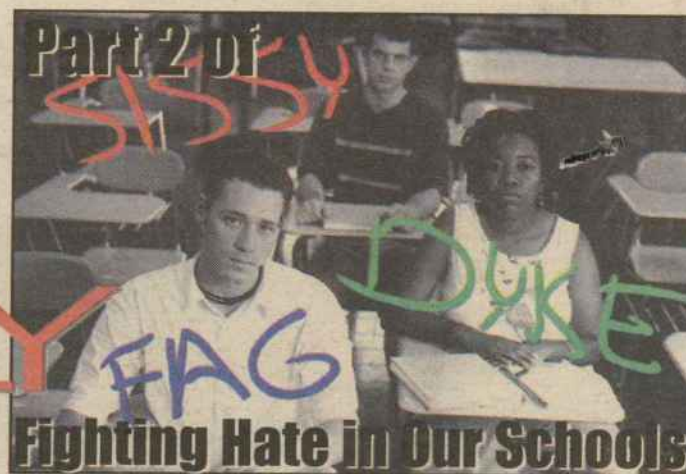


WI Light

June 30-July 6, 1999

WEEKLY



STONEWALL 30 Years And Counting...

It was June 28, 1969, a typical Friday night in New York's Greenwich Village. As usual, the Stonewall Inn was crowded.

Flagrant violations of the law were the order of the day at the Stonewall. Same sex couples crowded the dance floor. Some customers were not wearing the three gender identifying articles of clothing required by New York State law. The Stonewall Inn did not have a liquor license. It was nearly impossible for bars known to cater to "homosexuals" to obtain a liquor license. Nevertheless, the bartenders were serving liquor just as they did on any other day.

This, however, would not be a normal day. For two years, the Stonewall Inn operated as a private club. That plus payoffs kept plain clothes police officers out and its customers safe from arrest. That was about to change. Tonight the Police planned to raid the Stonewall.

Armed with a search warrant, nine uniformed officers appeared at the door. The bouncers held them in check long enough for the dancing couples to separate. The bartenders — knowing they would face the worst abuse — grabbed the money from the cash registers and tried to blend in with the crowd. No one wanted to see their names printed in tomorrow's newspapers.

The officers came storming in. The police ordered those patrons they didn't arrest to leave the premises. From the standpoint of the police, everything was going according to plan.

The plan, however, did not take into account growing anger in New York's Gay community. Most of the patrons gathered in the street outside. Curiosity seekers and other onlookers soon joined them. This was something new. Gays and Lesbians normally ran from the police. The police didn't think they would have a problem handling the 400 people outside. Normally they would be right. That night they were wrong.

The paddy wagon sat alongside the curb ready to receive that evening's catch. Some of the drag queens sashayed for the cheering crowd as they left the bar and headed for the police vehicle.

Then something happened. The mood of the crowd was far from festive. Someone threw a bottle at the police. Soon the air was thick with projectiles hurled at the officers from New York's First Division. Pennies, bottles, garbage — whatever anyone could lay their hands on — came flying. It was spontaneous combustion.

While the drag queens escaped from the police wagon, some in the crowd went to a nearby construction site and grabbed bricks to throw. The crowd chanted "Gay Power," as the police retreated to the bar and called for help.

For the next two hours, the streets in front of and around the Stonewall became a war zone. The police would charge to disperse a group only to find it had formed again on the next block.

No longer running in fear, Gay New Yorkers mocked the cops with kick lines dancing in the middle of the street.

Eventually the streets would fall silent. The small trash fires died out, the 13 people the police arrested were processed, and everyone went home.

There would be two more nights of rioting to follow. Within a week, things calmed down as those who took the streets organized. On the surface, it appeared that everything had returned to normal. Appearances can be deceiving. Nothing would ever be the same again.

The bottled-up anger of a people, who had faced the worst sort of abuse, was out in the open now. No one could put it back in. The "homophile movement" was dead. The Gay Liberation movement was born.

LGBT history didn't begin with Stonewall. However, the effect of Stonewall riots is so profound that historians divide modern Gay history into two categories: Before and After Stonewall.

Before Stonewall, even our organizations didn't call themselves "Gay" or "Lesbian." They were "homophile" groups. Cross-dressing was illegal everywhere. So was male to male dancing. LGBT couples that held hands in public were likely to be beaten and arrested.

Few people described themselves as "Gay." Homosexuals were "friends of Dorothy," or "homophiles." Above all else, they were afraid.

The Gay press largely consisted of mimeographed sheets passed from friend to friend. No one said they were "out of the closet." That term had not been coined yet. In fact, the idea of living as openly Gay was laughable to most. Openly Gay people couldn't get jobs, were disowned by their families, evicted from their homes and sometimes sent to asylums for treatment.

All of that began to change with one night of defiance.

The last 30 years have seen many changes. There are LGBT primetime characters on television. There have been three huge marches on Washington and a fourth will take place in April of next year. Gay civil rights laws, openly Gay politicians, Gay Pride celebrations and the Gay Games have become a fixture on the LGBT landscape. So, too, has domestic partnership, the repeal of most — but not all — sodomy laws and LGBT civil rights legislation.

The last 30 years have also seen Anita Bryant, the assassination of Harvey Milk, the rise of the Religious right, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and AIDS.

This week we look at the first 30 years of that story. The story of Stonewall is still being written every day.

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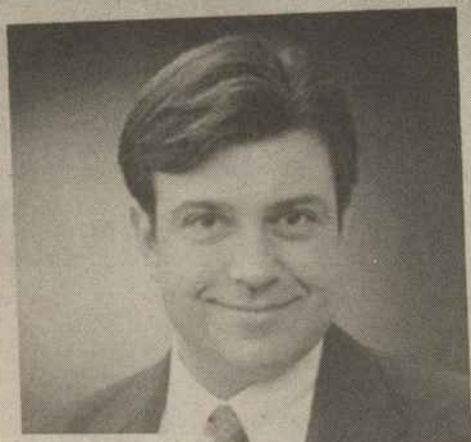


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AP Associated Press**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR****The Legacy of Stonewall****Dear Readers,**

The riots at the Stonewall Inn have assumed a legendary status in our community. What or who really started them? Eyewitness accounts differ on that. Why did they become so important? There are differences of opinion on that score too.

What is clear is that about 400 people, who normally cowered in fear, stood up in an act of defiance. That expression of rage set in motion a chain of events that have brought us to where we are today.

Although now we commemorate the Stonewall uprising with parties, festivals and parades, back then even other Gays and Lesbians criticized it and those who participated in them. Many of those who passed for leaders in the "homophile" community denounced the rioters. The president of one New York group told the press that the Police have every right to treat us as criminals, "because that's what we are."

I doubt that a bunch of rioting street kids, hustlers and drag queens would receive much more support now than they did then. Anyone who thinks otherwise should keep in mind how many — if not most of us — viewed the confrontational tactics of ACT-UP and Queer Nation in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

When looking over the events of the past 30 years, it is obvious that we have made some progress. Dozens of cities and 11 states have some type of Gay civil rights law. We no longer fight for the right to hold hands in public. Now we struggle for the right to be married.

On any given night you can turn on your television and see Gay and/or Lesbian characters. We have community centers, sports organizations, newspapers, festivals and openly Gay or Lesbian officeholders.

Despite all of those advances, more needs to be done. The major issues that confronted us in the late 1960s are still with us.

In nearly half the country, we can still be thrown in jail for being intimate with those we love. The military continues its ban on Gays and Lesbians. We can't legally marry. Even the suggestion that at some point one state might legalize same sex marriages is enough to send the politicians into a frenzy.

There is no Gay civil rights law in place at the federal level. Getting Congress, which loves to pass laws cracking down on criminals, to approve legislation protecting us from hate crimes seems an impossible task.

Even with those issues remaining, we've made important advances over the last 30 years. Those advances, however, are not the most important legacy of the Stonewall riots.

The power of Stonewall lies in how it changed the way we view ourselves. The people who forced the New York Police to retreat back into the bar they just raided were not thinking of civil rights laws, getting married and Pride festivals. They were thinking about something far more basic, the concept that Gays and Lesbians are entitled to be treated with dignity.

That was a fairly radical notion back then, even among some of us. It was that radical idea, which excited Gays and Lesbians who after all could have cared less if the police wanted to close down a New York bar, from coast to coast.

I remember my own experience. I read about the riots with a sense of wonder. I didn't understand anything about being Gay. All I "knew" was what I was told about homosexuality. Of course, I was told that homosexuals are mentally ill, lonely perverts who prey on children.

Those weren't the facts according to Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson; those were the facts according to everyone. Naturally, although I knew there were other homosexuals, I didn't know any personally. I read about the riots and for the first time, I began to think that what I had been told was wrong.

There it was for all to see, Gays and Lesbians chanting "Gay power." The crowd at the Stonewall Inn did more than battle the Police, they told the world that we deserve respect and the right to live our lives as we wish. It was that sense of self-worth that propelled us forward.

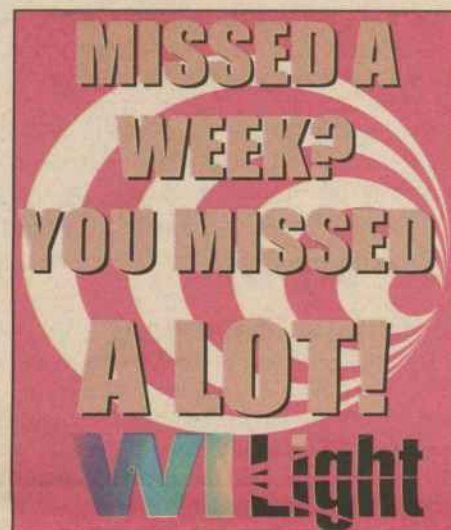
Some of us seem to have forgotten that. Far too often, I hear LGBT people putting down their own community or segments of it. When we judge others based on their looks,

friends, political outlook, car and income, we are just as guilty as those who judge us on the basis of our sexual orientation.

In 1999 we can go to a Gay bar without fear of a police raid. We can read an LGBT newspaper, watch Lesbians and Gays on TV, go to our community centers, join a sports group and in many places — including Wisconsin — receive some protection against discrimination.

Some of us would do well to remember that we can do all of these things because 30 years ago, a group of people, looked down on by nearly everyone, was caught in a seedy bar and said, "We have value too." That, my friends, is the real legacy of Stonewall.

Enjoy the Light
Bill Meunier
Editor

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STONEWALL:

30 years and counting

Glimpses of the past with hope for the Future

by Bill Meunier

1969 Gay Liberation

Stonewall

On Friday, June 28 New York Police raid the Stonewall Inn, a small, dank Gay bar in Greenwich Village. The raid attracts a crowd that unlike previous raids does not run away. Anger boils over and a riot ensues. Another riot takes place the next evening when regular customers unaware of the previous night's events try to break into the closed bar.

The riots galvanize Gays and Lesbians throughout the country. The "homophile movement for equality" becomes "the Gay liberation movement."

The 1970s

Building a Movement

By themselves, the Stonewall riots would have meant little or nothing. What made them significant was the building of a movement for LGBT equality.

The 1970s was the crucial decade in that process. As they began, the spirit of Stonewall begins to spread across the country. More importantly, the concept of being openly Gay and Lesbian spread as well.

As the decade ended, there was a clear sign of progress. Gay America had gone from a few hundred rioters in the streets of New York to over 200,000 people marching in Washington.

1970

Stonewall Remembered - The first LGBT pride celebrations take place in New York and other major cities around the country. Thousands take to the streets. Their chants of "Gay Power" tell America that the stigma and shame of being Gay or Lesbian was beginning to fade.

1971

Sodomy Laws Repealed - Connecticut, Colorado and Oregon become the first states to repeal their sodomy laws.

NOW Recants - After an abortive purge of open Lesbians from its roster, the National Organization of Women (NOW) acknowledges "the oppression of Lesbians as a legitimate concern of feminism," and invites them back.

1972

Parting Ways? - The Lesbian journals *Spectre & Furies* declare that Lesbians have to organize separately from both straight women and Gay men. Thus begins the "Lesbian Separatist" movement.

Another First - The first openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials take seats on the Anne Arbor Michigan city council.

A Winner - *That Certain Summer* becomes the first Gay themed TV program to win an Emmy.

1973

We Are Not Sick - The American Psychiatric Association removes Homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.

It is difficult to overestimate the impact of the APA announcement. Before that point, Gays and Lesbians were looked at as diseased and mentally ill. Many underwent shock therapy and some were even consigned to mental health facilities. Now, for the first time, the medical establishment told America's Gays and Lesbians that they were not sick and did not need treatment.

NGTLF & Lambda Legal Defense Fund Born - The National Gay Task Force (later to become the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, NGTLF) and the Lambda Legal Defense Fund are formed. NGTLF will play an important role in training LGBT leaders and lobbying for Gay civil rights laws at the federal level.

For many years, the Lambda Legal Defense Fund will serve as the only legal advocate for LGBT civil rights. It will win many important decisions and it continues its work today.

1974

ENDA 1 - Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D-NY) introduces legislation to add "sex, sexual orientation and marital status" as protected categories under the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The bill never got a hearing, but it did mark the first time LGBT civil rights legislation was proposed at the federal level.

A Noble Election! - A Massachusetts Lesbian, Elaine Noble, becomes the first openly Gay person elected to a state legislature.

1975

Military Challenge - A decorated Vietnam vet, Leonard Matlovich, sues the Air Force for reinstatement after it discharges him for being Gay. Matlovich makes the cover of *Time* and wins his suit. Then he opts to take a \$125,000 settlement from the Air Force instead. Activists accuse Matlovich of selling out. He later dies from AIDS.

1977

Boycott OJ - Orange juice spokesmodel Anita Bryant attacks the recently passed Dade County (FL) Gay rights ordinance. Bryant forms a group called Save Our Children and forces a referendum on the issue. Dade County voters by a two to one margin repeal the ordinance.

It is a defining moment for the Gay movement. Angered by the rhetoric of the religious right, more conservative elements in the LGBT community begin to join Gay political organizations, donate money and come out of the closet.

Faced with a national boycott, the Orange Growers will dump Bryant as their chief spokesperson. Years later she apologized for her actions blaming them on the influence of her husband.



Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk - On his fourth try, Harvey Milk wins a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Milk's successful campaign generates national publicity. He becomes an articulate spokesman for LGBT civil rights.

In the House - President Jimmy Carter receives the first official delegation of Gays and Lesbians to be invited to the White House.

SAGE - Senior Action in a Gay Environment, SAGE, forms in New York.

1978

Briggs Defeated - California voters reject the Briggs Initiative. It would have amended the state constitution to ban Gays, Lesbians and anyone who supports Gay rights from the state's school systems.

Milked Murdered - Ex-San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White assassinates Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone at City Hall in San Francisco.

A jury finds White guilty of involuntary manslaughter instead of first degree murder. Angered by the verdict, Gays and Lesbians riot in San Francisco. The rioters ransack City Hall and burn police cars.

La Cage aux Folles - A French movie about a Gay couple who own a nightclub in the Riviera becomes a surprise hit.

The Rainbow Flag! - Gilbert Baker of San Francisco creates the Rainbow Flag.

Log Cabin Built - The Log Cabin Club for LGBT Republicans forms in California.

1979

March On! - 200,000 people attend the first March on Washington for Gay rights. Many return home energized and form new organizations or join existing ones.

The 1980s

The Decade of AIDS

For Gay America, the 1980s will be forever known as the decade of AIDS. The free-wheeling lifestyle of the 1970s came to a crashing halt.

United in grief, the often-fragmented Gay

community came together. Lesbian separatists nursed sick Gay men. Those who were uninterested in politics suddenly became activists, as America's LGBT community struggled to get government help in fighting the epidemic.

Unfortunately, America was led by a Republican conservative who took five years to publicly utter the word "AIDS." While the government delayed, local LGBT communities formed and funded their own AIDS organizations. As the toll mounted, so did the anger.

1980

Cruising - The movies *Cruising* and *Windows* ignite protests over their portrayals of Gays and Lesbians as homicidal maniacs.

1981

AIDS Appears - The first reports of a mysterious "Gay cancer" begin to appear. It soon becomes clear that what was later called GRID (Gay Related Immune Disease) and then AIDS will have a devastating impact on Gay men.

1982

The Games - Over 1,300 athletes participate in the first Gay Olympic Games held in San Francisco. The U.S.

Olympic Committee sues to ban the Games from using the term "Gay Olympics." The USOC wins the suit and the Gay Olympics become the Gay Games.

In 1998, the Gay Games will attract over 15,000 athletes and hundreds of thousands of spectators to Amsterdam. Their founder, Dr. Tom Waddell, a U.S. Olympic athlete, never lived to see the triumph of his dream. He died of AIDS in 1987.

Wisconsin Leads the Way! - Wisconsin becomes the first state to pass a LGBT civil rights law. The law, AB-70, bans discrimination in housing, employment and public services.

Positive Portrayals - *Making Love and Victor/Victoria* break new ground in movie theaters around the country by showing Gays and Lesbians in a positive light.

1983

HIV Identified - The HIV virus is identified as the cause of AIDS.

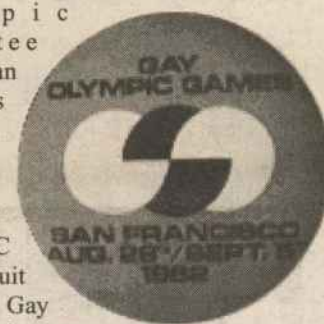
1984

Partnerships - Berkeley (CA) becomes the first city to extend domestic partnership benefits to its LGBT employees.

A Real Studd? - Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA) becomes the first openly Gay Congressman when he comes out of the closet. The House of Representatives censors Studds for having sex with a male congressional page.

1985

Rock Hudson Dies - America is saddened when actor Rock Hudson dies from AIDS. Sensing a change in the public mood,



President Reagan mentions AIDS for the first time.

We're GLAAD – The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is born. GLAAD will become an important voice raised



Rock Hudson

against unfair and inaccurate depictions of Gays and Lesbians by the entertainment industry and the media.

1986

The Supremes Say No – In the *Hardwick vs. Bowers* case, the Supreme Court rules that states have the right to ban sexual relations between consenting adults. *Hardwick* was charged with sodomy when police broke into his Atlanta home and found him in bed with another man.

First Adoption – Becky Smith and Annie Afleck become the first openly Lesbian couple in the United States to be granted a legal adoption of a child.

1987

ACT UP! – The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, ACT UP, forms. The group's creative but often confrontational tactics draw attention to the AIDS crisis — and criticism. Even the targets of those tactics say

ACT UP

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

the group had a positive impact in the effort to get more funds for the fight against AIDS.

March On II – Over 500,000 attend the second March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. They hear a fiery speech from Jesse Jackson Jr. Thousands will join his campaign for President in 1988.

Across the street from the rally, tens of thousands openly weep as they view the Names Project AIDS quilt for the first time.

1988

Come Out Come Out! – Polls showing that Americans are more likely to back Gay civil rights if they know someone who is Gay or Lesbian prompt the first National Coming Out Day celebration.

1989

Then There Were Two – Massachusetts joins Wisconsin as the only states in the country with an LGBT civil rights law.

The 1990s

A Mixed Bag

As the movement for LGBT rights enters its fourth decade, many battles remain. While the '90s are the decade of domestic partnerships, *Will and Grace*, a pro-Gay civil

rights President and legally sanctioned Gay adoptions, they are also the decade of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," DOMA, Reggie White, Ex-Gays and Matthew Shepard.



Reggie White

1990

Hate Crimes Passes – Congress passes and President Bush signs the Hate Crimes

Statistics Act, the first federal law to include the term "sexual orientation." The law requires the FBI to keep statistics on anti-Gay and other hate crimes.

Queer Nation – Queer Nation, an LGBT civil rights group that uses ACT UP style tactics forms. Although its name generates controversy within the LGBT community, QN chapters spring up around the country. The group uses theatrical protests such as kiss-ins at shopping malls to gain media attention for LGBT civil rights issues.

Miriam Wins – Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom wins reinstatement into the military thanks to a court decision issued by Federal Judge Terrance Evans. The U.S. Supreme Court would eventually overturn Evans' ruling.

1990

Museum Director Acquitted – Dennis Barrie, the Director of the Cincinnati Museum of Art, is charged with promoting obscenity because he booked an exhibit of homo-erotic photographs taken by Gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Barrie is acquitted, but the Religious Right uses the exhibit to press home its case for ending federal funds given to the National Endowment of the Arts. The battle over arts funding will continue for years to come.

1991

Kowalski Wins – In a celebrated case that drew national attention, Karen Thompson wins guardianship of her partner Sharon Kowalski, who had been seriously injured in a car accident. Thompson's victory was the culmination of a three-year legal fight to care for her partner over the objections of Kowalski's parents.

The Victory Fund – A group of LGBT activists found the Victory Fund, a political action committee dedicated to helping Gays and Lesbians win elected office.

1992

Clinton Wins – Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton becomes the first major party nominee to call for Gay rights during his acceptance speech. By contrast, Republicans cheer hysterically as Pat Buchanan calls for a "culture war" on Gays and Lesbians at the GOP convention.

Gays and Lesbians respond to Clinton's appeal with millions of votes and millions of dollars. They are credited with helping him

win the Presidency. Clinton will become the first sitting President to include Gay issues on the national agenda.

He will appoint openly Gay and Lesbian individuals to high office, ban federal employment discrimination, end the ban on security clearances for Gays and Lesbians and become the first President to address an LGBT group. He will also increase funding for the fight against AIDS and repeatedly call for the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and federal legislation against anti-Gay hate crimes.

Amendment 2 – Colorado's voters ratify a state constitutional amendment that bans any unit of government from passing LGBT civil rights legislation. Amendment 2 causes a national uproar, a boycott of Colorado and a court challenge.

1993

March On III – Over 1,000,000 people march for LGBT civil rights in Washington.

Don't Ask Don't Tell – Gays and Lesbians are crushed and angry when faced with a Congress hostile to the idea, President Clinton is unable to lift the ban on LGBT service in the military. Clinton accepts a compromise known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue." Under its terms, recruits and members of the military will not be asked about their sexual orientation, and the military will not investigate the sexual feelings of its members unless there is an admission of homosexuality. Congress changes the compromise to allow the military to continue to investigate its members.

From an LGBT standpoint, Don't Ask Don't Tell is a disaster. Within two years, the number of discharges given to LGBT service members exceed those given out before it was put in place. Many Gays and Lesbians will never forgive the President.

1994

ENDA – The "modern" version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act is introduced in Congress. It would ban employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

GOP Gains – The Republican party, with strong backing from the anti-Gay Religious Right, wins control of both houses of congress for the first time in over 40 years. The new House Speaker, Congressman Newt Gingrich, is known for his anti-Gay rhetoric.

Stonewall 25 – Over 1,000,000 visitors come to New York for the Gay Games and the Stonewall 25 celebration. Over 1,000,000 people take to the streets to commemorate the Stonewall uprising.



1995

New Hope for AIDS – The development of Protease Inhibitors gives new hope to those with AIDS. The new drug therapies lower the viral count in persons living with AIDS/HIV. Researchers caution that they are not a cure and that there is no way — as of now — to determine how long the drugs will work.

Louganis Has AIDS – Olympic diver Greg Louganis announces that he is living with AIDS. His statement causes a scandal when it is revealed that during the 1988 Olympic games, the star athlete failed to warn a doctor to take precautions before he treated the Gold medal winner for a head wound.



Greg Louganis

Wisconsin Student Sues – Jamie Nabozny files a federal lawsuit accusing the Ashland School District of failing to protect him from anti-Gay harassment in school. He will win his suit and set a legal precedent that will inspire others.




Bill Clinton

1996

Clinton Re-elected – Many Gays and Lesbians cheer the re-election of President Clinton, who promises to step up the battle for federal employment protection.

DOMA Passes – The Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA, passes Congress.



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Ellen Degeneres

President Clinton signs it into law. DOMA prohibits the federal government from recognizing same sex marriages even if they are legal in one or more states. It also says the States don't have to recognize them either. Many legal experts doubt that DOMA is constitutional.

ENDA a Near Miss - The U.S. Senate shocks observers by coming within one vote of passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Democrats forced the ENDA vote by threatening to filibuster DOMA unless a vote on ENDA also took place.

Amendment 2 Voided - The U.S. Supreme Court hands advocates of LGBT civil rights a major victory when it throws out Colorado's Amendment 2. The Court ruled that the amendment violated the rights of Gays and Lesbians. Even more significant, for the first time, the Court defines Gays and Lesbians as a legitimate minority group.

1997

Gays Get Asylum Here - Over 40 LGBT refugees have been given asylum in the United States. The Clinton administration quietly ordered the Immigration Service to grant asylum to Gays and Lesbians fleeing anti-Gay persecution in their native countries.

Supremes Okay Don't Ask, Don't Tell - The U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear a

case challenging the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy on Gays in the military.

Americans Favor Equality - A public opinion poll shows that 68% of the American public favors federal legislation banning employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

Ellen Comes Out - TV star comedian Ellen Degeneres becomes the first openly LGBT person to come out the closet on the air. A year later her show would be cancelled.

1998

As Goes Maine? - The voters of Maine repeal a statewide LGBT civil rights law.

Tammy Does It - Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin is elected to Congress. She becomes the first openly Lesbian Congresswoman in history. Baldwin is also the first openly LGBT person ever to win a first term in Congress.

Ex-Gays? - The Religious Right takes a new tact. It begins running ads claiming that Gays and Lesbians can be changed through "reparative therapy." Mental health experts denounce the therapy as a fraud.

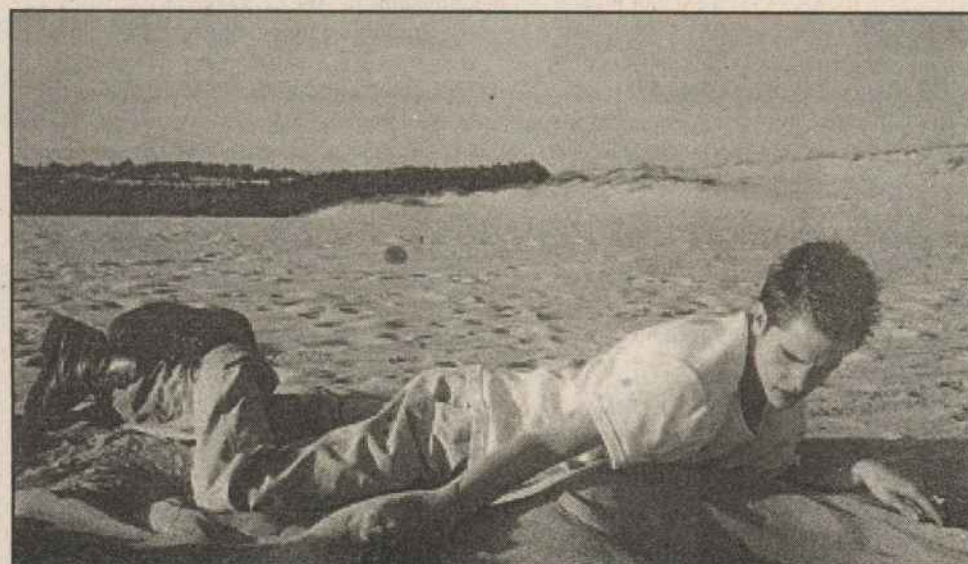
Marriage Voted Down - The voters in America's newest states, Hawaii and Alaska, overwhelmingly approve constitutional amendments to ban Gay marriage.

Matthew Shepard - Matthew Shepard, a 22-year-old Wyoming college student, is brutally beaten and hung on a barb wired fence. He is found the next day by a cyclist, who mistook him for a scarecrow. Shepard dies three days later. The nation is shocked. Calls for hate crime laws increase.

1999

EB@H - The National Gay Lesbian Task Force organizes a nationwide campaign geared towards building stronger local and statewide organizations. Thousands participate in demonstrations, lobby days, flag raisings and other events.

Hormel Sent Abroad - President Clinton overrides Republican Senators who refused to allow a vote on his appointment of openly Gay philanthropist James Hormel as Ambassador to Luxembourg. He gives Hormel a recess appointment that does not need Senate approval. Some Republican conservatives threaten to block all of Clinton's appointments. They relent under public pressure.



Matthew Shepard

AROUND THE STATE

Domestic Partnership Registry Passes Hurdle

by Ron Geiman

Milwaukee – The Milwaukee Common Council's Judiciary and Legislation Committee recommended passage of the proposed Domestic Partnership Registry ordinance on a vote of 3-1. The vote came after a rancorous public hearing held on June 24. The full Common Council will take up the measure at its July 13th meeting, and it could be in place by September.

The Domestic Partnership Registry ordinance would allow same-sex couples to register their committed relationship at City Hall for a \$30 fee.

Committee Chair Alderman Wayne Frank along with Aldermen Fred Gordon and Marvin Pratt voted in favor of passage. Alderman Tom Nardelli — who claimed that he was voting the way his constituents wanted him to vote — was the lone dissenter. A fifth committee member, Don Richards, who had to leave the hearing before the vote, said he would support the ordinance when it comes before the full Common Council.

Those four yes votes, when combined with those of the measure's three co-sponsors, gives the registry a minimum of seven votes, just two votes shy of the nine needed for passage by the Council.

Over 125 people attended the hearing. The crowd took up the gallery space in the hearing room, an adjacent room with closed circuit TVs, and spilled into the hallway. The crowd was evenly divided between those favoring and those opposing the registry.

Since the introduction of the registry ordinance, hundreds of Gays and Lesbians called their aldermen, wrote letters and sent emails to urge support of the registry.

Registry opponents are also active. Wisconsin Christians United, WCU targeted Nardelli with a door-to-door literature drop in his district. The WCU flyers included defamatory statements about Gays and a call to discriminate against them, along with a claim that the ordinance would result in a tax increase.

In his introductory remarks before the Committee, D'Amato urged approval, commenting, "As a city, it's in our best interest to support this... It's about equality and human rights."

"Some have said this is just 'feel good' legislation. And to that, I would say, sometimes it's all right to feel good. Sometimes it's all right to have a city make people feel good. And we have to think this is a particular group that is being treated unfairly, that has not been equal — let's make them feel good. Let's give them a step or two towards that equality."

Although the ordinance would apply only to the City of Milwaukee, most of those speaking against it were not City residents. At the start of the meeting, Frank explained he was originally going to restrict testimony so that Milwaukee residents would not have to wait to speak, however, he changed his mind to let everyone have their say.

Throughout the two hour hearing,

Conservative Christian activists preached their interpretation of the Bible and warned of another Sodom and Gomorra and death by AIDS if the registry is established. Although most claimed to "love homosexuals," more often than not, opponents of the proposal attacked Gays and Lesbians rather than the registry itself.

The first speaker, anti-Gay abortion pro- tester, Bob Braun, who resides in West Allis, set the tone for those opposing the registry. He said, "I've confronted many people who live a good style that might be homosexual, but I've come across a huge amount who stand in front of abortion clinics and cry out 'kill the babies.' They come with Satanists, I think, who are involved in drugs. This is a true fact."

"I think that it's a disgrace that the city of Milwaukee would bring this ordinance. I consider it a disgrace to live here," he continued. When someone in the crowd shouted out, "You don't live here!" many laughed, but Braun continued. "I have suggested to everyone we should put Sodom in front of Milwaukee so that it's Sodomwaukeee if you pass this and put that on your envelopes."

Patrick Flaherty, Co-Chair of the Domestic Partnership Registry Task Force, answered Braun and other opponents by reviewing a list of those supporting the registry. Letters of support entered into the Committee's file included those from mainstream religious representatives, labor unions, and the City's Equal Rights Commission.

Some mainstream religious leaders and pastors also testified in favor of the bill. In response, one conservative evangelical pastor condemned them saying they were "wolves in sheep's clothing."

A spokesman for WCU, a Monroe, Wisconsin-based Conservative Christian group headed by Rev. Ralph Ovadal, outlined WCU's opposition to the ordinance. According to WCU, the Registry "will be seen as an official affirmation of homosexual activity... and be used as a stepping stone for the advancement of the homosexual agenda."

A Milwaukee man, who also claimed membership in WCU, quoted "statistics" from studies conducted by Dr. Paul Cameron. The American Psychiatric Association has denounced Cameron's work and disavowed him.

Even Alderman Nardelli found the man's statements objectionable. To cheers and applause, he broke into the speakers recitation and said, "Sir, could you please speak to this ordinance? I don't want to hear a bunch of crappy statistics. I just want to hear what you think of this ordinance."

In between the attacks, registry supporters stated their positions. They argued that the ordinance would provide benefits to those who register, including hospital visitation rights, the ability to get domestic partnership benefits from employers who offer them, and for one youth, a sense of security and self-confidence. One elderly woman spoke poignantly

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about her 'Bible-induced homophobia and eventual acceptance of her Gay son.'

Neil Albrecht, Executive Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, said the ordinance is about "One word... tolerance. A city that struggles within its soul on issues of racism, classism, sexism and poverty needs to hear more messages of tolerance."

In stark contrast, a Bay View Evangelist railed against the LGBT community for citing hate crimes. Pointing to the Committee members, he said, "Let me tell you about hate crime. (Pointing to Committee members) Hate crime is every single one of you that votes to allow this kind of activity, because what you are doing is hating these people into the lake of fire and destruction."

Another man in opposition haltingly read verse after verse directly from the Bible, until the Committee had heard more than enough and stopped his testimony.

Wisconsin Light Editor Bill Meunier also testified. Several of the opponents cited *Wisconsin Light* articles during their testimony. Meunier thanked them "for the free publicity," but asked that they "not use quotes from our paper without keeping them in context." He went on to reflect on other civil rights struggles in Milwaukee saying that when the City showed it valued all of its people, "it became a stronger community."

Alderman Fred Gordon cited Meunier's remarks when he made the motion to recommend passage to the Common Council. He pointed to the 1960's struggle to pass an open

housing ordinance in Milwaukee. Many in the audience were visibly moved by his statement.

Alderman Marvin Pratt gave a pointed answer to the Religious activists in announcing that he was voting in favor. Pratt said that at the Southern Baptist convention, while 2600 delegates voted to condemn homosexuality, 1300 did not. The Alderman said that shows that many Christians would not agree with some of the statements made by the opponents of the registry.

The proposal now moves to the Common Council. Its advocates continue to urge City of Milwaukee residents to contact their Alderpersons at 286-2221 whether or not they have indicated support and to attend the meeting.

If the ordinance is passed by the Council, it will then go to Mayor John Norquist for his signature or veto. Although *Wisconsin Light* has heard private reports that the Mayor has indicated his support for the registry, his office publicly insists that he has not decided on whether to sign it. Flaherty and others are urging City residents to call the Mayor's office at 286-2200 to urge him to publicly support the proposal.

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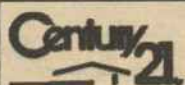
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AROUND THE NATION

ENDA Introduced Again

Washington, D.C. - With great fanfare, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act was reintroduced in Congress on Thursday, June 24.

The legislation would ban employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. Eleven states, including Wisconsin, have laws banning employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, but it is legal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation in the other 39 states.

In the past, the Religious Right claimed that ENDA would lead to affirmative action programs for Gays and Lesbians. To counter that argument, ENDA now includes a provision that explicitly bans preferential treatment of Gays and Lesbians.

Senator Ted Kennedy, one of the lead sponsors of ENDA, called it "the next important step for civil rights in America." Most of the bill's sponsors are Democrats; however, some Republicans like Vermont's Senator Jim Jeffords are sponsors, too. In a speech to Congress, Jeffords said, "This bill is about fairness. This bill is about equality. This bill is about basic civil rights. This bill must pass this Congress."

Both President Clinton and Vice-President Gore issued statements supporting the bill. Robert Knight of the Family Research Council denounced it calling ENDA "special protection." Knight said his group will work against its passage.

ENDA has caused some controversy within the LGBT community itself. Last month, openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) said it had almost no chance of passing. Then this month, the National Gay Lesbian Task Force announced that it would not support the legislation because it does not specifically include Transgendered people.

Presbyterian Ban on LGBT Clergy Remains

Fort Worth, TX - America's largest Presbyterian church rejected an attempt to lift the ban on non-celibate LGBT ministers. The Church Orders and Ministries Committee had recommended approval of a constitutional amendment that would have lifted the ban.

The Assembly rejected a plan to submit the change to a regional vote. The Assembly vote was 389 against and 198 in favor of a regional vote.

GLAAD Gets Ad Changed

New York, NY - The Kia car company thought it had a clever punch line for its new commercial. In the ad, a man drives his Kia through various weather conditions. The commercial ends with the man driving alongside another car driven by a man dressed in women's clothing. The cross dresser blows the man a kiss and the tag line, "57 acts of nature... one freak of nature," appears on the screen.

The Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation didn't find the ad to be humorous. It fired off a letter of complaint to Kia. Fearful of a Gay boycott, the company pulled the ad from the air.

Stonewall Put on National Register

Washington, D.C. - The Stonewall Inn, site of the riots that brought the modern LGBT civil rights movement into being, has

been accorded an honor never before given to any LGBT site, inclusion on the national registry of historic sites.

In making the announcement, Assistant Secretary for the Interior, John Barry, compared the Stonewall uprising to the Boston Tea Party, the battle of Gettysburg and other important American historical events. "It was the heat of a summer's night here at Stonewall that led to the creation of a new civil rights movement for America," said Barry.

As could be expected, the Religious Right denounced the move. "Even though it has now been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, there is no way the hearts of Americans will ever believe homosexuality is normal or viable, or should have a significant place in American history," said the Rev. Lou Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition. "Are we going to honor prostitution and pedophilia next? Those are 'behaviors' too."

Oregon GOP Endorses Anti-Gay Measure

Portland, OR - Overriding concerns that it should not associate itself with the anti-Gay Oregon Citizen's Alliance, the Republican State Central Committee endorsed an anti-Gay referendum during a closed doors meeting.

The referendum would amend the State constitution to prohibit public schools teachers from "encouraging, promoting or sanctioning homosexuality." The Oregon Citizen's Alliance calls the referendum a "student protection act." If approved by the voters, it would prevent teachers from telling students that homosexuality is normal for some people and that Gays and Lesbians can lead fulfilling lives.

Partnership Registry Opens

Petaluma, CA - The Santa Rosa Press Democrat reports that the Sonoma County Domestic Partnership Registry opened on Thursday, June 25. The Registry is open to both same sex and opposite sex couples.

A group calling itself "Citizens for Traditional Marriage" circulated a petition to get a ballot measure that would have overturned the Registry ordinance. The organization was able to garner only a third of the signatures it needed to place the question on the ballot.

Speaking for the group, Lisa Bearinger said that it was not "anti-homosexual" but was only trying to protect the sanctity of marriage. Bearinger said the organization might try to get the question on the ballot by using the State's initiative law.

Gaither Murder Suspect Pleads Guilty

Rockford, AL - Steven Eric Mullins, 25, one of two men accused of killing Billy Jack Gaither because of Gaither's homosexuality, pled guilty to charges of capital murder. In return for the plea, prosecutors will recommend that Mullins receive a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Police say that a second suspect, Charles Monroe Butler, 21, and Mullins lured Gaither to a secluded area, where they beat him to death with an axe handle and then burned his body. Officials say that Butler confessed to the killing. He is scheduled to stand trial on August 2.

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FIGHTING HATE In Our SCHOOLS

Part two of a *Wisconsin Light* Series
by Bill Meunier

Many observers see the battle against hate in our nation's schools as a critical one for America's Gays and Lesbians. Schools that promote tolerance and promptly deal with bashings of LGBT students send a strong message of acceptance. Schools that don't embrace all of their students send a different type of message.

As the issue of safety for LGBT teens gains increased attention, our schools are becoming the latest battleground in the struggle for LGBT civil rights. On the one hand, legal advocates, educators and organizations like GLSEN work to make America's schools safer for LGBT youth. On the other hand, the Religious Right fights to keep any positive message about homosexuality out of the schools.

Caught in the middle of the conflict are Gay and Lesbian teens, many of whom are struggling to come to grips with their sexuality.

Grading Our Schools

In 1998, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network issued a report card on America's 42 largest school districts. The report card is endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers. GLSEN asked district administrators six basic questions. The questions dealt with whether the districts have policies that prohibit discrimination and harassment of Gay students and staff, as well as training programs for teachers and school staffs.

Eight districts rated an A or A-. Four received a grade of B. Ten districts got a C. There were three D's. GLSEN gave an F to sixteen districts with a combined enrollment of 1,737, 557 students.

The surveyed school districts are in urban settings where more liberal attitudes towards homosexuality would most likely have an effect. If rural districts had been surveyed as well, it is likely the average grade would have been far worse.

The Milwaukee Public Schools received a grade of C from GLSEN. It achieved that rating by telling GLSEN that it protects students and staff from discrimination based on sexual orientation, and that it "supports curricula that are inclusive of the lives and contributions of LGBT people."

The district admits that it does not protect LGBT students or staff from harassment.

Some observers question whether MPS does, in fact, have supportive curriculum.

Conversations with students and local LGBT youth advocates failed to turn up any evidence that it does. An effort to include LGBT friendly elements in the Milwaukee Public School system failed miserably when hundreds of opponents protested. Many, if not most of them, were from Milwaukee suburbs.

The Front Lines

The front lines in the battle against anti-Gay attitudes in the schools extend from the courthouse to the School Board meetings and into the home. There is evidence of progress, but it is a slow process.

There are some successes. In Los Angeles, LGBT teens find a supportive atmosphere in their schools. The district even sponsors a prom for its Gay and Lesbian students. New York schools established the Harvey Milk High School for LGBT teens.

Last January, students at Madison's Malcolm Shabbaz High School produced *Execution of Justice*, a play about the assassination of Harvey Milk and the murder trial that followed it. Madison's school district, Wisconsin's second-largest, has a strong GLSEN presence in its schools. It was not among those surveyed.

In other districts like New Orleans, where the local school district told

GLSEN it had no Gay students, LGBT youth is not so lucky.

The Courts

In 1995 a Wisconsin Gay teen, Jamie Nabozny, became something of a poster boy for LGBT students after winning a lawsuit he filed against the Ashland, Wisconsin school district. The Lambda Legal Defense, which took up Nabozny's cause, calls the verdict "a landmark ruling." Nabozny's suit said he was verbally harassed, urinated on and beaten to the point where he needed surgery.

Meetings with school administrators, the identification of his attackers, and pleas for help did nothing to stop the abuse. Eventually, Nabozny ran away from home, tried to kill himself several times, and dropped out of school.

In the end, the failure of Ashland school officials to act resulted in a court finding of negligence and a damage settlement that amounted to more than \$900,000. The case shocked the educational establishment. School districts had been put on notice that they could no longer adopt the "boys will be boys" attitude of the past.

Other suits similar to Nabozny's are now winding their way through the court system.

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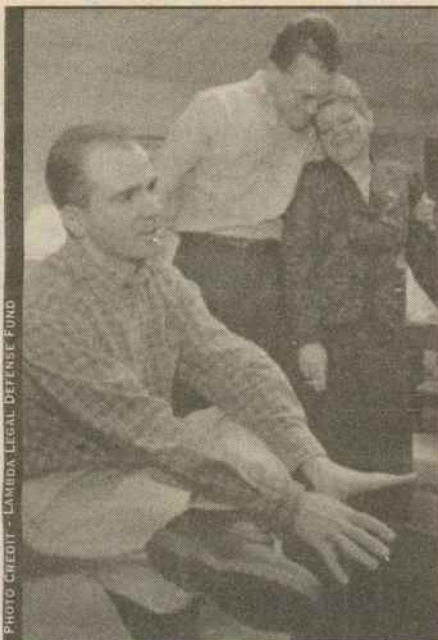


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Jamie Nabozny after his landmark court victory. Shown in the background are his mother Carol Nabozny and Lambda Legal Defense Fund attorney David Buckel.



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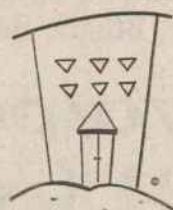
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continued from page 10

Last fall, a Kentucky jury found the Spencer County school district negligent for its failure to respond to the complaints of two teens who said they were harassed in part for their perceived sexual orientation while they attended school in a rural area near Louisville.

Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that an Arkansas school district could be held liable for failing to properly protect a student who said she was sexually harassed. Although the case was not brought because of anti-LGBT harassment, the Lambda Legal Defense Fund hailed the ruling. Lambda says it firmly established the legal principle that schools must protect all of their students from abuse.

The courts can only punish those who didn't prevent the abuse. Preventative measures are also needed.

School District Policies

Those preventative measures can start with policies that ban discrimination and harassment. School district discrimination policies are a key battleground for LGBT students, their parents and others. While many school districts have policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, many do not.

LGBT civil rights advocates say that it should be a simple matter of adding two words to existing policies. The Religious Right casts the issue in sinister terms. When California's legislature considered the Student Protection Act, a bill requiring school districts to include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies, a firestorm erupted.

Religious activists claimed the proposed law would force school districts to "promote homosexuality." They contended that it would hurt students by showing homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle. Despite pleas from educators, celebrities and a moving letter from the mother of murdered University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, the bill fell one vote short of passage.

The debate in the California legislature is hardly an isolated incident. It takes place in school districts from coast to coast. The battle lines in these debates are sharply drawn. More often than not, the harsh rhetoric and false stereotypes attacking Gays and Lesbians gets widespread dissemination in the local press.

Organizations like GLSEN say that, in addition to anti-discrimination policies, school districts should also have anti-harassment policies in place. Researchers say that name calling, if not addressed, can and frequently does turn into physical abuse.

The Alta Loma (California) school system has what some might call a model policy for dealing with verbal harassment. The policy applies to slurs against a student's or staff member's race, religion, sexual orientation, appearance or disability.

Violators find themselves sitting in the school office. There, they must answer a series of questions about what they said, why they said it, and how they think it will affect the school and other students. They are also required to write a letter to their parents explaining why they were sent to the office, and they won't be admitted to their classes until they return the letter with their parents' signatures.

Educating the Educators

Policies will not help Gay and Lesbian students if those responsible for enforcing them do not act on them.

Polls of LGBT students consistently show the majority of teachers and school staff members may, indeed, be unaware of the problems they face. Gay and Lesbian students say that teachers, school administrators and even counselors ignore anti-Gay slurs and sometimes utter homophobic remarks themselves.

That should hardly be surprising. Youth advocates say that it would be a mistake to believe that teachers understand homosexuality or the impact that homophobia can have on LGBT students. Teachers and administrators carry their beliefs and experiences into the workplace just as everyone else does. There is a clear need to teach the teachers about the problems faced by Gay and Lesbian students.

Increasing numbers of school administrators are recognizing that fact. They are turning to staff workshops to help their employees identify homophobia, understand how it hurts a Gay student's chances to reach his or her full potential, and help them to deal with it.

The Kids Fight Back

Organizations like GLSEN, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians, the Lambda Legal Defense Fund and the ACLU are important players in the effort to make our schools better places for LGBT students.

The students themselves are also waging that battle. Students raising their voices can have a powerful effect on school boards and school district staffs.

After they were thrown out of last month's Columbia Missouri school board meeting, a group of current and former LGBT students returned on June 15 with television cameras in tow. This time the Board listened to their concerns before it went into closed session to discuss them. A decision is expected next month.

Political action is not the only way LGBT students are fighting back. Chapters of GLSEN are springing up from coast to coast. So are other groups such as the Gay-Straight alliance organizations. These organizations often achieve at least a limited success in making other students aware of their LGBT peers. They also help to ease the isolation that many Gay and Lesbian students experience.

In response to the formation of a GLSEN chapter at a Salt Lake High School, the Utah State Legislature banned all student groups that aren't directly related to the school's curriculum. Thousands of students protested that decision by marching out of their classrooms and into the streets.

Faced with mounting public pressure generated by the students themselves, the Utah Legislature relented. It passed a bill allowing unsanctioned groups to meet in the schools. Victories like that one hold out hope for the future.

The students in Columbia and Salt Lake City showed remarkable courage. They are the exception to the rule.

There is a myriad of issues related to educating America's youth. All of them compete for the attention of school officials. In order to get the attention of those in charge of the classroom and contend with the well-organized Religious Right, LGBT students need help.

Next Week - What You Can Do

Celebrate Pride Northeast Wisconsin Style

by Mike Fitzpatrick

Green Bay – Disco Era Gay icons, "cowtendants," hunky men, drag dolls, entertainers, a landmark anniversary and parties galore will mark northeast Wisconsin's Rainbow Pride Weekend, July 8-11.

The majority of the four day's events are benefits for Row, Rainbow Over Wisconsin. ROW is a nonprofit community organization that funds groups and projects, which benefit the LGBT community in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Events sponsored by ROW members and affiliated with the Pride Weekend will take place in Appleton, Forest Junction, Green Bay, Sheboygan and Wausau.

The annual Pride Picnic on Saturday, July 10 is the centerpiece event of the weekend, according to



RAINBOW OVER WISCONSIN

ROW President Terry Tetzlaff. "The picnic is ROW's largest single fundraising project each year and requires a battalion of volunteers to entertain and serve an army of partying picnic-goers," Tetzlaff said.

The biggest challenge to this year's picnic will be getting there, as it will be held at the Al Kampke farm in Forest Junction, from Noon to 6pm. The Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation is completing a major rebuilding of state highway 57, a key route to the event. Several fairly convenient detours using county roads PP and HR and Interstate 43 are available, according to Tetzlaff. "It may take a little more time to get to the fun this year, but we've got some great new things cooked up to make it well worth the drive."

Among the planned highlights are new carnival-like games of skill and an expanded entertainment showcase featuring 1999 Mr. Gay USofA Tyler Thomas (flight schedule permitting) who will be in the area for the Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA regional pageant.

Other entertainers scheduled to perform are: Mr. Gay Wisconsin Dan E. Dance; USofA and America pageant system titleholders Kelli Jo Klein, Justine D'Zire, Neely O'Hara, DeeDee Winters, Jeff Jennings and friends; the Oz Troupe from Wausau; popular Green Bay night club performers Kitty Ronsman and Zoomie; and Appleton comedian Johnny B. Entertainment Co-chair Jeff Jennings says he is expecting about a dozen more performers from around the state to confirm their appearances.

Also new at the picnic this year will be its openness to all LGBT people 18 and over. Alcohol consumption will be in areas restricted to those who can prove with photo identification they are of drinking age. This allows those who are not of legal drinking age to attend.

The weekend's fun will kick-off Thursday evening (July 8) as the '70s singing troupe, the Village People, headline a free concert at the Oneida Bingo & Casino in suburban Ashwaubenon beginning at 9pm. The scheduling of the original Gay-identified hit-makers of such chart toppers as *YMCA*, *In the Navy*, *Macho Man* and *Go West* on the opening night of the LGBT community's pride weekend was strictly a stroke of serendipity, according to the casino's public relations department.

Also appearing will be legendary Disco diva Evelyn "Champagne" King (*Shame, Love Come Down, I'm In Love*) and *Dance Fever's* Denny Terio and Motion. To obtain general seating tickets, it is necessary to register for the casino's Preferred Player's Club card, no purchase is necessary. Up to 4 complimentary reserved seat tickets can be obtained for those who use the club card and obtain 50 points. For more information, contact the Oneida Bingo and Casino at (920) 494-4500.

For those into icons of another sort, Brandy's II will hold their annual Locker Room Benefit Party, also starting at 9pm. Admission will be \$1 for those in locker room gear, \$3 for those not in costume.

Brandy's Rod Schroeder reports the event to predate his ownership of the bar. "This will be the first time for me," Schroeder said. "All I know is what the long-time regulars have told me, and apparently, last year's was a blast." Kooky contest, kinky prizes and drink specials will be the order of the night, according to Schroeder.

Friday night (July 9) brings the official start of the 8th Annual Guernsey Gala pageant with the kick-off show at Napalese Lounge, beginning at 10:30pm. The contestants from the five Green Bay bars will moo-ve out of their respective stalls in a mad dash for title of 1999 Gay Guernsey queen.

Show patrons can expect a herd of local talent performing with all proceeds from both the evening's festivities and the entire pageant benefiting ARCW's Client Assistance Fund.

Dowager Guernsey Empress Elsie Bovine has announced this year's contestants are expect-

ed to be: current Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA and Miss Gay Wisconsin-America titleholder Kelli Jo Klein representing Brandy's II; popular bartender Miss Faith representing Buddies; veteran USofA titleholder Katrina Kaye representing Napalese Lounge; longtime barkeep Missy representing Sass; and up-and-coming USofA titleholder Justine D'Zire representing Za's.

Saturday night's post-picnic highlight will be the Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA pageant at Za's Video Bar beginning at 9pm sharp. In addition to the parade of hard bodies in swim suits and evening wear, there will be performances by: 1999 Mr. Gay USofA Tyler Thomas; Jeff Jennings; the current reigning Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA; and several other regional and state USofA titleholders. Reserved seating for the pageant can be obtained by calling (920) 435-5476.

Parties throughout the region on Sunday, July 11 will conclude the Rainbow Pride Weekend. Rascal's in Appleton will hold its annual Post-Pride Patio Party from Noon until dusk. Za's in Green Bay will offer a complimentary buffet in honor of the club's 10th Anniversary from Noon until 3pm. Other special afternoon parties, potlucks and specials are planned at the Oz Bar in Wausau, the Blue Lite in Sheboygan, and Buddies, Brandy's II, Napalese Lounge and Sass in Green Bay.

Tetzlaff notes that behind all the festivities, there is serious fundraising and community building going on. "The proceeds from this weekend are the single largest source of funds Rainbow Over Wisconsin uses to help all the LGBT communities in northeast and central Wisconsin during the rest of the year."

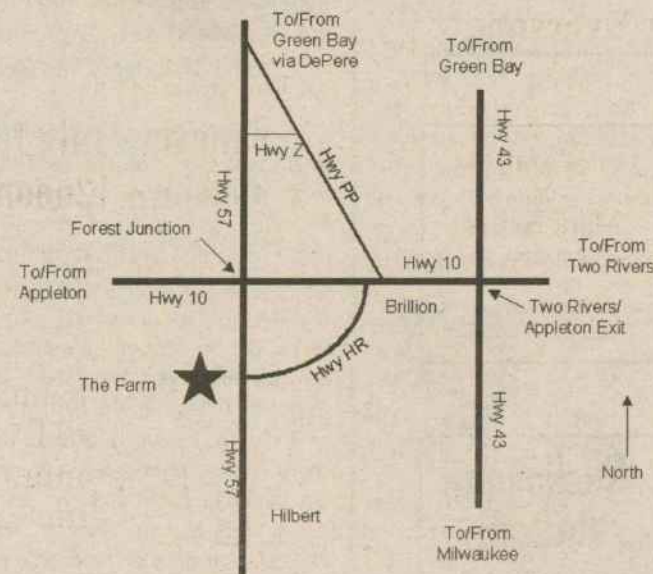
"People sometimes forget there are well over a million folks living in Green Bay-Fox Cities corridor, and that doesn't even include the rural counties that also make up Northeast Wisconsin. And that means there are a lot more Gay people around here, too. More than many other Gay people around the state think. Rainbow Pride Weekend will be quite a party!"

— Terry Tetzlaff, President of Row.

New ROW projects this year include the partial underwriting of the recently-formed Entertainers Against AIDS and its planned mammoth World AIDS Day extravaganza at the Weidner Center, as well as the newly-formed Green Bay Youth Pride Group. They join the list of continuing projects, which benefit such groups as P-FLAG, Positive Voice, ARCW, Argonauts' Charities and others.

"People sometimes forget there are well over a million folks living in Green Bay-Fox Cities corridor, and that doesn't even include the rural counties that also make up Northeast Wisconsin," Tetzlaff said. "And that means there are a lot more Gay people around here, too. More than many other Gay people around the state think. Rainbow Pride Weekend will be quite a party!"

Rainbow Over Wisconsin Annual Picnic - Saturday, July 10th, Noon - 6pm



From Green Bay: Due to Construction on Hwy 57, Take County Rd HR to the Farm.
From Appleton: Take 10 East to Forest Junction, then Right on Hwy 57 1/2 Mile.



Spotlight

Gay Films: Before and After Stonewall

by Steve Stavron

Major films with Gay themes have never been especially popular with the public. Until recently, Gay subject matter on-screen entails factoring in a discomfort quotient as part of the entertainment value. This is probably attributable less to homophobic constraints than to a lack of understanding of Gay dynamics.

The "third sex that dare not speak its name" now touts its horn loud and clear in films and on television. However, it remains questionable whether or not greater tolerance of Gay rights since the Stonewall uprisings have resulted in more than surface changes within heterosexual public opinion.

Although the liberal climate of opinion of the '50s and '60s had already veered away from the standard screen stereotype of Gays as harmless pixified sprites, the results were clearly a mixed bag. Homosexual torment seems to have been the guiding motif in films of this period. Many were characterized by a gritty air with an emphasis on guilt and unresolved conflicts. In *The Children's Hour* (1962) Shirley MacLaine is "guilty" of being secretly in love with a guileless Audrey Hepburn. Bordello Madame Barbara Stanwyck, however, makes no bones about her destructive passion for favorite employee, Capucine, in *Walk on the Wild Side* (1962).

Male homosexuals fared no better in various screen treatments, which highlighted banked emotions of unhealthy repression erupting into violence. These often substituted a vague, melodramatic conclusion for a resolution of psychological issues. In *The Sergeant* (1968) Rod Steiger tries to curb his passion for rookie John Law by brutalizing him army style. Marlon Brando stammers out a Southern drawl to conceal his lust for a young soldier in *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (1967),



Kevin Kline in *In and Out*

a dreary smorgasbord of aberrations culled out of a myopic novel. His frustration results in a pointless murder.

However, no film matches the cynical, elegantly metaphoric symbolism of *Suddenly Last Summer* (1959), Tennessee Williams' testament to homosexual self-destruction (as he viewed it). Street urchins cannibalize the son of a voraciously enabling mother — an ugly metaphor for the demise of a predatory homosexual. But superb co-writing by Gay raconteur Gore Vidal gave this film a sophisticated panache unmatched by the others of that period.

The subtly presented rape scene in *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) is supposedly a key to the maniacal self-absorption of the character in that very famous film. He enjoyed being sodomized! But since this theme was too gamey for the early sixties, the characterization remains hollow, although the film won the Oscar for Best Picture.



Robin Williams in *The Birdcage*

Boys in the Band (1970) took a more direct tragi/comic view of Gay self-laceration and remains a landmark of early Gay "theater." Dealing with the inner turmoil supposedly endemic to the Gay condition, the characters lash out at each other, in a blend of sarcasm and fury, finally dissolving into pathos and tears. The concept of the saddened homosexual may seem a bit dated today, but the claustrophobic tension of the film plays well.

The overt sexuality of the '70s brought a more sophisticated approach to Gay orientated cinema, particularly in the remarkably suave British film *Sunday Bloody Sunday* (1971), a favorite of the avante garde art film circuit. Audiences could relate to a normal depiction of bisexuality, beginning with an unusually warm kiss bestowed by Peter Finch

on his young lover, who then promptly beds down with Glenda Jackson. The Gay Finch character faces the dilemma with the same mature equanimity with which one might regard a small error in an IRS tax form, but the poignancy of his apparent resignation made it easier for audiences to sympathize.

The notorious *Cruising* (1980) was widely condemned in Gay circles for its unflattering and far too accurate depiction of the New York underground leather scene, complete with simulated fist-fucking. How times have changed! However, the gradual veering of the straight undercover cop's (Al Pacino) erotic image towards Gay eroticism gave the film an unusual fascination that should not be underestimated.

The AIDS crisis, once proclaimed as "God's curse on Gays," eventually softened the public's view towards a more authentic look at the Gay condition. The frightening HBO docudrama *And the Band Played On* (1993) addressed AIDS directly as a fearsome juggernaut of impending doom. A more sympathetic view of Gay angst would follow in films.

Ironically, one of the most penetrating and sympathetic dramatizations of the agonies and conflicts of homosexual self-acceptance originates in the earlier film *Maurice* (1987). It was based on a novel by British author E.M. Forster, written in 1914 but unpublished until 1971. Set in repressive turn-of-the-century England, the film painstakingly contrasts Maurice's platonic love for an aristocratic, sexually intimidated fellow student (who marries for propriety) with his gradual acceptance of a passionate affair with the grounds game keeper.

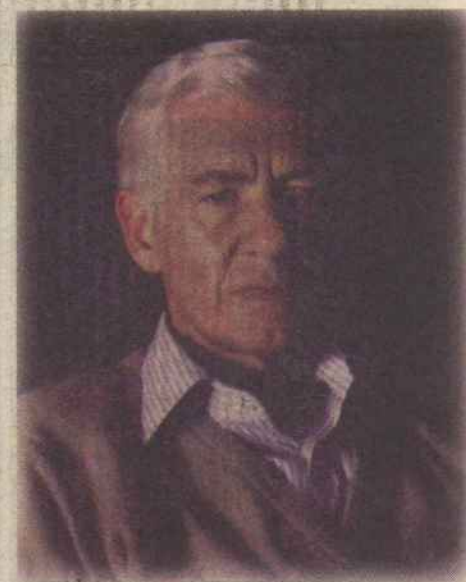
The usual doubts, recriminations and suspicions, which result from a forbidden love, are painstakingly explored. The result is *Maurice*'s final resolution of an age-old conflict. The nude scenes are among the most discretely erotic male-to-male encounters ever filmed.

However, the AIDS crisis was more fully addressed in the contemporary setting of *Longtime Companion* (1990) in which a group of "normal-acting" Gays poignantly watch their ranks of friends being decimated by the deadly virus over a ten-year period.

But the most eloquent landmark movie to come out of the AIDS crisis was the moving, beautifully rendered *Philadelphia* (1996). Inexplicably criticized by some for dealing only with job discrimination while skirting other Gay issues, the movie remains the most powerful depiction of the tragedy of death by AIDS.

The dying Tom Hanks' unforgettably wrenching duet with Maria Callas remains a startling, painful exhortation to the cruel brevity of a prematurely shortened life. As the defending attorney, Denzel Washington surpasses himself as his rapt facial expression drained away the last vestiges of homophobic doubt while witnessing Hanks' scene in speechless amazement. But it was Hanks who won the Academy Award.

The recent, well made *Gods and Monsters* (1998) presented the story of director James Whale as just this side of being a dirty old man,



albeit an appealing one. However, many of the more recent films still revert to either the harmless "good fairy" depiction of homosexuals, as in the overrated *La Cage Aux Folles* (Fr,1978) series, and of course its dubiously popular imitation, *Birdcage* (1996). Or they mix metaphors as in *Torch Song Trilogy* (1988) in which cross dresser Harvey Fierstein rants at mother Anne Bancroft for being unsympathetic to a lifestyle which he manages single-handedly to make obnoxious.

Kiss of the Spider Woman (1985), offers another dubious assumption. A weak-natured, effeminate Gay man redeems his character by sacrificing himself for love of a straight fellow convict, but William Hurt carried enough credence to win a deserved Academy Award.

More interesting are those films which take the "nice Gay guy as dupe" approach. In *As Good As It Gets* (1998), Greg Kinnear's unwise choice of a hustler leaves him with facial scars, but he is the most congenial of neighbors.

In the otherwise charming *In and Out* (1997), Kevin Kline is unaware of his sexuality until Tom Selleck gives him the most unerotic kiss in recent memory. The film becomes too coy and tolerant for its own good, especially the final scenes of student support.

Tolerance can be very condescending when it's not supported by genuine conviction. Many recent films have not abandoned the notion of Gay as amusing oddity. Perhaps film producers do not know what to do with Gay characters.

Better films are required in which Gays function with the fulsome of a Humphrey Bogart rather than being limited to the confines of their sexual orientation. Yes, Gay characters do get more screen attention, but have things really changed much since Stonewall?



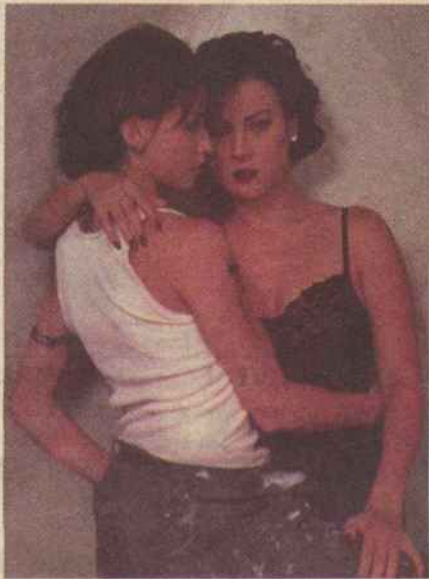
Greg Kinnear in *As Good As It Gets*

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by *Romeo San Vicente*

Gina Gershon: Head Dick

Sexpot **Gina Gershon**, who gained Lesbian icon status with her turn as the butch plumber who checked out **Jennifer Tilly's** pipes in *Bound*, has scored another macho role. The actress will star in *Snoops*, a new one-hour drama created by *Ally McBonehead* uberpro-



Gina Gershon and Jennifer Tilly

ducer, **David E. Kelley**.

Gershon plays the lead character, named Glenn Hall, who runs a private investigation agency. The role was originally written for a man — until Kelley figured out that Gershon was Mr. Right and performed a gender-change on the gumshoe (the name stayed the same). Actress **Paula Marshall**, who was the best thing about the short-lived *Cupid* series, plays angel to Gershon's Charlie. *Snoops* will air Sundays this fall on ABC.

Homo Box Office

Cable powerhouse HBO knows that sex sells. The network is in negotiation with Britain's Channel 4 to make an American version of the controversial series *Queer as Folk*, which follows the relationships of young Gay men in Manchester, England.

This ain't no *Will And Grace* — the first episode focused on the homosexual seduction of a 16-year-old school chap, featured sexually explicit scenes, and was greeted with the requisite outcry in the British tabloids. Hmm... not surprising in a country where folks find it scandalous that the Queen has to lick **Freddy Mercury's** backside when moistening her stamps. (The Royal Mail recently gave the late Gay Queen-rocker his own postage stamp.)

Queer as Folk went on to gain kudos from critics for its funny and honest portrayal of Gay youth. Maverick programmer HBO already has a solid relationship with Channel 4, which broadcasts the American company's chicks-on-dicks hit, *Sex in The City*, in England.

Oh, Behave!

In the new *Austin Powers* flick, Dr. Evil's sidekick, Number 2 (played by **Robert Wagner**), originally displayed some homo tendencies. Left on the cutting room floor was a shagadelic scene where Wagner frolicked nude between the sheets with Brat Packer Emeritus **Rob Lowe** (who, in an incestuous twist, portrays a younger version of Wagner's character).

While the scene got big laughs, it was deemed too randy for a PG-13 flick and was axed. Next time, we'd like to see more than mojo rising.

Screaming for a Script

Well it's finally happened. Gay wonderscribe **Kevin Williamson** seems to have writer's block. Rumors swirl that Williamson's script for *Scream 3*, which is supposed to begin shooting next month, is far from finished. This could cause major grief for key *Screamers* **Courtney Cox** and **Neve Campbell**, who both have to return to their television jobs in the fall.

Williamson may just have spread his commitments thin. As one of the hottest writers in Hollywood, he has a lot on his

plate, including a new ABC series, *Wasteland*. Or maybe he's been too busy spending the ridiculous amounts of money he's made. The cameras are expected to roll — as scheduled — on July 7.

Romeo San Vicente would love to check out **Rob Lowe's** plumbing. You can contact Romeo care of Wisconsin Light or by e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.Gay.com or www.pop-comq.com.



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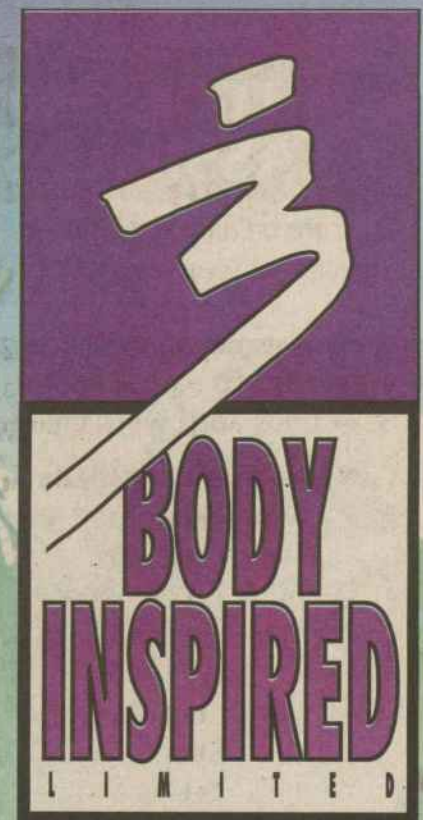
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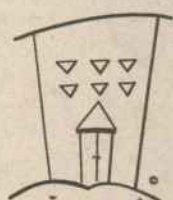
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OUT ON FILM

The Loss of Sexual Innocence

Review by John Jahn

The Loss of Sexual Innocence is virtually a one-man job. British Director Mike Figgis, also the writer, producer and composer, has created an offbeat film that may have difficulty finding an audience. The movie is not a masterpiece, but it nevertheless fascinates, with its focus on the artistic elements inherent in film-making rather than on the narrative. It contains images of breathtaking beauty and a structure akin to cinematic poetry.

The Loss of Sexual Innocence follows the life of a film ethnographer, Nic (played as a teenager by Jonathan Rhys-Meyers and as an adult by Julian Sands). We follow him from boyhood in Kenya, to adolescence and his first sexual encounters, and finally to adulthood, where he's involved in a stale marriage. Other tales



Saffron Burrows in *The Loss of Sexual Innocence*

are interwoven with Nic's, most notably those of twins (both played by Saffron Burrows) separated at birth who encounter each other in an airport. There's also a stylized re-telling of Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden that takes a vicious jab at organized religion.

As the title suggests, key themes relate to the importance of sex to the human experience. The characters are defined, at least in part, by their sexual activities. But, more interesting than the film's thematic content, is the manner in which it is presented. There is no linear storytelling; *The Loss of Sexual Innocence* refuses to stay anchored in one time period.

Instead, it presents disjointed pieces of a story without offering many clues about how they should be put together, but the result remains curiously satisfying. While no doubt leaving countless unanswered questions and loose ends, this approach demands thought and intellectual participation on your part. Director Figgis clearly disdains traditional filmmaking and the manner in which commercialism has destroyed so much of the artistic elements of the industry.

The Loss of Sexual Innocence is Figgis' attempt to restore art to the medium and prove that an involving, compelling experience can result from a fragmented narrative relying more on music and images than dialogue. For the most part, he proves his point.

3 STARS

Run Lola Run

Review by John Jahn

Run Lola Run has a reputation to uphold. It was a hit both at the 1998 Toronto Film Festival and this year's Sundance Film Festival. That means it will be making the rounds at America's "art house" theaters and will have to meet high expectations as it does. It more or less met mine.

Run Lola Run, in German with English subtitles, is a quick-paced, innovative movie that refuses to be defined by any theatrical norms. You'll either have a lot of fun with it or it'll quickly exasperate you.

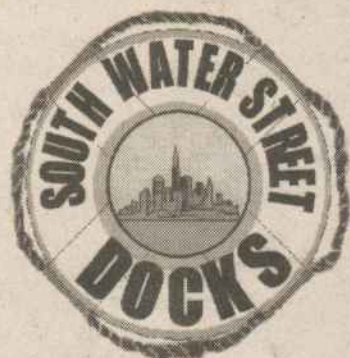
It tells the story of Lola (Franka Potente), a '90s girl with a bizarrely attractive appearance and obviously great athletic skills (because, as you might expect, she spends most of the film running). Her slow-witted boyfriend, Manni (Moritz Bleibtreu), has lost 100,000 Marks which he owes to gangsters. The plot involves Lola, with 20 minutes to work with, trying desperately to find the money, get it to Manni, and save his life in the process.

Here's where the film takes a decidedly unusual turn. Instead of just showing us the one route Lola chose to take, Twyker gives us three to choose from, throwing us into a blind alley of alternative destinies. Essentially, this enables you to pick your own ending, each of which offers its share of irreverent surprises.

One drawback to the film is that, intercut with the alternative storylines, are soft-focus scenes of Lola and Manni reflecting on life and love. This ostensibly serves to deepen our interest and knowledge of these two, but actually it just distracts and annoys. It makes an already difficult to follow film that much more trying.

Run Lola Run is a smart film, loaded with irony, and moving at great speed to a relentless, technopop soundtrack. Using an innovative mix of animation, still photography, slow motion and "normal" filming, Twyker illustrates, with great energy and action, how the smallest change in what a person does can alter the rest of their life.

3 STARS



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Sun Nights	Shirtless Sundays**	9p-2a

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Events CALENDAR

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.

THURSDAY, JULY 1

Mercury Players Theater (Madison), Presents Paul Rudnick's: *JEFFREY*, directed by Paul Giuliani and Jamie England. Evjue Studio inside the Esquire Theater, 113 E. Mifflin St. Tickets \$10, reservations (608) 242-0150. 8pm tonight and Friday.

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 serio-comic 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

Mercury Players Theater (Madison), Presents Paul Rudnick's: *JEFFREY*, directed by Paul Giuliani and Jamie England. Evjue Studio inside the Esquire Theater, 113 E. Mifflin St. Tickets \$10, reservations (608) 242-0150. 5 & 8:30pm tonight.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee), *FOUR VOICES* a performance series by Latino(a) Artists presents: Beto Araiza H.I.Vato, the serio-comic 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.

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 Overture*, 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.

Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Celebrates Independence Day With Patriotic Favorites. Final program of the Elmbrook Series, Elmbrook Church Auditorium, 777 S. Barker Rd., Brookfield. Tickets \$15-30, call (414) 291-7605 for tickets, info.

TUESDAY, JULY 6

Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), Light classics and patriotic favorites for a casual concert in the park, conducted by Andrews Sill, 8pm, Humboldt Park bandshell. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

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

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Afterwords (Milwaukee), 6th Anniversary: sales, specials and surprises.
Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls (Madison), Dances at Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Ave. (608) 245-

0627. Smoke-free, cash bar, \$3 suggested donation. 8pm Line Dance Lessons and Review, 9pm Open Dancing.

Mercury Players Theater (Madison), Presents Paul Rudnick's: *JEFFREY*, directed by Paul Giuliani and Jamie England. Evjue Studio inside the Esquire Theater, 113 E. Mifflin St. Tickets \$10, reservations (608) 242-0150. 8pm tonight, 5 & 8:30pm Saturday, 7pm Sunday.

Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee), An afternoon designed for family time and musical enrichment, conducted by Andrews Sill. 3pm, Boys and Girls Club, 3000 N. Sherman Blvd. Free.

University Theater (Madison), Light and dark switch places in Peter Shaffer's *BLACK COMEDY*. Directed by Vladimir Prahkarov, and presented on the Mitchell Theater Stage. Tickets \$11 for general public, \$8 for UW Students. Tickets and info at the Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 University Ave., (608) 262-1500. Tonight at 7:30pm, continues Saturday a 5 & 8:30pm.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Art Elements Gallery (Milwaukee), An artist's interpretation of *The Four Elements: Earth, Air, Water, Fire*. Many artists and medias. 10050 N. Pt. Washington Rd., (414) 241-7040.

ART FAIR on the Square (Madison), Featuring the work of over 500 artists from across the USA. *Around the Capitol Square*. A fund raising event for the Madison Art Center. Food, music and crowds of nearly 200,000 made this one of the biggest cultural festivals of the Summer. Continues on Sunday.

Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Mequon), *Gathering on the Green*: Collaboration with the Milwaukee Ballet and Trinity Irish Dancers for a night of music and dance in Mequon's Rotary Park Pavilion. Starts at 3:30pm (just north of I-43 Mequon Rd. exit between Pt. Washington and Green Bay Rds. Raindate, Sunday. For ticket information, call (414) 242-6187.

mation, call (414) 242-6187.

OutGiving InCommunity Workshops (Milwaukee), For doers and donors, growing financial resources today and for the future of Milwaukee LGBT Community groups. 170 S. 2nd St., For details and registration information, call Neil Albrecht at (414) 271-2656.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW) Pride Picnic (Green Bay), Noon to 6pm, at the Al Kamke Farm in Brillion, WI. Tap Beer, Soda, Food, Games, Raffles, Music, Vendors, Live and Lip Sync Performances. Proceeds benefit ROW. Farm at N8287 Hwy. 57. Due to construction on Hwy. 57, from Green Bay: take I 43 south to Hwy. 10, west to County Rd. HR to the farm. From Appleton: take Hwy. 10 East to Forest Junction, then right on Hwy. 57, 1/2 mile. From Milwaukee: Take I 43 north to Hwy. 10, west on 10 to Hwy. HR, left on HR to Hwy. 57 and farm.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee), All eight recipients of the Wisconsin Arts Board Individual Fellowships in Literature will present selections from their work. 720 E. Locust St., 2pm. A reception will follow. Free and open to the public, FMI call (414) 263-5001.

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.

mercury players theatre presents

Jeffrey
by Paul Rudnick

at the Evjue Studio
inside the Esquire Theatre
113 East Mifflin Street, Madison

Directed by Paul Giuliani and Jamie England
Produced by Sharon Norrish and Thomas McCullough
Tickets \$10 • Reservations: (608) 242-0150

JULY 1 - 8:00pm JULY 2 - 8:00pm JULY 3 - 5:00pm and 8:30pm JULY 9 - 8:00pm
JULY 10 - 8:00pm and 11:00pm JULY 11 - 7:00pm JULY 15 - 8:00pm and JULY 17 - 8:00pm and 11:00pm

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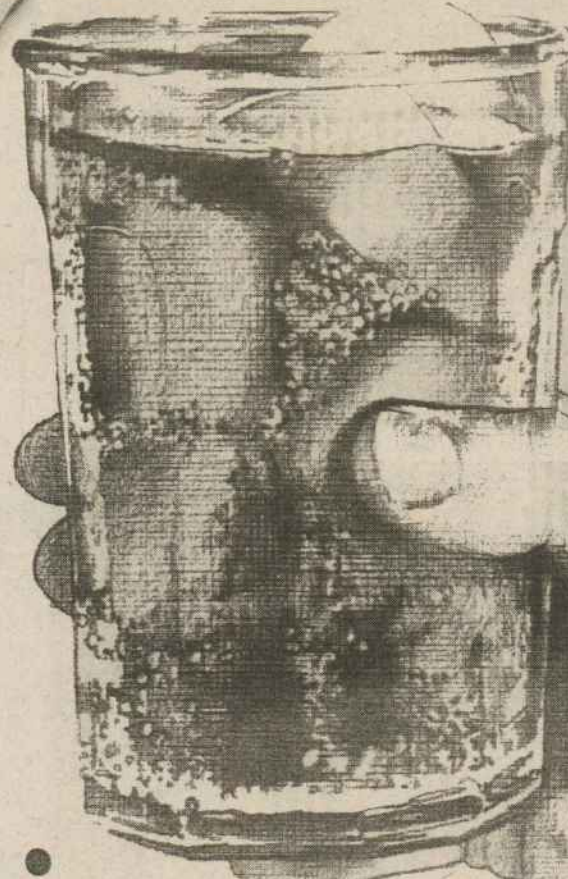
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200-Real Estate

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Look no further! Beautiful craftsman style house. Natural woodwork, Hardwood floors throughout. 3-bedroom, 2-bath, living room, dining room, sun room, full basement, 2-car garage, gardens, front porch, back yard deck. Asking \$150,000. (414) 744-1534.

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200-Real Estate

Roommate Wanted Older lesbian back in school, needs 1 other to share 3-bedroom lower near UWM. Call Rosemary (414) 964-5997. August 1.

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Fax 414/226-0096
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Telephone: _____

(Needed for verification)

*Signature: _____

(For 900 Category Classifieds. Must be 18+)

2 SELECT YOUR CATEGORY

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|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 200 Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> 700 Speak Your Mind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 300 Body, Mind & Soul | <input type="checkbox"/> 800 Miscellaneous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 400 Services | <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Adults Only* (Section X) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Buy & Sell | |

3 METHOD OF PAYMENT

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (in person only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Check | <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order |
| Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA | <input type="checkbox"/> MC | <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER |

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4 WRITE YOUR AD

BOLD LEAD-IN (minimum 5 words):

BALANCE OF AD (non-bold)

AD TO APPEAR beginning _____ (Wednesday date), run it
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Beto ARAIZA

by Carmen Alicia Murguía

In his second solo piece, *H.I.VATO*, performance artist Alberto "Beto" Antonio Araiza brings to light issues of living with HIV as told through various characters. The word "Vato" is a slang term used to identify a gang member or a male. *H.I.VATO* is an endearing and humorous guy making the best of the hand he's been dealt. Araiza will be performing *HIVATO* at the Walkers Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Avenue on July 2nd and 3rd.

A native of Los Angeles, Araiza discovered he was HIV positive ten years ago. "I was starting to date someone who I wanted a relationship with and knew that this (HIV test) was out there. So I went to a clinic in Los Angeles that offered free testing. I really did not expect the results I got. At that time, I was told I had six months to a year to live."

Araiza, who identifies as a Mestizo, says this was at a time when he realized the racial, political, and economic dynamics of AIDS. "When Latino and African-American people were becoming infected in the queer community in 1984, nothing was being done to help these communities or the organizations that serve them, just the Gay white men. This was the politics of gathering information... we went *undocumented*."

Araiza says that after he was diagnosed as HIV+ many things in his life came to an end. "I told no one for about a year. I was at my mom's, and I didn't let anyone use the dishes or utensils I did. My mom noticed something was different, because I went from kissing her on the mouth to kissing her on the cheek. Also, when I learned I was infected, my theater teacher was dying, and my father was dying of lung cancer. On an intellectual level I knew that had nothing to do with it, but my fear emotionally was that I infected my dad."

Araiza found

a way to deal with the situation. He combined his guerrilla theater skills (performing on the streets, on college campuses and in fields) within the Chicano movement with traditional theater training with Margo Albert. Albert was a founder of The Plaza de la Raza Arts Facility in Los Angeles.

In 1995, Araiza realized that people of color were not represented in theater pieces of persons living with AIDS/HIV. It was that recognition that inspired him to create *HIVATO*. He faced obstacles along the way. "I was often told by those in the theater community, 'We like your work. We just can't produce it because it doesn't reach a mainstream audience,'" said Araiza.

Since then, he has traveled the country to conferences, college campuses, and theater festivals in Massachusetts, Tucson, Portland, and North Carolina, and now Milwaukee. The comic describes *HIVATO* as a tender, thoughtful, humorous and an empowering piece on a dark and difficult subject.

At 46, Beto Araiza practices Buddhism, praying in the morning and evening for spiritual strength. He exercises on a regular basis and takes herbs, teas, vitamins and mineral supplements. Like many other long-term survivors, Beto does not take protease inhibitors, nucleoside reverse trans-
scriptors

inhibitors or other western medicines with long names, too difficult to pronounce or spell. Rather he focuses on physical activity, nutrition and spirituality.

"I was really fortunate that my parents were loving unconditionally, as were my friends, aunts and uncles. They said, 'Ok, so what do we do?' My mom's approach was 'let me be supportive.'"

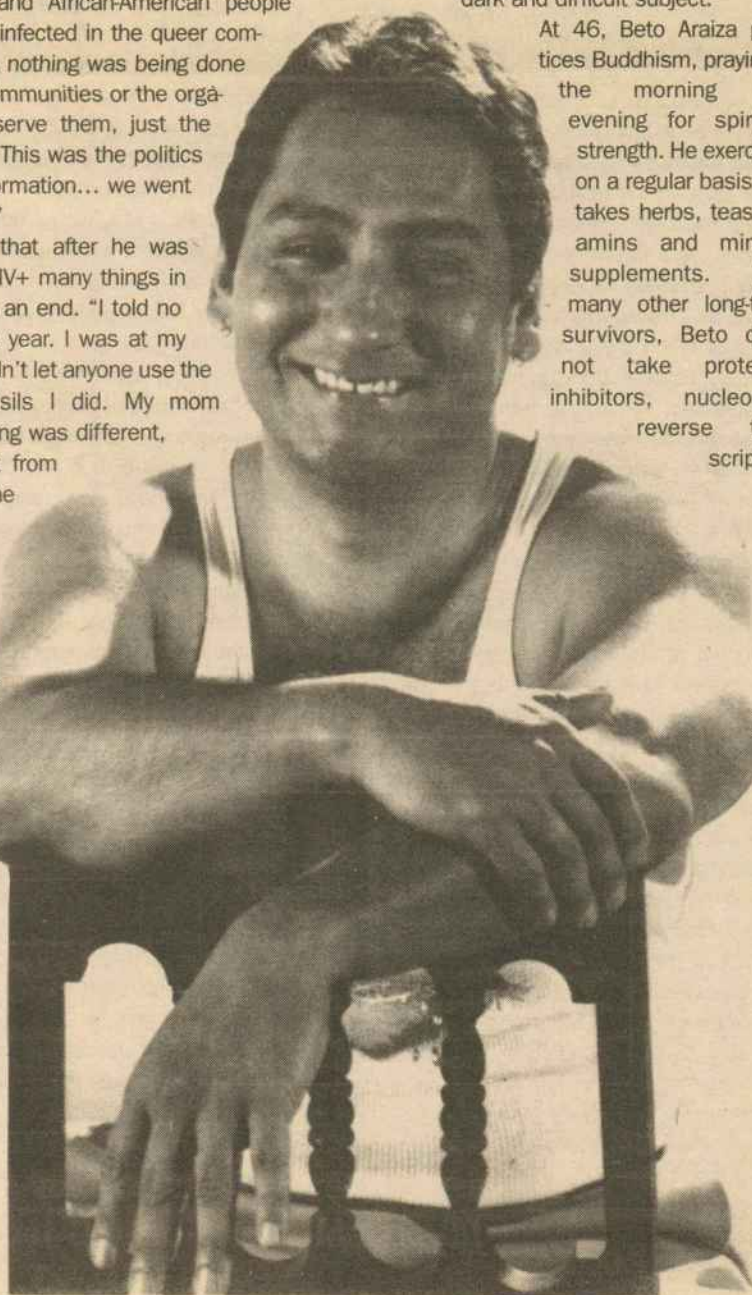
Having had the benefit of unconditional love from his family, Araiza speaks out about its value. He has a message for parents and loved ones of those experiencing difficult challenges in their lives. Araiza says, "Regardless if your child, husband, wife, girlfriend or boyfriend has depression, anger, is a gang member, HIV positive, has cancer, or is an alcoholic, have compassion and understanding. Work together towards a solution to those problems."

Araiza also has a message for the executive directors and CEOs of community agencies working with HIV and AIDS: "Get in the street and remind yourselves these are people and not statistics. Don't hide behind your fundraisers, committee meetings, conferences and numbers, and don't remove yourself from having to deal with the people. A good example of this is Juan Ledezma of the *Being Alive* agency. He knows clients by name because he's moved his office to an area where they'd have to meet."

As a long-term survivor of AIDS/HIV, Araiza is grateful to the people who fight AIDS with research, fieldwork and by volunteering. He says, "Do things to feed yourself, because burnout is so high. And understand that people you come into contact with appreciate your work."

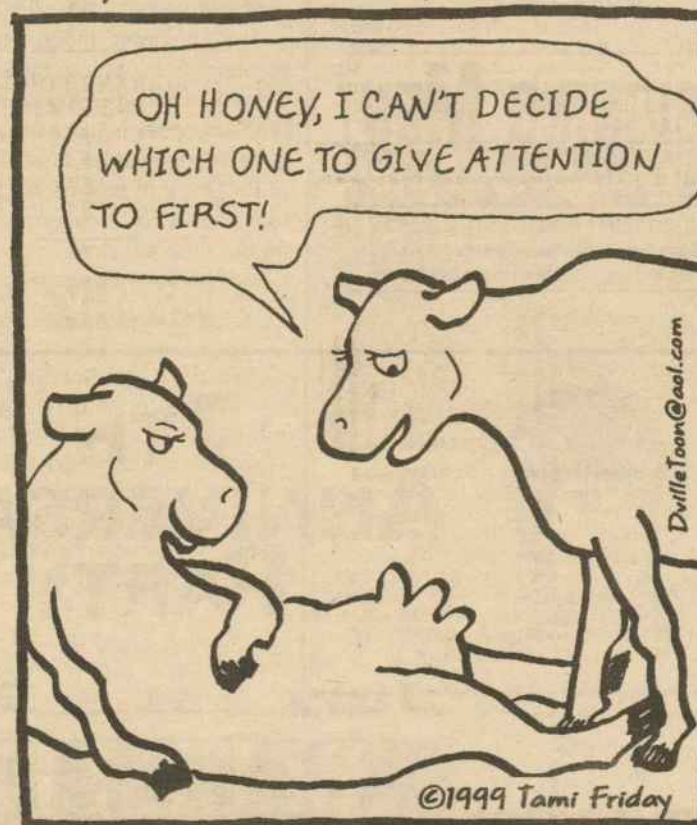
The same can be said for Araiza. He's been bringing his messages of support and love to audiences around the country. To hear more of them, contact the Walker's Point Center for the Performing Arts at (414) 672-2787.

Life Style



Dykesville

by Tami Friday



Lesbian cows

Sports



by Bob Melig

Softball Puts On Bang-Up Tie-Breaker Week

The SSBL's position week opened the logjam in the league standings this past weekend. During a position week, the teams closest in the standings play each other. So the lowest team plays the 2nd lowest team and the 3rd lowest, while the best team plays the 2nd best and the 3rd. In other words — equals play equals.

Ballistreis pulled an upset in beating the league leader, 219, by 12 runs and then edging the Ballgame by 2 runs to take an undisputed 2nd place position and pull within one game of first place. The Ballgame fell to 4th, losing 2 games, and Woody's moved into 3rd. The standings of Switch, M&M and Riverwest remained the same with split victories against each other.

There is another Position Week scheduled for the last week of the season and ten more games to go before the season ends. Who's going to make the after "4th of July" softball run for the roses this year? You can see it happen if you get out to Sijon Fields (KK & California) any Saturday during the rest of the summer.

20th Milwaukee Classic Planning In Full Swing

The Logo is already done. Milwaukee teams are fanning out to attend out-of-town tournaments. They will be equipped with brochures and a kit to promote next year's Classic at those tournaments in order to

get the best out-of-town teams to attend.

Plans are underway to invite, by special invitation, past winners back to reprise their roles in this milestone event to be held next May during the Memorial Day weekend. The SSBL is serious in saying that this will be the best Classic ever. Hats off to the planners who got the ball rolling early with such farsighted direction.

By several quirks, this will not be the first ever 20th anniversary softball tournament. We lost that honor to San Francisco. Milwaukee hosted two World Series and alternated with Chicago for one year.

Next year should rightfully see Classic 23, but SSBL proudly put its own tournament on hold three times to bring in a larger and more national event. Milwaukee's Classic is still the Granddaddy, and we need to tell the softball world that we were there at the beginning.

Thanks To My Readers:

You have made some very kind comments about my column. I deeply appreciate your taking the time to let me know that you are reading it and that you are getting a feel for just how much is going on around our area in sports.

Every once in a while, I'm amazed to learn of just who does read about sports. Someone, who I would never think would be interested in sports or would ever read my column, will come up and make it clear they read every word.

That probably means that the sports audience is bigger out there than I thought. Since *Wisconsin Light* is distributed to hundreds of "straight" locations, we have a bigger audience yet. I would have little chance of running into those folks but to all of you too, thanks for tuning in every other week for our little sessions.

OUT IN CYBERSPACE



Stonewall, Version 30.0

by Michael Stewart

In the last week of June, 1969, the world was a very different place for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered people.

Only in some major cities might you find a bar or three willing to endure a constant stream of police raids (looking for fruit flies, perhaps?) in order to serve homosexuals. Even in the urban areas, there were none of the LGBT newspapers we enjoy today. There were only a few "homophile" groups passing around some poorly-mimeographed broad sheets. The nearest thing to one of today's print publications were the so-called "physique magazines." In them you could find personal ads, which made oblique references to "French culture" and "Greek culture." "Safe Sex" meant merely not being seen or arrested.

Still multi-ton behemoths, computers were the sole province of the government, the largest corporations and science fiction. Had it even occurred to you to ask, most people would have thought HIV was the run-amok artificial intelligence in Stanley Kubrick's, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Macintosh was still only an apple of the lowercase variety.

Thirty years later, the landscape is vastly different, possibly more so for the Gay, Bi, Lesbian and Transgendered communities than any other. While the noisy revolution of pride marches, political campaigns and boycotts was splashed across the front pages of the newspapers, a quieter one was taking place in LGBT homes across America, thanks to the advent of the personal computer and the modem.

Ten or fifteen years ago — before the Internet — what little there was of the online world was the exclusive domain of hobbyists, who could afford expensive equipment and high connect charges. Proving that we are, indeed, everywhere, there were BBSes (short for "Bulletin Board Systems"), catering to the un-straight crowd. Over the last five years, the explosive growth of the Internet means even those without deep pockets or degrees in data processing can explore themselves and their place in society.

It's become an oft-quoted cliché that "on the net, no one knows you're a dog." While computer-literate canines remain rare, the anonymity of the online world is especially appealing to those least likely to be able to take advantage of the hard-won gains we've made offline. Those who live in rural or other isolated areas, those with disabilities, and perhaps most importantly, those who are questioning their sexual or gender identity now have the means to reach out and be reached. Much to the horror of the religious right and those

who profit from hate mongering, most netizens are startlingly tolerant of diversity in all its forms.

On any given night, there are hundreds of LGBT-oriented Internet Relay Chat channels, on subjects from the torrid to the mundane. Can't find a support group that's meaningful to you? A few clicks of the mouse and you can create your own. UseNet newsgroups exist for every possible topic of interest to the LGBT communities, focusing on everything from coming out to surviving the loss of a partner.

Arguably having the greatest impact on modern life is the World Wide Web. Created originally to allow scientists to read each other's technical papers, the web has grown into a hybrid of the fabled library of Alexandria and London's Speaker's Corner. Reference material on all facets of the human experience and sexuality are now available to everyone.

Health information that 30 years ago couldn't even be printed without coy euphemisms or impenetrable medical jargon is now available with a few keystrokes. Gone forever is the furtive sneaking through library stacks to learn if masturbation is normal!

As a soapbox, the web is unparalleled in its ability to reach a wide audience and effect change. Nearly every segment of the LGBT community has eagerly adopted it to further the fight for equal rights.

Thirty years ago, news of injustice might reach the handful of people you actually knew. Fifteen years ago, you might have been able to fax your message to a few dozen interested parties. Nowadays, nearly anyone can publish a simple web page with their own cries for equality, and have it available to a potential audience of tens of millions. Virtually every LGBT-oriented political and social action group uses the web to help spread its message far and wide.

Thirty years from now, those who follow in our lavender footsteps will inherit a world that takes the resources of the Internet for granted. If change really is the art of redefining what's possible, thanks to the net, we'll see a generation that's better informed and less willing to accept the status of second-class citizens.

Perhaps the millennial prognostications of would-be doomsayers are right: the world as we know it is ending. Thanks to the Internet, those in our generation might be the last ever to say, "Gee, I thought I was the only one."

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Will Always Be Alice**
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The Gin Game
Sept. 3-26, 1999

A Doll's House
Oct. 22-Nov. 14, 1999

The Three Musketeers
Nov. 26-Dec. 19, 1999

What Corbett Knew
Jan. 7-30, 2000

**Gross Indecency: The
Three Trials of Oscar Wilde**
March 10-Apr 2, 2000

Art
(pending availability)
Apr 14-May 7, 2000

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

idle hands
©1999 BY ALISON BECHDEL

316

THEIR HOUSE, THAT IS.
GOD, I HOPE THIS ISN'T LEAD PAINT. I DON'T HAVE ANY BRAIN CELLS TO SPARE.
SPEAKING OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS...
WAL MARY, AFTER BECOMING THE NATION'S SECOND LARGEST DRUG RETAILER...
...BY PUTTING SCORES OF SMALLER STORES OUT OF BUSINESS.

HOW'S OUR FRIEND SYDNEY? HAS SHE DUMPED MO FOR THE CYBERSLUT YET?
OH, COME ON! YOU STILL THINK SYDNEY'S HAVING AN AFFAIR JUST BECAUSE...
JUST BECAUSE OF THOSE ONLINE CATERS WITH LITTLE MISS "GOOD-THING" I FOUND ON HER COMPUTER? WAKE UP, GINGER!
YEAH, WELL, YOU MAY BE RIGHT AFTER ALL. MO SAYS SYDNEY'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY, SECRETIVE...
...HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL NOT BE CARRYING THE 'MORNING AFTER' EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION PILL.

NOW DO YOU AGREE WE SHOULD WARN HER?
OH, SPARROW! WHAT WOULD WE SAY? "WE THINK YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S SCREWING AROUND ON YOU, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE, AND ANYWAY IT MIGHT ONLY BE VIRTUAL?"
WHEN ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY CONCERN ABOUT USING SHEER CORPORATE FORCE TO IMPOSE THEIR MORALITY ON WOMEN...
VIRTUAL SCHMIRTUAL. HOW LONG WILL THAT LAST? YOU KNOW WHAT LESBIANS ARE LIKE. THEY'LL CHAT ONLINE, THEY'LL PHONE, THEY'LL MEET, THEN SYDNEY'S OUTTA HERE.
WELL, MAYBE
...BY LIMITING AVAILABLE HEALTH CARE OPTIONS, A WALKMOTO SPOKESMAN HAD THIS TO SAY:

I SAY THE SOONER MO FINDS OUT, THE MORE LIKELY IT GETS NIPPED IN THE MODERN. ARE YOU BUSY TOMORROW AFTERNOON?
SPARROW! WE'RE WORKING ON THE HOUSE!
WE HAVE TO EAT, DON'T WE?
DIT DIT DIT

FORTHWITH, AT MADWIMMIN BOOKS...
WHERE'S MO? IT'S SPARROW.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER. DID SHE GO ON BREAK?
MO? ARE YOU HERE? PHONE!

UH... I'M ON THE OLD COMPUTER! I'LL TAKE IT UP HERE!
SHORTLY... SO SHE'LL HAVE LUNCH WITH US TOMORROW?
YEP. I REALLY THINK WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING. SHE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE HER USUAL SELF AT ALL.

OH THAT EVENING, MO CONTINUES TO WONDER IF PERHAPS SYDNEY'S ATTENTION IS NOT UNDIVIDED.
ARE YOU GONNA WRITE ALL NIGHT AGAIN?
I'M ON A ROLL WITH THIS PIECE FOR JLOQT. GO TO BED. I'LL BE W LATER.

BWAHAHAHA!
JOURNAL OF EMBODIED QUEER THEORY

BIFF 'N BUNKY by KEITH N ANDERSON

I'M GOING TO SPEAK TO A CLASS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL ABOUT GAY BASHING.

ARE YOU NERVOUS?
A LITTLE. I'VE MEMORIZED THE STATISTICS,

BUT I'M STILL WORRIED THEY'LL ASK ME A QUESTION I CAN'T ANSWER.

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE, JUDY OR BARBRA?

© Anderson 1999

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Action Wisconsin • PO Box 342, Madison WI 53701 (608) 283-3251
 AIDS Action WI • 820 N. Plankinton Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (800) 359-9272
 Chapel of Hope • Independent online Evangelical Ministry of LGBT's www.chapelofhope.org
 Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline • F/S 7pm-11pm (888) 429-TEEN
 Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) • PO Box 899, Milw., 53201 (414) 871-4172
 Log Cabin Republicans of WI. • PO Box 199, Milwaukee, WI 53201 (414) 299-9443
 www.lcr-wi.org • for Lesbian/Gay Republicans and GOP allies
 Pride in WI Government • c/o OutReach, Box 310, Madison, 53701 (608) 255-8582
 Wisconsin Community Fund • 122 State St. #507A Madison 53703 (608) 251-6834
 1442 N Farwell #100 Milw. 53202 • wcf@IGC.org www.wisconsincommunityfund.org
 Social justice fund provides grants & technical assistance statewide

MEDICAL / HIV

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin • Offices Statewide (800) 359-9272
 providing HIV prevention, health & social services, research and advocacy
 Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) • Medical College of WI (800) 644-1615
 2071 N. Summit Ave., Milwaukee, 53202 (414) 456-7700
 Fax (414) 287-4209 • www.mcw.edu/psych/cair.html
 A national research center dedicated to developing strategies for
 HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Please call for information to join any
 of our ongoing studies.

GREEN BAY / NORTHEAST WISCONSIN (920)

ORGANIZATIONS

PFLAG-Fox Cities • PO Box 195, Neenah WI 54957-0195 735-1025
 Positive Voice Inc. • Box 1381, Green Bay 54305 435-4404
 Pride/Lawrence University/LGBT Group • Appleton 832-7695
 UW-Oshkosh H.O.P.E. • Oshkosh babbib47@uwosh.edu
 GLBT Youth Partnership • Appleton, meetings & hot line. 731-4847
 GLBT Youth Pride • Green Bay, weekly meetings Patti @ 437-4325

RELIGIOUS

Angel of Hope Metropolitan Community Church • PO Box 672, GB 54305 983-7453
 Angel of Hope MCC • 815 N. Richmond, Appleton, 54911 991-0128

BED & BREAKFAST

The Chanticleer • 4072 Cherry Rd (HH), Sturgeon Bay, 54235 746-0334

MADISON (608)

ORGANIZATIONS

Brew City Bears • Bears & Admirers • PO Box 8815, 53701
 Campus Women's Center • 4th Floor, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon 53706 262-8093
 Frontiers Men's Club • Social group • PO Box 310, 53703 274-5959
 Gay And Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize) • PO Box 1403, 53701 255-8582
 Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) • PO Box 25902, 53725 284-1508
 LGB Business Alliance • c/o PO Box 1722, 537012 256-6214
 LGB Law Student Assoc. • Box 17, Rm. 208, 500 Lincoln Dr. 975 Bascom Hall 53706
 Lesbian Parents Network • PO Box 8423, 53708 255-8582
 New Harvest Foundation • PO Box 1786, 53701-1786 256-4204
 OutReach Inc. • 600 Williamson (Gateway Mall) 53703, www.outreachinc.com 255-4297
 Madison's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Center • Drop in or call
 Support groups, peer counseling, info & referral. Open 9am-9pm, M-F.
 PFLAG (Parents, Friends LGBTs) • 1112 Grant St., 53711 243-1208 or 255-0533
 UW Ten Percent Society • PO Box 260394, 53726 262-7365
 UW-LGB Alumni Council • 650 N. Lake St., 53706 262-5865
 UW-LGBT Campus Center • 2nd Floor, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon, 53706 265-3344
 Unicorns • levi/leather club • PO Box 536, 53701

MEDICAL / HIV

AIDS Network / Southern WI • 600 Williamson St., Madison 53703 (800) 486-6276
 Madison, Janesville, Beloit Counseling, Testing, Referrals, Help
 Blue Bus STD Clinic • 1552 University Ave, 53705 262-7330

RELIGIOUS

Integrity/Dignity • LGBT Christians • PO Box 730, 53701 836-8886

BED & BREAKFAST

Ivy Inn Hotel & Restaurant • 2355 University Ave. 233-9717

RETAIL / SHOPPING

Community Pharmacy • 341 State St., 53703 251-3242
 A Room of One's Own • Feminist Bookstore • 307 W. Johnson, 53703 257-7888

MILWAUKEE (414)

ORGANIZATIONS

Alternative Business Assoc • PO Box 511778, 53203 299-9271
 Bi Definition • Bisexual Organization • PO Box 07541, 53207 483-5046
 Castaways MC • PO Box 1697, Milw., WI 53201-1697 • Call Corey 372-9253
 Counseling Center • LGBT Support Groups • 2038 N. Bartlett 271-2565
 Cream City Foundation • PO Box 204, 53212 265-0880
 Fest City Singers • PO Box 11428, 53211 263-SING
 Galano Club • Alcohol Free Recovery Club • 2408 N Farwell, 53211 276-6936
 website: http://www.execpc.com/revva/ • Open nightly
 Nightly Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous and/or
 Sexual Compulsives Anonymous, 12-step meetings.

MILWAUKEE (414) CONTINUED

GAMMA • Social/Recreational • PO Box 1900, 53201 365-3453
 Gay Youth Milwaukee • PO Box 090441, 53209 265-8500
 Gemini Gender Group • TG Support • PO Box 44214, 53214 297-9328
 GLBT Employees of Ameritech (GLEAM) • PO Box 254, 53201 482-4310
 Human Rights League • PO Box 510684, 53203
 Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB) • 170 S. 2nd St, 53204 272-9442
 Milwaukee LGBT Community Center • 170 S. 2nd St., 53204 271-2656
 www.mkelgbt.org • Meeting & office space. Info, referral, support, library
 MU GLB Student Group • AMU236, PO Box 1881, 53201-1881 288-6873
 PFLAG-Milwaukee Chapter • PO Box 210853, 53221 299-9198
 PrideFest Inc. • PO Box 511763, 53203 272-FEST
 e-mail Pridemilw@aol.com • www.pridefest.com

The Queer Program • Tuesdays 7pm • PO Box 090441, 53209 265-8500
 Rainbow Alliance at UWM • PO Box 413, 53201 229-6555
 Riverwest Rainbow Assoc. • 1001 E. Keefe, 53212 225-1645
 SAGE-Milwaukee • Box 510492, 53203-0091 • Older Gays & Lesbians 271-0378
 Saturday Soft Ball League (SSBL) • PO Box 510615 Milw., WI 53203 454-9204
 Shoreline • Country Dancing Fri. night, LaCage • PO Box 510283 Milw., WI 53203
 Sherman Park Rainbow Association • PO Box 76115, Milw., WI 53216 277-3986
 Call for meeting schedule and updated events.
 Wisconsin Corporate Alliance (WCA) 284-3295
 Wisconsin Cream City Chorus • 170 S. 2nd St., Milw., WI 53204 276-8787

MEDICAL / HIV

Brady East STD Clinic (BESTD) • STD & HIV Testing • 1240 E. Brady St. 272-2144
 St. Camillus AIDS Ministry • 10101 W. Wisconsin, Milw., 53226 259-4664

RELIGION

Dignity • LGBT Catholics • PO Box 597, 53201 444-7177
 Lutherans Concerned • LGBT Lutherans • PO Box 1676, 53201 372-9663
 Milw. Metropolitan Community Church • 1239 W Mineral, 53204 332-9995
 St. Matthews Catholic Church • 1138 S. 25th St., Sunday worship 10:30am

PROFESSIONALS / SERVICES

Body Inspired • Health Club, Tanning, Massage • 2009 E. Kenilworth, 53211 272-8622
 Carol Busche, CFP • Financial Advisor • 1110 N Old World 3rd #218, 53203 224-1680
 CMJ Property Managers & Real Estate • PO Box 71182, 53211 454-0584
 Ron Coleman, Century 21 Realty • 2331 S. 108th St., West Allis, 53227 543-5403
 Dykeman Family Heating & A.C. • 1023 E Brady St., 53202 273-7500
 Financial Planning Services • Investments and insurance, Ralph F. Navarro. 445-5552
 Ted Friedman, PhD • Psychologist • 2266 N. Prospect #206, Milw. 53202 272-2427
 Gray Line Tours • motorcoach tours/events 271-0996
 Denis I. Jackson, PdD • Psychologist • 230 W Wells, #309, 53203 276-8669
 Brenda Lewison, Attorney • 135 West Wells, 53203 287-1171
 Mortgage Masters • 84th & Burleigh, mortgages/refinances/debt consolidation. 875-1111, ext 21
 Kathleen A. Neville, MS, MSW, Psychotherapist • 3970 N Oakland #502, 53211 332-3331
 Scott Perkins, Shorewest Realtors • http://shorewest.com 476-7100
 Productive Insight, Inc. • web site design & production • www.piweb.com 363-7374
 Jack H. Smith, Shorewest Realtors • http://jacksmith.com 962-4413
 TNT Graphics • Ad design, graphics • tntgraph@execpc.com 372-9TNT

RETAIL / SHOPPING

Afterwords Bookstore • 2710 N. Murray, 53211 963-9089
 Designing Men • Gay gift items & t-shirts • 1200 S 1 St., 53204 389-1200
 Popular News • Adult video sales, magazines • 225 N. Water St., 53202 278-0636
 Survival/Revival Resale Shop • Sales benefit ARCW • 246 E. Chicago Street, 53202 291-2856
 Video Adventures • Video sales, rentals • 1418 E. Brady, 53202 272-6768

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN (715)

Aurora Lesbian Center • 32 E. First Street, Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 722-4903
 Northland Gay Men's Center • 8 N. 2nd Ave, E #309, Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 722-8585
 Out Up North • PO Box 695, Washburn, WI 54891 682-2890
 UW-Superior 10% Society • UW, Superior, 54880 394-8091
 Out Up North • PO Box 695, Washburn, WI 54891 682-2890

SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN (414)

UW-Parkside GL Organ. • 900 Wood Rd., Box 200, Kenosha, 53144 595-2244

PROFESSIONALS / SERVICES

Rosina J. Weister, Heartland Realty Corp. • 6223 10th Ave., 53143 657-6566
 Patricia Pearson, American Family Insurance • 1024 60 St., # 4, Kenosha 53143 654-1006

BED & BREAKFAST

Allyn Mansion Inn • 521 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan 53115 728-9090

CENTRAL WISCONSIN (715)

Rainbow Alliance Inc. • Box 390 Stevens Point WI 54481 592-6245 X 5920200
 UW-SP 10% Society • Box 68, Campus Activities Office, U-C, 54481 346-4366

WESTERN WISCONSIN

Galaxy • La Crosse, surrounding area • PO Box 602, Onalaska, WI 54650 (608) 791-1963
 PFLAG-GCV • PO Box 0011, Eau Claire, WI 54702 (715) 235-4567
 Pioneers Rural WI Gay & Lesbian Alliance • PO Box 53, Richland Center, WI 53581 (800) 484-8131
 pioneerswi@aol.com • Code 4419

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NIGHTS OUT

News... Summer is in full swing and the bars are hopping. Over at **Fluid** they had a great "beach party," that I didn't have room to report on in my last column. It was a fabulous event that included everything but the sand.

The Possum Queen fundraisers are in full swing, too, as we head towards the big finale on opening night at PrideFest. Attend as many of them as you can, and please donate gener-

ously. Speaking of fundraisers, there were two very nice ones of the softball variety in recent weeks. **The M&M Club** held a great fundraiser for its team on Saturday, June 19. The highlight was the putting green. I hear they raised \$1,000. Last Saturday, it was **Switch's** turn. A good crowd turned out for raffles, including a \$5 a ticket raffle for a date with three hot players, food and a beer bust. The Switch hitters took in \$800. Stay tuned for info on fundraisers for other teams.



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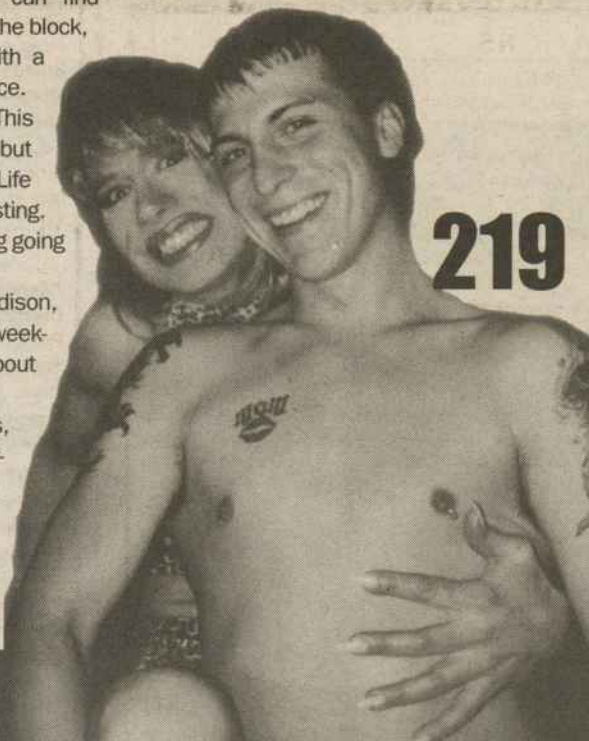
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Eagle



Fannies



Going Out

THURSDAY, JULY 1

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

The Blue Lite (Sheboygan), 7th Anniversary Celebration! 9pm-on.

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

Brandy's II (Green Bay), \$1 LaBatts Blue, Red Dog or White Zinfandel, get a bang out of our special!

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

THURSDAY, JULY 8

Brandy's II (Green Bay), 2nd Locker Room Party, \$1 cover with Locker Room Apparel (\$3 without), all proceeds benefit ROW.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay), ROW Weekend, Kick-off Party for Gay Gala Guernsey Contest.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW) Pride Picnic (Green Bay), Noon to 6pm, at the Al Kamke Farm in Brillion, WI. Tap Beer, Soda, Food, Games, Raffles, Music, Vendors, Live and Lip Sync Performances. Proceeds benefit ROW. Farm at N8287 Hwy. 57. Due to construction on Hwy. 57, from Green Bay: take I 43 south to Hwy. 10, west to County Rd. HR to the farm. From Appleton: take Hwy. 10 East to Forest Junction, then right on Hwy 57, 1/2 mile. From Milwaukee: Take I 43 north to Hwy. 10, west on 10 to Hwy. HR, left on HR to Hwy. 57 and farm.

Za's (Green Bay), ROW Weekend: Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA Pageant, 9pm, Part of Za's 10th Anniversary Weekend. \$5 cover, featuring Tyler Thomas, Mr. Gay USofA, and Jeff Jennings, Mr. Gay Great Lakes-USofA '98. Reserved seating available by calling the bar.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Boot Camp (Milwaukee), Cook Out! Beer bust, food, carnival games, auction. 3pm. A Ms. Aint' B Gotton Possum Queen Fundraiser. Items for Auctions welcome.

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee), BESTD Traveling HIV Testing Clinic, anonymous testing and counseling, 5-8pm.

Za's (Green Bay), ROW Weekend and Za's 10th Anniversary Weekend. Free Tap Beer and Buffet from Noon-3pm.

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.

Celebrate A Rainbow Of Pride

Saturday, July 10

Noon-6 pm:

The Rainbow Over Wisconsin
Pride Picnic

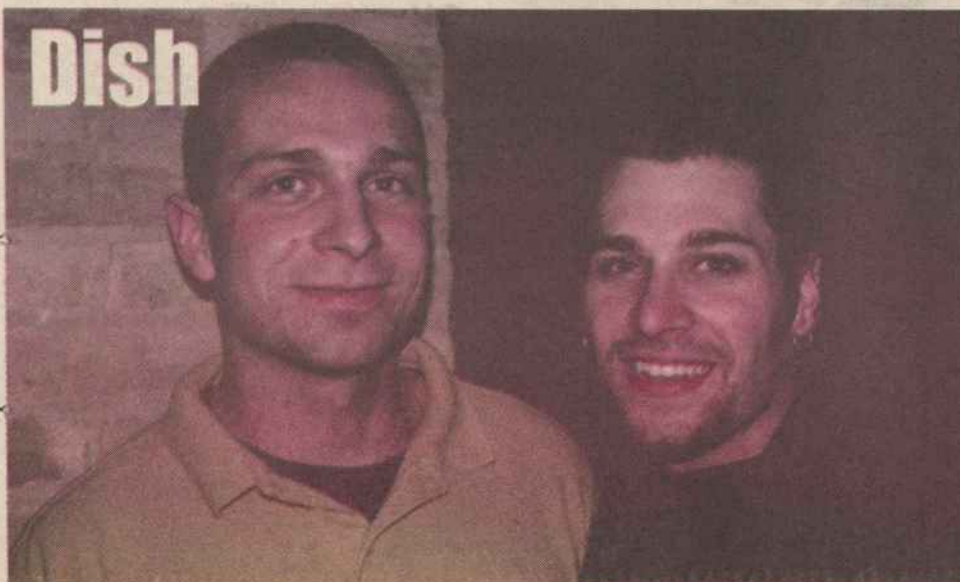
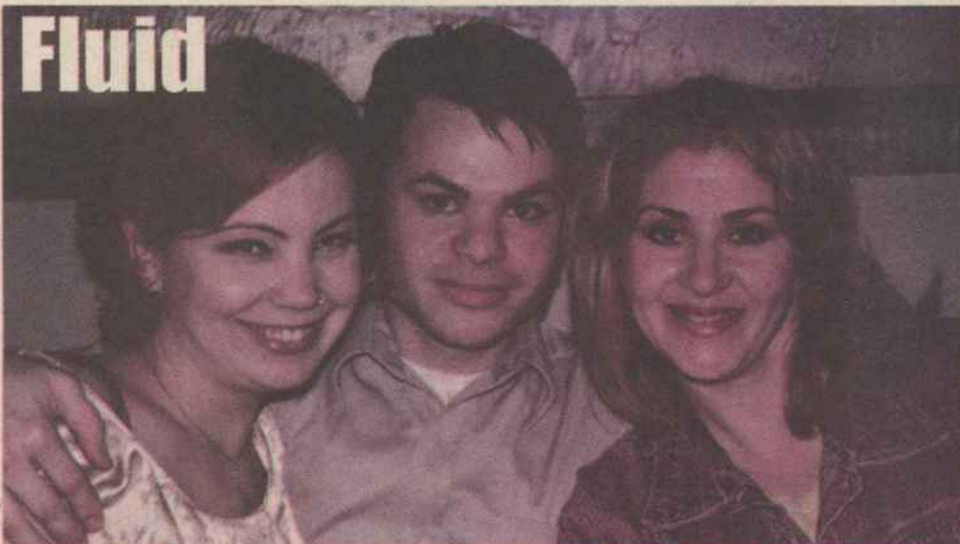
- Fabulous Food
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- Great Games
- Pride Merchandise

At the Al Kamke farm in Brillion

(See map on Page 11 of the Wisconsin Light)



A Benefit for
**RAINBOW OVER
WISCONSIN**



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

RESTAURANTS

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

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

RACINE/KENOSHA (414)

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

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

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

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

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

SHEBOYGAN (920)

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

SUPERIOR (715)

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

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

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

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

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THEME WILL CHANGE EVERY WEEK

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**Friday, July 16
Dance The
Night
Away**

BEGINNING
AT 9PM



**Saturday, July 17
Outdoor Beer
Tent & Patio**



Sunday, July 18

Live Music FROM 5-8PM
WITH SWIMMING FISH
ON THE PATIO

Customer Appreciation

FREE COOKOUT • 5-8PM

2-4-1 DRINKS • BEER BASH 3-8PM

Ms. Capitol City Pageant

10:30PM



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Madison, WI 53713



Club 5 • 5 Applegate Court • Madison, WI 53713
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WI Light

June 30-July 6, 1999

Section

WI's Gay Adult Guide

ADULT TALK • PERSONALS • BOOKS & VIDEOS • INTIMATE ADVICE

For those 18 years or older.

If this section does not interest you, please dispose of properly & recycle.

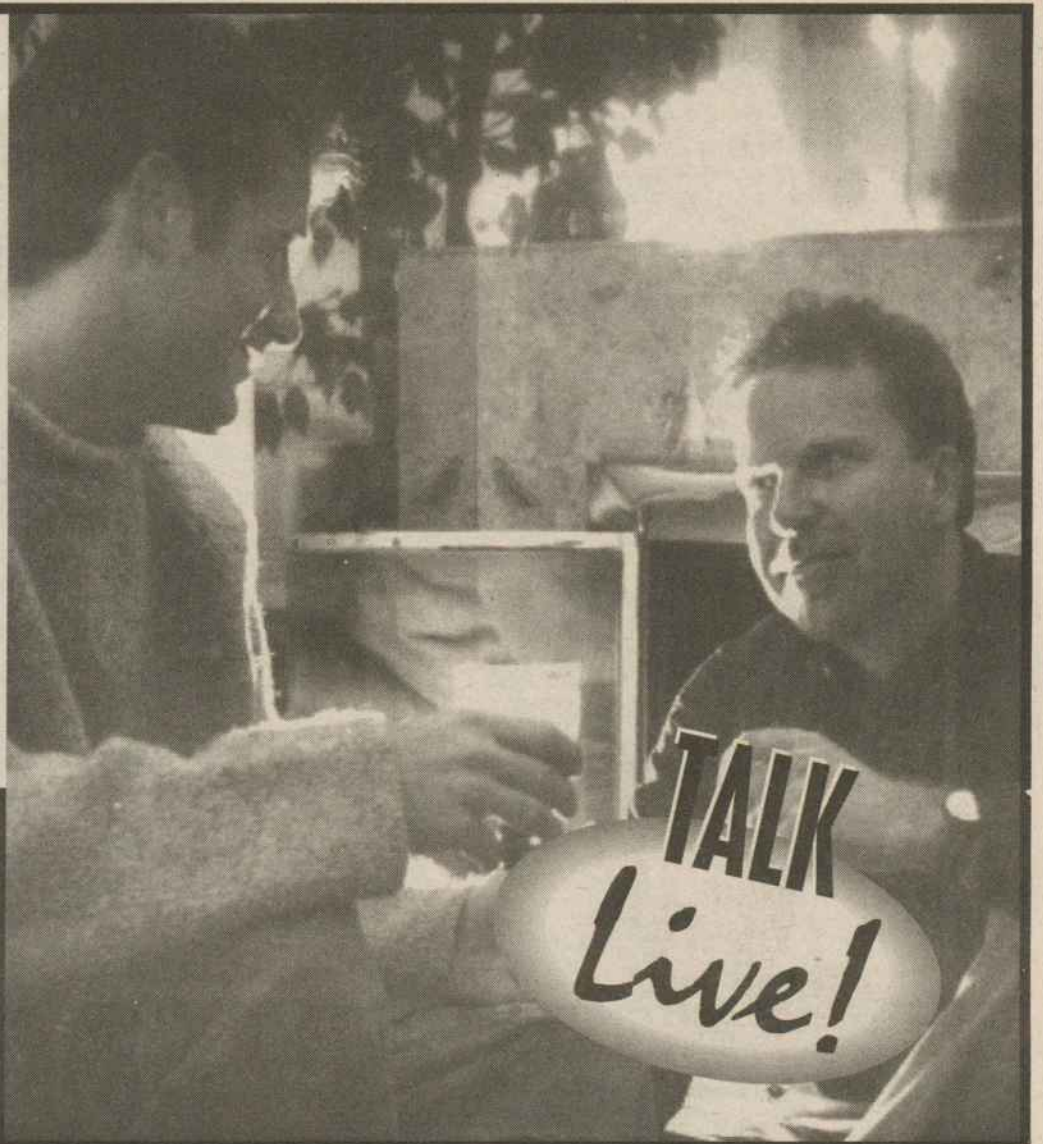
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NAUGHTY Esmeralda

Amateur Night Can Be Fun!

There is really nothing like the sight of beautiful dick. Some of us enjoy the lengthy variety with narrow but well-defined cock heads. These are the sticks you want to jerk off with your hand so you can watch them erupt.

Some of us prefer a wide fleshy cock — the sort that continues to spread you in two the deeper he slides it inside you. Short and stout, long and inviting, uncut and shaven. There are so many combinations, colors and shapes, it's no wonder Wisconsin men have taken to showing their privates to one another via photo swaps.

I was excited to learn that plenty of Wisconsin men are hooked on looking at the variety of cocks available through amateur pictures on the Internet. Frankly, the idea of seeing average men flash their hardy dicks and tight asses for the camera thrilled me. They're not all muscular cover boys or pretty frat-boy fuck-toys. No. These are regular Joes. Exhibitionists really.

A few columns ago, I introduced you to local men who enjoyed the pleasures of Gay

chat rooms. I like to think of our discussion as Cyber Sex 101. Now, let's graduate to the next level of Gay sex offered by the Internet. The amateur picture swap. Let's talk to some local men into posting and swapping their photos over the Internet.

There are several, free, amateur photo news groups one can subscribe to. Those belonging to these groups can e-mail their own photos to everyone else on the subscription list. Some subscribers receive as many as 30 pictures a day. The Wisconsin men I interviewed belonged to such a group.

"It's gotten much easier with e-mail," said Mike, the younger of two Wisconsin bears into picture swapping. "Before you had to meet the guys through personals and things like that. It was a lot more difficult." Mike and Steve are leather men in their mid 40's. Each has dark hair and sturdy, hard looks. They've been lovers for over a year, and I found myself hoping they'd invite me to their bedroom for a photo shoot of our own.

"We get shots of guys every day in our e-mail. We can e-mail the guy if we like his

pictures and send him our pictures," Mike continued. "We can get in touch with him for cyber sex, phone sex or three ways if he's from the area."

"Is that why you post photos of yourselves," I asked, "to meet men?"

"Not really," said Steve. "We do it because we're exhibitionists. We like the idea that men are looking at nude pictures of us and possibly getting off on them."

"We'll send pictures of us out to a list of Gay men, and a lot of them e-mail us back asking for different poses, or telling us they jerked off looking at us," Mike added.

The two told me that they like receiving photos from other men for the simple reason that the men are not models or sex industry professionals. "They are guys just like us. Guys who like to show off, suck dick, and have a little fun," laughed Mike.

"As a couple in an open relationship," added Steve, "the photos are more exciting because when a local guy sends us his pictures, we know there is a chance we could hook-up with him and have a three-way with him. I mean, I'm not going to have the chance to fuck one of the guys from our pornos, and Mike's not going to get fucked by a guy in a porno either. The guys who want to exchange pictures with us are real. There's a chance we could play with them if we wanted to."

I asked how the couple got interested in amateur photography.

"I always thought the best part of a porno (magazine)," said Steve, "was the area where guys sent in pictures of themselves. I never had the balls to do it, but when I learned some people were doing it on the Internet, I was interested."

Shortly after the two met, Mike an exhibitionist himself, showed Steve the joys of scanning naughty Polaroids for Internet use. The two haven't stopped since, creating a web site of their own photography and subscribing to several photo swap lists.

The two even take pictures of their finest and dirtiest moments. "Insertion shots are great," said Steve. "Most guys really like them because the majority of pictures you swap are solo shots."

Steve and Mike gave me the address of their sinfully, erotic homepage. They made me promise not to print the URL in this story, but I was delighted to find that the page featured several shots of their thick cocks in all their glory.

The site featured some delicious pics of Steve eating Mike out, cum shots, and my favorite — Steve's dick planted firmly in Mike's shaved hole. There were even a few shots of a recent four-way they had with a Madison couple they met exchanging photos. The site welcomes other Wisconsin men to send their photos and offers the possibility of meeting this hot duo in person.

Smile for the camera, lover. Good night and pleasant wet dreams.

Are you into cyber cams? Any local sex clubs that would like some publicity? Let Esmeralda know about your sexcapades for a candid, discrete interview on the topic. Write to Emerald c/o WI Light, 225 N. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53201.

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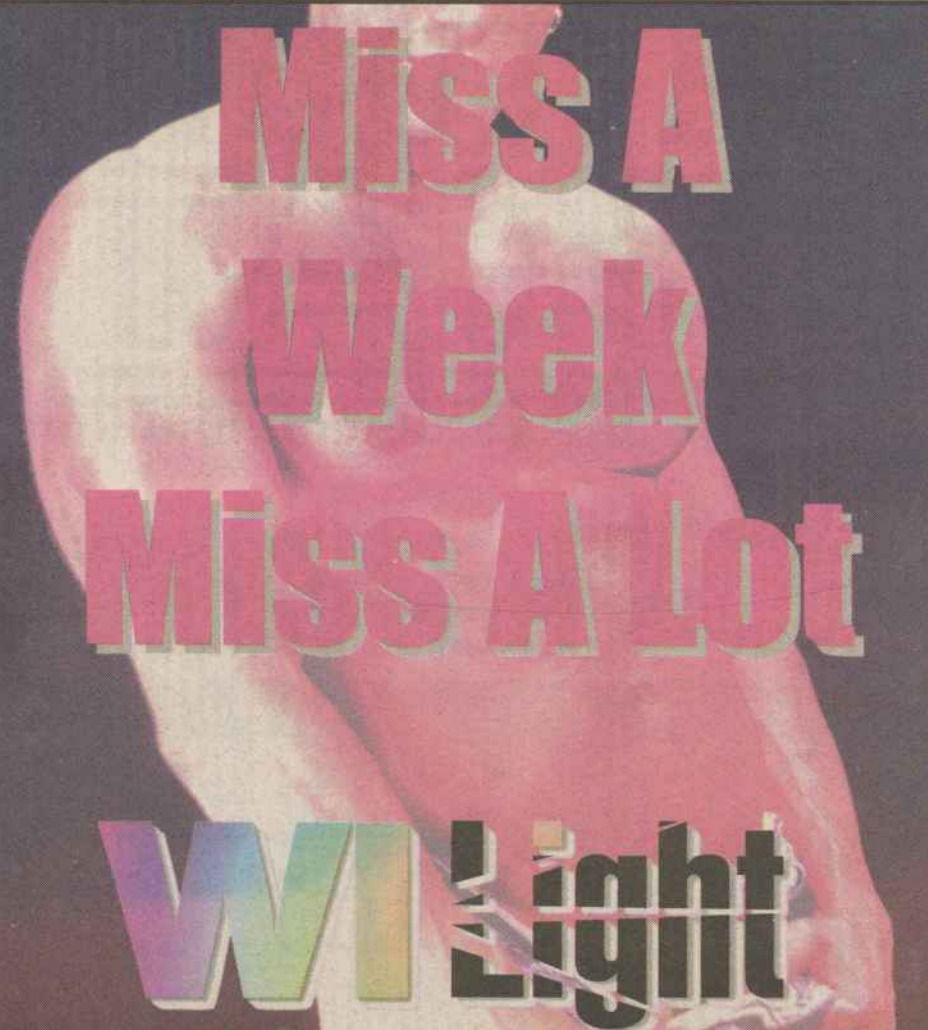
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My Secret Collection
1996, Studio 2000

with Logan Reed, Rappalo, Matt Bradshaw, Rainey Foster, Derek Bishop, Brett Winters, Austin Reeves, and Danny West. Screenplay by Tyler Adams, Directed by Derek Kent, Original Theme and Incidental Music by Ross Cameron. Camera by Ross Cameron.
Reviewed by Sam Edwards

This video is three-years-old, but if you haven't seen it, you should since it is a good example of what happens when money is spent on talented people both in front of and behind the camera. The result is a fine film that you may want to view more than once.

The film opens as Logan Reed awakens and admits via voice over that he is obsessed with spying on people having sex and filming them with his new video camera. He has also discovered a hole in his closet wall that enables

him to watch his next door neighbor, Rappalo, masturbating. After watching Rappalo's morning event, he grabs his video, stows it in a flight bag that has a hole in the end, and heads out in search of scenes to shoot.

The first scene is the classroom that he attended before dropping out to devote full time to being a peeping Tom. The instructor, Matt Bradshaw, keeps a lovely Hawaiian boy, Matt Rainey, after class for some sexual homework.

Then, since he has dropped out of school, Logan decides to enlist in the Air Force. At the recruitment office he manages to avoid the advances of the Recruit Sergeant, Brett Winters, but manages to place his camera before leaving the room. The next candidate for recruitment is more interested in the benefits that Winters has to offer, and we have another well photographed sex scene.

Logan then retreats to a gay bar with a sex back room. He photographs another couple, Austin Reeves and Danny West, in a sexual free for all.

Then he heads to the gym and while he is placing his camera, his neighbor Rappalo enters and after an exchange of smoldering stares, they jump one another in one of the hottest sex scenes of 1996.

Logan returns home and finds that Rappalo has stolen his tape while he was showering and is watching it while he has his morning routine. This excites Logan and both men finish up in separate rooms physically, but in the same room mentally.

This video is available at Video Adventures.

Boss Man

by Catalina Video

Starring Doug Jeffries, Joshua Scott, Richard Allen, Will Clark, Richard Raines, Frank Parker and Chris Michaels. Written and directed by Chi Chi LaRue.

Reviewed by Sam Edwards

If you like videos that feature butch men having aggressive, rough sex together, you will like this one. Not much affection and tenderness is shown in this film, but these very masculine men go at it hammer and tongs. The butcher they are, the more likely they are to be on the bottom, but then what else is new?

The boss, Doug Jeffries, opens the action by verbally jumping on his employee, Joshua Scott, for not keeping the place clean and not bringing in the hot studs as he had promised when he was hired. He orders Scott to clean up the place and Scott, naturally, begins by cleaning Doug's body both fore and aft with his tongue. Then Jeffries jumps him physically and the muscles ripple as the pair perform.

Afterwards, Scott telephones one of his hunky friends, Richard Allen, and asks him to come over to the gym to help him keep his promise to the boss. Allen agrees but can't come right away because he has unfinished business with new friend, Will Clark, who just happens to be in bed with him at the time. Clark, a beefy strawberry blond, almost eats Allen alive before topping him with gusto.

The third scene features the almost too handsome Chris Michaels being forcefully topped by Frank Parker. Michaels sits on Parker, putting the bottom on top of the top. It is hard to figure out who is having the most fun in this roughhouse sex.

The last scene is back at the gym, where Scott and Allen spy the very masculine Richard Raines rubbing himself and looking at them with lust in his eyes. They join him and the oral fun begins. Raines, butch as he is, soon falls to his knees and has both of these butch bottoms orally. Finally, Scott can't stand his being passively serviced anymore and takes over the mouth work on Allen. Raines, poor lad, gets small attention but isn't left out completely.

In the epilogue, Scott asks the boss if he has anything that needs cleaning, and with a grin, Jeffries pushes him to his knees. Fade out! Not bad, not bad.

This film is available at Video Adventures.

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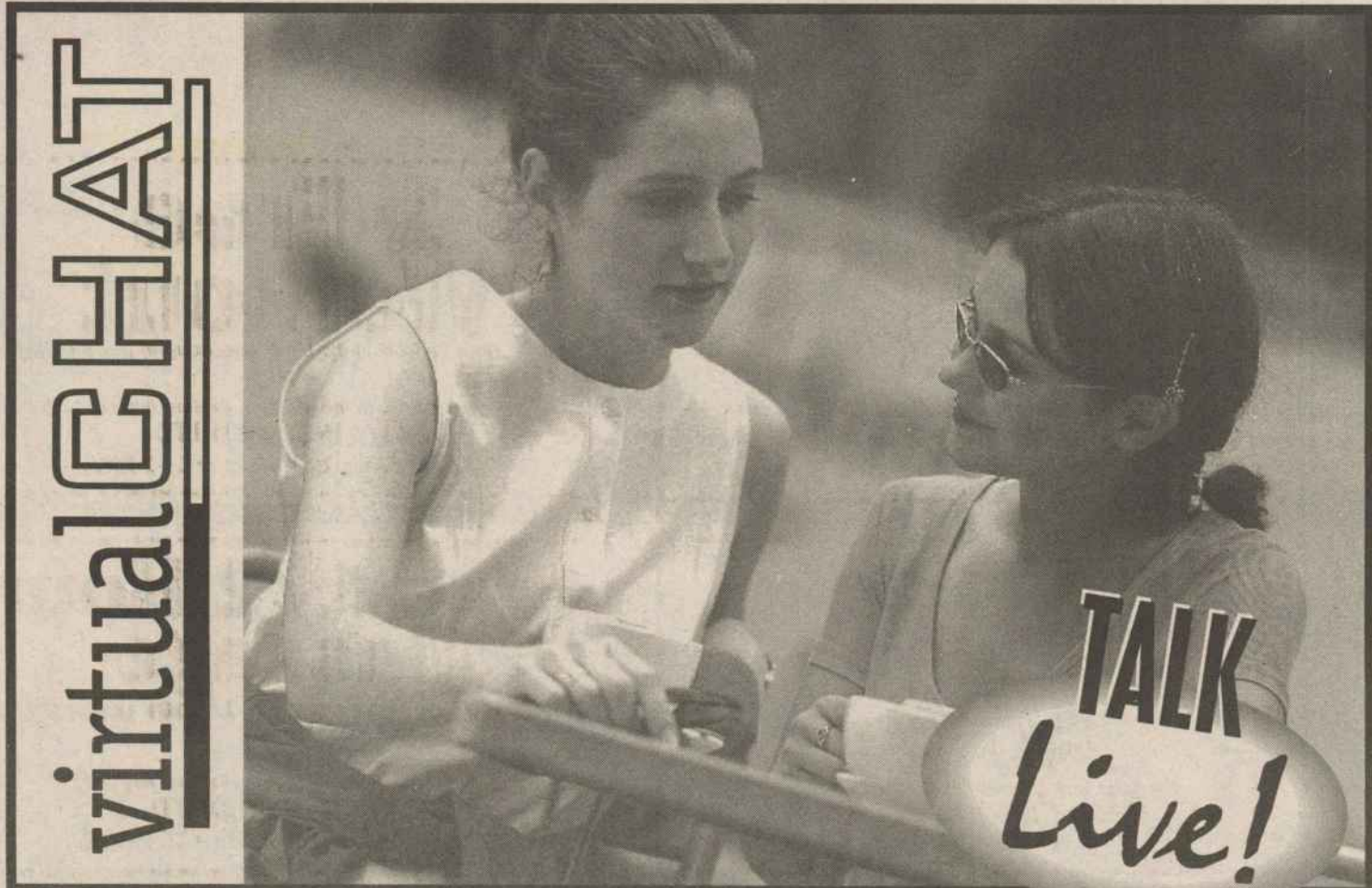
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