

WI Light

November 24 - 30, 1999



**Celebrate Our
12th Anniversary
Join Our "Insanity"
Letter from the Editor
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End the Silence!

World AIDS Day '99 December 1

December 1 is more than another day when we pay our monthly bills. It's the day when we remember those who've been taken from our midst by the ravages of AIDS/HIV. This year the United Nations' Program on HIV/AIDS is urging the world to focus its attention on children and young people in a campaign to

"End The Silence: Listen, Learn, Live!"

Listen: to children and young people, hear their views and concerns, and understand what is important in their lives.

Learn: from one another about respect, participation, support, and ways to prevent HIV infection.

Live: in a world where the rights of children and young people are protected and where those living with HIV/AIDS are cared for and do not suffer from discrimination.

The annual World AIDS Day is joined by *A Day Without Art*, an effort by Visual AIDS. A Day Without Art began in 1989 to protest the illness and deaths of too many artists to name, conservative attacks on the National Endowment for the Arts, and a lack of support for the arts. On this "Day of Action and Mourning," many art galleries will close or drape black material over the works of art created by Gay men, including some of the world's most endearing masterpieces.

LISTEN...to the facts

HIV/AIDS infections continue to climb worldwide, especially in parts of Asia and Africa. An estimated 33 million people around the world are infected with HIV/AIDS. An estimated 5.8 million people join them every year.

There is no cure.

The new drug therapies do not work for at least half of those who take them.

As the drug failure rate rises, the decline in deaths from AIDS is slowing.

The United States may be seeing an end to the "Lazarus Effect" it experienced after the advent of Protease Inhibitors in 1996. AIDS deaths dropped by 42% in 1997, but fell only 20% last year. In some places like New York, the decline in AIDS fatalities has stopped altogether.

The United States has recorded 711,344 cases of AIDS since the epidemic began. Over half of those cases, 420,201, have already resulted in death.

Keep in mind that someone infected with HIV is classified as an AIDS case only after he/she has had one of the Opportunist Infections that take advantage of a weakened immune system. It can take years for that to happen. Meanwhile those with HIV, many of whom do not know they are infected, can spread the virus to others.

Wisconsin has recorded 4,271 AIDS cases as of September 30. An additional 6,767 Wisconsinites are *known* to be living with HIV. No one knows how many others are infected with HIV that have either never been tested or have not reported it.

New infections among Wisconsin youths between the ages of 13 and 19 reached a peak of 20 in 1995. After three consecutive years of decline, new infections among Wisconsin teens is on the rise again. As of September 30, new infections among Wisconsin teens are already 50% higher than they were in all of 1998.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health, 211 Wisconsinites between the ages of 13 and 24 have been infected with HIV. Of that number, 49.3% are men who have sex with men; 11.8% are IV Drug Users; 4.3% are men who have sex with men and are IV drug abusers; and 16.6% became infected from heterosexual sex.

People of Color and men who have sex with men (M/M) continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. In Wisconsin, 31.4% of People With HIV are African American, 7.5% are Latino/a, 59.6% are White, .4% are Asian and .9% are Native American.

Men who have sex with men make up nearly 73% of White Wisconsin persons with HIV/AIDS; Black M/Ms are 44.3% of Black cases, while Hispanic M/Ms reflect 52.2% of Hispanic cases.

In other parts of the world, the AIDS epidemic poses an even more serious threat than it does in the United States.

Every day, an estimated 400 South Africans die from AIDS. So do an estimated 5,500 people in Sub-Saharan Africa. Every *minute* 11 people die from AIDS.

The high cost of effective drugs prevents many nations from providing them to those infected with HIV/AIDS. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) pressured the US into imposing economic sanctions on those countries that import or manufacture generic AIDS drugs. PhRMA claims that large investments in research and development of new drugs forced them to charge such high prices.

AIDS activists dismantled that argument when they reported that on an annual basis, drug companies typically spend five to ten times more on marketing than they do on research.

In the Republic of South Africa, where AIDS has become a huge problem, the government authorized two common and legal world trade practices in 1997, the importation of cheaper generic AIDS drugs from the world market (Parallel Importing) and the licensing of a third party to produce cheaper versions of drugs at home (Compulsory Licensing). After the law was passed, 40 pharmaceutical companies convinced a South African court to stop its enforcement.

Parallel Importing and Compulsory Licensing are allowed under the rules of the World Trade Organization, a group that includes both the US and South Africa. PhRMA suspended its suit on September 9, but only after howls of protests from AIDS activists. On September 17, US Trade Representatives announced that the US would not oppose South Africa's efforts to provide essential AIDS medicines to its citizens.

The United States continues to impose sanctions on some other countries that practice Parallel Importing and Compulsory Licensing. AIDS activists vow to continue their protests until they are lifted.

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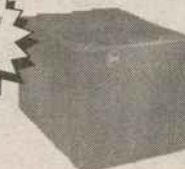
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Subscriptions: 26 issues, first class - \$49.95 • 3rd class - \$29.95

National Advertising Representative
RIVENDELL MARKETING COMPANY, INC.
(212) 242-6863**Wisconsin Light**

is published weekly by Wisconsin Light LLC
225 South 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 226-0075
FAX (414) 226-0096
www.wilight.com

AP Associated Press*Letter from the Editor***Join the Insanity**

Dear Readers,

The phone rang twice last Thursday evening, while I was sitting at my desk reflecting on this issue, which begins *Wisconsin Light's* 13th year. These were very special phone calls. Both were in response to my article on children with Gay parents. One came from the Kelly - Jones family. They wanted me to know that the kids at a Madison youth group meeting were very excited about and pleased with the story.

The other call came from an 11-year-old boy and his Dad. He said thanks for thinking of him. The young man was pleased that the story recognized kids like him, children with closeted Gay parents. His father told me that after reading the article, he decided to look for a job where his sexual orientation won't be an issue, "So my son doesn't have to hide who his father is anymore."

Early Friday evening I ran into my friend Deserea Triumph at Club 219. I asked her if she had seen the article. She hadn't. Deserea picked up a copy of the paper and sat down at the bar to read it. Before she'd finished, Deserea got up to call her Gay Father. She told him that she was coming over with a copy of the *Wisconsin Light*. Then she turned to me and said, "We'll read it together. Thank you."

The power of the press.

As Editor, I put in a huge amount of hours. So does the rest of our staff. More than a few people have questioned our sanity for doing so. Sometimes I question it myself.

Then an 11-year-old boy, a family with two Lesbian moms and a talented female impersonator say "thank you" and I wonder who the sane ones are. Is it insane to try to build a sense of community, a sense of identity, a sense of opportunity? Is it madness to care enough to do what you can to enlighten, to move people to action?

It's easy for us to drop off an old coat for a winter clothing drive. We think nothing about throwing a few cans of vegetables into a food pantry barrel. That's because when we turn on the TV or open a daily newspaper, we see people who are cold, we see people who are hungry.

What about the people we don't see or even more to the point those we don't know about? What about the teen, who thinks he's alone, the bashing victim, who wonders if anyone cares, the volunteer, who worked hard for no pay and little recognition? Who will tell their stories? Who will let them know that they are part of us? Who will let us know that we are part of them?

Certainly not the mainstream press. Network TV and daily newspapers keep us informed when a Matthew Shepard is killed, but they are silent when a small boy worries about saying something that might cost his father's job. If newspapers like this one don't tell you about kids like him and the rest of our community, then no one will.

We tell their stories because they are OUR stories. They are the stories of our lives, our problems and our triumphs. Telling them brings about a realization that despite our differences, we share a commonality that binds us together.

We see that commonality when thousands of us celebrate together at pride events throughout Wisconsin. We see it in our LGBT bars, community centers, sports leagues, religious organizations and in dozens of other groups.

The good feeling that we share at our celebrations doesn't just come from the music and the beer. It also comes from seeing visible evidence that we are part of something larger than our immediate circle of friends and family.

We present you with that evidence each and every week. As we enter our 13th year, we renew our invitation to join your community through these pages. We urge you to make that community a stronger one. We invite you to join our "insanity."

Enjoy the Light!

Bill Meunier
Editor

Wisconsin Activists attend Creating Change Conference

By **Brian Juchems & Jason Rasmussen**

Oakland, CA - Wisconsin LGBT activists joined 2,200 others from around the nation at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) 12th Annual Creating Change Conference, held in Oakland, California from November 10 - 14. They swapped tales, ideas, skills and political zeal at the nation's largest annual gathering of the LGBT movement.

"Creating Change is a wellspring for LGBT activists," said Madison activist Adam Klaus, Chair of the Associated Students of Madison (ASM), UW-Madison's student government. "The networking and information from the conference inspires us to return to our own communities and work to build a progressive movement that empowers and includes all of us, regardless of gender identity, ability, age, or race."

Wisconsin was represented by members of Action Wisconsin, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network of Wisconsin (GLSEN-WI), the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the UW-Madison Ten Percent Society (TPS), the UW-Madison Queer Student Alliance (QSA), and the UW-Madison's official liaison to the LGBT Community.

Local activists said the conference allowed them to bring added strength, energy, creativity, and vision to the fight for social justice in Wisconsin.

"The most valuable lesson and affirmation I have gained from Creating Change is that we, as the Wisconsin LGBT Community, are not alone in our struggle," said Sara Hinkel, a representative of the UW-Madison Dean's office. Hinkel works to ensure that the UW campus is a safe place for all students. "There is much to be learned from other communities and much to share among us to support one another."

"Action Wisconsin's participation in the Federation of Statewide LGBT Organizations has been extremely useful strategically," said Dan Ross, Secretary of Action Wisconsin, a statewide group working to secure civil rights for Wisconsin's LGBT community. "We've shared information about both pro- and anti-LGBT legislation across the country and have obtained ideas that can be applied to Wisconsin." The Federation is an independent group formed in 1996 and facilitated by NGLTF. It meets biannually to share resources, ideas, and strategies among the statewide LGBT organizations.

"The most valuable lesson and affirmation I have gained from Creating Change is that we as the Wisconsin LGBT Community are not alone in our struggle"

- Sara Hinkel UW Madison LGBT Liaison

"Some states have faced continuous attacks on LGBT and other civil rights through the statewide initiative process," Ross continued. "Nevertheless, they've developed tremendous organizational capacity and have involved more people to participate and respond to these issues in a constructive way. I would like to see greater involvement from more Wisconsinites on LGBT civil rights issues."

This year's Creating Change was the biggest ever. Participants attended 120 workshops and training sessions on a wide array of topics, and engaged in some hands-on political work as well. Many participants even took to the streets when a hate crime sparked a major march by 1,500 conference attendees.

The incidence of hate violence involved a Transgendered person of color and occurred within blocks of the conference site. Witness's said the victim was cut with broken bottle and that the Oakland Police officer who responded to the victim's call for help told her that she should not have been on the corner where she was attacked. He also complained about how it made paperwork for him. Those on the scene said the officer told the victim, "I am tired of your shit."

When word of the attack spread through



The Creating Change Conference filled the hall.



A protest during the Creating Change Conference over a vocal black transgendered bashing



Protesters displayed their anger over Oakland Police response to a bashing of a transgendered person of color.

out the conference, most attendees marched on the Oakland Police Department headquarters to support local activists who called for an investigation of the incident and training for officers. A District Captain came forward and invited those who witnessed the incident to provide statements. Several of those in the crowd did so.

In another example of hands-on work, 22 leaders prepared 100 activists to go door-to-door in opposition to California's Proposition 22, the March 2000 ballot initiative put forward by California state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale). Proposition 22 would restrict State of California legal recognition to marriages between one man and one woman. On November 12, the group went out into Oakland neighborhoods to practice what they'd learned.

Plenary sessions examined LGBT politics from a wide array of perspectives. One session of the conference was devoted to a panel discussing "the evolution from 'Gay' politics to the new Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered movement for social justice." Rev. Mel White was part of the panel at another major plenary session "The Church as an Agent of Social Change." Last month White led a meeting between 200 Gays and their allies and religious right leader Jerry Falwell.

The conference also featured general sessions on accessibility for people with disabilities and on the direction the LGBT movement should take in its second century.

"I think it is critical that the LGBT communities consider how our events, spaces, and even our very communities and cultures may not be accessible, whether due to physical, socio-economic, or attitudinal barriers," said Ross.

Other subject areas at the conference included fund raising, youth and aging issues, men's health, electoral politics, "cyber organizing," media activism, sex and gender liberation, and looking ahead to the new century.

Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of NGLTF, noted that the "thousands of one-on-one conversations and bonding experiences" between those attending the conference are just as important as the workshops and general sessions. Wisconsin conference attendees agreed. They said that it is those conversations, which spark the seeds of change in our communities.

If the conference helps to accelerate change in Wisconsin and elsewhere, it will indeed have lived up to its name.

Brian Juchems and Jason Rasmussen are Board members of GLSEN of Wisconsin

Minister Defrocked Over Same Sex Marriage Ceremony

Omaha, NB - A 13-member jury of Methodist ministers defrocked the Rev. Jimmy Creech after it found him guilty of disobeying a church law that forbids performing same sex marriage ceremonies.

The Creech trial and verdict aroused considerable interest among LGBT religious activists. It was the second time that Creech was tried for presiding over a Holy Union between a Gay couple. Two years ago he won acquittal when four jurors refused to convict him.

Nevertheless, Creech remained defiant, insisting that as a minister he is called to provide the church's sacraments to all of its members. Church authorities disagreed and again charged him with breaking church law. The charges were brought against Creech after he co-officiated at a North Carolina same sex commitment ceremony.

The verdict was almost an anti-climax. It came after several days of pre-trial events. The North Carolina couple flew to Omaha for a public re-enactment of the ceremony. Police arrested Rev. Mel White and 73 of his Soul Force members when they conducted a symbolic act of civil disobedience by walking onto the grounds of Trinity Methodist Church, site of the trial. The demonstrators were charged with trespassing.

Creech offered no defense during the trial, relying instead on a one-hour opening argument to the jury. In it, he said that the church law against same-sex marriages was unjust and discriminatory and asked them to send a message to church leaders by refusing to return a verdict.

The jury delivered its guilty verdict after 90 minutes of deliberation. It deliberated another two hours before announcing the revocation of Creech's credentials. Many Creech supporters left the church in tears.

Creech said he wasn't surprised by the verdict, but expressed disappointment that it was unanimous. Some observers say that he didn't help his cause with the harsh rhetoric he used to denounce the trial, which he called "corrupt" and "spiritual violence."

After the verdict, Creech told supporters, "This is the pettiness of the church and not the spirit of God that has acted here today." He went on to accuse the church of bigotry.

The jury issued a statement that read in part, "We wish also to affirm that the discipline says, 'Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.'"

Creech's supporters were not placated by the Jury's words or by calls for "healing." "Basically, they're saying we'll bless your animals, your house, your car, but we will not bless your relationships," said Larry Ellis, one of the North Carolina men who Creech married. "There's a deep division - that won't be easily resolved."

National

Quentin Crisp Dies

Manchester, England - The flamboyant writer, actor and Gay rights campaigner, Quentin Crisp died in a Manchester home on Sunday, November 21. Crisp was in England to perform at the Manchester Green Room Theater. Crisp, who called himself "the stately homo" of England, lived in New York. He would have turned 91 on Christmas Day.

Crisp attracted attention throughout his life, but it was his autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*, and the highly successful movie based on it that made him into a celebrity. The book was based on his life in less than Gay friendly London in the 1930s.

Following the 1975 film release, Crisp opened a one-man show in London. It was a hit that he took on tour in his native England and America.

Crisp was unabashed in his femininity. He once said, "If you are effeminate by nature, you have to find some way of telling the world that you know you are, otherwise they keep telling you."

He said that he was in "the fame business," and reveled in the attention it brought him. Yet, Crisp made it clear that he didn't want an elaborate funeral. In one of his last interviews, he told the *London Times*, "No flowers. No candles. No long faces standing around in the rain, staring down into a hole in the ground while someone drones on about how wonderful I was. I'd rather be shuffled off. Just drop me into one of those black plastic bags and leave me by the trash can."

University Avoids DP Lawsuit

Harrisburg, PA - With help from its friends in the Pennsylvania legislature, the University of Pittsburgh did an end run around a lawsuit filed to force it to provide domestic partners health insurance benefits.

That help came in the form of a last minute Republican sponsored amendment to a bill on Police training. The amendment allows state financed colleges and universities to refuse to provide the benefits. The bill's sponsor, State Representative Thomas Tangretti (D-Westmoreland), was so angry over the GOP move that he urged defeat of his own legislation in order to keep the amendment from becoming law. A spokesman for Governor Ridge said that he would sign the bill.

The City of Pittsburgh contends that the university bearing its name is in violation of its equal rights ordinance because it refuses to provide health insurance coverage for the partners of its LGBT employees. Gay civil rights advocates were carefully following the suit because it could have opened the door to similar actions in other cities and states that ban employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

California Guv Ends Ban on Gay Adoptions

Sacramento - *The San Francisco Examiner* reports that Governor Grey Davis ordered an end to the State's de facto ban on Gay and Lesbian adoptions. Former Governor George Deukmejian put the ban in place when he ordered the Department of Social Services to recommend rejection of any adoption by an unmarried couple.

While California's Family courts control adoption approvals, caseworker recommendations weigh heavily when they act.

The American Civil Liberties Union and attorneys representing LGBT groups were threatening to sue the State over the ban. California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said that the recommendations to reject adoptions by unmarried couples were illegal because they bypassed normal bureaucratic procedures.

Some courts, aware of the order, ignored Social Service caseworker recommendations, but activists say that the Davis decision will help couples in rural areas.

Two Out of Three for Log Cabin Club

Washington DC - One of the three major GOP Presidential contenders, Senator John McCain, met with leaders of the Log Cabin Gay Republican club, while another contender, Texas Governor George Bush, said he probably wouldn't meet with the Log Cabinites. Meanwhile, a third major candidate, Steve Forbes, said he is open to meeting with the group.

McCain seems to be a favorite among the Log Cabin members, but they may have difficulty convincing other Gays to support him. The Senator said that he is against Gay adoptions, opposes a federal law banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and is against same sex marriage. McCain did say that he opposes all forms of discrimination.

Bush, who is the leader of the pack battling for the GOP's 2000 nomination, said that meeting with the group would "pit one group against another." Last spring, he said that he would be willing to appoint Gays to government posts if he were elected President. Last month, the <Dallas Morning News> reported that the leading GOP contender told a private prayer breakfast that he would not appoint anyone who was openly Gay or Lesbian.

Bush helped to kill a proposed Texas hate crimes law because it included protections for Gays and Lesbians. He supports a ban on Gay adoptions and retention of the Texas sodomy law.

Forbes, who is courting the vote of the religious right, told CNN, "If people want to talk to me, that's fine. They might not like what I have to say on issues, such as same-sex marriage. ... I'm open to meeting a lot of people."



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CAIR Working with Russians on AIDS Prevention

Milwaukee - As World AIDS Day on December 1 approaches, the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) has launched new HIV prevention research and training projects in Russia, a country on the brink of a major HIV epidemic.

The initiatives are supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health and the World AIDS Foundation. They are part of the efforts by those organizations to apply HIV prevention lessons learned in the United States to the global struggle against AIDS.

"The HIV epidemics raging in Africa and parts of Asia are well-known," says Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine and CAIR's director. "Less well-known is the HIV epidemic that is just beginning to unfold in Russia, other countries of the former Soviet Union, and eastern Europe."

Russia's economic collapse, limited public health resources, and growing problems of drug use and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among young people are contributing to a rapid rise in HIV infections. Russia is reporting 40,000 HIV cases. Almost all of them were diagnosed in the last three years. Russian health authorities say that one million new cases are likely in the next two years.

To combat this threat, a CAIR research team headed by Dr. Kelly is training Russian behavioral, social, medical, and biological scientists from St. Petersburg State University (SPSU) in HIV prevention research methods. Seven SPSU faculty and postdoctoral investigators spend periods of six to eighteen months training at CAIR before returning to Russia to lead HIV prevention efforts in their home country.

The World AIDS Foundation grant will support the conduct of HIV prevention projects with three high risk populations in Russia: young drug users, young men who have sex with men, and young men and women who have contracted STDs. These projects will determine the prevalence of high-risk behavior and the HIV prevention needs of each group so that effective prevention programs can be implemented. This work is being undertaken with community-based AIDS organizations in St. Petersburg.

In the five-year NIMH project, CAIR investigators will collaborate with colleagues at SPSU to design, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of community-level HIV prevention programs for young adults who live in 12 large public dormitories. Each dormitory provides housing for

300-800 young adults enrolled in vocational trade programs.

The project will use CAIR's "popular people" approach. The program identifies and trains popular opinion leaders—persons well-liked in their circles of friends—to serve as HIV prevention educators and advocates to others peers who live in their dormitories.

Its effectiveness will be determined by studying changes in risk behavior and STD rates in the dormitory populations. This intervention approach has proven successful in past programs directed by Dr. Kelly in the United States. The NIMH study is the first to apply this approach in an international setting. If successful, the program will expand to other areas of the country.

Anti-DP Bills Still Awaiting Vote

Madison - Domestic partnership advocates expressed surprise and relief that two anti-domestic partnership bills proposed by State Representative Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater) didn't make it to the floor for a vote before the State Assembly recessed until January. It had been widely reported that the full Assembly would vote on the bills last week.

The bills AB-499 and AB-500 would impede efforts to gain domestic partnership benefits for LGBT and unmarried State and municipal employees. They won approval from the Assembly's Family Law Committee on a straight party line vote.

A source familiar with the Nass legislation credited an intense lobbying effort put forth by the Wisconsin's Log Cabin Republicans for the delaying further consideration of the bills.

Mike Fitzpatrick, President of Action Wisconsin expressed concern that if the Nass legislation and two pro-domestic partnership bills, which were introduced last month, come up for consideration at the same time when the Assembly reconvenes in January it will confuse the situation for legislators and the public.

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Membership Drop-In Nights

First Monday of the month, 7-9 p.m. Board games, pool and ping pong, snacks and coffee. Not a member? Stop by and see just one of the benefits of becoming a Center member! Free for members, or \$2.

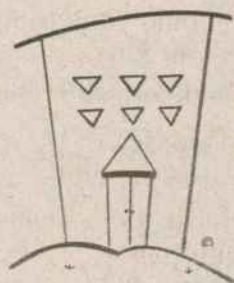
Lesbian Al Anon Group

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Lesbian Al Anon is a 12-step recovery program for relatives or friends of alcoholics. The only membership requirement is that there be a problem of alcoholism with a relative or friend. Free.

Gay Men's Writing Group

First Thursday and third Monday of the month, 6 p.m. For writers, poets, essayists and all other decorous and slightly rebellious word-smiths. Members write, share and critique each other's work. Free.

Visit our on-line event calendar for more information on these and other ongoing programs.



Milwaukee
LGBT
Community
Center

170 South 2nd. Street
414-271-2656 www.mkelgbt.org

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Presents...

Fall Into Winter

a season of reasons for song

Sunday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m.

Plymouth Church
2717 E. Hampshire, Milw.

Tickets are available:
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\$10 at the door

Through the M&M Club,
AfterWords Bookstore,
chorus members and
the chorus office.

chorus office: 170 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee 414-276-8787



State



Gay Youth Milwaukee, with their founder and mentor, Mike Lisowski during their 20th Anniversary Party at the Community Center

Wisconsin's new AIDS/HIV Website

Madison - Just in time for World AIDS Day, the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program launched its presence on the Internet through the website of the Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Family Services.

Information contained on the site includes summaries of activities coordinated by the program and quarterly reports on HIV surveillance and other epidemiological reports. It also has information on local, regional, state and national Internet based HIV resources and a calendar of events with links to other Internet based HIV/AIDS resources.

Programs presented on the web include those for aging, children and families, disabilities, long term care, Medicaid, mental health, substance abuse and vital records for those with HIV/AIDS and their caretakers. The website is: www.dhfs.state.wi.us/AIDS-HIV/index.html.

Saturday Gatherings for HIV+ Gay Men at BESTD

Milwaukee - Attention, HIV+ Gay men, considering getting back into the social scene - or tired of the bars, and looking for other men like yourself to spend time with together? After spending time with the family over Thanksgiving, you may feel the need for a companion that can relate to what is going on in your life.

Milwaukee's Brady East STD Clinic (BestD) has set aside the last Saturday night of every month for a drop in of HIV+ Gay men as a comfortable place to socialize. The second night of this gathering occurs this Saturday, November 27 at the clinic's 1240 E. Brady St. building. Enter the side entrance closest to Brady Street and go directly upstairs.

No preaching, no agendas, no structure; merely time for Poz people to socialize, watch movies or TV, listen to music and come when they want and leave when they feel like it.

This social oasis' next meeting on December 25 falls right on Christmas day, and the clinic felt it was important to have the gathering held specifically because the holidays are often difficult and oppressive for Poz Gay men.

Off-street parking is available in the area. For more information, call (414) 353-4798.

Homo History Classes at the Center

Milwaukee - Dr. Beatrice Green, Ph.D. in ancient history from New York University will offer a course on *Homosexuality in the Ancient World and the Development of Modern Gay Identity* for the UWM Dept. of History during the spring semester.

History 373 will be taught at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., on five Fridays from 6-9pm and Saturdays from 8am-5pm on January 28-29, Feb. 18-19, March 17-18, April 14-15 and May 5-6.

History 373 will explore the meanings of homosexual sexuality in classical antiquity, the pro-social function of male homosexuality in classical Greek societies, the Roman experience of homosexual desire and attitudes toward homosexual practice, and the transformation of these attitudes in the late antique period. The emergence of modern Gay identity will be examined in comparison with and contrast those alternate understandings of same sex relations.

Persons interested in the course can take it without enrolling in a degree program at UWM. For information about procedures, call Gloria Kopke in the Office of Adult and Returning Student Services (414) 229-6019; or Ilga Stazdins in Off-Campus Programs (414) 229-6209. You may also complete an electronic application at: www.ywm.edu/Dept/DES.

For information about other courses offered this spring, consult the Gay and Lesbian Studies Certificate Program website: www.uwm.edu/Dept/GLBCert or contact the coordinator at jmerrick@uwm.edu.

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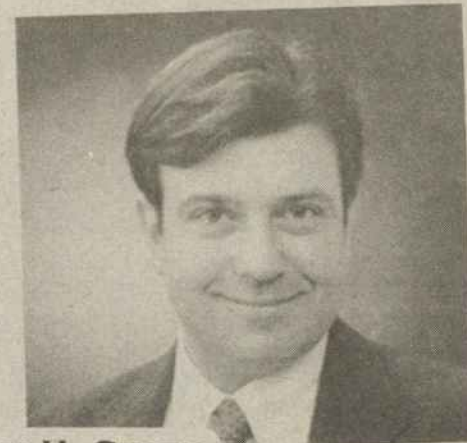
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the gay Agenda

24 wed. What Do You Want To See on Cable?, Brandon Marsh Entertainment (Milwaukee):

Part 2: Cable officials and aldermen discuss funding decrease and the future of Cable. This show airs live on Warner Cable's Milwaukee MATA channel 14. 3 part series will be a serious interactive discussion program between the Cable System users, the producers, franchise experts, Cable Co. officials and City Aldermen. 6pm.

25 thu. Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) Weekend, HIT (Milwaukee):

21st Annual bowling tourney through Nov. 28, HIT Me - 21. Beginning 1pm today Hospitality Suite at the Milwaukee Hilton opens for registration and to mingle. Bowling gets under way at 5pm at the Red Carpet Regency on 76th and Florist. Tonight: HIT board showcases their talent (?) at the annual Welcome Show at 10pm at Club 219.

Teddy Bear Thanksgiving Celebration, Frontiers (Madison): Potluck turkey day. Bring a teddy bear for orphans, waifs and strays. Join a mix of LGBTQ groups, men and women and str8ts. Turkey, mine pie, sweet potatoes ice cream. Bears taken to the Women's Shelter. Cocktails at 4, dinner at 5pm. Call for details and directions. Dave's house: 4701 Judy Lane, (608) 241-2500.

26 fri. Film Screening, SAGE (Milwaukee):

Of special interest to women, men

always welcome: part 2 of the documentary *Out of the Past*, which related stories of Gay and Lesbian pioneers working for gay rights as told to a high school student. Small meeting room. Milw. LGBT Community Center, 6:30pm, (414) 271-0378

Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) Weekend, HIT (Milwaukee): Two shifts of Bowling at 10am and 5pm, registration begins at 9am at the Red Carpet Regency on 76th and Florist.

27 sat. HIV+ Gay Men's Social, BESTD Clinic (Milwaukee):

Tired of bars? Looking for people like yourself to spend time together? Drop-in center provides the setting and opportunity. Last Saturday of every month. 1240 E. Brady St. (side door, closest to street) 8-Midnight (414) 353-4798.

Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) Weekend, HIT (Milwaukee): 2nd shift of Team events begins at 10am at the Red Carpet Regency on 76th and Florist. Awards banquet at the Milwaukee Hilton Grand Ballroom, cocktail hour at 5pm, dinner and awards program follows.

29 mon. Film Circle, Frontiers GB Men's Group (Madison):

Wilde, a sumptuous biopic about the famed 19th Century Irish born playwright and his unconventional lifestyle in Victorian England. Call for location, film screening at 7pm. (608) 274-5821.

30 tue. A Celebration of Remembrance and Hope, Entertainers Against AIDS (Green Bay):

At the Weidner Center: on the eve of World AIDS Day, Co-

hosted by Teri Barr (Fox 11) and Kathy Larking (WQLH) and a huge variety of local talent and personalities and politicians. Weidner Center. 7:30-9:30pm; Free Admission, Open to all: (920) 437-7400. See the State news article and ad in this issue for more details.

Jolly Holly Folly, Benefit for ARCW (Milwaukee): Cocktails, buffet, performance of the Milwaukee Rep's *Noises Off* as a benefit for ARCW. Milwaukee Center Arboretum and Gallery, Water between Wells and Kilbourn. 5:30pm cocktails, \$75 advance please, (414) 225-1577. See the SpotLight article in the November 17th issue for details.

1 wed. World AIDS Day (Statewide) See the World AIDS Day Wisconsin Events SideBar with the cover story. World AIDS Day Testing at UWM, BESTD Clinic (Milwaukee):

Free anonymous HIV testing and counseling at the UW Milwaukee Student Union, main concourse, 10am-1pm.

LGB Alliance Meeting, LG Business Alliance (Madison): Discuss next year's budget and take care of any last minute details to prepare for the Dec. 2 Holiday Party at Chuck and Chuck's. Meeting at Scott Mickelson's office. 5610 Medical Circle, Suite 32; (608) 251-2835.

Please See All World AIDS Day Listings on page 12

2 thu. Annual Holiday Party, LGB Business Alliance (Madison):

Food, friends, beverages, networking. Free to current members, \$10 for guests. (If you come as a guest and

become a member within 2 months, you will receive \$10 credit towards your membership fee.) Members who bring a guest will be entered into a raffle for a special prizes. Chuck & Chuck's, 1833 Van Hise Ave., 5:30pm, (608) 245-1611.

Elder Issues, OutReach (Madison): Interested in this topic? We need action oriented problem solvers to be involved. This is the first meeting. OutReach Center, 600 Williamson St., 6pm, (608) 255-8582.

5 sun. 1999 Women's Holiday Art Fair, Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee/L2K (Milwaukee):

LAMM in conjunction with Lesbian 2000 (L2K), WI Corporate Alliance and Milw. LGBT Community Center sponsor a Holiday Art Fair at the Community Center on Set-up at 10am. Women Artist Exhibitors welcome to display great affordable art. Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. Noon-5pm.

Advent: Waiting in Hope, Rebuilding Faith (Milwaukee): Monthly discussion group for LGBT Catholics, general discussion and reflection, 10:30-Noon, Holy Trinity/Guadalupe School, 613. S. 4th St. FMI call Fred at (414) 481-8543.

LGBT Youth Group Meeting, ARCW Office (Kenosha): For LGBT and sexuality, ARCW Office, 1212 57th St.

Positive Support Group, ARCW LaCrosse (LaCrosse): 6-8pm, 1707 Main St., Suite 420, (608)785-9866. Every first

Bridge Club Holiday Dinner, Frontiers (Madison): Call for more information and location. (608) 274-5959.

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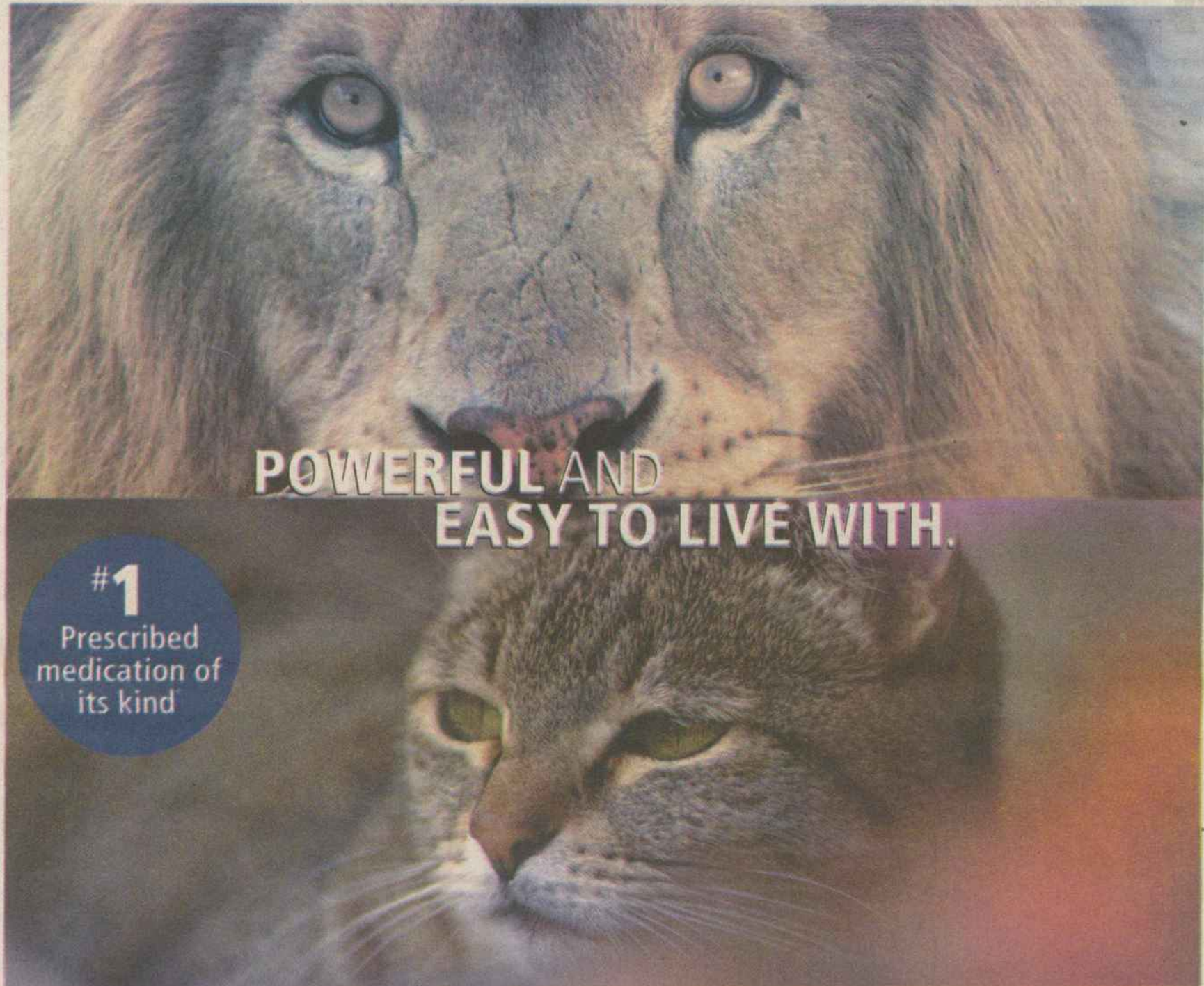
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VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. (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

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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:

- Viramune® (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 Viramune.

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 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 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	1 1/4	-
10.5	to < 12	23	to < 26.5	6	1 1/2	-
12	to < 14	26.5	to < 31	7	1 3/4	-
14	to < 16	31	to < 35	8	2	-
16	to < 18	35	to < 39.5	9	2 1/4	-
18	to < 23	39.5	to < 50.5	10	2 1/2	2
	≥ 23	≥ 50.5		15	3 3/4	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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Issued 11/13/97

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Legislative Update



by WI Rep. Mark Pocan

Capitol Report

Domestic Partnership Bill Update:

As many of you are aware, Senator Risser (D-Madison), Representative Boyle (D-Superior) and I introduced two domestic partnership bills in October. The response for co-sponsors has been very good. The Domestic Partnership Registry bill has 10 sponsors (Rep's Pocan, Boyle, Carpenter, Berceau, Mark Miller, Young, Bock, Black and Travis and Senator Risser).

The opening of the State Insurance Pool to domestic partners bill has fourteen sponsors (Representatives Pocan, Boyle, Carpenter, Berceau, John Lehman, Mark Miller, Sinicki, Pedro Colon, Bock, Black, Jon Richards, Young, and Travis and Senator Risser).

The first bill, the Domestic Partnership Registry, provides requirements for forming a legal relationship of domestic partnership. It stipulates that a domestic partnership may be formed by two individuals who are at least 18 years old and who are not married or in another domestic partnership. It further stipulates that they cannot be related by blood, and must consider themselves to be members of each other's immediate family.

The bill establishes domestic partnership's requirements that are very similar to our current marriage statutes. Furthermore, all of the benefits recognized by the state for spouses in marriage would be afforded to domestic partnerships, including adoption, inheritance, tax filing benefits, insurance benefits, property rights and more, as well as all responsibilities associated with marriage.

The second bill opens the State of Wisconsin's Insurance Pool to domestic partnership health insurance coverage. This bill would allow any governmental entity, which utilizes the pool, to offer health insurance coverage to the domestic partners of their employees.

The next step in the legislative process is to have the bills assigned to a committee and seek a public hearing.

Representative Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater) is not in favor of that idea. He has pro-

posed two bills that would restrict domestic partnership benefits. Nass has indicated that he would like the bills pulled from committee and taken up on the floor.

I believe that these bills must go through the normal legislative process. A public hearing is very important because it provides an avenue to express our concerns and a means of educating the public on these issues.

Nass's Anti-Domestic Partnership Bills

Last month I mentioned that Representative Nass (R-Whitewater) introduced two anti-equity bills dealing with domestic partners. Here is a quick look at the two proposals:

AB 499 would allow municipal employers to refuse to bargain over the provision of employee benefits to any adult who resides with a municipal employee and who is not related to that employee by blood, marriage or adoption.

AB 500 prohibits the state from providing any health and long-term care insurance coverage to an adult who resides with a state employee and who is not related to the state employee or the state employee's spouse by blood, marriage or adoption. It also forbids State employee unions and state labor negotiators from engaging in collective bargaining for these benefits.

The fall legislative session ended without the full Assembly taking up either of these bills. My hope is that we will not have to address them at all but I would not be surprised to see them on the agenda next year.

Coalition Bill of the Month:

Representative Mark Meyer (D - La Crosse) has introduced a bill to "Save Personal Care". The Bill has three main components:

- Increase the State Medicaid reimbursement rate for personal care services from \$12.25/hr to \$15.50/hr.
- Establish a designation for "Personal Care Shortage Areas" throughout the state by offering a multiplied reimbursement in areas where there is an insufficient number of personal care agencies and workers to care for the area's patient population.
- Increase the percentage the state reimburses to counties for personal care losses from the current 60% to 75%

Please call your state Legislators and ask them to support this bill.

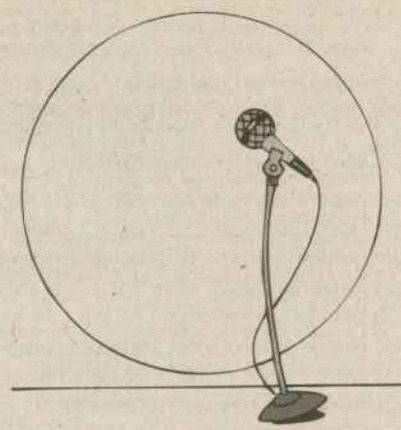
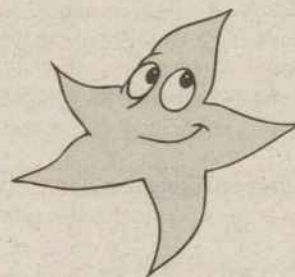
As always, you can contact me at (608) 266-8570, write me at State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708. Or you may e-mail me at mark.pocan@legis.state.wi.us



karaoke special thanksgiving night

november 25th - 9pm

Be the Star of the Bar
and win a set of 4 pairs of tickets



to the **HOT Musical Forever Plaid!**

sponsored by **WI**Light

winners judged by applause! • performance at the Marcus Center/ Vogel Hall on Nov. 30th

"Polish"
those Balls fellas...
... cuz it's time to
"H.I.T." the alleys!!!

After the games,
"H.I.T." Milwaukee's
Newest & Hottest Gay Night Club
to compair scores!!!

Good Luck Bowlers!



124 West National Avenue • 220-4340

cover **Story** WORLD AIDS DAY

Continued from Page 1

LEARN...Prevention

Researchers say that many Gay men practice unsafe sex due to the mistaken belief that current HIV drugs make infection less likely and make the virus "controllable." There is no evidence that the new classes of AIDS drugs will hold the virus in check indefinitely. In fact, every study on the subject shows a rising drug failure rate.

Misplaced confidence in drug researchers are not the only problem faced by those seeking to prevent the continued spread of AIDS. Throughout the world, social and religious taboos continue to have a negative impact on prevention activities.

In the US, religious activists and conservatives protest against the distribution of graphic safer sex information. Many observers say the lack of AIDS awareness in communities of color has led to an explosion of AIDS cases in those communities. Last July, Surgeon General David Satcher, who is Black, bluntly called on church leaders to preach HIV prevention from the pulpit during a conference of 600 plus African American clergy and lay people. Satcher has made AIDS a big piece of his platform since he was appointed in 1998.

He told *Poz* magazine, "The community is falling dangerously behind in the war on AIDS. We have conducted ourselves far too long as if this disease did not relate to us, or as if there were nothing we could do about it. Religion can play a powerful role in helping to change attitudes among youth from hopelessness to hope."

Satcher added, "We must not be afraid, ashamed or too busy to reach out to our neighbors to prevent HIV. To dismiss HIV today is to dismiss our sons and daughters, our nieces and nephews, our sisters and brothers, our friends, even our babies."

Financial constraints, government corruption, mismanagement of funds from donor agencies, warring factions, ethnic genocide and mainstream religious beliefs often interfere with providing the massive public education campaigns needed by developing and Eastern European countries.

LIVE...Treatment and Prevention Options

New medications and new approaches to prevention are needed if we are to return to the days of decreasing infections and deaths.

Numerous HIV/AIDS vaccines are being studied. One of them, AIDSvax, has enrolled 5,000 volunteers in the US, including some in Wisconsin and another 2,500 in Thailand. The vaccine stimulates antibodies that work against a specific part of the virus.

A slew of other vaccine approaches are also being tested. Some aim for cellular immunity. Others try to force immune system cells to produce fake HIV proteins to trigger a response that would hopefully squelch a real HIV infection.

Research on new drugs for those with living with HIV/AIDS continues. Recent studies show that the current crop of AIDS drugs will eventually fail in at least 50% of those using them.

The failure rate can be attributed to several factors. The complicated drug regimens required by the new treatments are difficult to maintain. These regimens include multiple dosages of several different drugs. Lack of adherence to them can allow the virus to mutate into a drug resistant form. In many persons with HIV, the virus became drug resistant even though they did manage to adhere to their regimen. In other cases, the drugs caused such severe side effects that their users could not continue to take them.

Drug failure also occurs among those who only learn of their HIV infection during the late stages of the disease, when treatment is more difficult and death more imminent. It is estimated that half of those infected with HIV aren't aware of it.

The "Hit Hard, Hit Early" approach using anti-retroviral drugs has worked for some of those who are diagnosed in the early stages of infection. For many others, it has caused problems. Many AIDS drugs attack the same part of the HIV virus. If an individual's virus becomes resistant to one drug, it will also resist other drugs.

The longer the various drugs have been on the market, the more we learn about them. The new classes of AIDS drugs haven't been around long enough for any definitive determination of their effectiveness. One thing is certain, however, there is no evidence that the new drugs can make HIV/AIDS into a chronic condition in the same way that insulin can control diabetes.

Infection rates also continue to rise amongst IV drug users. Government refusal to fund needle exchange programs exacerbates the situation. Unfortunately, cleaning needles with bleach is not 100% effective.

The future may hold some promise: new classes of Protease Inhibitors and entirely new families of drugs are being developed and tested. Whether or not they will provide the key to fighting off AIDS remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, in the time it took you to read this article, over 50 people died from AIDS.

Listen, learn, live and remember.



World AIDS Day Activities in Wisconsin

The information below was all *WI Light* was able to obtain by deadline. If there are additional listings we don't have here, look for a last minute update in our Dec. 1st issue.

November 28-30

Medford, 8:30am-5pm each day: AIDS Quilt Medford High School hosts panels from the AIDS Quilt on view to the public and area school groups. ARCW provides prevention info. and staff will answer questions and organize groups.

Monday, November 29

Kenosha, (time not available): HIV/AIDS Presentation at UW Parkside featuring ARCW staff giving an update. Throughout early December, there is also a food drive for ARCW Kenosha's food pantry. FMI call (800) 924-6601.

Madison, 4:30pm: Red Ribbon Rally in front of Grainger Hall on University Avenue. Wear red ribbons and tie them around trees and poles on 5 blocks of University Ave. The ribbons will remain up for the entire week. Followed by a discussion at the Lutheran Campus Center (University and Mills).

Tuesday, November 30

Antigo, 6:30pm: Service at Faith United Church, donations for the ARCW/Wausau food pantry.

Green Bay, 7:30pm: A Celebration of Remembrance and Hope at the Weidner Center, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Twenty-Two acts featuring music, dancing and song. Free admission, doors open at 7pm. Reception following the program. Sponsored by Entertainers Against AIDS. FMI: Cricket (920) 437-7400. (See the Spotlight Events page 22 for more details about this extraordinary event.)

Sheboygan, 6pm: Reception and World AIDS Day Program featuring the short documentary *Close to Home*, and skits at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave., downtown. 4th annual presentation of the Shirley Brey Outstanding Volunteer Award and awards to special contributors followed by a social gathering. Free admission, FMI: Nicole Menthes at (920) 458-6144.

December 1 World AIDS Day

Amherst, 9:30am: HIV/AIDS Presentation at Amherst High School, ARCW HIV+ speakers bureau and staff presentation to middle and high school students.

Door County, various times: HIV/AIDS presentations throughout Door County by members of the Door Co./AIDS Task Force. FMI: Sandy Brown at (920) 746-5200 or 743-8663.

Eau Claire, 5pm: Candle Light Vigil on the UW Eau Claire Campus Mall, to remember those who have died from AIDS and a *Celebration of Life* for those living with HIV. Free admission, co-sponsored by ARCW and UW-Eau Claire.

Green Bay, 7pm: 13th Annual Vigil and Prayer Service for those living with, lost to or affected by HIV/AIDS. Angels Of Hope MCC Church, 3607 Libar (Alleoux). An ARCW speaker on

the current state of HIV, and a PWA will share their story. Free admission, sponsored by Angels of Hope MCC. FMI: Rev. Ken Hall at (920) 432-0830.

LaCrosse, 11am-2pm: Prayer Service/Information Table in the UW-LaCrosse Whitney Center staffed by ARCW and volunteers giving away condoms and red ribbons. Prayer Service will be held at the Newman Center (Catholic Campus Ministry). Free admission, call Mark Pierce at (608) 784-4994 for prayer vigil time.

Madison, 2:15pm: Tolling of Church Bells in area churches and campus belltowers will help "End the Silence" with a unified ringing of 19 times to commemorate the number of years of the AIDS epidemic. Free admission.

Madison, 7pm: Celebration of Life beginning with a procession from the Capitol Square (King St. corner) to St. John's Lutheran Church, 322 E. Washington Ave. An evening of diverse music, readings from different faiths and testimonials. Free admission.

Manitowoc, 7pm: Celebration of Life Prayer Service at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, 1416 Grand Ave. (Corner of S. 14th St. & Grand) in Manitowoc. Interdenominational service followed by a social gathering. Free admission, sponsored by the Manitowoc AIDS Task Force. FMI: Joyce Kleppe at (920) 683-4155.

Milwaukee, Various Times: Condom Zap at three Milwaukee area high schools by ARCW's Youth Outreach Peer Educators.

Rice Lake, noon: The State of AIDS/HIV in Wisconsin a presentation by ARCW Prevention Specialist Tina Russell at UW Barron County's campus theater. Free admission.

Stevens Point, 7pm: Open Forum on trends in HIV/AIDS. ARCW staff will present on current trends and other issues relating to HIV infection amongst youth. Women's Resource Center, UW-Stevens Point Union.

Superior, 9am-3pm: WOD Conference with presenters from the Duluth Family Practice Center, Douglas Co. Health Dept., St. Louis Co. Communicable Disease Dept., ARCW, The Men's Center of Duluth, and the Red Cross. Pre-registration required, call Diane Erickson at (715) 394-6677 ext. 6211. 600 N. 21st St., \$10, \$5 students, includes lunch.

December 1-9

Southern Oaks Girl's School, Elsworth Women's Correctional Facility and Holton Street Center Youth Corrections will display pieces of the AIDS Quilt.

December 2

Antigo, 9am: HIV/AIDS Presentation with speakers from ARCW's HIV+ speakers bureau and staff to the sophomore class at Antigo High School.

Madison, 7pm: World AIDS Day Courtroom Drama should a pregnant woman with HIV be required to take AZT if the drug significantly reduces the chance that her baby will be born positive? Hear both sides of the argument at 611 Langdon Street. Free admission.

Stevens Point, 12:15pm: HIV/AIDS Presentation by ARCW's HIV+ speakers bureau and staff to the high school students at Stevens Point High School.

December 9

Madison, 7:30pm: Journey of Hope at the UW Memorial Union Theater. This powerful event brings the voices of youth together to speak about

OutState



by Mike
Fitzpatrick

A Family Thanksgiving

When I got to Stratford last Sunday (November 21), I noticed three flags flying in front of the town's tiny community center: the American flag, the Wisconsin state flag and the rainbow flag. All had been raised by the Rainbow Alliance of Central Wisconsin (RACW), the two and a half year old civic and social organization which was sponsoring its annual Thanksgiving potluck inside.

Why all three flags? Because raising the rainbow flag alone might draw too much attention.

RACW has been quietly raising LGBT awareness in towns like Stratford, a farming community about 40 minutes southwest of Wausau, the town with the nearest Gay bar. Periodically the group sponsors an event in one of the four larger cities that dot central Wisconsin - Marshfield, Stevens

Point, Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids. Usually they prefer to pick places like Stratford or Arpin, the site of next month's Christmas party.

Even if a stranger had walked in on the group, he likely would have a hard time figuring out that it was a Gay party. The scene was as nondescript as the fluorescent light fixtures, '70s brown wood paneling and 4-H banners that adorned the hall.

Dozens of crockpots and Nesco roasters dotted the faux wood colored particle-board banquet tables. Mixed in with the homemade macaroni casseroles, lemon bars and huge bowls of turkey and mashed potatoes were the inevitable last minute contributions purchased at area bakeries and delicatessens still in their molded, clear plastic containers or white cardboard cartons.

The people at the party seemed to fit the homey atmosphere. They came from little towns like Colby, Medford and Junction City. Many were farmers. Some were professionals in well-established careers. They ranged in age from their 20's to their 70's. Beer bellies outnumbered the buffed bodies by more than four to one. Most of their clothes were from the Fleet Farm collection.

The men sat with the men and the women with the women, all a-buzz in Coca-Cola fueled conversation. It seemed like the only thing they were missing was a bride, a groom and a polka band.

But little things out of the ordinary soon would have crept into the stranger's consciousness. The rainbows attached to the crosses on the Footsteps Fellowship T-

shirts might have seemed odd, and that high-pitched giggling in the kitchen had a testosterone touch.

Then again, some of those men and women were not just chatting, they were touching! Nothing overtly sexual, mind you, but just a little too intimate by rural straight standards. The tenor, tone and word choice of the head cook's announcement that dinner was served made it clear this was not just another chamber of commerce chow down.

After supper, there were reports and announcements. Membership dues are coming up in January. Volunteer drivers are needed to make good on RACW's commitment to get the HIV+ from Stevens Point to their support group meeting in Wausau.

A Lesbian couple passed around snapshots while gushing over the great time they had at the Positive Voice Halloween party in Appleton, then they exhorted everyone to sign up for PV's New Year's Eve dinner dance. After the reports, about half played cards or dice games and the rest cleaned up the hall and kitchen.

Big city Gay folk might take one look at this event and decry how timid and even downright closeted the whole evening appeared. RACW learned the hard way that raising awareness too boldly sometimes can cause a backlash. In 1997 the group called itself the Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance and even put up a CWRA web site.

That lasted until the Central Wisconsin Racing Association, also CWRA, took offense. A slight juggling of the acronym's

kept the Gay group and the gear heads from coming to legal blows.

Being quietly visible also has its drawbacks. Since February, RACW's membership has plateaued at slightly over 100 people. Although networking was a key ingredient of the festivities, so was the oft-expressed frustration that it's hard to get the word out about the good things the group is doing.

In the center of the state, LGBT people simply are thinly distributed over a wide geographic area. Access to LGBT media and information without a computer is difficult at best. But there are a few lessons in commitment and acceptance that those of us in the more developed LGBT communities can learn from their country cousins.

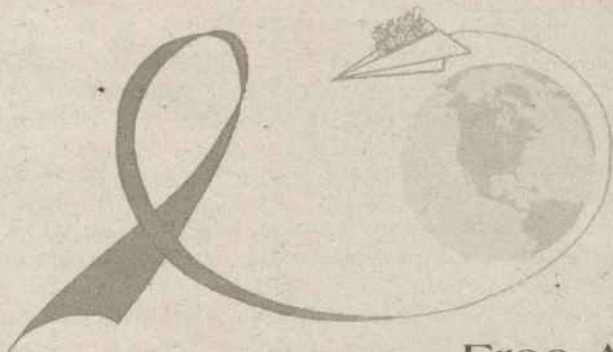
Contrast preparing a dish then driving an hour or two just to serve it to making reservations at a nearby big city Gay bistro. Most importantly, this LGBT community appears to love, support and enjoy each other without reservations. Unlike many big city extravaganzas I have attended over the years, catnip would not have complimented the menu or scratching posts the decor.

This Thanksgiving dinner was truly a family event.

(For more information about RACW, call 715-592-6245, Extension 5920200.)

The last time religion and politics mixed, people were burned at the stake...

Show Support for all those affected by HIV/AIDS



Celebration of Remembrance & Hope World AIDS Day at the Weidner Center, Green Bay

Free Admission - Open to the Public
Tuesday, November 30 • 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Starring . . . a HUGE variety of local talent, including:

Co-Hosted by:
Teri Barr, Fox 11-TV
&
Kathy Larkin, WQLH radio

Special Appearances by
Green Bay Mayor
Paul Jadin
Brown Co. Exec.
Nancy Nusbaum

Miss Green Bay, **Kelly Marie Kujava** • Radio Personality, **Tom Pederson**
The River City Six with **Zoomie** • **Franklin Middle School Select Choir**
Union Congregational Church Choir • **The Rhythmettes** • **The Silver Foxettes**
The Performers Workshop • **The Legends** • National Touring Sensation **CC Rae**
and vocalists: **Kitty Rosman** • **Jeff Jennings** • **Sharon Beckers** • **Steve Funk**
Stan & Marti Kocos • **TC Hammond** • **Dee Marie Murphy**
& **"Mikey Had a Dream"**

Produced by **ENTERTAINERS AGAINST AIDS** (920) 437-7400 & made possible by support from **Rainbow Over Wisconsin**

Letters

Thanks From Our Families

We wanted to write to you to thank you for the many ways that you serve the full diversity of families in the LGBT community. Your paper shines in its advocacy work for LGBT civil rights. Your efforts are valued and appreciated in our household and, no doubt, hundreds like ours throughout the state. Our daughter loves your paper and on several occasions has cut out articles for use in school presentations.

Over the last year, we have seen many examples of outstanding, cutting-edge journalism in your pages of the kind found no where else. You have offered extensive coverage of the issues affecting LGBT youth and kids in LGBT families in the schools. You have been an articulate and consistent voice in explaining why the lack of marriage and other family benefits for LGBT families hurts real families and real children.

Like other families, we recently celebrated the domestic partners benefits victories in Madison and Milwaukee. In no small part, the *Light* provided a vital communications link that helped to lead directly to these successes. There is still so much work to do. We know that the *Light* will continue to be a leader in our community in advancing the LGBT youth and family issues that affect us all. You truly are a dear friend and light to our community.

With Warmth,

The Kelley-Jones Family
Sunshine, Joann and Sol

Dr. Jean Hardisty

Thank you for your sponsorship of Dr. Jean Hardisty's recent visit to Wisconsin. By all measures, her trip was a success. Approximately 300 persons attended the events in Milwaukee and Madison, and \$1900 worth of books were sold. Dr. Hardisty also was interviewed by WHA, WORT and WUWM, as well as by a number of newspapers, and her speech was filmed by two public access TV programs.

I believe that Dr. Hardisty is providing crucial information and guidance to the Progressive movement and the general public, and I thank you, once again, for helping to make her visit to Wisconsin a success.

Sincerely,

Susan Matulis
Executive Director, Wisconsin Research Center, Inc.

March On

The LGBT population is large and diverse. Those who are out and active in the rights movement are only the tip of the iceberg. To organize that population for a March on Washington requires the cooperation of numerous organizations, each with its separate goals and objectives.

Sexism, racism, and ageism become obstacles to unity. So does bickering over separate agendas. We forget what we have in common.

Our enemies are united in their efforts to deny us equality and respect. They would refuse us our basic rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." If the March on Washington takes place on April 30, it must unite us, give visibility to our large numbers, and remind America that we will not be ignored.

We must make it clear to the nation that we are still fighting for our civil rights. It must be known, in this presidential election year, that we are a force to be reckoned with at the ballot box, and that we cannot be ignored with impunity.

If the March occurs, it MUST be a success which means we must turn out in massive numbers. Otherwise it will set back our cause and give satisfaction to those who oppose us. If the March occurs, Wisconsin, the state which led the fight for Gay rights, must be well represented and we must have access to our state representatives while we are in the nation's capital.

Time is running out. The Milwaukee LGBT community needs to become active in planning for our participation in the March. Those who wish to attend must not be denied the opportunity for any reason. This is a chance to raise visibility, recruit new activists, be a strong political force, mobilize the community, and carry on our fight for rights and acceptance.

It is also a chance to remind ourselves that we are not alone. Being apart of something so big will recharge our batteries and give us new pride as we enter the new millennium.

Marvin Martin
Milwaukee

Thanks From the Hunger Task Force

As it is the season to give thanks, I want to acknowledge the tremendous support that the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee has received from the LGBT community this year.

Our second annual food drive conducted during PrideFest weekend generated over 2,000 pounds of food. The generosity displayed by the festival attendees is inspirational! We work with many of the festivals and the level of professionalism displayed by the organizers and volunteers of PrideFest is truly amazing. Thanks to all of the bars that displayed our promotional materials for their assistance in making the drive such a success.

Special thanks goes to David Howser, the lead Supreme, for designating \$3,300 of his Possum Queen funds to our organization. David knows we support the pantry at ARCW, but he also understands the scope of our work throughout the community and for that I am grateful. I was privileged to be selected as one of Ms. Ross' back up singers for her fabulous Miller Stage performance, the night of the coronation - what a night!

David staged some of the most creative (and fun!) fundraisers thanks to his ingenuity and the wonderful support of the staff at M & M's particularly Boo Boo, Rona and of course Bob Schmidt.

I also witnessed firsthand the diligent efforts of the PQ campaign coordinators Lizzie Bordeaux and Charlotte Lorraine. They deserve all the accolades they receive and more!

On behalf of our constituents and staff and the Board of the Hunger Task Force, I offer our appreciation for the invaluable support the LGBT community has extended our agency this year. A happy and safe holiday season to all!

Michael Jonas
Associate Director
Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee Inc.

from the Archives

Our First Issue

The Wisconsin Light began publication with a 16 page monthly issue dated November 20, 1987. That new voice of Wisconsin's LGBT community underwent a baptism of fire right from the start.

The printer who had agreed to produce our first issue refused to put it on his presses when he realized that *Wisconsin Light* is a Gay publication. Some last minute scrambling saved the day and the *Wisconsin Light* became a reality.

Below is a sampling of some of the stories contained in our first issue.

STATE WIDE NEWS

Domestic Partnership Introduced in Madison Madison Alderman, Jim McFarland (who later would become a *Wisconsin Light* columnist writing "From the Right") introduced an "alternative families ordinance" which if passed, would extend traditional family benefits to unmarried Gay and straight couples. At the same time, McFarland publicly came out of the closet to become just the fourth openly Gay elected official in the country.

Congressman Admits Mistake In Casting Vote Madison area Congressman Bob Kastenmeier (D-Wisconsin) stated in a press release that he had erred in voting for a Jesse Helms amendment prohibiting the Center for Disease Control from using Federal funds to provide information or prevention materials that promote, or encourage directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities.

Lesbian Variety Show in Madison A capacity crowd filled Madison's Barrymore Theater for the annual Lesbian Variety Show in Madison. The annual Lesbian Variety Show is the most popular Lesbian event in Wisconsin.

MCC-Milwaukee Celebrates 1st Anniversary New Hope Metropolitan Community Church celebrated its first anniversary with a banquet at Jet's Place in Milwaukee.

Pageant A Success Over 500 people attended the Pageant at Milwaukee's Marc Plaza hotel. Miss M won the Miss Gay Wisconsin title while Scott won the Mr. Gay Wisconsin crown.

Hit Comes to Town Milwaukee is gearing up to host the annual Holiday Invitational Bowling Tournament, HIT. It is the largest and oldest Gay/Les/Bi Bowling Tournament in the country.

NATIONAL NEWS

AIDS May Have Started Here Sooner Than Thought A report published by the *Chicago Tribune* states that AIDS may have killed a St. Louis teenager in 1969.

Pro-Gay Supreme Court Justice? President Reagan has nominated Anthony Kennedy for the Supreme Court. According to published reports, Reagan was on the verge of nominating Kennedy earlier when a number of conservative senators objected. Those objections centered on Kennedy's opinion in a Gay military discharge case. Kennedy wrote that the military's rule "requiring discharge of all who have engaged in homosexual conduct is perhaps broader than necessary to accomplish some of its goals."

The March on Washington An estimated 400,000 Gays and Lesbians joined together for the second Gay Rights March on Washington in October. The crowd included over 250 individuals from Wisconsin who were cheered along the entire route as they spelled out Wisconsin followed by the chant "The Gay Rights State."

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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Milwaukee, WI 53204
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Spotlight

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

by Tim Nasson

New York - If you were like most kids you probably read, and were scared to death by, the tale of the Headless Horseman in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. In this classic tale, Ichabod Crane, a gangly, long-fingered old school teacher investigates the beheadings of many local townfolk in the late 1700's upstate New York.

Now, avant-garde film director extraordinaire, **Tim Burton**,

brings the timeless classic from Disney cartoon to garish, gory and gruesome fun with the help of **Johnny Depp**, **Christina Ricci**, and **Casper Van Dien**.

It should come as no surprise that Burton chose to rely on Depp to bring the character Ichabod Crane to life, even if it means updating Crane to a more youthful, easier on the eyes fellow. Depp and Burton worked well together in both *Ed Wood* and *Edward Scissorhands*, two films for which Depp received Best Actor Golden Globe Award nominations.

"I had been familiar with *Sleepy Hollow* ever since I was a kid," says Depp, who was in New York, to promote the film. "I actually wanted to be grotesque looking, as the character Ichabod appears in the book. But no one wanted me to be. I figured that I would be able to tack on longer fingers and ghastly fingernails and have someone make me up to be this old, scary looking man."

Depp was excited to announce the birth of his daughter, his first child. "At thirty-six, I have never been happier. It sounds corny, but I think that I was walking around in a haze until my daughter was born this past summer. I think she is the reason I was meant to be on earth."

When I spoke to Burton, later in the

day, it seemed apparent that he was destined to direct *Sleepy Hollow*. "There is something very powerful about the image of a headless horseman. I have been fascinated with the story for a very long time," he said.

Bug-eyed, with unkempt hair and wearing a black sport coat and black pants, Burton was a lot more laid back

than I expected him to be. He was quite personable. "I have always loved making movies and

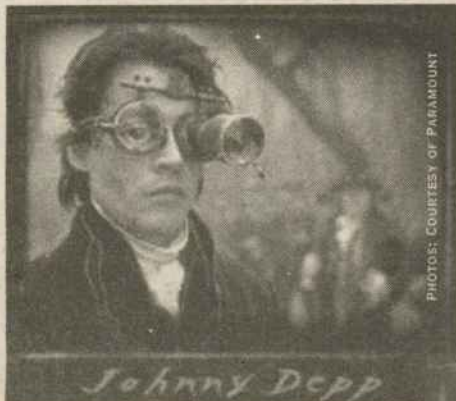
had always wanted to, ever since working on *The Black Cauldron* at Disney," he said. Burton is not offended or at all

concerned about being labeled as the 'master of weird' either.

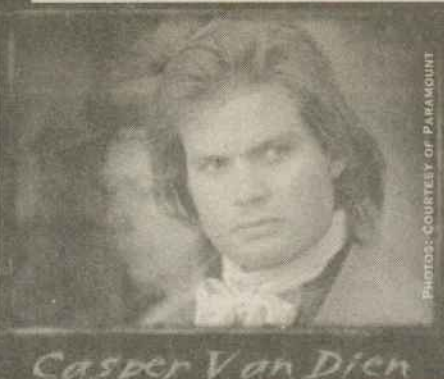
It would be difficult to label him anything else after reviewing his body of work which includes 1984's *Pee Wee's Big Adventure* (the first 'Pee Wee Herman' film and Burton's first film), *Beetlejuice* the first two 'Batman' films, *Mars Attacks*, *Nightmare Before Christmas* and the aforementioned *Ed Wood* and *Scissorhands*.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT

Though Burton has made many scary films, *Sleepy Hollow* is only his second R-rated film. "I have gotten into trouble with the ratings board many times," he says, "but what director hasn't?"

Burton, who grew up in LA, loved monster movies as a kid. He has "no problem with showing *Sleepy Hollow* to kids, even though it is gory and rated R." "Children are intelligent creatures," he said. "I knew, when watching monster and scary movies, as a kid, that they were not real. I think watching scary movies is part of growing up."

Adult kids who go to see *Sleepy Hollow* will be pleased that the film is replete with not only a headless horseman, (protruding guts and all), but many, many vivid decapitations.

Starship Trooper, **Casper Van Dien** who has a supporting part in *Sleepy Hollow*, plays a faux *Headless Horseman*.

"Even though I had a very small part in the film," Van Dien says, "I had a lot of fun. It was great pretending to be the headless horseman." The actor with one of the most beautiful faces in Hollywood drove out to Los Angeles from New Jersey, with his mother nearly a dozen years ago with the dream of making it big.

"I was a bartender, life-guard instructor, salesman, security guard and guy who passed out flyers before I got my first acting job in a Midway Airlines commercial", said Van Dien.

A lot has changed during the past twelve years. Van Dien is the father of three children and the husband of

model/actress **Catherine Oxenberg**. "She is my princess," he says.

Christina Ricci, also stars in *Sleepy Hollow*. She seems about as suited for the film as Tim Burton. Ricci has lot of experience playing weird roles, beginning with *Mermaids* opposite Cher, ten years ago and progressing on to the two *Addams Family* films and *Casper*, along with *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Pecker* and *The Opposite of Sex*.

"My mother was the first person to tell me that *The Opposite of Sex* was tailor made for me," says Ricci, who is now nineteen, going on thirty-nine. "She said that I could do the role in my sleep and that I'd be a fool not to take it."

Ricci's role in the film catapulted her to the top of every director's must work with list. "People seem to peg me as a bad girl," says Ricci, who began acting as kid because she needed an outlet. "But I am not as bad as people assume. I do have an authority problem but I don't think I am a trouble maker."

Smoking a Parliament, the teenager is quick to announce when she will quit. "I have always said that I will quit smoking when I turn twenty because what is the point of smoking if you're not a teenage smoker?"

In the book *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Ricci's character, Katrina Van Tassel was pursued by Van Dien's character Brom, but in Burton's version it is Ichabod Crane who has the hots for the damsel in distress.

"Wearing all of those beautiful dresses was fun. They were gorgeous. But it was terribly uncomfortable," she says.

Next up for Ricci is another film with Johnny Depp. **Sally ('Orlando') Potter's** *Man Who Cried*, which will be filmed in Depp's hometown, Paris.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is currently playing at theaters around Wisconsin.



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Television Execution of Justice

By Terry Boughner

The Matthew Shepard murder brought back memories of another sensational murder of a Gay man. In 1977, America's first openly Gay elected official, San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were gunned down in their offices.

The Showtime channel original movie *Execution of Justice*, which premieres at 7:00pm on Sunday November 28 looks at Milk's murder and the trial that followed it. Based on an Emily Mann play of the same name, *Execution of Justice* examines issues that are as relevant today as they were in 1977.

Despite the '60's, San Francisco in the early '70's was not what it is now. It was a conservative city ruled by an entrenched conservative regime. However, both social and political change was in the wind. In 1976, its voters elected liberal Democrat Moscone as their Mayor. Milk, a Gay activist and business owner in the Castro, won election to the Board of Supervisors.

So did the primary focus of the film, Dan White. This is his story. His kind is still out there. We need to understand them.

White, as played by Tim Daly, is a deeply conservative man who couldn't come to terms with the new and his own realities. The world, especially the political world, is not the sharply delineated world of black and white that White thinks it is. Things are gray with many multi-colored facets swirling within them.

Dan White, as the film portrays him, is every white Christian American male who sees the country he was taught to believe is "his," change before his eyes. Blacks are equal to whites. Gays are coming up fast. "Where does it all stop?" White agonizes, as do countless more like him today.

Execution of Justice shows White as a man without a moral center. He could just as easily have been at the side of the road taking part in the beating and murder of Matthew Shepard. He could have easily have been any Gay-basher (verbal and/or physical).

He is one of those people we run into a thousand times, frightened people, ignorant people, confused people. People like White think that "good people" are losing their voices; this in a country they not only believe is "rightfully theirs" but which they think they, and no one else, are entitled to by history and history's God.

With this outlook, White, a fireman and a former cop, runs for Supervisor on a platform condemning "radicals, social deviates,

and incorrigibles." His is a conservative district. He wins the election but is forced to leave the Fire Department because a city ordinance prevents someone from holding two city jobs at once. The problem White has is that the Supervisor's job doesn't pay enough for him to support his family.

He becomes involved in scandal. He resigns, then changes his mind and wants his job back. Only Mayor Moscone can reinstate him, but White and the Mayor differ completely on their view of things, particularly their idea of the place of Gays and other minorities in society.

As the film plays out, we see it as a metaphor for what many, particularly white conservative Christian males, think about society today. Many of the same problems that faced White in the 70's face them today.

The country, which they believed was a "white man's land" is no longer that - if it ever was. The United States has become (and is becoming) a county where the conservative white heterosexual Euro-American male is a minority. It is a country where women, Gays and a host of other groups are asserting their rightful place. It is a



PLEASE RIGHT CAPTION

country that culturally is looking south of the Mexican border and to the countries of the Pacific Rim for its identity.

Today, we hear White's fellows cry out, "It's not fair! I'm going to take my ball and jacks and go home - if I can find out where 'home' is."

White is despondent. While stuffing himself with junk food at home, he learns from the TV that Moscone will not appoint him the post he resigned. For this, he blames everybody but himself, most especially a city (America) that has changed beyond his recognition. It has no place for him.

The next morning, White takes a pistol and 10 bullets and goes to city hall where he kills Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk.

During his trial for murder, White's attorneys portray him as an all-American boy who became unhinged by eating junk food (the so-called "Twinkie defense"). The jury finds White guilty of two counts of voluntary manslaughter, rather than two counts of premeditated murder.

The film ends by asking the question, "Was justice served?" - The answer is, "Most likely not."

Execution of Justice will be shown on the Showtime channel on November 28 at 7:00pm. Additional play dates are December 2 at 7:00pm, December 13 at 9:00pm and December 18 at 5:00pm.

Gotcha!

by Billy Masters

This past week, I was at the Ovation Awards (LA's version of the Tonys) with playwright David "Party" Dillon. Among the luminaries on hand were co-presenters **Charles Nelson Reilly** and **Scott Wolf** (soon to head up the West Coast premiere of *Side Man*).

Wolf was almost convincing in proving his credibility as a theatre actor, until it came time for him to read the list of nominees. Twice he said, with great conviction, "Hedda GAYbler", completely oblivious to the snickers from the audience at his mispronunciation (not to mention the glare shot at him by the star of that production, **Annette Benning**, who was seated to my right).

Things might have ended there, but the next month's presenters, **Dylan McDermott** and his wife, couldn't resist a little joke at Wolf's expense. She said that when Dylan told her that he was taking her out to dinner and a show, she didn't know that they'd be part of the show. Dylan retorted, "I'll make it up to you and take you to see 'Hedda GAYbler!", which got a HUGE laugh. *Poor Scooter!*

Liza Minnelli has broken the box office record for the Palace Theatre. The day tickets went on sale for her return to Broadway "*Minnelli on Minnelli*", sales totaled \$436,000.

This far surpassed the previous record holder - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* - which was \$100,488! I'm told that there are still a few seats available for this limited run (December 1st through January 2nd), so if you want to see Liza (and clearly many people do), act fast.

Incidentally, sources close to Liza tell me that she's actually in pretty good shape for this show. She's reportedly lost



Charles Nelson Reilly



Scott Wolf



Annette Benning in *American Beauty*



Dylan McDermott

about 40 pounds (although the photo from the press conference says otherwise), she's vocally better than she's been in the past few years, and she seems to have conquered many of her demons. *Mama would be proud!*

Whatcha doin' New Year's Eve? If you're in New York and not with Liza, consider ringing in the new millennium with **Sandra Bernhard**. *2001: A Sandra Odyssey* will be playing New York's Town Hall and will contain favorite stories from past shows along with some new material. But, the press release warns, don't expect *Auld Lang Syne* or any other bits of sentimental schmaltz. This is New Year's Eve - Sandi style.

Speaking of the new millennium (which, in reality, is over 12 months away), singer **Robbie Williams** has been touring the country singing, among other things, his hit single, *Millennium*. Robbie,

who apparently has nothing to hide, shocked a capacity audience in Atlanta by walking on stage for his encore completely naked! Robbie was covering his private parts with his hand (and not a terribly big hand, from what I hear).

This left the rest of him completely exposed and prompted the British tabloid *The Sun* to dub Robbie "Rear of the Year". *Know your strengths, I always say.*

When discussing troubled child stars, I immediately think of **Gary Coleman**. No matter what scandal Gary's been involved with, I've never been surprised. However, I must confess that this latest bombshell shocks

even me - Gary admitted to **Howard Stern** that he's still a virgin! Well, OK, perhaps the news isn't THAT shocking, but Gary doesn't cite his diminutive height, health problems, or run-ins with the law as reasons for abstinence. He blames the AIDS epidemic and feminism.



Robbie Williams

Bryant Gumble? There can be no other explanation for his big faux pas during the first week of his new job hosting CBS' *The Early Show*. Upon going to a commercial break, Bryant evidently



Howard Stern

entered a time warp and said, *This is Today on NBC*. The horrified look on everyone else's face clued Bryant in to his boo-boo. He laughed, made a joke about it, and then took his medication during the commercial break! Strangely, the ten people watching the show never noticed.

Could it be that a certain pop superstar is thinking of adding a long-neglected credit to her resume - like that of mother? So say my sources who confirm the rumor that this songstress had a child back when she wasn't quite in control of her life and is toying with going public with the full story.

Since having a child fifteen years ago could have damaged her career, her parents basically forced her to drop out of sight while she had her daughter. She then came back on the scene to conquer the charts for most of the decade. What about the child? She's been raised by the super-

star's sister, who has two children of her own and not much of a career. Don't worry about spreading this rumor - like the **Berry Gordy** love child **Diane Ross** had, this secret's pretty much an open book.

When Bryant forgets where he works and Coleman's working 28 hours a day (on what?), we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. I know that many of you are wondering why I haven't written anything about **Megan Mullally's** bisexuality. What more is there to say?

At this rate, everyone in the cast of *Will & Grace* will soon admit to having a same-sex encounter EXCEPT for **Sean P. Hayes** - not that there's anything wrong with that. Here's a tidbit you might not have known - a fan recently posted on the Filth Fan Forum (on my web site of www.filth2go.com) that actress **Shelley Morrison** plays Karen's caustic maid, Rosario.

That may mean nothing to you, until you realize that Shelley also played the malapropic Sister Sixto on *The Flying Nun* a million years ago. Just a sample of the useless bits of fun information to be found at Filth2Go. Maybe you have some trivia of your own you'd like to share with me.

Or perhaps you have a juicy bit of gossip (or any other juicy bits, for that matter). Then send them along to my e-mail address of Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before Gary Coleman loses his virginity (that's a mighty long time)



Meagan Mullally



Sean Hayes

Cinema Review

Sleepy Hollow

Review by John Jahn

Like most of you, I was first introduced to Washington Irving's short story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," in high school English class. The eerie story of Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman set in a town north of New York City some two centuries ago is an interesting starting point for a feature film, but it's just too short as it is. Enter screenwriter Andrew Walker, who fleshes the tale out for a nearly two hour-long film. While significantly different from the original, the screenplay of *Sleepy Hollow* does adequate service to Irving's work.

One pleasant change is with the Ichabod Crane character. No longer is he a lanky, unattractive schoolteacher. He's now a constable played by gorgeous **Johnny Depp**. Crane is sent to Sleepy Hollow to investigate the gruesome decapitation murders taking place there. Witnesses tell of a mysterious, headless rider - the ghost of a notorious Hessian soldier long dead - doing these vicious deeds.

Ichabod at first suspects that someone in town is the murderer. A hated rival for the affections and attention of young Katrina

Van Tassel (**Christina Ricci**), Brom Van Brunt (**Casper Van Dien**), seems a likely choice. But the movie doesn't take long to dispel that mystery, and this leads to Sleepy Hollow's main fault: there is no mystery to solve regarding the identity of the Headless Horseman after its first half-hour. The only question remaining is a rather unsatisfying one: who's bidding is the Horseman doing and why?

Visually and aurally, *Sleepy Hollow* is creepy and effective, due mainly to **Tim Burton's** expert vision, fine cinematography, Danny Elfman's chilling score and impressive production design work. It is also convincingly written, sounding authentically old to adequately transport you back to its 1799 setting.

The film possesses decent acting, which gets the job done (as well as some interesting cameos by the likes of **Martin Landau**, **Christopher Lee** and **Chris Walken**), but nothing remotely Oscar-worthy. Rather, the strengths of *Sleepy Hollow* lie in its atmosphere and visual effects. It is rather more graphic than one would expect - even going into a film about decapitations! Nevertheless, *Sleepy Hollow* makes for a fairly entertaining, bloody, beautifully crafted period piece - though one you won't lose your head over.

2 1/2 Stars

Theatre Review

Dionne Warwick

Review by John Jahn

I remember seeing Frank Sinatra in concert seven years ago. Rather like a Roman ruin - grand, magnificent, awesome, but a shadow of its glorious past, nevertheless. Such is the chance you take when hearing a singer with many miles logged on his/her voice. Would this be the case with Dionne Warwick (who turns 59 next month), whose first hit was recorded in 1962?

Friday night's concert, with backing by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and her own travelling band, answered that question in the negative; for the most part, she's still got it.

For an hour and a half, she provided the audience with a trip down memory lane as well as a glimpse of her new sound, to be found on the recently-released "Dionne Sings Dionne" album.

Ms. Warwick gave strong renditions of a dozen or so of her 55 hit singles, her voice loud and sure enough to be heard over a stagefull of musicians. Her low and mid-range are as clear as a bell; only in the high end does she deftly avoid going for the note full-throttle.

After her medley of such Bachrach and David gems as "Anyone Who Had a Heart," "Walk On By," and "Message To Michael," Warwick shifted gears for a Latin-flavored set honoring her "second home," Brazil. This was a delight to hear, especially as she clearly has an affection for the sounds of Latin America. Included in this

was a Salsafied version of "Do You Know the Way To San Jose" which worked quite well. She ended her concert with powerful, self-assured renditions of "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and "That's What Friends Are For."

If her new album is anything like her live

performance here in Milwaukee, it would make a nice Christmas gift for a friend of good musical taste.



A Laugh A Minute!!!

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Theatre Review

A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum

Review by John Jahn

Comedy Tonight is the standout tune, which both introduces and wraps up Stephen Sondheim's *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum*. It's also an appropriate way to sum up Dale Gutzman's current production at Centennial Hall. He clearly has a thing for Sondheim, and this thing never has shown itself to be more evident than with this ribald comedy.

Gutzman plays Pseudolus, a slave seeking his freedom. To this end, he tries to match his master, Hero (**Jorge Arroyo**), son of Senex (**Lawrence J. Lukasavage**), to the girl he loves. There's a small complication, however. The girl in question, Philia (**Jodi Schwalbach**), will soon have to leave with an egotistical captain, Miles Glorious (**Ryan Johnson**). Further problems arise when Senex meets Philia and lusts for her himself while his wife, Domina (**Mary Henricksen**), is away from home.

Sondheim's *Forum* is filled with physical gags and smartly funny dialog. It demands spontaneity, timing, expressiveness and is ripe for improvisation. Almost none of its 15 musical numbers are delivered by an actor simply belting the song out to the audience while standing almost motionless. Rather, they are mostly ensemble numbers involving action and words.

Sets and costumes are brightly colored - gaudy even - almost cartoonish. They compliment the zany antics and amusing songs like *Everybody Ought To Have a Maid* and *That Dirty Old Man*. Gutzman and Company show they are quite up to the task of providing solid entertainment on every level. Kudos especially go out to Dale in the central role and **Michael Weiser** (as his

friend and put-upon fellow slave, Hysterium) for their outstanding, often hilarious performances. If the show has a weakness, it's only in a few rather thin singing voices, but this amounts to a mere quibble over an otherwise excellent production.

A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum will be repeated November 26 and 27. Also, Dale's *Holiday Punch* is coming up December 17, 18 and 19. For tickets and further information, call (414) 327-3552.



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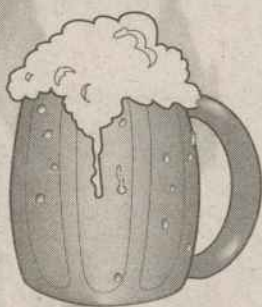


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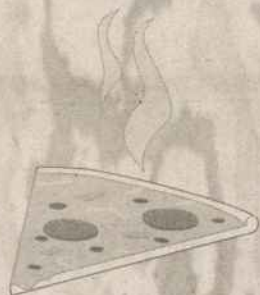
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out in Cyberspace



by Michael Stewart

Online Coupons

by Michael Stewart

Several of my recent columns touched on some of the ways you can avoid being ripped off when you frequent online auction sites or e-commerce retailers. With the holiday shopping season gearing up – some merchants plant Santa right next to Jack O'Lantern in the pumpkin patch, this is an excellent time to shift our focus away from wasting money to one of the novel ways you can save it.

E-commerce and cyberspace retail outlets are wonderful, but most of us do the bulk of our shopping at traditional stores. It didn't take the online industry long to come up with a way to use the Internet to get the off line registers ringing.

One way to make your regular shopping less costly can found at CoolSavings (www.coolsavings.com). CoolSavings, which debuted in March 1997, is the original and largest online coupon site.

It allows you to download coupons from local and national retail stores, restaurant chains and travel providers. You can print out the coupons on your laser, inkjet or bubble jet printer and use them just like you would use other coupons. Other printers aren't supported because they are unable to print the laser-scannable barcodes each coupon bears.

You'll have to register if you want to use CoolSavings. This registration process entails providing some personal and demographic information. As with many e-commerce sites, the more information you provide, the more useful CoolSavings will be. For example, including the fact that you have a dog will ensure you get whatever pet-oriented coupons are available.

You can rest easy, if like me, you see online questionnaires as open doors to a deluge of spam-mail. CoolSavings is a member of the TRUSTe program (www.truste.org), an independent online initiative that sets and maintains privacy standards for those electronic merchants that adhere to consumer-friendly marketing principles.

After you've enrolled, you'll have to download a small 300K application, the Coupon Manager, which works in conjunction with your browser to save, download and print coupons. The program is

available in various "flavors" (Macintosh and the several iterations of Windows) and your favorite web browser.

If there's another person in your household with wholly different interests, you need not worry. You only have to register and download the Coupon Manager once. The program allows you to enter as many as fifteen different "shoppers."

Once you've installed the Coupon Manager, it's time to start saving some bucks! The CoolSavings web site makes it easy to find offers from stores in your area and from national products that are sponsoring sales in your region.

With CoolSavings you can configure a "Shopping List" that will keep track of the types of offers you're most interested in learning about. When you see a coupon you'd like to take advantage of, simply hit the little "Clip" button, and the Coupon Manager will automatically download the data necessary to print it out.

Just repeat the process until you've found everything in which you're interested (or until your piggybank squeals!). You can choose to print out all your coupons immediately or you can let the program hold onto any or all of them until your shopping plans are complete.

Like its competitor, ValuePass, (www.valuepass.com), CoolSavings also spotlights offers available from electronic merchants that are instantly redeemable when you make a purchase online. Mrs. Fields cookies, anyone?

Happy Thanksgiving!

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View from the Bi Side

By **Nikki Schlaishunt**

Who are bisexuals? Do they really exist? Aren't they just kidding themselves, hiding, or succumbing to their own inner homophobia? Are bisexuals just over-sexed freaks willing to have sex with anything that moves? Are they incapable of monogamy, afraid to commit to just one person, incurable cheaters?

Bisexuality is a complex, and for some people, a volatile issue. There are those who say that Bisexuals don't exist, some say it's just a phase, some say bisexuals are fence sitters. The truth is that all of these things are true and all of them are false - it depends on the individual.

We live in an either/or world. We are raised in this society to view things in dichotomies: right or wrong; male or female; logic or emotion; yes or no; straight or gay. We leave no room for mixing, no room for both. What we don't see that there is a third choice. And a fourth. And a tenth. Things aren't black or white - they are red, yellow, green, purple, and all the shades in between.

Bisexuality is not one issue and it does not fit one definition. Bisexuality is as diverse and varied as the individuals who choose to identify as bi. Most of all, bisexuality is about the right of each individual to self-identify; to say who they are and who they love.

This column is intended to open a subject that many people find confusing, frustrating and/or threatening. Assumptions will be challenged. Stereotypes will be called into question and explored. Myths will be separated from facts. I hope that this will open a dialogue that will strengthen and enrich the colors and shades of our community.

The Power of Naming

Did you ever read Ursula Le Guin's Earth Sea Trilogy? In those books, a name was a magical tool, and naming—speaking the name out loud—was power. This is not fantasy; it is reality.

For example, if I am angry with someone, if I do not name it, if I do not speak it aloud, my anger grows obscure and disproportionate. But when I stop and speak the words, "I am angry" I give anger shape and form and dimension. I claim the power of words and make them work for me, rather than letting that power work on me.

When I first named my bisexuality, I did so only in my head; I named it in silence. I released the power, but I did not claim it. Unspoken, it grew distorted. It manifested itself as restlessness, and grew into anxiety. It interrupted my sleep, altered my appetite and decreased my ability to focus on the tasks at hand.

My life felt out of balance, but I only dimly related this to the word bisexuality -

a word I had not spoken.

One sleepless night, I was up pacing, all alone. I stopped and I spoke the words, "I am bisexual." In an instant I felt focused, and the words poured out of me. I told the empty room all that I longed to speak of with others. I spoke my truth. When I finished, I found that I could sleep.

The relief that I found was short lived. I released the words into the night air, but there was no one there to hear them, to help give them shapes and meaning. There was no one there to make the words concrete, so they shifted back into shapelessness over night. I needed to speak, but I also needed to be heard.

Naming my truth to another proved an incredible challenge. The injunction on speaking these words was so firm and deep that I found myself opening my mouth, but no words would come out. I felt unable to speak to my straight friends, but worst of all, I felt unable to talk to my gay friends.

To risk ridicule and rejection by those who knew very well how it felt to be ridiculed and rejected was almost more than I could face. After several abortive attempts, I used written words to build a bridge to others who met me half way and let me finally speak my truth out loud, person to person.

Speaking these words was power. Naming my truth to another and being heard was validation—the words became reality, the reality became concrete. Sharing this truth with others like me enabled me to transform this power—to shape this power in my design, to own this power, as I own my blood, as I own my tears.

A name is a magical tool; naming is an act of power.

Editor's note: We welcome Nikki Schlaishunt to our staff. Ms. Schlaishunt chairs Milwaukee's Bi Definition group and is Editor of the quarterly publication Bi All Means. Her column will be a biweekly feature in the Wisconsin Light

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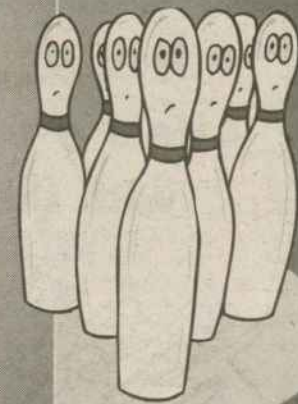
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Spotlight Events

26 Fri. Classics Program, Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee):

Pinchas Zukerman, conductor and violin; Yefim Bronfman, piano performing Beethoven and Schoenberg. Continues through Sunday, 11/28; Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Uihlein Hall; 7:30 Fri/Sun, 8pm Sat. (414) 291-7605.

Fiddler on the Roof, Cabot Theatre (Milwaukee): Music by Jerry Bock, an American musical classic telling the story of Tevye and his family as they cope with shattered traditions and impending revolution in Russia and their courageous determination to make a life in the new world. Continues through Dec. 19; Broadway Theatre Complex, 158 N. Broadway, \$12-49, student/sr. discounts, (414) 291-7800.

The Santaland Diaries, Bialystock & Bloom Co. (Milwaukee): By David Sedaris, adopted by Joe Mantello. B&B is taking no prisoners this holiday season, presenting Sedaris' hilarious take on holiday employment. About one man's absurd search for seasonal work and his ultimate journey through the paces of becoming a dept. store elf. Continues through Dec. 20, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., tickets \$12; (414) 221-7055.

The Three Musketeers, Madison Rep & University Theatre (Madison): Jim DeVita's new adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic. See the Spotlight Preview article this page for more information. Continues through Dec. 19; UW Mitchell Theatre, Tickets at Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 Univ. Ave.; \$20-25, (608) 262-1500.

27 sat. Duke's Place, Miller Cabaret Series (Milwaukee):

A tribute to Edward Duke Ellington celebrating his music following performances of **Fiddler**. Continues through Dec. 18, Skylight Bar, 2nd Floor, 158 N. Broadway, 10:30pm, Free.

Public Radio Broadcast, Florentine Opera (Statewide): Wisconsin Public Radio broadcasts the Florentine's production of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* during NPR News and Classical Music at 1pm.

28 sun. Celebrity Memorabilia Auction, Artistic Pursuits Ltd (Utica, IL):

All proceeds to benefit the visual arts of the North Central Illinois Not-for-profit center. Doors open 2pm, advance tickets \$10. Located at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Starved Rock State Park, Route 178 & 71 in Utica. Champagne fountain, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, music. Tickets: 800-868-7625; inquiries: Vanessa 815-434-2784.

30 Tue. A Celebration of Remembrance and Hope, Entertainers Against AIDS (Green Bay):

At the Weidner Center: on the eve of World AIDS Day. Co-hosted by Teri Barr (Fox 11) and Kathy Larking (WQLH) and a huge variety of local talent and personalities and politicians. Weidner Center. 7:30-9:30pm; Free Admission, Open to all; (920) 437-7400.

All Student Exhibition, Milw. Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) (Milwaukee): A glimpse of the future, show juried by students, open to freshmen through seniors, featuring drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs, prints, illustrations and design models. Continues through Dec. 16 MIAD Fredrick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St., (414) 276-7889.

Holiday Pops Program, Milw. Symphony Orchestra (West Bend): Andrews Sill, conductor, with all your favorite holiday classics and pops. Call for location and prices: 7:30pm, (414) 334-6720.

Jolly Holly Folly, Benefit for ARCW (Milwaukee): Cocktails, buffet, performance of the Milwaukee Rep's *Noises Off* as a benefit for ARCW. Milwaukee Center Arboretum and Gallery, Water between Wells and Kilbourn. 5:30pm cocktails, \$75 advance please, (414) 225-1577.

1 wed. Doc Severinsen and his Trio, Benefit for Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee):

Doc and his trio lend his talents to benefit the MSO at Doc's Place, at the Pfister Hotel, 7th Floor. An evening of music in an intimate setting, food, drink and dancing. Open to the public. Tickets \$100 per person available by calling Betsy McDermott at (414)

291-6020, ext. 283. Seating is limited. One show only, 6:30pm.

Jack and Colleen's Fabulous Christmas Party Show, Oakwood Village Theatre (Madison): Featuring performers from the Madison Rep's production of *A, My Name Will Always Be Alice* performers Colleen Burns and Jack Forbes Wilson present an eclectic mix of original sketch comedy and song from Burns and Wilson's *Tis The Season*. It's about parties, snow days, romance and dysfunctional families, celebrating and not celebrating Christmas and loving it and being sick of it. Continues through Dec. 4, Oakwood Village Theatre, 6209 Mineral Point Rd., times vary, \$15 tickets available call (800) 581-6885.

Noises Off, Milw. Repertory Theatre (Milwaukee): Production of *Noises Off* opens. See the full article in the November 17th issue of *Light*. An outrageous play within a play, this comedic madness of a theatre company spills over from behind the curtain to create pandemonium on stage. Continues through Jan. 2; Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex, 108 E. Wells St.; \$5-36 with special rush tix. (414) 224-9490.

2 thu. Room Service, Next Act Theatre (Milwaukee):

A hilarious Marx Brothers romp with Norman Moses as Groucho, Ray Jivoff as Harpo and Michael Herold as Chico. Directed by David Ceasarini. mA wheeler-dealer producer and two wacky sidekicks go to outrageous extremes to get their new play on the boards. Continues through the 19th. Marcus Center Stiemke Theater, \$18-26, (414) 224-9490.

3 fri. Author Reading and Discussion, Room of One's Own (Madison):

Influential author, essayist and author Barbara Smith, discussion her most recent works, *~he Truth that Never Hurts* and *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*. 307 W. Johnson, 6:30pm, free admission, (608) 257-7888.

Holiday Pops Program, Milw. Symphony Pops (Milwaukee): Doc Severinsen, conductor/trumpet, and the MSO Chorus, Lee Erickson, director and Alleluia Ringers Handbell Choir. Continues through Dec. 5, Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, (414) 291-7605.

Retablo Art Exhibit Opening, Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee): Retablos are a traditional Mexican art form with brightly colored paintings on various shapes and forms made of tin. Various artists will exhibit. Continues through Jan. 8, 911 W. National Ave., Tonight: 6-8pm, Free admission, (414) 672-2787.

Text & Texture, Gallery H20 (Milwaukee): A visual language, opening reception tonight from 6-10pm. Continues through Dec. 31, 221 N. Water St. (414) 271-8032

4 sat. Calliope touring Renaissance Band, Early Music Now (Milwaukee):

Early Music Now brings a very special holiday treat, *Calliope* the world's favorite touring Renaissance Band performing with acclaimed soprano Jane Bryden. A rollicking musical holiday journey through Europe, from an early English Great House to 16th Century Paris and Germanic lands. One night only, St. John's Cathedral, 802 N. Jackson St., 8pm, \$25, (414) 225-3113.

Exhibition Opening Reception, Madison Art Center (Madison): Two new exhibitions premiere with sculptor Leonardo Drew in dialogue with Curator of Exhibitions Sara Krajewski for a special Art Talk at 7pm. An exhibition of recent paintings by Chicago artist Erik Weisenburger also opens. Weisenburger employs the historical symbolism of plants and animals and well as myths and martyrdom's to address contemporary issues. Madison Art Center Third Floor Galleries, 211 State St., Reception 8pm, Free for members, \$5 public, (608) 257-0158.

Theater Auditions, Boulevard Ensemble (Milwaukee): Auditions for the Feb. production of Chekov's *Uncle Vanya* and the April production of Tennessee William's *Suddenly Last Summer*. Prepare to memorized contrasting monologues (total 2 min.), bring resumes, head shots and personal calendars for scheduling information. Call to schedule an appointment. Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., 10am, (414) 744-5757.

5 sun. Messiah Sing-Along, Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (Milwaukee):

15th annual sing-along with conductor Michael Kamenski, lead you in singing Handel's famed oratorio. 2133 W. Wisconsin, 2pm, Free, (414) 345-8800.

SpotLight Preview

Glitteratti Galore at Green Bay Gayla

Green Bay – The 11th observance of the United Nations' World AIDS Day will advance this year's theme of *AIDS: End the Silence. Listen, Learn and Live!* with a two and a half hour, 19 act extravaganza at the region's most prestigious performing arts center...Free!

A *Celebration of Remembrance and Hope* will be held on Tuesday, November 30 from 7:30pm in the Coffrin Hall of the Weidner Center at UW-Green Bay. The program will be hosted by local media celebrities and feature appearances by Mayor Paul Jadin, Brown Co. Exec. Nancy Nusbaum and Miss Green Bay Kelly Marie Kujava.

A cast of more than 125 members ranging in age from pre-teens to eighties will perform dance, musical, comedic and dramatic routines interspersed with messages about HIV/AIDS and its impact on North Eastern Wisconsin.

This will be the Green-Bay based Entertainers Against AIDS' largest staged event in its year-old history. The group of professional and amateur performers have brought HIV/AIDS awareness messages to audiences around the state. See the ad for the show for a listing of some of the numerous acts scheduled.

A wide variety of charitable organizations and businesses from both the straight and LGBT communities totally underwrote the cost of the show, allowing the doors to be open to the public at no charge.

During the evening, Dan McDonough, an HIV+ member of the United Nation's AIDS Task Force, will bring a global perspective of the world pandemic. ARCW Regional Director Karen Dotson and veteran AIDS activist Jean Olesky will focus on the impact of HIV/AIDS in northeast Wisconsin.

All attendees and performers are welcome to attend a reception following the show.

Three Musketeers Swashbuckle into Madison

Madison – The Madison Repertory Theatre and University Theatre present Jim DeVita's new adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' classic *The Three Musketeers*. Romance and adventure, the focus lies on the tension between the lust for power and the need for human integrity.

DeVita provides a fresh look at the age-old duel between good and evil, adding comic flair to plots of intrigue, deception, passion and murder.

Musketeers is the largest production the Rep has produced, and this would not be possible without the efforts and talents of both organizations. Directed by D.

Scott Glasser, the production runs from November 26-December 19 at the UW Mitchell Theatre.

Tickets are \$25 for Fri. and Sat. performances and \$20 for Wed., Thurs. and Sun. Get tickets at: Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 University Dr., or call (608) 262-1500. December 19 will be a sign language interpreted performance; please contact the box office by Dec. 6 for this show.

A Madison Christmas Party Show

Madison – Following on the heels of their performances in the wildly successful *A My Name Will Always Be Alice* at the Madison Rep, Colleen Burns and Jack Forbes Wilson bring *Jack and Colleen's Fabulous Christmas Party Show* December 1-4 to the Oakwood Village Theatre.

The new show, written by Burns and Wilson, features an eclectic mix of original sketch comedy and song from Burns and Wilson's *Tis The Season*, which played to sold-out houses at the Rep in the '95-'96 season.

"We're throwing a Christmas Party, and you're invited," said Burns. "This is about celebrating Christmas, and not celebrating it, and loving it, and then being sick of it." Wilson added, "It's about parties, snow days, romance and dysfunctional families, and oh my gosh, I get all warm and fuzzed out thinking about it."

Performances are 7:30pm Wed. and Thurs. Dec. 1 & 2; 1:30 and 8pm Fri., Dec. 3; and 2 and 8pm Sat., Dec. 4 at the Oakwood, 6209 Mineral Point Road. Tickets are \$15 and available by calling (800) 581-6885.

Phantom Mail Order Tickets

Milwaukee – Mail order and group sales tickets are now available for the upcoming Cameron Mackintosh/Really Useful Theatre Company's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts for a triumphant three week return engagement from July 26-August 13, 2000.

Ticket prices range from \$16.50 to \$69. Mail order forms are available in person at the Marcus Box Office, 929 N. Water St., in downtown Milwaukee. Order forms were also included in the November 21 editions of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and *Madison's Wisconsin State Journal*. There is a \$5 service charge per order. Orders for groups of 20 or more are now being accepted by calling (414) 273-7121, ext. 210 or toll free at (888) 367-8101.

'99 Holiday Gift Guide

Welcome to the first of four 1999 Holiday Gift Guides. This issue focuses on decorations for the home, the symbolic meaning behind them and the Christmas decorations that line our streets. Our future issues will include Gay gifts, Fashion and Holiday Entertaining. We'll also throw in a few interesting recipes, Wisconsin Light Gift Picks, and tips for shopping online.

Tis the Season for Symbolic Decor

by Diane M. Gregory

A symbol, through its nature or appearance, reflects or represents something much more profound than itself. Its image is woven into many interpretations that help us explain the mysteries of life. For example, the rainbow flag, symbolizing Gay pride. The colors represent: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for serenity with nature, violet for spirit, and blue for harmony. So, the flag represents something much more than just pride.

Most of us are largely unaware of the symbolism that surrounds our traditions. The richness and history intricately woven into them, however, often provides a way for us to add meaning and significance to our life. This time of year, full of traditions and symbols, is the perfect time to provide a brief history behind some of our holiday traditions and decorations.



Winter Solstice

December 22, the winter solstice - a time of standing still - is the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the origin of the Saturnalia and

Yuletide festivals as well as the 12 days of Christmas.

Legend tells us that hundreds of years ago, during the winter solstice, people worshipped the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, they feared the time of year when the sun god seemed to forsake them. As each day became shorter, it seemed to them that there would be no light or life left on earth at all. The sun god always relented, however, and the days gradually became longer.

The winter solstice was a time when people in northern Europe burned lights and fires to help the sun god rekindle his lamp. They celebrated, knowing there would be spring. Crops and life would flourish.

The Romans honored Saturn, the god of agriculture, with their Saturnalia festival. This too, was a time of celebration.

Some members of the modern day LGBT community also celebrate the solstice — just ask any Wiccan or Radical Fairy you may bump into.



Twelve

Most of us are familiar with the 12 Days of Christmas. But, in fact, the symbolism behind the 12 days is the number 12 itself. Twelve is the base number of space and time in ancient astronomy,

astrology and calendric science. It has considerable symbolic importance, especially in Judeo-Christian tradition where it was the number of the chosen. Twelve represents cosmic organization, zones of celestial influence and an achieved cycle of time (the 12 calendar months, the 12 hours of day and night, and 12 groups of years in China.)



Stars

Stars have always had a significant religious meaning. To some, they symbolize supremacy, constancy, guidance, guardianship, vigilance or aspiration. Ancient beliefs that the stars ruled, or influenced life, account for much of its symbolism.

The ancient people of Babylon, who wrote in pictures, repeated the star symbol three times to symbolize a god. Ancient Egyptians believed that certain gods controlled the various stars. In China, the stars and constellations were objects of worship. Hebrews made their symbol the six-pointed star of David, which is still the emblem of the Jewish people. The Blackfoot Indians of North America believed that each star was at one time a human being.

The five-pointed Star of Christmas, however, is unique. According to

astronomers and historians, it was not merely a shooting star or a comet, which usually lasts only seconds. Clues, found in ancient writings, tell us that the star of Bethlehem guided the Three Wise Men in their travels for weeks.

Today, many people believe the Christmas Star is simply a miracle. It's the symbol of high hopes and high ideals - hope and good fortune, hope for reaching above ones self.



The Tree

Decorated trees had a special meaning long before Christmas was celebrated.

Several thousand years ago, in what is now England and France, a group of Celtic people known as Druids and sorcerers, priests, prophets and healers all worshipped nature, practiced magic, and held sacred ceremonies in sacred groves. At the winter solstice, the Druid priests dec

Continued on Page 26

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Downtown Milwaukee's Festive Holiday Lights

by Ron Geiman

This Holiday season, downtown, Milwaukee is looking the best I can remember since moving here in 1974. Stunning light displays, called the *Holiday Lights Festival* has the three major downtown parks ablaze with color and fanciful light sculpture creations.

Zeidler Park at 4th and Michigan has a Victorian theme. Cathedral Park (Kilbourn at Jackson) is a camp with lots of sports decorations geared towards those kids or the little nieces and nephews you have in your life. The most stunning – with the Marcus Center and its background across the river of golden colored wrapped tree trunks in the Chestnut grove – is Pere Marquette Park, located at the intersection of 3rd, Kilbourn and the Milwaukee River. I fell in love with the big red Teddy Bear, the deluxe porticos and the fanciful sets with a candyland theme.

Wisconsin Avenue is ablaze with tasteful white lighted green wreaths and big red bows on all the old acorn-shaped harp street lamps. The street intersections feature swags of greenery and lights and each of the two skywalks over the street display large Holiday greetings.

The Federal Plaza's holiday decor places three stunning 10-12 foot steel wire Angels playing long horns as they sway in the breeze with dramatic lighting making them glimmer. They'll look even more glittery with a little snow on the ground. It looks hot with Milwaukee's <real> Big Blue, the

Federal building in the background.

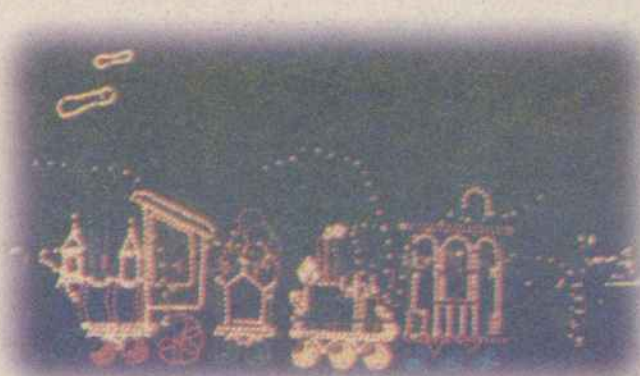
Too bad all the wonderful animated windows that Gimbel's used to do are long gone, but then they've been gone since Fields took over the now-abandoned building. Boston store features one – but only one – animated window that the kids, and the kid in you, will surely enjoy.

I can only dream of the time when



Pere Marquette Park reflected in the river.

Boston store reopens all its street level windows (Whitney Gould, I agree with you!), on all three sides, and hires some talented "sister" to set up some stunning



Wisconsin Avenue is looking Grand!

holiday displays! Then again, we may see the Phoenix rising, when the White Tusk Group redevelops the old Gimbel's building, opens all of its windows and restores the outside. Think of that all dressed up for some holiday pizzazz!

Soon the rest of the decor and Christmas trees will go up at all the office buildings and City Hall. Many of the buildings already have outlined their roofs with white lights (and one with blue) and nearly 50 will do the same. It looks very festive, especially from a distance or from the freeway.

The new, permanent outdoor skating rink opens December 10 in Red Arrow Park across from the Marcus on Water Street. This new facility will be a great place for a Sunday afternoon skate date to enliven a sunny winter day. Hopefully the concession stand, rental/changing area facility will be completed in time. They've designed a curving ramp that goes between the upper level near the MGIC building and the rink, and provides a nice viewing area to just watch the skaters.

The Pabst Mansion, a little further west on Wisconsin, is also dressed to kill for the holidays,

both outdoors and, of course, in period style in all the graciously restored interior rooms. I think it may be time for another visit, especially at this time of year, as it promises to be *tres chic*.

So get out of the house, and out of the car. Hop the Jingle Bus for a \$1 tour provided by Gray Line Tours. The Jingle Bus travels between the parks, The Grand Avenue and tours 120 blocks that create a spectacular holiday



Teddy at Pere Marquette Park

lighting show that has to be seen. The tours run every Thursday from 6-8pm, Friday and Saturday from 6-9pm and Sunday from 5-7pm. The Milwaukee Hilton is the official warming house, offering refreshments and restroom facilities.

WI Light Photos by Ron Geiman

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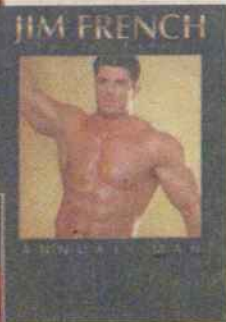
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PLENTY of
FREE PARKING

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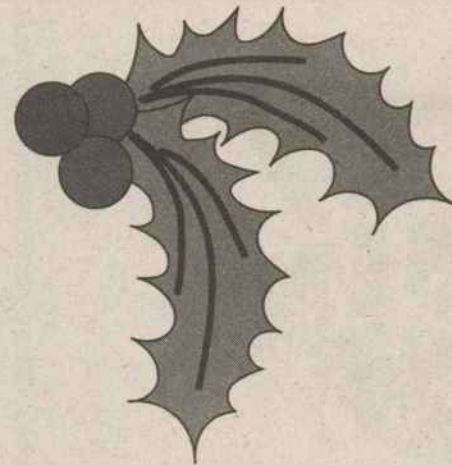
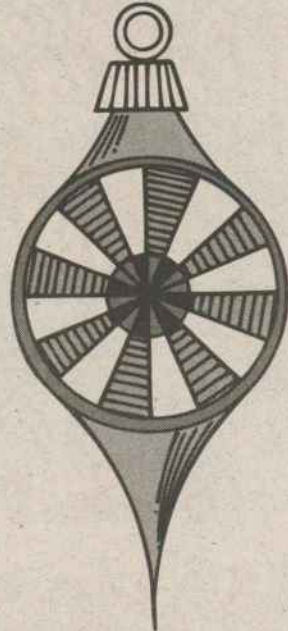
orated oak trees with gilded apples and lighted candles. The apples symbolized gratitude to the god Odin for bestowing fruits. The candles honored the sun god Balder.

The ancient Romans trimmed trees with trinkets and candles placing an image of the sun god at the tip. Egyptians celebrated Isis, the goddess of growing things, by taking palm branches into homes, as a symbol of continuing life.

According to legend, the evergreen tree began symbolizing Christmas about 1200 years ago. The first real record of the Christmas tree is in a German book dated 1604.

Today, the tree, sparkling with ornaments and colored lights, topped some-

times with a star, symbolizes Christmas to many people.



Greens and Flowers

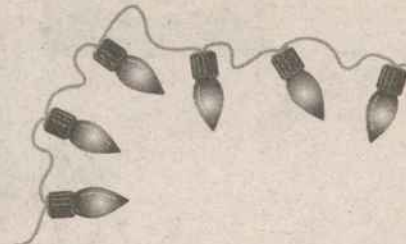
For many people, mistletoe is a symbol of Christmas joy. Holly stands for peace. Ivy is a symbol of eternal life. Christian legends surround the Poinsettia and the Christmas Rose. Long before Christmas, however, greens and flowers had a symbolic place in cultures.

Primitive tribes in Europe hung evergreens above their doors during the winter. They believed the woodland spirits were forced to wander around in the cold. By offering them shelter within their homes, they hoped for good fortune and good health.

The ancient Romans decked their homes with evergreens and gave each other green branches for good luck.

To the Druids, the plants that did not die were a sacred symbol of life.

Decorating with greens, flowers, wreaths, mistletoe and garlands remains a tradition today in many of our homes.



Candles and Colored Lights

Throughout history, some form of light has symbolized occasions of joy. The new light meant new life. Thousands of years ago, people lit torches and bonfires at their winter solstice rites. Ancient

Scandinavians built fires to defy the frost king. Persians kindled fires in honor of Mithras, their god of light. Romans put burning candles on small trees in honor of Saturn, ruler of the crops. The Druids lit candles for the sun god, Balder.

People of the Middle Ages put lighted candles in their windows on Christmas Eve to guide the Christ Child. No stranger was turned away, for who knew - he might be the Christ Child in disguise. Since the first Hanukkah in 165 BC, Jews have lit candles in a Menorah, one each evening until eight, plus a Shamash, or servant candle, until all are burning.

Before electricity, candles were used to light the Christmas tree. People believed they would keep evil spirits away.

Today, in almost all cultures and religions, lights symbolize joy, warmth, and life.

When it starts to become dark in winter, try to remember the sun god has not left us. When you celebrate the 12 days of Christmas, remember the number 12 also represents the zones of celestial influence. The next time you look at a star, remember it is a symbol of high hopes. When you decide to look for that tree for your home, think of the days they decorated with gilded apples and candles.

When you hang your ornaments, think of how horns and bells were used to scare off evil spirits. When you hang your ivy, think of how it symbolizes eternal life. Remember how candles were lit in windows to guide the Christ child. Or think of none of the above and just enjoy your holiday!



**1999
Holiday Ornament**

Fourth Edition

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry operates Raphael House to mitigate the suffering and enhance the quality of life of those affected by HIV disease. Named after Raphael, the Angel of Healing, the residence provides practical, physical, emotional and spiritual support for persons with HIV/AIDS. Assistance and care is provided regardless of gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. Each person's individuality and faith is respected, and no religion of faith is taught or preferred. You can support this vital ministry in our community through the purchase of one or more of our fourth edition holiday ornaments.

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Phone: (414) 259-4664 Fax: 259-7702

Ornaments are also available at Designing Men!

Tree Ornaments

Before colored lights and ornaments, Christmas trees were decorated with fruits, nuts, strings of popcorn, paper chains and paper stars. In some cultures, horns and bells were used to scare off evil spirits, and figures of fairies - the good spirits - were used in place of angels.

Traditionally, Polish Christmas trees are decorated with stars, angels, peacocks, and other birds. Swedish trees have brightly painted wooden ornaments and straw figures of animals and children. In Denmark, trees are decorated with mobiles of bells, stars, snowflakes, hearts and tiny Danish flags. Lithuanians decorate their trees with straw birdcages, symbolizing a wish for good crops in the coming year.

Czechoslovakian trees are decorated with painted eggshells. Ukrainian Christmas trees may be decorated with a spider and web for good luck. The legend tells of a poor woman with nothing to put on her children's tree. On Christmas morning she woke to find the branches covered with spider webs that were turned to silver by the rising sun.

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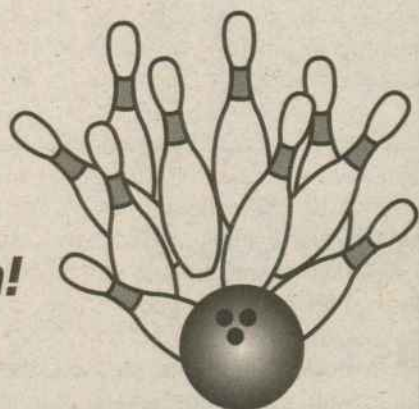
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... Bowlers!

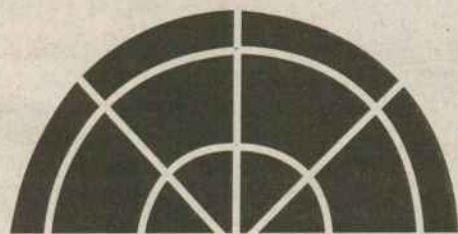
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News... The Wisconsin Entertainer of the Year ended a three-year hiatus with a grand affair at the Best Western in Mad Town. (Boy, some people thought it was bad when the *Wisconsin Light* skipped two weeks!)

This used to be one of the better pageants in the state and my spy on the scene... er I mean correspondent, Timm, tells me that it picked right up where it left off.

The emcee for the evening, Carolyn Klein, is one of my favorites and I am sorry that I missed the chance to see her put those girls through their paces. There were special performances by some of my other favorite performers including **Cass Marie Domino, Du Wanna Moore, and Miss Nova D'Vine.**



WI LIGHT PHOTO BY TIMM ARMOUR.
Simply Divine one of the judges at WI Entertainer of the Year

Vickie C won the coveted title with her rendition of Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*. Her number, which included a lifelike Toto in a basket, brought the crowd to its feet. Two other fabulous friends of mine, **Miss Kelli Jo Klein** and **Deserae Triumph** also did well. Kelli Jo was first runner up and Deserae finished as Second runner up, in what I'm told was a very close competition between three real stars.

I would have made the pageant but I was still in shock from another bit of news I have for you. George, as in **George Prentice** of **La Cage** was actually seen *tending bar*. I can hear those little gears moving in your heads right now. "But Dusty," you're thinking. "George doesn't tend bar. You're making this up."

I knew that you would think that, so I spared no effort to secure an exclusive *Wisconsin Light* photo of the big event, which I present to you as Exhibit A. Remember you saw it first here folks.



George Prentice at Your Service

George has acquired a well deserved reputation as an astute businessman which makes his stint behind the bar so hard to explain. George is a customer relations man, which means that he's normally on our side of the bar, where he conducts "quality control checks" to make sure the product is up to La Cage standards. Stick with what you do best, I always say.

If you missed the chance to be served by George, don't despair. It will probably come around again in another fifteen or twenty years, assuming he can get his walker behind the cash register.

Recaps... The multi-talented **Joe Brehm**, owner of **This Is It** doesn't have a walker and he does well on either side of the bar. Joe was in fine form when I stopped by the other night. He'll be putting up his holiday decorations the day after Thanksgiving. That makes This Is It the perfect stop after a tour of the light display at Cathedral Park, which is ever so conveniently located just a half block away.

Speaking of being close to things, I didn't have to walk very far to go from our World (or should I say Galactic) headquarters in the heart of Milwaukee's Gay Walker's Point district to two fine events last Friday.

Over at the **Ball Game**, folks were toasting five Birthday boys, Manager **Danny**, who hates having his picture taken, **Chuck, John, Adrian** and **Dan.**



WI LIGHT PHOTO BY BILL MEUNIER.
The Birthday Boys at the Ballgame

They were celebrating their B-Days with a joint party at their favorite bar. There was a huge feast in the backroom and plenty of people to enjoy it. Unfortunately, one of the guys, Dan, was late and our photographer couldn't wait and get him in the picture. Maybe next year.

A block to the North, a grand celebration of the 20th anniversary of Gay Youth Milwaukee was taking place at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Gay Youth Milwaukee was the City's first LGBT group for kids. Actually, it's the third oldest LGBT youth group in the country.

My hat's off to **Mike Lisowski**, who founded and still coordinates the organization. Over the last two decades, he has helped hundreds if not thousands of kids feel comfortable with themselves.

Mike helps the kids to feel comfortable with themselves and provides an ear for those who need one. Best of all, this group is driven by the kids, not some pushy adult who thinks he can tell everyone what to do. That might explain Mike's gray hair.

Twenty years is a long time to do anything (except of course write a column like this). The kids showed their appreciation by presenting Mike with a special award. Even I got a little choked up.



Mike Lisowski

My thanks to Mike for all of his hard work and to the kids who made sure that I was invited to their party.

Speaking of parties, Gay Milwaukee will be partying with the HIT bowlers over the Thanksgiving Day weekend. So, if you notice some new faces, be sure to say hi and ask them about their pin counts. I know from past experience that some of these guys can be pretty wild off the alleys. Or is it in the alleys. Hmm, maybe it's both.

Speaking of alleys, I had better wrap this column up before our Editor goes wild and you find me laying in one. I hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud.

Dusty Sass, who stays on the customer side of the bar, would love to hear from you. You can send him news of what's happening at your favorite nightspot via e-mail at dusty@wilight.com or by calling (414) 226-0075.

Nights out Events

24 wed. **Get Plaid!, Fluid (Milwaukee):** Wear plaid clothing and qualify to win a set of four pairs of tickets. 8pm Drawing, to Forever

Plaid playing at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Vogel Hall, showdate: November 30.

Thanksgiving/HIT Specials, South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): 2 for 1 from 3pm-2am.

25 thu. **HIT Welcome Show, Club 219 (Milwaukee):** HIT Board showcases their talents (?) at the annual Welcome Show at 10pm.

Happy Thanksgiving, Ballgame (Milwaukee): Hors d'oeuvres, drink specials and hot dogs.

Karaoke Win Tix to Forever Plaid, Switch (Milwaukee): Win tickets to the play ~Forever Plaid~ playing at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Vogel Hall.

Thanksgiving Dinner, Club 5 (Madison): Full home-style cooked meal of Turkey and all the trimmings. Reservations required. \$8.95 per person, call: (608) 277-9700.

26 fri. **HIT Special, South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee):**

27 sat. **Bear Club Night, Boot Camp (Milwaukee):** Brew City Bears gather every 4th Saturday. **Levi/Leather Night, The Main Club (Superior):** Last Saturday of each month.

28 sun. **18 & Up Night, Club 5 (Madison):** \$6 soda bash, live DJ plus cameo performances by Madison area entertainers.

HIT Farewell Brunch, M&M Club (Milwaukee)

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

4 sat. **Shoreline Holiday Party, Fannies (Milwaukee):** Fundraiser for the upkeep of the Shoreline AIDS Quilt panel. \$1 gifts at 11pm, performance by Shoreline at 10pm. Two step and Line Dance lessons from 8-9pm.

5 sun. **Annual Holiday Dinner Fundraising Party, Boot Camp (Milwaukee):** And silent auction. Ask for invitation, looking for donations to the auctions and volunteers.

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): Lily White & Nova D'vine alternate hosting Talent night including female impersonators. Midnight.

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): Life's a Drag, party with the queens of drag, 11pm.

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.

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

every sun.

Female Impersonators, Club 219 (Milwaukee): Female Impersonators, two shows. 8:30pm & 12
Showcase, LaCage (Milwaukee): Female impersonators, dancers and guests, Customer Appreciation night, no cover; beer bust 10pm-close. Showtime 11:30pm.

every tue.

Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): Amateurs welcome to audition, bring a t-strap, no g-strings allowed. 10:30pm



Cass Marie Domino gave up her Wisconsin Entertainer of the Year (EOY) '99 Title at the Pageant held at the Inn on the Park



2nd Runner-up in the Wisconsin EOY Pageant was Deserea Triumph.



1st Runner-up in the WI-EOY Pageant was Kelli Jo Klein, who recently gave up the Miss Gay WHUSA title.

WI Light Photos by Timm Armour



The newly crowned Wisconsin Wntertainer of the Year, Vicki C.



Wisconsin Entertainer of the Year contestants go all out in the talent competition, Lady Lychelle, can you say "Priscilla"?


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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, Sp	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, J, DJ	114 N. 5th St., 54601	782-9061
Rainbow's End	Wm, J, E	417 Jay St., 54601	782-9802
My Place	Mw, J, K, E, F	3201 South Ave., 54601	788-9073
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, J	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, J	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, J	1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
Ballgame	M, S, E, J	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, K, D	700 E. Meinecke, 53212	374-7441
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National Ave., 53204	643-6900
C'est La Vie	M, E, J, D	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, K	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, Sp, J	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, J	354 E. National Ave., 53204	225-9676
Station 2	Wm, Sp, J	1534 W. Grant, 53204	383-5755
Switch	Mw, Sp, J, K, DJ	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, J	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, J	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

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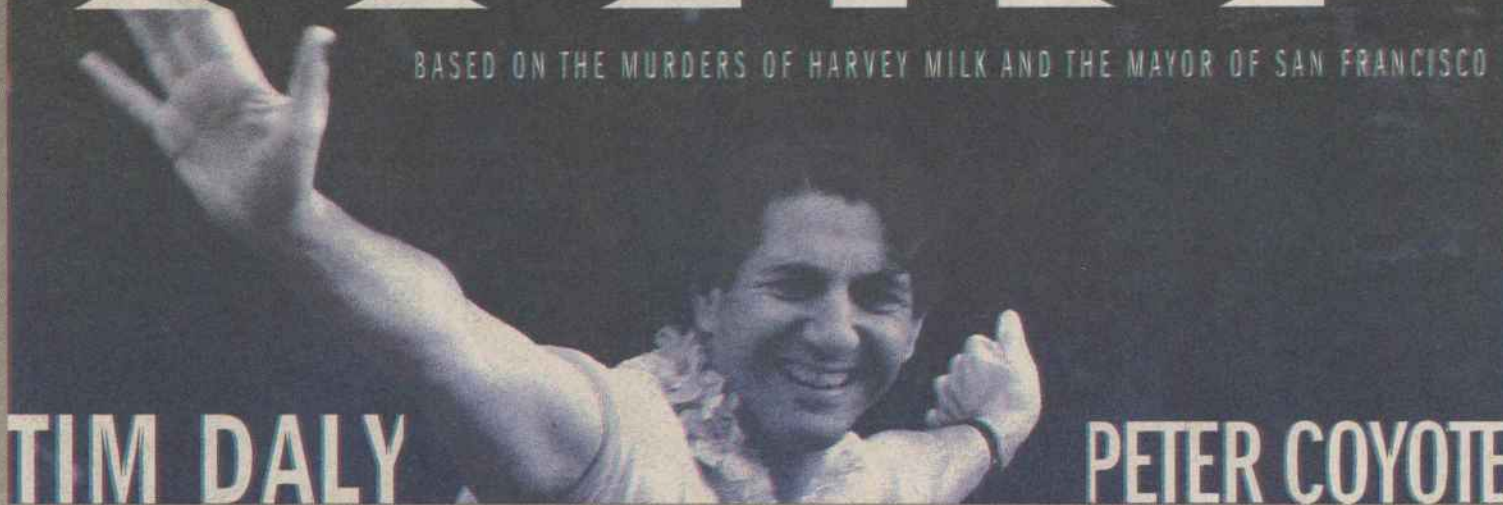


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