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The Wisconsin Light

Helms Mentions Wreck Room Bar On Senate Floor

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Wreck Room was mentioned on the floor of the U.S. Senate as part of the debate on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The reference was made by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) whose speech was printed in the July 11, 1990 issue of the **Congressional Record**.

Helms was attempting to have an amendment to ADA accepted by the Senate which would have allowed food industry employers to discriminate against those with HIV infection and AIDS.

In his speech Helms maintained that "the public perception" of AIDS as an "easily communicable disease," could bring ruin to small businesses if people believed an employee was infected. He then cited five examples of which the Wreck Room was the first.

"Wisconsin: The Wreck Room, a popular Milwaukee homosexual bar, nearly failed after a manager and another employee died of AIDS. The owner reported, 'We went from being one of the most popular bars in Milwaukee to close to zero. There were times when I wasn't sure we were going to make it.'"

Helms then went on to name the other four places (all restaurants) located in Alabama, Texas, Indiana and Kentucky which, he maintained had failed or lost significant business because it came to be believed that someone employed there had HIV infection or AIDS."

Bill Kindt, owner of the Wreck Room said that Helms' statements concerning the bar were wrong. While a former owner and also the manager had succumbed to AIDS, no employee had done so.

Further, Kindt said that he had not made the statement attributed to "the owner" by Helms and had no idea where Helms had gotten it.

Helms amendment ultimately failed of passage. The Wreck Room is, as it has been, a popular bar.

Bush To Sign AIDS Anti-Discrimination Bill Into Law

[Washington, D.C.]- In a stunning setback for Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-CA), the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate reversed their previous votes allowing discrimination against food-handlers with AIDS and gave final approval to landmark legislation giving full federal protection against discrimination to people with AIDS and HIV-disease. President Bush has stated that he will sign the bill shortly.

The turnaround votes in Congress followed a month-long national campaign orchestrated by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) to overturn the previous Congressional votes. HRCF's effort which is estimated to have cost over \$25,000, "snatched victory from the jaws of defeat," according to one Washington observer.

The fate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) had been in doubt since the House passed an amendment to the bill in May giving employers the right to reassign or dismiss employees with HIV who came into contact with food. In June, a motion introduced by Helms to instruct the Senate conferees to accept the discriminatory language was passed in the Senate.

A House and Senate Conference Committee rejected the language, however, and further floor fights over the language were expected. To insure that the discriminatory language was not reinserted in the bill, HRCF orchestrated its national campaign to lobby Congress against the food handlers language

State Lacks Funds To Support AIDS Caseload Increase



A capacity crowd left Madison's Luther Memorial Church on July 21 after attending a memorial service for Rodney Sheel.

Drink Up! No Boycott of Miller Beer Planned In Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- The call for a national boycott of Miller beer, apparently begun by ACT-UP San Francisco in July, seems to have fizzled.

The reason for the boycott as explained by Bill Haskel of San Francisco ACT-UP was to put pressure on Philip Morris, the largest consumer products company in the world. Philip Morris has given large donations to Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and owns Miller Brewery as well as Kraft/General Foods, Oscar Meyer and a number of other companies.

Thomas F. Reed, Corporate Issues Director for Miller Brewing said firmly that "You are not supporting Jesse Helms by buying Miller beer." He added, "not one cent" will wind up in Helms pocket.

backed by Helms.

HRCF contacted thousands of Gay and Lesbian businesses around the country asking them to contact their senators and representatives. Tens of thousands of "Speak Out" messages were sent to Congress. Tim McFeeley, HRCF Executive Director, lobbyist Karen Friedman and others participated in radio call-in shows throughout the country.

When the bill came before the Senate for final passage, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) — who had supported Helms' earlier proposal — offered an alternative amendment that would allow employers to remove employees from food handling jobs only when they have infectious diseases that, unlike AIDS, are transmitted by food. Those diseases would be placed on a list each year by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Helms offered an amendment to the Hatch language requiring AIDS to be included on the list. After extensive debate, the Helms amendment was rejected 61-39.

When the bill reached the House floor, Congressman Dannemeyer moved to send the bill back to the Conference Committee with instructions to accept the Helms proposal. His motion was rejected 224-180, and the bill was approved 337-28.

President Bush will sign ADA into law on July 26, 1990. The signing ceremony is scheduled to take place in the White House at about 9:00 a.m. Lesbian and Gay activists have been invited by the White House to attend. Among these are McFeeley and Friedman.

The money to Helms, Reed explained, was given by PhilPAC, a political action committee whose members volunteer their time and money. "Miller's profit does not go to PhilPAC," Reed said.

In a letter published in the San Francisco *Sentinel*, Reed, speaking on behalf of Miller Brewing Co. said, "We (Miller) disagree with Sen. Jesse Helms on human rights issues." The letter went on to say that "Nationally, in the last 30 months alone, Miller and Philip Morris have donated more than \$600,000 to AIDS research and AIDS-related projects throughout the country.

Miller is well-known as a strong supporter of AIDS fundraisers in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee AIDS Project and Gay and Lesbian events.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of MAP said, "Miller has proven itself to be a friend to all of us who are fighting the AIDS epidemic. Nelson went on to say that "Miller was the first corporation to sponsor the Wisconsin AIDS Walk and has given the largest donation of \$25,000. This corporate underwriting of the Walk is essential to its success. Miller surely deserves our support."

Miller's Equal Employment Opportunity policy includes protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

As of press time, the boycott is being supported only in Dallas and by Washington, D.C.'s ACT-UP. Molly Sidhe, Editor of *Just Out* in Portland, OR, said that Portland bars are considering it. It has been reported that ACT-UP Milwaukee voted not to go along with the boycott.

Parents, Friends Chapter Forms In Appleton

[Appleton, WI]- A new chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) has been formed in the Fox River Valley according to George and Harriet Bruyn, the organizers of the chapter.

In a letter the Bruyn's said that "We are a fledgling organization in this area, just beginning to reach out to families in need of support and information about a Gay or Lesbian family member or friend.

The new P-FLAG chapter may be reached at P.O. Box 75, Little Chute, WI 54140 or by calling (414) 749-1629 in Appleton or, in Green Bay, (414) 499-7080. The chapter meets monthly.

[Milwaukee]- "AIDS is a time bomb that has not yet exploded," said State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison). Clarenbach was speaking of Wisconsin in testimony given before a public hearing of the Assembly Committee on Health.

The Committee, chaired by Rep. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) met Tuesday, July 24, 1990 at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). It was the first time ever for such a meeting of a legislative committee to be held in an AIDS service agency.

Clarenbach, who is the author or co-author of all AIDS legislation in Wisconsin said the state had reacted "with reason" to the epidemic, but noted the over 400 cases now and the likelihood of significant increase over the decade.

Dr. James Vergeront, Director of Wisconsin's AIDS/HIV Program told the committee that Wisconsin can expect 8,000 new cases of AIDS in the 90's and that by the end of the decade there will be 1100 new cases per year. Vergeront estimated that 10,000 Wisconsin residents are currently infected with HIV. He characterized his figures as "fairly realistic."

Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, told the committee that "the pace of the epidemic is not letting up." MAP, Nelson said, expects that its "caseload will double in 1990" from the present 318 cases and "double again in 1991." By 1992, Nelson said, "MAP is projected to have 1,000 clients living with AIDS." Nelson estimated that 6,000 people in Milwaukee are currently infected with HIV and will eventually develop AIDS.

The committee was also told by all the witnesses that the face of AIDS is



Doug Nelson speaking at the AIDS hearing.

changing. In ever increasing numbers, babies, women, Blacks and Hispanics are being infected.

"By 1992," Vergeront said, "AIDS will be the leading cause of death in the Hispanic and Black communities."

Nelson told the committee that currently, 34 percent of MAP's caseload is African American and 12 percent is Hispanic.

The figures are chilling, but so is the fact that state money to pay for AIDS patients' medications is rapidly running out, according to Vergeront.

Clarenbach sharply questioned Vergeront as to why the committee was only just now learning of this situation when it was too late to enact new funding bills.

Vergeront answered that it costs about \$30,000 per month for drugs for those with AIDS. This is more than anticipated because of the new drugs that have been added to AZT in patient care. He also noted the increased numbers of patients

TURN TO AIDS, PAGE 11

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Sodomy Law Ruled Unconstitutional

[Lexington, KY]- A criminal court in Kentucky ruled in June that the state's sodomy law violates the Kentucky state constitution. The decision of the appellate judge found the sodomy law in violation of both the right to privacy and the equal protection clause of the state constitution.

The ruling came on the appeal of the prosecution of Jeffrey Wasson, who was arrested in 1986 for allegedly soliciting an undercover police officer for sex in downtown Lexington. The state prosecutors have the right to appeal to a higher court.

Until now, Kentucky, along with 24 other states and the District of Columbia, had continued to criminalize sodomy performed in private by consenting adults. As in five other states, Kentucky had criminalized only homosexual sodomy. Penalties in Kentucky called for up to a year in prison.

Kowalski and Thompson Honored

[San Francisco, CA]- San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos declared June 30, 1990 "Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson Day" and the National Organization for Women, meeting in its annual convention, presented Kowalski and Thompson with its 1990 "Women of Courage" awards.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors also issued a special proclamation to the women: "In your successful efforts to gain your own dignity, you have blazed a path for the disabled and Lesbian and Gay couples everywhere."

Following the 1983 car accident that severely disabled Kowalski, Thompson has fought a lengthy court battle to visit Kowalski, to secure Kowalski's rights and, as her partner, to have a say in Kowalski's health care. Until recently, Kowalski's parents fought Thompson in court.

Thompson noted that the last legal hurdle in their fight may be faced in a Minnesota court hearing on July 27. She is hopeful this time because the medical staff appointed by the courts is now supporting her bid to become Kowalski's legal guardian.

Referendum Fails In Mass.

[Boston, MA]- The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts has upheld a decision by the state's attorney general that a planned referendum on the state's new Gay rights law is unconstitutional.

Fundamentalist opponents of the measure hoped to put it on a referendum in November, but, ironically, defeated their own purpose. During debate on the bill, they insisted — and won — a significant exemption. Religious groups are exempt from the law's guarantee of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation in credit, housing and employment.

According to the Massachusetts constitution, laws which involve "religious practices or religious institutions" cannot be subject to public referenda.

Gay Valedictorian At Dartmouth

[Hanover, NH]- A standing ovation by almost 5,000 people greeted the commencement speech of valedictorian Michael F. Lowenthal at Dartmouth College in June. What made the event particularly newsworthy is the fact that Lowenthal is the first openly Gay valedictorian at the conservative institution.

In a speech on "Conformity and Community," Lowenthal confronted his audience's prejudices head on. He spoke of the values and traditions of Dartmouth, but asked whether its opportunities had always been available to women, racial minorities and Gays. He condemned sexism, racism and homophobia and urged greater inclusion of women and minority groups in the life of the campus.

Lowenthal, an English and Religion major from Chevy Chase, Maryland, plans to be a writer. While at Dartmouth, he organized Gay and Lesbian poetry readings and a rally for National Coming Out Day. He was a trumpeter in a jazz ensemble and participated in the school's Outing Club, an outdoors group. "not an organization that 'outs' people," quipped Lowenthal.

Lesbians Attend Prom Together

[Carnation, WA]- Two women attended the Tolt Senior High School prom in May, becoming the first openly Lesbian couple to attend the prom in Carnation, according to the *Washington Blade*.

Senior Erika Pierson and Leah Knight, who wore matching black tuxedos and turquoise bow ties, received a cold response and some rude comments from others in attendance. At one point, a man actually pushed the couple, but Knight, a police cadet who graduated last year, defused the situation.

Pierson said she and Knight hoped to pave the way for younger Lesbians: "I decided it was worth it. It satisfies me because I know now it won't be as hard for someone else as it was for me."

NEA Denies Grants To Artists

[New York, NY]- Four of eighteen performance artists recommended by a panel of experts for National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants have been denied the grants because of the sexual or political nature of their material.

The four artists are Tim Miller and John Fleck of Los Angeles and Karen Finley and Holly Hughes of New York. Each of the artists is provocative and avant-garde. Three of them are openly Gay and all have focused on Gay and Lesbian subject matter in their work.

Said Miller: "My work is not obscene. For me, this is an attack on the content of my work which is an attempt to create and represent Gay identity in this country that would otherwise be invisible...That's why this area of solo performance is so important. It's the place where Lesbians and Gay men and people of color create some of the only representations of their worlds that exist in this country."

National Gay organizations are urging supporters to write their Congressional representatives in favor of an NEA reauthorization bill with no content restrictions to limit artistic expression. Currently, Congress bans federal funds from subsidizing "obscene" art, which is defined, in part, as "homosexualism."

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.

OBITUARIES

Paul Wynne

[San Francisco]- Paul Wynne, 47, a broadcast journalist whose personal diary about AIDS made TV history, died of AIDS complications on July 5 in San Francisco.

Wynne had been an entertainment reporter for several San Francisco TV stations from 1972 to 1984, but he returned to the air in January, 1990 with "Paul Wynne's Journal," a firsthand account of his struggle with AIDS. As his health deteriorated, the series was taped from his hospital bed.

Wynne's "Journal" ran on KGO-TV. It won rave reviews from TV critics and substantial support from viewers, many saying that for the first time, his reports had put a human face on the dreaded AIDS epidemic.

Keith Gann

[St. Paul, MN]- Keith Gann, an activist from St. Paul, Minnesota who was the first person with AIDS to address a major political party's national convention, died of AIDS complication on May 8. He was 36.

Gann appeared on the podium of the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta and spoke before a hushed crowd about AIDS issues and funding. Many of those in the convention hall and those watching on TV from nearby hotels were in tears.

Gann had also served as the editor of a newsletter for people with AIDS, *PWA Alive*.

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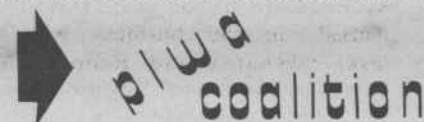
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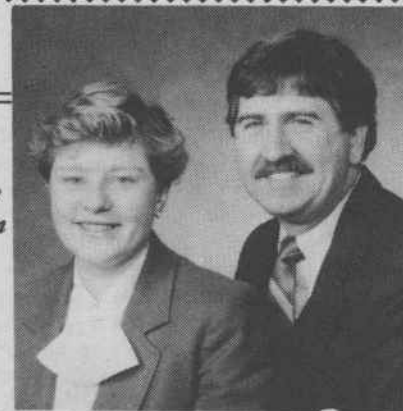
The PLWA Coalition is an organization of people living with AIDS which has taken up the mission of advocacy on AIDS related issues. We are attempting to contact people living with AIDS or who are HIV positive to develop an agenda of their needs. Some of the issues include: *Political Action, Medical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

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

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MADISON BUSINESSMAN RODNEY SCHEEL DIES FROM AIDS

Owned Hotel Washington Complex

[Madison]- Rodney Scheel, owner of Madison's popular Hotel Washington Complex, died on July 12, 1990 of AIDS-related health problems. He was 39. Rodney is survived by his partner of over 20 years, Dr. Warren Olson, and by his parents, Jo and Doc Scheel, his sister, Sherry Nelson, his brother, Greg Scheel and three nephews and a niece. Rod also leaves scores of friends and business associates in Madison, the Midwest and throughout the country, more than can really be counted. He was a lifelong resident of Madison, and his dedication and commitment to Madison's central city will be missed.

Rodney was a people-person; he had a knack for remembering names and faces, and an uncanny way of enjoying his businesses while managing a diverse group of people and committing so very much to them — their personal problems and the details of their lives — in ways that are known, now, only to them. Relaxing, working, playing and sparring with him was always "eyeball-to-eyeball," straight from the shoulder, with a broad smile which always allowed some "monkey-business." Although Rod was nearly without peer as an acute businessman and manager — in charge in a positive way — he was much a team player. He always knew when and how to listen.

"Family" events for Rodney were shared with the folks, his beloved parents, with Warren, Sherry and Greg and with his extended family. The Hotel Christmas Party, the annual employee picnic, trips to Chicago, Milwaukee, Saugatuck, California, Hawaii — always in the company of friends — were treasured opportunities for sharing with those who remained at home, keeping the Hotel in full-operating-order. Indeed, over the years, hundreds of young persons, both Gay and straight, had the opportunity to learn the food-and-beverage "ropes" from Rod.

And they learned from a pro. At the age of 21, in December, 1972, Rodney opened the first, exclusively Gay bar in Madison's history. The Back Door, Ltd. went through its share of experimental phases — bar, restaurant, piano bar, dance club, and home-away-from-home for many of the newly-liberated Gay men and Lesbians and their friends of that era. Rod's commitment to Madison's confused and disenfranchised was a preview of the many gifts and opportunities he provided in later years.

The City of Madison is indebted to Rodney for his foresight in the rebuilding and reintegration of the "old" Hotel Washington. He was a trendsetter and a leader, and Madison has honored him and his "Hotel Family" with orchids, awards and allegiance. Rod was a model citizen, and his commitment to Madison as an openly Gay businessman provided countless others with a model for themselves.

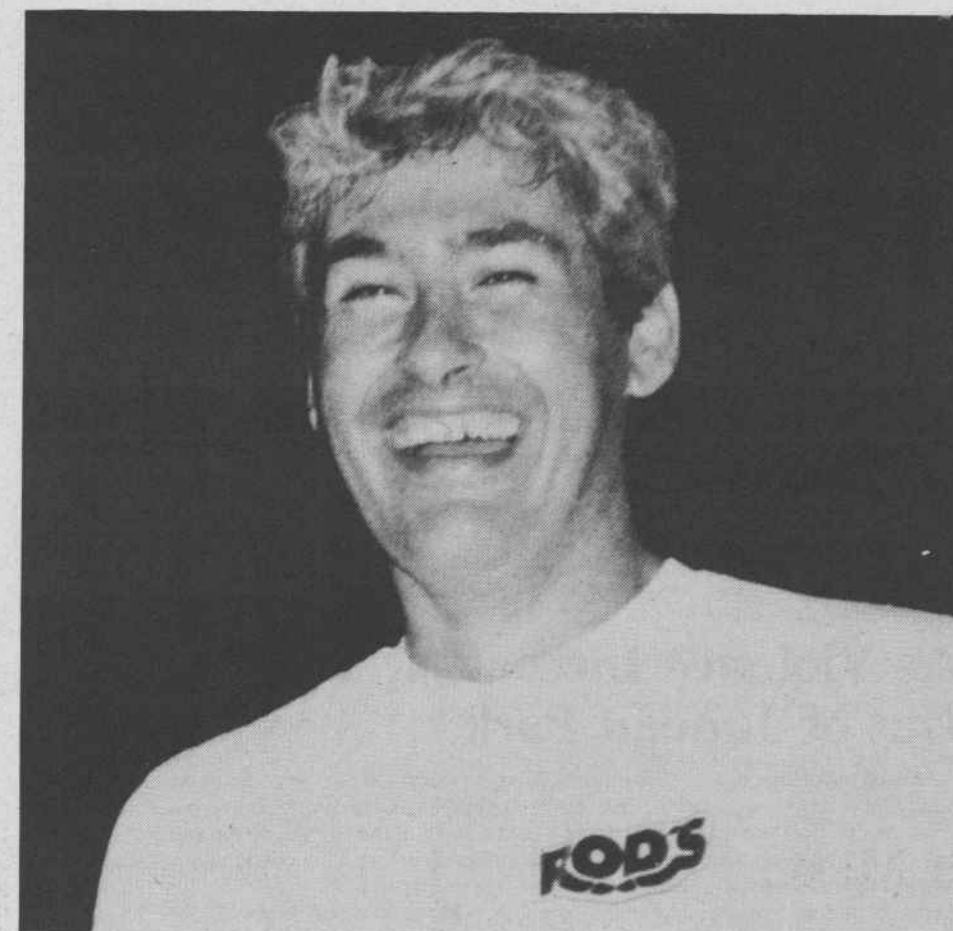
Of all Rod's accomplishments, he might have counted his dedication to the Gay and Lesbian community among the most important. Rodney opened doors — and closets; the MAGIC Picnic was born of his initiatives and his continued support during two decades. His sense of pride for the Gay community and his willingness to display it up front, where it

From The Editor's Desk: Rod Gave Abundantly Of Himself To Others

It was a beautiful memorial service held on the bright morning of a Summer's day when life is at its fullest and most lovely. It was a day, I thought, much like Rodney Scheel himself whose memory we in our hundreds and hundreds had gathered to honor.

Rod's whole being was like that Summer day, abundant with living. But the beauty of his life was that it was not spent for himself. It was done as few people do it. It was given to others with a warm sense of compassion and sensitivity that this old world of our's, I think, seldom knows.

I can only wish that there were more people like Rod — but perhaps that is not as it should be. Perhaps one, now and again, is enough. One like Rod is all we need to serve as an example. We see him; we know him, and we understand what a true leader should be. He is one who asks us to be not what we are, but, as Rod did,



Rodney Scheel

counted most — these were his legacy. As recently as a few weeks ago, he made the painful trip to Chicago for the 1990 Gay Pride Parade, something which many thought would never happen. But, that was Rodney. He lived every moment, as he always had, actively participating and helping to lead a parade on which, for him, rain will never fall again.

Thank you, Rodney, for your help, your courage, your encouragement, your leadership, your guts, your humor, your generosity, your love and your friendship. Madison will not forget you and your accomplishments and the "Young Turks" in the business will always ask, "What would Rodney think?" That's a fair standard by which to judge the life of almost any person.

A private interment service was held on Sunday, July 15. On Saturday, July 21, 1990, hundreds upon hundreds of Rodney's friends from Madison and all

Rod's Dream For A Group Home Is Becoming Reality

[Madison]- Rodney Scheel died with a vision still to be accomplished; to establish a group home for people living with AIDS, a vision also shared by the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN). Now that vision is moving rapidly to reality.

It has been described as a "tremendous outpouring of goodwill" money has been coming in from friends who want to offer their gifts as a memorial to Rod. As of press time, over \$2,000 has been collected by the foundation set up to receive it and more is coming in all the time. According to Pam Geisler, Rod's long-time friend and secretary, as quoted

to be as we should be in our highest ideals.

That, I think, was the true beauty of the man; he set the example; he showed the way. And now it is up to us to follow.

Rod's life here was so very short and cut off before his time, but in the time he spent here, he showed us love and joy and caring and how to laugh and to play. That latter, I think, is not to be despised, for human beings, it is said, are most themselves when they are at play. Rod showed us that, too.

Miss him? You're damn right we'll miss him, miss him terribly. But there is work to be done in the Summer that remains to us and in the Fall and Winter, too. Let us build that house he dreamed of for people living with AIDS and, in doing so, we can join him in doing what makes life worthwhile — giving as he did so well.

Take care, Rod. Love ya a whole lot.

over the country, jammed Madison's Luther Memorial Church for a memorial service. The tributes paid to this self-sacrificing man swelled like a great chord of music into the sunlit air of that beautiful Summer morning. Afterward, friends gathered as they always had, at the Hotel Washington to toast their friend and comrade on his way.

We will miss you Rodney, miss you so very much. Heaven does not often allow people such as you to walk the earth and we will not see you like again in this lifetime. As the poet said, "You were like the Summer day to us; bright, lovely and full of flowers and the sun. Now you have gone and the darkness of evening has come to our lives."

Contributions in Rodney's name can be made to the Rodney Scheel House for PWAs (Persons With AIDS), c/o the Hotel Washington, 636 W. Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53703.

in Madison's *Capital Times*, the money will be used to set up a non-profit organization the purpose of which will be to see the home into reality.

Geisler told the *Capital Times* that she was extremely pleased and happy with the response. "I know that's just how he (Rod) would feel," she said.

Those wishing to contribute money for this wonderful project may send their checks to The Rodney Scheel House for PWAs, c/o The Hotel Washington, 636 W. Washington, Madison, WI 53703.

As Rod was generous with us, let us now be generous in fulfilling his dream.

MASN Honors Rodney With Annual Business Award

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) will honor the late Rodney Scheel, who died on July 12, 1990, through the creation of an annual award, announced MASN Executive Director Earl Bricker. This award will be given to the area businessperson who has most contributed to the fundraising efforts of MASN, directly or indirectly.

"This is most appropriate," said Bricker. "Rodney Scheel was one of the finest friends MASN has ever had. From providing space in the Hotel Washington for MASN's first office to participating in the Bachelor Bid held only weeks before his passing, Rodney was a consistent supporter of the work being done by MASN."

"Rodney also advised members of the Board and staff," Bricker continued. "In this way, he cannot be replaced. Rodney Scheel gave so much to MASN and we wish to remember those efforts and support by annually honoring others in the business community who have provided support to MASN by awarding a plaque in his name."

The first Scheel Memorial Award will be presented at the MASN Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 1990. The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 1609 University Avenue and will be preceded by an Open House at the MASN office located at 303 Lathrop Street (adjacent to the church).

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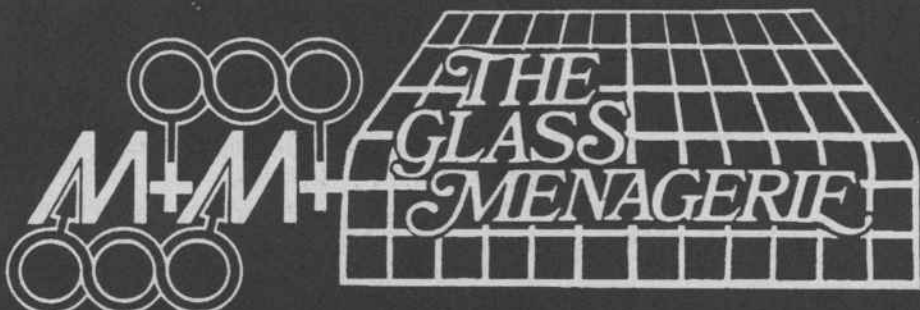
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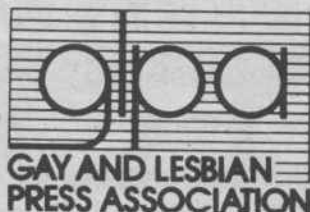
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EDITORIAL

Threat Of Miller Boycott Was Misguided And Without Merit

We strongly agree that a boycott of Miller beer as urged by San Francisco is misguided, misdirected and, in all ways, utterly without merit of any kind. It is the classic case of taking a gun and, after careful aim, shooting yourself in the foot.

Miller Brewing Company has proven and proven again that it is a good and solid friend to our community and demonstrated compassion towards people living with AIDS.

Further, not one cent spent for Miller beer goes to Jesse Helms. Look at it this way, if you buy a pack of Philip Morris-made cigarettes, do you expect any of the proceeds of the sale to go to the Milwaukee AIDS Project or some Gay or Lesbian event?

San Francisco's reasoning as expressed by Bill Haskel is that a boycott of Miller will force Miller to admonish the parent company. Also, boycotting Miller will make the company show us what good friends they really are.

The reasoning is utterly faulty. Things don't work that way in corporate America.

We cannot treat our friends as if they were enemies.

So, if you want to hurt Helms, don't buy Marlboro. If you really want to do something, send a check to the Gantt campaign (address in last issue of paper) and if you really want to do something, go to North Carolina and do some volunteer work.

As for Miller, have a nice, long cold one and enjoy a good product produced by a company that's done a lot for us.

As Violence Increases, Stay Out of Juneau Park

Anti-Gay violence is a growing problem everywhere, it seems to be endemic to Juneau Park. Once again, we have heard repeated reports of beatings taking place there. The police of the 5th District have made and continue to make arrests of the perpetrators, but they cannot be everywhere — and they cannot do much at all if victims do not stay around long enough to report the crime.

One man was brutally beaten by someone who proclaimed himself to be "a faggot" but that "all faggots should die." The victim required hospital care.

Numerous other examples could be cited that have come to our attention, but fact remains that Juneau Park is dangerous, very dangerous. There is no reason that we can see for anyone going there.

Anti-Lesbian and anti-Gay violence is inexcusable no matter where or when it happens. No one should place him or herself at risk.

The message seems to be loud and clear: STAY AWAY FROM JUNEAU PARK. The pain and suffering you prevent could be your own.

LETTERS

Miller Brewery Is Our Friend

Editor's Note: The following letter has been sent across the United States in response to numerous media requests.

Dear Friends:

There are many barriers to meeting the challenge of AIDS and there are many people opposing an effective response to the epidemic affecting Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the nation.

Miller Brewing Company is Wisconsin's leading corporation in support of AIDS care and education. Miller is also a strong supporter of human rights issues and is a friend of the Gay and Lesbian community.

As the leading corporate supporter of the Milwaukee AIDS Project, Miller, over the last four years, has provided more funding for AIDS in Milwaukee than any other corporation in Wisconsin.

Miller Brewing Company provided major financial support that permitted the Milwaukee AIDS Project to purchase a home for people with AIDS who are unable to live independently. Miller is the primary sponsor of the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, a pledge walk to benefit AIDS care and education. Miller has also underwritten the cost of many fundraisers that have benefited the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Bigot Nurse

TO THE EDITOR:

Normally an "In My Opinion" column as inane and incoherent as Eloise Schwarz's wouldn't merit a response. If she had been trying out for a slot on the freshman debate team, it would be a kindness to dismiss her without comment. But this woman is a professional Registered Nurse who presumably comes into contact with AIDS patients and victims of bias crimes. These people can sense in a minute when a caretaker is judging them as "less innocent" than other patients. Therefore, Eloise Schwarz needs very badly to understand a few things:

Sexual orientation is not a choice. It is something we are all born with, like blue eyes or brown eyes, or left-handedness or right-handedness. To test this proposition, she need only ask herself if she chose to be heterosexual. If the answer is yes, then that means she must have — God forbid! — considered the alternative. If there was no alternative, then there was no choice involved.

As for her point that one's private sexual life belongs behind closed doors, she's quite right. But sexual orientation

and sexual practice are two different things. For example, it's likely that Eloise Schwarz would "admit" to being heterosexual. The mere assertion of heterosexuality is not seen as a vulgar flaunting of private activities.

Finally, if she doesn't think that the persecution of Lesbians and Gays is a legitimate issue, she should check out how many thousands upon thousands of "Pink Triangles" were gassed by the Nazis, and how many Gays and Lesbians are maimed and killed each year solely because of the orientation they were born with.

—Doug Nelson
Executive Director
Milwaukee AIDS Project

and sexual practice are two different things. For example, it's likely that Eloise Schwarz would "admit" to being heterosexual. The mere assertion of heterosexuality is not seen as a vulgar flaunting of private activities.

—Noah Archer
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: The above letter was sent also to the Milwaukee Journal where Schwarz's article originally appeared.

Prejudice Alive

TO THE EDITOR:

On July 17 the Journal's "In My Opinion" published a very disturbing piece by Eloise Schwarz, a registered nurse. It was disturbing because it was a veiled statement of bigotry based upon a lie.

Ms. Schwartz seeks to justify prejudice against Gays and Lesbians because they have chosen their sexuality and should accept the consequences of it. Of course, sexual preference is no more a matter of choice than it race or gender. Every reputable medical and psychological organization in the Western World, including the AMA and the American Psychological Association, agrees with that basic fact. It is unfortunate that someone of Ms. Schwartz's apparent background chooses to promote a discredited myth.

Of even greater concern is the fact that Ms. Schwartz is a registered nurse who believes that Gays and Lesbians should accept the consequences of illness and disease. We can only hope that she is closely watched while on duty.

—Donald R. Gavey
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: The above letter was sent also to the Milwaukee Journal.

Help P-FLAG

TO THE EDITOR:

My son is loved and remembered for many things — a high school football star and honor student, captain of his college baseball team and a student leader, an accomplished film maker and medical doctor and a loving brother and son.

Yet, it took me nearly ten years to understand and accept Jimmy as a Gay man.

Sadly, it took AIDS to bring us back together again.

I guess it was easy to be proud of Jimmy while he was growing up. He was a wonderful child and we were very close.

He was handsome, smart and ambitious, yet humble.

As an altar boy, he once dreamed of life in the priesthood. As student council president, an A student and star running back on his city championship team, he was recruited with scholarship offers by Harvard and Holy Cross. And pretty girls always chased him.

That's why my husband and I were shocked to hear that Jimmy wanted to see a psychiatrist. And our priest recommended it!

In the Spring of 1960, it wasn't very common for a seemingly normal high school senior to need a psychiatrist. But we agreed that we would not pry into Jimmy's "problem" and we would wait until our son was ready to tell us about it.

Little did we know...our Jimmy was wrestling with his homosexuality.

While he continued to excel in sports in college and he became a campus leader, he fought a bitter war on the inside. A devout Catholic, Jimmy prayed for mercy by asking God to clean him of his desire for men.

But the torment continued. And he was too afraid to confide in his parents and hometown friends.

After graduating from Harvard Medical School, he decided to move to San Francisco. We were saddened he wanted to live so far from home, but this is where Jimmy found the inner peace he so eagerly desired — by living as an openly Gay man in a free city.

Finally, in 1974, he gathered the courage to tell his parents. He called us one Sunday to say, "I've got something to tell you." He then told us he was Gay.

I'm sorry to say... we were shocked and upset. Back then, I thought homosexuality was a sickness, something Jimmy could overcome. All we knew was that our church condemned it. So we went to church to pray that God would intercede to save our son. But Jimmy didn't want to hear our sympathy and prayers. Jimmy wanted our love and acceptance. And we couldn't give it to him at the time — because of the myths and misconceptions we held about homosexuality. Instead, we told him being Gay was "wrong." And Jimmy was so hurt he barely spoke to us for almost six years.

That's why Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (P-FLAG) is so important. With over 200 local chapters and hotlines, parents can help one another to love and accept their sons and daughters. One of P-FLAG's most important roles is helping families overcome the hurt and anger caused by ignorance and rampant misinformation about homosexuality.

I only wish I had run into P-FLAG earlier! I'm sorry I wasn't more understanding when Jimmy first told me he was Gay — but I really didn't understand. And I needed a group like

TURN TO LETTERS, PAGE 11



REBECCA WIGHT and CLAUDIA BRENNER

A Letter From Claudia Brenner: Violence Hits Home

(In lieu of my column this time, I wanted to share with readers excerpts of this very compelling letter. I hope it moves many of you to action-- Jamakaya)

TO THE EDITOR:

It was a beautiful, warm Spring day when Rebecca was murdered.

I met Rebecca Wight in 1985 when we were both graduate students at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Over the next few years, Rebecca and I fell deeply in love.

Rebecca and I loved the outdoors. We often went hiking and camping together. She especially, felt completely at home there. She had hiked thousands of miles on her own, done rock climbing and hang gliding.

On May 13, 1988, Rebecca and I were hiking on the Appalachian Trail in Adams County, Pennsylvania. At our campsite that morning, Rebecca was stopped by a man who asked her for a cigarette. He hadn't been there when we arrived at the site the previous evening, and must have arrived very late at night.

Later that day, we broke camp and continued our hike. As we checked a map at a fork on the trail, we were surprised to see the same man walking behind us. He had a rifle.

He asked us if we were lost. We said no, and turned left, onto a side trail. He continued along the main trail. The encounter made both Rebecca and me uneasy. We kept looking behind to see if the man was following us, but we never saw him again.

Late that afternoon, Rebecca and I stopped and made camp near a stream. It was a secluded spot, some distance from the trail. We ate, made love and rested.

Suddenly, there were gun shots. The shots were so sudden, so loud, so violent, so world-changing that at first, I didn't even realize that they were gun shots and that we were the targets — except there was so much blood.

Because I was between the attacker and Rebecca, I was hit first. I was shot in the upper arm, twice in the neck, in the head and face. Rebecca told me to run behind a nearby tree. As she followed me, Rebecca was shot in the head and back.

The shooting finally stopped. We were both behind a large tree. In my frantic shock and fear, I didn't understand how badly hurt we were. But Rebecca had the presence of mind to tell me what to do. She told me to stop the bleeding. I believe she saved my life.

My only thought was to get us out of there and get help. I brought Rebecca her sneakers, but she couldn't see them. She was losing her vision. I tried to lift her, but she kept slumping to the ground.

Someplace deep within me, I began to understand how badly hurt Rebecca was. If the situation could get worse, it came with the realization that I had to go for help alone. I covered Rebecca, gave her all the first aid I could think of, and started out for help.

Before I left, Rebecca was unconscious. We never had a chance to say goodbye.

Soaked in blood, I walked on the rugged trail about two miles to a forest road. I was completely terrified that whoever had attacked us might be following and attack again. I walked on the road another two miles before I finally saw a car. I stopped the car, and the driver rushed me to the

police in nearby Snippenburg.

All I could think about was Rebecca. The State Police immediately began a search for her.

That evening, I was airlifted to the Hershey Medical Center trauma unit. I had emergency surgery that night. The next day, I learned that the police had found Rebecca's body. She died from the bullet wound that hit her back and exploded her liver.

But my ordeal did not end with the horror of Rebecca's death.

The State Police caught the man who murdered Rebecca — the same man who had followed us on the trail — Stephen Roy Carr. We now know that Stephen Roy Carr stalked us, hid eighty-five feet away in the woods while we made camp, shot to kill and left us for dead.

During the legal proceedings that followed, it became clear that Carr had attacked us because we were Lesbians. Carr's lawyer even implied — during the trial and the appeal — that Rebecca and I had provoked the attack. The implication that Rebecca and I had "teased" Carr with our sexuality, and that we were responsible for this man stalking us, spying on us, and shooting to kill us was not only outrageous, it was disgusting.

Fortunately, the trial judge refused to allow this line of argument. On October 27, 1988, Stephen Roy Carr was convicted of first degree murder and later, sentenced to life in prison without parole.

I survived the attack, but in the months that followed, I was consumed with grief and fear. My world centered on the knowledge that Rebecca was dead and that somehow I was alive.

I had always known that the world is not a safe place for Lesbians. But somehow, I believed that nothing this terrible would ever happen to me. I believed that all I needed to do was not to look like a stereotypical Lesbian and be discreet with my expressions of affection to other women. That security was shattered by the bullets.

Family, friends and neighbors rallied to my side, and their support helped me to recover both physically and emotionally.

One immediate source of support was the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force — and Kevin Berrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project.

Just a few days after the attack, a friend contacted Kevin Berrill at the Task Force. Kevin quickly became a trusted advisor, helping me prepare for the legal proceedings, counseling me and my friends, and helping me deal with the media attention. Always, Kevin counseled me to take care of myself and to trust my own instincts.

Kevin helped me comprehend the larger societal context of the attack. And Kevin and the Task Force provided me with the encouragement and forum to share my story in an effort to stop this brutal violence from happening to any Gay person.

I am writing to you now because I want to strengthen the Gay and Lesbian organization that came to my help when I needed it most. I am writing to recruit your help for NGLTF in their effort to challenge and end the violence Lesbians and Gay men face every day.

Kevin and others at the Task Force are working against an enormous epidemic of hate violence. A 1987 study by the U.S.

Department of Justice found that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims" of hate violence today. Thousands of acts of anti-Gay and anti-Lesbian violence and harassment are reported to the Task Force every year. Thousands of people like me have experienced the terror of hate violence.

Throughout the country, local anti-violence efforts are being organized — and throughout the country, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is leading this crusade.

Everyday, the Task Force assists victims of violence, helps local organizers document incidents, educates the public and the media, and works with law enforcement, criminal justice and social service agencies to develop a meaningful response.

I have told you what happened to Rebecca and me in the hope that we can work to insure it never happens again. **I am appealing to you to join me in a campaign against anti-Gay violence by making a donation to the Task Force today.**

I still feel incredibly sad. Sad that Rebecca is dead. Sad that we are living our lives honestly, innocently, fully, and that someone hated us so much that he wanted us dead.

No Pity Shown For "Cowardly Murder" Of Dennis Owens

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Dirk E. Harris, convicted of the murder of TV6 floor manager Dennis Owens in Milwaukee's Gay bar district in December, 1988, has been sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole until the year 2035. Harris, 21, will be in prison until he is at least 66 years-old.

During his trial, an accomplice testified that Harris said: "Let's go down to the queer bars and roll a fag." Owens, 31, was shot five times and run over by a car. His body was found near a warehouse in the 300 block of E. Florida Street.

After the murder, Harris took Owens' car, keys and credit card. He used the car, burglarized the victim's apartment and, later, bought his girlfriend an expensive ring with Owens' charge card. Harris reportedly bragged to fellow jail inmates about his crimes.

In sentencing Harris, Circuit Judge William D. Gardner said: "I'm really concerned this victim was selected

Gay Jokes Mar WISN Radio Program

[Milwaukee]- On Friday, July 21, 1990, Milwaukee's WISN-AM ("Talk Radio") aired a show hosted by J. Alan Schmidt. The show is heard at 9:00 a.m.

At 9:05 a.m., according to a person prominent in the local electronic media, Schmidt announced that the topic would be Representative Barney Frank's (D-MA) "punishment."

According to our source, the show "quickly deteriorated into a series of anti-Gay jokes." Schmidt said he thought Frank had been given a "slap on the WRIST (emphasis his). Schmidt is also reported to have suggested that Frank wanted to "be cremated at death, but that rather than an urn, his ashes would be stored in a fruit jar."

At 9:30, our source reported that they called WISN and objected, stating that while Frank was a legitimate topic, the jokes were not.

The caller reached the producer of the show, a woman identified as "Kim." According to the caller, the objections were greeted with laughter. When the response was objected to, Kim hung up.

A call was then placed to Dr. Richard Holcombe, WISN's Program Director who said "he would speak with Kim." The verbal abuse was also reported to the 1-800-347-HATE line in Washington, D.C.

Holcombe said that the anti-Gay remarks were not the fault of Schmidt, but were made by those calling in.

As soon as he learned about what was going on, Holcombe said, he told Schmidt "to drop the topic immediately." As to Kim's laughter, Holcombe said that she maintained that she had not laughed. Holcombe also indicated that such behavior was not tolerated.

Holcombe said that WISN and its producers were "interested in fairness and equitability" in all dealings with the public.

In the midst of my grieving, it is important to me to be a part of an organization like NGLTF that is working to end hatred and the violence it spawns.

Please join me in supporting the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Please make a contribution. Be as generous as you can — there is so much work to do. But how much you give is less important to me than that you give something — whatever you can afford.

I want you to stand with me... in memory of Rebecca and all the victims of violence against Lesbians and Gay men. I want you to stand with me in the hope of a future where people are not hated and harmed because of who they love.

Thank you for listening to my story and for responding.

—Claudia Brenner

Editor's Note: Contributions in memory of Rebecca Wight can be made out to NGLTF and sent to: NGLTF, 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. For a gift of \$50 or more, you will receive the Task Force's 40 page report: "Anti-Gay Violence, Victimization and Defamation, 1989." Please specify that your donation is for the Anti-Violence Project.

because of his lifestyle. Those of the Gay lifestyle are less likely to complain to police because of assaults."

Judge Gardner also decried Harris' "cowardice in finding not just a Gay victim, but a black victim." He called Harris "an extremely dangerous person" whose crime exhibited "no respect for human life. It was designed to desecrate the victim."

The judge denied defense arguments that Harris had been a battered child and therefore deserved a more lenient sentence. "I'm much more concerned about what he is today than about why he became that way," said Gardner.

James G. Malone, 20, is also charged in the murder and armed robbery of Owens. His trial is set to begin September 4.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

7,000 Expected To Attend Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

[Walhalla, MI]- It's that time of year again.

For one week each year, in a pocket of northern Michigan, surrounded by a quarter million acres of the Manistee National Forest, 7,000 women arrive on a square mile of wooded, sun-splashed land, carpeted with wild flowers and ferns, to create an international womyn's village.

Women come together from the far corners of the globe in all of their relationships: mothers and daughters, grandmothers, teachers and students, neighbors, workmates, sisters, lovers, strangers, travelers and seekers. Some come year after year; some come once in a lifetime. Something quite magical happens in this one week each year that changes the lives of the womyn who come.

It's the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival!

This year's is the 15th annual Michigan Fest and it will run from August 15-19, 1990. Deadline for advance tickets through the mail was July 25, so Jennie-come-latelies must pay at the gate. Prices are scaled from \$185 for a full five day pass, down to \$50 for a one day pass. No personal checks are accepted.

Appearing on the **Day Stage** this year will be: The Washington Sisters, Julie Homi, Ranch Romance, Connie Kaldor, June Millington, Barbara Higbie, the sensational Two Nice Girls, Faith Nolan, RhythMissCity and the Festival Concert Band.

The **Acoustic Stage** offers: Musica Femina, Belinda Sullivan, Judy Sloan, Judy Grahn, Rhiannon, the Festival Gospel Choir, Nana Simopoulous, Marga Gomez and a Celebration of African American Storytelling.

The **Night Stage** will feature: Alix Dobkin and Lavender Jane, Kitka, Lillian Allen, Phranc, Linda Tillery, a Tribute to Black Women and the Blues, Holly Near, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Heather Bishop, Vicki Randle and Cassleberry-Dupree.

Dozens of workshops on "Unlearning Racism," "Healing and Humor," "What is Feminism?" "Moon Mysteries," "Bodybuilding," "Country Western Dance" and many others will be held.

Join the magic at Michigan! For last minute info, or for a brochure, write to: W.W.T.M.C., Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. Enclosing a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope will speed the reply.

Fest City Singers To Serenade Crowd At Third Ward Block Party

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) will be appearing on Broadway, Saturday, August 4 — that is, on N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. For the third year, the Singers will participate in the Historic Third Ward Best Block Party.

This time around, they will hit the streets as singing troubadours, mingling with the crowds, vogueing and presenting their songs and novelty acts street performance style. They can be seen and heard as wandering minstrels along Broadway between Buffalo and Menomonee Streets on Saturday beginning at 5:00 p.m. and continuing throughout the evening.

"We enjoy getting close to our audience in this way," according to Dan Gniotczynski, FCS general manager. "We've had similar hands-on gigs at the Grand Avenue and Bayshore Malls and performing for patients at the hospice and nursing homes."

The Best Block Party, in this its fifth annual outing, is bigger and better than

ever this year and it will run for two days, Friday and Saturday, August 3 and 4. Continuous entertainment will be offered on two stages by such varied musical groups as the Blue Torpedoes, the WBZN All Stars, The Ghostly Trio, Harvey Scales and the Seven Sounds, Brave New Groove, and Happenstance.

Other entertainment includes the Amadeus Dance Studio, the Aloha Nui Revue, Shear Delight (a barbershop quartet), the Scotia Bagpipers, two fashion shows, and of course, the always Wild and Wacky Chair Race.

At least 80 vendors and exhibitors will satisfy the palate and the eye, and since the Broadway area starred recently as background for the forthcoming "Dillinger" film with Mark Harmon, souvenirs of that experience will be in evidence. Major food vendors are La Boulangerie, Third Ward Cafe, Broadway Bar & Grill, and M&M Club/Glass Menagerie.

The two-day event is free to the public, so come on down!

"Peter Pan," "Wrinkle In Time" To Highlight Theatre's Season

[Milwaukee]- Theatre Tesseract and Next Generation Theater have selected their playbill for the 1990-91 season. Performances will be held at Centennial Hall Theater located at the Milwaukee Public Library, 733 8th St., Milwaukee.

The season begins October 12, 1990 with an adaptation of Madeline L'Engle's Newbery Award winning classic **A Wrinkle In Time**. Theatre Tesseract took its name from the book. Tesseracting is a theory of the fifth dimension whereby voyagers travel from point A to point C without passing through B. The theory is soundly rooted in Einsteinian physics. **Wrinkle In Time** will play in rotating repertory with **Reckless** (rights pending), a surreal and disturbing comedy by Craig Lucas. **Reckless** opens on October 18 and will rotate with **A Wrinkle In Time** through November 4, 1990.

The Milwaukee Premiere of John Olive's **The Voice of the Prairie** will run from November 15 to December 2. In February **Peter Pan** flies into the Pabst Theater for a run from February 2-17, 1991. C. Michael Wright will star as Peter, with flying effects done by the Foys.

Haven for the Disillusioned, a cabaret style piece consisting of poems and songs from several Bertoldt Brecht plays will run from March 7- 24, 1991. William Shakespeare's **Taming of the Shrew** will close the season with a run from April 11-28, 1991.

Orders for subscriptions began July 1, 1990. Contact (414) 278-7780 for more information.

Editor's Note: **Wrinkle In Time** is one of the most absolutely wonderful, mind-challenging, adventure stories that I think as ever been written. If you haven't read it yet, you are truly missing something.

Appleton, Madison, Kenosha To See "USA On Tour" Show



MISS GAY USA 1990 CEZANNE

[Milwaukee]- King Productions has scheduled a series of shows entitled "USA on Tour." The Shows will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 1990 at the Pivot Club in Appleton; Thursday, August 16th at The New Bar in Madison; Friday, August 17th at the Gay 90's in Minneapolis and Saturday, August 18th at Club 94 in Kenosha.

The shows will feature Cezanne, Miss Gay USA; Natasha Edwards, Miss Gay USA 1989; Tommie Ross, Miss Gay USA 1988; Tania Michaels, Miss Gay Wisconsin USA and Dee Richards, Miss Gay Wisconsin USA At Large.

The week will culminate with the Second Annual Miss Gay Wisconsin USA Pageant on Sunday, August 19th at the Marc Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee. The Pageant will feature the 12 King Production title-holders from around the state.

"Atomic Comic" Peavey To Do Madison Reading

[Madison]- Four Star Fiction and Video will be hosting a book reading/signing by Fran Peavey a.k.a. The Atomic Comic on Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Peavey who is a comedienne and social activist is the author of **A Shallow Pool of Time** and **Heart of Politics**

Peavey is an HIV positive woman and will talk about the AIDS epidemic and the impact being HIV positive has had on her own life, as she does in **A Shallow Pool of Time**.

Peavey's test results have not kept her from her performances as The Atomic Comic. She lampoons our political and social worlds with her "global comedy." "The newspaper is still your best comedy buy," says Peavey as her stories and routines try to make sense of the seemingly insane politics around us.

On August 8 at 7:00 p.m. Four Star will host Ellen Akins for a reading/signing of her book, **Little Women**. The book is a darkly comic novel which has been described as "Part mystery, part human tragicomedy." Akins lives in Cornucopia, Wisconsin.

Blue Triangle Concert To Benefit AIDS

[Madison]- Blue Triangle, an AIDS Benefit Concert, will be presented at the Wisconsin Union Theater, 800 Langdon St., in Madison on October 20, 1990 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Proceeds will be donated to The Cookie Jar Fund which provides short term emergency funds for HIV infected and AIDS sufferers. The Cookie Jar Fund is affiliated with the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN).

Blue Triangle is a group of musicians concerned with relief and community support for those with HIV and AIDS related diseases. The Concert is supported in part by a bequest from Rafael Conde-Boytel. Blue Triangle is presented in his memory. For further information, contact J. Scott Hall at (608) 244-3916.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Murderer Of Gay Man Receives Life In Prison Sentence

By Bill Menuier

It was December 4, 1988. The Christmas spirit was beginning its annual descent upon us and as Milwaukee's South Second Street bars emptied, Dennis Owens headed for his car to go home alone. He never made it home, nor would he ever see his family and friends again. David Harris had become a statistic.

They left him beaten and bloody laying on the cold street. After robbing him, beating him and shooting him five times, they used his own car to run him over. Then not satisfied with their take, they went to his home and robbed it.

Many in Milwaukee were shocked by the brutality that was shown. Within a day two suspects were arrested. The mother of one of those accused of the crime had turned in her own son. When James Gerald Malone and Dirk Harris were arrested they were found with Owens credit cards and other possessions.

Each blamed the other for the killing, but on one point their stories agreed, Owens was targeted because he was Gay. Both agreed that they were in the Gay bar district to rob a Gay man because they didn't believe that a Gay man could or would fight back and because they didn't think a Gay man would call the Police.

They were right. There was little David Owens could do to fight back against a gun and its impossible to call the Police after you're dead.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against them both suspects pleaded not guilty. On May 5th, a jury of his peers found one of them, Dirk Harris, guilty of First Degree murder and on July 18th he was sentenced.

In their pre-sentence arguments the prosecutor and the defense attorney argued over the length of the sentence. Pointing out that Harris had bragged to his fellow inmates about the murder and had shown no remorse, Assistant D.A. Donald Jackson asked the judge "to set parole eligibility so far in the future that Dirk Harris will never live to see that date."

Defense Attorney William O. Marquis argued against that saying, "They're asking for the death penalty, the worst kind of death a living death. To live in

"Reparative Therapy" Does Not Change Gays To Straights

San Francisco, CA]- While it may not come as a surprise to most of us, the Rev. Lou Sheldon's "reparative therapy" does not do what it is supposed to do; change homosexuals to heterosexuals. This, according to an article in the Summer, 1990 *News and Notes*, the newsletter of Integrity, Inc. the Lesbian/Gay Episcopal organization.

The article centered on a two hour phone interview by Kurt Wolfe of GBS with Gary Cooper and Michael Bussee, co-founders of Exodus International and now, lovers.

Exodus International is an organization of Fundamentalist Christians whose founding was inspired by Sheldon's California-based Coalition for Traditional Values. It is devoted to making Gays, ex-Gays. The method used, Bussee said, is the 12-step program combined with church and bible study.

Bussee and Cooper said that of the hundreds of Gays (men for the most part), they counseled, "none" really changed their orientation. The best they could do was remain celibate. The two men maintained that "none" of the them could say, "Yes, I am actually now a heterosexual."

In the lengthy article, both Bussee and Cooper speak of Gays under counseling by Exodus, having sex on the sly, and going to places where other Gays could be found.

Exodus, Bussee says, doesn't really object to this kind of activity as long as it is confessed. "If you were in the church, Cooper is quoted as saying, "and admitted you were sinning...it was okay." The bottom line," Bussee said is that it (reparative therapy) doesn't work."

Both men agree that when Sheldon and the Fundamentalists talk about making a Gay an ex-Gay, what they really mean is stopping behavior. "You might be able to

prison without parole is worse than death."

Unfortunately no one asked Mr. Marquis if his client would like to trade places with Owens.

Before he was sentenced Harris said he was sorry that Owens was dead and despite the massive weight of the evidence against him protested that he was innocent.

The Judge, William Gardner called it a "cowardly murder." Harris' attorney pleaded for mercy, but Judge Gardner recognizing that mercy was something not shown to the victim would have none of it. He called it a cowardly murder. Gardner said Harris showed what a coward he was in targeting a Gay victim and said he was disturbed that the victim was not only Gay he was black. He pointed out that Gays are less likely to go to the Police than other victims and said he was very concerned that the victim was chosen because of his lifestyle. He said "In this homicide there is not a pretense of any moral or legal justification." and he said the killing "was designed to desecrate the victim."

Then the Judge did something not before seen in a Milwaukee courtroom when it came to the trial of those accused of murdering Gays and Lesbians, he showed no pity, he refused to buy into any pleas for leniency, he didn't look for any excuses to use in handing down a light sentence and he sent Dirk Harris to prison without the possibility of parole until the year 2035. Harris will be 66 years old then. He has lost his life just as Dennis Owens did.

The other man accused in this crime, James Gerald Malone is scheduled to come to trial on September 4th. You can bet that Gardner won't be the judge in that trial. But if the rising tide of violence against members of the Gay/Lesbian community is to be stemmed the same type of stiff sentence must be meted out if Malone is found guilty.

Like all judges in Wisconsin, William Gardner is elected. He has shown he deserves our support the next time he is on the ballot. Lets hope he has started a new trend, that will see harsh penalties given to those who attack us. Like you, I am eager to see if he has.

suppress the behavior," Bussee said, "but you can't change the feelings."

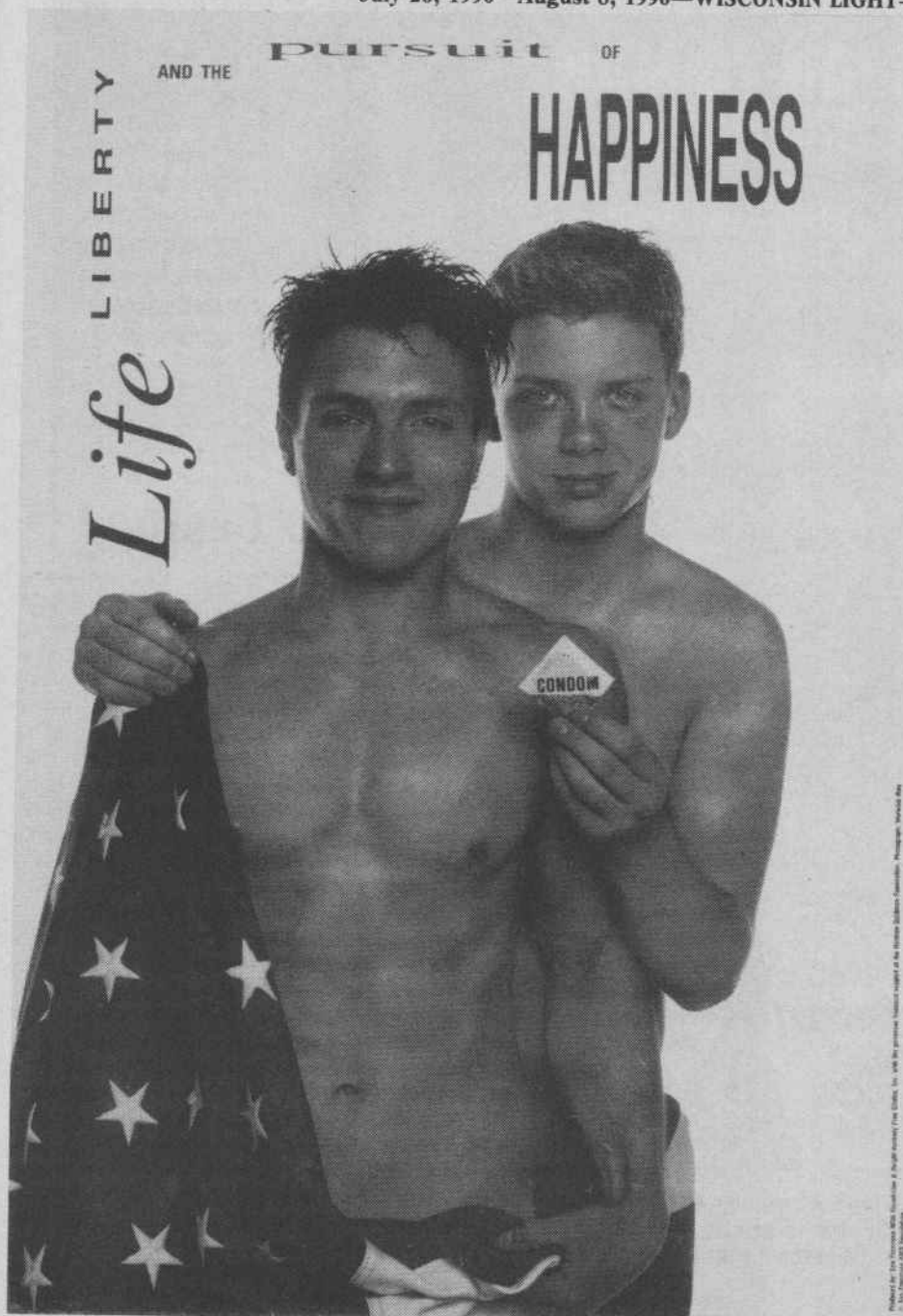
In the article, Bussee and Cooper decry the psychological damage caused by reparative therapy practiced by Exodus International. They maintain that the main reason why some Gays want to change is fear; fear of losing love of families, jobs and security.

They also spoke of the fact that many Fundamentalists look on Gays as "people possessed by demons." Bussee told Wolfe that when he left Exodus, he became "anathema" to the Christians. "They have this thing about turning you over to Satan, the destruction of your flesh kind of thing."

Editor's Note: The Roman Catholic Church, conservative elements in the Episcopal Church and many Protestant denominations view homosexual orientation as morally neutral. It is the practice that is considered sinful.

As The Ven. Michael Bourke, Archdeacon of Bedford, points out in an article in *News and Notes*, that this stance runs directly counter to the teachings of Christ. Christ, who Christians are supposed to believe in, grounds the morality or immorality of human behavior, Bourke says, not on actions, but "the motives of the heart which inspires them." Bourke says, "Indeed, Christ's refusal to make the traditional distinction between action and motive is one of the hallmarks of his ethical teaching. If the desires of a Gay person's heart are morally neutral, how do they suddenly become culpable when they are expressed in action?"

Either we must say that the orientation itself is sinful (what a lot of Christians probably believe) or the orientation is morally acceptable. Then, Bourke says, committed Gay and Lesbian partnerships must be seen as "a responsible Christian option."



San Francisco AIDS Prevention Poster

Young Gays Practicing Unsafe Sex; Developing AIDS

[San Francisco]- As reported in the San Francisco *Sentinel*, May 3, 1990, that city's AIDS Foundation (SFAF) and the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics have developed a controversial HIV prevention campaign targeting young Gay men under 25 years of age — a group which recent surveys suggest is practicing unsafe sex at a significantly high rate.

In a recent survey sponsored by SFAF, the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Communication Technologies, young Gay men were found to be twice as likely to practice unsafe sex compared to the entire sample. The overall incidence of unsafe sex in those surveyed was 18 percent. But in the 18 to 29 age group, 36 percent reported unsafe sex practices.

Forty percent of young Gay men between the ages of 20 and 24 were found to be infected with the AIDS virus in a recent HIV seroprevalence survey conducted by the San Francisco Department of Public Health at its

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics.

Twenty percent of all individuals diagnosed with AIDS are between the ages of 20 and 29. While the proportion of AIDS cases for Gay men of older age groups has remained stable or dropped, AIDS cases in young Gay men increased 30 percent between 1982 and 1987.

The poster displays two, very good looking young men draped only in the American flag. One is holding a condom.

"If we want the younger Gay culture... to believe our prevention messages, we have to first gain their attention and trust," said SFAF Campaign Development Coordinator Les Pappas. "We are using the American flag in this billboard to convey a strong, positive message to young Gay men that says 'You are a valuable part of this community. You're entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' In 1990, the greatest threat to young Gay men is HIV disease."




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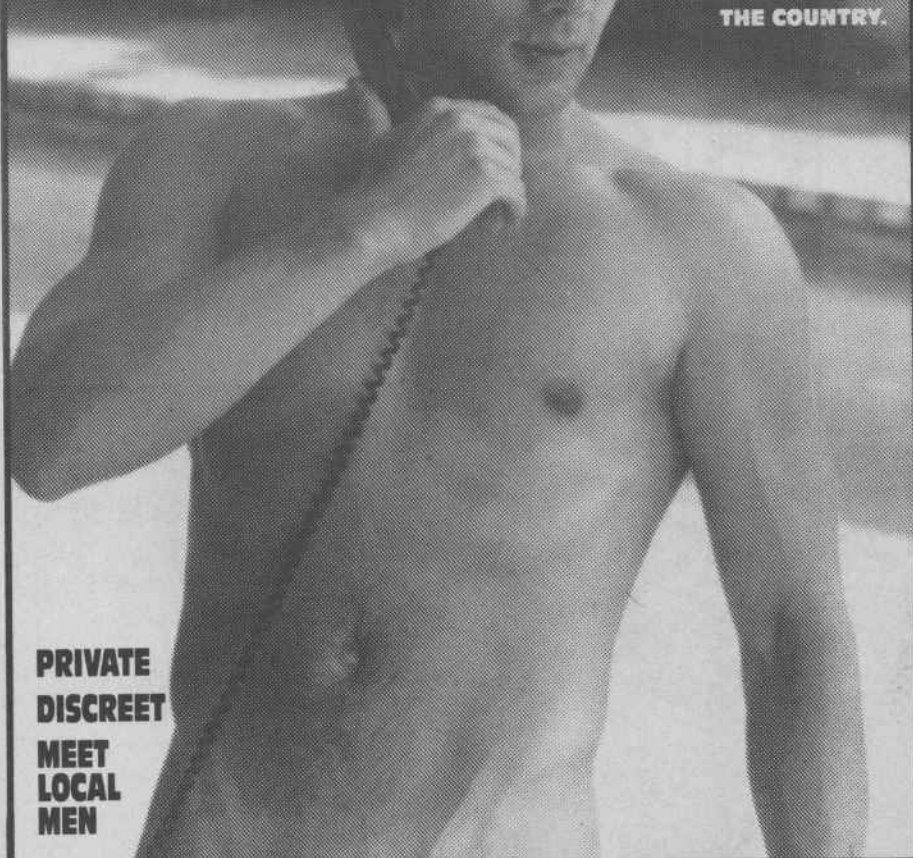
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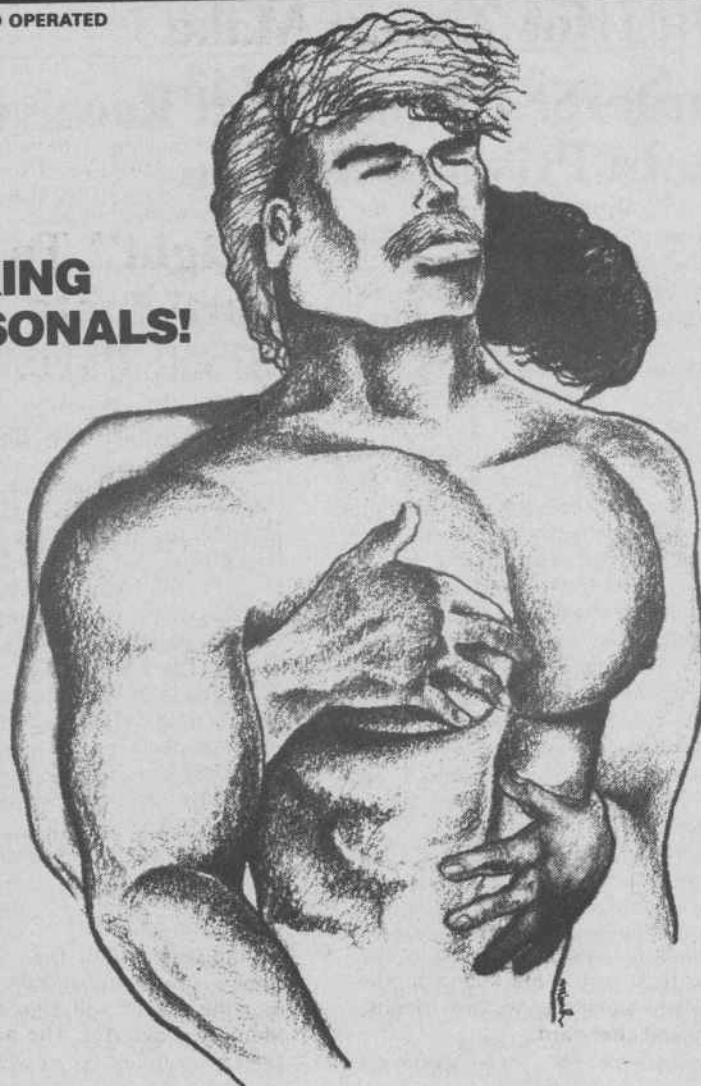
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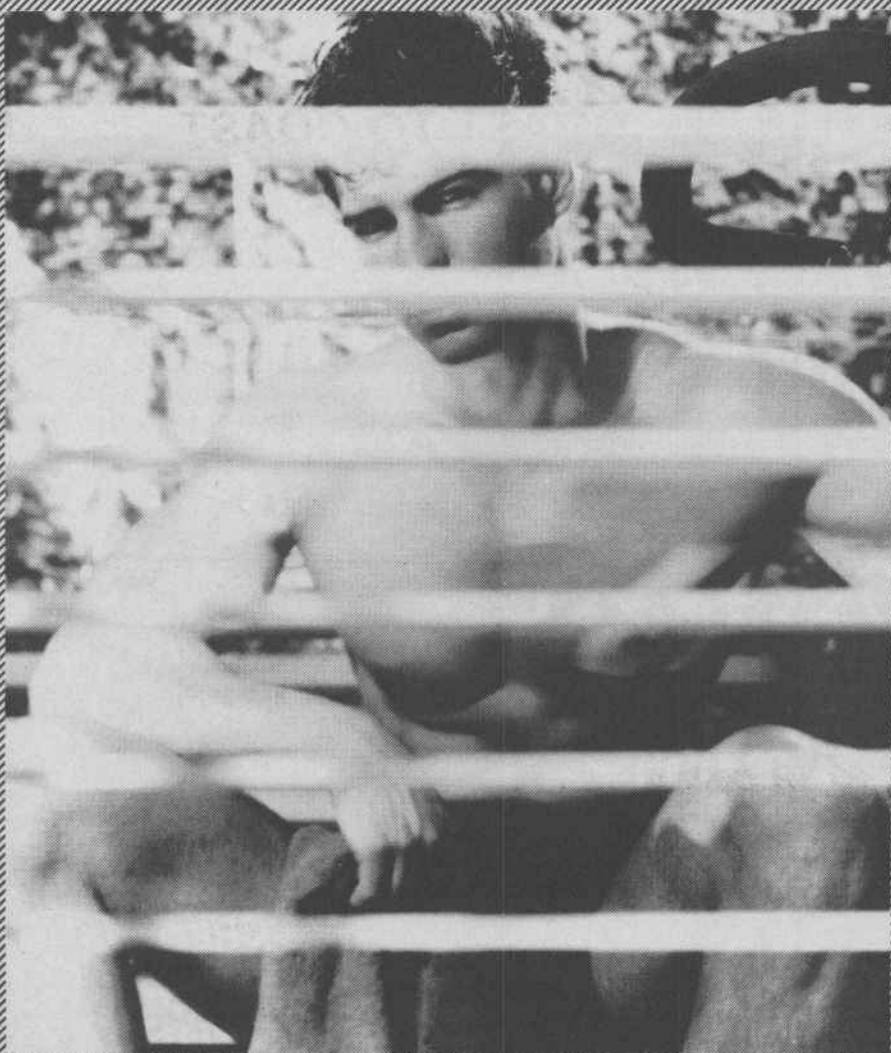
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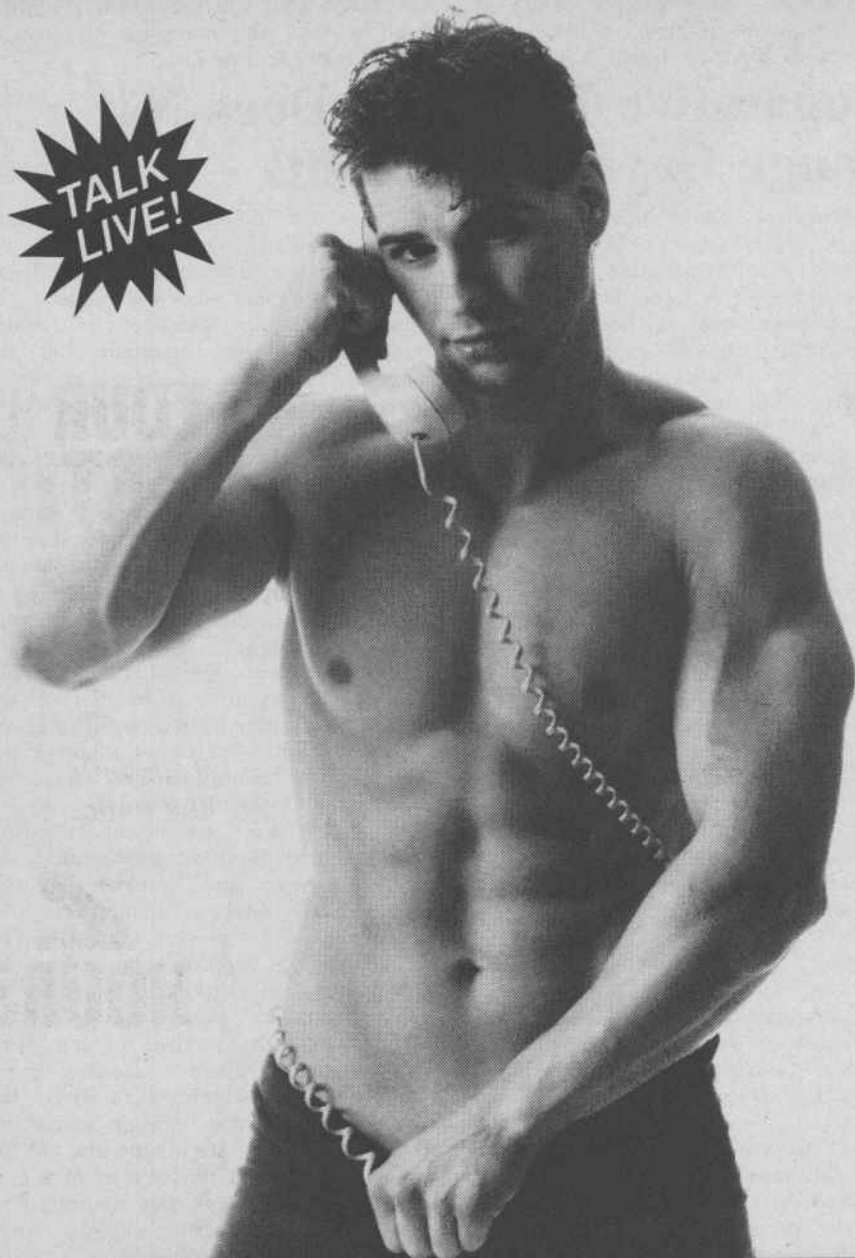
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The Taylor Times: Make Him Special In Your Life

By Brad Taylor

How can certain Gay men have sex with so many other men and not care who the guys are? You have a lot of men out there who are after just one thing. Personally, I think that you should get to know the person first — at least you should care — a little.

Okay, so maybe I am an old fashioned romantic, but it works for me. Some men may feel pressured into having sex, but I don't. If the guy can't get to know me first and show me some type of caring, or at least be able to talk to me, then he doesn't stand a chance with me.

Perhaps some of you may think that I am a total air-head, but I feel that sex should be an expression of caring, if not love. Besides, you stand a better chance of being raped or catching diseases if you pick up a stranger.

I am not ruled by my hormones. I have only one head that thinks and makes decisions. There are too many men who let both heads think — and it's not the upper one that does most of it.

I am young and haven't been around the block as much as some. I have only slept with four men; two were when I was fifteen. I may speak sexually and I may flirt, but when it comes right down to it, I want more than just a quick hop in the sack. I want to know that we are friends, both before and afterward.

Of course there are those gorgeous young men out there who could persuade me into bed without any problem. So I can't and won't say it could never happen. But, I will say that it would really take someone extraordinary to get me into bed without us knowing each other first.

I am not saying that you shouldn't sleep with different men and there may be times when a quick hop in bed is just what's needed. That's fine. Just don't let that be your main concern in life.

I'm living alone now and enjoying every minute of it. I can have whoever I want over to stay however long without worrying about someone coming home. I hope, however, to maintain the principles that I have just written about and that's

what I'm saying — to you and to me. Put sex second, life first. Use the upper head more often. Just think about it.

“Light” To Participate At Block Party

[Milwaukee]- Wisconsin Light, Wisconsin In Step and other Lesbian/Gay organizations will be having a booth at the Historic Third Ward “Best Block Party.” The booth is a gift of Jeff and Judy Posner, owners of Posner's Art Gallery.

The Party will begin at 2:00 on Friday, August 3 and continue throughout the day and evening on August 4. Plan to attend.

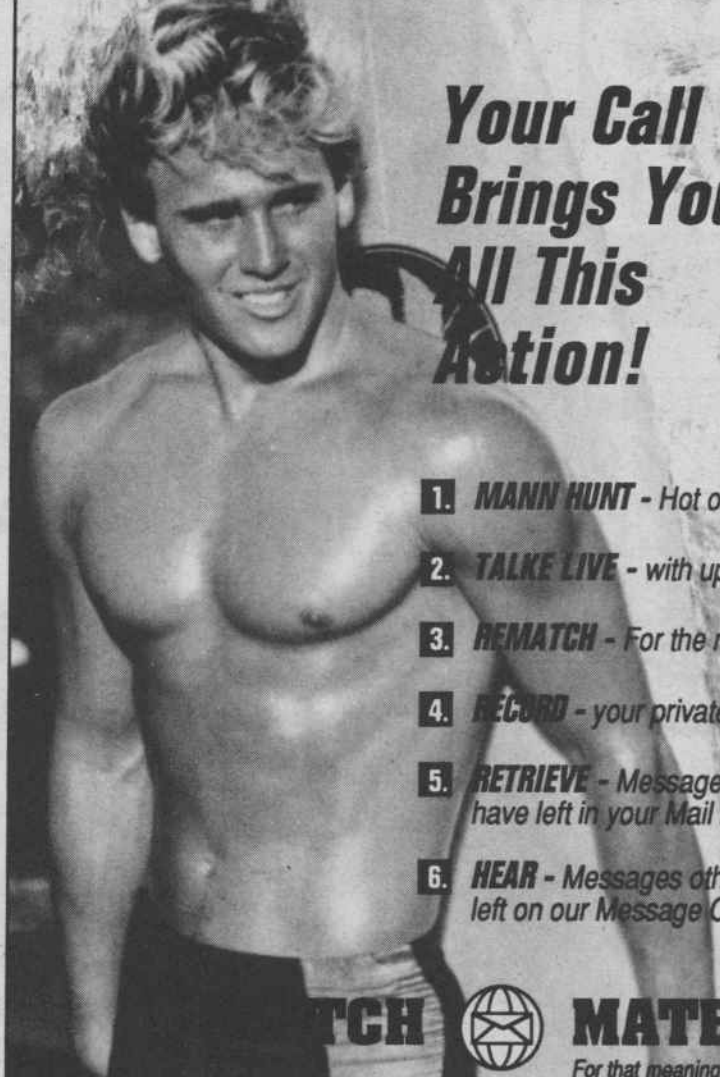
D.C. Enacts Family Leave Law

[Washington, D.C.]- As reported in the Washington Post, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry's office announced on July 17, 1990 that the mayor will sign the Family and Medical Leave Act. The act requires that District employers provide up to four months of unpaid leave to a worker to wants to care for “a family member,” whether it be a newborn child, an ill relative or a Gay partner.

According to the bill, “family member” means, among other things, “a person with whom the employee shares or has shared within the last year a common residence and with whom the employee maintains an intimate relationship.”

Three states including Wisconsin, have laws comparable to the D.C. legislation. But they provide family leave only to workers who need to care for spouses, children and parents.

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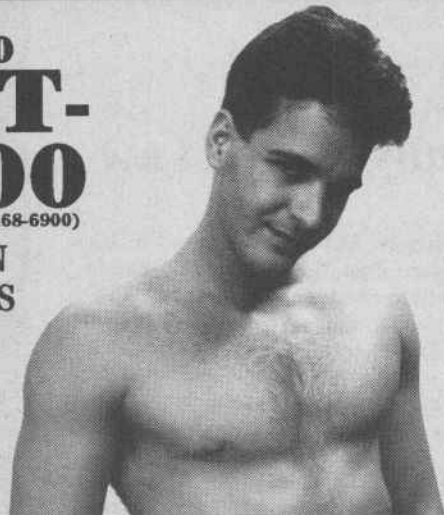
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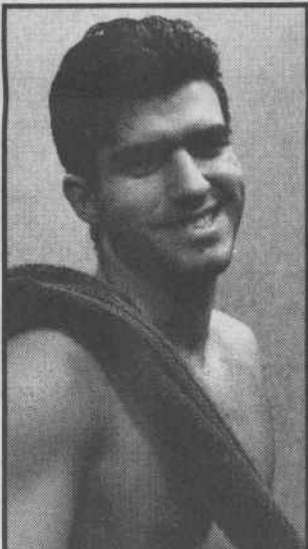
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Fundamentalist Christians Pose Threat To Our Community

By Thomas J. Rondy

Perhaps one of the most potentially frightening phenomena of this day and age is the Fundamentalist Christian movement. They remain the most outstanding threat to the survival of America's fledgling Gay and Lesbian communities as well as Western Civilization, such as it is.

Their general character is adeptly described in a song by Rush called "Witch Hunt": "Quick to judge, quick to anger, slow to understand." Indeed, their adenoidal belief about the connection between Gays/Lesbians and the decline of civil order is one of the highest fruitions of this description.

The major source of the threat they pose is not so much in numbers as in noise. But one can't help but wonder how so many people could have bought their bill of goods in the first place. It must be that a lot of people in this society have a major lacking of satisfaction in the area of existential needs. That's not surprising, considering that this society is about "buy, buy, buy" and little else.

Because consumerism as a way of life is bound to become an unworkable premise, there will, of course, be a great many adults who find out that adult freedom means adult responsibility, both physically and metaphysically, and they don't want to deal with that or, at least, not independently.

The lack of existential satisfaction also creates a greater need for some kind of peer-group acceptance. Fundamentalist Christianity is virtually made to order for these needs; its emphasis on blind following and conformity enables these needs to be fulfilled while creating the pseudo-peace of a deactivated mind.

Its appeal lies primarily in the assumption that things were better in our great-grandfathers' days. But because that is only true on the most superficial level, going back to the ways which unquestionably created the mess we have in the present day would be an unparalleled disaster. Even the most cursory analysis of the present situation shows that "the Good, Old Days" of yore created the problem by refusing to yield to new realities. But the very nature of Fundamentalism entails the exclusion of reason in favor of a pre-dictated dogma. This lack of any real concern for reason in making conclusions about human affairs is quite convenient in the enforcement of patriarchal ("pro-family") values.

Their vision of the universe is as repulsive as it is simplistic. They portray the Supreme Being as a petty, vindictive, and hateful patriarch waiting to reward any non-conformity with showers of thunderbolts. But their pettiness, vindictiveness, and hatred is what makes their cause the danger that it is.

Because we live in a society where either vacuous consumerism or pseudo-hip disillusioned apathy tends to be the norm, a group which is numerous enough to make a great deal of noise can be formidable. Also, since they have the big money of the Far Right on their side, it seems even more appropriate to call them "fundies." They can also summon substantial amounts of human resources on short notice, and they are organized to use all these resources in the most effective possible ways. Like the Nazis, they are living proof that just because someone is stupid or crazy doesn't mean they can't be good tacticians.

Efforts to counteract the effects of Fundamentalist Christianity are beginning to get off the ground, but need funds and participation to be able to continue. ACT-UP is the kind of group that we need to deal with this tide of reaction on a basic level, but there are many other ways to help. The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) does a great deal to advance the cause of Gay/Lesbian rights and finding a cure for

AIDS with their work on the legislative level. Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services in California do more than can be praised in this column by dealing with the casualties of the bigotry perpetuated by the Fundamentalists and their ilk. There is no such thing as a contribution which is too small or too large.

As I am about to send this column to the paper, there's been a new development. The Far Right has begun a massive anti-Gay/Lesbian propaganda campaign; it seems they're not terribly happy about the political clout that Gays and Lesbians have obtained in the past years or so. Just as important is the re-election campaign of Jesse Helms, which is part of this reactionary offensive. In my estimation, the HRCF could use a helping hand right now. Send contributions to: HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20077.

Lakefront Picnic Planned Aug. 12 By BWMT

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) will host its annual picnic on Sunday, August 12, 1990. The reserved site is McKinley Park Area 2 which is located along the lake shore northeast of the Milwaukee Art Center/War Memorial and east of the lagoon. The picnic is scheduled to last from noon to dusk.

The picnic is free and open to all members and friends of BWMT. However, individuals do not have to be a member of BWMT or in an interracial relationship to attend.

BWMT-Milwaukee will be providing the grills and beverages while attendees are requested to bring brats, burgers, buns, chips, etc. for themselves and to share with fellow picnickers.

For further information, call Michael at 265-8500.

Plant Professionals Meet Aug. 9

[Champaign, IL]- Lavandula-Midwest, a regional plant professional organization for Gays and Lesbians, will hold a Summer meeting in the Madison area this year on August 9. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the regional American Association for horticulturists, florists, landscape architects, botanists, educators, plant breeders and plant enthusiasts.

The national organization, The Lavandula Society, has over 320 members from 34 states and, in June, 1990, had a national gathering in Seattle, WA. From information about the organization and meetings, write: Lavandula-Midwest, P.O. Box 2641, Champaign, IL 61825-2641.

Bovine Babes Hold July 31 Fundraiser

[Madison]- It's been a long road for Madison's Bovine Babes, but they are almost there. The Babes are a Lesbian soccer team that will participate in the 1990 Gay Games to be held in Vancouver, B.C. on August 4-11. The Babes plan to leave for the Games on Friday, August 3rd and will have one last "send-off" fundraiser to raise needed money for ground transportation and uniforms.

The fundraiser, a "steamy Summer concert, will be held on July 31 at the Wilmar Center in Madison (853 Jenifer St.).

The good times begin at 7:45 p.m. when the Babes will be showing off their

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new uniforms. Lemonade, beer, mineral water and popcorn will be served.

The Concert, featuring popular local singers, Melissa Birch and Stephanie Galetti, begin at 8:30. There will be a dance following the Concert.

Everyone is invited to attend. Join the Babes and help them GO FOR THE GOLD!

LETTERS Continued from Page 4 P-FLAG.

Yet, it wasn't until he became sick with AIDS that I learned to love and accept Jimmy as a Gay man. Fortunately, Jimmy and I became very close again during his three-year battle with AIDS. And when he died in our home, he was surrounded by loving friends and his supportive family.

Unfortunately, many other persons with AIDS must face their illness alone — because of their family's inability to deal with their homosexuality. And sadly, many Gay men and Lesbians only encounter rejection and painful insensitivity from parents and friends. That's why I'm writing to ask your readers to support P-FLAG's work.

P-FLAG fights homophobia in the media and within religious institutions. It sustains the Family AIDS Project which offers support and information to families affected by HIV infection. Your support will also recruit more parents like me in the battle against discrimination and for increased AIDS funding. Please help.

—Betty Holloran
 Washington, D.C.

Editor's Note: Contributions to P-FLAG may be sent to: P-FLAG, P.O. Box 27605, Washington, D.C. 20077-0038. Please be as generous as you can.

AIDS Continued from Page 1

in the state program. But the principle reason was that several large pharmacies held up bills for months before submitting them for payment. This helped hide the fact that the fund was low.

The financial situation could not have come at a worse time. Not only are AIDS cases increasing, but the Centers for Disease Control is eliminating \$250,000 from the state's \$2 million annual grant.

At the same time, the federal government will cut money to the state for AIDS prevention by \$250,000. This, when according to Elizabeth Burden, MAP's Director of Education and Training, "prevention is the only cure."

Prevention is all the more critical

because studies show many Gay men are returning to unsafe sex practices and there is a "great apathy on AIDS among the young." Nelson said.

Both Nelson and Sharon Otto, President of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, MAP's parent organization, emphasized strongly to the committee the need for increased funding and MAP's ever greater reliance on the private sector to support caregiving for people living with AIDS.

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 GWM, 27, 6', 170lbs. Seeks male to share the basics of life. Varied interests. Photo if possible. Boxholder, P.O. Box 93893, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

GOM, 23, 180cm/74kg, cute, brown eyes, black hair. Like music, disco, outdoor living and sports (jogging) and correspondence. Seeking very special friend in USA. Write Herman Adriansjah, Julian Baluran 24, Malang 65112, Indonesia.

GWM, 28, 5'10" 170# Professional, good-looking wants well hung stud for hot fun. I want to fulfill your fantasies. Uncut and Blacks loved. Discretion always. P.O.B. 344, Watertown, Wisconsin 53094.

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Milwaukee's Lisowski Elected National Officer of BWMT

[Milwaukee]- Michael S. Lisowski was elected Corresponding Secretary of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (BWMT). The election took place at the Association's Tenth Annual Convention held in San Francisco in June.

BWMT is an association of Gay inter-racial group with chapters in 26 cities throughout the United States and connections with chapters in Brazil, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Lisowski's duties as Corresponding Secretary will include opening and/or maintaining communications with various local, state and federal governmental agencies regarding issues of concern to the Gay and ethnic minority communities. He will also be responsible for corresponding with other national and various independent Gay associations, communicating with all affiliated BWMT

chapters as well as with groups expressing interest in starting a new BWMT chapter in their area.

Lisowski, who is the Gay Community Educator for the Milwaukee AIDS Project, is a charter member of BWMT-Milwaukee which will celebrate its tenth anniversary this Fall. In addition, Lisowski has served for the past two years on the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. He maintains the Gay Peoples Union hotline and has served as mentor for the Gay Youth Group for the last nine years.

Silver Space To Hold Annual Picnic

[Milwaukee]- Older Lesbians from near and far are invited to the Second Anniversary celebration of Silver Space on Sunday, September 16, 1990, at Hubbard Park, Shorewood, Wisconsin. Activities will begin with a potluck picnic from 1:30-3:30 in the park. At 3:45 festivities will continue at The Counseling Center with a sing-along, "playsops," and speaker/discussion on "Celebrating Aging," followed by small discussion groups on topics selected by participants. Dinner at a restaurant will conclude the event.

Prizes will be given, including one to the woman who traveled farthest to attend.

Silver Space is a drop-in discussion and social gathering for older Lesbians.

Hubbard Park is located at 3565 N. Morris Blvd. in Shorewood, a Milwaukee suburb. The Counseling Center is at 2038 N. Bartlett in Milwaukee. In case of rain, the picnic will also be held at the Center.

Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass. Grills, charcoal, plates and forks will be provided by Silver Space. Donations of \$1.00 for Silver Space and \$2.00 for the Counseling Center are requested.

For a map and schedule of events send a stamped self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 371, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

ACT-UP Disrupts Minneapolis Parade

[Minneapolis]- 17 members of ACT-UP Minnesota were arrested and charged with "interfering with a parade" Wednesday evening, July 18 at the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade, an annual event in Minneapolis which draws hundreds of thousands of spectators.

The Death Watch contingent of ACT-UP collided with the Parade just before 9:00 p.m. at the intersection of Seventh St. and Marquette Ave. just as the Policeman's Marching Band entered the same intersection.

39 ACT-UP protesters chanted "93,000 dead from AIDS! Get out of the way!"

Minneapolis riot cops ran into the street and began nabbing group members. Two cops came up behind the "Grim Reaper" figure holding the center of the ACT-UP banner and dragged him and the banner to a squad car. Other arrests included Attorney M. Guy Ross and David Maier and 14 others. These were the very first arrests at an ACT-UP Minnesota action.



Jay Hanson (shown before the police broke his arm) posing with a San Francisco Wizard.

Milwaukee's Hanson Graduates From S.F. New Pacific Academy

[San Francisco]- Milwaukee's Gregory Jay Hanson was mentioned in an article in the July 19th issue of the San Francisco Sentinel as being one of the graduates of the New Pacific Academy.

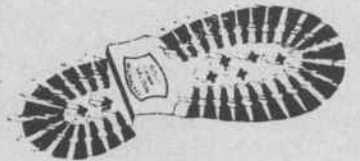
The San Francisco-based academy was founded to train young Lesbians and Gays from across the country for future leadership positions in the community.

Hanson posed for photos with his right arm in a cast. It was broken by San Francisco police during the recent ACT-UP demonstrations surrounding the Sixth International AIDS Conference.

In a graduation brochure, Hanson wrote: "I have worked with the Gay youth of Milwaukee, the Gay and Lesbian community at the University of Wisconsin of Milwaukee, and the Names Project. And as an ACT-UP member I protested the anti-sodomy laws, the Centers for Disease Control, national AIDS actions against health care and the National Institutes of Health in Washington."

Hanson is in the first graduating class.

According to the Sentinel the Academy has already raised over \$200,000 to enable it to offer Summer classes next year for what "in effect is the first Gay and Lesbian university," according to Executive Director Luke Adams.



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