

WI Light

November 3 - 9, 1999



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Looking at the Far Right

By Bill Meunier

For some of us, it may seem like the world has gone mad, or at least has been turned upside down. Jerry Falwell tells his followers to "love homosexuals." The leading Republican Presidential candidate preaches "compassionate conservatism." Pat Buchanan, the man who once told Tennessee voters that he would "settle accounts for our ancestors," now calls for a "racial reconciliation."

Has Hell frozen over? Are those pigs we see flying in the sky? To find out *Wisconsin Light* spoke with noted author and political researcher, Jean Hardisty. As the Executive Director of Political Research Associates, Hardisty's work includes monitoring the religious right and other conservative elements from coast to coast. Her new book, *Mobilizing Resistance*, examines the resurgence of the right wing in America.

Ms Hardisty will be appearing in Milwaukee on November 16 and in Madison on November 17.

WI Light: *The right wing in America is a diverse group. It includes some Republican politicians, white supremacists, and the militias. Is there as some claim, a "right wing conspiracy?"*

Jean Hardisty: The linkage is ideological. You have Trent Lott appearing before groups that he never should have appeared before. The real danger lies in the ideological traffic between the far right and the Republican Party.

I used to talk about bridges being a kind of transit point. I could count the bridges from the right to the Republican Party on one hand, Pat Buchanan and David Duke. Now, the traffic is so heavy that there are a lot of ideas flowing from the far right to the Republican Party and back again.

WI Light: *What are some of those ideas? How do they affect Gays?*

JH: The anti-government message is a very powerful one. It's not specific. It applies to protecting minorities and all sorts of roles the government plays in protecting our democracy. It's a very powerful weapon that can be trained at any liberal idea.

If you can undermine the idea that government has a positive role to play, you can really take aim at all the programs the government has. They can bring all of those roles under the rubric of "We don't want government to interfere."

One of the arguments used against the passage of a Federal hate crime law is that this is big government interference in something should be left to the states. That's an example of how this line of thinking works.

WI Light: *Does that line of thinking promote violence against LGBT people?*

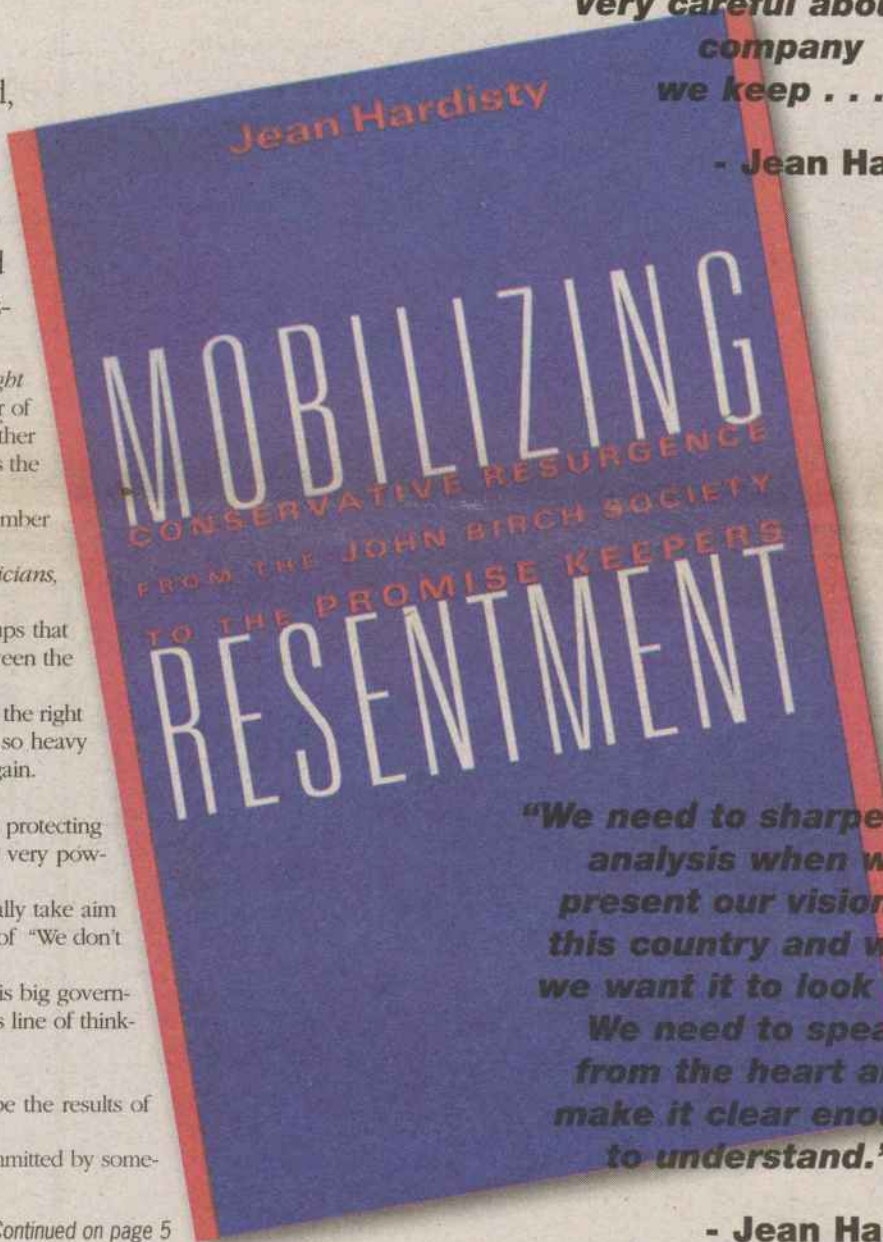
JH: Most of the time the violence is not tied to a particular sector of the right. It can be the results of anti-Gay sentiments promoted by things like the rhetoric of the Christian right.

With hate crimes, what you're dealing with is a more vague ideology. They may be committed by someone who's been exposed to a right wing group and shares that group's thinking.

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"We have to be very careful about the company we keep . . ."

- Jean Hardisty



"We need to sharpen our analysis when we present our vision of this country and what we want it to look like. We need to speak from the heart and make it clear enough to understand."

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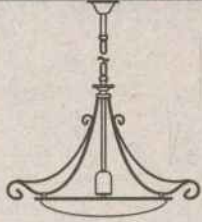


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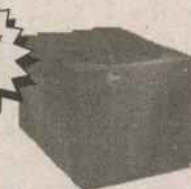
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WI!light

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www.wilight.com**AP** Associated Press*Letter from the Publisher*

Our search for a new editor for *Wisconsin Light* goes on. With pardons to all those who have applied, no "qualified" candidates from Wisconsin have surfaced. The funniest interview was with an eminently qualified candidate with a degree from a prestigious school of journalism. He had experience as a managing editor of a national magazine. Unfortunately, he thought *Wisconsin Light* concerned itself with the Wisconsin utility industry. Other candidates have, on the surface, had great credentials but simply did not have the necessary depth of knowledge about the LGBT community.

It will not be easy to replace Bill Meunier. His experience, writing ability, exceptional phone skills and never ending dedication to the cause of LGBT civil rights is a combination that is formidable. Unless another local candidate surfaces, our search will more focus on experienced journalists from other areas. That can be problematic, as he/she will have to acclimate themselves to Wisconsin's unique LGBT community with our stunning successes as well as our parochial power structure. There will be a learning curve, particularly concerning local people and issues. At a minimum, we must insist that the Editor of *Wisconsin Light* has a solid background in the LGBT world and that they are dedicated to being an inclusive community builder.

Behind the scenes, our new Internet project is moving along. The possibilities are endless, so focus is essential. We must do what we do very, very well. We, others who see what we see, and others who will copy us, will close the gapping holes that now exist. Bill's skills are already in evidence as we hone our plans to enter into this rapidly expanding LGBT Internet world. The thought of virtually endless space for content is exciting when you have been constrained to publishing a few dozen pages per week in print form.

The Internet is particularly well suited for expanding coverage of the arts, most specifically music and film. The ability for live interchange offers nearly endless possibilities. Sports and issues of concern to various smaller groups, within our community, can be properly addressed. Being the absolute best source for LGBT news will be the bedrock of our activities but Bill's creative ideas for the use of these technologies will make the experience fun, something that seems to be missing from other efforts.

An important hurdle has been cleared as we have received substantial financial commitment from a California based group. Also, the hiring process goes on. We have been rewarded with numerous applications from local artists and Internet designers and look forward to making these selections shortly.

We still can't be too specific in these pages concerning our designs but we are truly excited about this new challenge and how it will strengthen and its ability to provide the absolute best in news and entertainment. You will have to wait for our introduction, still some weeks away.

If the repercussions were not so serious, I could be amused by some of the recent discussion on Wisconsin LGBT publishing. Yes, it would be easier if we consolidated our efforts. We could achieve much more without the massive duplication of effort. I still remain committed to working with Publishers to achieve the best results for our community. However, barring that, we will be fierce competitors for readers and dollars. We are clearly winning this battle and have absorbed all, or nearly all, of the growth of advertising dollars and readers in the last year. That will continue.

It is a cooperative spirit, in the light of real fiscal responsibilities, that may not survive. We can no longer pretend that all things are equal. Neither of the other publications has any full-time persons involved, other than themselves. Neither publishes weekly. Neither produces anywhere near the volume of locally written news content. Neither has made any commitment to building a community controlled and owned weekly newspaper.

My recent comments were not designed to get sympathy but only to encourage a dialog and understanding of the economic realities. One writer for *InStep* asks, why can't we just leave things the way they are? It simply is not possible. We will continue to do our best to absorb even larger portions of the pie. New marketing efforts are underway and new strategic alliances have, and are being, formulated.

Going into a weekly publication schedule has been a monumental effort by all those involved. Our growing pains are evident for all to see. Our intent is not always so apparent. Let me be as clear as I can be. *Wisconsin Light* will not, can not, give the market to the remaining publications. That simply will not happen. Local control in a cooperative environment is what we have been working towards.

Massive marketing and resources are available but at what cost. We believe that local control is essential but it is not the only option. There will be a weekly publication for Wisconsin's LGBT community. What is at stake is that local control. Building a sane economic system to deliver the best to the public is our simple aim. We can no longer pretend that minimal and voluntary efforts will be adequate. Wisconsin deserves one of the finest LGBT publications in the nation. That is what this is all about.

Greg Quindel
Publisher**WI!light****LETTER POLICY**

We gladly accept letter and especially e-mail (those with more than 300 hundred words are subject to editing). Please include your name, address and verifiable phone number. We will gladly withhold your name from publication, upon request.

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National

African American Gay Man Vie For Historic Win

New Orleans - Larry Bagneris may become the nation's first openly Gay African American state legislator. Bagneris was one of two candidates to advance from an eight person primary for a New Orleans seat in the Louisiana State House of Representatives.

"What a wonderful achievement it would be for Larry Bagneris to take a seat in the same Legislature whose halls are still haunted by the shameful and all-too-recent memory of David Duke," said Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Executive Director Brian Bond.

The Victory Fund is supporting Bagneris, who has come under attack for his homosexuality and race. An anonymous campaign mailing sent out to voters a few days before the October 23 primary attacked the candidate for being Gay and African American.

"The mailing's sole purpose was to foment irrational fear among the electorate about the irrelevant fact that this candidate happens to be both Gay and African American," noted Bond. "It was nothing more than the shameful peddling of political prejudice."

Bagneris came in second in the Oct. 23 election, behind front-runner Karen Carter. The two will face each other in the November 20 election. The Victory Fund is urging Gays and Lesbians to contribute to the Bagneris campaign. Donors can send checks made out to the "Bagneris Campaign" in care of the Victory Fund, 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.



Larry Bagneris

Shepard Trial Watch

Laramie - In their opening statement to the jury, lawyers for accused Matthew Shepard murderer Aaron McKinney said their client killed Shepard in a fit of rage after the Wyoming college student made a sexual advance at him. McKinney's attorneys claimed that their client was under the influence of drugs and never meant to kill Shepard. They insisted that he is guilty of manslaughter, not first degree murder.

Judge Barton Voight reacted sharply. Voight dealt the defense team a hard blow ruling that it could not use the so-called "Gay panic" defense in his courtroom. The Judge said the defense has no basis in Wyoming law.

Prosecution witnesses testified that McKinney was not drunk or drugged when he left the Fireside Inn with his accomplice Russell Henderson and Shepard in October 1998. McKinney's girl friend testified that he and Henderson told her they targeted Shepard by pretending to be Gay.

Other testimony dealt with the brutality of the attack. A coroner testified that although he was not conscious, Shepard might have suffered for hours while hanging from the fence where McKinney and Henderson tied him. Two jurors openly wept while viewing photos of Shepard's battered body. The prosecution rested its case by playing McKinney's hour-long confession. Although Henderson was brought to the courthouse, he did not testify as had been expected.

The defense opened its case with Michael St. Clair who told jurors that Shepard made a sexually suggestive remark to him on the night that he met McKinney and his accomplice Russell Henderson. "It set off something inside, said St. Clair. "It made me angry." The defense was still presenting its case as *Wisconsin Light* went to press.

Democrats Blast Bush on LGBT Issues

Washington - Democratic National Committee Chair Joe Andrew lashed out at Texas Governor George Bush, the leading Republican contender for President, over his positions on LGBT issues.

In October, LGBT activists were stunned by press reports that during a secret September 24 meeting with conservatives Bush said, if elected President, he would not appoint anyone he knew was Gay or Lesbian. He added that he would not fire anyone he found out was Gay after they had been appointed.

Last April, Bush said he wouldn't have any problems with appointing Gays and Lesbians to serve in his administration if he became President. A Bush campaign spokeswoman defended the Governor's remarks, telling the press that she couldn't believe Gays and Lesbians would share his philosophy. "Bush talks a great deal about being compassionate, but in the end his anti-Gay views show him to be an old-fashioned right-wing conservative," said Andrew.

The episode is the latest LGBT flap faced by Bush. Hate crime activists say that Bush killed a Texas hate crimes law last spring in large part because it included protections for Gays and Lesbians. Last summer, Bush came out against Gay adoptions.

LGBT Couples Sue for DP Benefits

Anchorage AK - The Alaska ACLU is suing the State of Alaska and the City of Anchorage because they don't provide domestic partners benefits for their LGBT employees. The suit filed on behalf of eight couples revisits an issue Alaskans thought they settled in 1998 when voters approved constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage.

"The safety net that other couples in Alaska depend upon for security and financial stability, in both the lives that they build together and the retirements that they plan together, are denied to the plaintiff couples merely because they are Gay," the lawsuit says.

The suit seeks to overturn a state law that allows employers to refuse to grant DP benefits and to force the State and City to offer them.

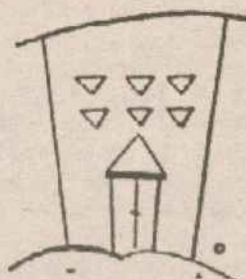
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WI Light: So you are saying the impact of some right wing groups is on the general climate and promotes anti-LGBT feelings.

JH: The environment in which people conduct their politics is very important. It's probably more important in a democracy than in any other system. It affects the public mood and the direction people will take.

I felt that the role of Ronald Reagan, in the takeover of the GOP by the right wing, changed politics in this country. It allowed a lot of right wing ideas to increasingly take hold. That created an environment in which it became easier and easier to be anti-choice, anti-Gay, anti-feminist and especially anti-liberal. When you create that environment, you aren't necessarily sending people out to create violence, you are setting a tone and creating an inhospitable environment.

WI Light: Gays and Lesbians have some civil rights laws now, get elected to some public offices and have made some gains. Some of us think that the danger has passed. Has it?

JH: I agree that mainstream public opinion in this country is less intolerant than it used to be. I think that's entirely the work of the Gay rights movement. It has reached the point where the Christian right has had to moderate its tone and change its rhetoric.

You see that in the X Gay movement, where now the message is "Hate the sin; love the sinner." The message used to be "Recognize the sin, and exclude the sinner from society."

WI Light: Are you talking about the impact of things like Jerry Falwell meeting with Mel White and 200 Gays?

JH: The bad news is that while the Christian right has now taken up this softer face, it hasn't moderated its position. Now people can feel that if you are Gay or Lesbian you are less under attack. Yet, the anti-Gay legislation goes on absolutely uninterrupted. Some of this softer rhetoric will be more effective than the anti-Gay organizing.

The Falwell/White meeting is a perfect example of this shift, abandoning the extreme rhetoric but not the ideological position. Falwell was smart to make that move. What he's done is give himself a much more reasonable profile. The extremists who picketed the meeting did him a service. They placed him closer to the mainstream by demonstrating at the door and yelling, "Faggot Faggot!"

A younger Jerry Falwell didn't care. But the Christian right in general doesn't want to remain outside of the political dialogue because doing that failed to change things.

WI Light: If there is linkage between the various sectors of the right, what does that say to Lesbian and Gay conservatives?

JH: There's a certain amount of conservatism in the Gay and Lesbian community that was not recognized in the past. All of us are aware that there are places in the LGBT community where there is agreement with the right's agenda.

They support the free market or have done well in a high growth company. They have some leanings with free market capitalism that causes them to be against government regulation. When you join with the right on those issues, you are joining with people, who share only a part of what you believe. You are joining with people, who don't share a large part of your agenda.

That doesn't mean you have to follow some sort of ideological agenda. It means you have to be careful not to place your allegiance with those who share only a small part of your ideology. It means we have to be very careful about the company we keep.

Conservatism from within is an important problem for the LGBT movement. Importing positions from the right into the movement will ultimately work against equality for all minorities.

WI Light: We read more about militias and the fringe elements of the right as we read more about hate crimes. Is there a connection?

JH: I don't think so. I think we are just keeping hate crime statistics more diligently than we used to. I wouldn't go so far as to say that there's more being committed. There's a little part of me that fears that all this attention they are getting could mobilize more hate. However, I think the only way to go is to shine a light on these events so people can see how truly awful they are.

WI Light: It seems that over the past two decades, the far Right has had an increased influence on the electoral process. We have the Taxpayers Party, and now Pat Buchanan appears to be the favorite for the Reform Party nomination. Is that something we should worry about?

JH: The fact that we could generate, as third parties, an extreme far right party like the Taxpayers party and a party that could become far right like the Reform party, says a lot about the state of democracy in this country.

There are a lot of people, who either aren't voting or who join marginalized parties that give expression to their resentments.

WI Light: Are you saying conservative Republicans are moderates in the American right wing?

JH: There is some truth to that. It was even true when Ronald Reagan ran. A lot of people had no idea they were voting for someone as far right as Ronald Reagan was. Ideas from the Christian Right permeate through the Republican Party, but they don't have total control over it and that frustrates them.

The right wing controls the Republican platform at every presidential election. The platform is extremely right wing. What we need to know is that it takes a lot of political muscle to control the party's platform.

Right wing Republicans feel marginalized because they haven't got an iron grip on the entire party. That's why some, like Buchanan, are bolting.

Can they keep George Bush from being nominated? I don't think so. They aren't going to get their man, Gary Bauer. This poses a problem for the Christian Right. It's not unusual for them to

feel that the candidate is not the one they really want.

There's a sense in the right wing of the Republican Party that they are constantly thwarted and marginalized. They feel they should always be in control because they have a lock on the truth. They think that they're not always in control because of these sell-out moderate Republicans.

Their analysis is that if they had control of the platform and the candidate, Dole never would have lost. They really believe that they never win because their party never nominates a true right winger.

They think that if they were just allowed to run with it, the American people would follow them. Most professional political strategists believe the opposite. In this system, you do best when you move towards the Center.

Even when they get a candidate like Ronald Reagan, someone from their sector, they still complain. Towards the end of his second term, the Christian right complained that he didn't do enough on abortion, family values and anti-Gay things.

WI Light: You mention the level of frustration felt by the new right. History is replete with examples of frustrated people making minorities into scapegoats. Does that play a part in the right's attacks on Gays?

JH: They maintain that homosexuality is a symptom of the decline of values in society, the break up of the family. That worked well through the 80's because it was playing to an environment that wanted to scapegoat Gays and Lesbians. As the LGBT movement has made more inroads, I don't think that's working as well.

The two-parent family, where the husband worked and the wife stayed home, was a pr model in the 50's and the right wing movement is organized around a nostalgic vision of America. That has proved to be popular because it's associated with secure, more predictable times.

What was so predictable about the nuclear times, I am not sure. In terms of social behavior and social climate, the norms were much tighter, you were church going, heterosexual and kept your children close.

The decline of the family is something that's been framed by the new right. It's built into the promotion of traditional values. It also points people away from how economic changes have affected the family. People's need to work has caused some rearrangement.

Some of the nostalgia is economic. The right wants a return to the time when the government didn't regulate companies, when unions weren't as strong. There's tremendous anti-union sentiment in the right.

WI Light: Conservatism is clearly on the rise in America. What happened to liberalism?

JH: When the new right came on the scene, it knocked off a number of prominent liberals by using techniques that were pretty new to the system. The attack ads, on TV and direct mailings, that made devastating allegations that the liberals destroyed the economy or were soft on crime were new tactics then. We saw almost the entire liberal leadership knocked off. That frightened the Democratic Party and the liberals backed off.

The Democrats decided to go with the Clinton wing, the centrists. Depending on your point of view, you might see that either as political wisdom or as giving up on the Democratic Party.

That is characteristic of what has happened to liberals. They are either intimidated or they went into hiding, making sure their voting records won't show up on the list of the top 10 people the right will say "we need to get rid of."

There are some exceptions, like Ted Kennedy and Paul Wellstone. I think it's interesting that Bill Bradley thinks there's enough political room for him to imply he's a liberal.

WI Light: Some analysts say that throughout its history American has been a conservative country with a few major breaks when liberals held sway, like the Roosevelt era and the 1960's. Is this period just a swing back to the normal pattern?

JH: It is a conservative country. There's a lot of agreement about that among historians. But I don't think that this is normal. I think there was a swinging pendulum that didn't swing very far left at any given time. It did swing and there was a time when women got the vote and unions were formed. The history of the country is conservative, but it's not without periods where changes are made.

I think there's an extra punch of this swing to the right, because it's a reaction in part to some success on the part of liberalism. The intent is to go farther than the norm. Conservatives came into office with Reagan saying they were going to revolutionize the system. What they really meant was that they wanted to turn the clock back and undo the changes that came in the 60's and 70's.

WI Light: What do you think people should do to counter the influence of the new right?

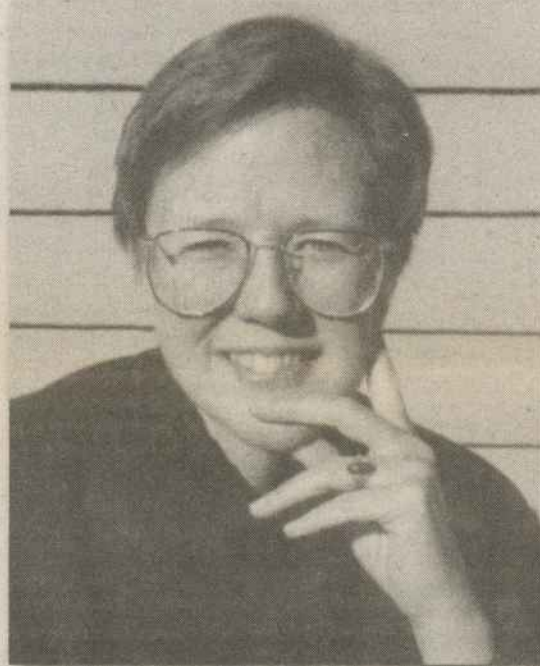
JH: We've taken so many hits in the last 20 years that we need to rebuild the movement. We need to strengthen our organization. We need to listen to people who are potential recruits to the movement, people we haven't been listening to in the past.

We need to sharpen our analysis when we present our vision of this country and what we want it to look like. We need to speak from the heart and make it clear enough to understand.

The Gay movement has done this very well. It's one of the better examples of really speaking to the public in ways that they can understand. The fact that Wisconsin has *Wisconsin Light* really shows that LGBT movement has the resources to maintain a strong infrastructure.

That's not true across the movement. The right has de-funded a lot of poverty work. Housing is in a shambles because it was de-funded. So were a lot of social programs that were designed to level the playing field. It may take years to rebuild but certainly, it can be done.

Ms. Hardisty will appear in Milwaukee at 7pm on Tuesday, November 16. She will speak at Congregation Emau-El B'Ne Jeshurun, located at 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. On Wednesday, November



Jean Hardisty

State

Jesse Helms Clashes with Baldwin and Colleagues

Washington DC - Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) ordered Capitol Hill Police to remove Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and nine of her colleagues from a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on October 28.

Led by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), the Congresswomen were trying to present Helms with a letter signed by 100 congressional supporters of a treaty that bans discrimination against women. The US signed the 1979 pact, but has not joined the 165 nations that have ratified it.

When the Congresswomen entered the Committee room with the placard, Helms halted the hearing and said, "This is a hearing on China and we have guests who are not interested in that. They want to demonstrate on another issue. I hope the security people will escort them out in the corridor and let them wait there."

Woolsey responding by asking the Senator to accept the letter. Helms ordered security officers to "Escort them out! Escort them out!"

A Capitol Hill source told *Wisconsin Light* that the Congresswomen did not go to the Committee hearing to disrupt it or to demonstrate. The source said that the Congresswomen wanted to present the letter to Helms at his office. However, when they arrived Helms' staff said he was not in and claimed that they did not know where he was.

The women learned of the hearing and headed to it. When they arrived, they stood silently in the back. "They weren't standing to demonstrate," said the source. "They stood because there were no seats available."

Baldwin called the incident, "horrifying and shocking." Her spokeswoman, Jerilyn Goodman told *Wisconsin Light* that the Congresswoman "expects professional courtesy from all of her colleagues."

Goodman added, "She's never had a problem when she's asked other senior Republican legislators like Henry Hyde or Jim Sennsenbrenner for meetings on various issues. She finds it more than unfortunate that Senator Helms is refusing to meet with her on an issue that's very important to all of us."

Barron Murder Victim May Have Been Gay

Barron - An investigation into the brutal October 20 murder of Barron resident, Michael J. Hatch took an unexpected turn last week due to speculation that the victim may have been Gay.

According to the Associated Press and the *Barron News-Shield*, one of his attackers helped Sheriff's deputies locate Hatch's body in a cornfield on October 21.

Three individuals, Ray C. Walton, 33, Cory L. Kralewski, 21, and Mary C. Reed, 34 were arrested in connection with the murder. Kralewski apparently knew Hatch well; they had attended high school together.

Although Barron county investigator Al Lenz said that the trio is telling conflicting stories to investigators, it is known that the murder followed a night of drinking at local bars.

Hatch was profoundly deaf and wore hearing aids. He often used written notes to communicate. Reed told investigators that throughout the evening Kralewski was playing "head games" with Hatch and that both Walton and Kralewski "were writing a lot of stuff on paper for this kid to read."

Investigators have some of those notes in their possession, but they declined to release their content. They did say that Hatch apparently had not been drinking alcoholic beverages, although his attackers drank significant amounts of alcohol over a six-hour period.

Several sources say that robbery is a possible motive. According to *News Shield* reporter Bob Groshong, several witnesses say Hatch won "a significant sum of money," playing video poker machines.

Reed claims that she talked Kralewski into going to a second bar but that Hatch followed them there. After further conversation, all four decided to go to a third tavern. After leaving that bar, Hatch and his attackers drove to a remote spot near the Barron-Dunn county line.

The three men left their vehicles and both Kralewski and Walton beat Hatch with tire irons. According to Reed, Kralewski struck the fatal blows to the victim's head. Kralewski claims that he began the beating but that Walton "took over." Reed says that the men took \$40 from Hatch.

On October 26, Action Wisconsin (AW) and the Midwest regional office of PFLAG began receiving e-mails about a possible "Gay angle" to the murder. AW contacted several area members, local reporters and the Barron County Sheriff's Department.

Despite reports from both Gay and straight sources, that Hatch was Gay, his sexual orientation remains unknown. As reported by Lenz and Groshong, the family has strongly denied that hatch was Gay. Bob Jansen, owner of the Gay-identified Main Club said that while some of his customers said they knew Hatch as a Gay man, he did not know the victim.

Based on currently available information, Action Wisconsin cautiously concluded that Michael Hatch's real or perceived sexual orientation does not appear to be a factor in his murder. "Bad things happen to all kinds of people, whether they're Gay or otherwise," AW President F. M. "Mike" Fitzpatrick said.

However, Mary Reed's reports of 'head games,' and the unknown content of the recovered notes give Fitzpatrick pause. "Two key questions remain unanswered at this time, he said. "First, why would the investigators even ask the Hatch family if their son was Gay unless they have evidence that warrants such a suspicion? Second, is there any Gay-related content in those notes?"

the gay Agenda

5 Fri. **Men's Discussion Group, SAGE (Milwaukee):** Topic: What is a man? Gay and Straight Viewpoints~ where do these ideas come from, how do they help or hurt us. Discussion led by John Crowley. Small meeting room. Milw. LGBT Community Center, 6:30pm, (414) 271-0378

Youth Drop In Activities Premiere Night, Project Q (Milwaukee): Tutoring, job assistance, art projects, movies, games and more. A youth run program for youth. Every Friday, Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. 5:10-30pm; (414) 223-3220

6 Sat. **Lecture: Building a Better Board and Strategic Plans, Gill Foundation (Milwaukee):** Another in a series of presentations by the Gill Foundation, targeted towards non profit organizations. Call for more information about the program. Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. 9:30am-3pm (414) 271-2656

Organizing a Bay View Rainbow Assoc., Bay View LGBTs (Milwaukee): LGBTs from the Bay View area are organizing a rainbow association to build a sense of community in the area. Will focus on creating social opportunities for meeting neighbors, community organizing, information sharing and advocacy of public officials. All interested are invited. Bay View Library, 2566 S. KK Ave.; 2-4pm, Call Neil at (414) 271-2656.

7 Sun. **Face to Face with Fundamentalism, Rebuilding Faith (Milwaukee):** Monthly discussion group for LGBT Catholics hosts David Schimmel, editor of *Passion*, writer and retreat and spiritual director tells how to Stand Firm and Bear Witness with a Message to Christians of the Sexual Minority. Holy Trinity/ Guadalupe Church, 613 S. 4th St.; 10:30am, (414) 481-8543.

12 Fri. **Men and Women Together, SAGE (Milwaukee):** Play cards and board games, with sheepshead lessons available, bring your own games if your wish. Small meeting room. Milw. LGBT Community Center, 6:30pm, (414) 271-0378

13 Sat. **17th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Banquet, Wisconsin Community Fund (Milwaukee):** Peace, Justice and Equality For the New Millennium, featuring guest Keynote Speaker Torie Osborn speaking on *Reviving the Progressive Movement: Lessons from a Long Time Activist* and entertainer Will Durst. Tables of eight also available for \$350. Park East Hotel, 5:30-9pm, \$50/\$30 activist/lmt. income; (414) 225-9965/ (608) 251-6834.

every wed.

AA meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): 6:30pm: OA Meeting (Overeaters); 8pm: AA Group 494 (12/12). Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Couple/Swing/Line/2 Step Lessons and Dance, Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls (Madison): Learn various dance moves, then participate in open dancing, smoke free environment, cash bar, all welcome. Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Ave. 7pm-12am; \$3 suggested donation. (608) 255-9131

Nothing To Hide, WYOU (Madison): Cable Channel 4, 9pm

every thu.

Non-denominational Religious Service, Metropolitan Community Church (Milwaukee): 1239 W. Mineral St. 7pm (414) 383-1100

AA meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): 7pm: SCA (Sexual Compulsives); 7pm: AA Living Sober. Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell

Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Women's Clinic, BESTD Clinic (Milwaukee): Health Diagnosis and Treatment, walk-in. 1st and 3rd Thursdays. 1240 E. Brady St. 6-8:30pm, Free will donation. (414) 272-2144

every fri.

AA meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): 5:30pm: AA Sixty Minutes Group (Topic); 7pm: AA Group 794 (Step/Topic). Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Movie Night, Galano Club (Milwaukee): Alcohol free club sponsors film screenings every Friday night. Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 8:15pm, \$5 suggested donation (414) 276-6936

every sat.

Gay Film Screenings, Madison Gay Video Club, (Madison): Screens non-X and X-rated Gay male oriented films every other Saturday. Call for location in evenings. 8pm, Free (608) 244-8675.

every sun.

AA Meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): 10:30am: Group 394 (Step/Topic); 10:30am: Al-Anon Papillion Group; 6pm: SCA (Sexual Compulsives); 8pm: AA Group 1394 (Big Book). Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Catholic Church Services, Prince of Peace (Milwaukee): A church community that not only welcomes diversity but celebrates it. 1138 S. 25th St. 9:30am (414) 645-8786.

Non-denominational Religious Service, Metropolitan Community Church (Milwaukee): 1239 W. Mineral St. 11am (414) 383-1100

Pineapple, Political Individuals negotiating exchange, attitude plus pride leads to Equality (Sheboygan): Newly formed LGBT support group in the Sheboygan Lakeshore area, meeting the needs of the community. Socialize, discuss and participate. 7pm, Call (920) 451-8722.

every mon.

AA Group 694 (Women), Galano Club (Milwaukee): Step/Topic. Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

every tue.

AA meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): 5:30pm: AA Group 40-94 (Over 40 Group-Topic); 7pm: SCA Meeting Blue Group (Sex Compulsives); 8pm: NA Meeting (Narcotics Anon.) Galano Club House, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Gay By God's Will, Milwaukee MCC (Milwaukee): Warner Cable television show, MATA channel 47, 8pm.

Living With AIDS/HIV, WYOU (Madison): Cable Channel 4, 6pm

Men's Clinic, BESTD Clinic (Milwaukee): STD Diagnosis and Treatment, walk-in. 1240 E. Brady St. 6-8:30pm, (414) 272-2144

Nothing To Hide, WYOU (Madison): Cable Channel 4, 4pm

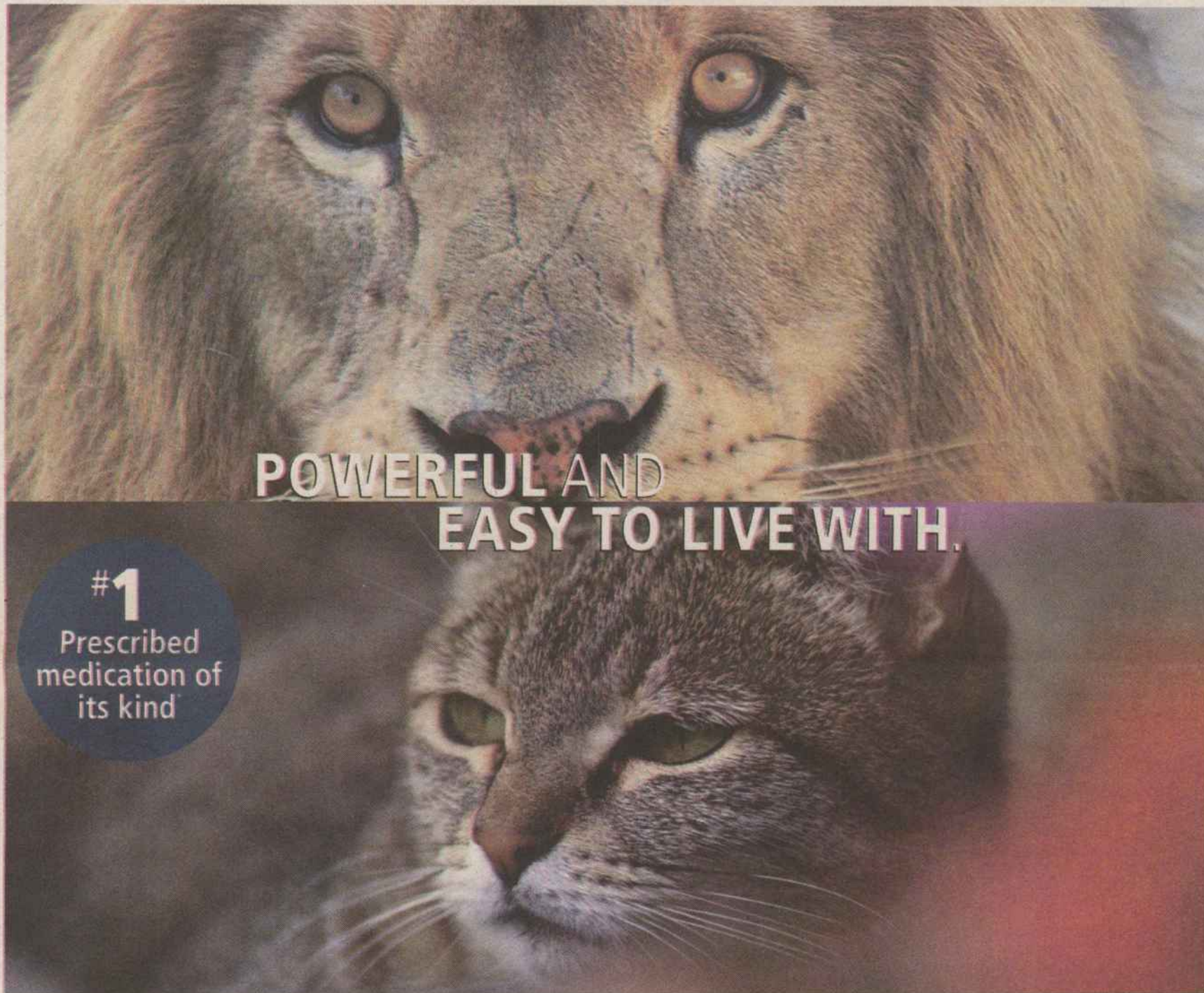
PFLAG Outreach, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Milwaukee): Chapter representative available for support, education and advocacy. Feel free to drop in, parents, too! Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. 6-9pm.

Pride Band Rehearsals, (Milwaukee): Bi-weekly rehearsals. MCC Church, 1239 W. Mineral St. 7-8:30pm (414) 933-3743

Queer TV, (Milwaukee): Warner Cable television show, MATA channel 47. 7pm

Youth Drop In Activities, Project Q (Milwaukee): (Tutoring, job assistance, art projects, movies, games and more. A youth run program for youth.) Every Tuesday, Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. 4:30-9pm. (414) 223-3220

WHAT YOUR PROTEASE INHIBITOR CAN BE:



POWERFUL AND
EASY TO LIVE WITH.

#1
Prescribed
medication of
its kind

VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. (The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light

snacks. **VIRACEPT IS GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED** People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated

for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common

medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding

in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

(Refer to the important information on the next page.)

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder


Agouron
Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
A Warner-Lambert Company

VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

tablets and oral powder

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept) Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
- This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Efavir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddi)

If you are taking both Videx (ddi) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Virmune® (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Virmune.

• Other NNRTIs
VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you should miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

Youth Speak



by Justin
Lockridge

I bought a leather jacket last week while I was in Washington DC. It's a nice, very sleek looking jacket. It's warm and protects me from the elements. I couldn't wait to wear it. I put it on and proudly walked to the Union Station Movie Theater to see *American Beauty* with some friends.

While I was there, I did some shopping at a store that sells political memorabilia. I purchased a red white and blue donkey pin that symbolizes my political affiliation. I quickly pinned it on the collar of my new jacket. That prompted a friend to suggest that I also wear the Pink Triangle pin I had purchased earlier in the Day at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I said no and told her that I didn't feel safe or comfortable walking around wearing a triangle pin. I was afraid of what people might think, say, or do. She gave me a dirty look and said, "You're so homophobic."

I didn't really think about it much right away. I just kept walking and talking about other things. A dream I had that night caused me to think about it a lot more. In my dream, I was again walking through DC. I ran into Mayor Norquist while passing the Postal museum. He looked at me, said, "You're so homophobic", and kept walking. Next came the President. He said the same thing. Public figure after public figure came up to me and told me I was homophobic.

Stom Thurmond, alas, was absent from the pack. The one that left the biggest mark on me was Senator Feingold. Not only did he tell me that I am homophobic; he took my new leather jacket. The Senator said, I can't hide behind it any longer and that I had to face the world without my protection. Confused? Moi aussi.

It was weird. The jacket was serving as my protection and as a metaphor for who I am. I'm pretty well known in this little town of ours between writing for the *Light* and the whole Project Q thing, but I can still hide. I can very easily deny who I am because of the way that I look and act. I can say "no"

when someone says asks if I'm the kid, who writes for the *Light*. I can play dumb when they ask if I remember them from the Domestic Partnership victory party.

Sadly, I can also say no if someone asks me if I'm Gay. But now, I didn't have a jacket. They took it away from me. There was nothing left for me to hide behind. I was exposed to the world like a baby's ass the days it's born. I had nothing to protect me from the elements.

I woke up sweaty and scared.

How could I, a role model for the community, an activist and LGBT advocate, be homophobic? I realized that I am. I hide the truth everyday to protect myself. I'm protecting myself from the hate and fear that surrounds who I am. When I hide, I am also perpetuating that hate and fear by not letting people know that I am who I am. Well, not any more.

We won't be recognized as real people unless we all stand up for ourselves and what we believe in. We have to look others and truthfully say "I am not homophobic, now give me my damn jacket back!" We must look at our friends, family and neighbors and say "We're here, we're queer and we are unzipping our jackets so everyone can see who we are."

We must wear our pink triangles, rainbow flags, bear paws and those light blue hankies we put in our back right pockets with pride. We must do it always, not just during the three days of PrideFest.

If you see me anytime soon, feel free to compliment me on my new jacket. The pink triangle pin I put on it makes it look even better.

Christian Editor to Speak November 7

Milwaukee - David Schimmel, editor of *Passion: Christian Spirituality* from a Gay Perspective, a monthly national newsletter for LGBTs now in its sixth year, returns to speak in Milwaukee Sunday, November 7 at the monthly meeting of Rebuilding Faith.

Schimmel will address *Face to Face with Fundamentalism: Standing Firm and Bearing Witness with a Message to Christians of the Sexual Minority*. Schimmel, based in Chicago, has spent the last 17 years working in adult spiritual formation as a speaker, writer, retreat director and spiritual director.

Rebuilding Faith is a local group of LGBTs that meet the first Sunday of the

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month to discuss issues related to the Catholic faith. The basic format of their gatherings consist of an hour and a half of opening prayer or meditation, a guest speaker or panel who offer some reflections for discussion and a final opportunity to share prayer as they close. The group is in its third year. All LGBT Catholics and those who love them are welcome to Rebuilding Faith's first Sunday of the month meetings, held from 10:30am-noon at Holy Trinity/ Guadalupe, 613 S. 4th Street. For more information on the group, call Fred at (414) 481-8543.

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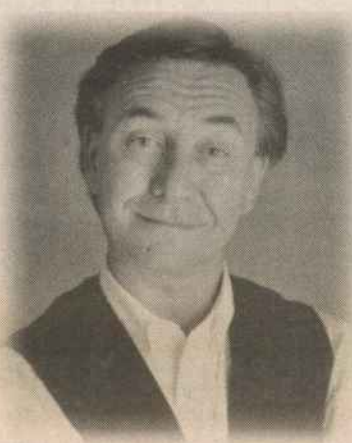
Featuring...



Torie Osborn

Is the executive director of the Los Angeles-based Liberty Hill Foundation, one of the largest social change foundations in the country. She has been a leader for 30 years, beginning with the anti-poverty, civil rights and anti-Vietnam-war movement of the sixties. In the past decade, she has been a national leader in the gay and lesbian movement, and is a former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center (the world's largest gay organization).

Torie has made countless media appearances, including MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour, Good Morning America, National Public Radio, and CNN's Crossfire where she debated Pat Buchanan. She is also author of *Coming Home to America* (St. Marins, 1996), a book about the gay community's contribution to the current national debate on values and visions for America's future.



Will Durst

Comedian Will Durst, who many of us know as a Milwaukee native and political sage, is the entertainment. He is the host and co-producer of *Livelihood*, an award winning show that looks at the lives of working class Americans on PBS. He has appeared in forums as diverse as the David Letterman Show and the pages of *George Magazine*.



Keynote speech by Torie Osborn
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Floodlight



by Margret
Flood

We lost another one of our own this past September 23 when Sarah Ann Ford passed from this plane of existence. Sarah was truly a gift to the African American community, the LGBT community and the entire Milwaukee community. Her memorial service, held at the Art Museum, was a special tribute to the beautiful spirit that she was.

Lung cancer claimed Sarah's life. My mother died of the same disease, so when I heard of her diagnosis, I feared the worse. I last saw Sarah at the July performance put on by Real Read, an African American LGBT theatrical troupe from Chicago, at Centennial Hall. Her bright spirit shone through the obvious effects of her struggle with the disease.

Sarah Ford will be missed by many. She was truly an inspiration. During her memorial service, County Supervisor Dorothy Dean, in touchingly poignant remarks, called her a "... strong and beautiful flowering tree living on in our hearts". She was a very special, and a very great person.

I didn't know Sarah well but she always had a warm smile and hand shake for me whenever I ran into her. She had been a closer friend, in previous years, with my partner Mary when their paths first crossed at Marquette University. Sarah was the Director of Marquette's multicultural center and Mary was Director of Residence Halls. Sara made a lasting impression on Mary who would speak of her with respect and affection.

Sarah was a bridge builder. That was clearly evident by the attendance at her memorial service. The list of accomplishments she achieved in her 48-year life is awesome. In addition to being a magazine publisher and television talk show host on Milwaukee's ABC affiliate channel 12, Sara was an arts consultant and economic development specialist.

She also worked as a program officer for the prestigious Milwaukee Foundation and was instrumental in bringing about key development projects on Martin Luther King Drive and Capitol Drive among other things. A First Lieutenant in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, Sara was President of, and sang with, the Heritage Chorale. She was a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Member.

Sara was also a volunteer. Her list of volunteer activities seems endless.

My own personal experience in working with Sara occurred when we served together on the Human Rights League Board. She led our Board's strategic planning. One of the ideas fostered in those sessions was the creation of the Political Action Committee, which got on its feet this year.

Sarah worked quietly with a dedication and purpose. She was about love.

There are other special people who pass through our lives, but we seldom know just what effect someone might have on us until it is too late and they are gone. I recall Sarah Ann Ford here as we struggle with community in Milwaukee. The community of Same Gender Loving and LGBT people is what we make of it.

There are other bridge builders, who are alive and well in this community. They are people who consistently look for a greater good and attempt to build towards that. They are people, who build bridges with the larger community, the whole of Milwaukee, to make it a safer place for all of us.

I don't know what drives some of us to seemingly accomplish so much. Some people seem to have the dedication right from the start, while others get sick of the old way of doing things and are finally ready for action and change.

There are many bridges to build. PrideFest's theme this year was about building those bridges. While some of us complain about the way things are, there are others who are beacons trudging on and getting the job done sometimes in the face of incredible obstacles.

Sometimes we work well together and sometimes we don't. All of us are products of our early training. Some have succeeded in transcending self and simply working for justice. Sometimes it seems easier to kvetch and moan about the way things are and what people should have done. If we do that too much we get trapped in negativity. However, I know what complaining is and I know what acceptance is. Sometimes complaining is the first step towards action and acceptance.

While I think the transition to a new century and a new millennium is simply going from one day to the next, maybe it can be a time to reassess our own way of being in the world. Then, what we carry into the next day will be another critical component to that bridge we are building. We can remember and honor the inspiration provided by Sarah Ann Ford and people like her who have managed to transcend the difficulties and curve balls that life has thrown them and work for the greater good.

To comment please email marmar@execpc.com

**November 10th ISSUE
DEALINE Friday, Noon**

Letters

Medical College Article

I wanted to thank you for publishing the feature story about CAIR in last week's issue of *Wisconsin Light*. As I'm sure you know, Bill Meunier spent a full day with us several weeks ago gathering information about our work, our people and our mission. We were enormously pleased and grateful that you chose to highlight us in the paper, and that *Wisconsin Light* helped explain our work to the LGBT community.

Wisconsin Light is an essential resource to our community, and we thank you, not just for writing about us, but informing people - week after week - about so many critical issues. We appreciate all that you, Bill and others there do.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry and Behavior Medicine
Director, Center for AIDS Intervention Research

Halloween Story

To Terry Boughner:

I have enjoyed the *Wisconsin Light* for many years, and recently read your article, "My Ghost Lover". I just have to know, did you REALLY find a skeleton in your house or is this just a fantasy story?

The reason I ask is when I lived in the river west area, I believe a female ghost or presence lived in the house with us, and I saw her on one occasion. Some people believe this stuff, and some don't. Please clarify if this was just a Halloween story, or fact for fact truth.

Regards,

Mark M

Terry Boughner says the story is entirely true.

McFarland Column

It is so fitting that Log Cabin Republican James McFarland's latest column appears in a newspaper named *Light*.

In expressing his hatred of hate crime legislation, McFarland says he is a civil libertarian who can't support a law that punishes motive alone. The fact is that hate crime legislation doesn't punish motive alone; it enhances the penalty of a different crime. If there is no other crime, the hate crime law is not in force.

McFarland doesn't seem to know much about law. It has long been the case that motive is taken into consideration in defining crimes. Take murder, for example. There are different degrees of murder, largely dependent on motive.

McFarland is also worried about special protection for minority groups. A heterosexual Republican friend of his asks why someone should be punished more for committing a crime against McFarland than for a crime against a heterosexual. The fact is, there are many laws that set different penalties depending on the victim. Murder of a policeman is much different than murder of anybody else, for example. Some laws make crimes against the elderly liable to greater punishment. And, of course, there are all those laws giving special protection to children.

But the best answer to Mr. McFarland's white Republican heterosexual friend would be that he IS protected by proposed hate crimes legislation. If a heterosexual is attacked because he is a heterosexual, the crime against him could receive an enhanced penalty as a hate crime.

Too bad Mr. McFarland can't understand these simple facts.

Too bad Mr. McFarland has "no answer" when his heterosexual Republican friends pose such questions.

Too bad Mr. McFarland is a columnist in a Gay newspaper when he displays such ignorance of the topics on which he writes.

There are two meanings of "Light" that are most commonly used: one deals with illumination, the other with fluff. I guess we know which one applies here.

Yours,

Al Geirsbach



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Spotlight

Interview

The Music in Meryl's Heart

by Tim Nasson

NYC - When I was a preteen, most kids my age were going crazy over films like *Return of the Jedi* and *Ghostbusters* and actors **Harrison Ford** and **Bill Murray**. Unlike most other kids, I was always intrigued by 'adult themed' films and was mesmerized by the world's greatest living, working actress.

I first became aware of **Meryl Streep** at age eleven. In 1982, my friends were running off to see *E.T.* and *The Empire Strikes Back* for the ninth and tenth times. I remember sneaking off to the neighborhood theater to see *Sophie's Choice*, and the year after that, *Silkwood*.

Maybe it was because I was a reader of the *New York Times*' and the *Boston Globe's* arts sections at an extremely early age. Maybe it was simply because I recognized genius at work. Regardless of the reasons, I always knew that Meryl Streep was an actress of incomparable talent.

I never imagined, fifteen years and seven Academy Award nominations later, that I would be sitting face to face with Streep talking about her most recent accomplishment, *Music of the Heart*.

Arriving fifteen minutes late, and obviously, at first, uneasy to be the subject of an interview, Streep settled into a chair in a suite at The Regency Hotel and began to unwind, sipping from a mug of tea.

"I don't enjoy this aspect of film making," Meryl says, of the marketing and publicizing of films. "It's so strange. I am always at least ten minutes late for interviews but once I get to them, I am usually put right at ease. The same goes for parties. I am not too keen on going to them, but if I am forced to, once I arrive, I am usually put at ease pretty quickly."

Dressed to kill, in understated yet elegant blue floral print and matching scarf, Streep looks motherly and why not? She has reared a nineteen, sixteen, thirteen and eight year old. Streep entered the room a star.

Streep's performance in the true story *Music of the Heart* is her latest bid for an Academy Award. She has received a total of eleven Academy Award nominations during her two decades plus long career.

Her role in *The Deer Hunter* garnered her first Oscar nomination. *Manhattan*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*,

Sophie's Choice and *Silkwood* followed. So did *Ironweed*, *Out of Africa*, and *A Cry in the Dark*. *Postcards From the Edge*, *The Bridges of Madison County* and *One True Thing* round out her eleven nominations in



Roberta Guaspari (Meryl Streep) teaches a child to play violin in *Music Of The Heart*



Gloria Estefan and Meryl Streep in *Music Of The Heart*

twentythree years. Streep has won two Academy Awards; first for *Kramer vs. Kramer*, her then for *Sophie's Choice*.

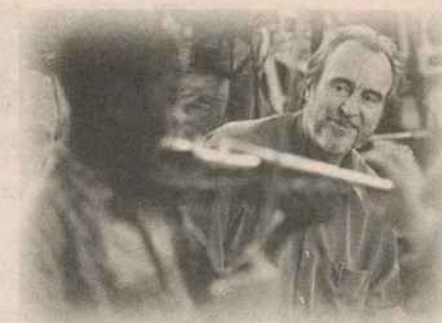
The only other actress to achieve a greater feat is **Katherine Hepburn**. Hepburn, however, received fourteen nominations in a career of over forty years. If Streep keeps up at Hepburn's pace, she will nearly double Hepburn's nominations before her career comes to a halt.

Streep is poised to win her twelfth Academy Award nomination this year with *Music of the Heart*. Although Streep beat out **Madonna** to play the lead role in *Music of the Heart*, her professionalism hampered her from dissing the queen of pop. "As far as I know, there were some creative differences between Madonna and **Wes Craven**, the film's

director. I know that she did begin to learn to play the violin and spent many weeks with the real **Roberta Guaspari**, which the film is based on and became good friends with her."

The biggest surprise of *Music of the Heart* may not be Madonna's exit from the film but Wes Craven's attachment to it. The creator of the *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Scream* franchises seems most unlikely to helm a true, inspirational, inner city, elementary school story.

Craven laughs the thought off. "When I signed on to *Scream*, I was told by Miramax that I could do a 'petticoat' picture as well," he says. "So, I looked at the list of films they had on their slate and the two I had the most interest in, *Shakespeare in Love* and



Director Wes Craven on the set of *Music Of The Heart*



Gloria Estefan, Meryl Streep and Angela Bassett in *Music Of The Heart*

Goodwill Hunting, were already taken. I had seen the Academy Award nominated documentary *Fiddlefest*, which, when released became *Small Wonders*, and I decided that it could become a great commercial film if it had the right cast."

The queen of languages and dialects, Streep, got one of her biggest challenges with *Music*, when it came to learning how to play the violin.

"They, [i.e. the violins] added to the level of chaos in the film," says Streep. "You know how when you go to the ski slopes and see

knee-high to a grasshopper kids flying past you on one leg down the slope? Well, it is even more humbling to hear kids who are seven, eight, nine years old play the violin as if they were jumping rope. Granted, it took many of them weeks and months to get it down pat. There were so many that it just came naturally to, and I had to pretend to and learn how to, be the teacher, who taught them how to be so good."

"It's really tiring," Streep says, of learning to play the instrument. "You could see the fatigue of this teacher in my portrayal of her. It's like she is asking, 'When is this day going to be over?'"

Streep's violin practice was reminiscent of what the students in the film went through. They took the instrument home only to have their parents, and in Streep's case her kids, shiver in the corners of the house, with ears covered, praying for a quick end to the practicing.

"It took me quite some time to get it right. But when I did, I realized what a beautiful instrument it was," Streep says, of learning to play the violin. "I took piano lessons as a teenager for a year and a half but there is no comparison. With the violin, I learned to play it by ear, just as I have learned all of the languages and accents I have needed to for past roles."

Music of the Heart is the inspirational true story of a woman, who was able to give countless children a beautiful gift - the joy of the violin. It is also another film that shows the ability of actress Meryl Streep to bring laughter and tears to millions of moviegoers the world over.



Aidan Quinn & Meryl Streep in *Music Of The Heart*



Roberta Guaspari (Meryl Streep) and the children she teaches in *Music Of The Heart*



The real Roberta Guaspari, the inspiration for Meryl Streep's character in *Music Of The Heart*

Cinema Review

The Straight Story

Review by John Jahn

Right off the bat let me say this: don't let the title of this movie turn you off! Besides, to miss seeing *The Straight Story* is to miss the unique opportunity to see a Grated, Disney film by David Lynch, the filmmaker responsible for *Eraserhead*, *The Elephant Man*, *Blue Velvet*, *Twin Peaks* and *Lost Highway*. And don't let the rating and film company discourage you. This is a movie for adults that will bore hapless kids out of their little skulls.

In *The Straight Story*, Director Lynch uncharacteristically doesn't try dissecting middle America - he celebrates it. Those familiar with his previous efforts will spend much of the film waiting for its placid nature to veer off into darkness, but they'll wait in vain. It's as near to perfect filmmaking as I've seen in recent years. From the first scene to the last, every shot is perfectly framed, every sequence carefully composed and edited. Lynch's approach still displays some quirkiness, but it's controlled and focused.

The Straight Story is based on a real story. Veteran actor Richard Farnsworth, in the best performance of his long and uneven career, plays Alvin Straight, a 73 year-old man living in Laurens, Iowa with his daughter, Rose (Sissy Spacek). Alvin's health is beginning to deteriorate, but this won't stop him when he learns one day that his estranged brother, Lyle (Harry Dean Stanton), has suffered a stroke. Alvin decides to make the 320-mile trek to Mt. Zion, Wisconsin on his own, via his only means of transport: a 1966 John Deere lawnmower.

The bulk of the film follows Alvin on his unique journey. He encounters a runaway, a woman who has just struck a deer (her 13th), a helpful family and a fellow World War II veteran. One of the film's most powerful scenes is watching these two veterans retell their personal war stories, both tragic and heartrending. The film also possesses its share of Lynchian comedy.

The Straight Story is paced beautifully, allowing Alvin's character to develop so that the climax has genuine emotional impact. It's a slow pace (what else would you expect from a film concerning travel by lawnmower?), but it allows us to soak in its gorgeous cinematography, featuring numerous shots of autumn leaves, rolling hills and corn fields. *The Straight Story* may lack the surreal, compelling quality that has defined David Lynch's other features, but it is nevertheless an example of an artist working in peak form.

3 1/2 Stars

Journey of Man

Review by John Jahn

The highly-anticipated film by the renowned performing artists known as Cirque du Soleil, *Journey of Man*, will be previewed at an event in Milwaukee on Wednesday, November 10. The Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater will host "Margaritas & IMAX," an evening with food, cocktails and two screenings of the new film.

"We're thrilled to be among the select theaters that Sony Pictures Classics has chosen to preview this spectacular film. It won't have its world premiere until May of 2000," commented Lynn Hamilton, the Humphrey's Director. "We decided to turn it into a party so that all of Milwaukee can see the film in advance."

Journey of Man is a visual and musical celebration of life, featuring the unique performers of Cirque du Soleil. Its plot follows a mystical journey through life's stages. Shot in spectacular locations worldwide, each stage is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil act. The film expertly combines elements of a live show - the music, the acts and the atmosphere.

This unique event will begin at 5:30pm with a French buffet and cocktails in the Discovery World James Lovell Museum. *Journey of Man* will be shown twice, at 6 pm and 7:15 pm. Tickets are \$25, and may be purchased by calling (414)319-IMAX and pressing 2.

Theatre Preview

Theatrical Cabaret With Lauren Carley

Waukesha — **Lauren Carley** inhabits an array of characters from the 1920-40s era that fluidly negotiate place, character, gender and stereotype. *Venus Envy* touches on social issues relevant to that time period as well as the present. Carley will perform one night only, Thursday, November 11, at Cardinal Stritch University's NML Gallery.

She brings her characters to life through original monologues, unique musical interpretations and instrumental arrangements. A poet of the theatre, she will take you to somewhere you have

never been before, the mark of a true artist.

The political, ironic and comic songs in *Venus Envy* originated from the 1920-30s Weimar era, and from the 1930-40s Paris and New York. Banned by the Nazi regime, the songs were written by the son of a rabbi, composer **Kurt Weill**, and émigré **Misha Spoliansky**, with lyrics by the magnetic **Bertolt Brecht** and his ghost writer, **Elizabeth Hauptmann**.

Carley recently returned from Paris' 1999 Festival Presence, with a premiere engagement with Radio France of her contemporary works. She has sung cabaret, opera and experimental theatre international. The cabaret performance runs concurrently with the US premier exhibition of the works of Weimar era German artist **Wilhelm Hopfer**, also at Stritch's NML Gallery.

Venus Envy begins at 7:30pm, tickets are \$18, with a special \$10 student rate. For tickets, call (414) 410-4171. The gallery is located at 6801 N. Yates Rd.

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deep inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Showtime's Dirty Pictures

If nudie pictures and sadomasochistic imagery are your idea of fine art (as they are mine), then sign up for Showtime. The cable network announced that it's shooting a fact-based TV movie, called *Dirty Pictures*. The movie will tell the story of the controversial 1990 museum exhibit of homoerotic images by famed Gay shutterbug **Robert Mapplethorpe**.

The controversy resulted in obscenity indictments for both the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, which put on the exhibit, and its Artistic Director **Dennis Barrie**. It also resulted in a barrage of protests against the National Endowment for the Arts, which partially funded the photo show.

Both the Museum and Barrie were later acquitted, but the NEA took a near-fatal blow that it's never fully recovered from.

James Woods, recently seen in *The General's Daughter*, has signed on to portray Barrie in the telepic, which will examine both sides of the controversy.

Woods, who is vocal about his anti-censorship stance, has a history of appearing in cable films with queer content. A few years ago, he starred as **Roy Cohn** in *Citizen Cohn*, the HBO drama about the infamous closeted right-wing kingmaker. **Frank Pierson**, who helmed the 1976 **Barbra Streisand/Kris Kristofferson** version of *A Star Is Born*, will direct *Dirty Pictures*. It's set to air in May 2000.



James Wood in
*The General's
Daughter*

More "Monsters" for Condon

Bill Condon, the openly Gay director of *Gods and Monsters*, is considering another "monster movie." He's looking at turning the novel *Invisible Monsters*, by *Fight Club* author **Chuck Palahniuk**, into a feature film.

Monsters is the quirky and often exhausting revenge tale of a disfigured former model who hits the road a la *Thelma and Louise* - with her husband (whom she forces to take estrogen) and her new mentor/girlfriend, **Princess Brandy Alexander**, who is in the process of gender reassignment. Together, they get even with ex-boyfriends and others.

While the project doesn't seem like a natural for the big screen, Condon likes challenges. Let's hope he rises to the occasion.



Bill Condon
Director of *Gods
and Monsters*

Stroking the Python

Matt Stone and **Trey Parker**, the creative force behind Comedy Central's irreverent animated series *South Park*, have scored the Holy Grail. They've received permission (and a blessing) to re-work the comedy routines of the legendary **Monty Python** troupe.



Matt Stone & Trey Parker
on Jay Leno

The British funny guys have actively policed any alteration of the troupe's routines and sketches, even bringing copyright lawsuits against ABC and the BBC back in 1976.

Stone and Parker convinced the surviving Python members **Graham Chapman** died in 1989 to let them spin Monty Python's revered "dead parrot" skit into an animated short starring the *South Park* kids.

The spoof, called *The Dead Friend*, will be part of a Monty Python 30th anniversary television special that will also include both classic material and new sketches by Monty Python members.

Ellen Does the Pageant Circuit

Ellen DeGeneres is doing the beauty queen thing sort of. The lesbian comedienne will star with **Meg Ryan** in an untitled project about a '70s beauty pageant whose outcome is called into question some 20 years later. Producer **Bob Kosberg** is currently searching for a writer on the project.

Louganis Dives into Musical Theater

Olympic diver **Greg Louganis** has traded in his Speedo for the next two months... for an unflattering black dress. Louganis is currently starring in all-male production of *Nunsense* in Hollywood, Florida. He plays the habit-clad Sister Robert Ann.

While Louganis might not be as confident about singing on stage as he is about leaping off the high board, it's not the buff brunette's first foray in the theater. Among other things, he's starred in an off-Broadway production of *Jeffrey* and in a Chicago production of **Larry Kramer's** *Just Say No*.

Romeo San Vicente's python is named "Monty." You can reach Romeo (and Monty) in care of the Wisconsin Light or via e-mail **RomeoDeep@aol.com**. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit **www.pop-cornq.com** or **www.gay.com**.



Greg Louganis

dear Ruthie



Well, another Halloween has come and gone. Now, I know how much you people like Halloween, but I have to tell ya, I'm just a little too old for it. If there's going to be boys knockin' at my trailer door all evening, they had better be over the age of 18 and wearing something other than a Star Wars costume.

For trick or treat this year I handed out croutons, corn pads and little packs of ketchup. I know what you're thinking, but stop it - it took me all year to collect that many ketchup packets and the corn pads were new...well ... like new.

I sort of got sick of Halloween in the early '70s. I was doing make-up for this strip club in Nevada. The show's headliner, Screaming Mimi, took a two-month sabbatical to go find herself (and the ultimate buzz). Last I heard, she had married some bald guy in a sheet and joined a cult.

While Mimi was gone, the management asked me to fill in for her. Never being one to refuse an opportunity to take off my clothes in front of hordes of fat, drunken men, I eagerly accepted. Costumes were Mimi's thing. It was her gimmick. Every night she'd come on stage dressed in some get-up and shake her nanas for everyone to see.

I decided to pick-up where Mimi left off. I stepped in-and out-of her costumes. During those two months I dressed as everything from Little Orphan Annie to Richard Nixon. I'd be Marilyn Monroe one night and Big Bird the next. On Monday, I could be Betsy Ross and on Tuesday, Wilma Flintstone. You name 'em, I dressed like 'em.

Well, the costume thing got old pretty quick and the managers soon asked me to stop. It just wasn't working anymore. They also said things about Mimi's clothes being four sizes too small for me, the number of fights I started with patrons, and complaints about my body and age. All in all though, the costume gimmick was my downfall.

Well now, I'm depressed. You and all of your Halloween talk. Thanks a lot.

Hey, let's read a letter. That always cheers me up! Here's one from a lovely young man, who actually wrote me a couple of letters. One of them - this one - included a question for the paper. Here it is:

Dear Ruthie,

I am at a correctional facility. Being openly Gay here is very hard. My problem is this 23 year-old guy, who is always staring at me. He tries to catch my eye when he takes his shower. I can't help but shy away. He tells people he's not Gay. How do I find out for sure? Should I sneak in his cell? What should I do dearest Ruthie?

Love,
Kitten KaBoode

Dear Kitten,

Isn't that supposed to be Ka-Boodel?

Hey, while you're in jail try to find out why I'm so popular with prison boys. Is it my feminine curves or my nurturing demeanor? Maybe it's the ample rack of boob flesh that pours out of my polyester housedress. It could be that I sent them those naked photos of myself. In any event, do a little research for me, will ya?

So, you've got some guy eyeing up your rosebud in the big house, huh? The big house, the slammer, the clink, locked up, up the river, in the pen, the penitentiary, the cooler, the big ... building where they ... send ... prisoners. Well, you know what I mean. You're there!

You said it yourself; being openly Gay in prison is not the easiest thing in the world. I don't think you should complicate your situation by asking a fellow inmate if he is family. Is that the term? Do you kids still call it "family?" Do prisoners still call it the clink?

Anyway, I wouldn't put much effort into finding out this guy's sexual orientation. Don't even think about "sneaking into his cell." Doing so might lead to a lot more problems than some over zealous Mr. Clean.

I have to be honest with you. The fact that you're incarcerated makes me think that you've got bigger problems in your life than whether or not an inmate has the hots for you. I can imagine that things get pretty lonely and boring in there, but use this time for yourself and try to do some soul searching.

Try concentrating on yourself. Think about what you want your life to be like when you get out and how you'll reach those goals. I'm sure this is easier said than done, but try. The next time Head and Shoulders gives you the eye while you're in the rinse cycle, take the soap on a rope and get the heck out of there!

Hey Wisconsin! I'm running low on letters so now is a great time to send me yours. Send your letters, photos, gifts, money, ketchup packets and things to Dear Ruthie, care of: The Wisconsin Light, 225 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

fluid

Stoli Razberi Party

Saturday, November 6th

10pm - Midnight



FLUID'S GREAT WEEKLY SPECIALS!

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TUESDAY	2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis
WEDNESDAY	2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis \$2, 8pm-Close Bottles of Corona and Shots of Cuervo
THURSDAY	2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis 8pm-Close Cosmopolitan Martini \$3
FRIDAY	2-4-1, 5-8pm, including Martinis
SUNDAY	Beer Bust - \$6, Miller Genuine Draft or Miller Lite Toppers
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Rendezvous

8th Annual El Dia del los Muertos Show, Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee): Continues through Nov. 27 911 W. National Ave. 1-4pm (414) 672-2787

A Doll's House, The Rep (Madison): Henrik Ibsen's famous drama. Continues Through Nov. 14; Isthmus Playhouse, Civic Center, 211 State St. \$20-25. (608) 266-9055

An American Impressionist in France, Lakeshore Gallery (Milwaukee): Original oil paintings by Thomas Trausch. Continues through Nov. 30. 4401 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 964-2540

Betrayal, Boulevard Studio Theatre Alley Series (Milwaukee): Sunday and Monday eves only. Through Nov. 8, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.; 7:30pm, (414) 744-5757

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Milw. Rep (Milwaukee): Tennessee William's sizzling modern masterpiece. Continues through Nov. 21; Rep's Quadracci Powerhouse Theater. \$5-36 (414) 224-9490

Colored Threads IX, Katie Gingrass Gallery (Milwaukee): Art to Wear exhibition. Continues through Dec.; 1 N. Broadway, (414) 289-0855

Curt Frankenstein, Art Elements Gallery (Mequon): Paintings and Etchnings. Continues through Dec. 31. 10050 N. Pt. Washington Rd. (262) 241-7040



The cast of *Forever Plaid* the hit musical now at the Marcus Center. Clockwise from top center, Ryan K Bailer, Mark Meyers, Erik J. Boyd, and Aaron Thielen. *Plaid* runs at the Marcus Center Vogel Hall through Dec. 31.

Forever Plaid, Marcus Center Vogel Hall (Milwaukee): A heavenly musical hit parade. Continues through Dec. 31 Vogel Hall, 123 E. State St. \$28.50-36.50 (414) 273-7206

Gulp: collaborative show, adambomb gallery (Milwaukee): Kinetic sculpture by Demetra Copoulos, paintings by Robert Paul Ulrich and film stills by Suspended Animation. Continues through Nov. 13. 524 S. 2nd St, (414) 276-bomb 276-BOMB

Playing With Fire, Gallery H20 (Milwaukee): Gallery partner Barbara Peterson is hardly playing with fire in her most recent exhibition. Sculpting in steel. Continues through Nov. 21, 221 N. Water St. (414) 271-8032

Quorum, Boulevard Theater Ensemble (Milwaukee): 7 strangers attend a mysterious meeting that quickly descends into a verbal hall of mirror. Continues through November 7. 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. (414)744-5757

Synergy & Acadlanal I,pressions of So. Louisiana, Milw. Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) (Milwaukee): In ~Synergy~ artists of diverse disciplines collaborate on work that blends creative visions. Continues through Nov. 20, 273 E. Erie St. (414) 276-7889

**November 10th
Issue Deadline
Friday, Noon**



Rex Young as Harker and Mark Corkings as Dracula in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's production of *Dracula*

Dracula, The Milw. Rep Steimke Theater (Milwaukee): Steven Dietz's adaptation of Bram Stoker's chilling thriller. The original novel has been condensed to a cast of seven lead characters and two acts. Dietz restored a lot of Stoker's lore that had been lost through other translations. Not for the faint of heart. Continues through Nov. 21; Theater Complex, 108 E. Wells St. \$20-30 (414) 224-9490

Spotlight Events

4 Tue. Fiber Fireworks, Charles Allis Art Museum (Milwaukee): The 49th annual juried exhibition by Wisconsin Handweavers, Inc. Classical guitar music by George Lindquist. Hot apple cider and refreshments. \$3 admission, \$2 students and seniors, 10am-2pm. Sale today from 1-7pm of Handwovens. Fashion show and tea at 2pm today, \$15 public, \$13 students and seniors. Sale continues through Sunday, call for hours. Exhibition runs through 28th. 1801 N. Prospect Ave, (414) 278-8295.

5 Fri. Guys on Ice, Rep's Stackner Cabaret (Milwaukee): A salute to Wisconsin ice fishermen that was a blockbuster hit last season returns. The ice shanty crew premieres tonight exploring the lives of the elusive ice fisherman. Inside the shanty veteran anglers spin their tall tales of life, love and the one that got away. Continues through Dec. 5; Rep Theater Complex, 108 E. Wells St, (414) 224-9490.

Mahler's 6th Symphony, Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee): Music Director Andreas Delfs leads the MSO in one of Mahler's most dramatic works. This mornings opening includes a Coffee Prelude at 9:45am and Fashion Show, coordinated by Joyce Parker Productions at 10:15am, Bradley Pavilion, concert at 11:15am in Uihlein Hall. Concert only at 8pm Saturday, and 7:30pm Sunday. Marcus Center, \$17-60, (414) 291-7605.

6 Sat. Mere Mortals, Milw. Chamber Theatre (Milwaukee): Opening of this hilarious comedy by David Ives in its Milwaukee premiere. Directed by Montgomery Davis, featuring Paula Cabot, Tony Clements, Bo Johnson, Mary McDonald Kerr & Steve Koehler. A pair of mayflies meet, mingle and mate, a peasant who channels as a surgeon, a crash course in David Mamet and many other situations. Continues through Nov. 28. Chamber Theatre/ Studio at the Broadway Center, 158 N. Broadway; \$13-29; (414) 291-7800.

7 Sun. Author Reading, A Room of One's Own (Madison): Jonis Agee will read from her book *Taking the Wall*. Agee is a remarkable craftsman of short stories that combine speed with substance. 307 W. Johnson St, 6:30pm, Free and open to the public, (608) 257-7888.

Musical Survey of the Century, 1911-1920, WI Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee): 1999-2000 Faculty Artist Concert Series continues. Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave, 3pm, \$10, \$7 students/seniors, (414) 276-5760.

9 Tue. Film maker Spike Lee, Milw. Art Museum (Milwaukee): Lee speaks on contemporary cinema. \$20 MAM members, \$25 general public, \$10 standing room. 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Vogel/Helfaer Gallery 6:15pm (414) 224-3841

10 Wed. Two Polish Masters: Chopin and Szymanowski, Keyboard Conversations at the Pabst Theater (Milwaukee): 15th anniversary season of Conversations with the music of the two polish masters. Siegel's witty and engaging Concerts With Commentary Series will feature the fervent lyricism and heroic power of both of these Slavic masters. Pabst, 144 E. Wells St, 7:30pm, \$21 (\$2 off for children); (414) 286-3663.

11 Thu. 1971-1980 Confronting Realities, Madison Art Center (Madison): *Decade by Decade: A Century of Art and Music* Live chamber music concerts and interactive lectures illuminating the achievements of modern and contemporary artists and composers. Bolz & Langer Galleries, Madison Art Center 7:30pm \$15/\$12 MAC members (608) 257-3734

Australian Folk Singer Judy Small, Rhode Island Opera House (Kenosha): A rare appearance by Judy Small in a benefit concert in her only Midwest performance on her current tour. Small was Folk Performer of the Year in 1990, she writes with wit, insight, and a born word smith's craft about our times. The concert benefits the Rhode Restoration Fund, earmarked to continue the restoration of this 1927 vaudeville and playhouse to its original splendor in the newly developed lakefront park. Rhode Opera House, 514 56th St, 7:30pm, \$10 advance, call (262) 654-6685.

12 Fri. Artwork Both Small and Significant, Katie Gingrass Gallery (Milwaukee): Opening with artist's reception from 3-6pm, featuring small scale work of local and national artists in a variety of media. 1 N. Broadway (414) 289-0855

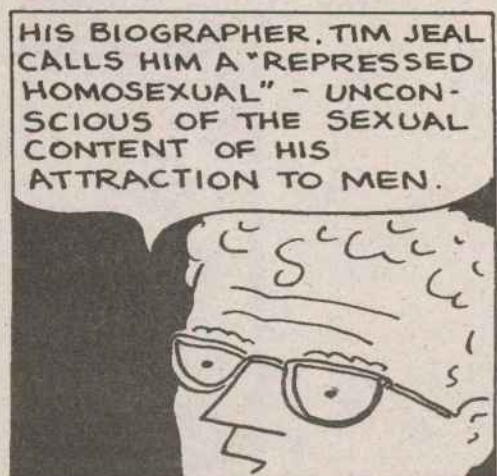
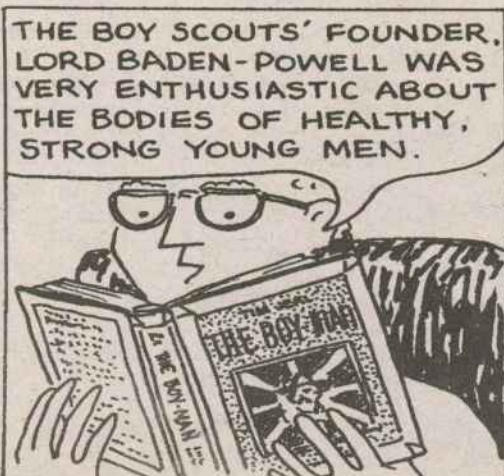
Li'l Abner, Carroll College Theatre Arts (Waukesha): Drama by Frank Mercer and Norman Panama. Continues through Sunday, Nov. 21, Otteson Theatre at Carroll College, McCall and N. East Ave.; time varies, \$12, \$8 seniors, (262) 524-7633.

Publication Party/Author Reading, A Room of One's Own (Madison): Reading celebrating the publication of Madison Poet Robin Chapman's newest work, ~The Way In~. 307 W. Johnson St, 6:30pm, Free open to public. (608) 257-7888.

Venus Envy, Cardinal Stritch University (Milwaukee): Accompanying program to the Hopfner exhibition, a cabaret performance by Lauren Carley of the works of Kurt Weill. See *tpage 13* in this issue for more information. NML Gallery, 6801 N. Yates Rd. 7:30pm \$18, \$10 students (414) 410-4171

BIFF 'N BUNKY

by KEITH N ANDERSON



© KAndu 135

out with Dusty

News... In my last column, I mentioned that Ed G, the owner of **Club 5**, was on a short vacation. It turns out that Ed went to Norway to hobnob with the cute Scandinavian guys. Ed says that a customer, who was making the five day trip, asked him if he would like to come along. Ed was trying to decide if he could take the time off when his employees decided for him. They pitched in and paid for the trip.

"They'll do anything to get me out of town," laughed Ed. He adds that the Norwegian guys are "really cute." Despite my best efforts he wouldn't elaborate other than saying that he came back very relaxed.

Speaking of bar owners, I was glad to hear that **219** owner Chuck C is doing well after his heart surgery. Chuck kept the whole thing secret so as not to alarm anyone. Chuck, I've always said you have a big heart so it's nice to know that it's ready to go for another 1,000,000 miles or so.

The **Milwaukee Eagle** celebrated its anniversary with an invite-only party last Friday. I hear it was a very hot, very butch affair. Congrats to Gus, Mike and their staff on completing another great year. Here's to many more.

Dish celebrated its second anniversary with a big invitation-only bash too. The place was packed with the beautiful people including the *Wisconsin Light* staff. It was a great party. After I left, I heard that one not so beautiful person decided that the party was so hot that it needed some cooling down - with a fire extinguisher.

The result was a somewhat messy upstairs and a rightfully upset bar owner, who had worked really hard to provide a special evening for her many friends. Sparky wound up on the sidewalk where some hunky firemen attended to her. Apparently, she accidentally inhaled some of the toxic stuff, which is even a dumber thing to do than using a fire extinguisher when there's no fire.

Despite the minor uproar, almost everyone kept partying inside. It says something about how good a bar is when people don't want to interrupt a good time. Congrats to Julia and thanks for two great years. We are looking forward to many more.

I had heard that Julia's financing to reopen **Mama Roux's** fell through. I asked her about it and her response was that she had bought the building and was preparing to use it for a new alternative bar on Milwaukee's East Side. -You go girl!

Craig, owner of **Switch**, says that his customers can use the lot next to his bar without any charges. Switch will give you \$3 off on your drinks to reimburse you for the parking fee.

Confidential... to a cute Walker's Point area Gay bartender, who was offered \$80 by an out of town visitor who wanted to be a one man audience at a solo performance. He turned him down. Hey guy, next time tell him you'll take \$40 and send him some pictures. PS I have a camera.

Recaps... Did you have a great Halloween weekend? I know that I did. Here are just a few highlights.

The butch boys at the **Boot Camp** did a splendid job at its pumpkin-carving contest. I didn't get to carve any pumpkins this year. No one trusts me with sharp objects anymore.

Several of our staff joined me at **This Is It**, for its Halloween bash. I especially liked the Star Trek character who had an extra pair of hands below his waist. That's something that can always come in handy. A comfortable crowd was on hand, as was the usual good time.

Over at the **Ball Game**, bartender Rick (a.k.a. Miss Eva Destruction) and her terrifying high heels, hosted the costume contest. A great time was had by all. I hear that my friend David F finally found his true calling. He was dressed up as a Potawatomi Bingo Lady.

Fluid, had a great party where two of our staff, Ron Geiman and Diane "Legs" Gregory judged the costumes. David Hauser's decorations, with a horror movie theme, were great. A festive time was had by all.

We had a nice time at **Switch**, where I saw my friends Jim and Jason in very clever costume. Jim's disheveled tux was accessorized with a fish net, a



PHOTOS: WISCONSIN LIGHT



Cory, George's Mom and George at La Cage

lobster, and a copy of *George Magazine*. I am not going to tell you who he was supposed to be. If you don't know, think plane crashes, celebrities and Martha's Vineyard. Jason looked great as a radiation burned power plant worker.

There was a big crowd at **La Cage** for its annual costume contest. The staff gave out grab bags at the door. They all had candy, but some also had money and bar tabs in them. Someone even won a color tv. George and Corey really know how to throw a party. One customer gave his grab bag to a bartender, because he didn't want any candy. He should have opened it, it had \$50 inside. Also, while I was there I had the opportunity to meet George's mom. She's wonderful.

Well that's a wrap for this week. I hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!

Dusty Sass would pay money to see the pictures from Ed G's trip. You can send him bar news tips via email at dusty@wilight.com or by calling (414) 226-0075.

Nights out Events

4 **BESTD HIV Testing, LaCage (Milwaukee):** Free anonymous HIV testing and counseling. 10pm-1am.

6 **LGBT Two Steppin', Shoreline at Fannies (Milwaukee):** Shoreline hosts two step and line dancing, lessons from 8-9pm, dance until midnight. 1st Saturday of the month. 8pm.
Stoli Razberi Party, Fluid (Milwaukee): 10pm-midnight.

7 **Castaways Beer Bust, 1100 Club (Milwaukee):** With food available. 2-6pm
Strippers, Club 5 (Madison): Strippers from JDE Studios in Minneapolis. 10:30pm, \$3 cover.

13 **Oberons Club Night, 1100 Club (Milwaukee):** Every 2nd Saturday of the Month.

every wed.

Karaoke, Barbie Dolls Playhouse (Milwaukee): 10pm

Karaoke, Fannies (Milwaukee): Every other week.

[Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): 11pm

every thu.

Karaoke, Switch (Milwaukee): 9pm

Talent Night, Club 219 (Milwaukee): Alternating hosts Lily & Nova

every fri.

Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): 11:30pm

Shoreline, LaCage (Milwaukee): 2 step and line dancing lessons from 9-10, dancing until 11pm.

Showcase, LaCage (Milwaukee): Female impersonators, dancers and guests.

every sat.

Female Impersonators Show, C'est La Vie (Milwaukee): 11pm

Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): 11:30pm

every sun.

Female Impersonators, Club 219 (Milwaukee): Female Impersonators, two shows; 8:30pm & 12.

Female Impersonators Show, Club 5 (Madison): 10pm

Male Dancers, C'est La Vie (Milwaukee): Auditions welcome at 10pm. 11pm

Showcase, LaCage (Milwaukee): Female impersonators, dancers and guests, Customer Appreciation night, no cover; beer bust 10pm-close. Showtime 11:30pm.

Talent Night, Club 219 (Milwaukee): Lily White & Nova D'vine alternate hosting Talent night including female impersonators; Midnight.

every tue.

Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): 10:30pm. Amateurs welcome to audition.

BAR GUIDE

APPLETON (920)			
Rascal's Bar & Grill	MW, F	702 E. Wisconsin, 54991	954-9262
BELOIT (608)			
Kloset	MW, DJ	232 Shirland Ave, 53511	363-8764
CENTRAL WISCONSIN (715)			
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington, Wausau, 54401	842-3225
Platwood Club	G/S, MW, DJ	1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point, 54481	341-8862
EAU CLAIRE (715)			
Scooters	Wm	411 Galloway St., 54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	MW, G/S	302 E. Madison, 54703	832-9237
GREEN BAY (920)			
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main St., 54302	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main St, 54302	437-9256
Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	1351 Cedar, 54302	432-9646
Sass	WM, S	840 S. Broadway, 54304	437-7277
Za's/Java'	MW, DJ, E, F, V	1106 Main St., 54302	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
Mens Room	M, L/L	3054 E. Washington, 53704	241-9335
Rainbow Room	MW, DJ, E	121 W. Main St., 53703	251-5838
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, F	1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
Ballgame	M, S, E	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, E	700 E. Meinecke, 53212	374-7441
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National Ave., 53204	643-6900
C'est La Vie	M, 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	276-2711
Dish	W, M, 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, s	124 W. National, 53204	220-4340
<i>(Open 5pm, outdoor patio, Cocktail hour 5-9pm, 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
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	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, L/L	1217 Tower Ave., 55880	392-1756

M-Men • W-Women • G/S-Gay/Straight • F-Food • DJ-Disk Jockey • V-Video
L/L-Levi/Leather • E- Entertainment • S-Sports

Market Place

100-Employment

101-Help Wanted

EDITOR

Wisconsin Light, Wisconsin's only full-time weekly newspaper for the LGBT community is currently seeking a full-time Editor. Responsibilities include the weekly publishing of the newspaper and extensive community building activities within the political, arts and writing communities. Applicants should have a strong journalism background and excellent writing skills and must be comfortable working within a diverse community. Must have a strong desire to succeed and an unwavering dedication to getting the job done on time. Competitive salary, benefits and stock options are available for this individual.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Wisconsin Light is currently seeking a full-time Editorial Assistant. Responsibilities include assisting both the Editor and the Internet Editor in the planning, writing and copy editing of editorial materials. Applicants should have a strong journalism background and excellent writing skills and must be comfortable working within a diverse community. Must also have a strong desire to succeed and an unwavering dedication to getting the job done on time. Competitive salary, benefits and stock options are available.

GRAPHICS & WEB DESIGN

Wisconsin Light, Wisconsin's only full-time weekly newspaper for the LGBT community is currently seeking a full-time Web Designer and Graphics Assistant. The position includes responsibilities as Art Director for willight.com and a new national website to be launched in November. Initial responsibilities will also include some design and layout of the newspaper and some of its advertising. Must have proficiency with Quark Express. Postscripting experience a plus. HTML experience is not an absolute requirement but excellent design skills are. Looking for a nice person to work with a bunch of other nice people in the fast paced and changing environment of a very rapidly growing publishing company. Competitive salary and benefits as well as Internet stock options are available for one very talented person. Part-time positions are also available.

ADVERTISING SALES

Wisconsin Light is in need of additional sales professionals that can access an expanding pool of advertisers seeking to access the LGBT market through newspaper and Internet advertising. Income is limited only by your desire and professionalism. Excellent commission and benefit program with realistic first year earnings of \$30,000 - \$50,000. Must be detail and customer service oriented, No experience necessary but an obsessive commitment succeed is a requirement, as is a car. Full-time and part-time positions available.

Fax resumes to (414) 226-0096 or mail to
Wisconsin Light, 225 South 2nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204 or
email to Publisher Greg Quindel at Greg@willight.com

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sex Talk

Speaking of Erotic Tickling

by Simon Sheppard

PG-13 version

The three muscular and naked guys on the TV screen pin a fourth guy to the bed. They reach out to his vulnerable, squirming body, and... start tickling him until he breaks down in hysterical laughter.

Yes, it's a tickle-porn video - maybe not everyone's cup of erotic tea but part of a growing scene. There are tickling Web sites, *Tickle Master Magazine*, and even Ticklefest, a yearly gettogether of tickling devotees from all over the country. For most of us, it may seem a bit of a giggle, but guys who are into tickle-torture love it - a lot.

Tickling enthusiast Ken Ludden, one of the organizers of the 1999 Ticklefest, praises the boyish spontaneity of the whole thing. Indeed, there's a sense of fun about the scene that harks back to boyhood moments when you got tickled until you just couldn't take any more.

Although tickle-play often incorporates aspects of bondage and domination, many, perhaps most, tickle scenes don't include any genital sex, or even genital contact. Perhaps that's why a surprising number of straight-identified guys are eager to engage in a good sensual bout of man-to-man tickling.

Feet are ticklish spots for many of us, so there's a sizable overlap between tickling and the foot fetish scene. However, not every bottom's feet are a major laugh-producing zone (or "Tspot"). For some, it's the armpits, the sides, tummy, or the inner thighs.

Part of the challenge to tickle-tops is discovering just which buttons to push, and how hard. The feather may be the symbol of the tickle scene, but many guys respond better to fingertips. Some get off on soft stroking, while others may need a rougher touch.

However they're produced, helpless shrieks of laughter are a hallmark of a successful scene. Unlike SM scenes, where bottoms can often process pain using breath control and concentration, a well-tickled bottom is pretty much past control, and the torture can be excruciating. Perhaps unsurprisingly, then, tickling seems to be one of the few scenes where tops outnumber bottoms.

Tickle scenes lend themselves to all sorts of role-play. Ticklefest '99, for example, was themed around fraternity initiation. A dozen "pledges," blindfolded and stripped down to their boxer shorts, were led through a dungeon with a variety of bondage apparatus and brought from one playstation to another. At these stations they were restrained and tickled by a succession of tops with varying techniques and equipment. Gales of laughter filled the air as tops hit the "pledge's" sweet spots.

Finally, all the bottoms lay side-by-side and were gang-tickled for 10 solid minutes, until they were gasping for air (and the hard-working tops were about to collapse from overwork).

Sound like fun? In some ways, it seems like SM Lite, a way to explore bondage and domination without any dark, threatening overtones of pain. More than one person told me there is a certain amount of embarrassment and shame for some participants, who, unlike big, butch leather guys, get off on such "childish," "unmanly" play.

But the concept of "play" is key. Good tickling scenes, with or without sex, can be a deeply enjoyable, sensual, erotic experience and satisfactory for all concerned. For a fetish that's only been around in an organized scene for some 20 years, tickling has gained a core group of fervent ticklers and ticklees.

For them, sexuality really is a laughing matter.

Simon Sheppard's work appears in numerous anthologies, including the forthcoming *Best Gay Erotica 2000* (Cleis Press) and *Best American Erotica 2000* (Simon & Schuster). He can be reached care of Wisconsin Light or at SmutSmith@aol.com.

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out in Leather

by Charles
Grosz

But, this is Milwaukee!

It seems this phrase pops up with alarming frequency in our leather community. It's used to explain everything from a slow Friday night to an unfortunate fetish fashion statement. Some leather folk in Milwaukee tend to dismiss this city as a barren leather desert, with few true players and even fewer events to keep the interested amused. Well, I have to tell ya kids, it ain't that bad!

For a city of its size, Milwaukee holds its own. The Cream City offers two leather bars, the Boot Camp Saloon and the Milwaukee Eagle. There are larger metropolitan areas in this country that offer only one venue where you can hang your leather cap. We also boast some fine leather clubs - the Oberons, Argonauts and the Castaways - which take an active part in promoting the leather community, which often help charitable causes in the process.

Two recent events prove that there is a sizable and interested leather community in the area. The Lure of the Uniform event last month drew a large number of local faces (and erotic wear) not normally seen on your typical weekend. While police uniforms seemed to be the preferred eye candy, there was also enough leather in attendance for the bar to be a holy

shrine in India. It was also nice to see several leathered women, a cluster, which has been largely ignored by this community.

The most recent event, the Southeastern Wisconsin Mister Leather contest was held this past weekend. The crowd, many in leather and rubber, was a very respectable representation of the Midwest leather community.

The people are here, the boots are polished, and the bars are open. So, what's the problem, readers?

Bitching and barking about the local leather scene, coupled with frequent trips to the Chicago spots only perpetuates the malaise. There are hot, knowledgeable and willing players chomping on their bit gags trying to hook up with a nice local Milwaukee gentleman.

If you have stayed at home out of frustration with local offerings, stop by the Eagle and Boot Camp next weekend. If you were planning a drive to Chicago, to pay tolls, rent a room, find parking, and fight the return Sunday traffic, well, you get the idea.

To use a too obvious metaphor, our leather community and the businesses that cater to us are a chain. We are all links, and to grow and become stronger we must support one another.

The dollars spent in this area will fund bigger and better events, which is something we all would like to see. Remember what Dorothy said after her colored journey to Oz - "Why look for something over the rainbow when it has been in your own backyard the entire time?"

Hearty congratulations to the winner of the above-mentioned Southeast Wisconsin Mister Leather contest, Mark Charles. The following day, I spent some time with Mark, and found him an intelligent, sincere fellow with a strong commitment both to the leather community and to issues that affect the entire LGBT population of Milwaukee. Be rest assured that Mark will represent us with pride and dignity. I wish him all the best with his new title.

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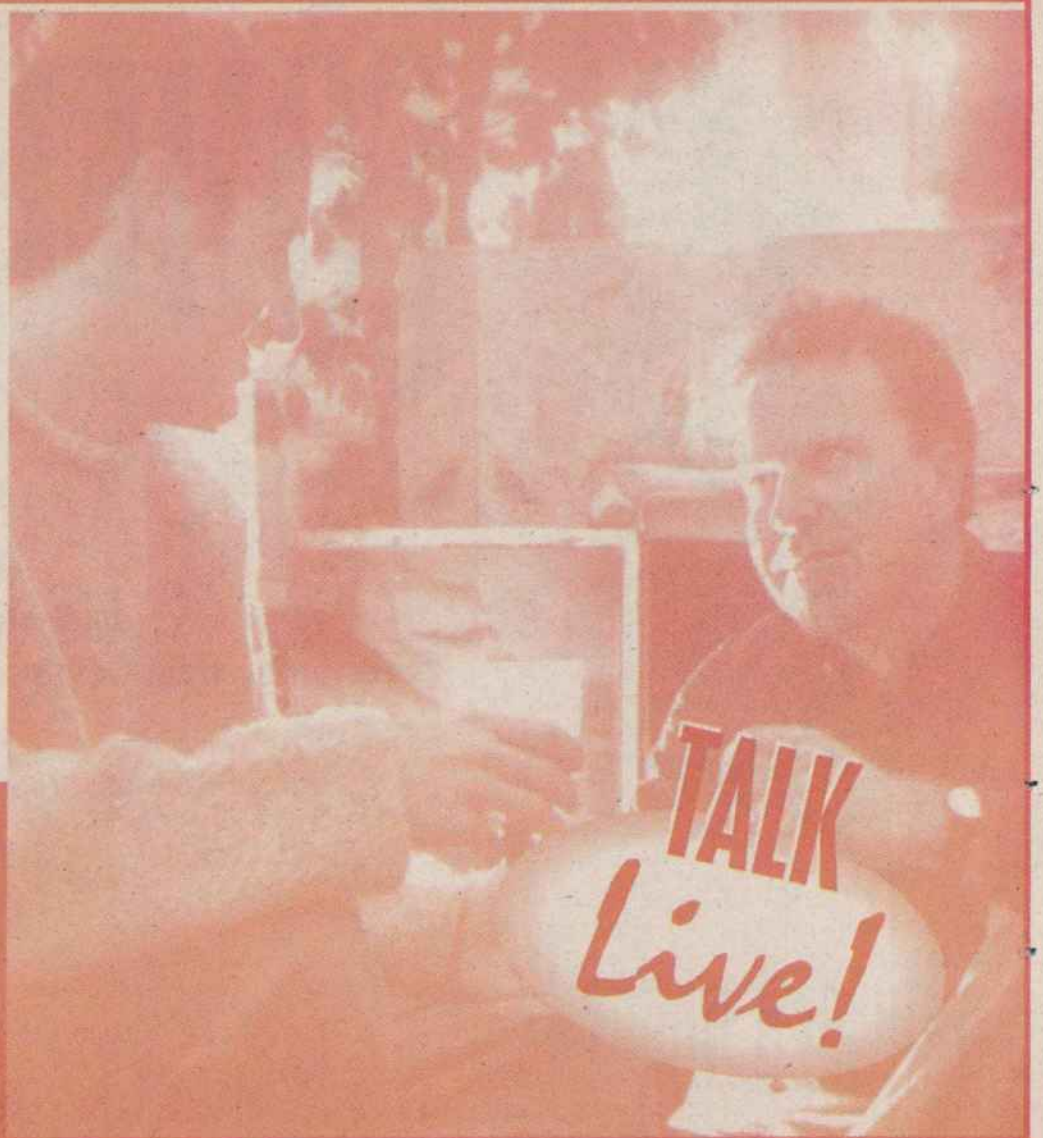
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