

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

The Wisconsin Light

AIDS Information Passed Out At High School Proms

[Milwaukee]- ACT UP/Milwaukee is distributing Red Cross AIDS information and condoms at local high school proms again this Spring. The weekend of May 10-11 included proms at West Allis, Solomon Juneau, Milwaukee High School of the Arts and Brookfield Central high schools and at downtown locations. ACT UP will be attending as many proms as it can this season.

Major media reportage of ACT UP's presence at the proms indicated that the great majority of teen-agers welcomed the condoms and information ACT UP was distributing.

ACT UP says these actions are continuations of its efforts to promote AIDS education for Milwaukee's teen-agers. Adolescence is a time of exploration in every aspect of life. ACT UP believes that without the knowledge of how to protect themselves, teen-agers will be the next wave in the AIDS pandemic.

Communities, ACT UP says, are still afraid of the issues surrounding adolescent sexuality and refuse to supply the necessary information. ACT UP maintains that some people would rather see sexually-active teen-agers get infected and die than talk about condoms in high schools. Honest education and discussion of sex and HIV-infection must be available to help stem the spread of this disease.

According to ACT UP, "We must use accurate AIDS information as a vaccine to control AIDS as we control polio and smallpox with mandatory immunizations. Condoms, water-based lubricants, spermicides and clean needles must become so expected in our everyday lives that we will no longer have to struggle to discuss them with our children, parents or our partners."

The Milwaukee Journal's October 17, 1990 editorial acknowledged "adolescents are notorious risk-takers; at the same time, they are susceptible to believing that they will escape the consequences of their behavior. That combination is deadly in the age of AIDS. ACT UP makes that point graphically when it hands out condoms before a dance. It's an unpleasant message, perhaps, but it needs to be heard."

Ecumenical Retreat Planned In Madison

[Madison]- "Relationships" is the theme of a three-day ecumenical retreat to be held on June 28-30, 1991. Here, participants will be able to explore their own spirituality as it relates to relationships.

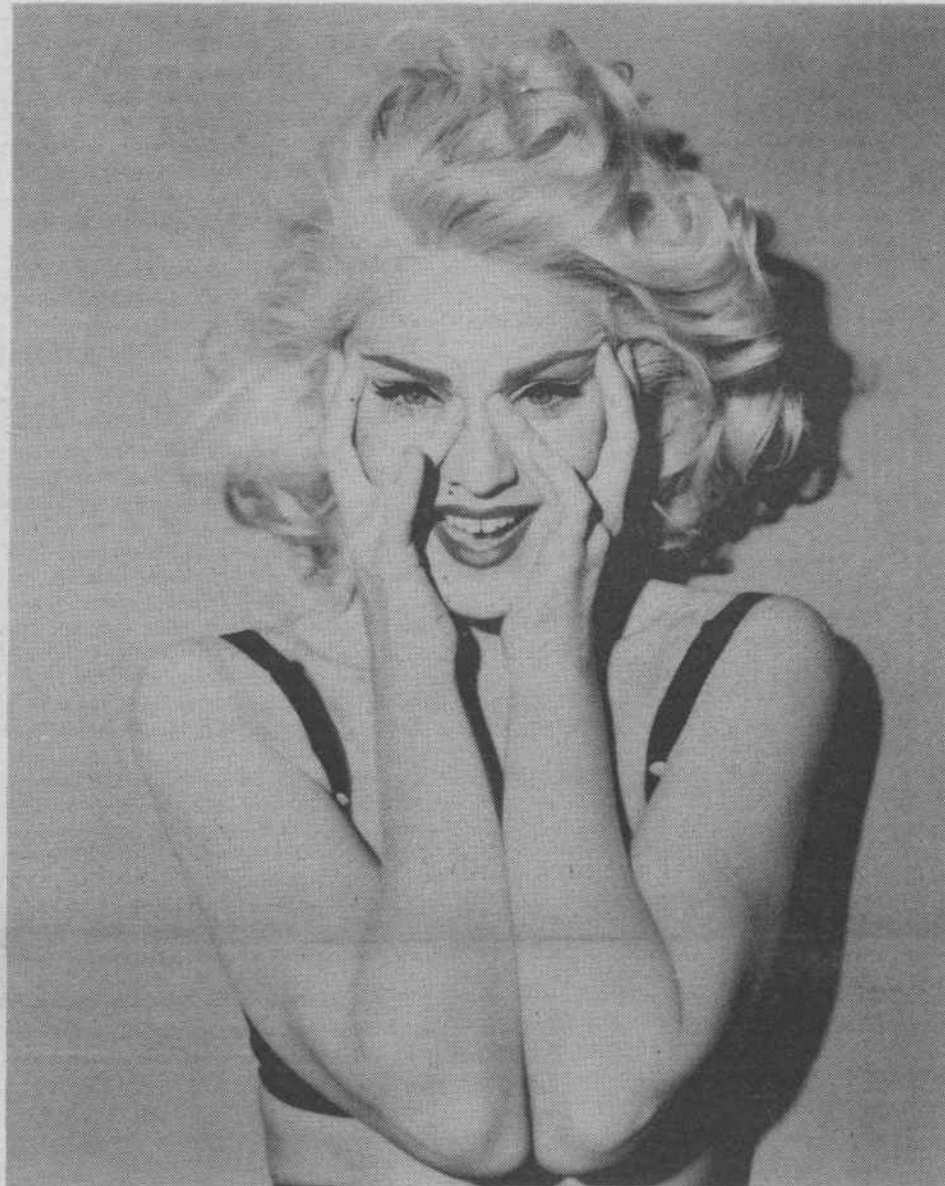
People affected by HIV or AIDS, regardless of their religious or spiritual traditions, are encouraged to attend. Caretakers, close family members and friends are also welcome.

The retreat is being sponsored by St. Benedict Center, the Wisconsin Conference of Churches AIDS Task Force, Integrity/Dignity of Madison, the American Red Cross, the Madison AIDS Support Network and Damien Ministries working together as the Madison Interfaith Committee on AIDS/HIV Ministries.

The retreat will cost \$150 per person, but sponsorships will permit HIV-positive retreatants to attend without charge. Checks to register for the retreat or sponsor someone who has HIV should be made out to "St. Benedict Center/AIDS Retreat."

For more information, write to the Madison Interfaith Committee on AIDS/HIV Ministries, Box 741, Madison, WI 53701 or call Ray Gau at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, (608) 233-0134; Marge Sutinen at the Red Cross at (608) 233-9300 or George Hinger at the St. Benedict Center at (608) 836-1631.

ACT UP Protests Visit By HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan



Madonna's new documentary film, *Truth or Dare*, has just opened at theatres throughout the country. (See review on page 9).

UW Madison Opens Family Housing to Gay/Lesbian Couples

[Madison]- On Thursday, May 2, 1991, University of Wisconsin officials announced their decision to open family housing to Gay and Lesbian couples.

"I think that this is the only decision which the university could have made on this decision," said Beverly Jenkins, Minority Affairs Director of United Council.

United Council is the oldest and one of the largest student research organizations representing over 170,000 students throughout the UW system.

"I've been lobbying various officials on this issue for over a year, and I always stressed that it had nothing to do with one's sentiment towards the legitimacy of a Gay or Lesbian couple. It's clearly an issue of whether or not the university will live up to its own policies of nondiscrimination," said Jenkins.

Madison's GALVANize Plans Dance Fundraiser on May 31

[Madison]- The Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance of Madison (GALVANize) is planning a dance to raise money for the October 5, 1991 Lesbian and Gay Pride March/Celebration. The dance will be held at Great Hall in the UW Memorial Union at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, May 31. All Lesbians, Gays, bisexuals and friends are welcome. DJ's Tara and Tony are planning their selection of great dance music. Let's have fun and raise money for the march. Childcare will be provided. Call (608) 255-8061 for childcare or more info.

GALVANize is also having a general planning meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the UW

Norm Sunstad, University Housing Director, said that he did not expect many Lesbian and Gay couples to apply immediately for housing, because relatively few couples have registered as domestic partners in Madison. "I expect this to change now that the university has shown that they support alternative families," said Jenkins.

UW-Madison is currently the only school in the system to have such a policy. UW-Superior is the only other campus operating nontraditional student residence facilities. The brochure explicitly states that housing is open to "single parent families, traditional families and married students." United Council hopes that the decision in Madison will serve as precedent for other campuses throughout Wisconsin and nation-wide.

Memorial Union (check "Today in the Union" for room) on Friday, May 31 (BEFORE THE DANCE). This is a planning meeting for the Oct. 5, 1991 March. Please get involved. Many committees are meeting to plan the march and events leading up to the march. There's much to organize and plan. Let's have a huge, successful march. Get involved! We can all make the march a success.

To be on the mailing list or for more info, call: (608) 255-8061 or write GALVANize, P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701-1403.

By ACT UP/Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- Louis Sullivan, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, (HHS) will be in Milwaukee on Saturday, May 18, 1991 to attend the graduation ceremonies of the Medical College of Wisconsin. He will be receiving an honorary degree from the college and will be addressing the class of new doctors. ACT UP/Milwaukee plans to protest Dr. Sullivan during his stay in Milwaukee, asking for adequate health care for everyone and equal access to treatment.

HHS comprises roughly 35% of the U.S. Government. As Secretary, Louis Sullivan is responsible for providing Aid For Dependent Children, Social Security Insurance and Health Care to protect Americans financially and medically. He holds the government safety net, but this safety net has holes, holes caused by inadequacies or by conservatives who don't care to help their fellow Americans. Louis Sullivan must fight a conservative administration's Office of Management and Budget and the reactionary right's moral agenda for America. As a respected physician who has worked his way up to his office, he is now allowing U.S. medicine to be run by bigots and number-crunchers.

When he was first nominated for the position, he so worried conservatives that they tried to stop his appointment. They compromised by surrounding him with conservative assistants. However, their concern seems to have been unfounded as Dr. Sullivan has caved in to the right on every issue in two years--including "suspect" stances on abortion, needle-exchange programs to slow the spread of AIDS and act as a bridge to treatment of addicts; and distancing himself and the administration from his own department's study that suggested that one-third of teen-age suicides could be avoided if we taught homosexuality to be natural for some people. With this appointment, he seems to have lost focus of his oath and ethics.

Dr. Sullivan proved that, without a study or an interagency committee, simply as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, he could end R.J. Reynold's Uptown cigarette campaign. His weapon was a bully pulpit. Another government official, ex-Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, seems to have understood the power of truth as well when he took on AIDS with his five-member staff. Surely Louis Sullivan, a physician and department head, can find more causes worthy of his attention than just cigarettes and personal responsibility.

Last May, in relation to demands of AIDS activists, he said, "We have matched their rhetoric with actions." However, last year he failed to remove HIV from the list of immigration restrictions, causing a world boycott of the Sixth International AIDS Conference; he opposed the passage of the Ryan White CARE Act to provide disaster relief for cities hardest hit by the AIDS crisis; and he refused to make the Centers for Disease Control change its definition of AIDS to better include the women and minorities affected. This year, as we

TURN TO ACT UP, PAGE 15

Welcome
Milwaukee Classic
Softball Players!
Have a Great Time
While Visiting
Milwaukee

The Wisconsin Light

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Bush on ACT UP: 'Outrageous'

[Washington, D.C.] Responding to a question from religious reporters about "Catholic bashing" by the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP), President Bush called ACT UP's actions "counter-productive" and "outrageous."

Bush's response was recorded by the **National Catholic Reporter**. He said: "I think that ACT UP resorts to tactics that are totally counterproductive. To the degree that the AIDS question should be treated as a health question, they work even against that because of their outrageous actions. And you're talking to somebody who has his own meetings broken up by them... It is not right. It is an excess of free speech to use — to resort to some of the tactics these people use."

Bush also professed his sensitivity to babies and "innocent people" infected with HIV, remarks which incensed AIDS activists. Fifteen members of ACT UP/D.C. protested in front of the White House. They were detained briefly by police after tossing condoms onto the White House grounds.

Gays Pressure Amnesty Int'l

[New York, NY] Lesbian and Gay groups worldwide are urging supporters to pressure Amnesty International into formally recognizing homosexuals and people with HIV as "prisoners of conscience."

Amnesty International (AI) is the human rights organization that monitors the conditions and advocates for the rights of people imprisoned because of their race, sex, religion or political beliefs.

"Amnesty has been working on this for 17 years," said Julie Dorf of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "A positive decision must be made at the 1991 conference, not another call for another report."

The American chapter of AI has endorsed and actively lobbied for the inclusion of Gays and Lesbians. However in 1987, the AI international conference agreed only to have a committee review AI's mandate. The committee will report its findings to the 1991 conference scheduled for August in Tokyo.

Letters supporting the inclusion of Gays and Lesbians as prisoners of conscience can be sent to John Healey, Director of AI-USA, 322 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10001, and to International Secretariat Ian Martin, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X80J, England. For further information, call Julie Dorf at (415) 647-0453.

Prom: Same Sex Couples Okay

[Pittsburgh, PA]-Philadelphia Gay News reports that administrators at North Allegheny High School in the city's posh North Hills, have rescinded their order that the school's senior prom was open to "heterosexual couples only." Students had protested the policy.

Principal Francis Barnes apologized for the "poor choice of words" and said: "We are not trying to make a statement about lifestyles." Barnes said the policy was only meant to keep singles away from the dance because students without dates sometimes caused trouble.

In a statement to a school assembly, Barnes said that same-sex couples would be welcome at the prom.

Texas Appeals Sodomy Ruling

[Austin, TX]-Attorney General Dan Morales of Texas has appealed last year's ruling by a district court that the state's sodomy law is in violation of the Texas constitution.

Gay activists in Texas welcomed the appeal because in order for a statute to be wiped off the books, it has to be declared unconstitutional by a statewide court. A favorable ruling by a higher court (sustaining the district court's decision) will also set a stronger precedent for other states.

Morales said he was acting out of his obligation as the state's attorney general. Both Morales and Gov. Ann Richards have expressed their opposition to the anti-homosexual sodomy statute.

Governor Calls For Gay Rights

[Salem, OR]-Democratic Gov. Barbara Roberts has urged a state senate committee to approve a bill which prohibits discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in housing, employment and public accommodations.

In 1988, Oregon voters repealed an executive order issued by former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in all state agencies.

"It distresses me that in Oregon today it is legal to deny housing to a woman because she is a Lesbian or to fire a man because he is Gay," Gov. Roberts testified. Roberts noted that the 1989 legislature had included sexual orientation in a hate crimes law. She said the current bill "only asks that we reaffirm our basic commitment to human and civil rights with a simple vote for fairness."

Hawai'i and Connecticut recently joined Wisconsin and Massachusetts as states which protect Gay and Lesbian rights.

Hawai'ian Couples Seek Marriage

[Honolulu, HI]-Three Lesbian and Gay couples have filed a suit in Hawai'i's First Circuit Court to gain the right to marry. The couples filed their lawsuit against the state's Department of Health which refused to issue them marriage licenses late last year.

According to reporter Keith Clark, the lawsuit seeks a summary judgment from the court. The state Attorney General's office is expected to respond in the next month or two and the case could be heard by late summer.

The plaintiffs believe that state law is in their favor because in the 1970's all Hawai'ian statutes were made gender neutral. Marriage partners, for instance, are referred to as "spouses" and not specifically identified by sex. In March of this year, Hawai'i passed a law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment.

81% Approve of Gays in Military

[Washington, D.C.] In a nationwide poll conducted by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), 81 percent of those polled said that the government should not discharge members of the armed forces simply because they are homosexual.

Of the 800 respondents, only 14 percent said the Pentagon should discharge Gays and 5 percent said they had no opinion. There is a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

"Americans of every age, income, race, region, sex, political party and ideology supported the right of Lesbians and Gays in the armed forces to remain in their jobs," said Gregory King of the HRCF.

Another finding of the survey indicated that 80 percent of those polled believe that "homosexuals should have equal rights for jobs." This finding is up from 56 percent in 1977 and 71 percent in 1989 in similar questions asked by the Gallup poll.

AAA Recognizes Same Sex Partners

[Seattle, WA]-The American Automobile Association (AAA) of Washington state has become the first and only AAA chapter in the US to accept same-sex partners as associate members. Previously, such membership was extended only to the primary member's legal spouse and dependent children.

the domestic partner and other residents of a primary member's household after a human rights complaint was filed by a Gay man. The Seattle Human Rights Department ruled that the AAA policy violated Seattle's ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on marital status.

Demian and Stevie Bryant are the Gay couple in the case. They have been together for ten years and edit **Partners**, a newsletter which focuses on the rights of Gay and Lesbian couples.

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.

Milwaukee Hosts Annual National Classic Softball Tournament

[Milwaukee]- Memorial Day Weekend in Milwaukee means the return of the annual Milwaukee Classic Softball Tournament. This year the tournament is scheduled for the weekend of May 25 and 26. Sixteen teams, recreational and competitive, will vie for 1st place trophies.

The Classic is the successor to the Wreck Room Memorial Day Softball Tournament founded by the late Wayne Bernhagen and Tom Theis. The Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL) assumed responsibility for the tournament and conducts it on an annual basis. This year 10 out-of-town and 6 Milwaukee teams will make up the field. Cities represented include Atlanta, Chicago, Nashville, Minneapolis, New York, Toronto and St. Louis.

Milwaukee teams represented include M&M Club, Wreck Room, C'est La Vie, Ballgame and Triangle.

Registration commences on Friday evening at the Marc Plaza, the host hotel. Players will receive information packets containing details of the tournament and Milwaukee nite life. Softball play commences at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25 at Milwaukee's Mitchell Park and Kinnickinnic Park. The Classic Committee has scheduled Opening

Ceremonies at Mitchell Park on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. All participating teams march onto the field during the ceremonies and proceed to observe the national anthems of Canada and the United States.

Play resumes on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. sharp. All teams will play in either the competitive or recreational bracket. Championship games will be held on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. All Sunday games will be held at Mitchell Park.

The Awards Banquet is scheduled for Sunday night at the Milwaukee War Memorial complex. Cocktails begin at 5:30, followed by dinner at 7:30 and then the awards. Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in each division. Individual trophies will be presented to the 1st place teams. A new Sportmanship Award Trophy created in memory of Tom Theis will be awarded by the Milwaukee Classic Committee to the team which best represents the softball spirit and good sportmanship.

The Milwaukee Classic is chaired by Joe Appleman. Assistant to Joe is Dan Nelson. They invite all Milwaukee to Mitchell and Kinnickinnic Parks during the weekend to watch the outstanding softball play and to meet new friends.

Chain Letters Bash Gays At University of Minnesota Campus

[Minneapolis, MN]- When Steven Paulson opened his mail on May 2, he was shocked; a typed letter was asking him to lobby Congress and influence his friends to ban Gays and Lesbians from the campus of the University of Minnesota (UM). This according to a report, bylined to Laurance N'Kaoua in **The Minnesota Daily**, the student paper of the University of Minnesota.

In the margin surrounding the text, Paulson read, "ROTC you can stay — Let the homos go away."

The anonymous letter was illegally copied onto a white sheet of paper bearing the official seal of the Regents.

The letter refers to UM's Regents threat to cut funds to ROTC if the US Department of Defense does not stop its

discriminatory policies by 1993.

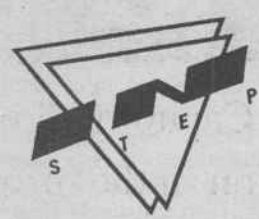

According to the original mail stamp, the letter came from Prince Frederick, a small Maryland town located 25 miles away from the US Naval Academy at Annapolis and was processed by Direct Mail Management, a Maryland company. The company has denied all knowledge of the letter's contents. A spokeswoman who declined to be identified, said she could not name the author, but she does not remember dealing with the University or ROTC.

UM President Nils Hasselmo called the letter "an outrage" and said that it was "totally unauthorized." So far, no other Big Ten universities have received the letter.

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... Again

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This workshop is designed to familiarize organizations and businesses with In Step & the Wisconsin Light, and "how to work with the media" in general.

Topics to be covered include: writing an effective press release; what an editor does; how to effectively use the media; how to design attention getting ads.

Please make reservations by calling:

278-7840 or 372-2773

Wisconsin In Step Wisconsin Light

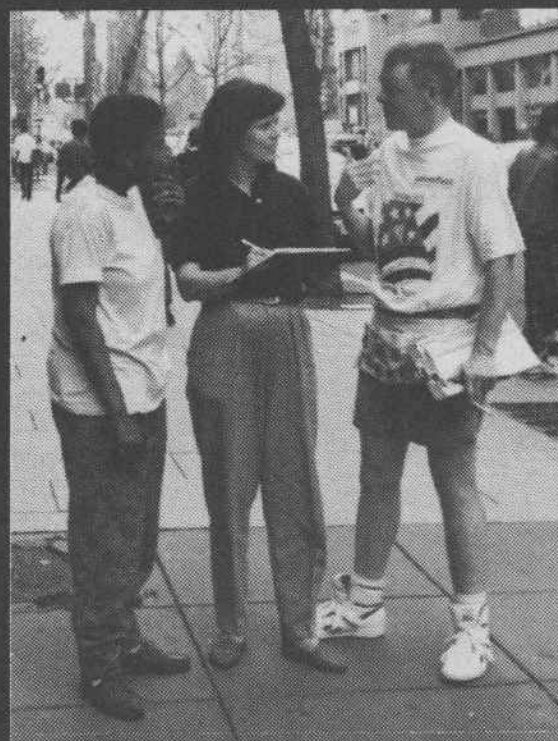
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The Wisconsin Light



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GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

ACT UP Commended For Educating Youth on AIDS

From its Puritan beginnings, Americans have been both obsessed by sex and revolted at the act. At most times in our history, that could be either oppressive or amusing depending on the circumstances. Today, it is neither one. It is fatal.

Sex within a committed relationship — marriage or whatever — may be an ideal — at least for some — but the ideal and the reality don't always and for everyone conform to each other and never have.

Parents would like to think that their kids abstain from sex. Some do, some don't. And preach though some do, that won't change things one little bit. Never has and never will.

In this day and age of AIDS, it is appalling to think that the facts of sexual life can be and often are willfully ignored. It is equally appalling to think how many are under some kind of delusion that ignorance is prevention and that information and proper safe-guards are to be derided, avoided and condemned.

To put it bluntly, some young people, people at an age that many of us would blush to know, will most certainly be sexually active; they will have sex — and in the heat of the moment, they won't think twice about it.

That is why ACT UP is to be praised to the skies for standing outside high school proms and handing out Red Cross information and condoms. So the kid isn't going to climb into the sack that evening — but, on the other hand, maybe they will. For that, do they deserve to die? We think not.

At least for now, AIDS is a fatal disease — and, with information and the condoms — among other things — it can be prevented.

By their actions, ACT UP is showing that they care about these young people, the innocent and the not-so-innocent. ACT UP is showing they understand youth's lack of awareness of its own mortality. ACT UP is out there doing what it can. The question is, why aren't the parents and school officials who claim they care out there right along side them?

LETTERS

Violence

TO THE EDITOR:

On March 13, 1991, someone in our family was hurt. Paul "Crick" Jacob was stabbed outside Napalese Lounge, a Gay bar in Green Bay. Jacob, the manager of Napalese, said he believes he was attacked because he is Gay.

This is the second time in recent months that a Gay person in Northeastern Wisconsin has had the courage to say that his sexual orientation was the reason he was victimized.

The stabbing of Jacob and the beating of Brian Rochon, a Fox Valley man, are disturbing evidence of the increasing violence against homosexuals nationwide. Violence against Gay and Lesbian people in the United States has increased 42% in the last year, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

As a Lesbian organization based in Green Bay, Northern Womyn, Inc. feels it is time to speak out. We believe, as does the State of Wisconsin, that violence is particularly outrageous when perpetrated against people simply because they are minorities.

Our statement today is based on a deep sense of caring, commitment, and respect for the Gay community. We strive for the day when Gays, Lesbians and all minorities will be treated with the same sense of caring, commitment, and respect we feel for each other.

—Angie Dellise
—Cheryl Ferguson
Northern Womyn, Inc.
Green Bay

Right-Wingers

TO THE EDITOR:

In the February 21 issue of the Light, there is a very interesting headline: "Right-Wing Religious and Political Leaders Lead Teens to Suicide." Those of us who have been exposed to the nonsensical diatribes of the likes of Jimmy Swaggart and Allan Bloom are all too familiar with this truism.

But the Jimmy Swaggarts and Allan Blooms of the world, of course, would have us believe differently. According to them, the main cause of teen suicide is Satanism, the occult, and heavy metal music. These are the same people who are claiming that Satanists commit mass human sacrifices for which no bodies can ever be found. This is a very effective way of shifting the blame, especially when you consider how much time and energy the Fundamentalists put into whipping themselves and the mainstream into an Orwellian furor over Satanism.

Well, if Fundamentalism and Satanism were the only two religions in the entire world, I know which of these two I'd rather acknowledge; besides, if all that black magic hocus-pocus were true, it would certainly provide a convenient way of dealing with the Fundamentalists and their ilk. (Now where did I put that black candle?)

—Thomas J. Rondy
Minneapolis

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Association has held various workshops on homophobia, but has set no policy on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

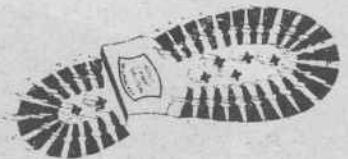
The Vice-Provost at Penn State admits that coach Portland has caused the school "serious embarrassment," but adds that the university is not in violation of any state, federal or Penn State policies by not censoring Portland.

Gay activists have called for Portland's dismissal. They have also joined with supportive faculty members and administrators on the Penn State campus to get the university to adopt a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation. The absence of such a clearly stated policy is what enables coach Portland to continue to exclude qualified players who happen to be Lesbian.

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Cliff Steele Appointed to Head AIDS Research Consortium

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- It is not the ideal way to spend a beautiful Spring afternoon — interviewing someone who has been recently appointed to head up something called the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium — WCRC for short. But, as it sometimes is with those things, the surprise is pleasant.

Cliff Steele comes down the stairs to meet me at an energetic clip, shy smile on his face with hand out-stretched to offer a firm and friendly shake. He is all professional, dynamic in his way, but there's also an openness about him, an informality that is warm.

He comes from Milwaukee, he says in a pleased tone. West Allis, actually. He's spent the last two years working with the Minnesota AIDS Project and before that — there've been a number of jobs and honors. He's worked for Coca Cola; been appointed by President Jimmy Carter to HIRE, a national committee established to work with major industries in placing Vietnam vets in jobs and has been elected an Outstanding Young Man in America. But now he's home to head up WCRC.

WCRC is a statewide organization of physicians caring for individuals with HIV infection. It is one of 23 such organizations in the country, but the only one that is statewide. Steele's objective is to lead WCRC in the initiation of an Observational Data Base. Each participating physician will commit to present the study to HIV infected patients who, it is hoped, will agree to participate.

The purpose of all this, he explains, is to facilitate patient referral to local support services; to insure proportionate funding from federal sources available to the AIDS/HIV Program, but there is also one other important goal.

Establishing the Data Base will attract to the state drug trials — new combinations of drug therapies, new applications. Steele emphasizes strongly that the people of Wisconsin should have the same access to all drug therapies as people elsewhere, but, he cautions, this can't happen until there is a big enough data base.

All that is going to take a tremendous amount of hard work and effort, but Steele



CLIFF STEELE

is pleased that in that, he is not alone. He praises the doctors on WCRC's board as dedicated, enthusiastic people who are more than willing to invest considerable amounts of their time, energies and talents in what is ultimately a search for a cure for AIDS.

In this search, as acane as it may seem to some, the establishment of the Data Base and Steele's work at WCRC is of vital importance.

"AIDS," he says, "is no longer the new kid on the block." There are other causes, other hands demanding resources. Extra and renewed effort is needed to assure the level of care and the research needed in the AIDS pandemic.

Steele's office is located at MAP, but WCRC is not part of MAP, but renting space there. Yet, Steele says the work that he is doing and the work of MAP have a natural tie-in. Steele is emphatic in his praise of MAP and the work that the agency is doing.

WCRC is a conduit, a facilitator, setting up statewide networks for physicians and care-givers, keeping contact with drug companies, promoting clinical trials.

It's difficult and trying work, but he says he thrives on it, loves developing and beginning organizations. I leave impressed and wish him luck.

Wisconsin Must Renew Its Commitment to Fund the Arts

[Madison]- Warning of "a return to the days when the arts were for a privileged few," a bipartisan group of lawmakers is urging the Legislature to renew Wisconsin's commitment to funding the arts.

Fifteen lawmakers, led by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), have written to the Joint Finance Committee in support of an increase in the budget for the Wisconsin Arts Board.

"There is no better way to judge a society's human climate and commitment to the future than by its support for the arts," the lawmakers wrote.

Arts events sponsored by nonprofit organizations have drawn more people annually than the Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee Brewers, Green Bay Packers, and Door County and Wisconsin Dells attractions combined, the letter states.

Clarenbach says arts funding is an important economic development investment.

"If artists and arts organizations packed up and left the state, they would take with them more than 80 million dollars a year in direct expenditures," Clarenbach said.

"This state abounds with artists and arts organizations producing quality work that is recognized here, across the country and overseas," the letter states. "But last year, only 15 percent of the applicants for Arts Board programs were able to be funded."

Under the Thompson Administration's proposed budget, the Arts Board's

current \$2.4 million GPR budget would increase by \$33,800 in 1991-92, and receive no additional funds in 1992-93.

The fifteen lawmakers are urging the Finance Committee to approve increases of \$250,000 in 1991-92 and \$1 million in 1992-93.



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Perspective: A Different Kind of Wheelchair — Women In Struggle With Their Partners

By Maytee Aspuro

It was recently that an image arose within my mind that took me aback and made me reconsider how I see womyn struggling with addiction or emotional illnesses.

Consider a friend or lover who is physically disabled due to an accident or an illness. The strength within her legs waivers. For now, she sits upon a wheelchair and it is in the wheelchair that she spends her days and nights. It would be cruelty to go to her and ask her to stand up and walk with you, to share the day running barefoot on a sandy seashore or to glide upon the snow on cross country skis. It would be a cruel request if you were aware of the disability. It would be cruel no matter how deeply you wanted to share the moment, no matter how sincere your desire. For most of us, we would not ask. Discretely we may share a dream but we would never demand the impossible from someone we cared for.

For a womyn fighting alcoholism or drug abuse, for a womyn in the midst of a clinical depression, for a friend or lover struggling with memories of incest or sexual abuse, moments of paralysis exist though they are not as obvious as those of a womyn in a wheelchair.

The friend or partner is easily deceived. They themselves want nothing less than health for the other. At times we may find it easier to deny a truth. Who would willingly embrace the associated pain of having someone we love immersed in a struggle with addiction or the nightmarish memories of abuse? With time, friends and partners learn to cope, manage and understand the dynamics of their relationship with a womyn in struggle but I doubt if it is ever an easy journey. The womyn in struggle may not wish to recognize the analogy that she bears the limitations of a womyn in a wheelchair. The reflection a friend or partner provides in confirming the current limitations imposed may be too difficult for the womyn who must bear it, so in turn, she who is now limited pretends she can dance. It is a pretense, a self deception which may demand the collusion of others. It is a reality denied even though it is apparent to all that in dancing she must learn to maneuver metal, cloth and rubber as if it were her own limbs. It is a skill that requires time and patience and nothing less than honesty. Deception is self defeating to all involved.

What I have learned is that womyn in struggle are not consistent in their abilities to cope with a moment. One day they are firmly in a wheelchair and can barely move a toe. Another day they can raise their bodies out of the chair and crawl to their designation. And finally, there are days in which these womyn can raise one leg and then the other and stand and if only for a short period of time, walk away from their burden.

My first lover was an alcoholic. I have also had other friendships in which I was the bystander who was constantly told that I could not understand what the other was going through because I had never been an addict, a sufferer of depression nor have I been a victim of sexual or physical abuse.

I found some consolation in knowing that I too was misunderstood. Being the friend or lover has always been a

confusing place to be. I fought all my co-dependency impulses and yet tried to be as supportive as humanly possible. It is a difficult role to learn because often times secrecy is demanded and one has no one to consult with. It is undoubtedly a lonely role to volunteer for or to inadvertently enter into.

Given the isolation often associated with supporting a womyn in struggle there is a lack of understanding of what one can do and if there are any ground rules to follow. Few books are written on the subject. Few support groups other than for partners or friends of substance abusers exist.

And so we see she whom we love and we see that all her limbs are intact and we go to her and ask her to come and walk with us. We forget that she is either momentarily or permanently emotionally incapacitated. We forget even though we have been told time and time again to be insightful and patient. It is a different sort of disability. It is not as visual. The cues are more difficult to recognize and decode. The abilities alter without warning. There is no science for us to reference. As in any relationship, knowing is an art. The brush stroke may vary in span and depth and weight.

I share this analogy in hopes of providing friends and partners of womyn in struggle a means of understanding that these womyn, as a friend recently explained to me, "can give only what they can give when they can give for as long as they can give." They may walk, they may crawl or they may not move at all. The momentary reality is not necessarily a reflection of their efforts nor of their desires.

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Gay/Lesbian Studies Program Seeks Papers

[New Brunswick, NJ]—The fifth annual Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference, jointly sponsored by Rutgers and Princeton Universities, will be held November 1-3, 1991, on the Rutgers U. campus.

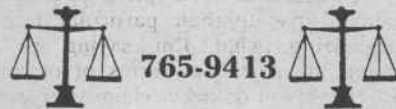
The organizers of the conference have called for papers or panel proposals, on any topic, to be submitted by June 15, 1991. Videotapes, film screenings, performances and readings are also invited.

The conference is open to all topics and methods, but papers or panels on race and ethnicity have been especially encouraged. The organizers say that these themes will be central to this year's sessions. They also say that they welcome participants to address "questions of bisexuality and of gender in identity politics."

Papers and other presentations should run approximately 20 minutes, and should be sent in full to: Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference, CCACC, 8 Bishop Pl., New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Anyone wishing to propose a panel should send a one-page description together with the papers to be included. Info on registration, transportation, child care and other matters is available from the same address.

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The Taylor Times: Where Can I Find a Man?

By Brad Taylor

Where can I find a man in Milwaukee who wants a permanent relationship? I have tried the bars; I have "really" tried the bars. But down there, all you find is men with attitude. Plus, all the men who I've met only wanted one thing. Sex. So, if the bars don't work, then what does?

Dating services? I've tried them once and had limited success, but maybe I'll do it again. How about personal ads? Maybe they might work.

All I know is that I'm getting sick and tired of being alone; coming home alone, waking up alone, eating alone, shopping alone and going out alone. It's always the same old vicious circle and I hate it.

I was told by someone that I'd never find someone my own age who wants a relationship, in Milwaukee. Maybe he was right. I've been searching for someone, 18-24, mainly because I want someone to share life with; someone more

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my maturity and experience.

Why is it so difficult to find someone my own age? People have told me that I'm cute (although I look slightly older than 20). Then why is it that only older men are attracted to me? At least, it seems that way.

Maybe it's just that the younger ones have so much attitude that they think they are too good for anyone except "Mr. Perfect." Well, that's their loss; they don't realize what they're missing. One day when they're old and ugly and alone, they'll wish they had tried to find a permanent lover.

So, if any of you young men out there are having similar difficulties looking for and finding a permanent relationship, please write to me in care of this paper and maybe, together, we can figure out what we are doing wrong. We all need someone to talk to, especially someone who understands what we're going through.

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Dykes To Watch Out For

Thousands Attend Historic Lesbian National Conference in Atlanta

By M.J. Hochberg

[Atlanta, GA]- Under a banner proclaiming diversity, empowerment and solidarity, and frequently struggling with controversy, lack of communication and serious disorganization, close to 3,000 Lesbians attended the National Lesbian Conference (NLC) in Atlanta, April 24-28.

The event opened with caucus meetings, allowing such different groups as young Lesbians, old Lesbians, various groups of Lesbians of color, Jewish Lesbians, philosophers, separatists, fat Lesbians and more, to exchange ideas and develop agendas, later to be brought to "the Body" for discussion and incorporation, toward the goal of creating a national Lesbian agenda.

Frustration with the conference also began on the first day — Native American Lesbians discovered they did not have a space to meet in, and the Latina caucus found that they had been omitted from the schedule altogether due to a typographical error. Cries of racism, insensitivity and exclusion continued throughout the weekend, alongside ongoing attempts to restructure and correct what was not working.

Mornings were filled with anti-oppressions training, focusing intensively on anti-ableism and anti-racism work. Afternoons were scheduled with such a volume and variety of workshops that it was difficult to choose what to attend; and unfortunately, the daily schedules listing workshop times and locations were unable to provide descriptions due to space constraints. This meant women had to guess what a given workshop would be about from its title, with options including "Lobbying and Crystals," "No More Potlucks," "What's Class Got to Do With It," and "Female Ejaculation" (one of the most popular programs of the weekend).

In the evenings, plenary sessions were held in the Atlanta Civic Center, with reports on such topics as ageism, Lesbians and AIDS, economics, accessibility and a national Lesbian agenda.

The NLC was an historic event in many ways. To begin with, in order to facilitate the creation of a truly multicultural event, the steering committee that organized the NLC was comprised of not less than 50% Lesbians of color, 20% Lesbians with disabilities and 5% old Lesbians. These percentages were maintained despite high turnover of the individuals involved. The same parity also applied to all decision-making groups, national committees, leadership, entertainment, workshop presenters and panelists.

The goal was to create an altogether new process. The role of the steering committee technically ended when the conference began, leaving it open to become whatever was determined by participants.

In theory, the idea was for actual shape and focus of the NLC to be constructed by all Lesbians attending, as it was happening. This resulted in a lot of confusion, but it also forced women to struggle through issues that came up and make immediate and concrete changes in order for things to proceed.

One of the major problems with this "structure in progress" was the lack of a central communications base. The steering committee, having turned over responsibility for the direction of the conference to participants, did not maintain an effective and clear method of coordinating changes and demands with logistical options. As a result, things were quite strained at times.

Urvashi Vaid Speaks

One of the high points of the conference was National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Urvashi Vaid's speech Saturday evening on a national Lesbian agenda.

"I want to begin...by asking us all to remember why we are here together," she opened. "We are here at the National Lesbian Conference because of the passion, love, excitement, desire we feel for women. Let's not forget that."

Vaid's powerful and moving address concluded with her concept of a Lesbian agenda. "My vision is not Lesbian-specific issues, my vision is to claim quite simply the fact that the Lesbian agenda is radical social change."

"The Lesbian agenda is the reconstruction of families, it is the reimagining of power, it is the reorganization of the economic system, it is the reinforcement of civil rights and dignity for all people, it is the end of oppression of women, the end of racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, it is the re-establishment of a proper relationship

to our environment.

"I have no problem claiming all of these issues as Lesbian issues because that is the truth...When I list this laundry list of oppression it does not overwhelm me, it tells me how far I have to go in my struggle, it tells me who my allies are.

"How do we enact this massive agenda? Look, we're doing it...We've got to build a movement for power and deal with our fear about power. What the fuck are we afraid of? They've messed it up, how could we possibly do a worse job?"

"I guess I'm not arguing so much that people give up their particular forms of organizing...what I'm saying is keep doing the particular forms of organizing wherever you do it but claim your work as Lesbian work, just declare that this is Lesbian agenda, this is Lesbian politics, that is what it's about for Lesbian liberation." She was cheered with a standing ovation.

The plenary was followed by a concert extravaganza benefiting the NLC. It opened with ritual dances performed by Two Spirited Thunder People, followed by Gale Reter as Tammy Whynot, and strong performances by Alix Dobkin, The Washington Sisters with Melanie Monsur, Lea Delaria, Sue Fink, Karen Williams, and Teresa Trull with Nina Gerber.

Although a national agenda was not formally decided upon, Sunday's closing session did end on a promising note. The conference had gathered Lesbians of amazing diversity together to dialogue, and though the process was often flawed, the conference was flexible enough to change in response to the needs and questions that arose.

The goal now is for regional planning groups to set up local Lesbian conferences, which will continue the work begun at NLC. The steering committee members, past and present, plan to gather for an evaluation meeting to discuss what went wrong and learn from that, as well as affirm what had come out of this new process. And the dream is that in a few years, another national conference will be planned to further the goal of a national Lesbian agenda and move several more steps towards its implementation.

Lesbian Veterans Harassed At Lesbian Confab

By Karen Stupski

Co-Chair, Hampton Roads, GLBVA

[Hampton Roads, VA]- The National Lesbian conference proved an excellent opportunity to network with Lesbian veterans across the country. Lesbian veterans and active duty Lesbians were able to discuss their feelings of being oppressed and invisible within the Lesbian community.

Conflict erupted when Lesbian pacifists in solidarity with their Arab sisters infiltrated a workshop entitled "Lesbians in the Military: Then and Now Reunion, Celebration, Discussion" in order to express their objection to the inclusion of anything pro-military at NLC.

Emotions ran high, but both groups decided to stay and talk. Both groups expressed their feelings and listened to each other, but did not resolve the conflict.

Since a goal of NLC was to develop an agenda for a national Lesbian organization, the Lesbian veterans decided to request to speak at a plenary session in order to present proposals for the agenda. The vets proposed that the NLC:

- 1) promote communication between civilian, veteran and active duty Lesbians in order to increase mutual understanding;
- 2) include and support veteran and active duty Lesbians;
- 3) actively work to end discrimination against military Lesbians.

The vets did not ask anyone to support the military. They asked only for support as Lesbians.

The vets' request to speak was blocked by Lesbian pacifists, resulting in a need for mediation. At the first mediation session, the veterans were verbally harassed and one non-veteran supporter was physically assaulted by an anti-war Lesbian. At the second mediation session, the pacifist Lesbians said they did not want military Lesbians to speak at NLC and they could not compromise. It was decided to resolve the matter by a 2/3 vote at the next plenary session.

At the last plenary, there were not enough Lesbians nor was there sufficient representation from various groups at NLC for any voting to occur. However, the facilitators allowed a Lesbian veteran to address the audience.

Her speech was interrupted by pacifists and a third mediation session was held.

At this session, a compromise was reached. The pacifist Lesbians read a statement by Barbara Deming about the two hands of non-violence. When your sister comes to you in her uniform as a member of the military, you put up your

hand and say "stop." But when she comes to you as your sister, you reach out your hand and say "come, let's talk." They also made a statement that NLC should work to provide economic alternatives to the military in order to end the poverty draft.

The Lesbian veterans made a statement asking for acceptance in the Lesbian community as Lesbians and requesting that NLC work to end discrimination and oppression of military Lesbians.

Editor's Note: The author of the above account was an eye-witness to what she recounts. The article was given to us through the kind offices of Miriam-Ben Shalom, Chair of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA).

Women Vets Form Support Network

[New Market, VA]- The "Pallas Athena" publication has been created in order to provide an open, supportive network environment through which women veterans can discuss issues and thoughts with other women who share the common experience of military service.

There will be articles of interest to women veterans and resource information as well as fiction and creative works by women veterans.

For more information, contact: The Pallas Athena Network, P.O. Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844.

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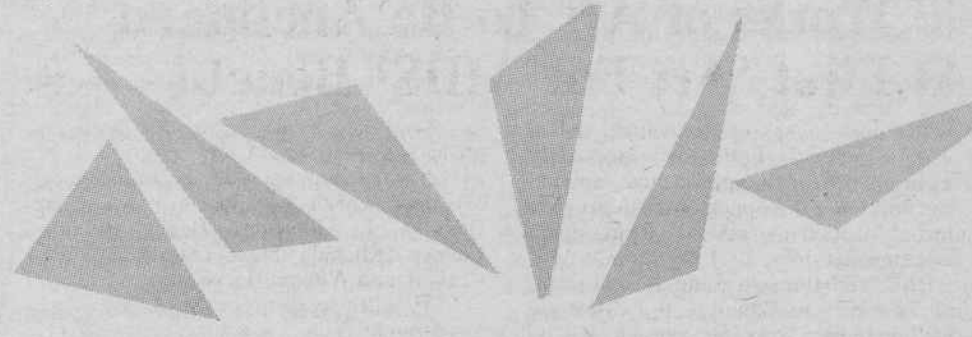
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The Light LIVELY ARTS

'Lavender Mardi Gras' Is Theme for August 18 Fundraiser

[Milwaukee]- The Lavender Hill Planning Committee has announced the 8th Annual Lavender Hill AIDS benefit. This year the theme is "Lavender Mardi Gras." It will be held on Sunday, August 18, 1991. Over the years, Lavender Hill has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) to help in the fight against AIDS. This year's goal is \$20,000.

From its inception, Lavender Hill has been held in Steve Steinhauer's backyard. However, with the growth and popularity of the event, the benefit has outgrown this intimate setting.

This year's Lavender Hill will be held at The Renaissance Place, 1451 N. Prospect Ave. in Milwaukee's historic East Side. The large hall where part of the movie "Dillinger" was filmed, includes free parking, air conditioning, a dance floor and is handicap accessible. With three levels, there is room for up to 800 guest to mingle, dance and share in this premier fundraising event.

As in the past, guests are encouraged to attend in costume. Last year's Lavender Hill, "Wild, Wild West," saw the presence of cowboys, cowgirls and a number of people dressed as Native Americans in full garb.

The suggested donation of \$30 per person includes catered hors d'oeuvres, beer, soda and entertainment. There will be a cash bar as well. Limited edition "Lavender Mardi Gras" T-shirts, each signed by the five participating artists.

Cabaret Offers Lighthearted Gay History

[Milwaukee]- "History, Herstory, Ourstory," the 1991 Fest City Singers' Gay Cabaret, to be presented the weekend preceding Gay Pride Week, has a message behind all the humor, music and choreography.

Using the popular music of the 1950's through the 1980's, as well as other significant music, "History, Herstory, Ourstory" tells of the gradual emergence of Gay and Lesbian identities and our struggle for recognition.

The show will be presented at the Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells St., on Friday, June 7 and again on Sunday, June 9. Performance times are 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Friday and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets for the show are \$10, including a free glass of champagne. Reservations can be made by calling the Stackner Cabaret Box Office at (414) 272-1994, by contacting a member of the Fest City Singers, or by calling the Festline at (414) 962-7221.

will be sold for only \$10 each. Available too this year will be a screened, limited edition poster. Signed posters are \$25; unsigned posters, \$15. These items will be available on a "first come, first served" basis.

All funds raised at Lavender Hill go to support MAP.

If you would like an invitation to Lavender Hill Mardi Gras or ordering information on T-shirts and posters, please contact: Steve Steinhauer, Host, c/o MAP, P.O. Box 92505, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or call (414) 265-6188. You may wish to send your donation and reserve your place now.

Cream City Chorus To Hold Car Wash

[Milwaukee]- The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus is holding a car wash on Sunday, June 9, beginning at 11 a.m. The car wash will be held in the parking lot of the M&M/Glass Menagerie at 124 N. Water Street.

Chorus members will wash and vacuum, inside and out, for the low price of \$7 per vehicle. Proceeds will help to send members of the Cream City Chorus to the National Convention of Gay and Lesbian Choruses in July of 1992.

Male Models Wanted For Photo Sessions

[San Diego, CA]- The Klinger Group, publishers of *Obsessions*, *Stars*, *Bolt*, *Iniquity* and *Roy Dean's Style* has launched a nation-wide model recruitment drive for future issues of their all-male erotic magazines.

The search was launched in Hawaii earlier this month when renowned photographer Roy Dean was there on assignment from publisher Casey Klinger. The next phase of the search is scheduled for Chicago, Houston, Dallas and other cities.

Men interested in being considered should contact the Klinger Group offices in San Diego at (800) 526-7090 for additional details.

Correction

Due to incorrect information received, the performance times for the Fest City Singers' "Cabaret" as listed in the last edition of *Light* are not correct.

The correct performance times are 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Friday, June 7 and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 9.

T.V. Shows 'L.A. Law' and 'Roseanne' Use Gay Themes

[New York, NY]- Intensive activism by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in response to the scarcity of Gay characters and themes on network television has yielded some dramatic results.

Earlier this year, GLAAD hailed NBC's *L.A. Law* for telecasting the first Lesbian kiss seen on American TV when attorney C.J. Lamb kissed co-worker Abby Perkins during a February episode. GLAAD chapters nationwide organized massive letter writing campaigns to support the continuation of the Lesbian theme, partly in anticipation of a right wing attack against the program. At the time, NBC stated that there were no plans to continue the story line.

However, during an April episode, Abby asked C.J. on a date and C.J. accepted, after ascertaining that a "date" date was what Abby had in mind. The following week, the two women spent an evening during which C.J. confronted Abby's hesitancy and asserted her refusal to be an "experiment" for Abby.

According to the *New York Post*, "very favorable public response" apparently changed the producer's minds about exploring the Lesbian story line further.

"It's apparent that the voices and complaints of GLAAD members and friends of the Lesbian and Gay community have been given due recognition," said Karin Schwartz, GLAAD/New York's Executive Director.

In another coup for images of Gay people on TV, ABC's *Roseanne* made good on a promise to introduce a recurring

Gay character. Roseanne's boss at the coffee shop where she works came out during the April 30 episode.

"We are greatly encouraged by the producers of these two consistently high rated shows affirming their support for Gay men and Lesbians and beginning to acknowledge our true numbers," said Schwartz. "GLAAD won't rest until the spectrum of television characters reflects the reality of Gay and Lesbian lives, so I expect we'll be around for a long time."

GLAAD urges Gay men and Lesbians (and their friends and families) to write to the producers of both programs encouraging them to continue to develop these story lines.

Write to: David E. Kelly, Executive Producer, *L.A. Law*, 20th Century Fox TV, Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213; and Al Lowenstein, Producer, *Roseanne*, 4024 Radford Avenue, Building 3, Studio City, CA 91604.

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Madonna's 'Truth or Dare': Candid, Provocative and Lots of Fun

By Jamakaya

Truth or Dare, Madonna's new rock documentary, is everything her fans could hope for: great concert footage from her 1990 "Blond Ambition" tour and tons of backstage, 'real life' footage documenting the trials and camaraderie experienced by Madonna and her touring company.

The musical numbers, including "Holiday," "Live to Tell," "Like a Virgin" (hot, hot!), "Express Yourself" and "Vogue" are shot in color and skillfully edited to capture the intensity of the live performance.

The music is dynamite. When I saw it, I had to stifle my urge to dance in the aisle — most inappropriate behavior in a critics' screening room. However, I plan to see it again with lots of queer friends who, I know, will be less inhibited.

Madonna has often been criticized as a so-so dancer. Maybe because she's surrounded by such a fantastic company of dancers on this tour, her own limitations were less obvious to me. At any rate, I give it a 95 'cause it's great to dance to!

Most of **Truth or Dare** is actually a candid portrait, shot in black and white, of the offstage lives of the superstar and her entourage. Madonna emerges as impulsive, demanding, maternal, political, impatient, sometimes vulnerable, but mostly very butch. The scene in which she orders Warren Beatty around and refers to him as "pussy man" is hysterical!

We see Madonna leading her company in prayer before concerts (usually begging for her voice to hold out), lambasting technicians for bad sound quality and mediating squabbles between her dancers.

Six of her male dancers are Gay and the seventh, Oliver, is straight, outnumbered and homophobic. Madonna scolds the Gay gypsies whose dishing and queer antics drive Oliver crazy. "He isn't as tough as you guys," she tells them.

We see Madonna camping it up with her father onstage in Detroit when she has the audience sing "Happy Birthday" to him. (It will have to do, she says, because she hasn't bought him a present.) We see aides constantly applying make-up and a doctor examining her strained vocal chords. And we see Madonna in varying states of dress and undress before, during and after concerts.

I love the scenes of Madonna, all outraged virtue, reacting to threats by the Toronto police to arrest her for "lewd and obscene behavior." After being condemned and hounded by the Vatican while touring in Italy, Madonna makes a dignified statement to the press saying that, as an Italian-American woman, she is proud to be from a country that respects freedom of speech and artistic expression. The only thing missing are strains of the "Star Spangled Banner."

The scene that moved me most deeply was Madonna's visit to her mother's grave. She kisses the tombstone and lies on top of and alongside the gravesite, saying that she wants to be buried next to her mother. Some critics have called it exploitive and theatrical. I saw it differently.

Madonna's mother died of breast cancer at age 30, when Madonna was only 5 years old. Having lost a parent in childhood myself, it struck me as totally natural, maybe even primal, for a 5 year old girl to want to lay beside her mother — literally, figuratively, spiritually, et. al. Interestingly, Madonna's dispassionate recollections of her mother, told mostly in voice-overs, are in stark contrast to the tearful memories recalled by a childhood friend. I found great depth in this segment.

The last part of the film records a provocative game of Truth or Dare among the "Blond Ambition" crew and a rollicking scene in which Madonna and her male and female dancers cavort together in bed. In a parody of "The Waltons," they all say repeated "goodnights" to each other as the credits roll.

The Gay sensibility in Madonna's work and throughout this film will please **Light** readers. In addition, **Truth or Dare** is a thoughtful film with a lot to say about fame, art, sexuality, tolerance, relationships, families (in all their forms) and much, much more. At the very least, Madonna comes off as an incredibly hard working, politically savvy gal.

Madonna told the **Advocate** recently: "I know that I'm a political person. It excites me to be a political person... But I want to have fun while I'm doing it." And she sure does!

I know people are growing weary of all the Madonna hype, but **Truth or Dare** is a film you should not miss.

The film's premieres in Los Angeles and New York raised several hundred thousand dollars for AIDS research. Thanks, Madonna.

Cream City Chorus Presents Spring Concert

[Milwaukee]- The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Limited will help kick off Milwaukee's Lesbian and Gay Pride Week June 15 with their spring concert entitled "Together Wherever We Go!," an appropriate title to coincide with this year's national theme for Pride Week, "Together In Pride."

The music for "Together Wherever We Go!" will consist of prideful tunes to inspire you and showtunes relevant to our community. The Cream City Chorus takes great pleasure in sharing the stage that evening with their special guests, The Minnesota Freedom Band.

The concert will be held at Centennial Hall (733 N. 8th St.). Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, with special rates available. The concert will be interpreted for the hearing impaired and the theater is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, please call (414)

90 Works of Art To Be Auctioned At First 'Art For AIDS' Benefit

[Milwaukee]- As the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) first **Art for AIDS** benefit and brunch approaches, auction goers will have the opportunity to preview selected works of art at Professional Marketing Services, 2071 N. Summit Ave. from May 28 through June 1, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily. A catalogue detailing all art work for auction will be available.

"The quality of art is exceptional and enthusiasm for the auction has been outstanding," comments Doug Nelson, executive director of MAP. The Art for AIDS auction will take place at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, June 2 at the Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago St. in Milwaukee.

The event begins with a viewing of the more than 90 works of art which will be available for bid in both a silent and voice auction. A buffet brunch will be served coupled with live entertainment by pianist, John Clausen as well as other local artists and musicians.

Art buyers will have the opportunity to bid on original oils, lithographs, sculpture, photographs, jewelry, pottery

344- WCCC. So if you're looking for some inspiration or just a whole lotta fun, come join us Saturday, June 15th at 8:00 p.m. (after the Pride Parade and Rally) when The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Limited will give new meaning to the words "Together Wherever We Go!"

and hand-painted furniture. The portfolio of artists that has been assembled is extremely impressive. Included are original works by Barbara Manger, Douglas L. Johnson, David Belling, Colleen Michel, Steve Slaske, Dottie Graham and William Hackbarth.

MAP will use all proceeds of this event to provide vital support services for people with HIV disease, as well as educational programming designed to stop the spread of the disease.

Tickets for the buffet brunch and auction are \$20 per person. Please RSVP by calling MAP at (414) 273-1991 by Saturday, May 25, 1991.

ABC Presents Gay Telefilm Sun., May 19

[Milwaukee]- On Sunday, May 19, 1991, from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m., the ABC Television Network will present "Our Sons," a teleplay about two mothers of Gay sons. The sons are lovers. One is dying of complications due to AIDS. The mothers must come to terms with both their son's Gayness, their relationship and with AIDS.

The drama stars Julie Andrews and Ann-Margaret.

In Milwaukee, the program will air on the local ABC affiliate, TV Channel 12.

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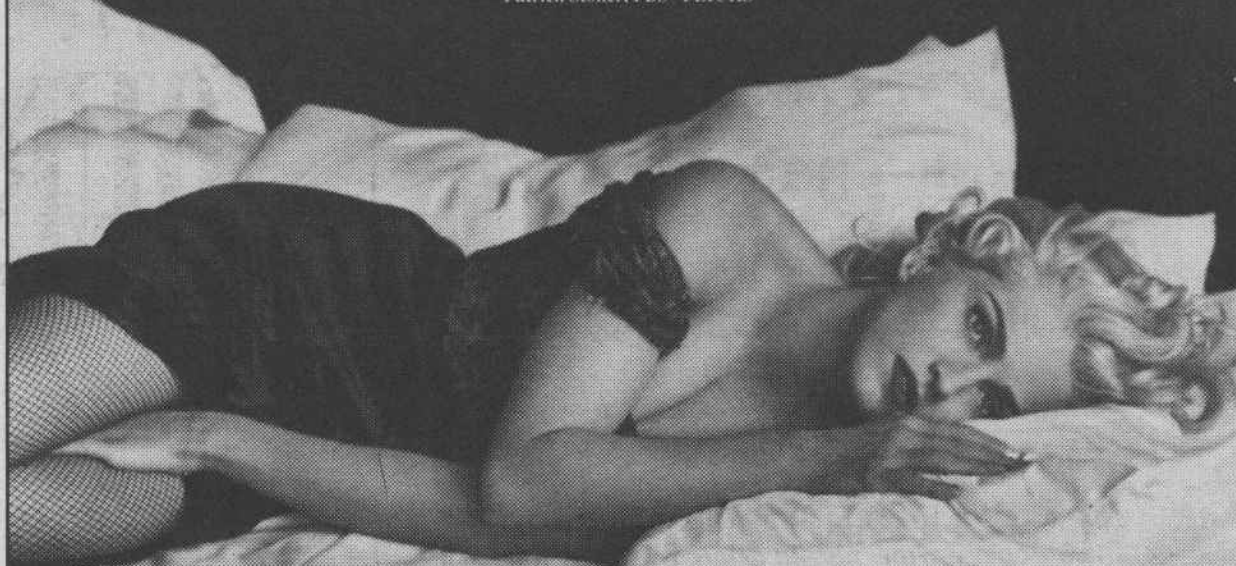
As entertaining as a film can get."

- Trish Deitch Rohrer, GQ MAGAZINE

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It leaves you stunned!"

- Patrick Stoner, PBS "FLICKS"



MADONNA TRUTH OR DARE

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Gays Make Adoption Advances In Florida and Minnesota

By Jamakaya

[Key West, FL]- On March 18, 1991, Circuit Judge M. Ignatius Lester struck down as "blatantly unconstitutional" a Florida law prohibiting Gay people from adopting children. Judge Lester said the law violated the individual's right to privacy, due process and equal protection under the state constitution.

Said Judge Lester: "The statute suffers from the trite notions of homosexuals' unsuitability as fit parents and evidences discrimination through archaic stereotypes associated with homosexuals. Homosexuals have been proven to be capable, loving parents whose sexual orientation is not necessarily adopted by their children."

Edward Seebol, 53, a court-appointed guardian who has assisted mentally and physically abused children through the court system for many years, had been rejected as an adoptive parent by the state's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services solely on the grounds that he is Gay. Judge Lester's ruling paves the way for Seebol to renew his application for adoption of a "special needs" child.

Florida has the right to appeal the case. If the higher court should sustain Judge Lester's decision, the precedent for Gay adoption at the state appellate level would be even more significant.

Meanwhile, California's First District Court of Appeals ruled on March 21 that a Lesbian, Michelle G., has no right to share custody of the two children her former lover conceived through artificial insemination during the couple's 16 year relationship.

The court decided that Michelle G., despite acting as a "loving mother," had no claim to custody or visitation because she was not the children's legal parent. Under California law, biological or adoptive parenthood is required for such legal recognition. The court indicated that it might have ruled otherwise if Michelle G. had adopted the children. However, there have only been a handful of successful adoptions by same sex parents in the state of California.

Paula Ettelbrick of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Michelle

G's attorney, said the ruling was a setback to "anyone who is not biologically related to the child regardless of emotional attachment or longevity of relationship. That's an intolerably harsh position and not one that looks on this from the child's perspective."

No decision has been made regarding a further appeal.

Finally, on March 28 in Minnesota, Hennepin County Juvenile Court Judge Isabel Gomez awarded Donna Snetting and her partner of 14 years, Jackie Fendler, joint legal custody of eight year old Amy Snetting, Donna Snetting's biological child.

Equal Time reports that the adoption made Minnesota history: Amy is the first child in the state with two legally recognized mothers.

Snetting and Fendler had tried to adopt Amy as early as 1982, but the presiding juvenile judge at that time viewed the attempted joint adoption by two Lesbians as "bad public policy."

Concern about Amy's welfare and the desire to ensure Fendler's right to guardianship should anything happen to Donna Snetting led the couple to renew their petition for adoption in 1990.

ET reports that Hennepin County's Department of Human Services didn't have the protocol to process adoptions for those who are not heterosexual and/or legally married, so the background investigations and bureaucratic shuffling that accompanies such petitions took longer than usual.

However, Judge Gomez ultimately granted the women joint custody. She reasoned that their 14 years together gave Snetting and Fendler a better case than most married couples who apply who have only been together for one or two years. Gomez also viewed the case as akin to a step-parent adoption because both women have cared for Amy since birth.

Fendler and Snetting hope their victory will encourage other Gay and Lesbian couples to file for adoption. But, in the final analysis, "This is about this kid's needs," said Fendler. "It's a right that all children have to be protected. It was the right thing to do."



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Positive Health is a project funded by the National Institute of Health to evaluate the best ways to help people who are HIV positive to adapt and cope. The project has careful safeguards to protect participant confidentiality, and is offered by faculty in the Medical College of Wisconsin's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Kohler Nomination To Regents Must Be Strongly Protested

By Bill Meunier

In 1982 when Terry Kohler ran for governor of Wisconsin he was beaten in a landslide of voter revulsion against his politics. Now nine years later, our "good friend" Tommy Thompson is trying to appoint him to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. But with a simple phone call you join the effort to convince the Wisconsin State Senate to reject the appointment of this anti Gay/Lesbian bigot.

While many within the UW system are working to change its image from a university where minorities are not, welcome to one where minorities will find understanding for their diverse cultures, Thompson is asking the Wisconsin State Senate for its approval of his appointment of a bigot to the body that governs the system.

Kohler is well known for his bias against Gays and Lesbians. In 1982 when then Governor Tony Earl announced the appointment of a Gay man, Ron Mc Crea, as his press secretary, Kohler denounced him stating "there should be no place for queers in state government."

When Tony Earl appointed his Gay and Lesbian Issues Council there were more attacks from Kohler as well.

If Kohler's appointment is confirmed by the State Senate the consequences could be serious. Will there be demands that Gay and Lesbian students be exposed? Will we see diatribes at Regent meetings about how there is no place at the University of Wisconsin for queers or queer groups? Will we see demands that the faculty be cleansed of Gay and Lesbian faculty members? Will books written with Gay themes be removed from courses? Will Lesbian authors be banned?

Other groups are opposed to Kohler, too. You see, he doesn't limit his bigotry to Gays and Lesbians. In 1988 after a trip to South Africa, he issued a press release stating that blacks there are "still in the stone age," and that allowing them to

vote would be "disastrous." Is Archbishop Desmond Tutu living in the stone age?

No matter who you are or what you are, you have a **RIGHT** to expect that the University of Wisconsin system will be run by men and women who will respect the diversity of cultures within that system and society. Gay tax dollars support the UW system just as straight tax dollars do. There should be no place on the Board of Regents for anyone who believes as Terry Kohler does that we have no place in government or anywhere else in society.

The Wisconsin State Senate must not approve the Kohler appointment. The vote is expected to be close and no one is predicting the outcome. YOU can and must help influence the decision.

Even if you don't know who your State Senator is, you can stand up for yourself and help beat Kohler with a simple toll free call to the Legislative Hotline 1-800-362-9696. If you don't know who your Senator is tell the operator where you live and they will tell you who represents you in the State Senate. You can then ask the operator to pass a message on to your Senator, or you can leave a number and someone from the Senator's office will call you back.

Your phone call will have an impact. State Senators aren't used to having a lot of constituents call them on any issue, especially an appointment to the Board of Regents. A few calls can really make them think twice before voting.

Our message should be clear and simple; there should be no place for bigots and racists like Terry Kohler on the Board of Regents. Tell your Senator that you will watch how he/she votes on this appointment and that you expect a no vote.

Come on folks let's light up the Capitol Switchboard call 1-800-362-9696

Great Lakes Gay and Lesbian Mormon Group Forms

[Minneapolis, MN]- Yes, Virginia, there are Homosexuals in the Mormon Church! Many people believe that to be Gay or Lesbian and Mormon is an anomaly, but the reality is that the percentage of Homosexual Mormons parallels that of society in general. **Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons** is a social and self-help group of active, inactive, and former members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, their supportive partners, friends and family members.

The official stand of the Mormon Church is that Homosexuality is a sinful condition that can be repented of and abandoned. Affirmation was founded in Los Angeles in 1977 to help lessen the fear, guilt, and self-oppression that Mormon Gays and Lesbians experience by providing a positive and supportive

fellowship where people can meet and help each other affirm self-acceptance and self-worth. Since 1977 numerous chapters have been organized in the United States, England and Australia and literally thousands of people have been touched and helped.

Currently, Affirmation is working toward chapter development in the Midwest with the recent founding of **Affirmation Great Lakes** in Minneapolis. Membership in this group is currently open to any person in Central North America, with the hopes of soon establishing chapters throughout the Great Lakes region. For further information, write Affirmation Great Lakes, P.O. Box 3878, Minneapolis, MN 55403 or call (612) 753-3345.

Show Your Pride!

The next issue (May 30-June 12) of "Wisconsin Light" will be the annual Milwaukee Pride Week issue.

Advertising Deadlines:

Space Reservations: Monday, May 27, 5 p.m.
Camera Ready Copy or Ad Copy:
Tuesday, May 28, 5 p.m.

The Wisconsin Light

Wisconsin's Only Gay and Lesbian Newspaper
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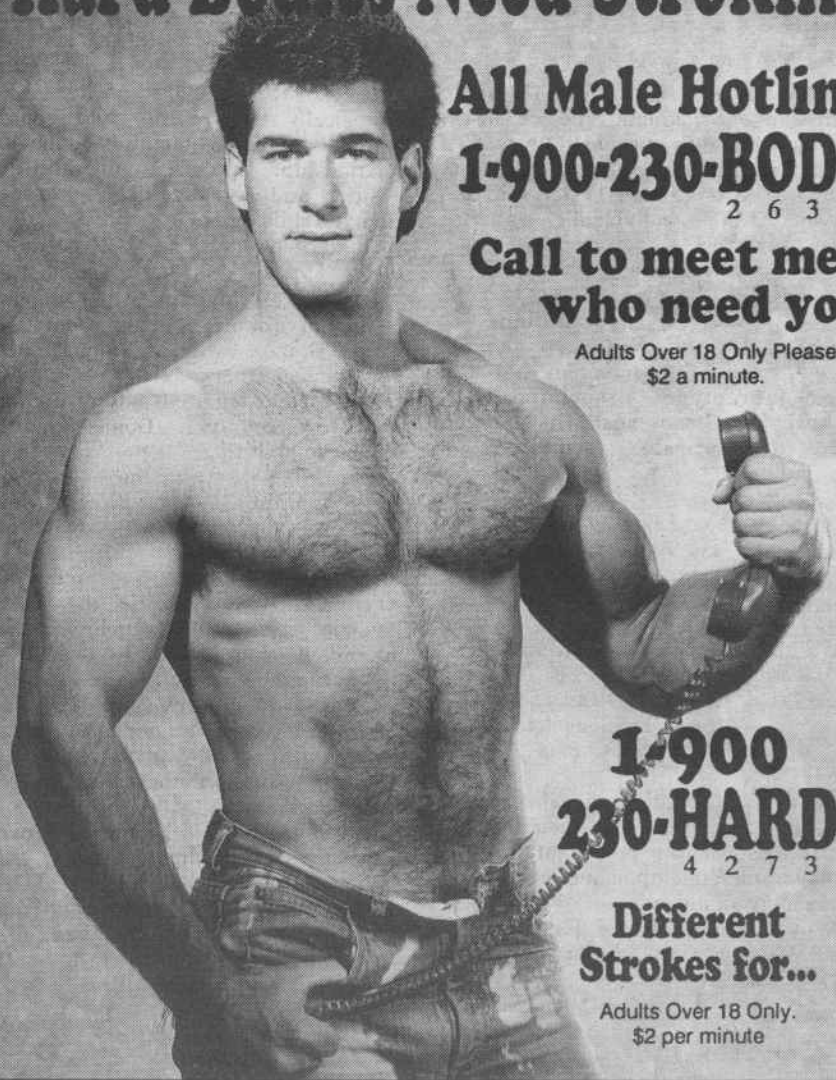
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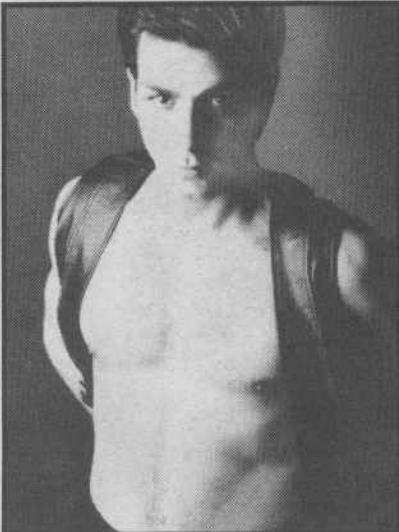
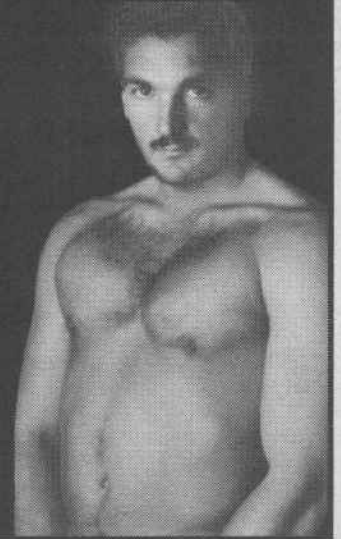
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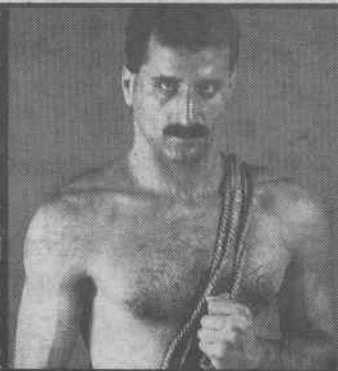
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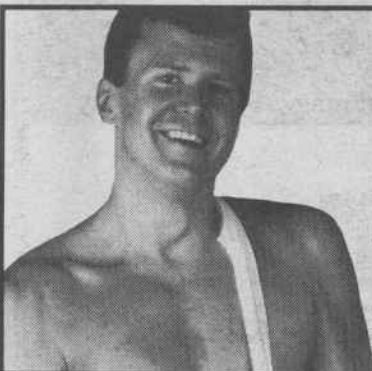
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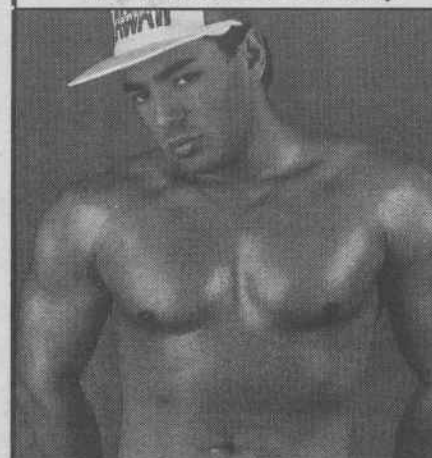


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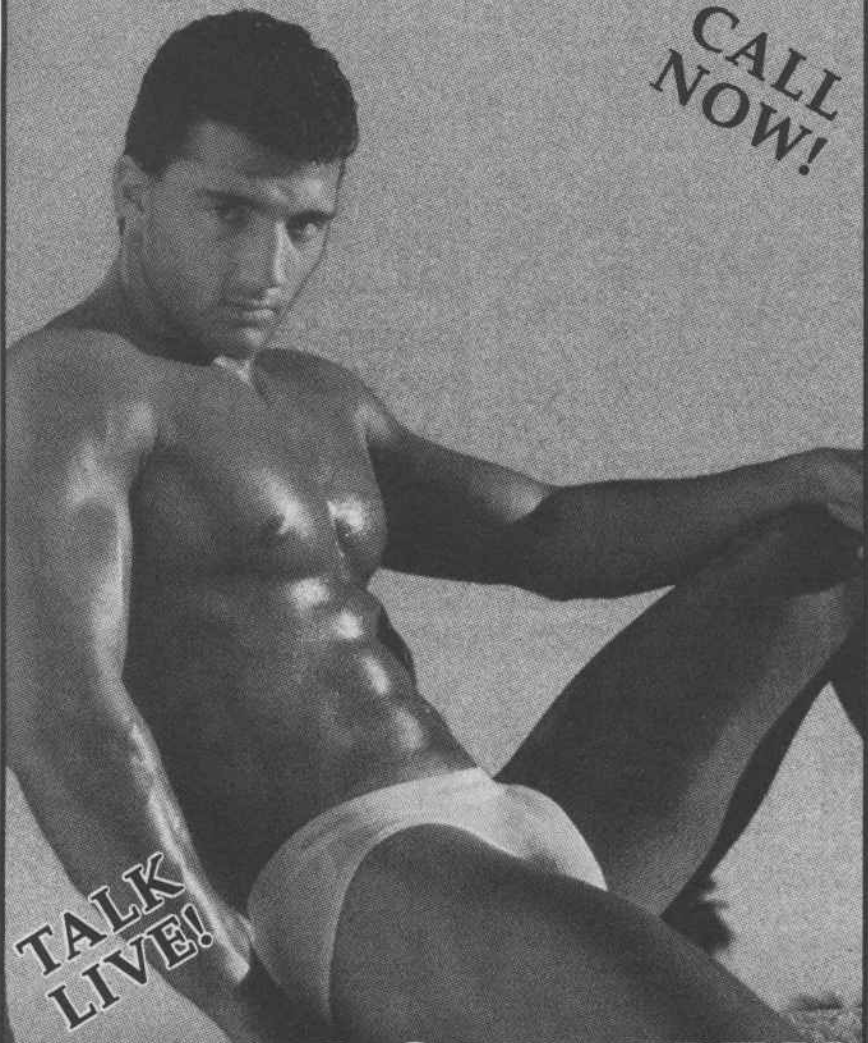
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Milwaukee Pride Week June 15 Parade and Rally Updates:

Deadlines Near For Businesses, Groups and Participants

Meeting Schedule Update

A final meeting will be held on June 13 for all Rally volunteers and performers. Call Larry at 271-9946 for time and location information.

Parade & Rally Update

If you haven't applied to participate in this year's Pride Parade, you better hurry. The MLGPC is still looking for participants. Application deadline is June 1. You can receive a parade application by calling 32-PRIDE.

Line-up will be from 10:00-10:30 am on June 15. An official check-in stand will be set up near the corner of Jefferson and Ogden. Parade participants should report there before lining up.

The 1991 Parade will step-off at exactly 11:00 am. The route will be the same as last year: Start at Jefferson & Ogden, east on Ogden to Marshall, south on Marshall to Mason, west on Mason to Jackson, south on Jackson to Wisconsin, west on Wisconsin to Water, north on Water to Kilbourn, east on Kilbourn to Juneau Park (the site of the Rally).

Confirmed to speak at this year's Rally is Peri Jude Radecic, David Clarenbach, Perry Watkins and Rev. Renee McCoy.

Also scheduled to perform at the Rally is Milwaukee's own Cream City Chorus's "Creamettes" and Fest City Singers. Rufus and the Singing Machine will open the Rally. Red, Hot and Twisted will also perform and other live bands and acts are being added to the Rally schedule each day. The 219 Girls, Mr. & Miss Gay Wisconsin, and Mrs. & Miss Black Gay Wisconsin are also scheduled to appear.

If you're interested in performing at the Rally, another Talent Search is scheduled for May 22 at Club 219+ beginning at 11:00 pm. Tiffany Thomas will emcee.

There will be a separate unsupervised children's area at the 1991 Rally. Strolling clowns and other entertainment will be provided.

Informational tables, merchandise, food, and drink will also be available. Applications are still being accepted for table reservations. Application deadline is June 1. Businesses and Organizations wishing to have a table should call 32-PRIDE for an application. Better hurry, space is filling fast.

The 1st Annual Pride Art Festival will also be at the Rally Site. Prizes will be awarded to those judged to be best of category and best of show. Several local artists have entered, and all participants will be displaying their items at the Rally.

Milwaukee's Queer Nation has a special surprise planned for you. Call them at 643-5833 for more information.

Gay Bucks Available

More value for your money -- safer than cash, but the same. What is it? It's Gay Bucks. Gay Bucks, are good for food, drinks and merchandise on the day of the 1991 Parade & Rally, and can be used afterward for MLGPC merchandise and events.

If you buy your Gay Bucks before June 14, you get \$11 dollars worth for just ten bucks.

Raffle, Raffle, Raffle

The list of exciting and valuable Raffle Prizes continues to grow, thanks to the generous donations from area businesses and organizations. The Grand Prize is a 4 day/3 night trip for two to New Orleans, Louisiana (accommodations and airfare), plus \$100 cash (all graciously donated by Horizon Travel, Cream City Foundation, C'est La Vie, Loose Ends, In Step, Wreck Room and Havlicek & Associates).

First Prize is \$250; Second Prize \$100; and, three Third Prizes of \$50 each will be awarded. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5. All proceeds go to MLGPC, so enter so you can win.

Honorary Color Guard

The MLGPC is looking for two representatives from each Community organization to march in the Honorary Color Guard at the Pride Parade scheduled for June 15, 1991. If you're interested in participating, call 32-PRIDE.

Edelweiss Cruise

As an additional fundraising event and to cap off Pride Week Activities, the MLGPC is sponsoring an evening boat cruise on the Edelweiss (which cruises the Milwaukee River and Lakefront) on Saturday, June 22. The cruise departs at 10:30 pm and returns about midnight. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple with beer, munchies and entertainment provided. For ticket information, call 32-PRIDE.

PRIDE Merchandise

The MLGPC wishes to extend an apology to those who have ordered 1991 Pride Merchandise. Due to production and deadline schedules, the Pride Merchandise will be available beginning June 1, 1991. Mail orders will be fulfilled promptly once the merchandise arrives.

Merchandise will also be available at several local bars and businesses throughout the Community. Look for the MLGPC Merchandise Poster at your favorite establishments.

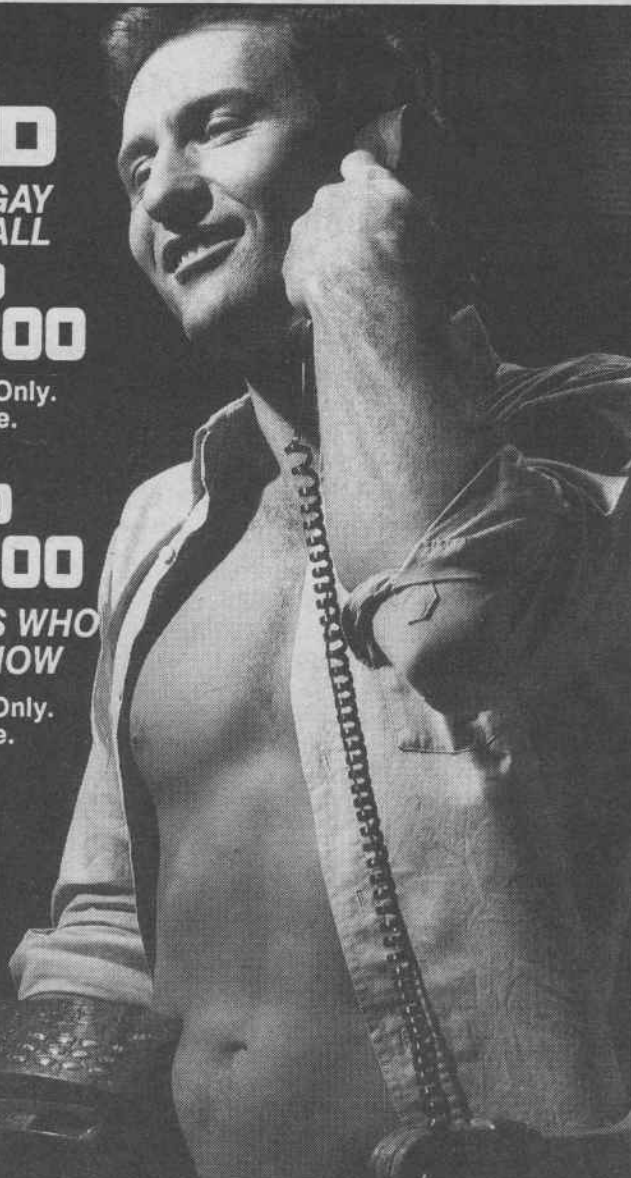
Volunteers

The MLGPC is still seeking volunteers to assist in all areas with the Parade & Rally. Volunteers are desperately for security positions at the Rally Site, Marshalling for the Parade and float building. Call 32-PRIDE for more information.

The Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride Committee wishes to extend a sincere Thank You to Joel Castillo and Wade Twamley from JC's Rainbow Bar for the use of their facilities and tireless efforts on behalf of and in support of the MLGPC. Get Well Soon, Joel! From All your Friends, With Pride.

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Students Plan Aug. 9-10 Retreat In Milwaukee

[Washington, D.C.]—The United Council of UW Student Governments and the Washington, D.C. based United States Student Association, are co-sponsoring a retreat to be held on the campus of UW-Milwaukee on August 9 & 10. Goals of the retreat are to build an umbrella group for all of the Gay and

ACT UP Continued from Page 1

increase our cries for equal and adequate health care for all, he refers to options that almost all other industrialized nations have taken as "unproven remedies." Now that our rhetoric includes expanded drug trials and national health care, we expect the same "action" on his part.

If AIDS is an example of his America's response to people's needs, it is time we start worrying.

America's insurance industry balks at AIDS. Insurance companies are afraid of the burden of HIV. They will discontinue coverage, claim pre-existing condition exemptions or whatever it takes to avoid paying for treatments. They have no intention of helping cover the costs of the AIDS pandemic. When they refuse, the burden falls on Public Health.

Profiteering drug companies keep treatments out of reach. Drug companies are charging outrageous prices for new drugs or not allowing development of hopeful drugs. Burroughs-Wellcome developed AZT almost 30 years ago and still expects us to believe that the high cost is due to research & development. When a boycott of Burroughs-Wellcome products was called in protest of the \$10,000/year cost, the company suddenly found it possible to reduce the price by 20%. Companies like Abbott Labs & Lyphomed are refusing to make their new drugs available just yet.

AIDS shows cracks in our crumbling health care system. Control of health costs is considered by many experts as the number one health problem in the U.S. Throughout the 1980's, U.S. health care cost outpaced inflation by 2 to 1. Such costs are expected to bankrupt Medicare by 2003. Groups and individuals face steeply rising premiums for health insurance. Many businesses are cutting back health insurance for their workers or forcing them to pay a larger share of the costs.

With AIDS as an example, the need for national leadership on issues of health and human services cannot be ignored. America lacks someone to fight for its needs. Louis Sullivan must be reminded that science is not politics, medicine not discrimination, education not ignorance should govern U.S. policy.

JOIN ACT UP AT BRUCE HALL [MECCA AUDITORIUM] ON SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 1:00 P.M. TO DEMAND REAL ACTION FOR THIS COUNTRY.

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Announcements

Soccer Anyone?

Let's try to form a team. Murray (414) 344-2108, M-Th 9-10 p.m.

Wanted: your old books Gay/Straight books, hardcover or paperbacks, novels, fiction, etc. dealing with all types of sexuality for our library. Donations can be made by calling (414) 643-8330.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ORDERS: Completely fill out this form and mail to WISCONSIN LIGHT, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

RATES ARE \$2 for each line. Each line can contain up to 42 characters, (including spaces). Indicate if you would like a **BOLD HEADLINE** of up to three words above your ad for an additional \$2.50. Also indicate classification under which your ad is to be run.

DEADLINE for placing a classified ad in WISCONSIN LIGHT is noon Wednesday prior to publication. If you mail your ad we must receive it on or before Wednesday. **NO CREDIT or BILLING SERVICES** are offered, and we **DO NOT** accept any classifieds on the phone for placements or renewals.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
PLEASE CHECK THE ISSUE(S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD TO APPEAR.

May 30, June 13, June 28, July 11, July 25, August 8

Lesbian Student organizations on campuses throughout Wisconsin. The retreat will focus on empowerment of students through various workshops focusing on issues such as coming out to roommates, confronting homophobia in the classroom, and National Day of Action against discrimination in ROTC. All students who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or allies are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

For information and registration materials, contact: Beverly Jenkins, (608) 263-3422.

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Organizations

MORMONS: Affirmation: Gay/Lesbian Mormons. Spiritual and social support group for LDS and friends. FFI: Box 3878, Mpls., MN 55403 or call (612) 753-3345.

Personals-Men

GOM, cute, personable, 22yrs, artist, seeks pen friends, any age. Write Ren Manabat, c/o Protacio Boafique, 313 Jones Ave., Cebu City 6000, Philippines.

Vacation

DOE Farm- womyn's land. Camp, farmhouse lodge. Chemfree area, sauna, hiking. Pets OK, groups welcome. Apply/summer work. Rt. 2, Box 42, Norwalk, WI 54648. 608-269-5301.

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Homophobic Movie, 'Basic Instincts' Filming Protested

By Jamakaya

[San Francisco, CA] - Dozens of Queer Nation activists have been arrested in the past month during angry protests against the San Francisco location shooting of Carolco Pictures' *Basic Instinct*.

A court order obtained by the producers, forbidding protesters to come within 100 feet of film locations, has failed to curb the noisy protests.

Basic Instinct, starring Michael Douglas, is a thriller focusing on a psychopathic axe-wielding lesbian who murders men. The San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has condemned the film's sensationalism and homophobia.

In a press release, GLAAD declared: "*Basic Instinct* contains several lesbian or bisexual characters who are implicated in a series of gruesome murders and is the latest in a long series of recent movies that depict lesbians or gay men as stereotypes or as criminals."

Since the film crew began shooting scenes in San Francisco in April, movie locations have been picketed and sprayed with paint and activists have blown whistles in an attempt to disrupt the filming. Demonstrators apparently obtained a copy of the shooting schedule and have hounded the film crew from site to site.

A particularly angry demonstration occurred outside Rawhide II, a gay bar whose owner, Ray Chalker, gave Carolco Pictures permission to film interior shots there. Chalker, who is also publisher of the *San Francisco Sentinel*, a gay newspaper, has reportedly received death threats since his cooperation with the movie became known.

Basic Instinct is directed by Paul Verhoeven, best known for violent action pictures like *Total Recall* with Arnold Schwarzenegger. Joe Eszterhas wrote the original screenplay which he termed "inoffensive," but Carolco rewrote and sensationalized the story.

Eszterhas seemed to take a principled stand when he told columnist Liz Smith last year: "I don't like racism — that's why I made *Betrayed*. And I don't like anti-Semitism — that's why I made *The Music Box*. I despise homophobes. So if Carolco turns this picture into something with ice pick wielding lesbians, then I will be the first person out on the street to join the protest against it."

Eszterhas has not yet joined the protests, but he did meet with Queer Nation activists in late April. He then

reportedly submitted major script revisions to Carolco which he thought would mute some of the offensive material. Reporter Keith Clark reports that producer Alan Marshall and Michael Douglas vetoed the changes.

Bay area lesbian and gay activists are demanding that the city review scripts for anti-gay content before allowing them to be filmed in San Francisco. When the CBS Evening News covered the controversy, they hardly mentioned Hollywood's long record of anti-gay defamation. Instead, the reporter depicted the gay protesters as ideologues trying to impose censorship on the media.

Growing anger over what is perceived as a pattern of Hollywood homophobia (*Silence of the Lambs*, *Bird on a Wire*, *Darkman*, etc.) has led some activists to call for a huge march on Hollywood to protest the film industry's anti-gay caricatures.

Bush Trying To Cut AIDS Funds

[Milwaukee]- In a follow up to the article on the Ryan White Care Bill in *Light*, (May 2-15), Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has sent letters to Sen. Robert Kasten (R-WI) and to the other members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation asking their support for "full funding" of the Care Act in fiscal 1992.

As it stands now, President Bush has requested only \$350 million of the \$881 million authorized by the bill.

Nelson writes: "Without full funding of \$881 million, Wisconsin will not gain a sufficient amount of federal funds to make a real difference in our ability to manage the relentless AIDS epidemic."

Nelson notes that "Unfortunately, the \$320,000 initially allocated Wisconsin barely scratched the surface of the funding need in Wisconsin."

Nelson points out to the Congressional solons that "The annual medical costs for people with HIV disease in Wisconsin now totals about \$100 million. By 1995, annual medical costs will total \$300 million."

The letter points out that in Milwaukee County alone, 20% of those infected with HIV served by MAP are women and children. Nelson said, "They constitute the most rapidly-growing group affected by the epidemic."

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