings throughout the state with business leaders, organizations and other interested members of the community. These meetings allow an opportunity for everyone to give input and ideas on the activities and direction of Wisconsin's only statewide LGBT organization.

The plan also recognizes local initiatives. It provides for funding local efforts as part of the overall EB@H campaign. Finally, it promotes visibility for the LGBT community as a whole. On March 24, Action Wisconsin hopes that at least one person from every legislative district will come to the Capitol to let their State Representatives and Senators know that they have LGBT constituents.

Like any plan, Action Wisconsin's blueprint will only work if it is implemented. In this case that implementation must come from all of us. Our communities can continue to exist in isolation or we can unite and become a formidable force for change. Let's not waste this historic opportunity. The choice is ours. Let's make it wisely.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers.

On Saturday, January 16 I addressed several hundred people at a Madison anti-Ku Klux Klan rally. I came away impressed that several non-Gay speakers mentioned anti-LGBT oppression, along with racism and the radical religious right, as reasons to be vigilant.

That got me thinking about one of the biggest issues we face as a community - linkage. Just when is it appropriate for our community's leaders and organizations to link themselves — and by extension the rest of us — to other groups? Certainly it was easy to link up with those who oppose the KKK. The Klan hates us as much as it does any other minority group.

At other times it is not so easy to bring our community together. This is especially true on issues that at least on the surface don't appear to be LGBT specific.

On the one hand, there are those who say that marches and organizing work and political endorsements should be done only on issues that are LGBT specific. These would include issues like same sex marriage and LGBT civil rights laws. They say that the only way to attain real unity in the community is for our organizations to stick to issues that we all agree on.

On the other hand, there are those who paint a broader picture. They believe that we should be working to address economic as well as political injustices. This group wants our organizations to work on a host of issues ranging from immigration reform to welfare. They believe that any injustice is all part of the same line of thinking that ultimately leads to homophobia.

There is some merit to both sides of the argument. Is it reasonable and realistic to expect those who, for example, want to close our borders to immigrants to send their donations and volunteer their time for an LGBT group that spends some of its resources working to open them? On the other hand, can we expect needed support from other minority groups if we ignore issues important to them?

Our major national organizations are becoming more polished and financially secure. They are developing connections with and getting resources from the same corporate structure that leftist Gays and Lesbians rail at. Moreover, they are attracting more upper income and often more socially conservative LGBT professionals into their ranks. For those who wistfully wish for the 1960s to come back, this situation is not compatible with their vision of our community.

The result is a struggle that takes many forms. For example, during our first march on Washington the big controversy was whether or not the March demands were too leftist. Now as plans proceed ahead for our fourth march, the Millenium March in April 2000, the controversy is whether or not the event — and those in charge of it — are radical enough.

The same struggle is being played out in many local organizations — including some in Wisconsin. Are those who are sometimes referred to as "assimilationists" right? Or are those who would take a broader more confrontational approach correct? There is no easy answer, and whatever answers do exist suggest that there is no formula that can be applied in every case.

Some things are clear. Chief among them is the importance of those on both sides of the issue finding common ground to work together. We have too few volunteers, donors and resources to begin with. We simply cannot afford to mark someone as an "enemy" because they may have a different philosophical approach than our own or because they disagreed with us on something.

It is also clear that although they don't always admit it, those on both sides see the ongoing struggle as a battle for control of the LGBT movement. That may be one of the few things they agree on. This struggle will not be easily — if ever — resolved.

Yet it is important that this and other issues that are shaping the form our community will take in the next century be discussed. That is why over the coming months you will be able to read about them in articles and commentaries in the pages of Wisconsin Light. Not all of these issues are political; some are social and/or cultural. As a newspaper, we can't resolve them, but we can try to make you aware of them and the choices they present us with. This we will do to the best of our ability.

Enjoy the Light!

Bill Meunier

Sill Meunin

Editor

LETTERS

To the Editor,

I am very pleased to have just read your online edition of Wisconsin Light. I live in the UP of Michigan and am an international newcomer to the area. Couldn't find your events listings and I was wondering whether you have such an entity? It would be nice to get out and meet some like-minded people and make new friends. Any information would be gratefully received.

Yours faithfully, Karen Yeomans

Editor's Note: We will be adding our events listing to our web site in the near future. If you know of a LGBT event in your area let us know via email editor@wilight.com, fax (414) 226-0096, phone (414) 226-0075 or mail 225 S. Second Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204.

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We gladly accept letters and especially e-mail (those with more than 300 words are subject to editing). Please Include your name, address and verifyable phone number. We will gladly with hold your name from publication upon request.

WI Light 225 S. 2nd Street Milwaukee, WI 53204

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by Mike Fitzpatrick

Winter's Here: The winter of '99 is shaping up to the "long, hard winter" the prognosticators warned it would be. Northeast Wisconsin has been spared a few inches of the worst of it — maybe that's why so many exciting things are on tap up this way!

Rainbow Feast: I had the chance last weekend to visit my old stomping grounds in central Wisconsin and check out the activities of the Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance (CWRA). Since its founding in July, 1997 CWRA has grown exponentially to be an organization with 99 members sponsoring well attended monthly socials and other programs. More than 50 people from 5 counties attended the potluck feast (homemade foods galore spread over a 20 foot long buffet) hosted by Kevin and David at the Oz bar in Wausau. CWRA members heard progress reports on the seven "clubs" the group started recently, which include a book club, Bible study, video discussion group, card club, games club (board games, folks), dinner group, and a relationships discussion group for couples. These groups join the year old monthly "circle" meetings. "We call it a 'circle' because if we called it a support group

probably no one would come," CWRA member Steven Korzinek said. If you live in the central Wisconsin area and would like to learn more, contact Steve at 715-355-6867 (days) or CWRA's voice mail: 715-592-6245 Ext. 5920200. You may also write CWRA at P.O. Box 390, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Big Tiaras: Devotees of drag, mark your calendars! The 1999 Miss Gay Great Lakes USofA pageant is coming February 6 to Za's in Green Bay. As a regional preliminary to the Miss USofA title, contestants from Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana are eligible. Featured performers will include Lauren Taylor, Miss Gay USofA 1998 and the retiring (but far from shy) Miss Gay Great Lakes 1998, Loretta LaMour.

Bigger Shoulders: Speaking of marking calendars, I've circled March 6 because Positive Voice has announced that David Kopay will be the featured speaker at their 6th annual Day of Self-Discovery conference on LGBT issues to be held at Liberty Hall in Appleton. Kopay is the only NFL player ever to publicly "come out" of the locker room — just love those ventilated closets — to date. More info next issue.

Celebrity Goodies: LGBT celebrity hounds who miss the 8th Annual "Have a Heart" dinner benefiting ARCW in Appleton on February 13 will miss out on what wile likely be more than 150 celebrity items too numerous to detail! Check out the exclusive sneak peek on page 27 of this issue!



Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray

An American Premier

Milwaukee — Back in 1933 a small group of Milwaukeeans decided to form an Italian Opera Chorus. Over the years, that Chorus developed into what is now the Florentine Opera Company, which in its 66-year history has produced over 130 operas. Despite this long and successful history, the Florentine has never produced an American premiere... until now! The work will be *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Lowell Liebermann, with a

libretto based upon the novel of the same name by Oscar Wilde. It involves the story of a beautiful young man who trades his soul for eternal youth, bringing a tragic end to an even more tragic life.

Dennis Hanthorn, General Director of the Florentine Opera Company, has stated, "I am very impressed with the way that Lowell Liebermann has developed the potential of Wilde's work into this composition. It is not avant garde but rather easy-to-absorb modern music. His music is honest and not afraid to appear old-fashioned; above all, it strives to please the ear and is listener-friendly. Liebermann offers up lovely, melodious music that draws upon

mer great composers such as Richard Wagner and Hector Berlioz. Because of this, one is aware of the harmonious

the heritage of for-

tie of vocal line and orchestral score."

Lowell Liebermann has had his compositions the performed Opera Metropolitan Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and the orchestras of St. Cincinnati, Baltimore, Seattle and Minnesota. In addition to opera, Liebermann has composed works in nearly all musical genres: orchestral, chamber music, choral, solo piano and voice. Born in New York City in 1961, Liebermann received his Doctorate degree from the Julliard School of Music.

Liebermann brings famed Gay author Oscar Wilde's haunting novel to the stage with a dramatic score and chilling libretto.

He first read Wilde's masterpiece at an impressionable age, "when I was about 13-years-old," according to Liebermann. "The book made an impression on me as no other book has done yet. I was haunted by it, by the richness of its characters and the story, the poetry of its language, the fragrance of decadence that clung to its pages, and by the vision of art and aestheticism as ends unto themselves. I had by that time decided on a career as a composer and was determined one day to turn the novel into an opera."

The Picture of Dorian Gray premiered in 1996 in Monte



Lowell Liebermann

Carlo to great critical acclaim, and where better to present a tale that examines the thin membrane separating art and life than a city that thrives on decadent pleasures? Milwaukee's Florentine Opera Company will be remounting the original L'Opera de Monte Carlo production.

Is Milwaukee ready for Liebermann's The Picture of Dorian Gray? Like Dorian Gray himself, we all occasionally wish to live a life of luxury and pleasure; that's why we enjoy the opera. So come to Uihlein Hall in all your aesthetic glory, and become part of Florentine Opera history by attending its first American premiere!

The Picture of Dorian Gray will be per-

formed February 5, 6 & 7 in Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 North Water Street. Tickets may be ordered by phone with a credit card by calling (414) 291-7800.



Milwaukee — To compliment the Florentine Opera Company's American premiere production of Lowell Liebermann's The Picture of Dorian Gray several related events and activities have been scheduled to take place throughout the greater Milwaukee area. These are as follows.

Sunday, January 31

UWM Chamber Concert

Liebermann's A Poet To His Beloved Op. 40, with text by W. B. Yeats for tenor, flute, string quartet and piano will be performed along with other works by singers from the Florentine's Dorian Gray cast, as well as from UWM's Music Department. The concert will take place at 3:00pm at the UWM Fine Arts Recital Hall. For tickets and further information call (414) 229-4308.

Monday, February 1

Milwaukee Chamber Theater Reading

A dramatic reading of letters written by George Bernard Shaw and Lord Alfred Douglas Bosie, Oscar Wilde's lover, will take place. The readings, based on a volume of letters edited by Mary Hyde Eccles, will take place at the Studio Theatre in the Broadway Theatre Center at 6:30 and 8:30pm. Call (414) 291-7800 for tickets and further information.

Thursday, February 4

Milwaukee Art Museum Opera Preview Composer Lowell Liebermann, Oscar Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland, and Courtney Donnell of the Art Institute of Chicago will hold a panel discussion about *Dorian Gray* from a musical, historical, artistic, social and personal perspective, taking place at the Milwaukee Art Museum at 6:00pm. For tickets and further information call (414) 291-5700 ext. 14.

Friday, February 5

Pre-Opera Dinner (Bradley Pavilion), 5:30pm.

Opening Night Performance — The Picture of Dorian Gray (Uihlein Hall), 7:30pm. Post-Opera Champagne Reception With Composer & Cast (Bradley Pavilion), 10:15pm.

Saturday, February 6

New Opera Symposium

A discussion of modern opera will take place at the Wyndham Hotel in Milwaukee. Panelists will include composers Lowell Liebermann, Richard Wargo and Robert Ward, Patrick Smith from *Opera News* magazine and Marc Scorca, Executive Director of Opera America. Lunch will be at 11:30am and the symposium itself at 1:00pm. For tickets and further information call (414) 291-5700 ext. 14.

Merlin Holland Lecture

Killing One Peacock With Two Stones: Dorian Gray and the Downfall of Oscar Wilde, a presentation by Merlin Holland, Wilde's grandson, will take place at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater at 2:45pm. The talk will be followed by a reception and book signing in the lobby. For tickets and further information call (414) 286-3663.

Performance — The Picture of Dorian Gray (Uihlein Hall), 7:30pm.

Sunday, February 7

Pre-Opera Brunch (Bradley Pavilion), 1:00pm.

Performance — The Picture of Dorian Gray (Uihlein Hall), 2:30pm. Talkback with Lowell Liebermann (Anello Atrium), 5:00pm.

Thursday, February 11

Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra

Frank Almond and Stephanie Jacob will perform Liebermann's *Sonata for Violin and Piano" Op. 46*, at the Schwan Concert Hall of Wisconsin Lutheran College. The concert will also feature music of W. A. Mozart and Felix Mendelssohn. For tickets and further information call (414) 443-8802.

Madam De Sade Plus **Dinner on February 3**

Milwaukee - The Wisconsin Light in conjunction with the Milwaukee Chamber Theater, the Broadway Bar and Grill and Fluid is pleased to present a wonderful evening of dinner, theater and socializing on Wednesday February 3.

The evening will start off with a delectable dinner, hosted by our favorite advice

columnist Ruthie at the Broadway Bar and Grill, located at 223 North Broadway. Diners will have their choice of three entrees, flavorful Prime Rib, delicate sea bass or savory Sicilian Chicken breast. A complimentary glass of wine and dessert is included with dinner. Cocktails begin at 5:30. Dinner will be served at

After dinner it's across the street to the Broadway Theater Center for a 7:30pm performance of Madam de Sade presented by the critically acclaimed Milwaukee Chamber Theater. The Chamber theater's production of openly Gay Japanese playwright Yukio Mishima's drama is the Wisconsin premier of the piece. The production will run through February 6.

Eastern and Western literary traditions revealing the impact of absolute freedom. The New York Times called it "riveting theater... witty, passionate... exhilarating."

The faithful wife of the notorious Marquis de Sade, Madame de Sade is engaged in an endless battle with the government for her husband's release from prison. In the process, she must contend with her domineering mother, as well as a sister and a neighbor who have both enjoyed the Marquis' peculiar "favors." What drives Madame de Sade? Is it love, wifely devotion to duty, compassion,

The drama revolves around the wife of the infamous sexual libertine.

Mishima is considered one of Japan's most important 20th century writers, having published plays, poetry, essays,

Kabuki and Noh dramas and some 40 novels. Recurring themes within his body of work are fleeting beauty, obsessive purity and tragic death. Madame de Sade, a work of Mishima's from 1965, is replete with these themes.

Director Montgomery Davis observes that "de Sade and Mishima were both outcasts who saw deep into the complexity of human character and who suffered from the necessary repression that civilization imposes on any individuality."

Mishima's identification with the Marquis de Sade is evident, as are his conflicting feelings concerning his own sexual nature.

The play is essentially a philosophical debate, largely between de Sade's faithful wife and her mother, portrayed strongly by Mary MacDonald Kerr and Sarah Day, respectively.

Scenic Designer John Story and Costume Designer Dawna Gregory evoke 18th Century France as seen through Mishima's Japanese lens, making a powerful impression.

Following the performance, everyone is invited to socialize at Fluid located at 819 S. Second Street. Fluid, one of LGBT Milwaukee's most popular bars, is offering one free drink to theater goers who show their ticket stub when they purchase a drink. The Fluid offer is available during the entire run of Madam de

A limited number of tickets for the evening are available at the Wisconsin Light office or by calling (414) 226-0075. Tickets including the dinner and the performance are just \$45.00. Performance only tickets are also available.





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Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill

by Chris Fallek

Smooth whiskey with a delayed kick, drunk from a lipstick-stained glass, combined with smoke and a jazz trio, Madison Repertory Theater takes us back to 1959 with their latest production, Lanie Robertson's Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill.

Set far back on the stage, empty chairs and silent instruments bathed in blues, blacks and browns provide the background to an ACME microphone and await the arrival of "Lady Day," the vulnerable streetwise jazz singer better known as Billie Holiday. Later, on the inhabited stage, Holiday's life, stories of childhood, love, racism, fame and addiction pours out through her songs and in her rambling, increasingly desperate words.

This sense of distance — distance in time, in space, and ultimately in emotion — marks the Madison Repertory production. Like the paintings of Matisse's Jazz series, familiar scenes are depicted in broad, strong strokes and primary colors: Vikki J. Myers' Billie Holiday, music by local jazz artists Nick Wood and Jeff Eckels (guitar and bass, respectively), a white gown bathed in gold, pink, purple and blue light. But the detail work is missing, leaving us wanting more.



Myers, a seasoned actress and professional vocalist, sings Holiday's music in a smoky, smooth voice that lacks Lady Day's nasal singularity, but brings its own haunting quality to the music. It seems especially strong when she leaves popular jazz tunes behind to imitate Bessie Smith's blues classic, Baby Doll. Myers begins her singing almost as if giving a recital, and only seems to bite into the music as she reaches Holiday's God Bless the Child. Strange Fruit, in Myers' rendition, is a frighteningly vivid depiction of a hanging, and is her strongest musical performance.

Myers' dramatic performance is harder to pin down, and one of the sources of the emotional distance pervading the production. Her passion is restrained, almost inhibited. Robertson's script portrays a woman grasping at a fading career, determined to survive even as her grip on life and her music weakens. But as Holiday stumbles off the stage to shoot up the heroin that destroyed her career, Myers seems instead to shrink into herself, and returns to the stage with a tiny dog in her arms.

The momentary introduction of the dog gives "cuteness" more scope than desperation, and interrupts the flow of emotions being unleashed. The pace never seems to pick up again after that interruption.

Yet, Myers' tightly controlled performance is not the only distancing factor in the production. Director Norma Saldivar, in her first production with Madison Repertory

Theater, chose to leave an immense amount of empty space between her performers and the audience. Instead of evoking an intimate club atmosphere, the stage holds the audience at bay. Even uninhabited, a couple of tables with burning globe candles, empty glasses and full ashtrays could have pulled the "audience" onto the stage, and into the performance. That choice may also have allowed Myers to engage in a stronger emotional conflict with her audience, as Holiday must have engaged with hers — worlds divided by race,

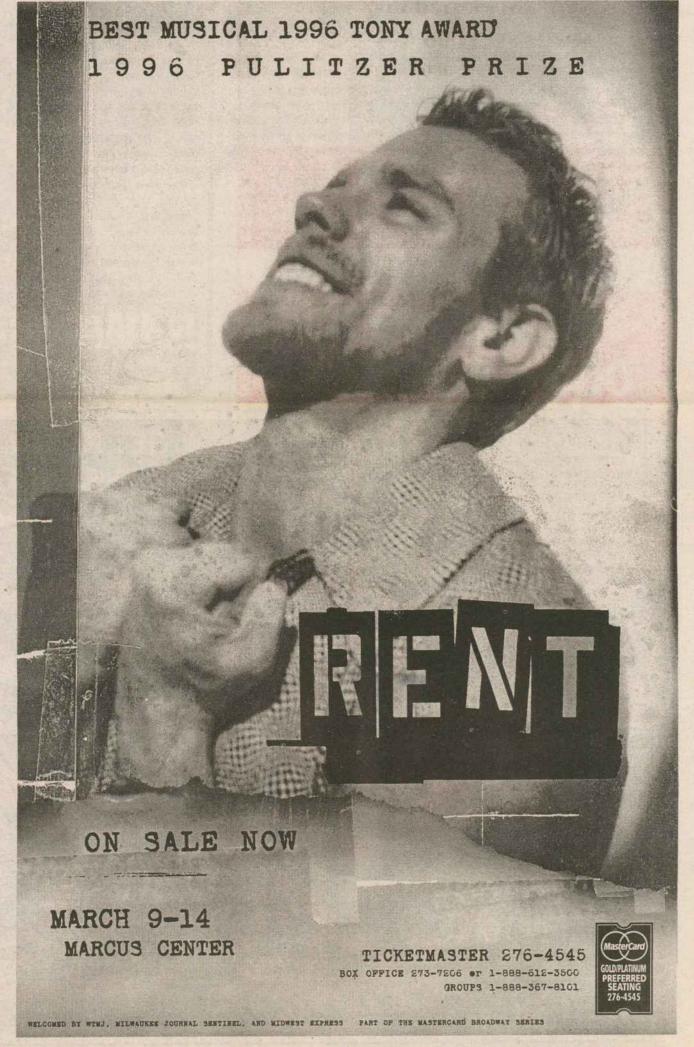
poverty and gender, bound by space, light and music.

Other small details that might have captured a more intimate atmosphere: a little more reverb on Myers' microphone; the musicians entering a silent stage and beginning live music, instead of walking on during a taped musical introduction; and the Civic Center instructing its janitors not to vacuum during performances (an incident that the Madison Repertory company had no control over, unfortunately).

Yet despite the distance, the production has several strengths: great live jazz, Myers' smooth voice and performance, and a fascinating glimpse into the life of a great woman who lived larger than life and

paid the price. Though I constantly wanted to reach out and pull things closer, that in itself is a good indication of the quality of the performance. I wanted more, and it was there in front of me. Anyone who appreciates jazz will find the same quality themselves.

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill plays Wednesdays through Sundays until January 30 at the Isthmus Playhouse in the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street. An audience discussion follows the January 20 performance, and a sign-interpreted performance will be held at 5pm on January 24. Call the Madison Civic Center Ticket Office at (608) 266-9055 for more information or to order tickets.



Gutzman's Gay Murder Mystery Party Outrageous Fun!

Reviewed by C. Marlowe

It's a miserable, snowy Saturday night. Should you stay home and cuddle with your favorite Video Adventure flick or brave the slush to witness *The Calvin Klein crimes* or *Death is a Drag*? Happily we chose the latter.

Dale Gutzman
Productions and
Milwaukee's This Is It
bar, have combined to
give the community an
early Valentine: The
Gay Murder Mystery
Party And what a party
it is!

The evening is divided into four parts:

1. The setup at the bar — meet the characters and everyone has a drink.

2. The audience moves to Circle Stage Theatre to see Naked Boys in Calvin

Klein meet more characters and take part in the murder.

The audience examines clues and characters. REALLY examines.

4. The crime is solved HA!

Between 1 and 4 is an original

approach to mayhem featuring a quirky and quite delectable ensemble cast who toss off outrageous — and outrageously funny dialog with ease. We are encouraged to take notes (pen and paper provided) as verbal and visual clues abound.

But the action is so quick and our laughter so continuous we gave up writing, sat back and totally enjoyed the show.

Strangers in the audience became friends as we joined together to solve the murder. Who done it? I'll never tell! (I also guess the wrong suspect as the killer!)

The Gay Murder Mystery Party continues Friday and Saturday, January 29 & 30. The play begins at

8pm but arrive at **This is it** early for your drink (included in the price of the ticket) and to meet the cast. Tickets are \$15. To make a reservation — which is recommended —call (414) 466-4049.

History of Gay Hollywood PART II

by Steve Stavron

During the filming of Suddenly Last Summer homophobic director Joseph L Mankiewicz mistreated Gay actor Montgomery Clift, who was entering a

phase of his drug/alcoholic decline. He did so with such open contempt that costar Katharine Hepburn demonstrated the breadth of her compassion for Clift by calmly spitting the director full in the face on the last day of shooting. Clift had similar problems with director John Huston during his last film, Freud. The tragedy of Clift's early demise is a special case. Nonetheless, internal abrasions were bounded by industry loyalty.

For the most part, the veils of secrecy, which surrounded celebrities in the 30's and 40's, and into the 50's made speculation about their sexual escapades difficult to document. James Whale, somewhat forgotten today, had directed the classic Frankenstein, Dracula, and the unforgettable Bride Of Frankenstein for Universal in the early 30's. It was believed for a time that his unabashed

homosexuality precipitated his being fired. In truth, he was glad to go as his films lost their vogue [for a time]. He was well heeled and enjoyed a long term relationship with studio executive David Lewis

Garbo may have had affairs with Louise Brooks, writer Mercedes de Acosta, Gilbert Roland, Photographer Cecil Beaton, John Gilbert [from whom she "rented" for a time], since all of the above claimed as much, but her own sense of privacy precluded proof positive. Furthermore her ineffable magnetism may have inspired more fancy than fact.



Joan Crawford - Lesbian Tendencies

Of Marlene Dietrich, it was once stated, "She has had sex, but of no positive gender." A classic Bisexual paradigm. Her publicized affairs were with author Eric Remarque All Quiet on the Western Front and actor Jean Gabin of whom her daughter made home movies.

The voracious Joan Crawford did not match Garbo's discretion. Crawford used

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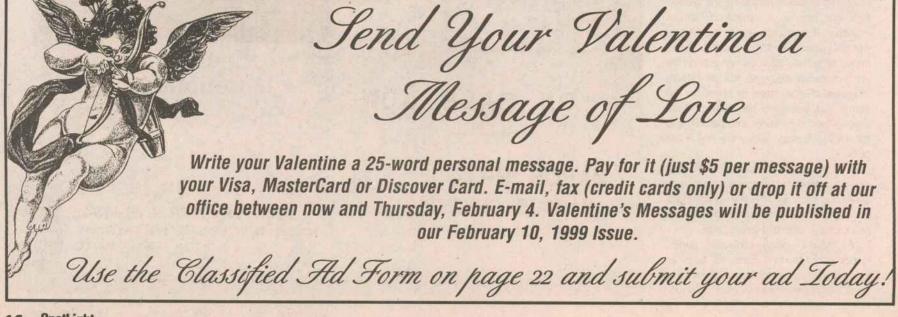


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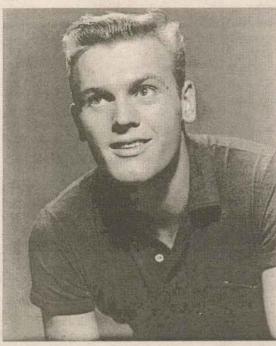
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every means available to further her career, including bogus marriages, but could not conceal her Lesbian tendencies.

Tallulah Bankhead, that witty demi monde of sexual decadence did her one better by announcing, "Dahling, I just had an affair with your husband. You're next." Marlene Dietrich surpassed them both by configuring world - weary sexual debauchery into a form of sophisticated high fashion. She personified Gay sex as a gourmet privilege of the discriminating few.

Jon Dall, who was later to play a homosexual in Hitchcock's *Rope*, possessed such flagrant lower body motions, that, according to Bette Davis, the camera had to film his posterior portions very carefully during *The Corn Is Green*. Hopefully he was not imitating her.



Tab Hunter - Arrested at a "pajama party"

Others like musical star Dan Daily and sinister character actor Albert Dekker Dr. Cyclops were known to be avid cross dressers. Dekker accidentally hanged himself — another fetish — in women's underwear.

Not all Gay stars were identified. The veil of secrecy prevents definitive documentation that distinguishes fact from the tantalizing *Babylon* rumors. Flynn, Grant, and Power had been married-several times and fathered children. Nor can they be stamped into an all-purpose "Bisexual" mode. Whether their erotic appetites had jaded into indiscriminate lust amplified by a flattering profession, or whether their sexual antennae had refined itself to a point where gender was as optional as hair color in deter-

mining their sexual preference, we cannot say for certain. The 'veil" obscures history.

The slow decay of the studio system in the 50's and the new realism that method actors brought to the screen generated a less homogenized and more homogeneous view of sexuality within the colony - as long as it was not openly discussed. But realism and raunchiness sustained a kind of chic in the public eye. Clift and Dean were to iconize the streetwise nonconformist. Gayness would follow. Tab Hunter had been arrested at a "pajama party" but it did not affect his career.

However, stronger homoerotic overtones were appearing in films According to the fascinating documentary, *The Celluloid Closet* the frustrations of secrecy prompted many Gay film makers to express their peccadilloes by inserting sly covert sexual overtones into their films.

Two examples are especially interesting. In *Red River*, John Ireland and Clift ask to examine each other's guns for heft and handling before they demonstrate their shooting skills.

The male bonding theme over-rides the Gay metaphor. Subtle camaraderie enhances the scene, regardless of Gay intent. Producer Howard Hawks was not

Gay. During the filming of Ben Hur director William Wyler was not pleased with the early friendship scenes with Messala.

Screenwriter Gore Vidal, that brilliant Gay raconteur, suggested that the scene be played as if Messala and Ben Hur were rekindling a boyhood love affair, Wyler who was straight realized the potential of the suggestion, but advised that squeamishly macho Carlton Heston must not be told. On screen Steven Boyd's adoring looks at Heston are all too apparent. adding poignant contrast to the ensuing animosity.

In Spartacus Lawrence Olivier makes subtle advances to Tony Curtis by references snails and oysters. But Gay subtexts added dimension to these films by refining refined the emotional texture of these sequences for all audiences.

Watch for Part III in our next issue.



James Dean - Rumored bisexual

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A \$50 entry fee, check or money order payable to Pageant Productions must accompany this entry form. Official Pageant rules will be mailed to all contestants. All entry forms must be mailed, postmarked and received on or before January 29, 1999. You must be a Wisconsin resident as of August 1, 1998. You must be at least 18 years of age. Maximum 10 Mr. contestants/Maximum 10 Miss contestants allowed. You will receive an entry pass at the reheasal on Sunday morning, February 14.

PENALTIES: You will lose 10 points for any deviation from the above instructions or Official Pageant rules: Non-mailed entry - 10 points; Late for rehearsal - 10 points; No tape at rehearsal (unless performing live) - 10 points.

Oolf.v.

By Terry Boughner

In The Life, America's Gay and Lesbian newsmagazine series, returns to national public television with six all-new stories for its February/March '99 episode.

Program Highlights:

- Lead Story the AIDS crisis in the African-American community.
- Bisexuality 101 a look at some of the issues and misconceptions that separate Bisexuals from both straights and Gays.
- Transgendered musicians from jazz, to classical, to heavy metal.
- 4) Tammy Baldwin goes to Washington a profile of the first openly Gay nonincumbent ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Barney Frank will also be interviewed in this segment.
- 5) Stop Kiss a look at a riveting new play at the Public Theater in New York.
- Crossing Lines Gay and Lesbian inclusion in ethnic parades.

And new for this season: Out Artists Speak Out.

This episode continues a new series to In The Life. For Out Artists Speak Out, openly Gay actors, writers, singers, poets, directors, dancers etc. serve up public service information in one-minute segments.

Appearing on this episode are Kate Clinton (Off-Broadway — Correct Me if I'm Right), Quentin Crisp (Off-Broadway — An Evening With Quentin Crisp), and Pamela Sneed (her new book of poetry — Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom than Slavery).

Wisconsin Public TV (statewide) — Tuesday, February 9, 11pm; Milwaukee, WMVS channel 10 - Wednesday, March 3, 11pm.

New NBC President Scott Sassa told reporters that he wanted the network to add more "traditional family shows" to it's lineup. Asked if the focus on family shows means that the network would be backing away from Gay characters and Gay issues, NBC spokesperson Pat Schultz said, "No, definitely not." She added that while they want to add family shows, they also want to add more diversity.

Sassa's press release specifically praised the show *Will & Grace* as an example of the "quality, smart, funny shows" that NBC is looking to develop.

Shows Of Interest

January 28

Dirty Dancing — TNT; 7pm. (If you like Patrick Swayzee.)

Birdcage — Showtime; 1am.

January 29

Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story — TNT; 8pm.

Polyester — IFC; 9:15pm.

In Bad Taste: The John Waters Story —
Documentary about the controversial openly Gay director; IFC at 8pm.

January 30

How to Marry A Millionaire with Marilyn Monroe; AMC; 7:30pm.

January 31

My Best Friend's Wedding — TMC; 9pm. Fried Green Tomatoes — USA; 7pm.

February 1

The Simpsons — UPN; (r) 6pm. New on Fox at 7pm, Comedy Central's The Daily Show had a tradition of teasing about host Craig Kilbom's sexuality. With new anchor Jon Stewart at the helm, that tradition seems apt to continue.

February 2

Will & Grace - NBC; 8:30pm.

February 3

Encorel Encorel — Nathan Lane; NBC; 8:30nm

Xena: Warrior Princess — WB; 9pm.
Tracy Takes On — HBO; 9pm. Tracy Ullman with
a decidedly LGBT angle to the comedy.

GLAAD 1999 Media Awards Nominees

Among those nominated are: Out of the Past (PBS); The Real Ellen Story (Bravo); San Francisco Neighborhoods: The Castro (PBS); and Armistead Maupin's More Tales of the City (Showtime).

For outstanding TV Comedy Series: The Drew Carey Show (ABC); Ellen (ABC); Spin City (ABC); Suddenly Susan (NBC); Will & Grace (NBC); Tracey Takes On (HBO).

ABC's 20/20 (ABC) was nominated for Best News Story for Night of Terror. Matthew Shepard.

Nathan Lane is Out

Nathan Lane is the first to admit he's not sure why (and/or, if) anyone is interested in his sex life. But just in case... The comic actor, star of the ill-fated NBC sitcom *Encore! Encore!*, tells the February 2 edition of *The Advocate* that, yup, he's Gay.

"I just assume a lot of people know," Lane says in the magazine. "It's never been something I kept a secret."

GLAAD Outrage

On January 21, 1999, the Fox Television Network show, Fox Files, aired one of the most astonishingly anti-Gay pseudo-news segments the Gay and Lesbian community has ever seen. The show-segment, titled The Gay Underworld, depicted the Gay and Lesbian community as degenerates who were obsessed with anonymous sex, drugs and violence. This defamatory segment sunk to depths of sensationalism that would make Jerry Springer bow his head in shame.

GLAAD asks everyone to voice their displeasure both with their local Fox affiliate (Channel 6 in Milwaukee) and Fox Headquarters in New York

Fox News Contact Information: Mr. Roger Ailes, President Fox News, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, fax: 212-556-8219, e-mail: rogera@foxinc.com. The Fox Files airs on Channel 6 on Thursdays at 8pm.

GLAAD has also called upon Fox to publicly apologize to the LGBT Community and not to air the segment again in any form.



Gods and Monsters

Frankenstein, The Old Dark House, The Invisible Man, The Bride of Frankenstein, and Show Boat. Although this may sound like one of those "which doesn't belong" games, there actually is a common thread connecting these five movies — they are the enduring legacy of Gay British Director James Whale.

Whale started on the English stage, came to Hollywood in 1930, and established himself as a premier horror filmmaker with Frankenstein the following year. His career spanned the decade but after the spectacular failure of 1937's The Road Back (a movie he claims to have lost creative control of), his star dimmed. By the mid-'40s, he was out of the motion picture industry altogether, turning his attention to painting. In 1957, following a debilitating stroke, he drowned himself in his swimming pool. Director/Writer Bill Condon presents Gods and Monsters as a fictionalized account of the last month's of Whale's life.

The force behind bringing Whale's story to the screen is Executive Producer Clive Barker, the creator of the Hellraiser series. Barker shares a great deal with Whale: nationality, film genres and sexual orientation. Thus it's no surprise he would champion Gods and Monsters.

Director/Writer Condon shows great skill behind the camera - unexpectedly so from someone's whose most impressive previous credit was Candyman II. But Condon fashioned a fine screenplay (based on the novel Father of Frankenstein by Christopher Bram) and a superlative cast. With all the critical elements in place, he created an engaging and effective movie.

The fictionalized aspect of Gods and Monsters postulates a father-son relationship between Whale (veteran openly Gay actor lan McKellan) and his lawn cutter, Clay Boone (gorgeous Brendan Fraser). Whale is Gay and Clay isn't. What a pity! Their relationship remains strictly platonic - though not without lustful undertones on Whale's part. In Clay, Whale finds a wide-eyed audience for his stories, and means to emotionally work through a painful episode from his distant past. In Whale, Clay finds a sympathetic, older figure to replace the cold, harsh father who never understood him.

While Gods and Monsters' central focus is the Whale-Clay relationship, it also has a great deal to say about filmmaking. We see a charming flashback to a classic scene from The Bride of

Frankenstein (Rosalind Ayres bearing a striking resemblance to Elsa Lanchaster). Whale takes Clay to a lavish party given by George Cukor (the Gay Director of The Philadelphia Story and A Star is Born), and uses the unwitting, hunky Clay to make "that old queen" Cukor jealous. We also listen (as Clay does) with rapt attention as Whale relates his stories of triumphs and tragedies behind the camera.

Ian McKellan - like Barker and Whale is a Gay, English Thespian - uses this performance to give us a sampling of cinematic magic. McKellan reconfirms why many consider him to be the best Shakespearean actor of his generation. He brings Whale to life, infusing him with a potent combination of energy and uncertainty, capably conveying all his characters virtues and vices.

For the first time since School Ties, Brendan Fraser shows he can act, and he wastes not the opportunity. Those who were enraptured by his lovely, muscled torso in George of the Jungle get several more shots of them in Gods and Monsters. He portrays Clay believably as a rootless young man both fascinated and repelled by the strange, old director. Lynn Redgrave is almost unrecognizable in her largely comedic role as Whale's faithful housekeeper, and Lolita Davidovich has a small part as one of Clay's ex-girlfriends.

Gods and Monsters keeps us interested in the life and times of James Whale for its full 105-minute running time. Most of us know his movies but we know little, if anything, of the person who gave them life, and the private monsters he faced on a daily basis. Condon's fine film remedies

that. It's a rich, multi-layered portrait of a Gay director from Hollywood's Golden Age whose life was as interesting as any of the films he created. (4 STARS)

Gods and Monsters is currently showing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre.

Africa's Elephant Kingdom

Reviewed by John Jahn

The nature documentary is a genre of film that greatly benefits from the IMAX format. Africa's Elephant Kingdom, the latest film to open at Milwaukee's Humphrey Dome Theater, is a fine illustration of this fact.

The camera travels high above the wild lands of Kenya over waterfalls, rivers, plains and forests, eventually settling on a family of African elephants living on the grasslands surrounding Mount Kilimaniaro.

One older bull elephant comes closer. He is massive, his weathered, craggy hide and broken tusk attesting to his nearly six decades on Earth. Through the voice of accomplished stage actor and director Avery Brooks (currently starring on TV's Star Trek: Deep Space Nine), he becomes the storyteller. We are made witness to the lives of a particular family of endangered elephants.

Africa's Elephant Kingdom is a strong film, made all the more impressive in the IMAX format. Brook's narration is particularly powerful and convincing. Observing these magnificent creatures becomes very personal to us due to the first person storytelling. Elephants display themselves like never before as we follow their journey through seasons of drought and plenty. It is highly recommended. (3

Africa's Elephant Kingdom can be seen only at the Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater in downtown Milwaukee. Call (414) 319-IMAX for daily show times.



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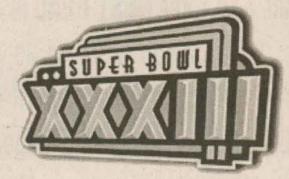
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by Romeo San Vicente

evolemos band bid inacondo no valdo and a concerno and electical

The Oscar buzz is growing for former Breakfast Club member Ally Sheedy for her portrayal of Lesbian photographer/ heroin junkie Lucy Berliner in last year's indy feature High Art. Sheedy recently received Best Actress kudos from both the super-choosy Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the National Society of Film Critics, so can an Academy nod be far behind?

After disappearing from the screen for several years, Sheedy made a strong comeback for herself in High Art, so listen for her name when the nominees are announced February 9th. Sheedy's career is going full-throttle.

She's just wrapped several projects including To Wong Foo writer Douglas Carter Beane's next flick: Advice From A Caterpillar. The film is a romantic comedy about a female New York artist who swears off romantic relationships, only to

falling for a Bisexual fella.

The rest of the Brat Pack also is keeping busy. Judd Nelson is still getting work



despite his post-80s weight gain. He can be seen weekly on the small screen in NBC's Must-She TV line-up playing Brooke Shields's boss and sometime lover on Suddenly Susan.

Well-hung St. Elmo's Fire hunk Rob Lowe (whose 1988 video sexcapade had tongues wagging in this town long before Tommy Lee even owned a video camera) is back at work, re-teaming with Wayne's World star Mike Myers in next summer's Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged me.

Still sexy Pretty in Pink stud James Spader continues to work in the movies. He's starring in a thriller with girl-of-themoment Minnie Driver called Slow Burn. Spader can also be seen in this March's \$60 million Sci-Fi flick Supernova.

The Gay Side of Cape Side

Sixteen Candles sweetle Molly Ringwald will be returning to the world of high school movies this summer in Gay writer Kevin Williamson's Heathers esque film Killing Mrs. Tingle. Katie Holmes stars in the black comedy which is about a senior who will stop at nothing (not even murder) to claim her rightful crown as class valedictorian.

Williamson, one of the hottest writers in La La Land, is finally letting his sexuality show more openly in his work. The romantic comedy he set up at Universal Pictures, entitled Her Leading Man, is

about a Gay writer who schemes to get his female friend to fall in love with a sleazy man he's paid to woo her. The film will spoof romantic comedies in much the

The King of Paranoia

Michael Jackson was recently spotted in the parking garage of a West Hollywood shopping and entertainment complex going "incognito" in a hat, sunglasses, and that annoying surgical mask like we're not gonna notice him dressed like that? The crooner was less than Thiller'd to be around other people so he and his bodyguard waited until no one else was on the elevator before boarding. Uh, Jacko? Why bother to go out at all?

Xeng the Lesbian Princess?

television cirspreading faster than clyamidia that Sapphic crooner kd Lang may guest star in an upcoming episode of the

Rumors in

television show Xena: Warrior Princess, playing a dyke-like character.

The Gay Bible

Jeffrey scribe Paul Rudnick has become the toast of NYC, this time for his latest play, which is a Gay take on the book of Genesis which has been playing at the New York Theater Workshop. The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told is two oneact plays. The first is a spoof of the tale of Adam and Eve, only Rudnick focuses on Adam and Steve and their Lesbian counterparts, Mabel and Jane. The second one-act focuses on a Gay Christmas pageant complete with a pregnant Lesbian in the manger.

Rudnick's play has received rave notices from critics and hasn't caused the kind of picketing frenzy that Terrence McNally's Gay Jesus epic Corpus Christi unleashed last fall, probably because of its clearly campy nature.

Madonna's He-Man Harem

Now that Carlos Leon seems to be officially out of the picture, Madonna's love life is harder to predict than Internet stocks. Seems that the Material mommy spent New Year's Eve partying with her on-again boy toy, British doorman/ wannabe filmmaker Andy Bird. Madonna had been furious with the 28-year-old Birdman, who had been quoted in a British tabloid discussing her and baby

Apparently, the two made up enough to ring in the New Year together, but not before the press had time to link Ms. Ciccone with another British director, Guy Ritchie. Ritchie just wrapped the Gramercy Pictures caper film Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels starring Sting. Poor Lourdes! We've got to get Chastity Bono to give the little lady some advice about having a difficult diva for a mama.

Romeo San Vicente, who falls somewhere between a Rob Lowe and a Tommy Lee, can be reached in care of this publication or at RomeoDeep@aol.com.







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VISA

Dear Ruthie



I went to a party once where they had a taco dip shaped like a naked lady. It was a disgusting mix of cream cheese and taco seasonings shaped into a woman's torso. It had a black olive belly button and shredded cheese pubes!

The nipples were two round slices of American cheese, each topped with a little pretzel log. Of course, I wouldn't expect anything less from Anna Nicole Smith's wedding reception. I think she served the same dip after the old guy's funeral.

So anyway, I'm thinking about food because I don't have anything to eat. I was so hungry the other night, I made a

smore out of two saltines, a cotton ball and a chocolate Ex-Lax. If you haven't guessed, I'm not much of a

I'm not a mix it up, open the oven, clear the table, warm it up for you man kind of gal. No... I'm more of a drink it down, open your purse, clear the buffet, warm it up when you get home from the party type.

Why waste time going to supermarkets when you can line your purse with foil? I've tucked some of my best dinners into my purse. I got a 15-lb. feta ball from John Tesh's toga party, almond cookies from Connie Chung's birthday bash, and three pounds of raw beef and onions from a party at Cindy Crawford's.

Yeah — that surprised me, too. Turns out the skinny bitch loves the stuff. A few pounds of raw beef, some pickled hog's feet, and an army surplus bag of Corn Nuts, and Cindy Crawford is in heaven. I was at the party when Richard couldn't take her eating habits anymore.

Richard left when he realized that Cindy was hooked on corned beef hash and catsup. "Please don't go Richard! Please don't leave Cindy alone with her mole!" I told him. As he walked away, I got a better look at his keester and remembered that shower scene from Breathless.

I started yelling, "Oh, you poor darling! Poor, Richard! Come to Ruthie! Ruthie will take away the pain. I have plenty of room in the trailer for your pet gerbils. We can meditate together and listen to old Blondie records. Call me, Richard! Call me!" Then I was jumped by three security guards and don't remember anything that happened after that.

Oh-hell, this talk of cheese balls, Corn Nuts and gerbils has gotten me hungry. I'm gonna head over to Pearl's and check out her fridge. Who am I kidding? Pearl had more in her fridge when she bought it. Let's read a letter instead.

Dear Ruthie,

After being together for over a year, my lover and I have moved into his house. We always talked about getting a dog, so after one month we got a puppy named Brandy. We love her dearly, but I'm afraid that she is our source of fighting. We argue about clean-up responsibility and training rules. I think we made a mistake in getting her so early after our move. Should we get rid of this dog that we love so much?

What do you think?

(signed) —Dog House

Dear Dog House,

I never had a dog. My ex-husband, Boner, had a snake once. I hated that damn thing - the snake, not Boner. Well - okay, I came to hate them both eventually.

One time, the snake had a lump in its belly that resembled my missing Gucci pump. An oven full of gas, some rubber gloves, and a utility knife later not only did

I have my shoe back, but I had some lovely snake skins to turn into a pair of heels.

Back to you and the guy and the dog. I think you're on target with the idea that you bought the dog at a bad time. While you dated for a year (bravo!), you needed time to get used to living together. For some this is difficult, for others it's an easy transition. BUT - you throw an untrained puppy into the mix and your asking for trouble.

I would keep the dog for awhile. Discuss your concerns with your partner. Acknowledge the arguing and let him know it concerns you. See if you two can't come to some common ground regarding training issues and dog-related responsibilities. You may want to consider dog training. A trainer could tell you how to handle training issues so as not to cause

He or she may even be able to speed up the training process. Good luck!

Hey folks - Ruthie here. Join me on February 3rd for a delicious evening of the Chamber Theatre's Madame DeSade and dinner at the new Broadway Bar & Grill. Check out the details on page 6. Also, why not celebrate Valentines Day with a wonderful dinner and show at the Milwaukee Hilton? The Pageant, one of Milwaukee's largest, most elegant community events is on February 14, 1999. For tickets (dinner and/or show) call 414-344-2460. Dinner reservations must be made by Wed., Feb. 10. For contestant information call 414-486-6226. See you all there!

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

























BIFF 'N BUNKY

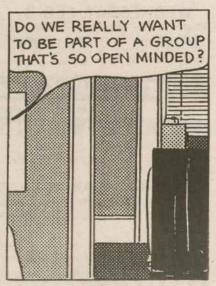
by KEITH N ANDERSON





I DON'T THINK A GAY





WEDNESDAY, JAN 27

Woodland Pattern Writing Workshop, (Milwaukee), Writing Practice for all experience levels, 6:30-8:30pm, 6 classes, \$65/\$60 members, or \$12 single class.

Madison Rep. (Madison), Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill. Through Jan. 30. Isthmus Playhouse, Madison Civic Center (608)266-9055 fo tickets.

THURSDAY, JAN 28

Dorian Gray Project Event (Milwaukee), Marquette University Haggerty Museum exhibit opens entitled Oscar Wilde: The Apostle of Beauty featuring the photographs of Wilde by Napoleon Sarony, through March 14th.

New Support Group for Pro S&M Women (Madison), Meets at 7:30pm, OutReach, 14 W. Mifflin, FMI call (608) 242-8885.

Woodland Pattern Writing Workshop, (Milwaukee), Advanced Poetry Critique Group, alternating Thursdays 12-1:30pm, free will donation.

FRIDAY, JAN 29

Gay Murder Mystery Party (Milwaukee), Tonight & tomorrow, 8pm, starting at This Is It, moves to Circle Stage Theater for a Dale Gutzman You Solve It - The Calvin Klein Crime or Death is a Drag. Call (414) 466-4049 for reservations. \$15 tickets includes a drink at TIT's.

Keith Lockhart & Mozart (Milwaukee), Performed by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart. Showtime 7:30pm, also tomorrow at 8pm, Tickets \$16-48, Box Office (414)273-7206.

SATURDAY, JAN 30

Rural Dykes of America. Spend a day in Milwaukee, rendezvous at 1pm to tour the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes) followed by a veggie pot luck at a city dwelling. For Madison carpool infor-mation call (608) 437-3637.

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), 1999 Marathon Benefit Reading, 720 E. Locust St., Admission \$5 in advance or for members, \$6 for others. Celebrate Milwaukee's artistic community. 10 consecutive hours of poetry, stories and songs with a tag team of writers each delivering a five minute taste of their work. FMI (414) 263-5001.

SUNDAY, JAN 31

UW Milwaukee Dept. of Music (Milwaukee), An Afternoon of Irish Song, the next concert in the Vocal Arts Series and part of the Intl Arts Festival. School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tickets are \$14/\$7 students. FMI or advance tickets (414) 229-4308.

TUESDAY, FEB 2

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee), Jazz Alumni Brian Lynch shares twice with a 6pm Master Class and 7:30pm concert performance in the Recital Hall. Master class admission is \$5, tickets to the concert are \$10 for general admission, \$7 for seniors and students and free for Conservatory enrolled students.

SUNDAY, FEB 2

Woodland Pattern (Milwaukee), Telling Stories, a fiction writing workshop on narrative structure, Tuesdays through March 9, 7-9pm, 6 classes for \$80/\$75 members.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 3

Dinner & A Play (Milwaukee), Join WI Light staff and Dear Ruthie for dinner at Broadway Bar & Grill, Madame du Sade & cocktails at Fluid. Call 226-0075 FMI & tickets.

THURSDAY, FEB 4

Artist Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee), Chamber music by the Berlin Philharmonic Piano Quartet, 7:30pm, Pabst Theater. Tickets (414) 286-3663 or the Box Office.

Dorian Gray Project Event (Milwaukee), Special Opera Preview at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 6pm, A panel discussion about Dorian Gray from a musical, historical, artistic, social and personal perspective. General admission \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students. FMI call (414) 291-5700 X 14.

FRIDAY, FEB 5

Dorian Gray Project Event (Milwaukee), Pre-Opera Dinner at the Bradley Pavilion, 5:30pm.PLUS Opening Night Performance of The Picture of Dorian Gray, by the Florentine Opera, 7:30pm. Followed by a post Opera champagne reception with composer and cast.

SATURDAY, FEB 6

Dorian Gray Project Event (Milwaukee), Merlin Holland Lecture on Killing One Peacock with Two Stones: Dorian Gray and the Downfall of Oscar Wilde. Presented by Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, at the Pabst Theater, 2:45pm. Talk followed by a reception and book signing in the Pabst lobby. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students. For tickets call (414) 286-3663

Miss Gay Great Lakes USofA Pageant (Green Bay), See the "Going Out Guide, pg 24, for more details.

SUNDAY, FEB 7

Wisconsin Conservatory (Milwaukee), Irish Music Comes to the Conservatory in conjunction with this February's Intl. Arts Festival, today with the Conservatory's Irish Music Ensemble bringing the folk traditions of Ireland to life. 3pm, Recital Hall. Advance tickets: 3 series tickets \$24 general, \$17 seniors and students; individual tickets are \$10 and \$7.

SATURDAY, FEB 13

Have a Heart Fundraiser (Fox Valley). See the Going Out Guide, pg 24, for more details. Valentine's Dance (Milwaukee). A Womyn only event from Full Moon Productions. At the Transit Center, 909 E. Michigan, Harbor Lights Room. Professional DJ, Beer, Wine, alcohol and alcohol free cocktails. For singles and couples. Tickets are \$8 at the door.

Equality Begins at Home Task Force (Milwaukee). Regional meeting, 7pm in the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 South 2nd Street.

SUNDAY, FEB 14

Rebuilding Faith (Milwaukee), Monthly discussion group of LGBT Catholics. 10:30am-Noon, Holy Trinity/Guadalupe School (613 S. 4th St.). FMI call Fred (414)481-8543.

EVERY TUESDAY

Boyz Nite/ARCW (Milwaukee), Meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm. Hang, dish, assemble safe sex kits, all ages welcome. ARCW Office, 820 N. Plankinton Avenue, FMI call Ed (414) 225-1595 or Yuri at (414) 225-1563.

Gay By God's Will (Milwaukee), Milwaukee's MCC on Warner Cable channel 47, live, 8pm. Queer TV (Milwaukee), Warner/MATA cable channel 47, 7pm.

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> This issue covers: Feb 10 - 24, 1999 Valentine's Day & The Pageant

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NIGHTS OUT

News... In Between owner Curt Peck and his partner, Doug, who operates Clinton Street Antiques, celebrated their ninth anniversary in mid January. The staff at the bar bought them tickets to Fame, which played at Milwaukee's Riverside. Curt was really touched by the gesture. He told me the show was "wonderful." Congrats guys. Here's hoping you have many more years together.

Over at La Cage my favorite DJ tag team, Tanya and DJ Dave, kept things very lively. So lively in fact that I saw people dancing in the carpeted areas, on those big boxes next to the dance floors, and just about everywhere else, too. They didn't have strippers, but they did have quite a few boys dancing without their shirts.

Coming Up... We have a few nice events coming up in the next couple of weeks. First off, there are numerous Super

> Bowl parties on Sunday, January 31. Okay, so the Pack didn't make it to the big dance this year, but that

doesn't mean we can't root for the Atlanta Falcons to give Denver its comeuppance.

Next is the Wisconsin Light Dinner and Theater party on Wednesday, February 3. The evening starts out with a great dinner at the Broadway Bar and Grill. From there the party moves down the street to the Broadway Theater Center for a performance of Madame De Sade. (NO, my sex life is not featured in this one. It's SADE not sad.) After the play, the party moves to Fluid where your ticket stub can be redeemed for a buy one, get one free drink. Tickets are just \$45, which includes everything. To get yours call Wisconsin Light at (414) 226-0075 before they are all gone.

February 6, they will be crowning Miss Gay Great Lakes USofA at Za's. The following Friday, February 13 could be your lucky day if you attend the Have A Heart dinner at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. The ARCW benefit has over 150 items donated by celebrities. See the details on page 27.

I am already laying out my leather for the Mr. WI Leather contest at the Eagle on February 20. It should be a hot time - like when isn't a stop at the Eagle a hot time?

That about wraps it up. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!

TER

Two issues ago I reported that Milwaukee's Mama Roux bar was closed, at least temporarily. Just as I feared, it now appears that temporary closing is a permanent one. Word on the streets is that the place is for sale for \$140K.

I recently attended Club Night at the Boot Camp. Si was particularly cunning in his deals that evening. Someone did, however, win the jackpot of \$100 by guessing the number 11.

You may remember my reporting of La Cage owner George Prentice's accident on the racetrack in St. Louis last year. Well, he has a new racecar, and he's taking it to Florida early next month. Be careful George, and remember to wear a seat belt/harness/crash helmet and lots of padding in the right places!

Speaking of George, my condolences to him and his brother John on the death of their brother Jimmy, who died from complications due to AIDS. Unfortunately, his death provides more proof that the epidemic is not over yet.

The gang from Club 5 did a Milwaukee bar crawl to celebrate the holidays. Their bus hit the Cream City on Monday, January 25. Let me tell you, those guys can party with the best of them.

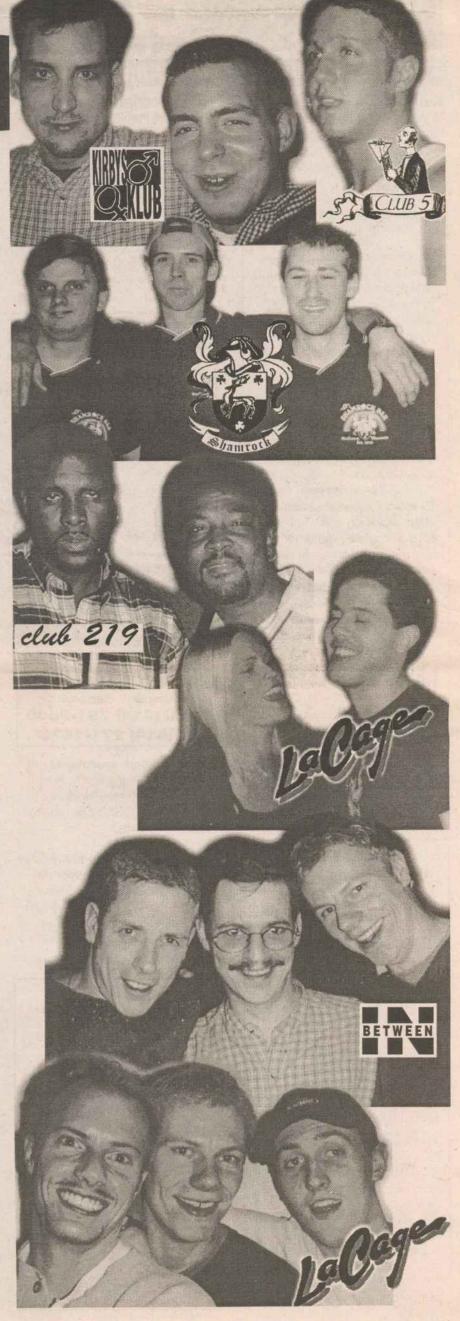
Recaps... I had a great time in Mad Town on Saturday the 16th. The friendly folks at Shamrock and Kirby's Klub made me feel right at home. What a welcome change after hobnobbing with those snobs in the Washington D.C. bars.

I also had a great time at Club 5. Owner Ed G. told me that he is working hard on his restaurant. The special they had that evening was really to die for!!! I didn't have enough time to hit Ray's and the newest Mad Town bar, Cees. Next time I promise!!!

The weekend of January 22 - 24, I hit the dance bars on South Second Street. 219 was pretty crowded. They had some very hot strippers dancing on the stage and mixing with the crowd. Of course, DJ Kim was her usual stellar self in the booth.

Next up was **Dish** where DJ Amber had a packed dance floor to work with. A good part of the crowd was male. Lesbians and Gay men easily socialize with each other here, because although it is mostly a women's bar, the staff goes out of its way to welcome everyone.





Joing Out

JAN 28 THRU FEB 7

Fluid (Milwaukee), Buy 1, Get 1 Free with your ticket stub from Madame de Sade, any performance, through Sunday, February 7.

THURSDAY, JAN 28

BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing (Milwaukee), Off site testing at Dish, 9pm-

FRIDAY, JAN 29

Brandy's II (Green Bay), Benefit Show for Tiara Rose on her Quest to become Miss Gay Great Lakes USofA.

SATURDAY, JAN 30

Fannies (Milwaukee), Aquarius Party for all "Aqueerians" and everyone else too.

Mr. WI Leather Man & Great Lakes Harley Riders (Milwaukee), 3rd Annual Leather Swap Meet, 7pm at Woody's (1579 South 2nd). Pizza, beer bust plus swap meet. Table space available first come, first serve. Call Larry or Joe at (414) 931-9760 FMI.

The Main Club (Superior), Levi/leather night, last Saturday of the month.

Oz (Wausau), TC Hammond, Mr. Gay USofA with out-of-town guests.

SUNDAY, JAN 31

Club 5 (Madison), Super Bowl Party. 11TVs PLUS Big Screen TV. Drink specials, food.

Geraldine's (Madison), Super Bowl Partyl Open at noon. Watch the Super Bowl on 2 big screen TVs. Kitchen open, food served.

Ballgame (Milwaukee), Join us Super Bowl Sunday.

Dish (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party, Open at 5:30pm. Drink Specials.

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party, 3pm. Food, Free beer & soda, raffles.

In Between (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party. Quarterback Challenge - win \$50 cash. Food. Free shots with every Falcon score. Open 3pm. Drink specials, too!

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party with All the Chili U Can Eat. \$1.25 12oz bottles of domestic beer. Small Pitchers \$2.20oz Tappers, \$1.25. Prizes.

Kirby's Klub (Madison), Super Bowl Party! Shots, drink specials. DJ to follow.

South Water Street Docks (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party with Sylvain appearing immediately after. Open 3pm.

Station 2 (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Partyl Watch the game on 3 screens. Food. Raffles.

This is It! (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party! Watch the game on 3 screens. Food. Raffles.

Triangle (Milwaukee), Watch the Super Bowl on 7 TVs. Snacks.

Woody's (Milwaukee), Super Bowl Party, 4pm to ?? Drinks, food, fun, etc.

Brandy's II (Green Bay), Super Bowl Party, free

Buddies (Green Bay), Super Bowl Party, drinks specials & food.

Napalese (Green Bay), Special Super Bowl Buffet

Sass (Green Bay), Super Bowl on the big screen TV and free food.

Za's (Green Bay), Watch the Super Bowl in Java's with big screen and free food.

JT's (Superior), Super Bowl Party, drink specials, food & prize drawings.

Oz (Wausau), Super Bowl Beer Bust & food.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 3

Fluid (Milwaukee), Join the Wisconsin Light staff for Buy 1, Get 1 Free after the Dinner & A Play performance of Madame de Sade.

La Cage (Milwaukee), 10pm-Close. Medalla Beer Bash. 50-\$ shorties, T-Shirts, Prizes.

THURSDAY, FEB 4

BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing (Milwaukee), Clarke Square Health Fair, 1818 W. National Ave., 10am-2pm.

BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing (Milwaukee), Off site at LaCage, 10pm-1am.

SATURDAY, FEB 6

Za's (Green Bay), Miss Great Lakes USofA Pageant, a regional preliminary to Miss Gay USofA. Featuring Miss Gay USofA '98 and Loretta LaMour. 9pm prompt. FMI 1-800-578-3785 or (920) 433-0611.

FRIDAY, FEB 12

BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing (Milwaukee), at In Between from 9pm-mid-

SATURDAY, FEB 13

Club 5 (Madison), Free Champagne with each dinner order.

Fannles (Milwaukee), Bridgette's 40th Birthday Party and Fannies regular "Valentine's Day Party." Champagne & Drink Specials.

Za's (Green Bay), Valentine's & Mardi Gras weekend. Hot male dancers. Drink specials for those in red or Mardi Gras theme.

Have a Heart (Fox Vallen), 8th Annual fundraiser at Liberty Hall, Kimberty. FMI/Tickets 1-800-

Valentine's Dance (Milwaukee), Wornyn only event in the Harbor Light Room, Transit Center. See ad on page 27.

SUNDAY, FEB 14

Club 5 (Madison), Free Champagne with each dinner order. Valentine's Show hosted by Desiree Matthews.

Fannles (Milwaukee), Ronnie Nyles with a special Valentine's Day Show. 6:30pm, \$4 Cover.

The Pageant (Milwaukee), at the downtown Hilton. Cocktails 5pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Show, 8:05pm. See ad page 18.

LIVE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

C'est La Vie (Milwaukee), Drag Shows on Sat. & Sun., 10:30pm.

Club 5 (Madison), Drag Shows on Sat., 10pm. Club 219 (Milwaukee), Drag Shows on Thurs. & Sun., 11:30pm. Strippers every Wed., Fri. &

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee), Lingerie and Bikini Revue, every Wed., 4:30-6:30pm.

Kirby's Klub (Madison), Drag Shows on Sat.,

La Cage (Milwaukee), La Cage Showcase every Fri. & Sun. at 11pm.

11pm plus Free Lessons. Quinn's Cabaret (Milwaukee), Mrs. Fun appears live every Fri. at 9:30pm.

This is It! (Milwaukee), Sylvain appears live every Sun, night at 8pm.

If you would like to list your bar's special events in the Going Out Guide, please fax (414)226-0096) or e-mail (Adswilight@aol.com) your event to WI Light.



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Mw 1126 Main St., 54304 437-3917 Brandy's II MW 1264 Main St, 54304 Buddies 437-9256 MW, DJ 515 S. Broadway, 54303 432-9646 Napalese Lounge WM, S 840 S. Broadway, 54304 437-7277 Sass MW, DJ, E, F, V 1106 Main St., 54301 Za's/lava' 435-5476 RESTAURANTS

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435-5476 LA CROSSE (608) Mw 114 N. 5th St., 54601

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1100 Club

Annex Cafe

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Celebrity Auction Items at Appleton ARCW Dinner

by Mike Fitzpatrick -WI Light Northeast Wisconsin Bureau

Green Bay - What do Robin Williams, David Duchovny, Betty White, Paul Harvey, Judy Collins, Jay Leno, Ray Charles and Oliver North all have in common? They are just a few of the more than 100 celebrities from the arts, sports, media and politics who have donated original art and other items for the Celebrity Silent Auction at ARCW's 8th Annual "Have A Heart" dinner and fundraiser to be held Saturday. February 13 at Liberty Hall in the Appleton suburb of Kimberly.

For the last four years the dinner's volunteer steering committee has mailed



Judd Hirsch

crayons and drawing paper to well known figures in film, music, media, politics and sports, requesting they create an original piece of "Heartart" for the auction. Celebrity involvement has grown exponentially. This year's auction will offer close to 150 celebrity items in addition to dinners, trips, concert tickets and other merchandise.

Movie lovers will be drawn to items such as the Mrs. Doubtfire poster with special "in character" greetings from Robin Williams, Jim Carey's with a racy autographed studio still, and items from cinema legends such as Charlton Heston and Lauren Bacall. Newer heartthrobs like Antonio Banderas, Val Kilmer and Judd Hirsch have also donated. TV fans will surely go for Jenny Jones' original art piece created with multiple colors of lipstick prints or items from Star Trek, The X-Files, Home Improvement and more.

Media buffs will clamor for items from Tom Brokaw, Katie Couric, Rush Limbaugh,



Jenny Jones

Roberts and others, while music fans can choose from items sent by Reba McEntire, Barbara Mandrell,

Cokie

Grace Slick, John Williams and others. Sports fans will vie for a football autographed by the 1998 Green Bay Packers, plus items from Hank Aaron, Gilbert Brown, Craig Newsome and others. American icons like Senator/Astronaut John Glenn, Olympic medallist Mark Spitz, fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger and dozens more have all contributed as well.

The silent auction and cocktail hour will kick off the evening at 6pm. Following dinner at 7pm, masters of ceremonies Teri

Barr of Fox 11 and Erin Davisson of WFRV-TV 5 will host a program which will feature a keynote speech by Green Bay's Dan McDonough, who is a member of the United Nation's Global AIDS Task Force. McDonough will be followed by the Community Service Awards. These will be given to Aurora Health Care's Dr. Ray Bachhuber, WFRV's new anchor Tim Blotz,



Tommy Hilfiger

Quest magazine's Mark Mariucci, the Green Bay Packer's Tyronne Williams and his wife Shantel, and the Boy's and Girl's Club of the Fox Cities. The evening will conclude with performances by members of Entertainers Against AIDS.

Have A Heart tickets are only \$40 per person, \$400 for a table of ten, and \$1000 for corporate tables. Individual and

NEAT



Sally Struthers

table sponsors will be acknowledged during the dinner. Reservations can be made by calling (800)675-9400 and for convenience can be charged to VISA and

The Have A Heart dinner is the pre-



Rush Limbaugh

fundraising event in northeast Wisconsin, according to former ARCW regional director Stan Kocos.

miere

AIDS

"Each year hundreds of people come together to help raise money in the continuing fight against AIDS." Kocos said.

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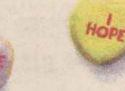
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> Great Lakes Opera "Sweet Airs of Ireland" March 7

Milwaukee Ballet "A Trinity of Dance' with the Trinity Irish Dance Company February 11-14

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre "St. Christopher and Childe Alfred" In honor of the Florentine Opera Company's "The Picture of Dorian Gray February 1

Milwaukee Irish Film Fleadh Sponsored by the Milwaukee Film Festival, Milwaukee, Irish Arts and UWM Film Department February 18, 19, 20, 21

Milwaukee Repertory Theater at the Stackner Cabaret February 19-March 21

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
"Doc Severinsen and the Trinity Irish Dancers" March 5-7

Pabst Theater Keyboard Conversations* with Jeffrey Siegel "Chopin and the Irish"

"Music for the Young and the Youthful" February 13

> "The Irish Rovers" February 26

Skylight Opera Theatre "Ballymore - World Premiere" Richard Wargo, Composer/Librettist; Brian Friel, Playwright Co-commissioned by the Opera Company of Philadelphia January 29-February 14

Woodland Pattern "Urban Voice" featuring local Irish & American poets February 19

> "Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill" February 27

GENTHATEN IN GENT

Other hosts: Alverno College The Boulevard Ensemble Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion Cardinal Strich University Celtic Women International Charles Allis Art Museum The Haggerty Museum Irish Cultural & Heritage Center Marquette University Milwaukee Art Museum

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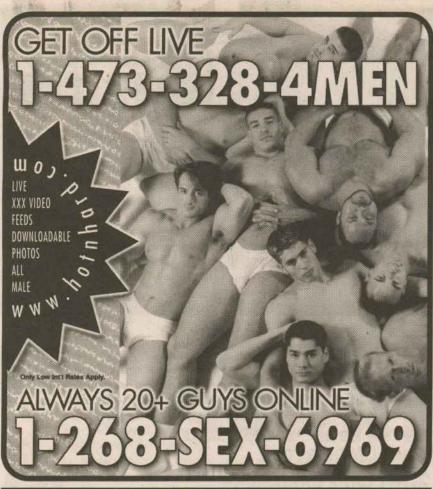
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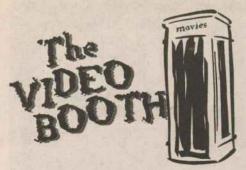
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Classic Videos The Bigger the Better Matt Sterling Productions Reviewed by Andy James

It's little wonder that The Bigger the Better is the number one selling Gay porn video of all time. An attractive cast, high production values and hot steamy action make this 1984 feature one of the best ever committed to tape.

The plot - such as it is - revolves around a teacher, Matt Ramsey, his students and his friends. Ramsey can also be seen in straight porn flicks where he uses different names, but in this video, he is Gay - ALL Gay.

In the first scene, Ramsey keeps Rick Donovan after school for some extra tutoring. But it is Ramsey who gets the tutoring when the two engage in a hot steamy fuck scene that will leave you as drenched as the set must have been when they were finished.

Donovan makes Ramsey beg for his enormous member. He bends him over a desk and plugs his bubble butt in a noisy encounter. After both of these studs shoot enormous loads, they go at it again with Donovan plugging Ramsey

as he lies on the floor. Ramsey's second cum shot in this scene is one of the hottest I have ever seen.

In the next scene, Ramsey is at it again, giving another student some help. This time it's in the weight room. The sexual tension between the two builds until finally Ramsey is tearing off the young hairy-chested stud's sweat pants. They go at it sucking, rimming, and fucking each other.

Another highlight comes in the following scene. Ramsey's real life brother Mike and pal Buster are out on the town looking for women. They come home empty handed, or so they thought. Mike invites Buster to spend the night. As Buster leaves the bathroom next to Ramsey's bed, he is taken by the how the light shines on his buddy.

Buster starts caressing and kissing Ramsey who soon awakens - in more ways than one. Before you know it, these hot studs are rolling around in the bed, sucking and fucking each other. Mike Ramsey shows himself to be as talented as his brother is. He is hot as a top or a bottom. This is one of the few videos made by Mike - what a pity.

The final scene is one of the hottest T-room scenes ever put on film or video. Brian Hawkes has four different encounters with hot guys in the school bathroom. The final encounter where he takes on two hot studs is a real ball buster. The action is very intense. If you watch closely you'll see pre-cum dripping from one of them.

What makes this film so good is the sexual tension built up in every scene. That plus the very attractive cast that thoroughly enjoyed its work makes The

Bigger the Better an absolute must for even semi-serious collectors. If you can't get excited by this one, buy yourself some Viagra.

New Videos Three Brothers · Produced by Gino Colbert for New Age Pictures. Reviewed by Sam Edwards

I almost didn't rent this video because Gino Colbert, a retired and tired porn actor known for being a sloppy, cheap pig who now is producing sloppy, cheap films, produced it. However, someone sent me an email Xmas card with a naked photo of Vince Rockland. Even though he is an arrogant straight guy, he is drop dead beautiful. So I relented and rented, particularly since his two brothers, Shane and Hal, are also featured in the film.

Surprise, surprise!! This is one of the best x Gay films I've seen in a long while. Money has been spent on the production and it shows.

The film consists of four short stories, three written and directed by Sam Slap and one written by Rick Allen and directed by Colbert. All four stories are original, well acted and interesting. The sex is great, the production values excellent and you will want to watch them several times. I'm not going into a blow by blow description of these films. I want you to enjoy every little twist and turn of the plots.

The first story, "Cabin Fever", starts with Sharon Mitchell giving head to Paul Carrigan, but their coitus is interrupted by the appearance of Vince

Rockland. Soon Rockland and Carrigan are making wild, passionate love while Sharon sleeps in the next room, and for once Vince is not trade. I watched this scene about five times, enjoying every

The second story, "Body Parts", features hairy-chested Anthony Gallo and Shane Rockland and, by golly, Shane ain't trade either, but he finally tops Gallo with gusto. The third, "Three Guys and a Blond," has all three brothers working over pretty boy Derek Cameron. There's lots of lusty talk here, which really turns Cameron on. The last one, "Hard Help is Good to Find" has Vince and Shane giving it to Paul Morgan.

All four stories have good O. Henry twisty endings that are fun. The men all enjoy what they are doing, particularly Vince and Carrigan, who should win some kind of award for their scene. If they weren't turned on by one another, I'll eat my hat (or something).

Three Brothers scored significant honors at both of this winter's Gay video awards shows. Vince Rockland won Best Actor and Gina Colbert with Sam Slam won Best Director at both the Adult Video News Gay Awards and the Gay Erotic Video Awards (GEVA). GEVA also honored this movie with the award for Best Group Scene, destined for porno infamy.

Run, don't walk, to your favorite video store and rent or buy Three Brothers. You won't be sorry. Keep up the good work, Colbert. I guess you've always had it in you.









TAXI

W 220-5000

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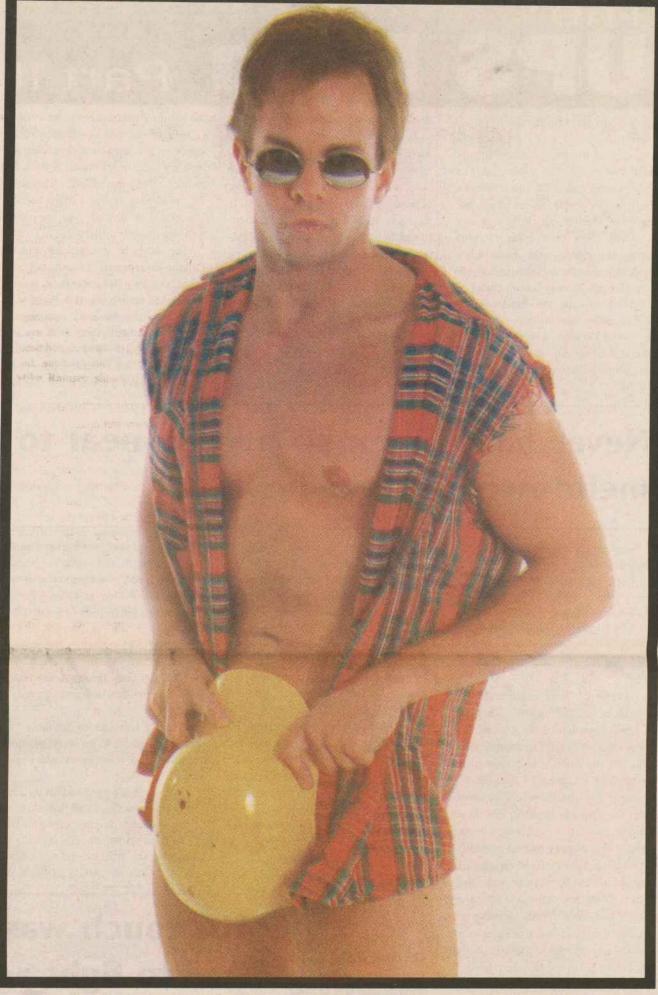
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JPS Man Part II

by Terry Boughner

He laid a hand gently on my right arm, curling his long, slender fingers about my bicep. The other hand he placed on my bare belly just above the elastic of my shorts. At his touch, hot tingles of urgency ran all through me, as if my veins were wires carrying charges that pierced to my brain, while my cock was so hard, I thought it would burst through its imprisoning cloth.

"Glenn, kiss me, yes. But know that you're dipping into the dark side if you do." Johnny's voice was as soft as the drizzle misting my skin. "I will do things to you that have never been done before."

And with just a kiss!

To say that I was putty in his hands was a gross understatement. His mouth, his touch, the way he held my arms had taken me beyond the point of yielding to the complete abandonment of self. If this was the "dark side," he'd mentioned, then I was at home in its steaming hot, churning, stygian depths.

But as I would discover, I wasn't in the depths, only in the outer circle. There were other areas, each one deeper than the last, through which I would be

"There is no one around," he whispered in an intonation and with a look that said that for whatever was to come, the still-hidden treasures at his loins.

As I kissed and licked each of his knees, he got down on his haunches and took my head in his hands. A thick fog swirled off the mountains, surrounding us, enveloping us like a moist cocoon. His beautiful almond eyes seemed to glow green-yellow like those of a cat.

The shorts he was wearing and the tanktop disappeared. I mean they vanished, as if they had never been, leaving him naked and to my astonished wonder, I saw that his cock was huge, a monstrous thing. Fully erect as it was, it was at least 10" long and 5" round, twisted with veins and dripping at the end. His heavy looking, low hanging Even more than before, we were in a world all our own, a world in which I knew that I was lost and Johnny was my only guide. But I wanted it that way.

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"Do you really want to be mine?" he asked. His voice was bearly above a whisper. His tone was thoughtful as he ran one hand slowly over my damp and tangled

"Yes. Make me yours. Take me, all of me, rape me. Do what you want to me, please." I was giving him carte blanch with me as I'd never done with any top before. But I was so caught up in him, so abandoned to the heat raging in my loins, that I didn't thank-or perhaps didn't care-what the consequences

But then again, I couldn't have guessed in a million years what he had in mind for me-and wouldn't have believed it if I'd been told.

He kissed me again, more quickly this time, and laid me out on my back, positioning first my legs and then my arms so that I was eagle-spread. I figured he intended to put my legs in the air and rear end me that way. At least that's what I hoped he was going to do since my asshole was tingling in anticipation of the hardest fuck of my life. But he didn't do

Instead, he got up and went to where he'd left the gym bag. From it he took four lengths of black string, each one having the thickness of fish pole line. The cords didn't look very strong, not strong enough to really hold me if he was going to fie me up. But then I thought, it was probably the illusion of putting me in bondage he was after, not the actual thing. Again, I was wrong.

Saying nothing, he tied a line to each of my wrists and ankles, but made no effort to tie me up. Still, just the fact of his doing it, just the feel of those lines on my skin made my balls contract and threaten to explode. My cock was sticking straight up from its nest of my pubic hair, twitching and jumping as if it were some animal trying to get away, while it felt like a rocket about to take off.

He went again to the gym bag, taking from it more lengths of string. He tied one to each of my knees, one around the base of my raging hot genitals, and

Never had I been so hot, so near to meltdown as I was now.

"Dark side?" I wasn't alarmed, only intrigued.

"Uhm-hum," he murmured softly, running the tip of an index finger along my lower lip, then taking it quickly away. "A side that will entrap and hold you captive forever to me, bound as helpless as if you were spread-eagled, naked, in a spider's

As before, I didn't understand exactly what he was talking about-but even if I had, I wouldn't have stopped. I've always been a bottom to another man's top, and the analogy he'd used of me being held a captive in his web was exciting. Besides, his words combined with the glowing, hypnotic look in his slightly veiled, bewitching almondshaped eyes already had me in thrall.

Keeping his eye fixed on mine, he slipped a hand between us and slowly slid it down my belly, down into my shorts and bikini briefs, seeking and finding the thick, thrusting spear of my masculinity throbbing there, waiting for him to grasp it and make it his own. When he did, I gasped and stiffened against him. His touch was so hot that I had to fight against cuming on the spot.

He had to know I was close to exploding because he withdrew his hand and holding me by my biceps, pinioned my arms to my sides and crushed his mouth to mine. His tongue pushed easily inside me as he ground my lips against my teeth, holding me tightly pressed against him as he did.

I'd had sex with a lot of men, wickedly handsome men with beautiful physiques. But never, ever like this. Never had I been so hot, so near to meltdown as I was now. And while I'd played the bottom to some excellent tops, never had anyone taken control of me like this.

we would not be disturbed.

Fog-gray clouds hung low in the sky. Mist swirled around us, isolating us in a world of our own. A crow called out a couple of times and then was still. With his hands on my shoulders, Johnny sent me to my knees.

Bending low, I removed the clogs from his feet and set them aside before kissing his feet, going back and forth. I'd never been into feet before; I had no foot fetish, but now it was different. His feet were beautiful. The tops were rich with protuberant veins, and I wanted to lick them, wanted to push my tongue down between his toes as my cock throbbed demandingly, shoving hard against my shorts. I longed to touch that bulging rod of mine, ached to give my hot, swollen prick some relief. Instead, without looking up, I raised my arms above my head and put my hands. on the backs of his thighs.

I began to bathe his calves with my tongue. He had a little hair on them. The prickles of it good as what was to come.

See, I'm a thigh-man. To me there's nothing more beautiful, nothing more of a turn-on than a man's thighs, thighs that arepowerful, muscular, bulging with sexuality. Thighs like Johnny's, ones that ripple when he walks as Johnny's did, thighs like his are the pillars of a man's strength, molten towers, burning with inner flame. When he stands still, they are the rock-hard symbols of his virility. When he moves, they quiver with sensuality bearly restrained.

My thighs are good, solid, with great cuts. There is no denying that. But Johnny's were absolute perfection. Marble smooth and well defined, they were twin slabs of male meat leading to balls, like his cock, were enormous, the size of oranges, and seemed to be pulsing with a red, interior glow as if they formed some kind of nuclear furnace from which his interior fire was fed.

Again he kissed me, deeply, passionately, his long hot tongue probing every corner of my mouth. My balls were aching, my cock throbbed, my insides were like molten lava getting ready to

"Would you like to be mine?" he asked softly, as if he were genuinely concerned, as if too he thought I might

A crow flying overhead set up a raucous cry, the kind of call that warns the flock of danger. Johnny turned his head in the bird's direction. His eyes blazed. The bird fell still and did not call out again. When he looked again at me,

His touch was so hot that I felt good, so good, yet not as had to fight against cuming on the spot.

kneeling there between his wide-spread thighs, the fire in his eyes had been dampened to a smoldering glow.

Take me," I said in answer to his question. "Make me yours." I reached out a hand to stroke his monstrous, hot cock. God, I thought, if he fucks me with that thing, it'll split me apart. But I didn't care. I wanted him to screw me, thrust that dick of his into my tight little asshole and make it hurt, make it hurt real good.

The mist swirled around us and beaded on his smooth, golden skin. finally began to put one around my

"What 're you tryin' to do?" I asked. 'Make a pup .

He stopped what he was doing and laid a finger to my lips. "It is time for you not to speak again," he said calmly, as if stating a simple fact, and finished tying the string around my neck. "Not ever again," he said half to himself.

To be continued ...