

April 7-13, 1999

Domestic Partners Battle Moves to State Capitol

by Bill Meunier
Last of a series

Tom and Bob were together for over 30 years. They had built a life together. When Tom unexpectedly died, Bob was faced with the harsh realities of being in a Gay relationship.

Bob had to call in sick to attend Tom's funeral. His company, which gives bereavement leave to its legally married employees, makes no such provisions for its LGBT workers. As he was soon to find out, using a few sick days was the least of Bob's problems.

The house they lived in was in Tom's name. Tom's family tolerated his lifestyle, but never really accepted the fact that he was Gay. Tom never made out a will. Under the law, his family now had ownership of his estate.

Within days after his death, Tom's family served Bob with an eviction notice, ordering him out of the home that he and Tom had shared. The garden they had tended together, the kitchen where they had shared so many meals and joys, the living room where they cuddled while watching movies and eating popcorn, all of that and more

was taken from Bob.

Sunshine and Jo Anne have been together for many years. Sunshine has a bright young daughter, Sol, who considers Jo Anne to be her mother, too. Sol lives in fear that if something happens to her biological mother, she will also lose her "other mother."

Those are just two examples of the problems faced by LGBT couples. Some of them may be eased by new legislation that will soon be introduced in the Wisconsin legislature.

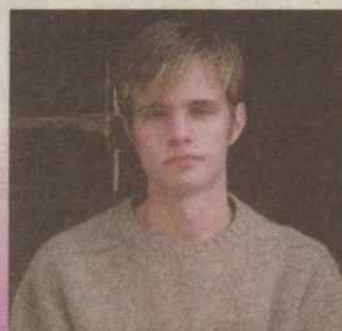
Here in Wisconsin, public discussion of LGBT relationships has not been very visible. News coverage was abundant during the fierce battle over the proposed Wisconsin anti-Gay marriage law, AB 104. But when the bill died in the State Senate, so did the coverage and the discussion it brought.

The debate will be rekindled. A group of State Representatives is planning to introduce legislation that if passed would change the nature of how the law treats LGBT relationships here.

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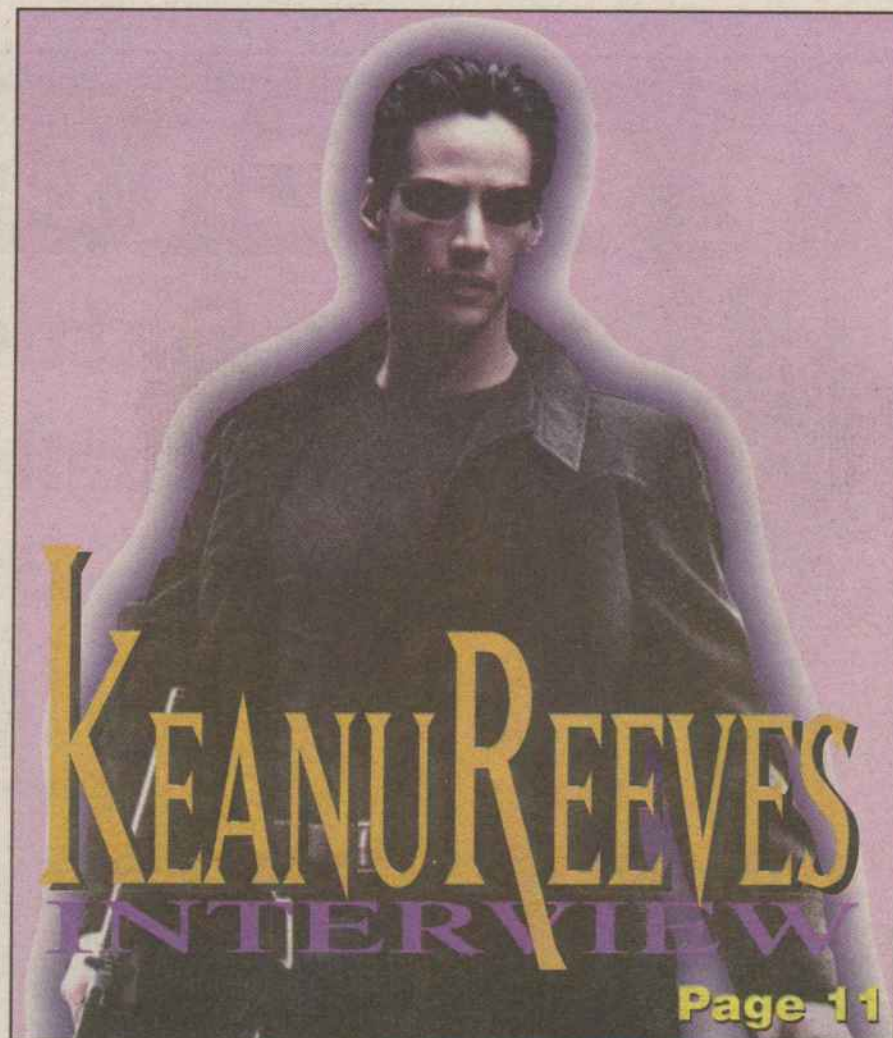
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The group plans to introduce three bills in this legislative session.

One of these bills, a proposal to allow Gay couples to adopt children, created controversy even before its introduction. When State Representative Mark Pocan announced the idea in a *Wisconsin Light* column, the anti-Gay Wisconsin Christians United launched a post card campaign denouncing the idea.

Another proposal would open the State Insurance pool to domestic partners health insurance coverage. This would allow state agencies and those municipalities using the pool for their health coverage to offer these benefits to their LGBT employees.

The third proposal would put registered LGBT couples on an equal legal footing with non-Gay married partners. If passed and signed into law, it would require the state to accord them the same rights it gives to married couples. It is not marriage, but it is about as close as you can come to it. It could arguably be called the most significant pro-Gay civil rights bill introduced in Wisconsin since the passage of America's first statewide Gay civil rights law in 1982, AB 70.

Wisconsin's only openly Gay legislator, Mark Pocan (D-Madison), is helping to lead the effort to provide LGBT couples with legal recognition on a statewide level. He knows he is facing an uphill battle. "People have to realize that the make-up of the legislature is not what it was when AB-70 passed," Pocan says. "We might get the whole thing. We might get some pieces. This is going to be an educational process."

Education may, in fact, be the key. When AB-104 (the Anti-same sex marriage bill) was introduced, it seemed destined for passage. Then hundreds of opponents turned out for two public hearings. Many of them testified about their relationships. Others sent in letters and made phone calls.

During the Assembly's daylong debate on the bill, only its sponsor, State Rep. Lorraine Serratti (R- Spread Eagle) and one other Republican spoke for passage. The rest of the debate consisted of speeches from those opposing it. After one Democrat challenged his GOP counterparts to speak in favor and none rose, a non-Gay observer commented that the supporters of the bill were "embarrassed" by what they were about to do.

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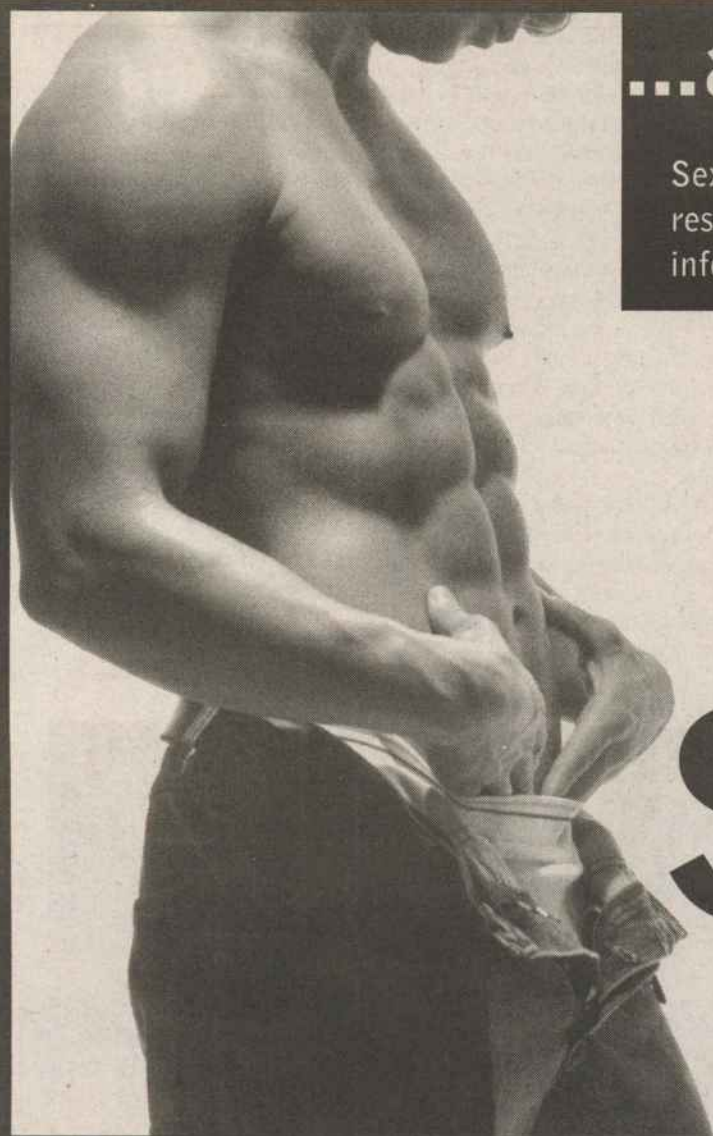
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WI Light

April 7-13, 1999

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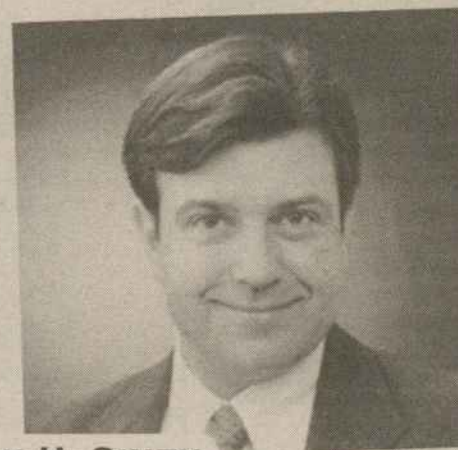
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AROUND THE STATE**Rainbow Clinics Close, ARCW Dental Clinic Stays Open**

Milwaukee — Contrary to reports of its demise published in the *Milwaukee Journal* the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin, ARCW, Dental Clinic will expand in '99. However, some People with HIV/AIDS, and un and under-insured clients, will have to find new medical providers after the three Rainbow Community Health Centers announced they were closing effective this April 9.

The Dental Clinic was a collaboration between ARCW and Rainbow, which has declared bankruptcy. Signs posted on the three clinics doors announced the closure. ARCW, however, was prepared for this happen, and for the second time in three years, has rescued the Dental clinic for Wisconsin's AIDS community.

In 1996, when the Milwaukee County Medical Complex closed, ARCW spearheaded the charge to keep dental services alive for PWA's. That effort led to the collaboration with Rainbow. Doug Nelson, Executive Director of ARCW says there will be no disruption of services. "We will not allow this vital service to close down."

Nelson added, "Dental care is an essential need for people with HIV or AIDS, and is a premiere service of ARCW. We believe in meeting the needs of the HIV/AIDS community, and we will make an investment to save Wisconsin's only HIV Dental Clinic."

Not only is the Clinic not close it is in fact expanding. The Clinic will add a third operatory at ARCW's North Plankinton office. It is also adding a dental hygienist to relieve the often five-week waiting list. Over 500 Wisconsin patients access dental care at the clinic.

Separate from the issue of dental care is the problems that may be faced by those People With AIDS who were receiving their medical care through Rainbow. Its closure leaves those patients to scramble for new health care providers. Rainbow also provided HIV case management and anonymous HIV testing.

Nelson said his agency will reach out to Rainbow clients with HIV/AIDS. "ARCW will do everything that we can to make sure that people with HIV get health care and also case management services. We are prepared to employ the case managers from Rainbow so that they can continue at ARCW with their clients. We are also prepared to enroll any of their clients in the ARCW case management system."

Another factor is the Ryan White Consortium in Milwaukee. The leadership was planning to meet the day *Light* went to press, to come to a decision on case management funding and where it will go. Nelson continued, "ARCW will be supportive of any decision that is made by

the Ryan White process. Our interest is to ensure there is a continuity of care."

Rainbow was run by the Milwaukee Indian Health Board, which commented that those clients without Milwaukee County's General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP) coverage or who do not belong to an HMO will have to find new providers.

Gay Marriage Attorney to Speak at UW-Madison

Madison - Beth Robinson, one of the plaintiff's attorneys in Baker v. State of Vermont, will be speaking on the defense of same-gender marriage rights at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School on Saturday, April 10th.

Argued before the Vermont Supreme Court this past November and still undecided, Baker v. State of Vermont is presently the best opportunity for the establishment of same-gender marriage rights in the country. Ms. Robinson will discuss the history, arguments and national implications of this potentially landmark case.

Clips from the actual oral arguments before the Vermont Supreme Court will be shown, along with a short video produced by the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, a grass-roots organization devoted to raising awareness and support for same-gender marriage at the community level.

A co-founder of the Task Force and a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, Ms. Robinson will highlight the essential need for community outreach efforts in a case of this kind. Her talk will take place from 10am to 12pm and is sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union-UW Chapter and the UW Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Law Students Union.

Questions about the presentation can be directed to Ed Baker at ebaker@students.wisc.edu.

Action Wisconsin Milwaukee Meeting Sunday, April 10

Milwaukee - As a part of its statewide networking and coalition-building plan, Action Wisconsin has been holding its meetings and attending events around the state. So far this year, the group has held its meetings or had visible, active representation at community events across the state including Appleton, Green Bay, Hilbert, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Stevens Point and Superior.

The next AW meeting is scheduled for Milwaukee. It will be held on Sunday, April 11, 1999 from 12:30 - 4:30pm at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 South 2nd Street.

Future meetings will also be held in Beloit/Janesville, Eau Claire, Kenosha, Madison and Richland Center.

For more information, contact Action Wisconsin at the address, phone number or email below. PO Box 342, Madison, WI 53701-0342, (608) 283-3251 (voicemail), ActionWI@execpc.com, <http://www.execpc.com/~dross/aw/>

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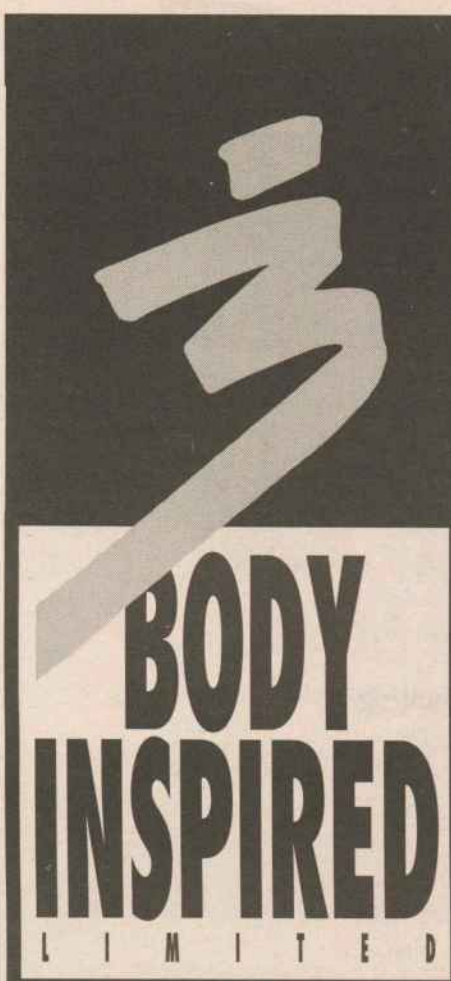
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AROUND THE NATION

Shepard Suspect Pleads Guilty To Murder

Laramie, WY - In a surprising development, a suspect in the Matthew Shepard murder case pled guilty to the crime on Monday, April 5. Russell Henderson, 21 made the plea in exchange for a sentence of life in prison. Prosecutors had been seeking the death penalty for Henderson and his co-defendant, Aaron McKinney, also 21. McKinney's trial is scheduled for August.

McKinney has admitted to striking the final three blows to Shepard. That admission seemed to be shaping Henderson's defense strategy.

Skaggs said Henderson stood by and watched while his friend Aaron McKinney brutally pistol-whipped Shepard, 21, and left him to die. "The defense will contend that Russell did not participate in the beating and did not share in the proceeds of the robbery," he said.

Skaggs put his arm around Henderson and told the jurors, "This is not a defendant, not a person, but a real live living human being. Can all of you give him a fair shot?" Following the Shepard beating, Henderson and McKinney went to the home of one of their girlfriends. Once there they made jokes about Shepard begging for his life as they beat him.

The Matthew Shepard murder electrified the nation last October. Shepard, 5'2", 105lb college student was beaten and left hanging on a fence for 18 hours before he was discovered. He died five days later without regaining consciousness. The attack led to demands for stronger hate-crime laws around the country.

In addition to Henderson and McKinney, their girlfriends have also been charged in the case. Kristen Price, 19, and Chastity Pasley, 20, were charged as accessories after the fact. Police say that the women hid the men's bloody clothes and provided them with false alibis.

Pasley has pled guilty to the charge against her. She will be sentenced later this year. Price will be put on trial in May.

At press time there is no word on how a group of anti-Gay protestors took the news of the guilty plea. Members of Fred Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church were seen outside the courthouse protesting the trial. Phelps and his followers also picketed Shepard's funeral.

Mass Wedding at SF City Hall

San Francisco, CA - *The San Francisco Chronicle* reports that 190 LGBT couples took part in a City Hall wedding ceremony with over 1,000 witnesses. Mayor Willie Brown and members of the Board of Supervisors officiated at the event.

The happy couples wore everything from tuxedos to Easter bonnets and baseball caps at the ceremony held at the City Hall rotunda. Mayor Brown planned the ceremony to show the City's opposition to an anti-Gay marriage measure on next year's statewide ballot.

The City donated a seven-layered, rainbow-colored cake topped with two brides and two

grooms. All 380 newlyweds were introduced individually. Brown said that he was "pleased" to acknowledge their relationships.

More Problems in Virginia

Richmond, VA - *The New York Blade* reports that Richmond Police mailed postcards to the homes of at least 53 men charged with sex-related offenses in that city's public parks during the past four months, urging that they get tested for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The recipients of the postcards had been arrested by the police for having or soliciting sex in Richmond parks. The arrests occurred over a three-month period from November of last year to January, 1999.

In a move that almost seems calculated to embarrass the men, the police did not arrest them after they had allegedly committed the offenses. The officers identified themselves and obtained name and address information. Later - between 4 to 6 weeks later - they showed up at the suspects' homes and workplaces and placed them under arrest.

Two to three weeks after that, the police mailed each of the men a postcard. The cards read: "As the result of your arrest on [date], the Richmond Police Department highly recommends that you be tested for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Have your family tested also, as your behavior may have put them at risk, too. Thank you."

An ACLU official in Virginia said the ACLU is looking into the possibility of taking legal action to halt the postcard campaign.

Gender-Questioning Teen Suicide In Cleveland

Cleveland, OH - A fifteen-year-old teen, Nicole Seely, committed suicide as a result of taunts she received for acting as "tomboy." "She decided that her outside persona was more like a boy," said her mother, Elaine. "She presented this to the world and said, 'This is who I am.'"

The Cleveland News-Herald reported that, since third grade, Nicole had "gravitated toward masculinity" according to her father, Greg. She wore short hair, boys' clothes, and acted like a tomboy.

For defying gender norms so blatantly, she paid the price at school. Classmates taunted and ridiculed her. The problems grew worse when she entered eighth grade. Life became miserable for her.

"It wasn't just guys, it was girls, too, that were harassing her," said her mother. Nicole kept her problems to herself. Even school officials were unaware of the severity of the situation.

Eventually, Seely could no longer take the pressure. She killed herself using her father's .22 rifle. "She pulled the trigger... because she felt it was the only way she could escape the torment inflicted on her by her classmates," said June Shipleet, a friend of the family. "Everyday she went to school was torture for her, and she didn't know how to stop it."

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GLSEN Offers Student Scholarships, Seeks Adult Award Nominees

Madison — The Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network of Wisconsin (GLSEN WI) is offering up to four \$500 scholarships to senior high school students who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing equality for LGBT people either in their school, or community. GLSEN is also looking to recognize two educators and one community member for their work improving life for LGBT people in an educational setting.

Examples of a student activities that might bring an applicant to the attention of GLSEN include, but are not limited to, participation in a school Gay/straight alliance, organization of an event which promoted fair treatment of LGBT people or inclusion of LGBT issues in school course work.

Scholarships are open to all high school seniors, regardless of sexual orientation. For more information about this scholarship, or to obtain an application, call Vicki Shaffer at (608) 241-3009 or write: GLSEN WI, PO Box 259502, Madison, WI 53725-9502. Deadline is Monday, April 26.

Nominees Sought

Do you know an adult who has helped to make things better for LGBT people in an educational setting? Has this person helped to create an accepting and safe environment through their work in a school?

GLSEN would like to recognize two educators and one community member for their work in this area. If you know someone who is deserving of such an award, please send a letter to GLSEN with the following information: Name of nominee and role at school; relationship and length of time you have known nominee; steps this person has taken to help improve the school's climate and to raise awareness and acceptance for LGBT staff.

Letters should be no longer than two typed pages. Please be sure to include your name and phone number so the group can contact you for further information if needed. Send nomination to the above address, attention: Awards Committee. Nomination deadline is Saturday, May 1. The winners will be notified by May 10 and the awards ceremony will be held May 23.

GLSEN teaches respect for all in our schools and works towards safe schools throughout the state.

Lesbian Health Support Group

Madison — A Lesbian health support group is forming for those women who are living with breast cancer or other serious illness. The group is confidential and time limited. The group will begin meeting when 6-8 women express an interest. Female partners and friends are welcome.

Please call in advance to register and identify any special needs you may have. To register or for more information, call Tamar Zick at (608) 256-6570. This group is being sponsored by the Lesbian Health Issues Task Force of Dane County with support from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. For more information about the Task Force, call Kari Sievert at (608) 242-6392.

Wisconsin Corporate Alliance

Milwaukee — The Wisconsin Corporate Alliance (WCA), an alliance of corporate LGBT groups and individuals, is organizing a roundtable for representatives from its member corporations as well as making plans for involvement in PrideFest '99. Monthly meetings are held at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm. Their next meeting is April 21.

The group was formed in June of '98 when members of LGBT employee groups from several Milwaukee companies held a joint meeting to discuss forming an alliance.

The mission of WCA is to provide a safe and supportive environment for LGBT employees in the workplace. As an umbrella group, it hopes to be a resource for new LGBT employee groups, promote diversity initiatives and encourage personal and professional growth and development of LGBT employees.

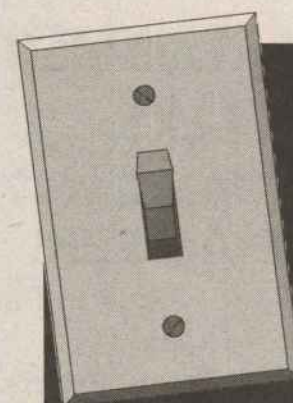
For more information, please contact WCA at (414) 284-3295.

SAGE Hosts Annual Luncheon Meeting

Milwaukee — Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) - Milwaukee, holds one of its biggest events of the year, the Annual Meeting, on Sunday, April 25 at 1pm in the Astor Hotel. The event includes a luncheon, entertainment, presentation of the annual report, and the introduction of new officers.

This is primarily a social event, providing an opportunity to get acquainted. Reservations are required by April 15. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Lunch will be a choice of Chicken Picatta, Baked Cod Almondine or Pasta Primavera with salad, rolls, a starch and vegetable, and coffee or tea.

The dynamic singing duo of Steve and Bob will entertain. There will be drawings for door prizes and a cash bar. There is free parking behind the hotel. There is limited seating so early reservations are needed with checks in hand, by the 15th, call (414) 271-0378.



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THE SWITCH IS ON
 IN WALKER'S POINT

Domestic Partners Battle continued from cover

After the State Assembly overwhelmingly voted for AB-104, even those who supported it privately admitted that they did not feel it was a good proposal. One told *Wisconsin Light*, "It's bad public policy, it's mean spirited and hurtful. I voted for it because my constituents wanted me to." Many legislators on both sides expressed anger because of the vitriolic rhetoric thrown out by the religious right. Even some conservative Republicans said that while they weren't in favor of Gay marriages, they felt it was time to look at the issue of health insurance coverage and probate reform for same-sex couples.

Pocan thinks that at least some of the ideas in the bills he is promoting may become law. He says that it will take a lot of organizing work for that to happen. "We need people to call, write

The same people who will thoughtfully send an invitation to both partners in a relationship one day will go out and vote for a constitutional amendment to keep that couple from getting legally married the next.

and visit their legislators," said the freshman Democrat. "We need people willing to take off of work to come to hearings." Action Wisconsin (AW), a statewide group of LGBT activists, will conduct the organizing work. *Wisconsin Light* writer Mike Fitzpatrick, AW's President, says, "We will be working with the bill sponsors. Those who want to help us in the fight should contact us immediately at (608) 283-3251 or via email at action-wi@execpc.com."

The effort to pass pro-domestic partnership legislation will be divisive and bitter. Most advocates of LGBT civil rights and Capitol observers say there is no other choice.

Unable to get legal recognition for their relationships, Gay couples struggle to overcome a variety of hurdles to build a life together. And while most of the public seems somewhat ready to at least acknowledge the validity of same sex relationships, they are far from accepting the idea of LGBT marriage.

In other words, the same people who will thoughtfully send an invitation to both partners in a relationship one day will go out and vote for a constitutional amendment to keep that couple from getting legally married the next. There are no easy answers to why over 60% of Americans say they are opposed to Gay marriage.

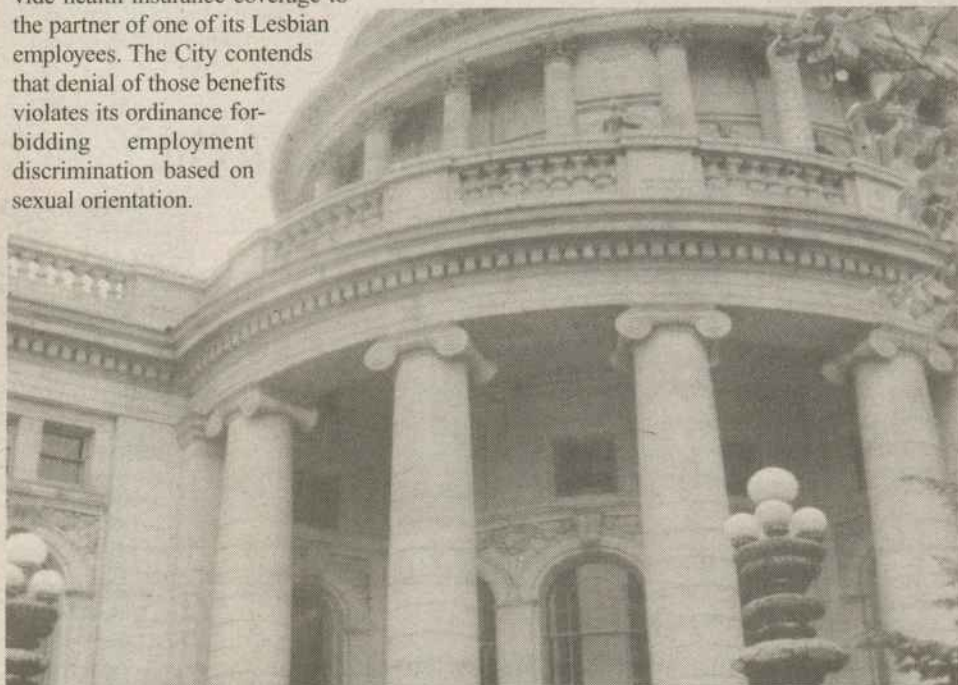
Entered into the mix is the ongoing internal debate over whether or not the LGBT community is in a Gay, Post-Gay or Post-Post Gay era. Some see the civil rights emphasis on LGBT relationships as a healthy sign that at last Gays are recognizing that there really are some fundamental similarities between Gays and straights. Others disagree. One writer calls the idea of Gay marriage "an assimilationist sellout" that denies what they call the very nature of being Gay.

While the debate goes on, progress is being made. As evidenced by the increasing number of companies offering domestic partnership benefits, at least some things are changing. For the Bob's and Sol's of the world, however, they did not and have not changed quickly enough. Pocan and his allies are seeking to change that here. Others are doing the same around the country.

Laws promoting legal recognition of domestic partnership are cropping up in nearly every state. San Francisco requires those it does business with to offer employees engaged in a domestic partnership the same benefits it offers to its married workers. Hawaii has a comprehensive statewide domestic partnership law in place.

On two occasions California's legislature passed a Domestic Partnership law only to have it vetoed by the Governor. The new Governor promises to sign the legislation after its expected passage by the State Legislature.

The City of Pittsburgh is using an existing civil rights law to force equal treatment of same sex couples. Last month the City sued the University of Pittsburgh because the school would not provide health insurance coverage to the partner of one of its Lesbian employees. The City contends that denial of those benefits violates its ordinance forbidding employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.



Ironically, the City of Pittsburgh does not itself offer the benefits it is seeking to impose on the University that bears its name. Even if the suit does not succeed, it has raised the issue of how LGBT couples are treated. That creates public discussion. Public discussion can change minds.

In Vermont, the State Supreme Court is considering the legalizing of same sex marriages. Some legal observers think that it will. Even if that happens, it won't necessarily mean that Wisconsin's LGBT couples can get married. Experts are divided on the question of whether or not states must recognize same sex marriages legally performed for their residents in another state.

Many say the surest route to easing at least some elements of the marital apartheid that exists between straight and LGBT couples is getting as many "marriage like" benefits as possible out of the State legislatures. That won't be easy. Religious conservatives have shown that they will organize against any form of legal recognition.

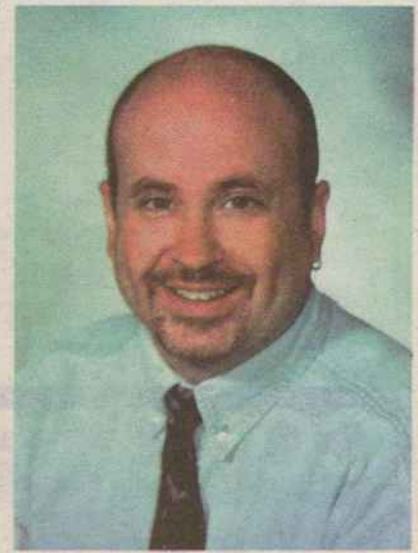
Here in Wisconsin, Pocan and others are convinced that it is a battle that can, at least in part, be won. Thousands of Gays and Lesbians and their partners are hoping that he is right. For them the stakes will be high when that battle is joined at the State Capitol. For these couples, the battle will be over their ability to build a productive and prosperous life together.

They understand that every day there is another Gay man or Lesbian who, like Bob, loses all or part of what they have spent years building due to the death of their partner. Tomorrow or that day after, it could happen to them. They realize that everyday children worry about being taken from their "other parent" if something were to happen to their biological one.


For now, a real marriage may be outside the realm of possibilities for same sex couples. But every time a new domestic partners registry is established, an employer provides domestic partners benefits, or a state passes a domestic partners law, they move closer to being on an equal footing with those who are married.

The progress being made on this front of the struggle for LGBT civil rights is slow but visible. It could be compared to a bride standing in the lobby of a church. You know she will walk down the aisle, but you aren't sure when the music will swell and the procession will begin.

For LGBT couples, the walk down that aisle will be a long, hard and perhaps painful one. But no one ever said that getting to the chapel was easy.



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The Rise of the Gay Press

A history by Gip Plaster

Contributing writer

Every issue of most Gay and Lesbian publications is something of a miracle. A small staff with a low budget and a tight deadline manages to pull together a good publication — often at the very last minute. But have you ever wondered where it all began? Who came up with the idea of publication especially for Lesbian women or Gay men? How did it evolve into what it is today?

Lisa Ben was a secretary who didn't have much to do. Her boss told her to look busy anyway. She decided to occupy herself by typing a newsletter called *Vice Versa*. Only twelve copies were made, but it was the beginning of the Gay and Lesbian press in the United States.

"If anyone came around, I had to zip it into my briefcase quick," Ben said in a published interview years later. In 1947, *Vice Versa*, subtitled "America's Gayest Magazine" was first distributed. Its creator's name never appeared on its pages. (Actually, Lisa Ben is a pseudonym the anonymous author made by rearranging the letters in "Lesbian," but this pen name never appeared in the newsletter either.)

Vice Versa, the earliest known Lesbian publication, only lasted nine issues. The 12 copies and the less than 20 pages of each issue broke new ground, though. There were lots of magazines on newsstands, "yet, there is one kind of publication which would, I am sure, have great appeal to a definite group," Ben wrote in the first issue.

"Hence the appearance of *Vice Versa*, a magazine dedicated, in all seriousness, to those of us who will never quite be able to adapt ourselves to the ironbound rules of convention," she wrote.

Six copies of that groundbreaking publication were created at one time using carbon paper. Then the pages were retyped to create another set. Most of the copies were handed out at the If Club in Los Angeles. Three copies of the first issue were mailed to friends. The mailing stopped when someone alerted the author that what she was writing could be considered obscene and should not be mailed.

It was 1958 before the U.S. Supreme Court decided that it was not illegal to mail Gay and Lesbian material. It took a four-year legal battle to win this fight for something most groups took for granted.

A lot happened in the time between the hand-typed pages of *Vice Versa* in the '40s and the glossy magazine *Out* in the 1990s. This emerging media both reported happenings and became an invaluable part in the rise of the Gay and Lesbian movement.

"Written and edited by the same women and men who organized and marched in the picket lines, the publications of the mid-1960s articulated the political philosophy that fueled the new defiance," Roger Streitmatter, a journalism professor at American University, wrote in his 1995 book *Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America*. "The publications of the era directed this dramatic change from conforming to the dictates of society to building a national Gay community with values often in conflict with those of heterosexual America — and proudly so."

The evolution of the Lesbian and Gay media has not been a simple one nor has it been without obstacles. As Streitmatter writes, what was in the 1950s a "love that dare not speak its name" became militant in the Stonewall Rebellion of the 1960s. In the 1970s, the Gay and Lesbian press played a role in transforming the riot at the Stonewall Inn from a "moment" into a "movement" — a movement toward Gay and Lesbian liberation.

Beginning in the seventies, the religious and political right sprang up to derail the Gay and Lesbian movement, but they were largely unsuccessful. The whole story comes to a screeching halt, though, in the early 1980s when a "cancer" is discovered among Gay men.

What later became known as AIDS killed a generation of leaders, and the women of the community came forward to lead the movement. In the 1990s, Gay and Lesbian issues came to the forefront and the Gay and Lesbian press moved toward the mainstream with publications like *Out* that look like mainstream publications.

From typewritten pages in 1947 to the glossy professionally designed pages of 1998, the Lesbian and Gay press has come a long way. If a secretary trying to look busy can become a pioneer in our community's media, what can we accomplish?



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Republicans Can Be Hypocrites Too

From the RIGHT
by James McFarland

Our esteemed President is the king of hypocrisy and dishonesty. Lately, however, the members of Congress have given him a run for his money.

Of course, the Democrats in Congress have always engaged in their share of hypocrisy. During the last election, their hypocrisy rose to new heights. They tried to convince the entire country that the Republicans were going to destroy Social Security, when it was thirty-some years of Democrat control of Congress, which led to the impending Social Security debacle!

Lately, the Republicans have been no better. They've been claiming the higher moral ground for pursuing the Clinton impeachment to its predictable conclusion even though the vast majority of Americans wrongly felt they should not. The Republicans are saying that, unlike the Democrats, they stick to their principles even when it is not popular. What a joke!

Only in the first year after the 1994 Republican takeover did the Republicans stick to their principles and actually attempt to reduce the size of government. Ever since Clinton got the public on his side during the government shutdown standoff, Republicans have been kicked in the teeth in the opinion polls and the voting booths. Suddenly they've become almost as fiscally liberal as the Democrats are.

Just before the 1996 elections, the Republicans buckled under to Clinton's pressure and passed appropriations bills with continued increases in spending. Just before the 1998 elections, the Republicans made the 1996 appropriations bills look fiscally conservative as they engaged in pork barrel spending politics at its worst.

Not only did they throw money at the typical pork barrel programs such as transportation projects in their districts, but they also threw in huge increases in education spending for the hiring of teachers. The Republicans seem to have forgotten that they stand for following the Constitution, which makes it clear that the Federal government is not supposed to have any role in education.

It does not look like matters will get any better now that the Republican margin in the House is razor-thin and both the House and Senate can be paralyzed by the Republican moderates who have no principles whatsoever. Already, the Republicans are proposing all kinds of spending increases for programs they like, and they are embracing Clinton's ridiculous call for increased defense spending.

Continued on page 10

BUSINESS & FINANCE

On and Off Time Help For LGBT Businesses

by Bill Meunier

San Diego, CA — It is difficult enough to make a business work, but LGBT business owners can and often do face some special problems. Dealing with normal and abnormal challenges of operating an LGBT business can be time consuming and draining. How do you use new technologies to save time and money? How do you market to the LGBT community and/or the general community? What about accounting procedures?

Most businesses really do need some outside help. According to the Small Business Administration statistics, 90% of all new businesses will fail sometime in the first three years of their existence. Those that make it to five years usually are at least somewhat successful, but even many of their owners aren't getting all the profits out of their venture that they could.

Those are just a few of the questions faced by business owners on a daily basis. They are also some of the questions addressed by a new business consulting firm, RX Business. Operating out of San Diego since 1990, the firm has established a solid client base in Southern California and Arizona. Thanks to the Internet, it is now reaching out to small LGBT businesses throughout the country.

Its web site located at www.Rxbusiness.com features a free 12-point evaluation of a business. "The evaluation pinpoints the most crucial areas of running a business," said the owner and founder of RX Business, Billy Vickers. He adds that the Internet allows him to work with businesses that are far removed from his home base in San Diego.

If someone wants face to face meetings, Vickers, who is a member of that National Business Coaches association, refers them to a local consultant. "I can make sure anyone in the country gets the kind of service they need and desire," he says.

How did he hit on the idea of starting a firm to work with small businesses? "It was kind of accidental," says Vickers. "I had a friend who had been in business with a partner for 30 years. He approached me about working with his partner to coach him on using new technology. It was very successful."

He adds, "It was at that point that I realized that with my education and corporate background, I could be an objective party who could come in and provide a worthwhile service."

Vickers is a Renaissance man in the business world. His background includes experience as a corporate financial analyst, audit manager, systems analysts and financial controller. He also has five degrees including business management, accounting, psychology and marketing. "That pretty much covers all the aspects of operating a business," he said.

Vickers exudes enthusiasm when talking about his service. "I helped one business owner increase his business by 74%," he said. "I worked with a Lesbian couple who owns a small manufacturing firm. We improved their profitability and even helped them get an expansion loan from their bank."

What does he look for in a business? "I look for commitment. If the owner's not committed, there's nothing I can do," said Vickers. He adds that business owners must have an understanding of their business description. "They have to be committed to one type of business. We look at whether there is a market wide enough to have profitability, or if it is too narrow."

He adds that just because a business has been around for a long time, that doesn't mean it's as successful as it can be. "Many owners know they can be doing better, but they don't know which area to change. I help them focus on where to put their time and attention."

Vickers says he finds a variety of problems confronted by current business owners. Among the most common are the lack of a business plan and/or marketing strategy, and not taking advantage of new technology.

"Marketing is central to any business. Our understanding of the Gay market allows us to give better advice on how to market to the Gay community," said Vickers. He adds that marketing to the LGBT community means taking a variety of approaches including LGBT publications, brochures, posters and other means. "No one should put all their eggs in one basket," he says.

Another problem is not using current technology including telephone services and computers effectively. "A lot of what I see is the lack of a plan. Many businesses don't have a plan," he says.

Interested business owners are invited — in fact encouraged — to visit the RX Business web site. The site includes a business evaluation section. The evaluation is free. Vickers said that either he or his associate, Michelle Burkart, a Lesbian business consultant with over 20 years of experience, would work with those who complete the evaluation.

If you aren't online, you can call RX Business at (619) 296-0985.

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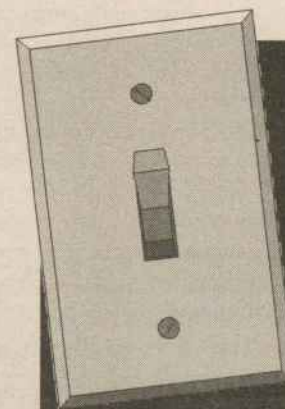
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IN WALKER'S POINT**

EDITORIAL

Support the AIDS Ride

We have noted the reaction from some of the media to the news that the AIDS Ride will return less than 10% of the money raised by its Wisconsin riders. Yes, it is easy to take cheap shots and sensationalize. It is a fact that the word "scam" draws readers. It is also a fact that the use of that word unfairly taints all of those riders who worked so hard to raise money for the fight against AIDS.

There are other facts as well, facts that weren't mentioned in the media coverage of and pronouncements on the ride. Among them are these:

- It has become increasingly difficult for AIDS organizations to raise money.
- The AIDS epidemic is not over.
- People are still getting sick.
- People are still dying.

There is no question that the ride's organizers, Pallotta and Associates, were negligent in their assessments of how well it would do. Pallotta hired 18 full and part-time employees, some of whom worked out of its Los Angeles office. The record of these employees, the recruitment of about one rider each per month, is disgraceful.

The participating agencies had a right to expect that given Pallotta's expertise, it would have known better than to saddle the event with such high administrative costs. To its credit, Pallotta has admitted its mistakes. The firm has drastically cut its budget for this year's ride.

In fairness, it must also be noted that Pallotta initially balked at the idea of a Wisconsin AIDS Ride. Local AIDS groups, faced with increased demand for services and shrinking budgets, pressed Pallotta to be included. They believed that with 90% of the Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride going through Wisconsin, it made sense to include a Wisconsin contingent in it.

None of the finger pointing and outrage solves the problem faced by AIDS programs. They wage a daily battle to maintain needed services for those with AIDS/HIV and to prevent the continued spread of this killer. Bashing the AIDS Ride, its supporters and its promoters may make some feel good, but it does nothing to provide the drugs, services and prevention information needed to stop AIDS.

Here are some more facts:

- People with AIDS are living longer than ever and this has increased the caseload for our AIDS groups.
- New treatments are expensive. Government funds and private donations do not cover the cost of providing them.
- The State of Wisconsin has NOT increased its AIDS prevention budget since 1988.

We find it incredible for some to suggest that instead of the ride, the seven participating organizations should simply ask for direct donations. We suggest that they get out their check-books and send in some funds.

We also must ask: Where have these people been? Every AIDS organization makes appeals for direct donations and they do get them, but those donations are not enough. Many people are more inclined to give money when their donation will get them a ticket to a dinner or helps to support a friend or co-worker's efforts to raise funds.

The AIDS Ride concept has experienced some success in other places. If properly managed, it has an enormous potential. A 50% return on the efforts of just 500 riders would net almost as much as Wisconsin's biggest fundraiser, the AIDS Walk.

When the AIDS Ride has experienced success, it was because the community, despite its misgivings, rallied behind the idea. That is what must happen here.

We cannot let our anger with Pallotta and Associates get in the way of common sense. Common sense tells us that with less money to work with and a greater need for funds, everything possible must be done to help AIDS organizations raise money. It would be irresponsible if the participating agencies eschewed an idea with such great potential without even trying to use last year's lessons to make it work.

Of course, even the cost reduction measures may not be enough. The bad publicity clearly has not helped. But with a need as great as this one is, it is certainly worth a try. If that effort does not succeed, then it may be time to pull the plug, but that time has not yet come.

We realize that fair-minded people may reach conclusions that differ from ours. But as the voice of Wisconsin's LGBT community, we feel compelled to speak out for the best interests of that community. That is especially true on an issue like this one when those who are most affected are among the most neglected, powerless and least listened to segments in that community — our youth and people of color. It is among these two groups that new infections are growing at an alarming rate.

Here is one last fact: The Wisconsin AIDS Ride will again take place this year. We can sit on the sidelines, criticize the idea and then pronounce our self-fulfilling prophecies to be correct, or we can get behind it and make it work.

We urge our readers to do the latter. Support the Wisconsin AIDS Ride.

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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LETTERS

Dear Wisconsin Light:

Public Television is negotiating with the producers of *It's Elementary* to show the documentary on PBS stations around the country. *It's Elementary* is about Gay issues in school. It's a wonderful film that is not about sex, but about community, diversity and tolerance.

As you can imagine, the conservative right-wingers are pushing to prevent this documentary from being viewed on television. It is downright censorship.

Nationally, PBS has a dismal record on Gay and Lesbian television programs. Locally, the record is even worse. Remember when Channel 10 edited the Lady Chablis out of an episode of *This Old House* because one viewer complained?

I urge members of the Gay and Lesbian community to write to Channels 10/36 as well as to members of the board of the Milwaukee Area Technical College. (The college holds the license to the stations.) The addresses are as follows:

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Milwaukee, WI 53233

Sincerely,

Cindy Van Vreede
Milwaukee

Dear Editor,

I had not seen your paper for awhile, so when I picked up a copy in Superior, I didn't know what to expect. WOW! What I saw didn't look like or seem like a local publication.

The color, the variety of articles, the writing was very impressive. My partner and I were pleased to see your coverage of couples like us. Thank you for being concerned about more than young single men.

There aren't any nearby businesses where we can pick up a copy. Guess that will make us avid readers of your web site. It is like a life preserver given the climate where we live. Can you put your back issues on the site so we can read them as well? Please sign me.

Mary
Northern Wisconsin

Editor's Note: Thanks Mary, we are always happy to hear that people like what we are doing. We currently have over 300 distribution points around Wisconsin. If you know of a local business willing to distribute copies, please let us know. You can also subscribe by calling us at (414) 226-0075.

Our web site www.wilight.com is constantly being upgraded. We are working on adding some of our back issues to it. I hope you continue to enjoy the Light!

From the Right Continued from 9

Contrary to what many in the Lesbian and Gay community have been saying, the Republican failure at the polls last fall was not brought about by the Republican appeals to the fundamentalist Christians through Gay-bashing rhetoric. Just as predicted, the moderate swing voters, who would be turned off by this, did not turn out at the polls in large numbers, and were not a factor.

What happened was plain and simple: for the first time in recent history, more Democrat core voters went to the polls than Republican core voters. This is partly because of an excellent Democrat get-out-the-vote effort targeted at union and minority households.

It was also because Republicans did not see any reason to turn out to vote. Hard core Republicans were turned off by the big spending, budget busting appropriations bills that Congressional Republicans passed just before the election. They saw no reason to vote for the Republicans, who no longer represented their fiscally conservative values.

The Republicans in Congress must eschew their hypocrisy and get back to their fiscally conservative roots if they hope to survive. Without their voting base, they cannot possibly hope to win. That seems unlikely to happen.

The Republicans engaged in the worse hypocrisy ever when they refused to condemn Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA) and remove him from the House prosecution team in the Clinton impeachment.

It was hypocritical enough for Barr to be the prime sponsor of the Defense of Marriage Act when he has been divorced and re-married three times. Now we have learned that he procured an abortion for one of his three wives.

Furthermore, the same ex-wife has charged that Barr had an affair with his third wife during his second marriage. He has denied it, but the fact that he and his third wife refused to testify about the affair during the divorce proceedings is evidence enough for me that the allegations are true.

Nevertheless, the Republicans refused to remove Barr from the prosecution team. Thus they engaged in the unbelievable hypocrisy of having an adulterer who has lied about his adultery (and refused to testify about it) prosecute an adulterer for lying about his adultery while under oath.

Worse than that, the fundamentalist Christians continue to back Barr completely. Their hypocrisy in supporting someone who paid for the murder of an innocent unborn child exposes their true nature like nothing else!



Spotlight

Keanu Reeves Star of *The Matrix*

by Tim Nasson
Contributing Writer

Pasadena, CA - More than a decade has passed since Keanu Reeves entertained high school kids throughout the world as half of the comic duo of Bill and Ted in the two *Bill and Ted...* adventures. Before that, Reeves stole *The River's Edge* in 1986 and *My Own Private Idaho*, two films much different than either of the *Bill and Ted's...* or his most recent endeavor, *The Matrix*.

green sport jacket, and blue jeans, Keanu sat comfortably in a suite at the Ritz Carlton in Pasadena recently. Fingernails painted black, face unshaven, red string wrapped around his left wrist, and hair going in more directions than Bill Clinton's missile, he looked more like his alter ego from the rock group Dogstar he formed ten years ago.

The star of the just released *The Matrix* — the sophomore

According to the directors, whom I spoke to earlier in the day, "The comic book and graphic novel culture has long examined the dramatic possibilities of alternate realities — places where the laws of physics, biology or time are made to be broken."

We grew up exploring ideas that challenge the current perceptions of



Keanu, whose name is obviously not a common one, is a real melting pot of nationalities. He was born in Beirut to an American mother and half-Hawaiian, half-Chinese father. His parents met in Beirut while his mother was working as a showgirl in a local club. His father was working as a geologist.

The family soon moved to Australia where Keanu's younger sister was born in 1966. Soon thereafter, his parents divorced and his mother carted her children to New York City where she met Broadway and Hollywood producer Paul Aaron. Their marriage did not last more than a year, yet they had already moved again, this time to Toronto where the family attained Canadian citizenship, which Keanu still retains.

There were two more men in Keanu's life during his adolescence. First came the rock and roll promoter Robert Miller. His mother's fourth husband was Jack Bond, a hair salon owner, whom she divorced in 1994.

Through all his dads, Keanu had a wide variety of experiences. "I got a chance to wrestle with rocker Alice Cooper," he says, "and spent a lot of time one year in a Jewish summer camp. I last saw my real father when I was thirteen when I took a trip to Hawaii," he added.

Keanu described himself as a "middle-class white boy. A bourgeois, middle-class white boy with an absent father, a strong-willed mother and two beautiful sisters." At a young age, Keanu divided his spare time between hockey and theater. "I sometimes mixed the two by reciting Shakespeare while tending goal during a hockey game."

Dressed in a black V-neck T-shirt, under a

effort of the Wachowski Brothers, the team responsible for the Lesbian thriller *Bound* — got his start in acting at his Toronto high school and then "luckily landed a couple of roles in television commercials and regional plays." Reeves' first big break, the one that got him noticed by the big guys, came when he secured the starring role in the homoerotic play *Wolfboy* in Toronto, after he had dropped out of high school at the age of 17.

Keanu took the big step to leave Canada behind and meet up with his stepfather Paul Aaron, the producer, in 1986. "My first manager thought my name 'Keanu' was too exotic," Reeves revealed. "So, we changed it to K. C. Reeves — for about a minute. I was named Keanu and that is what I wanted to be known as."

At 23, Keanu took up another hobby that he had been passionate about for years but had never had the courage to toy with. "I started playing the bass," he says, "and loved it and have been doing it ever since, touring with my band 'Dogstar.'" In fact, Reeves has turned down roles in films so that he could tour the world with his band.

Some of the films he has passed on have ended up being blessings in disguises. For one, he adamantly refused to star in the sequel to his box-office smash *Speed*. I asked him if he thought his decision to turn that film down had anything to do with good intuition. "I don't know," he answered. "But in any event, all's well that turns out well."

Lately, and throughout his life, in fact, it seems everything has turned up roses for the versatile actor. Last seen on screen opposite Al Pacino in *The Devil's Advocate*, Keanu took a chance on another action film, this one also incorporating sci-fi into the script.

reality," says Larry Wachowski. "And we began our writing careers developing those ideas. *The Matrix* grew out of the unconventional literature that we read as well as our long-time interest in and knowledge of classic mythology and legend. We believe passionately in the importance of mythology and the way it informs culture," he adds.

The director's decision to cast Keanu had a lot to do with the actor's good looks. "Keanu has a boyish quality about him that was perfect for the role, but at the same time he has a maturity that allows his character to develop and eventually take control of the situation," Larry concludes.

Keanu responds. "When I first read the script I thought it was pretty amazing. It has a great combination of crazy action, extraordinary characters and some interesting themes. And Larry and Andy are such great guys — very generous and very kind. It all evolved into something I hadn't seen before in a film — a meeting of heart and soul and spirit and action."

"I play an interesting character named Thomas Anderson, known later as Neo. He is someone who is alienated from the world around him and, indeed, very suspi-

scious of life itself. He is searching for something that will somehow make sense of his life and believes that Morpheus, Laurence Fishburne's character, has the answers to all his questions."

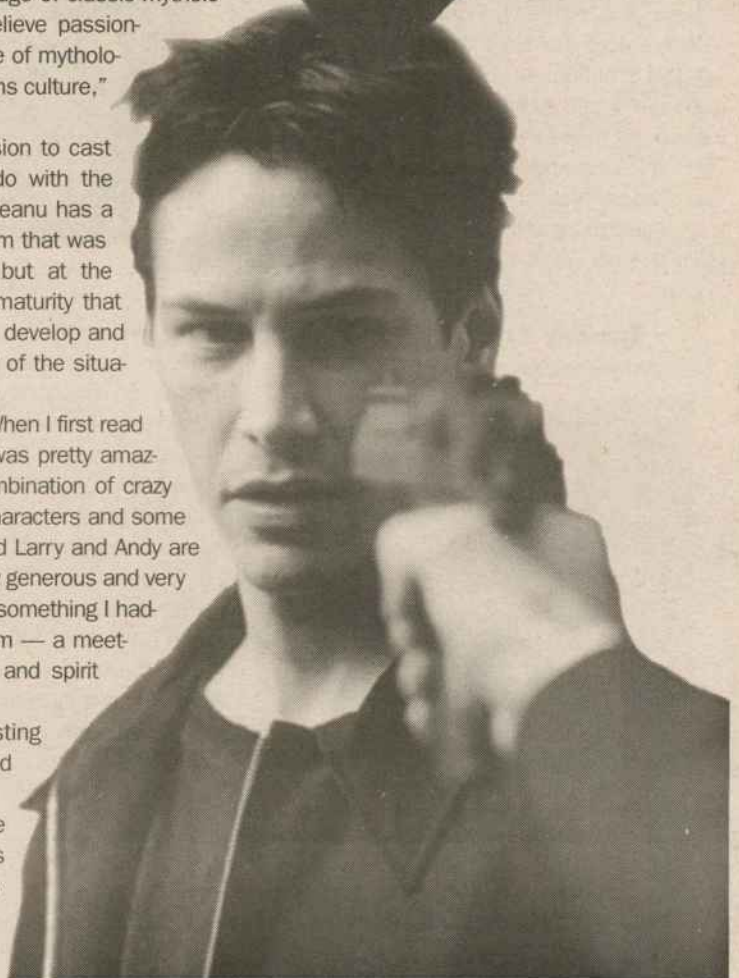
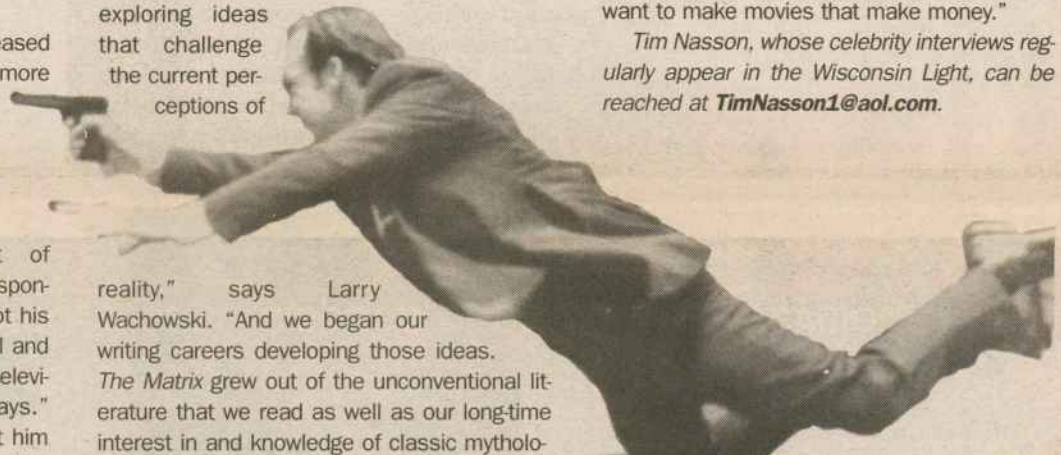
Filmed on location in Australia — "because the costs could be kept down" — *The Matrix* takes place in a universe run by computers using human beings as batteries for bio-electrical energy. This "people power" fuels the artificial intelligence known as The Matrix, which has created a virtual reality to make its inhabitants think they are living happy, creative and productive lives.

But in reality, they are only providing the energy that keeps The Matrix going. There are, however, a few human beings — including Morpheus (Fishburne) and Trinity (Catherine Ann Moss) — who have broken free from The Matrix and are searching to destroy it, recruiting Neo along the way.

Though Reeves was seen in a sci-fi movie a couple of years ago, the dreadful *Johnny Mnemoni*, he is hopeful and confident that this film, *The Matrix*, will keep him on the list of employable actors. Keanu is scoring big with his latest thriller.

"I'm hopeful that I can remain successful enough so that people want to continue to hire me," says Reeves. "I love making movies, but want to make movies that make money."

Tim Nasson, whose celebrity interviews regularly appear in the *Wisconsin Light*, can be reached at TimNasson1@aol.com.



DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

The Thank You Speech That Wasn't

Just days before the Academy Awards, **Sir Ian McKellen**, nominated for his stellar performance in *Gods and Monsters*, was feted at a Tinsel Town fundraiser for the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which raises money to put queers in positions of power (that does sound like fun).

Among the luminaries toasting McKellen at the swanky Hollywood Hills gathering were *Relax, It's Just Sex* star **Mitch Anderson**, *Dr. Quinn's* resident homo, **Chad Allen**, and *My So Called Life*, **Wilson Cruz**. This being Hollywood, you can't throw a Gay-themed fundraiser without semi-pro fag hag, **Judith Light**, showing up. (Now that there are 200 channels, can't somebody find this poor woman a real job?)

The Gay knight accurately predicted his defeat by **Roberto** "I'm-a sooo-a Italian" **Benigni**. But if he *did* have the chance to thank the Academy, Sir Ian said, he would talk about how coming out is the most important thing Gay actors can do for themselves and those who love them.

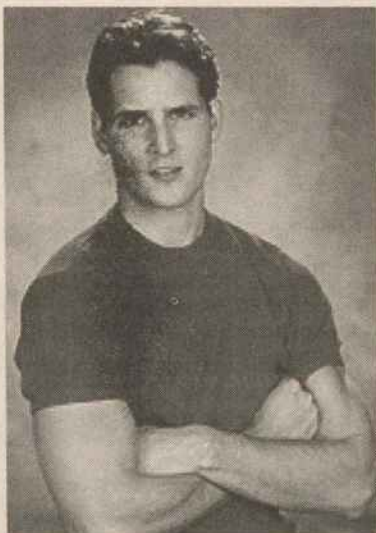
Sir Ian's dead-on Benigni impression was an award-worthy performance in itself. (Unlike the *Life Is Beautiful* star, McKellen didn't say anything about wanting to make love to everyone in the Academy.)

A "Feel Good" Musical About Incest?

MTV's film department is in negotiations to acquire the rights to British writer Tim Murphy's book *The Breeders Box*, a dark and racy tale about drugs, Gay sex and incest. The plans are to turn it into a made-for-MTV movie musical set in the club-kid world of New York. The book takes place in the early '90s, but expect an update; MTV wants a red-hot soundtrack it can squeeze into heavy rotation on its video channels (a somewhat different form of incest).

Spacey Lubes It Up

Academy Award-winner and mega-talent



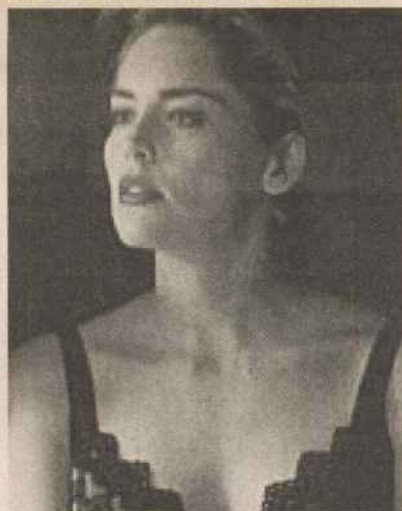
Peter Facinelli

Kevin Spacey, who played Gay in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, will re-team with *LA Confidential* costar **Danny DeVito** in the film version of *Hospitality Suite*. The film is based on **Roger Rueff's** play of the same name. DeVito and Spacey play salesmen who meet at an industrial lubricants convention (we're not talking KY and Motion Lotion, folks) in Wichita, Kansas and wind up in a hotel hospitality suite swapping war stories and discussing life.

Playing new salesman on the block is *Can't Hardly Wait* stud **Peter Facinelli** (I wouldn't mind testing some of his lubricant samples.) Spacey is also producing the film, which should be out by year's end.

John Waters Turns to Kidnapping

Gay director **John Waters** (who made a drag queen a superstar years before most of you could walk in heels) is working on a new film. It's about some desperate filmmakers who kidnap an A-list Hollywood actress and force her to star in their low-budget flick. Waters has reportedly approached (nonviolently) both **Sharon Stone** and **Meryl Streep** to star.



Sharon Stone

The indie director, famous for such crude-and-lewd masterpieces as *Pink Flamingos*, recently observed, "I've always felt the ultimate crossover would be Meryl Streep doing a Baltimore accent." No doubt veteran former Symbionese Liberation Army kidnapping victim — and Waters veteran — **Patty Hearst** will have a part in the project.

Romeo San Vicente drives a nicer car than *Judith Light* does. You can contact him care of this publication or by E-mail at **RomeoDeep@aol.com**. For more *Deep Inside Hollywood*, visit **www.Gay.net** or **www.pop-cornq.com**.

OUT ON FILM

The Out-of-Towners

Reviewed by John Jahn

As has so many times been the case with previous comedies, you see all the best parts of *The Out-of-Towners* in the TV ads. Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn give fair performances, and the film isn't completely without laughs, but the biggest ones are generated by John Cleese. Unfortunately, he's underutilized, only appearing on screen for about 15 minutes. Without him, the rest of the film can simply be called unremarkable.

The Out-of-Towners is saved from complete disaster by the venerable John Cleese, who may be the closest thing this industry has to a comic genius. Here, he's not on screen long enough to completely save the movie, but he does provide several worthwhile moments. *Monty Python* fans will chuckle at the scene where, in full drag, Cleese does some high-kicking to Donna Summer's *Bad Girls*. *Fawlty Towers* fans will recognize that the character Cleese plays (the manager of a posh New York City hotel), is really just Basil Fawlty trans-

planted to New York.

The Out-of-Towners follows the troublesome Ohio-to-New York trip of Henry and Nancy Clark (Martin and Hawn). Now that

the children have left the nest, they are free to leave their quiet neighborhood for the big city if the right employment opportunity comes along. From the beginning, however, things go wrong. Their plane is diverted to Boston and their luggage is lost. When they finally reach Manhattan, they're mugged. When they get to the hotel where they're supposed to be staying, the brusque manager (Cleese) cheerfully informs them that their credit card has been rejected. They also end up in a sex therapy session and have several run-ins with the police.

Director Sam Weisman (*George of the Jungle*) was clearly saddled with a moronic script and a recycled story idea (the 1970 original starred Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis), but he does prove capable of salvaging a few good laughs out of this mess, with significant thanks to Cleese. In an age when every film or TV series seems to be fair game for a feature film remake, *The Out-of-Towners* still seems like an unlikely candidate, and the mediocrity of the 1999 version shows why.

TWO STARS

OUT in the Theatre

The Woods

Reviewed by John Jahn

Mention the name David Mamet to someone and, if it rings a bell at all, they'll likely know his screenplays. Mamet wrote *The Untouchables* (1987), *Glengary Glen Ross* (1992), *The Spanish Prisoner* (1997), *Wag the Dog* (1997), and has directed seven feature films. Therefore, it's worth noting when one of his lesser-known plays comes to town. Such is certainly the case with a 1977 work of his, *The Woods*, currently in production by Theatre X.

Mamet has a thing for weak, cowardly, non-committal male characters, and all those adjectives truly apply to Nick. He's somewhere in his mid-20s and perhaps somewhere in his mind is an inkling about what he wants to do with his life — particularly where romance is concerned. But for all her many efforts to find Nick's heart, Ruth will hear "I dunno" an annoying number of times in a very short period.

The Woods takes us to the porch of a summer cabin in early September. The rain falls and the wind blows. There's a chill in the air, and Nick (Daniel Teeter) and Ruth (Megan Cornelius) discuss, in ever sharper terms, the chill in their relationship.

For this Milwaukee premiere, Director Anne-Marie Cammarato leads two recent UWM

Professional Theater Training Program graduates, Cornelius and Teeter, who clearly pour their hearts into the roles, giving convincing performances. Nick comes off as confused and brittle, perhaps harboring secrets of an abusive past that strangle off all his relationships. Meanwhile, Ruth loves him and wants to use their time alone in the cabin in the woods to seek some sort of commitment from Nick.

Teeter and Cornelius pull off the ensuing power struggle and emotional tug of war superbly in a play that will undoubtedly strike a chord with many an audience member. To one degree or another, so many of us have been where they are. Don't look for a "happily ever after" ending, or for all their questions to be neatly answered. Although we are but seeing 85 minutes in the lives of Nick and Ruth, we come to understand quite a lot about them — and maybe even ourselves.

The Woods runs through April 25 at the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. For further information call (414) 291-7800.

Events CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Bad Grrtz (Madison), A pro S/M group for women meets at 7pm at OutReach, Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St. FMI call (608) 242-8885.

Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys (Madison), Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Avenue, FMI (608)245-0627, \$3 suggested donation. Beginning East Coast Swing couples lessons from 7-8pm; Advanced line Dance Lessons 8-9pm.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Run-Out, Family Concert, Capitol Civic Centre, 913 S. 8th St., Call (920) 683-2184 for tickets.

Pride Milwaukee (Milwaukee), The newly formed association of LGBT City of Milwaukee employees short business meeting followed by socializing. M&M upstairs banquet room, 6pm. All city employees invited to attend, FMI 225-1621.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee), Steven Dietz's romantic drama, *Force of Nature*, Tues.-Sun. through May 9 in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater. Tickets to this intriguing exploration of human ties can be purchased in-person at the Milw. Rep Box Office, 108 E. Wells, or by phone (414) 224-9490. Tickets range from \$8 to \$32.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Canadian Brass, Andrew Sills Conductor. 8pm show-time, continues through April 11. Uihlein Hall, tickets \$20-50; call (414) 291-7605 or 273-7206.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Co-ed cards night, particularly Sheephead (lessons available), 6:30pm, small meeting room Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Action Wisconsin Meeting (Milwaukee), All welcome. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., 12:30-4:30pm. FMI call (608) 283-3251.

13th Annual Make A Promise Dinner (Milwaukee), Midwest Express Center. Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction from 5:30pm, Dinner at 7:30pm followed by the Awards Ceremony, Jazz Lounge and Martini Bar at 9:30pm.

Art Elements Gallery (Mequon), Garden and Outdoor Sculpture in a mix of media. Through October 30.

Artist Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee), The Hall Leonard Jazz Series presents the Jazz All Star Ensemble, 8pm, Pabst Theater. Single tickets \$16-\$37.50 at the Box Office, 144 E. Wells, (414) 286-3663. One night only.

Gay Men's Singles Club (Madison), Monthly parties for men seeking LTR. Spring Fling, buffet brunch, 7pm. Call (608) 244-8675 FMI.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), A workshop exploring oral and local narratives in the electronic age. Class for beginning and intermediate writers will meet again April 18 from 1-4pm. FMI call 263-5001.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Afterwords Books (Milwaukee), Afterwords Book Club, discussion of Mary Renault's classic historical novel *The Persian Boy*. New members always welcome, 7:30pm.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (Milwaukee), 170 S. 2nd St., FMI call 271-2656. Volunteer Orientation, 6:30-8:30pm.

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), Poet and singer Karen Howland presents Performing Poetry, a 3-part workshop on the art of the spoken word. Meets again April 20 & 27, 6:30-8:30pm. FMI call 263-5001.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys (Madison), Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Avenue, FMI (608)245-0627, \$3 suggested donation. Beginning line dance lessons from 7-8; Review of West Coast Swing from 8-9pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Gallery H20 (Milwaukee), *Elbow Room* paintings. Opening reception for Gallery night 6-10pm featuring the band Mambo Surfers. FMI call 271-8032.

Michael H. Lord Gallery-Gallery Night (Milwaukee), Exhibits of new photographic works by Lawrence Laatsch, and J.P. Atterberry. Opening night, 5:30pm, 420 E. Wisconsin Avenue in the Pfister Hotel.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Magical Mozart, Andreas Delfs, conductor, through April 17. Uihlein Hall, tickets \$16-48; call (414) 291-7605 or 273-7206.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Film screening: *Love, Valor and Compassion*. 6:30pm, small meeting room Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), *extraORDINARY*, a new exhibition featuring the paintings by Ariana Huggett. Opening Reception during Gallery Night from 6-8pm, show continues through May 22, 911 W. National, FMI (414) 672-2787.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Fox Cities PFLAG Conference (Fox Valley), *Open Hearts, Open Minds*, Liberty Hall in Kimberly, WI. Workshops, speakers, video and resource room, entertainment, networking.

mil-m-aids 9 pin tap bowling Tournament (Milwaukee), Red Carpet Bowlero, 117th & Burleigh. 12th annual Milwaukee and Madison against AIDS benefit tourney. Noon, \$25 entry includes bowling, buffet, prizes and donations to BESTD Clinic and Camp Heartland. To obtain an entry form, contact Bob and Rick at (414) 482-1964 or Cindy & Debi at (414) 328-3636.

Seem-To-Be Players Children's Theatre (Milwaukee), presentation of *Sacagawea: Shoshone Birdwoman*. 2pm, Pitman Theatre, Alverno College, 3431 S. 39th St. For children 7 and older, 1 hour performance. Tickets \$8 adults, \$6 children, students and seniors. FMI, tickets (414) 382-6044.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Whitewater), *Run Out, Magical Mozart*, UW-Whitewater Young Auditorium, call (414) 472-4444 for tickets.

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.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

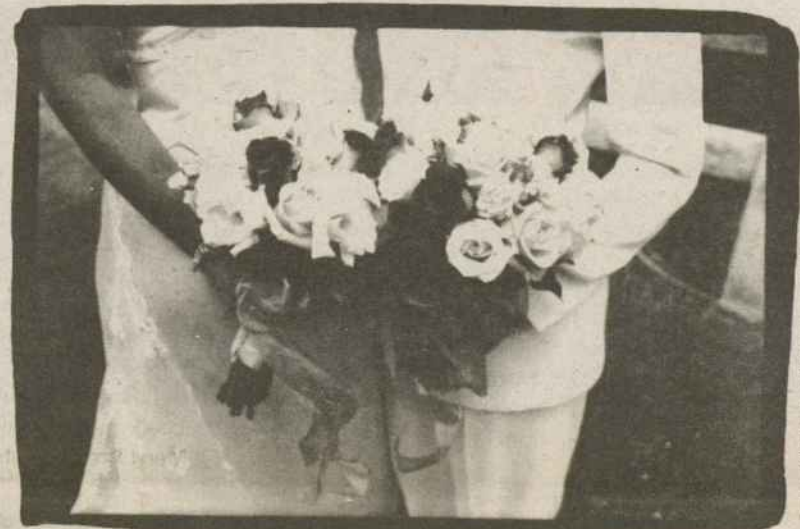


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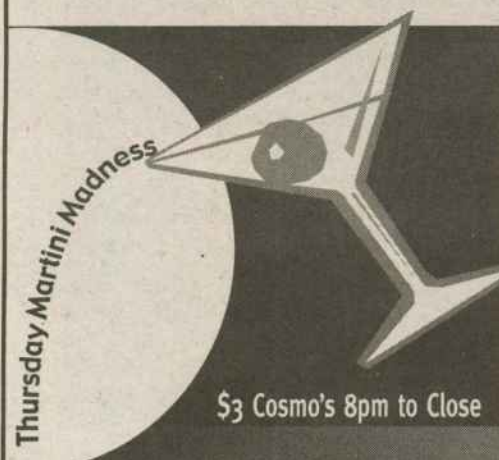
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LifeStyle

OutReach Hosts An Evening With Friends

OutReach, Madison's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender center, will host its annual *An Evening With Friends* wine tasting on Saturday, April 17. The benefit begins at 7pm and continues until midnight. Wines will be served until 9pm when the community dance begins.

This year, *An Evening With Friends* moves to a new location. The new venue is the Sapphire Ballroom at 1133 North Sherman Avenue in Madison.

"*An Evening With Friends* gets better every year," says Outreach's Development Coordinator Joseph

Bednarowski. "People are incredibly excited about all the positive changes at Outreach and want to know how they can support us as we grow to better serve Wisconsin's LGBT community. Attending *An Evening With Friends* is the perfect opportunity to support our new

community center and home while having a great time." Outreach has hosted the event every April for five years.

An Evening With Friends is one of Madison's premier benefit events. Last year, politicians and community leaders, including U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin Assemblyperson Mark Pocan, and more than a dozen supervisors, school board members, alders and candidates attended.

De Ette Tomlinson, Outreach's

Executive Director notes, "*An Evening With Friends* is truly a community-wide event. Many come to 'see and be seen.' Community members come to socialize and have fun, and politicians come to keep in touch with their constituents. It's a great way to keep everyone connected. Plus, everyone knows they're supporting a great cause."

More than 250 people attended last year. With generous support from Sapphire owner Tom Quamme and others, Outreach expects nearly 300 attendees in 1999. Community members who wish their name listed in the event's program may do so for a sponsorship donation of \$100. All sponsors will also receive verbal recognition at the event.

This year, five of Wisconsin's largest wine purveyors will donate more than 30 different wines. Representatives from Edison-West Liquor Corporation, General Beverage Corporation, Import!, Metropolitan Liquor Company and Purple

Feet Wines will pour a variety of reds, whites, sparklings and non-alcoholic wines.

Great desserts, hors d'oeuvres, cheeses, bread and treats will also be available from The Bread Barn, Great Harvest Bread Company, Pick 'n Save — Sun Prairie, and Whole Foods Market.

The chefs from Out To Lunch will craft a beautiful food display again this year. Mark Keller and Jim Matosky have generously supported a number of Outreach events.

Just as good, Vibe x Three, a Madison based jazz trio, will entertain event attendees from 7 to 9pm. Later in the evening, The Sapphire Ballroom DJ will play great dance music until midnight.

Proceeds from the event support Outreach's many important community services. Each year, Outreach helps more than 11,000 people through their counseling, information, referral, support, education and outreach programs.

Currently celebrating their 26th anniversary, Outreach is Wisconsin's largest lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) organization. Outreach began as the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center (MG/LRC). Founded in 1973, MG/LRC was created to provide counseling services to Gay men.

In 1978, Madison's LGBT communities formed a second organization, The United, to defend a City of Madison ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. As Madison's non-discrimination ordinance became more secure and counseling needs broadened, both agencies expanded and diversified their services. After working collaboratively for 15 years, the two organizations merged on July 1, 1998 as Outreach.

On April 1, Outreach moved to a new larger location at 600 Williamson Street. Their

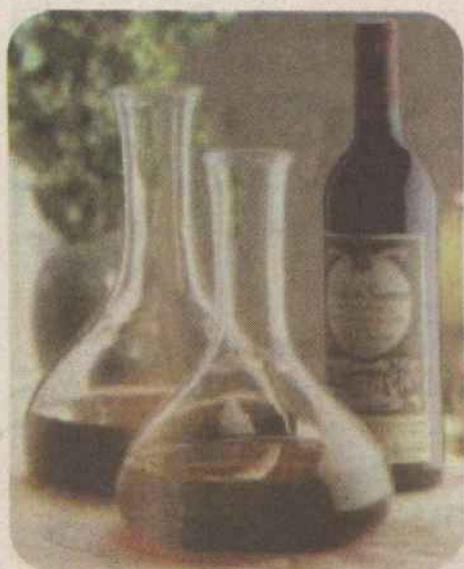
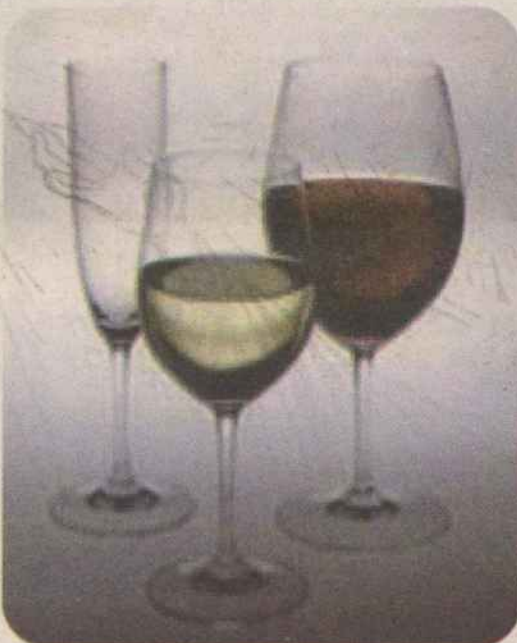
new home is nearly twice as large as their old space. It features 20-foot ceilings, larger offices and a contemporary design. Outreach's new home has warm colors and incandescent lighting for a friendly, welcoming feel. Their new home opens to the public on April 5, 1999 with a grand opening planned for late spring.

More than two dozen groups, including Teens Like Us, Bi? Shy? Why?, GLBAA, Madison Transgendered Group, and Frontiers meet at Outreach's community center. A larger office means Outreach will be able to accommodate more and larger group meetings. Plus, there will be plenty of room for their growing library.

OutReach operates an information, referral, and counseling hotline at (608) 255-4297. In addition, Outreach offers a Speakers Bureau, support groups and advocacy services. Anyone can check out books from Outreach's 3,000+ volume Earl Greely Memorial Lending Library. Outreach also publishes *The Directory*, *The PinkPages*, and the *Calendar & Guide*. Their major special events include *An Evening With Friends*, the *Community Awards Dinner* and *The Pink Party*.

Tickets are available for a \$25 donation at the following 11 convenient Madison locations: A Room Of One's Own, Border's Bookstore (East and West), Bongo Video (both locations), Community Pharmacy, Greenbush Restaurant, Home Environment, Orange Tree Imports, Star Liquor and the Outreach office. You can also charge your ticket on Visa or MasterCard by calling (608) 255-8582.

For more information about *An Evening With Friends* or to volunteer to help out, you can contact Outreach at outreach@outreach-inc.com or (608) 255-8582.



POSITIVE HEALTH OUTLOOK

Thrush is a Common Oral Sign of HIV

by Steve Debbink, D.D.S.

In many cases, the first signs of immune-system suppression occur inside the mouth. The most common condition is candidiasis, or thrush.

This condition is caused by a fungal organism that is normally kept at bay by our immune system. When HIV affects our immune system's ability to respond, the number of candida organisms present on the surface of the tissue increase exponentially.

As a result, colonies of the fungus rapidly form. The two types of tissue lesions are a white, easily removed plaque-like lesion or a red, inflamed surface irritation. Another problem that can arise is cracking of the skin at the corners of the mouth, angular cheilitis.

In its minor forms, candidiasis typically causes no pain, and people are often unaware of its presence. The growth of the plaques can cause them to connect with each other and create a more visible lesion, which can start to be more bothersome, especially if the esophagus becomes coated, which then makes swallowing more difficult.

The available treatments for candidiasis vary depending on the severity of growth present, the location and previously attempted treatments.

For first-line treatment, topical medications in the form of a dissolvable tablet or anti-fungal rinse are used. The duration of time required to clear the infection is about two weeks. A cream or ointment may be used in cases where the infection is underneath a denture or appears at the corners of the mouth. These

methods work best for minor infections where a short duration is required.

Some issues to keep in mind if medications are recommended for you to control thrush include:

1. Myclex troches contain dextrose and Nystatin rinse contains sucrose — both of which cause tooth decay when used frequently. To minimize this potential problem, be meticulous about removing plaque from your teeth every day, and see your dentist every four months.

2. Take your medications as prescribed until they are gone to improve the chances of clearing the fungal infection.

3. Always consult your infectious-disease physician as well as your dentist to make sure all of your needs are addressed.

As a public service, Wisconsin Light's For Your Health column will feature a monthly article, written by ARCW service providers, to provide health information for people living with or caring for someone with HIV. For further information about this or other HIV-related subjects, please call ARCW's Health Clinic at (414) 225-1571.



The lesbian dilemma.

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**THE SWITCH IS ON
IN WALKER'S POINT**

Tineality

by Tina Lee

The Dreadful Day

Recently, I was required to travel to Los Angeles to tend to my company's booth during a five-day convention. I knew I wasn't physically up to it, being a sleepy, bloated, puffy pregnant woman, but what could I do? On the one hand, I was a pregnant lazybones, on the other I was the marketing person for a tiny company that depended upon me. Against my better judgment, and in an effort to prove something to I don't know who — I went.

A Gay friend, G&T, short for Gin and Tonic, his historical cocktail of preference, has been a companion of mine since my first days out of the closet. He's a blond, 30-something conservative fag with a decidedly Martha Stewartesque flair. The day before I left on my journey, I met with him to receive his advice on must-see places in LA.

He duly wrote out a characteristically concise list. It read: West Hollywood — The Abbey Café, Melrose/Santa Monica Blvd., **Venice Beach — Less Walking, Weirdoes, Little Shops, Decent Restaurants, and *3rd Street Santa Monica Mall. He then left two blank

rows followed beneath with NO Compton, NO Inglewood!!

You can imagine his dismay when he later learned that I was ambulated to an Inglewood hospital an hour after my arrival in Los Angeles. You can also imagine his jealousy at realizing that I was personally escorted there by two very charming firemen.

In fact my entire emergency, up until I arrived at the hospital, was quelled by the seemingly unending profusion of good-looking and good-natured EMTs, firemen and hotel medical personnel. Lying bleeding and sobbing on the women's restroom floor, I chanced a glance at my surroundings. In every direction I had men oozing masculinity standing over me. I stammered out one of those "if only I were single, not pregnant and not hemorrhaging" jokes, but only the guy adjusting my oxygen mask laughed politely.

Frightened and 14 weeks pregnant, I was raced to the nearest hospital, an under-funded, understaffed, inner-city hospital in Inglewood. There, my surroundings took a

nose-dive. There were no chandeliers, there was no muzac, and sadly, there were no more beefy men giving me soothing assurances. Had I known that such a place existed and that I could have requested another location, I would have. But I didn't know that in reality, places got as shitty as Jonathan Kozol is always telling us they are.

At the hospital things got nasty and mind-bogglingly frustrating. I believe the hovering, inquisitive and persistent presence of my colleague Slam was the only thing that propelled the pace of events beyond their tiresome crawl.

My nurse was weathered looking and obviously tired. She complained, along with my doctor, that she was pulling a double shift that day. Both bitched, as if I weren't in the room, that the administration was raping them of their dignity. They were afraid of being sued or reprimanded for this or that. They complained endlessly to each other, right through my pelvic exam, stopping periodically only to hold up some bloody tissue and muse aloud over whether it was part of my baby.

In the three hours after the pelvic exam and before my ultra-sound, I had plenty of time to examine the room around me. The walls were smudged with another person's blood. My bed was broken and swung up and down at one end. The bloody rags given to me to clean the blood off myself were piled on the only space available to me — on the counter just beside my pillow, the location usually occupied by a glass of water. Of which I received none in my seven-hour stay.

Finally, one of the ER's two wheelchairs was made available to take me to the ultrasound room. En route, it didn't seem to matter that my feet or arms hit the doors we passed absentmindedly through. On the ultrasound table, I waited, invisible, listening to the technician gossiping with her colleague a thin partition away. I lay there for a half-hour before I screamed for her to come in and help me determine whether my baby was alive.

Later I was taken back to my bed, still piled high with blood stained rags, blankets and pads. The nurse left me at the foot of the bed and hurriedly asked my colleague Slam if he could handle me the rest of the way.

Poor Slam. He couldn't put me on a bed piled high with rubbish, yet there was no place for him to put the blood-soaked items. He had no choice; he swept them all up in his arms and dropped them on the floor beside the bed.

This was only one of his acts of heroism. I especially liked it when the nurse spilled my catheter bag on my foot, drenching my sock, then pretending not to notice, swiftly leaving the room. Slam went and got me little brown booties to wear — my only Los Angeles souvenir.

As it turned out my baby was fine and my bleeding was the result of a low-lying placenta, a condition not uncommon in early pregnancy, and one naturally corrected in roughly 90% of cases.

No matter what obstacles, always try to take the advice of wise friends, and by all means, avoid Inglewood, CA.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



BIFF 'N BUNKY

by KEITH N ANDERSON



NIGHTS OUT

News... Not much going on to report to you. Unless of course you count Ed and Charlie's vacation. Yes they left their beloved Madison and **Club 5** for a week to go to parts unknown. No word on whether or not they found any unknown parts.

It's good to know that SOME people get to take some time off. I am still waiting to hear from them on who gave them permission for that so I can get permission for one too! Our

Of course, it's SSBL time — well almost. The bars that sponsor teams are actively recruiting players. Call the SSBL hotline (414) 454-9204 to sign up.

Well it isn't news that Terry Wedner moved to Nashville but I thought I would not mention it again but the pictures we took weren't ready in time for the last issue. Terry called to thank *Wisconsin Light* for coming to her farewell performance. I am sure she misses her Milwaukee friends already.

We all wish her the best of luck.

Recaps...

What was up on Saturday the 3rd in Milwaukee? Maybe it was the nice weather or the Easter holiday

Editor, Bill Meunier, says he will check on that for me and get back to me really, really soon. I am not holding my breath on that one.

We also heard a rumor that Heidi over at **In Between** has a new beau — do they call Lesbian girlfriends "beaus"? Hmm... that's something else for the Editor to investigate.

Our web site is back up. Of course, if you are reading this on the web you already know that. I will spare you the technical details on what happened. The whole office was in an uproar because not only was the site down, but so was our e-mail.

In other news, a few months ago, I told you that a Walker's Point bar was going to go Bi. Remember where you read it first folks. It will be happening really soon — at the end of this month or early next month at the latest. Stay tuned for details.

but it seemed like just about every place I stopped in was full of hot men or in some cases women! **219** had a big and very attractive crowd. The **Boot Camp** and **Eagle** were steaming with leather men.

Dish was packed with women and men both. **La Cage**, was packed too. I ran into Alderman Jim Witowiak there. No he's not Gay. It's nice to know that at least one politician tries to keep in touch with all of our community!

Fluid had some great looking people — like when doesn't it? Over at **South Water Street Docks**, they had a very friendly crowd. The same was true of The **Ball Game** and **Fannies**.

Not only were the bars crowded but everyone seemed to be in a very good mood too. Hmm... think we could make a habit of that folks?

Coming Up... I would not miss *Wisconsin Light's* special all star salute to our Man of the Year, Mark Mariucci, at **Za's** in Green Bay on Friday April 16. Mark was the driving force behind the founding of Rainbow Over Wisconsin. He is also the founder and publisher of *Quest*. As if that ain't enough, the boy has done a lot more too.

The salute will include a fab show — you know the kind that you always see at **Za's** — with special guests Sasha Mitchell and Cha Cha Shane coming from Milwaukee. Course I will be there too and I am looking forward to it.

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



Terry Wedner at her farwell performance at the M&M Club, Sunday, March 28th.

Going Out

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Brady East STD Traveling HIV Testing (Milwaukee), The Triangle, from 9pm-midnight.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee), Fetish Night, this week, hankies, 50 cents off drinks for those flagging. 10pm-close; 2-4-1 on all mixed drinks from 8-10pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee), Oberon's Club Night, beer bust and drawings.

Napalese (Green Bay), Gregory James.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison), Mr. Gay Capitol City Pageant, 9pm, \$5 cover.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Fannies (Milwaukee), Karaoke at Fannies, hosted by Marlene.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Brady East STD Traveling HIV Testing (Milwaukee), Kathy's Nut Hut, 7-10pm.

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee), Fetish Night, this week, Bare Chests, 50cents off drinks for those shirtless. 10pm-close; 2-4-1 on all mixed drinks from 8-10pm.

Za's (Green Bay), Wisconsin Light presents the Man of the Year party for Za, a benefit for Rainbow Over Wisconsin. Co-sponsored by Za's, Entertainers Against AIDS and Quest. Pre-show reception at Java's. Show with special guests in Za's. See full page ad this issue for details.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Club 94 (Kenosha), Mr. & Miss Kenosha Wisconsin USofA pageant.

LIVE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

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

Club 5 (Madison), Drag Shows on Sun., 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.



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Wolf's Den MW, G/S 302 E. Madison, 54703 832-9237

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Players G/S, MW 218 Main St., 54601 782-9279

MADISON (608)

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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
(Open Fri & Sat, 9pm-Close)
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

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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
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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

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Glass Menagerie Fine Dining 124 N. Water St., 53202 347-1962

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Clubhouse Filling Station MW, F, DJ, E 6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 857-3744
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This issue covers:
April 14-20, 1999

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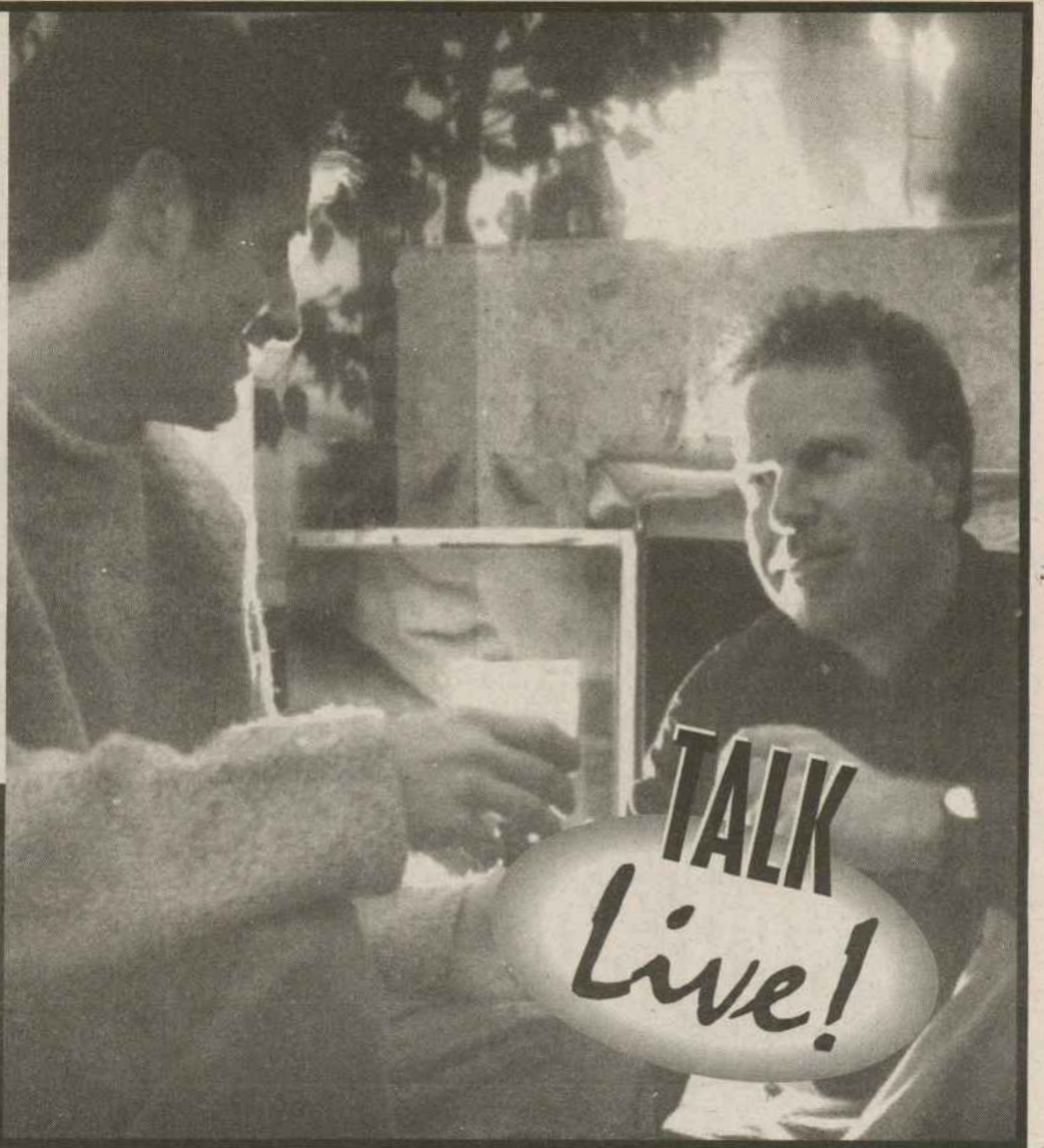
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In BED with ED

Dear Ed,

This is the first time I've ever written to a column. I came out less than a year ago. I'm 21, cute and I work out to stay in shape. I don't have any Gay friends. I have lots of friends, but they're all straight. Here's the problem. I want to have a boyfriend, but I've never had anal sex. I'm kind of wondering what to expect.

Sincerely,
Young and Hung

Dear Young and Hung (oh really),

Not sure where to start in your butt-sex escapades? Let me help you. When you're ready for your first time, you need to be prepared. Do you have the condoms? Is there any lube in the house? These are just two of the questions you need to ask yourself.

All right. So, the two of you are naked, in bed, hard as rocks, leaking pre-cum all over the place, and now what? Will you be the one

getting fucked? Does he want you to fuck him? More often than not, there will be clues in the way the two of you react that lets you know who is going to do what.

Never been fucked you say? Okay, relax it won't be that bad. If the thought of having a fat, hard cock in you turns you on, but you don't want it to feel like you're sitting on a fire hydrant, there are some ways to make it less frightening. For starters, *talk* to your partner!

There is nothing hotter than sex talk during foreplay, and it's during this time that you can let him know what you want to do or don't want to do. If he knows it's your first time, he might be really nice and play with your asshole for a while to loosen you up and make your hole relaxed. Don't forget to lube up that finger. Start off with one finger. Let him slide it in and out slowly. Feel good?

Maybe another finger won't hurt. More than one finger up there feels good. Let your-

self feel the pleasure of having your asshole stretched. If at this point you're feeling the need for his cock to be in you, then I suggest the doggie position for the first time.

It will allow you some control as to how far and fast you want it to go. Trust me, it's just the best of all positions for the first time. You'll thank me later. Anyway, before he's about to stick his cock in you, reach around to feel if he's got a condom on. It's on? Cool.

Now, you can proceed. As he's teasing your asshole with his cock head, just remember to relax. It will be okay. The best thing to do is wait for his cock to be in you before you start jerking yourself off again. This will allow his cock to slide in easier and your asshole won't be so tense. The moment his cock head pokes through your asshole, you may feel a quick flash of pain. Just relax. That feeling will go away soon once your asshole relaxes. The more his cock pushes into you, you may feel like you need to shit.

This is just your body's reaction to something it's never experienced before. If you can get past that feeling and *know* that you really don't have to shit, then you can continue. The moment you start stroking yourself again, your asshole will clench up around his cock. Not only will he thank you for it, but also you will feel a new sensation that could potentially put you over the edge.

See, the thing is, the muscles surrounding your asshole and your cock and balls are all connected. It's the contraction of those muscles that feels so good at that point. When

you're fucking, he may decide to do all the fucking. That's fine, but you call the shots.

Tell him, "Slower... faster... not so hard... ouch..." The point is, you need to communicate. If he's a verbal top (and aren't they delicious), he may tell you to fuck his cock. Fuck his cock? Well, aren't you doing that already? Not really.

All he wants you to do is ride his cock while he remains motionless. At some point in the night, the both of you will want to cum. I recommend that you cum while his cock is in you. It's a very pleasurable feeling.

He, on the other hand, needs to pull out, pull the condom off and cum on you. You may have read it before: It's fun to rub his cum all over you.

Take care and remember, if I want Shade, I'll sit under a tree.

Sleep Well,
Ed

To write me, send your letters to
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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.

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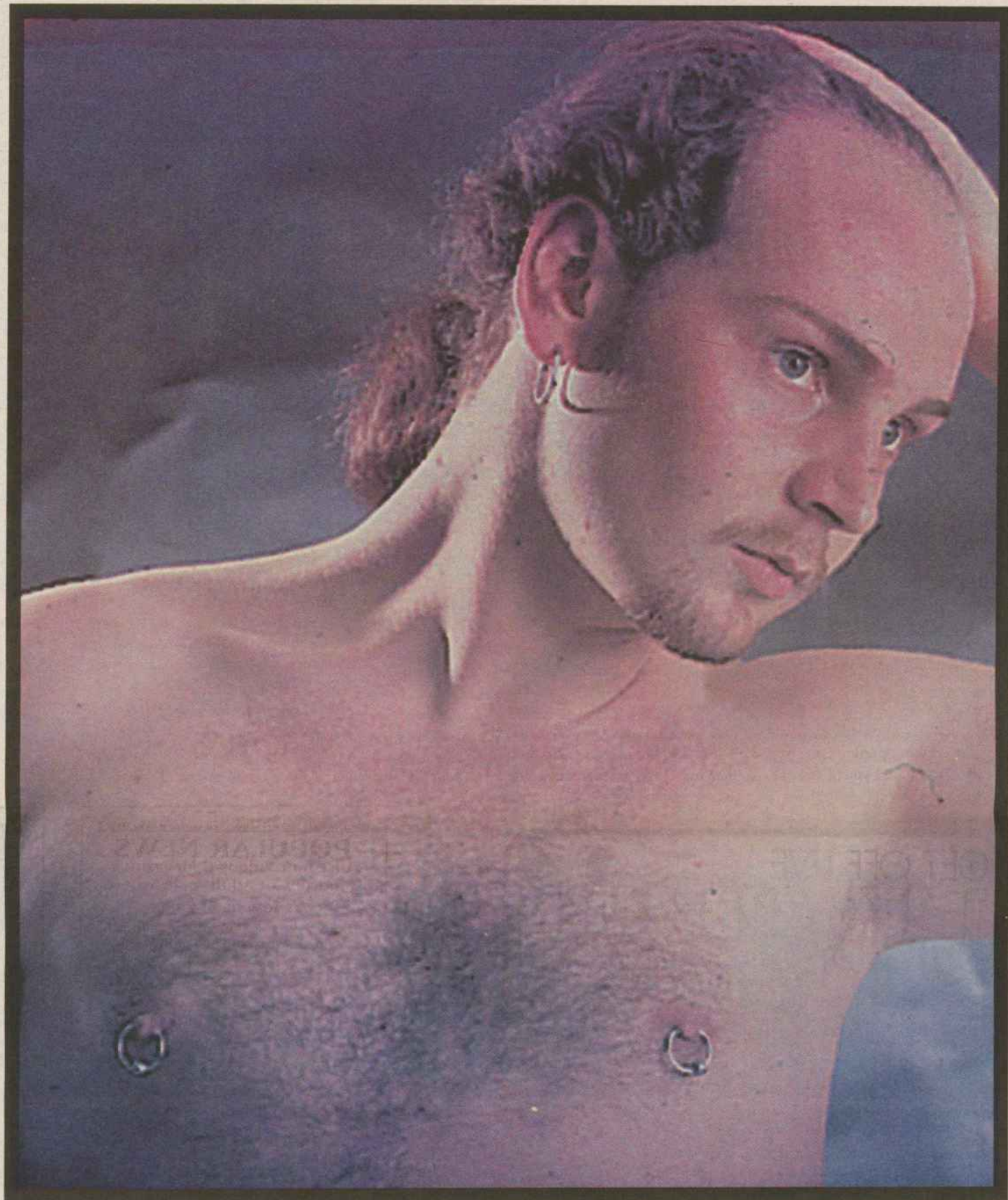
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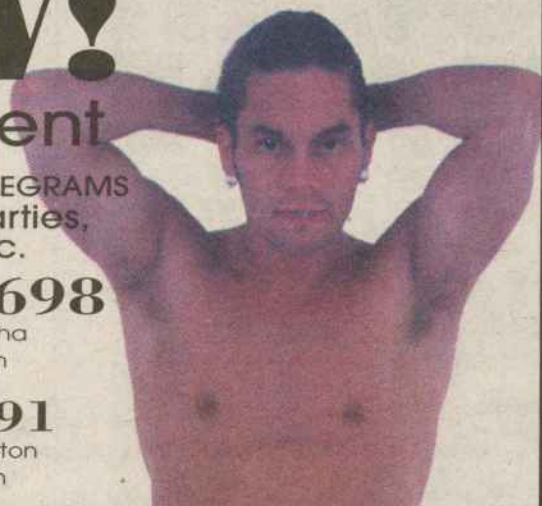
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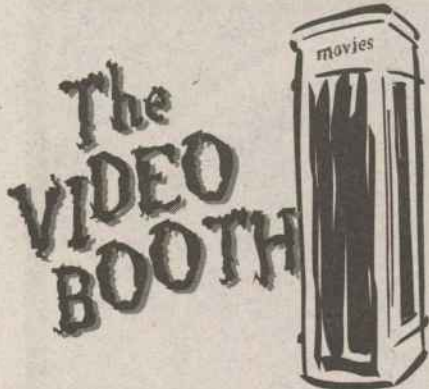


BIO FOR THIS WI LIGHT PIN-UP:

DAVID

Age - 24 • 5'10" • As far as the other
measurements go, Mary, you don't
want to know

QUOTE - "A bachelor is a man like myself who never
makes the same mistake once."



Stryker Force

A Matt Sterling Production
Reviewed by Andy James

This flick starring Jeff Stryker — of course — capitalized on the *Rambo* craze in the late 80's. Actually, it's one part Rambo and one part Indiana Jones with a lot of sex mixed in.

The plot has our hero — Jeff of course — competing with his cousin — hunky Steve Hammond — in a treasure hunt. Just you would expect there is more than gold in them thar hills. In fact, there are lots of hot men and lots of hot action.

In scene one, Jim Pulver and Ted Dowell go at each other in a railroad boxcar. The action looks as hot as the temperature looked to be. By the end of this one both men are drenched with more than sweat.

Unfortunately for them, a gang of homophobes led by Steve Hammond spots them. Just when things look bleak for our lover boys,

along comes Stryker. Well it was fortunate for them, but unfortunate for the viewer. Stryker puts on a very lame Kung Fu imitation to beat off the attack.

Later Dowell vividly recounts a previous encounter with Hammond. In this one though the only fists Hammond used were those he used to gripe his motorcycle handles while Dowell blew him.

From there, the action switches to the jungle where Stryker and Hammond are leading their buds in the hunt for the treasure. Both teams are watched — very closely watched — by a South American Indian, handsome Jeff Gavin.

Both hunter parties relieve the stress of looking for the treasure with appropriate activities. In the Stryker party's case, Robert Harris — who really is versatile — takes Stryker's manhood up the shoot while he nibbles on Doug Cory's manhood. Meanwhile in another neck of the woods, Hammond is fucking the hell of blond stud Kevin Williams.

Both of these scenes are very well done. Those involved seemed to be very into the action and each other.

Eventually both teams return home without the treasure. The film winds up with Hammond and Stryker making up.

This scene is interesting for two reasons. Stryker actually kiss Hammond after Stevie boy admits that he is family in more ways than one. These were the mega star's first on screen lip locks with a man.

Second, muscled Steve Hammond who normally plays a top is a bottom in this encounter. He sucks Styker's cock and gets fucked silly by his now much closer cousin.

High production values, good close ups, and a hot cast make this 1987 release well worth watching.

Top Guns

A William Higgins film
Reviewed by Andy James

This 1986 release is not at all similar to the hit mainstream movie *Top Gun*, except of course of the fact that both films have a hot cast some of whom are in the military and there is a lot of action — even if they have different kinds of action.

The plot is well let's just say it's as loose as the cast seems to be. That's probably a good thing in the minds of the viewers. The critics liked it to, naming it Best Gay Feature in 1988, which was two years after its release.

In the opening scene, hairy chested stud Chad screws the shit out of Kevin Wiles, not once by twice.

The next scene is one of the hottest and passionate ones ever committed to film. Curly haired John Davenport and hunky Chris Gray go at each other. This scene starts out with the charm of two friends discovering and enjoying each other's bodies and moves into some hard driving sex. Each of the buds shoots two enormous loads.

Davenport and Gray are so hot for each other that their performance here goes way

beyond acting. In fact a close watching shows that one — maybe both? — of these studs shot a third but alas unfilmed load on the sheets.

This is followed by Mike Henson and Davenport going to a hotel on a weekend pass. While there, Henson spots Kevin Williams, the admiral's son. He bets Davenport that he can get it on with the cute blonde. To prove he was able to do the nasty with Williams, Henson brings along a video camera packed in a bag. While he and Williams are getting it on in a hot scene, Davenport is watching and jerking off back in his hotel room.

Henson does a good job in the next scene too where he, Mike Ryan and Jeff Boote get it on in a no holes barred fuck and suck fest. Boote gets in the middle and takes both men's dicks in both holes.

The last scene shows an erotic encounter between Jeff Quinn and John Rockland. Quinn licks Rockland's body as if it was a Popsicle. Of course, no Popsicle ever looked this good.

This film may well be considered as Director William Higgins' masterpiece. He recruited the hottest stars in the business at the time of its making and he got the most of and into them. In scene after scene, it is quite evident that the performers were really enjoying each other. In fact all of the cast shoots at least two loads in every scene.

Big Guns is a must have for any serious collector of hot male to male action.

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