



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

# The Wisconsin Light



T. RIZZA  
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# NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## St. Patrick Six Found Guilty

[New York, NY]- Six members of ACT UP/New York have been found guilty of numerous charges related to their controversial demonstration against Cardinal John O'Connor at St. Patrick's Cathedral last December.

The six defendants were found guilty of some or all of the following charges: trespassing, disrupting a religious service, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. During the trial, Judge JoAnn Ferdinand forbade the defendants from discussing AIDS or their motives for the protest. Several defendants were threatened with contempt of court. Sentencing is set for January.

The 1989 protest, which drew more than 4,000 people, was sponsored by ACT UP and the Women's Health Action Mobilization (WHAM) to draw attention to the Catholic Church's anti-abortion, anti-safe sex policies. Some protesters entered St. Patrick's distributing condoms and laying on the floor. One protester allegedly threw a communion wafer to the floor, an act which met with criticism from Gay leaders.

## MCC, Jewish Center Fire-Bombed

[San Francisco, CA]- A fire-bombing in the early morning hours of November 16 caused \$1,000 in damage to the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in the Castro district of San Francisco. The church hosts a predominantly Gay and Lesbian congregation.

According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, four days after the MCC was attacked, a similar fire-bomb was lobbed through the front window of San Francisco's Jewish Community Center. A sprinkler system quelled the fire and minimized the damage there. No one was injured in either bombing and no group has claimed responsibility.

In July, the offices of the MCC in Knoxville, Tennessee were torched, leaving more than \$30,000 in damage.

## Tables Turned on Homophobe

[Iowa City, IA]- Jeff Renander, the homophobic editor of the University of Iowa's *Campus Review*, has filed a complaint with the local Human Rights Commission, charging that a restaurant discriminated against him on the basis of his sexual orientation.

Renander and the *Campus Review* are well known for their anti-Gay views. Renander had distributed the infamous poster of a sling-shot wielding Bart Simpson, "AIDS Activist," yelling: "Back off faggot!" until ordered to desist by "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening.

According to the *Advocate*, when Renander and friends stopped at the Sanctuary Restaurant and Pub, popular with the Gay community, waiter David McKown Williams refused to serve him. Said Williams: "I looked him in the face and said 'I know who you are and based on attacks you have made on Gay and Lesbian people, I am not willing to wait on you.'"

## AIDS Poster Wins Art Award

[New York, NY]- A controversial AIDS poster has won the prestigious Brendan Gill Prize by the Municipal Art Society of New York City as the piece of art that best captures the "vigor and verve of New York City," according to the *Advocate*. Gran Fury, the art collective and AIDS activist group responsible for the poster, won \$5,000 and a Steuben crystal award as part of the prize.

The poster features several same-sex, mixed sex and interracial couples kissing each other under the legend: "Kissing Doesn't Kill: Greed and Indifference Do." While New York City recently honored the poster with an award, Chicago's Common Council earlier this year attempted to ban the poster from being displayed on Transit Authority vehicles. That attempt failed.

## D.C. Community Center Closes

[Washington, D.C.]-The *Washington Blade* reports that an eviction order has forced the D.C. Gay and Lesbian Community Center to close its doors after eleven years of service as a meeting place and drop-in facility for Gay people. The Center owed more than \$24,000 in back rent.

Financial problems began in the Summer of 1988 after the Center moved into a newer, more spacious three-story townhouse. Rent and utilities totaling almost \$6,000 per month could not be met by the member groups who shared the space or through fundraising projects.

Center president Bob Roehr also cited internal bickering by Board members and lack of support from the community at large for the demise of the Center. The Center was home to the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, Gay political organizations and others.

## GM Apologizes For Anti-Gay Ad

[Detroit, MI]- Robert Stempel, the Chairman of the General Motors Corporation, has offered a written apology for a GM advertising campaign in which foreign-built pickup trucks were referred to as "little faggot trucks."

According to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, Stempel sent his apology to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors after the Board threatened to cancel GM's half million dollar contract with the city.

Stempel wrote: "I fully understand your concerns and I want to assure you that this singular unfortunate incident does not reflect General Motors' policy toward Lesbian and Gay people. The excerpt is offensive and, therefore, had no place in any GM activities."

## AIDS Commission Criticizes NIH

[Washington, D.C.]- A recent report by the National Commission on AIDS which severely criticized the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its AIDS drug research efforts has been challenged by an NIH oversight committee.

At a hearing in November, Martin Hirsch, chairman of the NIH's AIDS Program Advisory Committee, asked Dr. June Osborn, chair of the AIDS Commission: "How can you justify a report that doesn't address some of the good things accomplished by NIH?"

The AIDS Commission report was released in August. It indicted the NIH for its tardiness in expanding AIDS treatment research, the "lack of results" from the much ballyhooed AIDS Clinical Trials Group, and the underrepresentation of women and minorities within those drug trials. The report urged the NIH to speed up its investigation of drug treatments and to address the broader issue of "lack of access to primary care services" for those who are HIV-infected.

Dr. Osborn, defending the Commission's findings, told the NIH Committee: "This is the nice version of the report. I don't want to apologize for it. This is the consensus opinion of the National Commission on AIDS... you ought to listen real hard to what we say."

## Gay Poet James Merrill Honored

[Washington, D.C.]- Openly Gay poet James Merrill has been awarded the newly created Rebekah Bobbitt Prize for Poetry from the Library of Congress for his 1988 volume, *The Inner Room*. Merrill, 64, will receive a cash award of \$10,000.

Recognized as one of America's greatest poets, Merrill has previously received the Bolingen and Pulitzer Prizes and the Medal of Honor for Literature from the National Arts Club. Some of his work is published in the 1982 book, *The Changing Light at Sandover*.

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.

# Rev. Sheldon Could Be Blessing In Disguise to Enlightenment Cause

By Bob Bernstein, Ph.D.

In his apparent yen to replace Jerry Falwell as the political messiah of American Fundamentalists, Rev. Lou Sheldon could turn out to be a blessing in disguise to the cause of general enlightenment.

Sheldon is a California-based Presbyterian minister and founder of the "Traditional Values Coalition."

An important plank in his moralistic platform is the promotion of so-called "Reparative Therapy" — counseling programs designed to "cure" homosexuality. On the surface, it sounds like bad news, but there's a silver lining that could engulf Sheldon's dark cloud. By making a public issue of "reparative" efforts, he is helping to cast a much-needed spotlight on a hitherto dark corner of misguided psycho-theology.

In practice, the so-called "ex-Gay ministries" are too often the engines of psychological and spiritual destruction. The "cures" are, at best, highly suspect and, to understate, their failures are tragic. Decent human beings can be driven to extremes of self-deception, denial, repression and even suicide when faced with threats of hellfire and damnation.

The Medical Director of the American Psychological Association says, "Homosexuality is not a mental disorder. Reparative Therapy has no standing in the scientific community and there is no unambiguous evidence that it can have any effect on deep-seated, same-sex feelings."

The public discussion has already drawn needed attention to the work of

clergy who have recognized the dangers in conversion plans. The Rev. Sylvia Pennington, a Pentecostal minister, works full time at her own "Reparative" mission, undoing psychological damage caused by the "ex-Gay ministries."

Pennington's latest book is entitled **Ex-Gays: There are none.** In it she writes:

"To those who try and convince me of these things, (that Gays and Lesbians can be cured) I tell them to see me in 5, 10 or 20 years and I'll try to put the broken pieces of their humanity together as I've done for many years. The inevitable human fragments will have been shattered through the years of denial, repression, pretense and pietistic ideals. Many people are damaged, maimed, scarred or killed by the well-meaning ex-Gay ministries."

One such was Jack McIntyre, a Californian who signed up with a ministry called "Love in Action." He killed himself a year later at age 45 because, according to his suicide note, "No matter how much I prayed and tried to avoid temptation, I continually failed."

A devout young Catholic Lesbian who spent a year in one of the programs wrote "The worst part was that the so-called ministry really took away my own sense of spirituality."

**Editor's Note:** The above article appeared in the December, 1990 issue of the newsletter of the Lakeshore chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). This is only one of many articles appearing in the Lesbian/Gay press nation-wide attesting to the dangers as well as the ineffectiveness of "ex-Gay ministries."

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**plwa coalition** PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS OF WISCONSIN

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

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## Bush Signed Immigration Law Revisions Affecting Gays

By John Zeh

[Washington, D.C. —GLINN]— President George Bush on November 29 signed what some consider the most significant revision of America's immigration law in 66 years, reversing a ban on homosexual and opening America's doors to people with HIV infection.

The new law "enhances America's singular advantage as an international magnet for eager and talented people," Bush said, sidestepping its true significance. "Several outdated and restrictive immigration exclusion grounds are lifted," is how he acknowledged the revision's notable reforms.

The new law drops automatic exclusion of people infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) thought to cause AIDS, letting the Executive Branch decide whether to include it as a disease keeping people from entering the country. The AIDS immigration restrictions were legislated by newly re-elected Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) in the last Congress.

The new law also implements a new form of relief, "Temporary Protected Status" for natives of El Salvador and others who cannot return to their native country due to war "or other extraordinary conditions."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and other progressive lobbyists were not invited to the signing. The conservative press, including the new issue of *New Dimensions* magazine, have skewered Bush for inviting homophile groups and other "radicals" to White House ceremonies when he penned the Hate Crimes Statistics and Americans with Disabilities acts.

"The world is watching to see whether Bush will strike AIDS from the list of illnesses now that 'Congress has removed any excuse' for barring people on that basis," said NGLTF's Robert Bray.

He called on citizens to pressure the President to implement his own "call for AIDS compassion of people with action, namely, deleting HIV exclusions from government immigration policy."

The White House Opinion Line can be reached at (202) 456-1111.

It was Barney Frank (D-MA), aided by progressive lobbyists, overturned the 26-year-old ban against homosexual immigrants and helped assure access to the U.S. for people with HIV infection as the 101st Congress concluded its harried final session.

The law's last-minute HIV amendment rewords the exclusion policy used by INS officials to bar visitors and immigrants with HIV. "Dangerous contagious diseases" are changed to a new category called "communicable diseases of public health significance," with the Secretary of Health and Human Services naming the troublesome illnesses.

"The fight isn't over until (Louis W. Sullivan) issues that list," said Chai Feldblum, AIDS lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union. "But one would certainly expect — and hope — that HIV would not be on it."

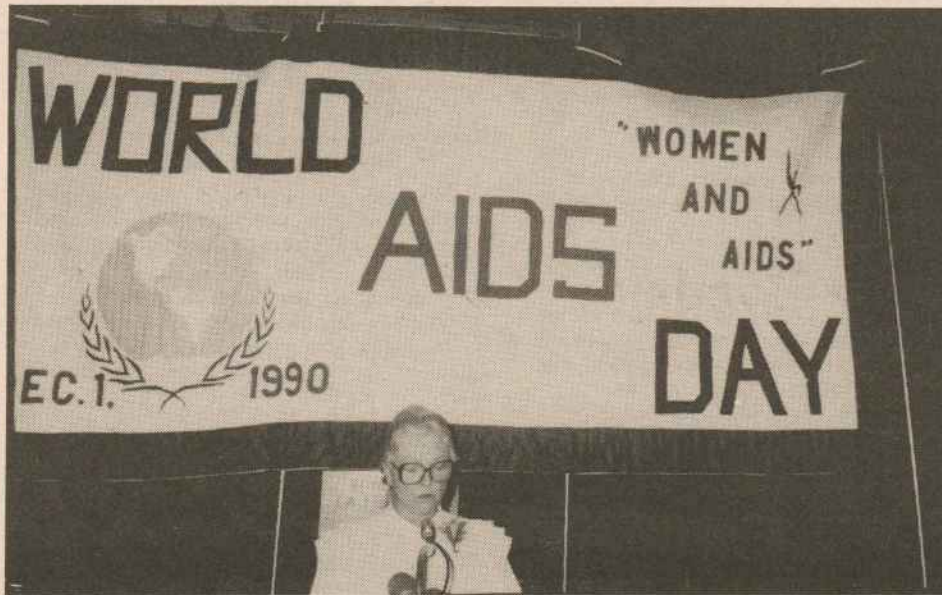
While Frank's effort to repeal the INS ban on Gays and Lesbians is not a new battle, moves to lift the one affecting people with HIV began within the last two years.

HIV was added to the list of restricted communicable diseases by Congress after Helms amended the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1987. His measure has been used to bar U.S. residents from applying for naturalization as citizens and to exclude tourists, refugees, students, and those with special visas to teach or do research.

### Happy Holidays

from *The Wisconsin Light* staff. As is our tradition, *Light* will not be published between Christmas and New Years. Our next issue will hit the streets January 10, 1991. That issue will include many, previously unpublished photos as *Light* takes a look back to 1990.

# Dane County To Lose Two Openly Gay Elected Officials



Nancy Graham read to a crowd of over 200 at Madison's Dec. 1 World AIDS Day gathering at the State Capitol rotunda.

## Milwaukee AIDS Project 1991 Budget Is \$2 Million

[Milwaukee]— The 1991 Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) budget has soared to \$2,092,097, a record level for the Milwaukee area AIDS agency that was established by Gay and Lesbian volunteers six years ago.

MAP Executive Director Doug Nelson characterized the budget as "preparing well for the worst of the AIDS epidemic that is yet to come."

The two million dollar MAP budget was approved by the Board of Directors of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), MAP's parent corporation, on November 27, 1990. The Board also approved a \$338,790 budget for the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project, another ARCW-affiliated AIDS agency located in Kenosha. In total, the ARCW budget stands at \$2,430,887 for the new fiscal year beginning in January, 1991.

"We are building an agency that delivers the best service to our clients and the community," Nelson explained, "and we are determined to be well-prepared for the worst that can come from the AIDS epidemic. That's a promise we shall keep."

Nelson said that the new MAP budget is a 33% increase over 1990 and is "absolutely necessary if we are to continue to expand services to our clientele that we know will double in 1991."

Nelson said the budget funds 15 professional case managers at MAP to assist a clientele expected to exceed 700 by the end of 1991. "Our commitment to case management staffing is the foundation of our client services program," Nelson said. "Without it, hundreds of people with HIV disease would not gain access to the health care

and social service system."

Nelson explained that the new client services that were begun in 1990 would be expanded in 1991 to meet a growing demand for services. These include: free legal service, emergency financial assistance, the food pantry, and client recreation opportunities. The 1991 budget also funds new client services including: holistic health therapies, health assessments, a client drop-in center, and additional support groups.

"Our budget for all client services in 1991 tops \$630,000," Nelson explained. "We know this is the growth area of our budget and we are prepared to increase it to the extent necessary to deliver services to all people affected by HIV disease."

Nelson said that \$800,000 of the budget continues to support crucial AIDS prevention efforts in the Gay community, among injection drug users and prostitutes, and throughout the Milwaukee Metro area. "We continue to receive major government grants to conduct unique AIDS prevention outreach to high risk populations," Nelson stated. "The government knows us, trusts us, and because of our highly multi-cultural staff, has confidence that MAP is best equipped to successfully carry out these important prevention programs."

According to Nelson, \$131,000 of the budget will be allocated for volunteer recruitment, training, management, and recognition. "We cannot keep pace with the AIDS epidemic without highly effective volunteer support, and this budget guarantees that we will have such support."

The 1991 budget supports a MAP staff of 45 FTE's, a SEWAP staff of 12 FTE's.

TURN TO MAP, PAGE 19

## Eliason Sued for \$12.5 Million By Former U.P.I. Reporter

[Washington, D.C.]— Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, along with the District of Columbia law firm of Bernabei & Katz, on November 29, 1990, filed a \$12.75 million lawsuit on behalf of a reporter for United Press International (UPI) who was fired after a right-wing, Christian Fundamentalist broadcaster brought pressure on the news company to get rid of her because of her sexual orientation.

The suit, filed on behalf of Julie Brienza in the federal district court of the District of Columbia, charges UPI, Milwaukee broadcaster Vic Eliason, and Eliason's company, the Voice of Christian Youth, Inc., with unlawful employment discrimination, invasion of privacy and violations of Wisconsin's "hate crime" law.

The law under which the suit is being brought in Wisconsin was authored by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

When contacted by phone and told about the suit by member of the media, Eliason reportedly listened until the account was finished, said "That's interesting" and promptly hung up.

Eliason is based in Milwaukee and can be heard on TV-Channel 30, WVCY which

he owns. He is one of the hosts of a call-in program called "In Focus" aired week nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Eliason, who claims to be a Christian, owns four radio stations, one in Milwaukee (WVCY-FM) and two other TV stations in other parts of the country. According to *USA Today*, his several stations together pay \$200 a week to UPI for services and, according to a high placed source in the local Milwaukee media, UPI rents Eliason's satellite dishes.

Brienza worked for UPI for four and one-half years, most recently as a U.S. Supreme Court reporter in UPI's Washington Bureau. In March, 1990, after ensuring that free-lancing work was authorized, Brienza agreed to write an article about the influence of the religious right on broadcasting for *The Washington Blade*, a D.C. Lesbian and Gay news weekly.

In researching the story, Brienza learned of Eliason's efforts to defeat a proposed Wisconsin civil rights law extending protections to Gay men and Lesbians.

For anyone not familiar with Eliason, TURN TO ELIASON, PAGE 19

[Madison]— The Spring elections will see the departure of two openly Gay elected officials from the Dane County political scene.

Jim McFarland, who will graduate from the UW Law School in May, has announced that he will not seek re-election to another term representing Madison's 8th District on the Common Council. Earl Bricker, while not up for re-election until 1992, has chosen to resign from the Dane County Board of Supervisors a year early due to an increase in job-related responsibilities.

First elected in a special election in 1986, McFarland brought national attention to Madison through his efforts to secure recognition of domestic partner relationships. His hard work in this area indeed resulted in one of the few such ordinances in the nation. McFarland was also an active member of the Alcohol License Review Board, serving as Chair for the past year.

Bricker has served as a Dane County Supervisor since being elected in 1988, representing Madison's 9th District. He has been a member of numerous committees, serving as Chair of the Children, Youth and Families Committee, the Real Estate and Space Needs Committees and a Task Force on Mental Health Needs of Southeast Asian Refugees.

"It's just too difficult to try and do it all anymore," stated Bricker. "I've always been a believer in citizen democracy, and bodies like the County Board are naturally appealing to me. However, holding down a very demanding full-time job and trying to maintain a semblance of a personal life were increasingly taking a back seat to County Board issues. As it's contrary to my basic work ethic to do anything halfway, it's better for me and for my constituents that someone with energy and fresh ideas take my place."

"This is just a break," Bricker stressed. "I intend to remain active in local politics, and I would be foolish to rule out a future race for office. I just need to focus on my work right now."

Formerly the Executive Director of the Madison AIDS Support Network, Bricker started working for the UW's Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis in October, 1990. His resignation is effective December 31, done to set the stage for his successor to be chosen by election. It is expected that s/he will be appointed by the Chair of the County Board, Richard Wagner, to fill the seat until the election in April.

"While both Jim and Earl will be missed from the political scene," said Wagner. "I'm sure both will remain involved in projects that will benefit Lesbians and Gay men."

"Madison and Dane County have sent a message to the rest of the country that Gay men and Lesbians can win election without denying their sexual orientation. I'm confident that this will continue into the future and I'm committed to recruiting Lesbians and Gay men as candidates for public office," Wagner continued.

There remain four openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials in Dane County: Richard Wagner and Tammy Baldwin, County Supervisors; Ricardo Gonzalez, Common Council member; and John Neess, Shorewood Village Trustee.

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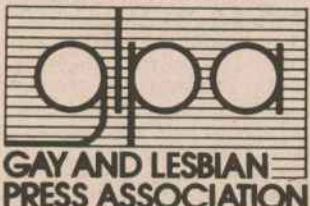
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# LETTERS

## Mother Learns

### TO THE EDITOR:

**Editor's Note:** The following letter is from the mother of a man who died of AIDS. It was sent to the Rev. Karen Ducham, Pastor of MCC-Tampa, Fl. It has been printed in "The November News" of MCC-Washington, D.C. and in "Identity", the newsletter of Integrity/Dignity of Madison.

Two years ago, any letter you received from me would have been one of hatred and condemnation. My son was "properly" put out of the house when he told us he was Gay. Our Pastor advised us in the methods of "tough love", cutting off our love to Bob until he changed his ways and stopped his sinful behavior. We did not see our son for three years, when we were informed that he was in the hospital dying of AIDS.

Bob did not die and my Pastor told me that God was giving me a second chance to save my son's soul from the fires of hell. I was to go to him, stay with him and save his soul by bringing him to Christ.

I went with Bible in hand and a missionary determination.

I moved in with my son and stayed with my son for the next eight months, determined to be with him wherever he went that I might change his ways and guide him toward the right path before he died.

I was with him when he picked up food. I found I had brought my Bible with me, but nothing for the pantry.

I was with him for him when he went through a period of chills. I had brought my Bible, but the next-door neighbor brought him an afghan to wrap around him.

I was with him when one of his friends wasn't doing well and having trouble keeping food in his system. I offered to read to his friend from my Bible, but Bob, instead, cooked him a special dinner that he ate and was able to keep in his system long enough to get nourishment.

I was with him when he went to church. I took my Bible of course, and prayed that words would be uttered which would get my son back on the right path. Instead, my son was hugged and kissed and loved.

**I FINALLY REALIZED THAT MY HANDS HAD BEEN SO BUSY HOLDING ON TO MY BIBLE THAT I HAD NOT...IN THE SIX MONTHS THAT I HAD BEEN LIVING WITH MY SON... NEVER ONCE TOUCHED HIM.**

I hugged my son that day for the first time in 3 1/2 years. The God my son knew so well, was not the God I had heard so much about or the God I was striving so hard to introduce Bob to.

I came that day, many months ago, to save my son; and praise God and your community! **MY SON SAVED ME!!** (sic)

I pray that you will not have to deal with many more parents such as the one I used to be, and if I meet any I now have a lot of positive things to share with them.

**GOD LOVE YOU ALL!**

—Margaret

## Milwaukee Talking

### TO THE EDITOR:

Around a month ago I wrote a letter to the producers of "Milwaukee's Talking." I suggested to them that they do a show on the problems of Gay and Lesbian teens for Gay and Lesbian teens.

"The Isolated Life of Gay and Lesbian Teens in Milwaukee" was aired on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1990 at 10:00 a.m. on Channel 12. The panel consisted of three teens and two peers. The three teens were Sadie Benning, Roger Persaud and Chris Fons. The two peers were Michael Lisowski and Kathy Herbst. There was also a support group in the audience who also did a great job. A few of these were Mike Scharber, Chip and Tracy Zwijacz.

I'd like to add that the panel all gave quite a positive appearance and seemed un intimidated by the audience or TV cameras.

I believe this show caught some attention and opened a few eyes and ears. (But) I wasn't happy with the chaos. It just seemed like the producer and the host had their heads in too many places and didn't seem very prepared for the subject.

To remedy this, I think the panel deserves a round of applause. Their efforts to try and steer the show in the right direction were fabulous.

I'm disappointed that I wasn't able to be part of the panel because I wasn't informed in time. I'm lucky to have been there at all. Thanks to Mike, I was at least able to watch my dream slowly coming true.

I hope that we can all save other teens like us or like we once were. I hope we can strive to eliminate suicides, alcohol and drug abuse because of confused Gay and Lesbian teens who believe they're the only ones.

If I would have had the chance to say a few words on the show, I would have said the only words the panel didn't.

"Hey! All you teens out there! Keep your chins up. We're here for you."

Support the Gay and Lesbian youth!!

**We are the future, the unique and PROUD!**

I Luv you all.

—Tracy Zwijacz [Taz] Grafton

## Kissing Girls

### TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to Jamakaya's review of "I Got This Way From Kissing Girls 5." This is purely a personal reaction to her review, which I write with mixed emotions. I am not representing Kissing Girls Productions, as I don't believe the other producers have even had the opportunity to read Jamakaya's review yet. I am speaking strictly for myself.

Jamakaya raised many good points and valuable criticisms in her review of our show. However, I believe that much of the derogatory commentary she made was in an unfortunate vacuum of information. Many of the issues she raised we were aware of even prior to the show. We made certain decisions pertaining to her complaints for a variety of reasons. It is unfortunate that Jamakaya didn't spend a bit of time addressing these concerns with the producers prior to writing her article. I think then perhaps, I would not have to be writing about my reactions to her article and explaining some important circumstances leading to our decisions, myself.

First, I want you to know that I'm a little tired of putting on a flack jacket to deflect criticism from the media, audience, performers, artists and general Lesbian community following each year's show. Mind you, I truly value the feedback we receive. YOU are what makes us tick. However, I guess that I wish Lesbian criticisms weren't delivered so harshly. It's hard to be welcoming of such feedback during and immediately following the show, especially after coming off such intense work.

Furthermore, though I have come to learn that I have to produce the Lesbian Variety Show because I want to... it would be nice to feel some sense of balance in feedback. Goddess help me, that my ears would delight in hearing a few words of thanks without a "but" attached.

I am personally thankful for the Lesbians who come up to me and say "nice job", "The Lesbian Variety Show is the event of the year" (and other remarks). These are small, but important acts of appreciation that make producing this event even more worthwhile. Nobody but the three producers have any idea of what kind of time and energy it takes on a year-long basis to get this show organized and then finally off the ground.

As to Jamakaya's review, the producers would be the first to agree that the show was a marathon. Remember, we're the ones that are there all day, along with the wonderful Lunatech womyn. We had an enormous dilemma in deciding what to do about the length of the show. We had never received so many applications... it was year five and everyone wanted in.

Knowing how important our five-year celebration was to area Lesbians, us included, we just couldn't say NO to people who applied prior to the application deadline. Who would we say "no" to without getting further involved in censorship issues?

Secondly, we worked diligently to cultivate some connections with the womyn of color community and desperately wanted better representation in this year's show. Many of these acts were incorporated into the show after the deadline.

Though Jamakaya's review addressed the still unfortunate under-representation of African-American womyn, we had more womyn of color participate in the wider range of weekend events than ever before. Also, let's not make invisible the other womyn of color who performed. Pacifica-Asian-American, Latina, Jewish and Native American Lesbians participated as well.

I'd have liked a shorter show too, but not at the expense of losing womyn of color or anyone else wanting to participate. I think for one night our butts can handle it. Since most of the audience remained throughout the entire show, we kept checking, I know that I am right. I also know that we will be devising some different way of dealing with this issue for next year; it was already on our agenda for 1991.

Now a few personal comments on Jamakaya's harsh attack on Maxine Aft-Feldman's performance and place as Special Guest MC. Maxine is a Foremother of the Womyn's Music and Performance industry... she is a living example of Lesbian Herstory. The specific focus of her Sunday workshop was to explore with dykes, young and old, Womyn's Music Herstory. Max was extremely pleased with the attendance at this event.

The question of Maxine's current name familiarity is moot. Without the Maxine Feldman's of the world, who knows if a Lesbian Variety Show like ours would even exist. I refuse to believe that we should only bring in the current "cream of the crop" artists for Guest appearances.

At our first show, Alix Dobkin, another name unfamiliar to many young Lesbians, made a surprise appearance. Should we have turned away yet another Lesbian Foremother? I think not. There is value in the herstory of Lesbian Culture... it is a necessity to keep Herstory alive.

In fact, Jamakaya ended her review with a writer's note that spoke of her regret in being complicit in the erasure of Lesbian talent by respecting the requests of certain performers

to remain out of the press. I do not understand the inherent dichotomy of such a statement, with her apparent willingness to erase Maxine simply because she's not a well-known performer in the '80's. I also think Jamakaya is mistaken about Maxine's familiarity, even to young dykes, as she often MC's daystage activities at The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival and others like it.

For those who didn't know Max... it was an introduction. Unfortunately, Max has been unable to sing for the last three years due to serious health considerations. We would have loved for the AMAZON QUEEN to sing her own material. Instead, we sang in tribute and thanks to her.

One last criticism I have for Jamakaya. You have been a vociferous and ardent supporter of accessibility issues for visually impaired, hearing impaired and physically challenged Lesbians. This has been important and consciousness-raising work, which I personally appreciate.

KGP has made an on-going effort to upgrade our response to Lesbians with special needs. This year the Art Show and Poetry Readings were held in an accessible building, more front row chairs at "The Show" were reserved for Lesbians with these challenges and their friends, announcements and a few acts were interpreted (next year we hope to interpret the entire show), and for the first time, Braille programs were available. Of course, we always state our case to the Barrymore about accessible bathrooms and hope to have some kind of solution next year.

Jamakaya, you've dished out enough criticism to us regarding these issues over the years, which we always try to improve our responsiveness to... it would have been nice for you to acknowledge these substantial changes at this year's show in your article. A little recognition of good faith efforts goes a long way. As to the rest of your review, it is a reviewer's prerogative to write it as she sees it. I just needed to note some things that I saw differently.

I have a wish list for the Lesbian Community before, during and after the next Annual Lesbian Variety Show:

- 1) Give strokes before giving pokes;
- 2) If you want to understand better — get involved;
- 3) Trust that we don't make our decisions lightly and we do listen (even if we don't choose your method of action);
- 4) Take some responsibility for the changes you'd like to see. It's easy to lay it all on the producers (i.e. invite womyn of color in your community to participate, apply yourselves, start a New Variety Show in your town);
- 5) Continue to support the Lesbian Creativity Grants. Nobody else will... by the way, this year the audience raised \$690! (to make further contributions, send checks to: KGP, Inc., Box 6091, Madison, WI 53716 with "grant" written on the check);
- 6) Support other Lesbian and Feminist Organizations throughout the year, and
- 7) continue to CELEBRATE who we are together!!!

—Leslie Wilmot  
Madison

**Editor's Note:** The above letter was edited in the interests of space.

## Jamakaya's Response

1) It is not standard practice for a reviewer to write her critique in consultation with the producers or artists being reviewed (in a feature article about the production company or entertainers, yes; in a critique, no).

2) I was not in any way questioning Maxine Feldman's herstory contribution to women's music. (I helped produce her through the UWM Feminist Center in the 1970's!) She is a loving, brave, honorable foremother, worthy of our respect. However, her performance as MC at the Variety Show was undistinguished at best. This does not mean I hate the woman or that she should have been excluded. It just means her performance that night was poor. Period. I'm glad to hear her workshop on women's music herstory was well attended and received. A short profile on the MC or any special guests appearing at future variety shows might be placed in the program to fully inform the audience.

3) I have not "dished out enough criticism" to KGP on accessibility issues! After two years of sitting in the back unable to see very much, at the third show I requested up front seating which KGP gladly granted. The last two years, I have assisted other impaired and disabled people to their seats and shooed away able-bodied women who have tried to take seats in the differently-abled section. I have definitely kicked a lot of butt in Milwaukee around this issue (and will continue to do so), but my few communications with KGP, as I recall them, have been quite civil and cooperative, and I do commend KGP for its continued commitment to accessibility.

I wanted to pay tribute to the sign language interpreter, Sharon Matuszeski, and the woman responsible for the Braille

TURN TO SHOW, PAGE 19

## A LETTER FROM KAREN LAMB

A fire burns cheerily on the hearth. Daddy dozes. Mom trims the tree. In between, a naughty Cocker Spaniel by the name of Tab Hunter eagerly sniffs boxes of ornaments. He is trying (Oh! so very hard) to be good! Just 10 more days 'til Christmas!

"I'm so good! I'm being so good!" he hums under his breath. "Looky, mom! A beautiful card from that handsome attorney Steve B! 'Wee fish ewe a mare e-grets moose, wee fish ewe a mare e-grets moose, and a hip-po gnu year!'" he sings.

"Tab! That's not nice to open other people's mail. Where are your manners?"

"But that is nice of Steve to send a card of our favorite things: birds and animals and so good of him to use that wonderful Recycling Paper Products out of Chicago!"

"Thank you, Steve, and thank you Terry and Jerry for the lovely card with an original story about clock-makers."

"How many more minutes 'til Christmas?" Tab squeals excitedly!

I work frantically. I too am aware that Christmas is almost here.

"But mom, if you hadn't spent so much time on the GLINN computer then you wouldn't be in such a rush," Tab reminds me. What can I say?

This dog is absolutely right, but GLINN is just so much fun!

"Mom, your column is due tonight. Can I help? I've got lots to say about the Keating Five, and looky! Summerfest is expected to pay even less rent to the city this year! Jimminy Christmas! And look here, mother, here is a sad story about how they dimmed the lights in theaters all



DR. KAREN LAMB

over the United States to bring attention to the terrible toll that AIDS is taking. And don't forget, mom, you wanted to talk about depression and HIV and the terribly long time it takes for people to get test results back..."

"I know, darling dog. But let's just wait until after Christmas. Tonight, let's instead go play some songs on the piano."

And with the sweet voice of Tab crooning "...And may your Yuletide be Gay... While faithful friends, who are dear to us, gather near to us..."

And may I finish the song with Tab? "So have yourselves a Merry Little Christmas now!"

Each of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Happy New Year! Love, Karen and Tab

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## Milwaukee Marched In Atlanta On Dec. 1 World AIDS Day

By Jay Hanson

Five members of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) Milwaukee; Karen Teufel, Dan Fonns, Stan Straka, Patrick Falaherty, and Jay Hanson; went to Atlanta, GA to join 600 other activists in the fight against AIDS.

December 1st 1990, World AIDS Day, was the unity rally and march in which all people, throughout the earth, touched by AIDS, united in solidarity to show that by working together we can put an end to HIV infection and provide better treatment to those living with AIDS.

On December 3rd everyone marched in the pouring rain to the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) to demand that the CDC expand its case definition of AIDS to include women's gynecological diseases like pelvic inflammatory disease, and vaginal candidiasis, (a yeast-like infection). If the CDC would change its definition then more women could benefit earlier in their infection from health insurance.

The demonstration started with several of the women, including Teufel of Milwaukee, telling of the injustice to which they have been subjected because the CDC refuses to change its definition.

At this time several small groups of protesters engaged in civil disobedience by chaining themselves to doors, banging on windows and occupying offices and refusing to leave the property. 92 people were arrested, among them Fonns and Hanson, who were charged with misdemeanor offenses with \$120 bond. Those arrested were required to promise to appear in the state court of De Kalb County in March.

Arrests commenced when demonstrators began banging on office windows with their hands at the 1600 Clifton Road offices of the CDC. Further arrests occurred when a group charged the door and attempted to gain entry into the building. More arrests occurred when protesters crossed police lines.

Over 50 of the activists left the 1600

building and traveled to the CDC's executive offices and gained entrance and successfully occupied the office of the Deputy Director of HIV, Gary Noble.

Police dragged protesters across concrete and through clumps of shubbery. Protesters were confined to a bus inside a fire station located across the road from the CDC before the bus was taken to the county detention center where processing took between six and 11 hours. All the police officers wore rubber gloves, including the officer who merely took the booking photographs. Protesters were refused medical treatment.

Many social service benefits and access to experimental drug trials are based on having CDC defined AIDS. The CDC surveillance definition is actively keeping the number of cases of AIDS artificially lowered. The CDC admits that "Diagnosed AIDS cases do not represent all cases of severe morbidity associated with HIV infection. Many HIV+ persons suffer from illnesses that are not reportable as AIDS even under current definition." The CDC also admits that its current reporting undercounts AIDS cases (using their definition) by 40%. Right now the people who are being excluded are overwhelmingly women and intravenous drug users, who are poor and disproportionately people of color.

The current definition keeps the overall scope of the epidemic lower than it is. It keeps the number of cases of other than Gay men, especially among women, lower than they are. It keeps the rate of increase for Gay men low. This combination of effects is a perfect rationale for overall lowered funding for the epidemic.

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## POLITICALLY SPEAKING

### Santa's Sleigh Is Loaded With Goodies and A Bucket of Coal

By Bill Meunier

Dear Santa:

Well its that time of year again. Time for all of us to get ready for your annual visit.

First let me thank you for all the good stuff you brought us last time around. The inclusion of PWA's in the Disabilities Act, the new immigration law which drops the ban on Lesbian and Gay immigrants and visitors and the Perry Watkins case where the Supreme Court decided in favor of Gay rights for the first time.

Thanks for the great Lesbian and Gay pride week celebration, especially the fantastic turnout for the parade and rally. Thanks for the money raised by MAPFest, the Walk Against Aids and other MAP fundraisers.



Now for this year's list.  
For our friends

Since our State faces a budget crisis that he warned about and Governor Thompson denied, give Tom Loftus the willpower not to say "I told you so," (at least not too many times.)

Give Congressman Moody the money he will need for his expected run against Senator Kasten in 1992. Give Fred Kessler the money he will need to replace Jim Moody in the House.

Wisconsin InStep and Wisconsin Light could both use more advertisers.

The SSBL could use a world series championship and less competition from other cities for its Milwaukee Classic.

Some of our bars could use more vigilant and more effective Police protection.

You brought freedom to so many people

this year can you bring some to the Kuwaitis the blacks of S. Africa, the Syrians, the Iraqi's, and the Palestinians.

The Soviets can use food, soap, clothes and all kinds of stuff, their leader Gorbachev can use a new economy.

Give our troops in the Gulf, the chance to come home without firing a shot in anger.

For our enemies:

Bring them a good dose of fairness, compassion and understanding, but if that doesn't work:

Bring Jesse Helms a black pigmentation for his skin. After what he did in his re-election campaign, he richly deserves it. Jesse could also use a better appreciation of art.

Speaking of art I'd ask you to bring the boobs in Cincinnati who arrested their own Art Museum Director for showing the Mapplethorpe exhibit some Black Velvet Elvis pictures, but I'm afraid they'd enjoy them.

Speaking of Cincy the cop who arrested two Gay men for holding hands deserves as much coal as your sleigh can hold.

But save some of that coal for those goons in Idaho who are threatening several Gay couples with life in prison. You know where Idaho is don't you Santa, its the state where all those neo Nazi groups are located. Now we know why.

Put Saddam Hussein in an operating room and then have KUWAITI troops remove the life support machines.

California Congressman Dannemeyer could use a huge stock to stuff inside that lying mouth of his.

Wisconsin Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner could use enough intelligence to bring his IQ up to the level of moron.

What I think you should bring to the so called 'Reverend' Vic Eliason can't be put into print, but I am sure you will think of something appropriate.

For all of us, no matter who we are and where we live, bring the peace of Christmas and just for once make it last for a whole year. Help us to show more patience and understanding, overlook the faults shown by others and work on the faults we show. And you have anything extra in that magic sack of yours give yourself something nice too.

Thanks, Bill

P.S. As per your request this year, I'll leave some of my famous cheesecake

### Gay Media Guide Published To Assist Press In Reporting News

[New York, NY]- The first comprehensive **Media Guide to the Lesbian and Gay Community** has been published by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

The **Media Guide** is intended to assist the media in accurately covering the nation's estimated 25-30 million Lesbians and Gay men and their issues. The **Media Guide** is also meant to encourage the media to extend and expand its coverage of the community — by learning more about Gay people and the ideas that motivate the Gay and Lesbian rights movement.

"More than a brochure, less than a treatise, the **Media Guide** combines detailed information with user-friendliness," said Craig Davidson, GLAAD's executive director. "We hope that it will become a standard newsroom reference."

This easy-to-read, spiral bound **Media Guide** has been handsomely produced with photos and illustrations, and is organized into three sections.

Section I offers a primer on Gay and Lesbian history and culture, political and legal issues such as increasing violence against Lesbians and Gay men, and sociological issues. Included are discussions of "what is homosexuality," discrimination, morality and changing attitudes towards Lesbians and Gay men.

Section II discusses standards in the newsroom and includes a glossary of terms, a listing of "dos and don'ts" (for example, "do use the term 'sexual orientation' instead of 'sexual preference' or 'Sexual choice'"), story ideas and advice on covering the AIDS epidemic.

Section III offers an appendix with a chronology of the American Gay and Lesbian movement and lists contact at Lesbian and Gay advocacy, social service and media organizations.

Complimentary copies of the **Media Guide** have been sent to 1,500 editors, reporters and producers at the nation's largest and most influential newspapers, magazines, trade journals, network TV stations, national radio programs and wire services. GLAAD expects to

distribute additional **Media Guides** through bulk sales to media organizations.

"We are distributing the **Media Guide** not only to provide assistance to print and broadcast journalists, but also with the hope that these important opinion-makers will help to correct misinformation about Gays and Lesbians for the public at large," adds Davidson.

The **Media Guide** was made possible by scores of volunteers — from writers to editors to graphic designers — and major financial supporters, especially the New York Stonewall Community Foundation. Distribution of the **Media Guide** was coordinated by an intern who was funded by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

For additional information about GLAAD, or about ordering copies of the **Media Guide**, please contact GLAAD's national office at 80 Varick St., No. 3E, New York, NY 10013, or call (212)-966-1700.

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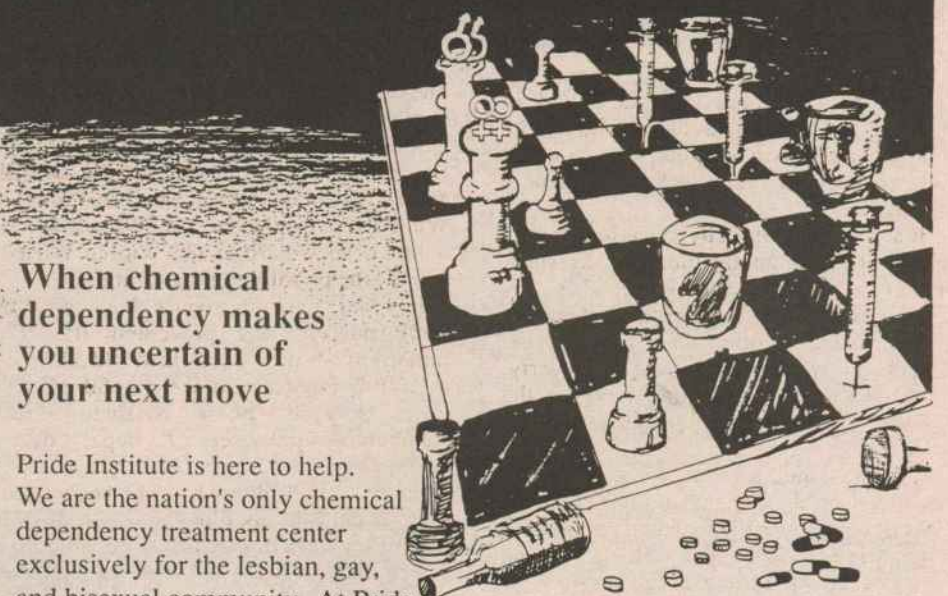
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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

**I Don't Think We're in Bedford Falls Anymore, Zulu!**

By Jamakaya

I'm outraged! I'm incensed! I'm apoplectic!

What is the cause of this fevered frenzy? Some vicious hate crime in the bar district? Some bitter controversy paralyzing the Lesbian community? Noooooo. Something with even greater implications for those of us with a truly Gay sensibility: Channel 18's airing of a drastically edited version of Frank Capra's Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life*.

This column could just as easily have been titled "It Was Almost a Wonderful Life" or "How the Movie Mogul Stole Christmas."

Film catalogs list the running time for *It's a Wonderful Life* at 129 minutes--that's two hours and nine minutes **without** commercials. In past presentations on other channels the film has usually been placed in a two and a half or three hour time slot (which accommodates the commercials as well).

Not WWTW, Milwaukee's "Super Station." They just slapped that sucker into the 2 hour time slot regularly allotted for their 7:00 p.m. movie. With an average of 8 commercial minutes in each half hour, one can subtract those from the 2 hours and arrive at a new, sleek, reduced but hardly improved running time of approximately 88-90 minutes. **Forty minutes were cut** ---awfully, arbitrarily---from this holiday film classic. Urgh! It's enough to make Zuzu's petals wilt.



I came home Friday evening after a long and tiring workweek, looking forward to nothing more than crawling under the movies and escaping into the world of George Bailey and Bedford Falls. The movie was heavily promoted throughout the week and I really looked forward to seeing it.

*It's a Wonderful Life* is a hopelessly, gloriously sentimental film and, as such, a very cathartic experience. It's my annual occasion to have a good clean cry about something other than my crazy ex-lovers or my perpetual state of poverty. Pour on the schmaltz, Hollywood--let the credits roll! I am totally taken in by this movie...

I knew something was awry about six minutes into the film when my tear ducts did not let loose at their usually appointed time. You know the scene. Mr. Gower, the druggist, slaps little George around for not delivering a prescription. But George knows Mr. Gower, distraught over his son's death, has inadvertently put poison in the pills and the boy is soon recognized as a hero. **This entire scene was edited out.** Later references to Mr. Gower and the poison would be incomprehensible to a first time viewer.

Worse was yet to come. Remember the sweet courting scene between George and Mary as they walk home after the school dance? The eavesdropping neighbor impatiently orders the hesitant George to "Kiss her!" and complains that youth is wasted on the young. Mary throws a rock through the window of the old house, sings a coy "Buffalo Gals" and then is even more coyly disrobed. What a great scene--absolutely delightful! **But totally cut out of the film.** Yes, totally. Later references to the song and the house were



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

rendered meaningless.

Other scenes cut (I'm not making this up, it was a nightmare): the early scene of the Baileys--Father, Mother, George, Harry and Annie, the housekeeper--important for establishing the family relationships and the burden of the Building & Loan; Harry returning to Bedford Falls with his new wife, leading to George's continued responsibility for the Building & Loan; the pivotal scene in which old man Potter tries to buy George out; the first scene at Martini's bar where the desperate George begs God to help him (I've always found Jimmy Stewart's despair utterly convincing); the second scene at Martini's (Nick's) when both George and Clarence the angel are kicked out; ad infinitum.

Each of these scenes, substantial chunks of the film, were totally edited out, destroying character development, motivation, continuity and the overall cohesion of the film. The carefully paced narrative progression of *It's a Wonderful Life* is what makes it such a flawless film. The arbitrary and insensitive editing destroyed it. But hey, we got to see plenty of ads for the Chia Pet and the Clapper. Ain't that what Christmas is all about?

Urrgh...

About halfway through the film I decided that if the scene with Zuzu's petals was cut I was going to load my Uzi and pay a visit to Channel 18. Lucky for them, the scene with Zuzu's petals remained intact (one of the few that did). I called the station instead to register my complaint. I was not alone. You will be gratified to know that just three days after the airing of its cannibalized version of *It's a Wonderful Life*, Channel 18 had received 70 phone calls and 30-40 letters.

Byron King, programmer at WWTW, claims that Republic Pictures, which colorized, edited and distributed the film, is the responsible party. You can write to: Chuck Johnson, President, Republic Pictures, 12636 Beatrice St., Los Angeles, CA 90066.

I plan on sending the mogul a box of coal along with a number of rhetorical questions like: "Hey Chuck, how about a version of *Christmas Carol* without the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present?" Better yet, "What about *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* without the Grinch or the Whos in Whoville? or *The Wizard of Oz* without the Wizard or the Wicked Witch? Chuck, the possibilities are limitless!"

It's long past time since I got a VCR (only poverty has prevented it). It's important for me to see these old films in their full integrity. It's shameful to see how they've been distorted for commercial purposes. I hope, dear, venerable old Frank Capra (who, I believe, is still alive) has not seen what they've done to his film. he was appalled when they colorized it and he'd probably die (or pull out his own Uzi) if he saw how thoughtlessly they've cut it.

Somehow, over the holiday, I need to get my hands on a full, preferably non-color version of *It's a Wonderful Life*. I need my fix. I need to cry. I couldn't possibly have a Merry Christmas without it.



**A Christmas Open House**

Sunday, Dec. 16  
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**Syracuse Is Tenth New York State City to Adopt Gay Rights Law**

[Syracuse, NY]- Syracuse is the tenth city in New York state to adopt a municipal Gay rights ordinance. Mayor Thomas Young signed the Fair Practices Law into effect in November.

The law, adopted in a 5-4 vote by the Syracuse Common Council, prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Syracuse is the most recent of more than 100 cities across the United States to adopt such protections for its Gay citizens.

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**

Mary Shafer & Sue Cook, erstwhile woodswomen at large, are returning to the big city to celebrate the Holidays. We'd like to share some good cheer with our friends. Meet us Saturday night, December 22nd at the Leaded Shade II after 8 p.m. No excuses accepted. **BE THERE!!**

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# Political Incorrectness As A Way Of Being In Lesbian Community

By Maytee Aspuro

I have been asked why I am not more politically active. Indeed, I seem to have no problem voicing an opinion and I do so. But when I do, my opinions are personal. I do not link myself with any community other than my membership in the generic Lesbian community. I never thought being Lesbian would equate with a certain level of generic being, but it does.

The error made by many is to assume that because a roomful of womyn are Lesbian that they will all agree. Life experience differs. Race, class, religion, ableness differs and in those differences lies the best and most difficult personality of our community.

I have an able body. I may try to be alert to my tendency to look away from the pain and mortality that a disabled womyn presents to me. Unless I experience a world with less than a completely able body, I will not know the degree in which issues of ableism are carried inside a womyn who experiences it without respite.

I am also a hispanic immigrant. When I hear Lesbians voice concerns for the additional pressure placed on the United States economy because of the legal, as well as, illegal immigrant traffic, I become introspective. I do not know what my life would have been if I had not been allowed to enter the United States at the age of three. My family had escaped Fidel Castro's regime. I do believe that as a Lesbian, my life in Cuba would have been cloaked in a level of fear and oppression that would make the United States' political and social environment a haven in comparison.

As these two examples are meant to illustrate, Lesbians are more than "just" Lesbians. It is unrealistic to believe that we will always agree or understand one another.

I have sat and talked to Lesbians who carry a distaste for separatist Lesbians. The belief being that the extreme nature of separatism has led the Lesbian community to lose its identity and cohesiveness.

Let me state that I identify myself as a radical Lesbian in heart although my choices leave me in a position in which I have not separated myself to a womyn-only space. Involved in the world of business, I am all too aware that the economic realization of a womyn-only space will come only after years of individual commitment to support womyn-owned businesses and services. Giving such support is where I make my small contribution.

I do know I owe my predecessors a tremendous amount of gratitude. Such as ACT UP has recently reminded me, we cannot always be polite and patient when facing a level of oppression and violence that threatens our very lives. I would not have my limited freedoms as a Lesbian if it were not for the most radical and controversial womyn of herstory. It is a crime to forget, and worse, to remember and turn our backs upon the legacy left by those Lesbians who have and continue to work for our right to be.

One locus for controversy within the Lesbian community is the expression of Lesbian sexuality. Within the patriarchal culture, Lesbian sexuality has been oppressed, battered and demeaned. If one of three womyn are sexually assaulted by the age of 18, sexuality becomes equated with violence. If the level of incest is as high as I have been told it is, sexuality is equated with shame.

Given such an environment, such a destructive degree of socialization, that Lesbians can express any celebration of their sexuality, is to a degree, no less than a miracle. In turn, if expression of Lesbian sexuality must meet rigid rules of propriety dictated by any one wing of the Lesbian political arena, the rest of the community suffers.

I have read *Coming to Power*, an anthology written by S/M womyn as a means of educating myself on what S/M means to those who practice it. I found that the majority of the S/M practices are, in all respects, beyond my comfort zone. And yet, I cannot, in clear conscious, criticize womyn who choose to practice S/M when expressing their sexuality as well as their total perspective in life. S/M is more than sex.

I believe that in being Lesbian, I have an obligation to respect ideas and acts that are beyond my understanding. I draw the line where coercion or force is imposed on a womyn, a child, a man, no matter the context. My beliefs, in total, may be politically incorrect, but so be it.

Taking my politically incorrect behavior one step further, I tolerate what I consider pornography created by consenting adults because in the United States to place limits upon any form of speech or right of expression will be turned against the Lesbian and Gay community. Jesse Helms and the political and religious right wing need no more ammunition. The only thing protecting the existence of the *Wisconsin Light* newspaper as well as other publications servicing our community is the United States Constitution. I hope no one forgets this fact.

It is time that Lesbians stop being afraid of being politically incorrect. What it means to do so is to be oneself without apology. I also believe that those who stand in judgment of others need to learn to provide opinion and feedback without being condescending or self-righteous. For example, I promote being out in all aspects of our lives, but that does not prevent me from respecting or loving a Lesbian who chooses not to openly identify herself as Lesbian.

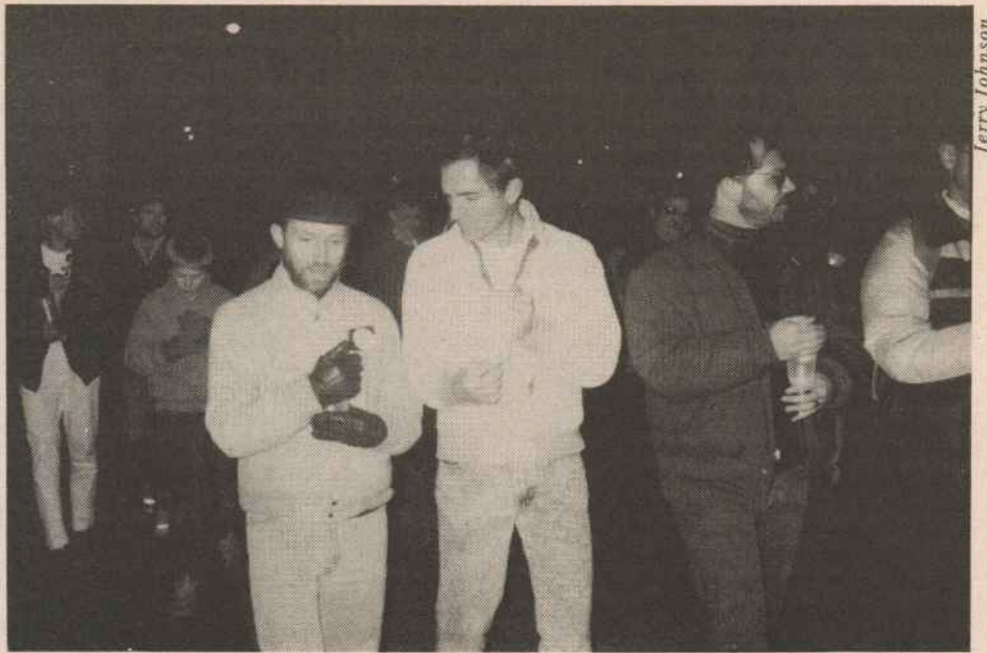
I recently read a statement describing the Lesbian and Gay community as one with no identity. The reason no identity exists, is because those in a position to publicly define our community want to place it in a comfortable niche. I believe such a niche does not exist and I personally pray it will never come to being.

We are the Lesbian and Gay community. We are rich in diversity. Our greatest act may simply be to sustain and nurture our diversity without self destructing.

## Italy Remembers Gay Nazi Victims

[Bologna, Italy]- The unveiling of the first Italian monument devoted to the estimated 15,000 Gay victims of the Nazi extermination camps in Italy occurred on April 25, 1990 in Bologna.

Present at the ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of the liberation of Italy were the mayor of Bologna, the German consul, representatives of the Jewish community, former inmates and participants in World War II, and representatives of Arci Gay, the Italian Lesbian and Gay organization.



Scores of men, women and children walked quietly around the State Capitol in Madison on Dec. 1 prior to an AIDS vigil, holding lit candles. The procession moved inside to listen to speakers in the Capitol rotunda, marking World AIDS Day.

Jerry Johnson

## OBITUARIES

### Stan Berry

[San Diego, CA]- Stan Berry, the "Father of the San Diego Human Dignity Ordinance" passed by the San Diego City Council earlier this year, died on Oct. 31, 1990. He was 43.

Berry was president of the United Republicans for Equality and Privacy and a former president of the Log Cabin Club/San Diego.

Berry, as much as any Gay person in San Diego, helped bridge the gap of communication between the Gay/Lesbian community and the Republican Party, and the gap between Gay and Lesbian Republicans and Gay and Lesbian Democrats as well.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 3, 1990 at MCC/San Diego. A second memorial service was held at the First Baptist Church in Racine, Wisconsin, on Nov. 8, 1990 where Berry's parents, Fonzo and Margaret Berry, live. He is buried in Racine.

Stan Berry is also survived by two brothers, Douglas of Racine and Charles of Milwaukee, and by his companion, David Buckley.

Editor's Note: The above account was

excerpted from *Gay & Lesbian Nation* of San Diego.

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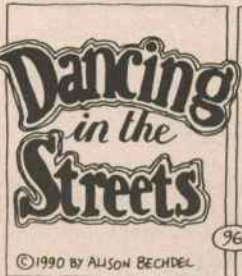
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## Dykes to Watch Out For





## Home For The Holidays! Redefining Family

By Maytee Aspuro

Ever since my young adulthood, the Autumn-early Winter season has always been a difficult time for me. It begins with my birthday on the 1st of November and ends after New Year's Day. In between this span of 8-9 weeks, are the major holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve.

For years I believed that no one felt as alone as I did. My parents and one of my two brothers disowned me after learning of my Lesbian identity. This left me no traditionally defined family to share my birthday and the holidays with.

Given no traditional family, when friends would ask me what I was doing for the holidays, I would lie and tell them I had plans. One convenient deception was

my lover but who, at the time, I was just beginning to date. She, her Gay roommate, a visiting friend and I shared a turkey with all the fixings. It took some time before I could relax and enjoy the moment. Difficult holidays were the norm and I had to break the cycle of expecting to have a bad time of it. I will always remember my lady as she sat across the dinner table from me. Her face was framed between two tall, slender candles. A welcoming smile and glistening eyes continuously reminded me that I belonged at the gathering. We ate, we laughed, we enjoyed the company of our growing friendship and love. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate a holiday.

This Thanksgiving was a gathering of friends hosted by my life partner. It has become a tradition to invite a few of our closest friends for dinner. The remaining holidays are celebrated traditions not inherited from our families, but created to reflect our very unique lives.

It is for those of us in the Lesbian and Gay community to respect all, that in our past, is affirming and joyful and then to be bold, brave and creative enough to imagine new traditions and new forms of celebration. Finally, it is for us to celebrate with all our energies.

This may force some of us to walk away from what we previously assumed to be correct behavior and thought, but I believe that we of the Lesbian and Gay community have proven to ourselves and to others that we are more than capable of walking into a healthy and empowered future.

## Marquette Drops Charges Against ACT UP Members

[Milwaukee]- Marquette University High School and the Milwaukee City Attorney have dismissed charges against five ACT UP/Milwaukee members. The charges stemmed from ACT UP's attempt to hand out AIDS information at the school.

On December 6, 1990 in the City of Milwaukee Municipal Court, ACT UP was handed a major victory when Marquette High School and the City Attorney's office agreed to dismiss all charges against ACT UP.

Public opinion on TV and newspaper commentary went over well for support of ACT UP and the need for the AIDS information. This was seen during the two weekends at Bayview High School and the homecomings of other public schools.

Marquette High School also subsequently expressed interest in giving ACT UP space and time to give educational information on AIDS and HIV transmission. Details will have to be worked out.

For further information, call ACT UP at 769-8708 or write: P.O. Box 1707, Milwaukee, WI 53201



to say that I was going out of town to explore another city. Instead, I remained alone eating my holiday dinner at Big Boy's or some other relatively cheap restaurant; one in which a single patron would not feel totally uncomfortable in.

The idea of admitting that I did not have a "home" to go to was out of the question. Because I was raised to believe that holidays were for family, I felt that I would be imposing if I accepted a friend's invitation to spend the holidays with her or him and her or his family.

I'm a little older and maybe a little wiser. I have come to define my family beyond blood relationship. Indeed, it seems more logical that those closest to my heart are there by choice and not by the fates.

I have emotionally and intellectually beaten myself up side the head trying to find any semblance of a connection between myself and my blood family. Except for my oldest brother, I have no joy or love for them and that is unfortunate, but not too uncommon for the disowned.

My first memorable Thanksgiving was spent with a woman who would become

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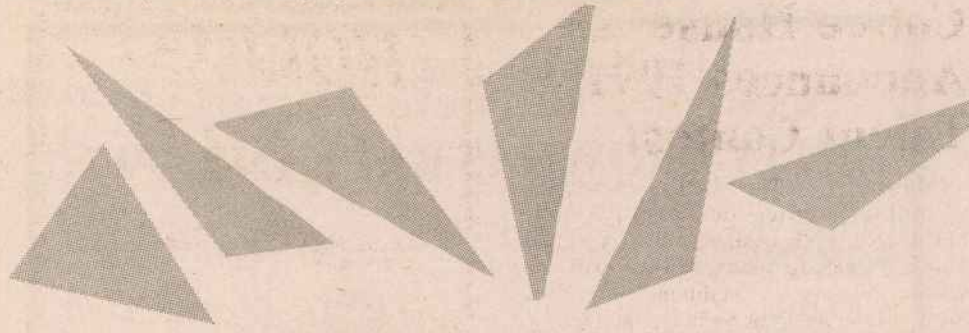
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# The Light LIVELY ARTS



Milwaukee's M&M Club, located in the Historic Third Ward, was transformed into the Half Moon Tavern for the ABC television movie, "Dillinger" during shooting in June. The awnings were added along with the billboard to complete the 1930's Chicago setting. The film will be broadcast national on January 6, 1990.



Photos by Rona

## Fest City Singers Bring Holiday Song to Capacity Audience

By J.J. Austin

The South Shore Pavilion overlooking the ice-capped lake glowed with holiday warmth on Saturday, December 8, 1990, truly a feast for family and friends as the Fest City Singers presented their annual Christmas Open House, "A Stocking Full of Song."

The Singers scored as a closely knit group from whom Music Director, Charles Golden, elicited the finest ensemble singing — balanced, sure and clear. At times they were a Christmas Consort exploring the intricacies of Pachelbel's "Canon," or madrigal singers and Dickensian carolers in Victorian costume threading their way through "A Round for Christmas" without losing a beat. "A Christmas Carol" from the musical "Scrooge" struck a note of holiday nostalgia while the wonder of "Christmas Children" came to life under the Singers' subtle "mezzo voce" treatment.

Artistic Director, Peter Mortensen, improvised appropriate movements and actions for the Singers while they sang and decorated a Christmas tree (looked good, too), exchanged presents, and as tired holiday shoppers, quickly brightened up with "We Need a Little Christmas." Peter's ballet experience came into play as the Singers moved in natural dance steps, though would you believe, at one point he had them doing bourrees? We hope to see entrechats for

the Spring concert.

The original Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, was there with a basket of gifts for good boys and girls while his blackamoor attendant carried faggots of willow switches which he gave to those who had been naughty. (Can you imagine there were some who actually gloried in having been bad?) St. Nick's modern counterpart was there too, to welcome all to the bountiful tables spread with Christmas cheer during intermission. A nice authentic touch, that.

Members of the FCS audience were treated as guests from the moment they entered, and the intimacy of the pavilion setting introduced them into a family party — the Singers began as members of the audience at the opening and after, involved their guests in the festivities. All joined in the final Sing-Along, from "Jingle Bells" to the Singers' show-stopping version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." At the final singing of "Silent Night" hands were clasped around the room in a spontaneous gesture of togetherness. Lots of warm and fuzzies to take home that night.

The Fest City Singers have been invited to repeat their earlier appearance as carolers in the Streets of Old Milwaukee at the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St. They will be singing from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 23. All are welcome to join them.

## Movie Poster Sale at Oriental Dec. 15

[Milwaukee]- The Oriental Theatre will be holding its Fourth Annual Movie Poster Sale on Saturday, December 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Hundreds of American and international posters will be for sale. Among the posters for sale are: "Desk Set", "West Side Story", "Maurice", "Sound of Music", "Gone

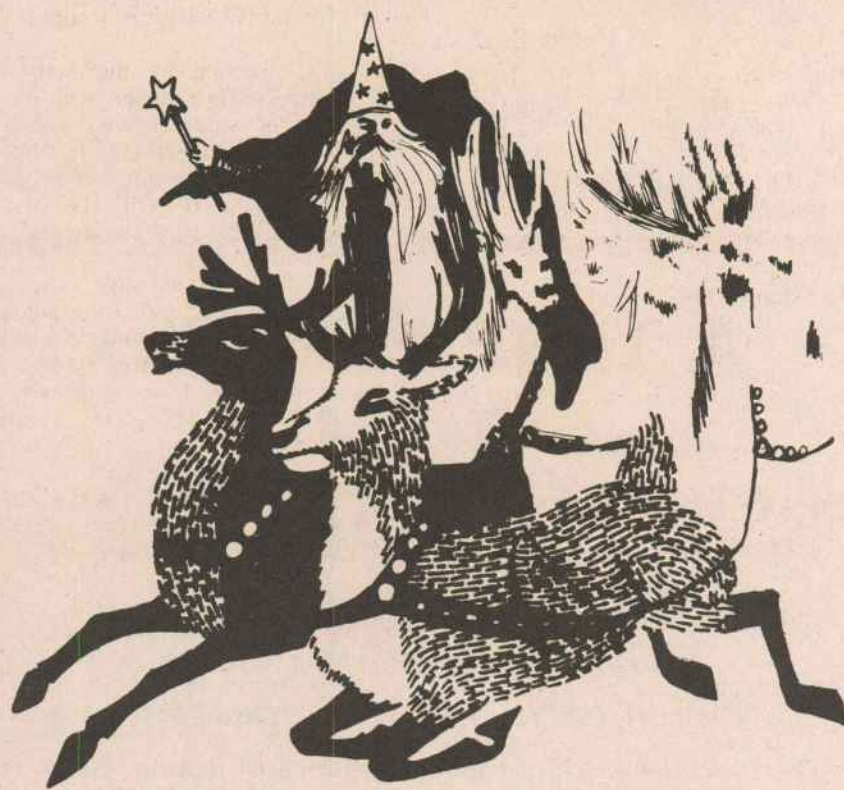
With the Wind", "Fantasia", "Wild at Heart", and "Avalon." While some are available through a silent auction, many are priced starting at \$5.00. The Oriental theatre is located at the corner of Farwell and North Ave. Further information is available by calling 276- 8711.

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## Madonna Justifies Herself With Banned Sexual Video

By John Zeh

(GLINN)- Pop music giant Madonna has defended her "Justify My Love" video banned by MTV as a new way to push the limits of censorship and offer an "honest" depiction of people's differing sexualities.

The new single's video version was shown in its entirety by ABC TV's "Nightline" December 3. A candid interview followed.

"Half of me thought I was going to get away with it, and that I (could) convince them," she said. "The other half thought, no, with the wave of censorship being, and, you know, the conservatism that is...sort of sweeping over the nation, I thought there (would) be a problem."

ABC's late-night public affairs show examined whether Madonna had gone too far with her new marketing gambit, or if MTV is guilty of cablecast censorship.

The graphic video shows partial nudity and, ABC said, suggests bisexuality, sado-masochism, and multiple partners. It is supposed to be available December 18 as a \$9.98 video single, an industry first.

(Editor's Note: The video is on the shelf in some video stores as of Dec. 11, including Video Adventures).

Is Madonna's deliberate provocation in bad taste, ABC asked, or within limits of artistic expression in her continued effort to "carve a career out of controversy"?

Speaking slowly thoughtfully but obviously unrehearsed, the star agreed with host Forrest Sawyer's assertion that she must balance artistic needs for self expression with responsibilities that accompany her prominence as a "role model."

"I feel I'm behaving in a very responsible way. The video displays people being honest to each other about their sexuality. They're not alienating anyone, (nor) degrading anyone."

She lashed out at mainstream TV's hypocrisy of showing violence but censoring information about safer sex.

"We already have these videos that display degradation to women and violence that are played 24 hours a day, but they don't want to have a video that deals with sex between two consenting adults. Why do they have (such) a problem?"

## 'Nothing to Hide' Offers November Schedule

[Madison]- "Nothing to Hide", the weekly program which appears on WYOU-Cable channel 4, has the following December schedule:

Dec. 5 — Prof. George Mosse, retired UW-Madison History prof: "Why Gay History?" (Why not?!). The 19th Century exaggerated the gender roles. We're paying the price.

Dec. 12 — Real Eyes Realize Real Lies with Jay Hatheway: The Gulf Crisis — more and more and more — implications for Gays/Lesbians.

Dec. 19 — A Conversation with Sam Day and Bonnie Urfer: Nuke Watch.

Dec. 26 — "A Bank for the Poor": Results Educational Fund and "Trickle-up Program and the United Nations Support for Women".

"Nothing to Hide" airs at 9:00 p.m.

## Holiday Solstice Party To Be Held December 22

[Milwaukee]- A holiday solstice party for the Lesbian community will be held on Saturday, Dec. 22, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the Friend's (Quaker) Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Pl. in Milwaukee.

The party will feature sing-alongs, refreshments and music. Participants may bring their own instruments or a favorite holiday record, tape or CD. The Lesbian Lending Library will also be available.

The event is sponsored by the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee and Grapevine. All Lesbians are welcome.

The Friend's Meeting House is two blocks east of Humboldt, off of Auer (three blocks north of Locust). Parking is available at Gaenslen School.

For information or directions, call 264-2600.

"Television, schools, and families fail to serve society," she said. "Guess what! (TV) is not doing (its) job. Teenaged sophomores in high school are having their second pregnancies. The rate of AIDS is rising in the heterosexual community at a really frightening rate. What is that? These parents are not doing their jobs, you know?"

Controversy is nothing new to Madonna, who for six years, as ABC reported, "has turned shock into success, pushing the outer limits of what is permissible, what is not." "Like a Prayer" was criticized by religious groups as blasphemy. Pepsi canceled her TV commercial despite paying her \$5 million.

"I wouldn't have turned out the way I was if I didn't have all those old-fashioned values to rebel against," she was seen saying in "Nightline's" clip from an interview with NBC's Johnny Carson.

"Nightline," shown after local news and the San Francisco 49ers/New York Giants football broadcast, enjoyed its biggest audience all year, a 10.2/36 score in Nielson's 25 major markets.

Again and again, she scored on Sawyer's carefully-calculated throws. "If my video provokes an open discussion, I think this is really good. Let (10-year-olds) get confused, and go ask their parents to explain that sexual fantasies exist in life, like they see violence. It's not a pretty picture necessarily, it's a frightening thing, but it's a reality."

"You've got to listen to the words. ('Justify My Love') is about a woman talking to her lover, saying, Tell me your dreams; am I in them? Tell me your fears; are you scared? Tell me your stories; I'm not afraid of who you are."

A remixed "Hip Hop" version includes what the Village Voice said is sure to be the most sampled two words in dance clubland: Madonna breathing, "Fuck me."

"Let's not have double standards (on TV), you know. I mean, why is it okay for 10-year-olds to see someone's body being ripped to shreds, or (comedian) Sam Kinison spitting on Jessica Hahn. Why don't parents have a problem with that?"

## Protests Follow New Stanford Policy

[Palo Alto, CA]- A series of protests have rocked the Stanford University campus in the wake of a new policy which recognizes the rights of unmarried domestic partners, whether straight or Gay.

The policy, ratified by the Stanford Board of Trustees in October, will allow the partners of students who register their domestic partnerships to have access to health services and library and athletic facilities. It will also give unmarried domestic partners access to married student housing.

Stanford administrators have received dozens of letters objecting to the policy, many citing religious and cultural concerns. About 40 percent of Stanford's graduate students are from overseas and some of their cultural beliefs are at odds with the policy.

Abdullahi Bature, president of the school's Islamic Society, stated: "God said we should not have any sexual relations except between husband and wife. What the university has done is against our religion, culture and ethnic beliefs. It is an insult to many cultures."

At a meeting called by university officials to discuss the new policy, a number of students had to be ejected because they would not allow administrators to explain the policy. Meanwhile, "Gay Liberation," the statue of two Gay and Lesbian couples which rests in the campus's quad area, was vandalized with red and yellow paint.

Despite protests, a poll of almost 3,000 undergraduates conducted by the Associated Students of Stanford revealed that 64 percent favored the new policy. Tom Henning, of the campus's Lesbian/Gay and Bisexual Community Center, lauded the administration's refusal to back down. Said Henning: "I'm heartened... by the fact that the university has taken a step, a courageous one, and stuck to its guns."

## Coffee House Announces 1991 Talent Contest

[Milwaukee]- The Coffee House is accepting applications for its 1991 Mid-Winter Folk Festival Talent Contest. Those returning entry forms will be scheduled for an audition on either Friday, January 11 or Sunday, January 27, 1991. Finalists will perform at the Talent Contest on Friday, February 8, 1991. The Talent Contest winner will perform at the Folk Festival Concert on Saturday, February 16, and will be scheduled for a paid performance next season.

The Contest is open to musicians, comedians, singers, poets, storytellers, rappers and solo and group acts. Youth, ethnic and minority — including Lesbian and Gay artists and performers — are encouraged to enter. Acoustic acts only; no electric instruments or drums sets will be allowed. The Coffee House has a piano and a sound system.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Coffee House, 631 N. 19th St., any Friday or Saturday evening, or call the Coffee House Information Line at 273-0922. Entry forms must be returned to The Coffee House by December 31, 1990.

## Dallas Newspaper Offers Summer Internships

(Dallas —GLINN)- The Dallas Morning News at the request GLAAD/Dallas have agreed to consider openly Lesbian, Gay and bisexual students for its summer internship programs. Journalism students and students in other fields with appropriate experience are encouraged to apply before the end of January 1991. Students should send a resume and clippings (about six) of a variety of writing, from news coverage to opinion pieces and a cover letter.

For detailed information, contact: Bob Mong or Paula LaRocq, The Dallas Morning News, P.O. Box 655237, Dallas, Texas 214-977-8222.

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## A Christmas Short Story

# The Clockmaker

By Terry Boughner

Once upon a time, there was a young man of about 20, named Peter who lived in a small town at the foot of some great mountains. His father and grandfather before him had been clockmakers and people said that nowhere in all the country round were there clockmakers such as they. Sadly, both were dead as was the rest of Peter's family and so he lived alone in one small room behind the little clockmaker's shop.

Peter was poor. From dawn to dusk, he worked, making clocks, but try as hard as he would, people did not buy. Oh, he occasionally sold a clock, but those were the ones remaining that his father had made. The clocks that he made, nobody seemed to like and he had no idea why. Often, he went to bed hungry because he could not afford to buy food that day and cried himself to sleep from frustration.

One day in the middle of Summer, the lordly bishop from the great cathedral came to the store, entering in a swirl of robes and a clatter of gold chains.

"I wish to purchase a clock," the prelate intoned in a haughty way. "Something perfect, elegant, you understand, as would befit a church."

He stopped to look around at the dozens of clocks that hung ticking upon the walls, but none seemed to satisfy.

"Perhaps," Peter offered hesitantly, "if you don't see anything you like, I could make one for you."

The bishop looked down his long, aristocratic nose, his cold eyes narrow, his thin lips stretched tight. "I doubt it. As everyone says, including, I might add, his highness, the Prince, you are not your father or grandfather. Your clocks are, well," he sniffed, "not up to their standards."

Peter swallowed hard before responding. "My lord bishop, if you would just give me a chance, I am sure that I could make for you a clock that would excel all others."

"Better than your grandfather made for the royal family?"

Peter nodded, feeling his heart bound at the opportunity. "Oh, much, much better."

"Good enough to fulfill the legend?"

Peter gulped hard. He knew the ancient story as did everyone in town. According to the tale, when someone offered a gift in the cathedral on Christmas Eve; a gift of such surpassing beauty and loveliness that it would touch the heart of God, the angels themselves would descend to receive it and place it before the Holy Throne.

The origins of the legend were lost in the mists of centuries, but every year, princes and potentates, commoner and churls, came from all over the world to lay their gifts at the foot of the high altar in hopes that their gift would be the one to attract the eye of God.

And every year nothing happened. But no one had ever given up hope. "Wait until next year," they said. "Wait until next year."

Again Peter swallowed hard, sweating under the steely gaze of the august prelate. Finally, he replied, "Yes," he said and felt determination within him grow. "Yes, lord bishop, if it please your grace, I will make you such a clock that the legend will come true."

The bishop considered for a moment and then nodded. "So be it. Make it. But I warn you, if you do not make such a clock and again nothing happens as has been the case will all my predecessors, I will destroy you. Do you understand?"

Without daring to say anything, Peter simply nodded and, at that, the bishop turned on his heel and swept out.

For a long while, Peter could not stop his slender body from shaking with trepidation at his own audacity.

"What have I done?" he cried. "What have I said?" He bowed his head. "Oh, dear God, help me!" he prayed — and prayed again and again.

One day, several weeks later, a young man who looked about Peter's age, entered the

store. He was tall with dark blond hair and was exceedingly handsome; perhaps, Peter thought, the most attractive man he had ever seen.

"Pardon me," the beautiful stranger said in a clear and gentle voice. "My name is Steven. I come from a far country and I wondered if you might have some work that I could do?"

Peter was about to send him on his way, but something wondrously soft in Steven's deep blue eyes stopped him.

"Well," Peter began hesitantly. He could feel his heart pounding and he had trouble catching his breath.

Steven smiled with a look that said he was as attracted to Peter as Peter was to him. "I can do almost anything," he said. "Especially carving and design."

"Well," Peter began again trying hard to hide the quiver in his voice. "I could use help, but," he added sadly, "with business as it has been, I can't pay you."

"Don't worry," Steven replied. "It will be good enough just to work with you — as long as I can stay here."

Peter agreed instantly.

The days flew by in a cloud of happiness that enveloped them both. They were deeply in love and by and by, as is only natural, they expressed that love in each other's arms. But while Steven was happy beyond what heaven often gives to earth, Peter seemed sad.

"What is the matter, my love?" Steven asked gently, his soft lips caressing Peter's cheek.

In response, Peter told him the whole story about the bishop and the clock. When he had finished, there were great, hot tears streaming down his smooth cheeks.

Steven held Peter close, stroking his dark, silken hair. "Peter, Peter," he soothed, "nothing will happen to you. Nothing," he said with quiet determination. "You are soul of my soul, heart of my heart and I love you so much. I have searched all my life for you. I will not lose you — not for anyone, not for any reason. We will, together, create such a clock that the high hosts of heaven will weep at its beauty."

There was so much strength and conviction in Steven's voice and warmth in his touch that Peter was comforted and fell asleep, his head on Steven's shoulder. But as his eyes closed, though he loved Steven with his whole being, fears and doubts remained.

The following day, the two young men set to work on the bishop's clock. They choose the finest woods that Peter's father had left and, while Peter worked to fashion gears and wheels, Steven began to design the case.

The work progressed steadily, for few there were to disturb them. As they heard, some of the townsfolk were whispering among themselves, damning their love as unnatural and a thing of the devil that ought to be stopped. The choir master suggested that the two young men be taken to the pillory in front of the cathedral and there, beaten until they died.

But other, calmer heads advised waiting. "God will not accept anything from such hands as theirs," they said. "Only wait. When heaven rejects them as it surely will, then the bishop will have their blood and our town will be cleansed of sin." And all the people murmured in agreement.

By the second week in December, the clock was finished. Tall and shaped like a cathedral bell tower, its highly polished red cherry case seemed to gleam with a warm, interior glow all its own. The face was painted with a gleaming blue enamel finish that was studded with little silver stars. The hands were of finest gold. The chimes were so sweet and melodic that ancient Pan would have ceased his piping to listen to them ring.

At the base, was the Nativity with every figure so cunningly carved that each one seemed to have a personality all its own. And when the hour sounded, the tiny figures moved. The Virgin bowed her head, the shepherds with their sheep and the Magi with their gifts, entered the stable, there to offer worship to the Babe.

It was indeed, a most wonderful clock and Steven and Peter were justly proud of it; so proud that they decided to place it in the shop window for all to see.

People did stop to look in amazement and with awe for none before had seen such beauty. Yet, as they stared at the clock, they murmured among themselves, wondering how could it be possible for two such sinners to make something of such exquisite loveliness as the clock. Was it possible that the love of the two young men was not so evil after all?

Then up rose the bishop in high anger at such talk. On the Sunday before Christmas, from the towering height of his pulpit, the furious cleric denounced the clock as the "work of demons" and that never, not ever, would it be allowed in the church.

When Peter and Steven heard what the bishop had said, they were heartbroken.

"Why," Peter asked incomprehendingly, "even if they hate our love, do they deny as well the beauty of the clock?"

"Hush, my love," Steven said, taking Peter into his arms. "God's thoughts are not those of men."

Then it was Christmas Eve and a new snowfall covered the town in glistening white. Steven and Peter stood at the shop window watching as people hurried past intent on holiday preparations. Despite their disappointment over the clock, this was the happiest Christmas that either could remember. They had finished the clock and, most especially, they had each other.

It was late afternoon. A Winter day was coming quietly to its close and, as night came on, the sky filled with little stars, each one twinkling brightly to celebrate the holy night.

Peter and Steven were sharing their meager meal when they heard the front door to the shop open and then close with a bang. They went to see who it could be and found an old woman all warmly dressed in wools and soft fur. She was looking at the clock and turned quickly when they entered, clutching and unclutching her gloved hands.

"I am Mrs. Hartwig," she said. "Ah . . . ah, Clara Hartwig. Perhaps you know . . .?" She paused. "No, I suppose not. I am William Stoffer's governess."

Peter and Steven looked at each other in surprise. The Stoffers were the richest family in town, their wealth second only to that of the prince himself.

"Can we help you?" Peter asked.

The woman took a deep breath before she answered. "Willy — William — is very ill." She stopped, gathering herself and then went on. "It is thought — the doctors say — he will not live out — not live to see the new year."

Steven was about to offer what words he could in comfort, but she shook her head.

"No, no. Please. Let me finish. Willy has heard of your clock. It's all he talks about; all he's talked about for days. This afternoon he told me that he had been dreaming about the clock and he knew if he could see it and hear its chime, he would get well. Oh, I know it's not true, but if you could only see your way clear to bring it to him? It wouldn't be for long. But if only he could see it; just a short while, I . . ."

"Of course," Peter said. "We'd be glad to let him see it."

The poor woman was so relieved and grateful that she did not know whether to smile or cry so she did both. "God bless you this holy evening," she said through her tears. "God bless you." And then she added very quietly so that the two young men did not hear, "No matter what you are."

Shortly, the three set out, trudging through snow-covered streets to the Stoffer mansion on the edge of town. Mrs. Hartwig led the way with Peter and Steven carrying the clock, covered with a thin blanket to offer some small protection against the cold.

Presently, the great house loomed before them, dark and forbidding looking. Mrs. Hartwig took them around to the back, to a heavy wooden door that opened by an unseen hand to her tap-tap-tap.

They climbed stone stairs that gave out into a long hall at the end of which was the sick boy's bedroom. They entered to find a warm and well-lit room filled with every conceivable kind of toy. At the far end, there was a huge bed in which Willy lay propped up on fluffy mounds of pillows.

"Is that the clock?" the boy exclaimed, his sea-blue eyes wide with excitement.

Mrs. Hartwig hurried over to the bedside. "Yes, dear," she answered, patting his covers to calm him a little.

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At the old woman's nod, Steven and Peter crossed the room to place the clock on a table beside the bed and then pulled away the protective blanket. Leaning on Mrs. Hartwig's arm, Willy leaned forward as Peter started the wonderful clock.

There was the tick-tock, tick-tock and suddenly, the warm air was filled with the most glorious sounds for the golden hands had reached the hour and the clock had begun to chime.

The boy's eyes glowed in wonder as the sweetest music played, calling forth visions of rainbows, of dew-drops sparkling in the sun of a Summer's morn; of warm Autumn days and crisp nights when the silver moon rode high and soft blue lights on new-fallen snow.

The chimes rang on and there seemed to be dark eastern forests full of stars and all sorts of exalted visions that only saints and poets ever see.

In their little world, the tiny figures moved in a stately rhythm and it was as if the illusion of time had dropped away and all in the room were present at the birth of Christ.

Suddenly, the door of the bedroom burst open and there stood the towering figure of Mr. Stoffer, leaning heavily on a thick, black cane.

"What is going on here?" he shouted, his deep voice booming out.

"Father!" Willy cried happily. "Father, look at the clock, the beautiful clock! Father, just seeing it and I feel stronger and hearing it — Oh, daddy, I can be well. I can get well. I know it. I —"

But the man paid no attention to his little son. Instead, his eyes, full of anger and disgust, were fastened on Steven and Peter.

"You filth!" he raged. "Scum! Degenerates! You dare to come here — to my son's own bedroom! You dare!"

Mrs. Hartwig tried to intervene; tried to explain, but it was no use. In high anger, Mr. Stoffer strode rapidly across the room and, before anyone could stop him, took his cane and slammed it into the face of the clock, sending it toppling over and crashing to the floor. Peter lunged toward him, but the man raised his cane again, bringing it with full force down upon the young man's head.

"Peter!" Steven cried and grabbed his lover.

Then, in the midst of the furor, Willy clutched his chest and fell back against his pillows.

"Daddy," he said weakly and then was silent. He would never speak again.

Mrs. Hartwig cried out while Mr. Stoffer stood, transfixed, looking at the dead body of his beautiful son.

Then he turned to Steven, holding Peter in his arms. "You will both die for this!" he thundered. "You will die! If the bishop does not see you dead, I will!" Then he turned back to the bed.

Steven, half carrying Peter, left the house, going out into the hush of Christmas Eve. They would go home, Steven thought, and on the morrow, in the light of Christmas Day, they could decide what to do next.

So, they went along, Steven helping his injured lover through the drifted snow as best he could.

The going was slow and it was nearly midnight when they came to the cathedral. From inside they could hear the thunderously majestic sounds of the great pipe organ and with it, a thousand voices raised in song, singing a wonderful old carol that spoke of joy, of peace and of love unbounded on the gladdest of glad holidays. They stopped to listen.

"We had a gift," Peter said sadly, remembering the beautiful clock that now lay shattered in unnumbered pieces.

Steven gently kissed Peter's bruised head. "We still do," he said gently, his heart aching with love.

Peter turned his head and looked at Steven uncomprehendingly.

"Ourselves," Steven said. "God gave us our love and that we can offer Him."

Peter could not believe the words he heard. "Steven. In there? In front of —?"

"Yes, my love," Steven replied firmly and with assurance. "In there and in front of everyone. Before the high altar and our God. Remember, man's opinions are not God's thoughts." Then he kissed Peter warmly on the lips.

With effort, the two young men mounted the wide stone steps, Steven helping Peter as they went. Before the massive wooden doors of the cathedral, they stopped, exchanged smiles and then entered the church carrying in their hearts, their single gift that they would present on Christmas Eve.

The air was redolent of sweet smelling incense, of pine bows and the pungent odor of melting wax from a seeming thousand candles that illumined the vast sanctuary. Far down the aisle, they could see the magnificent altar and, at its foot, gifts, piled high, of every kind. In front stood the bishop and all his priests, resplendent in their robes, preparing to offer the sacrifice of the Mass.

"Come," Steven whispered. He squeezed Peter's hand and felt a warm, familiar pressure in return.

Slowly, they began to make their way to the front. As they did, those in the back pews turned to look, their movement followed by others until there was a wave of heads turning and a swelling rumble of angry words that grew louder as they went.

"What are you doing here?!" the bishop thundered. "Get out! Get out of this holy place! There is no room for you here!"

The two lovers walked on, ignoring him as they paid no attention to the eyes, blazing red all around them. On they went, step by step, until finally, they reached the foot of the altar.

In a cold rage, the bishop, in a swish of robes, advanced upon them, stopping only when they were a few feet apart.

"How dare you defile this place!" the prelate screamed. "How dare you!" Then he raised his arm and shouted, "By the authority given me of God, I condemn you both to everlasting fire; to spend your eternity in Hell!"

And, suddenly, as the bishop finished, there was music; sweet, soft wonderful music coming from high in the vaulted arches of the church. It swelled, grew louder, and as it did, there was light, brilliant, beautiful, advancing, chasing the darkness before it. It was glorious, sublime, such as had not been seen since the dawn of all creation.

In startled and fearful wonder, Peter and Steven looked up, falling to their knees as they saw in the midst of the light, forms, as it seemed, hundreds and hundreds of forms, all of radiant white.

And before them, a young man of wonderful beauty, clothed in light like the sun. On he came, leading the host, slipping through the air as if it were the smoothest path; coming until he stood before where Steven and Peter knelt.

"My Lord," Peter whispered, digging his fingers into Steven's hand.

"Not Lord," came the reply, echoing richly throughout the cathedral. "But I am Michael, Archangel of the Hosts." So saying, he turned to the bishop who stood shaking at the sight. "Who are you?"

The bishop sputtered, coughed and tried to speak, but no words came.

Then Michael thundered, "Who are you to think you have authority here? What arrogance leads you to judge others when you, yourself, are guilty? Now, let your own sentence uttered by your own mouth be carried out!"

At Michael's words, there sprang up all around, great, red-orange tongues of flame that consumed the bishop and he was no more. Abroad in the church, there was weeping and wailing; a great out-cry, as people screamed in terror and begged forgiveness for their sins.

But Michael paid no attention. Instead, he turned again to Steven and Peter, saying gently, "Be not afraid. Your gift of love returned to Him who gave it to you; to Love itself, has touched the heart of Heaven and so the legend is fulfilled this night. Now, as he who has defiled this place with his hatred has gone to his father, so I have come to take you to yours. There you will live together forevermore."

The music swelled once more and was joined by a mighty chorus of angelic voices, singing words heard by mortal ears on only one other Christmas Eve.

Afterward, all seemed to be as it was before. The great church became a center of pilgrimage and, it was said, miracles were wrought there. But few there were who ever understood why.

# Season's Greetings

## From the 1991 Proud Crowd

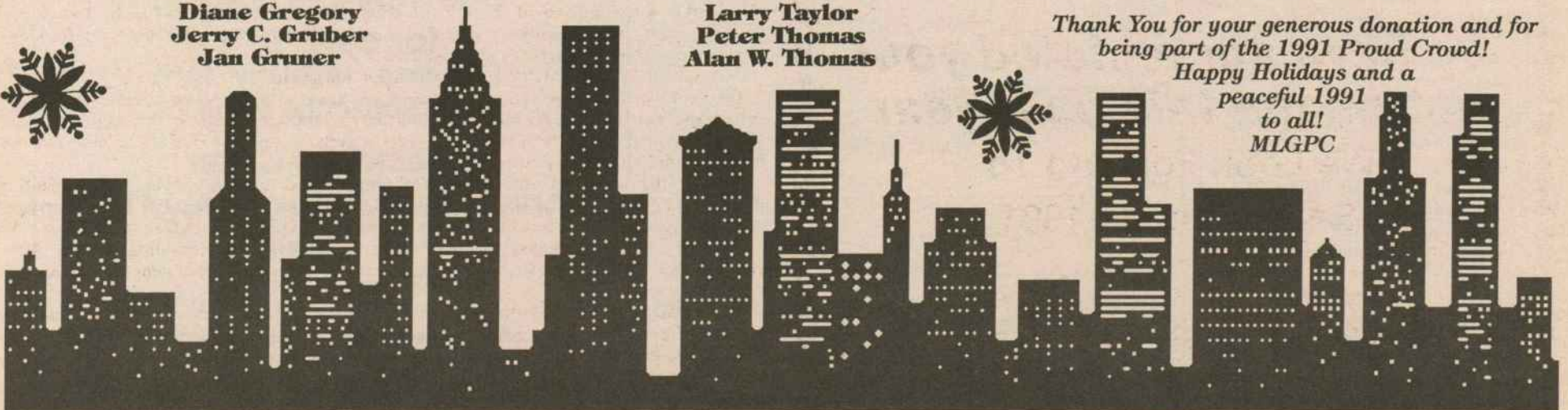
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Happy Holidays and a peaceful 1991 to all!  
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## WORLD VIEWS AND OPINIONS

# Peru's Homosexual Movement Faces Violence and Rejection

By Lucien Chauvin

[Lima, Peru]. Although the Homosexual Movement of Lima (MHOL) has made great strides promoting and defending the rights of Lesbians and Gays, violence and rejection continue to threaten Peru's homosexual community.

"As an expression of the generalized social violence, for example, in the last 10 months, 60 transvestites have been assassinated. These assassinations are the most brutal example of the violence encountered by Lesbians and Gays," said Rebeca Sevilla, MHOL's Executive Director.

"The homosexualization of AIDS has added to the homophobia that already existed in the most extremist sectors of Peruvian society," added Sevilla.

In June, 1990, for example, the police raided "El Dique," a restaurant in one of Lima's poor barrios. A group of Gay men had gathered at the restaurant for a party and to elect "Miss Gay San Martin de Porres."

A number of Lima dailies carried news of the raid, offering various justifications for the action. Not one newspaper, however, faulted the police for violating the constitutionally guaranteed right to assemble.

In addition to the repression and prejudice found throughout all levels of Peruvian society, Lesbians and Gays are also the targets of one of Peru's revolutionary movements.

The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), has openly stated its policy to kill homosexuals, who, according to the group's leader, Victor Polay, represent a danger to society.

In early May, 1990, members of MRTA entered Tarapoto, in the jungle department of San Martin, and advised residents that they would soon begin a process of "moralization."

This moralization was aimed at ridding the city of all homosexuals, prostitutes, thieves and drug users.

The group followed up on its threat at the end of May, re-entering the city and massacring seven Gay men.

In July, 1990, MRTA carried out a similar campaign in Pucallpa, in the department of Ucayali. Two Gay men were assassinated in the attack.

Nevertheless, the violence directed against homosexuals has provoked little response from Peru's human rights groups.

Taking the lead from Amnesty International, many of Peru's human rights groups claim violation based solely on one's sexual preference does not fall under the rubric of existing international human rights conventions and declarations.

"For human rights groups, aggressions directed against homosexuals are not considered violations of human rights," stated the coordinator of MHOL's legal defense office.

"If Peru's human rights groups considered aggressions against homosexuals violations of human rights, they would denounce massacres such as the one which occurred in Tarapoto. These groups, however, have remained silent," added MHOL's lawyer.

Adding to the repressive climate that Peru's homosexuals confront, is an ever worsening economic and political crisis.

On August 8, 1990, President Alberto Fujimori announced an economic adjustment plan that quadrupled the price of basic foods and raised fuel prices some 30 times.

The following day, "Black Thursday," most Peruvians wondered what had happened to the populist rhetoric that earned Fujimori 56 percent of the vote.

For many of Peru's 12 million poor, the "Fujishock" may literally be the final blow--causing thousands to die of hunger and, at the same time, strengthening Peru's revolutionary groups, MRTA and the Maoist Shining Path.

Both the immediate and long-term consequences of the economic crisis also has serious implications for Peru's Lesbians and Gays as well as for MHOL.

For example, Eduardo, a 19-year-old Gay man, was left homeless after the price of the room he shared with five other people went from \$5 a month to \$5 a week. He is not working and the odds of

his finding a job are slim. His case is the norm.

According to Anita, one of MHOL's staff members, her monthly salary of \$40 does not go far.

"I am an immigrant from the sierra. People in Lima are better equipped to confront the current crisis because they have a certain stability. A simple room in a boarding house now costs \$20 a month. That's half my salary," she said.

According to Sevilla, MHOL is currently operating on a monthly budget of \$5,000. This amount is used to pay the group's 30 employees and cover operating costs. With an annual inflation rate estimated at over 10,000 percent, MHOL is faced with tough choices.

"The impact of MHOL's work has increased roughly 10 times in the last 3 years. Operating funds, however, have remained at 1986 levels," said Sevilla.

"What's worse, we have to use what funds we have to fill in huge gaps left by the government's ineffective Ministry of Health. The government is not concerned with the most marginalized sectors of society," she added.

An AIDS hotline, Sidayuda, the most established service of its kind south of Mexico, is confronted by several problems including telephone rates that have increased some 6,000 percent since January, 1990.

In the weeks following the announcement of the economic measures, calls received by Sidayuda's volunteers dropped from an average of 30 a week to five.

"As a result of the economic and social crisis, people have lost perspective on their health and, in general, their lives. When people don't have anything to eat, worrying about the possibility of getting the AIDS virus loses meaning," said Kique Bossio, MHOL's Secretary.

In recent months, the situation for those who are HIV positive or who have AIDS has gone from bad to worse.

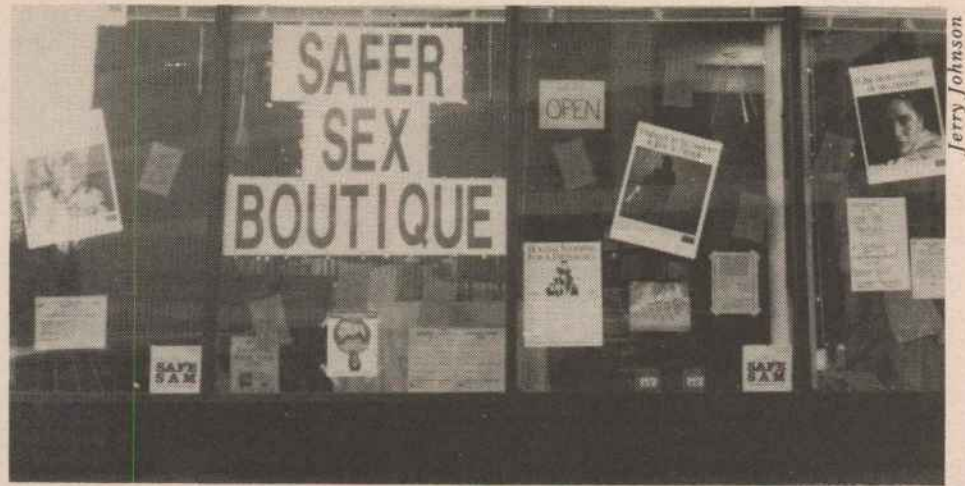
Because of high prices and low supplies, medicines are not frequently used to treat those patients lucky enough to receive medical attention from Peru's battered healthcare system.

In the past, a controlled, high protein diet was the best way of avoiding tuberculosis and other highly infectious diseases common in Peru and easily caught when the immune system is weakened.

With a monthly salary of less than \$40, it is now virtually impossible to fulfill even this basic survival tactic.

A street-oriented program, "Pass the Word," is also threatened. The price of paper needed to make the roughly 18,000 pamphlets that the program's promoters hand out has increased nearly 500 percent.

Each month volunteers from Pass the Word hand out some 24,000 condoms. This distribution, however, could be jeopardized as both price and demand have increased far beyond what was projected.



The nation's first safe sex boutique is open in Madison at 219 King St. through Dec. 31. Sponsored by MASN, the store is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon. through Sat.

"When we first began, the program was rejected by the people we were trying to reach. These same people are now unhappy with one condom. They want four or five. Transvestites and male prostitutes want up to 20 condoms 'because they work'" said Cesar Alcozar, one of the program's coordinators.

Despite of the difficulties presented by both economic and social violence, MHOL's Sevilla is confident that the group will continue to move ahead.

"MHOL offers a space where people can meet, where they can find creative and collective support to confront their daily problems. There is an atmosphere of solidarity which stresses the positive as a defense against all the pain and anger in Peru today," said Sevilla.

**Editor's Note:** The above article was sent to *Wisconsin Light* because "News of Peru in the U.S. is very limited and generally geared to the war on drugs or other issues which interest the U.S. government."

MHOL and the author hope that Lesbians and Gays in America "can get a glimpse of the struggles faced by Peru's Lesbian/Gay community."

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# Gay and Lesbian Parents Group Offers Support, Networking

[Milwaukee]- Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition of Milwaukee (GLPCM), wishes to welcome all members of the Gay and Lesbian community who are interested in our support and social group.

We are a group of parents who are Lesbian and Gay. Our experiences have been varied and we are united in our determination to integrate these two aspects of our lives. In the past, our role as parents has been viewed as incompatible with our homosexuality, both by society at large and, all too often, by ourselves as well.

GLPCM members believe, on the contrary, that we can love and nourish children and provide a safe environment in which our children can mature into loving and productive adults.

GLPCM's purpose is to provide a support group and communications network for parents who are Gay and

Lesbian, their parents, other Gay persons in child-nurturing roles and opportunities for social interaction among parents, their families and friends.

GLPCM wants to provide a forum to discuss common concerns and to encourage cooperative action in promoting the common interests of parents who are Gay and Lesbian and their families.

To meet these objectives, we need the support of the community and its participation. We welcome all new members.

We meet the 1st Thursday of the month for a support meeting and meet the 3rd Thursday of the month for a social gathering.

For more information for time and place of our next meeting, please call (414) 962-0861.

# They Are Destroying Me! Accept Me — Accept Me for Being Me!

By Tracy Zwijacz [Taz]

I'm running, my head is pounding and there's no guidance to the pace my psyche is setting.

Anger, confusion, frustration, I confided in them. But I knew they wouldn't understand. Why must they act like I'm a nobody as far as my feelings are concerned?

They deny it, push it back and forth, accusing themselves along with millions of other irrelevant reasons as to why I feel the way I do. They are destroying me! Slowly, they gnaw at my inner soul! Accept me! Damn it, accept me for being me!

It goes on for hours, days and months. The same words, the same lines, their last legs of hope. "You're just going through a stage of growing up. A beautiful young lady like yourself has so much to look forward to. Gentlemen callers, marriage, a family and a fine home." (As if without a man, I will never find happiness. What happened to love?)

"Open up your eyes, child. Remove these irrational concepts from your mind. It will soon pass. We all have our blemishes."

Stop! Leave me alone! You are all hopeless, incapable of loving or caring or learning about different ways of life; although so closely related on the basis of LOVE!

I am not a child anymore and I'm totally capable of knowing what is right for myself. An area in which you know little and a concept which you obviously cannot grasp.

Get your noses past my bedroom door. If you can do that, then maybe you just might be able to accept me as I am and always have been.

A Lesbian! LESBIAN!  
I have slowed down to jog now. My mind is more at ease. I have accepted myself and blown them off. Thank you, Lord.

I am a Lesbian!

# P-FLAG To Benefit From Combined Federal Campaign

[Washington, D.C.]- The Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a certified participating organization of the Combined Federal Campaign for Fall, 1990, according to Paulette Goodman, Federation President. The campaign provides the opportunity for federal employees to support independent charitable organizations with payroll deduction gifts. The number to use to designate P-FLAG is "0863."

"CFC is an important source of funding for the Federation, and we urge all our friends to use this opportunity to support P-FLAG," said Goodman.

P-FLAG is a national network of volunteer support groups for families, providing information, counseling and telephone helpline services to promote understanding between Lesbians and Gay

men and their families and friends and to educate the public about homosexuality. Gifts are tax-deductible.

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## The Clockmakers

By Terry Boughner

There were three men in a room of about 100. They were all of the same age, about 60. They were all of the same race, all of them were white. They were all of the same religion, all of them were Catholic. They were all of the same profession, all of them were clockmakers. They were all of the same name, all of them were the Boughners.

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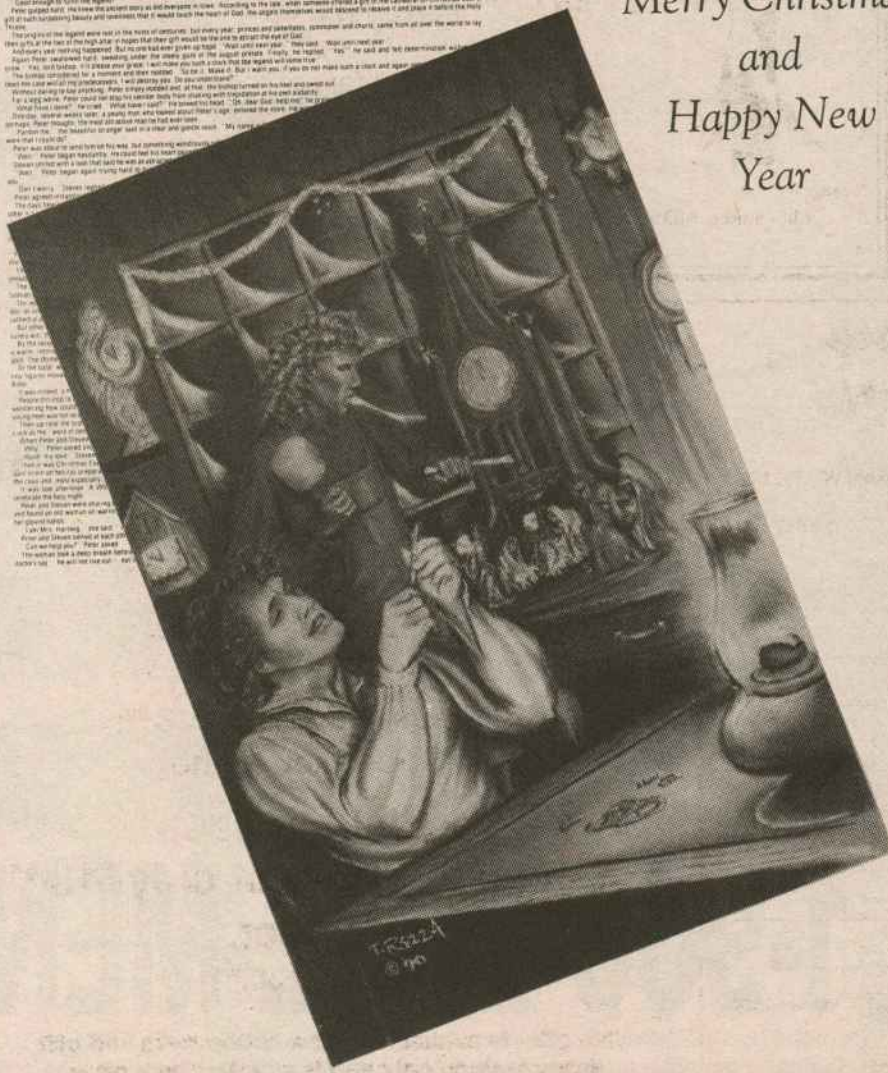
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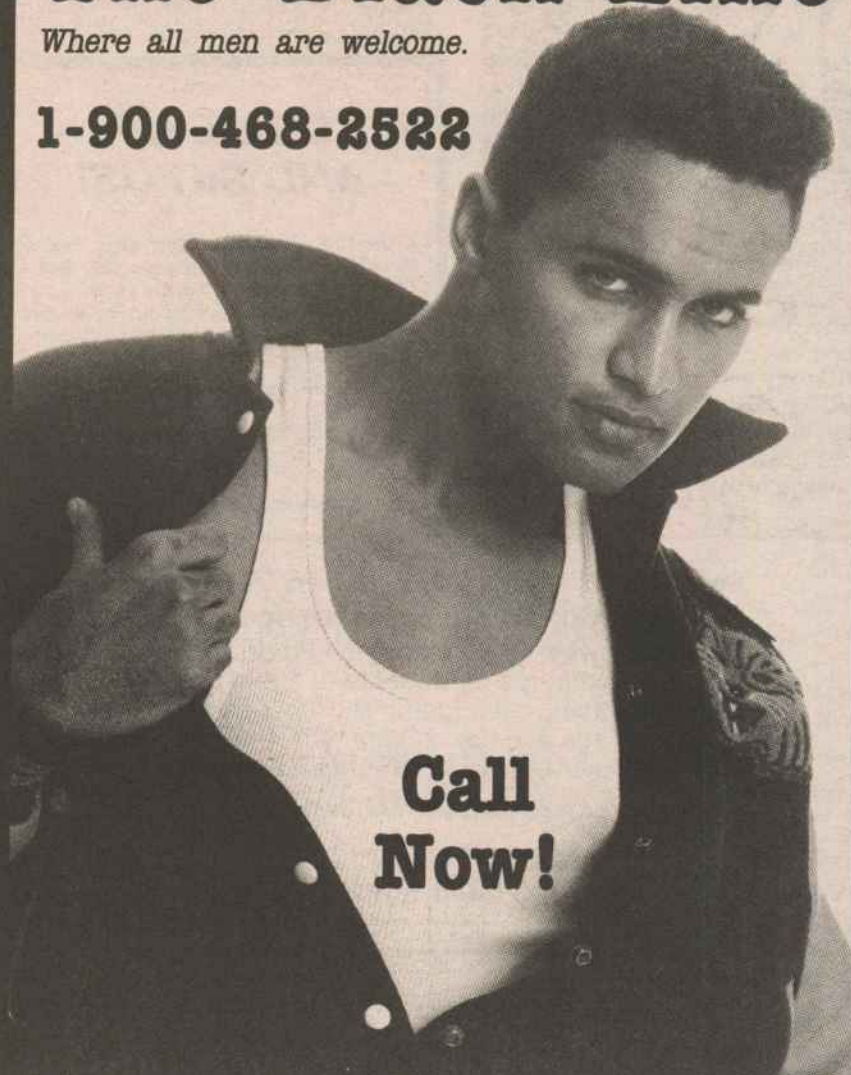
Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer St.  
This Is It, 418 E. Wells St.  
Video Adventures, 1418 E. Brady St.  
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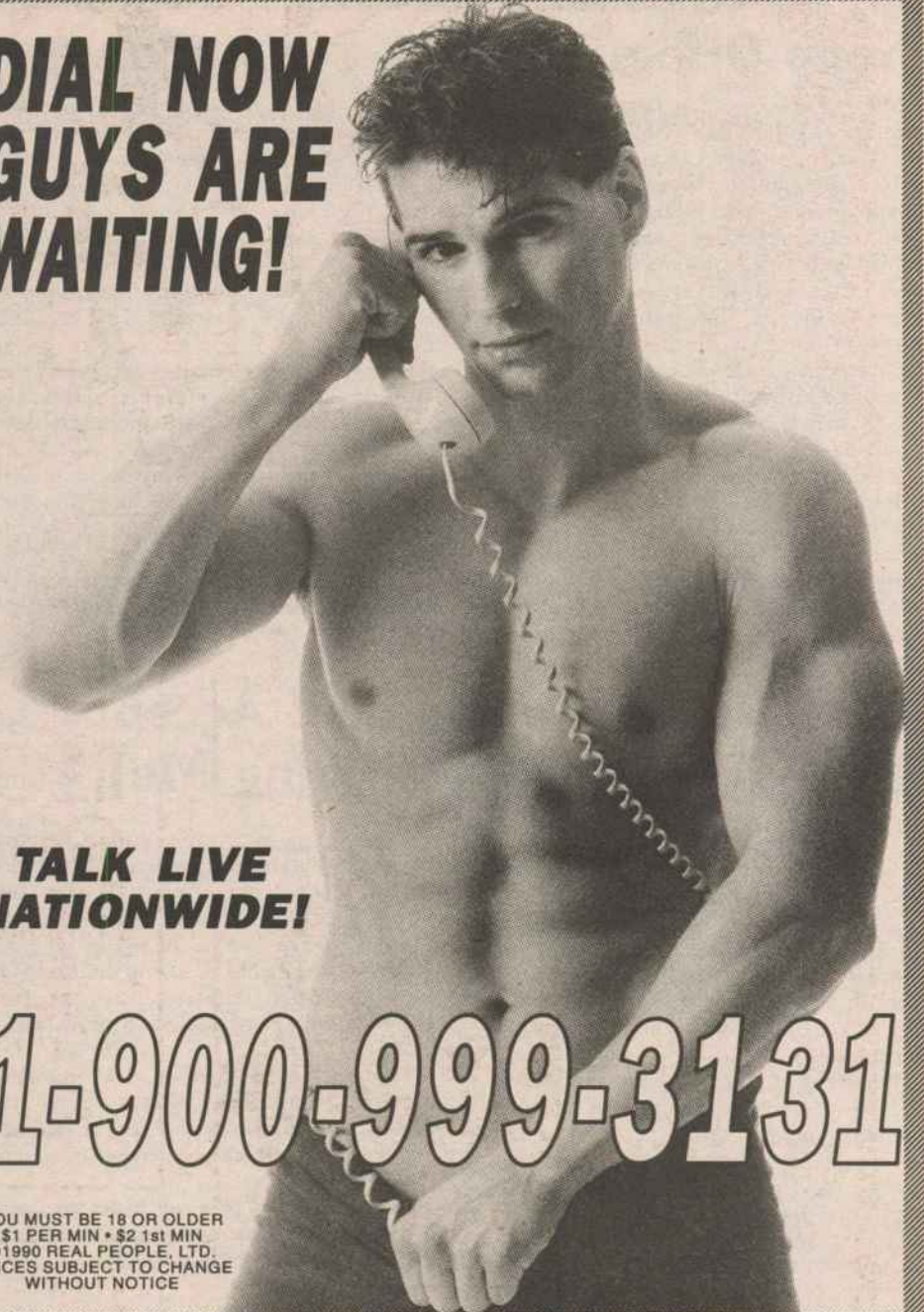


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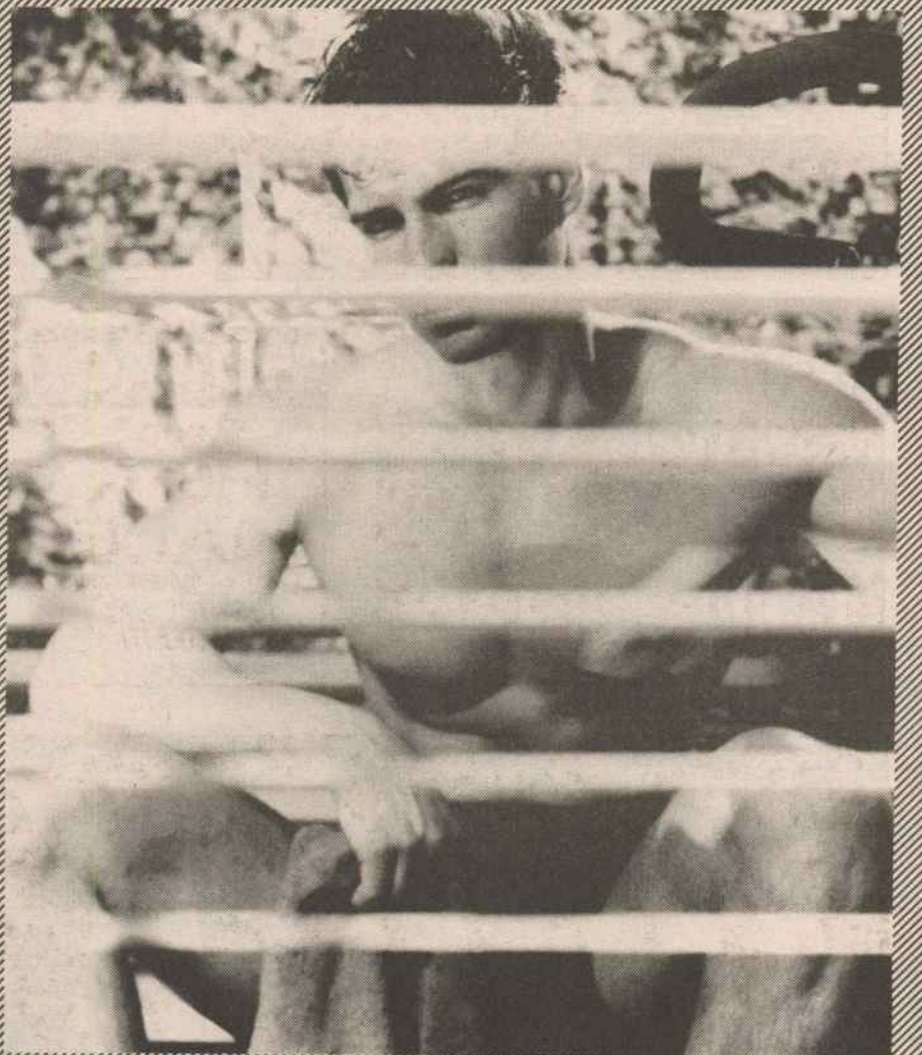
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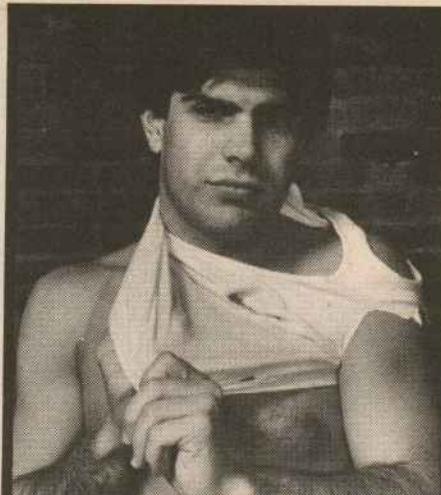
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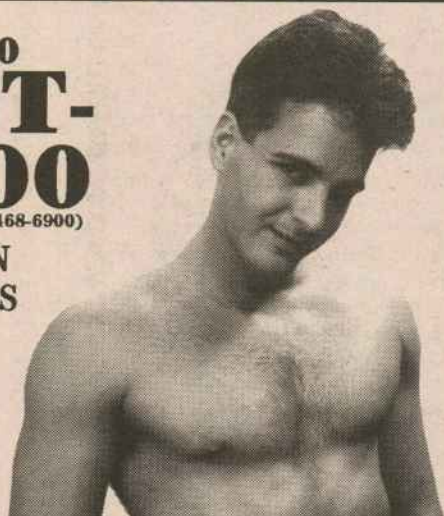
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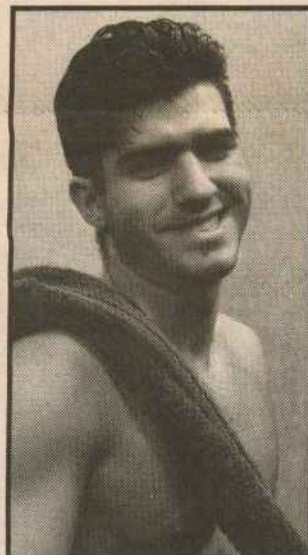
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## Do Gays Feel Differently About Persian Gulf War Potential?

By John Zeh

[Washington, D.C.] [GLINN]- Protests against American policy in the Persian Gulf and the threat of war escalated last week with actions on campuses, rallies at the White House and elsewhere, arrests at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and opening of the first toll-free hotline for peace.

Gay and Lesbian leaders of student groups here expressed fear that their peers may believe war is not an important issue because homosexuals are exempt from military service.

Hundreds of people — as many as 1500 according to one estimate — marched from Lafayette Park across from Bush's residence the Lincoln and Vietnam war monuments.

Fifty people who blocked traffic were arrested in the culmination of an afternoon-long protest against President George Bush's handling of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"I don't want us in a war," said Eve Faber of Oppression Under Target! (OUT!). DC's premier Lesbian and Gay direct action group that recruited 15-20 rally participants. There are a lot of good reasons why Gay men and Lesbians not to fight problems of the military's discrimination, and Gay and Lesbian victims of war in Arab countries," she said.

"What immediately frightens me is all the people already in Saudi Arabia, some of whom I know and love, said Richard Hurst, a GU graduate, treasurer of George Washington University's Gay and Lesbian Law Association, and a Philadelphia native. "My lover and I sit around the table worrying that our friends will never get to read our letters. It freaks me out."

Engineering student Mark Delevie, a licensed pilot high on the the military's want list and outgoing president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alliance at suburban Montgomery College said he will resist if drafted. "I'll give the recruiter a big kiss because of the Pentagon's discrimination against Gay

men and Lesbians, and because I'm not included to fight a war I don't believe in."

He said he would consider serving in the kind of all-Gay battalion proposed by Lesbian activist/soldier Miriam Ben-Shalom. "Imagine her joy if she was able to capture Saddam Hussein!"

Washington correspondent John Zeh won a Readers' Digest grant and a citation from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation for his coverage of Vietnam war protests in 1967.

## Living With AIDS Disabilities Pamphlet Issued

[New York, NY]- To educate people with AIDS about their rights and responsibilities under the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) national AIDS Project, along with the AIDS Action Council and the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) have established a new education project and issued a new publication: "The Americans With Disabilities Act: What It Means For People Living With AIDS."

The new publication outlines the provisions of the ADA and how they can be used by people living with AIDS. It provides answers in 19 areas, ranging from basic definitions of the ADA and the term "disabled" to questions about discrimination against people with HIV disease or AIDS.

The ADA Education project is also developing more comprehensive materials on the legislation. In addition, the Project is creating an "in service" training program, which will be conducted by staff from the three sponsoring organizations for interested organizations and corporations throughout the U.S.

Persons and organizations interested in this new law are urged to contact the ADA Education Project at the ACLU, 132 W. 43rd St., N.Y., NY 10036.

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## Men's Discussion Group To Focus On Holidays

[Milwaukee]- The Counseling Center of Milwaukee understands that this time of year can be a lonely one for many. They would like to invite everyone to come to their next Gay Men's Discussion Group (GMDG), where the focus will be on such topics as: What the holiday season means and how it effects you as a Gay man; Capturing, rather than buying, the holiday spirit; The Gay man and his connections to his love, his family and his friends; Spirituality as a personal experience; Creating new holiday traditions.

The Center asks that you join them on Sunday, December 23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and share with one another our own unique ways of making the holidays truly Gay.

GMDG meets at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. in Milwaukee.

### SHOW

#### Continued from Page 4

program, but was unsure about whether to publish their names. Had I published them without permission, I would have been criticized for "outing" them!

4) I think my opinions were, in fact, balanced, making note of a number of outstanding acts, actually "praising" the coordinators of the Art Opening and Poetry Reading, and making constructive suggestions for next year. I also paid tribute to the women of KGP by name for the time and energy they put into the weekend of events and expressed regret at having to pan the Variety Show segment. I have been an enthusiastic supporter of the show for five years, often encouraging Milwaukee women to attend. Despite this year's marathon, I will continue to talk it up.

For what it's worth, I have received more criticism from women (mostly Milwaukeeans) who say that my review was "too generous." Some thought I should have been more critical! Ironically, I'm in the same position that Leslie describes (she as a producer, me as a writer): we're damned if we do and damned if we don't.

I deeply regret that the review was taken so personally and would like to reiterate my support and respect for Leslie and the hard working women of Kissing Girls Productions. Organizing/producing for the women's community are often thankless jobs. To the extent that I contributed to that dynamic, I apologize.

### ELIASON

#### Continued from Page 1

his tactics are subtle. WVCY-TV is non-profit so that he cannot take a political position out-right. Instead, he presents the situation and then, with eyebrows raised and in a tone of voice that leaves no one under any illusion as to where they should stand, he ostensibly leaves it up to his audience as to what to do. Phone numbers of legislators are often provided. The connection is not difficult to miss.

In the case of the civil rights law, as with other pieces of legislation he opposes, he used these tactics as this reporter heard.

In researching the story, Brienza learned of Eliason's efforts and contacted him for an interview for her story.

According to Eliason, speaking on "In Focus" on April 10 and 11, 1990, said that Brienza had called him and repeatedly identified *The Blade* as "a homosexual newspaper."

Eliason began a campaign to have Brienza fired. Among other tactics, he appeared on Marvin Madox's nationally syndicated Christian radio hook-up. Madox is based in Texas, carrying his case on Brienza to the country.

Eliason "outed" Brienza, calling her

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a "Lesbian" and asked listeners to jam UPI lines and demand Brienza's termination because of her sexual orientation and because she was free-lancing for a Gay/Lesbian newspaper.

Eliason also contacted a number of UPI officials to complain about Brienza's writing for a Lesbian and Gay newspaper.

Initially, UPI supported Brienza. On April 11, *Light* contacted UPI in Washington and was told by reliable sources who requested anonymity that UPI intended to take no action against Brienza; that there was no story.

Two weeks went by. Then Brienza was fired. According to UPI senior vice president, Milt Capps, Brienza was dismissed for "showing disregard for UPI's reputation as an impartial news service."

However, sources speaking to *Light* at UPI said that when Eliason began his campaign, Brienza was to receive "a mild slap on the wrist." But as "the pressure built", that decision changed and, ultimately, she was fired. The sources at UPI indicated considerable anger with "upper level management" over their decision to fire Brienza and expressed fear that if it should become known that they spoke with *Light* they, like Brienza would lose their jobs.

It was noted that the Chief Executive Officer of UPI was Dr. Earl Brian who is allegedly connected with a variety of right-wing causes.

"I was absolutely stunned that UPI would bow to pressure of a religious broadcaster known for his hatred of Lesbians and Gay men," said Brienza. "It is ironic, however, that UPI fired me because of Eliason's hate campaign against me when I was writing about Eliason's First Amendment right to use the airwaves to propagate his campaigns." Brienza seeks reinstatement to her position at UPI, backpay, compensatory damages and punitive damages against Eliason.

"This case illustrates the vulnerability all Lesbians and Gay men feel in our jobs and the need for strong civil rights laws," said Paul Ettlbrick, legal co-counsel for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the New York-based group which is co-counsel for Brienza. "The fact that one man with a radio license can wage a personal attack on Julie, announcing to the world on national radio that she is a Lesbian, potentially ruining her career and causing her incalculable personal anguish, means none of us is safe from homophobic hatred."

According to Washington, D.C. civil rights attorney Lynne Bernabei, who is lead counsel in the case, "This suit will send a signal to Eliason and other hate-mongers that the casualties of their orchestrated hate campaigns will not be silenced, and that they will seek redress in the courts for the damages intentionally inflicted by bigots."

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### Publications

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## Has AIDS Brought Upon The Country A New Scarlet Letter?

By Brian Kipp

There is a classic book called "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne in which the main character is forced to wear a scarlet "A" emblazoned on all of her clothes because she had been caught in the act of adultery. I personally have never read the book, but I've been thinking a lot about the new "Scarlet A" — AIDS.

Although I try not to be, sometimes I can be very judgmental and holier-than-thou. A legacy from my parents, I guess; definitely not one that I'm proud of. I can't stand it when anyone is judgmental of me and yet, I've kept a few opinions about some people based on some "common sense", especially concerning AIDS.

Sometimes I think and act so smugly that, although I don't appreciate it at the time, I'm glad that I go through some type of teaching experience in which I learn the not-so-subtle taste of humble pie.

For example, I always thought that only promiscuous people got crabs. That is, until last January when I caught them from my roommates. Quite a few eyebrows were raised my way when I said that it wasn't my fault. (I had been going through an extended celibate period.) The embarrassment I felt — not to mention the itching — made me begin to see things through a different set of eyes.

Even though I know someone with HIV, it still hadn't sunk in yet; I was still fairly untouched by this spectre. I mean, the guy I know isn't really all that close to me. And that's the way it went, until about a month ago. Now, I know a few more people who have "it", one who I care about and love quite a bit.

The icing on the cake was a short time ago when I went to the Lavender Hill party with my boyfriend. On the surface it was a lot of fun and a great way to meet new people. But then I saw someone that I had once "tricked" with a few years ago. That someone is now being ravaged by that goddamned disease. Later that night, I lay in bed, having nightmares about losing everyone I cared for to this virus. So I thought about my whole attitude

towards, not just the disease, but the people who have the disease and I realized what an asshole I've been about it.

I was doing the same thing to PWA's as the people of Hawthorne's book were doing to the woman caught in adultery — I was labeling them and pointing an accusing finger. Not only that, but I was making a judgment that shaped my whole perception of what these people were all about. Naturally, I'm talking about the people I don't know. Funny how when something hits close to home, you see it in a whole new light. It's rather sickening on my part that it is at the expense of some people dear to me that my eyes finally have been opened.

For all I know, I could have the virus. God knows, I fooled around enough times without any regard to protecting myself or my partner. I've been lucky that I've always tested negative — up to now. I can still be inside.

And what happens if I do contract it? Will people start branding me with a "scarlet A", pointing the finger and shunning me? And then I'd be raging inside about how unfair this treatment was, and how much it hurts, just like... just like the way I've treated others. I finally learned that these guys didn't get the disease by sleeping with hundreds of different partners or by being punished by God for being Gay or any of that nonsense — and that most of all, it doesn't matter how they got it or even that they do have it. These are still my friends and everyone of them is a person who feels inside. I found that once I got past my fears, it's possible to have much easier and more fulfilling relationships. More than ever, be healthy and be happy.

### OBITUARY POLICY

Wisconsin Light publishes obituaries of members of the Lesbian/Gay community as both news and a community service free of charge. In many cases, we depend on relatives and/or friends of the deceased to provide us with the necessary information.

## First National Graduate Student Conference On Gay Studies Set

[Milwaukee]- The First National Graduate Student Conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, April 18- 20, 1991. All graduate students interested in the emerging field of Lesbian and Gay studies are invited to submit one-page proposals for papers by January 16, 1991. Papers which cut across disciplinary boundaries, make connections between academic and community concerns, and examine the intersections of sexual and racial identities are especially welcome.

The conference will begin on Thursday, April 18th with a presentation by Thomas Yingling, Assistant Professor of English at Syracuse University. On Friday night, Joan Nestle, founder of The Lesbian Herstory Archives, New York, will give a lecture and slide presentation entitled "Lesbian Courage pre-1970." The remainder of the Conference will be devoted entirely to papers by graduate students. Registration for the Conference will be \$10, which will include a reception

### BWMT To Hold Convention In Detroit

[Detroit, MI]- Detroit will host the 1991 convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) on June 23- 30, 1991. About 300 people are expected to pack the Hotel St. Regis for a week of workshops, guest speakers, entertainment that will include a "night on the town" in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. There will be other special events that will explore the theme "Living, Loving and Working Together."

Registration fees are \$70 prior to January 1, 1991; Jan. 2-April 1 — \$85 and April 2-June 17 — \$95.

There will be a \$15 late fee added to registrations made during the week of the convention. No personal checks will be accepted after June 1.

For more information or to obtain registration forms and brochures, write to: BWMT-Detroit, Convention '91, P.O. Box 24-8831, Detroit, MI 48224.

and dance on Saturday night. Inquiries and proposals should be sent to: Cheryl Kader or Thomas Piontek, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, P.O. Box 413, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201.



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