



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

The Wisconsin Light

ROTC Decisions Attacked By Lawmakers

[Madison]- The University of Wisconsin's refusal to sever ties with ROTC programs that discriminated against Lesbian and Gay students has drawn a stern warning from state lawmakers, led by Representatives Timothy Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Sixteen legislators called the ROTC decision "Appalling and unconscionable," according to the letter and one "which officially legitimizes the continuation of a blatantly bigoted policy."

"All individuals are fully deserving of human dignity; no individual is of greater or lesser worth based on his or her sexual orientation. This makes a mockery of the very values the University of Wisconsin prides itself on," the letter states.

The action by the Board of Regents came at the recommendation of University President Kenneth Shaw and Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala.

For many years, the UW has been urged to renegotiate their contract with ROTC to allow full participation by Lesbian and Gay students, or to sever all ties with ROTC if such discrimination does not end.

Early last December, the Madison campus faculty voted to ask the Regents to kick ROTC off campus if they didn't change their policy by 1993.

Co-signers of the letter with Carpenter and Clarenbach include Milwaukee Representatives Barbara Notestein, Peter Bock, Marcia Coggs, Tom Seery, Gwen Moore, Spencer Coggs, Rosemary Potter, and Lou Fortis as well as Representatives Jeannette Bell (D-West Allis), Kim Plache (D-Racine), Stan Gruszynski (D-Stevens Point), Frank Boyle (D-Superior), and Senators Fred Risser (D-Madison) and Russ Feingold (D-Middleton).

BESTD Clinic Expands Services

[Milwaukee]- The Brady Street Clinic has expanded the scope of its services by offering a weekly self-image improvement group on Sundays from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at the Clinic's offices, located at 1240 East Brady St. in the heart of Milwaukee's east side. The clinic group will focus on material from the popular spiritual development book, *A Course in Miracles*.

Two identical introductory sessions for those interested who are unfamiliar with the subject matter, will be held on Sunday, February 18 and Sunday, February 25 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Clinic. During these sessions, background information will be presented, areas of interest discussed and questions answered. Actual group sessions will begin on Sunday, March 4th at 3:30 p.m.

A Course in Miracles is a collection of systematized materials allowing readers to examine and make decisions about the psycho-socio-spiritual issues facing them. The material is neither religious or denominational. The workbook portion of the material is a practical method of both identifying and bringing into reality views of self and others which foster inner peace.

The Board of Directors of the BESTD Clinic has offered this opportunity in its effort to provide a comprehensive range of opportunities for the wellness of its clients in the physical, mental and spiritual areas. This group will be facilitated by Erv Uecker, a director and volunteer counselor on the Clinic's staff.

There will be no charge for participation in either the introductory or the regular sessions. This program is available to regular clients of the BESTD Clinic and to anyone interested who has never used the Clinic before. Further information may be obtained by contacting the group facilitator, Erv Uecker, at (414) 966-1061.

Rep. Sensenbrenner Attacks "Flaws" in Disabilities Act



Rona (center) went "Around the World" for her Cream City Chorus fund raiser on Feb. 3, at Milwaukee's M&M Club and came back as a nun.

New AIDS Drug, DDI, Passes First Clinical Trials

[Los Angeles, CA]- The results of the first clinical trials of the new AIDS drug, dideoxyinosine, known as DDI, are out and they look promising.

Robert Yarchoan, Samuel Broder, and their colleagues at the National Cancer Institute have reported that the drug appears safe. In contrast to AZT, the only drug currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for combating AIDS virus infections. DDI has so far shown few toxic side effects in AIDS patients.

In addition, there are indications that the drug suppresses AIDS virus reproduction in the patients, although it is still too early to know whether this will translate into actual clinical benefits, such as a longer or better life for the people who take DDI.

"I would say that (DDI) is much more impressive than AZT at a comparable level of development," said Jerome Groopman of New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, who also has begun to test DDI in AIDS patients.

Meanwhile, the Bristol-Myers Co., which makes DDI, has taken a step that should help to make the drug available to AIDS patients faster than it normally would be. The company has announced that once the planned phase II and III trials of DDI begin, it will make the drug available at no cost to patients who have a critical need for it—they may have become resistant to AZT, for example—and are unable to take part in the formal clinical testing of DDI.

Bristol-Myers could not have taken its unusual action if the phase I DDI trials had not been producing encouraging results.

A particularly hopeful sign was the

apparent absence of the bone marrow toxicity that so often limits the doses of AZT that patients can take. This may mean that DDI will be tolerated by people who cannot handle AZT, or that the two drugs can be given together to give better suppression of the AIDS virus. Many clinicians think that combination therapies will be needed to control AIDS.

DDI results are contributing to a new optimism about treating AIDS that was notably absent just 4 or 5 years ago. Now, AZT is in clinical use, and DDI is moving expeditiously along the regulatory track. "You have to crawl before you can walk, but this (DDI) study shows that we can crawl pretty fast," Broder said.

Editor's note: The above article by Jean L. Marx was excerpted from *Science*, Vol. 245, the publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

State AIDS Bill of Rights Passes Senate; Goes to Governor

[Madison]- The Wisconsin State Senate has passed and sent to the Governor legislation that creates a bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection. The vote was 29-4.

The Wisconsin AIDS Initiative (AB 400) prohibits discrimination in the provision of health care services by doctors, hospitals and nursing homes, and guarantees health insurance coverage in policies written in this state.

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), the bill's primary author, applauded the Senate action as a "pioneering breakthrough."

"Wisconsin has already suffered over 300 deaths from AIDS. But AIDS is a time-bomb that has not yet exploded here. Over 10,000 people in our state are HIV-positive, and we must anticipate the demands this will place on our health care system," Clarenbach said.

The new law will prohibit health care providers from refusing to treat or furnishing a lower standard of care to any person based on their HIV status. Last year, several nursing homes refused to admit people with AIDS, and a Milwaukee heart surgeon announced he would not

[Washington, D.C.]- Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), in his January, 1990, letter to his constituents, has announced that he will seek to change all parts of the Americans with Disabilities Act (HR 2273) "which unfortunately may be interpreted to include illegal drug users and persons with AIDS or the HIV virus."

In the newsletter, Sensenbrenner calls references to persons with AIDS and HIV "flaws" which he hopes "will be corrected."

Sensenbrenner is Congressman for the 9th District which covers Ozaukee, Washington and Jefferson Counties and parts of Waukesha, Dodge and Sheboygan counties.

The bill, which would extend civil rights protections to handicapped persons, including those with AIDS and HIV, has been called the most sweeping piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The bill was introduced into the Congress in 1989. A version of the bill was approved by the Senate in September, 1989, by a vote of 76-16. It is currently under consideration by the House where it has been sent to several committees. One of these is the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of which Sensenbrenner is the ranking Republican member. If passed by Congress, President Bush has said that he will sign it.

According to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) figures, in the 101st Congress, first session, Sensenbrenner voted in favor of issues important to Gays and Lesbians only 13% of the time.

His voting record, as supplied by NGLTF, indicates close and consistent support for Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-CA), one of the most homophobic members of the House. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Dannemeyer is a friend and supporter of Louis Sheldon and the rabidly anti-Gay Fundamentalist Christian Coalition for Traditional Values (CTV). CTV's public position is that persons living with AIDS and HIV should be interned in camps. This, in turn, is the same position advocated by Dr. Lorraine Day in her speech on AIDS in Milwaukee given before a rally sponsored by WVCY-TV (Voice of Christian Youth).

operate on anyone infected with the HIV virus.

AB 400 will also prevent insurance companies from excluding or limiting AIDS coverage and requires payment of prescription drugs and federally-approved experimental drugs if drugs are normally included in policies.

"No one should be denied medical care, or be discriminated against in any way, because they have been exposed to the AIDS-causing virus. This is a pioneering breakthrough that establishes Wisconsin as a partner in the fight against AIDS," Clarenbach declared.

All Senators voted in favor of AB 400 except for Senators Michael Ellis (R-Neenah), Joseph Leean (R-Waupaca), Donald Stitt (R-Port Washington), and Timothy Weeden (R-Beloit).

Governor Tommy Thompson will decide whether to sign AB 400 into law in the near future. The bill has the support of the Governor's HIV Advisory Council, the State Medical Society, insurance industry representatives and leaders of AIDS service organizations throughout the state.



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

N.Y. Health Commissioner Picked

[New York, NY]- Despite criticism by a powerful AIDS organization, Mayor David Dinkins has appointed Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Woodrow August Myers Jr., as the first African-American to be Health Commissioner of the City of New York.

New York's ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) has criticized Dr. Myers' policies on AIDS in Indiana. ACT-UP cites Myers' support of mandatory HIV testing for all hospitalized people, his lobbying for the closing of Gay bars and bookstores, the neglect of health care for prisoners with AIDS in Indiana, and his alleged advocacy of tracing and quarantining HIV-positive people.

Supporters say Myers' record must be viewed in the context of Indiana's conservative climate and the fact that some of these restrictive measures had actually been passed by state and local legislatures.

Black AIDS organizations and community groups generally supported Myers. A spokesman for New York's Minority AIDS Task Force told *Philadelphia Gay News* that his group trusted Dinkins' judgment and that on the broader array of public health issues, people of color felt that overall, Myers has exerted considerable leadership.

Lesbians Receive Arts Grants

[Washington, D.C.]- The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has bestowed \$20,000 fellowship grants on three prominent Lesbian writers — Audre Lorde, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Chrystos — to support their writing projects for the next year. The women, chosen because of their distinguished poetry, were among 97 American writers to receive NEA's Creative Writing Fellowships for 1990.

Grants to the Lesbian Writers came as something of a surprise since Congress last year, under the influence of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), passed restrictions on the use of federal funds to subsidize artists who depict "homosexualism."

Minnie Bruce Pratt included her erotic and political poem "Crimes Against Nature" in her application to the NEA. Pratt told the *Washington Blade* that she has no intention of watering down her work to comply with the Helms Amendment.

Lutheran Churches Face Censure

[San Francisco, CA]- Formal disciplinary charges have been filed against two Lutheran congregations that violated church policy by ordaining three Gay ministers who have refused to renounce sexual relations. Celibacy is required of known homosexual ministers, but not of heterosexual ones in the Lutheran tradition.

St. Francis and First United face censure or expulsion from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for "willfully disregarding" membership policies which ban the ordination of "practicing homosexuals."

Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zillhart, ordained at St. Francis, and Jeff Johnson, ordained assistant pastor at First United, are the clergy in question. St. Francis is near a predominantly Gay neighborhood. The Associated Press reports that both congregations are prepared to accept expulsion if so ordered.

Inmate Denied Visitation Rights

[Blair County, PA]- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of a female inmate at a Pennsylvania County Jail who was denied visitation with her woman partner. The plaintiff, known only as Jane Doe, said in her request to the warden: "I love her and she loves me and I sure would like to see someone I love. She is all I got."

The Blair County Prison allows only family members and heterosexual boyfriends and girlfriends to visit inmates, and Warden Gary Spears denied the request saying that the prison could not "condone such relationships." He issued this decision despite the fact that Jane Doe's request was only for "non-contact" visitation with her partner.

The ACLU is challenging the policy as "arbitrary" and as a violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

Skinhead Sentenced to 30 Years

[Washington, D.C.]- Skinhead gang member David McCall, 19, has been sentenced to more than 30 years in prison for robbery and assault with intent to kill in the brutal 1988 beating of a Gay man, Rodney Johnson. Another skinhead is yet to be sentenced while a third remains a fugitive.

During the baseball bat beating, McCall and other skinheads chanted "Die, faggot, die." Johnson sustained a collapsed lung, a fractured skull, a splintered shoulder and broken ribs. He has filed a \$20 million civil suit against McCall and the skinhead gang.

Johnson's attorney Linda Delaney said: "The judge went right to the assailant's hate motivation and anti-Gay passion...McCall could not so severely beat another human being without expecting to pay for his crime with a substantial sentence." McCall will not be eligible for parole for 15 years.

AMA Rejects Gay Protections

[Honolulu, HI]- The American Medical Association (AMA) has defeated by a voice vote a resolution which would add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy on membership. The vote was taken in Honolulu at an interim meeting of the AMA's House of Delegates — the group's governing body.

Last June, the AMA had recommended that medical schools and hospitals adopt non-discrimination policies for Gay students and residents, so pro-Gay delegates to the Honolulu meeting thought the additional resolution would be, according to the *Washington Blade*, "a simple matter."

However, some delegates objected to the proposal claiming it would "promote an alternative lifestyle," and at least one AMA member resurrected the old argument that homosexuality was a "pathological" disorder.

Andy Rooney Insults Gays Again

[New York, NY]- On December 28, 1989, during a program called "1989: A Year With Andy Rooney," CBS commentator Andy Rooney made the following observation: "There was some recognition in 1989 of the fact that many of the ills that kill us are self-induced...too much alcohol, too much food, drugs, homosexual unions, cigarettes."

Last October, Rooney wrote in his newspaper column: "I feel the same way about homosexuals as I do about cigarette smokers. I wouldn't want to spend much time in a small room with one, but they don't bother me otherwise."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation encourages people to send letters to Rooney's boss, the President of CBS News, David Burke, at CBS News, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

Directory of Gay Library Workers

[Atlanta, GA]- The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association is compiling a *Directory of Gay and Lesbian Library Workers*. Planned for publication this year, the directory will be listed in future editions of the *ALA Checklist of Publications*.

Entries in the directory are being based on answers to a questionnaire requested by each Gay librarian, archivist or para-professional working in any type of library, archive or information center.

For a copy of the questionnaire, contact Cal Gough, GLTF Directory Coordinator, 491 Seminole Ave., No. 14, Atlanta, GA 30307, or call (404) 577-4600.

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

OBITUARIES

Boyd McGranaghan

Funeral services were held February 6, 1990 for Boyd M. McGranaghan, a Milwaukee lawyer. McGranaghan died Feb. 3 from complications of pneumonia. He was 35.

Originally from Philadelphia, McGranaghan first moved to Milwaukee to attend Marquette University in 1972. After attaining a bachelor's degree in political science in 1976, he graduated



Boyd M. McGranaghan

from Marquette Law School in 1979.

McGranaghan worked several years at the Kmiec Law Office and formed his own firm with partner Christopher J. Stawski in 1987.

McGranaghan was active in several professional and community organizations. He taught business law at Milwaukee Area Technical College, and he was on the boards of directors of the West End Community Association and Polish Fest and the Cream City Business Association.

He was also a member of the Milwaukee and state bar associations, the Young Lawyers Association, the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Third Ward Association and Future Milwaukee.

In addition, McGranaghan performed as an actor for the Sunset Players and Bay View Players theater groups where he appeared in "Sweeney Todd" and "The Fantastics." He was also called upon as an emcee for at least 20 local and state beauty pageants.

"Boyd was an extremely busy person," according to his spouse, Dennis Jackson. "We would spend what little

extra time we had together in 'quality' activities. While not doing what might be considered unusual, we would spend these moments together going to fish fries, getting together with friends, camping occasionally and spending quiet evenings at home."

Dennis said that Boyd's strongest interest was in the theatre. "He was so interested in the theatre that he had planned to take voice lessons," Dennis further stated.

In addition to his spouse, Dennis Jackson, McGranaghan is survived by his sister Mary Beth McGranaghan and his brother Patrick, both of the Philadelphia area.

Following services at the Krause Funeral Home, 9000 W. Capital Dr., burial was at the Arlington Park Cemetery, 4001 S. 27th St. in Milwaukee.

Jeffrey L. Poaster

Jeff Poaster, 37, of Chicago, passed away at the home of his brother in Issaquah, WA on January 16, 1990 from complications due to AIDS. He was born on July 1, 1952 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California-Davis in 1975 and nursing degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1978. He was employed at Madison General Hospital until 1982, where he served on the bargaining team of the 1199/W nurses union. He received his Masters degree in nursing from Rush-Presbyterian University in Chicago in 1984. He was employed as a nurse anesthetist at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

He is survived by his mother Millie, of Bloomington, CA; his sister Debra of Allston, MA; his brother Robert of Issaquah, WA; his daughter Erin Hirn of Madison, WI; and many close friends. He was preceded in death by his partner, Joseph Morin; and his father Leon.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday February 10, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. at the Congregation Or' Chadash Synagogue (c/o Second Unitarian Church), 656 W. Barry in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Madison AIDS Support Network, PO Box 731, Madison, WI 53701.

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Hatemonger In "Holy" War Seeks Grass Roots Support

[Washington, D.C.]— "Since our laws wrongfully protect homosexuals, we can't put them to death. So, they are being killed by their own evil — just as God said they will be."

This, according to an AIDS booklet distributed by the Coalition for Traditional Values (CTV) headed by the Rev. Louis Sheldon, a Presbyterian minister from Anaheim, California.

Sheldon, 55, who the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has called one of the "most virulent hatemongers in this country," spoke on January 27 at a CTV-sponsored symposium held in Washington, D.C. entitled "The National Task Force for the Preservation of the Heterosexual Ethic." The symposium was countered by a rally of between 500 and 750 Gays and Lesbians in Washington's Dupont Circle. The demonstration was sponsored by NGLTF as well as other D.C.-based Gay/Lesbian groups.

CTV and Sheldon's positions on creationism in the classroom, ("religious fable" according to the *New York Times*), abortion and homosexuality have garnered the group considerable controversy and media attention including recent articles in the *Los Angeles Times* and *Los Angeles* magazine, which called Sheldon the "Son of Falwell." Sheldon and CTV, according to the *L.A. Times*, are "homophobes and fake-science types" who are engaged in "jihad" (holy war) "against anyone who dares stand against them."

Sheldon himself maintains that he is not "big enough" to fill Jerry Falwell's shoes. He said that CTV's purpose was to provide "the infantry, the grass roots and the troops" for the Fundamentalist Christian movement.

Sheldon's connection to other fundamentalist, right-wing Christian groups throughout the nation is extensive. He claims the support of a network of "6,500 churches and other Christian organizations" which includes such Milwaukee-based groups as the American Family Coalition with which he shares similar views.

Like them, he views homosexuality as the primary threat to the "traditional American family (Leave It To Beaver)" and "the most pressing moral battle for the religious community."

In describing his own "traditional family" in an *L.A. Times* interview, Sheldon said, "I love my children, though I've broken a lot of yardsticks over their butts. They never hit me back. That was often the only way I could control them." In the same interview, he also talked about his favorite youthful pastime. "We used to go like Peeping Toms — is that what they're called? You climb up the tree and watch a girl take off her clothes."

Yet, calling Gays "scum which pollute this country," Sheldon, in the *L.A. Times* called for "open warfare" against homosexuals who, he said, are afflicted with a curable sickness and advocated what he calls "reparative therapy" to "cure" it.

In CTV and other fundamentalist literature, the term "homosexual" refers primarily, if not exclusively to men. Lesbianism is of no consequence because, according to one pamphlet, "Women must submit to the man as God intended."

CTV sees a close correlation between Gay rights laws and public acceptance and the rise of AIDS. "It's as close as the correlation of lung cancer with smoking," according Exodus International, a CTV sub-group. "Every case of AIDS has had its origin in the activity of sodomites."

AIDS victims should be "segregated in cities of refuge for the good of themselves and others," said Sheldon in a recent TV interview in Los Angeles. This position is strongly reminiscent of one taken by Dr. Lorraine Day at a rally in Milwaukee sponsored by TV-30 and the American Family Coalition.

In the same interview, Sheldon also proposed that all Gays be "placed in rehabilitation camps and tattooed for future identification."

Those most familiar with Sheldon and CTV say that their strength and influence may be over-estimated. Frank Ricchiazzi, a Gay member of the California State Republican Party's Executive Committee has been quoted as saying that "Ninety-five percent of the (California) legislature can't stand him."

Still, others familiar with the Fundamentalist Christian movement point out that the danger lies in the network that such groups have established across the country. "They are well organized. They are well-funded and they have their media in place," said a spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Ivy Young, director of NGLTF's Family Project said, "Kinder, Kirke, Kuche (Children, Church, Kitchen) was the cry of fascists in Europe as they exterminated all those who were different."

Young pointed out that "not too long ago, men like Bull Connor, Ross Barnett, George Wallace and Lester Maddox also urged their followers to uphold the traditional values that allowed racism and bigotry to flourish in this country."

Young concluded by saying, "Threats to the American family do not come from the desire of Lesbians and Gay men to create loving relationships. No, the threat to the family is poverty and economic injustice, ignorance and inadequate education, homelessness and hunger. Let Mr. Sheldon and CTV put what energy and resources they have into combating these scourges of American family life. We would all benefit from that agenda."

Editor's Note: We would like to thank NGLTF for providing much of the resource material for this article.

Gay Fathers Plan Feb. 15 Meeting

[Milwaukee]— Milwaukee Area Gay Fathers announces two programs dealing with whether (and how) to "come out" to our children, parents and significant others. The February 15 program focuses on the children of Lesbian and Gay parents.

Children, regardless of age, who have Gay or Lesbian parents, are invited to serve on a panel or to send letters sharing their experiences and feelings.

The March 15 program will include a panel of parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays.

For more information about participating in the programs or attending the meetings, write to P.O. Box 93505, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Education Program Offered For Young Adults

[San Francisco, CA]— A new education and training program for young Lesbian and Gay activists has been launched by the California-based Critical Literacy Institute.

The New Pacific Academy for Lesbian and Gay Community Service and Activism will open in June, 1990 with a one-month intensive training program at the University of California campus in Berkeley, CA. The program will provide young Lesbians and Gays with the knowledge, practical skills and peer support necessary for effective leadership in the 1990's.

New Pacific expects to cover all costs for participants except travel expenses. Room, board and course materials will be provided without cost.

The program will be offered to 200 young people, 18-30 years-old, half men and half women, with 50% drawn from people of color.

Young people interested in enrolling should write to New Pacific at 2338 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114 and

request an application. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 16, 1990.

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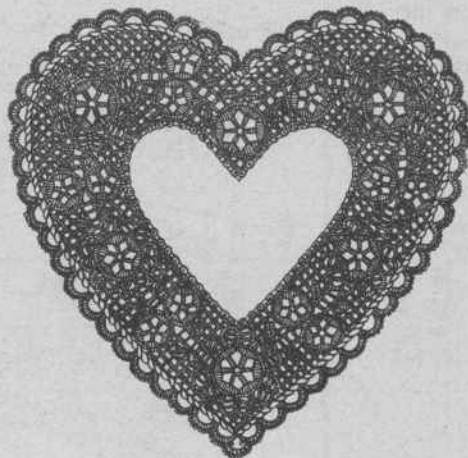
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Executive & Editorial Offices

1843 N. Palmer

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 372-2773

Light FAX: [414] 289-0789

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Publisher

Jerry Johnson

Executive Editor

Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Geno

Advertising Manager

Bob Melig

(414) 271-2120

Typography & Process Graphics
C.S.P., INCORPORATED

COLUMNISTS

Fr. James Arimond, State Rep. David E. Clarenbach, Roger Gremminger MD, Marc Hauptert, Jamakaya, Karen Lamb Ph.D., Bill Meunier, John Michael Roberts

REPORTERS

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Mexico-Francis J. Reich; England-Poul E. Burke; Puerto Rico-Jose Toro-Alfonso; India-Sandeep; Japan-Hiroaki, Yeishiro Minami; Peru-Roberto Barcena.

Advertising Representative

Bob Melig
271-2120

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EDITORIAL

Will Sensenbrenner Acquire Sensitivity To Human Misery?

The rights of human beings should take precedence over any religion, any ideology, any government or any economic system that exists. But when are people like Louis Sheldon, his followers and ilk, going to realize this? Probably at about the same time that Congressman Sensenbrenner acquires some sensitivity and understanding of human misery, which is to say, in all likelihood, never.

To Sheldon, Jesse Helms and probably Sensenbrenner as well, AIDS is a moral condition, something of the despised homosexuals who, as Sheldon says, "don't use their equipment properly."

How superior and self-righteous they sound. But it is interesting that in saying this, they thus pride themselves on being able to do that in which a dog is their equal and a jackass their infinite superior.

But we Lesbians and Gays are a great community, a people of love, pride and dignity despite the scurrilous comments, the snarling vindictiveness of radio and TV talkshow hosts and the hectoring, self-serving lectures of other lesser lights. We will not, we must not, accept anything less than full, complete and total equality. It is either this or accept the position of perpetual inferiority. There can be no compromise.

This is why a state-wide domestic partners law is so important. We must take from the hands of our enemies the power to relegate our relationships to second class status and we must legitimize our right to couple. We must no longer accept the legal vulnerability that is our current lot.

We think the formation of the study group in Madison is a good first step. Now, let us get on with the work and prepare for the struggle that is to come.

LETTERS

Speech Attacked As Insulting

To the Editor:

Those who attended LRN's awards-nite on Wed. Jan. 17th, experienced a wonderful feeling to see dignified members of our community receive well-deserved recognition. In his opening remarks, Ralph Navarro criticized the Gay/Lesbian community (for want of a better term) for our internalized homophobia that prevents our Community from progressing to a vibrant force in Milwaukee. Fine. However, Mr. Navarro continued to describe how many of us in our community continue intensifying our internalized homophobia by perpetrating rumors and personality attacks upon members of our Community; and then further went on to list the rumors that have been inflicted upon his person over the course of his sojourn in Milwaukee.

It is one thing, Mr. Navarro, to criticize and chastise our Gay and Lesbian community. We need it. But please, do not insult our intelligence.

Vicious rumors, innuendoes and personality slurs are a constant in any community, especially the more active and well-known a person becomes in that community. It is not pleasant to deal with at times, but we continue to strengthen our Community in spite.

But to grandstand and don the martyr's mantle in front of members of the media and our Community; and attempt to intimidate us to feel guilty by using the old internalized homophobia gimmick is an affront to our intelligence. The

maneuver, in this case, only deflects the issues at hand, not deal with them. It begs of asking our Community to "back off", "let's get on with business, let's stop fighting and work together," etc.

Many of us have been involved in enough organizations in our Community over the years and are, indeed, sick of the infighting. It is inherent in any organization and within every community. Yet, there is growth potential when issues and strategies are at hand, and not ego trips. Sometimes, I repeat, sometimes rumors evolve into exaggerated versions of the facts. Sometimes these rumors may need to be re-considered and investigated before passing judgment; which we tend to do whether we have the capacity or not.

Maybe our community can be guilty of apathy and cowardice at times. Because sometimes we look the other way when we should confront specific concerns and rumors and innuendoes. Unfortunately, too many rumors are malicious; but, also unfortunately, there are those in our community who would cheat, lie, manipulate and con us all in the name of community and togetherness and growth.

Truly, only after we are long gone, we will be judged when the careful sifting of the rumor and deed have been accomplished.

(Any inferences to persons living or dead can only be construed by the reader and are purely unintended).

—Michael S. Lisowski

A Letter From The Editor

Dear Drew,

I want to thank you for your letter concerning my UW-M Post article. Believe me, I know what you are going through. But I want to assure you that you are not alone. There are few, if any, Lesbians and Gay men, who cannot share your struggles and your fears.

As difficult as it may be, or seem to be, you must "come out." I realize how frightening that may sound, but it is the only honest way for you to live. When you do it, you will find a new freedom that you do not now know. Some friends may reject you, but they were never friends anyway. You should not use their heads as a place to keep your own self-image.

Your family may have a difficult time, but given a chance, they will accept you — and if not, as hard as it is, remember, that it is you who must live your life, not them. You did not ask to be born into this world and it is you who must make your way here. If you are true to yourself, it will be much easier. Besides, there are enough phonies in the world already.

No one is sure why a person is Lesbian or Gay, but at this stage of my life, I'm not sure it really makes much difference. It is not a matter of personal choice so that it is not being Gay that matters so much as what it is you do with it that counts.

Let no one try to convince you that being Gay is wrong, evil or somehow sinful and hateful to god. (to their god, maybe, but not to the real one.) Those poor, misguided souls who say this are simply using their religion as an excuse for their prejudices. For whatever it's worth, there is nothing at all in the

they conveniently and arbitrarily ignore. This, while all the while they proclaim the bible (which they usually can't read as it was written) as the total and infallible word of god.

Do not believe those who would tell you that sex has only one purpose; the procreation of children. If that were so, then how would humans be different from animals?

When you fall in love with someone, you will find that sex is a wonderful, sublime act that makes of two people, one. That oneness, that unity in love, is something new and beautiful upon the earth and, to me, is as important as children — and more rare.

But do not believe those people who would tell you that sex is all that unites Gay and Lesbian people; all we have in common, all we are about. I know some Gays who actually believe that, but it's as far from understanding as the stars are from the earth.

We Gays and Lesbians share a sensitivity, a delicacy of mind and tenderness of spirit that offers to us a special view of reality; a Gay view of the world that is unique; different from any other.

The ancients recognized this. In Babylonian mythology, Gays were the seventh and highest incarnation; the favored of the gods because of their gifts.

As with all myths, there is hidden there a kernel of truth that explains why so many of us throughout history have been artists, poets, philosophers and creators of music. Consider Michelangelo, Omar Khayyam, Plato, Aristotle and Tchaikovsky, to mention only five. What a terrible irony it is how many love what we create and despise us who create it.

Drew, being Gay will deny you what life has to offer only if you let it. Love? It'll find you and it will be just as sweet and tender as it always is — and just as elusive as it is for everyone. Success? Only if you dream hard enough and work like mad.

Will you suffer discrimination? You bet your boots you will. But then, in this society, so do Blacks, Women, Jews, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and a host of others. As I said in my article, fight. It will make you stronger.

Thanks for writing, Drew. Take pride in who you are and if you fear that being Gay puts you out of sync with your society, perhaps you should remember that the only thing in total harmony with its environment is a corpse.

With Regards,
Terry Boughner
Editor.

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Valentines and Hearts

This is the Valentine's issue and there's a couple of hearts I want to send.

One, large and red, is to Jenean Sharpe. She is one beautiful person whose soul is full of giving without stint or measure. She spreads light wherever she goes.

A second heart goes to Dan Schramm. Dan's work for this paper, *In Step* and for many other clubs and organizations in town goes largely unnoticed and should not be. Love ya, Dan.

And the biggest heart of all to the publisher of *Wisconsin Light*. That the paper is the paper; that it looks as good as it does is because of him. He puts up with an awful lot — a lot of times, the editor who loves him a lot and is cantankerous as hell. Still, he gets the paper out with a wonderful determination to serve that is his hallmark. Happy Valentine's day, Jerry. I'd have bought you a heart, but you already have mine.

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A LETTER FROM KAREN LAMB

The sun shone brightly when my little dog, Tab Hunter, and I awakened this morning. Stunned, I knew it was a gift from my friend.

My friend is dead. "He would not like for you to carry on like this, mom. In fact, he would bless you out quite properly!"

"I know, darling dog, but what will I do without him?"

How does one grieve? Bawl like a baby? Crawl into a shell? Maybe howl like an angry mad dog.

"Maybe all, mom. You are going to miss your friend, huh, mom."

"Yes, Tab. We all are. He was so... I struggle for words. Lacking any, I continue to explain. "He was just so plain good. Good friend, giving and loving lover, upstanding professional man, brilliant yet compassionate fighter. Civic leader. Tab, he just gave so much to our City. And now he's gone."

"And you didn't even get to say goodbye."

"No, sweetheart, I didn't. Now, the only thing it seems I ever did was to ask for help. Help for Helen when she wanted to sue that damn blood-bank; help even for you, naughty dog, when you try to take on the whole establishment, and doggone could a'near gotten your pants sued off for it."

"Help when we wanted to fight those fornicating insurers, huh, mom?"

"Watch your language, Tab!"

"I know, mom, but they are not going to blame you! I would tell 'em that you've been trying to clean my language up for eight years. And..."

"Yes, Tab, and Lord knows, I surely haven't succeeded!"

"Mom? How long, just how many years have you been readin' those obituaries, looking for some reference to AIDS?"

"Seems forever, honey. Finally, I guess I do believe I never will see any reference to it. Somehow, 'Mr. So-an-So, having succumbed after a long battle with cancer...' 'Beloved wife, leaves behind four small children...' seems so much more... respectable."

"Yes, but wasn't it nice to go to a service where the beautiful lover and family were so comforting to each other?"

"Yes, maybe, just maybe, Tabby, we are making progress."

"Mom? Can we talk about something else? Something very, Very Important?"

"Sure, sugar, go ahead."

"Well, Guess What Is Coming? Valentine's Day! You know the day when all Lovers give CANDY!"

"Not just candy, hungry dog, but sweet messages made on paper



Dr. Karen Lamb

Jerry Johnson

hearts..."

"But candy is the nicest, don't you think so, mom? You know, mother, you have just met so many wonderful people this month, tell them about the man in black leather who wanted to buy you a drink, and, and, and tell them, mother, about the pretty Lesbian lady who bought your hat for her dearest friend..."

"And how lovely she will look in it. Yes, darling, it has been an especially beautiful month for me. I loved them all. Thank Goodness, we are not all cut out of the same cookie cutter."

"Cookies! Is Valentine's Day for cookies, too!"

"No, darling, Valentine's is for saying 'I Love You' and really meaning it."

We Love You!

Love and Kisses, Love and Chocolate Kisses, Love and Chocolate Cookies, Love and Chocolate..."

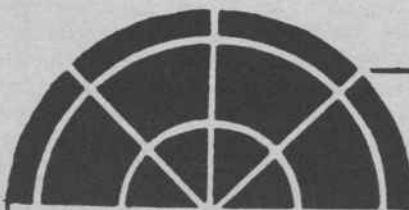
"Say Goodnight!"

"Goodnight. Roses are Red, Chocolate is Brown. You are the Sweetest People. In this ol' town."

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Witty "Forbidden Broadway" Plays To Jaded Audience, Reviewers

By Geno

A largely middle class, middle-aged, middle brow capacity audience sat through a witty performance of "Forbidden Broadway" at Milwaukee's Pabst Theatre, Thursday evening, the 1st of February. Now, when a cabaret show runs for 8 years in New York (it's still going off-Broadway) and the *New Yorker* magazine raves about it, you must know that this is a savvy, sophisticated show well worth seeing. But, as one of the Pabst ushers remarked, "This isn't a very Gay audience."

Well, a larger Gay contingent would have helped to awaken that stolid audience and reward five very talented performers with the accolade they richly deserved.

Milwaukee's jaded reviewers dismissed the performance as "predictable" (the *Journal*) and "fruitcake" (the *Sentinel*), and the latter's perfunctory review might just have been written without even seeing the show. True, this one-night stand wasn't widely publicized, but it deserved a more perceptive audience.

This spunky revue by creator/lyricist Gerard Alessandrini often cuts three ways at the same time, spoofing a Broadway show (Les Miz, Annie, Cats), spoofing a well-known, mannered performer (Patti LuPone, Ann Miller

"My hair is as big as the set", Richard Harris in his cups), as well as poking fun at show biz trends (difficult musical scores like Sondheim's, Andrew Lloyd Webber's high tech spectaculars or opera stars singing musical comedy).

The four young actor/singers are bright, vocally accomplished with a remarkably wide range of theatrical flair. Parody in some ways is more difficult than singing the original straight — the performer has to duplicate the sound and look of the original while twitting it with panache. Ellen Saxton, Mike Harmon, Lori Hammel and Brad Van Nostrand possess the necessary dash and elan to parody the Vegas singing style, to impersonate Yul Brynner, and do a standup of "Les Miserables" or "Fiddler" hat is right on target. A duet between E hel Merman and Mary Martin is literally a screamer and Carol Channing sings "Do ly is a girl's best friend" with a knowing leer. Of course it helps if the audience recognizes what is being spoofed.

New York's longest-running musical comedy revue deserves an appreciative audience. If by chance it should play a return engagement to phlegmatic Milwaukee, let's take the theatre by storm!

Thriller "Musical Comedy Murder of 1940" Premieres February 15

[Milwaukee]- Theatre Tesseract opens the Milwaukee premiere of "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" on February 15. This ingenious and wildly comic romp pokes antic fun at the more ridiculous aspects of "show biz" and the corny thrillers of Hollywood's heyday. If murder mysteries are your thing, or World War II nostalgia, or show-biz trivia, or camp humor — "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" will knock you dead.

As a backstage comedy-thriller, the play is a non-stop barrage of laughter as those assembled (or at least those who aren't killed off) untangle the mystery of the "Stage Door Slasher." While the snow falls outside, the characters are

caught in a blizzard of indoor mayhem with bodies dropping in plain sight and fingers pointing in all directions.

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" will have a limited run from February 15 through March 11 at Lincoln Center for the Arts, 820 E. Knapp St. in Milwaukee. Parking is free. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. An additional Sunday matinee has been added on March 11 at 2:00 p.m. Individual tickets are \$10 to \$14. Talkbacks will be held on the following Thursdays: February 22, March 1, and March 8. For reservations and group rates, call (414) 273-PLAY.

Tom Schroeder Is Winner In Feinstein Concert Essay Contest

The Wisconsin Light and Stardate Productions are pleased to announce the winner of the essay contest on the topic, "How Has AIDS Affected the Gay and Lesbian Community?" The winner is Tom Schroeder of Greenfield, WI. Tom won two \$35 tickets to see Michael Feinstein in concert at Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center on Feb. 13. His winning entry follows.

By Tom Schroeder

How has AIDS affected the Gay and Lesbian community?

We're Mad! Kramer, Shilts, and other notables have put our anger into words. We're angry with a government that turned its back on us far too long. We're angry with social service programs too bureaucratic to meet the needs of our ill. And, we are angry with ourselves, too, for not taking heed soon enough.

We're Sad! We hear the names of the recently diagnosed, and we sense the despair and pain they'll most certainly know. We're sad as we've seen THE QUILT grow to unbelievable dimensions. And, when this scourge strikes close, we find angry tears often the only response to "WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?"

We're Glad! True! Some of us breathe that sigh of relief that comes from

knowing we've avoided — escaped — the cursed disease for now. But, we're glad, too, to see OUR COMMUNITY making strides in its methods of dealing with this crisis. We're happy to see positive action, genuine caring, and a more personal commitment to involve ourselves in the coping and solving processes. We rejoice in the slightest progress towards medical advance.

And We're Scared! ...for ourselves and our loved ones. Frightened that breakthroughs and help won't arrive in time. And we are also scared that someday this all will be forgotten.

We have learned that we are strong. We have learned we are resourceful. As we each continue a private struggle with AIDS, let OUR COMMUNITY learn from our shared experiences. Let us not forget, but rather grow stronger.

Miss Gay Great Lakes USA Pageant March 17-18 in Appleton

[Waukegan, IL]- King Productions is proud to present the Miss Gay Great Lakes USA Pageant on Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18, 1990. This official Miss Gay USA Preliminary will take place at the newly remodeled Pivot Club, 4815 W. Prospect Ave. (Hwy BB) in Appleton.

Contestant registration will be held at the Pivot Club at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. All contestants will compete in talent and evening gown on Saturday evening

beginning at 8:00 p.m. Interviews will then be held Sunday afternoon. On Sunday evening, the top ten will be announced and they will again compete in a talent and evening gown competition.

The winner will receive a crown, plaque, and a cash/prize package worth \$500, including entry fee to the Miss Gay USA Pageant.

Tickets and table reservations are available through the Pivot Club, (414) 730-0440.

Film Festival Seeks Entries For San Francisco Screenings

[San Francisco, CA]- Frameline is now accepting entries for the 14th San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival scheduled for June 15-24, 1990. It is the world's largest and most respected screening of its kind.

The Festival, which is held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, brings together the best in feature, documentary, and short films and videos by and about Lesbians and Gay men. The sponsor, Frameline, is

a non-profit media arts organization that promotes the production, exhibition and appreciation of Gay films and videotapes.

Formats accepted include 35mm, 16mm and Super-8 films; NTSC 3/4 inch and 1/2 inch VHS video cassettes. The deadline for entries is March 31, 1990. Awards will be presented to outstanding works in several categories. For further information, contact Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call (415) 861-5245.

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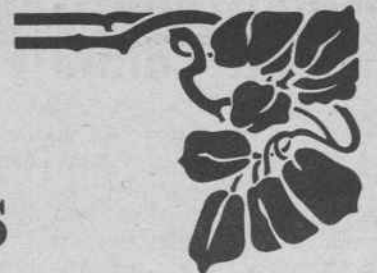
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Two Wisconsin Sweet Hearts

J. J. Newmann

Holly Brown

What is it like to be Mr. Gay Wisconsin? J.J. Newmann should know for he won the title at the Pageant here in Milwaukee in November, 1989 and will serve until the crown is transferred in November, 1990.

"Serve" is the right word because for J.J., "service" is a large part of what being Mr. Gay Wisconsin is all about. Being Mr. Gay Wisconsin is an opportunity, he says, "to be able to meet with and talk to all segments of the

experience, is currently a church organist and a sales rep for a publisher.

In his "spare time," J.J. works out regularly at a local gym, sculpting his hard and beautifully muscled body—200 lbs. on a 5'11" frame—to sensuous and sinuous masculine perfection.

J.J. has a sweetheart, Bill Wood, who J.J. calls "my heartthrob" and who is a member of the Oberons, sharing with J.J. the love of leather and a deep affection for and pride in the leather brotherhood. "They accept people for who and what they are," J.J. says.

He is a self-described "people person," with friends as his greatest wealth. Thus his pet peeve is no surprise. "It's people," he says, "who come on really strong to you as a person, then find out that you have a lover and then they back off; totally back away. Take time to get to know a person," he advises. "Life goes by too quickly not to develop good, sound friendships."

As Mr. Gay Wisconsin, he sees the Gay/Lesbian community from a unique vantage point. He regrets the lack of interaction between the Lesbian and Gay male segments of the community and wants to do what he can to improve it.

"As for the Lesbian/Gay community itself," he wishes that "they were able to put down the facade and be themselves. Basically, that's what we're asking the hetero community to do." He shakes his head regretfully. "To judge people based on outward appearance is really bad," he says.

Asked to comment on his experience so far as Mr. Gay Wisconsin, J.J. responds enthusiastically that "it's absolutely amazing the wonderful way I've been received. It's been great." He talks warmly of the generosity of the sponsoring businesses and of the many people he's had a chance to meet. "It's really been fantastic," he says with his typical smile that lights up his face.

In Medieval times there was a belief that the outward appearance of a person reflected the inward reality. In J.J.'s case this is certainly true. There is absolutely no denying his physical beauty, but he wears it lightly and through it shines a kind and sensitive person, an artist, if you will, a man who loves people. "If you see me," he says, "in the Wreck Room, M&M or the Triangle, c'mon up and talk." Do it. You'll find one of the nicest people you could have met.

There are people who are simply larger than life, living dramas unto themselves. Among them are Cher, Mae West and, of course, the late, great Divine. Such a one is Milwaukee's own Holly Brown.

She is Aunti Mame (the Ros Russell incarnation) sweeping out of the Australian outback on a warm wind. "At 15 I put on a dress and that was it," she says and off she went to sample life's smorgasbord to the full.

She has written books, acted in movies, worked nightclubs, dancehalls and cabarets in Tokyo, London, Paris and Rome — to mention only a few places — as a stripper, an actor, an actress, a dancer and, in between times, exhibited her paintings in everyplace from Madison to Mandalay. Eventually she came to Milwaukee five years ago, arriving from Chicago with Ginger Spice to entertain at Club II-XIX's anniversary party. She has been here ever since.

Holly is vivacious, tempestuous, warm, loving all at once, coming into a room in gusts, cigarette held at an angle, a broad smile on her attractive features. She is a star, nationally known, of world renown and she is exciting, effervescent, and very approachable.

"I'm not a drag queen," she says. "I'm an entertainer and I love it. I just love it. The minute I walk out, I'm an entertainer. It's my business." Divine said almost the same things in an interview with *Light*, one of the last interviews she ever gave. And you believe it because it's the way of the consummate showperson, the ultimate comedian, the person born to greasepaint and the boards.

"Leave Milwaukee?" Holly laughs, deep, low in her throat. "Oh," she says with a flick of her cigarette, "those are rumors and you know how rumors are?" She pauses thoughtfully and then continues, "I love Milwaukee. The love I've felt from here is something people only dream about."

She looks away, out toward the back patio of Partners where she is being interviewed and then goes on, "I was a sissy little kid in the outback (of Australia). You search for this love and the love I've felt from people in Milwaukee is God's gift and I thank them for it."

Holly says her mission in life is to make people have a good time and she works constantly at it, rehearsing with her troupe, Holly and Co, 3-4 nights a week for the show at La Cage. She is its life and inspiration, but as any true artist, she gives credit to "the troupe, the boys and

girls who perform with her and have made the show famous throughout the area. "They're very dedicated," she says, "They always come through," and adds, "It's not a drag show, it's a variety show, a time to laugh. There's no soapbox, few political messages, just a place to be all together, Gays, Lesbians and straights and there we all are and we're entertained."

Those who have seen the show (and who hasn't?) may be surprised to learn that, while there's a different routine every week, aside from necessary structure, it's all ad lib.



Jerry Johnson

J. J. Newmann performing at M&M with an African theme.

community, a chance to get involved in the community, to give" in a way not open to many others.

As part of this, J.J. goes out of his way to participate in shows and benefits, presenting the community to itself as well as to those outside it. He also is looking forward to doing volunteer work with the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Though he probably would not describe himself in this way, this 27 year-old former Marine sergeant with the sunny smile, seems shy, with a charming, reticent quality about him—especially when it comes to talking about himself. Yet, he is a wonderfully multi-talented artist, proficient with the alto sax, the flute, the clarinet as well as the piano. He is taking vocal lessons and is a cast member at Club II-XIX on Sunday nights. In addition, he is a professional dancer, has had broadcast and theatrical



Jerry Johnson

Holly Brown as Bette Davis at La Cage's Sunday show.

Speaking of the show, she says, "It's a time I give something back. They've given me such a lot of happiness."

As for the future, "I'm going where fate takes me," she says and adds, "I'm a great believer in fate, you know. If it happens, it's meant to happen, you know?" But regardless of what her life holds for her, she's happy. She has her hobby — gourmet cooking — her deep interest in architecture — and her life as a comedian. "That's what I've always wanted to be," she says. She pauses with one stylish eyebrow raised impishly, "For a character, you know?" and that seems, if anything does, to sum it up. Sum it up except for saying that as was written of Holly Brown once before in the pages of this paper, she is a great person with a great heart, a heart that Jack Benny or Gracie Allan would understand.

Break a leg, Holly. Milwaukee loves you.



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.*

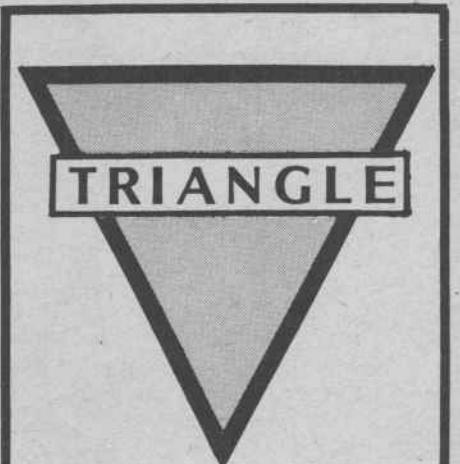
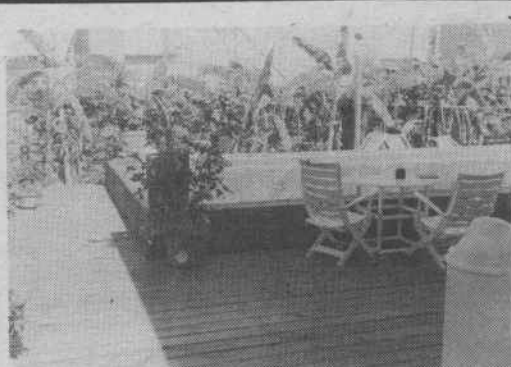
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Would You Help A Terminally Ill Friend Commit Suicide?

[Milwaukee]- After Gary lost consciousness from drinking a sweet-syrup cocktail laced with about 50 crushed morphine tablets, his two friends, John and Mary, wrestled his emaciated 90-pounds into two large plastic garbage bags and sealed them. Gary (all three names have been changed) had insisted on the bags as an insurance in the remote chance he'd miscalculated the lethal dose of morphine: he wanted to be absolutely certain his suicide wasn't botched.

It has been called "The Hamlet Question"; whether, in the extreme circumstances of pain and suffering often associated with terminal illness, "to be or not to be"; to continue living or to seek by some means to end one's life.

The debate over euthanasia has been going on for some time. But increasingly, as care centers across the country report, "Hamlet's" lover or close friends are being involved either by being asked to help or by taking action on their own.

On January 2, 1990, Philip Saylor, described by news accounts as a "very close friend" of Steven Jenkins who was dying of complications due to AIDS, entered Jenkins' room at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Hospital and shot him to death in his hospital bed. Saylor then turned his .38-caliber pistol on himself and committed suicide.

It is not an isolated incident. Ernie Guomas of the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) AIDS Health Project, was quoted in the San Francisco *Sentinel* as saying, "There's a population out there, who have assisted in a suicide and are totally freaked out because they underestimated what it was really like to do it and what it's like to live with it afterwards."

The aftermath is especially devastating in cases where an attempt goes wrong. A New York City counselor said, "a person ends up with their lover in a coma. When you actually get down to it, it's hard to kill yourself. The body has this tremendous life force."

In Milwaukee, a recent and unscientific poll asked the question "Would you help

a friend or lover commit suicide if they were terminally ill?" The question, posed by *Wisconsin Light*, was one used by the *Washington Blade* and the *Sentinel*.

Respondents, both women and men, divided about evenly on whether they could or could not help someone in extreme cases to kill themselves. On the whole, however, those saying "No" were more definite in their answers than those responding "Yes." "No" was "no" and that was it. This compares well with those answering a similar question in other cities.

As elsewhere in the country, those responding in the affirmative, often spoke cautiously, hedging their answer with moral and legal considerations and voicing the agony that such a decision would bring them. Two said they could "pull the plug" or seek to deny medication that would "unnecessarily" prolong "pain", but could not do

anything more. Several persons, also admitted that they were, at present, facing such a crisis in their lives. One person said, "Nobody should have to face that. Nobody!"

Nevertheless, if reports are accurate, it is a situation that many are facing more than ever before.

Patrick Arbore, Geriatric and Grief Program Director at San Francisco Suicide Prevention, is reported to have said, "For every recorded suicide, there is probably one that isn't recorded. And it's even higher within the AIDS community." Arbore advocates bringing suicide and lover-assisted deaths "out of the closet." He blames the under-reporting on the stigma attached to suicide and the resulting refusal of people to talk about it. "We've got to allow the conversation to take place," he said, "rather than cutting it off."

Dr. James W. Dilley of the UCSF AIDS Health Project agreed. "One of the reluctances that people have about talking about suicide is the fear that by talking about it, you're going to make it worse." Talking about suicide, he maintained,

"does not encourage it."

The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) in line with every other AIDS care organization, stands ready to talk with people, lovers, friends and those afflicted, about their feelings and situation. No one need feel isolated or alone.

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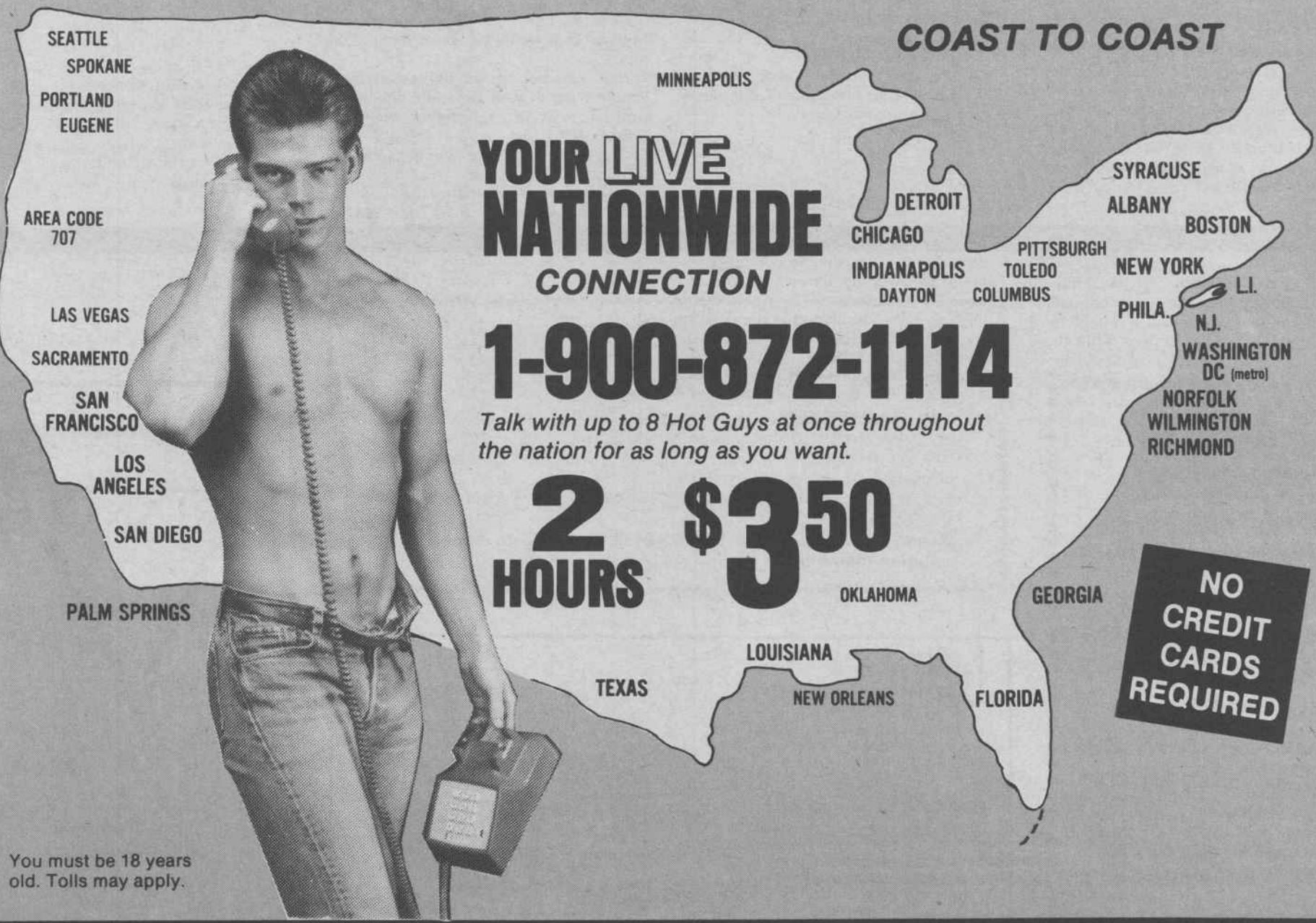
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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

A Few Choice Letters From The National Mailbag

By Bill Meunier

Dear Aunt Martha,

As you probably know by now, I've decided to run for re-election. Actually the decision to do so was rather easy, after all someone has to defend our good old American values - from all of those disgusting types, and why shouldn't that person be me.

I wouldn't want to pain your delicate eyes by writing to you of all of the disgusting things those disgusting, vile, Homosexual types practice, but suffice it to say that next to the anti-tobacco people they are our biggest enemies, (specially now since I don't have the dirty filthy commies to kick around anymore.)

Believe it or not, these creeps are actually marching together in our streets. Why Robert E. Lee must be spinning in his grave knowing that at any moment a gaggle of Gays or a legion of Lesbians might be planning one of their Pride marches in the very heart of our Confederacy, I mean South.

Just think Aunt Martha, these evil doers DEMAND, the right to love who they choose. Can you imagine the nerve! What do you think would happen to this country if everyone got the notion that they could love whoever they wanted to? Next thing you know people would be loving those goddess Chinese or the pagan Africans. Loving people is downright unAmerican, hell its unChristian.

But don't worry Aunt Martha, your nephew Jesse, will stop them dead in their tracks. They can say whatever they want about me, but I don't care how many of them get sick and die, they won't get any help from the Federal government, I don't care how many of them get bashed either. As far as I'm concerned we should give the so called Fag Bashers medals for service to their country.

It was bad enough for us to be forced to let the negroes have an equal footing, under the lay I simply won't allow these disgusting types to use our Constitution written by and for us heterosexuals to justify their filthy behavior and ideas. For pete's sake, if God had wanted us to give equal rights to fags and dykes, he would have put it into the Bill of Rights.

That's all for now. Say hi to the folks back home and give my love to your friend Elizabeth. Its been such a comfort to me knowing that although you never married you have such a nice friend providing companionship in your old age by living with you for the last twenty some years.

Your Loving Nephew,
Jesse Helms

Dear Mommy,

The rumors you've heard are true, I have made a commercial promoting a pediatrics AIDS clinic and I didn't get paid for it. And oh yes, I did tell the press that as I've gotten older I've learned more about AIDS and now I know normal red blooded Americans could get AIDS, so I am willing to help THEM. After all when I thought only a few innocent people would get hurt, I figured it would be a small price to pay for getting rid of those perverts. How was I to know that C. Everet Koop and all of those other health experts were right?

Don't worry I'm not going soft in my old age. I know we need the money to pay off the taxes on those dresses you borrowed when we were living in White House, but the whole purpose of the commercial is to raise money, so I couldn't ask them to pay me for it. Besides if we need more money I'll just ask my Japanese friends to arrange another speaking tour for me.

I know that by helping to raise money for a Children's AIDS clinic I may be helping those other people, you don't like to talk about, but I am assured that the money raised will be used for treatment of the little tykes and not for those nasty adults who brought it upon themselves.

I hope that this clears this little matter up and you won't be mad at me anymore and will let me come home now.

Your Loving Husband,
Ronnie

Dear Board of Regents,

I am so grateful to you for clearing up some of my misunderstandings concerning the University of Wisconsin and the way its supposed to operate.

I had thought that in 1982 when the State of Wisconsin enacted a law promising that the State would not discriminate against Gays and Lesbians that the University was included and that eight years was long enough to wait. Apparently I was wrong.

I was laboring under the ill conceived notion that public officials whose salaries are paid for with our taxes are supposed to serve all of the people. Therefore I understandably was upset that despite his promise to work to end ROTC discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, UW President Kenneth Shaw did nothing. Little did I know that Shaw was trying to teach his Political Science students an object lesson. Apparently Mr. Shaw does not have serve all of the people, at least not those who are Gay and Lesbian.

I had no idea that Shaw, who is now under orders to convince Congress to end discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in the military, had such power. I guess all he has to do is tell Congress to make the military treat us nicely and it will. I am sure the Pentagon is shaking to its very foundations at the prospect of facing Shaw in the halls of Congress.

I believed UW Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala when she so sincerely, told all of the good people of Wisconsin, that institutionalized discrimination against minority groups had to be eliminated and that she would eliminate it. Shalala fought against her own faculty to keep ROTC at UW. Ms Shalala probably doesn't know Gays and Lesbians are a minority group. (Gee Donna there are more of us than most people think, but we really aren't in the majority.) May be she does know, but simply doesn't think we are worth defending.

I am grateful beyond measure to these good people for teaching me that UW is above the law, (a great object lesson for its students) that the military only defends the constitution and does not have to operate under it and that although UW has no problem accepting our tax dollars, it can choose to discriminate against us.

In the interest of fair play I suggest that we Gays and Lesbians return the favor and teach UW a few things, too.

We can start with refusing to contribute money to the Wisconsin Foundation and your other alumni funds. We can refuse to buy tickets for the privilege of watching your lousy football and basketball teams lose. Speaking of athletics we can encourage state Gay and Lesbian athletes and other athletes who stand for fairness to take their talents elsewhere. In fact why should we stop with the athletes, why not encourage any high school student to attend college elsewhere.

Last but not least we can urge our State Legislators many of whom were elected with our help, to turn a deaf ear to UW's appeals for more funds as its administration desperately scrambles for money to cover up its own mismanagement.

When UW decided to discriminate against those Lesbians and Gays who want to be part of the ROTC program, it decided to discriminate against us all and as long as some of us are not welcome in some UW programs, none of us should feel welcome in any of them.

Sincerely,
Bill Meunier

Nett Hart To Read At Room of One's Own on Feb. 22

[Madison]- Nett Hart, author of the recently released *Spirited Lesbians*, will be reading at A Room Of One's Own Bookstore, 317 W. Johnson St. in Madison at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 22.

Hart is co-author of *Ripening, Dreaming, and Awakening, Almanacs of Lesbian Lore and Vision*, and co-founder of Word Weavers, a Lesbian publishing company. Her new book explores what it is to be socially responsible and active in a world that we recreate as wommon — loving, life-loving, Lesbian loving.

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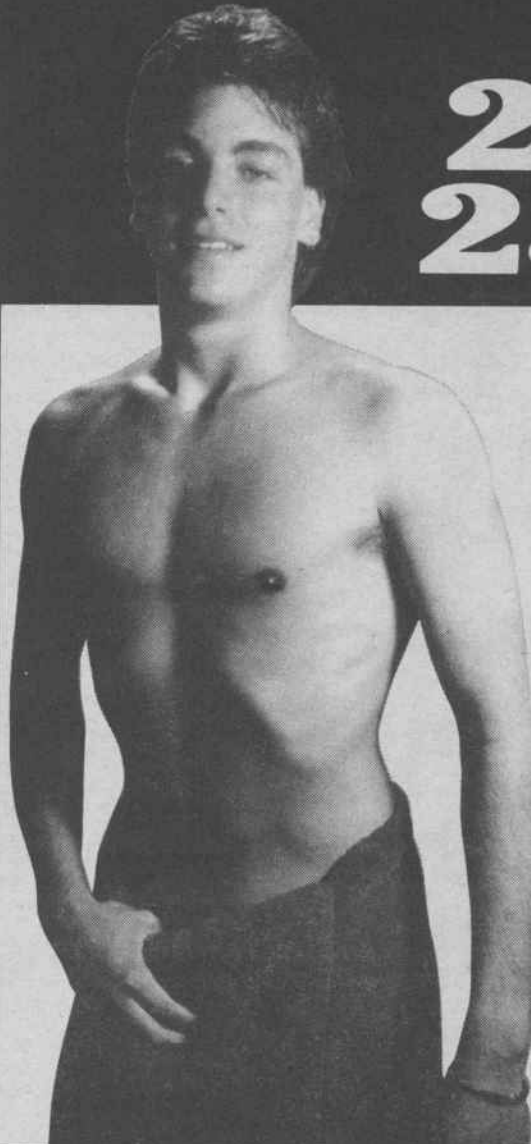
Financial assistance to pay for medication (AZT and aerosolized pentamidine).
Life care services to coordinate the medical and emotional support you may need.

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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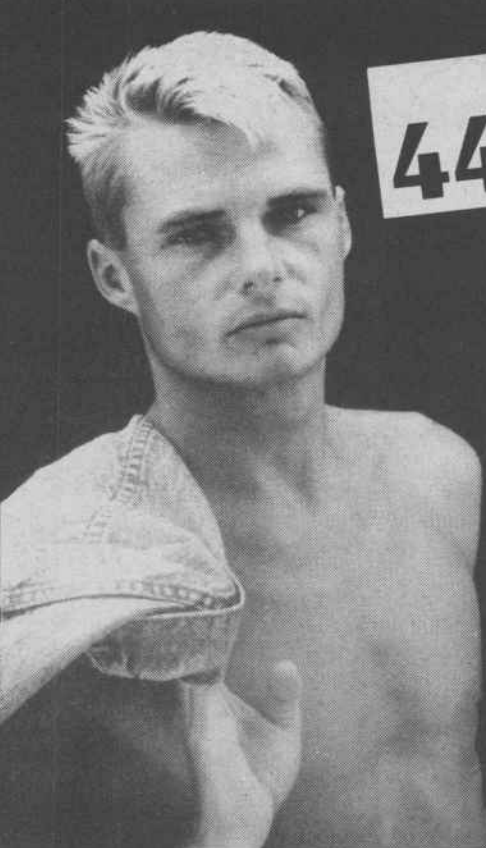
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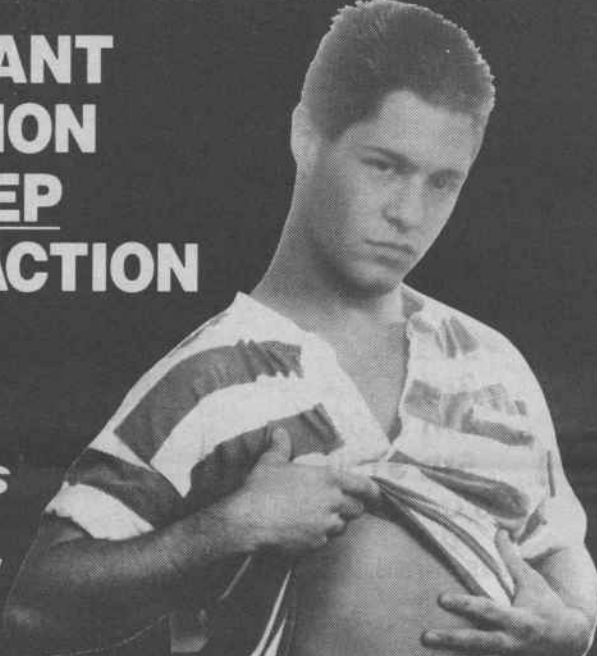


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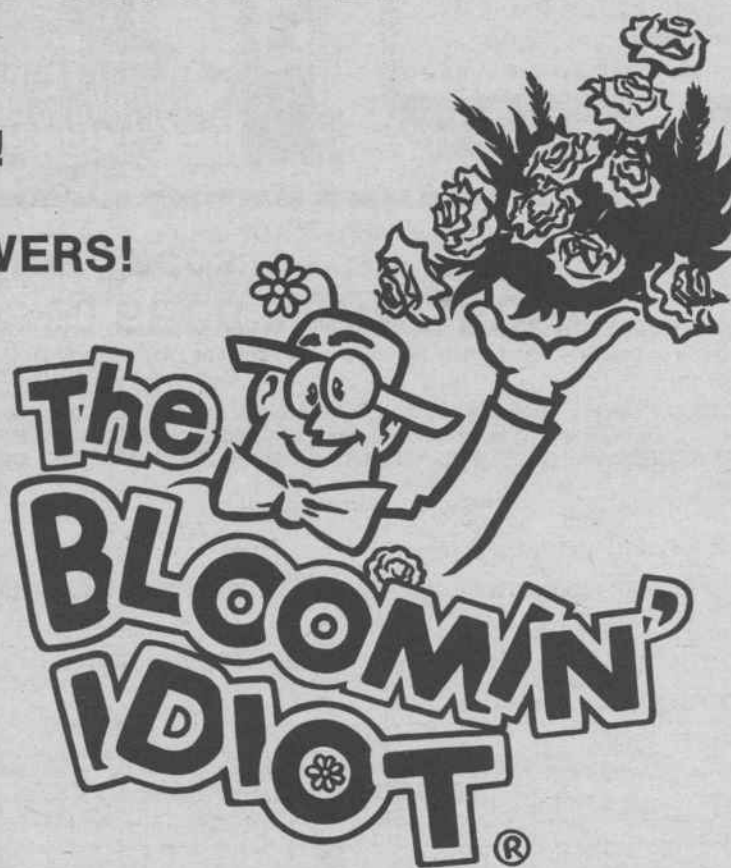
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