

WI Light

Vol. 13 • No. 15

The Weekly Voice of Wisconsin's LGBT Community

March 8 - 14, 2000

WOMEN

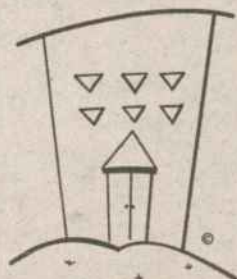


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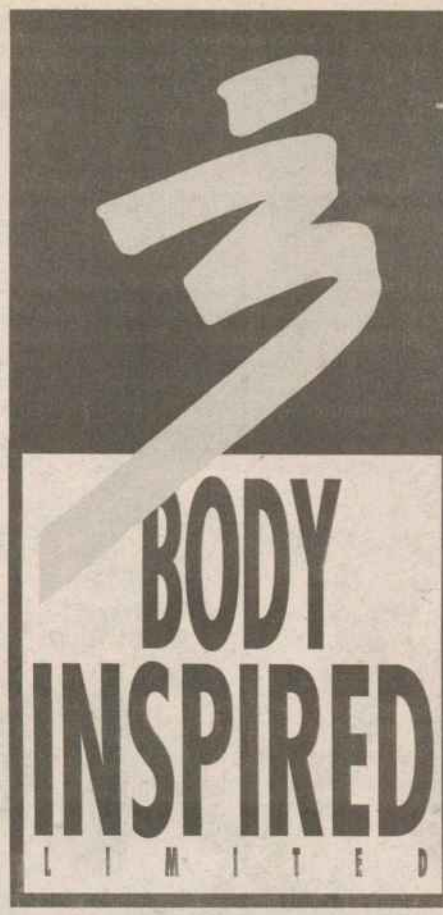
272-2144

HIV TESTING AT:

1100 Club
1100 S. 2nd St.
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10pm - 1am

C'est La Vie
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WI Light

March 8 - 14, 2000

Contents

WI News	4
Community	5
Next Best Thing	7
If These Walls Could Talk	8
Politically Speaking	9
Health	10
Cinema Reviews	11
Theatre Reviews	13
Gotcha	14
The Gay Agenda	15 - 17
Horoscope	18
Marketplace	19

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www.wilight.com**AP** Associated Press**National NEWS****DP Bill Advances In VT**

Montpelier, VT - The Vermont House Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly approved a bill that would create "civil unions" for same sex couples. The bill grants all of the benefits and rights of marriage the state can legally offer.

"I'm incredibly proud of what we've done," said State Rep. William Lippert after House Judiciary Committee voted 10-1 to approve the bill. Lippert, the only openly Gay member of the Vermont Legislature, made the motion to recommend the bill. The lone dissenting vote came from Rep. William Mackinnon, who backed allowing same sex couples to marry.

The legislation is in response to a Vermont Supreme Court ruling that prohibitions on Gay marriages violate the State Constitution's "common benefits clause." The Court told the legislature to either legalize Gay marriage or come up with an alternative that allows same sex couples the same legal standing as that enjoyed by married heterosexual couples.

First Lady to March in Gay Parade

New York, NY - First Lady Hillary Clinton left no doubt as to where she stands on New York's St. Patrick Day Parade controversy. This weekend Mrs. Clinton became the first resident of the White House to march in a Gay parade, when she joined in an alternative Gay St. Patrick's Day march.

The controversy swirls around the refusal of the traditional St. Patrick's Day parade to allow the Irish Gay and Lesbian organization, ILGO to march with it down New York's Fifth Avenue. ILGO took the parade sponsors, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, to court over its exclusion of openly Gay Irish people. ILGO's suit was rejected.

Mrs. Clinton originally planned to march in the traditional parade. When told of the controversy, however, she said that she would join the alternative march adding that she will skip the traditional march unless it is inclusive. Clinton's opponent for New York's Senate's seat, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was also invited to the alternative parade. He declined to attend.

Officials Remove Textbook Mentioning Gays

Naples, FL - Collier County school officials yanked a European history textbook from a high school class after a teacher raised questions about its references to homosexuality.

Barron Collier High School teacher Terry Walters objected to "graphic descriptions of alternative and aberrant sexual practices during the Renaissance" in Houghton Mifflin Co.'s *A History of Western Society*.

Homosexuality is discussed in nine passages in the 1,063-page textbook, which is used in an advance placement class offering college credit for students who pass a national exam.

"What really troubled me was the description of the 40-year-old guy with the 15-year-

old boy," Walters said.

"No one, including gay-rights advocates, want that idea promoted," Walters said. The decision to pull the book comes as the school district considers whether Gays should be protected by an anti-harassment policy. Jack Bovee, social studies coordinator for Collier schools, said the class could have used two other district-approved textbooks for the course.

Margaret Sherry, a spokeswoman for Boston-based Houghton Mifflin, said she was not aware of any other complaints about the book used in colleges and high school advance placement courses. Houghton Mifflin found some older editions of the textbook and delivered them to Barron Collier two weeks ago.

MTV Pulls Bashing Video

New York, NY - The Starr Report by Michael Starr reports that MTV under pressure from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, has yanked a video by The Bloodhound Gang that featured Gay bashing. *The Bad Touch* made by Blood Hound gang aired once on Feb. 7 to promote the U.K. group's new alternative rock album, *Hooray For Boobies*.

In the video, the group is walking around Paris when they see two men dressed as sailors, feeding each other French-Fries with their arms intertwined. The "sailors," who are portrayed as Gay are then attacked by the group and beaten up.

GLAAD officials immediately contacted MTV to lodge a protest. "We realize that the 'Bad Touch' video is a satire, but there's nothing satiric about a gay-bashing in any form, so we asked MTV to pull the video," says GLAAD spokesman Scott Seomin. Insiders say MTV has promised to re-edit the video before airing it again.

Bradley's Blast Dr. Laura

The Internet - In separate appearances on GAYBC internet radio Presidential candidate Bill Bradley and his wife Ernestine blasted radio shock jock Dr. Laura Schlessinger over her on the air anti-Gay remarks. Dr. Laura, who holds a degree in physiology not psychiatry, has called Gays "biological mistakes" and "deviants."

During his appearance on the Michelangelo Signorile show, Bradley said Dr. Laura's viewpoint on homosexuality, "makes me sick to my stomach." He added his agreement with those who say that Paramount should drop plans to syndicate a Dr. Laura TV show.

"I bet that there are enough gays and lesbians in Paramount, making it a good company today, that Paramount would not have its own interests served by continuing this sort of thing," Bradley said. "So, I think it should go off."

Ernestine Bradley made similar remarks when Signorile interviewed her last week. But Bradley and his wife part ways on the topic of Gay marriage. In response to a question on Gay marriage during an appearance at Mills Collage in Oakland California, Ms. Bradley said, "Gay marriage is the one question in which Bill has not seen the light of day... Bill is very much in favor of, and has a record of voting that all gay and lesbian partnerships should have all the benefits (marriage conveys). The thing he has to grow a little bit on is the actual act of marriage."

Internet Activists Blast Laura

The Internet - *Salon* reports that a new web site, **StopDrLaura.com** is designed to build "a coalition against hate," say its sponsors. The web site is promoting a campaign to keep the controversial radio show host off the TV airwaves.

StopDrLaura features some of her more notable quotes on the subject of Gays and Lesbians such as her announcement that Gays are "products of a biological disorder" and "I call homosexual practices deviant."

The Anti-Dr. Laura site asks visitors to "flood Paramount with calls to stop Dr. Laura," and provides a phone number for chairman Kerry McCluggage.

"Dr. Laura is free to malign any minority she chooses, but Paramount Television is not required to aid and abet in the destruction of our civil rights and the denial of our humanity," says the site. "In the names of Matthew Shepard, Brandon Teena, PFC Barry Winchell, Allen Schindler, Billy Jack Gaither - in the name of every one of us - please take a stand against hate."

Also on the site, David Lee Emmy-winning executive producer of Paramount TV's *Frasier* says: "I think it is outrageous that Paramount chooses to be in business with a woman who is, I think, literally dangerous to the Gay community. She may not have a club in her hand, but she encourages an atmosphere where those who do wield weapons feel free to use them."

Internet guru John Aravosis of Wired Strategies is behind the new site. He says that Dr. Laura's blasting of Gays is not protected free speech. "If someone called a Jew a biological error, you think they'd get a TV show? I don't think so. When you defame African-Americans, it's racism. You defame gay people, it's free speech."

Website provides Info Source to Gay Voters

New York, NY - Super Tuesday 2000 marks the launch of GayVote.com (<http://www.gayvote.com>), a non-partisan website by Silicon Alley-based Mediapolis. GayVote.com, first launched for the 1998 elections, is the nationwide source for facts on presidential, House and Senate and gubernatorial candidates, their stands on gay issues, coverage of gay political news and online community political forums. The site will also feature the country's most prominent lesbian and gay writers with their takes on regional and national political races.

GayVote.com will take the pulse of lesbian and gay voters with exclusive surveys and polls and will question candidates on issues that matter to gay voters. Candidates will present their positions on controversial issues such as the Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy; state and local hate crimes legislation; the legislative battle to end discrimination in employment and housing; the legalization of gay marriage and the rights of lesbian and gay parents to adopt.

Throughout election 2000, GayVote.com will cover the campaign trail, track election results and publish breaking news from the primaries to the November elections.

Continue on Page 4

National NEWS

Continued from Page 3

The site will provide ratings of the candidates by groups promoting lesbian and gay civil rights such as the Human Rights Campaign (<http://www.hrc.org>) and groups opposing gay civil rights such as the Christian Coalition (<http://www.cc.org>).

"GayVote.com is at the center of a dynamic, active gay political online community," said Alan Emtage, GayVote.com project leader. "The site will allow people to easily locate information about presidential candidates and candidates right in their home district."

GayVote.com is produced with Mediapolis' exclusive Iowa™ software technology. With Iowa™, campaign news, up-to-the-minute election results and polling data can be published immediately, at the press of a button. Iowa™ is completely scalable, allowing GayVote.com to grow rapidly without any architectural limitations. Gay organizations such as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

NGLTF Calls For Investigation

Washington, DC - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is calling for a US Justice Department probe into the killing of Amadou Diallo, a Western African immigrant who died on Feb. 4, 1999 after New York Police officers shot him 19 times (out of 41 bullets fired). The officers were

acquitted of second-degree murder charges by a jury in Albany, 150 miles north of the Bronx, where the incident occurred.

According to testimony offered at the officers' trial, Diallo was shot after holding up his wallet, which officers said they mistook for a gun. "This case - and others that have preceded it - raises questions that warrant a U.S. Justice Department review," said NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel. "The Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender community (GLBT) in both New York City and across the country has been affected by police brutality and racism.

Ms. Lobel issued her statement even though the Justice Department announced that an investigation into the Diallo murder is already underway following the not guilty verdict. Last week a spokesman of the US Justice Department said its investigators were looking at whether the officer violated Diallo's civil rights. If the Department finds that they did, the officers could face federal charges



Action Wisconsin AW President Testifies Against Internet Filtering Bill

Madison - On March 2, Action Wisconsin President Dan Ross testified against AB 266 before the Senate Committee on Education. AB 266 is a bill which requires Internet filtering software to be installed on all computers in schools that receive funding from

the TEACH program (a state program to help schools and libraries get Internet access). The bill's author, Rep. Michael Huebsch (R-West Salem), accompanied by a representative of a filtering software manufacturer, testified that advances in filtering software meant that such software would not unduly block non-pornographic sites.

However, Ross presented examples to the committee of how that particular software blocked all or part of non-pornographic sites related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered civil rights; State of Wisconsin sites on HIV/AIDS statistics and on teen pregnancy; a chapter of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and the text of Reggie White's speech before the State Assembly. He also explained to the committee how despite this overly broad text-based blocking, the software still could not guarantee that pornographic images would be blocked.

AB 266 had previously passed the State Assembly 76-23 on October 6, 1999, the Senate Committee has not taken any action on it.

Definition of Marriage Bills Introduced

Madison - Wisconsin has now had a "Definition of Marriage" bill introduced, as 1999 Assembly Bill 781 and 1999 Senate Bill 401. They have been assigned, respectively, to the Assembly Committee on Family Law and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs. They have not yet been scheduled for public hearings, and the portion of the legislative session dealing with new bills ends on March 30th. You are still encouraged to write your state representa-

tive and state senator in opposition to these bills.

The language of these identical bills defines marriage as being between one man and one woman, and refuses Wisconsin recognition of "marriage other than between one man and one woman" regardless of their validity in other jurisdictions. (Current law defines marriage as being between "husband and wife".)

It is NOT the same language as 1997 AB 104, which prohibited "marriages between people of the same sex". However, the intent is the same: a response to make sure that same-sex marriage is not recognized in Wisconsin, should another state decide to recognize it.

Cosponsors of both bills are identical, and are: Representatives Gundrum, Ladwig, Musser, Wood, Seratti, Albers, Gunderson, Grothman, Leibham, F. Lasee, Kestell, Owens, Jensen, Pettis, Goetsch, Freese, Nass, Suder, Kreibich, Vrakas, Urban, Petrowski, Huebsch, Hoven and Klusman.

Senators Fitzgerald, A. Lasee, Huelsman, Schultz, Roessler, Farrow, Drzewiecki, Zien and Lazich.

Domestic Partnership Lobby Day Planned

Madison - Action Wisconsin and Rep. Mark Pocan are planning a citizen's Lobby Day at the Capitol in Madison, in support of legislation recognizing domestic partnerships in Wisconsin. The day has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday, April 13th, and would consist of lobby training, issue briefing, and legislator visits in the morning, and a "people's hearing" on the topic in the afternoon.

In the mean time, Action Wisconsin encourages you to write your representative and senator in support of Assembly Bills 608 and 609. AB608 would create a statewide domestic partnership registry, with most of the rights and responsibilities of marriage; AB 609 would provide health insurance for domestic partners of state employees.

Local Elections and Presidential Primary, Tuesday, April 4th

Many local government bodies, including some county boards and school boards, are holding general elections on Tuesday, April 4th. Wisconsin's Presidential Primary will also be on the April 4th ballot. Call your city/village/town clerk for information on polling locations.

NOW is the time to talk to candidates on the issues that matter to you, so that you'll be prepared for the April election!

Action Wisconsin: A Congress for Human Rights, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots, statewide organization dedicated to advancing and protecting the civil rights of Wisconsin's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered citizens and their families. Membership is open to all who support this goal. Visit their web site or call for more information.

Action Wisconsin: A Congress for Human Rights, Inc. PO Box 342, Madison, WI 53701-0342. (608) 283-3251 (voicemail) email: ActionWI@execpc.com WebPage: <http://www.execpc.com/~dross/aw/>

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- San Diego Gay & Lesbian Times



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AIDS Benefit

LaCrosse - The LaCrosse AIDS Benefit was started by Michael Hansen in 1995. With the help of his friends and many volunteers, his suggestion to raise money for those with HIV and AIDS has grown from the first year.

They had auctions, bake walks, button sales, variety shows and many other fund-raisers each year.

Through their efforts, they raised over \$34,000 that went to Lutheran and St Francis Hospices for the use of HIV and AIDS patients.

The AIDS Benefit 2000, is to be held at the LaCrosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, LaCrosse, WI, on Saturday, June 3, 2000, will be bigger and better than any in the past. Suggested donation, \$7.00 tennis season for the Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club. Take your rackets out of the closet and come to an informational meeting of the MMTC on Saturday, March 25, from 2 - 4 pm at North Shore Elite Tennis Club at 5750 N. Glen Park Road (behind Concourse motors on silver spring rd.) to get rated by a tennis pro to determine your level of play in the team tennis league. Beer and soda will be served and board members will be there to answer your questions. The cost for this event will be \$10 per person.

Tennis Time!

Milwaukee - It's that time again when the weather starts heating up and so does the new tennis season for the Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club. Take your rackets out of the closet and come to an informational meeting of the MMTC on Saturday, March 25, from 2 - 4 pm at North Shore Elite Tennis Club at 5750 N. Glen Park Road (behind Concourse Motors on Silver Spring Rd.) to get rated by a tennis pro to determine your level of play in the team tennis league. Beer and soda will be served and board members will be there to answer your questions. The cost for this event will be \$10 per person.

This year the club anticipates eight or nine teams to be involved in league play and all levels of competition are available. This allows for members of the same skill level to play other members with similar skills. Last year proved to be a very fun and rewarding year of improving tennis skills, having fun, and meeting new friends. Each team will consist of players from all levels of play.

The MMTC is a member of the GLTA, a national organization of Gay and Lesbian tennis clubs around the world. Many of these clubs host their own tournaments throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Many of the members of the MMTC play in these tournaments and can attest to the great fun to be had in the host cities, as well as, the competitive play involved in these tournaments. The first tournament many of the members will be going to are Louisville over the Memorial Day weekend and Minneapolis during the second weekend of June.

The first week of team tennis is set for April 30, from 1 - 3pm at Sijan Park on Kinickinnic road. The club provides balls for each of the matches. League play will be held almost every Sunday throughout the summer at Sijan park but members are not expected to play every week. The cost to

join the MMTC is only \$20 for the entire summer season. Sign up sheets will be available at the March 25 indoor tennis event at North Shore Elite Tennis Club. If you cannot make this event or need more information concerning the league, please call Rick at 463-9849, or Gary Ozuna at 562-4340.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

Numerous things are happening every day at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. As always the Community Center invites you to participate in any and all of their programs.

Every other Saturday night you can go to the Center for a free screening of a movie. March 11th - *Love, Valour, and Compassion* March 25th - *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* Movies are shown at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (located at 170 S. 2nd street) from 7pm - 9pm. Come early or linger afterwards to browse the library.

Another interesting program is the Rainbow U Lecture Series 2000.

Plan on attending these free, interesting and informative presentations by local, state, and national speakers. The next lecture: *The 'other' lube job - Queers and Cars 101*. How to buy and maintain your vehicle. Auto advice and tips from Leo Quartullo of Baychar Auto. This will be held on March 30 at the Community Center. Our lecture on April 20th: the lecture is *Gardening in the City* - Simple tips to making your yard or balcony into a horticultural showcase. Presentation by Michael Davis of the Garden Room. Questions or additional information is always happily given by calling (414) 271-2656.

OutReach

Madison - OutReach, Madison's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community center will hold a training session for those who wish to become peer counselor volunteers. The first training session will be Saturday, March 25.

OutReach's peer counselors operate an information, referral, and counseling hotline, check out library books, and help with general office tasks. These services are available 9am to 9pm, Monday through Friday.

Each volunteer is responsible for a three-hour shift per week. Those interested in becoming an OutReach peer-counseling volunteer should contact Callen Harty at (608) 255-8582 by Friday, March 17.

"Our peer-counselors are the heart of OutReach. They help thousands of people every year with coming-out, relationships, medical referrals, everything. They're an incredible group," said Harty.

Peer counselor training's typically include three sessions held over several days. The sessions include instruction on counseling techniques, role-plays, and familiarization with information resources.

The OutReach LGBT Community Center has served Madison's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community since 1973, providing counseling, advocacy, education, information and referral services. Recently, the agency launched three new youth groups and substantially expanded its lending library. It also offers free publications, and meeting space. For more information, contact OutReach at (608) 255-8582 or emailoutreach@outreachinc.com.

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We'll rock on the water
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And hold you while angels,
sing you to sleep*

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*as sung by Chris Williams

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Milwaukee Organizes for March on Washington

Members of the Millennium March on Washington - Milwaukee Committee (MMOW-Milwaukee) have initiated a campaign to raise local and statewide participation in the April 30 March on Washington.

MMOW-Milwaukee is hosting an informational Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (170 S. Second Street/Downtown Mini Warehouse building). Information available will include travel and accommodation options (including a chartered bus) as well as information on March activities.

"We see this event as a tremendous opportunity to build the strength and visibility of the LGBT community on a national level," said MMOW-Committee spokesperson Patrick Flaherty. "It is also an opportunity to celebrate our most recent local victories: the continued growth of the LGBT Community Center, a domestic partner registry, and increased awareness of community issues and concerns."

The Millennium March on Washington is scheduled for the weekend April 28 through April 30. Events include a Holocaust Museum Symposium scheduled for April 28, the Equality Rocks concert scheduled for April 29, (featured entertainment: Melissa Etheridge, Petshop Boys, k.d.lang, Garth Brooks and others), and April 30 March & Rally.

The MMOW-Milwaukee is focused on raising local awareness of the March, arranging cost-effective travel options, fundraising to support the inclusion of all LGBT people and organizing Wisconsin's role in the March.

Anyone interested in supporting the efforts of the group is invited to attend committee meetings scheduled every other Thursday beginning March 16th at 6pm. Contributions to support the inclusion and participation of youth, seniors and persons with limited income are welcome. They may be sent in care of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Additional March on Washington information is available through the MMOW InfoLine at 271-2656, ext. 3 or by e-mailing MilwaukeeMMOW@yahoo.com.

Log Cabin Republicans

Oppose Anti-Bush Ads

Milwaukee - The Wisconsin chapter of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR-WI) has announced that it does not support the decision of the national board of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) to run radio advertisements which attack Governor George W. Bush. LCR-WI was never consulted when the national board deliberated over this issue and strongly disagrees with the decision.

The national board of LCR announced that it is launching a multi-state radio ad campaign which would state that Bush "said he would not meet with gay Republicans, and worse, he wouldn't hire them." The ad also states "Then Bush went to Bob Jones University, a place that preaches intolerance against the Catholic Church, gays and minorities, and he aligned himself with Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell". The ad does not mention Bush's main rival, Senator John McCain, at all.

LCR-WI has maintained all along that LCR

should not endorse either major candidate for the Republican nomination, and should remain neutral, since a large number of members are supporting Bush. "But this ad campaign against Governor Bush is tantamount to an endorsement of Senator McCain," said Scott Evertz, President of LCR-WI. "It mimics the unfair attacks on Bush which have been coming from the McCain campaign concerning Bob Jones University, and throws in others relating to Log Cabin," he continued.

LCR-WI notes that the ad is clearly designed to influence the outcome of the primary elections, not to educate voters. It does not, for instance, take Senator McCain to task for inconsistently endorsing California's Knight Initiative, which would ban same sex marriages, when McCain would not weigh in on the Confederate flag issue in South Carolina, saying it should be left up to the voters of that state. Bush has consistently refused to endorse state initiatives, whether it be the Knight Initiative or the Confederate flag issue, although he, like McCain, opposes same sex marriage in his own state. Only an even-handed ad, which mentioned these issues, could be considered an ad designed to educate voters about the stands of the GOP candidates on lesbian/gay issues.

LCR-WI is also concerned about the inaccuracy of the radio ad. It inaccurately states that Bush has said he would not hire openly gay Republicans. "Bush has never said that," noted Jim McFarland, Political Director of LCR-WI. "Rather, he has made it clear in the various debates that he would not consider sexual orientation in making hiring decisions, but would only consider a person's merit and political views." Thus, McFarland believes, Bush would be willing to consider appointing an openly gay conservative Republican.

Finally, LCR-WI is concerned about the damage the ad campaign could do to efforts to meet with Bush and develop a dialogue with him should he become the Republican nominee. LCR-WI members who support Bush (most of the other LCR-WI members remain uncommitted) are convinced that Bush would have met with LCR after securing the nomination in preparation for the general election.

But Bush is not likely to look kindly on LCR after it launches an ad campaign clearly designed to hurt Bush's chances to win the nomination. "This could seriously damage efforts to build mutual trust between Governor Bush and LCR," LCR-WI Political Director McFarland noted. "LCR-WI wants Governor Bush and others in the Republican Party to know that there are many LCR members who do not support this divisive ad campaign, and we hope that he will recognize this should he win the nomination and let bygones be bygones when it is time to unite the party to win in November," LCR-WI President, Evertz said.

Name That Bar Pic #1



Spotlight Next Best Thing

Interviews with Madonna & Rupert Everett

by: **Tim Nasson**

Academy Award nominations have been announced for the upcoming March 26th show. And for the twelfth time in twenty odd years, (and tying Katherine Hepburn's record), **Meryl Streep** has gotten a nod. Why, you may be wondering did I bring this up while writing about forty-one year old Queen of Pop, **Madonna**? Well, it is for her role in *Music of the Heart* that Streep is nominated this year. And *Music of the Heart* is the movie that Madonna turned down to do this, *The Next Best Thing*, the film in which she gets pregnant by her best friend Robert, who happens to be gay and is played by openly gay actor **Rupert Everett**.

Ironically, it is Madonna who stole from Streep the role in the big screen adaptation of the Broadway hit *Evita*. As we all know, Madonna got snubbed by the Academy for her effort. "You win some and you lose some," said Madonna, when asked what her feelings were about being given the cold shoulder by the Academy, even though she won the Golden Globe for *Evita*.

Madonna has continued piling up awards in the music industry, of course, and most recently, last week, won a Grammy for writing and performing the song *Beautiful Stranger* for the film *Austin Powers 2*.

It is doubtful that Madonna will be recognized with a nomination from any group next year for her acting in *Next Best Thing*. (Madonna was just nominated for a Golden Raspberry Award, the spoof on the Oscars, for Worst Actress of the Century for her roles in both *Shanghai Surprise* and *Body of Evidence* (Wow she has come a long way). However, she should be given credit for taking on a role as the woman in a most unconventional family in a film that would make **George W. Bush's** head turn faster than **Linda Blair's** in *The Exorcist*. As for her disco remake of **Don MacLean's** *American Pie*, featured in *Next Best Thing*, (and only available on the soundtrack and not as a single) Madonna may just get her Academy Award. Wouldn't that be nice?" she asks rhetorically. "Of course, the song was not my idea for the film. It was Rupert's. He convinced me to remake it."

Madonna certainly has come a long way

in the almost twenty years that she has been in the spotlight. Changing her image more often than Cher gets plastic surgery, the Material Girl seems to be content at this juncture in her very successful career. And why not? She has a baby, a record company (Maverick), acts, sings, writes music, and keeps her beautiful figure with assistance from daily routines of yoga (which she shows off in *Next Best Thing*)

shows that they do have a heart and soul, Madonna will do much to clear the air for all the straight people who line up.

When asked about her friendship with Everett, whom she met fifteen years ago through ex-husband **Sean Penn**, she explains, "We're both minorities." Of course she is referring to Everett's homosexuality and her gender. "But we both love to shop."

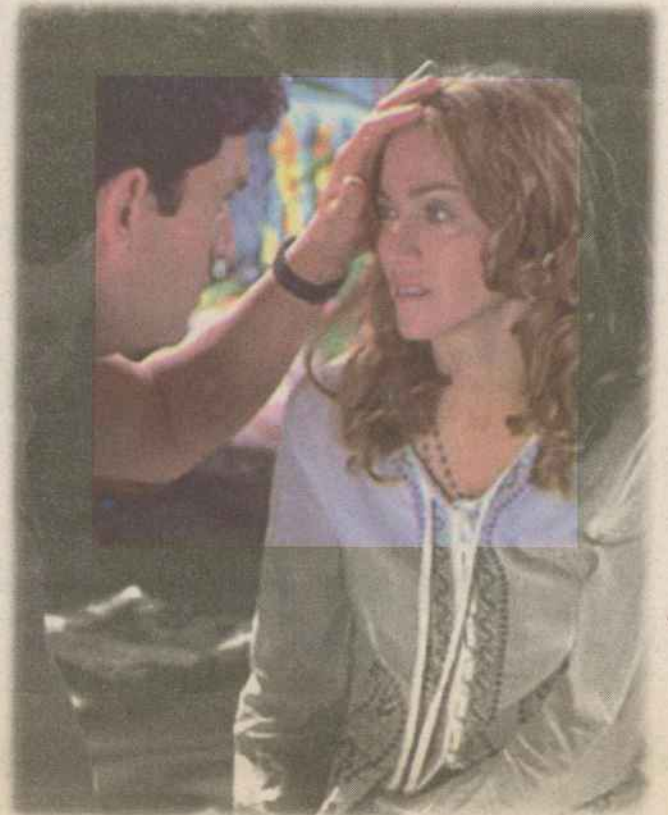
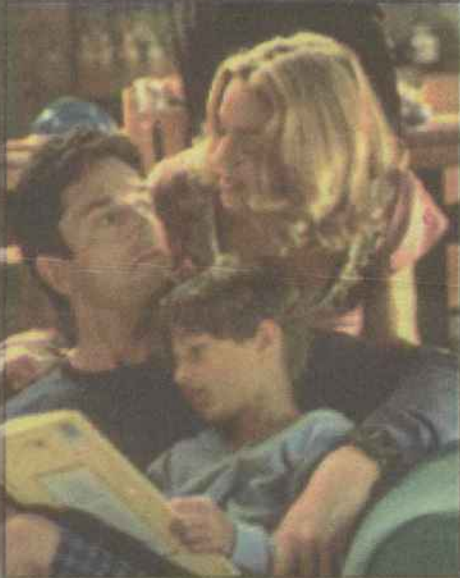
Next Best Thing is awash with gay men. Behind and in front of the camera. Openly gay, Academy Award winning director (Midnight Cowboy) John Schlesinger (who did not take part in the interviews due to a recent heart operation) takes the helm and "takes the audience on a unique ride," comments Everett.

Everett, a few days later, had lots to say.

"Yeah, I met Madonna fifteen years ago," he says, "but got to know her closely quite recently. Probably over the past three years. I am totally in awe of her. She started her career with a gimmick and then faded away for a couple of months and then comes back with a new gimmick. And this has gone on for seventeen years. She is such a voracious learner. I am

and other exercises. She is also in tune with her spiritual self.

Finally, she knows that she is idolized by the gay community and is pretty involved with it, even if, in some instances, indi-



rectly. Surely by starring in a film such as *Next Best Thing* which doesn't project gay men in a stereotypical fashion and which

almost as old as she is and don't understand how she can keep her tentacles out there on youth culture the way she has for

so long."

It seems that recently, Everett has been bursting into song in his films. In *My Best Friend's Wedding* he carries the tune *Say A Little Prayer*, in *Next Best Thing* he sings *American Pie* with Madonna, et al, and in an upcoming film from *Muriel's Wedding* and *My Best Friend's Wedding* director **P.J. Hogan**, Everett explains what he does. "I can't seem to get away from song," he says, laughing. "In my next film *Unconditional Love*, I break into song with, you know how it goes?" he asks, giggling and then singing, *I Can't Smile Without You*.

Seeing that being openly gay has not affected his career in a negative way, at all, I asked Everett where he sees himself in five years. "I'd love to be a James Bond," he admits and then explains that he is working on a screenplay that is "Bond like."

"Other than that I just see myself as a movie mogul" he jests. "I want to produce, write some more and act but not direct."

What about kids of his own? I asked him if Madonna and he ever talked about him fathering her next best thing. "God no. I mean, if I were to be a father to a child, I can't think of a better mother but I am too tall for her and my paternal feelings were ignited at the beginning of the film but quickly doused when I realized how much work it takes to be a parent."

SpotLight If These Walls Could Talk 2

Review by Mark J. Huisman

During the prelude to 1972, one of the segments in HBO's *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, there is a shot of a placard reading, "Women: The Largest Untapped Natural Resource." As HBO's talent roster for this popular series demonstrates, that is certainly no longer the case. The original *If These Walls Could Talk* featured a trio of stories about women and abortion, all set in the same house during different decades. *If These Walls Could Talk 2* follows that narrative construct with one exception: This time, lesbians rule the roost.

From a story by Sylvia and Alex Sichel *All Over Me* Martha Coolidge directs 1972, in which four college housemates, Linda (Michelle Williams), Jeanne (Natasha Lyonne), Karen (Nia Long) and Michelle (Amy Carlson), struggle to reconcile their lesbian sexuality and feminist politics.

Linda thinks it's possible "to have my freedom and be in love, too," but finds that belief tested when the four are booted from a campus women's group they helped found because their sexual orientation makes the other women uncomfortable.

Linda's own sexual taste comes into question when, during a visit to a local bar where butch/femme couples still stride the floor, she becomes attracted to Amy (Chloe

Sevingy), a slicked back butch wearing a pressed shirt and slacks, despite her pals' disgust. ("Tell me that's not a tie!" Karen exclaims.) While she gamely tries to act the part, however, Sevingy is woefully miscast. She lacks both the swaggering gait and imposing stature one expects of a butch and, as a result, what might have been a screen-burning pairing with Williams falls flat.

Sparing us yet another dull parenthood story, writer/director Anne Heche raucously examines the process by which two dykes get preggo. After ditching their intended gay sperm donors, (do either of you guys remember the zero parenting responsibility clause?) Kal (Ellen DeGeneres) drags her partner to a sperm bank, something about which Fran (Sharon Stone) is dubious: "What genius wants to jerk off in a cup for twenty-five bucks?"

Heche is wonderfully able to wring melancholy from humor, like the scene in

which Fran and Kal try to narrow the donor roster. "I don't have sperm," Kal says, gesticulating her way through a stack of profiles. "I'm freaking out because I don't have sperm."

"We'll never know what it would be like if just by our love we accidentally got pregnant," Kal continues, her hands blurring and her voice rising. "That we could say, 'Oops! Look what we did, out of our love!'"

"But we can't."

This is DeGeneres' finest work in years. Stone, who finally gets to skip sex with some sagging-ass man to enjoy nookie with a real-life dyke, is totally up to the task. Heche's dialogue sometimes

slips into soapbox but quickly recovers. But another problem isn't so easily remedied.

With the exception of Nia Long in 1972 and Regina King here (who plays a sperm bank director) there are no other single women of color on the roster: The leads, vast majority of supporting characters and the writers and directors are all white. I do not understand why writers and producers seem so reluctant today to create substantive non-white characters. And at the dawn of a new millennium, the inequity cries out to not only be addressed, but to be fixed. This program doesn't look like our community, and that's a shame.

Despite the craftsmanship and intelligence of 1972 and 2000, I have seldom seen a piece of filmmaking with such an intelligent sense of queer history and deep emotive honesty as writer/director Jane Anderson's 1961.

Heterosexual imagery cut to Doris Day's "Que Se Ra, Se Ra" fades into

The Children's Hour, at the very moment Martha (Shirley MacLaine) breaks down with guilt over her love for Karen (Audrey Hepburn). This image of hysteria widens to reveal that we are actually in a cinema, where two older women raptly watch the film.

These lovers, one with gray-streaked dark hair, the other with white hair neatly braided and pinned atop her head, lean on each other in silent support, one pair of hands clasped next to tear-dampened

cheeks. The pained understanding on their faces not only speaks volumes about the isolation and secrecy of their lesbian lives, but also reveals the depth of their love.

Quickly interrupted by some rowdy teenagers, the two lovers awkwardly separate: Hands fall to the side, and a canyon of space comes between their shoulders, they slouch down in their seats. Subtly and effectively, Anderson repositions a piece of cinema many of us that today find dated and hateful as document of a time during which real life lesbian love struggled to be heard and seen, often with disastrous results.

Back at the house they have shared for nearly fifty years, Edith (Vanessa Redgrave) makes tea and lays out their night clothing while Abby (Marian Seldes) checks the hatchlings in her birdhouse. When a freak accident sends Abby to the hospital, a frantic Edith is left in the waiting room, forbidden a bedside visit because she isn't family. The next morning, Edith discovers that Abby has died, although no one woke her, because she isn't family.

Edith notifies Abby's only relatives and quickly separates closets and bureaus into two rooms to look as though they were only roommates. Even treasured photos are taken from the walls. But no trauma compares to the crushing onslaught of slights Edith endures when Abby's bespectacled nephew (Paul Giamatti) and his wife (Elizabeth Perkins) arrive at the house after the funeral and instantly lay claim to everything, including the very house for which Abby and Edith paid together. (Even though Abby and Edith have agreed on many things, she is not mentioned in Abby's will and is, therefore, unprotected when she most needs protection.)

Had all the heterosexual actors who played queer characters in the past decade inhabited them with such tender honesty and depth of spirit as Seldes and Redgrave do here, critics like me would have had scant reason to complain. Only briefly on screen, Seldes shines as a woman who delights in her love for another woman. Scene after scene, gesture after gesture, Redgrave's work is among the most glorious portrayals of lesbian love ever recorded. Redgrave's portrayal is the first towering queer performance of this new century and, from this point forward, a new and gloriously high standard for every heterosexual actor who sets out to inhabit one of our queer souls.



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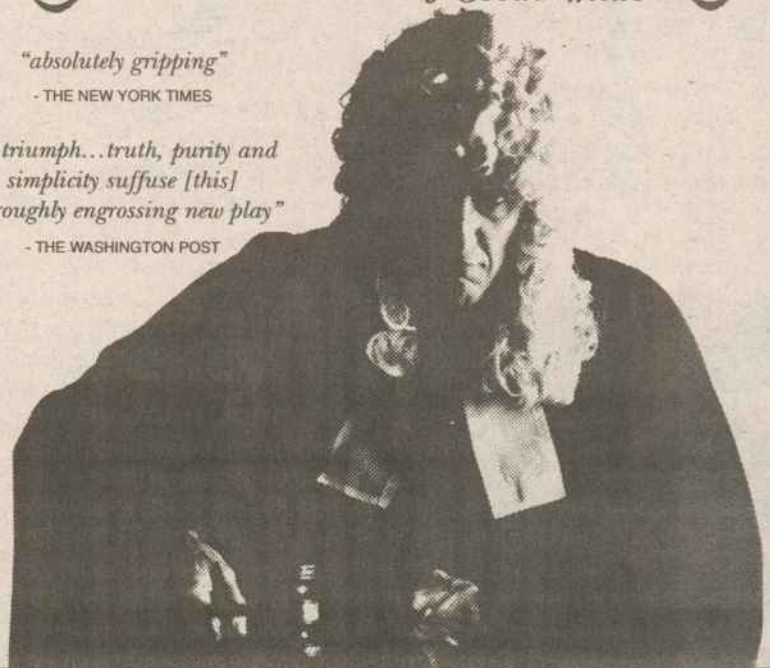
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Politically SPEAKING

A Three Ring Circus

By **Bill Meunier**

The four ring presidential circus is about to turn into a three-ring affair and possibly a two-ring event. The insurgent candidacies of both Senator John McCain and former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley appear headed for trouble.

On the GOP side of the arena, McCain is making lots of waves. Unfortunately for him they've largely been among independents and Democrats. Governor George W. Bush remains the likely nominee but he has been seriously wounded in quest to be the next resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington DC.

The Steve Forbes candidacy pushed the Texas Governor further to the right than he probably wanted to go (at least publicly.) But even Forbes would have had enough sense to avoid giving a speech at Bob Jones University.

Bob Jones is to Catholics what Jerry Falwell is to Gays. In his speech Bush said nothing about Jones' anti-Catholic remarks. (He once called Catholicism a "Satanic cult.") Nor did he mention the school's ban on interracial dating.

You can bet that come November, plenty of Catholics are going to hear about Bush and his little visit to Bigotry U. He may need their votes to take states like New York, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, all of which have large Catholic populations.

Add in the congressional scandal where the GOP picked a Protestant House Chaplain over a Catholic one, who had been recommended by the selection committee and you have trouble for the Republicans in a huge voting block.

McCain has been able to make the most of his bid because he's taken advantage of the American voter's willingness to vote for someone they like rather than a candidate they agree with. His feisty, "call 'em as I see 'em" image is hugely popular with the electorate.

Most Republicans, however, are less than thrilled. They like the Bush tax cut proposal. It's modeled on the Reagan tax cuts in the 1980's. Back then they called it trickle down economics, because it was supposed to trickle wealth down to the lower income people. In reality the lower income brackets were tinkled on, not trickled on and it wasn't money that came raining down.

The reality also was a tripling of the national debt. That's why this time it's rightly called "reckless" and potentially destructive to the healthiest economy in American history.

McCain was helped when the GOP a bunch of primaries up on the calendar. The idea was that the anointed one, Bush, would have a huge advantage because he had the most money and would be in a position to compete from coast to coast. The Democrats refused to play this game. They kept their primary dates in place, which gave their voters a chance to have a voice in the Republican contest. The lion's share of those that did voted for McCain.

Bush says those crossover voters are interfering with the Republican nomination process. With the polls show that McCain has

a much better chance to beating the Democrats than Bush does its much more likely that crossover voters find McCain to be more appealing than Bush.

That joy ride is coming to an end now. McCain faces a string of primaries where crossover votes from are not allowed. His blasts at the religious right, while right on target, will not help him in states where religious conservatives make up 25 to 40% of GOP primary voters. Unless he is able to find a way to appeal to Republicans, McCain won't get much further than he already has.

His demise will provoke tears and much gnashing of teeth at the Log Cabin Republican headquarters. Gay Republicans have flocked to McCain's banner, a fact that has truly puzzled many. McCain has voted against Gay civil rights at every opportunity. During his much-publicized meeting with the Log Cabin group, McCain told them that he doesn't agree with anything on their agenda. Just last week he announced his disagreement with "the Gay lifestyle."

For their part the Democrats are secretly dancing with glee over the prospect of facing George Bush. It's much easier to take on a guy who's raised over \$70 million from corporate interests when your party is embroiled in fundraising scandals. They should remember the lesson of 1980 and that guy no one thought could win, Ronald Reagan.

The Democratic race is winding down before it ever really heated up. Bill Bradley is no match for Al Gore. Anyone who wonders why should take in one of Bradley's speeches. Most people would rather watch paint dry than listen to that man drone on.

A challenger needs to make strong case in order to beat out the sitting VP for his party's nomination, especially in a healthy economy. Bradley hasn't come close to doing that.

What he has done is energize Al Gore, who is drawing enthusiastic responses from large crowds. After the March 7 primaries, it's likely that Bradley will either put his candidacy on hold or withdraw altogether. Gore backers are hoping that he doesn't put his new image and energy on hold.

What all this means is that after campaign spending about 300 million dollars, we are going to wind up with the same nominees everyone thought we would have before it all started with Bush against Gore.

Those who think of that as a waste would do well to take a closer look. The primaries bring out the best and the worst in candidates. This time around they've brought out a feisty Vice-President capable of showing emotion and a whining Texas Governor, who talks about inclusion and then denounces those who participate if they don't go his way and who apparently wouldn't know a bigot if one slapped him the face.

It should be an interesting fall.



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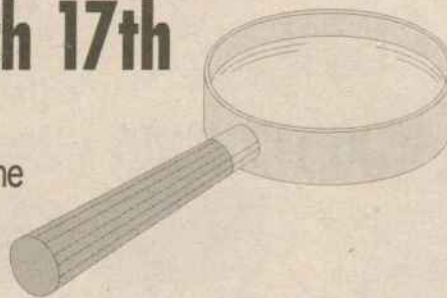
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Health Issues

New Tests for Cervical Cancer

The *New York Times* reports that new tests for cervical cancer may "replace the Pap smear because they make it easier to detect possibly cancerous cells and are more reliable." According to the *Times*, the Pap test can "overlook cancerous conditions in up to 30 percent of women who are at risk for cancer."

Two companies recently received patents for new approaches to cervical cancer screening. One of the tests, from Matritech, will improve upon the Pap test, by making cancerous and pre cancerous cells collected in a smear glow in the dark or turn red so technologists can identify them easily. Matritech's test was shown to be 100 percent effective in detecting cancerous and pre cancerous cells in two pre clinical studies, while a third study, published in the November-December 1999 issue of *Acta Cytologica*, found that the test identified cancerous cells in about 97 percent of the cases that were later marked as likely to develop into progressive cancer.

Meanwhile, the Digene Corp. developed a test that searches for evidence of specific strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is related to most cases of cervical cancer. Two recent studies published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* showed the test to be about 84 percent effective in detecting cancerous and pre cancerous cells.

Digene's test, however, is not recommended for younger women, since HPV is present in many young sexually active women whose bodies will naturally fight off the infection. Because of this, the test would supply many false-positive results.

Do Gender Differences in Viral Load Predict Differences in HIV Disease Progression?

Studies on the different viral load (VL) levels among men and women at a given level of HIV infection, HIV disease progression, or whether the differences are important in recommending gender-specific Viral Load level thresholds for initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART), have been inconclusive.

The study included HIV-infected, ART-naive men and women greater than or equal to 13 years of age who had at least one VL measurement. Combined data analyzed differences in VL by gender using VL assay type, CD4 count, form of transmission, age, race, and gender.

Although differences in Viral Load levels existed by gender prior to initiation of ART, these differences were not found to be associated with survival time to AIDS-Opportunistic Infection or death nor with the prognostic value of first VL on HIV disease progression. Data does not suggest a change in the treatment guidelines based upon gender and viral load at this time.

Time to AIDS, was similar for men and women, analyses resulted in a raised relative risk for AIDS in women. These results can be interpreted in two ways. First, results show directly that single measures of viral load are lower in women than in men, whereas time to

AIDS is similar for men and women, which implies that at the same viral load women have a higher risk of AIDS. Second, the same time to AIDS would be predicted at a lower viral-load threshold (about 50%) in women than in men.

Results are best interpreted not as showing differences in time to AIDS according to sex, but rather that there is a different relation between viral load and AIDS in men compared with women.

HIV-1 Superinfection and Acceleration of Disease

Another story coming out of the recent San Francisco conference reports that Canadian researchers described what appears to be the first report of HIV-1 "superinfection" that was followed by more rapid progression of HIV disease. The fact that HIV-1 infection does not necessarily result in resistance to subsequent infection has significant public health implications and emphasizes the importance of safer sexual practices between HIV-infected persons.

The Ottawa researchers reported on a case of a HIV positive male (Patient A) whose 8 year old infection was not progressing. The man had never received HIV medications and had undetectable HIV viremia levels in his blood. After initiation of a sexual relationship with a man with advanced HIV disease and extensive antiretroviral exposure (Patient B), Patient A quickly developed an increasing viral load and a declining CD4 Tcell count.

HIV RNA from Patient A's plasma specimens (A1) before "new" exposure; and sample A2 — plasma after "new" exposure; and Patient B (sample B plasma) were cloned, sequenced and analyzed.

The analysis proved all clones from sample A1 were unrelated to those from sample B. However, analysis of sample A2 revealed significant structure to sample B. All other clones from sample A2 were closely related to clones from sample A1.

Analyses from 12 unselected patients revealed that these were easily distinguishable from results from samples A1, A2 and B.

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Cinema Review

The Next Best Thing

Review by John Jahn

The *Next Best Thing* has a lot to recommend it to the LGBT community, including Madonna and out Gay actor Rupert Everett. Director John Schlesinger's previous works include powerful films that don't shy away from LGBT themes. *Midnight Cowboy* certainly qualifies; as does *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*, which starred Peter Finch as a man caught up in a bisexual triangle.

Abbie (Madonna), the owner of a yoga school, lacks a happy love life. In fact, the film begins with her breaking up with a boyfriend (a relationship not the least bit explored). Robert (Everett) is her Gay best friend. That friendship changes forever when a night of drinking and sex ends in pregnancy! The film tries to explore the complications of a straight woman having a Gay man's son. Such situations surely exist, though more often through in vitro-fertilization than through "the act". It's a story worth exploring at a time when traditional definitions of family and marriage are in flux.

The *Next Best Thing* would be better as a drama. Instead, it focuses on campy

comedy, only gradually building towards credibility. Everett arguably is one of today's best comic actors, and here adds a serious side to Robert (though the father role is oversimplified and idealized). Madonna, never a first-rate actress, doesn't add much to her portfolio here. The plot and performances reach for our sympathy, but the script is more melodramatic than dramatic.

With stars Madonna and Everett, *The Next Best Thing* will undoubtedly draw a wide audience. LGBT viewers will find in this film the virtue that it promotes tolerance for non-traditional families. But, if you're seeking a more credible or profound exploration of the subject matter, you'll be disappointed.

2 ★★ Stars



Rupert Everett & Madonna in Director John Schlesinger's new film *The Next Best Thing*.

Drowning Mona

Review by Jerry Johnson

Big, bad Mama, Mona, has developed a rather dubious reputation in *Drowning Mona*. Played to all of her evil glory by Bette Midler, Mona has more than her own reputation to deal with — the whole town hates her.

So when Mona is murdered (during the first five minutes of the film), everyone in the small New York hamlet is surprised — and relieved. "Let's celebrate!", the police chief's daughter, Ellen (Neve Campbell) proclaims after hearing the news of Mona's demise.

Drowning Mona is a comedy to be sure as well as a who-done-it. So, who killed Mona? The problem is that all who knew her are suspects. Everyone, we learn, had good reason to want her dead.

Mona lived in Verplank, New York, a quiet town located on the banks of the Hudson River. The most exciting thing to happen there is the annual knife-throwing contest. In Verplank, everyone drives a Yugo complete with personalized license plates. Chief of Police Wyatt Rash (Danny De Vito) loves to sing show tunes. But there is never a dull moment when Mona is around. And she appears

throughout the film in flashbacks.

Jamie Lee Curtis, Casey Affleck, Marcus Thomas and William Fichtner fill out the adequate cast. The good-looking Affleck is a landscaper and about to be married to the Police Chief's daughter. Curtis (Rona) is a waitress out to seduce both Mona's husband Phil, played by William Fichtner and Mona's son, Jeff (Marcus Thomas).

Drowning Mona is filled with wacky comic humor and Midler fans won't be disappointed. Mona knows "rough talk" and isn't afraid to use it. (Neither is Miss Midler as witnessed at her recent Milwaukee concert.)

Oh, by the way, if you need your car fixed, the local gas station specializes in repairing Yugos.

2 ★★ Stars

Holy Smoke

Review by John Jahn

Holy Smoke can teach you three things. For one, it shows you how far Director Jane Campion has fallen since her critically acclaimed hit, *The Piano*. Secondly, it shows you how to take an otherwise interesting, novel subject, cult deprogramming, and utterly waste it. Thirdly, if you really want to see what Harvey Keitel looks like in a red dress and lipstick, this is probably your only chance.

The film begins in a promising fashion, as we witness the spiritual awakening of a young Australian woman, Ruth (Kate Winslet). She falls under the spell of a guru while vacationing in Delhi, India. Back in her hometown of Sydney, her parents (Julie Hamilton and Tim Robertson) are quite understandably upset and concerned. Mom visits her and gets Ruth to accompany her back to Sydney. At this point, the family has enlisted the aid of an American cult deprogrammer, P.J. Waters (Keitel).

A cult deprogrammer and a seriously deluded girl, stuck together in an emotional and mental tug-of-war. This scenario certainly offers a potentially rich vein of drama, but that's not where *Holy Smoke* goes. Instead, the setting is only a vehicle for Keitel and Winslet to have a tawdry sexual affair. It's ugly, disgusting, unconvincing and utterly ridiculous. The film simply self-destructs after the first 20-odd minutes into unattractive sexual melodrama.

The characters are poorly developed and act in unconvincing and poorly motivated ways. The Ruth-P.J. relationship is simply not credible. It's not that Winslet and Keitel are bad actors, but they are caught in a bad movie containing a script with cataclysmic failings. Ruth's family comes off as bigots and complete idiots, generating no sympathy from us. They're in the film for comic relief, a complete misstep in my opinion. And then there's Pam Grier (*Jackie Brown*), who, with a few minutes of screen time as P.J.'s assistant and part-time lover, Carol, must won-



Kate Winslet and Harvey Keitel in Jane Campion's *Holy Smoke*.

der how she ended up in such a muddled film.

There's no insight or incisive thinking in this storyline, nor does it effectively address cults, faith, affairs or deprogramming. Instead, what *Holy Smoke* does have to offer is another example of the film industry's tendency to create "happily ever after romances" in the least likely and most unpalatable of circumstances. The end result is laughable, boring, silly and a miserable flop.

1/2 Star



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Book Notes

By Ann Thoreau



Return of the Children of Light

What a wondrous delight, reading the book and having the opportunity to meet the author *Judith Bluestone Polich* in person at the Border's in Milwaukee. She is an extraordinary woman and it was truly my pleasure.

The book of course is still available for purchase at any of the fine bookstores in the area. I do recommend this one for purchase.

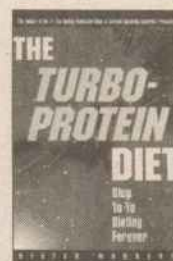
Return of the Children of Light, Incan and Mayan Prophecies for a New World offers a fresh look at the teachings and wisdom of ancient civilizations, translating their potential implications to human beings at this turn of the century.

Children of Light dispels common stereotypes and misunderstandings about these ancient cultures and focuses on aspects of their teachings that create a new and powerful version of the human creation story.

Referring to Mayan and Incan prophecies of a golden age – a time of spiritual rebirth for humanity, author *Polich* believes that “we now have the opportunity to see through new eyes – with a mystical vision once only accessible by an elite few. This is a new time of human awakening to a lucid understanding of reality.”

This book is detailed, yet sensitive, a fine mixture to tantalize and provide you with the fulfillment of the prophecies she portrays. This book will give you the impetus to accept the divine side as well as the human side in all of us.

(Linkage Publications Paperback; \$16.95)



The Turbo Protein Diet

When this was received our Editor thought for sure we were trying to tell her something. Her move to Milwaukee and the newly acquired taste for beer has

given her a bit of a spread...She took it home, came back and said, “Ok, I am going to order the protein and try this...” So far so good, she is doing very well. One thing very interesting about this diet is you only stay on it for two weeks at a time. The author’s patients have been successful at maintaining steady weight loss as well as keeping the weight off.

Unlike conventional diets, *The Turbo Protein Diet* does not simply eliminate water and burn off muscle tissue from the body, according to Dr. Markert. It actually burns fat. The thyroid gland function is stimulated, causing an increase in certain hormones that speed up the calorie-burning metabolism to such a high rate that no more fat can be stored.

Let’s be honest there is no easy way to loose weight, any program you decide to use takes commitment and lifestyle changes. This diet appears to be very successful. Are you looking in the mirror and seeing more of you? If you are avoiding the scale, perhaps it’s time to take a walk to the local bookstore and pick up a copy of this diet. (*Phenix & Phenix*; \$7.95)



Language Lessons: For When Your Mom Dies

The author *Mary Clare Griffin* has a unique way of handling the raw material of this subject that many writers can not do, it is because they do not write the way Ms Griffin does. The reason this book has tremendous power is that she wrote as it occurred. “I never went back and rewrote,” says the author.

As Griffin nakedly declares her fears, sorrows, hopes and triumphs, she helps people understand that to suffer, die, and rise again with an ill loved one is a life altering experience that awakens courage, self awareness, and love hidden deep within them.

“It is part journal, part poem, part prayer, *Language Lessons*, is an intimate and incandescent portrait of a young woman coming to terms with herself and her family...” said Molly Giles, Pulitzer Prize nominee.

The untold story is that of the courage it takes to survive the sickness of a loved one, not just the death. Have our tissues handy, and be ready for a transformation within.

(*Phenix & Phenix*; \$14.95)

Theatre Review

Hobson's Choice

Review by John Jahn

Harold Brighouse's *Hobson's Choice* is an interesting look at dramatic social changes in England at the turn of the last century, doing so through the lives of an aging, alcoholic bootmaker and his power struggles with three rebellious daughters. What could have been a *King Lear* - like drama is instead, in Brighouse's hands, an engaging comedy.

The action takes place in Salford, Lancashire, in 1880. We find ourselves in the bootmaking shop of the rapidly declining sot, Henry Hobson (**Jim Baker**), who tends to business mainly by leaving all the work up to his daughters and the laborers. Eldest daughter, Maggie (**Laura Gordon**), keeps the books while Alice (**Deborah Staples**) and Vicky (**Katheryn Phillips**) mind the shop. Timothy Wadlow (**Jonathan Smoots**) and William Mossop (**Lee E. Ernst**), meanwhile, assemble boots in the cellar.

Hobson tries but fails to control his business, daughters' lives and that of his own. He blusters, issues orders, all to no avail. Maggie emerges as a true proto-feminist. In this family we social change sweeping England in microcosm. In the late 19th century, social class and sex role distinctions began to blur. Hobson represents the old order. Maggie, however, seems thoroughly modern to our eyes.

The Milwaukee Rep production does Brighouse's *Hobson's Choice* justice through a fine cast, excellent set designs (**Rosario Provenza**) and period costumes (**Liz Covey**). It gives us a history lesson in a most entertaining way; through identifiable characters, a timeless plot and a witty script, brimming with both punchlines and powerful social criticism.

Hobson's Choice runs through April 2 at the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater in downtown Milwaukee. For tickets and further information, call (414) 224-9490.

Gross Indecency

Preview by John Jahn

In heated courtroom cross-examinations, Victorian morality is pitted against famed Gay playwright Oscar Wilde's philosophy of beauty. What ensues is a war of words and worlds. Wilde's trials sparked passionate debate about the moral value of works of art, censorship and the private lives of public figures - obviously, these are issues very much still in public debate today.

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde makes use of actual court records, memoirs, newspaper accounts, published letters and Wilde's own writings in



Milwaukee Rep's production of *Hobson's Choice* running at Quadracci Powerhouse Theatre thru April 2.

telling the story of how one of the 1800's most celebrated writers was stripped of his reputation, dignity, promise and, ultimately, his very life.

The Madison Repertory Theatre will be presenting Moises Kaufman's electrifying courtroom drama, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, on March 10 through April 2.

Tickets for *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* are available at the Madison Civic Center Box Office, 211 State Street, Madison; or call (608) 266-9055.

Editors Note: Madison's LGBT Foundation, *New Harvest*, has purchased the entire theatre on April 2, as a fundraiser. See the ad on Page 10 for details.

Concerts Review

Haydn: The Creation

Review by John Jahn

Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809) was one of the great masters of the Classical period in music. An extremely prolific and successful composer, he is remembered best, perhaps, for his 104 symphonies. Among many other works, though, were two great oratorios: *The Seasons* and *The Creation*. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Chorus superbly performed the latter work last weekend.

The impressive *Creation* is a 100-plus minute long work in three parts retelling the Biblical account of the beginning of the universe and life on earth. After an orchestral introduction representing "Chaos," an archangel intones: "In the beginning, God made



Helmuth Rilling

Classical NOTES

Different Trains

By Charles Grosz

This season, Milwaukee's International Arts Festival is celebrating Jewish heritage with performances by almost every performing arts group in town. Most musical offerings in the festival have so far maintained tenuous connections to the Jewish theme. Last weekend's concert by **Present Music** presented a full evening of this ancient culture, and did so with thoughtful programming and impressive performances.

Congregation Shalom served as the unusual venue for the concert, the beautiful sanctuary providing both appropriate atmosphere and sympathetic acoustics. The two major works of the evening, pieces by Osvaldo Golijov and Steve Reich, were framed by short prayers sung by Milwaukee Cantors **Jerome Berkovitch** and **Karen Berman**. Both singers delivered the pathos and sincerity needed to convey that the were not just folk songs, but a glimpse into historical heritage.

Golijov's work, *The Dreams and Prayers of Issac the Blind* is based on a 13th century Kabbalah manuscript, infused with personal memories of the composer. Scored for string quartet and clarinet, the work employs

Heaven and earth..." What follows is some of the most glorious music ever composed, dramatic, yet structured and restrained. It represents Haydn in old age, influenced by his friend, the young Mozart, and at the top of his form.

The orchestra sounded forth in great beauty under the baton of German choral conductor and Bach expert **Helmuth Rilling**, making his MSO debut. Soprano **Donna Brown**, tenor **James Taylor** and bass-baritone **Nathan Berg**, representing three archangels, clearly and beautifully mastered the recitatives and arias. The MSO Chorus gave the impression of a heavenly choir, filling Uihlein Hall with sparkling sound. The concert was a potent combination of symphonic, choral and solo voices, all under expert leadership, and performing a sublime piece of music.

The next MSO classical concert takes place March 31 - April 2. Titled *A Celebration of the Baroque*, the concert will feature music of Handel, J. S. Bach and Rameau. For tickets and further information, call 1-(800) 291-7605.

numerous sonorous effects. The strings play plaintive passages with no vibrato, suggesting chanting of the dead. The clarinet slides between notes, imitating the human voice in wild revelry.

The musicians delivered a first rate performance, displaying wondrous technique and musical depth. Violinists **Sharon Levinthal** and **Eric Segnitz**, violist **Brek Renzelman** and cellist **Karl Lavine** played as a single unit, producing a color range comparable to the sanctuary's stained glass windows. Clarinetist **William Helmers** played with controlled abandon, impressing all with his ability to switch from frantic Klezmer style to serene introspection.

Following intermission the strings returned to present Reich's *Different Trains*. This autobiographical work deals with fate, and how the trains Reich rode as a child could easily have been those transporting Jews to concentration camps just across the ocean. Taped music and voices combine with the live performers, offering a fascinating and emotional work. The rendition was outstanding, a truly world-class performance. Levinthal's concentration remained undaunted by many abrupt tempo changes enforced by the pre-recorded tape and Lavine's chameleon ability to change tone color was mystical. Intensity was never allowed to wane, even during extended frantic passages. What a shame this ensemble will not perform this work outside of Wisconsin.

Open Mike Poetry

A revolution of Womyn in Poetry will take place March 18, at 7:30pm.

This Kuumba Productions event is open to all women as a multicultural experience crossing the barriers of race, class, orientation, and disability through poetry and performance art. Interested poets/performers should call (414) 271-2656 for more information.

The event will be held at the LGBT Community Center.



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*Gross Indecency:
The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*

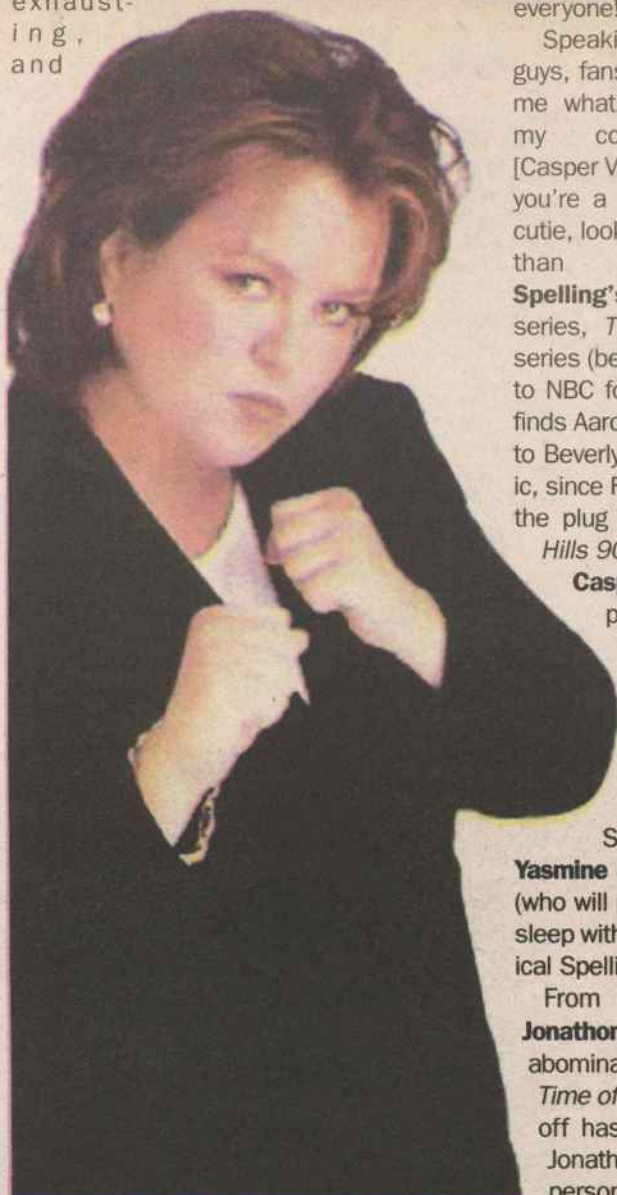
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Gotcha!

By Billy Masters

A few weeks ago, Billy was overcome with the urge to order something he saw on television. I don't know what made me reach for the telephone and, in the process, wake up three of the four others in the bed. But I just had to order *The Dean Martin Roasts*. Don't ask me why - it's just one of those impulses that you can't explain (like when a strange man buys you flowers - which, incidentally, happens to me all of the time). When I got the first tape in the series (the **Frank Sinatra** roast), I was shocked to find that the company distributing these tapes also markets the videos to achieve *Abs of Steel* (and other body parts). This illuminates a shocking lack of continuity - I defy you to find a single firm body part at any of these roasts - unless it was brought on by rigor mortis!

Turning to a completely different genre of video (yet far more appropriate for my bedmates), let's talk for a second about *The Pharaoh's Curse* from **Men of Odyssey**. As you probably know, I am a judge for the upcoming Gay VN porn awards on March 10th. In my capacity as judge, I've had to go through many, MANY porn videos. This has been a difficult, exhausting, and



Rosie O'Donnell

time-consuming job - I had to send out for lube twice. But I digress. When I got to this epic film, I was riveted. Although the sets and even the costumes are far superior to what I had expected, I couldn't get past the hokey Egyptian-esque music, voice-overs, dialogue, and really horrific acting. The film is so bad, however, that it's brilliant. This film has some of the most beautiful men in the world (led by **Jon Eric** as the Pharaoh) doing some really insanely funny acting. The good thing is that if you want the sex and don't wanna lose your erection by laughing, just scan past the dialogue and try not to wonder where they got condoms and lube in ancient Egypt and Rome (the Rome scene with the delicious **Steve Shannon** is particularly hot). This is without a doubt the best porn film of the year - something for everyone!

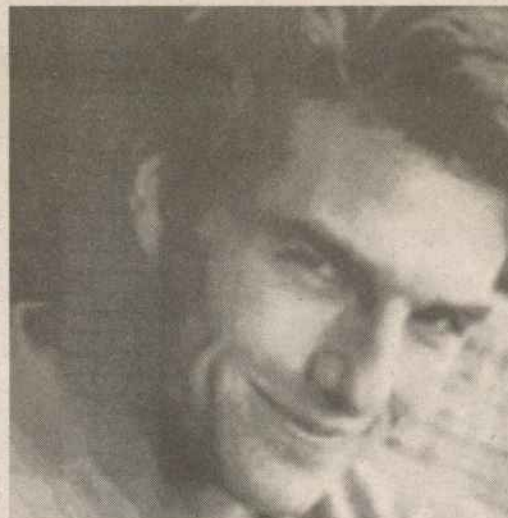
Speaking of hot guys, fans often ask me what's up with my cousin-in-law [Casper Van Dien.] If you're a fan of this cutie, look no further than **Aaron Spelling's** latest series, *Titan*. This series (being pitched to NBC for next fall) finds Aaron returning to Beverly Hills (ironic, since FOX will pull the plug on *Beverly Hills 90210* at the end of this season).

Casper stars as a 26-year-old fighter pilot (which isn't too much of a stretch for the 31-year-old former star of *Wing Commander IV* and *Starship Troopers*). Look for Casper's dad to be played by **Sean Hayes'** former love interest, **Perry King**. Spelling is also trying to coax **Yasmine Bleeth** to play Perry's new wife (who will promptly flirt with - and probably sleep with - Casper). In other words, a typical Spelling show.

From one hottie to yet another - **Jonathon Schaech**. Jonny co-stars in the abominable Jennifer Love Hewitt vehicle *Time of Your Life*. This *Party of Five* spin-off has been pulled for retooling, but Jonathon is hoping that it survives for personal reasons. He says that he's giving up his movie career to concentrate



Casper Van Dien



Tom Cruise

on television in order to stay close to his girlfriend, **Christina Applegate**. Two comments: 1) What career? If **Greg Araki** dropped dead tomorrow, Schaech's film career would be finished. 2) Does anyone think that Applegate's show has a prayer of surviving much longer?

Incidentally, Schaech allegedly gave a titillating interview to *Hello* magazine in Great Britain. I say "allegedly" because I've received a transcript, but have not seen the actual magazine to verify if it matches up.

Assuming that it does, Schaech was more forthcoming than I would have ever imagined. Jon was asked about his revelation to **Rosie O'Donnell** that he had

a crush on **Tom Cruise**. *Hello* asked Jon if it was a sexual crush, and he said yes! However, Jon would not consummate the crush if given the opportunity because Tom's married and Jon himself is in a monogamous relationship. He qualified his response by adding, "If I wasn't in a relationship and he wasn't

married and he wanted to have sex with me, I would have sex with him." When asked how he would label his sexuality, he simply said, "I wouldn't." Then I won't either.

Could it be that **Joan Collins** and **George Hamilton** are a couple? They are - on stage, at least. Joanie and Georgie will

appear in a San Francisco production of *Love Letters* April 11th through the 23rd. This two-person play concerns the lives of [Melissa Gardner] and [Andrew Makepeace Ladd III] from childhood to late adulthood. Expect dim lighting and smoke to be prevalent in the early scenes. By the way, look for Joan to join the cast of *Will and Grace* in the recurring role of Grace's rival interior decorator.

Could it be that one of television's most-talked-about new stars has a secret that he's trying to keep hidden? Behind his constant banter, about a wife and kiddies, lies a sordid party-boy past that my pals across the pond tell me is as loose as this guy's hips. My sources say that one of his favorite dishes is a nice piece of chicken placed on top of the ham and braised for fifteen minutes (and his fifteen minutes better be over soon).

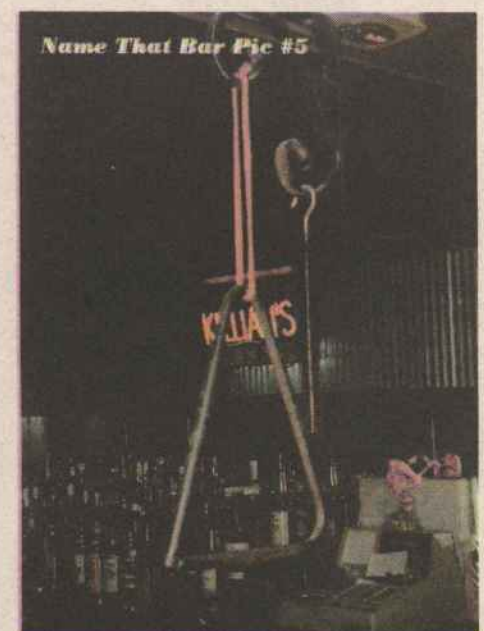
In the continuing saga of what Billy will



Christina Applegate

wear to the Gay VNs, I just made a most provocative purchase this week. Those of you who attend the awards may very well see Billy in a pair of mighty tight black semi-see-through vinyl pants (I believe that they came with a cock ring). Will Billy dare to wear them?

For the answer to that and many more questions, drop a note to my e-mail address of **Billy@fith2go.com** and I promise to get back to you before *Schaech* and *Cruise* make a wedding announcement.



the gay Agenda

wed 8 COMMUNITY

Bay View Landlord Compact, Apartment Assoc. of SE WI (Milwaukee): This is a group of rental property owners which will begin meeting every 2nd Wednesday of the month to discuss issues relevant to investment property ownership in this area. Topics: drug houses, theft, graffiti and legislative issues. FMI call Mary Multhaupt at (414) 276-1734. 6-7pm, Beulah Brittain Center, 2555 South Bay St.

every wed.

BARS

Karaoke, Fannies (Milwaukee): Every other week.
Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): 11pm

COMMUNITY

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

Couple/Swing/Line/2 Step Lessons and Dance, Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls (Madison): Learn various dance moves, then participate in open dancing, smoke free environment, cash bar, all welcome. Every Wednesday, Sapphire Ballroom, 1133 N. Sherman Ave. 7pm-12am; \$3 suggested donation. (608) 255-9131
Gay/Bi Men's Alanon Group, United Methodist Church (Madison): Every Wednesday at 6pm, 1127 University Ave., FMI call (608) 846-2860.

GLB Veterans Meeting, Madison Vet Center (Madison): Meets every Wednesday, 5pm at 147 S. Butler, call (608) 262-7084.

HIV/AIDS Support Group, Renaissance Healing Arts Cntr. (Green Bay): Free, confidential, open to all affected/infected with the virus. Meets first and third Wednesdays at 311 S. Jefferson St., 7:30-9pm. Call (920) 437-4325.

Les/Bi Curious Women's Group, LGBT Campus Center (Madison): Open to interested UWM women, meets every Wednesday at 8pm, at the LGBT Campus Center, UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.

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

Queer Chicks, Women's Resource Center (Madison): Social group for women meets every Wednesday at 7pm, 219 N. Hamilton St., (608) 265-3344

thu 9 COMMUNITY

AIDS Ride Orientation, Borders Books (Madison): Learn about the Twin Cities, Wisconsin, Chicago AIDS Ride (July 10-15) today 7pm, Borders Books and Music, East, 2173 Zeier Rd. (800) 825-1000.

Safe School: Teaching Respect for All Seminar, GLSEN-WI/PFLAG (Appleton): A presentation and discussion on LGBT issues for educators featuring Kevin Jennings, Exec. Dir. of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) focusing on ways teachers, administrators and guidance counselors and staff can recognize and deal with anti-Gay bias in school settings at all grade levels. Also, presentation of the video *Teaching Respect for All*. Advance registration: Harriet Bruuyn at (920) 749-1629.

every thu.

BARS

Karaoke, Barbie Dolls Playhouse (Milwaukee): 10pm
Karaoke, Switch (Milwaukee): 9pm
Talent Night, Club 219 (Milwaukee): Lily White & Nova D'vine alternate hosting Talent night including female impersonators. Midnight

COMMUNITY

AA/SCA meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): AA/Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA), 7pm, Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Maybe Baby Support Group, LGBT Family Group (Milwaukee): Meets every second Thursday at the Community Center from 7pm; for LGBT folks considering donor insemination, adoption, surrogate or foster parenting. Contact Andrew Warner (414) 964-1513 or Awarner867@aol.com

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

Youth Meeting, GALAXY (La Crosse): FOR LGBT youth and their straight friends, ages 21 and under. Every Thursday from 7-9pm, at the ARCW offices, 1707 Main St., Suite 420. Call (608) 781-2783 for more info.



Fontaine Follansbee as the Governess and Shawn Bartels as Peter Quint in the Skylight Opera Theatre's production of *The Turn of the Screw* Opening March 17th.

fri 10 COMMUNITY

Author Hanne Blank, A Room of One's Own (Madison): Hanne's new book, *Big, Big Love: A Sourcebook On Sex for People of Size and Those Who Love Them* covers the how to's and why to's of sexuality from the point of view of big people. Welcome this articulate and opinionated writer at 6:30pm, 307 W. Johnson St.; (608) 257-7888.

PERFORMING ARTS

Symphonic Night at the Movies: 2001 & Beyond, Milw. Symphony Orchestra (Milwaukee): Guest conductor Ronald Foster leads the MSO in performances of soundtracks from such some of your favorite Sci Fi movies. The program is accompanied by scenes from the film with narration by Emmy Award winning producer John Goberman. Showtimes 8pm tonight and Saturday, 7:30pm Sunday. Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Tickets \$15-57, (414) 291-7605.



Dan Muller's, *The First*, show opens at the David Barnett Gallery March 18th

VISUAL ARTS

28 Photographs by Leroy Burt, Grava Gallery (Milwaukee): A showing of works by this city artist featuring black and white photos of images that define New York, San Francisco and Milwaukee. Continues through April 8, 1209 E. Brady St.; (414) 277-8228.

every fri.

BARS

Male Dancers, Club 219 (Milwaukee): 11:30pm
Shoreline, LaCage (Milwaukee): 2 step and line dancing lessons from 9-10, dancing until 11pm
Showcase, LaCage (Milwaukee): Female impersonators, dancers and guests.

COMMUNITY

AA meetings, Galano Club (Milwaukee): 5:30pm: AA Sixty Minutes Group (Topic); 7pm: AA Group 794 (Step/Topic). Plus FILM Night, screens at 8:15pm. Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave.; 7pm, (414) 276-6936

Continued on Page 16

LaCage

A Video Bar

801 South 2nd Street

TUESDAYS

Prize Night

Try & Get Lucky with Paul

pom. 8pm, call (608) 244-8675 evenings for location, more info.

Queer Year Pride Week at Beloit College, The Alliance (Beloit): Educate and Create Awareness: Pride Dance, one of the final events offering a DJ, great music, and a house full of queers! One Night Only, Psi Psi, Beloit College Campus; 10pm, free and open to the public, (608) 363-4490.

Revolution of Woman in Poetry, Kuumba Productions (Milwaukee): Open Mike is open to all women as a multicultural experience crossing the barriers of race, class, orientation and disability through poetry and performance art. Interested poets/ performers should call (414) 271-2656 for more information. One Night Only, Milw. LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. 7:30pm.

Speaker Prof. Joe Elder, Frontier's Gay Bi Men's Group (Madison): Elder, professor of Sociology and Languages & Cultures of Asia at UW-Madison is currently teaching a course in LGBT studies. He'll discuss this new course being offered at UW. One Night Only. Call Dave at (608) 241-2500 for location and more information. 6pm.

PERFORMING ARTS

Jazz Guitarists Jim Hall and Mark Whitfield, 200 Hal Leonard Jazz Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee): These two hard hitting guitarists and their bands promise a night of intense jazz. Hall was honored in 1997 as the Best Jazz Composer Arranger by the New York Jazz Critics Circle Award for his career spanning five decades. The 30 year old Whitfield has raised his profile quickly, advancing his own creative vision and exploring the challenging byways of the jazz legacy. Pabst Theater, Wells and Water Streets, 8pm, \$16-37.50, (414) 286-3663.

Jim Hall Trio & Mark Whitfield Quartet, Artist Series at the Pabst (Milwaukee): Hall's jazz guitar probes the perimeter of the musical universe as Whitfield continues to advance his own creative vision and explore the challenging byways of the jazz legacy. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St.; 8pm, (414) 286-8777.

The Incomparable Hildegard, Skylight Opera's Miller Cabaret Series (Milwaukee): Featuring Claire Morkin as Hildegard with Dennis Schroeder and Jeffrey Jensen accompanied by Richard Crabtree on piano following Friday and Saturday evening performances of *The Turn of the Screw*. Skylight Bar, 10pm, through April 1st. 158 N. Broadway, free.

VISUAL ARTS

Recent Paintings: Dan Muller, David Barnett Gallery (Milwaukee): Artist Lecture today at 1pm. This Wisconsin Landscape series are as fresh and free as the outdoors in which they are painted. His abstract mixed media will be also featured showing off his extraordinary talent and versatility. Show runs through April 8, 1024 E. State St.; (414) 271-5058.

COMMUNITY

Queer Year Pride Week at Beloit College, The Alliance (Beloit): Dinner and Feedback. Join with us and give your feedback on the activities this past week, what you did or didn't like, help plan for next year. One Night Only, Alliance House (other location not provided); 5-7pm, free and open to the public, (608) 363-4490.

PERFORMING ARTS

Bolling and Britten: 1971-1980, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (Milwaukee): Hailed as the French Gershwin, composer Claude Bolling and his distinctive and original melding of classical and jazz performed by: Carol Meves, Michael Thiele, Scott Wenzel and John Babbitt. Charles Allis Art Museum, Great Hall, 1584 N. Prospect Ave.; 3pm, \$10/\$7.50 students/srs. (414) 276-5760.

ON GOING Performances

Anton's Alley, Boulevard Ensemble (Milwaukee): Sundays and Mondays only, selected works from Chekhov's One-Act comedies continues through March 21, Boulevard Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., 7:30pm for all shows. Prices from \$5-16, call (414) 744-5757.

Collected Stories, The Rep's Stiemke Theater (Milwaukee): The Pulitzer Prize nominated Off-Broadway hit by acclaimed contemporary playwright Donald Margulies is the witty and provocative story of two women set in Greenwich Village. Continues through March 26 Stiemke Theatre, Baker Theater Complex, 108 E. Wells St.; time varies, \$20, 30, (414) 224-9490.

Forever Plaid, Marcus Center Vogel Hall (Milwaukee): The heavenly musical hit parade extended...again; by popular demand. Continues through March 12; Vogel Hall, 123 E. State St. \$28.50-36.50 (414) 273-7206

From my Hometown, Stackner Cabaret at The Rep (Milwaukee): This return features 30 classic R&B songs this revue 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.

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, Madison Rep (Madison): A war of words and world views, the trials changed the way society thought about art, morality and human desire. Continues through April 2, Civic Center



Eve Roberts as Ruth Steiner and Kirsten Potter as Lisa Morrison in the Milwaukee Rep's Stiemke Theater production of *Collected Stories*, through March 26th.

Isthmus Playhouse, 211 State St.; \$20-25, (608) 266-9055.

Hobson's Choice, The Rep (Milwaukee): Harold Brighouse's romantic, timeless and heartwarming comedic study of class struggle to rise above the constraints of decorum set in 1880's England. Continues through April 2, Quadracci Powerhouse in the Baker Complex, 108 E. Wells St.; \$5 to 36; (414) 224-9490.

Uncle Vanya, Boulevard Ensemble (Milwaukee): A main stage production of celebrated Russian playwright Anton Chekhov's comedic drama, directed by Maureen Kilmurry. Continues through March 19, Boulevard Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., times vary, Prices from \$5-16, call (414) 744-5757.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Bialystock & Bloom Co. (Milwaukee): Edward Albee's diabolic tale about another Saturday Night in a sleepy New England Town, too much to drink and trying too hard to hid a lifetime of hideous secrets and doubts, an invitation to trouble. All this in Milwaukee's newest intimate performing space. Continues through March 26, Off Broadway Theatre, 34 2 N. Water St.; tickets \$12/\$10 students; (414) 221-7055.

VISUAL ARTS CONTINUING

Azudian Temple Reconstruction & Melanesian Sculpture, Milw. Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) (Milwaukee): Continues through April 1, MIAD's Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St.; 10am-5pm, Tues.-Sat.; (414) 276-7889.

Book Treasures, Milw. School of Engineering Schroeder Library (Milwaukee): Exhibition of rare books and manuscripts. Continues through May 31 Walter Schroeder Library, 500 E. Kilbourn (and Jefferson), 1-3 M-Thurs.; 1-5 Fri./Sat.; Free to the public, (414) 277-7180.

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. Exhibit continues March 11, 911 W. National Ave., (414) 672-2787.

Creative Endeavors: Recent Works by Jeanne Brill, Gallery Cora Dora/Pier 221 (Milwaukee): Brill's paintings of architecture from European travels. Also artists John Ernst and Michael Merritt Mangan. Exhibit continues through April 9; 221 N. Water St., (414) 283-9244.

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

Exhibit of Reginald Baylor's Cartoon Landscapes, Lakeshore Gallery (Shorewood): Original acrylic paintings. Continues through March 31st 4401 N. Oakland, (414) 964-2540.

Fiber Invitational 2000, Katie Gingrass Gallery (Milwaukee): Exhibit features baskets by more than 20 national artists. Show runs through April 30, 241 N. Broadway, (414) 289-0855.

Flameworked Glass Show, Art Elements Gallery (Mequon): This show demonstrates the contemporary artists use of a most ancient technique of glass work. Continues through March 27; 10050 N. Port Washington Rd.; (262) 241-7040.

Rouault, Michael H. Lord Gallery (Milwaukee): A selection of 10 prints from the series *The Miserere* by French Expressionist and Modern master Georges Rouault. Continues through April 30, 420 E. Wisconsin Ave., (414) 272-1007.

Gallery: Vanity of the Vanities, Michael H. Lord Gallery (Milwaukee): In conjunction with the Intl. Arts Festival, exhibit of twelve new paintings by Barbara Johl-Spiro. Continues through March 14, 420 E. Wisconsin Ave., (414) 272-1007.

Interventions: New Art in Unconventional Places, Milw. Art Museum (Milwaukee): Artists laying the framework for the art of the next century and exploring the range of artistic

possibilities at the dawn of the new millennium. Continues through April 23, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, (414) 224-3200.

Millennium Exhibition, David Barnett Gallery (Milwaukee): Clients who make a purchase during this exhibition will be entered into a March 14 drawing for a 1930 original color litho by Maurice Dufrene. Continues through March 11, 1024 E. State St. at Prospect Ave.; (414) 271-5058.

Recent Paintings: Dan Muller, David Barnett Gallery (Milwaukee): This Wisconsin Landscape series and his abstract mixed media featured showing off his extraordinary talent and versatility. Show runs through April 8, 1024 E. State St.; (414) 271-5058.

Reflections on the Collection, Madison Art Center (Madison): Work in Progress: The MAC Collects. Reflections on the Collections over 4500 objects and more than 100 works presented in groupings that illustrate the history of the collection. Continues through May 14, Madison Art Center, Civic Center, 211 State St.; Free admission, (608) 257-3734.

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1. In 1973, the United States saw the publication of its first weekly lesbian and gay newspaper. Can you name it and the city where it was published?
2. In 1971, the American Library Association created the annual Gay Book Award. Can you name the first book and author to receive it?
3. Which member of the cast of the 1970's television series *The Waltons* had an intimate relationship with American gay-rights pioneer Harry Hay?
4. Where can you find what is thought to be the world's gayest cemetery, where famous lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals — ncluding Isadora Duncan, Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stien, and Marcel Proust — are buried?
5. How old was poet activist Audre Lorde when she published her first poem?

Answers will be in
next weeks **WI Light**

HOROSCOPE

by **Jill Dearman**

ARIES: Don't judge your feelings; just experience them. I'm not trying to turn you from a sexy, overly macho whore (inside or the outside) into a sensitive New Age creep. I just think it's time you took a break from acting like a bloodless action figure. Emote with a Cancer.

TAURUS: Don't be too hard on your friends, sweetheart; they are looking out for your best interests - really! A pal could give you the inside scoop on a Sag you're scoping. Take heed: it's best to have spies everywhere during this paranoid cycle.

GEMINI: Don't try to anticipate what your colleagues are going to do next. Instead, take control of your career and do something no one is expecting. Stay ahead of the competition by competing with yourself. A Scorpio loves your ruthless side.

CANCER: The Sun is finishing up a stint in your house of travel and education, so do something to expand your mind or go somewhere to expand your life experience. You could hook up with a most mind-altering Virgo along the way.

LEO: Do some deep breathing and get back in touch with what's truly important to you. You've been just a little bit distracted by the minutia of everyday life lately. Reach for the heights with a Pisces. You'll find yourself again in the flow of things.

VIRGO: There's a spark of love burning inside you, shy Virgo. You may not like to get all mushy, but it's there. Now's the time to think about marriage, sexual slavery, or whatever reeks of "permanence" in your adorable (but warped) world. A Capricorn wants to stand beside you.

LIBRA: You can't give the man in your life anything but love right now. You

need to save money and live more simply. But you've got plenty of affection to give, so be generous, especially if he's an Aries who needs lots of validation.

SCORPIO: Your sex appeal can land you in hot water - and into the next big lucky opportunity in your life. Push it, baby. Let the world know you are willing to put yourself on the line to achieve something great in this lifetime. A Taurus wants to stand behind you and cheer (and grind!).

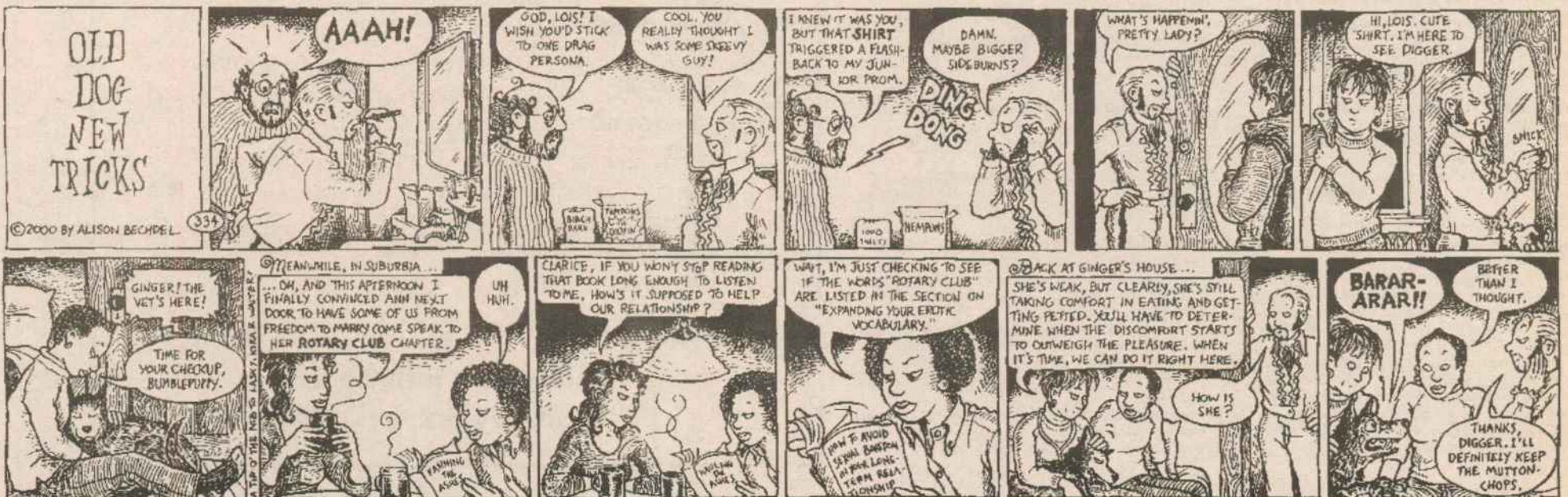
SAGITTARIUS: You may need to push yourself a bit harder than usual to attain your goals in mid-March. But if you work hard, you will prevail. You may come to realize that you can't share your experience with anyone right now; you need to tough it out alone. (Alright, you can sneak an Aquarius in the back door).

CAPRICORN: Be open about your feelings, and life will go much more smoothly than usual in the days ahead. Business associates don't want to guess your opinions, and potential lovers (especially Gemini's) don't want to play coy games... for a change!

AQUARIUS: The full moon (late on March 19th) falls in the sector of your chart that rules long-term relationships. I don't think you can avoid one for much longer (and I mean that even more for you Aquarian's who are already involved!). A Libra can teach you the true meaning of the word commitment.

PISCES: Forgive someone in your life who has done you wrong. Not that fake "I don't hold a grudge; I've made amends" crap. I mean *really*, sweetie. Forgive aggressively, with a murderous passion! Then release that passion with a Leo who can't forgive himself for not falling in love with you sooner.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Name That Bar Contest

SEE, IDENTIFY, ENTER

Enter The Weekly WI Light Name That Bar Contest!

How: As you read through WI Light, you will see pictures with "Name that Bar" and a #number. Take this entry form, write down the page numbers, the bars you think the pictures were taken at and **Drop off or Mail to: WI Light, 225 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.**

There are 8 pictures this week.

All who name all 8 of the bars correctly, will be entered into 2 drawings:

Weekly: Win a couple drinks at one of the bars.

Monthly: prizes, of all sorts of wonderful merchandise.

Hint: Each Bar knows what their picture is!

Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____ • Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____

Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____ • Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____

Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____ • Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____

Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____ • Pg # ___ Pic # ___ Name of Bar _____

Name: _____

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WEEK TWO

Dykesville by Tami Friday



Dykesville by Tami Friday



Coming out story # 91

Market Place

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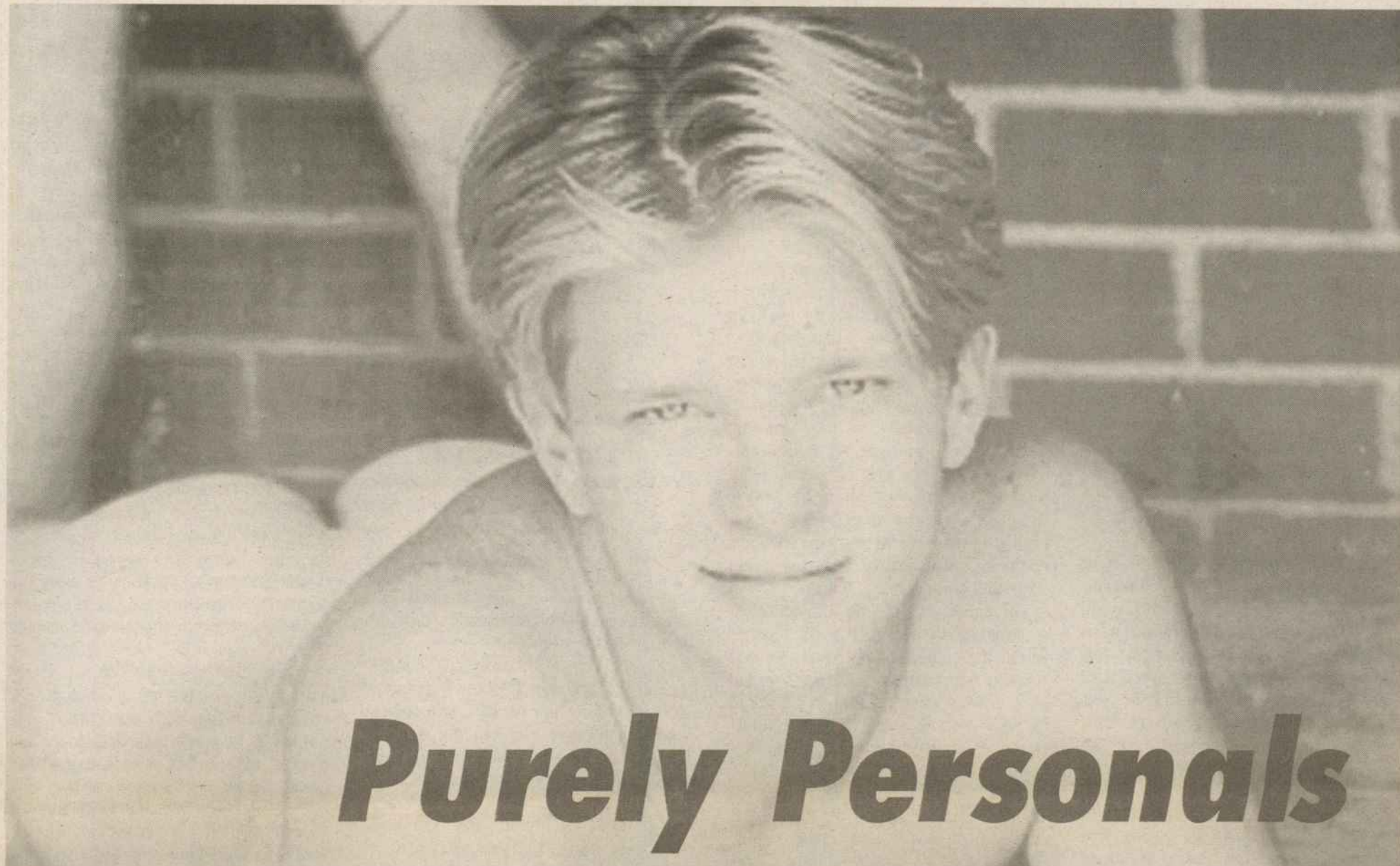
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Short Guys Turn Me On 5 ft 6 or less, goatee, athletic... all works. Me: GMW 44, 5 ft 9, 145lbs., workout body, beard, blue collar. Looking for long term, more than just sex. Write soon to: Paul Kinderman, E5830 Butternut Rd., Fall Creek, WI 54742.

GWM 45, 6 ft., 190 Hairy body, looking for hairy men for fur rubbing times. Call Tom (414) 708-6832 anytime at night. A great kisser and cuddler loves to hug. HIV negative, versatile in bed.

GWM 20s, 5ft. 8 175 lbs. Blue/brown athletic, would like to relocate soon with older mature supportive man who is understanding. Answer all, your photo gets mine! T. Murphy, Box 9300, Central City, KY 4 2330 (Mailed from a Prisoner.)

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GWM 45, 6 foot, 185 lbs. Brown hair/eyes, hairy male. Looking for other hairy males and ages or races for fun times. Write to: Rom

Mhrystal, 1275 N. 17th #806, Milwaukee, WI 53205. (414) 708-6832.

GWM 5ft 10, 175 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair, mustache and beard. HIV negative, well endowed Top ISO Bears for friendship, good times and possible LTR with mature men in their late 40s 50s or 60s, any race, in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Maintowoc, Fox Valley or Green Bay area. Write: PO Box 773, Green Bay, WI 54305.

Sincere, Romantic, honest GWM ISO younger GWM for friendship and possible life long relationship. If you are a sincere, honest, secure, employed GWM 25-45 who is clean shaven, a social or non-drinker, non-smoker and drug/disease free with a variety of interests I would be interested in meeting you and seeing if the chemistry between us is right. About me: I am 47, 290-300 lbs, 6 ft 2, brown hair, hazel eyes, clean shaven, drug/disease free, a non-smoker and a social drinker. My friends say that I have a great personality and a good sense of humor. email: Jackflash_10@yahoo.com

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 (4 14) 963-6108.

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out in Leather

By Chuck Grosz

It seems that we have successfully swatted that Y2K bug, and civilization has survived into the new millennium. Not only have computers been proven 21st century friendly, they can also be an enjoyable companion on a Saturday night. No need to strap on chaps and hunt for parking, just sit down at your screen and allow your fingers to stimulate.

The number of gay and leather web sites have exploded over the past few years, and today you can read erotic leather fiction, set up a date, and view photos that would make your Aunt Sophie blanche. Here are some sites that will amuse, titillate and shock. Start with one that tickles your fancy, and link on through the new century. Bon Voyage!

Begin with a yahoo search under "Gay Web Rings". These are lists of private web pages of people who share uncommon tastes. You will be offered such choices as the "Bear Ring", the "Watersports Ring" and even "Gay Pagan Ring". Leather folk will want to check out the "Gay S&M Ring" along with the "Gay Bondage Ring". Women will find the "Women Loving Women Ring" of interest, and for you dragsters, enjoy the "Dazzling Drag Queen Ring". Another good place to start is www.L LeatherNavigator.com. This site offers limited free viewing of pics or fiction, and the membership fee (\$24/3 mos., \$72 annual) is well worth the

investment should you plan on giving your laptop a good work out. For uniform fanciers, start your beat with the "Gay Uniform Ring", and then experience www.bluf.com. BLUF, (Britches, Leather, UniForm) consists of real men throughout the world who join free simply by submitting a photo of themselves in britches or leather uniform. Better than "CHIP" reruns.

Rubber enthusiasts will find all they need at www.latexpajamas.com. This site, run out of Oregon, features a huge contact list for rubber and bondage, some delicious pictures, and one of the best links page on the web. There are innumerable sites which are not listed as gay specific, but, who's kidding who? www.vangar.com will satisfy all wrestling and other pugilistic fans. If you haven't already done so, type in www.academymyent.com to see one of the best uniform/BDSM offerings available. Should you seek an alternative to DisneyWorld or House on the Rock for your next vacation, contact www.teamdelta.net for a kidnap/POW getaway.

For those with a little interaction on your minds, gay chat rooms might just be your kettle of fish. Log onto www.Gay.chat and choose from nearly 300 chats, including the "Milwaukee", "Leather" or "Prison Officers" rooms Using a profile which describes yourself and your interests is optional, but do try to be honest. Many fellow chatters use this service as a way to meet someone who is into their scene, and entering into a S/M contact or relationship based on falsehoods will spell disaster.

Finally, there is another service the internet provides us leather folk - shopping! Auction sites provide equipment and clothing that you might not otherwise find at Pier 1. Ebay, www.ebay.com the largest of the auction servers, is your best bet at finding whatever butters your toast. Simply type in what you are looking for in the search box, such as leather chaps, police uniform or handcuffs, or even something non-specific such as BDSM. The positive aspects of purchasing fetish items on line is convenience, anonymity and price control, the downside is relying on photos of the item and losing the auction to a last minute bidder. There are also many BDSM web sites that sell quality accouterment directly to the public, such as www.mr-s-leather-fetters.com or Milwaukee's own www.BDGSales.com.

Enjoy your surf time, and try not to burnout either your monitor or your eyes. And, since you are all ready logged on, fire off a message that will do us all some good. This month consider contacting Paramount Television at television@pde.paramount.com, with concerns of their decision to give Dr. Laura her own TV show. Exercise your free speech and write that intolerance and homophobia are unacceptable television viewing. Or, drop me a line at www.wilightleather.com

Video Booth



Hard Action Reviewed by Frank Shank

This is my first attempt at a porn review, and do you know what I quickly surmised? It's hard to take notes with one hand, especially when you are using the same hand to... hummm, how do I say this relatively discreetly... test the arousal factor of a video?

After 20 minutes of seascapes, beaches, surfers and verbal banter, the start of *Hard Action* is totally non-sexual. Interspersed between outdoor scenery we see three young men as they waken ready to start another hard day hangin at the beach.

The first one to hit the sand, complete with surfer stuff, is 19 year old porn virgin [Chris Jennings]. Nice hard swimmers body, and a promising bulge are outlined in his painted-on wetsuit.

After a little surfing action from Jennings, we see 18 year old porn veteran **Justin Wagner** watching as he walks up the beach. They meet and chat, with Jennings informing him that his parents are gone for the weekend and he has free use of the house. Oh, and by the way, him and his girlfriend have split. (You can just see Justin's eyebrows arch at that!)

Interspersed, you see luscious **Ted Cox** strutting down the streets of the coastal city wearing his red muscle shirt, and jeans tucked into his biker boots (image, baby). Even though he stood out in the intro of the film as he rose to start the day, showered and dressed, Cox makes an immediate hard impression.

Cox runs into Jennings and Winger and sits and is chatting with them for a while before relating "hot wet dream".

You enter Ted's dream as you see him waking up, and is that boy irresistible in the morning! Cox sleepily pulls down the sheet and you get to see that very well put together body, and starts lazily stroking his thick ropy dick, with his warm balls sliding up and down in his sack. Slow, long strokes is all it takes before the cum slowly globs out onto his side.

After telling his story, Cox heads off with a promise to stop by Jennings house later for a beer. Winger takes the oppor-

CLASSIC PORN VIDEO REVIEW

tunity to get a little and heads back to Jennings' with a twinkle in his eye. Winger has long, curly auburn tresses, a hard gangly build and comes across kinda fem.

Within minutes of arrival, Jennings is de-pantsed and his pretty, nice sized dick is buried down Winger's throat. Jennings' cock and low hanging balls provide a nice meal for Winger, who eventually offers his horse dick (yeah, those skinny femme types always seem to have big old anacondas) to Jennings' inexperienced mouth. Jennings can barely manage to get a third of that snake down his throat.

Soon, Winger gets bored with the oral action he's receiving and offers up his hungry butt hole and Jennings takes him up (or rather in) on it. After getting plowed long enough to work up a hearty sweat, Winger flips him over and sits on Jennings hard cock, where he rides like a bronco buster (you can tell he likes his work) his curly longer hair flying around in a frenzy before shooting his copious load all over Chris.

Winger then rims Chris' cherry butt and gets into it as much as Chris moaningly enjoys it. Jennings can't resist jackin' himself off as he spreads his legs in the air, offering up more of that tasty morsel and quickly shoots his thick load all over himself. Winger got into it enough that he shoots another load himself, all over the floor where he is kneeling.

Winger leaves, and later Cox shows up as Jennings is working in the garden. While they are still outdoors, Cox has Jennings dick out and goes down on him demonstrating his oral abilities. After going inside, it doesn't take long before you hear Jennings cry out "Let me have some of that, strips Cox and demonstrates he doesn't know how to suck dick very well.

After a little 69 action, Cox seems bored and offers up his butt that Jennings fucks hard and comes quickly all over Cox's bubble butt. Exhausted after all that work, he rolls onto his back, throws his legs in the air and Cox shows he knows how to throw a fuck even if his dick isn't as huge as Wingers'. Jennings enjoys it so much his toes are curling with pleasure from the intensity of the action he is receiving. Then Cox rolls him onto his belly and gives it to him long, hard and deep as Jennings' face betrays a vast array of pleasure and pain. Cox finally pulls out at the last minute so we see his big load explode all over Jennings.

Overall; *Hard Action* is a really good film especially if you like your men just past boyhood. The big letdown, in my opinion, is that like so much of Gay porn, there is little affection and no kissing.

2 1/2 stars out of 4
(*Hard Action*, 1990 Junior Studio,
Distributed by RAD Video)

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SEX Talk

by Simon Sheppard

Think the foot is hot? You're not alone. Renowned sex expert Havelock Ellis wrote, "Of all the forms of erotic symbolism, the most frequent is that which idealizes the foot. ... It would seem that even for the normal lover, the foot is one of the most attractive parts of the body." Got that right, Havelock.

The foot is a major erogenous zone, as many of us know, er, first-hand. Rich in pleasure-producing nerves, the soles and toes are, as Dr. Alfred Kinsey pointed out, "areas which may be erotically sensitive under tactile stimulation." But, more than that, the foot is also a well-known phallic symbol, a stand-in for the dick. No wonder that foot play, as foreplay or as the Main Event, is sexy for so many guys.

There's stroking, there's tickling, there's even foot bondage. But the most popular form of foot play involves, just like cock-sucking, the meeting of the erotic object and the hungry mouth. Lots of guys, if truth be told, really get off on kissing, licking, and sucking on another man's foot. And those of us who've been on the receiving end know just how pleasurable having one's toes sucked can be.

Because of the lowly position of the foot in the day-to-day world, servicing it can be seen as a form of submission, and many a bondage-and-discipline scene incorporates foot worship. But hey, as in most matters sexual, the opposite can also be the case. Stripping off the shoe and sock, getting one's hands on the five-toed fella, playing with the pretty thing... it can easily be a power trip.

There's also the powerful meeting of

foot and dick. While rubbing your feet all over a partner's body can be fun for all concerned, jacking him off with your sole can be truly special. And there's toe-in-the-ass fucking, too.

As in most matters sexual, foot play has its own specialists, organizations, and porn. Yes, there are foot size-queens, while others go for the aesthetic, preferring the beautiful foot to the merely big. And, because the combination of foot sweat and bacteria can produce some mighty potent odors, some guys really get off on the smells, from mild to truly ripe. (The foot, after all, harbors the same sort of bacteria responsible for bleu cheese.) The more fastidious among us, meanwhile, prefer their feet newly washed and gleaming.

Many of the larger cities have ongoing foot-play parties, where like-minded men can get together for a game of "this little piggy." While genital sex may be on the menu at these shindigs, often the play is confined to feet; the sight of a puppy pile of guys licking, sniffing, and sucking can, depending on one's bent, seem either silly or an instant erection-producer.

Unfortunately, my favorite foot-play magazine, with its well-endowed cover boys thrusting their size 12s at the camera, is no longer published. But there's plenty of foot porn out there. Thanks, too, to the Web, it's easy to find foot fetish pics, and only a bit harder to locate someone who shares a yearning for feet.

As with any fetish, foot worship can seem just plain silly to those of us not into it. But no less an authority than Leonardo DaVinci called the human foot "a work of art." So maybe someone was sucking on the Mona Lisa's toes?

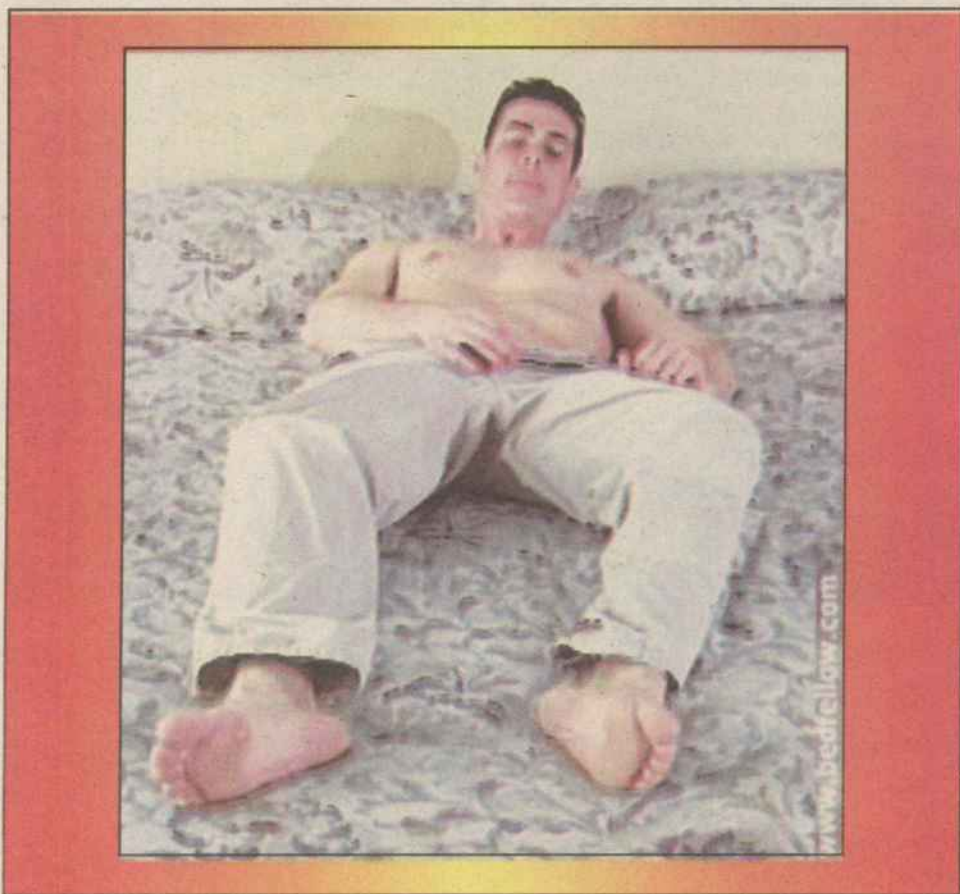
Simon Sheppard is the co-editor of *Rough Stuff: Tales of Gay Men, Sex, and Power* (Alyson Books). He can be reached care of *WI Light*.

BIFF 'N BUNKY

by KEITH N ANDERSON




If you would like to volunteer as a Male Video Reviewer please contact the Editor at *WI Light*.



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By James Kutcha

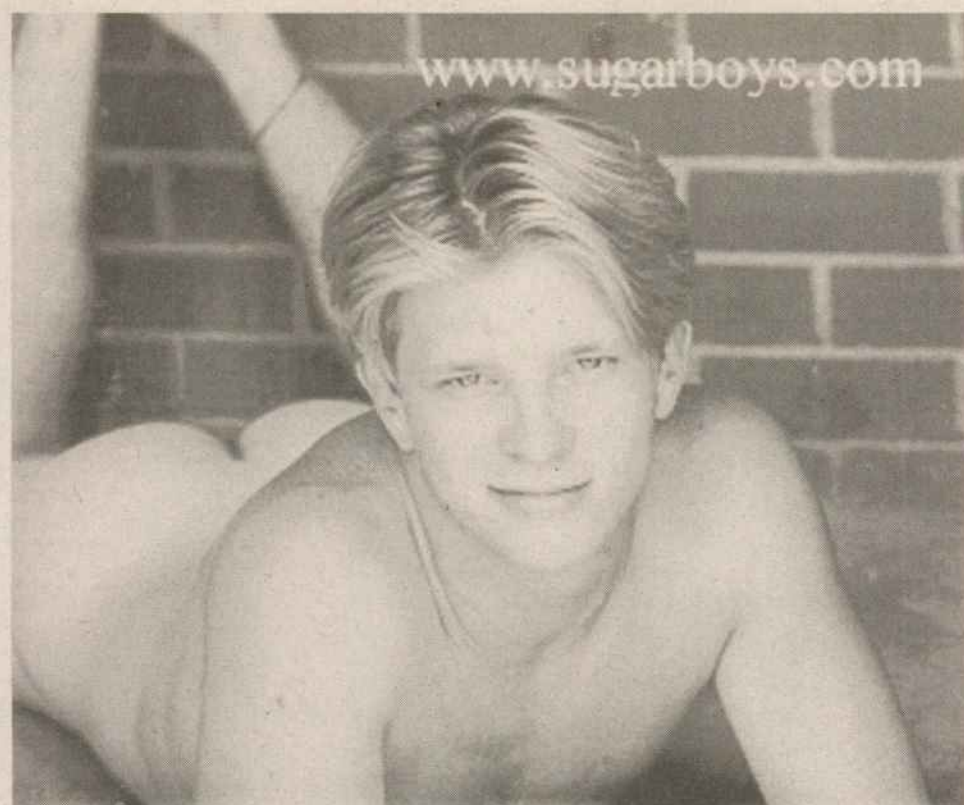
Young Men On the Pleasure Trail is finally on the market after a hair raising incident with the LAPD. I spoke to **Sam Dixox** president and director of Boiling Point Productions who told me a disturbing story about the production of the film. Seems that the L.A.P.D. arrested the cast and crew after they had finished filming the video in the Santa Monica Mountains in LA County. They were charged with sodomy and conspiracy to commit sodomy, a law that is not even on the books in California. But that is not the worst of it. When the L.A.P.D brought the cast and crew into the police station they chained them all to a bench while they were playing the footage for all the other officers to see and taunted them while they were chained up according to Sam Dixon. A special prosecutor was assigned to try the case and to find a way to make the charge of conspiracy to commit sodomy stick, which would make it a felony charge (not because of the word sodomy, but because of the word conspiracy).

If this could happen in LA it could happen anywhere if it goes unchecked. The homosexual community should be up in arms about this as it is a blatant attack against the gay community and our constitutional right of free speech. The reason that this has gone unchecked is because

the homosexual community saw it as an attack against the adult industry.

In reality this incident would not have happened if they were filming a straight video and is an attack against homosexuals in America. Just because this happened to a producer of adult films does not make it right. Unfortunately the homosexual community chose to ignore it because of the adult aspect in the case I myself feel that homosexuals across the country should be protesting the actions of the L.A.P.D. in this case as the African American community did in the Rodney King case (less the violence). If we choose to ignore this incident because of the adult aspect of the case then who is to say where it will stop.

The Adult industry has become an easy target for politicians as no one will come out and defend it. The Free Speech Coalition does help defend the constitutional right of Free Speech and has come to the aid of the adult industry. But it is also the responsibility of the American people to speak out for our constitutional right of free speech before it is taken away. Censorship in America is out of control and needs to be taken seriously by its citizens. Rather it is a book, an article or an adult movie, it is our constitutional right to express ourselves without the fear of persecution. There are hate groups that have the right to publish their propaganda of hate without persecution so why is it right to persecute the adult industry?



The front cover photo of Purely Personals is courtesy of www.sugarboys.com