

# IN STEP

IN Step • LesBiGay Wisconsin's Community Newspaper • Founded in 1984  
August 20, 1998 • Vol. XV, Issue XVII • \$2.95 outside of Wisconsin

**SECTION ONE:**

**NEWS: Chastity Bono Named AIDS Walk Chair**

**FEATURES: Symbols of Our Pride • WNBA's Diverse Fans**

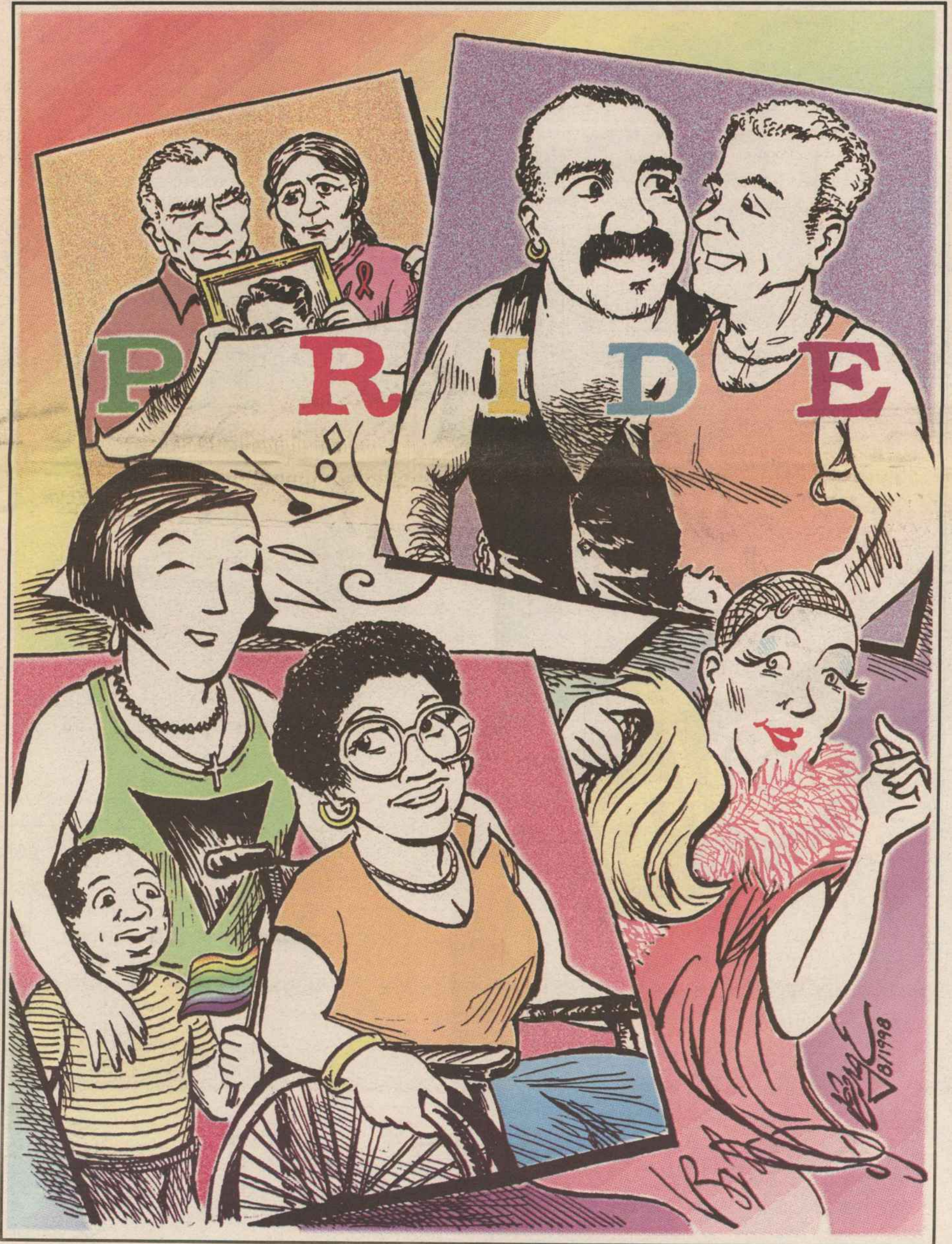
**PLUS: Anglicans Can't Cope with Gays • NEW COLUMN: Straight Answers • The Latest Dish • Quips & Quotes**

**SECTION Q:**

**PrideFest: Your Complete Guide**

**Q•INTERVIEWS: Barb Peterson • Anne Heche**

**The Classics • Ethan Green • The Casual Observer • NEW COLUMN: Eat Out • Keepin' IN Step with Jamie • The Guide**





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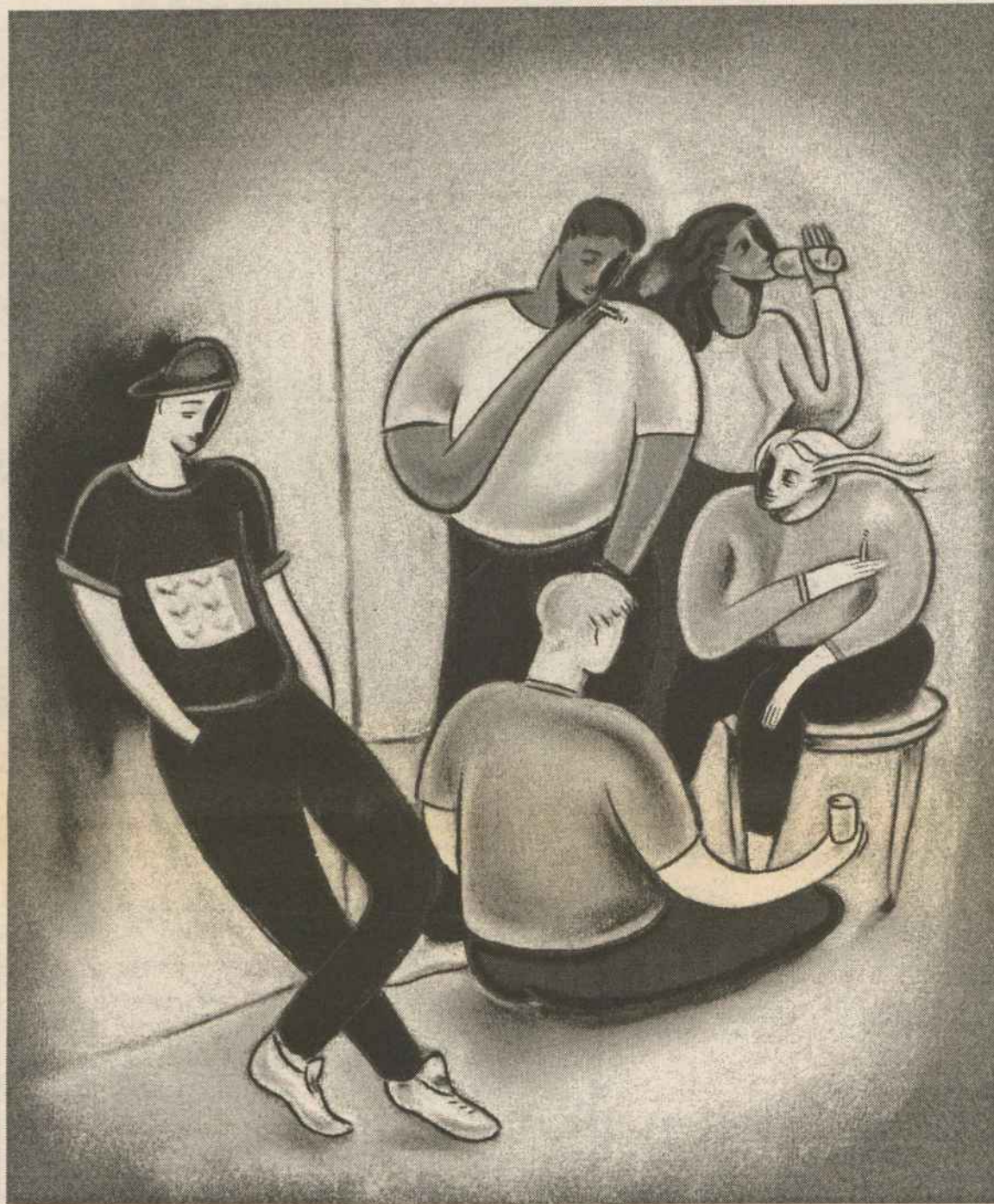
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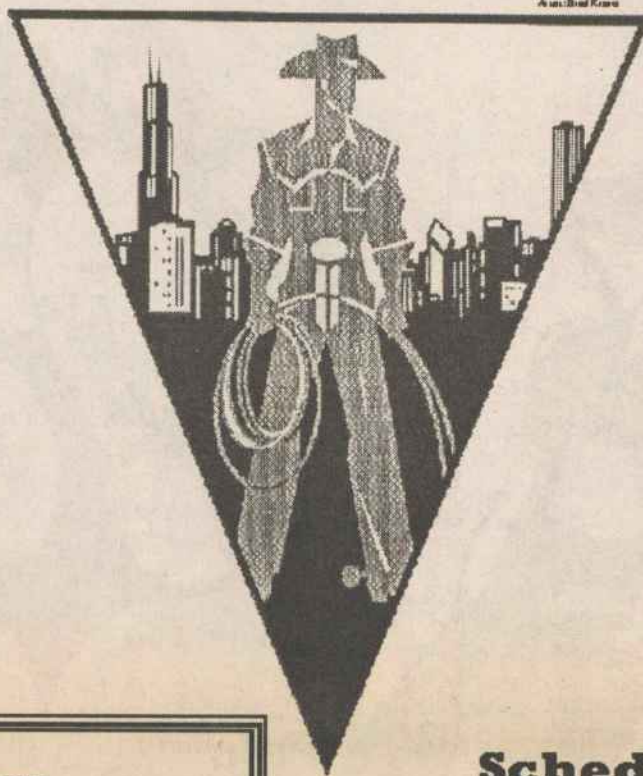
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### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, August 28th

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Windy City Welcome Party, at Hyatt-Deerfield, 6:00pm-1:00am.  
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Contestant Meeting, at Fairgrounds, 9:30am.  
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Grand Entry, Following Barrel Racing.  
Rodeo Happy Hour Party, at Hyatt-Deerfield, 4:00-6:00pm.  
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Hosted by Hyatt-Deerfield and Miller Lite.  
Windy City Rodeo '98 Road Show - Part I,  
at Hyatt-Deerfield, 4:00pm - 8:30pm.  
Dance Gala, hosted by Shoreline-Milwaukee,  
at Hyatt-Deerfield, 9:00pm - 1:00am.  
To Benefit: Breast Cancer Awareness  
Program of Milwaukee and Camp Heartland



#### Sunday, August 30th

Rodeo Events, 10:00am - 6:00pm.  
Grand Entry, Following Barrel Racing.  
Mrs. O'Leary Races, Following Grand Entry.  
Windy City Rodeo '98 Road Show - Part II,  
at Hyatt-Deerfield, 4:00pm - 8:30pm.  
Rodeo Happy Hour Party, at Hyatt-Deerfield, 4:00-6:00pm.  
A \$5 Windy City Rodeo lapel pin admits you to the party!  
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Bunkhouse Buffet Supper, at Hyatt-Deerfield, 4:00-8:00pm.  
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U.S. Federal Courthouse Building, Milwaukee, WI, Historic Restoration Project. Photo by Chuck Waters.



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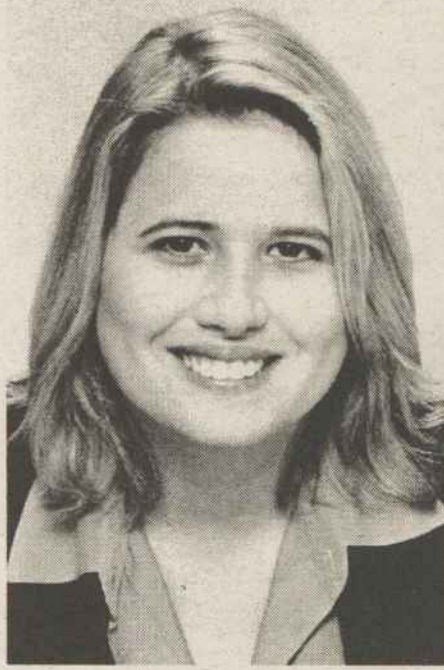
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## Chastity Bono Honorary Chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin

Milwaukee — Chastity Bono, activist, writer and daughter of superstar Cher and recently deceased U.S. Rep. Sonny Bono, will come to Milwaukee on Sunday, September 20, 1998, as Honorary Chair of



the 9th annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

"We are proud that Ms. Bono is coming to Wisconsin. She will bring a powerful message, especially for young people, about AIDS prevention and the importance of enlisting in the fight against AIDS," said Lisa Wolter, deputy director of community relations for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. ARCW produces AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

According to Bono, "Participating in AIDS Walk Wisconsin is important because AIDS does affect people everywhere in big cities and small towns. You hear about the glitzy AIDS fundraisers in LA and New York and the celebrities that attend. To know that 10,000 people from

all over Wisconsin go to AIDS Walk Wisconsin is a lot more impressive to me — that's the real heart and soul of this fight AIDS."

As the Honorary Chair, Ms. Bono will speak at the AIDS Walk Breakfast on September 20, and shortly thereafter, will speak at the Opening Ceremony to inspire walkers. Following, she will cut the start ribbon to begin the walk for the expected 10,000 participants. A viewing stand will be set up along the Walk route to give walkers another opportunity to see Ms. Bono as they proceed along Milwaukee's lakefront.

The Breakfast starts at 9:30 a.m. and tickets are \$50 per person. Reserved tables for 10 and individual seats are on sale. To purchase tickets or full tables, call 414-225-1517. To register for the walk, call 800-348-WALK.

Ms. Bono is eager to talk about the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the need to support AIDS services. She encouraged her father, Sonny Bono, in his position as representative for the 44th Congressional District, to support the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. As a staff writer at The Advocate magazine, her memorable interview with her mother, Cher, was one of the magazine's highest selling covers.

In the public eye at a very early age, Bono often appeared on her parent's television show, "The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour," in the early 1970s. She has recently written a book, Family Outings, and served as a consultant to, and appeared on, the television show "Ellen."

Chastity Bono follows Greg Louganis, 1997, Bette Midler, 1996, and Vice-president Al Gore and Tipper Gore, 1995, as AIDS Walk Wisconsin Honorary Chair.

"People should register for AIDS Walk Wisconsin right now so they can receive their pledge packet and have time to collect pledges," said Wolter. "Plus we can

send an invitation for the Breakfast and information about Chastity Bono to all pre-registered walkers that are interested."

"The AIDS Walk is a phenomenal event that has grown into the state's most recognized and participated-in single day fundraiser," said Wolter.

The funds raised by the 1998 AIDS Walk Wisconsin will be distributed to 19 Wisconsin organizations that do HIV prevention programs, AIDS drug trial research and serve men; women and children affected by HIV and AIDS.

"We hope that people in Wisconsin will show that they still care about this terrible epidemic and remember that we are all affected by it," said Wolter. "Fundraising is key to pushing forward toward effective treatments and the hope of a cure someday."

To register for AIDS Walk Wisconsin call 800-348-WALK, or register online at [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org).

## Federal Court Rules Against UW in Gay Fees Case

Madison — A Federal Court of Appeals ruled last Monday that the University of Wisconsin cannot use an individual's mandatory student activity fee to finance political groups a student personally opposes.

The court sided with three Christian students who sued the University for using mandatory student fees to fund the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Campus Center. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled Madison's use of student fees to fund groups on campus some students objected to violated their First Amendment rights to "freedom of belief."

The three-judge panel said funding of

private groups espousing a certain political or ideological belief is not germane to the university's primary educational mission. Even if it were, the burden on students' First Amendment rights would outweigh any governmental interests.

"Freedom of speech has a component where you're free not to speak, you're free not to support somebody. And that is what they based their decision on," Jordan Lorence, a lawyer for the conservative Northstar Legal Center representing the students, told the news agency.

## Greer Seeks Reinstatement

Madison — The anti-gay firefighter who was suspended once for distributing anti-gay literature at the fire station and again for issuing a news release critical of the chief has filed suit claiming his free speech rights were violated.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court last week by Ron Greer came in response to his firing July 31 for distributing the critical press release in 1997. He had been on suspension since the incident.

Greer also seeks a temporary restraining order for an immediate return to duty pending the outcome of the lawsuit, said Mike Maxwell, the manager of Greer's campaign for the Republican nomination for Congress.

Greer claims the firing violated his rights to free speech and due process.

The firing came a year after Greer was suspended for issuing the release criticizing Chief Debra Amesqua and alleging a cover-up of an assault during training activities. The lawsuit names Amesqua, the fire department and the Madison Police and Fire Commission as defendants.

Greer was suspended another time in 1997 for distributing anti-homosexual material at a fire station. He filed a similar free speech lawsuit over that suspension.

Greer is seeking the GOP nomination in the 2nd District.

## Publishers' Note

When word leaked out several weeks ago that we planned to merge *Q•Voice* and *In Step*, we got plenty of suggestions for a new name... *Q•Step*? *In Voice*? In the end, the choice was simple. You are reading *IN Step* with *Q•Voice* shortened to simply the letter "Q" which appears on the front page of *IN Step's* new arts and entertainment section. The combination is truly the best of both worlds.

Merging of two publications is no small task, even if those two are housed under the same roof. As publishers, we will now be able to focus our energies and talents on a single publication and a single vision. The merger eliminates duplication, cuts our overhead and builds a solid foundation for future growth. Most importantly, it provides LesBiGay Wisconsin with a first-class publication which will better serve the needs our community.

Much thought and consideration has been given to the format and direction of the new *IN Step*. While the publication will not retain the *Q•Voice* name, it will continue *Q•Voice's* commitment to the arts—and the community—with the in-depth interviews and profiles that helped make *Q•Voice* so unique. It will also keep the positive *Q•Voice* attitude which so many of you found refreshing, as well as its eye catching photography and graphic design.

All the popular features and columnists from both publications will remain. [Richard] Waswo will contribute his personality profiles and interviews of local and nationally recognized artists. In addition, he will provide reviews of the local art scene.

Ed Grover's tart commentary column, "The Casual Observer" will now be seen monthly in *IN Step's* Q section, alternating with all-new installments of "Juicy Bits" by W.W. Wells III.

Freelance entertainment writer Tim Nasson joins *IN Step's* staff with this issue. Read his interview with talented actress and Ellen gal pal, Anne Heche on page 22 of *IN Step's* Q Section. Cartoonist Eric Orner's "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green" appears on Page 31 in the Q Section and Rex Wockner's "Quips & Quotes" and World News coverage will now be seen *IN Step*.

We are very pleased to announce that Julia [Dish] LaLoggia will contribute a regular restaurant review column titled, EAT OUT! Kevin John will continue his

excellent film reviews. In coming issues, look for expanded book and music coverage as well.

Since its inception, *IN Step* has always been essentially a small "mom and pop" [pop and pop?] operation without the benefit large outside investors. For a community-based publication, we are very proud to have assembled such a large, experienced and talented writing staff, and we are especially grateful for their continued loyalty to *IN Step*. In coming issues, we pledge to add more names our masthead in order to better reflect the diversity and talents of our community.

Special thanks also goes to our many advertisers. It is a humbling vote of confidence that so many have chosen *IN Step* for their advertising needs. It reflects positively—not only the evolution of *IN Step*—but the continued maturing of our community as well. We are very grateful for their support and encourage you—our readers—to patronize and support those businesses and organizations which advertise in the pages of *IN Step*. It is only through their support that we are able to celebrate PRIDE with you every issue.

In 1999, *IN Step* will reach another publishing milestone when we enter our fifteenth year of serving Wisconsin's LGBT community with professionalism and integrity. We can think of no better way to show our PRIDE than to work to give you a publication you can truly be proud of.

Speaking of Pride, this is our PRIDE Issue! We've got plenty of coverage in our Q Section along with an easy to read schedule of Pride events. We look forward to seeing you at the festival, and encourage you to tell us what you think of the new *IN Step*.

Jorge L. Cabal  
William Attewell

### Mission Statement

*IN Step is committed to providing gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered people with authoritative local, regional, national and international news. We pledge to provide crucial information on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and health issues, to provide unparalleled coverage of the arts and entertainment scene, to include incisive editorials and columns addressing issues of importance to the queer community and to serve the needs of our advertisers.*

*Soon entering our fifteenth year of publishing, we hope to bring our journalistic excellence, passion for justice and truth, and commitment to a wider audience. To present news and information of interest to our readers fairly and objectively and to the best of the ability of our talented and experienced staff.*

# Dane County Becomes "County of Tolerance"

by Christopher Ott  
of the IN Step Staff

Madison — The Dane County Board of Supervisors voted Aug. 6 to adopt a "county of tolerance" resolution in response to anti-gay billboards.

Following a similar move by the Madison City Council on July 7, the resolution states that Dane County is a "county of tolerance" and that "all people, including gays and lesbians, have a right to live in peace as valued members of the family which makes up our community."

Both resolutions came in response to billboards posted in and around Madison earlier in the summer by the organization Wisconsin Christians United.

## "The First Amendment does not prevent the County Board from having an opinion."

The billboards stated, "Homosexuality is not a family value. Homosexuality is a sin." The Dane County resolution refers specifically to the billboards and states, "An attack on any of our citizens is an attack on the Dane County community as a whole."

After more than an hour of public comments and statements by members of the County Board, the vote was 31-2, with two abstentions and four absences.

The Board moved quickly through other business before getting to the resolution, which drew about thirty supporters to the evening meeting. Eleven Dane County residents spoke in favor of the resolution, and more than twenty registered in support of it. No members of the public spoke against the resolution or registered in opposition.

Dick Wagner, who served as a member of the County Board for 14 years and as its chairman for four, read a passage from Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." He said, "Some people in this society would still apply a scarlet letter to others," and said that it is difficult enough to be openly gay without facing anti-gay billboards. "Every day we have to find out... how brave we will be," Wagner said.

Mark Porter, a resident of Rutland who first

joked that he wished the Board could do something about corn and soybean prices as well, said, "We would appreciate the County of Dane saying that it supports us as much as we support it."

Madison resident Justin Mulaire responded to the objection that passing the resolution would infringe on the First Amendment rights to free speech of anti-gay activists. "The First Amendment does not prevent the County Board from having an opinion," Mulaire said.

In addition to its call for tolerance, the resolution affirms that the county "values free speech and freedom of religion and encourages respectful, non-threatening, and mature dialogue."

After comments from the public, county supervisors spoke, and a few raised questions about "singling out" gays and lesbians. Supervisor Tom Cauder, who voted for the resolution, stated that the county didn't have to follow the decision of the Madison City Council. He said that after his daughter heard about the "city of tolerance resolution," she asked him, "Dad, why is it just gays and lesbians? Why isn't it everybody?"

Supervisor Regina Rhyne defended the resolution, saying, "Some people say it's just about gays and lesbians, but I never got that impression." Rhyne also called for a roll-call vote on the resolution so that the votes of each supervisor would be recorded.

Supervisor John Hendrick, a sponsor of the resolution, pointed out that the resolution repeatedly refers to all the county's citizens and mentions gay and lesbians only once. In the context of the anti-gay billboards, Hendrick said, "That reference is little enough."

After the vote, former Supervisor Dick Wagner pointed out that the County Code of Ordinances was first amended to include non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 1980 during his first term on the Board, and that this made it easier to pass the statewide gay-rights bill in 1982. "I was very pleased that it passed overwhelmingly," Wagner said of the new resolution.

## House Bristles and Nixes Anti-Gay Measure

by Keith Clark  
of the IN Step Staff

Washington, D.C. — After a long string of anti-gay attacks from the Republican congressional leadership and far-right conservatives, the House finally decided Aug. 5 that enough was too much and rejected an attempt to gut a presidential anti-bias executive order.

The House voted 252-176 to reject a proposed measure by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.) to effectively negate an executive order by President Clinton barring civilian employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in the executive branch of the federal government.

Just a week before the House had approved by a slim two-vote margin a measure that would deny the city of San Francisco millions of dollars in federal housing funds because of its year-old domestic partners ordinance. For months before, a number of GOP leaders - including Senate Majority

Leader Trent Lott and House Majority Leader Dick Armey - had publicly condemned homosexuality as "a sin." And despite approval by the Foreign Relations Committee, Lott has refused to allow a Senate vote on the nomination of openly gay philanthropist Jim Hormel as the U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg.

But in this latest anti-gay attack, 63 Republicans rejected Hefley's proposal and crossed party lines to vote against the measure. Only 15 Democrats backed the measure to prevent spending any federal funds to enforce the Clinton executive order.

Hefley had insisted that his measure wasn't an anti-gay proposal but was "about the misuse of executive order" and President Clinton "who wants to leg-

## "Homosexuals are taxpayers, too, and deserve an even break in employment in a federal government..."

islate and rule by executive fiat."

At the same time, however, Hefley charged that Clinton's executive order would have applied affirmative action remedies to gays and lesbians in the federal workforce, including mandatory hiring quotas.

But a number of House Republicans weren't buying Hefley's arguments and spoke against the proposal during the floor debate.

Rep. Christopher Shays (R-

Conn.) said, "I speak strongly in my outrage that some on my side of the aisle - my leaders in particular - have sought to make this a political issue."

Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), the only openly gay Republican in the House, said, "A vote on Hefley will be simply saying ... that discrimination on sexual orientation is OK. Do you want that?"

Even some ultra-conservative Republicans like Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of Huntington Beach, Calif., rejected Hefley's proposal. "Homosexuals are taxpayers, too, and deserve an even break in employment in a federal government that they pay taxes for," Rohrabacher said.

In a press statement following the House vote, President Clinton said, "This vote reflect-

ed the values of our nation. The American people believe in fairness, not discrimination."

# NEWS WIRE

## Nevada Men Freed After Boy Recants 8-Year-Old Charges

RENO — Jack Broam and Jay Manning, jailed for the past eight years on sodomy charges, have been freed after the boy, who is now 17 years old, told a court that his mother had forced him to accuse the two — including Broam who is his father — of sexually assaulting him nearly 50 times during one evening.

The youth, whose name was not released because he is a juvenile, told the court his mother had locked him in a room and starved him to coerce him into making the accusations.

## Alabama Legislator: HIV+ = Viagra-

BIRMINGHAM — The hands-down award for "legislator with too much time on his hands" has probably got to go to Alabama state lawmaker Larry Sims who says he'll be introducing proposed legislation to ban doctors in the state from prescribing the anti-impotence drug Viagra for men who have HIV or any other sexually transmitted disease.

Sims admitted he didn't actually have any proof, but insisted he was "reasonably sure" one physician in the state had prescribed Viagra for a man who is infected with HIV.

Sims said his legislation — when he introduces it — would apply even if the patient is married.

## New Zealander with AIDS Returns to U.S. for Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO — Christopher Arnesen, a New Zealand man who has AIDS, had defied federal laws against foreigners with HIV from entering the country and returned to San Francisco where he lived from 1966 to 1994.

Arnesen, 56, was a legal permanent resident and worked and paid taxes during his nearly 30-year stay in the U.S. In 1994 he was mistakenly told by the government that he had to file for Social Security benefits from New Zealand and he moved back to his homeland — only to discover that he could not get his U.S. benefits except by living in the U.S.

But because of the federal anti-HIV law, Arnesen delayed returning to the U.S. out of fears he would be arrested and deported until now.

Arnesen's attorneys say as a permanent resident their client isn't subject to the anti-HIV exclusion law.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service met Arnesen at San Francisco International Airport when he returned, but has scheduled a hearing to make a preliminary determination about his status.

## Lawmakers Want Medicaid Expanded to Include HIV

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sixty-eight House members are asking in a letter to Donna Shalala that the Health and Human Services Secretary expand Medicaid to cover people who are infected with HIV.

Current regulations limit Medicaid coverage to those who meet financial requirements and have been diagnosed with AIDS or otherwise declared disabled. But the lawmakers want Shalala to expand coverage so HIV-positive patients can have broader access to expensive new protease inhibitors that can cost up to \$15,000 a year.

Shalala can expand Medicaid's coverage if she can show that doing so is "cost neutral."

The lawmakers — who are also supported by Vice President Al Gore — say expanding the coverage will help keep patients healthier longer and therefore reduce costly hospitalizations.

Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) made a similar recommendation to Shalala after the U.S. Supreme Court in June ruled that people with HIV are covered by federal anti-bias laws based on disability regardless of the state of their health otherwise.

Daniel Zingale, head of AIDS Action, said the current policy is badly flawed. "The problem is that under the current Medicaid rules, you have to have full-blown AIDS before you can have access to AIDS-preventing drugs," Zingale said. "If traffic safety regulations followed this approach, you'd put the airbags in the car after it crashes."

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by 12:30 p.m., to travel together,  
or join us at the Summerfest North Gate  
gathering point by 1:30 p.m.

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Admission to PrideFest is not necessary to join the march.

For more information, call Cross Church at 344-1734,  
or call Catherine/Anne 744-7761 or Fred/Marty 442-2319.

## S.F. Expands Domestic Partner Law Despite Congressional Pressure

by Kim Curtis  
Associated Press Writer

San Francisco (AP) — Without a hint of objection, San Francisco politicians have passed an ordinance that strengthens the rights of gay and lesbian couples despite congressional pressure that may have already cost the city millions.

The ordinance — which Mayor Willie Brown says he will sign — will make San Francisco the nation's only city that demands private businesses offer domestic partners any customer discounts they extend to married couples.

"With this vote, San Francisco continues its forward thinking on issues promoting diversity, despite the conservative movement making its way through the U.S. and California," Brown said. It was the right thing to do."

Most city businesses that might be subject to the law, such as gyms, car rental companies and insurance agencies, already comply. Still, supervisors are determined that the city set a standard for human rights.

"Banning discrimination is no new concept," said County Supervisor Mark Leno who introduced the measure in June. "We're talking about inalienable rights here."

The vote came despite what gay rights advocates are calling an anti-gay campaign in Washington.

Less than three weeks ago, the House voted 214-212 to block the city from receiving federal housing money because of its year-old Equal Benefits Ordinance, which requires businesses with city contracts to extend health benefits to its workers' partners.

"We should not force or coerce (businesses) to adopt policies they find morally objectionable," Rep. Frank Riggs, a Republican with a mostly rural constituency on California's North Coast.

Democrats attacked the Riggs amendment as mean-spirited and bigoted, a message meant to promote intolerance. "I don't know why Mr. Riggs wants

to create a war," said Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who represents San Francisco.

And not long before that, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., — who likened homosexuality to a treatable condition like alcoholism or kleptomania — said it was unlikely that San Francisco philanthropist James Hormel would become the nation's first openly gay ambassador.

Still, the expansion of the domestic partner benefits law caused hardly a flutter in the city. It is backed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Network, and has faced little opposition from business owners. Leno could not name a company in the city that would have to change its ways. "It makes good business sense," said Leno. "It gives business an additional marketing tool and could help them compete with other businesses."

It's expected to have more impact as a symbolic gesture. Most car rental agencies in the city do not offer special rates to married couples, and some gyms already include domestic partners in its "family" categories.

None of the supervisors were concerned about pressure from Washington, said Kieran Flaherty, Leno's spokesman.

"It boils down to, San Francisco values the domestic partner relationship as much as other family relationships," Flaherty said.

At 24 Hour Fitness near downtown, where domestic partners already fall under the club's "household membership" category, John Pelletier, got a 50 percent discount two weeks ago because he shares a household with his partner, club member Donald Leighton.

And Laura Gilleran, 23, says she and her live-in girlfriend, T.C. Myers, are more excited by the symbolism of the ordinance than by any discounts.

"It's important, since (gay) marriage is not legal," Gilleran said outside a bar in the Castro District. "It's important to do what it takes until it becomes such."

## Gay Games End With Fanfare and Emotional Farewell

Amsterdam, Netherlands — With fanfare and emotional farewells, the 1998 Gay Games ended Saturday as tens of thousands of athletes gathered for a last round of dancing and freewheeling celebration.

On a hot summer night, up to 28,000 people thronged to the Arena Stadium for the bash that ended the week-long Olympics-styled games spotlighting gay athletes, culture, and boisterous street parties.

Sniffling and teary-eyed, participants bid farewell to each other, promising to meet up again at the next Gay Games in 2002 in Sydney, Australia.

Kicking off the closing ceremony, jubilant and dancing athletes entered the stadium and ran the gauntlet of flag-waving supporters.

With rave music pounding in the background, same-sex couples entered hand in hand while transvestites in cheerleader outfits bobbed to the beat, their pom-poms swaying in the air.

"Jesus loves us" read one poster raised by an athlete. "Out and proud in Zimbabwe" read another.

"I am crying. This is brilliant," said tennis competitor Dominic James of London. "I came with no expectation except for a game of tennis," he said. Instead, he walked away with a second place in mixed doubles and a new best friend.

The mirth contrasted with the somber moments of the previous days when financial woes threatened to end the games, which have attracted 15,000 competitors and even more visitors.

Early in the sports festival, the event's managing director was fired for overspending, prompting Amsterdam city officials to intervene with a \$2.5 million bail-out loan to keep the games alive.

Some also asked whether the games, which included less-Olympian categories like ballroom dancing and bridge, have veered too much from its earlier intentions.

The first Gay Games, held in San Francisco in 1982, aimed to encourage and showcase gay athletes. These days, more and more non-sporting activities and parties are clogging up the line-up, said Hunk Krol, the editor of the Netherlands' *Gay Newspaper*.

"The original games are over," he said. "I love big parties, but they have nothing to do with the original aim of the Gay Games."

"They should change the name to Gay Pride Week or Tolerance Fair," he added. Whatever you call it, Dale Zink of San Francisco said he'll be there in Sydney. "It's just a lot of fun," said the 35-year-old swimmer.

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## CAIR Researcher Receives National AIDS Award

Milwaukee — Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, will receive a Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Psychology from the American Psychological Association (APA) on August 16 at the APA's annual convention in San Francisco.

Dr. Kalichman, who works at the Medical College's Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) and resides in Racine, Wisconsin, will receive the award for his investigative research in health psychology.

The award recognizes Dr. Kalichman's applications of psychological theory and methods to social and health issues, with special emphasis on his work with child abuse and the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

In addition, the award praises his commitment to conducting research for underserved and disenfranchised populations, including men and women in impoverished inner-city neighborhoods, gay men and lesbians, and children vulnerable to abuse.

Dr. Kalichman spent the first 11 years of his life in Milwaukee, before his family moved to Florida where he graduated high school and attended Broward Community College in Ft. Lauderdale. He graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa and went on to receive a doctorate in clinical-community psychology from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Kalichman has been affiliated with the Medical College of Wisconsin since 1992, when he was involved in the formation of CAIR, a national HIV/AIDS research center. Dr. Kalichman's current research focuses on developing strategies to help people living with HIV and AIDS to cope

with the disease in their daily lives.

The American Psychological Association (APA) is the country's largest professional and scientific organization of psychologists. The Early Career Awards were established by the APA in 1974 to recognize the work of young psychologists. The awards are given in 10 areas of psychology, with 5 areas being considered each year. Recipients of the award may not have held a Ph.D. for more than nine years.

## AIDS: No News Is Good News?

by Keith Clark  
of the IN Step Staff

San Francisco — The San Francisco gay weekly, *Bay Area Reporter* (BAR) took the unusual step in its Aug. 13 issue of reporting as its front-page banner lead story something that didn't happen.

After more than 17 years of grim news about the AIDS epidemic, the paper for the first time since the start of the epidemic reported it received absolutely no obituary notices during the week.

The newspaper, which at times has had up to four pages of death notices mostly from people who have died of AIDS-related illnesses, acknowledged in its unusual story that the absence of obituaries didn't mean that no one in the city had died of the disease that week, and that "next week's issue may have more obits than usual."

But the paper also noted that the number of obituaries it runs each week has been declining in the past few years. And in an editorial, "Death takes a holiday," the paper said that while the lack of obituaries obviously didn't mean the epidemic was under control it did give people a "symbolic" reason to hope it was "perhaps the first evidence that we mortal humans can triumph (someday) over a force as terrifying the seemingly relentless as the epidemic."

## Book Smearer Sent to Jail

DAYTON, OH — Carl Lenhoff has been sentenced to 180 days in jail for smearing feces in library books about homosexuality, the United Nations and the Federal Reserve System.

Municipal Court Judge Bill Littlejohn turned a deaf ear to Lenhoff's pleas for leniency in sentencing the 49-year-old to serve the maximum sentence the law allowed.

Authorities said Lenhoff made harassing calls to the Dayton Lesbian and Gay Center and to the Dayton chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Lenhoff told Judge Littlejohn that jail time would make it "virtually certain" he would lose his job as an electrical engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he is only months away from retirement.

But Littlejohn said Lenhoff deserved more punishment than probation. The judge sentenced him to 180 days for the telephone harassment. For the criminal damage to the library books, Lenhoff was sentenced to two 90-day sentences to be served concurrently with the other sentence but suspended \$1,000 in fines.

## 2 Suspects Caught in S.C. Driving Dead Man's Auto

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Police say they have arrested two men who were driving an automobile belonging to murdered former Santa Fe, N.M., commissioner Herman Rodriguez.

Initial reports suggested that one of the men may match the description of a man who was seen leaving a Santa Fe gay club shortly after Rodriguez left on the evening of July 29. Rodriguez's nude body was found the next day in a rural area in southwestern Iowa. He had been shot in the head, execution style.

FBI agents in South Carolina have charged the two men — Prentice Ivory Davis, 32, and Daryl Hutto, 27, with transporting a stolen motor vehicle across state lines and with credit card fraud. Authorities say they are still investigating whether there is evidence to charge the two men should in connection with Rodriguez's disappearance and death as well.

Davis, a 6'6" black man, resembles descriptions and security tape images of a man seen talking to Rodriguez at the Drama Club in Santa Fe and leaving shortly after him the night Rodriguez disappeared.

Rodriguez's brother, Noah, had been killed in October 1996 and his nude body dumped in an abandoned area. Arthur "Bozo" Lopez was sentenced to life in prison plus 66 years for the killing of Noah Rodriguez just three months earlier.

Authorities said they were looking into the possibility that Herman Rodriguez may have been the victim of retaliation because of the coincidence of Lopez's sentencing and Herman Rodriguez's death.

Herman Rodriguez became the first openly gay person to serve as a Santa Fe County Commissioner when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the body in 1996.

## Anglicans Condemn Homosexuality - Say Gays Are 'Welcome'

LONDON — Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Anglican Church, says that gay and lesbian Christians are still welcome despite the church's decision to condemn homosexual practice. The statement came at the end of the Lambeth Conference, a gathering every 10 years of church leaders from around the world and which this year has been dominated by the issue of homosexuality.

While the 800 clerics were united on all other subjects, homosexuality caused heated debates.

Duncan Buchanan, the Bishop of Johannesburg and chairman of the committee on the homosexuality at the conference insisted the resolution didn't condemn gays and lesbians. But the resolution rejects homosexual behavior as "incompatible with Scripture."

More conservative than many had thought, the resolution was approved 526-70 with 45 abstentions.

After the conference adopted the resolution, Archbishop Carey said of gay and lesbian Christians, "We want them to stay within and we want them to continue to explore these issues with us. Nevertheless, we have restated what we have always believed. We haven't advanced it and become even more negative."

The strong vote in favor of the resolution stunned liberal clergy. "I am terribly disappointed," said Bishop Catherine Roskam of New York. "In its current form, it is not acceptable to me and my colleagues."

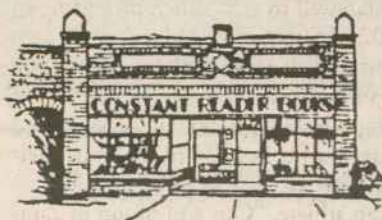
News Wire briefs compiled by Keith Clark  
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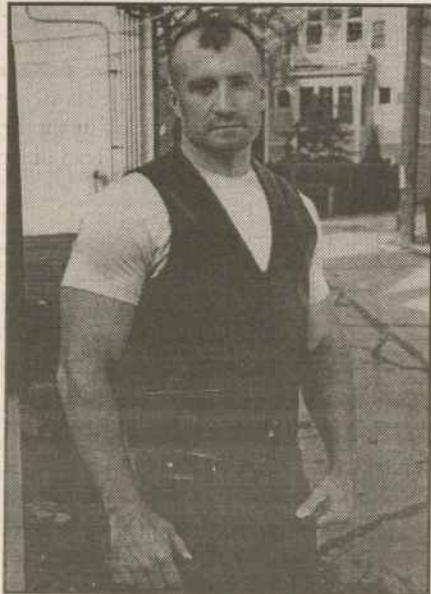
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## Higher Education Confab Slated for September

Waukesha — Reggie White has not been invited. No billboard ad space has been rented. But, if last year's conference was any indicator, the 2nd-annual "Opening Doors to Understanding: GLBT Issues in Higher Education" conference, Sept. 24-25, at Olympia Resort & Spa, Oconomowoc, will be lively.

"Lots of people want a discussion of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender issues," says Waukesha County Tech instructor Rich Uspel. "Our conference moves that discussion to a level and into a venue which is respectful to everyone. Reggie White is welcome at our conference, if he listens to others' views, but not if he demands that others listen only to his views."

Co-sponsored by Waukesha County Technical and Madison Area Technical colleges, the 2-day event includes sessions on Religion & Spirituality, Health & Wellness, the History of Gay Studies Programs, Student Development & Campus Climate for LGBTs, Corporate Closets in the Business Community, GLBT Support Groups, and Curriculum Integration Strategies.

For more information, contact Deb Wallendal, Waukesha County Technical College (414) 691-5346, [dwallendal@waukesha.tec.wi.us](mailto:dwallendal@waukesha.tec.wi.us) or Sean Robinson, Madison Area Technical College (608) 246-6333, [cro5965@madison.tec.wi.us](mailto:cro5965@madison.tec.wi.us)

## Pride in WI Government to Picnic with Pride

Madison — Pride in Wisconsin Government will hold its second annual End-of-Summer Picnic on Saturday, August 22 in Madison. Members, allies and potential members are all welcome to attend. The picnic will be held at Lake Edge Park from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Lake Edge Park is located near the intersection of Dempsey Rd. and Maher Avenue on Madison's east side.

Pride in Wisconsin Government will provide cold soda, grills with hot coals, a variety of condiments and

munchies. Members are asked to bring something to grill for themselves. Potluck dishes to pass are also welcome.

In other news, Madison Mayor Susan Bauman will join Pride in Wisconsin Government for its monthly Happy Hour in Madison on Thursday, August 27 at Fyfe's Corner Bistro at 1344 E. Washington Ave. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to members and potential members.

## Silver Space Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Milwaukee — On September 19, 1998 a 10th Anniversary Birthday Party will be held to acknowledge the long-term existence of Silver Space, a support group for older lesbians. Those who have attended meetings, as well as older lesbians who wish to meet and party, are invited to Falk Park Pavilion (I-94 at Rawson) in Milwaukee. The party will be held from 1 through 6 p.m. and will feature live music, a meal (side-dishes and snacks are welcome), and prizes. Funding for networking efforts has been received from the Cream City Foundation; there is no admission charge for this event.

The initial support group meeting of Silver Space was held in September of 1988. This meeting was the culmination of long-term brainstorming by five older lesbians who felt a need for increased visibility and networking available to the self-identified older lesbians of Southeastern Wisconsin.

This monthly support group has attracted diverse women from the metro-Milwaukee area as well as surrounding communities, Madison and Illinois. Those attending have expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to feel support in choices related to lesbian life processes, socialization, the discussion of topics of interest or concern to older lesbians and the ability to find willing participants for activities and events.

The discussion group meets the third Sunday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 North Bartlett Avenue. For more information about Silver Space, please call (414) 271-2565.

## GAMMA Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Milwaukee — GAMMA is pleased to announce its upcoming 20th anniversary celebration to take place at Lake Park on Sunday, September 13, 1998. The slogan for the event will be "20 Years of Fun," and the celebration will be open to the public. The GAMMA Steering committee, made up of Paul Borchardt, Jim Heidt and Bob Zwicky will also invite the founders, former officers and members of GAMMA to the celebration.

GAMMA came into existence in 1978 when a group of friends were playing flag football. In early 1979 the group decided to affiliate and become a student organization with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Volleyball became a major event for GAMMA. Competitive teams played national games in Chicago, Detroit and Columbus, Ohio. Recreation leagues were formed.

The name GAMMA has an interesting history. In the early years the founders thought the group's name should be like a college fraternity and decided on the name of "GAMMA Alpha" after the name of the Greek letter "Y". But surprisingly there is no "Y" in the Greek Alphabet. The acronym GAMMA was chosen and the letters stood for Gay Athletic Milwaukee Men's Association. When the group was incorporated in August of 1980, the word "men's" in GAMMA became "METRO" since women also became a part of the group. GAMMA is no longer referred to as an acronym with any special meaning.

GAMMA is not only for athletes, but also puts on social events, outdoor events and recreational events. GAMMA is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. Some of the monthly events include dining out, game night, Sheepshead, poker, a book club, a party night, volleyball, a weekly jogging group, biking and more. Membership is open to both men and women. Fees charged during the year cover the cost of the monthly newsletter and the food served at social gatherings.

More information about GAMMA can be obtained by calling Don Buzanowski, vice-president of membership, at (414) 264-9180 or by looking at our home page on the Internet at <http://www.execpc.com/~mkegamma>. For historical information on GAMMA, you can call Bob Zwicky at (414) 425-2146.

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Sean Robinson, Madison Area Technical College, 608-246-6333, [cro5965@madison.tec.wi.us](mailto:cro5965@madison.tec.wi.us)

## Cystic Fibrosis To Benefit from Gay Laughter and Song

Milwaukee — *An Evening of Laughter and Song*, with John McGivern and Kenni Feinberg, will benefit Cystic Fibrosis at the Comedy Cafe on the evening of Sunday, August 30 at 7 p.m. John was last seen on the Comedy Central Special "Out There II" and can be seen in the upcoming HBO documentary film "We're Funny That Way." John has performed at Caroline's in New York City, the Comedy Store and Laugh Factory in Los Angeles, and at the Gardenia in Luna Park. John is a regular visitor to the Dave and Carol morning show on WKLH in Milwaukee.

Kenni Feinberg, a Los Angeles native now living in San Francisco, will be joining John in Milwaukee for this benefit evening. Kenni is a graduate of Harvard and the Berklee School of Music and is a popular musician on the San Francisco music scene. She will be performing her intimate, acoustic-based contemporary folk music. Feinberg has a recently released CD titled "Kenni" on the Noonday Moon Productions label.

The Comedy Cafe is located at 615 East Brady Street. Tickets are \$10, with a two-drink minimum. For information and reservations, please call (414) 271-5653.

## LGBT Counseling Services Open in Appleton

Appleton, WI — Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning people seeking mental health counseling services in the Fox Cities area will now have more choices for finding a supportive and affirming therapist. *One Voice* Counseling Services recently opened its doors at 222 1/2 East College Avenue in Appleton, and specializes in providing counseling services for LGBTQ adults and adolescents.

The owner and therapist, Patti Jorgensen, is a lesbian and has been an active part of the gay and lesbian community in the area for over 20 years. Patti holds a Masters Degree in Counseling and a Masters Degree in Business Administration. The combination of business and counseling experience, as well as a firm commitment to the LGBT community, form the foundation for providing quality services to an important group of people.

While Patti was pursuing her Masters Degree in Counseling, she focused her research activities on issues that affect GLBTQ people. She has presented workshops on shame and the effects of shame on LGBTQ people for counselors, teachers and other professional, locally, statewide, and nationally, and has been an advocate for improved services for LGBT people within the counseling profession. Patti is passionate about issues that affect GLBTQ people and believes strongly in the empowerment of each individual as a means of strengthening the community.

One Voice provides a variety of ser-

vices including individual, couples, family and group counseling within a safe, supportive and affirming environment. Common issues that clients may face include coming out issues, shame and its effects, loneliness, relationship issues, drug and/or alcohol issues, depression, gender confusion, sexual identity and others.

One Voice will also assist clients as they network with agencies and organizations that serve the community. Client fees are affordable and are charged on a sliding-fee scale based on income. Services are confidential, and each client will be treated with respect and dignity as the personal discovery journey takes place. For more information, or to make an appointment, please call; (920) 996-0055 or e-mail [1voice@prodigy.net](mailto:1voice@prodigy.net).

## Absolut Benefit III Supports Wisconsin AIDS Fund

Milwaukee — If a swank evening of martinis, canapés, swing music and an original art auction is your idea of a good time, mark your calendars for Absolut Benefit III. The third-annual event, which supports the Wisconsin AIDS Fund, will be held on Friday, October 9 at The Firehouse in the Historic Third Ward.

This unique fund-raiser, hailed as the best themed party of 1997 by a well-known, local society reporter, includes a silent and voice auction of china plates, martini glasses and ceramic coasters that are all hand-painted or decorated by national celebrities and recognized artists. A series of rare, signed and numbered lithographs from Absolut Vodka's famed collection will also be auctioned.

The Wisconsin AIDS Fund, a component fund of the Milwaukee Foundation, supports AIDS prevention and education programs throughout the state. Through a grant-making process, the group has funded countless organizations which, through their efforts, reduce the impact of AIDS and AIDS-related problems in Wisconsin and the Greater Milwaukee area. Tickets for the event are \$85 per person (\$40 of which is tax deductible) and are available by calling (414) 272-5805.

## CAIR Announces New Program For Mature Adults Living with HIV

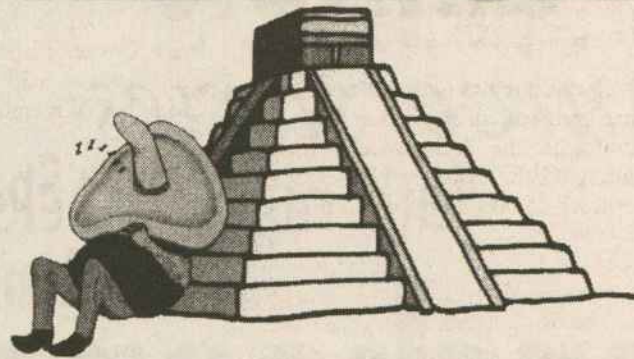
Milwaukee — The Center for AIDS Intervention and Research (CAIR) of the Medical College of Wisconsin has announced a new study called Project Enhance that has been funded by the National Institute on Aging. CAIR invites you to participate in this study for mature adults who are ages 47 and over, and coping with HIV, to evaluate your special needs and offer a group intervention experience to help alleviate stress.

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**Monday Irregulars Bowling League to Kick Off Season**

Milwaukee — Dust off your shoes and get those big balls ready! That's right, it's time for the 1998-1999 Monday Night Irregular's bowling season to begin.

The season will kick off with an organizational meeting on Monday, August 31, 1998 at 7 p.m. to be held at Landmark Lanes (2220 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, (414) 278-8770). The meeting will go over league rules and policies; following the meeting you are invited to free bowling on Landmark's newly replaced bowling alleys.

This year teams will be comprised of a six person roster, with a four people bowling at any one time. The season begins on Monday, September 14, 1998 - and runs through Monday, April 19, 1999 (32 weeks of bowling).

Anyone is invited to attend this organizational meeting. Teams that placed a reservation fee at last season's banquet need to have at least one team representative at the meeting to guarantee their reservation space or it will be lost. There are a limited amount of unreserved team spaces available, so we encourage you to attend this meeting so as to allow your team space on the bowling league.

The season will kick off with an organizational meeting on Monday, August 31, 1998 at 7 p.m. to be held at Landmark Lanes at 2220 N. Farwell Avenue, in Milwaukee.

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If you have any questions about the meeting or about the bowling league, please contact league secretary, Doug Cleveland at (414) 291-0636.

**Counseling Center's Fall Support and Therapy Groups**

Milwaukee — The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Inc. has announced its fall sessions of support and therapy groups. Some groups are ongoing while others are eight to ten weeks in length. All groups are held at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 North Bartlett Avenue on the east side of Milwaukee.

Support Groups include: Women's Self-Esteem; Men's Self-Esteem; Men and Women: Separation and Divorce; Relationship Group for Women: Why Me? ; Surviving Loss Group for Women and Men; and Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Therapy Groups include: Anxiety Therapy; Depression Group; Couples Therapy; and Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Support Groups for Gays and Lesbians are: Free Space for Women; More Space Group for Women; Breaking Up is Hard to Do; Gay Men's General Issues; Silver Space Discussion Group; and Male Partnered Women.

The eight to ten-week groups will be started in late September, early October, 1998. There is a \$10 fee per group session. The Counseling Center also runs Facilitory Training for anyone interested in becoming a support group facilitator. For more information about these groups, please call the Support Group Program at (414) 271-2565.

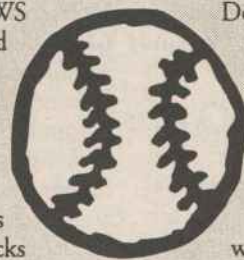
**SSBL Announces Final 1998 Standings**

Milwaukee — The Saturday Softball League will conclude its 21st season on Saturday, August 22 with two All-Star Games on the lower diamond at Mitchell Park (behind the Domes at 27th and Pierce). It will be the first time since 1994 that the league has played games at Mitchell Park. The league is looking for and "old-time" atmosphere with fun for the players and their fans.

In the National League the standings are as follows: SWS Docks, 16-1; Balistreri's, 13-4; BallGame, 11-6; M&M Club, 8-9; and In-Between, 7-9. In the American League the standings are: Woody's 1, 9-8; Woody's 2, 8-8; Brew Bar 8-9; Dish 4-13; This Is It, 0-17

Congratulations to the SWS the league championship, and the 1998 Gay Softball World August 11 - 15, 1998. The from Balistreri's and two

At 1:30 p.m. the American League Woody's 1, will play All-Woody's 2, Dish and This Is League champion, SWS Docks Balistreri's, BallGame, M&M Club,



Docks softball team, who won represented Milwaukee in Series in Atlanta from team added two players from the BallGame.

can Division champion, Stars from Brew Bar, It. At 3 p.m. National will play All-Stars from Balistreri's, BallGame, M&M Club, and In-Between. Each team picked three players from among their peers to play on the All-Star teams. Managers of the 2nd place teams will coach the All-Stars and may add two additional players.

Following the games, the players and SSBL Booster Club members will party in Mitchell Park's Picnic Area No. 2. Brats, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, provided by Rick of Gray Line Tours, and beer and soda, provided by the league, will be served.

At 6 p.m. that evening, the league will hold its first Annual SSBL Follies. This will be an entertainment extravaganza with each team doing a skit. The show will be at the newly renovated Club 219, 219 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee. The league will receive a substantial donation from Camel cigarettes to put on this show. There will be a \$3 cover-charge at the door, with everyone receiving a free drink ticket. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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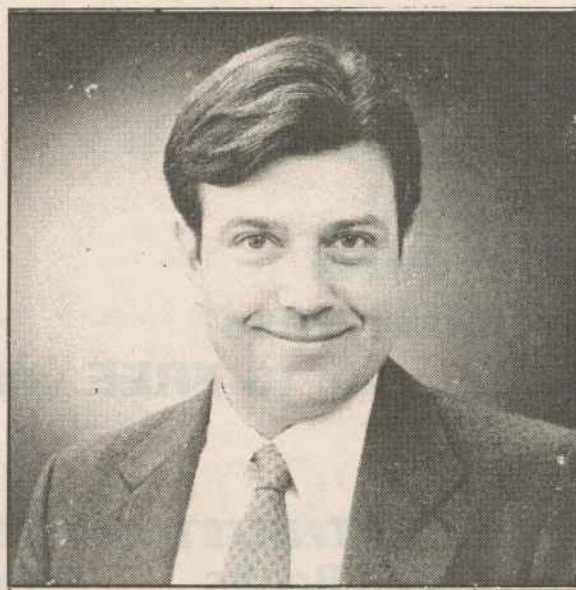
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during the Season of Pride. Your donations are needed for the Center's library. Bring books to the Center's PrideFest booth.

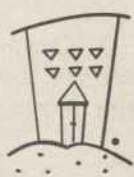
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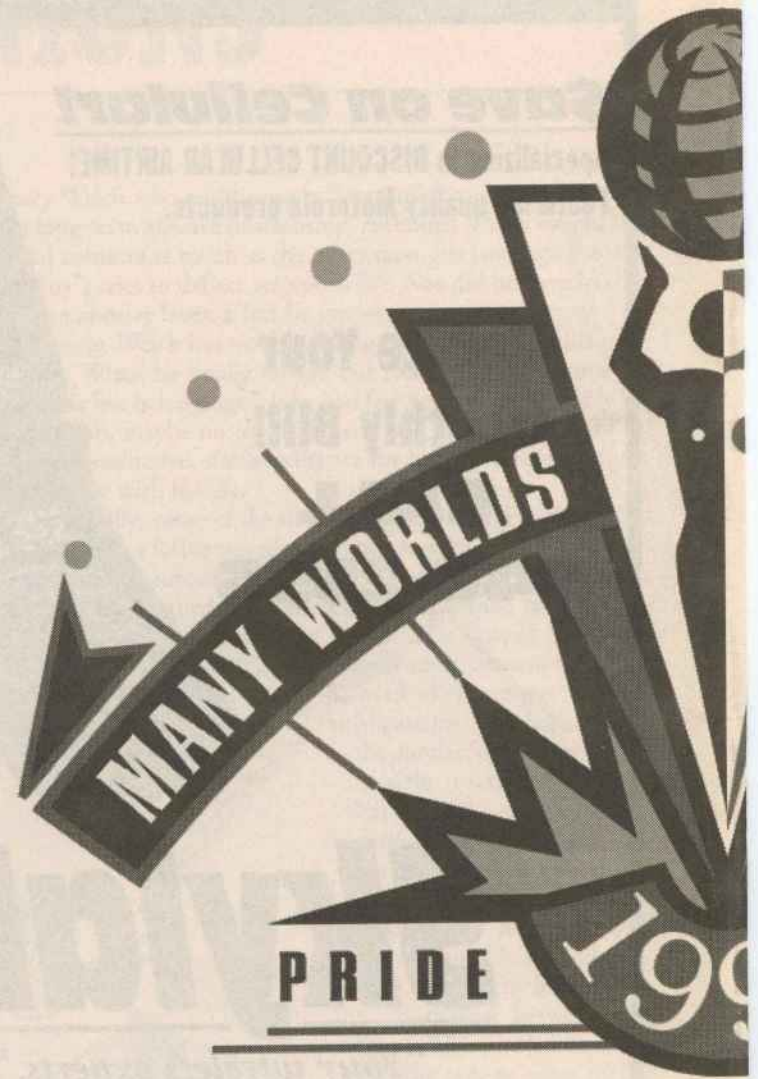
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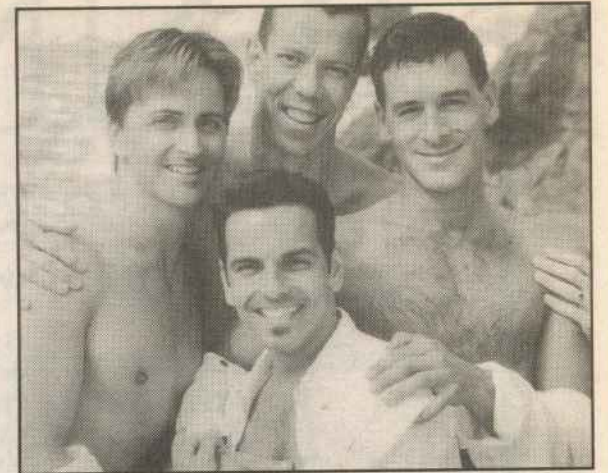
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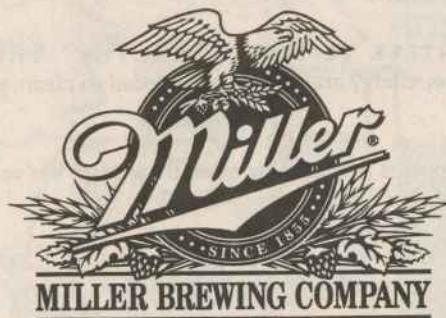
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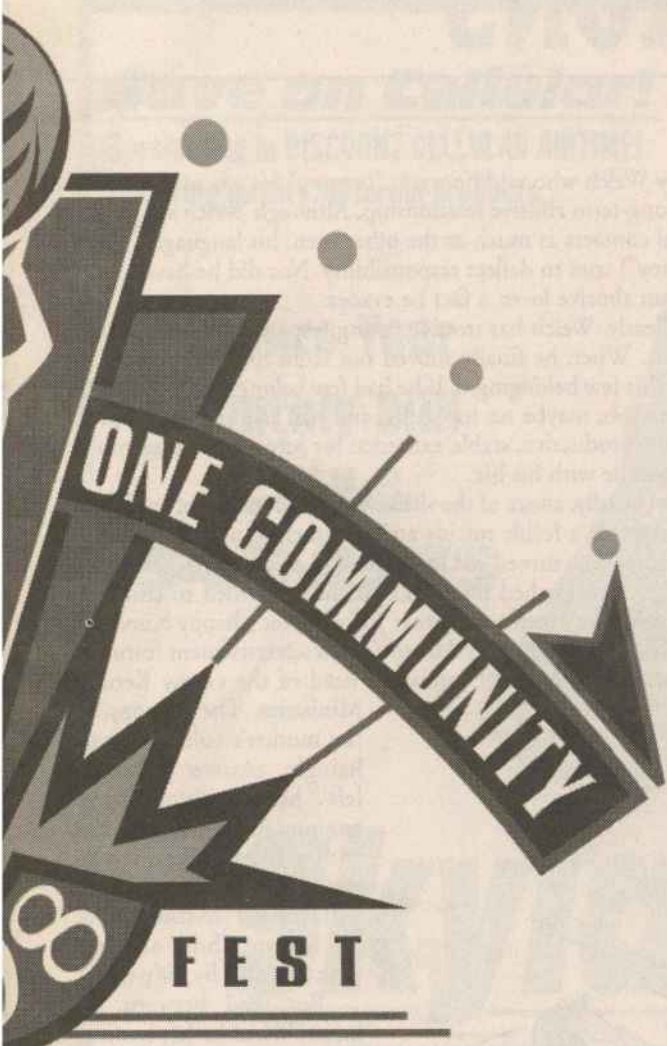
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## "Ex-Gays" on the Couch

by Paul Varnell

The recent series of newspaper advertisements by religious right and so-called "ex-gay" groups has drawn attention to the "ex-gays" themselves—their experiences, their problems, and their outcomes. But the ads and subsequent magazine and newspaper articles offer little solid information. We are like Soviet citizens trying to decipher the truth by reading between the lines of Pravda.

For instance, it is surprising how many ex-gay exemplars disclose a past of extensive drug use, sexual abandon, prostitution, drag personalities and suicide attempts. While any of these (except the last) may be harmless enough in a healthy person, taken together they suggest personal instability and a pattern of compensatory behavior.

Less wittingly, many ex-gays reveal a fundamentalist religious background, poor family relationships, failure to succeed in life, a lack of any stable source of self-esteem, an alienation from their own deepest feelings and a willingness to blame others for their situation.

"Former lesbian" Anne Paulk says, for instance, that she was molested by a teenage boy when she was a child, making her reject her femininity and be attracted to women.

Paulk blames her lesbianism on the teenager, but what about other women who have been "molested" but not become lesbian? Why did she become lesbian rather than, for instance, heterosexually promiscuous to have her femininity validated by a large number of men? If she had been molested by a woman would she feel more feminine and become heterosexual? Or feel less feminine? Clearly, she does not have an explanation, she has an excuse—someone to blame.

Paulk also says she never felt comfortable telling her parents about the incident. That suggests she did not come from a warm, close family in which she could talk about her feelings.

John Paulk, her "ex-gay" husband, worked as a prostitute for several months fresh out of high school. He also created a drag queen personality named "Candi" and lived through her, he says, which made him popular and well-liked.

These all suggest that John Paulk lacked job skills, craved attention and affection but feared he could not be liked for himself, and felt a degree of personality dissociation. He seems never to have integrated being gay into a normally functioning social and work-life. He blames his father who abandoned the family when he was young, but many single mothers raise heterosexual boys. Why not John Paulk?

The *Washington Post* interviewed an "ex-gay" man named

Corey Welch who said he was a "boy toy" for gay men and was in a long-term abusive relationship. Although Welch sought the sexual contacts as much as the other men, his language (he was the "toy") tries to deflect responsibility. Nor did he have to stay with an abusive lover, a fact he evades.

Clearly, Welch has trouble taking responsibility for his own actions. When he finally moved out from his lover's home he took "his few belongings." If he had few belongings probably he had no job, maybe no job skills, and had made no attempt to create a productive, stable existence for himself or do anything worthwhile with his life.

Eventually, aware of the shallowness and misery of the life he led, he made a feeble suicide attempt, then found religion. Not surprisingly, he turned out to be from an abusive, strict Mormon family which loathed his homosexuality and tried to cure him with shock treatments and other "cures." Not a happy home life.

Or consider a July 29 *Miami Herald* advertisement featuring the parents of Michael Johnston, head of the ex-gay Kerusso Ministries. The ad copy, in the mother's voice, is tantalizingly evasive: Johnston left home, came back, announced he was gay, met with parental rejection of his sexuality, became infected with HIV, "re-committed" his life to Christ and was then accepted by his parents.

But read between the lines: "When he left home at 16" (he was so eager to get away from home that he dropped out of high school) he felt "ready to meet the world on his own terms" (he had serious conflicts with his strict, perhaps unloving, parents). "We had no idea he would come back to us as a

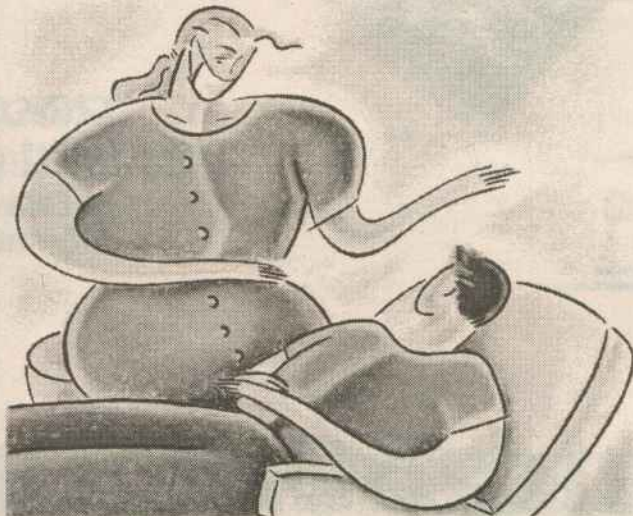
homosexual" (he was probably aware of being gay, hence his departure, but his parents blame the outside world for changing him).

The parents said they would "never accept his homosexuality" (they denounced and berated him) and "every day I prayed to God" (his parents are religious fundamentalists, his mother obsessively so) and "we never hesitated to warn him" (his parents hectorated and threatened him constantly about sin).

"Twelve years later he left homosexuality and recommitted his life to Christ ... the same day he told us he was HIV-positive." (When confronted with his own mortality, he reverted to the fundamentalist religion of his childhood and promised to give up sex. Either his long-suppressed guilt feelings came to the fore, or this was an attempt to bargain with God, or he needed his parents' support to fight the disease.)

So it goes.

Many of these people seem emotionally fragile, even borderline hysterics. During a speech last year at Georgetown University, Anthony Falzarano of the ex-gay Transformation Ministries seemed to break down in tears while describing his for-





mer life of gay depravity, though he had doubtless given the same speech dozens of times before.

As gays they seemed to have a feeble sense of their own identity and little sense of personal efficacy or personal accountability. For many, religion obviously provides a buttress for their self-concept.

Many seemed to lack any sources of self-esteem or self-worth as people engaged in worthwhile personal projects or productive citizens contributing to society. Many seem not to have made a success of their lives at all.

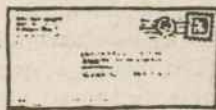
They seem unable to formulate a personal morality that combines being gay with living responsible, thoughtful and intelligent lives. Many seemed to think that being gay meant they could abandon responsibility, as if the standards for successful living were different

for gays.

And for many, rejecting their homosexual feelings in the name of religion seems to be a reversion to the religious and moral structures of their childhood, motivated by lingering guilt, anxiety, or shame about their sexuality that they never dealt with satisfactorily but merely covered up.

So many ex-gays recount stories of promiscuity, drug use, suicide attempts and AIDS that it seems they reject being gay only after an accumulation of alienating experiences and personal crises causes a serious breakdown and a total inability to cope with life.

So it goes.



## Letters

### Nazi Christians

Dear Editor:

1-2-3-4-Nazi Christians at your door! 5-6-7-8-you are on their list to hate! a-b-c-d-it isn't just the Fags, you'll see. e-f-g-h-i-other people, too, will die!

Nazi Christians making notes. In Washington, they're buying votes. To overturn Democracy, Replace it with Theocracy. To make a country of women and men, That all resemble Barbie and Ken. With no brains to call their own. Nazi Christians on their throne!

*Dolores Fitzhugh  
Colorado*

### More Nazis

Dear Editor:

There is a certain Nazi logic to the invective of several politicians and some religious political extremist groups in the United States. Each group is using homophobia, fear and ignorance to curry favor with voters for upcoming local and national elections. There are disturbing parallels in this logic which brings to mind the Third Reich's use of the Jew to electrify, excite and unite a nation.

For the Third Reich to work, there needed to be an "other," an outsider, a minority that was feared and loathed for illogical reasons. To that "other" could be heaped the blame for all the ills that transpired in a society that lost a world war and was mired in the depression. Somehow if the "other" was purged from the society, harmony and economic well-being would return to the nation which would once again return to the righteous path.

This Nazi logic led to intolerance and discrimination so terrible that Jews were eventually stripped of their citizenship, their property, homes and lives. Nazi logic employed a propaganda machine to drive acts of violence committed by a whole nation. Without citizenship, property, a home and friends, the Jews sank to levels of the non-human to the true believers. Since they were no longer classified as human, they were ripe for extermination.

Gays have become the new "other" for many politicians and religious extremists. Although the language is English, the setting the United States, the Nazi logic is the same. For these groups, the gay or lesbian is somehow less than the heterosexual or the god-fearing.

He is a kleptomaniac, diseased, godless, a child molester, or worse. He will infect your children with gayness or AIDS, is unfit to serve his country and someone who will surely pervert the American way of life and bring God's wrath down on every state from the

heavens. He is evil; he is the "other," the reason why society is degenerating and why marriage needs defending. If we deprive him of his rights, take away his livelihood and cast him out, all will be well with the world and with God.

Often, the creation of the "other" needs covert and overt approval by people in high places, people terrified of change and loss of control. Approval of hatred is often dressed in religious symbols and texts to make credible absurd and dangerous notions of supremacy and self-righteousness.

Although the messages may appear to be glazed with Christian compassion and concern, their subtexts reveal messages of intense intolerance and bigotry. Those giving approval are as guilty as the actual brown shirts who commit verbal and physical violence on the gay community.

*Damiano Iocovozzi,  
Martinex, CA*

### Milwaukee Kudos

Dear Editor:

Thank you Milwaukee! Again, I feel compelled to write and thank you [all] through your publication, my wonderful nephew Jamie Taylor and all his circle of friends—too many to name—for all the hospitality and friendship shown to me on my recent trip to Milwaukee.

Every young man I met was so sweet and tolerant of having Jamie's aunt Cheryl going out with them. I loved being with you and getting to know each and every one of you. I also would like to thank the staff and patrons of the M&M Club, In-Between, Fluid, Triangle and La Cage for making me feel welcome.

Milwaukee should be very proud of its gay community. I met so many sweet, intelligent and caring young men. I look forward to seeing you all again. Thanks guys, for all the gifts.

*Cheryl Dadesneau  
Austin, Texas*

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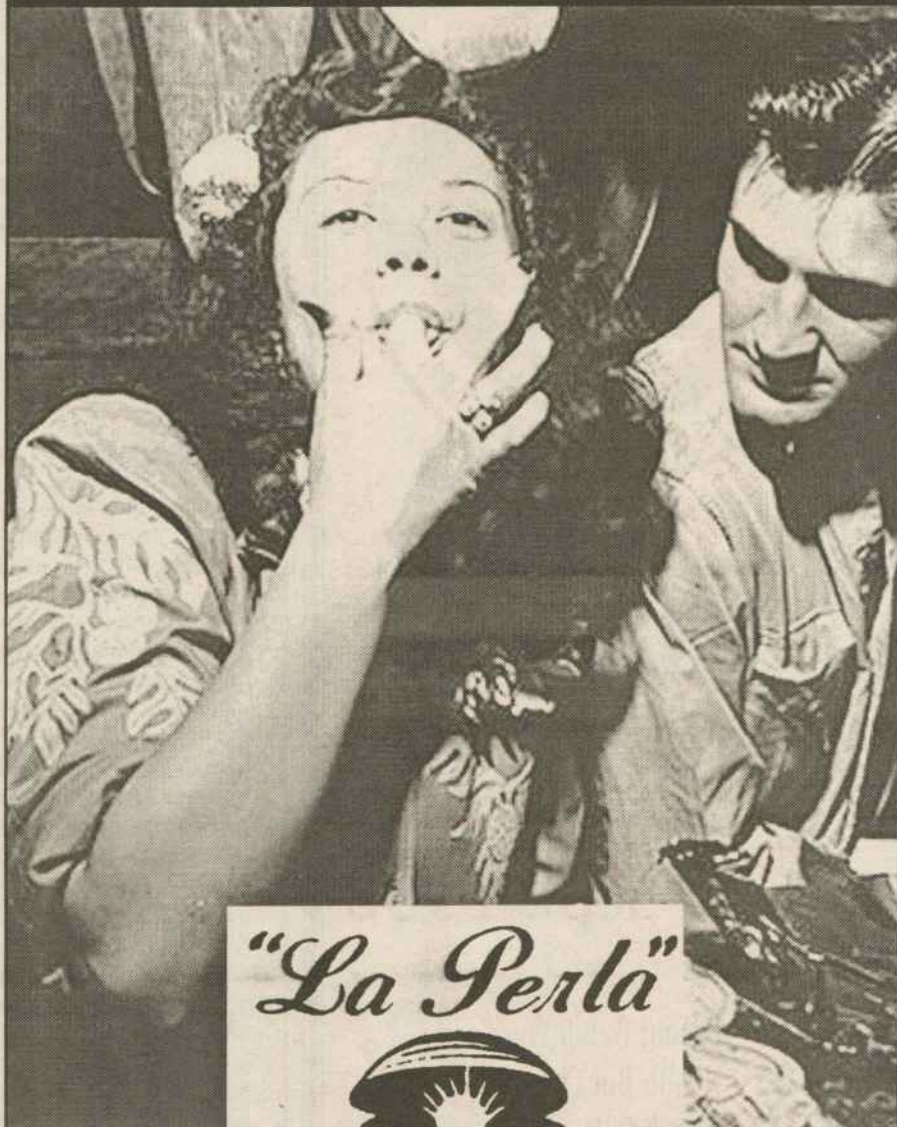
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## Symbols Of Our Pride

**At least there's not a lavender rhinoceros on your bumper**

by Gip Plaster  
of the In Step Staff

**S**ticking on bumpers, hanging around necks and dangling in front of windows are a few of the places you'll find the symbols of lesbian and gay pride. There might even be one tattooed on your partner's arm. Rainbow flags, pink triangles and that odd wishbone-like Greek letter called lambda are the most popular symbols today, but there were many others before them.

And, by the way, what does a lavender rhinoceros have to do with gay pride? Stay tuned.

Because our community has been forced into hiding and secrecy throughout much of time, much of our history was locked into closets that were never opened. Today, many closet doors are flung open and the symbols of lesbian and gay pride are displayed prominently. We are attempting to reclaim the bits of history that remain — and openly make tomorrow's history.

The exact reasons we choose to put these symbols on our clothes or cars are usually personal and vary a lot. Some of us do it so other gay people can identify us; others say the symbols notify the world that they are lesbian or gay. Whether most people recognize the symbols is unclear, but most gay people do — and our staunchest enemies do, too.

"Whether the general populace recognizes the rainbow flag or other queer symbols for what they are, the two primary camps in the struggle for queer civil rights certainly do," one man wrote in an internet post.

Perhaps more people know the origin of the pink triangle than any other symbol. During World War II, Nazis herded gays and many others into concentration camps along with Jews. Gay men were forced to wear downward-pointing pink triangles on their sleeves. Other colors and configurations denoted other prisoners.

Red triangles marked political prisoners; green labeled habitual criminals. Jehovah's Witnesses, emigrants and others each got their own color, too. Black triangles labeled vagrants and antisocials, the category into which most sources report lesbians were placed. A yellow triangle pointing upward marked a Jew.

But, gay men were the most mistreated of the prisoners, many say. "The fate of homosexuals in the concentration camps can only be described as ghastly," Eugen Kogon, who was a political prisoner of the Nazis for six years, said in his book *The Theory and Practice of Hell*. "[They were] the lowest caste in camp... Theirs was an ineluctable predicament and virtually all of them perished."

A pink triangle over a yellow one forming a Star of David marked the people who were even lower than the lowest in camp, gay Jews.

Because Nazi records of concentration camps are incomplete and often falsified, there is no reliable way to know how many gays and lesbians might have died in German death camps.

The gay and lesbian community began using the symbol as a sign of pride in the 1970s to upturn their oppression. Claiming a symbol once used to label gays for prison and death as a symbol of pride is a way of overcoming the scars of oppression that the symbol once represented, according to the reasoning behind the symbols use.

The other symbols of our pride don't carry with them the baggage the triangle bears.

Lambda is an "officially" recognized symbol of pride. In 1970, the Gay Activists Alliance chose the Greek letter, which looks like a lowercase "y" flipped upside down, as the symbol for the gay movement. The International Gay Rights Congress adopted it in 1974.

It is not known for sure why lambda was chosen. In physics, lambda signifies change; that may be the reason. Others say it was because in ancient Greece it symbolized reconciliation and justice. Whatever the case, in the seventies, the lambda was the symbol of choice, if

there was one, for the lesbian and gay community. The word "lambda" is still sometimes a code word for the whole gay, lesbian and bisexual community.

The lambda and the triangles seem to be going out of style these days, though, and a more colorful symbol is in. Rainbow flags, in many versions, hang from windows, adhere to bumpers and even wave down from flagpoles. The six-striped flag would be even more colorful, but a flag manufacturer changed the form of the symbol fated to become associated nationwide with gay and lesbian pride.

The flag dates back farther than many know. It was first stitched together by its designer, Gilbert Baker, and a group of thirty volunteers who hand-dyed and assembled two large flags for the 1978 San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade.

The rainbow flag had eight stripes then, and each had a meaning: hot pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony and violet for spirit.

When Baker tried to get the flags mass-produced, he was informed that hot pink fabric was not commercially available, so Baker's flag became seven-striped. In 1979, turquoise was removed and today's six-stripe version was born. The flag is now recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

Some people like the flag because the rainbow is a Biblical symbol; others like it because rainbows appear in nature.

"When I see a lambda or pink triangle in the sky, I might change my mind," one gay man said.

Today, the rainbow flag may be the symbol of choice, but the pink triangle, lambda and many others are still around, too. Triangular rainbow flags and lamb-

das superimposed on rainbow backgrounds are common. Texas-shaped rainbow flags are also gaining popularity. Freedom rings and even rainbow-colored coasters and candles are among jewelry, and other items inspired by these three signs of pride.

Historically, lots of symbols have been used to represent the gay and lesbian community. These symbols

are as diverse as the times and the people from which they came.

Earlier this century, before red power ties became common in the corporate world, a red tie worn by a man might have indicated he was gay.

In 1955, the five-year-old Mattachine Society, a gay group, used harlequin diamonds as their symbol. The icon presented four diamonds placed in a pattern to form a larger diamond. Before that, the ancient Chinese yin and yang, featuring black and white interlocking commas forming a circle was associated with lesbians and gays. In 1933, a flag bearing that symbol flew over the International Commission for Sexual Education, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Archives.

That flag predates the rainbow banner by decades, but, of course, even it was not the first pride symbol. In ancient Crete, the labrys, a two-edged ax, was a symbol of feminine strength and eventually, lesbianism.

No one knows for sure how far back signs of lesbian and gay pride go, and there are dozens of other known symbols that are not mentioned here. In 1974, Bernie Toal and Tom Morganti, Boston gay rights activists, began a campaign in the media using a lavender rhinoceros as the symbol for gay people. They placed placards on subways for three months beginning in December.

They intended a longer campaign, but since they didn't qualify for the public service rate for subway advertising, they had to pay more than three times that amount for the commercial rate (seven dollars). They finally decided to spend their time focusing on something else.

According to the Alyson Almanac, Toal said, "The rhino is much a maligned and misunderstood animal and, in actuality, a gentle creature — but don't cross him or her."

So what does a lavender rhinoceros have to do with the signs of our pride? Well, fortunately, not very much.



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## WNBA Basketball Team's Diverse Fan Base Is in a League of Its Own

Washington, D.C. (AP) — They're a mix of people you don't usually see at pro sports events. Suburban dads with their school-age daughters. Entire families, both white and black. And lesbians, alone, in couples and in large groups of friends.

Attendance figures for Washington Mystics basketball games at MCI Center are nothing short of amazing — not far behind the NBA Wizards. And Mystics fans are inexplicably cheerful, even in the face of some miserable play.

The fans get along in a way not seen in any other sport, staying to the final buzzer, cheering and screaming even when their Mystics are on the wrong end of a 30-point blowout. They have the worst record in the league, but the hapless, 2-20 Mystics nonetheless lead the Women's National Basketball Association in attendance.

The official explanation, from Washington Sports President Susan O'Malley, is "girl power. This year, it's not going to be so much about wins as about what women can do. If you have kids, you have to come and say, 'See, I told you, you can be anything you want to be.' And for older women, this is the culmination of a lifetime dream, showing that women can compete at this level."

Throughout the league, WNBA audiences are about 70 percent women, a mirror image of the NBA's gender balance.

And throughout MCI Center, O'Malley's "girl power" claim resonates — in handmade signs proclaiming just that slogan; in middle school girls in their basketball team jerseys cheering on their favorite Mystics — star guard Nikki McCray and three-point specialist Keri Chaconas; and in power assemblages not of cigar-chewing corporate honchos but of female professionals, non-gay and lesbian, from the worlds of politics, law, media and government.

"The lesbian community is a key audience and part of the fan base of the Mystics," says season ticket holder Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the gay rights organization Human Rights Campaign.

"I am in a bank of 30 or so folks who got tickets together," she says. "We organized and called early and got seats on the floor three rows back. We sit across the aisle from an African American dad and mom and their kids, and the dad is so engaged, he jumps and yells at the refs. We all sit together and we're united in the event. These are communities that don't often have cause to come together."

Promoters of women's hoops argue that theirs could be the first American sport since baseball (and that was early in the century) to hit it big as spectator and participatory sport simultaneously.

"I couldn't wait to get our own team," says Maria Johnson, 38, a Southeast Washington resident who bought her season pass even before the city was guaranteed a franchise. "To see the women come out and compete is so exciting, because this game is not a money issue."

"For the men, it's a business and you can see it in their attitude. The women are having fun playing even if they're down by 20."

### One on One

For most of this summer, MCI Center cameras scanned the crowd and, on the jumbo TV screens, featured a Mystics "Couple of the Game." The lucky twosome won a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant.

Like the other fan-participation games that turn timeouts into a super-charged frenzy, it was a real crowd-pleaser. Couples dressed up and shouted for the camera's attention. Some couples developed their own cheering sections. But in certain sections of the arena, the device left a sour taste. Not once was the Couple of the Game a single-sex couple, and at Mystics games, that could barely have been a matter of chance.

"That's the only thing the Mystics have done that has offended me," says season ticket holder and former pro basketball player Mariah Burton Nelson, an Arlington resident who is author of three



books on women and sports. "There's a lot of anger on the part of lesbians for being left out of society in general and having to deal with homophobia in sports."

O'Malley says the team never had a policy of intentionally avoiding homosexual couples. But, she adds, "that puts you in an awkward spot, because what if you have two girlfriends who are not a couple? Do you put the camera on them? We're never going to ask people their sexual orientation."

Recently, the team quietly changed its promotion from "Couple of the Game" to "Fan of the Game."

For many gay fans, that was fine. "I want the lesbian community to be recognized as part of the fan community," says Stachelberg, whose Human Rights Campaign held a fund-raiser at MCI Center following the first Mystics game and had to turn people away after the event topped out at 800 supporters. "I don't think there needs to be special recognition."

But other lesbian fans argue that their support of the team ought to be recognized. "They have extreme lesbian support and yet there's such an effort to heterosexualize the sport and cover up the gay fan base," says Jessica Brown, a season ticket holder who works for a local nonprofit group and is an activist with the Lesbian Avengers protest group.

The Avengers staged a "visibility action" at a recent game, buying up a block of 60 seats and wearing the group's T-shirts, then holding a demonstration after the game at the headquarters of the Family Research Council, the Christian conservative group that has supported a recent spate of anti-gay advertising.

Brown charges that the team has avoided any overt outreach or marketing toward its gay fans for "fear that that would chase away suburban fans. But even when we wear our T-shirts and hold up a banner, we're surrounded by what appear to be heterosexual families and nobody bats an eye."

Indeed, neither the WNBA nor the Mystics have advertised in any gay media or marketed the team toward the lesbian audience.

"Everyone's aware that we're support-

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ed by that community," says Mystics center Heidi Burge, who played at the University of Virginia before going pro. "It's not something that's a negative or a positive. In women's basketball, that's a factor wherever you go."

"We really didn't have any idea that this would be a component," says Rick Welts, chief marketing officer for both the NBA and the WNBA. Welts says the league did no research into and no marketing toward its gay fans.

"We decided to utilize things we already had in place, like promotions on the NBA on NBC broadcasts."

The WNBA has not been shy about using sex appeal to sell the game, but it's been a standard heterosexual sell, with TV ads featuring the league's prettiest players, such as the Los Angeles Sparks' Lisa Leslie, a Wilhelmina model who has spoken about the need to promote the game by concentrating "on the appeal of the woman." (NBA executives note that male players, too, have become sex symbols, with Grant Hill gracing the cover of GQ.)

"The lesbian community is critical to the success of women's sports," says Jeffrey Vitale, president of Overlooked Opinions, a Chicago marketing company that has been contracted by leagues and teams, including some in the NBA, to provide demographic information about the gay and lesbian population.

Although Vitale and other gay-marketing experts believe there is still reason for sports leagues to worry about fan backlash against any effort to market overtly to gays, they say that suspicion has diminished dramatically in the past decade. If the WNBA were to advertise in the gay press, for example, Vitale says, "it's very unlikely you'd lose business over this. Women in general do not get terribly excited about these issues. And men are less likely to get offended by a lesbian connection than a gay male connection."

Major corporations from AT&T to Volkswagen have developed profiles of their gay customers and run ads targeting homosexuals. But sports leagues remain wary of making any overture. "The day we see the NFL marketing to gay men will be the day the corner has been turned" in the popular acceptance of homosexuality, says Sean Strub, president of Strubco, a New York-based gay direct marketing firm.

Strub believes women's leagues will lead the way, in good part because "there's more acceptance of physical affection among women." Indeed, scenes of women embracing over Mystics baskets have produced no complaints and hardly any notice.

Yet the WNBA remains icily silent on the subject of

homosexuality.

"In the entire WNBA, nobody is openly gay, when statisticians would tell you that's just not possible," says former pro Nelson. "In their promotions, they only tell straight stories, about boyfriends and husbands and babies. I'd like to see them create a safe place with a sexual nondiscrimination policy."

Unease stems from both the league and gay institutions. "For so much of gay culture, team sports was the enemy," Strub says. "The high school locker room was the source of humiliation. There's been a real effort to reverse that, and while gay people who came out 30 years ago were the effete and the affluent, the least likely to be NFL fans, that's no longer true. Now Joe Sixpack, the middle-class gay guy, can come out and be both gay and a football fan."

As the WNBA has not sought gay support, neither are the gay media responding to the burgeoning interest in the game. The Washington Blade, the area's largest gay publication, has not yet written about lesbian support for the Mystics, says managing editor Colleen Marzec. "It's a snowball gathering speed," she says. "We're watching it."

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# IN RELIGION

## From Canterbury to Southern Baptism

### Anglicans Decide They Can't Cope with Gays

by Keith Clark  
 of the IN Step Staff

In 1988, the primates of the Anglican Church worldwide, including the Episcopal Church of America as it's known in this country, gathered for their once-a-decade Lambeth Conference at Canterbury amid predictions that the church would split apart over whether women could be ordained.

It did not, and they were. That argument, however, continues to percolate within the church, which ironically is titularly headed by a woman — Queen Elizabeth II.

But at this year's Lambeth Conference, just concluded, there were for the first time 11 women present among the more than 700 bishops attending. You've come a long way, Most Reverend Baby.

There were also fears that this 13th Lambeth Conference would also split apart over questions of the role of gay and lesbian Christians in the Anglican Churches, whether their unions could be given the blessings of the church, and if sexually active homosexuals could be ordained as priests.

To many Anglicans/Episcopalians, these questions are either dreadfully serious — or absurd.

Among other things, England has already had two well-documented gay kings who, had they lived a few centuries later, would have been the head of the church which was now trying to decide if gays and lesbians are good enough to pray at their altars.

And anyone with even a passing familiarity of the Episcopal Church is doubtless aware that, like "don't ask, don't tell," there already are more than a few homosexual priests (and doubtless bishops as well). And thanks to the unflinching courage of a few Episcopal priests and bishops, same-sex unions are already being blessed by the church, both in England and in the U.S. and Canada.

But all too typical of clerics completely out of touch with reality, the assembled Most Reverends at Lambeth voted 526-70 (with 45 abstentions), to refuse its official blessing of gay and lesbian couples, to deny homosexuals the priesthood, and to condemn homosexuality as "incompatible with Scripture."

There were, following the resounding

rejection of anyone even remotely gay in the church, the usual pep-talks by gay-positive lay groups and clerics.

In Canada, Integrity, the gay and lesbian Episcopal organization, said it was "disappointed and discouraged" by the vote, which was an overwhelming defeat for anything vaguely like a liberal wing in the church.

A group of 146 bishops signed an open letter to gay and lesbian Anglicans calling for a "prayerful, respectful conversation on the issue of homosexuality" within the church.

The Most Rev. Roger White, Episcopal bishop of Milwaukee, said after the

called it "spiritual bullying" by the bishop.

Bishop Alexander Malik of Pakistan said, "Opposing homosexuality is not gay bashing; it is a matter of faith." He also charged that "homosexuals betray the cause of Christ" and that if the church blessed same-sex marriages it might next "have to look at relationships with pets, with people's cats and dogs."

The bishops even decided to change a section in the resolution that had originally condemned "homophobia" and instead censured the "irrational fear of homosexuals."

Bishop Malik said, "It condemns homophobia, meaning those who actively

**"We need to be very, very clear that they're very welcome in the church."**

THE MOST REV. ROGER WHITE, EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF MILWAUKEE

biblical condemnation of homosexuality by his church that "we need to be very, very clear that they're very welcome in the church."

Even Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the ranking primate of the church, said gays and lesbians were still welcome in the church and "we want them to stay within and we want them to continue to explore these issues with us."

But what went on at Lambeth wasn't a church potluck followed by a feel-good hug, no matter what the good bishops and archbishops may say. It was a gay-bashing of institutional proportions.

Besides declaring homosexuality incompatible to biblical teachings, forbidding ordination of homosexual priests, and refusing the church's blessing of same-sex unions, the resolution also embraced a statement by 80 bishops of Africa and South East Asia condemning gay sex as sinful. Even the word "chastity" had to be removed from the resolution because of fears among conservative bishops that the word might be interpreted to mean faithful, lifelong gay partnerships.

Before the learned clerics started their debate, the Rt. Rev. Emanuel Chukwume of Nigeria carried a placard around the university campus where the conference was held declaring homosexuality to be the "work of Satan." He later tried to exorcise "the demons of homosexuality" from the Rev. Richard Kirker of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, shouting "Repent! Repent!" Kirker later

condemn homosexuals. If Scripture condemns it, why condemn those who are trying to uphold teaching and Scripture?"

It was enough to make any Southern Baptist's heart jump for joy.

And the Rt. Rev. James Stanton, Bishop of Dallas, sounding more like Pat Robertson than an Episcopal bishop, praised the anti-gay resolution saying, "The Anglican Communion upholds biblical Christian teaching on sexuality, and this is good news for the American church and for our ministry in American society."

Bishop John Spong, from Newark, N.J. and a longtime champion of gays and lesbians in the church, said, "The resolution sought to justify its prejudice by appeals to the authority of Holy Scripture. That tactic was employed in the church's attempt to justify slavery, segregation and apartheid. It failed then. It will surely fail on this issue."

The Most Rev. Richard Holloway, bishop of Edinburgh and an advocate of greater acceptance of gays and lesbians within the church, said he felt "gutted, shafted and depressed" after the overpowering vote for the anti-gay resolution.

He said what concerned him about the vote, aside from the anti-gay content of the resolution itself, was "the sense of a new prevailing attitude to scriptural interpretation which I do not recognize as Anglican."

Bishop Holloway said after Lambeth that the Anglican church is headed in the same dangerous route fundamentalists in other denominations have taken in giving up human understanding and insight of Scripture for some "absolutist" reliance on the Bible. "Fundamentalism is attractive in the same way that fascism was attractive," he said. "It provides quick and easy answers to complex questions for people who don't want to think."

The Most Rev. David Crawley, the Canadian Archbishop of British Columbia, agreed, saying, "There are now two separate churches within the worldwide Anglican church: those who value the Bible but want to interpret it for our own day, and those who want to use it literally — the new Christian fundamentalists."

Dr. Carey, the good Archbishop of Canterbury who also backed the anti-gay resolution, said he thought the church was "significantly stronger" after Lambeth. "Disagreement should bring us closer together," he said.

There are, however, several million Anglicans - gay and straight - who weren't feeling particularly "nearer to Thee my God" after the neo-fundamentalist Lambeth Conference.

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## 45,000 at Europride, 60,000 at Vienna Pride

The EuroPride parade in Stockholm drew 15,000 marchers and 30,000 spectators July 25, reports correspondent Bjoern Skolander.

Motorcyclists led the three-hour procession followed by a contingent carrying the flag of each European nation.

After the parade, a four-hour Rainbow Music Extravaganza featured Nordic gay/lesbian artists and transsexual Israeli pop diva Dana International, winner of this year's Eurovision song contest.

In Vienna, meanwhile, 60,000 people crowded the historic Ringstrasse to demand equal rights for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people, organizers said.

They called for repeal of Penal Code Article 209 which prohibits gay men from having sex until age 18 while allowing heterosexuals and lesbians to do so at 14.

Marchers also stressed the need for a registered-partnership law and a national ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

## British Age-of-Consent Change Postponed

The British government has postponed plans to lower the age of consent for gay-male sex from 18 to 16 after the House of Lords vetoed the House of Commons' approval of the move.

The measure was an amendment to an important crime bill that the government was not willing to see delayed any further, said Home Secretary Jack Straw.

But, Straw promised the matter will return full-force next session and will be formulated in such a way that after the Commons passes it again, the Lords will be unable to delay it for more than one year.

A spokeswoman for the gay-lobby group Stonewall pronounced the new plan acceptable. "The Government is determined to see that the huge vote for equality by MPs is translated into legislation," said Angela Mason.

The Commons' vote in favor of allowing gay sex at the same age as lesbian and heterosexual sex was 336-129. The Lords' vote against it was 290-122.

Members of the House of Lords are not elected, and the new Labour government has planned to rid the chamber of hereditary seats. Some other seats are held by the nation's Anglican bishops.

Austria is the only other European Union nation with an unequal age of consent.

## OUTRAGE! Zaps Bishops

Forty gay activists organized by the group OutRage! zapped 800 Anglican bishops at London's Festival Pier July 28 as the prelates boarded a boat to cruise the Thames.

The bishops were attending the Anglican Church's once-every-10-years Lambeth Conference.

The protesters castigated the bishops for supporting anti-gay discrimination and demanded the church launch a "Queer Reformation." They chanted, "Church of hatred, church of fear, stop crucifying queers!"

Some protesters were dressed as bishops, priests or nuns. Two OutRage! "bishops" kissed each other while a gay-male nun sprinkled the real bishops with "homo water...to cleanse them of the sin of homophobia"—a takeoff on "holy water" used in the Catholic and Anglican faiths.

"Dr. Carey and many of his bishops are acting like the leaders of the Afrikaaner Church in South Africa during apartheid," said OutRage's John Hunt. "They are opposing equality and endorsing discrimination."

## Toronto Mayor Enjoys Gay Stroll

Toronto's new mayor, the quotable Mel Lastman, was impressed during a recent stroll through the city's main gay neighborhood.

"I've never seen a community as friendly as this one," Lastman said. "Everybody knows everybody, and everybody waves to everybody and talks and everybody is friendly with everybody."

"This tour has taught me a lot. I've led a very sheltered life. I didn't know anything about gay or anything else. But they're our community, and I'm the mayor and it's my job to make sure I understand them better and understand the community better."

## How To Answer Questions About Gay Life And Change Anti-gay Attitudes



by Christopher Ott  
of the In Step Staff

A couple of years ago I came out to a young straight man — let's call him Will — who struck up a conversation with me while we were waiting in an airport. The last flight of the evening to Atlanta, our destination, had been canceled, and after we received vouchers for a free night at a nearby hotel, Will suggested that we get something to eat.

I agreed, and as we started toward the airport restaurant, Will asked, "So, are you going to Atlanta on business?"

I hesitated for a moment. He had already mentioned his girlfriend, but I decided to answer his question honestly.

"No, I'm going to see my boyfriend," I said, as if it were nothing unusual.

Will looked at me in disbelief. For a second he looked as if he were afraid I would sink fangs into his neck, but I decided to try carrying on as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened.

"And you?" I asked politely.

"Girlfriend," was all he could say.

To his credit, Will recovered pretty quickly. By the time we sat down in the restaurant he was feeling more candid, and he asked me if I would mind answering some questions about what it's like to be gay.

I didn't mind, but Will's questions were tougher than I expected. My answers didn't seem to satisfy him, even though he was polite and curious, and even though we were both about the same age and seemed to have a lot in common.

I knew something was wrong because Will's questions kept getting more and more negative. "Why would you want to be gay?" he asked me. "Why are gays so promiscuous?" "Why are gays so political about homosexuality?"

I knew that Will's questions were all based on

misunderstandings and false assumptions, but they caught me off guard. This wasn't what his open-faced curiosity had led me to expect.

Will and I talked for about an hour. I did the best I could to change his mind, but something kept bothering me when I got to my hotel room.

The main problem, I realized, was that I didn't know how to deal with someone who was not hostile to gay people, but who still doesn't agree with us. I answered most of Will's questions the same way I would answer them for straight friends who already understand homosexuality. I caught myself getting angry at him for asking what seemed to be such stupid questions. I relied too much on easy, politically correct formulas — expressions like "gay pride," for instance — which didn't mean much to someone like Will, who found them completely unfamiliar.

That night in my hotel room, I began to realize that misunderstandings between gays and straights aren't only caused by a lack of information about homosexuality anymore. I tried to give Will as much information as I could about gay life, but he didn't understand that information the way I wanted him to. We each looked at the issue in completely different ways — and this is one of the main causes of hostility between gays and straights.

"Straight Answers" will take a closer look at the causes for these misunderstandings. Each column will look at how to discuss tough questions about homosexuality, in hopes of changing anti-gay attitudes and preventing problems between ordinary gay people and ordinary straight people like Will.

The majority of straight Americans, after all, are still like Will. They don't agree with the extreme fringe of anti-gay conservatives, but they also don't understand homosexuality. They feel uncomfortable about it, and they have doubts about exactly what legal rights we deserve.

Whether it's fair or not, gay people have to explain ourselves to people who think this way. And if we want to make more progress in winning the rights which straight people already take for granted, we're going to need their understanding — and their votes. "Straight Answers" aims to offer advice for dealing with anti-gay attitudes, and to help us eliminate the unnecessary hostility, uncertainty and suspicion with which we are viewed so often.

Editor's Note: "Straight Answers" will appear monthly in IN Step. The first installment appears below.

### Q: Gay people can be "cured." Don't you want to be?

When you talk to somebody who thinks that homosexuality is an illness or a disorder that can be "cured" — that's the theme of the religious right's recent ad campaign about "hope and healing for homosexuals" — you can always try mentioning a couple of facts. The American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality as a mental illness in 1974, and Michael Bussee and Gary Cooper — the founders of the "ex-gay" ministry Exodus — later repudiated the organization and became lovers. So much for being "ex-gay."

But surprise, surprise, a lot of the people who believe that homosexuality can be "cured" don't know what they're talking about, and they don't really want to. They're probably not going to care what the A.P.A. or anybody else says, and they may trot out their own "experts" who claim that we can be cured. They're also likely to think that ex-ex-gays have just "fallen back into sin."

For these tough cases, you'll probably need to try different arguments.

You might suggest that being gay is sort of like being left-handed. This isn't a perfect analogy, but it's close: The hand we write with is a characteristic we don't have much direct control over, our world is largely designed with right-handers in

mind, and while being left-handed is different, it doesn't do any harm.

You might then ask the person you're talking with to imagine a culture which looks on left-handedness as a sin, or as something scandalous or embarrassing.

In a world like this, there would be probably be plenty of "converted" or "cured" left-handers. Some of them might be very convincing. Some might deny that they were ever left-handed, they might say they were only left-handed because of some childhood trauma, or they might secretly admit that they still struggle against the "sin" of left-handedness. But the fact would remain that without pressure from other people, they'd still be left-handers — and nobody would be any worse off for it.

This is sort of like what happens in societies which strongly discourage homosexuality. When it's extremely dangerous to be gay, people learn to live as straights. They may never even be fully aware of their natural orientation themselves.

The people you argue about this with will probably not like the left-hand analogy. They'll say it's a poor comparison because there is no sin in using the left hand instead of the right. They'll be unable to see that that their belief in the sinfulness of homosexuality is just as arbitrary as saying that one hand is better than the other.

The analogy they'll prefer is to compare homosexuality to something like alcoholism — something which some people may also be naturally inclined toward, but which must be resisted nonetheless.

You may never succeed in convincing these people that being gay is not a sin or a sickness — or that in fact it can be as good and healthy as being straight — but you might be able to plant a little bit of doubt in their minds about what they previously thought they knew.

If the person you're arguing with mentions someone they know who has "converted back to straight," it's probably not a good idea to get personal and to say that "she's just repressing it," or "he's just kidding himself." This is probably true, but it's risky to make sweeping statements about someone you don't even know. He may show up and argue with you even more forcefully than the person you started out with!

The best thing to say is probably something like, "Well, if she's happy, then good for her, but most people who 'convert' from homosexuality have really just gone back into the closet and are essentially lying to themselves and the people they love."

Most of the time, the people you argue with will not just give up and admit that you're right. But with a little luck, you'll give them something to think about, and you may begin to change their minds in some small way.

—Christopher Ott



# IN OUT RIGHT

STEP

## We're In Trouble

Opinion by Scott Evertz

If I hear one more person say, "The American people don't care about this," in reference to the Clinton/Lewinski affair, I think I'll puke! In response, I ask myself about what it is that Americans allegedly don't care? Do they not care that the leader of

**"...the notion of doing that alleged thing to 'that Man' makes me rather ill!"**

the country seems to care very little about his vow to be faithful to his wife? Or do they not care that when asked about this little affair that the President refers to the person with whom he was allegedly involved as "that woman?" or is it that they don't care that the President seems to care very little for the laws of this country which require him to tell the truth and not perjure himself?

If it any or all of the above things about which Americans are said not to care, we are really in trouble. If it is true that Americans don't care that when a husband and wife (or a husband and husband or wife and wife) are joined in matrimony that they remain faithful to their marriage vows, then those vows and the institution of marriage mean very little. That right for which so many gays and lesbians are fighting [for] really isn't worth the fight if it means so little to our society.

If it is true that as a society, we care so little about women that we believe it is acceptable for male employers to engage in intimate relationships with women who work under them and cast them aside when the going gets rough and then refer to the women with whom they were involved as "that (those) woman (women)," we are moving backwards in our opinions on [the] accept-

ability of harassment of women.

If we truly "don't care" about the value of telling the truth and believe that even under oath we are not compelled to do so, the very fabric which binds a nation and culture together begins unraveling and the end can be nothing but chaos.

It is true that many, many politicians (including other Presidents) of both parties have behaved in less than admirable ways, but their behaviors should not be used by defenders of the current President to justify his actions. Further, I am not particularly interested in knowing what Monica Lewinsky did to "that man" myself. In fact, the notion of doing that alleged thing to "that Man" makes me rather ill! Like it or not, there is a certain evidence that the thing and subsequent coverups occurred and the collective apathetic response of this nation says something quite poorly indeed about us as a people.

It is true that most citizens don't care if the President is unfaithful to his wife and is a misogynist and liar as long as that are relatively comfortable economically, the very values upon which the nation was built mean nothing and the economic stability that they enjoy will be short-lived for no nation can remain strong indefinitely if it does not embrace the basic values of respect and honesty. Those parents unwilling to say "this President is wrong" fail to pass on the values that will ultimately ensure that their children and grandchildren will live in a prosperous nation and enjoy a high quality of life.

It may be true that the unraveling of our moral fiber began long before Bill Clinton became President, but never before has the leader of our nation clothed himself so entirely in a garment made from this tattered fiber. If there is a Clinton legacy, it will be the impact his lack of moral leadership has on this nation for many years to come.

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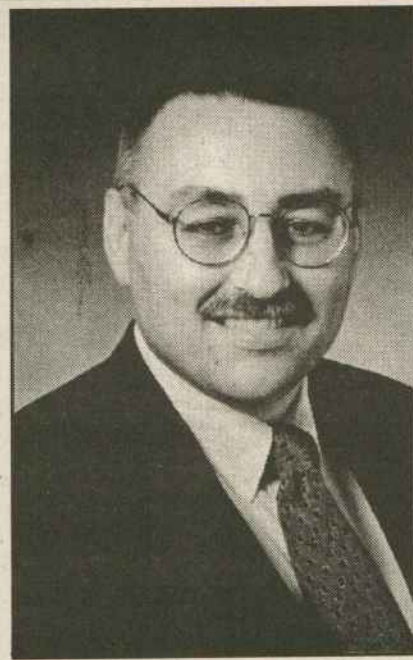
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## Aussie Gay-Sex Manual Locked Up

The Australian Health Department has instructed medical clinics and sexual-health centers to hide the nation's official gay health guide in a cabinet and show it only to selected individuals.

The 100-page booklet — called "out there!" — was produced with Health Department funds by the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations. Among much else, it offers descriptions of anal and oral sex and tips on visiting tea rooms and bathhouses.

The new policy says the booklet should not be displayed in waiting rooms or community venues. "Copies of the book will be kept in a cupboard away from the public gaze, preferably under lock and key."

## New Zealand Recognizes Gays in Labor Law

New Zealand modified its labor laws last week to allow same-sex partners to take off work to care for each other.

Labor Minister Max Bradford said the change brings labor law into line with the Human Rights Act, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.

## Homo Info Axed From Ontario Curriculum

Ontario's first "Health And Physical Education Curriculum" for grade-schoolers makes no mention of homosexuality.

The power to set curriculum recently was wrested away from local school boards by the Tory provincial government.

The guidelines will not prohibit teachers from discussing homosexuality, "but its absence makes it an easy topic to drop," said the Toronto gay paper Xtra!

Required topics include abstinence and symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases.

## Soldier Sues Croatian Military

Soldier Aldin Petric sued the Croatian military last week for firing him for being gay.

When word of Petric's homosexuality got around, he was forbidden to leave his barracks "to avoid problems which might arise from meetings with other soldiers." Then he was removed from his job at the officers' restaurant and other enlisted men starting beating him up, sometimes in front of officers who did not respond. Finally, Petric was fired.

Petric is seeking compensation for psychological abuse and physical pain.

## Mardi Gras Pumps \$99 Million Into Aussie Economy

This year's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras pumped \$99 million (US\$60 million) into Sydney's economy, according to survey data released by organizers.

That makes Mardi Gras the most economically significant cultural or sporting event in Australia.

Mardi Gras President Bev Lange commented, "Given the significance of Mardi Gras' annual return to the national economy, it is time that equal rights for gay and lesbian people were delivered."

South Sydney Mayor Vic Smith said, "Not only should this silence the critics, but demonstrate what a valuable investment Mardi Gras is to Sydney."

The data was compiled by the University of New South Wales' Australian Graduate School of Management.

## Fiji Bans Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians

The new constitution of the South Pacific nation of Fiji bans discrimination based on sexual orientation, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported last week.

The sexual-orientation clause has raised the hackles of some politicians and church leaders, who say it will increase homosexuality and permit gay marriages. The Methodist Church and the Fiji Council of Churches petitioned Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka to overturn the measure.

Rabuka responded by asking the attorney general to try to amend the clause out of the constitution via action in the Parliamentary Committee on Consequential Legislation.

South Africa is the only other nation that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation via its constitution.

Compiled by Rex Wockner of the IN Step Staff

# INQUIPS & QUOTES

## That Little Something EXTRA

"We're not different, we're extraordinary!"

—Playwright/actor Harvey Fierstein at the Gay Games opening ceremonies in Amsterdam.

## Your Welcome!

"I really want to thank you for being here because your being here gives me the chance to help my daughter love whoever the fuck she wants."

—Actress Kathy Najimy (Sister Act, Veronica's Closet) from the stage of San Diego gay pride.

## Lea's Hit List

"There's always Sigourney Weaver; I love a girl you can shimmy up. She's one tall drink of water, that one. She's my go-to girl, definitely. And I've been getting a thing for Uma Thurman lately. A total thing. Her and Cameron Diaz — I've just been losing my mind over her lately. ... It's hard for me to separate the talent from the beauty. Except for Sandra Bullock, because I don't find her talented at all, but I'd bang her in a second! I'd do her in front of my parents."

—Actress and comedian Lea Delaria to Just Out.

## Two Wrongs Don't Make a White

"Reggie [White], you are wrong, so very wrong! Are you aware that the American Association of Psychiatrists removed homosexuality as a disorder more than 25 years ago? How can you dare to contribute to the pain of millions of Americans, especially gay teen-agers who are bullied, vilified and bashed by classmates because of extremist and out-dated views on homosexuality? As a former Green Bay Packer, as a 10-year veteran of the National Football League and the World League, as a man who happens to be gay, shame, shame on you!"

—David Kopay writing in The New York Times.

## Bats and Balls

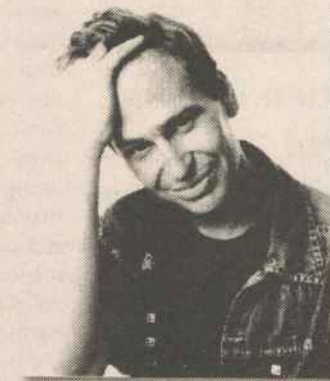
"Man, I'm not talking about that. No. Why would I?"

—Chicago Cubs superstar Sammy Sosa when asked about gays in professional sports by a reporter for the Miami Herald.

## The Joys of Being Jewish

"Being Jewish, would I have to go through a 24-step program instead of a 12-step program?"

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., on the full-page ads that ran in national daily newspapers featuring "ex-gays" who claim to have turned straight with Jesus' help, to the San Francisco Examiner.



## Been There, Done That!

"I've been where Ellen's been, I've been at that place where I thought I was doing good and that the world should thank me. And I got high and mighty. And I look back at that

time, especially some of the work I did at the time, and I see it as flawed. As an artist, I see it as flawed: I see the politics overwhelming the comedy, and comedy is good on its own. I do have an agenda, I do have a goal, I'm not about nothing, right. I saw about three [episodes of 'Ellen'] this year and I think I liked one, and my feeling was that it was doing good."

—Gay actor Scott Thompson (Kids In The Hall) to Los Angeles' Frontiers.

## Nice Work If You Can Get It

"Never, never work. I've lived in New York for 18 years and I've never worked. Like Blanche DuBois, I rely on the kindness of strangers."

—Gay writer-actor Quentin Crisp, 89, to the San Antonio Express News.

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## SMOOCH!

Titantic heartthrob **Leonardo DiCaprio** was quoted in *Eva* magazine as saying he finds kissing "disgusting," but one of his publicists said the interview was based on a fabrication and has demanded a retraction.

"When you think about it, kissing is pretty disgusting," the 23-year-old star was quoted as saying.

"The human mouth is one of the dirtiest things on this planet. There's so much bacteria, slime and trapped food — a dog's mouth is much cleaner."

But publicist Deborah Grimes in Los Angeles said DiCaprio never gave an interview to the magazine.

## East Side Offers More Homo Friendly Shopping

Milwaukee's "fashionable" east side continues its streak of cool new businesses. The highly anticipated juice bar **ZERO** is now open on Brady Street, and there's also construction on the **DiSalvo** project at the old **Beyond the Sea** location. We'll keep you posted.

We'll also soon have a new pet shop on Farwell Ave. with the homo-friendly name of **Rainbow Pets**. Co-owner **Eileen Whitmarsh** tells the *Latest Dish* the store will definitely be people and pet-friendly. Just up the street, **Body Ritual** relocated to **Prospect Mall** and will soon be offering tattoos. It's the first tattoo studio in Milwaukee in some 25 years! Taking up residence in the Farwell Avenue storefront vacated by Body Ritual is a new gift shop called **Wonderland of Treasure**. We're warming up our charge cards already!

## XENA: Not just for Girls Anymore

Having a woman as U.S. Secretary of State sure makes for some interesting news. First, **Madeleine Albright** performed a duet with Russian Foreign Minister **Yevgeny Primakov**, in which they played star-

crossed lovers in a skit based (somewhat loosely) on **West Side Story**. Then, while appearing at a news conference with New Zealand Prime Minister **Jenny Shipley**, Secretary Albright revealed that that one of her role models is **Zena**, Warrior Princess, protector of the powerless.

Somehow, we can't picture **Warren Christopher**, or **Henry Kissinger**, or any of the guys preceding her saying or doing either of these things — but is sure is amusing to try!

## Queer Parable

John invited his mother over for dinner. During the meal, his mother couldn't help noticing how handsome John's roommate was. She had long been suspicious of John's sexuality and this only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two men interact, she started to wonder if there was more between John and the roommate than met the eye.

Reading his mom's thoughts, John volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Mike and I are just roommates."

About a week later, Mike came to John and said, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose she took it, do you?"

John said, "Well, I doubt it, but I'll write her a letter just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote:

"Dear Mother, I'm not saying you 'did' take a gravy ladle from my house, and I'm not saying you 'did not' take a gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner."

Several days later, John received a letter from his mother which read:

"Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Mike, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with Mike. But the fact remains that if he was sleeping in his own bed, he would have found the gravy ladle by now. Love, Mom."

## Scientologists Beware

Both the kind of creepy Church of Scientology and one-time dreamy and now kinda of lumpy **John Travolta** are being sued by a Beverly Hills artist, **Michael Pattinson** in a bizarre fraudulent claims case.

Pattinson, soon to be a very famous ex-ex-gay by most accounts, says he was duped into spending the best 25 years of his life and a cool half a million pursuing the church's promise to "cure" him of homosexuality. If



you're thinking to yourself — "So she took a wrong turn and had her brains sucked out and served with shallots by a profit-hungry pseudo religious cult, why pick on John?" — you're not alone!

But Berry insists the organization used Travolta as a shining example of someone its teachings "cured" of the "ruin" of homosexuality. "Look! Look!" Berry claims they told him for a quarter of a century, "Look at his comeback career, his gorgeous blonde wife **Kelly Preston**, his fancy car and fancy clothes and tasteful **Calvin Klein** wedding ring."

Travolta's attorney, Jay Lavelly, called the lawsuit "hogwash" and boasted Travolta is "a happily married man." Must say it strikes me as funny, though, I've heard **Kirstie Alley**'s name popping up in the same context.

## Sheboygan Rains on Fundie's Parade

Sheboygan's almost-canceled, Disney-sponsored "Mickey's Hometown Parade," went ahead despite drenching rains that flooded that portion of our state. Also attending were the slightly dampened protesters displeased with Disney's policies toward gays and lesbians.

Despite the flood, the crowd wasn't in a mood for the anti-Disney, anti-gay protest and many booed and heckled the demonstrators who trudged a block behind the parade.

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