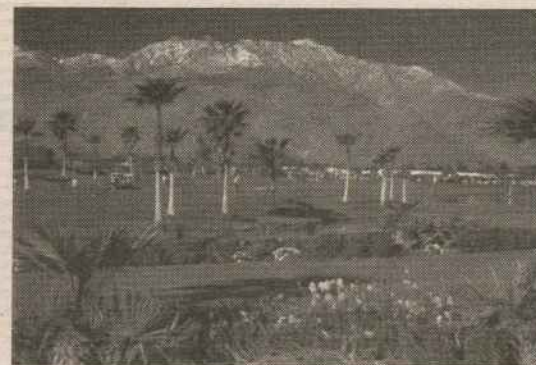


WI Light

The Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

February 24-
March 9, 1999



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Giving the Gay Way

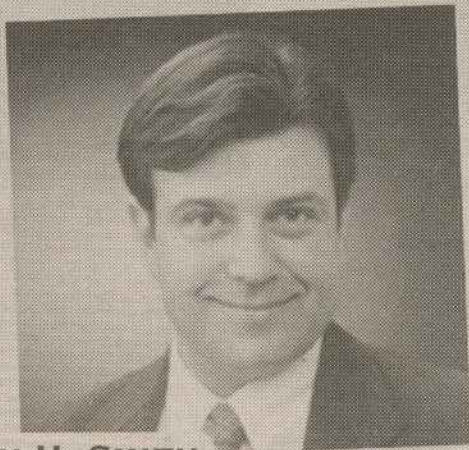


by Bill Meunier and Greg Quindel

Imagine an LGBT Wisconsin without pride celebrations, the Milwaukee Classic, OutReach, youth groups, community centers, Coming Out Day, sports organizations and dozens of other projects and organizations that enrich our lives.

A Gay Wisconsin like that would not be a very good place to live. It would be like a South Dakota with better scenery and more LGBT bars. That's what Wisconsin would be like if it weren't for the efforts of four charities that have supported many organizations and programs in our community. In fact, it is difficult to think of a major event, project or group that has NOT received help from at least one of them.

Outstanding...



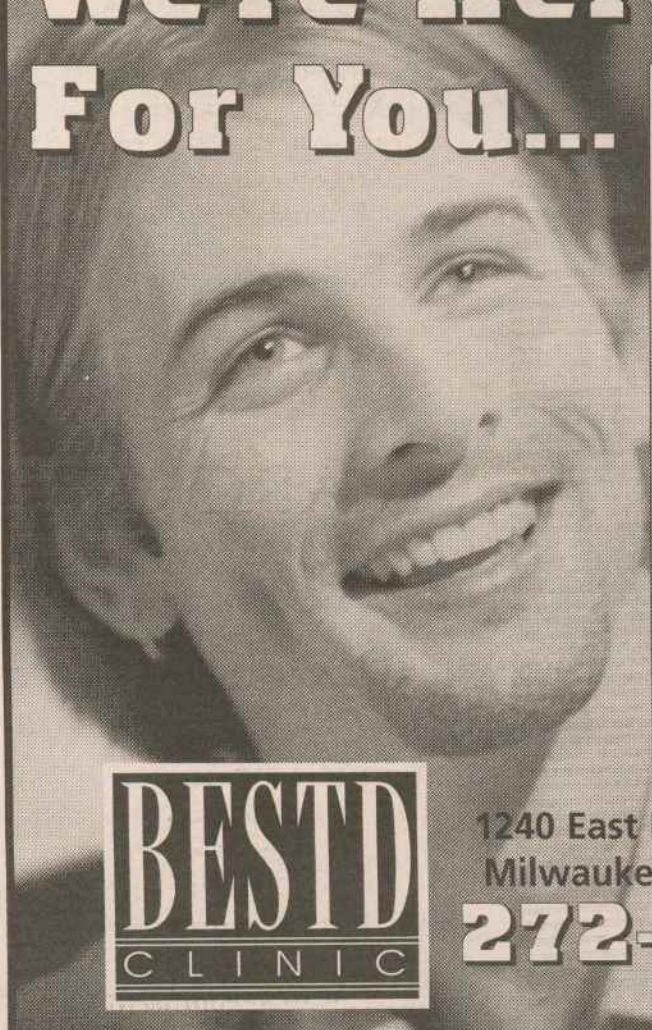
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February 24-March 9, 1998

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These charities are: Northeast Wisconsin's Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation, Madison's New Harvest Foundation and Wisconsin Community Fund, a broad-based statewide charitable foundation that regularly funds LGBT projects.

Together they've contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to make LGBT life in Wisconsin a richer, more varied, and more fulfilling experience.

Over the last month, *Wisconsin Light* has talked to representatives of all these groups. In this issue we will look at all of them in general and provide detailed information about two, Wisconsin Community Fund and Rainbow Over Wisconsin. In our next issue we will take a detailed look at Cream City Foundation and New Harvest Foundation.

"By and large people want to give their money so it makes a difference. We make sure it does"

**— Mary Messerlie
Cream City Foundation**

Our examination of these organizations has found them all to be worthwhile groups. Often, quite often, they have made the difference between whether or not good ideas become reality or are relegated to "wish lists."

We have found that while they have much in common, they also have somewhat different approaches to building a sense of community in LGBT Wisconsin. We have also seen that all of them have great potential that is only beginning to be tapped.

Work Place Giving

One of the ways these charities hope to tap into that potential is through workplace giving campaigns. Workplace giving is easy, say its proponents. Most people just give to their local United Way, but growing numbers of Gays and Lesbians are asking for donor option cards and directing their giving to an LGBT charity. That \$5 donation per check can add up when it is combined with the money contributed by hundreds, or even thousands, of others.

Both Cream City Foundation and Wisconsin Community Fund (WCF) are members of Milwaukee's A Choice, an alternative United Way operating throughout the Milwaukee area. While many private firms offer this progressive alternative to the United Fund, it is City, County and State employees who have been the most active.

Madison's New Harvest Foundation and WCF receive funding from a similar structure in the Madison area known as Community Shares. Specific targeted donations are directed to organizations after a small administrative fee is assessed. Both A-Choice and Community Shares do require member organizations to provide staffing to qualify for shares of non-designated donations to the campaigns.

While all of the groups do have some significant contributors, these really are "people's foundations" with smaller donors mak-

ing up the bulk of the contributions. For example, the Cream City Foundation (CCF) averages \$125 per donor, but work place giving averages \$225.00. That means a lot of people are making a big difference with small contributions.

Most contributors simply send in their money to a general fund but, except for Rainbow Over Wisconsin, all of these groups offer contributors the option of giving their money to general grant funds or earmarking it for a specific need or even a specific group.

The Grant Process

The advantages of supporting an LGBT charity are many. "We do all the work," says Mary Messerlie, Chairwoman of the Cream City Foundation. "We make sure it's a viable event, a viable organization. The donor doesn't

have to sort through that. By and large people want to give, but they want to give their money so it makes a difference. We make certain that it does."

These organizations have rigorous grant processes that start with a detailed application. The applications ask for information on how the project will benefit the community, how it will be carried out, and how much funding they are seeking.

Applications are then reviewed by a grants committee, which makes recommendations to the organization's Board of Directors. The Board makes the final decision.

The process does not end there. Even after a grant is approved, the expenditure of the funds is monitored. Those who receive the money are required to report back to the group on what they have done. Those with good results may get more money if it is needed. Those that didn't deliver what was expected will find it difficult to get renewed funding.

To Staff or Not to Staff?

LGBT charities play a key role in their communities. Yet outside of those who belong to organizations that have received grants, members of those communities seldom recognize them or their work.

The lack of recognition does cause problems. People are not likely to give money to, or volunteer for, an unrecognized group. Many volunteers in these organizations will readily admit that they don't do enough to publicize their work. While that admission comes easily enough, the answers to how that situation is rectified do not.

Part of the problem faced by these organizations is their very nature. With the exception of the Wisconsin Community Fund, they are all 100% volunteer based. Many of their board members are community leaders outside of the group. Some are business owners. Sending out press releases, putting up posters, making general mailings and the other details of good public relations seems like a luxury when you barely have time to attend the next Board meeting.

Some observers say that these groups

need staff. There is no denying that having a staff does offer some advantages. Even one staff person can dramatically increase revenues by generating publicity, organizing fundraising events, keeping lists updated, and completing other tasks for volunteer starved organizations.

Sources within the Cream City Foundation say that the organization is planning to hire an Executive Director. "We need to raise our capacity level," says Messerlie. "We can't do that with all volunteers." Messerlie adds that CCF will solicit a major donor to fund a staff position.

Initially, organizations may experience higher administrative costs, but successful non-profit professionals generate at least three times their annual income within the first few years. That kind of growth is seldom realized through an all-volunteer effort.

The Next Level

As the needs of the community change, increasing and changing its organizational capacities is also necessary. There is a growing awareness that some issues have to be tackled on a statewide basis. That will mean even more pressure to raise and distribute funds.

The Wisconsin Community Fund and the New Harvest Foundation have been engaged in some preliminary talks about the establishment of a statewide fund to help rural Gays and Lesbians. "Most grants center on helping Gays and Lesbians in urban areas," said Steve Starkey, Executive Director of WCF, "but very real homophobia exists outside of the urban areas."

Starkey says these talks are still in the early stage and he hopes that Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation will also participate. He thinks that a combined \$10,000 fund would be a good beginning for a joint fund. Good beginning is what Giving the Gay Way is all about.

In our next issue — Case studies CCF.

The Wisconsin Community Fund

WCF's emphasis is on funding groups that don't have access to traditional funding sources. The organization will not fund things like buildings or equipment but does fund "capacity building" projects such as membership drives and fundraising campaigns and specific social change activities.

WCF gave out \$4,500 in grants to LGBT groups last year. According to the group's Executive Director, Steve Starkey, who is himself an openly Gay man, WCF averages around \$6,000 a year in grants to Gay organizations.

Since its founding in 1982, WCF has given 17 different LGBT organizations a total of \$78,000 in cash grants. Starkey says grants to LGBT groups have averaged about 10% of the group's cash grants. Among the recipients are: Madison Pride, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, and Out Up North. In January WCF funded a LGBT youth group in La Crosse, GALAXY.

The Wisconsin Community Fund also provides technical assistance to non-profits throughout the state. That assistance has included workshops, phone counseling, one-on-one help for non-profits, and over \$300,000 in software grants.

Rural Gays and Lesbians, especially sensitive to privacy issues, may be more comfortable donating to a broad-based organization. They can request that those donations be designated for LGBT charities or projects.

Starkey says that WCF has begun to enhance its outreach to LGBT groups to get more of them to apply for funds. "Some years we have funded all the LGBT groups that have asked for money," he says.

WCF has solid connections to the LGBT community. In addition to Starkey, the Development Director and Office Manager are LGBT as is its President, Cris Derrick. State Treasurer Greg Quindel, who also serves on the Board, is the publisher of *Wisconsin Light*.

WCF has agreed to administer *Wisconsin Light's* Million for the Millenium Fund, which will be outlined in the March 10th *Wisconsin Light*.

WCF is planning its most ambitious single fundraising event ever which will be held in Milwaukee at the Park East Hotel next November 13th. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin will give the keynote address. *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* columnist Eugene Kane will emcee with entertainment to be provided by political humorist and former Milwaukeean Will Durst.

For additional information call (608) 251-6834 or (414) 225-9965 or the statewide toll-free (888) 360-8993.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin

Rainbow Over Wisconsin was formed in 1993. It serves the Northeast Wisconsin area. ROW strives to enrich LGBT life in its service area. Unlike the others, ROW raises its funds mostly through special events, most of them held in area LGBT bars. It also has a group of sustaining members.

"ROW is not a bar organization," says Mark Mariucci (Za), co-owner of Za's bar in Green Bay and publisher of *Quest* magazine. "Bar owners are primary members, but everyone is welcome."

Membership in ROW costs \$25 per year. There is also a one-time initiation fee of \$100 for businesses and \$25 for individuals. ROW's members are drawn from Sheboygan, Appleton, Wausau and the greater Green Bay area.

Last year the group gave out an impressive \$7,000 in grants. Among the activities it funded were the Center Project's condom distribution in area LGBT bars, the Argonauts charities, Positive Voice's conference, PFLAG-Fox Valley's Billboard Campaign and Conference, and speakers on college campuses.

They also helped fund the ROW Pride Picnic which, besides its valuable social role in Northeast Wisconsin, also raises additional grant monies. "We are a fairly small operation that is in need of volunteers," said Za, who credits the Argonauts with keeping the Pride Picnic going.

Individuals who donate to ROW can make suggestions, but the organization does not have a specific guaranteed mechanism for designated donations.

For contributions or more information write: ROW, 720 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911.

AROUND THE NATION

New TV Rating for "Homosexual Content" Proposed

Washington D.C. - The Christian Action Network has proposed that a new warning label be added to those currently used on television shows. CAN is organizing what it calls "a grass-roots campaign" to force networks to rate TV shows on their "homosexual content." If adopted the rating would place the letters "HC" alongside the other symbols used to determine whether or not a program is suitable for younger viewers.

People for the American Way denounced the idea. PFAW President Carole Shields called the idea "an obvious attempt to stigmatize an entire group of Americans."

Teacher Sues over Discussion of Homophobia, Racism

San Leandro, CA - A San Leandro high school teacher who was disciplined for discussing homophobia and racism in an honors English class has filed suit against the School District and School Superintendent Thomas Hillmenburg. *The San Francisco Examiner* reports that Karl Debro is asking the courts to declare the District's ban on discussing controversial issues in the classroom an unconstitutional infringement on freedom of speech.

During the 1997-98 school year, Debro came under fire from parents who wanted him dismissed. The School system investigated their complaints and concluded that Debro was guilty of unprofessional conduct, improper use of class time, and using poor judgement in determining how racism and homophobia are related to the curriculum. A letter of reprimand was placed in his personnel file.

Debro is married. He has a 3-year-old son. He is also one of the few African American teachers in the district. Some observers think he may have been targeted due to racism.

"Reign of Terror" Over

Charlotte, NC - Data Lounge reports that residents cheered as the newly installed Democratic majority on the Mecklenburg County Commission rescinded two anti-LGBT ordinances passed by the then Republican controlled commission in 1997. In April, 1997 a 5 to 4 vote ended the Charlotte Arts and Sciences Council, because the Council staged Tony Kushner's award winning play about AIDS, *Angels in America*.

The resolution, passed by what was called "the gang of five," also denied county arts funding to arts groups "that promote, advocate or endorse behaviors, lifestyles and values that seek to undermine and deviate from the value and societal role of the traditional American family."

Two months later the conservatives passed an ordinance that cut off funding to any teen-counseling program that did not immediately notify parents if the topic of homosexuality was addressed. That ordinance began with a declaration that read "the aggressive homosexual agenda seeks to undermine the values of the traditional American family... the Gay community's declared enemy." The measure went on to state, "[the Gay] community believes they have a right to recruit children for experimenting sexually with anyone, including homosexual adults..."

Both ordinances were repealed in votes taken on Tuesday, February 16.

The November election swept the conser-

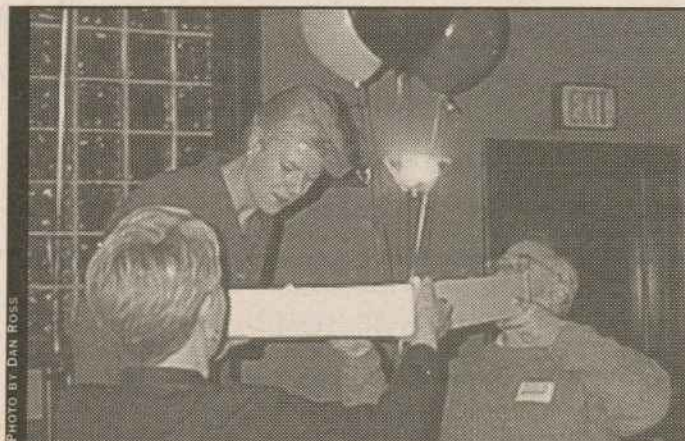
vatives from power and only one of the five, Bill James, remains on the Board. The unrepentant James said, "It's not a moderate agenda. It's a liberal agenda. And as long as we have Democrats running the board, we're gonna have a liberal agenda, and this is the policy that's gonna come down."

Gay Teen Hospitalized Following Attack

Novota, CA - Adam Colton, a 17-year-old Gay teen who was assaulted outside his school, was beaten so badly that he could not remember the attack. His assailants cut Colton and used a pen to inscribe the word "Fag" on Colton's chest.

The beating was the second attack Colton had received since the start of the school year. On September 15, three people attacked Colton. "Now that this has happened, I'm not sure that I'll be going back to San Marin next Tuesday when school resumes," Colton said. "I don't feel comfortable on campus."

On Thursday, February 18, more than 1,000 San Marin students and faculty staged a walk-out in a show of support for Colton and to show pride in tolerance, themselves and their school.



Happy B-Day Tammy — Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin blows out the candles during her birthday party held at the Great Dane in Madison on Friday, February 19. We won't tell you how many candles there are on the cake. Let's just say that the US Constitution says you have to be at least 25 years old to serve in Congress.

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AROUND THE STATE

ACLU of Wisconsin Files Lawsuit Challenging Censorship of Gay Books

Barron WI - Its patience exhausted, the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin (ACLU/WI) has filed a lawsuit on behalf of a group of parents and students who are challenging the removal of books with Gay themes from the Barron (WI) High School library.

ACLU/WI says that it filed the suit to "protect the right of Barron High School students, to receive information that is protected by the First Amendment" of the United States constitution. The suit calls the removal of the books "unconstitutional" and seeks their return to the high school library without any restrictions on them.

ACLU/WI Executive Director Chris Ahmuty said, "The plaintiffs and ACLU have been extremely patient with the School Board, but the District continues to engage in censorship. The District is harming its own students, both straight and Gay. It must stop, even if that means a lawsuit."

The controversy began in April of last year when the parent of a former student turned in complaint forms on four books, *When Someone You Know is Gay*, *The Drowning of Stephan Jones*, *Baby Be-Bop*, and *Two Teenagers in Twenty*.

The Barron School Board appointed a special committee to review the books, but then ignored its recommendations. In August of 1998, the District Administrator, Vita Sherry, decided to ban two of the books, *Baby Be-Bop* and *When Someone You Know is Gay* immediately.

At its September 21, 1998 meeting the Barron School Board added the other two, *The Drowning of Stephan Jones* and *Two Teenagers in Twenty*, to the banned list.

At its December 21, 1998 meeting the Board reconsidered its outright ban of the books. It decided to continue the ban on *Baby Be-Bop* and *The Drowning of Stephan Jones*, to temporarily return *Two Teenagers in Twenty* to the library shelves and indefinitely return *When Someone You Know is Gay* until replacements could be found.

In their suit, the parents and students argue in the lawsuit that the School District violated its own procedure by originally allowing Superintendent Sherry to remove two books and that the Board's subsequent decisions were also unconstitutional because of the Board's improper motivation.

The plaintiffs argue that the District removed the books because they did not comport with the moral and religious beliefs of Barron school officials who disapproved of the books' Homosexual content. For example, explaining her decision to ban *When Someone You Know is Gay*, Ms. Sherry wrote that "The information in Chapter 6 would, I believe, lead them [students] to think that they are free to interpret the biblical references in any way they wish. I believe this is a dangerous viewpoint... This viewpoint does a disservice to Barron's religious community, and I cannot support it."

"The information in Chapter 6 would, I believe, lead them [students] to think that they are free to interpret the biblical references in any way they wish. I believe this is a dangerous viewpoint," ...
Vita Sherry,
District Administrator.

Ahmuty said, "We consider allegations regarding vulgarity in the books to be unfounded and to be a pretext for the school's questionable motivation. The record couldn't be more clear. This is unconstitutional censorship of the most damaging kind. School libraries should reflect a diversity of viewpoints. As the U.S. Supreme Court has said, local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books, and seek by their removal to 'prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.'"

The plaintiffs are three minor students and their parents and three 18-year-old students. They are Katherine A. Christenson and her mother, Bonnie J. Christenson, Ben Wigchers and his mother, Maureen Wigchers, Benjamin S. Bolopue and his mother, Bonnie L. Burke, and Jolene Wigchers, Abberlyn Morris and Ryan J. Hilke.

The defendants' are the Barron Area School District and the Board of Education, and Vita Sherry, the District Administrator.

The ACLU/WI volunteer attorneys handling the case are David Harth, Anat Hakim and Lynn Splitek from the firm of Foley and Lardner in Madison, and the ACLU/WI Foundation's Legal Director Peter M. Koneazny in Milwaukee.

The plaintiffs filed their complaint at the federal District Court, Western District of Wisconsin, in Madison. Federal District Court Judge Barbara Crabb has received the case for consideration.

Dennis Hill Sentenced

Milwaukee - Ignoring a pre-sentence report calling for probation, Judge Timothy G. Dugan handed former Walker's Point Café owner, Dennis Hill, a sentence of up to nine years in prison on charges that Hill had engaged in sex with a minor. Hill was convicted of the charge following a trial that concluded last month. He was sentenced on February 10.

During the trial, Hill claimed that he was being falsely accused by those who wanted to help former Walker's Point Café owner, George Kruzner regain control of the café. Hill was acquitted of a second charge that he forced an adult Walker's Point Café employee to have sex with him in order to keep his job.

Dugan also denied a defense attorney motion to set aside Hill's conviction. The



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We seek individuals dedicated to CAIR's HIV prevention research mission, comfortable with topics involved in HIV behavioral research, and with excellent education and employment credentials.

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**Karen Opgenorth, M.S. • Administrator, Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) • Medical College of Wisconsin
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Around the State continued on 7

Around the State continued

Judge said that under the law, he could only direct a verdict of not guilty if it would have been unreasonable for the jury to conclude that the defendant was guilty of a crime. After stating that he found the jury's conclusion to be reasonable, Dugan said, "If I had been on the jury, I would have found the defendant to be guilty."

Prosecutor Miriam Falk urged the court to sentence Hill to a term of 8 to 10 years. The prosecutor said that Hill had preyed on the victim. She contended that Hill took advantage of the victim's health status, lack of a father figure and the fact that he was just coming out. Falk also claimed that Hill had offered drugs to the victim.

In response, Hill's attorney, Dennis Fay, asked the court to sentence Hill to one year in the Milwaukee House of Corrections with the first six months of that sentence to be total confinement and the second six months to be with work release provisions. Fay said that Hill had almost no assets and owed money to the IRS and needed to work.

Hill's mother tearfully pleaded with the court not to send her son to prison. After she told the court that her son's problem was "hanging around with the wrong people," the victim left the courtroom. He later returned to hear the sentence passed.

Hill, himself, continued to maintain his innocence. He told the court that he would appeal the conviction. Nonetheless, he said that he did not "harbor any ill will" towards his accusers.

In passing sentence, Judge Dugan said that the crime was serious in nature. He said that he found the testimony offered by Hill's accuser to be highly credible. Dugan said the victim did not want to see Hill charged and that his testimony showed his unwillingness to see Hill punished.

Dugan also questioned Hill's honesty. Judge Dugan said that Hill had testified that he was celibate, but noted that one of his own witnesses testified that he and Hill were engaged in a sexual relationship. Noting his attorney's assertion that Hill has few financial resources, the Judge questioned why Hill would have gotten involved with Walker's Point Café if he did not have money to operate it. Dugan said that he believed Hill became involved with the café to put himself in a position where he could find teens for sex.

In passing sentence, Judge Dugan said he would give only a little weight to the defendant's lack of prior convictions. The Judge said that given the defendant's "lifestyle," he believed that Hill had engaged in illegal sexual activity in the past, but just had not been caught. The Judge said by "lifestyle" he was not referring to what he called Hill's "sexual preference," but he did not define what he meant by that term.

A group of young men sitting on one side of the courtroom seemed to take delight in the Judge's sentence. On the other side of the gallery, Hill's friends and supporters were tearful and devastated. Chris Sears, a private investigator hired by Hill, told *Light* that he is convinced of Hill's innocence. He also said that Hill would be eligible for parole in 4 years.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Dugan ordered Hill to register with local police departments under Wisconsin's sexual predator law.

Editor's note - Under Wisconsin's Rape Shield law, Wisconsin Light is prohibited from publishing the name of the Hill's accuser.

AIDS Action Day in Madison

Milwaukee - With the theme "Saving Lives, Responding to AIDS: AIDS Advocates at the Capitol," the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is hoping that at least 150 people will attend the first ever AIDS Action Day at the State Capitol on Thursday, March 25.

Noting that half of all new HIV infections are among young people, that HIV is on the rise within many communities, and the need for HIV and AIDS services is at a record high, Gifford says, "At stake are access to health care and effective prevention programs. Advocates need to rally to support these policies."

Participants will learn about and discuss with their elected officials the important HIV/AIDS public policy issues across the state. Specifically, rally participants will advocate for the state's first ever broad-based HIV prevention initiative. "The state hasn't increased prevention funding in over a decade, while infection rates continue at high levels," Gifford said.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to participate in the lobby day. In the morning, advocates will learn how to lobby and receive talking points on key HIV prevention and care issues. A luncheon gathering will rally advocates before participating in scheduled meetings with state senators and representatives in the afternoon. There are no fees for participating in any of the day's events.

For more information on this event, call Laurie Marks at (800) 359-9272 ext. 297.

Albrecht Loses School Board Race...

Milwaukee - A Gay man running for the District 8 seat on the Milwaukee School Board finished third in a four-candidate primary on February 16. Neil Albrecht, a former Regional Director for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, garnered 637 votes or 14.33% of the 4,432 votes cast.

Albrecht faced an uphill battle in his bid. He began his campaign just five weeks before the primary. Two of his opponents were supported by major forces in the battles over School District policies.

First place finisher, economist Steve Latin-Kasper had 1,778 votes, 39.9% of the total. He received backing from the Milwaukee Teacher's Union, but refused the Union's offer of a campaign donation. Latin-Kasper opposes school privatization.

Second place finisher, Attorney Joe Dannecker, collected 1,653 votes, 37.18% of the total. Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist supports Dannecker. He is running on a platform of bringing the various elements in the Milwaukee School District together to find solutions to the problems it faces.

Latin-Kasper and Dannecker will face each other in the general election on Tuesday, April 6.

Albrecht's defeat marks the fourth time that an openly LGBT candidate has lost an election in Milwaukee. Gay activist Leon Rouse lost a bid for the State Assembly by just 40 votes in 1984. Activist and Queer TV show host, Mike Lisowski collected about 1,500 votes in his campaign for the At-Large seat on the Milwaukee School Board in 1987. Lesbian activist, Karen Gotzler lost her bid to become an Alderwoman in 1996.

"It was a great experience," said Albrecht. "I attribute that to the people in the community who supported me. I encourage other Gays and Lesbians to get involved in politics." Albrecht also said that he might pursue another office in the future.

...But is Named LGBT Center Exec

Milwaukee - Neil Albrecht has been hired to fill the Milwaukee LGBT Center's recently established Executive Director position.

"Our membership and the Board of Directors felt the hiring of an Executive Director was essential to our continued success and growth," said Sheila Zelenski, Co-

Around the State continued on 8




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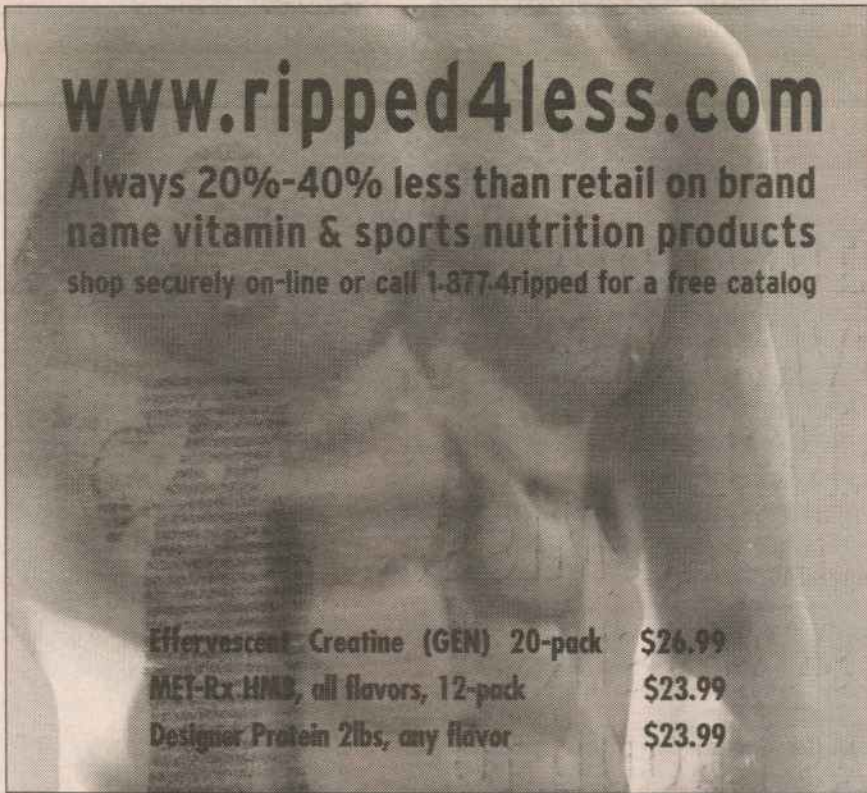


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Around the State continued

President. "Neil's professional experience, enthusiasm and long-standing commitment to LGBT issues led him to emerge as the top candidate for the position."

Albrecht is a former Regional Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and has served as Co-President of the Center's Board of Directors since January 1998.

"I am very excited about transitioning into this new position," Albrecht said. "The Center's potential is endless." Albrecht will begin his new position on March 1.

"The board made an excellent decision in the hiring of Neil Albrecht," said Karen Gotzler, a co-founder of the Center and member of the Search Committee. "He has a proven record of outstanding community leadership."

"By hiring Neil, the Board has given us one of the very best," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "Having worked with Neil for six years, I know he is committed and passionate about our community's needs. He's exactly the kind of leader the Center needs."

Adrian Wade has been elected to Albrecht's position as Co-president of the Center. Wade served as Co-chair of the Center's Volunteer Committee and initiated a Task Force to increase diversity in the Center's membership.

Have a Heart Raises \$29,000

Green Bay — Nearly 300 people crowded Kimberly's Liberty Hall on Saturday, February 13 for the 8th annual AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) "Have a Heart" Dinner and Celebrity Auction helping to raise a record setting \$29,000 for the agency.

The money raised was a significant over past years and included 346 auction items with over 200 from celebrities that often included art creations along with an autographed picture. One attendee called the auction "an embarrassment of riches."

A large number of walk-ins caused the Liberty Hall staff to set up additional seating during the 6pm cocktail hour and silent auction. ARCW staff in both Milwaukee and Green Bay staff and volunteers "put in hardcore, un-credited work hours" to make the evening a tremendous success.

A \$5,000 anonymous donation announced early in the program set the tone for the evening making it "a very energizing night for those in the Fox Valley HIV community," according to one in attendance.

Liz Taylor's complete set of White Diamonds, along with an autographed picture was a very popular auction item, as were many of the last minute pieces of "heartart" that arrived. Heartart was done by celebrities who were sent crayons and drawing paper requesting they create an original work of art. Other auction items included posters, dinners, trips, concert tickets and various merchandise.

Following the 7pm dinner, the program featured a keynote speech by Green Bay's Dan McDonough, a member of the United Nation's Global AIDS Task Force, who brought home a world view of the AIDS pandemic.

Community Service Awards were given to Aurora Health Care's Dr. Ray Bachhuber who received a standing ovation from the crowd for his work on Green Bay's war against AIDS. Other awards of the stunning engraved glass plaques were given to: WFRV-TV Anchor Tim Blotz; Quest magazine's Mark Mariucci; Green Bay Packer Tyrone Williams and his wife Shantel; and the Boy's and Girl's Club of the Fox Cities.

One of the highlights of the evening came during the entertainment portion provided by Entertainers Against AIDS. Miss Kitty did an "absolutely over the top pseudo, scandalous rendition" of a song parodying the tune Harper Valley PTA. The outrageous farce skewed all the honorees as well as saluted the outgoing N.E. Wisconsin ARCW Regional Director Stan Kocos



The annual Stocking Silent auction held at This Is It in Milwaukee raised \$2,535 for ARCW's Milwaukee Food Pantry. Shown above (L-R) are This Is It owner Joe Brehm, ARCW Development Director Jim Shleif and Special Events Assistant Bill Frank, and June Brehm. The Silent Auction was held over the holidays and concluded XXXXX.

Conference Successful

by Bill Meunier

Madison – Hundreds of LGBT college students and their heterosexual peers descended on Madison for the seventh annual Midwest Lesbian Bisexual Gay Transgender College Conference. The gathering was held at Madison's Monona Terrace Convention and Civic Center. It attracted over 1,200 participants from 20 states. The turnout was the highest yet for the conference.

Among the highlights were nationally known speakers including Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Assistant to the President for Management and Administration and former head of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) founder Kevin Jennings, and author/AIDS activist Larry Kramer.

Apuzzo received a warm welcome and was cheered during her speech, which urged the students to look beyond just LGBT issues. Telling the students to move forward with their activism Apuzzo said, "We are not just a market niche."

Congresswoman Baldwin received a standing ovation when she was introduced. Baldwin urged the students to pursue their dreams and resurrected one of the themes of her recent campaign saying, "We live in a democracy and in a democracy, we the people decide what is possible."

A four-block section of the Names quilt drew dozens of somber conference participants.

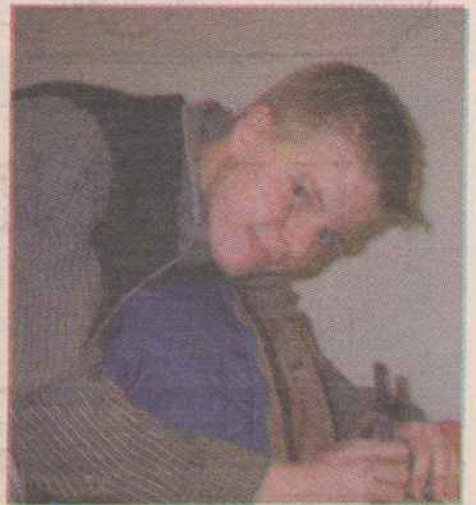
Entertainment for the conference goes included two 10% Society dances and the Drag King Show from New York's Casanova Club. Over 1,000 people cheered the Drag King performers who put on dazzling and often-funny exhibitions of their talents. Murray King, a member of the troupe, told *Light* that she "was thrilled to be in Madison. I love Wisconsin."

Another popular highlight was a screening of the GLSEN produced film, the award winning *Out of the Past*. The movie looks at four figures in LGBT American history as seen through the eyes of a Salt Lake City Lesbian student while at the same time chronicling her fight to reverse a ban on a GLSEN chapter in her high school.

Workshops ranged from the very political like "In and Out: Making Change in a Political World," to personal development such as "The Problem with Magic or What Happened When I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Listen to Myself," to the fun "Let's Laugh About Sex."



Students at the conferece.



Tammy Baldwin, Jason Rasmussen, and Virginia Apuzzo at the Student Conference.

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CAPITOL REPORT by State Representative Mark Pocan

Community Meeting:

As the legislative session progresses, it is important to address the needs of the LGBT community. To that end I have called a community meeting to be held on March 1, 1999 in Room 202 of the Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St. from 7-9pm. All interested parties are welcome.

I have called this meeting in hopes of creating an environment in which we can address legislative strategy. It is important that we have cohesive and statewide strategy to deal with upcoming issues such as adoption rights and domestic partnership legislation.

I am also very interested in hearing from other activist and community leaders. It would be useful to get a sense of specific issues that affect the LGBT community and what we can do to address the issues.

I hope we can develop a strategy to deal with any possible upcoming "negative" legislation that may be introduced this session. Currently I am not aware of anything in the pipeline, but we need

to be prepared and ready to respond. I hope you can attend this important meeting.

RLPA:

An issue to be aware of at the federal level, which can have a very negative impact on our community, is the Religious Liberties Protection Act (RLPA). It was introduced in the last congress and I expect it will be reintroduced in the current congress.

RLPA would allow individuals and private businesses to discriminate against Lesbians and Gays if they claim the discrimination is based on their personal religious beliefs. This bill was not intended to be an "anti-Gay" bill, but according to the ACLU, the bill as it is currently drafted may have the effect of gutting state and local civil rights laws that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. This is an issue that we need to keep an eye on.

Has Anybody Seen Our Gay Agenda?

Ralph Ovadal has written to many of my colleagues at the legislature sharing his thoughts on an upcoming adoption bill, which he claims is a part of my greater "Gay agenda" as outlined in my column last month in *Wisconsin Light*.

It seems that Ralph is an ardent reader of *Wisconsin Light*.

Actually, the letter did more for our side than his. He continues to spew his hatred, and in the long run, it will be to our benefit. I have to wonder why anyone would be so consumed with hate toward other human beings. Could it be for personal monetary gain?

I want to once again challenge Ralph to share his financial statements from Wisconsin Christians United. Does he simply use the politics of hate and divisiveness as a means to make money for himself? If not, why not prove it? *C'mon Ralph, I know your reading this.*

Speaking of religious fanatics, Jerry Falwell believes that Tinky Winky, a "Teletubbie," is a homosexual role model. After all, Tinky Winky has the voice of a boy — yet he carries a purse. He is purple and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the Gay pride symbol.

Yet another of the items on our Gay agenda has been exposed!

Time to Build Coalitions - Bill of the Month

Wisconsin Income Equity Act (WIEA) — I have drafted legislation that addresses the issue of income fairness.

Under current law, compensation paid to a company's officers and employees can be deducted from its income tax. A Corporation may take up to a \$1,000,000 deduction for compensation paid to executive officers. WIEA changes the \$1 million CEO deduction cap to 25 times the company's lowest paid full-time employee. So, if the lowest paid employee makes \$20,000, the corporation would be able to deduct \$500,000 of CEO income. Increases in corporate deductions are now tied to increases in the wage scale.

A similar bill co-sponsored by Wisconsin Congressmen Tom Barrett and Ron Kind was introduced at the federal level last session. The National AFL-CIO also supported this measure.

Show your support for working wages and labor issues by supporting this bill. Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472. Ask them to tell your legislator to support this bill.

That's all for this month. I hope to see you at the meeting on March 1st. Please keep in touch.



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COMMUNITY

Fox Valley's Day of Self-Discovery Conference March 6

Green Bay/Appleton - Green Bay's Positive Voice invites the community to its 6th Annual Day of Self-Discovery, a conference on LGBT Issues, on Saturday, March 6 at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive in Kimberly, WI. Featured speakers will discuss issues and topics that matter to you and our community, and attendees can enjoy lunch, beverages and entertainment as well as meet new people.

Registration and coffee is at 9am with a 9:30am welcome. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and member of OutFront Minnesota, Scott Fearing, will give an interactive presentation on internal/external homophobia.

After a snack and break, Milwaukee Lesbian author, teacher and former member of the military, Miriam Ben-Shalom, will speak as a pioneer in the struggle for equality.

The noon luncheon will be followed by performances featuring Entertainers Against AIDS members Kitty Rosman and Jeff Jennings. After a snack and break, the featured national speaker, former Green Bay Packer Dave Kopay, will address attendees. The author of the *Dave Kopay Story*, he was the first professional football player to come out of the closet. Kopay has been a strong voice for tolerance and acceptance for equal rights.

Cost for all registrations received after March 3rd or on the day of the conference is \$38. Cheaper rates are available for advance registration and for members of Positive Voice. For more information or registration form, call Positive Voice at (920) 435-4404 or e-mail pvnew4glbt@aol.com.

PrideFest Selects New Co-Directors, Seeks To Fill Vacancies

Milwaukee - The PrideFest Council announced the election of two new Co-Directors for 1999. Longtime PrideFest organizers Michael Lisowski and Christine Klein received unanimous support from the Council.

Other members of the '99 Council include: Jane Baudelaire, Secretary and Merchandise Coordinator; Ted Berg, Family Day Coordinator and Sunday Ecumenical Service Director; Jill Clark, Entertainment Coordinator; Susan Cook, Volunteer Coordinator and Marketing Director; Rick Finger, Parade Coordinator; John Prentice, Legal Advisor; Sheldon Schur, Security Coordinator; Jerry Spillner, Food Vendor Coordinator; and Del Slowik, PrideFest Food Coordinator.

Council & Committee Openings

Vacant positions on the PrideFest Council include Treasurer, Beverage Coordinator, Operations Manager, Stonewall Stage Coordinator and Youth Activity Area Coordinator. Council members are required to attend all Council meetings and special committee meetings, pre-festival planning as well as working the seven days on the festival grounds prior, during and after the festival (August 3-9).

"PrideFest is looking for self-motivated people who have the skills and experience to accomplish tasks assigned to these positions, and who share the common goal of producing Wisconsin's largest Pride event through a team effort.

Committee positions open include: Entertainment Assistants, Volunteer Coordinator Assistants, Booth Coordinator Assistant and Food Coordinator Assistants.

"Committee positions require participation at all special committee meetings, pre-festival planning, as well as working the three days at the festival (August 6-8). PrideFest is looking for people who have, or wish to develop, experience in these areas."

All positions are on a volunteer basis. For a position description, contact PrideFest at (414) 272-3378 or e-mail pridemilw@aol.com. Persons interested in a position are asked to submit a letter of interest, resume and a minimum of three references no later than March 1 to PrideFest Inc., PO Box 511763, Milwaukee, WI 53212-0301.

Final selection of Council members will be through an interview process. Candidates will be notified of date, time and location.

Open Hearts, Open Minds Conference April 17

Appleton - PFLAG-Fox Cities (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) presents "Open Hearts, Open Minds" a conference open to all on Saturday, April 17 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly, near Appleton, WI. The Saturday conference is preceded with a Friday night video *It's Elementary* at 6:30pm followed by a discussion with a school social worker.

Registration begins at 7:45am followed by Continental Breakfast until 8:45am. The 9am Opening Remarks will feature a welcome by Sandy Brown, PFLAG Central Region Director, and a Keynote by Richard Myers, Appleton's Chief of Police.

Section 1 Workshops follow from 10-11am with the following breakouts: Action Wisconsin - Getting Involved in the Political Process; Attitudes, Images & Stereotypes - How Homophobia Affects Us All; and The Church Responds to LGBT Issues.

Section 2 Workshops from 11:15-12:15pm include: The New Direction of AIDS Prevention and Treatments; Conversion Therapy - Can and Should Homosexuality Be 'Cured?'; and Understanding Bisexuality.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin is tentatively scheduled to speak during the lunch break from 12:30-1:45pm. She will be followed by Section 3 of the Workshops featuring: Patterns in Gender Dysphoria; Youth Speak Out; and Respecting and Supporting Gay Students at a Catholic College.

After a break, the 3:15-4pm Closing Session will again feature Ms. Brown speaking on "PFLAG: The Big Picture" along with an appearance by Madison youth activist Sol Kelly-Jones.

Conference cost is \$35 per person. For a registration form and full details on the conference, please call (920) 735-1025, or write: PFLAG Conference, c/o Harriet Bruyn, N9615 Mary Drive, Appleton, WI 54915. Deadline is April 10.

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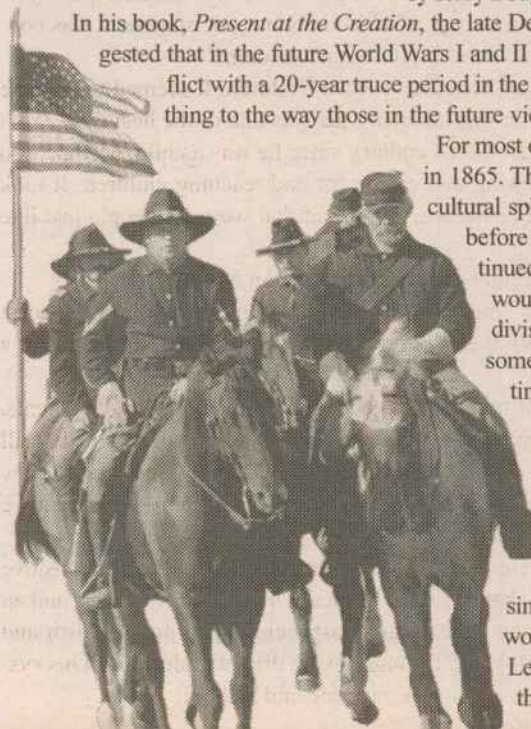
The Civil War

by Terry Boughner

In his book, *Present at the Creation*, the late Dean Acheson, former Secretary of State, suggested that in the future World Wars I and II would be seen by historians as a single conflict with a 20-year truce period in the middle. Time may do something of the same thing to the way those in the future view the American Civil War.

For most of us, the Civil War began in 1861 and ended in 1865. That was the military side of the conflict. The cultural split between the sections that had begun long before the guns blazed over Charleston harbor continued on. Blood determined that the country would remain one political unit. The cultural divisions, however, had not been resolved. After some decades of truce, in the 1960s, the war continued, this time in the political arena.

For the last 30+ years ultra-rightists in the South and elsewhere have fought bitterly against changes they despise. These changes began with the Black civil rights movement, continued on to public prayer in the public schools, and have broadened out since then to include equality for women, women's freedom of choice, equality for Lesbians and Gays, and a great deal more. For the ultra-right this was a crusade. They called



it a "cultural war." They were right. It was war, as much of a war as it had been at Bull Run and Gettysburg.

In this cultural war, one major objective was President Clinton. For the Far Right, he was a symbol of all they hated most, social liberalism. Perhaps the primary symbol of that was Clinton's efforts on behalf of Gays. He had to be destroyed.

To the battle shaping against the President, the Far Right brought untold amounts of money from Right Wing foundations and families like the Pittsburgh Scaifes. They had advantages. Clinton was no saint. The GOP had gained control of Congress. In Clinton's obliteration, the Far Right saw their chance for victory in the cultural end of the Civil War. The impeachment process was to be their Gettysburg. This time, they told themselves, the outcome would be different.

What the Far Right didn't understand is that history has passed them by. Their idea of a homogeneous society dominated by one version of religion, with Gays in the closet and women "in their place," is done, finished, kaput.

By the year 2050 if not before, Americans of European descent will no longer be in the majority. This will be a new nation. In that nation Hispanic-Americans, African-Americans and Asian-Americans will dominate. Women will have achieved equality. Gay people will have achieved their just and equal rights. Technology, as technology does, will bring with it its own values. Humankind will go into space, there to set up new societies whose characteristics we can only guess.

In the face of this bright new world, the Far Right propelled its minions in Congress to "go to Gettysburg." Despite all the talk about the law, the underlying agenda was about values. It wasn't so much that Clinton won; it was that the Far Right lost. In the House or perhaps the Senate, we saw the "high watermark," the second one. The stars and bars fluttered briefly upon the wall and then was down.

The war isn't over yet. There will be other battles. The election of 2000 will be predictably bitter. The point is, I think, that the Far Right will lose. This time, they know it. They have read the handwriting on the wall. They see Appomattox coming.

Ultra conservative Cal Thomas wailed in his syndicated column that the American people are to blame. They aren't "good enough" for the values of the Far Right.

Paul Weyrich, head of the ultra conservative Free Congress Foundation is reported by the *New York Times* as saying that he does not believe that "a majority of Americans share our values." He advocates that members of the Far Right "drop out of this culture" rather than make peace with what it will become.

Others, like Jerry Falwell, are reduced to dithering over whether a fictional character on TV is Gay or not.

A hundred or so years from now, I believe that historians will see the recent impeachment process for what it was: a major and one of the final battles in the last part of the American Civil War. Every Gay person should be pleased, very pleased and grateful, that the outcome of that battle was as it was.

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Dykesville

by Tami Friday



Snorkels have many uses on land too.

EDITORIAL

Barron School Board Wrong

The actions of the Barron School Board are reprehensible. Despite the recommendations of its own appointed committee, the Board decided to ban four Gay themed books from the Barron High School library.

Apparently these protectors of public morality are more concerned about their view of the Bible than they are about the welfare of their students. In fact, in making her recommendation that one of the books be removed, District Administrator Vita Sherry said that students who read that book might actually conclude that they are free to interpret the Bible in any manner they choose.

Someone should tell Ms. Sherry and the School Board to go their library and read the United States Constitution. They will find that it guarantees everyone, including students, the right to interpret the Bible in whatever way they want to.

Given the School District's total disregard of that document, it seems possible that they may have banned it from their library as well. Fortunately for the students of Barron, the Wisconsin chapter of the ACLU has sent them a civics lesson in the form of a lawsuit.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that actions similar to those taken by the Barron School Board are unconstitutional. But thanks to the Board's stubborn attitude, the District will now spend tens of thousands of dollars trying to defend its illegal book banning.

The sad thing is that the students in Barron wind up losing twice. First because they have been unfairly denied access to these books and second because money that should have been spent on their education will now be poured into a lengthy court battle.

Federal courts are almost certain to order the books put back on the shelves. If the School District really were concerned with the welfare of its students, it would restore them without delay. Perhaps it could use part of the money it saves for a workshop on the Bill of Rights.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Far too often an aging leadership dominates many of our local and national organizations. This has led me, and I think many others, to express concern about the future of our movement. So it was with some anxiety that I went to the Midwest Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender College Conference held in Madison the weekend of February 19-21.

I wasn't sure what to expect. What I observed was heartening.

These were not the self-absorbed individuals you might have seen at such an event just a few years ago. In fact, they cheered when Virginia Apuzzo said that they were not just "a market niche."

In politics, like much of the rest of life, for every action there is a reaction. The rise of the LGBT civil rights movement has provoked vicious attacks from the religious right. At least at the beginning of those attacks, many of us, young and old alike, were content to sit back.

Why spend time marching, volunteering and leafleting when given the rightness of our cause we will inevitably win full equality? There have even been those who have said that being Gay is irrelevant. "Assimilate" became the mantra of some East Coast LGBT intellectuals.

Don't tell that to the students I observed and talked with during the conference. The pendulum is beginning to swing back. Now it is our turn to react. If what I saw in Madison is any indication, there are plenty of shock troops to carry on the fight.

Many of these students have experienced bigotry first hand in their high schools and on their college campuses. They have been confronting hatred in their everyday lives. Like those who preceded them, these students seemed to me to be determined to make it easier on those who follow them.

Don't get the idea that these are some wild-eyed radicals without the ability to function in the real world. As the conference organizers showed, that is certainly not the case.

The 10% Society did a superb job. Its members were novices at putting on an event of this size, but they handled their duties with amazing professionalism. The staff of the Monona Terrace Convention Center told them - and me - that these students were the best volunteers they had ever worked with. I hate to single out any one individual, but I think special praise is owed to 10% Society President Jason Rasmussen who led the effort. The work of Jason and his crew showed that we have much to look forward to. It is to them that we dedicate this issue.

I went to Madison not knowing what to expect. What I found excited me. I have less anxiety about the future of our movement now. I have seen a glimpse of it, looked into its sparkling eyes and heard its young voice.

Enjoy the *Light*
Bill Meunier

Bill Meunier

Editor

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

It was the spring of 1982 when we fell in love at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). It all began in our fraternity house, the Tau Kappa Epsilon or the TeKE house, as it was referred to. Fate had brought us together through Jon's pledging and Michael's hazing. Jon jokingly says that the best revenge to Michael's pledging antics was to "marry" him, so he did.

It should have been the happiest time of our life. We were blissfully filled with true love for the first and only time of our lives. Instead, it was the saddest time. We came out to our families and were greeted not with open arms but with fear, anger, sadness, confusion and rejection. Our parents took it hard. There were a variety of objections but one statement was consistent: "Oh my God, this means we will never have your grandchildren."

To us, this was an accepted fact - Gay Men Don't Have Children. It seemed there were many prices to pay for honoring our love for one another. This was one of the heaviest.

Jon had dreams of fatherhood and service to his country since he was a child. Michael too had spent the better part of his youth working and caring for and teaching children. It took more than ten years before we, ourselves, could accept the fact that we were people just like everyone else.

Gay men do have children. For us their names are Adam, Madison and Rosa.

In 1995, we moved from our "fabulous" duplex apartment off Central Park into a modest stucco home in the suburb of Maywood, NJ. We were on our way to fulfilling our dreams of a family, dreams which once were shattered.

Shortly after moving in, we applied with the state to become foster and adoptive parents. Nine months later, after being screened, investigated, trained and inspected we received a call from the Child Placement Specialist with the Division of Youth and Family Services of New Jersey. This call, three days before Christmas, would change our lives in more ways than we could have ever predicted.

Adam was two and a half months old. He weighed eleven pounds. He was testing positive for HIV, Tuberculosis, and Hepatitis C. He had a hole in his heart, a cardiac arrhythmia and an enlarged liver. His lungs were damaged due to merconian aspiration syndrome at birth and RSV when he was a month old. He was still going through severe drug withdrawal. In his system at birth were crack, heroin, methadone, marijuana, nicotine and alcohol.

It was one of the happiest days of our life.

After we nursed him back to health, Adam became free for adoption. We filed to adopt. It was only then that our homosexuality became an issue. New Jersey did not allow joint adoptions by unmarried couples. We were in a "Catch 22". We could not become a married couple.

We challenged the state policy. It was discriminatory and clearly not in the best interest of our child. On June 19, 1997, we filed a class action lawsuit against New Jersey to have the policy stricken from the books.

In the meantime, the state saw us fit enough to place with us another child, Andrew, born to similar circumstances. He was a foster child that would, in 5 months time, return to live with his grandparents. On the day we surrendered Andrew to his grandparents, we retained the ACLU to fight our case to adopt Adam. Oddly enough, it was also the day the state would call to tell us about our little girl Madison. And with Madison would eventually come her older sister Rosa.

To date, we have won all our battles with the state. Adam was legally adopted by both of us on October 22, 1997. On December 17, 1997, the State of New Jersey settled the class action lawsuit in our favor, making New Jersey the first state in the nation to have a statewide policy that put homosexual couples on equal footing with married couples in the matter of adoption.

Gay men can and do have children and you too can make a difference in the plight of America's most vulnerable children, children "lost in the system".

We urge you to stand up to legislation that would forbid this, legislation forfeiting the rights of these vulnerable children to secure a good loving permanent home. Stand up for your right to be that home. You may not be ready to parent today but if and when you are ready, you will be glad you stood up now.

Above all, these children will grow up knowing that the Gay and Lesbian community fought to protect and nurture them, when others only used them as political pawns.

Jon and Michael Galluccio
Maywood, NJ

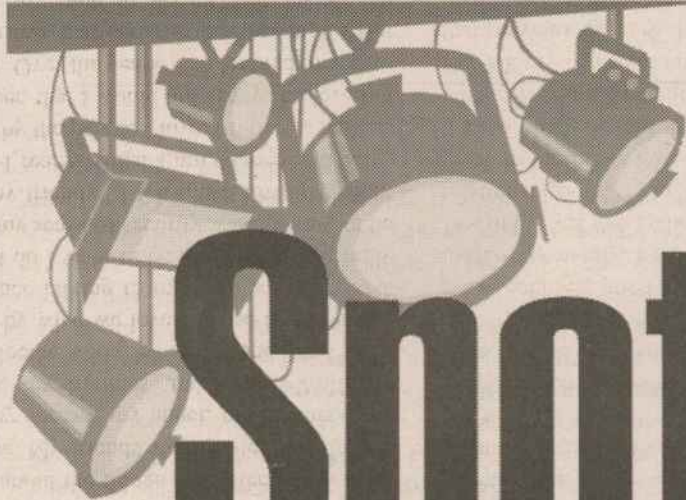
Dear Annabelle,

Just a short note to thank you for your friendship, referrals, and patronage.

This January 2nd marked the start of my 13th year in the real estate business and 1998 was my best year ever. Thanks to you, I will be honored on February 15th for my sales record of over \$10.4 million at Shorewest's annual awards luncheon. I will also be receiving a national sales award as well as the award for top producer of my office.

Again none of this would be possible without your friendship, referrals, and patronage. Best wishes to you and warmest regards

Jack H. Smith
Shorewest - Associate Vice President



Spotlight

RENT

Friends, room-mates and lovers struggle to live their dreams despite the ravages of substandard living conditions, no cash flow, drug abuse

as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world, capturing the heart and spirit of a generation.



Milwaukee - There's a scene in *Rent* that may be the quintessential romantic moment of the '90s. Roger, a struggling rock musician, and Mimi, a junkie who dances at an S/M club, are having a lovers' quarrel when their beepers both go off and each takes their AZT. Clinch... love duet. If you don't think this is romantic, consider Puccini's *La Boheme*, in which the lovers Mimi and Rodolfo are tragically separated by her death from tuberculosis. Different age, different plague.

Rent has been hyped as the definitive musical of the decade. Some call it a rock opera, but it's not The Who's *Tommy* in the age of AIDS. Rather, it possesses in-your-face candor and commentary on life in America at the end of the millennium, its script overflowing with bite, compassion and, ultimately, hope.

Set in the modern-day chaos of Manhattan, *Rent* is a documentary of the interwoven lives of a group of Gen-X Bohemians and misfits.

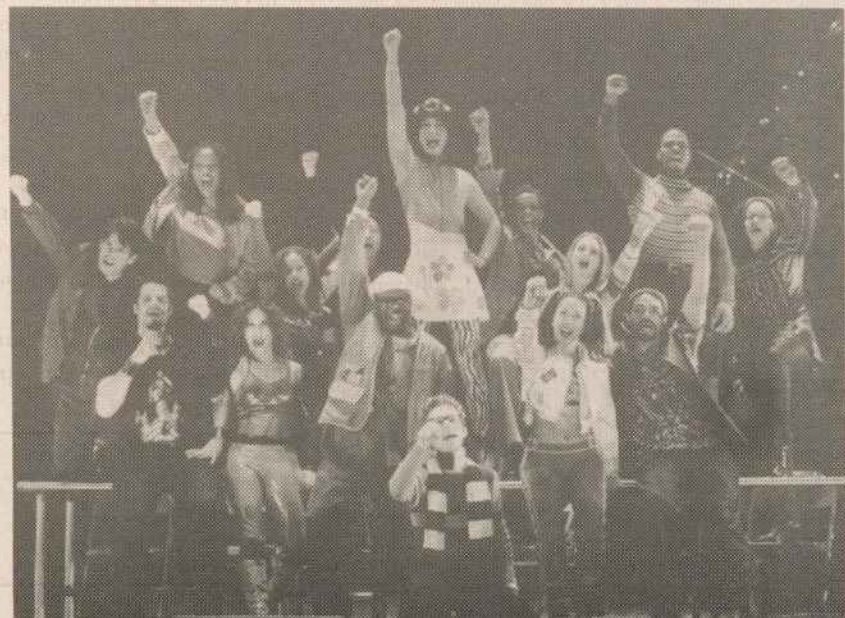
and fear of AIDS.

Aspiring film amateur Mark and musician/songwriter Roger share a grunge-chic loft and a string of bad luck. Roger's girlfriend killed herself after learning she had AIDS; Mark's ex-girlfriend Maureen left him for a woman. Just before the power is cut off, they receive a reminder call from Benny, a former roommate, that their rent is late.

Another friend, Tom Collins, stops by fresh from a mugging. He's accompanied by Angel, a cross-dressing Angel of mercy. Several other equally colorful characters weave their way in and out of the loft, all linked by hope and the drug AZT. Altogether, *Rent* offers a tour-de-force ensemble cast, driving rock music, full-throttle vocals and highly relevant plot.

The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning landmark American musical *Rent*, written by Jonathan Larson and directed by Michael Greif, will begin its eight-show run in Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on March 9.

Inspired by Giacomo Puccini's tragic-romantic opera *La Boheme*, *Rent* is a joyous, breathtaking and often bitter-sweet musical that celebrates a community of artists



Rent, considered by many the most exuberant and original American musical to come along in at least a decade, has reinvigorated Broadway and has been playing to sold out houses and excellent reviews around the country. It swept all the major theater awards in its inaugural year, 1996, including the Tony Award for Best Musical as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, being only the fifth musical ever to win both awards. Indeed, *Rent* is the most honored musical to come along since 1976's *A Chorus Line*.

The show received its world premiere off-Broadway at New York Theatre Workshop on February 13, 1996 to rave reviews. Rapidly becoming a sold-out hit, *Rent* transferred to Broadway on April 29, 1996, where it continues to play to packed houses.

The success of *Rent* is always tempered by the death of its talented creator, Jonathan Larson. Larson died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on January 25, 1996 mere hours after *Rent*'s final dress rehearsal, ten days before his 36th birthday and two weeks before his show's premiere.

The official *Rent* website can be found at: www.siteforrent.com. Single tickets can be purchased at the Marcus Center Box Office, 929 N. Water St., and at all Ticketmaster locations, or by calling (414) 276-4545, (414) 273-7206 or toll free at (888) 612-3500.

The Night of the Iguana

Reviewed by John Jahn

Tired and feverish, defrocked Reverend Lawrence Shannon (Jonathan Smoots) appears at the seedy Hotel Costa Verde on the western coast of Mexico. Though he's a tour leader, Shannon deserted a group of ladies from Texas Baptist Female College, sitting in a dilapidated bus in a village square.

Shannon was wise to run. His tryst with a 16-year-old girl, Charlotte Goodall (Megan Cornelius), has left her chaperon, Judith Fellowes (Carrie Hitchcock), livid and out to get him. Shannon runs to his old friend, the recently widowed hotel manager, Maxine Faulk (Laurie Birmingham), for help. Knowing Shannon, Maxine remains cautious.

Soon arrives an intriguing spinster, Hannah Jelkes (Laura Gordon), and her poet grandfather, Nonno (Richard Halverson). Together, Hannah and her grandfather have traveled the world together. Another group lurks on the periphery: the Fahrenkopf family — German vacationers too wrapped up in swimming, frolicking and listening to German radio reports to bother themselves with the Americans.

In *The Night of the Iguana*, Playwright Tennessee Williams raises some of life's most important and nagging questions. What makes us who we are? Is there meaning in life? How lonely is our existence? How should we face frustration? Williams' superb writing effectively explores these questions in this mature gem that shows him at the top of his form.



Certainly, Williams identified with Shannon, the conflicted ex-minister. Like many authors before him, Williams explored the battle between man's nature against socially constructed institutions. As a Gay man, he felt this quite strongly — his own nature (like Shannon's) conflicting with mainstream society, his religion and the law. Veteran actor Smoots gives a powerful, driven performance in this crucial role.

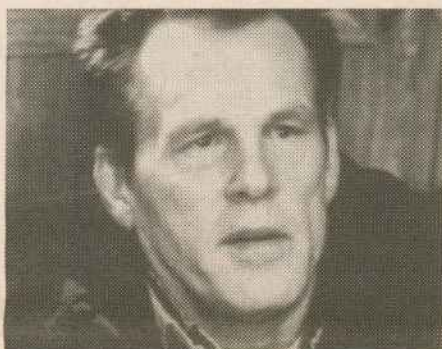
All the central performances are competently delivered, but the real scene-stealers are the gorgeous scenic, lighting and sound designs in this production. The hotel is coated in mesh and faded white paint, set amongst lots of greenery and bathed in blue-green lights. A nighttime thunderstorm shatters the eerie silence and pouring rain is heard. This Milwaukee Chamber Theatre production is not only finely acted but gorgeous to look at, evocative of place and time, and brimming with emotions, just as Tennessee Williams intended.

The Night of the Iguana can be seen at the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center through March 7. For tickets and further information, call (414) 276-8842.

OUT ON FILM**Affliction**

Reviewed by John Jahn

Wade Whitehouse (Nick Nolte) sees the world a little differently from everyone else. He's sure he can obtain custody of his daughter, Jill (Brigid Tierney), although it's plain that no judge will take her from her mother, Wade's ex-wife Lillian (Mary Beth Hurt). When his best friend, Jack Hewitt (Jim True), accompanies a man on a hunting expedition who accidentally shoots himself, Wade suspects a conspiracy. He wonders about mob involvement, cover-ups and hit men. Because the movie is told from Wade's insular point of view, we're never sure what's feasible and what's purely his imagination.



By means of flashbacks we learn the source of Wade's emotional instability: as a child he was brutalized by an unloving, alcoholic father (James Coburn). Profound scars and old wounds are re-opened every time he visits his parents. Fortunately for Wade, there is one stabilizing influence in his life, Maggie Fogg (Sissy Spacek), a waitress who genuinely cares for him and is willing to sacrifice her personal comfort to ensure that he has a chance at happiness.

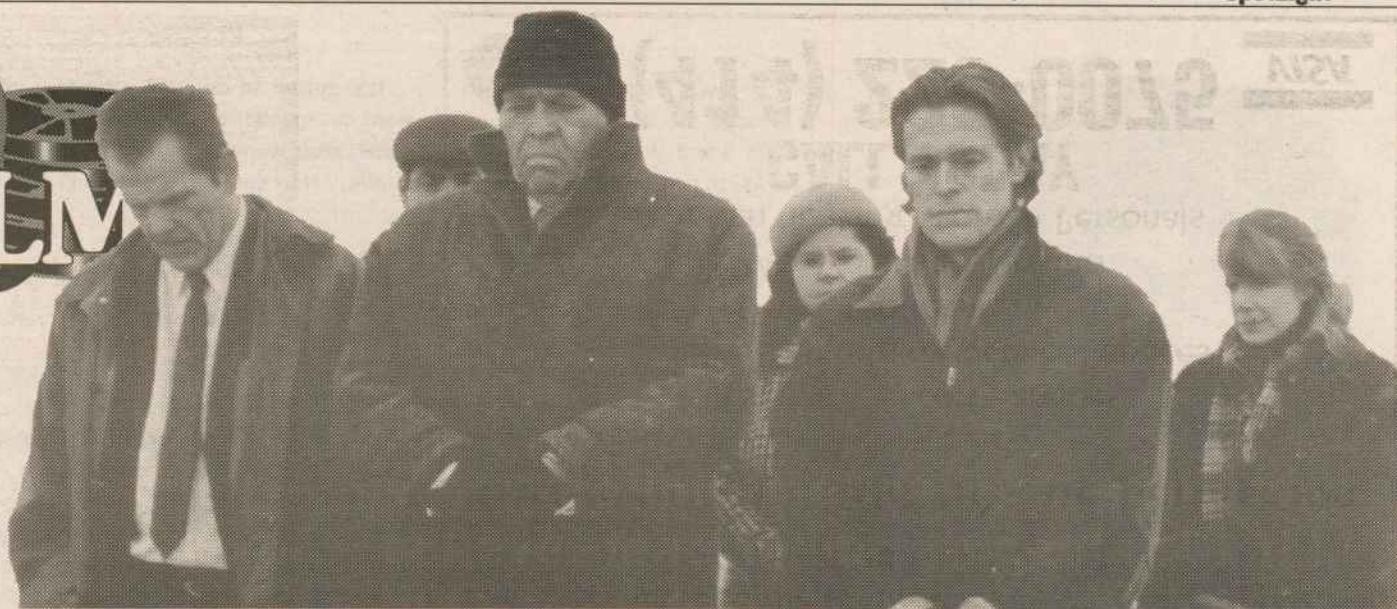
All of these elements are woven together in a tapestry that is both dramatic and mysterious. The glue that holds everything together, and the driving reason to see *Affliction*, is Nick Nolte. He has always been regarded as a good actor, but rarely has he poured himself into a part the way he does here. His portrayal of Wade is riveting - with his eyes, voice and every movement, he forces us to understand what it means to live in Wade's tortured skin.

Writer Paul Schrader's fascination with the line between sanity and madness stood out in two of his best scripts, *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*, which were forcefully brought to the screen by Martin Scorsese and Robert DeNiro. Some 20 years later, he has returned to similar emotional territory.

Although many of the plot details can be found in any dysfunctional family drama, the vividness of Wade's character is what makes this film especially compelling. Presentation is everything, and *Affliction* is an extremely powerful presentation of the effects of child abuse and alcoholism.

FOUR STARS

Affliction is currently playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

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Dear Ruthie

Well, hello Wisconsin! Did everyone have a great Valentine's day? What an incredible week it's been! I'm not going to rehash all of the things going on in Wisconsin this past week (that's Dusty's job), but I do want to mention a few things specifically.

A terrific time was had by all at The Pageant held on Valentines Day. Thank God I wasn't a judge! All the gals were incredible and the three male contestants... well... I just about lost it during the swimsuit competition. Everyone was terrific, and two excellent contestants walked away with the titles.

I was also lucky enough to judge the underwear contest at South Water Street Docks fourth annual underwear party. Next year I'm wearing my miracle bra; it's a miracle I found one that fits.

Well, I hope your V-Day was as fun as mine. I got cards, letters, gifts and flowers from many of my ex-husbands... well... at least those out of prison. All in all, it was a great week. Now let's read a letter!

Dear Ruthie,
My lover and I own a duplex. We happily rent the upstairs flat to a guy who has become friends with us. He is a good tenant and great person, but we have some difficulty with him in one area.

Nearly every night he comes downstairs to have dinner with us. The first few times it was fun and we liked it, but now its gotten to be a daily visit.

It's not the food thing necessarily, sometimes he brings food, wine or dessert. Sometimes he won't eat with us at all. If he doesn't eat with us, he'll sit in another room and watch TV while we eat.

It's gotten to be very annoying, as we want to spend time alone together in our home, after work. Who wants a daily visitor anyway? How can we tell him to cool it without hurting his feelings?

The Staff of Brian and Tom's Home Cookin' Duplex

Dear Staff,

The answer is simple: You must kill him. Each of you needs to stand on opposite sides of the door and when he walks in pummel him using pillowcases filled with oranges.

The least you could do is make his life very uncomfortable, causing him to move away. This task should be relatively simple since you: 1) have access to his living quarters, and 2) have a great deal of influence over his diet.

Put these two facts together and you've got yourself a deadly combination! Your little friend wont be pestering you after a belly full of Ex-Lax and a toilet seat that's been Super-Glued to the bowl.

Of course, two kind and hunky men such as yourselves — I loved that picture you included — could never do something this cruel, so let's consider another approach. One of you — not both so as not to appear as though you are teaming up on him — needs to meet him at the door one night.

Kindly explain that this is a special night for the two of you and that you plan on being alone. If he asks what the special event is... well... tell him, "The special thing is that you're not going to be eating with us, loser-man!" and slam the door in his face.

No, really, if he asks, and I'm guessing he might, just tell him that while you enjoy his visits, the two of you have decided to use dinner time to start communicating more. Make sure you let him know that you value his friendship, but that you need some one-on-one time and have decided to make it dinnertime.

Try this a few times and surely he'll get the hint. If you are concerned about losing his friendship, you may want to invite him down later that night or include him in some week-end plans.

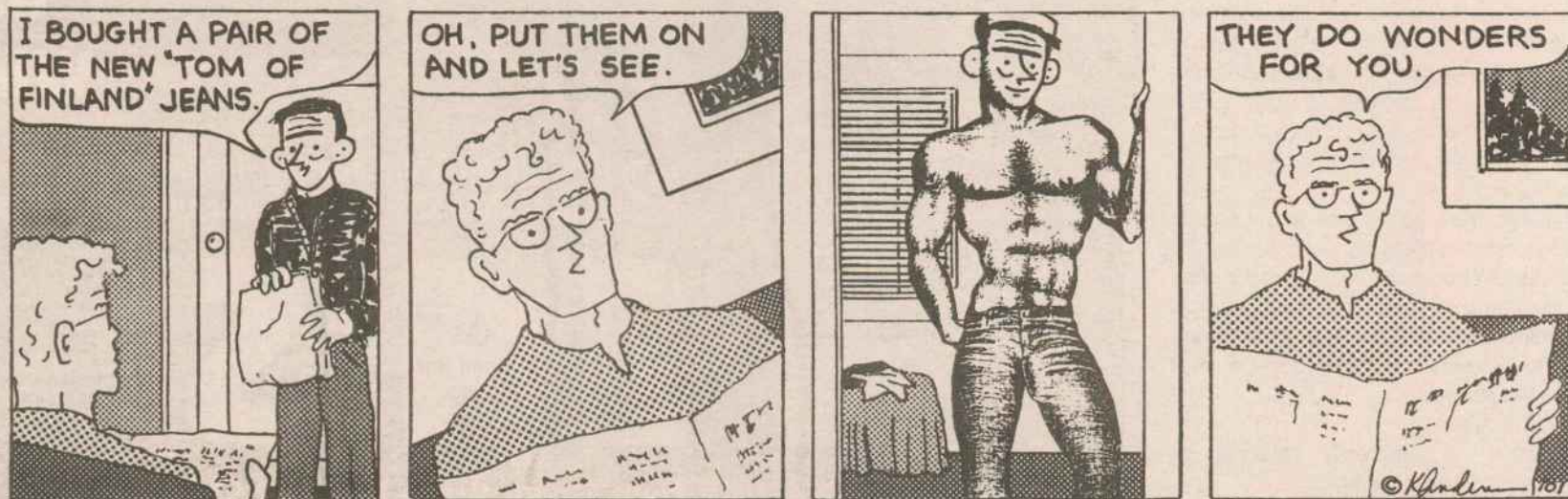
If things don't work out and the guy moves, let me know! I know a bawdy redhead who makes a great Jay's Potato Chip Tuna Loaf and would be a terrific tenant!

Hey Wisconsin! It's me, Ruthie! I just wanted to let you know that if you didn't get any Valentines and want to know why or don't have anyone to eat dinner with, write me! Come on now. Don't be shy. I won't even show anyone your picture if you send one. You can reach me by writing to Dear Ruthie c/o Wisconsin Light, 225 S. Second Street, Milwaukee WI 53204. You can also email me c/o editor@wilight.com.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



BIFF 'N BUNKY by KEITH N ANDERSON



DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Happy To Be Gay

This year's Sundance Film Festival was a veritable coming out party for Gay-themed films. Writer/director Mark Illsley's independent comedy *Happy, Texas* starring quirky talent **William H. Macy** and even quirkier beauty Ileana Douglas was the first hot property to hit the market, resulting in a bitter all-night bidding war and entertaining bids north of \$10 million. Indy powerhouse Miramax secured the rights to the film for an undisclosed sum, rumored to be a butt load.

Happy, which was shot in less than 30 days and financed by friends and family of the filmmaker, is an offbeat comedy described as a *Some Like It Hot* — like tale about two escaped convicts who hide out in a small Texas town posing as Gay beauty pageant producers (like there's any other kind?), which complicates things when they start falling for local women instead of each other.

Meanwhile, Fine Line Features acquired filmmaker Jim Fall's *Trick*, starring **Christian Campbell** and (ugh) **Tori Spelling**. The film, which *Variety* touts as "the most erotic Gay date movie ever made" focuses on a young, Gay musical theater composer pursuing his big break and falling in love. Film critics are predicting that *Trick's* appeal will make it popular

in the Gay community, and potentially a cross-over hit since it deals with basic relationship issues, not just Gay-centric ones.



Hilary Swank

Also picking up distribution at Sundance is the partially completed film *Take It Like a Man*, based on the Teena Brandon story. Brandon was the female teenage murder victim who lived as a man. **Hilary Swank** (now that's a porno name if I ever heard one), who filled Ralph Macchio's shoes as *The Next Karate Kid*, wears the pants in the flick. **Chloe Sevigny** of *Kids* fame co-stars.

More Madonna

Hot Mama **Madonna** has been on the other side of the lake... shopping for a home for her and little Lourdes outside of London as well as in France, where she announced she'd like to play the film role of legendary French cabaret chanteuse Edith Piaf. Like Madonna, Piaf was born to less-than-auspicious roots (reportedly birthed under a Paris streetlight to circus performers) yet rose to become one of the most influential singers of her time.

If Detroit-born Madonna, who's 'fessed up to eating out of a garbage can or two during her day, has the right stuff to pull off the role, why doesn't she wait and star in her own autobiography?

I Can't Get No Sapphic Action

Long before **Rachel Hunter** left **Rod Stewart**, this woman (whose fame peaked thirty pounds ago) left her rocker hubby and no one could figure out why. Now the truth comes out. She's been spotted all over Tinseltown all over another musician, who while significantly less successful than her ex, boasts a vagina. No wonder her ex hasn't commented on the demise of his marriage.

Leading Manson

Cross-dressing shock rocker **Marilyn Manson** may be moonlighting as a movie star. Manson is in talks with mega-producer Joel Silver (*Lethal Weapon* series) to star as the villain in a remake of the 1958 Vincent Price horror flick *The House on Haunted Hill*.

The plot goes like this: a group of strangers are each paid a million buckaroos to spend the night in a haunted house, which used to be an insane asylum, only to discover a million bucks ain't enough to spend the night with Marilyn Manson. And to think Manson's main

squeeze, actress **Rose McGowan** of *Scream* fame, does it for free?

Already committed to the picture are Eurothang **Famke Janssen** (last seen in *The Faculty*) and hottie **Taye Diggs**, who helped Stella get her groove back.

Courtney and the Cross-Dresser

While New Yorkers are scrambling to the theater to see **Nicole Kidman** in the buff in *The Blue Room*,

there's a different hot ticket in West Hollywood. Eclectic actor and *Scream* star **David Arquette** has been getting rave



reviews in the revival of *The Rocky Horror Show* at L.A.'s Tiffany Theater.

Celebrities such as fiancée **Courtney Cox** and Arquette sis **Rosanna** and Bi bro **Alexis** have been trekking to the theater to see David take on the role of Frank in the classic spoof of *Frankenstein*. This isn't David's first queer turn; he played a male hustler opposite Lukas Haas in *Johns* a few years back.

Reel Hollywood

Closeted actor **Rock Hudson** and Gay icon **Judy Garland** are among the subjects for a new television show for American Movie Classics, based on old screen tests of actors who later hit it big. The series, entitled *Hollywood Screen Tests* has uncovered some of the original 20th Century Fox screen tests of then-unknowns.

Hudson's 50-year-old test with actress **Kathleen Hughes** didn't get him a part, though Hughes and Hudson teamed up the next year at another studio for *The Golden Blade*. Other segments will include screen tests of **Pat Boone**, **Bruce Lee** and **Walter Matthau**.

Romeo San Vicente is seeking a new boyfriend. Interested parties should e-mail their vital stats, occupation and annual income to: RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.Gay.net or www.popcornq.com

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Events CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEB 24

Afterwords Bookstore (Milwaukee), Lesbian Book group, *Two Ends of Sleep* by Lizard Jones, 7pm, new members always welcome.

Art Elements Gallery (Milwaukee), Ann Fahl's Life Threads wall quilts, show runs through April 3. 10050 N. Port Washington Rd., Mequon. (414) 241-7040.

Chamber Theater (Milwaukee), *The Night of the Iguana* by Tennessee Williams, directed by J.R. Sullivan, through March 4th at the Broadway Theatre Center, Cabot Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. Tickets at the box office or by phone (414) 291-7800.

Gallery H20 (Milwaukee), Continuation of the photo exhibition: *Dreaming Big: The Legendary BJ Daniels* through March 28. 221 N. Water St., (414) 271-8032.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee), Presents the commedia dell'arte classic *Servant of Two Masters* through March 28 in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater in the Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex. Tickets to this bawdy piece can be purchased at the Milwaukee Rep Box Office at 108 E. Wells St., or by phone at (414) 224-9490. Tickets range from \$8 - 32.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee), *Guys on Ice* at the Stiemke Theater through March 7. Tickets are \$12.50 & \$17 at can be purchased at the Rep box office at 108 E. Wells, or by phone at (414) 224-9490.

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.

Cardinal Stritch University NML Art Gallery (Milwaukee), Kevin Giese: *Totems*, the romantic and the mystic converge in the paintings, drawings and sculpture of Mr. Giese, opening reception tonight from 5-7pm; through 1 April. 6801 N. Yates Rd.

Rural Dykes of America (Statewide), A weekend in the woods, through the 28, located 10 miles northeast of Antigo. Bring your skis, snowshoes, outdoor clothing or lounging by the fire wear. For information, car-pooling, meal plans, maps, call (608) 437-5676.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Men's discussion group continues discussing the documentary *The Question of Equality*; small meeting room, LGBT Community Center.

Symphony Orchestra (MSO) (Milwaukee), Nadja & Rachmaninoff, conducted by Andreas Delfs with violin by Jadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, 7:30pm tonight,

through Feb. 28. Uihlien Hall; Tickets \$20-50, call (414) 291-7605 or (800)291-7605.

The Irish Rovers at the Pabst Theater (Milwaukee), Faith and Begora showtime 8pm, as part of the International Arts Festival. Pabst Theater. Tickets (414) 286-3663 or the Box Office.

SATURDAY, FEB 27

Madison Gay Video Club (Milwaukee), Screening *Johns and Hot Spot*, 8pm, (608) 244-8675.

Wisconsin Ballet LTD. (Milwaukee), *Stories from Afar: Firebird, Danses 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.

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), reading by Irish poet Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, 8pm, in conjunction with Milwaukee's Intl. Arts Festival. 720 E. Locust St., Admission \$6, \$5 advance and members. (414) 263-5001.

SUNDAY, FEB 28

Boulevard Theatre Alley Series (Milwaukee), Irish Alleys: The Works of John O'Hara, Sunday and Monday only through March 15. Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S., Kinnickinnic Avenue, 7:30pm curtain for all shows. Ticket prices are \$10. Reservations recommended: (414) 744-5757. Part of Milwaukee's International Arts Festival..

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), Performance by flute virtuoso Camilla Hoitenga with special guest Matt Turner, 7pm. 720 E. Locust St., Admission \$6, \$5 advance and members. (414) 263-5001.

Woodland Pattern Writing Workshop (Milwaukee), Writing from both hemispheres, 1-4pm, \$30/\$25 members.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Legislative 'Town Hall' Meeting (Madison), State Rep. Marc Pocan meets to discuss state issues affecting the LGBT community. Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St., 7pm. Information call (608) 266-8570

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

BestD Traveling HIV Testing Clinic (Milwaukee), La Cage, 10pm-1am.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Symphony Orchestra (MSO) (Milwaukee), Doc & Trinity Irish Dancers, conductor and trumpet by Doc. Severinsen and featuring the Trinity Irish Dancers. 8pm tonight, through March 7. Uihlien Hall; Tickets \$20-50, call (414) 291-7605 or (800)291-7605.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), New

exhibit features the work of three women artists, and is entitled *Peepshow*. Opening night reception tonight from 6-8pm, continues through April 10. 911 W. National Avenue, FMI (414) 672-2787.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Artist Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee), Jazz with the Tommy Flanagan Trio and Cyrus Chestnut Trio. 8pm. Pabst Theater, tickets through the box office at (414) 286-3663.

Day of Self Discovery (Fox Valley), 6th Annual Day of Self Discovery 1am-3pm. FMI (414) 920-435-4404. Featured speaker Dave Kopay with speeches by Scott Fearing and Miriam Ben-Shalom. Lunch, beverages and entertainment along with opportunities to network, purchase books and have them autographed. Registration and coffee at 9am. Program begins at 9:30am with Lunch at 12 and wrap-up at 3:30pm. \$38 at the door. Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly. For advanced rates, contact Positive Voice.

Present Music (Milwaukee), Singer Dora Ohrenstein joins Present Music to perform an exciting variety of music. Concert Hall at the Center for Arts and Performance, Wisconsin Lutheran College, 8815 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Tickets are \$15-19; \$7.50 for students.

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), Reading by noted Chicano poet and educator Francisco X. Alarcon. 720 E. Locust St., Admission \$6, \$5 advance and members. (414) 263-5001.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Rebuilding Faith (Milwaukee), Monthly discussion group for LGBT Catholics meets from 10:30am-Noon at Holy Trinity/ Guadalupe School, 613 S. 4th St. This month's topic: Lent: Facing Our Shadows, Embracing the Light. Video presentation and prayer service. FMI call Fred (414) 481-8543.

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee), Jazz from all the members of the Conservatory's Jazz Department. 3pm, 1584 N. Prospect, The Recital Hall, tickets \$10, \$7 for seniors and students.

Woodland Pattern Writing Workshop (Milwaukee), Sculpting the Screenplay, 1-4pm, \$30/\$25 members.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

Afterwords Bookstore (Milwaukee), Book Club discusses *The Same Embrace* by Michael Lowenthal, new members always welcome.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Artist Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee), Violinist Corey Cerovsek, 7:30pm. Pabst Theater, tickets through the box office at (414) 286-3663.

Latino Arts Writers Series (Milwaukee), Author visits and receptions from 5-7pm. UCC, 1028 S. 9th St., tonight featuring Sandra Maria Esteves.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Madison Repertory Theatre (Madison), Presents *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, a midwest premiere by English playwright Martin McDonagh through Sunday, April 4. Madison Civic Center's Isthmus Playhouse, tickets \$20-25, Box Office 211 State Street or call (608) 266-9055.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

BestD Traveling HIV Testing Clinic (Milwaukee), 1100 Club, 10pm-1am.

Full Moon Productions (Milwaukee), welcomes Suzanne Westenhoefer as comedy comes out of the closet. With special guest Mary Waitrovich. 8pm, Centennial Hall, 733 N 8th St., (\$17 advance Afterwords and Outpost), \$19 at the door.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Symphony Orchestra (MSO) (Milwaukee), *Chariot of Fire*, conducted by James Paul, 7:30pm tonight through March 21. Tickets \$16-48. Uihlien Hall; Tickets \$20-50, call (414) 291-7605 or (800)291-7605.

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 Tuesday.

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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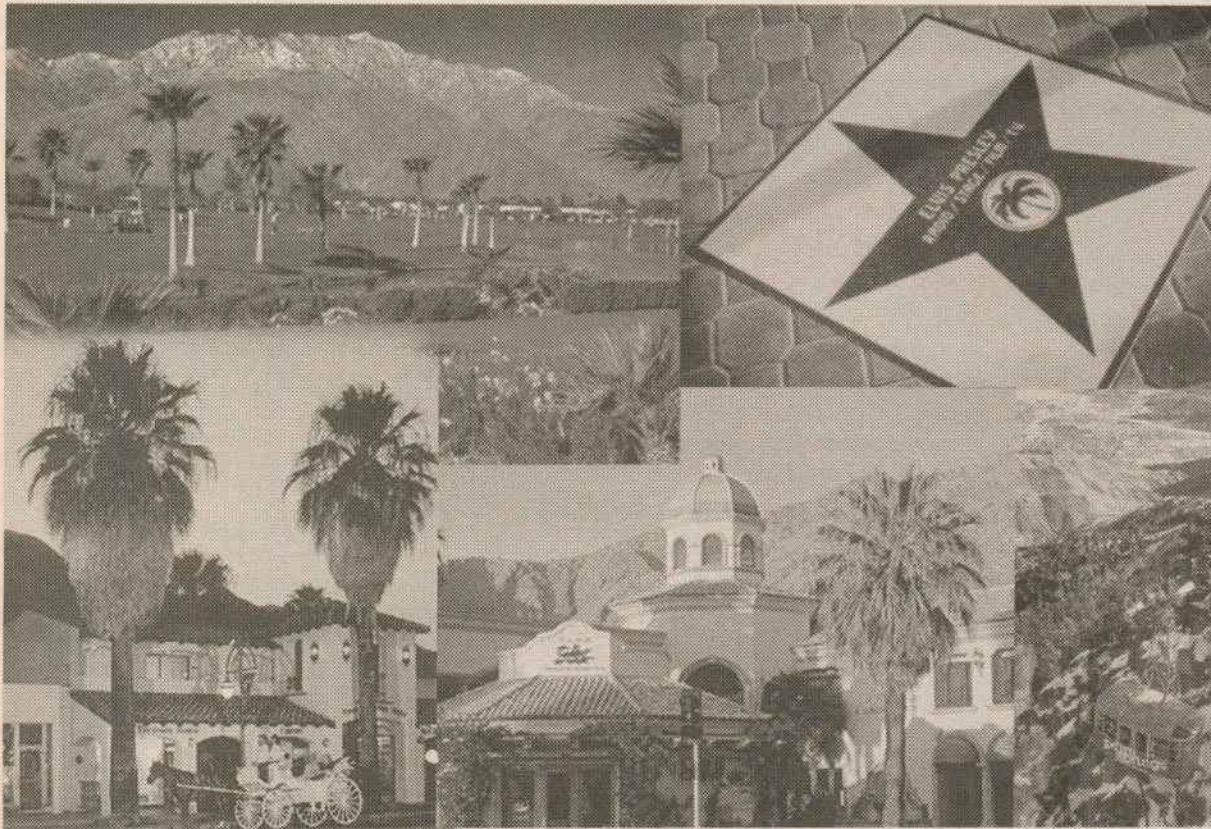
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Just a mile from downtown, Palm Springs International Airport handles American Airlines, Northwest Airlines, United Airlines and commuter flights from Los Angeles and Phoenix.

The Palm Springs "Gay" Life

In Palm Springs, Gay people — both visitors and the large local contingent — lead a relaxed lifestyle knowing they are accepted and not merely tolerated. This is often confirmed by civic leaders, the press and law officers.

There has been a lively Gay life in the Palm Springs area for years, mostly due to the close proximity of Hollywood and the movie colony. Here, the Gay lifestyle is seen as just another element of the cosmopolitan, sophisticated atmosphere of a world-class desert resort — Palm Springs.

Long ago a mecca for the Gay traveler, the city's Gay theaters, restaurants,

hotels/resorts, bars and clubs are now a respected and valued part of its culture and add significantly to its colorful, diverse spirit.

In addition to the large population of LesBiGays, Palm Springs attracts a constant stream of visiting Gays and Lesbians who flock there to swim in turquoise pools, hike the majestic canyons, browse in boutiques and galleries, dine at world-class restaurants and dance the night away in any of several trendy night clubs.

Accommodations

The Gay & Lesbian resorts in Palm Springs are a proud part of the city's hospitality industry at large. Exclusively LesBiGay accommodations are prominently advertised in the City's own *Palm Springs Visitors Guide*.

Known as the Premier International Gay Resort, Palm Springs has at least as many Gay visitors and locals as the more established Gay resorts. Travel agency members of the IGLTA (Int'l Gay & Lesbian Travel Association) now recommend Palm Springs as one of the leading Gay resort destinations in North America. But not only in terms of popularity, but also because of the wide diversity of its Gay hotels, restaurants and night life, as well as its unique natural tourist attractions.

In just the past decade or so, Palm Springs has become a mecca for Gay men and women from all over the world. More and more LesBiGays from the midwest are discovering that this sparkling desert paradise offers the vacation experience of a lifetime.

There are more than 30 hotels and inns in Palm Springs catering exclusively to

By Belle Pepper

More than 2,000 years ago, Palm Springs' first residents were the ancestors of today's Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians. The Juan Bautista de Anza expedition traveled through the area in 1774, and in 1853, a government survey party mapped Palm Springs and its natural hot springs mineral pool, and established the first wagon route through the San Gorgonia Pass. The Cahuilla Indians and their culture was dealt a severe blow in 1863 with the smallpox epidemic which killed thousands.

Judge John Guthrie McCallum of San Francisco was the first permanent non-Indian settler when he moved to Palm Springs in 1884 with his family, seeking health for his tubercular son.

The first hotel was built in 1886, The Palm Springs Hotel, by Dr. Welwood Murray. Then, in 1909, Nellie Coffman's Desert Inn opened, along with a garage for servicing the vehicles that brought visitors from the East and Los Angeles. By the time it was incorporated in 1938, the Village of Palm Springs had become world famous as a winter playground for Hollywood stars, European royalty and business tycoons — all who came to enjoy the endless sunshine and serenity of the desert.

Today, the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians is a vital part of the Palm Springs community. Individually, and as a tribe, they are the largest landowners in the city with nearly 6,700 acres. Many major hotels, facilities, and the Palm Springs Convention Center are sited on leased Indian lands.

Palm Springs lies on the western edge of the Coachella Valley, approximately 110 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 140 miles northeast of San Diego (an easy 1-1/2 to 2 hour freeway drive). "Down Valley" to the east are the smaller cities of Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, Palm Desert, and more.

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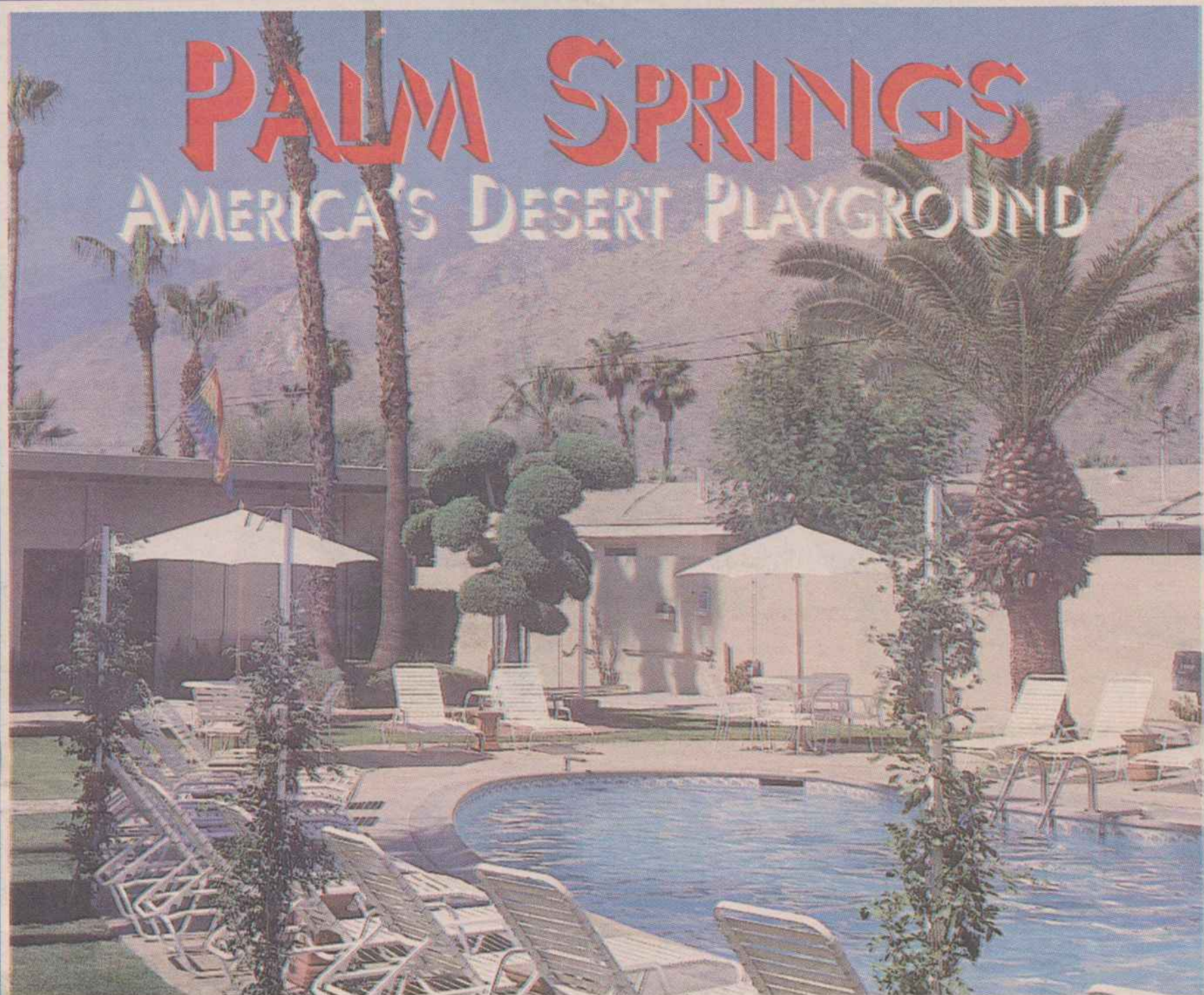
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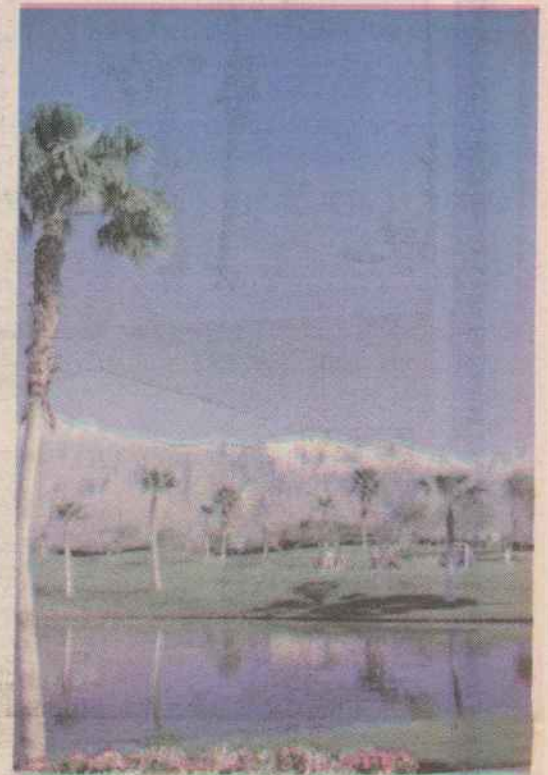
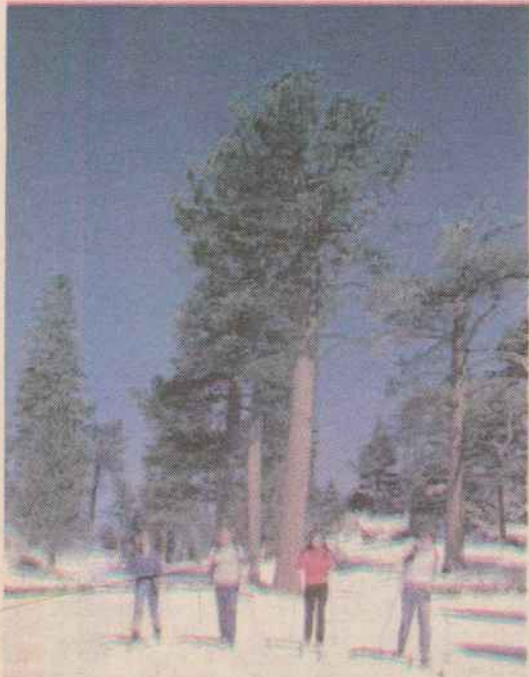
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PALM SPRINGS AMERICA'S DESERT PLAYGROUND



All photos used in this Special Travel Section were taken by: Arthur Coleman Photography

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PALM SPRINGS

PART II

FABULOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

The Palm Springs
Special Travel Issue
Continues in the
March 10 issue of the



LesBiGays. With magical names like Bacchanal, Bee Charmer Inn, Camp Palm Springs, Cathedral City Boys Club, Hacienda Warm Sands, La Posada and the like, there's a Gay hotel to suit every preference, style and budget. From quiet and intimate to wild and extravagant, you'll have no problem finding the right place for your stay.

All have pools and spas of every conceivable shape and size. "Clothing Optional" is often the policy, some simply permit swimsuits to be an option around the pool, while others limit nudity to private patios or permit none at all.

Check out the comparison chart on the following page. The variety of amenities offered at all the listed resorts are extensive. While we invited all the Gay resorts to participate with a listing in this chart, some chose only to list their name, address and phone.

Things to See & Do

Palm Springs isn't called America's Desert Playground for nothing. From cultural attractions to the finest golf courses in the world; shopping to museums; tours and flights to performing arts and stage shows; gaming to sightseeing.

At the Palm Springs Tourism web site (www.palm-springs.org) the March offerings were enough to boggle your mind. At least 42 separate events were listed, offering a huge variety of things to do including: Jazz Celebrity Golf Tournament, Village Arts Festival, Newsweek Champions Cup/State Farm Evert Cup Men's & Women's Professional Tennis Tournament, Neil Sedaka in concert, Hunter/Jumper Horse Show, La Quinta 17th Annual Arts Festival hosted by Merv Griffin, 7th Annual Crossroads Renaissance Festival, 11th Annual "Paws for Freedom" Walk-A-Thon, and of course, the biggest annual event in March, the 28th Annual Nabisco Dinah Shore Golf Tournament.

Held each year in Palm Springs, the Nabisco Dinah Shore LPGA golf tournament is the first major championship on the LPGA tour. It draws more than 100 of the world's best women golfers and is expecting Korean sensation Se Ri Pak.

This prestigious event has a long history of providing affordable entertainment for people of all ages. Ticket prices are extremely reasonable: a Clubhouse Badge (\$75) includes clubhouse and grounds admittance for the entire week the Tour is on. Weekend ticket packages are \$40; weekday \$30. For more information call (760) 324-4546 or check it out at www.nabiscodinahshore.com.

But all year round things are happening in Palm Springs. January highlights include an International Film Festival, the Bob Hope Golf Tournament and a Desert Art Festival. The Desert AIDS Walk, Annual Date Festival and the Frank Sinatra Celebrity Golf Tournament is held in February.

Early November brings the Palm Springs Annual Pride Festival featuring a parade, a free festival with entertainment, shopping and information booths, a dance tent, and official Pride events and parties.

Look for Palm Springs Part II - Fabulous Accommodations in the March 10 issue of the *Wisconsin Light*.



BED & BREAKFAST

Mira Loma Bed & Breakfast (Mixed)
1420 North Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
760/320-1178
Amenities: Pool, Nude Bathing
Credit Cards: Visa, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$135

Desert Stars Resort (Male)
1491 Via Soledad, Palm Springs
760/325-2686
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Breakfast
Credit Cards: MC, Visa
Rates: \$60-\$135

HOTEL

Alexander Resort (Male)
598 Grenfall Road, Palm Springs
760/327-6911
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Suites with Kitchen, Cable/VCR, Bar, Spa/Gym, Continental Breakfast, Bar/Lounge
Credit Cards: American Express, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$100

Bacchanal (Male)
589 Grenfall Road, Palm Springs
760/323-0760
Amenities: Pool, Nude Bathing, Continental Breakfast, Rooms/Suites with Kitchen, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Spa/Gym, Cable/VCR
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC
Rates: \$60-\$135

Bee Charmer Inn (Female)
1600 East Palm Canyon, Palm Springs
760/778-5883
Amenities: Pool, Nude Bathing, Gardens, Continental Breakfast, Privacy, Ambience
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$100

Camp Palm Springs (Military Mystique) (Male)
1466 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
760/322-2267
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Pets, Spa/Gym, Privacy
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$200

Canyon Club Hotel (Male)
960 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
760/322-4367
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Spa/Gym, Cable/VCR
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$100

Cathedral City Boys Club (Male)
68-369 Sunair Road, Cathedral City
760/324-1350
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Gardens
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$135

Chestnutz (Male)
641 San Lorenzo Road, Palm Springs
760/325-5269
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Pets, Gardens/Grounds, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Continental Breakfast, Breakfast
Credit Cards: Visa, MC
Rates: \$60-\$135

Columns Resort (Male)
537 Grenfall Road, Palm Springs
760/325-0655
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Pets, Gardens, Gardens/Grounds, Cable/VCR, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Breakfast
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$100

Desert Palms Inn (Male)
67-580 East Palm Canyon Road, Cathedral City
760/324-3000
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Bar/Lounge, Other Meals
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$135

Desert Paradise Hotel (Male)
615 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/320-5650
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Pets,

Gardens/Grounds, Cable/VCR, Ambience, Continental Breakfast
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$135

El Mirasol Villas (Male)
525 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/327-5913
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Breakfast, Other Meals, Gardens/Grounds, Spa/Gym
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$100-\$200

Hacienda Warm Sands (Male)
586 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/327-8111
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Cable/VCR, Continental Breakfast, Other Meals
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$200

Harlow Club Hotel (Male)
175 East El Alameda, Palm Springs
760/323-2977
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Breakfast, Other Meals, Gardens/Grounds, Spa/Gym
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$100-\$200

Hot Desert Knights (Male)
435 East Avenida Olanca, Palm Springs
760/325-5456
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Continental Breakfast, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Cable/VCR
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$100

Inn Exile (Male)
535 War Sand Drive, Palm Springs
760/327-6413
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Spa/Gym
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$135

INNduge Palm Springs (Male)
601 Grenfall Road, Palm Springs
760/327-1408
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Gardens/Grounds, Spa/Gym, Cable/VCR, Continental Breakfast
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$135

Intimate (Mixed)
556 Warm Sand Drive, Palm Springs
760/778-8334
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, etc.
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$145-\$200

Intrigue (Male)
526 Warm Sand Drive, Palm Springs
760/323-7505
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Privacy, Spa/Gym
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC
Rates: \$60-\$200

La Posada de las Palmas (Male)
120 West Vereda Sur, Palm Springs
760/323-1402
Amenities: Pool, Nude Bathing, Pets, Ambience, Continental Breakfast
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$135

Mirage (Male)
574 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/322-2404
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Gardens/Grounds, Privacy, Spa/Gym
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$145-\$200

Priscilla's (Mixed)
528 South Camino Real, Palm Springs
760/416-0168
Amenities: Pool, Cable/VCR
Credit Cards: Visa, MC
Rates: \$60-\$200

Sago Palms (Male)
595 Thornhill Road, Palm Springs
760/323-0224

Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Pets, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Gardens/Grounds, Cable/VCR
Credit Cards: American Express, Visa, MC, Discover
Rates: \$60-\$200

Santiago Resort (Male)
650 San Lorenzo Road, Palm Springs
760/322-1300
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Studios/Suites with Kitchen, Breakfast, Other Meals
Credit Cards: Discover, MC, Visa
Rates: \$60-\$135

The 550 Hotel (Male)
550 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/320-7144
Amenities: Jacuzzi, Pool, Nude Bathing, Spa/Gym
Credit Cards: Other
Rates: \$60-\$100

The Abbey (Male)
722 Prescott Circle, Palm Springs
760/416-2654
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$145-\$200

The Atrium (Male)
574 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/322-2404
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Patio/Balcony, Rooms/Suites with Kitchen, etc.
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$200

The Villa Hotel (Male)
67-670 Care Road, Cathedral City
760/328-7211
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Cable/VCR, Gardens/Grounds, Spa/Gym, Bar/Lounge, Restaurant, Continental Breakfast
Credit Cards: MC, Visa, American Express
Rates: \$60-\$100

Triangle Inn (Male)
555 San Lorenzo Road, Palm Springs
760/322-7993
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Privacy
Credit Cards: Discover, MC, Visa
Rates: \$60-\$200

Vagabond Inn (Mixed)
1699 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
760/325-7211
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Restaurant
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$100

Villa Mykonos (Turnkey Villas) (Mixed)
67-590 Jones Road, Cathedral City
760/321-2898
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi
Credit Cards: MC, Discover, Visa
Rates: \$145-Over \$200

Vista Grande Villa (Male)
574 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
760/322-2404
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Ambience, Gardens/Grounds, Cable/VCR
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$60-\$135

Warm Sands Villas (Male)
555 Warm Sands Drive, Palm Springs
619/323-3005
Amenities: Pool, Jacuzzi, Nude Bathing, Breakfast
Credit Cards: All
Rates: \$50-\$135

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This issue covers:
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Appearing in the next issue

PALM SPRINGS

PART II

FABULOUS
ACCOMMODATIONS

The Palm Springs
Special Travel Issue
Continues in the

WI Light

Other upcoming travel issues:
5/19 Provincetown
8/25 San Francisco
11/17 Key West

The Latest LGBT News . . .

Flys to our readers

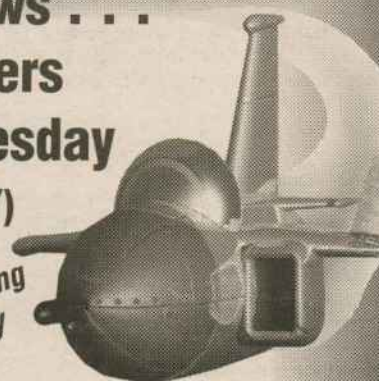
Every Other Wednesday

(SOON TO BE EVERY WEDNESDAY)

WI Light

The Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

We're Going
Weekly



NIGHTS OUT

Did you have a good V-Day weekend? I know I did. I won't go into the details about that though, this isn't SeXtion X.

I will say that I had just a fab time at the **South Water Street Docks** underwear contest — all those semi-naked cute guys walking around on the stage. The bar was packed, and emcee Steve G. was just the perfect host. He really knew how to keep things moving.

After the contest I did a little bar tour. I stopped in at the Bear's club night over at the

Of course Sunday was the big Pageant! We at the *Light* are very pleased that our coverage of this event was so well received by the organizers and those in attendance. It was a great event. And it should be. It is Milwaukee's premier impersonator event of the year.

In case you weren't one of those in the crowd, I will fill you in on what happened. Every contestant was really great. Of course, someone had to win and in this case it was Lady Symone who took home the Miss Gay Wisconsin title, while Dan E. Dance won the Mr. Gay Wisconsin crown. **La Cage** sponsored both of them.

Needless to say the post pageant party at **La Cage** was quite festive. Owner George Prentice was beside

himself with joy over seeing two of his own bring home the tiaras. That makes three major titles won by that bar in the last month. Sasha Mitchell also won Miss Great Lakes a couple of weeks ago.

Over at **219** they were celebrating the Pageant, too. They had a fine show for an appreciative audience, just as they do every Sunday evening.

Boot Camp. The place was packed wall to wall with hot sweaty men. Hey — no wonder I liked being there so much! Then I went over to **Fluid**. Can you say more HOT men? I thought you could.

Over at the **Triangle** a nice looking crowd was enjoying tunes, the bartender and each other — and not necessarily in that order!

In Between was fun also. One of these days, I will beat Curt at that dam Lucky 13's video game!

There were plenty of people over at **This Is It** enjoying that great jukebox and each other. By the way, that bar raised over \$2,500 for the ARCW food pantry with its annual stocking auction. Way to go!

They were dancing up a storm at the **Milwaukee Eagle** and over at **219** as well.

Dusty

AFTER DARK

WI LIGHT PHOTOS BY BELLE PEPPER

Your New Mr & Miss Gay Wisconsin, Lady Symone & Dan E. Dance

Dusty Does Mad Town — I went up to Madison for the big student conference. It was great seeing all those students from all over the place. No, they weren't all over my place - I wish! The 10% Society dance was even more crowded than usual, and the Drag King show they imported from New York was incredibly good.

Wait till the publisher sees my Taxi cab bill. After the dance I stopped at **Ray's** where I had a really good time. Then it was over to two very friendly bars, **Kirby's Klub** and **The Shamrock**. Finally it was off to **Club 5** where I finished the night off with some great music played by Tony R. — one of my favorite DJs.

Dusty Gets Butch — The Mr. WI Leatherman contest at the **Milwaukee Eagle** showed once again why this bar is so popular. It really was a very well run event with 8 contestants. I didn't know that any one place could hold so much butchness! Of course, the **Eagle** is butch every day of the year. So, if you missed the contest don't worry; you can stop in and see it for yourself anytime. The winner was Madison's Andrew Sagen

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

Going Out

FRIDAY, FEB 26

Brandy's II (Green Bay), Benefit show for Kelli Jo Klein to help her get to the Nationals. Tammy Faye, CC Domino, Justine DeZire and more are guests.

SATURDAY, FEB 27

Club 94 (Kenosha), 8th Annual Club 94 Pageant. A Tropical Paradise presented by Samantha D'Carlo. Contestants FMI (414) 697-1367.

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

SUNDAY, FEB 28

Club 5 (Madison), Drag King & Queen Show. 10pm, \$5 Cover. Benefit for women with breast cancer.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Brady East STD Clinic (Milwaukee), Traveling HIV Testing Clinic, La Cage, 10pm-1am.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Ballgame (Milwaukee), Possum Queen fundraiser for HER & Friends. 3pm-7pm Show at 4pm. Prizes. Stop by and get your chances to win. \$1 per, 6 for \$5.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Fluid (Milwaukee), 1st Anniversary Party, 7pm. Door prizes and drink specials.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing (Milwaukee), Off Site at 1100 Club, 10pm-1am.

Za's (Green Bay), Mr. & Miss Emerald City USofA pageant, 9:30pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Club 5 (Madison), Miss Club 5 Pageant, \$300 first prize.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Park West Theatre (Chicago), (322 West Armitage) The Fabulous Lypsinka Show, created and performed by John Epperson.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

BEST-D Clinic Anonymous HIV Testing (Milwaukee), Off Site at the Ballgame 6-9pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Club Xpress (Escanaba), The Black Party. Experience an evening of dark and sexual madness! Napalese (Green Bay), 50/60s Hope.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Za's (Green Bay), Mr. Wausau USofA, TC Hammond, presents a special show at 10:30pm.

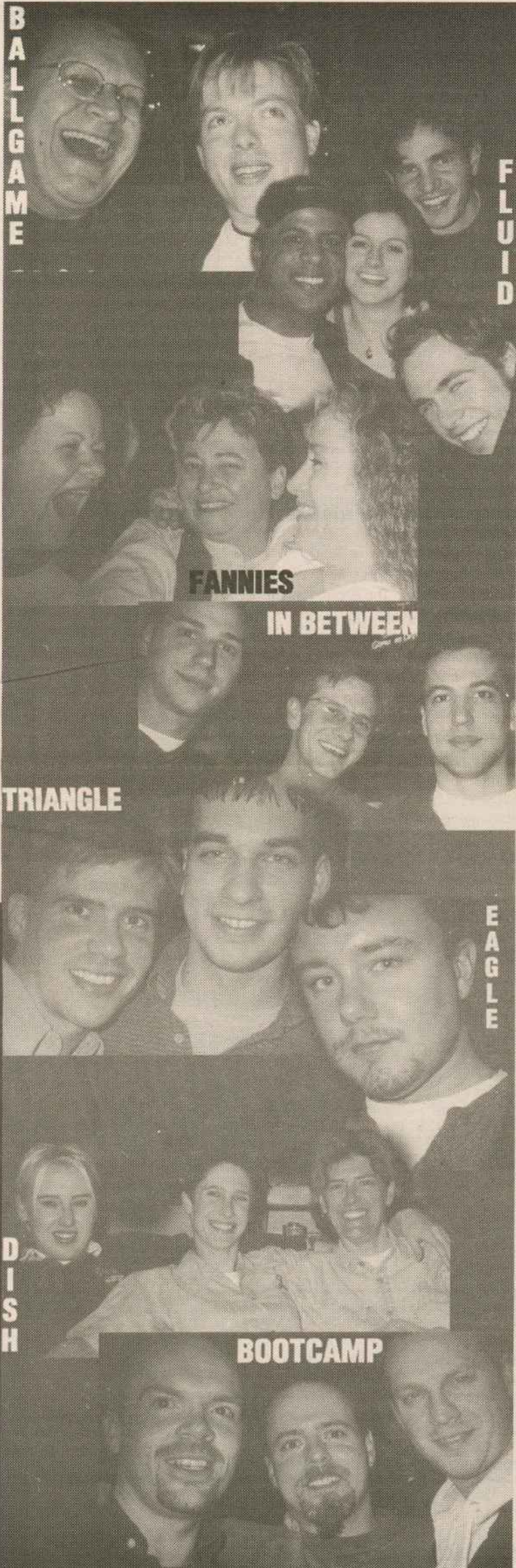
SUNDAY, MARCH 28

The Kioset (Beloit), (232 Shirland Avenue) Miss Gay Borderline Pageant (a WI USofA prelim) featuring Kelli Jo Klein with performances by Mr. Gay WI, Miss Gay Rockford and others.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

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





WILIGHT PHOTOS BY BILL MEUNIER

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Buy & Sell | Appears in Sextion X |

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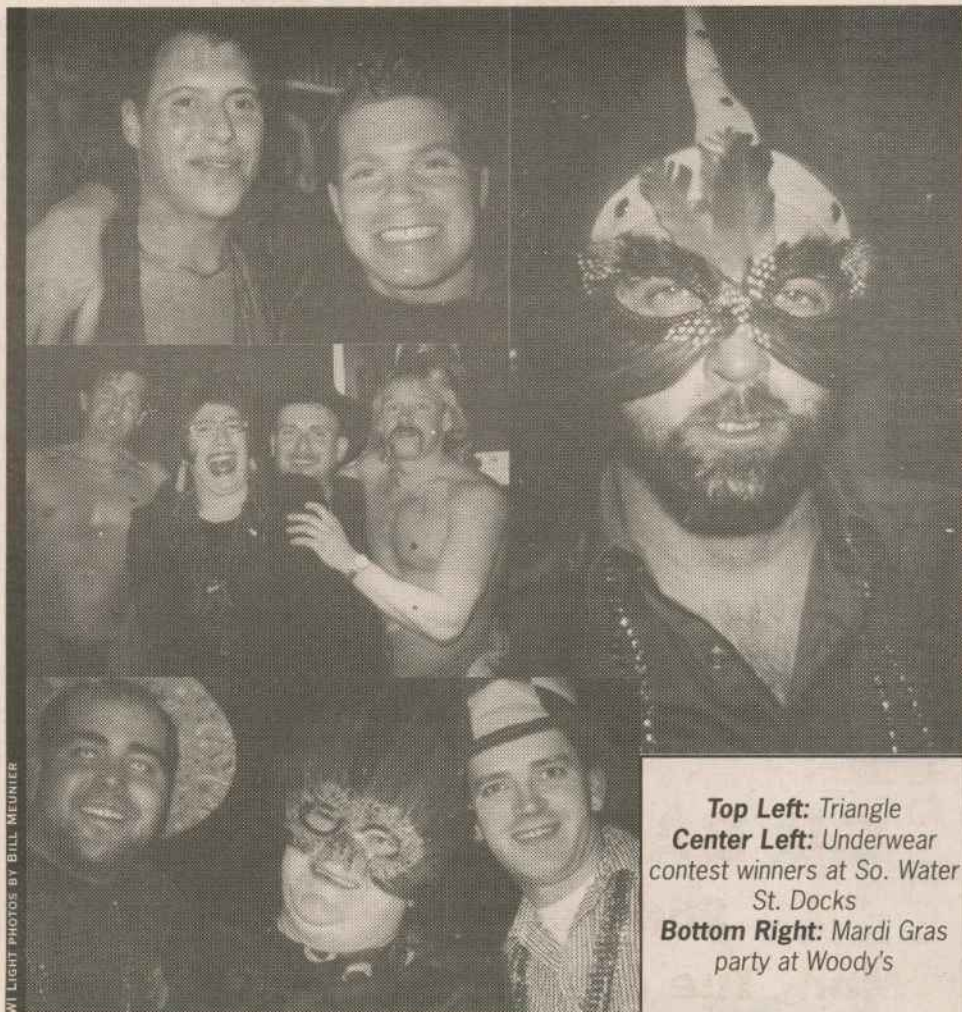
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Top Left: Triangle
Center Left: Underwear
 contest winners at So. Water
 St. Docks
Bottom Right: Mardi Gras
 party at Woody's



Nearly 500 people
 attended the opening
 of "Dreaming Big: The
 Legendary BJ Daniels
 at Gallery H2O.
 Approximately \$3,500
 was raised on open-
 ing night for the
 Milwaukee LGBT
 Community Center.

Leather man pictures:
 8 contestants vied for the title of Mr. WI
 Leatherman last weekend at the Milwaukee
 Eagle.

Right Photo: (Left to right) 2nd Runner-Up
 Mr. Wisconsin Leatherman Tim Craft
 (Madison); winner Andrew Sagen (Madison);
 and 1st Runner-Up Tom Larson (Kenosha).



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 & 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	473-7474
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 & 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.



WI LIGHT PHOTOS BY BELLE PEPPER

The Pageant 1999, Milwaukee Hilton Hotel

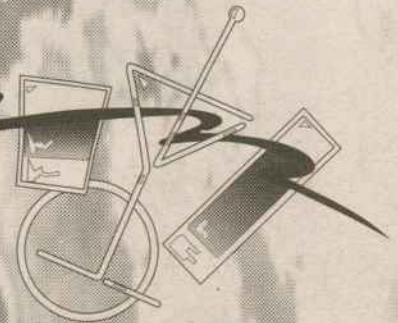
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SATURDAYS

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10:30p.m.



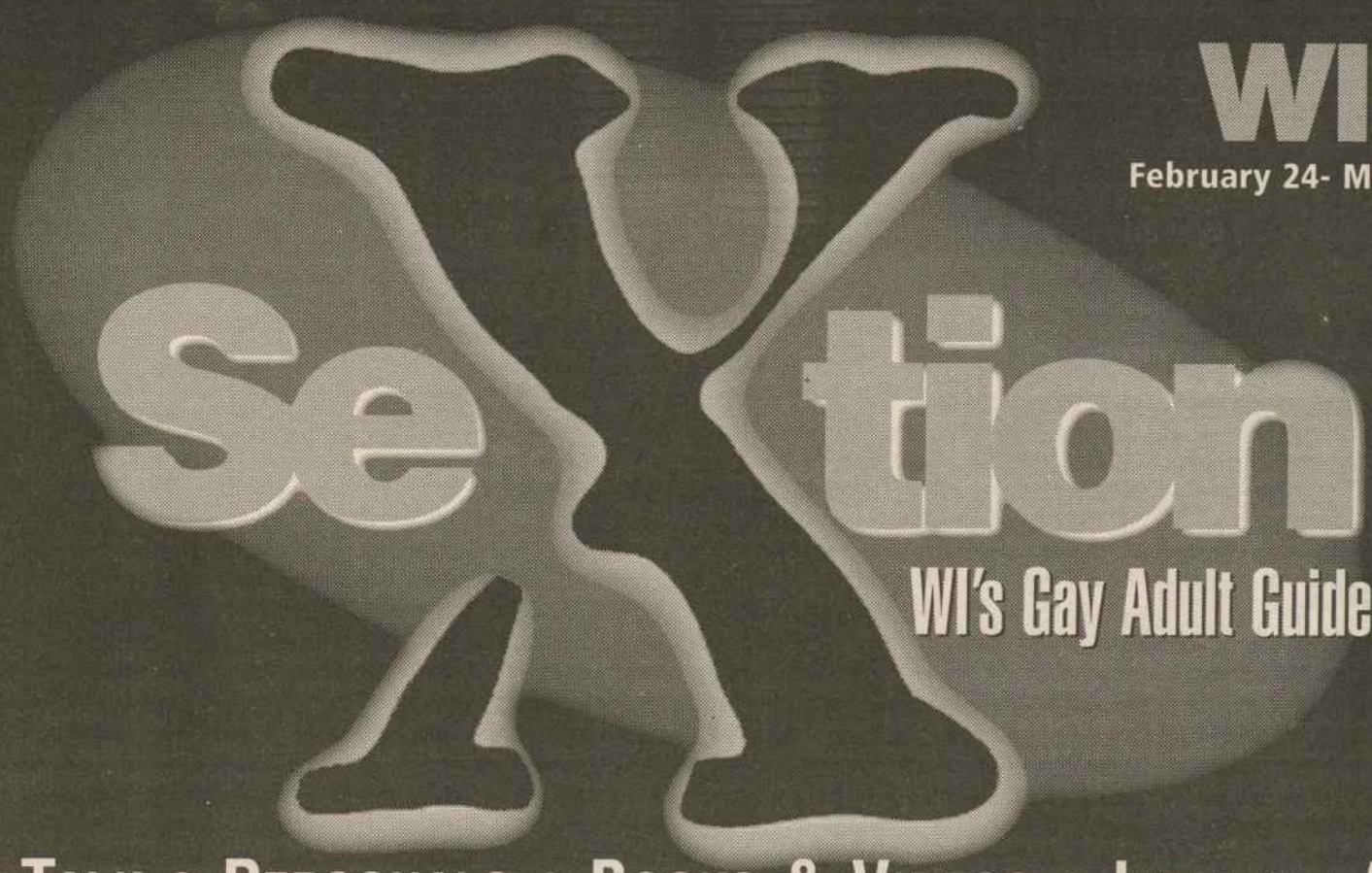
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WI Light

February 24- March 9, 1999

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The VIDEO BOOTH



New Releases

HUNGARIANS

A Steve Cadro Video, filmed in Hungary
Reviewed by Sam Edwards

More American Gay porn producers and directors are filming in Europe with casts of young men with unpronounceable real or fake names. Many of these men are real beauties, some producers specializing in pretty boys. European men will work in porn films for even less money than Americans will, and God knows, American porn stars are paid very little.

This film, made in Hungary, consists of four short stories, with some of the actors performing in more than one story. The first story, "Escape from Bosnia," features five good-looking young men who are seen running through a ruined town with machine gun noise in the background. They find their way into a subterranean waterway, finding dry places along the way where they pause to have sex in various combinations. They finally escape and are seen on a country road.

The second story is called "East Side Story" and features a very handsome youth who gets off a train and walks through town, heading for a machine shop to see his curly-haired friend with a beautiful smile. After some horseplay, the pair gets down to the business of enjoying one another's bods. Curly top smiles a big winning smile and handsome asks him to get on board. Both of

them laugh and smile all through some very pleasant sex. They are joined by another giggly young man who tops them both before the boss comes in and throws them out. They go to a secluded courtyard and continue enjoying themselves there.

"Hungarian Rhapsody" begins with a

young man looking through a window at a nude man bathing with a pitcher and bowl. He joins the nude man for some good, clean sex. Another man comes in, making it a nice three-way.

The last story is titled "The Magician" and is the most imaginative of the four stories. Five very young soldiers wander through the fields, stopping to bathe and have sex in a pond and near a haystack. They come upon a beautiful modern country house, and a handsome magician and his assistant appear. The magician casts a spell and everyone has a lot of hot sex. After enjoying themselves, the magician gives them a handful of stones that change into gold coins, which the soldiers use for food in town. Very refreshing to see all new faces and bodies in a well-done film. I recommend.

Billy 2000 Billy Goes Hollywood.

Produced by Scott Masters, Directed by John Travis for Studio 2000 Productions.
Reviewed by Sam Edwards

I assume that anyone who reads these reviews has seen or at least heard of the latest commercial craze for Gay men: the Billy doll. Each doll (from the same mold) is dressed in removable clothing to depict a Gay fantasy character, i.e., Cowboy Billy, Leather Billy, etc. When you remove the clothing, you find that Billy is anatomically

correct and anatomically impressive.

Now Studio 2000 has made an X film about seven of the Billy dolls who come to life, at least in the mind of the person who buys the doll. The first scene is in a Gay boutique featuring a display of the dolls. Tommy Cruise (no relation to the film actor) is smitten with the Cowboy Billy doll, who turns out to be Studio 2000 exclusive porn star Clay Maverick. (Don't you just love the campy names these porn stars use?) Maverick is much trade for Tommy, ultimately paying top to Tommy's bottom. Beautiful people, beautiful photography, etc. Beautiful, but boring.

Tommy returns to the store and buys another doll, Foreign Sailor Billy, to give to his friend Brian Daniels. The new German porn star, Thom Barron, who also is anatomically impressive, plays the part of the trade top in another well-photographed sex trip. Even the impressive anatomy doesn't lift this scene from being run-of-the-mill.

The handsome leather men, Mark Mason and Tony Acosta, eye one another in the boutique, meet outside and soon are having the best scene in the flick in a dungeon with a padded table. Both are Leather Billys, and Mason teases Acosta orally before putting him on the bottom. These men seem to relate to one another and enjoy their work.

Logan Reed is Executive Billy to Shane Colt's Activist Billy. Lots of well-filmed action here, without much real passion. We also have a solo masturbation scene featuring the handsome Mark Slade as Lifeguard Billy. Director John Travis puts these beautiful men through their paces in a very professional way. The camera work and production values are very good, but mostly these men go about their porn work as just another day's work to get through, and for my money, that's not enough to make a fine film. Good enough to pass, but not the best work of John Travis.

Classic Video

That Perfect Summer

Falcon Video Pac - 57
By Andy James

Back in the golden days of Falcon studios it was hard to beat one of their productions. *That Perfect Summer* is a good example of

why Falcon — along with Catalina — reigned supreme in the late 80's and early 90's.

The video begins with Superstar bottoms, Jon King and Casey Jordan — who was in his cute only somewhat buffed phase — cruising around a lake in their speed boat. The two come a little too close to co-stars Robert Harris and hunky Tom Rucker and wind up splashing them.

After our protagonists land, Harris and Rucker set a trap for Jordan and King. They first capture Jordan. What follows is one of the hottest outdoor sex scenes ever committed to tape. After some initial sucking and fucking between the threesome, King comes along.

Soon these four studs are totally into each other. While King is known for his bottoming skills, it is Jordan who steals the scene. He rides Harris while the two sit on a bench. Harris gets so excited that he barely pulls it out in time for the money shot. But Harris is not satisfied. He goes after King while Rucker and Jordan rim each other.

Other noteworthy scenes include a hot three way between John Davenport, Tony Marino and Ron Pearson. Pearson is in a locker room sitting on a butt plug while he secretly watches John and Tony go at it in the sauna. The boys catch the spy in the act and force him to eat their meat as a punishment. I mean what else could they do?

It isn't much a punishment though as Pearson enjoys his dinner at least as much as Davenport and Marino enjoy serving it to him.

The one fast forward spot comes during a poolside sex scene between Harris and Chris Williams. Harris does his best, but Williams looks and acts bored with the whole thing. How he could be bored with Harris all over him is anybody's guess.

The video concludes when we find out that all this steamy, sizzling sex was dreamed up by David Sexton as part of a hot wet dream. Sexton awakes to find himself cumming without even touching his throbbing member.

Outside of the pool scene, this is one hot video. If you can find it on a store shelf rent it. If not, the outdoor orgy alone makes it worth buying.

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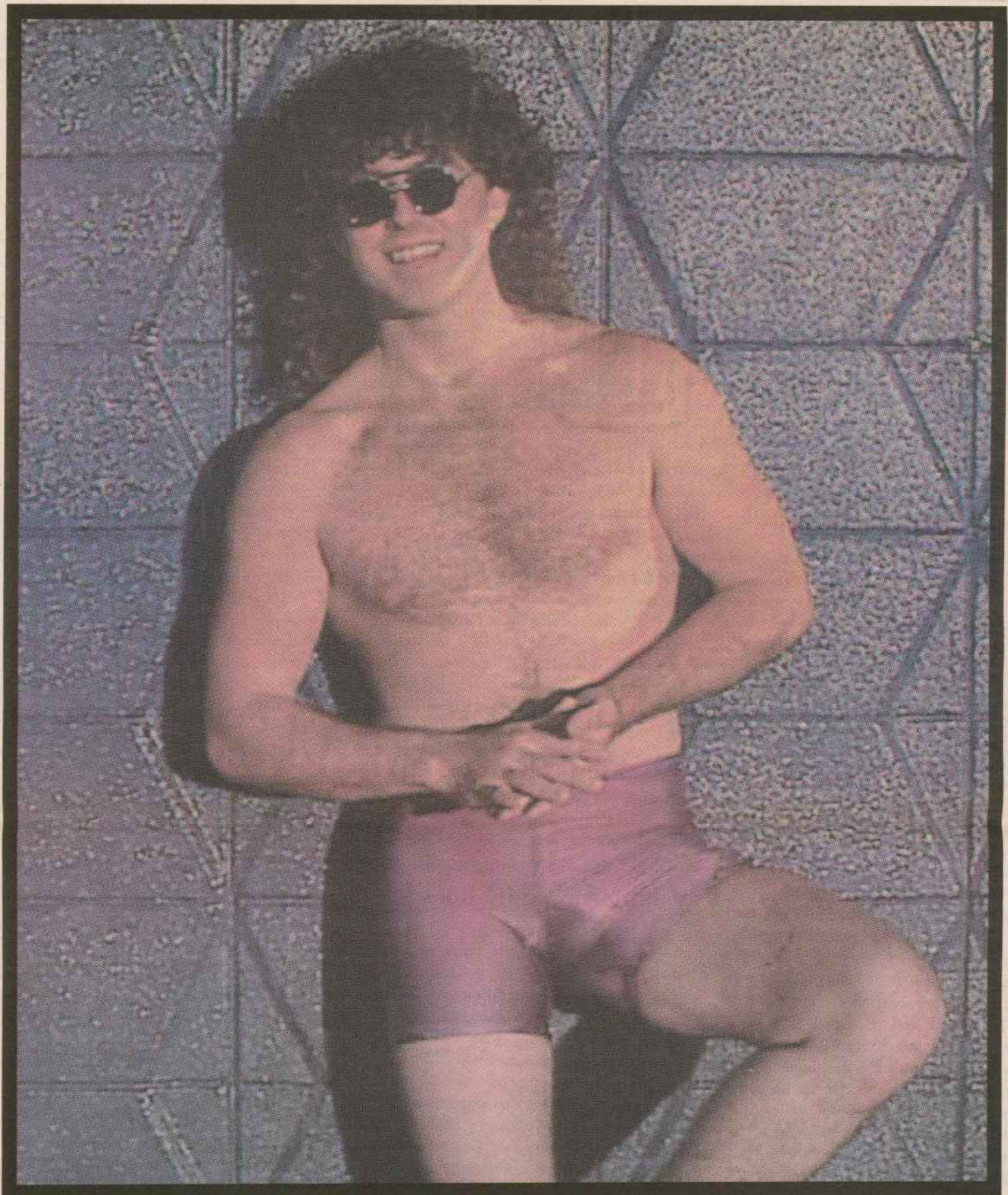
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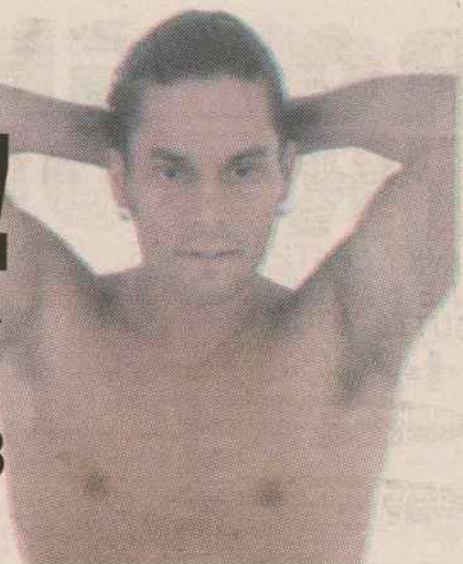
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BIO FOR THIS WI LIGHT PIN-UP: MIKE

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FAVORITE THOUGHT – Jerry Falwell and his comment on the Gay Teletubbies? "He only wishes he were one."

HOBBIES – Music, & skiing (water & snow)



ASK THE DOCTOR

by Dr. Ted Freidman

Q: My penis is too small, and I'd like to know if the enlarging methods that are advertised really work.

A: A recent medical report (on National Public Radio not too long ago) indicated what most of us felt when we first saw the enlargement ads - I doubt it.

Medical studies indicate that when your "thang" gets fully erect, that's it — it won't get bigger.

The size thing is part of dick mythology that seems to have been with us humanoids forever. Oriental artists painted fairly hilarious pictures of five-foot tall guys with four-foot hard-ons since at least the 10th century.

Also, most men who feel their penis is too small are in the average range and are comparing themselves to highly endowed guys.

Q: Are there any true aphrodisiacs? I have heard of this, that, or the other substance over the years, but have not felt safe trying one yet.

A: This issue has never been proved or disproved in terms of scientific studies but has been a very active area of concern and commerce for centuries. Many animals have been killed for this or that body part due to the belief that the substance is an aphrodisiac.

Many chemicals have been said to stimulate desire, the latest of which is Viagra, a chemical that increases blood flow not

desire, as would be required to be a true aphrodisiac.

When a real one is discovered, we'll all know about it. The best aphrodisiac I know of is a good self-image and a good understanding of how to be most sexually turned on.

Q: A friend tells me that I can't be Bisexual since there is really no such thing, that one can't "ride the fence," i.e. one has to choose either one or the other gender to be turned onto. I have always felt mixed up with this issue and have delayed getting into a relationship because of it.

A: My advice to anyone asking this vital question is to recommend reading as much as you can find, joining Bi discussion groups, or if those don't work, consult a professional to discuss in detail your background and concerns.

A very good, albeit not easy read, is Marjorie Garber's *Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life*. Professor Gerber is Professor of English and the Director of the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Harvard University and a very knowing person to have brought together many important aspects of sexuality, including and mainly directed Bisexuality.

Previous books on Bisexuality have not included many cultural aspects. Professor

Gerber has looked at art, motion pictures, literature and mythology as well as other areas with Bisexual subjects or subtexts.

She also writes in a humorous way and is not afraid of being open and honest about her subject, including her openness of being Bisexual. Good for her!

In counseling I often find that Bisexuality is difficult in our society to treat, as we tend to feel that as a culture you have to homoerotic or heteroerotic. The fact is that many people are turned onto both sexes and suppress their feelings and live in the shadows.

This is a vastly hidden area of human concern because it is not a rarity. It is estimated that at least one third of the population has concerns in this area, but most don't live an active Bisexual lifestyle.

Q: My sex life is terrible due to a problem I have never understood. I can attain an erection and have fairly long sex, but I am finished when I reach orgasm.

I am a 30-year-old male with no health problems — I get yearly physical exams. Due to this I have lost two lovers in the past six years. I became sexually active when I was 24 and had tried to avoid masturbation up to 24 as I was raised in a very religious home.

A: Your problem is well known in sex therapy and is a very treatable issue in that if

you function okay one time then your inhibition is following orgasm. That is, your brain is telling you — albeit at an unconscious level — that you've had enough fun and any further pleasure is sinful, wrong etc.

This is a problem of sexual guilt and difficulties with sexual intimacy. One learns to react in this one orgasm because of not understanding what is happening — how sex works, etc.

Important aspects of early childhood can be telling here. For example, it is not uncommon for a person as a child to have been caught and punished for masturbating or warned about the "terrible" outcomes of such behavior.

Some people also remember in childhood that sex was never discussed, that mom and dad seemed asexual, and that religion was used to instill a fear of sex.

The best way of understanding the one orgasm pattern is to read about human sexuality in recent objective and well-researched works. Check these out at your library. A further step is professional counseling.

The main thing to understand is that the problem is one of conditioning and reconditioning.

In BED with ED

It's always in bed that I ponder my life: what have I done? What do I do? Where do we go from here? I know that line is from a Madonna song, but it makes sense. Where do we go from here? I think about the things I've done in my life, but more importantly, I think about the things that affect my friends and me. My friends are my life: they are my joy, my sorrow, my anger, my brothers, my sisters, my lifelines. As Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, "We are shaped and fashioned by what we love." It's so true. I lay in bed once talking to my God when I asked, "What do I want to be like?" My own reply from my sense of security was, "I want to be like my friends." I felt much love that night when I realized that I am shaped and fashioned by the people I love. I failed to realize, however, that I would not always be loved in return. Over the years, I've learned to accept the answer that came to me that night. But I've also come to accept that loving my

friends means giving of myself so much that I do not always see the hurt that could come my way. That's life.

If life was easy, we would all have been given wings to fly like angels, and we'd be able to hear the music that comes with every sunrise and the silence with every sunset. We live here on this ground we call Earth, and it's on this Earth that we are constantly barraged with violence, death, grief and monsters that would be easier to run away from than to confront. It's easy. I know it; you know it. We've been there and we like that feeling of being comfortable, when we don't have to see or hear the things we fear. But you know what? We may escape it, but it finds us and torments us. What do we do then?

We face it *together*. No one ever said you have to face life's miseries alone. You have your friends and I have mine. Mine give me great counsel, good laughs, wet tears, but more importantly, I just know they're there. Doesn't it feel good when you begin forming relationships that you know will turn into great friendships? I love that feeling. I love that so much that I often wish I could do it with every single person I see out and about. But it's my own fear and maybe yours, too, that prevents us from meeting and exchanging ideas and phone numbers. It's this

exchange of ideas and information that I hope develops out of this column.

You may already have asked yourself, "Why did he give it such a title?" My response is because it's in bed that people are at their most vulnerable. People are naked, topless, bottomless, wearing silk jammies, or wearing a pink bunny jammey with attached footies (props to "A Christmas Story"). Either naked or in pink, people are exposed to their environment, feelings, desires, dreams, and information. Have you laid there and watched your lover sleep? Have you been watched? Have you chatted about the stupidest things but learned something from it? Have you asked your lover to marry you in bed? Have you broken up in bed? Have you cried? These are examples and symptoms of being vulnerable and exposed.

"In Bed with Ed" is about sex: it's about asking questions that you may never ask a lover; it's about learning new techniques to enhance your love making; it's about building new relationships. It's going to be about

you and *me*. If you have any questions about safer sex, sex in general, or just want to get something off your chest, write me. Periodically, I'll have other people join me in bed. They will be friends, coworkers, lovers, tricks...anyone who can answer the question if I can't. "In Bed with Ed" might even ask you to join me in bed and talk about the things that scare you, excite you, anger you, frustrate you, and make you, *you*. Hey, I might even throw in a curse word or two: Fuckin' fuck. That of course has no value to

... it's about learning new techniques to enhance your love making; it's about building new relationships. It's going to be about you and me.

the column, but at least it lets you know that this is going to be a no holds barred column. It will be graphic, explicit, dirty, naughty... real. I'm not a doctor and don't expect doctor lingo, get it? You may get a crappy signature, but that's where it stops and *you* begin. This column is for you guys and gals; let me hear you talk and get "In Bed with Ed." To write me, send your letters to: "In Bed with Ed", PO Box 510498, Milwaukee, WI 53203, or e-mail me at InBedwithEd@aol.com