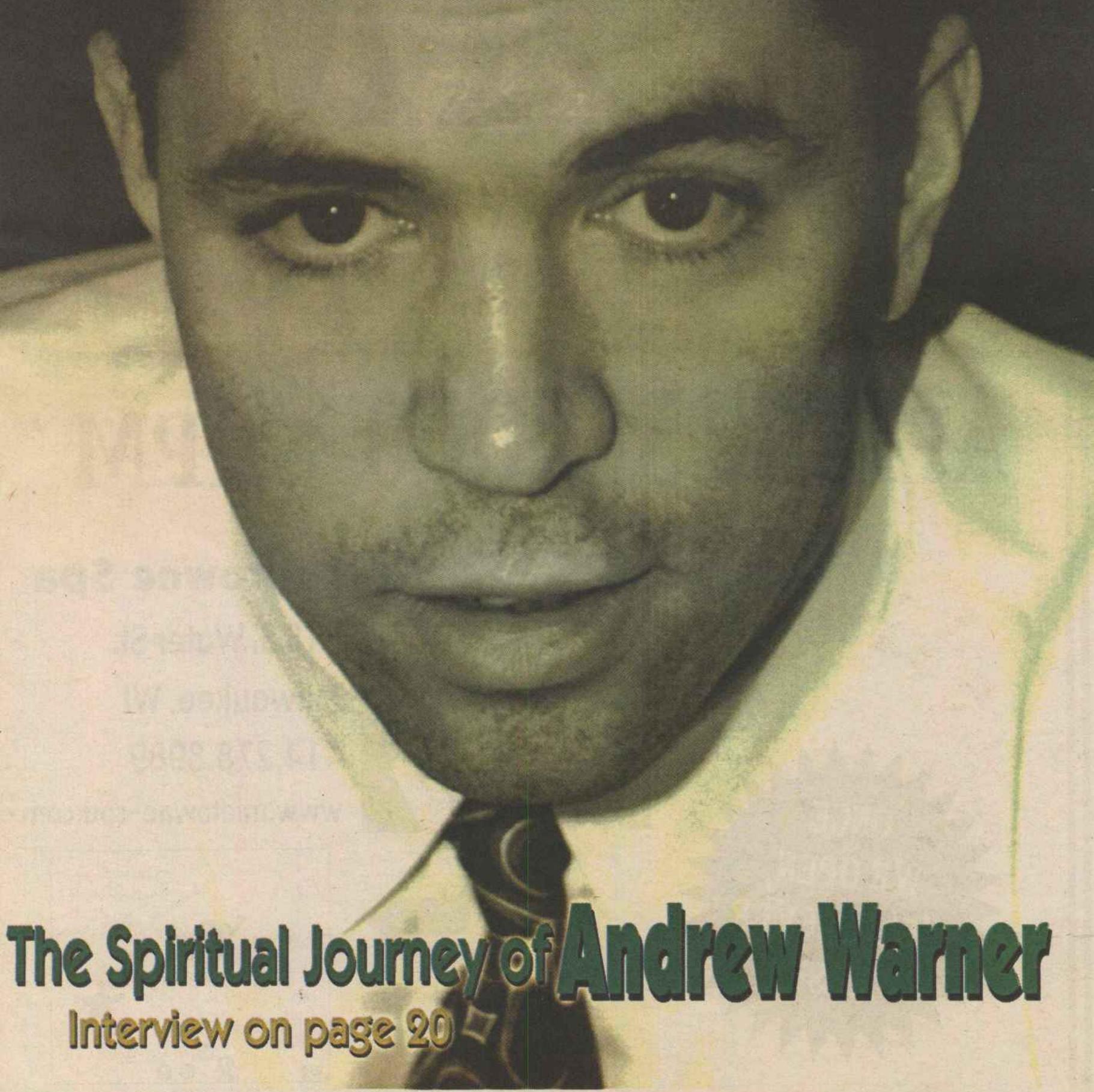


Wisconsin

INStep

Wisconsin's LGBT Community Newspaper • Issue 17.7 • April 6, 2000



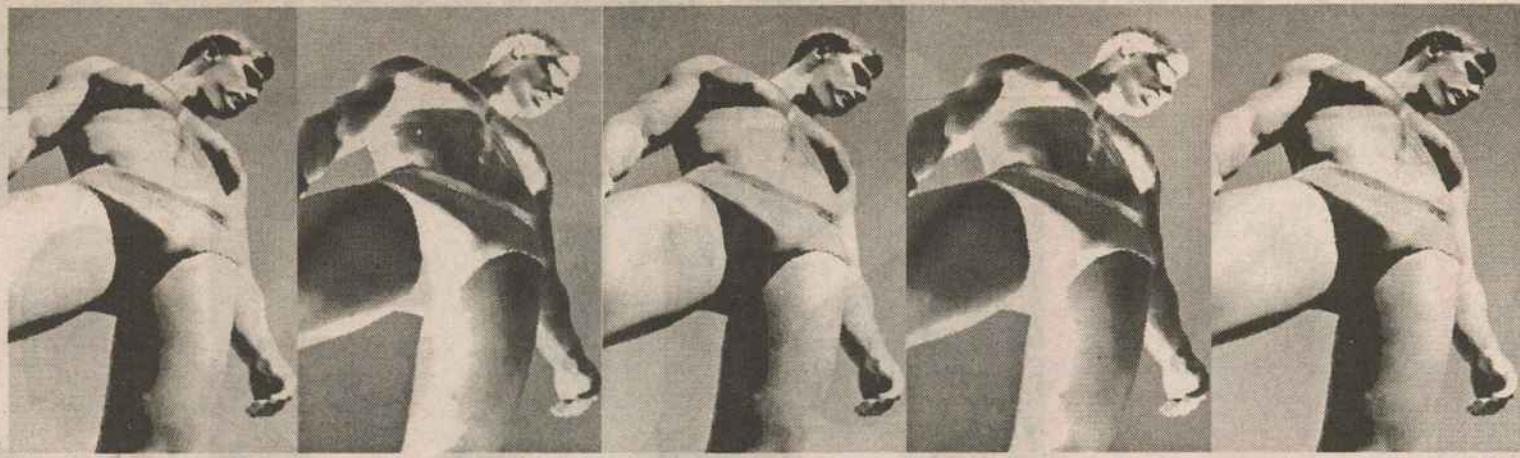
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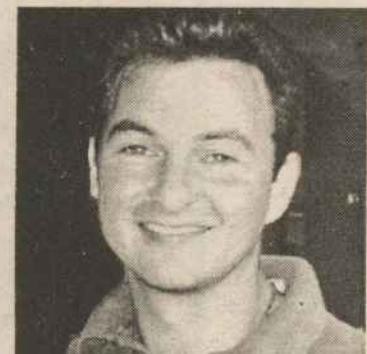
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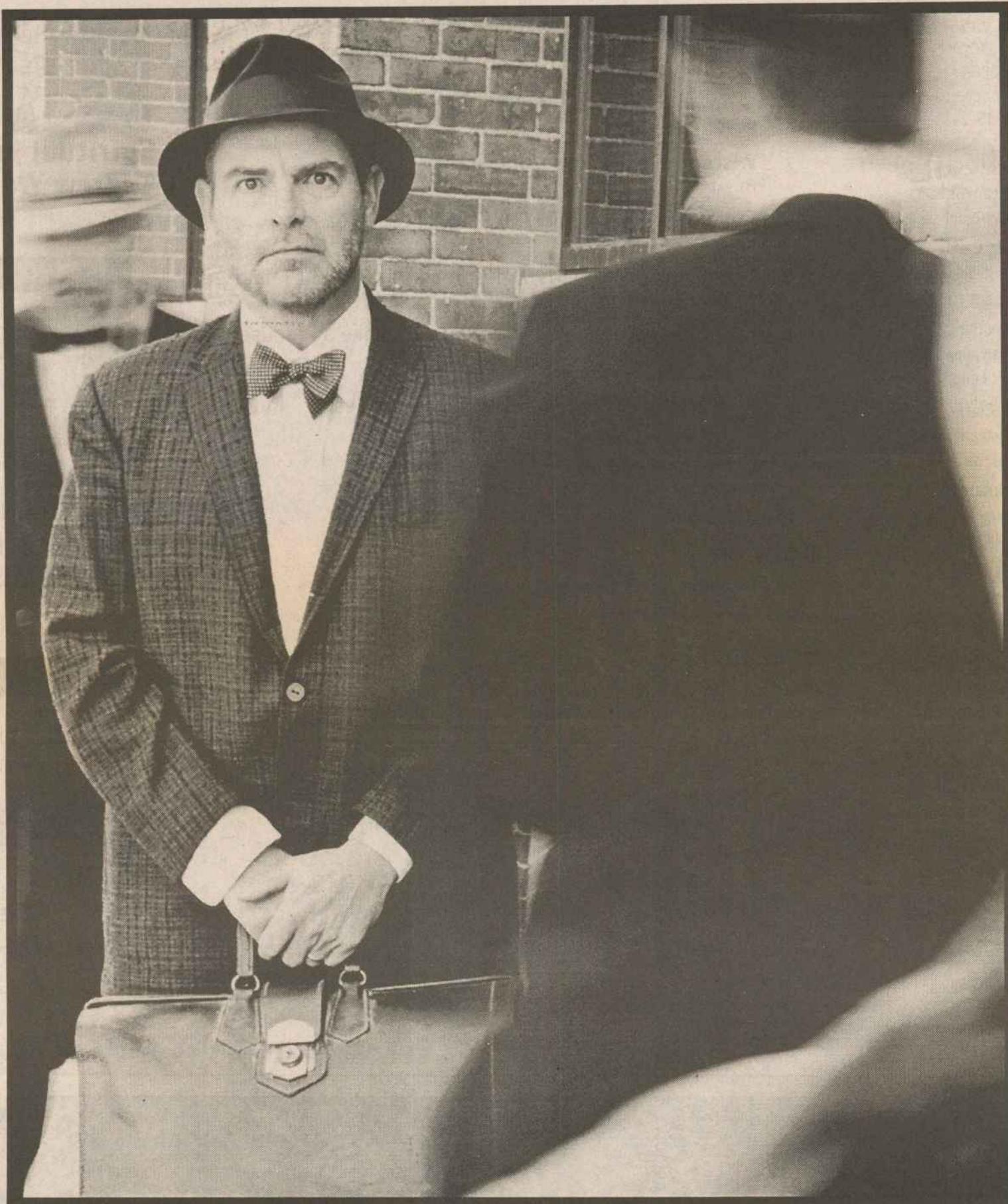


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Dane County LGBT Rights Activists Triumph

By Mike Leon

Madison — In Dane County on April 4, one of two openly gay candidates for the County Board emerged victorious, and a local union activist whose work was crucial in securing domestic partner benefits for Madison teachers was elected to the school board.

Bill Keys defeated Debby Anderson Meyer, a community activist whose political sentiments came under fire by some during the course of the campaign for being insufficiently liberal.

By contrast, Bill Keys flashed endorsements from LGBT rights activists, labor, women's organizations, and other progressive groups.

Keys won with 55% of the vote, to 45% for Anderson Meyer.

A happy Keys reached at the Madison Labor Temple on election night was characteristically gracious and straight talking.

"I'm obviously very happy, I'm very grateful to Debby (Anderson Meyer) for keeping to the issues and educating me on a lot of things, and always asking me the hard questions. I learned a lot from her," said Keys.

Keys took praise about his successful efforts making the Madison School District the second district in the country to offer DP benefits in stride. "I'm still embarrassed at the title of 'hero.' Don't take no guts to do what you got to do in order to live yourself," said Keys.

In the county board races, Rob Fyrst won his first bid for electoral office beating fellow progressive Forrest Aguirre, 58% to 42%.

In a politically eccentric, last ditch effort to defeat Fyrst, a religious right group, Wisconsin Christians United (WCU), distributed through the district copies of *IN Step*'s profile of Fyrst (*IN Step*, March 23-April 5) accompanied by a pamphlet entitled "Do homosexuals spend eternity in heaven or hell?". The pamphlet consisted of passages from the Bible containing condemnations of "homosexuality" and warnings to the effect that being homosexual will result in one's being forbidden to enter Christian heaven.

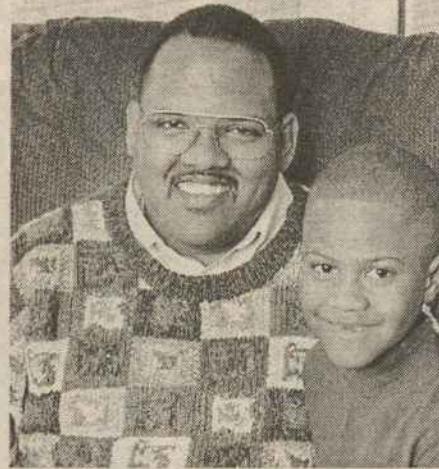
"I think it was an absolutely wonderful

2000 VOTE

IN Step article and I wanted to thank them (WCU) for helping to distribute a nice piece of literature," said Fyrst. "I received calls from people about it and people said they were outraged by it. Forrest Aguirre would never do anything like that. But I would like to thank Ralph Ovadal, (of WCU)."

Asked what he thought the election suggested, Fyrst offered: "It was clear I worked hard, met the voters and understood the message of protecting their money while delivering services. I think they said, 'We trust Rob to see that our children will have a bright future.'"

In perhaps the most hotly contested race, incumbent Karen Cornwell beat back a challenge by openly gay candidate Chuck Erickson. Erickson picked up a host of progressive endorsements, but a late surge of support for Cornwell from old-line, establishment liberals, including Paul Soglin, sealed her victory. The hard-working Cornwell is thought to have benefited from her work on land use.



Rob Fyrst pictured with his son.

The race was a focal point of the electoral season as Erickson's attempt to knock off Cornwell stemmed from her siding with social conservatives last year in voting for the County Board Chair—and subsequently handing some important Board committee chairs to right-wingers.

Cornwell, a progressive who is well regarded in progressive circles save her controversial vote, won 61% to 38%.

Of the six candidates for the races profiled above, all candidates were supportive of LGBT rights.

Publisher's Note

The recent closing of our sister publication, WI Light leaves *IN Step* as the only LGBT newspaper serving the state of Wisconsin. As publisher, I take on this heightened responsibility as a privilege. I pledge to focus our energies on *IN Step*'s mission to continue to provide Wisconsin's LGBT community with a professional newspaper with the highest in journalistic standards and ethics.

The factors which contributed the demise of the WI Light are chronicled elsewhere in this issue, but I think it is worthwhile noting that the last year alone saw nearly a dozen major gay publications across the country go under.

I have always maintained that competition between newspapers is as old as newsprint and that any rivalry that may have existed between *IN Step* and WI Light only benefited our community since it produced a higher quality newspaper for our readers. I know that the competition helped motivate our staff and myself to continually work to improve all aspects of *IN Step*.

When WI Light publisher Greg Quindel called me to inform me of his decision to cease publication of his newspaper, I didn't expect the sense of sadness and loss that swept over me. The failure of any gay-owned business and the loss of jobs it provides is unfortunate, but this hit close to home. For well over a decade, the staff of the WI Light was over-worked, under-paid and yet supremely dedicated to providing its readers with news and information vital to our community. Their hard work made the WI Light something of an institution and I admire their dedication.

On a personal note, I can tell you that I still greet every issue of *IN Step* with the same enthusiasm and excitement I felt when I first joined the *IN Step* staff as a writer way back in 1984. For that I am extremely grateful. I am also grateful for the support and dedication of *IN Step*'s over-worked and under-paid staff, our loyal advertisers and most importantly the rock-solid support of my partner, Jorge Cabal.

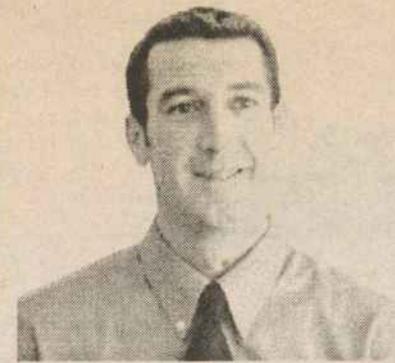
I also would be remiss if I did not humbly acknowledge the path cleared by Ron Geiman, Jerry Johnson and Terry Boughner. It is clearly upon the trails blazed by these former publishers' that the success of *IN Step* has been built.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will evaluate the content of *IN Step* to make sure we are meeting the needs of you, our readers. We will continue to do our best to ensure that *IN Step* reflects the diversity of LGBT people across the state. I will place a special focus of reaching out to women, people of color and our readers in Madison, the Fox Valley, Western Wisconsin and other outlying areas and I ask for your support during this process.

William Attewell

Schroeder Loses Bid for Green Bay City Council

By Mike Fitzpatrick



Rodney Schroeder

Green Bay — Local businessman Rodney Schroeder failed to unseat incumbent Gary Kriescher for the 5th district seat on the city council in Tuesday's aldermanic elections. Schroeder lost by less than a hundred votes, 481 to 372. About 20% of the registered voters in the district cast ballots.

Schroeder, who had been endorsed by the Good Government Program of the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce, was the only challenger to come close to unseating an incumbent on the council. Other incumbents were returned to the council by 2-1 and 3-1 margins city wide.

Representatives of the Monroe, Wis. based anti-gay group Wisconsin Christians United leafleted portions of Schroeder's district in the final days of the campaign, enclosing a copy of the Wisconsin *IN Step* interview with the candidate in the group's "Truth About Homosexuality" pamphlet.

"My phone started ringing off the hook on Saturday and Sunday with people who were outraged by the pamphlets," Schroeder said. "I did find out that at minimum the 20th Ward in my district was targeted (by the WCU)."

Although Schroeder was disappointed by the loss, he expects to continue to seek ways to serve the greater Green Bay community. "This was a good learning experience," Schroeder said. "I will continue to serve on the Board of Health and don't be surprised if you see me in another campaign down the road."

Reform Rabbis Approve Same-Sex Unions

By Keith Clark

Greensboro, N.C. — America's Reform rabbis have made tolerance and inclusiveness a central tenet of their 111-year history in the United States as the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR).

On March 29, the conference became the first major mainstream religious organization in the nation to approve a carefully worded resolution that officially supports rabbis who want to officiate at unions of Jewish same-sex couples.

The conference, representing some 1.5 million Jews in North America, voted overwhelmingly in support of the resolution in a closed vote during its annual convention. No actual count was released in the tally.

The resolution leaves it up to individual rabbis to decide if they will officiate at Jewish gay and lesbian ceremonies or not, and it avoids calling the ceremonies "marriages."

Instead, the resolution simply says that "the relationship of a Jewish, same gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual." It also calls on CCAR to develop "liturgical resources" for rabbis officiating at the ceremonies.

According to a CCAR statement on the vote, the resolution "does not suggest that the ceremonies are 'marriages'" and leaves it "up to the individual rabbi to decide, within the context of faith, as opposed to civil law, what each ceremony represents."

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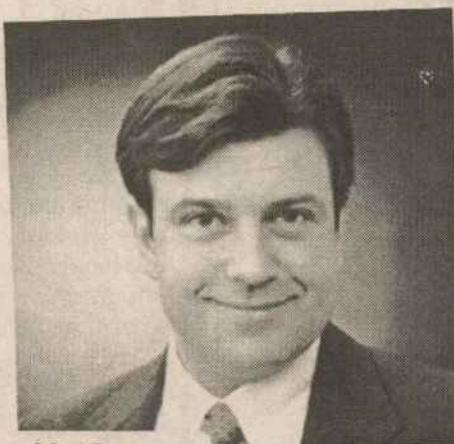
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Wisconsin Light Ceases Publication

By Jamakaya

Milwaukee — The Wisconsin Light, one of most long-lived gay and lesbian newspapers in the history of the state, ceased publication after the distribution of its final issue on March 29.

In a final Publisher's Note, Greg Quindel reiterated his goal of making the Light "an editorially and economically strong weekly newspaper for Wisconsin's LGBT community — fully staffed by paid professionals." He wrote that "Support for this venture was lukewarm from the beginning." He cited the state's "notoriously risk-adverse business climate" and a "competitive environment" that kept ad rates "amongst the lowest in the country."

In that same issue, Ron Geiman, who had been named editor after the abrupt departure of Nadine A. Walther, wrote of the Light's inability to attract good writers and, more damaging, the dearth of "consistent advertising support" from groups and businesses in the LGBT community and the broader straight community.

The demise of Wisconsin Light leaves *IN Step*, founded by Geiman in 1984, as the only major LGBT newspaper in the state of Wisconsin. *Quest*, published out of Green Bay, bills itself as a gay bar and entertainment guide. A newer publication, *Probe*, which has not yet seen widespread distribution, describes itself as a lifestyle magazine.

Bill Attewell, editor-in-chief of *IN Step*, said, "We view our heightened position as the state's only LGBT newspaper as a serious responsibility. We will continue to do our best to make *IN Step*'s content reflect the diversity of LGBT people across the state. We will redouble our efforts to bring readers accurate and unbiased coverage of important news events."

History of Wisconsin Light

The first issue of Wisconsin Light appeared on Nov. 20, 1987 under the direction of Publisher Jerry Johnson and Editor Terry Boughner. The front page banner included the motto: "Give the People Light and they will find their own way."

The premiere issue indicates that Wisconsin Light was initiated as a direct successor to *OUT*, a small monthly newspaper based in Madison which had ceased publication that summer. *IN Step*, in a 5-1/2" by 8-1/2" magazine format at that time, was primarily covering the bar scene, and many activists felt a need to launch a new publication that would include a fuller array of news and commentary. Ron Geiman, publisher of *IN Step*, supported the effort.

The first issues of Wisconsin Light came out monthly, but by the spring of 1988, in hopes of raising more advertising revenue and accommodating the increasing volume of news copy by and about gays, a decision was made to publish bi-weekly. This the Light did consistently until March of 1999, when it went weekly.

High water marks for Wisconsin Light during its 12-1/2 year history include its extensive coverage of the Jeffrey Dahmer case in 1991-92. The Light published an "Extra" edition on Aug. 1, 1991 to provide timely information on many aspects of the mass murder, which had a dramatic impact on the city's gay and lesbian community. The Light scooped the mainstream media

with information on some of Dahmer's victims and past evidence of Milwaukee police officers' harassment and insensitivity to gays. The Light's coverage of the Dahmer case won awards from the National Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

On Nov. 6, 1997, Wisconsin Light published a 120-page anniversary issue called "A Decade of Light." It included a massive timeline of all major LGBT events — local, statewide and national — that had been reported in the Light since its founding, along with hundreds of photos of those events, most taken by Jerry Johnson. It stands as the most thorough history ever compiled of that 10-year period of LGBT life in Wisconsin.

On the debit side, the Light was often marred by typographical errors which rendered words or headlines incomprehensible. Sometimes it caused inadvertent humor, like the time Light reported that a gay editor had been "fried" (rather than "fired") for outing someone. The final issue was true to form with the following tribute: "Congratulations to Hilary Swank for his Best Actress Oscar..."

In June of 1998, Johnson and Boughner sold the Wisconsin Light to Greg Quindel and another unnamed investor. "Jerry and I spent ten years plus and we did the best we possibly could," former editor Terry Boughner told *IN Step*. "We're very proud of the national reputation we built for the Light. But it was time to hand it off to others. 'Hail and farewell' was our attitude. There comes a point you just have to let go. I don't regret it. Now Jerry and I have a life again."

Bill Meunier, a longtime political columnist for Wisconsin Light, was named editor and Ron Geiman, who had sold *IN Step* to Bill Attewell and Jorge Cabal in 1996, was named publisher. At the end of 1998, Light announced that Greg Quindel would take over as publisher and the newspaper would begin publishing weekly. Its first weekly issue debuted in March, 1999. Exactly one year later, the Light published its final issue.

Why Did The Light Fold?

"We were losing money as a bi-weekly," Light publisher Quindel told *IN Step*. "We did a careful financial analysis of the bi-weekly vs. weekly format and determined that our chances for success were better if we had 52 revenue producing days than if we had only 26. But we didn't anticipate the pressure on ad rates and we could have used more marketing support at the time we went weekly."

Quindel's strategy was also tied to his goal for consolidating LGBT publishing in the state through a merger of the existing publications. He stated in numerous

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"Publisher's Notes" in the Light that he believed the only way a weekly newspaper with full-time staff could be viable was if all the LGBT publications joined together.

But Mark Mariucci, publisher of *Quest*, stated publicly he was not interested in a merger. At *IN Step*, Attewell made no public response to Quindel's proposals over the past year, preferring to keep private any discussions that may have taken place. Several gay leaders who have observed the ups and downs of local gay publishing noted that in the past few years *IN Step* has strengthened its position both financially and editorially and there was no reason for *IN Step* to either sell or merge.

In the interview with *IN Step*, Quindel also acknowledged what had been widely discussed in the LGBT community. "We had serious personnel problems. If I have one regret, it was not re-organizing staff as soon as problems became evident."

Terry Boughner was more blunt. "No one was in charge! Someone has to keep their finger on the pulse constantly. Somebody's got to be ready to wield the whip when necessary!"

Expressions of disgruntlement by former and even current staff members made their way through the community, contributing to rumors and negative publicity. "Everyone was dissing us so much," Ron Geiman commented, "that it became like a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Quindel felt things were turning around after the appointment of Nadine Walther as editor in December. But a front

page account of the arson trial and guilty verdict against Sharon Dixon, a well-known lesbian bar owner, angered many in the Milwaukee community. The headline read "Look Who's Doing the Jailhouse Rock!" and the word "Guilty" was stamped over a photo of Dixon, who faces 42 years in prison.

Quindel, who defended the Dixon coverage at the time, concedes there was a decline in advertising after the story appeared. The Light was dogged by computer glitches which delayed publication in the last few weeks, fueling more speculation of a collapse. Then, on March 23, editor Nadine Walther quit.

"There has to be a point at which you say, 'This is just not working,'" said Quindel.

Quindel told *IN Step* that Wisconsin Light would not be declaring bankruptcy and that he was working hard to settle all accounts, including several liens filed against the paper for failure to pay employee withholding taxes. "We are going to be exceptionally aggressive about the money owed us," Quindel said. "This is necessary so that everyone we owe money to can be fully paid for their services."

Wisconsin Light is perhaps most identified as the "baby" of its founders, Jerry Johnson and Terry Boughner.

Jerry Johnson told *IN Step* he felt a mixture of sadness and relief at the passing of Wisconsin Light: "It was so painful watching them struggle and not be able to do anything about it."

Terry Boughner worried that the paper "had become a shadow of its former self" but nevertheless suggested: "We should all weep a tear for the death of a good old friend."

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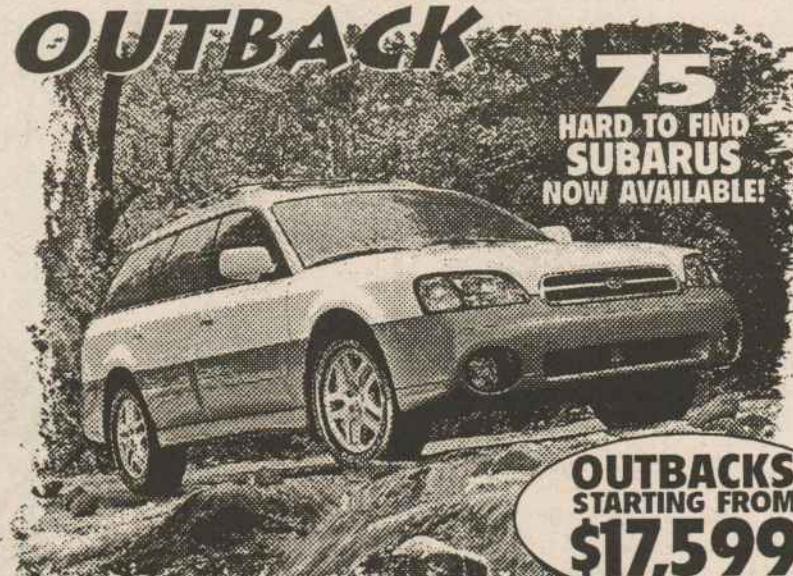
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'Veronica's Closet' Actor Pleads to Assault Charge

LOS ANGELES — Wallace Langham, costar of the TV program "Veronica's Closet," pleaded no contest to charges of assaulting a

tabloid newspaper reporter at a supermarket in September in exchange for having related hate-crime charges against him dropped.

Wallace Langham plays a character of the show who is sexually ambiguous, admitted punching John Luciano, a gay reporter for "The Star." And Langham, who insisted he isn't a gay-basher, also apologized for using an anti-gay slur during the fight.

"My anger was so provoked," Langham said. "I just said the most hateful thing I could think of."

He was sentenced to serve 450 hours of community service, pay \$2,000 in fines, and to contribute \$10,000 to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

It was unclear if Luciano would pursue a possible civil suit against Langham.

PlanetOut Buys 'Advocate,' 'Out' Magazines

SAN FRANCISCO — PlanetOut edged out rival Gay.com in a multi-million-dollar bid for Liberation Publications Inc., the firm that publishes "The Advocate," among other publications, and which in February announced it was also acquiring New York-based "Out" magazine.

The business did not reveal the terms of the consolidation of PlanetOut and LPI but said the deal involved stock as well as "some cash in the eight figures" range.

In a related development that gives some insight into what these online and print media are battling over, the research firm Computer Economics has just reported that in the next five years the number of gays and lesbians using the Internet is expected to climb from 13.5 million to 22.4 million people.

"The online gay and lesbian community is growing at a much higher rate than the overall Internet population due to the privacy, relevant information, and virtual communities that are available online and are particularly attractive to gays and lesbians," said Catherine Huneke, a senior researcher with Computer Economics.

To meet this growing online population, Huneke said "more content providers will fulfill the informational and community needs of the group." And that, Huneke says, translates into an enormous potential in advertising revenues.



Wallace Langham

Supreme Court Upholds UW Student Fees Case

By Mike Leon of the IN Step staff

MADISON — In a sweeping rebuff of religious right jurists, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in late March that public universities may administer mandatory student fees supporting viewpoint neutral public forums. The 9-to-0 ruling affirmed that the educational purpose of the public forum in a University setting is consistent with the First Amendment.

The case, *Board of Regents v. Southworth*, No. 98-1189, originated at the University of Wisconsin when five self-described Christian students filed suit in federal court in 1996.

The plaintiffs contended that funding by mandatory activity fees of some student groups violated the well established corollary First Amendment right not to be compelled to subsidize another's speech. Their arguments were upheld in Federal District Court in Madison and in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

The suit named 18 student groups objectionable to their beliefs, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center, Amnesty International, and the Campus Women's Center.

The case drew national attention as the religious right's legal offensive focused on colleges and universities where diversity of ideas and tolerance of different sexual orientations are conspicuous cultural features.

Several educational and civil rights groups filed amicus briefs arguing that the mandatory fee system encouraging the formation of student groups constitutes a non-spatial public forum vital to the university's educational mission. The UW System also advanced this public forum analysis: asserting a distinction between funding particular speech and a forum that allows all speech.

Concomitant with their First Amendment argument, the plaintiffs displayed specific hostility to LGBT people during the litigation saying the funding of these groups particularly offended their Christian faith.

Speaking to the funding of LGBT organizations, plaintiff Rebecka Vanderwerf told IN Step in 1999: "It's clearly spelled out in the Bible that homosexuality is wrong. I am not going to con-

done homosexuality, murder, theft or any sin. Going to [the University of] Wisconsin you are surrounded by all these liberal groups that advocate things you don't believe in. Why do I have to pay for them?"

Two religious right legal foundations aided the suit, the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) which financed the suit, and the Virginia-based Northstar Legal Center whose attorney argued the case. On its web site, the ADF boasts of a coordinated national strategy to implement Christian ideology as legal doctrine, fighting "radical activists [who] are waging legal warfare against people of faith."

In writing the court's opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy soundly rebutted the plaintiffs' legal reasoning in *Southworth*. Kennedy agreed with the UW that the neutral forum created by the fee system was constitutionally permissible.

"The First Amendment permits a public university to charge its students an activity fee used to fund a program to facilitate extracurricular student speech, provided that the program is viewpoint neutral," wrote Kennedy. "...The University may determine

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20,000 PLUS WOMEN THAT
ATTEND THIS UNIVERSITY..."**

that its mission is well served if students have the means to engage in dynamic discussions of philosophical, religious, scientific, social, and political subjects in their extracurricular campus life outside the lecture hall."

Student activists of all stripes were overjoyed with the decision. "Some people are uncomfortable with different types of viewpoints," said Marlene Deutsch, staff finance coordinator of the Campus Women's Center. "We're estactic that we can continue our dissemination of knowledge and ideas to the 20,000 plus women that attend this university, and to the campus community as a whole."

UW System President Katharine Lyall praised the decision. "It goes to the very heart of what a university is: the place for the free exchange of many different ideas."

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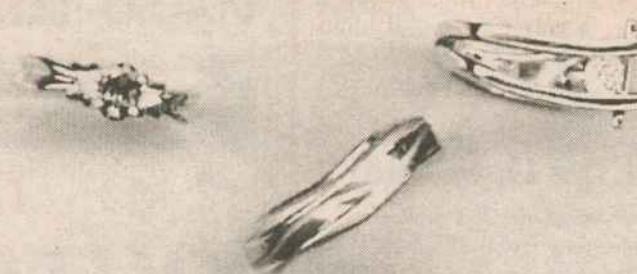
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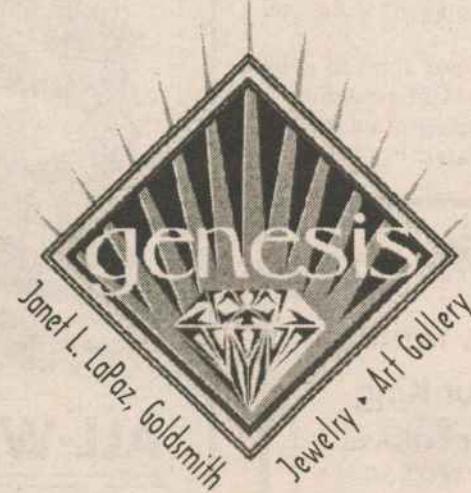
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Pentagon Report Finds Widespread Harassment Tolerated

By Keith Clark

Washington — A report issued by the Defense Department's inspector general concludes that harassment of gay and lesbian soldiers is commonplace and generally tolerated in America's armed forces.

The study was based in a survey of some 71,500 active duty military service members, of whom 80 percent indicated they had heard at least one offensive

“...OFFENSIVE COMMENTS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALS WERE COMMONPLACE, AND A MAJORITY BELIEVED THAT THESE OFFENSIVE COMMENTS WERE TOLERATED TO SOME EXTENT WITHIN THE MILITARY.”

remark about homosexuals during the past 12 months. The report also found that some 37 percent also reported personally witnessing anti-gay harassment in the same period. In real numbers, that amounts to more than 57,000 instances of anti-gay remarks and more than 26,000 incidents of actual anti-gay gay harassment military personnel in the survey sample reported witnessing in the past year alone.

The inspector general's study also reported that 85 percent of those surveyed thought anti-gay verbal abuse was tolerated and that military officers frequently witnessed such harassment but did little or nothing to stop it in spite of policies prohibiting such harassment.

Under the increasingly problematic Pentagon policy, gays and lesbians can serve in the U.S. armed forces as long as they keep their sexual orientation hidden, but they can be discharged for any actual

homosexual conduct or for publicly acknowledging their orientation.

Officers are not supposed to pry into the private lives of soldiers, and members of the military are prohibited from harassing or harming anyone in the armed forces because of their sexual orientation.

The complex policy, hammered out in 1993 between Congress, the Pentagon and the White House, has now become known as "don't ask, don't tell, don't harass." But Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon says the just-released survey shows widespread tensions and occasional fights in the barracks and on ships because of homosexual issues.

"The findings in the report are that we need to do more work on this policy," Bacon said in a Pentagon press briefing. "In short, offensive comments about homosexuals were commonplace, and a majority believed that these offensive comments were tolerated to some extent within the military."



Pfc. Barry Winchell

Defense Secretary William Cohen announced that he is setting up a panel of senior military officers from all branches to draw up proposals for how to deal with the harassment problems. Cohen had asked for the inspector general's report in the wake of the killing of Pfc. Barry Winchell by another soldier at the Army's Fort Campbell, Ky., base.

Despite the report and growing criticism of the anti-gay policy, Cohen in a memo to Pentagon officials along with the report said only that "there is still more to do to fully address these issues."

Dixon Osburn, head of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) which deals with sexual orientation issues in the country's military forces, called the report "alarming." But Osburn added SLDN is glad top Defense Department officials are finally recognizing that anti-gay harassment "is a very serious problem for the very first time" with the current report.

Prompted by the beating death of Pfc. Winchell, a 21-year-old soldier at Fort Campbell, last year by fellow soldiers who thought he was gay, the Defense Department has recently started new training programs in all the services aimed at ending anti-gay harassment.

In releasing the report, Cohen ordered the military to gather a committee of civilian and military officials to draft an "action plan" for improving the implementation of the current policy and reducing anti-gay behavior.

This makes the third special report Cohen has ordered of the policy in the past three years, but it is the first to actually provide such persuasive evidence of how widespread the problems are.

School Gives in on Two Girls at Prom

Roanoke, Va. — School officials in Floyd County, Va., say Tiffany Lapine, 17, can in fact take her female date to the school junior prom on April 29, although it took the threat of possible legal action by her family and the ACLU to convince them.

Terry Arbogast, superintendent of schools in the county, quickly reversed his earlier decision against letting Lapine take a young woman to the dance after the ACLU sent him a letter saying "the ACLU may be forced to take appropriate legal action" against the school district if Lapine isn't allowed to take her date to the prom.

Tiffany Lapine's father, Warren, had contacted the ACLU and asked for their help when his daughter told him the school wouldn't let her take another female to the prom. "It wasn't a hard decision to make," Warren Lapine said. "Too many people just sit down and take it and we're not willing to do that."

Arbogast later said it had all been a misunderstanding because Tiffany's date wasn't also a student at the same high school.

Iowa Gov. Announces Shepard Scholarships

Des Moines — Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack joined Judy Shepard at a capitol press conference in announcing a scholarship program in her murdered son's name.

Matthew Shepard, an openly gay student at the University of Wyoming, was beaten to death in late 1998 in part because of his sexual orientation. The Iowa scholarship program with his name is aimed at improving the perception and acceptance of gays and lesbians.

"I think we need a change of heart," Vilsack said, "and that is essentially what this is all about."

Gov. Vilsack has already become the object of a political storm in the Republican-controlled state legislature because of an executive order he issued barring discrimination in state employment based on sexual orientation or gender status.

The scholarships are being sponsored by the First Friday Breakfast Club and the Lambda Beta Nu Breakfast Club and will be financed by the Rich Eychaner Charitable Foundation.

Univ. of Michigan Gay Class Riles Conservatives

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Anti-gay conservatives around the country have flown into a feeding frenzy over plans for a University of Michigan course on "How to be Gay."

The class is slated to be offered in the fall by English Professor David Halperin, a noted academic and scholar. Halperin says there's nothing in particular anyone should be upset about in the course offering, which he says will cover such unspectacular issues as fashion, interior design, "diva worship," drag, and the "muscle culture."

But the National Review printed a course description for the class in its March 17 issue and that was followed by an editorial on the growing influence of gays and lesbians in America that also cited the course.

Then Gary Glenn, head of the American Family Association's Michigan chapter, contacted Michigan Gov. John Engler, state lawmakers and university trustees demanding that they "stop this outrage."

Glenn said in a statement, "UM actually wants to force Michigan's taxpayers to pay for a class to openly recruit and teach teenagers how to engage in a lifestyle of high-risk behavior that is not only illegal but many believe immoral."

Deaths Shake Gay Porn World

SALT LAKE CITY — The gay men's porn industry was shaken by reports of the deaths of two luminaries within days of each other.

In Budapest, Hungary, director Steve Cadro has reportedly been shot to death. No details of Cadro's death were available. Cadro's better known videos included "An American in Prague," "Danube Dreams" and "HUNGarians" — all set in the central European region he preferred for filming.

In Salt Lake City, veteran porn star Kyle McKenna reportedly committed suicide at his home in the Utah capital. Reportedly he had been having personal problems shortly before his death but friends didn't realize how serious the troubles had become.

McKenna appeared in dozens of popular gay male videos, including "Idol in the Sky," "The Player," "Raw Recruits" and "Street Boyz."

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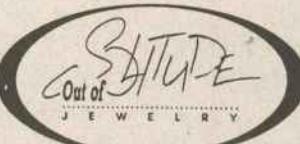
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Vermont Civil Unions Debate Continues to Flare

Montpelier, Vt. — The Vermont House of Representatives may have made its decision earlier in March when it approved a law creating "civil unions" for same-sex couples in the state, but that's far from the last word as the issue continued to bubble up — sometimes in unexpected ways.

In the nastiest form, Republican gubernatorial candidate Ruth Dwyer shocked even some of her supporters when she publicly charged that Gov. Howard Dean, a Democrat, had threatened and bribed lawmakers to win House votes for the civil unions measure.

"You're not getting votes of conscience from all your legislators," Dwyer told a Republican committee. "The governor is very willing to threaten people, bribe people, anything he can do to get a vote. He's done it many times, plenty of people will admit it."

Dean denied Dwyer's charges, which he labeled "outrageous." And later several House members, both Republicans and Democrats, stepped forward to back Dean and refute Dwyer's charges. Dwyer has refused to retract or apologize for her remarks, but she did say she didn't mean the word "bribe" in a literal sense but

rather in the sense of "political deals being struck" to gain support.

On a lighter note, a Warren, Vt., July Fourth parade committee said it will reconsider its decision for this year's theme after the town's selectmen said it might offend some parade-goers.

The committee said it hadn't really given much thought to the theme — "If stars can marry stripes ..." — when it approved it earlier in March, but that in light of the objections of the town's selectmen it would now consider the theme again in terms of whether it might be insulting to some people.

The parade committee said it thought the theme was "innocuous" since it didn't "espouse any particular view" on the issue of civil unions and people could "put in behind the ellipsis whatever they thought was right."

Meanwhile, the Colorado-based Focus on the Family has warned that if the bill is approved, "lawsuits would become Vermont's largest export — overtaking Ben & Jerry's ice cream and maple syrup."



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Stepfather Suspect in Gruesome Killing of Gay Son

By Keith Clark

New York — New York police officials say dental X-rays have positively identified the human remains found in a park as those of Steen Fenrich, a 19-year-old gay man whose stepfather killed himself on March 22 following a 7-hour armed standoff with police at their suburban Dix Hills home.

Police are treating the grisly death as a homicide and consider the dead stepfather, John Fenrich, 36, their chief suspect, said Deputy Police Chief Patrick Timlin in the borough of Queens.

John Fenrich killed himself after he retreated to the roof of the family home, armed with a rifle and handgun. Investigators said the stepfather was angry at his stepson because of his sexual orientation and wanted him to move back in the family's house.

During the partly televised rooftop standoff, an apparently drunken Fenrich implicated himself in the slaying when he said his stepson's "chopped up" body had been found by police in the park. Police said they had not released any information to John Fenrich or anyone else about the condition of Steen Fenrich's body, and at that point they began to consider John Fenrich their prime suspect in the case.

Police sources citing city detectives who were on the scene at the standoff said Fenrich at one point admitted killing his stepson, but had insisted that the youth's death had been an accident.

While Fenrich and his stepson had argued over the man's sexual orientation, anti-gay bias did not appear to be the sole motive for the homicide, police said without elaborating.

Some of Steen Fenrich's body was found in pieces in a plastic tub in a Queens park not far from the apartment he shared with his lover. His skull had been stripped of flesh with an acid, police said. The young man's Social Security number had been written on it, along with racist and homophobic slurs.

John Fenrich was white, but Steen Fenrich was black. Investigators said that John Fenrich had initially suggested to police that Steen's lover, whose identity is not being disclosed, may have killed his 19-year-old stepson whom he had helped rear since the boy was 2 years old.

But police said that Steen's lover and other friends of the dead youth told them John Fenrich had telephoned him shortly after Steen disappeared and told him his stepson was "going away for a couple of weeks."

Investigators also said that the tub that parts of Steen Fenrich's dismembered body was buried in was once used by John Fenrich's son, John David, as a toy several years ago and further implicated the stepfather in the killing.

Police say they may never know exactly what led to the gruesome killing, but they suspect that John Fenrich killed Steen in a homophobic rage, perhaps several weeks ago. Investigators speculated that John Fenrich may have dumped the stored body parts in the park near his stepson's apartment to point police to Steen's lover as a suspect. Authorities were continuing to search for the rest of Steen Fenrich's body and possible additional clues.

No one, however, has been able to suggest a reason why the younger Fenrich's Social Security number might have been written on his skull. Initially investigators had suspected the grim find might have been some sort of occult killing because Steen's Social Security number included "666," a number associated with Satan in occult circles.

Wanda Fenrich, the death youth's mother and John

Fenrich's wife, has not spoken with reporters except to say she was in "no condition to talk," is being interviewed by police.

John and Wanda Fenrich were both awaiting trial on insurance fraud charges stemming from some 17 allegedly faked automobile accidents dating back to 1995.

German Gov't Acknowledges Nazi Persecution of Gays

Berlin — At a March 26 ceremony at the World War II Sachsenhausen concentration camp outside Berlin, German politicians, historians and activists officially recognized the Nazi regime's persecution of gays and lesbians during the Holocaust.

The German parliament agreed earlier in March to consider a proposal to nullify all the criminal records of convictions relating to homosexuality during the Nazi regime and to issue an official government apology for continuing to use the same anti-gay laws adopted by the Nazi government of Adolf Hitler until they were finally repealed in 1969.

An exhibit at Sachsenhausen now includes documents and records about some 700 gay men held at the concentration camp during the Nazi regime.

German historians estimate that 50,000 gay men were prosecuted under the Nazi anti-gay laws and that 10,000 were sent to concentration camps in the country — with the vast majority of them dying in the camps.

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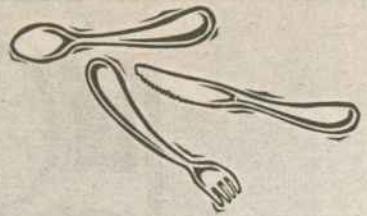
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Researchers Again Examine Homosexuality

Chicago — It was a busy week for researchers, announcing two new studies on homosexuality.

In one study, scheduled to be presented at a behavioral conference in Madrid later this year, Ray Blanchard of the University of Toronto found that one in seven gay men have an older brother.

Researchers have speculated for decades that an older sibling either increased or decreased the odds of homosexuality in later-born children. But Blanchard's research is the first to test the hypothesis using statistical methods on a large homosexual population.

Blanchard said the one-in-seven phenomenon may be the result of an excess of H-Y antibody in the mother's bloodstream in response to the H-Y antigen of earlier sons. The research results were based on surveys of more than 10,000 gay men in England, the Netherlands, Canada and the U.S.

A second study, by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley, found a link between prenatal exposure to the male sex hormone testosterone in the mother's womb and homosexual orientation.

Because it is difficult to measure fetal hormone levels in humans, the researchers, led by Marc Breedlove, used an indirect method using the size of a person's fingers.

In women, the index finger is about the same length as the ring finger. In men, the ring finger is often considerably longer, leading to a lower ratio between the two digits. The distinction is clear from infancy, scientists have established, and researchers attribute the differences to male hormone levels during fetal development.

Breedlove and his colleagues surveyed some 720 adults during street fairs in San Francisco, collecting a good deal of information about their subjects — including detailed measurements and photocopies of their hands.

They found that among lesbians their index-to-ring-finger ratios closely resembled those of heterosexual men. The researchers say the finding suggests that at least some lesbians were exposed to higher levels of male hormones before birth.

The findings for gay men are less clear-cut, they say. The index-to-ring-finger ratio among gay men wasn't significantly different from that of non-gay males.

But when the researchers segregated their findings based on the number of older brothers their subjects had, they found that all the men who had two or more older brothers had significantly smaller index-to-ring ratios.

Breedlove himself said the finds "was a big surprise to me."

'American Gothic' Coors Ad Runs Into Trouble

New York — According to the "New York Post," the Art Institute of Chicago and New York's Visual Artists and Galleries Association (VAGA) are considering suing the Coors Brewery in Colorado over an ad slated to appear later this year in *The Advocate* and *Girlfriend*.

The Coors ad apparently is a send-up based on the classic Grant Wood's painting *American Gothic*. The Chicago and New York art agencies are executors of Woods' estate and hold the copyright to the famous painting of the dour couple.

The agencies say they're not concerned with the gay pitch of the ads, but the fact that the ads promote alcohol — which they say they've never allowed before.

Bob Panzer of VAGA also said the ads denigrate gay men. "I hate stereotypes — they're always clichéd and never work. I would imagine some gay men would take offense to the ad."

But Panzer said even though the executors of Woods' estate have been fairly liberal with allowing the noted painting to be used in the past, they have never allowed its use in promoting alcohol or tobacco — and they're not going to start now.

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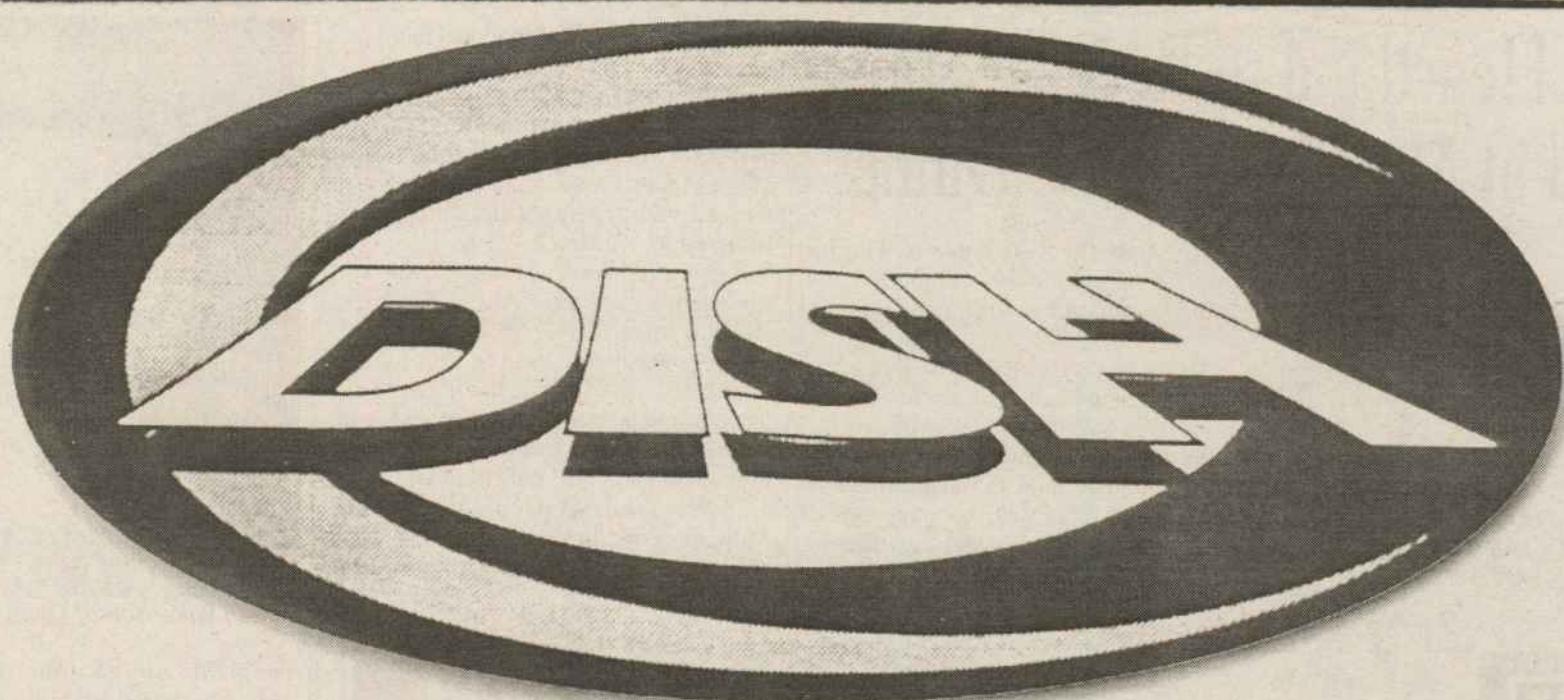
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Camp Heartland to Receive Major Award at Make a Promise Dinner

Milwaukee — Neil Willenson, founder and president of Camp Heartland, will accept the Sterling Rose Award, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's highest honor, before the 1,200 expected guests at ARCW's 14th annual Make a Promise dinner, dance and auction.

"Neil and Camp Heartland have earned this award for their deep and long-time commitment to children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "We

take this opportunity to honor Neil for his steadfast work to provide a supportive and caring year-round environment for children affected by HIV."

"Since Camp Heartland's inception, the gay community has been at the forefront of supporting our efforts," said Willenson. "From organizing fund-raising events that send children to camp, to volunteering with our camp and office staff, many gay and lesbian people have made a lifelong difference in the lives of our campers."

Camp Heartland is a national non-profit organization that creates a sense of community and hope for children affected by HIV and AIDS. Camp Heartland makes life better for these children through year-round support, advocacy, and camp-based recreational programs and community HIV awareness efforts.

"It is a tremendous honor for me and the agency to receive ARCW's highest award. I share this award with the Wolff family, who inspired me to begin Camp Heartland. I also dedicate this honor to our brave campers, and the adult friends who have made an integral difference in the lives of our children," Willenson said.

"Thousands of people throughout Milwaukee and beyond have wholeheartedly supported Camp Heartland. These



Neil Willenson of Camp Heartland.

people do not go unnoticed, and this award is shared with them," Willenson concluded.

Guests at this year's Make a Promise will be treated to the Latin theme, "Heating up the Night." Tempting art from prominent artist Francisco Mora, plane tickets to any South American destination and gift certificates to some of Milwaukee's hot Latino restaurants are just some of the fabulous silent auction items. A tantalizing dinner of grilled Chilean sea bass with mango salsa and avocados, sweet potatoes and fried plantains and a tequila sunrise cake with lime coulis are on the menu.

"All of us at ARCW remain deeply grateful to our community for supporting Make A Promise and ARCW's mission. Make A Promise will bring together 1,200 civic leaders at this year's gala who pledge to keep their promise alive to remember those we have lost, provide for those living with AIDS and support HIV prevention, research and advocacy services. I invite you to join us for the unforgettable, red-hot, social evening of the year," said Jim Schleif, ARCW director of development.

Several noteworthy groups from the gay community have been historic supporters of Camp Heartland, including Oberons and 1100 Club, Shoreline Milwaukee, a country-western dance group, Mil-M-AIDS Bowling League and numerous Possum Queens have donated campaign proceeds to Camp Heartland.

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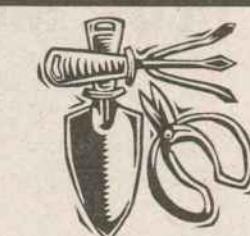
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London May Get Very Pro-Gay Mayor

London — Ken Livingstone, the frontrunner for London mayor, said March 30 that, if elected on May 4, he will support registration of gay partnerships and will withhold city business from homophobic companies.

"I will not tolerate companies which are commercially involved with the GLA [Greater London Authority] if they display any homophobia," he said.

He added: "I want gay people to have the right to register their relationships to stop discrimination. It would help to ensure that if a gay person in a relationship dies there will not be a dispute over entitlement to pension rights, for instance, because the relationship has been formally recognized."

Norwegian Couple Appointed

Oslo — In mid-March, Norway's new prime minister, Jens Stoltenberg, appointed open gay Anders Hornslien to fill the seat Stoltenberg vacated in parliament, and then, on March 24, Stoltenberg appointed Hornslien's husband, Vidar Ovesen, to the position of deputy finance minister.

Ovesen and Hornslien are married under Norway's gay-partnership law which grants more than 99 percent of the rights and obligations of matrimony.

TV Chef Comes Out

Montreal — Popular Tele-Quebec food-show host and sex symbol Daniel Pinard, 57, came out of the closet in March.

Legions of lusty female viewers were apparently flung into the abyss of existential despair upon learning of Pinard's sexual orientation.

Said Toronto's *Globe and Mail*: "With his seductive blue eyes, silver-grey hair, handsome features and athletic build, Mr. Pinard is a younger Paul Newman. He is bright, cultured, funny. He talks about food in such a sensuous way that you want to eat his dishes right away, preferably with him facing you across the table in soft candle light."

In his coming-out interview, Pinard told reporters: "I wouldn't be here tonight if it had not been for [the late actor] Jean-Louis Millette. He saved me from suicide. He told me: 'You'll be happy some day, but keep your mouth shut. People are not as tolerant as you think.'

"It's terrible for teenagers, because they're surrounded by kids who are frightened by their own sexuality and their own ambivalence and are searching for an image to destroy."

world briefs

Unlike many gays, Pinard would take a pill that would turn him straight if such a thing existed, he said.

"Life would be so much easier, and it would be nice to have children," he said.

Polish President Vetoes Porn Ban

Krakow — Poland's nascent gay press breathed a sigh of relief March 27 when President Aleksander Kwasniewski vetoed a ban on all pornography. The measure had passed both houses of parliament.

The nation's gay publications mix news and features with erotica and pornography in order to be commercially viable.

Kwasniewski said the law would have been impossible to enforce because the Internet and satellite TV transcend national borders.

It is unlikely supporters of the ban will muster enough votes in parliament to overrule the veto.

Hong Kong Gays Protest Poster Ban

Hong Kong — Gay and lesbian activists staged public displays of affection during a March 29 screening of the Canadian lesbian-themed film "Better Than Chocolate" to protest a ban on the movie's poster by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority.

TELA ruled that the poster — which shows two women embracing with one woman's bare back and the top of her buttocks visible — is obscene.

The protest took place at Cine-Art House.

Anthony Yeung Ki-man of the activist group Gaystation, told the *Hong Kong Standard*: "They have approved many posters ... that depict bloodshed and indecency much more upsetting than gay and lesbian movies. But whenever they examine gay and lesbian movies, the censorship has suddenly become much tighter even though no private parts were exposed in the posters. If that's not double standards, what is?"

Canadian Mayor Pouts

Kelowna, British Columbia — Mayor Walter Gray says he will stop signing any city proclamations in response to a March 23 ruling by a provincial Human Rights Tribunal that he discriminated against gays.

Gray refused to include the word 'pride' in his proclamation of "Gay and Lesbian Pride Day," proclaiming instead "Gay and Lesbian Day."

"I cannot support their lifestyle through a proclamation," he said.

Tribunal member Carol Roberts called Gray's edit "tantamount to a political insult" and said it unlawfully discriminated against gays and lesbians because of their sexual orientation.

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group notes

PrideFest Seeks Volunteers for June 9-11 Fest

Milwaukee — PrideFest is looking for a few good volunteers to help this year's LGBT pride festival, June 9-11, run smoothly and efficiently. Each year, hundreds of volunteers help operate the festival. They are rewarded with several benefits and the company of other spirited volunteers at one heck of a Volunteer Appreciation Party scheduled later in the year.

Among the benefits of volunteering are free admission to PrideFest on the day (or days) you work, a complimentary meal at the Pride Grill, and a special badge identifying you as a volunteer. You'll also be invited to the annual volunteer party. Those who assist with pre- or post-festival tasks also get a complimentary ticket to the festival.

Volunteers are needed for the following areas: the children's activity area, information booth, ticket sellers and takers, volunteer check-in, security, food service, parade hands (must be able to walk the entire one mile route Friday evening), American Sign Language interpreters, clean-up crew and bartenders (who must be 21 years old or older).

Two volunteer orientation sessions will be held. Though not mandatory, they will help orient volunteers, especially first-timers, to many aspects of PrideFest and give them an opportunity to clarify any questions before the event. These sessions will be held on Saturday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 170 S. Second St. and on Wednesday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stonewall Stage on the festival grounds in Henry Maier Festival Park, 200 N. Harbor Drive, in Milwaukee.

To register as a volunteer, or for more information, call PrideFest at (414) 645-FEST or email: pridemilw@aol.com.

Coming-Out Support Groups at OutReach

Madison — OutReach, Madison's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center, invites registration for upcoming Coming-Out Support Groups.

Separate Men's and Women's groups will begin in April. The groups meet once per week for ten weeks. Interested individuals should contact OutReach at (608) 255-8582 by April 7.

Two trained counselors facilitate each group. Those who join will have the opportunity to explore issues and concerns regarding their sexuality in a non-threatening, non-judgmental environment. The groups are open to anyone who self-identifies as LGB or are questioning their sexuality.

"The coming-out process can be confusing for anyone. Our groups can really help people explore their feelings," said Callen Harty, OutReach's Direct-Services Coordinator.

Registration for the groups is limited. A women's relationship support group may also be offered if a sufficient number of individuals register.

The OutReach LGBT Community Center has served Madison's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community since 1973, providing counseling, advocacy, education, information and referral services. It also offers a lending library, free publications, and meeting space.

For more information, contact OutReach at (608) 255-8582 or email dirserv@outreachinc.com

Drag Ball at UW-Green Bay on April 27

Green Bay — SAGA, the Straight and Gay Alliance at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, will hold its second annual Drag Ball on Thursday evening, April 27 from 9 p.m. to midnight. The event will take place in the UW-Green Bay Student Union. There is a \$2 suggested donation/entrance fee.

Participants are asked to come all dressed up or to simply "come as you are." Everyone is invited to have a good time. The proceeds will benefit local LGBT organizing. For more information, call Nathan at (715) 524-5011, ext. 6.

Milwaukee March Contingent Prepares for Trip to D.C.

Milwaukee — A diverse and enthusiastic group of community activists filled the LGBT Community Center for the MMOW-Milwaukee (Millennium March on Washington) Town Hall meeting on March 21st.

Recognizing Wisconsin as the first "Gay Rights State" (the first state to pass legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation), the meeting attendees felt strongly that Wisconsin needed to have a visible and organized presence in the March.

A few participants were seasoned national activists. "National events such as this March create a tremendous sense of solidarity," said Patrick Flaherty, chair of the Domestic Partner Task Force. "I participated in the 1993 March on Washington and the 1994 Stonewall anniversary celebration. There just isn't anything that I can compare those experiences too."

Nearly 20 youth from Project Q, the LGBT Center's youth development project, were also in attendance at the Town Hall Meeting. "This March will be our first glimpse at the full power of national advocacy," said Kurt Dyer, Project Q Program Manager. "The youth activists attending this event will return with brilliant ideas and energy."

Bus Fills Overnight

Within 24 hours of the Town Hall Meeting, travel packages organized by MMOW-Milwaukee were completely sold out. The 50 packages included bus transportation and overnight hotel accommodations. As a result of MMOW-Milwaukee's fundraising efforts, the total cost per person ranged from only \$80 to \$125. The package was offered to eliminate cost as a barrier to participating in the March, particularly for youth and persons with limited income.

"We are very grateful to the individuals and organizations whose contributions made it possible for everyone, particularly our young community leaders, to attend this event," said Dyer. Nearly 20 Project Q youth will march in the event.

Organizations Offer Generous Support

Members of MMOW-Milwaukee are grateful to those organizations whose contributions led to the success of the group's community organizing efforts. These organizations included the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the Cream City Foundation, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, AFSCME local 2748, the Rainbow Heights Neighborhood Association, AFSCME DC48, AFSCME Local 1091 and State Representative Jon Richards.

Local Organizing Continues

MMOW-Milwaukee will be hosting a final Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd Street. The purpose of the meeting is to further organize Milwaukee's presence in the March. MMOW-Milwaukee members are also establishing meetings with congressional groups. Anyone attending the March is encouraged to attend. For additional information on MMOW-Milwaukee activities, please contact (414) 271-2656, ext. 3.

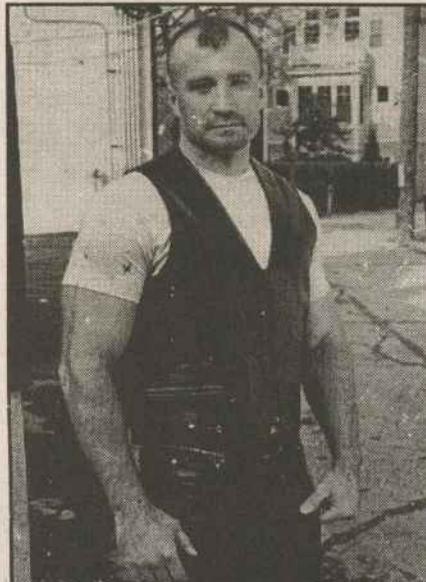
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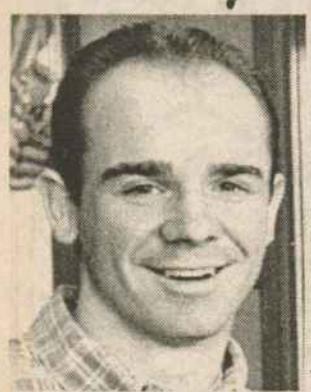
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Nabozny To Appear in DePere



Jamie Nabozny

De Pere — Gay civil rights activist Jamie Nabozny will lecture at St. Norbert College on Monday, April 10. Nabozny's 7 p.m. presentation at the Fort Howard Theatre has been arranged by the college's SNC Rainbow Alliance and the school's Cultural Diversity Center.

As a teen-ager in Ashland, Wis., Nabozny suffered years of harassment and severe violence because of his sexual orientation. One beating in the school library required surgery to correct.

Nabozny successfully sued the school district for its failure to protect him. He settled for nearly a million dollars just prior to a ruling by the Supreme Court.

Nabozny's legal journey prompted Wisconsin's legislature to be one of the first in the nation to pass Safe Schools laws which include sexual orientation.

There is no charge for the presentation. Refreshments will be served following the program.

SAGE Sets April Events

Milwaukee — Getting a good "bounce" off of their annual meeting which drew 39 people to the Astor Street Restaurant in late March, SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) Milwaukee has announced a full slate of events for April. All events are held at the LGBT Community Center, 170 S. Second Street in Milwaukee.

On Friday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m., SAGE's men's and women's discussion group will explore the topic "The Upside of Being Gay." On Friday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a game night for men and women. Sheepshead and other games will be available to play.

On Friday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m., SAGE Movie Night will feature "Wilde," a video about the 19th century Irish playwright and wit Oscar Wilde, who was imprisoned and disgraced because of his homosexuality. Finally, on Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m., the documentary "The Brandon Teena Story" will be shown. It is the true account of the trans-gendered youth who was murdered in Nebraska eight years ago and whose story was told again in the Oscar-winning motion picture "Boys Don't Cry."

SAGE/Milwaukee is open to all LGBT seniors. For more information on the April events, or to become a member call (414) 271-0278.

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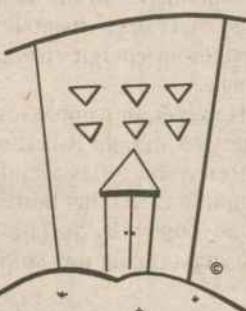
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Check our website for a listing of future Rainbow U lectures, and other upcoming events.



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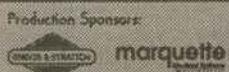
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reality check

Losing the Light

By Mike Fitzpatrick

In late March, publisher Greg Quindel turned off the Wisconsin Light. Bidding farewell in an April Fool's issue did seem suspect. Because I wrote for the paper I knew it wasn't a prank, though a few in the GLBT community have been guessing otherwise.

WI Light's departure leaves three statewide publications targeting the gay community: Probe, a "lifestyle" biweekly just eight issues old; Quest, a self-styled "bar rag;" and *IN Step*, the news and features granddaddy of them all.

In the last few days stories of financial difficulties and internal turmoil have flourished. Of course when the third editor in three months complains in his final piece about having to sell advertisements at fire sale rates, you're not going to quiet the rumor mongers.

However, two greater outside forces and a third, internal ingredient also played a significant role in the loss of the Light.

**IN MANY PLACES,
IT MAY STILL BE A
STRUGGLE TO BE GAY,
BUT THOSE PLACES ARE
DIMINISHING AS FAST
IN THE AMERICA
AS THE RAIN FOREST
IS IN BRAZIL.**

General changes in the nature of media and, more significantly, the assimilation of the gay community into mainstream culture hastened the paper's demise.

It's no secret that consolidation and discontinuation are the name of the game in all media, straight and gay. Just weeks after America Online gobbled up Time-Warner, PlanetOut pulled off the gay version by absorbing Liberation Publications (The Advocate, Out, etc.). Green Bay is the only city in Wisconsin (and just one of a handful of cities nationally) which still boasts two independent daily newspaper operations. Neighboring Minnesota has seen nearly a half dozen gay papers fold in the last decade.

The rise of the Internet has sped that consolidation process. On a national and international level, net-savvy gay and straight folk can have deposited into their e-mailboxes the breaking news of their communities almost as it happens via newsgroup subscriptions. This immediacy tops even the 24-hour all news channels on cable TV.

More relevantly, the gay community has been at the forefront of the Word Wide Web revolution. It was a gay man who invented email. Go to any chatroom provider and you'll find dozens to hundreds of gay-themed rooms. We've created a virtual gay community on the net. Thus it's not surprising to hear that at least two of WI Light contributors found out about



the paper's closing online before they had received any official contact.

Even more significant is the impact that the mainstreaming of the GLBT community is having on some of its long-established institutions. We tend to forget that just as we're changing America, America is returning the favor.

The loss of the struggle to be gay in America is instrumental in destroying the subculture that struggle created.

Don't get me wrong — I'm not for sustaining the community's bohemian quality by going back into the collective closet either by choice or by force. In many places, it may still be a struggle to be gay, but those places are diminishing as fast in America as the rain forest is in Brazil. For every third person attack by the Radical Right we endure, the majority of us are getting positive first person messages from family, friends and co-workers. Those are the people who matter in our lives, not the Ovadals, the Whites and the Falwells.

Acceptance by greater society is tearing at the gay "family" in one sense. With all apologies to the "Sopranos," that's the "outlaw" sense of family. Back in the '60s when we were officially illegal and mentally ill, we accepted just about anyone who came out as "family" because it was "us versus them."

Though we officially gained our mental health in the '70s, we have tended to cling to that "we against the world" mentality just as every other minority and as we have continued the struggle for equality. The AIDS pandemic in the '80s certainly reinforced that "siege" mentality as much as it diverted our energies from the civil rights struggle.

However, our noble response to AIDS impressed straight America and helped to shatter stereotypes about our ability to commit to each other both as a community and as couples. By the late '90s gay visibility in mass media was so pervasive that it

was causing negative reactions from other ethnic minorities. We've become actual role models with cover stories in Newsweek and key story lines in Oscar-winning movies.

As horrible as it was, Matthew Shepard's murder changed everything. Gay America learned of Matthew's murder first on broadcast network news and front page mainstream newspaper coverage, not through its own press. Internet newsgroups and chatrooms fueled the fever of that story. That fever in turn created more mainstream coverage.

The lesson learned by mainstream media? Gay gets ratings; gay sells papers. Not gay people as freaks but gay people as people. Now it's virtually impossible to escape mainstream coverage of some gay-themed story daily.

For some in the gay community, there's no longer a need to pick up the gay press. The news and the gossip are all available through other outlets. Allegiance by identity alone is no longer enough. To be picked up and read, readers expect their papers not just to be gay but to be good. In fact, they have to be better than the competition in all forms, gay or straight.

In his final words to the readers, Ron Geiman offered the fealty argument as the reason for WI Light's failure. As someone who religiously read the paper for a dozen years and wrote for it during its last two, I beg to differ. The Wisconsin Light was overwhelmed by its competition for one final and most basic reason: it simply ceased to outshine.

Gay People, the Boy Scouts, and Our Constitutional Freedoms

by Odell E. Huff, Jr.

Later this month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case of BSA v. Dale, in which the Boy Scouts of America are challenging a ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court that the Scouts must admit openly gay men as leaders. The case at issue involves James Dale, an Eagle Scout who became a Scout leader, only to be expelled when the Boy Scouts of America learned he was openly gay.

Dale sued to be reinstated and last August, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in his favor. Now the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether applying the New Jersey law to the Boy Scouts violates their constitutionally protected right to freedom of expressive association.

Freedom of expressive association is a right we all have, and I hope will continue to have, to gather together for the purpose of expressing certain ideas and beliefs that we may hold, teaching them to our children, and communicating them to the outside world. This right is guaranteed by the First Amendment and the Supreme Court has upheld it on several occasions.

What Dale and his attorneys argue is that he was an excellent scoutmaster who was excluded only because he is gay. That, they say, is unjust discrimination and that the government should force the organization to admit members it doesn't want, because this



IN Step encourages letters to the editor. Send them to: IN Step, 1661 N. Water St., Suite 411, Milwaukee, WI 53202; letters@instepnews.com or fax (414) 278-5868. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

would be good for gay people.

Is this true? Is it, in fact, good for gay people?

In the short term, yes, and in a very narrow sense, yes, this may be good for gay people. If Dale wins his case and forces the BSA to accept him even though it doesn't want to do so, it appears that Dale will be better off.

But will gay people be better off in the long term? No, because we will have given the power to the government -- a power it does not now have -- to tell a private organization and its members that they cannot choose with whom to associate, they cannot choose the criteria they will use to select their leaders. Instead of the private groups deciding, the government will decide for them. Is that better for gay people?

Gay and lesbian Americans benefit more from a rigorous protection of our freedom of association than does any other group. No group that has more to lose than gays and lesbians if these freedoms are eroded, as this case and the New Jersey Supreme Court has attempted to do.

Gay men and lesbians are a unique minority. We live throughout the country and transcend all races, classes, and social groups. It is only through our ability to freely associate with one another that we are able to come to terms with our own sexuality, deal with the social hostility we inevitably face, create safe places for ourselves where we can feel comfortable and secure, and meet one other so that we might form happy and stable relationships.

In fact, perhaps no other group in our society is so defined by its need for its members to associate freely with each other.

A brief filed by Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty in the Dale case details

some of the examples of how gay men and lesbians have suffered when our right to freely associate has been violated. Within living memory, gay bars and restaurants were subject to frequent police raids. The IRS refused to grant tax exemptions to gay non-profit groups. Gay publications were prosecuted for "obscenity." Colleges banned gay student groups from meeting on campus.

Gay people have the most to lose if freedom of association is not protected. But what does rigorous defense of our right to freedom of association mean? Does it mean to defend the right only when it is in our own short-term interest? Or does it mean we must be vigilant even when — or especially when — we disagree about how others might choose to exercise their freedom?

My colleagues and I profoundly disagree with the Boy Scouts' policy of excluding homosexuals. We wish they would change it. We believe that many gay men can serve as fabulous role models for children. They would be particularly qualified to teach values that are important for children to learn, such as respect for one another and tolerance for our differences. Still, those are my values and those of my friends, and sadly not the Boy Scouts' values.

We must resist the temptation to ask the government to force others into compliance with our viewpoints when we disagree with them. The principled position is to stand up for all of our Constitutional rights, even when defending the rights of those who disagree with us. Otherwise, how can we expect them to come to our defense when our own rights are in danger?

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cover story

The Spiritual Journey of Andrew Warner

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE OPENLY GAY ASSOCIATE MINISTER AT MILWAUKEE'S PLYMOUTH CHURCH

By Jamakaya,
Photo by Jorge Cabal

The Rev. Andrew Warner is just 29 years old, but his personal and spiritual journey have given him wisdom and intelligence beyond his years. They have also given him a passionate commitment to his congregation and his community, especially the gay and lesbian community.

Rev. Warner is Associate Pastor at Plymouth Church, a United Church of Christ congregation on Milwaukee's east side that is openly affirming of its gay and lesbian members. In addition to preaching and running the Christian education program at Plymouth, his ministerial duties include presiding over commitment ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples. Rev. Warner coordinates a group called "Maybe Baby" for gays and lesbians seeking to have or adopt a child. He will also preside at the annual Sunday morning Interfaith service at PrideFest on June 11.

In this interview with IN Step, Rev. Warner discusses the development of his religious views and his experience of coming out as a gay man. He talks about the spiritual significance of commitment ceremonies between gay and lesbian couples and his and his partner's own quest to adopt a child. He takes seriously his position as a role model but is not above having a few good laughs at his own foibles. His ability to speak intelligently about religion, without sounding the least dogmatic, are apt to win new converts.

IN Step: Where were you born and raised?

I grew up in a Washington, DC suburb called Reston, VA. My dad runs a plumbing firm in the Washington, DC area that he inherited from his father. He hoped his kids would do things other than plumbing, and really encouraged us. Education was big in my family. My parents were the first in their families to go to college, and they wanted us to do the same.

IN Step: How did religion influence you when you were younger?

When I was a kid my family converted from being Disciples of Christ to being Roman Catholic. The Disciples of Christ don't practice infant baptism; adults are baptized. So when we became Roman Catholic when I was seven, I was baptized. My parents were remarried and two of my siblings received communion for the first time. There was a big day, a big party. My baptism is my first distinct religious memory. We went to Mass every Sunday but I went to public schools because I wanted to go to school with my friends.

IN Step: You missed your Catholic education and getting rapped on the knuckles by the nuns!

Well, we went to a different kind of Catholic Church in that Vatican II had already happened. I was used to guitars and priests who were very low-key and nuns who were not into discipline. I think if I'd had the other experience it would have been a really confusing upbringing.

IN Step: What were your goals when you were a teenager? Did you imagine becoming a minister?

No, when I was a teenager I had very clear goals. I was in the Boy Scouts. I'm an Eagle Scout.

IN Step: You look like an Eagle Scout!

I know, I know! My partner and I sometimes feel like we're trapped in a Norman Rockwell painting because Milwaukee's kind of a Norman Rockwell place. And we're both Eagle Scouts. Growing up in scouting a lot of my scoutmasters worked for the CIA. The CIA has a headquarters in the Virginia suburb I lived in. I grew up thinking I wanted to go and work for the CIA or the foreign service. When I got to college — I went to Colgate University in upstate New York — I learned a lot about what the CIA did, particularly in Latin America, and realized that my emerging political consciousness and where the CIA was under Bush and Reagan was not going to be a good home for me. At the same time, I took a class on Islam with a professor in the religion department and he really opened up for me the study of religion. He was asking the kind of questions that I wanted to ask about what was ethical and what was moral for a community and how do we talk about making ethical decisions and moral decisions. So at Colgate I concentrated on the study of religion and, in the process of being there, I came out as a gay man, which raised a lot more moral and ethical questions for me. One of those was what to do about my church home. I went and spoke to the Catholic priest at the Newman community at my college.

IN Step: So you were still a practicing Catholic?

Still a practicing Catholic, and at that point in my sophomore year of college, I often went to daily Mass. I was a Eucharistic minister, active in the Newman community, and I had a problem, I was gay and I was serving communion, and thought, I shouldn't even be receiving it let alone giving it out to other people. So I went to meet with the local priest and he was really a wonderful man. He said that there's a variety of opinions in the Catholic Church, this is what some people say, that homosexuality is wrong, he said, but for me I think the possibility of sin exists in any relationship. It matters how you treat the other person. So if you're treating people that you love in an equitable and an honorable way, then that can still be a holy relationship. And he made clear that he wanted to see me at Mass and receiving communion and no, I didn't have to give up being a Eucharistic minister. His acceptance was really important to me.

But that dissonance between what the Catholic Church taught and what I believed to be true was too great. My family became Catholic for a very Protestant reason. My parents really liked the preaching of the local priest, and so they became Catholic. And I became Protestant for a really Catholic reason, that I didn't agree with the teaching authority of the church. So between my sophomore and junior years I joined the ecumenical Protestant ministry that was on my campus as well, and there found a place that held up a moral vision for me that made sense and inspired me. After Colgate, I was pretty sure I wanted to go into the Protestant ministry, and I went off to Harvard Divinity School. I joined the United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation in Cambridge.

IN Step: What was it about the UCC that attracted you?

A couple of things. One, I decided if I was leaving the Catholic Church I didn't want to go to the Episcopalians because I'd still have a bishop. If I was going to leave the Catholic Church I didn't want to take the bishops with me.

IN Step: So your problem with the Catholic Church is the hierarchy?

In part it was the hierarchy. I knew enough about the Catholic Church to realize that its teaching authority and the role and place of the bishops is central to its identity.



and that wasn't something I could embrace. And it didn't feel authentic for me to be someone who was dissenting from within. So it was 500 years too late, but I went through my own reformation. In Congregationalism, the local congregation is where the teaching authority is vested. That really speaks to me as a vision of the church. Having the teaching authority vested in a local congregation allowed the congregation I joined to welcome gays and lesbians, because they used their authority to make themselves open and affirming.

IN Step: They already doing that at that time?

Yeah, they had already done that years ago. Which was good for me. I've often in my life realized how many gays and lesbians paved the way before me. The college I went to was very socially conservative, but among the faculty, particularly in the religion department, there were a number of gay and lesbian students who had gone before me and really opened minds and raised consciousness. The same with Plymouth congregation. There had been gay and lesbian elders who had made that an open and affirming church where I could simply go and join and not have to do battle. That was a Godsend.

IN Step: You said you came out at Colgate. Was it hard for you?

The process is connected to why I ended up in the ministry. When I was in high school, I took some words from the Catholic liturgy which go, "Only say the word and I shall be healed." I took those words, as a high school student, and would say them constantly, before I went to bed, when I felt tempted: "Only say the word and I shall be healed." I was praying that Jesus would cure me of my attraction to other men, really profoundly was praying for that. When I went to college, I would go to the chapel and I would pray the rosary. I now have a funny image in my mind of a gay man saying "Hail Mary!" [laughs] I prayed really persistently that God would make me straight, that God would heal me. I wanted God to heal me from being gay. I went up one night to pray and just poured myself out in prayer and was really empty. In my emptiness and silence I really began to hear God's word of love and acceptance, so felt that I was healed, but I was healed in my self-hatred and of my homophobia. That experience of being overwhelmed with God's love, overwhelmed with the message that God had made me who I was, that God had made me whole, God had made me gay, all of that was blessed, was a profound conversion experience for me. That gift of the assurance of God's love is what sustained me at Colgate, which was a school that was very socially conservative. I

"WHY IS IT THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT IS SAYING THAT IT'S 'UN-CHRISTIAN' FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS TO GET MARRIED? I THINK IT'S THE MOST FAITHFUL THING FOR US TO DO. IT'S PLEASING TO GOD AND IT MAKES SENSE FOR A CONGREGATION TO LIFT UP A COUPLE AND SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER."

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was in a fraternity at the time. A fraternity was not the right place to be if I wanted to avoid being attracted to other guys! There was a lot of temptation and a lot of just strange homoeroticism that happens in fraternal life.

IN Step: Although I bet they were very macho or in denial about it.

They were very much in denial about it. But there were a lot of unusual things that happened in my fraternity life and when I came out, they were horrified, because they could do all these things, as long as no one said they were gay. But as soon as I came out it presented a problem. Well, it didn't go over well! The gay and lesbian group on campus had decided to have a pride week and a member of the fraternity suggested that we have a 'prove you're not gay' weekend and a 'show your true colors week' when the brothers were supposed to demonstrate their heterosexuality by being caught having sex with a woman. In the process of saying why I was so offended at this I shared with them that I was gay and I did it through a letter. A friend of mine read it to them. I said that I was gay and this was part of who I am and they needed to decide if they were going to change and make a place for me in the fraternity or not, and they said they would change. I optimistically and naively believed them and we all realized that what I needed and what they were gonna be wouldn't mesh, which was hard. But it needed to happen. I de-activated, and when someone de-activates they're referred to as dead, which was a little discomforting until I realized how uncomfortable I made them feel. So then I made a point of saying hello to them because I knew it made them squirm. [laughter] I kept them off guard. I wasn't going to put up with their harassment and I wasn't going to keep secret about all the disgusting and awful things they did. You know, they really gave me a lesson into what sexism is and the connection between sexism and homophobia, and violence between men. It was an incredible awakening.

IN Step: Did you have friends outside the fraternity?

Yeah, I started getting involved in the gay and lesbian group, certainly much more after I came out. There weren't a lot of out gays and lesbians on my campus. But there were a number of straight allies who became my friends. My circle of friends from when I was in the fraternity to when I left dramatically changed.

IN Step: Did you graduate from Colgate?

I did, with a degree in Religion, with high honors. I then went on to Harvard Divinity School — that's a three year program. That was a really phenomenal place for me because I had a lot of neat mentors. One of those was my theology professor, Sarah Coakley. She's an Anglican, came over from England. What was really good about Sarah was making the connection between our spirituality and our sexuality. Her favorite one-liner was that she wanted to reverse Freud. Freud said that all God talk was really talk about sex. She wanted to reverse it and say that all talk about sex is really talk about God. Needless to say, she had quite a group of gay men and lesbians around her wanting to talk both about sex and about God, and to figure out how the two were related. There was also

an Episcopalian monastery in Cambridge that was a good home for me and a place I would go on retreat occasionally, meet and talk with the monks.

IN Step: It was a 3-year program?

Yes, and I received a Master of Divinity degree, a divine — that's the old new England word for it. The curriculum at Harvard is really unstructured, it allows you to design your own program, and there was a great diversity of people who were there. I like studying and living in a pluralistic world. One of the best experiences for me at Harvard was being in a prayer group that met weekly. We'd spend an hour in silent prayer. That group was composed of Buddhists, Unitarians and conservative or orthodox Christians. We found a way to be together in which we were able to be authentic to our own traditions, the Buddhist meditating, the Christians praying contemplatively, the Unitarians praying silently, able to really share and live in that space together. And to interpret it in radically different ways! I understood it as the Holy Spirit filling me up, and there was a Buddhist woman from Japan who understood it as letting go of her consciousness. So from pouring in to pouring out, we were able to share that space together, and that really gave me an image of what it means to be in a pluralistic society: that I can hold to my truth and I can find ways to live that with other people that are authentic and true.

IN Step: How did your family respond to your being gay?

I came out to my priest, to my fraternity and to my parents all in the same week. So, I'm not easily daunted. [laughs] It gave me a certain economy of stress — I'll just do it all at once! I came out to my parents by calling them up. It was hard for them. And my sister called right after I did, so she found out. My grandparents were staying with my parents that day, so they got to know because my parents were crying. So very quickly a lot of people in my family knew. I was going through a hard time religiously, with my fraternity and my friends and with my family. It made for a very hard summer. My Catholic Godfather is a psychologist and into Exodus [ex-gay ministry] stuff and he had tapes he wanted me to listen to. I refused. So we had a lot of really hard conversations. Once [all my siblings knew], my parents started coming out to their friends. And as they told their friends they had a gay son and they were met with hostility and intolerance and, sometimes, acceptance and stories that they didn't know before, they really understood a lot of things that I was going through better to the point now that my mom is the head of our PFLAG chapter down in Washington, DC and doing great stuff. She's leading all sorts of support groups. My dad has added sexual orientation to the non-discrimination policy and has worked hard to get same-sex partner benefits. He has a float in the Gay Pride parade all the time. He's pretty much the only plumbing firm in the Gay Pride parade in DC!

IN Step: Tell us about your partner.

Jay and I met at a Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Minneapolis. I had gone to Minneapolis after Harvard to work at a hospital as a chaplain in a year-long training program. I

moved to Minneapolis not knowing anyone, so I went with a friend of a friend to the MCC. I went to church and saw a few rows ahead this really cute guy named Jay. Jay's pretty shy so he didn't come to coffee hour. But I met some people in coffee hour who were going on a gay and lesbian camping trip the next weekend. I went and Jay was on the camping trip. I got to meet him and talk to him some. The next weekend, I saw him at a coffee shop. I asked him to sit with me but he was on his way out. Not to be deterred — I guess I'm kind of a persistent person — [laughs] I kept on going back to the coffee shop until I saw him again. That time we sat and talked for a long time and I invited him over for a dinner party. He accepted and so I quickly organized a dinner party [laughs] to have some friends around for him to meet. That was October of '96. So we've been dating ever since then, and we moved together from Minneapolis to Milwaukee. In my denomination I don't have anyone who places me and tells me where I need to go. I saw the listing for Plymouth Church in Milwaukee. Through the interview process we both, the church and I, felt like this was the right place. A good match.

IN Step: You and Jay are planning to adopt a child.

Yes. We're in the process of adopting a child internationally. It's been a couple year process for us, because we started in a kind of dreaming phase. You know, could this ever be a possibility? We were having dinner with a couple in the congregation, a straight couple, and it came up. "When you're 80, what are you going to regret that you haven't done?" The first thing I said was "being a father." So Libby, our host, said well, why don't you just adopt? It was kind of a cast iron skillet on the head moment! So Jay and I started really talking about what that would mean for us and when we'd be able to do that. We looked at a variety of things from surrogate parenting to foster parenting to adoption, and found international adoption was the best route for us. We were able to find a gay adoption agency, so we're able to be out with the agency we're working with.

IN Step: Sounds like you lucked out.

Well, we just did research. And networking. A lot of gay and lesbian couples that are adopting were using the same set of people, because we trade names back and forth. I imagine in a few years we'll trade names of babysitters back and forth! The LGBT Community Center has made space available for us to have a group called "Maybe Baby." Some are couples looking at artificial or donor insemination, others are looking at adoption. It's been really important to have that group to trade stories and names of social workers and agencies. The group is certainly open to people who are single; it just happens that right now all the people involved are in couples. It's the second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 170 S. Second Street.

IN Step: How far are you along in the adoption process?

We have a child that's been referred to us and that we've accepted. Jay's gone down to meet the child, and really feels like he's the one for us and we're going forward with it. There's still the possibility the mother might change her mind and decide she doesn't want to relinquish her child, or that something might happen in the court

process. But the timetable is such that it looks like our baby would come to us in late August. He's about four months old right now.

IN Step: I bet you're praying a lot.

Praying a lot! Jay and I say our prayers together around dinnertime and we pray for him and for his foster family. We're also trying to frantically get the house ready. We'll have a nursery all set up and whatnot. I figure daycare, I'm set. There's a daycare here at Plymouth Church. I have a picture of him, I'll show you.

IN Step: You're a proud papa!

I know, I know! And I have lots of women in the congregation who will be competing to be the Milwaukee grandmother. That acceptance from the church has been really profound for us.

IN Step: You seem very conscious of the example you're setting.

You know, I made a choice when I decided to come out to everyone in one week that I was going to live my life in a certain way. There really was no turning back from that. I have in my congregation people who are out to varying degrees, some people who are very closeted and others who are very much out and public about who they are. I think what I want is for people to always do what is healthiest for them. I say that because for me, what was being healthy was being out. That's why I made that choice. When I was in college and in seminary I realized that a lot of people had gone before me and made it an easier way for me in my coming out process. Now I want to do the same thing.

The question that I want to work on is the issue of domestic partnership and marriage rights for gays and lesbians. It's been great to see people in my congregation start to get involved in that issue and to care about that issue. I think that may be what I end up talking about at PrideFest. Why is it the religious right is saying that it's 'un-Christian' for gays and lesbians to get married? I think it's the most faithful thing for us to do, and I think it's pleasing to God and it makes sense for a congregation to lift up a couple and support them in their commitment to one another. Jay and I are having a commitment ceremony and I'm celebrating two lesbian commitment ceremonies this summer, so I'm really getting into this marriage thing! I'm excited about the chance to work with couples who are making long-term commitments to one another.

IN Step: Any final thoughts?

When I joined the United Church of Christ it was because I wanted to be in a place where I could get married, and I'm thankful that this is a congregation that is so supportive. People sometimes assume that Plymouth is a predominantly gay or lesbian church, and we're not. I think about 15 or 20% of the membership is gay or lesbian, and the rest is, from what I know, heterosexual. And most of us come from the zip code [53211] that the church is in. So we're really a neighborhood church that's inclusive, and to me that's a hopeful vision of what the church can be in this new century, that we can have local congregations that are grounded in our neighborhoods, and are also grounded in an inclusive vision of the gospel.

"I really began to hear God's word of love and acceptance, so I felt that I was healed. I was healed of my self-hatred and of my homophobia."

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Crude Boy

"People are terrified about the sexual aspect of homosexuality. People are not bothered by drag queens or gay celebrities or things that are camp and inoffensive — what they're really bothered by is buggery. They're bothered by cocks up arses — excuse me for being crude."

—Singer Boy George to Australia's Capital Q.

Must See TV

"While bland Will and Grace are cookie-cutter sitcom characters, the idiosyncratic antics betwixt quirky combo Sean B. Hayes and Megan Mullally — as Jack, the king of queens, and his sugar-mamma Karen — is what turns the series from musty TV to must-see TV."

—Erika Milvy writing in the March 17 Los Angeles Times.

Gay Balkans

"The gay community is one of the most balkanized, stratified, class-conscious, race-avoiding, man-hating, woman-dumping sub-cultures in America. We have separate bars for men and women, separate bars for blacks and whites, separate circles between young and old and separate rewards for the toned and the untoned. We're almost as scared of the transgendered as straight people are. We live in the same social apartheid as they do, only we've added sex, beauty and muscle tone to the hierarchy."

—Syndicated columnist Michael Alvear in



Fort Lauderdale's, The Express.

Rick "Almost" Comes Out

"Well, some, when they, when they have some — sometimes, some, some people from the media, when they have nothing to say, they invent things. I'm not concerned about my reaction. I'm concerned about my people's reactions. Like my nieces, they go to school and they start reading things. My mom goes to the beauty parlor and sexuality and homosexuality should not be a problem for anybody. I think that sexuality is something that each individual should deal with in their own way. And that's all I have to say about that. ... Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to express, the rumors. But, Barbara, for some reason, I just don't feel like it [saying what my sexual orientation is]. You know, it's, it's something so mine. I give it all when I'm on stage. I give it all in interviews, but you've got to keep something for yourself sometimes, and that's for me."

—Singer Ricky Martin when asked if he's gay by Barbara Walters on her March 26 Oscar night special.

Lesbian Over the Rainbow

"Judy [Garland's] affairs with women — her MGM publicist, Betty Asher, among them — are chronicled as matter-of-factly as those with men, and the homosexuality of several of her husbands — particularly Vincent Minnelli — is presented as part of the integral fabric of her story."

—From an April 11 Advocate review of the new book *Get Happy: The Life of Judy Garland*.



Going for Gore

"I gotta go Gore all the way. He has been there and has certainly said and done the things that mean so much to us in our community. If you have ever heard Tipper talk, she is pretty motivational and pretty solid on gay and lesbian rights."

—Singer Melissa Etheridge to Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle.

The Sincerest Form...

"When I got into trouble with the government, it was the transvestites and the gay world who kept my name alive because they were imitating me all the time. And there is nothing in the world more flattering than being flattered by imitation."

—Singer and actress Eartha Kitt, 73, to Out magazine, March issue.

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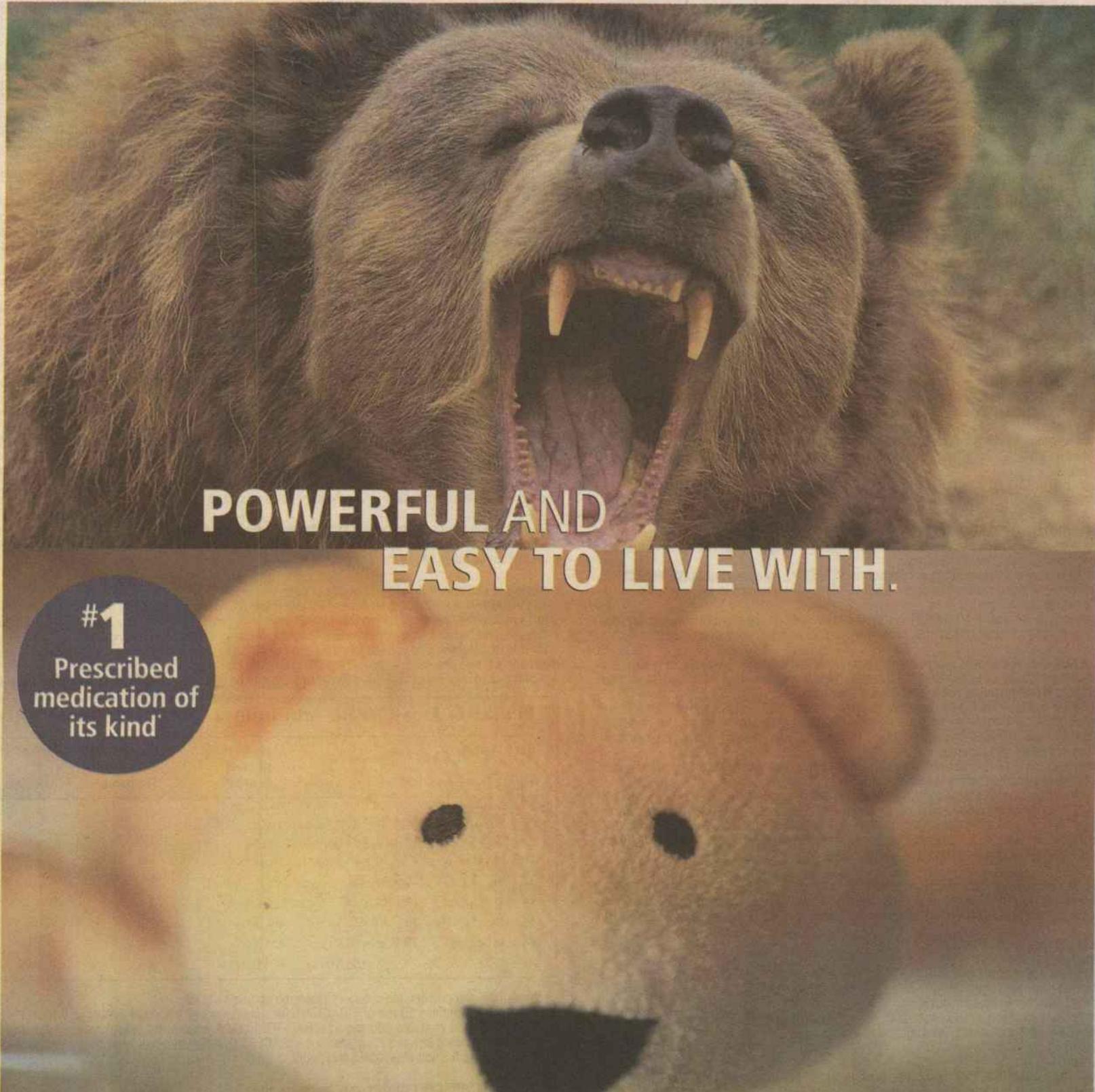
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Quips are compiled by Rex Wockner of the IN Step staff

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VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED** People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in

clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related

medications should not be taken with

VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit www.agouron.com.

(Refer to the important information on the next page.)

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Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nefnavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
- Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

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

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

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

CALL 1.888.VIRACEPT

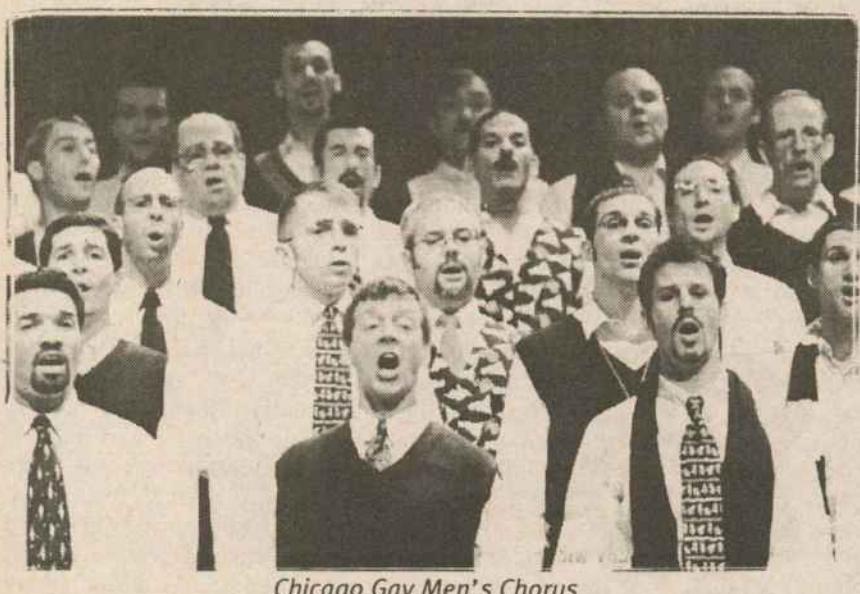
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La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

arts • nite life • calendar • classics



Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Performs "H.M.S. Pinafore"

Chicago — The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will present Gilbert & Sullivan's classic comic opera "H.M.S. Pinafore" in four performances, April 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport Ave. in Chicago.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" is the third in a series of tributes to the works of Gilbert & Sullivan by the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC). They previously mounted successful productions of "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Mikado."

The press release for "H.M.S. Pinafore" promises lots of fun: "Want a hilariously refreshing interpretation of a timeless musical? Then cast off with more than 100 sailors, sisters, cousins and aunts on the only ship named after a party dress — the H.M.S. Pinafore! Romance! Melodrama! Bearded Ladies! Will Ralph and Josephine defy social mores and wed over the noble captain's wishes? Or will she be forced to wed the prissy Sir Joseph? What bitter secret does dear little Buttercup hide? Most importantly, can an all-male cast dance in high heels? Like the campy "Poseidon Adventure," the CGMC turns this sea-faring classic topsy-turvy for laughs."

Tickets for "H.M.S. Pinafore" range from \$15 to \$25. Call TicketMaster at (312) 902-1500.

Witty "As Bees in Honey Drown" at Madison Rep

Madison — "As Bees in Honey Drown," a witty take on media hype in the fast lane, will open its run in the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Rep on Friday, April 14 and run through May 7. The play, by Douglas Carter Beane, had a successful run off-Broadway and is being performed around the country. The New York Times called it "an extremely entertaining fable for an age that always chooses image over substance."

In the play, Evan Wyler (played by Joe Lehman) is a young New York writer savoring the success of his debut when he catches the attention of Alexa Vere de Vere (Tracy Arnold), a woman of mystery who makes the world of celebrity her home. A record producer and film agent, she seems to have connections to everybody, and offers Evan a handsome fee to write a screenplay of her life story. Just spend time with me, she says, and you'll learn everything you need to know.

Alexa, with her fierce sexuality, biting demeanor and endless ease at name-dropping, needs only to offer fame and Evan is snared. What follows are Armani suits, the best hotels and all the accoutrements of stardom. But then Evan discovers a secret about Alexa and sets out to make sure everyone knows what it is.

The production is directed by D. Scott Glasser. A special performance interpreted for the deaf and hearing-impaired is scheduled for May 7. For tickets and more information, call (608) 266-9055, TDD: (608) 267-2674.

Milwaukee Ballet's "Power in the House"

Milwaukee — The Milwaukee Ballet will highlight contemporary dance at the historic Pabst Theater with the choreography of Kathryn Posin, David Parsons and Robert North April 6-9 in a program called "Power in the House." The Pabst Theater is located at 144 E. Wells St. in downtown Milwaukee.

The performance begins with "Bachiana," set to excerpts of Bach's Orchestral Suites No. 1 and 3. Created by David Parsons, the "golden boy" of American modern dance, "Bachiana" combines classical modes with modern moves.

"Troy Game," with choreography by Robert North, is a grueling ballet that takes a tongue-in-cheek look at male hyper-masculinity in times of conflict and is set to the beat of Brazilian percussion music. This piece is characterized by strong classical technique in a modern dance framework mixed with martial arts movements and lots of humor.

Kathryn Posin's "Bridge of Song," created expressly for the Milwaukee Ballet, celebrates dance around the globe. It is set to Balto-Finnic folk song, Balinese gamelan, and Algerian and Senegalese pop music.

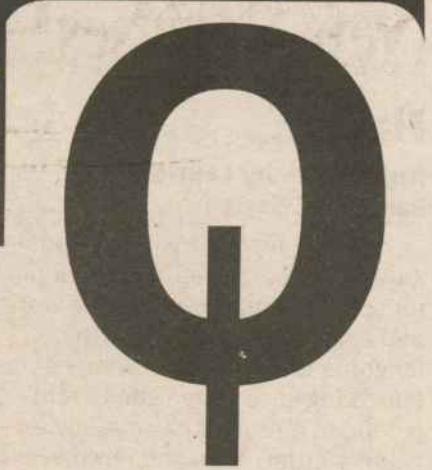
For tickets and show times, call (414) 643-7677.

"Twilight Zone" on Tap at Comedy Sportz

Milwaukee — Two classic episodes of the eerie TV program "The Twilight Zone" are being performed live on stage through April 29 in the RSVP Room of Comedy Sportz, 126 N. Jefferson St. in Milwaukee. Shows are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m.

"The Twilight Zone Live On Stage" includes two episodes from the 1959-60 season. "The Lonely," written by Rod Serling, involves the 50-year sentence of James Corry who is imprisoned on an asteroid nine million miles from earth. He finds companionship with a robot delivered to him, but soon discovers the fine line between love and loneliness. "The Chaser" tells the story of Roger Shakleforth and his infatuation with a woman named Leila. He stumbles on a surprising turn of events when a love potion he's obtained from an eccentric professor works better than expected.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, call (414) 264-5639.



Shaw Festival Begins April 14

Milwaukee — The Chamber Theatre's 18th annual Shaw Festival, the only festival of its kind in the US, will feature George Bernard Shaw's beloved comedy, "Pygmalion," and William Shakespeare's romance, "The Winter's Tale." The Shaw Festival runs from April 14-30.

"Pygmalion" is Shaw's tale of a cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, who becomes involved in a wager between two phoneticians, Professor Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering. For Higgins to win the bet, he must coach Eliza and pass her off as a lady from high society in six months time. Eliza learns proper etiquette and pronunciation, while Higgins learns that the human spirit transcends all strictures of class and breeding.

In "The Winter's Tale," the sole daughter of a jealous king whose rage destroys his family eventually finds love with a prince. But the young woman does not know she



herself is a princess and fears she and the prince can never marry. Fate steps in to bring love and happiness to all.

Also playing on alternating dates will be two Shaw shorts, "Village Wooing" and "My Dear Dorothea." "Village Wooing" is a comedy that explores the budding relationship between two people firmly committed to the opposite desires of the other. And in "My Dear Dorothea," a satirical letter to a girl outlines the rules of impending adulthood. In this short, Shaw is at his best, skewering Victorian morality.

The casts include many veteran Chamber actors — Jonathan Smoots, Ruth Schudson, Mary MacDonald Kerr, and Brian Robert Mani. Montgomery Davis directs "The Winter's Tale" and J.R. Sullivan directs "Pygmalion."

The Shaw Festival is performed in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. For tickets and show times, call (414) 291-7800.

New Releases

Fiction:

Night Work by Laurie King
Bantam HC \$23.95

In this fourth entry in her popular Kate Martinelli series, Kate is hoping for some restful routine police work and a newfound serenity with her longtime lover, Lee, following her last harrowing case. Then she is summoned to a scene of a carefully executed murder. Kate and her partner Al are stumped when another body is found with the same MO. A third killing draws Kate and Al into a network of pitiless destruction far beyond their imagination.

Never Eat In by David Leddick
Serpent's Tail HC \$24.00

Nina is a successful advertising copywriter in New York who seems to have it all: A highflying career, family and happy marriage. Then she has a chance sighting of a porn star named Chase Manhattan turns her life topsy-turvy. Events soon spiral out of control as Nina becomes enmeshed in the porn industry and suddenly finds herself hounded by a larger-than-life drag queen director. Hilarious.

Non-Fiction:

Out & About Campus edited by Kim Howard & Anne Stevens
Alyson Pb \$12.95

Howard and Stevens have collected 28 first-person accounts from lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered college students from colleges and universities around the country. A good mix of ethnicity and college settings marks these essays which are all tied together by the theme of coming out to oneself and to the community. Some essays are heartbreaking and others triumphant; all are engagingly written. Though their struggles vary, all of the students seem to have gained self-confidence during their college years.

Mr. Right is Out There
by Dr. Kenneth D. George
Alyson Pb \$13.95

This practical and accessible guide to gay romance aims to help men surrender the "Prince Charming fantasy" and learn to find and attract Mr. Right. For men who haven't examined their pasts or the ways in which they typically choose partners, the book may be as good as six months of therapy. The author provides case scenarios and "assignments" to help bring new ideas home. At the core of the suggested strategies are self-knowledge and self-esteem. Chapters like "Being Emotionally Intimate" and "Negotiating and Resolving Differences" may even be of interest to established couples, particularly the discussion of when to seek counseling and a list of ways to get through a difficult breakup.

British Eccentrics

By Ed Grover

Here are some recent biographies that give us the lowdown on the lives of three gay British men who glittered in the background of every book I've read about the turn of the last century: Gerald Berners, Osbert Sitwell and Stephen Tennant. All three were from wealthy, aristocratic families and all were involved in the creative arts. Of the three, Lord Berners is my favorite.

Gerald Terwhitt-Wilson, who became the 14th Lord Berners, was an accomplished composer, artist and writer. As a youth he prepared for a job in diplomacy. He failed his examinations not once, but twice, and finally landed a position as an honorary attaché to the embassy in Constantinople. Later, in Rome during WWI, Berners dabbled his time away doing not much work of consequence. Instead he attended luncheons and fancy dress parties with some of the most talented and creative people of his time.

Lord Berners was always referred to as "outrageously funny and a great practical joker." He was considered quite shy but had a great wit; his retorts were famous, he kept notebooks full of them. He also kept a visitor's book at his home, Faringdon, near Oxford, where flocks of brightly colored fantail pigeons fluttered about like confetti and were re-dyed weekly. In the visitor's book were the signatures of the cream of European society and of every creative mind of the day.

It was in Rome that Berners was commissioned by Diagilev to compose a ballet called "The Triumph of Neptune." It had a great success in London. Lord Berners then dropped music completely for the next 25 years and took up oil painting (of which he knew nothing) and was quite successful at it. He wrote the music for another ballet called "A Wedding Bouquet." The story, made from bits and pieces of Gertrude Stein's writing, was choreographed by Frederick Ashton. Berners painted the sets and designed the costumes. A young Margot Fonteyne danced the role of "Mad Julia."

Among his many books, Berners wrote a gay novel called "The Girls of Radcliff Hall." The title was a takeoff on the name of the author who wrote "The Well of Loneliness." It was privately published and included portraits of all his male friends as members of a girl's school. Berners, himself, was portrayed as head mistress. Cecil (Cecily) Beaton was the only person who was upset because of his inclusion. Everyone laughed and said it was because he came from a working class background.

Osbert Sitwell was a friend of Gerald Berners and he, too, had planned a diplomatic career. Writing poetry, novels and travel pieces won out. Sitwell, with his brother Sacheverell and sister

Edith, made names for themselves as the "enfants terribles" of the 1920s. They were at the heart of every literary fracas from 1918 to well after 1945. Osbert was the sparring partner of T.S. Eliot, Aldous Huxley, Evelyn Waugh and Cyril Connolly. Noël Coward was a ferocious enemy, as was Winston Churchill. It is said that Osbert could be "perverse, arrogant, and bullying. He could also be generous, loyal, considerate and public spirited—but he was never dull." He died of Parkinson's Disease in 1969, leaving a total of more than 56 books for posterity.

Stephen Tennant, the youngest of this trio, was also the most flamboyant. He was the effeminate youngest son of a mother who could trace her roots to a cousin of Louis XVI. Stephen was tubercular from an early age and spent a good deal of time in bed where he wrote stories, drew and painted.

When he was not ill, he would get dressed up in outrageous outfits (including heavy eye makeup, with real gold dust in his hair) and appear at the top social events of the London season. He was invariably followed around by Cecil Beaton, who was also a friend of Lord Berners and Osbert Sitwell.

They all attracted handsome lovers. Lord Berners met Robert Heber Percy at a friend's house. He called him his "Mad Boy." Heber Percy spent an unsuccessful night with Berners. "When he asked, 'Shall I leave?,' Berners replied, 'Don't go, you make me laugh....'" He stayed for the next fifty years—eighteen while Lord Berners was alive and then until his own death in 1987. "They never slept together, except perhaps occasionally, when [Heber Percy] would come home drunk and fall [into] bed."

This isn't what Gerald Berners wanted, but this is what he could have." It's said that Heber Percy was allowed to have lovers in the house, but in later years when he married and had a child it stretched Lord Berners' tolerance to the breaking point.

Osbert Sitwell had a forty-year affair with David Horner. Horner was from an ancient Saxon Family (of "Little Jack Horner" nursery rhyme fame), and seems to have been difficult to get along with. Edith and Sachie hated him. Stephen Tennant's lover was the poet Siegfried Sassoon, a masculine ex-military friend of Sitwell and Berners. He and Stephen spent four years together with "Captain" Sassoon in constant attendance to the invalid. Stephen dismissed his lover for some unknown reason and then spent the rest of his life regretting it. He died in 1987.

Each of these books is worth reading as a companion piece and can be found at the library or ordered through your favorite bookstore. "Lord Berners: The Last Eccentric" was written by Mark Amory (Pimlico-Random House, ISBN: 0-7126-6578-1). Philip Ziegler wrote the biography titled "Osbert Sitwell" (Borzoi/Alfred A. Knopf, ISBN: 0-679-44650-8), and Philip Hoare gave us "Serious Pleasures: the Life of Stephen Tennant" (Penguin Books, ISBN 0-241-12416-6).



Spring Bestseller List

Gay Fiction

1. **Lawnboy**
by Paul Lisicky
Turtle Point Press Pb. \$13.95
2. **Pins**
by Jim Provenzano
Myrmidide Press Pb. \$14.95
3. **Men on Men 2000**
ed. by David Bergman & Karl Woelz
Plume Pb. \$12.95
4. **Ulster Alien**
by Stephen Birkett
Gay Men's Press Pb \$14.95
5. **The Talented Mr. Ripley**
by Patricia Highsmith
Vintage Crime Pb. \$13.00

Gay Non-Fiction

1. **The Penis Book**
by Joseph Cohen
Konemann HC \$9.95

2. The Kid

by Dan Savage

Dutton HC \$22.95

3. Finding the Boyfriend Within

by Brad Gooch

Simon & Schuster HC \$21.00

4. Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up

by Andrew Tobias

Ballantine Books Pb. \$12.00

5. Suburban Hustler

by Aaron Lawrence

Late Night Press Pb. \$14.95

Lesbian Fiction

1. **Murder Undercover**
by Claire McNab
Naiad Press Pb. \$11.95
2. **Welcome to the World Baby Girl**
by Fannie Flagg
Ballantine Pb. \$7.50
3. **Every Time We Say Goodbye**
by Jayne Maiman
Naiad Press Pb \$11.95

4. Outfoxed

by Rita Mae Brown

Ballantine Books HC \$24.00

5. Set Up

by Claire McNab

Naiad Press Pb. \$11.95

Lesbian Non-Fiction

1. The Whole Lesbian Sex Book

by Felice Newman

Cleis Press Pb. \$21.95

2. This is What Lesbian Looks Like

by Kris Kleindiesnt

Firebrand Press Pb. \$18.95

3. Lesbian Love Companion

by Marny Hall

Harper Pb. \$15.00

4. Full Exposure

by Susie Bright

HarperCollins HC \$22.00

5. Don't Get Me Started

by Kate Clinton

Ballantine Books Pb. \$14.00

Best Seller list courtesy of Afterwords Bookstore.

ink

Covering: April 6 - April 19, 2000

calendar

ACTIVITIES:**Friday, April 7**

Bisexual Conference (St. Paul, MN): 9th Annual Midwest Conference on Bisexuality runs through Sunday, April 9 at Metro State University, 700 E. 7th St. in St. Paul. On-site registration, \$30. FMI: (612) 822-0127, ext. 503.

Holly Hughes (Milwaukee): Lesbian performance artist in "Peaching to the Perverted," 8 p.m. at Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St. FMI: (414) 263-5001.

Saturday, April 8

"Raising Money by Mail" (Milwaukee): Workshop on direct mail strategies for community groups, 9:15 a.m. to 12 noon, \$5, at the LGBT Community center, 170 S. Second St. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

GAMMA - Social Volleyball (Milwaukee): At UWM's Engelmann Gym, 2033 W. Hartford Ave. From 1-3 p.m. \$2 GAMMA members, \$3 others. FMI: (414) 540-1202.

"A Time for Song" (Milwaukee): Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Concert, 7 p.m. at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St. \$10 at door. FMI: (414) 276-8787.

"Talkin' Sexy" Workshop (Madison): Presented by A Woman's Touch, 600 Williamson St., 1 p.m., \$20. FMI: (608) 250-1928.

Sunday, April 9

Perfect Harmony Chorus - Rehearsal (Madison): Meet and sing every Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church on Capitol Square from 7-9 p.m. Enter W. Washington side of court yard. FMI: (608) 232-0528.

Comedians Scott Kennedy and Elvira Kurt (Milwaukee): Gay comics perform at Stooges Comedy Club, 639 W. Layton Ave., 7 p.m. FMI: (414) 769-9300.

Monday, April 10

People of Color & Allies (Madison): Discussion at Outreach, 600 Williamson St., 7:30 p.m. FMI: (608) 255-4297.

Tuesday, April 11

Pride Band Rehearsal (Milwaukee): Every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water St.

Womansong Chorus (Madison): Rehearsal of women's chorale at the Beth Israel Center, 7 p.m. FMI: (608) 222-2987.

Wednesday, April 12

LGBT Business Alliance (Madison): "Employee Benefits and Retirement Planning for Employers," 6 p.m. at 8401 Greenway Blvd. in Middleton. FMI: (608) 836-3080.

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus (Milwaukee): Weekly practice takes place at 7 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 170 S. 2nd St. FMI: (414) 276-8787 or (414) 271-2656.

Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys (Madison): Lessons in line dance and west coast swing, 7 p.m. at Sapphire Ballroom, Northgate Mall, 1133 N. Sherman Ave. FMI: (608) 245-0672.

Friday, April 14

Men's High Tea & Talk (Madison): Not exclusively for seniors. 3 p.m. at Monty's Blue Plate Cafe, 2089 Atwood Ave. FMI: (608) 257-9751.

Saturday, April 15

Bowling Tournament (Madison): MILMAIDS annual tournament at Bowl-a-Vard Lanes, 2121 E. Spring Dr., Begins at 9 a.m. FMI: (608) 271-8889.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers (Madison): Runners, walkers meet at Lake Wingra Park, 9 a.m. FMI: (608) 663-6463.

Sunday, April 16

PFLAG (Madison): Will Fellows, "Farm Boys" author, followed by meeting of Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays, 2 p.m. at Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Ct. FMI: (608) 848-0233.

BAR SPECIALS:**Sundays:**

Boom (Milwaukee): Margarita Mania! Corona, \$2. Shots of Cuervo, \$2. Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Sunday afternoon bottle beer special from 3 to 7 p.m.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Beer Bash from 3 to 8 p.m. \$1.50 off all taps, 8 p.m. to close. Pitchers of Long Islands are \$10 from open to close. Live entertainment.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): \$1 tappers & \$1.50 rail drinks from 4 to 8 p.m.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Rotating Events!

Emerald's (Milwaukee): Men's Night! Call drinks \$2.

Fannies (Milwaukee): Open at 3 p.m. \$1 off all Miller products. \$4 pitchers of beer.

Fluid (Milwaukee): \$6 Beer Bust, taps of Gen. Draft or Miller Lite, 5 to 9 p.m.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Noon to 4 p.m. Bloody Marys & Screw Drivers - \$2 a mug.

M&M Club (Milwaukee): Brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Naples Lounge (Green Bay): \$6 Beer Bust from 3 to 6 p.m.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1.50 Bloody Marys hosted by the Gay Voice.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison): Patio bar open at 2 p.m. Beer Bash from 2 to 8 p.m. Open volleyball. Food available from 2 to 6 p.m. 2/4/1 10 p.m. to close

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): During the day there is a \$1 beer sale from 3 to 9 p.m. on selected varieties. Shirtless Sunday Nights with Jake and Steve M. Half-price tap & rail if your shirt is off. 9 p.m. to close.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Bloody Marys \$2. Mimosas \$2.

Switch (Milwaukee): Service Industry Night. \$1 off all cocktails, bottled beer and taps, 5 p.m. to close.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Bloody Marys, Screw Drivers, Greyhounds \$2.50. Tap beer 90¢ from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rail drinks \$1.80 6 p.m. to closing.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Game Show Mania every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. \$1 Bloody Marys!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Beer Bust Trivia Day! Beer Bust, \$5 from 2-6 p.m.

Za's (Green Bay): Dry Dance Night! (16 & up in Za's). Alcohol served to over 21 in Java's.

Mondays:

The Barracks (Madison): \$9 Megabust - all you can drink, 8 p.m. to close.

Boom (Milwaukee): Closed.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Cell Block (Chicago): WWF/WCW Wrestling. \$2 specials on microbrews.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): \$9 Megabust - all you can drink, 8 p.m. to close. Pitchers of Long Islands, \$10.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night-spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 5 to 7 p.m. Pool & Dart Leagues - sign up now.

Fluid (Milwaukee): \$2.50 Absolut mixers, 8 p.m. to close.

IN THE LOBBY...

HEY, LOIS! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT A GAME BEFORE.

UH... HI, JERRY. I JUST CAME WITH MY HOUSEMATE. ARE YOU A FAN?

A FAN? I SEE THAT TROPHY? I WAS A LADY PORCUPINE THE YEAR WE WENT TO THE NCAA'S!

AND IN THE LADIES ROOM...

TOM! GLORIA!?

Flush?

BUT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN ALBUQUERQUE!

WE JUST MOVED BACK LAST WEEK! ANA GOT TRANSFERRED AGAIN.

I... NOBODY TOLD ME!

I THOUGHT OF CALLING YOU. BUT YOU KNOW, WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH...

AND WE PARTED ON SUCH AN AWKWARD NOTE.

SO HOW'S RAFFI? AND UH, CLARICE?

BACK IN THE STANDS...

YESSS!

HEY! THE LADY PORCUPINES ARE UP BY ONE AT THE HALFTIME BUZZER! TUNE IN NEXT TIME AS THE TECHNICAL FOULS CONTINUE!

JO'DEES INTERNATIONAL (RACINE): \$6 Super Bust! by MGD and Miller Lite, all the MGD or Miller Lite you can drink - ALL NITE! (\$4 Packer Bust for televised Monday night Packer's games. Open 1 hour before televised games).

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): 4 to 6 p.m. Pull tabs!

M&M Club (Milwaukee): Mountain of BBQ Rib Special!

Naples Lounge (Green Bay): Pull tabs from 3 to 7 p.m. (Drinks as low as 25¢). There is a \$6 Beer Bust from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): Melrose Mondays. Free pizza & shot specials.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison): 2-4-1 Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m. \$3.50 and under drinks over \$3.50 get \$1 off.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): \$3 pitchers - 9 p.m. to close.

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour! 3 to 8 p.m. Tickets good until 9 p.m. \$1 off tap and rail 9 p.m. to midnight.

Switch (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. Girl's Night Out! 2-4-1 rail drinks and tabs for the girls, 8 p.m. to close.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Domestic beer \$1.50, rail drinks \$1.90. 9 p.m. to close.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Miller products - \$1.50.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! \$4 pitchers of beer. Melrose Place Mondays.

Woody's (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour 4 to 9 p.m. Barkeeps Drink Cheap to 2 a.m.

Za's (Green Bay): Free Pool & Darts. \$6 Super Bust at Java's.

Tuesdays:

The Barracks (Madison): \$9 Megabust - all you can drink, 8 p.m. to close.

Boom (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 from 5-8 p.m. \$1 off all drinks, 8 p.m. to close.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Cell Block (Chicago): SMUT Tuesdays! XXX Videos. Cheap Drinks. Free Games.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Leather/Levy Night. Well-drinks & draft beer \$1. Dress Code Enforced. Pit open.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): \$9 Megabust - all you can drink, 8 p.m. to close. Pitchers of Long Islands are \$10.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Open at 5 p.m. Cocktails are 1/2 price from 5 to 8 p.m.

Emeralds (Milwaukee): \$5 Beer Bust - 8 to midnight!

Fluid (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close, any shot in our cooler, \$2.00.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Mexican Night! 4 p.m. to ? Tacos \$1.75 to 10 p.m. 2-4-1 Tequila 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Corona \$1.75.

M&M Club (Milwaukee): Double Bubble with complimentary Hors D'oeuvres \$5 to 7 p.m.

Naples Lounge (Green Bay): Shake a Drink! Aces free and sixes half-price - 3 to 7 p.m.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): All coffee drinks - \$2.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison): Grill open! 2-4-1 Happy Hour runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Free pool with drink purchase from 9 p.m. to close.

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): 2 Cocktail Hour! 3 to 8 p.m. Tickets good until 9 p.m. 2/4/1 all day, all night (open to close).

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Mini Pitchers \$2.50. Rail drinks \$1.50.

Switch (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. Internet "Meat & Greer" night with SuperBust from 8pm-1am for the guys. No cover with your Internet e-mail address.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Special Export \$5 pitchers and 90-cent mugs from 9 p.m. to close.

The Office (Rockford, IL): \$2.50 pitchers/50¢ drafts. Retro party with DJ Cris.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! South Park Wednesdays. \$5 All-U-Can-Drink Superbust (beerme & soda).

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

Woody's (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour, 4-9 p.m. Intra-Bar Dart League. Za's (Green Bay): \$6 Super Bust. Sean spins requests.

Thursdays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison): All whiskey drinks, \$.50 off, pitchers of Lite sm., \$4, Lg., \$5, shots of DR's, \$2.

Boom (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 all night.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Pitchers of Lite \$5. Frozen cocktails, \$3. Pitchers of Long Islands are \$10.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Open at 5 p.m. Cocktails are 1/2 price from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dish (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Groove with Amy! Amy entertains!

Emeralds (Milwaukee): Tea Thursday! Ice Tea \$2.50.

Fannies (Milwaukee): \$1 off almost everything including top shelf.

Fluid (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 drinks from 5 to 8 p.m. Cosmopolitan Martinis \$3 from 8 p.m. to close.

Jo'Dees International (Racine): \$6 SUPER BUST! MGD and Miller Lite. Cherry LifeSaver's and Viagra Shots - \$2.50.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Slammers! \$1 - 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

M&M Club (Milwaukee): Happy Hour from 5 p.m. to close!

Napolese Lounge (Green Bay): Pull tabs! drinks as low as 25¢ 3 to 7 p.m.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1 bottle beer. 50¢ drafts.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison): Grill open! 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): Free Pool & Darts. 2-4-1 top beer 9 p.m. to close.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Bottle and Can beers, 50¢ off. \$1 shots of cold Schnapps.

Switch (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. Karaoke Night! 8 p.m. to close.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Cocktail hour rail drinks or Pull tabs... try your luck from 9pm to close!

The Office (Rockford, IL): Beer \$1 Well drinks \$1.50.

The Trading Company (Eau Claire): Super Bust! 9 p.m. to close. \$8 rail, \$10 call mixers, \$12 top-shelf mixers.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! \$6 All-You-Can Drink Rail Bust!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Double Bubble all day, all night.

Za's (Green Bay): \$6 Super Bust. DJ Mark spins.

Fridays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks \$3.50 and under. \$1 off all other drinks. From 4 to 8 p.m. plus the Happy Hour wheel.

Boom (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 from 5-8 p.m. Live DJ.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks up to \$3.25 from 4 to 8 p.m. Patio open in June.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Open at 5 p.m. Cocktails are 1/2 price from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1 5 to 7 p.m. Join DJ Amber for dancin' & romancin'.

Emeralds (Milwaukee): Friday Night Dance Party with DJ Bangs. No cover before 9 p.m.

Fannies (Milwaukee): Envelope Night! WIN SSScash & prizes. DJ at 10 p.m. with the best of the 70s, 80s & 90s.

Fluid (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 drinks from 5 to 8 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine): Bring on the Bears and Bikers! \$1.25 Top MGD & Miller Lite, \$1.75 Pints of Leinen's Red, \$2.50 Pints of Hocke-Pschorr Weisse. \$2.50 Vanilla & Original Doctor's, Cherry Cheesecake, Cherry LifeSaver's and Viagra shots.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Pull tabs! 5 to 7 p.m.

M&M Club (Milwaukee): All you can eat Fish Fry and other great specials.

South Water Street Docks (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour! 3 to 8 p.m. Tickets good until 9 p.m.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Margarita Madness \$2. Corona \$2.

Switch (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. DJ and dancing after 8 p.m.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): \$2.50 bloody's screw and greyhound & 90-cent tops... 11am to 6pm.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Best Dance Party! DJ Cris.

The Trading Company (Eau Claire): All chilled shots \$1.50 - 9 to 11 p.m.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour 4 to 9 p.m.

Saturdays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison): Levi/Leather/Uniform Night! 50¢ off all drinks if dressed in L/L/U. Bartenders discretion.

Boom (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 from 5-8 p.m. Live DJ.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Join DJ Amber for dancin' & romancin'.

Fannies (Milwaukee): Hot Music to dance to. Two new DJs playing top 40, booty, house, funk, oldies etc.

Jo'Dees International (Racine): Vanilla & Original Doctor's, Cherry Cheesecake, Cherry LifeSaver's and Viagra shots - \$2.50. \$1.25 Tap MGD & Miller Lite, \$1.75 Pints of Leinen's Red, \$2.50 Pints of Hocke-Pschorr Weisse.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Short beers 2 for \$1.50.

Man's Country (Chicago): Male Strippers and Porn Stars. Show at Midnight. Free Continental Breakfast Sunday Morning.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1.50 shot specials. DJ/Dancing.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison): Live DJ 9 p.m. to close. Men's Room (Levi/Leather) 7 p.m. to close: 50¢ off all drinks with card. Progressive Happy Hour from 7 to 10 p.m.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): All chilled shots only \$1.50 - 9 to 11 p.m. DJ & dancing starting at 11 p.m.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Dirty Cocktails Specials (ask bartender). Hot Sex \$1. Slammers \$1.

Switch (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. Karaoke Night! 8 p.m. to close.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Cocktail hour rail drinks or Pull tabs... try your luck from 9pm to close!

The Office (Rockford, IL): Beer \$1 Well drinks \$1.50.

The Trading Company (Eau Claire): Super Bust! 9 p.m. to close. \$8 rail, \$10 call mixers, \$12 top-shelf mixers.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! \$6 All-You-Can Drink Rail Bust!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Double Bubble all day, all night.

Za's (Green Bay): \$6 Super Bust. DJ Mark spins.

BAR EVENTS:

Thursday, April 6

HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be at La Cage, 801 S. Second St., from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. FMI: (414) 272-2144.

Friday, April 7

Shamrock Bar (Madison): Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Group Happy Hour. The group meets at the Bar at 6 p.m. for cocktails every Friday night. Decides where to dine at 7 p.m. 117 W. Main St. FMI: (608) 274-5959.

Saturday, April 8

Boot Camp (Milwaukee): Oberons Club Night, 10 p.m., 209 E. National Ave. FMI: (414) 643-6900.

Orbit (Milwaukee): Boyz in Space, featuring progressive house, trance and gay anthems with DJ John Murges, S. 2nd and National Ave.

Wednesday, April 12

HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be at Boot Camp, 209 E. National Ave., from 10 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.. FMI: (414) 272-2144.

Friday, April 14

Shamrock Bar (Madison): Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Group Happy Hour. The group meets at the Bar at 6 p.m. for cocktails every Friday night. Decides where to dine at 7 p.m. 117 W. Main St. FMI: (608) 274-5959.

Saturday, April 15

Orbit (Milwaukee): Boyz in Space, featuring progressive house, trance and gay anthems with DJ John Murges, S. 2nd and National Ave.

Sunday, April 16

Hi Hat Lounge (Milwaukee): Synergy, 9 p.m. at N. Arlington and E. Brady Sts. FMI: (414) 220-9919.

Tuesday, April 18

Hi Hat Lounge (Milwaukee): Jerry Grillo, 9 p.m. at N. Arlington and E. Brady Sts. FMI: (414) 220-9919.

Wednesday, April 19

Hi Hat Lounge (Milwaukee): Def Harmonic, 9 p.m. at N. Arlington and E. Brady Sts. FMI: (414) 220-9919.

BOOK READINGS, CLASSES AND CLUBS:

Wednesday, April 5

Dyke Poets Meet (Madison): First Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Thursday, April 6

Gay Men's Writing Group (Milwaukee): Meets 1st Thursday and 3rd Monday of the month at LGBT Community Center, 170 S. Second St. For writers, poets, essayists and others where members write, share, and critique together. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Nathan Englander (Milwaukee): Author of "For the Relief of Unbearable Urges" speaks at 7 p.m. at the Schwartz Bookshop, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. FMI: (414) 963-3111.

Friday, April 7

Poetry Reading (Madison): Featuring Peggy Hong, Andrea Musher, Kathy Whitcomb and Rhonda Lee, 6:30 p.m. at A Room of One's Own, 307 N. Johnson. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Sunday, April 9

Computer Workshop (Milwaukee): "Beginning Digital printshop: Digital Design for Writers and Artists" with Maureen Kane, April 9 and 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$150. At Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St. To register, call (414) 263-5001.

Monday, April 10

AfterWords Book Club (Milwaukee): A discussion of Patricia Highsmith's "The Talented Mr. Ripley," 7:30 p.m. at AfterWords, 2710 N. Murray Ave. FMI: (414) 963-9089.

Tuesday, April 11

Bob Costas Appearance (Milwaukee): Sportscaster and author of "Play Ball," 7 p.m. at Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Public Library, 733 N. 8th St. Free.

Friday, April 14

Poetry Reading (Madison): Featuring Pam Gemin, Paula Sergi, Alison Townsend, Susie Godwin, 6:30 p.m. at A Room of One's Own, 307 N. Johnson. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Monday, April 17

Anne Perry Reading (Brookfield): Author of "Half Moon Street" and other mysteries and thrillers, 7 p.m. at the Schwartz Bookshop, 17145 W. Bluemound Rd. FMI: (262) 797-6140.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

(Please read carefully. Some meetings occur the same day weekly, others the same day bi-weekly or monthly.)

THURSDAYS:

Diversity G/L Resource Center (Rockford, IL): Located at 610 E State St. Open from 4 to 9 p.m. Teen Drop-in Hours. FMI call (815) 964-2639.

Gay AA - Open Meetings (Appleton & Green Bay): There are five open AA Meetings for the gay and lesbian community each week in Appleton and Green Bay. FMI & Locations call (920) 336-2868 or (920) 954-9169.

Gay AA/Gay Al-Anon - 12-Step Meetings (Kenosha): These recovery groups meet every Thursday at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5810 8th Ave., at 7:30 p.m. FMI call Bill or Art at (414) 694-0115.

Gay/Lesbian AA Closed Meeting (Madison): Meets weekly at 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave. FMI call (608) 222-8989.

South Madison Health & Family Ctr. (Madison): Free, anonymous walk-in HIV testing from 5 to 7:45 p.m. Located at 2202 South Park St. FMI call (608) 261-9270.

HIV/AIDS Support Group & Hotline (Upper Peninsula, MI): These projects serve Dickinson, Iron, & Menominee Counties. For information on the support group in Iron Mountain, Michigan on the first Thursday of

each month, call the HIV/AIDS Hotline at (906) 779-2904.

HIV Self-Help Group - Monthly meeting (Baraboo): This group sponsored by persons living with HIV, Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital & the AIDS Network meets every 3rd Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. in Baraboo. Refreshments are served, transportation assistance is available. FMI: (608) 643-7241 or (608) 643-7583.

LGBT Community Center - Lesbian Singles Discussion Group (Milwaukee): Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Ongoing discussion about unique challenges and rewards of being single, open to all lesbians. The group picks a different topic each month. FMI call Pat, (414) 329-8404.

LGBT Community Center - "Maybe Baby" Support Group (Milwaukee): This group meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The group grew out of the "Maybe Baby" Rainbow U lecture. The group is for people who are considering adoption or conceiving their own children. FMI contact Andrew Warner at (414) 964-9505.



Rough boyz? Photo by Jamie @ Triangle



Tight smile! Photo by Jamie @ Woody's

are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. at 3607 Libal St. in Allouez, and 5 p.m. at 815 N. Richmond St. in Appleton. FMI: (920) 991-0128.

LGBT Catholics (Milwaukee): Monthly discussion group for LGBT Catholics meets from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at Holy Trinity/Guadalupe School, 613 S. 4th St. FMI: (414) 481-8543.

Gay Men's Discussion Group - Monthly Meeting (Milwaukee): The group meets at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., every second Sunday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. Topics range from relationships and dating to HIV/AIDS to spirituality and mental health. FMI: Bill Hanel at (414) 271-2565.

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church - Worship Service (Madison): Services at 9 and 11 a.m. at 2146 E. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 242-8887.

LGBT Community Center - Meditation Circle (Milwaukee): The Circle will begin with centering and grounding exercises followed by guided meditation, 10 a.m. to Noon on the 1st Sunday of the month at the Center, 170 S. 2nd Street. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Community Center - Conversations With God (Milwaukee): The group meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Center, 170 S. 2nd Street. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Community Center - Drumming Circle (Milwaukee): Meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the 4th Sunday of the month at the Center, 170 S. 2nd Street. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Rainbow Friends - Quaker Worship Group (Madison): Meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Diversity is encouraged, feelings honored, and boundaries respected. FMI & location, call (608) 250-7989.

Seeking Sobriety - Non-Religious Recovery Group (Milwaukee): This recovery group meets at 6 p.m. every Sunday at BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St. (use side door). FMI: Danny at (414) 540-0961 or Richard at (414) 442-1132.

Silver Space - Older Lesbian Discussion Group (Milwaukee): Meets on the third Sunday of the month at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. \$3 donation. FMI: (414) 271-2565.

University Congregational Church - Worship Service (Madison): Weekly services are at 10 a.m. at 1127 University Ave. FMI (608) 256-2353.

MONDAYS:

BGLASS - Weekly Meeting (Appleton): The Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Society meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 109 of Coleman Hall of Lawrence University Memorial Union, 615 E. College Ave. FMI: Irene (920) 722-7572 or Bernie (920) 982-0220.

Gay AA/Gay Al-Anon - 12-Step Meetings (Racine): These recovery groups meet every Monday at 625 College Ave. at 8 p.m. FMI: Art at (414) 694-0115.

Gay/Bi Men's AA - Closed Meeting (Madison): Meets at 8 p.m. at the University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Ave. FMI: (608) 222-8989.

LGBT Youth Pride Support Group - New Meeting (Green Bay): This group will be available to youth every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Counseling Center, 311 Jefferson St. FMI: (920) 437-4325.

True Colors LGBT Youth Activity Nights (Milwaukee): 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at ARCW, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., 1st Floor Conference room. FMI: (414) 225-1573.

WISH - Generic AA 12-Step Meeting (Madison): Meets weekly at 6 p.m. at the Atwood Community Ctr., 2425 Atwood Ave. FMI: (608) 249-5096.

UWM Rainbow Group (Milwaukee): University LGBT group meets at 7:30 p.m. in Student Union Room E307. FMI: (414) 229-6555.

TUESDAYS:

HIV/AIDS Support Group - Fox Cities (Menasha): Free, confidential and open to any person living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Assn. of Fox Valley, Midway Rd., 1488 Kenwood Drive. FMI: (920) 739-4226 or (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Community Center - Lesbian 12-Step Al-Anon Group (Milwaukee): Meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism with a relative or friend. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Community Center - Project Q Youth Drop In Night (Milwaukee): The group meets Tuesdays from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m. Drop In nights provide a variety of youth activities in a space that is welcoming, safe and accessible to LGBTQ (questioning) youth. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Madison Community Health Ctr. - HIV Testing (Madison): Free, anonymous, walk-in HIV testing from 3 to 5:45 p.m. at 1133 Williamson St.



Rough boyz? Photo by Jamie @ Triangle

FMI: (608) 255-0704.

Northland Gay Men's Center - Open Discussion Group (Duluth, MN): Meets weekly from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Center, 8 N. 2nd Ave. East, Temple Opera Block, Suite 309. Topics include coming out issues, support & resources. No age limits. FMI: (218) 722-8585.

PFLAG - Milwaukee - Open Office (Milwaukee): A representative of Milwaukee's PFLAG Chapter will be available to speak to parents, youth or anyone who wants to stop and say hello each Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Sober Seniors - AA Meeting (Milwaukee): This meeting is focused on the unique recovery needs of elders, and meets every Tuesday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 3200 W. Highland Blvd. FMI: ElderLink (414) 289-6874.

UHS Counseling & Consultation Services - Sex Out Loud (Madison): This discussion group for Gay/Bi students meets in the Memorial Union at 12 Noon every Tuesday. FMI: (608) 265-4901.

Womansong - Rehearsal (Madison): This women's chorale meets at the Beth Israel Center at 7 p.m. FMI: (608) 222-2987.

Yoga Spirit - Free Classes (Milwaukee): Every Tuesday there are free classes for all people living with HIV. Among other things you can reduce stress and ease neuropathy & joint pain. Classes are held at 301 N. Water St., Suite 410 at 3:30 p.m. FMI: (414) 289-9660.

WEDNESDAYS:

Diversity G/L Resource Ctr - Coming Out Support Group (Rockford, IL): Meets every Wednesday at 610 E. State St. from 7 to 8 p.m. FMI: (815) 964-2639.

Gay/Bi Men's Al Anon Group (Madison): Meets at the University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Ave., every Wednesday at 6 p.m. FMI: (608) 256-4107 or (608) 846-2860.

HIV/AIDS Support Group - (Green Bay): Free, confidential and open to any person living with or affected by HIV/AIDS on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Meetings take place at Renaissance Healing Arts Ctr., 311 S. Jefferson from 7:30 to 9 p.m. FMI: (920) 437-4325 or Sylvia at 1-800-675-9400.

LGBT Campus Center - Les/Bi Curious Women's Group (Madison): This weekly group, open specifically to lesbian, bisexual and curious women who are UWM students, meets every Wednesday night, 8 p.m. at the LGBT Campus Center on the second floor of the UWM Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.

Madison Vet Center - GLB Veterans Meeting (Madison): The group meets every Wednesday at 147 S. Butler at 5 p.m. FMI: (608) 262-7084 or (608) 264-5342.

Queer Chicks - Social Group (Madison): Meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at 219 N. Hamilton St. FMI: (608) 265-3344.

FILM, TV AND RADIO:

Sun., April 9 & Every Sun.

Women's Music Radio (Milwaukee): WMSE-91.7FM. 10:30 p.m. to Midnight. Variety of women's music genres, announcements of events in Milwaukee women's community.

Cable Channel 4, Public Access TV, WYOU - Weekly TV (Madison): "Nothing to Hide" runs LGBT programming every week from 2-3 p.m. Re-runs the next day at 8 a.m.

"Hotel Milwaukee" - Live Tapings (Milwaukee): Weekly taping of the radio program "Hotel Milwaukee" at 5 p.m. at Hotel Metro in downtown Milwaukee. It is rebroadcast over WHAD 90.7 at 7 p.m. Fridays and 4 p.m. Saturdays. FMI: (414) 352-3331 or (414) 276-7889.

Womyn's Radio (Madison): WORT Radio 89.9 FM - A weekly show titled "Her Turn," Womyn's news and information by and about women, airs from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Followed by "Her Infinite Variety," Women in Music from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All genres and styles. Interviews, live guests and announcements for the women's community. FMI: (608) 256-2001 or <http://www.netphonia.com/wort>.

"Better Living Through Show Tunes" (Madison): WORT Radio 89.9 FM - Hosts Bruce Wheeler and Earl Bricker, 2-3 p.m. (608) 256-2001.

Monday, April 10

Frontiers Film Circle (Madison): "The Clay Farmers" and "My First Suit," 7:30 p.m. FMI: (608) 244-3351.

Tues., April 11 & Every Tues.

"The Queer Program" (Milwaukee): Live weekly telecast on MATA Public access cable channel 47 (96 in some areas) at 7 p.m. Hosts: Michael Lisowski and Charles Daniels. Re-broadcast Saturday at 12:30 a.m. and



Tight smile! Photo by Jamie @ Woody's

are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. at 3607 Libal St. in Allouez, and 5 p.m. at 815 N. Richmond St. in Appleton. FMI: (920) 991-0128.

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Northland Gay Men's Center - Open Discussion Group (Duluth, MN): Meets weekly from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Center, 8 N. 2nd Ave. East, Temple Opera Block, Suite 309. Topics include coming out issues, support & resources. No age limits. FMI: (218) 722-8585.

PFLAG - Milwaukee - Open Office (Milwaukee): A representative of Milwaukee's PFLAG Chapter will be available to speak to parents, youth or anyone who wants to stop and say hello each Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Sober Seniors - AA Meeting (Milwaukee): This meeting is focused on the unique recovery needs of elders, and meets every Tuesday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 3200 W. Highland Blvd. FMI: ElderLink (414) 289-6874.

UHS Counseling & Consultation Services - Sex Out Loud (Madison): This discussion group for Gay/Bi students meets in the Memorial Union at 12 Noon every Tuesday. FMI: (608) 265-4901.

Womans

New Music from Joni, Keely and 'N Sync

By Wayne Brasler

Many ghosts haunt Joni Mitchell's stunning new collection of pop standards, "Both Sides Now," on Reprise, the label Frank Sinatra started. Sinatra himself hovers over the entire project, from the selection of songs to the manner in which they are presented. The London Symphony Orchestra (71 musicians), conducted by Vince Mendoza, magnificently plays arrangements which echo the work of Sinatra's two major orchestrating companions, Nelson Riddle and Gordon Jenkins.

The opening song, "You're My Thrill," comes close to the arrangement Jenkins did of that tune for Billie Holiday on Decca, and "Stormy Weather" actually uses the Jenkins arrangement for Sinatra with some minor changes.

Holiday is another ghost close at hand. Mitchell's performance of "You're My Thrill" takes its tips from the Holiday version, as did a now forgotten recording by Doris Day which was a hit in its time. And throughout the album, echoes of Holiday are heard in both the timbre of Mitchell's voice and in her phrasing.

A third ghost close at hand is a lady still with us, Julie London. Singing here in an alto, rather than her more familiar folky soprano, Mitchell is often reminiscent of latter-day London, when her once-wispy voice had gained body and a bottom.

It also should be said that Mitchell performs with great originality and creativity in singing songs from another time and place, bringing to them a sense of German cabaret, of world-wiseness but not weariness, and of total musicality. In that sense, there's a bit of Marlene Dietrich here too, without the cynicism.

The songs are all top drawer, including "At Last," "You've Changed," "Answer Me My Love," "Don't Go To Strangers" and "Don't Worry 'Bout Me." Why Mitchell

chose to include two of her own songs, much less to irrelevantly title the album after one that has nothing to do with the main body of material, is a mystery.

Just as mysterious are the album notes by producer Larry Klein (Mitchell's ex) who writes: "Joni came up with the idea of having the record trace the arc of a modern romantic relationship. I thought that this idea was innovative, exciting and especially appropriate." Innovative? Hellloooo. There are dozens of albums which have used this concept in various forms, most interestingly, Barbra Streisand's "Till I Loved You."

Well, maybe it goes to show that in the music biz history goes only as far back as yesterday.

Coming back from yesterday with a corker of an album is Keely Smith with "Swing, Swing, Swing" on Concord. It's been many a moon since the great Smith recorded — her last effort being a long-ago jazz project for Fantasy — and it's a surprise to have her back again.

This time she revives the swing and Las Vegas lounge genre she performed with her one-time husband, Louis Prima. The crackling 17-piece Frankie Capp band propels orchestrations reminiscent of Billy May's work for Smith's matchless albums on Capitol. From the start, with a clever medley of "When You're Smiling" and "The Sheik of Araby," to the conclusion, with "Sing, Sing, Sing," this album positively bonfires.

It's amazing to hear Smith sounding almost exactly as she did 40 years ago. She's always sounded fabulously serene no matter how nutso the band has gone. She had the best intonation in the business, excelled at understatement and was supernaturally secure about being on key and in tune. All those qualities are still in place, as is her sense of open-eyed wonder at life. Vocally, Smith has somehow stayed young.

Smith includes a lot of Prima's signature tunes, including "Robin Hood," but this is music for today. This album also represents an incredible comeback. It leaped right into Billboard's Top 20 Jazz albums and has a good chance to get pop sales too.

Speaking of pop sales, 'N Sync went right to number one on Billboard's Top Albums chart with the March 21 release of the much-anticipated "No Strings Attached."



'N Sync

It's always sad to think these hot teen bands have a short shelf life; one minute they'll have a number one album and the next they can't find anyone interested for love or money. I always think of Debbie Gibson scoring a number one album with "Electric Youth" and unable to get any sales with the follow-up, "Anything is Possible." To her distress, she discovered that once a teen artist starts growing up the fans do too, and move on, no matter how worthwhile the music offered by the artist may be.

Two years from now no one will remember this album existed, but meanwhile 'N Sync does a beautiful job with the ballads, including the new single "This I Promise You" and the a capella closing number, "I Thought She Knew." It's on the group's new label, Jive. Enjoy it, because before you know it it'll be a case of "Bye, Bye, Bye" for 'N Sync.

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By Billy Masters

Oscar 2000 may be old news for some people, but you haven't heard my report. So hold onto your seats for the real dish! Having gone to quite a number of Academy Award presentations, I have learned a few things along the way. I'm not the only one who has learned from the past — E! made enormous strides forward in this year's pre-show coverage. How else can you explain the brilliant idea of moving **Melissa Rivers** to a perch high above the festivities? With Missy banished to the bell tower of the Shrine Auditorium (with the rest of the gargoyles), Joan was free to schmooze with the stars who dared get close enough. You've gotta hand it to **Auntie Joan** — like her or not, she always looks elegant and confident. And beyond that, this year, she was at the top of her game. I was standing near her during most of the pre-show, and there were no major noticeable flubs. In fact, she actually did extensive research prior to the show, and she astonished many nominees with her attention to small details.

No amount of research, however, could prepare La Rivers for the surprise appearance of a deranged-looking **Karen Black**. Miss Airport '75 seized Joan in a death grip about two and a half hours prior to the commencement of the Oscars. People keep asking me how the hell Karen Black got invited to the awards at all. Here's the scoop on tickets — seats are first given to all nominees, presenters, and invited guests. After that, all other members of the Academy put their names into a lottery for the remaining seats. I guess that Karen just got lucky this year. You have to give Joanie credit for asking Karen, "Are you here as a presenter?" with a straight face! Poor



Red carpet stalker, Joan Rivers

Karen was befuddled when Joan followed up by asking who designed her gown ('cause, you know, that's such a shocking question from the Queen of the Golden Hanger). Karen did get out that it was a **Nolan Miller**, which places this dress somewhere in the early '80s (carbon dating on the dress is being conducted as we speak).

Even ABC revamped the pre-show. Although the coverage was better than last year's fiasco with **Geena Davis**, the role of host has yet to be perfectly cast. **Meredith Vieira** may have been calm, cool, and collected, but she seemed to be somewhat out of her element. Don't get me wrong — I adore Meredith and think that she is probably the most valuable asset "The View" has. But at the Oscars, she was missing the key elements of glamour and star power. She looked like a housewife who won a ticket to the Oscars and was thrilled to be there. Nothing wrong with that (and it

works wonderfully on daytime), but Meredith looked out of place interviewing celebrities on the red carpet. And her co-host, poor **Tyra Banks**, appeared to be doing a completely different show. Banks, in a prom dress gone bad, seemed to think that she was covering the Oscars for MTV.

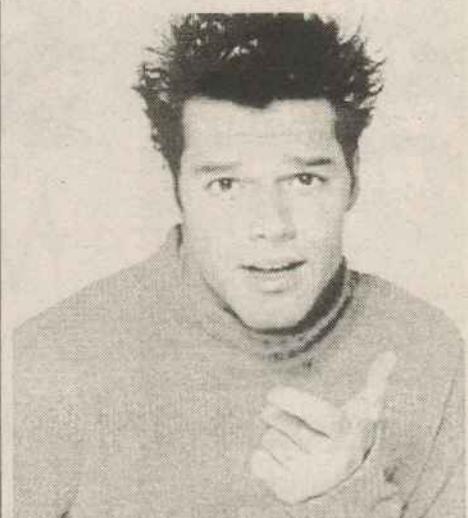
I was excited that the Zanucks were producing the show, and they assured me that it would be memorable. Oh, it was certainly a night I'll never forget. I was seated directly behind **Erykah Badu** — I didn't see a goddamn thing! Could someone please buy that woman a blow dryer so she doesn't have to show up everywhere with her hair up in a towel? As if that wasn't bad enough, on my way to the bathroom halfway through the show, I tripped over **King Gimp**, who was still writhing on the auditorium floor. That was a sign of worse to come. I certainly made a faux pas when I hit on **Hilary Swank** in the lobby — I was sure that she was **Matt Damon** with his natural hair color. When I did finally make it to the relative security of the men's room, I spied the South Park boys at the next urinal. I was certain that they were **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Uma Thurman**! It was a very confusing night!

I got back into the auditorium just in time to see that **Dionne Warwick** had completed her transformation into a black Chinese woman. I also noticed that **Whitney Houston** was conspicuously absent. That sent me into the wings to get the real story from **Dick Zanuck**. Seems that Whitney made it to the rehearsal on Thursday night. She stayed a few minutes, complained of a sore throat, and promised to be there the following night, ready to work. She did show up on time for Friday's rehearsal, but was clearly out of sorts. She seemed spacey, never took off her sunglasses, and twice screwed up the song she was singing (one of the times, she started singing the wrong song). **Burt Bacharach** (known for having the patience of a saint) took her aside to coach her to no avail. He finally got so annoyed that he just asked her to leave, saying, "It's not going to work out." **Lili Zanuck** called her pal **Faith Hill** to fill in, and the rest is history. Producer **Don Was** told **Army Archerd** that he had "feelings of sadness for Houston and what is happening to her." Surprise, surprise.

Here's something that annoyed me — poor **Debbie Allen**'s dance numbers were cut to save time, and yet the show ran longer than ever. I love **Billy Crystal**, but between his opening film montage, his opening song medley, and his opening monologue, the first award wasn't given out for about a half hour! And speaking of film montages, did we need three montages about the history of film? It got so confusing, I had a hard time telling the difference between the tribute to child actors and the one titled "In Memoriam"!

One more thing about Debbie Allen — rumor has it that she recreated the original **Jerome Robbins** choreography from "West Side Story" for the terrific series of Gap commercials that aired during the show. I'm running right out to get Capri pants in every color available.

I've delayed talking about them, but there's no way I can report on this year's Oscars and not mention my two new best friends, **Angelina Jolie** and her brother, **Jamie**. By the way, **Marcheline Bertrand** (Jon Voight's ex) is the mother to both Angie and Jamie. Anyway, I'd met a sibling a few times in the past, but I got to really know these two on Oscar night (and I'll leave the details to your very vivid imaginations). I can't completely dismiss all of the rumors about these two, since when I



Ricky Martin

met up with Jamie after the awards, he had that "I can't wait to get my sister on all fours in the limo" look on his face. Now, I know that some queen out there is gonna say, "But I thought he was gay." Honey, what did you think he wanted to do with Angie's Oscar? Truthfully, the two of them are incredibly sweet people. A bit odd, but it's Hollywood, for God's sake. I can report that Jamie appeared to be wearing even more makeup than Angie — heavy base, and liner on his upper and lower lids! And his hair. Oy, that hair. First thing I said to him was, "Jamie, I had that color three years ago — when it was popular!" BTW, Jamie is about to make his first film — which Angie will star in. May I suggest "Flowers In The Attic — Part 2"?

Could it be that **Ricky Martin** is more ready to come out than anyone thought? So say people close to the bon-bon shaker. I'm told that Ricky was fully prepared for **Barbara Walters**' question about his sexuality. Although he got cold feet at the last minute and dodged the question adroitly, I'm told that had Walters pushed even a little bit more, Ricky would have spilled his guts. The singer's handlers (and there are LOTS of 'em) are thrilled that they don't have to deal with the issue right now, but Mr. Loca feels that he's only delaying the inevitable and would like to come out on his own terms. Stay tuned for further details.

Could it be that a certain Oscar nominee spent the night before his big win at a party thrown for him by the openly gay brother of **Madonna**, **Christopher Ciccone**? Not exactly. You see, the honoree got to the party after the fire marshall had closed it down! What to do? I'm told that Chris showed our winner a good time elsewhere (I can't wait to see the video of that night!) One thing the man of the hour knew was that Chris would take care of him (now, get your minds out of the gutter). Just don't tell his mother (or his date/beam/whatever).

When I'm writing blind items about obvious people, hitting on the Swank and flirting with the Voight kids, it's time to end yet another column. If I may be honest, all in all, I was bored to death with this year's ceremony. In fact, I went up to Missy's perch once to help her ring the bells (it's amazing that she can get **Pamela Dennis** to make a dress that will fit over her hump). I would like to add that of all the celebrities I met that night, none was as breathtakingly gorgeous as the luminous **Catherine Deneuve**. Just had to sneak that in. Got any gossip of your own? Perhaps some makeup tips for me to pass along to Jamie? Then by all means, go to my web site of www.filth2go.com or drop an e-mail to me at Billy@filth2go.com and I'll get back to you before Erykah replaces **Marge Simpson**! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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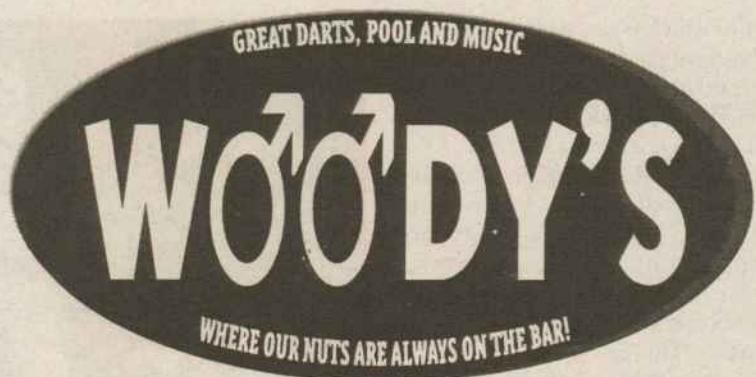
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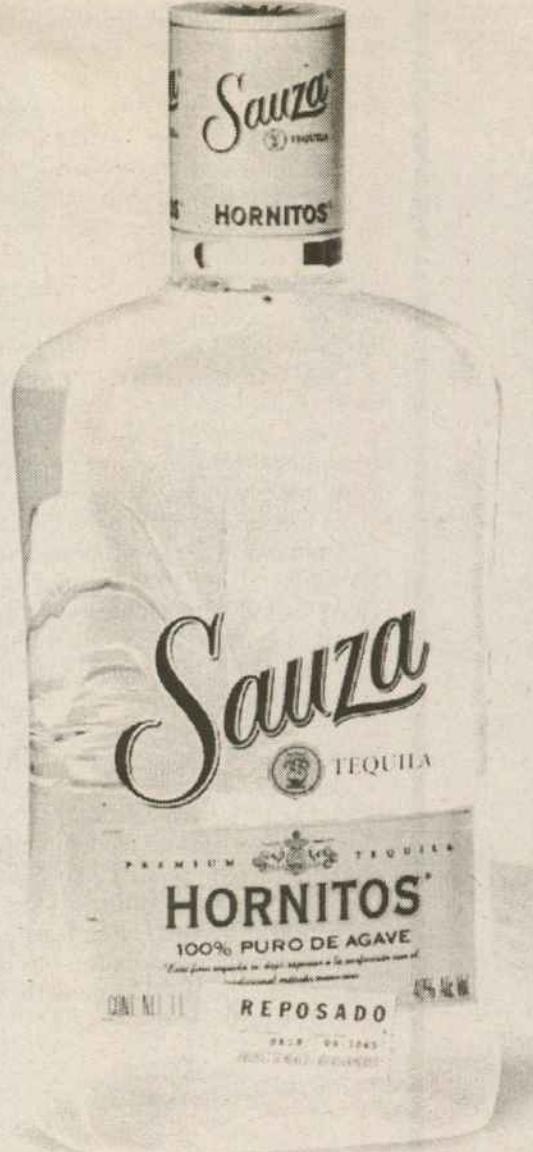


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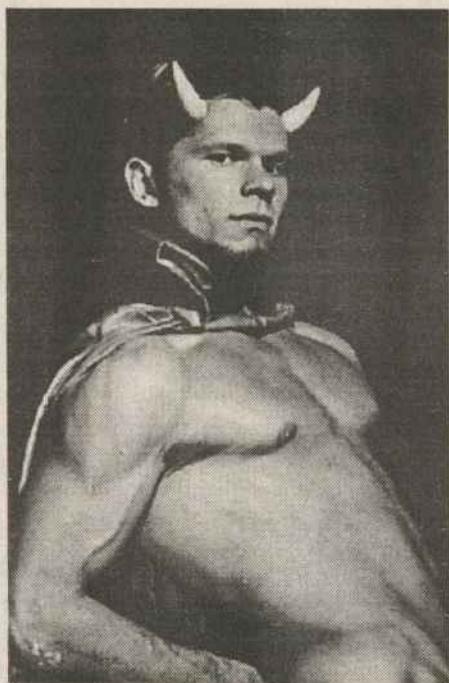
"Beefcake"

By Carl M. Szatmary

When thinking about the '50s, one can't help but imagine those glorious black & white pictorials featured in a variety of "physique" magazines, most notably Bob Mizer's "Physique Pictorial."

Initially offered to the American public as a catalogue of young men available as artists' models, "Physique Pictorial" featured page after page of strapping young men with All-American looks, invariably attired in the skimpiest of posing pouches. Occasionally posing alone, models were often seen frolicking together out in the great outdoors or even cast in elaborate costume fantasies, portraying cowboys or gladiators. Because of their youth and high spirits, they might find themselves doing a bit of wrestling when maybe, just maybe, the pouch of one particularly fetching youth might just slip off....

When one considers the myriad of gay erotica now available, literally something for every taste and peccadillo, these early images exude a sensual, strangely magical quality while possessing an extraordinary innocence.



Athletic Model Guild Models. Photo by Bob Mizer.

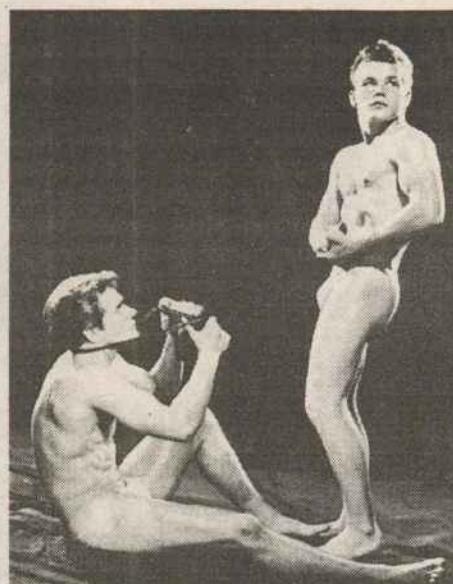
This is the world depicted in "Beefcake," the second feature by gay director Thom Fitzgerald, whose debut offering, "The Hanging Garden" caught the eye of many critics. Clearly fascinated by this era, Fitzgerald has crafted an extraordinary film, a beguiling blend of fiction and fact,

the heart of which is the stranger-than-fiction chronicle of photographer Bob Mizer.

Fitzgerald playfully introduces Mizer as a precocious youth, cleverly talking the pants off his boyhood friend for the first in what would be a long career of photographing the male nude. Later Mizer would come to befriend many wayward souls, youths from across the country who made their way to Los Angeles, offering room and board and the chance to join the Athletic Model Guild.

In "Beefcake," Mizer's residence, soon dubbed the AMG Studios, is a deliciously camp affair where handsome young men cavort around a pool while Mizer's kooky mother (Carroll Godsmar) clucks indulgently, happily sewing posing pouches for her son's many male friends.

Into this seemingly sun-drenched if sexless idyll, Fitzgerald offers up a secondary plot, something of a more traditional gay love story. Neil O'Hara (Josh Peace) is an innocent youth come all the way from Nova Scotia to seek fame and fortune in Hollywood. He is barely off the bus when Mizer bundles him off home for a swim and perhaps the odd photo or two. Even before he has slipped on his swim trunks, Neil meets his new roommate, a bit of rough trade named John, whose sex- and drug-filled lifestyle is at odds with Mizer's



Athletic Model Guild Models. Photo by Bob Mizer.

imagined paradise. It may not be love at first sight but these two boys work awfully hard ignoring each other!

Repeatedly, Mizer is shown insisting that his goal was to offer wholesome images of masculinity, role models of America. If so, then what about allegations of drug use, under-age sex and prostitution?

The rose-tinted glasses come off midway through the film as Fitzgerald begins to explore AMG's darkside. In our own cynical age, the bigger surprise would have been that Mizer and his like-minded photographer friends hadn't exploited the young men they photographed. Eventually one of Mizer's young men would turn him in to the police, with Mizer eventually charged with running a prostitution ring. His subsequent trial, drawn from transcripts, is both sordid and unsettling.

Fitzgerald eschews a more traditional narrative structure for a curious hybrid of documentary and fictional story-telling. Incorporated into "Beefcake" are some delightful AMG film clips plus interview segments with former models, including Jack LaLanne and Warhol sensation, Joe D'Allesandro as well as Mizer's fellow photographer, Russ Warner. These first-hand accounts are often insightful and occasionally hilarious (Could some of the models have been so completely clueless?) but too brief and often distract from Mizer's saga.

"Beefcake" is never less than fascinating while exhibiting enough bare male flesh to keep even the most jaded in the audience content. Still, for Fitzgerald, this unique era in gay history ultimately proves to be as elusive as the quixotic Mizer himself.

Smitten with a case of spring fever, the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival is presenting a special showing of "Beefcake." The one night only screening is on Friday, April 14 at 7 p.m. in the second floor Union Theatre of the UW-Milwaukee Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. General admission is \$6. Students, \$5.50.

Screening with "Beefcake" will be "Saint," Bavo Defurne's tenderly erotic take on the death of the martyr Saint Sebastian. Defurne inflects the Athletic Model Guild aesthetic with a touch of Jean Genet.

For more information on this double feature, call the UW-M Union Theatre at (414) 229-4070.

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cordially yours

By Michael Johnston

And now it's "Cordially Yours," There is nothing I enjoy more than early Spring! A new beginning, a true renaissance ... and now a collective sigh, we survived a long winter's nap and April Fool's Day!

Congratulations and thank you to **The Ball Game** on 28 years of sterling service to our community. I had a delightful time sharing their rich history at their traditional St. Patrick's Day/Anniversary Celebration. To greet me right off the start — and making me feel ever so welcomed was **Ricky**, one of Milwaukee's foremost bartenders and always sooo much fun!

An old-fashioned sing-a-long was going on around the piano and a delicious Irish buffet was available for all to partake. Rick, our genial host is always so happy, seeing his place come alive — with laughter and merriment. What a wonderful salute to a great man and a great place. Local celebutants sipping the green beer and sampling the corned beef were: My dear friend **Miss Vera Charles, Joey Appleman, Tommy Salzieder, Mona Alot, Dinah Thirst, Charlotte Lorraine** and **Ms. Rona** among many others. Remember, "Drag In The Bag" — Saturday, May 6!

On the topic of taking me out to the ball game, **Craig** informs me that **Switch** has a special "Brewers Opening Day Special." So for all you athletes, supporters and athletic supporters — or anyone out there looking for some fun, make the Switch... Monday, April 10.

I'm thrilled to announce my talented friends of **The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus** are once again doing their Spring/Anniversary concert, Saturday, April 8 at 7 p.m. Plymouth Church 2717 East Hampshire Avenue. Aptly titled, "A Time For Song." Congratulations and happy 13th birthday!

There's a new wonderful nostalgic movie festival going on here in old Brew Town. "Classic Movies in a Classic Museum" is being held at the phenomenal Charles Allis Art Museum. \$3 at the door, Fridays at 7:30 p.m. April, 7 stop by for a screening of "The Old Maid" (not my autobiography) starring **Bette Davis** and on April 28 "A Stolen Life," another B.D. flick. for more info, feel free to call: (414) 278-8295 It's like seeing a private screening at **Norma Desmond's**.

KM Art has **Francis Ford**'s Photo Study of the very stylish **Jack Eigel** continuing through April 22. I was one of the million at the opening! A totally wild, urban bacchanalia, of the like I've never seen in Milwaukee!

The incomparable **Claire Morkin** as "The Incomparable Hildegard." Ms. Morkin is a magical performer, multi-faceted, most graceful in voice and piano, played the Broadway Center as part of the Skylight Opera Theater's Miller Cabaret Series. The program is free in the Skylight Bar and runs approximately 30 minutes. I've taken in a few of these offerings and have been duly impressed. P.S. You don't have to see a paid performance before hand, to be welcomed.

Fanning the flames — Heating Up The Night, Make A Promise Dinner — 2000. A Red Hot Evening, Saturday, April 15 The MidWest Express Center Ole!!!!

This Is It will be the scene for **Jerry Grillo** on Sunday, April 30 from 9 p.m. to midnight ... a night of song!

I adored the recent production of "Sunset Boulevard." No, it wasn't as

"grand" as the production that played Chicago, a couple of years ago. But for me, it was something seeing **Petula Clark**. Ms. Clark's take on Norma was quite different from filmdom's interpretation by the silver screen diva **Gloria Swanson**, who in all practicality played herself. The Chicago tour I took in had their Norma playing it too cartoonish, for me.

Pet played her almost **Mary Pickford/Shirley Temple**-esque, quite different. I guess I've always been a sucker for an older woman/younger rogue... Norma Desmond, Blanche DuBois melodrama madams at their best!

Of course, I took in "Sunset" with The M&M Club. Their next offering will be **The Ballet Trockaderos** playing at the palatial Pabst Theater Wednesday, April 26.

Farewell my fellows of "Forever Plaid." While I'm waxing on about "the stage," I must bid a fond adieu to my friends of "Forever Plaid," they have left our handsome hamlet for Seattle, which is a sensational site to serenade.

Bialystock & Bloom's Production of "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Wolf" was in a word, remarkable! **Raeleen McMillion**, a talented actress that I had the honor of performing with, stole the almost three hour "party" in the role of Martha. Do yourselves a favor and keep an eye out for their next vehicle.

This roaming reporter will take to the road once more, I have the honor of representing **IN Step** in Washington, D.C. For the **Millennium March** that will take place on Sunday, April 30. I love D.C. and in an election year, to boot — hold me back!

The **Saturday Soft Ball League** (S.S.B.L.) will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary this Memorial Day Weekend. I've always been a fan of diamonds, bats, ball players ... A salute to our boys of Summer — rah, rah!!

PrideFest will have Milwaukee's own **Gay Marching Band**, once more being a part of the Parade festivities beginning Friday, June 9. If you are interested in more info on "the boys in the band," girls too, — check with **Rona** at the M's.

PFLAG - Milwaukee is rightfully proud to announce expansion of their worthwhile efforts, now in Waukesha and Kenosha.

I had the pleasure of dining recently at **Vinifera at Passeggio**. My long-time pal, Paul and the adventurous **Andy** were catching up on Paul's recent jaunt "Down Under." The brilliant little bistro hosted a wine tasting on March 21. Keep this spot in mind for a formidable feast, and they will be open on Sundays!

Welcome back **Boo-Boo**! Beware, he's baaack and better than ever! Proof positive, you can't keep a good man down... Bravo!

Until next time, take a moment to enjoy — and I shall remain, "Cordially Yours."

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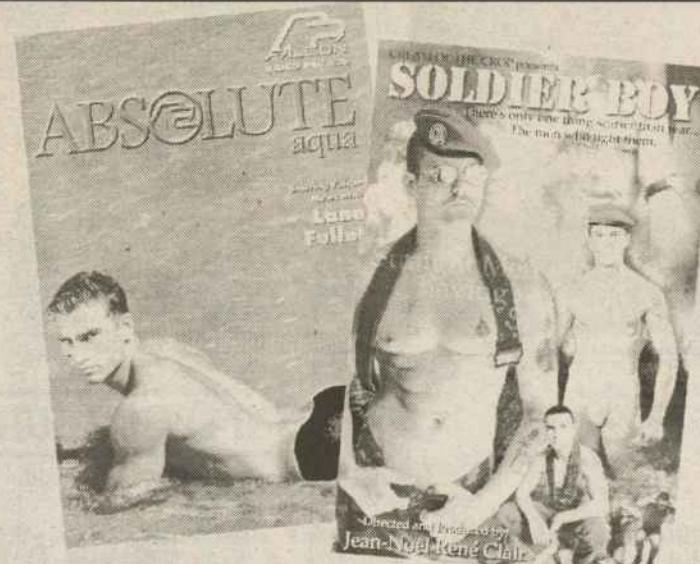
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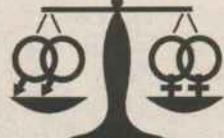
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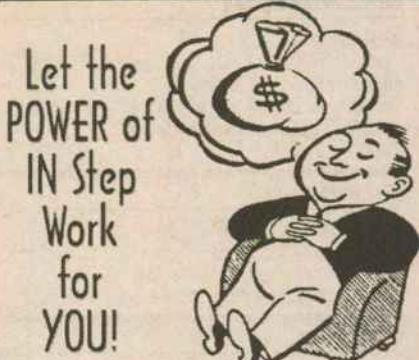
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Keepin' IN Step

the past few weeks. I'm happy to report that **Boo Boo** is back behind the bar at **M&M** after his heart attack in Chicago a few weeks ago. (I told you girl, you can't hang out with all of those hot naked boys at the **Lucky Horseshoe** without some strain on your heart. I'm glad your OK.)

Monday nights at the **Triangle** have turned out to be quite an event lately. It started as just movie night to spark more interest on a slow evening. Well, it worked! Most of the people that show up bring in some sort of yummy food all making a complete dinner. Last Monday we all came dressed on our pajamas. It was a blast. **Rob** kept the 2-4-1 going until 9 p.m. for those of us dressed up. We usually pick a funny gay movie to watch. Stop in and check it out.

Fluid celebrated their 2nd anniversary last week. Hats off to **Bill**, **Jim** and the staff for giving Milwaukee a great



martini bar. The only place to get the best variety of some great martinis.

The **Wisconsin Leather Men's Organization** hosted an after-hours party via the **Boot Camp**, raising over \$300 for the **G/L Community Center Trust Fund**. Kudos, boys! The other Boot Camp related new is that Si will be opening the patio as the weather permits.

I know that many people are looking forward to the Grand Opening of **Midtowne Spa** on April 15. From what I hear it is a great facility, just north on Water Street from **South Water Street Docks**.

I also hear that **Club 219** is planning another one of their infamous Private Parties. Get your invite early ... the **Spring Party** with plenty of strippers is slated for April 17 ... yum. And if you'd rather do the stripping, or just watching ... **Club Boom** is holding an **Underwear Party** on April 29. Guess I gotta get me a new pair of Calvins.

Switch has made a Switch of their Wednesday night special. **Craig** is throwing an Internet "Meat and Greet" night starting at 8 p.m. It's not enough that people are cruising the chat rooms, now they'll be cruising Switch. No pic? No chat. Don't forget to bring your Screen Name.

That's it for another issue. Hope you are taking advantage of this winter's strange but very warm weather. Until next issue, remember my motto ... slower traffic keep right.

An Era Past

by Jamie



As Josh can tell you, I am a documentary junkie. I'll watch just about anything that tells me a true story. It doesn't matter the content, as long as it was within the last 100 years and doesn't involve soldiers, Whitney Houston or Michael Bolton. The past few weeks, VH1 has been running a lot more of the series, **Behind the Music**. As I write this column, the story of **Vanilla Ice** is on. No, I never cared much for his music, never bought a CD of his and never dropped a quarter in the jukebox to hear any of his songs. To me, that doesn't matter. I still find his story interesting. Some punk kid that can dance makes his quick rise to glory and even faster fall. Earlier in the day I was folding laundry while the story of **Studio 54** was on. Wow! What a story of excess. Many of you reading this may not remember some of the over-the-top clubs that used to keep Milwaukee hoppin'.

Even I can't tell you the true story of Milwaukee's version of **Studio 54**, the old **Factory**. I have heard plenty of stories. Just talk to someone who has experienced the club and watch the sparkle in their eyes as they tell you stories. You can tell there was something different about that club. It was a non-stop, 7 day a week party. Sex, drugs and disco was the club's motto. Over the years I've heard many stories from that club. Most of them funny, some of them tragic, but all of them interesting. I could be kept entertained for hours listening to the people who frequented the **Factory**.

Those days are gone now. After the tragic events that led to the original club closing down, they tried re-opening at a different location under the name **Factory II**. It was a failure. I went to the club once and was not impressed. Neither was the rest of Milwaukee as it closed a short time after it opened. The building now houses a church, the denomination of which I don't know.

We now have dance clubs like **La Cage**, **Club 219**, **Za's**, **Club 5** and **Dish**. All of these clubs are a blast to hang out at but nothing will compare to the excess of the late '70s. I'm wondering what the future holds for these clubs. I'm wondering if people will talk about these clubs with the same beaming face like they do when talking about **Studio 54** and the old **Factory**. My guess is they probably will. Times are continuing to change and so will the club scene. Years from now you will hear people saying "remember the old days?" They will look back with a smile and a twinkle. Just keep in mind that everyday will someday be "the good old days."

Speaking of the good old days, we have been racking a few of them up over

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Bi Definition (Bisexual Community Events)	PO Box 07541, 53207	
Nikki		774-5055
Black Gay Consciousness Raising		933-2136
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4 Club Boom (Mw, D, V)	625 S. 2nd St., 53204	277-5040
5 Club 219 (MW, DJ, V)	219 S. 2nd St., 53204	271-3732
4 Dish (Wm, DJ)	235 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-DISH
Emeralds	801 E. Hadley, 53206	265-7325
6 1100 Club (Mw, L/L, DJ, F)	1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
2 Fannie's (Wm, D, F)	200 E. Washington St., 53204	649-9003
9 Fluid (Mw)	819 S. 2nd St., 53204	645-8330
22 Kathy's Nut Hut (WM, G/S, F, D)	1500 W. Scott 53201	647-2673
7 La Cage (Mw, DJ, V)	801 S. 2nd St., 53204	383-8330
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 Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance
 P.O. Box 390, Stevens Point, 54481
 (715) 592-6245, ext. 5920200
 Joseph T. Chojnicki, PH.D. (Psychologist)
 Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, 54449 387-5442
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 320 Washington, Wausau 54401 842-3225
 HIV/AIDS Spiritual Support & Education
 2108 4th Ave., Stevens Point 54481 345-6500
 Marshfield Gay Lesbian Orgon (MGLO)
 c/o 130 S. Central Ave., #3 Marshfield, 54449
 Vic: (715) 387-2068 Jim: (715) 384-6731
 Platwood Club (MW, D)
 701 Highway 10W, St. Pt., 54481 341-8862
 Prince Edward & B
 203 W. 5th, Shawano 54166 526-2805
 Wausau Narcotics Anonymous
 (ask for Gay meetings) 536-LIFE
 Women's Resource Center UWSP
 336 Nelson Hall, Stevens Pt. 54481 346-4851

NORTH CENT. (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
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 Gay/Lesbian Support Group
 Box 247A, 1411 Elm Ave., Ashland 54806
 Northern WI Lambda Society
 PO Box 802, Rhinelander 54501 362-1242
 SHEM (Support, Heal, Educate) for Parents, Family, Friends of Gays/Lesbians/Bis
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 Wesley United Methodist Church (Reconciling Congregation)
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 1507 Tower Ave., Suite 230, Superior 54880 394-4009
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 Greater Chippewa Valley
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 Rainbow Club (social/support for LGBT youth)
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 Scooter's (MW)
 411 Galloway St., Eau Claire, 54703 835-9959
 Trio (Wm)
 820 Tower, Superior, 54880 392-5373
 Twin Ports Pride
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 UW Stout 10% Society
 c/o 153 E. Harvey Hall, UW-Madison
 Monona, 54751 UW Eau Claire
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S. WEST & CENTRAL

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 La Crosse, WI 54601 (800) 947-3353
 The Alliance (LesBiGay Social Group)
 PO Box 131, Platteville 53818 348-5596
 e-mail: ALLIANCE@uvplatt.edu
 Cavalier Lounge (MW, DJ)
 114 N. 5th St., La Crosse 54601 782-9061
 Chela and Rose's B&B and Forest Retreat 735-4829
 GALAXY (Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth)
 P.O. Box 602, Onalaska, 54650-0602 791-1963
 Gay & Lesbian Alliance
 Box 131, Platteville, 53818
 LaCrosse L/G Support Group
 c/o Campus Ministry Center 784-7600
 Leaping La Crosse News
 Box 932, La Crosse 54602
 LaCrosse Parents & Friends of Gays 782-6082
 Rainbow's End (G/S, WM), 417 Jay St., La Crosse 54601
 Rainbow Revolution (Alternative Books)
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OUT OF STATE

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 Gay & Lesbian Americans
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 Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) (202) 628-4160
 National G&L Task Force (NGLTF) (202) 332-6483
 Crossroads (LesBiGay Real Estate National Referral) (800) 442-9735
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ILLINOIS

ARE YOU SPECIAL? GHM, 29, 5'8", dark mustache, attractive, outgoing seeking a special someone for a new friendship and a possible long-term relationship. (West Suburbs) **18355**

AU NATURAL Jim is 6'2", 195 lbs., blonde/blue, enjoys the outdoors, movies, theater, nudity. Seeking Male for companionship. (Chicago) **19222**

CONNECT WITH ME African-American Male, 39, 5'11", 175 lbs., medium complexion, down-to-earth, honest, enjoys cooking, having fun, dancing, movies, having out. Seeking Male with similar interests, for possible relationship. (Chicago) **19019**

NEW FRIEND SOUGHT BM, 5'7", 145 lbs, cute, brown complexion, seeking counterpart for friendship and possibly more. Please give me a call. (Chicago) **18333**

READY AND WILLING BiWM 32, very inexperienced, willing to learn. Seeking CD or BiM age/race unimportant. (Chicago) **18214**

GOOD INSTRUCTOR NEEDED Very attractive SM, 38, distinct bottom, ISO very dominant Male, 55+, who knows how to discipline. I take instruction and correction very well. (Chicago) **17865**

WRITER 27-year-old BM, 5'8", 179 lbs., enjoys having fun, hanging out, dancing, writing, movies, music. Seeking Male with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) **17383**

HAIRY CHEST, NONSMOKER John is a GWM, 38, 5'10", 175 lbs, employed, enjoys movies, dining, travel, light drinker. Old-fashioned in many ways but modern in my thinking. Seeking GM, age and race is open, for casual dating, friendship and possible LTR. (Palatine) **13954**

MASSAGE ANYONE? Attractive GWM, 44, 5'11", dark brown/green, very slender, hairy, clean-shaven, clean-cut. Seeking GWM or BiWM 20-40, attractive, in shape, clean-shaven, for full body massage and lots of body contact. **14619**

RACE IS NOT AN ISSUE Mac is a GBM, 21, who loves to be spoiled is seeking a GM, 21-28, straight-acting, very masculine for friendship, possible partnership. Please give him a call. **10657**

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PARLE FRANCAIS? Paul is seeking GWM 45-55 who can speak French or was born in a French-speaking country, for open friendship and learning French. (Westmont) **14067**

CHAMPAGNE AND FRENCH FOOD GWM 63, 6'0", 185 lbs., full head of blonde hair, trim beard, smooth body, nicely built, enjoys staying at home, French food, champagne, vitamins & herbs, felines, San Francisco. Seeking GWM around 40, n/s, for relationship. (Downtown Chicago) **18595**

HELP ME EXPLORE MY BODY Anthony is a very curious Male. Seeking Male for love and sex. (Chicago) **12182**

NEW TO THIS Mark is a 27-year-old Male, enjoys being spanked, nipples played with, servicing Guys. Seeking hairy Male 30+, with similar interests. **11206**

KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS Donta is a good-looking GWM, 21, 5'7", 130 lbs., light brown/blue, great smile, well-educated, enjoys outdoors, clubbing, sex, drinking, smoking. Seeking good-looking, in shape, Male with similar interests. (Round Lake) **19278**

NEED A HUG? Tall, masculine WM, seeking tall, masculine BM, with an insatiable desire to hug and be hugged. (Chicago) **21737**

I LOVE DRESSING UP Very hot, sexy CD in Chicago, looking for someone to play with and have fun with in the area. Leave me a message, I promise I'll call you back. (Chicago) **13469**

TOP SEEKS BOTTOMS Dominant WM, 45, well-endowed, attractive, looking for smooth, submissive bottoms. Race unimportant. **13324**

LOOKING FOR A DADDY 27-year-old WM, 5'9", 170 lbs, looking for a daddy. If you're 35-60 and interested, give me a call. (Elmhurst) **15592**

ALWAYS HORNY GWM, 42, always horny, 6" incut, 165 lbs, enjoys o/s and a/s. Seeking counterpart for late night hookup. If this is interesting, give me a call. (Milwaukee) **20120**

LET'S SHARE GOOD TIMES GM, 57, Milwaukee area, professional seeking counterpart for friendship and casual dating. Let's try to hook up, good times are ahead. **11718**

CAN YOU SHOW ME? GWM, 5'7", 230 lbs, straight-acting looking for a first time experience with a cute GM. Age and race is unimportant. (Rhineland) **19498**

COULD IT BE? GBM, 26, professional, 5'9", 200 lbs., medium complexion, seeking attractive GM, 26+, who enjoys dining out, quiet times at home. If you think we could be a match give me a call. **10706**

GOOD-LOOKING HANDSOME CUB Very stocky, masculine cub, good-looking, 29, 6', 180 lbs. Seeking older bear type, late 30s-40s, who knows how to take care of his cub. I am very versatile, open-minded and very willing. **11144**

WANNA BE SPOILED? Dale is seeking an honest, down-to-earth, social drinking, drug-free, Male 18-30, for good times. (Kenosha) **16437**

SEEKING SAME Robert is a GWM, HIV+, kind, considerate, healthy, enjoys travel, music. Seeking HIV+ Male, with similar interests. (Chippewa Falls) **12601**

ON MY KNEES Very submissive WM, foot fetish, very oral, enjoys being humiliated. Seeking a chubby WM, Master to service on a regular basis. **11547**

GWM, 55, 5'11", 200 lbs., decent-looking, enjoys the outdoors, quiet times at home. Seeking Male for friendship, possible relationship. **15467**

CHEESE HEAD LOVES FUN Tom loves horseback riding, beaches, bar hopping. ISO counterpart who has similar likes. We can have a great time together if we are right for each. Please give me a call. (LaCrosse) **14450**

INTERESTED IN ME? Jason is a 23-year-old GWM, 6'0", brown/brown, average to medium build, out-going, easy-going, enjoys concerts, the arts, movies, cuddling, music, theater. Seeking an easygoing, outgoing Male with similar build and interests. (La Crosse) **12977**

21-YEAR-OLD GAY BLACK MALE seeking down-to-earth, fun-loving, easygoing Male, to spend time with. (Milwaukee) **14026**

INEXPERIENCED John is a 44-year-old WM, 6'3", 225 lbs., inexperienced. Seeking Male, for fun times. (La Crosse) **13719**

NO GAME PLAYING 23-year-old BM, 5'11", 140 lbs., black/brown, swimmer's build, slim, smooth, clean-shaven, college graduate, enjoys movies, going out, dining out, bars, clubs, working out. Seeking a masculine, in shape, honest, sincere, attractive, WM with a good personality, good sense of humor, n/s, n/drinker, no games, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Milwaukee) **13646**

SWM, 63-YEARS-YOUNG, well-endowed, enjoys o/s. Seeking GM, age and race open, for companionship and sharing of mutual good times and experiences. Please give me a call, don't miss this opportunity. **13100**

OUTDOORSY STUFF GWM, 40s, 5'7", brown/green, straight-acting and appearing seeking GM, 25-55, who enjoys outdoors and nature walks, weekend trips, dining out, movies and home videos. If you are the right person a fun future can be ours. Please give me a call. (Waukesha) **12575**

GIVE ME A SHOT Gary is a 43-year-old Male, 6'3", 200 lbs., blonde/blue, in fairly good shape, loyal, sincere, playful, enjoys animals, traveling, reading, good conversation. Seeking Male for possible long-term relationship. **23121**

PLEASURE John is a 44-year-old WM. Seeking Male to experience pleasure with. (La Crosse) **10625**

WORKS OUT REGULARLY Dan is 38, 5'10", 195 lbs, very much a bottom is seeking a GM, age and race is unimportant, for good times and exploring our new frontiers. You will be very pleased as I am very versatile. Help me live out my fantasies. (Milwaukee) **17011**

USE ME ANYWAY YOU WANT Very submissive WM, early 40s, 6'0", 185 lbs., foot fetish, very oral, loves being humiliated. Seeking a dominant WM, 40+, overweight or chubby a plus. **16640**

HEADS UP! GWM, 23, is seeking his counterpart, 18-23, for a no strings attached relationship. We can have good times together if we take it nice and slow. Please give me a call. (Milwaukee) **16864**

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GET BACK TO ME 23-year-old Male, 6'2", 180 lbs., very good-looking. Seeking GM, tall, attractive, intelligent, down-to-earth, easy-going, funny, and fun to be around. (Milwaukee) **16033**

NOT INTO THE BAR SCENE James is a 38-year-old Male, 5'8", 161 lbs., bottom, n/s, n/drinker, clean-shaven, not into bars. Seeking H/W top, for possible relationship. (Milwaukee) **15746**

HUNGRY BOTTOM LIKES TO PLAY. Doug loves to play with Singles or groups. Let's take it from there. You will be pleased. (Milwaukee) **15255**

WORKOUT PARTNER SOUGHT Do you enjoy sports, outdoors, movies, quiet times at home, bar scene occasionally. Are you, 20-40, good shape, good sense of humor. I'm Chuck, 33, 5'8", 145 lbs, brown/blue, slender build, and am looking for a workout partner. Let's share some good times together. (Sheboygan) **15402**

BIG GUY Very discreet BiWM, 210 lbs, seeking someone to have fun with and pass the time with. There are a number of possibilities and you can use your imagination for new experiences. Should be very open-minded. (Green Bay) **15395**

BIG MAN TOYS Jake is a BiWM, 37, 6'2", 185 lbs., enjoys playing with hot toys. Seeking hot, masculine WM, with similar interests. **120790**

ORALLY TALENTED Tom is a 47-year-old GWM, 5'7", 140 lbs., hard-working, honest, quiet, likeable, orally talented, bottom, enjoys movies, exercising. Seeking Male to get together with. (Kenosha) **13453**

JUST MOVED FROM ILLINOIS Scott is a 33-year-old Male in really good shape, 145 lbs., straight-acting/looking, has a problem meeting people, enjoys the outdoors. Seeking Male with similar interests and qualities, for friendship, possible relationship. **19968**

I'LL MEET ANYONE 21-year-old WM, 6'2", 160 lbs, brown/blue, looking to meet someone 18-25, to fool around with. (Appleton) **14770**

LIKE MYSELF I'd like to meet other sincere, down-to-earth Guys like myself. **100038**

VARIED INTERESTS Handsome SPM, 28, 6'0", 165 lbs, enjoys outdoors, music, working out, sports. Seeking friends, 18-28, with similar interests, for possible LTR. (Madison) **19971**

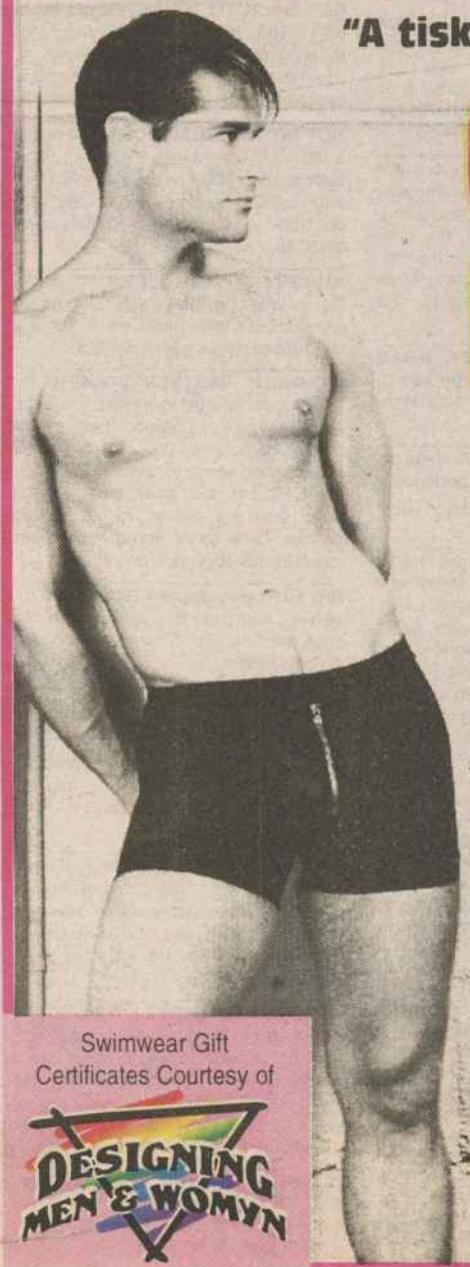
NOTHING KINKY Senior WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, enjoys pleasuring and being pleased. I'm really into massages, kissing, fondling and touching. If you're interested in getting together, give me a call. **19463**

I WILL SUBMIT Fit WPM, 30, 6'2", 170 lbs, looking for a dominant who's interested in training a submissive into being a slave. I'm not into pair, just being dominated. (Milwaukee) **19262**

18-YEAR-OLD WM, ready to start looking for nonsmoking Guys to get together with. If this sounds interesting, give me a call. (Appleton) **18832**



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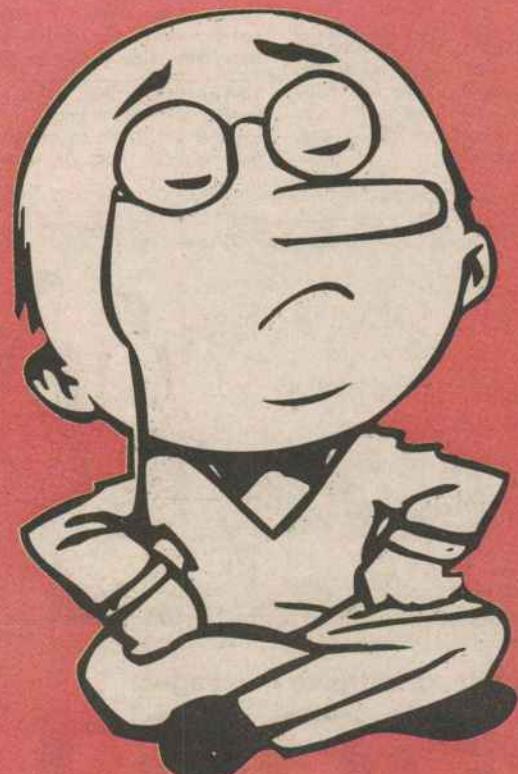
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