

IN STEP

IN Step • LGBT Wisconsin's Community Newspaper • Founded in 1984
Dec. 16 - Dec. 29, 1999 • Vol. XVI, Issue XXV • \$2.95 outside of Wisconsin

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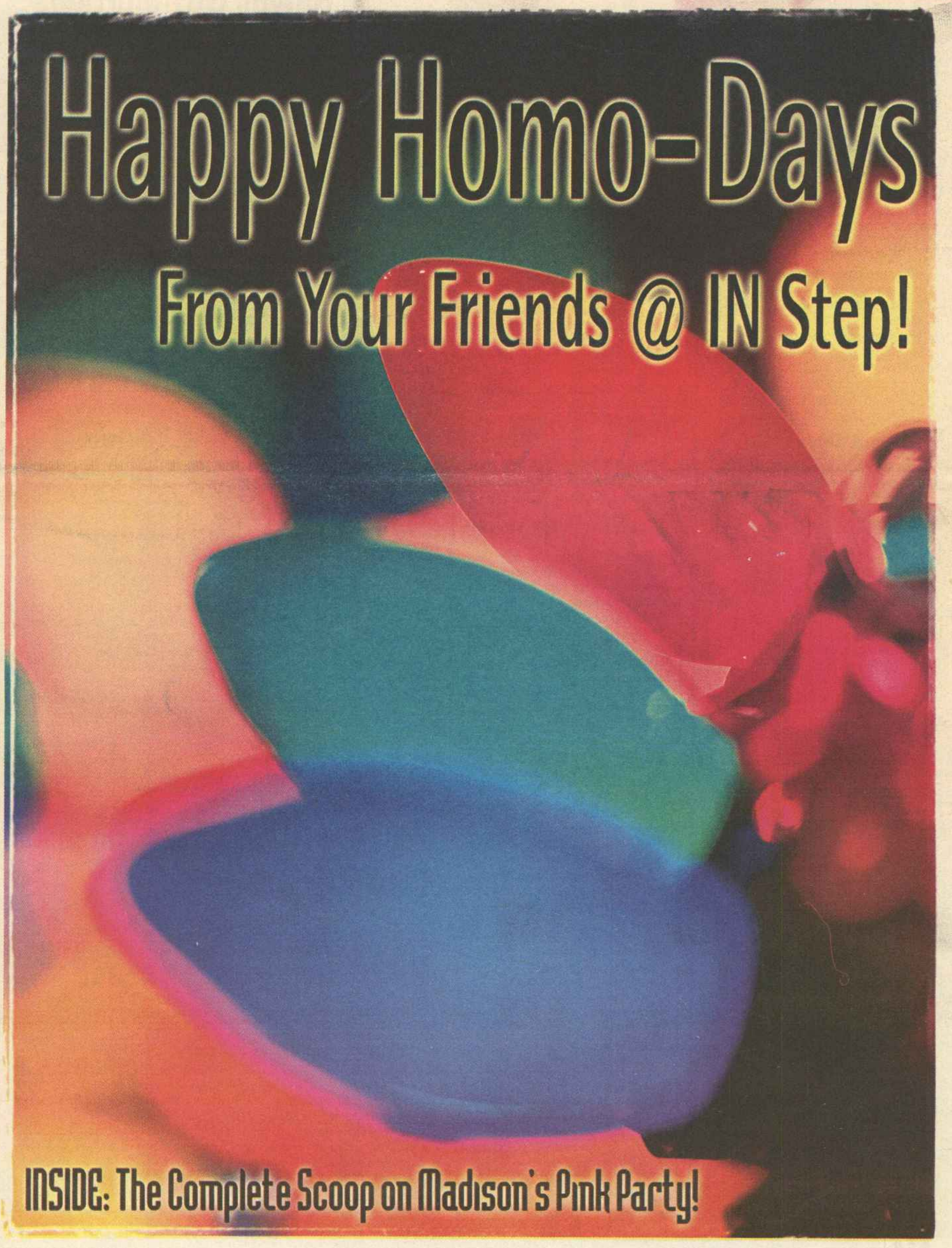
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Happy Homo-Days

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INSIDE: The Complete Scoop on Madison's Pink Party!

Two Tysons Give Gay Doll Cool Reception

NEW YORK — Totem International has introduced the latest in its series of gay dolls and already it's facing possible lawsuits by two of the Beautiful People who say they're concerned about whether the new doll is trading unfairly on their own image.

Representatives for boxer Mike Tyson and male fashion model Tyson Beckford say their



Separated at birth? Tyson Billy (l) and Tyson Beckford.

clients are reviewing the new "Tyson" doll, which the manufacturer says is the world's first gay black doll, to determine if further action may be required.

But Totem International says the \$49.95 Tyson isn't based on either the boxer or the fashion model and that he's just a good friend to its earlier dolls, Billy and Carlos.

An attorney representing Beckford said, "It's a little coincidental that this company has come out with a doll which, just like Tyson Beckford, has a shaved head and tattoos."

School Play De-Lesbianized

BISMARCK, N.D. — Terry Vandal, the drama teacher at Garrison High School in Bismarck, N.D., picked Christopher Durang's "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls," a parody of "The Glass Menagerie," for a statewide drama competition.

But when someone in the school district objected that the play included references to lesbians, he promptly changed the word "lesbian" to "that kind of girl" and swapped "swizzle stick stirrer" for "dyke" elsewhere in the drama.

Vandal said he wasn't surprised when there was an objection to the words in the play and that it was his job as its director to make sure the community could relate to what's performed on stage.

"It's about community standards and living within the make-up of the community," Vandal said. "I think a lot of directors do what I do. Every play I've directed usually comes out as watered down. I think I do the right thing even though they (the students) disagreed with it."

Students involved in the production, however, said they thought there was something fundamentally odd about a play where a character is a lesbian but isn't allowed to say the word.

Tale of Two Daddys

British Gay Couple Listed as Fathers of Twins Born in U.S.

by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

London — Barrie Drewitt and Tony Barlow have made something of legal history by becoming the first two same-sex parents listed on the birth certificates of twins born to a surrogate mother who will herself not be listed at all.

Drewitt and Barlow say the birth of the twins — a boy named Aspen and a girl named Saffron — at a California hospital on Dec. 9 is the culmination of their long battle to have a family of their own.

After failing to adopt a child in their native Britain, the couple went to a fertility clinic in California where, using eggs from a donor, they both donated sperm for fertilization. A surrogate mother — Rosalind Bellamy — was then implanted and bore the twins with Drewitt and Barlow watching the birth.

The two men have spent more than \$350,000 to help create their new family and are now hiring two nannies to help care for the newborns in the U.S. before returning to Britain.

They could face difficulties in registering the infants as British citizens, however, because U.K. government officials have already said the men's nationality may not automatically be passed on to the twins.

British legal sources have said the two men will have to apply to register the two children under the country's Nationality Act of 1981. According to government officials quoted in British news sources, the two new fathers in fact don't even have legal permission to bring the twins to the U.K.

British news sources also reported that a U.S. Supreme Court justice in October had approved the two men being named as "parent one" and "parent two" on the twins' birth certificates. But there is no record of any such action by any

Supreme Court justice, and U.S. news sources didn't mention any such high court justice decision.

The British news sources may have been confusing a Colorado state court ruling in October that gave full parental rights to two lesbians, even though only one partner is biologically related to their daughter.

But Drewitt and Barlow, two self-made millionaires from Manchester, England, said they were not worried about bureaucratic problems they may encounter in Britain, because they were ecstatic about their new family.

"We have a family and that is enough for us," Drewitt said. "There has been so much prejudice and criticism about what we have done, but none of that matters now."

Hawaii Gay-Marriage Challenge Ruled Moot

Honolulu (AP) — The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled Dec. 9 that the effort by several gay and lesbian couples to legalize gay marriage was rendered moot by a 1998 amendment to the state constitution overwhelmingly approved by voters.

The decision effectively terminates the move to recognize gay marriage in Hawaii, which was once regarded by civil rights activists as one of the more likely places to win legalization of homosexual unions.

That hope followed a 1993 decision from the state Supreme Court that said the state's failure to recognize gay marriages denied some citizens the rights that others have.

The ruling set off preemptive legislating around the nation. At least 30 states banned gay marriages, and Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal recognition of homosexual marriage and allowed states to ignore same-sex unions licensed elsewhere.

Vermont's high court is the only one in the nation currently facing the question of whether same-sex marriage should be legal.

New Glossy for Gay Teens Launched

Los Angeles — Step aside Teen. Slide over Jane. The heterosexual monopoly on teen fashion and lifestyles magazines is over.

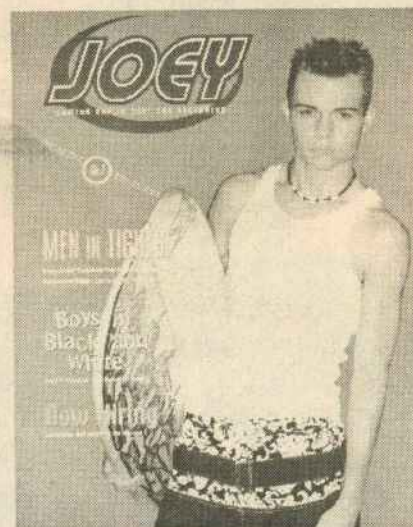
Enter Joey, the brainchild of 22-year-old UCLA English grad Jerry Dunn. The full-color, glossy magazine will hit newsstands next March, with articles ranging from the homoerotic overtones of tight-wearing comic book characters like Batman and Robin to a roundup of the best "guycam" Internet Web sites.

"I go to the newsstand and I see YM, Seventeen and Teen People and I think, where are the magazines for young guys?" Dunn said. While he admires other national gay magazines like Out and The Advocate, Dunn said they don't really speak to the younger audience. "It's a very narrow slice of the population, but what I'm hearing from my peers is they really want to see something like this."

Dunn said he started planning Joey during his last year at the University of California-Los Angeles, before he graduated last spring. The success of another pioneering gay teen magazine, the San Francisco-based XY, inspired him to take his own stab at the publishing world.

Besides the forthcoming print edition, Joey has also been online for about six months (<http://www.joeymag.com/>). Along with the magazine's editorial content, the site is in the midst of putting together a city-by-city directory of clubs, coffeshops and youth groups — places for gay teens to meet that don't necessarily involve alcohol or a fake ID. "I think there are a lot of great ways that kids can meet each other without being involved in that particular scene," Dunn said.

Stonewall Columbus Director Jeff



Redfield said that while many cities offer smaller, localized publications for gay youth, the market is wide open for national ventures like Joey. "We're seeing more and more youth coming out at an earlier age," Redfield pointed out.

Dunn said he's talked to kids as

young as 13 who have come out about their sexuality. "Our prototypical reader is a 16-year-old who lives in a small town in Kansas, because it's people like that who tell us, 'Gosh it would be nice if there were other people like me.'"

And while its target audience is pretty well-defined, Dunn explained that when it comes to Joey, there are no prototypical writers. "The people who have written for us range from 15-year-old gay boys to middle-aged women who are professional writers," he said. "We seem to have a disproportionate number of writers who are heterosexual, middle-aged women, but it seems to work."

So far, Dunn hasn't had heard from any homophobic opposition, though anti-gay sentiment tends to become particularly heated when it comes to young people. "I'm anticipating it but we haven't heard anything," he said. "I welcome what anybody has to say about it. We are dying for input, even if it is right-wing, fundamentalist rantings."

Probe to Enter Wisconsin's Gay Media Fray

by Mike Fitzpatrick

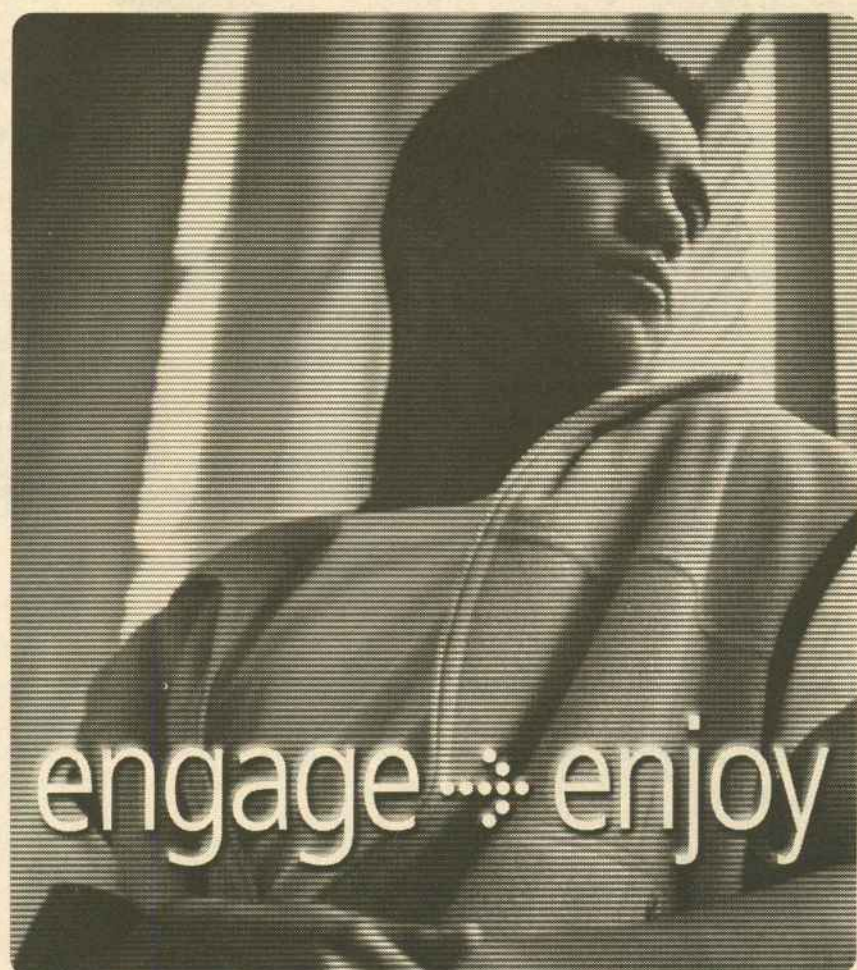
Green Bay — Probe, a glossy-covered gay "lifestyle" magazine, will debut in mid-December. The inaugural issue is expected to cover upcoming holiday events, especially New Year's Eve festivities. Probe is published by two Green Bay men, Robert Van Ess and Dale Adams.

According to the publishers, Probe will be patterned after Lavender, a Minnesota-based publication that mixes press releases from national, regional and Twin Cities LGBT groups with coverage of the state's club and entertainment scenes.

A form letter sent to LGBT groups around the state solicited press releases on group activities on an ongoing basis. No editor was named in the letter.

Probe is the fourth publication to target the statewide Wisconsin LGBT market, a niche some — such as Wisconsin Light publisher Greg Quindel — believe is already overcrowded and needs consolidation.


Probe will be the second attempt this decade to capture the "gay lifestyle" sub-niche. Q•Voice, helmed by Milwaukee's William Attewell and Jorge Cabal, was melded into the bi-weekly IN Step as section Q when this publication converted from a magazine to a tabloid newspaper format in 1997.



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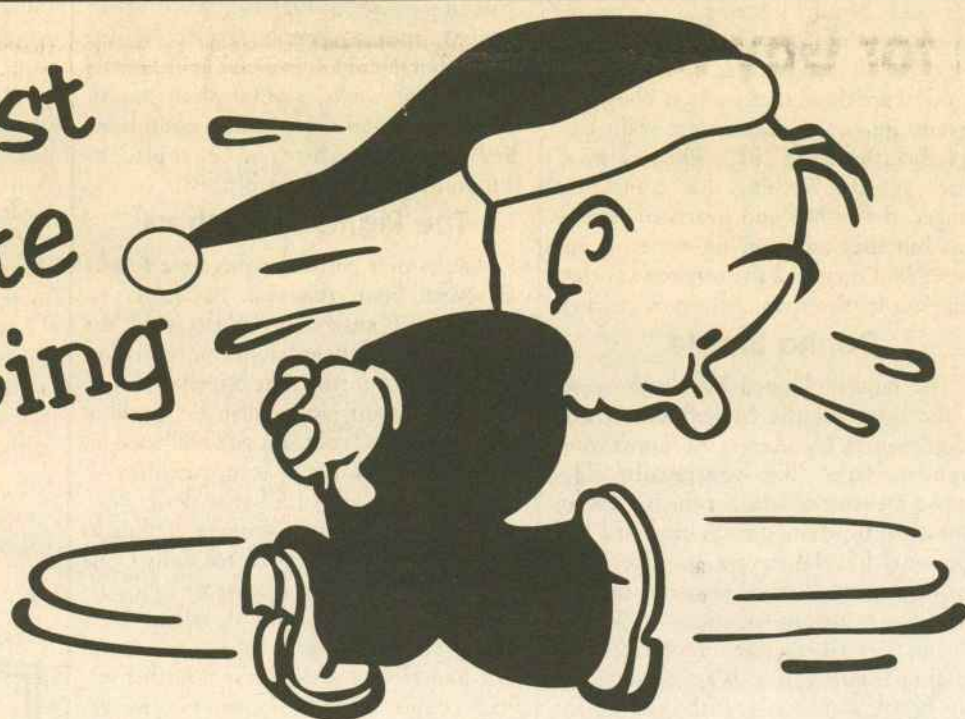
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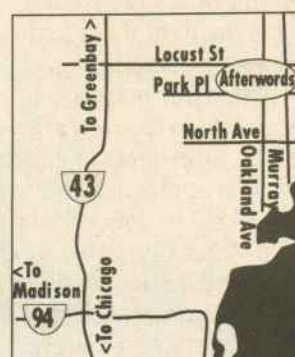
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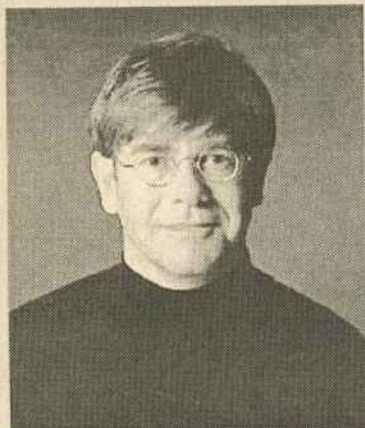


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Elton John Benefit Show Offends Scouts

LONDON — Britain's leading gay rights group, Stonewall, has apologized to the country's Boy Scout Association following a fund-raising show starring Elton John in which the flamboyant rocker



Elton John

sang with a group of young men dressed as Cub Scouts stripped to their underwear at London's Roy Albert Hall.

The event commemorated Stonewall's 10th anniversary, and a Stonewall spokesperson later said, "We do apologize to the Scout Association if it has caused them any offense, but I'm sure no offense was intended."

Shortly after the show, a Scout Association spokesperson said, "We are disappointed that someone of Sir Elton's standing should involve himself in such poor taste" and that Stonewall had done the gay rights movement "no favors" by linking the civil rights movement with pedophilia.

Rainbow Flag Vandalized in Chicago

CHICAGO — Police have charged Norman Brieno, 19, with a criminal damage offense in connection with the burning of a Rainbow Flag at the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Police began monitoring the seminary flag site after the flag, a widely accepted symbol of the gay rights movement, had been repeatedly vandalized previously.

Authorities said that depending on their investigation the charges may be enhanced as a hate crime.

Denver OKs Partnership Registrations

DENVER — Denver has become the latest city to OK a domestic partners registry that will allow unmarried same-sex and opposite-sex couples to record their relationships with city officials.

"It is the right thing to do, and it's long overdue," said Councilman Ed Thomas, who helped fashion the new registry that, after years of efforts, finally won approval by a unanimous vote. The council was given a standing ovation by citizens attending the session.

The new ordinance takes effect almost immediately.

Women's Year in Review

by Jennifer Vanasco
Special to IN Step

The last year of the 1990s was not a banner one for lesbians and bisexual women. It came with no major breakthroughs — no lesbians declaring a run for the presidency, no laws passed that would unambiguously make our lives easier, no major public figure coming out and changing the world. Yet change is often portended in small ways, and this year highlighted many individual women and organizations that are slowly pushing the lives of lesbians and bisexual women forward — or backwards, as in the case of Donna Brazile. Most interesting, perhaps, was the flood of cases testing the parental rights of lesbians. If we do not get marriage

tions about the hostile climate currently created toward gays and lesbians in schools.

NOW Lesbian Rights Summit

Eleven years after a previous summit, NOW hosted the Lesbian Rights Summit: A Feminist Strategy Session in Washington, D.C. Speakers Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Birch, Patricia Ireland, Urvashi Vaid and others spoke about community, political and campus organizing. Though the April gathering garnered little press coverage, the conference reminds us all that lesbians gather to talk about our rights all too infrequently.

Lesbian Herstory Archives

One of our community's best sources of history, the Lesbian Herstory Archives, based in Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated its



Vice President Al Gore and Donna Brazile

in the next decade, it seems likely that we will get more rights surrounding our children. The following stories (in no particular order) are those that we have chosen as the most important, interesting, or intriguing lesbian stories of 1999. They are small stories, mostly. Nothing that completely changed the minds and hearts of Americans. But they are stepping-stones to our future. And they lead the way toward clarifying our lesbian lives in the next century.

Donna Brazile

The reticent Donna Brazile, formerly on the board of the Millennium March and chosen in October as Al Gore's campaign manager, has continually side-stepped the issue of whether she is a lesbian or bisexual by saying things like, "If I had a personal life, I'd have a sexual orientation." Gore seems to be proud of the fact that she's an African-American — shouldn't he be highlighting her (presumably gay) sexual orientation, too? We can only hope that Brazile's silence is not used as the model for lesbian political appointees of the next decade.

Debra Chasnoff



Debra Chasnoff

Academy Award winning documentary producer Debra Chasnoff crossed a major hurdle this year: Her 1996 documentary *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in Schools*, was aired on 100 of the 347 PBS stations around the country, despite demonstrations and a write-in campaign from a coalition of Christian Right groups. Additionally, "It's Elementary" has been distributed to 2,000 educational institutions and, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from tennis legend Billie Jean King, was made available to all principals in the Chicago Public Schools. Chasnoff's groundbreaking film raised the fur on some backs — but it also raised ques-

25th anniversary in October. What began as a few armfuls of books in Joan Nestle's and Deborah Edel's personal collection is now 20,000 books, 12,000 photographs, miles of film and video footages and hundreds of artifacts. There's no better place to soak in the weight of our history.

The Rights of Mothers

Battles over parental rights were fought on several fronts this year. In "J.A.L. vs. E.P.H.," a Pennsylvania lesbian sued the birthmother of their child for visitation rights and lost in the state Superior Court. The family court judge, Allan L. Tereshko, said his ruling was not anti-gay, but based on the limited amount of full-time parenting — 10 months — which J.A.L. had done.

This was different from a Colorado ruling, where the court ordered Kelly Cunningham and Leanne Bueker to split custody of their 9-year-old daughter, even though they now reside in separate states. The non-biological parent in a former lesbian couple in New Jersey, meanwhile, won visitation rights but not joint custody. However, a Boulder, Colo., judge was the first to give lesbians full rights over their children when he awarded full parental rights to both members of a lesbian couple including the right to both be named on the birth certificate, even though one of the women has no biological ties to the child. And, in a move that affected both gay and lesbian parents, the New Hampshire House voted to lift that state's anti-gay adoption ban, freeing New Hampshire gays and lesbians to adopt children or have them as foster children for the first time in 11 years. Utah went the opposite way, adopting a policy to ban unmarried couples from providing foster care. Clearly, the courts and the legislature are still confused about what is in the best interest of the child when it comes to lesbian custody fights. We know that lesbian couples should be treated in the same way as heterosexual couples in these battles-but which way the pendulum will swing has yet to be seen.



Melissa Etheridge

Melissa Etheridge

After a long, four-year wait, our favorite lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge released a new album, "Breakdown," which features a heart-wrenching song about Matthew Shepard, "Scarecrow." Etheridge is more than a musical role model, however. Her strong, continuing partnership with Julie Cypher and her commitment to family life and her two sons makes her a light in our community.

World Cup Soccer

Women's sports had never seen anything like the hoopla surrounding the champion U.S. women's World Cup team. "More than 650,000 people attended the 32 games," according to Sports Illustrated for Women, "making the tournament the largest women's sporting event in history." All the attention, though, brought lesbians some internal conflict. Sure, the women on the team weren't being dismissed as "dykes," as so many female athletes have been in the past — but was it worth it, when they were sold as "babes" or "soccer mamas" instead?

Samantha Geller

Life Versus the Paperback Romance, by 17-year-old lesbian Samantha Geller, was selected as one of the five best plays submitted for the Charlotte Young Playwrights Festival. What a shock it must have been to Geller, then, when her play was banned from production by the festival due to "inappropriate" lesbian content—a kiss. Happily, another theater, the Great Aunt Stella Center staged the production. Geller's experience serves as a reminder to us that even in the more "liberal" fields-like theater—we still can be silenced. But on a more hopeful note, we can be proud that a 17-year-old lesbian would feel enough confidence in herself that she would write a play about lesbians for a state contest. If any event this year showed we should have faith in the future, this was it. ▼



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Guilty Verdict in Murder of Gay Soldier

by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

Fort Campbell, Ky. — Pvt. Calvin Glover, an 18-year-old Fort Campbell, Ky., soldier who earlier confessed to killing fellow infantryman Pfc. Barry Winchell, 21, partly at the urging of another soldier who hated homo-



Pfc. Barry Winchell

sexuals, has been found guilty of the killing. The sentence in the case, however, is unsettling to rights advocates who say it further underscores the anti-gay biases of the armed forces.

A military jury found that Glover intended to murder Winchell, who was just beginning to struggling with his sexual orientation, when he beat the soldier to death with a baseball bat in a barracks hallway. The five-member jury took just over an hour to reach its verdict finding Glover guilty of premeditated murder.

But when the panel reconvened on Dec. 9, it sentenced the 18-year-old Army private to life in prison with the possibility of parole at some point — a sentence that raised immediate reactions among rights advocates.

Glover had already admitted he killed Winchell on July 6 but told the court he didn't mean to. Military prosecutors, however, moved ahead with the court-martial, saying it was clear Glover planned to kill Winchell, a fellow soldier from Kansas City, Mo., at the huge Fort Campbell base.

Had Glover's plea of unpremeditated murder been successful, he could have been released from custody immediately. But with premeditated murder, the jury's options are limited to sentencing Glover to life in prison with the possibility of parole or without that possibility. The death penalty is not an option.

It is the fact that the jurors decided to give Glover the possibility of parole at some future date that rights advocates say highlights the problem the military has at its heart that leads periodically to attacks like the one in this case.

The Washington, D.C.-based Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) has been sharply critical of the

initial handling of the investigation of Winchell's murder, which military officials initially denied the soldier's killing was related to his sexual orientation at all. Only after the SLDN's own investigators found widespread information indicating Winchell may have been murdered because he was gay did the military reluctantly acknowledge the killing may have been a hate crime.

Immediately following the sentencing, Michelle Benecke of SLDN told the New York Times that "this murder has shut down any illusions soldiers had. Every day, service members in every service must endure anti-gay epithets and threats."

Rights advocates say that although prosecutors in the case presented the jury with indications that the killing was prompted by anti-gay prejudice, the military itself has seemed reluctant, activists say, to acknowledge that its own "don't ask, don't tell" policy is inadequate to curb such attacks.

During a meeting with lesbian and gay rights activists in New York City, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is campaigning for a U.S. Senate seat in the state, agreed that the policy is a "failure" even though it was unlikely that

"THIS MURDER HAS SHUT DOWN ANY ILLUSIONS SOLDIERS HAD. EVERY DAY, SERVICE MEMBERS IN EVERY SERVICE MUST ENDURE ANTI-GAY EPITHETS AND THREATS."

the current Congress would be likely to make any serious changes in the anti-gay policy.

The investigation of Winchell's murder had been so sharply criticized in fact that earlier this year President Clinton signed an executive order to modify the military's manuals for courts-martial so that judges can consider a perpetrator's prejudices against a victim in handing down sentences. That change, however, is still not in effect and wasn't part of the jury's sentence in this case.

In the last few days of the trial, some of the anti-gay harassment Winchell experienced just before his death came to light in court.

Sgt. Michael Kleifgen testified that, after he heard another sergeant call Winchell "a faggot," he reported the

incident to his company commander and later to the inspector general, who investigates allegations of wrongdoing. But, Kleifgen told the court-martial, his complaint "was basically blown off. Nothing was done."

Staff Sgt. Eric Dubielak and others also testified that Spc. Justin Fisher started rumors that Winchell was gay and that Fisher often called Winchell "a faggot."

Glover's three attorneys insisted in court that their client killed Winchell partly because he was being urged to by Fisher, whom they portrayed as hating homosexuals. Fisher was Winchell's roommate and is charged as an accessory to the slaying. His trial is set to begin shortly.

So much testimony focused on Fisher in fact that at one point the military judge, Col. Gary Holland, told the jury: "We are not here to try Specialist Fisher. We are here to try Private Glover. We need to keep that in mind."

Glover's parents told the court that their son had a troubled childhood in Oklahoma after they divorced. They said he was often left at home alone or with his older brother.

Glover's father, Rue Glover, said he once enrolled his son in a Baptist home to help straighten him out. He was eventually expelled.

The defense attorneys also told the jury that Glover was drunk when he killed Winchell.

Glover killed Winchell about 26 hours after Winchell had beaten him in a fight. Glover had pledged revenge and had been taunted by Fisher about being beaten by a homosexual, witnesses said.

Since Winchell's murder in July, the number of gays and lesbians in the nation's armed services who have sought help from SLDN each month has doubled from 30 to more than 60, the organization says. Many of the soldiers cited the Winchell killing and said they feared for their own safety.

SLDN says that the network has received reports from soldiers at Fort Campbell that infantrymen and officers have mocked Winchell's death and have made crude jokes about baseball bats, the weapon used to kill Winchell.

A spokesperson for the army base declined to discuss the accusations, saying commanders would reserve comments on the Winchell case until Glover's and Fisher's courts-martial conclude.

Since "don't ask, don't tell" was implemented by President Clinton, the number of gays and lesbians discharged has jumped from 617 in 1994 to 1,163 in 1998, according to SLDN.

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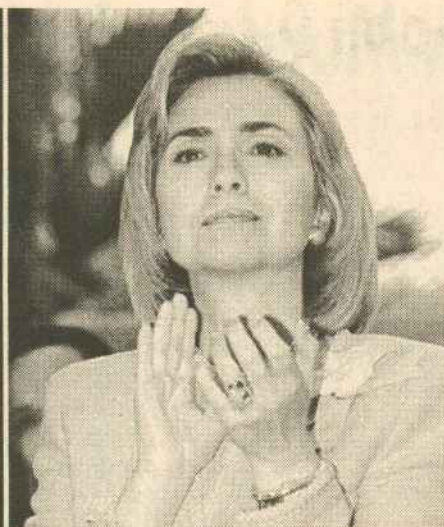
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Hillary Clinton

Hillary Gets Mixed Score on Gay Issues

by Keith Clark

New York — Hillary Clinton, campaigning in New York City as part of her U.S. Senate election effort in early December, first scored high praise and then failing grades over statements she made on two different issues.

Clinton told a private gathering of rights advocates and later repeated her opposition to the administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy barring gays and lesbians in the nation's military.

The first lady reiterated her position in the New York Times, telling reporters the policy "has not worked."

"I don't believe it is ultimately the policy we should have in our military," she said, winning widespread approval among the state's politically active gay and lesbian community.

But Clinton later flopped when speaking at a group of Irish-American leaders in the city by saying she would likely join the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in March.

Since 1989, the event has been boycotted by many Democratic officials in the state because organizers have barred gay and lesbian groups from marching.

When asked if she would march, Clinton — seemingly unaware of the controversy — said: "I would hope so." Looking at the small group of supporters by her side, she added: "As long as I've got lots of good company, I'll certainly march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade."

Democratic and gay supporters quickly called on Clinton to change her position.

"We would urge all people of conscience to stay away from the parade as long as it is excluding certain Irish groups," said Brendan Fay, co-chair of the Lavender and Green Alliance, a gay Irish group.

"We would be greatly disappointed if any candidate for the United States Senate participated in a parade that was not inclusive," said Kevin Finnegan of the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats.

Pro Quarterback Combats Impact of Rumors

Pittsburgh — Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Kordell Stewart has been the object of such almost continual rumors



Kordell Stewart

that he is gay or bisexual that he took the unusual step of telling his teammates that his private life wasn't the cause of a playing slump that's continued to this season.

After refusing in the past to discuss his private life, Stewart has now gone on a Pittsburgh radio station, KDKA, to repeat his insistence that his personal life has nothing to do with his playing abilities.

"A rumor is a rumor," Stewart said. "You look it up in the dictionary, it will tell you exactly what it means. I'm Kordell Stewart, the guy who worked with you guys and has made some great plays around this place. And I don't want any fan or any knucklehead outside of this organization (to) make you feel any differently about me as a player."

A few months ago, even the normally unscandalous Sports Illustrated reported on fan speculation over Stewart's orientation.

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Merged Exxon-Mobil Dumps Gay Benefits, Anti-Bias Policies

by Keith Clark

Irving, Texas — The New York City-based Gay Financial Network (GFN) announced its list of the 50 most gay-friendly corporations in the U.S. just in time for the Christmas season.

But within days of that list being released, one of the most prominent firms listed — Mobil Corp. — had merged with oil producing giant Exxon which promptly dropped Mobil's domestic partners benefits program along with its policies covering workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The move by Exxon is, activists say, the first time a major U.S. corporation has backed away from benefits and policies that were already in place — and shows how quickly and dramatically workplace issues can change in a merger-driven business climate.

GFN's list of the 50 most gay-friendly public companies in the U.S., which GFN's chairman Walter Schubert hopes to become an annual event, included some of the nation's most prestigious firms, including IBM, AT&T, Bank of America — and Mobil Corp. GFN rated the companies, in part, on their benefits and policies affecting gay and lesbian employees.

But while that list of gay-friendly companies was being touted, the Federal Trade Commission in late November was approving Exxon's acquisition of Mobil in an \$81 billion merger that created the world's largest oil company. Ironically, the merger reunited two of the biggest firms left in the wake of the 1911 anti-trust breakup of Standard Oil.

The Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign immediately denounced Exxon-Mobil divesting the policies and benefits as a backward move by the company.

"This move could become their Exxon Valdez of the new millennium," said David Smith of HRC, referring to the 1989 Alaskan coast oil spill when the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground.

"Exxon clearly hasn't learned from past experience that creating a toxic

mess is a lot easier than cleaning up the resulting damage. We urge Exxon to reevaluate their actions and pledge to treat all workers equally, with dignity and respect," Smith said.

But the newly merged Exxon-Mobil defended its decision of offering benefits only to married workers, and insisted its existing anti-bias policies already bar workplace discrimination for any reason.

"We feel basing benefits coverage on a legally recognized relationship eliminates the need for the company to establish criteria of its own to assess the legitimacy of a relationship," Exxon-Mobil spokesman Tom Cirigliano said. "That's whether it's same sex or heterosexual."

While the newly merged company will allow Mobil employees to keep benefits for same-sex partners already enrolled, no new enrollments would be accepted for the benefits program. Exxon-Mobil's new policy means workers in common-law marriages would be eligible for benefits because such marriages are recognized by law, while same-sex couples would not qualify because they cannot legally marry in the U.S.

Mobil Corp. adopted its domestic partners benefits program in 1998, but Exxon shareholders earlier this year resoundingly rejected proposals to extend benefits to the domestic partners of its employees and to bar discrimination specifically based on sexual orientation.

Rights advocates say Exxon is "bucking an industry trend" by rejecting anti-bias and partner benefits policies. Chevron, Shell Oil and BP Amoco all have partner benefits programs. They also say Mobil Corp. hadn't had any particular trouble implementing its partners benefits program.

"The criteria has been used by Mobil Corp. without any problems for the past year," said HRC's Smith. "The criteria is quite simple and does not require any complicated analysis."

The merged Exxon-Mobil conglomerate employs some 121,000 workers.

Action Wisconsin Board Elects New Officers

Madison — On Dec. 5 the Board of Directors of Action Wisconsin: A Congress for Human Rights, Inc. met in Madison at the State Capitol and elected a new Executive Committee.

Dan Ross of Madison was elected President. He has served as Secretary over the previous two years, and has been a board member since 1996. His projects have included monitoring state legislation, developing Action Wisconsin's Internet presence, and documenting domestic partner policies across Wisconsin.

Cindy Donais of Madison was elected Vice-President. She has served on the board for many years in a variety of capacities, and she has a long history of involvement with local government and activism in Madison.

Deb Johnson of Kenosha was elected Secretary. She has served in leadership roles with the Gemini Gender Group and It's Time! Wisconsin, as well as being active and outspoken in the statewide effort against a proposed ban on same-sex marriage.

Mary McBride of Madison was elected Treasurer. She has extensive experience with grant-writing, accounting and nonprofit organizations, and she has been a co-chair of GALVANize, Madison's Pride March organizing committee. McBride is also a Region 1 (South/South-Central) Director.

F.M. "Mike" Fitzpatrick of Green Bay continues on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President. He will also continue his years of service on the board as a Director representing Region 3 (Northeast), which includes the Fox Valley. Fitzpatrick's presidency has overseen tremendous growth in Action Wisconsin's organizational capacity and statewide citizen involvement in LGBT issues and the legislative process.

Leaving the Executive Committee is Walt Jackson, who was President prior to Fitzpatrick; and Charlie Squires, who was Treasurer for the past two years. Jackson will continue on the board as a Region 1 (South/South-Central) Director, and Squires will continue as an At-Large Director. Also leaving is Tanya Atkinson of Milwaukee, who served last year as Vice President and helped make domestic partnership a reality in Milwaukee.

David Walker-Crawford of Lomira was appointed to an At-Large Director position on the board. Walker-Crawford brings expertise and interest in enhancing Action Wisconsin's Internet presence.

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry 1999 Holiday Ornament

FOURTH EDITION



St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry operated Raphael House to mitigate the suffering and enhance the quality of life of those affected by HIV disease. Named after Raphael, the Angel of Healing, the residence provides practical, physical, emotional and spiritual support for persons with HIV/AIDS. Assistance and care is provided regardless of gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin. Each person's individuality and faith is respected, and no religion or faith is taught or preferred. You can support this vital ministry in our community through the purchase of one or more of our fourth edition holiday ornaments.

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Ornament price: \$13 each. Shipping: 1-5, ornaments \$3.95, 6-10, \$5.95, 11 or more, \$6.95 Please make checks payable to:

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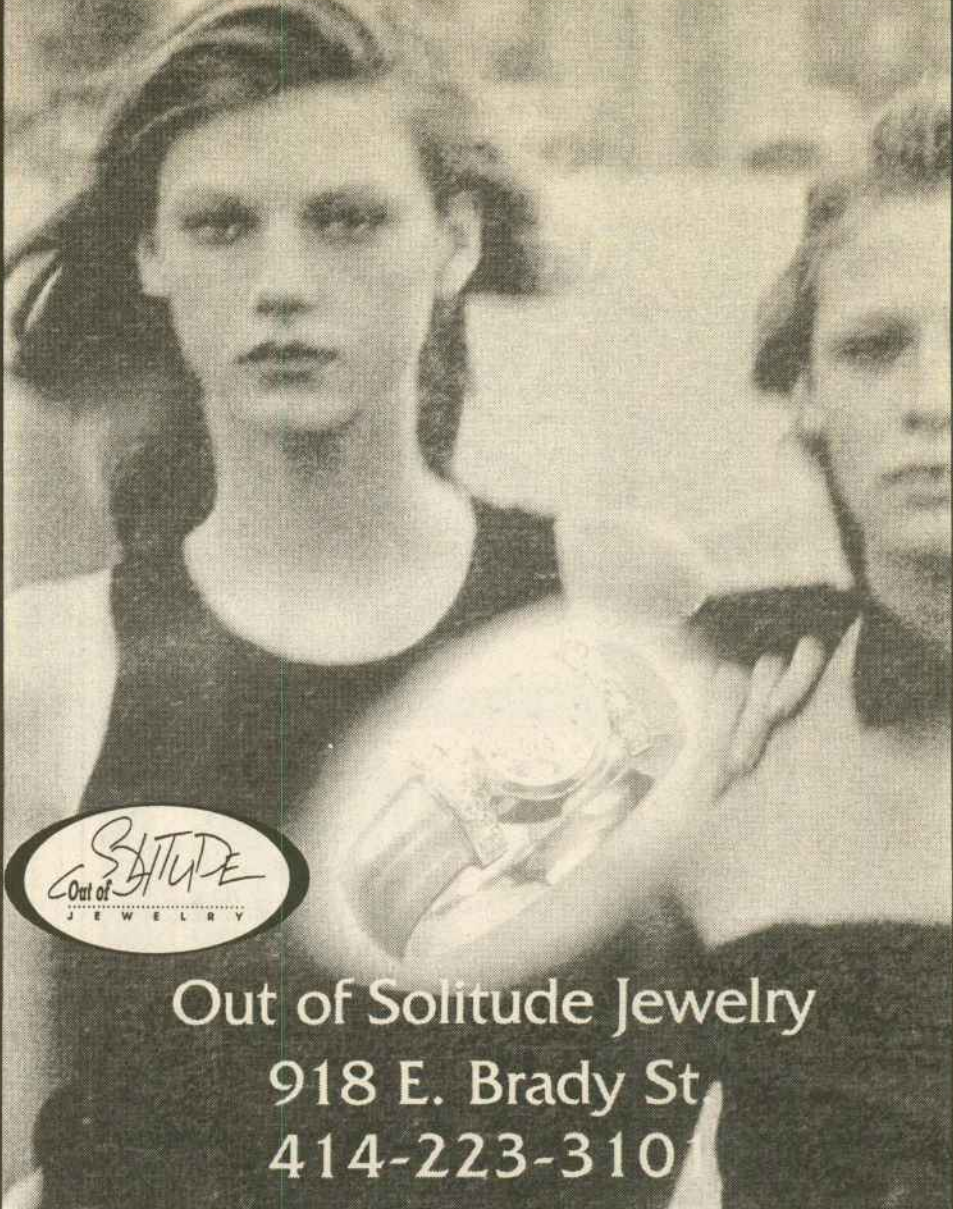
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IN STEP GROUP NOTES

Chapel of Hope Ministries to Visit Patients at St. Camillus

Milwaukee — Chapel of Hope is an Evangelical Ministry supporting the LGBT community through religious education, spiritual counseling and Christian charity. Chapel of Hope will start visiting patients at St. Camillus (Interfaith AIDS Ministry) on Dec 18. They will visit with and bring small gifts for patients in the intensive care unit. Chapel of Hope will make regular trips to St. Camillus on the third Saturday of each month after their initial visit. For more information, call (414) 297-9116.

Chicago's Gay Millennium Party Nears

Chicago — Spend the evening of New Year's Eve '99 at Chicago's largest dance party of the millennium. Beginning at 9 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave., Gay Y2K will bring together the hearts, minds and bodies of thousands of people from the nation's heartland for a celebration that is the only lesbian event to be officially part of the City of Chicago's 2000-Minute Millennium Celebration.

Participants will experience a live performance by internationally acclaimed recording artist Funky Green Dogs. Behind the turntables will be pro DJs Tim Cleary, Teri Bristol, Freddie Bain and DJ Hugo. Rounding out the night will be a state-of-the art lighting system, a live Web link to parties throughout the world, special party prizes from sponsors and a memorable midnight toast and celebration. Circuit Nightclub will also host Latin 2000 for its devoted Latin crowd, with live links to the festivities at the Congress Theater.

Tickets to Gay Y2K are currently on sale for \$95 per person or \$175 for the VIP package. You may purchase tickets at Universal Gear, 3153 N. Broadway; Circuit Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted; or via phone at 1-800-494-TIXS. Tickets may also be available at the door on the night of the event for cash only. Sponsors include Universal Gear, Finlandia, Bacardi, Jack Daniels, Bombay, Circuit Nightclub, Boi Magazine and Box Office Tickets.

SAGE Seeks Donations

Milwaukee — SAGE-Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) is currently completing its sixth year of activities on behalf of older gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered (LGBT) persons. SAGE-Milwaukee has no paid staff persons and operates entirely with unpaid volunteers for their social events and outreach to older persons.

While membership covers persons of all ages, additional funds are needed to expand social events, educational programs and direct services. Funds are needed for advertising to reach more seniors in the LGBT community who do not know

about the organization. Please send your year-end tax deductible donations to SAGE-Milwaukee, PO Box 510492, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0091. All donations, large or small, will be acknowledged with a letter for tax purposes.

MSO Chorus Auditions

Milwaukee — Are you looking for a new way to be involved in the community during Y2K? Imagine being a part of a live concert with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO), adding your own voice to the glorious sound of a 200-voice chorus. Lee Erickson masterfully prepares the MSO Chorus to perform a wide variety of music, and Andreas Delfs regularly conducts thrilling performances. The chorus rehearses weekly in preparation for the second half of the 1999/2000 season.

Auditions for new singers for the chorus of the MSO Chorus will be held on Monday, Jan. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Singers are asked to call (414) 967-1905 or e-mail sacrament@execpc.com for information and to schedule an audition time. For additional information visit the MSO Chorus Web page at www.milwaukee-symphony.org/chorus.htm.

Argonauts Collect Food, Plan Party

Green Bay — A non-perishable food drive and an annual winter party, two winter traditions of the Argonauts of Wisconsin, are projects under way in northeast Wisconsin.

ARCW clients served by the agency's Green Bay and Appleton offices will benefit from the Argonauts' non-perishable food drive in progress through mid-December. LGBT community members can drop off canned and other shelf-stable packaged foods at area gay bars. Paper products and toiletries are needed as well. In recent years the Argonauts have collected literally thousands of items annually for needy clients and their families.

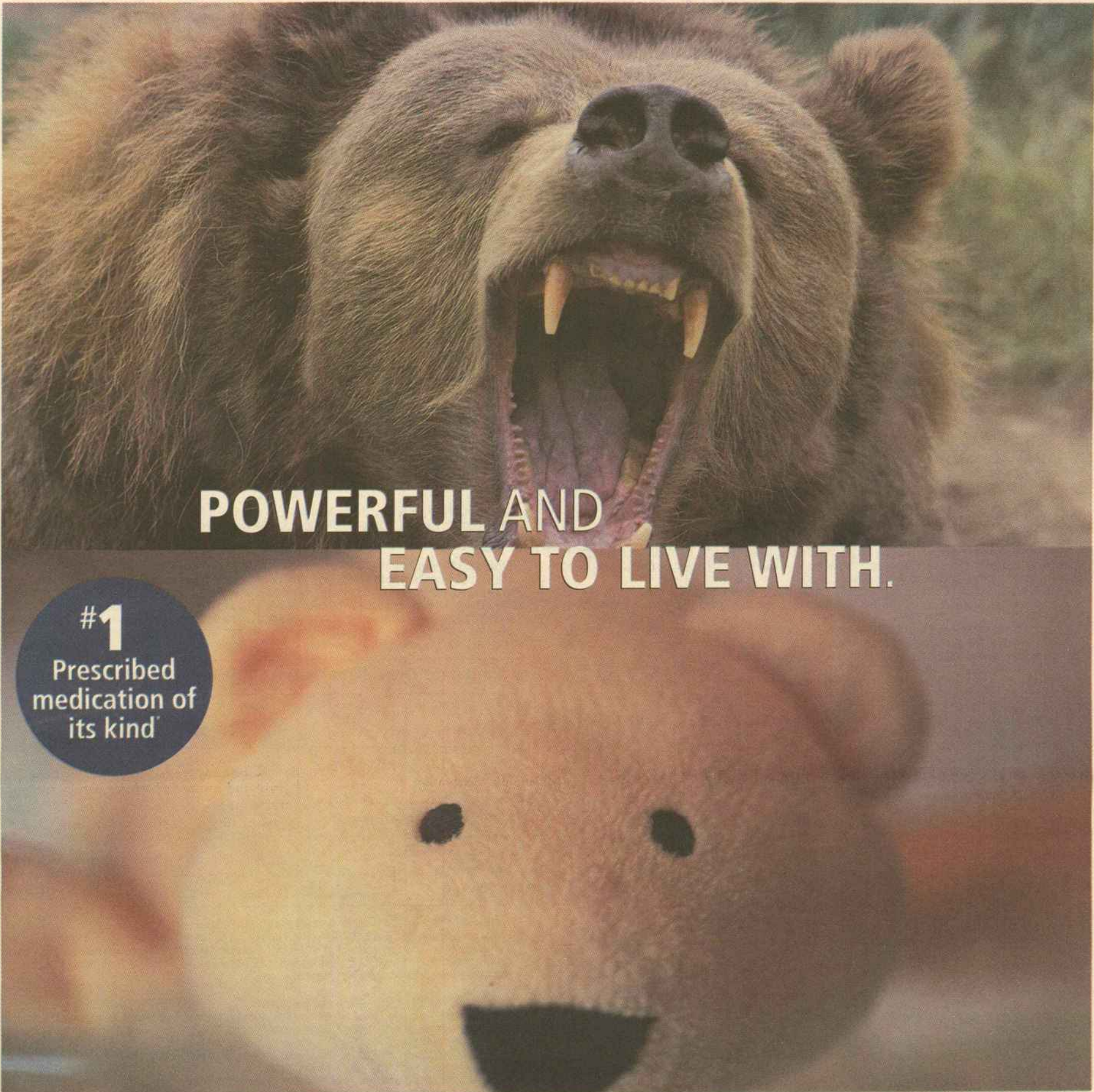
Besides the Argonauts' many charitable projects, the leather/levis group is known for sponsoring elaborate parties. The 26th Annual WinterQuest, scheduled for January 15, 2000 at Za's video bar in Green Bay is a social event open to all in the LGBT community. Festivities will begin at 3 PM with a wine and cheese reception featuring live entertainment. A formal banquet and installation of the club's new officers will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 after January 8. Contact the Argonauts of Wisconsin, PO Box 22096, Green Bay, WI 54305-2096, for more information.



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

clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug 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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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

tablets and oral powder

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

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

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), 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, ddl)

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs
VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

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

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

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

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

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

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\$17,360 Award in Teena Brandon Case

by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

Falls City, Neb. — JoAnn Brandon, the mother of Teena Brandon, who was murdered in a rural Nebraska farmhouse six years ago after two young men discovered she was a woman living as a man, says she will probably appeal a lawsuit award because it trivializes her daughter's brutal death.

On Dec. 6, Nebraska District Court Judge Orville Coady ruled in Mrs. Brandon's favor in her wrongful-death suit, but awarded her just \$17,360.

Teena Brandon was stabbed and shot on Dec. 31, 1993. She had been living as a man in Falls City, Neb., and had dated several women. Six days before she was murdered, she had told Richardson County sheriff's officials that Marvin T. Nissen and John Lotter had raped her after they discovered she wasn't a man but instead was female. Nissen and Lotter have since both been convicted by killing Brandon, Lisa Lambert and Phillip DeVine, who had both witnessed the

murder of Teena Brandon.

But Herbert Friedman, JoAnn Brandon's attorney, said the court's award was "so insignificant that it tends to trivialize the whole matter" and said Mrs. Brandon will very likely appeal.

Coady's ruling declared that Laux, who has since been elected as a county commissioner, did not inflict intentional emotional distress on Brandon with his remarks.

And while the judge agreed that county law enforcement officials should have given Teena Brandon protective custody following the rape, he didn't agree with JoAnn Brandon's suit which charged that authorities should have made arrests faster and found no indication of official wrongdoing.

Coady actually put the award in the case at \$80,000 but declared that Richardson County must pay only 14 percent (or \$11,200) of that sum, plus \$6,223 in funeral expenses — deducting \$62 because, the judge oddly ruled, Teena Brandon was 1 percent responsible for her own death.

The judge ruled that the balance of the \$80,000 award should be paid by Nissen and Lotter, the two men convicted of killing her.

Lotter is now facing a death sentence for the three killings. Nissen agreed to testify against Lotter in the trial in exchange for receiving a lesser sentence of life in prison.

Legal Battle Erupts Over Gay Newspaper

Las Vegas — A battle for control of a Las Vegas community newspaper has landed in state court.

In a lawsuit filed last week, Brett McFarlane, publisher of the Las Vegas Bugle, sued businessman L. Thomas Carns. In the suit, McFarlane accuses Carns of using fraud in an attempt to seize

Cast of 'Will & Grace' Comes Out Against Prop. 22



At a time when entertainment and politics are ever more closely allied, the cast of the hit TV comedy show Will & Grace has come out against a March ballot initiative in California that would prohibit same-sex marriage. All four actors Eric McCormack (Will), Debra Messing (Grace), Megan Mullally (Karen) and Sean Hayes (Jack) appear in a 30-second TV spot in which they say the Knight Initiative would "legalize discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans and their families." The spots will begin airing as early as next month.

control of the gay and lesbian newspaper. McFarlane said he feared this battle would scare advertisers away.

McFarlane said he purchased the newspaper from Rob Schlegel in July 1998 and has paid more than \$150,000 to Schlegel so far. Carns, who McFarlane describes as a former mentor, allegedly consulted McFarlane on the paper's operations for more than a year without compensation.

In September, McFarlane said he was advised to reorganize the business from a sole proprietorship into a corporation. At this time, McFarlane said, Carns volunteered the use of a shell corporation he owned, and said he would serve as president. However, Carns allegedly promised that McFarlane would be the sole shareholder. After organizing into the shell company, all bank accounts were shifted to the new corporation.

In late November, Carns allegedly told

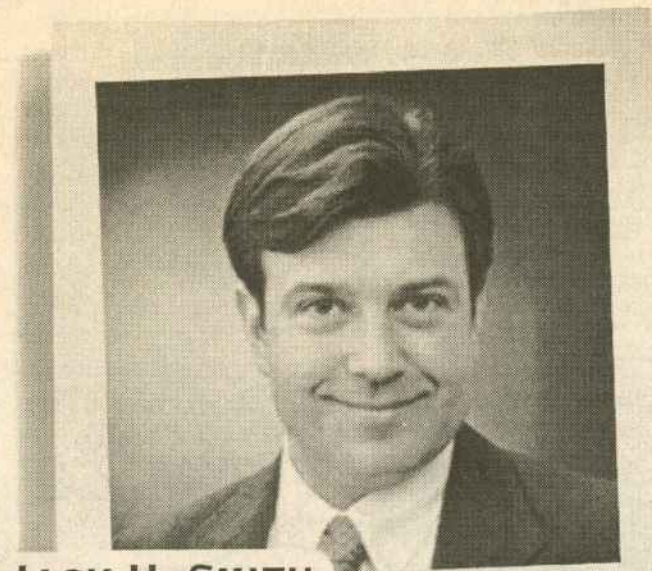
McFarlane that he believed he was now owner of the newspaper.

On December 1, Carns allegedly appeared at the offices of the Bugle with two police officers. The officers requested that McFarlane prove his ownership of the newspaper. According to the suit, the officers were satisfied with his response, and left.

McFarlane is seeking a judicial order preventing Carns from interfering in the business operations of the Bugle, and the immediate transfer of all stock in the shell company. Carns could not be located for comment.

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ISSN# 1045-2435

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A Century of Queer Bests, Worsts and Wannabes

by Jamakaya

It seems like just a while ago that Sister Anna Rose was rapping my knuckles back in sixth grade when I dared to "sass" her back. Now, here it is, the turn of the millennium and I'm pushing 45, "deep into middle age" according to a so-called friend of mine. It certainly does give one a reality check.

This year was the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, the militant impetus of the modern gay rights movement. I've been out and active for 27 of those years, many of them as a journalist covering the feminist and queer communities, all of them here in the pioneering gay rights state of Wisconsin. Here's my humble take on the things I've witnessed and the things I've learned in the past decades.

Keep in mind, lists are subjective, not definitive. If you have a different take on things, write to *IN Step* and let us know!

Top Milwaukee Events: City adopts civil rights protections in employment based on sexual orientation, 1980 (later extended to include housing and public accommodations and also passed by the county); Jeffrey Dahmer's multiple murders discovered, exposing racism and homophobia in the police department and queer community, leading to demonstrations, study commissions, lawsuits, major finger-pointing, 1991; PrideFest is first celebrated at Henry Maier Festival Park, the famed "Summerfest" grounds, integrating Milwaukee's gay community into the swirl of ethnic festivals, 1996.

Top Wisconsin Event: Adoption of legislation prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation, the fabled "Gay Rights Law," the first such statewide law in the nation, 1981; the election of Tammy Baldwin, Dane County Democrat, to the U.S. Congress, aided by a selfless coalition of queers and liberals of all ages, colors and faiths, 1998.

Top Queer Event in the U.S.: The Stonewall Rebellion, in which drag queens, hustlers and street people fought the cops who came to bust their hangout in Greenwich Village, giving impetus to a mass movement of gays, lesbians and transgenders, 1969; the founding of the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis, two early gay and lesbian organizations, 1950s; the assassination of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and

the riots which followed the lenient sentence for his executioner, 1978-79; Stonewall 25 and Gay Games IV in New York City, the largest gathering of queers for the broadest range of cultural and political events in the history of the world, 1994.

Homegrown Heroes: Miriam ben-Shalom, who fought a 14-year legal battle (beginning in 1976) for reinstatement in the Army Reserve where she had been a much-honored soldier; Jamie Nabozny, who dared to hold the Ashland school district responsible for the unrelenting verbal and physical assaults he endured for years from fellow students.

National Heroes: Harvey Milk, gay political pioneer and martyr who advocated gay power through elective office; Karen Thompson, who won an 8-year court fight for guardianship of her severely disabled lover, Sharon Kowalski, and who has since traveled far and wide urging gay and lesbian couples to draw up legal papers protecting their relationships.

Queers We Don't Want to Claim: Camille Paglia, who has built her career and become a darling of the media by attacking women; Hermann Goering, Nazi art lover and pedophile.

Most Dangerous Homophobe: Roy Cohn, right-hand man to the red-baiting, queer-hating Joe McCarthy, who proved there is no one more malicious than a self-hating queer; Anita Bryant, who has the dubious distinction of launching the fundamentalist backlash against gays and lesbians in the 1970s; the "Rev." Pat Robertson, who uses his media and financial empire as a bully pulpit to continually demonize gays and anyone who supports us. Sen. Jesse Helms is up there too, but a bout with cancer has apparently (dare I say happily?) reduced his remaining time with us.

Most Ludicrous Homophobe: Tinky-Winky-phobe Rev. Jerry Falwell, whose increasingly wacky comments have made him a national laughingstock.

Gay Martyrs: Harvey Milk, Rebecca Wight, Brandon Teena, Matthew Shepard, Alan Schindler, way too many more...

Gay Writers: E. M. Forster, James Baldwin, Tennessee Williams.

Lesbian Writers: Willa Cather, Virginia Woolf, Adrienne Rich, Toni Morrison (if Toni isn't queer, she sure oughta be!).

Lesbian Icons: Amelia Earhart, Martina Navratilova, k.d. lang, and my own

personal fave, Xena: Warrior Princess.

Gay Icons: Rudolph Valentino, James Dean, Rupert Everett. Oh, what the hell do I know, I'm a lesbian!

Best Transgender Artist: Band leader Billy Tipton.

Worst Transgender Artist: Anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly — this guy has never fooled me.

Lesbian Singers: Bessie Smith, Janis Joplin, Dusty Springfield, Emmylou Harris (I can dream, can't I?).

Gay Singers: Johnny Mathis (I know I'm aging myself, but he still makes me swoon), Elton John.

Queer Composers: Aaron Copland, Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim. Hell, except for Irving Berlin and Rodgers and Hammerstein, all the best popular music composers were queer!

Best Lesbian Movie: "Forbidden Love" — nothing else comes close.

Worst Lesbian Movie: "Claire of the Moon," hands down.

Best Gay Movie: "Parting Glances," "For a Lost Soldier" (Okay, okay, I'm a dyke, remember?).

Worst Gay Movie: "Cruising."

Queer Movie Hall of Fame: "The Celluloid Closet," Vito Russo's survey of gay themes and characters in the movies.

Best Gay Contributions to Culture: Drag shows and most of modern dance.

Best Lesbian Contributions to Culture: Women's music festivals, lesbian baby boom.

Worst Gay Contributions to Culture: Gay bathhouses, the entire fashion industry.

Worst Lesbian Contribution to Culture: "Processing," an extension of the odious, endless practice of collective decision-making.

Guys Who Oughta Be Gay: Johnny Depp, Brendan Fraser, add your choice here.

Gals Who Oughta Be Lesbian: All of them who aren't.

Well, this little survey of our queer century has gone from the serious to the ridiculous. Hope you've enjoyed it. Send in your end-of-the-century praises and disses to *IN Step*. It will make for lively interchange. Happy Holidays! ▼



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Gay Panic Defense

by Attorney Christopher Krimmer



What do all of the following cases have in common?

Matthew Shepard, a young gay man who was lured out of a bar on false pretenses by two men of similar age, was driven to a remote rural area of town where the two men fatally beat him with the butt of a pistol and was left tied to a fence to die.

Scott Amadure, a gay man who revealed his secret crush on a heterosexual acquaintance, Jonathan Schmitz, on the Jenny Jones show. Only two days after the taping of that episode, Mr. Schmitz went to Amadure's home and shot him to death.

Abner Louima, an African-American man who was hog-tied in handcuffs, dragged into a New York City police station bathroom and sodomized with a broomstick after being repeatedly beaten by two police officers.

The sad commonality of all of these cases is how attorneys for both sides of the legal table utilize homophobia to their client's advantage.

The most recent example of homophobia in our courts can be found in the Aaron McKinney criminal trial. McKinney was one of the two men who murdered Matthew Shep-

herd. The other defendant who participated in the attack, Russell Henderson, pleaded guilty to murder and kidnapping and is serving two consecutive life sentences. McKinney's attorneys went to trial and attempting to argue what is commonly known as the "gay panic" defense.

The gay panic defense theorizes that a person with latent gay tendencies will have an uncontrollable, violent reaction when propositioned by a homosexual. However, the "gay panic" defense may be altered to fit the facts of a variety of cases.

McKinney's team of defense attorneys attempted to present a gay panic defense by arguing that because McKinney was allegedly sexually abused as a child, this then caused him to uncontrollably attack Matthew Shepard once Shepard propositioned him. Fortunately, the presiding judge, Barton Voigt, would not allow the defense to argue it to the jury stating that such an argument amounts to a temporary insanity or diminished capacity defense, both of which are not allowed in Wyoming. Yet, Voigt could have gone one step further to denounce such a defense tactic and find that the gay panic defense fails to meet even the most minimal level of medical and scientific credibility. Such a statement could at least have served as an eye opener for judges in other states who will certainly one day be presented with the same defense in their courtrooms.

A less enlightened judge did allow the "gay panic" defense to be argued by Jonathan Schmitz's murder trial of Scott Amadure. The defense attorneys argued that when Amadure revealed his crush to Schmitz on the Jenny Jones Show, that Schmitz's heterosexuality was not only threatened but insulted so much that it caused Schmitz to kill Amadure. The jury however, did not accept this argument and found Schmitz guilty of murder. (In fact, Schmitz's trial was overturned on a technicality at the appeals level and was remanded to the trial court for a second trial and the jury in the second trial also rejected the gay panic defense.)

One would think that if you had

asked Amadure's family at the time of the criminal trial what they thought of the defense attorneys using the gay panic defense, that they would be appalled and upset. Yet, the family seemed to have no hesitation to use the same tactic in its civil trial against the Jenny Jones Show and Warner Brothers. In the civil suit, the Amadure family claimed that the Jones should have known that by allowing Schmitz, a heterosexual man, to be "humiliated" by the news that a gay acquaintance had a secret crush on him, that such news would reasonably lead Schmitz to kill the gay acquaintance. A strain of logic? Not exactly, the jury believed in it and awarded Amadure's family \$25 million in damages. It seems right that the Amadure family should be compensated for their loss, but must it be on the basis that gay crushes are so revolting that show producers should anticipate that straight men would kill due to the "horrible humiliation" of possibly being perceived as gay?

Homophobia is even prevalent in trials involving non-gay victims. Abner Louima was arrested by New York City police officers for a crime he did not commit — and, as if that is not bad enough — they brutally beat him in the back-seat of the cop car and dragged him into a police station bathroom and repeatedly sodomized him with a broom stick.


At the criminal trial of the police officers involved in the attack, defense attorneys argued that the Louima was gay and that the severe tears in his anus were caused not by the torture, but as a result of gay sex — despite the fact that there was no evidence to support such a conclusion. The defense was betting that if a single jury member was homophobic and believed that Louima was indeed gay and practicing anal sex, that such conduct by definition is an "act against nature" involving penetration so forceful that it could be mistaken for a rape with a broomstick. Even if the defense could not sell such a ridiculous theory to the jury, they must have known that just by putting out there the possibility that Louima might be gay, this alone could weaken his credibility or lessen compassion for him.

It is a classic defense theory that is portrayed in real courtrooms across the country to even the television show, The Practice espouses that if you have no real defense, then put the victim on trial. By focusing attention on the conduct and the type of person the victim was (or in the case of Louima, the type of person he was not but could be perceived as), the defense hopes that the jury will forget about the cruelty of the attack and instead penalize the victim for his or her sexual orientation. Fortunately, such a theory did not succeed in the Louima trial and the officers either pleaded guilty before the verdict or were found guilty by the jury.

The gay panic defense is nothing more but another mechanism for society's homophobia to enter the courtroom. It is an inherently homophobic legal theory that judges should never permit a jury to hear. Judges would never tolerate such blatant bigotry on any other class of individuals in society. How many judges do you believe would permit a defense attorney to argue an "African-American panic defense" in their courtroom? ▼

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Adios 1999 and Other Thoughts

by Ed Grover

I'm really getting sick of all this Y2K crap. Milwaukee County slipped an eight-page "Emergency Disaster & Y2K Preparedness Guide" under my door. It's full of numbers to call. Well, what if the phones don't work; then what? The local and national media are having a great time scaring everyone out of their wits by showing all this hype down our throats. If I hear about one more little old lady who's hoarding cans of tuna and bottles of water in her closet, I think I'll scream. Besides, the millennium doesn't really start until 2001!

Actually, I was thinking it would be much more fun to spend New Year's Eve 2000 on a nice, secluded (nude) beach somewhere in the tropics. I mean, I really don't think anything is going to happen because someone forgot to let the cat out. It's the people who don't have computers and don't know the first thing about them that are freaking out. Get over it! It's going to be wonderful entering a new century. There are those of you who can look forward to some very exciting things.

And that takes me right into my next topic. A few weeks ago I went to the Waterfront Deli. It's in that row of rehabbed buildings right next to Dean Jensen's Gallery on the west side of Water between Wells and Mason streets. You can't miss it; there's a portico over the street with a giant brass ceiling fan whirling away. When the Deli is complete it will be "muraled" from one end to the other. The

upstairs is almost complete and the artist who is doing the work is very good. The day we went, the place was filled with people from the neighborhood who were looking for an alternative to eating at Arby's. You can get a decent lunch for around \$5, but it would be very easy to spend a lot more.

You can take out your purchase or you can sit upstairs or in a small area near the street on the main floor. Of the few problems there are, the biggest one is that there are no trays. When I asked about that, a surly counter witch snarled and offered me a shopping basket ala Pick 'N Save. Now really! I had to walk to our table holding a bowl of HOT soup. Another thing that bothered me was that everything is served in or on plastic (there are a couple of areas where you can get a real cloth napkin or a stainless soup spoon if you must have one, so everything is not lost). The beef barley soup turned out to be quite good, but the curried vegetable my friend chose was way too curried; you couldn't even taste the veggies.

We perched right in the front window facing the sidewalk (or should I say sidewalk). A street-person went by rigged out head to toe in imitation leather. The woman next to us said he's been in the same outfit all summer. Then we saw some guy standing out on the median acting like he fell out of the stupid tree and hit every branch on the way down. I recognized Waswo's photographer friend, Mr. Francis Ford. Maybe it was those pre-lunch drinks he's famous for having. He collected his date and proceeded to check things out. Just one word of warning: this place is not designed for a "ladies luncheon." Maybe management will get the message on the trays. It sure would make everything a lot easier, especially going up the stairs.

One of my art instructors at UW-Madison was John Wilde. He paints in a style called magic realism, and is a superb draftsman. The Elvehjem Museum at 800 University Avenue is currently having a fifty-year retrospective of Wilde's work. A friend owns a painting that was borrowed for the exhibit, so we drove up to see the exhibit with his dear friend, "La Grande Horizontal," at the wheel. We got off the freeway and got lost five times on those city streets. What a change from our neat grids here in Milwaukee. I finally spotted the Capitol, we headed for it, and soon found our destination. It's a wonderful show and it runs through the first of the year. Stop in and be amazed if you have a chance.

After the exhibit we decided we were hungry. I remembered to bring the latest copy of *IN Step* and the Guide supplied us with a phone number for Club 5. We called, got excellent directions and were on our way in a jiffy. As we were there early in the evening, there wasn't a very large crowd. TK and LGH had a few drinks and we were soon seated in the dining room. The place was filling up and we were glad to be seated. We had excellent service from a very busy waiter. Later, he gave us directions to the beltway and we headed home to Milwaukee.

This is my final column. I will be leaving the publication at the end of the year. My thanks to Bill Attewell and Jorge Cabal for allowing me the freedom to write whatever I wanted for this column and to choose books to review that I felt were of value to the LGBT community. Thanks to all of you who have let me know you have enjoyed my writing.

There are, however, a few people who are not very happy about me leaving. In fact, they are in quite a tizzy about it. My lesbian aunt, Ursula, her partner Zoë, and

George and Herb, the un-twins who bought Ursy's farm, have been making frantic telephone calls and sending e-mails asking me to think it over. "What are we gonna do if you quit?," wailed Ursy. I could hear Zoë prompting in the background, "Where will we go?" And, from G&H: "Hey, you just started writing about us and now we're abandoned. What's going on?" I assured them that I WILL keep writing, but this time there's going to be a book. I'm talking with a publisher now, and we'll see what happens in the year 2000.

Thanks again. It's been a great ride! ▼



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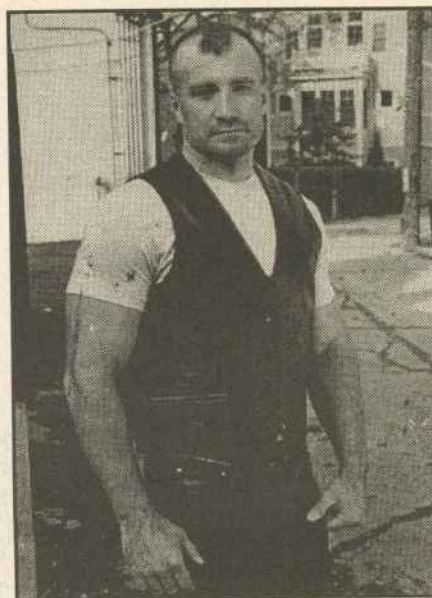
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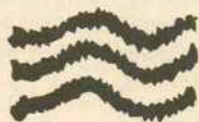
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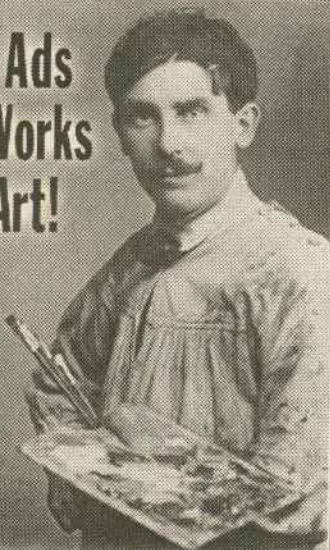
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by Michael Johnston

And now it's Cordially Yours, From my column to your column, the best of the season.

I had the pleasure of seeing **The Bay View Players** do **Side Show** at the historic Modjeska Theater. I and everyone, I spoke with were impressed, entertained and thoroughly enjoyed the gifted performers effort. It's most commendable of **Charmaine** and her acting troop to bring a vehicle, new and never-before-seen to our town and to present it so successfully.

My most sincere congratulations to the Steering and Outreach Committees of **Jolly, Holly, Folly**. Every year it continues to grow, improve and still maintain it's intimacy. I had the pleasure of being introduced to the honorary chair, the always in good taste **Willard Romantini**. I do enjoy his weekly TV program and he is as personable in person. I did however stump him when I asked, "if it was his last supper, where would he go?" Wallard rebuffed by claiming lot's of carry-out bags... but did confess his favorite restaurant to me! It was marvelous seeing everyone out and about feasting and sipping and getting in that old Holiday mode. In the mix: the dapper **Doug Nelson**, the patrician **Paul Milakovich**, the awesome **Andy Cicero**, the dazzling **Denny Miller**, the tasteful **Tim Elverman**, the beguiling **Bill Manley**, the natty **Neil Albrecht** as well as **Greg Plowe** and **Steve Debbink**, **Tom Morden** and **Nick Tice**, **Doug Kwikkel** and **Doug Hipenbecker** all representing the **Miller Brewing Company** and their unwavering support to the community. The food was as extraordinary as possible! **La Perla**, **Crabby Al's**, **Lake Park**

Bistro, **Jolly's**, **The M&M Club**, **The Boulevard Inn** and far too many to list here. Trust me, it was absolute Heaven walking back and fourth noshing all the way. **The Rep's** presentation of **Noises Off** provided great humor to offset yet another memorable "JHE." See you there, next year!

As previously remarked on, in this column **Forever Plaid** is one of the most amusing nights I ever had in the theater and is still playing to packed houses at Vogel Hall. I had to take it in once more, when **The M&M Club** did a field trip. It was great fun sitting with old chums **Charlotte Lorraine** and **Dr. Kelly** (aka Lazarus) as well as **Ms. Rona**, **Bob Schmidt** and some "duck", or some noise that continued to quack us up through out the entire night. Rumor has it the **Plaid Men** will be in our midst through March! Also their piano man will be moonlighting at **The M&M Club**... A helpful hint for the Holidays, this show would be perfect for anyone's Parents or Grandparents. Another one, check out **2 BURN** in Wauwatosa, **Terese** has some fabu suggestions.

Tis the time of the year to party and I can never say no to an invitation. **Robert Parrish** and **Richard Steele** hosted their classic annual gala, in their newly re-decorated living room. Oh what fun we shared! It was also wonderful catching up with such local luminaries as: **Patrick Farrell**, **Doug Nelson**, **Polly** and **Giles Draeger**, **TeeGee** and **Alan Levy**, **Terry** and **Ken**, **George**, **Mark** and **Todd**, **Michael** and **Larry** with **Clint Patterson** on piano and **Jerry Gin & Tonic** warbling each and every Christmas tune he could think of or improvise on, oh what a night! My con-

gratulations and best wishes to **Kerry** and **Michael**, and their special Christmas presents: each other!

I was thrilled to be on the guest list of **Taylor's Holiday Party**. **Dan Taylor** is one of Milwaukee's most genial host. Taylor's is the hip and happenin' club on Jefferson and Wells, where you can hear the cathedral bells...

For fans of **Judy Garland** and **The Wizard of Oz**, please check with **Rona** at **M&M Club**. It seems Ms. Garland's biggest fan **John Fricke** will be on home for the holidays. Fricke is the published author of three must for any film fan's library. A special screening of **The Wizard of Oz** hosted by Fricke, on hand to add a special spin on that familiar trip down the yellow brick road. The latest book on Oz saluting it's 100th anniversary will be available and signed (another gift suggestion) by the auspicious author **John Fricke**, so click your heels three times and I'll see you threr. You are a good witch, aren't you?

Singsational Productions will do their **Christmas Show** on Saturday,

December 18 at **The M&M Club**.

The next day **Craig** at **Switch** is planning their first holiday party. As always it should be a gay old time.

In conclusion, I will be away on assignment, ringing in the new century in Key West, so at this time allow me, once more to wish you all, everything I wish myself!

Until next year, I shall remain, cordially yours. ▼

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