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Expected In Madison  
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# A Hot Month

A large, vibrant collage of images. At the top, the text "A Hot Month" is written in a white, serif font. Below it, there's a woman in a red dress holding a small object, a man with a beard and a purple hat, and a woman with blonde hair and a necklace. At the bottom, the text "For the Milwaukee ARTS SCENE" is written in a white, serif font.

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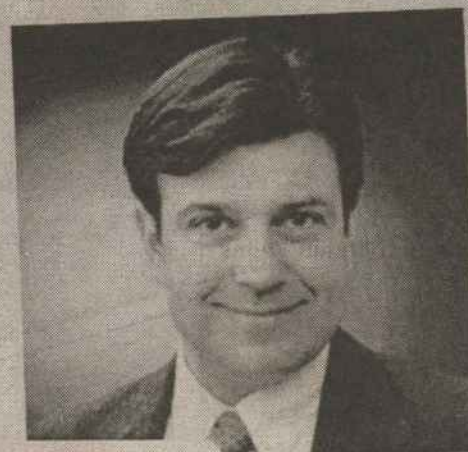
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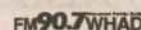
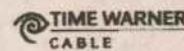
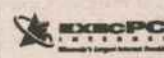
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The 1999

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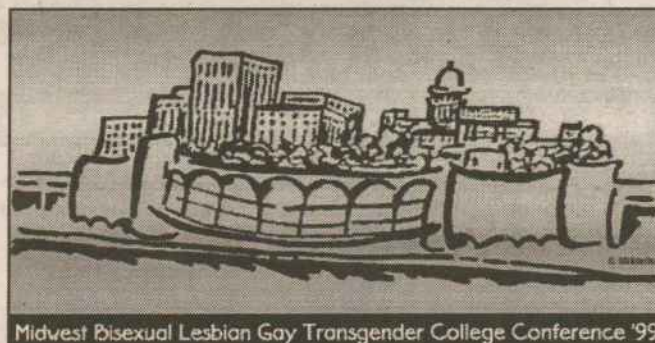
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Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender College Conference '99

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19-21  
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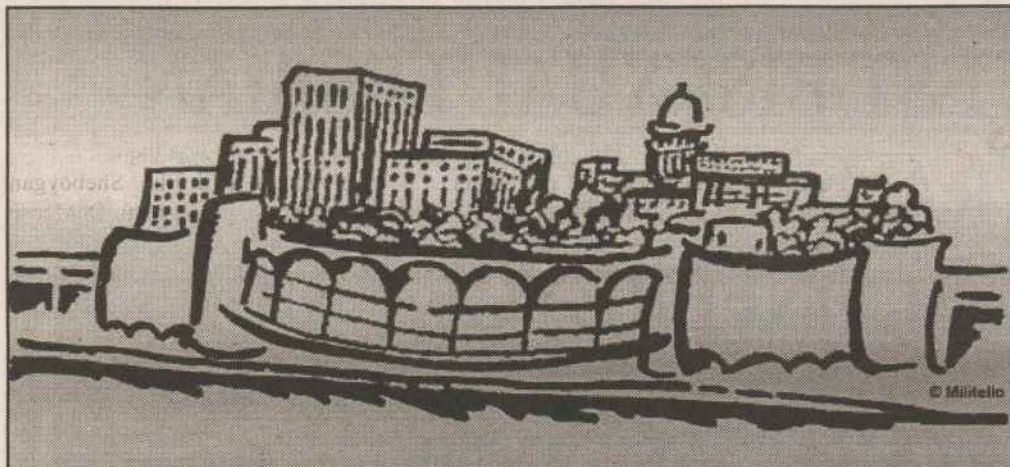
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# 1,500 LGBT Students Expected at Madison Conference

by Bill Meunier



Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender College Conference '99

**Madison** – Over 1,500 current and future leaders of LGBT America are expected to visit Madison for the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgendered College Conference. BLGTCC will be held the weekend of February 19-21 at Monona Terrace, Madison's Civic and Convention Center. The conference is sponsored and hosted by UW-Madison's 10% society.

**"We think that Madison, sometimes, gets too comfortable," said Rasmussen. "We are in a really progressive city. We should take a position of leadership."**

BLGTCC is open to the public. It features over 60 workshops, nationally known speakers, entertainment and a chance to mix and mingle with hundreds of college students from 20 states. The 1998 conference, which was held at the University of Illinois – Chicago, attracted 1100 participants. Over 1,000 people have already registered for this year's event. Hundreds more are expected to register before the opening sessions.

## Speakers

Organizers have attracted a diverse group of nationally known leaders of the LGBT movement. They include:

**Virginia Apuzzo** – Chief of the White House Staff. Apuzzo is a veteran activist and the highest-ranking open lesbian ever to serve in the White House. A former Executive Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, Apuzzo was instrumental in getting the federal government to respond to the AIDS crisis.

**Larry Kramer** – Author and activist. Kramer received an Oscar nomination for his screenplay *Women in Love*. He is a co-founder of the Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

**Kevin Jennings** – Co-founder of GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network.

GLSEN has chapters composed of students and teachers in over 60 cities, including Madison.

**Robyn Ochs** – Bisexual activist and author. Ochs teaches courses on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual culture at Tufts University. Among her



literary credits are: *The Bisexual Resource Guide*, and she recently served as editor for

*Getting Bi: Resources for Bi-Curious and Bi-Certain People and Those Who Love Them*.

**Donna Redwing** – Human Rights Campaign Field Organizer. Redwing directs a staff of three full time field organizers who coordinate 150 HRC activists around the country.

**Rikki Anne Wilchins** – Transgender activist. Wilchins is a co-founder of the Transsexual Menace and Executive Director of Gender PAC. She also is the author of *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*.

**Rebecca Walker** – Contributing editor to *Ms.* magazine. Walker's writings have been published in many publications and in various women's and Black studies anthologies. Walker was recently named one of *Time* magazine's 50 future leaders of America.



## Workshops

In addition to these speakers, dozens of other leaders will head up workshops designed to help conference participants learn new skills, exchange ideas and network with each other. These workshops are at the heart of the conference.

Skill building workshops include: Fundraising 101, Moving Forward: Confronting Hatred in the Campus Media, Organizing Your Group Inside and Outside of the System, Introduction to Ballot Measures, and the Religious Right and What You Can Do About It.

There are also a number of work-

shops that focus on issues within the LGBT community. The Queer Image will examine the negative and positive aspects of "queer imagery." What Kind of Movement Are We Building? will look at what the presenters call the "corporatization of our movement." What Shall We Do About the Trans? will discuss how to make LGBT organizations more inclusive of transgender individuals. Uh...About that Bi in Your LGBT Group will look at issues revolving around the inclusion of

Bisexuals in our organizations and our community.

Some workshops are historic in nature. For example, To the Left and Over the Barriers will present a history of leftist LGBT thought. Some, like Meeting the Needs of LGBT Students in University Housing, are practical in nature.

## Entertainment

It goes without saying that a student conference in Madison will include entertainment and socializing. The 10% Society will present a community dance on Friday evening. The Dance is open to the public. It includes a live performance by the Club Casanova Drag Kings, a New York City troupe of male impersonators.

Also on Friday, the film *Out of the Past* will be shown. The critically acclaimed film looks at America's LGBT history from the 1600s to the current day. This story of LGBT Americans as seen through the eyes of a Salt Lake City lesbian high school student was shown on PBS last October.

Saturday's activities include a dance that is open to conference participants only. Also on Saturday, the conference will present the play *Without Pity*. The drama is a multimedia presentation that follows the life of Neil Peckett, from his coming out as a Gay teen in the 1960s to his AIDS related suicide in 1988.

The conference will also include an art display, *Sex, Lies and Stereotypes*. The traveling exhibit of queer themed posters is from the archives of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics.

## The History

The Midwest BLGTCC was begun in 1992 at Emporia State College in Kansas. Its purposes include the development of a safe and supportive forum to discuss issues of interest to LGBT youth, education on HIV/AIDS prevention, building campus organizations, fostering localized grassroots organizing and networking among LGBT youth, and increasing the visibility of LGBT individuals and organizations from throughout the Midwest.

This year's theme is "Moving Forward, Looking Back." It was selected to recognize Wisconsin's state motto "Forward" and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of Wisconsin.

Jason Rasmussen, a spokesperson for the 10% Society, told *Light* that organizers expect attendees from 20 states with most of the participants coming from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa and Nebraska.

UW's 10% Society was awarded the conference after making a presentation at last year's event. "There is no formal organization governing the conference," said Rasmussen. "Every year, there is a vote on who will hold the next conference."

Why did the students in Madison want to host this event? "We think that Madison, sometimes, gets too comfortable," said Rasmussen. "We are in a really progressive city. We should take a position of leadership."

He adds, "The conversations and networking that take place will have a ripple effect. It will work to create change and give people the connections they need to do their work. They will go back to their campuses and build their organizations with the skills they have learned from the workshops."

Those wishing to attend may register in advance for a fee of \$35 prior to February 19. After that date, registration will cost \$45. Registration information is available on the Internet at <http://tps.stdorg.wisc.edu/TPS/mblgtc/registration.html>.

## BLGTCC at a Glance

**What:** A conference of LGBT students from throughout the Midwest  
**When:** The weekend of February 19-21

**Where:** Monona Terrace Convention and Civic Center in Madison

### Schedule:

#### Friday, February 19

3pm to Midnight - Registration  
5pm - Keynote GLSEN founder Kevin Jennings  
6:10pm - Film *Out of the Past*  
7:15pm - Various Films  
8pm - Community Dance and Drag King Show

#### Saturday, February 20

8:30am - Welcome, Don Percy, President and CEO of major sponsor UW Credit Union  
9am - Keynote: Virginia Apuzzo  
10:15am - Workshops  
12pm - Lunch  
1:30pm - Workshops  
3:30pm - Keynote: Rebecca Walker  
5pm - Dinner  
5:30pm - Rebecca Walker book signing  
7pm - Play *Without Pity*  
8pm - Dance (For registered participants only)

#### Sunday, February 21

9am - Workshops  
11:30am - Keynote: Larry Kramer  
1pm - Closing  
1:30pm - Larry Kramer book signing  
1:30pm - Post Conference Wisconsin caucus

**A Wisconsin Light Exclusive!**

**Gay Sheboygan Native Murdered in Las Vegas**

By Mike Fitzpatrick



Richard Frederick DeMeuse, a 46-year-old Gay native of Sheboygan, was found slain in his Las Vegas apartment January 19. DeMeuse, a novelist, freelance writer and massage therapist, had lived in that city for a total of about six months. He moved there last spring but returned to Wisconsin from June to August to stay with a friend from Green Bay.

Las Vegas police at first did not realize DeMeuse had been killed. The murder was discovered during an autopsy January 21, according to Lt. Wayne Peterson. "At the original crime scene, the bullet wound was not noticeable," Peterson said. The police believe he was murdered on January 16, the date of death listed in his obituary in the *Sheboygan Press*.

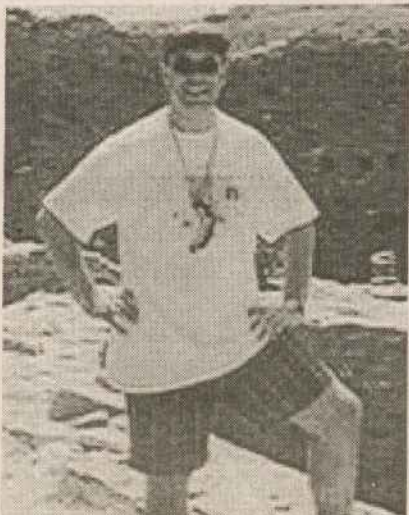
According to Lt. Peterson, the police obtained information that DeMeuse may have met his assailant through the Internet. The Police have DeMeuse's computer in their possession and are combing through extensive business and personal records.

According to Las Vegas KLAS-TV news reporter Tony Thomas, DeMeuse's key Internet connection was through America Online (AOL). Using the screen name ProHands, DeMeuse solicited massage clients through the "Las Vegas m4m" chat rooms on the service.

*Wisconsin Light* also located several online friends who were willing to speak on the condition of anonymity, including one who met DeMeuse first as a massage client and then became a close, personal friend and spent New Year's Eve with the victim. "Rick was online every night," he said. "But no one had seen or heard from him since the Saturday before he was reported dead." The friend also said that the police told him that DeMeuse was apparently expecting a client at the time of his murder.

Several of Demuse's friends say that Las Vegas Police have questioned at least one Las Vegas suspect: a 29 year old man who was involved in an incident at DeMeuse's apartment last November. One friend said DeMeuse told "just about everyone he knew" about a young man he had met online who had tried to move into his apartment. When DeMeuse refused, the man returned and splattered blood all over the front door.

The owner of the GayVegas.com website, told the *Light* that the Las Vegas Gay community is on edge over the murder. "People are being very cautious when they meet someone online," he said. "We are concerned that his



killer might be local, although the community doesn't really think that."

According to reports from numerous chat room regulars, AOL's "Las Vegas m4m" chat sites are regularly checked by visiting gamblers, convention-goers and even honeymooners. "Many tourists coming to town come into the m4m room asking for info or to hook up with people while they are here," the webmaster said.

His Wisconsin friends are quick to remember DeMeuse the writer. The entertainment newspaper *Las Vegas Life* recently published his 12-page article on the opening of the Bellagio casino. He also wrote for *Daydream*, an alternative La Vegas paper. DeMeuse had begun working on a second book following the completion of *Flying Rabbit*, for which he had been seeking a publisher.

Pals also remember the good friend and writer. "Rick was a very good looking guy and he was so nice," according to his Green Bay friend. "He talked about his book a couple times among the group that hung out at his house when I was there."

Family members fondly remember his involvement with the Sheboygan Community Players and his stint in the "Up With People" singing group. DeMeuse was buried in Sheboygan on Tuesday, February 2.

Anyone with information which might help lead to the capture of DeMeuse's killer is asked to call (702) 229-3521 or the Secret Witness anonymous tip line at (702) 385-5555.

*Northeast Wisconsin News Bureau*

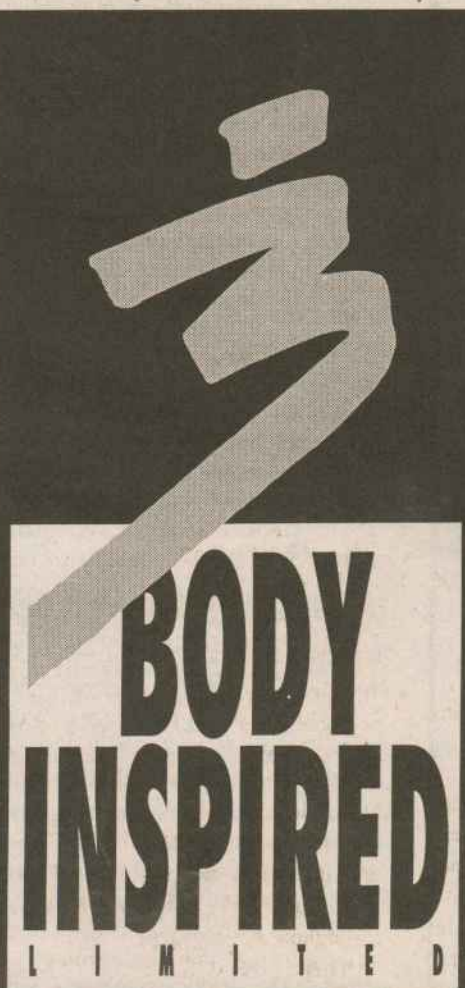
**Playing Safe Online**

Whether or not Rick DeMeuse met his killer online, his murder is a vivid reminder that online cruising can be dangerous. Anyone can create a cyber identity that in no way matches his or her real life persona. America Online allows up to five screen names per account. AOL recommends that people do not use their master account name to enter chat rooms as a way to avoid "spam" email.

Other Internet service providers allow unlimited screen names for email and chat and Internet Relay Chat (IRC) even allows people to change their screen names in the middle of a conversation.

The tips to keep yourself safe when cyber-dating sound a lot like your mother's tips for old-fashioned dating: First and foremost, avoid going "all the way" (i.e. meet in real time) on your first encounter with a new screen name. Take some time to get to know the person first. When you decide to meet choose a neutral, preferably public place. Lastly, tell your friends about your plans before the real time meeting with your cyber date occurs.

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## AROUND THE NATION

### Baldwin Wows Them at Dinner

Washington - America's first openly Lesbian Congresswoman, Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) was a big hit at the Washington Press Club Foundation's 55th Annual Dinner. Baldwin was a featured speaker at the tongue in cheek affair for congressional correspondents.

Baldwin said she figured out why she had received an invitation to speak. Baldwin said she was chosen because she represents a group that historically has suffered discrimination, stereotyping and unfair treatment in the workplace. "Of course, I'm talking about blondes," punned the fair-haired Baldwin before telling a host of blonde jokes. She added that being a Lesbian is not a choice but being a blonde is. "I choose every other week" deadpanned Baldwin.

### Drug Resistant AIDS Causing Concern

New York - *The Wall Street Journal* reports that growing numbers of HIV+ individuals are not being helped by combination drug therapies. Those not being helped by the therapy include individuals who are newly infected and those who had shown improved health from using the therapies.

One New York doctor estimated that about half of his patients who had done well taking the drugs were seeing the virus return in force. Dr. Donald Abrams, a leading AIDS specialist in San Francisco, said that many of his patients who had responded well to the drugs for three years were showing increases in their viral numbers. "No one presumes these drugs would work forever," said Abrams.

Researchers are unsure as to why the drugs have stopped working for some people. Some experts blame the strict regimen required of those taking them. Others, however, say that the virus is mutating into forms that can resist the drug.

Equally disturbing to those fighting AIDS is the growing number of new infections that are drug resistant. A recent study showed that up to 5% of new infections are not responding to treatment. *The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* reported that two of Milwaukee's top AIDS treatment specialists say that drug resistant new infections have appeared in Wisconsin.

Since the advent of the combination drug therapy, AIDS activists have been worried that high-risk groups would engage in unsafe sex in the mistaken belief that the danger is over. Several recent studies show that the number of Gay men who engage in anal sex without a condom is rising. One study showed that in San Francisco, where an estimated 60% of Gay men are HIV+, up to 40% of Gays engage in unprotected anal sex on a regular basis.

AIDS health professionals point out that the new drugs suppress but do not cure the virus in an HIV+ person - if they work at all. Researchers have also advised caution pointing out that the virus can mutate itself into drug resistant strains, especially in people who do not maintain the treatments.

Activists, doctors and drug researchers all expect the number of patients who do not respond to treatment and the number of drug resistant new infections to rise.

### Hunger Strike at Notre Dame Protest Policies on Gays

South Bend, IN - The University of Notre Dame is embroiled in a controversy over how far to go on the issue of Gay rights. While the Catholic school says it welcomes Gay and Lesbian students, it has refused to add the words "sexual orientation" to its non-discrimination policy.

To protest the school's treatment of LGBT individuals, 100 students began a hunger strike on Wednesday, February 3. The hunger strike is scheduled to continue for one week.

In response to the protest, the School's Board of Trustees agreed to consider banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Last year, the Faculty Senate voted to endorse the inclusion of sexual orientation in the University's anti-discrimination policy. Notre Dame's President, Rev. Edward Malloy, is adamantly opposed to any effort to making that change in school policies.

The controversy is viewed as a complex one for Notre Dame and other Catholic schools. Catholic doctrine does not view a homosexual orientation as sinful, but does condemn sexual activities between homosexuals. Enforcing that doctrine has led the University to form committees to determine how it can best meet the needs of its LGBT students even while it forbids an LGBT student group from meeting on the campus.

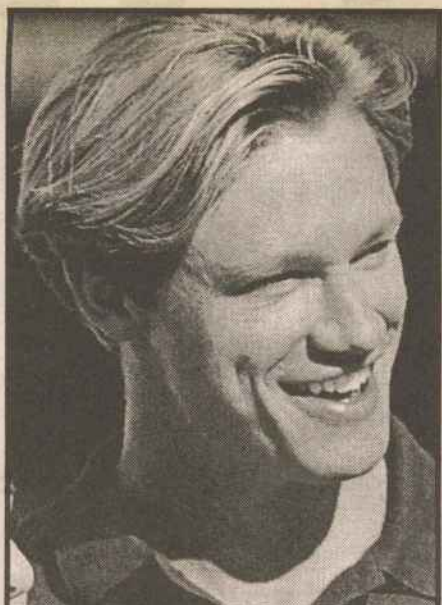
John Hopkins, a spokesman for Milwaukee's Marquette University said that the school has never considering adding sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. Hopkins said that Marquette policy states that as a Catholic institution, the school believes all people have "equality as a child of God."

### Appointee Viewed as Anti-Gay

Tallahassee, FL - Republican Governor Jeb Bush has raised the ire of Gays and Lesbians by appointing a critic of the Disney Corporation's acceptance of Gays to head the state Department of Health. Bush's choice, Bob Brooks, is a former state legislator who was criticized by State Senate Democrats because of a 1995 letter he sent to Michael Eisner, Chairman of Disney. The letter protested Disney's granting of domestic partner health insurance benefits to its LGBT employees.

The issue of Brooks' anti-Gay views was raised during a State Senate hearing on confirming his appointment. The Brooks' letter, which was signed by 14 other Florida legislators, said the Disney policy would "belittle marriage" and was a mistake both morally and financially.

During the hearing, Brooks promised to look after the health of all Floridians "regardless of their background." He also stated that he would not discriminate against Department employees who are Gay or Lesbian. Two Democrats on the Senate Health, Aging and Long Term Care committee remained unconvinced and voted against confirming Brooks. The Committee's five Republicans voted for confirmation. Brooks is expected to be confirmed by the full Senate, where Republicans hold a 24 to 15 majority.



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and appointments

## Shepard's Mother Talks about Her Son

**New York** - The mother of Mathew Shepard, the Gay University of Wyoming student, said that people should not put the slain young man "on a pedestal." Judy Shepard told *Vanity Fair* magazine that her son "was not a saint. He was just a young man in search of himself." Ms. Shepard also revealed that her son was taking antidepressants at the time of his death, and that he had looked into the possibility of living in a home where he could be assisted by mental health professionals.

Ms. Shepard also confirmed reports that her son had been brutalized before the savage attack that took his life. She said that he had been beaten by a bartender in Cody, Wyoming and that he was raped by six Moroccan men during a vacation in that country. "He was never the same after Morocco," said Ms. Shepard.

*Vanity Fair* reports that hospital tests taken after Shepard's beating confirmed that he was HIV+. His mother said that he was periodically tested for the virus after the rape.

## Wyoming Rejects Hate Crimes Law Again

**Cheyenne, WY** - Contrary to earlier reports, the state where Matthew Shepard was murdered will not have a hate crimes law this year after all. A State Senate committee voted down two proposed hate crimes bills. Observers say the action effectively kills any hope that the State would provide hate crimes protection this year.

Wyoming has rejected hate crimes legislation five times. Hopes for passage were high after the State Assembly passed a hate crimes bill and Wyoming's Governor, Jim Geringer, came out in support of passage.

Opponents of the law said that it would provide "special protection" to some groups, but not to others. The legislation would have enhanced penalties for those convicted of crimes motivated by the victim's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and other factors.

## Cincinnati May Get Gay Rights Law After All

**Cincinnati, OH** - From the things are not always what they seem department comes the news that despite what was viewed as a legal setback, Cincinnati may have the right to approve a Gay civil rights law after all.

Late last year, Gay civil rights advocates were devastated by a Supreme Court decision not to review a lower court decision that upheld the passage of an anti-Gay referendum in 1992. The measure, Issue 3, amended the City charter with the intent of prohibiting Cincinnati from passing or enforcing a Gay civil rights law. The referendum came as a response to the City's passage of a human rights law that protected Gays and Lesbians from discrimination.

Now comes the word that the Appeals Court decision actually did void the purpose of Issue 3's backers. The court said that Issue 3 did not prohibit the passage and enforcement of a Gay civil rights law. It "merely prevented homosexuals, as homosexuals, from obtaining special privileges and preference."

Some legal experts are now arguing that since civil rights protections are extended to other groups, there is nothing "special" about providing them to Gays and Lesbians. The City Council is now looking for a way to add discrimination based on sexual orientation to the City's anti-discrimination ordinance.

## Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Don't Work

**Washington** - The Service Members Legal Defense Fund (SMLDF) issued a report showing that the Pentagon is discharging a record number of LGBT members of the military since the passage of the so called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," policy in 1994. The report says that the number of these discharges has risen 92% since the policy was implemented.

The Air Force alone discharged 414 alleged Gay and Lesbian service mem-

bers last year. A single base, Lackland Air Force base accounted for 271 or 65% of those discharges. The Army discharged 310 individuals under the policy and the Navy threw out 345, while the Marines discharged 76.

Under Don't Ask, Don't Tell, military commanders are forbidden from asking service members about their sexual orientation. Those service members found to be Gay are discharged unless they can prove that they do not engage in sexual relations. Furthermore, the military is prohibited from investigating the sexual orientation of its members unless it has first hand knowledge that a service member may be Gay.

The Pentagon defended the number of discharges claiming that record numbers of service members are voluntarily admitting that they are Gay. "Not so," says SMLDF. The group's report cites a number of cases where commanders read private diaries, used statements made to mental health professionals, read Internet profiles, and outright asked service members if they were Gay. All of those actions violate "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Enforcement of the policy has been a contentious issue since its passage. The 1,146 service members discharged for allegedly being Gay in 1998 was the second highest total of Gay related discharges in the last 20 years.

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### Lesbian Health Group

**Madison** - A Lesbian health support group is forming for those who are living with breast cancer or other serious illnesses. The group will provide a safe woman-only space to discuss these issues, explore important health related information, and connect with other Lesbians with serious illnesses.

The group will meet on Mondays for eight weeks beginning April 5th from 5:30-7pm at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jennifer Street. Female partners and friends are welcome. Please call in advance to register and identify any special needs you may have. To register or for more information, call Tamar Zick at (608) 256-6570.

The group is sponsored by the Lesbian Health Issues Task Force of Dane County with support from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. For more information about the task force, call Lisa Dillenburg at (608) 255-0058.

### Valentine's Day Sunday Worship

**Madison** - The University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Avenue, celebrates Valentine's Day at 10am at its regular Sunday service, Feb. 14. The church says the service is meant "simply to hold in prayer and openness the love expressed between any two people whether they are Lesbian, Gay or heterosexual." This is the second year the congregation will celebrate this special service.

Open to the public, any same or opposite gender couples who would like to stand at the appropriate time in the service are especially welcome. There will be a fellowship time with refreshments after the service and a table for couples to display photographs of themselves in the reception area. Steven Webster, a UUMC lay member and Gay activist for the past 25 years, will provide the message for the service.

### CAIR Presents Research Conferences

**Milwaukee** - The Medical College of Wisconsin's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) will conduct two programs in the conference room of its headquarters at 2071 N. Summit Avenue, Milwaukee.

Thursday, Feb. 11, 3pm: "Interactive Effects of Altercasting and Taskcasting Attempts to Influence HIV Risk Behaviors and AIDS Treatment Adherence: Application of Tesser's Forthcoming E-Control Model." This workshop will be presented by David Schubot, Ph.D., Asst. Professor, and followed by a refreshment reception.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 3pm: "HIV Risk Behavior and Intervention Strategies for Rural Adolescents" presented by William L. Yarber, H.S.D., Senior Director, Indiana University. Refreshments follow.

For more information about either program, call CAIR at (414) 456-7731.

### Support Groups for Gay Men and Lesbians

**Milwaukee** - The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Inc., has announced its winter/spring sessions of Support Groups for Gay Men and Lesbians. Some groups are ongoing, while others are eight weeks in length. The eight-week groups start in February and March. All groups are held at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Avenue, and there is a \$10 fee per group session, unless otherwise stated. For more information about these and other support groups, call the Support Group Program at (414) 271-2565.

#### Eight Week Groups:

1. Free Space Group for Women: A place to explore sexual/affectional orientation.
2. More Space Group for Women: For those who are Lesbian-identified and are comfortable with it.
3. Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: Especially in our Lesbian community. Share your feelings and explore your options.
4. Gay Men's General Issues: Focuses on issues of sexual identity, coming out, intimacy, HIV, relationships and self-esteem.

#### Ongoing Groups:

1. Silver Space: A drop-in discussion group the third Sunday of every month for Older Lesbians to meet and talk about mutual interests and issues. Continuing in May, 6-8pm, \$3 donation requested.
2. Married/Partnered Women's Group: For women partnered with men who are dealing with affectional/sexual feelings for women.

### HIT Hosting '2 for 1' Casino Runs

**Milwaukee** - The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) will be hosting a 2 for 1 casino run to the Empress Casino in Hammond, Indiana. The one time price of \$30 per person includes two trips to the casino with the first one scheduled for Feb. 20 and the second on May 1.

Tickets include round-trip motor coach, continental breakfast, games on bus, beer, cocktails and soda on the bus, three gambling sessions on each trip and a dinner buffet. \$5 in free chips are also included on the first trip only.

The bus will leave promptly at 9am from the College East Park and Ride. It will return at 8:30pm. Sign up now for limited space. For more information, call Rick at (414) 463-9849 or Doug at (414) 291-0636.

The Wisconsin Light presents this page as a community service. Send us information about your meeting, event or fundraiser to Wisconsin Light, 225 S. Second Street, fax us at (414) 226-0096 or email [editor@wilight.com](mailto:editor@wilight.com).



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Real Estate Forecast

### Looks Good!

By Rod Gilbert



#### 98 Recap

The real estate industry just completed one of the most active and profitable years in history. Low mortgage rates, high consumer confidence, and growth in employment and wages made for a record-breaking year. More importantly, the median price of homes rose significantly, outpacing inflation, making conditions nearly ideal for sellers.

"In general, gains were strongest in the Midwest, where average sale prices rose 7.9% to \$114,000. Milwaukee was up 6.7% to \$133,800; Appleton, up 4.7% to \$93,100 and Madison up 3.2% to \$131,000," according to Dave Skidmore of Associated Press.

Buyers didn't lose in this sellers market either, because interest rates were at the lowest levels in decades. So while the average price of a home in Wisconsin did go up, low rates, low down payments and availability of loans created a surge in home sales that cut across all socio-economic lines.

The availability of affordable mortgage money, and the booming economy, made it possible for many renters to buy a home of their own. First-time buyers accounted for 47% of sales in the spring of 1998, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

#### 99 Outlook

Many economic forecasters are predicting a slow down in 1999. That speculation is primarily based on the projected effects of the financial crisis in Asia, and economic problems in Russia and Latin America.

A decline in export sales to these countries will cause business declines in the U.S. We are likely to see more unemployment, more corrections in the stock market, and a drop in consumer confidence. While these factors will cause a ripple effect throughout the country, those hit hardest will be regions whose economies rely on exportation of goods and manufacturing.

Even though the economy may slow down from the unprecedented growth we have seen in the past few years, things still look bright overall.

Ellyse Umlauf-Garneau of the NAR said, "Industry economists suggest we keep things in perspective. Despite the anxiety on the national and international stages, analysts point out that real estate is still quite dependent on local factors and that you should keep your eye on your area's employment numbers to gauge your markets health."

Some forecasters are predicting that even with an expected slow down, we will still see real estate sales at levels that would be considered excellent just a few years ago. Fortunately, few in the industry are talking about recession, and lenders are optimistic about interest rates holding at current levels.

The Author is affiliated with Prudential Preferred Properties.

## Discrimination on the Net Can Cost Companies

by Bill Meunier

**The Internet** - Companies offering travel packages that exclude Gays and Lesbians may be in for big trouble according to some experts. The issue came to light following what is being called a "public relations disaster" involving Microsoft, Yahoo and US Airways.

Microsoft partner, the On Line Vacation Mall, offered a sweepstakes for couples to win a vacation to Jamaica and the Bahamas. The winning couple would stay at a Sandals resort in both countries. The catch, however, was that the resorts would only accept male and female couples. Two web sites on Yahoo.com were offering similar prize packages.

Anger grew when it was learned that if a disabled individual won the grand prize in the Yahoo sweepstakes, they would not be able to use it. A check of the US Airways web site showed that the Sandals Dunn River Resort listed in the prize package did not offer handicapped accessible rooms. In fact, a check of the Sandals resorts listed by US Airways' web site showed that the majority of them are not handicapped accessible.

When Microsoft and Yahoo became aware of the heterosexual couples only policy of Sandals, they reacted immediately. Microsoft's MSN Expedia travel site severed its links with Sandals. Great Flowers, one of the two Yahoo sites offering a Sandals sweepstakes, did the same. The other site, Fragrance Counter, has been slower to react.

A Sandals employee said that its policies are not anti-Gay. He said that three resorts under the Sandals owned Beaches brand name do allow same sex couples. The 10 Sandals resorts, however, do not.

Wired Strategies and CNET report that attorneys for the ACLU say that companies offering an Internet sweepstakes that excludes Gays or the handicapped can be sued for discrimination if the offer is extended to jurisdictions where they violate the law. For example, Wisconsin law prohibits anti-Gay discrimination in public accommodations. If a Wisconsin lesbian couple won the sweepstake, in theory, at least they could sue the contest promoters.

Christopher Wolf, an Internet Specialist and an anti-discrimination attorney with Proskauer Rose LLP in Washington D.C., told Wired Strategies that even if no sweepstake is involved, just having a link to a discriminatory site could result in legal action. "I would think that offering products and services falls within the ambit of anti-discrimination statutes," Wolf said, "and if someone is excluded from taking advantage of tour packages because of their status, then I think this raises a serious and legitimate issue under anti-discrimination laws."

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# POSITIVE HEALTH OUTLOOK

## Lesbian and Gay Support Groups Decrease Isolation and May Improve Health

by Kerri Lehman, Ph.D.

Within the general population, support groups have been around for a long time. Individuals struggling with similar problems or illnesses have often come together to discuss these issues, gain support, and obtain new knowledge to improve their overall adjustment. Psychological research has demonstrated that participation in support groups can improve an individual's emotional functioning through improved mood, decreased feelings of isolation, and enhanced coping skills.

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The past two decades have seen an increase in the number of support groups for Lesbians and Gay men. Many of these support groups have targeted specific problem areas and/or illnesses that have had a major affect on our communities (e.g. drug and alcohol addictions, HIV/AIDS). These groups have undoubtedly provided vast and significant benefits to those served. A call for more LGBT focused support groups, addressing both specific and general issues within the Lesbian and Gay community, seems in order.

Research has found that one of the most important benefits obtained from participation in a support group is decreased feelings of isolation. After being in a support group, individuals no longer feel they "are all alone" and the "only one" experiencing particular thoughts, feelings or stressors. This change in perspective often leads to increased self-esteem and enhanced problem solving abilities.

Further research has shown that individuals with few social ties are more likely to suffer from the negative effects of stress, including developing a serious illness or limiting their recovery from an existing one, than people with rich networks of family, friends and overall social connections.

The benefit of decreased feelings of isolation appears especially important for Lesbians and Gays. Due to their sexual orientation, Lesbians and Gays are often somewhat isolated, receiving limited support from their families and the larger community. When faced with a particular problem or illness, they may feel further isolated and "different," even from their "healthy" LGBT peers.

In addition, psychologists have found that Lesbians and Gays under utilize professional mental health services. Some reasons found for this include some therapist's lack of understanding, negative attitudes, and downright hostility about LGBT clients and issues. Therefore, LGBT individuals faced with significant life stressors may feel they have no where to turn to for support and assistance.

Finally, Lesbians and Gays may have special issues, which may limit their attainment of benefits when being a part of a more traditional, non-LGBT support group. For example, Lesbians attending a general support group for breast cancer survivors may be uncomfortable discussing their sexual orientation or bringing their partners. Also, the topics discussed, such as sexuality after surgery, may not fully reflect their needs.

Beyond providing emotional benefits, such as decreased feelings of isolation, support groups have also been found to play a role in improved recovery from serious physical illnesses. The ever-growing field of psychoneuroimmunology studies the links between thoughts and emotions, the brain and nervous system, and the immune system. Researchers within this field are trying to obtain increased information about the role the mind can and cannot play in disease and healing. Much of this research came after a compelling study by psychiatrist David Spiegel at Stanford University in the mid-1970s.

Spiegel led support groups for women with advanced breast cancer. His results found that the women in the support groups did evidence improved "quality of life."

However, it was Dr. Spiegel's unexpected discovery a decade later that suggested support groups not only help to alleviate emotional and mental distress, but also help to improve physical health. He was actually trying to *disprove* the popular notion, spread in self-help books in the mid-1980s, that mental and emotional factors could affect the course of cancer.

A decade after his original study, Dr. Spiegel found the women in the support groups had survived twice as long as compared to the other women. No medical explanation could account for this finding. The only difference between the two groups of women was whether they had been in the support group or not. Dr. Spiegel's findings stunned the established medical community. They have spurred on further research exploring how the immune system, both before and after an illness, can be influenced, positively and negatively, by the mind.

In Madison, the Lesbian Health Issues Task Force of Dane County, with sponsorship from various funding agencies, has already conducted two support groups for Lesbians with breast cancer and other serious illnesses. The overall feedback from those who have participated has been very positive.

The Task Force is presently in the process of forming a new support group for Lesbians with breast cancer and other serious illnesses. This group will start in April. For more information about the group, please contact co-facilitator Tamar Zick at (608) 256-6570.

Also, The Psychology Clinic of Madison is offering a support group focusing on relationship enhancement issues for Lesbian couples. For further information about this group, please contact co-facilitator Lori Kondora at (608) 238-9991.

*About the author:* Kerri Lehman is a psychologist in private practice in Madison. She is also a member of the Lesbian Health Issues Task Force of Dane County.

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## Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is this weekend and it means nothing to me. It hasn't meant much for years... since the last time I had a love interest. I don't want to go into how long ago THAT was, but suffice it to say little baby cupid would be close to elderly.

I don't begrudge others their chance to cuddle and coo over one another, or scowl at public displays of affection. Let them splurge on oversized Valentine's cards and chocolates in those gaudy decorated hearts. The economy can use the workout.

(Why is there a Sweetheart's Day? Isn't the time honored Valentine enough, anymore? Or is Sweetheart's Day just an invention by Hallmark and other card companies to get us to spend more money on our honey?)

I've had my amorous times in the past. Romantic dinners for two by candlelight with my husband of the moment. Enough gushy cards, red roses, boxes of chocolate and jewelry to gag the lovelorn.

So... how do I plan on spending Valentine's this year? Remembering those I love — in the larger sense. My love of community and love of many close platonic friends.

I've always said given the option of either/or that I'd rather have a large circle of loving friends than one individual lover. Lovers can make things so... confusing.

There is nothing like going out in public and getting hugs and kisses from dozens of people or feeling the love of community when you are surrounded by friends at PrideFest.

That same kind of platonic love provides me with lots of partners to spend holidays with, rather than just one who may happen to be in a foul mood that day. Friends don't ever expect roses or candy, just your presence in their life.

I have friends with partners that give me a hard time about not having some special in my life, but that's just the way my life has gone. I don't miss not having an "other." Sure, it might be nice, but then I'd have to get a whole new set of friends.

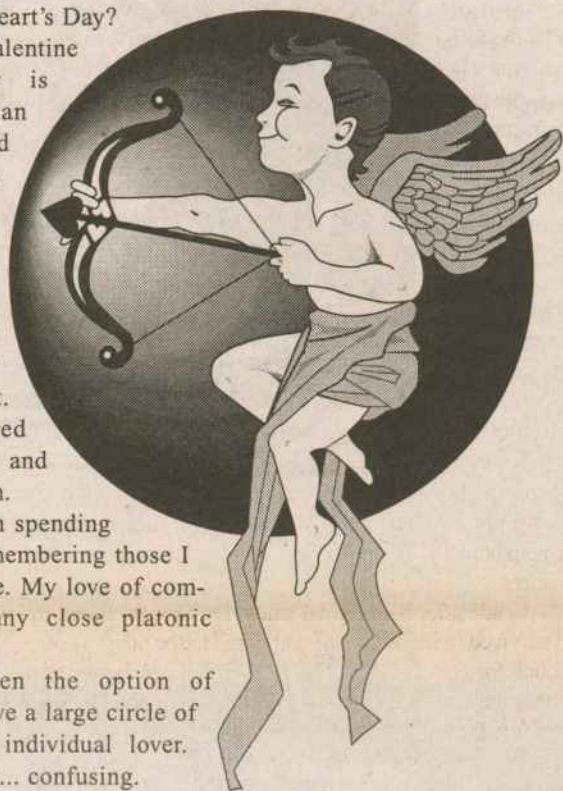
Guess the old adage about birds of a feather applies here, too. I have very few friends who are coupled. Nearly all are single, and odds are that if you did a survey, you would discover singles tend to hang with singles and couples more apt to pal around with other couples.

So... The only thing I'm looking forward to Valentine's Day for is the 50% off sale that Walgreens will have on the 15th for all those leftover giant-sized frilly chocolate hearts I'm going to purchase for myself.

I digress, but do you remember Valentine's Day when you were a kid (or at least those of you close to my age) when you brought little Valentine's cards to elementary school and put them in the individual boxes we all decorated with cut out lacy paper doily hearts with everyone's names on top? Then on VD, everybody got to open their boxes and giggle over how many potential suitors they had in the school. All the popular kids had full boxes to read while those less popular (or the downright disliked) kids pondered their love life.

I've heard they don't do this in schools anymore. Could it be because of the hard feelings it would create among some of the kids who proved not to be so popular? Besides, expressing your love for someone in second grade could probably be seen as sexually aggressive or something like that.

So... Don't worry about how many people want to give you a Valentine. If you have someone who is extra special in your life, enjoy some romance with him or her. If you don't, have some fun with those friends you love. Either way, enjoy the day.



## A Rose in the Snow

by Terry Boughner

For three years it had happened.

Every Valentine's Day when I would go to my classroom there, lying on my desk, would be some flowers. Attached to them by a little piece of silver string would be a typewritten note. Every year the note was different except for one thing. There was never any name.

The first year, sitting on my desk, was a bouquet of violets. The note attached read, "From a Secret Admirer."

I was both taken aback and flattered. I asked if anyone in the class knew who had given me the gift. No one seemed to know. All I got from my 30 or so college freshmen were some sly smiles, suggestive looks and a few giggles.

Afterward, I really didn't think much about it. I was fresh out of grad school and hadn't been teaching very long, only six months to be exact. But I'd heard from some of my older, more experienced colleagues that for a student to become infatuated with a prof wasn't all that unusual.

"You're young, attractive and single," Celia Brankowski said. Celia taught English Lit. "You can expect some of our young women to get stars in their eyes. Ignore it. It'll pass quickly, but take my advice. Never, ever follow up on it. You don't play where you work."

I didn't say anything, but if I was going to "play," as she put it, it wouldn't be with a woman at all.

A year went by. I'd almost forgotten about the violets. But when Valentine's Day came 'round again, there on my desk were more flowers, this time three white carnations. The typewritten note read, "From someone who likes you." No name.

I looked out over my class. St. Agnes was a small school. Many of the students were ones I had taught the previous year, but they were sophomores now. As before, I asked if anyone knew who had given me the carnations and, as before, no one did. At least, no one said anything. Nor could I tell from the expressions on their faces who the "guilty" party was.

Throughout the year, there was never a sign, no indication at all, as to who might be giving me the flowers. I thought the person was probably a student, but what the gender might be, I hadn't a clue.

In the spring of the year, in that very class, someone asked me point blank if I was Gay. What brought that into their head, I didn't know, but I drew in a deep breath and told them that, yes, I was Gay.

There were some wide eyes and then a collective shrug. They didn't care and the subject was never raised again. But having said that, I thought that if my secret admirer was a woman, my coming out would see an end to the flowers.

I was wrong.

When Valentine's Day came again, there was the usual bouquet lying on my desk. This time it was a bouquet of three red carnations. The attached note read, "From someone who likes you very, very much." As usual, there was no name, but attached to the ribbon was a small, shy red foil heart.

"Now look," I said to my class of juniors. "I really am flattered, but I'd like to know who this is. Certainly one of your has to have seen something, seen someone putting the flowers here."

"Ah c'mon, Doc," Sue Quimby replied, speaking for the rest of the class. "All of us would like to know who's doing this. Everybody's guessing, all over school, but no one knows."

"Fact is," Greg Baron added, "it could be anybody. Someone slipping in when the halls 're crowded. You know, Doc?"

Another year went by. The day before Valentine's day someone in my 8am class asked if I thought there'd be another bouquet this year. If so, would I finally find out who it was? Would they reveal themselves at last? Mention was made that this was the fourth year. Whoever had been doing it was most likely a senior. If the secret was ever going to be disclosed, it would have to be now.

I agreed and told them I'd been in class early on the AM. That way I'd be sure to catch who it was.

On Valentine's morning, I awoke to find snow. There wasn't much, only an inch or so. Still, even that small amount would be troubling. The campus was off the beaten track and the road leading to it was not usually among the first to be plowed.

I was driving along, approaching the campus, going slow, when I saw ahead of me a couple of squad cars with their roof lights flashing red and blue. Perhaps it was a student in trouble, I thought. I pulled over, stopped and got out to find out what the matter was.

At the bottom of a shallow ravine, I saw an old car lying on its roof. The driver had been going too fast and had hit an icy patch, a cop told me. He'd lost control of the car and was dead of a broken neck.

"A student?" I asked.

"Yeah," the cop answered. "From his ID he was. His name was Paco Rodriguez. You know him?" I did. He was a student in my 8am class, a boy so cute he could have inspired poets. "Sad," the cop continued. "You gotta wonder what gets into these kids. It's just 7:30. What th' hell was he in such a hurry to get to school for?"

I shook my head and started to turn away, but stopped. Something down in that snowy ravine had caught my eye.

Ignoring warnings not to go near, I slid down the side of the ravine. There, in the snow, was what I had seen — the torn remnants of one long-stemmed red rose. Attached to its broken stem by a silver string was a note. With trembling fingers, I picked it up and read, "From someone who loves you very much."

This time it was signed.

"Love, Paco."

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# Tineality

by Tina Lee

## The Best Kept Secret

If you read my last article, *Tina of the Sea*, you may recall the characters Tarot and Kendal, my visitors from New York. You may also recall the tale I recounted, of my gathering the boys up at the airport and whisking them off to West Towne Mall. What I neglected to tell you was that when exiting the mall, the three of us, clad head to toe in the complete winter ensemble, had the misfortune to be singled out, and our innocuous crew became the target of name-calling.

A car, filled with young post-pubescent boys, managed to make the hasty determination that Tarot and Kendal were "faggots" and announced it as they whizzed by us in a their baby blue compact car. I was momentarily paralyzed with embarrassment. This was, after all, Tarot's first visit to the Cheese State. He hadn't been in town a two full hours.

As the car disappeared into the lot, Kendal and Tarot turned around in amazement, staring first at each other, then at me as if to say, "I can't believe they called you a faggot, Tina."

To lighten the mood, I extended Tarot the greeting I gave him back at the airport: "Tarot, Welcome to Wisconsin. You're among friends." In my head I was thinking,

"Damn!" One of those boys must have had his Gaydar searching on high frequency to penetrate our robust winter gear. I'm sure I must also have mumbled something under my breath, something like "That's right, drive away boys. Don't make Tina open a can of whoop ass all over you and your little tin can piece of shit car. Uh huh."

Of course, not a half-hour after the "incident" the three of us were at *Clowning Around* in Middleton, where Tarot and Dave were making several lavish purchases of feather boas and body glitter. The shopping must go on.

Good. Now that we don't have that story between us, we can move on to other tales. So, have you heard the one about Tina being pregnant? No? How bout the one where Tina has a bun in the oven? Still no? Well, you had to hear the one about Tina being really knocked up? No again? Either you don't get out much, or I haven't been spreading the gossip like I used to. Either way — have I got a tale for you. It's about the best kept secret.

Did you know that in the first trimester, one in five pregnancies end in miscarriage? Awful. Terrible odds to beat. That's why you're never supposed to tell anyone that you're in the family way until you've entered your second trimester. Of course, I didn't know those obscene odds the day I learned I was pregnant, so I told everybody that very day. I later rationalized the social transgression thinking "you're with me in health and sickness, as friends and family are there through good and bad." I can see little reason to mask my insecurities or my boundless joy. So here I am again, spilling the beans, and I'm only two months pregnant.

Of course, I'm doing what I can to beat the odds. Flat out, I take my antenatal vitamins. Folic Acid — check. But there's more, oh yes, there's more. I can't tell you how fast I marched myself down to WSA Pharmacy to get all the herbs a girl needs to get her through this time.

First, I got my organic red raspberry leaves and nettle leaves, both to make tea with. The red raspberry leaves help to strengthen certain vital muscles, and the nettle is very useful in cleaning out my poor overworked kidneys. To try to decrease the chance of miscarriage, Black Haw, 30-40 drops in water, two to four times a day. It tastes like hell, but I'll do what I have to. I figure, if I try, suffer, and fail, at least I tried. If I try, suffer, and succeed, I can guilt my child for the rest of its life. Just like a good mother should. Please note: the teas taste as though they've been flavored with hints of barnyard. They can get pretty agricultural.

To make my body my temple, I cut out the booze, the smokes and caffeine. I gave up sex for a little while, but that was stupid. All my books assure me that sex is good throughout pregnancy, though I suppose that depends on whom you're sleeping with. Even my special herb book advocates the carnal act — of course, this is the same book that recommends, amongst other things, to stick a clove of garlic up your ass at night if you're having a hemorrhoid flare up.

As you can see, I'm doing what I can. I'm thrilled that I may get to be a mother. Though, I have one complaint; for an adventure, I'm sleeping way too much. Behind my sleepy yawns and healthy barnyard breath, I'm really very excited.



Photo by Thom Miller

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## EDITORIAL

### MBLGTCC in Madison

The Midwest Bi Lesbian Gay Transgendered College Conference to be held in Madison is another stunning achievement for that city's LGBT community. Following closely on the heels on Tammy Baldwin's election to Congress last November, MBLGTCC again shows Madison's leadership position in the area of Gay civil rights.

This achievement is made even more remarkable by the cast of players who brought it about, members of UW-Madison's 10% Society. These students took on a task that would have intimidated even seasoned adults.

Producing a conference for diverse group of 1,500 students is not easy. Money had to be raised, speakers and entertainers booked, workshops scheduled, and hotel rooms found. These students went about their assigned tasks while juggling classes, studying and continuing the normal activities of everyday college life.

The conference brings to Madison some of the brightest and best hopes for the future of our community. It also brings to Wisconsin some of our national leaders, like Virginia Apuzzo and Larry Kramer. Together they will all be exposed to the tolerant atmosphere and progressive outlook of one of America's finest cities, Madison.

We cannot think of a better place to hold a conference like this one, and we can't think of a better group of people to present it than the members of UW-Madison's 10% Society.

### Fox Trash

There are many examples of how current television programming mirrors the changing attitudes of American society towards LGBT Americans. Every network has LGBT characters in at least some of its regularly scheduled programs.

Every now and then, however, something that jolts us out of our complacency makes it way into prime time. An example of that would be the unfair portrayal of LGBT life aired by the Fox Network as a segment on a recent *Fox Files* show. This pathetic piece of electronic "journalism" has outraged and offended nearly every fair-minded person who saw it. Among other things, the segment implied that America's Gays are sex-crazed perverts, who nurture a thriving underground society filled with "Gay gangs, Transvestite prostitutes and sexual promiscuity."

Fox concocted this piece to increase ratings, at our expense. Its producers refused GLAAD's offer to provide free consultation. The network's claims that the segment was "fair" mocks every canon of journalistic ethics. If Fox genuinely believes the story was "fair," perhaps its news executives should run, not walk, to the nearest dictionary to look up the meaning of that word. While they are at it, they can also look up the word "apology." If they do, they will find that an apology is what they and the network affiliates who aired this trash owe to LGBT Americans.



## FLOODLIGHT

by Margeret Flood

It was a foggy, damp, chilly day in the Parkside District of San Francisco. 17th and Vicente, St. Cecilia's Catholic Church to be exact. I was out for a walk with my little dog, Lucy. On the corner a young man in his late 20's or early 30's was handing out flyers to the churchgoers as they arrived for Saturday night Mass. He put one in my hand and quickly went on to the next person, wanting to make sure as many people as possible received one. I scanned the first few lines and thought, "This should be interesting." I only lived a half block down the street but was cold so hurried home.

Once inside I took off my coat and started reading. Tears quickly came to my eyes as I read the love story of two men. The photocopy of the neatly handwritten text detailed the meeting, courtship and commitment of the two through college and successful careers. They had been together ten years. They were there that day to appeal to people to reexamine the common belief which prohibits the marriage of those of the same sex. I remember thinking that my own stereotype of the young Gay man was challenged as I read. The paper had an impact.

That year there was a ballot initiative put before the people of San Francisco of whether or not to allow committed Gays and Lesbians to register with the city as Domestic Partners, which eventually could lead to city benefits for city workers. It did not pass. I remember feeling a bit outraged. This was San Francisco after all. There were by estimation at least 70,000 Gay men and an untold number of Lesbians in a city the size of Milwaukee.

The domestic partner initiative and effort, of course, did not go away. There were many active and committed folks working hard behind the scenes to make sure it didn't. And probably dozens or hundreds or thousands who in their own way created the ground for such acceptance.

A few months before the vote came up again, my then partner Mary Ann and I had invited our friends Steve and Arthur over for Sunday brunch. That fall Sunday morning was fresh and sunny. The street was packed with the cars of the churchgoers. Steve and Arthur, top down in their old Mercedes convertible, had to circle to find a spot to park.

They spotted a trio busily stuffing leaflets under the windshield wipers and were given one themselves. This time the message was the one we hear quite often of the doom and gloom brought on by the homosexual lifestyle. They brought it in the house and their sense of outrage took over. They recruited Mary Ann, as I was busy preparing brunch (femme in that way that I am).

## LETTERS

### An Open Letter to Senator Russ Feingold

I've thought a long time about your decision to break ranks with our fellow Democrats and vote with Republicans on the impeachment issue. I've thought a long time and have decided that I'm definitely not happy with your vote.

Originally, I accepted your vote as a display of principle, but after thinking more about it, I now see that it can have a very detrimental effect on the party and the causes for which it stands. Had some other politician broken ranks and voted with Republicans, the effect wouldn't have been very great, I think. After all, it's only 1 person out of 45.

But to see Russ Feingold, "Senator Principle," who refused attack ads and lived up to stated positions of campaign financing, take the stand of the Republicans, puts other Democrats in a very unfortunate position.

Your defection makes excellent propaganda for Republicans. They can now say that Republicans are right, and that most Democrats voted just out of party considerations, and that this is proved by the fact that "Senator Principle" abandoned his fellow Democrats to vote with the Republicans.

To state it once more for emphasis, you have unfortunately provided ammunition for Republicans to claim to be the party of principle, and to claim that Democrats were voting purely out of partisan considerations. Wasn't there some less damaging way for you to express your conscience?

Considering your own situation, there will be those who believe you made a genuine vote of conscience (and I have little doubt that was your motive). Others will, more cynically, wonder whether you are trying to position yourself for "bigger and better" things at the expense of my party. (One notes that Senator Wellstone, also thought to be a man of principle, voted with the party.)

I think you have some explaining to do.

Al Geiersbach  
Milwaukee

### Dear Wisconsin Light

Just a note to say thanks for keeping up the tradition and standards set so high by Jerry Johnson and Terry Boughner. I always enjoy reading the *Light* and particularly appreciated your election coverage. It was excellent — thanks to Bill Meuniers' long experience and political insight. I also love Dykes to Watch Out For and Biff and Binky. Both are fun and very current. Last but not least, I am very glad that Terry continues his input and Ron Geiman has come back to the business. We readers are fortunate to have you all.

Thanks  
Julie Kleppin

I wasn't sure what they were up to, but when they didn't come back, I peeked out the window and saw what appeared to be quite a fuss. They had collected what appeared to be close to a hundred of these flyers and had ripped them in half. The police were called. I joined the group outside. A few of the neighbors were out front tending their yards and perhaps curious, too. The trio was incensed that their flyers had been destroyed.

Two female officers arrived and received the story from both sides. When all was told, they calmly directed the trio that there wasn't anything that they could do. Once they had deposited their flyers on the windshields, they were no longer their property. The four of us let out small involuntary cheers that nothing could or would be done to stop the "civil disobedience." The trio glared at us and left the area. The neighbors seemed relieved. I saw a special glint of recognition in one of the officer's eyes before she left — at least I imagined so. This was the San Francisco I expected.

The next time the vote came up, the domestic partner initiative passed, and it was put into effect on Valentine's Day of 1991. That Valentine's Day several of my friends and acquaintances went to city hall to sign up. Mary Ann and I did not seem motivated to do this, and I guess it foretold our fate because we broke up within the year. (We are still friends, however.)

My current partner, Mary, and I met six years ago shortly after I moved to Milwaukee from San Francisco. We began dating in about June of 1993 and slowly and profoundly fell in love. We make each other laugh. We respect each other. We learn from each other. We count on each other in innumerable ways. We are compatible in very many ways and different enough to not crowd each other. We own a home together. Recently, we began wearing matching gold wedding bands. We have a commitment.

Mayor Norquist has publicly expressed support for a domestic partner initiative in Milwaukee. There are actions taking place to bring this up again to the people of Milwaukee. Our community is building momentum with the inauguration of the new LGBT Community Center and the election of Tammy Baldwin and other wins in Madison and around the state. Tammy Baldwin likes to quote Margaret Mead who said, and I paraphrase... "Some say that a small group of people working to change the world will never work, but I say it's the only thing that ever has worked". I agree. Happy Valentine's Day, Mary!



# Spotlight

## The Pageant

### Celebrating a 25+ Year Tradition

by Ruthie

Milwaukee's LGBT community is about to celebrate one of its largest, most ornate and entertaining events of the year. In other words, it's downright swanky. The 1999 Mr. & Miss Gay Wisconsin will be crowned on Sunday, February 14 at what has come to be known as The Pageant. The event will be held in the Crystal ballroom of the Milwaukee Hilton. Cocktails begin at 5:30pm followed by a 6:30pm dinner. The Pageant itself begins at 8pm. Tickets for the dinner and show are \$50 per person. Those interested in only attending the show can purchase pageant tickets for \$25.

At a time when drag pageants have become commonplace, this one remains a unique and exquisite affair. It is Wisconsin's original Miss Gay pageant. "It laid the groundwork for all the other pageants," said Pageant committee member Tracy James. The location, dinner and enormous production make this "the most elegant pageant," added Ladybell Bradlee, another organizer.

The Pageant was first held in 1970 under the name "The Entertainer's Club" at the Castaways bar (currently The Ballgame). The delightful Jamie Gay's (yes, she spells it with an apostrophe "s") took the crown home that year. "The Gay community has come a long way since then," says Gay's. "I'm so proud of this event." You go sister!

In 1973 The Pageant included a Mister category called Mr. Groovy Guy. Mr. Groovy Guy? Boy, is that a sign of the times. Whatever happened to the word "groovy"? I'm gonna start a petition to bring that word back! Then the tattoos Nancy Sinatra and I got on our asses will

make sense to the younger kids! But that's a different story altogether.

The Pageant has been maintained and organized by some of Wisconsin's most dedicated community members. Since 1983, Ronnie Marks has been the man responsible for assembling the committee to organize and host this wonderful night full of glamour and pageantry.

The current Pageant committee consists of Ronnie Marks as chair (and honey, I'd sit on his lap any day) along with Church Lady, Tracy James, Ladybell Bradlee, Eric Davis, Jamie Gay's and Brittany Morgan.

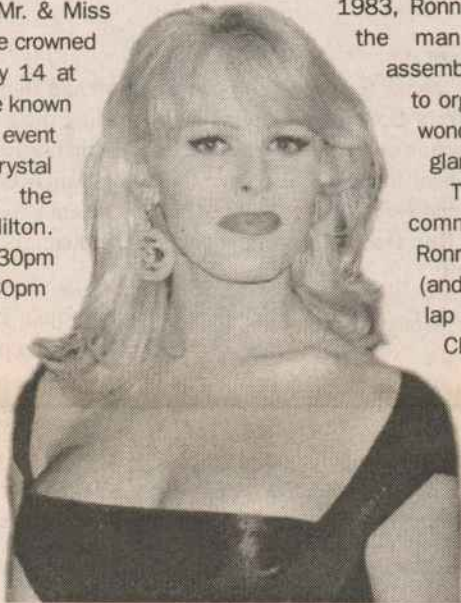
The event is so grand, the location is booked a year in advance with planning beginning each June. Customarily held at the downtown Milwaukee Hilton, "Their staff is helpful in every way," smiled Marks. The Pageant is one of the hotel's largest, single-evening events.

Organizers said that over 400 people attended last year's Pageant.

Being involved with the event for several years, the Committee had no problem offering favorite Pageant memories. Gay's fondly recalled Rona's *Send in the Clowns* routine. Bradlee said she'll never forget a particular evening gown competition. "Mary Richards brought the house down," Bradlee said. "It was as if she was in a Paris fashion show. She looked so incredible, even the Hilton's busboys stared."

"Every year The Pageant promotes unity among the Gay community," said Marks, "but my other favorite thing is seeing the up-and-coming-entertainers. Many of our past contestants have become legends in the Gay community." The list of past winners is very impressive. It

includes Rona - 1981; BJ Daniels - 1984; Miss M - 1987; Ginger Spice - 1988; Mimi Marks - 1989; Mary Richards - 1997; and last year's winner, Sage La Rue.



1989 winner Mimi Marks



1984 winner BJ Daniels



1994-95 Winners Dynasty DuPont & Parker Christian

Winners of The Pageant, however, do not go on to compete in a national contest. This is probably the reason Pageant contestants strive to make their performance the best it can be. "[The Pageant] is a way for performers to display talent in an entity unto itself," Bradlee said. James agreed saying that "contestants put so much effort into their performance, that I always feel like it's a Vegas show."

Judges come from neighboring states to assure non-biased judging, plus scores are not based on a contestant's past history.

This year, Miss contestants will be judged in presentation, talent and evening gown. Mr. Wisconsin contestants will vie for high scores in presentation, talent and a swimsuit category. Thank God! Now, don't get me wrong — I can't wait to see those gals in their fancy-smancy evening gowns, but throw some swimsuits on a couple of guys, and I'm hotter than Monica Lewinsky in a Cuban smoke shop.

Up until 1996, The Pageant also featured a "Fantasy" category where male and female contestants put their deepest fantasies into reality for the audience. Though this category definitely made The Pageant unique, the investment involved for the contestants was overwhelming. In previous years the audience has seen contestants dress as Venus, Mother Nature, a peacock complete with plumes and tail, and even an expectant mother.

The winners each receive \$500; runners-up take home \$200 and \$100, going to the second and third places, respectively. Contestants pay a \$50 entrance fee, a

small price for the opportunity to compete in one of Wisconsin's finest traditions.

Interested contestants can call (414) 486-6226 for application information. Applications will be accepted until the morning of February 14, 1999, but it is suggested that contestants register as soon as possible. In order to compete, you must be a Wisconsin resident for the past six months.

This is gonna be one helluva shindig. It's a great way to spend Valentines Day - whether you go with your partner or reserve a table of eight for you and your friends. I know this will be one of the most elegant, enjoyable nights of the year. "You will come away having a wonderful time," promised James.

Everyone I've talked to agreed saying that this event is special. "When you walk into that ballroom, you feel grand," Bradlee told me. Marks added that the program has been shortened from previous years. "This way people still have plenty of time to celebrate after The Pageant."

Discounts are being offered on room rates at the Milwaukee Hilton hotel and on tuxedos at Desmond's Formal Wear. Be

sure to tell them you are interested in the discount associated with The Pageant.

To reserve tickets and obtain more information call (414) 344-2460. If you are interested in the dinner and show package, you must call no later than February 10, 1999. Show-only tickets will continue to be sold after this deadline. I can't wait to see you all there, as I'm co-presenting one of the categories.

## The Pageant's Friendship Cup

Honoring Milwaukee's LGBT Citizens for over 25 years

"This is one of my favorite parts of the Pageant," said Ronnie Marks, chair of The Pageant planning committee. Each year The Pageant committee awards the Friendship Cup to an individual who has given extensive support to the event.

Marks said, "The committee gives the award to someone who has dedicated themselves to helping make this event a success." Previous winners include those who have helped with the Pageant's sound or lighting needs, sold tickets, or provided other means of support.

Wisconsin Light's very own Ron Geiman won the Friendship Award in 1990 when he was the publisher of *In Step*. Another current member of the Wisconsin Light staff, Annabelle Havlicek, also won the Friendship award. Annabelle was presented with the award in 1995 when she was publishing *In Step*. Others who have received the award include Ginger Spice (1991) and Miss M (1993).

Who will receive the Friendship Cup this year? Attend The Pageant at the downtown Milwaukee Hilton on February 14, 1999 and find out. See you there!

## Bravo for Stiffy

by Chris Fallek

Since moving to Madison a little more than a year ago from the town the *National Enquirer* once proclaimed "Lesbianville USA," I've been searching for Madison's own brand of queer culture. Hence I've danced, I've bowled, I've marched, I've vigiled, I've voted and I've watched. But not until recently when I saw Ron Collins' play *Stiffy* being presented at Broom Street Theater did I feel that I had found that kind of whole community in all its wry, campy, sappy, 12 step glory.

From the moment the house lights went down while the beats of Foreigner's *Urgent* throbbed us forward to the moment three hours later when Cher's *I Believe* joyfully escorted us out onto the street again, I felt completely enmeshed in these lives. This is a story, which most any of us could have inserted ourselves into at one time or another.

Ron Collins has brilliantly recreated the lives of two addicts. Don, a Gay man is a sex addict. Deb, a straight woman, is addicted to alcohol, which feeds her tangential addictions to the Internet and anonymous sex.

They were friends since high school, though out of touch. Deb has recently re-entered Don's life, when she moved into his neighborhood. As the audience watches, the lives of these two characters unfold with increasing discomfort. We are privy to their pain where Don and Deb aren't able to share it with each other. The shame of it all. While Don has something to hold onto, a loving relationship with his partner Terry, Deb sinks deeper into alcohol and the demons that accompany it.

It is this story of individual struggle, which frames the play. But Collins structures the writing so that we get all sorts of glimpses into the characters' relationships to even bigger demons like the media, religion and politics.

Collins is most effective at blending social satire, local politics and therapy speak. His parody of Madison's recent homophobic billboard campaign where Reverend Ralph speaks of Sodom while his brainwashed assistants — who spout on cue "It's not about hate. It's about hope" — hold up a map of the Isthmus had the audience roaring. As did the Church lady. As well as a scene which takes place in a North Wisconsin VFW, which was hilarious in

that close to home kind of way for many people in the audience.

Bolstering Collins' fine writing and dialogue was the production value of the play. Slides and music were used quite effectively. Both moved the story and gave it atmosphere as well as visual depth. I did note that the musical choices had the audience humming along, if not swaying silently in their bench like seats — perhaps only to stretch their bodies from bad posture.

Although Broom Street is one of those low budget kind of theaters, the cast did a superb job in costuming themselves. I shudder to think how many cast members truly owned some of the clothes they dragged out — no pun intended — during the retro disco party.

Beyond the writing, what really made me care about this play and its characters were the actors. Though the story focused mostly on Don and Deb, this truly was an ensemble cast. Dave Durbin, who played Don, was most likable. He had an ability to come across as sympathetic even in the seediest of situations.

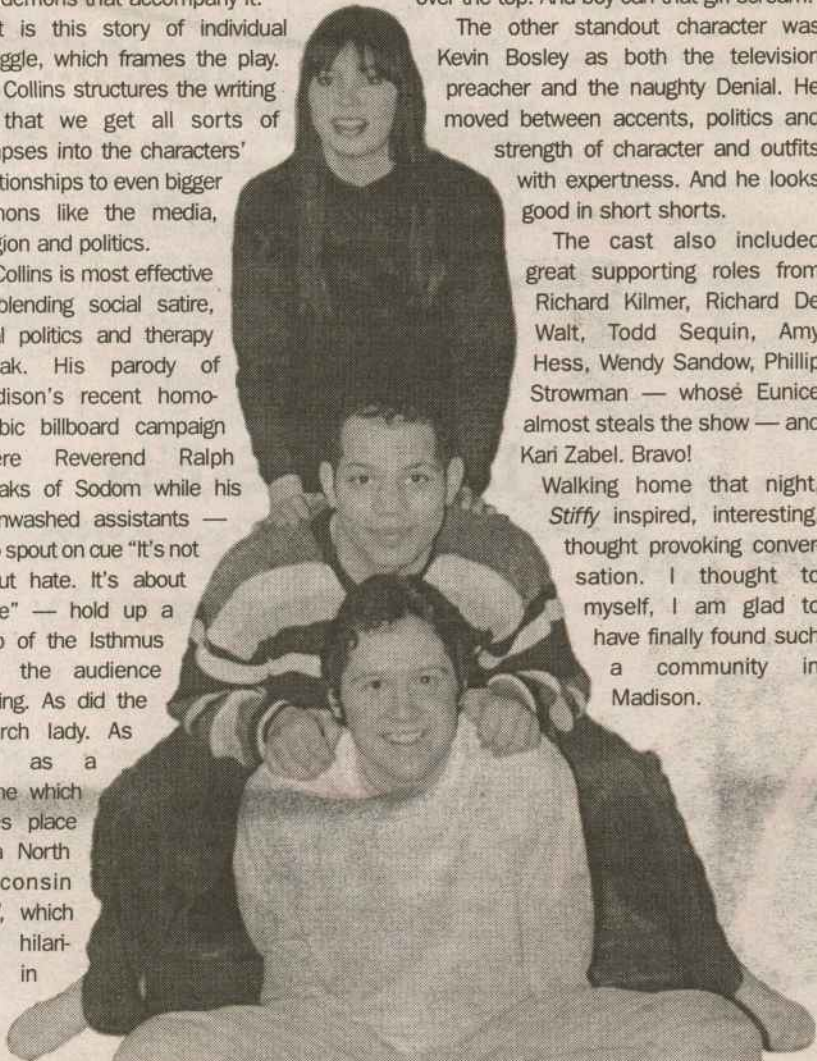
Nathan Character, who played Terry, as well as the wonderfully campy Church Lady, was great as the beleaguered boyfriend. The two of them did seem to share an ease and affection for working together on stage, which made their relationship all the more believable.

Shelley Johnson as Deb had some of the most difficult and emotional scenes. She was able to mix just the right amount of vulnerability, anger and tragedy without being over the top. And boy can that girl scream.

The other standout character was Kevin Bosley as both the television preacher and the naughty Denial. He moved between accents, politics and strength of character and outfits with expertness. And he looks good in short shorts.

The cast also included great supporting roles from Richard Kilmer, Richard De Walt, Todd Sequin, Amy Hess, Wendy Sandow, Phillip Strowman — whose Eunice almost steals the show — and Kari Zabel. Bravo!

Walking home that night, *Stiffy* inspired, interesting, thought provoking conversation. I thought to myself, I am glad to have finally found such a community in Madison.



Three of the stars of *Stiffy*. Shelley Johnson as Deb, Nathan Character as Terry and Dave Durbin as Don. Photo by Richard Kilmer

*A competition where there is no love lost!*

# The Pageant



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*Don't Miss the Wisconsin Light Spotlight Cover feature in this issue.*

# The ARTS

**I**t may be cold outside, but things are hot on Milwaukee's Art scene during the month of February. As previously reported in *Wisconsin Light* Milwaukee hosts two opera premieres this month including *Dorian Grey* based on Gay author Oscar Wilde's classic story. The premieres have attracted world wide attention.

The Milwaukee Art Museum has opened its run of the dazzling *Saints and Sinners* exhibition. This historic exhibit of 16th and 17th century paintings offers a once in life time chance to see the legacy of Gay artist Caravaggio. The Milwaukee International Arts Festival presents a cornucopia of events related to Irish culture including the movie *2x4*, a Gay themed, Irish film that has wowed the critics. (See our article — page 18)

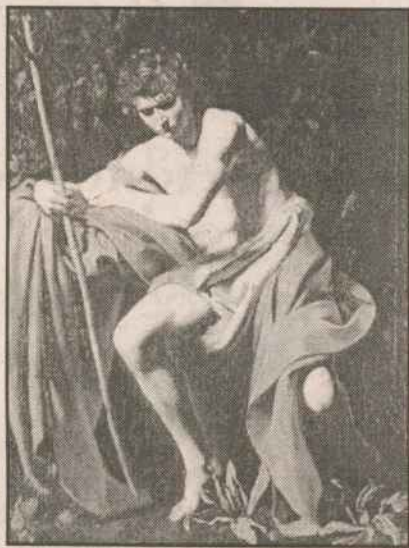
Then there is the BJ Daniels, photo exhibit, *Dreaming Big*. Unlike Caravaggio, Daniels' legacy is a current one. It can be seen on stage in just about every Wisconsin female impersonator performance.

It all adds up to a hot February in Milwaukee.

## Sinners & Saints, Darkness & Light

**Milwaukee** — A rare exhibition of European Old Master paintings, focusing on the work of renowned Italian painter Caravaggio (1573-1610) and his powerful influence on 17th-Century Dutch and Flemish artists, is on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum (750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive) from January 28 through April 18. The oil-on-canvas paintings, all nearly 400 years old, have been sent to Milwaukee from private and public collections around the country. Milwaukee is one of only three U.S. cities hosting the exhibition (the previous showing was at the North Carolina Museum of Art). Indeed, almost a third of these precious centuries-old paintings are from local collections.

The *Sinners & Saints, Darkness & Light* exhibition promises to be among this year's cultural highlights for the City of Milwaukee, featuring 35 Old Master paintings exploring the groundbreaking Italian artist's influence on art in the Low Countries. The exhibition will also include works of his Dutch and Flemish artistic followers, namely Hendrick ter Bruggen, Gerrit von Honthorst, Dirck van Baburen, Gerard Seghers, Matthias Stom and others. These may not exactly be household names, but collectively known as the "Old Dutch Masters," they revolutionized oil-on-canvas painting.



Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness - Caravaggio

Caravaggio and his followers brought realism into the world of European oil painting, turning their backs on the conventional, artificial, Medieval artistic heritage, which traced its roots to ancient Rome. For the first time, along with religious subjects, these artists began using common people as their subjects, a symbol of the increasing

secularization of the cultural scene during the closing days of the Renaissance.

Born in Caravaggio, Italy as Michelangelo Merisi, Caravaggio was a slightly younger contemporary of William Shakespeare and Galileo Galilei, who were both born in 1564. His beautiful brown eyes and angelic visage gave him a look of innocence that belied a tempestuous life.

A lifelong rebel and troublemaker, Caravaggio emerged nevertheless as one of the greatest Baroque innovators, with a style marked by dramatic use of darkness and light, a theatrical presentation of figures and use of simple everyday folk as artistic subjects. His dramatic (some said profane) portrayals of religious subjects caused an uproar in the Vatican but admiration in northern Europe, setting the stage for the flowering of Dutch and Flemish art and subsequent giants such as Rembrandt.

Caravaggio's style, emulated widely, included a flair for the dramatic, passion for naturalism and realism, and a fascination with bloody acts of violence and death, especially decapitation. He and his followers often painted monumental, multi-figured, historical scenes on huge canvases, bringing saints and martyrs of the Catholic Church to life. The play of shadow and light was highly innovative and dramatic. Artificial, ambient lighting in the works of prior generations of painters was replaced by strong, directional light provided by depictions of solitary candles. The effective interplay of light and dark gives the paintings a hitherto unseen depth.

It seems fairly certain that at least some of these artists were Gay, given their often lush portrayals of male physiques, quite reminiscent of the work of famed Gay artist Michelangelo. According to a biography of Caravaggio published by the Galleria Borghese in Rome, he "seemed to have no taste for women, but favored young men of the lower classes." One of these, Onorio Longhi, was rumored to be his lover. On the basis of this relationship, the "decadence" of his paintings and other evidence, a court of the Inquisition accused him of heresy and sodomy, but Caravaggio escaped punishment due to the influence of a friendly patron, Cardinal Francesco del Monte.

On May 28, 1606 Caravaggio killed a young man named Ranuccio Tomassoni following an argument over a wager on a tennis match. The Uffizi Gallery's account of this incident calls it "a lover's quarrel." As a result, the artist was hunted as a murderer for the rest of his life. He died, having never faced trial for the killing, in Porto Ercole in 1610. In the ensuing centuries his precise sexual orientation has been obscured, but given the increasingly widespread belief that an artist's life and work are intimately interconnected, the LGBT community can boast at least a reasonable claim to this remarkable man.

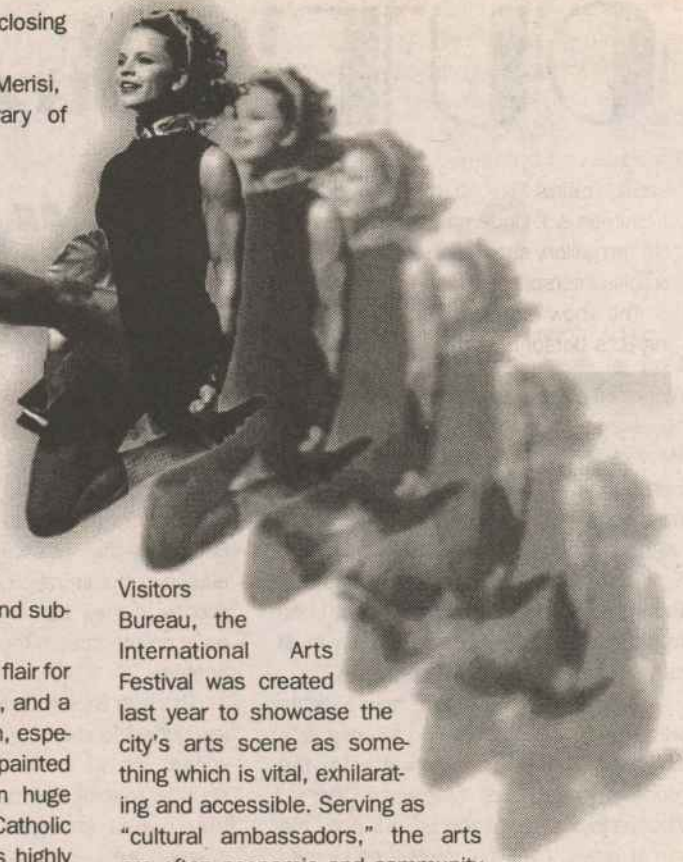
The Milwaukee Art Museum's *Sinners & Saints, Darkness & Light* exhibition opened on Thursday, January 28 to a large crowd, and featured a lecture by exhibition curator Dennis P. Weller, followed by a reception. The exhibition will run through April 18. For further information call (414) 224-3200.

## Second Annual International Arts Festival

**Milwaukee** — In it's second annual International Arts Festival, visitors will be able to take a trip to Ireland without ever leaving the City of Milwaukee.

In grand style, from February 5 to March 7, Festivalgoers will be treated to an aural and visual celebration of Milwaukee's Irish heritage.

Developed by Milwaukee Alderman Wayne Frank and jointly promoted and marketed by Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. and the Greater Milwaukee Convention and



Visitors Bureau, the International Arts Festival was created last year to showcase the city's arts scene as something which is vital, exhilarating and accessible. Serving as "cultural ambassadors," the arts are often economic and community catalysts.

For the 1999 International Arts Festival, over 25 of Milwaukee's foremost performing and visual arts organizations will present a unique blend of Irish music, dance, opera, plays, films, poetry and literary events. Some Festival firsts include the Skylight Opera's American premiere of *Ballymore*, the Florentine Opera's world premiere of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, First Stage Milwaukee's original play *The Irish Chord* and the inaugural *Milwaukee Irish Film Fleadh*, a celebration of over 15 contemporary Irish films and features.

In addition, a variety of new programs will be presented by Milwaukee area colleges and universities. Cardinal Stritch University will present *Juno and the Paycock* and Marquette University presents both *The Birth of the Infanta and other stories by Oscar Wilde* as well as the Milwaukee premiere of James Joyce's *Dublin*. Concerts will be held at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, plays and readings will be presented by Milwaukee Irish Arts and a lecture will be held at the Central Library by Malachy McCourt, author of *A Monk Swimming: A Memoir*. Windfall Theatre will present *I am of Ireland: A Celebration of W. B. Yeats* and Ireland's foremost Gaelic poet, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, will visit the Woodland Pattern Book Center. Future International Arts Festivals will feature the following cultural heritages: Jewish (2000), Italian (2001), Scandinavian (2002), African (2003), Polish (2004), Asian (2005) and Hispanic-Latino (2006).

For further information, check the International Arts Festival's official web site at [www.artsfest.com](http://www.artsfest.com), call the hotline at (414) 273-FEST (1 (800)-273-FEST outside the 414 area code), or call the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1 (800)-554-1448 for assistance in planning your visit and for hotel availability.

## Daniel's Exhibit Opening Benefits LGBT Community Center

**Milwaukee** — Once called Milwaukee's premiere female impersonator in 1995 by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, BJ Daniels inspired photographers and filmmakers to create art while they helped to create BJ Daniels. That symbiotic relationship is shown through the more than 25 photographs and two films included in the exhibition *Dreaming Big: The Legendary BJ Daniels*. It will be held at Gallery H20, 221 N. Water Street, Milwaukee. The exhibition will be on view from February 19-March 28.

A gayla opening event on Friday, February 19 from 7-11pm will feature refreshments, glamour and film screenings. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. A donation of \$10 at the door is





suggested. All the artists and BJ (Bjorn Nasett) will be present throughout the evening.

Daniels has been working with photographers and filmmakers since the early '80s to explore the constructs of glamour and fame. When viewed together, these photos document the evolution of a persona. Prints by Jorge Cabal, Francis Ford, Stanley Ryan Jones, Thom Miller and J. Shimon & J. Lindemann will flow chronologically throughout the gallery space with BJ's own related personal memorabilia interspersed spanning a period of nearly 20 years.

The show is a visual biography and retrospective tracing BJ's personal and professional evolution and artistic



collaborations with the various artists.

From its 1977 beginnings in the rural

Wisconsin town of Rockdale when Bjorn began crafting the BJ Daniels character, he always dreamed big. After moving to Madison in his senior year, he met filmmaker Caroli. Caroli encouraged him to play his first drag roles as BJ Daniels in two intentionally tawdry, narrative films — both of which will be screened at the opening reception.

These relationships with photographers played a key role in developing the BJ Daniels persona. They nurtured his savvy, somewhat punk fashion sense and his ability to tap into the topical.

Encouragement from friends and his own work ethic, expert make-up application and arsenal of wigs enabled Daniels to win numerous pageants and achieve star billing at Milwaukee's Club 219.

By the mid 1990s, BJ had performed to thousands of audiences at nightclubs, art events and fundraisers around the region. He'd made and maintained costumes, worked as a professional hair stylist, performed in theatrical productions and even delivered singing telegrams.

He became a media spokesperson for Milwaukee female impersonators and appeared on a few mainstream TV daytime talk shows where his intelligent, accurate responses won him respect and credibility. The BJ Daniels Revue was the grand finale of PrideFest prior to its move to the SummerFest grounds. The eagerly anticipated revues BJ produced on the PrideFest stage are legendary events that attracted large crowds.

The "mind numbing grind" of developing new material week after week, performing non-stop plus seeing peers fade away and die of AIDS during these years inspired a change in direction in his professional life. He officially retired from performing in 1995 and began working full time as a hair stylist and salon manager/owner.

Organizing fundraising events for cultural and AIDS related causes became a major focus of his energies. A current interest, and beneficiary of funds raised by this event, is the new LGBT Community Center and the services it offers. "This show is about one person's journey and the Center is a place for people to explore options," said BJ. "I didn't have a place like that to go to and had to figure out what was going on, on my own."

Daniels infuses optimism, style and *joie de vivre* into his work at Beauty salon as well as his many projects and performances. He emcees benefit fashion shows at Survival/Revival Resale Shop in Milwaukee, and he produces fundraising events benefiting community arts organizations at Beauty. In April, he will star in the Theater X production of *Theodora She Bitch of Byzantium*.

For over twenty years, BJ Daniels' big dreams have touched the hearts and minds of thousands. *Dreaming Big The Legendary BJ Daniels* offers a glimpse into the life and career of this remarkable man. It is NOT to be missed.

# History of Gay Hollywood Part III

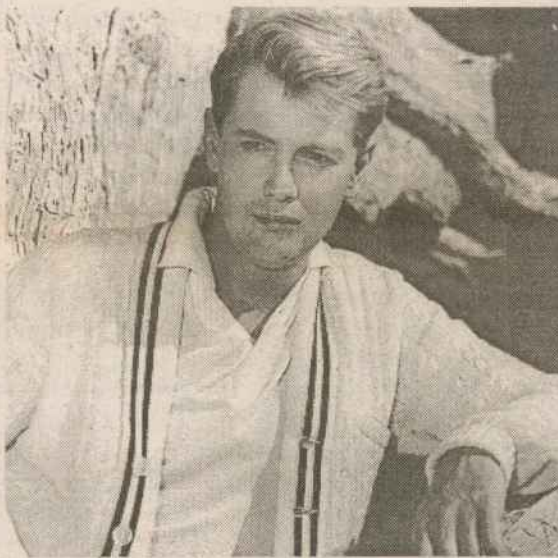
Last of a series

by Steve Stavron

Bawdy behind-the-scenes anecdotes add their own dimension to Gay Hollywood. Robert Mitchum, who was being directed by Charles Laughton in *Night of the Hunter*, reportedly poured ketchup on his penis while drunk, and asked his director and a current boyfriend "which one of you fags want to eat this?" There is no record of the volunteer — although Laughton's humiliation tendencies do not rule him out. The official version had Mitchum pouring ketchup over himself saying, "I am a hamburger." Mitchum gave his best screen performance in the film. Was it a case of business combined with pleasure?

Homophobia was not the only threat to the sexual melting pot within the film colony. Director Nicholas Ray was having an open affair and obviously fornicating with 16-year-old Sal Mineo during the shooting of the James Dean classic *Rebel Without a Cause*. Ironically, the film became renowned for its sensitive treatment of youthful disassociation.

Perhaps the most notorious predator was agent Henry Wilson, himself a homosexual, who promoted and exploited young movie struck Gay males such as Rock Hudson, George Nader and Troy Donahue. Woe to those who did not do his bidding. He procured young men to suit the tastes of certain Gay producers, but he took a special interest in Hudson, even when his star was slow to rise.



Troy Donahue

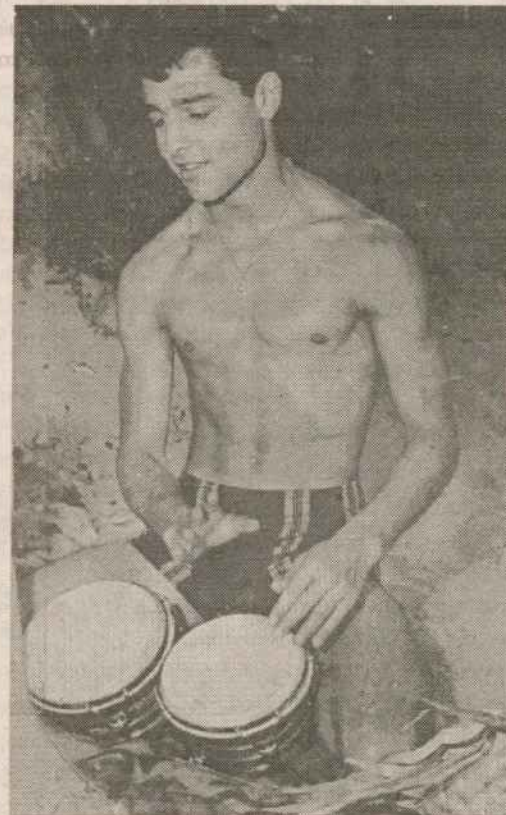
Montgomery Clift was a classic example of the self-deleterious effects of unresolved homosexual guilt. Having begun a stunning career as one of the best post-war actors on screen (*Red River*, *The Search*, *A Place in the Sun*), he allowed drugs, alcohol and his own weak nature to push him into an early decay. A severe auto accident, which affected his facial muscles, didn't help. He was even rumored to have been seduced by his psychiatrist who encouraged his drug habits. Despite much moral support from the film community, he died of alcoholism at 46.

The death of James Dean in a sports car accident at 24 not only short-circuited a great career, but also catapulted his legendary legacy into a mystically macho realm that required "protection" from Gay overtones. Many biographers refused to believe that Dean was Gay, preferring to regard his bar cruising as the indifferent underworld excursions of a sexual dilettante, adding a touch of spice to the myth. But he did have several affairs with prominent men who could further his career, including actor Clifton Webb. Dean was once arrested for soliciting a street hustler (to service?). Ironically his costars on *Giant*, Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor, did not think he was Gay. Marlon Brando, the third member of this famous triumvirate, was not Gay, but he admitted to Gay experiments.

During the '60s, films with central Gay themes began to appear with varying degrees of success. First came *Victim* (1961) in which homosexual blackmail threatened major star Dirk Bogarde. *Children's Hour*, *The Fox* and

*Walk on the Wild Side* featured Lesbians played by stars such as Shirley MacLaine and Barbara Stanwyck. Lesser films such as *The Detective*, *The Sergeant*, and *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (with a stunning

performance by Marlon Brando) dealt with the anguish of Gay officials lusting after straight subordinates.



Sal Mineo

Anguish seems to have been the prevailing motif in all these films, probably best expressed in a classic line from *Boys in the Band*, "If only we could learn not to hate ourselves so much." Audiences became conditioned to prefer "safer," benign Gay images as fleet footed gnomes in *Birdcage*, *La Cage*, and *In and Out*.

Being "out" has recently created a new form of victimization in the entertainment industry, both from within and without. Since Ellen DeGeneres came "out," Gay stars are accepted more than ever, although it is legally libelous to label someone Gay unless they so declare themselves. The overlapping of the AIDS crisis into hetero territory in the '80s and '90s softened the public attitude towards homosexuality. A "new awareness" brought public sympathy for the deaths of Rock Hudson and Anthony Perkins. However, as prominent "out" celebrities take an active, public part in AIDS fund drives and Gay rights causes, they become subject to more direct tabloid exploitation.

Movie/TV magnate David Geffin was reported as having "married" actor Keanu Reeves. They did not even know each other. At this writing many activists still feel that figures such as Jodie Foster, Kevin Spacey and Lilly Tomlin could better help industry images by "coming out" directly. Greater acceptance of Gay stars has not resolved internal dissension.

True, the celluloid closet keeps squeaking open, widening new "windows of opportunity" for a new generation of Gay entertainers. "Coming out" does not seem to have hampered the careers of Anne Heche and Rupert Everett (*My Best Friend's Wedding*). Nevertheless, many high profile celebrities remain uncomfortable with their new sense of catharsis.

While they are no longer subject to the veils of secrecy that compartmentalized them and caused tormented conflict in the lives of Montgomery Clift, James Dean and Charles Laughton, even today producers tread timorously with Gay subject matter. The new TV sitcom *Will and Grace* features a straight actor playing a Gay man rooming with a straight woman. Would a serious dramatic or romantic Gay drama be as decorously received? A light touch seems mandatory for public consumption of Gay material. But the subtler question persists — whether or not being Gay has ceased to be a source of inner turmoil for many gifted Gay entertainment figures. Social guilt compounded by generations of secrecy dies hard.

# OUT ON FILM

## 2 by 4

Reviewed by John Jahn

**Milwaukee** - Hollywood maintains a very conservative view of Ireland, a land seemingly trapped in a repressive time warp. Blarney is also expected: priests, farms, wayward sons and grieving mothers. Until recently, it was quite difficult even to get funding for a contemporary, urban Irish film. The nearest thing to a Gay character is a sad, celibate bachelor. Only a handful of low budget, short subjects have dared to tackle the reality of Irish Gay life.

*2 by 4* is set in New York City, but it is an Irish film. Its characters are Irish-American construction workers, revealing a subculture of Gay sex and casual drug use. Director Jimmy Smallhorne (a surname that must have toughened him growing up) has integrity -- he knows the reality of the Irish in New York.

*2 by 4*'s central character, Johnny, starts out as an ordinary guy, a worker in his uncle's construction company in the Bronx. Although he has a girlfriend, Johnny is tormented by personal demons, troubled and increasingly aware of his attraction to men. At night he moves in a parallel world of casual sex and drugs. Eventually, the Irish-

American stereotype is shattered through his personal voyage of discovery, ultimately revealing the hypocrisy of his community's older generation.

*2 by 4* is gritty and realistic, very much a mainstream film in many ways and a fine example of the Irish Film Festival's emphasis on contemporary and universal themes. It is not a Gay film in the sense that it is defiantly out, overt and proud, but rather because it features characters who just happen to be Gay.

*2 by 4* will be shown in Milwaukee only once as part of the Irish Film Fleadh at the Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St., at 6:30pm on Friday, February 19.

## Central Station

Reviewed by John Jahn

Walter Salles' *Central Station* is a touching, well acted film, albeit with a familiar plot. This kind of film, exploring the bond between motherless child and lonely older woman, has been attempted so frequently that good acting and directing aren't enough; the script must offer something new and compelling to

draw us in and make us care. As with films such as *Kolya* and *Unhook the Stars*, *Central Station* has the ability to touch the heart.

This picture also presents a rare look at non-tourist locales in Brazil. One of the functions of a movie is to take us to new places, and *Central Station* accomplishes that goal admirably. Salles grants us views of densely populated cities where the houses are little more than shanties, illiteracy abounds and religious obsession dominates people's lives. As intriguing as the road trip element is, it is the characters that keep us involved.



Inside a large train station in Rio de Janeiro we find Dora (Fernanda Montenegro) who writes letters for the many illiterate passers-by and mails them, sometimes. She at first stands aloof and uninvolved, performing her task dispassionately, until one day meeting Josue (Vinicius de Oliveira), the 9 year-old son of a woman who dictates a letter to her. Leaving the station afterwards, the woman is killed in an accident. Homeless, Josue loiters around

the station, pugnacious and withdrawn. His plight stirs something in Dora, who brings him home. The two then embark upon a journey, searching for the boy's father.

Regardless of the politics or visuals, the real heart of *Central Station* is the relationship between Dora and Josue. As in the best of this genre, the two change each other in profound ways. Dora fills the vacant maternal role in the boy's life and in turn her cynicism melts away, discovering that she retains the capacity to love and, in the service of love, to sacrifice. Salles develops the relationship perfectly. It is a familiar story but, in this context, seems fresh. The two leads both do superlative work, Montenegro and de Oliveira creating a palpable and special bond -- not only with each other, but also with the audience.

*Central Station* placed 3rd in the Toronto International Film Festival's popular balloting (behind *Life is Beautiful* and *Waking Ned Devine*), a testament to its appeal. This is understandable: it is both literate and emotionally powerful. There's manipulation here, but it's subtle and skillful, and as a result we don't feel our heartstrings are being plucked by an unseen musician. *Central Station* is well worth seeing, especially if you're in the mood for an affecting drama. 3 1/2 STARS *Central Station* opens exclusively at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre on February 12.

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# OUT ON TV.

by Terry Boughner

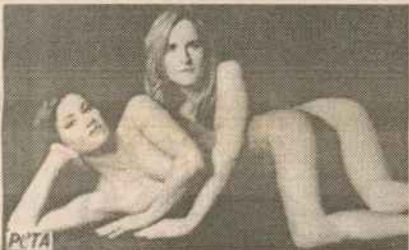
## Debate on the Radio

I will debate State Rep. Frank Urban (R-99) on the subject, "What's Politics Got To Do With It? Should Same-Sex Marriage Be Legal?" Rep. Urban was a member of the committee, which held hearings on AB-104, Rep. Lorraine Serratti's (R-Spread Eagle) anti-same sex marriage bill. Same sex marriage is already illegal in Wisconsin. Serratti's bill would have banned state recognition of Gay marriages legally performed elsewhere.

It will be a formal debate moderated by WUWM Newscaster Bob Bach. It will take place on Monday, February 22, 1999 at Schwartz Bookstore, 4093 North Oakland Ave. in Shorewood from 7 to 8pm. It will be broadcast live over WUWM radio - 89.7 FM. Everyone is welcome to attend. An informal discussion with audience members will follow the debate.

## GLAAD Media Awards

On February 2, 1999 the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced its special honorees for the 10th Anniversary GLAAD Media Awards, which include RuPaul, Armistead Maupin, and Melissa Etheridge & Julie Cypher.



The Media Awards will take place in three ceremonies. They will be held in New York City on Sunday, March 28 at the New York Hilton Towers; in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 17 at the Century Plaza Hotel and Towers; and in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 8 at the JW Marriott.

At the March 28 New York City ceremony, GLAAD will honor drag diva RuPaul with the Vito Russo Award. The award is presented to an openly Lesbian or Gay individual who has achieved excellence in a specific area of media and has furthered the visibility and understanding of the LGBT community through his/her work. It is named in honor of one of

GLAAD's New York founders, Vito Russo, author of *The Celluloid Closet*.

RuPaul is an internationally recognized recording star, former talk show host, author and actor. For the past four years, She has acted as Co-Chair of the M\*A\*C AIDS Fund, which has raised over \$15 million for AIDS charities to date.

On April 17 in Los Angeles, Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher will accept GLAAD's Stephen F. Kolzak Award, which is presented to openly Lesbian or Gay individuals in the media for outstanding contribution in combating homophobia. Kolzak was a highly successful Los Angeles casting director who devoted the last part of his life to fighting AIDS-phobia and homophobia within the entertainment industry.

A couple for more than ten years, rock musician Etheridge and director/producer Cypher have been one of the entertainment industry's most visible Lesbian couples and parents, recently featured on ABC's *20/20*.

At the Washington, D.C. ceremony on May 8, GLAAD will honor author Armistead Maupin with the Capital Award. The award is given to an openly Lesbian or Gay individual who has achieved excellence in a specific area of media and furthered the visibility and inclusion of the community through his/her work. The openly Gay author is best known for his LGBT inclusive, best-selling *Tales of the City* series, which has been made into two mini-series by PBS and Showtime.

## TV Shows of Interest

Feb. 11-24, 1999

### Thursday, February 11

*Ellen* 5, 5:30pm. Lifetime  
*The Saint* (Val Kilmer) 6pm. HBO

### Friday, February 12

*Ellen* 5, 5:30pm. Lifetime  
*Tracy Takes On...* 11pm. HBO  
*How to Marry a Millionaire* 7pm. AMC  
*Homicide: Life on the Street* 9pm. NBC (Hunky Kyle Secor's character continues his "sexual exploration.")  
*Law and Order* 10pm. A&E (Benjamin Bratt is, well, so very attractive, I think.)  
*Law and Order* is also on Wednesdays on NBC at 9pm.

### Saturday, February 13

*Amistad* 7pm. HBO (I recommend this one highly.)  
*Top Gun* 7pm. TNT (For those of you who can't get enough of Tom Cruise.)  
*Restoration* 11pm. BRAV (Nothing Gay about this except, maybe, Robert Downey, Jr.)

### Sunday, February 14

*In and Out* 6:30pm. HBO

### Monday, February 15

*American Antiques* 7pm. Channel 10 (This time the show's in Milwaukee.)

### Tuesday, February 16

*Will & Grace* 9:30pm. NBC

### Wednesday, February 17

*Tracy Takes On...* 9pm. HBO  
*Law & Order* 9pm. NBC  
*Xena: Warrior Princess* 9pm. WWTW (This show also appears on CBS.)

### Thursday, February 18

*Veronica's Closet* 8:30pm. NBC (A recurring Gay character here.)

### Friday, February 19

*Homicide: Life of the Street* 9pm. NBC

### Saturday, February 20

*Seven Years in Tibet* 8pm. TMC (If you can't get enough of Brad Pitt.)

### Sunday, February 21

*Thelma & Louise* 4pm. WGN

### Monday, February 22

*The Devil's Advocate* 7pm. HBO (If you like Keanu Reeves.)

### Tuesday, February 23

*Will & Grace* 9:30pm. NBC

### Wednesday, February 24

*Law & Order* 9pm. NBC  
*Tracy Takes On...* 9pm.  
*The Diary of Anne Frank* 8:30pm. AMC (Not to be missed.)

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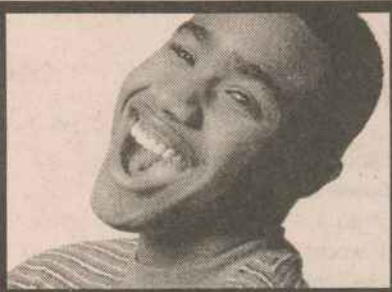
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# DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

## Yo Quiero Salma Hayek

Latin lovely Salma Hayek will be lending her considerable maracas, uh I mean talents, to a feature film about famed Mexican Bisexual painter Frida Kahlo. Hayek's own production company will produce the film about the hand-capped painter who, in addition to being the wife of famed Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, had a penchant for cross-dressing. Kahlo, unlike the waxing-crazed "Lesbians" featured on the Playboy Channel, liked to darken her moustache to play up her butch side.



## Lesbians Leaving Los Angeles

Hollywood Dykes Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche have sold their tony 5,000-square-foot love nest in LA's old-money enclave Hancock Park for a cool \$3.3 million. The Spanish-Moorish pad, originally built in the 1920s by the same architect that built Hollywood's legendary Chinese Theater, was completely renovated by the lovebirds with hers and hers closets and a shower built for girl-girl action.

The two have relocated to an "undisclosed location" heavily rumored to be the posh Santa Barbara suburb of Montecito. Meanwhile, an upscale interior designer is trying to unload some of the lovely ladies' furniture, which won't be making the move.

## Peep Holes Wide Open

The best kept secret in Hollywood these days isn't the whereabouts of Ellen and Anne, however, but rather the plot of Director Stanley Kubrick's super mysterious Tom Cruise/Nicole Kidman thriller, *Eyes Wide Shut*. The film, currently scheduled for release this summer, had one of the longest shoots in history, and has produced massive speculation.

Cruise, who played a Bisexual blood-sucker in *Interview with a Vampire*, may be up to his old tricks. According to *USA Today*, Cruise has some "come hither" scenes with *Cabaret* star Alan Cumming. Hmmm...

## Rosie's Monkey Business

America's favorite talk show host Rosie O'Donnell will be heard (but not seen) in this summer's Disney film *Tarzan*. O'Donnell took time off from her hectic schedule to voice the character of Terk, a short, sarcastic ape for the kiddie flick, which also includes songs composed by Phil Collins.

Tony Goldwyn will fill out the leading loincloth and boast long, wavy black hair. British babe Minnie Driver will play Jane, a relatively small role since the film focuses on Tarzan's childhood. Glenn Close will also be featured in the film, playing another monkey.



## Jodie Joins the Circus

Single mama and ubertalent Jodie Foster has committed to direct October Films' *Flora*.

The film, which was written by femme-friendly writer Steven Rogers (who penned last year's *Hope Floats*), is a love story set in the 1930s. It focuses on the tragic story of a circus freak who befriends (and falls in love with) a poor waif. Claire Danes is in preliminary talks to play the waif, but no deal has yet been sealed. Clearly October feels they are in good hands with Jodie, as the film has a budget in excess of \$20 million.

## Tranny Tunes

If you're itchin' for some tranny tunes, just cruise by a record store near you. Off-Broadway rock opera sensation *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* has a soundtrack out on Atlantic Records. *Hedwig*, the story of a Berlin drag queen come "internationally ignored rock star" living in a trailer park in Kansas has been optioned by New Line Cinema to make it to the big screen.

*Hedwig* creators John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask have created the biggest cross-dressing sensation since *Rocky Horror* with David Bowie, Glenn Close and Sandra Bernhard joining the packed audiences. New York critics are citing *Hedwig* as a vehicle for social change with tunes so rockin' they just may trickle down to high school theater departments across America.

## Sweatin' To Syndication

Just when television viewers were convinced that Richard Simmons infomercials were banished to the late night fringe, the exercise guru has got a syndicated television show that is buzzing with heat for next season. Simmons will host *Richard Simmons Dream Maker*, which is sort of a Make-A-Wish-Foundation for the average non-terminally ill American.

The show will focus on making the dreams of viewers come true. The episodes will deal with mundane fantasies (like Richard taking their place at work for a day) to the even less original "surprise meetings with their favorite celebrity." Just don't expect to rub this genie's lantern and wish to be magically rid of those pesky ten pounds, or you'll probably become a pitch for his Deal-A-Meal weight loss plan.

In other television news, Sara Gilbert (best known for her stint on *Roseanne*) has a go for her own pilot for CBS next fall. The sitcom, which will be executive produced by Brad Hall (who brought us the unfortunate Jonathan Silverman vehicle *The Single Guy* a few seasons back) is tentatively called *The Next Big Thing*. Gilbert will play a young writer who joins the staff of a *Saturday Night Live* type show. Hall, who got his start writing for the legendary show back when it was good, may actually be able to pull this one off.

## Take It Like a Manson

Marilyn Manson may have to take some time off from his Mechanical Animals tour to defend himself in court. The shock rocker is being sued for 24 million bucks by the newly canned editor of *Spin* magazine for an incident in November '98 where he was allegedly beaten by Marilyn and his bodyguards. Wonder what the Anti-Christ superstar will wear to court...

Romeo San Vicente, who likes Lesbians with facial hair, can be reached in care of this publication or at [RomeoDeep@aol.com](mailto:RomeoDeep@aol.com). For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit [www.Gay.net](http://www.Gay.net) or [www.popcomq.com](http://www.popcomq.com)

# Dear Ruthie



about your system?" At first I thought these letters were coming from some freak with an intestine fetish or an ex-husband hoping I was going through my changes, so he could ask for a reduction in alimony.

I later found out that by "system" people mean my computer system. Well, let me tell you, I'm no computer whiz. The closest I ever got to Bill Gates was sleeping with a janitor named Gill Bates while working as a counselor at the Sisters of Perpetual Guilt-School for Wayward Tramps.

I started using computers after winning one from Connie Stevens in a poker game. Connie was a lousy card player. She wouldn't let us smoke in her house, insisted we listen to her own albums, and had two dogs that sniffed your crotch when you walked in. Well... that part wasn't so bad.

The game was down to Connie and me. Barbie Benton, Dolores Hope, Lauren Tewes and the Gay neighbor guy from *The Jeffersons* had folded. I knew Connie was bluffing because her right eyelid flips inside out when she's nervous.

So, I'm looking at her, with her eyelid popped up like that, and she's got a glob of onion dip hanging outta the corner of her mouth. I told her, "Connie — can't you feel that? My God! You look like a mad toad with cataracts." Her other eye-

lid flipped up and scared the hell outta the dogs.

The bitch threw her remaining chips into the pot. I upped her, but now she had nothing to play with. She tried throwing in some crappy anti-aging cream, but I refused. "I've got a computer," she said. "How about that?" I agreed. She laid her cards out — a pair of tens.

I beat her with a royal flush. I told you she was a lousy card player.

So, I bring this big-ass computer home. For the next three years I used it to play strip Pong with my landlord, the pizza delivery guy, the Pong software repairman, and the Gay neighbor guy from *The Jeffersons*.

I continued to have my column typed by the secretarial class at the local prison. Don't give me any grief — it gave them something to do, my editor got a typed column, and I met men who would be eligible to play strip Pong in seven to ten years. It was a win-win situation.

I've got to tell you, the computer age of the '90s banged me on top of the head like Vinnie's old headboard used to. I wasn't ready for all this download, upload, floppy disk stuff. No way — not me. I had planned to keep things just as they were.

Then I got the news that would change my life. Fabio would be speaking to his fans using a new contraption called the Internet. I called my friend Geraldo Rivera to find out what this Internet was all about.

Then I called my other friend, Barbara Walters, to find out what the Internet really was. I knew Geraldo's explanation — the lining you place inside a hair net —

had to be wrong. The salesman at the computer store told me I should get rid of Connie's computer and just get a newer, faster one.

When I told him what I needed the computer for, he asked if I'd be interested in a laptop. "Well," I told him, "I've never done any professional dancing, but if you want to come over, we'll see what we can do." I told him if I gave him a laptop, I wouldn't expect a discount on whichever computer I went with.

The bastard didn't explain the difference between a laptop and a lap-dance until we woke up the next morning, but I didn't mind. I had a new computer, and he really knew how to make a pancake. I don't play strip Pong as often as I used to, but Pearl and I learned how to download pictures of Fabio and run credit checks on people like Carnie Wilson and Sheena Easton.

It's alright, but I still miss the steady hum of the machines from the prison typing pool.

*Hey Wisconsin! It's me, Ruthie! I just wanted to let you know that I'll be judging an underwear contest at South Water Street Docks on February 13, 1999. Yes — I said underwear contest! Don't miss it! Also — don't forget about The Pageant on February 14th. I'll be co-presenting a category and can't wait to meet all of you!*

Dear Ruthie,

What system do you use to write your column? I ask because I think someone's computer system tells a lot about their personality. I know you will think I am weird, but let me know what you use, and I will send you another letter explaining what I think that means about you.

Take Care,  
Computer-Loving Laura

Dear Laura,

Every now and then I get a letter from someone asking about my system — "How's your system?" and "Let me know

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



## BIFF 'N BUNKY by KEITH N ANDERSON



# Events CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY, FEB 10

**Gallery H20** (Milwaukee), *Bent Fire: Neon Works*. Neon sculptures and furniture through Feb. 14.  
**Sapphire Ballroom** (Madison), Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys 1133 N. Sherman Avenue, smoke free, \$3 suggested donation. Beginning Country Line Dance Lessons from 7-9, open dance 9pm to close.

## THURSDAY, FEB 11

**A Trinity of Dance** (Milwaukee), The Milwaukee Ballet collaborates for three works with the Trinity Irish Dancers. Opens tonight at 7:30pm in Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and runs through Sunday 2/14. Tickets range from \$15.50 to \$64.50, Marcus Center Box Office (414) 273-7206.  
**Floating Repertory Company** (Milwaukee), Presents *The Revengers* Tragedy with performances through Feb. 14 at Summerfield United Methodist Church, 728 E. Juneau. Thurs. and Sun. at 7:30; Fri. and Sat., 8pm. \$10 donation for a night of pageantry, poetry, poison and punishment.

## FRIDAY, FEB 12

**Alverno Presents** (Milwaukee), Ragamala Music and Dance Theater blend eastern and western cultures in their dance, music and poetry performance. Alverno College, Pitman Theatre, 39th and Morgan Avenue. Tickets are \$14-16, available at Box Office (414) 382-6044.  
**Boulevard Theatre Alley Series** (Milwaukee), Willy Russel's delightful comedy, *Shirley Valentine*. Through March 14. Tickets range from \$10-15 and showtimes vary according to night. FMI and reservations, call (414) 744-5757. 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.  
**Broom Street Theatre** (Madison), 1119 Williamson, tickets \$7 at the door, 8pm presentation of *Stiffy*. This and next weekend only.  
**SAGE** (Milwaukee), SAGE women meet at 6:30pm for an evening of card and board games. Small meeting room, LGBT Community Center.

**Symphony Orchestra (MSO)** (Milwaukee), Classical Conversations — Mozart and the Music of Love, tonight only, 7:30pm, Pabst Theatre. Tickets \$20-50, call (414) 291-7605 or (800)291-7605.

## SATURDAY, FEB 13

**1100 Club** (Milwaukee), Oberons Club Night, 2nd Sat. of the month.  
**Artist Series at the Pabst Theatre** (Milwaukee), Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra featuring Lew Tabackin, 8pm.  
**Gay Men's Singles Club** (Madison), Monthly parties for men seeking LTR. Potluck supper, 8pm, (608) 244-8675.

## SUNDAY, FEB 14

**Arts on the Avenue** (Milwaukee), Irish Cultural Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. Harp and Organ Concert Celtic/Irish music of Romance in support of the International Arts Festival. \$5 donation at the door, 2pm concert.  
**SAGE** (Milwaukee), Hearts and Flowers Potluck. Bring a dish to pass, SAGE provides the rest. Door prizes, 1-5pm, Large meeting room, LGBT Community Center.  
**The Pageant** (Milwaukee), (See article page 13)

## MONDAY, FEB 15

**Human Rights League** (Milwaukee), HRL Annual membership meeting celebrates a decade of accomplishments. Electing new board members and honoring past members. Refreshments provided. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., 7pm. FMI (414) 769-7002.  
**Positive Voice** (Fox Valley), Membership Meeting, 6:30pm. FMI (414) 920-435-4404.

## WEDNESDAY, FEB 17

**Boat Show** (Milwaukee), Through Feb. 21, Midwest Express Center.

**Kodo at the Pabst Theater** (Milwaukee), The Japanese percussion company makes the earth move for their 3rd Pabst show. 7:30pm, Pabst Theater. Tickets (414) 286-3663 or the Box Office.

**Lawrence University** (Appleton), Author Patricia Powell will read from her third and latest novel, *The Pagoda*, at Lawrence's Wriston Art Center Auditorium, 6:30pm, followed by a reception and book signing. Free and open to the public.

**Sapphire Ballroom** (Madison), Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys 1133 N. Sherman Avenue, smoke free, \$3 suggested donation. Two step lessons 7 to 9, open dancing follows.

## THURSDAY, FEB 18

**Symphony Orchestra (MSO)** (Milwaukee), Haydn & Brahms, conducted by Andreas Delfs, 7:30pm tonight, through Sat., Feb. 20. Uihlein Hall; Tickets \$20-50, call (414) 291-7605 or (800)291-7605.

## FRIDAY, FEB 19

**Cafe El Sol** (Milwaukee), Latino Arts, Inc. hosts Latin American folk artists in the United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th St.; presentation of Iberian Music & Dance by Suspiro Flamenco.  
**Gallery H20** (Milwaukee), *Dreaming Big: The Legendary BJ Daniels*, photographic and film retrospective from the eyes of several photographers and a film maker. See separate article this issue. Tonight is opening night reception from 7-11pm and features films, glamour refreshments. \$10 suggested donation, benefits the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Through March 28. 221 N. Water Street (414) 281-8032.  
**SAGE** (Milwaukee), Film showing of *As Good As It Gets*, 7pm, small meeting room, LGBT Community Center.  
**Sapphire Ballroom** (Madison), Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys 1133 N. Sherman Avenue, smoke free, \$3 suggested donation. 8-9 line dance lessons, open dance follows. Cash bar.

## MONDAY, FEB 22

**Marcus Center for the Performing Arts** (Milwaukee), presents the internationally-acclaimed Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. 7:30pm, Uihlein Hall. Tickets \$21-35 at the box office (414) 273-7206 or toll free at (888) 612-3500.

**Schwartz Books** (Shorewood), Live debate on WJWM 89.7 FM between Dr. Terry Boughner and Rep. Frank Urban (R). Should Same Sex Marriage Be Legal?.

## WEDNESDAY, FEB 24

**Sapphire Ballroom** (Madison), Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys 1133 N. Sherman Avenue, smoke free, \$3 suggested donation. Advanced country line dancing lessons 7-9, open dancing follows.

## FRIDAY, FEB 26

**Cafe El Sol** (Milwaukee), Latino Arts, Inc. hosts Latin American folk artists in the United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th St.; presentation of Gitano Flamenco by Piramide.  
**SAGE** (Milwaukee), Men's discussion group continues discussing the documentary *The Question of Equality*, small meeting room, LGBT Community Center.

## SATURDAY, FEB 27

**Wisconsin Ballet LTD.** (Milwaukee), Stories from Afar: Firebird, Danse Tziganes and Dreams of Death. 8pm, Cooley Auditorium, MATC, 1015 N. 6th St. \$15 students, \$18 general admission, FMI, tickets call (414) 964-6700. Also tomorrow at 2pm.

## 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.


## EVERY SATURDAY,

**GAMMA** (Milwaukee), Social Volleyball, every Saturday from 1-3pm at UWM Engleman Gym, 2033 E. Hartford. \$2 for GAMMA members, \$3 for non-members. FMI John (414) 540-1202.

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# WI Light

with a Cover Date of  
February 24, 1999

Calendar Information  
Wednesday, February 17  
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Thursday, February 18  
Camera Ready Ads Due  
Friday, February 19

This issue covers:  
Feb 24-Mar 10, 1999

**SPECIAL TRAVEL SECTION**  
Palm Springs, CA

## 700- Speak Your Mind

### PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT

for a research study focusing on institutional climate for gay/lesbian/bisexual/ transgender people in Wisconsin's Adult Technical College system. The purpose of this research is an assessment of institutional climate; all data will be kept confidential and will be reported anonymously. To participate, write

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### Looking for Support

I am 50, GWM. I have just come out to my family who lives in Viroqua, WI (LaCrosse area). I will be visiting them soon.

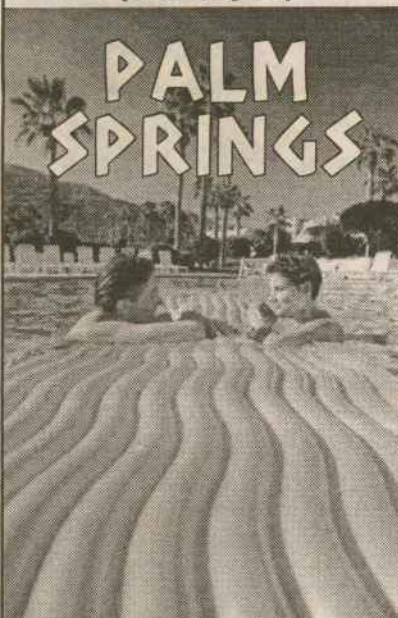
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Appearing in the next issue  
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# NIGHTS OUT

## News...Well

there ain't much news to report right now. Of course some people THINK they have some news. Like those who are going around saying that someone overdosed and died in the bathroom of a Milwaukee bar. I won't name the bar because the rumor will just get worse.

I checked this story out thoroughly.

**Recaps...** I thoroughly enjoyed myself while on the **Club 5** bar crawl in Milwaukee last month. As you can see by the pictures surrounding my column, so did the **Club 5** staff.

I stopped in at the **Eagle** for some Saturday evening fun. I was really

impressed with the folks there. I was also impressed with the techno style music on the

**In Between** were by no means alone. There was a crowd having a good time watching the game at **The Ball Game** - like when don't people have fun watching football at that bar? **Dish** had some friendly folks sitting on those comfy couches and chairs rooting for Atlanta. They had a buffet there, too, but it wasn't out yet when I was there. Damn!

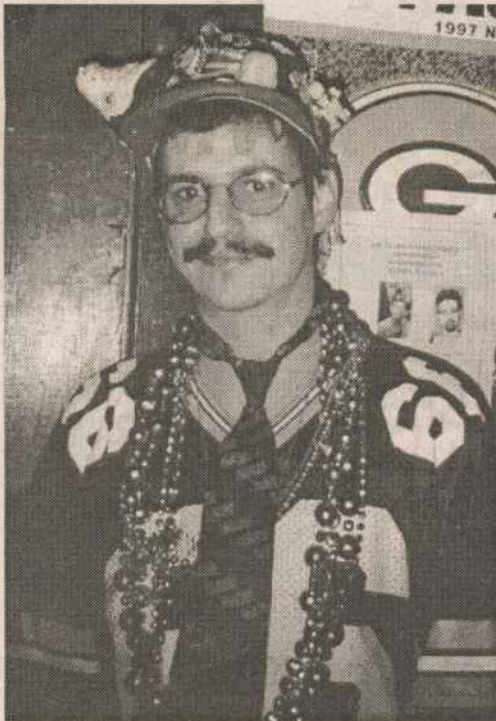
The **Boot Camp** had a large crowd and a nice buffet for the leather types. Over at **South Water Street Docks**, they were serving up chili and subs to the fans. There were some real hotties enjoying the action over at the **Triangle**. **Fannies** had a playful, festive crowd. The game was over before I could get to **Woody's**, but my spies tell me they also had a great party.

## Dusty AFTER DARK

Take it from me, NO ONE has overdosed in ANY bar in Milwaukee.

In my opinion, someone just made this up for reasons known only to him or her. So if you hear this lie being spread, ask the person(s) telling it if they realize that their mouths can kill a business and cost jobs, just so they can have the privilege of spreading worthless gossip.

One piece of good news is the word that Kimberly Anne, the Queen of the DJ booth at **219**, wants to be Queen of the Possum pageant too. Yes, Kim has thrown her hat into the ring. I am sure she will be a formidable contender. You go girl!



In Between owner Curt Peck

dance floor. Later that evening I stopped in **Fluid**. Remind me to suggest that they have a calendar of **Fluid** boys next year. They can start with the guys who were there that night.

The next day it was time for the Super Bowl parties. The crowd at **In**

**Between** packed the place. The party there featured a large buffet and free shots whenever Atlanta scored. Like the other bars I visited, the vast majority here was rooting for Atlanta to win. Owner Curt Peck was all decked out in his Packer gear.

After the game was over, Curt declared an open bar to thank the many fans who have been coming to **In Between** since the exhibition season to watch the Pack and the playoffs. It was a very nice gesture.

The folks partying at



Sasha Mitchell heading to Green Bay to compete in the Miss Great Lakes US of A pageant

Later that night, I attended the Sasha Mitchell benefit show at **La Cage**. After a five-year leave of absence, Ms. Mitchell is returning to the pageant scene. The benefit was held to help get her up to Green Bay so she could compete in the Miss Great Lakes US of A pageant, which she won! You Go Girl!

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



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PAGEANT  
TABATHA  
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IS BEHIND  
YOU ALL THE  
WAY!**



# Going Out

## FRIDAY, FEB 12

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

## SATURDAY, FEB 13

**Ballgame** (Milwaukee), Valentine's Day celebration, 4-8pm. Food, fun, door prizes. Hugs and kisses for everyone.

**BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing** (Milwaukee), Free anonymous HIV Testing, at Galano Club, from 6-8pm.

**Club 219** (Milwaukee), 6pm. Kimberly Anne's Possum Queen Kick-off. Hosted by Nova Devine.

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

**Fannie's** (Milwaukee), Bridgette's 40th Birthday Party plus Fannie's regular Valentine's Day party. Champagne and Drink Specials.

**Have a Heart** (Fox Valley), 8th Annual fundraiser at Libery Hall, Kimberly. FMI/Tickets 1-800-675-9400.

**Valentine's Dance** (Milwaukee), Womyn only event in the Harbor Lights Room, Transit Center. 8pm. Professional DJ. Beer, wine, mixed drinks and non-alcoholic drinks. Singles! Couples! \$8 at the door.

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

## SUNDAY, FEB 14

**The Pageant** (Milwaukee), at the downtown Hilton. Cocktails 5pm, dinner at 6:30pm. Show 8:05pm. \$25 general admission; \$50 dinner and show. Call (414) 344-2460 for tickets.

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

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

**Nirvana** (Milwaukee), 1310 East Brady Street. Valentine's Day with Baroque music, 10am-Noon. Candlelight & muffins.

**Woody's** (Milwaukee), Valentine's Day Massacre, 6pm-Midnight. \$5 Beer Bust and \$2 Bloody Mary's. For those of us who really hate this holiday.

## TUESDAY, FEB 16

**Club 5** (Madison), Mardi Gras party! \$50 cash for best costume, \$50 bar tab for person with the most beads.

**Woody's** (Milwaukee), Mardi Gras party, 6pm? Come down and party. Special prices, food and fun.

**Za's** (Green Bay), Annual employee party! Celebrate Mardi Gras in style. \$7 Super Bust, free food and beads, beads, beads!

## FRIDAY, FEB 19

**BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing** (Milwaukee), Off Site at the Annex Cafe, 1106 S. 1st St.

## SATURDAY, FEB 20

**Club Xpress** (Escanaba), 5th Anniversary Party!

**Mr. WI Leather Man Contest** (Milwaukee), 9pm at the Milwaukee Eagle. Contestants will compete for cash and prizes and represent WI at Int'l Mr. Leather in Chicago over Memorial Day Weekend. FMI Larry or Joe (414) 931-9760.

**Napalese** (Green Bay), Special show w/TC Hammond performing.

## SUNDAY, FEB 21

**BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing** (Milwaukee), Off Site at Ces't La Vie, 7-10pm.

**Club 5** (Madison), 1999 Miss Gay Madison America Pageant, 9:30pm. \$4 door entrance. \$5 table charge (800-715-5877 or contact Club 5).

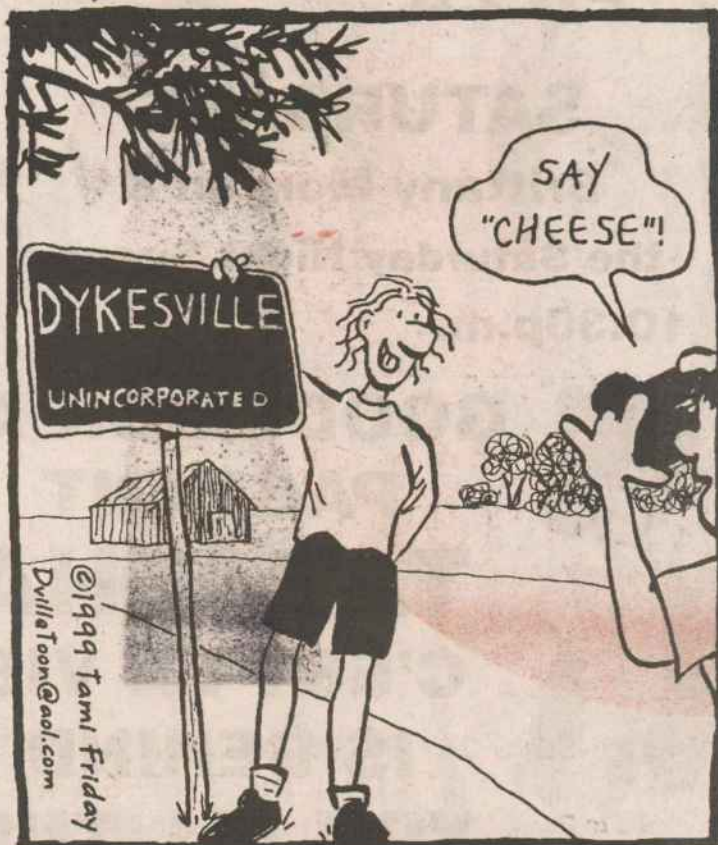
# WI Light GOING OUT GUIDE

APPLETON (920)			
Rascal's Bar & Grill	MW, F	702 E. Wisconsin, 54991	954-9262
BELOIT (608)			
Kloset	MW, DJ	232 Shirland Ave, 53511	363-8764
CENTRAL WISCONSIN (715)			
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington, Wausau, 54401	842-3225
Platwood Club	G/S, MW, DJ	1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point, 54481	341-8862
EAU CLAIRE (715)			
Scooters	Wm	411 Galloway St., 54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	MW, G/S	302 E. Madison, 54703	832-9237
GREEN BAY (920)			
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main St., 54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main St, 54304	437-9256
Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway, 54303	432-9646
Sass	WM, S	840 S. Broadway, 54304	437-7277
Za's/Java'	MW, DJ, E, F, V	1106 Main St., 54301	435-5476
RESTAURANTS			
Cafe Bourbon		1106 Main St., Upper, 54301	435-5476
LA CROSSE (608)			
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N. 5th St., 54601	782-9061
Players	G/S, MW	218 Main St., 54601	782-9279
MADISON (608)			
CE's	W,m	2415 Winnebago St. 53704	241-5042
Club 5	MW, F	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, S, E	121 W. Main St., 53703	251-5838
Mens Room	M, L/L	3054 E. Washington, 53704	241-9335
<i>(Open Fri &amp; Sat, 9pm-Close)</i>			
Planet Q	MW, V, DJ, E	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
Ray's Bar & Grill	WM, DJ, F	3054 E. Washington, 53704	241-9335
Shamrock	MW, F	117 W. Main St., 53703	255-5029
The Barracks	M, L/L	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-8700
RESTAURANTS			
Club 5	Fine Dining	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
Fyfe's Corner Bistro	Fine Dining	1344 E. Washington	251-8700
MILWAUKEE (414)			
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
Ball Game	M, S	196 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-7474
Barbie Dolls Playhouse	MW, S	700 E. Meinecke, 53212	374-7441
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National Ave., 53204	643-6900
C'est La Vie	M, D, E	231 S. 2nd St., 53204	291-9600
Club 219	Mw, DJ, E, V	219 S. 2nd St., 53204	271-3732
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-DISH
Emerald City	D, DJ, E, V, G/S	1101 N. Old World 3rd 53202	226-2489
Emeralds Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley St., 53212	265-7325
Fannies	Wm, DJ, E	200 E. Washington St., 53204	649-9003
Fluid	MW	819 S. 2nd St., 53204	645-8330
In Between	Mw, S	625 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-2693
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm, S	1500 W. Scott St., 53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw, DJ, E, V	801 S. 2nd St., 53204	383-8330
M&M Club	MW, E, F	124 N. Water St., 53202	347-1962
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L, DJ, D	300 W. Juneau, 53203	273-6900
Shaft Bar	M, L/L	300 West Juneau	273-6900
<i>(Open Fri &amp; Sat, 10pm-Close, Dress Code)</i>			
South Water St. Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National Ave., 53204	225-9676
Station 2	Wm, S	1534 W. Grant, 53204	383-5755
This Is It	Mw	418 E. Wells St., 53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National Ave., 53204	383-9412
Woody's	M	1579 S. 2nd St., 53204	672-0806
<i>(Open 4pm-Close, 7 days a week)</i>			
RESTAURANTS			
Annex Cafe	Late Nite	1106 S. 1st St., 53204	384-7999
Glass Menagerie	Fine Dining	124 N. Water St., 53202	347-1962
RACINE/KENOSHA (414)			
Club 94	MW, DJ, E	9001 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140	857-9958
Clubhouse Filling Station	MW, F, DJ, E	6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140	857-3744
Capers/Illusions	MW, DJ, E	6305 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140	857-3813
JoDee's	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St., Racine, 53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St., Racine, 53403	632-0171
SHEBOYGAN (920)			
Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St., 53081	457-1636
SUPERIOR (715)			
Bev's Jook Joint	Wm	820 Tower Ave., 55880	392-5373
JT's Bar & Grill	MW, DJ	1506 N. 3rd St, 55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave., 55880	392-1756

PLEASE SUBMIT GUIDE CHANGES IN WRITING OR BY FAX (414) 226-0096.

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

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**Light**

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*Valentine's  
Messages  
1999*

**To Drupi:**

Happy Valentine's Day. I love you more than anything in this world (including my mother). Here's to many more years together.  
Love, Brian

**Crystal:**

Our love is enduring,  
Eternal & right  
All I want is you  
beside me,  
To hold me tight.  
- Janice

**To My Baby Kitten Stud Muffin:**

Trust there is rhyme and reason for our feeling. Dare to be my Valentine, touch your wildness to mine, then feel the rainshine. Yummy.

**Tara -**

You are my love  
and my life,  
my heart and  
my soul - Forever.  
I love you!  
Happy Valentine's Day  
Forever yours, Sarah

**Chess K. -**

Our first Valentine's Day. I love you more today than when we first met. I hope we are together forever.  
Love Always, Jeff

**Words of Advice:** Express your love this Valentine's Day. Don't let another day go by without expressing your love to the important people in your life.

*My Dearest Katherine  
Happy Valentine's Day and  
Happy 25th Anniversary  
Love, Susan*



*Roses are Red  
Violets are Blue  
I'm more in love now  
Than the day I met you!*



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&  
Kisses  
for Everyone*



**WI Light**

February 10-23, 1999

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# The VIDEO BOOTH



## New Releases

**Pounderosa**  
by Hollywood Sales  
Reviewed by Sam Edwards

The one thing that is almost entirely missing in porn videos is humor. Everyone in porn (actors, writers, and directors) is sooooo serious. Sex should be fun, not hard work — at least sometimes. This lack of humor is really surprising considering the Gay tradition of camp; we actually invented it. When I rented *Pounderosa* because of the campy title and the box cover photo of two muscular men sitting on saddles, wearing only cowboy hats, I was hoping for some campy humor.

The Glory Hole in the Wall Gang - Casey James, Willie the Kid, Butch Crotchety and The Sun Dance Film Festival Kid — are out to force the Hardright family — Ben Hardright and his sons Horse and Little Joe — to abandon their horse ranch so that they can “run away with it.” Each of the

usual typical four scenes features one of the Hardrights and one of the bad guys.

After an attempt at a campy line, the bad guy does good guy, the good guy reciprocates and then the bad guy bottoms for the good guy. Example: Little Joe complains that he is tired of being teased about being little when he is not so little. “Show me,” says the

bad guy, and the action begins.

When Sodom is sent to seduce the Hardright's Chinese cook, he finds a man with a pigtail who is clearly not oriental. “What's your specialty?” “Chinese noodle. Want to try one?” replies the cook. Action.

These are pretty feeble attempts at humor, and the sex is very run-of-the-mill. The location is a rented film production site with a western street. The set was located near a small airport no doubt, for the sound of overhead small planes at crucial moments is annoying. Film editor, where are you when we need you? However, the noise didn't seem to bother the actors. They continued to slog away, never missing a stroke.

In the last scene Ben Hardright accepts the shootout challenge of Casey James. Since James has issued the challenge, Hardright has the choice of weapons. He chooses “drawn cocks at twenty paces.” The twenty paces are in reverse. They start twenty paces apart and as the bartender counts they get

closer together. Well, this isn't really a cowboy film, so I forgave a lot.

However, I had trouble forgiving the awful bleach job on Casey's hair. After this disaster, I'm afraid to rent *Camp Pokahiney*.

## Classic Videos Falcon Video Pac 1 - The Other Side of Aspen Falcon Productions Reviewed by Andy James

This was the first of now famous Falcon Video Pack series. It is likely that this production, which was shot entirely on film, helped to make Falcon the mega force it became in the Gay porn industry.

All of the right ingredients are contained in this flick. It has a hot cast, hot sex, great scenery — okay, so you don't rent a film like this for the scenery — and just enough plot to keep the story line from getting in the way of what you DID rent the video for.

*The Other Side* features some of the best porn stars ever to grace a set. In fact, stars of '90s porn could learn a few things from this cast, especially if they watch Casey Donovan's performance. Donovan really is a butch bottom. Dick Fisk — who would later die in a car accident — is fabulous. So, too, is Jeff Turk, a handsome blonde with all-American, boy next door looks. Then there is superstar and top supreme Al Parker.

The story, such as it is, revolves around Turk, who makes his screen

debut in this film. He plays a Ski instructor who reminisces about what goes on in Aspen when the slopes get tiring.

Viewers will be glad that Turk has such a vivid and detailed memory. His recollections include some of the hottest three ways, four ways and five ways ever put on a tape and sealed in a box.

*The Other Side of Aspen* is one of the all time best Gay porn sellers because it has a lot going for it. Chief among its valued attributes are the men it contains. Unlike many of the actors of current day, these guys — even the bottoms — are ALL men. Also unlike the brutes you sometimes see playing butch roles in current porn, they have attractive faces and good bodies.

*The Other Side of Aspen* inspired its own series. Ten years after the original was made, *The Other Side Aspen - 2* made its way to the video stores. An older but still attractive Turk is in that one, too. There are now five parts to the collection.

The original film was made in 1975. Obviously, it doesn't match the quality of today's production values. This is especially true of the sound dubbing. But who cares about sound when the sex scenes are this hot?

The bottom line is that while some of the production values may not equal what is available in more recent videos, 24 years after *The Other Side of Aspen* was made, the sex scenes it contains remain almost unsurpassed in their intensity. And isn't that why you rent a Gay porn video to begin with?

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Color photos are preferred, and will be returned upon request.

Photographers must supply model releases when submitting stock photos.

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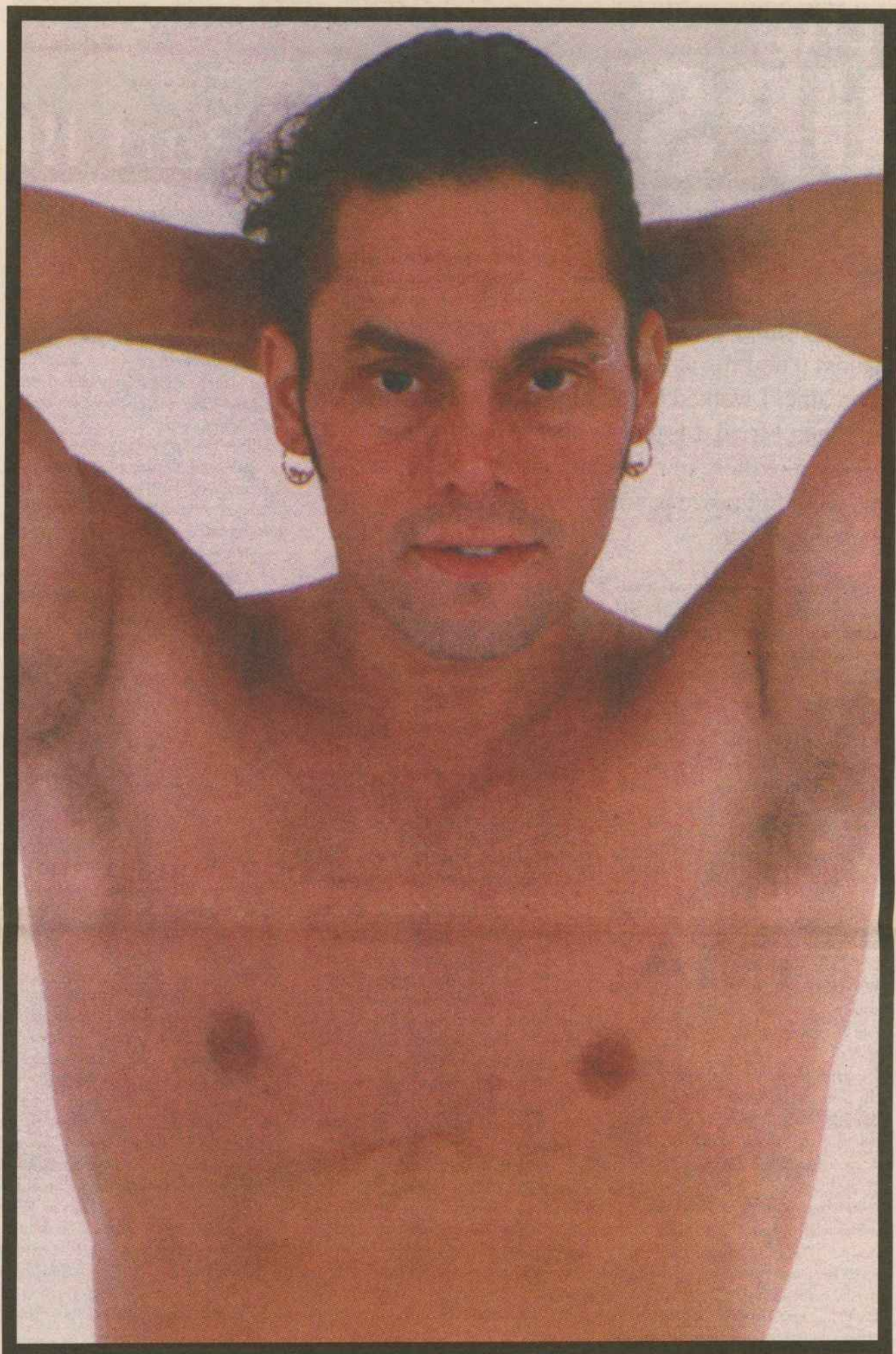
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## BIO FOR THIS WI LIGHT PIN-UP:

# JULIO

5'10" • 160 lbs.

FAVORITE QUOTE - "Too much of a good thing is wonderful."

# The UPS Man Part III

by Terry Boughner

**L**ike the others he had tied to me, that line around my neck wasn't all that tight, only snug. Yet I could feel my veins pulse against it and it was becoming somewhat difficult to breathe. I wanted to tell him to loosen it a little, but when I tried, I found I couldn't say a thing. The words were there in my head, but my tongue and lips wouldn't move to form them. I couldn't even open my mouth!

By this time, he'd repositioned himself so that he was kneeling at my side. He laid two strings across my mounded pecs and had begun to play with my right nipple, rolling it gently, but firmly between the thumb and index finger of his left hand.

My tits are about the size of quarters and have always been super sensitive. Even cloth rubbing too much against them can make them erect. This time was no different, except that the nipple he was teasing got stiffer and bigger than ever before.

I was so hot, so goddamned hot that I thought my body was going to blow apart leaving only tattered remnants of my shattered flesh scattered over the wet grass. I tried to groan. As before, my mouth wouldn't move. No sound came out. It was becoming harder to breathe all the time.

Johnny turned his head to look at me. His eyes were glowing yellow-green, while his balls seemed to pulse with a reddish light. "Don't try to talk, Glenn," he said. "You can't anymore. Just relax. Things'll go easier for you."

"Things! What things?! What th' hell did he mean by that! Christ almighty, who was he? What had I gotten myself into?"

He bent his head down and sucked the tit he'd been playing with into his mouth. Balancing himself with one hand on my left pec, he began to chew on my nipple, biting down hard on its tender flesh.

I wanted to cry out, beg him to stop and tell him how hard it was for me to breathe, but I could not. Neither could I squirm. It was as if my whole body, every muscle of my handsome, molded physique had been turned into stone. Even my cock, though it remained fully erect, did not jump around anymore, not by so much as a fraction of an inch.

Scared? By this time, I was scared shitless, a bone-chilling fear the like of which I had never felt before. By some means I did not understand, I was completely paralyzed. I was helpless, totally, utterly helpless and I was so frightened that I wanted to cry, but I knew, somehow, that tears would not come.

Johnny raised his head and tied a string around the nipple. Finished, he went around to my other side and went

through the same process with my other tit. When he had done, he began to run his hands over my body, smoothing down my rippled belly and over the top of my left thigh before starting to play with my aching nuts.

That was the thing. I could feel his touch. If anything, my skin seemed to be more sensitive than ever before, but I couldn't move. I couldn't goddamn move! Try as I would—and God knows, I tried—not a muscle would obey my mind.

What have you done to me, Johnny? What? Why am I like this? Please, please let me go. But he was not finished with me yet.

He went, knelt and gripping my ankles, pushed my legs back so that I was doubled over with my knees pressed against my chest. The insertion was terribly painful, but eased as he established his rhythm, in and out, in and out, fucking me steadily for at least 20 minutes, if not more. At the same time, his eyes continued to glow while his huge balls felt like branding irons heated white hot and smoking everytime they slapped against my ass.

I wanted to cum, I wanted to cum so much, but though my cock felt as hot as a pistol, my cream wouldn't spurt out. But Johnny came, exploding inside my gut, sending what felt like stream after powerful stream into me, filling me up, so that I wouldn't have been surprised if his juice had dribbled out of my mouth.

Still, he was not done with me.

As I lay there helplessly, he took out denims, a tank top and a leather belt from the gym bag and put them on. A pair of running shoes completed his attire. They were all my clothes, stuff he'd taken from my dresser, I guessed, while he'd been changing. When he was done, he stood over me, looking down.

My God, what's he gonna do? Kill me? Please, no! Please, please! I don't wanna die! But, as I found out, he had no intention of taking my life.

He got down on his haunches. "Glenn, I'm sorry, but I told you there was a dark side to me." He paused as if to gather his thoughts, while using an index finger to trace circles on my left pec. His touch burned me like fire, yet felt so good.

"I've always had this power over men," he continued. "I would see a man

who I wanted to have sex with and all I had to do was look at him and he was mine. It was as easy as that." He said, with a snap of his fingers.

From the pocket of his tank top, he took out a cigarette and a lighter. He lit it and sat down with his legs bent against his chest, to smoke and let his eyes roam over my freshly fucked, helpless body. My skin glistened with moisture from the mist.

"But I discovered more to that power," he said, letting the smoke from his cigarette trail out of his slightly flared nostrils. "I found out that just by concentrating, I could make any man I wanted a puppet. Not figuratively, but very literally, complete with strings, make him dance to my tune, as it were." He stopped to smoke his cigarette.

My eyes were wide with disbelief, unable or unwilling to treat seriously what he was telling me. But I had to treat it seriously, didn't I? He had me, didn't he? He had me on strings, fuckin' strings! He had me on strings! Oh God, it was getting so hard to breathe!

Johnny continued. "Since I'm dominant by nature, completely a top, I liked the power, enjoyed using it. But not on every man, only on a few, ones like you, who I really liked. The men I used it on? Well, like you, they were frightened at first, but I think they've gotten used to it. C'mon, I'll show you." He started to get up, but stopped. "Oh, incidentally, I know it's hard for you to breathe, but don't worry about it. The discomfort I can see in your eyes will pass because you won't be breathing anymore, but you won't die. I can guarantee that. You just won't need oxygen anymore."

He stood and looked down at me. As his eyes blazed, I could feel tingles beginning to radiate out all over me, shivering tingles as if the air had suddenly turned cold. The tingles increased in power and as they did, I saw to my horror, that I was beginning to shrink.

I wanted to cry out, I wanted to scream in terror, but no sound would come. Finally, the tingles stopped, but by then I was only about two feet tall. The

strings Johnny had tied to me hadn't shrunk at all. He used the ones fastened around my wrists to pick me up and suspend me from his belt. In that way, he took me back to the house.

All that's been over a year now. Johnny lives in what was once my house and keeps the place up. As for

me, I'm still only about two feet tall, and my flesh has turned to what looks like painted wood. It certainly gleams like wood when Johnny polishes me, except, as always, I can feel every touch.

Johnny was right about that. I'm not dead. Though I don't breathe anymore and I can't eat or drink, somehow, I am still very much alive. He keeps me in what was once my bedroom, hanging by my strings from a peg driven into the wall. There are a lot more strings on me now, and all of them attached to an X-shaped frame over my head, just like any marionette, which is what I am.

I am not alone like that. There are six other puppets like me, all young men, all handsome and well built, all naked as am I. There are three on either side of me. I wonder about them, who they are—or were—what kind of lives they led, what dreams they had, but I will never know. We cannot talk to each other, but I think I see in their eyes that they have more or less accepted their fates. I think I have as well.

Often, Johnny will take all of us to the barn. He's set up a puppet stage there and he puts on shows for himself alone. Using our strings, he makes us dance around and have sex with each other, real sex. I don't know how he does it, but when one of the others is made to stick his cock in my mouth or up my ass, it feels like flesh and we can cum, over and over and over again, as many times as Johnny wishes.

As to his own sexual appetite, it is immense. He satisfies it by taking one of us and holding whichever one it is clasped tightly about the waist, he pumps his dick until he spurts his juice all over the body. That happens 10, maybe 12 times every day.

He talks to us, too. Just yesterday, as a matter of fact, he told us he was expecting a visitor. This morning he closed and locked the bedroom door. I heard a car pull up and stop. Through the window, I saw a young man get out and saw Johnny, clad only in denim cut-offs, go out to greet him. The young man is dark complected, like an Arab would be, and very good looking. I could see that even at a distance.

Shortly, I hear them come into the house. They are not there long. When I see them again through the window, they are going off toward the lake. Johnny has the gym bag in his hand. I have noticed that he has driven an eighth peg into the bedroom wall.

