



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

County Executive finalists face voters April 30

Analysis by Ron Geiman
Editor

Milwaukee – With the field narrowed down to two County Exec candidates – Jim Ryan and Scott Walker – the April 30 general election looms large on the horizon.

Philosophical, political and stylistic differences separate the two contenders, giving Milwaukee County voters distinct choices in the race to replace Tom Ament as County Executive.

In a race that is expected to be close, Milwaukee's GLBT community – if we go to the polls in force – could have a significant impact on the final result.

State Rep. Scott Walker, a Wauwatosa Republican, proudly wears the conservative label, is viewed as a youthful, ambitious rising star with national aspirations. Ryan, part-time Hales Corners president and non-profit executive, paints himself as a fiscal conservative, a tinge to the left of moderate on social issues. They are an obvious contrast.

Suburban/City showdown?

City of Milwaukee residents could hold the trump vote on the future direction of the Milwaukee County executive branch.

In the primary – out of a field of six candidates – Walker handily won 16 suburban communities. Three went to Ryan: his home turf in Hales Corners, Shorewood and River Hills. Overall, Ryan received 27% of the vote and Walker 37%.

The remaining 36% of voters who chose other candidates in the primary will decide the general election – if turnout remains similar. Voter turnout was only 22% in the city of Milwaukee, with 30% of total suburban voters going to the primary polls.

The City of Milwaukee vote was more

diverse: Milwaukee Alderman Tom Nardelli – picked early on in the primary by pundits as the number two man – took only his home district, and a total of 14,675 citywide, placing him third.

Tyrone Dumas stunned many by his strong second place finish in Nardelli's district and first in seven inner city districts. His strong showing could reflect a coming of age for Milwaukee's African American community. 17,290 Milwaukeeans placed Dumas second in total city vote count.

Walker took twelve southern, southwest, western and northeast city districts, and was the top vote getter in the City of Milwaukee with 19,180 votes.

GLBTs, allies could flex political muscles

Ryan took Milwaukee's two most liberal – and not-by-coincidence GLBT (and allies) populous – city districts: Henningsen's downtown and near west side 4th and D'Amato's east side 3rd.

The 3rd district vote was stunning in its contrast to the rest of the county. Ryan received almost double the number of votes his nearest opponent (Walker) received.

In the more ethnically diverse, but still heavily GLBT populated 4th, Ryan won by 115 votes over his runner up: Dumas. Unfortunately, voter turnout was nearly less than half as in the 4th.

Political pundits like to point out that in a field of two, a vote against one candidate is as good as a vote for the other. Differences become obvious and voters often make up their minds on gut reaction.

The GLBT gut reaction seems to indicate a strong preference for Ryan framed in a mistrust of Walker's conservative political ties.

GLBT voters remember Representative

Walker's votes in favor of supporting the Boy Scouts ban on Gay leaders and Gay troop members. They heard Ryan respond he would not consider domestic partner benefits for county workers when asked at rallies.

On the other side of the coin, Ryan has said he would consider domestic partner benefits to insure a diverse county workforce is treated with equality. His moderate political views also resonate with GLBTs, and he claims his reforms would come by building consensus – rather than referendum.

Ryan's prior short term as a moderate on the County Board, executive experience with the Penfield Children's Center and service as chair of the Intergovernmental Council indicate Ryan is the candidate GLBT voters could support.

Ryan's work with the Intergovernmental Council could give an added push to inter and intra-county cooperation – and consolidation of duplicated services – leading to true reform and over-all savings during this era of budget woes.

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Gay Straight Alliances popular in Wisconsin GLBT youth educate selves

By Ron Geiman
Editor

The number of known Gay Straight Alliance's (GSAs) in Wisconsin has grown from 1 in '96 to 45 so far in '02. GSAs have a common goal of creating safe spaces for GLBT youth specifically in schools, and creating a dialogue with fellow students and educators about GLBT issues.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of South Central Wisconsin (GLSEN-SCW) is a chapter of

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Silence speaks loudly for GLBT students

By Carmen Alicia Murguía
Contributor

Milwaukee – In its seventh year, the National Day of Silence Project makes a statement for GLBT rights in high schools across the nation.

Yesterday, April 10, students, staff and faculty from Riverside University High School, Nicolet High School, Wauwatosa East, Shorewood, Waukesha North, Milwaukee Pius XI; Hamilton in Lisbon and students across the state of Wisconsin, demonstrated "to dramatize the silence they feel society imposes on GLBT people and their allies."

Nationally, protests took place at more than 900 high school and college campuses. About 20 schools throughout Wisconsin are listed as participants on a



Jim Ryan



Scott Walker



Eric Huebner, participant in Day of Silence.



Nerissa Eichinger, participant in Day of Silence.

Web site posted by organizers.

A single student at the University of Virginia started the day of silence in 1996. This year, the movement has the financial backing of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), a New York-based national group that advocates tolerance for young people of diverse sexual orientations.

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Falk budgets \$35,000 to support needle exchange

Madison – Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk included \$35,000 in the Dane County 2002 budget to fund one full-time staff person to work with the AIDS Network and the AIDS Resource Center in partnership on the needle exchange program.

There currently is a needle exchange program in Dane County, however, it relies on private funds. Falk's inclusion of funds for staffing in the 2002 budget is the first public funding of a needle exchange program in Dane County.

The additional staff person will allow the organizations to develop additional relationships with injection drug users (IDU) for syringe exchange, education, testing and reduced or eliminated drug use.

During 2000, about 200 IDUs exchanged over 45,000 needles. The Wisconsin Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse estimates that there are at least 2,000 injection drug users in Dane County.



Kathleen Falk

PrideFest announces Community Service Award recipients – Timms and Lynch are "people who make a difference"

Milwaukee – Each year Milwaukee's PrideFest presents awards to a number of individuals who demonstrated leadership, community service and notable achievements. The nominees come from the community and are selected by the Council. The Awards Ceremony takes place this year on Friday, June 7th at 5:30pm during the opening ceremonies.

Besides naming Elna Hickson 2002's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, as noted in a separate article, [see Youth Advocate ... Page 3] the following award winners were also announced:

Community Service Award

Presented to an individual or organization, who has demonstrated exemplary contributions of time to the community and its members, PrideFest 2002 has named two recipients: **Gary Timm** and **Kevin Lynch**.

"The PrideFest committee knows Gary Timms name from the selection of his motto as our theme for 2002 festival, '10% Crowd, 100% Proud.'"

Gary shared the reasoning behind his motto explaining, "10% represents the percentage that the LGBTIQ community comprises in the general population. It says that 1 out of 10 people you know could be GLBT Intersex, or Questioning. It emphasizes that everyone knows someone gay whether he or she knows it not. We are everywhere! 100% Proud ties in with PrideFest, which is a festival that shows our pride in who we are. It is the LGBTIQ community saying to the world we are proud of who we are."

Each year for the past four years Gary has taken a weeks vacation to volunteer at PrideFest. He is on the PrideFest Volunteer Committee and was co-chair for the Creating Change Conference Volunteer Committee.

Timm also serves on the LGBT Community Center Membership Committee, is a member of GAMMA and

P-FLAG. He brags about the loving support he and his partner Ross Spens enjoy from Gary's family. He and Spens, worked many hours to elect Gore in 2000.

When asked what was his most rewarding volunteer experience, he replied: "It has to be the Creating Change Conference. It was a rewarding experience to showcase Milwaukee. The dedicated volunteers on all committees were great to work with. We worked from March to November to organize the conference. I was proud that our Milwaukee conference had the most volunteers of any of the previous 14 conferences. We had a total of 370 volunteers!"

Gary views his winning this award as a representative of the almost 400 volunteers at the Creating Change and the approximate 1,000 Volunteers at PrideFest.

Kevin Lynch comes from a family of volunteers. His first volunteer experiences were as a candy striper and an altar boy. This 24 year old has been volunteering for the BESTD Brady East Clinic for seven years. He has held the positions of HIV counselor, manager of Outreach, board member, and BESTD clinic director. He has also been President of BESTD Clinic for over a year. The President's position, like all officers, is a volunteer position where he puts in a minimum of 15 hours a week.

Ross Walker, past President of BESTD Clinic, says, "Kevin has been a devoted volunteer. When I retired from the Presidency last year, the Board unanimously voted Kevin as its new President. He has done a tremendously good job in leading the Clinic and carrying on its mission of providing services to the community. Kevin is an outstanding role model of dedication, sensitivity and professionalism to his contemporaries. Because he is making a difference, he motivates others by example to follow in his footsteps."

Nerissa Eichinger, 17, a Senior at Shorewood High School explained, "I found out about the National Day of Silence at a Gay/Straight Alliance Conference and I thought this is a really incredible movement to represent for myself and other people like me. I feel safe and supported by my teachers, but I am not comfortable being out at school. I don't feel I can talk openly about myself. I'm participating because I think this sends a powerful message to end homophobia and oppression for GLBTQ people."

Currently, Nerissa works at Pathfinders for Teens, and after graduation, she plans on attending UW-Milwaukee where she'll study social work. Nerissa identifies as Lesbian.

"I come to Project Q because it's an open and safe space for me. At Riverside, I've been on the Gay/Straight Alliance for two years, and the National Day of Silence protest is a way to get my school's GSA out there to the entire school," said 17 year old Anthony Evans. "It's important for me to be a part of this. I'm doing it to get respect and to protest being silenced. I do feel safe being myself at school – people know."

Evans is a Senior at Riverside University High School. After graduating, he plans on attending UW-Milwaukee. Anthony identifies as Bisexual.

A beehive of community activities Phenomenal growth at Milwaukee LGBT Center

Milwaukee – The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is seeing phenomenal growth of activities and projects housed in, or associated with the Center.

The **Galano Club**, a alcohol and drug free clubhouse housed on the Center's second floor, has seen a big jump in both visitors and new members since their December move from their former Farwell location, according to a Galano volunteer.

The diversity of visitors to the Center, as well as the convenience of feeding off other activities in the building, have had a big impact on the Gay Alcoholics group's visibility, as well.

Herbst represents GLBT's on city commission

Kathy Herbst will represent the Center's new **Domestic Violence Council**, filling a seat on the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

The Milwaukee Common Council voted to create a seat for the Center's DVC rep, a quick approval considering the DVC wasn't even born until January.

The Center co-hosted – with the Judicial Oversight Demonstration Initiative – a January **Summit on Domestic Violence** in same-sex relationships. Out of that summit, the new Domestic Violence Council was organized at the Center.

Domestic violence service providers such as the Milwaukee Women's Center, Sojourner Truth House, the Task Force on Family Violence and ASHA Family Services plus LGBT organizations including LAMM, SAGE and Gemini Gender Group, were represented at the summit.

The summit identified a need to address the issue externally (that is, within the legal, law enforcement and service provider systems) to determine what services currently exist and how prepared these systems are to deal with LGBT individuals. The DVC also needs to educate our own community to recognize and respond to violence within our relationships.

In February, the Council voted to become a workgroup of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and to advocate for a seat on the Commission. Obviously, the seat was approved, and Herbst will be an excellent representative of the LGBT community.

Project would address hate crimes

"Following the lead of LGBT community centers nation-wide who have implemented similar programs, the DVC is one part of an **Anti-Violence Project** being developed by the Center, an initiative that will also address hate crimes," a Center spokesperson reported.

"Milwaukee's Community Center rec-

ognizes the importance of addressing both domestic violence and hate crimes in our communities and has identified anti-violence programming as a priority issue in 2002."

'Circle of Friends' targets HIV in People of Color

Tasilah Gooseberry joined the Center's staff on April 1 as the **Circle of Friends Project** coordinator. Tasilah, formerly a GED Program Coordinator for the YWCA, is active in several LGBT and allied community groups addressing issues within Milwaukee's African American community.

"I am very excited about this project," said Gooseberry, "because it will allow me to focus on a major issue in our community."

"Circle of Friends," will focus on identifying and eliminating the barriers that prevent high risk African American Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) from having an HIV test.

The new initiative is led by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services - HIV/AIDS Program.

"HIV continues to be a health concern in our community, particularly among people of color," said Albrecht. "New strategies to reach this population must be innovative culturally appropriate. This project is highly collaborative and provides the Center with a much-welcomed opportunity to work with a very diverse group of organizations."

Other groups involved in the "Circle of Friends" initiative include Charles D. Productions, House of Infinity, New Concept Self Development Center, ARCW and the Center for AIDS Intervention Research/MCOW.

Library to reopen this month

"One of the many wonderful advantages to the Center's new location was the opportunity for our library to have its own space," according to the website. "Although it has taken some time to organize, the doors will open in April, thanks to the hard work of the Library Task Force and to the donation of new bookshelves."

The Library will offer a varied selection of LGBT-themed fiction and nonfiction books. Anyone with a valid form of identification (for example, photo ID or driver's license) can check-out up to five books at a time.

Building social justice coalitions

The Colorado-based Gill Foundation has awarded the Center a two-year \$40,000 grant to strengthen the Center's capacity to lead in social justice coalitions

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Day of Silence

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Jim Anderson, spokesman for the network, said his group has found through surveys that 80% of Gay students nationally have been harassed by classmates because of their sexual orientation. More than 30% have reported skipping at least one day of school out of fear for their safety.

At last Tuesday's drop-in night at Milwaukee's Project Q, a GLBT youth organization hosted by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, this reporter spoke with three students eager to share why they were participating in this year's National Day of Silence.

"I know how it feels to be silenced. Before I came out to my friends at 15, I noticed how they talked in general about Gay people, as if they knew I was but didn't say anything directly to me," said Eric Huebner, 16. "I felt like I should get out of this conversation because I couldn't stay silent and it just didn't feel right. I am the public relations officer for our Gay/Straight Alliance, and I just want to be more political about Gay rights."

Run-eric huebner picture Huebner is a Visual Arts Major in his Junior year at Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Eric identifies as Gay, and noticed boys at age 12 and came out to his parents at 15 when they found a Project Q brochure, and he says "they are so cool with it."

Election

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The next Milwaukee County executive will have to decide funding for at least two programs that could impact the GLBT and HIV/AIDS communities: Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE); and needle exchange staff funding for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Ryan recently toured ARCW's downtown facility and visited the needle exchange van.

During a short, well received speech at the Make A Promise Dinner (where Walker made a brief appearance) on Saturday night, Ryan expressed surprise at the results of ARCW's programs.

Ryan indicated he was impressed by the big decrease in new HIV infections in Milwaukee County – thanks to the needle exchange and other ARCW intervention and education programs – and complimented staff and volunteers.

"You often hear the mantra "coalition building" and that's exactly what the GLBT community must do in the 19 days before the election," said one Gay politico. "We have to reach out to African Americans, Hispanics, moderates, union members, the disenfranchised, the social justice community and "middle" Milwaukeeans," he continued. "And not just in the city of Milwaukee – we've got to involve suburban GLBTs and our allies, too. After all, we are everywhere."

Our Youth and Families

Gay Straight Alliances

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the national GLSEN organization. Since its inception in 1996, its major focus has been to empower students and educators to reduce homophobia and heterosexism within their schools.

RAY groups have grown in number from 2 to 13 in the same time span, and have supported GLSEN chapters in a common goal of creating safe spaces for GLBT youth. RAY works with community-based youth groups, and GLSEN works with school-based groups

In March of 1998, GLSEN-SCW sponsored the "Expanding the Knowledge Conference," which was attended by 270 youth and adults from across the state and established the chapter's presence as a statewide resource.

The organization quickly became known for its youth leadership program-

Nationwide growth of Gay-Straight Alliances

High schools across the U.S. raise hopes, pose challenges

By David Crary
AP National Writer

Stratford, CT (AP) - Gay-straight alliances, or GSAs, first appeared in Massachusetts in 1989 and have spread rapidly coast-to-coast in recent years in both high schools and colleges. [See the companion piece, "Gay Straight Alliances popular in Wisconsin" on cover page.]

About 1,000 of America's 26,000 high schools now have them, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), a national organization.

Critics argue that GSAs "promote homosexuality" and have no place in schools. Defenders say the clubs are invaluable in encouraging tolerance and easing the isolation that drives many Gay students into substance abuse and suicide attempts.

"Any other minority group has their families, churches and communities behind them," said Patricia Boland, a school psychologist in Chesterfield County near Richmond, Va. "Gay youth don't. If they're getting harassed, often they don't tell their parents. They're very much on their own."

She said anti-Gay sentiment can be damaging even to straight students.

"Kids shy away from the arts, or get pushed into having sex way before they're ready, just to prove they're not Gay," Boland said.

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ming which supports GSAs and for its educational workshops targeted at education professionals.

The phenomenal growth overwhelmed GLSEN-SCW's ability to provide advocacy for all the new GSAs and student leaders turned to other organizations for support.

That outreach helped spur GLSEN chapters in other regions of the state and the emergence of autonomous GLSEN chapters in Northeastern, Northwestern and Southeastern Wisconsin.

Rainbow Alliance for Youth network

In addition the growth was supported by Rainbow Alliance for Youth (RAY) of Wisconsin, a collaborative network of community-based GLBTQ youth groups in the state: GALAXY in La Crosse, Project Q in Milwaukee and Teens Like Us in Madison, who also support GSAs in their regions of the state.

RAY groups have grown in number from 2 to 13 in the same time span, and have supported GLSEN chapters in a common goal of creating safe spaces for GLBT youth. RAY works with community-based youth groups, and GLSEN works with school-based groups.

According to Jason Rasmussen, spokesman for GLSEN-SCW, they have worked in concert with community-based GLBT youth organizations such as Teens Like Us and Project Q as well as adult advocacy groups like Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) chapters to accomplish a phenomenal record of success.

Legal right to form GSAs

According to Rasmussen, it is a legal right to form GSAs. "Students often encounter opposition from administrators

The success of GSAs "are somewhat dependent on the existence of locally-based organizations which have the capacity to rally teachers, parents, and others to serve as advocates for students,"

Jason Rasmussen,
GLSEN-SCW

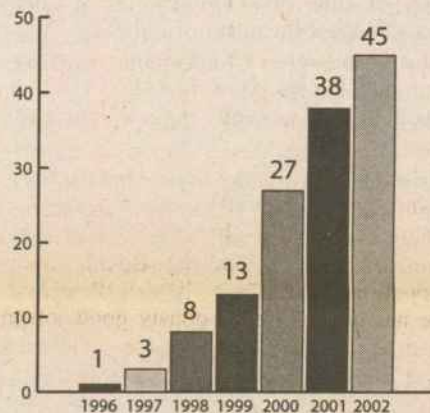
when they attempt to form GSAs or implement GSA programming."

For that reason and others, the success of GSAs "are somewhat dependent on the existence of locally-based organizations which have the capacity to rally teachers, parents, and others to serve as advocates for students," according to Rasmussen.

HIV education for youth

Another organization, Diverse and

GSA Growth in Wisconsin



Youth advocate selected for PrideFest Lifetime Achievement Award

Choice of the tireless Elna Hickson wins praise

Milwaukee - Elna Hickson was selected for PrideFest's 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented "to an individual who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the LGBT community. Individuals who have received this award in the past have often been instrumental in changing the course of the community's history," according to PrideFest guidelines.

Elna reflects the theme of this year's celebration, because of her staunch support of "the 10% Crowd" and she is definitely "100% Proud."

Elna has worked with Milwaukee's Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays since 1994 holding almost every position from President, Secretary and newsletter/mailling list coordinator to Youth/Education Advocate.

When PrideFest called her and mentioned she was named the award winner, she was so surprised and said she didn't think she deserved it. After telling her husband, he replied proudly, "Elna you know you do a lot of things!"

The PrideFest Council obviously agreed.

Sheri Goldberg, who co-nominated Elna summed up the Councils feeling best, "Elna has demonstrated not only acceptance and continued love and respect for all of us in the LGBT community, she has helped our community for years and we

need to let her know how we feel.," said Goldberg.

"She has been helpful to change things with families who have a son or daughter who come out, and has been a catalyst of



(L-R) Elna Hickson, her son Eric and his partner Doug Kranz

healing and understanding."

Marcus Smith, the other co-nominator and Youth Coordinator for PrideFest, said, "Elna, your efforts in our community- especially the young LGBT community, have not gone unknown. You go girl!"

Kathy Herbst, Director of Programs for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, says of Elna, "It has been my great honor to work with Elna on a number of projects over the last six years. Elna has incredible energy along with an unwavering commitment to LGBT issues and people and a willingness to directly and forcefully con-

Resilient, has provided "capacity building" to both RAY and GLSEN groups around the state, Rasmussen explained. "Diverse and Resilient exists to increase the number and quality of programs that address the needs of GLBTQ youth in Wisconsin, in order to eliminate HIV transmission among youth."

In the past five years according to Rasmussen, D&R has fostered over a dozen programs, distributed \$125,000 in mini-grants and hosted numerous training events, workshops, retreats and regional consultations.

Nine GSA conferences, attended by over 400 students, have been sponsored by GLSEN, according to Rasmussen, who claims leadership programs offered "have served as a catalyst for a significant growth in the GSA movement in Wisconsin."

Participants evaluated the programs, and - not surprisingly - students consistently highly-rank the GSA conferences as "providing resources on creating change at their school and strengthening their clubs."

"By coming to this lock-in I realize how ignorant I was. It has opened my eyes," one student said. Another, "I learned how to utilize presentation skills to tell a story better - more effective."

Another commented, "I learned that we, as a GSA, can file reports on anything people do at our school; like ripping down our posters and signs and that we should keep a record of things."

Rasmussen pointed out that the youth leadership programming has been systematically developed by GLSEN-SCW into a year-long cycle that includes:

- Three annual leadership development student gatherings;

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front homophobia wherever she finds it. I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award."

When PrideFest asked Elna why she does all the things she is involved in, she replied it became her choice and obligation when her own awareness was raised. In 1994, when she first joined PFLAG, she did a lot of reading and discovered there was much she was learning and felt a need to go beyond her silent acceptance of her son, Eric and son-in-law Doug's long term committed relationship of now 20 plus years. She said it was an honor to serve the community wherever needed.

A friend of hers commented Elna's son said, "You are out more than I am." Elna, like so many P-FLAGers, are billboards for acceptance. He sometimes wonders where his mother gets all the energy!

Elna reiterated all the success was team efforts. She has a great support system with the many people she works with. Her advantage is that she is a free-lance pianist and so has the freedom to arrange a work schedule and fit in all manner of meetings. Without Lloyd, her supportive husband, the task would be really difficult.

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High Schools in the US

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Some GSAs consist almost entirely of Gay and Lesbian students, others have straight allies.

"A lot of my friends are Gay," said junior Julie Baron. "I'm straight, but because I'm in the club, somebody called me a fag. They need to grow up."

A GSA advisor on the East Coast, English teacher Michael Fiorello, is heartened by the high-spirited camaraderie that has developed among the students. "When I was in high school, if you wanted to experience anything Gay, it was going to be dark and dangerous," he said.

In some schools, GSAs emerged due to the efforts of a few activist students, then collapsed after they graduated. Kevin Jennings, executive director of the GLSEN, blames indifferent and hostile school administrators.

"With other school clubs - the French club, the math club - the system commits to supporting them so they will always be there, but the system hasn't made that commitment to GSAs," Jennings said. "In too many cases, once the student activist graduates or the dedicated teacher is transferred, the GSA goes with them."

Efforts to form GSAs have been resisted in some communities by parents, school boards and clergy. But court rulings generally side with GSA supporters, primarily because of a federal law that requires equal access to public school facilities.

In Arlington, Texas, Martin High School senior Jesse Brown has been struggling since last year to form a GSA. His latest hopes were dashed in December when the one teacher who volunteered to sponsor the club backed away from the commitment.

"Many teachers are very fearful of backlash," Jennings said. "They have mortgages to pay, they're very vulnerable."

The National Education Association, the country's largest teachers union, has asked school districts to crack down on harassment of Gay students and staff. [As reported in a previous issue of *Wisconsin Light*.]

Gerald Newberry, executive director of the NEA's health information network, said some teachers worry that working with a GSA may label them as Gay, but students generally find a faculty sponsor.

"They have rather well-developed radar - they seek out someone who through overt or covert messages has communicated that they care about all kids in the school," he said.

Massachusetts, where more than half the high schools have GSAs, is the only state to help finance them. The attitude of the state's principals toward the clubs varies, depending partly on how much opposition surfaces among parents.

"It's a delicate balance, a dance that a principal has to do," said David Rudewick, director of a student civil rights project run by the Massachusetts Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes.

Parental resistance [in some areas] has waned over the past decade, Rudewick said. "Society has changed. It's hard for them to say now that these clubs are going to turn kids Gay."

"If the school doesn't give them resources, allow them to have projects that bring people across lines, it can be divisive," he said. "It can leave students even more exposed to harassment, and the administration might turn a blind eye."

Wisconsin's Rainbow Families spring confab

Madison - A great line up of educational, supportive, and inspirational programming for GLBTs and their families will greet those attending the 2nd annual **Rainbow Families Wisconsin Spring Conference**, Saturday, April 20.

The all-volunteer board has been working hard to provide quality speakers and programming so those attending the conference and, making the trip to Madison area worth your time.

The fun begins with 8:30-9am registration Saturday, with workshops and speakers appearing until 3pm. All sessions will take place at the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive.

Advance registration ended April 10, but for information on possible last minute participation, contact: markledy@uwalumni.com or at 608-516-0891.

Suggested donation to cover food and childcare after the deadline are \$15 for adults, \$7 for kids, space permitting. The donation includes: Lunch, workshops, child care and prizes from the raffle drawing.

Teen program opposite keynote speaker

Brian Juchems of Briarpatch and his trusty assistant Joe invite middle and high school students tagging along to the conference to join them for a series of high energy, very un-boring activities and group challenges. Comfortable clothing recommended for this 9-11:15...

Meanwhile, from 9-9:45am, adults will hear from Mary Lou Munts, a former Wisconsin state representative and the current co-chair of Wisconsin Common Cause. Ms. Munts will offer insights for families in this era of increased civil rights and rapidly changing social values. Munts has a Lesbian daughter, who with her partner has adopted three children.

Morning Sessions run from 9:45am to 11:15am and include:

- Navigating Your Child's School, a panel facilitated by Jason Rasmussen, GLSEN-SCW. [Rasmussen was the source of the "Gay Straight Alliances popular in Wisconsin" article this section.]

GLSEN staff, parents and a school principal will provide a overview of how to choose safe and inclusive K-12 schools, how to participate in the life of the school and its policy-making boards, and how to approach schools if problems arise.

- Protecting Our Families Under the Law, features Patricia Logue and Heather Sawyer of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF), a national GLBT legal group.

Elna

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Elna is a significant part of the P-FLAG Coalition for Safe Schools. The project stems from a Helen Bader Foundation grant with three purposes: creating a Safe Space in the community (Project Q); a Safe Space for LGBT Students in the Milwaukee Public school through work with the faculty, staff, administration, and parent groups; and establishing Gay Straight Alliances in schools.

This coalition, though spearheaded by PFLAG, utilizes the long-term efforts of the Milwaukee Public Schools Advisory Committee and the Fledgling GLSEN-SEW (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network-South East Wisconsin). Elna cautions strong community involvement will be required in the next two years to fully accomplish the goals of the grant.

This interactive workshop will give a general overview of legal protections, pitfalls and resources for Lesbian and Gay families on issues such as adoption rights, the rights of non-biological parents, and custody after divorce.

- Cutting Edge Issues on Queer Parenting is presented by Sunshine Jones, MS, and Janet Wright, PhD. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore emerging issues and concerns in queer-parented families. The presenters will draw from family experience, research, and community and from clinical experience in working with queer-parented families.

- Sex, Drugs, and Rock -n Roll in 2002: Can We Talk? A multi media presentation by Paul Grossberg, MD, of UW's Health Service will focus on how media, peer culture, self-esteem development, sexuality and risky behaviors affect youth in our community.

Afternoon Schedule

Sessions run from 12:30-2pm, and include:

- Adoptive Family Values by Ann Fleming. This workshop presents concepts and information to help adoptive and prospective adoptive families consider adoption as a "first" rather than a "second" choice.

- Creating Safe Schools for LGBT Students and Staff, presented by LLDEF's Logue and Sawyer, will provide an overview of relevant legal issues and a discussion of strategies for stopping anti-Gay abuse and violence, for forming GSAs, and for creating safe and supportive working environments.

- Building & Protecting Families: Legal Protections, Judy Sperling-Newton and Maureen McFarland of Stafford Rosenbaum Children's Law Center Adoptions of Wisconsin, will target the legal aspects of assisted reproduction, adoption and legally protected relationships. The session will include the benefits and disadvantages of available choices, the processes involved, the reasons and timing for legal representation, and the costs.

- Teen COLAGERS Speak Out About Our Families, facilitated by Sol Kelley-Jones, Children of Lesbians & Gays Everywhere (COLAGE), Madison COLAGE chapter members will address topics related to their experiences being raised by LGBT parents. Attendees are invited to submit questions to the session moderator for discussion.

Elna is also involved in LYDAC (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Development Advisory Committee), the RAY Group (Rainbow Alliance for Youth), and works on the HIV Material Advisory Board for DPI, in addition to many other fine organizations.

"Advocating for an environment in schools that is safe, accepting and allows LGBTQ youth an equal opportunity at an education takes an extraordinary amount of time, compassion, and perseverance," said Neil Albrecht, Executive Director, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. "Elna Hickson embodies these characteristics and many, many more. She is, in the true sense of the word, a hero to the LGBTQ youth and those of us who know her passion."

Our youth are in good hands with people like Elna Hickson. Congratulations on your award, and the community looks forward to your leadership for years to come.

Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light



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"Celebration of Leadership" dinner & dance

Madison - GLSEN-SCW is hosting their Celebration of Leadership, a dinner and dance, with awards for adult leaders and scholarships to four deserving students, on May 11.

Each year GLSEN-SCW provides four scholarships to graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing LGBT equality through activism in their school community. This

year's scholarships will be presented during the Celebration held at Monona Terrace.

The awards acknowledge adults involved in advancing causes surrounding GLBT youth issues.

Tickets to the event, which will feature a dance and dinner, are now available. Call 608-661-4141 for details.

National NEWS

New York GLAAD Media Awards a smash

New York, NY - Glenn Close, Nathan Lane, and the best in journalism, film, television and theatre were honored March 31 by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) at the organization's 13th annual awards in New York City.

At the ceremonies held at the New York Marriott Marquis, Alan Campbell presented Glenn Close with GLAAD's Excellence in Media Award, honoring a member of the entertainment community who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for GLBT people.

"When I had the privilege of playing Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer - during that final scene with Judy Davis, a window in my heart snapped open and I understood and felt for thirty seconds what it was like to love someone of the same gender not by choice but because that it is simply who you are," Close said.

"I understood on a new level what a terrible tragedy it is for someone who still must hide who they really are for fear they may lose their job or may be bodily harmed," Close continued.

"What a terrible tragedy it is to not be able to marry the one you love or not be able to adopt a child. I promise you tonight that I will, by choice, continue to seek out the characters and stories that will help to change all that."

Also at the ceremony, Nathan Lane was honored with the Vito Russo Award, which honors an openly Gay member of the entertainment or media community for their outstanding contribution in combating homophobia.

Accepting the award on Lane's behalf were Russo's mother, Anne Russo, and his brother, Charles Russo.

Media Awards were also handed out in 10 of this year's 24 media categories and additional awards will be presented in Los Angeles on April 13 and in San Francisco on June 1.

"I'm so glad I came," said Barbara Walters, accepting the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Journalism on

behalf of "20/20." "I've won a few awards in my 105 years in this business. I mean this so sincerely - I can't think of any award that touches me more. I can remember when you were in a small room and there were like 300 of you, do you remember that? Look at you now."

"The program itself was our reward," Walters said, "but as you could tell I'm absolutely thrilled and I thank you so much for the honor and for just being who you are."

"Last night we had a room full of media professionals - many from the news media - who understand the importance of fair, accurate and inclusive images of our lives" said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "And our upcoming ceremonies... promise even more opportunities to celebrate and connect us through the power of our stories."

List of Media Award recipients

- Excellence in Media Award: Glenn Close
- Vito Russo Award: Nathan Lane
- Outstanding Film-Limited Release: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*
- Outstanding Television Movie: *What Makes a Family*
- Outstanding Daytime Drama: *All My Children*
- Outstanding Newspaper Overall Coverage: *USA Today*
- Outstanding Newspaper Columnist: Leonard Pitts, Jr. (*The Miami Herald*)
- Outstanding TV Journalism: "The Children Speak," "20/20"
- Outstanding Magazine Overall Coverage: *The New York Times Magazine*
- Outstanding Advertising-Print: "Absolut GLAAD"
- Outstanding New York Theater-Broadway & Off-Broadway: *The Invention of Love*
- Outstanding New York Theater-Off-Off-Broadway: *In On It*



Valerie Harper, GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry, Rue McClanahan, ceremonies host Kristen Johnson and Bea Arthur. Photo by Jeff Vespa/WireImage.com

Photo by Jeff Vespa/WireImage.com

U.S. Supremes halt Alabama execution

By Garry Mitchell
Associated Press Writer

Mobile, AL - The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the execution of Gary Leon Brown last Thursday about eight hours before he was to die in Alabama's electric chair for killing a Gay man who was nearly decapitated by a second attacker while being robbed of \$67.

Brown, sentenced to die for the 1986 stabbing death of Jack David McGraw in suburban Birmingham, contends electrocution is impermissibly cruel and unusual punishment. His defense also contends the execution should be halted until the high court rules in an Arizona case involving the way sentences are imposed.

The Supreme Court halted 43-year-old Brown's execution until the justices have time to consider his appeal. If the high court decides against accepting the appeal, the stay would be lifted and the execution date reset. If it accepts the appeal, the execution would be halted indefinitely.

McGraw was stabbed repeatedly and nearly had his head cut off on Memorial Day 1986 when he declined to party with Brown and two companions at McGraw's home, according to testimony.

McGraw, described in trial testimony as Gay, had in the past shared beers with the trio. The three killers told investigators that McGraw sometimes paid them for sex, Deputy Jefferson County District Attorney Mike Anderton recalled Thursday.

While the murder charge did not include any sexual aspects, prosecutors have said the savageness of the crime indicated it was motivated by more than simple robbery.

Anderton said the three considered McGraw "an easy mark." He said the murder was "one of the most horrible things I've seen, and I've been doing this almost 20 years."

McGraw, a Korean War veteran with virtually no relatives, was stabbed in the back 59 times and had his throat and neck slashed. His body was left in his mobile home in Center Point, where neighborhood children found it.

Alabama had four executions scheduled last year and all four were blocked by the courts for various reasons.

Brown's appeal moved before the nation's highest court just a day after the Alabama Supreme Court unanimously rejected it.

State prosecutors contend Brown, on death row for 15 years, had failed to raise the issues in previous appeals and the legal deadlines for them had expired.

Also convicted in the vicious attack were James Lynn Bynum of Trussville, 21 at the time of the slaying, who was paroled in 1997 from a life sentence, and the alleged ringleader, Archie Bankhead of Birmingham, now serving life without parole.

Bankhead, then 36, cut McGraw's throat with a butcher knife, according to testimony. Initially sentenced to death, he won an appeal and at retrial avoided the death penalty.

NEWS

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Correction

In Wisconsin Light Issue 6, March 28-April 10, 2002 issue, we printed a quote from the Human Rights League's endorsement of Jim Ryan for Milwaukee County Executive that contained a factual error. HRL claimed Scott Walker was "a past

sponsor of anti-same sex marriage legislation". Upon further inspection of legislative records, we found that not to be true. Walker did indeed vote for the legislation (as did most some Democrats), however, he was not a co-sponsor. Wisconsin Light apologizes for not fact-checking HRL's claims.

Urge Senators to vote for federal Hate Crimes bill

Please take action today to urge your U.S. Senators [Wisconsin's Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold already support the legislation, but an outpouring of support would still have an important impact] to support the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, S.625 – the so-called federal Hate Crimes bill – and to ask the Senate leadership to bring it up for a vote as soon as possible.

According to a notice released March 21 by Majority Whip Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the legislation is listed for possible consideration during the legislative period which began April 8, when the Senate returned from its recess.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, S. 625, would add "real

or perceived sexual orientation, gender and disability" to the current law, which only covers crimes based on race, religion and national origin.

If passed, it would allow the FBI and federal prosecutors to work in partnership with local law enforcement officials who may lack adequate resources to effectively investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

The 33-year-old federal statute currently used to prosecute hate violence does not include sexual orientation, and while 45 states currently have hate crimes laws on the books, only 27 [including Wisconsin] address crimes based on sexual orientation.

To send a free fax to your senators, visit the HRC online Action Center at: www.hrc.org/actioncenter/index.asp.

Legislative and electoral news from the HRC

A partnership between the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Gill Foundation would drive federal dollars to state and local GLBT. The Community Action Program launched by the two groups will aid community-based organizations in securing federal funding.

The pilot program will provide information gathered from extensive research directly to interested programs and organizations. Technical assistance will be given to help organizations better understand the granting process and federal grantee responsibilities.

The goal of the program is to facilitate funding from the federal level to local GLBT organizations. Extensive outreach to local GLBT organizations will help to make large and small organizations interested in these services aware of them.

In the future, funding information will be provided via several formats, including the Internet and a resource book.

[If you are aware of local, rural, suburban or little-known GLBT-serving organizations that could benefit from this program, please send all relevant contact information to:

CommunityActionProgram@hrc.org

Or, contact Christopher Braman, HRC's Community Action Program manager, at 202-216-1591.]

HRC youth political "college"

Every election cycle HRC brings 20 energetic activists to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong, comprehensive campaign-training program called Youth College. The program includes all the nuts and bolts of running a successful campaign, including information on media relations, fund raising and organizing a field opera-

tion.

Once the training is over, HRC sends the newly trained participants to targeted campaigns across the country. There, the Youth College graduates serve as full-time staff members, and their activities include research, press, recruiting volunteers, organizing phone banks, getting out the vote and much more.

Once the elections are over, participants return to Washington for a quick lesson in how to maintain contacts and start a political career.

[HRC is now accepting applications for Youth College, with a May 1 deadline. Apply to Youth College by visiting:

www.hrc.org/about/pac/ycapp.asp.

For more information, call 202-216-1537 or e-mail: youthcollege@hrc.org.]

Outreach to historically Black Colleges

Donna Payne, HRC's constituent field organizer, and Candace Gingrich, HRC's National Coming Out Project manager, are working with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Alumni Center, www.hbcu.com, to reach out to schools nationwide.

The first event was an HRC-sponsored panel discussion April 6, at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. The panel investigated "Issues Facing the Black GLBT Community."

[For more information, e-mail: Donna.Payne@hrc.org.]

[Sign Up to Receive HRC Political Equality Update: To receive the HRC Political Equality Update, send an e-mail to: listserv@lists.hrc.org with the command "subscribe equality_update" in the body (no subject needed).]

Adoption difficult for Gay Iowa couples

Waterloo, IA (AP) – Same-sex couples wanting to adopt a child in Iowa face limited options, although state law does nothing to prohibit Gay or Lesbian couples from adopting.

The problem has become a hot topic nationwide as two Florida men fight for the right to adopt one of their foster children against the laws of the state. The story gained even more attention when talk show host Rosie O'Donnell openly admitted she was a Lesbian foster and adoptive parent.

Although Iowa law allows same-sex couples to adopt a child, many private agencies require a couple to be married before they are considered as acceptable for adopting a child.

Gair Bridges, a Gay man from Eldora, sidestepped the hassle of adopting a child

by working through the Department of Human Services.

Bridges and his partner, Ron Travis, who died of a heart attack in 1999, had served as foster parents since 1989.

"With foster care we always had older kids anyway," Bridges said. He said the duo took in the children with the intent of adopting.

Officials with DHS say they try to keep sexual orientation out of the adoption process. "We do reference checks and background checks, but we don't get into sexual preferences," said Mary Nelson, a department administrator.

The department uses a panel of adopted children to learn more about what eased and complicated their situations.

"One of the things they talk about is what are the rules in the house. Can you go

to the refrigerator when you want? Can you get up before Mom and Dad? That is stuff most of us don't even think about."

Adoption representatives at Catholic Charities do not ask about sexual orientation, but internally set criteria makes it impossible for same-sex couples to adopt a

child through the agency.

Those wishing to adopt must have a valid Catholic marriage of three years, be childless, have a problem with infertility and be under the age of 40. At least one of the parents must also be a practicing Catholic.

Nebraska Supremes hear Gay adoption case

By Kevin O'Hanlon
Associated Press Writer

Omaha, NB – The state Supreme Court was asked last week to decide if a Lesbian who legally adopted a child in another state is eligible to apply for child custody in Nebraska.

The high court heard arguments at Creighton University's School of Law involving Serenna Russell, whose partner, Joan Bridgens, adopted a baby boy in 1996.

Russell and Bridgens jointly adopted the boy the next year while living in Pennsylvania.

The couple has since split. Russell lives in Nebraska and Bridgens lives in Michigan with the boy. Russell is asking the Nebraska court to recognize the adoption so she can gain legal custody of the boy and petition Bridgens for child support.

No Nebraska court has ruled whether a Gay couple can adopt a child, but Douglas County District Judge Joseph Troia rejected Russell's request, saying the state of Pennsylvania lacked jurisdiction to recognize the adoption as valid.

Bridgens' lawyer, John Eker III, said that Pennsylvania law, like Nebraska's, requires a parent to relinquish rights to a child before an adoption can take place, except in cases involving adoption by a stepparent.

Big Easy Court takes on sodomy law

New Orleans, LA (AP) – Louisiana's 197-year-old ban on oral and anal sex doesn't violate anybody's right to privacy, the state Supreme Court repeated.

However, the question of whether it discriminates against Gays and Lesbians still open. So are 10 more questions, including whether the law is arbitrarily enforced against Gays and Lesbians, and whether it constitutes a state endorsement of religious beliefs against homosexuality.

The state 4th Circuit Court of Appeal must decide those, a six-judge panel ruled late March in a civil lawsuit filed by the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians Inc.

The justices repeated the court's own July 2000 ruling that the law does not violate the privacy right spelled out in the Louisiana Constitution.

EGL's civil case brought up the privacy issue as well as those of discrimination, enforcement and other matters related to homosexuality.

District Judge Carolyn Gill Jefferson held that the law violated privacy rights.

"This court squarely rejected the assertion that the privacy clause of the Louisiana Constitution protects oral and anal sex," the Supreme Court said. "The action involves, at least, a failure by the lower court to recognize its obligation to

follow the law of this state and pronounced by this court."

John Rawls, attorney for LEGL and plaintiff in the case, said the high court is wrong – both in its privacy ruling and for kicking the other issues back to the 4th Circuit.

"They should be willing to rule on the hard cases without pushing them around like a school boy pushes peas on a plate," Rawls said.

Rawls stressed that the law applies to heterosexuals, too.

"The Supreme Court of Louisiana has said the government can go into anyone's bedroom, including married persons, and criminalize what they are doing, even between consenting adults in private with no one watching and nobody paying for anything," he said.

Rawls also raised the possibility of a boycott of the state by Gay rights groups and their supporters. "This ruling is a financial disaster for the tourism industry of Louisiana," he said.

"It's not an issue of the government being in the bedroom, it's a matter of keeping perversion out of the public restrooms and public places," said State Rep. Republican Tony Perkins.

Laws simply banning sex in public places are not enough, he said.

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Nebraska Supremes also take porn case

By Kevin O'Hanlon
Associated Press Writer

Omaha, NB - Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart once said that he could not define hardcore pornography. "But I know it when I see it," he said.

Now it's the Nebraska Supreme Court's turn.

Nebraska's high court has not had a pornography case since 1999, when it decided three.

In one, it ruled that a Lincoln man who dressed up as "Crotch the Clown" and masturbated on his cable television show violated obscenity laws.

In the second case, the court ruled in favor of two Sarpy County stores that sold and rented adult videos that local prosecutors had argued were obscene.

In the third, the court said three paintings displayed in a Gay bar in Omaha were obscene and should be destroyed or removed from the state.

In this most recent case, the high court heard arguments last Thursday at the Creighton University School of Law about whether videos sold by two Omaha men in 2000 were obscene.

John Haltom and Daniel Bacon were convicted of distributing two pornograph-

ic videos: *Beach Banged Blondes* and *Sex Patrol* at Haltom's store, Dr. John's.

Haltom was sentenced to 30 days in jail. Bacon received 60 days in jail.

Courts have said that material is obscene if "the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find the work, taken as a whole ... appeals to the prurient, shameful or morbid interest and lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."

Courts have held that free-speech protections are lost only if the material appeals to prurient interests and depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way, and that determination is left to a jury applying contemporary community standards.

Defense lawyer John Fahle said County Judge Edna Atkins erred in instructing the jury on the definition of "prurient interest" and that prosecutors failed to prove their case.

Several of the judges seemed to agree with Fahle during their questioning of Assistant Attorney General J. Kirk Brown.

Brown described in detail the scenes in the movies, including one in which two women and man "form a significant number of geometric configurations."

Des Moines may sue YMCA for Gay bias

Des Moines, IA (AP) - Officials are threatening to block city money from the YMCA of Greater Des Moines because it charges same sex couples more to join than heterosexual married couples.

Des Moines added a sexual-orientation clause to its anti-discrimination ordinance last year. The ordinance outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment or use of public accommodations within the city limits.

"Anybody that does business with the city must comply with that policy," said City Councilwoman Christine Hensley. "It's clearly stated. If there's a loophole, I'll be sure to close it."

The YMCA receives about \$5,400 this year for an emergency shelter program.

The YMCA is not discriminating because its policy is based on Iowa's definition of marriage, which does not recognize Gay and Lesbian unions, said Vernon Delpesce, president of the YMCA of Greater Des Moines. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with membership, he said.

Legally married couples who live together may join the YMCA for \$57.50 a month. Gay couples living together are not eligible for the family package and must join at single adult rates which are \$38.50 - \$13 more for each couple.

Each YMCA group sets its own membership policy, said Iona Toles, a spokes-

woman for the national YMCA. Delpesce said that the Des Moines organization will review the policy within two months.

What defines a family?

The city ordinance does not specify what constitutes a family, which could be debated if the ordinance is contested, said Des Moines City Attorney Bruce Bergman.

"We've got an issue here," Bergman said. "We'll have to take a look at that."

Paul Johnson and his partner joined 7 Flags Fitness & Racquet Club in Clive about a month ago after they were told by YMCA employees that they couldn't join as a family.

The men - who have been together for 10 years - are saving about \$3 a month at 7 Flags, Johnson said.

"The response I got from 7 Flags was, 'We're not in the business of judging people. We're in the business of fitness and health,'" Johnson said.

Steve Beeman, a pastor at First Assembly of God Church in Des Moines, praised the YMCA. Beeman last year opposed the city adding the sexual-orientation clause to the ordinance.

"The YMCA is about health, and homosexuality is not a healthy lifestyle," Beeman said. "For them to allow homosexual memberships would be to contradict themselves."

YMCA objects to camp-out

By Linda Ashton
Associated Press Writer

Yakima, WA (AP) - A Seattle group that promotes good health for Gay and Bisexual men says the YMCA here has taken steps to make sure the Gay City Health Project won't rent a White Pass camp for Labor Day weekend.

Although the YMCA decided to extend a camp contract to GCHP, included in the contract was language that would bar the organization from making any references - verbal, written or through the media - to the YMCA, Camp Dudley or activities there.

And that language makes it unworkable

for GCHP, said director Fred Swanson. "We can't have vendors dictating how we can and can't market our program," he said.

The dispute troubles Martin Howell, a YMCA board member and chairman of its financial development committee.

"I want the 'Y' to win and I want GCHP to win, and I don't think we're moving in that direction," he said.

GCHP rented the YMCA's Camp Dudley without any complaints last year for \$13,000 for 150 men and, soon afterward, the group started making plans to return this year.

Continued on Page 8

National BRIEFS

Slain cop's Lesbian partner denied benefits

Tampa, FL (AP) - The longtime companion of a slain Gay police officer has appealed a pension board's decision to deny benefit payments for her partner's death.

The Tampa Fire and Police Pension Board last month denied the request because officer Lois Marrero had never named a beneficiary for her pension.

She was killed just days before the pension changed its policy to let unmarried officers name beneficiaries.

In the lawsuit filed earlier this month, Marrero's companion, Mickie Mashburn, said that they lived together for 11 years and had participated in a "holy union ceremony" in 1991.

Mashburn and Marrero "remained permanently committed to each other until Marrero's death," the lawsuit said.

Marrero was fatally shot in the line of duty by a fleeing bank robber July 6.

Survivors of unmarried employees are eligible to collect money paid into the plan, about \$50,000, in death benefits for 10 years.

Marrero's family objected to Mashburn getting the pension. They described the couple's relationship as growing increasingly rocky and said Marrero was involved with another woman in Texas shortly before she died.

The lawsuit requests that a circuit judge throw out the board's order March 1 denying Mashburn the benefits and direct the board to determine who Marrero's beneficiary would have been. A court date has not been set.

Cops accused in Gay bashing FBI opens inquiry into civil rights violations

Portland, OR (AP) - Two Portland detectives and a Gresham detective are investigating whether two off-duty Portland police officers assaulted a man outside a downtown bar in late January.

The two officers - who reportedly yelled anti-Gay epithets during the fight - were placed on administrative leave last month.

The criminal investigation was spurred by an anonymous complaint to the Independent Police Review Division.

The victim, who is in his 30s, has not been named. He was treated at the scene and is cooperating with the investigation, Assistant Chief Andrew Kirkland said.

"We had hoped to keep this investigation under wraps so these investigators could go ahead and talk to witnesses and conduct their interviews without interference," Police Chief Mark Kroeker said April 1.

Kroeker said the bureau is reviewing why the investigation was not begun Jan. 24, the night of the incident.

The FBI has opened a preliminary inquiry into whether any civil rights violations occurred and Police Chief Mark Kroeker met with members of the bureau's Sexual Minorities Roundtable, an advisory group to the bureau, and Gay and Lesbian officers.

Kroeker has been working to repair relations with the city's Gay and Lesbian community since taped, anti-Gay remarks he made more than 10 years ago were found for sale on a Christian ministry Web site and publicized in 2000.

"I'm concerned that we do not endanger any of the trust that has been built or retrench in any way, especially after all the work that has been done across the two years in outreach and building relationships," Kroeker said.

Nightline postpones series on Gay life

The five part ABC network news show, *Nightline's* series on Gay life in America scheduled to air April 8-12 was canceled a week ahead of time because of news developments in the Middle East.

Nightline's five-part series exploring the lives of Gay and Lesbian people in America, reported and anchored by Ted Koppel, was titled *A Matter of Choice?* and takes an in-depth look at complexities in the Gay experience, from teenagers grappling with sexual identity issues to senior citizens facing unique challenges in their twilight years.

New air dates for the series, were not immediately available.

Roommate arrested in Fort Wayne torture attack

Fort Wayne, IN (AP) - Police have arrested a man on charges that he tortured his disabled cousin for 12 hours, leaving him critically wounded, after reportedly finding him in bed with another man.

Part of John Runner's brain had to be removed during emergency surgery after the late March attack.

A court document alleges that Maurice A. Ellis, Runner's cousin and roommate, found Runner, 34, in bed with a man and an argument ensued.

Ellis, 35, hit and kicked Runner to unconsciousness, then burned his chest and head with bacon grease, according to the affidavit.

The torture started nearly three hours after the argument began and continued for 12 hours, investigators said.

Ellis, of Fort Wayne, was being held without bond on a preliminary count of aggravated battery.

Runner remained in critical condition at a local hospital. He has been unable to work for several years because he cannot use his left hand and walks with a limp.

Three local groups - the League for the Blind and Disabled, United Voice, and the Stop the Hate Coalition - consider the attack a hate crime.

"We believe it was worse because it happened to a disabled person who, it sounds like, would not have been able to defend himself," said John Guingrich, assistant director of the League for the Blind and Disabled.

Assistant Police Chief John Grannan said hate crimes rarely occur between people who are related or live together.

"I certainly respect their concern," Grannan said. "It's not being investigated as a hate crime. Right now we're simply investigating it as an aggravated battery."

National BRIEFS

Activists plan challenge of Gay-sex law

High Ridge, MO (AP) - Activists plan to use the arrest and prosecution of six men on charges of having sex at a Jefferson County adult video store to challenge the state law banning the practice.

"It is an archaic law, it's an obtrusive law and, as you can see in the Jefferson County case, it's a law that it is clearly biased against Gay and Lesbian couples," said Jeff Wunrow, executive director of PROMO, a group working to overturn Missouri's ban on Gay sexual activity.

The men were among 13 arrested last month during a raid of Award Video on charges that included sexual misconduct and prostitution. But prosecutors only filed charges against six men, alleging they violated the Missouri law banning homosexual sex. If convicted, they face fines and up to a year in the county jail.

Wunrow said his group is planning to lobby lawmakers in Jefferson City to repeal the law during this year's legislative session. The state's term limits law, Wunrow said, could allow some outstate legislators who quietly support the bill to vote for it without worrying about possible political repercussions.

Missouri is among five states that ban consenting same sex acts; 11 other states bar both homosexuals and heterosexuals from engaging in certain sex acts.

Jefferson County Prosecutor Bob Wilkins said he hesitated before deciding to use the charge, but said it was necessary to stamp out the "open and notorious activities" at Award Video.

"All I do is look at the statutes and this statute is still on the books," Wilkins said. "We don't make the law, we just enforce what's there."

Diplomat: AIDS is bigger threat than terrorism

Norfolk, VA (AP) - AIDS outranks terrorism and the violence in the Middle East as "the single most serious issue in the world today," former U.N. Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke said April 4.

"AIDS is not just another disease, it is the worst health crisis in at least 700 years," Holbrooke said in a speech at Old Dominion University. "It is attacking the social and political fabrics of countries and undermining their opportunities for advancement."

Every day, he noted, 8,000 people die of AIDS.

Holbrooke, who brought the fighting in Bosnia to an end and received five Nobel Peace Prize nominations for his Dayton Peace Agreement, also said he supports President Bush's decision to send Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Middle East.

"We are in a point of maximum danger in the region," Holbrooke said.

Holbrooke also praised the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan but said he was "very troubled" by the Bush Administration's unwillingness to support a much larger international stabilizing force in the country.

"Military victories are worth only as much as the peace that follows," he said.

He called Saddam Hussein of Iraq "the most dangerous leader in the world today," and said efforts should be made to topple him.

The decision at the end of the Gulf War to leave him in power, Holbrooke said, "constitutes the greatest single mistake the United States has made, in my view, since the end of the Vietnam War."

Lesbians make up majority of Vermont civil unions Are the kids behind the numbers?

Burlington, VT (AP) - Vermont's civil unions law is being used more by female couples than by males, statistics show.

From July 1, 2000, the first day that licenses were granted to same-sex couples, through Jan. 4, 2002, 3,471 licenses for civil unions were issued. Of those, 1,180 were given to male couples and 2,291 were to female couples, said Bill Apao, director of public health statistics at the Vermont Department of Health.

That means about two-thirds of the unions - which confer many of the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples - were between women.

Esther Rothblum, a psychology professor at the University of Vermont and editor of the national *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, is conducting a survey of all couples who received civil unions in the first year of the law.

One reason more women may opt for a legal certification of their union, she said, is that more lesbian couples have children.

"The relationship with the children is more important," Rothblum said. "I think more women have children and that might explain some of the gender differences."

Hartland Town Clerk Clyde Jenne, a Gay, single man who has issued 26 civil union licenses since the law went into effect, has his own observations on why so many more females seem to join in unions.

"[In] this male-dominated society we have, [men] don't want to make that commitment for what the other guys will say. There have been women living together since God knows when, because they are not a threat to the system," Jenne said.

YMCA camp-out

Continued from Page 7

But before the contract was written this year, three YMCA board members raised objections, including criticism of the group's Web site promotion of the camp-out, said Paul Larson, board president.

The brief promotion item does not mention Camp Dudley or the YMCA. It invites Gay and Bisexual men of all ages, colors and shapes to "shed attitudes and dissolve boundaries" at camp.

It mentions activities from fishing and swimming to horseback riding, crafts and volleyball.

And it wraps up with: "Well, camp will be just like the one you went to as a kid,

except for the group naps, an all-boy dance and the fact that you can flirt with the camp counselors if you want."

The references to group naps and flirting with camp counselors didn't go over well with the YMCA, said its director, Terry Rasberry.

"Those are activities that would never be allowed under any circumstances," he said. "The YMCA does not promote sexual activity of any kind - that is not what our facilities have been built for."

But Swanson said none of the references or material used is sexual.

Swanson said he believes the YMCA simply didn't want Gays back at the camp and found a way to make that happen.

Hate crime victim's claim not taken seriously by police

Denver, CO (compiled from AP and PlanetOut News) - A teen-age girl who reported she was attacked by three white teen age males because they assumed she is Gay said April 2 police were not taking the report seriously, treating her with suspicion and rudeness.

April Mora, 17, told police two men cut the words "dyke" and "RIP" into her flesh with razors on March 26 while they held her down in an alley behind her house. The words were cut into April Mora's left forearm and belly, according to a police report.

Mora said she was walking through an alley behind her home when a car passed by about 2pm March 26.

"I stopped to look at it because it was a cool car, and the guys inside shouted 'dyke' at me," she said.

Mora said she gave the men a dirty look, and the car stopped. Two of the three men jumped out of the car and ran at Mora, she said.

One of the men grabbed her and pinned her down with his knees. Another man held a knife to her throat, while the other pulled out a razor blade and started carving into the fleshy part of her left forearm, Mora said.

She said a third man gave them instructions from the car. The men threatened to rape her if they saw her again, Mora said.

The police report indicates four men, not three, were involved the attack, but Mora insists that she told the officers there were three men from the start, and that the error was made by the officers doing the paperwork.

Local press reports claim Mora has been the victim of two other reported attacks, and told police last year she was a member of a gang. There is no reason this history should keep police from investigating a new crime.

Mora and her girlfriend's mother, Roberta Quintana, said detectives have treated them badly and assumed the attack was self-inflicted.

"They treated the whole situation as if it was a waste of their time," Quintana said.

Mora, who lives with the Quintana family, did not appear during an

April 2 press conference, but Quintana read a statement from Mora and answered a few questions. The conference came a couple of days after the local newspapers reported that police called Mora's injuries "superficial" and asked Mora to take a lie detector test, which she declined to do.

When police arrived to take a statement on the day of the attack, Quintana said, they ransacked the room Mora shares with her daughter Dominique, and even checked the freezer for signs of the razor used in the assault.

After the attack, Mora went to Denver Health Medical Center, where she was treated and released for several shallow razor cuts, none of which was life threatening, authorities said.

Quintana said during the conference, that the medical staff who treated Mora would be happy to testify that her wounds could not have been self-inflicted. Quintana described one bruise "the size of a plum" on Mora's ribcage, and others on her back and the back of her head.

Police Detective John White would not comment on the accusations and would not say if anyone has been arrested.

"Once our investigation is complete we will have a statement to provide," White said.

District attorney's spokeswoman Lynn Kimbrough said the state's hate crime statute does not cover attacks based on sexual orientation.

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World NEWS

WHO approves generic AIDS drugs *Pharmaceutical conglomerates besmirch standards*

By Naomi Koppel
Associated Press Writer

Geneva, Switzerland (AP) - The World Health Organization has produced a list of companies making safe generic AIDS drugs, a move that could bring down the price of treatment in poor countries.

But the organization representing big international drug companies said Thursday the move could reduce the quality of treatment and lead to widespread drug resistance.

The WHO list, released last Wednesday, named 41 drugs by eight manufacturers that met its criteria for quality. It included products by the Indian generic manufacturer Cipla as well as by big drug makers such as Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, GlaxoSmithKline, Abbott Laboratories and Roche Holding.

"This U.N. initiative marks an important step in increasing the number of qualified suppliers of HIV medicines and improving the procurement of these drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries," said Peter Piot, executive director of the U.N. AIDS agency.

But the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations said it did not think that some generic suppliers met acceptable standards.

"Under no circumstances do companies based in some countries that have poor regulatory and quality standards match the standards of quality, service, and innovation on a sustainable basis that international research companies provide," said Harvey Bale, the federation's director-gen-

eral.

Eric Noehrenberg, the federation's director of intellectual property and trade issues, said generic producers like Cipla also failed to provide after-sales service, which could lead to the drugs being misused and a buildup of resistance to their effectiveness.

Jonathan Quick, director of essential drugs and medicines policy at WHO, denied the claims.

"The process we used was according to international standards with an international team and with guidelines that were reviewed by the WHO Expert Committee," he said.

He said the investigation had not looked at what happened after the drugs were sold, but in many cases issues such as good use and preventing resistance were handled within a country's own health system.

Cipla Chairman and Managing Director Yusuf K. Hamied said the U.N. decision should remove doubts in the minds of consumers about the quality of generic versions of drugs as compared with those made by companies holding the drug patent.

"What we've been saying all these years has been vindicated," he said.

Cipla is among a dozen companies in India that produce AIDS drugs using techniques different from those of the companies who hold the patent. India recognizes patents on drug-making processes but not the products, making it legal to reproduce a patented drug if the manufacturing process used is slightly different.

The Nobel Prize-winning aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres welcomed the

inclusion of generic manufacturers.

"In our experience, competition is really the driving force for having a good level of price for developing countries. We cannot only rely on charity," said Dr. Bernard Pecoul, director of the group's medical access campaign.

Although many developing countries have patent laws that would normally prevent governments from buying cheaper generic drugs, many insist that they should have more leeway when dealing with public health.

Members of the World Trade Organization agreed last year that governments should have the flexibility to override patent laws under certain circumstances when dealing with crises in public health.

HIV/AIDS is a major problem for many developing countries, especially in sub-

Saharan Africa. Of the 40 million people who are HIV positive in the world, 28 million live in Africa. The disease is also spreading rapidly in Asia and the Pacific region, and in parts of the former Soviet Union.

In rich countries, AIDS treatments can often cost more than \$10,000 a patient each year. Although the prices are much lower in developing countries, aid groups and governments claim the drugs are still beyond the reach of most people.

WHO says its list provides guidance for governments and medical staff purchasing drugs who would be unable to make their own quality checks.

"We expect that the list will grow steadily as more companies take an interest in participating and countries expand their HIV/AIDS programs," the WHO's Quick said.

UN denounces abuses in India

Geneva, Switzerland - Aditya Bondyopadhyay denounced the treatment of sexual minorities in India at an NGO Briefing of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Mr. Bondyopadhyay described cases of discrimination, harassment, arrest, and torture, and he called on the UN to hold the government of India responsible for such abuses.

High ranking UN officials made a historic appearance at the briefing and affirmed the importance of defending sexual rights as part of the UN human rights work. Speaking at the Briefing were Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women; Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Arbitrary and Summary ; and Jan Doerfel, the assistant to the Special Rapporteur on Torture.

Ms. Jahangir stated that "there are lesbians and gays in every country of the world, and I believe there is no country in which they do not face abuse."

Mr. Bondyopadhyay presented a detailed complaint of the "Lucknow 4"

case, in which four HIV prevention workers were charged with conspiring to commit "unnatural sexual acts" under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code , and were kept in detention without bail for periods from 45 days to seven months.

"It is essential for the United Nations to hear the voices of the stigmatized and the marginalized directly," said Scott Long, Program Director at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the organization that brought Mr. Bondyopadhyay to Geneva to testify. "Courageous UN officials, such as Ms. Coomaraswamy and Ms. Jahangir, should be supported by all governments in the UN, as they continue to draw attention to these abuses."

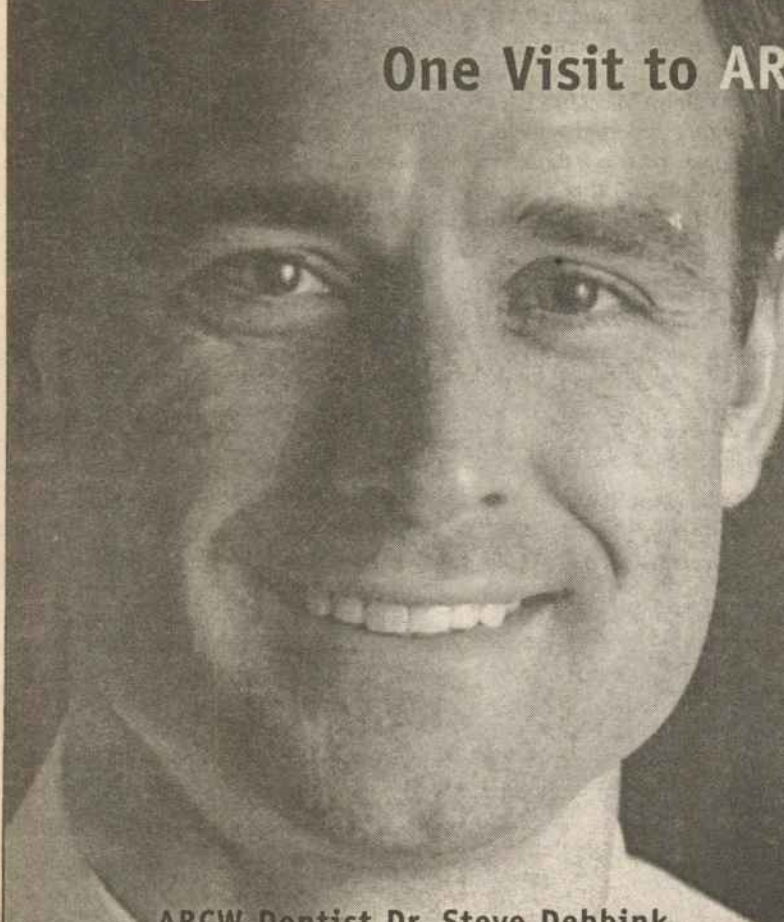
The NGO Briefing was sponsored by IGLHRC as well as by the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), the International Lesbian and Gay Law Association, Pink Cross (Switzerland), the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Amnesty International, and the International Service for Human Rights.

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SpotLight

Arts and Entertainment Section

Performing Arts Review



Robert Goulet in South Pacific

Review by John Jahn
Spotlight Editor

Milwaukee - The Marcus Center Broadway Series didn't opt for an avante garde or risky production when they scheduled the 50+ year old Rodger's & Hammerstein gem *South Pacific*. But, who's to say there's anything wrong with the tried & true, classic musical production? Not I, certainly. In fact, *South Pacific* is my favorite musical of them all, so it's nice to experience it live right here at home the way it was meant to be seen and heard.

The biggest question going into the April 2-7 run of *South Pacific* at Uihlein Hall was: "Does **Robert Goulet** still have it?" After all, he's headlining this show and playing the central character of Emile de Becque. He also has to belt out some big, pseudo-operatic numbers like "Some Enchanted Evening" and "This Nearly was Mine."

Well, the answer is yes; and no.

Yes, Goulet's trademark bass-baritone can still fill a hall with sound (although everyone in the production - Goulet included - was miked to begin with). He can still hold a note and phrase decently, though at times seemed a tad out of breath. Yes also, his acting was on target, (though it *does* takes a while to not see Robert Goulet but rather Emile.

The hard part is simply to admit that, although he *does* portray a character meant to be somewhat older than his lover, Nellie Forbush (played with charm and spunk by **Amanda Watkins**), Goulet is old enough to be Watkin's grandfather! The age difference is just too extreme to be entirely credible.

The film pairing of **Mitzi Gaynor** and **Rosanno Brazzi** or original Broadway cast pairing of **Mary Martin** and **Ezio Pinza** looked and felt more realistic. One could imagine what they saw in each other; I'm not quite sure what Watkins sees in Goulet.

The production team was first rate - stage designs were nicely constructed and well lit, scene transitions were smooth. The supporting roles went to the excellent **Gretha Boston** as Bloody Mary, the funny and scene stealing **David Warshofsky** as Luther Billis and the somewhat stiff **Lewis Cleale** as Lt. Cable (admittedly, though, Cable is kind of a stiff anyway). There was also a smattering of beefcake eye candy in the "There is Nothing Like a Dame" sequence in Act I, though not as much or as pleasing as in the film version.

South Pacific is my favorite musical not just for the wonderful songs but also for the message about tolerance of inter-racial and inter-cultural romance. In the latter sense it was ahead of its time and remains a lesson for us today some five decades on.

Magnificent Mahler at the MSO

Review by John Jahn
Spotlight Editor

Milwaukee - Gustav Mahler is on my "Top Ten List" of favorite composers, but there is little worse than Mahler done badly. Thankfully, with Maestro **Andreas Delfs** and a massive, stage-filling **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**, the audiences attending the March 29-30 concerts were treated to a splendid performance of the infrequently performed *Symphony No. 7*. Indeed, it was 22 years ago that the MSO last performed it.

Mahler wrote his 7th Symphony during the summers of 1904-05 during a time of conflicting emotions. He surely enjoyed all that Nature had to show him, and the mighty Seventh reflects this through chirping birdcalls and the distant clatter of cowbells.

Diamonds in the rough

By Charles Grosz
Staff Critic

Milwaukee It was an afternoon of good intentions when the **Wisconsin Cream City Chorus** presented *Diamonds in the Heartland* at the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall. The occasion was to raise funds for Camp Heartland, a non-profit organization that provides year-round support for children with HIV/AIDS.

The Chorus is not a professional ensemble, nor does it claim to be. The dozen members volunteered their time, and provided enough energy and enthusiasm to forgive a less-than-perfect musical review.

A threadbare storyline linked fourteen songs, most relating to a child's view of the world. Most successful were the large ensemble numbers, with the upbeat *Interplanet Janet* rousing the audience to cheers. Selections from *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* were the most polished, with **Emory Churness** and **Shirl Greeb** comfortable in their roles of Charlie and Lucy. *Supper Time*, Snoopy's ode to the evening meal, was given an amusing, larger than life rendition by **Chuck Ellingson**.

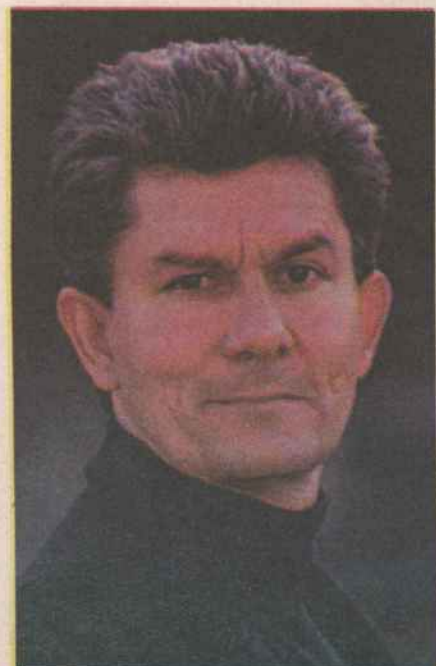
Yolanda Roth shone in *Alone in the Universe* and *Under the Sea*, displaying a strong musical talent and skillful dance

moves. Her clear diction and engaging stage presence projected easily to the last row of the hall. **Hilary Giffen** charmed the audience with a child-like innocence in *One Small Voice*, and Chorus Director **Kristen Weber** had nice moments in *Just One Person*.

Despite the onstage gusto, limp production values doomed the show to junior-high school status. Stage props were continuously mishandled, and on the rare occasions when the microphones actually worked, they only produced an annoying feedback. **Mary Kay Vande Logt's** clever choreography would have worked on semi-trained dancers, but here looked oafish.

The four on-stage musicians, led by Musical Director **Paula Foley Tillen**, raised the level of the show considerably. Keyboardist **Steve Sidie**, bassist **Mark Williamson** and **Kim Zick**, (who deserves special mention for stepping in with no rehearsal) provided sympathetic and professional accompaniment.

This reviewer is unable to mention by name a talented member of the ensemble, due to her position in the U. S. Armed Forces. How insufferable that an American citizen be threatened with military discipline simply for raising funds for a worthwhile charity.



Maestro Andreas Delfs

Official Photo

Performing Arts Preview



Official Photo

Milwaukee Repertory Theater closes its Powerhouse season with *The Shaughraun*, a melo-dramatic Irish tale. The show runs through May 5, and tickets are available at the box office, by calling 414-224-9490, on online: www.milwaukeerep.com.

Words



(L-R) Jeff Poniewaz with Antler on Blake St., San Francisco Fall 1967

Antler is poetry and earth

An Interview with Jeff Poniewaz

By Carmen Alicia Murguia

Antler is Milwaukee's new Poet Laureate. The author of three books of poetry, Antler has been on tour out East for most of April promoting his latest collection, *Antler: The Selected Poems*. When he is not reading poetry, he visits friends, fellow scholars and philosophers, and most importantly, he seeks his solace in wilderness.

In a rare interview with Jeff Poniewaz, author of *Dolphin Leaping in the Milky Way* (Inland Ocean Books) at the Riverwest Co-op he shares with Antler, Poniewaz opened their literary and personal world with *The Wisconsin Light*.

Poniewaz is Antler's long time companion, friend, confidant, muse, lover, manager, brother, fellow poet, protector of moth-

er earth, and housemate.

Throughout every corner, wall and floor space of their home, they've managed to bring nature indoors - plants line every window, walls are blanketed in posters of Mother Earth, and books lie everywhere.

Titles include *The Art of Sexual Ecstasy*, *Leaves of Grass*, *The Book of Tofu*, *Henry Miller's Under the Roofs of*, and of course, the latest issue of *Poets and Writers* magazine - all of which only scratch the surface of Antler and Jeff's tastes.

Born Bradford Lee Burdick and raised in Wauwatosa, Antler met Jeff in a poetry writing class at UW-Milwaukee in January of 1966.

Continued on Page 12

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Antler Interview

Continued from Page 11

The word "Out" didn't happen then. The miraculous thing about my friendship with Antler is that we were the closest friends that two friends could be, and we never felt it necessary to go into every aspect of our lives with people. They just accepted us", Jeff said.

Antler studied Anthropology and spent a semester with Jeff at UW Madison, partly to get away from their respective families and live together without the auras of their families over them too closely.

They returned to UW-Milwaukee where Antler graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Jeff in English. In 1970, they went to the Iowa Writers workshop, but according to Jeff for them it was too picky-picky. Jeff describes one way they relieved themselves away from the famed writing program.

"We hung out at Hickory Hill Park, which was a very wild park on the fringes of Iowa City and we'd hold vigils to watch the sunrise. We'd go there at midnight with a bottle of wine, and just hang out under the stars until the sun came up and the birds started singing," according to Jeff.

Not only do Jeff and Antler share a desire of the divine in nature and nakedness of spirit, they also share a love of sexual exploration. In fact, many of their photographs have moments captured standing naked at the roots of large trees and lying in leaves of grass.

"We love nature very much and it's one of the things that is a common bond between us, as well as the poet Walt Whitman. Nature is important to Antler because, whether people know it or not, nature is one of the most important things there are, and we lose track of it often to the detriment of living in the city."

Walt Whitman has made a profound impact on Antler from a very early age. DH Lawrence, Kenneth Rexroth, and John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, also inspire him

It was poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, publisher of City Lights books who published Antler's *Factory* and Allen Ginsberg who discovered a young Antler, whom he most liked and recommended.

"When we first met Ginsberg in February of 1967, he was scheduled to give his very first reading in Milwaukee at Marquette University, but the reading was banned by MU administration," said Jeff. "So very dramatically Allen gathered with MU students in front of the St. Joan of Arc Chapel, and marched from Marquette to the UW-Milwaukee ballroom where

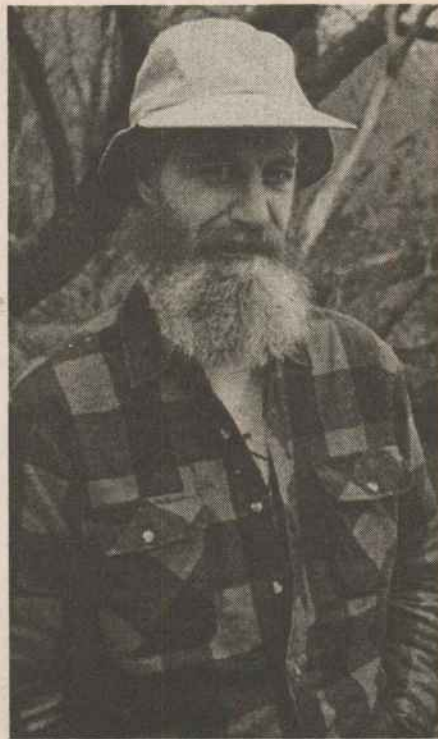


Photo by Jeff Poniewoz

Antler along the Milwaukee River

Ginsberg's reading was moved," Jeff said laughing.

Antler makes his living as a poet: reading, speaking, publishing, touring. Antler writes his poetry wherever he is... on camping trips in the wilderness or in his sacred and private writing room of their second floor.

"I'm very proud of my friendship with Antler and I love him very dearly and vice versa. We've been together for 36 years - since we were 19," Jeff says with a smile gracing his face.

In his introduction to *Antler: The Selected Poems*, Poniewoz writes,

May his liberating, large-hearted poems never go out of print again, so they can help open minds enough to figure out a way to that "new Eden": to halt and heal the eradication of the Wild, inner as well as outer, and nurture its return as we enter a century in which the previous two centuries, assaults on Nature threaten vast catastrophe."

"Nakedness, honesty beautified by your self-confidence & self-regard and healthy exuberance, that exuberance a sign of genius. Bodhittva wit - seems you have developed your sincerity & natural truth & come through to eternal poetic ground, unquestionable & clear. More fineness, than I thought probable to see again in my lifetime from younger solitary unknown self-inspirer US poet."

- Allen Ginsberg on Antler's *The Selected Poems*

LGBT Center Growth

Continued from Page 2

and support the emergence of LGBT people of color groups, according to the website.

The grant, part of the Gill Foundation's **21st Century Initiatives** is the Foundation's second grant award to the Center. The first, a three-year grant awarded in 1998, supported the hiring of the Center's first Executive Director.

Additionally, the Center participated in the Foundation's **InCommunity** program that provided 10 technical assistance sessions on fundraising and board development to LGBT community and local non-profit organizations.

"The Gill Foundation has played a truly significant role in the establishment and growth of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center," said Neil Albrecht, Executive Director. "This new funding initiative will greatly increase our capacity to fulfill our mission statement."

Since receiving the funds, the Center has provided fundraising technical support and is serving as fiscal agent to **Ebony Pride**, a newly emerging group serving LGBT people of color; the **Latino Resource Center**, a project designed to connect Latino/Latina's with LGBT community resources; and the **Two Spirit Society**, a group offering LGBT American Indians social and support opportunities.

The Center's **2002 Building Bridges Conference**, scheduled for May 3-5, [see article on page 13] will also provide an opportunity for LGBT and allied community members to learn about broader social justice issues that impact the LGBT community.

Gay Straight Alliances

Continued from Page 3

- Ongoing technical assistance, visits, and consultation for students and faculty adult advisors;
- Maintenance of a communications network which connects GSAs to each other and to community resources;
- An annual scholarship program rewarding student leaders;
- And regular meetings of a leadership team (a partnership of youth and adults) who design and implement our programming.

"GLSEN-SCW takes pride that its Youth Leadership Program has been recognized nationally and has served as a model for the development of a national curriculum for GLSEN chapters seeking to establish GSA networks," he said.

GSA programming

GLSEN-SCWs thoughtful work combined with "tried and true techniques, have allowed the group to provide a thorough training program for the GSA program," according to Rasmussen.

The organization's work has also provided a solid model that other GLSEN chapters can use or easily adapt.

Campaign for a Fair United Way is continuing discussions with the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and advocating for the UW to establish a non-discrimination policy that included sexual orientation and to ensure that all UW funded agencies were compliant with this policy.

"This effort really is not about Gay men or the Boy Scouts," said Committee Chair Dennis Kohler. "It is about challenging overt discrimination. We believe that the United Way of Greater Milwaukee has strong and inclusive core values. We encourage them to practice those values."

To date, the UW has refused to indicate when their non-discrimination policy, unanimously approved by their board of directors in April 2001, will be applied to funding groups like the Boy Scouts, which have overt discriminatory policies.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center received nearly \$15,000 in donations through the **ACHOICE** workplace giving campaign. ACHOICE, a federation of agencies with a mission toward social change, provides funding support to the LGBT Center, the **Cream City Foundation** and the **Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee**.

"ACHOICE has recognized the importance of supporting all communities in order to improve the quality of life in the broader Milwaukee community," said Patrick Flaherty, Director of Community Relations.

[The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center hours are 10am to 10pm, Monday through Friday and 6pm to 10pm on Saturday. It is located primarily on the first floor of 315 W. Court St., in Milwaukee.]

GLSEN-SCWs Youth Leadership Training program participants learn to:

- Network and develop relationships among GSAs as well as with community-based organizations.
- Gain access to resources which can be used to educate their school community to create a safe school environment for all.
- Be educated about community organizations which offer volunteer opportunities and resource information, and learn how to access such organizations.
- Engage in activities aimed at promoting team building and developing strong leadership.
- Learn the basic principles of developing and maintaining successful GSAs.
- Engage in activities which foster and understanding of how multiple forms of oppression intersect with one another, and will be empowered to cope with such oppression.

The adage says: through education comes enlightenment. Those factors combined can also bring acceptance.

Once GLBT youth educate and accept themselves, their enlightenment enables them to, in turn, educate their fellow students, educators and the community at large.

Antler's Milwaukee Reading

As Milwaukee's Poet Laureate, Antler returns to the city to celebrate Earth Week with a reading

Sunday, April 21

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Community

Project Q rounds up busy quarter

Milwaukee – Project Q, the youth program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, has seen an incredible amount of activity and growth in the first quarter of 2002. The busy schedule included:

Another of its quarterly HIV Prevention Modules with over 60 youth attending.

Monthly meetings of Q's 15-person Youth Advisory Board, which is enthusiastic about the development of Project Q – and dedicated to keeping the program the best in the state.

Project Q staff also played a vital role in connecting with other city-wide and state-wide initiatives including hosting a meeting of Wisconsin's HIV Planning Council.

Homeless Youth Roundtable discussions – organized by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), included Project Q's Program Assistant, Joe Witkowski, who cofacilitated a dialogue between youth and community leaders concerned about homelessness and youth.

Finally, Project Q helped to organize Milwaukee's first annual **Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA)** conference with **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays & Lesbians (PFLAG)** - Milwaukee, and the new **Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network of South East Wisconsin**.

Over 30 students and advisors from suburban and city schools with GSAs participated.

Project Q staff has also assisted in providing training to several groups, organizations, and schools including the Waukesha School District, Mequon-Thiensville School District, Wisconsin School Boards Association, Wisconsin School Counselors Association, and Unitarian Universalists of Brookfield, where they were able to reach over 400 people during the sessions.

Exciting plans for rest of year include planning a retreat for its Youth Advisory Board and Peer Counselors & Educators (PCE's) in early summer.

art project of defaced posters, distressed bears by Bill Jablonski, acrylics by Stanford Lewis and subverted Japanese prints by Wyatt Osato.

"The Silverwood Duo", harpists Michael Barna and Jeanne Kahn will provide extravagance and elegance to the evening, performing selections from clas-

sical to popular on full sized concert harps.

Due to space restrictions, ticket are on sale for \$25 and in limited limited supply.

Tickets may be purchased using credit cards by calling 414-271-2656 or purchase them at the M&M Club, Outwords, or at the community center.

Outreach seeks volunteers for new programs

Madison – OutReach is offering two new volunteer opportunities with the development of a **Programs Work Group** and a **Visibility Work Group**.

Here's two great chances to get involved with serving our communities through OutReach.

The Programs Work Group will strive to improve the many programs offered in OutReach. The Group will explore the needs of our communities and what programs should OutReach offer to meet these needs.

It may well be that OutReach should change the focus of our programs, perhaps dropping some. The Center may also want to offer new programs to better serve our communities. If you would like to help make these important decisions, this is the group for you!

The Visibility Work Group will strive to

help build the image of OutReach as a community center. The Group will consider both the image and the tone of the Center's various publications and the messages the Center communicates.

In addition, the Group may well help create advertising campaigns, develop newsletters, and invite our communities to actively use/participate in OutReach.

"We also want to do a better job of inviting people to come to OutReach for celebrations and get together for specific segments of our communities which historically have underutilized OutReach," according to a spokesperson.

Each group will decide how often and when future meetings will be. To join either of these groups, please contact Debbie Weill, Outreach Executive Director by telephone at 608-255-8582, or by email: director@outreachinc.com

Life Enrichment Program Offers

Seires of Lesbian couples workshops announced

Milwaukee – "If navigating the challenging waters of intimate partnerships can be both rewarding and difficult, then understanding why we choose the partners we choose; the role of biochemistry; and how to live consciously in partnerships can help make the journey a little easier."

In the Spring of 2002, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Life Enrichment Program will offer four workshops exploring topics (including biochemistry and living consciously) that are the foundation of all relationships.

Presenters Virginia Thomas and Pat Smith "are committed to helping both single people and couples learn new ways of communicating in positive, loving relationships," according to information provided about the workshops.

Pat, who has a master's degree in social work has practiced in a variety of settings

including community clinics and private practice. In 1995, she expanded her expertise in couples therapy by pursuing training based on theories presented in *Getting the Love You Want* by Harville Hendrix.

Virginia worked in public health in Milwaukee for 30 years and now does consulting for a community-based agency. Both Virginia and Pat have completed training in Imago Relationship Therapy.

The Lesbian Couples Workshops will be held on April 23, May 2, May 9 and May 25 from 6:30pm to 8pm and are open to single people as well as to couples. A fee of \$25/couple and \$15/single per workshop is requested (based on ability to pay). You may attend any one or all of the workshops. For more information or to preregister, call Kathy at 414-271-2656.

PrideFest finalizing plans, names Treasurer

Milwaukee – Paul Sherry was elected treasurer during a late March PrideFest meeting replacing Dawn Schaffer after her long commitment to the organization. PrideFest will be held June 7-9 at the lakefront Maier Festival Park.

"Paul comes with some new ideas to make PrideFest better. His energy is

refreshing and energizes the PrideFest Council," said Ted Berg, board vice president. Bo Dyer, PrideFest co-director, shared, "Paul is a team player and is learning the ropes quickly of his job at PrideFest. He will be an asset to the organization."

Continued on Page 14

Set aside April 19 for a Night at the Center

Iconography Gallery premiere and "Rites of Spring" wine-tasting

Milwaukee – The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will be holding a fundraising Wine Tasting. "Rites of Spring," on Friday April 19, from 7-9pm. The event will take place in the community room of the center at 315 W. Court Street.

Over a dozen fine wines will be presented by Downer Wine and Spirit's Tom

Vaughn, well known Milwaukee wine purveyor and educator. Light snacks will be served and entertainment provided.

"Rites of Spring" will take place on Gallery Night in conjunction with the Center Gallery's latest exhibit opening. Entitled "**Iconography of Identity**," the show will feature Rebekah Sneed's street

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 4/23: Midtown Spa (6 pm - 9 pm)

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 CALL FOR INFO ON SUPPORT GROUPS AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
 1240 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202 • 272-2144 • www.bestd.org

The Wisconsin Light

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

- Letters should be no more than 400 words.
- All letters may be edited
- Letters should be signed and include address and phone number for confirmation purposes.
- Anonymous Letters will not be accepted.
- Names withheld upon request.
- We will not publish letters copied to other papers.

Letters can be mailed to:
 Editor, Wisconsin Light, 315 West Court Street, Suite 201B, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

• We prefer letters to be emailed to: editor@wilight.com

Pride Fest Treasurer

Continued from Page 13

Along with the Treasurer position, Paul will also take on PrideFest Board responsibilities.

In addition to his community involvement, Paul is a member and treasurer for GAMMA.

Former PrideFest Treasurer Schaffer dedication and countless hours ensured PrideFest's fiscal accountability over the years. "PrideFest thanks her for her years of volunteer service and expert skills, which enabled PrideFest to be where it is today."

The **Pride March** will return to Sunday, June 9th with a 1:30pm line up and a 2:30pm prompt step off.

Michael Goertz, March coordinator, is happy to bring the parade back to Sunday. "To celebrate the return to Sunday, I would like to have a historical theme for it. We need to celebrate our roots with 'Pride through the ages.' Pick your favorite historical time period, get dressed up, and join a few thousand of your closest GLBT friends on Harbor Drive," shared Goertz.

"We encourage Cavemen, Neanderthals (that are not a part of the Religious Right), Amazon Warriors, Egyptian Pharaohs (let's walk like an Egyptian)...their hordes, Greek soldiers from Troy, Roman Legions, Medieval Knights and much more!" said Goertz. "For the less militaristic, come as your favorite Lesbian poet, Sappho or a philosopher! Come as a famous Gay painter, Michelangelo. Be a medieval monk, clergymen or nun!"

Pride Through the Ages will kick off with a theme toga party on Friday Night, June 7th, in the Le Cage Dance Pavilion coordinated by the Brew City Bears. There will be prizes for the best costume.

Goertz reminds, "We still have parade unit reservations open." When registering, Goertz asks applicants to put the historic period you will be representing in the note section."

For applications visit the website at www.pridefest.com or e-mail: pridefest-milw@aol.com.

Spirituality at PrideFest

The first planning meeting for those interested in becoming a part of the **InterFaith Service** subcommittee, all faiths are welcome, diversity is the committee's goal.

The meeting takes place Tuesday, April 30th, 6:30pm at the PrideFest Office at 907 S 1st in Milwaukee. (Please ring the bell if the door is locked.)

The Interfaith will take place on Sunday, June 9th, at the Miller Lite Stage at 12:30pm. The service will end in time for the 1:30pm March line up.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Berg, Vice President and Director of the InterFaith Service at 414-645-3378, email: pridemilw@aol.com.

Building Bridges Conference May 3 - 5

"As community members, activists, organizations, labor organizers, social service agencies, businesses and education institutions, we all work towards dismantling the effects of racial, social and economic injustice," according to Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's conference publicity. "Our struggle is the same, yet we continue to work separately. We recognize that the same issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, and class-ism that we work against in the community are the same issues which continue to divide us as organizations."

Building Bridges is the Center's effort "to facilitate the necessary dialogue so that we may begin to work together to fight for racial and social justice across identities."

With the success of the first Building Bridges conference, this year's confab has been expanded to an entire weekend, May 3 to May 5. Most of the Center conference takes place at UWM. Friday night entertainment, issue workshops, plenaries, distinguished key note speaker Don Kao, a

Saturday social and Sunday closing are just some of the highlights. Confirmed speakers are coming from all over the country.

"Simply focusing on 'diversity' is not enough," said Beverly Jenkins, chair of the Center's Diversity Committee and the lead planner for the conference. "Many community organizations working for social, racial and economic justice do not incorporate LGBT concerns into their work. Similarly, mainstream LGBT organizations often don't address people of different age groups, economic levels, physical abilities, races and ethnicities."

The cost of the conference is \$35, with different rates based on ability to pay. To register to attend the conference or for more information, call 414-271-2656. Registration materials should also be available online at www.mkelgbt.org. The UWM LGBT Resource Center and the Two Spirit Society of Wisconsin are cosponsors.

Madison's Out and About Week April 19-27

Madison - The **Ten Percent Society** announced the 19th annual LGBT Awareness series, Out and About Week - April 19-27, 2002. All events are open to the University community.

Scheduled events range from workshops, presentations, discussion groups,

films, poetry slam, ice cream social, graduation reception and an end of semester 10% Dance.

For a full listing of all the events, please see *Light's* Gay Agenda, on page 18 of this issue.

Out On CD

Iconography in music

by Gregg Shapiro

Gay culture has provided mainstream society with many wonderful and abundant gifts. One of the greatest is the ability to identify and celebrate a diva. From Maria Callas to Madonna, we have taught our straight sisters and brothers a thing or two about giving an icon her due.

Swiss jazz saxophonist

David Klein follows the Gay community's lead and pays tribute to the legendary Marilyn Monroe on *My Marilyn* (Enja) by the David Klein Quintet.

Klein's quintet, which also includes his mother, jazz vocalist Miriam, performs versions of ten songs from four Monroe films, in standard jazz arrangements.

The settings are nearly as ethereal as Monroe herself, particularly on the lighter than air interpretations of "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" (from *Let's Make Love*), "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend" (from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*) and "I'm Through With Love" (from *Some Like It Hot*).

An icon unlike any other, **Judy Garland's** death in June of 1969 remains

the touchstone for the beginning of the Stonewall riots and the birth of Gay liberation. *The Judy Garland Show: The Show That Got Away* (Hip-O) is an exceptional soundtrack from the short-lived (nine months, from June of 1963 until March of 1964) variety show that featured some of Garland's most unforgettable performances.

Additionally, Ms. Garland was fortunate to having an extraordinary range of guest performers with whom she sang, including future Gay icons daughter **Liza Minnelli** (performing a duet on "Bob White") and **Barbra Streisand** (the legendary "Get Happy/Happy Days Are Here Again" duet), **Peggy Lee** ("I Love Being Here With You"), and **Lena Horne** ("Day-In, Day-Out"), to mention a few.

As if you needed another reason to own this collection, there are wonderful spoken segments, including dialogue with guests, intros, and outtakes.

Cher's Gay icon status remains as strong as ever. After receiving a double dose of reinforcement when daughter Chastity came out as a Lesbian and her disco diva reign was renewed with her late

90's hit "Believe," the Oscar-winning actress, singer and personality is positively unstoppable.

After releasing an Internet-only disc of rock oriented tunes, Cher has returned with her latest dance-oriented disc *Living Proof* (Warner Brothers).

Beginning with the opening track, and subsequent hit, "Song For The Only," Cher has once again set her sites on the dance clubs, and with songs such as "Love One Another," "When You Walk Away," and her cover of Bruce Roberts's "When The Money's Gone," she is living proof of disco divahood.

A relative newcomer to Gay icon status, **Celine Dion** has established her position with a mix of over-the-top, chest-beating power ballads and out and out dance-floor domination.

Proud mother Dion is about take up residency as a performer in Las Vegas for a few years, but before she does, she found the time to release a new album *A New Day Has Come* (Epic).

Nowhere near the level of Monroe, Garland or Cher, in her iconhood, Dion's appeal remains a mystery to me. However, it's safe to say that her devoted

Dionheads will probably be salivating over tracks such as "Have You Ever Been In Love" (which was co-written by Daryl Hall!), covers of the standards "At Last" and "Nature Boy," the dance-floor-ready "Sorry For Love," and the near-gospel of the title track and "Prayer" (written by Corey Hart).



Wednesday Night Dart League

(standings as of 3/27)

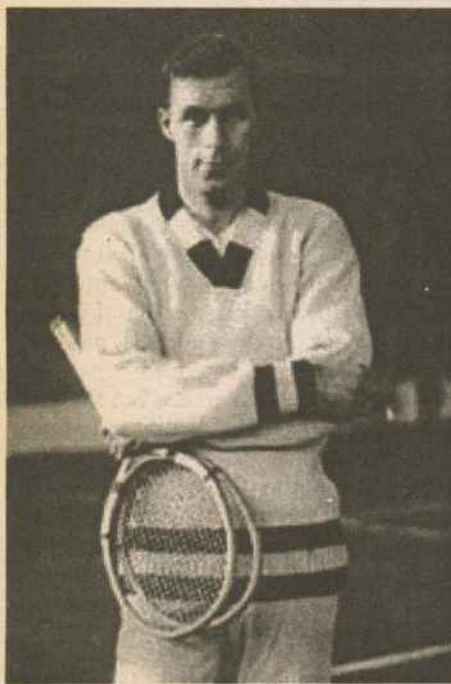
1	219 Cheap Thrills	264
2	Ballgame Scam	255
3	1100 Golden Nuggets	196
4	Triangle Trix	187
5	Woody's Peckers	181
6	Docks Seminoles	164
7	Bodily Fluid	158
8	Switchbacks	143
8	Woody's Bad Boys	143
10	Triangle 2	141
11	Ballgame Up & Coming	124
12	219 Expensive Tricks	121
13	Docks Seamen	114
14	Fluid 2	111
15	Woody's Mary's Boys	101
16	Switch 2	93

Wisconsin Light invites GLBT bowling, dart, softball, pool and football leagues across the state to email us your standings and final results by the Sunday prior to our bi-weekly Thursday publication dates. Email to: sports@wilight.com.

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Sports NEWS

Sports BRIEFS



April's Out Athlete Big Bill Tilden

By Jason Alan

I decided to take a little trip down memory lane as spring is finally upon us... So many "out" athletes are from the last half of the 20th century. We tend to forget about some of our early professionals, and the era in which they lived.

Such is the case with Big Bill Tilden, a professional tennis player legend from the first half of the 20th century.

His results were the stuff of legend - seven U.S. Open titles, 3 Wimbledon Championships, six U.S. Doubles championships, seven U.S. clay court titles, and a vast myriad of everyday marvels that spanned a long career.

Named Most Outstanding Athlete of the First Half of the 20th Century in 1949 by the National Sports Writers Association.

He was at the top of his career in the 20's, but as age started to lessen his ability in the 30's, the press needed to find a new way to generate his usual headlines.

What a surprise - they found one - his sexuality. Even 10 years ago times were very less tolerant for Gays in general, but in the 1930's, Tilden was left with little support for his lifestyle. Over time he was ostracized by the sports world and was twice locked out of major tournaments in the late 40's.

The worst for Tilden came after his career ended. He was ultimately jailed for contributing to delinquency of minors for alleged incidents in L.A. that supposedly involved 14 and 16 year old boys. How true this actually was we sadly will never know for sure.

Tilden died in 1953 after his jail term was over. He was approximately 60 years old. Sadly, he died like so many of our community's early sports leaders... Alone.

Bill Tilden, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, died alone, forgotten, and left to rot in scandal in the hopes that history would forget his superhuman accomplishments. Let us not forget the accomplishments of our early leaders.

It has been a busy year and half for Gay sports, but as I reflect on the past, I ultimately turn to dream of a better future. These days we have community centers, Gay groups, and resources at our fingertips. We owe these resources to our community forefathers. Our early leaders like Tilden had nothing, and we must not judge them through the eyes of a 21st century Gay person.

To know what he felt, you must be creative, isolate yourself, and place yourself in a different era. Only then can you truly understand what our earliest leaders accomplished for sports, and indeed for each and every one of us as Gays.

Par 3 is back:

The **Par 3 Lesbian Golf League** is in operation again this year. The cost is only \$40 per person, and there are two sessions this season. The first starts May 16, the second starts July 18 and each run for six weeks.

An awards party is in the works for the end of the second session, with the league being open to lesbians age 18 and up. The league is geared to novice golfers. Call 414-444-0258 for details.

Glendon Rusch tosses a gem for Brew Crew

New Brewers starter threw a 3 hitter and hit the first homer of his big league career last Friday night in a Brew Crew's 6-2 home opener win over the Arizona Diamondbacks. The lefty gave some sparkling pitching that has been lacking, shall we say, in recent years with the crew as the Brewers showed some signs of life again this year. Let's hope this is a sign of things to come.

Last minute reminder

Just a last second heads-up, The Miller Brewing Sponsored **Chicago Hoops Gay Basketball Tournament** is on for April 12-14 in Chicago. Once again the tourney will be at DePaul University's Ray Meyer Rec Center at Margate Park. At least 20 teams are expected to compete, with a \$100 discount to any new women's team from out of Chicago. Questions? Send an e-mail to chicagohoops@wcaa.net

Tragedy strikes British sports world

U.K. Cricket All-Star Umer Rashid has been reported dead in Grenada while trying to save his brother Buhran from drowning. 18 year old Buhran had trouble in the Grenada current and his brother dove in to save him. Both vanished and as of the time of writing are presumed dead.

Last but never least

Milwaukee Bucks All Star Ray Allen gets this category, but not for usual comical points. Allen has been bothered by knee injuries for quite some time, and was sidelined an issue or two ago as he was in too much pain to play. Sources indicate that he intends to play for the weakened Bucks as often as he can. The Bucks are struggling to complete the season with enough wins to make the playoffs thanks to a seriously understaffed team thanks to injuries. Allen gets two thumbs up for fighting to return so early to his hurting team. Atta boy, Ray!

Sports COMMENTARY

One last snow blast

By Jason Alan

As we say goodbye to winter and hello to spring, perhaps we should take one last look at a winter sports star. **Ryan Miller** is a professional snow boarder from Colorado. Now at age 26, Miller came out about 2 years ago as a Gay man. Miller is one of the better snow boarders in the U.S., but his is a sad story.

Miller unquestionably has Olympic grade talent at his sport. He also has a career marred with major injuries that now threaten his career.

Over 2 years back, he blew his ankle in a run.

A year later he crashed into a wall and blew out his knee.

At the end of 2001, he was in a spectacular crash that knocked him in the air, out for the count, and ruined a disc in his back.

His story is widely circulated on the Internet these days, and it is rumored that has lost 3 inches off his spine once all was said and done. (Better he lose 3 inches off his spine, and not a certain 'appendage')

Undaunted, he did compete at the qualifying races for the Olympics, but his abilities are badly compromised. He finished 21st in the qualifying trials. Only the top

three get to go.

Unable to compete at present, Miller takes the win for character. Accounts vary somewhat from one online source to another, but the common theme is that he has known that he is Gay since college, and got tired of hiding it as he got to know people in sports.

After coming out, he got the cold shoulder from many extreme sporters, especially snowboarders, who are often free spirited, but not always well educated.

Miller is also on the more conservative side of snow boarding as he competes in precision oriented events. He does not do a lot of the extreme flips and antics that free boarders do. He is speed and precision oriented, and his closest comrades tend to be more seriously oriented types than people oriented.

After the crash, and the subsequent crash of his career in early 2002, Miller has been quoted as expressing how happy he is with the fact that he is getting invited to socialize with his colleagues again.

Miller has a web site, and in it he has a diary and many other interesting facts. The goal is clear, fight to return to the Olympics a winner in 2006, and then retire. That will be no small task, as Miller will be up to 15 years older than the competition he will face in 2006.

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10 Things To Do at the PINT:

- 1 Enjoy daily drink specials
- 2 Play pool with friends (or someone new)
- 3 Shut up and dance!
- 4 Sing w/Bonnie every other Wednesday
- 5 Spank yourself or flash the bartenders - which ever you prefer
- 6 Listen to good tunes on the Jukebox.
- 7 Beat someone in darts
- 8 Play a game of tag
- 9 Have a party
- 10 Congratulate **Bet-Z** for beating Sarah P. at the "GAME"!

BAR CODES:
M (Men) • W (Women) • G/S (Gay/Straight Mix)
DJ (Disk Jockey) • V (Video) • L/L (Levi/Leather)
F (Food) • E (Entertainment)
Sp (Sports) • J (Jukebox)

WISCONSIN Resource Guide

STATEWIDE

ORGANIZATIONS

- Action Wisconsin • (GLBT Legislation Advocates) • PO Box 342, Mad., 53701
AIDS Action WI • (Legislation Advocates) • 820 N. Plankinton Ave., Milw., 53202
Gay/Lesbian Straight Education Network • (GLSEN) • PO Box 259502, Mad., 53725
Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline • (888)429-TEEN; (Milw)272-8336
Log Cabin Republicans of WI • (GLBT Republicans) • PO Box 199, Milw., 53201
Pride in WI Government • (GLBT Public Employees) • c/o OutReach, Box 310, Mad., 53701
Rainbow Families • www.rainbowfamilieswisconsin.org
WI Community Fund • (Social Justice Fund) • 122 State St #507A, Mad., 53703
WI Research Center • (Right Wing Watchdogs) • PO Box 92041, Milw., 53202
YWCA RAY (Rainbow Alliance for Youth) • 3219 Commerce St., Mad., 54603

MEDICAL/HIV

- AIDS Resource Center of WI • Offices Statewide
Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) MCW • 2071 N. Summit Ave., Milw., 53202

PHONE LINES

- Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline
Legislative Hotline
Wisconsin AIDS Line

APPLETON (920)

BAR

- Rascal's Bar & Grill • Mw,F • 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., 54911
CrossRoads Bar • W,M,E,J • 1042 West Wisconsin Ave., 54914

ORGANIZATIONS

- AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • (AIDS Services) • 120 N. Morrison, Suite 201, 54911
Alcoholics Anonymous • (GLBT Meetings)
Angel of Hope MCC • (GLBT Affirming Church) • 815 N. Richmond, 54914
Fox Valley Womyn's Group (Potlucks/Social Events) bauershimek@powernetonline.com
Rainbow Over WI (ROW) • (GLBT Charitable Group) • 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., 5491

EAU CLAIRE (715)

BAR

- Scooter's • MW, DJ • 411 Galloway St., 54701
Wolfe's Den • MW,G/S • 302 E. Madison St., 54703

ORGANIZATIONS

- AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • 505 Dewey St. S., #107, 54701
PFLAG-GCV • PO Box 0011, 54702
Q2 • GLBTQ Youth Social/Support group • q2hotline@hotmail.com
UW-EC LGBT Straight Alliance • 132 Davies Center, 54701
UW-EC Equality • (For LGBT Staff) • 104 Garfield Avenue, 54701

CENTER

- LGBT Center of the Chippewa Valley • 510 S. Farwell St., 54701

GREEN BAY (920)

BAR

- Brandy's II/Boogie Nights • Mw, DJ, L/L,Sp • 1126 Main St., 54301
Buddie's • Mw,L/L,J,Sp • 1264 N Main, 54302
Napalese Lounge • MW, DJ,E • 1351 Cedar St., 54302
Sass • Wm,DJ, Sp • 840 S. Broadway, 54304
West Theater • Mw,DJ,V,FE • 405 W. Walnut St., 54303

CHURCHES

- Union Congregational Church UCC • 716 S. Madison St., 54301

ORGANIZATIONS

- AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • (AIDS Services) • 824 S. Broadway, 54304
Alcoholics Anonymous • (GLBT Meetings)
Angel of Hope MCC • (GLBT Affirming Church) • 3607 Libar, Alloeux, 54301
Entertainers Against AIDS • (Local supporters) • PO Box 2040, 54306
Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) • ATBOBIAS@greenbay.k12.wi.us
Positive Voice Inc. • Box 1381, Green Bay 54305
Rainbow Alliance@ St. Norbert College • SNC, PAC 106, DePere, 54115
UW-GB 10% Society • (Social, Support, Education) • 2420 Nicolet Dr., 54311

KENOSHA (262)

BAR

- 94 North • (Mw, DJ, E) • 6305 120th Ave., 857-3240

ORGANIZATIONS

- AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • AIDS Services • 1212 57th St., 53141
UW-Parkside GL Organ. • 900 Wood Rd., Box 200, 53144
LGBT Youth Group • ARCW Office, 1212 57th St., 53141

LA CROSSE (608)

BAR

- Player's • MW,DJ • 214 Main St., 54601
Rainbow's End • Wm, J, E • 417 Jay St., 54601

ORGANIZATIONS

- AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • 1707 Main St. #420, 54601
Diversity Resource Center (UWLC) • 1725 State St., • 223B Cartwright, 54601
YMCA Galaxy (Gay Alliance of LaCrosse Area Youth) • 3219 Commerce St., 54603

MADISON (608)

BAR

- Cardinal • MW,G/S,DJ • 418 E. Wilson St., 53703
Club 5 Complex: Barracks (M, L/L); Fox Hole (W); Planet Q (Mw,DJ,E)
5 Applegate Ct., 53713
Rainbow Room • Mw,DJ,E • 121 W. Main St., 53703
Ray's Complex: Main (Mw,DJ,F); Men's Room (M,L/L) • 3052-54 E. Washington Ave., 53704
Shamrock • (Mw, J,F) • 117 W. Main St., 53703

CENTER

- OutReach Inc. • 600 Williamson (Gateway Mall) 53703
Campus Women's Center • 4th Floor, Mem. Union, 800 Langdon 53706
UW-LGBT Campus Center • 2nd Floor, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon, 53706

ORGANIZATIONS

- Frontiers Men's Club • (Social, Issues Group) • PO Box 310, 53703
LGBT Business Alliance • c/o PO Box 1722, 53701
LGBT Law Student Assoc. • Box 17, Rm 208, 500 Lincoln Dr. 975 Bascom Hall 53706
Lesbian Parents Network • PO Box 8423, 53708
Mad City Bears • Big, Hairy Men & Admirers
New Harvest Foundation • PO Box 1786, 53701-1786
PFLAG (Parents, Friends LGBTs) • 1112 Grant St., 53711
UW Ten Percent Society • PO Box 260394, 53726
UW-LGBT Alumni Council • 650 N. Lake St., 53706
Unicorns • levi/leather club • PO Box 536, 53701

SPORTS GROUPS

- Bette Davis Bowlers • (Year-round leagues)
Different Spokes • (GLBT Biking Group) • PO Box 168, 53701
Front Runners • (GLBT Joggers/Walkers) • t_mccclurg@yahoo.com
Honeymooners Bowling League • (weeknights)
Mad. Gay Volleyball Group • www.mvbg.org
Mad. Gay Wrestling Club • PO Box 168, 53701

MEDICAL/HIV

- AIDS Network • (AIDS Services) • 600 Williamson St., 53703
AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • (AIDS Services) • 222 State St., 53701
Blue Bus STD Clinic • 1552 University Ave, 53705
Dept. of Public Health • HIV testing, Hep. A&B vaccinations • 2705 E. Washington Ave., 53704

PROFESSIONAL / SERVICES

- Community Pharmacy • 341 State St., 251-3242, Prescriptions: 251-4454

RELIGION

- Affirmation (GLBT United Methodists) • 1127 University Ave., 53705
First Congregational UCC Church • 1609 University Ave., 53705

RETAIL / SHOPPING

- Community Pharmacy • 341 State St., 53703
A Room of One's Own • Feminist Bookstore • 307 W. Johnson, 53703

MARSHFIELD (715)

- Gay and Lesbian Assoc. (MGLO) • c/o 130 S. Central Ave., #3, 54449

MENOMONIE (715)

- UW-Stout 10% Society • c/o 153 C Harvey Hall, UW-S, Menomonee, 54751

MILWAUKEE (414)

BAR

- 1100 Club • M, L/L,F, J • 1100 S. 1st St., 53204
Ballgame • Mw, Sp, J, F • 196 S. 2nd St., 53204
Boot Camp • M, L/L • 209 E. National Ave., 53204
Club Boom • Mw, DJ • 625 S. 2nd St., 53204
Club 219 • Mw, DJ, V, E • 219 S. 2nd St., 53204
Dish • G/S, MW, DJ • 235 S. 2nd St., 53204
Fannies • Wm, DJ • 200 E. Washington, 53204
Fluid • Mw • 819 S. 2nd St., 53204
Harbor Room • Mw, L/L • 117 E. Greenfield Ave., 53204
LaCage • Mw, DJ, V • 801 S. 2nd St., 53204
M&M Club • MW, F, E • 124 N. Water St., 53202
Off the Tracks • Wm, Sp, J • 1534 W. Grant, 53204
Orbit Room • MW, G/S, DJ • 739 S. 2nd St., 53202
So. Water St. Docks • Mw, L/L, J • 354 E. National Ave., 53204
Switch • Mw, Sp, DJ • 124 W. National Ave., 53204
This Is It • M, J • 418 E. Wells St., 53202
Triangle • Mw, V, Sp, J • 135 E. National Ave., 53204
Walker's Pint (Wm, J) • 818 S. 2nd St., 53204
Woody's • M, J • 1579 S. 2nd St., 53204

CENTERS

- Milwaukee LGBT Community Center • (new location!) 315 W. Court St., 53212
Galano Club • Alcohol Free Recovery Club • 315 W. Court St., Ste 201, 53212

HEALTH CLUB

- Midtowne Spa • (Gay Men's Health Club) • 315 S. Water St., 53204

ORGANIZATIONS

- Adult Allies (LGBT Adults support LGBT youth)
Bi Definition (Bisexual Community Activities) • 315 W. Court St., 53212
Black and White Men Together • PO Box 091475, 53209
Castaways MC • PO Box 1697, 53201-1697
Counseling Center • (GLBT Discussion Groups) • 2038 N. Bartlett, 53202
Cream City Chorus, Ltd • 315 W. Court St., Suite 101
Cream City Foundation • PO Box 204, 53212
Fest City Singers • PO Box 11428, 53211
Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) • info: www.glsen.org
Gay Men's Discussion Group • 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., 53211
Gay Youth Milwaukee • PO Box 090441, 53209
Gemini Gender Group • PO Box 44214, 53214
G/L Center Trust Fund • PO Box 1686, 53201
Human Rights League • PO Box 510684, 53203
Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LMM) • 315 W. Court St., 53212
Milwaukee NOW (Natl. Organ. for Women) • 611 N. Broadway, Ste 505, 53202
MU GLB Student Group • AMU236, PO Box 1881, 53201

PFLAG-Milwaukee Chapter • PO Box 210853, 53221	299-9198
PrideFest Inc. • (Pride Festival) • 907 S. 1st St., 53204	645-FEST (3378)
The Queer Program • PO Box 090441, 53209	265-8500
Rainbow Alliance at UWM • Box 413 (Union 122), 53201 • Office Union E381E	229-6555
SAGE-Milwaukee • Box 510492, 53203-0091	271-0378
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous • 315 W. Court St., 53212	299-0755
Sherman Park Rainbow Assoc. • PO Box 76115, 53216	277-3986
WI Cream City Chorus • 315 W. Court St., 53212	276-8787

PHONE LINES

Gay People's Union	645-0585
Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline	414-272-TEEN, 866-GAY-YOUTH
HelpLine (24 hour crisis counseling)	271-3123
Pathfinders (24 hour youth support/housing)	271-1560
Wisconsin AIDS Line	414-273-AIDS, 800-334-AIDS

SPORTS GROUPS

Cream City Squares • (GLBT Square Dancing) .. www.execpc.com/~djdilges/odjilges@execpc.com	445-8080
Front Runners • (GLBT Jogging/ Running Group)	332-1527
GAMMA • Social/Recreational • PO Box 1900, 53201	358-2111
Great Lakes Harley Riders • PO Box 341611, 53234-1611	
Holiday Invitational Bowling Tournament • PO Box 899, 53201	871-4172
Metro Milw. Tennis Club	543-9643
Saturday Soft Ball League (SSBL) • PO Box 510615, 53203	454-9204
Shoreline • (Country/Line Dance Group) • PO Box 510283, 53203	
WI Outdoor Women • (Sports Events Group) • PO Box 94, Hales Corners, 53130	427-2082

MEDICAL/HIV

16th Street Community Health Center • (Nursing, HIV/AIDS case management, testing, outreach, education in Spanish/English) • English • 1032 S. Cesar Chavez Dr., 53204	672.1315 x284
AIDS Resource Center of WI • (AIDS Service Organ, case mgmt., health care, pantry) • 820 N. Plankinton, 53203	273-1991
Brady East STD Clinic (BESTD) • (HIV testing/STD treatment) • 1240 E. Brady St., 53202	272-2144
Dennis Hill Outreach Center • (HIV testing) • 4311 W. Vliet St., 53208	342-4333
STD Specialties Clinic • (STD testing) • 3251 N. Holton St., 53212	264-8800

PROFESSIONALS / SERVICES

Cat Doctor • Exclusive cat care clinic • 236 N. Water, 53202	272-CATS
Constructive Professional Counseling • 6815 W. Capitol #111, 53216	535-7640
Sara Depies, Homestead Realty Inc. • 6935 N 76, 53223	office: 353-4400
Graphic Images • (Graphic & Web Design, Photography)	382-1999
Dykeman Family Heating and Air Conditioning • 1023 E Brady, 53212	272-7500
Ted Friedman, Phd • Licensed Professional Counselor • 2266 N. Prospect, Ste 206, 53202	272-2427
LLP LightShaves Laser Professionals • 11607 W. Bluemound, 53226	302-1756
Optix on Downer • 2616 N. Downer, 53211	964-3125
Patrick Prudlow • Handy Person • 2928 W. Forest Home Ave, 53215	672-8960
Singsational Productions • Vocals, Karaoke, DJ Service	327-1234
Women at Work • Wood Refinishers/Painting	483-0134

RELIGION

All Saint's Episcopal Church • 818 E. Juneau Ave., 53202 www.ascathedral.org	271-7719
Brown Deer UCC • 6380 W. Dean Road, Brown Deer, 53223	354-6920
Cross Lutheran • (Reconciled in Christ Church) • 1821 N. 16th St, 53205	344-1746
Dignity • (GLBT Catholic Group) • PO Box 597, 53201	444-7177
First Unitarian Society • (Unitarian Universalist) • 1342 N. Astor St., 53202	273-5237
Lutherans Concerned • (GLBT Lutherans) • PO Box 1676, 53201	372-9663
Milw. Metropolitan Community Church • (U/MCC) • 1239 W Mineral, 53204	332-9995
Milwaukee Two Spirit Society • (LGBT Indigenous Americans) • 1186 N Glenview Ave. 53213	607-1182
Pentacost Lutheran • (Reconciled in Christ) • 5226 W. Burleigh St., 53219	445-2696
Pilgrim Christian Church • Welcoming Congregation • 15400 W. North Ave., Brookfield, 53005	443-0976
Plymouth United Church in Christ • (Open & Affirming) • 2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211	964-1513
Two Spirit Society • Indigenous LGBT's of the America's • 315 W. Court St., 53212	607-118
Village Lutheran Church • (Reconciled in Christ) • 130 E. Juneau St., 53202	273-7617

RESTAURANTS / DELIS / COFFEEHOUSES

Bella Caffe • 189 N. Milwaukee St. 53202 • www.bellacaffe.com	273-5620
1100 Club • 1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
Jacques French Cafe Deli/Market • 1101 S. 2nd St. 53204	672-1040
LaPerla • 734 S. 5th St., 53204	645-9888
M&M Club • 124 N. Water St., 53202	347-1962

RETAIL / SHOPPING

OutWords Bookstore/Cafe • 2710 N. Murray, 53211	963-9089
Video Adventures • video sales, rentals • 1418 E. Brady, 53202	272-6768

NEENAH (920)

PFLAG (Parents, Friends of Lesbians and Gays) • (Support, Meetings) • PO Box 195, 54957-0195 735-1025

OSHKOSH (920)

UW-O Rainbow Alliance for HOPE • 800 Algoma Boulevard, 54901 hope@uwosh.edu

PLATTEVILLE (608)

G/L Alliance • (GLBT alliance) • Box 131, 53818. 782-9061

PRARIE DU SAC (608)

Sauk Prairie Mem. Hosp. HIV Program • 80 First St., 53578 643-7583

RACINE (262)

BARS	
JoDee's • MW, DJ • 2139 Racine St., 53403	634-9804
What About Me? • MW, G/S • 600 6th St., 53403	632-0171

RESTAURANT

The Summit Restaurant • 6825 Washington Ave., 53706 886-9866

RHINELANDER (715)

Northern Lambda Society • (GLBT group) • PO Box 802, 54501

RICHLAND CENTER (608)

Pioneers • (Rural WI GLBT Alliance) • PO Box 53, 53581

SCHOFIELD (715)

AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • 1105 Grand Ave. # 1, 54476 800 551-3311

SHEBOYGAN (920)

BAR	
Blue Lite • MW • 1029 N. 8th St., 53081	457-1636
ORGANIZATION	
PinesppLE • (GL Social/Activity Group) • PO Box 834, 53082	451-8722

STEVENS POINT (715)

ORGANIZATION	
Rainbow Alliance Inc • Box 390, 54481	592-6245 X 5920200
UW-Stevens Point G/S Alliance • SIEO Box #47, Lower Level UC, 54481	346-4366

STURGEON BAY (920)

PFLAG (Parents Friends of Lesbians and Gays) • (Support, Meetings) • PO Box 213, 54325 743-8663

SUPERIOR (715)

BARS	
Bev's Jook Joint • Wm, J • 820 Tower Ave., 55880	392-5373
JT's Bar & Grill • MW, DJ • 1506 N. 3rd St., 55880	394-2580
The Main • MW, L/L, DJ, V • 1217 Tower Ave., 55880	392-1756
ORGANIZATION	
AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW) • 1507 Tower Ave., Ste 230, 54880	394-4009 or 877-242-0282

WASHBURN (715)

Out Up North • PO Box 695, Washburn, WI 54891 682-2890



WAUSAU (715)

BARS	
Oz • MW, DJ • 320 Washington, 54401	842-3225
RELIGION	
First Universalist Unitarian Church • 504 Grant	842-3697

WHITEWATER (262)

UW-W G/L Student Union • 309 McClutchen Hall, 53190

PLEASE HELP MAKE CORRECTIONS!
Send us current information: corrections, deletions, additions, new groups, etc.
Mail to: Wisconsin Light
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
or email: editor@wilight.com


CLASSIFIED Ad Order Form 

- Let us select an appropriate category for your ad. (No sleazy adult ads, or unlicensed massage ads accepted.)
- Clearly Print your ad on the following lines, or type it on a separate piece of paper and attach.
- Pricing: Classified Rates are \$10 for the first 25 words (including a five word Bold lead in), plus 25 cents per word over 25, per issue.

First 25 words (including up to 5 word bold lead in)	\$10.00
Number of extra words _____ x .25¢/word	\$ _____
Total Per Issue	_____
Number of Times to Run _____	x _____
Total	_____

- Payment: (Classifieds must be pre-paid) Cash, Checks or Money Orders
We will soon be accepting Credit Cards
- Mail or Drop Off:
Wisconsin Light, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201B, Milwaukee, WI 53212
- E-mail: classified_ads@wilight.com

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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**Some classified ads recieved may have to be verified.*

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Constructive Professional Counseling, S.C.
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930 East Knapp St.
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fax: 414-224-6393

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ART STUDIO TO SHARE Historic Third Ward. Ideal for painting and drawing sales potential. \$197.50 per month. 414-278-1397, leave message.

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN BUY? Waupaca Housing Center, 3 locations to serve you: Waupaca 715-258-1552; Green Bay 920-499-0161; WI Dells 608-253-4663.

RENT THE UPSTAIRS OF MY HOUSE - 2 large rooms, 1/2 bath, kitchen, laundry, heat, electric, water, phone, a/c, garage, backyard with swimming pool. All for \$450 a month. No pets or smoking. Location: South 106th Mill Rd., Milwaukee 414-353-7059. (8)

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MUSIC

HAVING A CELEBRATION? - Give a touch of class to your special occasion. Intermezzo Ensemble offers classical, pop, Latin string music. Call 414-540-5586, 414-967-7079; email: intermezzoensemble@yahoo.com (11)

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A JUMBO
\$3 Margaritas & Daiquiris
ALL NIGHT 1534 W Grant - 384-5980

Thursday, April 11

Winona Spring Pride Festival; UM-Campus (Winona, MN): 5-7pm: Speaker: Deborah Davis, a transgender woman who has been fighting injustice and prejudice in the workplace for many years. 7-7-9pm: Our Community Voice, Moderators: Josh Robida, Andy Waldron and Charlene Taylor, panel features individuals and couples from the Winona and Twin Cities areas who will share their experiences of how being openly Gay and Lesbian has affected all aspects of their lives.

Friday, April 12

Winona Spring Pride Festival: UM-Campus (Winona, MN): 4-8pm: Our Heroes in Hollywood: GLBT Movie Celebration, 3 separate movies, feel free to stop in any time. 7:30pm: Senior Dance Recital, sponsored by the Department of Theater and Dance.

Poetry reading by Carmen Murguía, Lesbian Latina activist poet; Room of One's Own (Madison): Murguía is a published poet, and also writes for Wisconsin Light. 307 W. Johnson St., Madison, 608-257-7888, www.roomofonesown.com

HIV Testing & Counseling; Club 219 (Milw.): BESTD Clinic volunteers offer free and anonymous testing from 10pm-1am.

CommonBond; Fannies (Milw.): Blues/folk/rock from Washington, DC, 9:30pm

Friday, April 12 thru Sunday, April 14

ExtrABBAganza; The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus (Minneapolis): Ted Mann Concert Hall. Singing! Dancing! Mirror Balls! Dancing Queens! All anyone could ever want in one concert is here for you in this incredible performance of music by the writers of all of ABBA's music. Friday and Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 2pm. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25 and are available through the Box Office: 612-624-2345

Saturday, April 13

PrideFest Floral Contest planning; PrideFest Office (Milw): What is Spring without Flowers? First meeting, 2pm. All are welcome. FMI call Ted Berg 414-645-3378 or e-mail him: pridemilw@aol.com.

PrideFest His/Herstory Tent planning; PrideFest Office (Milw): His/Herstory Tent returns for the second year, after a several year hiatus. 907 S 1st Street, noon. "We are looking for committee volunteers to put our tent together." FMI call Ted Berg 414-645-3378 or e-mail him: pridemilw@aol.com.

Winona Spring Pride Festival; UM-Campus (Winona, MN): 9am-12pm: Speakers and Panel Discussions (Somerset Auditorium); 9am-10am: Court Rooms, Legislatures and GLBT Equality, Phil Duran, Legal Program Coordinator, Outfront MN; 10am-12pm: Panel: Politics of Relationships and Marriage, Moderators: Larry Gorrell and Phillip Lichenwalter 12pm-5:30pm; Show Your Pride Outdoor Festival. A festive atmosphere replete with music and open mike platform! Parade of Pride Booths. "In the event of uncooperative weather, the Festivals will be moved to an indoor location. Poetry/Open Mike: Calling all poets and speakers. All are welcome! 8-9pm: Drag Show, featuring some of the most-talented and most-adored Drag Queens and Kings from Minnesota and Wisconsin! 9pm-Midnight: 10% Dance, Enjoy the lights and sounds of our talented DJs. Refreshments provided. Sunday, April 14

Winona Spring Pride Festival: UM-Campus (Winona, MN): 10am-noon: Heroes in Hollywood, Part II, sponsored by Women In Life and Learning(WILL). Noon-4pm: Weekend Wrap-Up Picnic and Music Festival. Bring a bag lunch and head on down for several live performances by guest bands from Chicago, LaCrosse, Winona and Albert Lea! This is a nice way to unwind before the trip home. In the event of uncooperative weather, the Festivals will be moved to an indoor location.

Wednesday, April 17

PrideFest Leather Mixer; M&Ms (Milw.): 2nd floor conference room, 6pm. The PrideFest Leather

Gay Agenda

Show/Contest Committee will have a planning meeting during the mixer. Get involved in planning the Leather Show, "Hide N Seek Too." FMI call Russ at 414-645-3378 or e-mail him at: Reiter2002@aol.com.

Thursday, April 18

"Home Improvement: Taking Care of Your Investment"; Rainbow U Lecture Series (Milw.): with David Bodoh owner of Red Tail Renovation and Restoration. 7pm to 8:30pm at the LGBT Community Center, all welcome. Kathy, 414-271-2656.

HIV Prevention Research; CAIR (Milw.): "Where's the Love, the Intimacy, the Passion? David W. Seal Ph.D., 3-5:30pm, CME Program. 2071 N. Summit Ave., 414-456-7731.

Friday, April 19

Rites of Spring Wine Tasting; LGBT Community Center (Milw.): Fundraising Wine Tasting Event for the Center 7pm to 9pm. County Exec candidate Jim Ryan is expected to attend to greet and meet LGBT voters. Includes refreshments and entertainment. Tickets are \$25 and available in advance. Call 414-271-2656 fmi

Iconography-Gallery Night Premiere; LGBT Center Gallery (Milw.): See the article elsewhere this issue for full details as the Gallery hosts the opening of a new show featuring four GLBT and allied artists. A stop on the Spring Gallery Night.

Creating an identity in our world; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): Robyn Ochs, a nationally renowned scholar and presenter, leads a workshop about how dichotomized categories, such as homosexual and heterosexual, affect everyone: queer, gay, lesbian, straight, etc. 12-1:30pm, Campus Women's Center, Memorial Union.

Bisexuality, Feminism, Men and Me; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): Robyn Ochs, leads a discussion on differences and similarities between homosexual and heterosexual relationships; body image, social sex roles, and heterosexual privilege. 4-6pm, 2080 Grainger Hall.

Dianna Jones Band; Fannies (Milw.): Live at 9pm. All women's band plays a variety of music with some great vocalists.

HIV Testing & Counseling; Triangle (Milw.): BESTD Clinic volunteers offer free and anonymous testing from 9pm-12am.

Saturday, April 20

Second Annual Conference; Rainbow Families Wisconsin (Madison): Check out more information about RFW at www.rainbowfamilieswisconsin.org, or see the article about the group and conference elsewhere this issue.

Gay Video Club; (Madison): "Queer As Folk - Episode 207" "Boys to Men: 4 Short Films" "Fallen Angel IV: Sea Men", 8pm, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8675 (evenings)

Sunday, April 21

Safe Sex Workshop; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): Sex Out Loud, presents a workshop on how to protect yourself and your partner to ensure the safest experience for both. 7pm, Memorial Union, (TITU) for room location.

Gay Wrestling Club; (Madison): Workouts and Training. New members welcomed, Experience not required. 1pm, www.madgaywrestlers.org, 608-244-8675 (evenings)

Milwaukee Poet Laureate Antler Reads; Milwaukee Public Library: Antler reads selections from his published works in celebration of Earth Week. Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St., Free, 1:30pm.

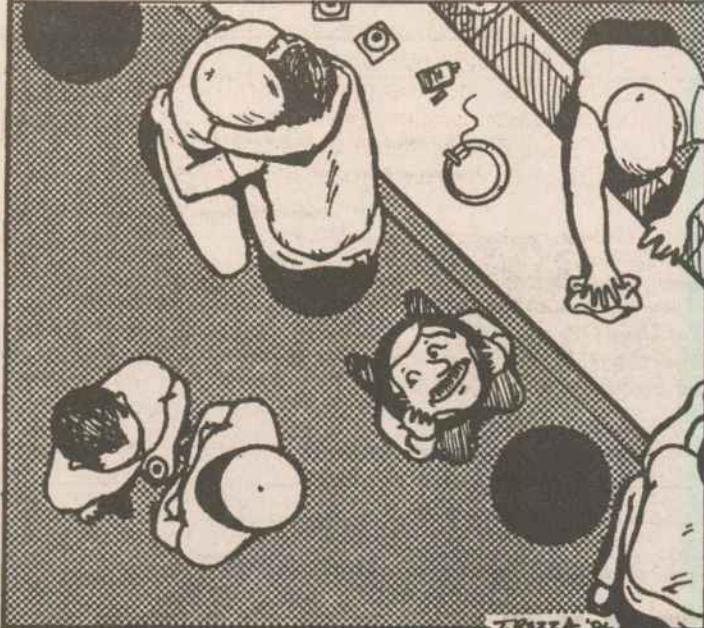
Monday, April 22

Female Sexuality Workshop; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): A free workshop designed for women on the art of safely and effectively pleasing a female partner. Please register with the LGBT Campus Center at 265-3344. 7pm, Memorial Union, Check TITU for room location.

Expressing The Woman Inside, Makeup for Men;

A Classic GAY SIDE

CLEVERLY DISGUISED AS A BAR STOOL, CHARLES AWAITS THE NEXT UNSUSPECTING CUSTOMER.



Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): A workshop designed for men who want to learn the basics of makeup application as an entertaining and practical change to one's complexion. Makeup and supplies provided.

Tuesday, April 23

Outdoor Movie-"But I'm A Cheerleader"; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): A hilarious film A family panics after noticing homosexual tendencies in their daughter, elicit the guidance of the homosexual rehabilitation facility. In fact, she really does not believe she is a lesbian, until she meets a sexy tomboy who has also been sent to the camp. Free, 8:30pm, on the lawn outside the Southeast Area dorms.

HIV Testing & Counseling; Midtowne Spa (Milw.): BESTD Clinic volunteers offer free and anonymous testing from 6pm-9pm.

Wednesday, April 24

Alix Olson Poetry Slam; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): Alix Olson is a dynamic performer prominent in the New York City and National spoken word scenes. Join her for a free poetry slam performance 7:30pm, 109 Union South

Thursday, April 25

Lesbian Couples Workshop, "Intimacy: Can't Live With It, Can't Live Without It"; LGBT Community Center (Milw.): Presenters Virginia Thomas and Pat Smith offer a series of five workshops that explore topics at the foundation of all relationships. April 25 Topic: "How Did We Get Here Anyway?" 6:30-8pm, LGBT Community Center. Fee requested (\$25 per couple, \$15 singles per workshop/pre-registration preferred, call Kathy at 414-271-2656 fmi.

LGBT Activism Panel Discussion; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): 6pm, 272 Bascom Hall. No details available.

LGBTQA Fabulous Social Extravaganza; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): Join the CWC for an open social with a party-like atmosphere, games, etc. Root beer

keg and ice cream, coming out stories, new faces and all-out socialization, 6:30pm, Campus Women's Center, Memorial Union.

Theatrical Activism Workshop; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): 8pm, Memorial Union, Check (TITU) for room location. No details available.

Friday, April 26

LGBT End of the Year Celebration and Graduate Reception; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): A reception honoring the LGBT graduates in the UW Class of 2002. Everyone is welcome, including family and friends. Free food and beverages will be provided. Recognition of graduates at 7:30pm. 7-9pm, Memorial Union, Check (TITU) for room location.

LGBT Out and About Dance; Ten Percent Society Out and About Week (Madison): Last dance of the spring semester! Open to all UW students, faculty, staff and their guests. Age ID (18+) or guest pass required, \$3 door, cash bar, live DJs. 8pm-12:45am, Great Hall, Memorial Union.

Saturday, April 27

Out and About SPRAWL Dance; (Madison): A women-only dance and all-girl gathering. There will be a dance lesson from 7:30 to 8pm, and a live DJ from 8pm to midnight. Cash bar, admission \$5-\$10 (sliding scale). 7:30pm - Midnight, Madison Civic Center Marquee Room.

ROW Bowling Tourney; Rainbow over Wisconsin Benefit (Green Bay): Riviera Lanes.

Bingo Night Fundraiser; Galano Club (Milw.): \$1 admission includes one card, additional cards \$1 each. Prizes awarded to winners. LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201, 414-276-6936.

I/D Then and Now; Integrity/Dignity (Madison): Father Tom Woodward, I/Ds founder and Dr. Louie Crew, founder of parent organizations Integrity. A lively discussion with their stories of the 1977 Madison scene and our community's remarkable journey since. 6pm, St. Francis House, 1001 University Ave. 608-836-8886.

the politicians.

Did you know Miss Valentine (aka Michael) had the gall to ask me what I thought about the evening - acting all casual - when he probably had a mic for a tape recorder in her boutonniere? I put her in her place quick enough, just knowing he'd quote me and get me in trouble!

A special surprise awaited me at our table: Madison Dane Co. Exec (and Democratic gubernatorial candidate) Kathleen Falk sat with us and asked if she could have the seat next to me. Of course, out for dirt, I said yes.

Besides being attractive and friendly, I learned Kathleen is intelligent, savvy and convinced of her ability to offer real solutions to Wisconsin's troubles.

Off the record, I told her I thought she and all the other Democratic candidates were nuts to take on the economic fiasco the Thompson/McCallum years put Wisconsin in. I remember when Tony Earl put the state back on track economically after the trainwreck of a previous Republican administration, and paid for it by being voted out after one term.



Attorney General Jim Doyle and his wife.

I warned her the same may happen to the next governor, but she reacted by saying she was excited about the opportunity to turn things around, and was confident she could prove herself.

Two other Madison allied politicians were at our table (unlike Miss Valentine, I am *not* great at remembering names) the biggest Madison contingent I've seen in Milwaukee since a busload of bar crawlers.

Also at our table was her "date" Milwaukee Rep. Peter Bock, who, it turns out, is engaged to her. Guess I was out of the loop on that political marriage!

I found out later that Peter proposed to her last year at a Brewer's game via the electronic message board, and Rep.

Tim Carpenter caught her reaction with a picture.

By the way, Tim was also at the festivities, but was so far across the room, he was in another zip code.

Wisconsin Light Publisher Jerry Johnson, Editor Emeritus Terry Boughner and Jesse Carter were also at our table. Joining our group of ten were three other Dane County denizens.

I got to reacquaint myself with another gubernatorial candidate, Attorney General Jim Doyle, and managed to say "Hi Tom" to U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett as he made a quick swing through the event on his way to another engagement.

As far as County Executives go, I couldn't find Tom Ament to thank him for his years of service, and missed out



Rep. Tim Carpenter



U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett

on looking in the eye of candidate Scott Walker (to size him up with my keen perception). I must admit he is kind of a cutie, but I don't cast my vote by physical attributes, it's the mind behind the man that I judge candidates on.

I did get "good vibes" (in keeping with the theme of the era of the event) when I shook Co. Exec. Candidate Jim Ryan's hand and exchanged a few words as he was surrounded by well wishers.

The "Grande dame" of Wisconsin Gay politicians, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin was ensconced amidst admirers,



Tom Ament and his wife Darla

and looking resplendent in a short black cocktail dress. She just improves with age, like a fine wine... and exudes an aura that captivates a crowd, and that's why we love her so much.

The crowd acknowledged her with a well deserved standing "O".

The evening was capped off by very brief remarks (thank God) from the campaigning politicians. Even ARCW Executive Director, head cheerleader and great communicator Doug Nelson kept his remarks brief.

The Awards presentations also went quickly. The Community Service award was presented to two winners: Dr. Brian Buggy, Infectious Disease specialist; and AIDS Network - accepted by Director Dave Power.

AIDS educator Mike Johnson was honored with the Courage award, and the Challenge Party, a Gay and Lesbian fundraising group were named Philanthropist of the Year.

As a matter of fact, the program went so quick that the crowd - who obviously made their feelings known to organizers about long winded speech-making in previous years - was actually stunned it was over. DJ John Murges had the crowd up and dancing before they knew what hit them.

A pleasant, satisfying evening for all in attendance... and hopefully a financially successful evening for ARCW. After all, helping PWAs/HIV to keep "stayin' alive" was the point of the entire evening.

Challenge Party Representatives

Final Thoughts

By Ron Geiman
Editor Wisconsin Light

I know it's been some time since I took the time out of my deadline dash to write a column, so for those of you who have given me grief - here we go...

I broke my self-imposed social exile to attend ARCWs Make A Promise Dinner and Disco. (I really haven't become a recluse or a hermit, I just enjoy relaxing at home when I'm not working on the paper. And it's less stressful on my health, as well.)

This year's Make A Promise theme, "Stayin' Alive", had more meaning than just a disco song flashback for those of us striving to stay alive with HIV/AIDS.

My "boogie oogie oogie oogie dancin shoes," have long since decomposed from when they were "groovy." In my mind I danced the hustle - and a few other dance steps anyone under 40 won't remember - but in reality a bad case of retroviral induced neuropathy prevented me from "shake, shake, shake-ing my booty!"

However, I did take the opportunity - after a small but lovely and palatable dinner - to mingle with the mob. And a mob it was, taking over a large portion of the Convention Center's first floor ballrooms.

The room décor gave me disco fever with cage dancers, roaming spots, mirror ball, glittered centerpieces and huge balloons floating 20 foot off the tables tied down with mylar ribbons.

The giant screens on each side of the dais were a nice touch with constant images of animated dancers in one corner and projections of everything from the status of bids to shots of the crowd to pictures of award winners. Overall, a very "groovy" production.

The dinner/disco space didn't even include the huge separate room filled with a mountain of silent auction items. Plus there were cruisy cocktail stations/table areas east of the ballroom, overlooking the "blue airport landing lights" Wells St. tunnel through the Convention Center.

It was VIP and politician heaven at the dinner with U.S. Representatives, gubernatorial and county executive candidates *en masse*.

Glitteratti (I'll have you know I was the first Gay Wisconsin columnist to use that term) abounded - even some in platform shoes, angel flight suits and way-unbuttoned shirts with chains. I pondered whether their closets were really that deep!

I'll leave it up to that ubiquitous name-dropping columnist Michael Johnson to name all those names... I'll just stick to



Dane Co. Exec. Kathleen Falk and Rep. Peter Bock



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