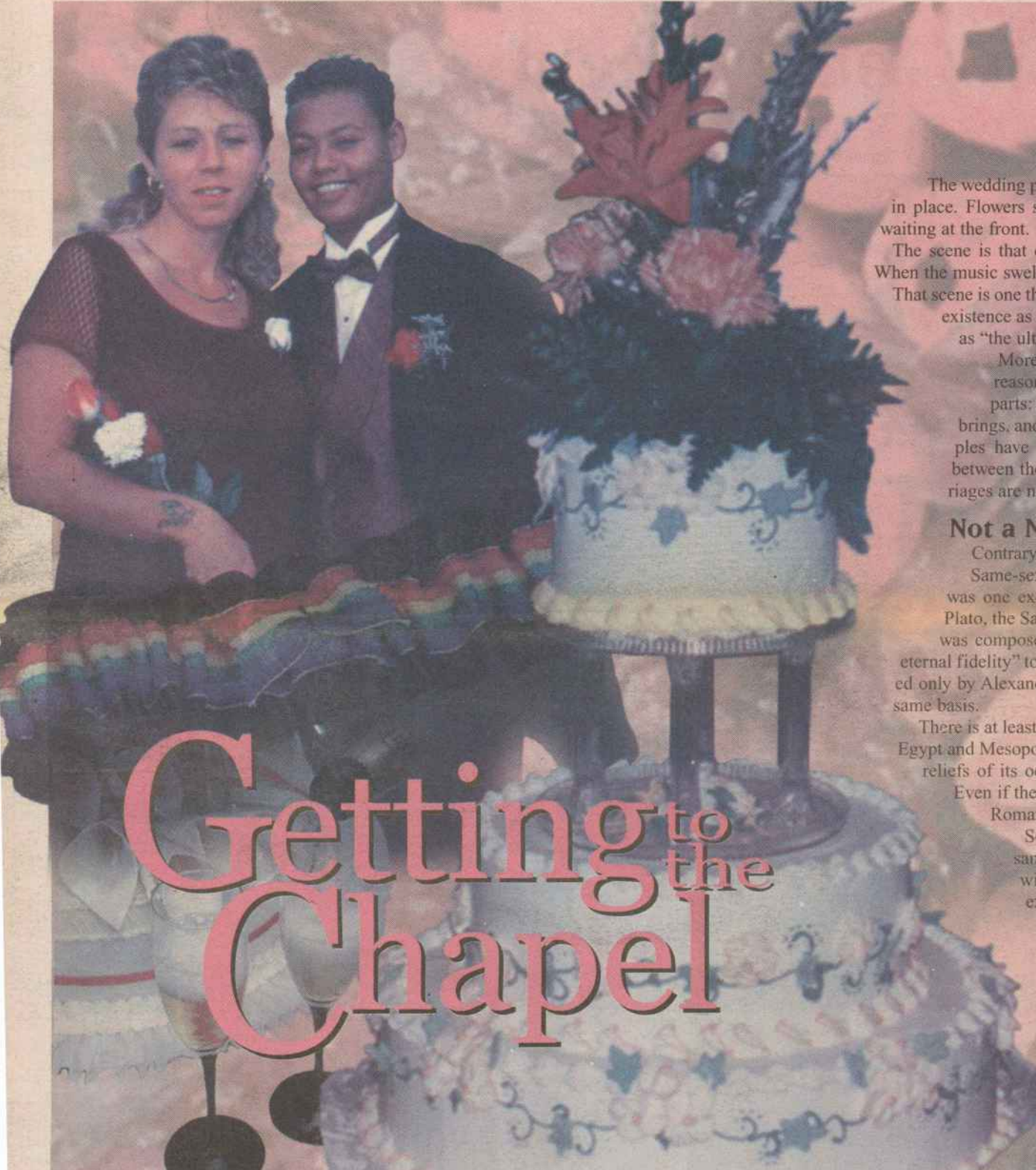


The Weekly Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

WI Light

March 24-31, 1999

NOW WEEKLY



by Bill Meunier
A Wisconsin Light Report
First in a Series

The wedding party is standing on either side of the altar. The guests are in place. Flowers scent the church with delicate fragrances. The Minister is waiting at the front.

The scene is that of a traditional wedding, but with one important difference. When the music swells, two men or two women will walk up the aisle arm in arm. That scene is one that has become common all over the country. Some see its very existence as a threat to what they call "the traditional family." Others see it as "the ultimate expression of love."

More and more LGBT couples are deciding to "get married." Their reasons are similar to those given by their heterosexual counterparts: love, a desire to have a lifelong partner and the stability that it brings, and even having children. While LGBT and straight married couples have much in common, there is one very important distinction between them — except for a few European countries — same sex marriages are not recognized anywhere in the world.

Not a New Concept

Contrary to popular belief, same-sex marriages are not a new idea.

Same-sex marriage was generally unknown in ancient Greece. There was one exception. That was the Theban "Sacred Band." According to Plato, the Sacred Band was a military unit from the city-state of Thebes. It was composed of 300 male couples. Each couple had to take "a vow of eternal fidelity" to each other before they could join the Band. They were defeated only by Alexander the Great's "Companion" band, which was formed on the same basis.

There is at least indirect evidence that same sex weddings occurred in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. The tomb of the renowned Pharaoh Akhnaton contains reliefs of its occupant in intimate poses with his male lover, Smenkharah.

Even if the Egyptians didn't perform same sex wedding ceremonies, the Romans certainly did.

Some non-Western cultures also embraced or at least tolerated same-sex unions. The Samurai of feudal Japan exchanged vows with "apprentice warriors." In this hemisphere, European explorers were stunned to find that same sex unions between both women and men existed among native cultures here.

In fact, same sex marriages were so common among Native American tribes that only a few didn't recognize them.

Latter day Americans, including some in Wisconsin, have been holding "weddings" for many years. Eldon Murray founded LGBT Wisconsin's first publication, *Gay People's News* in the early

continued on page 8

Getting to the Chapel

Inside

Lesbian Health Study—
A Wisconsin Light Exclusive

New LifeStyle Section

A Wisconsin Light Exclusive



Michelle Pfeiffer in *Deep End of the Ocean*
Page 14



Planning Your Wedding
Page 21



Out on T.V.
Page 16

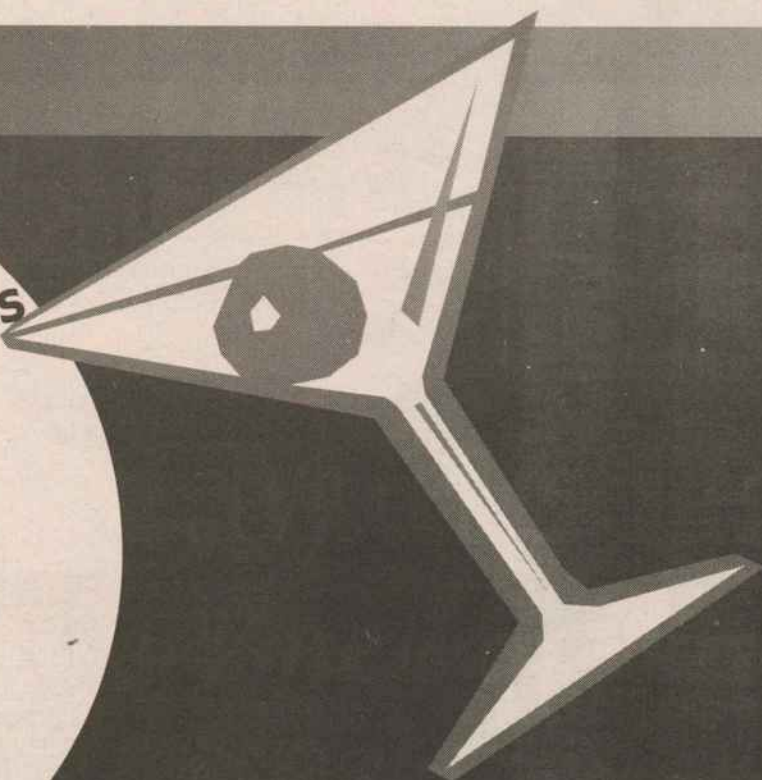
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WI Light

March 24-31, 1998

Contents**News & Commentary**

- 5 Balck LGBT task Force Formed
- 7 Police Say Bar Raids Not An Issue
- 9 National News

Spotlight Section

- 14 Whoppi and Michelle On The Deep End

- 15 Film & Theatre Reviews

LifeStyle Section

- 16 Film Reviews
- 20 Planning Your Wedding
- 22 Sports Page
- 23 Tineality

Nights Out Section

- 25 Dusty After Dark
- 26 Bar Guide

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AP Associated Press**LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER****On Civility**

Our editor got an email the other day. It was laced with an obscenity and attacked the work of others who bring you what we now proudly premier as Wisconsin's first weekly LGBT publication. The attack hurt. For one, it was partially directed at my partner of nine years (celebrated just last Saturday) and others in whom I hold in deep regard. The substance was not accurate nor is it germane. The source was a respected writer and well-known LGBT community activist. I was frankly astonished. Where did the anger come from? What had we done?

For years, friends have been complaining about a mean spiritedness within our activist community. As one who has worked in the trenches of the straight press and witnessed and experienced incredible backbiting and jealousy, I believed that it was pretty much the same everywhere. I was wrong. We have a larger problem.

Enmeshed in the everyday goings on of the greater LGBT community, I now experience a nearly daily dose of anger directed at our some of our best people. The criticisms are often, at least partially, on target. It is our responsibility as a newspaper, and as general citizens of our community, to voice our disagreements. It is the accompanying personality-oriented fervor that is disheartening. People make mistakes. That does not make them bad people. Must we eat our babies to make our points? The politics of personal destruction discourages involvement, demoralizes organizations and fosters a very unhealthy level of divisiveness.

We can't mention this person's name to that person. This organization is feuding with that one. This businessperson likes this competitor but don't get him in the same room with that one. This long-time community leader doesn't like how that board snubbed his proposal so he sets off in a competing way. This bar owner doesn't like that person because he said something nice about the wrong person. The ridiculous examples I could give would be most amusing, even entertaining, if the ramifications were not so serious.

The movers and shakers in any community always compete for attention, position and usually money. There are nearly always at least two sides to these stories. It is hard to be on the receiving end of, what you believe to be distortion and misinformation, and remain "civil" about it. We must, as a community, reject the personal hostilities that seem to be attached to the criticisms. It is ok to want to change organizations, even replace ineffective leaders. Loyalty to incompetence is stupid but when those moves are made, the focus should be on the end results. What will the new leadership bring to the table? How can they improve the situation? How are they better able to serve?

On a personal level, we must compete for dollars and readers, but that does not lesson my respect for the people involved with the "other paper". I have known several for many, many, years. One, I have worked with, directed business to, and a generally enjoyed, is almost like a brother to me. The idea that I would not like him, or respect him, because we work in a competitive environment is simply foreign to me.

It is a small group of persons who make things happen in our community - time after time. They donate time, effort and money and their successes have been tremendous. Politically, we are nearly unmatched. Our access to all levels of government is the envy of most LGBT communities. In AIDS prevention and services, we have national models. We have a vibrant business community that is much larger than most communities of our size. We have many well-developed organizations that are poised for greatness. Our 3-day pride celebration certainly ranks with the best of them. And now, we have an active and vibrant community center that holds tremendous promise.

Of course there are problems. Our men have been separated from the women for far too long but that is changing. Our African-American community has been isolated and underdeveloped but that too, is about to change.

While we cannot always agree with each other and we cannot always like what our leadership does and we will always think that we have a better way, we must accept that we are all human. We all make mistakes but those mistakes, misjudgments and miscalculations do not make us evil. They do not make us the enemy. They should not drive us from our own brands of activism. We must find ways to disagree that do not tear us apart.

Wisconsin Light can, and will, strive to be part of the solution. We must criticize but we will attempt to do it constructively. We must encourage some but hopefully not at the expense of others. Our community is simply too small to do otherwise. When we do wrong, please let us know. A vibrant reader's forum is essential. Write your letters. We know that your opinions may be costly and thus will withhold your names when you feel it is necessary. We encourage your involvement, at all levels within our community. You are what this is about.

As to that writer, — you are human too. You made a mistake. It hurt but I cannot hold it against you. You are simply too valuable. You are one of only a few. I wish you success in your endeavors and happiness in your life.

Greg Quindel

LETTERS POLICY

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

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Lesbian Health In The News

by Gip Plaster

The silence is coming to an end. Lesbian health is front-page news in Gay and Lesbian newspapers across the U.S., in part because of a new government-funded report issued by the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

The study is receiving praise from many groups for finally putting the name of a major scientific organization behind the push to learn more about Lesbian health.

"This is the most important document that's come out in relation to Lesbian health in years," said Kathleen Oriel, a Madison, Wisconsin doctor and the president of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

The U.S. government had asked the IOM, part of the National Academy of Sciences, to investigate Lesbian health. The panel issued in mid-January its finding. They concluded that the Lesbian population has been so ignored that very little is known about their health concerns. It is not known, they concluded, whether Lesbians face a higher risk of cancer or other diseases than straight women do.

The study, funded by the National Institute of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, identified three priorities for future research and made eight recommendations for improving the knowledge base on Lesbian health.

Research is needed to better understand the physical and mental health status of Lesbians, the committee concluded, and to determine whether Lesbians are at a higher, or perhaps lower, risk for certain diseases. There is some evidence that Lesbians are at higher risk than the general population for breast cancer and for alcoholism, but the report concluded that large gaps in knowledge exist. The report also concluded that research is needed to better understand how Lesbian sexual orientation should be defined and to better understand the diversity among the Lesbian population.

Additionally, the report found that research is needed on what barriers to health care Lesbians may face. The study noted that the lack of recognition of same-sex partners as well as financial barriers might play a role. It is sometimes difficult to find Lesbian or Lesbian-friendly health care providers and some experts suggest that gynecologists may even examine Lesbians more roughly than straight women.

In addition to recommending public and private funding support for more research, the report also recommended that researchers routinely include questions about sexual orientation on their data collection forms. The committee called on researchers to consider the broad range of people included under the Lesbian label, as well. They also want more training in Lesbian issues for researchers and more conferences on issues related to Lesbian health.

Feedback from the report has been positive, according to Dr. Ann Burgess, the chair of the committee that issued the report and a psychiatric nurse and professor specializing in victimology at the University of Pennsylvania.

"There's been a lot of good feedback. People are interested and want to do some research in the area," Burgess said. "Research would help not only the sub-population of Lesbian women but all women."

She said she believes the most important piece of information to come from the study is the need to create a three-dimension model of what characteristics make up Lesbians.

"Now it goes back to a hope to get some research funded," she added. At least one study has already been funded. Dr. Tonda Hughes, a researcher at the University of Illinois, announced last week that she has received a four-year grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Previous studies have suggested that unlike straight women, whose use of alcohol tends to decline with age, Lesbians may drink more as they get older. Past studies reached other conclusions, too, but the research may not have been conducted correctly and its results could be flawed.

"Myths and stereotypes of Lesbians as alcoholics and heavy drinkers are largely based on studies conducted in the 1970s that recruited most of their samples from Gay bars," Hughes said.

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), an association of about 2000 physicians, lauded the release of the report. The organization noted that the report underscores their belief that fear of discrimination may keep Lesbians from seeking routine medical care and that the stress experienced due to anti-Gay discrimination may be negatively impacting Lesbian health.

"Today is a landmark day in the history of Lesbian health," said Dr. Jocelyn White, co-editor of the Journal of the GLMA. "Within the medical arena, Lesbians have been an overlooked and under-studied population."

Oriel, GLMA's president, she said she is glad to see people finally paying attention to Lesbian health. "I think the IOM reinforces what we've been saying for years — not that Lesbians are physiologically any different, but that they are different because of society," she said in an interview.

"I'm just thrilled. I think the report is very well written and thoughtful. They didn't hold back," Oriel said. "As a physician and as an activist, the most important thing is that with time and perseverance, people will listen. Lesbian health activists since the 1970s have been saying these things."

She added, "Our message can get across. It just takes incredible work and patience."

Editor's Note: Gip Plaster is a feature writer from Houston Texas. His articles regularly appear in many LGBT publications. I am pleased to announce that the Light now has the exclusive rights to publish his articles in Wisconsin.

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Milwaukee Black LGBT Task Force Hosts Community Forum

by Malaka Sanders

Milwaukee - The Black LGBT Task Force (BLTF) is a group of forward thinking African Americans in Milwaukee. It formed out of the need for affirming space for SGL (same-gender-loving) Blacks in the area.

On Saturday March 27, the Task Force is hosting a community forum from 7-9pm. The forum, "Where Are We, What Are We Doin' and Why Aren't We Gettin' Together: Creating a Black Gay Presence in Milwaukee," will be at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center at 4th and Locust. For more information, please give us a call at (414) 224-0996 (box 3).

The forum is a part of the Equality Begins at Home actions coordinated by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force nationally and Action Wisconsin locally. The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and Action Wisconsin are sponsoring the event. A soulful light meal and childcare will be provided. Everyone is welcome. Please come out and enjoy. Reception follows forum.

The forum will be a hosted panel discussion.

Organizers include activists from the LOC (Lesbians of Color) and Ujima organizations. Our members are also associated with the A Job is a Right Campaign and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). We would like to see a real consciousness raising session that acts as a springboard in forwarding the mobilization of Black SGLs in Milwaukee.

It is my personal belief that most people care enough to organize consistently only around issues they see as affecting them personally. Even the best of us can only offer strong support around what we perceive to be some other groups' problems.

This is why Blacks must initiate the work of LGBT organizing in Black communities. This is also why everyone interested in the greater expression of freedom for all LGBT people support such efforts. Though the work happens in different places, the work remains the same.

There are, of course, divergent viewpoints present in our organization. However, we share the understanding that respectful alliances among diverse organizations serve well the goals of

a diverse movement. Alliances allow people to organize around their own oppression, while at the same time building strength around shared grievances.

In support of one of our allies, the A Job is a Right Campaign, our organization has come out in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal and his fight for his life. Jamal is currently on death row. He was convicted of shooting a police officer.

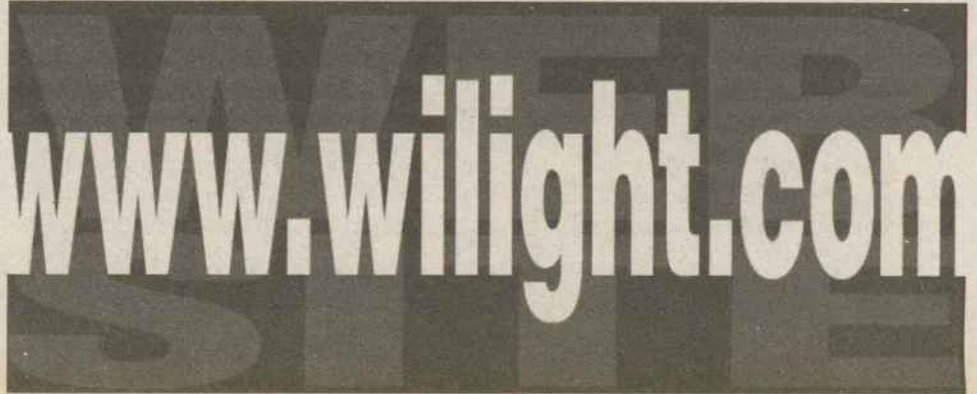
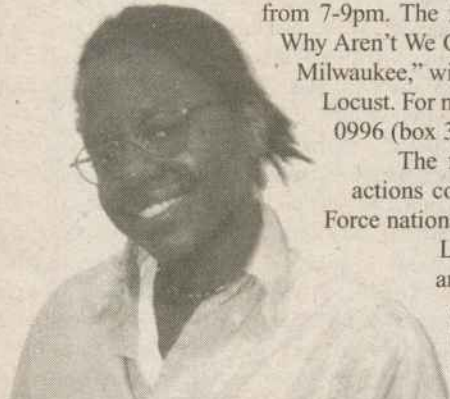
Since his conviction, however, many of the witnesses for the prosecution have come forward and said the Philadelphia Police Dept. coerced them. Jamal is an award winning Philadelphia journalist, author and commentator. His articles were about issues relevant to the Black communities there. Since his imprisonment, Jamal's rights, including his right to confidential correspondence with his lawyer, have been repeatedly violated. Amnesty International has cited Jamal as a political prisoner in the U.S.

A Job is a Right is getting set for the upcoming "Millions For Mumia March" in Philly on April 24. There will be a bus from Milwaukee going to the march, and meetings leading up to the trip. The case and the march will be highlighted at the forum. For more information call A Job is a Right at (414)374-1034.

The BLTF is planning a team building session (date to be announced). We've enlisted the help of Cleo Manago, nationally known SGL activists and one of the founders of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Mr. Manago will be conducting a training session on board/organizational development for us on April 12. We have other activities in the works and would love any feedback/support.

We are a new group that's low on funds. All support is appreciated. Interested donors can make checks payable to the BLTF. For more information on the Black LGBT Task force, please give us a call at (414) 224-0996 (box 3).

We'll see you at the forum!



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AROUND THE STATE

Police Cancel Community Meeting Chief Says Bar Raids "Not an Issue"

Milwaukee - The controversy over Milwaukee Police Department "raids" on two popular LGBT bars, 219 and La Cage, continues to grow. Media attempts to find out which, if any, non-LGBT bars were treated in a similar manner have met with no success. In a related development, the Police cancelled a planned April 19 meeting between Second District Captain Jerome Whiten and members of the Gay community.

On February 25 and 26, uniformed and plainclothes members of the Tavern Squad were at 219 and La Cage. During the police action, licenses were checked, those suspected of being under the legal drinking age were asked for proof of age and officers shined flashlights on liquor bottles saying they were looking for "fruit flies."

While insisting that they carried out similar actions at non-LGBT bars, the Milwaukee Police Department turned away *Wisconsin Light's* attempts to learn the identities of those establishments. On Friday, March 19, *Wisconsin Light* spoke with Public Information Officer Lieutenant Anna Ruzinski and asked for the names of non-LGBT bars that were visited by the squad. Ruzinski promised to provide the information as requested.

On Monday, March 22, as *Light* went to press, Ruzinski informed the paper that Police Chief Arthur Jones directed her not to provide the information. "The Chief says this is not an issue," said Ruzinski.

Following a *Wisconsin Light* story on the incident, two mainstream media outlets, WTMJ Radio and TV Channel 58 contacted the paper about the incidents. Both stations ran stories on the controversy. WTMJ also asked the Police which non-LGBT establishments they had visited in a similar manner. The Police also declined WTMJ's request to provide any names.

"I would like to give the benefit of the doubt to the Police when these things arise, but to clear the air, the release of information is the best course," said Jeff Fleming, spokesman for Mayor John Norquist. "I trust that the Police administration is thoroughly investigating and appropriately following up on all of these allegations."

Fleming continued, "One of the best assets that we have in Milwaukee is our Fire and Police Commission which has powerful oversight over the Milwaukee Police Department. I hope that the Commission will also give these allegations appropriate attention."

Captain Whiten told WTMJ that he did not think his officers said they were looking for "fruit flies" when they inspected the liquor bottles at the two establishments. *Wisconsin Light* has talked to several witnesses who say they heard the Police use that term. Sources in the bar industry say that bartenders and owners usually do refer to the flies, which come into bars with the fruit used for drinks, as "fruit flies."

During WTMJ's *Jonathan Green Show*, listeners called in to express outrage over the Police action. Many of the callers questioned whether the sweeps were the proper use of Police resources.

Alderman James Witowiak, whose district includes both 219 and La Cage, is a member of the Common Council's Utilities and Licensing committee. He told *Light* that on several occasions over the past seven years, he has seen police reports on inspections relating to insects in bottles.

"I hope that if there is a gap between the Gay community and the Police Department, this does not widen it," said Witowiak. The Alderman also confirmed that the April 19 meeting was cancelled because of the controversy over the Police raids. Nevertheless, the Alderman said he is attempting to persuade the Police to either go ahead with the meeting as originally scheduled, or set up a meeting at a different time.

In Memoriam

Ric Furmann (formerly Ric Baumann) passed away due to complications from AIDS on Friday, February 27th, 1999. He died at the Sensitive Care Unit of St. Camillus Health Center.

Ric was the loving spouse and friend of his partner for life, Larry Furmann (formerly known as Larry Furr), who was at his side when his spirit flew free to join their daughter Becky.

Ric was preceded in death by his daughter, who was also a victim of AIDS as well as Crypto; his parents; his siblings and his dear friends, Albert Hachmeister and George Yehling. He leaves behind many friends and former students.

Ric, along with his partner Larry, were the first couple to enter into Holy Union through the former New Hope Metropolitan Community Church here in Milwaukee. They were joined together on November 27, 1986.

Ric was a cosmetologist at Marshall Fields at Mayfair for many years. After finishing college, he was an early childhood educator in various private schools in the area. Ric was long involved in the Gay recovery groups and in support groups for Gay HIV infected men at the BestD Clinic.

There will be a celebration of Ric's life and love on Saturday, March 27, 1999, at 1pm, at St. Camillus' Court East Chapel, 10100 W. Bluemound Rd. Donations in memory of Ric can be made to the St. Camillus AIDS ministry or to his spouse.



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Continued from cover

1970s. He says that one of the first issues of his magazine featured a story on a black Lesbian couple who had applied for a marriage license in Milwaukee.

The debate over same sex marriages is not new either. The Roman author, Plutarch, includes details about the debate over Gay weddings in his first century book, *Moralia*. There is one new aspect of the controversy on LGBT marriages here: growing hope among American Gays and Lesbians that they will soon gain legal status.

Present Day Controversy

The debate over same-sex marriages accelerated when Hawaii and Alaska came close to legalizing them. In order to short circuit what seemed to be almost certain State Supreme Court decisions legalizing LGBT marriages, voters in those states approved state constitutional amendments banning them during last November's elections.

Opponents of legally recognized same-sex marriages argue that allowing them would undermine traditional marriages. They say that states allow married couples to have certain rights in order to foster the creation of children. They argue that same-sex couples can not be trusted with children and that common law throughout the Western world does not recognize same-sex marriages. Often they cite the Bible.

Advocates of Gay marriages counter that since the state allows infertile and elderly couples the right to marry, it should allow

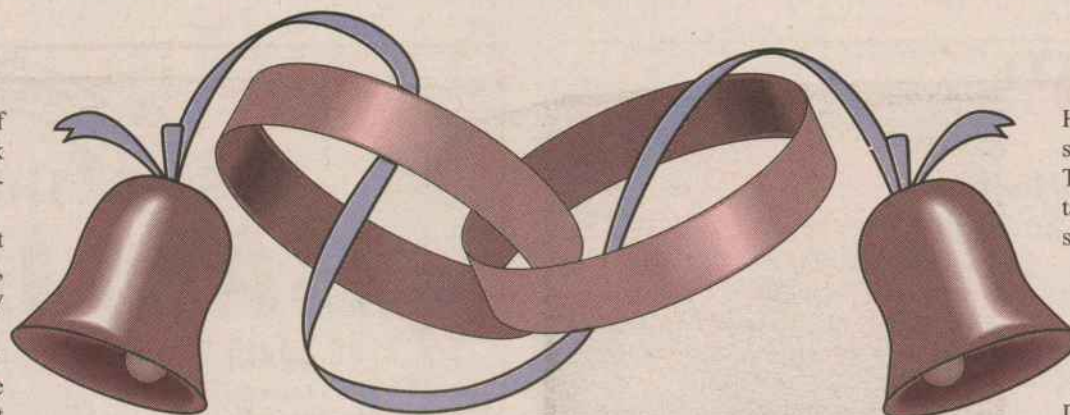


same-sex couples the same right. They point out that there is no evidence to support the contention that children in LGBT homes are in any way hampered when compared to those raised in heterosexual homes. They also cite the ban on interracial marriages that existed in much of America until the late 1960s as an example of common law and religious interpretations of the Bible being wrong.

Not until 1967 were the miscegenation laws of 16 states overturned when the Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Loving vs. Virginia*. The Lovings were convicted of a felony because of their marriage. A judge, who said their marriage was "interference with God's divine plan," sentenced them to 25 years of exile from Virginia.

Legislative Efforts

As a result of the Hawaiian court fight, 33 states and the Federal government approved laws that specifically prohibit legal recognition of same-sex marriages even if they are



valid in another state. Whether or not these laws are constitutional is debatable. A number of other states, including Wisconsin, considered passing anti-same-sex marriage legislation as well.

These legislative efforts brought the issue to the forefront of public discussion. For the first time, many Americans are thinking about whether or not it is fair to exclude LGBT couples from marriage.

The debate also brought public discussion on the legal hurdles faced by same-sex couples. That discussion has resulted in new laws and municipal ordinances granting at least some rights to unmarried couples. Included in that group is Wisconsin's Hospital Visitation law.

Internal Discussion

Within the LGBT community itself, the concept of same sex marriages is debated. Radical left LGBT thought sees marriage as a "heterosexist institution." Some on the far left say that monogamous relationships are antiquated. They argue that open relationships are more in tune with the Gay lifestyle. On the other hand, some Gay conservatives say that most Gay couples aren't ready for marriage or capable of keeping their marriage vows.

There is no known definitive survey of LGBT attitudes on same sex marriages. It does seem logical to assume that most Gays and Lesbians are not all that dissimilar from their straight counterparts. That is to say, that most probably do want stable, legally recognized lifelong relationships. As one person put it in a post on the Internet, "As long as heterosexuals have the right to marry those they love, so should we." There is evidence that most Gays agree with that statement.

In a Data Lounge Internet poll over 70% of the respondents agreed with the statement "anything less than full marital equality is an insult to Gays and Lesbians." An overwhelming 91% said they would not support domestic partnership legislation that bars same-sex couples from adopting children, and 88% said that securing the legal status of children in same-sex families is "non-negotiable."

Admittedly, that poll is

not a scientific one; Internet polls are notoriously unreliable, but its results are similar to those obtained by a *Newsweek* poll taken in July of last year. That poll said that 33% of the general public favors granting legal recognition to LGBT marriages, but 85% of the sample's LGBT respondents said the

However, healthy majorities favor granting same-sex couples "marriage like" rights. These include hospital visitation and inheritance rights, health insurance benefits, and social security survivor benefits.

That dichotomy exists within the political leadership here in America and abroad.

President Clinton has been a vocal supporter of LGBT civil rights. Nevertheless, he signed DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA prohibits the federal government from recognizing same sex marriages even if they are legalized in one or more states. It also says that states do not have to recognize same sex marriages even if they are recognized elsewhere.

Many, but not all, legal scholars say DOMA is unconstitutional, because it vio-

"As long as heterosexuals have the right to marry those they love, so should we."

—Comment from the internet

issue was "very important." Furthermore, while 36% were in favor of allowing Gays to adopt children, 90% of the Gay respondents said this issue was important to them.

Many polls show that women are about equally divided on the question. They also show that young people, especially those under 30, are far more likely to be in favor of legalizing LGBT marriages. Convincing men and older members of the public may be the key to gaining legal recognition of LGBT marriages anytime soon.

A Dichotomy

The polls also show a dichotomy in public opinion. A solid majority opposes granting legal recognition to same-sex marriages, which many view as a religious function.

lates the "full faith and credit clause" of the U.S. Constitution. That clause says that each state and the federal government must recognize the laws of all of the other states.

Clinton is not alone in his viewpoint. British Prime Minister Tony Blair is also an ardent supporter of LGBT civil rights. Yet he, too, has said he does not support same-sex marriages. Even in those countries where same-sex marriages are legally recognized, that recognition falls somewhat short of putting them on an equal footing with heterosexual unions.

Holland seems to be the only country where LGBT couples come close to full marital equality. In 1997, the Dutch parliament legalized Gay marriage, but did not allow Gays and Lesbians to adopt. The new law



A "Mass Wedding" is held every year at PrideFest.

took effect on January 1, 1998. Late last year, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok's government announced that it would submit legislation to extend adoption rights to same-sex couples. The legislation would apply to Dutch-born children only. The idea has broad support in the Dutch parliament, which has vowed to extend full equality under the law to Dutch Gays before the first of next year.

Sweden, Denmark and Norway all grant some rights to LGBT couples who register. The Danes have found that the divorce rate for LGBT couples is much lower than that for heterosexual marriages. Late last year, the lower house of the French parliament sent a proposal to grant limited rights to unmarried straight and Gay couples to the French Senate.

From where the LGBT community stands right now, the Promised Land of full marital equality for same sex couples seems far away. Still, it may not be as far away as some might think.

The public's willingness to grant some marriage like benefits to LGBT couples has caused some to say that the push for marital equality should center on alternatives to marriage. They argue that if an alternative means can be found to allow LGBT couples most of the same rights enjoyed by straight couples, it does not matter whether it's called marriage or something else.

Next Week — Alternatives to LGBT marriage



Douglas Wendt and Bryan Clarke (above) were engaged in Madison on January 15, 1999. They are planning to set-up a joint household in the next few months in Portland, Oregon, Phoenix, Arizona or Madison, Wisconsin. They plan on holding their commitment ceremony in the year 2000 - a new life together in the new millennium. Bryan is a registered nurse and currently lives in Phoenix. Douglas lives in Madison and is a supervisor for a health insurance company.

AROUND THE NATION

WGN Agrees to Air Pro-Gay Ads

Chicago, IL - TV station WGN has agreed to settle a lawsuit by airing ads promoting the Metropolitan Community Church. The 30-minute infomercials became the subject of controversy when the super station reneged on an agreement to air them last fall.

The commercials are sponsored by the Cathedral of Hope. The 3,000-member congregation is located in Dallas. The church had paid \$12,000 to the station as part of a contract to air the ads. WGN cashed the check and then decided to return the money.

Cathedral of Hope sued. As part of the settlement, the programs will be called "Cathedral of Hope," instead of the original name "Holy Homosexuals." WGN is considered a "national station," because it is included on many if not most cable systems around the country.

News from the Front

Washington, D.C. - The battle to allow Gays and Lesbians in the military has taken several new turns in the last two weeks.

Congressmen Barney Frank (D-MA) and Tom Campbell (R-CA) have introduced legislation that repeals the ban on federal funding to those schools who refuse to allow military recruitment on their campuses. The ban was passed by Congress when numerous universities and even some high schools refused to allow ROTC programs or military recruiters to use their facilities due to the military's ban on Gays and Lesbians.

On another front, the Service Members Legal Defense Fund (SLDF) released a report showing that anti-Gay harassment in the military has increased in every branch of the armed forces. The SLDF said it had documentation on 400 instances of anti-Gay harassment in the military in the last 12 months. Last year, the group said it had documented 182 cases.

The Pentagon denied that LGBT service members are harassed. It also continues to insist that most of the LGBT service members who are discharged come forward voluntarily and admit their sexual orientation. In January, the Pentagon admitted to discharging 1,145 Gays and Lesbians. That figure was nearly double the number of LGBT discharges in the military in 1993, the year before the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy went into effect.

Teacher Wins Suit, Quits

Bakersfield, CA - A forty-year veteran of teaching and a former "Teacher of the Year" won a legal victory for Gay educators and then quit his job.

James Merrick, 61, was a Science teacher in the Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District since 1994. He had even been named "Teacher of the Year" by the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce. None of that mattered to District officials. They transferred 15 students from his classes after parents complained that they didn't want their children taught by a Gay teacher. Merrick has neither confirmed nor denied being Gay. His sexual orientation became an issue due to his involvement in a campaign seeking the ouster of a local Minister who had made anti-Gay remarks.

Following the removal of the students, Merrick filed a complaint with the California Labor Commission. The commission sided with the teacher. The case was settled with the help of the Lambda Legal Defense fund.

As part of the settlement, the District will apologize to Merrick, adopt a strong anti-discrimination policy, and work with a commission on the implementation of that policy. Merrick will be a member of that commission. Merrick decided that his continued presence at the school would be "disruptive," therefore the District will pay him, through the end of the school year, to help develop its science curriculum.

Virginia is for Lovers?

Richmond, VA - Two recent incidents, the beheading of a homeless Gay man and the arrest of a Gay college student for using an Internet personal, have tarnished the Virginia Tourist bureau's slogan "Virginia is for Lovers."

The severed head of Henry Northington was found placed in the center of a public park footbridge that leads to a Gay cruising area. The head was found by a straight couple walking over the bridge. The rest of his body was found the next day in another area of the park. Northington, a homeless man known to the local LGBT community, was said to be emotionally troubled.

LGBT activists and the police are not sure why Northington was slain. Richmond has experienced a string of unsolved murders of Gay men and of homeless individuals as well.

Meanwhile, Roanoke police arrested college student, Christopher Wyatt, 25, after he answered a reply to a personal ad he left on the Internet. Wyatt was arrested under Virginia's sodomy law. He says that he was singled out because he is Gay. Virginians for Justice point out that last fall the police arrested 18 men for soliciting the commission of "felony sodomy."

Blocked Billboards Prove a Point

New Orleans, LA - When members of LEGAL, the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians, decided to promote equality with billboards around the state, they had no idea how effective the signs would be in proving their point that discrimination exists. The group had planned to unveil a statewide billboard campaign as part of the Equality Begins at Home Campaign, which takes place in all 50 states from March 21 to 26.

The billboards read: "Louisiana Says It's OK to Fire People Because They Are Gay. Is that Fair?" Billboards with the same text are already up in Baton Rouge, but after first agreeing to erect them, a New Orleans company backed out at the last minute. The company said that since New Orleans already had a Gay civil rights ordinance, the signs were "misleading."

"We hoped to unveil a billboard campaign intended to help eradicate discrimination. Instead, we are yet another example of Gay and Lesbian people being discriminated against," said Christopher Daigle, a member of LEGAL's board of directors. "We find the explanation by officials with the billboard company dubious at best. They have known the text of these billboards for some time, and it's obvious that the billboards are not targeting New Orleans, but rather the state of Louisiana," added Daigle.

LEGAL hopes to put up billboards in Lake Charles and Shreveport.

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CommUNITY

Shoreline's 4th annual Spring Round Up

Milwaukee – Over 350 men and women country dancers from throughout the Midwest will join Milwaukee's Shoreline the weekend of April 30-May 2 for their 4th Annual Spring Round Up country dance weekend.

The weekend kicks off Friday night with a fish fry at the M&M Club, followed by a special 'Boots and Boxers Ball' at 8pm at La Cage. There will also be a men's and women's "legs contest." Doug Graff, Mr. 1999 Intl. Gay Rodeo Assoc., will entertain by singing his country favorites.

Saturday afternoon features a 1pm swing dance workshop at Fannies with East Coast Swing lessons by Floridian Lee Fox. Admission is \$10 at the door. The 7th annual Country Dance Gala at the lakefront War Memorial Center follows later that night and promises to be the hit of the weekend. Tickets are \$10 before the evening or \$15 at the door.

Sunday features a farewell brunch at Fannies at 11am that costs \$10. There is no cover. Open dancing and a dance swap will follow.

Weekend packages for all of these events are available for \$25 from Shoreline members or by mail: Shoreline, P.O. Box 510283, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0051. Admission to all other events is on a first-come basis. Call (414) 747-0388 for tickets or more information.

Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation and Camp Heartland will be this year's charitable recipients. Out-of-town visitors should contact the downtown Hyatt at (800) 233-1234 or (414) 276-1234 for special rates.

Jewish LGBT Conference Set

Twin Cities – Prairie Lights: The 6th Midwest Regional Conference of LGBT Jews will be held for the first time in Minnesota's Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul May 7-9. Conference attendees will come from across North America to attend seminars on a variety of topics, including family, spirituality, community and culture.

Participants will also attend a world premiere of the original play *I Did Not Speak in Secret: An Ancient Song in Modern Voices*. The play was created for "Into the Light: A Celebration of Jewish LGBT Arts and Culture," a special arts series being presented by the St. Paul Jewish Community Center and the St. Paul Companies.

"Our Simchas, Our Lives, Our Pride," a photo display also created for Into the Light, will be displayed. The photos are selected from submissions that show different special times and events in the lives of Jewish LGBT people.

Registration brochures are available by calling Keshnet Ga'avah at (612) 374-8638 or by writing hzuckman@firsttech.com or Keshnet Ga'avah, 3500 Holms Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408.

OutReach Hosts Wine Tasting Benefit & Dance

Madison – OutReach, Madison's LGBT center, will host a wine tasting and dance benefit entitled "An Evening With Friends" on Saturday, April 17. The fundraiser will be held from 7pm to midnight at the Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Avenue.

Sample wines from around the world, nibble on hors d'oeuvres and mingle with people to the sounds of live jazz. The wine tasting will be followed by a community dance. The annual benefit helps fund OutReach's programs, and comes this year right after they move to new, larger quarters at 600 Williamson Street in the Gateway Mall.

"It's our most popular 'see and be seen' events," says DeEtte Tomlinson, OutReach Executive Director. "Wine enthusiasts and amateurs alike learn how to choose a good wine, and also about which wines are available at their favorite restaurants. And of course, everyone who comes is supporting OutReach's important services for the LGBT communities."

All are welcome, but tickets must be purchased in advance of the event. Tickets are \$25, or you may choose to be listed in our "Evening With Friends" program for \$100 as a proud supporter of OutReach. Tickets can be purchased from both the old and new OutReach offices, Border's Bookshop West, Community Pharmacy, Home Environment, A Room of One's Own, Star Liquor, Bongo Video (both locations) and Orange Tree Imports. Or, you can call OutReach at (608) 255-8582 and charge by phone (MC/Visa).

DykeAppella Nominated for Recording Award


Madison – Madison's a cappella group DykeAppella has been nominated for a 1999 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award. The CARA awards are the a cappella equivalent of the Grammy Awards, and are awarded by CASA, the Contemporary A Cappella Society.

DykeAppella is Tara Ayres, Norma Jean Bunton, Nancy Gerber, Emily Jones and Tess Meuer. Last year the group released a live CD entitled *At the Gates of Heaven*. Nominated for the CARA award in the Best Humorous Song Category is *Wet Underwear*, a song written by local singer-songwriter Mary Waitrovich and Ayres.

The CARA web site is www.casa.org/.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Financial Planning for Who You Are

It's Never Too Soon to Save for Retirement

by Carol L. Busche, CFP

Although it may sound strange, the best time to start preparing for retirement is when you're just starting out in the working world. Why? Because the sooner you start putting money away, the more you'll be able to save – and the more comfortable you'll be once your retirement day arrives.

What will retirement cost?

No one can predict the future, which makes it impossible to determine precisely how much you'll need to retire in comfort. You can make some educated guesses. Most financial experts believe that the average person will need about 60% to 80% of their final year's working income for each year of retirement. So, for example, if you expect to be making \$80,000 a year at the end of your career, you'll need between \$48,000 and \$64,000 for every year of your retirement.

How do you go about accumulating all those savings? There are three primary ways of funding your retirement: Social Security, your company pension plan and your own retirement savings. Let's look at all three.

Social Security

As it currently stands the future of the Social Security system is cloudy. Some experts estimate that the Social Security trust fund will be broke by 2030. That means there's no assurance it will be in existence by the time you retire. Even if it is, it probably won't provide enough for you to retire comfortably. You'll need to turn to alternative savings vehicles.

Employer-Sponsored Plans

One great savings vehicle is the 401(k) or other tax-favored retirement plan that your employer may offer. These plans allow you and your employer to make contributions to your retirement savings plan. With a 401(k), your money grows on a tax-deferred basis; you don't pay income taxes on it until you withdraw the money, which will typically be after you reach age 59.

Because taxes aren't taken from your 401(k) earnings each year, your money will grow faster than it would in an investment on which you're taxed annually. What's more, 401(k) contributions also reduce your pre-tax income, meaning you pay less income tax each year.

Many employers will even match your 401(k) contributions, up to a certain point. If your employer has a 401(k), it's a good idea to contribute the maximum amount allowable.

If you don't have an employer-sponsored plan, you may want to consider setting up an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). IRAs allow you to contribute a maximum of \$2,000 per year (\$4,000 per legally married couple if both spouses work) toward your retirement.

As with 401(k)s, the money that builds up in IRAs is not taxed until you begin to withdraw it – after age 59. If you meet certain income guidelines, you may also be able to deduct some of your IRA contributions from your taxable income.

Personal Savings

Another way to save for retirement is to make personal investments. To do this, you may want to explore investing as much as you can afford in stock-based mutual funds. Although stock prices will fluctuate a great deal in the short term, they have a great long-term track record, which means your money may grow substantially until your retirement. In fact, over the past 70 years, stocks have posted average returns of about 10.7% per year.

Annuities

Annuities, too, are excellent retirement savings tools, because they grow on a tax-deferred basis. An annuity is a contract between you and an insurance company. In exchange for your investment, the insurer agrees to pay you income for as long as you may need it – either for your lifetime or for a designated number of years.

A big advantage to annuities as retirement savings vehicles is that there are no contribution limits; you can invest as much as you want, as often as you want. You do need to make sure you don't touch the money until retirement; otherwise, you will be subject to income taxes, and possibly penalty taxes as well.

Explore all your options.

These are just a few suggestions for helping you save for retirement. There are many other options you may want to explore, possibly with the help of a professional financial advisor. By setting up a regular saving and investment strategy, and sticking to it, you should be able to make your retirement years "golden."

The author is a Senior Financial Adviser with American Express Financial Services in Milwaukee.

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FLOODLIGHT

by Margeret Flood

"Feminism is the theory, Lesbianism is the practice." Remember that political theory of the early 1970s? Okay, you're not all going to remember this.

When I first heard it, I have to admit I was pretty intrigued. I had not yet admitted my attraction to women, even to myself. I knew I was a feminist. I remember saying to my roommates that I thought it would be neat to have a meeting in our living room, with all women. I was met with stunned silence and dumb looks.

Those early consciousness-raising days were spent by some women in solitary searches, me included. I knew there was something big happening. I had the theories right, just not the practice. Who would want to practice Lesbianism? (Okay, some would.) I knew the world wasn't right between men and women, but I was in the midst of the sexual revolution ala Madison, Wisconsin. Before AIDS, men were easy. Way easy.

Gradually my feminist consciousness matured. That allowed me to admit that I had strong sexual feelings for women. When I started acting on them, it was awkward and I felt terribly guilty. I had a one-night stand with a woman and was mortified by a sense of responsibility. With men it usually only went so far as in, "Did I use birth control?"

It was the age of do whatever, whenever. I declared myself Bisexual. I used to think I was about 60% heterosexual. I just couldn't quite get it right with men. Women intrigued me.

Ola Adeniyi was a Nigerian graduate student in Madison who I platonically dated. I told him I thought I was a Lesbian, so he went to the library and did my research for me. "What kind of Lesbian are you?" he wanted to know. He then proceeded to supply me with article after article that he had carefully copied for me. I read through them and tried to sift out who exactly and what I was. I knew I needed to take a stand.

Madison was an easy town to "come out" in. My friends for the most part were hip, although one friend insisted I was only doing it because it was a trend. In 1983? For seven years I had thoroughly researched it, agonized over it, tried it several times and declared, "I like it!" Men were not there emotionally, or maybe I wasn't able to be there emotionally for men. I don't know. I just don't know.

In 1983 green and purple were the Lesbian colors, signifying change and growth. The labyrus, a double-edged hatchet type thing was popular. It symbolized cutting away the old and

cutting a path for the new. It also scared people when they saw you with one around your neck. OOOH, a radical Lesbian feminist.

I remember the night I saw my first labyrus, the night John Lennon was killed. The waitress had it on and I was very curious. "What IS that you have around your neck?" When she explained, I thought that it was an omen to hear about a symbol like that when a cultural icon had just been mowed down. It scared ME.

Fast forward to 1999 and I don't see anything resembling that old theory about feminism is the theory and Lesbianism the practice. I recently returned from a visit to San Francisco where I lived in the '80s and early '90s. I'm a joiner, so I stopped in to one of my old favorite group meetings while there. I said to a woman I saw, "I don't know if you remember me..." She pulled me close for a gruff hug and said, "Of course I remember you. You were part of the femme pool..." My mind seized on that one. The femme pool? Like we were mannikins to be chosen from.

I experienced a sense of protest that she had objectified me in that way. But, it gave me pause as I reflected on what she was really telling me. That I was attractive or had some qualities when pooled with others could make, in her mind, the ideal woman? Actually, it was a compliment.

We used to complain that men objectified women and kept us from having opportunities and equal pay for equal work and the like. They did. Some still do. That is why we have and continue to need a feminist struggle. The stronger will always try to dominate those they think they can, or those they think are weaker. There will always be the tension of sex, depending on who is attracted to whom.

Feminism allowed me to feel "a part of" instead of isolated. I believed for a long time that all women could unite by our common oppression. But to some women, I know feminism is a dirty word. They want no part of it. Feminism to me is simply wanting and expecting the same rights and access to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as the next fellow.

It doesn't have all that much to do with being a Lesbian, though. Or maybe it does... Celebrate women's history!

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Dreaming big always has its critics. It seems that every time we dare to dream big, there is a chorus of cynics telling us our hopes will be dashed. Yet from a Pride festival on the Summerfest grounds to the election of a Lesbian congresswoman, dreaming big has given us many of the most important aspects of LGBT life here. Now it has given LGBT Wisconsin its own weekly newspaper.

Every major LGBT community around the country has its own weekly publication. It's one of the things that puts that community on the map. It says there is too much going on to fit it all into a biweekly newspaper. Having our own weekly says to the non-Gay community, "We have arrived."

It took a lot of work to get *Wisconsin Light* in position to make the big jump. It will take a lot more work to continue delivering a paper, on a weekly basis, that meets both your and our high standards.

With this issue you see some of the results of that effort. We've added a new Lifestyles section. It will keep you informed about LGBT fashion, special events, trends, sports, travel and much more. Also in this issue is the beginning of our exclusive series on gaining legal recognition for LGBT relationships.

Our weekly format gives us extra pages to present this and other serials on important topics that affect us all, written by Wisconsin writers from an LGBT Wisconsin perspective. And it will not take us six weeks to finish a three part series.

We are very proud of our Wisconsin writers. In a normal issue over 90% of the words you read on our pages are written by people who really are members of our staff and our Wisconsin LGBT community.

It would be easier to make greater use of nationally syndicated writers and tell you that they are on our staff. It would also be unethical and dishonest. Furthermore, it would cheat our community out of the opportunity to present LGBT Wisconsin's perspective to our non-Gay readers and our national LGBT leaders. Many of them have told us they appreciate our ability to present that perspective.

Our big dream will never be finished. The *Light* is a work in progress. A newspaper must continually change to meet to the changing needs of its readers and the community that it serves.

Our dreams are not limited to this newspaper either. We dream of a stronger, diverse, vibrant community, richer in resources and moving forward in many directions. Going to a weekly format is part of our commitment to help that dream become a reality for all of us.

Step into the *Light* on weekly basis. Let's share our dreams. Let's dream big!

Yours With Pride,

Bill Meunier

Editor

LETTERS

Dear WI Light Staff,

Congratulations on your exciting (and courageous) decision to grow *WI Light* into a weekly publication! I don't have time to shave my legs once a week, and you're going to create an entire paper??!!

That's terrific! I'm sure Wisconsin's LGBT Community is thrilled to learn they can now receive news and information that directly affects them on a weekly basis.

Thank you for the extreme dedication, enthusiasm and service you offer the Community in which you play a valuable part. I consider it an honor to be associated with *Wisconsin Light*. Congratulations!

xoxo

Ruthie

Dear Light

Congratulations to *Wisconsin Light* for the orchestration required to make the *Light* a weekly.

Wisconsin Light has been nurtured and fostered by the creative dedication of Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson. What they have done for the Wisconsin LGBT Community is really incalculable. They must be very proud of the energy and efforts, which have made the *Light* into Wisconsin's first LGBT weekly.

I applaud Bill Meunier, Greg Quindel and the rest of the staff for their vision and dedication. This will allow our Community to be more fully informed of events in our town, the state and the world at large which directly affect our lives.

We still do not enjoy the same rights as most other U.S. citizens. We cannot be ourselves if we join the military in service to our country. In most places there is no recognition of our unions and, in fact, they are illegal! The myths and stereotypes about us continue. Our only recourse is communication about who we are.

Thank you *Wisconsin Light*!

Bravo!

Margaret Flood

Letters continued

Dear Readers,

The first issue of *Wisconsin Light* hit the streets on November 20, 1987 as a monthly publication. Terry, my spouse and the paper's co-owner, and I were so pleased and proud as we viewed the stacks of bundled newspapers awaiting delivery.

In less than a year, on September 8, 1988, the *Light* went to a biweekly publication. That was a major accomplishment.

Our work increased enormously. No computers. Every word in the paper was typed out on a Gimbel's typewriter. Eventually, a neighbor lent us a computer and we entered the modern age. Layout was by wax and paste. That would never change.

There was no way we could go weekly without huge change: an office, staff etc. By 1998 we realized we had gone as far as we could go. It was time to sell.

In June, 1998, we did sell. One of Greg Quindel's dreams was to have the paper go weekly. That is about to happen. I am so pleased. What an accomplishment! My most hearty congratulations! For the first time in Wisconsin history, there is a weekly LGBT publication.

Terry and I "gave the people *Light* and they have found their own way" to a weekly publication, and I am tickled pink!

Jerry Johnson

Co-Founder of *Wisconsin Light*

Dear Readers,

It was with great pride that I founded, and ran for 12 years, Wisconsin's "other" LGBT paper. I took it from pocket to magazine size over that period and saw it grow in acceptance and stature.

In August, after a three year absence from the publishing world due to poor health, I was proud to come on board with the new owners and staff of *WI Light*. It's been a thrill to be back in the business, and it has been very interesting, to say the least, to be working for the *Light* as we have improved the look and diversified our coverage.

Now I am proud to be a part of this historical first, a weekly publication for Wisconsin's LGBT community. A weekly format is something I have always dreamed of for our Wisconsin community but realized couldn't be done without an actual full-time staff. Well, *Light* now has a full time staff and going weekly finally is a logical move.

Going weekly enables us to disburse more information in a timely manner. The bi-weekly schedule inhibited our ability to respond quickly to breaking news and limited the number of pages we could use to get the word out.

It's interesting to be involved in this expansion and exciting to be along for the ride into the future of Wisconsin LGBT's community and the publication that covers it.

Ron Geiman

General Manager

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Ten Years Ago - March, 1989

Supervisors Concerned About UW Homophobia - The issue of homophobia in UW Madison's Greek system has been raised by local officials. Nine Dane County Supervisors and two thirds of Madison's City Council have asked that the Commission on the Future of Fraternities and Sororities look into anti-LGBT discrimination among frats and sororities.

Five Years Ago March, 1994

Wisconsin Medical College Named National Center for AIDS Prevention Research - The Medical College of Wisconsin has been designated as one of only three national centers for AIDS Prevention and Intervention Research. The designation came with a \$4 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to establish a new Center for AIDS intervention research (CAIR).

Dr. Jeff Kelly, a nationally renowned researcher on AIDS prevention will head the program.


Gay Studies Program at UWM Provokes Furor - A new Gay Studies Certificate program at UWM has drawn fire from three Republican State Representatives, Bonnie Ladwig, Steve Nass and John Dobyns. The three sent their colleagues a letter condemning the program. Their letter also asked other legislators to sign a letter of protest to George Steil, President of the UW Board of Regents.

Others defended the program. Several professors issued a joint paper denouncing the "misrepresentations that have appeared in the press elsewhere." Their paper also said, "the deliberately provocative attacks on the program are outlandish and disturbing. It is both erroneous and offensive to suggest the objectives include a mockery of religious principles and the denigration of the family unit."

Last Year, March, 1998

Gay Marriage in Alaska? - Anchorage Superior Court Judge Peter Michalski refused to dismiss a suit filed by two Gay men who are demanding the right to be married. The Judge said that choosing a partner is "a fundamental right that may result in a non-traditional choice." Judge Michalski also ordered the State to show why it should decide on who can and can not get married.

In response to the ruling, conservative Republican State legislators are preparing to seek a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.



Spotlight

Off the Deep End With Michelle & Whoopi

by Tim Nasson

Los Angeles - Jacqueline Mitchard's *The Deep End of the Ocean* is a success story on many levels. "Deep End..." was the first title that Oprah picked for her 'Book of the Month Club.' Before that, though, Michelle Pfeiffer's producing partner, Kate Guinzburg, read *The Deep End of the Ocean* galleys and knew that the two of them must turn the book into a movie.

"As a mother, I did not have to do a lot of preparation for that part of the role," says Pfeiffer, upon entering the hotel suite at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills, a few weeks back.

"What was hard, of course, was the subject matter," she adds, sipping some hot tea, on an unusually cool day for Los Angeles in January.

In *The Deep End...* Pfeiffer plays Beth Cappadora, a pretty normal mother — loving, devoted, and occasionally overwhelmed by the demands of caring for her family and maintaining a successful career as a photographer. With her three small children in tow, she arrives at a hotel for her fifteenth high school reunion weekend. In the middle of the crowded lobby, she looks away for a moment — and in that moment her three-year-old son Ben disappears. A frantic search turns up nothing; he has vanished, seemingly without a trace.

Enter Candy Bliss (Whoopi Goldberg), a black, Lesbian, middle-aged detective who has

been assigned to the case. "In the book, Candy Bliss had a greater role. In the movie, her character had to be cut quite a bit. But, Whoopi gave Candy so much life that she stole every scene she was in," adds Pfeiffer.

For one reason or another, Whoopi was unable to attend the press junket for the film (maybe she was too busy with *Hollywood Squares*). Nonetheless, everyone involved in the film that I had a chance to talk to, from the director Ulu Grossbard to Pfeiffer herself, sang praises about Goldberg's performance as the Lesbian cop.

"It's a shame that the film, originally three-and-a-half hours long, had to be cut so much, but as it is, the film is well over two hours," adds Pfeiffer.

Michelle Pfeiffer has been hard at work in the world of film for nearly 20 years. Her first major role was in 1982's *Grease 2*. Her breakthrough role came a year later, in *Scarface* in which she played Al Pacino's wife.

Throughout her successful career, Pfeiffer has received three Academy Award nominations; for her roles in *Love Field*, *The Fabulous Baker Boys* and *Dangerous Liaisons*.

In addition, she has played roles in films that have gone on to become some of the highest grossing the year they were released; *Batman Returns*, *The Witches of Eastwick* and *Ladyhawke*. She has worked with some of Hollywood's most talented directors; Martin Scorsese, *The Age of Innocence*, and Mike Nichols, *Wolf*.

The busy Pfeiffer is also ready to launch, in May, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which she co-stars with Rupert Everett, Kevin Kline and Calista Flockheart.

"I am very fortunate to be able to pick such meaty and character driven roles," says Pfeiffer, about the majority of the films she has been in. "For *The Deep End...* the challenge was not having to show grief, but rather, being able to show it without becoming monotonous or annoying."

The biggest challenge in *The Deep End of the Ocean*, for everyone involved, was the sub-

ject matter.

As the hours turn into days and the days into weeks and weeks into years, Ben's disappearance has a

devastating effect on Beth's ability to cope with life. Tensions are created between Beth and her husband Pat (Treat Williams) as well as her older son, Vincent (Jonathan Jackson, who currently plays Luke and Laura's child on *General Hospital*).

The biggest shock of Beth's life comes nine years after her son disappears. A boy, who is the same age as her missing son would be, knocks on her door. Something strikes Beth about the color of his hair, the shape of his eyes, the curve in his cheek. She is confident that the boy is hers. While, in other films or stories, that scene would be the climax, it is only the halfway

point of *The Deep End...*

With the help of Candy Bliss, who over the years has become one of Beth's best friends, the Cappadora family is reunited with their long lost treasure.

"I never considered adapting the novel for the screen," says Mitchard, later in the morning. "It would be like living with your kids after they were married."

The film was adapted by Boston native Stephen Schiff, who also penned the remake of *Lolita* last year and the soon to be released *True Crime*.

"I got the idea for *The Deep End of the Ocean* during a dream," adds

Mitchard. While Mitchard never wanted to adapt the book for the screen, she is a little upset that the title, *The Deep End of the Ocean* is never explained in the film. "They did shoot a scene in which the title is explained," says Mitchard, "but, for whatever the reason, decided that it just didn't fit into the film."

For those wondering, the title refers to a conversation that Beth has with her young son Ben, before he was kidnapped. Ben: "Are we at the deep end, Mom?" Beth: "This is the ocean, Ben. There is no deep end of the ocean." Ben: "It looks too deep." Beth: "Don't be afraid. Mama would never let

the ocean snatch you away."

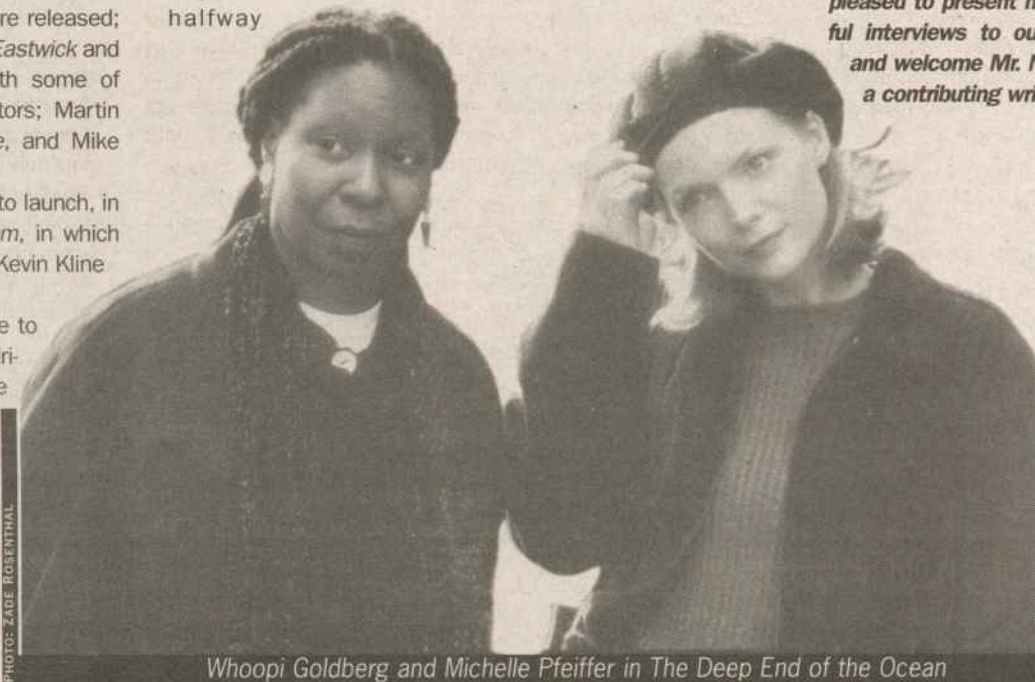
One will have to see the film to decide if the ending is what they would have chosen. There will not be a unanimous sigh of approval or disapproval.

In any event, Pfeiffer is happy with the outcome. She is also happy to be working on her newest film (Rob Reiner's *The Story of Us* opposite Bruce Willis), and spending time with husband David Kelly (creator/producer of *Ally McBeal* and *The Practice*) and their two children.

Editor's Note: The author is a nationally known Gay entertainment writer from Shine Media of Boston MA. Wisconsin Light is pleased to present his insightful interviews to our readers and welcome Mr. Nasson as a contributing writer.



Michelle Pfeiffer as Beth Cappadora in *The Deep End of the Ocean*.



Whoopi Goldberg and Michelle Pfeiffer in *The Deep End of the Ocean*

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Ethan Green, Movie Star?

Eric Omer, the Gay cartoonist and creator of *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green*, has a deal in the works to bring a live-action version of his Chelsea-boy comic strip to the big screen. Omer will be creatively involved with the project, which will have the same fatalist-but-funny tone as his cartoon.

While the plot is hush-hush, Gay comedian and *Openly Bob* author **Bob Smith** will most likely write the script. Director **George Bamber**, who worked on the Gay Sundance hit *Happy, Texas*, will helm the project. It's expected to go into production in about a year.

The strip appears in more than 80 Gay and alternative publications around the country, and was the winner of the 1998 Sappho Award for Creative Expression (part of the Vice Versa Awards). No word yet on who will play Ethan, but his doppelganger **Robert Downey, Jr.** seems to me like a good fit.

Master and Servant

Move over Mr. French, there's a new butt, er, butler in town and this one's hot! Gay actor **Rupert Everett** has convinced Paramount

Pictures to pony up a pretty penny to option the book *Servile on Sunset* for him to star in.

Everett will play a wealthy British aristocrat whose fortune goes bust. In order for him to live in the manner to which he's accustomed, he must take a job as a butler for a "new money" American family in the decidedly down-home setting of Texas. During the fish (and chips)-out-of-water tale, the shallow snob discovers that true worth is found (you guessed it) within. The project won't get rolling until Everett finishes up his acting chores on *The Next Best Thing* with **Madonna**.

Hippie Chick

Remember that long-in-the-works **Janis Joplin** biopic that was supposed to happen with Dyke chanteuse **Melissa Etheridge** starring and Etheridge's wife **Julie Cypher** directing? Well the project is back on track, this time with *Clueless* actress **Brittany Murphy** set to play the Bisexual rock icon who died at age 27 from a drug overdose.

Director **Gary Fleder** (*Kiss the Girls*) will



bring the project to the big screen. The rumor around town is that Etheridge's screen test proved disappointing and, despite her strong vocal ability, forced the studio to search for a new leading lady.

Enter the talented (and more age-appropriate) Murphy, who should be able to pull off the Texas-born singer's twang, since she voices the character of "Luanne" on *King of the Hill*. Murphy is expected to sing some Joplin songs in the feature.

Scream in the New Year

Miramax is cashing in on what could be the most lucrative horror franchise of all time. It has shored up a deal with queer scribe **Kevin Williamson** to write the screenplay for the third installment of the *Scream* series. While details of the plot are sketchy, the story is rumored to focus on **Neve Campbell**'s character moving to Los Angeles to begin an acting career.

The film will reunite Campbell with fellow *Screamers* **Courtney Cox** and **David Arquette**. It will begin shooting in late spring or early summer to accommodate Cox's and Campbell's television production schedules. Look for *Scream 3* in theaters December 10th.

Romeo San Vicente's social life is mostly fabulous. You can contact Romeo care of this publication or at **RomeoDeep@aol.com**. For more *Deep Inside Hollywood*, visit **www.Gay.net** or **www.popcorn.com**



OUT ON TV.

by Terry Boughner

So, where are you going on your vacation this year? The April/May episode of *In The Life*, America's LGBT TV show, has some pointers you might want to consider.

Avoid the Cayman Islands, Costa Rica and the Bahamas. These three vacation destinations have made it clear that Gay people aren't welcome. An *In The Life* segment, "Not in Our Port," brings you up to date on what's being done to counter this discrimination.

How about trying Bali? This Indonesian Island has been described as "paradise on earth," and Gay people are completely welcome. An *In The Life* segment on this South Sea jewel is not to be missed.

Well, you've made your choice of vacation spot. Now, which airline do you choose? Does it make a difference? If you're a Gay person, the answer may be yes and no. *In The Life* examines this question in depth.

Three other segments round out *In the Life's* show this quarter.

"On The High Seas" looks at *Rock The Boat*, a new documentary about ten HIV+ men who sailed a racing sloop, "The Survivor," 2,200 miles in the 1997 Trans-Pacific Yacht Race.

"The Condega Homemakers Project" tells the story of a grass-roots women's group that is helping to rebuild women-owned houses in Condega, Nicaragua.

Finally, "To Be Gay and Hearing-Impaired" introduces two couples who know the challenges of being both Gay and hearing impaired.

This season's new feature, artists "Speak Out," features David Marshall Grant (playwright, off-Broadway play — *Snakebit*; member of original cast of *Angels in America*); Anthony Rapp (Broadway — *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*); and Paul Rudnick (playwright, off-Broadway — *Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*) in one minute segments.

In The Life airs on Wisconsin Public Television on Thursday, April 1, 11pm and on WMVS channel 10 in Milwaukee: air date TBA

Dawson's Creek Continues to Shine

In its March 3 and March 10 episodes, WB's popular teen drama, *Dawson's Creek*, continued its exploration of the coming out process of series regular Jack McPhee (Kerr Smith).

On the March 3rd episode, Jack considered the possibility that he might be Bisexual.

In the March 10 episode, Jack finds that he's not alone in being Gay. He and Joey meet a young photographer, Colin (Nick Stabile), at a local fair. When Colin asks Joey to model for him, Joey takes it as a sign of romantic interest.

Dawson's has added even greater depth to what was already a compelling story line, exploring the complexity of the process and difficulties of coming out, and bringing forth the basic ties that bind us all — regardless of our sexual orientation.

Dawson's Creek is cable cast on WB on Wednesdays at 7pm.

20/20 Leads in Coverage of Gay Parenting

On Friday, March 5, *20/20* presented a nuanced look at the implications of surrogacy and parenting for same-sex couples. Correspondent Sylvia Chase followed two Gay male couples in the course of this segment, Will Halm and his partner Marcellin Simard. They have spent nearly ten years researching and preparing for parenthood. It has taken them nearly that long to find a surrogate mother to carry their child.

John and Paul, the second couple, expect the birth of their first child in the spring of 1999.

The segment also covered *Growing Generations*, the nation's first and only surrogacy firm specifically dedicated to serving the Lesbian and Gay community, and *Maybe Baby*, a company designed for same-sex parents who wish to start a family.

Will & Grace

NBC's *Will & Grace* seems finally to be hitting its stride. The March 6-12 issue of *TV Guide* ran a feature article on Megan Mullally who plays Karen on the show. In the following issue of the magazine, Eric McCormack (Will) was one of the featured subjects in an article titled *Nice Guys*.

The coverage keeps coming. McCormack and co-star Debra Messing (Grace) were interviewed on NBC's *Today* show.

After a slow start, America's first TV show to make an openly Gay man a lead character seems to have taken off. Next year, I am told, should even be better.



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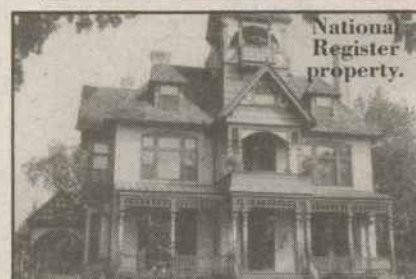
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OUT ON FILM

20 Dates

Reviewed by John Jahn

20 Dates purports to be a documentary — a real life romantic comedy about an aspiring filmmaker setting out to chronicle the contemporary American dating scene but winding up discovering true love. However, Writer and Director Myles Berkowitz doesn't have qualms about staging scenes to boost the drama of his project. The problem is that, by doing so, he calls into question the realism of the entire film. Consequently, despite Berkowitz's protestations to the contrary, *20 Dates* has to be seen as semi-fictional.

Pseudo-documentaries are a popular genre. These films, which look, feel and sound like documentaries, are actually nothing of the sort. In some cases, like *This is Spinal Tap*, they're cleverly designed satires. But *20 Dates* is the first to openly pretend that it's real. Berkowitz wants viewers to believe that everything in his film is truthful and spontaneous. While some of the material presented here is genuine, too much of it has a scripted feel. Another point: Berkowitz is credited as the writer. Legitimate documentaries do not admit to having writers.

All that said, it still doesn't alter the movie's entertainment value. *20 Dates* is basically a romantic comedy about a self-centered, arrogant jerk who ends up falling mutually in love with a sweet, gorgeous woman. The moral is that no matter how cynical you are about life

and love and no matter how deeply you believe that it can't happen to you, it can. Berkowitz deludes himself into believing this is an origi-

nal message when, in fact, it's the basis of 75% of every romance ever committed to film.

There are things in *20 Dates* that work (the romance between Berkowitz and Elisabeth isn't one of them). The filmmaker's frequent spats with his profane producer, Elie (who expects a non-stop sex-fest and an appearance by Tia Carrera) are often hilarious. Several of Berkowitz's dates have an authentically awkward feel. Then there are his non-stop jabs at French movies and culture, which, while politically incorrect, are nevertheless amusing.

20 Dates would probably have been more enjoyable if Berkowitz was less irritating. At times he can be funny, but his only redeeming quality is his self-deprecating humor. He's also pompous and arrogant. The longer *20 Dates* runs, the more it seems like a massive ego trip. By the end, we're wondering what Elisabeth sees in this guy.

Berkowitz went to great trouble to stage, edit, and control certain aspects of his film so that it has a formulaic dramatic structure. Why he didn't make the effort to present himself as a likable human being in an authentic documentary remains the question of the day.

2 1/2 STARS

20 Dates opens exclusively at Milwaukee's Downer Theater on March 26.

OUT in the Theatre

Rent

Reviewed by John Jahn

The late Jonathan Larson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, *Rent*, swept into Uihlein Hall on Tuesday, March 9th on a wave of hype — some of it true, but not all. Larson, by all accounts, was a naive, sentimental fellow and that attitude constantly wears away at the show's rougher edges. Larson, who died before *Rent*'s premier, never got to do rewrites and at times it shows. Some of the lyrics are mundane and the music a tad schmaltzy. This Gen-X "landmark" musical can occasionally sound a little old-fashioned despite its plugged-in soundtrack, but in the end it doesn't really matter.

There is such joy, humanity and sense of humor at work here that *Rent* sweeps all routine criticism aside. Michael Greif's directing falls somewhere between a *Grease* revival and a U2 concert, simple but also electrifying. It also boasts a cast of phenomenally talented, 20-something actors, dancers and singers possessing what seems like unbounded ener-

gy. *Rent*'s 28 different musical numbers and many dance sequences demand such energy.

One of *Rent*'s great accomplishments is how it never criticizes the group of Bohemians that comprise its characters, many of whom are HIV-positive, drug abusers, Gay or Lesbian. Rather, it accepts them without reservation. Instead of demonizing and condemning them, *Rent* instead asks us to think about how wonderful the world would be if we simply accepted people for what they are.

This *Rent* was well sung and well acted, but at times the words were obscured by the loud on-stage band. While it may not have charted a new course for the American musical, *Rent* has nevertheless shown that contemporary issues — even distasteful or uncomfortable ones — can lend themselves superbly to song and dance when in the right hands.

For those who missed *Rent*'s sold-out Milwaukee run, it will be returning, this time to Green Bay at the Weidner Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets for the June 1-6 run will go on sale on April 25. For further information call 1(800)328-8587.

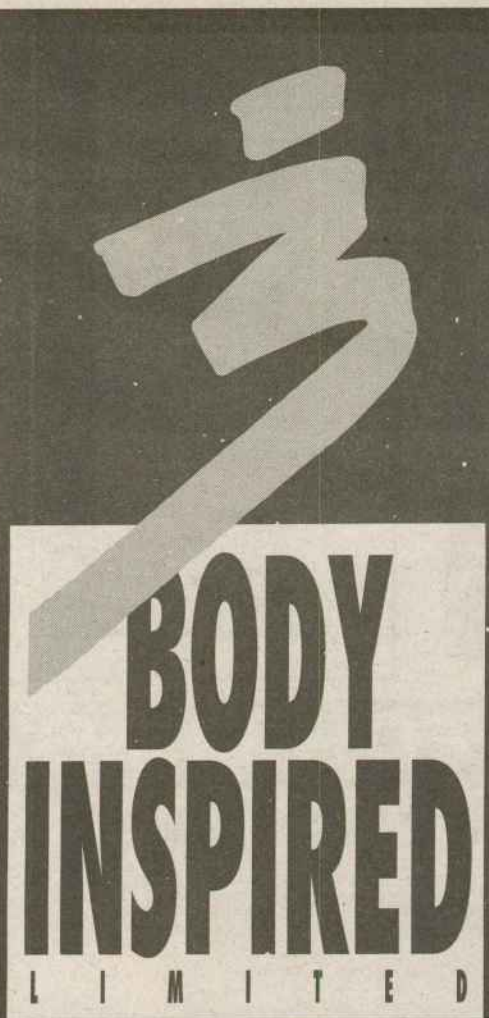
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WI Light

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This issue covers:
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Events CALENDAR

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25

AIDS Advocates at the Capitol (Madison), Concerned citizens lobby State legislators for increased AIDS funding. Lunch time rally prior to meetings in the afternoon. FMI Laurie Marks (800) 359-9272 X 297.

State AIDS/HIV Program Public Hearing (Madison), Hearings on the state plan for use of Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, Title II funding (CARE) funding. Public comment welcome. Dept. of Public Instruction GEF 3 building, 125 S. Webster St., Room 041. 9-11am.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Alvin Alley American Dance Theater (Milwaukee), 8pm tonight and tomorrow, 3pm Sunday shows. Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center for Performing Arts. Ticket prices \$15.50-\$64.50, Box Office (414) 273-7206.

Inova, Institute of Visual Arts (Milwaukee), Through May 30 Gallery One, 3253 N. Downer Avenue, (414) 229-6516. Annika von Hausswolff, Pierre Huyghe and Martin Parr exhibition.

Inova, Institute of Visual Arts (Milwaukee), Through April 30, Gallery Video, 3253 N. Downer Avenue, (414) 229-5070. Halli Altindere exhibition.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Men's Discussion Group, LGBT Community Center, small meeting room.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Black LGBT Task Force (Milwaukee), "Where Are We, What Are We Doin' And Why Aren't We Gettin' Together: Creating A Black Gay Presence in Milwaukee" community forum. Milw. Enterprise Center, 4th & Locust, 7-9pm. FMI call (414)224-0996 (box 3).

Madison Gay Video Club (Madison), *The Toilers and The Wayfarers, French Connection #1 & #2*. 8pm, call (608) 244-8675 (eves.).

Wisconsin Singer Songwriter Series (Cedarburg), Presents Don Conoscenti in concert, 8pm, at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N456 Washington Avenue, downtown. Doors open at 7:15pm, tickets \$9 in advance and \$11 day of show. FMI call (414) 284-9777.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Artist Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee), Milwaukee premier of America's leading baritone, Thomas Hampson. 3pm, tickets range from \$20-65. For ticket info contact the Box Office at 144 E. Wells, (414) 286-3663.

Woodland Patten Writing Workshop, (Milwaukee), Collage Stories, \$30/\$25 members, 1-4pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Afterwords Books (Milwaukee), Lesbian Reading Group, discussion of Rita Mae Brown's *Rita Will*, all interested welcome.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Through April 3, *Ravishing Ravel*. Tickets \$16-48, call 291-7605, 273-7206.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Woodland Patten Book Center (Milwaukee), Poet John Koethe reads from his new book. 720 E Locust St., 8pm, \$6 tickets for the general public, \$5 for members. FMI (414) 263-5001.

EVERY TUESDAY,

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

Gay By God's Will (Milwaukee), Milwaukee's MCC on Warner Cable channel 47, live, 8pm.

Queer TV (Milwaukee), Warner/MATA cable channel 47, 7pm.

EVERY SATURDAY

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

If your organization or arts group has items for the **April 7th** Issue Events Calendar, please fax, mail, or drop them off to our office by **March 31st**.
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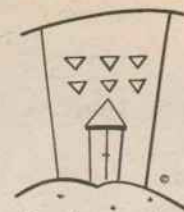
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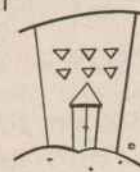
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LifeStyle

The Answer Was "Yes" NOW WHAT DO YOU DO? Planning Your Wedding

by Patricia Lee
of Family Celebrations

As the owner of a business that specializes in providing high quality wedding items specifically for Gay and Lesbian couples, I am frequently asked questions about how to put a wedding together. Time and space doesn't permit me to go into detailed answers on everything, but I can give you a general sense of what you are in for based on my personal experience of planning my own commitment ceremony.

In October of 1996, I officially proposed marriage to my girlfriend, Vanna, and slipped a diamond on her finger. To my delight, she said "yes" and we started to plan our commitment ceremony. Unfortunately, we quickly discovered how limited the resources were for same-gender couples.

Whether considered legal or not, we knew ceremonies celebrating love and commitment were increasingly common in the Gay & Lesbian Community. We also knew that we couldn't be the only couple out there that needed help. Initially discouraged, we became inspired and started a business specializing in love, commitment and families.

While juggling the demands of career, parenting and planning our own wedding, Vanna and I started Family Celebrations to help others in the same situation. Family Celebrations made its debut in the Spring of 1997 as America's first catalog and online company (www.familycelebrations.com) to specialize in same-gender weddings and special occasions.

My partner and I began the awkward search for Gay friendly businesses to alter their products to accommodate the special needs of Gay and Lesbian couples. After contacting many businesses, we were overwhelmed with positive responses.

Without delay, we came up with our own exclusive designs and crossed the most important hurdle. In no time, the original idea for a small product line grew to a much larger one that includes not only weddings, but also gifts and specialty items for all occasions.

In the midst of launching this first-of-its-kind business, Vanna and I were tackling the demands of planning our own commitment ceremony. We found ourselves in a unique position. As we helped other couples with ideas, etiquette and other questions about their ceremony and reception, we were, in fact, helping ourselves.

I am grateful to all the couples who shared their own personal highs and lows in planning their weddings. Vanna and I were lucky to have such information at our fingertips that reached far

beyond cake tops, toasting glasses and invitations.

In September of 1998, Vanna and I officially married (legal or not, it's official for us). Our ceremony was beautiful, and we are very happy that we survived the stress of a two-year engagement.

My best advice is to pay attention to the details, because your guest will surely do the same. We had our dream wedding, but I'll tell you, we had trouble in the beginning stages of planning.

For Gay or Lesbian couples, getting started is often the most difficult. Take a deep breath, it's easier than you may think. First set a date and decide on your budget. The next step is to find your wedding style. Do you envision a church, formal hotel or a friend's backyard?

These important elements will dictate the direction of your planning. After you agree with your partner on the date, budget and wedding

style, the rest is a piece of cake. Here is a little bit of guidance in getting started.

Many couples become engaged on special anniversaries or holidays and wish to have their weddings on the same type of day. For instance, I married my wife exactly three years after our first kiss. We considered this a very special day in our own personal history and thought it was a perfect day to start a more formal life together as a married couple. Other couples chose more traditional holidays or dates to accommodate traveling out of town guests.

Keep your options open if your heart isn't set on a particular date. Being flexible could mean big savings. Typically, Saturday and Sunday are the most favored days of the week for weddings. Discounts on room rent, entertainers and catering can be found on the other days of the week, including Friday evenings. Even though you may be anxious to say "I DO," set a realistic date to compliment the planning necessary for your dream wedding.

History has changed quite a bit when it comes to wedding expenses. As we approach the 21st century, there are no absolute rules about who pays for what. Many Gay and Lesbian couples pay for their wedding in its entirety, because they are already quite established in their combined households. Some think having parents make a financial contribution is unnecessary. Many times their love and support are appreciated more than money.

Other times it's the lack of support from parents that dictate the couple paying for their wedding themselves. To eliminate misunder-

standings and hard feelings later on, plan on paying for everything yourselves. If a family member or parents wish to help you monetarily, however big or small a gesture, it's a welcome surprise.

Once a budget has been agreed upon, discuss at great lengths what kind of wedding you envision. Deciding on your wedding style is no small task. Remember, compromise is very important. A couple is the partnership of two individuals with their own uniqueness and ideas about their dream wedding. Traditionally, there were only a few choices when it came to wedding style.


Luckily, today's wedding trends feature the expression of the couple and their commitment in lieu of stifling etiquette and traditions of the past. If the wedding of your dreams includes the family dog walking down the aisle, do it. Forget "Miss Manners." Don't miss this wonderful chance to express yourselves the way you want, just use common sense.

For instance, as wonderful and free it would be to have a nude wedding, your 100+ guests may not so readily agree.

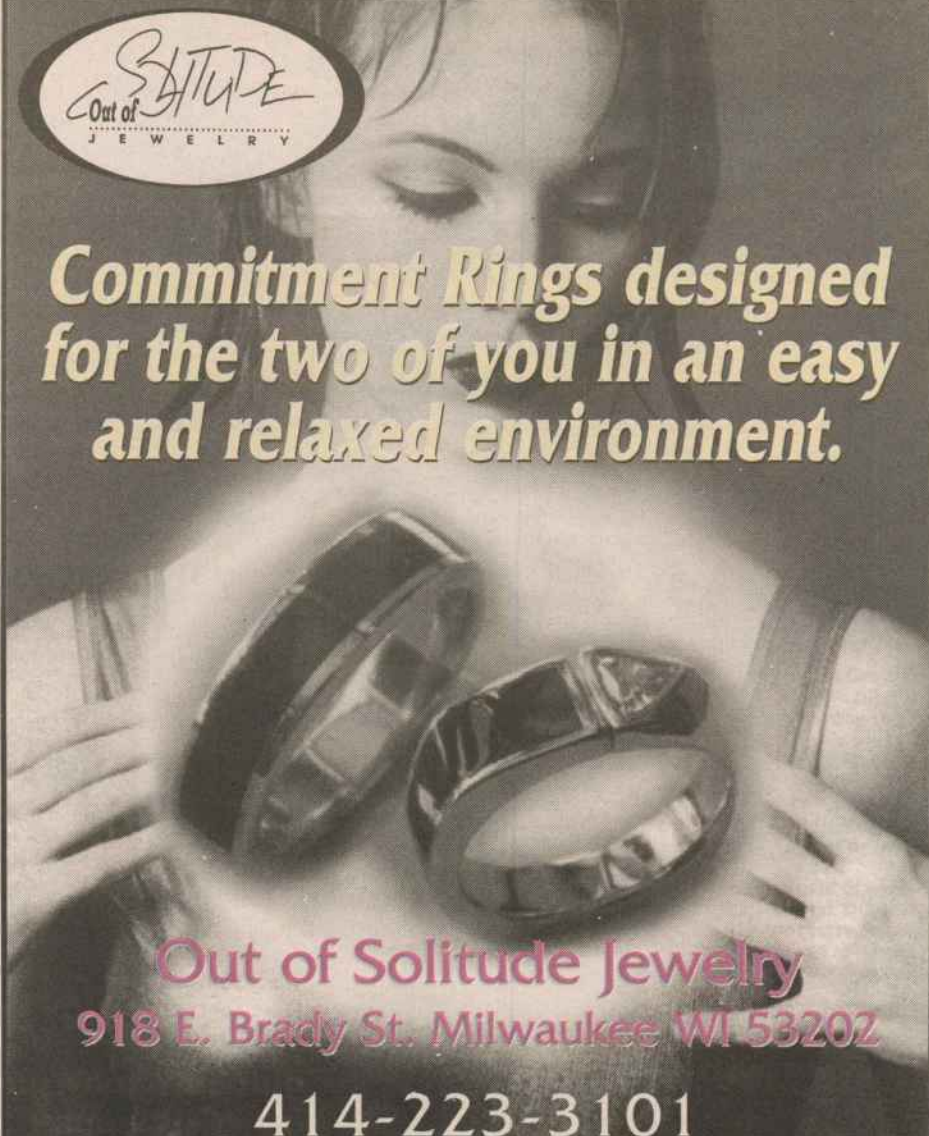
If you feel like you need additional help with wedding planning, the most valuable resource is *The Essential Guide To Lesbian & Gay Weddings* co-authored by Tess Ayers and Paul Brown. This book is filled with a comprehensive collection of history, personal stories, etiquette and a wealth of information. I consider this inspirational, fun and helpful guide "a must" for all couples planning a wedding.

On behalf of all of us at Family Celebrations, congratulations and happy planning!





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planning your CEREMONY

by Rev. Lew Broyles

O.K... Having done some 300+ Holy Unions, there are a few pointers I'd like to give you.

First, vows are a part of the ceremony; they are not THE ceremony.

Second, don't think of your Pastor as an afterthought, or last-second notion. Remember that they have a congregation to tend to. If you aren't a member there, this is an interruption of their duties. You'd be surprised at the number of people who call to say they want a Holy Union next week.

Third, some issues deserve careful consideration in planning your ceremony.

Here are some of them:

1) "What if we are from different religious backgrounds?"

What are the religious backgrounds of each of you? This must be considered before you decide on what type of service you are going to have. If one is raised Lutheran or Catholic, and the other Pentecostal or Baptist, there are traditions which will conflict, but the opportunity is here to draw you closer.

Reflecting respect of traditions, why not choose those things which best reflect what a Holy Union means to you? Borrow a little here and a little there and work with your Pastor, Celebrant or Liturgist to take the best of both backgrounds.

2) "I know exactly what I want. If they love me, why can't they respect that?"

Consider your partner's feelings, desires, dreams and wishes. Don't be a drama-queen and make demands of your partner. To do so is to take a very arrogant attitude, and remember this isn't doing your relationship any good. Remember your partner has feelings, too! (If they are a control-queen now... they'll be a control-queen later! RUN FAST... RUN FAR...)

3) "Love, honor and obey? Really?"

I think not!!! This obey stuff is part of the Patriarchy that objectified women and treated them as property. Another example of this is, "Who gives this woman?" the response is often from the father, "Her mother and I." How about, "I will Love and Honor You?"

4) "Well... My friend _____ is like a mother to me and wishes to give me away. What'll we do now?"

How about this? As a part of the final blessing, have the Celebrant, Pastor, etc. take their stole off and ask one person from each side to come forward. The Celebrant then wraps

the stole around the couple's hands, and has each member's person of support hold the ends of the stole while offering a blessing. By doing this, you show the significance of the merging of lives with dignity, without the 'better-than' exhibition of sexism.

5) What about this 'forsaking all others' stuff? My lover and I have an open relationship, but we still love each other. Aren't we entitled to a Holy Union?

This is a tough one. I'd say leave it out. I can hear people objecting to this, but you have to ask yourself, 'What is being brought to the table that is dishonest or deceitful?' Consider the line, 'as long as we both shall love.' This is also a good substitute for those couples that do not recognize death as the end of their relationship, just a passage.

6) "Will getting married help my relationship?"

Entering a Holy Union should be viewed as a serious matter. It is the most important day of your lives.

Therefore, I caution you that if this is a last ditch effort to save your relationship, don't waste your time or expense. One of the hardest things to face concerning relationships is trying to 'fix' the unbreakable. Or more simply, as we were all taught as children, "All the king's horses and all the king's men..."

Finally, remember there is no greater joy than looking into the eyes of the person you love and telling them how you truly feel. Love is not two people looking at each other, so much as two people looking in the same direction together.

In conclusion, below are vows that I use in one version or another at PrideFest. Each person speaks them in turn, or during the Mass Wedding, at the same time.

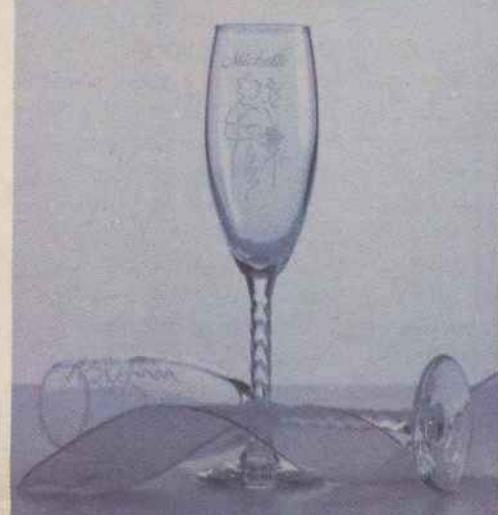
I, _____ take you _____ to be my Partner in life — my best friend. Of all the people in the world, I freely and without hesitation choose you. I promise to love and honor you. I promise to take you, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, (forsaking all others) (as long as we both shall live (see above)), and all that I am, all that I have, and all I shall become, I gladly share with you.

Good vow writing. See you in Church!

The author is the pastor of the Milwaukee MCC church.

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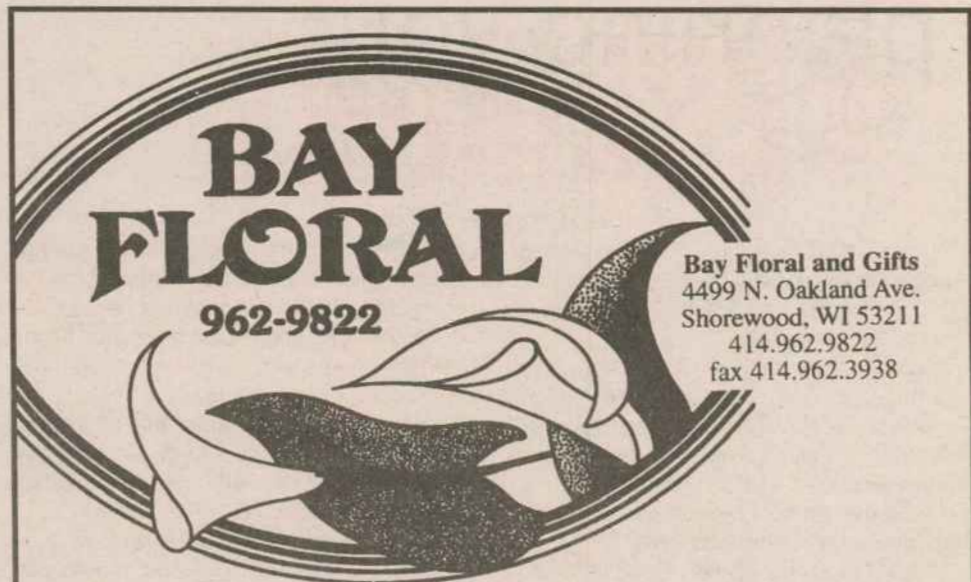
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View From Brewers Hill

by Terry Boughner

I left the college library and stopped. Coming up the walk toward me was this old lady, striding along with all the determination of someone embarked on a quest. In one hand she held a tall, gnarled wooden staff. The thing was at least a third taller than her height of 5'3" or 5'4". From her shoulders hung a bright red, full-length cape that billowed out behind her as she walked. When she came to where I stood, staring, she stopped.

"I'm Margaret Mead," she said. "I'm early. Where's room 111?" Her words came in staccato bursts. She paused, giving me the once-over. "Who are you?"

I introduced myself and took her to 111 where she was to hold the first of her seminars that day. I turned to leave, thinking to call Sister Collette, the Department Chair, and tell her our long expected guest had arrived. Dr. Mead was having none of that.

"Where are you going?" she demanded. I told her. She dismissed that idea with the wave of a hand. "She'll find out for herself," she said. "You stay. There's no one else here, and I'm not going to lecture to the air. Now, go sit," she ordered, pointing to one of the chairs with her staff.

Needless to say, she got her audience. Everyone wanted to hear "the great Dr. Mead." However, if they figured she was going to dish out the same old gush they'd been raised with, they were badly mistaken. For example, she said that marriage was an option, not a requirement (this in the early '70s!), and that no woman needed a man. Heady stuff for upper middle-class La Roche College. More was to come.

When I wasn't teaching, I went to hear her. I remember in one lecture she said, "If you can't marry your best friend, don't marry anyone."

"But Dr. Mead, my best friend's a guy," a young man, one of my students, protested in a plaintive tone.

"Well?" she replied without missing a beat.

Later on, I found myself alone with her for a few minutes. "Dr. Mead, this thing you said about marrying..."

With a look that said she could see clear through me, she cut me off. Tapping her staff on my knee she said, "I want to tell you a story."

As she told it, in the days of the ancient Maya, she said, when a young man reached a certain age, his parents asked him if he preferred to marry a man or a woman. If he wanted to marry a woman, a suitable bride was selected. Nothing, however, said that he had to be faithful to her.

However, if he said he wanted to marry a man, things were different. Between two men, married to each other, monogamy was required. No divorce was allowed. If one of them strayed, the other could punish him. For flirting, he was pinched and pinched hard. If things went further, the aggrieved partner could rub his spouse's body with red-hot chili peppers. If that lesson didn't take, the cheater was to be sacrificed to the gods.

"I wish I'd been a Maya," I said. The words were out before I could stop them, but my tone was low enough that I didn't think she'd heard.

That night, after her lecture, the college gave her a reception. Dr. Mead was sitting in an armchair, staff in hand, her red cloak wrapped around her, holding court. I waited until there was a break in the crowd before going over to her. I got down on one knee.

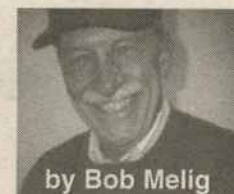
"Dr. Mead, I want to tell you I'm so glad you came today. Thank you."

She turned her head to me. Her gaze had the intensity of an eagle's stare. "Don't let them get you," she said and tapped the tip of her staff of the top of my head.

I got to my feet. Sister Collette was standing nearby and had heard the exchange. "What was that all about?" she wondered.

"A lot," I said and left the reception. I never saw Dr. Mead again.

Sports



by Bob Melig

TENNIS ANYONE?

As we wind down Winter, get out your jogging togs folks! Spring sports are getting ready.

DARTS:

The Milwaukee Dart League finish was in doubt until the very end. In the final week, the Ballgame led 219 by one point. A fortuitous quirk in the schedule pitted them against each other in both of the last two weeks. It proved to be the kind of finish any league desires. In the end, the Ballgame team took first with 219 a skin of the teeth second.

Visiting the Dart League Awards Banquet was a tremendous thrill for this reporter. These folks love their sport. The teams were eagerly mingling. Talk was of the game that got away, the bull that could have turned a win, the three out that the sub pulled off. In the middle of the room, you guessed it; a game of darts was going on. A full house, talk of the game, doing the sport. Skilled players totally involved in their game. It was great to see such enthusiasm.

TENNIS:

Milwaukee's LGBT tennis league will hold an organizational meeting on Monday March 29 from 6 to 8pm. The meeting will be held at Fluid, 819 S. Second Street. Anyone interested in either playing or sponsoring a team is invited to attend.

This year the league plans on moving to a team format instead of the individual match ups of year's past. If you are interested but unable to attend or if you would like more information call Bill at (414) 645-8330.

SOFTBALL:

SSBL (Saturday Softball League) will have at least nine teams this season. SSBL is looking for at least one more team to come forward in order to be able to have two divisions as last year. Interested Teams or Individual players can call the SSBL Hotline at (414)454-9204. Individuals calling will be referred to

teams looking for players. Better yet personally see the bartender at the Ballgame, Club 219, DISH, Fluids, M&M's, South Water Street Docks, This Is It, Woody's, or see Bill at the Wisconsin Light. River West is not sponsored by a bar, get through to them by the SSBL Hotline

The Milwaukee Classic on Memorial Day is set for its 19th tournament, the first ever Gay organized and the longest running event in LGBT softball. Individuals can show their support and help with the cost of the tournament by purchasing "Logo Buttons" that are on sale at Sponsor bars.

SSBL's 2nd Annual Poker Run to help kick off the season will be in April. Look for the posters around town. Last year's event was a blast with more than 100 participants. Tom, John and Rodney expect that the participation will increase by a wide margin this year. Don't get left out.

HIT: The Rita Bowl was another smashing success. It was another tribute to the inventive folks at HIT. The bowl followed a gambling junket to Illinois. If you are missing out having fun with the bowlers, stop at M&M and talk to any bartender. They'll let you in on what coming up next.

OTHER SPORTS: The "skin" sports will be getting under way soon. Tennis, running, canoeing, you name it, there will be plenty of opportunity for your participation. Watch for info here on who, what, when and where.

Remember that GLBT sports are traditionally the first organized activities any of our communities undertake. Sports are non-political. They require only your interest. They can help you develop your playing and social skills. Our sports groups are governed by rules that make it a level field for everyone in the community. Sports helps to broaden our outlook as a community. Join in a GLBT sport group. If there aren't any in your area, why not start one? You'll never regret the fun, travel and friendships you'll develop.



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Tineality

by Tina Lee

Keeping Connected

The farther away I move from the swinging Gay scene, the more frightened I become that my membership in the "Gay Community" will expire without so much as a renewal slip sent in the mail.

Things used to be so easy: First, I slept with a girl. Then I boasted excessively and voila! The initiation fees were waived. If monthly membership dues were cover charges to queer bars, by the age of 23, I should have paid for a lifetime membership.

But it doesn't work that way. While I struggle pregnant through work and fatigue, without cocktails, cigarettes, fashion or even halfway decent gossip, do I remain connected? Did the smooch I stole from a fiercely attractive female, on the very day of my child-to-be's conception, did that kiss keep me in the fold?

I observe my friends getting older — some wiser, some not, some still queer, some Bi's like me, married. Still others live secluded, embraced only by their jobs and their small cir-

cle of close friends — and I have to wonder — are any of us members of the Gay community anymore?

Without the cocktails and dancing, what keeps us united? Well, the answer is simple, I know: volunteer, teach the young, vote wisely, etc.... yawn. I'm bored with all that stuff. Don't get me wrong; I do it, but I feel so outta the loop. It's killing me. That's why I had the Drag Kings stay at my house the weekend they came to Madison.

Some of you may be wondering who and what the Drag Kings are, while others of you may be biting your nails with jealousy. If you're lucky enough to be the latter, well, you're more sensible than your mother thinks.

Those Drag Kings were so sexy and hilarious, that I about ruptured a blood vessel with excitement. I kept thinking to myself, "My small apartment if filled with four larger than life male impersonators. This makes me very cool by default — and them, by default, Lesbian until proven otherwise!"

How I snared the Drag Kings was simple enough: they found me. In fact, Tarot, most recently featured in my last two articles, is roommates with Mo B. Dick — the Drag Kings apparent leader. He told her about me, she called me about coming. The next thing I knew, four amazing women were marching through my corridor bearing more luggage than my mother takes with her when she visits the relatives in New Jersey.

The Drag Kings were patient and very friendly and didn't seem to mind at all that for one night's visit they each are required to carry with them minimally five changes of costume. Although some of their "costumes" did at times get rather small, their voluminous wigs more than made up for it.

For those of you who didn't see the Drag Kings perform at the Monona Terrace, let me tell you a little something...first, these women aren't like any Madisonian women I've ever met. This may be because they're from New York. Also, their acts are not politically correct in any way. I repeat, they are not politically correct, and serve no agenda other than to amuse and shock... and I loved every moment of their fleshy audacity.

I kneel at their irreverent altar. I honor Bob's pendulous breasts and Mo's massive shaft of rubbery manhood. Dred's sinewy black body and fruit filled undies ran a close second to Murry as Elvis in that skin tight, sequin-covered, polyester jumpsuit. Oh yes. When a particularly acrobatic calisthenic flung that glitter-

ing belt from her womanly corpulence with a loud snap, worshipful laughter entirely filled that vast hall — including the most hidden parts of my soul.

So I adore the Drag Kings. Their profession, which is evidently both lucrative and filled with international travel, is so creative and expressive. It plays with and exploits both heterosexual and homosexual stereotypes and expectations. It's both vaudeville and burlesque.

The Drag Kings connected me back to the Gay community. Those ladies, with all of their brazen ways, and ambitious lives, completed the circle for me. They went out to Club 5, after the show and subsequent dance. They ogled the girls hungrily and gossiped about their desires over coffee the next morning.

Interestingly enough, they told me how intimidated they were by everyone's apparent freedom and joy — those qualities which are so characteristic and abundant in the Madison and neighboring Gay communities. Everyone can get wild, dance and chat without fear of being socially climbed over.

The gals didn't even have a word to describe the phenomenon; they liked it, yet it was uncomfortably foreign. I stepped in — as is my way — and clarified matters as best I could. "Ladies," I said, "what you experienced was good clean fun. There's no mistaking it. Welcome to Madison."

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



BIFF 'N BUNKY

by KEITH N ANDERSON



NIGHTS OUT

News... Remember those nasty little bar raids conducted by those hot cops that I talked about in our last issue? Well... word has it that all of the citations they issued will be dismissed. Don't know if that happened to the Het bars that were raided.

It's nice to know that justice will prevail in the end — at least in this case. Of course, none of this should have ever been an issue to begin with. I don't know about you folks, but

have fit another person in the place with a shoehorn. It was a nice tribute to Billy and Jimmy and the great job they have done in their first year in business. Many happy returns, guys!

The annual "I Remember You" show at **219** was really quite the event. The performances were fantastic. The show is a benefit for the fight against AIDS. It is held in memory of the late Ginger Spice, who was one of the best performers, Milwaukee has ever seen, a real sweetheart too. My hat's off to her friends and **219** for keeping her spirit alive with this show.

We made a mini bar crawl last weekend and things seemed to be

hopping at a number of clubs. Over at **219** they had some especially hot strippers. **Dish** was jammed with people grooving to the tunes. **C'est La Vie** had a nice drag show on Saturday evening. Those girls really know how to work it!

At **In Between** we ran into a good-sized crowd including Rick Fores. He was all excited about an upcoming dinner and theatre event that Gray Line Tours (414/271-0996) is sponsoring. It's a trip to see a fabulous production of *La Cage Aux Folles* in Chicago on Sunday, April 18. The open bar on the way down should be a hoot.

Over at **Woody's** there were a ton of folks enjoying the evening and each other. Every time I stop in this bar, there seems to be more and more people enjoying themselves. I ran into two friends I hadn't seen in years. I guess word must be getting out.

Did you celebrate St. Patrick's Day? From what I saw, just about everybody did. Milwaukee's **Ball Game** was packed. The popular near South Side stop was also celebrating its 26th anniversary! Congrats to Rick, Danny and all of the staff. Of course, the party showed why this bar has been around so long: great service, friendly people and smiles all around! Just about everybody who is anybody was there.

This Is It was jumping with Irish celebration. That great jukebox of Joes' sure gets a workout. Over at **Woody's** they were downing enough \$1.50 shots to make any Irishman proud.

I didn't get up to Madison, but my spies tell me that the **Shamrock's** big bash was especially festive this year. So was the party at **Club 5** where Ed O' Grunewald served up some great Irish food.

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

Going Out

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Karaoke at Fannies, hosted by Marlene.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Fannie's (Milwaukee), A Blast from the Past - 70s, 80s & 90s music, 25¢ taps 7-9; 50¢ taps 9-11. \$1.50 rail and domestic.

Za's (Green Bay), Mr. Wausau USofA, TC Hammond, presents a special show at 10:30pm, to help send him to Mr. Gay WHUSofA.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Buddies (Green Bay), Kick off of Argonauts Easter Egg Sale.

Ray's (Madison), March Into Spring Drag show.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

The Kloset (Beloit), 1st annual Miss Gay Borderline Pageant (a WI USofA prelim) featuring Kelli Jo Klein with performances by Mr. Gay WI, Miss Gay Rockford and others, 9:30pm, \$5 cover.

La Cage (Milwaukee), Sasha Mitchell's B-Day Benefit Let's get her outta town to the national Miss Gay US of A pageant. A fabulous show begins at 10pm. Plus the La Cage super bust. No door cover!

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

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

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Ronnie Nyles, 7pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Club 219 (Milwaukee), Kimberly Anne for Possum Queen benefit, 6pm.

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Win cash and prizes. We hear it's David's birthday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Brandy's II (Green Bay), Argonauts Easter Egg Sale.

Fannie's (Milwaukee), Karaoke at Fannies, hosted by Marlene.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Brandy's II (Green Bay), Retro Night. Come in older clothes, get drink discounts, mini-show, DJ follows.

LIVE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

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

Club 5 (Madison), Drag Shows on Sat., 10pm.

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

Fannies (Milwaukee), Karaoke hosted by Marlene. First Sunday and second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

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

Kirby's Klub (Madison), Drag Shows on Sat., 10pm.

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

Shoreline (Milwaukee), Practices at La Cage, 8-11pm plus Free Lessons.

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

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

Dusty

AFTER DARK

I think the police have more important things to do with their time than shining flashlights on bottles and reading bar licenses at 1am.

Mark Mariucci of *Quest*, **Za's** and the Wisconsin US of A pageant system tells me that time is running out if you want to enter this year's Mr. Wisconsin US of A pageant. There's only three prelims left, Madison (**Club 5**), Kenosha (**Club 94**) and Beloit (**The Kloset**).

Recaps... With the warmer weather things are starting to pick up on the club scene. The 1st Anniversary party at **Fluid** was fun, classy and packed. I don't think they could



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Fluid's Anniversary Party



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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	273-7474
Barbie Dolls Playhouse	MW, S	700 E. Meinelock, 53204	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

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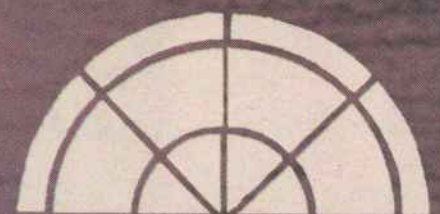
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– Joe, June & Staff



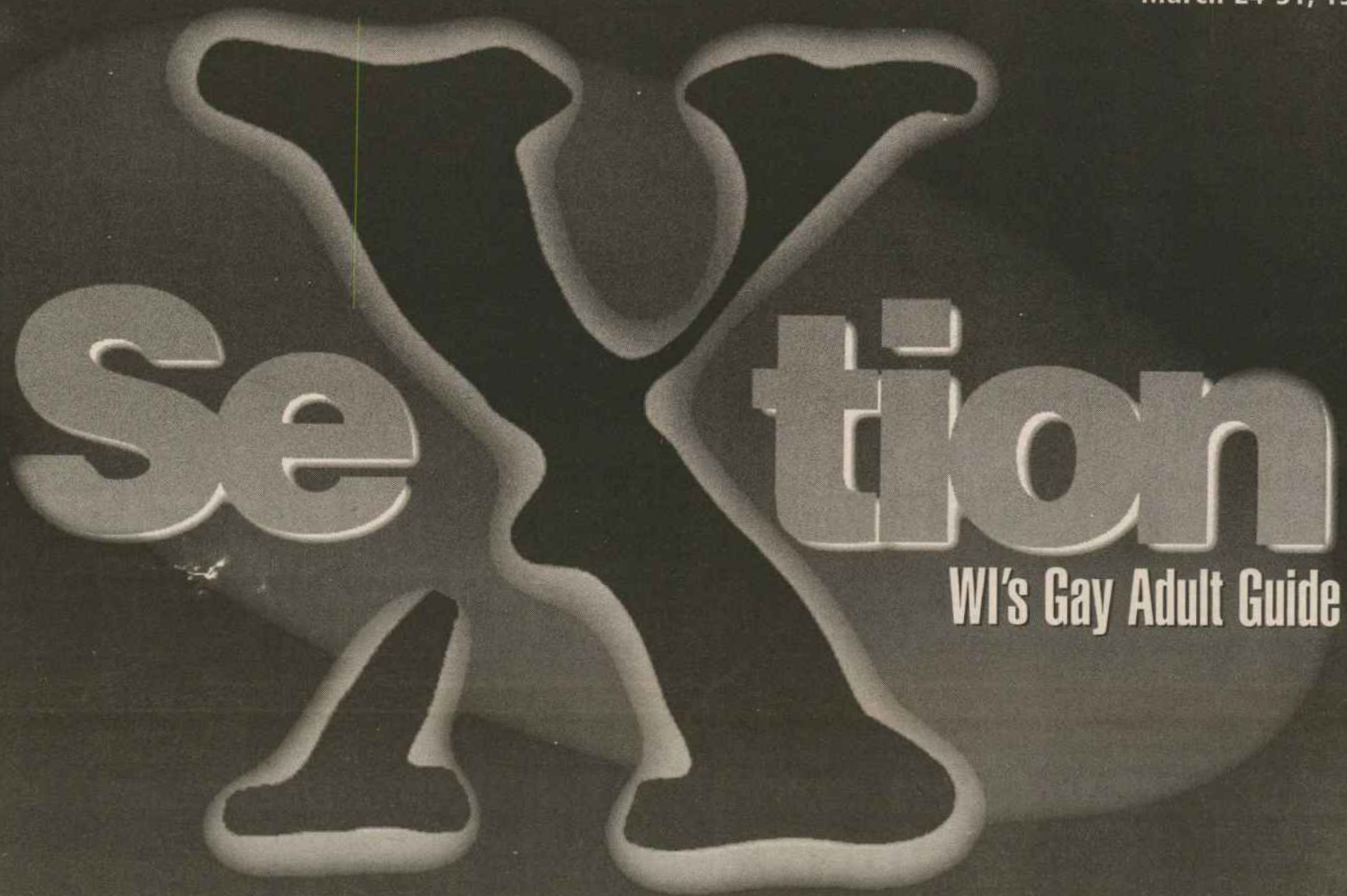
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Nightstick

BIC Productions

Reviewed by Sam Edwards

BIC Productions specializes in porn films for those who are into uniform fetishes. They use in their films a combination of amateurs who are into uniforms, street hustlers, and assorted professional porn actors.

Nightstick, as you might guess, deals with cigar smoking cops having sex in full uniform. Well, they at least start out in full uniform. They usually have to put down the cigar at some point because it gets in the way

of the action. This may sound corny, but since the actors for the most part are amateurs with ordinary bods, who sometimes even have trouble keeping an erection, there is a certain reality about the various scenes. The fantasies have an urgency that can, somehow, be erotic, even when the camera work and acting is not very professional.

There are only three scenes, instead of the usual four, in this film. The location is behind a high board fence with street traffic noises constantly in the background. A cigar chomping cop pulls over a leather guy for speeding and offers him a deal to get out of the tickets. The leather guy accepts and soon is chomping on the cop. About this time, the cop's partner enters the scene and takes over the action. He and the leather guy exchange blows, and then he tops the leather guy. However, I'm sure this last action is simply pretend because the cop is having too much trouble keeping "wood." (I shouldn't have to give you the porn industry definition of "wood." Use your imagination!)

The second scene has the same motorcycle and fence, but features a better-looking cigar smoking cop with a City of Miami

police patch. A fireman wearing only the bottom of a rubber fireman's working outfit turns him on. They work on one another and then the fireman tops the cop. More pretend, I think.

The last scene features Paul Carrigan and a big burly bear of a man. Both are smoking up a storm, wearing neatly pressed police uniforms. Carrigan wants the bear to use his nightstick (and I don't mean the wooden one) on him. They make very sensuous love with Carrigan talking dirty and begging for it. The bear finally complies, and Carrigan moans and groans in sexual abandon. No pretend here. Carrigan sighs and says, "We should get together more often." The bear agrees and promises to bring his nightstick.

Although the production values are not terrific, the film, especially the last scene, is quite erotic.

Classic Video

Reviewed by Andy James

The Bigger They Come

With nearly flawless direction from Scott Masters, *The Bigger They Come* is a finely shot video flick. The plot takes us on a behind-the-scenes tour of show biz with an emphasis on the "behind" part.

In the opening scene, hot Chris Grey asks Cole Carpenter to try out as a disco dancer. The blonde stud with the big stiff one is all too happy to oblige. Cole's dancing gets Grey hot, and soon Grey is sucking him off. What else could he do? It had to be embarrassing for Cole to be standing there with that big hard-on.

Soon Carpenter is screwing the hell out Grey, who clearly enjoys every thick inch of Cole's manhood. By the time the two sweaty guys are finished, both are drenched with cum.

Next up is a tryst between back stage electrician Chris Onassis and back stage hand Robert Harris. Harris figures the poor boy's need to relieve some stress is slowing his work. Being a company man, Harris takes the initiative and helps Onassis with that bothersome boner that keeps getting in the way of his work.

Something similar happens in the next scene. Hunky Doug McCall (AKA Steve Wright) and Blake Cass are commiserating about how horny they are. The poor boys aren't getting any with all those late night stage calls. Fortunately, Gary Owens is also working late that night.

The two jump Owens who willingly takes them both on, alternately sucking the throbbing cocks of his co-workers. They drag Owens off, strip him and take turns plowing his butt hole until all three of them have shot their considerable wads.

In the next scene, Grey tells cute young bottom Tony Marino to deliver something to his house. When Marino arrives, he finds John Davenport jacking off. One look at John's raging hard on is too much for Marino. He quickly starts chowing down on it. Davenport reciprocates and gives Marino's ass a heart stopping pounding that both actors really enjoy.

The last scene features the introduction of Matt Cruise. This hot, masculine but boyish stud has just signed a four-year contract with Grey's company. Mike Lee sees Cruise showering and notices all that unsightly butt hair he has. Lee is happy to remove it — and a few other things, like a gallon of jism — from Cruise's body.

An attractive cast, hot action and great production values makes *The Bigger They Come* worth a look or two or three.

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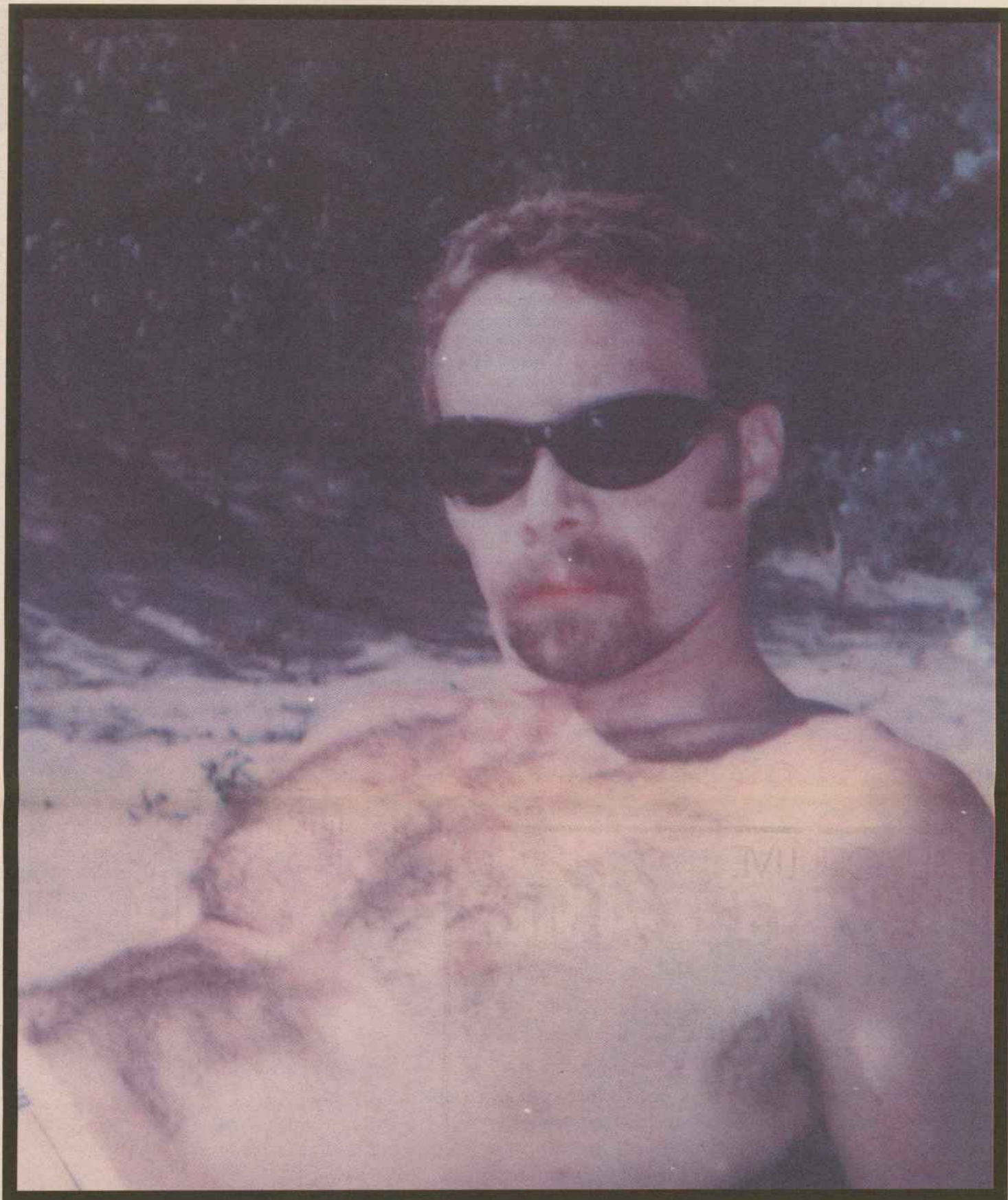
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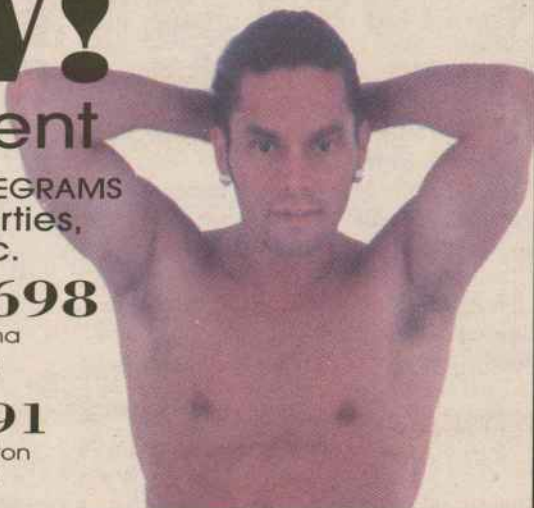
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BIO FOR THIS WI LIGHT PIN-UP: RICK

5'10" • 135 lbs • Age - 34

FAVORITE QUOTE - "Don't thank me — Just SPANK me"

Naughty Esmerelda

Who among us hasn't enjoyed those delicious movies featuring three naked bodies on the screen at one time? These wickedly naughty scenes have thankfully become commonplace in films of the adult variety, and it should be of no surprise to any of us.

Anyone with the slightest libido has considered the possibilities that exist when a group of individuals explore one another's bodies. The combinations of mouth, tongue, hole, finger, and dick contact are endless and only increase as more participants enter the bedroom.

How wonderful the gathering of three erect cocks whose owners have abandoned inhibitions in favor of gratification. How delightfully immodest two bottoms can be when vying to get fucked by a horny third player. Whether a bottom longing to pleasure an army squad, or a Daddy whose fantasy harem includes several sets of well-sculpted ass-cheeks, each reverie ends with the delectable assemblage of cum-soaked flesh.

When I asked for letters about this topic, your response was overwhelming. Therefore, let's limit this conversation to three-way practitioners. You and I can discuss larger group fuck parties at a later time. For now,

however, let me introduce you to some Wisconsin three-way experts who enjoy such private gatherings — or should I say such gatherings of men's privates?

I began my research by meeting an absolutely gorgeous, interracial couple living on Milwaukee's North side; we'll call them Paul and Matt. Paul is a petite Asian man in his mid-twenties with thick, black hair, wonderful skin, and a compact, well-chiseled chest. "Matt is very well endowed," Paul said giving Matt a knowing smile. "And he loves anal sex. I love it too, but it's so hard for me that we don't do it very often."

"Is that why you began having three-ways?" I asked. "Well, sort of," Matt said returning Paul's smile. Matt is a mouth-watering man in his early thirties. He is African American, well over six feet, and possibly has the most muscular arms and chest I've ever seen. I immediately wondered how his lips would feel if pressed against mine, what his tongue would feel like smoothly running across my own. I concentrated on his lips as he spoke.

"Most guys have had a hard time when I try to penetrate them," Matt continued. "It was hard for Paul because he is so small, so

we just sort of gave up. Then, at a bar this guy was telling me he wanted me to screw him."

While the couple never invited Matt's admirer home, the encounter got Paul thinking. "I thought this was a way to satisfy us both," Paul said. "If we found a guy that could work Matt's dick and who wanted to screw me, we'd both be happy."

I asked about the first time that another man received Matt's juicy cock. Paul answered, "The fore-play was great and everyone came before we started fucking. But when our friend took Matt's entire cock up his ass, I got jealous."

"It was great being able to fuck like that again," Matt said, but I noticed a change in Paul's attitude. Apparently, once Matt's muscular body began to pump the ass of the lucky guest, Paul began to feel inadequate. "I was doing the guy from behind and Paul was sitting in front of him getting blown. I told Paul to move closer to me so we could kiss."

"That changed everything," Paul added. "When I switched positions, I was able to see (Matt's) ass humping our friend. I've seen Matt's ass like a hundred times, but seeing it grinding up and down while he was doing it

to someone was new." Paul admitted that he became even more aroused as he saw Matt pull his horse cock in and out of the third party's hole.

Paul told me that he shot his load a second time that night, jerking off while watching Matt's heavy, dark balls slap against the sack of their new fuck buddy. The couple told me they get just as much pleasure when Paul lubes up for another man. "I love it when it's Paul's turn," Matt said. "It gives me the chance to play with his body in a different way — while he's got a dick up his ass."

Well my dears, I could go on and on about this couple and this topic. According to your many letters, you could too. I'd still like to speak to you about your group encounters. Please let me know if you've been in an orgy of four or more.

Are you into swapping with another couple? Drop me a line and let me know how I can contact you for an interview. Write Esmerelda care of: Wisconsin Light, 225 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

As always, pleasant wet dreams.

In BED with ED

The other night I took this guy home. We get back to my place and start making out when he tells me he only wants to whack off. Whatever. So, we're stroking each other, and I just could not have been any more bored.

We came together. It was okay, but nothing great. When I went to wash up, I checked my fingers. I noticed that my skin near the white part of my nails was split and a little red.

Should I be worried if his cum got under my skin? Did I catch HIV from this guy? You got any tips for next time?

Sincerely,
One Eyed Willie

Dear One Eyed Willie,

Why the attitude about just whacking? I've had better times by myself sometimes than with a partner. And sometimes whacking with a partner is such a turn on: watching his face change with his desire, hearing him make noises, listening to his cock pumping in his hands... and that was just when he went to piss.

So you were bored with your last JO session, get over it! You were probably bored with it because you didn't know what to do. Your body is one big erogenous zone. LICK, honey, LICK!

If standing and facing one another, grab his cock, lean over and just start sucking on his nipples. A flat tongue on the nipples is great, but I love it when a guy puts my nipple

between his teeth and sticks his tongue out to lick that space. Feeling his tongue and teeth go back and forth over my erect nipples sends me into overdrive. And to have him stroking my cock at the same time is ecstasy.

If nipple play isn't his thing, find out what is. Explore his body with your tongue and hands. When he starts breathing heavily and moaning, BINGO! You found a spot that gets him hot. Be sure to guide his hands and tongue to areas that turn you on, too.

If sitting side by side is your preference, I conclude you're boring.

A great position for mutual JO is kneeling. Pay attention to your knees; they may not like you in the morning. Place a pillow or any other soft object on the floor. You never know where you might be kneeling... your trick's hardwood floors, a park, a bathroom stall, the Oval Office.

You get the picture. Anyway, position one of his legs between yours so that you both have a leg between each other's legs. This position allows for easier access to his cock but also allows his balls to rub up and down your leg. His balls might be smooth, stubby or hairier than Robin Williams' back, but you'll get some great sensation from that feeling.

He will, too. I bet you never thought about that position, huh? Believe me, when your cock and balls are grinding up against his thigh, when you can feel his hot breath in your neck and his sweat trickling down your face, and your hands are grabbing his ass cheeks for dear life, mutual JO is going to be the last thing on your mind.

You're going to end up shooting your cum all over his thigh, crotch, stomach and maybe his chest. Rub it in....rub his cum all over his sweaty body.

As far as your fingers go, if your skin is intact, you should be all right. Our skin is our best natural barrier against HIV. Mutual jerking off is risk-free for HIV.

One, it should be obvious that you shouldn't get someone else's blood or cum in any open sores or cuts. If you can't avoid the cuts, throw on a pair of latex gloves. Don't forget the lube! Two, don't use his cum to lube up your cock because the cum could get into a sore, raw area or in your piss slit.

Let me explain about the raw area. When your cock becomes sore from too much unlubricated jerking off, or you have a rash that is red and hot, that first layer of skin is damaged. Blood vessels in your cock are closer to the surface of the skin now. Seeing how your dick skin is the same kind of skin as around your eyes (someone played a cruel joke on us) it is thin and easy to damage. Just don't go mixing them up now and put sunscreen on your dick and lube on your eyes. (Note to self: not a bad idea actually, next time I'm at the nude beach).

I hope this helps, Willie. Take care and remember: If I want Shade, I'll go sit under a tree.

Sleep Well,
Ed
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In Bed with Ed is a look at real life issues for men and women in the age of AIDS and is coordinated by ARCW.