

IN STEP

IN Step • LGBT Wisconsin's Community Newspaper • Founded in 1984
December 10, 1998 • Vol. XV, Issue XXV • \$2.95 outside of Wisconsin

SECTION ONE:

NEWS: Low Return on AIDS Ride Raises Concern

Consumer Feature: Discount Shopping Choices

PLUS: The Latest Dish • Qups & Quotes • Straight Answers • Causal Observer

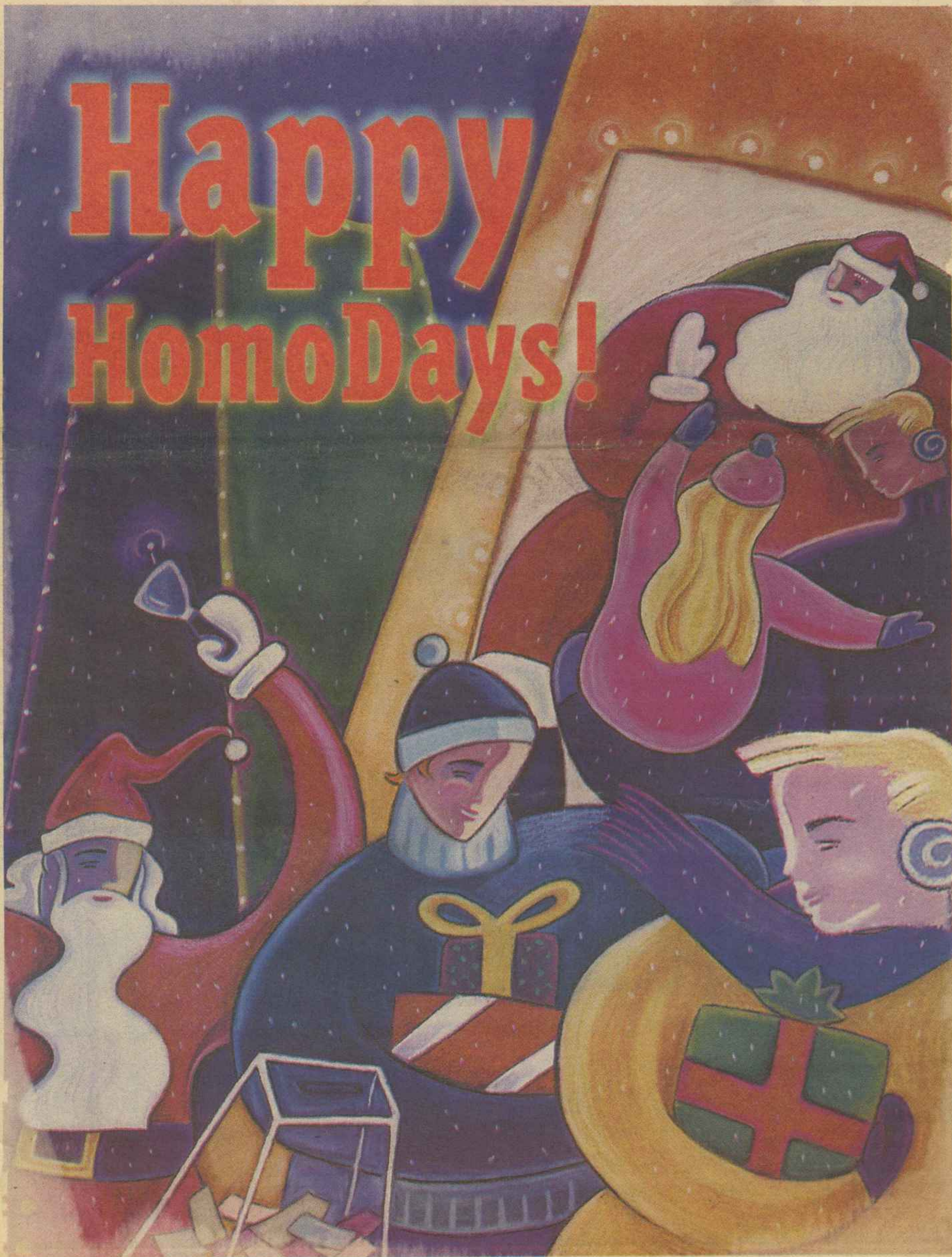
SECTION Q:

THE TALE OF TWO CHORAL GROUPS

Holiday Shopping: Music Ideas • PLUS: Q*Ink

The Classics • Ethan Green • The Calendar • Keepin' IN Step with Jamie • The Guide

Happy HomoDays!



fashion

footwear

denim



french connection uk
 BCBG – menswear
 DIESEL footwear and denim

detour

1300 e. brady st.
 414.273.5156



Rainbow Pets

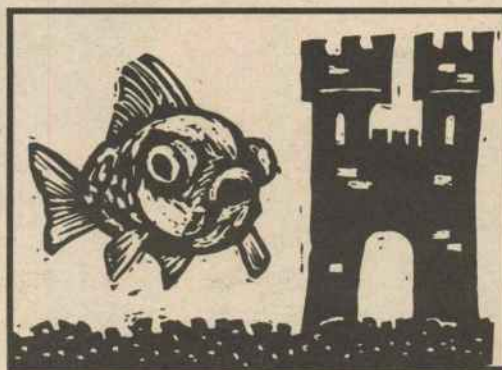
"Your Pet Friendly Headquarters"



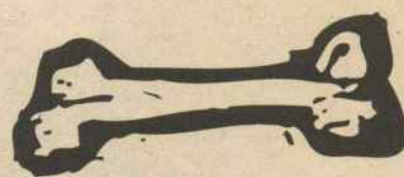
Featuring a full line of
 quality pet supplies:
 Nutro, Iams, Science Diet,
 Bulk Food & More!



Aquarium Set-Ups



A Great Gift Idea! Includes:
 Tank, Filter...Everything You Need!



Don't Forget Fido!

Dog Bones, Cat Treats &
 Other Great Holiday
 Treats for Your Furry
 Four Legged Friends!



Pet Friendly Atmosphere, knowledgeable, friendly staff.
 LIVE Animals: Tropical and Salt Water Fish • Small Animals • Birds • Reptiles
 HOURS: M-F 9am to 8pm; Sat. 9am to 5pm; Sun. 11am to 5pm

1928 North Farwell Ave. • Milwaukee • 414/270-9552 •  



Last Minute shoppers
are always welcome





at Designing Men!

We've EXTENDED our Holiday Hours!

DESIGNING MEN

The LGBT Community's Department Store

1200 S. First Street • Milwaukee

☎ 414.389.1200 •  

HOURS: Mon-Sat: 12-9pm, Sun.: 12-6pm

Plenty of free parking in the heart of Milwaukee's gay district.



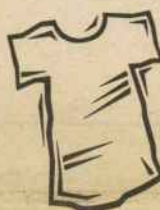
What do you mean you still
haven't bought your
Christmas cards yet?

Lucky for you Designing Men's Stationary
Department has dozens of eye catching
holiday greeting cards for women & men!

Can't think of what to get?
How about a Designing Men Gift Certificate?
ONE SIZE FITS ALL!

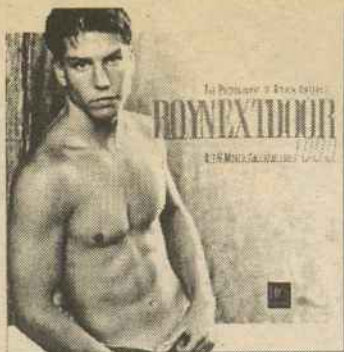


Be Sure to Visit Designing Men's T-Shirt Department.
We're Queer Wisconsin's T-Shirt Headquarters! Hundreds of to choose
from! Tacky or Nice.... T-Shirts Make GREAT Stocking Stuffers!



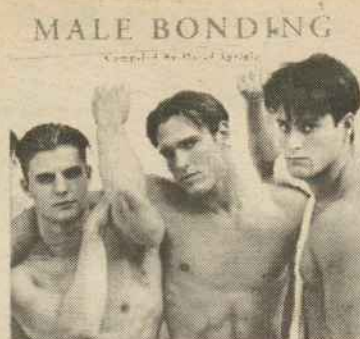
Stocking Stuffers!

He's got animal magnetism! our Santa
David Refrigerator Magnet is a great
stocking stuffer!



Make a date with
our calendar Department

We've got dozens to choose from! Mens and
Womens titles. A Great Holiday Gift,
or keep one for yourself!



Absolutely
Perfect!
our Beautiful,
hard bound,
coffee Table
Books are a
great choice!

We've got many
eye-catching titles
to choose from.



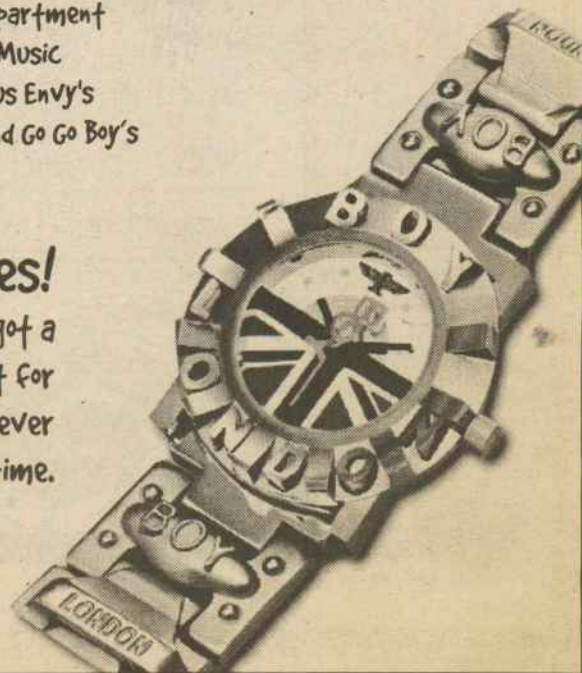
HOLIDAY
MUSIC!

Nothing Says Christmas
More Than The Melodious
Sounds of Ru Paul! Visit
our Music Department
From Holiday Music

Including Ru Paul "Ho Ho Ho", Venus Envy's
"I'll Be A Homo For Christmas" And Go Go Boy's
"Gay Apparel"

Time Flies!

Christmas is almost here and we've got a
great selection of watches. Perfect for
that special person on your list who never
seems to be on time.



Designing Men has the
COMPLETE Collection of
Billy Dolls & Carlos
Dolls! Including Santa
Billy & Carlos
and Billy Cop!

Holiday

symbols

abound

at Outpost Natural Foods!

Take your holiday feast to new heights at
Milwaukee's complete cooperative grocer

Outpost
Natural Foods

A COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE SINCE 1970

100 E Capitol Drive Open Daily 8am to 9pm 961-2597



Canned

music

is like

audible

wallpaper

— Alistair Cooke

Enjoy *Live Music*
in a relaxed, contemporary
atmosphere at Chip & Py's!

Friday & Saturday nights feature

Dan Dance

or
Martha Artig

Wednesday nights feature

Mark Davis



Reservations Suggested
241.9589

*Where fun people
have a great time!*

1340 West Town Square Road
(I-43 at Mequon Road)

Highland Garden Center



Fraiser Firs
starting at \$37⁹⁸

Large Selection
of High Quality
Christmas Trees
\$10⁹⁸ and up



We're the Closest
Full Service
Nursery to
the East Side!

Beautiful
Pointsettias
5 different varieties
to choose from!



Deck the Halls with
Handmade Wreaths,
Garlands and Swags!
Need Something Special?
We Gladly Do Custom Orders.

We've Got Great Gift Ideas — Handmade Art Work & Unique Euro-Style Gifts
5911 West Vliet Street • Milwaukee • Gay Owned & Operated

Low Return for AIDS Ride Raises Questions

**Over 90% of Money
Raised Went to Expenses;
Viability of AIDS Ride
in Wisconsin Questioned**

by William Attewell
of the IN Step staff

Milwaukee — A combination of high expectations, low rider turnout in Wisconsin and high production costs are being blamed for the small return seen by Wisconsin AIDS organizations in the 1998 Tanqueray Twin Cities-Wisconsin-Chicago AIDS Ride.

It was the first year Wisconsin agencies participated in the Twin Cities-Wisconsin-Chicago AIDS Ride, which first began in 1996. The six-day 1998 ride raised a total of \$5.74 million. Of the total of 1,083 cyclists that participated in the event, 267 were from Wisconsin. The Chicago and Twin Cities share of the ride is generally considered a success, with a return of nearly 50-percent going to participating agencies for AIDS services. However, the Wisconsin portion of the AIDS Ride was a clear disappointment.

A total of \$806,640 was raised by the Wisconsin riders, according to figures obtained by *IN Step*. Expenses for the event, totaling \$721,128 were reported by Tanqueray's American AIDS Rides, with a initial net profit of

"We are shocked by the financial information that we recently received. It is terribly disappointing that the cost of production was as high as it was." —DOUG NELSON, ARCW

\$85,512 in donor pledges. An additional \$19,024 of that money will go to the AIDS Network for added expenses incurred by that agency during production of the ride. That leaves a final net total of only \$66,488 slated to be divided up among seven AIDS organizations in Wisconsin. None of the monies raised has yet been received by Wisconsin agencies.

Benefiting agencies include The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (50percent) and AIDS Network (33percent); the remainder will be distributed between Camp Heartland, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the National Minority AIDS Council, The Opportunities Industrialization Center of Racine County and United Migrant Opportunities Service.

Participating agencies do not manage the ride, but are asked to "invest" up-front funds to help get a ride started in their area. Returns from the ride are dispersed according to the amounts put in the start-up fund. The start-up funds are then refunded to the agencies after the ride. AIDS agencies in Wisconsin put up \$300,000 in start-up funds for 1998.

"The results are disappointing," Kevin Baird, director of administration for the Madison-based AIDS Network, told *IN Step*. "It is significantly less than what we had hoped for."

The shortfall in projected funds will not impact services provided by the two major beneficiaries of the ride because AIDS Network and the AIDS Resource of Wisconsin (ARCW) did not include projected ride returns in their operations budget.

The AIDS Network will receive approximately \$22,000 of the net return on the AIDS Ride in addition to the \$19,024 the agency will get for additional expenses incurred to help produce the ride. ARCW is slated to receive proceeds of \$44,000.

While Baird told *IN Step* the AIDS Network remains committed to the AIDS Ride, ARCW is reconsidering its participation in the event in 1999, according to ARCW executive director Doug Nelson.

"We are shocked by the financial information that we recently received. It is terribly disappointing that the cost of production was as high as it was," Nelson told *IN Step*.

"I am concerned about the people who pledged and rode. Only 10 cents on the dollar is going to be dispersed. That is just far below any standard of reasonableness. That is why we are reconsidering."

Nelson cites the Wisconsin AIDS Walk produced by ARCW as an example of acceptable returns on fund-raising dollars. Benefiting agencies that participated in the AIDS Walk in 1998 received 80 percent of the gross returns based on participation.

"It calls into question whether the AIDS Ride in Wisconsin is a viable fund-raiser, and our board of directors is engaged in a review of the AIDS Ride's financials, and we are reconsidering whether we will be a benefiting agency in the second year."

What Went Wrong?

The primary factor indicated by Tanqueray American AIDS Rides was the low rider turnout in Wisconsin. Critics of the for-profit Tanqueray American AIDS Rides, based in California, say fixed costs associated with the event are exorbitant.

In the Tanqueray American AIDS Rides, cyclists solicit pledges from individual donors based on the number of miles they complete. There are a number of successful AIDS Rides across the country. Each is its own entity. The amount of money returned is directly proportionate to the number of riders from the area.

Riders in Wisconsin were encouraged to achieve pledge levels totaling at least \$2,700. At the initial projected ridership of 350 to 400 people, that would have brought a significant return to Wisconsin.

However, according to Baird, The number of actual riders was well below what American AIDS Rides had first projected. Many people dropped out just before the ride, or simply did not show up on the day the ride began. Baird and American AIDS Rides blames this rider shortage as a major factor.

"Part of the problem was that a lot of Milwaukee riders didn't show up for the ride," says Baird. "The nearest place for them to drop off their bikes — to have them trucked to Minneapolis — was in Madison. That has been changed for 1999."

According to Christopher Cole, national director for Tanqueray's American AIDS Rides, the AIDS Ride budgeted the 1998 Wisconsin portion at the same levels achieved by the Twin Cities in previous years. By comparison, the 433 riders from Minnesota raised a total of \$1,347,000 in 1998, with expenses of \$906,000 and a net return to Minnesota AIDS agencies totalling over \$441,000.

According to Cole, the cost of producing the ride is "pretty fixed," and the AIDS Ride is looking at ways of cutting costs in Wisconsin for 1999. Cole stated the AIDS Ride will use more realistic registration estimates in order to make the Wisconsin leg of the AIDS Ride more profitable, and will look at ways of reducing overhead. Indeed, the AIDS Ride has eliminated their Madison office and staff. The Wisconsin leg of the ride is now run from their Chicago office.

"They have a formula that works well for them in the major cities in the country," says Nelson. "Obviously, that did not work as well in Wisconsin. The question would be can they adjust that formula. I doubt that is possible."

"I have found Palotta to be willing to work with the benefiting agencies," argues Baird. "None of us really

knew how we should execute this statewide bike ride. I would never say that they were inflexible or rigid in any sense. They are very flexible, they know that their success is defined by the success with the agencies."

Successes and Failures

American AIDS Rides claims its events are successes in the AIDS fund-raising arena, having amassed well over \$51.4 million since 1994, 57.3 percent of which has benefited participating agencies.

Unlike grants, the money that agencies receive from the rides is unrestricted, meaning it can be used however recipients like. AIDS Care, one of the participating Chicago agencies, used proceeds from a previous year's ride to open a new wellness center that provides outpatient counselling and health services.

But critics maintain that amount is much too high. In

"The ride has the the potential to a raise significant amount of money to fight AIDS. Losing that would be a big loss for Wisconsin."

**CHRISTOPHER COLE,
TANQUERAY AMERICAN AIDS RIDES**

Florida for example, The AIDS Ride Florida produced in 1997 by Pallotta TeamWorks (now called American AIDS Rides) grossed \$1.4 million. Ultimately, a net profit of approximately \$80,000 was eventually distributed among six AIDS agencies in Florida. Because the low dollar return fell far below projections made by Palotta, a decision was made to drop out of the Florida AIDS ride in favor of starting their own ride which will be launched in 1999.

John Weatherhead, executive director of Center One, an AIDS service organization based in Miami and chair of the Florida AIDS Ride Consortium, told *IN Step*, "We were very dissatisfied with the bottom line. It is completely unacceptable for any charitable organization, and there is no way that I could go back and justify it to myself or my donors."

"Palotta's straight-out fees — fees that went directly to Palotta to produce the ride — were twice as much as the amount we got back," Weatherhead stated.

The Florida decision to dismiss Pallotta followed hard on the heels of an investigation of the 1996 Philadelphia-Washington, D.C. AIDS Ride by the Pennsylvania attorney general's office. Pallotta TeamWorks paid a \$110,000 fine for improperly registering the event in that state and misleading the public concerning the rate of return the ride would generate. Participating AIDS agencies in Philadelphia, which received only a 17-percent return, also agreed to pay a fine. Under terms of the settlements, none of the entities involved were required to admit any wrongdoing.

The Philadelphia ride totalled expenses of more than \$1.3 million for an event that brought in only \$1.66 million. Staff salaries and benefits for a year-round Philadelphia ride office came to \$417,628, food cost an additional \$110,559, and there was a plethora of other expenses: advertising, legal fees, insurance, permits, equipment rentals, camp-site rentals, rider recruitment, vehicles, fuel, printing and many more.

The 1999 Wisconsin Ride

While ARCW is reevaluating its role in the 1999 ride, planning is underway for the ride to take place in Wisconsin in 1999. Cole says the only way to make sure this year's ride in Wisconsin is successful is for the community to come forward and support the ride.

"The ride has the the potential to a raise significant amount of money to fight AIDS," states Cole, "Losing that would be a big loss for Wisconsin. Even though the 1998 Wisconsin portion of the ride only made 10 cents on the dollar, it is money those organizations didn't have at the beginning of last year."

"This is a unique event in the sense that you don't have to hire more staff or resources to raise the money. You simply invest some cash. It is an investment of funds. Regardless of the first year, the ride makes sense," says Baird.



1998 Wisconsin AIDS Ride Totals at a Glance

Total Raised	\$806,604
Expenses	721,128
Total to Agencies	85,512

News Wire

Miami-Dade County Gets Gay Rights — Again

Miami — The Miami-Dade County, Fla., commission has voted narrowly to approve expansion of existing anti-bias measures to include anti-discrimination protections covering sexual orientation. The measure bars discrimination in employment and housing, and makes Miami-Dade the 28th county and 137th city in the country to enact such a measure, rights activists say.

But many activists expect the commission's vote won't be the last they hear about the issue in Dade County. And although local activists were jubilant when the commission's 7-6 vote in favor of extending the protections was announced, some recalled that more than 20 years ago, Dade County was one of the first in the nation to enact legal protections — only to have that law overturned when one-time beauty queen Anita Bryant led a high-visibility campaign against it.

And Jose Bello of the local Christian Coalition, who fought against adding sexual orientation to the county protections, said opposition to the measure is still strong.

"Welcome to Sodom and Gomorrah," Bello told Christian Coalition members. "I believe this is going to bring the moral decay of our country and our city as we know it, and I feel that we as Christians have to take a stronger stand for what we believe."

News reports up to the night of the commission's vote strongly suggested the measure would fail to win approval, and the slim one-vote majority was reached only after sponsors of the ordinance included exemptions for religious and non-profit organizations.

And even though the measure passed, anti-gay conservatives in the county said they may seek a referendum in which voters — just as in 1977 — would pass ultimate judgment on the issue.

Shepard Murder Suspects Plead Not Guilty

Laramie, Wyo. — The two suspects in the case of a murdered gay University of Wyoming student pleaded not guilty in Albany County District Court. Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, both 21, have been charged with first-degree murder, kidnaping and aggravated robbery.

Authorities say the two kidnaped, robbed, beat and tied Matthew Shepard to a fence outside Laramie. Shepard later died at a hospital in Ft. Collins, Colo.

First-degree murder carries a penalty of death or life imprisonment. Kidnaping carries a penalty of 20 years to life imprisonment and aggravated robbery carries a penalty of five to 25 years imprisonment.

Also during the hearing, McKinney's attorney Dion Curtis requested that District Court Judge Jeffery A. Donnell be removed as judge from the case. A ruling earlier in the day in Cheyenne reinstated a rule allowing counsel to request removal of a judge without disclosing reasons to the public.

The defendants' attorneys also requested a change of venue but made no statement explaining either legal move.

Clinton Raises Lesbian, Gay Dollars for Democrats

Washington — President Clinton wasted little time getting back to raising money for Democrats in the next election cycle — and this time one of his first fund-raising stops after the Nov. 3 elections was a dinner with well-heeled gays and lesbians, who contributed some \$400,000 to the Democrats.

Some 35 gays and lesbians paid \$10,000 each for a dinner with Clinton at Washington's Mayflower Hotel, where the president touted his increases in funding for HIV/AIDS programs during his administration. Clinton also said the brutal killing of Matt Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, had "helped to sober the country up" about the seriousness of anti-gay attacks.

The dinner was also attended by Colorado Gov. Roy Romer and Steve Grossman. Romer and Grossman chair the Democratic National Conference, the beneficiary of the event.

Among those also attending were Jeff Soref and Andrew Tobias, New York Democrats who organized the event; Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign; Kerry Lobel of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Brian Bond of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund; and Daniel Zingale of AIDS Action.

Sweeping Ruling for Utah Teacher

by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

Salt Lake City — Wendy Weaver, the Utah high school teacher who was ordered by school officials not to talk to anyone about her sexual orientation, has won a landmark federal discrimination suit.

In a sweeping 25-page ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Bruce Jenkins said the Nebo School District violated Weaver's constitutional rights of free speech and equal protection when district officials ordered her not to discuss her sexual orientation.

After learning of the decision, Weaver said she was "elated" by the court decision. "What I really wanted was for them [the school district] to say they were wrong for firing me because of my sexual orientation. I think the ruling really validates that."

Nebo School District officials have declined to comment on the ruling, and a spokesperson for the state attorney general's office simply called the decision "disappointing" and said it was unclear if the ruling would be appealed or not.

Weaver, a physical education and psychology teacher with the district since 1979, lost her post coaching the school's volleyball team in 1997 after school officials learned she is a lesbian. She was also threatened with being fired if she discussed her orientation with anyone in the school community, including staff members and parents.

Judge Jenkins ruled in Weaver's favor in the case on all her suit's claims, ordering the school district to remove the two threatening letters from her personnel file, to offer her the girls' volleyball coaching post during the next school year, and to pay her \$1,500 in damages.

In his ruling, Judge Jenkins said that federal courts have never recognized a person's sexual orientation as a status deserving of any heightened legal protections "despite mounting evidence that gay males and lesbians suffer from employment discrimination and, as recent events in Wyoming remind us, other more life-threatening expressions of bias."

Judge Jenkins was referring to the killing in Wyoming of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old college student who was brutally beaten and left for dead, in part authorities say because he was gay. He later died of the injuries he sustained in the attack.

Judge Jenkins said that the federal government and 39 states don't offer any anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation.

Nevertheless, the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution entitles all persons to equal protection under the law," he wrote in a carefully worded ruling. "It appears that the plain language of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause prohibits a state government or agency from engaging in intentional discrimination — even on the basis of sexual orientation — absent some rational basis for so doing."

He also said the First Amendment prevents citizens from government sanctions or restraints for speaking out on unpopular ideas. "Simple as it may sound, as a matter of fairness and evenhandedness, homosexuals should not be sanctioned or restricted for speech [when] heterosexuals are not likewise sanctioned or restricted," he wrote.

State attorneys representing the school district had argued that the state's interest in preventing possible disruptions in school outweighed Weaver's interests in speaking out about her sexual orientation. They also said she could not assert a First Amendment claim because her sexual orientation was not a matter of public concern.

But Judge Jenkins said the school's gag order went too far and was clearly intended to silence Weaver's speech because of its presumed pro-homosexual viewpoint.

"Indeed, these restrictions limit Ms. Weaver's ability to speak on her sexuality outside of the school, as, for example, when meeting a parent of a student in the supermarket, or when speaking at dinner with a friend who may be a staff member at the school, or even when speaking with her own children, who are students in the school district," Jenkins declared.

And as for being refused the volleyball coaching assignment, Judge Jenkins said he could find no job-related justification for removing Weaver. He said no one had disputed that she was "an excellent coach and apparently, up until the time her sexual orientation was revealed, the likely candidate for the position."

Without some "rational relationship to job performance," a decision not to assign her the coaching job because of her sexual orientation runs afoul of the 14th Amendment, Jenkins ruled. "Although the Constitution cannot control prejudices, neither this

court nor any other court should directly or indirectly legitimize them," he declared.

The judge said Weaver may also have a freedom of association claim against the school district because she was punished for her private relationship with another woman, even though Weaver's suit did not raise the issue.

Stephen C. Clark, the ACLU attorney who represented Weaver in the suit, said, "It's a tremendous step forward not only for gay and lesbian teachers but for gays and lesbians generally. It recognizes that gays and lesbians can't be discriminated against based on stereotypes and fears and prejudice."

Weaver said she hasn't decided whether she would accept an offer to return to coaching.

Meanwhile, Weaver still faces a lawsuit filed in state court by a group of parents who contend her conduct violated state law and teacher certification requirements.

Matt Hilton, the attorney representing the parents' group in the state court action, said he had expected Weaver to prevail on the free speech claim. However, he said the state court lawsuit focuses on entirely different issues, including the moral requirements for teacher certification. He said the lawsuit was filed because parents believe Weaver's federal lawsuit caused a "substantial disruption" to the school's educational environment, which is grounds for termination.

Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Boy Scouts Case

by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

Washington — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear the appeal of an openly gay San Diego, Calif., police officer who was suspended as a volunteer leader by the Boy Scouts because of his sexual orientation.

The Scouts dismissed Chuck Merino as a scouting leader in 1992. He had led the El Cajon police Explorer Scout troop since 1988.

The nation's top court refused to hear Merino's appeal and rejected the case without comment. Merino had previously challenged the Scouts' dismissal in California courts under the state's civil rights laws. But the courts had ruled that as a private, volunteer organization, the Boy Scouts are not covered by the state's anti-discrimination laws.

In appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court, Merino's attorneys had argued that the California court ruling violated Constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

Merino, a 20-year veteran officer in El Cajon, Calif., said he was disappointed in the Supreme Court's refusal to hear his appeal, but that his prolonged fight was still worth the effort.

"It's raised the issue to the public," Merino said. "It's raised a lot of people's awareness over these issues and I think it also shows how backwards the Boy Scouts are on some things within their own organization."

The scouting programs that were being sponsored by the El Cajon and the San Diego police department were discontinued after Merino's dismissal as an unacceptable scouting leader.

Merino also said he's not surprised by the ruling, because he believes the U.S. Supreme Court has been leaning toward conservative rulings in recent years.

Let the Power of
IN Step Work for You!



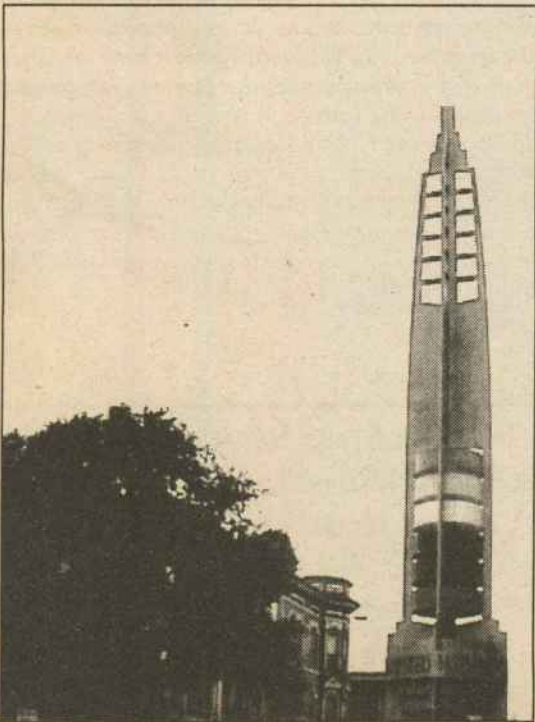
Call our AD HOTLINE Today!
414.278.7840, ext. #2

America's First Official Gay Neighborhood Debuts in Chicago

by Rex Wockner
of the IN Step staff

Chicago — America has its first official gay neighborhood. Mayor Richard Daley's \$3.2-million rainbow-themed redecoration of the North Halsted Street gay strip is finished.

The modifications include: huge retro-futuristic sculptures at each end of the strip welcoming visitors to "Lakeview" (the official name of the neighbor-



One of the 20 retro-futuristic, Art Deco, rainbow-ringed pylons installed by the city along Chicago's gayest strip. Photo by Jean Albright.

hood) and to "Northalsted" (a word created by the Northalsted Merchants Association), 20 large concrete planters topped with 12-foot-high, iron trellises containing the names of the cross streets, and 20 rainbow-ringed, 25-foot-tall Art Deco, Flash Gordon-esque pylons located mid-block along the length of the entire gay strip.

"This has been a labor of love," Daley said at the project's unveiling. "I knew we were right at the beginning. It's called fairness. I'm thanking you for what you have done [for] North Halsted Street for many, many years — for the city of Chicago."

When the project was initially proposed — as part of Daley's Neighborhoods Alive program — it was controversial. Some non-gay residents didn't want to live in an officially gay neighborhood and neither did some older gay residents who feared

being outed or targeted by bashers. In addition, some critics said designating the area an official gay ghetto would lower their property values. As a result of the objections, the overtly gay aspects of the design were toned down a little — but the 20 sets of huge, illuminated rainbow rings clearly remain its focus.

At the height of the controversy, Daley, who has long been very gay-friendly, declared, "I won't let the homophobes run this city!"

"I deeply appreciate Mayor Richard Daley's refusal to succumb to those who didn't want the rainbow motif to be included," said Rick Garcia, executive director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights. "One of the rainbow pylons is directly in front of our office and I love it. When I saw the first installed pylon, I cried."

Forty-fourth Ward Alderman Bernie Hansen, in whose district much of the project lies, told the *Windy City Times*: "I think it's the culmination of a great program to recognize the contribution of the business and leadership of this community over the years. It's the frosting on a beautiful cake."

Gay state Rep. Larry McKeon, D-Chicago, calls the project "terrific."

"It's great to be a part of history," he said.

Ex-GOP Hopeful Huffington Says He Is Gay

Los Angeles (AP) — Michael Huffington, who spent \$28 million in his nearly successful campaign to unseat Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) four years ago, is now acknowledging that he is a homosexual and dated men as early as the 1970s.

Huffington, 51, who divorced his wife, columnist Arianna Huffington, last year, told writer David Brock in an interview published in the January issue of *Esquire* magazine that it took a long time for him to realize the truth about his sexuality.

"I know now that my sexuality is part of who I am," Huffington is quoted as saying. "I've been through a long process of finding out the truth about me."

In Los Angeles, Arianna Huffington issued this brief statement: "I wish Michael well, and all that matters to me is that he's a good father to our daughters."

She indicated that she had discussed the matter with her former husband of 11 years and said he had told her he would be issuing no immediate further statements about the issue beyond what he told Brock in more than 20 hours of interviews.

Mutual of Omaha Can't Cap Insurance for AIDS Patients

Chicago — U.S. District Court Judge Suzanne Conlon has ruled that the Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company can't put ceilings on the amount of medical expenses it will pay for policyholders infected with HIV.

Judge Conlon ruled in the case of two unnamed HIV-positive Chicago men that such ceilings violate the Americans With Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination based on physical impairments.

Mutual of Omaha had argued that the act doesn't apply to insurance policies, but Judge Conlon disagreed and ruled that since the insurance company couldn't justify the caps for actuarial reasons or claims experiences, they were in violation of the law.

Mutual officials have said they would appeal the ruling.

Gays, Lesbians Not Big Money Makers

Washington — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has released a study concluding that gays and lesbians in fact are no better off economically than their heterosexual counterparts.

Entitled "Income Inflation: The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans," the study was based on reviews of existing data and concluded that many existing studies had been conducted by marketing interests with a bias toward identifying the country's gay population as affluent.

"The evidence from many different scientifically sound data sources points to the same clear conclusion," said M.V. Lee Badgett, University of Massachusetts economics professor and author of the study. "Gay, lesbian, and bisexual people do not earn more than heterosexual people, either as individuals or as couples. Some GLB people are poor, some are rich, and most are in the middle, just as heterosexual people are. Now that we have credible data, we can stop relying on flawed studies that were designed to find high income gay people."

Several recent studies, commissioned by gay publications, have reported that gays and lesbians earn significantly more than comparable heterosexuals and have greater disposable income as well because most don't have children.

The NGLTF study conflicts with those reports.

Effort to Develop Low-Cost AIDS Vaccine

Washington — The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) has agreed to provide a total of some \$9 million for AIDS vaccine research conducted by AlphaVax of Durham, N.C., and a research team in Oxford, England.

AlphaVax is attempting to develop a vaccine using a modified form of the Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus, while the British researchers are working on a vaccine made from unencapsulated pieces of HIV DNA and a modified vaccinia virus containing HIV genes.

The Oxford researchers, led by virologist Andrew McMichael, will use strains of HIV that are predominant in Africa and will begin safety testing within the next nine months. AlphaVax will try to start testing in humans within the next three years and will also focus on African strains of the virus.

An unusual part of the agreement is that the price of any potentially developed vaccine sold to developing nations cannot be more than 10 percent above the costs of production. The unusual pricing restriction is part of efforts to develop a low-priced vaccine that could be afforded in poorer developing countries.

International Rights Activist Simon Nkoli Dies

Johannesburg — Simon Nkoli, arguably the best-known international gay rights activist, has died in his native South Africa of an illness related to AIDS. He was 41 years old.

Nkoli, who was tried and imprisoned on treason charges during South Africa's all-white apartheid regime, will be memorialized at the Johannesburg city hall in a special service.

A member of the African National Congress, Nkoli was also a founding member of several of South Africa's leading gay and AIDS organizations and was a leading advocate within the ANC for including gays and lesbians in the post-apartheid constitution's non-discrimination protections, perhaps the most progressive in the world now.

NewsWire compiled by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

JUST PHONE

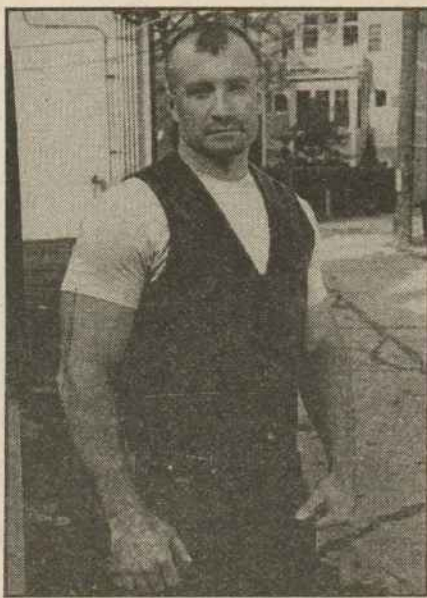
IN Step's Cubes
Only \$25 each!
Buy Two,
Get One FREE!

what is modern...?

Coast Interiors

(414)

Chicago's Place For Leather



IS012

Male Hide® Leathers, Inc.

CUSTOM LEATHER FOR MEN & WOMEN
TUES-SAT NOON-8PM • SUN 1PM-5PM • CLOSED MONDAY
2816 N. Lincoln Ave. • Chicago, IL 60657 • 773-929-0069

ALSO VISIT: LEATHER CELL FRI & SAT NIGHTS
IN THE CELL BLOCK, 3702 N. HALSTED, CHICAGO IL

GAMMA Volleyball Returns

Milwaukee — Volleyball players in the community will welcome the news that GAMMA has completed negotiations with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to use Englemann Gym for social volleyball on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Social volleyball will be played on Dec. 5, 12, and 19, but not during the holidays. Everyone is welcome.

After fall negotiations, GAMMA President Michael Holtz reported that an agreement had been reached which carries play sponsored by GAMMA into the 21st year on the UWM campus. Cowles League play was not included in the negotiations. However, Holtz hopes that arrangements can be made later for league play. For information about league play, contact Holtz at (414) 365-3453.

UWM Englemann Gym is located at 2033 E. Hartford Ave. across from the Columbia Hospital Emergency entrance. Weekly fees will be \$2 for GAMMA members and \$4 for other players. The gym's locker room and showers are available to players. For more information, you may call John Mooney at (414) 540-1202.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Open to Public for First Time

Milwaukee — Following the astounding response of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's grand opening celebrations, the center will hold three open house nights in December and January. All are invited to the center on Dec. 18, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, to enjoy the center's community room from 4 to 10 p.m.

On Dec. 18, the Youth Committee will hold a bake sale for all to enjoy. They will also meet during the Dec. 18 open house to plan an upcoming drag show. There are no formal programs planned for the three open houses, but people are

encouraged to bring games and cards to make their own fun, meet and talk with people.

"We want to start to give the center a personality, and how better to do that than our community 'coming home for the holidays,'" said Sheila Zelenski. "These open houses also give those who didn't make it to the grand opening a chance to see what it's all about," she added. Regularly scheduled hours will begin with the new year, and organizations and groups are already meeting at the Center.

The Center, located at 170 S. 2nd St., is open to all people from our community, and those who support us; in other words, bring your straight friends; they are welcome. Parking on S. 2nd Street and across from the building is free, safe and readily available. For more information about the center, call their hot line at (414) 483-4710, or visit them online at www.mkelgbt.com.

St. Camillus Offers HIV/AIDS Support Group

Milwaukee — St. Camillus Ministries is offering a bi-weekly HIV/AIDS "Red Ribbon" Support Group for anyone infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. The group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at 600 N. 103rd St. in Wauwatosa (between Bluemound Rd. and Wisconsin Ave.).

These sessions are free and open to the community. This support group will offer diversity, opportunities for sharing, and possessiveness. The first meeting was held on Dec. 8. The second meeting will be held on Dec. 22. If you would like more information or a brochure, please call (414) 259-4664.

Shoreline Hosts Annual Holiday Party

Milwaukee — Shoreline Dancers will host their annual holiday party on Friday, Dec. 11, at its new host

bar, La Cage, 801-807 S. 2nd St., from 8 p.m. to midnight. Everyone in the LGBT community, including friends and supporters, is welcome to attend. There will be lots of dancing and dance instruction at no charge, plus there will be free holiday brew.

The Shoreline elves are wrapping surprise gifts that will be sold for a mere \$1. All proceeds for the sale will benefit the AIDS Memorial Quilt, in memory of three Shoreline members. New dancers are always welcome. For more information about the party or Shoreline, call Bruce at (414) 962-9822.

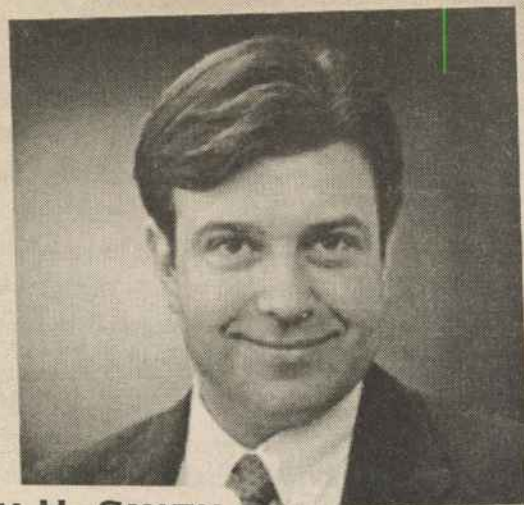
Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian City Employees Form Group

Milwaukee — Gay and lesbian employees of the city of Milwaukee have a new source of support, socializing and advocacy with the formation of their own employee group. A special holiday party for lesbian and gay city employees will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m.

Find out if the city of Milwaukee co-worker you've always wondered about will be there. The party will be held at the home of two city employees at 1216 E. Vienna St. For more information about the holiday party or the Lesbian and Gay City Employee Group, call (414) 225-1621.

IN Step's Group Notes are printed FREE OF CHARGE! Send your community announcements to IN Step at: 1661 N. Water St., Suite 411, Milwaukee WI 53202. FAX to (414) 278-5868, or e-mail to instepnews@aol.com

Outstanding...



JACK H. SMITH

Shorewest REALTORS

Buying or Selling...

Your Real Estate Broker Should Understand Your Lifestyle and Your Goals.

Your Real Estate Broker Should Be Jack H. Smith!

Associate Vice President

Over \$10 Million in Sales for 1998

Office: 962-4413 ▲ Direct: 961-8314, Ext. 199 ▲ Home: 224-1452

<http://jacksmith.com>

Hotline: 814-1400 ▲ <http://shorewest.com>

Shorewest
REALTORS



Great Opportunity!

PIN 04823

This commercial property will give you the opportunity to be a part of the Walker's Point Redevelopment. This choice retail space is near the high traffic corner of 5th Street and National Avenue. As a bonus, the building features second story living quarters, high ceilings and a huge backyard. \$84,900



Charming Condo

PIN 42023

This charming condominium on a quiet cul-de-sac features hardwood floors in the living room, built-in china cabinets in the dining room, an eat-in kitchen, a lovely side yard with patio and a garage plus one additional parking space. The sunny rooms of this home have Spanish plaster walls for a European flair. How delightful! \$129,900

STRAIGHT ANSWERS

by Christopher Ott

Q: How can I deal with relatives who are polite but who don't "approve of my lifestyle"?



It's the holidays, and for a lot of us this doesn't only mean attempts at seasonal merriment. It also means reunions with relatives who are smart enough to keep their mouths

shut, but who still think that you're a pitiable deviant.

You know that this is probably what's going on in their heads if they look vaguely uneasy when they see you, or if they flash you one of those tight-lipped smiles that would make even Elizabeth Dole look sincere by comparison.

In the spirit of the season's customary generosity, here is advice for dealing charitably with this unspoken game of "You're tragic, but I pity you." Whether it remains at the level of unspoken mind games, or flares into open hostilities, the secret is to win by realizing that you could never really have lost.

Take a deep breath and keep the following in mind:

These people aren't evil, they're just confused and a little stupid. The majority of people who think that homosexuality is wrong just don't know much about sexual orientation, plus they have a poor understanding of where their business ends and where other people's begins. They literally don't know what they're talking about, and the "morals" and "beliefs" and "principles" which they use to justify their disapproval are ultimately just silly and irrelevant.

They may also hope that you'll eventually change, but they've got it backwards. Try taking the calm attitude that it's only a matter of time before *they* change. Assume that they will eventually come to understand the facts of sexual orientation better, and that they will admit their objection to something they never had any right to object to in the first place was all a big mistake.

Of course, this isn't easy, and the danger is playing their game by letting them get to you, or giving in to everything they expect of you in an anxious attempt to be fair. The middle ground to aim for is to act as if nothing is wrong with being gay, because the simple truth is that nothing is.

Q: Gay people say that they're not hurting anyone, but what about the pain it causes their families?

Except for a few rare souls who never felt uncomfortable about being bisexual or gay — or who did feel uncomfortable about it but were honest about it from the start anyway — the fact is that most gay people are masters of discretion. A lot of us know all too well how to keep our mouths shut about a simple fact that shouldn't require so much secrecy. And when we finally do tell the secret, we're accused of "flaunting it" and hurting people with this "shocking" news.

Never mind that sexual orientation is probably something that none of us has any direct control over. What's really unfair about this question is the assumption that our parents, children, fundamentalist cousins or anyone else have any particular grounds for being disappointed with anybody else's sexual orientation. Saying that gay people have hurt their relatives and friends who expected them to be straight is like saying that it's possible to hurt your parents by going into a career different from the one that they really, really, really hoped you would pick. It's understandable that they might feel disappointed, but in the end, that's just too bad. They need to get over it in a hurry.

The point is that the problem is not your sexual orientation but their unreasonable expectations and misconceptions. There are lots of things any of us could do to truly hurt our family and friends, or to give them a right to feel disappointed. Being gay isn't one of them.

Straight Answers is a monthly column devoted to answering questions about gay life and helping to change anti-gay attitudes. If you have a question to suggest, please write to Chris Ott via e-mail at sa@sipu.com or in care of IN Step.

LGBT Community Center Announces Search for Executive Director

Milwaukee — The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Inc. has initiated its search for an executive director. The executive director will be responsible for coordinating the Center's operations and programs, including: fund development, committee support, media relations, and leadership of the many volunteers who will be instrumental in making the community center successful.

Qualifications will include three to five years of proven experience in a not-for-profit setting, volunteer management and fund development. Knowledge of marketing, accounting, management, and not-for-profit financial reporting will also be required. The executive director must also have excellent communications skills and past experience operating a facility. The executive director must demonstrate familiarity with the breadth and depth of the

community. He or she must understand and welcome the diversity of, and be able to develop relationships with volunteers, individuals using the center, and groups within the community.

Interested individuals should send a current resume, along with a cover letter explaining their interest and salary requirements, by Dec. 25, 1998, to: Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Attn: Executive Director Search Committee P.O. Box 765 Milwaukee, WI 53201-0765.



For your convenience,
IN Step Now Accepts Your
VISA and MasterCard.

Birthdays dinners

anniversaries

late night snacks

luncheons

engagements

desserts

happy hours

or absolutely no excuse at all for great menu selections, atmosphere, service and locations; all surprisingly affordable.

Cafe Knickerbocker

1030 East Juneau • 272-0011
Mon. — Thurs., 6:30 am to 10 pm
Fri. & Sat., 6:30 am to 11 pm
Sun., 9 am to 10 pm



North Shore BISTRO

RiverPoint Village
I-43 & Brown Deer Rd., • 351-6100
Mon. — Thurs., 11 am to 10 pm
Fri. & Sat., 11 am to 11 pm
Sun., 5 pm to 10 pm



3549 North Oakland Ave. • 964-6800
Mon.—Sat., 11 am to closing
Sun., Noon to 12 a.m.

IN Step World Headquarters
The Northern Lights Building
 1661 North Water Street, Suite 411
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 414.278.7840 voice
 414.278.5868 fax
 instepnews@aol.com
 ISSN# 1045-2435

William Attewell
 Jorge L. Cabal
publishers

William Attewell
editor-in-chief

Jorge L. Cabal
arts editor

Ed Grover
book editor

Dorothy Austin, Keith Clark,
 Scott Evertz, Kevin John,
 Christopher Krimmer, Mike Leon,
 Julia LaLoggia, Tim Nasson,
 Leslea Newman, Jeffrey Newman,
 Christopher Ott, Cip Plaster,
 Dale Reynolds, Dave Runyon,
 Jamie Taylor, Richard Waswo,
 Rex Wockner, W.W. Wells III
contributing writers

James Taylor
photographer

Paul Berge, Eric Orner
cartoonists

Publication of the name, photograph or other likeness of any person or organization in In Step is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual, religious or political orientation, practice or beliefs of such person or members of such organizations. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent those of the publishers.

We reserve the right to edit any submissions, advertising or editorial at our sole discretion. We assume no responsibility for typographical or other errors unless camera-ready copy is provided. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' claims.

In Step is a registered trademark. Entire contents including advertising, ©1998 by In Step Magazine, Inc. except where specifically noted otherwise. All rights reserved. Reproduction, either in whole or part is prohibited.

Member of the
AP Associated Press

IN Step Office Hours:

Our offices are open to the public
 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon-Fri.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS BUILDING
 1661 North Water Street, Suite 411
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 414.278.7840 voice
 414.278.5868 fax
 instepnews@aol.com

The Republicans Are Coming! The Republicans Are Coming!

Gay Republicans Looking to 2000 Presidential Campaign

by Keith Clark

There are probably few things these days more perplexing than being a Republican — unless perhaps it's being a journalist trying to make sense of the current state and future direction of the GOP.

Michael Huffington, a California millionaire and one-term member of Congress who succeeded in alienating just about everyone in the state, has come out of the closet and announced in an upcoming article in *Esquire* magazine that he's gay — no, make that "homosexual."

In 1994, Huffington gave up his seat in Congress to run a personally financed \$28 million campaign attempting to unseat incumbent Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.).

Now divorced, at the time Huffington was married to conservative socialite columnist Arianna Huffington, who was widely perceived as the actual candidate running her ex-husband's staggeringly expensive Senate race. One Los Angeles newspaper, in endorsing Feinstein in that campaign, said, "Feinstein isn't really running against a candidate, finally, at least not as the term is commonly understood. She's running against a bank account and an ad agency, behind which, somewhere in the distance, lurks a rather lost soul who clings to those conservative homilies he can commit to memory as he is swept along by the ambitions of his wife."

During his single congressional term, Huffington's voting record got only mediocre ratings from the Human Rights Campaign, a gay lobbying organization. He was one of only a handful of Republicans in Congress to back ending the ban on gays and lesbians in the armed forces, but he also opposed a spending authorization for the District of Columbia's domestic partnership program.

Still, Huffington now becomes a candidate for poster-boy for the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP national lobbying group based in Washington, D.C., even though he himself says he's not sure he's still a Republican at all.

But Huffington's ambivalence about his party affiliation, in fact, may be as much an indicator of the GOP's own anchorlessness as anything else.

After several years of riding what they took to be a wave of sea change in American politics, Republicans this year learned in the Nov. 3 election that the Newt-onian revolution was over.

While the November elections may have been only a knock in the head to the Republican Party generally, it was a serious body-blow to the Republican right. As moderate GOP governors swept to victory all across America, hard-right GOP governors and gubernatorial candidates — Alabama's Fob James, South Carolina's David Beasley and Dan Lungren in California — were going down in states long regarded as Republican strongholds.

It was the congressional right, however, that suffered the gravest defeats in the 1998 elections. Not only did they lose their national leader when Newt Gingrich was shoved from the House speakership, but they then lost the brutish and short battle to elect his successor. Christopher Cox, the five-term Republican congressman from Newport Beach, Calif., who

waged an unsuccessful two-day campaign for the post, is one of the darling of the party's right.

Since the November election, there's also been an increase in the visibility of Republicans talking increasingly about that old GOP "Big Tent." After all, the increasingly compassionate George W. Bush swept to his second term as governor in Texas and the born-again compassionate Jeb Bush won his first term as governor in Florida — two not insignificant states in any presidential campaign.

This all seems appealing to gay and lesbian Republicans, who have long been trying — along with other GOP moderates — to convince their party to get out from under the thumbs-down veto power of the religious right wing.

But the November elections also contained another significant development that's heartened Log Cabin Republicans.

National exit polls, which have been asking voters about their sexual orientation since 1990, found that not only has the portion of gays and lesbians who vote Republican in congressional races been slowly growing, but also that in the 1998 campaign a full third of the gays and lesbians voting in House races cast votes for Republicans.

While there's more than one way to explain this unexpected increasing presence of gay and lesbian Republicans, Rich Tafel, head of the Log Cabin Republicans, says the GOP ignores gays and lesbians at its own peril.

"The pragmatic Republicans got the message," Tafel said of the upset in the Nov. 3 campaign. "People take it very seriously among career politicians."

What is less clear, however, is whether the GOP leadership can virtually transform the party by the time voters will be determining who they'll pick for the country's presidential candidates in 2000.

"The message was good for gays and lesbians," Tafel said. "But I don't know if the party is going to get it." He said it was possible that a moderate Republican candidate could "build a coalition ... and stick his finger in the eye of the religious right."

That, from Log Cabin's perspective, is the optimistic view of the 2000 election campaign. And the gay Republicans point to several possibilities to lead centrists in the presidential race: Gov. Bush of Texas, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, and New York Gov. George Pataki.

The less optimistic view, however, might be that while the Republicans may be savvy enough to avoid nominating a froth-at-the-mouth far-right candidate like Gary Bauer of the anti-gay Family Research Council or notorious homophobe Pat Buchanan, there is no one in

the GOP leadership currently with enough political clout to move the party to select a moderate centrist candidate who might be viable in the 2000 election.

Arguably the best-positioned prospective Republican presidential candidate who could perhaps pull off a "centrist coup" in the GOP is probably Texas Gov. Bush. Re-elected by an impressive landslide in the 1998 campaign, the son of the former president has shown himself to be an innovative state political leader.

But Bush has also shown a willingness to openly defy the religious right in Texas. He publicly defended the right of the Texas Log Cabin Club to have an active, visible role in the state GOP after the party chairman had excluded them from the party convention because of "moral objections." Gov. Bush is probably the Democrats' worst nightmare looking to the presidential race in 2000. Not only does he come with a kind of built-in name recognition, he also has that rare quality among GOP leaders these days: a broad-based popularity. In fact, the Texas governor's biggest danger right now might be what the religious right might do in its efforts to derail a potential presidential bid.

In the meantime, Tafel and the Log Cabin Republicans are enjoying a rare taste of political visibility within their own party — and at least a moderate amount of recognition in the gay rights movement where they've often been seen as outsiders, or worse.

Shortly after the November election, Log Cabin announced the results of a poll it commissioned through American Viewpoint, a Virginia-based GOP polling company, that indicated a Republican presidential candidate could significantly increase voter support among key constituencies by challenging the religious right instead of pandering to it. African-Americans, younger voters, and independents all said they were more likely to back such a Republican, the poll found.

And perhaps equally important, the poll reported that only GOP conservative voters who identified themselves as "devout right" supporters said they were likely not to vote for such a candidate. In short, the poll suggests, confronting the religious right is likely to increase GOP votes in many of the most important voter blocks while losing very little support among the party's more conservative voters.

Tafel says, "A bold move by one Republican candidate in 2000 would be a winning strategy for both the primaries and the general election ... [that] articulates a strong Republican message and reaches out to the mainstream. The Republican Party is at a turning point. The religious right was trounced in this election and those Republicans who ran away from them won by a landslide."



St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry
1998 Holiday Ornament

THIRD EDITION



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

Please reserve _____ holiday ornaments for me!

Ornament price: \$12 each. Shipping: 1-1 ornaments \$3.95, 11 or more \$5.95. Please make checks payable to: **St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry**. Send check or money order to: **St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, 10101 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53226**. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. For more information call: (414) 259-4664.

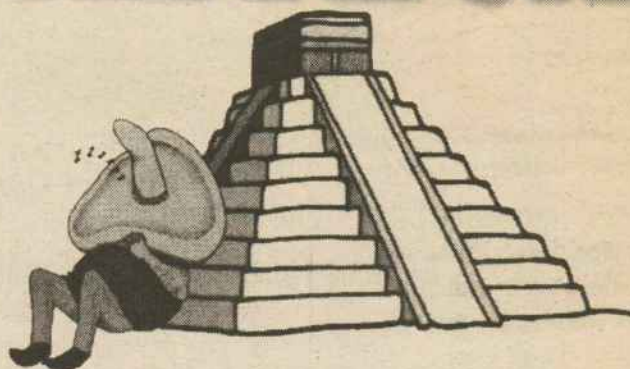
Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Daytime Phone _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____

Ornaments may also be purchased at Designing Men

Stop by for one of our famous specialty margaritas!

Our New Patio Is Now Open!

AZTECA



Mexican Restaurant

Authentic Mexican Cuisine

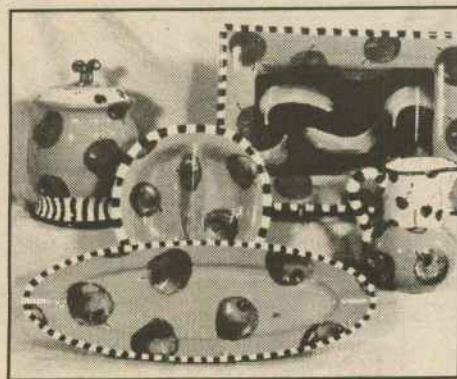
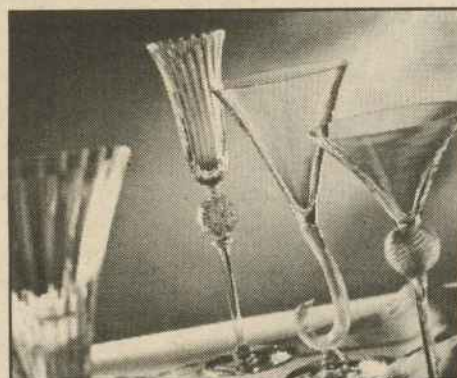
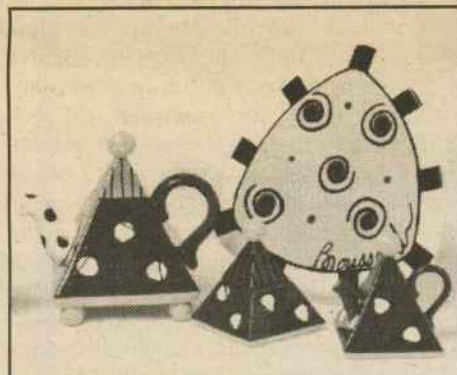
We use only vegetable oil and no animal fat!

Weekday Lunch Specials
Starting at \$3.95

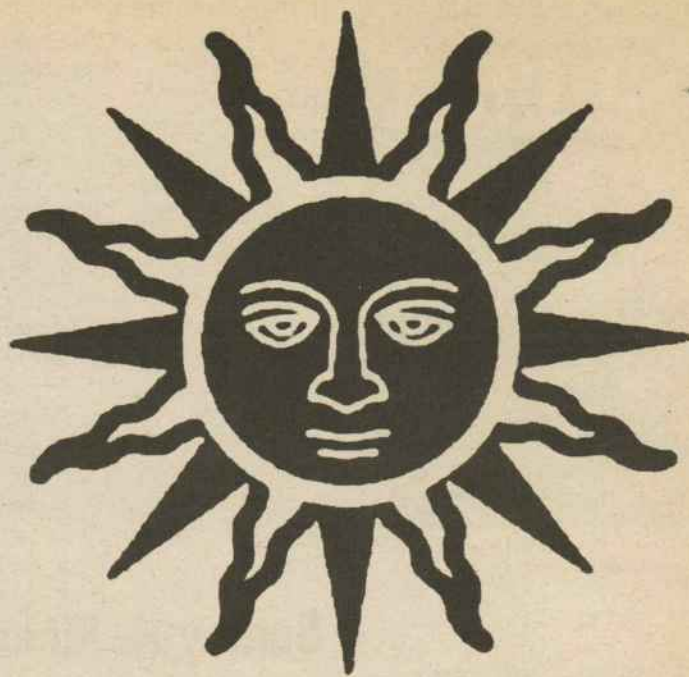
HOURS: Mon—Thurs: 11am to 10pm, Fri. & Sat. 11am to 11pm, Sun. 12pm to 10pm

Free Parking • Minutes from Downtown • Casual Setting
 Located in the Heart of Historic Walker's Point
 Dine in or Carry Out

816 S. 5th St. • 383-8816
Located just south of National Ave.



**DISTINCTIVE GIFTS
 & DECORATIVE
 ACCESSORIES**



ARGOSY, LTD

Gifts of Distinction



GALLERIA WEST • 18900 W. Bluemound Road • Brookfield, WI 53045 • 821-6900
 Open: Mon. & Tues.: 10am-6pm, Wed.-Fri.: 10am-8pm, Sat: 10am-5pm, Sun: 11am-4pm



G/L Community Center & Trust Fund
1998/99 Annual Appeal for the

**Community Center Endowment Fund
Community Center Building Fund & Program Funding**

Your contribution will enable the Gay & Lesbian community to further their goals and provide assistance with funding for a variety of programs & activities in the community.

Make your annual commitment today.

**G/L Community Center Trust Fund
P.O. Box 1686
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414.643.1652**

Multi-Skilled

Rely on the expertise of the Barney Moore Agency

to bring all your insurance protection together under one roof.
Call today.

Barney H. Moore

Phone: 414-536-7575
Fax: 414-536-7581

7655 W. Luscher Ave. • Milwaukee
(76th & Hampton • Hampton Shopping Center)



All Your Protection Under One Roof.

©1997 American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries.
Home Office — Madison, WI 53783
<http://www.amfam.com>

Discount Stores Don't Support Their Gay Employees

by Gip Plaster
of the IN Step staff

While many gay and lesbian people have caviar taste, we still shop discount. The major discount stores want our money, but they don't do much to show that they respect our rights.

Unfortunately, there is no shining star among the top three discount store chains, but one comes a little closer to the gay-friendliness mark than the others.

While it is not tops in gay-friendliness, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is the top discount chain in sales. In fact, it is the largest retailer in the world. It's bigger than Sears, Kmart and JCPenney — combined. More than 800,000 people work for the company, which includes 3,400 Wal-Marts, Wal-Mart Supercenters and Sam's Clubs.

In 1992, President George Bush awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom to Sam Walton, the now famous baseball-cap-wearing founder of Wal-Mart who died that same year.

"We're all working together; that's the secret," Walton said as he accepted the medal. "And we'll lower the cost of living for everyone, not just in America, but we'll give the world an opportunity to see what it's like to save and have a better lifestyle, a better life for all."

Wal-Mart seemed reluctant, however, to respond to questions concerning any policies the company has to help make a good work life for lesbian and gay employees. After more than a week of attempts to contact the appropriate representative of the company, a spokesperson issued a statement that did not specifically address any of our questions, but it did confirm that Wal-Mart does not provide protection on the basis of sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policy.

After stating the company's policy, the statement, attributed to director of public relations Les Copeland, continued, "Our EEO policy mentions only those classifications (i.e., race, gender, etc.) which are specified in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Age Discrimination Act. However, it should be noted that Wal-Mart simply does not discriminate against anyone."

While Wal-Mart did answer a request for more information, the company again did not specifically answer questions about whether it offers domestic partner benefits or provides a networking or support group for gay and lesbian employees. Other sources said the company does not provide those opportunities. The company did not answer an additional request for more information.

In 1962, the same year Walton began Wal-Mart, the S.S. Kresge Company (now Kmart Corporation) opened the first Kmart. Now, 80 percent of us live within 15 minutes of a Kmart store, according to the company's promotional site. (In case someone asks, the material also says the company sells enough paint each year to paint a foot-wide strip around the globe 35 times.)

Like Wal-Mart, Kmart does not include sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policy nationwide, although company spokesperson Mary Lorentz says they comply with all local laws regarding the issue. The company also does not provide domestic partner benefits or have a gay and lesbian employees group.

When asked if Kmart had any marketing programs specifically aimed at lesbian and gay customers, Lorentz said, "Other than offering great products at great prices to everyone, the answer is no. But the answer is yes in the sense that we offer great products to everyone."

"Our marketing and advertising is national and general," she said, but she added that the company has recently begun targeting Hispanics and African Americans in some of its advertising.

Target Stores, Inc., the number-three discount store chain, takes pride in the fact that they were born of a department store, not a dime store. Consumers sometimes notice this subtle difference — the chain is known for offering somewhat more upscale products. Target accounts for about 75% percent of the sales of its parent company, Dayton Hudson, which also operates Marshall Field's and Mervyn's California.

Although Target does not offer domestic partner benefits, it does include the phrase "sexual orientation" in its nondiscrimination policy. The company also has a networking group for gay and lesbian employees at its headquarters in Minneapolis, although there is no program in place for gay and lesbian store employees, according to a company spokesperson.

It appears, then, that while the top two discount store chains offer no policies to protect gay and lesbian employees or enhance the work environment, the number-three chain is, shall we say, slightly more on target. ▼

BACK PAGES

Milwaukee's Counter Culture Bookstore

Science Fiction
erotica
HORROR
philosophy
PO
lesbian

HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS INCLUDE:

- 25% OFF all photo & art journals
- 10% OFF hand crafted gift items
- 25% OFF any hard cover books
- GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!**

NEW TO BACK PAGES

Psychic Readings
by Anatasia!
Call or stop in
for an appointment

1425 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee • 414.383.6464

Hours: Mon, Wed., Thurs., & Fri. 11:30am-9pm
Sat. 11:30am-6pm. Closed Sun. & Tues.

**ART
for
XMAS**

GRAVA GALLERY
1209 E BRADY ST
277-8228

COMING OUT COMING TOGETHER

Affirming Faith Communities

A Madison area interfaith coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons and their heterosexual allies invite you to worship with us this Holiday Season. (Call numbers listed below for special Holiday Services)

AMERICAN BAPTIST

First Baptist Church

518 N. Franklin Ave. 223-1880. Worship at 11am

ECUMENICAL

Integrity/Dignity

Meetings: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 6pm
at St. Francis House, 1001 University Avenue

EPISCOPAL

St. Francis House Univ. Episcopal Ctr.

1001 University Ave., 257-0688

Worship Service at 10am Inclusive, Ecumenical, Interfaith.
UW campus ministry — student co-op

JEWISH SYNAGOGUES

Beth Israel Center

1406 Mount St., 256-7763, Saturday, 10am

SHAAREI SHAMAYIM

RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION

Services on Fri., 7:30pm & Sat., 9:30am at Prairie Unitarian Society, 2010 Whenona Dr. 245-3775

LUTHERAN

Advent Lutheran (ELCA)

7118 Old Sauk Rd., 836-1455. Worship at 10:15am.

Lake Edge Lutheran Church

4032 Monona Dr., 222-7339

Worship Service: 8:15, 9:30, 10:45am, Nursery Care.

Luther Memorial Gay, Lesbian & Friends Fellowship

1021 University Ave., 238-3648

Meets 3rd Sunday of the month.

PRESBYTERIAN

Dale Heights Presbyterian

5501 University Ave., 223-0134, Worship at 10am.

Parkside Presbyterian Church

4002 Lien Rd., Near East Towne
Sunday Service at 9:30am, 224-0847

QUAKER

Society of Friends

1704 Roberts Ct., 251-3375
Sunday 9am & 11am,
Wed., 7am, noon, 5:15pm, 8:30pm

RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

Madison Church of Religious Science

1011 Nichols Rd., — Lower Level, 224-1050
Sunday at 10:30am

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

First Unitarian Society of Madison

900 University Bay Dr., 233-9774,
Sunday Service at 9am and 11am.

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Cong.

2146 E. Johnson St., 242-8887,
Sunday Service at 9am and 11am

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Congregation

2010 Whenona Dr., 271-8218, Sun. Service at 10am.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Community of Hope U.C.C.

7118 Old Sauk Rd., 836-1455, Sun. Service at 10:15am.

First Congregational U.C.C.

University at Breese Terrace, 233-9751, Sun. Service at 10am.

Orchard Ridge U.C.C.

1501 Gilbert Rd., 271-7212, Sun. Service at 10am.

Plymouth U.C.C.

2401 Atwood Ave., 256-2353, Sun. Service at 9:30am.

UNITED METHODIST

University United Methodist Church

1127 University Ave., 256-2353, Sun. Serv. 10am

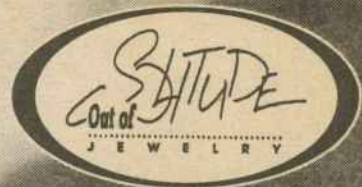
UNITY

Unity Church of Madison

601 Tompkins Dr., 221-0081
Sunday Service at 8:30 & 10:30am.



'Tis the Season!



*Commitment Rings Designed
for the Two of you in an easy
and Relaxed Environment.*



Out Of Solitude Jewelry

918 E. Brady St. & The Grand Avenue Mall
223-3101 & 270-0528

WE'LL
SAVE
YOU
\$\$\$\$



You'll Get

a
Star
Treatment
At Afterwords

One stop
does it all!!!

Great Selection of
Gifts and Holiday needs!!!
Special Orders
Gift Wrapping
Web Ordering • Free
refreshments on weekends
Gift certificates

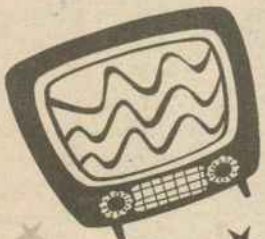


NO TIME TO
SHOP????

Give us a call and
order by phone, or
check our web site!

We can ship
anywhere in the
US!!

Books!!
Movies!!
CD's!!
Games!!
Candles!!
Jewelry!!
AND SO MUCH MORE!!



Afterwords
books & espresso bar

2710 N. Murray Ave. • Milwaukee, WI
(414)963-9089 • www.afterwords.com



Hours: Monday-Thursday: 11am-10pm
Friday-Saturday: 11am-11pm
Sunday: Noon-6pm

by Ed Grover
of the IN Step staff

OLOC Founder Speaks At GLAMA Symposium

In the summer of 1996, when I was putting together the "OLD Gays" issue I did for *Q-Voice*, I was referred to Shevy Healey, Ph.D., one of the founders of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) and a lifelong activist. Since publication of the issue we have kept in touch through the Internet, and Shevy has been kind enough to share parts of her life, along with some of the projects she has worked on.

This past August, Healey, who is 76 and a proud old lesbian, along with her life partner, Ruth Silver, two gay male panelists and moderator Jerry Kelly M.D., spoke at the Gay & Lesbian American Medical Associations' 16th Annual Symposium, which was held Chicago. The workshop, titled *Gay, Gray & In Good Health: The Patient's Perspective*, discussed "Prescriptions for living well: medicine's impact on the LGBT life cycle." Shevy was kind enough to send me a copy of her talk. I found it so compelling I felt I should pass some of it along.

At the symposium, Healey spoke about an informal survey of old lesbians

and their concerns about how doctors treated them as "old" women and as "old lesbians". As an example, she cited the intake forms currently used by medical institutions, which always assume heterosexuality. They present only four categories to choose from: married, single, widowed and divorced. There was no place for her own category: domestic partnership. When she crossed out "spouse" and wrote in "life partner" and Ruth's name, this seemed to create a stir. She urged that these forms be revised particularly if old lesbians are to feel free to come out to their physicians.

She said the decision about coming out is risky. If you do come out, you don't know if your physician will be prejudiced and not give you his or her best. If you don't come out you may be concealing important medical information and make it harder to include your significant other in medical conferences. Healey added, "Our generation faced many reprisals for being lesbians or gays. A lifetime of secrecy cannot be erased. And certainly not at a time when one is sick and feeling particularly vulnerable."

Healey challenged always being labeled "Mrs." She asked to be addressed as "Ms." saying, "If I were a man you would not identify me by my marital status. It makes me uncomfortable when you assume that I am married, widowed or divorced, when none of these is the case. She said that believing in the power of language, she would continue to challenge this assumption since "naming a problem

is helping to change it." Some women in the survey expressed concerns about finding a competent woman physician, let alone a lesbian physician. Healey asked for help from the physicians present in making old lesbians feel more comfortable so that they can come out to them and share themselves more freely.

All of the old lesbians that were surveyed said they had experienced being talked down to and said, in one way or another, that they wanted to be treated with respect. They wanted to be listened to and to be able to form a partnership with their medical providers. They need honest, clear, information — and the time to absorb it — not only from their physicians, but also from PAs, nurses and other medical personnel.

These women also said they did not feel good about getting test results by a phone call or a post card. They want responsible medical caretakers to give them the information and to talk to them about what it all means. They need to know if procedures are invasive and if there are other options. They need to know about side effects from medication and why it needs to be taken at certain times.

Healey said that not so many would stop taking medication if they were better informed. In addition, she said, "We want our medical personnel to know about old bodies and how they respond to various drug dosages" because old bodies respond differently. Healey continued, "Since some of the new NIH studies are now using women as subjects, instead of

assuming men as the 'generic' human, hopefully, greater progress will be made in learning more about old women's bodies and their special problems."

Other topics covered were the ageist assumptions that stand in the way of doctors sharing wellness information in the mistaken belief that "it doesn't matter any more, it won't make any difference." Among other things, research shows that breasts of old women are removed much more frequently than those of younger women because doctors feel "she's old, why would she care about that breast?" "But," said Healey, "She's used to that breast. The old woman deserves at least the same options as a younger woman."

Finally, Healey brought up an issue that fits all the categories: old, woman, and lesbian. She said, "Don't assume we're sexless!" In closing, Healey added: "Some of the examples I have given may be dismissed as simply bad medicine. ... This is certainly a difficult time for both physician and patient, which means it is a particularly hard time for those of us who are old and poor, ethnic minorities, foreign-born, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. ... This is the start of a dialogue that can change both the climate and the quality of health care in this country."

When we have people like Shevy Healey, fighting for our rights and needs, old gay men and lesbians need not fear our concerns will go unnoticed.

"If it concerns you, it concerns us!"

Probate/Trusts • Wills
Revocable Living Trust
Title XIX/Estate Planning
Durable Power of Attorney
Non-Probate Transfers
Real Estate • Small Business Matters
Civil & Criminal Litigation
Bankruptcy • Personal Injury
Co-Habitation Agreements



Michael T. Meyers & Warren J. Klaus

ATTORNEYS

Klaus & Meyers

General Practice of Law • Free Health Care Power of Attorney
5665 S. 108th St. • Hales Corners • 414.529.2800

FREE FIRST MEETING

Available weekdays, weekends and evenings. Call for an appointment.



BEAR BREW

COFFEE

Internet Coffee Cafe



Serving Sandwiches
and Fresh Bakery



Hours of Operation:
6:30am to 6:30pm Mon.-Fri
8am to 2pm Sat.



708 N. Milwaukee St.
Milwaukee • 224-8877

Somewhere Under the Rainbow



Woody's

1579 South 2nd Street, Milw.

what is modern...?



Coast Interiors

(414) 403.8789

QUIPS & QUOTES

Dorothy Call Home

"Phelps, you're NOT in Kansas anymore.

—A protest sign outside Chicago's Broadway United Methodist Church Nov. 22. More than 1,500 gays and lesbians circled the church as anti-gay bigot the Rev. Fred Phelps of Topeka, Kan., and six members of his clan (four of them children) cowered behind a police barrier protesting a gay wedding that had taken place at the church. Phelps is online at www.godhatesfags.com.

Floating Down the Street

"I want my kids to see their heroes — Schwarzenegger and Cruise — march down Fifth Avenue in the Gay Pride parade."

—Talk-show pioneer Phil Donahue to POZ magazine, December issue.

Defying Nature

"It's impossible. He can only get an erection when someone sticks a finger up his anus."

—Poet Federico Garcia Lorca when informed that painter Salvador Dali had fallen in love with a woman, according to the December issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Chastity is GLAAD

"I am no longer with GLAAD and very glad not to be with GLAAD."

—Chastity Bono at a San Francisco book-tour appearance, in the *Bay Times*.

Baby Power

"That so many gay men are having children at this moment is perhaps the best evidence that we are coming out of our AIDS-crisis bunkers. And many of us have decided we want to fill our time



with something more meaningful than sit-ups, circuit parties and designer drugs. For me and my boyfriend, bringing up a child is a commitment to having a future.

And considering what the last 15 years were like, perhaps that future is the ultimate status item for gay men."

—Seattle journalist Dan Savage writing in *The New York Times Magazine*.

Rough Talk

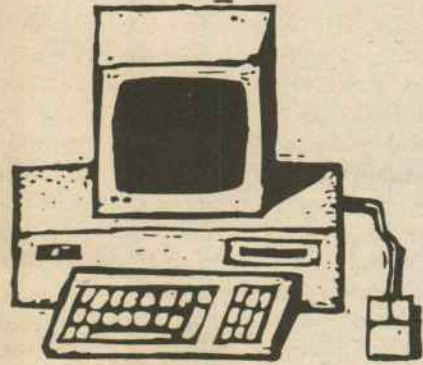
"Thanks partly to the flock of posturing Hollywood personalities who swooped in on the case, [Matthew] Shepard's death was immediately transmogrified into a moral parable of sweet, saintly gay boy set upon by bigoted thugs and crucified for his homosexuality. But the truth seems to be (from the scanty evidence thus far) that Shepard was attracted to his assailants because they were thugs. Does anyone really believe that Shepard, educated in Switzerland, thought those two, barely literate hoodlums were gay or that he left the bar with them for cozy tea and conversation? It used to be called 'rough trade' — the dangerous, centuries-old practice of gay men picking up grimy, testosterone-packed straight or semi-straight toughs, sometimes moonlighting as hustlers. Before Stonewall, urban newspaper obituaries were coded for such typical scenarios as 'the 49-year-old unmarried antiques dealer was found bound and gagged in his ransacked, lavishly furnished apartment.'"

—Camille Paglia in *Salon magazine*.

Internet Users Can Help End Hate Crimes

In the wake of the brutal murder of **Matthew Shepard** several gay-oriented organizations have joined to use the power of the Internet to push Congress to pass a federal hate crimes bill and focus on ending hate against gay and lesbian people.

The latest effort is the launch of **EndHate.com**, a Web site that enables visitors to write their senators and congressmen to



demand passage of hate crimes legislation in the next Congress. The site will provide up-to-date information on hate crimes.

In addition, visitors who visit **EndHate.com** will be provided the opportunity to have \$1 donated to a fund shared by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), GLAAD and other organizations working to stop the spread of hate. The automatic donation will be made when **GayGate.com** visitors register for **PlanetAll**, a free calendar, address book and e-mail reminder service.

EndHate.com is linked to **GayGate.com**, featuring streaming video of the speeches made at the Matthew Shepard vigil in Washington, including **Ellen DeGeneres**, **Third Rock from the Sun's Kristen Johnson**, **Anne Heche**, and **Frasier's Dan Butler**. Other Web sites have the opportunity to support the program

by displaying **EndHate.com** banners which they receive from the "Put EndHate On Your Site" channel.

"Hate crimes legislation and ending homophobia are top priorities for the gay community. By donating \$1 for each person visiting **GayGate.com**, and signing up for **PlanetAll's** free and confidential services, we hope to generate significant support for the important work of these organizations," said **Steve Hayes**, President of **GayGate.com**.

A Condom a Day Helps Keep the Dr. Away

Hollywood actress **Sharon Stone** on World AIDS Day came up with a "tough love" approach to beating the AIDS virus among young people: keep boxes of 200 condoms at home.

Stone, who played a sexual predator in the 1992 film "Basic Instinct," was the keynote speaker at a forum held at UN headquarters in New York on World AIDS Day.

"I believe that if you truly, truly love your children, you need to supply condoms in a place in your home, at a quantity that makes it a non-judgemental situation for them to have them," she said.

"I mean, put 200 condoms in a box in some place in the house where everybody isn't all the time, so that your kids can take them."

"If they want to make water balloons out of them, great," she added. "If they want to carry them so they feel tough, great. If they want to give them to their friends, even better."

Stone, 40, argued that adults should "accept the power of sex" among teenagers and protect children from AIDS in a safe and non-judgemental way. She noted that in 1998, three million young people became infected with the AIDS virus worldwide.

Ally's Kiss Leaves Viewers Cold

The ever-so-skinny **Ally McBeal** has followed in the footsteps of **Ellen** and **Roseanne** with a same-sex kiss in a recent episode of the hit comedy.

In the scene, actor **Calista Flockhart** (**Ally**) shares a kiss with co-star **Courtney Thorne-Smith** (**Georgia**) to scare off an unwanted suitor.

Ally creator **David E. Kelly** was accused of inserting the kiss, described in America as "one of the most passionate same-sex kisses in TV history", as a blatant shock tactic to grab ratings.

While **Ellen** and **Roseanne** generated widespread outrage with their venture into same-sex love scenes, **Ally's** embrace went all but unnoticed.

US television bible **TV Guide** reported the Fox network received no phoned complaints and only one e-mail. And that, according to a network spokesman, was complimentary.

The only complaint came from a parents' lobby group that criticised the choice of a same-sex kiss as a way to ward off unwanted attentions.

There were other ways to portray to that gentleman that **Ally** was not interested," a spokesman for the Parents, Television Council, said.

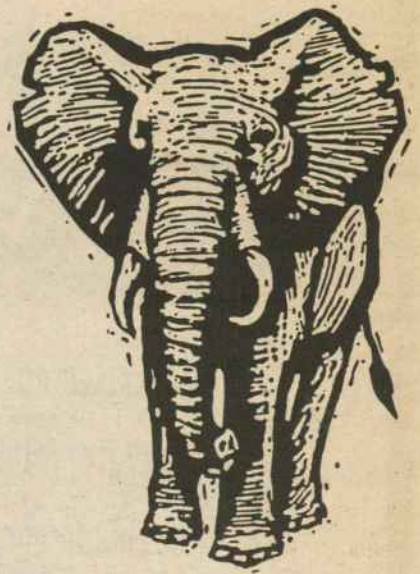
"It just seemed unusual they (the producers) would choose a woman to turn off this guy."

UN Has Elephantitis

UN chief **Kofi Annan** recently unveiled a bronze elephant statue in the UN grounds, where specially-planted bushes conceal its life-size sexual organ.

"The sheer size of this creature humbles us," said **Annan** at the inauguration of the five-tonne **Sleeping Elephant**.

"It shows us that some things are bigger



than we are," he said.

Annan explained that Bulgarian-born sculptor **Mihail Simeonov** tranquilized a wild bull elephant and took a cast of it before releasing the beast unharmed into the wild.

The tranquilizer's effect is reportedly responsible for the size of the elephant's member, which caused one senior UN official to express concern that children visiting the United Nations might be upset. **Annan** referred to "painstaking negotiations" during the 18 years that it took to bring the cast to the United Nations.

He did not mention, however, last-minute discussions at UN headquarters about what to do about the elephant's member, which included a proposal for radical surgery.

Annan said after the ceremony that the beast had been spared such a fate, saying: "Nature made him like that. I'm not going to change nature."

The elephant was surrounded by carefully-planted bushes. The statue is a gift from Kenya, Namibia and Nepal. But "the friends of L. Ron Hubbard," the founder of **Scientology**, are also listed as a major donor.

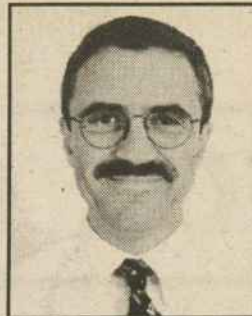
E. Pluribus Unum

It means "out of many, one" and appears on the Great Seal of the United States. It also sums up the attitude that the team at **Affiliated Mortgage** brings to the home lending business. An attitude that says that the strength of any community is in its diversity. In our second decade, our mission is to continue to provide the best advice and unmatched customer service to all who choose to be our clients.

Call us, and see the difference that respect, discretion, and over one billion dollars in closed home loans can make to your home purchase, construction, or refinance.

453-6700

1233 North Mayfair Road
Suite 202
Wauwatosa, WI 53226



RANDY MICKELSON

Professional • Certified • Courteous • Understanding

**Buick • Pontiac • Cadillac • Chevrolet
Chrysler • Plymouth • Jeep • Volkswagen**
100's of pre-owned cars & trucks

Ernie von Schledorn — Saukville

10 min. north of Mequon • I-43 & Hwy 33, Exit 96
Metro: 414.241.4141 • Local: 414.284.8000
Toll Free: 800.648.6789

PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT

For a research study focusing on the institutional climate for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people in Wisconsin's Adult Technical College system. The purpose of this research is an assessment of the institutional climate; all data will be kept confidential and will be reported anonymously. To participate write to:

**Pulse Communications Group
P.O. Box 375 • Sullivan, WI 53178-9755**



Proudly Serving the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community

HUME LAW OFFICES

Kathleen E. Hume, Esq.

529-2129 fax: 529-9545
5665 South 108th Street, Hales Corner, WI 53130





















COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!



COUNTRY FRUIT BASKETS

MAKE WONDERFUL HOLIDAY GIFTS!

-  Hand selected, large gourmet fruit ripened to perfection, including tropical kiwi.
-  Chocolate, Miniature Hershey Candy Bars, Snickers, Reese's & Chocolate Kisses.
-  Homemade chocolate rum balls. Made with the freshest, finest ingredients.
-  Fragrant potpourri sachet – excellent for sock & underwear drawers, cars and bathroom air fresheners.
-  Wisconsin Cheese Sticks.
-  100% Wisconsin smoked beef sticks.
-  Hand dipped chocolate pretzels.
-  Mixed Nuts.
-  Spring, Summer and Fall blooming wild flower seeds.
-  Fresh cut wild flower bouquet placed in center of country baskets.
-  Colorful large satin ribbons.
-  Cute, cuddly stuffed animals.
-  Personalized, colorful mylar balloon attached.
-  Country Baskets – scented with citrus, rose or lilac.
-  Sprecher Root Beer (brewed and bottled in Wisconsin), optional.
-  You may also customize or create your own Country Fruit Basket.

Ask about our
Budget Baskets
ONLY \$9.97!



Perfect For...

Get Well • Thinking of You • Employee Appreciation • Baptism
Anniversary • New Baby • Birthday • Thank You • I'm Sorry
Going Away • Customer Appreciation • All Holidays

ALL FOR ONLY \$19⁹⁷

Medium \$24⁹⁷  Large \$29⁹⁷  X-Large \$39⁹⁷  Supreme \$49⁹⁷  Super Supreme \$59⁹⁷
Gourmet Supreme \$69⁹⁷  Deluxe Gourmet \$79⁹⁷  Deluxe Gourmet Supreme \$99⁹⁷

MEGA DISCOUNT NURSERY

1901 East Rawson Ave., Oak Creek, WI

Get More BANG for your Buck! Call Mike at (414) 571-6565  

FAX YOUR ORDER TO (414) 571-6543

Country Fruit Baskets made 24 hours in advance, fresh to order only.

Prices good with this ad, or mention this ad only!