

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



The Wisconsin Light

UWM Sponsors AIDS Awareness Day Feb. 7th

[Milwaukee]- The 10% Society at UW-M is sponsoring an AIDS Awareness Day on Wednesday, February 7, 1990 at the UW-M Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. The day's workshops will be presented primarily by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and other human services agencies from the Milwaukee area.

Activities will include lectures, discussions, booths, films and a play. All events are FREE and open to the public. For more information, call the 10% Society at (414) 229-6555.

58 Senators Now Support Hate Crimes Bill

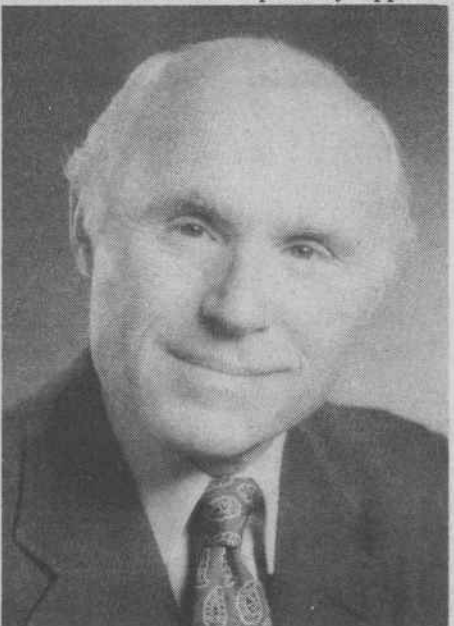
[Washington, D.C.]- Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) has signed on as cosponsor of the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act, bringing the total number of supporters of the bill to 58 in the U.S. Senate.

According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Herb Kohl (D-WI) is also one of the cosponsors of the bill. Robert Kasten (R-WI) is not listed as a cosponsor. Kasten has voted against Gay/Lesbian issues 75% of the time in the 101st Congress according to NGLTF figures.

"Dole's support is an important step forward for the Hate Crimes bill," said Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF's legislative director. "As a leader of Republicans in the Senate, he carries formidable power for moving legislation. His sponsorship sends a clear message that this law has strong bipartisan support."

Jude, who has lobbied extensively on the bill since its original introduction in the previous Congress, said the goal is to reach 60 cosponsors or more.

Sixty supporters equals "cloture" in the Senate, which means, said Jude, "we would have enough votes to block an anti-Gay filibuster by Senator Jesse Helms." Helms has repeatedly opposed



SENATOR HERB KOHL

the bill and may try to filibuster, or block, the legislation from moving to a vote.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act directs the U.S. Department of Justice to compile and publish data on crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity. The bill has garnered additional attention on Capitol Hill in the past weeks after recent mail bombings against Black civil rights figures and judges.

NGLTF has identified the bill as a top legislative priority and an important first step in stemming the alarming pervasiveness of "Gay bashing" and other crimes of prejudice. The House passed the bill last June by a vote of 368 to 47.

Milwaukee ACT-UP Marches in Georgia to Protest Sodomy Laws



Nine Milwaukee ACT-UP members and friends journeyed to Atlanta, Georgia Jan. 9 to protest the State's sodomy laws and demonstrate in the streets.

Jesse Helms Blasts Gays As He Announces Candidacy for 4th Term

[Washington, D.C.]- U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), who in the closing days of the last session of Congress single-handedly blocked Senate action to provide federal funds for low income People with AIDS in need of AZT, announced his candidacy for a fourth term in the U.S. Senate on Saturday, January 13, 1990. Lashing out against his favorite targets, Helms declared that "homosexuals and lesbians (are) disgusting people, marching in our street demanding all sorts of things, including the right to marry each other."

Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest Lesbian and Gay political organization, responded with a direct challenge to Helms. "Any politician who categorizes millions of Americans — people who pay their taxes, serve their country, build communities, lead productive lives in every work setting in the United States — as 'disgusting' is unfit for public office," McFeeley stated.

Support Group For Young Women Announced

[Milwaukee]- A support and discussion group for young women 17-20 years-old who are exploring their sexual identity or who are in the process of coming out is being sponsored by the Counseling Center of Milwaukee.

The group, called "Insight", is a joint venture of the Women's Support Group Program and the Prevention/Education Project.

Insight will provide a supportive place in which to discuss topics like self-esteem, family and school life, coming out, sexuality, relationships and life planning. The myths and realities of Lesbian life will be explored and sessions will be geared to the particular needs and concerns of the women attending.

Participants are assured of confidentiality and an understanding environment in which to work out their feelings. Young women interested in Insight can call 271-2565 and ask for Kathy Herbst or Cheryl Orgas. Concerned friends who may know women in need of this kind of support are encouraged to pass this phone number on to them.

The specific times and meeting dates of Insight will be arranged when the first group is established.

"The U.S. Senate is an honorable institution reserved for people who respect and desire to help all Americans and should not be occupied by haters. I am sure the voters of North Carolina will agree," McFeeley said.

"Senator Helms' bigotry has no place in the federal government, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund will continue to oppose his extremist rhetoric whenever it rears its ugly head," McFeeley stated.

Helms, who made his announcement

TURN TO HELMS, PAGE 11

Government Must Change AIDS Definition

By Doug Radtke

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines AIDS on the basis of the presence of specific opportunistic diseases which are traditionally exhibited by the high-risk groups; namely Gay white males and IV drug users. These diseases are Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) and Pneumocystis Carini Pneumonia (PCP).

The problem is that not all people who are HIV+ or who have ARC develop KS or PCP even though they often become very sick, sometimes to the point of death.

This is especially true of women and people of color.

Our demonstration at the CDC was to raise three issues: since statistics show that the "risk groups" are shifting, it makes no sense to continue to define AIDS by using the old risk groups as a marker.

Secondly, as the onset of AIDS has gone into different factions of society, the CDC must begin tracking new behaviors as probable modes of transmission, such as cunnilingus.

Thirdly, that not only is it dangerous to claim that the number of AIDS cases is going to be less than projected, it is tantamount to being a party to the killing of these women, children and people of color who could not get adequate information and health care because they were not defined and counted as AIDS patients by the CDC.

Until the CDC changes its definition of AIDS to include the presence of other AIDS related diseases and allow a T-Cell count of less than 200 as being indicative of AIDS, it will continue to have blood on its hands.

By Doug Radtke

[Atlanta, GA]- On January 8, 1990, people lined the streets of Atlanta, Georgia to watch, point, laugh and jeer as 300 AIDS activists from across the country marched to protest the Georgia sodomy law. The following day, over 200 of the same activists staged civil disobedience actions in front of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to protest that Federal agency's unrealistic and dangerously limited definition of AIDS.

For those who participated in these events, there was a great deal of passion, excitement, uncertainty, laughter, anger, pain, time, money, work and camaraderie which forged the memorable experience which our two days in Atlanta encompassed.

As for myself, as one of the nine members and friends of Milwaukee's ACT-UP chapter who made the thirteen hour journey, my experience has left me a changed person. It is my belief that in some small way, acts of civil disobedience will always tend to liberate the souls of those who are non-violently struggling for justice. And justice for all people is exactly what the demonstrations in Atlanta were all about.

In order of their happening, there was the "Sodomites In Action" demonstration.

"Suck my dick, lick my clit, the sodomy laws are full of shit." "You say sodomy, we say fabulous!" "Your gloves don't match your shoes, they'll see on the evening news." (a reference to the fact that the Atlanta and DeKalb police wore latex gloves during our protests)

These are just a few of the obnoxious and witty chants we shouted as we marched and picketed in front of the State Capitol building in downtown Atlanta.

The focus of this demonstration can be summed up by the following: "If the government has seen fit to force itself into the privacy of our bedrooms, let's take our bedrooms to the government."

We carried a brass bed with two blow-up dummies in various sodomizing positions down the streets and up the steps of the capitol building. We picketed. We listened as speakers from many groups spoke about the absolute necessity of repealing this law. We calmly tried to interest and involve those passers-by whom the police would have directed away from us and our cause.

And 63 of us got arrested for running into the streets to stop traffic while others pantomimed the "sodomical acts" for which people are being criminalized.

At the second demonstration, things were different. In front of the CDC we chanted:

"Cunnilingus counts; the CDC doesn't." and "Act up, Fight back, Fight AIDS," among other things.

The CDC protest was more agitated than the one before at the capitol. For one thing, the CDC demo was more relevant to all of our lives. At the capitol, those of us from out of state lent support, but it was not directly our cause. At the CDC, everyone there had been directly affected by AIDS and the CDC's handling of it.

For another, at CDC the we had no idea how the police were going to react.

Before the Capitol demo, leaders had discussed with the Atlanta police what was permissible and what was not. This had not been done with the DeKalb police.

We had been warned that obstruction of a public highway was an offense which carried a heavy fine and possible jail sentence and yet, when we moved into the street, the police did nothing. Neither was anything done when ACT-UP chapters formed a sit-in line across the highway. The police simply closed off that stretch of road.

TURN TO ACT-UP, PAGE 11

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

N.Y. May Limit Definition of Family

[Albany, NY]- Republican State Senator John Marchi has introduced a proposal which will exclude Gay couples from the term "family" in the New York state constitution. Marchi's proposal defines family as a male husband and female wife joined by legal marriage, their children and in-laws.

If successful, his amendment would nullify the landmark decision made by the New York Court of Appeals last year when it expanded the definition of family to include a long-term Gay partner in an eviction case.

Comedian Barr Apologies to Gays

Los Angeles, CA]- After pressure from Gay and Lesbian groups, comedian Roseanne Barr has apologized for a remark in which she used the word "faggy." Barr said, "I will continue to work against racism, sexism, classism and homophobia. I will add faggy to my list of unsayable, hateful words."

In discussing her film, *She-Devil* with the *Washington Post* in December, Barr commented that "Our movie is not like *Steel Magnolias*. That was a faggy movie where all the women were men..."

Barr, whose sister is a Lesbian, has previously spoken positively about Gay people and many feminist issues. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is seeking further restitution from Barr in the form of a public service ad that condemns homophobia and anti-Gay violence.

Gay Man Named Homecoming King

[Santa Ana, CA]- Link Schrader, a founder of the Gay/Lesbian group at Pancho Santiago College, was the first openly Gay man to reign over the school's homecoming festivities last fall.

The college is located in conservative Orange County where religious groups worked to revoke permits for the area's first Gay/Lesbian Pride celebration in 1989.

Said Homecoming King Schrader, "With all the negative stuff going on, homecoming was just a really neat experience."

Marine Corps Agrees Trial Is Unfair

[Washington, D.C.]- According to the *Washington Blade*, the United States Marine Corps has conceded that Corporal Barbara Baum, court-martialed in 1988 on charges of sodomy and "indecent acts with another woman," did not receive a fair trial.

Baum was convicted, demoted to private, served six months in military prisons and was dishonorably discharged. She was one of three women court-martialed and at least fourteen women discharged for alleged homosexuality during the witchhunts at Parris Island in 1988.

Baum's attorneys argued in their appeal that two of the seven judges that presided over her court-martial had prior knowledge of the case which prevented them from rendering an impartial verdict. One of the judges had even made derogatory remarks about Lesbians in public.

The Court of Military Review agreed and sent Baum's case back to Parris Island for a rehearing.

Philadelphia TV Rejects Whitman Ad

[Philadelphia, PA]- Philadelphia Gay News reports that a 30 second ad featuring a young man who has just discovered Walt Whitman's homosexuality and wonders why he wasn't told about it in school, has been rejected for airplay on local TV stations.

The ad was produced by Philadelphia's Lesbian and Gay Task Force as part of its on-going public service announcement campaign. Eight of ten such spots have been televised in recent years.

The Whitman ad was rejected for its alleged advocacy of homosexuality and because of potential lawsuits for slander.

A spokesman for the Task Force said, "We don't consider calling Walt Whitman a homosexual to be slander."

Lesbian Denied Joint Custody Rights

[Los Angeles, CA]- On December 15, 1989, a Superior Court Judge ruled against Terry Sabol, a Lesbian seeking joint custody and visitation rights to a child born through artificial insemination to her former lover. It was apparently the first such custody fight to be litigated between two Lesbians.

The child was conceived through sperm donated by Sabol's brother and was born in December, 1986. When the women's relationship broke up in 1988, the mother denied Sabol visitation rights and participation in decisions affecting the child. Sabol's attorney argued that she was entitled to parental rights, but Judge Dana Henry disagreed.

Judge Henry said, "This is a case dealing with issues which traverse uncharted legal waters. It is absolutely imperative that the legislature re-examine its laws in order to deal with the increasing numbers of children of homosexual couples."

Sabol will appeal the decision. Another option is for her brother to file a paternity suit to gain parental rights to the child. Sabol is technically the child's aunt.

Is "Saturday Night Live" Anti-Gay?

[New York, NY]- "Wayne's World" is a recurring skit on NBC's *Saturday Night Live* about Wayne (written and played by Michael Myers), a teenager who runs his own public access cable show. Last season several of these skits used the word "fag" as an insult. This season, "homo" is the epithet of choice.

Another recent skit on SNL was called "The Big Bitch Bulldyke Breakout" in which Zsa Zsa Gabor and Leona Helmsley break out of jail to escape beatings by an overweight Lesbian.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation wants to know if SNL doesn't use words like "nigger," "kike" and "spic," why "fag", "dyke" and "homo" are alright?

Send your opinions to Lorne Michaels, Executive Producer, *Saturday Night Live*, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112. Contact writer Michael Myers at the same address.

Fundamentalists Lose School Battle

[Oak Park, IL]- Following a seven month battle with fundamentalists, the Oak Park-River Forest High School Board has voted unanimously to include "sexual orientation" in its Human Dignity and Diversity policy. Rex Wockner reports that the Christians blanketed the city with anti-Gay literature and made dire warnings about Gay teachers and curricula infiltrating the schools.

Local Gay leaders credited the controversy with raising community awareness of sexual orientation to an all-time high. Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said: "Whenever we win in the suburbs, we know we are making formidable progress. It's gratifying to know that to some degree the right wing religious arch-conservatives sealed their own fate on this. People will respond negatively to hate mail because they believe in the truth."

News Briefs are compiled by Jamakaya from mainstream newspapers and wire services, organizational press releases and Gay and Lesbian papers from across the US.



About town: MAP director, Doug Nelson and Dr. Karen Lamb stopped in This Is It one evening and had an enjoyable visit with owner Joe Brehm.

Gay Priest Ordained by Episcopalians

[New York, NY]- Integrity, the nationwide ministry of and to the Lesbian and Gay community in the Episcopal Church, applauded the ordination of the Rev. Robert Williams on Sat., Dec. 16, 1989, at All Saints Church, Hoboken, NJ. Fr. Williams, 34, is a long-time member of Integrity.

Fr. Williams' ordination is only the latest in a long series of ordinations of self-affirming, non-celibate Lesbians and Gays in the Episcopal Church since 1977. In January of that year, the Rev. Ellen M. Barrett, an open Lesbian and first co-president of Integrity, was ordained a priest by the Bishop of New York, the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr.

Since then, on an average of "at least five open, non-celibate Lesbians or Gays have been ordained every year in dioceses

from coast to coast," said Integrity's President Kim Byham.

Integrity was founded in 1974 in rural Georgia by Dr. Louie Crew. The organization has more than 50 chapters in the U.S. with a combined membership of about 1500.

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Jerry Johnson

Rights, Violence Issues Top Survey Of Concerns for the Decade Ahead

[Milwaukee]- Over 100 Lesbians and Gay men were randomly surveyed during October, 1989 to determine what they felt were the top two issues and concerns for the '90's.

The poll was taken by Doug Garfield and Chris Baster for Lambda Rights Network (LRN).

People surveyed were not given any choices, but were asked to chose two areas they felt were of most concern to them. 75% of all respondents identified expansion of Gay/Lesbian rights as the most important issue of the '90's.

On the subject of Gay/Lesbian rights, a sampling of comments included:

"We must get beyond the theory of rights, especially in the work place. We must make sure that employers KNOW that it is illegal to discriminate."

"Shouldn't we have the same rights as other people? It doesn't seem like many people really understand that."

Our top agenda items for this decade should be passing Domestic Partner's legislation and getting people out of the closet!"

"We must encourage our spokespersons to become even more

assertive and we must ACTIVELY support them."

40% of respondents expressed major fears about the rising anti-Gay/Lesbian violence (verbal, physical and psychological). Some noted the LRN Hate/Violence Crime Project and expressed hope that it would continue to document these crimes. Some expressed the need for a better relationship with all police.

35% of respondents strongly stated that they believed there was a need for better cooperation between Lesbians and Gay men and people of color so that as one person said, "We can show that we are truly a united community."

33% of respondents believed that one of the greatest problems that we have as a community is the level of fear and the resulting closetedness so many maintain.

Other issues of importance included: learning more about our own spirituality and ways to confront the hypocrisy in most mainstream religions, dealing with the media, and the role of a serious education program that would deal honestly with Gay/Lesbian issues at every level of society.

HUD Chiefs Shun Family Leave Provisions in Labor Contract

[Washington, D.C.]- The two top officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently denounced a labor contract that would extend domestic partnership benefits to the federal agency's Gay and Lesbian employees.

Jack Kemp, Secretary of HUD, along with Under Secretary Alfred A. DelliBovi, claimed the contract with the HUD employee union illegally "redefines the family." The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has sharply criticized the HUD officials and has sent a strongly worded letter to DelliBovi urging him to reconsider his position.

The controversy was sparked by a clause in the contract of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). AFGE's proposed definition of "family" would provide Lesbian and Gay employees with familial leave benefits identical to the privileges already offered heterosexual workers.

Ivy Young, director of NGLTF's

Families Project pointed out in her letter to DelliBovi that non-traditional relationships are already recognized by the regulations of other government entities, including the Office of Personnel Management. Last year, the New York State Court of Appeals in a housing case ruled that the definition of a family member "...should not rest on a fictitious legal distinction or genetic history, but instead should find its foundation in the reality of family life."

NGLTF is tracking domestic partnership issues in federal, state and local agencies as part of its Families Project.

National Family Registry Program Begins

[Washington, D.C.]- The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) is developing a nationwide family registry program to build grassroots support for the concept of Lesbian and Gay families.

"We can no longer wait for Lesbians and Gay men in long-term loving relationships to be validated and acknowledged by this country's legislative and political bodies," said HRCF Director Tim McFeeley. "The Lesbian and Gay community is going to have to lay the groundwork first."

The registry will be maintained by HRCF in Washington, D.C.

"Self-identified Lesbian and Gay families — defined broadly as our most important close relationships — can register with the National Family Registry," said Kathleen Stoll, Director of HRCF's Lesbian Issues and Outreach Project.

The primary goal of the registry will be as an educational tool to increase the visibility of Lesbian and Gay families and to recapture the term "family" from the right wing. The registry will also provide an alternative "institution" to conventional marriages, offering recognition and support for relationships that are forged within the Lesbian and Gay communities.


HRCF hopes to inaugurate the registry on Valentine's Day. Gays and Lesbians who want to participate should contact Stoll at (202) 628-4160.

Bon Jovi Apologizes For Remarks

[Dublin, Ireland]- A row over anti-Gay comments made in Dublin by the American heavy metal band Bon Jovi ended when their lead singer apologized to the Gay community in Ireland for his remarks. Ireland's National Gay Federation (NGF) had asked police to investigate reports of the remarks, saying they appeared to be an offence under anti-hate legislation passed in 1989. The comments were made by group member Jon Bon Jovi at a concert in Dublin on January 7, 1990, before a crowd of some 8,000 people.

The remarks were reported to have included reference to a particular American football team as being "a bunch of f---ing faggots."

Following extensive media coverage of NGF's anger, Jon Bon Jovi issued a statement saying he felt he owed NGF an apology. He said he had never intended to arouse any hatred or animosity towards the community. He further explained that his remarks had been in the context of hearing of his favorite football team, the New York Giants, losing to the Los Angeles Rams.



PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS OF WISCONSIN

The PLWA Coalition is an organization of people living with AIDS which has taken up the mission of advocacy on AIDS related issues. We are attempting to contact people living with AIDS or who are HIV positive to develop an agenda of their needs. Some of the issues include: Political Action, Medical Concerns, Social Issues, and Legal Concerns.

Please contact us at (414) 273-2437 and ask to speak to a coalition member.

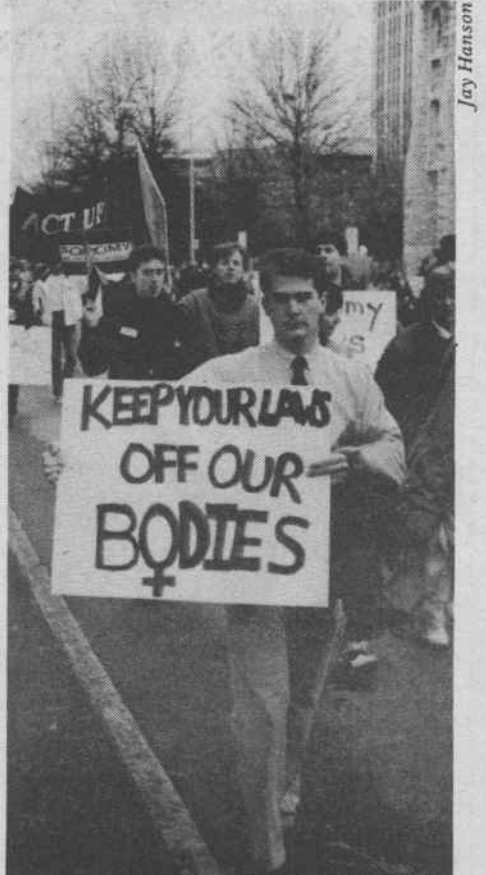
AIDS Among Blacks Shows Big Increase

[Los Angeles, CA]- AIDS in the United States is disproportionately affecting the Black community, particularly among Black Gay men. Nearly 36% of all newly reported AIDS cases in the country occurs in the Black population. This indicates that successful education and prevention programs are not reaching Black Gay and bisexual men.

BLACK C.A.R.E. (Community AIDS Research and Education) Project is committed to the fight against AIDS in the Black community.

BLACK C.A.R.E. is gathering information directly from the community through a national, anonymous survey, the "Black Men's Health Survey", of Black Gay and bisexual men or any Black man who has had sex with men. BLACK C.A.R.E. is asking for support.

Any Black man who is Gay, bisexual or who has had sex with a man since 1977 may write for a copy of the survey at BLACK C.A.R.E. Project, Dr. Vickie M. Mays, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563 or they can call and leave their name and address. (213) 206-5159. The number is totally confidential. A friend can also request that the survey be sent to them to hand on.



Milwaukee ACT-UP demonstrated in Atlanta streets on Jan. 9 protesting Georgia's sodomy laws.

MAP Gains 60 New Volunteers; Seeks 140 More

[Milwaukee]- In a front-page story in the last issue of *Light*, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) sent out a call for badly needed volunteers.

In a follow-up to that story, MAP is pleased to report that since that issue, 60 new volunteers have signed up for work with clients.

"We are thrilled with the response from the Gay/Lesbian community to our plea for volunteer help," said Doug Nelson, executive director of MAP.

Nelson went on to say that, "Having received 60 requests for placement for volunteer training within 10 days of publication of *Light*, was a greater

response than we expected." He spoke glowingly of the many people, young and old, from all walks of life who had called and said, "Well, I guess it's about time I did something."

Nelson continued, praising the Lesbian/Gay community saying, "It (the response) is truly a testament to the on-going profound commitment of Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian community to help meet the challenge of AIDS."

Nelson said that MAP's ultimate goal is 200 volunteers and each one is badly needed. As one person who works at MAP said, "You wouldn't know it until you work here, but we're (MAP) stretched tight."

With the increased numbers of volunteers, Nelson said, combined with a new centralized case management system, MAP is effectively preparing itself for the work of the next 5-10 years.

Please keep in mind, volunteers are still badly needed. If you can help Please call MAP and offer your hand. The number is 273-1991.

New Bar Hosts Dairy Queens Fundraiser

[Madison]- On Wednesday, February 7, Madison's New Bar will sponsor a Sport Video Extravaganza Benefit night. The proceeds from the door will go to the "Dairy Queens," a Madison-based women's soccer team, to help finance their August trip to the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver, B.C.

The videos, which have been donated by Four Star Fiction and Video, will show highlights of past Gay Games and of women's body building.

The Queens invite all friends and supporters for a night out of sport and dance! The Queens have received a non-profit status and direct, tax deductible contributions should be made out to the "Dairy Queens" Soccer Team and sent to Teresa Santulli, 953 Lake Court, Madison, WI 53715.

COME UP AND SKI US!

Northland House, your bed-and-breakfast second home in the great north woods announces the opening of Northstar House for group outings, meetings and retreats.

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Rona's Final Annual 29th BIRTHDAY BASH!

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Showtime 10:30 P.M.
Saturday, February 3
Coming February 4—Tommi and Nannette 9 P.M.




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

The Wisconsin Light



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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday-9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
24-hour recording

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First-class subscription rate is \$30.00 for one year (25 issues).
Third-class subscription rate is \$18.00 for one year (25 issues).
Foreign subscription rates available upon request.

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EDITORIAL

Equal Rights for All Must Be Goal For All In Wisconsin

The time is right and has come for the next step in the ongoing movement toward equal rights for all in Wisconsin: the enactment on the state level of domestic partners legislation.

Such a law would apply to all those couples partnered in a committed, life relationship regardless of whether they are heterosexual, Lesbian or Gay and willing to declare that commitment to properly constituted state authority. After that, the couple would receive all the legal rights and benefits which now go only to heterosexual married couples.

The rights and benefits currently enjoyed by heterosexual married couples would not, of course, be affected or infringed.

We believe that a domestic partners law must not be an act of one city or another. The arena is too small. Domestic partners should and must be a function of the state even as traditional marriage of heterosexuals is a state function-- despite its often religious aspects. (The authority of any clergy person to perform marriages is conferred by the state.)

We fully realize that the road to a viable domestic partners bill is a long one. It is not something of this session of the legislature or, perhaps, even the next. Therefore:

we would urge State legislative leaders, particularly State Rep David Clarenbach (D-Mad.) to form a task force/investigative group with all deliberate speed. The group should be composed of prominent, informed and interested people and should begin the process of study leading to the development of such a bill.

Wisconsin Light looks upon the formation and ultimate passage of a domestic partners bill as one of its chief goals for the 1990's. It is our position that the rights and benefits afforded by this or any other state to one group, must and should be afforded to all.

Note: The above editorial is the beginning of a series of editorials, articles and feature stories dealing with and promoting domestic partners legislation.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is in the nature of an editorial. The only reason it isn't one is because there's a rule (so I've been told) that says in an editorial I can't use the personal pronoun — and god help me, it would bother me all to pieces if I broke any rules. So this is not an editorial — except it's written by an editor.

My reason for writing is to speak in high praise of one of Light's strongest supporters, Jamakaya.

I don't admire many people. That's well known. And I give my respect to even fewer. But Jamakaya has both of them — and with them, my hearty congratulations for her winning LRN's Cream City Brick Pace Setter Award for 1989.

The award was appropriately given. Jamakaya is and has been a pace setter in Milwaukee as a proudly open Lesbian and feminist activist for fifteen years; a dedication that began as a student in the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). After that, there was UW-Milwaukee where she organized women's concerts, lectures and health seminars through the Feminist Center and Gay Community on that campus.

Somewhere in all this, she found time to be the editor and publisher of **AMAZON: Milwaukee's Feminist Press** (The gods know, I understand what an onerous task that is!).

She served also as a counselor on the Women's Crisis Line, participated in the first Take Back the Night demonstrations and worked as office manager for the Women's Coalition.

In 1980, in conjunction with the Task Force on Battered Women, she pioneered a support group for battered Lesbians called "SafeSpace"; the first of its kind in the country.

In the meantime, she took an M.A. in History and won the A.T. Brown Award for Distinguished Writing and Research for her work in the history of the local women's movement.

Currently, she lectures on the History of Feminism and encourages students and friends to utilize her collection on women's history. For the last two years, she has been Director of the Women's Alternative Health Clinic, wrote a regular column for the **Hag Rag** and continues as a reporter and columnist for this paper.

Now that's the bare-bones chronicle, as they say, but let me add one thing. The word "hag" comes from the Greek word meaning "saint" and that's what she is to this editor; a woman of a curious and rare combination of ideals and steady wisdom that her like is hardly found.

Heartiest Congratulations, Jamakaya, on recognition well deserved.

A New Year's Diary

By Barb Coyle

The holiday season is over... time to put away the wrapping paper and get out the Burpee Seed Catalogue. We need something to get us through the rest of the Winter, and it may just be the Burpee Seed Company and their pictures of daffodils.

I was on a bus last week in fifteen below weather, sitting there staring at the creatures sharing public transportation with me. Anyone from a different planet, coming to Milwaukee in January would think that we had all have a neck fetish. There we all were, bundled up in scarves and turtle-necks, disguised so that even our ex-lovers couldn't recognize us.

Oh, I should tell you. That's me in the blue plaid scarf, covered by the red wool scarf with the brown, knitted six footer on top of that. Spring, where are you now?

New Year's is the time when we madly resolve to become new and improved and really different from our old, inferior, economy-sized selves.

But, look, the world needs another "new, improved" brand of something like it needs another toxic waste dump. So c'mon. We don't need to be so hard on the person we are now. Go gentle on those New Year's resolutions and keep looking at the love part inside with a major resolve to love from the inside, out.

Another process common to this season is to reflect on where we have been. For some of us, that means looking at relationships that are over and how that letting go and all the changes feel right now.

It's like looking at a stock market

report, a sort of personal Dow-Jones. The Barb Coyle Industrial Average gained five points in a rally after writing her journal. Investors are hopeful that she has become new and improved and really different...zoops! It's a process, not a finished product, right? Right? Right.

This New Year's finds me with an expanded family. I'm up fifteen gerbils from my starter pair of last May. I should have gotten Lesbian gerbils. I just figured that out. So, I'm looking to pawn off 13 gerbils to all my closest friends... all of whom own cats. Who do you know wants a free gerbil... or two? They're free. Should I mention the ten dollar cage, the eight dollar cage cover, the six dollar water bottle, the four dollar bowl... and food... and bedding?

Presto! Instant, free gerbils...zto good, cat-free homes, of course.

I'm heading for San Francisco, mecca of the Gay world, in four days. If there is an earthquake, Wisconsin Light has instructed me to head directly to a fax machine before I do anything else, report the news... and then go duck falling bricks.

Hopefully, since this will be my first visit to the city as a dyke, I will be able to compare some Gay/Lesbian travel guides for you.

Not to worry about the rattling earth. I am wonderfully cosmopolitan... you know, frequent jaunts about the world, hither and yon.

So, if you're at the airport, I'll be the one with matching carry-on bags left over from Gimbel's. You may not be able to tell if I'm a Lesbian, but you'll sure know I'm from Milwaukee.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

I thought you might be interested in a broadcast I heard on my shortwave today on radio station WMLK.

This station broadcasts religious programming of the Assemblies of Yahweh sect, a group which seems to be very far outside the American mainstream.

The broadcast in question took place at 11:00 a.m. CST. It began by saying they were going to reveal something "shocking" which was a "sad commentary on our times." It told how schools in England used a children's book about a little girl who lived with her father and her father's "homosexual" lover. It expressed the concern that this book might give children the impression that being Gay was "normal." The program may well have gone on from that into even worse anti-Gay material, but I don't know as I turned the radio off in disgust at that point.

What is most distressing about this is that it was broadcast, not on a local AM station in the Bible belt, but on a shortwave radio broadcast aimed at Europe and the Middle East, and possibly heard in Africa and Latin America as well. Listeners abroad will most likely assume all American religious groups are anti-Gay bigots.

I took action by writing a letter to WMLK, informing how incompatible their attitude is with belief in a loving Heavenly Father. I also wrote a very to-the-point letter to the FCC explaining my view that this anti-Gay sermonizing is an obscenity which is out of touch with American mainstream thought.

Anyone who is similarly offended can write to WMLK at the following address: WMLK, Bethel, PA 19507. The FCC's address is: FCC, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Any shortwave listeners who want to monitor WMLK to document future offences, WMLK broadcasts on 9465 kHz from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. EST (0400-0700 GMT).

I hope many people start to take action against this misuse of the radio airwaves to misinform people around the world.

—Nissa Annakindt
Daggett, MI

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Thanks for supporting
your community.

A Tribute to Susan and Mary

By Jamakaya

Susan Cook and Mary Shafer are moving out of town. The women's community in Milwaukee will never be the same.

Committed to working for Lesbian and Gay rights and party animals to boot, Susan and Mary have played a significant role in the political and social life of our community. Filling the gap left by their departure is going to be a hell of a job.

I first met Sue and Mary at Grapevine meetings in the mid-1980's. Their presence transformed that group. They revived program meetings, initiated the Feminist Kite Fly-Ins, sponsored the baseball team, and infused new energy into the potlucks and Point Beach weekends.

Mary Shafer is a talented artist, a writer, nature lover and all around party gal. Mary frequently provided artwork for the posters which advertised our events and designed beautiful logos for Grapevine, the Women's Clinic, the Lesbian/Gay Pride celebration and many others. Her travelogues for the *Light* are beautifully written evocations of the treasures and pleasures that await us in our own state. And her partying is absolutely legendary!

Mary's indignation has always impressed me. She has a healthy disdain for anything reeking of dogmatism or intolerance, whether in the form of religious bigots and talk show hosts who spread homophobia, or in the form of the Lesbian Police who attempt to regulate our ideas and sexuality. One of her proudest accomplishments was setting up a P.I. (Politically Incorrect) Support Tent at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival!

When she's really indignant, Mary writes long and very articulate letters giving the offending parties what for. These letters have made it into the mainstream press as well as our own publications. Last Summer, she was the subject of WTMJ-TV's series "Gay Life in Milwaukee," in which she came out to the entire city and spoke eloquently of her life as an artist, a struggling entrepreneur and a Lesbian.

Mary hates labels and always denies that she's political. Be methinks the lady doth protest too much; her life speaks louder than her words.

Susan Cook is a naturalist, an environmental educator and teacher who is also making her mark as a wonderful nature writer. She has earned considerable political stripes as the local leader of Gays and Lesbians for Jesse Jackson in 1988, on the Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee in '88 and '89 and, more recently, with the Lesbian Alliance. Her political skills are awesome.

Susan exhibits all the traits of a great leader: energy, commitment, dependability, patience, long-range vision, humor. She was a wonder to behold at political meetings: steady, quiet, watchful, a great listener, and a mediator whose diplomatic skills defused



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

conflict and forged consensus.

I have never met a more focused and productive organizer. Nor have I known anyone, in this faction-ridden community of ours, who is so universally respected.

Who will ever forget Susan, alone onstage prior to Kate Clinton's show last Summer? She was there to promote Pride events, but also informed the audience, in a quavering voice, of the anonymous calls and death threats pouring in to the Pride organizers. That night, as on so many other occasions, her courage, her vulnerability, her leadership inspired us all.

The partnership of Cook and Shafer has been incredibly beneficial for the Milwaukee women's community. They have donated literally thousands of hours of time and thousands of dollars worth of professional services to our organizations and causes.

They bridged many of the divisions within our city and were comfortable working among Lesbian-feminists, women in the bars, our Gay brothers and the leather community. They often opened their home for meetings and encouraged many others to become involved over the years.

Mary Shafer and Susan Cook have also been wonderful friends, always there with a kind gesture or supportive word, sharing their love and friendship as generously as their political skills. The number of people touched by their kindness is surely in the thousands, and there are a lot of us pretty broken up by their pending departure.

Sometimes called the "First Couple of Milwaukee," Mary and Sue's relationship is looked on as a role model by others. A more comfortable, secure, loving and sexy relationship I have never seen. Along with their four-legged buddies, Skip and Casper and Leo, they make up one big, happy all-American family.

Nature lovers that they are, Mary and Sue have wanted to relocate to more rural surroundings for some time. The move also involves an important career advancement for Mary. As much as we'll miss them, we all wish them the best of luck and love and safety in their new life.

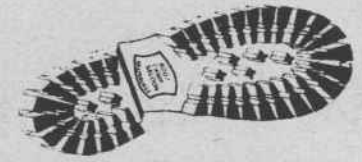
Women here plan on chartering a Lesbo-Mobile for field trips to visit them as often as possible. And Susan and Mary need to know that they will always have a place to stay in Milwaukee — in our homes and in our hearts.

Parents Support Pending Hate Crimes Bill

(Washington, D.C.)- Parents of Gay and Lesbian children throughout the nation have sent more than 1,500 post cards to Capitol Hill in support of the pending Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

The legislation is currently stalled in the Senate, where Jesse Helms (D-NC) is threatening to attach anti-Gay amendments to the bill.

The campaign needs more parents to get involved. Members of the Gay and Lesbian community are urged to have their parents contact Parents FLAG at



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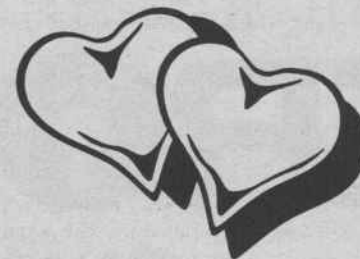
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Sweets, chocolates, other just desserts

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Call MASN for more information, (608) 255-1711

The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) works to assist those affected by AIDS and to provide public education at all levels. The mission of MASN centers on three objectives: to assist people infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in meeting their material, physical, and emotional needs, and to advocate for the protection of their human and civil rights; to develop independent or collaborative educational programs aimed at preventing the transmission of HIV infection — this education is to be targeted at individuals or groups in proportion to their risk of acquiring HIV infection; and to provide service and programs in a manner which respects the gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, diversity, human dignity, right of self-determination, and values of those we serve.

Milwaukee AIDS Project Fighting AIDS through effective service:

Education and Prevention

- AIDSline—the latest information on AIDS
- Library/Resource Center—Wisconsin's comprehensive source for articles, pamphlets, books and videos on AIDS
- AIDS prevention education for people engaging in risk behavior

Life Care Services

- Home care support
- Support groups
- Counseling
- Case management
- Medical, psychological and spiritual referrals
- financial assistance
- housing assistance

If you have questions, concerns, or need assistance, call
Statewide: 1-800-334-AIDS
Milwaukee: 273-AIDS

The Milwaukee AIDS Project
We support learning.
We promote living.



The Light LIVELY ARTS

“Apartment Zero” Is Breathtaking Thriller

The *Seattle Times* called it “a breathtakingly twisted thriller that is close to perfection.”

Jack Sturdy of Florida's *This Week's News* paid it the rare compliment of giving it a four-star rating.

What they're all talking about is *Apartment Zero*, a new cinematic triumph by Skouras Pictures.

The film tells the story of Adrian Leduc (Colin Firth), a nervously repressed cinephile, living in Buenos Aires in an impressive apartment complex in which the neighbors delight in minding everyone else's business.

Overwhelmed by debt, the reclusive, distrusting Adrian is forced to take in a boarder. The young, charming — and very handsome — tenant, Jack Carney (Hart Bochner), can't help but be liked by everyone; he seems to be all things to all people — an expert at finding out what people want and giving it to them.

While Adrian finds himself inextricably drawn into this strange friendship, a string of murders takes place in and around Buenos Aires. A local human rights group theorizes that a former Argentine death squad killer is responsible. Adrian refuses to hear anything about it, taking a “don't involve me” attitude.

But Adrian is already far more involved than he realizes as he discovers that the suspicious Carney may not be who and what he claims. In a shattering climax,

Adrian fights for not only his life — but his very soul.

Apartment Zero will open at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre on January 26 and run to February 8. Show times are 7:00 and 9:30 nightly with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 and 4:30 p.m.

AIDS Poetry Contest Seeks Entries

(Madison)- The Writers' Place is sponsoring “10 Wisconsin Poets Respond to AIDS Contest.” To enter, send 3 separate typewritten poems with no name appearing on them; 1 cover sheet which includes your name, address, phone and the titles of submitted poems in the lower right corner; 1 SASE. Each poem should be no longer than two typewritten pages.

Poems should be a reflection of the poet's response to AIDS. No manuscripts returned.

10 winners will be selected to read with Michael Klein, poet and author of “Poets For Life: 76 Poets Respond to AIDS” (Crown Publishers, 1989), on April 28, 1990.

Send to: The Writers' Place-contest, 122 State St., Madison, WI 53703. The contest is for Wisconsin poets only.



Colin Firth portrays Adrian Le Duc, the proprietor of a repertory cinema in Buenos Aires in the new thriller “Apartment Zero” which opens at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre January 26.

“Homophobia, A Weapon of Sexism” Author to Appear in Madison

(Madison)- Suzanne Pharr, author of *Homophobia, A Weapon of Sexism*, will be in Madison February 2-4, 1990 to present a public lecture on homophobia and two homophobia workshops at UW-Madison. The weekend is being sponsored by Madison Community United and the Wisconsin Community Fund.

Ms. Pharr has been involved with the issues of sexism, racism and homophobia for over 20 years. She has worked

extensively with battered women's shelters and is the former Vice Chair of the Lesbian Task Force of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She currently works with The Women's Project of Little Rock, AR, on projects addressing homophobia, sexism and racism.

Ms. Pharr will be signing copies of her book, *Homophobia, A Weapon of Sexism*, at A Room of One's Own bookstore Friday, February 2 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. That evening she will be giving a public lecture on homophobia from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the UW Memorial Union. The Saturday, Feb. 3 workshop will be open to the public and will discuss the connections between homophobia, racism and sexism. The Sun., Feb. 4 workshop will be limited to Gays and Lesbians and address internalized homophobia. Both workshops will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the UW Memorial Union. Check “Today in the Union” for the room number. All events are free.

Because of the limited number who can be accommodated during the Internalized Homophobia Workshop on Sunday, registrations will be required. Registrations are not required for any of the other events. For information on registration, please contact the United office at (608) 255-8582.

Rona Will Go Around the World Feb. 3

[Milwaukee]- She's about to do it again! Rona will be climbing that throbbing pillar of time once more to celebrate her 29th Birthday.

The big day is Sunday, February 3; the place, Milwaukee's M & M Club; the time, 10:30 p.m. And, of course, my dear, only the immediate world is invited — which is why it's called “Around the World Revue” with Rona (nothing at all to do with how many times the girl's been around herself).

There'll be songs, dances, Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin will be there — J.J. Newmann and Mimi — along with a host of others including the Cream City Chorus's Creamettes.

It's all in a good cause; a benefit for the Cream City Chorus so come and take a twirl around the world with Rona and have yourself a ball (puns deliberate and intended).

Award Winning “Road to Mecca” Opens Feb. 9

(Milwaukee)- The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre will open their third production of the season with “The Road To Mecca” by Athol Fugard, at the Stiemke Theatre in the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Center from February 9 through 25.

The brilliant South African author continues his exploration of personal freedom in this unusual work about an older woman's conflict with the prejudices against age and individuality in a small Afrikaan village.

“Mecca” was named as one of the best plays of the decade by *Time Magazine*. “I first saw the play in London at the National Theatre” says artistic director Montgomery Davis “and was deeply moved by it. To watch a dignified English audience leave the theatre in floods of tears was quite something. Seeing it again in New York, I was taken with it even more, so it was worth the wait to get the rights for it.”

For ticket information, please call (414) 224-9490. Senior and student rates are available.

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“A breathtakingly twisted thriller that is close to perfection!”

The most enthralling new movie to come out since ‘Blue Velvet.’”

—John Hartl, SEATTLE TIMES

“A dazzling mix of mirth and menace.”

‘Apartment Zero’ is that rare find: a thriller that plumbs the violence of the mind.”

—Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

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Celebrated Pianist Feinstein To Perform, Sing in Benefit Concert

[Milwaukee]- Michael Feinstein has been described as "the brightest young male star on the national cabaret circuit, a pianist and singer who not only understands the spirit of classic pop, but, according to *Time Magazine*, "makes the songs sound as if they were being sung for the first time."

Feinstein who reputedly is openly Gay, will be appearing in Milwaukee on February 13, 1990 in the Uihlein Hall of the Performing Arts Center in a benefit performance for the Wisconsin AIDS Fund (not affiliated with MAP).

Feinstein's performance is a love affair with his music; the wonderful melodies from Broadway shows (he has been called "The glory of Broadway at its best"); the dusky, haunting music of George Gershwin and songs made famous by the likes of Bing Crosby, Al Jolson and Rosemary Clooney.

A self-taught pianist who has been playing since he was 5, and much of his youth was spent collecting old 78 RPM records. He amassed some 6,000 of them and almost as much sheet music. He had few friends beyond the music that he loved; the music that "touched me in a way no other music had," Feinstein says. "These are still the only tunes that send my toes to tapping."

It is this enthusiasm, the stars-in-his-eyes innocence and awe that he is having far too much fun that attracts audiences to him on an SRO basis no matter where in America or Europe he goes. His music is magic. It is incredibly sweet. In sort, S'wonderful.

His appearance adds to the charm of his performance. A languidly handsome young man with slick, dark hair and soft "bedroom" eyes, he is a physical throwback to some of the matinee idols of the 1930's and '40's. But there is besides, the boyish innocence and intensity of a Sal Mineo as he sings his songs with simplicity and the personal urgency of a vulnerable young prodigy obsessed with his music.

"Music is my best friend," he says. "...a part of me. Maybe, in the end,



Roddy McDowall

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

you've got to be your own best friend."

Feinstein will be appearing in concert at Uihlein Hall at the PAC on February 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$50 and are available at the PAC Box Office (call (414) 273-7206) and all Ticketron outlets.

Blooming Idiot Opens Jan. 31

[Milwaukee]- On January 31, Tim Hancock, Mr. Vantastic, becomes "The Blooming Idiot."

To be more precise, "The Blooming Idiot of Foliage Square" which is the name of his new florist shop located at 2644 S. KK in Milwaukee. The shop, as Tim says, is the realization of a 35-year dream.

And all just in time for Valentine's Day, the biggest day of a florist's year.

According to Tim, on that day alone, he will go through some 1200 roses, 500 carnations, plus other flowers and boxes of greens, not to mention the balloons of every size, shape and variety.

There will be a Grand Opening in March with lots of pizzazz, so watch for it.

Wisconsin Senator McCarthy Comes Alive on Repertory Stage

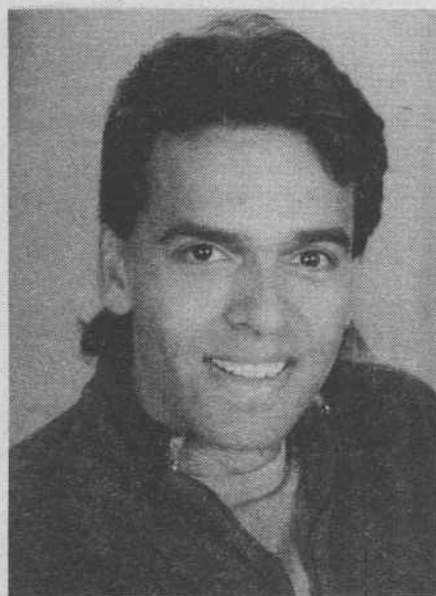
[Milwaukee]- "McCarthy by Jeff Goldsmith is a fast-paced historical drama about Joe McCarthy, the junior senator from Wisconsin whose ill-founded scare tactics against alleged Communists, Gays and other, so-called "subversives" grew to legendary proportions, ruined hundreds of lives and destroyed countless reputations.

Frank Condon, who directed the original production of "McCarthy" at L.A.'s Odyssey Theatre, directs this powerful drama which opened at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater on January 14 and will run through February 18.

McCarthy, a rabid homophobe, equated homosexuality with treason and told the Senate that the Soviet Union was in the hands of a Communist/Gay cabal which he called 'The Hominturn.' He, along with Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada, supported the establishment of internment camps for "Communists, homosexuals and other traitors."

With interesting irony, Roy Cohen and David Shine, two of McCarthy's chief aids, as historians generally recognize now, were themselves Gay and that McCarthy was fully aware of it. Many historians also maintain that there is sufficient evidence to support a case for McCarthy's being at least bisexual.

The cast includes veteran Rep actors



RIC OQUITA

Kenneth Albers, Tom Blair and Ric Oquita.

Talkbacks will take place on February 1, 8 and 15 at 8:00 p.m. There will be an interpreted performance for the hearing-impaired on Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$4-\$18. For reservations call the MRT Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

ACLU Historian To Sign Book At Schwartz Bookshop Feb. 17

[Milwaukee]- The Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops welcome historian and author Samuel Walker who will give a short presentation and sign his new book *In Defense of American Liberties: A History of the ACLU*, the organization's first comprehensive history.

In his book, Walker recounts the ACLU's stormy history since its founding in 1920 and explores its involvement in some of the most famous cases in American History, from the Scopes "Monkey Trial" to the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II, from the Cold War anti-Communist witch-hunts to the civil rights movement.

Walker also deals candidly with the ACLU's less praiseworthy episodes and dissects the organization's constant struggle to define the proper scope of civil liberties, revealing facts that will surprise even ACLU members.

Twenty percent of the proceeds from the signing will be contributed to the Milwaukee chapter of the ACLU.

The signing will take place at the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, 209 E. Wisconsin Ave. on Saturday, February 17 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. There is plenty of parking available and refreshments will be served.

WIN TWO VIP \$35 TICKETS TO Michael Feinstein's Feb. 13 Concert at Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center
In 250 words or less write on the topic:
"How Has AIDS Affected the Gay and Lesbian Community?"

All entries must be typed and double spaced with name, address, and phone number attached on a separate paper. All entries must be received at the *Wisconsin Light* offices no later than Tuesday, February 6, 1990 at 5:00 p.m. All entries become the property of *Wisconsin Light*. The winning entry will be announced in the February 8, 1990 issue of *The Wisconsin Light* and the winning entry will also be published at that time. Sponsored by *The Wisconsin Light* and Stardate Productions.

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN
IN CONCERT



TUES., FEB. 13
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
TICKETS: \$15, \$25, \$35, \$50 OR *\$100
AVAILABLE AT ALL TICKETRON OUTLETS, PAC BOX OFFICE OR CHARGE AT 1-800-843-1558

*Includes a Champagne reception with Michael Feinstein at the PAC's Bradley Pavilion after concert. For information call 273-7206.

A BENEFIT FOR THE WISCONSIN AIDS FUND

National Writers Conference Set In S.F. March 3-4

[San Francisco]- Out/Write '90, the first-ever national Lesbian and Gay writers conference, will feature poets Allen Ginsberg and Judy Grahn as keynote speakers at the March 3-4 event in San Francisco. The conference will focus on the past, present and future of Gay and Lesbian writing.

Writers, editors and literary agents from across the nation will be participating and attending the conference.

The conference is sponsored by *Out/Look Magazine* and will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Ave. Advance registration is \$25 for both days before Feb. 1. For more information or to register, write to: Out/Write '90, c/o Out/Look-Conference, 2940 16th St., Suite 319, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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Oppressive Rhetoric Can Not End Without Self-Examination

By Sharon Devitt and Doreen Munson

In January of 1989, Womofyre Books of Northampton, MA closed after eleven years of service to the Lesbian and Gay community. Its closure was precipitated by a prolonged siege on the bookstore by womyn who disagreed with the types of books and publications available in the store.

For three years, Womofyre's owner, Jill Krolick, resisted demands that she cease selling the works of a "pornographic" nature, specifically any books classified as "S/M." Her refusal to succumb to these demands resulted in a campaign of theft, vandalism and destruction of merchandise. Local religious fringe groups joined the campaign which culminated in a burning cross on Krolick's lawn. Other bookstores in Northampton were also pressured to censor their shelves and this same phenomenon has occurred in other cities.

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival this past August was the scene of a heated conflict between the leather/S/M dykes and a group of Lesbian separatists who sought to "take THEIR festival back" from the S/M womyn. These radical Lesbians conducted a campaign of posturing and leafletting prior to the start of the Festival (before many S/M Lesbians had even arrived), demanding restrictions on the S/M womyn's social events and sexual activities. Protests by the separatists included a woman feigning hysteria over a chance encounter with S/M Lesbians which never occurred, the dismantling of tents used by S/M groups and verbal harassment of group members.

The First Annual East Coast Lesbians' Festival, held over the Labor Day weekend in West Stockbridge, MA, was the site of a similar conflict over handicapped accessibility and open discrimination against S/M identified differently-abled womyn. At issue was the declaration of the AAA (All About Accessibility) tent as an S/M free area, leaving these womyn without an accessible area in which to socialize. Any displays of behavior deemed to be S/M in nature as well as the wearing of offensive attire were prohibited. This resulted in a blockade of the public road leading to the Festival by a group of differently-abled Lesbians and several able-bodied supporters. Festival organizers admitted they were indeed discriminating against disabled S/M womyn, but only at the advice of their attorney who was concerned about liability. As a condition of a settlement, the protesters were allowed to hold an informational meeting to educate other womyn at the Festival about the need for accessibility for ALL Lesbians.

The hostile reaction of the audience at the Lesbian Variety Show in Madison last month clearly demonstrates that these anti-S/M sentiments are here in Wisconsin as well. A Room Of One's Own bookstore staff has long deemed books such as "Coming to Power" (SAMOIS) and other controversial works by such authors as Pat Califia, Artemis Oakgrove, Joan Nestle, Gayle Rubin and Cappy Kotz as violent to womyn. (In Madison, womyn who are interested in such works can obtain some at Four Star bookstore. In Milwaukee, People's Books has a few,

but for the most part, a trip to Chicago's bookstores is necessary.)

Unfortunately, many of the womyn censoring our bookstores, the politically correct Lesbians at the Variety Show in Madison and others who oppose alternate forms of sexuality are often uninformed about what they are condemning. Many people believe that anyone who is interested in leather is automatically in S/M activities. This is a very dangerous assumption. There are individuals who simply like the look and feel of leather. Others are motorcycle enthusiasts. And some wear leather as a sign of their sexual preferences.

S/M is a 1990's catch-word for a wide spectrum of sexual fantasy and expression. Most people think of whips and chains when they hear S/M mentioned, but it is more than just bondage, pain, humiliation, etc... etc...

S/M can be defined as a series of games or scenes which stretch the participants' limits and fantasies—physically, emotionally and intellectually. Not all S/M scenes involve pain, nor does every participant indulge in each type of S/M activity.

It is difficult to understand why some radical Lesbians so often believe that dykes who enjoy alternative forms of sex don't CARE about other womyn (aren't true Lesbian feminists...). They can't seem to accept that just because womyn participate in "alternate" sexual activities, it doesn't mean that such womyn disrespect their partners or intend any violence towards them. S/M (alternative sex-play) is simply a different style of sexual expression between consenting adults. It may involve wearing special attire such as leather, lace, latex, etc... engaging in sexual scenes, bondage, spanking, anal play, fisting and so forth. Regardless of the type, S/M activities serve as an outlet for sexual/personal pleasure between individuals.

The anti-S/M sentiments which are rampant in the womyn's community today are every bit as oppressive to leather/S/M dykes as derogatory racist/ethnic remarks are to womyn of color. Displays of anger and threats of violence such as those of the audience at the Madison Variety Show are surely out of place at a COMMUNITY event. Perhaps it is time that the radical vanilla Lesbians examine their treatment of their S/M sisters and the other minorities within their minority.

MAP HAS NEW PHONE NUMBER [typeset this for box]

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has a new business phone number for those calling MAP. The number is: [414] 273-1991.

This new number is for the use of clients and the general public who are calling for any general purpose.

The old number, (414) 273-AIDS, is the Hotline number for those wishing information on AIDS, referrals to medical care-givers, counseling and testing sites.

All others should use the new business phone.



Jerry Johnson

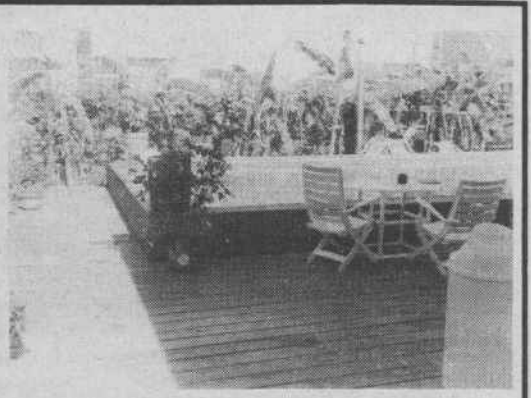
Outgoing president of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Marc Haupert, was recently honored for his achievements at a reception at M&M Club's banquet room. Shown with Marc are his spouse, Kurt J. Swanson and incoming President of the Center, Sharon Otto.



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For more information about free and anonymous testing, counseling, and other support services call the AIDSline:

1-800-334-AIDS

In Milwaukee call 273-AIDS

This message is supported by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Health, AIDS/HIV Program and the Wisconsin AIDS Service Organizations: Milwaukee AIDS Project, Madison AIDS Support Network, Center Project, Inc., La Crosse County Health Department, Central Wisconsin AIDS Network, and Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project.

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Discrimination in Military Will Not End Unless We Gain Our Rights

By Thomas J. Rondy

Picture, if you will, a ship of the U.S. Navy on routine maneuvers. The calm of routine is shattered by a massive explosion which instantly kills forty-seven American sailors. Soon afterwards, the Navy announces that the explosion was caused by a psychotic "homosexual" who was executing a bizarre murder-suicide plot against a former "homosexual" lover.

As much as I hate to admit it, people in this country are still naive enough to believe such twaddle. And in an age where our people are fighting for their lives against both bashers and the AIDS epidemic, it's hardly an encouraging sign.

At a time like this, it is all the more imperative that we stand up for ourselves both individually and collectively. That is why I support the drive to have the Reserve Officer Training Corps removed from the University of Wisconsin campus if they continue to practice their federally-mandated discriminatory policies.

There are times when it's difficult to believe that this issue is actually a controversy. The whole debacle with the exploding gun turret is a good example of how unbelievable the situation has actually become. The clods-in-charge at the Pentagon took full advantage of the fact that it's still socially acceptable to dehumanize Gays. That way, they can cover up the fact that they don't have the foggiest idea of what they are doing. What it boils down to is this: The name of Gay men everywhere is being smeared in order to cover up for the incompetence of a bunch of brain-dead straight men. And if you think I'm being a bit harsh, remember that this is the same group of knucklehead-geniuses who found the report that was favorable to Gays and Lesbians "offensive."

There are those who believe that this discrimination issue should be dealt with only on that level, i.e., the uppermost echelon. That view, however, is fundamentally undemocratic. Why should we feel obligated to beg for our rights

from our masters in the military-industrial complex? If this were truly a democracy, there would be no such obligation.

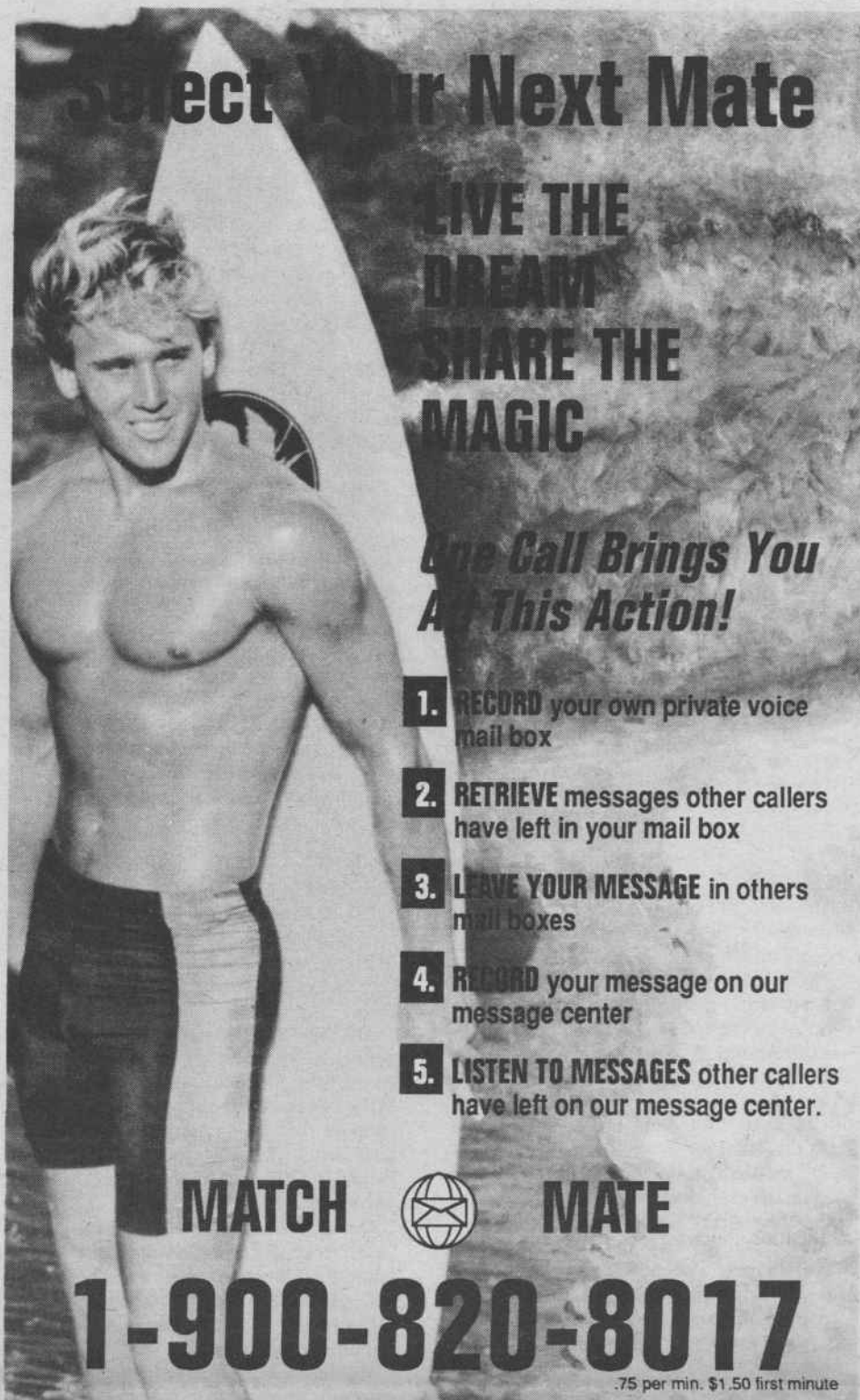
Many anti-interventionists don't care to get involved in this struggle. Why should we fight for the right of someone to join an organization which has perpetrated atrocities around the world? If a Gay man wanted to go to Nicaragua to "waste dem dere Sandinista commies," it would be more than misguided to try and prevent him from doing so on the basis of his sexual orientation. That is what not supporting the ROTC-struggle for "anti-interventionist" reasons essentially means.

Some may see the discriminatory clause an exemption clause in case of a draft in some unjust war, such as in Nicaragua or in El Salvador. But in such a situation, the thing to do is passively resist the draft so that the Selective Service system is rendered inoperative, just the way it was done in this country during the Vietnam War Era. One's sexual orientation should not exempt one from the sacrifice which would be necessary for this passive resistance to be effective.

Lastly, I'd like to put in my two cents on the recent wave of harassment against ROTC cadets. To the loud-mouthed hellions who have been doing more harm than good to the cause in this manner, all I have to say is, either can it or take it out on a punching bag; not only are you ruining progress for everybody, you're also putting even more bad karma into a place that already has more than enough.

For me, the most painful part of this issue is the fact that relatively innocent people, i.e., the cadets whose tuition is being paid by ROTC scholarships, are being hurt. It is completely out of line and off-base to portray all ROTC cadets as rabid Nazis because it simply isn't true. So lighten up, already!

The ultimate direction in which the struggle against discrimination in the military will go is uncertain. But if we are willing to stand up for our rights, we will be much more likely to find the eventual outcome satisfactory.




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Awards Presented to Community By Lambda Rights Network

[Milwaukee]- A large and diverse group of people crowded the Party Room of the M&M Club on January 17th to participate in the annual Cream City Brick Awards.

The Awards were bestowed on groups or individuals for conspicuous service to the Gay and Lesbian community. Initiated by the Cream City Business Association in 1984, the Awards are now sponsored by the Lambda Rights Network.

The 1989 Torch Bearer Award went to the Milwaukee law firm of Angermeier and Rogers who are representing Staff Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom in her appeal to the Supreme Court. Attorney Patrick Berigan accepted the award.

Other Torch Bearer finalists were: Dave Begel, spokesman for the Milwaukee Public Schools who stood up for the employment rights of Gays; County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones for her sponsorship and defense of the Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamation last Summer; Dr. Karen Lamb, long-time supporter of the Gay community who quipped, "I'm also a fundamentalist Christian--in case you haven't met one who loves you!"

The President's Award went to Club MUSE, a social support group for Black Gays and Lesbians, whose membership and programs have expanded rapidly in the last year.

The new Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee was also cited for its organizing efforts.

The Cream City Brick Pace Setter Award for distinguished long-term service to the Gay/Lesbian community was presented to Jamakaya, columnist for **The Wisconsin Light**, who has been a writer and activist in Milwaukee for fifteen years (See Note From the Editor's Desk this issue).

Other finalists for Pace Setter were: Miriam Ben-Shalom, for her legal battle with the Army and as a long-time spokesperson for Gay and Lesbian rights; Marc Hauptert, for his years of activism and his work with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin; and Don Clabots for his leading role in the Pride Committee and other projects.



ELIZABETH COGGS-JONES

The Group Spirit Award went to the Holiday Invitational Tournament (H.I.T.), the granddaddy of all bowling tournaments, which sponsored its 11th Annual Bowling Tourney last Thanksgiving weekend. H.I.T. brings hundreds of Gay and Lesbian bowlers and their friends to the event each year.

Other nominees for Group Spirit honors included the Beer Town Badgers, the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee and the Oberons, a leather club.

The Spotlight Award, which recognizes accurate media coverage of the Gay/Lesbian community, went to the **Milwaukee Journal** for its editorial support of civil rights for Gays and Lesbians and its support of the County Board's Gay Pride resolution in particular.

David Behrendt of the **Journal** editorial board accepted the Cream City Brick and got a good laugh when he commented that it would be one less brick thrown through his window (for his paper's sometimes unpopular opinions).

Public TV's talk show "Smith &

Out Of The Haze and Into The Days of The Gay Nineties!

By Joan

The time has come for our community to unite!

The daze of my past has finally come to a close. I finally got the hint, thanks to my close friends, that overwhelming excesses are no good. My past life is my past life. For that I make no excuses. But, of course, I have some regrets. I guess each person has to take their own road to maturity. Some just take a little longer than others. I am not claiming to be an angel. I am only a person, a human being with faults and flaws like everyone else. So on with my life. You will be hearing much more from me in the future.

It is time for all you out there — you know who you are — to grow up and accept the fact that you are an adult. And being an adult means accepting responsibility for your own actions.

Wisconsin is a great place to live. There is a great variety of Gays and Lesbians in all walks of life. It is time that we stop being so judgmental of each other within our community. And start being very judgmental of the homophobes and Gay bashers that abound. These are the people that we should vent our frustrations on. They deserve it!

Wisconsin has one of the best — no, make it the best record for political legislation that ensures us our basic rights. But unfortunately, we are not doing well at taking charge of our own situation. The Rawhide Boys Ranch (please do not link this to the Ranch in Milwaukee that helps the mentally retarded — there is no affiliation) as well

Company" and WTMJ's news department were also recognized for their informative programming on the Gay community.

Finally, Tri-Cable Tonight received a Certificate of Merit for its two years of Gay/Lesbian cable programming and **Wisconsin Light** was cited for its service during the controversy over the pride proclamation last year.

Editor's Note: The publisher and editor of **Wisconsin Light** have declined the award.

as other homophobic groups have been trying for years to take away our **fundamental** human rights to live and love. These people should worry about helping the people they are set up to help instead of wasting their time, effort and money on something that should be none of their concern.

To the people within our community — please listen to what I ask. Please get involved in some way. There are all sorts of ways you can make change happen. You have a **moral obligation** to get involved in some way. I am not saying that I think everyone should immediately throw open the closet door. But at least consider the possibility. It sure makes life easier. We **need** people that are willing to take the chance to make a better future. Otherwise, there **will be no positive change!** And we face the dreadful possibility of losing the ground that we gained.

For those of you not openly Gay, please consider coming out at least to some degree. People are sensitive to the problem. If you ask them not to talk about you, they usually will not go and tell the world.

There are plenty of people that could use guidance. For instance, a younger person who is having a difficult time facing the realities of Gay/Lesbian life. Or help a person with AIDS or other physical problems. We should first be concerned with taking care of our own family. It really does make a difference. That is how I changed. It works!

If you cannot handle even that big a step, at least contribute money to a needy positive Gay/Lesbian organization such as Lambda, BEST Clinic, the Women's Alternative Clinic or any other group that you wish. If you are paranoid about being on a list, send a money order anonymously.

If you do not help, then there **will be NO change!** And there is far too much for us to lose. There are brothers and sisters dying everyday!

Come on people — let's get it together, stop the nonsense and try to make the '90's **really be the Gay Nineties!**

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OBITUARIES

JOHN M. COWLES

Served on Cream City Foundation Board and as GAMMA President

John M. Cowles, of Whitefish Bay, died January 12 at the age of 36. John was well known for his industriousness and generosity. He devoted much of his energy to various activities in the Gay community. He was the President of GAMMA from 1980 until 1986; during that time he led the association from a membership of 40 to a membership of over 100 men and women. He initiated such activities as the annual Milwaukee harbor boat-trip, the annual exchange of events with GAMMA/Twin Cities and the popular "Sunday Swim." Above all, however, John organized and managed volleyball activities for the Greater

Watertown Hops Company and was the recipient of a Chairman's Award from the Phillip Morris Companies in 1988. With his colleagues, John was awarded two U.S. Patents for brewing research.

His hobbies included bridge, bowling, gardening and sailing. He travelled often to South America as well as to Europe and Africa. In addition to his activities in the Gay community, he was on the Board of the Friends of The Haggerty Museum of Art.

John met his lover of 17 years, Dave Stowe, at Michigan State University in 1973. They soon developed a close relationship which continued to strengthen over the years. John will be greatly missed by Dave and his close friends both within and outside the Gay community. He will also be missed by his sisters, Chris Cowles of Shorewood and Cathy Cowles-Hentschel of Grand Rapids, MI, his mother and father, his nieces and his grandmother.

A Memorial Celebration of John's life was conducted on January 21, 1990 at the Village Church, Milwaukee. During the service, friends and family shared testimonials and anecdotes about John and how greatly his energy and charm had touched their lives. In lieu of flowers, John requested that donations in his behalf be made either to the Cream City Foundation, P.O. Box 204, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or the Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

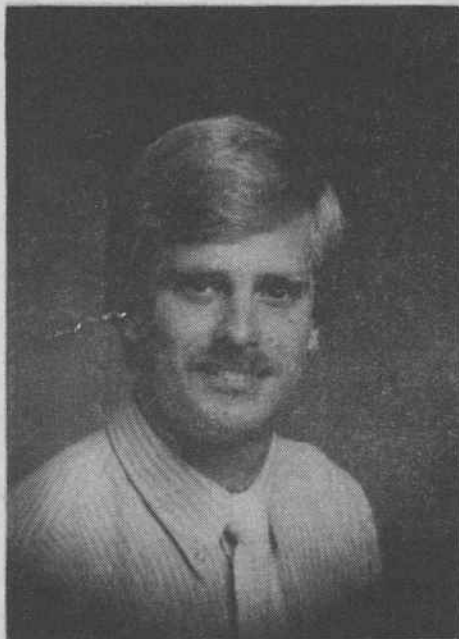
Editor's Note: The Memorial Celebration was held on a beautiful Winter afternoon and was attended by more than 300 of John's friends, associates and family. Representatives from Miller Brewery, GAMMA, the Cream City Foundation, John's family and friends gave moving and celebratory testimony to his vital spirit that so touched all who knew him. A reception followed where those attending exchanged memories and were able to see pictures, trophies and other evidences of John's many, many accomplishments.

All Saints' Offers AIDS Services

[Milwaukee]- The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee is offering an Evensong and Public Healing Service for People Living with AIDS at All Saints' Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Ave. The service includes the Sacrament of Unction and prayers for people with AIDS, their families, loved ones, friends, health care workers and all who are affected in any way by this disease.

The service begins at 4:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. The next service will be on February 11.

Anyone wishing prayers made on behalf of friends, a departed loved one, or a care-giver, please call the Cathedral office at (414) 271-7719. The office is open between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may leave a message other hours of the day.



JOHN M. COWLES

Milwaukee Gay community; he served as "setter" for his team, the GAMMA RAYS. Under his leadership, GAMMA hosted a social volleyball evening, a Saturday Volleyball League and a competitive volleyball team that represented Milwaukee throughout tournaments in the United States and Canada.

John was a member of the Board of Directors of the Cream City Foundation and served as operations manager for the Community Center. He was instrumental in securing sponsorship for many Gay activities from his employer, the Miller Brewing Company; through John's efforts, the 1985 Gay World Series of Softball was able to obtain Miller's financial support. He was a regular participant in the "Monday Night Irregulars" bowling league.

He was born in Grand Rapids, MI, attended Michigan State University and the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated summa cum laude from MSU in 1975 with a B.S. in Chemistry. After working in Vitamin D research at UC-San Francisco, John moved to Milwaukee to attend Marquette U. where he received a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1983. Until his death, he was employed at the Miller Brewing Company in the Master Brewers Division.

As a Senior Research Chemist, John was instrumental in development of the

**In Memory Of
John M. Cowles**

Milwaukee's Gay/ Lesbian community lost one of its leaders a few weeks ago, when John Cowles died. John was a member of our community for only about 13 years, but in that time he served several years as President GAMMA, also serving in other capacities; and served on the Board of the Cream City Foundation.

John was instrumental in running volleyball leagues, the Foundation Community Center, and numerous fundraisers, in addition to social events and parties.

Whatever John took on, he did so with unparalleled energy and dedication. He will be sorely missed.

A memorial fund, and both a Scholarship and Community Activist Award, have been established in John's name. Send contributions to the C.C.F. at the address below.

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