

The Weekly Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

WI Light WEEKLY

July 7-13, 1999



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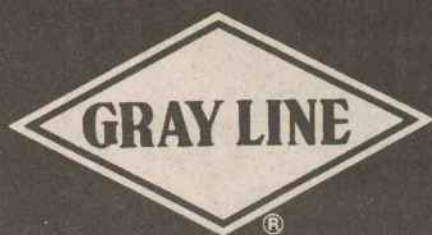


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July 7-13, 1999

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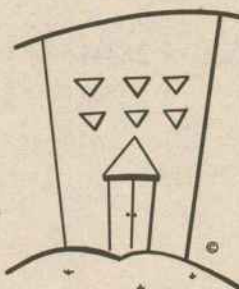
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FIGHTING HATE In Our SCHOOLS What YOU Can Do

by Bill Meunier
Last of a Series

America's schools face many challenges. There are funding issues, questions about class room sizes, the controversy over school vouchers and arguments over how to get student test scores up and about what should be done with bad teachers. It is little wonder then that in most districts, LGBT student issues are on the back burner, if they are addressed at all.

Some students have taken matters into their own hands and formed LGBT student organizations. Most, however, try to get through while ignoring the slurs, the threats and the isolation. When Gay students do raise their voices, they often find that they don't have the resources to match the organizing ability of religious conservatives.

As a whole, the LGBT community has largely ignored its youth. Perhaps this is because many members of that community are fearful that any action on behalf of LGBT youth will result in charges of pedophilia or be labeled "recruiting."

The lack of action is beginning to change. The Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Parents Friends & Families of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) and others are mobilizing supporters. They say the battle to make our schools safer for LGBT youth is one that the Gay community must win.

Kate Frankfurt, GLSEN's Director of Advocacy, says, "These kids are the future of our community. We have to do all we can to help." There are ways that Gays and Lesbians and their allies can help make that future better.

Actions for Everyone

Working with School Boards

Getting involved with school board politics is not something that most Gays and Lesbians have thought about doing. However, if we are to help our youth, we must make an impact on our local school boards.

There are several ways to do that.

Get involved in the next school board election. School board elections historically have low turnouts. A few volunteers helping a candidate sympathetic to the concerns of LGBT students can have a big impact. However, involvement with a local school board should not be limited to elections.

Frankfurt suggests attending school board meetings. "Find out what items are discussed, what proposals are being made," she said. "School boards always want to hear from the community and take many of their cues from the community."

She adds, "Sit and listen and get an understanding of how the board works, so when an issue comes up that you care about, stand up and make your voice heard. You don't have to identify yourself as Gay or Lesbian in order to speak out. You simply have to say that you believe in fairness and equity in education."

As is the case in other areas of moving towards equality for Gays and Lesbians, education can be the key. Research shows that even those closest to the situation, teachers and guidance counselors, are more often than not unaware of the difficulties faced by Gay teens in school. It should hardly be surprising that school board members are not aware of them either.

In general, school board members run for office because they want to help the students. Meeting privately with your school board representative to review the problem is one approach that LGBT youth advocates say can have solid results.

Building an Atmosphere of Tolerance

Most of the violence directed against LGBT students is verbal not physical. Experts say that verbal attacks can hurt just as much as physical ones do. Building an atmosphere of tolerance can address the verbal abuse.

Frankfurt suggests donating books and videos to local school and public libraries. It may be unlikely that homophobic students will read a book about homosexuality or watch a video about being Gay, but it is likely that Lesbian and Gay students will.

Just the existence of supportive books and videos in local libraries send LGBT youth a message that they are not alone. The content of those books and videos can help them feel more comfortable with themselves.

Through its Internet site, www.glsen.org and a catalogue, GLSEN sells supportive books and videos. Some are aimed at teachers and school staffs. Others are geared towards the students themselves.

GLSEN categorizes its offerings by school level to help buyers understand which book or video is appropriate for elementary, middle school and high school students.

GLSEN strongly recommends that Gay and Lesbian alumni come out at their former schools. Every fall it sponsors a "Back to School Campaign." The campaign encourages LGBT people to write their former schools and explain how homophobia hurt them while they were students. GLSEN says, "This has proven to be one of the most effective ways of changing the "hearts and minds" of America's educators."

GLSEN believes that by coming out at their former schools, Gays provide positive role models for the LGBT students attending it. Frankfurt says, "The more everyone in a community recognizes that Gay people are an integral part in every community, the less mystery and fear there will be."

What Can Teachers Do?

Assessing the Climate

Teachers have a responsibility to make sure that the environment is safe for every student. School safety experts say that name-calling must be addressed before it escalates into physical violence. The problem is that many teachers don't have the training to know how to address the verbal abuse aimed at Gay and Lesbian students.

Frankfurt says, "Teachers know how to address racial slurs, but they don't know what to do about anti-Gay name-calling. There is this silent understanding that no one stands up for Gay people except for other Gay people. Teachers fear that if they address the name-calling, people may assume they are Gay."

They may also not recognize the extent of the problem. GLSEN has a tool to help teachers and staff identify how safe a school is for LGBT students, a School Climate Survey.

Students and staff taking the survey answer a short list of questions to gauge anti-Gay sentiments at a school. The survey results show where a school is at on the issue of homophobia. They can also raise awareness and ease the way for corrective action by school administrators.

Diversity Training

One step those administrators can take is holding diversity training sessions. GLSEN, P-FLAG chapters, and in many cases local LGBT groups can help organize and present training sessions for teachers and staff.

Teachers can also help to form and maintain a Gay Straight Alliance in their schools. If there are openly Gay and Lesbian students in a school, a supportive teacher can approach them with the idea of forming a student group and offer to serve as its advisor.

If there aren't any openly Gay students, teachers can put stickers and posters on their classroom doors to let closeted students know there is someone inside they can talk to.

What Can Parents Do?

All parents should be concerned about an anti-Gay environment in the schools. Any child who doesn't conform to the "norm" for their gender, such as boys who are effeminate or girls who are good at sports and science or may look masculine, are often perceived to be Gay or Lesbian. These kids are taunted, too.

Those taunts can disrupt the learning environment and hold students back from using their natural talents. LGBT parents and parents of LGBT students should be especially concerned.

Parents must make it clear that a hostile, anti-Gay climate is something they won't tolerate. They need to find out what the school will be doing to address the problem.

LGBT Parents

LGBT parents can help by making sure the school knows that it has Gay parents in its community. They can also make certain that the school understands how to refer to their family so that they and their children feel included. If they have a partner, LGBT parents should attend parent teacher conferences as a couple.

Being out and open in the school community can help break down barriers. LGBT youth advocates say that Gay and Lesbian parents should be as active at their children's schools as possible. That can help the school understand that Gay and Lesbian issues are important.

They should inquire about the school's harassment and discrimination policies. LGBT parents can make it clear that they will not tolerate a hostile environment in their children's school.

Parents of LGBT Children

Parents of an LGBT student can help in several ways. These include making sure their child knows they are loved and supported, and if their child is out, making sure the school knows it too.

Parents of LGBT students have special reasons to be concerned. GLSEN and others say these parents should ask about the harassment and discrimination policies at their child's school. They should also let the school know that they expect enforcement of those policies.

Take Action

The issue of LGBT student safety is a complex one. Just as every child is different, so is every school. Changing a school's environment from a hostile one to a welcoming and supportive one for LGBT youth frequently requires action from concerned citizens, parents, teachers and administrators.

It also takes time. Many say the time has come to act. They may well be right. The future of our LGBT youth — the future of our community — is at stake.

Resources:

GLSEN Madison — (608) 241-3009 or 284-1508

PFLAG Chapters:

Fox Valley — (920) 735-1025

Madison — (608) 243-1208 or 255-0533

Milwaukee — (414) 299-9198

Other

La Crosse — GALAXY (608) 791-1963

Gay Youth Milwaukee — (414) 265-8500

GLSEN — National Office (212) 727-0135 or www.glsen.org

A Tale of Two Teens

On the surface, Niki Taylor and John don't seem to have much in common. Niki, an open Lesbian, attends Bayview High School in Milwaukee. John, a closeted Gay teen, attends Hartland Arrowhead High School. The surface is not all there is to these high school juniors. They share some important experiences and attitudes.

While Niki is out and proud, John is struggling to come to grips with his sexuality. "I told my parents when I was in the sixth grade," said Niki. "They said it was just a phase. Now they know it's not just a phase."

John came out to his parents, who he says have been "incredibly supportive," and a school counselor, who advised him to see a therapist. "Arrowhead is a very sheltered school," said John. "We have three Black people out of 2,000, maybe two Asian, and that's it." He adds that while several students are under suspicion, no one has admitted to being Gay.

He adds that if he did come out, he might be bashed. "From the attitudes now, that's what I would foresee. That and a lot of harassment, probably," he said.

By contrast, Niki says that she's thriving as an open Lesbian in her school. "Everyone is cool with me," she said.

Niki says that other young Gays and Lesbians often come to her seeking advice on how to come out. "I never tell someone you should come out," she said. "I say, if you come out too early, it will destroy you. You'll feel it when you're ready."

John is not yet ready to take that step. He struggled to say anything to anyone. "It took a lot of phone calls to finally find some help," he said. He adds that he will come out to his classmates. "I am eventually going to tell them, probably after we graduate."

While Niki, who has contact with other Gay students, seems secure in her sexuality, John is trying to come to grips with his. "For the past year, I've gotten really involved in my church," he said. "I've been wrestling with what I've read in the Bible. Lately, I've been struggling big time. I've been getting contradictory messages everywhere. It's like a war going on inside of me."

While there are differences between them, John and Niki have some similarities, too.

Both Niki and John have friends at school. "I am pretty popular at school," said Niki.

John says that he has many friends, "most of them are girls," but adds that he doesn't date girls. When asked if he misses the dating scene enjoyed by his fellow students, John says, "I do miss that. I wish I could be open."

Niki doesn't date the opposite sex either. Unlike John, though, she has a romantic partner, a girlfriend she's been with since the sixth grade.

Niki and John complain about the volume of homophobic remarks they hear at their schools.

"It's always 'That's Gay,' and 'This is so Gay,'" said Niki. "I hear 'fag' and 'flamer' and 'fudgepacker' a lot," said John. "It irks me. It makes me feel put down. I've kinda gotten over that part."

Both John and Niki say that their schoolteachers do nothing to correct the students making these remarks.

Both have heard put downs from at least one teacher. In John's case it was his band teacher. "He deepened his voice and told a drummer, 'Hit it like a man,' then he raised his voice and said, 'Not like a sissy.'"

John also says that teacher got himself in trouble. "A girl who broke up with her boyfriend complained about her old boyfriend, saying her new boyfriend was Gay," said John. "The teacher said, 'He can say that. He can say whatever he wants.'" John said the girl complained to the school office, and the teacher was disciplined.

Niki reports that one of her teachers has made some crude remarks. "If he thinks someone is Gay, he'll be like, 'You're Gay, I bet you'll go fuck him in the ass.' That's nasty," she said. "Women to women sex is cool with him. He said he would like to watch stuff like that, be a part of a threesome."

Both John and Niki also say that some teachers are less than supportive. John's health teacher told her students to write down questions they were too embarrassed to ask. "I wrote down 'What about Gays and Lesbians?'" he said. "She answered just about all of the other questions except for mine."

Both Niki and John say they are disturbed that their classroom studies don't include lessons for Gay students. "I don't know anything about Gay history," said Niki. "I feel it should be taught at school. They teach us about the straight things that happen. Tell me about the Gay things that happen, too."

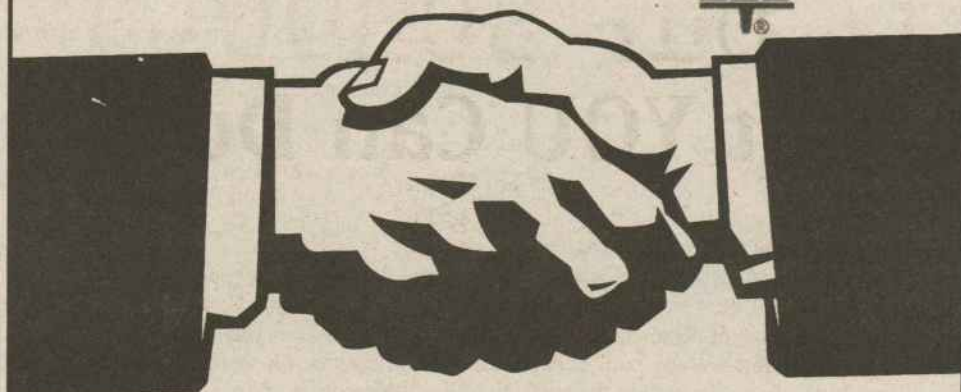
John says, "When talking about sex, they only talk about men and women having sex. It's not right." Niki agreed saying, "They should educate us about everything."

Both John and Niki wish there were a program for kids like themselves at their schools, especially given the lack of classroom discussions or materials on homosexuality. "Even if it's not a huge program. It would be nice if there was something to say we're not alone," said John.

Both Niki and John want to encourage other LGBT teens. "Don't ever consider doing something drastic. There are people who can help you," says John. Niki says, "Be confident in yourself. Don't try to change yourself for anybody."

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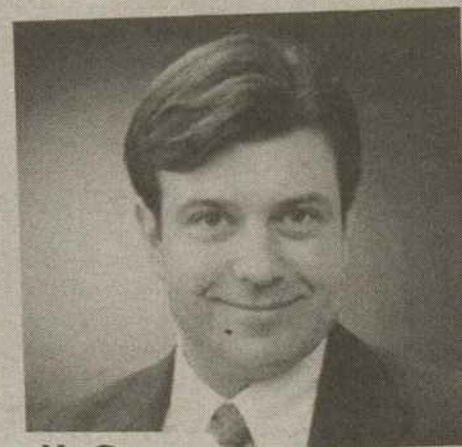
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Madison from a Students View

by Timothy Jonathan Treflinger

As I unpacked in my dorm room at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, I wondered exactly how different a city a hundred miles away from my home of Milwaukee could be. A year and ten months later, I am still kicking myself for not somehow making the move earlier.

Like most freshmen on campus, I worried about fitting into this new and auspicious environment. I specifically had a more difficult mission than most. I was branded with a scarlet "g" or "h" or maybe even a "q." With this initially being interpreted as a setback, I felt more compelled than ever to develop my own comfort zone in Madison.

Granted, there were obstacles. Who knew that showing up at Ten Percent dances right at 8pm isn't such a hot idea? Who knew that a few students happen to come from really, really small towns that no one outside of their residents ever actually heard of — towns with people that take a little longer to be cool with the idea of someone being something other than heterosexual?

After a few months, a couple of parties and some straight-forward and heart-felt conversations, I found that outing myself as a Gay student on campus was not the ABC After School Special docu-drama material it had been built up to be.

Madison is, unquestionably, a college town. Tori Amos even states that it is her favorite college town to play.

As any resident or politician could tell you, Madison emits politics and liberalism even more than Cher's lips radiate that "natural" collagen glow. From fighting for student rights over segregated fees to stopping the manufacture of University of Wisconsin apparel in sweatshops, UW Madison students have created an informed, laid-back, laissez-faire culture that leaves the city in a perpetual state of favorable reception.

When I worked at a Madison metropolitan elementary school this past fall as a student intern/tutor, I was amazed to learn that the third graders would be learning about Gay and Lesbian culture in a weeklong unit. This introduction of varying sexual orientations at such a basic level of educating virtually guarantees successful acceptance of sexual diversity later in their lives.

Who would have thought that teaching children that "different is not bad... different is actually good" would have been so simple? Promoting an accepting and understanding lifestyle not only promises a bright future for ourselves and these children, but it also promotes individualism, the key to finding sanctuary within one's self.

What I realized is that what defines me as an individual or separate from the norm is exactly what Madison, Wisconsin glorifies: atypical personality. This is an amazing culture that is unique to Madison. As I have observed in my not-so-vast travels across the state and country, Madison is by far the most welcoming and accepting ambience I have ever had the privilege to reside in.

As a continuation of this Madison philosophy, the city is hosting its LGBT Pride weekend July 16-18. I can assure it will be a happy Homo homecoming full of parties, concerts, rallies, picnics and dances. This weekend aspires to celebrate sexual diversity in an open and festive environment. I encourage you to come and sample it.

I also encourage you to visit Madison. Make a day of it, absorb its culture, its ambience and its aura. And, definitely, don't forget to be yourself.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Tammy Baldwin



Joy — Terror — Stress

Wherever I go in the district these days, people are always asking me what my first six months in Congress have been like. I tell them, "If I had to write a headline summarizing these first months in my new job, it would be 'Joy - Terror - Stress.'" Let me explain.

First, Joy...

I got chills the first time I walked into the U.S. Capitol building last November knowing that I was about to become a member. (I confess that I still do.) Walking onto the floor of the House of Representatives, itself, was stunning.

There's a hall outside the main entrance to the chambers called Statuary Hall. In it are displayed statues of heroes and pioneers from every state of the Union. Wisconsin has contributed statues of Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. and Father Marquette. Passing through that room, I can't help but think about our history. Knowing that Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. once held this seat gives me goose bumps.

I experience joy when I realize what a tremendous impact our state has made on this nation; the legacy of all the policies that we helped shape including Social Security and Workers Compensation. It's the "Wisconsin Idea" at work.

A simple thing like flying home after my first week working in D.C. filled me with such wonderment. Sitting in a window seat as I flew into Madison — first over the beautiful rural parts of the district, then the suburbs, then the city — I thought about how lovely Wisconsin is and how humbled I am by the honor of trying to represent the hopes and dreams of more than a half million people.

As for terror — those of you devoted to C-Span will appreciate the story of my first speech on the floor of the House. I've done a lot of public speaking in my career, and I'm pretty comfortable by now speaking to large audiences, but I was struck with terror at the thought of delivering a speech in that huge chamber with barely a soul in the room. There I was, pretty much alone expect for the Speaker Pro Tem of the House and the C-Span camera operator.

The Speaker intoned, "The Gentledady from Wisconsin is recognized for five minutes to speak about the Patient's Bill of Rights." We so rarely articulate it, but most of us feel that uncertainty when we face something new. Especially when the stakes are high and people are counting on us.

Stress is probably familiar to all of you who juggle jobs and families and still try to find a few moments for yourself. I've been busy trying to learn the names, faces and home states of my 434 new colleagues; setting up two offices in two cities; learning as much as I can as quickly as I can about a multitude of subjects; practicing the art of being three places at once; and never finding enough time to finish my homework. (Yes, I still have homework.)

It may sound overwhelming, but all of my experiences and emotions have been worthwhile. The joy, obviously, because representing you here gives me a sense of purpose and meaning. But I also appreciate the terror, because to me, the terror marks the fact that the work calls on me to be courageous. Things worth striving for often require that we do the right thing, not the popular thing. Those actions that require us to be brave often expose us to moments of terror.

And I even welcome the stress (at least right now) because the stress, the pressure, the tension force me to prioritize and figure out what is important in my job...to cut through the clutter and apply my time to what really matters.

As I've spoken to graduating students this season, I've told them about my feelings of joy, terror and stress and related them to their own journeys into new schools and new jobs. We all experience these emotions as we venture into uncharted territories. What's important is to use them productively so that our efforts are successful and satisfying.

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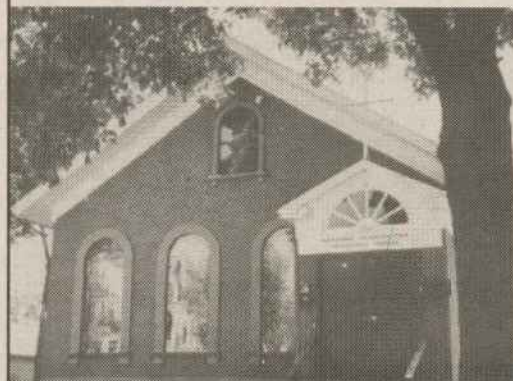
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by Dave Runyon and Bill Meunier

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The genesis for

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MADISON'S PRIDE WEEKEND JULY 15-18, 1999

the Madison Pride Weekend began 26 years ago when bar owner Rodney Scheel founded what would eventually become the **MAGIC** picnic. Rodney is gone now, but his wonderful event continues to be the social highlight of Madison's summer and an opportunity to contribute funds to needy LGBT groups.

The folks up in Madison took Rodney's picnic and made it into the centerpiece of a great celebration that includes something for everyone. From the opening notes of Perfect Harmony (Madison's Gay men's chorus) on Thursday evening to bar time in the wee hours of Monday morning, Madison is going to show, dance, sing and celebrate its LGBT community.

The community has a lot to celebrate, especially this year. It helped to send America's first openly Lesbian Congresswoman to Washington, D.C. It also helped to elect Mark Pocan to be the first openly Gay man in the state legislature.

Domestic partnership benefits for County Employees are advancing. Madison's Club 5 opened in September. The Ten Percent Society hosted a conference for over 1,000 LGBT students in February. OutReach moved to new spacious quarters in April. In May, the town of Verona, a Madison suburb, repudiated homophobe Ron Greer when he complained about an LGBT student group meeting in its high school.

There is no doubt about it. Madison's Gay and Lesbian community is moving forward, so it's fitting that the members of that community take some time out to relax, have fun and energize themselves.

Below is a schedule of events for Madison's big weekend.

Thursday, July 15

Perfect Harmony's Summer Concert

8pm

Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington Ave., on Capitol Square
Free (\$10 suggested donation)

Friday, July 16

High Tea & Talk

3:30 to 5pm

Monty's Blue Plate Diner, 2098 Atwood Ave.

A bull session for those who graze the goodies at Monty's.

OutReach's Seventh Annual Community Award's Dinner

6pm

Monona Terrace Civic and Convention Center

This event looks back at the last 12 months — the celebrations, sorrows and changes. It's also an acknowledgment of outstanding leaders and volunteers with awards for "Ally of the Year," "Man and Woman of the Year," "Organization of the Year," and "Volunteer of the Year."

The featured speakers will be Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and State Representative Mark Pocan. Emcee is Tina Fleischman.

FMI: Joe Bednarowski, (608) 277-7629 (Evenings) or (608) 255-8582 (Days). Cocktails start at 6pm; dinner served at 7pm. Reservations by July 2 are necessary.

Midwest Regional Volleyball Registration

7 to 11pm

Club 5, 5 Applegate Court

The 10% Society Dance

8pm

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center

\$5

Dance with Pride at what may well be the largest LGBT dance in Wisconsin. Last year's Dance drew over 2,000 people.

Proceeds go the 10% Society, UW-Madison's student group. There will be great music and a cash bar. \$5 admission.

Jeffrey

8pm

Esquire Theater, 113 E. Mifflin Street
\$10

This hilarious Broadway hit tells the story of a Gay man who gives up sex. For reservations, call (608) 242-0150.

Saturday, July 17

Midwest Regional Gay Volleyball Tournament

8am to 4pm

East High School, 2222 E. Washington Ave.

Free

FMI: call Jeff Pintor (608) 251-8716

The MAGIC Picnic

1pm to 7pm

Brittingham Park (the corner of West Washington Ave. & Park Street)

It just wouldn't be summer in Gay Wisconsin without the **MAGIC** picnic. The 26th version of the picnic is sure to follow in the tradition of those that preceded it. Admission is free, but a \$10 donation gets you a great lunch and all the beer and soda you care to drink.

A midway of games, booths and vendors will be on hand to keep you occupied when you aren't playing one of those wild picnic games, like the purse toss, the "Drag" race and the water balloon toss.

For your dancing pleasure, Madison's best DJs will strut their stuff in the Park Pavilion. The pavilion will also host a demonstration by the Dairyland Cowgirls & Cowboys Dance group.

The money raised from the picnic is donated to those LGBT organizations who provide the volunteers to make this great event happen.

Midwest Regional Volleyball Tournament Reception

The Cardinal Bar, 418 E. Wilson Street
FMI: Jeff Pintor (608) 251-8716.

5 - 8:30pm

Jeffrey

(See Friday Highlights)

Dairyland Cowgirls & Cowboys Dance Cotillion

8pm

The Sapphire Ballroom at the Northgate Shopping Mall, 1133 North Sherman Ave
\$5 suggested donation.

Yee Hah! What better way to kick up your heels with Pride than to attend Dairyland's Cotillion. Come as you are and have a country pride good time!

Flaming Dykasaurus

8pm

WilMar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jennifer Street

Sliding scale admission \$5 - \$7.

Be ready to laugh until you cry. Madison's hilarious all Lesbian improv troupe is at it again.

Sunday, July 18

Volleyball Tournament continues

East High School, 2222 E. Washington Ave.

UW Madison LGBT Alumni Brunch

9:30am to Noon

Great Hall Memorial Student Union
\$12

The seventh annual LGBT UW Alumni Brunch will honor Professor Robert Peters and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. It includes a special presentation in memory of George Mosse.

For reservations: (608) 262-5895 or toll-free (888)WIS-ALUM

Action Wisconsin

Noon

State Capitol (North Hearing Room)

Free

Action Wisconsin a statewide LGBT civil rights/political group holds its annual meeting.

The Madison Pride Rally

1:30pm

State Capitol (State Street Steps)

Get fired up for the Pride March and be heard.

The Madison Pride March

2pm

Wisconsin's largest Pride March heads from the State Capitol down State street and then to Brittingham Park.

Nothing to Hide

2pm

Cable channel 4

WYOU-TV, presents *Free Speech TV: Dyke TV # 1* [29] & *Are We Prepared for Chemical Queers: The Orientation express, Mom, I think I'm Bi.* [16], PLUS a 7-minute computer moving graphic from the 1950s. Repeated on Monday the 19th at 8am.

The Pride Picnic (Featuring Kate Clinton)

2:30 to 6pm

Brittingham Park (corner of West Washington Ave and Park Street)

FREE

A \$10 donation gets you lunch and all the beer and soda pop you can drink.

Games, a midway of concessions and tables distributing information related to various support agencies. DJs & dancing in the park pavilion.

The fabulously funny, nationally known Lesbian comic will perform at 4pm.

Post volleyball tournament party

6pm to ???

Ray's Bar & Grill, 3054 E. Washington Ave.


For more information about Madison's **MAGIC** Pride Weekend, check out the web site at www.madisonpride.org or call (608) 241-8971.

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AROUND THE STATE

Greer Loses Round One

Madison - In a ruling likely to arouse cheers in Madison's LGBT community, a Federal Judge turned down fired Madison firefighter Ron Greer's demand that he be reinstated.

Greer was disciplined for distributing anti-Gay literature while on the job. He was fired after he sent out a press release claiming that Fire Chief Debra Amesqua was lenient in disciplining Division Chief Marcia Holz because (according to Greer) both are Lesbians. Neither woman has spoken about their sexual orientation.

Madison's Fire and Police Commission found that Greer violated department rules that require firefighters to respect superiors and prohibit harassment based on sexual orientation.

Judge Crabb agreed that the Government does have the right to limit free speech when it is acting as an employer. "The nature of a firefighter's duties depend upon loyalty and confidence; biting public criticism that calls loyalty and confidence into question may severely hamper both the orderly operation and efficiency of services and the employee's ability to perform his or her duties," Crabb wrote.

The Judge added, "In addition, the news release's derogatory tone toward homosexuals in general may cause fear among the public that the plaintiff was hired to serve and that it suggested that the safety of some of its members is more important to him than the safety of others."

As of press time there was no word on an appeal of Judge Crabb's decision, however, previous statements from Greer and his attorneys indicate that they will take the case to a higher court.

Aids Action Wisconsin Issues Alert On State Budget

Madison - AIDS Action Wisconsin (AAW) is urging concerned Wisconsin citizens to contact State Senate Majority Leader Chuck Chvala (D-Madison) and Speaker of the Assembly State Representative Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) to voice support for funding for HIV prevention, care and treatment services.

The State Legislature is quickly wrapping up its work on the 1999-2001 State Budget. AIDS Action Wisconsin says, "It is critical that the AIDS community secure Sen. Chvala's and Rep. Jensen's support for the highest level of AIDS funding possible. Currently, the final level of funding for HIV prevention services and for community based services for people living with HIV/AIDS is being set. We need to weigh in on final decisions immediately."

AAW asks people to contact Senator Chuck Chvala and Representative Scott Jensen and "urge them to use their leadership to ensure expanded funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment."

AIDS Action Wisconsin urges support for two proposals that would increase State funding for agencies fighting against AIDS. These proposals are:

- The bipartisan Joint Finance Committee recommendation of a 5% increase in the Life Care Services/Early Intervention Grant.

AAW says that community based services for people with HIV/AIDS need increased funding. According to AAW, caseloads have increased by 20%, creating an increased demand for services related to complex AIDS drug regimens. Furthermore, AIDS Action Wisconsin says there is a growing number of people with HIV/AIDS who also have mental health, drug addiction and homelessness issues.

- The State Senate position that HIV prevention funds should be increased by \$200,000.

While the number of people with AIDS/HIV has increased eight fold, HIV prevention funds have not been increased for over a decade.

AAW says that while Wisconsin has developed an excellent State HIV prevention plan, it has been underfunded for years. During that time, Wisconsin data shows that the number of teens with AIDS/HIV has increased by 44% and the number of women with AIDS/HIV has risen by 63%.

Because Senator Chvala and Representative Jensen are statewide leaders in the budget process, AIDS Action Wisconsin believes it is imperative that AIDS Advocates from every part of Wisconsin call, e-mail or fax both of them today.

Senator Chuck Chvala can be reached at (608)266-9170 Chuck.Chvala@legis.state.wi.us
 State Representative Scott Jensen can be reached at (608)266-3387
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AROUND THE NATION

Rainbow Flag Burners Arrested

Columbus – Two men were arrested after they hauled down and burned a Rainbow Flag that had been flying over the Ohio Capitol Building. The flag was flying in honor of Gay Pride.

Charles Spingola, 43, and Donald Richardson, 63, were taken into custody following a confrontation between protestors and Gay rights advocates. Spingola was charged with rioting, criminal damage and disorderly conduct. Richardson faces charges of disorderly conduct and misconduct in an emergency.

Family Values Senator Files for Divorce

Little Rock – Sen. Hutchinson (R-Arkansas) filed for divorce from his wife of 29 years late last week. Hutchinson is a Southern Baptist minister who stresses family values in his campaigns. He was one of three Republican conservatives who placed a Senate hold on President Clinton's nomination of openly Gay James Hormel to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Hutchinson is the first popularly elected Republican U.S. Senator from Arkansas. His divorce filing said there were problems in his marriage but did not provide any details. Hutchinson's term expires in 2002.

In a prepared statement, the Senator said, "There have been tremendous strains on our marriage during the past few years and we sought extensive counseling prior to taking this action."

Just Shoot Me Actor Apologizes or Does He?

Los Angeles – Actor David Spade, who plays Finch on the hit show *Just Shoot Me*, got himself in trouble with some remarks he made during an interview for *Playboy*. Now he may have gotten into more trouble by renouncing his apology for them.

During the *Playboy* interview, Spade said the show's producers "try to fag me up." He added, "I have to put my foot down. [Finch has] got these fruity little traits that come out every week. ... But when I get too faggy, they have me make out with a chick."

After a protest from GLAAD, Spade's publicist issued a statement. It read in part, "He was just trying to be a comedian, and everything he said was in good nature, and he's sorry if he offended anyone with his comments."

GLAAD's Scott Seomin replied to the statement saying, "How can you consider using derogatory, hurtful rhetoric as 'good-natured'? He wouldn't 'good-naturedly' use racial or ethnic slurs."

Spade took back his apology during an appearance on the June 25 *Dennis Miller* show on HBO. Miller and Spade got into a discussion of the incident. Spade talked about the GLAAD letter and then said, "I got a little scared, like if you had someone like that turn on you, you're in big trouble. That's a powerful place. And I don't want to apologize. I just want to say it's jokes. It's just kind of in fun. There's nothing bad going on."

Miller then commented, "We all got to lighten up!"

Hormel Sworn In

Washington, D.C. – The swearing in of a new ambassador is normally a quiet affair. Normally the swearing in ceremony attracts only a few officials and some family members. Very rarely does the press take notice.

But when James Hormel, America's Ambassador to Luxembourg, was sworn in by Secretary of State Madeline Albright, he was greeted with thunderous applause from hundreds of his family, friends and supporters. Hormel is America's first openly Gay ambassador.

President Clinton gave Hormel a recess appointment to the post after the U.S. Senate's Republican leadership refused to take a vote on confirming him. A majority of Senators had indicated they would have supported Hormel if they'd been allowed to vote on his appointment.

While members of Religious Right groups picketed outside, Secretary of State Albright said, "This is one of those glorious days when the nice guy finishes first." Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) told the crowd, "The opposition to Hormel in the Senate was irresponsible and unacceptable."

For his part, Hormel thanked everyone (except for the demonstrators). "What an incredible privilege it is to be standing before you today," he said. The swearing in ceremony got wide-spread media attention and coverage from most major networks.

Clinton Hits Several Nerves in June

Washington, D.C. – President Clinton has never been very popular with the Religious Right. During the month of June, however, he seems to be giving them absolute fits because of his support of LGBT civil rights.

First Clinton gave James Hormel a recess appointment to make him America's first openly Gay ambassador. Religious activists who had helped keep Hormel's appointment to be Ambassador to Luxembourg bottled up in the Senate were furious.

Next the President issued a proclamation declaring June to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride month. That got him resolutions of condemnation from the Southern Baptist convention and a flurry of press releases denouncing him from other conservative groups.

Then it was announced that the Federal government put the Stonewall Inn, the site of the riots that launched the Gay Liberation movement, on the national register of historic places. Outraged conservative groups went ballistic.

Now with the reintroduction of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, Clinton is coming under fire again. ENDA would ban employment discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. Clinton called for the passage of ENDA in a press release and in several public appearances.

The Family Research Council was quick to respond. It accused the President of trying to override religious liberty by forcing employers to go against their moral convictions and hire Gays and Lesbians. The FRC calls ENDA the "Gay jobs bill."

The President, however, shows no signs of backing down. Vice President Gore also continues to speak out for ENDA. Gore, however, has not drawn the vitriolic attacks that the President has.

PRIDEFEST '99

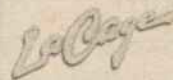


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CommUNITY

Milwaukee Pride Parade

Milwaukee – Parade units are already lining up for this year's PrideFest Parade scheduled for Sunday, August 8. Based on the number of entries received so far, organizers are expecting the biggest parade in PrideFest's history.

Marching units, decorated cars and floats can enter for \$35 until July 25. After that date, the fee is \$50. Forms are available from the PrideFest office, call (414) 272-FEST, or from the PrideFest web site at www.pridefest.com.

Judges will rate entries as they pass by the Reviewing Stand at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Cass Street. The most highly rated entries will win prizes in the marching unit, decorated car and float categories. Units are encouraged to incorporate the theme "Courage to Build Bridges" into their decorations.

Dignity/Milwaukee Making Changes

Milwaukee – In order to better serve the Catholic LGBT community and in response to the shortage of priests within the Church, Dignity has announced some major changes.

Beginning this month, Dignity will no longer hold a weekly Mass at St. Pius X for its members. It will, however, hold a monthly mass or traditional service on the second Sunday of the month, and a monthly service planned by women. During the remaining weeks, the group will hold social and/or educational events.

St. Pius X will host some events, while others will be at locations to be announced. The change is still in the planning stage as Dignity hears from the community about its needs and wants.

Dignity has said, "The Milwaukee Archdiocese has clergy and parishes that are LGBT friendly," and it "encourages LGBT Catholics to be involved in parish life and bring their special gifts to a broader church where possible." The organization believes that being involved and visible in parishes "is an important way of transforming attitudes in the Catholic Church."

Dignity also "recognizes that LGBT Christians need separate space to explore, share and experience spirituality." For a calendar of events, call (414) 444-7177 and ask for Joe, or leave a message with your address or number.

Athletes Against AIDS Golf Tournament

Lake Geneva – Join Honorary Chair Milwaukee Brewer Mark Loretta as the Brewers and Miller Brewing Company sponsor the 5th annual Athletes Against AIDS Golf Tournament benefiting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. This July 29 tournament will be played at the Geneva National Golf Club in Lake Geneva.

Joining Loretta will be Brewers Scott Karl, Mike Myers, Steve Woodard, Bob Wickman, and other celebrities including Olympic Gold Medal Speed Skater Bonnie Blair. Players can win tickets to Lambeau Field in the Putting Contest, then make a hole-in-one and drive home a new Mercedes SUV. There will be additional prizes for

other fun, on the course contests.

Other action includes an all-day Auction, Luncheon, Tee-off, Shotgun Start, Reception, Dinner, and Awards Presentation. The entry fee of \$225 per golfer includes luncheon, green fees, cart and dinner.

Please respond by July 19. For more information and reservations, call (414) 225-1543.

Fall Courses in Gay and Lesbian Studies Program

Milwaukee – Following the completion of its fifth year, the Gay and Lesbian Studies certificate program at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee will produce a new program brochure this summer. Current program information is available at the following website: www.uwm.edu/Dept/GLBCert/.

To request a copy of the brochure or information about the courses to be offered this fall, contact the program coordinator, Jeffrey Merrick, e-mail: jmerrick@uwm.edu or call (414) 229-4924.

The program would like to award an annual prize for outstanding undergraduate work in LGBT studies. It welcomes contributions to the prize fund. Checks made out to Gay and Lesbian Studies should be mailed to Merrick at: History, UWM, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

On-line Evangelical LGBT Ministry

Cory Liebman recently founded Chapel of Hope Ministries, an on-line independent evangelical ministry supportive of the LGBT community. He would like to start a support/discussion group for LGBT Christians that come from a more conservative evangelical background, seeking to foster spiritual healing and reconciliation.

Liebman has a BA in ministerial/biblical studies from an Assembly of God Bible College and is working on his masters at Marquette. For more information, visit the website at www.chapelofhope.org or e-mail PastorCory@aol.com.

Audition Notice

Milwaukee – Producer/Director, Gay Theater impresario Dale Gutzman is seeking actors for his upcoming Midwest premiere of a horror/comedy written by famous Gay author Cliff Barker.

The play, *Frankenstein In Love*, will be performed at the Brumder Mansion on August 27-29 and September 2-4 at 8pm.

The show is both very funny and quite grotesque, performed in the style of the French Grand Guignol Theater. Gutzman is looking for eight men ages 16-50 for a variety of parts. Roles include Dr. Frankenstein, Lazaro (his assistant), Bozuffi (a homosexual tailor), Dr. Fook (a cross-dressing pathologist), El Coco (the creature), Maltos and Fallenzou (two hideous creatures), Garcia Perez (a failed dictator), Cockatoo (a revolutionary) and others.

Rehearsals will begin in August. To audition, call Dale at (414) 873-1962.

connecting the

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TIDBITS FROM TITLETOWN

by Mike Fitzpatrick

Rainbow Pride Update: No sooner had I submitted the preview article for the northeast Wisconsin Rainbow Pride Weekend, July 8-11, than Ann from Napalese told me all about their plans for an old fashioned 50's & 60's sock hop planned for after the picnic Saturday night. So now picnic goers can decide whether to go hunkin' (at the Mr. Gay Great Lakes USofA pageant at Za's), hokey pokeyin' with the gang at Naps, or simply go crusin' and check out all the bars.

And A-One and A-Two: Guernsey gal Katrina Kaye tells me she's got the perfect end for all you Pride Weekend party people: Sunday night (July 11) she'll be sponsoring a benefit polka party at Napalese Lounge. Trust me, dear readers, the sight of the vivacious Katrina in her sequined liederhosen will be worth the price of admission all in itself! Of course, all the proceeds go to Miss Kaye's quest for the crown in the Gay Guernsey pageant to benefit those living with HIV/AIDS in northeast Wisconsin.

Speaking of the Guernsey Gala, it promises to be quite a heifer race. Check out this column or *Dusty After Dark* in the coming weeks for the latest news from out behind the barn.

A Fiesta in September? It's as official as it's ever gonna get — Napalese Lounge will be moving to the east side this fall. By the time you read this, Ann and Nancy will have closed the deal to take over the Fiesta Lounge on the east side of Green Bay. Current plans are to open on September 1 in the new location. The last night on Broadway is expected to be August 31.

Ann and Nancy plan to take advantage of the new venue's charcoal grill and kitchen, as they plan to serve burgers and hot sandwiches. Also in the works: a Friday fish fry.

A Fine Kettle of Fish: Speaking of fish fries, those of you planning to weekend up here in northeast Wisconsin for Rainbow Pride should add the Friday night fish fry at Rascal's in Appellation to your "must do" lists. First of all, it's great because each plate is made to order. Second, it's cheap and the portions are abundant.

The last time I had the chance to get down, dinner for two with drinks, tax and tip was less than \$20. Dining tip: order your meal immediately after you find a place to sit. Made to order means there's about a half-hour (or two Old Fashioneds worth) wait.

Kudos from the Competition: I opened up last week's edition of *InStep* to find out I'd won an Evvie! The paper's conservative columnist Scott Evertz handed out his own Pride awards and named me one of the winners.

All I can say (really) is "thank you." If I'm permitted one, my acceptance speech has two points: First, having flirted with both Democrats and the Republicans over the years (politically and otherwise), I truly enjoy being a GDI (gosh darned independent — I cleaned that up) who likes to hold both sides' respective Size 11's to the fire on LGBT civil rights issues. Second, give me an hour and I'll prove to you I'm not long-winded!

Dykesville

by Tami Friday



EDITORIAL

The re-introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA, brings the issue of anti-Gay employment discrimination to the forefront. Unfortunately, it also brings something else to mind: the inability of some in the LGBT community to unite even on an issue as basic as this one.

In a fit of political correctness, the National Gay Lesbian Task Force withdrew its support of ENDA because the bill does not specifically include Transgendered people. NGLTF says that it wants to be an inclusive organization and can not support any proposed law that does not include everyone in the LGBT rainbow.

ENDA's sponsors say that, even without the Transgendered included, it will be a very difficult task to get the bill through Congress. This makes having a united front behind the current legislation a matter of the utmost importance.

Transgendered individuals should be protected from job discrimination, and NGLTF's attempts to be a broad-based organization that includes all elements of the LGBT community are admirable. However, withholding support from ENDA because it does not specifically include Trans people, however well intentioned, shows a political naiveté that does not serve our community well.

Using NGLTF's reasoning, none of us should have actively supported the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, or any other civil rights legislation that did not specifically include the LGBT community. This flies in the face of the group's decades old policy that has been to urge support for any civil rights law that protects any group.

NGTLF seems to be saying that inclusiveness is more important than gaining protection for any of us. Research shows that those who classify themselves as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual are 25 to 47 times more numerous than those who say that they are Transgendered. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't support the rights of the Transgendered but that a pragmatic step in that direction is to gain those rights for the larger community — NOW.

Furthermore, based on recent Supreme Court rulings, the Justice Department has said that it can, and will, prosecute anti-Transgendered employment discrimination cases, with or without any additional laws.

NGLTF's withdrawal from the broad-based coalition supporting ENDA serves the interest of our political adversaries. It will not gain protection from employment discrimination for Transgendered people and it risks gaining that protection for the rest of our community.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As we sit in our quiet little homes and bask in the successes we have encountered in these 30 post-Stonewall years in Gay America, we need to keep something in mind. We need to realize that our fight is not over.

Milwaukee's Gay community, myself included, recently patted itself on the back for our success with the passage of the Domestic Partnership ordinance to full council vote. This ordinance is nowhere near as comprehensive as it should be. In fact, the alderman who sponsored it all but admitted it was nothing but "feel good legislation."

This paper has tributed the accomplishments of Gays and Lesbians in their fight for equal rights, and on the next page, you talk of the queer youth who had "homo" carved into his back in five-inch letters or the 12-year-old Lesbian from a local middle school who committed suicide. We recognize leaders in our community with numerous awards every year, yet we continue to elect corrupt, homophobic public officials to represent us. We hold a Pride celebration to show the world that we are proud of who we are, yet we lock out the mainstream media so no one knows who was there.

Our city is full of support groups, but when they meet together, we're warned of "turf" issues. We see a need to provide for our Gay children, yet when they try to help themselves, they are told they can't do it. We unify as one, yet we segment into our little Gay ghettos and live happily ever after as we watch our friends and neighbors die of a disease. But it's okay because we walked or rode or ran or pledged.

I don't want to sound like I'm being over-critical of my own community. On the contrary, my community is being under-critical of itself. But we need to realize that no matter how many hurdles we've overcome, there are still more ahead of us, and we need to knock them down.

Granted, we have come a long way since Stonewall. Given, we've come a long way since last year. But realize, we have a long way to go before tomorrow. As the song goes: "If you wanna be somebody, if you wanna go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention." Take it. It's ours.

Sincerely,

Justin C. Lockridge

Associate Director of Development — Project Q



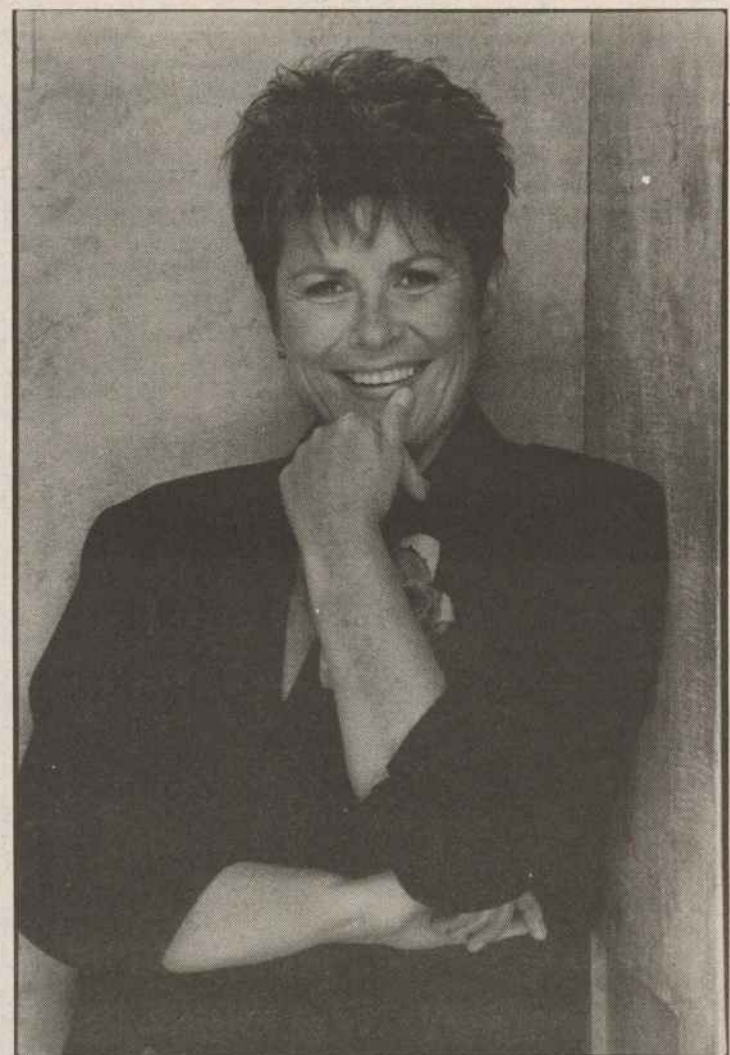
**MADISON'S
PRIDE WEEKEND
JULY 15-18, 1999**

*Sunday,
July 18*

Come Out and see:

Kate Clinton

*At the Sunday Celebration
In Brittingham Park
Performance to Begin Around 4pm*



Schedule of Events

Perfect Harmony Concert - Thursday, July 15

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

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

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

University of Wisconsin GLB Alumni Brunch - Sunday, July 17

Pride March and Celebration - Sunday, July 17

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

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

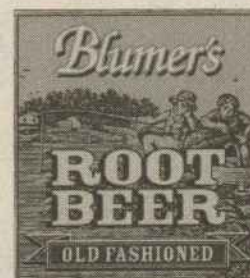
Celebration: 2:30pm - 6pm, Brittingham Park

For More Information, Check Out:

www.madisonpride.org

Email: info@madisonpride.org -- Phone: 608.241.8971

Pride Weekend is Sponsored By:



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AIDS NETWORK

Club-5 -- Ray's Bar & Grill and Men's Room Bar

Millenium (Formerly Kirby's) -- Cardinal Bar

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Queen of the Fairies?

Homo hunk and movie star **Rupert Everett** should have his own VH-1 special. Rumors are swirling that the fellow is a major diva. It's been reported that the uber-demanding Everett has been throwing tantrums fit for a queen on the set of the film *The Next Best Thing*, which is currently in production.



Rupert Everett

His childish behavior makes co-stars **Madonna** and **Benjamin Bratt** (**Julia Roberts**'s handsome Latino paramour and ex-*Law & Order* cop) look easy to work with.

Everett, recently seen as the fairy king in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, stars in several other films this summer, including the just released *An Ideal Husband*. Later this month, you can check him out in *Inspector Gadget*, where he plays the evil Dr. Claw.

Everett doesn't limit himself to the big screen — or to pants roles. This winter, he'll don a dress in an off-Broadway production of Gay playwright



Andy Dick

Tennessee Williams's *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*. He'll play dowager Flora Goforth who, in this updated version of the 1964 play, has lost her husband to AIDS. Everett had a successful run with the show in the U.K., where he performed it for charity.

See Dick Run

Bisexual comedian **Andy Dick** has been keeping himself busy since his sitcom *NewsRadio* was switched off. He's been spotted working out with former Motley Crue frontman **Vince Neil** doing the treadmill thing at a swanky gym near the ocean.

It's part of his drug rehab stint at Promises, a chi-chi dry-out joint for the too-hip-for-Betty-Ford crowd. While Dick is attempting to kick controlled substances, apparently nicotine's not one of them. Dick and Neil take periodic respites from their cardio regime for smoking breaks.

Later this summer, the comedian will hit the road, starring in an autobiographical musical called *The Big Dick Show*.

Go Fish Director Goes for Guys

Rose Troche, who directed the 1994 lesbian-themed film *Go Fish*, has a new romantic comedy hitting the art-house circuit later this summer. Set in London *Bedrooms and Hallways* focuses on two Gay flatmates who are on a quest for romance.

When the two men join a new-age therapy group to deal with their issues, they cause mass confusion as other group members start questioning their own sexuality. The openly Gay **Simon Callow** (from *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Room with a View*) and *Trainspotting* actor Kevin McKidd star in *Bedrooms*, which will be released by First Run Features in August.

Hoping to Be Touched by an Angel

Director/choreographer **Matthew Bourne** who won a Tony Award last month for his Gay *Swan Lake*, recently admitted he's having difficulty raising funds for his next project, a re-tread of the classic *Cinderella* — this time with a fairy godfather/angel. The cost of mounting the production is prohibitively high. Hopefully, the Tony will help convince prospective investors to write a big check.

Romeo San Vicente plans to audition for *The Big Dick Show*. You can contact Romeo care of Wisconsin Light or by e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.popcornq.com or www.gay.com.

OUT ON FILM

An Ideal Husband

Review by John Jahn

The film version of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* is something the famed Gay playwright would have been proud to associate himself with. His best lines remain intact while the setting opens up to offer us a fresh perspective. The result is a delightful movie with brilliant dialogue, lovely sets and terrific acting. It's an exquisitely crafted movie that can be appreciated from start to finish.

Writer and Director Oliver Parker (whose most recent film was 1996's *Othello*) thankfully uses Wilde's original text, thus audiences are treated to the great playwright's peerless use of the English language. When it comes to characters trading quips, pregnant phrases and double entendres, Wilde is unparalleled. Therefore, keeping his original text makes for a far more enjoyable movie going experience.

Of course, mere dialogue does not a movie make. You need acting and here, too, *An Ideal Husband* offers a fine cast. There isn't a weak performance with even the supporting players perfectly suited to their roles. The only quibble I have is with Julianne Moore, whose British accent seems forced and inconsistent.

The film is set in Victorian England where we meet Lord Arthur Goring, played with panache by Gay actor Rupert Everett. This is an Oscar-caliber performance, just like he gave in *My Best Friend's Wedding*. No nomination was forthcoming that time; perhaps there will be in the present case for this underrated actor. Everett can also be seen in another film in current release, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Goring is described by friends as "the idlest man in London," whose pastimes are engaging in slothful activities or flirting with Mabel Chiltern (Minnie Driver). He also rigorously avoids discussing serious subjects, asserting that "I love talking about nothing... it's the only thing I know anything about." He also avoids being pushed into marriage by his stodgy father, the Earl of Caversham (John Wood).

Lord Goring's closest friends are Sir Robert Chiltern (Jeremy Northam) and his wife, Lady Gertrude (Cate Blanchett). Robert is an upstanding man of impeccable reputation and his wife, an independent-minded woman, is devoted to him. There's also the devious Mrs. Laura Cheveley (Julianne Moore), who has just returned to London from Vienna with a plot to blackmail Sir Robert if necessary in order to obtain her ambitious goals.

The plot has all the twists and turns of a David Mamet effort, yet remains surprisingly easy to follow. This is a decided advantage because unnecessary attention to a convoluted plot would distract us from Wilde's witty dialogue, and that is what is clearly at center stage in *An Ideal Husband*.

The movie covers a great deal of ground, dabbling in politics, blackmail, betrayal, mistaken identity and romance. Like nearly everything written by Wilde, *An Ideal Husband* contains a good portion of barbed social commentary. One of the best lines: "In the old days, we had the rack. Now we have the press." How true it was then — for it was the press that skewered Oscar Wilde — and how true it is today. Isn't that so, Mr. President?

In *An Ideal Husband*, dialogue, performances, set design and story construction combine superbly. Unlike the big budget Hollywood blockbusters, this film contains not a single special effects shot or computer-generated creature. This is not brainless eye candy, it's brain candy, meant to be savored and perhaps sampled a second time simply to absorb all the ingenious quirks that might be missed the first time around. *An Ideal Husband* is one of the year's cinematic treasures.

3 1/2 STARS

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Events CALENDAR

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.

Gallery H20 (Milwaukee), *DOIN' IT FOR ART*. The photography of Arthur Krimmer and Douglas Krimmer. 221 N. Water St. Through August 8.

Making One Madison (Milwaukee), Final Madison Pride Weekend Planning Meeting, Fyfe's Corner Bistro, 1344 E. Washington Ave., 5:30pm.

PHOTOFLEXION at MIAD Gallery (Milwaukee), *PHOTOFLEXION II: THE MASTERS* captures the idealization of the human body through compelling photography. Exhibit spans the history of body building from the turn of the century to the present day. Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St. free and open to the public. FMI call MIAD at (414) 276-7889. Not suitable for children. Runs through July 24.

Great Circus Parade Fairgrounds (Milwaukee), See all the circus wagons for Sunday's parade, animals, clowns, daily Circus performances under the big top. Veterans Park, lakefront just north of the Art Center. Through Sunday.

THURSDAY, JULY 8

Bastille Days (Milwaukee), Milwaukee East Towne area, Storm the Bastille Walk/Run, 9pm starting at Jackson and Kilbourn. Festival runs through Sunday, with French food and music.

Greek Fest (Milwaukee), Through Sunday, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 9400 W. Congress Ave., Greek food, music, ethnic dancing, carnival rides, tours of the church.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Afterwords (Milwaukee), 6th Anniversary: sales, specials and surprises, all weekend long.

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.

SAGE (Milwaukee), SAGE men and women together will play cards and board games with Sheephead lessons available. Bring other games if you wish. Small meeting room, 6:30pm, LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.

South Shore Water Frolics (Milwaukee), Bay View area along the lake. All weekend long, mini-carnival, music, food, fireworks, arts & crafts, parade.

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.

OutGiving InCommunity Workshops (Milwaukee), For doers and donors, growing financial resources today and for the future of Milwaukee LGBT Community groups. 9:30am-12 noon: 170 S. 2nd St., For details and registration information, call Neil Albrecht at (414) 271-2656.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin 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. 18 and over allowed.

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee), Exhibition of watercolors by Jean Crane & sculpture by Lora Otjen. 1630 E. Royall, (414) 278-8295. Through July 3. Opening reception today from 1-4pm. \$2 admission

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Gay Men's Discussion Group (Milwaukee), *SEX and DANGER*. Sexual intimacy sometimes can be dangerous or harmful. 6-8pm. at The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Avenue. No registration required, \$3 suggested donation. A safe place to gather with other Gay men to talk about issues of importance to us. FMI Bill Hanel, (414) 271-2565.

Great Circus Parade (Milwaukee), Downtown Milwaukee, antique circus wagons, marching units, historically accurate, kicks off from Veteran's Park, Lakefront, at 2pm and winds its way through downtown.

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.

MONDAY, JULY 12

Afterwords Bookstore (Milwaukee), Afterwords Book Club discusses Michael Cunningham's Pulitzer Prize Winning: *The Hours*. 7:30pm, 2710 N. Murray, FMI call (414) 963-9089.

AIDS Ride IV (Statewide), Opening ceremony at Minneapolis' Convention Center, riders bike from Mpls, through Wisconsin to Chicago for July 17 arrival.

TUESDAY, JULY 13

Summer Nights Concert (Milwaukee), Twilight Music in the Village of Wauwatosa. State St. and Harwood Ave., 6:30-9:30pm. Featuring the John Schneider Orchestra. Beer, soda and food available.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

Alternative Business Assoc. (Milwaukee), Monthly program and network meeting with speaker on the topic of Retirement for the Small Business Person. 7pm. M&M Club upstairs banquet room. FMI call (414) 299-9271.

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

PHOTOFLEXION at MIAD Gallery (Milwaukee), *PHOTOFLEXION II: THE MASTERS* captures the idealization of the human body through compelling photography. Exhibit spans the history of body building from the turn of the century to the present day. Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St. free and open to the public. FMI call MIAD at (414) 276-7889. Not suitable for children. Runs through July 24.

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THURSDAY, JULY 15

Perfect Harmony (Madison), Concert. See our special coverage on page 7.

FRIDAY, JULY 16

7th Annual Community Awards Banquet (Madison), OutReach's annual fund raising dinner and awards presentations. Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, 6pm, FMI, tickets: (608) 255-8582.

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.

SAGE (Milwaukee), Film Showing: *KISS OF THE SPIDER-WOMAN*. Small meeting room, 6:30pm, LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.

Ten Percent Society PRIDE Dance (Madison), LGBT Pride Dance, Exhibition Hall of the Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center, 1 John Nolen Drive. 8pm-1am, \$5 admission, DJs, cash bar, all ages welcome.

SATURDAY, JULY 17

African-American LGBT Performance Ensemble (Milwaukee), Chicago's *A Real Read*, with emcee Chicago's Pat McCombs. To Benefit LOC/Women of Color and Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center. Testifying to the distinct experience of a minority within a minority. Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St. 7:30pm, Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 door. On sale at Center 271-2656.

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee), *Variety 2000: A Festival of Music, Theater, and Art of the 20th Century Avant Garde, Part 1: Revolutions: The Culture of Time and Space*. Tonight at 8pm, Sunday at 3pm. \$8 / \$6 for Friends of the Allis/Senior and Students, children free. 1630 E. Royall, (414) 278-8295.

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

HI/IQ Productions (Milwaukee), An evening of art, film and music at Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Avenue. 6pm-midnight. \$10 cover with a portion of proceeds to the Milwaukee Task Force on Family Violence. Refreshments provided. FMI: www.execpc.com/~airbuck.

MAGIC Picnic (Madison), Madison's Pride Weekend. Picnic 1-7pm Brittingham Park. FMI call (608) 241-8971. See our special coverage on page 7.

PrideFest Volunteer Orientation (Milwaukee), 10am-noon, LGBT Center, 170 S. 2nd St., all welcome.

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. Today at 5 & 8:30pm.

UW's GLB Alumni Brunch (Madison), Madison's Pride Weekend. FMI call (608) 241-8971. See our special coverage on page 7.

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee), *Variety 2000: Part One, Revolutions, The Culture of Time & Space. A Festival of Music, Theater and Art of the 20th Century Avant-garde*. 1801 N. Prospect Avenue (414) 278-9120. \$8 general public/\$6 Friends of the Allis, Seniors and Students, Children Free. Today at 3pm.

Madison Pride March & Celebration (Madison), Rally 1:30pm State Street steps of the Capitol. March steps off at 2pm from Capitol, down State Street to park. Celebration 2:30-6pm, Kate Clinton appears about 4pm, Brittingham Park. FMI (608) 241-8971.

SAGE (Milwaukee), SAGE Annual Picnic, bring your own basket with your own food, SAGE will provide grill, ice, soft drinks, paper plates, cups, silverware. 1pm, Estabrook Park, Picnic Area 8, nearest to Capitol Drive.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum (Milwaukee), *Allure of the East: Near Eastern Decorative Arts and European Orientalist Paintings*. Through Sept. 12. 2220 N. Terrace Avenue, (414) 271-3656, \$2, members and children free. Opening reception today from 1-4pm.

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.

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

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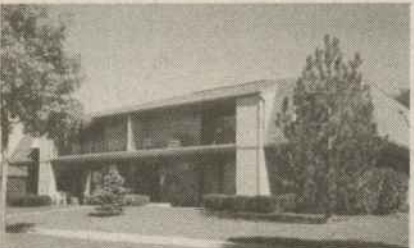
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LifeStyle

History of the Madison Pride Weekend

by Dave Runyon and Bill Meunier

The weekend of July 15 to 18 will be a wonderful rainbow quilt patched together by many different elements of Madison's LGBT community. That quilt took a lot of effort to sew together.

It began 26 years ago when Back Door owner Rodney Scheel connected the Midwest Regional Gay Men's Volleyball tournament with the Saturday afternoon MAGIC (Madison Area Gay Interim Committee) Picnic. Rodney had the vision and the will to take the bull by the horns and put Madison's special weekend on the road to success.

He had a sharp eye for what Gay men wanted, and where did the picnickers go for entertainment in the evenings? Rodney's Back Door bar, and later, the bars in Rodney's Hotel Washington. This was a win-win scenario where everyone got something. Rodney had the insight and skill to pull it all together; he was the right person at the right time in the right place.

Not everyone felt that they were part of the weekend. It was difficult to mix the Hotel Washington crowd's public party agenda with a set of Lesbians and Gay men who had an alternative political agenda.

Nevertheless, the picnic continued to grow in popularity. In the mid-1980s, businesses like Four Star Video Heaven, Community Pharmacy, Queen Anne's Catering, Fyfe's Corner Bistro, the Mifflin Street Community Coop, and other bars — The Shamrock, Cardinal and 3054 (later Ray's) — began to help sponsor the MAGIC picnic.

Any major change is usually a trauma, and a major change came to Rodney's weekend. The 10% Society at UW-Madison re-scheduled its July dance night for the Friday evening before the picnic. In so doing, it became the first group to "crash the party," as some put it

at the time. It also helped propel Madison's special weekend by showing that other dimensions could be added to it.

The schedule change caused at least some fur to fly with the Hotel Washington crowd. The students didn't blink. The truth of the matter was the Hotel could not possibly have held all the people that the picnic attracted. Besides, the younger college crowd was too young to legally party in the bars.

Within a few years, the tension over this issue died out. The idea of expanding the weekend with more offerings stayed alive. A new collective pattern had been established. When the dust settled, this change watered the seed that Rodney had established.

The next big change arose out of the 1987 March

on Washington. A few from Madison's March contingent were determined to create something like it here. They created GALVANize, Gay Lesbian Visibility Alliance Network. Their efforts premiered on Thursday, May 4, 1989 with a multi-image photographic show of the '87 March on Washington and a Romanovsky and Phillips concert at the Barrymore Theatre.

On Friday, May 5, 1989, Activist Karen Thompson spoke about her struggle to see her lover, Sharon Kowalski, who was seriously injured in a car accident. Thompson was fighting Kowalski's parents for the right to care for her partner. A candlelight march followed with opening ceremonies of The Quilt at the Camp Randall Field House.

Saturday, May 6 saw discussion workshops at the UW Memorial Union in the morning, followed by a political rally at the State Capitol where Karen Thompson, Dick Wagner, Tammy Baldwin, Ricardo Gonzales and Cheri Maples spoke. It was followed by a march down State Street, up fraternity row on Langdon Street,



and then to James Madison Park where entertainment, including Kate Clinton, food and vendors awaited. It was a very cold day, and of course, there was a wicked west wind blowing snow across Lake Mendota.

This first GALVANize event took an unbelievable amount of planning and organizing that began in April of 1988. GALVANize advertised its weekend to Gays, Lesbians and straights for a year in advance.

The hard work paid off. Straight religious leaders joined politicians in a massive crowd that included the closeted kids and the out and proud adults. An estimated 10,000 people attended. There was a problem, however. The first time was a novelty, but to repeat it every year, especially without the celebrity events and yearlong advertising, proved to be difficult. The attendance was never the same.

It is important to make a distinction between the agendas of MAGIC Picnic and the GALVANIZE events. MAGIC was first and foremost a party, a good time and, at best, an attempt to create a sense of community among mostly Gay men, but it also had a political point. For some people, attending a public Gay event was an act of courage. The political element was an indirect consequence of the picnic and the volleyball tournament.

By contrast, the GALVANize events were unabashedly political. The aim was to have an event mixed with liberal/progressive straight people. A few years ago, GALVANize moved its event to the Sunday of MAGIC Picnic weekend. This gave additional encouragement to other groups to move events around that weekend as well.

The Annual Community Awards dinner sponsored by The United, (now OutReach) became a night before the picnic fixture. The UW Madison LGBT Alumni Association created a

brunch for the Sunday morning after the picnic. Perfect Harmony, Madison's Gay men's chorus, now performs the Thursday night before the big weekend.

The Dairyland Cowgirls & Cowboys Dance positioned itself on Saturday night. So did the Dyke Dance created by Ten Percent Society women. Dykasaurus added a Saturday night performance. Even *The Directory*, a compendium of LGBT groups and Gay owned/friendly businesses got into the act by being ready for distribution at the Magic Picnic.

As the weekend grew, so did its importance to the community. As a result, when GALVANize events died two years ago, the community came together to form a planning committee to make sure the weekend maintained all of the patches in its rainbow quilt. That took the cooperation of many community elements.

Rodney Scheel's initial snowball just keeps growing and growing and growing. To older members of the community, it seems that his seedling has become a tree that canopies an ever-developing system of LGBT networks. Rodney's brother, Greg, has been the common thread who has sustained and helped develop this tradition.

It's with a fond remembrance that we offer tribute to Rodney who was able to set in motion an idea which pulls people together year after year in an ever-increasing statement of coalition, accomplishment and pride. In the past, it was a tug-of-war struggle, but that's behind us. Today, it's MAGIC plus. We're on a roll!

Callen Harty, Brian Garrison, David Rutter, George Talbot, David Wilcox, Bob Davis and Richard Kilmer made factual contributions to this history.





OUT IN CYBERSPACE

Cyberspace QUEERIES

Depending on which computer magazines you read, you may have already tried one or more of the Internet's several search sites. If you've experimented with one, you already know they all work in a similar fashion. You type in a word or phrase related to a topic that interests you (the "keyword"), and you get back a list of everything the site's "search engine" thinks is relevant.

What that turns out to be depends in large part on how closely alike you and the site's programmers think. Religious or political bias often plays a major role in how or if Gay, Bi, Lesbian and Transgendered websites are included.

Of the various LGBT-oriented destinations, which promote themselves as search engines, most have a very strong bias towards commercial sites that pay for a listing. CyberSocket, online at <http://www.cybersocket.com>, is primarily a net presence to boost sales of their book.

The massive GayWired site, (<http://www.Gaywired.com>), features both categorized entries and a search engine, served up with an unceasing flow of advertising. While often useful, the information found on such sites ought to be viewed in the light of their primary purpose: separating you from your money.

Fortunately, the progressive nature of the net itself comes to the rescue with a duo of genuine LGBT-oriented search engines. Both are worthwhile stops in queer cyberspace, though each has its own strengths and weaknesses.

One "plus" they all share is a Gay-positive outlook. When using a generic search site such as Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>) or AltaVista (<http://www.altavista.com>), you're as likely to be subjected to pro-hate and anti-Gay listings as you are to find what you're really looking for.

The GayZoo (<http://www.Gayzoo.com>), patterned after Yahoo, relies on categorizing websites into a small number of categories,

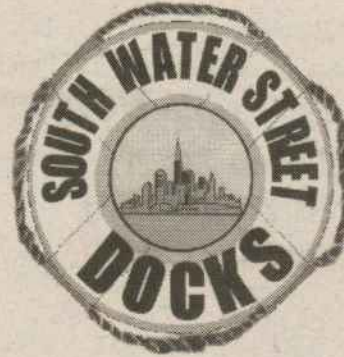
such as "Personal Home Pages" or "Travel." That can make it difficult to find something if you don't know exactly what category it's been placed in. Proportionally, there seems to be more Lesbian sites here than on the others, but every heading is well represented. An evening spent browsing through the link list and visiting various sites that peak your interest would be entertaining, at the least.

The granddaddy of the bunch would be GLWeb's Rainbow Query (<http://www.rainbowquery.com>), which claims to be the largest, most complete LGBT search site on the net. Broadly organized into over a dozen major categories, Rainbow Query boasts an extraordinary number of community, reference and informational links in addition to sites focusing on more titillating topics.

Websites listed here can appear in more than one category, which makes it easier to find something you're looking for based on a general subject or set of keywords. The Rainbow Query search engine is the most advanced of those offered by the LGBT oriented sites. It has the ability to pour through a single category or across all categories, making it the most useful.

Finally, one often-overlooked resource to use when you're zeroing in on a topic is the links feature on related websites. Remember that not all sites are listed in the various search engines, nor is every listing accurate. However, when someone puts up a site or a homepage, they'll often list other similar or related sites you can visit with just a click of your mouse.

If you find a website that interests you, be sure to check for a links page or area. Chances are you will find similar sites conveniently grouped together. Look especially for topic-oriented "web rings," which are communities of users sharing a common interest or theme, who've opted to connect their sites or homepages in an online equivalent of a progressive dinner party.



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| Wednesday | 2-4-1 All Day, All Night | 3p-2a |
| Thursday | \$3 Weiss Beers (selection varies) | 9p-Mid |
| Sun Days | Bottled Beer Sale (selection varies) | 3p-9p |
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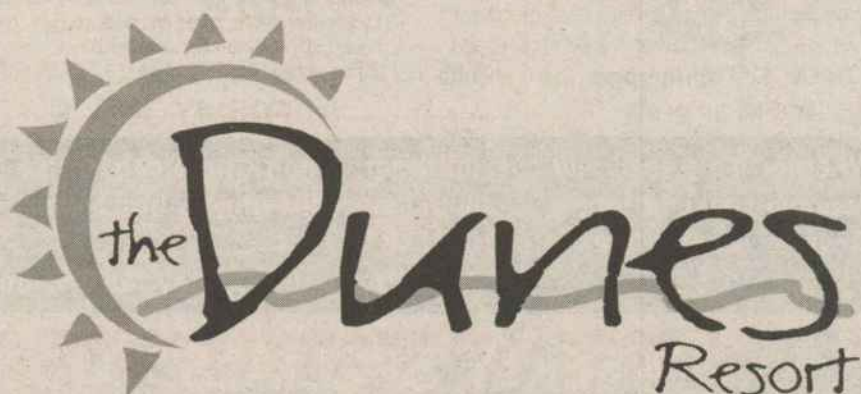
RAINBOW PRIDE WEEKEND

See You at the Picnic

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by KEITH N ANDERSON



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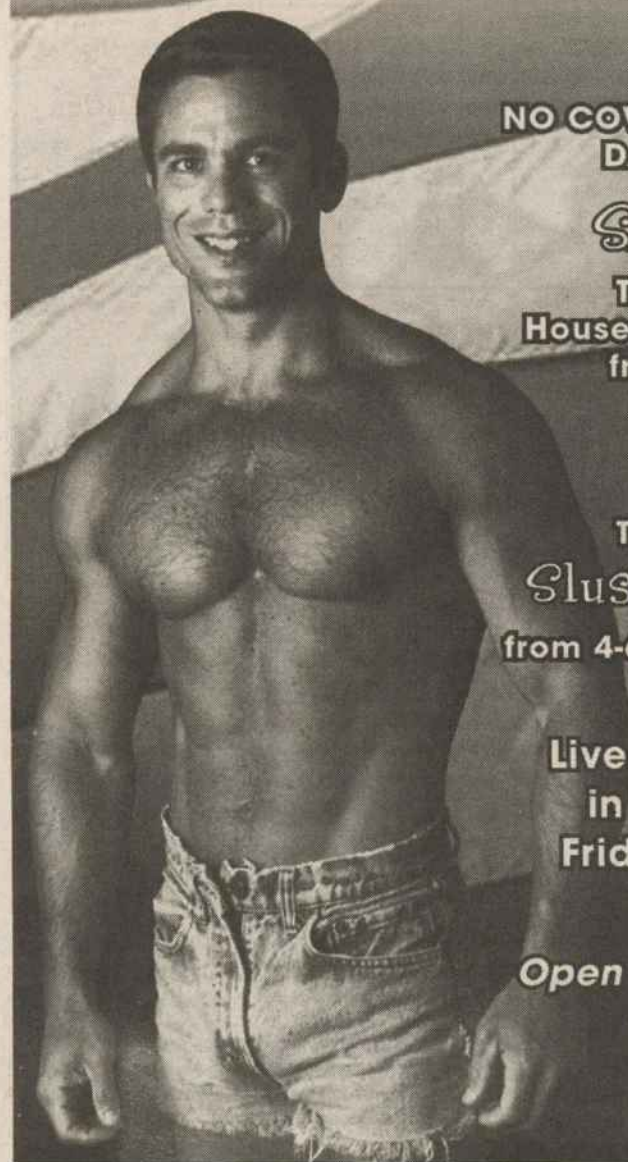
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Dear Ruthie

Dear Ruthie,

I'm a 20-year-old twin. My brother came out to me a few months ago. We are alike in every way except for his being Gay. I am straight. But because my twin is Gay and we are so much alike, does that mean that I'll have Gay feelings too? This is the only thing that is different about us. Will I start liking guys too, or am I already Gay and just regressing Gay feelings?

Double Trouble

Dear Trouble,

As you probably know, my life is an open book when it comes to my *Dear Ruthie* column. Nothing is sacred. Not the time I painted Vegas red with my boob hanging out of my dress. Not the time my boa got flushed down the toilet and yanked my head to the bottom of the bowl. Not even the time Jackie Stallone and I battled it out in Wayne Newton's dressing room.

Little about me has gone unwritten — with the exception of one secret. I've held this from my readers for years. However, I will reveal it to help you. My secret? I have a twin sister.

My older sister, Poinsettia, lives in Buffalo Chip, Utah. She runs the trailer park our parents left her out of pity for her saggy chest and pink chicken legs. I call Poinsettia my older sister because she was born two minutes before I was, not because she looks 20 years older than I do. Besides, I know that bitch pushed me out of the way as we were coming out of the womb. I don't care what those damn psychologists say, I remember that day like it was yesterday. For God sake — I was born with her footprint on my head.

We had a pretty happy childhood. Mother worked hard to support a set of twins and a father who dreamed of becoming a toe dancer. It was a happy time — well, it was when Poinsettia wasn't trying to monopolize my parents' attention by starting fires, kidnapping horses, or practicing witchcraft on neighborhood children.

It wasn't until high school that Poinsettia and I became distant. I had a schoolgirl crush on our science teacher, Mr. Flesh. Oh — the way that man talked about atoms got me crazy.

All those little protons and neutrons bumping into each other, getting warmer and hotter, and more excited until they were bouncing off the walls of the nucleus screaming in orgas-

mic rhythm looking for cigarettes and cheap booze! "Take me, Mr. Flesh! Take me, Victor! I don't mind the scent of pencil eraser on your breath! Talk to me of atoms and dirty little schoolgirls who lift their skirts over their heads and...."

Oh, dear. Sorry about that. Well, Mr. Flesh was no Fabio, but you get the idea.

One day while smoking cigarettes outside the boys locker room (some things never change), I told Pearl, Harriet and Poinsettia that someday my name would be Ruthie Flesh... well, it had a ring to it at the time. Poinsettia laughed and called Victor

Flesh, "Senior Hemorrhoid."

The next day Pearl ran into my Yarn Baling 101 class. She said there was an emergency and that I needed to leave class right away. I gathered my books, folders and yarn and dashed out the door. "Is Mamma alright?" I asked. "Did Daddy break his toes again?"

Pearl couldn't even look at me as she flung open the janitor closet. There was Mr. Flesh with Poinsettia's chicken legs wrapped tightly around his waist. "Oh, don't be so upset honey," Poinsettia scolded. "He's got a little dinkel." I nearly died.

"It's barely the size of one of those atoms he's always talking about," she said. I cried all the way home and could only repeat the word "atom" over and over again.

Six weeks later, we found out that Poinsettia was going to have a science teacher of her own in a few months. Despite the fact that Poinsettia never loved Victor, Mother arranged a shotgun wedding and Daddy danced at the ceremony. The couple moved to Utah where Poinsettia had the baby, a girl, she named Fannie. Poinsettia and Victor were divorced after Poinsettia caught him in a janitor's closet with an albino janitor named Phil.

Poinsettia and I rarely speak anymore. She added fire to the flame by starting her own advice column shortly after mine premiered. Instead of talking things out, we opt to grunt drunkenly at one another over family punch bowls on holidays — an occasional belch now and then. They say that twins have their own language, so maybe we are communicating in some way. Fannie Flesh calls me now and then, but she usually wants money for pasties or bail or something, so I just hang up on her.

Anywho, so that's my story. Now, does that answer your question? No? Geez! Do I have to spell it out for you? I'm trying to say not to leave your twin alone with the man you love, particularly if he has a janitor fetish!

Listen, just because your twin is Gay doesn't mean you are. Stop worrying. You are what you are and your twin's sexual orientation will not effect yours. Now go have fun!

NIGHTS OUT

Dusty Does Chicago

Did you have a great holiday weekend? I know I did. I was in Chitown for the Windy City Independence Blowout. NO — it wasn't that kind of blowout; it was a softball tournament.

Despite the heat — it seemed like it was 120 degrees in the shade — my teammates and I had a great time. We loved the strippers

kind of place where you would go to meet or be with friends.

We went into **Roscoe's** next. The place was packed to the rafters. My poor teammate Kurt. I think he got whiplash from his head snapping back and forth as he cruised all the cute guys. The dance floor was so crowded, that I don't think you could have fit anyone else on it with a shoehorn.

Then we stopped at **Buck's**, one of my favorite places in Boystown. I love their slogan: "Drink here. Fight at home. Dance across the street." The windows at **Buck's** are

prime cruising spots. If you sit there long enough, you could probably see all of Gay Chicago pass by. The nicest thing about **Buck's**, though, is that the bartenders are always friendly to everyone.

Other highlights included a visit to the **Rain Forest Café**. Now this isn't really a café, it's a cool restaurant. Actually, it's part of a theme restaurant chain. I took one look at the outside of the place and thought that if the inside looked half that cool, it was going to be a great stop. The inside looked even better.

I didn't expect much from the food — after

all, it was a chain restaurant — but I was very surprised to find that it was excellent. I highly recommend this place.

On our way out of town, we stopped for lunch and shopping. **The Nookie Tree** is a nice lunch stop. Reasonably priced good food served fast is what we were looking for, and it's what we got.

Then it was off to visit some of the various stores up and down Halstead. **We Are Everywhere** has a good selection of merchandise. They also were having a sale on Chicago Pride T-shirts. **The Rainbow Mart** didn't impress me a lot.

The new kid on the block, **Bad Boys**, was my favorite. They had the coolest T-shirts. One of my teammates bought one that said, "The best sex you'll NEVER have." There were many other cool items as well.

All that shopping made us thirsty, so we went over to **Side Tracks** for a few cool ones. If you haven't been to Chicago for a while, you will be surprised to know that **Side Tracks** added to its space with an airy bar covered in part by a sky light. It's a very nice change of pace from the main front bar, which is somewhat dark.

After a few brews — Miller, of course — it was back to the car and we were soon on our way home.

Speaking of home, I was too tired to make it to **La Cage** for the big Fourth of July show from the showcase. My spies tell me that it was fabulous. Way to go girls! I know how hard you worked on it.

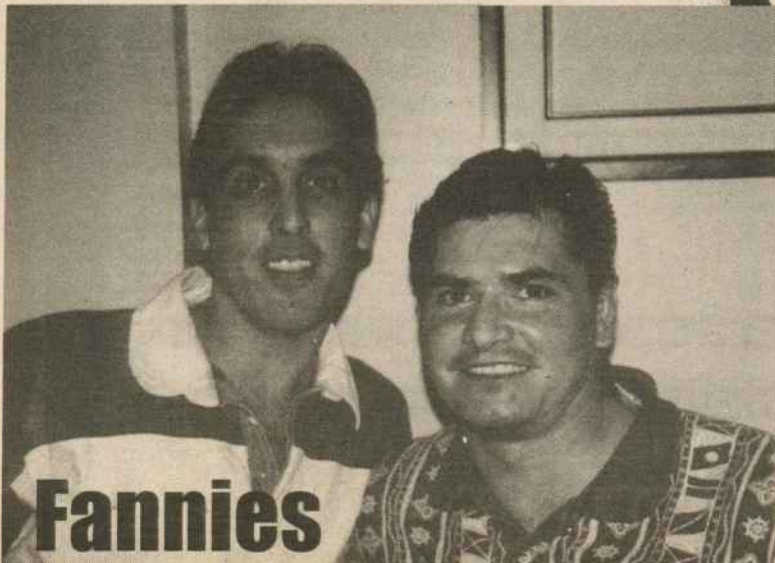
Speaking again of working hard, our copy editor, Rick Haag, is working hard to get everything proofed at the last minute since our staff was busy vacationing last weekend, so I better wrap this column up. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile, stay safe and be proud.



at **Lucky Horseshoe**. This bar has a bevy of strippers. I liked the way they didn't hog the stage. Each one did a song or a song and a half or so before he was replaced. This kept the crowd from being bored, and it meant that all of the dancers cut to the chase — so to speak — rather quickly.

Across the street, **Spin** was rocking. This isn't a place as fancy as some others, but it was very friendly and had an ample amount of staff on hand to serve the thirsty customers.

The **Annex** was crowded. It was my first time in this bar. It's a nice cocktail lounge, the



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Going Out

THURSDAY, JULY 8

Brandy's II (Green Bay), ROW Weekend, tonight: 2nd Locker Room Party, prizes and drink specials, proceeds benefit ROW. 9pm-on, \$1 for those in locker room attire, \$3 for others.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

M&M Club (Milwaukee), Live entertainment features Fred and Arny.

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay), ROW Weekend, Kick-off Party for 8th annual Gay Gala Guernsey Contest. Show at 10:30pm. Proceeds benefit ARCW's Client Assistance Fund.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

1100 Club (Milwaukee), Oberons Club Night.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin 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. 18 and over allowed.

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee), Mr. Hot Buns Contest, a Possum Queen Fundraiser, 9pm-midnight.

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.

M&M Club (Milwaukee), Singational performs.

Napalese (Green Bay), 50's & 60's Sock Hop after the picnic.

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.

Chicago Bar Crawl (Milwaukee), Gary Line Tours Lucky Horseshoe Private Party. Depart Milwaukee at 9am, return to Milwaukee 6pm. Includes Bloody Marys, Screw Drivers, Miller Products, soft drinks served on the Coach. Admission to private party at the Lucky Horseshoe, brunch buffet, 3 drink tickets. \$70 per person. Call (414) 271-0996 for reservations.

M&M Club (Milwaukee), Karaoke.

Napalese (Green Bay), Benefit polka party for Guernsey candidate Katrina Kaye.

Woody's (Milwaukee), Softball Team party, 2:30-6:30pm, beer bust, great food, prizes and surprises.

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

M&M Club (Milwaukee), 1st Annual Judy Garland Trolley Car Ride and Poker Run. Starting outside the M&M Club.

THURSDAY, JULY 15

Club 5 (Madison), Kick off of theme nights, tonight features Swingin' 60's.

FRIDAY, JULY 16

Club 5 (Madison), Pride Weekend Dance the Night Away beginning at 9pm.

SATURDAY, JULY 17

Barracks/Club 5 (Madison), Unicoms Club Night, 3rd Saturday of the month.

Club 5 (Madison), Pride Weekend: Outdoor Beer Tent and Patio.

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Club 5 (Madison), Pride Weekend: 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. Miss Capital City Pageant 10:30pm.

This is It (Milwaukee), Ruthie's Single Hearts Club: meet that someone special! Fun, games, Beer Bust, Prizes. A Possum Queen Benefit for Ilisa Trailer.

BAR GUIDE

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TUESDAY 2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis

WEDNESDAY 2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis
Bottles of Corona and Shots of Cuervo \$2, 8pm-Close

THURSDAY 2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis
Cosmopolitan Martini \$3 8pm-Close

FRIDAY 2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis

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| 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 |
| Millenium | 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 |
| <i>(Open 2pm, Cocktail Hour 2-9 Mon-Fri; Sat & Sun open 11am)</i> | | | |
| 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 |
| <i>(Open 5pm, Cocktail Hour 5-8 Mon-Fri; Sat & Sun open 2pm, Daily Specials)</i> | | | |
| 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 |
| <i>(Open 5pm everyday; 2-for-1 Drinks 5-8 Mon-Fri; Wed & Thur specials, 8pm-close)</i> | | | |
| 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 |
| <i>(Open 8pm; DJ 7-nights-a-week; Sunday show; Thur. Super Bust)</i> | | | |
| 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 |
| <i>(Open 6pm, outdoor patio, Cocktail hour 6-9pm, nightly specials 9-close)</i> | | | |
| This Is It | Mw | 418 E. Wells St., 53202 | 278-9192 |
| <i>(Open 3pm every day; Cocktail hour special)</i> | | | |
| Triangle | M | 135 E. National Ave., 53204 | 383-9412 |
| Woody's | M | 1579 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 672-0806 |
| <i>(Open 4pm-Close, 7 days a week)</i> | | | |
| RESTAURANTS | | | |
| Annex Cafe | Late Nite | 1106 S. 1st St., 53204 | 384-7999 |
| Glass Menagerie | Fine Dining | 124 N. Water St., 53202 | 347-1962 |
| RACINE/KENOSHA (414) | | | |
| Club 94 | MW, DJ, E | 9001 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 | 857-9958 |
| Clubhouse Filling Station | MW, F, DJ, E | 6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 | 857-3744 |
| Capers/Illusions | MW, DJ, E | 6305 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 | 857-3813 |
| JoDee's | MW, DJ | 2139 Racine St., Racine, 53403 | 634-9804 |
| What About Me? | MW | 600 6th St., Racine, 53403 | 632-0171 |
| SHEBOYGAN (920) | | | |
| Blue Lite | MW | 1029 N. 8th St., 53081 | 457-1636 |
| SUPERIOR (715) | | | |
| Bev's Jook Joint | Wm | 820 Tower Ave., 55880 | 392-5373 |
| JT's Bar & Grill | MW, DJ | 1506 N. 3rd St, 55880 | 394-2580 |
| Main Club | MW | 1217 Tower Ave., 55880 | 392-1756 |

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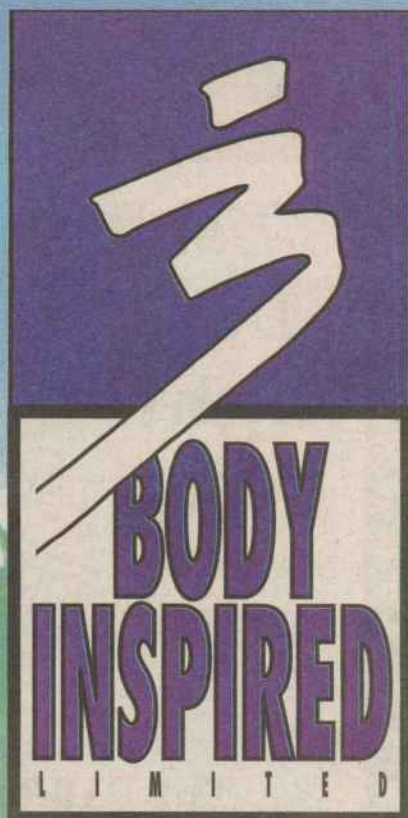
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