



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

The Wisconsin Light

Anti-Gay Epithets Yelled as UW-Stout Student Is Attacked

By Dayna Versteegen

[Madison]— On October 18, 1993, Amber Withrow, a UW-Stout Sophomore, was attacked on campus. Three men and one woman grabbed Withrow as she was going to her car around 11:00 p.m.

The four individuals put a pillow case over Withrow's head and dragged her to a secluded area behind the parking lot and beat her, while yelling anti-Gay epithets. Withrow suffered a separated shoulder, fractured cheek, cuts and bruises.

UW-Stout officials say that they are continuing to investigate the incident but that they have no strong leads. "We are very concerned about the attack on Amber," said Security Chief Dennis Shaw. "We want this campus to be safe for everyone."

UW-Stout is a campus of about 7,000 students located in the city of Menomonie. "There is no tolerance for civil liberties here when it comes to race and sexual orientation," said Charles Harris, Director of Diversity for the Stout Student Association.

In November, the UW-Stout student senate was presented with a resolution to name the Withrow incident a "hate crime" and to allocate resources for education, sensitivity training and security measures. It was rejected. Later, a watered-down version of the resolution was passed that removed any recommendations for action.

"Menomonie has such a lack of diversity. It's a typical small town," said Harris. "It's a microcosm of provincial thinking. People just don't get it."

On December 8, UW-Stout held a diversity forum designed to address this crime. The featured speaker was State Rep. Tammy Baldwin. "I came here to bring along a message. Gays and Lesbians and our supporters across the state know about the violence that occurred on this campus and they are horrified," she said. "We view an attack on one of us as an attack on all of us."

Withrow also spoke at the forum about the impact that the attack had on her life.

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COURTROOM DRAMA— Attorney Joe Miller (Denzel Washington, right) represents lawyer Andrew Beckett (Tom Hanks), who is suing his former employer for wrongfully firing him in "Philadelphia," which opens in theaters January 14.

A 'Philadelphia' Story: An Interview with Star Tom Hanks

By Brad Gooch

"Did you get that coffee at the catering stand? I can get you better coffee than that. Put that down!"

So insists Tom Hanks, responding rapidly to a knock on the door of his silver trailer parked in a community park filled with cop cars, weeping willows and picnic tables. The roadside spot is located a half hour outside Savannah, Georgia, where he's filming Robert Zemeckis's *Forrest Gump*, based on Winston Groom's novel about a Vietnam vet with, as Hanks describes him, "an IQ of 70" who somehow winds up on Mars.

free to sit on the floor and read."

Though coffee and tea are currently available, Henkelman says she hopes to "evolve the back of the store into a cafe area and also offer more special events, like Tarot readings and vegetarian cooking demonstrations beginning early this year.

In time, she also wants to sponsor reading and discussion groups, as well as expand upon her growing Gay and Lesbian literature sections.

In addition to Gay and Lesbian fiction and non-fiction, Rainbow Revolution offers works on alternative spirituality, Native American issues, the environment, Native American myth as well as children's books on alternative families. T-shirts, Native American art, incense, crystals, jewelry, buttons and bumper-stickers for the activist are on sale at Rainbow Revolution.

Although Henkelman expects little opposition to her business, she cited on experience she had with a Marine, who recently entered the bookstore to collect donations for a war memorial.

After the Marine informed her that the memorial was to honor Iwo Jima, Henkelman showed the leatherneck a T-shirt which read, "We'll have to remember this one. He was Gay." The drawing on the shirt was of the original Iwo Jima Memorial.

The Marine took one look, snapped to attention and called Henkelman "A pinko-Queer." Then, he stomped out of the store.

In one movement Hanks reaches down the metal accordion steps of the trailer with a big, slappy handshake while grabbing away the nixed coffee cup with his free hand. "Come on in," he says. "You like the trailer? If you're ever in the market for one, call me. I know all about them."

"See that?" he says, nodding toward a battered, old white couch while steaming milk for cafe au lait. He's dressed in a short-sleeved blue and black checked cotton shirt, black jeans, and Doc Martins; his hair is buzzed. "It all started with wanting a trailer big enough for that couch. I wanted a comfortable place to sleep. I lay on that couch for hours on end when we were shooting *Philadelphia*."

It's odd to have come to such redneck terrain, where flying in front of the local courthouse is a state flag that incorporates the flag of the Confederacy, to discuss *Philadelphia* — a movie about a yuppie lawyer who happens to be Gay, contracts AIDS, is fired by his high-powered law firm, and sues for discrimination. In the parlance of *The Player*, it's AIDS meets *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

All that carries over from Hanks' last role now is his shaved head — which in *Philadelphia* went along with a 35-pound weight loss to give him the gaunt look so universal among those losing out to the disease.

Hanks first met with *Philadelphia*'s director, Jonathan Demme, to discuss the project in June, 1992, while doing publicity for *A League of Their Own*, in which he played the flushed, tippling, incompetent coach of a '40's women's baseball team.

Demme later sent Hanks a finished script in Seattle, where he was inventing Sam Baldwin, the open-faced widower whose wish-fulfilling mix of availability and vulnerability made Nora Ephron's *Sleepless in Seattle* big box office this past Summer. Since wrapping *Philadelphia* in January, 1993, he's acted in a stage production of *Now Playing Center* in Cleveland and directed an episode of the *League of Their Own* TV series.

"I'm gonna disappear for a while," promises Hanks. "*Philadelphia*'s out in January (1994), *Forrest Gump*, probably in June. So, in one 12-month period that's three movies, and that's my face around far too much, and that's gotta stop. Or eventually America and the world will just say, 'We hate him.'"

Like Bette Davis, Hanks seems to be the sort of actor who needs to keep working, an attitude that makes the trail of his credits uneven. The potholes include *The Money Pit*, *Nothing in Common*, *The 'burbs*, *Dragnet*, *Joe Versus the Volcano*, and *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. But for an actor who started in TV in 1980 as an adman who dressed in drag to live in a women's hotel in *Bosom Buddies* — now a cult favorite in syndication — the road has been a rather quick freeway.

Splash, which would end up with Hanks turning into a merman to wriggle away with Daryl Hannah's mermaid, made him an American movie star in 1984. *Big* earned him a 1988 Best Actor Academy Award nomination. And *Sleepless in Seattle* definitively put him on the shortlist of good guys for whose tired of Sean Penn, Christopher Walken, and Mickey Rourke. Though he names Jason Robards (who played the head of the law firm in *Philadelphia*), Robert Duvall, and Steve McQueen as heroes, he most often has been compared to James Stewart and Cary Grant.

Yet Hanks' bio suggests a few creaks. He was born in Concorde, California, in 1956. Five years later his father, a cook, divorced his mother and hit the road, taking Hanks and two of his three siblings. Hanks claims to have eventually racked up three mothers, five schools, ten homes, and 11 stepsiblings on his father's side alone.

Hanks' own marriage to Samantha Lewes — they had married in New York City when both were struggling actors — ended in divorce in 1987. Hanks has a teenage son and adopted daughter by Lewes and a 3-year-old son by Rita Wilson, an actress he met while making *Volunteers*, a slip of a Peace Corps comedy. Hanks and Wilson married in 1988.

Such a pinball life is, of course, more all-American than a steadier history these days. Yet, hints of its fallout register in only a few of Hanks' roles. In *Nothing in Common*, he played an advertising executive trying to come to terms with his hard-boiled dad, played by Jackie Gleason. In *Punchline*, perhaps his most nuanced performance, he played a stand-up comic whose love of the laugh spoiled him for the dead spaces of real life.

Hanks knows that *Philadelphia*, which will be released in Milwaukee and elsewhere on January 14, 1994, is a special movie — even on his long list of credits.

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Cities First Alternative Bookstore Opens In La Crosse

By Darren J. Foster

[La Crosse, WI]— According to La Crosse resident Linda Henkelman, "It is our time to have a revolution." And in the words of Henkelman, 47, founder of Rainbow Revolution, La Crosse's first alternative bookstore, she believes "I've decided that La Crosse is ready for a bookstore that provides a place for people with different beliefs." The bookstore is located at 122 Fifth Avenue South.

Henkelman explained to *Light* that her inspiration for Rainbow Revolution was both Thomas Jefferson's admonition that "a revolution every 200 years is necessary for the country to succeed," and also the appearance of the rainbow flags at the April, 1993 March On Washington. "The rainbow is significant to all cultures, all races and all beliefs," Henkelman said.

To support her beliefs, Henkelman is adding a financial investment for her future. "This is something that I've always wanted to do," she said, describing the store as a retirement investment for herself when she takes early retirement from La Crosse's Allied Signal in eight years. At that time, the bookstore will become her full-time job.

Although she hopes to "break even in the second year which would be in 1995.

"I love books and going to bookstores," Henkelman said. "People in bookstores are people you can talk to," she added, describing how she envisions Rainbow Revolution as being "a comfortable place, where people can feel