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ART

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*It's Our 30th Year
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If Our Friends Could See Us Now!

WI Light

January 19 - 25, 2000

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

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

is published weekly by Wisconsin Light LLC

225 South 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 226-0075

FAX (414) 226-0096

www.wilight.com

AP Associated Press**National NEWS****Human Rights Law May not Face Vote**

Miami - *The Miami Herald* reports that efforts to force a referendum on a Dade County ordinance that outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation are running out of time. Christian Coalition activists were hoping to force a vote on the law and repeat their 1977 victory when a campaign led by Anita Bryant convinced voters to void a similar ordinance.

This time around things may be different. *The Herald* says that to get a repeal referendum on the ballot, a majority of Dade county municipalities and community councils must approve a resolution calling for a vote - and that does not appear likely to occur.

Last Wednesday the Opa locka City Commission became the second community to rescind its original support of the ballot measure. "I really think it's an issue that shouldn't be on our agenda," said Opa-locka Vice Mayor Derrick Miller. The commission voted unanimously to take back its earlier support of the repeal campaign.

Meanwhile the West Kendall Community Council voted 4-1 against putting the ordinance up for a vote. "I know homosexuality is not contagious. I slapped cuffs on enough of them to know that," said Councilman Hector Varela, a Vietnam War veteran and former Marine who said part of his military duties was to ferret out Gay service members. "It's one of the things that I most regret doing."

The decisions may make it impossible for Christian Coalition referendum backers to win approval from a majority of Dade County's local governments.

That suits the members of SAVE Dade, just fine. SAVE Dade supports the ordinance and has been the major source of opposition to the referendum. "This is about putting the civil rights of a minority up for public vote," said SAVE Dade Chairman Jorge Mursuli "Could anybody get way with saying, 'Let's put African-American or Hispanic rights up for public vote?' Of course not."

Journalist Group Surprised By Porn Site

Washington - *Editor and Publisher* reports that people trying to reach the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) through the Internet may be in for a surprise. The journalist's group's online site is located at www.nlgja.org, but many users might type in .com instead of .org. That would lead them to www.nlgja.com a Gay porn site.

The organization is trying to decide what to do - if anything - about the similar URL, which re-routes visitors to www.gayspycam.com an adult entertainment site.

The LGBT journalist group contacted the porn site's owner, a company called "New

Links for Guys to Jack At," which forms an acronym that's identical to its own - NLGJA. Rose Arce, NLGJA's vice president for broadcast, says that she believes the porn portal deliberately chose an acronym to match her group's initials.

"He didn't name a price, but he did request compensation for removing the site, and he had seen the [real] NLGJA Web page," Arce said. "I think he's just trying to extort a few bucks."

"I am not a cybersquatter," said Frank Meyer, who described his job as a traffic manager for adult entertainment sites. "I don't knowingly squat on URL addresses. I have no ill-will towards the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association."

When asked if he requested some type of compensation when contacted by Arce, Meyer replied, "Probably."

NLGJA isn't the first organization to find a URL nearly identical to its own leading to a pornography site. The White House's official site can be found at www.whitehouse.gov but typing in www.whitehouse.com takes users to graphic sexual images.

The journalists are considering taking legal action under the Trademark Cyberpiracy Prevention Act, which was passed by Congress in November 1999. The act provides a statute for determining intent to tarnish a name by diverting traffic to a similar URL.

Activists Take Dallas Daily to Task

Dallas - Dallas area Gays and Lesbians are hopping mad at the *Dallas Morning News* says the *Texas Triangle* a statewide LGBT paper. The mainstream daily ran into trouble when it printed what Gay activists say amounted to an anti-Gay marriage ad in the middle of a January 10 page one article about the pros and cons of same sex marriage.

The "ad" was a graphic that included anti-gay marriage comments as well as a telephone number and Web site offering aid to help those who oppose same sex marriage opponents to register to vote.

The article featured Vivienne Armstrong and Louise Young, a Lesbian couple of 30 years living in Dallas, and voiced their desire for Texas to enact marriage benefits for same-sex couples.

While local activists say the article itself was well written and balanced, they are angry over the text box ad inserted in the middle of it. With the ad headlined "The Fight against Same-Sex Marriage," the phone number in the ad contained a taped message made by a religious activist calling on Texans to vote for anti-Gay marriage candidates in next fall's legislative elections. The remarks were also broadcast by "The Word" radio station. The ad graphic also included the station's number and web site.

Geoff Staples, a critic of the *News*, said, "If the issue pertained to women, Jews or blacks, they wouldn't have made this error in judgment ... They are very skilled about ignoring Gay and Lesbian issues, especially when it comes to civil rights."

Stuart Wilk, managing editor for the *Morning News* contacted the *Texas Triangle* in response to a letter the LGBT newspaper faxed to him.

"I read the story at home over coffee and thought we had done a good job of talking

about a tough issue in a balanced and even-handed way," Wilk said. "Then I looked at the accompanying graphic and was totally puzzled by why we would do that and not have the other side represented."

Wilk added, "To make a long story short, it should not have happened. It shouldn't have happened in my view, and it shouldn't have happened in view of other editors here. The mistake was innocent, there was certainly no agenda that someone was trying to promote."

Cathy Renna, of GLAAD told the *Triangle* that the *Morning News* "does a pretty good job of covering our issues." At the same time Renna said, "I think it was their intent to show an organization in the community that would like to keep Gays from marrying."

Calls Pour in to Vermont On Same-Sex ruling

Montpelier - Vermonters have not been the only ones speaking out since last month's State Supreme Court ruling that Gay and Lesbian couples are entitled to the same marriage benefits as heterosexual couples.

More than 8,600 phone calls, faxes, and e-mails have poured into the Governor's office, many of them from out of state, since the court ruled on Dec. 21, said Sue Allen, press secretary for Governor Howard Dean. The Governor brought in an extra staff member to handle the messages.

Initially, the bulk of the correspondence condemned the ruling, and vowed boycotts of Vermont-made products and travel to the Green Mountain State.

Now, however, most of the new mail is praising the ruling and the Legislature's effort to construct a new law to give same-sex couples the legal benefits of marriage.

"We're hoping it will drop off soon," Allen said. "It's not helpful to have out-of-state people driving Vermont's agenda."

Chris Bariberi, president of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber had received roughly 45 e-mails from around the country on the issue. Critical messages outnumbered those in support by 10-1, he said. Most threatened to cancel vacations, or to boycott products such as Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

Lesbian Alleges Beating, Kidnapping

Salt Lake City - The *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that a Jordanian woman from the city told a court that her family beat her, threatened to kill her and kidnapped her to send her back to Jordan because she is a Lesbian.

Muna Hawatmeh testified that her father, mother and two brothers cajoled, pleaded and threatened her for more than a year. She alleges that on October 14, family members beat and kicked her for four hours before finally stating they must kill her.

Muna quoted her father, as saying, "We have no solution for you. It is better if you die."

Muna said that earlier her father had told her "You have shamed us in front of other people." She testified that her family decided to let her live after she kissed her father's feet, promised

National NEWS

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to give up being a Lesbian and tearfully asked to return to Jordan.

The next day her family ordered Muna to pack her bags for the trip to back to their homeland.

"Did you want to go?" asked prosecutor Rodwick Ybarra. "I didn't have any other choice," Muna answered.

On the way to the airport, the family drove past Muna's lover who called the police. They in turn called her brother on his cell phone. Muna said she promised her brother she would lie, but at the police station, "I couldn't hold it [the truth] in," she said.

Muna was taken to a local hospital where an examination by an emergency room doctor revealed numerous bruises on her arms and legs.

Muna's brothers, Ihab Hawatmeh, 32, Shaher Hawatmeh, 33; her father, Jamil Hawatmeh, 64; and her mother, Wedad Hawatmeh, 54, are charged with first-degree felony aggravated kidnapping and third degree felony aggravated assault. If convicted they face mandatory sentences of life in prison.

In Jordan and other Arab countries, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex have been murdered by male relatives to preserve family honor, according to UNIFEM, a United Nations women's rights group. The so-called honor killings account for about 25 percent of

Jordan's homicide rate but are not considered murder under the Jordanian penal code.

Clinton Again Urges Congress to Pass Hate Crimes Act

Washington — President Clinton marked Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by urging Congress to step up civil rights enforcement and expand the federal hate crimes law to protect homosexuals, women and the disabled by passing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

"There are still too many barriers and examples of too many Americans facing discrimination in their daily lives," even though the country is doing better in treating all citizens equally, the President said in his weekly radio address.

Speaking on King's 71st birthday and two days before the nation's official celebration, Clinton renewed a commitment to add acts of hatred motivated by sexual orientation, gender and disability to the list of hate crimes already covered — acts sparked by prejudice based on race, religion, color or national origin.

A move to expand the law died last year because of opposition from Republicans in Congress. "Such hate crimes leave deep scars not just on the victims but on our larger community, for they take aim at others for who they are, and when they do, they take aim at America," Clinton said.

Clinton said that in his 2001 budget he wants "the largest ever investment to enforce our civil rights laws." He plans to seek \$695 million, a 13 percent increase over last year. The proposals were criticized by the GOP's highest-ranking Black lawmaker in the House, Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, chairman of the

House Republican Conference.

Watts said Clinton's hate crimes proposal was an effort to "separate and divide," to tell crime victims that "some lives are more important than others."

Supremes Refuses Appeal by HIV+ Inmates

Washington DC — The US Supreme Court denied an appeal of a federal court decision that allows Alabama to segregate HIV+ prisoners. The Justices did not comment in refusing to review the case of Davis v. Hopper, an appeal of an 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. The appeals court decision said that the segregation of prisoners with HIV from other inmates, residentially and in classrooms, workplaces and all other programs, did not violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In declining to review the case, however, the High Court neither approved the Alabama policy nor did it set a national precedent, said the Lambda Legal Defense Fund. Lambda said that what the court did do is signal that it is not yet ready to rule on the issues raised by the case. Segregation of inmates with HIV has been condemned by the National Commission on AIDS, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons as having absolutely no legitimate basis in public health.

Lambda Legal Defense Fund Attorney Stephen R. Scarborough, co-author of a brief supporting the appeal said, "The policy excludes inmates from scores of opportunities for work and drug treatment programs that affect how much time they serve and how prepared they will be to return to free society."

Catherine A. Hanssens, who also co-authored

the Lambda brief, denounced the Alabama move. "In Alabama, if you are a prisoner with HIV, you will be treated as if you are a high security risk, based not on your crime, not on your sentence, and not on your behavior, but solely on the basis of your HIV status," she said. That is a clear violation of the ADA."

In the case of Bragdon v. Abbott, the 1998 Supreme Court decision established that the Americans with Disabilities Act protects people with HIV from the moment of infection. In that case the Justices ruled that a dentist could not deny services to a patient simply because he feared contracting HIV. The Justices held that under the ADA, policies and procedures must rely on objective, scientific evidence regarding the "statistical likelihood" of transmission.

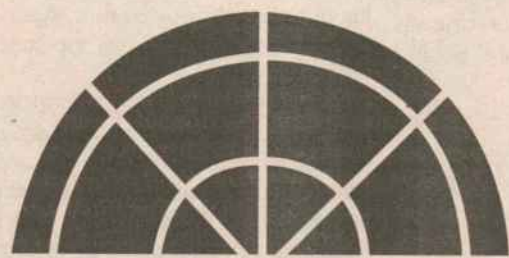
The appeal relied on that decision. However, the 11th Circuit, in endorsing the Alabama prison policy, stated that because HIV transmission was a theoretical possibility, state corrections officials could segregate prisoners on the basis of their HIV status.

Ministers Continue Defying Church

Sacramento — Two weeks before a Church committee meets to consider disciplining them, a group of Methodist Ministers who participated in a public same-sex marriage ceremony last year helped to celebrate its first anniversary at a special service.

According to the *San Francisco Examiner*, 25 of the 68 ministers who participated in the ceremony joined with 200 supporters at the service. The event commemorated the first anniversary of the ceremony that joined Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton in front of over 1,000 people.

Thaw Out at ...



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Continued on page 5

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"We are here to honor Jeanne and Ellie, who stuck their necks out last year and publicly proclaimed their love for each other in the midst of a homophobic society," said the Rev. Don Fado, Pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. "We are also here... to make our statement to the world again," added Rev. Fado. The original statement came last year when Fado and 67 other Northern California Methodist pastors presided over the Barnett - Charlton ceremony.

On February 1, the churches Committee on Investigation will begin a three-day hearing on whether to bring charges against the pastors, who presided over the holy union ceremony. If charged and convicted the pastors could lose their ordinations. Last fall, a



Ovadal Mazo Beach Trial Friday

Madison - Ralph Ovadal, a Monroe fundamentalist minister who opposes Gay rights, is scheduled to stand trial Friday for his part in a protest against a nudist beach. According to the *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* Ovadal was ticketed on December 21 for his part in an August protest aimed at closing the clothing optional Mazomanie Beach on the Wisconsin river. Popularly known as Mazo Beach, it is popular with many naturalists, not just Gays.

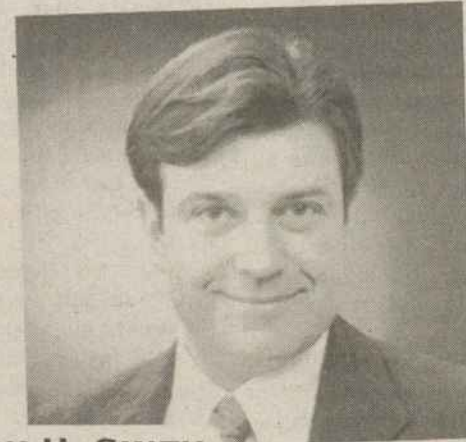
Ovadal and about 40 other protestors stood behind a chain that blocked traffic on a state park road to prevent cars and their occupants from reaching a beach parking lot. Beach-goers had to circumnavigate his hostile group, and then take a nearly two mile trek to the beach lot.

According the *Journal/Sentinel* Ovadal said that he will fight the disorderly conduct charge and risk going to jail rather than a pay a fine if he is found guilty.

"They can't prove that I was disorderly or uncooperative," Ovadal said. "I had someone follow me around all day taping what I said, and there is not enough evidence to convict me."

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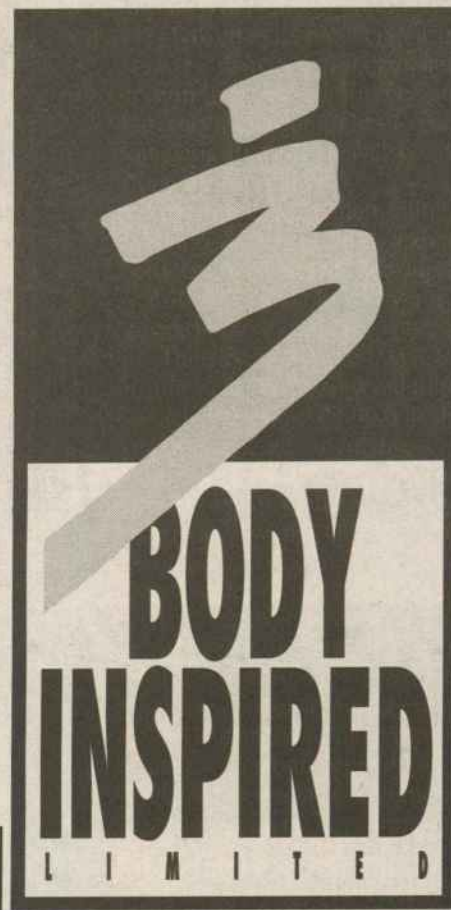
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1). to make a deep resonant sound

2). to grow or develop rapidly

3). a new dance club opening soon



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Continued from page 5.

The DNR citation, accuses Ovadal of leading a group of protesters that blocked the road. The DNR mailed the ticket to Ovadal months after the incident occurred.

"The defendant was asked to remove the chain and open the road on multiple occasions, but refused to comply," the citation reads. "This caused continued adversarial and heated exchanges and disturbances between those desiring to use property and the protesters."

DNR spokesman Greg Matthews said Ovadal could either mail in a fine of \$125.90 or appear in Dane County Circuit Court on Jan. 21. The maximum fine for disorderly conduct is \$212.

"I think it's outrageous that the same authorities who won't arrest people for nudity will fine me for trying to protect children from indecent exposure," Ovadal said to the *Journal/Sentinel*.

Greg Matthews, a DNR spokesman, told the paper that his department thoroughly reviewed the incident before deciding what action to take. "We have the authority to ticket people if they break the law on state land," Matthews said. "It may have taken a while, but the decision that we came to was that he should be cited."

The state Assembly passed a bill make nudity illegal in state parks last session. The state senate has not taken any action of the measure and is not expected to do so in the new session.

Two More Walker's Point Assaults

\$500 Reward Offered

On the evening of Saturday January 15th, *WI Light* Publisher Greg Quindel's partner of 10 years and a friend were accosted by three assailants in the Walkers Point area. While walking east from their car, which was parked on Walker, around the corner from Zur Krone, towards the 2nd Street bar area, they were approached from behind by three Hispanic men.

Wallets were demanded of both men but no serious attempt was made to take money or the wallets. It is suspected that the men were targeted because they were Gay. Quindel's partner was hit once on the head with a metal object resulting in a concussion and a cut to the head that required seven stitches which were administered at St. Lukes Hospital. His friend received several blows to the upper body and head which also required stitches and similar treatment. One assailant did damage the friends leather coat while trying to remove it.

After escaping the assailants they ran into Fluid on South 2nd Street, seeking shelter and help. Customers and co-owner Jim Balestreri attended to their immediate medical needs, called police and provided transportation to the hospital. Both men, who were released from the hospital at 4:30am Sunday morning, did not sustain any additional injury.

Milwaukee police were prompt, thorough and courteous but were unable to offer any real assistance.

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TOP: Committee members Susan, Bob and Chris check out Binary Code calendar during Pridefest Open House at their new office. BELOW: Pridefest's Dell (right) serves up refreshments during the Open House



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Breaking News

Fannies Arson Trial Begins

Milwaukee - The long awaited trial of Fannies owner Sharon Dixon began on Wednesday January 19. Dixon is accused of arson and possession of a controlled substance - morphine. Dixon confirmed that she had rejected a plea bargain offer with the District Attorney related to the drug charge. If convicted she could be sentenced to more than 40 years in prison. The charges arose out of a fire at the bar in October, 1997.

One potential juror was dismissed for exhibiting anti-Gay feelings. When asked if he would believe a Lesbian or a Police officer the man responded, "I would always believe a Police officer over a Lesbian." He also reportedly mumbled a religious comment.

In its opening statement, the District Attorney said the State would prove that Dixon arranged to have someone set fire to the bar because she was deep in debt. The prosecutor said the state would show that Dixon moved "irreplaceable" items to a rented locker just before the fire and exhibited unusual behavior the night of the blaze.

Dixon's attorney countered by telling the jury that there was no dispute that Dixon was not at the bar when the blaze was set. He also said that the State's case is based on circumstantial evidence. "What they are saying is because she is poor and had bills, she must have done it."

The state's first witness, Attorney Jim Baxter

discussed the nature of Dixon's insurance policy. Baxter was hired by Fannies' insurers to contest her claim. His testimony noted that Dixon's payment on her insurance was late the month before the fire but was sent in on time two days before the October 28 blaze. Under cross-examination, Baxter admitted that the timing of the payments was irrelevant since they were made to insurance premium finance company. Since that company had already paid the annual premium for the policy, Dixon would have been covered even if she had not made her payment.

Dixon's accountant Boyd Perlson testified that she owed his accounting firm over \$43,000 for services it had rendered to her. He also acknowledged telling a Milwaukee Police investigator that Dixon's Lips Inc corporation owed over \$20,000 in back taxes to the IRS. He said that the corporation also owed on State taxes.

When asked for the amount that Dixon owed, Perlson declined to answer saying that he did not remember. Perlson told the court that the DA had all of his records and had not returned them. At the first lunch break in the trial, the Judge admonished Dixon, telling her to refrain from using head movements to convey her agreement or disagreement with testimony.

For complete coverage see next week's *Wisconsin Light*.

St. Camillus to Close Program

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee - The Order of St. Camillus announced that it would be shutting down its Raphael House AIDS Ministry program. According to a published report in the *Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel* Father Louis Lussier, Vicar Provincial of the Order of St. Camillus said the order would close the program because of problems with raising funds to sustain it.

Last week, *WI Light* broke the story of allegations surrounding the financial management practices of former Raphael House head Father Stephen Braddock. Several sources told the newspaper that Father Braddock was dismissed from his post due to his handling of personal funds. The allegations included charges that Braddock had used some funds for personal travel.

The *Journal/Sentinel* story quotes Father Lussier as saying that St. Camillus did investigate the allegations. The story said "Some of Braddock's travel and fund raising efforts could be questionable given his role in a religious ministry, but it did not cause the order to take any action against him," said Lussier.

Wisconsin Light also learned that the state's largest AIDS service organization, ARCW, suspended payments on its \$36,000 a year contract with St. Camillus as of December 6. When asked what triggered the suspension, ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson said, "We heard the allegations, they acknowledged the

allegations and confirmed that they were investigating them."

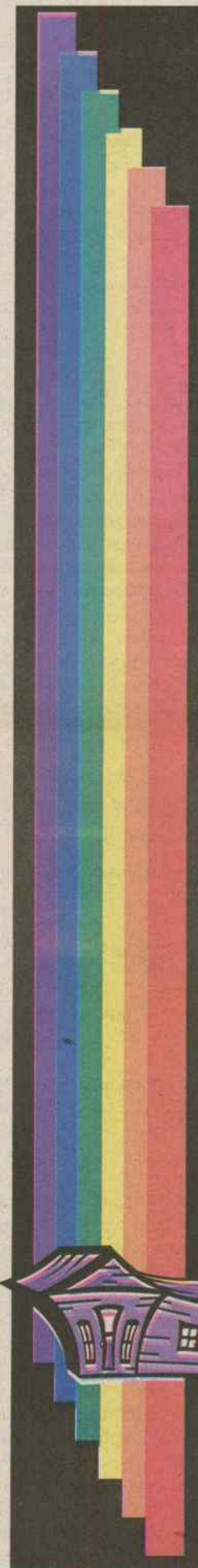
Nelson added, "We at ARCW take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously, particularly since we get over \$7 million in government funds. We, and all the people, must adhere to the highest standards of financial management and stewardship of public and private funds. I think that the AIDS community in Wisconsin and the LGBT community expect that of us."

He also said, "We informed St. Camillus that we were stopping payment until such time as all of the allegations of financial impropriety were completely resolved." Nelson said that ARCW would make payments on its contract for services rendered if it received proof that the allegations were unfounded. When asked if his agency had received such proof Nelson said, "No, we haven't."

Nelson said the ARCW contribution to the St. Camillus program was a small part of the ministry's overall budget. He added that because the contract funds originated with the City of Milwaukee, ARCW informed the City of its decision. He said the City approved of the decision to stop payments until the allegations were resolved.

When investigating the story *WI Light* informed St. Camillus of the allegations and requested a statement on the matter. The newspaper was promised that St. Camillus

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Justice in Milwaukee: Gays and the M.P.D.

By Bill Meunier

In general, things have gotten better for Milwaukee area Gays and Lesbians who are involved with the criminal justice system. The Milwaukee Police Department is more sensitive than it has been in past. Violence against Gays is taken more seriously than it was just a few years ago. Local police are more courteous in dealing with the LGBT community.

However, as four cases investigated by *WI Light* show, there are serious questions revolving around whether or not members of Milwaukee's Gay community can consistently expect that the interests of justice will be served.

The inspection was carried out during the bars' peak times for conducting business and dozens if not hundreds of customers left.

These incidents touch on problems that exist on every level of law enforcement from the Police Department, the Fire and Police Commission, the offices of the City Attorney and District Attorney up to and including the courts. They also show problems in the LGBT community's response to crime. In all of these incidences, explanations other than the sexual orientation of those involved can be made. However, when taken together these incidents seem to show a pattern that some might find as disturbing.

The Fruit Fly Incidents

The most publicized of the incidents examined by *WI Light* occurred on the weekend February 25 and 26, when Milwaukee's Second District Police Tavern squad descended on two Milwaukee Gay bars, 219 and La Cage.

The officers did their normal age checks for suspected under aged drinkers, and examined the licenses of both the bars and their bartenders. They also did something no one had ever seen a Milwaukee Police officer do before. Although both bars were packed with customers, the officers began examining liquor bottles. By the time they were done, Milwaukee's finest had poured the contents of dozens of bottles down the drain claiming they had found "fruit flies" inside of them. The inspection was carried out during the bars' peak times for conducting business and dozens if not hundreds of customers left.

The day after their bars were inspected, the Police issued citations with thousands of dollars in fines to the owners of La Cage and Club 219. The Police cited Club 219 for having an unlicensed bartender on the premises even though he was working under the supervision of a licensed bartender in accordance with City of Milwaukee policies. La Cage was cited for improper display of its license which was posted behind one of the establishments bars to keep it from being damaged by the hundreds of customers who enter the bar every week. The Police cited both bars for

allegedly serving liquor from bottles that contained "fruit flies."

When the Police arrived, they asked La Cage owner, George Prentice to shut down his business for the inspection. Prentice says that when he told that the officers he would not turn up the lights and turn off the music and that they had no right to make such a demand one responded "Shut up or you're going to jail." Prentice's brother and attorney John Prentice was on the scene and told the Police they had no grounds to make an arrest. He was then threatened with arrest.

A public outcry ensued after the mainstream press picked up a *WI Light* story about the raids. Eventually there was a meeting between Second District Captain Joseph Whitten and LGBT bar owners.

The meeting held at the LGBT Community Center left both sides unsatisfied. Captain Whitten later admitted that he was "unprepared" to respond to the accusations leveled by the bar owners in attendance. Most of the bar owners present said they thought Whitten was sincere in his desire to work with the Gay community. But little, if any, of their anger was assuaged by his refusal to tell them what the Police would look for when conducting an inspection.

Furthermore, the affair received widespread TV and newspaper coverage. The general tenor of that coverage was that LGBT bars wanted special treatment

Eventually there was a meeting between Second District Captain Joseph Whitten and LGBT bar owners.

because the Police were conducting similar checks at other establishments.

Local observers scoffed at that claim. One bar owner told *WI Light*, "Can you imagine the Police going into Grenadiers or Maders (two downtown Milwaukee restaurants) during their peak times, checking for id's, looking in liquor bottles and disrupting business?"

Even before the meeting between the Captain and the business owners, there was growing dissatisfaction with the police response to the controversy.

On Friday, March 19, Lt. Ruzinski promised to provide *WI Light* with records that showed other bars were undergoing similar checks. When contacted for those records, on Monday March 22 she refused to provide them saying that Police Chief Jones had ordered her not to. "The Chief told me 'It's a non-issue,'" said the Lieutenant. WTMJ Radio was given the same response to its request for the records. *WI Light* printed the response it received and WTMJ radio put the response it received on the air.

The question on everyone's mind was why were the Police so reluctant to provide information that would have shown they did not deliberately target two Gay bars. The answer to that question could be that Police records don't provide any evidence showing that the inspections were routine.

Last July, WTMJ AM radio filed an open

records request. Russ Kirkpatrick a WTMJ AM report told *Light* that the station asked for all records that showed Police presence in a Milwaukee bar. After reviewing the records, the station reported that only four of them showed the Police checked a bar's liquor bottles for contaminants. All of the bars were in Second district. One of the other bars, a Hispanic establishment was also minority owned.

The last recorded bottle inspection occurred at a Mitchell street bar two weeks after *WI Light's* story and the resulting public outcry broke.

Homophobia in the M.P.D.

No one has said that the Milwaukee Police Department has a policy of harassing LGBT bars, but some bar owners, speaking off the record, think that some members of the force do consciously or unconsciously act on homophobic feelings. Those who work with the Police department say that with over 2,000 officers it stands to reason that some will be anti-Gay.

Those feelings can be overcome, but leadership in doing so must come from the top. In Milwaukee, the top is Police Chief Arthur Jones. His response to the controversy was far different from the response given by the authorities in a similar situation in another city, Houston Texas.

Last June, Houston Police and agents of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission raided three bars during that city's Gay Pride celebration. As was the case in Milwaukee, Houston's Department insisted that the inspections were routine, but outraged LGBT activists demanded an explanation. Furthermore, patrons at both bars said that the inspections were anything but routine and went beyond what had occurred in the past.

According to the *LGBT Houston Voice*, Houston Police Chief C.O. Bradford said the raids were "inexcusable." The Chief attended a meeting with over 70 Gays and Lesbians and promised an investigation. According to *Houston Voice* those at the meeting were startled when Chief Bradford said that he would fire any officers he finds that acted with malice. "My officers know clearly, now, what is expected of them," said Chief Bradford "They're going to follow (procedure) or they're going to suffer the consequences including termination." The words "It's not an issue" never left his lips.

To some the raids smacked of the infamous Brier era, when the late Chief Harold Brier ruled the Police and some would say the City of Milwaukee, with an iron fist. Back then hordes of Police would descend on a Gay bar. The lights were turned up and the music was turned off. The Police would ask everyone to produce identification, even Senior Citizens. Homophobic comments made by the Police were often the order of the day.

None of those things happened during the inspections of La Cage and Club 219. Only those who appeared close to the legal

drinking age were questioned. No one heard the words "queer" and "faggot" coming from the mouths of the officers. The officers were courteous and professional. The Police didn't arrest Prentice when he refused to shut down his business.

Yet in another sense, the raid did remind some of the Brier era. "It was just like it was back then," said one bar owner. "They would come in look around and then tell us, 'We'll get back to you.' Then they hurry down to the station house, grab the statute book and figure out what they can nail you with."

Sources said that the tickets issued by the Second District Tavern squad appalled the staff at the City Attorney's office. One told *WI Light* that an attorney at that office

In Milwaukee, the top is Police Chief Arthur Jones. His response to the controversy was far different from the response given by the authorities in a similar situation in another city, Houston Texas.

said, "Even if there was a law that allowed them to do this, they poured all the evidence down the drain. How does anyone know whether or not those bottles really had anything in them?" In addition to the missing evidence, there is the

question of whether the Police had the authority to issue the bottle citations to begin with.

The law says that it is illegal to "knowingly" serve liquor from bottles that were contaminated. The City Attorney's office said that the while the wording of the law is ambiguous, bottle inspections are health department functions.

The City Attorney refused to prosecute any charges against either establishment. Due to a snafu, however, the tickets issued to La Cage wound up in court. Courtroom observers say that one of the Tavern squad officers argued that the Judge should not have granted a City Attorney motion to dismiss the charges.

Some might say that the interests of justice were eventually served. The tickets were dismissed and the Police, responding to public concerns, stopped checking liquor bottles. Others would argue that the all of the above only limited the damage. Both bars lost hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in business, plus the costs of their attorney and the time that was taken up in defending themselves. One La Cage bartender told *Light* that he lost "at least \$50 in tips the night of the raid."

It is certainly possible that the inspections were not an effort to harass two Gay bars. The bottle checks could have been a new facet of a Police tavern check. It's also possible that two well-known LGBT establishments were targeted. No one except for the officers who were involved knows what their motivation was. Those officers and the Department (publicly at least) insist that they were only doing their job.

Others don't agree. They point to the timing of the police action and the issuing of tickets that had no basis in the law. They cite the lack of records proving the Police assertion that the inspections had been going on for some time before the La Cage and Club 219 raids.

At the height of the controversy *WI Light* asked Mayor Norquist spokesman Jeff Fleming for his take on the situation. Fleming said that anyone who felt the Police was mistreating them should file a complaint with the Fire and Police Commission. As Mark Knickelbine and his partner Rob Hoagland found out, that may not always be the answer.

Justice Delayed

The Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission is an independent body of citizens appointed by Mayor John Norquist to oversee the City's Fire and Police Departments. The Commission recruits and tests personnel for both departments, hires their chiefs and acts as an appeals board when either chief takes disciplinary action. It also receives and acts on citizen complaints.

David Heard, is currently the Commission's sole investigator. He is also in charge of Fire and Police recruitment. He says that in a normal year, the Commission receives about 100 formal complaints from citizens. For every formal complaint he receives, Heard relays that there are four or five informal ones made over the telephone. These range from a citizen complaining about parking ticket or an officer's attitude to more serious matters. He tries to resolve as many of the less serious complaints as he can over the phone by referring the caller to the appropriate agency or district police station.

One of the formal complaints filed in 1999 came from Mark Knickelbine. Last

"The Police lied. They told the Fire and Police Commission that we only made one phone call. They claimed that Rob didn't tell them that it was a Gay bashing. They said they didn't know."

—Mark Knickelbine

May, three teens attacked Knickelbine as he and his partner, Rob Hoagland, returned to their car after visiting a Walker's Point Gay bar. The teens called Knickelbine a "faggot" and used an aluminum baseball bat to beat him in the head and leg when he refused to give them his money. Knickelbine says that it took three phone calls (two made by his partner Rob Hoagland and one made by an emergency room doctor) and 8 1/2 hours before the Police responded to his request for assistance.

Knickelbine and Hoagland made it to their car after the teens backed off when Hoagland screamed for someone to summon the Police. The pair drove to their near West Side home and called the Police. When the police had not arrived at least 45 minutes later, Hoagland called again. An hour or so after the second call they realized that Knickelbine needed immediate care and the pair drove to the County Medical Center for treatment.

They say that an emergency room doctor called the Police. They say that after waiting for an hour or so at the hospital they left to pick up Hoagland's son. "We couldn't wait

any longer," said Knickelbine. Hoagland and Knickelbine say that around 10am the next morning, 8 1/2 hours after they made their initial call, an officer finally showed up at their home.

Knickelbine was outraged. "I am taxpayer," he said. "The 911 service is on my phone bill. Why should I have to wait that long for someone to respond."

Knickelbine and Hoagland say that the responding officer, Patrolman D. Kramer, was sympathetic. He summoned Detective Thomas Fischer. The victim and his partner insist that Fischer told them their request for help was given a lower priority after they called a second time. The police deny that happened.

Marcus Smith, a Fire and Police Commission investigator told Knickelbine and Lesbian activist Stephanie Hume that the Police were stonewalling his requests for information related to Knickelbine's complaint. "The Police lied,"

said Knickelbine. "They told the Fire and Police Commission that we only made one phone call. They claimed that Rob didn't tell them that it was a Gay bashing. They said they didn't know."

Smith demanded copies of the 911 tapes. According to Knickelbine, the Police finally admitted that they did receive three calls about the attack. He said the tape of the calls made from his home proved that the Police lied about the nature of those calls. David Heard of the Fire and Police Commission allowed this reporter to listen to the tape of Hoagland's calls.

Smith was a temporary employee of the Fire and Police Commission and is no longer with them. *WI Light* was unable to reach him for comment on this story. Heard allowed this reporter to listen to the tape at the Fire and Police Commission offices.

The tape largely bears out Knickelbine's contention. While Hoagland never used the word "Gay," he did tell the dispatcher that his "significant other" was attacked and he identified his partner as a man. He also told the dispatcher that Knickelbine was beaten in the head with a bat and was bleeding from the wound. Furthermore he said, "I don't know if this was a targeted hate crime."

The Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission has three options for handling complaints like Knickelbine's. It can dismiss them, hold a trial and punish officers found guilty of an offense or turn the matter over to the Police Chief.

The dispatcher promised that a car would be at the men's home shortly. She offered to send an ambulance, but Knickelbine who did not have health insurance declined. The label on the tape said the call came in at 2:05am. Knickelbine said the call was made at 1:28.

The tape, which was copied from a master tape, was not a complete record. There are two gaps, one for 4 seconds and one for

Continued on page 10

IMMEDIATE OPENING Art Director/Production Manager

Wisconsin Light, Wisconsin's only weekly newspaper for the LGBT community, is currently seeking a full-time Art Director and Production Manager. Responsibilities include design and layout of the newspaper and some of its advertising. Must have proficiency with Quark Xpress. Postscripting and HTML experience desired but not required – excellent design skills are. Looking for a nice person for the fast paced and changing environment of a very rapidly growing publishing company. Competitive salary and benefits as well as stock options are available for one talented person. Part-time positions are also available.

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MESSAGES OF LOVE

FEBRUARY 9, 2000 VALENTINES ISSUE

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Continued from page 9

12 seconds, in it. Whether those gaps were due to faulty recording equipment, an accident during the re-recording or deliberate alteration could not be determined. The tape label said the second call came at 2:45am. Again Hoagland was told a car would be at his home shortly. The tape does not include any record of a third call allegedly made by the emergency room doctor.

The Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission has three options for handling complaints like Knickelbine's. It can dismiss them, hold a trial and punish officers found guilty of an offense or turn the matter over to the Police Chief. The Commissioners referred Knickelbine's complaint to the Chief.

Hume says that there are serious problems with the 911 system. She adds, "They are trained to deal with various situations like suicides and medical emergencies, but they don't receive any training on how to handle a Gay bashing."

Heard says that he too would like to know what happened. "We won't know until the Chief reports back to the Commission," he said. That report could be some time in coming. There is no limit on how long the Chief can take in delivering a report to the Commission. Heard said Chief Jones normally reports his findings and any disciplinary

"We have no legitimate organization to call when violence occurs against us,"

— Stephanie Hume.

action to the Commission in a timely manner. The Commission sent this matter to Chief Jones back in July. Five months later, the Commissioners and Knickelbine are still waiting for his answer.

The incident raises several public policy concerns. Detective Fischer's report makes

no mention of the attack as a possible hate crime. Nor does it say anything about the anti-Gay epitaphs Knickelbine's attackers screamed as they beat him. Given that, it is unlikely that the attack will be reported as a possible hate crime.

According to the FBI hate crimes statistics report, Milwaukee reported no hate crimes directed against Gays and Lesbians in 1995, 1996, and 1997. According the Wisconsin

"The law protects police rights. There needs to be an informal mechanism for the Commission to act,"

— Tom

Office of Justice Assistance, it didn't report any in 1998 either. According to the State hate crime statute, crimes committed at least in part because of the victims real or perceived sexual orientation are hate crimes. In other words, individuals who decide to rob an individual because he or she is Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual can face hate crime charges.

Beyond the Police report's omission of a possible hate motivation for the crime, there are questions about the way the Police handled Hoagland's calls for help. Beating someone in the head with a metal object would normally fall under the classification of attempted murder. Why an attempt to kill someone did not receive a high priority is unknown.

Heard says that he is not sure where the breakdown occurred. He theorized that the Police may have responded while Knickelbine and Hoagland went to the hospital but there was no notation in the complaint file indicating that had happened. Heard said he also wonders if the dispatcher had the authority to promise a car would be there right away, whether a squad chose not

to answer the dispatch or whether other calls may have taken a higher priority.

Hume says that Knickelbine and Hoagland made a mistake when they left the scene and went home. "They weren't in danger anymore, they refused an ambulance. Those things tell the Police that this is less of an emergency." She also said that Captain Whiten wants to help resolve that problem. "We want to put out brochure targeting the LGBT community and providing information on what to do when a crime occurs."

Hume also says that Milwaukee's LGBT community needs an anti-violence project. "We have no legitimate organization to call when violence occurs against us," said Hume. She adds that after Chicago's LGBT community established a violence hotline, calls to the Horizons, a Gay information and referral agency, more than doubled even though that group is not involved with the hotline.

Knickelbine said that he was told the Fire and Commission referred his complaint to the Chief because it does not have the power to subpoena records and require testimony unless it holds a trial. The Chief and the Milwaukee Police Internal Affairs division do not have to worry about subpoenas to obtain information.

Tom (not his real name) a man who was heavily involved with the Commission during the early 1990's says the Knickelbine complaint points to problems with the Commission's authority. "The law protects police rights," he said. He added that in handling complaints the Commission has no authority to discipline a Police officer unless it holds a trial. "There needs to be an informal mechanism for the Commission to act," he said.

"Let's say that a citizen complains that an officer called him, xyz," said Tom. "The officer says that he did. He shouldn't be fired. He should be reprimanded, but the Commission

can't do that without a long drawn out trial." Tom said that during a trial the accused officers bring an attorney provided by the Police union. Individuals who file a complaint have to provide their own legal counsel. "The process is not fair," he said.

"They should be able to discipline without going through that formal process," added Tom. "There should be a separation between the more serious and less serious offenses."

Heard said the Commission uses reconciliation conferences for less serious offenses. "The officer and the citizen meet," he said. "We try to work it out." He said that if an officer apologizes and the citizen accepts the apology the matter is dropped.

Tom said "There is nothing in the State law saying that the Commission can't discipline officers without a trial. But if they tried to, the Police union would fight it and say because the law doesn't specifically give them that power they can't." This reporter would suggest a change in state law that would make the process less formal.

At the same time, Tom said that he doesn't think it would be wise to push for such a change. "I am worried about bringing up that area of the law, given the conservative climate in Madison and the power of the police lobby," he said. "We might wind up with something worse than we have now."

Heard has no problem with Chief Jones and his Internal Affairs Division investigating complaints. "You have to trust at some point," he said. He also said Milwaukee's LGBT community was the only minority community that did not respond to a Commission survey about Police services. "If people are having problems. They need to let us know," said Heard. "There is a lot of fear in reporting but at least it gives us the information that the problem exists. They should be reported."

Next Week: What happened when two incidences of violence were reported

Continued from page 7

would issue a statement prior to publication. After the paper was published, *WI Light* received an unconfirmed report that the agency had issued a statement confirming the allegations but then withdrew it.

Following publication of the story, *WI Light* received several emails and faxes defending Father Braddock. One of the letters, written by Father Braddock's brother, is being published in this issue on page 11. Like some other responses to the story, the letter accuses his religious superior, Father Jim Cronin, of orchestrating a campaign against Father Braddock.

According to some of Braddock's supporters, some of his religious superiors resented the publicity he received for his work with the ministry and they did not want to work with Gay people. Nelson said that he met with Father Cronin on only one occasion. When asked about Cronin's attitude towards the St. Camillus AIDS program, Nelson said, "He was very supportive."

Some of Braddock's supporters also claim that he exposed Father Cronin's drug abuse and even involved Archbishop Weakland in getting Father Cronin to accept treatment. The supporters claim that Cronin felt embarrassed by Braddock's involvement of the Archbishop and vowed revenge.

On Tuesday January 18, *WI Light* informed the Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocesan Office

of Communications of the report that Archbishop Weakland accompanied Father Braddock to Cronin's home for a drug abuse intervention and asked for a confirmation or denial.

Later that evening, former *WI Light* editor Dr. Terry Boughner spoke with Archbishop Rembert Weakland about the allegations concerning Cronin. Weakland listened, made no comment on the report but said a statement would be issued the following morning. No statement was received by either by Dr. Boughner or *WI Light* prior to going to press.

WI Light also attempted to contact Father Luissier for comment on the allegations against Cronin and the program's closing. Its calls were not returned.

**Deadline Date
for January 26th Issue
Noon, Friday,
January 21st**

Continued from Page 6

In a second and similar incident on New Year's Eve, visitors from Chicago were assaulted in the same area just west of 2nd Street. Two or three young Hispanic males approached and attacked the visitors as they walked towards the same business area. While injuries and bleeding were sustained, the victims did not seek medical care and did not file a police report.

A third such assault occurred in the same area in May '99. A complete description of the Milwaukee police response is included in the "Filing Complaints" section of Bill Meunier's "Justice in Milwaukee" feature on page 8 of this issue.

The assailants involved in all three incidences remain at large. It is imperative that all such incidences be reported to the Milwaukee Police Department. *WI Light* is offering \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in any of these three assaults.

A Day Late

Some of you will have noticed that we distributed this issue on Thursday instead of Wednesday. That was due to a personnel problem, quickly resolved. Thanks go out to Corey and the staff for pulling together a great issue with no advance notice of the problem. If you hear any nasty rumors regarding the Light, just consider the source.

Greg Quindel, Publisher



Letters Braddock's Brother Speaks

I am writing in response to your recent article on alleged corruption at St. Camillus. Allow me to compliment you for being suspicious about my brother's sudden departure from Milwaukee. You are right to be suspicious. However, in such matters a certain bit of guesswork becomes necessary to fill in the blanks and tie up loose ends. Unfortunately, you guessed wrong in this instance. Please permit me to solve the mystery for you.

Father Stephen Braddock, OS Cam., has dedicated the last ten years of his life, with all of his energy and in fact sacrificing his own health, to the service of those forgotten, marginalized and despised by society at large. He created, against strong opposition, a place and program for those with HIV/AIDS that offered unconditional love, support, physical and spiritual care. He reached out to those in the gay community who were suffering alone with this dreadful disease. His efforts were greatly successful.

Even in this new millennium of hope and celebration there exists the same hatred, prejudices, and political warfare that have always plagued our society. It is within such an atmosphere that Father Stephen was forced to do his work. He was attacked for working with gay persons, attacked for inviting African-Americans to live within the all-white Wauwatosa neighborhood where St. Camillus Campus is located, and attacked for fighting insurance companies to pay for the care of persons they felt should be left to die rather than cost the "system" any money. Father Stephen's job as a priest demanded that he follow the example of Jesus Christ and Him alone. Very few have ever argued that he didn't do his job very well.

Father Stephen recently returned from a much needed vacation, paid for by dear friends

of our family. He did not fly on the Concorde but went coach with a group of others and slept in Europe on a pull-out sofa! He returned to find that he was locked out of his own office and under fire by the provincial superior of the Order of Saint Camillus, Reverend William E. Cronin, and his hired attorneys. Father Cronin had long ago determined that Father Stephen publicly "overshadowed the office of the provincial" with his powerful personality and consistent drive to do his work well. Father Stephen was ordered under his vow of obedience to resign or be removed by provincial decree from all positions he held in the Order's corporations. He was also told to leave his home within a matter of weeks and have no contact with anyone in anyway associated with the Order of St. Camillus and its ministries. If he left quietly, the provincial would continue to pay for his medical care. Father Stephen suffers from severe diabetes which requires the aide of a 24-hour insulin pump and constant medical attention.

I was present when Father Louis Lussier of the "provincial council" and a grinning attorney named Timothy Reardon stood over Father Stephen's shoulder as he removed his personal property from his office. Reardon questioned Father as to whether or not the small items were indeed his own. It was sickening to see a man of God treated in this manner.

At no time did the Order accuse Father Stephen of any wrongdoing of any kind. So why were these dramatic actions being taken?

All of this damage to Father Stephen's character and reputation has been orchestrated by the provincial of the Order of St. Camillus, Fr. William E. Cronin. The motive? Simple jealousy and retribution for being forced into a drug abuse rehabilitation center by Father Stephen

last year. It is fact that Father Stephen was accompanied to Cronin's home by the Archbishop of Milwaukee, Rembert Weakland, and Weakland's assistant Fr. Len. There they discovered Father Cronin near death from drug abuse. Father Cronin's home was a terrible mess and he was physically filthy and severely confused. The Archbishop, who was summoned by Father Braddock, insisted Father Cronin enter in-patient treatment at a facility for emotionally ill priests.

As I have said, Father Stephen did a great deal of good for the Milwaukee community. He has been a rare Catholic leader in the fight against AIDS. I am certain that moves will now be taken to close the ministries and programs he worked so hard to create. All simply out of spite and because they are not money making ventures for the order. I fear for the persons who will end up on the street suffering from this horrible disease simply because of the actions of one unchecked and out of control drug abuser who answers to virtually no one but himself.

I am angry with your paper for attacking Father Stephen so savagely based upon the rumors provided to you by his political enemies. If it is a crime to "love others as yourself" than Father Stephen is guilty as charged. I will testify against him myself. But it is not crime, and he is a hero and not the villain you portrayed him as being.

Make absolutely no mistake. At no time did Father Stephen take any funds or property of St. Camillus for his personal use, nor has he been accused of any wrongdoing whatsoever by St. Camillus officials. With regard to money, you may be interested in knowing that Father Stephen's entire salary was contributed monthly toward the operations of Raphael

House. He accepted a monthly allowance of \$120 and had his personal living expenses paid. He had one credit card, which was a corporate card in the name of the provincial, who was the individual that received the monthly bills.

The Order of St. Camillus is guilty of intimidating a good priest and a good man into leaving his friends and loved ones without so much as a goodbye and forcing him to lie about the reason. In fact, Father Stephen has been officially "silenced" by Father Cronin under his vow of obedience and ordered to not communicate with anyone!

Father Stephen's health is brittle, yes. But he managed well and wanted to serve in Milwaukee as long as medically able. He has been denied the ability to do so because he was a threat to the leadership of the Order of St. Camillus and fought them to preserve the ministries he loves and believes in so deeply.

In closing, I offer brief words to the clients of St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, the residents of Raphael House and the families of those affected by HIV/AIDS: Father Stephen loves you deeply. He did not abandon you. When he was ordered to leave it broke his heart. He dedicated himself to you.

Although we all saw the seemingly super-human Father Stephen in action from day-to-day, we forget that he is still just a man. No one can continue on as steadily with this kind of heartache and betrayal. No one is that strong. But you remain as always in Father Stephen's thoughts and prayers, and in fact always in his heart.

Sincerely,
Brian Braddock
(Brother of Father Stephen Braddock)

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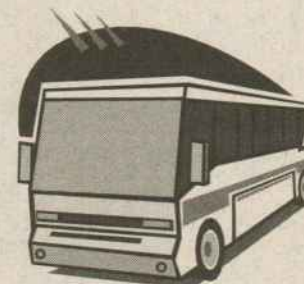


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Winter/Spring 2000 Performing Arts

Preview by John John

The Fine Arts are an important part of the LGBT community's culture.

Many performers, playwrights, composers, actors, singers are members of our community. Through their many varied works, these people have found creative ways to express ideas, evoke emotions, send messages that eventually become ingrained in our everyday lives.

Here we have compiled a comprehensive list of theatrical productions taking place in Wisconsin during Winter and Spring, 2000. Musical, concert and dance productions will be presented in Part 2 of our Performing Arts Season Preview, next issue.

As this schedule clearly shows, Wisconsin's LGBT community has many treats in store for it in the first half of the new year...

Acacia Theatre Company

The Acacia Theatre Company performances center on faith and spirituality. Their productions are held at 3300 North Sherman Blvd. in the south wing of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee. For tickets and further information call (414) 769-3200.

First Church of Texaco

February 18 - March 5

Andrew Librizzi's story about losing a fortune, finding treasure and winning an Emmy Award on a desolate Texas highway. It's a romantic comedy involving a young CEO who moves into an out-of-business Texaco station in pursuit of his identity. A Milwaukee premiere.

Grace and Glorie

April 28 - May 14

The Milwaukee premiere of Tom Ziegler's play about a stubborn New York hospice worker and a mountain gal in her 90s who find common ground in an evening of spirited dialogue and joy.

Summer Sojourns

July 14 - 30

Every twenty or thirty minutes a new story takes the stage as various authors combine for an evening of fast-paced, one-act plays filled with humor and spirit.

Alverno College Performing Arts Series

Milwaukee's Alverno College is the site of an eclectic group of productions this season, which encompass as many cultures as artistic styles. All of the shows are held at Alverno College's Pitman Theatre except for the *Jewish Tapestry*, which will be at Wehr Hall. For further information about any of the productions or to buy tickets, call (414) 382-6044. Tickets may also be ordered via the Internet at www.alverno.edu.

The Boulevard Ensemble

The intimate Boulevard Theatre is located at 2252 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee. It is run by the energetic Mark Bucher, who directed last year's hit *Six Degrees of Separation* and Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell*. In addition to its regular season, the Boulevard offers what it calls "Alley Projects." These are generally shorter, lighter works or staged readings. For more information concerning the main stage season or alley projects, call the Ensemble at (414) 744-5757.

Uncle

February 18 - March 26

This bittersweet Anton Chekhov play adroitly explores the nuances of living versus merely existing amidst a collection of memorable characters on a pre-revolutionary Russian estate.

Suddenly Last Summer

April 21 - May 21

Gay playwright Tennessee Williams' engrossing drama is an equal mixture of gaudy characters and Gothic storytelling. A compelling tale of murder, insanity and good old-fashioned lust!

Circlestage Theatre

All shows for this company are performed in a cozy little theatre-in-the-round at 783 North Jefferson Street in downtown Milwaukee. This season at Circlestage showcases new directors and works. For tickets and further information, call (414) 270-1994.

The Apple Tree

February 3 - 19

This show, with music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick (who wrote *Fiddler On the Roof*), will feature a different director for each of its three, one-act plays about women.

I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road

May 19 - June 3

An intimate musical about a 39 year old singer/songwriter who is rehearsing her new act, this work is centered on issues important to the feminist movement in America.

Dale Gutzman Productions

Milwaukee's preeminent Gay showman, Dale Gutzman, has been producing fine dramatic, musical and comedic theater here for over two decades. Performed in historic and beautiful Centennial Hall of the Central Library in downtown Milwaukee, Dale presents us with yet another season of innovative entertainment. For tickets and further information, call (414) 873-1962.

In the Movies

February 25, 26; March 3, 4

Stroll down memory lane with Gutzman's company as they take you through a century

of film, comparing Hollywood's take on reality with our own. A fun-filled, action-packed, musical comedy.

Romeo and Juliet

May 26, 27; June 2, 3

Shakespeare's immortal love story is given the unique Gutzman touch in this fast-paced retelling of the tragic tale involving star-crossed lovers and feuding families.

Murder Mystery Party

Dates TBA

Season subscribers will be invited to a mad-cap murder mystery party where prizes will be awarded to those who can guess "whodunnit." You'll be invited to take notes as Gutzman and company lead you on a trail of blackmail, deception and death.

Madison Repertory Theatre

Artistic Director D. Scott Glasser promises that "every production will tap a different emotion and have the kind of excitement and energy that you can only get at a live, professional theater." Madison audiences see what he means in a season filled with classics, comedies and commissions. All performances will take place at the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center, except *Three Musketeers*, which will be at the UW-Madison Mitchell Theatre. For information or tickets, call (608) 256-0029 or e-mail to: madisonrep@aol.com.

What Corbett Knew

Now through 30

Corbett knows all about his business associates - Margo, Marshall, Arno, Thada - or does he? Told from shifting points of view, this satirical farce centers on perceived power and partial knowledge in a love triangle that just might lead to murder. This will be a premiere production of the play by American playwright Jeffrey Hatcher.

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

March 10 - April 2

This gripping courtroom drama by Moises Kaufman is an intimate look at the public destruction of one of the most celebrated authors of all time. It is a provocative exploration of the issues of censorship, sexuality, homophobia and the role of the artist in society.

As Bees and Honey Drown

April 14 - May 7

A satirization of one of the most relentless industries in our celebrity-studded society, the creation of "hot" young things, which the media have learned to mass-produce with efficiency and zeal. A young male writer savors the success of his debut novel when he captures the attention of a woman of mystery who makes the world of celebrity her home.

Merry-Go-Round Children's Theatre

Merry-Go-Round Children's Theatre started off its 5th season with a wonderful production of *A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail*. The second production, also at Milwaukee's historic Miramar Theatre, *Zink: the Myth, the Legend, the Zebra*, concerns a legendary zebra who has spots where his stripes should be. Through Zink's friendship and encouragement, a young girl with leukemia learns to live as he does. This show will be presented on March 5 and 12, then tour to Cedarburg, Racine, Madison and Oshkosh. For tickets and further information, call (414) 270-1994.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre

MCT's fine productions take place in the lovely Broadway Theatre Center, which was constructed from a warehouse, in Milwaukee's flourishing Third Ward. The 358-seat Cabot Theatre is modeled after an 18th century opera house, while the 96-seat Studio Theatre offers flexible staging on a more intimate scale. For further information or for tickets, call (414) 276-8842. Online forms can be obtained at www.chamber-theatre.com.

Teddykins

Studio Theatre,

Now through - February 6

Wayne Frank's new play about a genuine American hero, Teddy Roosevelt, is based upon an actual incident that occurred during the 26th President's visit to Milwaukee.

The Gin Game

Cabot Theatre,

February 19 - March 5

Two inhabitants of a rest home play a game of cards that's a game of life. Exasperating, funny, witty, and frustrating battle of the sexes as the two struggle against the encroaching demands of age and a reflection on lives past.

Pygmalion

Cabot Theatre,

April 14 - 30

Seen in repertory with *The Winter's Tale* as part of Milwaukee's 18th annual Shaw Festival, *Pygmalion* is George Bernard Shaw's beloved story of the Cockney lass made into a lady with surprising results.

The Winter's Tale

Cabot Theatre, April 15 - 29

William Shakespeare's late romance that chronicles one man's journey from jealous rage to triumphant repentance. The action moves from court to rustic countryside and back.

The Milwaukee Rep's season is an ambitious one, featuring 16 plays combining works of the 20th century and classic masterpieces from centuries gone by. For further information call the Rep Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

Quadracci Powerhouse

Preview - Theater

Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Season

Of Mice and Men Through February 13

Two drifters share their dreams and hardships in this classic American story by John Steinbeck. A heartfelt tale of friendship and loyalty.

Hobson's Choice March 3 - April 2

In this comedy by Harold Brighouse, a bootmaker's spinster daughter, tired of her

father's bullying, displays some skilled craftsmanship of her own — fashioning a lover, husband and business partner out of a simple shoemaker.

One Man Town April 14 - May 14

This will be a world premiere adaptation of an Ibsen play by Steven Dietz. The setting is Wisconsin, where it takes a look at a determined doctor's search for the truth amid blackmail, slander and eviction from work and home.



Joseph Hanreddy as Lennie and Lee E. Ernst as George in the Milwaukee Rep's *Of Mice and Men*

Stiemke Theater Season

Beauty Queen of Leenane January 23 - February 13

Martin McDonagh's play, set in Ireland, is the darkly comic tale of a daughter whose dream of going to America for happiness and romance collides with the prying and scheming of her mother.

Collected Stories March 5 - 26

Donald Margulies' off Broadway sensation chronicles the fragile relationship between a venerable fiction writer and her young, eager protégé.

Lumberjacks in Love April 23 - May 14

An intriguing title to be sure, but alas, it's not what you think! Set in the northwoods of Wisconsin, this is a story of love and romance with lovable characters named Muskrat, Moonlight and Dirty Bob. Book and lyrics are by Fred Alley, music by James Kaplan.

Stackner Cabaret Season

The House That Nat Built Now through March 12

Nat "King" Cole's legendary music is featured in this world premiere production by

Lee Summers, the author of *From My Hometown* and *If These Shoes Could Talk*.

Don't Touch That Dial: *the Sequel*

March 18 - May 14

Roger Bean's wacky and wild ride through those little ditties you can't get out of your head - television theme songs - continues in this sequel to the runaway hit.

Next Act Theatre

This is Next Act Theatre's 10th anniversary season, which they've celebrated with four shows and movement to a permanent new home - the Next Act Theatre Studio at 342 North Water Street in downtown Milwaukee. For tickets and further information, call (414) 278-7780. You can also e-mail them at nextact@execpc.com and visit the website at www.nextact.org.

A Night in November February 3 - 27

Set amidst the virulent hatred of Protestant vs. Catholic in Northern Ireland, Marie Jones' drama follows a government clerk on a voyage of self-discovery and rebirth.

Continued on page 14

MILWAUKEE
CHAMBER
THEATRE

BROADWAY
THEATRE
CENTER

TEDDYKINS

An American Hero

by W. Frank

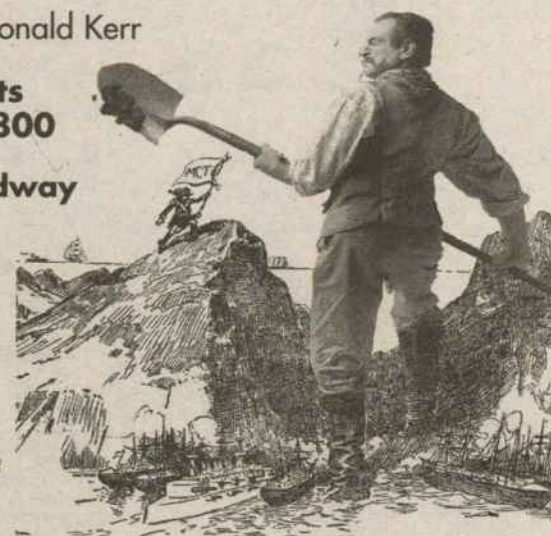
directed by James Tasse

starring Brian Robert Mani,
Tony Clements &
Mary MacDonald Kerr

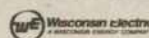
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from seduction
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Princess Leonide
sets out to
win her man.

Inspired silliness, wisecracks and
gender-bending high jinks
fill this new madcap musical.

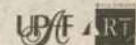


Photo of Tari Kelly by Katherine Blehl

Jan. 28 - Feb. 13

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Roberto Sierra
Kaija Saariaho

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conroy
stalheim

2000 Theater Preview Continued

Continued from page 13

My Thing of Love April 6 - 30

Alexandra Gersten's screwball comedy that cuts to the core of the passions and trials of married life, involving husband, wife, mistress and and off-the-wall guidance counselor.

Theatre X

This is Theatre X's 30th season. In addition to the regular season, Theatre X offers a Late Night Series. All Theatre X performances take place at the Broadway Theatre Center in Milwaukee's historic Third Ward, 158 N. Broadway. For tickets and further information, call (414) 291-7800.

To Lift Ourselves Up February 18-March 12

Subtitled *A History of the Yiddish Theatre in Milwaukee*

This will be a world premiere work by John Schneider. It explores the Jewish experience in Milwaukee from 1892 to the present, focusing on how the Jewish arts and culture helped shape our community.

Quint and Miss Jessel at Bly March 24 - April 16

This will be a world premiere of a new play by Don Nigro, author of over 30 previous plays. It promises to be a haunting tale of Gothic horror about the ghosts of *Turn of the Screw* before they were ghosts.

A New Play - TBA April 28 - May 21

A novel or short story from the annals of American literature will be adapted for the stage as part of Theatre X's "Page to the Stage" program. They promise something "spellbinding to close out our 30th Anniversary Season.

UW-Milwaukee Professional Theatre Training Program

Founded in 1978, the PTTP at UWM is a 3-year conservatory program that offers students BFA and MFA degrees in acting, costuming, stage management and technical production. Students participate in up to eight productions a season. All performances take place at the UWM School of the Arts Mainstage and Studio Theatres. For tickets and further information, call (414) 229-4308.

Midnight and Moll Flanders February 11 - 27

This is a new play by Marie Kohler in which she freely adapts the confession of Moll Flanders, one of Daniel Defoe's greatest characters, into a story that tracks a double journey of transformation as Moll and her minister both learn the true meaning of redemption.

Endgame April 6 - 29

Samuel Beckett's mid-century master-

piece drops us into the final, claustrophobic stages of a chess game, taking up the story from the pieces' points of view. Beckett (1906-89) was one of this century's most influential and controversial playwrights.

Blithe Spirit April 13 - 29

Presented in celebration of the 100th anniversary of famed Gay British playwright Noel Coward's birth, <[Blithe Spirit]> is a great, deliciously improbable, comic farce.

The Weidner Center for the Performing Arts

Green Bay's Weidner Center offers a season of 29 productions, plus a bonus offering of the hugely successful *Riverdance*. The regular season at the Weidner Center will feature both new and returning shows. Among the new artists to perform at the Weidner Center will be *The Irish Rovers*, *Crystal Gayle*, *Tibetan Monks*, *Famous People Players*, *Captain and Tennille* and *Philip Glass*. Making repeat performances are *The Chieftans*, violinist *Itzhak Perlman*, *Spirit*, *Tap Dogs* and *Stomp*. For tickets and further information, call (920) 465-2217 or 1-800-328-TKTS.



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Spotlight Premiere Events

21 **GALLERY NIGHT IN MILWAUKEE:** See the special Gallery Night section on pages 17 and 18 of this issue for a complete listing of the events. The other galleries listed here are *not* part of Gallery Night.

From my Hometown, Stackner Cabaret at The Rep (Milwaukee): Back by demand, this revue features 30 classic R&B songs and celebrates three R&B performers - from Detroit, Memphis and Philadelphia, who travel to the Big Apple in search of success. Continues through March 12; Stackner Cabaret at the Rep; 108 E. Wells; \$15-25; (414) 224-9490.

Gallery Talk, Madison Art Center (Madison): Focusing on the exhibitions of Leonardo Drew and Erik Weisenburger on view through Feb. 13. Today with Brenda Baker, artist, on Drew. 211 State St., Gallery; 5:30pm, free admission, call (608) 257-0158.

Quartet for the End of Time, Present Music (Madison): Concert features Oliver Messiaen's 20th Century masterpiece *Quartet for the End of Time*, written and first performed while he was a prisoner of war in Poland during WWII; and a new work by Roberto Sierra *Tema y Variaciones (Theme and Variations)*. Terry Smirl will perform a solo percussion work by Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho and organist Karen Beaumont celebrates the century with Charles Ives' eternal favorite *Variations on America*. 7pm pre-concert talk by Dr. Marguerite Helmers on Messiaen's vision. St. Pauls Episcopal Church, 914 E. Knapp St. 8pm; Tickets \$15-19 (\$7.50stu.); call (414) 271-0711.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane, Milw. Rep Stiemke Theater (Milwaukee): This Tony award winning play took Broadway by storm, written by Martin McDonagh. A 40 year old rural Irish woman and her iron-willed mother maneuver for control of their isolated existence, then a man comes into the younger woman's life and conflict arises. Brash humor, rich language, and inventive storytelling. Continues through Feb. 13, Rep's Stiemke Theater, Milwaukee Center, 108 E. Wells; \$20-30, (414) 224-9490.

Three Views of Social Awareness in Art, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) (Milwaukee): Featuring the work of internationally known artist Sue Coe: *In the Wake of a Gunshot*; text and images by photographer Paul Calhoun documenting the effects of violence; and *Ayachucho: Tradition and Crisis in Peruvian Popular Art* a reaction to the lengthy civil war that recently raged in Peru. 273 E. Erie St.; Open until 9 tonight. (414) 276-7889.

Video Installations by Uri Tzaig, UWM School of the Arts Gallery 1, Inova (Milwaukee): Israeli artist in his first solo US exhibition created an elaborately designed table and chairs incorporating a complex board game reflecting Middle East politics in which there is no winner or

loser. Continues through Feb. 27, 3253 N. Downer Avenue, Noon-5 Wed.-Sun.; (414) 229-5070.

22 **Quartet for the End of Time, Present Music (Milwaukee):** Concert features Oliver Messiaen's 20th Century masterpiece *Quartet for the End of Time*, written and first performed while he was a prisoner of war in Poland during WWII; and a new work by Roberto Sierra *Tema y Variaciones (Theme and Variations)*. Terry Smirl will perform a solo percussion work by Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho and organist Karen Beaumont celebrates the century with Charles Ives' eternal favorite *Variations on America*. 7pm pre-concert talk by Dr. Marguerite Helmers on Messiaen's vision. St. Pauls Episcopal Church, 914 E. Knapp St. 8pm; Tickets \$15-19 (\$7.50stu.); call (414) 271-0711.

23 **Music of the 40's, WI Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee):** Forays into Modernism: the Conservatory continues its 1999-2000 Faculty Artist Series this week highlighting works from the years 1941-1950. One show only, 1584 N. Prospect Avenue; 3pm, \$10, \$7 seniors, students; (414) 276-5760.

Psychic Faire, adambomb gallery (Milwaukee): Fortune tellers and psychics experienced in astrology, tarot, numerology, palmistry and hand writing analysis available for \$15 per reading. Birth charts on the spot for \$8; also massage therapist, and reiki master available for \$15 (15 minutes). Metaphysical magical jewelry on sale by Simone de la Luna. 524 S. 2nd St.; 2-7pm; (414) 276-BOMB.

27 **Beausoleil, Pabst Theater (Milwaukee):** avec Michael Doucet, America's No. 1 Cajun Band. Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells St.; 7:30pm, (414) 286-3663.

28 **Divine Humility: Jesus Icons in Contemporary Mexico, Cardinal Stritch University (Milwaukee):** Photographs by Robert E. Lewis in exhibition through March 12. Features 63 large-scale cibachrome prints and an installation of Mexican devotional artifacts from public and private collections. NML Gallery, 6801 N. Yates Rd., free admission, (414) 410-4479.

Gallery Talk, Madison Art Center (Madison): Focusing on the exhibitions of Leonardo Drew and Erik Weisenburger on view through Feb. 13. Today with Eric Weisenberg on the underlying symbolism in his paintings. 211 State St., Gallery; 5:30pm, free admission, call (608) 257-0158.

Triumph of Love, Skylight Opera Theatre (Milwaukee): The Midwest premiere of the '97 Tony Award nominee. Brainy and beautiful Princess seduces guiles Prince (and everyone else she meets) in her quest to win his love. Complications and comic confusion reign in the bawdy, frolicsome new musical based on Maivaux's 18th Century comedy. (Following the play on Friday and Saturday performances -

except opening night) enjoy Becky Spice and friends program of beloved Jewish songs, in celebration of Milwaukee's Intl. Arts Festival in the Skylight Bar.) Continues through Feb. 10; Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway; (414) 291-7800.

29 **Annual Reading Marathon, Woodland Pattern Book Center (Milwaukee):** More than 90 poets, musicians, fiction writers, playwrights and performers read starting at 1pm. Each participant will present five minutes of creative work. Raises funds to support Woodland, and showcases Milwaukee's creative community. 720 E. Locust St.; 1-11pm; \$6/\$5 members, (414) 263-5001.

Beloved Jewish Songs, Skylight Opera's Miller Cabaret (Milwaukee): Becky Spice

the gay Agenda

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

Film Night, SAGE (Milwaukee): Seniors and friends meeting, this weeks film screening: *Parting Glances*, a great '86 film that's wonderfully acted and funny Gay love story set in Manhattan. Meets every Friday, Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.; 6:30pm; (414)271-0378.

22 **Leather Swap Meet, Woody's (Milwaukee):** Great Lakes Harley Riders, WI Mr. LeatherMan Prod., and Men in Boots Club Intl. present the 4th annual Leather Swap, with vendors and individuals selling, buying and trading their gear. \$5 Beer and Soda bust, raffle of leather items. Free space for individuals. Also, kick off of ARCW Food Pantry Drive. Evening followed by after-hours party. 1579 S. 2nd St.; 8pm-?. (414) 931-9760/672-0806.

24 **Film Circle, Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Group (Madison):** Screening: *Lilies* Peter's house, call for location: 7pm, (608) 827-8262.

26 **Hunger Task Force Discussion on Shared Use, Hunger Task Force (Milwaukee):** The task force hosts a discussion to explore and share ideas regarding the development of a shared-use commercial kitchen. People who are currently operating or considering investing in a food-related business and want to learn more about a great opportunity to expand or enhance their businesses should attend. 4-5pm at 201 S. Hawley Court. For more info contact Melissa Santimo at (414) 777-0483.

28 **Men and Women Discussion Group, SAGE (Milwaukee):** Seniors and

and friends perform Jewish songs in conjunction with Milwaukee's Intl. Arts Festival celebrating the Jewish culture. Feb. 4-5, 11-12; 2nd Floor, Skylight Bar, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Post performance, 10pm; Free, (414) 291-7800.

30 **Author Reading, Room of One's Own (Madison):** Patricia Lynn Reilly, reads from her new book *Imagine A Woman In Love With Herself*. Based on the 20 stanzas of her popular poem *Imagine a Woman*, the book is a practical and poetic shopping list for self-belonging, filled with woman-affirming reflections and meditations meant to empower women to move from self-loathing to self-love. 307 W. Johnson St.; 3:30pm; (608) 257-7888.

friends meeting, this week will view and discuss *Stonewall 25: Global Voices of Pride and Protest*. Meets every Friday, Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St.; 6:30pm; (414)271-0378.

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

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Theatre Review

Teddykins

Review by John Jahn

To see a play about the life and times of Theodore Roosevelt (known to a loving public as "Teddykins"), is to lament the past. Indeed, there were giants in those days, and TR towered over the turn of the last century like a colossus.

Wayne Frank's *Teddykins* centers on a speech Roosevelt gave in Milwaukee in 1912. He was campaigning for the presidency in the twilight of his career as the Progressive Party candidate. A German immigrant shoots him in the chest, but, undaunted, Teddy goes on to give a rousing speech. It is just one example of the extraordinary events this man experienced in his life. Frank's duty was to take a life that was more eventful than those of 10 ordinary men, combined, and turn it into a 90 minute play.

Teddykins jumps around chronologically, where a more linear narrative approach might have worked better. This is especially the case since TR's life was so chock full of triumphant and tragic events (the Rough Riders, his presidency, the Panama Canal; the deaths of his first wife and youngest son) that a chronological storytelling would render more coherent.

Even so, this Milwaukee Chamber Theatre production triumphs on the strength of the central performance by Brian Robert Mani. He not only looks amazingly like TR, but he obviously studied long and hard the old Rough Rider's mannerisms and speaking style. Every word Mani utters was actually said by TR at some point in his life, lending further authenticity and fascination to this tightly-written play. *Teddykins* is not only great theater, but a history lesson and character study to boot.

Fine supporting work comes from Tony Clements and Mary MacDonald Kerr, who take on various characters in seminal events in TR's life. Tony plays President Wilson, the would be assassin, a soldier, cowboy and a French ambassador. Mary plays TR's two wives and acts as principal narrator. Lighting Designer Chester Loeffler-Bell does excellent work focusing your attention on the action, and Scenic Designer John Devlin effectively creates a setting that could have been TR's attic.

Eighty percent of the *Teddykins* performances are already sold out, so order quickly. Shows run through February 6 at the Studio Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 North Broadway. For more information, call the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Box Office at (414) 291-7800.



Brian Robert Mani as
Theodore Roosevelt

Of Mice and Men

Review by John Jahn

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater's first production of the new millennium asks its audience to visit a very foreign environment – not a glimpse into a distant future but a rapidly receding past. In these days of instant communication, prosperity and high tech gizmos, it's increasingly difficult to identify with a poverty-stricken, low tech world. Such was the case in the Depression of the 1930s, and such is the setting of John Steinbeck's immortal classic, *Of Mice and Men*. It's a long and wordy play, but in talented hands can still draw in an audience of the 21st century more accustomed to soundbites.

The story centers on the unusual friendship between two migrant workers who are seeking work in the farming community of California. Two years later, Steinbeck would revisit the setting in his monumental novel, "The Grapes of Wrath." Even though it may be hard for us to identify with the setting, the story of friendship is timeless. In the capable hands of Director J. R. Sullivan and a terrific cast, this Rep production tells the tragic story in compelling and powerful fashion.

George (Lee E. Ernst) and Lennie (Joseph Hanreddy) have been travelling together for a long time. George is more or less an everyman character, but Lennie is a mentally slow gentle giant, who can appreciate the delicate nature of a little mouse or puppy, but can't grasp why they seem to die in his caring arms. He's simply stronger than he realizes, and things break in his hands.

Of Mice and Men follows George and

Lennie to a farm in the Salinas Valley. There, they meet a grizzled old ranch hand named Candy (Jim Baker), Slim (Jonathan Gillard Daly), the Boss (James Pickering), his son, Curley (Russ Benton), his wife (Deborah Staples), and Crooks (Daniel Whitner). A colorful cast of characters, indeed.

Sparks ignite as Curley takes a dislike to the newcomers, mainly because of his all consuming anxiety about his flirtatious wife. Any man bigger than him is his instant enemy, and Curley's manhood won't be satiated until he's challenged the towering Lennie to a fight. All George and Lennie want to do is make some money and move on in peace, but it seems that Lennie manages to get them into trouble no matter where they go. Of course, Lennie is often not to blame for this, but rather narrow-minded people who don't understand and can't deal with his retardedness.

The current Milwaukee Rep production is a powerful recreation of the Dust Bowl days of the Depression, and Steinbeck's wonderfully drawn characters truly come to life in the hands of excellent actors. Cudos especially go to Artistic Director Hanreddy, who as Lennie is making his Rep acting debut. Another great performance comes from Jim Baker, who was equally scene-stealing as Big Daddy earlier this season in *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*. An authentic recreation of a mid-century farm bunkhouse adds to the play's effectiveness, thanks to scenic designer Bill Clarke.

Of Mice and Men, Steinbeck's tale of enduring friendship amidst great adversity, runs through February 20 in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater, 108 East Wells Street. For tickets and further information, call (414) 224-9490, or visit the Rep website at www.milwaukeeerep.com.

Television Common Ground

T.V. Preview by John Jahn

It's the 1950s, and Dorothy Nelson has left the U.S. Navy for good. Her mother can't understand why. It's only when Principal Damson sees her discharge papers that the story unfolds. Dorothy hadn't even heard the word "Lesbian" until her commanding officer mentioned it, warning her that anyone caught in an act that even suggested homosexuality would be summarily discharged.

Tony Award-winners Harvey Fierstein and Terrence McNally and Pulitzer Prize-winner Paula Vogel have united their voices into one powerful script with the Showtime Original Movie, *Common Ground*. These three respected Gay and Lesbian playwrights have combined their talents for a drama that depicts how small town America has reacted to out Gay men and Lesbians over the past half century.

Common Ground, a multigenerational drama, is set in the fictitious town of Homer, CT, and explores Gay men and Lesbians struggling for their rights in three periods of time: the 1950s (written by Vogel); the 1970s (McNally) and 2000 (Fierstein). It also boasts a strong, top-notch cast of television and film stars. Beau Bridges, Brian Kerwin, Brittany Murphy, Edward Asner, Eric Stoltz, Jason Priestly, Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Margot Kidder, Mimi Rogers and Steven Weber are foremost among them.

Common Ground will premiere on Saturday, January 29 at 7pm (Central Time) on cable television's Showtime Channel. Additional playdates are January 31 at 9pm and February 10 at 9:35pm. For additional information, visit Showtime Network's website at www.SHO.com.

Cinema Review

Cider House Rules

Review by John Jahn

The Cider House Rules, unlike last year's *Simon Birch*, is a John Irving novel-to-movie translation which manages to stay reasonably close to its written inspiration and doesn't veer off into the unbearably melodramatic. In it, Director Lasse Hallström has crafted a beautiful, emotionally resonant motion picture.

The story transpires during World War Two on America's home front. Homer Wells (Tobey Maguire), a young man who grew up in an orphanage in Maine, is told he has a bad heart and so cannot enlist. At the orphanage, he has been all but adopted by the facility's doctor and director, Wilbur Larch (Michael Caine),

who sees great promise in Homer and imparts valuable medical knowledge to him.

But a moral divide emerges between Larch and Wells: they are on opposite sides of the abortion issue. Homer eventually leaves the orphanage of his own accord, hitching a fateful ride along with a visiting couple, Army Air Force officer Wally Worthington (Paul Rudd) and his girlfriend, Candy Kendall (Charlize Theron). Dr. Larch is heartbroken, but unable to clearly and openly display his emotions.

Character development is strong in *The Cider House Rules*, and all the main ones are carefully drawn and scripted. Caine was particularly excellent. The film also contains Maguire's best work so far in his young career. He flawlessly captures the nuances of his character. There isn't a moment when we don't see him as worth an investment of time and sympathy.

The Cider House Rules is a film about many things. There's abortion, incest, a

young man's search for his own identity, and the relationship between parents and children. It shows the kind of emotional wreckage that can result from a twisted family relationship. Indeed, all the relationships in the film are complex, but it never condescends to or judges its characters.

Emotions in *The Cider House Rules* (and there are many emotional moments), seem genuine, not as if Hallström is trying to force you to feel something. The ending satisfies without lapsing into saccharine sentimentality. Composer Rachel Portman's gentle score strikes all the right notes, being powerful without overpowering. Finally, Oliver Stapleton's cinematography is nothing short of breathtaking.

With a strong cast, accomplished cinematography and a well-tuned script, Hallström has fashioned a movie of visual splendor and emotional depth, telling a story that is unique, despite a number of familiar elements.

3 1/2 Stars

2000'S FIRST GALLERY NIGHT, THIS FRIDAY

by Ron Geiman

Milwaukee - The Fine Arts appeal to many Gays and Lesbians because they are an integral part of our being. If LGBTs make up 10% of the population, than the percentage of artists who are LGBT probably approaches 25%. If you have never participated in a Milwaukee Gallery night, often called art crawls in other cities, it provides the perfect opportunity to "Expose Yourself To Art". For those of you who have participated in the past, this article provides listings of all the exhibitions available for your perusal.

The Spring Gallery Night is the first of four such tours in this quad annual attempt to expose both new audiences and art aficionados to a variety of exhibits and the multitude of galleries this city has to offer.

The Milwaukee Art Museum and the East Town Association co host the evening and invite all to visit Milwaukee's premier art galleries and museums Friday, January 21, generally until 9pm. Admission to all is free.

In cooperation with MAM and ETA, Gray Line Tours provides a comfortable way to do the tour. Buses and guided highlights of selected museums and galleries depart the MAM at 6:30pm for \$10. Bus tickets may still be available at the Museum.

For those of you who can't make it Friday night, all participating galleries and museums will also be open Saturday, the 22nd from 10am to 5pm.

Milwaukee Art Museum

As co-host of the evening, the lake-front Milwaukee Art Museum, located at 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive (for those of you artistically impaired) presents the opening of ~Interventions: New Art in Unconventional Spaces~. The exhibits will feature artists who are laying the framework for the art of the next century and exploring the range of artistic possibilities at the dawn of the new millennium.

Curated by MAM Chief Curator Dean Sobel, the exhibition will present the work of 10 leading international contemporary artists. Sobel will kick off the evening with a 5:30pm short introduction to *Interventions*.

Instead of presenting these artists' work in one large gallery, the art will be dispersed throughout the museum. In this way, the artists will "intervene" with existing permanent collection galleries, entrances, lobbies and grounds.

To view the exhibition, visitors will navigate the entire facility, aware that this is one of the last times they will be able to experience the museum in its current configuration, a layout that has remained virtually unchanged since 1988. When the exhibit ends in April, MAM will begin preparing for their awesome new Calatrava addition.

The works in the exhibition represent a range of media, nationalities and working methods. Following a practice

that's becoming common within the contemporary art world, video sculpture and photography are most strongly represented.

Participating galleries and museums follow-

Andrew Balkin Editions, Bresler Eitel Art & Framing Gallery (Milwaukee):

Original fine art prints along with mini-view of Sesquicentennial portfolio. Reception from 5-8pm, 525 W. Walnut St.; (414) 374-7777.

Breach Broach Art Exhibit, Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Milwaukee):

Breach Broach an exhibit of mixed media works by two UW-Madison grads, Lauren Garber (mixed media works reflect her personal history restoring forgotten spaces of memory) and Mark Klassen (installation pieces explore the relationships of material and form in architecture as a metaphor for the human condition). Exhibit opens tonight with an Artists Reception in conjunction with Gallery Night from 6-9pm. Exhibit continues March 11, 911 W. National Ave., (414) 672-2787.



Kenn Kwint exhibited at Gallery 613.

Creative Endeavors: Recent Works by Jeanne Brill, Gallery Cora Dora (Milwaukee):

Pier 221 presents Gallery Cora Dora, a new gallery in previous H2O (which has moved to 907 S. 1st.) space. Brill's paintings of architecture from European travels. Opening reception tonight from 6-9pm, refreshments. Also artists John Ernst and Michael Merritt Mangan. Exhibit continues through April 9; 221 N. Water St., (414) 283-9244.

Designs for a New Millennium, Lincoln Center of the Arts (Milwaukee):

Fantasmagorical facade redesigns of Lincoln Center by students working with four professional Artists In Residence, Live gallery dance presentations by Foothold Dance/ Performance, Artistic Directors Diane Van Derhei and Thomas Thorson. Art Galleries at

Lincoln Center, 820 E. Knapp St., (414) 272-6060.

E.P. Terry 10 Year Retrospective and Dolls, St. John's Uihlein Peters Gallery (Milwaukee):

Evelyn Patricia Terry's 10 year retro accompanied by *DOLLS* created by George Leazer, George Ray McCormick St., Akua Oldunjo and Della Wells. Opening Reception tonight from 5-9pm, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., (414) 272-2022 Ext. 25.

Exhibition: George Washington, Architect, Villa Terrace (Milwaukee):

Traveling panel exhibition commemorates the 200th anniversary of Washington's death, exploring the little

known aspect of his life as a highly accomplished, self taught builder. Continues through Feb. 27, 2220 N. Terrace;

Fine Imported Oriental Rugs, Babian Oriental Rug Co. (Milwaukee):

Truly artistic workmanship on display at this Importer of fine Oriental rugs, family owned and operated since 1910. 159 N. Broadway; (414) 347-1430.

Flux Design Custom Furniture, Gallery 3 2 6 (Milwaukee):

Featuring the interiors and custom furniture of this design/ build group specializing in concrete, steel and wood. Also unique neon lighting and furniture by Jeff Hojnacki and ongoing sculpture exhibit by Jeremy Sham and Jesse Meyer. Reception with refreshments begins at 6pm, 326 N. Water St.; (414) 273-7152.

Forever and Ever, Adambomb Gallery (Milwaukee):

Kurt Frederiksen's acrylics reveal inner emotion and memories with a simplistic appearance of childlike images. 524 S. 1st St.; (414) 276-2662.

Group Exhibition, Michael H. Lord Gallery (Milwaukee):

Featuring the work of N. Alper, R. Selder, J. Rowf, P. Picasso, B. Kow-Spiro, L.

Laatsch, D. Chihuly, R. Knight, J. Miro, A. Calder, F. Stella, N. De Saint-Phalle, along with others. 420 E. Wisconsin Avenue.

Hard Sculpture, Gallery H2O (Milwaukee):

Presents Sculpture in steel and cement by Roan and Toth. Reception for gallery night includes artists James Cross and Jim Toth, with music by Mrs. Fun. Continues through Feb. 13; New location! 907 S. 1st St., 6-10pm, (414) 614-0029.

Home Away From Home, Danceworks Studio 1661 (Milwaukee):

A mixed media show by Janet Lew Carr, documenting her journey to China and Senegal, and some work by other local artisans. Special Gallery Night hours from 5-8pm. 1661 N. Water St.; (414) 277-8480.

Jacob Berenstein: Contemporary Sculpture, Haggerty Museum of Art/ Marquette Univ. (Milwaukee):

This Israeli sculptor recycles industrial objects, transforming them into works of spontaneous energy and expression, reflecting his sense of humor, countered by the sadness and hope of living in the war-ridden Middle East. Exhibit runs through March 5, 530 N. 13th St.

Jan Serr: Paintings and Ink Drawings, Tony Folliard Gallery (Milwaukee):

Serr is well known for her paintings of Wisconsin forests and her more recent *Downstream* series, where she investigates the life that fills Hood's Creek, a stream that winds through SE WI. Continues through Feb. 4, 233 N. Milwaukee St.

Landscape & Still Life Oils & Ceramics, Katie Gingrass Gallery (Milwaukee):

Show featuring: Lars-Birger Sponberg calls attention to the extra ordinariness of the common place of the Midwest landscape; Wendy Schwartz's small still-life paintings of single pieces of fruit in the Old Master technique. Farrady Sredl's terra cotta vessels have a truly

Continued on page 18


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GALLERY NIGHT CONTINUED

Continued from page 17
sculptural effect, and Louise Hopson's whimsical ceramics are filled with romantic figures and positive messages. Show runs through Feb. 29; 241 N. Broadway, (414) 289-0855

Millennium Art Sale, David Barnett Gallery (Milwaukee):

Celebration of 34 years in business, 20% off on gallery owned art, including Mucha, Rosencquist, Picasso, Summers, Weisbuch and many more. 1024 E. State St. at Prospect Ave.; (414) 271-5058.

New Paintings by David Flynn, Dean Jensen Gallery (Milwaukee):

An American living in Munich since 1980, this widely exhibited painter's works often are made up of separating components, or modules, that can be rearranged on a wall. 759 N. Water St.; 278-7100.

Oil Paintings by Jean Roberts, Groom Gallery (Milwaukee):

An exhibition and sale of small sealed figurative oils by Roberts entitled *The Games*. 728 N. Milwaukee St.; (414) 298-2076.

One Night Only, 231 (Milwaukee):

Kathleen Herbage (file top tables and ceramics), Ann Wydeven (mosaics), Ilze Heider (Leather designs). Also open, Milwaukee Emporium and Tom Queoff Sculpture Studio. 231 E. Buffalo St., 4th Floor; (414) 276-3144.

Pointing Fingers 2000, Vanguard Gallery (Milwaukee):

Milwaukee's premier all Digital Fine art exhibition. Closing reception and awards presentation, live music from 5-10pm, meet the artists. 270 E. Highland Ave., (414) 225-9644.

Poster Extravaganza, DeLind Fine Art (Milwaukee):

Exhibition and sale of over 250 posters personally selected by Bill DeLind. Also included with this show is a large selection of menus, program covers, drawings and lithographs by artists who were famous for their posters. Through January 22, 811 N. Jefferson St.

Remarkable Women of the Millennium, Peltz Gallery (Milwaukee):

10th annual show featuring regulars P. Bramson, A. B. Cooke, M. Hayden, A. Kingsbury, K. Knight, D. Levesque, B. Manger, F. Myers, J. Pohlmann, C. Pylant, J. P. Sloan, E.P. Terry join Squeak Carnwath, Lesley Dill, Jane Hammond, Hung Liu, Hollis Sigler, Kiki Smith, Kara Walker and more... 1119 E. Knaap St.; (414) 223-4278.

The Family, Riverwest Art Center (Milwaukee): A skewed perspective into the concept of contemporary family life. Among the artists exhibited: CD. Niver, V. Tatera, J. Engle, M. Fink, M.



**STRIP IN 1/32
GALLERY H2O AD**

Frederickson, J. Reubarthsch, K. Kercheck and M. Lawson Open tonight from 6-11pm. 3178 S. Farney St.; (414) 374-4722.

The Return of Randy James, G. Gallery (Milwaukee): Colorful serigraphs of familiar people and places from an unfamiliar perspective. Meet the Artist Reception tonight from 6-9pm. Continues through March 3.

Three Views of Social Awareness in Art, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) (Milwaukee): Featuring the work of internationally known artist Sue Coe: ~In the Wake of a Gunshot~; text and images by photographer Paul Calhoun documenting the effects of violence; and ~Ayachucho: Tradition and Crisis in Peruvian Popular Art~ a reaction to the lengthy civil war that recently raged in Peru. 273 E. Erie St.; (414) 276-7889.

Video Installations by Uri Tzaig, UWM School of the Arts Gallery 1, Inova (Milwaukee): Israeli artist in his first solo US exhibition created an elaborately designed table and chairs incorporating a complex board game reflecting Middle East politics in which there is no winner or loser. Continues through Feb. 27, 3253 N. Downer Avenue, Noon-5 Wed.-Sun.; (414) 229-5070.

William Hughes Paintings and Pastels, Studio 613 Fine Arts (Milwaukee): Opening and reception for Hughes' ~Recent Paintings and Pastels~ plus ongoing exhibits by Kenn Kwint, Santos Zingale, David J. Cusick, Joseph Friebert, Carol Rowan, Jeff and Scott Darrow. Sculpture by Bruno Neuold, Paul Johnson and Miiko Dinev. Continues through end of Feb., 338 N. Milwaukee St. #405, (414) 221-0613.

Divine Humility: Jesus Icons in Contemporary Mexico, Cardinal Stritch University (Milwaukee): Photographs by Robert E. Lewis in exhibition through March 12. Features 63 large-scale cibachrome prints and an installation of Mexican devotional artifacts from public and private collections. NML Gallery, 6801 N. Yates Rd.; free admission, (414) 410-4479.

Sports



by Bob Melig

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST !!!!

It's Post-Rhodes, and you read it here first. The road posts were all there - it had to happen. Ron Wolf was singing, "get a coach, get a coach, get a cooach - just like I said he would. It had to come. No one was performing this season, except McKinzey - yet there's plenty of talent in Green Bay.

The greatest tragedy is the delayed development of the rookies. They could have really been ready next season. Now they are just rookies with an asterisk behind their names. The new Coach? Mike Sherman! Former Packer's 1997-98 offensive coordinator in Green Bay and followed Holmgren to Seattle for the 1999 Season.

As a paper that speaks to a specific minority, I can say here that the firing had to do with competence, not race. We champion minority causes as a way of life. This year, even for free at Sports bars, fewer and fewer folks were showing up for games as the season progressed. The scalpers were selling tickets at face value, and a buddy would give you a gold ticket free rather than make the trip to GB. That's how sorry the fans felt the team was in '99. The Packers weren't pretty this year, gang. Three cheers to Ron Wolf for making the change.

IN LINE SKATING

I just met our new Editor. Nadine is a respected in-line skating coach. She would like to get a team going here. What does a team do, well practice, practice, and practice more. They also compete in regional and National events in all age groups. Its in-doors too. So drop-in or e-mail the Editor at *WI Light* if you're interested. It's the sport of the 90's and it's great that we have a competent person in the community that knows and understands not only the sport, but also the entire venue nationwide.

DARTS

The Ballgame pulled ahead of the pack in recent weeks and now holds a commanding lead in the Dart League. However, the prize money is spread around and most of the other teams have a chance to share some big loot as the season goes forth. Individual leaders represent a wide swath of teams and they are still sparring for position and the prize money for their achievements. It's still nip and tuck for lots of players and tough competition for the team runner up slots.

DIDN'T MAKE IT

This article was going to have a good deal of space devoted to the Palm Springs Softball tournament. Alas, the eastern snowstorm cancelled my flight. I was at the airport, bag in hand and ready to fly. I'll have others to tell you about in later articles, so stay tuned.

My greatest disappointment is not seeing the LA Bad Boys, my favorite pitcher from Phoenix, and a host of bleached blondes that make up those teams - not to mention the Asians that come in from Frisco and LA - they are put together real well. Palm Springs gets 40+ teams for this winter event, the weather is swell, and they populate the bars and guest hotels with vigor. Oh well, next year. Next trip Toronto, then San Diego and Minneapolis - some softball - lots of fun. April, May & June aren't planned yet, but you can be assured that you'll hear of sports from a good many venues as the year progresses. I like retirement.

SAW IT

Rookies on Howard and Howell have softball recruiting sign up in 1-foot letters. They have 5 or 6 teams each year - out of one bar, aaaaaaaand they play in the big time in the County leagues. Not too early to start recruiting for the Gay Leagues.

Woodys is already recruiting. On the wall and on the TV they run ads during all the hours they are open. Wanna bet they have some fun teams this year?

Can't wait to hear about SSBL plans for this year. With the 20th Milwaukee Classic Anniversary event, this should be a big and resurgent year.

Monday Nite Irregulars Standings

These standings are through 01/17/2000

- 1 Switched at Birth
- 2 Milwaukee M.C.C.
- 3 Every Ass Gets Licked Equally
- 4 Greta's Boys
- 5 Landmark Cosmic Queens
- 6 M&M's With Nuts
- 7 This Is It Again
- 8 Seamen From Docks
- 9 Lisa's Libidos
- 10 Switches Bitches
- 11 Ballgame Bitches
- 12 Flaming Fluid
- 13 Boot Camp Barbies
- 14 4 Way Switch
- 15 The Bewitched Broom Riders
- 16 Dish Rags



- 1). to make a deep resonant sound
- 2). to grow or develop rapidly
- 3). a new dance club opening soon



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"Super Bowl Sunday"

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Beer Bash

"18 & Up Night"

Sunday, January 30
9pm - Close
Last Sunday of Every Month
\$6 Soda Bash

"Miss Southern WI USofA Pageant"

Sunday, February 6 - 10:30pm
featuring Kyllie West "Miss WI USofA"

"Monday - Valentine's Day - 5pm - 10 pm"

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extends its deepest
condolences to our
dear friend*

Rick Kowal

on the loss of his



*mother,
Nettie.*

out in Cyberspace



by Michael
Stewart

AVS Round-Up - With all those new and upgraded computers and WebTV devices delivered by Santa, one popular topic at this time of year is Adult Verification Services. The original AVSes began several years ago in response to the online entertainment industry's concerns about minors accessing inappropriate material. Then as now, a prospective purchaser of an Adult Verification Service proves he or she is an adult by supplying a credit card number, in return for which they receive an AVS user ID and password, which can be used to access any of the websites protected by that particular Adult Verification Service.

Congress first gave its imprimatur to the notion of AVSes in the failed Communications Decency Act of 1996. When the CDA was overturned by the United States Supreme Court as unconstitutional, new legislation - the Child Online Protection Act - was signed into law in late 1998, mandating the use of Adult Verification Services by websites offering material for mature audiences. Although a federal district court has enjoined enforcement of the COPA (the acronym by which it's commonly known), and the Supreme Court is expected to find it as constitutionally flawed as its predecessor, most industry mavens expect that federal lawmakers will promptly cook up another attack on free speech and your rights to view it, which suggests that AVSes will be with us for a long time to come.

Choosing to which Adult Verification Service(s) to subscribe can be daunting process, but a little background information can help you avoid throwing your money away.

The first and largest AVS is AdultCheck (online at <http://www.adultcheck.com>), which shields over 80,000 adult-oriented websites of all orientations. Having the longest pedigree, AdultCheck is considered the most respectable, and complaints about them are few and far between. Coming in a distant second is the primarily straight AgeCheck AVS (at <http://www.agecheck.com>), which claims to protect over 30,000 sites, but reviews by AgeCheck subscribers are mixed, especially in the area of customer service.

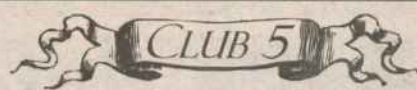
Several all-gay Adult Verification Services exist as well, but sadly, few of them are as well-regarded as the straight/mixed AVSes. Of the bunch, the longest-running is ManCheck (online at <http://www.mancheck.com>), which shields about 4,500 gay websites but which is frequently the subject of user complaints focusing on erroneous billing and an inability to cancel unneeded memberships. From there, the picture gets even more bleak. Two of the most frequently-seen Adult

Verification Services, Rainbow AVS (online at <http://www.rainbowavs.com>), and United Gay Adult Sites (at <http://www.ugas.com>), are the subject of the lion's share of AVS complaints posted to Usenet newsgroups and in online chat forums. Both drew an extraordinary amount of negative publicity in the second half of 1999 when various business practices some saw as shady came to light, which has prompted many of the net-savvy to avoid them. If you really have more money than you know what to do with, donate it to your local HIV/AIDS education group instead of spending it here.

One of the newest developments are the "free" Adult Verification Services, such as SexKey (online at <http://www.sexkey.com>). With slight differences, all the "free" AVSes work the same way: you're not billed for the user ID and password you're given, but included in your membership is a trial subscription to a premium website, which will - unless it's cancelled within the first week - begin to bill your credit card a high monthly membership fee. If that weren't bad enough, legion are the reports in Usenet newsgroups and Internet chat rooms of the deluge of tasteless porno-spam that quickly fill the mailboxes of unwary "free" AVS subscribers. Save yourself the grief and avoid these like the plague.

WI Light Urges You to Take

Action



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not for Women only

Eluding the Booby Trap

by Michele Forsten

I wasn't surprised when my cousin called to inform me that his 54-year-old sister's breasts were larger than they used to be and nestled in her bikini top at a gravity-defying angle. What shocked me was when he added that her 25-year-old daughter also had had her breasts enlarged.

I can better understand my middle-aged cousin's decision to alter her breasts - to counter physical signs of aging, provide an illusory hedge against mortality - than I can her daughter's actions. When

I was the daughter's age, back in the late '70s, the only women who had their breasts enlarged, or so it seemed to me, were models and movie stars. Being well-endowed in the mammary department had its drawbacks in real life. My full-breasted friends talked about having back problems and being harassed by men on the street who thought their ample chests were an invitation for sleazy comments. Glad to be an "A-Copper," I didn't have a desire to be more voluptuous, nor did any of my flat-chested friends, for that matter. But, then again, I hung around Lesbians. We accepted what we were given in the mammary gland department - large or small - and made the most of it. We knew there wasn't a correlation between breast mass and breast sensation; nipples got erect whether they were the apex of gentle rises or major mountains.

Things are different now, at least for straight women. Peg it to the bull market or the cooling of the controversy over the safety of silicone implants, today it's your average young straight woman and her mother who are going under the knife. A New York Times article stated that during 1999, more than 120,000 American women, "many of them in their teens and early 20s, are expected to give breast implants a try."

It's not as though I don't do stuff to improve my appearance, like pluckward eyebrow hairs. This superficial kowtowing to our society's vision of beauty, however, does not carry the possible repercussions of breast "enhancement": painful scar tissue, the unnatural feel of the enlarged breast, loss of sexual sensation, infections, the need for additional surgery, leaking silicone, etc.

Looking deeper into what was really bothering me about young women having breast augmentation surgery, I realized that the courting of potential health problems and the vanity of it all merely scratched the surface. At the core was why women like my cousin's daughter,

with so much of their

lives ahead of them, would elect to "deform" their body when other women - including my mother - are radically and brutally scarred by breast surgery they didn't want to have.

In 1972, my 42-year-old mother had a mastectomy and opted not to have reconstructive surgery. Where the fullness and smoothness of her breast once was, there was flatness, broken by a long, thick angry scar. The skin surrounding the scar was taut and thin, with the outlines of her ribs visible. The plateau became a shallow concave bowl near her armpit, where her lymph nodes had been scooped out. Four years later, she died from the cancer that had metastasized. During the last days of her life, I remember rubbing lotion into the area where her breast had been, feeling some compassion but much revulsion in seeing her chest so ravaged by the cancer war she was about to lose.

Trees have rings that reveal their age; I have visible marks that tell the story of the six surgeries (some to remove more than one growth - all, so far, benign) that I've undergone since 1970 when I was 16

years old. Scars are etched around both of my nipples and faded incisions line the surface of other parts of my breasts. In the late '80s, with several of these surgeries behind me and



another looming, I went for a second opinion. The doctor asked, "Have you thought of having prophylactic mastectomies? You're at high risk. Why take a chance?" His flippancy about taking such a radical step that was, at best, of questionable value, horrified me. Why would I want to protect myself from a disease I might never contract? It was analogous to deciding to commit suicide now because eventually I'm going to die.

Recently, my longtime breast doctor commented that my breasts seemed less dense and thus easier to examine. This was the nice, medical way of saying that at the age of 45, they have started to sag. Instead of getting depressed and starting to research plastic surgeons, I was elated by the news. Breast exams will be easier and I'll get more accurate mammogram readings.

I've lived long enough to understand that happiness is much longer lasting if it is achieved by developing self-love rather than one's chest. It will take a couple of decades for my nipples to reach the vicinity of my bellybutton. If I live that long and still have my breasts, I think I'll throw a big party to celebrate their reaching bottom. And if I live into my 70s, in decent health, and don't have one or both breasts, I'll celebrate being a crone, hopefully surrounded by people I love. Are there any other "gravity embracers" out there who might want to celebrate with me?

Michele Forsten is a college administrator living in New York City. Her play, "Winning?" was staged last summer by the Luna Sea Women's Performance Project in San Francisco.

out with Dusty

News... I was deeply saddened to learn that Nettie, the mother of Ball Game owner Rick K passed away last weekend. Nettie was a real charmer and a favorite among regulars at the popular Walker's Point bar. Whenever I saw Nettie, she had a smile on her face (and often a bar dice cup in her hand).

I never heard an unkind word escape her lips and she always seemed to enjoy being at the bar with her son and his many friends. About six months ago, Nettie took up residence at a nursing home. Rick visited her every day.

A wonderful woman who loved her son, the Ball Game and its customers, Nettie was a good friend to our entire community. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.



Rick's mother, Nettie.

BE CAREFUL... As you may have read elsewhere in this issue, a dear friend of this paper and a friend of his were assaulted as they left their car around the corner from Zur Krone, 1 block south of National Avenue. This is second such mugging (that we know of) in just the past two weeks. The culprits are still at large.

Be sure that when you go out you are careful. If something does happen, please call the police. That is very, very important. The first of the above muggings was not reported to police.

On a happier note: I had a great time at Switch's Birthday party for its manager Scott. He was in great spirits as was a festive crowd. Owner Craig, our former Editor Bill Meunier, Corky from Singational and Designing Men's Bob Mazzicone were among the celebs, who turned out to toast the Birthday boy. Believe it or not, Scott looks as young as ever. He seemed to have the best time of everyone and that's how it should be.

Several people have asked me to say something about a subject that is seldom mentioned in the Gay press: Drugs in our bars. Some people can't seem to enjoy themselves without getting high on one illegal substance or another.

Yes, you know what I am talking about. The problem is that we don't talk about it. I know of bar owners who feel they have to be on duty nearly every night to make sure no illegal transactions are occurring on the premises. I also know of people who won't go out to the bars because they don't want to see that kind of stuff going on. And yes, it goes on in straight bars all the time too and anyone who says otherwise is just not paying attention.

This isn't an anti-drug sermon, but it is an anti-drug in our bars sermon.

And puleeeze don't give me that "Well if the dealers would stop" stuff, because the people selling the stuff would not be hanging around if there weren't customers willing to buy their wares. IF YOU are one of those customers, you are just as guilty.

And I also don't want to hear that "they don't really care" trash either. The truth is that there isn't a bar owner anywhere in our community who, in a heart beat, won't kick out those who are selling or buying. The problem is that they can't be everywhere at once and

it's up to their customers to let them know who is risking their licenses.

Let's give everyone a break here. Some of us need to realize that the only transactions that should take place in a bar are the over the counter ones where we buy beverages.

Bottom line if you are buying the stuff do it elsewhere. If you aren't but you see something suspicious going on, report it to the bartender/manager/owner or all of the above. *Let's give our bars a break.*

Speaking of breaks, I had better get this column in to give our proofreader a break. I hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!

Dusty who loves Birthday parties - as long as they are for someone else, would love to hear about what's happening at your favorite hangout. Give him a call at (414) 226-0075 a fax at (414) 226-0096 or an email at dusty@willight.com

Nights out Events

20 **thu.** Millennium Men, Rainbow Room (Madison)

22 **sat.** Leather Swap Meet, Woody's (Milwaukee): Great Lakes Harley Riders, WI Mr. LeatherMan Prod., and Men

in Boots Club Intl. present the 4th annual Leather Swap, with vendors and individuals selling, buying and trading their gear. \$5 Beer and Soda bust, raffle of leather items. Free space for individuals. Also, kick off of ARCW Food Pantry Drive. Evening followed by after-hours party. 8pm-?

23 **sun.** The Wrath of Desiree, Club 5 (Madison): Show featuring Madison entertainers, 10:30pm.

27 **thu.** Amateur Strip Contest, Club 5 (Madison): \$100 grand prize, hosted by Desiree.

29 **sat.** Dish, BestD Clinic (Milwaukee): Free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling, from 9pm-midnight.

30 **sun.** Levi/Leather Night, The Main Club (Superior): Last Saturday of each month.

18 & Up Night, Club 5 (Madison): 9-close, last Sunday of every month. \$6 soda bash.

SuperBowl Sunday, Club 5 (Madison): Free buffet, door prizes, beer bash.

SuperBowl Sunday, Switch (Milwaukee): Open at 3pm, \$5 beer bust, \$1 off cocktails; free shots when YOUR team scores, half-time buffet and Tight End Contest.



WLight BAR GUIDE

| APPLETON (920) | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Rascal's Bar & Grill | MW, F | 702 E. Wisconsin, 54991 | 954-9262 |
| BELOIT (608) | | | |
| Kloset | MW, DJ | 232 Shirland Ave, 53511 | 363-8764 |
| CENTRAL WISCONSIN (715) | | | |
| Oz | MW, DJ | 320 Washington, Wausau, 54401 | 842-3225 |
| Platwood Club | G/S, MW, DJ | 1730 Hwy 10W, Stevens Point, 54481 | 341-8862 |
| EAU CLAIRE (715) | | | |
| Scooters | Wm | 411 Galloway St., 54703 | 835-9959 |
| Wolf's Den | MW, G/S | 302 E. Madison, 54703 | 832-9237 |
| GREEN BAY (920) | | | |
| Brandy's II | Mw | 1126 Main St., 54302 | 437-3917 |
| Buddies | MW | 1264 Main St, 54302 | 437-9256 |
| Napalese Lounge | MW, DJ | 1351 Cedar, 54302 | 432-9646 |
| Sass | WM, Sp | 840 S. Broadway, 54304 | 437-7277 |
| Za's/Java' | MW, DJ, E, F, V | 1106 Main St., 54302 | 435-5476 |
| RESTAURANTS | | | |
| Cafe Bourbon | | 1106 Main St., Upper, 54301 | 435-5476 |
| LA CROSSE (608) | | | |
| Cavalier Lounge | MW, J, DJ | 114 N. 5th St., 54601 | 782-9061 |
| Rainbow's End | Wm, J, E | 417 Jay St., 54601 | 782-9802 |
| My Place | Mw, J, K, E, F | 3201 South Ave., 54601 | 788-9073 |
| MADISON (608) | | | |
| CE's | W,m | 2415 Winnebago St. 53704 | 241-5042 |
| Club 5/Planet Q | MW, F, DJ, V, E | 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 | 277-9700 |
| Fox Hole | W, J | 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 | 277-9700 |
| Mens Room | M, L/L | 3054 E. Washington, 53704 | 241-9335 |
| Rainbow Room | MW, DJ, E | 121 W. Main St., 53703 | 251-5838 |
| Ray's Bar & Grill | WM, DJ, F | 3054 E. Washington, 53704 | 241-9335 |
| Shamrock | MW, F, J | 117 W. Main St., 53703 | 255-5029 |
| The Barracks | M, L/L | 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 | 277-8700 |
| RESTAURANTS | | | |
| Club 5 | Fine Dining | 5 Applegate Ct., 53713 | 277-9700 |
| Fyfe's Corner Bistro | Fine Dining | 1344 E. Washington | 251-8700 |
| MILWAUKEE (414) | | | |
| 1100 Club | M, L/L, F, J | 1100 S. 1st St., 53204 | 647-9950 |
| Ballgame | M, S, E, J | 196 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 273-7474 |
| <i>(Open 2pm, Cocktail Hour 2-9 Mon-Fri; Sat & Sun open 11am)</i> | | | |
| Barbie Dolls Playhouse | MW, E, K, D | 700 E. Meinecke, 53212 | 374-7441 |
| Boot Camp | M, L/L | 209 E. National Ave., 53204 | 643-6900 |
| C'est La Vie | M, E, J, D | 231 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 291-9600 |
| <i>(Open 5pm, Cocktail Hour 5-8 Mon-Fri; Sat & Sun open 2pm, Daily Specials)</i> | | | |
| Club 219 | Mw, DJ, E, V | 219 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 276-2711 |
| Dish | W, M, DJ | 235 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 273-DISH |
| Emeralds Lounge | MW | 801 E. Hadley St., 53212 | 265-7325 |
| Fannies | Wm, DJ, E, K | 200 E. Washington St., 53204 | 649-9003 |
| Fluid | MW | 819 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 645-8330 |
| <i>(Open 5pm everyday; 2-for-1 Drinks 5-8 Mon-Fri; Wed & Thur specials, 8pm-close)</i> | | | |
| Kathy's Nut Hut | Wm, Sp, J | 1500 W. Scott St., 53204 | 647-2673 |
| La Cage | Mw, DJ, E, V | 801 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 383-8330 |
| <i>(Open 8pm; DJ 7-nights-a-week; Sunday show; Thur. Super Bust)</i> | | | |
| M&M Club | MW, E, F | 124 N. Water St., 53202 | 347-1962 |
| Milw Eagle/Shaft | M, L/L, DJ | 300 W. Juneau, 53203 | 273-6900 |
| South Water St. Docks | M, L/L, J | 354 E. National Ave., 53204 | 225-9676 |
| Station 2 | Wm, Sp, J | 1534 W. Grant, 53204 | 383-5755 |
| Switch | Mw, Sp, J, K, DJ | 124 W. National, 53204 | 220-4340 |
| <i>(Open 5pm, outdoor patio, Cocktail hour 5-9pm, nightly specials 9-close)</i> | | | |
| This Is It | Mw | 418 E. Wells St., 53202 | 278-9192 |
| <i>(Open 3pm every day; Cocktail hour special)</i> | | | |
| Triangle | M | 135 E. National Ave., 53204 | 383-9412 |
| Woody's | M, J | 1579 S. 2nd St., 53204 | 672-0806 |
| RESTAURANTS | | | |
| Annex Cafe | Late Nite | 1106 S. 1st St., 53204 | 384-7999 |
| Glass Menagerie | Fine Dining | 124 N. Water St., 53202 | 347-1962 |
| RACINE/KENOSHA (414) | | | |
| Club 94 | MW, DJ, E | 9001 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 | 857-9958 |
| Clubhouse Filling Station | MW, F | 6325 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 | 857-3744 |
| Capers/Illusions | MW, DJ, E | 6305 120th Ave., Kenosha, 53140 | 857-3813 |
| JoDee's | MW, DJ | 2139 Racine St., Racine, 53403 | 634-9804 |
| What About Me? | MW | 600 6th St., Racine, 53403 | 632-0171 |
| SHEBOYGAN (920) | | | |
| Blue Lite | MW | 1029 N. 8th St., 53081 | 457-1636 |
| SUPERIOR (715) | | | |
| Bev's Jook Joint | Wm, J | 820 Tower Ave., 55880 | 392-5373 |
| JT's Bar & Grill | MW, DJ | 1506 N. 3rd St, 55880 | 394-2580 |
| Main Club | MW, L/L | 1217 Tower Ave., 55880 | 392-1756 |

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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attached. (414) 964-2203 5:30pm-10pm (Milwaukee).

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.

GWM seeks Men who want, need, and enjoy old-fashioned over the knee discipline. All limits respected. I'm 48, 5 ft. 7 in., 120 lbs, real skinny but top. Also seeking relationship with like-minded gentleman who enjoys and needs discipline. Respond to: masterg23@hotmail.com

GWM in Great Shape Straight acting and discreet. 6 ft. 3 inch, 225 lbs, very good looking. Drug and disease free. Looking for younger 18 plus for friends and possible LTR.: drewmke@netscape.net

Dad Seeks Lad You: healthy, clean, responsible, masculine, mid 20s to mid 30s. Me: all the above, DWM, 54. (look, act much younger) 5 ft. 10 in. Brown/Blue, 170, good looking (so I'm told). Many interests, high standards. Jon (414) 744-6286.

Tall, clean-cut handsome in-shape GWM 34, seeking sexy single men of color for dating, relationship. Very attracted to Black, Hispanic and Asian men. Seeking same in slender or athletic, attractive, under 40 year old package. Email: sinatra@execpc.com

Seeking Mystery, Intrigue and Romance GWM 31, 6 ft 2, 225 lbs brown/green non-smoker Willing and sincere seeks healthy proportionate GWM 38-50, hairy with conversation skills for mtn. biking, blading, theatre, outdoors, cooking, music, museums, history and psych. email: Holigan6@aol.com

Green Bay-Fox Cities WM, 6 ft, 1, 210 lbs, blond, blue, looking for guys interested in weight lifting, racquetball or friendship. email: daleDwin@hotmail.com

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.

GAM, 36, 5ft 7, 136lbs Average looking, seeking friends. I'm fun, sincere, likes to read books. Write: V. Baltazar, 2144 S. Aldrich St., Milwaukee, WI 53207.

Chicago Northside GWM 30's 5 ft. 10, 150 lbs, blond, blue, tan, clean cut. Looking to get naked with attractive in-shape versatile Black men at my place, no fats or femmes plz. Also looking to start weekly J/O sessions w/other w/e hot guys. Call (312) 661-9003.

Kenosha Furry Adventures Furry husky bearded Polish- Italian Top Polar Bear Gay Male, 47. 5 ft 10, 240 lbs, seeks adventure, fun good times with young bottoms any race (under 35 yrs old). Write detailed letter to: Rob, PO Box 2215, Kenosha, WI 53141.

Bisexuals

Closeted SWM Top, 5 ft 11 175 lbs. Seeks G/BI WM Bottom, must be very oral, clean, discreet, for daily cuddling. Love tight jeans that show attributes. Also love the feel of nylons on my skin. More info call (414) 963-6108.

Men for Men

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

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. I Have a pic to trade. E-mail: havencroft@hotmail.com

Mid-40's Milwaukee professional, ht/wt proportionate, looking for friends and? I have a wide variety of interests: sports to theater, festivals to staying at home and cuddling. Enjoy good friends, good conversation, experiencing new things and having fun in a variety of ways. email: tri111@aol.com

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

Passionate?... always. Kisses?... long and tender. GWM 34, 6 ft., 180 lbs, blond hair, green eyes. Intense masculine, sexy and your Mr. Right. HIV+ looking for soulmate/ partner under 40. I dream in color...how about you? (Eau Claire) cubbbies@hotmail.com

Men of Quality GWM seeking men who enjoy theatre, museums, movies, travel, dinner and romance. I am a humorous conversationalist with many varied interests. Statistics: 5 ft., 9 in., 162 lbs. All letters answered. Occupant, PO Box 1162, Waukesha, WI 53186.

SWGM, 52, Attractive, 5 ft. 11 in., 180, d/d free, smoker, Brown/ Brown, mustache and goatee, seeks mature masculine intelligent man. No marrieds or

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- ▼ Labor
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- ▼ Tenant's Rights

405-Internet

Best Gay Websites www.gaysex2000.com (Spy Cams)/ www.marinestuds.com (Hot Naked Studs)/ www.gay-chat.com (Free online chat).

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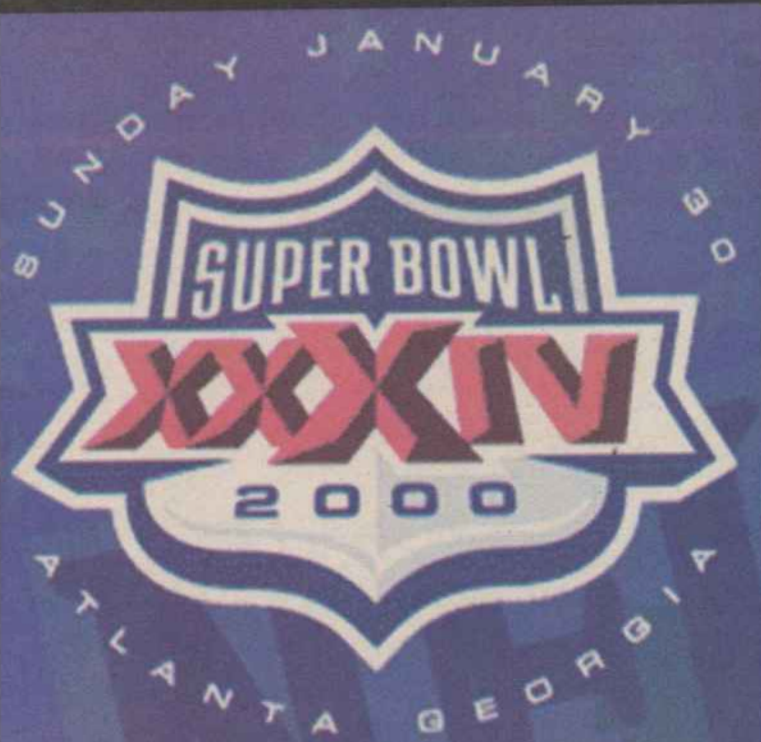
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