

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



The Wisconsin Light

U.S. Lifts Ban On Gay Immigrants

[Washington, D.C.] Congress, in late October, passed a sweeping revision of US immigration laws which ends the decades-old ban on homosexual visitors and immigrants and lifts the more recent ban on HIV-infected people. The landmark legislation, which contains many other reform provisions, was ushered through the House and then the House-Senate conference committee by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). President Bush is expected to sign the bill.

Clauses excluding those deemed to be of "psychopathic personality" or "sexual deviancy" which have been used against Gays and Lesbians seeking entry into the US, were wiped from the books. The new law lifts the ban on people with mental illnesses such as depression and mental retardation. It also ends restrictions against communists and others deemed politically or ideologically opposed to US interests, policies established during the McCarthy era of the 1950's. (The Secretary of State will retain some discretionary powers regarding people considered national security risks.)

In addition, the immigration reform act reverses the prohibition on HIV-infected people, a clause adopted in 1987 at the instigation of Sen. Jesse Helms. The new law gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) sole authority to determine whether HIV-infected people should be allowed entry. The current Secretary of HHS, Dr. Louis Sullivan, has joined with health professionals from the World Health Organization and the US Commission on AIDS in opposing the exclusion of those with HIV.

Commenting on the significance of the reforms, especially as they affect Gays, Rep. Frank said: "I think we now have the American statute books clean. There are still obnoxious policies, like in the military, but there is nothing statutory that I am aware of now on the federal level that is anti-Gay."

M.A.P. Open House Addresses Women's Health

[Milwaukee]- On Friday, Nov. 30, 1990, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, will host an open house for the general community from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The event will feature representatives and information from 13 local social service agencies that provide services which address the health and social concerns of women. Refreshments will be served.

Some 14 organizations including the Milwaukee Women's Center, the Task Force on Battered Women, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB) and ACT UP Milwaukee will provide women with an excellent opportunity to understand the connection between their social concerns and their personal health and well-being.

The open house is being held in conjunction with World AIDS Day, December 1, 1990.



Impact Of HIV Disease On Women Is Focus Of Dec. 1 World AIDS Day



A large crowd was present at David Clarenbach's pre-election party which was held Nov. 2 at Madison's Cardinal Bar. Among those attending were (front) Dane County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, David Clarenbach, Jo Schlies, Jerri Linn Phillips, (back) Pat Shannon, Ned Winsborough and Lorri Tommerup.

Supreme Court Allows Perry Watkins To Re-enlist In Army

By Jamakaya

[Washington, D.C.] On November 5, 1990, the US Supreme Court let stand, without comment, a federal appeals court decision which orders the US Army to reinstate Sergeant Perry J. Watkins, 35, an openly Gay man. The Bush administration had suggested that the justices overturn the appeals court decision.

From his home in Tacoma, Washington, Watkins said that "without



Perry Watkins

a doubt" he would re-enlist in the Army as soon as possible. He is currently employed by the Social Security Administration.

The high court's action is the culmination of a nine year struggle by

Madison Opens Holiday Safer Sex Boutique

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) has opened a Safer Sex Boutique for the holidays. The Boutique opened its doors on November 5, 1990 at 219 King St. in Madison. The Boutique will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There are three departments at the Boutique. One department features safer sex items, T-shirts, books, condom carrying cases and much more. Another department provides products and merchandise for individuals with HIV. Finally, there is an erotic section for adults. This section will be specifically targeted at Gay men.

There are informational programs and risk assessment programs available on computer. Another computer features treatment alternatives around the country for people with HIV.

Merchants from around the country and locally have contributed items for the Boutique.

Come do your Christmas shopping and support MASN. See you at the Boutique.

Watkins against the US Army which, citing his homosexuality, had refused to re-enlist the soldier.

The Army's refusal to re-enlist Watkins in 1981 came after Watkins had already completed 14 years of distinguished service. He had been drafted in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War. At the time of his induction and during several subsequent interviews and re-enlistments through the 1970's, Watkins revealed his sexual orientation to Army superiors. Yet, the Army took no action against him until 1981.

Last year's decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which the Supreme Court upheld, did not address the Army's overall ban on homosexuals. It emphasized that in this individual case the Army had repeatedly re-enlisted Watkins despite knowing of his homosexuality and, therefore, "affirmatively misrepresented to Sgt. Watkins that his eligibility to re-enlist would be secure throughout his Army career."

The Court of Appeals also noted Watkins' "exceptionally outstanding military record" and stated: "Sgt. Watkins has greatly benefited the Army, and therefore the country, by his military service. In addition, Watkins' homosexuality clearly has not hurt the Army in any way... Equity cries out and demands that the Army be stopped from refusing to re-enlist Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality."

In February of this year, the Supreme Court left intact the Pentagon's ban on homosexuals when it refused to hear the appeal of Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom, who had been denied re-enlistment into the Army Reserves because she is a Lesbian.

But the Supreme Court's most recent action is not viewed as precedent-setting because of the lack of comment from the high court justices and the narrow grounds on which the Ninth Circuit based its decision. However ironic it may appear, despite the order to re-enlist Watkins, the Army's ban on homosexuals remains intact.

Gay rights advocates hope that the public's perception of growing inconsistencies between constitutional guarantees of freedom and equality and the Army's discriminatory regulations will ultimately discredit the Pentagon's anti-Gay policy. Increasing court challenges and recent revelations that the Pentagon itself has found its Gay and Lesbian soldiers to be committed, well qualified, even superior in some respects, continue to undermine the Pentagon's exclusionary policy.

[Milwaukee]- December 1, 1990 is World AIDS Day. This year, there will be an international focus on the impact of HIV disease on women.

This is not only because AIDS is still considered by many to be primarily a disease affecting Gay men, but also because the influence of women on families and women's economic and social productivity have long been overlooked.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that heterosexual intercourse is the main mode of transmission of HIV. Women constitute up to 45 percent of HIV-infected individuals. Overall, at least one-third of all HIV-infected people are women.

The relationships between the life circumstances of many women and the risk those circumstances present for HIV infection are complex. For example, a woman who is physically abused by her partner is generally at higher risk for HIV infection. The reasons are that physically-abused women often, because of the conditions of the relationship, are unable to exercise control over their sexual activity. Therefore, they do not (and cannot) insist on the use of protection, other safer sex practices, or abstinence.

Also, in these situations, there may be the use of drugs which decrease one's ability to enforce decisions and in the case of injection drug usage, may transmit the virus itself.

As of October 31, 1990, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) served more than 350 individuals with HIV disease. More than 13 percent or 50 of these people are women. This represents a 133 percent increase since February, 1990. National statistics indicate that women make up 10 percent of all those with HIV disease.

Worldwide, WHO estimates that over eight million people are now infected with HIV and that a little over a third, three million, are women.

It is expected that 500,000 people will develop AIDS during the years 1990-1991, including 200,000 women. By the end of 1992, a cumulative total of over 600,000 cases of AIDS will have occurred among women. By the year 2000, the annual number of AIDS cases in women will begin to equal that in men.

World AIDS Day is an international day of coordinated action against AIDS. Since 1988, December 1 activities have brought messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS. This year the mission is to bring these messages to more people than ever before.

ACT UP Milw. Plans Nov. 30 Vigil-Procession

[Milwaukee]- ACT UP/Milwaukee is planning a vigil-procession to commemorate World AIDS Day.

The Vigil/Procession will be held on Friday, November 30, 1990 and will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the Reuss Federal Building, downtown Milwaukee, at the corner of Third St. and Wisconsin Ave.

ACT UP is planning two speakers who will speak about the issues of Women and AIDS. One speaker will be Dawn Wolff, a woman infected with the AIDS virus. The second speaker has not been confirmed as of press time.

Following the Vigil, the Procession will progress to the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

ACT UP hopes to generate as much interest as possible so that more women will realize that they, too, are at risk in contracting HIV and AIDS.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**Witch Hunt Underway At US Base**

[Washington, D.C.] Air Force investigators at a US base in Italy may be using threats of courts-martial to force service members into acknowledging that they or their fellow soldiers are Gay, according to the **Washington Blade**. At least 20 people at the base, both men and women, are reportedly under investigation.

Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) has been contacted by personnel at the San Vito Air Station outside Brindisi who report that investigators have used profanity and intimidation in an attempt to identify homosexuals. The victims have also been told that no military lawyers are available to represent them. "It appears to be an old-fashioned witch hunt," said an aide to Studds.

Studds, a leading opponent of the Pentagon's anti-Gay policy, has written to the Air Force demanding an explanation. He also referred the service members under investigation to Frank Kameny, a veteran Gay activist who provides paralegal assistance to military personnel and security clearance holders.

ABA Code Prohibits Anti-Gay Bias

[Washington, D.C.] The American Bar Association has included a ban against discrimination based on sexual orientation in its newly revised Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The code applies to judges around the country and subjects them to discipline if they violate its ethical canons.

Inclusion of sexual orientation was sought by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association following the remarks of Texas Judge Jack Hampton who, in 1988, told newspaper reporters that he had given lighter sentences to convicted murderers because their victims were Gay.

Specific protection in the code means that Gays and Lesbians can expect and demand fair treatment in the judicial system. It also means that judges will be held personally accountable for the prejudicial comments or treatment of sexual minorities.

P-FLAG Wins St. Louis Litter Battle

[St. Louis, MO] Reversing his earlier decision to exclude the group, St. Louis County Executive H.C. Milford has decided to allow the local chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) to participate in a litter clean-up program.

Milford had threatened to dismantle the entire "Adopt a Roadway" program rather than allow P-FLAG to participate. In the program, community groups volunteer to clean up a particular stretch of roadway in exchange for a sign along that roadway recognizing their efforts. Milford objected to the words "Lesbians" and "Gays" appearing on a sign.

P-FLAG kept up the pressure and, when a survey of "Adopt a Roadway" participants revealed that 155 of the 156 respondents said that any group should be allowed to participate and be honored with a sign, Milford relented.

Ohio Hand Holding Case Dismissed

[Cincinnati, OH] Disorderly conduct charges filed against two men for holding hands in their parked cars were dismissed by a Cincinnati judge in late October.

Commodore C. Canyon, 29, and John K. Harden, 28, were arrested in September and charged with "disorderly conduct for creating a physically offensive condition." Their attorney argued that the charge was unconstitutionally vague, while Canyon said that at the time of the arrest, he was merely consoling Harden over a death in his family.

Jim Rogers of the Ohio Civil Liberties Union called the arrest "offensive." He said: "I see this as a direct violation of freedom of association, for two individuals not to be able to sit and talk."

Cincinnati's Gay activists believe the arrests may have been intentional harassment by police and prosecutors. Prosecutors here were in the midst of the trial against museum director Dennis Barrie for displaying the work of Gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Gay Frequent Flyers Sue Continental

[Atlanta, GA] A Gay couple is suing Continental Airlines, claiming the company discriminated against them by refusing to issue a frequent flier companion ticket because they are not married.

Joseph Preis, 53, and Larry Hiller, 50, of Atlanta have lived together 32 years, have joint bank accounts and consider themselves the "spousal equivalent and family of the other," according to the suit filed in US District Court by the Georgia branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The couple planned a trip to London last year and requested the free companion ticket offered through Continental's OnePass program. A company representative said the free ticket could only be issued if the men could produce a marriage certificate because such tickets were meant "for family members only."

Preis and Hiller, who did not take the trip, are seeking \$300,000 in damages.

Episcopal Church Cancels Benefit

[Orlando, FL] An Episcopal Church in Orlando refused to allow its cathedral to be used for an AIDS benefit because the event was to include a performance by a Gay chorus, according to **The Weekly News**.

"I don't believe it's proper at this time for a homosexual group to promote its own cause by offering itself to benefit AIDS," said Rev. Harry Sherman, dean of the Cathedral of St. Luke. "If homosexuals want to come out of the closet and identify themselves, that's fine, but I don't think the proper way to do it is by taking part in an AIDS benefit," he added.

Chorus president David Shuler said of the church officials: "It's really unfortunate that they let their biases get in the way... Our purpose is music, and if people are offended by our music, then I feel sorry for them."

Gay Priest Resigns in Florida

[Fort Lauderdale, FL] Father John O'Hara, a Gay man and Roman Catholic priest for 15 years, has resigned from the priesthood after his archbishop urged Broward County Catholics to vote against a local Gay rights referendum and referred to Gay people as "evil."

O'Hara told the **Weekly News**: "When the archbishop reiterated the traditional teaching of the Church in his letter to the parishioners of Broward County, he referenced Gay people who exercise their sexuality as intrinsically disordered and evil. I'm a Gay man and at that point I decided I'm not going to stay around for his abuse any longer."

O'Hara wrote a lengthy letter of resignation to Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy in which he attacked the hypocrisy and repression of the Church's narrow view of sexuality and the bigotry and vindictiveness of its organizing against the human rights ordinance. He also criticized the Catholic hierarchy for its elitism and its "obstinate refusal" to recognize the needs of Gays and Lesbians.

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.

Gays Make Advances Across the Country in November Elections

By Jamakaya

With the exception of the senatorial debacle in North Carolina, Gay candidates and Gay-related initiatives fared well in the November 6 elections. The following is a run-down of some important contests around the nation.

The long and gallant campaign by Democrat Harvey Ganett to unseat homophobic Sen. Jesse Helms in North Carolina went down to defeat. Helms got 53% to Ganett's 47%.

Ganett tried to emphasize throughout his campaign how Helms hysterical crusades against artists, homosexuals and liberals in general, were diverting resources and energy from the real social and economic needs of North Carolina. He attempted to forge a coalition of Blacks, urban dwellers and better educated whites to support his liberal platform.

Helms responded at the last minute with a deluge of TV and print ads warning ominously of racial quotas on the job and Gay support for Ganett. The racist and homophobic fear-mongering, so emblematic of Helms' career, apparently put him over the top. Gay lobbyists in Washington will continue to have their hands full with six more years of Jesse Helms.

On the plus side, by a margin of 58% to 42%, San Francisco voters approved an initiative which will establish registration procedures for unmarried domestic partners in the city. While the initiative provides for registration, it does not mandate the specific benefits available to municipal employees who are part of such partnerships. A similar measure last Fall which did outline the benefits available was narrowly defeated, largely, analysts believe, because of public concern over the financial ramifications of the proposal.

This year's domestic partners initiative, while more limited in scope, was viewed as more likely to succeed — and it did. Harry Britt, President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and a Gay man, designed and depicted the proposal as a moderate step toward recognizing domestic partnerships. Britt's strategy appears to be one of incremental steps toward public acceptance.

In another test of Gay power in San Francisco, two Lesbian candidates will join Harry Britt on the Board of Supervisors. The victories of Carole Migden and Roberta Achtenberg — Democrats and veteran Gay activists — will bring Gay/Lesbian representation on the Board to 3 of the 11 seats. In addition, Gay activist, comedian and parent, Tom Amiano, won a seat on the Board of Education.

An initiative which would have repealed Seattle's domestic partners ordinance was defeated at the polls. The existing ordinance provides for registration of domestic partnerships and extends sick and bereavement leave to unmarried municipal employees — Gay or straight — when their partners are sick or die. The law was challenged by right wing religious groups.

Seattle was one of the first cities in the country to adopt a Gay rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. That measure was the target of a repeal campaign by fundamentalists in 1978 and, like the most recent challenge, was defeated.

Two openly Gay Congressmen won re-election. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), who was the subject of a recent ethics investigation, easily defeated his Republican opponent by a margin of 66% to 34%. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) survived an aggressive challenge by Republican candidate Jon Bryan who made an issue of Studds' homosexuality. Studds was returned to Congress by 53% of the vote.

Also in Massachusetts, Democrat John Silber, who is President of Boston University, lost his gubernatorial bid to Republican William Weld, quite a feat in a state where Democrats outnumber Republicans by 8 to 1. Silber is infamous for his bad temper and his divisive, often cruel comments regarding Blacks, Gays, women, the disabled and other minorities. A majority of voters polled indicated that their vote for Weld was primarily motivated by disdain for Silber. Many in the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian community, citing Silber's vocal homophobia, actively worked for Weld, who will be the first Republican governor in Massachusetts in 20 years.

Meanwhile, Democratic Congressional candidate Mike Gelpi, a Gay man, was defeated by a landslide in the Ohio district he hoped to represent. In the heavily Republican 12th District, Gelpi lost to incumbent John Kasich by a 28% to 72% margin.

Finally, the victory of Democrat Ann Richards in the Texas gubernatorial race was greeted with enthusiasm by the Gay and Lesbian community there. Richards, who served as state treasurer for two terms, is a fiscal conservative, but an outspoken liberal on social issues.

Texas remains a conservative state, so Richards is not expected to immediately call for abolition of the state's sodomy law. However, observers note that her tolerant attitude and sensitivity to minority groups will be a distinct change of pace from recent Republican administrations.

Please turn to Bill Meunier's column, "Politically Speaking," for further election coverage.

Pride Committee Seeks 1991 Pride Guide Bids

[Milwaukee] Production bids are now being accepted by the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) on the 1991 Pride Guide. Gary Wells, MLGPC President said that anyone interested in producing the 1991 Guide should call (414) 32-PRIDE and request a stat sheet and sample of the project. Bids must be submitted by December 15, 1990. A decision will be rendered shortly after January 1, 1991.

Last year's Pride Guide was a 24-page, two-color, soft cover booklet that contained information about 1990 Pride events, advertisements, maps, pictures and a services directory. Bidders will be expected to quote on the entire job, including printing, ad solicitation and typesetting/keyline (printing and other services can be subcontracted to outside sources, but the bidder must coordinate these services).

Mail bids to: MLGPC, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203. For more information and a stat sheet/sample of the project, call (414) 32-PRIDE.

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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

Some People Still Just Don't Get It

By Jamakaya

It is 1990, isn't it?

I ask for reassurance because I've been reviewing comments and incidents by the media, community leaders and the public over the last year which show continuing and alarming misperceptions about AIDS.

Where do I begin?

Earlier this year, Ed Bradley of "60 Minutes" introduced the Hollywood couple Paul and Elizabeth Claser whose family, in Ed's words, "through no fault of their own" contracted HIV. Grrrrr...

The Milwaukee Sentinel ran an article on its March 31 edition which attributed HIV transmission to "sharing contaminated needles during intravenous drug use and homosexual activity." That is imprecise, incomplete and very misleading information. I wrote them a letter, which they printed, spelling out the facts.

Mark Belling, the reactionary DJ on "Talk Radio" WISN, frequently makes incorrect and malicious statements about AIDS and HIV-infected people. He has repeatedly (and dangerously) aired false information about HIV transmission and openly blames AIDS "victims" for their condition. He attempts to inflame the public against homosexuals and rails against the money spent for AIDS treatment and research, funding which most of us know continues to be grossly inadequate. Mark Belling has blood on his hands.

On a visit to the African land of Burundi, Pope John Paul declared that "AIDS reveals a sort of immunodeficiency of essential values" and that "prevention from the medical point of view is not worthy of man." He repeatedly spoke against condom use on his tour of central African countries, despite data that indicates that up to 20 percent of adults in urban areas in Uganda, Malawi and Zambia — **millions of people** — are HIV-infected. In my opinion, John Paul and the Catholic Church should be indicted for crimes against humanity.

Closer to home, the Catholic Church in Milwaukee also cultivates ignorance and repression. Five members of Milwaukee ACT UP were arrested for disorderly conduct for distributing AIDS information and condoms outside Marquette High School's homecoming dance this Fall. ACT UP ought to be commended for supplying Marquette youth with the vital information that the sexophobic, AIDS-phobic Catholic hierarchy is afraid to touch.

Meanwhile, Cecil Austin, principal of North Division High School, issued rubber gloves to his teachers in October. He claimed it was "an AIDS prevention measure" in case "we might have to deal with situations that involve blood." Doug Nelson of the Milwaukee AIDS Project warned, quite correctly, that Austin's action promoted misinformation



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

and increased people's fear about AIDS.

The recent slashing by Congress of hundreds of millions in AIDS funding intended for direct services to patients is another manifestation of AIDS-phobia. This problem is not going to go away. It is going to intensify. And it is going to take informed, sensitive and courageous people to respond effectively. The fact that vandals desecrated the gravesite of Ryan White while his mother, Jeanne, was testifying before Congress about AIDS funding does not give me hope.

When Dr. Mathilde Krim, a leading AIDS researcher, appeared on local talk shows recently, she was asked the inevitable question by a reactionary caller: "Why is it that so much money is going into AIDS research rather than to more common diseases like cancer?" The caller's tone of voice revealed her obvious disapproval. Dr. Krim answered patiently that HIV, unlike cancer, is an infectious agent whose rapid spread in the last ten years and whose projected growth in the future requires an immediate and massive response. These and other reasonable replies by Dr. Krim had no effect on the caller whose underlying attitude seemed to be: why are "we" paying for "their" disease?

Even more galling has been the response of many of my women friends who can't seem to understand why AIDS should be of concern to women, especially Lesbians. Some of us seem to have taken seriously the old joke about Lesbians being "God's chosen people" due to the lower incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among us. Well, it's 1990 sisters, and the times, they are a-changin'. Such complacency is as smug as it is dangerous.

This mistaken perception that AIDS affects "them" and not "us" was evident in the remarks of Circuit Court Judge David Jennings Jr. when he allegedly called the thousands of volunteers gathered for the first Wisconsin AIDS Walk "that bunch of queers marching around the lakefront."

After ten years, the level of ignorance and prejudice around AIDS remains formidable. Some people, unfortunately a hell of a lot of them, still just don't get it.

Write for Light
Call 372-2773



Jerry Johnson

Corey Grubb (left) can indeed be proud of his new Grubb's Pub restaurant and bar located below the La Cage bar at 807 S. Second in Milwaukee. Corey is shaking hands with his chief, Raymond Suminski.

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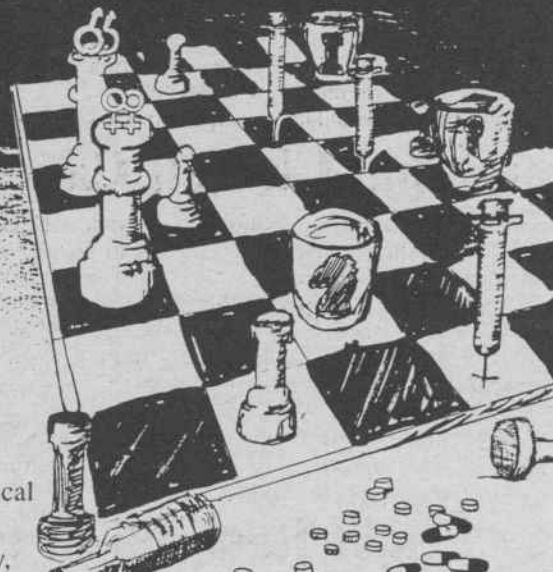
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Statewide: 1-800-334-AIDS
Milwaukee: 273-AIDS

The Milwaukee AIDS Project
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We promote living.



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

The Wisconsin Light



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EDITORIAL

U.S. Must Take Urgent Steps To Solve Foreign Energy Reliance

There is, perhaps, little in recent American history that has revealed the vacuum in national leadership than the crisis in the Persian or Arabian Gulf. President Bush failed to tell us why we have committed human lives and untold amounts of money to the region. He has failed as well, to lead in seeking alternatives to war. As far as we can see, he has no program apart from war.

The reason we are there is oil. There is no other reason. The country is addicted and young people have been sent to die to save the supply.

At the same time, there has been absolutely no effort whatever by the Bush Administration at conservation or to find alternative energy sources. This, in our opinion, makes the Gulf action even more unconscionable than it already is.

Keep in mind that the country has had nearly 20 years to change its hedonistic ways. Keep in mind that the Reagan Administration dismantled the nation's energy program.

Instead, we, a minority of the earth's population, have continued to feast on a majority of the world's resources — oil included — as if we had some right to them — and all at the cheapest possible price.

We think that the following things should be done.

There should be an immediate Manhattan-style Project mounted to: 1) Find and develop new energy sources; 2) engage in a massive campaign directed at energy conservation.

As part of this, there should be an immediate tax on gas of \$2.00 a gallon and raised by 50 cents within a year. The money should be used to subsidize railroads, light-rail transit and other forms of mass transportation.

Congress should be called into emergency session. It and it alone has the power to declare war. The build up in the Gulf so far has been by Presidential prerogative. That prerogative has been increasing and should be decreased — at once.

There should be immediate negotiations, a "Congress of Vienna" held to include all concerned parties. Every question involved in the Mid-East should be open for discussion. Every one.

Once again the U.S. is on the edge of the Killing Fields in Asia. We condemn that utterly. We condemn the build-up to war. The country has a chance to draw back. We think that must be done.

It is sad, very sad, to remember that in the history of the United States, not one decade has passed that the country hasn't been at war with someone. No wonder the Right-wing, Fundamentalist Christians jump on the patriotic bandwagon. War is a traditional American value.

LETTERS

Gay Newsweek

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent also to *Newsweek*, in response to an article in the "My Turn" section titled "Please Return the Word Gay" by Eric Zorn. Zorn is a writer for the *Chicago Tribune*.

If Eric Zorn's request to "return the word 'Gay'" to the English language, free from its link to the male and female homosexual, was granted, it would return the Gay and Lesbian community to a state of total vs. the current selective invisibility imposed against it. The United States culture chooses to ignore issues that affect the Gay and Lesbian community and only with great effort and sacrifice has its unique issues of civil rights, health, economics and family been placed on the social agenda.

The proposed is an erasure of an evolving identity of Gays and Lesbians in order for a writer to have one more word at his disposal that for him, comfortably connotes a combination of the joyous, mirthful, bright, exuberant, cheerful and pleasant.

Such a request demonstrates Mr. Zorn's refusal to recognize members of the Gay and Lesbian community as the embodiment of the joyous, mirthful, bright, exuberant, cheerful and pleasant people that they are. The sorrow of Gays and Lesbians stems from two sources; the first, the unrelenting oppression of prejudice; the second, the challenges of life itself.

I would ask Mr. Zorn if he too wishes to reclaim the word "Black" from its association with the Afro-American community. Surely the term "Black" carries with it the history and politics of a people and in doing so, disrupts its once pure descriptive use of naming a color.

I am sure there are many more words that have been embraced by the marginal cultures in order to claim an identity and create a sense of empowerment. Would Mr. Zorn, a white male, also request that those words be returned to him so that he would not have to recognize other politically and socially painful realities. Given his thesis, I believe he would and that, in my opinion, is unacceptable.

—Maytee Aspuro
Milwaukee

Editor's Comment: Reading the article Ms. Aspuro refers to, one is impressed by Zorn's singular lack of knowledge of the origin of words and most certainly and especially, history. To say the least, these are interesting deficiencies in one claiming to be a writer.

Arts Censorship

TO THE EDITOR:

It was with a great deal of distress that I discovered the organizers of the 1990 Lesbian Variety Show required participants to sign a statement indicating that they would not perform acts Kissing Girls Productions (KGP) deemed inappropriate, particularly S/M. By requiring this signed statement, the organizers of the show create what we, as Lesbians, fear from the society at large: Censorship and restrictions on freedom of expression.

Censorship under the guise of protectionism assumes that the censoring body — whether it be KGP or the US government — knows more about what is right and what is wrong than

individuals themselves. It superimposes a subjective value system onto all who encounter it, thus removing our ability and right to choose for ourselves. Without being exposed to a diverse set of values and beliefs, we will become rigid and dogmatic. Using the Lesbian Variety Show as a forum to promote any ideology may be inappropriate, but selectively censoring the Variety Show is not the solution.

It is not my purpose to support or denounce S/M or any material that the women at KGP perceive as denigrating to women; rather, I wish to point out that, through censorship, the Lesbian community runs the risk of becoming as oppressive as those who oppress Gays, Lesbians and other minorities.

Who decides what is correct or incorrect? This isn't a simple question that the Lesbian community can avoid through censorship. We must operationalize our own definitions through listening to many points of view, not one or several person's subjective opinions. By openly censoring the Lesbian Variety Show, we mask the issues and problems of S/M, racism, able-ism, etc. by pretending we have risen above them. The issues won't disappear through censorship — only through education, dialogue and open forums can we promote change.

Most Lesbians would agree that women (and all people) should have freedom of choice. We fight against the right wing conviction (a la Jesse Helms) stating "because we feel this is aberrant, we will not allow it to happen." In this way, we struggle to maintain our basic human rights. Yet, it seems a contradiction that the Lesbian community, at the same time, moves to restrict the rights of other Lesbians whose ideas are dissimilar from the "Lesbian status quo." By doing so, we create our own dogma and become as inflexible as the conservative forces we oppose.

Imagine our outrage if the UW Interfraternal Council held a talent/variety show on campus, but did not allow Gays and Lesbians to perform on stage. Their argument: "We'd like you Gays to attend; however, we don't want you to perform on stage because some members of our audience may feel threatened by homosexuality." The Gay community would rightfully be at arms.

Censoring acts at the Lesbian Variety Show is no different than the State of Ohio attempting to censor the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe because several of the over 100 photos were considered obscene by authorities.

In the four years I have attended the Show, I've not found any acts to be overly offensive, distasteful or threatening. As well, the Lesbian Variety Show has always been political by its very existence and by the acts performing. Never before has this event been confined to those with the "correct" politics.

This situation makes me recall a discussion with a friend's father. He, as a member of the local country club, said he wasn't racist, but felt, along with his fellow members, that Blacks shouldn't be allowed in the club. He rationalized that "They are different from us, so why should they be included? It's our club and we should have who we want in it." I was appalled, but sat quiet and fuming. This time I can not. Let's not let the Lesbian community become an exclusive club with strict criteria for membership.

—Nancy Getchell
Madison

Georgia Law

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell.

I was at first glad to read in the national media (and in *Wisconsin Light*, last issue — Nov. 1-Nov. 14, 1990, "News Briefs") that you regret your vote in "Bowers v. Hardwick." You cast the deciding vote to uphold the Georgia law criminalizing private, adult, consensual sex and you supported with your swing vote a decision that denies personhood and the fundamental right of privacy for Lesbian and Gay people in the United States.

I thought your misgivings about the vote expressed an understanding of what the decision has meant to us. Evidently I was wrong, because you also said that the "Bowers" vote has not occupied even 30 minutes of your time since you made the decision.

The case brought by Michael Hardwick was not "frivolous." The court's decision has done much damage to Lesbians and Gay men. Since Gay people are so manifestly invisible to most heterosexuals, I have listed below some examples of the impact of "Bowers."

Since "Bowers", at least four men in Tennessee have stood trial for "crimes against nature," that is, consensual sex with an adult partner. Two received suspended jail sentences of five years. Men in other states have gone to jail for similar "crimes."

Since "Bowers," a mother in Georgia was denied custody of her 7-year-old son because, as a Lesbian, she is an unconvicted felon in that state.

Since "Bowers," a woman was prevented from applying for a job with the Dallas Police Department because, as a Lesbian in Texas, she is automatically assumed to be a criminal and unsuited for work as a law enforcement officer.

Lives ruined. Careers destroyed. Families ripped apart. The stories of damage done by "Bowers" go on and on.

Lesbian and Gay men's lives are not frivolous and we are not frivolous people. We are angry and resolute that the wrong you have done us should be set right as soon as possible. We will continue our 25 battles in 25 state legislatures and in 25 state courts to undo your terrible mistake.

Justice Powell, on behalf of Michael Hardwick, who was handcuffed, arrested and spent many hours in jail awaiting release on bail, I ask this of you: Please make sure that your colleagues on the U.S. Supreme Court — the sitting justices — know how you feel about your vote in "Bowers." Your repudiation of your own vote in the case is the strongest argument for a review and a reversal by the court. Help to restore our faith in the ideals of justice and equal protection for all under the law.

—Sue Hyde
Director, Privacy Project
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Washington, D.C.

J.J. Says Bye-Bye

To The Editor:

What a great year! The opportunities afforded me as Mr. Gay Wisconsin '89-90 were endless in abundance, not only as an entertainer, but as an individual. I have met many wonderful people — Ginger and the 219 Girls; BJ and Robert at Signature Salon; Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson; and the numerous entertainers and business owners that I've worked with all deserve recognition and a heartfelt "thanks." Mimi it's an honor to have been your counterpart and I wish you the best.

King Productions sent Carl Cliver and me to the Mr. Gay USA finals in Louisville, Kentucky. Even though I didn't place, I have many booking offers for the coming year. I leave November 6th to tour with Male Order Review, ending with a cocktail piano stint in Florida over the Christmas holidays. The Advocate layout is in the proof stage and will be released after February. Page through Faces International in spring and you will be pleasantly surprised.

I have met many men and womyn that deserve the title of Mr, Miss or Ms Gay Wisconsin. These people aren't in the spotlight. They are the activists, volunteers, and professionals that use their spare time for the betterment of the Gay community.

I have deep respect and admiration for their roles in making all of our lives better and easier to live.

Best wishes to the upcoming titleholders. And to Wisconsin's Gay community.

—Sincerely,
J.J. Newman

LETTER POLICY

Wisconsin Light actively solicits Letters to the Editor on any subject. However all such letters must be signed and contain the writer's address although the address is never printed and the name will be withheld upon request. All unsigned letters, notes and stuff scribbled on the sides of clipped columns will serve as cat box liner.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Victories Show Electorate Is Fed Up With Political Gay Baiting

By Bill Meunier

Now that all the votes are counted, it's time to look at the big winners and the big losers of the November 6th election.

First the bad news.

Besides the Helms victory there were several negatives here in Wisconsin. As predicted, Tom Loftus got walloped by Tommy Thompson. In my last column I said that Loftus would lose by a margin that would remind people of the days when the Democrats ran third to the Republicans and the Progressives. He did. In fact Loftus became the first Democrat since 1946 (the last year the Progressives ran Statewide candidates) to lose Milwaukee County. His loss was expected, but it was disappointing.

Another major disappointment, and a shocking one at that, came with the defeat of veteran Congressman Bob Kastemeier. First elected in 1958, Kastemeier, was considered a sure bet. Even his opponent was shocked. Republican Scott Klug refused to claim victory even after Kastemeier conceded defeat. Best known for his key role on the House Judiciary Committee during the Nixon Impeachment proceedings, Kastemeier was also a staunch civil libertarian and a co-sponsor of the Federal Gay/Lesbian Rights bill.

Homophobic Congressman Toby Roth survived a rough fight against, State Senator Jerome Van Sistine in Wisconsin's 8th Congressional district. Van Sistine ran a good campaign and nearly won in a heavily Republican district.

A strong supporter of Gay and Lesbian rights got booted out of the State Senate. State Senator Joe Strohl (D-Racine) was soundly beaten by his Republican challenger.

On the plus side for Wisconsin Gays/Lesbians was the election of Democratic moderate Jim Doyle who unseated incumbent Attorney General Don Hanaway, a Republican conservative. Also the Democrats added to their seats in the State Assembly, while retaining control of the Wisconsin State Senate.

On the national scene there was more to feel good about. Chief among the positive were clear signs that the liberal wing of the Republican party may be arousing itself from the coma it went into during the Reagan years.

In Massachusetts, Republican John Silber, a member of that state's Republican parties tiny liberal wing bucked the odds and was elected governor.

Down South, two staunchly conservative Republican candidates for Governor lost. In Florida GOP incumbent Governor, Bob Martinez was trounced by his Democratic foe, Lawton Chiles. Texan Clayton Williams lost to his Democratic rival, Anne Richards, despite outspending her and holding a 15 point lead in the polls three weeks before the election.

Georgia's Newt Gingrich, whose homophobia is as bad as Jesse's, nearly lost his seat in the House of Representatives. In Ohio and Michigan, members of the GOP's moderate wing took governorships away from the Democrats.

What the above adds up to, is a resurgence of Republican liberals and moderates, which bodes well for the cause of Gay and Lesbian rights. Don't expect a pro Gay rights plank in the next Republican platform, but do expect that some Republicans will become more supportive, while some of our more outspoken enemies will be neutralized to some degree.

The election of Republican moderates in several states combined with the defeat of Republican conservatives in others and the close calls experienced by supposedly safe conservative incumbents like Gingrich may signal the renewal the 1970's intra party power struggle between the conservative and liberal wings of the Republican Party.

If that happens it would be a plus for Gays and Lesbians. Conservative Republicans who are preoccupied with fighting for the heart and soul of the GOP will have less time and resources to spend attacking proponents of Gay and Lesbian rights. Congressman Gingrich for example will speak with a lot less authority given his re-election margin of

less than one percent. Furthermore, party fights lead to bad feelings come election time and that leads to the party faithful staying home. That, of course, could lead to some conservative Republicans being tossed out.

Old Newt Gingrich, for example, is obviously going to have spend a lot of time mending fences at home and lot less time trying to use us to grab the national spotlight. He knows that he has no room to alienate anyone at this point and that a concerted Gay and Lesbian effort could result in his defeat two years from now.

The major disappointment on the national scene was the re-election of Jesse Helms. The image of the gloating Helms proclaiming that "There is no joy in Mudville, the liberal editors, liberal columnists, and liberal activists have struck out," will remain indelibly etched in my mind for quite some time. While I expected Helms to beat his black opponent, Harvey Gantt, the levels to which his campaign stooped were shocking.

Jesse sank so low, that he needs a ladder to see the tops of his shoes. The Republican controlled State Election machinery sent out post cards to voters in predominantly black wards throughout the State warning that anyone who lied about anything to an election registrar would be jailed. Not one of these was sent to a ward where white voters were in the majority. Confident that they had sufficiently intimidated black voters, the Helms folks ran a series of blatantly racist commercials and topped it all off with massive break downs of voting machines in areas where Gantt was expected to do well. All in all, the Helms tactics were reminiscent of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley in his heyday.

Back on the positive side; the Helms victory was to some extent balanced out by the defeat of Republican Senator Rudy Boschwitz in Minnesota. Boschwitz used up \$7.2 million trying to beat his opponent, Political Science professor Paul Wellstone. Wellstone spent less than \$1 million. Rudy turned out to be a bad investment as he lost a close race to the Democrat. Wellstone will be the most liberal member of the US Senate, in fact he will be as liberal as Helms is conservative. It should be interesting to see them lock horns.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, openly Gay Congressman, Barney Frank, who got involved in a scandal when a male hustler, Steve Gobie, claimed that he ran a brothel out of Frank's apartment with Frank's consent, easily won re-election crushing his Republican opponent by a margin of 66% to 34%. The other openly Gay Massachusetts Congressman, Gerry Studds, was also re-elected, though only by a margin of 53% to 47%.

The election was a mixed bag of wins and losses, but there were glimmers of hope. For example, in Texas, Democratic State Senator Chet Edwards overcame his opponent's homophobic attacks and won a vacant seat in Congress. Republican Hugh Shine attacked Edwards for accepting an award from the Texas Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Edwards won by a surprisingly large margin in what was supposed to be a close race.

The Edwards' victory was typical of most races around the country. With the notable exception of Helms, very few candidates used homophobic tactics in this campaign and for the most part, those that did found that the strategy did not work effectively. The Republican Party in Wisconsin put out a brochure that attacked the Democratic Party for its support of Lesbian and Gay rights, but unlike the 1986 election, Tommy Thompson didn't attack his opponent for supporting us. Maybe the politicians believe the electorate is getting tired of Gay baiting. Some politicians may be getting fearful of Lesbian/Gay wrath at the polls. Whatever the reason, this is a trend that I am sure we all hope will continue.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Gay Cable Program Wins Third Community Programming Award

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network was the recipient of two Philo Awards for outstanding community programming. "Yellow on Thursday's" pilot episode received the award for Best Entertainment Program and the original Tri-Cable Tonight won for Best Community Issue Series.

The Philo Awards were presented by the Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority (MATA), October 26, 1990 at an awards ceremony held at the Astor Hotel Ballroom in Milwaukee.

The "Yellow on Thursday" pilot, a half hour comedy program, featured short skits and commercial parodies with the talents of Jorge Cabal, Joseph Rogan, Allan Kurth and *In Step* columnist, W.W. Wells among others. Executive Producers of the show were Bryce Clark and Mark Behar. The success of the pilot has spawned a series of special "Yellow on Thursday" programs the most recent of which aired in October. Plans are already underway for a holiday edition of "Yellow on Thursday" with a tentative air date of December 13, 1990.

The original Tri-Cable Tonight, a magazine style program which focused on the Gay and Lesbian community, won with a compilation of episodes featuring co-hosts Juana Sabatino and Michael Lisowski. Executive Producers for the show were Mark Behar and Bryce Clark. Plans are underway for a new Tri-Cable program with the first episode to air before the end of the year.

Clark said of the awards, "I am just tickled. We've tried some challenging new things and the effort has paid off. This is the third consecutive win for Tri-Cable and I am very pleased. I think it's important to thank all of the production crew whose hard work makes all of these shows possible. And I'd like to acknowledge the Cream City Foundation for their support."

"Yellow on Thursday" and Tri-Cable Tonight are productions of the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network and can be seen locally on Warner Cable channel 14. The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network receives its funding from the Cream City Foundation.

Vanessa Alexandre and David Pope Win at Pageant as 500 Watch

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- The 20th Annual Pageant was held on Sunday, November 4, 1990 in the Crystal Ballroom of the Marc Plaza Hotel with approximately 500 people attending.

Now, having said that — the vital statistics, as it were, as usual, I sit pondering what to say next; what to say about this glittering annual gala that is new, that is different, that hasn't been said before.

The Pageant is glittering, shimmering with the glamour that comes with gracefully beautiful ladies and stunningly handsome men moving about, talking with old friends and making new ones.

The Pageant is the excitement of a party combined with the thrill and barely subdued tension of a contest all done in the atmosphere of a royal cotillion in some long ago time. It is all of these things and

more.

I have attended five Pageants now and I never fail to be impressed and to wonder at all the work and effort that goes into them. The flowers alone, donated by Tim Hancock of Bloomin' Idiot Florists, are worthy of mention in this regard. So too, the sets — splendid — done by Miss M, Mike S., Jeff and Mike P. Then, there are Mel and Jerry, the Pageant Coordinators who, like all the rest, work their tails off.

For me, half the fun and maybe more, of the Pageant is people-watching (Ronnie Marx, I really don't write down everything I hear — just a lot of it). Rona was beautiful — as always — Miss M, certainly so. But I don't have space for all the rest.

This year's winners were Milwaukee's Vanessa Alexandre, the new Miss Gay Wisconsin and Green Bay's David Pope, the new Mr. Gay Wisconsin. Congratulations to you both.

First Runnerups were Mary Richards from Milwaukee and Michael Bord of West Allis. Congratulations to you both as well.

And a very special congratulations from *Wisconsin Light* to Ron Geiman of *In Step* for the special award. As I've said so often before, how has he done it so well for so long?



Miss Vanessa Alexandre of Milwaukee won the Miss Gay Wisconsin title while David Pope of Green Bay won the Mr. Gay Wisconsin title at The Pageant at Milwaukee's Marc Plaza Hotel on Nov. 4.

Cream City Chorus to Sing At City's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

[Milwaukee]- Wisconsin's Cream City Chorus has been invited to perform at the City of Milwaukee Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The chorus, under the direction of Scott Stephen Stewart, will sing at 4:45 p.m. at Red Arrow Park, directly across from the Performing Arts Center. Preceding the tree lighting ceremony, Cream City Chorus will be caroling at the Grand Avenue Mall on the stairway at the Plankinton entrance at

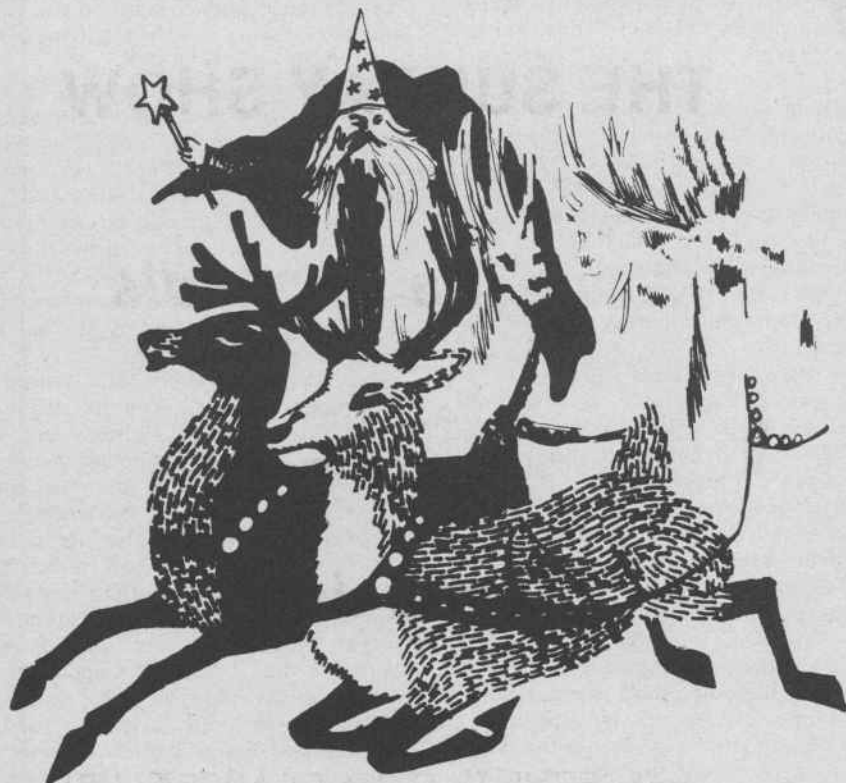
3:00 p.m.

Also on December 1, in addition to the special performance for the city and the Grand Avenue performance, Cream City Chorus will carol at area nursing homes and hospitals; the evening hours will be devoted to its traditional Christmas caroling in community bars and clubs. Proceeds from the evening of caroling will be donated to M.A.P. and Lambda Rights Network.

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Cream City Chorus Plans Dec. 16 Christmas Concert

[Milwaukee]- The annual Cream City Chorus' Christmas concert has been slated for Sunday, December 16, 3:00 p.m. at Centennial Hall on 8th and Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Entitled "A Christmas Fantasy," the concert promises something for everyone. It will offer an exciting afternoon of traditional and not so traditional music, and has been in rehearsal since early September.

Tickets are available through chorus members at \$8.00 in advance, and \$10.00 at the door, or call (414) 344-9222 to reserve your seats for this most excellent community event.

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Madison and Milwaukee Attend 3rd "Creating Change" Conference

[Milwaukee]- Nine Milwaukee area Lesbians were among more than 700 people attending the 3rd Annual National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) "Creating Change" Conference in Minneapolis, MN from November 9 through 12, 1990. Representatives from 40 states and several other countries attended the Conference which is considered the annual gathering of the national Lesbian and Gay political movement.

Plenary speakers at this year's Conference included Barbara Smith, Black feminist writer and activist and co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. Smith focused on the need to be revolutionary rather than liberal, urging coalition politics among People of Color, women and Lesbians and Gays to fight for significant change rather than single issue politics.

Rev. C.T. Vivian, civil rights leader and chair of the Center for Democratic Renewal, electrified the Conference with his challenge for Lesbians and Gays to take leadership roles against the "twin cancers of racism and homophobia."

Popular feminist humorist Kate Clinton, who performs regularly in Milwaukee, closed the Conference on Monday, November 12, with reminders of "our right to laugh," sending the participants home full of hope and enthusiasm.

Forty-five different workshops discussed issues such as domestic partnership, civil rights ordinances, sodomy law repeal, lobbying, "outing," Gay and Lesbian elected officials, anti-Gay violence, AIDS and more.

Wisconsin activists were featured on several panels. Kitty Barber, Spokeswoman for the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), presented information on Traditional Values Coalitions. Dick Wagner, chair of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, described passage of the Wisconsin anti-discrimination legislation. Jim McFarland, alderperson from Madison, discussed domestic partnership issues. Michael Birenbaum, editor of *Changing Men*, discussed the issue of "political

Gayness" for men, urging their involvement in anti-sexist and anti-racist projects.

Various press conferences throughout the weekend highlighted anti-Gay violence, domestic partnership, censorship of homoerotic arts and the National Endowment for the Arts controversy and Gays in the ROTC and the military. Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom was a featured speaker at the Friday, November 9 press conference, discussing her battles with the US Army.

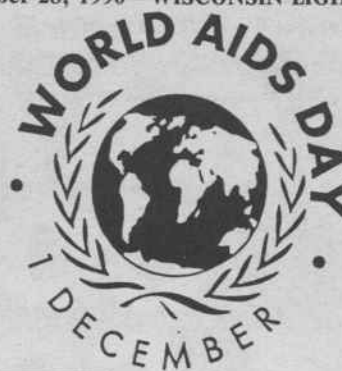
The Soviet Union's leading Gay activist, Roman Kalinin, spoke to the Conference participants on Sunday morning. Kalinin founded Moscow's Gay newspaper, *Tema*. A victim of on-going harassment in the Soviet Union, Kalinin described intimidating tactics by police and the need for moral support of Gay prisoners in labor camps whose "crime" is being suspected of being Gay.

A main focus of the NGLTF Conference was the continuing development of a cross-class, co-gender, multi-racial Lesbian and Gay movement. Representatives of several Native American Gay groups provided a traditional American Indian opening ritual. A full day "institute" focused on organizing for Lesbian and Gay People of Color. Workshops throughout the weekend emphasized building the Gay and Lesbian movement with the widest possible diversity to include all Lesbians, Gays, Bi-sexuals and Transgender people.

Among the Milwaukee women attending the four-day event, someone attended nearly every workshop. Kitty Barber of LAMM said, "We brought back a tremendous amount of information. I learned more at the NGLTF Conference to become a more effective organizer than I've learned in 16 years as an activist."

LAMM members are planning a series of articles on topics presented and discussed at the Conference. Three members of LAMM attended a one-day fund-raising intensive workshop and hope to present a mini-workshop for the Lesbian and Gay community.

The 1991 Creating Change Conference of NGLTF will be held November 8-11, in the Washington, D.C. area. For further information on NGLTF, write to 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. For more information on this year's conference, contact LAMM at (414) 264-2600.



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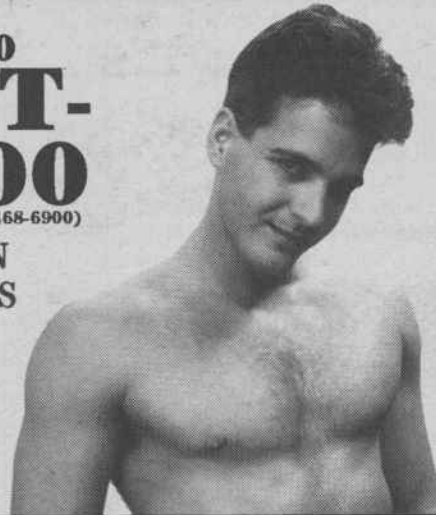
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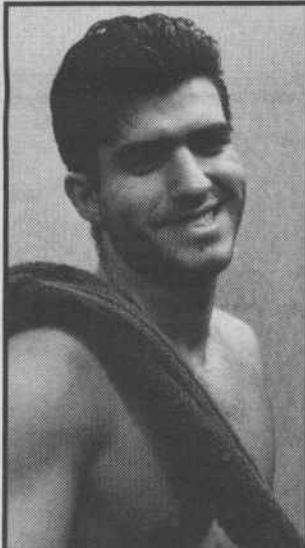
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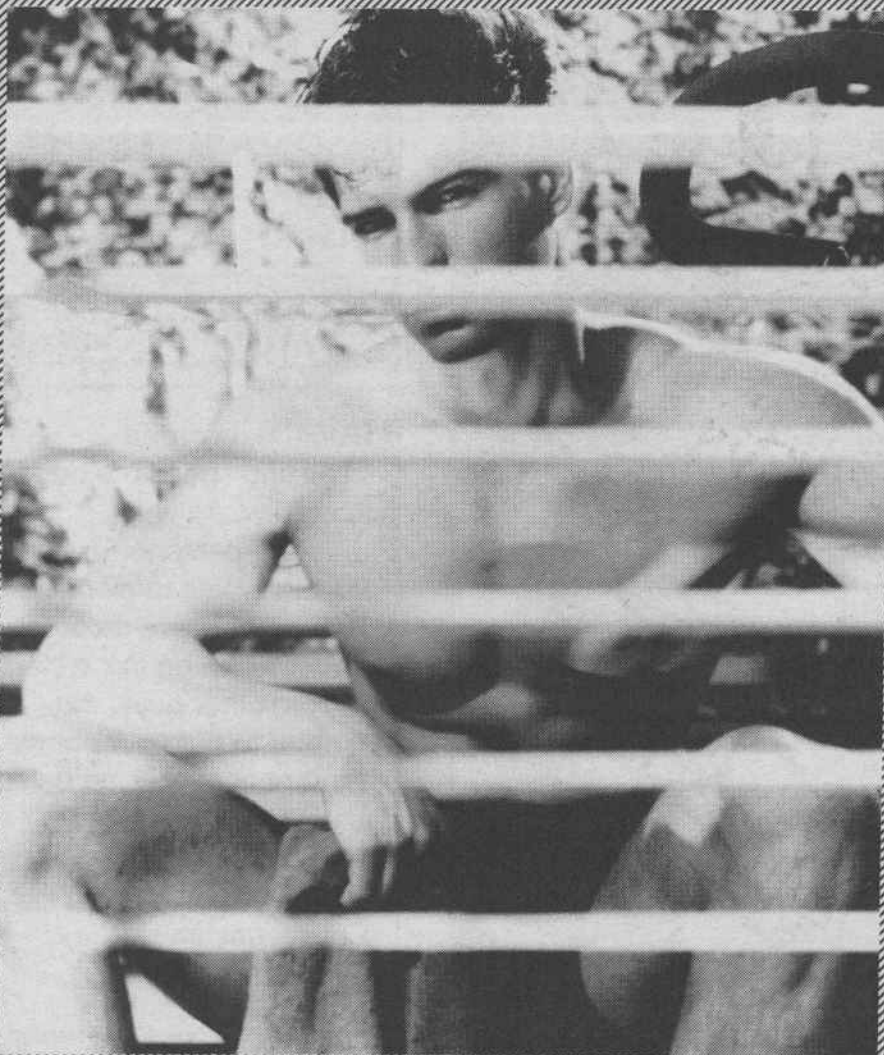
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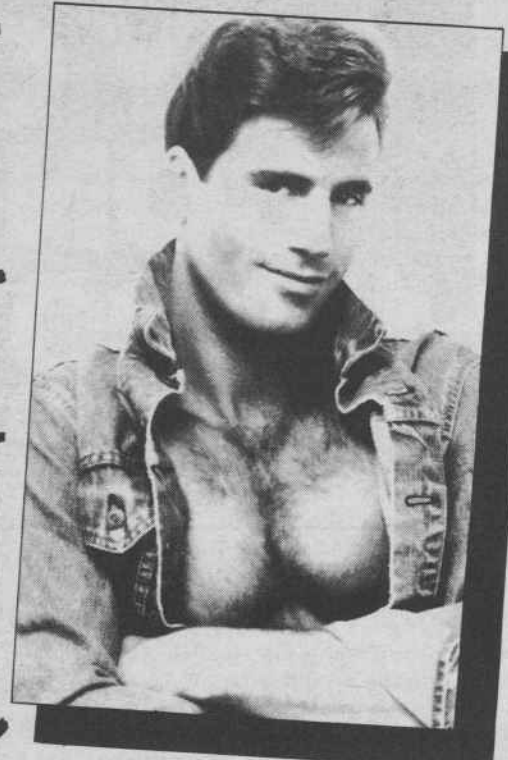
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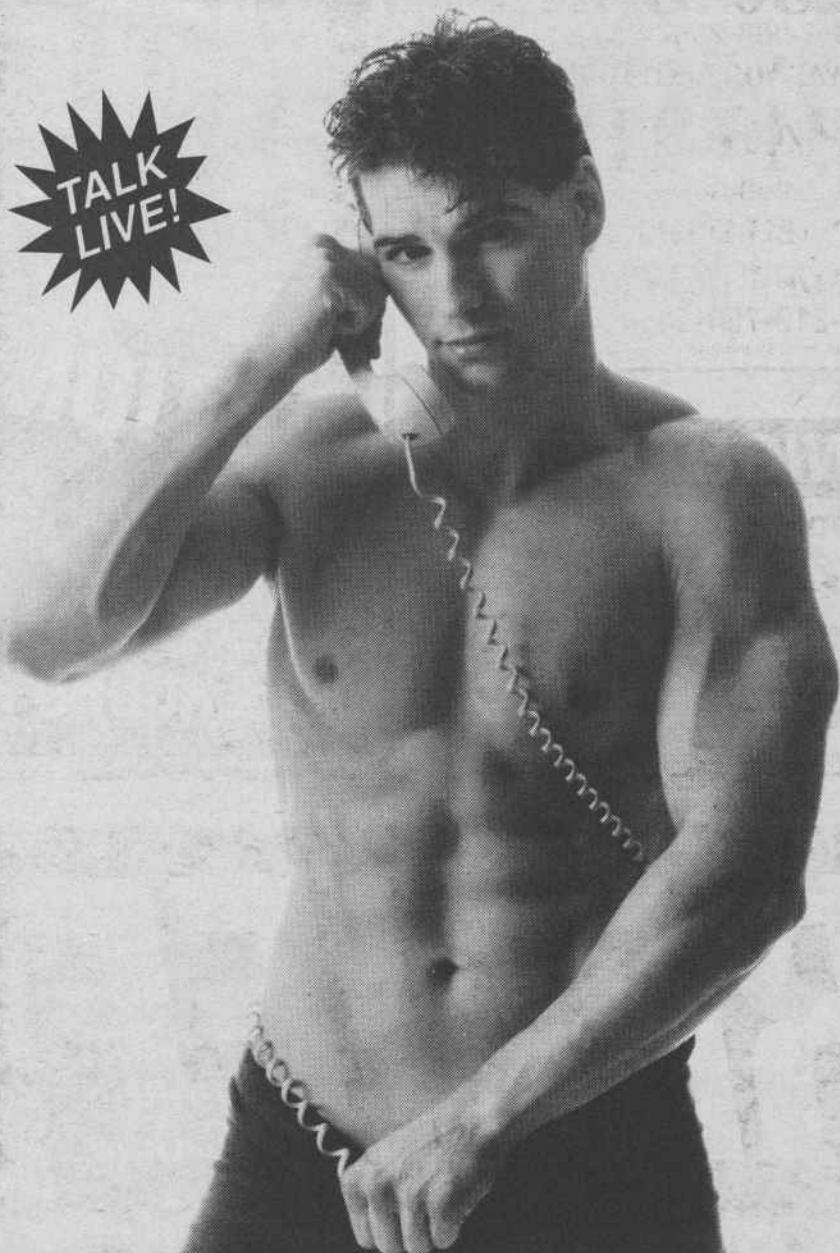
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Grubb's Pub Offers Excellent Food From Lunch Time to Bar Closing

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- The atmosphere of the new Grubb's Pub is soft and intimate. The blue and pink neon lighting throughout, reflected in the mirrors along the walls, gives the restful illusion of dining under the sea.

Jerry and I went for lunch and both agreed that the food was excellent.

We began with home-made potato chips. I'm a potato chip freak, believe me, and these were delicious. They were fresh, warm and the portion was more than ample for two. They come with an option of two dipping sauces; bleu cheese or Ranch. I like mine with salt alone, but Jerry had his with Bleu cheese and pronounced it superb.

Every day, Chef Raymond Suminski offers a different soup special. It was mushroom the noon-time we were there. The soup was hot with a savory, creamy stock that didn't overpower the large and generous chunks of mushrooms; absolutely delicious.

The "Grubb Burgers" were done to order (I like mine rare). They were thick, juicy and served on big, fresh, crusty rolls with all the fixings (if you like), big slices of crisp dill pickle and chips.

There are other varieties of burgers as well as marinated chicken breast, fish steak and Italian sausage sandwiches — and, of course, Brats. There are also a variety of snacks offered including "Wings of Fire" chicken wings, buttered mushrooms, pizza or garlic bread among other things.

We had coffee, before, during and after the meal, but wine, beer and mixed drinks are available.

We found the service friendly and very efficient, yet there was no feeling of being rushed at all. The prices are entirely reasonable. Our bill came to \$8.75 for two.

Grubb's Pub is brand new — open only since Nov. 7, 1990 — is located at 807 S. Second St.; the same building as La Cage, but on the lower level. There is a Grand Opening planned for December. The name comes from Corey's last name.

The hours are 11:00 a.m. to bar close on week days and noon to bar close on weekends and food is served at all times. It would be, I think, just the place for lunch or for something to eat during a night out. The music is subdued, nice for that quiet conversation.

LAMM Meeting Topic is Sexually Transmitted Diseases

[Milwaukee]- Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) will be the topic of a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1990. The meeting will be one week later than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday. All Lesbians are welcome.

Speakers, Sharon Devitt and Doreen Munson, will define and discuss various types of STD's and their symptoms, how they are transmitted and acquired and how they can be prevented. This will include a discussion of women and AIDS.

Devitt, who has a Masters degree in the history of medicine, has given many presentations and workshops to the Gay and Lesbian community at UWM over the years.

Munson is an undergraduate student in psychology. Both have a strong interest in the health and welfare of women and believe that information and education are essential to STD prevention.

The program will be preceded by a potluck at 6:00 p.m. Speakers and discussion will be from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the business meeting to follow. LAMM programs are held at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St., just south of Locust St.

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Smithsonian Institution to Display Gay Rights Political Artifacts

By John Zeh

[Washington, D.C.]—The prestigious Smithsonian Institution has formally accepted artifacts from "the cause of Gay rights political activism" documenting the struggle of Gay men, Lesbians and other women "working together to gain equality."

Museum officials inexplicably delayed the announcement of the acquisition, despite National Museum of American History Director, Roger G. Kennedy's acknowledgment that it "represents a significant part of the political history of our time."

Veteran Gay activist, Vernon Mitchell of Marina del Rey, CA, donated several artifacts he collected — notably, a unique banner from the National Organizations for Women's April, 1989 March for Women's Equality and Lives in Washington.

Smithsonian Curator Edith P. Mayo initiated the new acquisition when she saw the banner in the March.

Then why has the museum kept quiet? "There's always controversy," said Supervising Curator Dr. Keith Melder.

Kennedy welcomed Gay, Lesbian and feminist leaders to a private ceremony

October 24, 1990 in his Conference Room during the week Congress considered the Smithsonian's funding. Invitees included officials from NOW, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund among others.

Three days later, museum officials breathed sighs of relief as Congress approved \$327.8 million, well above the Bush Administration's request.

New Yorker, Karin S. Schwartz, who directs GLAAD said, "We're used to thinking of the Gay and Lesbian movement in terms of discrimination... and oppression. This is a recognition that our community creates history... it is also about celebrating who we are."

The Smithsonian ceremony acknowledged "that the relationship between the Gay and Lesbian movement and the women's movement is one that is both inextricable, necessary and intimate," said Rosemary Dempsey, chair of NOW's Lesbian Rights Committee.

For now, the items will be stored in a non-public area, but will eventually be part of a display on social protest.

Milwaukee H.I.T. Bowlers Raise \$6,700 in Fundraiser to Help M.A.P.

[Milwaukee]—The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT), in cooperation with the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), hosted a bowling fundraiser on October 20, 1990 at 1:00 p.m. at Red Carpet Regency (76th and Florist). Fifty-four bowlers participated and over 200 pledges were received totaling over \$6,700.

The Triangle Bar hosted a post-fundraiser banquet in which prizes were awarded to Mark LaCount for the most pledges received (74), to Debi Vance for the highest dollar amount of pledges received (\$1,054.38) and to Tommy Ricklefs for the event's high score (211).

Thanks goes to all bowlers and pledgers for making this first annual event a huge success. Also, special thanks to Al Thomas and the Triangle Bar staff for hosting the banquet; Chastity and Friends for the comedy show following the awards presentation; Bob Gliniecki for graphics; MAP personnel for their help in organizing the event and the Red Carpet Regency for their support and assistance.

HIT had designated that 50 percent of the net amount received will be donated to MAP. The check will be presented to a MAP representative at the HIT '90 banquet to be held November 24, 1990 at

Milwaukee's Marc Plaza hotel.

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Publications
Oral History Anti-Gay violence report documents how homophobia hurts. George Bush signs the Hate Crimes Statistics Act protecting Gays and Lesbians. Audio cassette, pix available. Send \$2 for catalog (applied to order) to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009-4510.

Gay/Lesbian Radio Send \$1 & SASE for updated list of programs for and about us to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009-4510.

Help Adolescents achieve responsive, fair schooling. New reports reveal ways Gay and Lesbian teens can be treated better by peers and adults at school. Send \$5 to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009-4510.

Barney Frank gets Frank Congressman Frank's "State of the Gay and Lesbian Union Address" to 20-year-old Washington Gays. Audio Cassette, \$6 to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009-4510.

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Remember the Laughter, the Gaiety— Let's Get Reacquainted!

By Maytee Aspuro

Not too long ago, I confessed to a friend that my immediate goal in life was to stop being so damned intense. I had no idea of how to go about it. I just knew that it needed to be done. A voice inside me, dormant in the past, began to whisper and then to shout encouragement. Surely someone who could learn calculus could learn the ins and outs of fun-making.

For me, habit did not allow looking beyond the immediate crisis. And there was always a crisis. I don't think I am alone in this reality. Many Lesbians are involved in the field of social service, health and education. We are often the caretakers. We work to heal the damage done to ourselves, our sisters, our children, our families as well as to strangers. Our days are long and intense. Afterwards we go home.

For some, the pain travels home with us; the issues do not subside. It is difficult to remove the weight of our jobs compounded by the weight of our personal lives. If in a relationship, our partner must learn to give transition time. If one's partner is in a similar state of being, the struggle is magnified.

Given such a life, how do we relax? Alcohol and drugs numb many of us, perpetuating our problems. Those in recovery attend meetings to maintain their sobriety. The awareness of our struggles is not easily forgotten. Relaxation is a commodity that is difficult to obtain.

Others delve into sports. From softball to bowling to volleyball, as the seasons change, Lesbians move along a sports continuum. Whatever it takes to release our stress, our anger, our frustrations, we do it.

Not that participation in sports does not help to network, celebrate and feel a connection to our community, but for some Lesbians, there is nothing else. It becomes a different kind of addiction. To have idle time is dangerous. One may begin to think and feel and break apart because of all the strings attached to us, pulling us in different, incompatible directions.

For some Lesbians—and I include myself—solitude is the method of coping. Unfortunately, solitude, if not managed, becomes isolation. To completely separate ourselves from day-to-day demands in the short run may be necessary, but in the long run, the world becomes brittle and cold and what is vital to life, the sensation of a touch, be it emotional or physical, is devalued or worse, forgotten.

Our lives are too intense and, in some ways, we have become expert in surviving vs. living. We dig deeply trying to resolve issues that have no immediate resolution and find no satisfaction in our efforts. We allow ourselves no respite. In our "leisure time" we attend professional meetings, political meetings; we gather with purpose and resolve.

When do we laugh? I find no greater pleasure, no greater balm than being admist women's laughter. Women have many ways of expressing humor.

I have enjoyed the smiles, the glee, the capacity for whole-hearted irreverence displayed by otherwise very serious Lesbians. I have walked away from a gathering, hurting because the laughter was endless. Nothing of traditional, tangible importance was accomplished. No women's shelter was funded. No rape

crisis line was staffed nor a political agenda established. It was a relief.

The Lesbians with whom I shared an isolated moment of time work no less than 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. In addition, some are devoted to the task of raising children. Others are looking into a mirror, clarifying the woman they see in the reflection. But their laughter is expressed without apology.

It is a painful world for those with a clear vision. In spite of this, we must take the time to play. We must gather with no greater motive than to enjoy each other's company. We must give ourselves the time to forget the unforgettable. We must learn from Alison Bechdel's "Dykes to Watch Out For", making room for the laughter that resides deep within our hearts and bellies. We cannot do otherwise.

If there is to be a renaissance of the Lesbian community, we must get reacquainted. We must set aside our personal political agendas and rediscover gaiety. We are rich in our diversity and though it is a cliché to say that our diversity should be owned and celebrated, I repeat it none the same. One way to do so is to be mirthful. Let there be high spirits and merry making. Let us play games. Let us remember the laughter.

MASN Celebrates World AIDS Day

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) will be commemorating World AIDS Day, Saturday, December 1, 1990, with a special fundraiser titled "You Make A Difference Day."

Nearly 60 stores throughout Madison will donate 10 percent of their gross sales on that day to MASN. A list of the participating stores can be found on posters put up throughout Madison and distributed to many organizations.

By patronizing the stores listed, you can help make a difference in your community.

For more information about the fundraiser or about AIDS, call MASN at (608) 238-MASN (6276).

OBITUARIES

VITO RUSSO

[New York, NY]- Vito Russo, noted film historian and Gay activist, died in New York City on November 7, 1990 of complications due to AIDS. He was 44 years old.

Russo wrote the classic film study *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies*. It was first published in 1981 but was recently reissued in an updated and expanded version.

Russo conducted ground-breaking research into Gay and Lesbian characters and subtexts in the movies and, over the last 20 years, presented his findings at hundreds of film festivals, colleges and museums in the United States and around the world. He also wrote extensively for newspapers and magazines, both Gay and mainstream publications.

Russo was a veteran Gay activist, having joined New York's Gay Activists Alliance in 1970. In the 1980's, he



Donald Krueger

became a founder of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a watchdog group that monitors Gay images in the media and society at large. Russo was also very involved in AIDS fundraising and advocacy.

Russo was preceded in death by his partner, Jeffrey Sevick, for whom he designed a panel in the AIDS Memorial Quilt. His parents, Angelo and Angelina, and a brother live in New Jersey. He is further survived by a community of millions of Gays and Lesbians whose lives and culture have been affirmed and enhanced by his work.



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SPLAT!

I'M NOT I'M NOT I'M NOT!

WAIL!!

BWAAAH!

WILL OUR LACHRYMOSE HEROINES MANAGE TO OVERCOME THIS SOGGY STATE OF AFFAIRS? GODDESS KNOWS...UNTIL OUR NEXT POIGNANT EPISODE!

GET OUT OF HERE! NOW! GET OUT AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

HARRIET! DON'T CRY!

OH, HARRIET, JEEZIE! I'M SO SORRY! I'LL CLEAN IT UP! I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN! I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER ONE!

I DON'T WANT -SOB- ANOTHER TOMATO!

I WANT YOU-HOO-HOO! -SNORT!