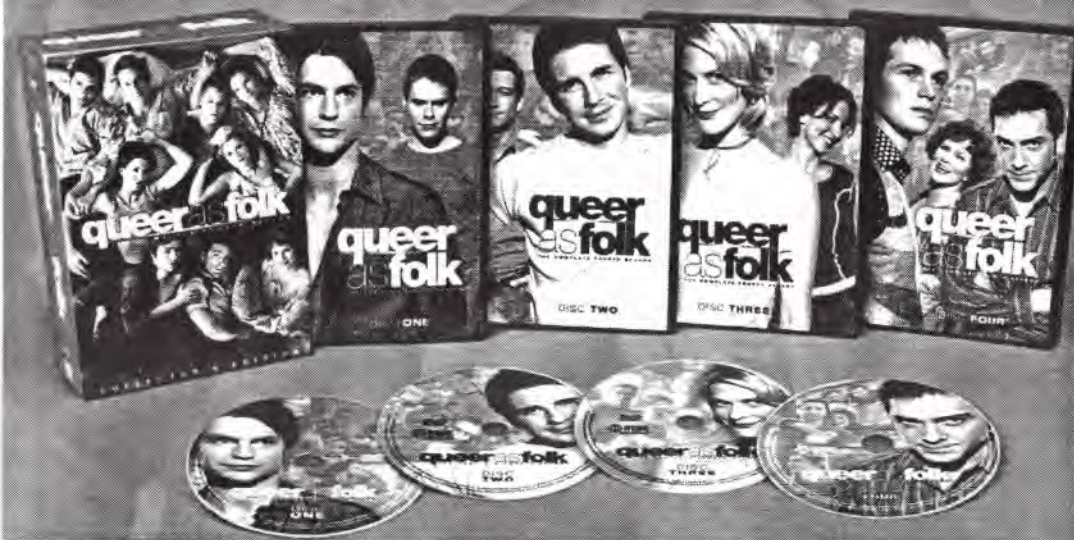


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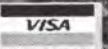
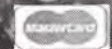
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Contact either or both. Leave name, phone no. & short message. Your pic will get ours. [2]

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GWM, 49, tall slender shaved & smooth, seeks GBM over 30 for friendship & fun. I'm a submissive bottom, orally talented; want to be your s— on a regular basis. Todd, PO Box 311, Appleton, WI 54912 [3]

GWM, 50, br/br, hairy, and not too bear-ey, bearded, 6'1", looking in the Marinette Co. area for some hot times. e-mail hardwood50@gay.com [3]

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AN EVENING OF MURDER: ELLEN HART & LORI L. LAKE, APRIL 9TH AT OUTWORDS BOOKS, MILWAUKEE

Outwords Books is especially pleased to welcome back for an appearance Ellen Hart and Lori L. Lake, two of the best and most popular Lesbian Mystery writers writing today! Lori L. Lake and Ellen Hart will read and sign copies of their new books at 7:00pm on Saturday, April 9th, 2005 at Outwords Books, located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee.

Lori L. Lake has just published "Have Gun, We'll Travel," the third installment in her bestselling "Gun" series while Ellen Hart's "An Intimate Ghost" has just been released in paperback.

Ellen Hart has long been a mainstay of Lesbian mystery writers having written 12 murder mysteries featuring her indomitable protagonist, Jane Lawless as well as seven mainstream mysteries featuring restaurant reviewer-cum-sleuth, Sophie Greenway.

In "An Intimate Ghost," restaurateur Jane Lawless is thrilled to be catering the wedding of some family friends, Nick and Lauren Clifford, but when Jane arrives at the reception, she's in for a shock of a lifetime. The food has been spiked with hallucinogenic mushrooms. When the groom takes a near fatal dive into an empty pool, an investigation begins and Jane turns to her best friend Cordelia Thorn for help in clearing her name. Events take a turn for the worse when the father of the groom comes up against shocking accusations, and it's up to Jane to uncover the truth.

After "Gun Shy" and "Under the Gun," Lori thought to give her protagonists Dez Reilly and Jaylynn Savage a bit of a rest but after listening her fans, has put them back in the thick of things in "Have Gun, We'll Travel."

Deciding they need a break, Dez and Jaylynn decide to take off on a relaxing camping trip to northern Minnesota with good friends Crystal and Shayna. Immediately, they find themselves caught in the whirlwind created when two escaped convicts, law enforcement, and desperate Russian mobsters clash north of the privately-run, medium-security Kendall Correctional Center. It's a race to the finish as author Lori L. Lake uproots Dez and Jaylynn from the romance genre to bring them center stage in her first suspense thriller.

After working in the government for nearly two decades, Lori published her first book, "Gun Shy" back in 2001. She's followed that with four more novels, a collection of short stories as well as editing "The Milk of Human Kindness: Lesbian Authors Write About Mothers and Daughters," which was recently nominated for a Lambda Literary Award.

Jane Lawless made her first appearance in Ellen Hart's debut mystery, "Hallowed Murder" back in 1989 and faster than you can say, "Jessica Fletcher," has been featured in eleven other murder mysteries with number 12, "The Iron Girl" due later this summer. Especially impressive is that Hart's "Jane Lawless" series was the first to go from a small press directly to a mainstream New York publisher. To her credit, Ellen has five Lambda Literary awards for Best Lesbian Mystery as well as recently being named one of the "101 movers and shakers in the gay entertainment industry" by *Entertainment Weekly*.

Don't miss out on the chance to see Ellen Hart and Lori L. Lake at 7:00pm on Saturday April 9th, 2005. This is a free event and all are welcome. For further information, please call (414) 963-9089.



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JOE SOLMONESE NAMED HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN PRESIDENT



Washington, DC - Joe Solmonese, chief executive officer of EMILY's List, the nation's largest political action committee, was named President of the Human Rights Campaign March 9 by the organization's Board of Directors and Foundation Board. Solmonese announced that, upon taking the helm at HRC on April 11 he will tour the country, meeting with the American people, LGBT community members and leaders at town hall meetings and other events in the workplace, communities of color and in communities of faith.

As a key political strategist, Solmonese oversaw one of the nation's most successful efforts to elect progressive candidates by appealing to heartland and mainstream voters. His work included broad outreach across the nation, speaking with large and small groups about the important issues facing the American people. He has been at Emily's List for the last twelve years serving in several key capacities from deputy political director, to chief of staff and the CEO position he's occupied for the past two-and-a-half years.

"A great leader surfaced early and we are thrilled with the result," Vic Basile, co-chair of the HRC Foundation Board and co-chair of the Search Committee said. "Joe has an unrivaled track record at the nation's foremost progressive electoral powerhouse. We are confident that he will appeal to Americans across the political and ideological spectrum."

"We need to make sure every LGBT American has a safe place to come out and join us in the fight for equality," Solmonese said in a prepared statement. "Our equality under the law is evolving as the defining social and political issue of our time. As a gay American, I am very honored to serve HRC and the LGBT community and to join the leadership of a movement that is

working toward an America that keeps its promise to all its citizens. We must tell the stories of our lives and the struggles we face to our straight friends, co-workers and family members. Increasing our presence and visibility across America will be a top priority of my tenure.

"HRC is not simply a LGBT organization; we're an organization of everyone who supports LGBT equality," Solmonese contin-



ued. "We'll ask every LGBT American to enlist three new allies -- a straight co-worker, a friend and a family member -- in our work for full equality. We know that we have broad support across the country and we need to ask our friends and families to be involved at the ballot box or talking directly to elected officials.

"Our movement will grow as our unity grows," Solmonese said. "With more Americans of both parties on our side, we will be an unstoppable force. We must ensure that every American family has equal rights and responsibilities; that it's illegal for the boss to fire the star employee simply because of who he or she is; that families have the security of marriage and all the rights and responsibilities that it affords and that every American living with and at risk for HIV takes prevention seriously so that this generation does not experience the devastation that the last generation did at the hands of this disease. That's why I intend to hit the road in my first week. We are broadening the American conversation about equality. I'll be meeting with LGBT families, religious leaders, corporate leaders, communities of color, and employee groups and LGBT community leaders across the country, and talking about the path to our equality."

Solmonese joined Emily's List in 1993 as deputy political director and advanced to

chief of staff in 1998. Emily's List works to elect pro-choice Democratic women to federal and state office. Solmonese traveled nationwide developing and executing political, messaging, fund-raising and grassroots campaigns that have produced unprecedented success for candidates at both the federal and state levels.

At Emily's List, Solmonese implemented strategies that helped transform the pro-choice movement with a defining issue that made a difference at the ballot box, in Congress and in the halls of legislatures around the country. Solmonese led Emily's List's national staff of 85 political, communications, fund-raising and grassroots professionals. He also oversaw a \$40 million budget, strategically investing in key political efforts and elections and raising funds for the organization's mission.

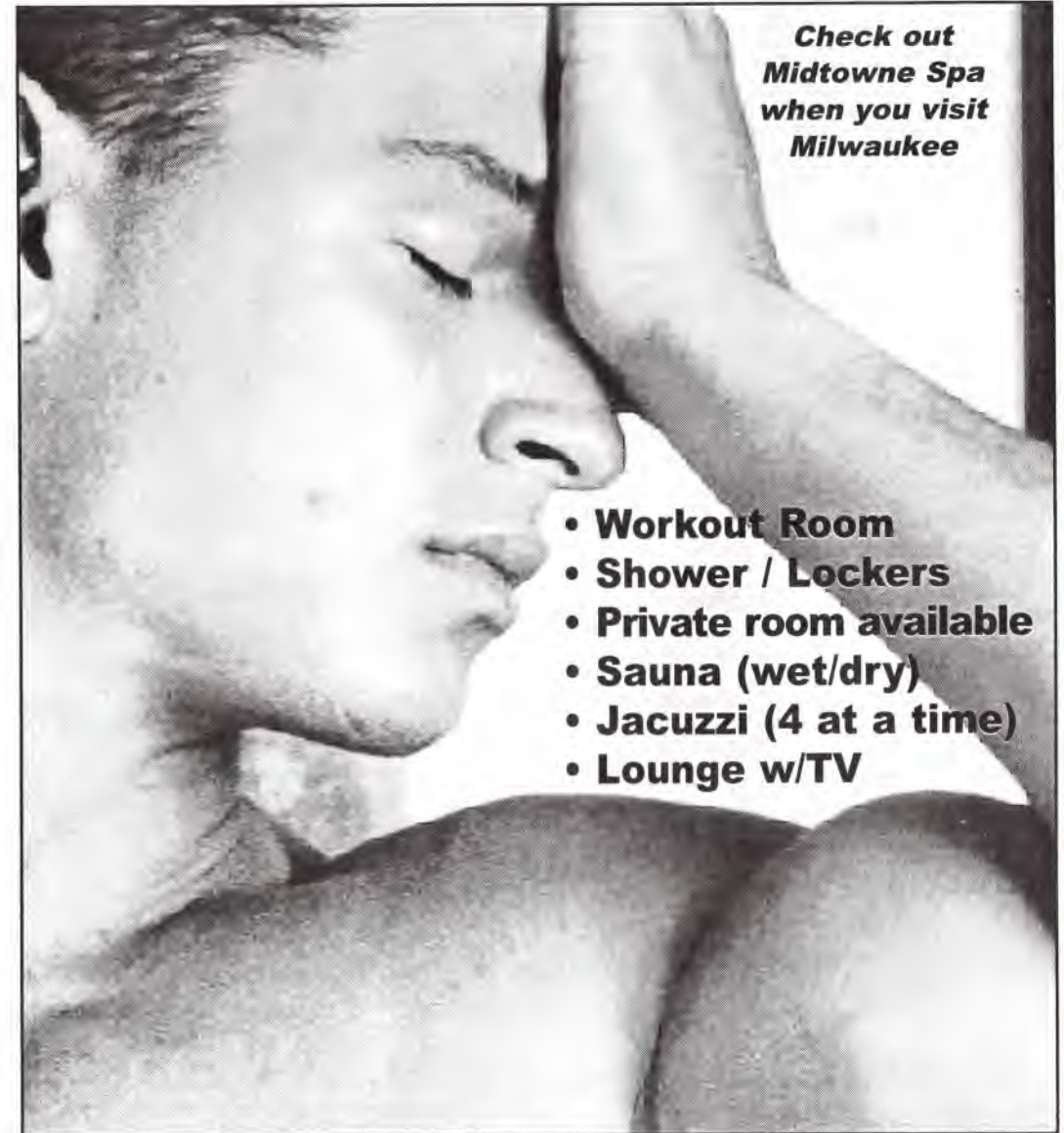
In addition, Solmonese serves as the organization's chief fund-raiser. He increased the budget by \$10 million in the last election cycle, enabling the organization to implement a new program that elected women legislators in Colorado, Vermont, North Carolina, Washington and Oregon.

A native of Massachusetts, Solmonese is 40 and lives in Washington, D.C. and has been an HRC Federal Club member for more than 12 years. He graduated from Boston University in 1987 with a bachelor of science in communications.

Reaction to Solmonese's appointment was positive among gay community leaders. "I am very happy that Joe will be the next President of HRC," Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) said. "By his talent, commitment and experience, he is ideally suited to help lead the fight for the central American value of equal rights under the law."

Patrick Guerriero, President, Log Cabin Republicans added: "Joe has an impressive record as an effective fundraiser, proven manager and smart political leader. As HRC's new President, Joe will be a strong and passionate voice in our fight for equality for LGBT Americans. Joe has my personal and organizational support as we work together to develop a smart and ambitious bipartisan strategy to realize full equality for all Americans in the years ahead."

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that LGBT Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.



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Middle aged man in good shape looking for a photographer to take erotic photos or small portfolio for my personal use. You don't have to be professional, but can guide me in erotic or nude photos. Write Quest (#280), PO Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54305 [1]

GWM, 5'9", 185 lbs., well built, live near **Oshkosh**. Give great head & willing to do more. Your place or mine, area hotels OK, too. (920) 229-6524. Ask for Doug. [1]

All Male Chat! 18+ record & listen FREE! (920) 431-9000 code 4120 [P]

This is an invitation to businessmen, vacationers, truckers, fun seekers and other **Milwaukee** visitors. I'm 58, 168, 5'6" and am an avid c-- sucker & c-- drinker. All races/sizes welcome, prefer 20-50. Write: Lee, PO Box 341396, Milwaukee, WI 53234. Tell me where to write you. [1]

45 y.o. GWM, 195, looking for friendship/relationships to share my life. I'm a smoker, social drinker, have speech impediment, but mobile & willing to relocate. (262) 335-4214. Mark Schicker, 2235 Sylvan Way, **West Bend**, WI 53095. No games, please [1]

Non-smoker looking for same for friendship & possibly LTR. Enjoy good conversation, reading, long walks, the out of doors & the nudist lifestyle. I'm 5'9", 220, lt. br., some gray and a nice friendly smile. Open minded to most anything safe & sane...you be, too! Western & northern Wis. E-mail yuperman2001@yahoo.com [1]

Want some Hot Creative Men: **Central WI** couple looking 4 some hot studs 2 full-fill OUR fantasy. Please be clean and DD-free. ALL RACES WELCOME. E-mail hotmarshmenz@msn.com. Please give age, height, weight w/ contact info. [1]

Looking for some young hot Asians to come over and put their hot lips on my banana. Call Rich. **Oshkosh** (920) 426-2682 [1]

Here's a rare opportunity! You can have the chance to *me into a she*. I'm looking for that unique individual to help me pursue the art of crossdressing. Serious inquiries only. (414) 727-0581 **Milwaukee** area [1]

Wanted lovers of fetish, B & D, electric toys, leather, furniture, rubber, cross dress clothing, corsets, boots, erotic movies....add to my collection and enjoyment. Let's talk. Can trade or buy. (414) 321-8005 7am-10pm. Lyle **Milwaukee** [1]

Wanted friend or LTR to go places with, etrinx@webtv.net (only to learn, laugh) or pen pal, or travel partner. I'm not superficial, sex addicted, self-centered or childish. 3658 W. 79th Pl., **Chicago** (773) 585-6275. All welcome. Tom [1]

GWM, 49, 6', 170 lbs., HIV neg, ISO slender gay guy 18-50 (race open) with similar interests - biking, hiking, walks, scenic drives, cooking, dining out, etc. **Monroe Co.** A mate or LTR, perhaps! (608) 633-0656 [1]

Bi white/Mexican M, 21, 6'1", 169 lbs., sexy muscular body, seeking hot bi party girls for fun times, can keep it hard for hours. Chris (262) 994-3626. **Racine** area. [1]

Middle aged single man, 5'9", looking for some good times. Enjoy massages and rubdowns, romance, movies. Cell phone is (715) 207-8570. Call any time. John **Sparta** area
Attention! GMs 40+! Interested in watching? Kick back and enjoy a private strip show. Evenings best. **Wausau** area. (715) 845-6467
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Viagra bear hairy 5'10"/220/49, brn/gr, hung, 6x5.5 tight/juicy "pussy" rear. Vers top also luv 2 bottom for HIV-neg dd free playmates who like intense orgasms & 3 ways. Pix: www.powow.com/mypic/ **Eside Milwaukee** (414) 278-9198 [2]

ACLU URGES SCHOOL TO REINSTATE STUDENT

California: - The American Civil Liberties Union urged a school district to reinstate a high school newspaper editor who was fired for publishing an article about three gay students. School officials were wrong to remove student Ann Long from her shared post as editor in chief of Troy High School's newspaper in January, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California said in a letter to the local superintendent.

Long's December 17 article in the Oracle chronicled the decisions of three students - two 18-year-olds and a 15-year-old - to reveal their homosexuality and bisexuality to family and friends. All three spoke to Long knowing their names would be used.

Despite numerous media inquiries, Fullerton Joint Union High School District has not responded publicly to the letter's release. School officials argued previously that Long needed parental permission before publishing the students' stories.

However, the state attorney general has maintained that no such permission was needed, the ACLU said. "I got the approval of my journalism adviser, I checked my facts, and all the students agreed to tell their stories in this article," Long said in a statement. "I thought this was an important issue, and so did my sources, to discuss in the school newspaper because it promotes tolerance and understanding."

MARTINA SUES RAINBOW CARD

Florida: - Martina Navratilova is suing the sponsor of a credit card directly marketed to gays and lesbians, saying it uses her name and likeness after her request last month to stop. Navratilova is seeking at least \$75,000 in damages from Do Tell, Inc., which offers the Rainbow Card. The card helps fund the nonprofit Rainbow Coalition, which promotes the health and social well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Do Tell had used Navratilova to market the card since 1995 with the tennis star's permission, said the suit, filed March 7. But in late 2004, Navratilova came at odds with the card's marketing, which she called "inappropriate and repugnant."

Last February, Navratilova's attorneys sent a letter to Do Tell telling them to stop using the former Wimbledon champ's likeness. The suit charges that Do Tell, based in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, has continued to use Navratilova.

Navratilova is a nine-time Wimbledon champion and winner of 18 Grand Slam singles titles. She also owns a record 167 singles titles and 40 Grand Slam doubles titles. In her most recent action, she lost in the mixed doubles semifinals with Max Mirnyi at January's Australian Open.

BARNEY FRANK TO DEFEND SAME-SEX PARENTING

Washington DC: - Congressional Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) will film an ad defending same-sex parenting in response to the flap over a PBS children's program denounced by the Bush administration for showing kids with lesbian mothers.

The gay-rights group Family Pride Coalition asked the Newton Democrat to appear in the public service announcement after Bush

Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings warned PBS in January not to show an episode of "Postcards from Buster." PBS decided not to distribute the episode in which an animated rabbit visits Vermont to learn about making maple syrup with real children, two of whose parents are lesbians. WGBH in Boston, which produces the show, later made the episode available to other stations.

"She didn't think children should know there are such things as lesbians in the world, and when you have the administration at that point, it's appropriate to say I think that's not a good way to bring up kids," Frank said.

Actor B.D. Wong and Karen Pike, one of the mothers from the episode, will also

appear in it. The PSA will appear on a variety of websites later this month and will be provided to television outlets. Since it is not a paid ad, the stations must choose to run it.

Spelling's letter to PBS said, "Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode."

Last month, Frank wrote a scathing letter in response, stating "how deeply I resent your profoundly degrading comments." Frank said none of his siblings' children or grandchildren had been harmed by learning at a young age that he shared his life with a man.



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1105 N. Superior St., Appleton: Looking for a roommate to share a large 2 BR upper near downtown Appleton. \$400 includes private bedroom + heat, utilities, hi speed internet & satellite. E-mail Jim at jimrentals@aol.com if interested or if you have additional questions. [1]

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BURLINGTON: OVADAL CLAIMS GAYS BASHED CHRISTIAN PAMPHLETEERS

Burlington: - Wisconsin's most vocal anti-gay "minister" has alleged a pair of his followers were "Christian bashed." On March 1, two members of Wisconsin Christians United here distributing anti-gay brochures. After leaving literature at homes throughout the city, the pair stood on a busy street, holding two of the WCU's well worn anti-gay signs. A car with two individuals then stopped near the picketers. According to unnamed eyewitnesses, Ovadal claimed "one of the car's occupants approached the picketers yelling obscenities. Then the man allegedly began assaulting the Christians." Local police reportedly have investigated the allegations. No charges have been filed as of Quest's deadline.

MARCH EDITION OF WPT'S "TEEN CONNECTION" FOCUSES ON LGBT YOUTH



Green Bay: - What kind of climate exists in the hallways, cafeterias and classrooms of Wisconsin's schools? If you're a gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered teen, it may be a hostile one. That climate will be explored on the next edition of Teen Connection on Wisconsin Public Television (WPT). "GLBT Teens" airs live at 7 PM Tuesday, March 22. WMVS-TV in Milwaukee will air the program at the same time.

The 60-minute broadcast will feature several Green Bay area students who are part of school organizations known as gay-straight alliances. The adolescents will share their experiences, and viewers may call in with questions or comments. Some of the calls will be selected for on-air response.

While it's not possible to specifically anticipate what callers will pose, it's likely some will focus on the stories behind the statistics on LGBT youth in schools.

"In classrooms where 'faggot' is heard more often than the 'Pledge of Allegiance,' and 39% of LGBT students

report being physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation, our schools and the states that govern them are failing," Kevin Jennings, executive director of the national Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network said.

GLSEN has prepared a state-by-state report card on policymakers' response to ensuring school safety for all students, and assessing the overall school climate. Wisconsin received the grade of C.



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

GLSEN's national report card shows that 84% of LGBT youth are verbally harassed, 39% are physically harassed and 64% feel unsafe in their schools because of their sexual orientation. There is a likely correlation between those instances and the reactions among LGBT teens, including a 28% dropout rate, and other negative behaviors such as suicidal thoughts and substance abuse.

Whether a teen is LGBT or not, those kind of stressors within a community affect everyone. In response, some Wisconsin schools have seen the formation of gay-straight alliances, of the nature that will be represented on the Teen Connection broadcast. In the Green Bay area, for example, about 150 students are regularly active in groups at six schools. The alliances are student-organized and student-led and aim to create safe, welcoming places for all youth regardless of sexual orientation.

Viewers can call toll-free at (877) 988-2888 during the Teen Connection program. For more resources, check the WPT website at: wpt.org/teenconnection

Kay Klubertanz of WPT is the executive producer of Teen Connection. Dean Thomas of Educational Television Production of Northeastern Wisconsin and Eileen Littig, NEWIST/CESA #7 are co-pro-

ducers. Sula Kim hosts the program and appears courtesy of WBAY-TV in Green Bay.

Toll-free service is provided courtesy of Nsight Long Distance. Wisconsin Public Television is a service of the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Wisconsin Public Television is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV/DT, Madison; WPNE-TV/DT, Green Bay; WHRM-TV/DT, Wausau; WLEF-TV/DT, Park Falls; WHLA-TV/DT, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV/DT, Menomonie-Eau Claire.

ACTIVIST CHUCK HUBBARD SERIOUSLY ILL

Green Bay - A suspected case of meningococcal meningitis, an rarely seen inflammation of the lining around the brain and spinal cord, is believed to have stricken area gay activist Charles "Chuck" Hubbard. Hubbard was rushed to Bellin Memorial Hospital March 5 after being found non-responsive at his home by a friend and coworker, after he failed to report for work. Hubbard remains in the hospital's critical care unit as of Quest's deadline.



Hubbard was recently elected as the Secretary of the Argonauts, the northeast Wisconsin leather/Levi social and service group. In that capacity he also serves as coordinator of the Argonauts' Charities which provides emergency, last-resort funding for the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Hubbard also has been a key organizer of the Argonaut-sponsored northeast Wisconsin pride events in 2003 and 2004.

Chuck is also an active member of Entertainers Against AIDS, assisting with many of the events at which group

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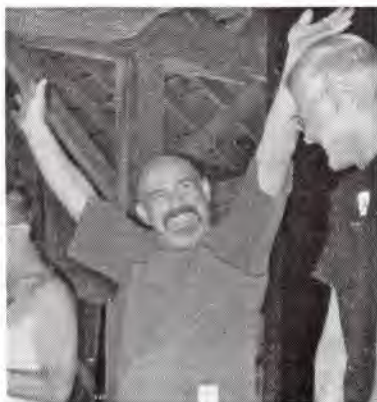
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members appeared, including the two-day World AIDS Day Show at the Green Bay Area Community Theater last December. Hubbard is also a member of Rainbow Over Wisconsin, the foundation financially assisting the work of local and regional groups serving the LGBT community in central, eastern and northeast Wisconsin. Hubbard played a key role in the success of ROW's first ever fundraising banquet and silent auction last October.

Chuck is also known for his floral arranging skills by the many customers of McDonald Floral Studio where he

works full time. Chuck is also well known by the patrons of Cricket's Fox River Lounge, where he tends bar part-time on evenings and weekends.

Due to the many rumors circulating, an update on Hubbard's condition was held at the Fox River Lounge on Sunday, March 13, as Quest went to press.

YOUTH SERVICES AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Madison: - Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.(formerly Briarpatch and Community Adolescent Programs) recognized the winners of the 2005 Youth Services Awards at a March 3 reception held at the CUNA Mutual Headquarters here. Wisconsin First Lady Jessica Doyle was the keynote speaker for the event.

The Youth Services Awards Reception recognized the outstanding contributions of youth and those that serve youth. An annual event, the Youth Services Awards Reception is also the YSOSW 's largest fundraiser.

Awards given this year included the following: The Youth Leadership Runner-Up was Emma Zeldin. Emma has been a strong and active leader in a variety of area organizations. At Briarpatch, she has been active in the Teens Like Us group where she par-

ticipated for two years. She helped create a Gay/Straight Alliance at Malcolm Shabazz High School, and has been an active member of Proud Theatre, a group that presents scripts that challenge racism, homophobia, gender roles, and alcohol and drug use in youth communities.

The Youth Leadership Award went to Javier Neira-Salazar. Javier is truly an inspiration to his fellow students. Four years ago, Javier came to Madison from Columbia. He did not speak a word of English, and faced the challenges of culture shock and leaving part of his family behind in his native country. Since then, Javier mastered English and became an active student leader. He is a volunteer producer at WORT, and volunteers for the newsroom at Wisconsin Public Radio. For the past two summers, he has served as a volunteer reporter for *The Capital Times*, and he is an active volunteer tutor at Centro Hispano. In addition to these activities, Javier has a passion for photography, a talent he contributes to the Memorial High School year book and student newspaper.

Two winners were given the Youth Personal Achievement Award. The first, Jamie Schoenmann, was once considered a silent person. Jaime has grown to

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become a strong voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. An active participant in Briarpatch's Teens Like Us youth group, Jamie also volunteers for GLSEN South Central Wisconsin, Proud Theatre, and his school's Gay/Straight Alliance. Jamie has made great strides in increasing LGBTQ awareness in the Madison area.

The second winner is Andree Djergou Yonli. Andree came to West High School as an immigrant from Africa. While working two jobs, Andree has overcome many personal obstacles to achieve her goal of attending college. An active volunteer with Sunday school and synagogue, Andree has excelled in school, earning a top score on the French 5 AP exam and spending a semester abroad in France. Being the first person in her family to attend college, she says, "I want to make my mother proud and have my hard work pay off. I am living the American Dream."

Runner Up for Volunteer of the Year is Maria Cruz. Maria has made extra effort to assist in counseling Spanish-speaking families. In addition to raising her children, working full-time, and going to school, Maria often manages to schedule more than two shifts per week. She never

hesitates to do whatever it takes to meet the needs of Briarpatch's clients.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Jimena Escurra. Jimena recently came to Madison from Argentina. When she first came to the U.S. she spoke broken English, but nevertheless started volunteering for the Briarpatch Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. She has proved to be dedicated volunteer, scheduling extra-shifts, translating Briarpatch forms, and assisting in counseling sessions with Spanish-speaking clients.

The Youth Development Professional Award was given to Cindy Quam. Cindy has worked for twelve years in area education systems. She is a strong advocate and skilled educator in the area of youth service learning. In addition to serving as her academic teaching team leader, she serves on the district's Technology and Gifted and Talented committees. She is active in her community too, volunteering as a Sunday School teacher and 4-H leader.

Madison's Youth Resource Network (YRN) was honored as the Organization of the Year. YRN enhances the personal, social, and civic development of youth throughout Dane County by advocating for social, vocational, educational, cultural,

and recreational activities. YRN includes more than 75 organizations and 200 individuals, making it one of the area's most important networking organizations.

ACTION WISCONSIN BENEFIT CONCERT SET

Madison: - If Then Else is set to headline an eclectic mix of musicians and dancers at a special concert benefitting Action Wisconsin, the statewide LGBT civil rights organization here April 1. The concert will be held at the Nottingham Co-op, 146 Langdon St., from 9:30 PM - @ AM. Suggested donation at the door will be \$5. Local break-dancers will perform between each set. Volunteers are also needed for Action Wisconsin's information booth at the event. To volunteer, contact Saad at saad.akbar_khan@actionwisconsin.org.

TOP CHRISTIANS TANGLE OVER CIVIL UNION BAN

Menasha: - The top two Christian voices in the current debate over Wisconsin's proposed constitutional amendment to ban any legal recognition of unmarried couples regardless of sexual orientation

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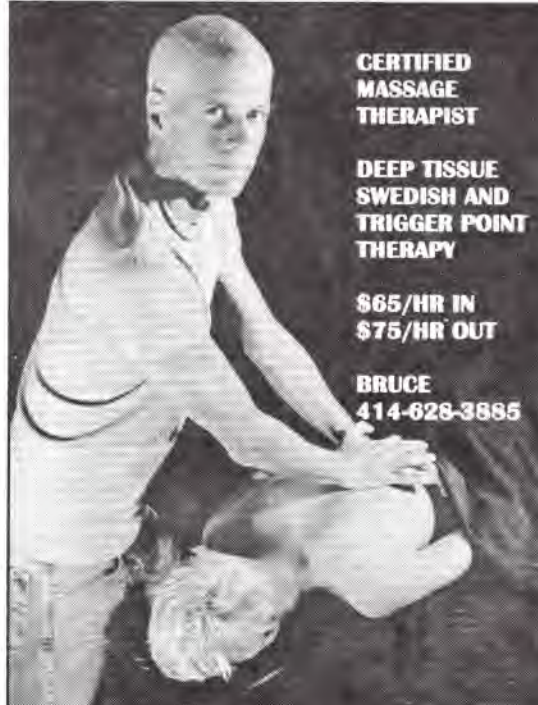
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clashed here March 8 as part of a Noon debate on the issue held in the student union at the UW-Fox Valley. Julaine Appling, executive director of the Family Research Institute of Wisconsin, and Curt Anderson, a pastor of Madison's First Congregational United Church of Christ and the most prominent member of the statewide Christians for Equality in Wisconsin organization, were joined with area students on the discussion panel.

Appling claimed the proposed amendment, which now appears is going to be used as a GOP ploy to influence the November 2006 election, is not an attack on the rights of gay couples, but is in defense of the "preservation of traditional marriage in Wisconsin."

Anderson countered that the amendment is an attack on the gay and lesbian community. "The language of the amendment takes away the few rights they have. It keeps them from negotiating their rights as families," Anderson said. "It's not about the redefinition of family, as Ms. Appling says, it's an attack on same-gender couples."

"It's not only an attack on homosexual groups, it's everyone's civil liberties that will be affected," Chad Kleist, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, added. "I don't want anyone telling me who I can or can't marry."

When the subject of children of same-sex couples was brought up, Appling and Anderson squared off again. "One of our main interests is the welfare of the children," Appling claimed. "Studies have shown that traditional couples are better off as a family unit."

"Some studies show no difference in the well-being of children who are of same-sex parentage," Anderson countered. "Same-sex parents are just as good, if not better, than opposite-sex couples."

A mix of students on lunch break and community members supporting both sides of the amendment question filled the hall.

NEW ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL TO INCLUDE BULLIED GAY STUDENTS

Milwaukee: - Students who have been bullied and made to feel unwelcome in the school system will get their own school next fall here. Alliance High School will be considered a charter school in the Milwaukee Public School System. The concept for the charter school, which is publicly funded but has more autonomy and flexibility than most traditional schools, was approved last spring and planning is now underway.

The school will serve about 100 students, not all of them gay. One of the teachers who helped devise the concept, Nichole Powers, said the school would be open to all students who have been bullied or discriminated against and that a search for the right site has begun. "Often times the sheer size makes it very difficult" in traditional schools, Powers said.

Powers and Tina Owen, the other teacher who helped create the program, said that their goal is not to isolate or segregate victims, but create an environment where students feel safe, and can learn how to go back out into the community and fight discrimination.

Ashley Werner, a lesbian who has been a student at Milwaukee's Pulaski High School, said she intends to attend Alliance during the next school year. "If you are even remotely different, (the students) harass and make fun of you," Werner said.

Similar charter schools have opened or are in the planning stages in several US cities. New York's Harvey Milk High was the first publicly funded high school for LGBT students. Harvey Milk School opened in April 1985 in a church. There were 25 students and one teacher. In 2003 it moved to its own building in Greenwich Village and has about 150 students today.

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New on DVD by Glenn Bishop 10 Attitudes and Ben & Arthur

At first glance, both the recently released 10 Attitudes and last year's Ben & Arthur look like sure winners. Culture Q Connection, the company which distributes both titles on DVD, has proved to have sufficient marketing savvy to produce terrific box covers Glenn found irresistible, suspecting that many will likewise be tempted.

Gay comedian Jason Stuart is featured on the cover of 10 Attitudes, flanked by two shirtless lads, cute-as-a-button Joey Vieira and the buff and beefy Scott Larson. The smoldering good-looks of Ben & Arthur cover hottie Jamie Brett Gabel certainly suggests this melodrama will be worth the price of admission.

Even if Glenn wasn't yet sold on these two films - which he was - their brief plot synopsis clinched the sale. 10 Attitudes finds typical WeHo guy Josh (Jason Stuart) looking for love in all the wrong places after catching long-time boyfriend in the act of getting some non-curricular oral stimulation from a 19 year-old twink. Ben & Arthur offers Gabel and Sam Mraovich as a nice young gay couple and who desperately want to tie the marriage knot but are thwarted at every turn. Now, doesn't this seem positively torn right off of today's newspaper headlines?

How could this fabulous double feature go amiss?

10 Attitudes could have been, okay, should have been a thoroughly enjoyable romantic comedy. The premise

seems promising, presenting plenty of opportunity for comic riffs on the trials and tribulations of gay dating. While the film offers a few clever moments, too much of the film seems both underwritten and under-rehearsed. 10 Attitudes boasts such Hollywood names as Jim J. Bullock, Judy Tenuta and Married With Children's David Faustino and yet all seem wasted and for the most part virtually unrecognizable in their all too brief scenes.

Worse, never warned to Stuart's unlikable Josh, Glenn could muster little enthusiasm for Josh's elusive quest for romantic fulfillment. And perhaps off topic but just what was up with the actress who played his mother - Glenn couldn't help but wonder how much alcohol was needed to bribe her to do her few excruciatingly awful scenes?

Ben & Arthur was obviously a labor of love for cinematic wunderkind Sam Mraovich, acting as he does as producer, director, screenwriter not to mention giving himself top billing amongst the cast. Sadly, he excels in none of these roles.

The plot meanders about, first finding the curiously mismatched couple planning their marriage get-a-way to Hawaii. But wait, the gorgeous Ben (Jamie Brett Gabel) is still (heterosexually) married. Enter Ben's wife Tammy (Julie Belknap), a gleefully psychotic, pistol-toting mama. The two scream, they swear, of course, they must eventually fight for the gun. Surprisingly, poor Ben looks decidedly less butch in their

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Given the rarity of gay romantic comedies, 10 Attitudes might do in a pinch. Ben & Arthur isn't your average, garden-variety bad flick. Oh, no. Here is badness of near epic proportions. This badness beyond the Lifetime original movie badness, badness beyond The Birdcage badness. So bad indeed is Ben & Arthur, the celebrated badness of The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes, in comparison, looks worthy of Oscar contention.

Just the facts...

Ben & Arthur is in English and is clocked at 83 minutes while 10 Attitudes is also in English and is 88 minutes long.

Twink cutie Arthur Huber, who plays Justin Abraham, the under-aged PI in Ben & Arthur, appears fleetingly in Issues 101

Both films have a \$29.95 SRP

tousle on the floor.

Meanwhile, when Arthur (Sam Mraovich) tires of listening to his crummy customers at the crummy diner complain about his crummy service, he's forced to turn to his brother, the bible-thumping Victor (Michael Haboush) for money. Victor is willing to lend Arthur money but only if he can plead for his and Ben's to find Jesus. Later, when Victor is drummed out of his church for having a gay brother, he is determined "to go to the limit" to save Arthur's soul.

Here Mraovich's screenplay takes a gruesome, Hamlet-like turn of events.

Enough said?

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by Jeff Hicks

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2. a training that develops self-control, orderliness and efficiency
 - b. strict control to enforce obedience
3. a system of rules, such as: military law, commandments
4. treatment that corrects or punishes

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As practicing BDSM persons, I would hope that we each have a substantial amount of knowledge of what we are engaged in. This "branch of knowledge" could include, awareness of the use of, and at least a modicum of training/instruction in the applications, of instruments of overt stimulation, i.e. Floggers; paddles; (wood/metal/plastic); whips (single-tail/bull/crops); canes (thin rod/bamboo/natural & manmade) etc. We can obviously include; How to tie up; or shackle; or chain, your sub. Also one must learn how to use their hands, as gripping tools; as slapping/spanking devices; restraining mechanisms; threatening weapons; a means of stimulating or calming; holding & caring instruments; the possibilities are limited only by our imaginations and interests. Learning all we can in this field can only make us more disciplined in our application of our individual fetishes.

2. training that develops self-control;

a. Hopefully, we have all had some sort of training in our chosen specialties of the scene. Whether we started on the top or bottom, we all had to learn some form of self control. For subs, the 'self-control, is paramount to being successful within the BDSM arena. a sub must, at all times be able to control their actions and reactions. Even a misconstrued action by a sub by another, can be interpreted as an aggressive act and carry consequences of a negative nature. Dominates will almost always not necessarily find their sub to be at fault; but it is understood that in any case they will be blamed. It is to the Dominants convenience to do so, even if the blame is for some other act. In most cases, subs expect that to be commonplace within the scene. For a Dominant, self-control is of utmost importance. It must always be operative in the play-room/dungeon times. The degree of self control has to be engaged for two or more people; Him/Her-self and other persons, Doms & subs, involved at the time. I have been present where there were as many as 6 Doms and 10 subs all in the same dungeon at one time, and all of the Doms were aware of everyone in the space and cognizant of everyone's level of control and self-control. This can make for a very successful scene. orderliness and efficiency. For a DOM, this can be very valuable to the smooth flow of activities in the dungeon. If the Dom has his dungeon well arranged in an orderly fashion and placed so as to allow efficient access to all 'toys', He/She, can flow through a scene, being sensitive to the other/s involved and acting in conjunction with them and not being distracted by searches for implements.

b. strict control to enforce obedience. In most Master/slave situations, this is a paramount consideration. Often over time a 'slave' will become lax in general obedience. At those times, and on a regular basis, the Master must use previously stated and understood control measures to re-affirm, full control, and expectation of, FULL obedience.

3. a system of rules. Many persons in the BDSM community,

find in the Military, a guideline of sorts, to pattern their negotiated set of rules, regulations on. This can work quite well in many cases. The very casual dom/sub relationship might not find it applicable, because their interactions probably do not involve the need for a negotiated scenes. In the case of more serious to extreme edge players, The system of rules becomes Very important. They are needed to see to the gratification of each participant, and to protect the physical well being of all involved. If there is a multi-player dungeon scene in progress, it is common for ONE Dominant to have the final command in all situations. This often is the owner/lessee of the facility being used. Discipline is of great advantage in multi-player scenes, because the roles of some, will be different from moment to moment as they move from one person to another in the dungeon. Many a Dominant of one or more subs, will be a sub to the dungeon Master. Often that Dominant, will not play out a subservient role to the DM, but rather differ to the rules and or decisions of the DM. That becomes a subject of "protocol", (which will be a future article).

4. treatment that corrects or punishes. In the daily routine of a long term BDSM relationship, times will come about when correction or punishment needs to be met out. First of all, some acts will accomplish correction. that is, they will cause the sub (or Dom) to cease doing the offending action. A punishment can be used in a more serious context, where the offending act has been done in spite of previous correcting actions that were not successful. The punishment then, may not be successful either. Then we have those situations where [usually a sub], will do something again, just to force the Dom to carry out the punishment, which the sub really wants. If the Dom 'catches on' to this ploy, He/She will do everything right up to the point of executing the punishment; then stop!! Hence truly punishing the sub more than anticipated. This can sometimes be more corrective than many other options.

There you have some BDSM reflections on our own special adaptations of the usual dictionary definition. by bdsmboy1971@msn.com

COMING EVENTS:

Castaways, beer/soda bust, raffles & contest: to enter, wear a rain or flowered outfit. Sunday April 2, 9 PM to 1 AM. at Woody's. June 11-12, the castaways will be serving at their beer tent for Pride-fest.

JOINT RUN with the Argonauts at the Farm, near Hilbert WI. August 19 th.- 21 st.

Argonauts: Friday/Saturday Apr 08-09 The Wisconsin Leather/Levi, '05 Granddaddy / Daddy / Daddy's boy contest!! To be held in Green Bay. Venues for separate events TBA. Check the quest often to get further details. or contact <Argonautsll.org> for more info as it becomes available.



On Our Cover Matt Foreman Interview

By Mike Fitzpatrick



Matt Foreman is the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He has worked for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights for 25 years. Matt began his tenure as Executive Director of the Task Force in May 2003 after serving as Executive Director of the Empire State Pride Agenda since 1997. The Pride Agenda is the nation's largest statewide lesbian and gay political advocacy and civil rights organization.

Matt was in Wisconsin January 27 to address the more than 400 people who gathered for Action Wisconsin's lobby day in Madison. Quest obtained a nearly hour-long exclusive interview with him and discussed marriage issue, the recent spate of anti-gay constitutional amendment ballots, and the current state of gay activism in the United States and much more. We think you will find his answers insightful and inspiring.

Quest: What is your impression of the lobby day efforts?

Foreman: "It is really extraordinary. Having organized many lobby days myself I have a good idea of the energy and organization it takes to get statewide representation at an event like this. And (to do this) in January and in Wisconsin? I'm incredibly impressed!

Quest: Do you think the tide is going to turn on the gay marriage issue, considering how well the Right and the political forces that exploited the LGBT community in the last election fared? You mentioned earlier (during the lobby day press conference) that it just wasn't so.

Foreman: Well, there was a myth put

out very quickly by both some of our Democratic friends and - of course - the Christian Right - claiming the reason why George Bush was reelected was because of the marriage issue. Their premise was that it turned out and energized the Far Right base... who otherwise would not have come out (to vote). However, every in-depth analysis of the election results in key states shows that the marriage issue had NO significant impact. Take the swing states of Oregon, Michigan and Ohio - states in which there was an anti-marriage initiative on the ballot. Kerry took Oregon and Michigan by a much greater margin than (Al) Gore (in 2000). He also did much better than Gore did in Ohio. In the other eight states, they were red states and going to go for Bush anyway.

And there's no evidence that the marriage issue any Congressional or Senate race. The only race in which the marriage issue was raised by the Right was (South Dakota Senator Tom) Daschle's race and there were so many other issues in that race - choice (abortion), Daschle's liberal record on foreign affairs... - is what tipped the scales there.

Have we turned the corner? No, we haven't. This (same-sex marriage) is a great organizing tool for the Right. They are making a ton of money on it. Because of the limited resources on our side to combat them, we are going to continue to lose many of these ballot initiatives.

Quest: Media commentary during President Bush's inauguration offered that more people consider themselves as being conservative or right-leaning than at any time in the last 110 years. Do you think a conservative zenith and will see a swing back to more moderate or even liberal viewpoints?

Foreman: The reason why we are where we are is because for the last 35 years the right wing has undertaken a methodical, simple, straight forward approach to seizing control of this country. They started with the school boards. They started with town councils, and - you know - fire marshals and they worked their way up. However, many evangelical Christians are no social conservatives. What we saw in this last election was people on the progressive side reversing the trend of Democrats

in particular of not doing grassroots organizing. ACT (America Coming Together), America Votes and other progressive organizations around the country finally started doing what turns elections: door-to-door conversations with voters and turning out voters. That's why we did so much better.

I think that we are at the zenith of the right wing and the Republican Party having captured the market on old-fashioned politics. That used to be the purview of Democrats. I think the second Bush administration is going to push even further than in the first one and there's going to be a reaction pushing the pendulum back.

Quest: There are progressive, non-gay grassroots organizations that have sprung up since November in Wisconsin that are co-sponsoring (the January 27) lobby day. But liberals were in the majority for so long they never learned to act like a minority, other than to whine and cry.

Foreman: I think part of (the LGBT community's) challenge, even as progressives are organizing as never before, is they walked away from marriage equality in the last election cycle. It was not on the agenda on any of the large scale progressive organizing. We were pretty much left on our own.

Progressives have to understand that the right wing is using gay issues to club them and that (progressives) are either going to win with us, or die with us. Whether they believe in equal rights of gay people or not is beside the point. It's a purely political matter: we have to understand that attacks on women, on immigrants, on social and economic justice issues, and also on gay people is all part of broader social agenda. We can either be picked off one at a time, or we can unite and defeat them because we are in the majority.

Quest: Right after the election Larry Kramer, one of the most outspoken gay activists, criticized the Human Rights Campaign and the organized gay activist community in general, claiming they "did not get it."

Foreman: I respect Larry Kramer endlessly. But there's way too much of a tendency in our community to blame ourselves for what is being done to us. It's homophobia, stupid. It's not what we've done. The notion that we as a very small minority in the country - you know 3-4% of the population - should have within our own resources and organizations the

ability to defeat the forces that are lined up against us that spring from hundreds of years of homophobia bred into the culture is preposterous.

If you think about what our people have done in 35 years is extraordinary, especially when you look at other social justice movements. We now have 47% of the US population covered by laws that protect gay people from discrimination. A quarter of the population is covered by laws that protect people from discrimination because of gender identity.

In the 12 years since the Hawaii (state supreme court marriage equality) decision came down, support for marriage equality or legal recognition of our relationships have moved from the teens to 62% today. Think about that - 12 years!

All of that has been won against enormous odds. Yeah, we could do better. Have we made mistakes? Yes. But we have done so much with so little.

People say, "Oh, the Human Rights Campaign - They have all this money!" But Focus On The Family has more money and more employees than EVERY gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered organization COMBINED! That one organization has more resources than every single one of our organiza-

tions put together. That's the reality!

Quest: *One argument made recently has been "why don't all the (LGBT) groups just all get together and become a more organized and effective force as a mega-organization?"*

Foreman: There's this long-standing fallacy that we all don't talk and we all don't work together. In the last four weeks I have been to three meetings of the national (organizations') executive directors. That's nothing new. We meet and we talk. I've known many of the directors of the national LGBT organizations for 15-20 years.

We would be so ill-served to have just one organization. We need an organization like the Task Force to be out front and pushing the envelope. We need an organization like HRC to be on the inside, doing the deal cutting. We need a GLAAD to be focused on the media. If we had one organization, we would not have advanced as we have.

Look at the AIDS crisis. If we had not had Act-Up to push forward and push hard and be out there and - right behind them the people who understood the science, understood the regulatory process, AIDS would still be a mega-crisis. AIDS remains a mega-crisis across the world but in this

country it was that combination of tactics that helped us get a grip on HIV.

Quest: *What about basic equality issues? We win the battle and now you're part of a same-sex couple who comes back with your marriage license and gets fired from your job. The argument is made we need to work on basic rights first, then marriage.*

Foreman: I don't think its an "either-or" proposition. From the Task Force's perspective, we would much rather be fighting for marriage ten years from now rather than right now. Its no secret that the legal strategy for same-sex marriage is ten years ahead of our political and our organizing strategy. We can bemoan that but the fight is here now.

There is not another civil rights struggle where this has not been the case. People said when plaintiffs filed *Brown vs. the Board of Education* (in the early 1950's) that the civil rights movement was not ready. And guess what? It was not. The African American civil rights movement was not able to sustain that on the ground.

Frankly, we have not been able to sustain it. Schools are now (in 2005) more segregated than they were before *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. On a propor-



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Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Thursday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Open Mic, hosted by reggae singer & member of Unity the Band, Pita Kotobalavu, 7 pm

Friday, March 18

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Bob Shebesta, the quintessential acoustic guitarist, 7 pm

Saturday, March 19

BESTD free anonymous HIV testing at Harbor Room, 10pm-1am

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Red Night (Dress in red from head to toe)

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Peace Concert today, noon-2 pm. Performances by Jason Moon, Druid's Table, The Jugs, Chris Murray, Terry Dawson & Barbara Hoffman

Napalese (Green Bay) Mr. R.O.W. & Mr. Bay City Pageant Madison Gay Video Club, 8 pm: *Queer As Folk*, *Cowboys & Angels*, *Service Area*. www.mgvc.org (608) 244-8675 (evenings)

Shelter (Green Bay) Underwear Party - Wet Boxer Contest, w/ a \$9 rail & beer bust 9-1

Sunday, March 20

Movie Collectible Show - Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W. Burnham, Milwaukee, 10-4:00, \$2 per. FMO (414) 466-1877

Wednesday, March 23

BESTD free anonymous HIV testing at Midtowne Spa, 7-10 pm

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Trivia Night, 7 pm. Play in a group or solo

STD Specialties HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, at Woodys (also Wed., 4/27)

Thursday, March 24

BESTD free anonymous HIV testing at Art Bar (Milw.), 9pm-midnite

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Open Mic, hosted by the Goddess of Song, Galynne Goodwill, 7 pm

Friday, March 25

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) 18 & up night

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Womens History Month

Celebration: Songs of Sarah McLachlan & other famous female singers. **Featured artist:** Kathleen Mueske, 7 pm

Saturday, March 26

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Boots & Boxers

Monday, March 28

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Harmony Cafe Book Club. *Speak* by Laurie Halser Anderson, Discussion starts 7 pm

Wednesday, March 30

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) What is Paganism? Fox Valley Pagan Unity Council presents an informational discussion on the history of Paganism and highlight the community activities of local Pagan organizations, 7 pm

Thursday, March 31

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Open Mic, hosted by local musician "Chunk", 7 pm

Friday, April 1

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) 18 & up night; it's Amateur Drag Nite w/ cash prizes

Players (La Crosse) **Mr. Mississippi Valley Pageant**

Saturday, April 2

Scooters (Eau Claire) **Mr. Chippewa Valley Pageant**

Saturday, April 9

Outwords Books Club (Milw.) 7 pm - April book is *Tamburlaine Must Die* by Louise Welsh, author of the bestselling *The Cutting Room*. New members always welcome!

Tuesday, April 12

Outwords - Lesbian Reading Group - 7 pm, will discuss April Lauren Sanders' debut novel, *With or Without You*. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, April 3

Club 5 (Madison) **Mr. Capital City & Mr. Southern Pageant**

Wednesday, April 13

STD Specialties HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, at 94 North (Kenosha)

Saturday, April 16

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay) Miss Northeastern Wis. USofA Prelim, show time 10:30 pm

Friday, April 22

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) 18 & up nite

Saturday, April 30

Office (Rockford, IL) Miss Illinois Continental pageant, 10 pm (prize package up to \$3,150). Info: JcFordIII@aol.com or 9815) 378-7808

Friday, May 6

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) 18 & up Nite (also May 20)

Saturday, May 14

Oh Zone (Rockford) Miss Borderline WI USofA Pageant

tional basis nationwide, its worse now.

Look at what happened with the women's suffrage movement. They made a decision that they were going to pull back in the 1800's to build support and basically they lost 50 years.

We don't have a choice. We have to fight it. What do we say? That's it's okay that these amendments pass even if we think they're going to? We don't deserve marriage equality when we do?

The marriage issue has made me realize on an individual basis is how we internalize homophobia. We deserve marriage. For someone to say we don't means that they see us as less than fully human.

In New York when marriage equality advocates would come to us and say "we want to push marriage," I'd say "Shut Up! We don't a civil rights bill, we don't have a hate crimes bill. Don't put marriage on the table because the legislators will stop talking to us!"

I think that was a mistake. We have to put our full humanity on the table. It's like negotiating. You start asking for the most you can possibly get because you're going end with is something less. If we start with domestic partnership, we'll get a watered down version of that. If the bar is civil unions, then we get

domestic partnership.

We have to put everything on the table. We should not be advancing our humanity and our equal rights one little piece at a time. We're fighting for civil rights laws all across the country. We have to. And we're fighting for hate crimes laws, for domestic partnership benefits, and for partner registries, and for civil unions and for full marriage equality. It's not an "either-or" proposition.

Litigation is one of our tools. We've done very well by it because it has been judiciously used in certain states. The problem is that we never linked that litigation strategy with a community organizing strategy. We could have preserved the win in Hawaii but we weren't prepared. We DID preserve in Vermont because we had done twelve years of going to county fairs and town meetings to talk about marriage.

And we're working on preserving marriage in Massachusetts. We have to do it selectively where the law is on our side.

Quest: You mentioned in your prepared remarks that there are three states where we have the best chance to defeat the anti-marriage amendments.

Foreman: It seems very certain that there will be an anti-marriage constitutional amendment on the ballot in California in 2006. It now looks like there will be one in Wisconsin. And there will be one on the ballot in Massachusetts in either 2006 or 2008, with another 9, 10, 11, 12 ballot questions in other states. People recognized that California, Massachusetts and Wisconsin are the three states where we have the best chance of defeating the initiatives at the polls. We need time and we need money. Real money.

The campaign in Ohio (to defeat the amendment) spent \$800,000. Kerry and ACT spent almost \$70 million to elect Kerry. \$800,000 to address in a complicated state with five major media markets and to talk about something as complicated as marriage. That's nothing, that's less than nothing in a state like Ohio, especially when the right wing has got all their churches and the Republican Party campaigning against us.

In Oregon, we had sufficient resources - over three million dollars. What we didn't have - and this is critical - we didn't have time. The Oregon campaign started in earnest 100 days before Election Day. There wasn't enough time to adjust the message.

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Plus its is a mail-in ballot state, people can start mailing in their ballots three and a half weeks before Election Day. We learned in the first part of October that a significant were being moved to our side by our messaging. But they thought that they should vote "Yes" for gay marriage instead of "No" to stop the amendment banning gay marriage. That's called wrong-way voting.

We had to re-tool the campaign and emphasize "No on Proposition 36." If you're FOR gay marriage, vote AGAINST 36. Exit polls showed that 7% of our supporters voted the wrong way. That was the margin of victory. By the time we began adjusting our message, half of the ballots had already been cast.

The Wisconsin polling numbers are not much different from many other states. In order to move those voters, you have to be able to communicate with them. There's only two ways to effectively communicate with them: one one or one through really effective media. One on one is the most effective and the most cost efficient but its the most labor-intensive. Media messaging can work but they have to hear it seen times.

One of the problems with the marriage issue is that it's complicated. You have to take voters through a process: #1 - Marriage is a complicated issue, did you know that? #2 - Real families get hurt by this. #3 - Vote against it. So you're talking about having to hit that voter 21 times, seven times for each message. In order to have someone hear it seven times, you have to play that thing at least 21 times, 63 plays total for a three part-process.

And each time the cash register goes "ching ching." Think of what companies pay to get you to buy, say Dial soap. Its not complicated because you're already using soap, right? People have to understand that to we're going to get

real its going to take real life political money. And Wisconsin is a big state.

Quest: Besides money are there other barriers?

Foreman: A lot of our own people, including our allies don't connect with marriage. They're not interested in a partnership. They reject marriage because its patriarchal, or its institutionalized or its a heterosexual tradition, or whatever. I appreciate that. But this isn't about marriage. This is about saying to every LGBT person that you are not fully human. Whether you want to get married or not, they're saying to you "You're not as good as I am." It affects us all - whether you want to get married or not - because its an affront to our basic humanity.

Quest: And we have to recognize that we are fighting organized religion. A recent story showed that one third of all the people contacting their legislators did so because the issue bothers them, and not because they were prompted to by some specific sermon or political outreach.

Foreman: People react to the issue viscerally because that's the way were raised. That's why we have to get people to stop and think about it. They just go "Eww, no!" If you look at the way in which marriage and the marriage ceremony permeates our society, you can understand this visceral reaction. Its one of the reason why the support of white women - who are generally much more supportive of gay issues than any other segment of the population - falls off when it comes to marriage. Pollsters say its because you're getting too close to "their thing." So many women are raised to believe your wedding day is the most important day of your life, you get the dress, you get the ceremony you get the cake and all

the gifts. We have to get people to take a step back and see that marriage is so much more than that.

Quest: We also have to address the fact that when it comes to homosexuality, we're having an "apples and oranges" argument. The Religious Right has a view of homosexuality that is completely different than that of the scientific community.

Foreman: Yes, but at a certain point, you just have to draw the line. We have to say "You're asking gay people to do something that you would never ask any other minority to do in this day and age. You're asking gay people to go out and introduce ourselves as okay. We need to show scientific data we're okay, or we pay our taxes, mow our lawns, etc."

We have to draw the line and say "Homophobia is a straight person's problem. I don't have to convince you that I pay my taxes. You wouldn't ask an African American family to go introduce themselves to everyone in the neighborhood to let them know you're good

guys." Racism is wrong.

In many ways our community has shied away from taking that head on: Homophobia is wrong. We have to stop taking this on as our burden. They're wrong. It's a moral issue, not an educational issue. We have to say "you are immoral, you are unjust, you are WRONG!"

There are people in our community that say "if only if we could shove the leather people in the background, and drag queens in the background and blah blah blah in the background, then they would just see us as just like they are" are sorely mistaken. They hate us because of what we do sexually. Period. If they're going to hate you, they're going to hate you. We have to get way from that and just say "homophobia is wrong."

Quest: Any last words?

Foreman: I'm very impressed by the lobby day turnout. I really hope that in Wisconsin we can dig in and raise the money needed to defeat this amendment.



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