



Anatomy of a Murder What the media didn't tell you

Analysis by Bill Meunier

Fort Campbell, KY - Matthew Shepard and Barry Winchell. The comparisons are eerie. Shepard wanted to serve his country as a diplomat. Winchell was serving his country as soldier. Both were brutally murdered because they were Gay.

Matthew Shepard hung on a fence, splayed out like Christ on the cross, his skull bashed in beyond recognition. Barry Winchell lay on his cot, his brains oozing out, his face unrecognizable, the blows to his skull inflicted with enough force to splatter his blood on walls that were 15 feet away.

Shepard's murder awakened America to the brutality that can accompany being openly Gay in a hostile environment. It sparked outrage and calls for hate crime laws. Private First Class Barry Winchell's murder is creating momentum for a new look at the controversial Don't Ask Don't Tell Don't Pursue policy.

Hillary Clinton has spoken out against the policy. While her husband, the President, stops short of calling for an end to "Don't Ask Don't Tell", he is openly admitting that the policy has no worked as intended and needs to be fixed. The Pentagon has issued a statement promising changes.

For all their similarities there are some stark differences between the deaths of these two 21 year old Gay men, especially in the way that most of the press - including the Gay media - has treated them. We know a lot about Matthew Shepard. We know far less about PFC Barry Winchell.

There is also a difference in the Gay community's reaction to these murders. After Shepard died, thousands rightfully mourned him at memorial services around the country. Where were the candlelight vigils for Barry Winchell?

Matthew Shepard, the young scholar with a bright future, who suffered for hours, before a passerby found him, is a poster boy. PFC Barry Winchell, who endured months of abuse, is not.

The facts of Winchell's murder are well known. On July 5, Private Calvin Glover repeatedly struck the sleeping Winchell in the head with a baseball bat. He did so with the encouragement of Winchell's roommate, Specialist Justin Fisher. Fisher allegedly supplied the bat and screamed "Let him die" as Winchell was loaded into an ambulance.

For at least six months before his death, Barry Winchell is said to have faced anti-Gay harassment from other soldiers on a daily basis. The reports say that two days before the murder, Winchell bested Glover in a barracks fight. Initially, the Army said that revenge was Glover's motive, later it would add hate to the equation.

Those facts tell us little about Winchell himself. We've heard little of his life story.

Nothing came easy for Barry Winchell. He repeated Kindergarten twice and didn't learn his ABC's until the third grade. Winchell, it is reported, was dyslexic and unable to write more than his own name in cursive script. He spent part of his early childhood in homeless shelters, while his mother, who left an abusive husband, worked at waffle houses to support her two sons.

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Calvin Glover



Barry Winchell

A Conversation with the New Editor Nadine A. Walther Comes to Town

By Greg Quindel



PHOTO BY ANDREW CARTER

After a nearly three month search, New Jersey native Nadine A. Walther, has been appointed editor of *WI Light*, effective with the first issue of the new millennium. *WI Light*, which in 2000 has scheduled one issue off per calendar quarter, will publish that issue on January 12.

Current Editor William (Bill) Meunier will assume his new role as Director of Internet Development on January 1. Besides assisting in the new Editor's transition he will also continue as a regular news and politics contributor for *WI Light*.

As we prepared for this discussion, Ms. Walther sat in her new office in the heart of Milwaukee's Gay business area, leaning back in her chair, drinking a Coke and getting ready to smoke a cigarette.

In a quiet yet firm voice, her first reply to a question was, "What is important is not who I am, but rather the events going on this week

that affect all of us."

With some struggle, I succeeded in getting Nadine to talk about herself. "Quick biographical? Ok, I am a Vietnam era Veteran." She would not add much about her military career except that, while she did receive letters of commendation, "it is one area of life that still causes pain to discuss or remember."

Walther hosted a radio talk show, Money Talks, for three years on New Jersey public radio. This was at a time when she was an adjunct at Long Island University where she taught various financial subjects. "I enjoy teaching, particularly about money and investment strategies. My students were fantastic but the truth is that the best classes I taught were the ones I used to run for some organizations in Trenton, and a few other cities, for welfare recipients. These were for individuals who were living below or just barely above the poverty line."

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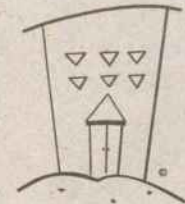
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AP Associated Press**WI Light Welcomes Nadine**

Continued from Cover Page

"My vocations have changed dramatically but I have always tried to maintain a connection with individuals who are oppressed by poverty."

She also built a career in the New York financial marketplace where she developed Socially Responsible Investment Strategies for a Wall Street investment-banking firm. It was at that time that she had direct contact with the Gay press as an advertiser of services to the LGBT community. "In 1988, I retired as Sr. Vice President of Retail Marketing. While I was quite successful, I always knew it wasn't my true calling."

On publishing experience, the award winning writer explained that, "I served as the Managing Editor for the Raritan Valley Record, in Raritan, New Jersey. This is in an area outside of New York City, formerly small town but now more suburban. We needed to make it more alternative, more *Shepherd* - like, while still maintaining its rural base. I enjoyed working with the local college. We even published their newspaper within our pages. I found that the schools were rich in writers and cartoonists."

"I loved the job, but we had agreed it was to be a temporary," she added. "It was during a period in my life that I needed to have a great deal of flexibility. I came in on an interim basis but I was able to increase circulation, partially by building connections with the younger segment of an aging community. We also saw rising advertising revenues and better business relationships." Its long-time family owners recently sold the paper.

A move to Philadelphia was next on the agenda. "I then studied at one of the most fundamentalist, right wing colleges in the country, the Philadelphia College of Bible. I wanted to understand this way of thinking from the inside."

"I did have to remain quite closeted in those confines," she added. "That was a bit strange after being so out for so long."

Why here and why WI Light?

At this question she sits up in her chair, leans forward and starts talking. "My plans for *WI Light* are very big! I see *WI Light* in the center of the hub of LGBT activities and news through out the state. *WI Light* is the place where every person in our community can come together. It is here that all voices can be heard. It is here within the pages of this 13-year-old newspaper that our Community can build stronger ties and learn about each other. It is the medium in which we can create and develop tolerance and understanding within every segment of the LGBT Community."

"I have thought about this. I know there is a history with this newspaper. I know the founders. I know you and Bill. I believe that what this is about is serving our community in the best possible way. We need to do that at every point in the production of our paper. The question will be asked. Does this serve the community? Is this the best we can do? How can we do it better?"

"What brought me here?" she remembers. With a smile and an extra sparkle in her big blue eyes, she responds simply, "Love."

"After an extended period of long distance dating, a change needed to take place; I opted to move to Wisconsin to be with my partner Oretta. She is the most wonderful person in the world and I am thankful to God for being blessed with the opportunity to share my life with such a caring, loving, intelligent, person with whom all the adjectives in the world could not begin to describe."

Nadine, the mother of seven children who range in age 8 to 13 boasts and shows off pictures any time that she gets the chance. "My children are terrific, they are bright, happy fun-loving kids. Oretta also has 2 sons who I adore and love. They are really good guys. Between the two of us there are a lot of children but also a lot of love. That is the most important ingredient in a family - the love and freedom to express it."

Nadine arrived in Milwaukee in late July... "It has been a change. I must say, so far I love the winters."

I am adapting to the change from East Coast to the Great Lakes region pretty well. I do miss the subways and trains and have had to get accustomed to keeping change for parking meters. The biggest difference that I have seen is the 'segregation'. I find it disturbing and truthfully, I am not used to it. I hope I never get used to it but rather become an instrument of change."

"There are some things I do miss about the East Coast. I can no longer hop in the car and jump in the ocean like I used to, Broadway is a bit of a drive, and I miss my mom and brother."

What about being a woman editor for a paper read by a lot of Gay males.

"Some of my best friends are Gay males," she joked. "I've seen it all.

They can't say or do anything that'll get me to blush. Look, I've been in the military, I've been on Wall Street, and I've been in the colleges. I know men. That isn't going to be a problem. This isn't about removing the G from LGBT."

You have been working at WI Light for a couple of weeks. How is the transition going?

"Bill is an extraordinary individual and although I am assuming his position as Editor, he and I will be working closely together. Bill has strong ties to this community and to the paper. I acknowledge and respect his years of experience as well as his ability to dig beneath the surface and obtain valuable information. Bill will now be free to devote a large percentage of his time on an Internet project that encompasses the LGBT Community in a way few individuals can even imagine. To some degree I envy him. He will have an enormous readership that I believe will go into the millions and his deadlines won't be so intransigent. He has all the skills to succeed but I am a bit old fashioned, in that way, and still like the print medium. It must be something in that soy based ink."

"I'm also delighted to work with Ron Geiman and to be able to tap all his knowledge about the community and the Gay press in Wisconsin. Having a personable fellow such as him around who can teach me a few things after his 12 years experience publishing and editing a Wisconsin Gay paper."

"It's great for both Diane Gregory and I to have another woman's point of view. Emotionally, it's a more secure feeling around all these MEN, especially when I have to edit porn reviews and Sex Talk. She and I also work very dynamically in the marketing area, we just seem to click."

"Then, there is TJ Hermann, our very competent graphic artist and who adds an extra spark of humor in the office."

"This time of transition has allowed me the opportunity to really get to know all members of the staff. I have time to meet with them and listen to their ideas, goals and concerns. It also allows me the opportunity to begin cultivating new writers for the additional pages that I am very confident are forthcoming. As we expand our statewide coverage we will need many more contributors."

What changes in are in store for the readers?

"Some are gradual and some will be more obviously evident. Bill and I have already made some little changes - some technical, some visual. There may be more emphasis on our desire to provide a forum for a wider range within our community. Certainly, that means more women contributors but it also means more coverage for men who dance, date and buy music and clothes. The leather community, men and women, also play an interesting role in our culture. There are just too many segments to list them all here."

"It is my goal to be the must read paper for all segments of our community. Why shouldn't a Gay person of color pick up the *WI Light* and feel that it is their paper too?"

"A greater diversity within our readership will come from a greater diversity within our pages. In terms of sheer numbers, it's the tens of thousands of Gay youth, who don't read ANY papers, that must be drawn in. So must the Hispanics, African Americans, the physically challenged and a myriad of other groups that are all a part of this community. This all needs to be reflected in the pages of this newspaper."

"*WI Light* is the source for quality news reporting and is the forum for all segments of the community to express their viewpoints. They just all don't know it."

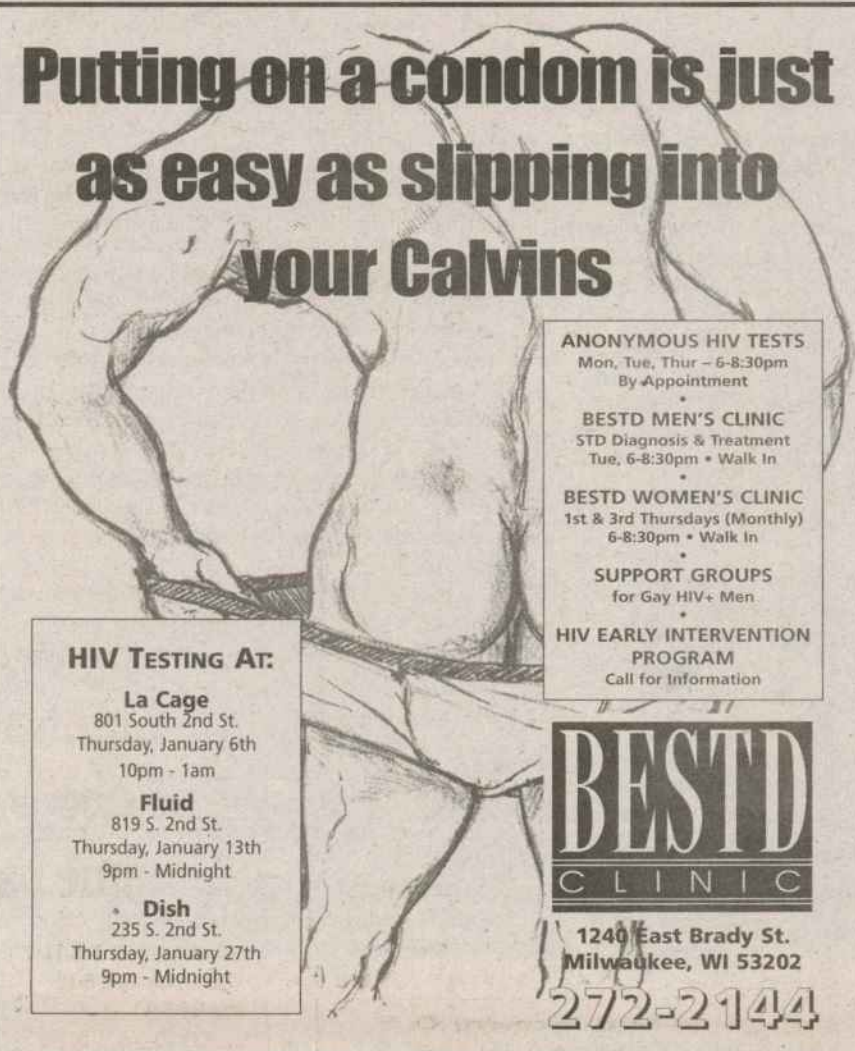
"I recognize the vital role Gay bars play in building community and supporting institutions such as this one. They will not get short shrift under my direction but we all can also acknowledge that there is more to 'Gay life' than just the bar scene. We will encourage writing on a very wide range of subjects including spirituality, parenting, and developing a greater understanding of transgender, transsexual, and bisexual individuals."

"I need to add that playing a meaningful political and educational role in the community is not, in my mind, exclusive of having fun. The readers will see that too. Wait till they meet Coco Chanel."

"Ultimately, what we seek, is for all individuals within our community to recognize *WI Light* as the paper that must be read if you really want to know what's happening, when it's happening and why and how it happened. Of course, the who's doing it can sometimes be the most interesting aspect of all."

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National NEWS

National LGBT Latina/o Group Signs Historic Pact with SBA

Washington, DC - The Small Business Administration made giant strides towards expanding its support among minority business owners - by signing its first ever cooperation agreement with an LGBT group. The pact between America's only largest LGBT Hispanic organization, the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization, LLEGO, was signed on Tuesday, December 7.

"We are moved and empowered by this agreement," said Olga I. Orraca-Paredes, LLEGO's National Board Co-Chair. "This represents an historic breakthrough and a new bridge for Latina/o sexual minorities to ensure full access to entrepreneurship as well as equal program benefits to succeed in business. We are proud LLEGO has been named to serve as this bridge to our network of domestic and international partners and organizations."

"This is a great opportunity to tap into the wealth of potential that the Gay and Lesbian Latino small business community represents," SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez said. "As LLEGO and the SBA work together to make it possible for these small businesses to use the SBA's resources and grow, we will be laying a foundation that will solidify the economic development of Latinos into the next millennium."

The Memorandum of Understanding between the SBA and LLEGO calls for them to work together in increasing SBA loans and trade opportunities for Latina/o businesses. It also mandates working together to improve access to procurement programs and facilitating better service to those businesses and providing better opportunities and training for Latina women entrepreneurs.

The partnership is modeled upon similar programs with minority business owners. It breaks new ground, however, by recognizing the special circumstances that face sexual minorities and women.

The agreement is designed to narrow the technology gap faced by small business owners, particularly in communities of color and among sexual minorities. "We are truly becoming a global community," said Nicole M. Ramirez, National LLEGO Board Co-Chair, "and we must depend on the Internet for our lifelines and livelihoods. This step will assure greater access to technology and encourage Latina/os to build their pathways to the information superhighway."

Ramirez told *WI Light* that the pact will help LLEGO and the LGBT community in general. "We are making sure that when they focus on civil rights issues that they focus on the LGBT community as well. This signing brings us to the table."

"You have to commend the Clinton-Gore administration for doing this. This is a step in the right direction," added Ramirez.

LLEGO says that its more than 150 LLEGO affiliates in 30 states, will share the SBA information it receives with the general LGBT community as well as with local Latina/o communities. It will also bring their concerns to SBA.

By signing the agreement, LLEGO assured its participation in national meetings on SBA policy. It also put itself in a position to bring others to the table. "As soon as I signed I was able to raise the issue about doing outreach to local GLBT Chambers of Commerce," said Ramirez. "We want to bring others to the table."

Ramirez told *WI Light* that LGBT Chambers of Commerce in Chicago and San Francisco will sign similar agreements this week. He added, "It was symbolic that the first organization to sign with an agreement was Latino, because the face of America is changing. This allows us to break bread with the general Latino community and assume a more prominent role in the Gay community."

Hawaiian Marriage Suit Ends

Honolulu - In a long awaited-ruling the Hawaii Supreme Court dismissed a suit challenging the State's refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The court ruled that because Hawaii voters approved a 1998 state constitutional amendment that allows their State Legislature to deny marriage to LGBT couples, it could not order the State to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

While the Court dismissed the case as moot, it refused to overturn its May 1993 ruling that said the state's denial of marriage licenses to Gay couples is tantamount to gender discrimination. In other words, the court ruled that while banning same-sex marriages is discriminatory, its hands are tied by the voter referendum.

In that landmark 1993 ruling, the Hawaiian Supreme Court ordered the State to either allow same sex marriages or show that it had a compelling interest in preventing them during a circuit trial. The circuit court trial resulted in a scathing decision that condemned the State's case and ordered to it to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Court's order was stayed while the State Attorney General appealed the ruling to the State Supreme Court.

While the legal fight continued, over 30 states passed laws banning recognition of Gay marriages even if they were legally performed in another state. Congress joined them in passing the Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA), which banned federal recognition of same sex marriages and allows the states to do the same. President Clinton signed DOMA into law. Legal scholars are divided on the constitutionality of the anti-Gay marriage laws.

In a footnote to last week's ruling, the Court went even further than its 1993 decision in saying that the discrimination was based on sexual orientation. Dan Foley, lead attorney for the plaintiffs noted: "To discriminate based on sexual orientation would also be subject to the same strict scrutiny, which would elevate and extend equal protection to homosexuals as individuals, on par with ethnicity, race, etc."

The best hope for advocates of LGBT marriage appears to be the Vermont Supreme Court, which heard a similar suit last year. A ruling from that court could come at any time.

EXXON's Rejects Domestic Partner Benefits

Dallas - Human rights activists are condemning a decision by the Exxon Mobil Corporation to end Mobil's policy of extending health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of its LGBT employees and for refusing to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Exxon - Mobil resulted from last week's merger of two oil industry giants, Exxon and Mobil. The Mobil Corporation began offering domestic partnership health insurance benefits in 1998. It also specifically barred discrimination based on sexual orientation.

When the Board of the new company met for the first time, it decided not to offer the benefits and it declined to specifically ban anti-Gay discrimination. An Exxon Mobil spokesman said that Mobil's LGBT employees, who had the benefits before the Board vote would be able to keep them. However, those who did not have them before the board vote would not be getting them. Exxon will, however, continue to allow the common law partners of unmarried heterosexual couples to enroll in its health plan.

"This move could become their 'Exxon Valdez' of the new millennium," said Human Rights Campaign, HRC, spokesman David M. Smith, referring to huge Alaskan oil spill caused by an Exxon tanker that ran aground. "Exxon clearly hasn't learned from past experience that creating a toxic mess is a lot easier than cleaning up the resulting damage. We urge Exxon [officials] to re-evaluate their actions and pledge to treat all workers equally, with dignity and respect."

Smith said Chevron Corp. was the pioneer among oil companies when it began offering partner benefits last year, and its action was matched by Shell Oil Co., BP Amoco PLC and Mobil - but not by Exxon.

"Exxon is bucking an industry trend in not adopting these policies," he said.

On the issue of banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, the Exxon Mobil spokesman said his company believes its employees are already protected by a statement that bans any discrimination.

Gay activists weren't alone in criticizing Exxon Mobil. The *LA Times* reports that employment experts are expressing shock at Exxon Mobil's decision. "It would seem extraordinary to me that a company would back away from a policy that has demonstrative positive effects on recruitment and retention," said Eric Rolfe Greenberg, Director of management studies for the American Management Assn. in New York. "In refusing to grant such benefits, inevitably one is saying to talented people, 'We don't think you deserve this.'"

"This move could become their 'Exxon Valdez' of the new millennium,"

- HRC, spokesman David M. Smith,

Whether or not Gay activists will say that Exxon doesn't deserve LGBT dollars remains to be seen, but there are signs that a boycott may be in the offing. GFN.com, a Gay financial Internet site, withdrew an award it gave to Mobil just two weeks ago. GFN.com had named Mobil as the fourth most powerful Gay friendly company in America.

In a prepared statement, GFN Chairman, Walter B. Schubert said, "The failure of Exxon to acknowledge the need for policies protecting their Gay and Lesbian employees, and benefits which can only maximize shareholder value by creating a more productive workforce, astounds me. A motivated workforce is a productive workforce, which spells only one thing - profit. I can't see how the new policies of Exxon Mobil will benefit anyone - shareholder, employee, or consumer."

In place of the honor it planned to bestow on Exxon Mobil, GFN.com announced that the company would be the first inductee into its corporate hall of shame.

Meanwhile Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, NGLTF, called for a dialogue with the oil giant. Lobel predicted that the Exxon Mobil decision would hurt the company. Lobel said consumers who support workplace equity may decide to take their business elsewhere and that it may lose current and potential employees may decide to join companies that offer better benefits.

"There are more than 4.5 million unmarried couples living together in the United States," Lobel said. "One-third of these are same-sex couples, but the rest are not. These families have chosen to define their own family structures for themselves. More and more companies every day are recognizing our society's changing family structures by altering their benefits packages to meet the needs of a changing workforce. Exxon-Mobil has turned back the clock and slapped 4.5 million Americans and its more than 100,000 employees in the face - and in the pocketbook."

While statements of outrage pour forth from LGBT groups, Exxon Mobil is being flooded with emails and phone calls demanding that the decision be rescinded. Activists are encouraging interested Gays to send a protest e-mail to Exxon Mobil at www.exxon.com

Martz, Jason M.

Age 25 years. Remarkable son of Jeffrey Martz and Barb Coyle, brother of David Martz, and family friend Jill LeStarge, died on December 9, 1999. Jason was a 1992 graduate of Cudahy High School. He worked as a Clinical Nursing Assistant at Willowrest Care Center, where he was enjoyed by staff and residents alike. He loved acting, GenCon, RenFair, reading, karaoke, and clowning. Jason participated in clinic defense in the mid-90's and was a strong supporter of Gay Rights. Jason had a big heart, and was a good friend to many people. In death, through tissue donation, he will help sixty more.

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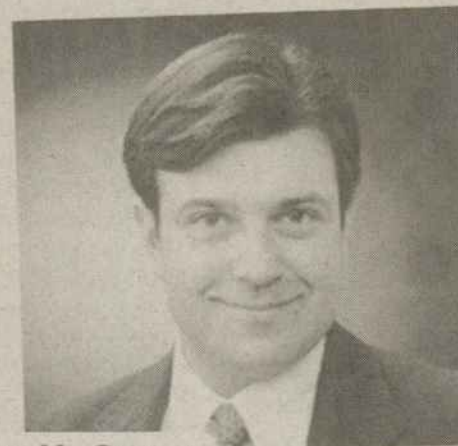
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PLAN AHEAD

**Our Dec. 29th Issue
will cover a
2 week period through
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DEADLINE
for that issue is
noon, Thur. Dec. 23rd.**

WILight

BESTD 25 Years Young

Part 2 of 2

By **Bill Meunier**

Milwaukee - A look at the history of BESTD shows that the Clinic's success is due to several factors. Community support, a spirit of volunteerism, and the trust the LGBT community have in BESTD have all contributed.

BESTD currently has 95 volunteers working to provide its services. "There is no hierarchy," said Erv Uecker, who along with his partner, Ross Walker, is one of the driving forces behind BESTD. "All of the Board members are involved in the operation of the Clinic."

Those volunteers provide STD testing and treatment services for an average of 10,000 patients a year. They clean the Clinic, help maintain it, raise money and provide the people power for dozens of needed tasks.

There are many heroes in the story of BESTD Clinic, too many to name in any one article. Mark Behar, who has been with BESTD almost since its inception calls it, "One of the few stable institutions in the community." When asked what attracted him to the Clinic, Behar says, "Working with other Gay men, who have a sense of common purpose trying to work with our buddies and friends. We try to provide a level of care that is unmatched elsewhere. That's what's fun and keeps me doing this."

One of Behar's current tasks involves hosting socials for HIV+ Gay men. As *WI Light's* General Manager Ron Geiman said in a recent column, the socials are a hit. They provide a badly needed way for Gay men living AIDS to socialize. They also provide another example of the Clinic trying to meet the needs of the community.

BESTD's ability to meet the need for specialized, sensitive care has caused many in the LGBT community to recognize its value. The civil rights and social advances made by Gay and Lesbians do not mean that their medical care will be uniform or up to normal standards. Nor do they guarantee that medical personnel will maintain a Gay or Lesbian patient's privacy.

Furthermore, doctors in private practice are not always informed on the latest STD information. As one volunteer put it, "You don't go to a dermatologist with a heart condition. In the same way you should not assume that your private doctor knows what that rash is or what caused those warts."

Dr. Gremminger says, "The openness of the environment" is a key ingredient in the Clinic's success story. "Gay men can go and talk about their sexuality and behavior and get treatment of their diseases without fear."

BESTD has as strict policy of maintaining confidentiality. "The clinic's reputation is pretty pristine in terms of preserving anonymity," said Uecker. "People can come to the clinic and they don't have to worry

about others finding out. That's a top priority for our volunteers."

Uecker explains that there is a difference between anonymous and confidential testing and treatment. HIV testing is anonymous. The only identification on HIV tests is a code the clients make up themselves. These codes are passwords that allow the client to get the test results without having to use his/her name. The test results are kept on file with the code so they can be easily accessed when the client calls or makes an appointment.

Confidential testing is different. Confidential testing means that BESTD keeps identity information on file, but that the identity of a patient is not released without their expressed written consent, except to those who have a legal right to see it. BESTD client files do not contain any names. The Clinic uses a coding system for these files. A master file in a secure computer allows the appropriate staff person to match up a person's name with the code on their chart.

The Clinic has kept track of its patients since the beginning. "All of the charts are available back to 1974," said Uecker. "If a client comes in now and they were there in 1975, we can pull their chart."

While crediting the volunteers for the Clinic's operations, Uecker and Walker also make it clear that none of the services provided by BESTD would be possible without the support of the LGBT community. At dozens of fundraisers and through private donations, Gay Milwaukee has provided the funds needed to keep BESTD going.

Uecker says he thinks the reason for LGBT Milwaukee's generous support of BESTD is clear. "A lot of groups recognize

that we don't solicit funds," he says. "Secondly they know where their money's going and what's it doing. It's all going to services; none of it goes to salaries."

The Gay community's support extends beyond financial donations. Over 80% of the Clinic's volunteers are from the LGBT community. Uecker and Walker say that 60% of the Clinic's clients are male and 40% are female. They also note that 50% are not Gay. "Anyone can come in and use our services," says Walker.

Behar sees a problem with that mix. "Where we've fallen is that most of the services we're providing now and probably for a long time have been for straight men," he says. "I don't know where Gay men are going."

Those clients are tested and treated for a wide variety of STD's including syphilis, genital warts, herpes, various skin problems, parasites, bacterial infections and other STD's. They are also tested for Hepatitis A, B and C and for HIV. BESTD also offers Hepatitis immunizations.

Dr. Gremminger says that the Clinic can and does do more than testing. "We are very conscientious if a Gay man comes in with a STD," said Dr. Gremminger. "That's a red flag that he isn't observing safer sex practice. We had gotten it down to where Gonorrhea was almost non-existent for a few years. Now it seems to be on the rise again."

The Doctor sees that rise as a warning light. "It tell us that people aren't being careful and are putting themselves at high risk," he said. Other cities that have seen an increase in STD's also soon see an increase in HIV infections. To help prevent that from happening here, the Clinic works

with those Gay men who are obviously not practicing safe sex. "If we see a Gay man with an STD, we spend some time educating him. We try get him into a counseling program."

Over the years, BESTD has sounded many alarm bells like the one Dr. Gremminger is pointing to now, and it has worked hard to spread the word as new outbreaks of STD's occur. If the trust, volunteerism and community resources that have made BESTD an LGBT Milwaukee success story are any guide, the Clinic will continue to thrive for many years to come.

<Editor's note, in our part one of BESTD clinic we quoted Dr. Roger Gremminger giving credit to Chuck Colson for his work in keeping BESTD alive. In reality we should have said Chuck Paulson, who also co-founded the Possum Queen contest and helped lead it to a record total last year. We thank Chuck for his outstanding service to our community.>

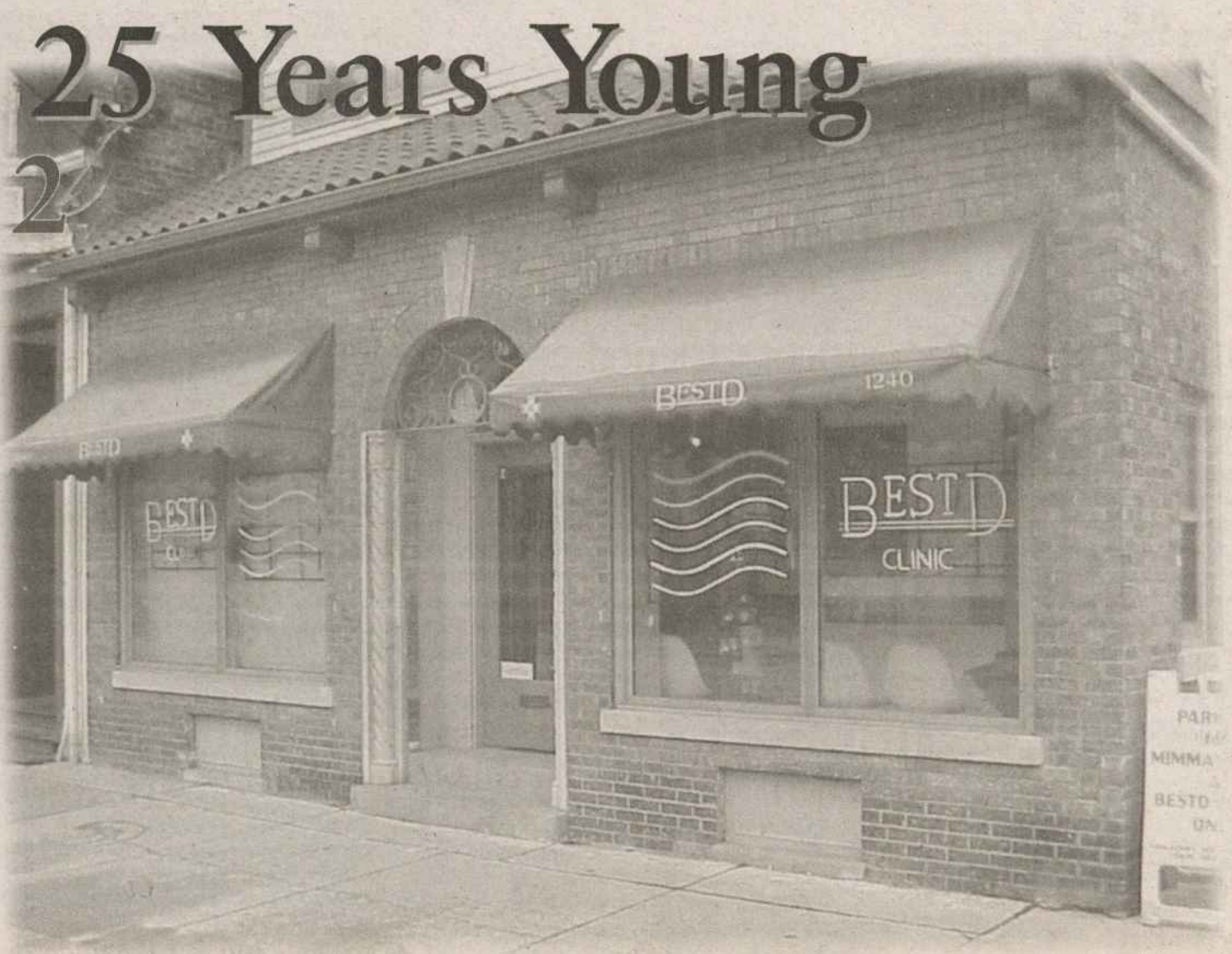
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National NEWS

MMOW Announces March

Washington DC - The Millennium March on Washington, (MMOW) is accelerating its efforts to organize what its supporters hope will be the largest LGBT demonstration ever. Last week, the MMOW Board of Directors held a two day public meeting in Washington DC. The meeting was marked by a flurry of business, events, and public commitments. These included the opening of a national March office, the long awaited announcement of the March platform and a pledge to use any funds generated by the March national LGBT people of color groups and statewide organizations.

National MMOW Offices Opened

On Sunday December 5, MMOW opened a national offices for the March at 1000 16th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036. The event included a ribbon cutting ceremony and public reception. In a bipartisan show of support for the March, two openly Gay DC Council members David Cantania, a Republican and Democrat Jim Graham, participated. Cantania and Graham were named Honorary Co-Chairs of the DC Millennium March Leadership Council.

The March's four co-chairs, Ann DeGroot, Duane Cramer, Nicole Murray-Ramirez, and Donna Red Wing presided at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia will head the National office. Hardy-Garcia is the Executive Director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, one of the nation's largest LGBT state organizations. Hardy-Garcia, one of two co-executive directors of the Millennium March, will oversee organizing, outreach, volunteers and public relations for the March.

MMOW "Working Vision" Outlined

The MMOW board of directors outlined the initial list of issues the March will focus on. "The initial concept of a March platform has evolved into a Working Vision," said Malcolm Lazin, co-executive director of the event. "The Working Vision incorporates the feedback received from the ballot and will serve as a guide to planning the march. The board welcomes continued community input on the

- March platform as this work in progress continues."
- The platform includes:
- Hate crimes legislative protections
- Ending LGBT discrimination in the workplace
- Racial justice
- LGBT family values, including marriage and partner rights, equality of adoption laws, and child custody protections
- LGBT health care issues
- Legal protections for LGBT youth
- Overturning anti-gay initiatives and laws on both the federal and state levels
- Privacy rights

"I'm pleased that the board included a strong commitment to racial justice in the Working Vision," said Lazin. "In public forums around the country and from write-in ballots, we heard the community's overwhelming commitment to racial justice issues."

The board resolution approved this past week notes "the pervasive existence of racial injustice throughout the United States and the intrinsic link between discrimination based on race and sexual orientation."

"People of color comprise fifty percent of the MMOW board of directors," noted Lazin, "the highest percentage of any national LGBT march. A commitment to racial justice has been an integral part of every previous march, and we have reaffirmed this by assuring that racial justice issues will be prominently featured in the Rally on the National Mall and that the March will provide resourcing to national LGBT people of color organizations."

To date, March organizers have received more than 40,000 ballots by mail, fax, e-mail, Internet voting and collection at local community centers and LGBT organizations.

MMOW Pledges Community Commitments

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the LGBT movement at all levels, the MMOW board of directors passed a series of 'community commitments' during the DC meetings.

"MMOW organizers affirmed their strong commitment to statewide groups, national people of color organizations and community centers. Generating ongoing support and resources for these three strategic outreaches of the movement will be one of the lasting legacies of the Millennium March," predicted Hardy-Garcia.

"National marches should be a partnership with the entire community," she added, "and the MMOW board reaffirmed this partnership with a 'Covenant of Commitments.'"

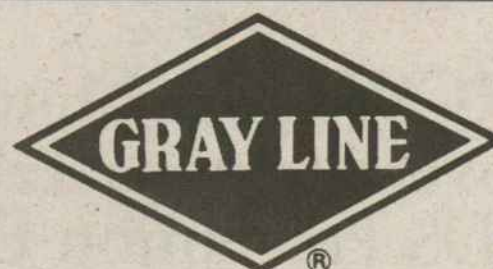
Among the commitments, the MMOW board affirmed a pledge to distribute 90% of March profits to LGBT causes, with 30% designated for statewide LGBT organizations, 30% designated for national LGBT organizations of color and 30% yet to be designated.

The board also announced plans to share registration lists for the March and "LGBT Voter 2000" with local, statewide, regional, and national LGBT organizations. "This partnership of LGBT organizations at every level will connect tens of thousands of activists with LGBT organizations and serve to energize our movement and all of our organizations at the start of the new millennium," said Hardy-Garcia.



Pictured: MMOW Co-Chairs and DC Council Members David Cantania and Jim Graham.

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ARCW Gives State Government a "D" on AIDS Prevention Efforts

Milwaukee - Wisconsin's first Report Card on AIDS gives Wisconsin State Government a "D" on preventing new cases of HIV and an "A minus" on providing care and treatment for people with HIV and AIDS. The AIDS Report Card released by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin also gave the State an "Incomplete" on HIV related public policy.

"In the face of record high caseloads and an AIDS epidemic that now threatens a new generation of Wisconsin youth, we need a 'straight A' performance by the State," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director.

The near failing grade on HIV prevention was given for deficient funding of HIV prevention programs, the absence of a statewide AIDS prevention campaign aimed at reducing new infections among the Wisconsin's youth and the lack of required AIDS education in public schools.

Wisconsin spends \$330,000 annually for HIV prevention programs, 20 times less than the \$6.8 million it invests in HIV care and treatment.

"The lives of Wisconsin's youth are on the line. One half of new HIV infections are occurring among teens and young adults," Nelson said. "Our kids deserve an 'A,' not a 'D' on HIV prevention," he added. "The State needs to do its homework and make a stronger investment in HIV."

ARCW called upon the State to launch a \$1 million statewide AIDS prevention campaign focusing on saving the lives of Wisconsin youth. The proposed campaign would invest in at least one dozen new HIV prevention youth workers to promote AIDS awareness among young people in communities throughout Wisconsin. It also includes a statewide multimedia public awareness campaign to promote HIV prevention; and the integration of Hepatitis C prevention with HIV prevention efforts for injection drug users to address the emerging public health threat of co-infection with these two fatal diseases.

"This campaign will save lives," Nelson said. "The State has the financial capacity to support it and needs to muster the political will to make it happen."

In contrast, ARCW gave high marks to the State for how it provides care and treatment for people with HIV and AIDS. Wisconsin's Medical Assistance, Insurance Continuation and AIDS Drug Reimbursement programs provide access to comprehensive health care and medications for many people with HIV and AIDS. Wisconsin has also developed and funded a comprehensive

social services case management and support system for people with HIV/AIDS.

"While these programs are among the best of their kind in the country, access to health care for low income people with HIV remains out of reach for many," Nelson said. He cautioned that, "The State must keep pace with the record high caseloads and work with the private sector to assure that no one with HIV and AIDS is denied health care."

Nelson said that 325 of ARCW's 1,200 clients are low-income people with HIV and AIDS who have difficulty accessing health care.

Wisconsin's first AIDS Report Card includes an "incomplete" grade for public policy on AIDS. ARCW cites the need for a statewide HIV prevention campaign to be included in the next budget and the defeat of Assembly Bill 223 that shuts down effective HIV prevention programs as top public policy priorities that remain unresolved.

Foundation Fundraiser



The Cream City Foundation (CCF) raised \$5000.00 at its recent fundraiser!



CCF President Mary Meserlie, honors board member Ross Draeger.




Obviously, the CCF party was a relaxing & friendly affair, as Bob Mazzicone & Oretha Woffard demonstrate.



Former President, Tony Rhodes, was honored for his tenure.




The Cream City Foundation Party celebrated the grants to ARCW, LOC and many others.



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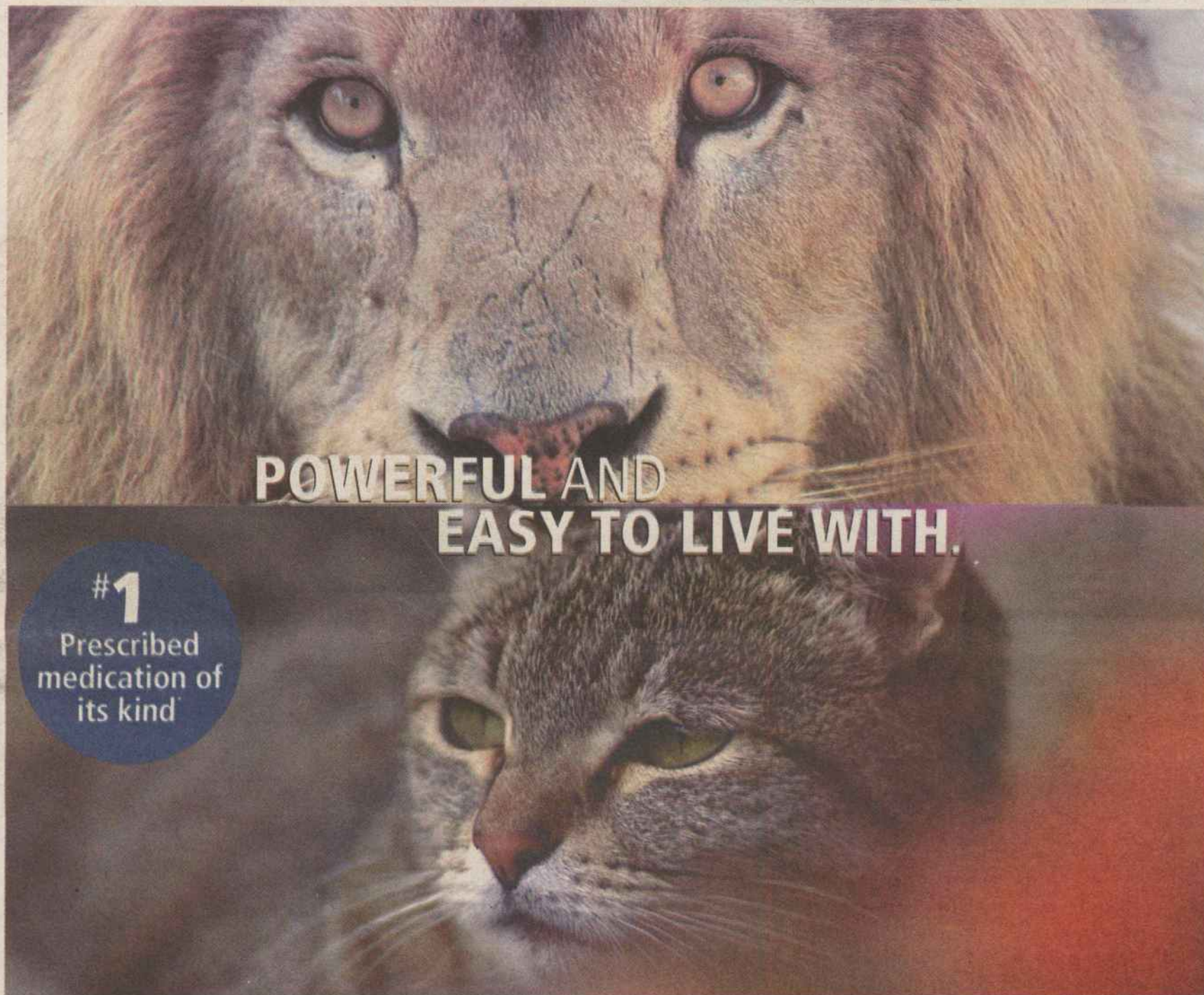


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therapy. (The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

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.)

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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), Epiriv® (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)
- Epiriv® (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit® (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) 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 have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

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

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

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.
† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

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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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The Story Behind the Winchell Murder

Continued from Cover Page

Winchell found his niche in the US Army. He earned two Army Medals of Commendation, a highly unusual feat for someone his age. When he was killed, Winchell was awaiting reassignment to a helicopter pilot training program. He was proud to serve with the 101st Airborne Division, an elite unit of the US Army.

The reports tell us that the harassment began after Fisher told others that Winchell went to a Nashville Gay bar. The young man, who thought he'd finally found his place in life began to see it slipping away. There was no one to help him put it all back in place again.

At Glover's pre-trial hearing, Company Sargent Michael Kleifgen testified "They called him a 'faggot' and stuff like that, I would say on a daily basis. A lot of times, he was walking around down in the dumps." He also testified that he did nothing to stop the abuse. "Everybody was having fun," explained the Sargent. It is not mentioned that "everybody" didn't include Winchell.

Other testimony showed that Glover's was not the first attack on Winchell. During a scuffle, Fisher hit him in the head with a dustpan striking him so hard that Winchell needed stitches to close the wound. Despite the injury, Winchell's Sargent insisted on keeping the two men as room-mates.

Testifying at Glover's trial, Kleifgen admitted to filing a complaint against another Sargent who called Winchell a "drunken faggot," in front of his fellow soldiers. He also stated that his superiors and the Fort Campbell Inspector General ignored the complaint.

Sergeants don't normally file complaints on one another. Kleifgen's breach of that unwritten rule says something to Dixon Osburn Co-Director of the Service Members Legal Defense Network, SLDN. Osburn told *WI Light*, "It indicates to me that the level of harassment was very serious."

Kleifgen's complaint was a formal one, but it was not the only one. Other soldiers testified that they had complained about the way Winchell was treated. Like Sgt. Kleifgen, they were ignored.

Winchell, himself said nothing. Other than telling a soldier's wife that he was Gay, Winchell denied being homosexual.

He had few options. Under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, admitting that he was Gay would have meant a discharge. Furthermore, as Osburn and others point out, soldiers who complain about anti-Gay harassment are themselves investigated and discharged, while no action is taken against their tormentors. "In the six years of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' no one has ever been disciplined for harassing Lesbian and Gay military personnel," said Osburn.

Winchell may have felt trapped. Filing a complaint would end his career. The Army was a place where his dyslexia was not holding him back. The US Army was his life. As the court martial record shows, in the end, the Army's neglect would cost him that life.

As word of the attack spread through Fort Campbell, the phone started to ring at SLDN's office. The callers said that this was not a simple barracks dispute. Others at the base called to tell SLDN that Winchell's murder was a hate crime.

Despite statements from others in Winchell's company, the Army continued to deny that his homosexuality had anything to do with his murder. Then in a move that Osburn calls "turning the tank around," Army Prosecutor Captain Greg Engler admitted that it had everything to do with the killing.

Engler said told Glover's court martial that his hatred of Gays drove Glover to kill Winchell. It was a remarkable statement coming from someone who had consistently denied that the killing was a hate crime.

The Court martial itself was somewhat remarkable. Glover had already pled guilty to unpremeditated murder, a charge that carries the same maximum penalty that premeditated murder does, life in prison without parole. Yet, Engler pressed ahead with the premeditated murder charge, knowing that it would prove to be a major embarrassment to the Army.

In the end, the Court martial convicted Glover of premeditated murder and sentenced him to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

The fallout from the murder reached all the way to the Pentagon. Two months ago, it acted on a 1996 report and issued regulations that restrict investigations into the sexual orientation of service members and require training on how to deal with Gays in the military.

If the Pentagon's move was a PR ploy, it didn't work. Outrage built as the trial brought forth clear evidence that the Fort Campbell command ignored Winchell's plight and may in fact have contributed to it. Here was a clear cut example of a model Gay soldier paying a high price to serve his country.

On Monday, December 13, 1999 the US Secretary of Defense announced the "Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy" will be reworked.

Clintons Speak Out

As the facts came out, newspapers, commentators and even First Lady Hillary Clinton called for an end to "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and a lifting of the ban on LGBT military service. "Fitness to serve in the military should be based on one's conduct, not one's sexual orientation," she said.

The President said he was "profoundly saddened" by the case and pledged to CBS News that he would work with the Pentagon to find a way to fix it. "It's out of whack, now," he said.

"I can only hope that this last brutal beating death of a gay soldier will give some sobering impetus to re-examination of how this policy is implemented, and whether we can do a better job of fulfilling it's original intent," Clinton said. "Its original intent was that people not be rooted out."

Neither of those developments will happen soon. As Mrs. Clinton said, there is no chance of Congress lifting the ban. She and others believe that the best hope for now is to ensure that the military treat its Gay personnel fairly.

Many people doubt that is possible. As Glover's trial made clear, six years after the implementation of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," the policy is routinely ignored and Gays in the military face verbal and physical abuse. Osburn says, the Pentagon must do more than issue new regulations; it must enforce them.

He told *WI Light* that "phase three" of the Winchell episode is about to begin. SLDN will watch to see what action the Army takes against Fort Campbell personnel, who violated "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and ignored the complaints about how Winchell was treated. They won't be alone.

On Friday, December 10, in the wake of renewed public interest in "Don't Ask Don't Tell," Pentagon Spokesman Kenneth Bacon defended it. "I don't think that you can declare the policy a failure based on one gruesome murder at one Army post," he said. That statement ignores dozens of documented cases of harassment directed at LGBT service members.

"I don't think that you can declare a policy a failure based on one gruesome murder . . ."

- Pentagon Spokesman

"Don't Ask Don't Tell" was intended to allow Gays to serve in the military, but discharges handed to LGBT service members have increased since its implementation, so too has harassment of military personnel, who are perceived to be Gay.

Yet, the Pentagon continues to deny that anything is wrong. That denial makes the Winchell case an important one. Osburn says, "I think this case shatters any illusions that 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' is somehow a benign policy," he said. "This is a policy of violence."

Winchell's mother, Mrs. Walter Kutteles agrees. "We knew Barry could be deployed and come into harm's way for our country. We never dreamed that he would be killed by labeling, prejudice and hatred at home," she said. "'Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' did not protect our son. It won't protect anyone else's child. This policy must end."

That end may not come anytime soon, but the murder of PFC Barry Winchell could help bring it about. The murder exposed the reality of Army life for Gay soldiers even when they perform exceptionally well as Winchell did.

His death brings reinforces the arguments against "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and the military ban on openly Gay service members. Gay activists are hoping that a complete policy change will be the result, but outside of SLDN, they've done little to bring forth the type of public outcry that is needed for such a change to become possible.

"How many (deaths) will it take before we can get angry again?"

- Miriam Ben-Shalom

Some vets like Miriam Ben-Shalom are upset that LGBT groups have not done more to remember Winchell. "How many will it take before we can get angry again? Five, six, eight? When will our leaders tell me it's okay to get angry again," she asks.

Ben Shalom's question is one of many revolving around the death of PFC Barry Winchell. While the military, the politicians and the activists ponder them, we are left with yet another set of haunting images: a weeping mother, a flag draped coffin, a 21 gun salute and a battered young man who had overcome adversity in order to serve his country.

Some of our national leaders may not be paying attention but others are. "We're still getting calls from other Gay soldiers at Fort Campbell. They are telling us that they are also being harassed," said Osburn. He declined to give specifics about those calls, but he did say, "They're worried that they may be the next Barry Winchell."



A Matthew Shepard Memorial

Nadine Steps into Bill's 'Heels'

Continued from page 3

"I believe that we are a microcosm of society at large. We come from all walks of life, various economic stratas, cultures, races, religions. If we can strive to accept the differences, and bond together with tolerance and acceptance, then we as a community, will be stronger and able to obtain those rights we still are not afforded. I also feel that if we can come together and unite without the 'in-fighting' that is so often pre-

sent, we can be an example to the larger society as a whole.

"I have only been in Milwaukee for a few short months but I really believe that this newspaper, and its potential, is a vital ingredient in this communities future, not just within the state of Wisconsin but throughout the country as a whole. With an engaged and regular readership, along with a supportive advertising and financial community, this group on South 2nd Street can make a difference."

A little more on Nadine

Nadine, in 1988, ended up on numerous television news shows, as well as the cover of many East Coast magazines and papers when her son John was expelled from a Christian Nursery school because he had AIDS. The coverage continued for many years until his death in September of 1992.

As an accomplished photographer, specializing in Socially Responsible photography, Ms. Walther has received various awards. She is most proud of her works *Forgotten Children*, *Soup Kitchen Line*, and *Strong Arms*. She is currently working on a series called *The 23rd Psalm* which takes the Psalm and photographs it in an urban setting. The rationale is, "if a person lives in a densely populated urban area, what relevance do the words 'lie down in green pastures' have. I believe my photographs in the series will explain the relevance as well as stir the souls of individuals who are biblically wooden literalists."



PHOTO BY NADINE

"Mary's Tear" from Nadine's *Forgotten Children Suite of photographs*.

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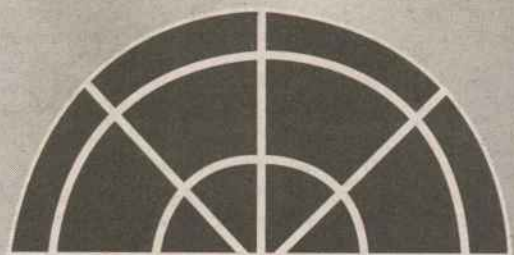
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View from the **Bi Side**

By **Nikki Schlaishunt**

What Phase Are You In?

I was at a party recently where over half the guests were Gay men and the other half, if not queer, were at least open-minded. I felt comfortable in this environment and when the topic came up I felt safe talking about both my own bisexual identity, and bisexuality in general. I was having a great conversation with several others when a Gay man who was passing by turned to me and said, "Bisexuality is just a phase."

Ouch. There's nothing like having someone tell you that your reality isn't valid.

So, I've been thinking, what does that mean exactly? "Bisexuality is just a phase." This is one of the big Bisexual stereotypes: bisexuality is a period of experimentation that young, sexually immature people go through and grow out of. They are just confused. They are in denial. They find it easier to come out slowly by first saying they are Bi, and working up to coming to terms with actually being Lesbian/Gay.

The fact is that I can't say that any of these are wrong, or that any of these do not exist. All young people go through a period of sexual exploration as a means of sorting out who they are and how they feel and for many this includes both homosexual and heterosexual experiences. Some people are confused and experimenting is how they work it out. Some people are in denial; fear is a difficult thing for anyone to face, and being different than "main stream" society does have its risks. Some people feel that, for them, coming out "slowly" by first saying they are Bisexual is easier. I can't make someone else's decisions, and I can't tell someone else what their inner reality is.

For myself, adolescence was both painful and incredibly confusing. My first lover was a woman—my best friend. I grew up in a small town, and although I knew about it, I didn't actually know anyone who was Gay or Lesbian. Nevertheless, I somehow got the message that I was supposed to choose—men or women. I mean, this thing with my best friend was just a phase, right? I was supposed to grow out of this, wasn't I?

The thing that really messed me up was that, although I hadn't had a boyfriend, I was very attracted to boys. Since I thought I had to choose one or the other, I thought that this must mean I was straight and that my best friend was just a phase. For years I stifled my attraction for women because I didn't think I could be attracted to both.

Seventeen years later, I am still attracted to men and to women. Asking me to pick one would be like telling me I can choose lobster or chocolate (two of my favorites), but not both. Sure I could survive without one or the other—we all can survive on bread and water—but my life would lose something rich and delicious either way.

I got this analogy from a good friend of

mine. He explained that he is Gay because women were like green beans to him—not bad, just not what he really wanted. For him, the choice would be more like choosing between green beans and chocolate. Unless you are an avid green bean fan or you hate chocolate, I think the choice here is obvious.

So, is my liking both lobster and chocolate just a phase? Will my friend "mature" into liking green beans? One of the definitions of "phase" in Webster's dictionary is, "a stage in a process of change or development." An example would be the different developmental phases of childhood. While it is true that we all continue to grow and change throughout our lives, the basic format of who we are is pretty much set by the time we become adults. Speaking as an adult, I don't think this definition of "phase" describes my sexual identity very well.

The dictionary definition of "phase" that I think fits bisexuality best is, "any of the major appearances or aspects in which a thing of varying modes or conditions manifests itself to the eye or mind." Bisexuality is not always apparent, but manifests through appearances or aspects—people wearing the pink/purple/blue triangles, wearing Bi buttons, talking about Bi behavior or just plain saying they are Bi.

Bisexuality is highly variable, and means different things to different people. One person might identify as Bi even if their behavior is only hetero or homo because they find themselves attracted to both sexes. Another might identify as Bi because they like to get physical with both sexes, but they only enjoy relationships with one sex. This is only two very simplified examples of the vast array of complexity that we in the Bi community like to call bisexuality. This is the "phase" we are in. How about you?

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**view from
Brewers Hill****It happened not
too long ago****by Terry Boughner, PhD.**

According to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* a young man, a youth pastor on the staff of the Elmbrook Church, committed suicide. The paper said that he did this after it was alleged that he had sex with a teenaged boy. Subsequently, according to the *Journal*, other boys said they had had sex with the young man.

For those of you outside Milwaukee who may not be familiar with the Elmbrook Church, it is non-denominational congregation and the biggest of its kind in Wisconsin. Located in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield, its Sunday services are regularly broadcast on Channel 12, one of the major TV stations in the area.

You should also know that according to government figures, the great majority of men who have sex with children are straight men who have sex with girls. Not that that makes it right, but it's a fact.

The young man who killed himself was heartily condemned. On the other hand, there was a tremendous out-pouring of sympathy for the boys. Rev. Stuart Briscoe, the Senior Pastor sent a letter to the editor of the *Journal*, writing weeping words over the "tragedy" of underage sex and thanking everyone for their understanding of the church's trauma over the "poor" boys and "outrage" over the young man's suicide.

I had followed the story closely. The church's outrage? Weren't things being misplaced? Rev.

Briscoe's letter was the last straw.

Something was not being said here. All right, sex with kids is wrong, but maybe the young man was Gay. If he was Gay, maybe, just maybe, he wouldn't have sought that outlet, sex with young boys, and maybe, just maybe, he wouldn't have killed himself, if he had been accepted and affirmed in his orientation. I knew the Elmbrook Church wouldn't have done that. They thought being Gay was an outright sin, an abomination and that is what the church taught.

It ran across my mind that the young pastor, and Gays in general, were as much a part of this tragedy as were the kids. Briscoe ought to be told that.

With that in mind, I wrote Rev. Briscoe a letter. It was not a nice letter, not kind. I told him who I was, I told him exactly what I thought and why. I told him that he should get up in front of his congregation of thousands, dressed in "sackcloth and ashes" and tell his people that they were, in part, to blame for all that had happened. He should tell them that God loved Gay people; that being Gay was no sin; that they should accept and affirm Gay love. It was a long letter. There was more, a whole lot more.

I sent the letter.

To my surprise, I got a response. Rev. Briscoe asked me to come to see him and talk. If I was willing to do that, I was to phone his secretary Ms. Douglas and set up an appointment.

I did just exactly that. Jerry, my spouse, and I would be there on December 2. I must say that Ms. Douglas was as warm as December in the North Pole.

In the following days and nights I went over and over in my head all the things we might argue about. I read Greek. I read Hebrew. The usual Biblical passages preachers haul out would be no problem. But what else would he say? About being

Gay, about same-sex love? I had what I thought were the answers to all that too. The night before we were to go to meet Briscoe was sleepless.

Was I going in hostile? You bet. People had warned me to be pleasant and, above all, polite. Well, I thought as I muttered about having to climb the stairs (with my feet as they are), we'll try. (Later, I would find out there were elevators.)

You've got to understand that I wasn't there to interview Briscoe. I didn't think about writing a story. All I wanted to do was make my points about Gay people and get out of there. I had been told that I wouldn't change his mind and I knew he wouldn't change mine.

Briscoe proved to be quite a bit different from what I expected. First of all, he was warm and friendly. Secondly, he gave me his time. We spent well over an hour sitting in his small, but comfortable, office. Not once did his phone ring or anyone knock on the door to interrupt us.

He's a very good listener. He listened and I talked. Jerry talked. He talked. And the whole time, everything was most friendly. He used my title (Dr.). I used his. We even shared a joke or two. To my utter surprise what we had was a dialogue, not an acrimonious debate.

A couple of things impressed me (and remember, I wasn't making a tape or taking notes). One was that he wasn't what we ordinarily think of as homophobic. He's an Englishman and seems to have the European attitude of quasi-acceptance of Gays. Nevertheless, he knows little about us. For example, even though he'd been to Auschwitz, he didn't know the Nazis killed Gays. Nor did he seem to know any of the rest of our history. I should say, he does now.

We indulged in some exegesis of passages of scripture (all the usual ones about Gays). I do not know if my translations and interpretations did anything to change his thinking. He certainly did-

n't say anything to change the way I think.

For example, I told him that I believed that Jesus was at least a decade younger than is usually taught. He didn't have any problem with that. I said that the way I read the four Gospels, Jesus was Gay. Briscoe in no way agreed with me on that. He didn't change my thinking in the least.

We talked a bit about whether or not there is objective truth. We didn't solve that problem, but then, neither has anyone else in the last 3,000 years or so. Like a legion of others before me, I enjoyed talking about the problem. I think he did too.

We also talked about compassion vs. conviction. We did not reach any agreement on that either. As before, I enjoyed debating it with him.

I told him he ought to have an openly Gay person speak one Sunday from his pulpit to talk about Gay history and our culture. I didn't get any real response from that. I suspect it's, "don't hold your breath!"

He denied, rather firmly, that he was in any way homophobic. I came to believe him. I think he actually believes that being Gay and loving someone of your own gender is a sin. I thought that while we were talking and nothing I said would change his mind.

There were other things we three talked about, many other things. I'll remember them after I send this off. When the dialogue was over, he gave Jerry and I a short tour of the church. My God, is that place immense. The sanctuary alone can seat 3,500, while the chapel seats 800.

I was glad we were able to shake hands at the end and leave on friendly terms. As an off-hand thing, very casual, I asked Briscoe and his wife to join Jerry and I at our home for Christmas dinner.

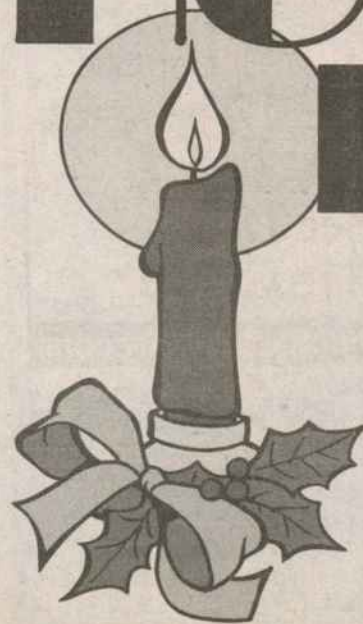
My God, a day later he accepted! He was told there'd be all Gay people there, so maybe there's hope for the old boy yet.

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Cinema Review

The Green Mile

Review by John Jahn

The *Green Mile* represents the second teaming of Director **Frank Darabont** with Writer **Stephen King**, their first outing together resulting in another prison-centered movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*. Though outwardly similar, *The Green Mile* adds the element of the



Tom Hanks, Michael Clarke Duncan and David Morse in *The Green Mile*

supernatural and, despite being from King's pen, it's not a horror film. Rather, it contains a story of redemption and the message that miracles can be found in the most improbable places.

The setting is the Coal Mountain Louisiana State Penitentiary's death row (known as the "Green Mile") in 1935. The story unfolds as a retelling from an aged ex-prison guard, Paul Edgecomb (**Tom Hanks**). We encounter Paul's fellow guards - his best friend, Brutus Howell (**David Morse**); handsome and impetuous Dean Stanton (**Barry Pepper**); veteran Harry Terwilliger (**Jeffrey DeMunn**); and a newcomer: a sadistic coward with high-placed connections named Percy Wetmore (**Doug Hutchison**).

A new inmate arrives, John Coffey (**Michael Clarke Duncan**), a mountain of a man convicted of a double murder - a situation at odds with his pleasant, gentle demeanor. A Cajun death row



Tom Hanks as Paul Edgecomb in *The Green Mile*

mate is Eduard Delacroix (played by openly Gay actor **Michael Jeter**). While Percy torments the prisoners, Paul and the others form tentative bonds with them. As Paul becomes more and more intrigued by Coffey, he makes a remarkable discovery about him, gradually coming to realize that something extremely unusual may be at work on the Green Mile.

The Green Mile is truly an intimate epic, with superb character development and an interesting plot unfolding gradually throughout its 3-hour plus length. Thankfully, the final act is well worth the long wait, possessing considerable emotional impact. By keeping the focus on the characters more than the plot, Darabont generally keeps you engrossed, but there are times when the transparency of the narrative results in predictability.

Minor problems aside, *The Green Mile* is a powerful motion picture. All the characters are well drawn and ably por-

trayed, with Hanks an obvious stand-out among them. Hutchison does a good job making us hate him. A real sensation, however, is Duncan, whose portrayal of the mysterious Coffey is often touching and occasionally wrenching. This is an Oscar-calibre performance.

Stephen King stories turned into movies have either been excellent or schlocky. *The Green Mile* easily falls

rience, one that earns all those tears it causes to flow. Look for *The Green Mile* on many a critic's Top Ten list - a place it surely deserves.

3 1/2 Stars

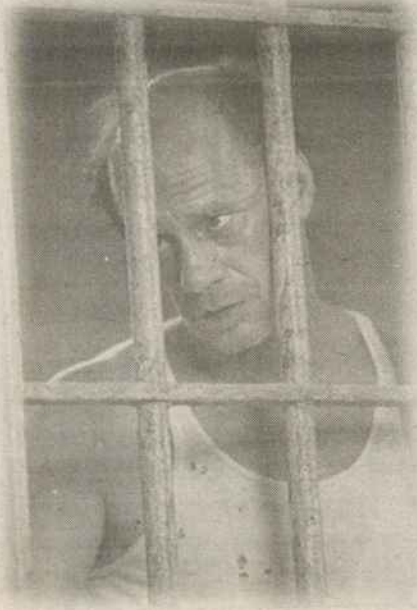


David Morse as Brutus Howell in *The Green Mile*



Barry Pepper's Dean Stanton in *The Green Mile*

into the former category. Darabont's manipulation of audience emotion is skillful, making the film a moving expe-



Out Gay actor, Michael Jeter, plays the cajun death-row inmate in *The Green Mile*

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Theatre Review

Room Service

Review by John Jahn

If you saw *Room Service* on Next Act's 1999-2000 Theatre schedule and thought, "Well, that's just going to be a stage version of that old Marx Brothers movie," you were mistaken. If you didn't know it already, *Room Service* started out, in fact, as a stage production in 1937, written by John Murray and Allen Boretz, and produced and directed by George Abbott.

The original Broadway run of *Room Service* ran for 61 weeks. In 1938, it was given the Marx Brothers feature film treatment via an adaptation by Morrie Ryskind. Next Act Theatre's current production isn't merely the original play or the movie, but a combination of both, with additional Marx Brothers material from other films thrown in for good measure. The result is an exciting to watch, often hilarious and unpredictable romp.

The entire story of the play takes place in the White Way Hotel room of Gordon Miller/Groucho (Norman Moses). He and his zany companions, Harry/Chico (Michael Herold) and Faker/Harpo (Ray Jivoff) scheme to pay off debts, keep from being tossed into the street or arrested, and in the meantime, help out a struggling playwright, Leo Davis (Gerard Neugent).

The characters in *Room Service* are two-dimensional; the plot is silly; the final act is completely predictable. Normally, knowing these things would

lead you to avoid such a production, but if you're looking for fully-developed characters, an intricate plot and an unexpected outcome, what are you doing at a play centering on the Marx Brothers?! The real questions must be: Do Moses, Herold and Jivoff pull off their portrayals? Do they fulfill expectations of bringing the classic



Room Service: at the Next Act Theatre. In back: Norman Moses & Michael Herold. In front: Ray Jivoff



Room Service: actors, left to right: Norman Moses, Ray Jivoff & Michael Herold, fulfill expectations and bring the Marx Brothers to life.

Marx Brothers to life before your eyes? Emphatically, *Room Service* answers "yes."

Room Service moves along superbly, feeling half its length. Between-acts shenanigans conducted by the loony trio give the whole a spontaneous feel, with a tinge of nostalgia for those of us who have seen many of those Marx Brothers film gems. The entire cast is finely directed by

David Cessarini, and the scenic design by Rick Rasmussen nicely recreates an art deco hotel room. Now, if all of it was only in glorious black and white..

Room Service can be seen through December 19th at the Stiemke Theater, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. For tickets and showtimes, call (414) 224-9490.

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Spotlight Premiere Events

16 Thu. **The Dutton Family Holiday Show, UW Whitewater (Whitewater):** One night only, Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St. 7:30pm.

17 Fri. **Black Nativity, Hansberry Sands Theatre (Milwaukee):** Celebrate the season Langston Hughes' story for all ages. Directed Willie Abney, Gospel Music featuring the Wisconsin Youth Choir. Gray's Conference Center Sanctuary, 6618 N. Teutonia. Tonight & Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 4pm. Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. (\$10 for groups & students advance only). (414) 616-PLAY. Pick up at Readers Choice Bookstore or Edith & Taylor Gospel Shop.

Holiday Punch, Dale Gutzman Productions (Milwaukee): This 21st edition will focus both on Christmas and the very special new year. Dear Ruthie makes an appearance on Santa's knee; sketches, medleys and special appearances.



Featured: (left to right)

Charles Hanel as Father Tim Farle
Michael Morgan as the rebellious Mark Dolson.

Mass Appeal, Boulevard Studio Theatre (Milwaukee): This comedy by Bill C. Davis. Directed by Paula Suozzi, explores the relationship between an older, cynical priest and a younger trusting priest with poignant humor. Continues through Jan. 9 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. (414) 744-5757.

Poets Tim Grair and Phred Dintenfass, Woodland Patten Book Center (Milwaukee): the Urban Voices series is held the third Friday of every month. Local Gay poet Grair, co-host of Y-Not 2's poetry slam and editor of the Bluff Magazine website; is joined by Dintenfass for a reading. Local writers also are invited to read their work during an open mic. 720 E. Locust St., 7pm, \$3, \$2 for open mic readers, (414) 263-5001.

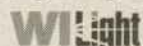
19 Sun. **Memories of Christmas in Song, Ameritech Chorus (Milwaukee):** Under the direction of Dr. James Norden, present their Christmas concert. First Lutheran Church, 7400 W. Lapham St., West Allis; 2pm, \$5, Tickets at the door.

22 Wed. **Be There With Bells On, Lorie Line (Milwaukee):** Lorie Line and her Pop Chamber Orchestra, holiday concert. One night only, Milw. Auditorium.

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Spotlight Now Appearing

Group Exhibit, Michael H. Lord Gallery (Milwaukee): Main gallery presentation of a selection of paintings, prints, sculptures by artists who have exhibited in the gallery during the past year. Plus the addition of modern glass movement artist, Dale Chihuly. Continues through the end of the year. 420 E. Wisconsin Ave. (414) 272-1007.

A Christmas Carol, Milw. Rep (Milwaukee): Continues through Dec. 26, Pabst Theater.

An American Impressionist in France, Lakeshore Gallery (Milwaukee): Original oil paintings by Thomas Trausch, Leon Belsky and Bette Sellars. Continues through Dec. 31. 4401 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 964-2540

Breathless, or Is There Sex After Asthma, Broom Street Theater (Madison): Original comedy with a happy ending written and directed by Broom's Joel Gersmann. Continues through December 19, Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St.; times vary. \$7 at the door, (608) 244-8338.

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

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.

Fiddler on the Roof, Cabot Theatre (Milwaukee): Music by Jerry Bock, an American musical classic. Continues through Dec. 19; Broadway Theatre Complex, 158 N. Broadway. \$12-49, student/sr discounts, (414) 291-7800.

Forever Plaid, Marcus Center Vogel Hall (Milwaukee): A heavenly musical hit parade. Continues through Feb. 13; Vogel Hall, 123 E. State St. \$28.50-36.50 (414) 273-7206

Gallery Exhibit, Lakeshore (Shorewood): The work of Russian abstractionist Mihail Cmeniakin. Continues through Dec. 30. 4401 N. Oakland Avenue, (414) 964-2540.

Holiday Hell, In Tandem Productions (Milwaukee): Continues through Dec. 19; Broadway Theater Center, Studio Theater, 150 N. Broadway.

Holiday Memories, Theatre X (Milwaukee): Double bill of one-act plays. Continues through Dec. 19; Broadway Theater Center, Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway.

Old Friends Gather, Rep's Stackner Cabaret (Milwaukee): Salute to the spectacular career of Paul Simon. Continues through Jan. 9; Stackner Cabaret, Milwaukee Center, 2nd floor, 108 E. Wells. time varies. Tickets range from \$15-25, call (414) 224-9490.

Photos by Richard Waswo, Lakeshore Gallery (Shorewood): The photographic work of local artist Richard Waswo. On exhibit through Dec. 30. 4401 N. Oakland Ave., (414) 964-2540.

Retablo Art Exhibit, 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. Continues through Jan. 8, 911 W. National Ave., (414) 672-2787.

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. Continues through the 19th. Marcus Center Stiemke Theater, \$18-26, (414) 224-9490.

Sho Nuff Gospel Music, Andre Ellis and Co. (Milwaukee): Continues through Dec. 19, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center Theater, 1531 W. Vliet St.

The Little Drummer Boy, First Stage Milwaukee (Milwaukee): Continues through Dec. 24; Todd Wehr Theatre, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

The Nutcracker, Milwaukee Ballet (Milwaukee): Continues through Dec. 29; Marcus Center, Uihlein Hall.

The Santaland Diaries, Bialystock & Bloom Co. (Milwaukee): 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. Continues through Dec. 19; UW Mitchell Theatre, Tickets at Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 Univ. Ave.; \$20-25, (608) 262-1500.

the gay Agenda

16 Thu. **Lesbian Singles Discussion Group, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (Milwaukee):** Every 3rd Thursday. 170 S. 2nd St. 7-8:30pm (414) 271-2656

Free Film Screening, SAGE (Milwaukee): Screening of the film *The Object of My Affection*, the story of the relationship between a straight woman and a Gay man, exploring the fine line between sex and friendship. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St., small meeting room. 6:30pm, (414) 271-0378.

18 Sat. **BWMT Meeting, Black and White Men Together (Milwaukee):** An inter-racial men's social organization offers friendship, comradery and possibly new loves. Meets the third Saturday of the month. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.; 7-9pm, (414) 461-4586, box 3.

Final '99 Social Volleyball, GAMMA (Milwaukee): Last chance for social volleyball at Englemann Gym, 2033 W. Hartford Ave., from 1-3pm. \$2 GAMMA members, \$3 non-members. FMI call John at (414) 540-1202.

Interfaith Ministry Outreach, Chapel of Hope (Milwaukee): Visiting the patients at St. Camillus and bringing small gifts for the patients in the intensive care unit. The first of regular trips that will occur on the third Saturday of each month. PO Box 05248, 53205; (414) 297-9116.

Madison Gay Video Club, MGVC (Madison): Screenings of *No Ordinary Love* and *Millenium Man*. Call evenings for the location: 8pm; (608) 244-8675.

25 Sat. **HIV+ Gay Men's Social, BESTD Clinic (Milwaukee):** Premiere of new monthly event. 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

26 Sun. **LGBT Youth Group Meeting, ARCW Office (Kenosha):** LGBT youth and sexuality issues, ARCW Office, 1212 57th St.


Note: The Gay Agenda is a list of LGBT community special events. When space is available we also run "weekly events" organization meeting lists. Please send us new information, deletions or changes. Deadline is noon, Friday the week before the Wednesday cover date. Items can be faxed to: (414) 226-0096, mailed or emailed to rong@wilight.com.

PLAN AHEAD


Our Dec. 29th Issue will cover a 2 week period through January 11th DEADLINE for that issue is noon, Thur. Dec. 23rd.







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8pm

All Ages Dance Party



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Gotcha!

By Billy Masters

Jason Priestley is a gossip columnist's wet dream (he's also a wet dream for many of my fans!). Lately, he's caused quite a number of tongues to wag in Tinseltown.

I only wish that I could share some of the juicier stories I've received over the past several years - enough to choke a horse. Remember when **JP Pitoc** in *trick* said that his nickname in college was "beer can"? *He's not the only one.*

Back to the stories that I am allowed to share with you - after all, it is the season of giving. You'll recall that Jason and makeup artist **Ashlee Peterson** were married about ten months ago in a ceremony that was - how shall we say - non-binding, to say the least. This marriage, like the union of Jason's on-screen sis, **Shannen Doherty**, to yet another Ashlee (this time, it's spelled Ashley, as in Hamilton), seems to be headed south.

The couple has allegedly spent almost no time together. They were barely moved into their three-bedroom home in the Hollywood Hills when Jason asked the realtor to put it back on the market. On November 30th, Jason released a statement that he and Ashlee were having a trial non-legal separation.

Three days later, Jason totaled his Porsche in a car accident.

Was Ashlee anywhere in sight? Nope. Jason was with his "pal" **Chad Cook**. Jason managed to hit several parked cars, a street lamp pole, some trashcans, and a tree.

Oh, did I mention that there were no other moving vehicles in the vicinity? Priestley claims that he was sober

(although he was arrested for DUI after allegedly refusing a Breathalyzer test) and that he got into the accident because he was trying to avoid hitting

a deer. Ah, yes, the old "doe a deer" defense!

Speaking of separations, look for **Mother Love** and *Forgive or Forget* to part ways right after the New Year. I know that many of you are surprised that the show is still on the air, which may be part of the reason that **Mother**

Love's being replaced. Still, I think that replacing her with **Robin Givens** is a pretty drastic (and desperate) move. I just can't see Robin caring even a little about the guests on that show.

What she may care about is any money, which might result from a lawsuit that may be initiated by her ex-hubby, Mike Tyson (maybe he could be her first guest on *Forgive or Forget!*). Evidently, Mike is peeved that the makers of the Billy doll have named its black "sister doll" Tyson. (I should point out that I never even dreamed of suing, although the Billy doll is the spitting image of yours truly).

I don't believe that Mikey has a chance of winning if he sues. Everyone knows that the Tyson doll is based on **Tyson Beckford** (well, the doll does look more like the supermodel than the boxer).

In the strangest twist I've heard in a long time, a fan spotted **Lynn Redgrave** and her estranged hubby, **John Clark**, walking down the streets of New York together. Last Thanksgiving, John turned to Lynn and said, "Oh, you know our grand-

son? The child our son had with his wife? Actually, that's my son. Could you please pass the stuffing?"

For some reason, Lynn didn't take that news well, threw John out of the house, refused to have any contact with him, and even barred him from attending the

Golden Globes and Oscars. Now, apparently, they are at least

friendly enough to walk down the street hand in hand. Stay tuned for further developments.

Faithful readers of this column have been patiently reading, waiting, and thinking, "When is Billy gonna tell us the



Jason Priestley



Shannen Doherty



Tyson Beckford



Lynn Redgrave



Ricky Martin

item about **Ricky Martin** that he promised us last week?" Well, the waiting is over.

One of my many sources (honey, they're everywhere) was at Ricky's concert at the San Jose Arena. Since this is an arena, some seats are virtually behind the stage. My source was sitting in one such seat, bemoaning this bad viewing area, until he realized that he was able to peek under the curtain to watch Ricky changing costumes.

For what it's worth Ricky doesn't wear underwear when he performs, and he has a very firm, very smooth, butt.

Sadly, my source wasn't close enough to see if this smoothness is natural or enhanced, but he did note that there was no odor. Phew!

Speaking of Ricky, he has been donating a number of personal autographed items to many charities, including Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (you'll recall that Ricky appeared on Broadway in *Les Miz*). Thanks, Ricky!

When I'm discussing Ricky's butt and everyone else in this installment could be a guest on *Forgive or Forget*, then it's definitely time to end yet another column. This week, I've been deluged with requests for my address so that fans could send me a holiday card (or perhaps a little gift).

I don't normally do this (except on my birthday, which is February 13th - shop early), but you can send all items to: Billy Masters, 269 S. Beverly Drive, #800, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. Don't forget that over Christmas, I will be doing a special Ask Billy column. In my last column of the century (although we all know the century doesn't end for another year), I will do a recap of this year's top stories. You can send your questions to my e-mail address of **Billy@filth2go.com** and I promise to get back to you before Ricky starts wearing undies.

dear Ruthie



Dear Santa,

Below you will find my annual wish list. You'll notice that I am not asking you for money, jewelry, or an automobile—that's what ex-husbands are for.

Instead, I continue to ask for things that are difficult for most to deliver, but simple for you. I see no reason why you can't fill my order ... er ... I mean ... wish list.

Please notice that this list does not make any reference to coal. You have given me coal every year for as long as I can remember (except for your 1997 "joke" where you left me the Coal Miner's Daughter soundtrack). By now, I have enough coal to heat the Falkland Islands, Times Square and Janet Reno's ass.

As Per the note you left last year, I will be substituting the milk and cookies with Scotch and Corn Nuts. Please keep these efforts in mind as you pack your sled. Here is the list of things I expect from you this Christmas:

1. I'd like some bras. My ex-husband won all of mine in the settlement.
2. I'm afraid that when the '80s left us, Jellies left too. Remember those shoes, Santa? They were lovely little plastic numbers that a gal could pick up at the pharmacy on her way to a picnic, date or wedding. I miss my size 13 Jellies. See if you and the Mrs. can't whip up something.
3. I could use a new leg razor—better make it one of those industrial-strength models.
4. I'd really like to have one of your elves. Make sure he's a hard worker who doesn't eat much and is comfortable sleeping in a drawer. Don't tell me you can't spare an elf! You've got hundreds of elves working for you; I only have three (okay four with my Editor)
5. Fabio. Regardless of the countless wish lists I have sent you, Santa, you continue to ignore this particular request. With the exception of your 1983 mix-up involving the delivery of Don Knots, I have yet to find Fabio or any other celebrity under my tree. Consider this a warning, old man—if you don't bring me Fabio this year, you'll never see Rudolph again. I'll hold that damn reindeer ransom in exchange for one blond, beefy, well-hung, long-haired celebrity—and I'm not talking about Linda Trip.
6. I would like a case of my favorite perfume: Debbie Gibson's *Electric*

Youth. Like Jellies, this fragrance vanished with the '80s. Currently, I am only able to purchase it at rummage sales.

7. A new cat. My current cat clashes with the color I recently painted the living room. You're free to take the old cat in exchange. Do reindeers eat cats?
8. I'd like you to pay for the damage you caused last Christmas Eve. I don't know why you need to land on my roof. It's a trailer! I don't have a chimney! What the hell are you doing up there? That roof can barely support the weight of your fat ass, let alone a sled and a fleet of deer. Your deer left several dents on my roof. I won't mention the huge pile of you-know-what that I had to remove with a snow shovel.
9. A new snow shovel.
10. Please take Pearl to see my friends and I in *Holiday Punch*, running December 17, 18 and 19 at Centennial Hall. She doesn't have a date for the show and likes guys with beards.

Dear Ruthie,

I'm in the closet where my family is concerned, but recently they've been asking me some suggestive questions. The questions stem from Thanksgiving when I brought a Gay friend to my parents' house.

They were glad I invited a friend (because he had nowhere else to go). My family seemed to notice that he was Gay, but we are just friends. A few days later my Mom asked if he was and I said no. My Dad and sister asked the same thing later.

When I call my parents, they ask if I've seen him lately, how often we do things, where we go, etc. Are they trying to find out about me? Do you think this a good time to tell them?

Lookin' for Some Hot Stuffing

Dear Stuffing,

See what happens? You try to be nice and invite someone to spend the holiday with you, and right away your family thinks you're getting horizontal with the person!

No one can tell you when the time is right to come out to your parents. It sounds like your family might be fishing for information on your orientation (hey that would make a good country/western song, wouldn't it). Don't let that determine the timing of your coming out. Follow your gut and do what you think is best.

Hey Wisconsin! The holidays are upon us and what better way to celebrate than coming to see me! Well... me and a bunch of very talented folks! "Holiday Punch" is Milwaukee's longest running holiday review and this year's production will be held Dec 17, 18 and 19. Call 414-327-3552 for tickets to this wonderful show.
Love, Ruthie

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Christmas Party



Holiday Buffet & Drink Specials

**Sunday,
Dec. 19th
5pm - close**

Santa will be there with a sack of \$urprize\$

Bring your friends & Stay til it ends

Open Daily at 5pm



'99 Holiday Gift Guide



LGBT Madison's Holiday Gift

By Dusty Sass

Madison – For Club 5 and the members of Madison's Impersonator community, Simply Divine's benefit for area homeless programs is as much a part of the holidays as putting up a Christmas tree or lighting the menorah. The Sunday, December 12 benefit at Madison's Club 5 netted over \$2,000 and the checks are still coming in.

There was emcee Miss Caroline regaling the crowd with a steady stream of one liners that had everyone in stitches.

There was Sister George bringing the house down with a rendition of the gospel numbers from the movie *Color Purple*. There was Simply Divine, Chris Lange, Entertainer of the Year Vickie C, Desiree Mathews, Kitty Liqueure, Miss Beau Hlaful, Dedra Lee, Mr. Emerald City Michael K. and James dazzling the crowd with special numbers, creative costuming and even live singing.

The Christmas spirits had to be smiling on Club 5 and, if they weren't there, more than enough smiles and cheers from the large crowd made up for their absence.

This is a pure benefit. Every dime that comes in (including the performer tips) goes to two charities that help the homeless, the Salvation Army and Transitional Housing. Even the coat check money is donated to help the less fortunate. The Salvation Army operates a homeless shelter and Transitional Housing works with the homeless to help them get

off the streets and into affordable housing of their own.

The whole idea came from the very creative mind of Simply Divine. The big girl with a huge heart and her side kick Caroline Klein, do everything they can to make sure that the less fortunate are remembered. They are joined by Club 5 owner Ed G. and his staff, who roll out the carpet and make it easy to give.

"This is one of my favorite nights of the year," said Ed who does everything he can to make it extra special.

The fire that burned down the Hotel Washington and left some tenants homeless in part inspired the idea. "It didn't happen until the Hotel (Washington) burned down, said Divine. I talked to Ed G about the idea and he mentioned it to Bill (Meunier) at *WI Light*. Bill and the paper enthusiastically endorsed the idea."

"I just thought we are a rich enough nation that everyone should have a place to live in," she added. "The *WI Light's* involvement was important. When Bill said he would help, I saw that there was someone else, who believed that it was so right. That gave me confidence to go ahead."

From that beginning, the idea spread like wildfire. "Caroline and I get together and decide who to include in the

show," said Divine. "We sometimes step on a few toes, because everyone wants to do it. We want the best, most creative performers. I wish I could include everyone but it would be too long of a show. People want to party and dance afterwards."

And party they do. One of my all time favorite bar memories came at the conclusion of the show two years ago, when it was held at Club 5's predecessor, *Manoeuvres*. The bar was at its legal limit of customers. As a proud Ed G.

announced the total, the packed house erupted with cheers and more than a few people even hopped on the tables and started dancing.

"This show makes Christmas shine through for me because there's a blend of community, said Divine. "It's people coming together for other people, Gays, straights and in between, everyone comes."

Divine points out that her co-producer, Caroline, sold five tables to her co-workers, mostly young students from the university. "That shows you how we come together around a common cause."

Caroline and Divine were honored by Club 5's Desiree Mathews, who presented them special awards for their charitable work. They were genuinely shocked.

"I was very surprised and very touched as was Caroline," said Divine. "I was backstage wondering why Desiree had the mike and suddenly everyone was cheering. It shows you that our community does notice when you are doing things that are

not all about yourself."

Caroline told the crowd, "I've been doing shows for 20 years now (she doesn't look anywhere near that old) and 95% of them have been for charity. This is very nice, but keep in mind that it's the people that we help that are important."

That's a feeling shared by the other performers. Sister George, who was fabulous in her two numbers, told me that she spends weeks getting ready, not to mention the cash she lays out for a costume.



Miss Caroline & Simply Divine



Fun Backstage



Tips for the homeless.



Tony R. & Friend

spread like wildfire. "Caroline and I get together and decide who to include in the

It's the only show that she performs in, and she never fails to bring the house down as she did this year.

Vickie C, who is on tour as Wisconsin's Entertainer of the Year, raced to Madison from Green Bay where she had performed on Friday night. Desiree Mathews gave the best performances I've ever seen her do. Chris Lange sang live and moved the crowd with a song from *Rent*. Miss Beau Laful looked like a walking Rainbow Flag in one of her numbers.

I could go on and on about the show and all the hard work that goes into it, but as they say a picture is worth a thousand words, so to save space for more pictures, let me conclude with the words of Simply Divine.

"Thank you to everyone who performed, attended, tipped and bought raffle tickets. Thank you *WI Light* for all your support. You are all wonderful."

WI Light Photos by Bill Meunier

Latino Holiday Traditions

by Carmen Alicia Murguía

I learned the meaning of the holidays at an early age through the eyes of my traditional, Mexican, Catholic family and our extended family of relatives and friends. Like many LGBT Latinos in the U.S., the Holidays are a time of traditions and spirituality for me. Often they are also a time of personal challenge.

As children, we went along with the celebrations. As adults, we began to come out and become involved with a lover. That meant expanding our definition of family, but in some cases, we are unable to bring our significant other home for the Holidays.

Some of us redefined our religion and sought ways that brought us peace and hope in a spiritual way that is outside of the church. Others learned to juggle all the obligations to avoid challenging our culture.

I recall the Holiday season as a time of spiritual preparation and frequent attendance at mass. It began with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. It continued by attending a procession complete with mariachis playing in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of the Americas on December 12 and midnight mass on Christmas Eve. It ends with the Feast of the Three Kings in January.

The Holiday season also meant a time of creating a variety of meals, including my mother's specialties: enchiladas, tostadas, and piles of rich, homemade cookies for anyone who visited during December and January.

Until a couple of years ago, I spent Christmas Eve churning maza (maze)

or spreading beef to create wonderful tamales with my brothers and sisters, brothers-in-laws, my Tia (aunt), and my mami and papi. As the tamales simmered in a large silver olla (pot), we opened numerous gifts. Now as we age, the gifts center on my nieces and nephews, and like many burgeoning families, we exchange names.

I discovered that, like a lot of Lesbian and Gay friends of mine, once I moved out of my parents home and entered new relationships, the holidays changed and had new meaning for me. It meant flying to New York to be with my brother. Sometimes it meant flying or driving to other areas of the country to be with my lover's family or attending holiday parties as a "couple."

The modern "American me" who dares to venture away from my family at the holidays, makes it a point to call home on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The "Mexican me" never misses the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe mass. Nor do I fail to stop by my parent's house to help with tamale making, and wait until

Like Christmas Day, New Year's day means tamales and menudo (tripe soup - sounds odd, tastes delicious!)

As a single adult, I enjoy hosting a holiday open house filled with lots of Latin music and food. It brings back the love and holiday cheer in the way I remembered as a young person, or I attend parties and house hop to exchange gifts with my cousins and friends.



For Latinos, the family is the most important aspect of celebrating the Holidays.

Continued on Page 23



The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated throughout the Americas in Retablo at the Walker's Point Center for the Arts. The Retablo Exhibit runs through January 8th.

after the opening of the gifts, to hook up with friends.

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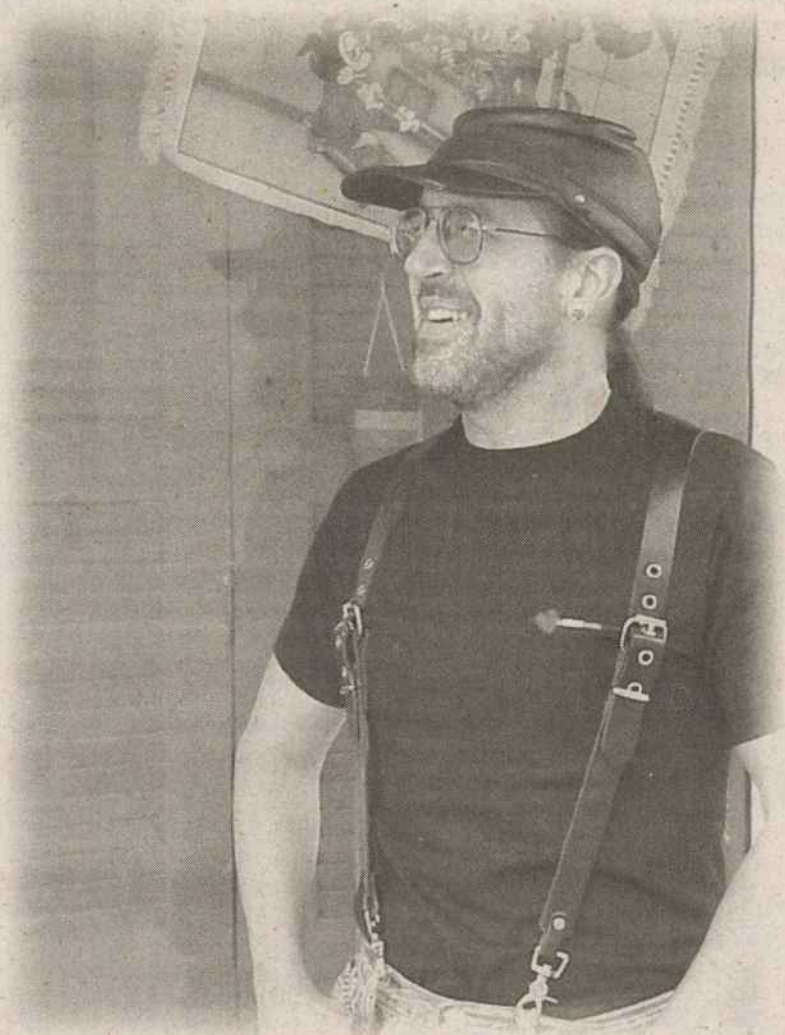
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Continued from Page 21

I've discovered that the religious aspect of what was once profoundly formal is now more spiritual for me as I look for peace in December and guidance in the New Year.

Christmas Celebrated In Mexico

One of the biggest fiestas of the year, Christmas in Mexico is celebrated in a variety of ways.

The posada, a re-creation of Mary (on donkey) and Joseph searching for a "room at the inn," is part of the celebration in many areas of Mexico. A choir of small children, who knock on doors asking for lodging for the weary couple accompanies the Holy Family. By previous arrangement, there are no takers. The procession, which takes place during the 12 days before Christmas, moves through the town and grows in numbers until it reaches the church, where mass is held.

After the service, the children enjoy a festive piñata party complete with fireworks. Variations of this tableaux are repeated throughout the country, such as Taxco, Querétaro and the Ajijic area, which makes a Mexican Christmas a cross cultural mix.

On Christmas Eve in Santiago Tuxtla (Veracruz), everybody assembles in the zócalo for an evening of dancing the huapango to the accompaniment of a jarocho band. In Quiroga (Michoacán), villagers present Nativity plays (Pastorelas) at churches on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day.

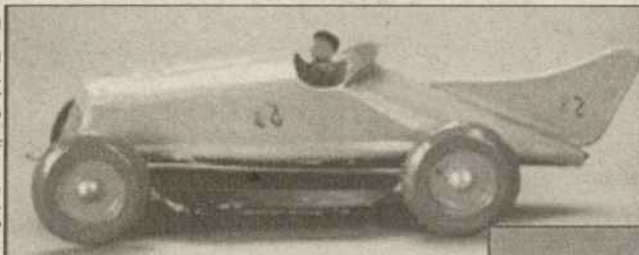
In the town of Cajititlán (near Guadalajara), as in many other places in the Hispanic world, the holidays are celebrated on Three Kings Day, January 6. This was the traditional

time to celebrate the gift-giving aspect of Christmas throughout Mexico.

However, in most of Mexico, the celebration is on December 25. The ritual often begins in the afternoon or at dinnertime when the family shares a rosca or two (a sweet, ring-shaped loaf with a ceramic muñeca (doll) representing the Christ child baked inside).

Puerto Rico

According to my amigas Lesbianas who live in Puerto Rico, the people cel-



Throughout Latin America and Spain, children receive gifts on Christmas Day and Three Kings Day.



brate the holidays with family and friends from the week of Christmas through the Day of Three Kings. Exchanging gifts, visiting the homes of friends and family, inviting guests, dancing, eating lechon, arroz con gandules, and platanos, and singing are all part of the traditional ritual.

Small bands of carolers known as Truillas make their rounds while playing traditional holiday folk music for the holidays. Crowds of children go to the church of San Jose at La Navidad to see the animated Nacimiento - the birth of Christ display.

During the feast of the Epiphany, children place water and maybe some grass under their beds for the wise men's camel, and receive presents in

return.

Bethlehem Day is January 12th and people parade through the villages in tribute to the Magi (Three Wise Men).

Recently, I ran into two Gay male friends who teach in Milwaukee but who will be returning to Puerto Rico. They said they wouldn't even think of spending Christmas and New Year's away from their families and friends (or each other for that matter since they are from the same hometown). "It's what you do, you follow tradition, you spend it with family. And besides, Milwaukee is not our home, Puerto Rico is," said one of them.

See our next issue for highlights of holiday celebrations in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Spain and Cuba.

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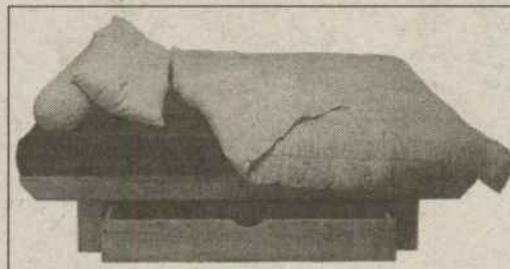
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Finding the Perfect Christmas Tree

Part 2, Continued from the December 8th Issueby **Ron Geiman**

For many people, selecting the Christmas tree marks the true beginning of the holiday season. Choosing the right tree and providing it with proper care can add to the festive atmosphere you create in your home.

Holiday Life Lesson #4: Selecting the best real tree. This year, I opted for the most convenient tree, a fake one. Next year, I'll probably go back to a real tree, and use the artificial one again later. It will have to be one that allows us to hang some of the large ornaments we've acquired, so for the first time I'll have to get a Balsam because of their wide-spaced branches.

Here are a few pointers that may help with your tree selection:

Figure out where you are going to place the tree and how much space and height you have. You'll be tempted to buy one too big for your space.

If you are buying a freshly cut tree (or cutting one yourself) pull on the needles to make sure they aren't too dry. Then give it the shake test, thumping it on the ground to see how many needles fall off. Some needles will rain down, and that is natural. Just make sure it's not a down-pour.

Check to make sure the tree hasn't been spray painted. Some unscrupulous sellers (mostly temporary lots that aren't in the same location, year after year) try to "perk up" the coloring on a dried out tree. (Telltale sign: the branches and trunk are too green colored.) Break a few needles, and give them a sniff. If they aren't flexible, fragrant and sticky, look at a different tree.

Check for nests or other signs of bugs. One year, when I was a kid, we awoke to find our living room crawling with a family of praying mantis. No, it wasn't an omen from above. They had a nest in the tree we'd purchased and after warming up in our house, they decided to come out for a stroll.

Ask the purveyor to saw off the bottom 2 inches before you leave the lot, if you are going to immediately erect the tree in a stand when you get home. If you aren't going to put your tree up right away, put it in a warm bucket of water and store it in a cool protected place like an unheated garage or basement. Immediately before mounting it in the stand, trim off the bottom yourself. (Here's where it helps to have a friend who's butch enough to have his or her own saw.)

Remember: trees use up to a gallon of water the first day and up to several

quarts every day thereafter. Check the water level every day, unless you want a drooping, dried up old tree before Christmas even arrives.

The **Frasier Fir** is my favorite tree. They smell great, have good needle retention, strong branches, and look fabulous with green on one side of the needles and blue on the other. These trees have a good "tip count" allowing you to hang lots of ornaments. Frasier Firs are quite full, though, leaving less space for large ornaments, and they are expensive.

Douglas Firs can be found at some lots in Wisconsin. They have full shapes, and are lightweight. They have very green medium size soft needles and good needle retention. Douglas firs have fewer branches for a more open look, and are good in warm environments (near heat vents or fireplaces).

Balsam Firs are more prevalent here. They have shorter (1/2-1") needles, great color, form, fragrance and good needle retention. They have a denser look than regular Balsams and both tend to lose their needles quicker.

Scotch Pines are popular and cheap, but personally, I don't like them. They have long, sharp needles (1 1/2 - 2"), good needle retention and firm branches that can hold heavy ornaments, but their dense growth doesn't allow much space to hang ornaments.

Blue (Colorado) Spruce: have short (1/2-1") stiff needles. They have a classic look, a nice aroma and symmetrical form but tend to lose their needles quickly in warm rooms.

White Pine: have soft medium length needles but their soft branches don't hold heavier ornaments very well. White Pines smell great but they don't retain their needles very well.

Holiday Life Lesson #5: Christmas Trees, both real and artificial, are *not compatible* with cats, dogs and toddlers.

As I was writing this article, my roommate, Kim, called to tell me that our two kids (cats) are running rampant. Somehow, they knocked a wreath off the wall, tilted our favorite lighted snowman, dragged out more toys than they've played with in over a year and galloped under the tree knocking off any number of ornaments.

They must be going through fresh catnip withdrawal or sensory overload.

While we can't put barbed wire around the tree, it would be nice to have some kind of a defensive system protecting it. I still haven't figured that one out yet. We surrounded the base of the tree with wrapped presents, trying to fill in any gaps, but somehow the cats manage to get to it any way.

Your suggestions are welcome.

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out with Dusty

News... The Pack may not be back (until next year), but that hasn't stopped bunches of folks from attending Packer parties in Gay clubs throughout the State. Good sized but disappointed crowds were on hand in Milwaukee and Madison as Gay Wisconsin continues to do its part for the Green and Gold. In Milwaukee, **Switch**, **The Ball Game** and **Triangle** are among the best places to be when the Pack takes the field.

In Madison, you can take your pick. Last Sunday, the **Rainbow Room**, **Club 5**, the **Shamrock** and **Ray's** all attracted respectable crowds to watch the Pack go down the tubes in a loss to Carolina - of all teams.

Most knowledgeable Gay Packer fans are not ready to call for Rhodes head yet. However, if the grumbling that I that heard in Madison last Sunday is any indication, it may only be a matter of time before that happens.

Speaking of Madison... I had a great time up there last Sunday. **The Rainbow Room** looks very festive. It was my first visit since the change in ownership. From all appearances, the community has rediscovered the place and the new owners are doing a great job.

Terry and Jim told me that they are going to move the stage to make more room for show seating. Terry also said they are hoping to get approval for another bar in the back.

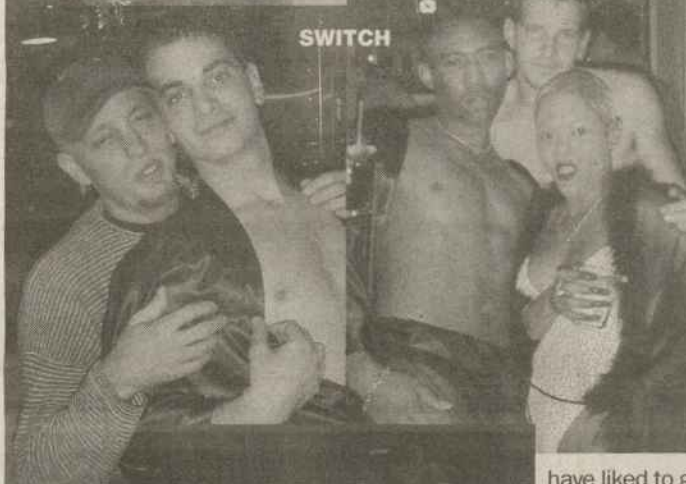
Jim was hobbling around due to a leg injury. The good news is that he is still smiling. The bad news is that due to the injury he was unable to do his Christmas Tree House this year.

Jim did, however, get into the holiday spirit. The Rainbow Room's **Toys for Tots** fundraiser was a big success. Jim and Terry told me that the place was packed. Hats off to Jeff Jennings for making the trip from Green Bay helping to make it so successful.

Speaking of injuries, **Shamrock** owner JJ is also hobbling around with crutches no less. JJ said that he broke his foot. When I asked why, manager Brian said that he did it, "kicking a bartender's butt." I doubt that - JJ is a real sweetheart.

Brian told me that the love of his life went back to Taiwan until March. He said the phone bills for their current romantic encounters are busting his budget. *Hmmm...* Calls to Milwaukee are much cheaper than calls to the Far East, Brian. You can find the office number in the masthead.

Now don't you all start. I am just kid-



ding. Brian is NOT single.

Cass honey if you could bottle it and sell it, you'd be richer than Bill Gates.

While at Club 5, I ran into Todd Olson, co-owner of the **Prairie Garden Bed and Breakfast**. He reports that while business is great on the weekends there are some rooms available during the week. Todd also thanked our Editor for the paper's help on the Mazomie Beach thing. The beach is only 15 minutes away from the B&B so its future is of great interest to Todd.

He said that, like others, he continues to fight right wing attempts to close it down. Of course, you can read all about the Mazo developments in *WI Light* as they happen.

Recaps... I had a great time at what I can only describe as the **Switch** Underwear show. Actually, it was lady's lingerie and men's underwear. Guess which models I was more interested in? Got it on the first try huh? *You know me too well.* Actually, I would have liked to get to know some of the models (the male ones) a little better.

Thank You to all my Madison friends, who made my trip there so enjoyable. It was the first time I was able to make an extended visit since we went weekly (glares at the Editor and Publisher for doubling my workload). It was so nice to see you all and hear all those nice things you had to say about *WI Light*. I promise to return soon.

Meanwhile stay in touch and let our office know what's happening in one of my favorite cities.

Well I guess it's time to stop glaring at the Editor and give him this column. I hope to see you and about soon. Until then (and even after then) stay safe and be proud.

Dusty Sass didn't injure anything last weekend and he'd love to hear from you about what's happening at your favorite nightspots. You can reach Dusty via e-mail at dusty@wilight.com, fax (414) 226-0096 or phone (414) 226-0075.

Nights out Events

15 wed. **Christmas Party, Dish (Milwaukee):** Performance by Pamela Means with special guests bent. Two floors of food, drink, holiday cheer.
Holiday Party, Fluid (Milwaukee): Prizes and surprises all night long. Christmas Martinis \$3. 7pm-on.
Holiday Piano Sing a Long, M&M Club (Milwaukee): Featuring Liz and Sage, in memory of Jerry (Mama) Whiz.

16 thu. **Jack Daniels Christmas Party, Woody's (Milwaukee):** Special prizes and gifts.
Salsa Night, Rainbow Room (Madison): Miss Kitty and her Cowboy Strippers featuring the Millennium Men at 10:30pm; free conga shots, salsa and chips, tequila and beer specials.

17 fri. **Chippewa Valley Bears, Wolf's Den (Eau Claire):** Monthly 3rd Friday gathering.
Christmas Party 2000, Triangle (Milwaukee): A party for boys who've been naughty! (Boys who've been nice are invited, too~). Gifts for all, holiday buffet, open bar 8-9pm (rail and tap); 8pm-on.
Justine D'Zire's Christmas Special, Za's (Green Bay): Ho, ho, ho, 10:30pm.

18 Sat. **Annual Christmas Show, Napalese Lounge (Green Bay):** 10:30 showtime.
Miss Kitty and her Cowboy Strippers, Rainbow Room (Madison): featuring the Millennium Men.

19 Sun. **Christmas Party, Switch (Milwaukee):** Santa will visit with a sack of \$urprise\$, holiday buffet, drink specials. Bring your friends and stay til it ends from 5pm-close.

22 wed. **Christmas Party, La Cage (Milwaukee):** Buffet at 9pm, drink specials, Santa comes to give out gifts for everyone. Christmas show by the La Cage Show Girls.

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

PLAN AHEAD

Our Dec. 29th Issue will cover a 2 week period through January 11th DEADLINE for that issue is noon, Thur. Dec. 24th.

WI Light

WI Light 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
Men's 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
Fahnies	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

M-Men • W-Women • G/S-Gay/Straight • F-Food • DJ-Disk Jockey • V-Video
L/L-Levi/Leather • E-Entertainment • Sp-Sports • K-Karaoke • J-Jukebox • D-Dancing

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Market Place

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The WI Light

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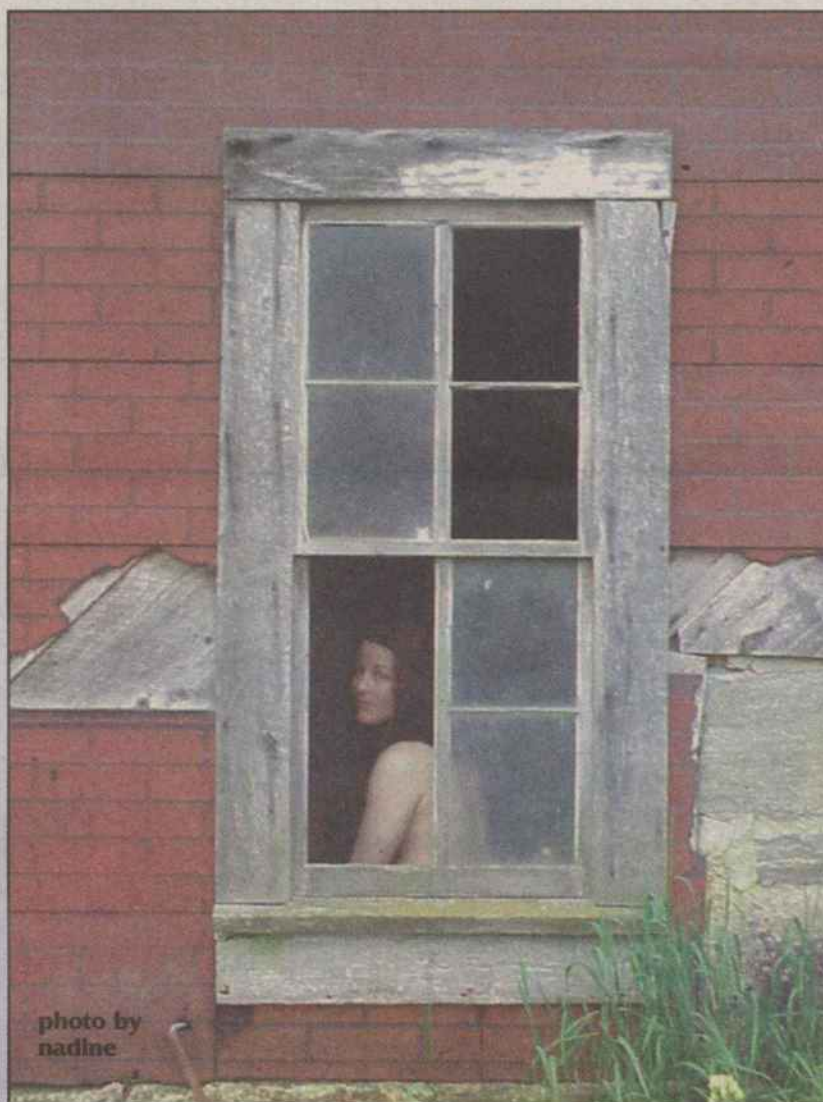
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Central Wisconsin, 25 6 ft. 3, 190 brown/blue-looking for friendship and ideally a relationship. Willing to travel no hang ups on age or location. We all can use a good friend. I don't want to rush things communication is vital in any situation. I am shy at first, but willing to try new things. Email me at ttreb@hotmail.com Pic available

Chris, GW 45 Madison high school teacher. 6 ft. 1, 180/185, H/W proportionate, brwn/brwn (graying on the sides and thin on top), mustache and goatee, non smoker and social drinker. Very laid back and open minded, love to have fun, in search of a guy who is H/W proportionate, professional, 24-40 for possible LTR. email: (king53704@yahoo.com)

Single, in-shape, GWM, 43, 5 ft. 10, 155#, seeking GM, 25-45 for friends, fun times and eventually a LTR. Enjoy French food, Spanish/Russian languages, European cinema and Japanese cars; into most types of music from Andrea Bocelli to Madonna. Don't drink or smoke. Domestically I keep busy with cooking, cleaning and gardening; mt. biking, tai-chi and calisthenics keep me fit while prolific reading keeps my mind sharp. Respond to mdl303@yahoo.com

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Looking for guys in the Green Bay/Fox Valley area to party or just stay home with and play. Single, ht/wt proportionate guys 18-35 years old, only. Slim a plus! I'm 33, 6 ft. 1, 156 lb., slim, smooth, strawberry blond, green eyes. I'm fun, sincere, discreet and a good conversationalist. If you're tired of those who won't hook up with femmy guys, e-mail me! I'm more concerned with what's in a guy's heart. Pic to trade. email: havencroft@hotmail.com

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GWM 45, 6 ft., 4 in., 210 lbs Hazel/ brown, d/d free, smoker, non-drinker, mustache, loves being Gay. Bottom, loving, caring, sincere, opened minded. Will travel to meet other Gay men for friendship, weekend get-aways. Between 28-45 H/W Pro. Write: Terry Brown, 505 Clay St., Whitewater, WI 53190.

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James: GBM 38, 5 ft. 8, 161 lbs. Bottom, non-smoker, sincere, many interests. Looking for relationship with GWM or SHM 30s-40s in the Milwaukee area. (414) 353-4573, no marrieds.

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Video Booth

Black Tricks, White Treats by All Worlds Video,

Directed by Peter Goesinya.

Reviewed by Sam Edwards

This interracial trick or treat film should have been reviewed a few weeks ago in time for the Gay holiday, Halloween. Well, you didn't miss much if you didn't see this one in time for your Halloween celebration. It is the usual Black on the top, White on the bottom flick, except that this time the men are, for the most part, quite attractive, with the Blacks having been chosen for their natural endowments as well as their good looks.

The plot is somewhat thin but then again, who rents a video like this for the plot? Bruce Hill has rented a big old Victorian house for his Halloween party. He tells his guests that he has also rented several paid escorts (read hustlers) to provide sex to those in attendance at the party.

Everyone is in costume so you can't

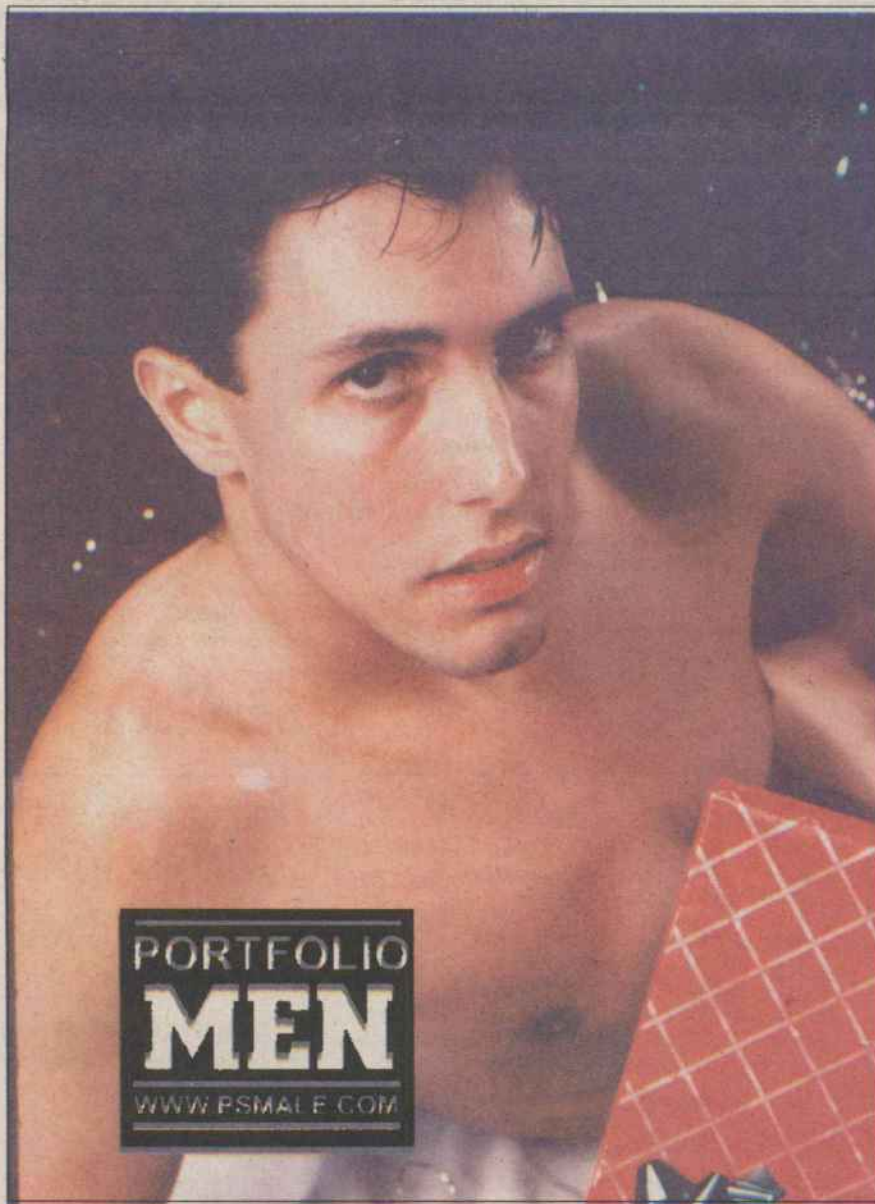
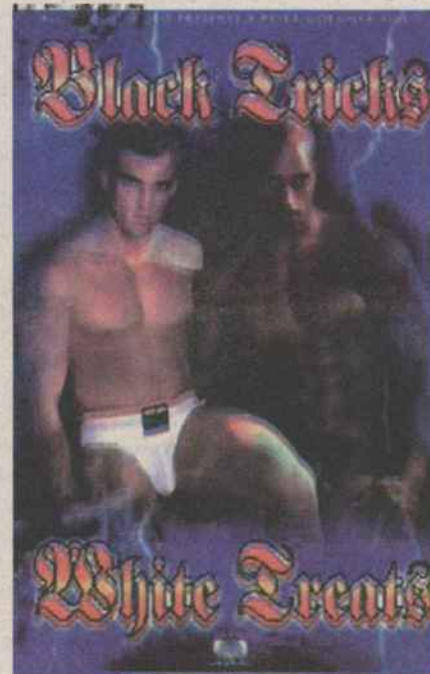
tell the guests from the hired escorts. J.C Carter and his lover Rod Steele say that they are always true to one another so they will not participate in this type of fun and games. In the very first scene, they have a three way with Derek Bishop, the first guy who happens to wander by. So much for monogamy. Steele, a weight lifter, who loves his work, bottoms for both.

Meanwhile, Bruce goes to the cemetery next door to locate his guest, Eric Butler. Bruce gave Butler the cemetery address as a joke. (Bruce is quite the joker.) Butler gets his revenge and then some when he plows Bruce while his host is bent over a tombstone. In porn film-dorm sex occurs out of bed more often than in one. (One of my favorite all time scenes has the bottom getting it in a wheelbarrow. It's a classic!)

Back at the house, Luke Savage comes across Flex Gamble. Gamble savages Savage who begs for more throughout the scene.

In the last scene, Joshua Scott spies L. A. Mont lying in a coffin masturbating. Scott soon has more than a mouthful before being mounted by Mont. The boys all gather in the living room where Bruce tells them that all are guests, and there are no paid escorts, they've all been Tricked Treats!

(This video is available at Video Adventures)



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sex Talk Speaking of Talking Dirty

by Simon Shepard

Who among us hasn't had the experience? We're kneeling before the man of the moment, mouth full and happy, when he growls, in his best Jeff Stryker imitation, "Yeah, suck that big dick!" Oh, yuck!

Surely, there's some way of talking dirty without lapsing into the cliches you always fast-forward through while watching porn. The script, of course, should depend on what you and your partner (or partners) are into. For some guys, silence is golden, maybe punctuated by nothing more than grunts, moans, and an occasional "Oh God!" Others, maybe those who were in the high school drama club, prefer a non-stop verbal soundtrack.

There's the usual stuff: "Man, I like your dick!" or "That feels really great. Could you do it, uh, a little harder?" But if you're going to veer into Strykeresque tough talk, why not get a wee bit more

personal? "Suck that dick" sounds so abstract, like the organ in question isn't even connected to your body.

Go for the literate approach: "I want to fuck your face till I shoot a big, hot load down your throat." Maybe it's not Jane Austen, but it's a lot more interesting, in a porn cliché way, than just "Suck that dick." Better yet, customize your dirty words. Talk about the guy's hair color, his profession, his apartment. That is, if you've ever been in his apartment; otherwise, you can talk about the trees in the park or the restroom decor.

There's also the fertile ground of role-playing fantasy. Sure, some of us actually like to dress up as a harem boy and dance around a scarf-draped apartment, but sexual fantasy can most easily, quickly, and cheaply be realized through verbal action. Even if you can't afford a pair of chaps, you can always talk like a leather top. Just invent a good script.

Pleading, "I want you to bend over," won't get you as far as, "On all fours. Now!" If you're a bottom, sprinkling your chat with "Sir's" will make the power imbalance obvious, even while you get the top to do exactly what you want him to.

It's always fun to get a bit transgressive, too. Even if you just met at a high-priced party at Palm Springs, good dialogue and a willing partner can turn the two of you into first-cousin country boys

screwing behind the barn. There's all sorts of twisted stuff for the more daring.

An asshole can become a "pussy," for example, though "manpussy" seems a bit too contrived, at least to me. My very butch pal Tom has confided that, in the heat of passion, he just loves to whimper, "Oh, Daddy, please fuck your little girl's pussy." Take care, though; one man's aphrodisiac is another man's gross-out. If you're trying out a line of perverse chat, start slowly and gauge your partner's response. If he joins right in, *the sky's the limit*.

Then there's outright verbal abuse, an art form in itself. Those of you who've never tried it have no idea how difficult it is to keep saying humiliating, insulting, demeaning things for hours on end without getting bored or repeating yourself endlessly. Well-crafted verbal abuse can cut awfully close to the bone, though. Calling someone's tiny dick a "tiny dick" can be liberating and hot and nasty, or just plain insulting.

When topping in a verbal abuse scene, it helps to be imaginative and aware. In addition, if you're a verbal abuse bottom, give your top some clues as to how he's doing. (For example, "Oh yeah, Sir, it's a tiny dick, and it's so hard and hot for a real man like you.")

Let's face it, guys will say almost anything in the throes of passion. But watch

your mouth - saying "I love you" can have all sorts of unintended consequences. And, no matter how close the moment of orgasm, calling your boyfriend by your ex's name is just plain rude.

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



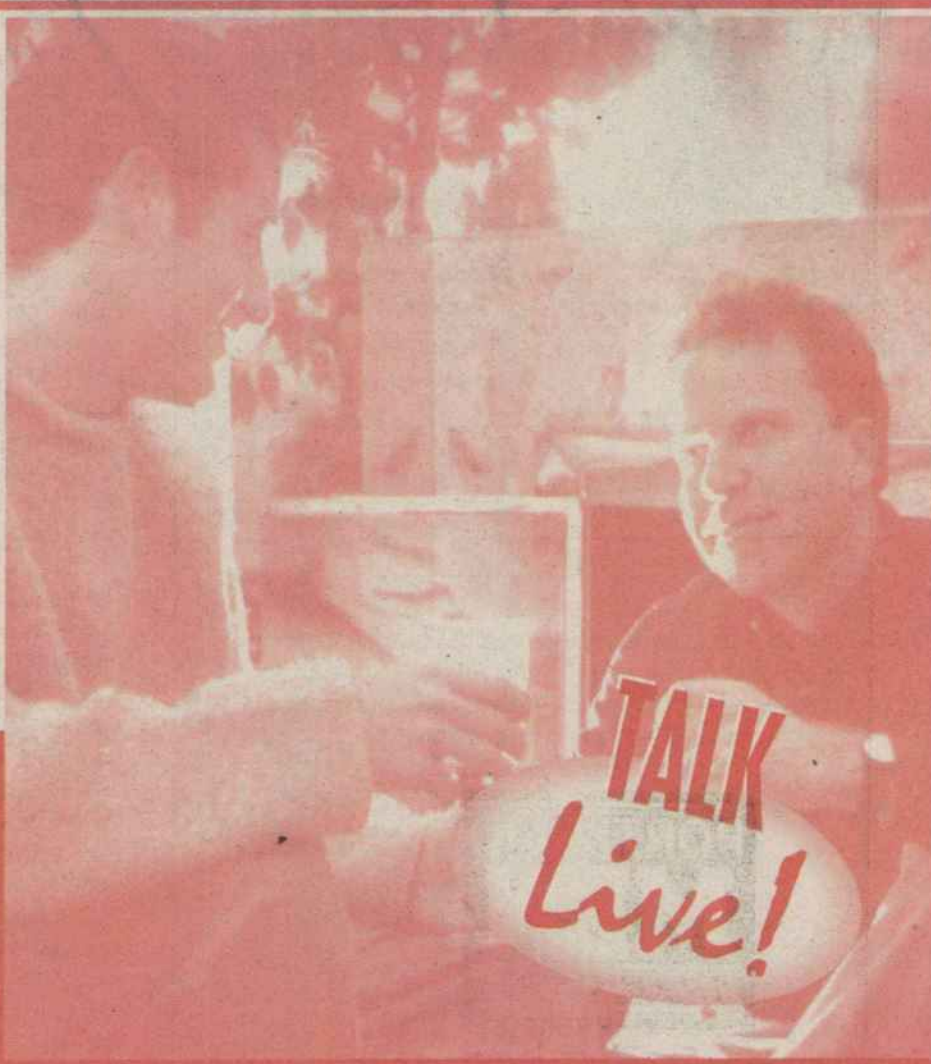
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out in Leather

by Charles
Grosz

This week's column is serious - *deadly serious*.

Safety in S&M play is by far the first and most important lesson to be learned, and the last word in choosing a partner. Even under the most controlled and planned scenarios, things may suddenly go disastrously wrong. There are volumes about specific precautions for the myriad of sexual SM activity. Today we will deal with the aftermath of a scene gone bad.

S&M and the law is a murky quagmire under any circumstance. Should you find yourself the victim of nonconsensual, violent actions during an encounter, or accidentally cause harm to someone in an agreed upon activity, you may find yourself dealing with the legal and investigative branch of local government.

I stress now that this column is not offering legal advice. You should follow only the directions and counsel of your own lawyer. I want to give you an idea what to expect in case of trouble, so that you will be able to think a little more clearly in an emergency.

Should you find yourself the victim of nonconsensual violent sex, even after agreeing to other activity, you do have rights. At any time in an encounter, you have the right to bring all actions to a halt. Be sure to have a "safe" word pre-arranged, other than "no" or "stop," so that there is no question that you want to cease all activity.

If the aggressor does not stop, it is no longer consensual SM sex, but a violent sexual assault. You may wish to file a complaint with the local police department or District Attorney after the ordeal. You may be more comfortable using an attorney to help with the initial contact, and you will be taken more seriously.

Be sure to record the investigating officer's name. Make follow up calls to the officer and District Attorney for regular updates on the case. Keep in mind that if not stopped, this sick individual may very well continue in his ways.

You can minimize the chances of getting into a bad contact if you follow a few guidelines. If you leave a bar or club with a stranger, introduce him to a friend or the bartender. Follow your instincts. He may look like a perfect fantasy, but if something tells you all is not right, take a pass that night, possibly agreeing to meet him another time.

In a recent California incident, a top was accused of mercilessly beating a bottom and leaving him in very poor condition. It turns out the bottom fabricated the tale — but what if this should happen to you? First off, know and UNDERSTAND your rights — the right to remain silent and the right to the presence of an attorney.

The police will try to get you to talk

immediately; it helps their case and saves time. A statement as innocent sounding as "He asked me to do it!" puts you, by your own words, at the scene, with the accuser. Sexual battery is a serious charge, and the cool, knowledgeable mind of an attorney should plan the strategy.

To safeguard against such problems, introduce your bottom to friends or the bartender, mentioning that the two of you are planning some consensual play. Get witnesses to the fact that the bottom left of his own will, and that he seemed eager to participate in S&M activity.

These testimonies may not clear you immediately, but it will begin to erode the dishonest charge. Probably the worst fear a top has is that the bottom will have serious health complications during a scene. This could happen to anyone, even the best tops. If there should be any sign of trouble, stop all actions immediately. If you feel the need for emergency service, dial 911. Make the sick or injured party feel as comfortable as possible.

When help arrives, be totally honest. Conflicting stories will only cast suspicion on you. Do not try to alter the scene or dress the injured, etc., for should there be a police investigation, tampered evidence will reflect badly on your credibility. Contact a lawyer immediately if the Police become involved.

It is rare that these types of problems occur. There is usually very high honor and respect among real S&M players, and those with a bad name are shunned, and their names spread across the leather SM world quickly. There is no need for paranoia, but a pinch of caution is recommended. Be careful out there!

This week marks the First anniversary of the death of Ed G. my closest leather friend of over 20 years. The circumstances of Ed's accidental death, though nothing more than fate, are tragic nonetheless. Ed was a shining example of honesty, charity and industry to which all true leather people should aspire.

He worked tirelessly for years as the spokesperson for an international leather association, as well as sharing his time and resources with local leather folk less fortunate than himself. An accomplished musician and composer, Ed translated into sound those emotions that can not be put into words but will not remain silent.

His actions spoke louder than words and his desire for recognition as silent as the stars. Still, his surviving partner David and I are a few of the fortunate ones. We were touched by a spirit so tender and dignified that it remains part of our souls — today, tomorrow and into the light.

- Pax Aeternam.