The Weekly Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

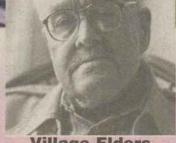
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Been Kissed!
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# Wilight

April 28-May 4, 1999

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# Internet Censorship **Bills Attacked**

Madison - For LGBT teens around Wisconsin, the Internet can provide a wealth of information about homosexuality. Many of them use computers to discreetly find support and answers to questions about their sexual orientation.

Opponents of a bill proposed by State Representative Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) say that if the bill passes and is upheld by the courts, those teens may soon find that flow of infor-

The Huebsch bill, AB-266, would require all Wisconsin School Boards to install software filters that block access to untold thousands of non-sexual Internet sites including nearly all LGBT web sites, AB-266 was introduced on April 9. The Committee on Information Policy will examine the issue. That Committee is chaired by State Representative David Hutchinson (R-Dyckesville). Hutchinson is one of ten co-sponsors of the bill.

AB-266 says that all educational agencies receiving a TEACH grant must install blocking software on its computers. The bill defines educational agencies as school districts, private schools, educational service agencies, private colleges and public libraries. The UW-system is not included in the definition.

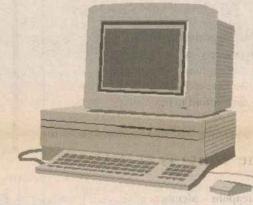
The software filters block access to material that could be inappropriate for minors to view, such as pornographic web sites.

Unfortunately, they also block access to sites that are not in any way sexual.

The filters check web sites looking for combinations of letters that make up key words, such as sex and X-rated. They also typically look for the words Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexual. If those letter combinations or words are found, the filters block the computer user from accessing the site.

"Only one of these filter companies, Surf Watch, is trying to make sure that its filter does not block out non-sexual Gay sites," said Wisconsin Light's Internet Columnist, Michael Stewart. "GLAAD gives them a list of non-X-rated sites that their filter blocks, and they program access to those sites into their software."





Stewart says that the filters can be too thorough. "Computers with blocking filters could not access the NASA site," he said. It contained the words 'Mars Exploration.' The combination of the letters s-e-x caused the filters to block it."

He also said the White House web site was blocked because it featured pictures of the President and First Lady Hillary Clinton as well as Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper. "The site had the word 'couples' on it," said Stewart. "That's one of the words that is built in. Net Nanny (a major blocking software product) really took a hit over it, but the reality is that the others, except for Surf Watch, blocked it too."

Chris Ahmuty Executive Director, of the Wisconsin Chapter of the ACLU denounced AB-266. An ACLU statement says it is "a misguided attempt to protect children that is over broad, deceptive, and violates the right to free speech in cyberspace for students, library patrons and providers. Software filters will take professional discretion away from educators and librarians."

The bill does allow the educational agencies installing the software to determine what is and it not appropriate for minors to view. That did little to mollify the ACLU. Ahmuty said that is because those using the software are not given an option of changing which words will cause the software to take action; most school boards will leave the decision up to the Software Company.

Stewart does see another side to the issue of using filters. "They also block access to the sites used by anti-Gay groups like the American Family Association," he said. "They also use the words 'Gay' and 'homosexual.""

Congress has also looked at questions surrounding access to the Internet and the content of Internet sites. In 1996, it passed the Communications Decency Act. CDA would have made allowing access to sites that may "violate community standards" punishable by stiff fines and prison sentences. In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously held the act to be unconstitu-

"The court ruled that web sites have to be treated in the same way a book is," said Stewart. "If it can't be banned in printed form, it can't be banned on the Internet either." That hasn't stopped Congress from trying.

In 1998, it passed a new bill called the Child on Line Protection Act. COPA targets material deemed "harmful to minors." The ACLU says the bill could seriously affect virtual bookstores like amazon.com, and even Internet Service Providers like AOL and the Microsoft Network. The group is challenging COPA in court.

In November of 1998, a Philadelphia Federal Judge issued an injunction barring its enforcement. That ruling is under appeal. Observers expect the Supreme Court to decide the case.

Both sides say more battles will take place in the future. Meanwhile, LGBT activists hope that students who use the Internet as a means of gaining information about themselves and their community don't find that access cut off.

# **AROUND THE STATE**

# Lesbian Elected to Head Madison City Council

Madison – Lesbian Alderwoman Judy Olson is the unanimous choice of Madison's City Council to be its chair for the next year. Olson was elected to the position without opposition on Tuesday, April 21.

Olson was first elected to the Council in 1995. She represents the Sixth District. When asked about the honor conferred upon her, Olson said she was pleased to have the respect of her colleagues. "It's not a sign that I represent the predominant thought of the council," she said. "It's more a sign that people have faith that I can assist the other members of the council to get their work done, foster good communications and hopefully bring about a spirit of unity among council members."

Madison has a strong mayor system. Madison Mayor Susan Bauman hands out most of the Common Council's committee assignments.

Nonetheless, the Council Presidency is an important post. The Council's President facilitates its operations. "There are some adjustments in Council operations that I would like to pursue," said Olson. "I want to make our meetings more accessible to residents. For example, we don't allow citizens to address the Board of Estimates, which helps set the City's budget. I want to propose that we allow citizens to participate in our discussions."

Olson told *Light* that she feels "wonderful" about the honor but recognizes the challenges faced by Madison. "Our primary challenge this year will be to meet our basic service needs without defeating the ability of Madison residents to pay for them. 65% of our budget comes from property taxes. That's almost twice as much as the average. New initiatives are difficult," she commented.

Olson cited Domestic Partnership benefits as something that will be difficult to pay for given the City's budget restraints. "Even though it won't cost that much, it would be difficult to find the money to pay for it," she said.

She also says the City's main problem is the state's revenue sharing formulas, which are based on property values. Cities with higher property values receive small shares of the State's revenue sharing fund. "High property values don't necessarily reflect an ability to pay," said Olson. "We have older people who have a hard time holding onto their homes and young people who can't afford to buy their first homes in Madison."

Madison has three openly LGBT members on the 20 person City Council — Olson, Mike Verveer and newly elected Alderman Matt Sloan.

# Reggie White Is At It Again

by Mike Fitzpatrick

Minneapolis - Members of the LGBT activist group Pride Alive protested the appearance of ex-pro football player and self-ordained minister Reggie White at the historic State Theatre here April 22. The picketing, however, didn't overshadow a larger flap over the former Green Bay Packer's continued use of NFL-licensed logos to promote his personal religious views.

Photos of White in his Packer uniform were used to promote his appearance at the annual meeting of Minnesota Family Council (MFC) according to Gregg White (no relation), Development Director of Outfront Minnesota, a statewide LGBT organization. The photo appeared on the home page of the right-wing Christian group's website and on the front page of the current issue of MFC's *Pro Family News* promoting the appearance.

Calls from Outfront Minnesota to the New York offices of the National Football League confirmed that Reggie White had neither advised them of his Minneapolis appearance nor received permission to use NFL logos to promote the event. According to Outfront's White, the last he had heard, pro-player White has been fined "tens of thousands of dollars for this breech of contract."

"While (Reggie) White has the right to his opinions, we have the right to find them repulsive," Gregg White said. "(Reggie) White has been told several times by the NFL that he may not espouse his views while representing the National Football League, including while in uniform."

Outfront is encouraging all those who object to player White's continued use of the NFL to promote his views on Gays and religion to contact the National Football League's Public Relations department at (212) 450-2000. The NFL's fax number is (212) 681-7572.

## **Action Wisconsin Grants**

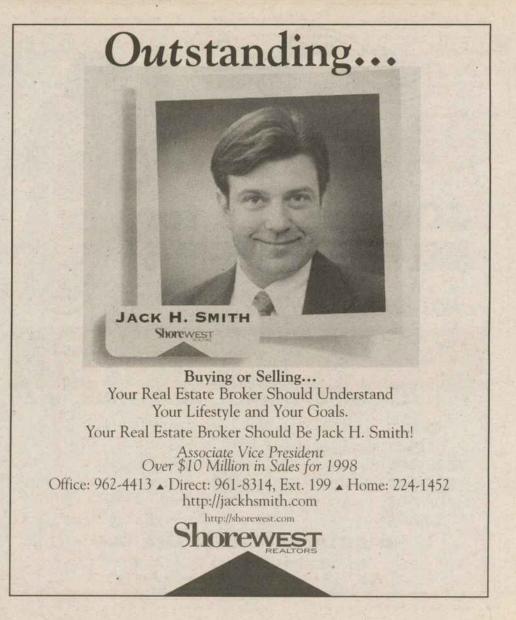
Madison – As part of its effort to build stronger grassroots LGBT organizations in Wisconsin, Action Wisconsin has provided grants to two organizations, Out Up North and Milwaukee's Domestic Partnership Task force.

The group gave Out Up North \$172 to pay for four months of telephone bills for the Ashland based group's hotline. The Domestic Partnership Task Force received \$250 to help provide funds for start up costs and event co-sponsorship.

The funds came from the Equality Begins at Home (EB@H) grant given to Action Wisconsin by the National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Action Wisconsin has also given out two other grants from the EB@H funds. Milwaukee's Black LGBT Task Force received \$550 for sponsorship of a community form. UW-Madison Lecturer Amber Ault received \$112.50 to screen two films on anti-LGBT violence. In addition to these grants, Action Wisconsin also paid the advertising costs for several events held on a statewide and local basis.





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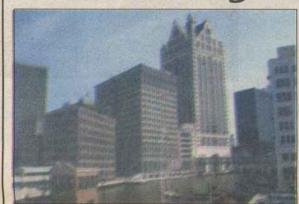
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# AROUND THE NATION

# Gay Activist Ejected from Holocaust Group's Meeting.

Atlanta, GA - Southern Voice reports that the Georgia Holocaust Commission is again in the news. Last year, the Commission gained national notoriety when it's chair, Slyvia Wygoda, ordered the removal of passages referring to Gay victims of the holocaust from a state teacher's

Wygoda later denied that she ordered the removal of the two paragraphs. The book's sponsors, the Holland and Knight law firm, emphatically say that she did indeed issue the order.

In her latest joust with the LGBT community, Wygoda had security guards remove a Gay activist from a Commission meeting. Harry Knox, the Executive Director of the Georgia Equality Project, was ejected when he questioned the composition of the Commission's Advisory Committee.

Knox says that the appointment of the Committee violates an agreement reached between LGBT activists and the Commission to settle the earlier controversy. He contends that Wygoda agreed to appoint LGBT representatives to the Advisory Committee. When Wygoda announced the composition of the Committee, Knox objected and Wygoda ordered his

# **Court Rules Against Visitation Rights**

San Francisco, CA - A California appeals court ruled that a Lesbian who helped her female partner raise two children before the couple separated has no visitation rights.

The case is being closely watched by LGBT civil rights activists. They were hoping that the court would follow along with rulings in other states granting visitation rights to a non-biological parent in a LGBT relationship.

Kathleen C. sued to gain visitation rights for the two children. Her partner, Lisa W. already had a 3-year-old daughter when the couple started living together in 1985. In 1987, Lisa gave birth to another child via artificial insemination.

When the couple broke up in 1990, they agreed on a visitation plan that gave Kathleen the right to have the children on alternate weekends. In 1994, Lisa cut off Kathleen's visitation rights. When Kathleen persisted in seeing the children, Lisa obtained a restraining order

Presiding Judge Daniel Hanlon admitted that Kathleen was a "de facto parent," but the Judge said there was no legislative authority that allowed the court to give her visitation rights.

## Hawaii Has Not Acted

Honolulu, HI - The Washington Blade reports that five months after Hawaiian voters authorized the state legislature to ban same-sex marriages it has not done so.

Last November, Aloha state voters overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the State Constitution that allowed the Legislature to prohibit same sex marriages. The amendment was a reaction to what seemed to be an almost certain decision by the State Supreme Court in favor of LGBT marriage.

The Blade says that legislators on both sides of the issue are content to leave the issue alone. Gay civil rights activists do not want to settle for anything less than full marital equality. On the other hand, conservatives fear that passing a ban on same sex marriage will lead to expanded domestic partnership benefits.

Meanwhile the State Attorney General issued a ruling that the legislature didn't have to act because a 1994 law already banned same-sex marriages. The courts, however, have declared that same law unconstitutional

## **But Vermont Might**

Montpellier, VT - Even before the Vermont Supreme Court can rule on a case challenging the state's ban on same-sex marriages, opponents of the idea are on the attack. Mike Gabbrad, an anti-Gay activist who helped lead the campaign against Gay marriage in Hawaii, reportedly sent an anti Gay marriage mailing to every voter in Vermont.

A group calling itself Citizens for Community Values of Ohio paid for the mailing, which cost \$40,000. The letter urged Vermont voters to contact Take it to the People, a Vermont group that opposes same-sex marriage.

The mailing may have caused a backlash. Vermont residents pride themselves on their independence. Some residents say they resent "outsiders" trying to tell them what to do.

If the Vermont Court rules in favor of Gay marriage, a referendum campaign to amend the State Constitution is expected.

# **Boughner Condition Upgraded to Stable**

Former Wisconsin Light Editor Terry Boughner remains in intensive care at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee. He is now eating soft foods and is much more alert than he had been for several weeks. His condition has been upgraded to stable and, as of press time, he was expected to be removed from intensive care this week. Once removed, he will be able to receive visitors, plants and flowers. Until then, only cards can be sent in care of the hospital at 5000 West Chambers Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210-1688. (414) 447-2280

# Domestic Partners Registry Proposed for Milwaukee Town Hall Meeting Called for Monday, May 3

by Bill Meunier

Milwaukee – Momentum is building to establish a Domestic Partners Registry in Milwaukee. LGBT organizations and a City Commission are lining up behind the idea. A "Town Hall Meeting" for interested community members will be held on Monday, May 3 to discuss the idea and build support for it. The meeting will be held at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. Second Street.

East Side Alderman Mike D'Amato told *Wisconsin Light* that he is planning to introduce a measure that would establish a City of Milwaukee registry during the May 11th Common Council Meeting. D'Amato's proposal will be co-sponsored by Alderman Paul Henningsen and George Butler. If that measure is passed and signed by Mayor John Norquist, LGBT couples living in Milwaukee would be able to register their relationships with the City Clerk for a fee of \$25.

The D'Amato proposal would allow registered couples to take advantage of family discounts offered by City of Milwaukee businesses. The Registry would not include unmarried opposite sex couples. "That's what a married certificate is for," said D'Amato. "In the case of a same sex couple, they do not have a certificate or a means of achieving it."

The Alderman said he will introduce the proposal because, "The family is no longer the nuclear family that the Cleavers thought it was." He adds, "This isn't just a selective thing. There are hundreds of cities and companies who recognize same-sex relationships. Milwaukee needs to get together with the times."

"There will be no hiding behind other issues here. This will be a vote that either says we are going to treat people humanely and equally, or we're not going to treat them humanely and equally."

-Alderman Mike D'Amato

Patrick Flaherty, Co-Chair of the Milwaukee's LGBT Domestic Partners Task Force, agrees. "A domestic partnership registry would finally give official recognition to our relationships. It would give benefits and protection to the couples who register," said Flaherty. "It also would encourage private companies to enact domestic partner policies by raising the profile of this issue and by establishing an independent and verifiable proof of domestic partnerships."

Advocates of registries believe they encourage private employers to offer domestic partners benefits to their employees. A Domestic Partners registry can also provide the legal documentation that can be used as a universal test to qualify employees for such benefits.

Last month the Los Angeles County Board overwhelmingly passed an ordinance establishing a registry there. Its advocates argued that it was needed to help hundreds of area employers verify the existence of the relationships.

Flaherty, D'Amato and others expect religious activists to put up heated opposition to the proposed registry. Nonetheless, they are not deterred.

The East Side Alderman said the impending battle over the Registry will be between, "those who support and recognize the rights of Gay and Lesbian and Transgender people and those who don't recognize those rights." He added, "There will be no hiding behind other issues here. This will be a vote that either says we are going to treat people humanely and equally, or we're not going to treat them humanely and equally."

Even before it is introduced, D'Amato's proposal is generating excitement among LGBT



Patrick Flaherty, Co-Chair of the Milwaukee's LGBT Domestic Partners Task Force.

activists here. Eight LGBT organizations have already announced their support for the Registry. They are the Sherman Park Rainbow Association, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the Black LGBT Task Force, the Riverwest Rainbow Association, the Human Rights League, Pride Milwaukee and Action Wisconsin. Additional organizations are expected to endorse the idea over the coming weeks. The City's Equal Rights Commission has also passed a resolution supporting the idea.

Support has also been coming from individuals. The LGBT residents in two Milwaukee neighborhoods have already set up meetings with their alderman. Others are calling and sending in letters to their Common Council representatives. Observers say that whether or not the registry is established may depend on contacts like those.

In 1997, religious right activists helped defeat a proposal to grant domestic partners benefits to City of Milwaukee employees. Alderman Paul Henningsen introduced that idea. The proposal was under fire almost from the start. City Attorney Grant Langley issued an opinion that said Henningsen's proposal would have to include unmarried opposite sex couples. That opinion increased the costs for the proposal.

Several Aldermen, who were originally thought to be sympathetic to the idea, voted against it claiming that it would cost too much money. They also contended that increasing benefits for City employees should be part of contract negotiations with the City's unions. Only three aldermen, Henningsen, D'Amato and Butler voted to provide the benefits.

D'Amato says he believes that this time, the outcome will be different. "Last time there were a number of aldermen who stated

Alderman Mike D'Amato

a desire to get something done, but they were hesitant because of the cost," he said. "This should take away any concerns from the four or five alderman who thought of this as a financial issue."

He adds, "This has nothing to do with city benefits in the sense of pension, health and other things. It has everything to do with providing partners with the opportunity to verify their relationship and gain. It's now an issue of human rights and common sense."

D'Amato says that he is cautiously optimistic about the chances of passage. However, he warns, "It's going take across the board support by members of the LGBT community to get out there and let their Alderman know how they feel. Anyone who lives anywhere around the city needs to call and write their alderman. We're not going to pass this by 300 East Siders calling their Alderman. I'm already there."

Flaherty and others see the issue in stark terms. "Because the registration fee would more than cover the cost to the City, anyone who opposes this must have discriminatory reasons," he said.

Flaherty points out that by encouraging private employers to provide health benefits for the partners of same-sex employees, the registry could actually save tax dollars. Milwaukee County taxpayers pick up the unpaid medical bills for uninsured residents who suffer catastrophic illnesses or are involved in accidents.

While most if not nearly all of the initial effort will be directed at the Common Council, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist must also support the Registry. The Mayor's own Equal Rights Commission passed a resolution calling for the adoption of the idea, but he remains non-committal. Norquist spokesman Jeff Fleming told the *Light*, "The Mayor has an open mind about this proposal. He's not formally committed to it. He wants to hear all the arguments, but he is approaching it with an open mind."

The Mayor faces a re-election bid in 2000. Norquist was first elected Mayor in 1988 with widespread support from Milwaukee's LGBT community. Last year he received a warm reception during a visit to PrideFest.

Over 100 cities and counties have established domestic partner registries. They include large cosmopolitan cities such as New York, rural locales like Iowa City and even conservative suburban areas like Oak Park, Illinois.

In Wisconsin, only Madison has a domestic partners registry. It was one of the first cities in the country to establish one. Since 1990, 395 couples have paid a \$25 fee to register their relationship. Only 46 of those couples have filed notice terminating their relationships.

The Madison suburb of Shorewood Hills allows LGBT couples to register for family discounts at the community swimming pool. "It's not really a registry though," said Village Clerk Terrence Gillis. "Since 1990, ten same-sex couples have taken advantage of the family discount program."

The Madison registry was the idea of then Alderman James McFarland. McFarland who is now an attorney, a *Wisconsin Light* columnist, and a long time Log Cabin Republican activist said he first introduced the idea in 1988. He believes that registries are important. "It has an important symbolic value because it gives an opportunity for people in a relationship to have it recognized, he said. "It's not governmental approval of a relationship. It's recognition that it exists and that it's valid."

Openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer says that the Madison registry works well. Like the Milwaukee proposal, Madison's registry is only for same sex couples. Verveer says, "Having the two largest cities in the state recognize our relationships may lead others to follow along."

Many cities around the country are already doing that. The question is whether the largest city in "The Gay Rights State" will join them.

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# PrideFest Council Elects New Members

Milwaukee - PrideFest, which will be held August 6-8, recently announced three new members to its planning committee and the election of a current council member to the Executive Board.

Newly elected Treasurer, Dawn Schaefer, has worked in the PrideFest cash room since 1995. She has a strong business background as an insurance company owner.

The new Operations Manager, Suzaan Krueger, has earned her community stripes through her involvement with the LGBT Community Center where she serves on the Volunteer Committee.

Jennifer Johnson was instrumental in getting the new Youth Activity Area organized in '98 and will fill the newly created position of Youth Activity Area Coordinator,

Ted Berg, who serves as the Family Day Coordinator and Ecumenical Service Goordinator, will also be wearing the hat of PrideFest Vice President. Berg was elected to the PrideFest Council in '97. He has coordinated the special children's activities for Family Day, which has grown, as has the religious service.

# PFLAG Milwaukee Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Milwaukee - Parents Friends & Family of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Milwaukee celebrates its 10th anniversary on May 23. In those ten years, the group has helped countless numbers of parents and families to love and support their LGBT loves ones while it reached out to the community.

PFLAG-Milwaukee formed in May of '89 as a support group under the sponsorship of Metro Milwaukee Lutheran Campus Ministry (ELCA). Thirteen people attended the first meeting. In '92, the group officially became affiliated with the national organization of PFLAG. As of this year, the Milwaukee chapter's membership has grown to 85 members, with an average attendance at monthly meetings of about 40 people.

In '96, the chapter received the PrideFest Community Service Award. In '98, they sponsored five Gay supportive billboards scattered around the city, and chapter member Brigitte Vojcsik received a community service award from the Human Rights League (HRL).

PFLAG's three-fold purpose is support, education and advocacy. The Milwaukee chapter has maintained a presence at PrideFest, the annual Pride Parade, and at the Human Rights League's Coming Out Day events. Other areas of involvement include the Milwaukee Public Schools Gay/Lesbian Advisory Committee, speaking at various churches, schools and seminars, as well as being part of the LGBT Police Academy training. In addition, the chapter has sponsored two movies at the UWM LGBT Film Festival.

# Lesbian Christians to Meet in Madison

Madison - Mary and Jesus with CLOUT: Re-Visiting the Holy Family is the theme of the '99 Christian Lesbians OUT (CLOUT) gathering, August 5-8, at St. Benedict Conference Center in Madison. Lesbian feminist theologians Mari Castellanous and Carter Heyward will be featured speakers. In addition, there will be workshops, ritual, worship and time to explore St. Benedict's woodlands, wetlands and prairie, as well as Wisconsin's capital city.

This is the fifth biennial gathering of CLOUT, a grass roots movement "celebrating the miracle of being Lesbian, OUT and Christian." The group was founded in '90 by a group of Lesbians who were "out" in the church.

Castellanous and Heyward will also give a presentation to the public on Wednesday, August 4, 7pm at Orchard Ridge United Church in Madison.

For further information about the Gathering and/or registration materials, contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey, 3502 Richard St., Madison, WI 53714; (608) 246-8862 or e-mail:

Those wishing to know more about CLOUT should contact Jan Griesinger, National Coordinator, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701; (740) 448-6424, e-mail: clout@seorf.ohiou.edu.

## Spring H.I.T. League Seeks Bowlers

Milwaukee - The Spring H.I.T. League is seeking bowlers to join up for ten weeks of Tuesday night bowling. Bowling goes from May 18-July 20, 7pm, at Landmark Lanes, 2220 N. Farwell Avenue. The cost of \$8 per person, per week, includes the league banquet, trophies for the two top teams, and a fundraiser for the Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT). Bowling in the H.I.T. is a great way to strike up new friendships and renew old ones.

Teams consist of five bowlers. Bowlers can form their own team or let the league place them with others. Don't miss out on the fun. Space is limited to 16 teams.

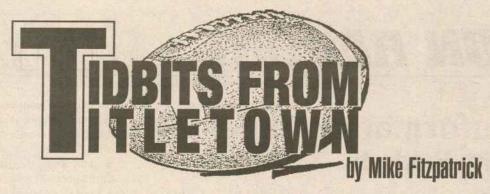
For more information and three free games of bowling (courtesy of Landmark), attend the organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm at Landmark Lanes. Those who are interested but unable to attend this meeting should contact Kim Wolfram at (414) 797-4835 for more information.

## Gov. Ann Richards to Speak

Milwaukee - One of the most dynamic speakers in the country, former Texas Governor Ann Richards, will appear in Milwaukee on Monday, May 3 at 7:30pm, as part of the Unique Lives & Experiences women's lecture series.

Richards will speak candidly about her life as a groundbreaking stateswoman, including the challenges she met and accomplishments she achieved as the 45th governor of Texas. Her lecture will take place in Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts; 929 N. Water St. Ticket holders are invited to enjoy a variety of pre-show activities in the lobby area. Doors will open at 6pm.

Single tickets start at \$23. They are available at the Marcus box office or by phone at (414) 273-7206 or (888) 612-3500. Students with a valid ID may purchase tickets in person on the day of the show for \$10 at the Box Office.



Northeast Wisconsin Bureau

Open Minds Confer in Kimberly: About a hundred people participated in "Open Hearts, Open Minds," Fox Cities PFLAG's first-ever conference on LGBT issues April 17 at the Liberty Hall Conference Center in Kimberly. The densely packed schedule offered break out sessions on nine topics in addition to the featured speakers. Among the presenters were the Kelly-Jones family, Action Wisconsin's domestic partnership guru Dan Ross from Madison, teen panelists from Appleton's LGBT Youth Partnership and several area clergy.

Throughout the day a number of videos were shown, including the documentary "It's Elementary," which also received a special pre-conference showing and discussion on April 16. The video, which explores the teaching of LGBT issues in elementary and middle schools, has sparked controversy. A number of Religious Right groups have begun a letter campaign to protest the decision by the Public Broadcasting System to make the program available to all PBS affiliates this spring.

Opening remarks by Appleton Police Chief Richard Myers focused on the department's efforts to provide inclusive community service for all people. Myers discussed the types of diversity training provided to officers and how a number of sensitive incidents and issues have been handled.

The conference concluded with a major address by PFLAG Central Region Director Sandy Brown of Sturgeon Bay. Brown offered up the "big picture" as she detailed PFLAG's agenda for the new millennium.

Rantin' Ralph Reacts: The presence of Chief Myers at the PFLAG conference brought that self-appointed spokesmodel for the Almighty Ralph Ovadal out of his Monroe cow barn and up to Appleton on the eve of the event. Despite faxing every media outlet with a press release accusing PFLAG of being "an organization which vociferously promotes sexual anarchy among youth," he was only able to draw one TV interview from a reporter who happened to be

in town to cover a presentation on UFOs. I certainly hope she didn't get her footage mixed up
— then again, who'd be able to tell?

Mark Mariucci Day in Green Bay: It's too bad Pasture Ralph wasn't made aware that while he was spewing his bile to an audience of one, just up the road the top elected official of Brown County was publicly honoring a Gay man. County Executive Nancy Nusbaum declared April 16 as "Mark Mariucci Day" throughout the county in recognition of his community involvement and philanthropy and to mark Wisconsin Light's naming him the "Man of the Year."

I was pleased to represent Nancy and bestowed her official proclamation to Mark (A.K.A. Za) during the 90-minute show in his honor at Za's. I also got to advise him that because of his short stature, the traditional planting ceremony would feature not a tree but a shrub.

Possums in the Field: Among the gang who bussed up from the Ballgame in Milwaukee to Green Bay on April 17 was the bar's newly-named Possum Queen candidate Anita Makeover. Anita worked the crowds at Brandy's II, Buddies and Napalese Lounge like a flower girl on Ritalin.

Smart move, Anita. You know where the money is, considering that over \$12,000 was raised by the five Green Bay bars in the similarly structured Gay Guernsey pageant last year. By the way, this year's Guernsey race begins in July. I hear that drag legend Katrina Kaye will be the Napalese entrant in that cash cow contest.

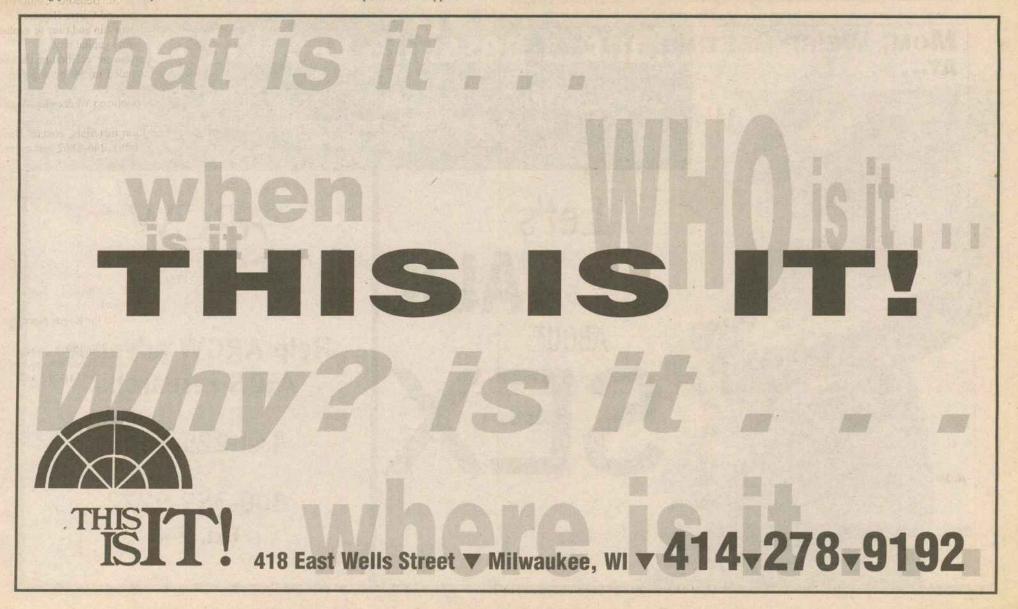
Rumor Mill Still Grinds: If you heard that the city of Green Bay was driving Napalese owners Anne and Nancy into the poor house, you got it close - but no cigar. Word is that - pending financing — the gals will be setting up shop on the east side at the site of the current Pour House tavern on the corner of Main and Webster, just a hop, skip and a swish from Za's and Brandy's.

You may recall that last fall the city gave Napalese their moving papers as part of the Broadway redevelopment project. An earlier relocation plan fell through due to the city's slow response. Similar sluggishness could queer this deal as well.

The other hot, hot rumor in town: could everything be coming up Rosie for the World AIDS Day show at the Weidner? Invitations were sent — has an RSVP been received? As web gossip Matt Drudge likes to say, developing...

National Volunteer Week: In case you haven't heard, this past week was National Volunteer Week, which honors those who donate their time. The Gay community in northeastern Wisconsin has always done its fair share when it comes to giving from its collective wallet to LGBT causes. The gift of time, however, is sometimes harder to obtain.

There has been a shortage of male buddy volunteers for clients served by ARCW's Appleton and Green Bay offices for some time. If you would like to find out how a two hour weekly commitment could benefit the life of a person living with HIV, please call Daryl at (800) 773-2068.





# WASHINGTON REPORT Tammy Baldwin

# Stuck on the Shoulder of the Information Superhighway A Message from Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin

In the past few decades we have moved past some of the most glaring stereotypes faced by women in our society. But there is much more we must do to eliminate gender-based prejudices, especially in the fields of math, science and technology.

This month, Vice-President Gore and I chaired a panel discussion at UW-Madison's new Biotechnology Center on the problems facing women studying and working in high-tech fields. The triumphs and the trials of women in science have always been of special interest to me.

I'm told that the first thing I ever learned to draw, even before stick figures, was a mitochondria... which I did on the chalkboard of my grandfather's laboratory on the UW-Madison

In fact, my first true act of rebellion as a teenager wasn't sneaking out to get my ears pierced or breaking curfew. It was deciding not to become a scientist - dashing the dreams of my grandfather, a biochemist at UW-Madison for close to 40 years, and disappointing my aunt, a biophysicist. Perhaps the way I redeemed my family image was by choosing to supplement my undergraduate major in government with a second major in mathematics.

In fact, many of my college math courses better prepared me for a life in politics than did my political science courses. I well remember my freshman year when my professor of "infinitesimal calculus" would give us insoluble problems for homework...problems that make Medicare reform look easy.

Our society has ventured onto the information superhighway, but too many women and girls are stuck on the shoulder... separated from the express lanes by a digital divide. The "digital divide" is a phrase used to describe the fact that inequities exist in terms of access to technology between various groups of people.

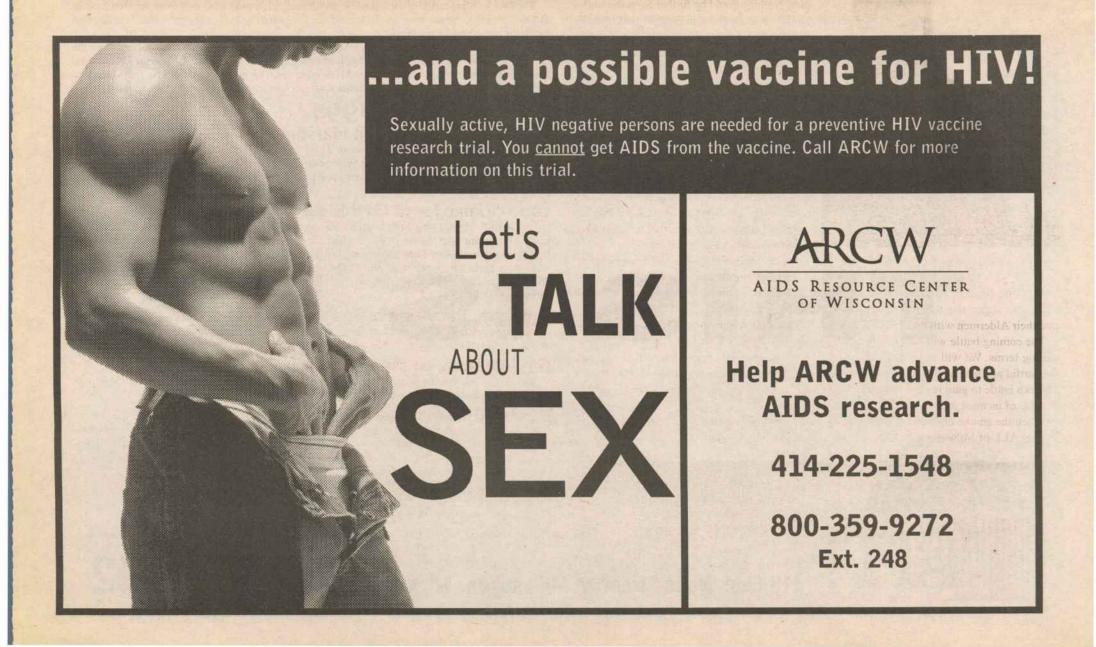
Those on the wrong side of this divide are less likely to have a computer in their home, a computer in their child's classroom, or a job that depends on significant technological skills and

A digital divide has been observed based on race, socioeconomic status, age and gender. The gender gap in access to technology is a real problem whose consequences ought to concern us

When we look toward the economy of the 21st century, we know that more and more jobs will require a high level of technological skill and knowledge. If women and young girls start from behind, we can only anticipate that pay inequities will worsen in the next century unless we respond to the challenges today.

The University of Wisconsin cares deeply about this issue. On the panel for our discussion with the Vice-President, UW-Madison assembled some outstanding faculty and students and an audience of women business leaders in high tech fields, educators in math and the sciences, grade school teachers and instructors focusing on life long learning, and some of our leading champions of pay equity. Many of these women provide a type of mentorship that is critical to bridging the digital divide.

In his short visit, we gave the Vice-President just a glimpse of the people and programs dedicated to bringing more of our young girls and women into the high-technology fields of the 21st century. My congressional staff and I are committed, along with the teachers and businesspeople of our communities, to helping women cross the digital divide. It is this type of commitment that makes me so proud to represent this district.



# **EDITORIAL**

# A Milwaukee Partnership Registry: A Matter of Fairness

Alderman Mike D'Amato's proposal that the City of Milwaukee establish a Domestic Partners Registry for same-sex couples is a good idea, whose time may have finally come. The Registry won't address all of the problems faced by LGBT couples, but it is a good start.

There is solid evidence showing that Partnership Registries can and do encourage private employers to establish domestic partner benefit programs. These private programs do address some of the inequities that exist between Gay and straight couples.

Furthermore, a registry provides an easy means of verifying the existence of an LGBT relationship. That can be a big help to those employers who are trying to put their LGBT employees on an equal footing with their legally married co-workers.

The Registry will not cost the City's taxpayers one red cent. Moreover, by helping LGBT residents to gain health insurance benefits through their partner's workplace, a Registry would save taxpayer dollars that are used to pick up the tab when uninsured residents need medical care.



Milwaukee's City Hall

The arguments in favor of adopting D'Amato's proposal are so persuasive that we find ourselves in agreement with those who say that only bigotry would cause any Milwaukee Alderman to oppose it. It is up to all of us to make that clear to the members of Milwaukee's Common Council.

You can be sure that the Religious Right will claim that a Domestic Partners Registry constitutes official approval of LGBT couples. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, it is insulting to suggest that it does. We have spent a generation and a half attacking the notion that the government has the right to approve of who we love.

We do not need or want that approval. We believe that the only approval needed for any relationship, straight or Gay, is that given by those who are engaged in it.

What a Registry would do is recognize that our relationships exist. That recognition can help ease at least some of the problems faced by LGBT couples. It can also promote stable relationships and send a powerful message to younger Gays and Lesbians that they can find happiness and a partner for life.

We can expect the forces of homophobia to do their best to obscure the real issues. They

will fill the airwaves with hateful lies and flood Milwaukee's City Hall with phone calls and letters. It's imperative that Milwaukee's LGBT residents, their families and their friends educate their Aldermen with the real facts of what Alderman D'Amato is proposing.

The coming battle will not be a pleasant one. We will again see ourselves portrayed in disgusting terms. We will again hear the voices of hate on news broadcasts. We will again read the hurtful and hateful diatribes in our newspapers. Nonetheless, this is a battle we must wage. This is a battle to gain recognition of our right to engage in a loving relationship. This is a battle ALL of us must join.

When the smoke clears we will know who, in the words of Alderman D'Amato, stands for treating ALL of Milwaukee's citizens "humanely and equally," — and who does not.

# 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 verifyable phone number. We will gladly with hold your name from publication upon request.

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Milwaukee, WI 53204
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Fax 414 226 0096

# **LETTERS**

# Dear Greg,

The S.S.B.L. would like to "THANK YOU" and the Wisconsin Light for your generosity to our league.

As you probable already know, our past advertisements have proved to help us to continue our visibility in the gay community and to bring in new people as well as new sponsors.

Because of your generosity, we expect to continue to draw new faces to our organization, so we can continue the traditions of good fun and the competitive sportsmanship that the S.S.B.L. has been providing for the last 23 years.

"THANK YOU" again for your generosity to help us to promote Gay softball in our community.

Dan Nelson - SSBL Commissioner Milwaukee

## To the Editor

Congratulations on your website. I have found information here that was nowhere else.

Thanks,
Dave
Detroit/DC

# ARCHIVES

# 10 years ago

# **SSBL Starts Season**

The Saturday Softball Beer League began play with a 12 team league. This season the league, which plays at Mitchell Park, will have three divisions. They are: competitive, recreational and women's.

## **New Harvest**

Madison's New Harvest Foundation, an LGBT charitable group, celebrated its fifth anniversary with a gayla dinner dance on April 22. New Harvest has provided thousands of dollars in grants to Gay and Lesbian organizations in the Madison area.

# **US Immigration Service Arrest Dutch Official for Being Gay**

In accordance with President George Bush's policy on immigration, immigration service officers arrested a Dutch public official because they believed him to be Gay.

The INS in Minneapolis jailed Hans Paul Verhoef, 31, a public official from the Dutch cities of Delft and Rotterdam. He was detained after INS officials noticed items in his luggage that led them to believe he was Gay.

A Federal Judge ordered his release on the condition that he post a \$10,000 bond and leave the US promptly, on April 28 following, his participation in the 11th Annual National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference. Verhoef is an AIDS educator. The bond was posted by the Minnesota AIDS project. Current US policy prohibits foreign Gays from entering the United States.

# 5 Years Ago - 1994 PrideFest Names Grand Marshals

Jerry Johnson, publisher of Wisconsin Light and Ron Geiman, publisher of In Step have been named Grand Marshals for the Wisconsin Pride Parade scheduled to take place during PrideFest on June 12th. The Pride Committee cited their outstanding contributions to the committee in appropriate the boron.

# Louis Stimac Local Civil Rights Fighter for Gays Dies

On April 8, 1994, Louis Stimac died after a seven-year battle with throat cancer. He was 53 years old. Stimic was a true pioneer in the battle for civil rights for Gays and Lesbians. He helped incorporate Gay People's Union, Milwaukee's first Gay and Lesbian organization, and made numerous other contributions to the cause of equality. Ironically, Stimac passed away five years. almost to the day, after the death of his friend and fellow pioneer in the Gay rights movement. Alvn Hess.

# **Domestic Partnership Supported by Majority**

A Newsweek poll shows that a majority of Americans (67%) believes that Gay and Lesbian employees should have access to the same employment benefits available to married employees.

# Gay Wedding on Hit TV Show

Ron and Erick, two recurring Gay characters on the popular CBS Show Northern Exposure, will be married during an episode to that will be shown in May.

# **New Anti-Discrimination Bill In Congress**

Representatives Gerry Studds and Barney Frank will introduce a new bill to ban employment discrimination against America's Gays and Lesbians. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is aimed at deflecting the effects of anti-Gay civil rights referendums being used to repeal Gay civil rights laws and ordinances in several states.

# One Year Ago - 1998

## George Michael Arrested

Pop Singer George Michael, was arrest for lewd conduct in a Los Angeles Park Restroom. If convicted he will get up to six months in prison and a \$1,000 fine. Sources say that the standard penalty for lewd conduct is \$250 or community service. The British heartthrob told CNN that this was not the first time he had put himself in a position where he could be arrested for lewd conduct. He also said that he is in a relationship with another man.



# drew barrymore

by Tim Nasson

Beverly Hills - Drew Barrymore has a couple of things to get off her chest — a chest she has given up baring on national television - before we begin talking about her most recent comedy, Never Been Kissed.

"Yes, I am going to be starring in a big screen version of Charlie's Angels, [opposite Cameron Diaz and probably Angelina Jolie]," she says first, when asked. "And no, I won't be going forward with a feature film about Brandon Teena," she adds.

More about Brandon Teena later. First, I needed to ask Drew about the kiss she shared

Kissed co-star Molly Shannon on Shannon's television show, Saturday Night Live, recently,

"That was the best thing," she says, about hosting the popular comedy show, on March 14. "But kissing Molly Shannon was even bet-

March 14, 1998 was not the first time that the adorable Drew acted as hostess of the Award winning hit. 17 years before, at the age of 7, Barrymore became the youngest host of SNL — she retains that title — when she was there to promote her second film. What was it called? Oh, that's right, E.T.

Dressed in a blue cardigan sweater, Drew entered the suite at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills followed by her beautiful Labrador, Flossy.

"I try to take him with me everywhere," she

Never Been Kissed, and had just returned from having seen it for the first time. She was very excited and proud of the way it had turned out and rightfully so. Never Been

> Barrymore produced under her production company, Flower

Films. The film, Never Been Kissed, was a great vehicle for Barrymore debut her talent at producing. Following her two smash hits from last year, The Wedding Singer and After, Barrymore scores big as Josie Geller, a struggling copy editor at the Chicago Sun-Times

earlier. The problem? A huge one. Actually a nightmare. You see, when Josie was a student at the high school originally, she was called "Grossie" Josie because of her geekiness. She was a klutzy, nerdy, 'never-been-kissed' laughingstock.

an undercover

back at the

high school

she went to

eight years

reporter

Can she overcome the horrid memories and go back to school a 'new' girl and fit in with today's newer, more incredulous teens?

Barrymore recalls that Never Been Kissed was a labor of love. "I wanted to make this movie because it taps into an emotion that everyone can identify with - the awkward moments of our high school years. For Josie, high school was a horrible, humiliating experience. She completely lacks in social skills, and now, when she has to relive those years by going back, she again misses the mark by the mile."

The always 'hyper' Molly Shannon, even in person later in the morning, enjoyed playing Barrymore's colleague in the film and also kissing her on "Saturday Night Live."

"She is such a good kisser, too," Shannon beamed, when told that Barrymore paid her lips a compliment. "We even did some kissing during our dress rehearsal," she says, laugh-

Shannon, an Ohio native and regular on "SNL," well known for characters such as Mary Katherine Gallagher and Helen, the Licensed Joyologist — based on a drunk neighbor of hers from growing up - recalls that her high school counselors never gave her much encouragement because of her lack of attention in school.

"They were nice enough to tell me that I would do well at Ohio State. I was like, 'Fuck You. I'll go wherever I want to. I'll show you," she says, of course, laughing. Show them, she

Shannon moved to NYC and went to NYU where she met some aspiring comedians and actors who introduced her to some cast members of SNL.

"I'm lucky, yes, but because I am doing something I love, making people laugh and feel good," says Shannon, running her fingers

through her hair. ("I quit smoking and need to keep my fingers busy.")

Shannon, who steals Never Been Kissed. as she did a scene in Analyze This, debuted less than six months ago on the big screen in A Night At the Roxbury. Since then, she has completed filming Superstar, which will be released in September, a film revolving around her SNL character Mary Katherine Gallagher.

Shannon and Barrymore are now both single, Barrymore very recently single.

"No, I am not seeing Edward Norton. We are just friends," Drew says when asked. "We were at the Academy Awards together as friends. I am enjoying my singleness."

You'll remember that her Home Fries co-star, Luke Wilson, was also her real life boyfriend at the time of filming and until a couple of months ago.

Things change though. and seems that things have changed in the right direction for Barrymore over the years. She has recovered from her pre-teen and teenage drug and alcohol abuse, which necessitated an almost decade long film hiatus, and has chosen some pretty good roles -Boys on the Side, Scream, and Batman Forever - since her return to film which have kept her one of America's favorite faces.

"I really wanted to do The Brandon Teena movie. I wanted to produce and star in it," says Barrymore, recalling the true story about the girl who lived as a boy and was murdered when her secret was discovered. "But, I lost it. I had such a great interest in the film," she adds, "and told everyone that long before I should have. I have learned to keep my mouth shut."

While Barrymore is not too happy that she will not be working on Brandon Teena, she is glad that the film is getting made. "They," she says, referring to the other producers, "like us appreciated the story and realized it needed to be told on screen. More power to them for beating me to it."

Tim Nasson is a national entertainment writer. He can be reached at timnasson1@aol.com.



# DEEP by Romeo San Vicente HOLLYWOOD

# Gettin' Homo with It

In what could prove to be the priciest Gaythemed comedy of all time, Universal Pictures is attempting to zero in on deals with hunky Hollywood heteros Will Smith and Nicolas Cage to star in I Now Pronounce You Joe and Benny. Veteran comedy director Tom Shadyac, who's responsible for the mega-hits Ace Ventura and Patch Adams, is developing the film.

The plot focuses on two single firefighters of the heterosexual persuasion — a widower with kids (Academy Award-winner Cage) and a slick-talking ladies man (that would be Big Willie). After a brush with death, they decide to marry each other for insurance benefits for the kids. With a hot script by **Barry Fanaro** (who wrote *King Pin*), the project has *Birdcage*-like blockbuster potential written all over it.

But such a high profile pic could cost a fortune before making it to the altar. Shadyac, Cage and The Artist Formerly Known As The Fresh Prince all require huge up-front fees and a huge chunk of the back-end (uh, no pun intended). We're waiting to see if Will will balk at kissing Cage; he reportedly had some trouble sucking face with a guy in his last homo role in Six Degrees of Separation.

# Are You There, Alanis? It's Me, God.

Disney, the film studio that prides itself on its squeaky-clean **Kathie Lee**-kinda image, is in a bit of a bind. Disney is the parent company of Miramax. That's the production entity behind such independent film hits as *Shakespeare in Love* and *Scream*, as well as filmmaker **Kevin Smith**'s "never fall in love with a Lesbian if you're a hetero male" cautionary tale *Chasing Amy*, a hit with audiences and critics alike.

Miramax has financed Smith's latest effort, a scathing religious satire called *Dogma* that features the unorthodox casting choice of femme rocker Alanis Morissette as God. The hot cast also includes Ben Affleck, Matt Dillon and Chris Rock.

Dogma is chock full of protest-worthy subject matter, such as renegade angels cavorting with a stripper and a relative of Jesus who works in an abortion clinic. It's the stuff NC-17 ratings are made of.

Miramax is no stranger to religious controversy; the company released *Priest* in 1995, about a Gay clergyman. However, its agreement with the Mouse House doesn't allow it to release any films with an NC-17 rating domestically. In the past, Miramax has formed a different domestic company to release niche pictures, but *Dogma* is a different beast, since it's rumored to have the makings of a crossover hit.

To be fair to Kevin Smith, the Miramax honchos intend to buy back the film from Disney and resell the domestic distribution rights to a third party, most likely Universal or Paramount, while holding onto the international rights.

## Is it Cher or is it Memorex?

Cher (who's been reinventing herself since before Madonna was eating out of garbage cans) is once again the toast of Gay dance clubs and gyms with her dance hit *Believe* in



Cher

uberheavy rotation. The diva recently made an appearance at the Gay-themed White Party in Palm Springs... or did she?

Major news sources reported the former Mrs. Bono showing up in the wee hours of the a.m. to perform her new single *Strong Enough*.

A source close to the show (one of the few present at the fest who was sober through the evening) wasn't convinced. He said it wasn't the diva performing but a Cher impersonator, adding fuel to the rumors that Chastity's mama hires out an approved reasonable facsimile when she doesn't want to perform.

Romeo San Vicente isn't afraid to lock lips with Will Smith. You can contact Romeo care of this publication or email RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.Gay.com or

www.popcomq.com.



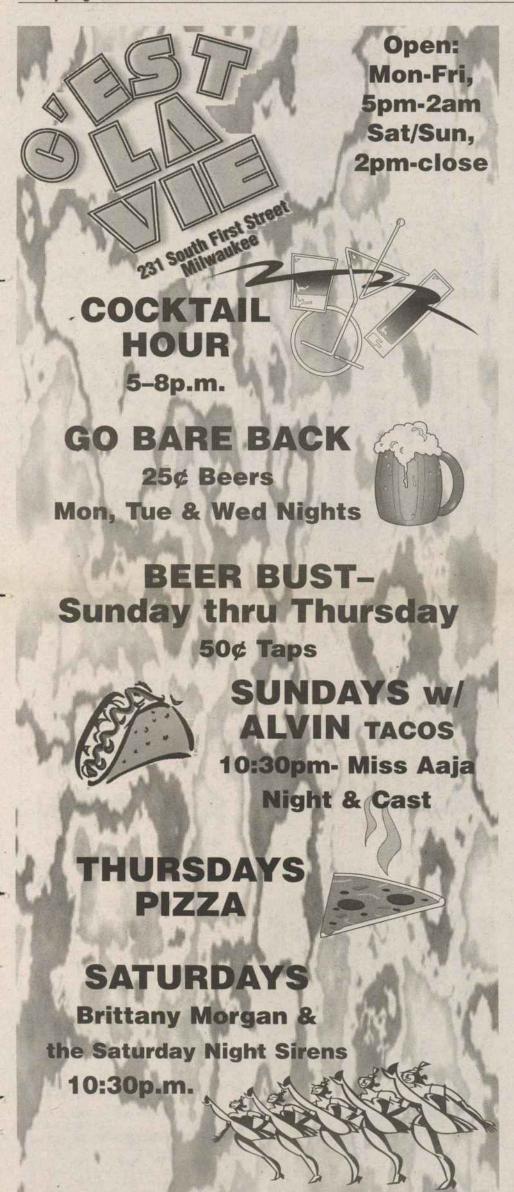




ate Court • Madison, WI 53713 (608) 277-8700



Ben Affleck



# OUTF in the Theatre

# The Double Infidelity

Reviewed by John Jahn

Mark Bucher's Boulevard Ensemble delightfully has recreated Pierre de Marivaux's comedy, *The Double Infidelity*, receiving its Milwaukee premiere on April 16. The 17th century comedy tells the tale of two couples embarking on a journey of self-deception and romantic intrigue. The venerable ploys of concealed identity, comic servants and mismatched lovers combine with the always anticipated and deserved happy ending. Marivaux's work handles these traditional comic elements with sophistication, allowing both the human and the hilarious to emerge.

The Double Infidelity is superbly directed by Timothy X. Troy, previous director (for the Boulevard) of The Mandrake, Waiting for Godot, Glengarry, Glen Ross and Puccini's opera, Gianni Schicchi. In Infidelity, Troy oversees a fine ensemble cast, well rehearsed and choreographed.

The skilled, energetic cast includes Bobbie Jo Westphal as the lovely but stubborn Sylvia; Marcella Kearns as the clever, love-struck royal consort, Flaminia; and Stacey Meyer as the latter's coquette sister, Lisa, Kearns' comedic timing and expressive qualities truly provide the glue that holds the whole structure of *The Double Infidelity* together, and Meyer's flirty Lisa is a delight to behold.

Michael Chmiel plays Robin, Sylvia's love; Clay Anton is a smitten prince; Anthony Ramos is the royal aide, Trivet; and Ricardo Rocha portrays the scheming Lord Lumley. Most events revolve around Robin, and happily Chmiel's portrayal is both earnest and robust. Ramos displays great talent as a comedic actor in his portrayal of the sniveling Trivet. A true scene-stealer is Rocha, who plays his character as an exiled Spanish lord. His hilariously exaggerated accent and mannerisms make us unsure if he's a royal lord or a vice-lord.

The transformation of the Boulevard's studio theater into a 17th century French garden by scenic designers Jill Lyons and Dana Fralick is simply amazing. Even the floor surface was painted to resemble patterned granite. There is a finely constructed and painted porch, embraced by two pedestals topped by gold cherubs. The backdrop consists of superbly painted walls, depicting trees, a rolling countryside and blue-purple sky. Lovely period costumes complete the setting.

This utterly charming tale of love, finely directed and acted and visually enticing, runs



# **Mighty Peking Man**

Reviewed by John Jahn

Ever get a yearning to see a Chinese monster movie from the '70s? Me neither, but even so, you may still want to check out this ultraschlock called *Mighty Peking Man*. The first time around it was up against *Star Wars* and the then-new version of *King Kong*. Needless to say, it fared badly, and deservedly so. Director Ho Meng-Hua's re-released 1977 Hong Kong monster flick is badly dubbed, derivative kitsch to be sure. But, thanks to shows like *MST 3K*, really bad movies have acquired a new following the second time around. Such is the case with *Mighty Peking Man*.

The title character is basically the Hong Kong King Kong — an action-adventure, would-be epic about a gigantic ape kidnapped from his jungle mountain home in India, where he protects pretty blonde Samantha (Evelyne Kraft). This jungle babe dresses in a skimpy leather bikini (which she barely manages to keep on) and tames dangerous beasts (actually declawed and detoothed lions and tigers) without even smudging her makeup. When she saves the life of Johnny Fang (Li Hsiu-Hsien), a handsome Chinese explorer hunting for the leg-

endary creature (with nothing more than a pistol), their love is kindled. Hilarious scenes ensue as Johnny and Samantha run hand-inhand in slow motion to the strains of disco music, including a prolonged sequence of the duo twirling a dazed-looking leopard.

But secret and horrible plans hatched by Johnny's greedy boss (Tsui Siu Keung) soon lead to disaster. Hong Kong — or at least the model buildings and toy cars that the guy in the ape suit smashes about — will never be the same

The dialogue is hilarious, the acting third rate, the soundtrack silly, the plot derivative, the special effects those of a Japanese Godzilla movie. But just like its Far Eastem monster movie brethren, *Mighty Peking Man* is unintentionally bad, and therefore a delight to watch. The film's earnestness makes the campy result all the more laughable, and that's the whole point of this 22nd anniversary rerelease.

# 3 STARS

Mighty Peking Man is currently playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre on Saturdays at midnight.

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Afterwords Books (Milwaukee), Lesbian reading group, Reel Time by Julia Willis. A fabulously comic novel of love, art and old movies. All welcome

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

Coast Swing, 8-9pm.

The Rep (Madison), The Rep's season closes with Charles Marowitz's comic thriller, Sherlock's Last Case, through Sunday, May 9 at the Madison Civic Center's Isthmus Playhouse. Tickets \$20-\$25 performances Wed. - Sun. Tickets at Civic Center Ticket Office, 211 State St., or call (608) 266-9055.

# FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Afterwords Books (Milwaukee), Cris Williamson and Tret Fure CD Signing party. Meet them up close and personal, Free, all welcome, 1pm,

Chris Williamson & Tret Fure Concert (Milwaukee), Full Moon Productions presents the duo as they celebrate the release of their new CD Radio Quiet. \$16 advance, \$18 at the door; 8pm, Centennial Hall, 733 8th St. Tickets available at Outpost and

Florentine Opera Company (Milwaukee). The Magic Flute. Music by Mozart, Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder.
Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing

Arts. Sung in English with English supertitles Milw. Chamber Theatre (Milwaukee), Shai Shaw Festival through May 2. In repertoire: Mrs. Warren's Profession, Shaw Shorts, the Wisconsin premiere of Tony Kushner's The Illusion, Mrs. Warren and The Illusion both run in the Cabot Theatre with prices running from \$15 to \$28. Shaw Shorts runs in the Studio Theatre with tickets running \$10. FMI or to order tickets by phone call (414) 291-7800.

Sunset Playhouse (Milwaukee), Production of Larry Shue's The Foreigner, and silent auction to benefit Easter Seals Milw. Co. 6pm, production at 8pm. Tickets are \$15, available by calling Easter Seals at (414) 449-4444.

# SATURDAY, MAY 1

BI Definition (Milwaukee), Bi-weekly meeting, 7pm, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. Topic: Bisexuality and Ethics, Pt. 1.

Katie Gingrass Gallery (Milwaukee), Pastel group exhibition featuring Wisconsin artists; also a nationally known basket artist will hang her work. The show runs until June 30, 241 N. Broadway, (414) 289-

Saturday Softball League (Milwaukee), Softball clinic. FMI call (414) 454-9204.

State Capitol Rally's (Madison), 1pm, State Capitol and Hamilton St., Child Care Workforce Worthy Wage Rally; 2pm, State Capitol and State Street, International Workers Day Rally calls for a peoples

Survival Revival (Milwaukee), Street Beat Vaudeville Night, Featuring the Sister Cashbox Revue, also starring BJ Daniels, live music by Ophelia's Sweet Demise, Mr. Gay WI Dan E. Dance, refreshments. \$3 door good for credit towards purchase. 246 E. Chicago St.

Village Elders LGBT Seniors Photo Exhibit (Milwaukee). A nationally acclaimed exhibit about the lives of gay and Lesbian Seniors opens a two week run at Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. Through May 15.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre (Milwaukee), Wisconsin Playwrights' Festival, show continues tomorrow night. 7:30pm curtain, tickets \$10. Theater located at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. This weekend presents Howard Goldstein's drama A Time To Live.

Rebuilding Falth (Milwaukee), Monthly discussion group for LGBT Catholics meets 10:30am-Noon at Holy Trinity/ Guadalupe School (613 S. 4th St.). Topic is the future of the discussion group. FMI call Fred at (414) 481-8543.

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee), Faculty Artist Concert Series, 1584 N. Prospect, 3pm. Tickets are \$10/ \$7 seniors and students. French

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee), Faculty Artist Concert Series, 1584 N. Prospect, 3pm. Tickets are \$10/ \$7 seniors and students. Season finale, Beautiful Songs in a Beautiful Setting features

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), 720 E. Locust St., FMI (414) 263-5001. Performance by an international trio featuring Michael Zerang, Mars Gustafson and Jaap Blonk Alternating Currents, 7pm.

# MONDAY, MAY 3

Domestic Partnership Town Hall Meeting (Milwaukee), Is government recognition of same sex relationships

at hand? Help to pass a Milwaukee Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance. 6-7:30pm, 170 S. 2nd St. Hosted by ordinance sponsor, Alderman Mike D'Amato TUESDAY, MAY 4

BestD Clinic (Milwaukee), Free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling, 10am-2pm, UW-M Health Fair, Union

Brady East STD Traveling HIV Testing (Milwaukee), UW-M Health Fair, Student Union Concourse, 10am-2pm.

Memorial Student Union's Play Circle (Fredrick March) (Madison), A Language of Their Own. A study of love in the era of AIDS. Free, 7:30pm . Staged again on

Wilw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Youth Concert

— Kaleidoscope, Branching Out With Song. Andrews
Sill, conductor. 10:30am and 12:30pm. 291-6010
for tickets. Uihlein Hall.

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Youth Concert
— Kaleidoscope, Branching Out With Song. Andrews Sill, conductor. 10:30am. 291-6010 for tickets.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), Dear Camera. Diary Film and Video Festival. 8pm, 907 W. National Ave. Tonight: videos by artists with a Milwaukee Connection. Films by Simon Dorfman, videos by Aretha Stricklin. Live music by Quince at

# THURSDAY, MAY 6

Inova, Institute of Visual Arts (Milwaukee). Through May 16 Gallery One & Four, 3253 N. Downer Avenue, (414) 229-6516. Kevin Brand exhibition.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), Dear Camera. Diary Film and Video Festival. 8pm, 907 W. National Ave. Tonight: Autobiographical film and video by Jerry Fortier, 8pm. Live music by Quince at

Wild Space Dance Company (Milwaukee), Fish Smell, Dancers Stink. A celebration of physical comedy, at the Stiemke Theater through May 8. A collaborative performance event featuring Wild Space and the Milwaukee based comedy improvisation troupe, the Dead Alewives. Tickets \$15 adults. \$13 students and seniors, at the Milw. Rep. Box Office, 224-9490. FMI (414) 271-0307.

# FRIDAY, MAY 7

Bliss Studio and Gallery (Milwaukee), Multi media exhibition featuring the works of four artists. Music by DJ B23B & Friends. 8pm-12am, 3178 N. Fratney, upper loft, FMI (414) 507-7510.

Illiw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Bravo Broadway! Andrews Sill, conductor, 8pm showtime. Continues through May 9. Tickets \$15-45, call (414) 291-7605 or 273-7206. Uihlein Hall. Milw.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), Dear Camera. Diary Film and Video Festival. 8pm, 907 W. National Ave. Tonight: Recent diary videos by George Kuchar, 8pm. Live music by Quince at 9:30pm.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), Dear Camera, Diary Film and Video Festival, 8pm, 907 W. National Ave. Tonight: Film and video of Robert Frank, 8pm. Live music by Quince at 9:30pm.

# SATURDAY, MAY 8

Gemini Gender Group (Milwaukee). Meets at Unitarian Universalist West, Brookfield, 7pm, FMI call (414) 297-9328.

Saturday Softball League (Milwaukee), Beginning of league play.

Viliage Elders Reception (Milwaukee), Reception at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), 720 E.

Locust St., FMI (414) 263-5001. Readings by Anthony Bukoski and R.M. Ryan., 8pm. Tickets are \$6.

# SUNDAY, MAY 9

Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre (Milwaukee), Wisconsin Playwrights' Festival, show continues tomorrow night. 7:30pm curtain, tickets \$10. Theater located at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. This weekend presents Michele Van Loon's historical drama-Imagination's Music: The Life and Times of Phillis

# **EVERY TUESDAY,**

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

WYOU Cable Channel 4 (Madison), Nothing To Hide at 4pm, Living With HIV/AIDS at 6pm.

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

## **EVERY SATURDAY**

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





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Have you ever fantasized about anyone other than Fabio? This should hold you for awhile. (Photo enclosed).

> Signed **Fantasy Man Michael**

Dear Fantasy,

Thanks for the great — although revealing photo. Thank God for Polaroids! There is one other man, however,

I got hooked on Wayne Newton in 1985, when Pearl and I saw him perform. After 37 drinks, 4 packs of cigarettes and an orgasm, an usher told us that Wayne Newton wanted to meet the woman who threw her panties on stage. Well, Pearl and I both threw undies at him - hell, I had a few extra in my purse in case my aim was off.

The usher said "some other dame" claimed it was her underwear too, and that security would work it out.

Pearl and I rushed backstage and discovered that the third woman was none other than Jackie Stallone. She looked at us and helched.

"Mr. Newton is with management. He'll be down shortly, but," the security guard said, "he will only see one of you." Pearl knew that if I were selected, I'd find a way to get her inside. If Pearl was chosen, I knew she'd eventually pass out, and I'd be called in to satisfy the star - just like the Kool and the Gang con-

"That's his room." The guard pointed to a door at the end of the hall. "Whoever gets in the room first is the one who can stay and wait for Mr. Newton." The guard put a whistle to his lips. "On your mark," - I kicked my shoes off - "get set," - Pearl squatted into a runner's

"Go!" Jackie Stallone yelled and took off. The three of us raced toward that door like Dorothy, the... Strawman, and the... tin... guy, on their way to the ... well, you know what I mean — we were running fast. Jackie elbowed Peal and knocked her to the ground. "Climb every mountain, Ruthie," Pearl called, lifting herself on one elbow. "Climb every damn

I got a few feet ahead of Stallone and reached for the doorknob when she grabbed the back of my belt and vanked me away. She opened the dressing room door and dashed inside. "Ha!" she cackled. "You have to wake up pretty early to catch the eye of this tiger." "You cheated," I said.

"Shut your cake-hole and get outta here before I go Rocky IV on your ass," Jackie threatened. "I oughtta rip that red cotton candy right off your head, you amazon bitch!" she yelled.

That was it. No one calls this big-boned advice columnist a bitch. I ripped her headband off and threw it to Pearl. Jackie Stallone shot a punch that knocked my glasses off. As if on instinct, Stallone had her fists up in anticipation of my returned swing. "Duck and bob! Duck and bob!" Pearl

yelled, now standing on a chair. "Keep your feet moving! She's got a strong left."

Smack! Stallone got me again with a swift punch to the cheek followed by another to the ribs. "For God sakes!" Pearl called. "You're doing too much bobbing and not enough ducking! Bob, Ruthie, bob!"

I managed to get in a few hits, but nothing compared to Jackie's punches. I was about to give in, when I heard the words that always inspired me. These words brought out the best in me and gave me the strength to overcome any obstacle. To me it is a message of encouragement. To others, it is the theme from

I thought the voices of spirits were echoing through my soul - but soon realized it was Pearl singing through an empty toilet paper roll. "Lady Godiva was a freedom rider," she

sang. Smack! Jackie went flying backwards and hit the floor like a wet sandbag.

"She didn't care if the whole world knew." Pow! I jumped above Sly's mom, grabbed her nylon jogging suit and threw her over the couch. "Joan of arc asked the Lord to guide her." Whack! I slapped her fake eyelashes off.

"She was a woman who... who... something, something, something," Pearl sang. "And then came Maude!" I stood on top of the couch and lowered my foot onto Jackie's stomach. "And then came Maude," I said, joining

With that Jackie sunk her teeth into my ankle, wiggled out from beneath me and crawled out the door. She gave us the finger, passed gas, mumbled something about Brigitte Nielson, and that was the last we saw

In the end, there were no winners; after waiting three hours, we were told that Wayne left the building. Pearl passed out and I made it with the security guard.

Hey kids! I'll be performing at the 1100 Club for their 9pm Possum Queen show on May 1 and later that same night at M&M's. I'll also be co-hosting the Mr. SSBL contest at The Ballgame on May 8! It would be great to see you all there! AND, now is a great time to send me your letters! I can be reached at WI Light, 225 S. Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53202.



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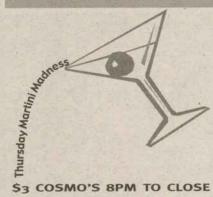
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# VILLAGE ELDERS: Speaking in the Present about a Bright Future

by Bill Meunier

Milwaukee - Our society is one that values youth, good looks and sexuality. That is especially true of the LGBT community. The emphasis on youth has led many Gays and Lesbians to fear growing old. We largely ignore the Elders of our "family." Perhaps that's because they remind us that one day we will reach their ages, perhaps because we don't recognize the value of their experience.

LGBT seniors have much to teach about the Gav experience, including the fact that Gav life and sex doesn't end at 50 or even 60, 70 or 80. A stunning photo and text exhibit, Village Elders, vividly lays out those lessons.

Created by Penny Coleman, a New York professor of photography, Village Elders depicts the real life experiences of LGBT seniors. It features 21 pictures mounted along with text explaining their life stories.

With the help of Wisconsin Light, Metropolitan Community Church Milwaukee,



Donald

the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, SAGE Milwaukee is bringing Village Elders here.

It's only the second showing of the critically acclaimed exhibit outside of New York. Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center, 170 S. Second Street, will host the display from May 1 to May 15. A gala reception will be held at the Center on Saturday May 8 from 4 to 6pm.

The exhibit will be on display at the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, 235 W. Galena, from May 16 to May 23 and at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet Street, from May 24 to the

Coleman says Village Elders is a "family album for a community that does not for the most part pass on its heritage through ties of blood." She says her subjects "have evolved a quilt of lived alternatives to mainstream values, traditional support networks, and hegemonic versions of family." That quilt includes LGBT elders from all back-

There is William and his partner of 50 years, Roy. They still share the same park bench they shared that night in 1949 when they first met. They refer to each other as "mates" and they wanted to married. "I want to be made an honest man after 49 years," says Roy. William and Roy didn't live together until William retired from his professorship at Rutgers. Both believe in monogamy.

Donald, another subject of the exhibit, does not. He is a prolific writer having published several books and numerous articles. Donald says, "Monogamy has nothing to do with us." Talking about the oppression of the past, Donald says, "Don't forget that sometimes it was fun."

So is his present. "Who says an 80-yearold diabetic can't hire pairs of hustlers out of HX and crow about it afterwards?" he asks.

Then there are Emece and Caroline. For much of her life, the 60-year-old Ernece maintained relationships with men and women.

> They talk about their blackness and their love. Caroline says. "For the first time in my life, I'm with someone about whom I cannot say, 'If need be, I can go away.'"

> Jerre, age 80, talks about "making eye contact on the street when I was out today. I am getting back in the swing again as far as women go."

> Just two years before Coleman shot his pictures, Hank began "gathering the female things he coveted." The woman he is choosing to become calls herself Helena. "I am going on 63," he says. "My life is just beginning. I'm not a misfit."

> Blackie's lover of 32 years, Helen, died in 1987. Blackie buried Helen with their wedding pictures on her chest. Born with both male and female sex organs, she says she looks like a female on the outside, but never felt like one. The 80-year-old says, "I'm old fashioned. I'm the butch. You're the femme. I love women. Not the

Lesbian way. The man's way."

Jerri, a 92-year-old Lesbian, is another



only difference between me now and me 30 years ago is that I'm not getting laid. Find me another 90-year-old Lesbian who wants to go to bed with me. 70 would be nice, but 70 is my daughter's age and it would feel incestuous."

Coleman adds that one day Jerri called her because she was being sent to a home. "She said to me, 'How am I going to get my vibrator in there?" laughs Coleman. She adds, "I want to grow up and be like her."

Village Elders has "empowered people to talk about who they are," says Coleman. She told Light, "It got a huge response during a display at New York's LGBT Harvey Milk High School. It was a vision of a possible future that wasn't bleak."

Coleman said she allowed her subjects to choose their own photos. "It was a vanity thing. Caroline and Ernece wanted them redone," she said. "They said 'This isn't right. Caroline is always on top."

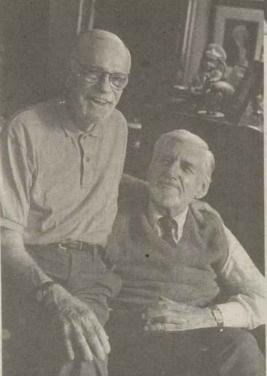
How did she come up with the idea of a traveling exhibit about LGBT Seniors? "I am a documentary photographer, explains Coleman. "I like to explore issues that are important to me. I was in a relationship at the time. I didn't want to split up the books and records again. I wanted this one to last. I wanted some images of lives that had worked."

> "I started out shooting couples who had been in long term relationships. Half way through I decided that I was excluding too many people. For example, I met Larry. His lover died, and he had a new lover who was only 27 years old. I didn't want to leave that out."

On an emotional level, there is little left out of Village Elders. Coleman's photos and text paint colorful, rich portraits of her subjects. Through her lens and their words, Village Elders speaks to all of us. It speaks of a rich past and an optimistic future. It is not to be missed.



Ernece and Caroline



William & Roy.



# **Summer Sports Really. Heating Up**

## SSBL SPONSOR LIST **CHANGES IN '99**

Mug Shots, River West and 219 will join the Saturday Softball League as new sponsors in '99. Coming back will be traditional Sponsors Balistreri's, The Ballgame, M&M, and Woody's. Both the Ballgame and M&M will celebrate 22 years as consistent sponsors this year. The Balistreri's team has roots that go back almost as long. The League urges potential players to stop in at any of the above sponsors if they are interested in playing for that particular sponsor.

If going to a bar is not your thing, players can also call the SSBL 24-hour hotline at (414) 454-9204, or come to the on-the-field clinic on May 1 to join a team. The clinic will start at 11am and go through the afternoon. It will be held at Sijon field (California and KK).

SSBL's schedule is more intriguing this year. The League will play games at locales other than at Sijon this year, too. On May 16 they'll be at Wick (51st & Vliet) for games, and at Mitchell Park (behind the Domes) with its great fan friendly hillside in July. To end the

season, an All-Star Game will also be at Mitchell Park in the end of August.

The date for one of my favorites, the SSBL Follies, has been set for May 22 at 219. Each team gets up on stage for a skit. The top talent from teams entertains at whatever they do best. Its a funny and crazy late afternoon show that tickles the funny bone and highlights the off field talents of the League Members. A small cover charge at the door is offset by one of 219's famous drinks. The Camel cigs team will be there with free giveaways and door prizes.

Don't forget the games start May 8 at Sijon Field. There's plenty of room for fans, and a chance to get a glimpse of all the new faces in SSBL this year.

## **National Women's Outdoor Gathering Memorial Day** Weekend:

Celebrating its 20th year, the National Women's Outdoor Sports Group Gathering will be held at Boston University's Camp Sargent in Petersborough, NH. The featured Keynote Speaker will be Jeannette Belliveau, author of An Amateur's Guide to the Planet. Lots of slides and tips for the woman traveler.

The only continent she has not visited is Antarctica. She'll also have plenty of insight on solo travel. You can register on-line at www.woman-outdoor.org or by mail at Woman Outdoor, PO Box 477, Plainville, CT 06062. Maximum Friday to Monday fee is \$190 for cabins or less for shorter stays, including breakfast. Plenty of hiking, canoeing, etc. is planned for the weekend.

## Gamma:

Yes, Gamma's Web page is still down, but you can call (414) 540-1202 for information about the group. Social volleyball is played every summer Saturday from 1pm for anyone interested. The matches are held at UWM's gym. Nonmembers pay \$3 per day. GAMMA has many other events, including board game nights at the Community Center. Give them a jingle.

## Running:

Milwaukee's Front Runners will be starting up Sunday Late Morning/breakfast runs soon. They always meet at The Water Tower by St. Mary's for the jog/run/walk. After running, the group picks a nearby restaurant for brunch. Call them at (414) 332-1527.

## Tennis, Tennis, Tennis

Players of all skill levels are invited to join Milwaukee's LGBT Tennis league. Teams will play their games at Lake Park, 4pm on Sunday afternoons. Call (414) 543-9643 for more info. The Milwaukee Tennis Club is setting up a registration party to welcome its new players, so give them a call to sign up.

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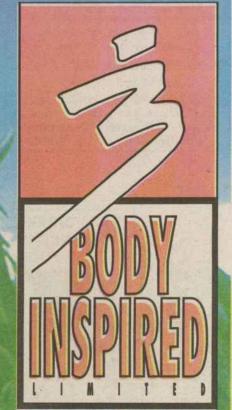
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The cover story about Gay sports in the last issue got me thinking back to my long-ago childhood. I was one of those kids who always got selected last for team activities, whether it was in the neighborhood or at school. In my earliest years, I always preferred playing doctor over sand-lot ball.

Later, in junior and senior high school, I was always trying to get out of gym classes with excuses from my mom or doctor, so I could hang out with the other non-athletic types and play ping pong.

I still cringe to think about playing dodge ball. Whoever invented that game had to be a sadist. My gym teacher, the little jerk, used to get a twinkle in his eye when he'd announce we were playing dodge ball... again.

All it did was give hormone raging teen boys a chance to inflict pain on each other. I don't even consider it a sport, and my hope is that it has since been banned in schools. If I had kids, I'd sure as hell wouldn't want them being

THE STEWART'S HOMOPAGE

See Dick.
Sorry, Jane.

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I should have known then that I was Gay because I fit a number of stereotypes; I Loved the latest clothing and hair styles, had more female than male friends, took every art class offered, worked on the school year book and hated gym!

Another thing about sports that I was uncomfortable with was the high school locker/shower room. I was self conscious about my weight, and even more so because I was the last guy to grow public hair. How humiliating. On top of that, I was already well aware of my Gay inclinations. I was also worried I was going to pop a hard-on while being in the showers because of all those naked guys. I must admit, I looked but worried so much about being caught looking that I'd break out in a sweat all over again.

My dislike of athletics continued even during the three years I spent in the Army. I got in shape for the first time in years, but all the rules and techniques it took to participate in sports were not ingrained in my being, so I always sat out, and usually read, or man watched, instead.

I've always been more of a watcher than a doer, I guess. The only sport I regularly enjoy is cruising, or at least people watching. And, I'm out of practice even doing that!

Give me a seat on the sidelines or in front of the television; I'd much rather watch men playing volleyball, softball, football, gymnastics or diving than to actually do them myself. Don't get me wrong — I'm not an armchair quarterback or a sports couch potato, but I like to watch occasionally.

# CYBERSPACE Lavender Rights

by Michael Stewart

The online LGBT community thought itself safe last fall when the leadership of the House of Representatives lost interest in a bill called the "Child Online Protection Act." Thus, Cyberlibertarians were taken by surprise when Representative Michael Oxley (R-Ohio) succeeded in resurrecting and attaching it to the mammoth federal budget as a rider, at literally the last minute.

The act — commonly referred to as "CDA II," after 1996's "Communications Decency Act," which the Supreme Court unanimously found to be unconstitutional in 1997 - makes it a federal crime for web sites to communicate material considered "harmful to minors." Penalties include up to \$150,000 and six months in prison for each day of violation if convicted.

Unlike the original CDA, which invented an "indecency" standard for the Internet, the COPA uses the legal phrasing "harmful to minors," which when applied to print materials is a legal standard that has been upheld in 48 states. In those instances, the standard passed legal muster by leaving the definition of "harmful" to local community standards.

Originally due to take effect on November 21, 1998, this latest attempt at anti-Gay censorship was held at bay when a coalition led by the American Civil Liberties Union (http://www.aclu.org), persuaded the federal district court in Philadelphia to issue a temporary restraining order blocking its enforcement until hearings were completed in January.

But in what community is the Internet? The crux of the ACLU's case is that, with no real-world boundaries, web sites would be forced to limit themselves to presenting only that material which would be acceptable under the most conservative definition of the term. Even the Wisconsin Light website could be a ticket to the clink if the zaftig Mrs. Ima Bigot of Green Bay thinks her little Johnny will be traumatized by knowing there are — shhh! — homosexuals in the area.

After six days of testimony by Department of Justice and ACLU witnesses, Judge Lowell A. Reed on February 1 issued a preliminary injunction forbidding the Attorney General from enforcing COPA. In the memorandum accompanying his order, Judge Reed found that the law "imposes a burden on speech that is protected for adults," especially that which would be "perfectly legal if not conducted by means of a website."

So We're Safe, Right? Nope! On April 2, attorneys for the Department of Justice filed with the court an appeal of Judge Reed's ruling. The matter now moves to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, where it will likely receive a hearing before the end of the calendar year. Based on the same court's CDA ruling, most net-mavens expect Judge Reed's order to be upheld, which would then put the case on track for the Supreme Court to review, which is likely to take as long as two years.

Already, more than a few web sites devoted to LGBT content have opted to go offline or barricade themselves behind Adult Verification Services. As is the case in any witch-hunt, points of view which are unpopular or which don't evince the preacher-sanctioned awe for "family values" and "tradition" will be the first targets. At least 13 states have passed Internet censorship laws since 1995, and bills that limit freedom of speech online are pending in 10 other states, including Wisconsin.

Ultimately, the bottom line is the bottom line: you get what you pay for. So long as the LGBT community lets legislators who have only their own interests at heart get elected, the future of queer cyberspace will always be in doubt.

The clock is set for two years, and it's already ticking.

Wisconsin Light is pleased to be one of the few LGBT newspapers to present a column on the Internet. The author can be reached via email: michael@michaelstewart.com

SIFF 'N BUNKY











# In Between To Close

News... I am sad to report that one of my favorite bars, In Between, will be closing sometime next month. I heard rumors that the bar was going to be closing, so I talked to owner Curt Peck about it. Curt said that he would indeed soon be ending his "life behind bars."

Curt said he is waiting for some paperwork

While the rumor of In Between's closing is

true, the rumors about why it is closing are

not. Contrary to what some people are saying,

the bar is not in debt. Curt said he is "burned

"Yes, the stock has been waning," he said.

Why then is he closing? "People think that

"But that's deliberate. All of my bills are paid.

I am not bankrupt, and the bar is doing okay."

owning a bar is so easy. It's not. It's a tremen-

dous amount of work. I want a life," said Curt.

"I don't have one anymore. It's gotten to the

out" after 15 years in the bar business.

from the owner of the building the bar is locat-

TER

ed in before setting a closing date.

pleasure. I want something for myself."

Curt also said he wants to spend more time with his partner, Doug. "We've been together for 9 years, but the last 3 we haven't really been together because of all the time I put in at the bar."

He said that he was very proud of In

Between. "I put a lot of work into this place to make it look nice. I am very proud of that. It's just that the amount of time it takes to do the ordering, pay the bills, work behind the bar.

make sure everything is running properly and that the equipment is all working as it should is more than I can give."

Curt told me his staff is fully informed of the closing. He was emphatic on that point. "I have made sure that my staff knew what is going on. I don't want to leave them in the lurch. Whatever I know, they know."

Having talked to some of the staff, I can personally vouch for that. It's nice to know that some bar owners care enough about those working for them to keep them informed. That hasn't always happened. Can you say Wreck

Curt had a lease that would have gone until the end of the year, but the landlord was kind

enough to give him the chance to leave earlier and he took it. "I just decided that I had enough," he said.

While it has been a lot of work for Curt, he does say he will miss certain things. In Between's famous Packer parties is on that list. They were among the best ones in LGBT Wisconsin and some would say they were among the best in the State. "The classy people who I've met here," is something else Curt says he will miss.

Speaking of classy, Curt and In Between certainly fall into that category in my book. He has been one of the most community minded owners I have ever seen. The bar with all those antiques, great parties and homey atmosphere is one of my favorite stops. There is nothing in Gay Milwaukee quite like In Between. I will miss it.

Curt says he is planning to throw a big closing night bash. Stay tuned for details.

Recaps... Milwaukee was just oozing with butchness during the Daddy-Boy contest weekend. There was a nice crowd at all of the events. The cocktail reception at Woody's was fun. So was the cocktail party at South Water Street Docks. The 1100 Club hosted a "Granddaddy contest." I think that was the first one ever. The Milwaukee Eagle was the site of both the Boy contest and the Daddy contest. They did a really nice job with it.

Congrats to the winners Daddy - Bob Mazzacone, Boy - Steve Rose and to everyone who made the weekend the big success it was.

That's a wrap for this week folks! Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

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

# SATURDAY, MAY 1

Barracks/Club 5 (Madison), Unicoms Club Night, 1st Saturday of the month.

Fannies (Milwaukee), Live Swing and Dance Lessons,

## SUNDAY, MAY 2

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

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Club 5 (Madison), Cinco de Mayo Party, Pinata and drink specials, 8pm-Close.

Fluid (Milwaukee), Cinco de Mayo celebration. Giveaways and DJ John Murges spinning various Latin styles.

# FRIDAY, MAY 7

1100 Club (Milwaukee), Wisconsin Mr. Drummer reception, 8pm.

Fannies (Milwaukee), Ronnie Nyles, 7-9pm.

## SATURDAY, MAY 8

Eagle (Milwaukee), BESTD Clinic offers free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling from 10pm-1am. Fannies (Milwaukee), Becky's Big 30th Party.

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee), Wisconsin Mr. Drummer contest, 9pm.

Saturday Softball League (Milwaukee), Mr. SSBL Contest, judge your favorite players chests, legs and muscles. League fundraiser at The Ballgame, after the SSBL games.

Woody's (Milwaukee), Mr. Wisconsin Drummer prejudging, 4pm.

## SUNDAY, MAY 9

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee), Mr. Wisconsin Leather Victory Party, reception, 3pm.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

La Cage (Milwaukee), Possum Queen House Party, 10pm. Guest DJ John Murges. Special Raffles. \$3 Cover. Benefits ARCW & Cancer Foundation.

# point where even just watching TV is a real LWAUKEE'S

# DADDY BOY CONTEST WEEKEND



# LIVE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

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

Club 5 (Madison), Female Impersonators on Sun., 10pm.

Club 219 (Milwaukee), Female Impersonators 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), Female Impersonators 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.

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



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KARAOKE

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	BAR	GUIDE	
APPLETO		STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.	
Rascal's Bar & Gri	II MW, F	702 E. Wisconsin, 54991	954-9262
BELOIT (	608)		
Kloset	MW, DJ	232 Shirland Ave, 53511	363-8764
CENTRA	L WISCON	ISIN (715)	
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington, Wausau, 54401	842-3225
Platwood Club	G/S, MW, DJ	1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point, 54481	341-8862
EAU CLA	IRE (715)		
Scooters	Wm	411 Galloway St., 54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	MW, G/S	302 E. Madison, 54703	832-9237
GREEN E	BAY (920)		
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main St., 54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main St, 54304	437-9256
Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway, 54303	432-9646
Sass	WM, S	840 S. Broadway, 54304	437-7277
Za's/Java'	MW, DJ, E, F, V	1106 Main St., 54301	435-5476
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	Manual Charge	1106 Main St., Upper, 54301	435-5476
LA CROS			
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N. 5th St., 54601	782-9061
Players	G/S, MW	218 Main St., 54601	782-9279
MADISO	THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING, MICH.		
CE's	W,m	2415 Winnebago St. 53704	241-5042
Club 5	MW, F	5 Applegate Ct., 53713	277-9700
Kirby's Klub Mens Room	MW, DJ, S, E	121 W. Main St., 53703	251-5838
Planet Q	M, L/L MW, V, DJ, E	3054 E. Washington, 53704 5 Applegate Ct., 53713	241-9335 277-9700
Ray's Bar & Grill	Mw, 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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Fyfe's Corner Bist	ro Fine Dining	1344 E. Washington	251-8700
MILWAUI	KEE (414)		ELECT.
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
Ball Game	M, S	196 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-7474
Barbie Dolls Play		700 E. Meinecke, 53212	374-7441
Boot Camp C'est La Vie	M, L/L M, D, E	209 E. National Ave., 53204	643-6900
Club 219	Mw, DJ, E, V	231 S. 2nd St., 53204 219 S. 2nd St., 53204	291-9600 271-3732
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-DISH
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 Milwaukee Eagle	MW, E, F	124 N. Water St., 53202	347-1962
Shaft Bar	M, L/L, DJ, D M, L/L	300 W. Juneau, 53203 300 West Juneau	273-6900 273-6900
South Water St. I		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

# RACINE/KENOSHA (414)

Club 94	MW, DJ, E	9001 120th Ave., Kenosha, 5314
Clubhouse Filling Station	MW, F, DJ, E	6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 5314
Capers/Illusions	MW, DJ. E	6305 120th Ave., Kenosha, 5314
JoDee's	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St., Racine, 534
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St., Racine, 53403

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Late Nite

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# SHEBOYGAN (920)

Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St., 53081	457-163	6
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857-3744 857-3813 634-9804

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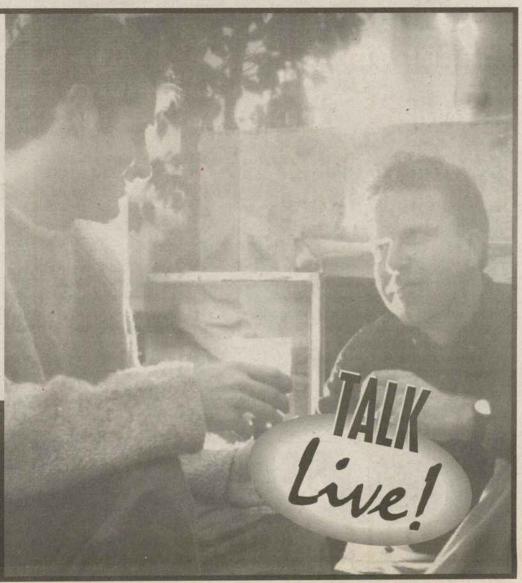
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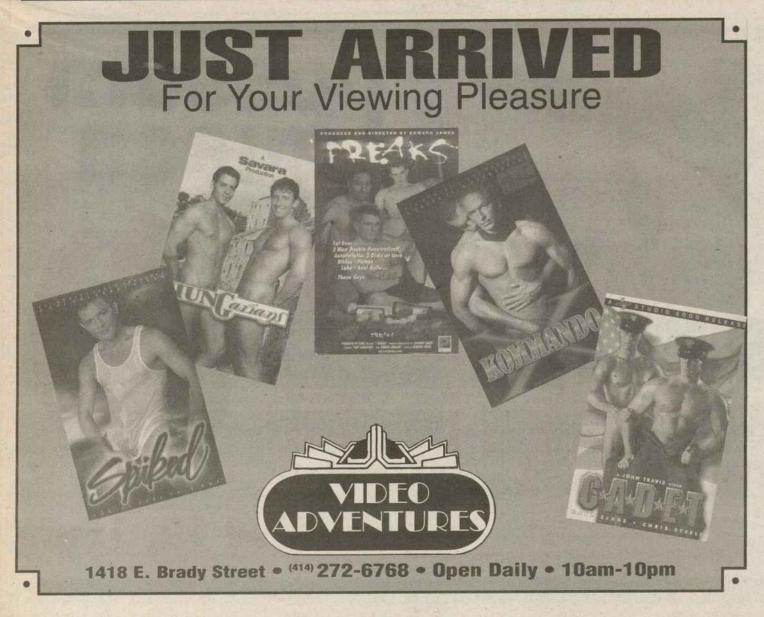
Glass Menagerie

Annex Cafe

Bev's Jook Joint	Wm	820 Tower Ave., 55880	392-5373
JT's Bar & Grill	MW, DJ	1506 N. 3rd St, 55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave., 55880	392-1756
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