

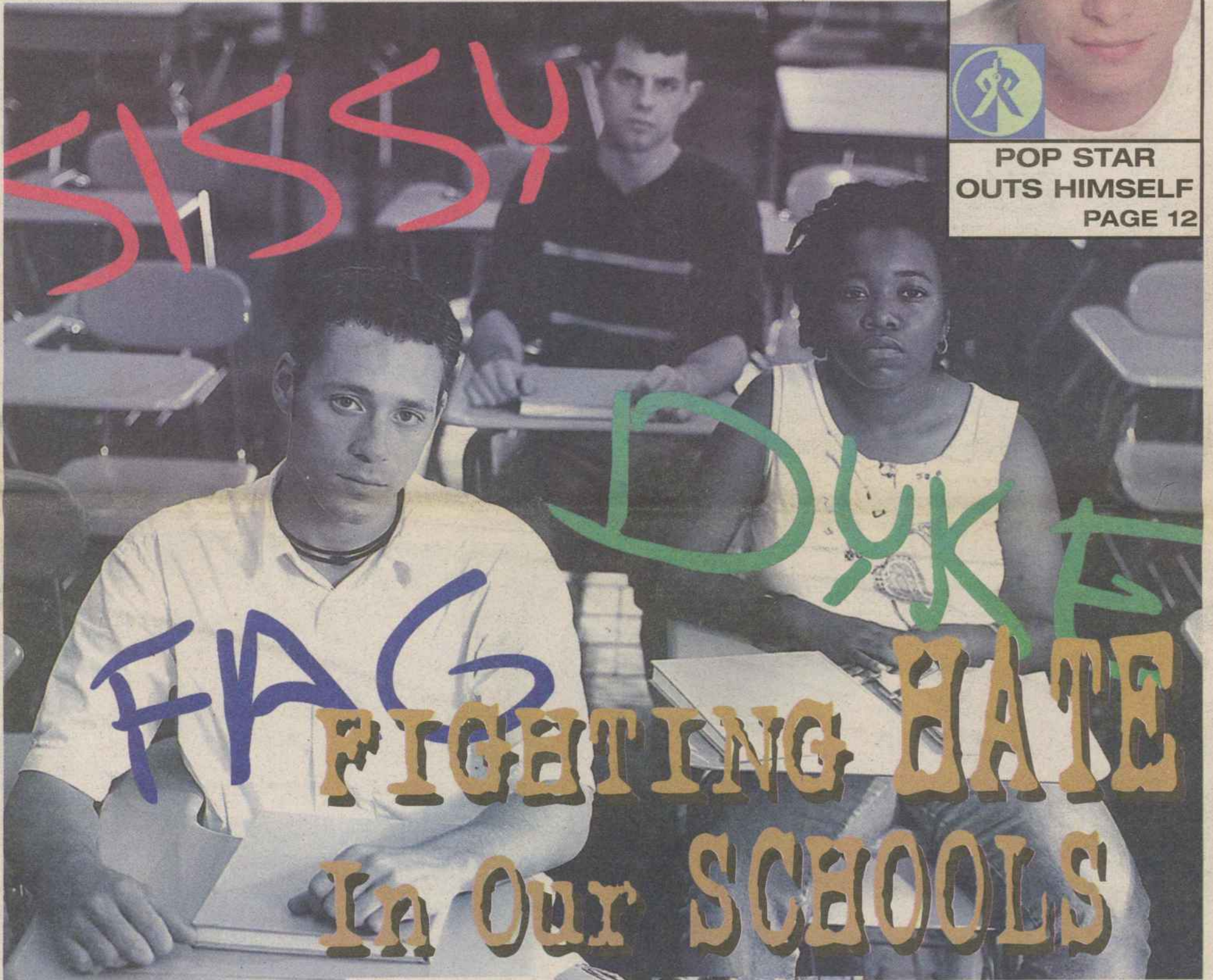
The Weekly Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

WI Light WEEKLY

June 23-29, 1999



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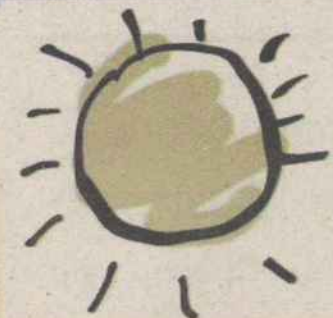
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FIGHTING HATE

In Our SCHOOLS

Inside



**Madison's OutReach
Page 6**



**Romantic Getaways
Page 18**



**Ruthie
Page 20**



**MADISON'S
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JULY 15-18, 1999**

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Schedule of Events

Perfect Harmony Concert
Thursday, July 15

Outreach 7th Annual Awards Banquet
Friday, July 16, 6pm
Monona Terrace Convention Center

Ten Percent Society Dance
Friday, July 16, 8pm - Midnight
Monona Terrace Convention Center

MAGIC Picnic
Saturday, July 17, 1pm - 7pm
Brittingham Park

University of Wisconsin GLB Alumni Brunch
Sunday, July 18

Pride March and Celebration
Sunday, July 18

Rally: 1:30pm
State St. Steps of Capitol

March: 2pm, From Capitol
Down State St. to Park

Celebration: 2:30pm - 6pm
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WILight

June 23-29, 1999

Contents**News & Commentary**

- 4 Fighting Hate in our Schools
- 7 State News
- 8 National News
- 10 CommUNITY Page

Spotlight Section

- 12 Teen Idol Outs Himself
- 13 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 14 Film Reviews

LifeStyle Section

- 18 Romantic Getaways
- 19 Out in Cyberspace

Nights Out Section

- 21 Dusty After Dark
- 22 Bar Guide

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AP Associated Press**PUBLISHERS NOTE**

With this issue we celebrate the first anniversary of the new *Wisconsin Light*. Bringing the state its first full-time LGBT news operation has not been easy. Any organization is ultimately about its people. Our central task was to assemble a staff that could improve the presentation of the news and do it on a weekly basis. As this year has come and gone, the *Light* has settled into the weekly routine with surprising ease, something that simply could not have been done with the skeleton staffs of the past.

Credit needs to go to Bill Meunier whose decades of tireless efforts and dedication on behalf of our community continue to this day in his role as Editor of this newspaper. His historic interview with the nation's first openly LGBT person ever elected to Congress (first term) was perhaps the single most gratifying event in my publishing career. Bill, and the *Light*, was also honored by being one of only twelve journalists invited to a recent White House press conference. He does have his detractors but don't we all? To them, I ask, who is more qualified to hold the reigns of the states only weekly LGBT publication? Thanks for everything, Bill.

The most visible change in the *Light* has been its art design and layout. Thanks go to Scott Deibel, who came to us from the now awkwardly titled *Shepherd Express Metro*. The use of color and images has been dramatically enhanced, bringing to our readers a more enjoyable and readable experience. We now get requests for reprints from our nationally syndicated writers who use them as examples of what CAN be done with their work. Scott is also responsible for our **wilight.com** website, which recently won its first design award.

Ron Gieman's professionalism, knowledge and dedication have been immeasurable valuable, particularly to me personally. As I previously had no experience in the gay press, he has helped to fill in the gaps and has provided support for a variety of critical functions. His popular and insightful column So.... is just the most visible of his contributions. Thanks Ron.

Organizations are about people. Timm Armour, also new to this business, has quickly engrained himself into this newspaper's fabric in a myriad of valuable ways, from mail operations to bookkeeping. Malaka Sanders, just three months into her newspaper career, has been instrumental in the doubling of our sales. I am absolutely delighted to announce that Diane Gregory (known to many of you as "Legs") has joined our staff to assist with sales and marketing. As a recent graduate of Alverno College, she brings her skills and connections to an organization that has even more ambitious goals for its second year.

There are many, many more who contribute to this effort. I do not mean to give anyone short shrift. They are all valuable in their own ways. Our contributing writers and photographers add a depth of experience and

personality that is essential for a true community effort. In the coming weeks several new writers are joining these efforts. As we grow, the many voices in our community will have an expanding palette for their art and ideas. This is what a newspaper is about.

This company is also about to launch activities that will have an impact on LGBT journalism far beyond our Wisconsin borders. While the details remain confidential, I can say that your *Light* intends to play a role in the development, economically and editorially, of LGBT papers large and small from coast to coast. Ultimately, our goal is to effect the quality of lives of an entire community, a community that is without borders.

Organizations are about people. Our first year has been trying but at its end we have succeeded in assembling a base of people whose talent, experience and commitment provide our organization, and our community, with the most essential of resources — knowledge. It is our job to focus these resources in ways that can foster a better life

for future generations. That is our commitment. Nothing less will do.

Greg Quindel
Publisher

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FIGHTING HATE In Our SCHOOLS

by Bill Meunier

Part One of a *Wisconsin Light* series

It's Friday at the local high school. The bell rings to signal the end of the school day. Students pour out of their classrooms. They chat and laugh as they talk about the upcoming weekend. Some look forward to tonight's date. Others are relieved to be free of a rigid class schedule. For some LGBT students, however, the relief comes from the knowledge that for a few days, they will be free of snide remarks, taunts and fears for their safety.

Not every Gay or Lesbian student views school as an emotional and academic challenge. There are many openly LGBT students who thrive and prosper. There are numerous examples of their straight peers showing support and acceptance. However, for many LGBT teens, school brings a string of traumatic experiences that affect their ability to learn and that can shape their lives.

LGBT student safety has not been on the front burner for Gay activists. Fortunately, the issue is growing in prominence and moving to the forefront.

As national and local LGBT organizations go to work, Gay and Lesbian students are finding that they no longer stand alone. The fact that their well being has become a subject of growing national concern indicates that progress is being made.

Gay students and their advocates point to some victories. LGBT student groups are becoming more common. The courts are demanding an end to the harassment. The President has made school related hate crimes a priority. Still there is cause for concern.

Consider these statistics garnered from studies done by state agencies in Vermont and Massachusetts.

LGBT students are four times more likely to attempt suicide, seven times more likely to be threatened or attacked by their peers, and seven times more likely to skip school out of concern for their safety than their straight counterparts are.

A Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) fact sheet says that research shows over 80% of LGBT students have been verbally abused, 44% have been threatened with violence, and 17% were the victims of physical attacks.

Gay and Lesbian students, especially boys, often find themselves adrift in a sea of verbal abuse that lowers their self-esteem and can even lead to suicide.

As noted Child psychologist Michael Thompson wrote in a recent *Boston Globe* column, "Anything that is tender, compassionate or might be interpreted as 'feminine' comes under attack. Boys physically intimidate one another; they remark on each other's development, on penis size.

"They perfect the put-down and make it an art form. No one escapes. In this culture of cruelty, every eighth-grader is on guard lest he show too much anxiety, too much compassion, too much interest in a non-masculine pursuit, such as theater, and thereby draw the contempt of the high-status, athletic boys."

In a March 1997 survey conducted by the *Des Moines Register*, high school students reported hearing anti-Gay remarks an average of 25 times a day. Even more alarming was the finding that students say that teachers who hear those remarks fail to respond 97% of the time.

The taunts, insults and jokes can have a profound impact on young minds. In the classroom our schools teach academic subjects, but with dances, sports teams, clubs, and simply by gathering students together, they also teach socialization skills.

Students who are isolated from their peers don't learn those skills. Instead, they feel inferior and gain scars they are often carried into adulthood. For some, those scars are physical as well as psychological.

A 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Study conducted by the State of Massachusetts showed that 24% of Gay students were in fights that resulted in a need for medical attention. Only 3.3% of straight students reported needing medical attention after a fight.

Attacks on LGBT students can be vicious.

When Adam Colton awoke in a hospital room last February, the last thing he could remember was getting in his car for school. Authorities found Colton's locked car in the school parking lot. They found Colton unconscious, cut and badly bruised with the word "fag" carved on his stomach and on his right forearm.

The attack came a week after Colton announced his intention to form a Gay Straight Alliance at California's San Marin High School. Unknown assailants also bashed Colton last September. His parents blame school administrators for not reacting properly to the first assault.

Anti-LGBT school violence isn't confined to students who are Gay, nor is it limited to public schools. Last month, a student at an exclusive, liberal prep school in Northfield, Massachusetts was assaulted by two other students, who used a pocket knife to carve the word "homo" in five inch high letters on his back. His attackers, Jonathon Shapiro and Matthew Rodgers, selected him because he liked to listen to the music of Queen, which they called "a Gay band."

Shapiro and Rodgers aren't street punks. Rodgers had just accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. The appointment has been rescinded.

The violence isn't a one way street either. Last week, a 16-year-old Massachusetts teen was sentenced to a prison term of 6 to 9 years for fatally stabbing another 16-year-old who on several occasions called him "a faggot."

In December of 1997, Kentucky's Michael Carneal murdered three of his classmates in a

nationally published incident. Carneal, who says he is not Gay, told psychiatrists that he was reacting to accusations that he was.

Not all of the attacks on Gay and Lesbian students come from other students. A majority of Gay students report hearing anti-Gay comments from teachers.

Last month failed congressional candidate and Fundamentalist minister, Ron Greer, sent a letter to 3,000 Verona households. Greer's letter said the suburban Madison school district was using tax dollars to promote homosexuality because it allowed a pro-LGBT tolerance group, Alliance for Acceptance, to meet on school property.

The letter also attacked a guidance counselor for putting a "Safe Zone" poster on her door. The poster tells students that no matter who they are, they are welcome in her office.

Included in the mailing were minutes of an Alliance for Acceptance meeting. The minutes contained a list of over a dozen students who had attended. In effect, Greer had outted these students to an entire community.

School officials told *Wisconsin Light* that other students rallied around those who were on the list. A source in the district office, however, pointed out that the school can only protect them while they are on school property.

Greer is far from alone in attacking the idea of LGBT tolerance in America's schools. Throughout the country, the Religious Right attacks any proposal that requires that schools teach tolerance of Gays or even that they agree not to discriminate against LGBT students and staff.

The debates that those proposals generate can have a devastating impact on young minds struggling to come to grips with their sexuality.

Two weeks ago, the California Assembly failed by one vote to pass a "Dignity for Students Act" proposed by Lesbian State Representative Sheila Kuehl. The legislation would have required school districts to add the words "sexual orientation" to their non-discrimination clauses.

The Religious Right launched a weeks long campaign to derail Kuehl's proposal. Religious activists spent over \$300,000 to buy ads and radio commercials, which claimed that its passage would force the teaching of perversion. They targeted Latino Democrats, who represent conservative districts. One of the ads called on the State Assembly to "Protect Our Children From Sexual Assault."

Observers say the debate on Kuehl's bill was among the most acrimonious ever seen in the State Capitol. Gay and Lesbian students reading accounts of it in newspapers or on the Internet learned that some elected officials view them as "immoral" and "perverted." They also learned that at least one Republican legislator objected to the legislation because he feared its passage would make it difficult for anyone to come on school grounds and "cure" them.

That battle over Kuehl's bill was a public one. Not all of the battles take place in the spotlight. Many are taking place behind closed doors.

The Superintendent of a small town Wisconsin school district told *Wisconsin Light* that when he proposed staff training on LGBT issues, a teacher objected. "He asked me, 'What about the other side,'" said the Superintendent. "I was shocked. I asked him if he was suggesting that violence be permitted against some of our students. What other side could there be?" The training sessions took place. The Superintendent called them a success and "a first step."

Diversity training sessions can be a partial answer. A GLSEN study showed that 53% of LGBT students have heard teachers make anti-Gay remarks.

There are other answers as well. Concerned parents, educators and national organizations like the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, GLSEN, P-Flag, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition and the students themselves are working together to provide and implement others.

Next week - Some Answers

From Surviving to Thriving: Two Gay High School Journeys

by Mike Fitzpatrick

Northeast Wisconsin Bureau

APPLETON - A look through their respective yearbooks won't reveal much about two Appleton high school heroes, Brian Jansen and Tricia K. Their exploits weren't athletic or academic, yet their impact has been just as dramatic as a homecoming victory or a full scholarship for the area's Gay teens.

As peer facilitators for Appleton's GLBT Youth Partnership, they now share their life stories and insights on growing up Gay with more than 60 LGBT youths who travel from throughout northeast Wisconsin to attend the group's Tuesday evening meetings. "We've had kids from throughout the Fox Valley - Appleton, Neenah, Oshkosh and Kaukauna," Brian said. "But they've also come from Green Bay, Shawano and Antigo as well."

Brian is a survivor in every meaning of the word, having survived a series of secret suicide attempts beginning in seventh grade. For Brian, getting through junior high was far rougher than high school. "The 'fag' thing was everywhere - kids are so less mature there," Jansen said.

He tried overdosing on several different combinations of over-the-counter drugs. "I'd either pass out or get sick and throw up," Brian noted. "I know my parents never knew (because) they'd have done something about it. They were just used to me coming home from school and going directly to my room and being quiet for the rest of the day."

Like many other LGBT youth in the '90s, Brian found a source of support on the Internet. "I used to go into the chat rooms, first on AOL (America Online) and then later on IRC (Internet Relay Chat)," Brian said. "I met a lot of kids my age and a few Gay adults who helped me realize that (suicide) was not the way to deal with (being Gay)."

One of those cyber pals was "Jeff," another area teen who already had discovered the LGBT Partnership. "He sorta forced me to go to a meeting," Brian admits, even though "Jeff" didn't know where Jansen lived. Jansen believes that the group turned his life around. "After three meetings, I knew that I could be happy and healthy."

Life at the 1500 student Appleton East High School, where Jansen graduated from in 1998, had its share of surprises as well. "Everyone knew that the principal wasn't supportive of Gay kids, so a lot of people rebelled against that - both teachers and students."

According to Jansen, the school administration's refusal to deal with diversity issues led to wildly varying responses to harassment by the faculty. "Some teachers would come down hard - give detentions or suspensions to kids who picked on others. Other teachers did nothing."

Jansen reports that he felt unsafe in only one class through his high school years: junior year chemistry. "That teacher wouldn't stop any kind of harassment against anyone - Gay, Hispanic, Asian or developmentally disabled. It would happen and he would just look the other way."

Brian also claims that he didn't make the school wrestling squad because of that teacher's prejudice. "I had done volunteer work with the squad and because I could fill an open weights (position), some of the guys wanted me to join and had talked me into it," Jansen said.

"The coach, who was also my chemistry teacher, told me to my face, 'I will not allow anybody who is that way on my team.' I still wasn't out, so I didn't try to do anything about it."

Brian's senior year brought the biggest surprise of all: his public coming out in front a classroom full of his peers. "The first day of school Deb Weiher-Traas, the teacher of my Interpersonal Relationships class, asked everyone to reveal one of their deepest, darkest secrets," Jansen said. "But before the class began, she came up and whispered to me, 'I already know what your secret is, and you don't have to share that.' So I didn't then."

"The coach — who was also my chemistry teacher — told me to my face, 'I will not allow anybody who is that way on my team.' I still wasn't out, so I didn't try to do anything about it."

— Brian Jansen

When he did decide to share his sexual identity with the class as part of a speech assignment, he got his greatest surprise of all. "I knew a lot of people suspected, and I had really hated high school before I came out, but when I did it — and I was scared beyond belief — I found out who my true friends really were," Jansen said.

According to Jansen, after the speech, first one then all of the "jocks" in the class came up and hugged him. "They were so cool. A couple of them told me that if anyone ever tried anything to let them know — they'd protect me."

Brian claims that the jocks even promised to provide security if he wanted to take a male date to the senior dance. "I had even planned to go but ended up getting called into work that night," Jansen said.

Tricia K's experiences at the 2,000 student Appleton North, where she graduated from this June, were a mixed bag of surprises as well.

Tricia feels that because her coming out was more personal, her classmates' approach to her sexual identity was more restrained. "It (being a Lesbian) was a known fact, but just about no one ever asked me about it," Tricia said. "Except for one guy. He asked and I told, and he replied, 'That is so cool!'"

Tricia said she became aware of her sexual orientation when she was 13 but didn't come out until she was 17. "Those were four very hard years," she said. "I had to exaggerate friendships (with boys) into crushes, and I was never comfortable at the formal dances."

Tricia went through several short-term relationships with male friends in an effort to fit in. "They didn't last long because I wouldn't do anything," she joked.

Brian reports that she came out by telling "Jess," a close male friend. "It turned out he was G, too, which I suspected," she said.

According to Tricia, as she told more friends, the word spread through the school grapevine and resulted in a complete change in her peer group. "When I came out, my whole group of friends changed. I left them because I could feel that they didn't accept me," she said.

Tricia notes that faculty support of LGBT students at Appleton North was similar to Brian's experience at Appleton East. "One teacher had up a 'Safe Zone' sticker, but other teachers would look the other way when someone was harassed," Tricia said. "One kid who pushed the Gay issue was harassed a lot, but as much for being sort of weird as for the Gay thing."

Both Tricia and Brian feel that their high school experiences were better than what most LGBT youths experience. "I've been to a lot of Gay youth conferences around the state and heard a lot of stories," Tricia said. "By comparison, North was very tolerant - above average even."

Brian feels that the environment for LGBT youth continues to improve. "I saw it get better each of the four years I was at East," Jansen said. "And now there's Gay groups for kids in both Appleton and Green Bay."

Both Brian and Tricia want to encourage LGBT youth, who are questioning or coming out, to get in touch with the teen support groups. "It's thinking you're all alone that's the most scary," Tricia said. "It's simple — you're not. Come and find out!"

For more information about Appleton's GLBT Partnership, call the confidential hotline at (920) 731-4847 and leave contact information. The group meets every Tuesday from 6-8 PM at a safe site in downtown Appleton.

The month-old Green Bay Youth Pride group meets Mondays from 6:30-8:30pm at a similar safe site. For more information, call (920) 437-4325 and ask for Patti. The group hopes to have a confidential hotline operating within the next month.

Out-of-town teens, who wish to avoid long distance charges to obtain information on the Appleton and Green Bay groups, can call the Wisconsin LGBT Gay Teen Hotline (1-888-GAYTEEN). LGBT teen volunteers operate the hotline live on Friday and Saturday nights, and teens can leave a confidential message at all other times.

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OutReach: Madison's "Home Of Our Own"

End of *WI Light* series on Building Community

Madison – OutReach has a long history with deep roots in the vibrant Madison LGBT community. OutReach was formed last July by the merger of two strong, independent LGBT community organizations: The United and the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.

The merger proved to be successful. In less than a year's time, the organization nearly doubled its budget, outgrew its Capitol Square office space and moved to a space that's nearly double in size in the Gateway Mall on the city's near East side.

The United began in 1978, and MGLRC, originally named the Madison Gay Men's Center, formed in 1973. Before the merger, the two groups made a total of over 30,000 service contacts in their combined 47 years of community service.

The new OutReach combined the various services and functions of both groups. Its office serves as a Community Center for Madison's LGBT community. OutReach's current Board includes members from both of the previous organizations, providing a diversity of opinion and outlook.

The Board fluctuates between 12-13 members. It is currently in transition because terms end this month. To fill the slots, the Board sometimes seeks particular people, but also considers people who approach them.

Debra Weill, the recently hired OutReach Executive Director, is originally from Milwaukee. She's been on the job for less than a month but already has an opinion about the Board. "It's a very good Board, a combination of the merger, and already we are looking to incorporate a better flow of communication between them, myself, Joe and Callen."

Besides Weill, OutReach has two full time staffers: Development Coordinator Joe Bednarowski and Direct Services Coordinator Callen Harty. They also have a cadre of competent volunteers who share in the success that OutReach has achieved.

Weill also praised the job her predecessor, D'Ette Tomlinson, did during her stint at the agency. "D'Ette did an excellent job growing OutReach. Everyone appreciates her three years of service to Madison's LGBT community. She literally came on board three years ago and walked into a really challenging situation. She and her team deserve a great deal of credit. Going through the merger and then this move to a space double in size in less than a year is incredible."

Weill has come to realize, "There's been incredible change here in the last year, so it's hard to compare any of the budgeting and finances to where we are today in June from where we were even six months ago. The size is different and the budget is nearly doubled. That's adding to the challenge for me, and I think anyone, and especially someone coming in from outside

the OutReach community."

"Certainly you notice things," Weill continued when asked how things were going after her recent relocation. "In some cases there are excellent reasons why they are done that way, and other times, a fresh look at things is definitely needed."

"I'm taking a fresh look at the complete operation and how we can make things better. This is a wonderful time for people to share their ideas with us.

Current services sponsored or supported by OutReach include an active speakers bureau and in-person peer counseling and support groups such as ongoing men's and women's coming out groups. Special support groups for relationships, domestic violence and other topics form on an as-needed basis. There is also a bulletin board with housing, events and employment listings.

OutReach also acts as an umbrella organization for smaller groups. It provides meeting space and administrative services for these groups. They include: Madison Transgender Group, Friends of Dorothy (narcotics anonymous), LGBT Alcoholics Anonymous, Dyke Knitters, Bad Girrls (Women's S&M group), Frontiers (Men's discussion and social group), Living as a Gay Man discussion group, Bi-Shy-Why, SAGE-Madison and others.

Other services include referrals for LGBT friendly businesses and professionals. Direct advocacy work is another area of activity of interest to OutReach's staff and volunteers.

OutReach recently began offering an exciting new service through a generous donation from The Industry Connection, a comprehensive website, www.outreachinc.com. The site offers information on LGBT friendly businesses, employment and housing listings and other useful information.

For the future, Weill said OutReach was "seeking input from our community, people who use the center, our staff and the Board. We're looking at a number of things: weekend hours. The current hours are 9am-9pm Monday through Friday, but some people we could serve can only get to us on weekends."

"We're also looking to do collaborative efforts and activities with LGBT organizations in Madison, including the Campus community. That's really important. We're also looking at ways we might provide services outside of Madison and Dane County."

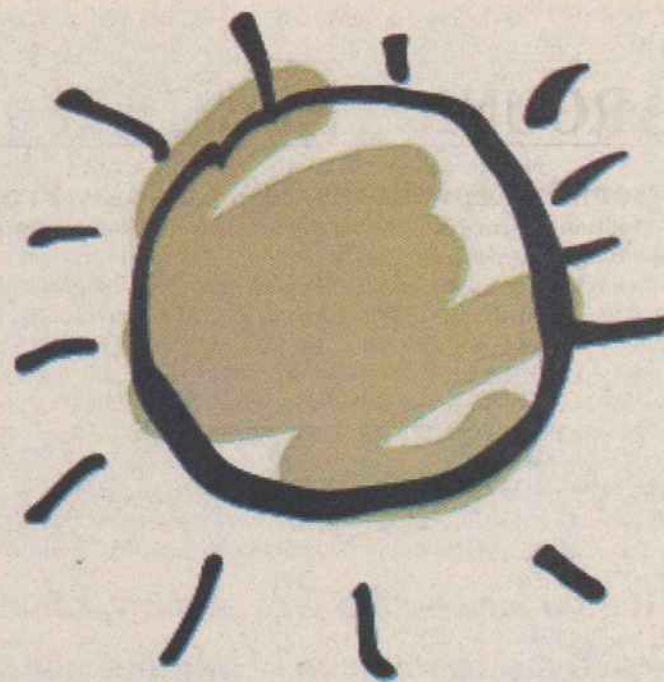
The OutReach office suite includes three private offices, a large meeting room and 'general space' where the 3,000-volume lending library is located amongst comfortable furniture. They make contact with and serve more than 11,000 annually.

The 1999 version of *The Directory*, "a guide to Madison's LGBT community," is currently being printed. Distribution will occur in mid-July. Profits from the Directory are an important revenue generator for OutReach.

Another major fundraiser for the center is just around the corner — the OutReach 7th Annual Community Awards Dinner. The annual gala will be at the Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center beginning at 6pm. It includes dinner and awards presentations for Man, Woman, Organization, OutReach Volunteer and Ally of the Year. More than 300 people are expected to attend. (Tickets are \$40 per person, or you can sponsor a table for eight for \$500 and get special recognition in the program.)

With an annual budget of \$185,000, OutReach is on solid financial footing. Funding comes from a variety of sources including Community Shares of Wisconsin, the City of Madison and Dane County. However, the lion's share comes from supportive individuals from within the community and from grants from foundations such as the Wisconsin Community Fund and Madison's New Harvest.

Write: OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703; phone (608) 255-4297; fax (608) 255-0018. Website www.outreachinc.com. Feel free to drop by... OutReach is open from 9am to 9pm, Monday through Friday. New volunteers are always welcome.



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AROUND THE STATE

Assembly Republicans Pass Anti-Gay Proposals

Madison – Members of the State Assembly's Republican Caucus approved two anti-LGBT State Budget amendments.

Acting on a proposal by State Representative Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater), the caucus voted to prohibit the use of State funds to provide health insurance benefits for the partners of State employees engaged in same sex domestic partnerships. The proposal also would amend the State Labor Relations law to prohibit State negotiators from including domestic partners benefits in contract negotiations. The amendment passed without debate.

State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) told *Light*, "I am appalled by this mean-spirited attempt to deny equal treatment to Gay and Lesbian workers."

Log Cabin Republican activist and *Wisconsin Light* columnist Jim McFarland was also critical of the Nass amendment. "It doesn't need to be done. It's a pre-emptive strike, and it makes the Republicans look like they're obsessed with that issue," said McFarland. He added, "We don't think the Governor's bargaining team would ever include these benefits to begin with."

McFarland also said he expects the Democratic Senate to block the amendments from becoming law.

The GOP caucus also voted to close the popular Mazo Beach area from April 1 to September 15. Although heterosexuals also use the beach, it is a very popular gathering place for Gays and Lesbians from throughout Wisconsin.

State Representative Mark Pocan (D-Madison), the legislature's only openly Gay member, condemned the GOP proposals. He told *Wisconsin Light* that although the amendments are likely to pass the Assembly, they wouldn't get by the State Senate. "The Democratic controlled State Senate is the backstop that will keep these Republican wild pitches from becoming law," he said.

Pocan said he expects the measures to be left out of the final version of the budget when a Conference committee meets to iron out differences between the budgets passed by the State Senate and the Assembly versions. Pocan added, "All they are going to do is waste everyone's time, while important policy issues get ignored."

Domestic Partner Benefits Advance for County Workers

Madison – While Milwaukee's Aldermen debate a Domestic Partnership registry, Dane County is moving toward granting Domestic Partners benefits to its employees. How those benefits will come about, however, is still open to question.

The County Board's Personnel and Finance Committee voted 4 to 2 to instruct the County's collective bargaining team to offer the benefits, but with two conditions attached. First, the County's insurer must agree not to charge higher premiums for the County's insurance plan. Furthermore, the benefits will not be offered to unmarried heterosexual employees.

The County's insurer, Dean Care, wants to raise its premiums. County negotiators are working to keep the premiums at their current level.

Whether or not to restrict the benefits to LGBT employees has generated most of the discussion surrounding the proposal to provide them. A survey of County employees found that about 50 were interested in the coverage. Half of those employees are engaged in heterosexual domestic partnerships. A County advisory commission recommended that the benefits be provided to unmarried heterosexual as well as LGBT employees.

Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk disagreed. She said that since those engaged in heterosexual relationships can be married, the benefits should be limited to LGBT workers. Before the Committee voted, Falk agreed to go along with providing the benefits to unmarried heterosexuals if that would help get them for Gay and Lesbian employees. Ultimately, the Personnel and Finance Committee agreed with Falk.

If the County's unions accept the benefits, the fiscal impact of the decision is expected to be around \$60,000.

Courts are divided on whether governmental units must offer domestic partnership benefits to unmarried heterosexual employees if they provide them to their LGBT workers.

Madison's School District offers domestic partner benefits to its LGBT and unmarried heterosexual employees. It is the only Wisconsin government unit to do so. Five Madison residents are suing the District over the benefits. They contend it did not have the authority to offer them. Last year, a Court dismissed a similar suit filed against the City of Chicago.

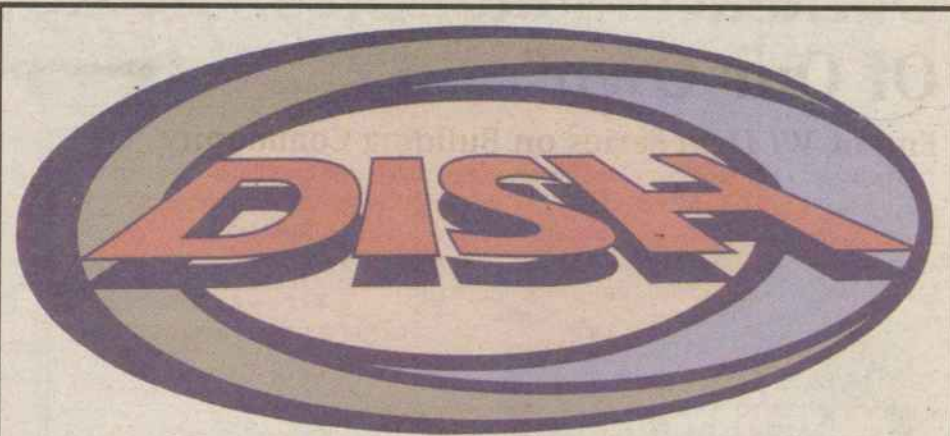
Light Columnist, Log Cabin Officer Wins GOP Award

Appleton – A Gay Republican activist won the Alfred E. Bovay award at the State Convention of the Republican Party of Wisconsin held on June 12 in Appleton. Jim McFarland, Treasurer of the Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin and *Wisconsin Light's* From the Right columnist, won the award, the second highest honor given by the Republican Party of Wisconsin.

McFarland was cited for his efforts to recruit Republican candidates, fundraising work, service as Chairman of the East Side Republican Club, and his volunteer work for Republican campaigns.

The Bovay award is named for Alfred E. Bovay. In 1854, Bovay called the meeting of local Whigs and Free Soil party members that formed the Republican Party. McFarland noted the irony of the fact that the award was named after a man who helped found a party dedicated to fighting against the expansion of slavery and fighting for civil rights for all Americans.

"I am pleased that the Republican Party would honor someone who is working to bring the Republican Party back to its civil rights roots," McFarland stated. He added, "I am also pleased that the Republican Party has recognized all of my efforts to elect Republican candidates at all levels throughout the state."



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AROUND THE NATION

Gore Embraces Sobbing Lesbian Teen

Los Angeles, CA – Two days after announcing his campaign for the presidency, Vice President Al Gore literally embraced LGBT issues when he hugged a sobbing Lesbian teen, who spoke about anti-LGBT student harassment.

As hundreds of students cheered, Gore walked across a gymnasium floor to embrace 17-year-old Lesbian Jessie Funes. Gore said, "How can anyone not be moved by such a sincere opening of her heart?" He added, "I believe that in the history of our nation we have grown in our understanding to what it is to be human. Now we have to expand the human circle of dignity to include Lesbians and Gays.

Funes asked if he would make legal protection for Gays a campaign issue. Gore said, "I believe very strongly that we should have laws to protect young people like her from hate crimes."

Last month, the leading Republican candidate Texas Governor George Bush, Jr. came under fire for saying that he didn't want Gays and Lesbians to be included in a proposed Texas hate crimes law. The legislation passed the Democratically controlled State Assembly and died in the GOP controlled Senate.

HIV Tests on Internet Called Frauds

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Trade Commission is warning consumers not to trust the results of HIV home testing kits purchased on the Internet. The FTC tested the kits with known HIV infected samples. None of the tests resulted in the detection of HIV.

Internet ads for the kits falsely claim that they are approved by World Health Organization, the Food and Drug Administration or other health groups. The only FDA approved at home test, Home Access Express, does not give instant results. It requires users to place a drop of blood on a card that is mailed to laboratory. The user then calls a hotline to learn the results.

Health officials say anyone who used an HIV test purchased through the Internet should get an official test immediately.

First Tinky Winky, Now the Lilith Fair

Roanoke, VA – Jerry Falwell's *National Liberty Journal* has a new target. An article in its June edition says that the popular all-female Lilith Fair concert tour is named for a demon.

The article says "Many young people no doubt attend the Lilith Fair concerts not knowing the demonic legend of the mystical woman whose name the series manifests." Ancient Jewish books say that Lilith was created before Eve, but left Eden rather than obey Adam. Tour promoters say they did, in fact, take the name from the legend with the intent of showing women seeking equality and independence.

The *National Liberty Journal* (which has not been known to believe in pagan mythology before) says that according to pagan leg-

ends, Lilith dwelled with demons after leaving Eden and eventually seduced and murdered her own children.

A Falwell spokesperson said he had not read the article but has confidence in the magazine's editor.

Police Officer Wins Groundbreaking Discrimination Case

Uniondale, NY – *Newsday* reports that a federal jury awarded Nassau County Police Officer James M. Quinn \$380,000 in damages for emotional distress and lost wages that resulted from the anti-Gay harassment he endured from two supervisors and a fellow officer.

After the verdict, U.S. District Court Judge Arthur Spatt denied a defense motion to reduce the award for emotional stress. Spatt said, "there has been more testimony about open discrimination in this case than in any other case I've tried."

Quinn said the harassment began after the Police arrested an Assistant District Attorney and charged him with engaging in public Gay sex. The man told Police that Quinn is Gay. The harassment included vulgar cartoons that depicted Quinn as a child molester and pornographic materials left in Quinn's locker and squad car.

Legal experts say the decision is groundbreaking. It is the first time a federal court ruled that federal law protects Gay employees of municipal governments.

Church Group Condemns Gays Again and Again

Atlanta, GA – As it has in the past, the annual Southern Baptist Convention spoke out on the issue of homosexuality. First, it condemned President Clinton for issuing a Gay Pride Proclamation. A motion condemning Clinton's declaration easily passed the convention on a voice vote. Some SBC leaders wanted to ask Emmanuel Baptist Church to take action on its most famous member, the President. Others said that Clinton's church should not be told what to do.

The Convention also voted to condemn the appointment of James Hormel to be the Ambassador to Luxembourg. The convention voted 2,316 to 1,313 to ask Clinton to rescind the posting of America's first openly Gay ambassador. "We need to speak out and say we do not want an avowed homosexual to represent the U.S.," said the Rev. Wiley Drake. Rev. Drake was responsible for the 1997 Southern Baptist resolution calling for a boycott of Disney because it provides domestic partners benefits to LGBT employees.

Last but by no means least, Rev. Jerry Falwell made it clear that homosexuals are not welcome in the SBC. He told Reuters that the church would not accept homosexuals, "unless they give up homosexuality."

The SBC is America's largest Protestant denomination with 16 million members. Its membership is in decline, however. It lost 160,000 members in 1998 alone. There are no statistics on how many of those members were Gay or Lesbian.

TIDBITS FROM TITLETOWN

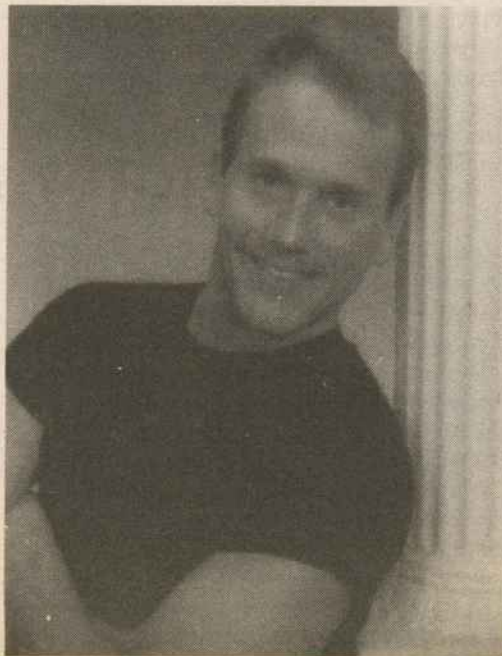
by Mike Fitzpatrick

Titletown's Top Titleholder Taps Another: Jeff Jennings, Green Bay's seemingly omnipresent "Mr. Gay" contestant, has added yet another title to his long string of kudos: Mr. Gay Wisconsin-All American 2000.

The first-ever statewide pageant held June 11 at Za's included contestants from Madison and Green Bay. The scheduled appearance of Richard Greer, Mr. Gay All American 1999, was canceled due to severe thunderstorms that grounded flights throughout the Midwest. The hunky titleholder was left cooling his pees at an Indianapolis airport.

Jeff adds the new Wisconsin All-American honor to his current Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA title. In the last five years, he has held at least one "Mr. Gay" title (USofA titles three times and Mr. Gay Wisconsin twice). He is the current first runner-up to Mr. Gay USofA. Next month Jeff will go to Dayton, Ohio to compete for that top national honor a record setting fifth time.

Jeff is more than a fierce pageant competitor, however. As a founding member of Entertainers Against AIDS, he has helped nurture that group into a major presence in the northeast Wisconsin entertainment scene. The quality of Jeff's teaching in his full time job with the Green Bay School System resulted in his being named as a finalist in the Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Awards six weeks ago.



Jeff Jennings

What makes Jeff run? I decided to find out and sat down to interview him the day after the All America pageant and his performance in the "Gunsmog" country-western music show held at Napalese Lounge on June 12.

MF: With all the titles you hold both now and in the past, why go for the All America title?

JJ: Actually, I really wasn't planning to enter the competition until the folks who run the All America system talked with me. I knew there might be a conflict with my holding a USofA title already, especially if I win Mr. Gay USofA, but they said to go ahead anyway.

MF: With all your experience, did you expect an easy win once you entered?

JJ: I was surprised when I won. I thought Michael J. (the first runner up) had really fired up the crowd with his amazing Michael Jackson routine and because the America system people had brought most of the judges in with them. There were no local judges who might favor the hometown guy.

But I did work for it - I shaved off my mustache for only the second time in my life to help with the "All American boy" look that the America system likes.

MF: So tell me about your plans to try for the fifth time to become Mr. Gay USofA. A lot of other people would have given up by now.

JJ: I might have too, except that I've placed higher each time I've tried. Last year I was first runner-up, so I can still go up. And I've placed higher each time because I've learned how to compete better with each attempt. I've learned how to present myself in a more favorable light.

MF: I suppose your work as a teacher helps with the "role model" factor for Mr. Gay USofA as well.

JJ: Actually that has hurt me in the past, because the judges worry that I won't be able to carry out my duties because of schedule conflicts with school. But I have the perfect answer for that now: All of the USofA titleholder duties come at competitions held in the summer and on weekends. That's when teachers are off!

MF: And if you take the USofA title, then what?

JJ: Well, I'll have to give up my Wisconsin All American title. But Michael J. will make a great representative for that system. He's very talented and has the potential to go a long way at nationals. And if I don't win USofA, I will compete in the America system.

Hey, the mustache is already gone and with all the other experience, I should be a contender there as well. It's like no one else from Wisconsin - guy or gal - has gotten as close to winning in either of the big national pageant systems. I'd really like to bring that title home to share with the Gay community in Wisconsin.

Rainbow Pride Picnic Detoured: No sooner had Rainbow Over Wisconsin announced the details of this year's Pride Picnic than they discovered that they had overlooked the State's plans to close Highway 57, the most convenient route to the picnic site, for a complete upgrade.

Picnic-goers can get to the site by taking alternate routes, using U.S. Highway 10 and county highways PP and HR. Look for a detailed map in the next edition of *Wisconsin Light*.

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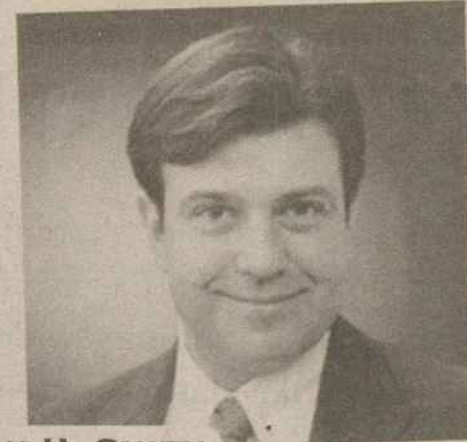
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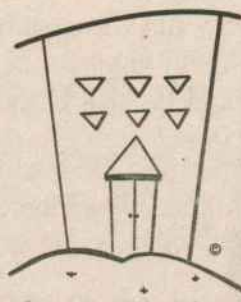
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CommUNITY

Cream City Foundation Begins Annual Fundraising Drive

Milwaukee - The Cream City Foundation (CCF), the only non-profit, grant-making, community-based foundation in Milwaukee — whose sole purpose is to support the changing needs of the statewide LGBT communities — has begun its annual fundraising drive.

Mary Messerlie, CCF's new President, is overjoyed at the positive response CCF has been getting. "Since our move into the new LGBT Community Center in March, we have received many letters and calls of support. In fact, our volunteer list has expanded and we are being offered a number of new venues for fundraising."

Founded in 1982 to encourage philanthropic activism through grants, CCF provides financial support to LGBT non-profit groups. In the past, CCF has awarded grants to organizations such as the Great Lakes Gay/Lesbian Film/Video Festival, Lesbians of Color, PrideFest, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, SAGE, Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee and scholarships, to name a few.

In addition to a marketing campaign that has begun to help raise funds, the campaign will include two major events and a number of smaller fundraisers. "These events are critical for establishing the needed support to provide funding grants," stated Scott Gunkel, CCF's Grant Chair.

ACHOICE and United Way's Donor Choice program are two avenues that provide critical funds for the Foundation through workplace giving. CCF is a member of ACHOICE, an alternative-giving program, and receives a portion of all funds raised by the group. Workers can also designate CCF as sole beneficiary. This is done by asking for a donor option card and designating the Cream City Foundation to receive funds pledged during workplace giving campaigns in the Fall.

CCF also welcomes tax deductible contributions from those who do not have workplace giving campaigns at their place of employment.

Those interested in offering financial support or volunteer commitment can reach a CCF representative at (414) 225-0244.

MPS LGBT Advisory Committee Meeting

Milwaukee - The Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee for the Milwaukee Public Schools Division of Curriculum and Instruction will meet on Tuesday, June 29.

This very important meeting will begin to set the future of the Advisory Committee. A press release from the group says, "We need your ideas to be successful! Join us and bring a friend, new members are always welcome."

The Agenda includes: PrideFest plans, evaluation of the year, scheduling of events for the fall, and an open-ended discussion of the vision and organizational structure.

The group meets from 1-2:30pm at the MEC/Professional Development Center, 234 W. Galena Street, Room B200.

Weekly Pride Band Rehearsals

Milwaukee - The Pride Marching Band is still seeking new members as it begins weekly rehearsals for the upcoming August 8th Pride Parade. The band is also seeking used musical instruments in good working order.

The group meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30pm at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral Street. For more information, call (414) 933-3743, or e-mail Rickfinger@aol.com. Interested persons are just encouraged to show up at the rehearsals.

Debt Counseling Agency Offers Free Pride Month Resources

The non-profit Debt Counselors of America (DCA) is the first national credit or debt counseling agency to provide educational resources specifically designed to assist LGBT consumers.

The organization had produced its *Gay and Lesbian Financial Series* to assist LGBT consumers with their unique financial and legal situations. In observance of Pride Month, these publications will be available throughout the month of June for free at DCA's www.GetOutOfDebt.org website.

The series includes publications titled: "Managing Your Money: Options for Same Sex Couples," "The Living Together Contract," and "Respecting Your Wishes If You Become Ill or Incapacitated: A Guide for LGBT Couples."

World's Largest LGBT Health Symposium

Experts in LGBT health will examine the controversial intersection of medicine with race, ethnicity, class, age and gender identification during the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's 17th Annual Symposium. The symposium "Taking Care of Our Whole Community" will be held August 26-28 in San Diego.

Other cutting-edge symposium topics include:

- Clearing the Smoke Around Medical Marijuana
- LGBT Youth and Suicide
- The National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study
- Gay Men's Health: Tales for the Cities
- The IOM Report: How We Reshape Lesbian Health.

GLMA is an organization of more than 2,000 LGBT physicians, medical students and their supporters in all 50 U.S. states and 12 countries. Founded in 1981, GLMA works to combat homophobia within the medical profession and in society at large and to promote quality healthcare for LGBT patients.

For more information, or for registration materials, phone (415) 255-4547, or e-mail info@glma.org.

SAGE Correction

The Charity Code number for Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) Milwaukee was partially transposed in the last issue's **CommUNITY** page. The article explained how Pick 'n Save shoppers can designate SAGE as a recipient of a percentage of your total grocery bill. The correct number is 694300.

From the **RIGHT**

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

by Jim McFarland

The Good: Nevada's Republican Governor

A recent issue of this newspaper contained a short blurb about the signing of Nevada's bill banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Unfortunately, the blurb was missing one important word: Republican. It failed to mention that Nevada's Governor Kenny Guinn is a Republican. Log Cabin Republicans worked hard to convince Governor Guinn to sign the bill. Guinn showed courage in signing the bill despite the strong opposition of fundamentalist Christians.

Nevada is the eleventh state to ban anti-Gay employment discrimination. Interestingly, in five of those states, including Rhode Island, Minnesota and California, Republican Governors signed the bill. Of course, the first such bill of its kind was signed into law by Wisconsin's own Republican Lee Sherman Dreyfus. For a party that is so often vilified by the Lesbian and Gay community for being anti-Gay, this is a good record.

The Ugly: Kosovo

President Clinton declared victory in Kosovo, and now he is continuing his private little illegal war by putting American troops into Kosovo. All along, the President and his minions have continued their lying to the American people. We have been told that the war was necessary to stop the ethnic cleansing by the Serbs, but the reality is that the ethnic cleansing did not begin in earnest until after we started bombing the Serbs. The thousands of dead Kosovar Albanians are as much on Clinton's head as they are on Milosevic's.

We have no national interest in Kosovo. No American lives were at stake. Kosovo was not an independent country invaded by Serbia. Rather, we have intervened in a civil war. This sounds a lot like our intervention in Vietnam. Now we have put our ground troops into Kosovo. How long will it be before the Kosovo Liberation Army, which consists of fundamentalist Muslims who will be satisfied with nothing less than full independence, starts killing our soldiers?

Now that we have destroyed Kosovo and Serbia, we will have to pay for its rebuilding. The countries of Europe have an integrated economy, which is larger than ours is. They could bear the cost of this war. So why did the U.S. pay the bulk of the costs? The U.S. should not contribute one penny to the

rebuilding, and it should immediately withdraw from NATO. We have no business being involved in the defense of Europe now that there is no power seeking world domination.

Clinton's private little war has frittered away the budget surplus. Our one opportunity to save Social Security has just gone out the window. When I was in high school, my parish pastor had a poster that said, "It will be a good day when the Defense Department has to hold a bake sale to pay for its bombs." Lately, I have begun to see the wisdom of that. The Republican Congress should tell Clinton to find some other way to pay for his private little war. Let Clinton's rich Hollywood buddies pay for it.

The Bad: Ron Greer

This time Ron Greer has gone too far. By including the minutes of a Lesbian/Gay student group in a letter to parents in the Verona school district, he outted several students whose names were recorded in the minutes.

Last fall when Ron Greer ran for Congress, I started to worry about what I would do if he won the GOP primary. Could I support him as the Republican nominee despite his outspoken anti-Gay views? For those who think this should have been an easy decision, I must remind you that the alternative would be someone who would seek to raise taxes every chance she had. Someone who wanted to destroy the world's best health care system by socializing it, making it like the horrible Canadian system; someone who would support big government.

It is true that Greer would have opposed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. It is true that he would have led efforts to censor AIDS education efforts. However, he would have been increasingly isolated in a Congress, where more than 65 Republicans voted against efforts to repeal Clinton's executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. He also would have been a crucial vote in favor of tax cuts.

However, now Greer has gone too far. It is bad enough when leftist Gays out politicians, who at least have put themselves into the spotlight when they run for office. Anyone who would out teenagers, who have not done anything to bring attention to themselves, is immoral. Greer is running for Congress again next year. You can be sure that Log Cabin Republicans will not let Republicans forget this despicable act.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Recognition is in order to Patrick Cudahy Incorporated for their inclusion of PrideFest this year, as a Milwaukee Lakefront Festival to which free admission will be available, through a company-sponsored consumer promotion.

Last year, several phone calls were made to Patrick Cudahy inquiring why PrideFest was the only summer lakefront festival not included in their promotion. A consumer affairs representative from the company stated the matter would be addressed.

And obviously, it was, as PrideFest is now included on the list of Milwaukee Lakefront Festivals to which Patrick Cudahy offers their "free admission" promotion.

You may wish to inform your readers of this action, and encourage support of Patrick Cudahy Incorporated and its products, as positive acknowledgement, for including PrideFest in their promotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike
Sheboygan

Dear Friends at *Wisconsin Light*,

SAGE/Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) members were pleased to see a news article in the June 16-22 issue, which reported that SAGE is now qualified as a charitable, non-profit group to participate in the Pick 'n Save "We Care" program that distributes a portion of each grocery purchase to SAGE.

However, you accidentally transposed part of the charity code number that "Advantage Card" holders should give to the customer service window to start the process. The correct number is 694300.

I suggest that readers write this number on their grocery list so they don't forget to do it when shopping at Pick 'n Save. A couple of minutes of your time only once will give SAGE a small contribution every time you show your new card at the check out when shopping for groceries at no extra cost to you. Thank you.

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SAGE/Milwaukee

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Spotlight

Teen Idol Comes OUT

by Bill Meunier

London — Everyday 24-year-old Gay men come out of the closet. They aren't the subjects of feature stories in leading newspapers followed by numerous other articles containing comments from their families, friends and co-workers.

On the other hand, they aren't Stephen Gately, a singer with Boyzone, the European equivalent of America's Back Street Boys. Gately told the British tabloid *The Sun*, "I'm Gay and I have had Gay romances, but now — for the first time in my life — I am in a relationship with someone I love."



That statement created a firestorm in the English and Irish press.

That someone is Eloy de Jong, a member of the defunct but aptly named Dutch band, *Caught in the Act*. Gately and de Jong have been together since last November. De Jong is said to be less than thrilled by the attention. He was ready to embark on a solo career, but the contracts weren't final yet.

While questioning the timing of the Gately's announcement, de Jong says that he loves him and "We'll get through this somehow."

Meanwhile the singer's mother, Margaret

Gately, alternates between attacking *The Sun* for "forcing" her son to come out to speaking eloquently about her love for the 5'7" singer. She says Gately gave away his platinum albums to charity and adds, "It's not like he's a murderer or pedophile."

The Band

Dublin club owner Louis Walsh formed Boyzone in 1993. Initially given little chance to succeed in the land of U-2, it soon became one of Europe's hottest groups.

Boyzone's first 14 singles reached the top three on European charts. Its last three albums hit number one. The latest, *Where We Belong*, has gone platinum five times over.

Boyzone's members say they have no problem with Gately being Gay. Lead singer Ronan Keating said, "He and Eloy make each other really happy."

The Singer

Gately's life changed when Walsh selected him from 300 applicants to join Boyzone. He told the Irish *Examiner*, "I desperately wanted to be a pop star but I decided right away that to admit to being Gay would be to say goodbye to any chance of fame." A year later, he came out to his family. Soon he was bringing boyfriends backstage during concerts.

Gately's voice is featured on Boyzone's hit, *No Matter What*, appropriately written by a Gay composer, Andrew Lloyd Webber. A British TV audience voted the single its favorite song in 1998. He plans to release a solo album later this year.

Gately is not the lead singer in Boyzone. He is, however, the group's only unmarried member. That made him the center of attention for its adoring female fans.

Clearly worried losing them, Gately told his fans, "I've been strong for you, I've signed your autographs, answered your letters, and given the performances you deserve on stage. Now I need you to be there for me."

The Controversy

His fellow band members say (at least publicly) that they are glad Gately came out because he was worried about being exposed, and they hope that now he can finally be happy.

If Gately was worried, why did he out himself?

"Blackmail" is the reason given by his mother. She says a former roadie was trying to sell the story of her son's private life to the English tabloids. The band's management says Gately was not forced out, but a source close the band told a competing paper, *The Mirror*, "Stephen knew *The Sun* had him over a barrel. They made it clear that if he didn't go public, the information would come out somehow anyway."

The Sun admits that Gately knew the roadie was about to sell the story, but it insists that he decided to do the interview on his own. The tabloid claims it repeatedly told Gately that he didn't have to go ahead with the story.

Gately's mother told *The Mirror*, "Stephen wasn't ashamed about his sexuality — but he never wanted people to know about it because it was always his own business, and that is the way it should be. I think what has happened is blackmail."

The Irish cleaning lady added, "*The Sun* has destroyed so many lives. There was Lenny Henry and there was Sophie Rhys-Jones. Now it's my son — and us."

"All of us are involved in this. I have to go out and do my day's work with the whole place looking at me."

"We have been going through hell since we were told that this was going to be published," she said. "I haven't slept for a week. Everyone has been so worried. I have problems with my lungs and I'm afraid that the stress of this will affect my illness."

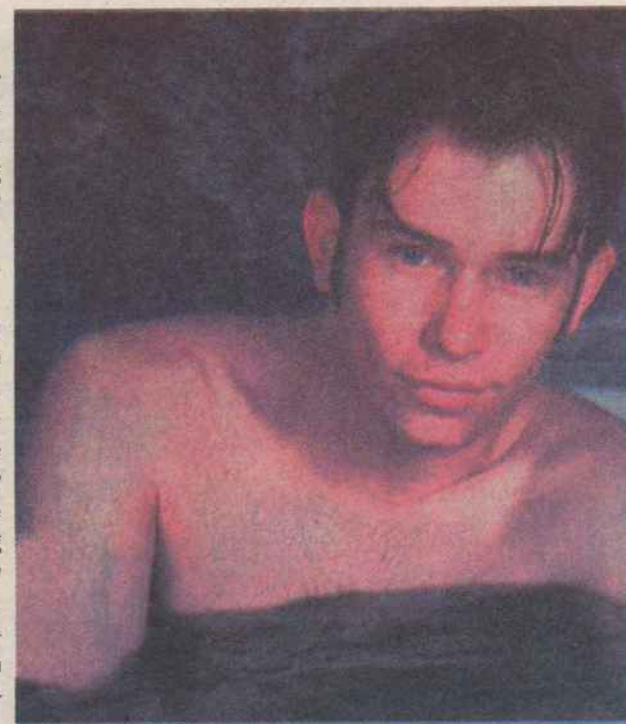
Stephen's brother, Tony, blasted *The Sun* and then emphasized his own heterosexuality saying, "I'm going to my girlfriend's to stay for a while until it all dies down."

The Mirror noted that the day before *The Sun* ran a front-page editorial stating it would no longer out Gays and Lesbians, it "caused widespread revulsion" with a front-page story suggesting that Britain was run by a "Gay Mafia."

The Aftermath

No matter how he got there, Stephen Gately is out of the closet now. That's hard enough for anyone to do without having it splashed across the front pages of newspapers. This 24-year-old seems to have a lot of support in addition to a lot of press.

His press agent, Caroline McAtter, told *The Belfast Telegraph* that Gately came to her weeks ago. "I sat down with him and we talked it through. He was obviously upset that somebody



would want to hurt him like that, but his first feelings were for his fans," she said.

McAtter said Elton John and Boy George contacted Gately with messages of support. She added that his fans had been "really great" since the news broke.

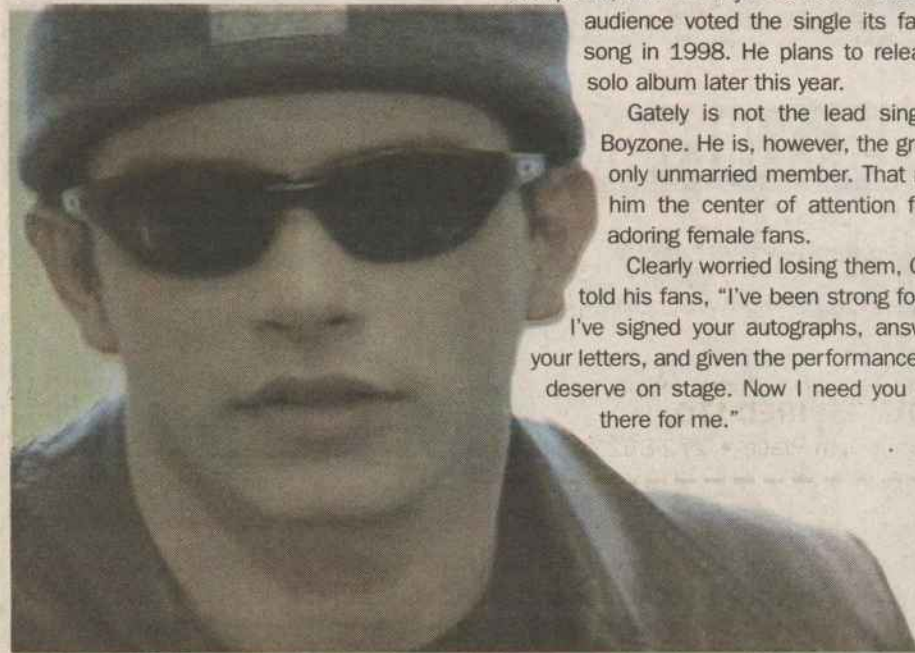
Many of those fans are angry because they believe *The Sun* forced Gately out of the closet. Typical of their response was this email from Damian Peat of London: "Wahey! It's cool that he feels he can be open about it, but it's a shame that he was forced into coming out. People should only have to 'come out' when they're ready to, not because some newspapers are gonna try and ruin your career if you don't."

Others may not be as supportive. One Irish fan said that while he still liked Boyzone, his 8-year-old sister tore up a Boyzone poster when she heard the news.

While the fans speak their minds, so too does the press. British and Irish papers are carrying articles about everything from how Gately was prepared for this by growing up in a tough neighborhood to columns about coming out, and why teen idols can get away with being Gay.

The Conclusion

No one knows how this all will play out with Boyzone's fans. One thing is certain, however; another 24-year-old Gay man is out of the closet. This one just got more attention than the others did. Welcome to the family Stephen Gately. The worst is over. Now you can live proud!



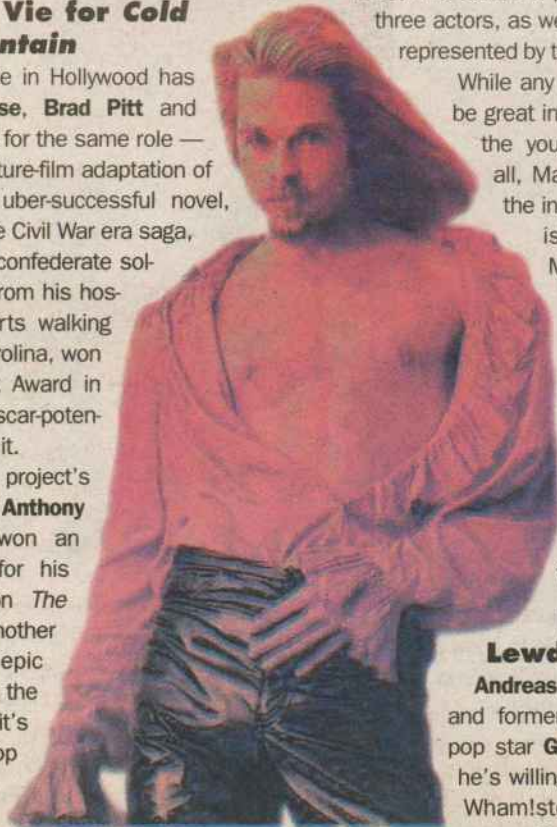
DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by *Romeo San Vicente*

Hot Hunks Vie for Cold Mountain

The latest battle in Hollywood has hotties **Tom Cruise**, **Brad Pitt** and **Matt Damon** vying for the same role — the lead in the feature-film adaptation of Charles Frazier's uber-successful novel, *Cold Mountain*. The Civil War era saga, about a wounded confederate soldier who gets up from his hospital bed and starts walking home to North Carolina, won the National Book Award in 1997 and has Oscar-potential written all over it.

Adding to the project's cachet is Director **Anthony Minghella**, who won an Academy Award for his masterful work on *The English Patient*, another wounded-soldier epic (hey, if it worked the first time...). While it's not unusual for top talent to compete for major film



Brad Pitt

roles, this battle is particularly sticky: the three actors, as well as the Director, are represented by the same agency, CAA.

While any of these studs would be great in the lead, it looks like the youngest cutie of them all, Matt Damon, may have the inside track. He just finished working with Minghella on the film *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, which is based on Lesbian author **Patricia Highsmith's** subtly homoerotic novel of the same name. That film is scheduled for release this fall.

Family Feud, Lewd and Crude

Andreas Giorgio, the cousin and former best friend of Gay pop star **George Michael**, says he's willing to tell all about the Wham!ster. For \$5 million Giorgio will spill the

beans about the *I Want Your Sex* crooner's odd friendship with Spice Girl emeritus **Geri Haliwell**, as well as the real story behind his arrest for lewd conduct in a public park restroom, among other things.

Coz also claims that the queer rocker, who has lent his voice to charity events around the globe since singing *We Are the World*, is actually a tyrant. While nobody has yet ponied up the cash for the dish, you can bet Giorgio won't be getting a Christmas card from Cousin George this year.

Cumming All over the Place

Apparently, the Kit Kat Klub looks good on a resume — former *Cabaret* emcee **Alan Cumming** seems to have no trouble getting a job. He'll be sporting a loincloth in next summer's Flintstone movie "prequel," *Viva Rock Vegas*.

Cumming also has a deal in the works to belt out showtunes in the ABC tele-musical *Annie*. He'll take on the role of Rooster Hannigan, joining a talented cast that includes **Kathy Bates** and *Liberace* star **Victor Garber** (as Daddy Warbucks).

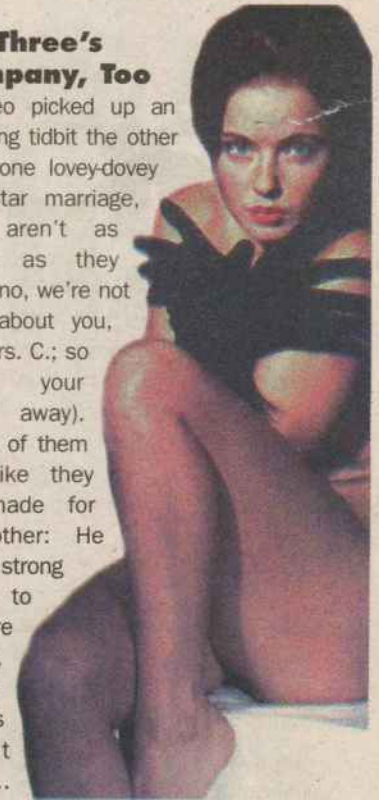
The show will most likely air in November. In the meantime, you can see Cumming on the big screen next month, when he co-stars with **Tom** and **Nicole** in the much-anticipated Kubrick film *Eyes Wide Shut*. Word is that Cumming — who on the Tony Awards told the world he used to be "roommates" with Gay *Swan Lake* choreographer **Matthew Bourne** — will once again be playing a character of ambiguous sexuality in the **Cruise-Kidman** film.

Three's Company, Too

Romeo picked up an interesting tidbit the other day. In one lovey-dovey double-star marriage, things aren't as straight as they appear (no, we're not talking about you, Mr. & Mrs. C.; so keep your lawyers away). The two of them seem like they were made for each other: He needs a strong woman to take care of him, and she's his perfect type... except rumor has it, she's bisexual.

Apparently, he's fine with it — as long as she's willing to share.

Romeo San Vicente would love to referee a wrestling match between Pitt, Cruise and Damon. You can contact Romeo care of Wisconsin Light or e-mail RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.gay.com or www.popcomq.com.



Geri Haliwell

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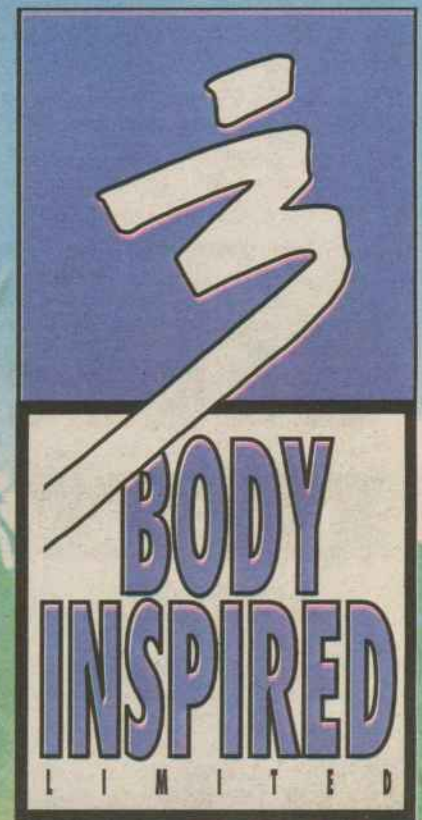
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OUT ON FILM

The Red Violin

Review by John Jahn

The Red Violin is a perfect film for history and music lovers. It tells the story of what's found to be the perfect acoustical instrument, a red violin made in Cremona, Italy in 1681, and how it travels from owner to owner, country to country, finally ending up in a Montreal auction house in 1997.

Director Francois Girard assembled a huge

international cast to present five key episodes in the violin's history. There's the violin's creator, Nicolo Bussotti (Carlo Cecchi), who labors on the instrument as a present for his unborn child. A century later, the violin has become the property of a monastery outside Vienna. There, Georges Poussin (Jean-Luc Bideau) discovers it in the hands of a prodigy, young Kaspar Weiss (Christoph Koncz).

Eventually, violinist Lord Frederick Pope (Jason Flemyng) takes possession of it and

makes it his instrument of choice. Soon, Pope's personal life is thrown into turmoil and it slips out of his hands. By the early 1900s, the violin belongs to a young Chinese girl, Xiang Pei (Sylvia Chang). The Cultural Revolution occurs and the instrument, as a symbol of corrupting Western "decadence," is hidden away. Finally, in Montreal, we find Charles Morritz (Samuel L. Jackson) and Evan Williams (Don McKellar) working to restore the instrument so it can bring a huge price at auction.

Not all the stories are compelling, but two stand out. In the Vienna one, we develop a deep empathy for the down-on-his luck teacher and his quiet, frail pupil. You can really connect with the characters, as with the Chinese one, where the narrow-mindedness and xenophobia of the Cultural Revolution have real impact.

The Red Violin is a beautifully composed movie. At times, it's a near-perfect mingling of visual and audio. The cinematography features a number of memorable images and the original score by Gay American composer John Corigliano is stunningly fitting.

Movies that follow objects rather than characters are always difficult to craft, but in the experienced hands of Girard and an excellent ensemble cast, *The Red Violin* works. The film offers a wonderful trip through three centuries and across several countries, a history and music lesson rolled into an exquisite whole.

3 1/2 STARS

The General's Daughter

Review by John Jahn

Director Simon West seems to have a way with overcoming lack of originality and familiar plot devices. Just like he did with *Con Air*, West overcomes flaws and non-sequiturs with involving effort, solid acting and effective storytelling in *The General's Daughter*.

The film's opening scenes are unpromising. Army Warrant Officer Paul Brenner (John Travolta) adopts a fake southern accent and drives around chomping on a cigar. A little



Madeleine Stowe and John Travolta star in *The General's Daughter*

opening scenario involving gun running is just a waste of 15-20 minutes of film. Soon, however, Brenner is called upon to investigate what appears to be a brutal rape, torture and murder. Things are being kept very hush-hush because the victim, Captain Elizabeth Campbell (Leslie Stefanson), is the daughter of General Joe Campbell (James Cromwell), who has plans to pursue a vice presidential nomination.

The film follows Brenner, paired with an ex rape investigator Sarah Sunderland (Madeleine Stowe), as they turn Fort MacCallum upside down. A Gay theme emerges in this film, involving Elizabeth's boss and friend, Colonel Moore (James Woods) and his Army lawyer. Their relationship is only hinted at and it's not a major part of the plot, but it's there and handled respectfully.

In *The General's Daughter*, as in recent films *A Civil Action* and *Primary Colors*, Travolta gives a convincing performance. He's even able to hold his own in scenes with the likes of James Woods and James Cromwell. Unfortunately, the investigation is wholly at center stage in this film, leaving Travolta's character — like most of the rest — underdeveloped.

Similarities abound between *The General's Daughter* and *A Few Good Men*. They both involve internal, criminal military investigations and taut confrontations between characters. While the showdown between Travolta and Cromwell isn't as explosive or memorable as the one between Cruise and Nicholson, it's still an effective scene.

The General's Daughter isn't a masterpiece, but it is consistently entertaining. It's a film that possesses just enough unpredictable twists and surprises to keep you interested and, as far as mystery-thrillers go, supplies what most viewers want and expect.

3 STARS

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Events CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

Stonewall: From the Riots to the Millennium, on PBS Stations (Statewide), a 90 minute special, airing at 8pm. Award winning history of LGBT life over the last 30 years.

The Castro on PBS Stations (Statewide), The Castro sheds light on the rather modest neighborhood that became the world's first Gay hometown. Most PBS stations air it at 9:30 following *Stonewall*.

Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys (Madison), Dances at Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Ave., (608) 245-0627, cash bar, \$3 suggested donation. 7pm Beginning Line Dance lessons; 8pm Advanced Two Step lessons; 9pm Open dancing.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

Domestic Partnership Registry Hearing (Milwaukee), Milw. Common Council's Judiciary and Legislative Committee meets to vote on the proposed Domestic Partnership Registry ordinance. All LGBT and supportive Milwaukee residents urged to attend. 9am, Room 301-B, Milwaukee City Hall. Reduced parking rates at the Milwaukee Center, SW corner of E. Kilbourn and N. Water (have ticket validated at City Clerk's Office, room 205, City Hall). If you can't make it call your Alderperson at 286-2221.

Jazz in the Park (Milwaukee), Cathedral Square the block at the corner of Jefferson and Jackson. 6:30-9:30pm. Bring a picnic or enjoy food and beverages that are available.

MCOW's Center for AIDS Intervention Research (Milwaukee), (CAIR) *Research Conference: Global Health Priorities, Influences and a Look at the Future*. 3pm, Conference Room at 2071 N. Summit Avenue. FMI (414) 456-7731. Refreshment reception immediately follows.

National Right to Life (Milwaukee), Annual Conference through June 26 at the Milwaukee Hyatt Hotel.

Pro Choice Press Conference & Rally (Milwaukee), Sponsored by National Organization for Women, National Abortion Rights Action League and Planned Parenthood. Rally, 7pm, 910 E. Michigan, O'Donnell Park.

Rainbow Lecture Series (Milwaukee), *Maritalizing Your Same Sex Union* with Attorney Christopher Krimmer. Free, informative, legal seminar. Free legal consultation and referrals for other legal topics after the conclusion of the seminar. 6:30-8:30pm, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., (414) 271-2656.

Summerfest (Milwaukee), Milwaukee's lakefront Henry Maier Festival Park, daily through July 4, 11am-midnight. America's largest outdoor music festival. 12 stages, food, drink. For more information (800) 272-FEST, or visit website at www.summerfest.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Art Framing Workshop (Milwaukee), As part of the monthly art lecture series Art off Oakland will present *Words of Advice for Creating and Proper Framing*. 12:15pm, 1 hour, lobby of North Shore Presbyterian Church, 4048 N. Bartlett. Led by consultant Catherine Davidson.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Co-ed discussion group: presentation and discussion of the second half of the film of the best of the Guy TV series, *In the Life*. 6:30pm, small meeting room of the Milw. LGBT Community Center (170 S. 2nd St.).

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Garfield Avenue Blues, Gospel and Arts Festival (Milwaukee), Noon to sunset, Garfield Avenue between 4th and 7th Streets. Features the Nefertari Dance Co and City Ballet, Tappin' Out Rhythmn, gospel choirs and continuous live blues music. Soul food BBQ's, Louisiana Seafood Boil. Admission is free except for the Slave Ship Exhibit offered by America's Black Holocaust Museum (\$2).

Woodland Patten Book Center (Milwaukee), Oneida poet, fiction writer and scholar Roberta Hill will read from her work, along with Milwaukee writer and educator Jackie Reid Dettloff. 8pm, advance tickets \$5. 720 E. Locust St. FMI call (414) 263-5001.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

30th Anniversary of Stonewall (Nationwide), Today marks the 30th year since the Stonewall riots, the birth of the modern Gay and Lesbian movement. Remember and Celebrate!

30th Annual Pride Parade (Chicago), Lines up south on Halsted from the corner of Belmont. 2pm step off North on Halsted to Broadway, South on Broadway to Diversey, East on Diversey to Cannon Drive. Rally 4pm at Lincoln Park, Grove 13. Live

entertainment, information tables, speakers.

L2K Lesbian Picnic (Milwaukee), Lake Park area 4, noon to 5pm, enter off Newberry Street, turn left. Bring a dish to pass, your own beverages, and food to grill. Outdoor games. FMI call LAMM at (414) 272-9442.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

Milw. Co. Commission on Aging (Milwaukee), Public Hearings for the 2000-2002 area plan. Join the Commission on Aging and the Dept. of Aging to discuss plans for providing services to older adults. La Guadalupana Senior Center, 1028 S. 9th St., 1:30pm.

Milw. Public Schools Gay/Lesbian Advisory Committee (Milwaukee), This meeting will begin to set the future of the Advisory Committee. New members always welcome. MEC/Professional Development Center, 234 W. Galena St., Room B200, 1-2:30pm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore (Madison), Author reading and panel discussion with Gigi Kaeser, co-author of *Love Makes A Family: Portraits of LGBT Parents and Their Families*. This work is a collection of photographs and essays celebrating the diversity of families. Ms. Kaeser will be joined by several of the local families featured in the book. 6pm, 307 W. Johnson St., (608) 257-7888. Free and open to the public.

Afterwords Bookstore (Milwaukee), Lesbian Reading Group discusses *Hood* by Emma Donoghue. 7pm, 2710 N. Murray, FMI call (414) 963-9089.

Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys (Madison), Dances at Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Ave., (608) 245-0627, cash bar, \$3 suggested donation. 7pm Beginning Line Dance lessons; 8pm Folk Partner dance lessons; 9pm Open dancing.

Room of One's Own (Madison), Author Appearance: Gigi Kaeser, co-author of *Love Makes a Family: Portraits of LGBT Parents and Their Families*, will discuss her book at 6pm. Free and open to the public, FMI (608) 257-7888.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), *FOUR VOICES* a performance series by Latino(a) Artists presents: Beto Araiza H.I.Vato, the seriocomic reflections of a Latino everyman after 12 years of living with H.I.V. WRCA, 8pm, 911 W. National, tickets \$8/\$5 students and members. FMI (414) 672-2787.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

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SUNDAY, JULY 4

6th Annual Musical Fireworks (Milwaukee), Irish Heritage and Cultural Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., 7pm. Jamin Hoffman, Conductor, Dennis Janzer, Organist. Orchestra and Chorus, 1812 Orverture, Patriotic Songs, Dennis' Irish Fanch. Color Guard With Bagpipes and Drums. Advanced reserved seating at Center, or Downer Ave. Wine & Spirit. \$8 adults/\$4 children at the door. A benefit concert for the Center's Organ Fund.

EVERY THURSDAY

BESTD Clinic/ STD Specialties (Milwaukee), HIV testing and counseling, and STD screen, 5-7:30pm at the BESTD Office in the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

WYOU Cable Channel 4 (Madison), *Nothing To Hide* at 9pm.

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Contact Greg Quindel, Publisher, for more information at (414) 226-0075.

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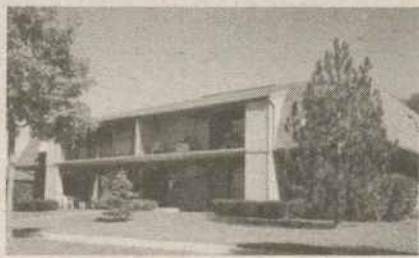
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Real Estate



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| <input type="checkbox"/> 300 Body, Mind & Soul | <input type="checkbox"/> 800 Miscellaneous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 400 Services | <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Adults Only* (Sextion X) |
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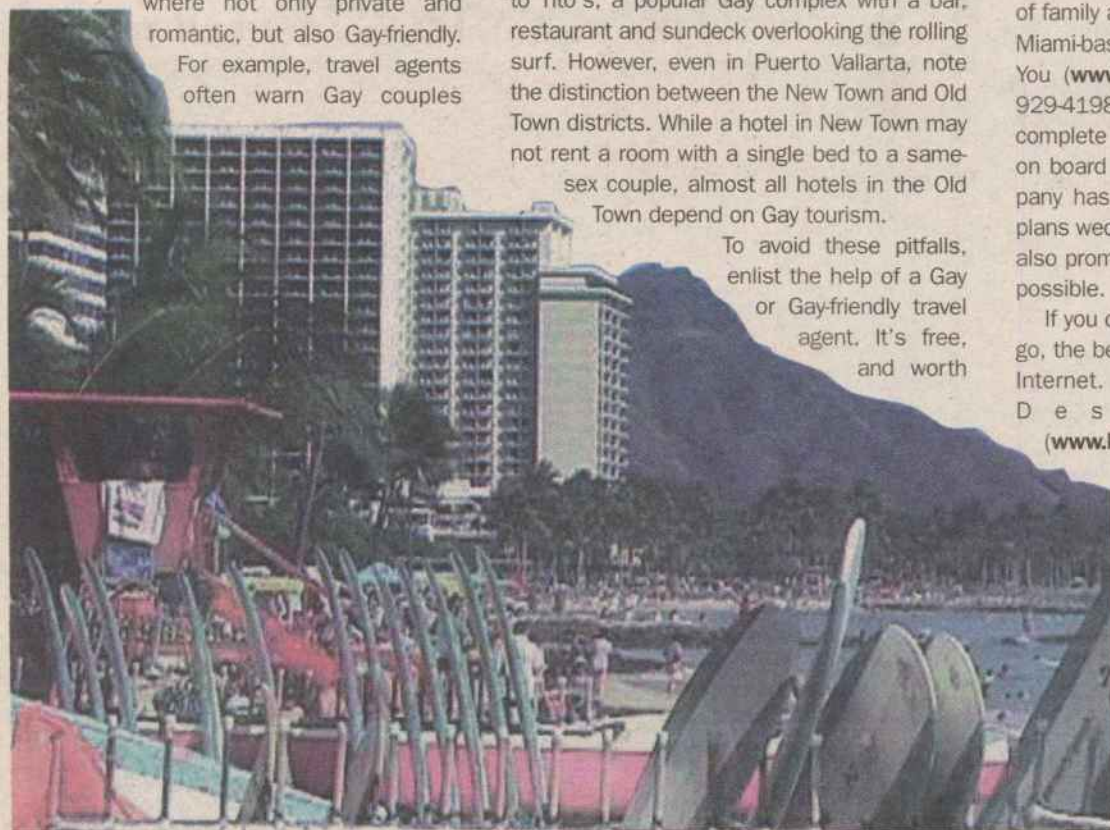
by Sasha Alyson

It's common sense. To build a relationship, you need to have fun together. A romantic vacation, whether it is a honeymoon, a getaway, or an anniversary celebration, returns the sense of intimate adventure that you first



saw in each other. Couples that stay together, play together — and sometimes that means getting away to someplace special.

In planning your trip, you want to go somewhere not only private and romantic, but also Gay-friendly. For example, travel agents often warn Gay couples



against many mainstream honeymoon destinations, like Jamaica.

While the tropical beaches are renowned for inspiring lovers, a public gesture of same-sex affection can be illegal, if not dangerous. Fortunately, the market for Gay romantic vacations has blossomed in this decade, bringing a wealth of resources and new opportunities. Together, you can find an affordable and exciting destination that you both love, if you keep your minds open and those resources at hand.

Two gay travel agents, Newt Dieter at Rancho Mirage Travel (www.gay-travel.com; 800-369-1073) and Wayne Root at All About Destinations (www.addintl.com; 800-375-2703), independently suggest the same resort on the western coast of Mexico: the Old Town district of Puerto Vallarta.

It's economical, romantic, and very friendly, with a number of Gay beaches to choose from, including the beautiful Blue Chairs Beach and Playa Del Sol. You can hold hands and splash in the waves well after the sun sets in your lover's eyes.

If you want to be social, you can head over to Tito's, a popular Gay complex with a bar, restaurant and sundeck overlooking the rolling surf. However, even in Puerto Vallarta, note the distinction between the New Town and Old Town districts. While a hotel in New Town may not rent a room with a single bed to a same-sex couple, almost all hotels in the Old Town depend on Gay tourism.

To avoid these pitfalls, enlist the help of a Gay or Gay-friendly travel agent. It's free, and worth



the insurance: who wants to spend their romantic vacation arguing for the right to sleep together?

If you have your heart set on the traditional Hawaiian getaway, try the island of Kauai. Despite most native Hawaiians tolerance toward Gay people, the tourist culture remains conservative. However, Kauai is truly Gay-friendly.

There are several popular Gay beaches. For a pleasant walk together, head toward the northern end of Donkey Beach, a remote stretch of verdant forests breaching the shoreline, surrounded by old sugarcane fields. There's also Secret Beach, which is clothing-optional.

The Kilauea Lighthouse makes a stunning backdrop, while the abundance of trees, bushes and a waterfall provide both shade and privacy. There are many Gay-friendly guesthouses and bungalows to accommodate you. Detailed information is available on the Internet at www.discoveringhawaii.com. You can follow the Main Menu to the map of Hawaii and click on Kauai for photos of the island's amenities.

Your idea of a romantic vacation may conjure images of an Italian villa or weekend in the Rockies instead of the tropical beaches featured here. Don't give up if you have a particular destination in mind, says Allen Walden at Gay Travel Plus (www.gaytravelplus.com; 877-845-1660).

He recently booked a cruise to Puerto Rico for two women getting married — and they brought along dozens of family and friends! He found a small Miami-based company, A Wedding For You (www.aweddingforyou.com; 800-929-4198), to help arrange the trip, complete with a ceremony performed on board by a Gay minister. The company has an exuberant web site and plans weddings all over the world. They also promise that "almost anything" is possible.

If you don't know where you want to go, the best place to brainstorm is the Internet. I recommend Rainbow Destinations (www.bestinns.net/rdbed.html) as a place to start. It hosts a worldwide directory of country inns and bed-and-breakfasts friendly to Gay travelers. There, you will glimpse the impressive world of Gay hospitality, wherever your heart leads you.

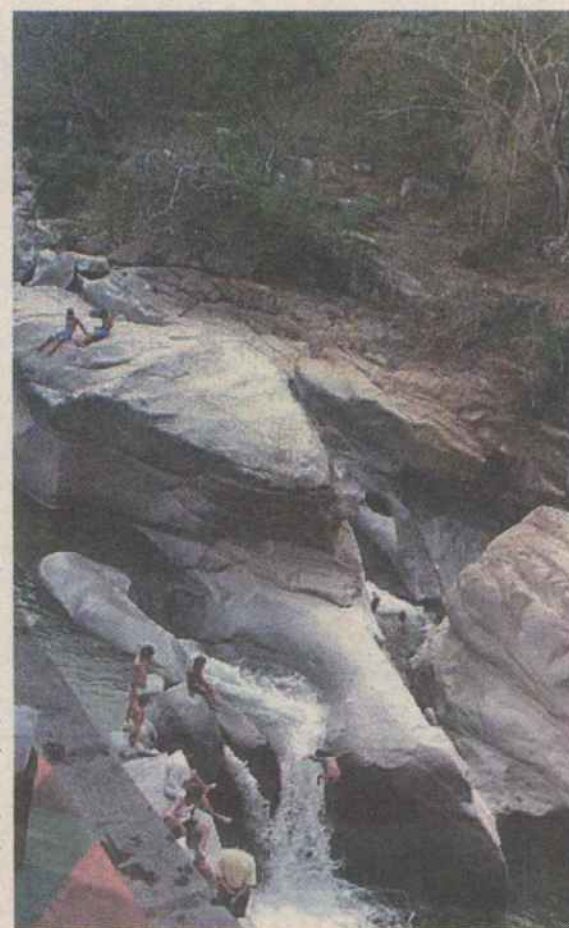
The balance between privacy and a Gay-friendly environment seems to be the principal issue in planning a

successful romantic vacation. I spoke to one couple who celebrated their recent 20th anniversary in Palm Springs but stayed at the Sundance Villas (www.palm-spring.com/hotels/sundance; 800-455-3888), a "straight," but Gay-friendly resort.



Sundance Villas provides each couple with a private villa, pool, spa and sauna. They enjoyed their privacy and the famous Gay nightlife. After 20 years, a blend of personal commitment and community keeps them together.

Sasha Alyson coordinates active and adventure vacations for the Gay community through his company, Alyson Adventures. Venturing Out columns from past months can be found at www.q-web.com/gay-travel/



OUT IN CYBERSPACE

WAY Out in Cyberspace

by Michael Stewart

Much of human history bound to the notion that life here is unique and that one group or another should have a greater claim to primacy than others do. That fact has led social scientists to believe that proof of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence would have profound changes down here on planet Earth. Imagine a discovery that would suddenly render moot most of those nasty little differences and labels we use to discriminate against one another!

The SETI@home project online at <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu> was conceived in 1996. It received widespread academic support at the 5th Annual Conference in Bioastronomy in July of that year. SETI@home seeks to harness the combined power of hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers. It is hoped these computers will be able to sift through mountains of radio telescope data and detect the type of signals scientists suspect would mark the existence of life in outer space.

SETI@home software is intended to run as a screensaver, but it's also capable of running as a background task. The SETI@home software downloads via the Internet a small block of data collected by the Arecibo Radio Telescope in northwestern Puerto Rico. It then processes the data during the time your computer would normally be turned off or providing a haven for flying toasters.

The SETI@home program is available for Windows 95/98/NT users and Macintosh users. It can even run on the UNIX and Linux platforms. Downloading the software takes approximately 5 minutes at 28.8kpbs. The data blocks the software retrieves and processes are all about 300K in size, which makes them quick transfers as well.

What It's Looking For: As any fan of "The X Files" knows, Earth has been leaking electromagnetic signals for most of this century. Some of these signals — like radio — have

been broadcasting for over three-quarters of a century. That means they've traveled at least 75 light years and passed countless stars that may harbor life, but these radio signals are weak and not likely to be detected.

Television, which uses a stronger signal, has been beaming *I Love Lucy* for over 40 years, reaching several thousand nearby stars. Other signals, such as military-grade radar and those used by other SETI programs, are stronger still.

SETI scientists have theorized that the signals we might receive would fall into two categories: either those another civilization might send intentionally to get our attention, or those that just leak from other worlds going about their business.

The bad news is that merely pointing a radio telescope at the sky will get you all sorts of signals, ranging from background noise to the beeps and pings emitted by satellites and passing aircraft. SETI scientists are searching in a relatively quiet spot of the radio spectrum, around the frequency range of 1.42GHz to 1.64GHz, the so-called "water hole," just above the range used by pagers and many wireless phones.

If a signal is detected, other SETI researchers will independently verify it. If the signal is real and can't be explained by man-made sources — such as satellites, radar reflections or the transmissions of passing airplanes — the protocols call for the press and governments of the world to be notified in a "systematic way."

The SETI@home main server keeps track of who is processing what block of data. Should your computer be involved in the detection, you will (if you wish), be listed as a co-discoverer.

Most of us will never make history. However, if you're one of the millions thrilled at the prospect of discovering proof that we are not alone, or if you just want to take a quiet subversive slap at the Religious Right, get involved with the SETI@home project.



SWITCH

CARNIVAL

Corn Boast

Beer Bust

Raffles

Games

Saturday, June 26th

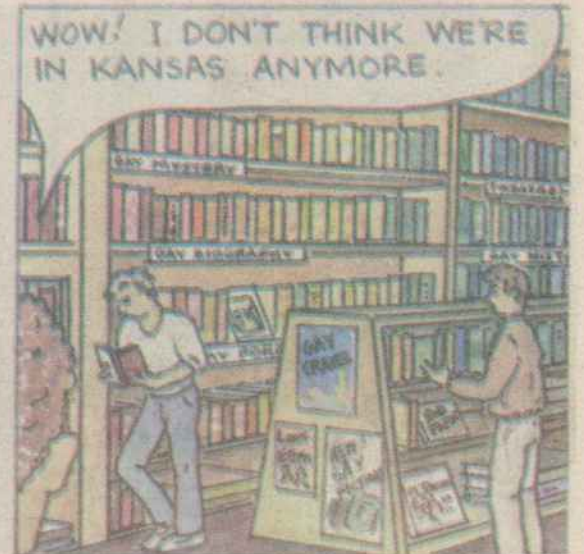
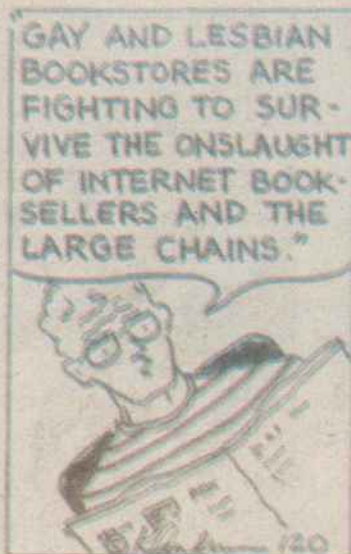
5pm to ???

A benefit for the Switch Hitters Softball Team

124 West National Avenue • 220-4340
Gay Milwaukee's Sports Bar

BIFF 'N BUNKY

by KEITH N ANDERSON





Well friends, it's been a rainy summer so far. There's nothing more depressing than a trailer park under water. I've got 90-year-old alcoholics running around in wet T-shirts and a sexy pool boy who refuses to take his shirt off. He wouldn't even take Pearl's bribe of Corn Nuts or Harriet's bribe of Valium. Damn kids and their hotsy-totsy morals.

Whatever happened to the good old days, and poppers, and Studio 54? Huh? Whatever happened to going out to a club all night and waking up under some janitor? Boy, I tell ya — I could wake up in a mop closet at 6am and still make it to work on time to give Barbara Walters her pedicure. When we got home from work, you know what we did? We did it all over again. That's right! And you know why?

Well... because... we were stupid I guess. Well... most of us were stupid. Some of us just had a thing for janitors and the smell of Pine-Sol in the morning — sorry Liza, but you know you did.

Well, those days are over my friends — my disco-diva disciples. This new generation has it a lot harder. They are facing issues we didn't have to so early in our lives. Here's a perfect example of one of those issues.

Dear Ruthie,
I have been dating a guy for four months now. He is a good person, and I think the relationship has great potential.

We have sex, and it has been great and very safe. Now he thinks we should take an AIDS test so he can stop using condoms after we get the results.

I'm uncomfortable with this. I'm not sure why. I trust him, but I am just uncomfortable with the idea of not practicing safe sex. It has nothing to do with him really. I just don't want to take that chance with anyone right now.

This topic has caused many arguments, as he thinks I don't trust him. I'm not sure how to proceed with this issue and this individual.

Please let me know what you think.

Scared Stiff

Dear Stiff,

This is a serious issue, so I'm going to do my best to keep my big mouth on the topic at hand.

As much as I'd like to, I'm not going to tell you about the time Pearl and I pulled condoms over our heads and broke into the Rolling Stones tour bus. I will bite my lip and not go into the story involving Kenny Rogers, a box of black condoms, a Billy Dee Williams centerfold and an extended version of "Ghostbusters."

No, no. I'm going to answer you straight. Well, as straight as a six foot, big-boned red-head can.

You tell this guy that you are not interested in practicing unsafe sex at this time. Not with him, not with anyone. Tell him that there is nothing to fight about.

Tell him that this isn't a matter of trust. It's a matter of respect. He needs to respect your wishes where this issue is concerned. Tell him you think there's a future with him and that you don't want to lose him; however, you need to continue having safe sex until you are both comfortable with other options. He needs to understand your feelings here.

I agree that you both should get tested. Why not? Everyone should get themselves tested on a regular basis, but I have a question. You stated that you have been dating for four months. Does he know that it can take six months for the HIV virus to show up on a test? In other words, even if you both test negative right now, either of you could still have the virus had you contracted it two months before you met.

Therefore, negative test results could be inaccurate at this time. Taking part in unsafe actions because of these tests could be dangerous for both of you.

Stick to your guns. Do not let him persuade you to do anything you are not comfortable doing — particularly something this important.

Hey! It's a great time for you to drop me a note, question, picture, request, whatever. You can reach me at: Dear Ruthie, c/o Wisconsin Light, 225 S. Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53202. Or you cyber-folks can email me care of www.wilight.com.

Possum Droppings
by Dear Ruthie

Let's take a moment to update everyone on the Possum Queen campaign going on around Milwaukee. There are so many activities planned this summer that the fur is really gonna fly. These gals will do anything to raise a buck for their charities, and I'm going to try to cover as many of their events as possible.

Upcoming events include a joint show between the Boot Camp and Kathy's Nut Hut candidates. It's called "Working Together," and it's going to be great! Call Boot Camp or Kathy's for details! Be sure to keep reading *Wisconsin Light* for announcements on a Mr. Buns contest, the Battle of the Possum Queens, and the first Ruthie's Single Hearts Club Party — all Possum Campaign events!

We're going to have a rowdy summer folks — and do a whole lotta good in the process!

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NIGHTS OUT

Recaps... On Thursday, the Miss (or was it Ms.?) Ugly contest at **La Cage** drew a large crowd. It was a Possum Queen benefit for Adora Man, otherwise known as Alan the door-man. Get it A DORa Man — oh never mind. Anyway, there was a fabulous show. I hear they raised several hundred dollars to fight AIDS. Way to go Adora.

the coveted crown. Our own Dear Ruthie was there too. I heard she escaped the trailer park in her finest apparel.

Speaking of trailer parks, two queens of the slabs held a Possum Queen fundraiser on Saturday over at **South Water Street Docks**. Ilesa Trailer and Iona Trailer and other hopefuls did their thing. Like the rest of our Possum Queen candidates, Ilesa and Iona are wonder-

ful. They work very hard at creating their own fun filled personas that add a dash of color to the Possum Queen mix.

There wasn't a Possum Queen event

at the **1100 Club** on Sunday, but there was something that was extra special. It was Michael and Grandma's 25th anniversary celebration. It was also Papa Smurf's B-Day party. Hmmm a birthday party and a silver anniversary celebration rolled into one!

I was hoping to find some Smurf Berry pie at the party, but alas there was none. There were plenty of other good things going on though. Not the least of them was Michael and Grandma telling the world that Gay couples can still share happiness after a quarter of a century of being together. Many happy returns to them and to Papa Smurf as well.

There was another AIDS Ride Fundraiser "Bike-A-Palooza" over at **Fluid**. It included a Beer bust of Miller Lite or Genuine Draft taps. I wasn't able to make that one, but my spies tell me that it did well.

Now if you look at all these events, they have something in common. They are bars, yes bars, doing something for the community. These and other bars in Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay and everywhere else continually show support for Gay charities, groups and causes.

Oh yes, some say, the bars only do events like these to make money off of them. That's nonsense. More often than not any extra customers drawn in by a benefit don't make up for the cost of decorations, advertising, extra staff, props, prizes, food, drink specials, free drinks and other odds and ends. In fact, I know of one bar owner who says its cheaper for him — and far less time consuming — to just give a donation than it is for him to hold a fundraiser.

He still does the fundraisers and so do others. Just about every place listed in our Bar Guide contributes in one way or another. The fact is that from **Club 5's** benefit for Madison's homeless, to **Woody's** Milwaukee Classic AIDS benefit, Wisconsin's LGBT bars raise tens of thousands of dollars to fight AIDS and for Gay charities.

That's not even mentioning the quiet donations, sports team sponsorships, the ads in Pride Guides, Community Directories and program books, all which also help support our community groups and causes.

Think about that the next time you hear someone say that our bars don't give a damn. Think about it and ask them what rock they've been hiding under. Okay, my soapbox mode is off.

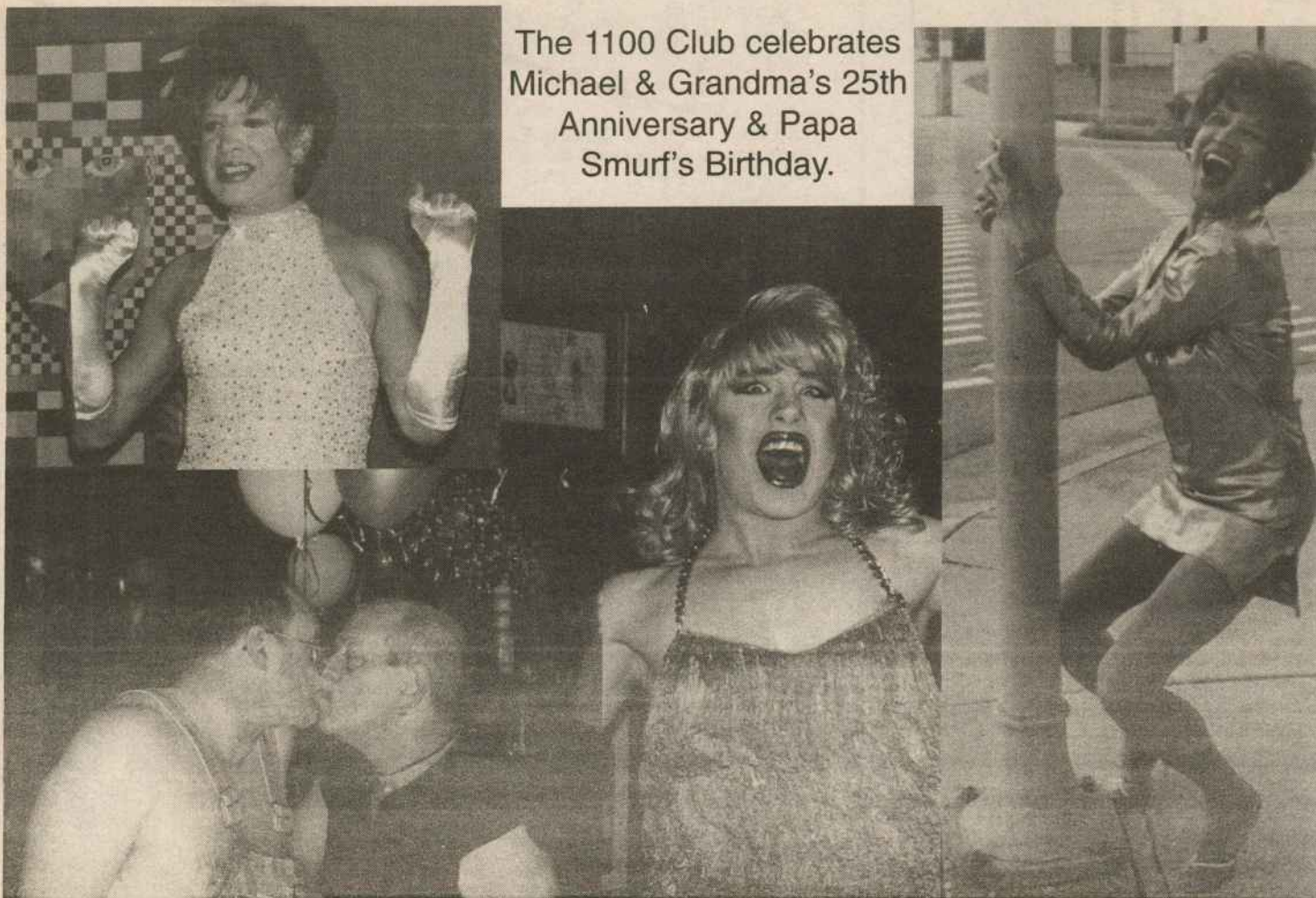
Speaking of off, I have to get this column off to the Editor now. Hope to see you out and about soon, meanwhile stay safe and be proud.

Dusty AFTER DARK

Kenosha's **Filling Station** held a fundraiser to help Chris raise money for the Wisconsin AIDS ride. Chris is trying to raise the required \$2,300 to participate in this summer's Minneapolis to Chicago bikeathon. Chris is a Bike Patrol police officer, so it's safe to say she knows how to ride. If you missed her benefit, you can still donate. Call her at (414) 904-9880.

They were raising money to fight AIDS over at the **M&M Club** too. Friday's "Big Show" was a benefit for Possum Queen hopeful, David. It was fabulous. A very large crowd was on hand to help David in his campaign to win

The 1100 Club celebrates Michael & Grandma's 25th Anniversary & Papa Smurf's Birthday.



Going Out

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

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

The Triangle (Milwaukee), BESTD Clinic offers free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling, 10pm-1am.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Boot Camp (Milwaukee), Mexican Fiesta Patio Party, 4-8pm, Raffle, prizes, Margarita specials all week. A Ms. Aint' B Gotton Possum Queen Fund-raiser.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Platwood Club (Stevens Point), Drag Show.

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

Za's (Green Bay), Holly Hot Damn & Kitty's Birthday Show, who's the real bitch?

THURSDAY, JULY 1

LaCage (Milwaukee), BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinic, anonymous testing and counseling, 10pm-1am.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

The Kloset (Beloit), 4th of July Weekend, Amateur Drag Show tonight. Drink specials.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Napalese (Green Bay), Guernsey Campaign Opening Show.

The Kloset (Beloit), 4th of July Weekend, Dance at 10pm tonight. Drink specials.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

The Kloset (Beloit), 4th of July Weekend, Parking Lot Fireworks Party, 1/2 off beer. Drink specials.

LIVE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

Barbie Dolls Playhouse (Milwaukee), Karaoke every Wed. at 10pm.

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, first Sun. and second and fourth Wed. 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, Fri. 8-11pm plus Free Lessons.

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

Switch (Milwaukee), Karaoke every Wed. at 8pm.

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TUESDAYS	9pm to Close • NEW! Pull Tabs - <i>Try Your Luck!</i>
WEDNESDAYS	9pm to 1 a.m. • Special Export - \$5.00 pitchers & 80¢ Mugs
THURSDAYS	9pm to Close • NEW! Pull Tabs - <i>Try Your Luck!</i>
SATURDAYS	11am to 6pm • \$2.30 Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds & 80¢ Tap Beer
SUNDAYS	11am to 6pm • \$2.30 Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds & 80¢ Tap Beer

SPECIAL EXPORT ON TAP

Party Room Available • Pizza Served Anytime
Pool Table • Video Machines • Darts • Juke Box

BAR GUIDE

APPLETON (920)

Rascal's Bar & Grill MW, F 702 E. Wisconsin, 54991 954-9262

BELOIT (608)

Kloset MW, DJ 232 Shirland Ave, 53511 363-8764

CENTRAL WISCONSIN (715)

Oz MW, DJ 320 Washington, Wausau, 54401 842-3225

Platwood Club G/S, MW, DJ 1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point, 54481 341-8862

EAU CLAIRE (715)

Scooters Wm 411 Galloway St., 54703 835-9959

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

GREEN BAY (920)

Brandy's II Mw 1126 Main St., 54304 437-3917

Buddies MW 1264 Main St, 54304 437-9256

Napalese Lounge MW, DJ 515 S. Broadway, 54303 432-9646

Sass WM, S 840 S. Broadway, 54304 437-7277

Za's/Java' MW, DJ, E, F, V 1106 Main St., 54301 435-5476

RESTAURANTS

Cafe Bourbon 1106 Main St., Upper, 54301 435-5476

LA CROSSE (608)

Cavalier Lounge Mw 114 N. 5th St., 54601 782-9061

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

MADISON (608)

CE's W,m 2415 Winnebago St. 53704 241-5042

Club 5/Planet Q MW, F, DJ, V, E 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 277-9700

Fox Hole W 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 277-9700

Kirby's Klub MW, DJ, S, E 121 W. Main St., 53703 251-5838

Mens Room M, L/L 3054 E. Washington, 53704 241-9335

Ray's Bar & Grill WM, DJ, F 3054 E. Washington, 53704 241-9335

Shamrock MW, F 117 W. Main St., 53703 255-5029

The Barracks M, L/L 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 277-8700

RESTAURANTS

Club 5 Fine Dining 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 277-9700

Fyfe's Corner Bistro Fine Dining 1344 E. Washington 251-8700

MILWAUKEE (414)

1100 Club M, L/L, Food 1100 S. 1st St., 53204 647-9950

Ballgame M, S 196 S. 2nd St., 53204 273-7474

(Open 2pm, Cocktail Hour 2-9 Mon-Fri; Sat & Sun open 11am)

Barbie Dolls Playhouse MW, S 700 E. Meinecke, 53212 374-7441

Boot Camp M, L/L 209 E. National Ave., 53204 643-6900

C'est La Vie M, D, E 231 S. 2nd St., 53204 291-9600

(Open 5pm, Cocktail Hour 5-8 Mon-Fri; Sat & Sun open 2pm, Daily Specials)

Club 219 Mw, DJ, E, V 219 S. 2nd St., 53204 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

(Open 5pm everyday; 2-for-1 Drinks 5-8 Mon-Fri; Wed & Thur specials, 8pm-close)

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

(Open 8pm; DJ 7-nights-a-week; Sunday show; Thur. Super Bust)

M&M Club MW, E, F 124 N. Water St., 53202 347-1962

Milw Eagle/Shaft M, L/L, DJ 300 W. Juneau, 53203 273-6900

South Water St. Docks M, L/L 354 E. National Ave., 53204 225-9676

Station 2 Wm, S 1534 W. Grant, 53204 383-5755

Switch Mw 124 W. National, 53204 220-4340

(Open 6pm, outdoor patio, Cocktail hour 6-9pm, nightly specials 9-close)

This Is It Mw 418 E. Wells St., 53202 278-9192

(Open 3pm every day; Cocktail hour special)

Triangle M 135 E. National Ave., 53204 383-9412

Woody's M 1579 S. 2nd St., 53204 672-0806

(Open 4pm-Close, 7 days a week)

RESTAURANTS

Annex Cafe Late Nite 1106 S. 1st St., 53204 384-7999

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

RACINE/KENOSHA (414)

Club 94 MW, DJ, E 9001 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 857-9958

Clubhouse Filling Station MW, F, DJ, E 6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 857-3744

Capers/Illusions MW, DJ, E 6305 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 857-3813

JoDee's MW, DJ 2139 Racine St., Racine, 53403 634-9804

What About Me? MW 600 6th St., Racine, 53403 632-0171

SHEBOYGAN (920)

Blue Lite MW 1029 N. 8th St., 53081 457-1636

SUPERIOR (715)

Bev's Jook Joint Wm 820 Tower Ave., 55880 392-5373

JT's Bar & Grill MW, DJ 1506 N. 3rd St, 55880 394-2580

Main Club MW 1217 Tower Ave., 55880 392-1756

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

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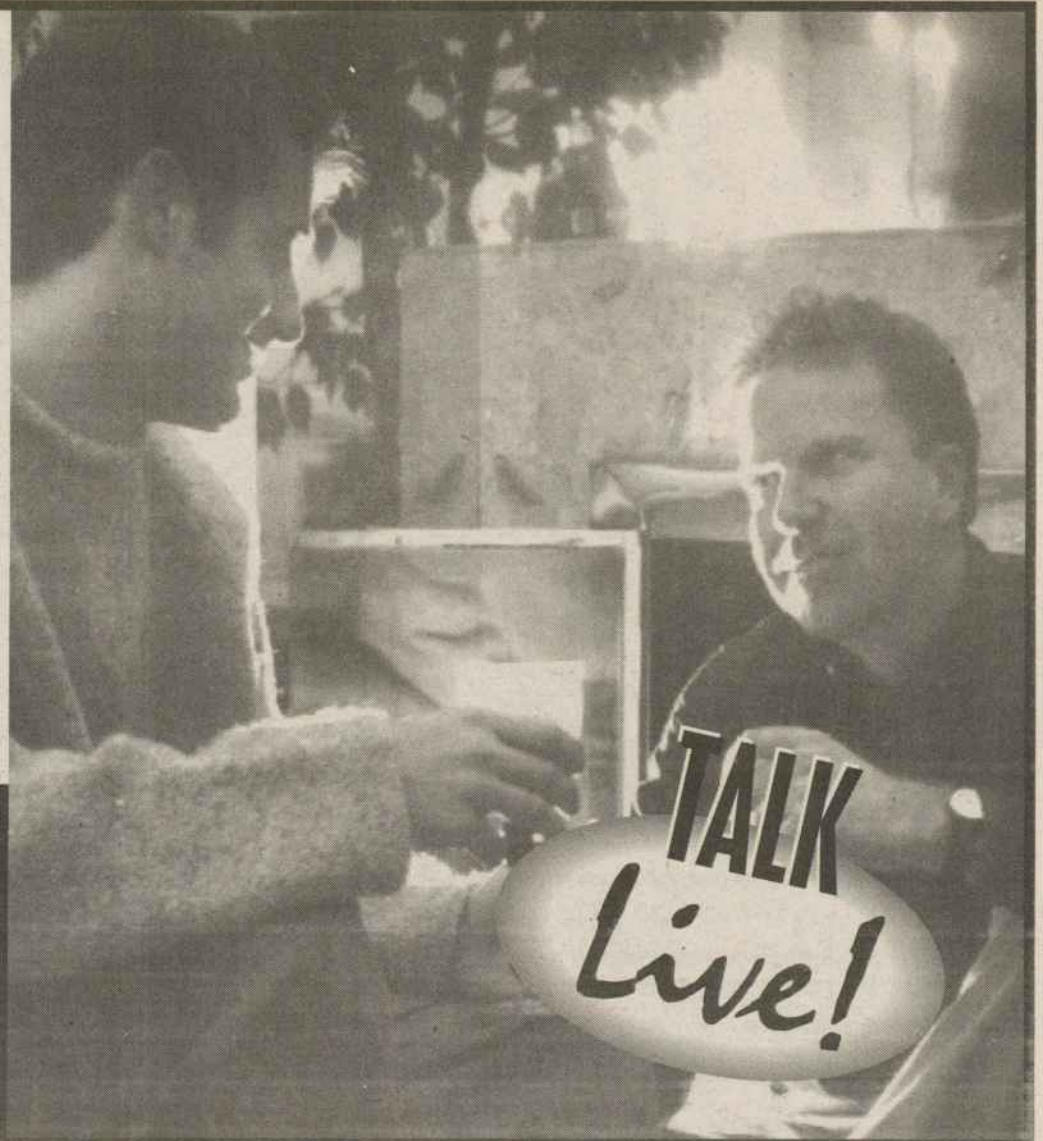
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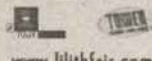
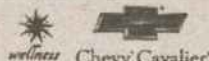
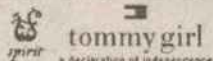
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Marcus Amphitheater

Sarah McLachlan
Sheryl Crow
Indigo Girls
Dixie Chicks
Deborah Cox

K's Choice, Bif Naked, Joan Jones
Emm Gryner, Leona Naess



Lilith Fair Volume 2 and 3 now available in stores

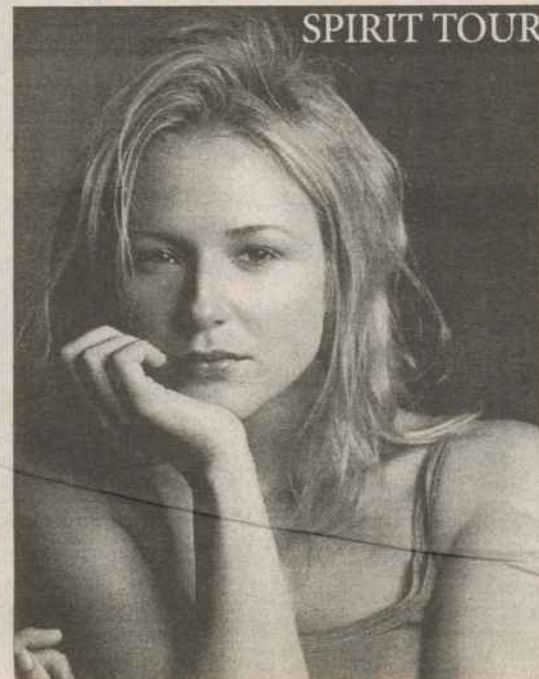
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Queen Latifah
Shawn Colvin
Sarah McLachlan
Natalie Merchant
Cowboy Junkies
Morcheeba



Lilith Fair Volume 3
Featuring:
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Sixpence None The Richer
Me'Shell Ndegéocello
Luscious Jackson
Suzanne Vega
Indigo Girls
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ATOMIC
THE TIDE IS HIGH
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-- New York Post --
"No Exit is nothing short of a transforming experience"
-- Interview --

AUGUST 15TH



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