



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

The Wisconsin Light

ACT-UP Pulls Rug From Under Galaxy Carpet

By Tim Grair and Doug Radtke

[Milwaukee]- On Thursday, January 25, 1990, ACT-UP-Milwaukee joined with AIDS activists from around the country including ACT-UP New York to deluge the corporate offices and order desk of Galaxy Carpet Mills with phone calls demanding that they rescind their discriminatory health insurance policy on AIDS coverage.

The flood of calls, known as a "phone zap", came at the initiation of ACT-UP New York. Over 500 phone calls were made during the zap.

Galaxy, which is based in Chatsworth, Georgia, is one of America's largest carpet mills.

The zap took place after it was learned that Galaxy had instituted an employee health insurance policy that placed a cap of \$10,000 on lifetime medical reimbursements for people living with AIDS. The limitation could be waived only if "the infection or disease process (AIDS) described was involuntarily acquired by means other than sexual contact or drug abuse." There were no comparable limitations on benefits for other diseases.

Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund said, "If you have cancer and you need a transfusion, you're covered. But if you need the exact same procedure because you have an HIV-related condition, you're not."

In response to this discriminatory practice, the Insurance and Health Access Committee of ACT-UP New York sent letters to the heads of Galaxy and to Allied Benefits Systems of Chicago which administers Galaxy's insurance policy. The letters demanded that Allied and Galaxy rescind their discriminatory policies. When neither company complied, ACT-UP New York called for the phone zap.

On February 1st, the zap was repeated, this time directed against Allied Benefits Systems.

As a direct result of these two zaps, Galaxy and Allied agreed to eliminate the clauses that discriminate against people with AIDS effective February 15, 1990.

ACT-UP Milwaukee is a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to bring about an end to the AIDS crisis. The group meets with government and public health officials and engages in the research and distribution of the latest medical information.

We protest and demonstrate: **We Are Not Silent!**

English Elected President Of Milwaukee Pride Committee

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee '90 has elected a new executive committee. Jim English was chosen as President, Tim Hansen as Vice President, Scott Gunkle as Secretary and Cirina King as Secretary. In addition, Gary Wells as accepted the position of Volunteer Co-

Proposed Health Insurance Bill Raises Controversy

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Wisconsin State Assembly Bill 766, popularly known as "The Golden Rule Insurance Bill" is the subject of controversy. The name comes from the Indianapolis-based Golden Rule Insurance Company one of the bill's chief advocates. The measure whose principal sponsor is State Rep. Tim Carpenter (D-Milw), is currently before the Assembly Health Committee.

AB 766 would prohibit an insurer from requiring an HIV test as a requirement for issuing a policy. However, the bill would permit denial of coverage or an exclusion to policyholders if "objective manifestations of the infection" (not specified in the bill) show up within the first 12 months after the policy is issued. This is known as "post-claims underwriting." It is this exclusion that seems to be at the heart of the controversy surrounding the bill.

Helms Defeated as U.S. Senate Passes Hate Crimes Act

[Washington, D.C.]- In an historic moment for the Gay and Lesbian community, the U.S. Senate on February 8, 1990, voted 92 to 4 to pass the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Included in the majority voting for the measure were Wisconsin Senators Robert Kasten (R) and Herb Kohl (D).

Before voting for passage, Senate lawmakers rejected, by 77-19, a move by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) to attach a four-part anti-Gay amendment to the bill.

The bill occupied the Senate for most of the day because of Helms' opposition. The North Carolinian talked at length about his views on homosexuality, assailing Gay rights protesters for a demonstration last Dec. 10 in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral and denouncing "the homosexual apologists in the media and in politics."

The Senator asserted that homosexuals had repeatedly come into his office in Raleigh last year and stroked and fondled each other "in the presence of the ladies who work in that office."

The landslide vote marks the first time in the history of the Senate that the pervasive problem of anti-Gay and Lesbian violence has been addressed, the first time Gay-positive legislation has passed the Senate, and the first time the

ordinator for the Committee.

Members of the new executive committee are planning on attending the Midwest Regional Gay/Lesbian Pride Conference in Wichita, Kansas, March 9-11. There they will meet to discuss and exchange ideas with Pride Committees from around the region.

Pride Week '90 will be June 16-24 with the parade and rally taking place on Saturday, June 16.

English said that a real need now is for volunteers. Any and everyone is needed and welcome. To volunteer, just call 32-PRIDE.

"Our 1990 theme of *Look to the Future: The Gay '90's*, is one filled with hope and dreams of the future," English said. "We intend to begin the '90's with a Pride Celebration so that all members of our community can join in to one big fellowship of spirit and pride. We hope that 1990 Pride will mark a major decade of change for all members of society and that we can walk together, all united under one banner of humankind."

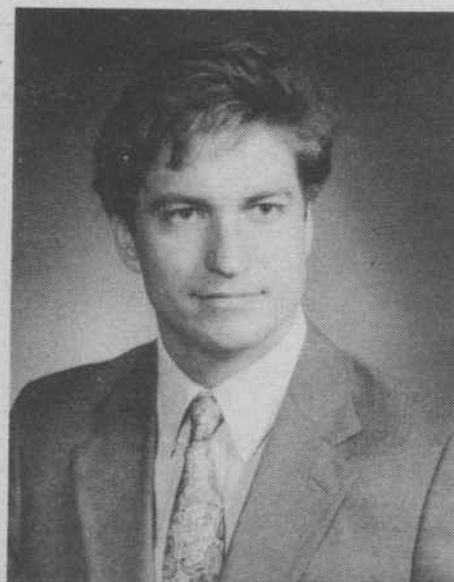
Robert D. Haase, the State Insurance Commissioner wrote in a letter to Carpenter that "Our office does not approve policies that contain such an exclusion (as AB 766)." He further wrote that the 12 month period would be like "denying a fire claim within the first year of the homeowner's policy."

Haase pointed out that even if under AB766 there is no requirement for an HIV test, "the insurer can still ask HIV-related questions as a part of the application and deny coverage on the basis of the answers."

Dismas Becker, representing Golden Rule, in a memo to Carpenter said, "We have agreed to amend the bill so that no questions could be asked regarding the testing for HIV. All questions would be limited to whether the applicant had any manifestations of AIDS."

Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) in a letter to J. Patrick Rooney,

chief executive officer of Golden Rule dated April 25, 1988, called the plan "a creative alternative"; one that "assures that an individual's decision to be tested will indeed be a voluntary one." However, Levi noted that the issue of a contestability period as a substitute for testing had not been addressed by those forming AIDS coverage guidelines. "In my view these are very different issues," he wrote.



REP. TIM CARPENTER

Benjamin Schatz, director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project in San Francisco, writing to Rooney on June 8, 1988, congratulated Golden Rule "for making a positive step in resolving the AIDS insurance crisis." However, Schatz made

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Williams Pushes Parental Choice School Bill

[Milwaukee]- Wisconsin State Representative Annette Polly Williams (D-Mil.), spoke on her parental choice program to a meeting of the Milwaukee Chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) on Saturday, February 17.

Williams', a long-time crusader for civil rights and the rights of the poor and minorities is the primary sponsor of AB 601, a bill which would allow up to 1,000 low-income, inner city parents to send their children to non-sectarian, private schools. There are, according to Williams, six such schools in Milwaukee. The money would be provided by the state and would be limited to the public school district's cost of educating a student. The program, if enacted, would be unique to Wisconsin. The program which, Williams said, would give parents a choice, "is the difference between empowerment and enslavement."

Williams told BWMT members that she did not have a high opinion of the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). "It is a bankrupt system," she said. She said also that there were some good teachers in MPS, but "they are hampered by bureaucracy."

Williams came out strongly against removing the residency requirement for MPS teachers. "They should live where they earn their money," she said.

Williams told BWMT that "since 1960, Milwaukee has lost 200,000 whites; white-flight which she called "de-facto segregation. She said there are currently 17 schools in Milwaukee that are one hundred percent Black. By 1995, Milwaukee, she said, "will be a Black city."

Finally she told the group, "We gotta fight." and added, "I'll be the one leading the revolt to destroy the system."

Madison AIDS Support Network Seeks Volunteers

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) is seeking individuals to fill positions in daytime Practical support (supporting people with HIV infection in daily chores such as transportation, cooking, cleaning etc.) and Emotional Support Volunteers. Training is provided. A one-year commitment is required. If you are interested or have more questions please give Tim O'Brien a call at 255-1711 between 8:30 and 4:30 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Judge Upholds Quarantine

[Montgomery, AL]- In January, US District Court Judge Robert E. Varner, upheld Alabama's policy of mandatory HIV testing and segregation of prisoners who test positive. Varner ruled that the constitutional rights of inmates were not being violated and that quarantine was necessary to protect other inmates and staff members.

The class action suit had been filed on behalf of the HIV-positive inmates by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Alabama began its mandatory testing and segregation of HIV-positive prisoners in 1985. Today, 130 men languish in quarantine at Limestone Correctional Facility near Capshaw, while 10 women are isolated at another location near Montgomery.

Quarantined prisoners have told the ACLU and Gay reporters that they are excluded from job training, education and recreation programs. Many have been denied adequate medical care, including access to essential AZT and pentamidine drug treatments. One inmate said that those quarantined are near despair, with no productive way to spend their time and little hope for the future.

Gay Witchhunt at Air Force Base

[Fort Worth, TX]- Seven airmen stationed at Carswell Air Force Base were discharged in December on grounds of homosexuality, according to the **Washington Blade**. At least 11 more airmen are under investigation and more than 50 have been questioned about their knowledge of homosexual activities.

A few of the airmen under investigation managed to contact Gay organizations like Texas Gay Veterans and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They told of lengthy interrogations and of pressure to name the names of other suspected homosexuals.

Carswell Air Base is considered a highly sensitive military installation whose commanding officer, Col. John B. Sims, is concerned with potential security breaches.

Helms Hesitates on Banning Torture

[Washington, D.C.]- Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) is using parliamentary maneuvering to slow down Senate ratification of a United Nations agreement banning torture. Even the Bush administration supports passage of the measure, citing the "urgent need" to send a signal to all nations that torture must not be tolerated.

But Helms seems confused about torture: "There are scores of questions we need to analyze. This is such a complicated subject. I hope we just don't move it along," the Senator said.

Sen. Helms also has the dubious distinction of opposing the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, federal funding of AZT for poor people with HIV infection, ad infinitum.

Pink Tags For Gay Jail Inmates

[Polk County, FL]- The American Civil Liberties Union has discovered that 30 inmates at the Polk County Jail are forced to wear special red bracelets indicating that they are Gay or Lesbian. The practice, called "pink tagging" by authorities, is a throwback to the Nazi era when Gay prisoners were forced to wear pink triangles to identify and ostracize them. The Polk County Jail has been "pink tagging" inmates for ten years.

The bracelets, which cannot be removed, are attached to inmates' wrists after their entry interview. Prison officials claim it is for their own "protection," but inmates told the ACLU a different story. "Pink taggers" are subject to harassment by guards and fellow prisoners. They are routinely denied recreation privileges. And some straight inmates have been "tagged" as a form of punishment.

Says Robyn Blumner in **Civil Liberties**: "The ACLU is considering litigation, but we are hopeful that Polk County will end this revolting practice without the pressure of a lawsuit."

Priest Dismissed After Testimony

[Pittsburgh, PA]-The **Advocate** reports that Rev. David R. Johnson, a Catholic priest, was relieved of his religious duties in January after testifying in support of a man he admitted was his former lover.

Johnson testified that his ex-lover, Charles Neff, was in a bar at the time Neff was alleged to have raped a woman elsewhere. Johnson admitted on the stand that he and Neff had been lovers.

Johnson said he knew his testimony might jeopardize his career and upset his family, but reasoned, "I thought to myself, if the Lord could be in my position — bizarre as it is — what would he do?" After a meeting with his bishop, Johnson was relieved of his duties and given an indefinite leave of absence.

Women's Event Draws Complaints

[Boston, MA]- Bob Kavin, a Gay man, has initiated a complaint with the Boston Human Rights Commission against a Lesbian-owned shop, Crone's Harvest, which advertised two of its seven opening events as "women only." Kavin told **Gay Community News**: "It really, frankly, pissed me off. We are too small a community to be divisive."

Mary Stockton, owner of Crone's Harvest, said, "I'm not interested in pitting Gay men and Lesbians against each other. There are common fronts where we can work together. But there are also moments when we need to work together as Lesbians. It's important that we, as Lesbians, spend part of our time with each other. It's too bad that a brother doesn't get it."

Under both Massachusetts state law and the city's Human Rights Ordinance it is illegal to discriminate against anyone in public accommodations. The law covers 15 protected categories, including sex.

Tennessee Gay Newspaper Sued

[Nashville, TN]- Pyramid Light and Power, publisher of **Dare**, Tennessee's Gay and Lesbian newsweekly, is being sued for trademark infringement by D.A.R.E., the California-based Drug Abuse Resistance Education organization. The suit seeks unspecified damages and an injunction against the Gay paper's use of the title.

D.A.R.E. is an agency that conducts drug abuse education programs throughout the country. **Dare** is a newspaper aimed at Lesbians and Gays primarily in Tennessee.

Stuart Bevin, **Dare** publisher, declared, "We don't have the same markets and our logos are completely dissimilar. **Dare** is a word, D.A.R.E. is an acronym... You can't own a word."

"Topless Ten" Found Guilty

[Rochester, NY]- Ten women charged with exposing their breasts in a park in Rochester's fourth annual "Topfree Picnic" have been convicted and sentenced to varying degrees of fines and community service.

At the first annual "topfree" event, charges were dismissed on the basis that the women's shirtless protest was a form of speech and expression protected by the First Amendment. Arrests did not occur again until 1989.

The protesters contend that current laws regulating clothing violate the Constitution's equal protection clause because they are only enforced against women. Protester Ramona Santorelli declared, "If people got used to seeing breasts in a non-commercial, non-sexual setting, they might be de-sensitized to looking at women as sex objects."

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

National Family Registry Paving Way To Equality

By Kathleen Stoll

In last Fall's round of elections, San Francisco voters were asked to affirm a measure providing bereavement leave for Lesbian and Gay partners of city employees. Although the vote was close, we lost this precedent-setting battle to gain a small degree of "official" recognition of Lesbian and Gay families. We can only speculate why we were defeated. It does seem clear that additional groundwork must be laid to move the general public to a point where it is willing to recognize Lesbian and Gay relationships as valid and healthy. The National Family Registry, created by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, is one of the tools to lay that groundwork.

The National Family Registry is a central repository of records of Lesbian and Gay families who wish to stand proud and be counted. The Registry broadly defines family as a person's primary and most important affectional and personal support system of close relationships. The Registry was created to increase the visibility of Lesbian and Gay families in the media, in the halls of Congress and in state legislatures.

We must educate all Americans that Lesbians and Gay men have wonderful, healthy families based on love. We cannot allow the far right to define family by its own arbitrary standards and simplistic formulas.

How can we do this education? The National Family Registry is part of the answer. It is critical that we increase the visibility of Lesbian and Gay families. "Straight" couples receive constant support from society. But, even without this reinforcement of our relationships,

we create our own families through strong bonds of love and commitment that withstand society's pressures to destroy us. Let's tell the world our beautiful, brave family stories.

During the next decade, our lawmakers will be making critical decisions about Lesbian and Gay rights. These lawmakers, and their constituents, will make the right decisions if they have an accurate picture of our community—not the picture painted by the "Religious Right". The National Family Registry needs the help of Lesbian and Gay families from across the country to be successful. We can paint our own self-portrait.

For more information about the National Family Registry or to obtain registration materials, please write the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Attn.: National Family Registry, 1012 14th ST. N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20005.



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National Drive Begins to Defeat Jesse Helms Re-Election

By Kathy Hoke

[Chapel Hill, NC]- On January 27, two weeks after U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) vilified Lesbians and Gay men in his campaign kickoff, about 40 activists from around the nation gathered in this university town to discuss a Lesbian and Gay strategy that will defeat the homophobic legislator.

If his campaign opener January 13 proves to be a harbinger of things to come, Helms fired a first shot, telling a crowd of 1,700 supporters in Raleigh that he was fighting for "family values."

"Homosexuals, Lesbians, all sorts of disgusting people are marching in the streets demanding all sorts of things, including the right to marry each other," Helms said. He also denounced abortion rights, the "filth of pornography" and public spending on "sick and perverted so-called art-work," referring to the photographs of the late Robert Mapplethorpe.

The Senator continued, "What that perverted, homosexual filth is, is not Michelangelo. It is modern day Sodóm and Gomorrah." Helms failed to note that historians accept that Michelangelo, like Mapplethorpe, was a Gay artist.

The *Charlotte Observer*, a major North Carolina newspaper, responded to Helms' anti-Gay remarks in an unusual editorial directly challenging the Senator's views on homosexuality. "When Sen. Helms describes homosexuals and Lesbians as 'disgusting people' — as distinguished from human beings who do things he finds disgusting — he reveals what a mean-spirited man he is, how totally lacking in compassion he is for anyone who is, by his standards, different," the paper wrote.

"His choice of that description reminds us again that Sen. Helms is not only mean-spirited, but that he relishes being mean-spirited. He gleefully flaunts his mean-spiritedness. He glories in his mean-spiritedness," the *Observer* continued. "We would suggest, however, that anyone who takes such a joy in meanness comes very close to exemplifying what is meant by evil," it concluded.

Defeating Helms has been a top priority of Lesbian and Gay activists well before the North Carolina Senator made his latest in a long series of anti-Gay blasts.

M.A.P. Begins Evening Drop-In - Center Workshops

[Milwaukee]- The Drop-In Center, sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), will begin its series of workshops on HIV-related issues and risk behavior reduction as part of its education/prevention outreach program of the MAP for Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay community. Workshops will be held at 225 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee and will begin at 9:00 p.m. on the designated Saturday evenings:

Feb. 24 "HIV Testing: Issues and Answers" presented by Jeff Miller, RN Brady East STD Clinic.

Mar. 3rd "Spectrum of HIV Disease and Co-factors That Influence Disease Progression" presented by Ben Johnson, Community Health Educator at MAP.

Mar. 10th "Legal and Ethical Issues of HIV" presented by Steve Byers, Attorney, Legal Aid Society.

Mar. 24th "Volunteering and Life Care Services" presented by Lynn Syverson, Director of Volunteer Resources and Cheryl Vaughn, Director of Life Care Services at MAP.

Mar. 31st "HIV+: Empowerment Through Options" presented by Dan Sorenson, HIV Case Manager at MAP.

In the first three weeks since its grand opening on Friday, January 19th, the Drop-In Center has welcomed approximately 50 people from the Lesbian and Gay community. The Drop-In Center is open every Friday and Saturday evening from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

The Drop-In Center provides information, referrals, brochures, condoms and safer behavior kits to those who "drop in" to this safe, alcohol-free environment. Several of those who have dropped in have expressed appreciation at being able to have a quiet, comfortable place where they can talk and relax.

The Drop-In Center has already jointly shared evenings with BEST Clinic in their HIV testing program. The Center will also serve as a station for STOP AIDS

Last Summer, a dozen activists met in Chapel Hill with Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) to talk about the 1990 Senate race. Four in the group were delegated to come up with a proposal.

In their letter announcing the January 27 meeting, the four wrote that any strategy should not "be based totally within the Democratic Party," since the Democrats were "too prone to ignore or mute our issues." Instead, the letter proposes gaining "substantial support from Gay people across the country" for the campaign.

Activists met again on January 9, 1990 to form a political group, agreeing on calling it "North Carolina Project 1990."

So far, more than \$2,500 has been raised for the group's \$30,000 projected budget. Organizers are appealing to all Lesbian and Gay groups, social justice, peace and progressive groups in seeking to end Helms' 18 year Senate career.

"Judging from (Helms) comments in the Senate on Gay and Lesbian people and AIDS issues..., homosexuality is going to be a major part of his campaign," Family Fund organizer Leo Teachout said.

"We need to be ready to respond, and it costs money to address some of these issues and to inform people about the truth — and Jesse Helms would not know the truth about Gay and Lesbian people if it crawled into bed with him."

Considerable thought and planning must become part of the effort to defeat Helms, said Eric Rosenthal, political director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund of Washington, D.C.

Rosenthal, who attended the January 27th meeting in Chapel Hill, noted the increasing anti-Gay role Helms has taken on in the last three years. With his power and eagerness to block legislation on Lesbian and Gay concerns, Helms seems likely to kill efforts to bring promising new treatments for people who are HIV-positive. "People will get sick and die because of the role he plays as a roadblock," Rosenthal said.

For more information about North Carolina Project 1990, contact Carter at 604 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC, 27701, telephone (919) 682-6374.

The Family Fund may be reached at P.O. Box 187, Rocky Point, NC 28457, telephone (919) 675-3845.

MILWAUKEE in its outreach to bar patrons.

For more information, call Michael S. Lisowski, Gay/Lesbian Community Educator at the Milwaukee AIDS Project, (414) 273-1991.

Jewish Organization Plans Confab

[Washington, D.C.]— The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations has scheduled four regional conferences for Gay and Lesbian Jews in 1990, in Europe, Canada and the United States.

The World Congress is an umbrella organization of over two dozen Gay and Lesbian Jewish groups across the globe, dedicated to combating homophobia in the Jewish community, anti-Semitism in the Gay and Lesbian community and to developing and strengthening Gay and Lesbian Jewish organizations and communities.

From April 27-May 1, the 2nd European Regional Conference will meet in Amsterdam. In addition to a wide variety of workshops, the host group, Sjalhomo, is planning a number of special events, including a service at the Homomonument and a tour of the Anne Frank house.

The 3rd Midwestern Regional Conference will be held from June 29-July 1, 1990. This is the first World Congress meeting to be held in Canada.

Seattle's Tikvah Chadashah will host the 3rd Western Regional Conference August 10-12, on the heels of the Gay Games in Vancouver. The 4th Northeastern Regional Conference will take place in the Catskills, at the Holiday Hills Conference Center, August 17-19.

For further information, contact Barrett L. Brick, The World Congress, P.O. Box 18961, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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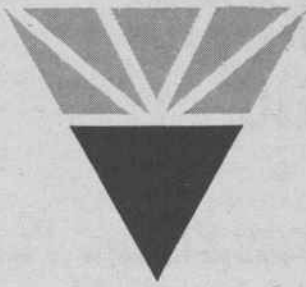
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In Milwaukee call 273-AIDS

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.

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

The Wisconsin Light



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GAY AND LESBIAN
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EDITORIAL

Rooney Suspension Is The Least He Deserved For Racist Remarks

The suspension of commentator Andy Rooney for series of ignorant remarks about Gay people and Blacks is the least we should expect from that once prestigious news organization, CBS News.

Rooney had been making stupid comments about Gay people for months. On one program last year, he said that "many of the ills that kill us are self-induced... too much alcohol, too much food, drugs, homosexual unions, cigarettes." This was a slur against the dignity of all Gay and Lesbian relationships and, in its apparent reference to AIDS, spread very dangerous misinformation.

In his newspaper column in October, Rooney said he didn't have anything against homosexuals: "I wouldn't want to spend much time in a small room with one, but they don't bother me otherwise."

Can you imagine if he had said this about Jews or Blacks? The lack of response by CBS up to this point proves something we've known all along: Gays and Lesbians are the last minority it is still acceptable to discriminate against.

When Rooney shared his ignorant views about the supposed genetic deficiencies of African-Americans with the *Advocate*, it was apparently the straw that broke the proverbial camel's back and CBS suspended him.

Mike Wallace, on a recent "60 Minutes", had the audacity to tell viewers that the "60 Minutes" staff looked forward to Rooney's return. CBS has said calls and letters are running 50-1 in Rooney's favor. *The Light* encourages readers to let CBS know what you think. Write to: David Burke, President of CBS News, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

If Rooney does return to "60 Minutes" and continues his writing career, let's hope he confines himself to the weighty topics he seems to have real expertise in: the size of button holes, aspirin packages, and the location of soap dishes in shower stalls.

Lambda Rights Network Out of Step In Supporting AB766 Bill

In the matter of AB 766, we believe that the pink sheet put out by Lambda Rights Network (LRN) dated 2/90, advocating constituent pressure to bring AB 766 out of committee is premature and calls for precipitate action. We must disagree with the flier when it says, "It (AB 766) is the best bill possible for ALL of US in AIDS matters. LRN should study the situation some more."

Wisconsin Light joins *In Step* (Feb. 1-14 issue) in believing that the AB 766 needs to be "digested a bit more" before it is voted on in the Assembly Health Committee.

In the first place, we are, in principle, opposed to the idea that AIDS should be treated differently from any other disease.

Secondly, we are not satisfied with the 12 month waiting period and think it needs to be lowered.

The no-HIV-testing clause is a trade-off with AB 400, but is it something that is needed in Wisconsin? Other states without our risk-pool safety net may find the Golden Rule bill to their needs, but do we need it here?

We also believe that before the bill is reported out of committee, there needs to be provision for mandatory mediation in the matter of disputed claims.

Finally, we are against any action at this time that might interfere with the Governor's signature on AB 400.

If, as Rep. Carpenter says, Golden Rule will not sell the policy unless AB 766 is passed this session, so be it.

Like Nelson of MAP and a number of others, we are intrigued with the idea presented in the bill, but it needs further maturation.

As Rep. Clarenbach said, "If it's a good idea today it's a good idea tomorrow."

LETTERS

Hurrahs For Ann Landers!

TO THE EDITOR:

Ann Landers doesn't usually tell her readers off. That's why it came as a surprise to see two recent columns where she came down firmly against readers who attacked the idea of Gay marriages. One subtle writer from Wisconsin had put the case for bigotry rather bluntly: "Those faggots should go back in the closet where they belong." Ann's response was right on target, stating her shock at the "viciousness and intolerance" of those opposed to legitimizing Gay relationships.

One father wrote that he had two sons, one straight and one Gay. Both deserved the same rights, he said. His response only proved a point: Support for Gay

rights is greatest among those who know a Gay person.

Unfortunately, most heterosexuals know only what they learn from the mass media. But here, the images are often badly distorted. This is tragic because decisions that affect our future are going to be made in the next several years. If we want those decisions to be positive, we have to tell the world more about ourselves. We have to provide the evidence that Gays and Lesbians are everywhere and provide the information needed to combat homophobia and bigotry.

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Milwaukee: 273-AIDS

The Milwaukee AIDS Project
We support learning.
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One of the chief sources of such information is, believe it or not, the Lesbian/Gay press. Some may say that these publications only reach Lesbians and Gays, but such is not the case. Any editor can tell you that these publications go well beyond Gays and Lesbians and are read by many who are curious about us and have — or think they have — no other source of information about us.

Your support of the Lesbian/Gay press is important. Your contribution in the form of ads, writing and any other help is vitally important in combating ignorance that is the source of much of the bigotry directed against us. Take the time to inform yourself about the Gay/Lesbian press. Take the time to become involved. Don't complain that it isn't better than it is. Help it to become the best that it can be. Remember, the press is one of our strongest weapons in the war for equality.

—Chuck Forester
San Francisco, CA.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Chuck Forester, Co-Chair of the Board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the others who contributed to this Letter to the Editor.

New Harvest Foundation Gives \$9,000 in Grants

[Madison]- According to *The Gleaner*, the publication of the New Harvest Foundation in Madison, \$9,000 in grants have been made to deserving Gay and Lesbian causes in 1990. This marks the second round of financial grants the organization has made in 12 months and brings the total awards made in one year to \$19,000 noted co-chairs Kathy Kelly and Mark Porter.

Since its inception in 1984, New Harvest has contributed over \$75,000 to some 45 programs and services in Dane County designed to advance the well-being of the Gay and Lesbian community.

Kelly and Porter called attention to the wide range of Gay and Lesbian activities. "All of our grants were made in the broad areas of health, social service, public education, community development and the arts and culture," they stressed.

"Our deepest gratitude is extended to all of those individual contributors who have made the New Harvest Foundation's gifts possible through their generous support for service to their own community," they added.

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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

OBITUARIES

Quotations of a Queer Nature

By Jamakaya

I read a ton of periodicals every week and I've started to put aside what might be called "Quotations of a Queer Nature." I hope you like this selection.

Boy George, quoted in London's *Pink Paper* about homophobic rock star Axl Rose of Guns 'N Roses: "He's cute, but not too intelligent. Heavy metal rockers look like alcoholic housewives."

Guns 'N Roses songwriter Wes Arken, upon running into Boy George at a record company in Hollywood: "Axl has more talent in his little finger than you do in your big body you fat, faded drag queen."

Boy, after wrestling Arken to the floor: "Those heavy metal types are all morons." Atta Boy!

British actress Glenda Jackson (who will never be accused of playing wimpy women) said in a recent issue of the *New York Native*: "I feel Gay screenwriters — playwrights too — write far better female characters for us, and write better stories in general. Too often, the heterosexual writes a story that mirrors his inner turmoil or insecurity and his women characters are symbols, not people... Gay actors aren't as threatened by someone like me and their performances tend to be more open and true."

Meanwhile, Tom Selleck shared his experience of a particular Gay playwright and his women characters with the *Los Angeles Times*. Said Tom: "I did my share of Tennessee Williams and I never had any fun doing his guys. I love his women though. Nobody would ever let me play any of his women." Poor Tom, you missed your calling!

Actor Richard Thomas talked to the *Advocate* about his role as Cal, the lover/survivor of an AIDS patient in "Andre's Mother," an upcoming American Playhouse production: "This film is like giving something back to a community that I feel close to and comfortable with. I feel very supported as an actor by the Gay community, and that gives me a very warm feeling." Oooohh, me too, John-Boy. Such a sensitive young man...

In its 1989 year-end issue, *Gay Community News* ran a feature called "Queers for Years." Harry Hay, one of our most venerable Gay elders (he founded the Matachine Society in 1951) was asked "What's the queerest thing you did in the 1980's?"

Said the proud, unregenerate Harry: "Honey, everything I did was queer. I have a horror of ever being perceived as a hetero in any way. Whenever I go out, I wear a flower in my hair or the longest earring in sight because I would never want the horrible mistake of being thought a hetero."

When asked for a queer prediction for the 1990's, Read Weaver had a zinger: "The medical system will completely collapse and people's health will improve dramatically."

And now on to the ever effusive Madonna who, upon meeting k.d. lang at k.d.'s Los Angeles concert, exclaimed: "Elvis is alive... and she's beautiful!"

k.d. lang in February's *Glamour*, when asked about her unconventional appearance: "The country industry is traditional regarding the looks and roles of men and women. It would be detrimental for me to compromise. I sing because of the way I am." What way are you, k.d.?

"I don't want to endanger my soul or my voice because of my physical looks. It wouldn't be worth it... I like to pretend I'm a farmer and sort of dress for chores. Always ready to feed the cows, drive the tractor, fix the truck." Aw shucks, k.d.

In that same interview, k.d. also made the observation that the country music industry is "Very, very white. Very, very Christian. To the point that it's closed to cultural differences." That ought to further endear her to the Nashville crowd.

Meanwhile, back to Madonna...

In Armistead Maupin's new book, *Sure of You*, Brian says to his friend Polly: "The real question is: What the fuck does Madonna see in Sandra Bernhard? If I was Madonna, I'd be going for the serious stuff. Jamie Lee Curtis at the very least." Hummm, good taste, Brian...

Sandra Bernhard got to speak her onions in the current issue of *Glamour*:



Jamakaya

"I don't consider myself a Gay woman in Hollywood. I consider myself to be a woman who makes choices without any pressure from society or family. I do what I want to do..."

"...The fact is, Hollywood's run by a lot of Gay men and women which cracks me up. But I understand why nobody wants to put all their cards on the table. Everybody wants their options left open. At least I do... I mean, I like everybody. You know, double your pleasure, double your fun. It's the Doublemint theory..."

Actress Kathleen Turner (be still, my heart!) is featured in the March issue of *Vanity Fair*. The Annie Leibowitz photos alone are worth the cover price. The article examines Turner's, by now, well-known attributes.

Says her hairdresser: "She's a woman of extreme confidence, of grand gesture... big voice, big attitude. She enjoys being Kathleen Turner." On the other hand, she's just a down-to-earth gal: "She's like Carole Lombard... she plays softball in the Hamptons with the guys." Uh-huh.

And how about this one? During her sojourn at Southwest Missouri State University in the early seventies, she had a penchant for short hair and midi-skirts, pretty exotic stuff for the bible belt. Her appearance was already causing people to talk.

Says Kathleen, incredulously (and, no doubt, with that throaty laugh of her's): "They thought I had a disease in Missouri. No woman would cut her hair off and look like a dyke. They were convinced I was a dyke." The writer, James Kaplan, then asks rhetorically: "Could she have been entirely displeased?"

Well, I'm sure as hell not... Finally, this gem from Tallulah Bankhead, who was once asked how she defined herself sexually: "I don't know what I am darling. I've tried several varieties of sex. The conventional position makes me claustrophobic. And the others give me either a stiff neck or lockjaw."

Marine Corps Admits Error in Lesbian Trial

[New York, NY]- In a brief filed on December 27, 1989, the U.S. Marine Corps conceded that the prosecution of Lesbian Corporal Barbara Baum on sodomy charges in 1988 was constitutionally flawed. The Corps has asked that Baum's conviction, for which she served six months in prison, be voided and that the case be sent back for a new trial.

Women's Writers Series Opens In Madison

[Madison]- The Women Writers Reading series will begin in March at A Room of One's Own Bookstore in Madison.

On Wednesday, March 7, Sarah Newport, Rose Mary Fandel and Mary Moran (video using Chrytos' poetry) will begin the series with readings from their works beginning at 7:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m., the series will continue with "Conspiracy of Voices." This will include poetry and writings of the women of the Resistance Conspiracy Case and other women political prisoners read by local women.

A Room of One's Own Bookstore is located at 317 W. Johnson St. in Madison. The series is free and open to the public.

Keith Haring

By Andrew L. Yarrow

Keith Haring, an artist whose graphic talents made him one of the stars of the youthful 1980's art scene and whose images could be found as often on T-shirts as in museums, died of AIDS on February 16 at his home in Manhattan. He was 31 years old.

During his brief career, Haring invented a cartoonish universe inhabited by crawling children, barking dogs and dancing figures, all set in motion by staccato-like lines. It was a style inspired by what he considered the beauty and immediacy of graffiti in the New York

subway system. When a collection of Haring's work was published in 1984, the art historian Henry Geldzahler called it "a tuneful celebration of urban commonality."

Haring's art was exhibited in museums world-wide. He was the owner of the Pop Shop in Manhattan's SoHo district where he sold T-shirts, toys, posters and other objects with reproductions of his art. He was commissioned to do the logo-pin for New York's Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebration of 1986.

Haring was born in Kutztown, Pennsylvania and lived briefly in Pittsburgh before moving to New York.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

FILM

Impossible Odds Triumph In Award Winning "My Left Foot"

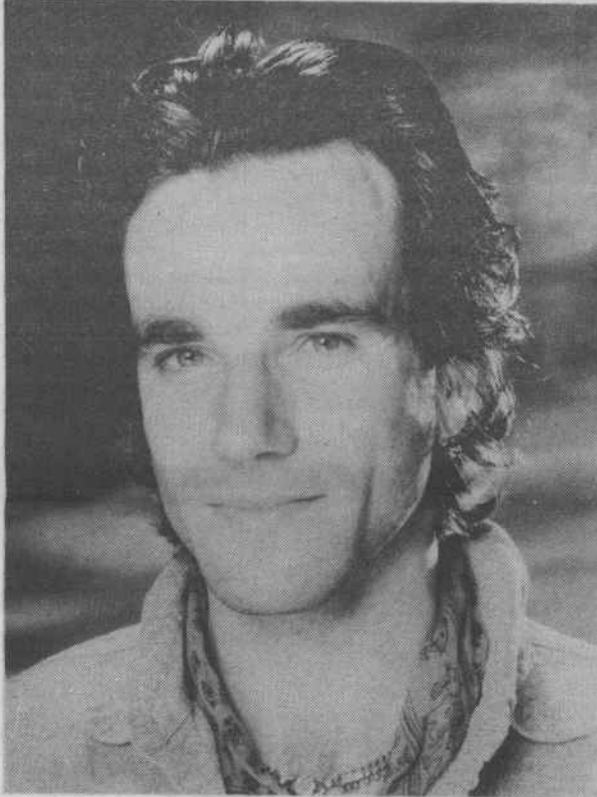
By Geno

"My Left Foot" was an inspiring book: Christy Brown's autobiography describing his victory over seemingly impossible physical disabilities. Christy was born in Dublin in 1932 with cerebral palsy so complete the doctors predicted that he would never be more than a vegetable. There were already nine children in the Brown family and eventually twenty-two would be born of which a total of thirteen survived. Yet, this impoverished family of a bricklayer who was often out of work, cheerfully

Foot" Christy modestly deprecates his first book as "too sentimental," but the film itself leaves no room for sentimentality. It is painful, wrenching to witness the young Christy's struggles to burst out of the prison of his crippled body and as an adolescent trying to find love outside the protective warmth of his family. Yet director and screen writer, Jim Sheridan, has seasoned his film with boisterous humor, warm family relationships and romance as the story ends with the announcement of Christy's marriage.

The young Christy, in an achingly beautiful portrayal by Hugh O'Connor, becomes a pet, almost a plaything, of the neighborhood as the kids trundle him about in a wooden cart or let him play golf in their rough games.

Daniel Day-Lewis who brings the tale of Christy's boundless love and passion to life, spent weeks observing patients overcoming the limitations forced on them by cerebral palsy and spent the entire working day of his filming in Christy Brown's wheelchair. He is totally believable in this role as he also demonstrated in his accuracy of performance in such diverse films as "My Beautiful Laundrette" in which he played a Gay punk, and "A Room With A View" where he was an effete, snobbish, Edwardian sophisticate. He was awarded Best Actor honors at the Montreal Film Festival for his brilliant portrayal of



Alistair Morrison

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS

accepted this severely handicapped child into their teeming daily life.

Unable to talk, literally trapped in his contorted body, Christy was able to control only his left foot. With the encouragement of his mother, a true miracle worker, he was able to express his lively intelligence and creativity by using his left foot to write and draw, becoming a critically acclaimed artist and the writer of best-selling novels and poetry.

In the movie version of "My Left Milwaukee Rep Opens "You can't Take It With You"

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRT) will present "You Can't Take It With You" by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart beginning on February 22 and running through April 1. This Pulitzer Prize winning comedy will be directed by MRT Artistic Director, John Dillon.

The cast includes veteran Rep actors Kenneth Albers, Richard Halverson, Carrie Hitchcock, James Pickering and Rose Pickering. Returning to the MRT stage are Ron Frazier and Christopher Pieczynski while Suzanne Bouchard, Robert Cornelius, Bruce Cromer, Eric Ferguson, Mary Helena and Trinity Thompson are making their debut at the Rep.

Talkbacks will take place on Sunday evenings, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:30 p.m. There will be an interpreted performance for the hearing-impaired on Sunday, April 1, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$4-\$18. For tickets call the MRT Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

Christy Brown in "My Left Foot."

All of the acting in this film rings true, especially that of the late Ray McAnally as the brawling father described as "all mouth," and Fiona Shaw as Christy's speech therapist who tells him that "with speech therapy I can teach you to say 'Fuck off' more clearly," when he tries to dismiss her.

But special honors go to Brenda Fricker as Christy's mother. Hers is a truly glowing performance which comes through as a force for life, a genuine faith in the power of love. It is wonderful to see her protective attitude toward Christy change as she realizes his need to become part of the larger world. She, like Christy, has a boundless love and passion for life and Brenda Fricker lives rather than acts this role. The entire film is a tour de force.

Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre presented a premiere showing of "My Left Foot" as a benefit for ARTREACH-Milwaukee with a reception and showing on Thursday, Feb. 22.

"My Left Foot" will be playing at both Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre and Madison's Majestic Theatre beginning on Friday, February 23.

Horticulturists and Botanists Join Lavendula

Lavendula, Latin for the herb lavender, is the national trade organization for Lesbian and Gay professional botanists and horticulturists. Lavendula publishes a newsletter and produces regional trade shows. Gay and Lesbian horticulturists and botanists are encouraged to join Lavendula. Write to Lavendula Midwest, Box 2641, Champaign, IL 61825.

Feinstein Works Romantic Magic For Milwaukee AIDS Benefit

By Jamakaya

Pianist and cabaret singer Michael Feinstein worked his romantic magic on an audience of almost 1500 at Uihlein Hall of Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center on the eve of Valentine's Day. His appearance was a benefit performance for the Wisconsin AIDS Fund.

Feinstein is an accomplished interpreter of American popular music, particularly that written for the musical theatre and films. Those in attendance expected a nostalgic evening of Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter. They were not disappointed.

Feinstein declared his hope that the 1990's become the "Decade of Romance" and seemed to will it into existence with beautiful versions of Rodgers and Hart's "Isn't It Romantic?" Harry Warren's "You'll Never Know" and "I Only Have Eyes For You," and the Gershwins' "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "Our Love is Here To Stay."

His respectful, almost reverential renderings of these classic melodies enraptured the audience. I could sense all the couples present, Gay and straight

alike, moving a little closer in their seats — an appropriate response to elicit on the eve of Valentine's Day! I'm more convinced than ever that rhythm's great for dancing, but melody's the key to romancing...

Feinstein also jazzed it up and got downright hammy ("Play that funky music, white boy!") on jaunty tunes like Gershwin's "Swanee," Porter's "Anything Goes," and Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band." His confidence at the keyboard of the huge Baldwin was impressive throughout.

As an assistant to Ira Gershwin in the last years of this life, Feinstein acquired many amusing anecdotes about the creation of the songs he plays and shared them with the audience. His knowledge and obvious love for the material he performs enhanced the evening immeasurably.

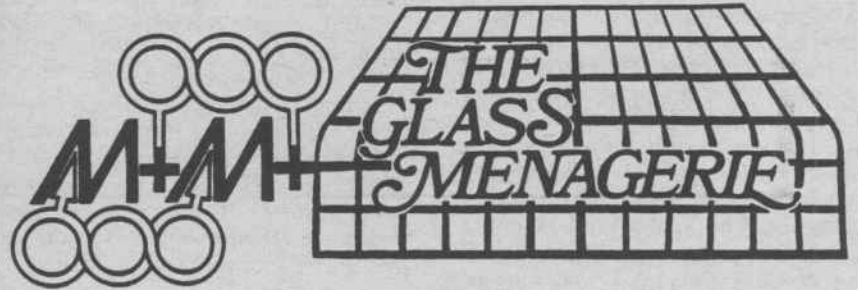
Words like "charm" and "talent" and "style" are bandied about frequently by press agents. In Michael Feinstein's case, he really lives up to his billing. And then some.

It was a lovely evening for a very good cause.

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BOOKS

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Unnatural Quotations and The Gay Fireside Companion

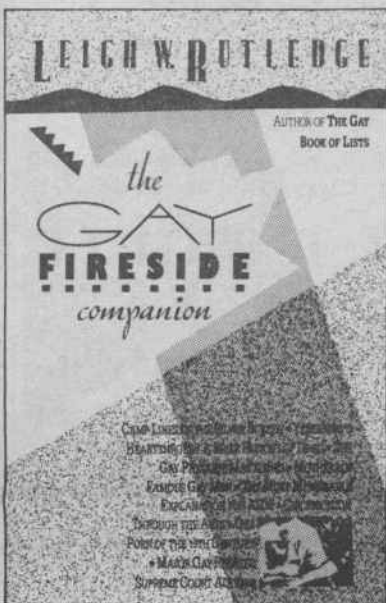
By Leigh W. Rutledge,
Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc.,
\$8.95 each [paper]

By Geno

Leigh W. Rutledge, the earnest compiler of the entertaining Gay Book of Lists, has come up with two more fascinating collections of racy and serious Gay information.

His *Unnatural Quotations* subtitled "A Compendium of Quotations by, for, or about Gay People," is a treasure trove of one-liners, snappy rejoinders as well as thought-provoking nuggets of information. Tallulah Bankhead, for example, can always be counted upon for the odd angle: "I don't know what I am, darling. I've tried several varieties of sex. The conventional position makes me claustrophobic. And the others give me either a stiff neck or lockjaw."

Not all of the commentators are Gay, however. Chicago columnist, Mike Royko observes: "If God dislikes Gays so much, how come he picked Michelangelo, a known homosexual, to paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling while assigning Anita (Bryant) to go on TV and push orange juice?"



And Rutledge cites Gay baiters and bashers, too, plus those like Michael Jackson, former Miss America, Vanessa Williams, Ron Reagan and Joan Baez who deny being Gay. Incidentally, it's instructive to trace how Ann Landers has become progressively more liberal and understanding in her attitudes toward Gays.

For the lighter touch, there is a whole section devoted to the epigrams of Oscar

Wilde; in contrast, another section concerns itself with comments and opinions about AIDS. Other sections contain personal revelations and the theme of growing up Gay, while "Sweet Intercourse" and "Word of Mouth" sustain the personal note.

Some quotations are really small stories like Edmund White's tale of the woman who bought "The Joy of Gay Sex" thinking it was "The Joy of Cooking": "She went home and looked up 'chicken' and was absolutely appalled. She created a tremendous fuss."

Other quotes are pointed aphorisms like, "Don't accept candy from strangers: get real estate," found among the graffiti in a New York Hustler's bar.

A reviewer is tempted to quote at length the campy sallies of Tennessee Williams, Gore Vidal, Bette Davis, et al., but the true gems are the common sense insights of individuals like French writer Simone de Beauvoir's "... the ideal is to be capable of loving a woman or a man; either, a human being, without feeling fear, restraint, or obligation." And composer Ned Rorem's, "Anyone can be Gay — it's no accomplishment — but only I can be me." Of course Woody Allen had to add the wry comment that "I can't understand why more people aren't bisexual. It would double their chances for a date on Saturday."

The *Gay Fireside Companion* is a collection of Gay trivia, a hodge-podge that Rutledge describes as "a kind of Gay scavenger hunt." Biographical entries range from Susan B. Anthony to Dr. Ruth Westheimer and the book also contains such off-beat tidbits as the world's largest collection of pornography (in the Vatican), celebrities who have Gay brothers or sisters and the speed of semen during ejaculation.

Longer sections feature "Fascinating Mothers of Gay Men," a collection of Gay limericks, memorable camp lines from the movies (Too much of a good thing can be wonderful" — Mae West), and a section describing the burial places of famous Gays. A very useful section under "A" is a detailed eight-year history of AIDS (1981-1988).

Rutledge says that his books are intended for leisurely reading, to be dipped into, but many readers may find themselves devouring these books whole, so great is their obsessive attraction. And if someone is nearby, you are likely to break out periodically with, "Hey, did you know how many Gay bars there are in the U.S.?" or "Do you know where the oldest Gay bookstore is located?" Either way you read them, both books are entertaining companions.

"Big Mama Stories" Cuts Through Whitewash

The Big Mama Stories"
By Shay Youngblood
Firebrand Books, 1989, pp 109,
\$8.95 paper, \$18.95 cloth

By Terri L. Jewell

Nancy Bereano, publisher of Firebrand Books, must be applauded for providing the means by which still another Black Lesbian's voice might arise in perfect pitch. Shay Youngblood's work has appeared in top Lesbian Feminist literaries and her play, "Shaking the Mess Out of Misery", ran to enthusiastic audiences in Atlanta, Georgia in December, 1988.

The first collection, *The Big Mama Stories*, cuts through the whitewash that so many Black women's works exude to present African American realities as palatable to the buying public. "Big Mama" is not Aunt Jemima, but is the spirit of the Black women's community incarnate.

Youngblood describes "Big Mama" as an "old Black woman who had a gift for seeing with her heart," that last stronghold for all the life-lessons accumulated over her many years. While each story represents a facet of some woman's experience, all 12 stories are indelibly linked to form an extended family that encompasses an entire community called Princeton, Georgia.

The story, "Born With Religion," introduces the cast of characters and the flavor of the book. Youngblood wastes no time displaying her incredible ability to

create persona within a sentence or two.

Miss Mary always showed up first. She looked like a skinny black gypsy. She had six gold teeth right in front, wore big gold earrings and bright-colored scarves over her finger-length plaits that stuck out from under. Then came Miss Alice, a light-skinned sister with the bluest eyes and hair I'd ever seen. Then Miss Tom come in. She was a mannish-looking woman with a mustache."

On and on these wonderful women parade, their peculiarities woven with fondness and skill. As the story develops, the reader realizes the power of women together, the warmth of them, and the great love Youngblood has for the traditions and language of Black people.

In the final, affirming piece, "They Tell Me... Now I Know," the girl-child narrator begins menstruation, thus undergoing a rite of passage into womanhood. The women of *The Big Mama Stories* reunite in celebration of her maturation, offering gifts and rituals meant to maintain the sanctity of "women's ways" and the ability to survive in a hostile world. The key to the unity of women is the blood which ties the life-force of the planet to the many, many generations before and yet to come.

Shay Youngblood has shared the gift of stories with the reader along with a profoundly effective talent for the telling. Her *Big Mama Stories* ask us to find our own circles of women and to share our hardest lessons drawn from the struggle and the victory within our own lives.



A painting from the book "Islanders."

"Islander's" Brings Out the Beauty Of Youth In New Book

Islanders
By Douglas Simonson
Alyson, 1989, 48 pp., \$20.00

By Terry Boughner

Douglas Simonson's *Islander's* gives meaning to the line that "Truth is beauty" — especially if you, as I do, find that truth in the smoldering, yet delicate masculinity of the young men of the South Pacific and the Orient.

Simonson's new collection of images are ones of astounding loveliness and intimacy, each luscious, golden youth, naked, looking out with simmering hooded gaze or with a sweet open, unabashed innocence of the marvelous sexual being that he is. They adorn gleaming tropical beaches, inhabit lush rain forests, their silken flesh glistening warmly in the sun.

According to Simonson, most of his models are Gay and he deals with them

both with passion and sensitivity that is strongly reminiscent of Gauguin's lovely Polynesians of a century ago.

As a Gay man, Simonson portrays not only the wondrous beauty of the well-formed young male, but through and transcending the body, he has captured a certain inner essence of masculinity, that tender vulnerability which, I believe, Gay men find so engaging and seek in other men. It is that that we fall in love with and which, for me, truly defines what it is to be Gay.

The drawings and paintings in this collection are done in pastels, watercolors, oils and acrylics and are beautifully printed showing to fine advantage the artist's exuberance, virtuosity and anatomical precision. The book belongs in the collection of everyone seeking to savor the relation of sensuality to spirituality.

A Moving Collection of Plays Is Diverse, Interesting

Lesbian Stages
By Sarah Dreher
New Victoria Publishers, Inc., 1988

Reviewed By Marcia Summerskill

Sarah Dreher has created and compiled an interesting and moving collection of her plays. I remember that I felt excited when I found a pearl for me — a cherished find, indeed. (I also remember crying as I saw my first Lesbian play in Chicago. What a beautiful image — women living and loving on a stage before a supportive audience.)

Anyway, Sarah Dreher's plays are definitely worthwhile. Each one has a different setting and focus. *Alumnae News* is the story of three 1956 classmates from Wellesley College. *Base Camp* tells the story of a not-so-happy

reunion of two former lovers during a blizzard. *Backward, Turn Backward* treats the topic of child abuse. *This Brooding Sky* is a Gothic romance. And finally, *Hollandia '45* is the story of some Women's Army veterans.

A diverse group of plays — yes. But they have in common their clever dialogue and well-defined Lesbian characters.

One other interesting note; Dreher shares her particular writer's challenges in a brief note before each play. I enjoyed hearing about what was easy to write and what was difficult for her.

As I close, I have one question: Why is Dreher holding a copy of the *Globe* tabloid in her photo? (Anyone have any ideas?)

Enjoy these wonderful plays by a talented Lesbian playwright.

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Swimming Pool Library — A. Hollinghurst, Random House.....	8.95
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Surprising Myself — Christopher Bram, Holt.....	8.95
Sure of You — Armistead Maupin, Harper & Row.....	18.95
Obedience — Joseph Hansen, Mysterious Press.....	4.95
And the Band Played On — Randy Shilts, Penguin.....	12.95
Tales of the City — Armistead Maupin, Harper & Row.....	10.95
Love Between Men: Enhancing Intimacy — Rik Isensee, Prentice-Hall.....	18.95

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Intricate Passions — Tee Corinne, Ed., Banned Books.....	\$ 8.95
Lesbian Love Advisor — Celeste West, Cleis Press.....	9.95
Hallowed Murder — Ellen Hart, Seal Press.....	8.95
Bingo — Rita Mae Brown, Bantam.....	4.95
Permanent Partners — Betty Berzon, Viking/Plume.....	9.95
Serious Pleasure — Sheba Collective, Sheba.....	9.95
The Bar Stories — Nisa Donnelly, St. Martin's.....	9.95
Lesbian Love Stories — Irene Zahava, Ed., Crossing Press.....	9.95
The Beverly Malibu — Katherine Forrest, Naiad.....	16.95
A Restricted Country — Joan Nestle, Firebrand.....	8.95

GAY/LESBIAN

Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism — Suzanne Pharr, Chardon Press.....	\$ 9.95
The New Loving Someone Gay — Don Clark, Tenspeed Press.....	7.95
Looking at Lesbian and Gay Life — Warren J. Blumenfeld, Farrar, Strauss, Giroux.....	12.95

Sources: People's Books and Schwartz Bookstores in Milwaukee; A Room of One's Own and Four Star Fiction and Video in Madison.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Jim Boy Did His Homework Before Beating Up On the Sick

By Bill Meunier

The word has come down from on high, the proposed Disabilities act is flawed because it includes protections for Persons with AIDS and persons infected with the HIV virus. I for one am shocked beyond belief. How could anyone classify these people as disabled?

Sure many of PWA's have a hard time walking, putting together a coherent sentence or even standing. Certainly many of the diseases associated with AIDS Related Complex are very debilitating. But is that a reason to say these people are disabled, that they deserve federal benefits to make up for lost income? Not according to that champion of the privileged Congressman James Sensenbrenner.

The "Honorable" Congressman has pronounced his judgment. Just as the Spartans declared to the Persians at Thermopolee, Sensenbrenner has coolly looked this bill straight in the eye and pronounced "Thou shall not pass." I am sure that everyone is overwhelmed at this display of raw political courage. After all it takes a lot of guts to kick people who are terminally ill.

Sensenbrenner has shown that he has what it takes. None of this feeling sympathy for the sick and afflicted pabulum for him. He is a man of vision who isn't bothered by minor issues like humane treatment of the ill, or plain common decency. Not old Jim Boy.

Before taking this courageous stance of beating up on the sick, Jim Boy did his homework. We can only surmise how such a great mind like Jim Boy's works. First he probably checked to see how many AIDS patients and HIV positives were in his district. Next he probably had one of those stunning brilliant surges of thought that he is so famous for when he quickly calculated that he would lose only a handful of votes by coming out against People With AIDS. (This is the same thought process that undoubtedly led him to try and deny their treaty rights to

Wisconsin's Native Americans) Next he announced to his thrilled followers that he could not support this new law because it was flawed.

Political observers were abuzz over this development. The high and mighty were severely shaken. The very thought of going up against such a "powerful" Congressman had many in the halls of the Capitol cringing with fear. After all if Jim Boy went to the general public with his version of the "truth" that people who are desperately ill are not really disabled there would be no end of trouble.

The National media has not yet picked up on this enormous development. "Thank God for that," say the power brokers. Any Congressman with such a great reputation for effectiveness coming out against helping the disabled might cause voters everywhere to declare an open revolt that would cost them their jobs. After all if Persons With AIDS are not disabled neither are people with Muscular Dystrophy or brain cancer. If PWA's aren't disabled neither are the blind, lame and mentally incompetent.

The way I see it, Jim Boy probably looked at it this way. The people of his district are disabled because they have a poor excuse for a Congressman. He is clearly disabled because as his voting record shows he can't understand such simple concepts as equal rights under the law, equality for all Americans or keeping our word to Indians. As far as Jim Sensenbrenner is concerned if the people of his district and he himself don't qualify for the disability benefits no one else should either.

ACT-UP Changes Phone Number

[Milwaukee]- ACT-UP Milwaukee has a new phone number and address.

Those wishing to contact them may call (414) 769-8708 or write: P.O. Box 1707, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1717.

AIDS Quilt Displayed In West Berlin

[San Francisco, CA]- **Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt**, the critically acclaimed feature documentary about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, was featured at the 40th Berlin International Film Festival. The festival took place February 9- 20 at various theaters throughout West Berlin, Germany. **Common Threads** was screened February 10-18 and was represented by its directors, Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman.

Festival attendees also had the opportunity to see the Quilt firsthand. Panels were displayed from February 9-17 at the Rathaus Schoneberg (City Hall). The Mayor of West Berlin, Walter Moper endorsed the Quilt display. His wife, Anne Moper, was a member of the committee responsible for bringing the Quilt to Germany. In addition to the City Hall display, Quilt panels were seen by thousands in the windows of KaDeWe, Berlin's largest department store.

Common Threads is presently having a theatrical run in Los Angeles and will soon be available on videotape. Those interested in public showings of the film may contact Direct Cinema at (213) 652-8000. Proceeds from distribution of the film will be donated to the NAMES Project.



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Study Indicates Gay/Lesbian Youth Knowledgeable About HIV

By Lisa B. Schwartz and Michael S. Lisowski

[New York, NY]- In a study of Lesbian and Gay male youths, results indicate that they are generally informed about HIV disease. Also, these same youth cited homophobia as the worst thing about being Lesbian or Gay.

The study included 197 self-identified Lesbian and Gay males (ages 14-22) from across the country. There were 157 males and 40 females. Data were gathered concerning the young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviors (intended and current, self-reported) concerning HIV disease. In addition, data were collected about the youths' internal homophobia (how s/he feels about her/himself being Lesbian/Gay), anti-Lesbian and Gay bias (how s/he perceives the world thinks and feels about Lesbians and Gay males) and "coming out."

To gather this data, fourteen social support groups that have been established for Gay and Lesbian young people, were visited. A questionnaire consisting of ninety-nine questions, based on the works of DiClemente, Nungesser, Troiden, Kirby and others, was distributed. In addition, informal interviews were conducted with volunteers from the youth groups.

Results of the present study indicate that Lesbian and Gay males are informed about HIV disease. 119 (60.4%) scored ninety or above on the knowledge section of the questionnaire. An additional 56 (28.8%) scored between eighty and ninety. Thus, these results suggest Gay male and Lesbian adolescents do gain information about HIV disease.

Lesbian and Gay adolescents and young adults suffer from prejudice and oppression surrounding their sexual orientation. When they were asked what is the worst thing about being Lesbian or Gay, 131 (66%) cited homophobia. Data using Pearson correlation coefficients indicated relationships existed between internal homophobia and "coming out," anti-Lesbian and Gay bias and "coming out," willingness to disclose her/his orientation, and internal homophobia and an overall sense of homophobia and "coming out."

The findings of this study indicate that homophobia and anti-Lesbian and Gay bias have tremendous impact on the maturing adolescent and young adult. These findings suggest schools, educators, administrators and counselors need to work together to develop programs to meet the special needs of this population.

Health Secretary Disagrees With Youth Suicide Report

[Washington, D.C.]- Dr. Louis Sullivan, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has sided with the anti-Gay forces of Rep. William Dannemeyer on the recently released HHS Youth Suicide Report, saying portions of the report dealing with Gay youth ran "contrary" to the aim of "advancing traditional family values."

Sullivan, was responding to a request from Rep. Dannemeyer on where the secretary stood on the study, titled the "Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide." Dannemeyer has severely criticized the report and has claimed the Gay community is using it to advance a "homosexual political agenda."

The study has a sizable section on Gay and Lesbian suicide, reporting that "Gay youth face a hostile and condemning environment, verbal and physical abuse, and rejection and isolation from families and peers."

The report goes on to state that "the traumatic consequences of these external pressures make Gay, Lesbian, bisexual

and transsexual youth more vulnerable than other youth to a variety of... problems and self-destructive behavior."

In his written response to Dannemeyer, Sullivan stated that these views on Gay/Lesbian youth suicide did not "in any way" reflect "my personal beliefs or the policy of this department."

"I am strongly committed to advancing traditional family values," Sullivan said. "Federal policies must be crafted... so as to strengthen the institution of the family."

In a sharply worded letter to Sullivan and copied to President Bush, NGLTF Director Urvashi Vaid strongly rebuked the secretary.

"We believe strong family values have traditionally meant the nurturing, affirmation, protection and understanding of young people, not their alienation and stigmatization," said Vaid to Sullivan. "We believe, as we hope you do, that suicide and violence are not family values."

Georgia's House Upholds States Sodomy Law 66-44

[Atlanta, GA]- On February 2, 1990, the Georgia House of Representatives rejected a move to repeal the state's law that outlaws sodomy.

The repeal bill, sponsored by Cynthia McKinney (D-Atlanta), would have exempted all consenting adults from prosecution under the sodomy law. The bill was defeated 64-44.

Before the vote, House Speaker Tom Murphy, told the Atlanta Constitution-Journal he didn't "know enough about sodomy to talk about.

Believe me, I don't know about it."

In response to an Atlanta Gay and Lesbian demonstration against sodomy laws on January 8, Murphy said, "Those Gay people, I didn't go around them. I didn't want to get too close."

In its post-vote editorial, The Atlanta Constitution said of Speaker Tom Murphy, "Ignorance is a fully plausible explanation for (the sodomy) vote, though it is no comfort to be confronted so brazenly by a legislator boasting of his stupidity."

"Getting the Word Out" Forum Sat., Feb. 24

[Milwaukee]- How should an effective press release be written? How do you construct an attractive ad; one that will publicize your event and bring in customers? How is a publication put together and published? What do you need to know to make maximum use of the media?

Wisconsin In Step and Wisconsin Light will attempt to answer these questions and many others in the up-coming forum, "Getting the Word Out" to be held Saturday, February 24 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the banquet room of Milwaukee's M & M Club, located at 124 N. Water St. in Milwaukee.

There will be numerous hand-outs with important information that you can use in constructing ads, writing press releases as well as material on how the two publications get into your hands week after week. There will be plenty of time for questions. Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

To register, please call either In Step at (414) 278-7840 or Light at (414) 372-2773. Walk-ins are encouraged.

Arabic Society Seeking New Members

[Washington, D.C.]- The Gay and Lesbian Arabic Society (GLAS) of the U.S. — the first such group in the world, including the Middle East — is looking for members and other people interested in Gay Arab issues.

GLAS, formed in the nation's capital more than a year ago, is open to Gays and Lesbians of Arabic origin or descent and their supporters.

GLAS provides Arab men and women with a support network and a vehicle for Gay Arab visibility. It advocates a positive image of Arabs in the Gay/Lesbian community by attempting to change negative stereotypes such as the "sultan" image.

For more information on GLAS and to become a member, write, The Arabic Society, P.O. Box 4971, Washington, D.C. 20008.

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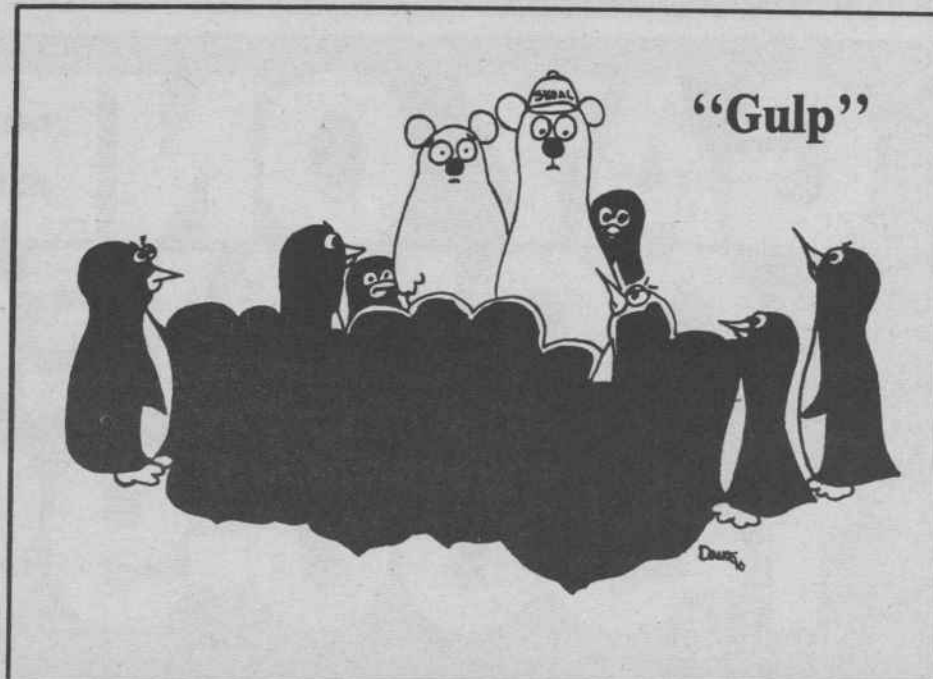
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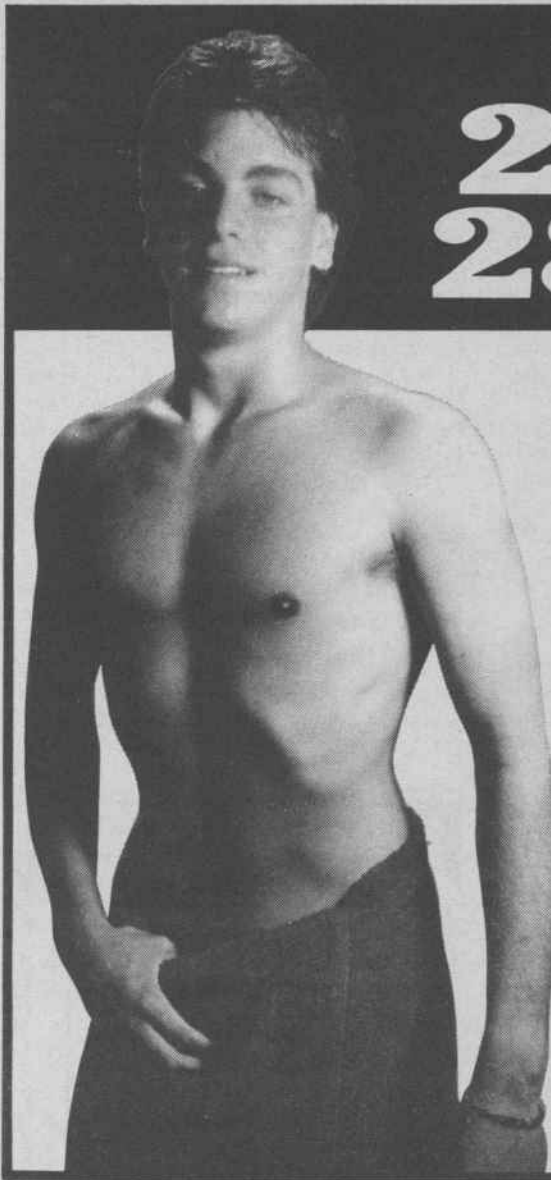
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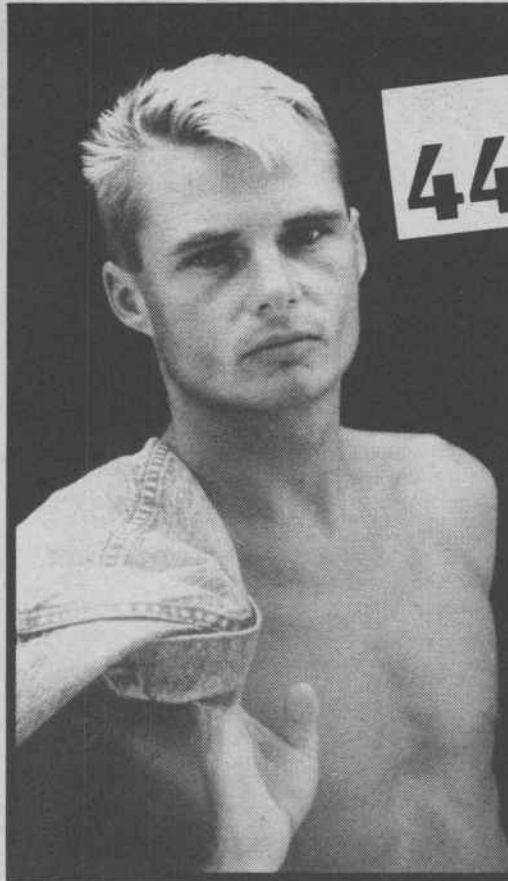
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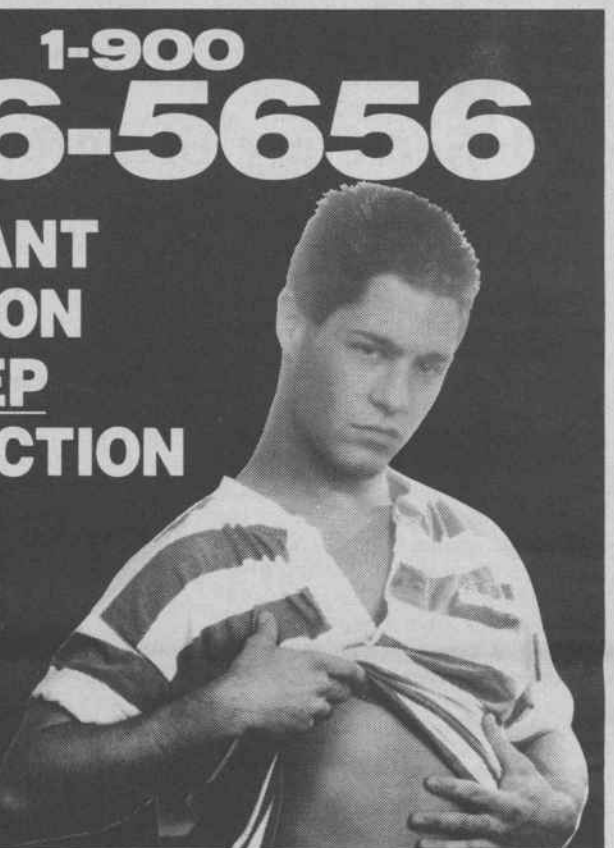


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Pittsburgh Hosts Softball Spring Meetings; World Series

[Pittsburgh, PA]- As another year opens, so does another softball season for the players and officials of the North American Gay Athletics Association (NAGAAA).

The season will kick off in mid-February, as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the host city for the 1990 NAGAAA Gay World Series, and the Steel City Softball League welcome delegates to the annual NAGAAA Spring meetings. As is the norm for these annual meetings, NAGAAA delegates will discuss a myriad of subjects, ranging from rule and/or regulation changes for the 1990 Softball Gay World Series to a routine review of the current bylaws. Delegates will also take a guided tour of the facilities to be used in Pittsburgh during the softball world series play.

As part of a traditional gesture, delegates from Atlanta, the host city for the 1989 Gay Softball World Series, are expected to formally present "The NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series" to members of the Pittsburgh delegation in separate ceremonies.

Season play is expected to begin in most NAGAAA affiliated leagues in the last few weeks in April and to culminate in the early parts of August. The season will

continue though as member leagues send teams to Pittsburgh in late August to participate in the 1990 Gay World Series.

This year's World Series will be a unique experience for NAGAAA members, as this is expected to be NAGAAA's largest World Series of record as well as the first World Series sponsored by one of NAGAAA's smaller affiliated leagues, Pittsburgh's Steel City Softball League.

Members of the Steel City Softball League, under the auspices of Nancy Pribich, haven't let that fact hinder them, however. They have lined up such sponsors as Strohs Beer (the official beer sponsor), USAir (the official Airlines) and American Express Travel (the official Travel Agent) for the 1990 Gay World Series. Talks also are proceeding with several other large corporate sponsors, including Coca-Cola. Sponsorship of the World Series also has been augmented by the tremendous efforts of the Pittsburgh Tavern Guild and the Lambda Foundation. A good time awaits all.

So whether you're an avid softball player or just one who enjoys watching the sport, keep your eye on NAGAAA and all its member leagues to catch all the excitement the new year will bring.

Madison Launches Lesbian Parents Network With New Harvest Grant

[Madison]- According to *The Gleaner*, the newsletter of the New Harvest Foundation, a Lesbian parents network has been launched in Madison and will begin in 1990 to develop a systematic program to meet the needs of alternative families in Madison. A \$1,000 grant from the New Harvest Foundation will aid the fledgling group in establishing itself during its first full year of operation.

An outgrowth of many efforts to bring Lesbian parents together over the past decade, the new Lesbian Parents Network stems from a May, 1989 community forum held in conjunction with the GALVANize March, observed Network

facilitator Sunshine Jones.

Jones said the New Harvest grant will enable the Network during its formative year to maintain a centrally located meeting place at Neighborhood House, 29 S. Mills. Skilled child care will be available for the offspring of attendees. More extensive outreach will also be offered through a monthly newsletter, as well as targeted advertising and a telephone answering service, she added.

Over fifty families are currently being reached by the Network, according to Jones. Some 15 to 30 parents and others normally attend monthly support meetings.

National Day of Remembrance For Black Gay Men, Lesbians Feb. 25

[Detroit, MI]- Last year, the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG) instituted a National Day of Remembrance for Black Gay Men and Lesbians to take place on the last Sunday in February. When Joseph Beam, board member of NCBLG and founding editor of *Black/Out*, died in December, 1988, the board called for a National Day of Remembrance on February 25, 1990, to honor his life and that of all Black Gay men and Lesbians who have died.

Since that time, our community has lost many of our friends, lovers and leaders, including Lesbian poet Pat Parker and D.C. activist Lawrence Washington, who served as board member of NCBLG for several years, the last two as co-chair. In addition, many closeted Black Gay men and Lesbians have also died, among them some very prominent people who were

still unable to live out life because of our homophobic society.

NCBLG and all chapters and affiliates invite any and all groups and individuals to participate in remembering and celebrating the lives of Black Gay men and Lesbians in whatever manner you consider appropriate, except as fundraisers.

We would like to have a record of your celebration. Please send it to: NCBLG, P.O. Box 19248, Washington, D.C. 20036. We expect to publish an article about the various Day of Remembrance celebrations in *Black/Out* and other Gay/Lesbian publications.

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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.



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