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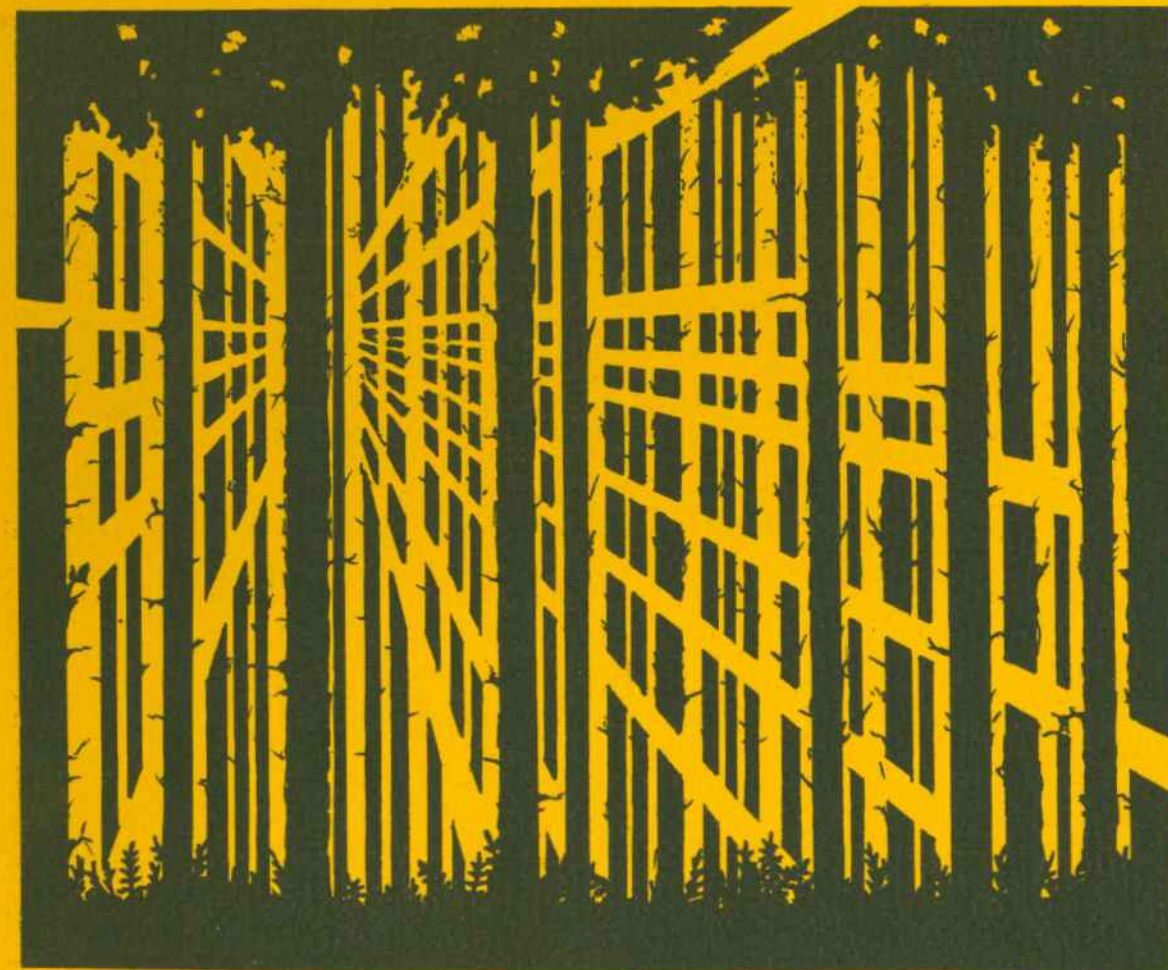
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Among friends

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1989
Volume 4, number 1

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for Gays and Lesbians of Wisconsin



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for Lesbians and Gays of Wisconsin

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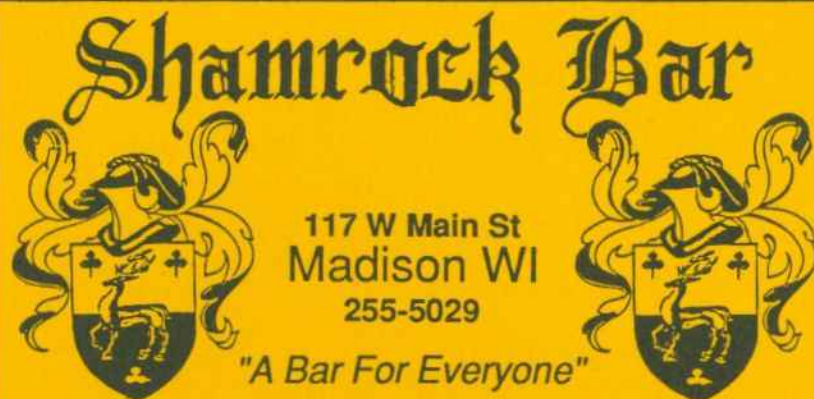
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Lambda Sues US Naval Academy for Forced Separation of Highly Commended Gay Midshipman

NEW YORK, NY — The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed suit in Federal District Court for the District of Columbia charging the US Naval Academy with forcing Joseph Steffan, a highly commended midshipman, to resign less than two months before he was to graduate and receive his commission in the US Navy solely because he is gay.

At the time of his forced separation, the complaint alleges, Mr. Steffan was a battalion commander and member of the Brigade staff, a position that belongs to a very select group of the highest ranking senior midshipmen at the academy. Mr. Steffan also had an outstanding academic and military record and would have graduated in the top 10% of his class had he not been recommended for discharge two months before graduation.

In mid-March of 1987, Mr. Steffan learned from a fellow midshipman that he was under investigation by the Naval Investigative Service for homosexuality. Though he never received notice of an official investigation, Steffan asked to meet with the Superintendent of the Naval Academy to request that he be allowed to graduate. The request was denied and the matter submitted to the Academic and Performance Boards. Both Boards recommended Steffan's discharge for "insufficient aptitude" based solely on his admission that he is gay. No consideration was paid to Steffan's nearly four years of outstanding academic, military, or service record at the Academy.

Having been told several times that appeal of the Boards' recommendations of discharge would be futile, Steffan was left with the choice of either resigning or being discharged. Not wanting to carry the stigma of a discharge, Steffan made the painful decision to resign from the Naval Academy on April 1, 1987.

Mr. Steffan, who had been granted a security clearance to serve aboard the USS Alexander Hamilton, earned the

respect of both enlisted men and commissioned officers. He was appointed battalion commander, directly commanding 1/6 of the Academy's 4,500 midshipmen, and served as a member of the brigade staff, a group of the highest ranking midshipmen. As a nationally acclaimed soloist with the Naval Academy glee club, Midshipman Steffan was officially acknowledged by the Superintendent for his "professionalism and loyal dedication to duty." Mr. Steffan was commended for other achievements as well, including the responsibility for rewriting the Cadet Training Manual and coordinating the cadet training program.

In his suit, Mr. Steffan charges that his forced resignation violated his rights to speech, association, equal protection and due process. He requests his diploma and his commission in the United States Navy.

Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill Reintroduced Into Congress

WASHINGTON, DC—The Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill was reintroduced into the US Senate by Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and into the US House of Representatives by Congressmen Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Henry Waxman (D-CA).

Sixty-three Representatives signed up as original co-sponsors of the bill, officially called the Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1989 (HR 655). Eight Senators have signed on to the companion bill. Gay rights lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) are confident more will sign up in the upcoming months of the 101st Congress.

The bill would amend existing federal civil rights statutes to protect people on the basis of "affectional or sexual orientation" from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing

and credit, government-assisted opportunities and public accommodations. The bill would outlaw discrimination in stores, restaurants, hotels, and other places selling services or goods.

"Affectional or sexual orientation" is defined to mean "male or female homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality by orientation or practice, by and between consenting adults."

The bill has been introduced into Congress since the mid-seventies and has gained support over time. Hearings were held on the bill in 1980 and 1981. At the end of the last Congress, 73 Representatives and 10 Senators were co-sponsors.

The bill has significant backing from members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Thirteen of the 24 members of the Caucus are co-sponsors of the bill. Several other Caucus members are expected to sign.

HRCF urges people concerned about gay and lesbian civil rights to contact their legislators and ask them to co-sponsor the bill or thank them for their support. In Wisconsin, Reps Kastenmeier (D) and Jim Moody (D) are our Congressional sponsors.

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Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project Seeks Vets' Stories

WASHINGTON, DC - Prompted by the incarceration of three female Marines on charges of homosexuality, a joint project to affect longlasting changes in military policy towards lesbians and gay men has been launched by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Organization for Women, Women's Equity Action League, and the ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Project. The Military Freedom Project was conceived and developed at a meeting in Washington, DC in mid-November, 1988.

"The Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project will make a concerted and coordinated and longterm effort to win recognition of the contributions of lesbians and gay men in the Armed Forces by dismantling the military's viciously homophobic policies and practices," said Sue Hyde, NGLTF Privacy Project Director. "While most of us do not expect to suffer imprisonment for our sexuality, that has been the fate of scores of gay people in uniform. For those lucky enough to escape the brig, harassment and humiliation, followed by dishonorable discharges, await thousands of service people who love members of their own sex. We must stop this shameful treatment of citizens who are willing to sacrifice their lives in service of their country."

The Gay and Lesbian Freedom Project has three immediate goals: 1) to press for US Congressional hearings on the harassment of women and lesbians in the service; 2) to testify at the Spring 1989 meeting of DACOWITS (Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service); and 3) to conduct educational and outreach programs to lesbians and gay men in the service.

As part of the education and outreach programs, the Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project seeks testimonies and first-person accounts by lesbians and gay men who are Armed Forces veterans or who are currently serving in the Armed Forces. Stories are sought from persons who were closeted in the military, as well as those who were out; from persons who were hounded out, as well as those who were respected and finished their tours of duty without incident; from enlisted personnel, as well as officers, from women, as well as men. Whatever your experience in uniform, the Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project welcomes your contribution.

All requests for confidentiality will be respected. The stories will be included in collected testimony presented to Congressional committees and will be edited and compiled for inclusion in outreach and educational materials.

Please send your 500-1000 word account of your experience in the military to: Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project/NGLTF/1517 U St, N/Washington, DC 20009.

New Computer Bulletin Board for Gay Info

WASHINGTON, DC— Gay and lesbian computer users can now get up-to-the-minute information from the nation's capital by signing onto the new Human Rights Campaign Fund computerized bulletin board.

The bulletin board, called HRCF NET, features a variety of information on federal legislation, voting records, constituent mobilization and other news of interest to the national gay and lesbian and AIDS communities.

Access HRCF NET for:

- Legislative updates
- Voting records
- Press releases
- Editorials
- Field division
- HRCF fact sheet
- Introduction, instructions, etc.

The HRCF NET access number is (202) 639-8735. Modems must be at a minimum of 300 baud rate. Contact the system operator at (202) 628-4160 for voice communication or in writing at HRCF, 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 607, Washington DC 20005. Use of the bulletin board is free except for line charges.

Madison Gay/Lesbian Directory Published

The Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center has recently published a comprehensive guide to the organizations serving Madison's gay/lesbian community. The Directory includes descriptions written by each organization and contact information. The Resource Center intends to update The Directory each fall.

The costs of printing the guide were underwritten by the groups included and the businesses advertised. Groups listed are in the following categories: community services; cultural and/or social; media; political; religious; sports; support groups. A copy of The Directory can be picked up at the United. Call (608) 255-8582 for details.

From the desk of David Clarenbach: Carpenter to Lead Civil Liberties Panel

State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milw) has been appointed to head a new legislative committee with jurisdiction over Wisconsin's gay rights law.

Carpenter, a strong supporter of civil liberties protections, was named to chair the Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law by Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus.

"The committee will have responsibility for all legislative issues pertaining to civil liberties and constitutional law, including gay and lesbian civil rights and sexual privacy," according to Carpenter.

"Wisconsin continues as the only state to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. Our top priority must be to maintain these human rights guarantees," Carpenter said. "Any effort to repeal or undermine our historic civil rights law won't get very far in my committee."

This is good news, indeed, for Wisconsin's gay rights law, according to its author, speaker Pro Tem, Representative David Clarenbach (D-Mad).

"Carpenter is now in the pivotal position to guarantee the integrity of our anti-discrimination statutes. There have been serious efforts in the past to weaken these laws that guarantee equal rights for the gay and lesbian community," said Clarenbach. "We can now move onto the offensive to broaden legal safeguards and to enact programs that will benefit people with AIDS."

Lesbians Against Violence Group to Form in Madison

MADISON, WI— In the wake of a recent Madison murder-suicide in which the victim and perpetrator were lesbians, a group of concerned women calling themselves LAVENDAR (Lesbians Against Violence EveNif Dykes Are Responsible) is forming.

According to LAVENDAR "Over the last 15 years the women in the domestic violence movement have raised our consciousness and educated us about the tremendous human, social and economic costs of spouse abuse. These efforts have primarily addressed such violence in a heterosexual context. Very little attention has been given to violence among lesbians."

We believe it is important to point out that from the FBI reported assault cases, 95% of them are male assaults on females, 4% are male assaults on other males and the remaining 1% are elder abuse, female assaults on males and female assaults on other females."

LAVENDAR has been formed "to directly address the issue of lesbian violence." It will be exclusively for victims of lesbian violence, co-facilitated by experienced counselors. The first group begins in mid-March, 1989 and will run in ten-week cycles. For more information, call (608) 241-0339, or write: LAVENDAR, PO Box 3154, Madison, WI 53704.

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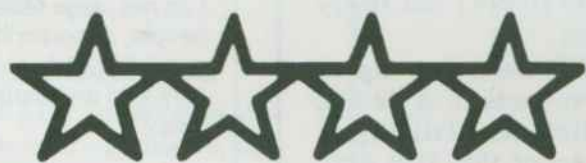
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Gay Madison Mayoral Candidate Challenges Community to Action

MADISON, WI — His campaign is considered a joke by many, and even he admits that he is not likely to win, but Madison mayoral candidate, Dennis Amadeus DeNure — openly gay, self-styled entrepreneur of T-shirts and street sheets, art critic, and urban development consultant — continues to propose ideas he feels should be taken seriously.

DeNure's ideas include a "Museum Mile" (including a gay and lesbian museum) around the capitol square, enlargement of the summer farmers' market and creation of a "Milk Can Alley" on State Street.

DeNure, who sells his campaign platform for \$2.50 a copy, has also expressed his annoyance with area gay and lesbian organizations for failing to exert their political voice in sponsoring a forum for the candidates to address issues of concern to gays and lesbians. "I don't understand," he said, "The gay and lesbian community in Madison is strong and getting stronger. They are rallying the pink triangle for political power and yet they fail to sponsor a forum in time for the primary."

DeNure points out that he's not running a campaign whose focus is "Vote for me because I'm gay." He does feel however, that gay and lesbian oppression both historically and currently may be as good a reason as any upon which gays and lesbians can base their vote.

"I have a platform of real ideas, real goals, and excellent potential," says DeNure. "I am the real McCoy, and I just happen to be gay."

DeNure challenges the Madison gay and lesbian community to pressure the 10% Society to hold a forum at the UW-Madison Memorial Union prior to the February 21st primary. He advises that interested voters contact Jim McFarland (a Madison alderman who "came out" last year) and express their desire to hear the candidates speak.

Wisconsin Agency Finds Probable Cause in Two Gay Rights Cases

The Wisconsin Equal Rights Division has issued a probable cause finding in the case of LaBrecque v. Bradner Smith & Co, and Robert Jansen v. Beaner's Boulevard Lounge of Superior, WI.

In the former, a Chicago man who was promoted and transferred to the company's Milwaukee office was told to return to his old job in Chicago after six weeks because workers objected to his sexual orientation. Lambda Legal Defense Fund represents LaBrecque, with the cooperation of Diane Houk of Milwaukee, (*Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*, #3, 1989.)

The latter probable cause finding was brought against Beaner's Boulevard Lounge on December 28, 1988 by Bob Jansen of the Main Club, Superior, after Jansen was denied entrance to a local Superior Bar, Beaner's during a "Ladies Night Only" male strip tease show.

According to the complaint file with the Equal Rights Division, the "complainant (Jansen) says that the Respondant (Beaner's) 'would not allow men into a show put on at the bar.' Jansen was then told that the Respondant felt it

could 'discriminate against anyone we wanted to,' and that men were not allowed because 'if we let men in some fag would try to put money down the dancers pants.'"

Beaner's owner Mr. Carlyle "Rick" Eckart responded to the Equal Rights Division inquiry by phone, stating that Beaner's "held a special 'ladies night'" and billed it as "no men allowed" and "for ladies only" because the entertainment consisted of male dancers. Eckart continued by claiming that the "dancers insist on ladies being the only viewers and said that they 'don't want some fag coming up and sticking a dollar bill in my g-string.'"

Mr. Jansen brought a similar filing against a Duluth MN bar, the Club Sartoga on Nov 7, 1988. As of January, 1989, however, the complaint had not been settled by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

Gay Man Elected President of San Francisco Board of Supervisors

On January 9, 1989 Harry G. Britt became the first openly gay man to be elected as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Britt is one of the most prominent elected gay officials in the country. In January, 1979, he succeeded the late Harvey Milk who was slain along with Mayor George Moscone by former Supervisor Dan White. Harry Britt was a close political associate and political friend of Supervisor Milk.

Elected to a full term in December, 1979, Harry Britt was the only challenged incumbent to retain a seat on the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Britt has been re-elected in November of 1980, 1984, and by an overwhelming margin, in 1988, in city-wide races. In the 1988 election, Britt placed 1st in a field of 25 candidates.

Harry Britt has emerged as one of the strongest progressive voices in San Francisco politics. While effectively advocating the rights of gay people, he has also been a strong proponent of the rights and welfare of working people, seniors, women, minorities and responding to the AIDS epidemic.

Nursing Home AIDS Admission Policy Criticized by Lawmakers

MADISON, WI — Four prominent Wisconsin lawmakers have expressed sharp criticism and "deep concern" over the policy of Milwaukee-area nursing homes barring persons with AIDS from admission.

In a letter to Wisconsin nursing home associations, State Representatives Tom Barrett (D-Milw), Peter Bock (D-Milw), Tim Carpenter (D-Milw), and David Clarenbach (D-Mad) cited the policy of two nursing homes in the Milwaukee area of denying admission to persons with AIDS as "disturbing" evidence that "we have not met the challenge of the existing AIDS cases, let alone be prepared for the future."

According to the National Centers for Disease Control, the number of AIDS cases will increase in the coming years.

The nursing homes reported their AIDS policies in response to a Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) inquiry regarding such policies. While some homes/facilities said they were in the process of developing policies regarding AIDS admissions, none, to date, have admitted a person with AIDS.

According to Douglas Nelson, Executive Director of MAP, the nursing homes that provided a reason for refusing admission stated their employees were not "properly trained" to care for persons with AIDS.

All nursing homes contacted, however, accept persons with the hepatitis-B virus, which is transmitted in the same manner as the AIDS virus and requires the same precautions to avoid transmission.

In addition, Nelson points out that both MAP and the staff of the Milwaukee County Medical Complex have offered free in-service training in the care of persons with AIDS to Milwaukee area nursing homes — an offer none of the homes has accepted.

In their letter to the Wisconsin Association of Nursing Homes and the Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the four state legislators stated their concern that "the public's needs be met."

"We think the nursing home industry has a moral obligation to meet the existing needs of people who are suffering from AIDS," they said. Furthermore, according to the lawmakers, the persons with AIDS that are currently being cared for in Milwaukee County Hospital acute care sections could be adequately cared for at a lower cost in a nursing home, if such were available to them.

The Assemblymen also urged nursing home representatives to resolve the AIDS admission problem by working with the AIDS Coalition of Milwaukee.

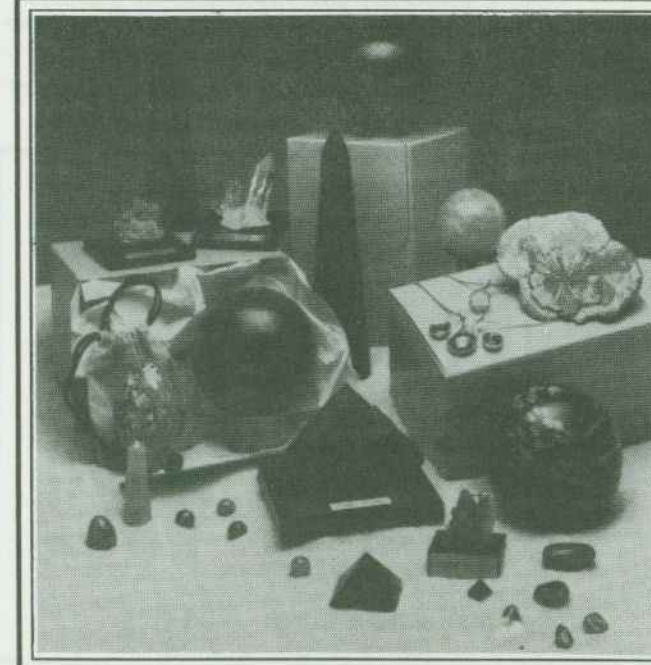
New York Federal District Court Gives Watkins Narrow Reading

Rejecting the contention by a gay Army veteran that the Army must remove from his permanent discharge records the information that he was discharged for homosexual conduct, US District Judge Kenneth Conboy ruled in *Falk v. Secretary of the Army*, that the 9th Circuit panel decision in *Watkins*, holding the Army's current policies on homosexuality violative of equal protection of the laws, is distinguishable. Conboy noted that *Watkins* rests on a distinction between status and conduct. The Supreme Court has ruled in *Hardwick* that homosexual conduct may be criminalized, but in *Watkins* the court ruled that automatic exclusion of those having a homosexual orientation (regardless of conduct) was unconstitutional. Conboy opined that plaintiff *Falk* could not derive any benefit from the *Watkins* rationale, because his discharge resulted from unprotected sexual conduct.

Lesbian/Gay Law Notes, #63, 1988

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Federal Court Declares Armstrong Amendment Unconstitutional

"United States Congress may not require District of Columbia City Council members to vote to amend the District's Human Rights Act so as to exempt religiously-affiliated institutions from having to comply with the ban against sexual orientation discrimination, according to US District Judge Royce C. Lamberth in a December 13, 1988 opinion. Clarke v. United States. Granting summary judgment on behalf of the plaintiffs (all members of the District's City Council), Judge Lamberth ruled that it would violate the First Amendment rights of Council members for Congress to premise payment of their salaries and funding for essential city services on a directed vote of this type.

The controversy arose when Congress enacted the amendment proposed by Senator William Armstrong of Colorado as Section 145 of PL 100-462, the annual appropriations bill for the District of Columbia. The amendment was provoked by the 1987 decision of the DC Court of Appeals in Gay Rights Coalition v. Georgetown University which required the Catholic-affiliated university to afford "equal

treatment" to gay student groups on campus. The amendment provided that no funds appropriated for the District government could be spent unless the City Council adopted the following addition to its Human Rights Act:

(It) shall not be unlawful discriminatory practice... for any educational institution that is affiliated with a religious organization or closely associated with the tenets of a religious organization to deny, restrict, abridge or condition (A) the use of any fund, service, facility, or benefit; or (B) the granting of any endorsement, approval, or recognition, to any person or persons that are organized for, or engaged in, promoting, encouraging, or condoning any homosexual act, lifestyle, orientation, or belief.

Other provisions of the bill similarly conditioned the appropriation on the Council repealing a ban on HIV testing by insurance companies and on repeal of a residency requirement for city employees. The lawsuit decided by Judge Lamberth only deals with the Human Rights Act issue, however. Although the reasoning of the decision would apply with equal force to the HIV testing issue, the City Council went ahead and repealed its ban on HIV antibody testing by insurance companies.

Disposing of cross-motions for summary judgment solely on the issue of the First Amendment rights of the City Council members, Judge Lamberth expressed no opinion on the

substantive constitutionality of the Armstrong Amendment, which the plaintiffs alleged violated the Establishment Clause and the Equal Protection Clause. He commented, "Congress is therefore free to enact the amendment itself, should it choose to do so."

Lesbian/Gay Law Notes, #1, 1989

ACLU Plans Attack On Oregon "Measure 8"

PORTLAND, OR — Gay and lesbian activists are now organizing protests against the so-called "Measure 8" which Oregon voters approved last November and which overturns Governor Neil Goldschmidt's executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Jann Carson, spokesperson for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said, "The ACLU is exploring all possible legal challenges to the measure. I can't tell you what form they're going to take, yet, because we still have attorneys doing research to determine the best way to challenge it and the most likely way to succeed in challenging it.

Gay and lesbian activists admitted they had been taken by surprise by the success of Measure 8—claiming that, right up to the election, polls showed it would be defeated. Cathy Siemens, of Oregonians for Fairness however, said that the defeat was due to "the kind of distorted, misleading and sleazemongering campaign that the proponents of the measure waged."

Windy City Times

Ask Doctor D

Forget the Candlelight, Sweetheart or
How to find a Partner

by Demian, Ed.D.



Q: I'm looking for a sweetheart, possibly a life-partner. All the good ones seem to be taken already. I'd like someone to be my dreamboat. Where do I start?

A: I suggest being very pragmatic. Leaving aside such an important and vital part of your life to chance, or allowing romantic feelings to get in the way is a big mistake. Relationships take work and perseverance. Start with someone who will not make the job a nightmare.

First, make a list of all you want in a partner.

Second, make a concentrated effort to find that person. Be logical here. If you want a spiritual person, look for him or her at a meditation group or gay church. If you want a professional, go to your local gay business association.

Third, do not —DO NOT— compromise on the ingredients you are looking for. It is only a matter of time before you find a very good fit for you. Don't let loneliness lead you into a less than desirable union.

If you are currently in an unsatisfactory relationship, assess why it isn't working. If it is because that person does not adequately match your list, consider starting over. You can't fill your relationship cup until it's been emptied.

Hint: The quaint notion that opposites attract is total junk. Most long-term couples started with a lot in common. The main relationship glue is shared interests and beliefs.

Oh yes, the "good" ones are not all taken. Sometimes they have been made "good" by being part of an ongoing, mutually supportive relationship. You and your future partner will help each other become one of the good ones.

Damian is co-publisher/co-editor of *PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples*. Send your questions about gay and lesbian relationships, for possible use in future columns, to *Partners*, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

Dear Editor,

"Read my lips!"

Every time George Bush slapped us with this bullying quip during this past campaign I wanted to pull one of my man friends close up to me, smack a luscious kiss together and retort, "Read MY Lips, George!"

Despite the bad press and the dismal return on the money we pay our government we all know that our lesbian/gay love, our sexuality, our relationships, our ways of seeing and being in the world are potent and powerful. We are also learning that our love empowers us when we let the world see it, alive, healthy, creative, even demanding.

Soon we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day, a day of love and lovers. This year I'd like to inundate the White House, Congress, the Supreme Court, ABC, CBS, etc. with Lesbian/Gay Valentine wishes. So I invite you all to play along and head to your favorite lesbian/gay cardshop, find your favorite postcards of men or women kissing, color them with a few red hearts, inscribe them with a "Read MY Lips!" and any other quips you fancy. Then send them off to George Bush, Justices Rehnquist or O'Connor or to whom-ever you'd like to read your lips. Let our collective lips daringly speak our Love.

Do Be My Valentine!
Michael Neisen

RESPONDING TO AIDS: TEN PRINCIPLES FOR THE WORKPLACE

1. People with AIDS or HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection are entitled to the same rights and opportunities as people with other serious or life-threatening illnesses.
2. Employment policies must, at a minimum, comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
3. Employment policies should be based on the scientific and epidemiological evidence that people with AIDS or HIV infection do not pose a risk of transmission of the virus to co-workers through ordinary workplace contact.
4. The highest levels of management and union leadership should unequivocally endorse nondiscriminatory employment policies and educational programs about AIDS.
5. Employers and unions should communicate their support of these policies to workers in simple, clear, and unambiguous terms.
6. Employers should provide employees with sensitive, accurate, and up-to-date education about risk reduction in their personal lives.
7. Employers have a duty to protect the confidentiality of employees' medical information.
8. To prevent work disruption and rejection by co-workers of a employee with AIDS or HIV infection, employers and unions should undertake education for all employees before such an incident occurs and as needed thereafter.
9. Employers should not require HIV screening as part of general pre-employment or workplace physical examinations.
10. In those special occupational settings where there may be a potential risk to exposure to HIV (for example, in health care, where workers may be exposed to blood or blood products), employers should provide specific, ongoing education and training, as well as the necessary equipment, to reinforce appropriate infection control procedures and ensure that they are implemented.

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Cogitations & Other Perversions!



From the desk of the Publisher

Politiqueen courting season begins!

The biannual courting season for Madison's politqueens has begun with the arrival of this year's early thaw. I had hoped to be spared this pre-coital ritualistic foreplay, but I'm afraid not this time around.

True to form, the local gay and lesbian politicos are beginning to strut across the landscape with their pom-pom festooned ladies and lads-in-waiting. This one wants to be mayor, that one wants to be city council person, the other just wants to radiate. Each, in his or her own fashion, jockeying for attention; all of them parading before the public their particular (and I might add, peculiar) qualifications for stately office. All, it would seem, are gayer-than-thou, have "contributed significantly" to the genteel nature that is unique to Madison, and in general, have passed the litmus test as the most caring of individuals in this, the best of all worlds. We, of course, have an obligation to fulfill our civic duty by bestowing on these people the keys to our Earthly kingdom. Once done, all will be perfect, in this the City of God.

Maybe so, but I have my doubts. As in most political races, there are indeed a few individuals who are certainly worthy of our consideration, and Madison is no different in this regard. Nevertheless, there are at present a number of gay/lesbian candidates who simply do not fit the bill. We are being asked to support a bevy of candidates who, under normal situations, will not give you the time of day — and when they do, they either want your money, or are engaged in a diatribe about why their position on everything is the best and certainly the most politically correct. Imagine a dozen or so of these queens in the same room during a debate and meltdown comes to mind.

The sad part of this situation is that the few really good individuals who could have something positive to contribute to the system are frequently turned off by the magnitude of egocentricity and cliquishness in our city. There is, it would seem, a pre-approved agenda that is etched in stone, and for any aspiring gay or lesbian of merit, adherence to such an agenda becomes crucial for success. Anyone caught "bucking" the commandments is automatically unacceptable to the powers-that-be. So much for pluralism.

Most disturbing, however, is the tendency of our so-called political leaders to use the system not for the good of the community, but as a base for self-aggrandizement and ego-satisfaction. How many people know of the profoundly

important work of the original founder of the Madison AIDS Support Network back when support of such an organization was not de rigeur for our politicians, gay, lesbian, or straight? Now, of course, you couldn't pry a politician away from the organization with a crowbar. Of course I am happy that this organization and others like it are finally receiving the support they so deservedly merit, but WHERE WERE YOU FIVE YEARS AGO when AIDS was thought to be an exclusively "homosexual problem", and it was not considered politically correct to lend a helping hand? Conversions are wonderful, aren't they! Miracles never cease!

Strip away the egos, the rhetoric, private agendas and fashionableness, and you find pretty slim pickings. Our society is increasingly beset with ideogogues who demand adherence to platförm and ideologies as criteria for acceptance. Private agendas become public, and exclusivity becomes entrenched; the lemmings are on the march! We deserve better from our elected officials. Contrary to their point of view, you and I have just as much right to our positions as they — and a right to have them heard, discussed, and debated. I may have to put up with the screams of the politqueens, but I don't have to vote for them!

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Come and Check Our Daily Specials

Drag Queen Wrestling at the New Bar
Monday, February 27th

The following controversial guest feature is from the Homosexual Information Center, Bossier City, LA, and is offered as a point of departure for further discussion. The positions taken are those of the authors.

Bursting Bubbles

•|•

Advocates of so-called gay rights rejoiced last February, 1988, when a 3 judge panel of the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the 9th District struck down Army regulations banning homosexuals from that branch of military service.

The decision was right. Unfortunately, it was right for the wrong reasons. Specifically, the panel ruled 2 to 1 in the case of Sgt. Perry J. Watkins v. U.S. Army "that the Army's regulations violate the constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the laws because they discriminate against persons of homosexual orientation, a suspect class..." From the language of the opinion it is evident that the court has swallowed the popular social myth that individuals who make a homosexual choice comprise a class of persons separate and distinct from heterosexuals — analagous to the difference between blacks and whites or males and females — as well as the notion that homosexuality is a "sexual orientation" hang-up. The arrangement of human beings into sexual categories by the court is not surprising. Until 40 years ago homosexuality was "the love that dared not speak its name." Now, as director (of the HIC) once observed, you can't get it to shut its mouth. And for the last 20 years the selling of homosexuals as a separate people has been at a high pitch.

Then in late spring (of 1988) the court nullified its February 10th ruling by granting the Department of Justice's request that the Watkins case be heard en banc. This has given the full court a chance to get rid of the fanciful references in the opinion to homosexuals and human sexuality in general.

Of course, the average jurist knows as much about human sexuality as the average born-again Christian knows about theology. The classification of mankind by sexual orientation embodies the worst sort of stereotyping. It is one thing to place people into protected classes on the bases of race, religion, sex, or age, but persons who are identified as homosexual by virtue of their urges, leanings, inclinations, desires, propensities, proclivities, or even their activity do not meet any of the criteria applicable to groups previously provided protection under the fifth and fourteenth amendments.

For the court to bestow protected status on "persons of homosexual orientation" is to perpetuate conditions under which all homosexually active men must revolt.

Reducing homosexuality and heterosexuality to a sexual orientation at this point is premature to say the least. The use of the term "sexual orientation" assumes — in advance of a demonstration of the fact — that sexual urges and responses are among the protected species (or, for that matter, as an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as Congressional

bills S.464 and H.R. 709 urge) is to confound matters further. The weakness of the hypothesis is that it ignores the evidence right in front of it. If we could establish the truth of what up to now is only a conjecture, that would be one thing. But without some hint of the truth — which is absent from the clinical evidence and from the innocuous term "sexual orientation" — we end up with a lot of patronizing, crackpot, psychological and sociological analyses, and ignorant legal opinions that solve nothing.

Kinsey explained it best: "Mankind does not represent two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual. It would encourage clearer thinking on these matters if persons were not characterized as heterosexual and homosexual, but as individuals who have certain amounts of heterosexual experience and certain amounts of homosexual experience...Only the human mind invents these categories, and tries to force people into them. Any restriction of the term homosexual to individuals who are exclusively so demands, logically, that the

Of the men tested for HIV infection, the greater number when asked if they are "gay" say no, whereas nearly half the same number when asked if they have had sex with other men, answer yes.

term heterosexual be applied only to those individuals who are exclusively heterosexual, and this leaves no allowance for nearly half the population which has contact with, or responds sexually to, individuals of their own as well as the opposite sex." Kinsey's studies show that only a tiny percent (4%) of the male population is exclusively homosexual in their urges and responses, while 10 percent of the sex acts that take place at any given moment are homosexual. This implies, obviously, that the vast majority of person's who engage in homosexual activity are not ipso facto homosexual. They don't identify as homosexual! This fact has been borne out recently in connection with AIDS. Of the men tested for HIV infection, the greater number when they are asked if they are "gay" say no, whereas nearly half the same number when asked if they have had sex with other men answer yes.

In 1956, Los Angeles research psychologist Evelyn Hooker gave the Rorschach and related personality tests to 30 "normal overt male homosexuals" and to a comparable group of 30 heterosexuals. The results, minus heterosexual/homosexual identities, were submitted to a panel of experts on each of tests used. Not only could the panel find no "difference in degree of adjustment between the two," when the the results of each homosexual subject was paired with the results of each heterosexual subject, the experts could not tell which was which. Dr. Hooker eventually came to the conclusion that homosexuality as a personality trait does not exist.

(Continued on page 10)

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Bubbles

(Continued from page 9)

These and other studies indicate that the word homosexual does not describe what a person is; it describes what a person does. People are created male or female, black or white. But no one is created heterosexual or homosexual. Homosexuality is not innate. The words heterosexual and homosexual refer to conduct. Individual choice determines conduct. Choice plays no part in race and gender. A person can have a little or a lot of homosexual activity; or none at all. It is not as if a man can absolutely never do anything other than just what he does sexually. What he does is strictly a matter of choice, and every homosexual choice is a free act. It is willful; it involves positive action, even creative effort.

Man's interchangeable sexual interests have been taken for granted in most societies. In ancient Greece, men carried on homosexual liaisons side by side with wives; the wife was useful for having children. Acts of anal and oral copulation have traditionally been lumped together as sodomy, and the word homosexual was not in the language of any people until 1869; it did not appear in the US military regulations until WWII, nor in the vocabulary of state penal codes until the late 1970s. However, with exception of Hellenic culture, sodomy has been an offense in most times and places. It was forbidden as a common law crime by 13 of the original states when they ratified the Bill of Rights, and it has traditionally been applicable equally to all persons in all situations — whether partners were of the same or opposite sex, married or unmarried.

Homosexual movement pioneers recognized man's sexual diversity. The thing the moralists have always hated most is not knowing who is homosexually active and who is not. Thus the most reasonable position we can take is to point out that what a person does in bed is one's own business, and thereby attempt to put a stop to the categorizing of people as exclusively sexual beings — especially in situations where sex is irrelevant. The intention was certainly not to institutionalize homosexuality. Persons who make a homosexual choice are sexually free. Their spirit of individuality is the antithesis of the group: a homosexual minority, a homosexual class or subculture. We would like others to be free. But having only recently emancipated ourselves from centuries of rigid sex codes religiously fashioned after heterosexuality some of us naturally resent current attempts to organize our lives around homosexuality, just as much as we have always resented efforts to organize our lives around heterosexuality. If the movement has to turn homosexuality into a way of life that rivals heterosexuality in order to bring about equality, then nothing is gained. The result is still a world divided — another round of separation and isolation.

•2•

These considerations should make everyone wary. Unfortunately, popular misconceptions about unpopular truths are often borne by stereotypes uncomplicated by a lot of messy facts. The late Robert Benchly once jokingly

observed that there are two classes of people in the world: those who divide people into classes, and those who do not. Divertingly enough, just when the opposition toward homosexuality was subsiding in the late 1960s, out of the closets emerged the role-playing "gays" as a sort of "chip off the old Benchly" waving their gay rights banners aloft.

The raising of a gay self-consciousness and collective identity was just what the new gay rights marketing men needed to get this former aggregate of intractable individuals to think and act alike as a group rather than as independent personalities. Although homosexual is not a dirty word, gay was substituted in its place. This made those who didn't like the sex in homosexual a lot more comfortable with themselves. But using gay as a euphemism for homosexual deprives us not only of two honest words, but what they stand for too. If homosexual becomes unmentionable it will be a sad loss no matter what the squeamish may think. In going from an adjective describing a merry mood enjoyed by everyone to a noun labelling a people separated sexually from the rest of the population the word gay produced a new social order.

While the demand that individuals openly admit their homosexuality may have mobilized badly needed support within the movement, and, to some extent, has been a catharsis for the fragile minded guilt-ridden gays, the population was polarized by the posture and one of the movement's most persuasive arguments — that a man's private sexual habits are nobody's business but his own — got lost. The stand up and be counted doctrine quickly embraced by the legislatures and the courts, in consequence of which there is now a homosexual/heterosexual split in the laws regulating sodomy: of the 24 states that still make sodomy a crime, five have for the first time enacted exemptions for its heterosexual practice while homosexual sodomy remains stripped of this right, viz. in the eyes of the law in Arkansas, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, and Texas homosexual sodomy is seen as more of a perversion than heterosexual sodomy.

•3•

What has reduced everyone to incoherence is the lure of the absolute. The appellate court in the Watkins case erected a triangle of socially acceptable "sexual orientations...homosexual, heterosexual, or bisexual." So defined — and thus locking the stereotypes into law. But life is not so tidy. The army has tried unsuccessfully for years to keep homosexuals out of soldiering. During WWII it adopted a policy designed to exclude persons with "homosexual tendencies" as a class. It was a flawed policy from the start typical of the traditional military caste system. Although the reason for a 4F rejection was supposed to be confidential it frequently became known to the whole community in which as man lived. Under the circumstances, few men with common sense would admit to homosexual tendencies on entrance examinations or during the 5 minute psychiatric interview conducted at draft boards and induction centers. The mere fact that a man was disqualified for service during WWII made him the subject of suspicion. So, many rough-and-ready-looking men who kept their mouths shut about their homosexual histories — including those who continued to have daily overt

homosexual contacts — got inducted, and got along in every rank in the Army, Navy, and Marines till the end of the war without the slightest adverse effect on their efficiency, and without becoming involved in disciplinary problems.

In contrast to this, hundreds of draft dodgers during the Vietnam conflict, less worried about their family's embarrassed feelings or with public opinion in general than with staying out of the service, flocked to induction centers with limp wrists.

If a straight soldier and a gay soldier of the same sex engage in homosexual acts because they are drunk, immature, or curious, the straight soldier may remain in the Army while the gay soldier is automatically terminated.


Having spotted the loophole in the Pentagon's policy, they quickly shed their phony anti-war convictions in favor of a sure way to beat the draft. History records that a handful of pragmatic gay rights "leaders" (now highly vocal in support of Watkins' right to serve in the Army) are the very same ones who during the height of the protest period self-servingly argued that the Army's discriminatory policy was right. These men and women blinded themselves to the issues on which the movement needed to promote a real fight. Their anti-homosexual opportunism served the Vietnam protesters well, but it did serious damage to the rights of all homosexually active persons both in and out of service.

In 1967, Perry Watkins enlisted in the Army. He obediently answered "yes" to the question on whether he had homosexual tendencies on the Army's pre-induction medical questionnaire. The question is asked under penalty of perjury. Servile responses to this question (still frequently asked under other pretexts as well) exist by the millions. It's not that a person's homosexuality should be buried. But the fact that every man is measured for military fitness by his moral standard, and that a forced confession is listed and recorded at every induction center, should be repugnant to all freedom-loving Americans. What is particularly depressing — and not even good "gay

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rights politics" at that — is the fact that Watkins and all the others automatically accept the question and answer it. It is the interrogation itself that offends the right of privacy. As the US District Court in New York observed: "it is now established that official inquiry into a person's private sexual habits does violence to his constitutionally protected zone of privacy. To believe otherwise is to submit to a governmental inquisition into a person's innermost feelings and habits." It is better to lie to such questions; not from any lack of moral scruple or course, but because to supply even the answer "no" tacitly accepts the premise that a person's sexual tendencies are open to governmental scrutiny in the first place.

What Watkins really needed to say was that none of this was anybody's business. But he had been programmed. He was proud to be gay. It didn't occur to him that his right to privacy had been compromised. Like the Army, he was convinced that his homosexuality was significant. When Watkins filed his lawsuit he argued that the Army's regulations constitute "an invidious discrimination based on his sexual orientation" — and that persons of homosexual orientation are a group powerless within the political system. But there is a difficulty with this theory. In the first place, sexual orientation has no constitutional status. It is anomalous, and, at bottom, impossible to protect people on the basis of something of which the legal and psychological relevance is yet to be determined. Sexual orientation is too amorphous, too flexible and diverse — if it has any meaning or bearing at all — to prescribe as a judicial cure. If the minority of persons who submit to the homosexual

stereotype are given constitutional protection on this basis what happens to the rights of the majority of persons who enjoy the exact same sexual outlets but do not recognize, identify with, or live by its limitations? That is, if you cannot define the group broadly by status, or more narrowly by conduct because too many people fall outside the established behavior pattern most of the time, how do you define them? The appellate court observed: "If a straight soldier and a gay soldier of the same sex engage in homosexual acts because they are drunk, immature or curious, the straight soldier may remain in the Army while the gay soldier is automatically terminated. In short, the regulations do not penalize soldiers for engaging in homosexual acts; they penalize soldiers who have engaged in homosexual acts only when the Army decides those soldiers are actually gay." How convenient! Under this line of reasoning then, soldiers caught in flagrante delicto have only to argue that they are straight — that their behavior is merely a temporary aberration — and continue in service. And they probably won't be bothered any more than the draft-dodgers were by what sexual label or buzzword is used to characterize them so long as it serves their immediate purpose. And like the draft-dodgers they have to be believed because there is no objective test of a man's word whether he is homosexual or heterosexual, as convincingly demonstrated by Dr. Hooker.

To be continued in the next issue.

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National Lesbian/Gay Health Foundation Publishes Only National Sourcebook on Health Care for Lesbians/Gays

- Dozens of articles by experts on lesbian and gay health issues and over 2000 listings of health care professionals and facilities -

The National Lesbian/Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF) — the oldest national lesbian and gay health organization — has published the second edition of *The Sourcebook on Lesbian/Gay Health Care*. *The Sourcebook* is the only comprehensive directory and resource book for lesbians and gay men. It contains more than 2,000 listings of doctors, clinics, counseling services and research centers that specialize in lesbian and gay health care, as well as 42 articles by leading experts on lesbian and gay health issues. *The Sourcebook* directory covers every state in the United States as well as Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

"While *The Sourcebook* includes the most comprehensive information and listing of doctors and clinics treating people with AIDS," said Ellen Ratner, President of the NLGHF, "this publication goes far beyond AIDS. The directory provides information on

every conceivable health issue that a lesbian or gay might confront; such as psychotherapy, support groups, chemical dependency and other addictions, rape counseling, menstrual disorders, holistic treatment, and plain old basic preventive health care."

The *Sourcebook* articles include:

- Meeting the Health Care Needs of Gay and Lesbian Adolescents by Gary Remafedi

- Treatment Issues for Chemically Dependent Lesbians and Gay Men by Ellen Ratner

- A History of the People With AIDS Self-Empowerment Movement, by Michael Callen and Dan Turner

- Epidemiologic and Sociocultural Factors in the Transmission of HIV Infection in Black Gay and Bisexual Men, by Susan Cochran and Vickie Mays

- Lesbian and Gay Parents by Audrey Steinhorn and Helen B. McDonald

- The Lonely Journey: Lesbians and Gay Men Who Are Co-Dependent, by Dana G Finnegan and Emily B McNally

- Gay Men's Sexual Health, by John Preston

The Sourcebook which is sold for \$14.00, was edited by Michael Shernoff, ACSW, and William A. Scott, CSW, ACP. It is available in bookstores across the country or by contacting the NLGHF, PO Box 655472, Washington, DC 20035, (202) 797-3708).

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THE SECOND STONE

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In Memorium:

Joseph Fairchild Beam

The gay community lost one of its leading activists on December 27 with the death in Philadelphia of Joseph Fairchild Beam. The exact cause of his death was not immediately clear. Friends said, however, that he had been in ill health recently and had been extremely depressed for several months.

For many years, Beam had worked to create a stronger movement of black lesbians and gay men. He was the first editor of "Black/Out," a magazine serving that community, and served as three years on the board of directors of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays.

"Joe was such a positive role model for black gay men and women alike," said Renee McCoy, executive director of the NCBLG. "He had a gentle, frank spirit and was an inspiration to gays and lesbians at all levels, from all walks of life."

In 1985, Beam began work on a collection of writings and artwork by black gay men. It was published eighteen months later, under the title *In the Life*. Although a number of works had already been published by and about black lesbians, Beam's was the first anthology ever to focus on the experiences of black gay men.



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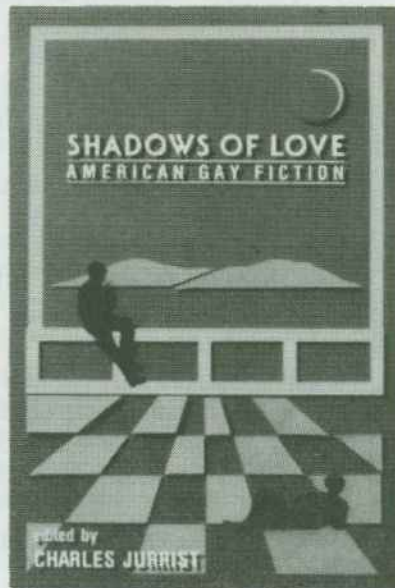
"To grow up gay or lesbian in modern times means to grow up an outsider," writes Thomas Cowan in the introduction to his new book, *Gay Men and Women Who Enriched the World*. He continues: "The gay imagination must stretch far to answer the basic questions of life: Who am I? Where did I come from? What is my purpose?"

Cowan examines the lives of 40 individuals beginning with Alexander the Great in 336 BC and continues with essays on Plato, Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo. He tells of Walt Whitman's comment following a brief encounter with Oscar Wilde, "A splendid boy, we had a very happy time together." He says Noel Coward maintained a heterosexual appearance for the sake of his career but wrote: "Homosexuality is becoming as normal as blueberry pie."

Cowan asks, "What purpose do gay people serve?" In older non-western cultures they had roles as spiritual leaders and healers. In modern times they've tended to be artists, writers, teachers, designers and to pursue careers in social work and entertainment.

The achievements of Lord Byron, Herman Melville, Horatio Alger, Jr., and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky are noted. Moving into the present century are essays on Gertude Syein, Virginia Woolfe, TE Lawrence, Charles Laughton and Tennessee Williams.

Thomas Cowan, with a doctorate in history from St. Louis University, has written 20 books in such diverse fields as religion, health, personal development and business, home improvements and biography. He resides in New York. *Gay Men and Women Who Enriched the World* is published by William Mulvey and costs \$17.95; the availability date is April, 1989 for local gay/lesbian bookstores.



Shadows of Love: American Gay Fiction

edited by Charles Jurrust
Alyson Publications, 1989
paperback \$7.95

Reviewed by Larry Duplechan

Shadows of Love is quite fittingly subtitled "American Gay Fiction," though "American Gay Male Fiction" might have been a bit more accurate, as all the authors here are men. Seldom if ever before has an anthology of short fiction better represented the ethnic and cultural diversity of the gay man in America. Rather than present yet another compilation of reflections on gay life and concerns in New York and San Francisco, publisher Sasha Alyson and editor Charles Jurrust have assembled sixteen stories comprising, if not a representative cross-section, then at least an intriguing sampling of — to quote Mr. Jurrust's "Introduction" — "what else is out there." Judging from this anthology, what's "out there" are a lot of very good writers. The authors included here hail from New Jersey, Washington State, Texas, Georgia, Toronto, and yes — even New York and San Francisco. They are white and black and chicano, and their characters are all these and then some. This is definitely not the same old thing.

The stories in *Shadows of Love* are uniformly fine, but there are standouts. These include "First Blood," Robert Trent's oddly titled tale of sexual obsession involving two BMOC's in the late 1960s; the acutely sensitive "A Faustian Bargain" by Richard Hall, the story of a concert pianist, married with children, teetering on the brink of gay life; Lee Rosario Kincaid's "Coloring Inside the Lines," a delicately wrought story told from the point of view of a little boy of four or five; and "Immortally Yours" by Guy-Mark Foster III, a black man's wry first-person account of mutual near-seduction on a commuter train.

Altogether, *Shadows of Love* is an important and wholly enjoyable contribution to the canon of gay literature, and for what it's worth, I wholeheartedly recommend it.

A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples

Attys Hayden Curry & Denis Clifford
Nolo Press, 950 Parker St, Berkeley
CA 94710, (415) 549-1976.
paperback, 368 pages, \$17.95

There are estimated to be 20 million lesbians and gay men now living in the United States. These men and women represent a community as diverse as American society. To address the legal needs of this growing community, Nolo Press has come out with the fifth edition of *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* by attorneys Hayden Curry and Denis Clifford. *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* is designed to help lesbian and gay couples understand the laws that affect them and to take charge of the legal aspects of their lives.

Although many of the legal consequences of "coupling" are immediately apparent, many others don't surface until times of stress — misunderstanding, separation or death. Married couples'

relationships are defined by law. However, since lesbian and gay couples cannot legally marry, this means that, among other things, they are subject to such things as higher estate taxes and insurance payments.

A Legal Guide for Lesbians and Gay Couples focuses on daily living, explaining legal alternatives and detailing options for planning financial, practical and legal aspects of a relationship. Areas significantly expanded since the previous edition published in 1986 are estate planning, medical emergencies, and having and raising children. In addition, *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* now includes a list of lesbian and gay legal organizations and a list of national AIDS organizations.

As in previous editions, *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* explains:

- child custody and visitation rights
- relating to former spouses
- transferring or dividing property
- wills

and contains numerous sample forms including living together agreements, trusts, and power of attorney forms which are substantially different from the previous edition.

From Firebrand Books:

A Gathering of Spirit: A Collection of North American Indian Women

edited by Beth Brant
Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons,
Ithica, New York 14850
(607) 272-0000.
248 pages, \$9.95 paper, \$20.95 cloth

When *A Gathering of Spirit* was first published in 1983, it created a wave in both the feminist and Native American publishing worlds. Never before had so many Indian women's voices been heard in print.

Five years and several editions later, the ripples are still being felt. *A Gathering of Spirit* remains the single best source for experiencing the vibrancy and breath of Indian women's writing.

According to Beth Brant, the book's editor: "The women in this book have challenged non-Indian attitudes about Indian women. We have inspired new attitudes among Indian people. We gathered our spirit and called it faith. We gathered our spirit and called it love and hope. We are a community. We are a nation. We are alive."

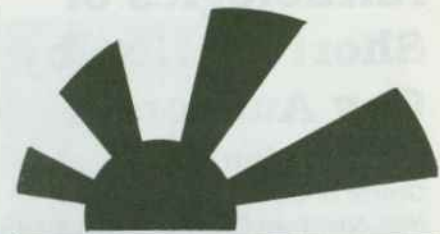
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Anthologies of Short Fiction by Gay Authors:

Men on Men 2

George Stambolian, editor.
New American Library. Paper, \$9.95

Shadows of Love

Charles Jurrist, editor.
Alyson Publications. Paper, \$8.95

Reviewed by Jeff Kirsch

These two anthologies of gay short fiction confirm *Men on Men* editor's George Stambolian's assertion that "gay fiction has become good business." Strambolian's book and, to a lesser extent, Charles Jurrist's *Shadows of Love* also serve as proof of Stambolian's belief that an "extraordinary renaissance in gay letters . . . has been taking place since the 1970s."

Men On Men 2 is without doubt the most brilliant collection of gay short fiction to appear in the last ten years, which is to say, ever. This comes two years after Stambolian's original *Men On Men*, which, although accused of geographical imbalance and other shortcomings, proved enough of a financial success to facilitate the current dazzling volume.

Stambolian has shown himself to be a bold editor in both collections. If indeed this daring, which in the first volume took the form of experimental structure and style, turned off some readers, the essential boldness of the new collection resides in the content, overall more accessible and satisfying than in the first. *Men on Men 2*, as Stambolian observes in his introduction, expands the parameters of "typical" gay fiction and explores the margins and uncharted territory of gay experience. Not that Stambolian has forsaken form in his selections; the bulk of the stories are modern and stylized, but with engaging, unique voices.

Among the best examples of this distinctive, personal tone figure a crop of "newer" writers — a good omen for gay fiction. David Steinberg's "The Age of Anxiety," superbly chronicles the angst of one New York gay man struggling to cope with the era of AIDS, the tension of urban life and, not

the least of all, the break-up with his lover. "Solidarity," by Albert Innaurate, is a tragicomic look at two fat gay men who are rebuffed when trying to march with various contingents of an AIDS protest in this ironically titled story.

Equally stunning is Anderson Ferrell's "Why Some People Get Cancer," narrated by a straight religious fundamentalist, who believes that the reason in this particular case is the homosexuality of the dying woman's son. This is perhaps the most gripping story, along with Tim Barrus' "Life Sucks, Or Ernest Hemmingway Never Slept Here," a rambling meditation of a Vietnam vet and a powerful condemnation of commercialized life and indifference to the AIDS epidemic in Key West.



George Stambolian — best new gay fiction in *Men On Men*.

Other notable new voices in *Men on Men 2*, almost too numerous to mention, include Richard McCann's "My Mother's Clothes: The School of Beauty and Shame"; David Groff's "Nobody's Child," about the impending death of a gay man's best friend and the "disposition" of her son; David Brendon Hopes' "Once in Syracuse," a hustler's coming out and romanticized version of what he expects "gay life" to be; Melvin Dixon's "Red Leaves," narrated by a member of a street gang, which attacks and kills a gay man; and Allan Gurganus' "Adult Art," written from the point of view of a bisexual school superintendent.

Also noteworthy, by its mere inclusion, is Joseph Pintauro's "Jungle Dove," a tale of race relations and fear of rape among straight prisoners. Not to forget Lev Raphael's "Dancing on Tishe B'Ac," a story, set in the Midwest, of an Orthodox Jewish woman's inability to accept her brother's gayness.

"Favorite" stories are bound to vary from reader to reader, but, to this reviewer's opinion, 18 likeable stories out of 19 are good odds. The exception for many may be James McCourt's "I Go Back to the Mais Oui," another audacious choice by Stambolian, but which may strike readers as a pompous flourish.

If Stambolian's selections seem pessimistic, they are not. AIDS, though often present in the consciousness of narrators, does not dominate. Humor, along with the portrayal of uncompromising and starkly etched realities, does.

Most importantly, *Men On Men 2* illuminates and probes while it entertains. The collective effect is striking. No gay man can read this volume without relating to the majority of these stories.

Held up against such competition, Charles Jurrist's selections in *Shadows of Love* cannot help but pale in comparison. Given the success of the first *Men On Men*, there is no reason why Alyson Publications — the country's largest "small" press — should not try to jump on the bandwagon. There is little "wrong" with *Shadows of Love*; simply put, the collection usually entertains, but, as opposed to Stambolian's, rarely enlightens.

It is perhaps ironic that Jurrist's introduction is one of the weakest parts of his assembled anthology. Without mentioning *Men On Men*, it clearly invites comparison, stating its desire to see what else was "out there," and, in a backhand swipe at Stambolian's first volume, to "more accurately represent the geographic and ethnic diversity of gay America." From the thinly veiled defensive, Jurrist leaps into self-congratulatory mode and then goes on to a patronizing discourse on what constitutes a "porn" story versus what doesn't. (Porn is prohibited here.)

Jurrist indeed discovers new talent. Besides well known novelist Richard Hall's "A Faustian Bargain," with little doubt the strongest story in the collection, stands out William A. Reyes' "A View of the Freeway." Reyes weaves a comic, at times almost farcical tale of a married couple of illegal Mexican immigrants, the male half of whom leaves his wife for a same-sex lover. Close on Reyes's tracks are Alan Neff's

"American Dreams," a story of three interdependent "mental patients" in Seattle, two of whom fall in love with each other; and novelist Peter McGehee's "Survival," a sweetly offbeat and erotic story narrated by a high-class hustler. Also on the positive end of the spectrum is another erotic story (not pornographic, mind you), "Cords of Love," by William John Mann.

"Tinky," the only overt AIDS piece, by Scott Humphries, is touching. Patrick Franklin's "Sea Gift," is an innocuous but pleasant enough ghost story, which amounts to nothing but a homosexual succubus, and whose ending is predictable.

Jurrist's assertion that he could do nothing "to shape the final result" of his book is at best dubious. He cites two "last-minute" submissions, by Reyes and by Scott W. Peterson, as the only quality comic stories he received. While Reyes adds a definite plus, Peterson's "Feedbag Blues" is questionable. A superficial comic tale, Peterson's work presents problems for sticklers for detail. The story is set in Iowa, but Peterson seems to have spend little time there. Many Iowans and Wisconsinites can inform the author that East Dubuque is not in Wisconsin, but Illinois, and to our knowledge, one cannot "drink until dawn" in the bars of Iowa, straight or gay.

Several of the stories in *Shadows of Love* are barely or not all gay, except by inference. One of this group, which Jurrist justifies and boast of in his introduction, contains some of the worst style. Consider this, from Lee Rosario Kincaid's "Coloring Inside the Lines," admittedly out of context:

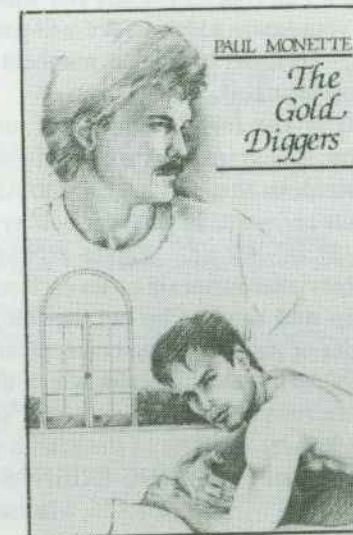
"In the end, when Uncle Adam came in to help him wash his hands before supper, whose smells were now formalized into the recognizable pattern of spaghetti and meatballs, he had thrown off the soldier-mean look on his face, and once again his arms came down around Adam like the boughs of a tree, like the big skirt of the lady in the Nutcracker that all the people came out of."

Exceptions like this aside, Jurrist's volume is nonetheless well edited. Stambolian's is too, though a few misspellings (not typos) have crept through. The order of the stories in *Shadows of Love* might also have been altered, as the book opens with the

collection's weakest selection and only very slowly gets better.

But this is not a time for emphasizing minor infractions.

Jurrist's volume is competent, Strambolian's magnificent, overwhelming. Both bring expanding horizons and new names to their showcases, proving that talent is burgeoning and gay literature is here to stay.



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Wednesday evenings, 9:00pm
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- Mar 1** Black/White Men Together July '88 Conference — Billy Jones, health educator is guest speaker
- Mar 8** Labor in Mainstream of Good Business — "The Bayview Massacre of 1886"
- Mar 15** Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Council, Spring '88 — "Internationalizing the Curriculum"
- Mar 22** Senator Proxmire at UW-Whitewater — "Fleecing of America"
- Mar 29** Women's Show — "Low income women and public policy" from National Women's History Month, UW-Whitewater, 1987
- Apr 5** Black/White Men Together July '88 Conference — Rev Carl Bean Minority AIDS Project, LA
- Apr 12** Labor in Mainstream of Good Business — Paper Tiger production of "Working Pictures"
- Apr 19** Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Council, Spring '88 — Harlan Cleveland is guest speaker
- Apr 26** Women's Show — Sonia Johnson, UW-Madison, "The Ends are the Means"

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PO Box 2283, IA 50010; (515) 292-7000
Publication: *Resource Directory*
- Cedar Rapids**
Bars Warehouse, (M/W)
525 H Street SW, IA 52404;
(319) 365-9044
Religious MCC c/o People's Unitarian Church,
600 3rd Ave SE, IA 52401;
(319) 393-7974
Support Gays of East Iowa;
(319) 365-5436 or 383-8025
- Davenport**
Bars Club 506, (M/W, juice bar)
506 Brady Street, IA 52801;
(319) 323-2072

- Religious Dignity/Quad Cities,
PO Box 2224, IA 52809
Metropolitan Community Church
PO Box 4095, IA 52808; (319) 322-5055
- Des Moines**
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Nonsexist Library, 3500 Kingman Blvd,
IA 5031; (515) 279-7312
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La Cage, (M/W)
416 E Walnut, IA 50309; (515) 243-9025
Surprises, (M/W)
2016 Forest Ave, IA 50311;
(515) 288-2016
Support Gay Coalition of Des Moines,
PO Box 851, IA 50314; (515) 279-2110
Publication: *Des Moines GC Newsletter*
Gay and Lesbian Resource Center;
(515) 277-1454
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951 Main Street, IA 52001;
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Religious Dignity, PO Box 1424, IA 52001
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PO Box 1424, IA 52001
- Grinnel**
Support Grinnel College Gay Community,
PO Box 805, IA 50012; (515) 236-2500
Publication: *Just Shy*
- Iowa City**
Bars 6:20, (M/W)
620 South Madison; (319) 354-2494
Support Gay & Lesbian Academic Union,
PO Box 3396, IA 52244;
(319) 351-3557
Publication: *GLAU Bulletin*
Gay People's Union, University of Iowa
Memorial Union, Activities Center,
IA 52242; (319) 353-7162
Publication: *Gaily Iowan*
Switchboard: Gayline; (319) 353-7162
- Mason City**
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Iowa, PO Box 1092, IA 50401;
(515) 923-3939
- Sioux City**
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1127 4th Street, IA 51101;
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(M-F, 9-7pm EST)
Legislative Hotline; (800) 362-9696
Milwaukee AIDS Project;
(800) 334-AIDS
National Gay Task Force;
(800) 221-7044 (M-F, 3-9pm EST)
New York Gay Men's Health Crisis;
(212) 807-7035
Legal Equal Rights Division; (608) 266-6860

- Appleton**
Bars 1101 West, (M/W, dancing)
1101 W Wisconsin Ave; (414) 733-9839
Pivot Club, (M/W, dancing)
4815 W Prospect; (414) 730-0440
Support GAI, Lawrence University,
115 S Drew St, WI 54911
Lawrence University Gay and
Lesbian Alumni (Lawrence GALA)
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New York NY 10011
- Ashland**
Gay and Lesbian Support Group,
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- Eau Claire**
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(715) 834-8822
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(715) 832-1457
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Organization, UW-Eau Claire,
Union Box GLO, WI 54701
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10 E Sherman Ave, WI 53538;
(414) 563-8711
- Green Bay**
Bars Brandy's, (M)
409 S Washington; (414) 432-3917
Loft, (W, dancing)
2328 University Ave; (414) 468-9968
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WI 54306; (414) 739-8030
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Pence WI 54550; (715) 561-3120
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Publication: *CrossCurrents*
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PO Box 932, WI 54602-0932
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Gay Theatre Project,
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246-2681

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Legislative Hotline; (608) 266-9960

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Affirmation
1127 University Ave; 256-2352
Integrity/Dignity at St Francis House,
1001 University Ave. PO Box 730,
WI 53701; 256-8204 or 836-8886

Support and Social
AIDS Info (Division of Health),
Holly Dowling; 267-3583
Bette Davis Bowling League;
Bob at 831-4038
Blue Bus STD Clinic,
1552 University Ave; 263-7330
Democratic Party Lesbian/Gay
Caucus, 255-5172 or 273-4483
Equal Opportunities Commission,
City County Bldg #500; 266-4910
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous,
1021 University Ave; 257-7575
Gay Fathers Support Network;
231-3064 or 238-9160
Gay Issues Audio Tape;
263-3100, tape #3333
Honeymooners Bowling League
Bob at 831-4038
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous &
Lesbian Al-Anon,
406 N Pinckney on Fridays at 6:30pm
Lesbian Informal Drop-In Support
Group; 255-8582, (12 - 4pm)
Lesbian Mothers Support Group;
249-0434
Lesbians of Color; 255-8582, (12 - 4pm)
Madison AIDS Support Network,
PO Box 731, WI 53701; 255-1711
Madison Gay/Lesbian Center,
PO Box 1722, WI 53701
Office: 1127 University Ave, B104;
257-7575
Madison NOW Lesbian Rights
Task Force; 255-3911
Madison Wrestling Club,
PO Box 8234, WI 53708
Men over 30 Support Group
PO Box 8234, WI 53708; 244-8690
Mixed Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics
Anonymous; 255-8582
New Harvest Foundation
PO Box 1786, WI 53701
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and
Gays (PFLAG), PO Box 1722,
WI 53701; 271-0270 or 257-7575
PICADA
2000 Fordem Ave; 246-7600
Police Liaisons to Lesbians and
Gays; Alix Olson, Donna Winter,
or Jim Witalison at 266-4248
Ten Percent Society, Gay and Lesbian
Students, Box 614, Memorial Union,
UW-Madison, WI 53706; 263-7365
The United, for Gay/Lesbian Social
Change, PO Box 310, WI 53701;
255-8582

UW Gay Assistance, Dean of Students
Office; 263-5700
Volleyball, Team and Social;
Jeff at 251-8716
Wisconsin Outdoor Adventurers
PO Box 8234, WI 53708;
244-8675 (evenings)
Women in Nature Group (WING)
233-1955

Marshfield
Social
Lesbian/Feminist Book Club (LFBC)
PO Box 821, WI 54449

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Gay Community, UW-Stout, WI 54751
Milwaukee (414)
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Restaurants
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196 2nd Street; 273-7474
Beer Garden, (W, m, food)
3743 W Vliet Street; 344-5760
Boot Camp, (M, leather/levi)
209 E National Ave; 643-6900
C'est La Vie, (M, w)
231 S 2nd Street; 291-9600
Club 219, (M, w, dancing, leather/levi)
219 S 2nd Street; 271-3732
Dance, Dance, Dance, (M, w, dancing)
801 S 2nd Street; 383-8330
Fannie's, (W, m, dancing, food)
200 E Washington Ave; 643-9633
Grand Ave, (G/L Sun nights only)
716 W Wisconsin Ave; 271-9525
Hot Legs, (W, m, video, dancing)
814 S 2nd Street; 645-8572
Jet's Place, (M/W)
1753 Kinnickinnic Ave; 672-5580
La Cage, (M, w, video, dancing)
801 S 2nd Street; 383-8330
Loose Ends, (Mixed, food)
4322 Fond du Lac Ave; 442-8469
M&M Club, (M, w, food)
124 N Water Street; 347-1962
Phoenix, (M, w, dance)
235 S 2nd Street; 278-9727
This Is It, (M)
418 E Wells Street; 278-9192
Wreck Room, (M, leather/levi)
266 E Erie Street; 273-6900
Your Place, (M, w, dancing)
813 S First Street; 6747-0130

Baths
Club Milwaukee, (M, rear)
704-A W Wisconsin Ave; 276-0246

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Brady East STD Clinic, (Best)
1240 E Brady Street; 272-2144

Culture and Media
Cream City Chorus,
c/o 124 N Water Street, WI 53202;
277-0434
Fest City Singers,
PO Box 11428, WI 53211; 476-SING
Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable,
PO Box 239, WI 53201; 277-7671

Medical
Info
Milwaukee AIDS Project,
PO Box 92505, WI 53202; 273-AIDS
National Coalition STD Services,
PO Box 239, WI 53201; 277-7671
Professionals for Alternative
Lifestyles, PO Box 239, WI 53201;
277-7671

Publications
InStep, (local news, bar events)
225 S 2nd Street, Milwaukee WI 53204;
Wisconsin Light, (G/L newspaper)
1843 N Palmer, Milwaukee WI 53212;
(414) 372-2773

Religious
Christian Gay OK,
PO Box 93433, WI 53202; 933-3662
Dignity, PO Box 597, WI 53201; 444-7177
Integrity, PO Box 10109, WI 53210;
871-7417
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2511 N Farwell, Unit L, WI 53211;
963-9833
New Hope MCC Church,
PO Box 93913, WI 53202; 442-7300

Support and Social
Alcoholics Anonymous
(request gay meeting); 272-3081
Beer Town Badgers, (1hr/levi cycle club)
PO Box 166, WI 53212
Black and White Men Together,
PO Box 12292, WI 53212; 265-8500
Castaways M C, (cycle club)
PO Box 15152, WI 53215
Cream City Business Association,
PO Box 92614, WI 53202; 372-2773
Cream City Foundation,
PO Box 204, WI 53201-0204
Galano Club, Alcohol Free Recovery Club,
1428 N Farwell Ave; 276-6936
GAMMA, (sport/social events)
PO Box 1900, WI 53201
Gay Community at UW-Milwaukee,
Student Union, Rm E364; 963-6555
Gay Hotline, (referral, events); 562-7010
Gay People's Union,
PO Box 208, WI 53201; 562-7010
Gay Youth,
PO Box 09441, WI 53209; 265-8500
Grapevine, (women's group)
2211 E Kenwood; 964-6117
Holiday Invitational Tournament,
(G/L bowling) c/o 144 N Water St,
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Shorewood WI 53211-7112
Milwaukee Area Gay Fathers,
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Gay/Lesbian Union of Racine,
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