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The Wisconsin Light

Assembly Kills Discrimination Bill 53-44

[Madison]- The Wisconsin State Assembly has killed a bill creating a "private cause of action" for civil rights violations.

It would have allowed victims of discrimination to go directly to court and sue if their civil rights are violated.

The Assembly voted 53-44 to send SB 405 to committee. The Senate had passed the bill last Fall.

During the debate in the Assembly on March 13, State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) pleaded for passage: "This is the most important civil rights bill of this session."

"Under present law, any employment discrimination action can be heard only by a state administrative agency. This is a slow and burdensome process," Clarenbach said.

"This bill, however, gives a private cause of action as an additional remedy. And, this goes beyond all existing court remedies to give this enforcement option to all protected classes, including sexual orientation," said Clarenbach.

State Representative Marcia Coggs (D-Milwaukee), the primary author in the Assembly, vowed to continue the fight.

"We're going to move it out of committee and push it again this session. It isn't dead yet," Coggs said.

The bill is being opposed by business organizations and Governor Tommy Thompson. Support comes from civil rights groups and labor unions.

The legislature adjourns at the end of March.

State Assembly Defeats "Rawhide Exemption" Bill

[Madison]- The Wisconsin State Assembly turned back, by a vote of 49-48, a plan to allow religious groups to discriminate in programs that receive public funds.

State Representative Wayne Wood (D-Janesville) proposed a "Rawhide exemption" amendment to Assembly Bill 590. The bill prohibits discrimination in programs and services offered by state agencies or organizations that receive state funds.

Wood argued that churches and other programs based on religious beliefs should be allowed to operate without "government interference."

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) moved to reject Wood's amendment charging that "this would condone bigotry and discrimination of all sorts."

"If any group receives state funds, they should be required to abide by our civil rights law," Clarenbach said during debate.

Clarenbach's motion initially failed 40-56. But after a two-hour recess, during which numerous pro-Gay legislators lobbied to change necessary votes, Clarenbach entered a motion to table Wood's amendment.

Following further debate, the tabling motion prevailed.

"The one-vote margin is a signal that fundamentalist churches and anti-Gay groups have great influence in the political process. We cannot be complacent about our civil rights," Clarenbach said.

On March 20th, 1990 opponents of AB590 moved for reconsideration. Strong debate ensued. Approximately 8 p.m. the reconsideration was brought to a vote and defeated on a 48-48 tie vote. The bill as of press time has been messaged to the Senate. At this time the bill has not been assigned to committee.

Madison Planning To March In Milwaukee's June 16 Pride Parade



Artist Rick Cornejo has created some delightful murals at Milwaukee's new Mom's Kitchen restaurant at 2000 S. 8th St. This painting shows what can happen when a pie is thrown.

Homophobic Statements Mar Madison School Board Election

[Madison]- Gays and Lesbians living in Madison will be offered a clear choice in the upcoming School Board election, Tuesday, April 3rd. Incumbent Earl Kielley (seat 7) has made some very homophobic statements in the press recently which have resulted in Madison making the Pat Robertson 700 Club on Wednesday, March 7, 1990. Kielley's opponent, Carol Carstensen has the support of members of Madison's Gay and Lesbian Educators (GLEE) as well as many other liberal groups supporting human rights.

In the race for Seat 6 on the School Board, Peter W. Williams (a liberal who was defeated by Kielley in the last election) is opposed by Dennis Niebuhr, who has identified himself with religious fundamentalists — he led the fight to allow a Christmas tree at Sandburg Elementary School.

Niebuhr is quoted as saying, "I think the idea of a multicultural program, if handled properly, is great — but don't mandate that the majority philosophy be put on a second tier, which is what is being done now."

Niebuhr is opposed to social programs in the schools that would help minorities as well as students with special needs.

Williams, on the other hand, has spoken in favor of multicultural programs in the schools and has been critical of Kielley's attempts to exclude a discussion of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

Of those in the race, Kielley has received the most press stemming from an article that appeared in the February 17, 1990 issue of the *Capital Times*. Here he accused the Madison school district of using the curriculum "to advance the political agenda of Gays and Lesbians without parental approval."

"Yes, people have to be treated with respect," Kielley is reported to have said, "But what about pedophilia and prostitution? What if we start promoting the acceptance of those behaviors?"

Kielley says he represents a growing number of Madisonians who take literally the biblical injunctions against homosexuality and reject the American Psychological Association's 1972 ruling that homosexuality is "normal."

Kielley was attacking specifically a memorandum sent out by the school district's Human Relations Department to all teachers with advice about dealing with homophobia and name calling in the

classroom. Included was a "Fact Sheet" which disproved common homophobic "Myths."

In addition, Kielley opposed the District's "Values and Choices" sex education program for the middle schools. The program teaches that homosexuality is normal behavior.

Kielley also attacked the distribution of "The Directory" published by the Madison Gay and Lesbian Resource Center and given out to school counselors and psychologists. Out of 40 programs listed, Kielley focused on the Madison Gay Video Club which shows sexually explicit material to Gay men who are over 18.

"What is it (the video) doing in Madison public elementary and middle schools?," he asked. "It's pornography."

Kielley was also upset with a workshop on "Women's Place in the Curriculum" presented two years ago about integrating Lesbian history into the curriculum.

Kielley sent a tape of that program to Pat Robertson's 700 Club. Robertson accused Madison of promoting homosexuality and urged viewers to

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ACT UP Chicago Plans April 20-23 Madison Meeting

[Madison]- Members of Chicago's ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) will be in Madison on Sunday, April 1, 1990, at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Union (State Hist. Society) to make plans for Madison's role in the demonstrations in Chicago on April 20-23.

These actions will be part of a nation-wide protest against insurance companies, the American Medical Association and the Board of Cook County Hospital to protest the care of People With AIDS and will include a Tent City.

ACT-UP has organized civil disobedience actions in the past. They are credited with being highly instrumental in bringing about fundamental changes in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug testing programs and protocols.

Plans are underway for an ACT-UP-Madison Chapter. Please attend the April 1st meeting or call Robert at (608) 255-3763 for further information.

[Madison]- In May, 1989, over 7,000 people celebrated their lives at Madison's first large March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride.

Since then, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize), has spent time considering what it can do to further draw our community together. Through our many meetings and surveys, common threads have emerged:

including bisexuals as part of our community; making our community more multi-cultural as we support people of color in their own projects; helping women and men work together instead of separately while preserving our separate cultures; highlighting the need for child-care for Lesbian and Gay families and much more.

There are no plans for a March/Celebration in Madison for 1990, but a group is now forming to find a suitable date in 1991. Anyone with suggestions or with date conflicts please call Elizabeth at (608) 256-3096. This work group will try and find a date that is WARM AND HOPEFULLY WITHOUT SNOW. Any suggestions, please get involved and help.

GALVANize has been working hard on structure issues in our large general meetings. A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 25, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the UW Memorial Union at 800 Langdon St., to finish brainstorming on ideas for by-laws. Childcare will be provided. For more info, call Cindy or Richard at (608) 255-8061.

GALVANize will have a meeting on Sunday, April 8th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the UW Memorial Union to finalize the by-laws ideas and to celebrate with a social gathering to reward us for all the hard work. There will be fun things to do for those of us who hate meetings. Childcare will be provided. For more info on this meeting, call Jenny, Don or Cevyn at (608) 255-8061.

GALVANize has many work groups already underway and needs suggestions for more. The MEMBERSHIP work group is spreading out information and getting new people involved in a non-sexist, non-racist, non-homophobic way. They also are getting info to members about other events and organizing GALVANize members to work with other groups that we support to carry the GALVANize banner at their marches and events.

For example, several GALVANize members have done the witness training with the Madison Treaty Rights Support Group to witness at the lakes in northern Wisconsin during the Chippewa's Spring spear fishing.

The GALVANize banner was also present at last May's Treaty Rights Rally in Madison and at the Milwaukee and Chicago Gay Pride Marches. For more info and to get involved, call Pat at (608) 256-2521.

Childcare: A new member, Tuan, a person with lots of childcare and preschool education experience, has big plans to make childcare fun and a learning experience for the children. The hope is to make childcare as successful in GALVANize as it is in the Lesbian Mom's group in Madison. For info and to volunteer, call Tuan at (608) 255-8061.

Finance/Legal Attorneys, Cevyn Godre and Tammi Baldwin, attended a workshop on "Advising Non-profit Organizations" sponsored by the Wisconsin State Bar as legal representatives from GALVANize. Tammi and Cevyn are working hard on some of the legal issues of GALVANize. For more info, call Richard at (608) 255-9391.

Fundraising: This work group is meeting regularly and is starting to make plans for fun events. Two events being

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

King Sorry for Anti-Gay Slurs

[Atlanta, GA]- Martin Luther King III, son of the honored civil rights leader, has offered a "sincere apology" for homophobic remarks he made during a Black History lecture in February. He characterized his comments as "uninformed and insensitive."

During the speech, King made reference to Gays, saying: "...something may be wrong in the make-up of an individual if they happen to be that way. Any man that has a desire to be with another man has a problem, in my opinion. And that applies to any woman who has a desire to be with another woman."

Coretta Scott King has been a consistent advocate of Lesbian and Gay rights, often commenting on the support Lesbians and Gays have given to the cause of racial justice.

The younger King said: "The essential mission which led me into public service and the abiding legacy of my father's life is the struggle to free this country of bigotry and discrimination. This struggle must include a greater commitment to eradicate homophobic violence and discrimination."

"This episode has shown me that I need to examine more closely the many issues and problems confronting the Gay and Lesbian community. For that reason, I will immediately establish an on-going dialogue with leaders of the Gay and Lesbian community."

Quilt Film Up for Academy Award

[Los Angeles, CA]- "Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt," a critically acclaimed feature documentary about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, has been nominated for an Academy Award as Best Documentary of 1989. The Oscars will be presented in Los Angeles on March 26.

"Common Threads" was directed by Robert Epstein, who previously won an Oscar for his documentary "The Times of Harvey Milk" and by Jeffery Friedman. It was originally televised on Home Box Office in 1989, but is currently having a theatrical run on the west coast. It is expected to be issued on videotape later this year.

Iowa Court Supports Dad's Rights

[Des Moines, IA]- The Advocate reports that the Iowa State Supreme Court has overturned a lower court ruling which had restricted the child visitation rights of Michael T. Walsh, a Gay man, because of his sexual orientation.

The lower court had ruled that Walsh, who has joint custody of the children with his ex-wife, could not let the children stay at his home if any other adult unrelated to the family were present as well. This order was deemed an infringement of Walsh's rights.

HIV's Recruited by AIDS Conference

[San Francisco]- According to the most recent issue of The Advocate, the organizers of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, to be held in San Francisco in June, have initiated an aggressive drive to involve people with HIV and their advocates. With the guidance of community-based AIDS organizations and activist groups, the conference organizers will:

- distribute 375 delegate passes to HIV-infected people unable to attend the meeting without financial assistance;
- provide lower cost exhibit space for 150 nonprofit AIDS service organizations.

For more information and to apply for passes, contact Dana Van Gorder in San Francisco at (415) 550-0880.

Anti-Gay Texas Judge Re-elected

[Dallas, TX]- According to The Milwaukee Journal, (3/15/90), Texas judge, Jack Hampton, who was censured for saying that he gave a lenient sentence to a killer because the victims were "queers" has been re-elected. Hampton was running unopposed as a Republican.

Kowalski Case Makes Progress

[Duluth, MN]- District Court Judge Robert Campbell has appointed Fred Friedman attorney for Sharon Kowalski, the disabled Lesbian who has been at the center of a six year legal battle between her parents and her lover, Karen Thompson. Kowalski had been without representation since her father withdrew as her guardian last year.

Thompson has sought visitation rights and a say in Kowalski's medical care, which she perceived as inadequate. After almost four years of separation, Thompson won visitation rights, and she is currently seeking guardianship over Kowalski.

Thompson told the Washington Blade she was "very pleased with the hearing" and the appointment of Friedman, which will move the case forward. The judge also ruled that Kowalski should be allowed to leave her rehabilitation facility without a staff escort. No other patients there have been required to be accompanied off the premises by a staff member.

In addition, the judge may consider transferring the case from St. Louis County in northern Minnesota to Hennepin County (the Twin Cities area) which is closer to Kowalski's (and Thompson's) current residence. Kowalski has recently undergone surgery on her legs to repair some of the damage from her car accident in 1983.

N.Y. College Seeks Gays & Lesbians

[Stony Brook, NY]- The School of Social Welfare at the State University of New York at Stony Brook has begun an affirmative action drive to encourage Gays to apply as students and faculty members, according to the Washington Blade.

Assistant Dean of Admissions Marilyn Goodman sent a letter to prospective students and faculty members that said Gays and Lesbians are a category needing "expanded representation" at the School: "Our School's historic commitment to social change and to the empowerment of oppressed groups has been a principle which we have struggled to uphold."

Send for an application to: School of Social Welfare, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794.

Malcolm Forbe's Gay Life Revealed

[New York, NY]- OutWeek, New York City's Gay and Lesbian newsweekly, has published an expose, "The Other Side of Malcolm," which reveals that Malcolm Forbes, the wealthy publisher and philanthropist, led a sexually active Gay lifestyle.

The reporter, Michelangelo Signorile, interviewed former employees and acquaintances who testified to Forbes' preference for leathermen bikers, homoerotic artwork and sexual encounters with men in his Jacuzzi. Forbes frequently gave \$100 bills to young men he was attracted to, whether he had sex with them or not, according to the report.

Ironically, it was Forbes' friendship with actress Elizabeth Taylor that garnered headlines in the years before his death. When confronted about his homosexuality by other Gays, Forbes angrily insisted on his right to privacy.

Al Weisel, in a sidebar to Signorile's story, commented: "Any hope of his doing anything really important for the Gay and Lesbian community is over... His homosexuality will be treated as something that was too horrible to be revealed while he was alive. It will be a character flaw, a skeleton in the closet that "respectable" biographers will skirt over and homophobic family members will, no doubt, deny."

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

Madison Awards First Gay Community Service Awards

[Madison]- The first annual Gay Community Service Awards were presented by Frontiers, a Madison-based Gay men's organization, at its 9th anniversary banquet on Saturday, March 3. In wanting to play a greater, more responsible role in the Gay community, the executive committee of Frontiers has initiated a series of awards to recognize individuals who have made major contributions to improving the stance of Gays in our society.

These awards will be presented annually at the Frontiers anniversary banquets the first week of March. Nominations will be considered for Lesbians and supportive members of the straight community — not just Gay men. The number of awards and categories may vary at the discretion of an Awards Committee comprised of Frontiers members. This year's awards and the recipients honored were as follows:

Volunteer Service — William Heidt The Volunteer Service Award is to recognize exceptional contributions of time and effort behind the scenes in making things

happen and keeping them running smoothly. It is a sort of "unsung hero" award. Presenting the award to Mr. Heidt was David Runyon.

Leadership — R. Richard Wagner The Leadership Award is for displaying outstanding resourcefulness in furthering the rights of Lesbians and Gay men and for providing guidance in helping community organizations to achieve their goals and purposes. Presenting the award to Mr. Wagner was Donald Lamb.

Lifetime Contribution — Theodore Pierce The Lifetime Contribution Award is for long-term dedication in making the Gay community a better place to meet new friends and grow as individuals. Presenting the award to Mr. Pierce was Robert Davis.

The Awards Ceremony was videotaped by David Runyon of WYOU Community Television and will be cable-cast at a future date on "Nothing To Hide", one of the longest running Gay television programs in the nation. The program airs on Wednesdays at 9:00 p.m. on Madison Cable TV 4.

Usage Increases Dramatically At MAP's Library/Resource Center

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Library/Resource Center (L/RC) proved to be a well-utilized and valuable resource for Milwaukee and Wisconsin in 1989. More than 196,000 items were distributed last year, an increase of 62.6 percent over 1988.

Overall, there was an increase in distribution for each type of material. There was a noticeable increase in distribution for posters and safer behavior materials, specifically due to the Street Outreach Program targeted at IV drug users, the "Teens, Risk Behaviors and AIDS" program targeted at teen counselors, programming targeted at the Gay and Lesbian community and MAP fundraisers.

The number and diversity of material available through the L/RC was further enhanced by the Program Review Panel

(PRP), and advisory committee representing organizations such as the American Red Cross, Planned Parenthood and the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

The function of PRP is to review materials for accuracy, treatment of subject matter, organization, appropriateness for intended audience(s) and completeness.

Another growth year is expected for 1990. The L/RC will enhance its accessibility with the development and maintenance of an L/RC database that will serve as an inventory of current, accurate, pertinent and culturally sensitive AIDS/HIV materials.

For more information on MAP's Library/Resource Center, call Thom Ertl at MAP, (414) 273-1991.

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Pride Committee Seeks Nominations For Community Service Awards

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) is currently accepting nominations for its annual Community Service Award. The award will be presented to a person or persons who have dedicated service over a period of time to enhance the esteem of Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay Community.

The award will be presented at the Rally following the Parade on Saturday, June 16th. The theme of this year's Pride Week Celebration is: **LOOK TO THE FUTURE... THE GAY '90'S.**

Nominations must be submitted in writing by person(s) other than the nominee to the MLGPC Steering Committee a minimum of 60 days prior to the Rally date.

To ensure impartiality, selection will be by a separate committee established for the purpose and composed of non-committee representatives. The Selection Committee will be chaired by a non-voting member of that committee.

appointed from the MLGPC Steering Committee.

Nominations must be in letter form and sent to: MLGPC Award, 225 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

The Second Annual Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade and Rally is only **three** months away... only 90 days...June 16th! We encourage any interested in volunteering in whatever capacity to call MLGPC Pride Line at 32-PRIDE. We know that Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay Community wants to witness and participate in another spectacular parade and rally this year. Yet, MLGPC can only succeed with the generous support of our Community.

It's easy to volunteer — just call 32-PRIDE. Feel free as well to call that number for any other information and/or suggestions that you may have so that this year's Pride Celebration will be the best ever.

Sweeping Changes Improve MAP's Life Care System

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Life Care Services Department has implemented sweeping changes in its case management system that are designed to assure effective service to MAP's growing AIDS/HIV clientele.

Supported by an expanded professional staff of ten multi-disciplinary case managers, the new centralized case management system is the community's primary resource for assisting individuals with AIDS and HIV infection to gain access to Milwaukee's healthcare and social service system and receive essential emotional and practical support.

The new case management system is "a pioneering effort that is absolutely essential if we are to meet the needs of our clients over the next several years," said Doug Nelson, MAP Executive Director.

"Our case manager to client ratio is now among the very best in the country and we have a unique opportunity to deliver the best quality of service to our clients," Nelson explained. "We have employed a highly professional staff that knows the health and social system and is very effective in securing services for our clients."

The MAP case managers will assist clients in securing medical care, gaining access to insurance and entitlement program benefits and coordinating the delivery of legal services, housing

assistance, financial assistance, food service, transportation, practical support in the home and emotional support through MAP support groups and the "buddy" system.

Cheryl Vaughn, Director of Life Care Services at MAP, said the expanded case management system is directly preparing MAP to meet the needs of it rapidly growing AIDS/HIV clientele. "We know that by next year at this time, we are likely to have more than 500 clients. The changes we have been making over the years are essential if we are to help meet their needs," said Vaughn.

MAP case managers work closely with the Milwaukee County Medical Complex, Aurora Health System, City Health Departments and all community hospitals and physicians caring for AIDS/HIV patients.

The new centralized case management system and the expanded Life Care Services staff is made possible by major state funding enacted in the 1989-90 Wisconsin state budget.

"Wisconsin is the first state to directly fund case management staff for AIDS service organizations," said Nelson. "Without this commitment from the state, our ability to serve clients and the community's ability to respond effectively to the challenges of AIDS would surely be jeopardized. We can be proud of Wisconsin's progressive response to AIDS."

Women's Grapevine Group Begins Meeting At New Location

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Grapevine, Milwaukee's popular 16 year-old social support group for Lesbians, has found a new home and is once again meeting regularly.

Grapevine meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. at the Quaker Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Place (two blocks east of Humboldt Boulevard where Auer Avenue meets Gordon Place).

All Lesbians are welcome to stop in to meet new friends, share in discussion, or just relax. Occasionally a potluck will be held or a guest speaker will address a particular topic. The next potluck is scheduled for April 26th. Participants are asked to bring a dish or beverage to share.

Grapevine will be sponsoring its softball team again this Spring/Summer. It is also hosting camping weekends at Point Beach on June 16-18 and September 21-23. For further information on any of these events, please call Amy at 332-1678 or Jan at 871-2778.

Since its beginning in 1974, Grapevine met at the Women's Coalition office near UW-Milwaukee. When the Coalition closed its doors in 1989, Grapevine was temporarily without a home. Some persistent scouting by one of the group's most steadfast members, Amy, along with the kindness and support of the Friends, has resulted in the new location.

Grapevine is a comfortable place for Lesbians to socialize and to connect with the many other women's groups and services available in the Milwaukee area. It is valuable as an alternative to the bar

scene and is especially helpful for women who are new to the city or women who have only recently come out.

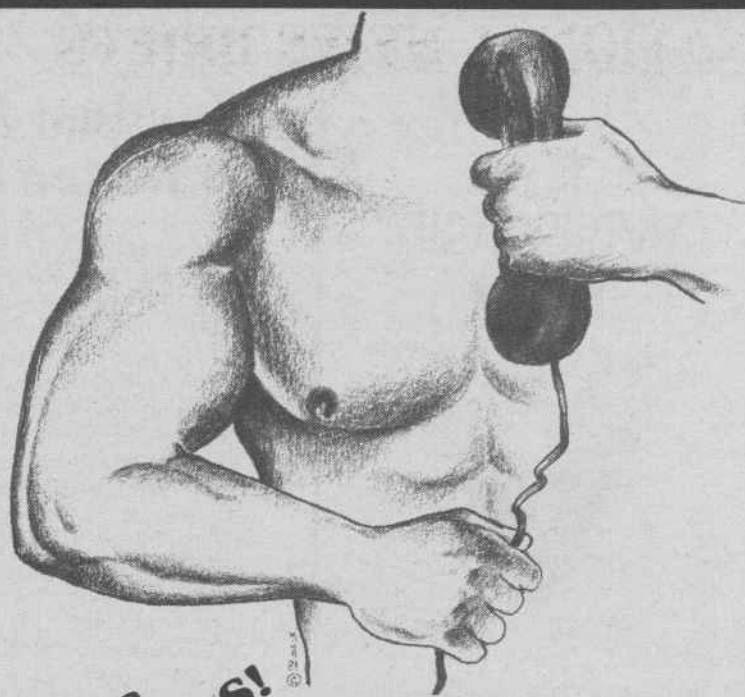
Thanatologist Kubler-Ross to Speak April 7

[Milwaukee]- "The Many Faces of AIDS," a day long educational forum on AIDS, will be held on Saturday, April 7, 1990 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Pfister Hotel, downtown Milwaukee. It is being sponsored by the Junior League of Milwaukee and the Center for Women and Infants at St. Joseph's Hospital, Milwaukee.

Keynote speaker will be Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, psychiatrist and internationally recognized authority on death and dying. She is the renowned author of "AIDS: The Ultimate Challenge," "On Death and Dying," "On Children and Death," and "To Live Until We Say Goodbye."

An interview of Kubler-Ross was carried in the most recent issue of **The Advocate**. She has collected over 20,000 "after death" experiences and spoke in the interview about the after-life as her researches have indicated that it will be.

Participation in the day-long program costs \$20 and includes all materials, mid-morning snack and luncheon. Accommodation is limited. Call (414) 289-9242 for registration and further information.



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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:

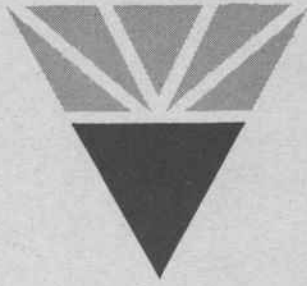
1-800-334-AIDS

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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THE WISCONSIN LIGHT is published biweekly by NOVO GRAPHICS, LTD., with offices at 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Advertising and copy deadline is the Thursday prior to publication. Opinions expressed by writers in WISCONSIN LIGHT are not necessarily those of the publisher, editor, or our advertisers. Any reference made to any individual or organization should not be construed as an indication of the same's sexual or affection orientation or preference. All copy, text, design, photos, and illustrations in advertisements are published with the understanding that the advertiser is fully authorized and has secured proper written consent for the use of names, pictures, or testimonials of any living person, and WISCONSIN LIGHT may lawfully publish and cause such publication to be made; and the advertiser agrees by submitting ads to indemnify and save blameless the publication of any error that may be contained in said ad. WISCONSIN LIGHT does not accept any responsibility for any claims made by advertisers. The entire contents of WISCONSIN LIGHT are © Copyrighted and protected under the Federal Copyright Act and International Conventions. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without express written permission of NOVO GRAPHICS, LTD. Legal venue is Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Printed in the U.S.A.

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GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

We Must Organize Statewide To Better Fight For Our Rights

The passage through the Assembly of AB 590 without pernicious amendments was a very near thing; very near. The civil rights community has David Clarenbach (D-Madison), Rep. Tom Seery (D-Mil.), the ACLU and a few others — a relative handful — to thank. It was these legislators who saw through the religious right in its attempt to obscure with muddy rhetoric their real reasons for not wanting the bill. What they said was they didn't want state interference in church matters. What they meant was that they could not get state money and discriminate at the same time.

It was a close call, a crisis of major proportions, and the civil rights community, including the Lesbian/Gay community, was, in large part, caught by surprise. We cannot, we dare not let this happen again.

David Clarenbach, Tom Seery and the others are good and brave legislators. Would to heaven every lawmaker was like them. They are proud examples of the best the Wisconsin and America have to offer in the way of real statesmen of liberal and decent hearts. But we in the civil rights community cannot let them stand alone.

We must organize to the point that we too can call upon our friends and supporters quickly — at a moment's notice if need be — and call our legislators with our concerns.

We must see an end to apathy. We must fight as our opponents do, with fervor and with deliberately organized structure that must be constructed and constructed at once. Just because the legislative session is coming to an end, does not mean that we can relax. We have a breather. That's about it.

U.S. Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. once said that "with taxes I buy civilization." Clarenbach, Seery and the others understand that by "civilization" is meant equality and respect; not morality used to cloak prejudice as the right would have it. Clarenbach, Seery and the rest fought. Thank merciful goodness they did. But we must too. We cannot let something like this happen again. Either we will stand in pride to fight for our rights or we will live in shame.

A Note From the Editor's Desk

There's a lot about this job that can get heavy at times, but every so often, a pleasant opportunity happens along. This is one of those times.

The Original Fest City Singers (FCS) are celebrating their fifth anniversary and we here at Light would like to offer them our most sincere congratulations.

Over the years, they have with their music contributed much joy to this community as well as lifting the hearts and spirits of those who are elderly or ill. They have been a clear and pleasant voice to the world at large and with their songs have, indeed, "made a joyful noise."

Good luck and fortune be yours Singers. Long may you serve and gladden us.

We here at Wisconsin Light would also like to offer our congratulations to the Cream City Chorus on their third anniversary. Popularly and affectionately known as "The Three C's," the Chorus

LETTERS

Donations Sought

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to ask your readers to part with their hard-earned money to help create an historic moment for Lesbians in the U.S.... the National Lesbian Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 24-28, 1991.

Approximately 5,000 Lesbians are expected to attend this Conference. Its purpose is threefold: 1) To create a Lesbian Agenda, identifying our issues and developing strategies for achieving our goals; 2) To celebrate our lives as women and as Lesbians; 3) To show us and the rest of the country that we are plentiful. We are powerful. We are a force to be reckoned with.

To do this, we need money for the following purposes: 1) a \$15,000 advance deposit on meeting spaces due by April 15, 1990; 2) to cover salaries for two full-time persons at \$20,000 for one year and to acquire and equip office space; 3) \$5,000 to help cover costs for the Steering Committee meeting in Kansas City, MO. The estimated overall budget for the Conference for 1991 is \$450,000.

We ask that you please find a way to help us. Send what you can to NLC, P.O. Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031-1999. We are a tax-exempt organization and will provide budget information upon request.

No to Channel 10

TO THE EDITOR:

On Wednesday, March 7, the PBS series "American Playhouse" presented an outstanding play, "Andre's Mother." Reviews in newspapers in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and USA Today called it one of the highlights of the television season. It was not aired on either of Milwaukee's public television stations. In its place Channel 10 presented a musical program that Journal

has done the Milwaukee community proud. Whether it is in offering their considerable talents in gala concerts or carrying Milwaukee's name to Seattle, the Three C's have served the cause of Lesbian/Gay Pride with fervor and dedication.

As the Chorus gathers for its annual banquet, let us wish them all the very best for a job well done.

We would also like to offer our heartiest congratulations to the Triangle Volleyball team. These guys won the championship in the Saturday Volleyball League A Division with a record of 57 wins and 1 loss. The team is sponsored by Al Thomas's Triangle bar which maintains its tradition of winning ways in sports and in fun and frolic (all those hot studs! Ohhh la la!). Just kidding, Al, but, seriously, congratulations and congrats too to the guys from La Cage who took the second slot in the Volleyball League.

critic Mike Drew described in his column as "painfully third rate," "mundane," and "surprisingly underrehearsed."

When I called to discuss this matter with Channel 10, a spokesperson told me that they were currently engaged in fundraising and couldn't present programs that some might find offensive. They might run this program at a later date.

I believe this statement adequately describes Channel 10's lack of commitment to quality programming. It is clear that Program Manager Thomas Dvorak and his staff believe that productions must be geared to the lowest common denominator of this community.

It is true that this "American Playhouse" dealt with a subject of some substance. It dealt with a painful unresolved relationship between a mother and her son. It dealt with AIDS. It starred Richard Thomas who many critics have said may have given the finest performance of his television career.

It is also true that plays of this power may have been offensive to a few in Mr. Dvorak's only target audience: those who demand reruns of "Lawrence Welk" and wildlife specials. It is unfortunate the rest of us are excluded from his thinking.

I believe that true friends of public television in Milwaukee are those who do not give to Channels 10/36. True friends of public television are those who demand quality programming. I like to think of myself as one of them.

—Donald Gavey
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: The above letter was sent also to The Milwaukee Journal. Mike Drew and Thomas Dvorak.

Help Prisoners

TO THE EDITOR:

My name is Paul Sinclair and I am President of ALLCARE, Inc., which is a non-profit organization founded to help a

group of people with AIDS who are often forgotten by many. These are our brothers and sisters who, for whatever reason, are incarcerated. They are prisoners with AIDS.

ALLCARE exists to help these unfortunate people in a number of ways. One is by our phone program where we accept prisoners' collect calls to tell us of their problems and then we contact the institution directly and attempt to have a constructive dialogue with their doctor. We also have an on-call doctor who will consult with the prisoner's physician by telephone. Once they are released, we will help them settle back into society and assist them with their needs.

Prisoners with AIDS or HIV infection are often locked away in dingy and desolate "AIDS Segregation Units." Many times they are told by uniformed security staff "You have AIDS and you're going to die."

We help prisoners with AIDS throughout the United States as well as here in Colorado. However, to continue this work, we need the help of all Gay/Lesbian communities across the country. Your tax-deductible donation will have a direct impact on prisoners with AIDS. Please help.

You may send your check to: ALLCARE, Inc., 1576 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203.

—Paul Sinclair
Denver, CO

Cookie Jar Thanks

TO THE EDITOR:

To the readers of Wisconsin Light, As coordinator for the Cookie Jar Fund, I would like to recognize several people for their kindness and support.

The Cookie Jar Extravaganza held at Club 3054 of Madison on March 1st, added over \$1,500 to the fund. We would like to express our thanks to Cheri (God love ya) and all those who made the evening a success, both those who gave their time and energy to the production and to those who made donations.

Brian Smith's heroic efforts set the tone for the high energy and caring atmosphere of the event. DJ Donie, Dave Lucas, Steve Kent, Tania, Ginger Spice, Jeff Dierks, Dusty Storm, Chuck Matthews, Marti Nivens, Terry Nichols, Rosa, Staarr, Keith Kitsenbel, Delray Robertson, Jeff Kohl and Bill Heidt were all indispensable to the success of the evening.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Rodney, George Telly, Karl Peggel, Pam, the folks at Rods and the Washington Hotel Complex, and all our friends who supported the fund in several recent efforts. The Complex has had a long history of continued support of the Cookie Jar.

Working with the Madison AIDS Support Network, the Cookie Jar is a fund that provides grants to people with AIDS and HIV infections in need of emergency financial assistance who are not covered by conventional social service systems. Donation checks should be made out to the Cookie Jar Fund and sent to MASN, P.O. Box 731, Madison, WI 53701.

We greatly value your support.

—Ken Chrace
Madison

Down With ROTC

TO THE EDITOR:

Re: Miriam and ROTC on campus: It may be time to take a second look at this issue. Maybe some of us would like to reconsider where our priorities are. Consider the context:

If the function of the U.S. military is to oppress Third World people and other minorities for the advantage of U.S. banking and trade interests, i.e. economic oppression, why, then, would Gay and Lesbian people want to aid and support oppressors?

—Dave Runyon
Madison

Berkman Criticized

TO THE EDITOR:

Dave Berkman's arguments against censorship in his "Media Musings" column (in the Shepherd Express) on the Andy Rooney flap are well-taken. Reasonable men and women can agree that the right of a free people to express opinions — however unpopular — must be zealously safeguarded. However, Berkman tips his mitt as a straight

TURN TO LETTERS, PAGE 9



Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola addressed the Gay/Lesbian Community as LAMM representative Kitty Barber looked on.

Milwaukee Police Chief Arreola Addresses Community

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola assured the Lesbian/Gay community that at the April Milwaukee-wide symposium on Community policy, "one person at least will be Gay or Lesbian."

Arreola made this promise speaking on March 13 at a "Speak Out" forum sponsored by the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) and Lambda Rights Network (LRN). The "Speak Out" was held at the Community Center and was attended by approximately 35 people.

However, Arreola told the group that he "had some reservations" about Gay and Lesbian representatives working with other community groups and urged the need for education about Gays and Lesbians. According to LAMM representative Kitty Barber, a facilitator of the forum, Arreola had said that he had never known any Gays or Lesbians. Amidst general chuckles, the Chief did not deny having made the remark.

Arreola also did not know what was meant by "coming out" and had to ask its meaning.

Asked if Gay and Lesbian officers can expect job security if they come out, Arreola said that there was "no restriction as to recruitment employment," but it was "somewhat chancy" if other officers would show a liberal viewpoint. But, he added, the Police Department's policy "is in place that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation." He said, "sexual

harassment will not be tolerated" and that it was "management's duty to stop it" if it happened.

Asked if Gay and Lesbian officers had the right to form a group such as Black officers have done with the League of Martin, Arreola replied that they (Gays and Lesbian officers) "have that opportunity."

When asked if he would urge Lesbian and Gay officers to come out and then assign them to Gay/Lesbian areas, he indicated his unwillingness to make such assignments. "An officer has to be an officer for the whole community," he said.

Arreola said that it was his philosophy as Chief that officers should "treat people as you would like to be treated" which he called "the golden rule of police work. I want our officers to be good statespeople," he said. "I want our officers to treat people with dignity."

Following the meeting, several of those attending expressed dissatisfaction with the Chief's remarks. David said that he had heard little of substance and said that "He's (Arreola) is a good politician. He will go far." Tim, a member of ACT-UP-Milwaukee commented on the Chief's lack of knowledge of the group he was addressing. Others pointed out that while the meeting was valuable, Arreola did not seem to understand the anger that they believed they heard coming from the group attending.

MAP's Make A Promise Dinner Nears A Sellout

[Milwaukee]- Tickets for the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) 4th Annual "Make A Promise" dinner, show and silent auction are selling fast. Reservations are encouraged to ensure a ticket for the April 1 program.

This special fundraising event will be held at the elegant Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Ave. and will include dinner, fine entertainment and silent auction.

The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will feature relaxing cocktail hour piano music. A dinner of New York strip steak will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the ballroom. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. The entertainment will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will feature performers from the Milwaukee

Repertory Theatre, the Florentine Opera, the Milwaukee Ballet and the Bauer Contemporary Ballet. The evening will be hosted by two performers from Comedy Sportz.

All items in the silent auction have been donated by local businesses who support MAP. In addition to Robert Uyvari's oil painting, "Fallen Angel," season tickets for the Milwaukee Ballet and Chamber Theatre, a catered home dinner, antiques, jewelry and many other quality items will be available for bids.

To order tickets for the "Make A Promise" Dinner, complete the order form printed in this paper and sent it to MAP, P.O. Box 92505, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or call Tim Kennedy at (414) 273-1991.

Serving Lunch	Monday thru Saturday • 11:30 - 2:30
Sunday Brunch	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Serving Dinner	5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (7 days per week)
Bar Open	11:00 a.m. to Close • Sunday thru Friday 12:00 noon to Close on Saturday

Banquet Room Available




124 North Water Street • Milwaukee
(414) 347-1962






Anti-Discrimination Bill Passed by Key House Committee

[New York, NY]- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) AIDS Project declared that a key hurdle had been surmounted in the effort to enact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS and HIV infection, together with those who have other disabilities.

The Energy and Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives voted 40-3 in favor of the ADA on March 13. Most of the committee's debate on the bill focused on amendments offered by Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) to exclude persons with communicable or sexually transmitted diseases and persons who are regarded as handicapped from protection under the bill.

The ADA still must be considered by the Judiciary Committee of which Rep. Dannemeyer is also a member and the Public Works and Transportation Committees. A subcommittee of the Public Works Committee endorsed the ADA in the second week in March.

As reported in the February 8-21 issue of *Light*, Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) announced in his January letter to his constituents that he

would seek to remove all clauses of the ADA which "unfortunately may be interpreted to include illegal drug users and persons with AIDS or the HIV virus."

Sensenbrenner is the ranking Republican member of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. This is a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee.

"We expect that Rep. Dannemeyer may offer more amendments seeking to deny legal protection to persons with HIV disease, but we'll be ready for them," said Chai Feldblum, Legislative Counsel for the ACLU AIDS Project.

The bill passed the Senate in early September, 1989 and was endorsed by President Bush last Summer.

Under ADA as it now stands, a person can file suit in federal court if she or he had been discriminated against because of HIV disease in any of its stages, from asymptomatic infection through AIDS. The remedies for employment discrimination will be the same as those available for race, sex and religion discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Knights of Leather To Sponsor A Bar Night In Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- The Knights of Leather, a women's leather club from Minneapolis, will be sponsoring a bar night at Chaps, the downstairs bar at Milwaukee's Club 219, on Saturday, April 7th. The club night is being done in association with the Oberons of Milwaukee in hopes of encouraging the participation of local women interested in the leather lifestyle.

The Knights of Leather are well-known in the levi/leather club community for their work to promote education regarding the leather lifestyle. They were among the prime movers in the organization of the "1989 Minnesota Leather Experience." They have been active in the

"International Ms Leather" competition and have sponsored the current International Ms Leather, Susie Shepherd, on a recent visit to the Twin Cities.

The Knights also have been active in the Gay community at large. Over the past four years, their annual fund-raising bowling event has raised over \$12,000 for Twin Cities area charities providing direct aid for victims of AIDS.

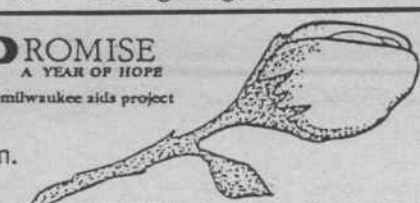
Together with the Knights of Leather, the Oberons and 219-Chaps encourage Milwaukee area women interested in the leather lifestyle to come together in an evening of togetherness and sharing.

MAKE A PROMISE

A YEAR OF HOPE

fundraising dinner to benefit the milwaukee aids project

Wisconsin Club
April 1, 1990, 5:30 p.m.
\$40 per person



Complete and return this form to:
Milwaukee AIDS Project — Make A Promise
P.O. Box 92505
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Deadline for mail orders is March 23rd.
Make checks payable to
Milwaukee AIDS Project

Please send _____ tickets for dinner and show. 273-1991

Please send _____ tickets for show only.

I would like to sponsor _____ persons with AIDS for a cost of \$40 per person.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Mastercard Visa Check Cash

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

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The Light LIVELY ARTS



A majority of the 1990 Fest City Singers posed for a group photo at a recent rehearsal.

Milwaukee's Fest City Singers Celebrate Fifth Anniversary

By Geno

This month marks the fifth anniversary of Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS). It was in March, 1985, that several free spirits decided to form a chorus to provide entertainment for the Gay World Series of Softball hosted by Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian community. Their performance was a smash hit.

Soon the Singers became members of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), one of the first mixed choruses to belong to that international group which now numbers over 70 member choruses. The FCS were invited for various festive occasions and quickly established their reputation for serving the Gay/Lesbian community singing for benefits (MAP and BEST Clinic) and for personal remembrance services.

From these casual beginnings, the Fest City Singers have developed into a Gay/Lesbian singing and performing group with a \$30,000 annual budget, an extensive music library, tax free status and membership in the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

"These are just a few accomplishments attesting to five years of professional growth," according to Dan Gniotczynski, one of the founding

Book Award Finalists Announced

[New York, NY]- The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association has announced the finalists for the 1990 Gay/Lesbian Book Award. The award is given annually to books of exceptional merit relating to the Gay/Lesbian experience.

The 1990 finalists for literature and the arts are: **Eighty-Sixed** by David S. Feinberg; **Equal Affections** by David Leavitt; **In A Different Light: An Anthology of Lesbian Writers**, Carolyn Weathers and Jenny Wrenn, editors; **In Memory of Angel Clare** by Christopher Bram; and **A Place at the Table** by Edith Konecky.

Non-fiction finalists are: **Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past** by Martin Bauml Duberman, Martha Vicinus and George Chauncey Jr.; **In Search of Gay America: Women and Men in a Time of Change** by Neil Miller; **Not a Passing Phase: Reclaiming Lesbians in History 1840-1985** by Lesbian History Group; **Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS** by John Preston; and **When Someone You Know is Gay** by Susan and Daniel Cohen.

The awards will be presented during the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Chicago in June of this year. The awards are the oldest of their kind, initiated in 1971, a year after the Task Force was formed.

members of the FCS and currently, its general manager.

In the Spring of 1986, under Music Director Bernie Sans, the Fest City Singers made their formal debut with "The Fest City Singers in Concert" at Centennial Hall. It was a gala event and the Gay/Lesbian community, proud to have its own chorus, turned out in force. At Christmastime, the Singers brought holiday cheer to a sellout crowd at the Factory bar.

1987 was a year of spectacular change. Early in the year came the Big Split. Having grown to over fifty members, the Fest City Singers, like a pregnant amoeba, split down the middle and the community found that it now had two Gay/Lesbian choruses. This was a time of struggle for both choruses, but with their name, logo and treasury intact, the Fest City Singers maintained continuity and their identity.

With their usual resourcefulness and under the direction of then general manager Bob Kozminski, the Singers made this their most productive year to date. They sang and served for the AIDS Candlelight Service, MAPfest, Galano Commitment '87, Madison's MAGIC Picnic and the Chicago Gay Pride Parade where their "Fest City — Milwaukee" float won the Judges' Choice Award.

During this year of change, the FCS performed "The Fest City Frolics" to a full house at Your Place bar and then took this show on the road to the Pivot Club in Appleton, winning new friends and followers along the way. The Christmas season was a busy one, and under the direction of Robert "Bim" Florek, they brought holiday cheer to the Gay/Lesbian community and the community at large. In addition to caroling at 15 local bars, they sang at the Grand Avenue Mall in Milwaukee, climbed the heights of Bayshore's Christmas tree and visited St. Mary's Hospice and several nursing homes.

The Fest City Singers scored a real coup in the Spring of 1988 when they hosted and sang with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at the Lincoln School of the Arts. Jamakaya of *Wisconsin Light* called it "an enchanted evening" and Kevin Michael of *In Step* pronounced it "one of the finest presentations of Gay entertainment that I have attended in my thirteen years as a resident of Milwaukee."

Other appearances that year included participation in Memorial Day and Unity services, MAPfest, the Historic Third Ward Best Block Party and Chicago's Gay Pride Parade (another Judges' Choice Award for their "Milwaukee Circus Parade" float). And with their cabaret show "Abracadazzle" they enlarged their growing repertoire and had to add two extra performances to the three originally scheduled S.R.O. shows.

TURN TO SINGERS, PAGE 8

Murder Is On The Menu These Nights at the Wheelhouse

By Miriam Ben-Shalom
aka Madam of Murder

It was that kind of night, you know? The kind of night when you can feel the trouble in the air. Class reunions. They never work out. No one changes. St. Vitus High School — twenty-five years later? I flicked up my collar against the cold night.

Melanec's Wheelhouse Restaurant: It didn't look like a place for murder. But it's not the place, it's the people in it.

Yeah, he was still a gangster, all right. Godfather hat, black suit and shirt, white tie. New York tough's accent. Mario. I'd heard about his "family" endeavors throughout the years. He hadn't changed in twenty-five years.

And LaLa Gahor and Donald Trumpet. Still into Rhinestones. Still into money. (What has that guy got that I haven't? Yeah. Money oozing out every pore.)

A bourbon and ginger from the barmaid. Watching my former classmates. There was a certain... tenseness in the air. Could it be that there was an illegitimate child of Donald's? The tightness about people's eyes didn't match the tone of their voices.

Dinner. Yeah. food. At least there's food at these reunions. I sat down with a plateful — small caliber shots: LaLa on the floor, dead. More shots. Donald down too. Assailant/assailants unknown.

Not one to let good food go to waste (you don't make a lot of money in my profession), I sat down to eat — and think. Who shot LaLa and Donald? Neither was loved, lots of people would have been happy to see them dead. But they didn't deserve to get wasted at a 25th Class Reunion...

Leo Taurus offers excellent, light entertainment for an evening: a murder mystery and dinner. There's lots of improvisational acting, broad humor and audience involvement. The characters are people you love to hate, characters you all know: you've had them as classmates, neighbors, co-workers, or you've seen them on the news.

The action starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. at Milwaukee's Melanec's Wheelhouse Restaurant, 2178 N. Riverboat Road. The Players interact with the audience in character — make sure you're ready! Some audience members can be selected to play characters as well. You have a chance to interview characters and gather information to solve the mystery.

The mysteries are not easy to solve. (Hint: use inductive and deductive logic; ignore your heart.) If you solve the mystery, you get a \$10 off dinner-for-two

Abdul-Jabbar To Sign Books At Schwartz

[Milwaukee]- The Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops will welcome Kareem Abdul-Jabbar back to Milwaukee for a book signing on Monday, April 9. Just published, Abdul-Jabbar's autobiography "Kareem" is a revealing portrait by one of the most intriguing sports heroes of our time. The book presents an intimate account of Abdul-Jabbar's final season with backward glances throughout his career. Based on his diary, "Kareem" is an insider's look at the life of a pro-basketball player, the supreme moments as well as the struggles and growing doubts that come with age.

Abdul-Jabbar will be appearing on Monday, April 9 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, 209 East Wisconsin Ave. We regret that Abdul-Jabbar will sign only his book and not other kinds of paraphernalia.

certificate.

Perhaps the only let-down of the evening was the food. It had been on the steam tables too long and it did not "fit" the type of murder-mystery we were participating in. Everything was quite bland and mushy. About the only decent thing to eat was the salad and fruit. But it's hard to mess those things up...

Yeah, I almost solved the murder. I had it right. All the clues were there. But I went with my heart and not my mind. Lucky my dinner companion had more sense. She got the answer...

I walked into the night, flicked a cigarette butt into the gutter... Yeah. I should have never listened to my heart.

For information and reservations, call Melanec's Wheelhouse Restaurant at (414) 264-6060.

"Majestic Kid" Opens April 5 At Tesseract

[Milwaukee]- Theatre Tesseract opens the Midwest premiere of Mark Medoff's "The Majestic Kid" on April 5. This highly imaginative and skillfully constructed fantasy follows the trials and tribulations of two young social activists, Aaron Weiss, a young lawyer and his feminist classmate, AJ, as they confront the destructive greed and rampant commercialism which threaten the Old West of romantic legend.

Aaron and AJ have come to the Southwest to help the Apache Indians in protecting their land from exploitation. As the battle lines are drawn, Aaron, who in childhood often fantasized that he was really "The Majestic Kid," is joined by the model for his imagined persona — a former movie idol named "The Laredo Kid." Laredo steps off the movie screen (a la "The Purple Rose of Cairo") armed with old movie scripts and Junior Mints.

"The Majestic Kid" will run April 5-April 29 at Lincoln Center for the Arts, 820 Knapp St., Milwaukee. Parking is free. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 and 9:00 p.m., and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. An additional Sunday matinee has been added on April 29 at 2:00 p.m. Individual tickets are \$10 to \$14. For reservations and group rates, call (414) 273-PLAY

Skylight Theatre Announces '90-'91 Season

[Milwaukee]- Stephen Wadsworth and Francesca Zambello, Artistic Directors of Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre, have announced the repertoire for the Skylight's 1990-91 season.

The season will include a Midwest premiere of a new opera performed by only two other companies in the country, two well known opera classics, two Broadway hits, and a Gilbert and Sullivan work. The 1990-91 line-up is as follows:

"The Gondoliers," by Gilbert & Sullivan (Sept. 12-16); "Harriet, The Woman Called Moses," by Thea Musgrave (Oct. 24-Nov. 11); "Girl Crazy," by George and Ira Gershwin (Dec. 5-31); "Carmen," by Bizet (Jan. 23-Feb. 17); "The Abduction From the Seraglio," by Mozart (Mar. 13-17) and "Man Of La Mancha," by Wasserman & Leigh (April 10-May 5).

The season will run from September through May with eighty performances slated. Two productions will be staged at the 1,394-seat Pabst Theatre while four productions will be mounted in the company's intimate 249-seat Skylight Theatre.



Milwaukee's ever popular creative and versatile artist Holly Brown has created several delightful, whimsical three dimensional murals at Milwaukee's newest restaurant, Mom's Kitchen, 2000 S. 8th St. This no doubt is Mom's kitchen back in the 1950's, the decade in which the restaurant is set.

Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus To Hold Awards Banquet

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus will celebrate its third anniversary with a gala awards and recognition banquet to be held Saturday, March 31, at the Park East Hotel. Membership committee chair, Gene Schilling, has announced that a limited number of tickets are still available for \$20 each. For reservations, call 769-6184.

The annual banquet is the night in which the Cream City Chorus honors its patrons and celebrates its successes. The Chorus will also present a mini-concert at the event.

In other Cream City Chorus news, a special surprise concert is being planned under the title "April Foolishness" for Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 p.m. at New Hope United Church of Christ, 1424 West Greenfield Ave. in Milwaukee.

"April Foolishness" will feature a melange of music from past concerts and some surprises. The admission price of \$3.00 will help the Chorus to kick off its

campaign to raise funds for its trip to Denver to participate in GALA IV. GALA is a conference of more than 70 men's and women's and mixed Gay and Lesbian choruses.

The public is urged to attend "April Foolishness" which will be held in its rehearsal hall. New members are always welcome to audition. Under the direction of Scott Stephen Stewart, the Cream City Chorus has grown to more than 50 members over the past year. Stewart is also associate conductor and chorus master for the Florentine Opera Company and artistic advisor and conductor for The Wisconsin Opera Theatre, the Florentine's educational wing.

The Cream City Chorus rehearses every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. Interested parties are invited to sit in at a rehearsal without pre-arrangement or an audition may be arranged by calling 769-6184.

Holly Brown's Whimsical Murals Delight Diners at Mom's Kitchen

[Milwaukee]- Holly Brown, artistic director and mc-comedienne of the weekly "Holly & Co." revue at Milwaukee's La Cage bar has completed a set of commissioned murals for the Cream City's new home cooking restaurant, Mom's Kitchen, at 2000 S. 8th St.

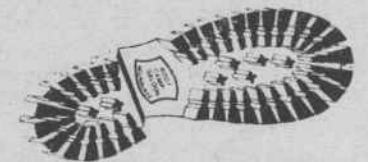
Brown, an accomplished painter who has exhibited internationally, has created an elaborate and highly realistic set of paintings designed to enhance the restaurant's vintage 50's style decor.

In achieving this effect, Brown has employed such three-dimensional devices as actual shelving with real pantry objects, actual cloth curtains on the painted windows, actual pasta boiling over in a pot, collector plates and other artifacts of the period.

The works with their exaggerated and playful perspectives and definite quoting of mass and high culture idioms, cleverly respect the hearth of every home in the Eisenhower Era.

In painting the murals, Brown was assisted by Milwaukee artists Andy Kerr, Christopher Weiss and Rick Cornejo.

Mom's Kitchen is located in the former Cafe Macaw. The restaurant features a variety of traditional regional home-cooked meals prepared with natural ingredients. Mom's Kitchen is owned by Sharon Dixon and managed by Anna Harvey.



BOOT CAMP SALOON
MILWAUKEE'S
LEATHER / LEVI BAR

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Milwaukee, WI
414-643-6900

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Revives "Pirates of Penzance"

By Geno

[Chicago, IL]- The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) presented their inimitable version of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" as their Spring Concert last year, and it seemed a shame at the time that this "swishbuckling" production was on for just one performance. Well, by popular demand, "The Pirates" are back for two performances scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7 at the Lane Tech High School (Addison and Western, Chicago) at 8:00 p.m.

In the CGMC production the delightful nonsense of Gilbert and Sullivan lends itself neatly to various Gay interpretations including a bevy of 20 fair young maidens with lovely tenor voices and traces of five o'clock shadow who faint in approved Victorian fashion when they are taken prisoner by the lusty pirates, though a few tend to throw their legs up into the air

Memorial Quilt Section To Be Exhibited

[Milwaukee]- As part of a four-day symposium on AIDS and the Jewish response, the Social Action Committee of Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun will display a 12'x 12' panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt so that the congregation and Milwaukee can see both Jewish and non-Jewish panels and names of those who have died in the fight against AIDS.

The symposium will run from April 27-May 1 and will include speakers, films as well as the display of the Quilt. The symposium is designed to raise the awareness of the AIDS crisis for every member from children to seniors.

On Tuesday, May 1, members of the congregation will be asked to participate in a Quilt-a-Thon, where Milwaukee AIDS victims' names can be sewn into individual panels. These panels will be added to the larger AIDS Quilt. Within the year, or possibly in 1991, sections of the Quilt will be put on display in Israel.

For further information or if you wish to help in any way, contact Rabbi Lipper at (414) 964-4100.

in a most unlady-like fashion. When they whip out pom-poms and perform a complicated cheer-leader routine, one feels that Sullivan (he was the Gay one), if not Gilbert, would have approved.

And, of course, the Pirates marry the maidens, but it seems quite a few of the supernumerary Pirates end up cuddling policemen. "How true!" as Queen Victoria would have agreed.

The 6th and 7th of April are dates well-worth marking on your calendars. Tickets are \$10 and \$13 at the door.

Sandy Lewis' Photography On Display

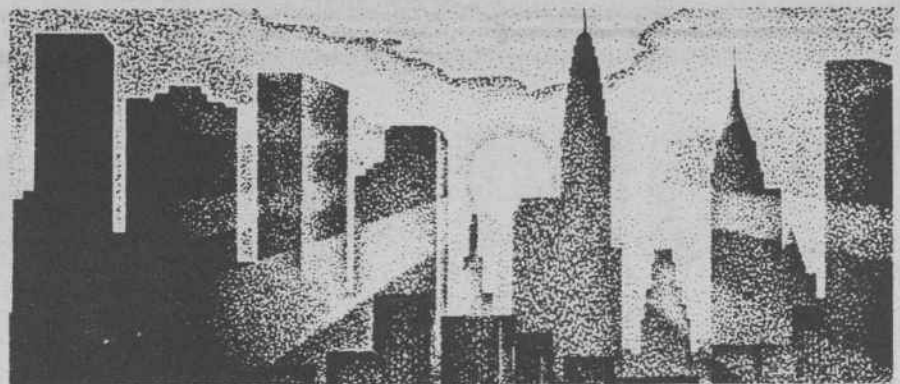
[Milwaukee]- "Photography by Sandy Lewis" will be on display at the Water Street Gallery, 144 N. Water St., in Milwaukee from April 6 through May 31. A reception at the gallery from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday the sixth will offer an opportunity to meet the artist.

"The works are in fairly large format," Sandy explains and Gallery Director, Mike Wavra, adds that this is the first photography show to be offered by the gallery. It is a realistic exhibition of all color photographs ranging widely in theme since "I shoot what I like" according to the photographer.

Gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Dancecircus Presents "Ball"

[Milwaukee]- Betty Salamun's "Dancecircus", a Milwaukee-based modern dance and movement company, will present "The Whole Earth Ball" at the Steimke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 W. Wells St. on Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31. Both performances are at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 each, or \$6 for students and seniors. Contact the MRT box office at (414) 224-9490 for information and to purchase tickets.



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This vintage 1987 photo show Fest City Singers doing an Andrews Sisters number.

SINGERS

Continued from Page 6

"Our yearly schedule has become so full, we now plan two full years ahead," Board member Jeanette Lowther explains, "and we conducted a highly successful season ticket drive last year." Season tickets for this fifth anniversary year will be announced soon and details of the three major shows will appear in *Wisconsin Light* and *In Step*.

Last year the Fest City Singers began to perform in Milwaukee's Theatre District. Their Spring show "Catch a Rising Star" was presented in the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRT), and their cabaret show "Faerie Tales" appeared appropriately in the Rep's Stackner Cabaret. Again this year, the May "Let's Go to the Movies" show and the "Gay Nineties" cabaret show will be presented in these two theatres.

1989 also saw the FCS performing for Milwaukee's first Gay Pride Rally in Cathedral Square, at the Third Ward Block Party, Commitment '89, MAPFest, the Sixth International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service as well as appearances at nursing homes and St. Mary's Hospice.

"Year Five promises to be a busy and exciting one," according to FCS Music Director Nancy McKinley Ehlinger, "with appearances for MAP, the Cream City Foundation and several organizations

already scheduled and other invitations to perform being considered."

With a five-year enviable record of service and entertainment, Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers promise many more years of the same.

HAPPY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

800 Phone Line Announced By Church

[San Diego, CA]- The Restoration Church of Jesus Christ (Mormon), headquartered in San Diego, California, has announced the creation of a new 800 Line Ministry that is intended to reach out to Lesbian and Gay people throughout the U.S.

The 800 line is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week recorded message that allows people a way to listen to a prerecorded message concerning the needs of the Church in serving all people and ministering to their needs on a one-to-one basis. Persons calling the line can request further printed information or request a representative of the Church to contact them to answer their questions.

The number to call is 1-800-677-RCJC (7252). All are welcome to call.

Milwaukee Pride Committee Attends Regional Conference

[Milwaukee]- On March 9- 11, 1990 Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) president, Jim English and treasurer, Scott Gunkel, attended the Heartland Pride Coordinator's Conference in Wichita, Kansas. The Conference was co-sponsored by the Wichita Gay & Lesbian Alliance (GALA) Pride Committee and the St. Louis Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration Committee. English and Gunkel were joined by Greg Downs, a Milwaukee resident recently moved from Kansas City, Kansas.

The Conference was held specifically to deal with issues relevant to Gay/Lesbian Pride events for those states in mid-America, where the strongest fundamentalist Christian opposition exists. Conference attendees came from the Twin Cities, Madison, Grand Rapids and Detroit, MI, Rockford, IL, Omaha, NE, St. Louis and Kansas City, MO, Lawrence and Wichita, KS and Oklahoma City as well as Milwaukee.

The entire weekend was conducted on a fast-paced schedule of seminars that covered topics such as: Leadership, Media, Grant Works, Burnout and Stress, Marketing and Advertising, Fundraising, Internalized homophobia, and Volunteers.

The seminars were held in open forum which allowed participants to gain valuable information as well as to share their own successes and problems. Two special guests at the Conference were Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and John Martinelli of Christopher Street West in Los Angeles.

A banquet was held on Saturday night with entertainment furnished by Ms. Gay Wichita among others. Bray made the keynote address, telling delegates what is happening in the area of Gay/Lesbian rights in America and the world.

Delegates were confronted with the moralistic views of the radical, fundamentalist movement. The hotel where the Conference was held was picketed, led by Rev. Fred Phelps Sr., a democratic candidate for governor of Kansas. The ensuing debate and press conference between Rev. Phelps, Robert

Bray and the Wichita GALA Committee was rewarding and helped fill many at the Conference with pride and joy.

The Conference organizers also conducted a bar crawl through Wichita's seven Gay bars. One obvious difference between Wichita and Milwaukee is that their Gay and Lesbian community party together.

Sunday was again filled with more seminars plus a Pride Swap. It was interesting to see other cities' buttons and T-shirts expressing their ideas on the themes of previous years. Three cities, Kansas City, Detroit and the Twin Cities had materials available with the 1990 theme, "Look To The Future."

The Milwaukee contingent returned with new ideas, fresh enthusiasm and added drive to see Milwaukee's 1990 Pride Week be a roaring success. Keep your eyes and ears posted. MLGPC is coming on stronger every day as we approach Parade and Rally Day on June 16, 1990.

Madison Frontiers Group Expands

[Madison]- One of the Midwest's leading social and discussion groups for Gay men, the Madison-based Men Over-30 Support Group, is expanding its programs and services under the new name: "Frontiers-Gay Men's Outreach." The name "Frontiers" was selected because it suggests the exploration of new ideas, new activities and a new approach on life, projecting a positive focus toward the future. The secondary title "Gay Men's Outreach" further clarifies its mission.

Serving a multi-county region centered on Madison for the past nine years, the restructured organization will implement many changes. The former age restriction will be eliminated and a wider choice of activities will be offered.

For information on membership or the programs and services offered, write Frontiers, P.O. Box 8234, Madison, WI 53708 or phone (608) 244-8675 evenings.

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Pride Committee Meets With Milwaukee Bar Owners

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) held a meeting for Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay bar owners on March 19, 1990 in the banquet room of the M&M Club. The meeting was attended by the owners and/or managers of La Cage, M&M Club, Partners, the Triangle and II-XIX.

According to Jim English, MLGPC President, the purpose of the meeting was to share with the bar owners, MLGPC plans and goals and underline the importance of working together to make Pride '90 a success.

English said that MLGPC is working through State Rep. Marcia Cogg (D-Mil) for incorporation. He also showed the new design that will be used for T-shirts among other things. The design shows portraits of Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein.

MLGPC's chief need now, is money with \$15,000 minimum needed for the event. MLGPC will be asking each bar and Gay/Lesbian owned business to hold one fundraiser prior to to Pride Week and to take out an ad in the "Pride Guide" book that the Committee plans to publish. Ads will run around \$300 for a full page. Annabelle Havlicek of Havlicek & Assoc's said that the book would "be something to behold." Copies of the pride guide from St. Louis were shown. Last year, St. Louis made \$8,000 from selling ads in the guide.

The proposed Parade route will be new, starting on the East Side. The reason for the change in location, English said, was to "put the Parade in the mainstream of the City" where the Parade should be. Each bar was asked to create a float for the Parade.

As last year, the Rally following the Parade will be held in Cathedral Square. The Committee has planned that the Rally will be more entertaining than political. As of now, the MC will be Wayne Schwandt, President of Gay/Lesbian Parenting Coalition in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Rally will be "more like MAPfest," English said, with "a whole

booth structure in the park" with all organizations, groups and businesses being invited to participate.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the bar owners and managers attending, indicated their commitment to helping to make Pride '90 a success.

Madison To Host Lesbian Conference

[Albany, NY]- There will be a central-west regional meeting of the National Lesbian Conference (NLC) on March 31, 1990 in Madison. The purpose of this meeting is to elect four representatives for the National Steering Committee which will meet in Kansas City on April 27, 1990. Guidelines set by the last two national planning meetings must be met. These are fifty percent women of color and twenty percent women with disabilities. Also, to be presented is a brief history of the NLC.

For information about this meeting and if you will need community housing, please contact Merle Graybill at (608) 257-4855. This is an answering service for a business. Please leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned. You need to call on or before March 27.

Please let us know if you have special housing needs- no pets, no smoking, substance free, accessible, etc. Please call by March 28 for information and registration.

Please plan to attend and/or send someone to present your concerns and ideas.

Correction

The actual date of Madison's MAGIC Picnic is July 14 not July 21 as was given in the last issue.



Madison's Frontiers Award recipients were (L to R) Dick Wagner, Ted Pierce and Billy Heidt. (See Article on page 2).

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

"liberal" male when he offers a dismissive defense of Rooney's slurs against Gay people.

he says he "won't be so quick to condemn" Rooney, who attacked a decimated minority before millions, because Rooney, you see, is 71 years-old. This reasoning would be laughable if Berkman weren't a professor at UWM. Perhaps he has a colleague who teaches a logic course he can audit.

Professor Berkman: Does the age of a spreader of falsehoods make the falsehood more true and less invidious? Does the fact that Rooney is getting on in years make it true that "homosexual unions cause AIDS?" (Unsafe sex of both the homo and hetero variety causes AIDS.) Would the blood libels against the Jews that Nazi Julius Streicher ran in *Der Sturm* have gained validity if Streicher had been old instead of middle aged? Are the people Rumanian dictator Ceausescu slaughtered less dead because Grandpaw Nicolae was seventy-something?

Let's move on the the next part of Berkman's defense — that Gay people were "universally condemned" for the first fifty years of Rooney's life. Universally, Professor? That means everybody. I am here to tell you that there were a hell of a lot of people out there — even in the McCarthy era — who listened to their hearts and minds and not to lies of the haters, halo-polishers, and common bigots.

If a well-known wrong becomes old, does it acquire the mantle of righteousness? Were the defenders of slavery right because they'd heard for years that the Bible allows us to keep slaves? Is it right to men to mistreat women because the cavemen once practiced misogyny?

Even if this Alice-in Wonderland logic could produce a valid and true conclusion, I'd still have to ask: Where on earth has Rooney been the past twenty years? Granted, he likes his highballs, and spends a lot of time trying to get those little wads of cotton out of aspirin bottles, but he does read, doesn't he? The media has been freely admitting for twenty years now that Gay people are not comical, "inverted," sex-driven "others," but real people hurt in real ways by hate-mongering and Gay-bashing.

Unfortunately, it is still all too true, especially among self-identified liberal males, that a faggot is the homosexual gentleman who has just left the room.

—Noah Archer
Milwaukee

Speak Out Success

TO THE EDITOR:

Recent passage of the national "Hate Crimes" bill, (addressing anti-Gay

violence) and defeat of Jesse Helms' outrageous amendment, was a result of many factors, including grassroots mail from people across the country.

For a change, constituents on our side were heard. I'm proud to point out that one reason was **Speak Out**, the Campaign Fund's constituent mail program. A spokesperson for People for the American Way described **Speak Out** as having "tremendous power."

Because **Speak Out** makes it simple and easy for people to be heard, and because it allows us to coordinate constituent mail with legislative developments, we were able to generate more than 20,000 Western Union messages to Senators from all 50 states — urging support and co-sponsorship of the Hate Crimes bill and defeat of the Helms amendment.

If your readers haven't yet joined **Speak Out**, we urge them to do so by writing or calling us. If individuals will help build the system by "canvassing" at community events and gathering places (another phrase for signing people up), we'd love to help and people can actually make \$15-\$25 an hour helping.

If there are well-organized, assertive individuals who'd be interested in serving as our "Area Canvass Supervisor" in the state — recruiting, training and coordinating canvassing in their area — it's a great opportunity to make a difference, set your own hours and get paid well for the effort.

While Senators Kohl and Kasten voted right on Hate Crimes, we need far more grassroots mail from people in Wisconsin if we're going to win on the many AIDS and Lesbian/Gay rights votes ahead. In fact, Senator Kohl and a number of Congresspeople should be co-sponsors of the National Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights bill and might — if they heard from their pro-fairness constituents.

And Senator Kasten and other members of the congressional delegation need to hear from the majority favoring non-discrimination that he should support national legislation similar to Wisconsin's state law.

For most of the 20 years I've worked in the Gay/Lesbian movement, we've had an incredibly difficult time generating mail. Now, **Speak Out** gives us a good chance to turn that around — but no strategy works unless we can get the necessary participation.

I urge people to write HRCF, Field Division, P.O. Box 1723, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-5160. Together, we can finally begin to generate the sort of grassroots mail needed to win on AIDS and Lesbian/Gay rights issues. Thank you.

—Steve Endean
Field Division Director,
Human Rights Campaign Fund
Washington, D.C.



PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS
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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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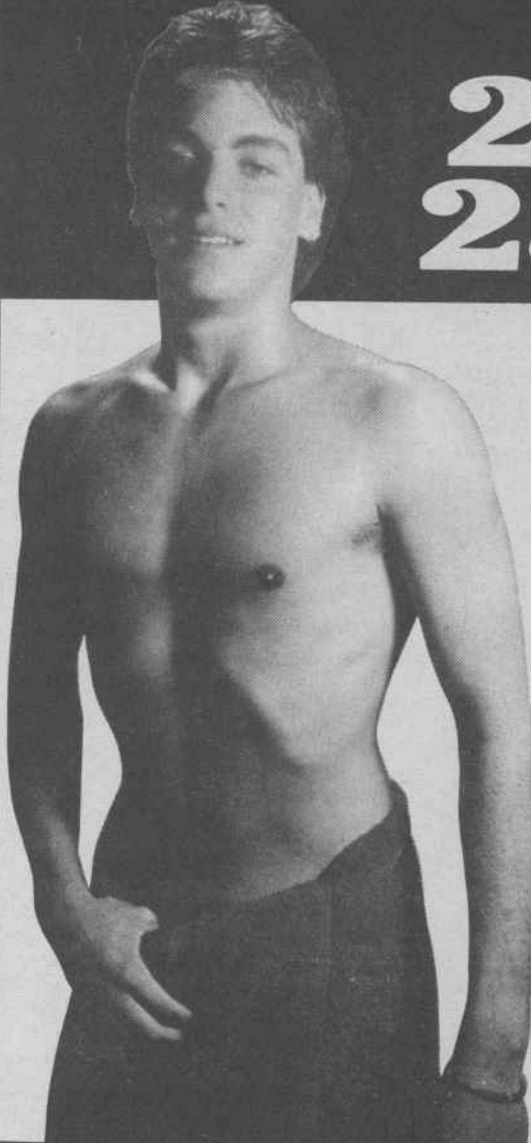
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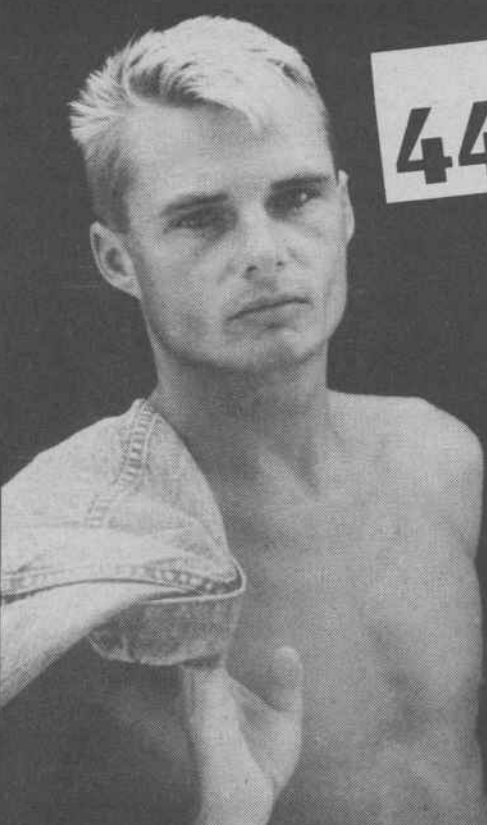
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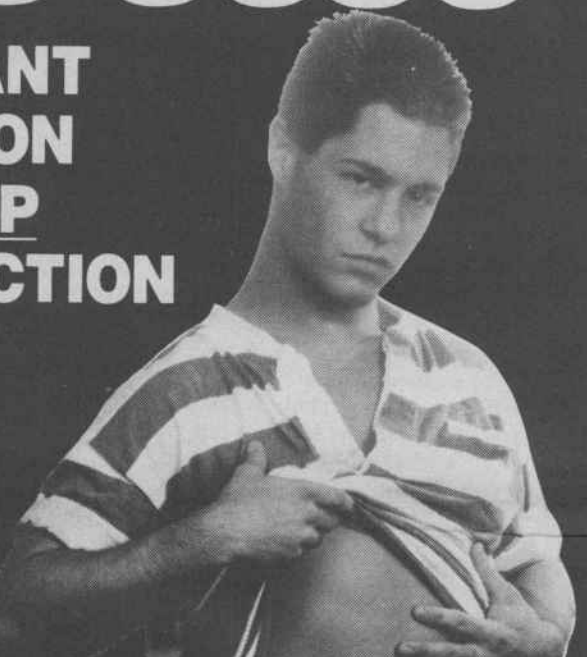


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MAP Conducts First Statewide Case Management Training

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) conducted the first statewide AIDS/HIV Case Management training during the last week in February. The program brought to the MAP headquarters 25 case managers from AIDS Service Organizations throughout Wisconsin.

The unprecedented gathering represented all of the case management staff funded by the State's \$1.2 million Life Care Services grant that establishes a centralized AIDS/HIV case management program through Wisconsin's AIDS Service Organizations.

Organized and presented by Cheryl Vaughn, Director of Life Care Services at MAP, the training included extensive sessions on income maintenance programs, social security, state reimbursement programs, crisis evaluation and intervention, psychological issues for people with HIV disease, substance abuse, documentation and medical records, peer review, assessment/evaluation, care plan development, multi-disciplinary staffings and advanced AIDS education.

Vaughn, who became Wisconsin's first AIDS/HIV case manager when hired by MAP in 1986, called the training conference a successful and exciting experience. "It is amazing how far we have come from when I started at MAP three years ago," said Vaughn. "I never would have dreamed that today we would have 25 case managers fully funded by the state working in every region of Wisconsin. This training conference brought home the point that we have a unique opportunity in Wisconsin to implement a highly professional case management system that truly will benefit people with AIDS and HIV infection."

The program participants had many words of praise for the training and agreed to continue to meet as a state group on a quarterly basis.

The 25 AIDS/HIV case managers are employed by MAP, Madison AIDS Support Network, Center Project, Inc. of Green Bay, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project and the La Crosse, Winnebago, Oneida and Eau Claire County Public Health Departments.

Chicago ACT-UP To Speak in Madison April 1

[Madison]- AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT-UP) from Chicago will be making an appearance in Madison on April 1 to speak about themselves — what they've done and what they're going to do next. They'll be talking about their nation-wide demonstration April 20-23, in Chicago. Most of this will take place around Cook County Hospital in protest to medicine's treatment of the poor and the homeless who are living with AIDS. Their other target is the insurance industry and its criminal practices which are coming to light.

Previous actions by ACT-UP have resulted in profound changes in distribution and protocols involving new and experimental drug treatments, particularly those having to do with AIDS, but which ultimately impact all of us.

The Madison Treaty Rights Support

Group will also appear on April 1, talking about their experiences on the boat landings in northern Wisconsin last Spring and what is anticipated this year. Announcements will be made regarding the training of more witnesses for peace.

The free program will begin at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, April 1, at the State Historical Society, 816 State St., across from Memorial Union. It is sponsored, in part, by Inclusion Coalition, The United, The 10% Society, GALVANize, Madison AIDS Support Network, Frontiers and QUAC.

Further information will be available about the Chicago action and groups going down together. Call Nancy Graham at (608) 244-6595 and about forming of an ACT-UP/Madison, call Robert James at (608) 255-3763.

Senator Kasten Joins Anti-Gay Vote

[Washington, D.C.]- Wisconsin's Republican Senator Robert Kasten joined forces with those seeking to amend the District of Columbia's Human Rights Law to allow the local Big Brothers organization (or virtually any non-profit "organization or entity") to discriminate against Gays in programs involving minors. The measure was defeated in the U.S. Senate.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) led the opposition. He proposed a substitute amendment that allows D.C. volunteer groups associated with minors to deny positions to Gays, bisexuals and heterosexuals **only** when such individuals have been charged with or convicted of a sex offense with a minor. Gay lobbyists supported the Kennedy amendment as a way of preventing the more restrictive and exclusively anti-Gay policy from becoming law.

Herb Kohl, Wisconsin's Democratic Senator, voted with the Kennedy forces.

Black Lesbian Anthology Planned

A Black Lesbian literary anthology is being planned to present the wide diversity within the Black Lesbian experience. Editors Terri Jewell and Stephanie Byrd are accepting poetry and short fiction for the anthology. All topics are acceptable for review and experimental forms are encouraged.

Jewell, a writer and poet, has been published in over 300 magazines worldwide and was a recent nominee for the Pushcart Prize for poetry. Byrd's published works include two books of poetry as well as essays and articles in many alternative periodicals.

Poetry may be sent to Terri L. Jewell, 211 W. Saginaw No. 2, Lansing, MI 48933, and short fiction should be addressed to Stephanie Byrd, 705 E. Seneca No. 7, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Western Union Dropped By Campaign Fund

[Washington, D.C.]- The Human Rights Campaign Fund, (HRCF) the nation's largest Lesbian and Gay political organization, has announced that it will no longer use Western Union Corp. to deliver "Speak Out" constituent messages to Capitol Hill, a decision that will cost the communications firm \$350,000 this year.

Tim McFeeley, executive director of HRCF, stated that the decision "to terminate our relationship with Western Union is based on the company's continued efforts to overturn a 12-year-old San Francisco ordinance protecting Lesbians and Gays from discrimination.

"We certainly hope that others will reexamine their business relationships with Western Union and any other organization which opposes full and equal rights for all Americans," McFeeley stated.

Western Union is challenging the constitutionality of the San Francisco ordinance as part of a legal battle which began last year. Armand Ertag, a Western Union employee in San Francisco, sought damages against the company for harassment and intimidation he experienced at work. Rather than address the specific allegations in Mr. Ertag's suit, Western Union has sought to have the Gay rights ordinance overturned.

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