

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



The Wisconsin Light

MAP Retains Byers As Client Lawyer

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has contracted with the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc. to retain the services of Steve Byers, a full-time attorney, to provide free legal assistance services for people with AIDS and HIV infection that began on April 1, 1990.

"The evolution of client services at MAP and the dramatic increase in our clientele make it absolutely necessary that we have a full-time lawyer available to our clients," said Doug Nelson, MAP Executive Director. "70 percent of our clients need legal assistance at one time or another. We must ensure that the highest quality of legal service is available to our nearly 300 clients."

Thomas Zander, Legal Aid Society Executive Director said, "The historic cooperation between MAP and the Legal Aid Society has enabled the new contractual relationship to become a reality." The agreement is a continuation of the Legal Aid Society's AIDS/HIV Antidiscrimination Project.

Nelson praised the assignment of Byers to MAP, calling him "the finest AIDS/HIV attorney in Wisconsin." "Steve brings an unparalleled amount of experience knowledge and sensitivity to individuals with AIDS and HIV infection," said Nelson.

Under the terms of the agreement, Byers will conduct a weekly legal clinic at the MAP offices and will regularly be available at MAP to meet with clients for legal consultation and representation regarding civil, non-fee generating matters. These include assistance with discrimination cases, access to benefits, estate planning, wills, probate, insurance and family law.

Byers will also develop a legal service system that will utilize volunteer attorneys from the Milwaukee area to provide specific legal services for clients.

Byers has served on a volunteer basis as the legal advisor to clients of the Milwaukee AIDS Project for several years and has developed an unequaled

TURN TO BYERS, PAGE 11

MAP To Attend VI International Conference on AIDS in S.F.

[Milwaukee]- "A boycott that causes cancellation of this conference plays right into the hand of Jesse Helms," said Doug Nelson and added strongly, "I am not prepared to give one thing to (Sen.) Jesse Helms (R-NC) on AIDS!"

Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) was referring to the boycott by some 35 national and international organizations of the VI International Conference on AIDS and the demand by some that the Conference be canceled. The boycott has been mounted to protest the U.S. Government's discriminatory AIDS and Gay and Lesbian immigration and visitation policies. The Conference, which Nelson characterized as "the finest health care conference in the world," is to be held in San Francisco on June 20-24, 1990.

After what Nelson said was "a great deal of thought", the decision was made that MAP will attend the Conference.

Part of that decision was based on the generally acknowledged fact that the most up-to-date information on the disease will be presented. Not to have this knowledge, Nelson said, "would be a disservice to our clients at MAP." He added, "We live or die on information about AIDS at MAP."

Still another consideration, Nelson said is the fact that most of the boycotting organizations come from First World countries with large libraries and expensive researchers and facilities. Third World countries, unable to afford

MAP To Take Tough Stand On Enforcing New AIDS Bias Law



The staff of Madison's A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore.

Madison's Room of One's Own Bookstore Celebrates 15 Years

By Sue Burke

There are more books and better books in print now compared to 15 years ago when A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore opened in Madison.

Now there are more small presses publishing feminist, Gay and Lesbian and alternative books, said Sandy Torkildson, manager and one of the founders of the bookstore.

The writing is better, the printing and binding is as good as "the big guys" and the distribution systems are available to get the books out easier and faster to stores like A Room of One's Own.

such facilities, are "being overwhelmed," he said, by the disease. They desperately need information to help their people that only the Conference can provide. To cancel the Conference would be doing them a great disservice.

Asked about President Bush's recent announcement of a 10 day visa to be granted to anyone who wishes to attend the Conference, Nelson said that that had influenced MAP's decision to attend.

However, he cautioned, the President's action must be seen in its proper perspective. "It is a stop-gap measure to save the Conference," he said, and it is an "arbitrary" exercise of the presidential prerogative, "unacceptable" and only temporary; "anathema" by its nature, to the guarantees of personal freedoms in the Bill of Rights.

"We must," he emphasized strongly, "change the policy so that AIDS is not listed as a communicable disease that is reason for someone being excluded from the U.S."

If the policy is not changed, "everything possible" must be done to see that any future AIDS conference is not held in the United States.

Returning to his earlier statement about Jesse Helms and the cancellation of the Conference, Nelson said, "A lot of these boycotting organizations don't have to live with Jesse Helms and we do." MAP will fight for human rights by attending the Conference.

"That shows to me that there is a demand," she said.

Fifteen years ago, a university class in women's studies inspired Torkildson and a few other women to borrow \$5,000 from women and women's groups to start the store at 317 W. Johnson St. Sales reached \$400,000 last year.

To celebrate 15 years in business, A Room of One's Own is holding special events in April.

On Thursday, April 26, two authors who are appearing at Out and About Week for Lesbian and Gay rights at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will appear at the store to sign books.

Historian Joan Scott, author of *Gender and the Politics of History*, will be there from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Her book is "one of the hotter selling history books," according to Karen Axness, assistant manager of the store.

Katherine Forrest, Naiad Publishing's leading Lesbian novelist, will sign books from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Her latest book is *Beverly Malibu*.

Axness said a "wonderful thing about being a feminist bookstore in Madison is that the university brings so many people to town." The store is a resource to the community by being a place for speakers to meet with people, she said.

On Saturday, April 28, from 2 to 3 p.m., Le Ly Hayslip will sign books. She wrote *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, an autobiographical account of growing up in Vietnam during the war. She is being brought to Madison by the Madison Friends Society, the Quakers.

The anniversary celebration concludes Saturday with an 8 p.m. performance and reading at the Barrymore Theater, 2090 Atwood Ave. June Jordan, a poet and author whose latest book is *Naming Out Destiny*, will read from her works. She has read in Madison before and met with "incredible enthusiasm," Axness said, and was the "first person who came to mind" as an author for the celebration.

Drummer Edwina Lee Tyler and two members of A Piece of the World dance troupe will perform at the celebration. Tyler drums in African-American styles, said Tina Gomoll, a staff member at the store.

She described seeing Tyler and the dancers perform at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, drawing tears

TURN TO BOOKSTORE, PAGE 11

[Milwaukee]- "We are determined to use the new law and to see it enforced," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson spoke with *Light* on Monday, April 16, concerning the AB 400, the new law that makes AIDS discrimination illegal.

Asked what action MAP intended to take, Nelson said that MAP will "refer our clients appropriately to dentists, physicians and nursing homes. For those health care providers who refuse treatment (to those infected with HIV and people living with AIDS), we will document those refusals, refer them by name to the state licensing board and will recommend suspension or revocation of their license to practice."

Suspension or revocation of license is only one of two penalties that can be incurred under the law by those who discriminate in the care of people with AIDS or infected with HIV.

Nelson noted the second penalty: a person with HIV or AIDS can bring a civil suit and said that Attorney Steve Byers, newly retained by MAP, would be available to render all legal assistance in such cases.

Nelson praised State Representative David Clarenbach, the author of the bill, saying that it would have a "huge impact on Milwaukee" in bringing the weight of Wisconsin law behind MAP "as we fight the discrimination that has been so prevalent."

"It's a disgrace," Nelson said, "that only one nursing home out of 60 in the metro-Milwaukee area will accept people with AIDS." It is just as disgraceful, he said "that only 3 dentists out of roughly 1,000 and 12 physicians out of nearly 2,000 in the metro-Milwaukee area have made themselves known to MAP as willing to provide service to people with HIV or AIDS."

"David Clarenbach did not work hard to get this law passed for us to ignore it," Nelson said. "AIDS has been present in Milwaukee for seven years and with this new law, we are sure to gain the health care services for people with HIV infection and those living with AIDS."

Thompson Signs AIDS Bill of Rights Into Law

[Madison]- The historic bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection has been signed into law by Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson.

Assembly Bill 400 guarantees medical care and treatment by health care providers and institutions, according to the bill's author State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison)

"The new law prohibits doctors and other health care professionals, hospitals and nursing homes from refusing to treat or discriminating against anyone based on their HIV status," Clarenbach said at the signing ceremony.

AIDS activists applauded the new law, claiming it will improve the care of people with HIV infection.

"This is just one more example of how Wisconsin has proven to be a model," said Earl Bricker, Executive Director of the Madison AIDS Support Network.

"We can now properly prepare for the second wave of the AIDS epidemic," Bricker said.

(For the Milwaukee AIDS Project's reaction, see article this issue).

The new law will also: prohibit health and life insurance policies from excluding or limiting HIV coverage;

TURN TO AB400, PAGE 11

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AIDS Officials at U.N. Resign

[New York, NY]- Dr. Jonathan Mann, who has led the United Nations' World Health Organization's (WHO) AIDS program since 1986, has resigned over a dispute with WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima. Mann's executive assistant, Kathleen Kay, resigned as well.

In his letter of resignation, Dr. Mann said: "I have come to the conclusion that there is a great variance between our positions on a series of issues which I consider critical for the global AIDS strategy..." He did not describe what those differences were.

UN observers speculated that Nakajima may have resented the growing autonomy and prestige of the AIDS program under Dr. Mann's direction. When Dr. Mann started at WHO, the AIDS staff consisted of himself and one secretary. Today, the AIDS program has a staff of 200 and an annual budget of \$109 million.

Larry Kramer Calls for Riot

[New York, NY]- In a column published in Gay newspapers across the US, playwright and AIDS activist Larry Kramer has called for a "massive disruption" of the Sixth International AIDS Conference being held in San Francisco June 20-24.

Kramer, a founder of New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis and the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), is known for his passionate and extremist rhetoric.

Kramer wrote that "We have been lined up in front of a firing squad and it is called AIDS. We must riot!" He encouraged "every human being who wants to end the AIDS epidemic" to be in San Francisco at the Moscone Convention Center "screaming, yelling... protesting" against "this stupid conference."

Dozens of AIDS and Gay organizations have joined a boycott of the conference to protest government policy which restricts the entry of Gays, Lesbians and HIV-infected people into the US. AIDS experts and activists from other nations have been denied entry to the US for previous conferences. The purpose of the boycott is to force a change in policy.

PAW Arrested For Hospice Arson

[Evansdale, IA]- Ronald Eugene Carnes, a resident of an AIDS hospice which was damaged by fire last month, has been arrested and charged with first degree arson.

Carnes is being held at the Black Hawk county jail on \$100,000 bond and could be sentenced to 25 years in prison for the felony. However, local AIDS workers are unsure whether Carnes will live long enough for trial or sentencing. He has pleaded not guilty.

There had been bitter opposition to the opening of the AIDS hospice in Evansdale, a suburb of Waterloo. AIDS activists suspected that some intolerant townspeople may have set the house ablaze. A spokesman for Cedar Valley AIDS Support Services admitted that the entire incident had given the hospice program "a black eye."

Lesbian Loses Visitation Appeal

[New York, NY]- Alison D., a Lesbian seeking visitation rights to a child she co-parented with her now estranged lover, has lost her case in a 3-1 decision of the New York Appellate Division, according to *OutWeek*. The judges held that a prior decision of the state's highest court, in which a non-biological father lost his claim for visitation, bound them to rule against the non-biological Lesbian parent in this case. The best interests of the child did not enter into their decision.

Paula Ettelbrick of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which represented Alison D., said: "This ruling is a tragic reminder of all Lesbian mothers, particularly those with no biological link with their children, of our vulnerability as parents in a world which refuses to validate our families..."

The dissenting judge made this statement: "Clearly, a child's love for, and attachment to, a person who has assumed the role of parent is no less merely because that person is not biologically related to the child."

Lombardi Widow Urged Crackdown

[Philadelphia, PA]-Philadelphia Gay News reports that a police crackdown on sex acts between men at the Vince Lombardi Service Area on the New Jersey Turnpike was prompted by complaints from the football coach's widow.

State Police Captain Thomas Gallagher said Mrs. Lombardi was so concerned about media coverage of the sexual activity at the rest stop that she threatened to have her husband's name and personal momentos removed from the service area. The State's Police Superintendent then ordered a series of decoy operations which resulted in numerous arrests for "lewd" behavior.

The undercover operation only drew increased publicity, however. It was ended recently, with one police officer calling the stake-out "repulsive."

African-American Gay Church Forms

[Atlanta, GA]- A national church for African-American Gays and Lesbians was founded at the Third National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and Health Institute held recently in Atlanta.

Rev. Carl Beam, founder of the Unity Fellowship Church of Los Angeles, and Rev. Renee McCoy, a minister formerly with the Metropolitan Community Church, are initiating the national network of Unity Fellowship Churches.

The new Church aims to build solidarity and support among its members by stressing rituals and traditions unique to African-American culture. As first steps, organizers are focusing on establishing churches in Chicago and Detroit.

Lambda Delta Lambda Harassed

[Los Angeles, CA]- Officials at the University of California-Los Angeles have placed members of the school's Theta Chi fraternity on probation for harassing members of the mostly Lesbian Lambda Delta Lambda sorority, according to *The Advocate*.

Lambda Delta Lambda members said that Theta Chi members hurled trash and insults at them during a UCLA football game last November. The fraternity was also ordered to publish an apology to the sorority in the student newspaper.

California GOP Ousts Gays

[Santa Clara, CA]- California's Republican Party, meeting at its state convention in March, passed two anti-Gay resolutions, according to the *San Francisco Sentinel*. One calls for the dissolution of Project 10, a Los Angeles school counseling program for Gay and Lesbian teens. Another excludes Gay Republican clubs from official membership in the party.

The resolutions were pushed through by conservative Reps. William Dannemeyer and Bob Dornan, along with Steve Sheldon of the fundamentalist Traditional Values Coalition. Under their direction, the convention also demanded mandatory HIV testing for all hospital patients.

The resolution against Gay Republican clubs was apparently aimed at preventing the state's network of Log Cabin Clubs, made up of Gay and Lesbian Republicans, from participation in party business and policy-making. One Gay Republican dubbed it "a call to arms," while a press release from the largest Log Cabin Club in San Francisco stated: "Our losses, while visible, were merely symbolic, and will prove to be ephemeral."

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.

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Tuesday, May 8	9-12 Midnight
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Gay Man Receives Partnership Rights

[New York, NY]- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has announced that a Gay man employed in Montgomery County Maryland, who had been denied the right to take his life partner on company-sponsored trips where employee spouses are welcome, has settled a complaint he filed against his employer with the Montgomery County Human Relations Commission.

Montgomery County which borders Washington, D.C., is the second richest county in per capita income in the nation.

The employer has agreed to amend its policy in Montgomery County to ensure that Lesbian, Gay and other unmarried employees are not discriminated against, to provide the trips and access to all other company-sponsored functions on a non-discriminatory basis to employees in Montgomery County and their partners, and to pay the plaintiff an undisclosed amount of money.



With Governor Tommy Thompson at the signing ceremony for AB 400 are, (left to right): Nancy Kaufman, Ed Blum, State Rep. Peter Bock, Bill Hazelton, Patrick Kramme, Pat Shannon, State Rep. David Clarenbach, Patti Fields and others.

Ten Percent Society Opens "Out And About" Awareness Series

[Madison]- The Ten Percent Society, UW-Madison's Lesbian and Gay Student Organization, is proud to present the Sixth Annual "Out & About" Lesbian and Gay Awareness Series. This year's events focus on discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in the military, images of Gay men and Lesbians in Hollywood films and our changing roles in society. All events are free and open to University of Wisconsin students, faculty, staff and the general public.

All events are wheelchair accessible. Interpreting for the hearing impaired will be provided on a reservation basis. Please call (608) 255-9449 (voice only) at least five days before an event to reserve a speech interpreter. Childcare will be provided by GALVANize. Please call (608) 255-9131 a minimum of two days in advance of an event to reserve childcare.

On Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30p.m. in room 145, Birge Hall, Katherine V. Forrest, noted Lesbian novelist and editor at Naiad Press, will discuss Lesbian and Gay book publishing.

On Friday, April 27 at 7:30p.m. in the State Historical Society Auditorium, Mickey Fleming, author of the widely acclaimed *About Courage* will discuss how he has found fulfillment and personal satisfaction by reconciling his African-American and Gay identities.

On Sunday, April 29 at 10:30am-Noon and 1:00-4:00p.m. in the Memorial Union, there will be a series of workshops. These

include: "Coping with anti-Lesbian/Gay violence," "Lesbians and Gay Men of color/inter-racial relationships," "Domestic Partners Legislation" among others.

On Monday, April 30 at 7:30p.m. in room 272, Bascom Hall, Vito Russo, film columnist for *The Advocate*, and author of *The Celluloid Closet*, will use film clips to analyze the distorted images of Lesbians and Gay men in Hollywood films.

On Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30p.m. in the Great Hall-Memorial Union, Allan Berube, author of *Coming Out Under Fire* will present a slide show that movingly recounts the experiences of Lesbian and Gay Americans during World War II.

On Thursday, May 3 at 8:00p.m. in the Great Hall-Memorial Union, the Ten Percent Society will host a dance. Admission is free. There will be DJ's and cash juice bar.

On Friday, May 4 at 7:30p.m. in room 272, Bascom Hall, Miriam Ben-Shalom, Joseph Steffan and James Holobaugh will discuss their legal struggles with the military and the broader struggle to change the Defense Department's discriminatory policy. Their presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

For further information, contact Don Elmer at (608) 255-9449 (evening) or (608) 262-3763 (day)

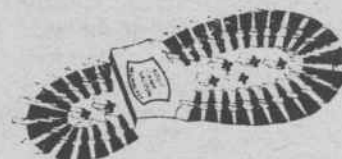
Physicians Deplore U.S. HIV Immigration Policy

[San Francisco, CA]- In a recent, but undated press release, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR) has announced that it deplores the medically uninformed regulations that restrict the free travel and immigration of HIV infected persons in the U.S. HIV is not a casually transmitted disease.

AAPHR calls on its members and the members of other interested groups to put pressure on the U.S. Congress to change these regulations.

The present situation discourages certain individuals from attending the VI International Conference on AIDS and that is wrong. AAPHR believes though, that the conference will provide a sharing knowledge. Though certain people will not be there physically, the conference is doing all that it can to make the information presented there available to all.

AAPHR thinks the sharing of knowledge to be of medical and scientific benefit to humanity and that the conference should occur.



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Affection Leads to Madison "Kiss-In" Restaurant Demonstration

By Thomas J. Rondy

[Madison]- On Sunday afternoon, April 8, two women, Jodi and Jessica, customers of the Cafe Espresso Royale in Madison were asked by an employee of the establishment to stop showing affection there. In response, on April 15, approximately 200 people attended a demonstration to protest the alleged homophobia. The demonstration included a "kiss-in."

The demonstrators met on Library Mall at 2:45p.m. and headed down State St. at 3:00. Upon entering the Cafe, some of the demonstrators engaged in public displays of affection as a statement.

Cafe owner, Don Hanigan, and the employee involved in the incident, Kory Khoury, said that they were only enforcing a standard which applies to all. "We are not in any way, shape or form, homophobic," Hanigan said.

Though many of the demonstrators believed that the two women had been

asked to leave the Cafe, it had only been asked that they not be openly affectionate. "All I did was perhaps ask them to cool their jets," Khoury said.

Jodi and Jessica said they were not involved in the planning of the demonstration, but had heard about it by word of mouth.

However, the two women said that they thought such rallies were a good way to increase public awareness of Gay and Lesbian issues, particularly the inability of same-sex couples to show affection openly because of homophobia.

They denied any desire to condemn the Cafe Espresso Royale. "I love Jessica and I want to be safe enough to express that in public," Jodi said. "It's a issue of love."

Editor's Note: Mr. Rondy is a member of the staff of the *Cardinal* where this article first appeared. It is used with the permission of the writer.



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The Ten Percent Society

Lesbian/Gay Awareness Series

The Ten Percent Society, UW-Madison's Lesbian and Gay Student Organization, is proud to present the Sixth Annual "Out & About" Lesbian and Gay Awareness Series. This year's events focus on discrimination against Lesbians and Gay Men in the military, images of Gay Men and Lesbians in Hollywood films, and our changing roles in society. All events are free and open to University of Wisconsin students, faculty, staff, and the general public.

All events are wheelchair accessible. Interpreting for the hearing impaired will be provided on a reservation basis. Please call 255-9449 (voice only) at least five days before an event to reserve a speech interpreter. Childcare will be provided by GALVANize. Please call 255-9131 a minimum of two days in advance of an event to reserve childcare.

Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 PM in room 145 Birge Hall
Katherine V. Forrest: "Lesbian and Gay Books — Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

Friday, April 27 at 7:30 PM in the State Historical Society Auditorium
Mickey Fleming: "Multiple Oppressions in Society"

Sunday, April 29 at 10:30 AM - 12 PM, 1 PM - 4 PM in the Memorial Union
Workshops include:

- Gay Men & Lesbians and the Media
- Coping with anti-Lesbian/Gay violence
- Bridging the Lesbian and Gay communities
- Lesbians and Gay Men of color/inter-racial relationships
- Domestic Partners Legislation
- Legal Issues for Gay Men and Lesbians
- Gay Parenting

Monday, April 30 at 7:30 PM in room 272 Bascom Hall
Vito Russo: "The Celluloid Closet"

Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 PM in the Great Hall - Memorial Union
Allan Berube: "Marching to the Beat of a Different Drummer: The Story of Gay Soldiers During World War II."

Thursday, May 3 at 8 PM in the Great Hall - Memorial Union
Ten Percent Society Alcohol-free Dance: Free admission, D.J.'s, cash juice bar

Friday, May 4 at 7:30 PM in room 272 Bascom Hall
Miriam Ben-Shalom, Joseph Steffan, and James Holobaugh: "Homophobia: A Military Institution"

Cosponsored by: Alcohol-Free Programming Allocation Committee, Campus Women's Center, Dean of Students Office, GALVANize, Inclusion Coalition, Multi-Cultural Council, QUAC, Stonewall Network, Symposium, The United, Wisconsin Student Association

The Ten Percent Society is UW-Madison's Lesbian/Gay Student Group

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

The Wisconsin Light



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EDITORIAL

MAP Praised In Enforcing New AIDS Bias Law

Wisconsin Light joins with the Milwaukee Sentinel in praise of Doug Nelson and the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) for taking the decision to see that the provisions of A.B. 400 are enforced.

Rep. David Clarenbach has done all he could in piloting the bill through the legislature and to the Governor's desk for signature. Now it is up to the rest of us and MAP is leading the way.

It is indeed a shame that many dentists, physicians and other health care providers must be prevented by law from discrimination, but such is the case.

Therefore, the entire community, everyone, can be grateful that MAP has forged ahead in the struggle for basic human rights.

The fact that MAP will do this, should make us all feel secure and good that our loved ones and, even ourselves, will receive the best possible health care because MAP cares — and is willing to fight.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The paintings had been finished and a group of local nabobs and church yahoos had come to see the work. They looked with gimlet eye from underneath dark beetle brows and saw that every figure portrayed was naked and anatomically correct! Horrors! There was even a picture of God and the divine nipples were showing! It was obscene, they said, nothing but stark pornography!

Cincinnati? Nope. Rome and those 16th Century yahoos were looking at the Sistine Chapel, named incidentally after a pope (Sixtus) who was about to legalize Gay sex (sodomy) during the warm season. But he died.

That's why this whole thing in Cincinnati isn't worth an editorial. What's happened there has gone on too many times before and is just as stupid every time. H.L. Mencken once said something to the effect that no one ever lost money underestimating the intelligence of the booboisie. I think he had Cincinnati in mind — not the whole city, just the boobies whose cackling has made the place the laughing stock of the entire country.

Talking about the booboisie, there's always Mike Royko. What's he want? The award for being the biggest boobie of the pack? Maybe he should move to

Cincinnati. His latest column in the Milwaukee Journal makes me think so.

Mike, honestly, I'm not trying to censor you. But isn't there some little rule or other that says you have to know something about what you write about — or doesn't that apply to pundits?

Speaking of pundits, Milwaukee has its own home-grown variety in Vic Eliason. Vic runs TV-30, pontificating away on a program called "In Focus." It's an amateurish production — technicians running all over the place on camera and everything — but it gives Vic a chance to be outraged over just about everything. He calls this outrage "presenting the balanced view." I'm only glad he's on TV and not a store keeper. With that kind of balance, I'd get cheated every time.

Vic fascinates me — something like a fly struggling in a pot of glue — as he labors away in a tone of voice that seems to me would give saccharine a bad name. Apparently, Vic doesn't like anybody on there who disagrees with him. Might unbalance Vic I guess. Anyway, I think if journalism were a kingdom, Vic just might find he'd have trouble with the immigration laws.

Oh well, I'm going to find a history book. It's the best way to keep all the nonsense in perspective.

—D.A. Leonard
Milwaukee

Easter Bonnets

TO THE EDITOR:

I have a major grievance with a bar in town. You see a few friends and I went out Easter Sunday for a Easter bonnet contest at Club 219. I had spent a great amount of time, effort and money in making my Easter bonnet for the contest. We had paid the three dollar cover and had several drinks before they announced that the contest was to begin. I went upstairs for the contest where I had met another contestant. At this time we were informed that they were waiting for a third person or they would have to cancel the contest. At this time I went through the bar to see if anyone wished to join the contest. I found someone and we went back upstairs only to find out they had canceled the contest, with no announcement being made. They just canceled it without warning or notice.

The contest was advertised in the In Step magazine, stating that there was to be a Easter Sunday show and bonnet contest with a \$50 prize. There was no mention that there had to be a certain number of contestants, nor any mention that certain rules would apply, and the bar does not have any posted rules to follow.

Thus, the decision by Robert Lyons to arbitrarily cancel the contest was not only unfair, but amounts to false advertising. Not only did he violate the rights of those who wanted to enter the contest, but he disappointed the audience who had expected to see the bonnet contest. This is no different than any other contest that is announced and promoted. A sweepstakes or store promotion can not be canceled after people enter simply because the promoters are not satisfied with the number of people who have entered, nor can it be canceled for any other similar reason. The scale of the event has no bearing on basic rules of fair play and state administrative regulations that regulate contests and similar promotions for the protection of the public. Canceling the contest, if not illegal, was certainly unfair and unethical.

In addition to fairness, another issue is at play here is the incredible cheapness and pettiness that was shown over awarding a \$50 prize. A real lack of business sense was demonstrated by this incident, and a willingness to screw Gay people over, for a few bucks was blatantly demonstrated.

Club 219 needs to learn how to properly conduct contests, and needs to include any rules and limitations in its advertising, or at a minimum to have posted and otherwise distributed rules for its contests in advance.

—Jay Hanson
Whitefish Bay, WI

LETTERS

Wasted Time

TO THE EDITOR:

It is almost painful for me to see so many Lesbians and Gays waste so much of their strength (and so much of their lives) fighting court battles in order to gain the "right" to become trained, vicious killers in the employ of the most blood thirsty, cowardly, dirty government to show its face on this sorry sphere since the Nazis showed the Pentagon "how it should be done."

Why does Miriam Ben-Shalom want to serve this evil, murderous bunch of sexist, racist, homophobic, lying slimebags? The American public is NOT served by the Armed Forces — the U.S. Government and its particular brand of global conquest through low-level conflict and economic rape, is.

—Arthur Drechter
Chicago, IL

AIDS Initiatives

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following letter is a portion of one sent to Governor Tommy Thompson by Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

There are two AIDS initiatives in the State Budget Modification Bill, Senate Bill 542, that are essential to Wisconsin's comprehensive strategy to avoid an AIDS crisis. I strongly urge that you retain both initiatives in the budget bill that you sign into law.

The state subsidy of private health insurance premiums for persons with AIDS who must leave employment due to illness is a vital program that will help avoid financial crisis for people with AIDS and the health care system. Currently, state and local government is assuming a disproportionate share of the cost of AIDS care in Wisconsin, paying for at least 75% of the health care delivered to people with AIDS. The state subsidy for continuation coverage of private health insurance for persons with AIDS who leave employment will spread the cost of

AIDS more appropriately between the public and private sectors.

Most importantly, the state insurance subsidy will help people with AIDS avoid the personal financial catastrophe that this expensive disease far too often causes. Most people with AIDS are quickly forced to deplete their financial resources and then have great difficulty paying for food, clothing, shelter and other necessities of life.

The \$200,000 biennial appropriation for this health insurance subsidy is a small investment by the State that will guarantee sound financial management of the AIDS epidemic and a compassionate and wise response that will help people with AIDS avoid financial catastrophe.

—Doug Nelson
Executive Director,
Milwaukee AIDS Project

Sad and Angry

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm saddened and I'm angry.

I'm saddened because on Thursday evening, April 5th, W. Michael and I attended a memorial service in Chicago for a friend of ours, Ronald Marbles. The service was moving with tributes to Ron from the minister and a close friend of Ron's, John Cooper. However, the most emotional part of the service was when Ron's youngest brother, Derrick, spoke of Ron as his mentor and role model. Derrick, on behalf of the entire Marbles family, also thanked Ron's partner of the past four years, Art Willard, for standing by Ron when no one else was there. It should be noted that during Ron's extended illness, he had the support of both family and friends.

I'm saddened because this was the fourth AIDS related memorial service I have attended this past year. The first was last April for my close friend Alyn Hess, age 49. Then, in September, it was for Andre Ross, age 27. Andre was my husband, W. Michael's, younger brother and my brother-in-law. In February of this year, the memorial service was for John Cowles, age 37. John had presented the Beer Tasting during the BWMT

SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

There's No Place Like Home

By Jamakaya

I had the dubious pleasure of spending Easter weekend in the Twin Cities with my biological family, Mom and Sis. It was a nice break from the many responsibilities I have here in Milwaukee, but after four days in a non-Gay environment, I found, like Dorothy before me, there's no place like home.

Flying into Minnesota, I was struck by how brown and dead dry the landscape was. They didn't have much snow or rain this Winter or Spring. In contrast, southeastern Wisconsin, even this early in the season, looked lush and green.

To her credit, Sis had complied with my only request for the visit — that she supply me with a sufficient amount of Diet Coke to see me through. Like any true addict, I told her I could not be responsible for my behavior if she didn't have it on hand. At one point, she asked if I wanted ice with my Coke and I replied, aghast: "What? Dilute the elixir of life?!" At any rate, I had my Coke, so I was a happy (and hyper) camper.

When I'm with Mom and Sis, my name is Janet, a name I was born with but haven't used in fifteen years. (Yes, my legal name is Jamakaya.) It's kind of a weird culture shock being back with my biological family. In some ways, it's safe and familiar. In other ways, the baggage left over from a very dysfunctional childhood make communication difficult.

Two major events were on the agenda, celebrating Mom's birthday which coincided with Easter Sunday and meeting my Sister's new boyfriend. Sis has always given me her candid opinions about my girlfriends. In fact, I'd be better off today had I followed some of her sage advice. So it's fun to check out her boyfriends and give her my totally unbiased, objective Lesbian opinion.

I didn't get a chance to take this fellow aside to give him my standard warning: "If you hurt my Sister, I break your legs." But I'm not sure it was necessary. Despite the unfortunate geographical circumstances of his birth — he's a Texan — he seemed pretty nice. I really should trust my Sister's judgment. She is 40, after all.

Since Mom and Sis know I'm a dyke, I can be open about things happening in my life. Even so, during the visit, I felt a real lack of Gay and Lesbian energy around me. Partly as a defense mechanism, I would make provocative queer comments. For instance, we ate out a number of times and I kept pointing out that the waiters were all Gay. "How do you know?" they insisted. Or when the spirit moved me, I'd break into a chorus of "What I Did For Love" or cackle like the Wicked Witch of the West, hoping for a spirited response. Nobody joined me. They were probably horrified. Heterosexuals are 1) no fun 2) a drag 3) uptight 4) not Gay 5) all of the above. You choose.

I missed a Lesbian Video Night at the University of Minnesota, but managed to spend an afternoon at the Amazon Bookstore where, as usual, I spent too much money. The store is located at 1612 N. Harmon on the north side of Loring Park, the Mini-Apple's big cruise zone. Amazon Bookstore has a friendly staff and an impressive selection of books, records and notecards. Happily, it seems to be as financially sound and well entrenched as A Room of One's Own in Madison.

I also had a queer pick-me-up when I tuned into a TV matinee of "West Side Story," one of my favorite films. Oh, to



Doreen Riley

Jamakaya

dance like Rita Moreno and George Chakiris! To be transported by Bernstein's music! Oh rapture! I've seen it at least 30 times and I go through more and more kleenex with each viewing. Now that's pretty queer.

By Sunday evening, having run out of things to say, the compulsive natures of three extremely independent personalities were at the point of explosion. When Mom badgered me about how I'd folded the pretzel bag incorrectly, ("Are you serious, Mother?"), it was time to withdraw. Alone in my room, a few chapters of Rachel Carson's beautiful but searing *Silent Spring* helped me put things in perspective.

Thoughts then turned to the week ahead: my deadline for the *Light*, a political meeting, a speech for Earth Day, the Holly Near concert, catching up with friends. What had seemed burdensome previously now felt like liberation, a happy homecoming, a real family reunion.

As much as I bitch about it when I'm here, I always love coming back to Milwaukee, to my family of passionate, pigheaded, loving, committed, confused, crazy and totally queer friends.

Now click your heels together and repeat after me, boys and girls: "There's no place like home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home..."

Madison's GALVANize Plans May 6 Breakfast Fundraiser

[Madison]- On Sunday, May 6, 1990, there will be a French Toast Breakfast held at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jenifer St., Madison. The breakfast will be held to raise money for the 1991 Lesbian and Gay Pride March in Madison and also will be on the first anniversary of the 1989 March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride.

The fun will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue through 12:00 Noon, with the food service being stopped at 11:30 a.m. to give the hard-working volunteers time to clean the Wil-Mar. Food will be served cafeteria style to avoid the long waits experienced at the February, 1989 successful pancake breakfast at the same location.

Hopefully, this event will be just as successful at getting people involved with the planning of the 1991 March. There will be lots of info and fun people to talk to about GALVANize and the future March. We still haven't set a date, so bring plenty of ideas. There has been a suggestion of September, 1991, with a campground set up at the Dane County Coliseum grounds. But everything is still only in the let's talk stages.

Also be prepared to be entertained along with your breakfast. Talks are underway with several wild and outrageous local entertainment groups to liven up your dining experience. Be prepared for lots of fun and help get the 1991 March off to a great start.

Members of GALVANize who are planning to organize people from Madison going to the June 16th Milwaukee Pride March will also be at the breakfast. Let's make sure that Madison and Wisconsin have a large crowd in Milwaukee to help our friends there. For more info or to get involved, call (608) 255-8061 or write: GALVANize, P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701-1403. EVERYONE'S WELCOME.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$3 to \$5 and are available at the door or in advance at WSA Community Pharmacy, 341 State St., Madison, WI 53703 or call (608) 255-8061.

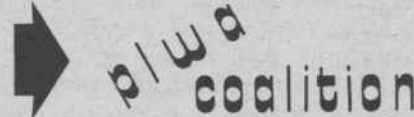
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PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS
OF WISCONSIN

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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“Let’s Go to the Movies” Concerts Planned By Fest City Singers

[Milwaukee]- “Let’s Go to the Movies!” is the invitation extended by members of Milwaukee’s Original Fest City Singers (FCS). It’s also the title of the first of three major productions in this, their fifth anniversary season. The production is an original tribute to six decades of motion pictures featuring the matinee idols and movie queens of the ‘30’s and ‘40’s as well as today’s superstars.

For three evenings, May 11-13, the stage of the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater will be transformed into a movie palace complete with vamps and gigolos, other Hollywood luminaries and all the excitement of an Academy Awards gala — Klieg lights and, yes, even a popcorn concession stand.

A broad spectrum of film genres will be represented including disaster films, Sci-Fi Movies, Westerns and early “talkies.” And shows that made it from Broadway to the silver screen — “Bye, Bye Birdie,” “Gypsy,” “Sweet Charity” and “West Side Story” — will be reprised in a sequence directed by Artistic Team members Gene Guenther and Michael Weiser.

Lighter music will range from the “reel” humor of “On the Good Ship Lollipop” and spirited renditions of “Ghost Busters” and “Gee, Officer Krupke” to the sophistication of “We’re

A Couple of Swells” and “Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off.” Another sequence is devoted in tribute to “The Wizard of Oz.”

Loving attention has been given to the sweet harmonies of “Who Will Buy?” from “Oliver” and to the nostalgia of “Cheek to Cheek” and “Thanks for the Memories.”

“The sound of the chorus and soloists in “I Sing the Body Electric” and “Fame” does the Singers proud,” according to Music Director Nancy McKinley Ehlinger. “And I’m proud of them,” she adds. An orchestra and piano wizard Clint Peterson will accompany the Fest City Singers.

The Singers offer their audiences the convenience of ordering tickets for the three performances of “Let’s Go to the Movies!” through the Milwaukee Repertory Theater Box Office in the Milwaukee Center, 108 E. Wells St. Telephone 1-414-224-9490. Tickets may also be obtained from Fest City chorus members as well as by phoning the FCS helpline at 1-414-263-SING.

Performances on Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12 are scheduled for 8:00 p.m., and the Sunday, May 13 performance for 7:00 p.m. “Bring your mother to the Sunday performance,” promises Treasurer Tom Boll, “and she will receive a complimentary Mother’s Day flower.”



Irene Young

Carole and Bren

Carole and Bren to Weave Musical Rainbows April 27

[Milwaukee]- A nationally-known duo will weave musical rainbows at a performance on Friday, April 27, 1990, at First Unitarian Church, 1342 N. Astor, at 8:00 p.m.

Carole and Bren will perform in Milwaukee as part of a cross-country tour celebrating their new album “Rainbows in My Mind.”

How do they describe their music? “It springs from the ballad style of folk music,” Carole said, “with a touch of classical and New Age.”

They work at creating an atmosphere of warmth. “The concerts are participatory, with a lot of interaction with the audience,” Bren said. “By the end, there is a warm feeling of community.”

Carole Etzler has been writing and performing music for more than 20 years. Her first two albums, “Sometimes I Wish” and “Womanriver Flowing On”, contain songs that have become classics in the feminist movement, sung not only

across the continent, but around the world.

Bren Chambers has extensive classical music training, including studies at the New England Conservatory. Before teaming up with Carole, she performed with the Wellesley Symphony and numerous chamber groups.

Carole and Bren’s performance will start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$8 at the door, or call Laura Parrino in advance at (414) 962-4386, for \$7 tickets.

Carole and Bren will also lead a women’s workshop on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Entitled “Womancircles: An Experience in Music, Art and Spirituality,” participants will sing, dance, paint and explore the power of circles to help us live in harmony. The cost is \$18.50 per person and will also be held at the church on the corner of Astor and Ogden. Call Laura for more details.

Miss Southeastern Gay WI-USA Pageant April 28 in Kenosha

[Milwaukee]- King Productions has announced that the Miss Southeastern Gay Wisconsin-USA Pageant will take place Saturday, April 28 at Club 94 in Kenosha. Contestant registration will begin at 8:00p.m. with the contest starting at 9:30p.m. There will be an entry fee of \$20. Contestants will be judged in three categories: Interview, Talent and Evening gown. Applications are available at Club 94 or from King Productions at (414) 342-1466.

Entertainment will be provided by Tanya Michaels, Miss Gay Wisconsin-USA, Ty Young Simone, the current Miss Southeast Gay Wisconsin-USA and Dee Richards, the reigning Miss Gay Great Lakes-USA.

King Productions would like to thank all those bar owners who gave bar tabs for the Stars of Wisconsin raffle held April 1st at Milwaukee’s Nitengales. \$600 was

raised to help defray the \$1,500 cost of sending five contestants to the Miss Gay USA Pageant in Louisville, KY.

At the Pageant’s Awards Banquet, King Productions received the award for Best New Regional Promoter for the Miss Gay Great Lakes Pageant.

The winner of the Pageant was Cezane from Atlanta, GA. The First Runner-up was Rita Ross of Mobile, AL.

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Lewis Photos Give Viewer "Double Takes"

By Geno

[Milwaukee]- Even on a drizzly afternoon, the walls of Milwaukee's Water St. Gallery are made bright and welcoming by the current exhibit of color photographs by Sandy Lewis.

The pictures evoke an immediate response with their clarity and generous format, and then they tease the viewer to look more closely. A number of the photos reveal subtle depths and unexpected images beneath the surface crispness — for example, showing the sari-clad shop owner arranging a window display perceived beyond the reflections of the window surface.

The artist does this "double take" several times, giving the viewer a sense of seeing differing levels of reality. Another set of portraits of riders of the New York subways in the small hours of the night also has a reflective (i.e., "thoughtful") quality, coldly observant yet sympathetic.

Yet, in all of her works, Lewis achieves her effects without cropping or using double exposure techniques.

Milwaukee's Boulevard Ensemble Presenting 3 One Act Comedies

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- It's a dreary late afternoon. A cold drizzle mists the early Spring air. There is no promise in it, nothing to indicate that the season knows where it is going or what it will become. So it is with art — and love. (I'm not sure there's much difference).

Both start, many times, with a word, a line, a look to rush headlong forward. And both end with the birth of new and unexpected life from old forms.

Amy Zeh and Peter Reeves of the Boulevard Ensemble seem to have a sense of this as, on a Good Friday, they go about recreating three one-act comedies: "A Marriage Proposal" by Anton Chekhov, "Mysteries of the Bridal Night" by Martin Epstein and "Amicable Parting" by George Kaufman and L. MacGrath.

These young people, Zeh and Reeves, give the sense of artists compelled to their art like the lonely writer working in the pre-dawn hours. And like him, they create because they must; because they have no choice and want none. They create to draw an as yet unseen audience into their world of love and passion and tangled human emotions. These things are the warp and woof of these plays

"Burn This" Opens At Madison Rep

[Madison]- The Madison Repertory Theatre will close its 1989-90 season with a production of Lanford Wilson's white-hot romance, "Burn This."

This stunning play opens with Anna, a New York choreographer and her Gay roommate, Larry, in their trendy loft apartment. Into this cultivated atmosphere storms a wild man. Pale-the brother of another roommate who has died-is the opposite of his name, dangerous, rough-talking, crude and unpredictable. A love affair between him and Anna, an esthete who has dedicated her life to her dancing, is out of the question. And yet, the two are attracted to one another, like magnetic ions headed toward a supercharged collision.

Larry is played by C. Michael Wright, who has acted extensively in New York, and recently in Milwaukee with Skylight Opera Theatre and the Milwaukee Rep. Burton, the successful screenwriter whom Anna is dating, is played by Larry Yando. Mr. Yando was most recently seen in Skylight Opera Theatre's hit production of "Pacific Overtures."

"Burn This" runs from April 27-May 13 in the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center. Tickets are on sale now through the Madison Civic Center Box Office. Prices range from \$10.50 to \$14.50 depending on the night of the performance. Half-price rush tickets are available on the day of a show and groups of 15 or more people are eligible for group discounts. Call the Madison Civic Center Box Office at (608) 266-9055 for ticket information or to reserve a seat.



Irene Young

Holly Near will perform in Milwaukee with Claudia Schmidt on April 23 at the Pabst Theatre. Near will also perform in Madison on April 21 at the Barrymore Theatre. Tickets are available at the respective theatre box offices.

This satisfying show is worth a visit whether the weather is drizzly or one of Milwaukee's rare brilliantly sunny days. The Water St. Gallery at 144 N. Water St. in Milwaukee, is open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Friday and on Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

separated from each other by a hundred years and yet no time at all.

The Boulevard has still to be discovered by most of Milwaukee. That's a shame. If the theatre is about anything, it is about searing honesty shared between directors, actors and audience. And this, perhaps is most easily achieved in the intimacy of a little store-front theatre such as the Boulevard is. Here, in a spartan, bare-bones space, each member of the audience can experience the interaction with the artists that, if they allow it, can make the playwright's words and the director's message part of themselves — in the case of these three plays, to show how comedy should be done. This integration is what Reeves and Zeh hope will happen by their creations.

As Zeh and Reeves say, the Boulevard is for those who want to celebrate the theatre; who come to it with the intent of getting caught by the strings of their imaginations and pulled into drama. Afterward, over steaming mugs of coffee or perhaps, some wine — depending — there's a chance to talk to the artists; not really talkbacks in the formal sense, but informal and often spirited discussions of what everyone has just been living.

The Boulevard Ensemble is located at 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. The plays on the convolutions of love run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to May 13 and begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8. For reservations call (414) 672-6019. Come and share the misty promise of Spring and of love.

Womonsong Plans Dance And Concert On May 5

[Madison]- Womonsong, entering its eleventh year as Madison's Women's Chorus, will present its Spring Concert and Dance at 8:00p.m., Saturday, May 5, 1990 at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St.

With 60 singers, musicians, writers and arrangers, Womonsong is recognized as one of the finest women's choruses in the country. The group performed last October at the Fifth National Women's Choral Festival in Kansas City, Missouri and sings at festivals, benefits, conferences and special events in and around Madison throughout the year.

Its diverse repertoire incorporates everything from classical madrigals to African freedom songs, Cole Porter to Cyndi Lauper. Original songs and arrangements are Womonsong's strength, and the Chorus plans to introduce at least ten new numbers in its Spring concert.

Tickets for Womonsong's Spring Concert and Dance area available from A Room of One's Own, the Willy Street Co-op and Pasqual's on Monroe St. in Madison. In Milwaukee, People's Books at 1808 N. Farwell has tickets. They are on a sliding scale from \$6.50 to \$10.50.

The Madison Senior Center is wheelchair accessible and childcare is available for the concert. For more information and to become involved in Womonsong, please call Lynn at (608) 246-2681.

Sontag To Lecture On AIDS Metaphors

[Milwaukee]- Susan Sontag, one of the nation's most renowned essayists and intellectuals, will lecture on "AIDS and Its Metaphors" on Tuesday, April 24 at 8:00p.m. in the Wisconsin Room of the UW- Milwaukee Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Sontag is the author of numerous books including the ground-breaking *Illness as Metaphor* (1978). She recently published *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, which is an extension of her earlier work and topic of her lecture.

Admission to the lecture is \$3.00 for the UWM campus community and members of the Milwaukee Art Museum. The general public will be charged \$5.00.

Sontag's appearance is being held in conjunction with the Milwaukee Art Museum's photographic exhibition: "Nicholas Nixon: People with AIDS." A reception in the Vogel/Helfaer Galleries at the Art Museum will precede the lecture from 5:30 to 7:00p.m.

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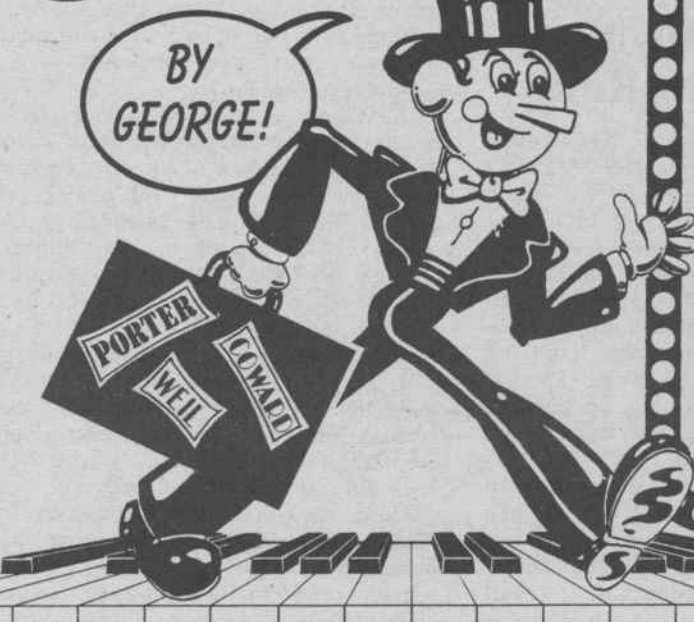
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Believing In Ourselves Will Bring Confidence and Better Future

By Thomas J. Rondy

The United States is not the same country it was fifty or even twenty-five years ago. That's lucky for us, considering the extreme intolerance of the pre-Stonewall era. But because a lot of recent changes have been turns for the worse, it's possible that it will be that much more difficult for us to make progress in the resultant deteriorating social climate.

The America of "Leave It To Beaver" and "The Honeymooners" has been replaced by the America of "Cheers" and "Married, With Children." For both individuals and families, economic status or downward mobility has become more the norm than ever. And during the sixties, there was a massive cultural upheaval that debunked many of the old lies, but offered little to replace them. Indeed, the post-Baby Boom generation has so little to look forward to, it has often been called "the Lost Generation."

Symptoms of decay can be seen everywhere. The homeless line the inner-city streets of every major city in America; the number of disenfranchised has now reached five million. The children of white America are showing the worst symptoms of pamperedness, including delinquency. The children of minority families languish in unspeakable poverty. It's likely that this generation will have great difficulty dealing with problems like the national debt.

The most obvious problem is that the Gay/Lesbian rights movement is and will be associated with this pattern of decline. Backlash movements like fundamentalist Christianity rely on tactics such as scapegoating to get their adherents whipped up into a righteous high.

That high is useful because times like these can create intense lows which demand correction. Persecuting an entire group of people is particularly effective because it produces a very irrational, addicting high, which makes controlling the adherents quite easy. We are seeing the same sort of thing with the idiotic War on Drugs. The government has successfully whipped the public into a Orwellian furor against drugs and "drug users." As a result, we can now expect to see the Bill of Rights gradually

dismantled.

And let's not forget the fact that it's not exactly difficult to get the American people stirred into a fit of hateful zeal. The homophobic invective which was an integral part of the public's defense of Andy Rooney is an excellent example. So we can assume that we as a people could someday be a convenient scapegoat. After all, backlash movements need somebody, even if only as a symptom, so that no one will see that it was their way of doing things which put us all into this jam in the first place.

The economy is starting to show signs of wear from being founded more upon debt than anything else. That affects average people very directly, and these people often have a personal need to blame someone or some group. We are a good candidate for that category too, seeing as how it's quite socially acceptable to persecute "homosexuals."

The high degree of intolerance brought on by hard times also increases the most long-term damage of homophobia: Internalized homophobia. That majority of us which remains in the closet will absorb this venomous homophobia by virtue of their integration in straight society. An example of this is when a straight man tells "queer jokes" to a friend who, unknown to him, is Gay. That kind of thing can have a powerful cumulative effect on one's ability to believe in one's self. And if we are unable to believe in ourselves and what we can achieve, how will we ever liberate ourselves? After all, power never concedes anything without a struggle; it was true in Frederick Douglass' day and it's still true today.

There is only one way to counteract these things. We must believe in ourselves as real people with valid feelings, as well as rights, even when society and Father Television says that we are not. And in order to do that, we must first be able to believe in ourselves and stand up for ourselves as individuals; once that is accomplished, the ability to believe in ourselves collectively, will follow of its own accord. Because confidence is the key ingredient of the motivation to come out and not be chased back into the closet, we cannot do without it. Once that confidence is gained, all else is possible.

The Bloom of Youth: Growing Up Gay in Small Town Wisconsin

By Brad Taylor

If none of you has lived in a small town or city, then you probably don't really understand how much pain you really have to endure.

I am a 19 year-old white male from a small town with a total population of 1,020. We had about 33 people in my senior class and if anyone had found out I was Gay, I probably wouldn't have made it through high school. So, when I began to realize that I was Gay, it was hell.

I had nowhere to turn, no one to talk to. I had feelings that I knew people thought were wrong, but what could I do about it? The nearest city was St. Paul, Minnesota. But that was about 60 miles away, so I couldn't go there for help.

One day, when I couldn't stand it anymore, I went and talked to my high school guidance counselor. He was very understanding and told me that sooner or later I would have to decide whether I was Gay or straight. But it was MY decision.

I felt good after telling him, so good that I went and told my older sister. She, too, was very understanding and she has helped me over the years.

Nevertheless, it has been a constant struggle. Especially when people keep saying, "You're just going through a stage." I believed that for awhile. I had a relationship with a girl — including sex. I guess I was trying to prove to myself that I wasn't Gay, but it just wasn't right for me. It didn't feel right. What did feel right was my love for a man.

I fell in love with a man who was straight which was one of the most painful experiences of my life. But even after that, it took me until December, 1989 to finally come to terms with my homosexuality.

I began trying to reach out to other Gay people. I joined a Gay dating service which is how I met my new best friend. We talked on the phone and felt so comfortable with each other that finally,

he had me move to Milwaukee.

After being alone for so long, it is strange now having someone who has the same feelings I do. Then too, moving from a small town to a big city has been quite an adjustment.

But I've made it. I have a life, the kind of life I have wanted for so long. There are more opportunities to meet new friends. I have a reason to get out of bed in the morning. For once in my life, I know who and what I am.

My advice to any young Gays is this: Your life may be difficult right now, but it will get better. But, whatever you do and whoever you decide to tell, be careful and selective. Your parents may not be the best people to tell, but you have to talk to someone. Don't go through it alone like I did. Milwaukee has numerous organizations that can help. Call or write to one.

Pride Committee Seeks Performers For June 16 Rally

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) is looking for performers for the Pride Rally on Saturday, June 16, to be held in Cathedral Square in Milwaukee.

The Rally will climax the Pride Parade. Singers, comics, mimes, instrumentalists, bands as well as others are urged to register to help with the fun-filled afternoon by calling the Pride Line at 32-PRIDE. MLGPC is lining up the arts and wants to include as many entertainers and groups as possible.

The theme for this year's Pride '90 events is, "LOOK TO THE FUTURE: THE GAY '90'S. Anyone seeking information or wishing to volunteer for Pride Week is encouraged to call 32-PRIDE.

MAP Says "Thank You"

[Milwaukee]- Over the last two months, there have been a number of fundraisers sponsored by an assortment of supportive restaurants, bars and businesses. All of the funds raised from these special events are used to support the services at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) for people living with AIDS. An addition benefit from these events is the outreach and awareness that occurs about the AIDS issue. MAP sincerely thanks each and everyone involved in the following fundraisers for creating this awareness.

Jet's Place raised \$640 in a Valentine's Day fundraiser held on February 13.

Funds from the M&M Club are still coming in as a result of the Tree of Hope in December and January.

In March, La Cage hosted an annual fundraiser called "Turnabout." That night, workers exchanged jobs to everyone's amusement (Uncle Al, you looked great!) and raised \$740 for people living with AIDS.

Also, in March, the Boot Camp held an auction of various items which raised \$1,200 for MAP.

Thanks, too, to Partners for hosting a "Jump into Spring" BBQ and benefit show on April 8 which raised \$653.

April 8 also saw a "cut-a-thon" fundraiser sponsored by Diva Hair Salon and La Cage. Afterward, the bar hosted a buffet for all participants. All together, \$2,300 was raised.

MAP would also like to thank everyone who designated MAP to receive their United Way contribution at their workplace. This has been a unique way to



Jerry Johnson

La Cage's bar manager, Corey, performed at the annual "Turnabout" fundraiser.

receive money from a normally conservative funding source. MAP will receive approximately \$10,000 in 1990.

Thanks, too, to Jo'Dees International for hosting a fundraiser for MAP's affiliate, the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP) in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties with a similar array of services to MAP.

Finally, MAP would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who joined us at the 1990 Make A Promise Dinner. This special event, with the support of 400 people in attendance, raised over \$12,000 (net) to be used for services for people living with AIDS.

"Chicago Tribune" Royko Column Uproar Continues

By Allen Smalling

[Chicago, April 10]- Much to the surprise and anger of health-care professionals, Gay activists and media-watchers, a full week has elapsed without the state's largest paper, the Chicago Tribune, having mentioned the large and overwhelmingly negative response to an April 2 column on Gay issues by syndicated columnist Mike Royko. (The Royko column appeared in the April 3 edition of the Milwaukee Journal).

Wisconsin Light has also been informed that Royko has declined to meet with Mayor Richard Daley's liaison to the Gay and Lesbian community, Jon Simmons, concerning his column.

Royko's column ran first in the Tribune and shortly after in other large cities including Milwaukee (The Milwaukee Journal) and San Francisco. While ostensibly on the subject of Gay outing, the Royko article featured numerous asides that were considered derogatory or inflammatory by Gays and Lesbians, as well as remarks that some consider a misinterpretation of fact.

Linda Henderson, Acting Managing Editor of Gay Chicago said, "Nowhere does he (Royko) make mention of the fact that 40 to 50 percent of the Gay community is made up of women. He can't see women so naturally, he can't see a Gay community. Henderson added, "I'm not a great writer of letters to the mainstream press, but this was the worst thing I've seen in a couple of years. I fired off a letter to the Tribune right away."

The available evidence suggests that many Chicagoans have done as Henderson did and wrote to Royko or to his editor at the Tribune. A Tribune staffer who has access to mail received confirms that the volume of mail, while not enormous, is overwhelming in its negativity toward Royko.

The flurry of local letters and phone calls to the Tribune did not come about through a coordinated media campaign. In fact, Chicago lacks a local chapter of GLAAD, the Gay media-watchdog group. Instead, word seems to have filtered through the Gay community through efforts of individuals acting without agenda.

And very soon, the Royko controversy will go national. Responding to a complaint from San Francisco (where one Lesbian journalist "can't believe people are still writing this stuff"), the New York City chapter of GLAAD will help publicize the column. A spokesperson for GLAAD confirmed that the group will discuss the Royko column in its own regular column in Outweek magazine and on its TV and radio shows.

This reporter contacted Royko on April 9 for a comment. The celebrated columnist confirmed that "most of my mail has been unfriendly," adding that "My managing editor has received a great many phone calls expressing displeasure." Of Royko's personal mail, he recalls that "Some letters were from men who identified themselves as homosexual and who agreed with my position on outing, but most people just didn't like the tone of the article." Royko did not offer an apology, but did say, "Many of the letters I received advanced arguments I hadn't thought of... I realize now that much of what I had to say I said in a very snide way; if I had to do it again, I would have let the piece sit for three or four days and not dash it off in a hurry."

Royko confirmed that he was in receipt of a letter from Clarence Woods, Chairman of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, a city cabinet-level agency. The letter asked that Royko meet with Jon Simmons, Clarence Woods' subordinate and Mayor Daley's liaison to the Gay and Lesbian community. As of press time, Royko has declined the meeting.

An unusual set of circumstances has been shaping up since the April 2 column first appeared — a large and growing body of angry local Gays and Lesbians, the beginnings of mainstream attention, and now, at least, some of the attention of the media-rich East Coast.

Gay activists believe that the Royko controversy is still young. "Anything can happen," says one who asked not to be named. "This thing could go nuclear, or it could just go away — who knows?"

MADISON Writers Wanted

Wisconsin Light is seeking one or more volunteer writers to help cover Madison. This person(s) would write "people" profiles, attend events and write reviews, cover organization activities and general non-political news according to their interest and time constraints. For further information write: Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212 or call (414) 372-2773.

Lines Form Early for Disney's Orlando MGM Studios Theme Park

By Geno

Disney's MGM Studios Theme Park is the latest tourist attraction to open in Orlando, Florida, and because it is new, it has been attracting mega crowds. Early in the morning, highways leading to the park are choked with traffic and on some days, the gates to the park are closed by 9:00 a.m. Sorry, full up! There is a holding tank where you can watch movies for a couple of hours.

There are several reasons for the crowding. First of all, the MGM is the smallest of the theme parks in Orlando.



And according to Orlando natives, Disney agreed to build additional access roads to the attraction, but so far, has not done so. Actually, Universal Studios was the first to begin constructing a behind-the-scenes-at-the-movies theme park, but labor troubles stopped work on that project. So Disney, without strikes to contend with, rushed their theme park in order to get there first. The larger Universal Studios Theme Park is scheduled to open sometime this summer barring further labor holdups.

The entertainment offered at MGM consists of Disney trademark family attractions — greetings from costumed Disney characters, "The Great Movie Ride," street and little theatre shows, and several sound stages where individuals selected from the crowd are given a chance to emote before the cameras.

The lines and waiting times are longest for the Indiana Jones Adventure which thrills young and old alike with exhibitions of stunts and special effects. Cars and other vehicles are crashed, people fall off buildings and fight fires and a plane buzzes the amphitheater. A few lucky audience members are invited to participate in these hairbreadth escapes from danger.

Audience participation is the keynote throughout the MGM, and another popular attraction is the special effects Studio. Here in split screen techniques, a member of the audience can join Lucy on the assembly cake line, and to the audience, it looks as if the two are really struggling to keep up with the speeded up conveyer. It's all clean, hokey Disney fun packaged to please.

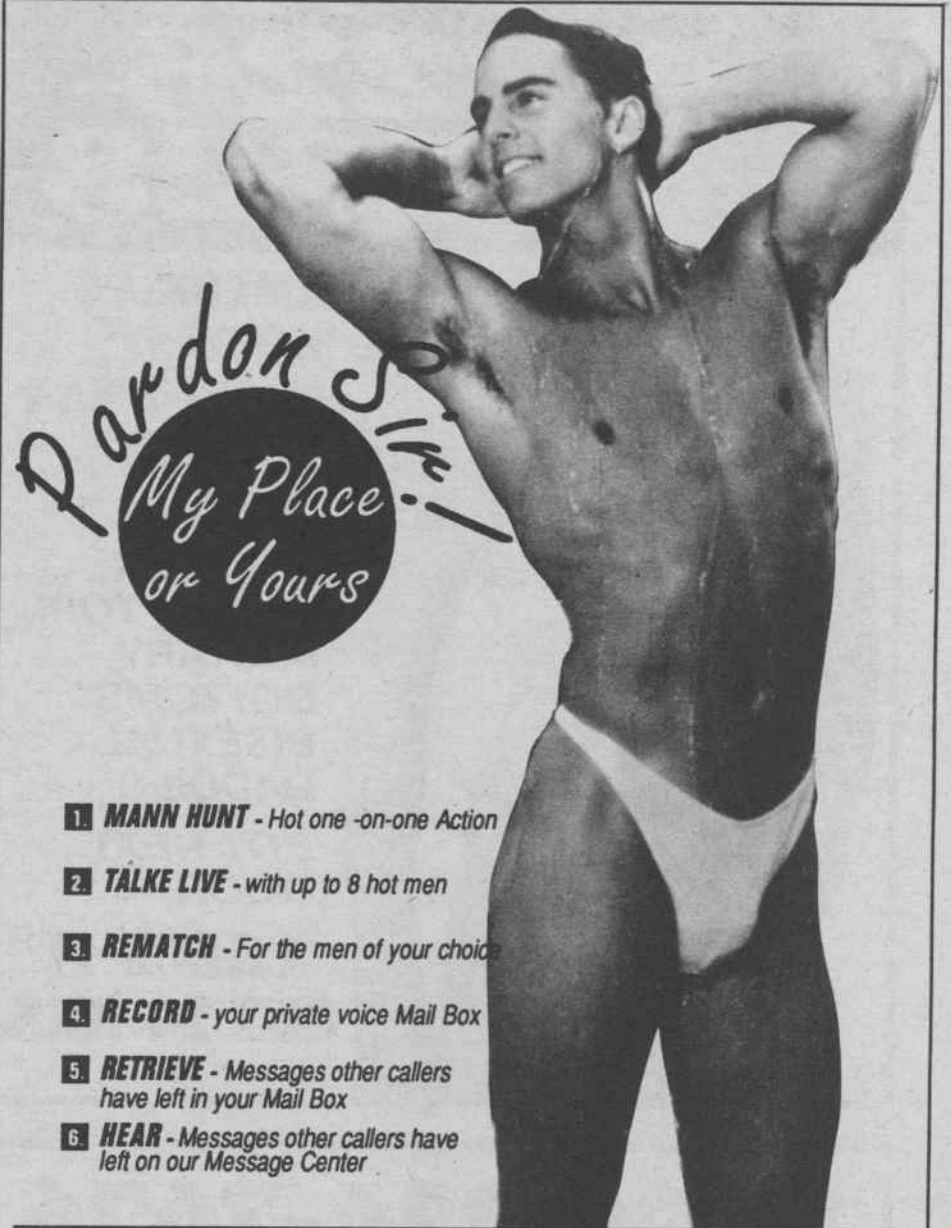
The best way to avoid the morning crush is to take in the sights and sounds of Epcot, Sea World or nearby Tampa's Busch Gardens during the early part of the day since they are now relatively free of crowds while so many are ganging up on the MGM Park. Then, in the late afternoon, when families whose kids are now tired and crabby leave the park, it becomes possible to saunter the reconstructed Hollywood and Vine in comparative comfort and the lines are manageable.

Epcot remains the best value of all. "The Wonders of Life" has been added to those other journeys into the imagination, "The Living Sea" and "Spaceship Earth." The Norwegian showcase has added a Maelstrom ride which takes you on a Midnight Sun ride through the fjords. The young viking attendants in their native costumes are very pleasing to the eye (nudge, nudge, wink, wink).

Although Shamu is no longer with us, Sea World now has added two baby killer whales to the big tank. A Walrus, Seal and Otter show presents an hilarious playlet showing these intelligent creatures trying out for parts in a Hollywood spectacular.

Busch Gardens has opened its Clydesdale Hamlet which features a frisky baby Clydesdale, and you can still travel the large animal exhibit areas by open air choo-choo, the aerial tramway or the monorail. The Stanley Falls ride is wet and wild and so is the free Busch beer.

The Orlando natives are looking forward to "the Season" to begin later this month, and as the weather becomes more hot and humid and as prices continue to rise, the entire area promises to be booked solid for the summer.



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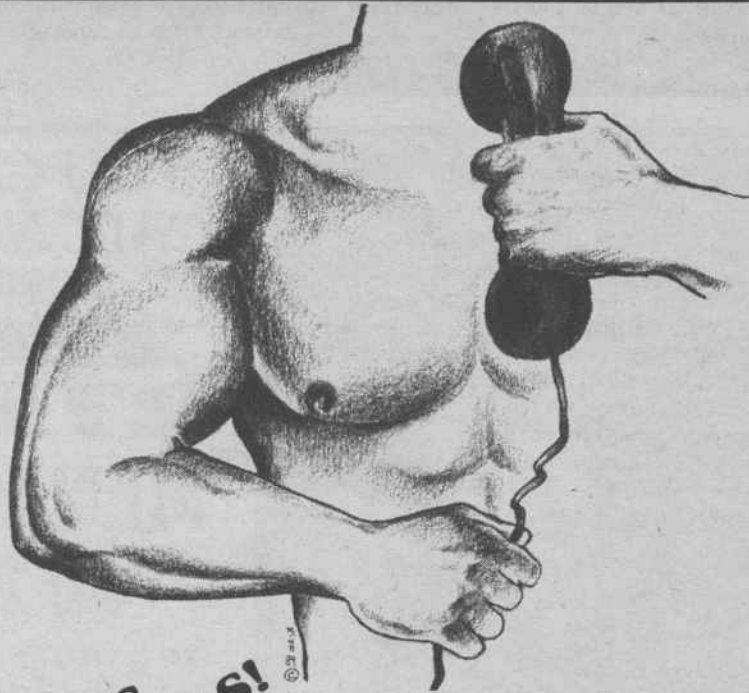
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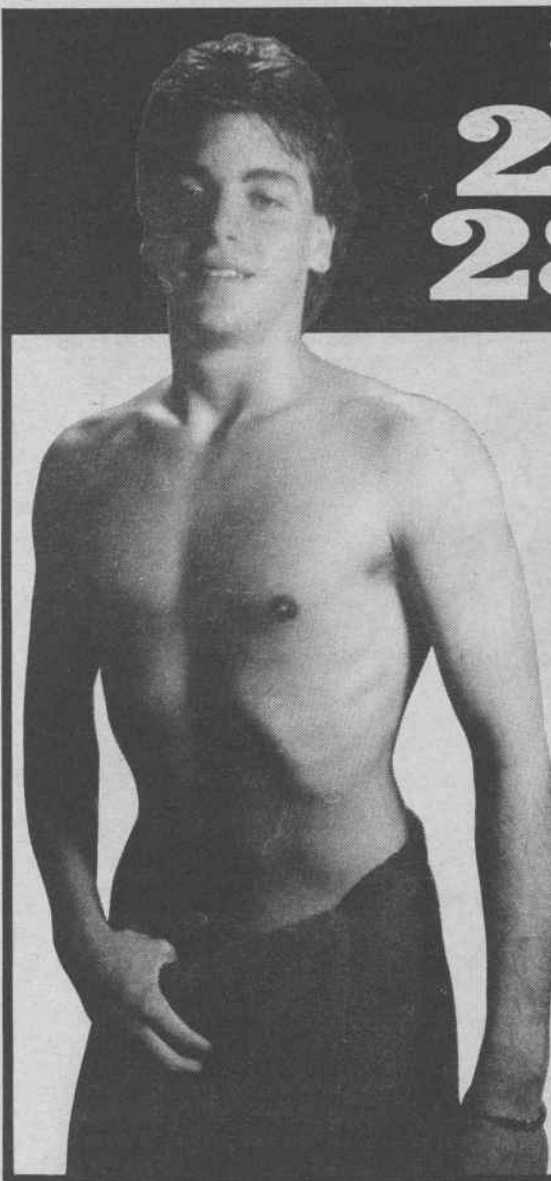
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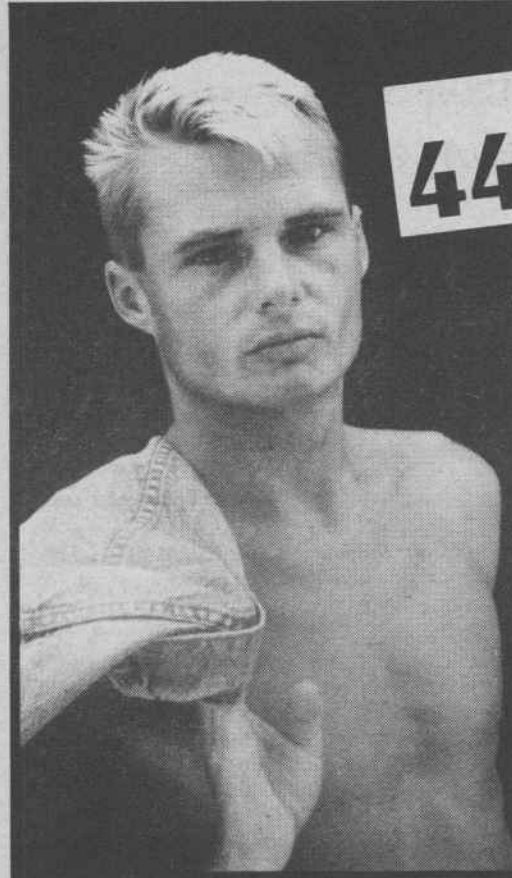
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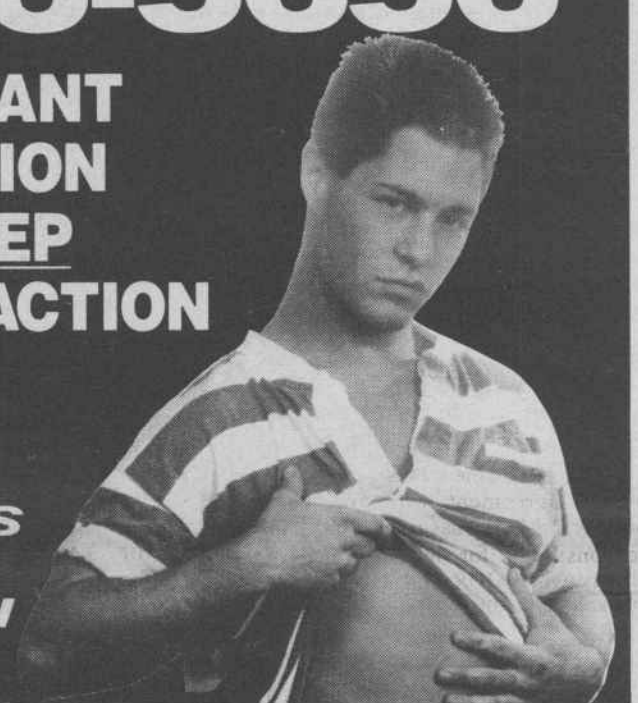


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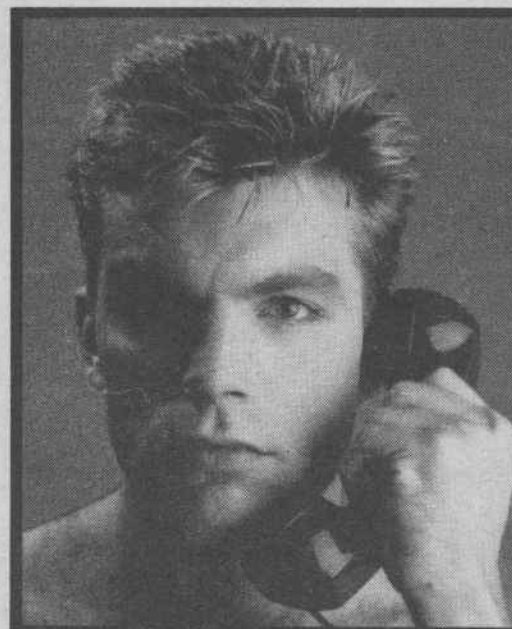
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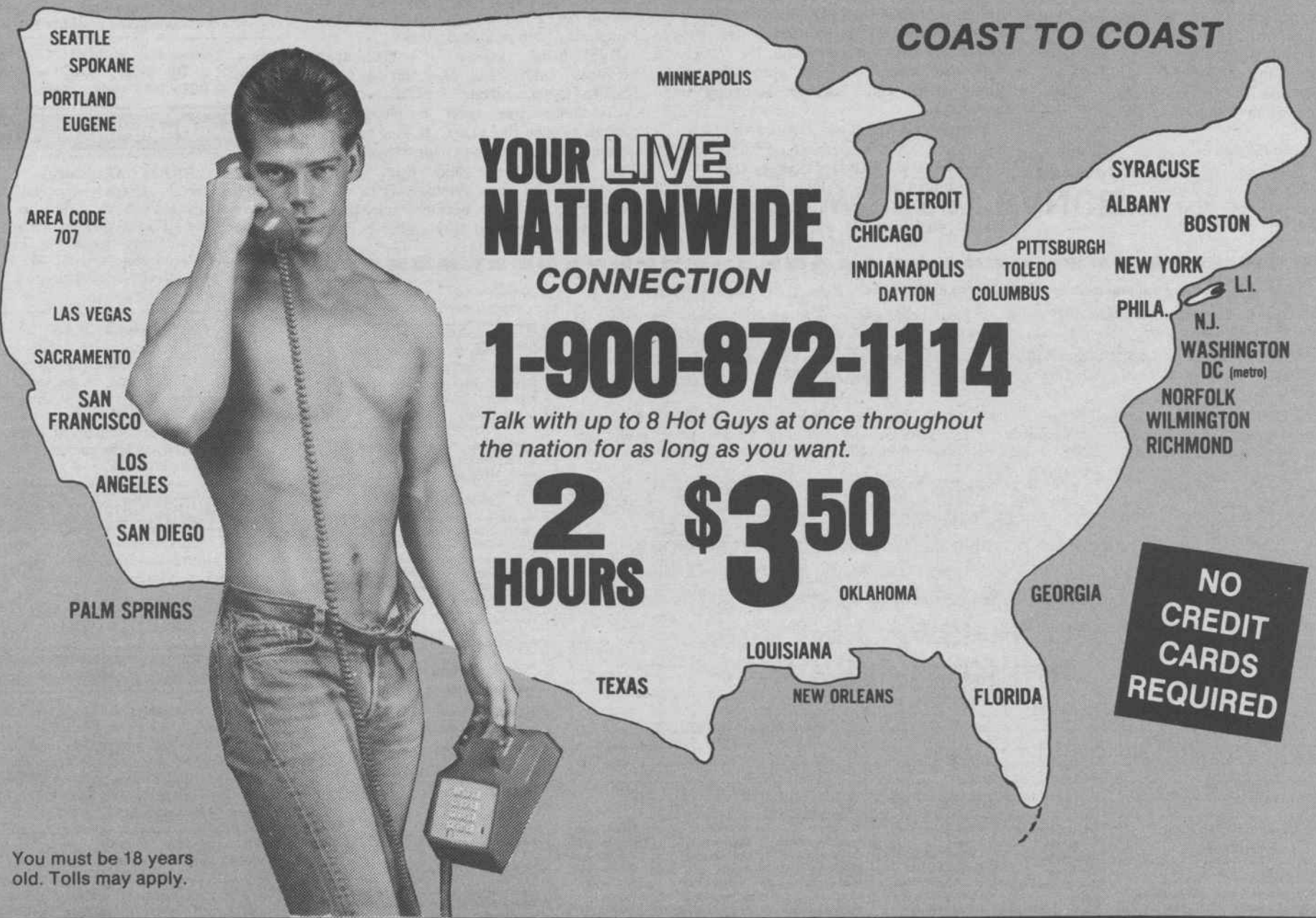
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