



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Panel Supports Increased Funds For AIDS

[Madison]- In a follow up to an article in the last issue of *Light* written by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), Clarenbach has said that members of the Legislature's budget-writing panel have taken a bold step toward meeting the challenge of AIDS in Wisconsin.

A discussion group of the Joint Finance Committee approved increased appropriations for AIDS programs that faced inadequate funding or elimination under Governor Thompson's proposed 1991-93 budget.

"This action is a significant victory in the fight against AIDS," Clarenbach said. "The AIDS case load is soaring, and the state cannot pretend that it is not. This action recognizes the severity of the AIDS crisis, and provides desperately needed help for the care givers serving the infected population."

The discussion group's action encompasses the key elements of the Wisconsin AIDS Initiative which Clarenbach proposed. Highlights of the package include:

A 20 percent increase in **Life Care Services Grants** to AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs). These grants fund the work of case managers who provide HIV infected individuals with financial, medical, legal, housing, emotional and other support services. Increased funds would be allocated to private, nonprofit ASOs that supplement state funding with private support.

The Governor's budget would have provided no increase over current levels; the 20% increase would raise funding levels to \$835,200 in 1991-92 and \$1,002,240 in 1992-93.

**Continuation of the AIDS Clinical Drug Trials Program.** This program brings promising experimental drugs to Wisconsin AIDS/HIV patients. For several years, clinical drug trials have been conducted in Chicago and Minneapolis, but have been generally unavailable to Wisconsin patients.

The Governor's budget would totally eliminate funding for 1991-93; restoration of the program will continue funding at the current level of \$150,000 for each of the next two fiscal years.

At the end of May, the discussion group approved full funding (as requested by the Governor) of the **AIDS/HIV Drug Reimbursement Program** which assists individuals with the high cost of drugs such as AZT and Pentamidine. It also directed that the reimbursement rate be based on ability to pay, and permitted reimbursement for other experimental drugs which are cost-effective alternatives to AZT and Pentamidine.

"Given the growing demands on AIDS programs, these are modest requests," Clarenbach said. "But also given the state's budget constraints, the Finance Committee should be commended for assigning these programs the high priority they deserve."

## Mayor Appoints Light Publisher To Housing/Job Commission

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Jerry Johnson has been appointed by Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist to a post on the Mayor's Commission on Fair Housing and Employment. Johnson is, at least, the second openly Gay person named to public office by the Mayor.

Johnson was confirmed unanimously by the Common Council on June 4, 1991 and took the oath of office before the City Clerk on June 10. The appointment is for a three year period.

The Commission is brand new, set up by Mayor Norquist to promote equality and non-discrimination in housing and employment as they relate to City of Milwaukee residents. Its first meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 18.

Johnson, a resident of Milwaukee since 1974, was born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in a little town, west of

## Superior Man Brutally Killed By Openly Homophobic Attacker



Milwaukee's Fest City Singers performed to capacity crowds last weekend at the Stackner Cabaret. An encore performance will be given at La Cage on Sunday, June 16. See details on Page 9.

## Outing by 'Christians' Leads To Resignation of Minister

[La Crosse, WI]- The assistant to a La Crosse Lutheran bishop resigned his post on May 22 after revealing he is Gay.

The Rev. Paul Johnson, assistant to Bishop Stefan Guttormsson of the La Crosse Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) informed the Bishop that Johnson was Gay. That information was disclosed by two people who believed it was their "Christian duty" to write, informing Guttormsson of Johnson's sexual orientation, according to Gayda Hollnagel reporting for the *La Crosse Tribune*.

According to a statement sent to *Wisconsin Light*, Johnson had spoken of his sexual orientation to a small group at an ELCA Congregational Social Ministry event in Chicago. All such remarks at the conference were to be in confidence. "The trust level in my group," wrote Johnson, "was good and I believed my confidence would be respected." However, the two people who were not members of Johnson's diocese, broke that trust because of "Christian duty."

Johnson, of Viroqua, said: "I submitted my resignation because I am not in agreement with the guidelines of the ELCA regarding ordination of persons who are homosexual. For those of us who are Gay, the church requires a commitment to life-long celibacy. I am unwilling to make such a commitment and I don't believe the church should require it."

Johnson said he believes he is a "child of God, accepted and affirmed by our Lord

Jesus Christ. Sexuality is a gift from God, homosexuality as well as heterosexuality."

Johnson, married and the father of three, said he was "not aware of my sexuality either when I got married or when I was ordained. My struggle with my sexual identity caused me to be suicidal for many years." He called his final acceptance of himself as a Gay man a "born-again" experience. He told his wife about it shortly thereafter.

He said his Gayness has been a source of pain and struggle for his wife, but she has come to accept it. "At this point," he said, "she feels very strongly that the church is wrong."

Johnson said that while many people would like to think that the issue of Gay/Lesbian clergy concerns only a few people, in reality it affects many more.

"There are people in every congregation and pastors in every synod who struggle and suffer because even though they are faithful Christians they are also Gay or Lesbian. All of us need love and acceptance, not judgment and condemnation."

Wisconsin law forbids job discrimination because of sexual orientation, Johnson said, but churches are exempted from the legislation. "In any other profession, I'd have a strong case."

cream city brick mansion on Brewers Hill that he shares with me (his spouse), one pussy cat, a family of robins, a couple of bats and, reputedly, a ghost or two. He also works part-time at Video Adventures.

I fully intended this to be a sober news story. You know, unbiased, just the facts etc., but I'm not unbiased, not in the slightest. There was little indeed in my long life that made shivers run up and down my spine so much as when I stood there, watching and listening as Jer took the oath of office. I was so proud.

Jer will never tell you how deeply committed he is to his beloved Milwaukee; how much he loves it. Nor will he tell you how committed he is to this, our Lesbian/Gay community — and how much behind the scenes stuff he does for groups like MLGPC and how hard he works at no matter what he does — especially, this paper.

If all this sounds like a paean, so be it. No one has more right to sing that than I do.

As is my right as Executive Editor of *Wisconsin Light* I extend to Jerry the heartiest congratulations of the paper and wish him all possible success in his new post. Milwaukee, this paper and I will have much reason to be proud.

[Superior, WI]- Stuart Ellanson was charged on June 4, 1991 with first-degree intentional homicide under Wisconsin's hate crimes law in the butcher-knife killing of a Superior man, according to Assistant District Attorney James Boughner.

Dead is Kevin E. Dutcher, 27, who was stabbed several times in the kitchen of his Superior home.

According to reports carried in the *Duluth News-Tribune* and the *Superior Evening Telegram*, the criminal complaint filed in Douglas County Circuit Court quoted Ellanson as saying "This was premeditated... I wanted to kill this fag. My whole life is devoted to killing faggots and child molesters."

Ellanson allegedly told police that he stabbed Dutcher in the chest. The presumed murder weapon is a 12 inch butcher knife. The victim pleaded for his life. Ellanson stabbed him again and then, after calling 911, to say "I just stabbed a guy" according to police, stabbed Dutcher a third time. After that, Ellanson waited for police to arrive and surrendered without incident at the scene at 11:48 p.m.

Superior Police Department Detective Bill Braman said Ellanson confessed to fatally stabbing Dutcher who was reportedly HIV positive. Ellanson frequently used terms derogatory to Gays during his interviews with police.

According to Boughner, Ellanson said "he would like to kill Gay people. That he would kill more in prison." Ministers and priests contacted by the *News-Tribune* only four chose to be listed as a resident there. Braman said that despite Ellanson's young age, he had been a frequent resident of alcohol rehab centers.

Ellanson is being held without bond in the Douglas County jail. Boughner told *Light* that arraignment would take place on July 1.

Ministers and politicians have stayed quiet about the murder. Out of 28 ministers and priest contacted by the *News-Tribune* only four chose to comment. That silence has left the Gay community feeling isolated and abandoned.

"I thought God was merciful and loving to all people," said Bob Jansen, owner of The Main Club bar in Superior. "When churches can decide who is good and who is bad, I wonder about the philosophies of organized religion."

The *Duluth News-Tribune* which has denounced racism, has no plans to publish an editorial on homophobia, said editorial page editor Virgil Swing.

Leo Treadway, vice chairman for the Minnesota Governor's Task Force on Gays and Lesbians was reported as saying that some people might be afraid that if they expressed outrage at a murder of a Gay person, it might lead people to believe they themselves were Gay.

Iver Bogen, professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, said that part of the problem lies with society.

"There's this tacit support for this violent thinking, for this violence that occurs," he said. "I think Ellanson really believes he's doing God's work, or the culture's work, or whatever. That's probably related to the fact that there isn't this hue and cry about this."

Boughner told *Light* to call him "in about a month" for further developments in the case.

**Editor's Note:** We would like to thank Bob Jansen, owner of The Main Club in Superior for materially assisting with this story.

**WISCONSIN LIGHT**  
Welcomes all out-of-towners to Milwaukee's  
June 15 Pride Parade  
and Rally

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### March on D.C.: April, 1993

[Washington, D.C.]—After two days of intense discussion, more than 100 Gay and Lesbian activists meeting in Washington agreed that the next major March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights will take place in April, 1993. The date was chosen after competing proposals were eliminated.

Some activists hoped the march would occur in October, 1992 to coincide with the next national election and the next unfolding of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the capital. Concern that the march would be overshadowed by the final stages of the presidential campaign and worries that the march would conflict with Native Americans' plans to protest the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of the "New World" combined to defeat that proposal.

A 1994 March on Washington was rejected because it would deflect energy from the major celebrations planned for the 4th Gay Games and the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City that summer.

April, 1993 was selected as a compromise.

A meeting to establish the steering committee for the 1993 march is scheduled for August 3-4 in Chicago. For further information or to volunteer, call (800) 832-2889 or write to: March on Washington, 1734 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

### Denver Retains Rights Ordinance

[Denver, CO]—On May 21, voters in Denver decided by 55 to 45 percent to retain a city ordinance which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations and educational, health and welfare services.

The comprehensive ordinance was passed in October, 1990 by an 8-4 vote of the Denver City Council. A conservative group called Citizens for Sensible Rights collected enough signatures to force a referendum.

"Today is the day when Denver said fairness and equity is for everyone," declared Tony Ogden, co-director of the committee to retain the ordinance. "Liberty and justice is for all and there are no exceptions. I've never been as proud of Denver as I am now."

### NGRA Ends Legal Services

[San Francisco, CA]—National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), a public interest law firm that has won many court battles against anti-Gay and AIDS-based discrimination, closed its doors in mid-May. The non-profit group had more than \$200,000 in debts.

The *Advocate* reports that in its 14 year history, NGRA negotiated a \$3 million settlement of a class action suit against Pacific Bell and won a judgment against the defense contractor Raytheon that established a legal precedent for prohibiting AIDS-based discrimination. NGRA handled hundreds of other cases and, just over two years ago, planned to open an office in Washington, D.C.

Despite its record of distinguished legal achievements, NGRA was weakened by a bitter internal dispute in 1989. At the time, Executive Director Jean O'Leary was criticized for her leadership style and her emphasis on fundraising. She eventually resigned.

In addition, a conflict between the San Francisco office, which handled legal affairs and the Los Angeles office, which conducted administrative functions and fundraising, caused further resignations. Turnover and widespread media coverage of the problems at NGRA harmed the group's fundraising abilities.

### Schwarzkopf: 'No Slight Intended'

[New York, NY]—According to his spokesman, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf did not intend to offend homosexuals when he recently used the phrase "military fairies" to describe officers who criticize the Army without ever having seen action themselves.

In a speech to West Point cadets, Gen. Schwarzkopf said: "After Vietnam, we had a whole cottage industry develop, basically in Washington, D.C., that consisted of a bunch of military fairies that had never been shot at in anger, who felt fully qualified to comment on the leadership ability of all the leaders of the US Army."

"The term 'military fairies' was not meant as a slight to the Gay and Lesbian community," said Naval Lt. Cmdr. John Jendro. "he was referring to those who had not served in Vietnam and who were untested by fire in combat—yet willing to tell the military how to act and react when fired upon."

### Feds Record Bashing Worldwide

[Washington, D.C.]—The *Advocate* reports that, after pressure from Gay activists, the US State Department has promised to include incidents of anti-Gay violence in its annual summary of worldwide human rights practices.

The annual summary, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, outlines human rights abuses and advances throughout the world. It is the basis for the US government's travel recommendations to American citizens and is a determinant of which countries should receive US aid.

Gay activists approached the State Department after discovering that this year's 1,700 page report listed only one Gay-related item: the legalization of same sex marriage in Denmark. While the activists appreciated its inclusion, they pointed out that incidents of torture and execution of Gays and Lesbians in places as varied as Iran, Argentina and the Soviet Union went unrecorded.

In the future, reports of anti-Gay human rights abuses can be given to officials at any US embassy or to the Bureau of Human Rights at the State Department in Washington. The International Lesbian and Gay Association has offered to forward such reports to Washington.

### Arsenio Hall Responds to Critics

[Los Angeles, CA]—Responding to Gay activists who have disrupted his show and accused the comedian of homophobia, Arsenio Hall recently told the *Advocate*: "I am not the enemy of the Gay community. Time will tell that."

Hall cited recent interviews with Boy George, Elton John and Harvey Fierstein as evidence that he is willing to book openly Gay guests on his show. But he noted that Boy George's management was angry when the talk show host asked the singer a direct question about his love life. Said Hall: "Please don't fault me because the people who come on my show don't choose to talk about their sexual preferences."

Hall called Queer Nation's attacks on him racist. "They'd never do that to a white man. They've never done it to Johnny; they've never done it to David Letterman. I probably have the largest Gay and female staff in this town, and you've got an organization coming to me and saying I'm prejudiced. Bullshit! I have respect for the struggle of the Queer Nation, but please don't end my career with your struggle."

### S.F. Grants Partners' Benefits

[San Francisco, CA]—The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved legislation that will provide health benefits to the unmarried domestic partners and dependents of city employees.

The new law requires the employee to be officially registered as part of a domestic partnership. It also requires the worker to pay the higher rate necessary for health coverage of a spouse and/or dependent. A mayoral task force estimates that about 1,000 heterosexual and 1,000 homosexual domestic partners will take advantage of the health plan.

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.



Joe Brehm sold Tony Grady a Pride Week T-shirt as Milwaukee got ready for the June 15 parade and rally. Joe's bar, This Is It, sold over \$300 in Pride merchandise during the June 9 promotion.

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Terry Johnson

## NGLTF Urges Strong Action Against HIV Immigration Ban

[Washington, D.C.]—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has issued an urgent call for action against recently reported government plans to keep HIV and AIDS on the list of immigration restrictions.

According to the reports, the U.S. government intends to continue excluding people with AIDS and HIV from immigrating into and visiting the country. The government has indicated that it will continue the policy for at least 60 days so that "ongoing public debate" on the controversial law may occur. Infected individuals already living in the U.S. — many of whom contracted the disease while here — may be deported under the immigration policy.

"An extension of the policy for two months to accommodate ongoing 'debate and discussion' maintains a status quo that is inexcusable," said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF Executive Director. "President Bush continues to demonstrate political cowardice and abdicate leadership on AIDS."

Sources say the government, in a compromise, may leave the restrictions as they pertain to applicants for permanent residence but drop them for tourists and travelers. NGLTF calls this compromise "unacceptable and hypocritical."

NGLTF refuted the government's claim that foreigners with AIDS who move to the U.S. and become ill may become public charges. "There is no evidence people with AIDS are immigrating to the U.S. to go on Medicaid or to become public charges," said Belinda Rochelle, NGLTF's lobbyist for health issues.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan has indicated that he supports removing HIV and AIDS from the list of immigration exclusions. However, the government has received a reported 40,000 letters opposed to removing HIV/AIDS from the list, and less than 1,000 supporting it.

The law has been strongly condemned by the World Health Organization, the National AIDS Commission, the International Red Cross and many other groups.

NGLTF urges people to write to the Centers for Disease Control and demand that the government drop HIV and AIDS from the list of immigration exclusions.

Write to: Charles McCance, Director, Division of Quarantine, Center for Prevention Services, Centers for Disease Control, Mail Stop E-04, Atlanta, GA

30333. You can also send letters to President Bush at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500. The White House phone is: (202) 456-1414. Letters can also be addressed to Secretary Louis Sullivan, Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201. The Department's phone is: (202) 245-7000.

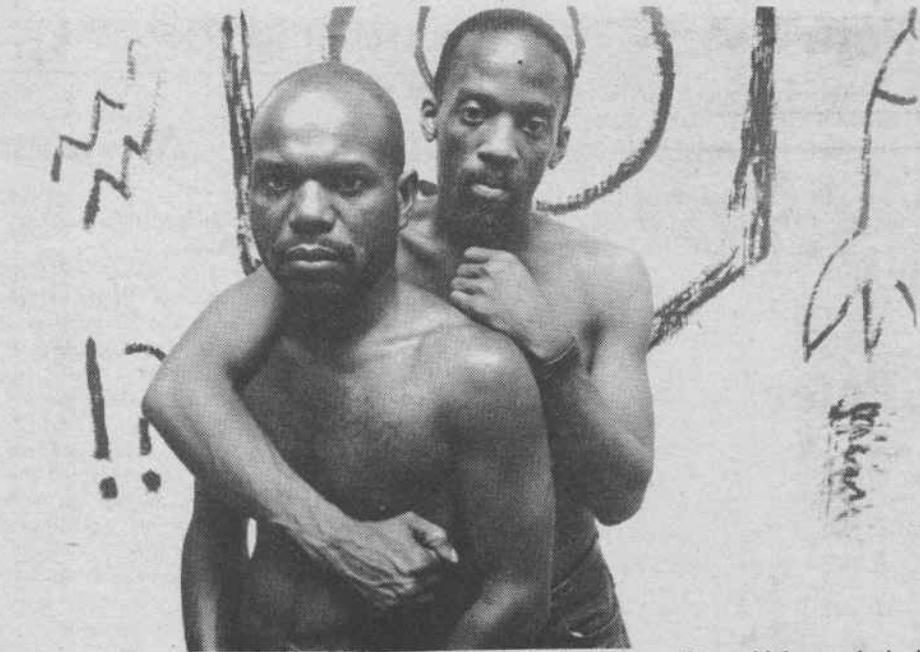
## Madison QN June Schedule Set

[Madison]—Queen Nation/Madison has scheduled the following events for the month of June:

On Saturday, June 22, the Queer Shopping Network will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the East Town Mall in the Food Court.

On Wednesday, June 26, there will be a Queer Liberation Front meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union, TITU. Queer Nite Out will be at the Mendota Beach Club. There will be a \$2.00 cover, but drinks are free if you wear a skirt. Leave from the Union steps at 9:00 p.m.

For more information on both or either of these events call 256-2763.



Marion Riggs (front) and poet Essex Hemphill appear in Riggs' innovative multiple-award-winning videotape "Tongues Untied," making its national premiere on P.O.V. Tuesday, July 16 at 10 P.M. Check local listings. The film is not scheduled to be shown in Milwaukee.

## Channel 10 Censors Critically Acclaimed Film "Tongues Untied"

By Mark Behar

Citing that Milwaukee is not yet ready for the explicit POV (Point Of View) broadcast of Black Gay filmmaker Marlon Riggs' internationally acclaimed "Tongues Untied," local public broadcasting stations Channels 10/36 (WMVS/WMTV) have elected to censor the program when it airs nationally July 16.

The film effectively addresses Black Gay men and their sexuality through explicit imagery and poetry without actually portraying graphic erotica (i.e., no actual sex). According to a station employee who requested anonymity, this apparently is the basis for the station's upper management decision to censor the program, so as to not offend individual members, groups of people and corporate sponsors. Channels 10/36 Friends contributes a significant percentage of income for the stations.

Acting General Manager Bryce Combs said that a decision to air the program at a later date will depend of the FCC's reconsiderations for "no safe harbor" (where adult-themed programs can be rescheduled for broadcast at a late hour), the reactions of other communities to the broadcast, and the station's request for a re-edited program with the offensive language and scenes deleted. He said that the lifestyle messages needed to be told, but some of the scenes and descriptions of anal sex are "just too graphic" for community standards.

"Tongues Untied" describes the homophobia and racism that confront Black Gay men. Some of the tales are troublesome: the man refused entry to a Gay bar because of his color; the college student left bleeding on the sidewalk after

a Gay-bashing; the loneliness and isolation of the drag queen. Yet, Emmy Award-winning Riggs also presents the rich flavor of the Black Gay male experience, from protest marches and smoky bars to the language of the "snap! diva" and Vogue dancer. This 1989 film won numerous awards: Best Video, New York Documentary Film Festival 1990; Blue Ribbon, American Film and Video Festival 1990; Best Documentary, San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival 1990; First Prize, Experimental category, National Educational Film & Video Festival 1990; Best Gay Documentary, Berlin International Film Festival 1990.

According to Jacque Jones of **Black Film Review**, "Nowhere else will you find a more complete dissection of the wholeness of the individual with this kind of haunting and eloquent truth."

Unfortunately, Milwaukeeans will have to be deprived of this "haunting and eloquent truth" due to paternalistic censorship, homophobia and racism. The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network is trying to obtain permission from the distributor for cablecast on public access Warner Cable Channel 14.

Let Bryce Combs know how you feel, especially if you are a financial supporter of Channels 10/36: Bryce Combs, Acting General Manager, Channels 10/36, 1036 N. 8th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233 (271-1036).

As Channels 10/36 is a service of MATC, you may also address your letters of protest over this censorship to MATC's president, Dr. Barbara D. Holmes, Milwaukee Area Technical College, 700 W. State St., Milwaukee 53233.

## California Judge Bars Gay Man From Becoming Boy Scout Leader

[Los Angeles, CA]—Superior Court Judge Sally Disco ruled on May 21 that the Boy Scouts of America may bar a Gay man, Timothy Curran, from becoming a Scout leader. Curran, a former Eagle Scout himself, has been fighting for ten years to become a scoutmaster.

Judge Disco ruled that as a private organization, the Boy Scouts has a First Amendment right to "get across its preferred message in its preferred way" and the "ability to achieve its expressive goals."

In other words, allowing Timothy Curran to become a scoutmaster would violate the constitutionally protected right of the Boy Scouts of America to tell its members that homosexuality is wrong.

"Inclusion of a homosexual scoutmaster... would either undermine the force of the Boy Scout view that homosexuality is immoral and inconsistent with the Scout oath and law or would undermine the credibility to communicate that view," said Judge Disco.

Disco noted that the Boy Scouts has historically barred known Gays from staff positions and required all members to pledge to be "morally straight."

Her decision applies only to private organizations that promote "expressive views," such as guidelines on homosexual behavior. The ruling relied on a 1984 Supreme Court decision that requires courts to balance the right to freedom of association against the state's interest in ending discrimination.

Curran's attorney, Jon Davidson of the

American Civil Liberties Union, plans to appeal.

Davidson worried that the ruling could undermine anti-discrimination laws and was particularly disturbed that a constitutional principle had been used to justify discrimination. He warned: "It's a very dangerous ruling."

Torrie Osborn of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, commented: "It's just irrational. This is true homophobia at its worst. This judge is saying prejudice is a constitutional right."


Meanwhile, Blake Lewis, national spokesman for the Boy Scouts of America said: "We very much felt organizationally that as a private membership group, we have the right to establish and maintain qualifications for membership."



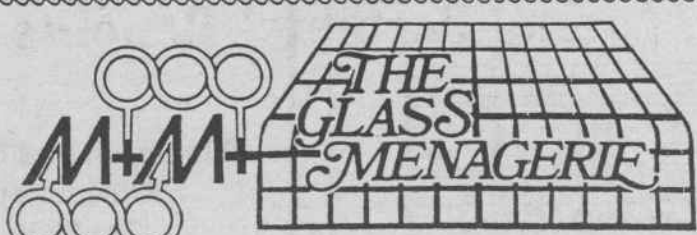
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# The Wisconsin Light



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**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday—9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
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First-class subscription rate is \$24.95 for one year (25 issues).  
Third-class subscription rate is \$11.95 for one year (25 issues).  
Foreign subscription rates available upon request.

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## Editorial Note

In planning the Light's editorial for this issue, we were overwhelmed by the realization of how very many people, Wisconsinites and national figures, have died of AIDS complications in the past month. It seemed so frustrating to once again write an editorial urging more funding, pleading for more tolerance.

Then Carole Vopat's beautiful poem about her friend Peter Weber arrived. We offer it to you as a statement far more eloquent than any editorial we could devise. And while it is a tribute to Peter specifically, its resonance speaks to the terrible losses we are all experiencing in the darkening shadow of AIDS.

Terry Boughner  
Jamakaya

## Lament for Peter

for Peter Austin Weber  
April 28, 1953 - June 7, 1991

Your sufferings now are ended.  
The disease that soiled your immaculate body  
has receded  
leaving you pure and white as bone  
in the minds of your friends.

How you struggled to live  
as the dark blood slid into you  
inexorable as your illness.  
"I'm slipping," you wept; "I'm going downhill."  
Until the last weeks you waited to grow stronger.  
At last you surrendered  
and sleeping fell into weightlessness.

You left the country of health  
a reluctant but courageous traveler  
who grew thinner whiter  
beaten by disease as gold is beaten  
into fire.  
So transparent the living breath showed through  
you tried to stay the man you had been:  
cared about Mikey, your friends, your home,  
with all your strength pulled together  
crisp shirt and matching socks.  
The blood nurse marveled, "You're so clean!"  
You broke into a smile of pleasure.  
Two weeks ago we met by chance  
browsing on Downer Avenue.  
You seriously considered new shoes,  
leaned against me to buy flowers,  
sipped a coffee in the Trader,  
avid for all the world you were losing.

And as I remember you, Peter,  
translucent in your sufferings,  
I travel past that shuffling fragile stalk  
to the handsome blond in a white tuxedo jacket  
grinning in dark glasses, an Armani smile,  
impeccably fragrant  
on our way to the MAP prom.  
All those years you were funny, you were rosy,  
loved Michael and your family,  
loved a good story, good talk,  
traveling, reading, gala evenings,  
fabrics, colors, a dish for everything,  
a sharp eye for beauty and its opposite.  
Then it was you who gave:  
favors, presents, dinners for friends  
with everything matching.  
You loved to laugh, to think,  
could be silly or clever,  
could change your life:  
earn a college degree  
ten years sobriety  
a marriage many never know who live far longer than you.

Peter, my dear friend,  
how I wish you were alive and healthy  
and on your way to a fish dinner at The Anchorage  
but since you are not  
I take comfort in having known you  
enjoyed you  
not long enough  
but rich enough tight enough loved enough  
after all  
just enough

Carole Vopat  
June 11, 1991

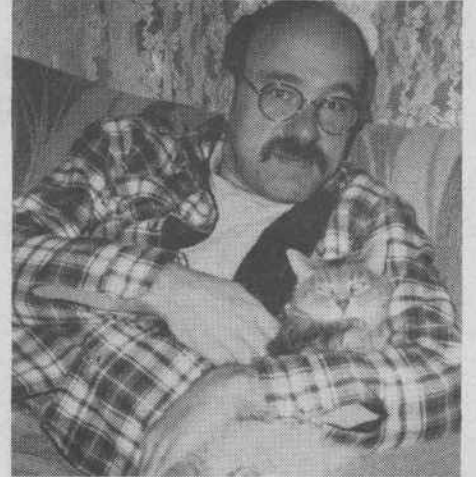
## OBITUARIES

### Steven W. Ausman

On Sunday, June 2, 1991, Steven Wayne Ausman, 35, passed away quietly in his sleep in Milwaukee.

Steven was born and raised in Eau Claire, WI and attended Regis High School. He also attended the University of Wisconsin at Stout receiving a degree in Hotel and Restaurant management. He went on to teach Restaurant Management at District 2 Technical School. Afterward, he became a Restaurant Manager for Ponderosa Steak House from which he received several Culinary awards as well as many commendations for excellence from the Ponderosa Corporation.

Two years ago, he retired on disability, giving his time liberally to volunteer work for the Milwaukee AIDS Project and The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee.



STEVEN WAYNE AUSMAN

Steven will be always in the hearts and minds of his partner, Gary Wells, his best friend, Judithann Siegert, his father Joseph Ausman, his grandmother Marbelle Ausman, 5 brothers: Jim, Roger, Larry, John and Paul, all of Eau Claire, 3 sisters: Pat of Eau Claire, Debby of Granton and Karen of Los Angeles as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

One of Steven's favorite quotes is as follows:

"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

"I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

—George Bernard Shaw

I will always love you with all my heart.  
Gary

## LETTERS

### John Robert Zeigler

TO THE EDITOR:

Memorial Day has passed. It was a time to remember our women and men who have died in America's wars. Yet, in the heartland of America, our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, friends and lovers have died in the War against AIDS — more than 100,000 — many of them alone, forgotten, despised and shunned. But some of us chose to remember.

On Memorial Day, 1986, my teacher, mentor and beloved friend, John Robert Zeigler, after fighting a valiant battle in what has come to be known as "The War", died of complications due to AIDS in Omaha, Nebraska, at the age of 34.

John Zeigler was and still is remembered by those who knew and loved him in the La Crosse Gay and artistic communities. Besides his work as principal clarinetist with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, John volunteered his time, example and energy with the La Crosse-based Symphony School of America for two Summers. It was in the Summer of 1984, while I was a senior at Gale-Ettrick-Tremplealeau Sr. High, that I had the opportunity to meet and get to know the John Zeigler that so many others respected and admired. John Robert, as a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, interned with the San Francisco Symphony in the early 1980's when Edo de Waart was still conducting that organization. After San Francisco, John acquired his position in Omaha where he also taught at the U.N.-Omaha and the College of St. Mary.

It is now five years after his death. He is missed and will always be remembered by those who were truly blessed to have known him as I was.

—Darren J. Foster  
La Crosse, WI

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# Why I'm Proud To Be A Lesbian

By Jamakaya

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I love women.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian in a world that fears difference, that hates women, and that does everything possible to squelch our independence.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I've survived all the hostility and homophobia and managed to maintain my sanity (with only occasional lapses).

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because, in the immortal words of Sue Fink, "Boys are thugs" and, in Sue Fink's equally immortal words: "Me-no-wanna-be-a-weenie."

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because of our great literary legacy: from Sappho and Gertrude Stein to Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because of the exciting culture-building and political activism within our community: for our glorious women's music festivals and for the dignified and compassionate leadership our community has shown in the fight against AIDS. (Straights, take heed!)

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because some of my best friends are queers.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because it helps build strong bodies 12 ways: physically, organically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, philosophically, intellectually, sensually, sexually, orally, visually, viscerally.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because of the solidarity I feel marching in Gay Pride parades.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because it's so damn subversive and because it gives me something to talk about with new people I meet.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because heterosexuality, with its epidemic levels of woman-beating, child abuse and incest, is an **abomination!**

I'm particularly proud to be a Lesbian when I consider the alternative.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I love women's manners, values and priorities. Well, most women's.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I love women's bodies, because I love women's minds. And the combination of the two is **most** arousing!

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because it bugs the hell out of men!

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I have more queens as friends than the average commoner.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because of its **clarity.**

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because of its **complexity.**

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I wear only sensible shoes.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because many of my friends are Revolting Hags.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because I'm blessed with a Gay sense of humor — our wonderful sense of irony that blossoms into camp.

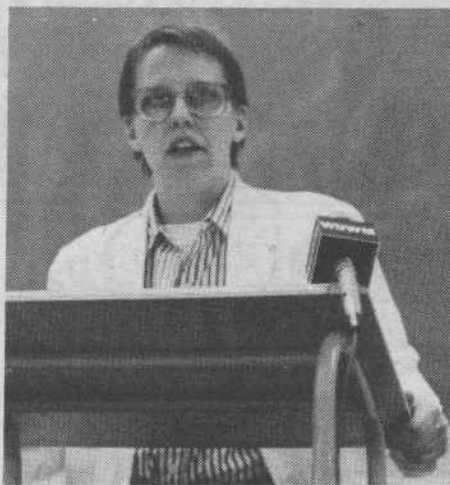
I'm proud to be a Lesbian because it automatically gives me a charter membership in the Queer Nation!

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because of all my crazy and inspired Lezzie friends.

I'm proud to be a Lesbian because, in the profound words of Carly Simon: "Nobody does it better..."

I am **so** proud to be a Lesbian that, given the choice, I wouldn't change it. Because I love myself just the way I am.

Happy Pride Week everybody!



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

Due to circumstances beyond my control (and apparently that of the U.S. Postal Service which has temporarily "misplaced" the photos sent to me), detailed coverage of the spectacular National Women's Music Fest held earlier this month will appear in the next *Light*. Goddess — and the U.S. Postal Service — willing!

## Gay Maritime Association Forms In Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- The Greater Milwaukee Maritime Association (GMMA), formerly the Greater Milwaukee Yacht Club, is a new organization looking for members.

GMMA has as its main purpose, offering maritime enthusiasts an opportunity to enjoy their interest and network with others of similar mind. GMMA will be active in offering members arts and entertainment, social functions, sport-related activities and other events.

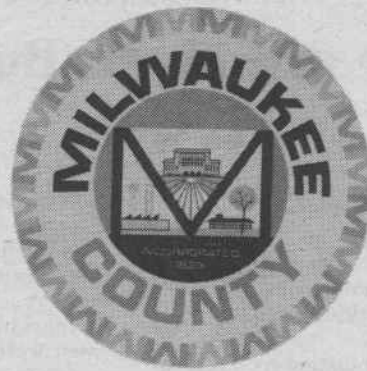
GMMA will meet every month for dinner or lunch at different restaurants. A home facility will be chosen. Monthly newsletters will give members opportunities to voice opinions, write stories of interest and advertise.

Last year's membership totaled 52. That number is expected to triple. For more information, send an SASE to: GMMA, Attn. Brian, Fort Service Group, 819 S. 5th St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.



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## Executive Proclamation

**Whereas**, All humans are endowed with universal, inalienable, and inherent rights, and the founders of the United States of America created a Constitution devoted to preserving rights to free speech, freedom of assembly, due process, equal and fair protection under the law, and the right to petition for redress of grievance; and

**Whereas**, The State of Wisconsin further guarantees that the right to equal and fair treatment in employment, housing, education and other affairs may not be abridged for reason of race, gender, age, religion, marital status, disability or sexual orientation; and

**Whereas**, When the rights of a few are abridged, the rights of all are imperiled, and it is incumbent on all public officials to uphold the law and ensure that the rights of all are protected equally; and

**Whereas**, In response to invasions of their privacy and abrogations of their right to equal treatment, many people of homosexual orientation have joined together to exercise their rights of free speech and assembly and to pursue acknowledgement and protection of their rights; and

**Whereas**, Those lawful public assemblies and other rightful exercises will occur during the week of Saturday, June 15 through Sunday, June 23, 1991, declared by organizers to be "Gay and Lesbian Pride Week" in defense of inherent human dignity and equality.

**Now, therefore, I, David F. Schulz, County Executive of Milwaukee County, do hereby recognize Saturday, June 15 through Sunday, June 23, 1991, to be**

### GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK

in Milwaukee County, and urge all citizens to reflect upon the universality of human rights and the history of inequality and injustice to which people of homosexual orientation and many others have been subjected.

*David F. Schulz*

DAVID F. SCHULZ, Milwaukee County Executive



Jerry Johnson, "Wisconsin Light" publisher, is shown with Milwaukee Alderwoman Marlene Johnson after being sworn in as a commissioner for the city's Fair Housing and Employment commission. (See related story on Page 1).

Don F. Schramm

## Dykes To Watch Out For

"/>

## 'Bachelor President' Buchanan Believed To Be Gay

By Brian Treglown

**Editor's Note:** Part of Lesbian/Gay Pride is knowing our heritage, our history that has been deliberately obscured. We offer this in honor of Pride Month.

If 10% of the population is Gay, as Kinsey claimed, one would presume that perhaps 4 of the 41 American Presidents should have been Gay. While there is no evidence to confirm that number, there is strong support that at least one president certainly was. Not surprisingly, that president was the only "bachelor president." His name — James Buchanan.

Buchanan was born in the area around Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1791. His father was a prosperous merchant, and even though there were 11 children, the



**PRESIDENT BUCHANAN**

family was able to send James to private schools and then law school. After graduation, he began his career as a lawyer, and quickly took an interest in politics. In 1815, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature, the first of many positions he was to hold in his long political career.

At about this time, Buchanan was dating Anne Coleman, daughter of a wealthy Lancaster businessman. It was assumed the couple would marry, but one day James was involved in what biographer Philip Klein in his book **President James Buchanan — A Biography** calls "an indiscretion." Exactly what the nature of this indiscretion was, we don't know. What we do know is that Anne Coleman called off the engagement in a fit of temper. She went to Philadelphia, ostensibly to visit friends and recover from the broken engagement. While there, she became ill, and suddenly and rather mysteriously, died. Suicide is mentioned, but there are no facts to substantiate it. Anne's father, still furious over James' "indiscretion," refused to even let him attend the funeral. At the age of 28, James Buchanan had dated his last woman. He thrust himself into public life and became a "confirmed bachelor."

The next year, Buchanan was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and his career as a national political figure began. He was a Democrat who believed in a strict, literal interpretation of the Constitution. He was also a good speaker and slowly his reputation began to build.

Buchanan was a personable man with a large circle of friends. But he developed a special friendship with Rufus King, a senator from Alabama. In his book **James Buchanan**, author Edwin Hoyt says of the friendship that they were "...so intimate that during those years in Washington they were called 'the Siamese twins.'" Amazingly, the relationship seemed to cause no problems for either man politically.

After several terms in the House, Buchanan returned to Pennsylvania briefly; then in 1836 was elected as Pennsylvania's senator. One of his first actions was to contact King and, as historian Klein says, "arrange for lodgings together." Their "lodgings together" lasted for 16 years as their friendship remained close, but private. In true homophobic fashion, Klein has written a minutely detailed biography, yet never refers to the two men living together except when speaking of King. Then, he simply adds the phrase "Buchanan's roommate."

In 1852, life changed dramatically for both men. Largely through Buchanan's influence on the Pennsylvania delegation, the Democrats nominated King as Vice President. He was elected on a ticket with Franklin Pierce as President.

**Editor's Note:** According to a letter

now in the Library of Congress, the French Ambassador noted that Pierce was sleeping with "all the best men in the Senate."

Pierce then appointed Buchanan as ambassador to Great Britain. The two men were separated for the first time in many years. King became ill and died the next year.

Meanwhile, the slavery issue was tearing the country apart. In 1856, the Democrats were searching for a candidate with the respectability of a statesman, yet someone whose position on slavery was somewhat undefined. Having spent 3 years in Europe on diplomatic missions and away from domestic politics, Buchanan met both requirements. So, at the age of 65, he was nominated and easily elected president.

The Buchanan Presidency was an unhappy one for Buchanan and for the nation. The North became strongly opposed to his policies because he was committed to preserving slavery. He reasoned that since the Constitution specifically allowed "The Peculiar Institution," he had no choice. The fact that he was personally opposed to it, didn't help. Northerners also disliked the fact that most of Buchanan's friends and associates, including the deceased Rufus King, were Southerners.

Yet, the South opposed Buchanan also. They could never really trust a Northerner as president during this tense period.

Somehow Buchanan successfully walked the tightrope for nearly 4 years, keeping the factions at a grudging peace. It wasn't until the end of his term when the new Republican Party was able to elect Abraham Lincoln that the South finally began to leave the union — state by state.

At the age of 70, Buchanan left the Presidency, broken in health and in spirit. The war he had tried so hard to avoid, was imminent and he was denounced by both sides. Historians are also harsh in their assessment, although they concede that there probably wasn't much anyone could have done at this point. Scorned and alone, James Buchanan retired to his estate in Lancaster, where he died 8 years later.

### Literature To Be Topic at June 20 LAMM Meeting

[Milwaukee]- A panel discussion on Lesbian literature will be presented at the next meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) on Thursday, June 20.

Authors to be discussed will include Joan Nestle, who recently appeared at the Flaunting It conference at UWM. Nestle is a noted essayist and herstory and author of **A Restricted Country**, a collection of stories and essays documenting the Lesbian and Gay movement over the last four decades.

Also included will be the works of Rita Mae Brown, author of **Rubyfruit Jungle**, **Bingo** and **A Plain Brown Wrapper**, among other works; and a recently published anthology of short fiction entitled **Women on Women**. Leah from Schwartz's Booksellers will have copies of the books discussed available for purchase.

The program will begin one half hour later than usual, at 7:30 p.m. It is preceded by a potluck at 6:00 p.m. The location is the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St., third floor. All Lesbians are welcome. For information, call LAMM at 264-2600.

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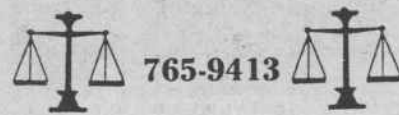
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### New Magazine To Focus On Gay Mormons

**New Direction**, a new bimonthly magazine will make its debut in September, 1991. The publication will focus on the relationship between Mormonism and being Gay or Lesbian. Also included will be Gay and Lesbian religious subjects in general (not Mormon) and informative articles on

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various aspects of Gay life.

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To submit articles or for further info, write **New Direction**, 6520 Selma Ave., Suite A-440, Los Angeles, CA 90028.

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## Amsterdam — Beer, Bars and Bordellos

By Geno

Amsterdam is known as "The Gay Capital of Europe," and its people are celebrated for their tolerant attitudes towards liquor, drugs and sex. Homosexuality has been completely decriminalized and discrimination against homosexuals in housing and employment is illegal. Gay marriages may soon be legalized.

The respect for other lifestyles is shown in the **Homomonument** (homo is not a derogatory term here) located near the Anne Frank House, another shining testimony to the city's humanity. The monument consists of three pink marble triangles laid flat to make one large triangle, actually becoming a flight of steps leading into a canal, the Keizersgracht. The highest top section can serve as a speaker's platform and the lower steps form a boat landing. Fresh flowers are placed on the steps daily. A commemorative tablet has the following inscription:

**THE HOMOMONUMENT  
COMMEMORATES ALL WOMEN AND MEN  
EVER OPPRESSED AND PERSECUTED  
BECAUSE OF THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY  
SUPPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL  
LESBIAN  
AND GAY MOVEMENT IN THEIR  
STRUGGLE AGAINST  
CONTEMPT, DISCRIMINATION AND  
OPPRESSION  
DEMONSTRATES THAT WE ARE NOT  
ALONE  
CALLS FOR PERMANENT VIGILANCE.**

**PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE  
REPRESENTED BY  
THESE THREE TRIANGLES DESIGNED  
BY  
KARIN DANN, 1987**

Amsterdam also offers the intimacy of small Gay hotels, often located in 16th or 17th Century buildings with prices that are a real bargain (about \$65 to \$75 per person) with a big Dutch breakfast included consisting of ham, cheese, eggs, breads, rolls, jam, coffee, tea or cocoa.

For example, my hotel, the newly renovated International Travel Club (ITC) has 15 rooms, most of them doubles with shower bathroom. If you are alone, you are practically expected to bring a guest back with you and of course invite him (or her, women are welcome too) to join the others for breakfast. This is a cozy time and it's always part of the fun to see who comes down to breakfast with whom.

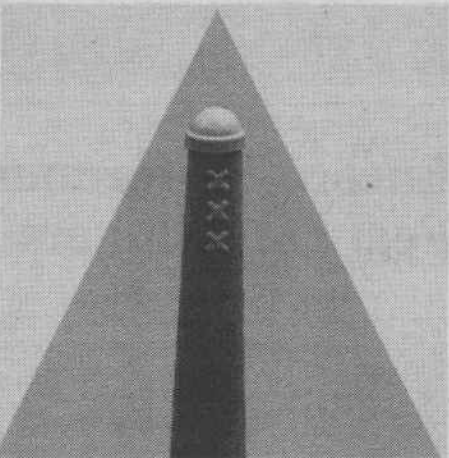
Upon registration you are given a personal copy of the **ITC Guide to Gay Amsterdam** and your own keys to your room and the front door so that you may leave and enter freely. The ITC is British owned by Grant Elliott and John Walters. Unlike the large impersonal hotels, they and their staff (David, Marlin and Miles, et al) are helpful in providing information

fight nature? Just license it, control it and make it pay. The result was the city's famous or infamous Red Light District where women wearing scanty costumes and occasionally brandishing a whip sit beneath red lights in small rooms with large windows. Of course, all the tourist groups flock there, but they don't seem to impede the women's activities nor those of the nearby fast food places, porno shops, all-night movies and discos. It's all rather sleazy and highly titillating to the tourists. Muggings occasionally occur.

The Dutch, being the logical people they are, realized "if we legalize women's brothels, why not provide male bordellos for those whose tastes run that way?" There are at least a dozen legal houses with names like "Blue Boy Club," "Boysclub 21," "De Boys" and "Boys Paradise." Most are discreetly connected to a bar or a sex shop and tourists are not generally aware of them.

Upstairs there is usually another bar with continuous videos and private rooms with such amenities as sauna or jacuzzi and rooms with mirrored walls and/or ceilings. Some also have a fully equipped S&M loft (not checked out by yrs. truly).

This was a tough assignment, but somebody had to do it and your reporter dutifully checked out three of the



This logo is on the cover of the **Top Guide for Gays, Amsterdam, 1991**, ed. by Peter Glencross. The traffic standard shown inside the pink triangle is one of at least a million which line the streets of Amsterdam at six-foot intervals separating the narrow sidewalks from the roads and bike paths.

establishments. I had been alerted by Wim, a former male prostitute ("I'm permanently retired") that De Boys had a reputation as a rip-off, and its aggressive approach proved to be a turnoff. The lads at Boys Paradise seemed very young (16 is the age of consent in Holland) though one claimed he was almost 19. The Blue Boy is generally acknowledged as the most pleasant and best run. Regular health checks are required and safe sex is



THE HOMOMONUMENT

The HOMOMONUMENT (one word) is difficult to photograph since it is not an upright structure. Its location at the juncture of several major thoroughfares gives it prominence, however, and it is used as a speaker's platform and a boat landing.

handicapped (or "physically challenged," to be politically correct).

Amsterdam for women offers a range of bars and discos, a few exclusively Lesbian, but women move easily in the Gay bars, restaurants and hotels. The COC, a non-commercial Gay/Lesbian centre is a place to socialize, receive help and advice. Its coffee shop and dances Unfortunately, Milwaukeeans will have to be deprived of this "haunting and for women, as is the case as other discos on various nights. The feminist infrastructure is strong and there are feminist bookshops, health nursery services, women's archives and switchboards plus an AIDS Helpline. There are even two places where women teach women how to do car and motorcycle repairs. This area requires further exploration from a woman's point of view.

(Running out of space here), but let me add that April 30 was Queen's Day, the

official celebration of the birthday of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. It's a combination of Mardi Gras and Carnival in Rio. It really is Queen's Day!

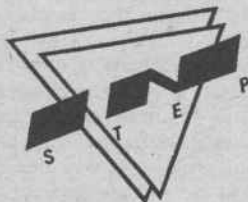
Briefly too, I'd add that the Dutch are a hospitable people and there is an international mix of nationalities. Drinks are inexpensive (\$1 to \$1.25 for a Heinekens or other Dutch brew on tap); travel up and down Kerkstraat and explore for yourself.

Incidentally, a good guide to Amsterdam is **The Rough Guide to Amsterdam**, one of a series of "Rough" guides which concentrate on the-out-of-the-way and inexpensive and include information on Gay/Lesbian venues, though they omit the boys club. A copy is available at the Milwaukee Public Library (call No. 914.92 D915R.) A copy of the **Top Guide** plus maps and a brochure from the Blue Boy Club, have been placed for examination at the **Wisconsin Light** offices.

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Sexually explicit postcards are available in most Amsterdam shops, often displayed on the sidewalk. This is one of the less raunchy ones. The traffic standards like the one shown here are a great source of earthy Dutch humor.

on all aspects of the city — the bars and discos, nightlife, restaurants and cultural sights as well as in steering the newcomer away from tourist traps. The ITC is a short walk from Rembrandtplein and Kerkstraat, two of the main Gay areas of Amsterdam. By all means, make early reservations.

As a port city, Amsterdam has been host for hundreds of years to sailors and travelers just off the ships looking for some excitement. The practical Dutch took the sensible approach — why try to

encouraged. In addition to continual videos, there is a live show in a comfortable small theatre (10-13 guilders) and there is no charge for the strip shows in the bar after 11:00 p.m. on weekends. There is often a wait for one of the five private rooms to be available. But conviviality and a relaxed attitude are the keynotes of the Blue Boy Club, and a man in a wheel chair one evening was just having the time of his life. The Dutch respect for the individual is reflected in their concern for the aged, infirm or

# The Light LIVELY ARTS

## 'Comfort of Strangers' Features Venice and Outstanding Cast

Reviewed by Geno

It's easy to get lost in Venice. The reverse "S" of the Grand Canal runs through the entire length of the city so that its narrow streets often wind back on themselves while others lead to a dead end. Still, getting lost in Venice is always an adventure though not the perverse adventure that befalls Colin (Rupert Everett) and Mary (Natasha Richardson) in Paul Schrader's "The Comfort of Strangers." They are young British lovers who have grown apart and who revisit Venice to relive an earlier romantic holiday. They are a strikingly handsome pair, and unknown to them, a man in an elegant white suit seems to be following them and taking their pictures.

When they become lost late one night while looking for a restaurant, Robert (Christopher Walken), the man in the white suit, appears seemingly by chance and takes them to a late night bar (definitely a Gay bar) where unfortunately the cook is ill and no food is forthcoming. Robert treats them to several bottles of wine (we later learn that he is the bar's owner) and gives them directions back to their hotel. They become lost again, spend the night in an alleyway, and rather bedraggled, find the Piazza San Marco the next morning bathed in sunlight where they order breakfast in a sidewalk cafe. But here comes Robert again, apologetic for not having seen them to their hotel and insisting that they stay at his palazzo and meet his wife.

The place is opulent with magnificent paintings, a mix of oriental, Gothic and Baroque architecture and furnishings. Colin and Mary sleep blissfully in a spectacular bedroom but when they awaken, are a bit puzzled to find that their clothes have disappeared. This gives the camera a voyeuristic opportunity to lavish its attention on lank limbs, erect nipples and magnificent asses, a voluptuous scene that Caroline (Helen Mirren), Robert's partially crippled wife has also enjoyed. A subtle tension has been

building up to this point, a sense of foreboding suggested by the remarks and strange behavior of Robert and Caroline.

But the tension recedes when Colin and Mary leave the palazzo after having retrieved their clothes. They rekindle their feelings for one another (more voyeuristic camera work) and spend an idyllic time wandering on the Lido where it's difficult to get lost. Yet one day finding themselves near Robert's palazzo, they can't resist Caroline's importuning invitation to come up for drinks. The audience knows that something horrifying is about to happen. But just what can take place in an ancient Venetian palazzo?

Suffice it to say that the screenplay is by Harold Pinter based on Ian McEwan's chilling novel "The Comfort of Strangers." The same kind of unknown malevolence that is always lurking in Pinter's plays is further carried out by director Paul Schrader ("American Gigolo," "Mishima") with a stunning visual approach, menacing musical backgrounds by Angelo Badalamenti and a taste for Gothic horror. Reviewers have called this "a powerfully erotic, deeply disturbing film" and it is truly an amalgam of beauty and horror. Venice has never seemed so beautiful and so insidious.

This is an ensemble story for four players and the city of Venice. The players are all classically trained with impressive theatre and movie backgrounds. Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson are so expressive and beautiful you want to look, to touch, taste (she is the daughter of Vanessa Redgrave), and Christopher Walken and Helen Mirren are disarming and horrifying at the same time. The movie leaves much to think about once the "frissons" of the ending are past — the vulnerability of innocence, the horror of desires too long repressed that eventually explode and destroy.

## Cabaret Players to Present Original Spoof: 'Cindy Feller'

By Terry Boughner

There's a new company of actors in town, opulent in their attire and broad in their satire, they remind one of the Medieval jesters who went from town to town. In this case the troupe is "The Cabaret Players" and they will be presenting an original spoof on the ancient tale of Cinderella, title "Cindy Feller." Or, as it was so well put "The true story of Disney — ruined."

Among the Players are Church Lady in the duel roll of "Fairy God Mutha" and "Queen Mutha;" Billy who is the

## 'Art For AIDS' Raised \$30,000 For AIDS Services

[Milwaukee]- On Sunday, June 2, the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) first "Art For AIDS" Auction and Brunch raised more than \$30,000 for support services for people living with AIDS and for prevention education programming throughout Southeast Wisconsin. More than 400 people attended the event held at the Italian Community Center.

Of the 110 works of art donated to the auction, 14 were sold above donor value. Items ranged in value from between \$25 and \$1,800. Minimum bids averaged 50 percent of the value.

The scope and growth of the AIDS epidemic has made fundraisers such as this, organized by co-chairs Terry Hueneke and Philip Johnston and artist chair Joan Michaels-Paque, essential to MAP's ability to meet the rapidly increasing need for service, said Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director.



The cast of "Cindy Feller" posed between rehearsals as they readied the original spoof for its June 16 performance at Miss M's Walker's Point Cafe and Cabaret in Milwaukee.

## Encore Performance Planned For Fest City Singers 'Ourstory'

[Milwaukee]- As a result of its overwhelmingly enthusiastic reception by last weekend's audiences at the Stackner Cabaret, the Fest City Singers' production "History, Herstory, Ourstory" will be repeated Sunday Evening, June 16, on the stage of the Dance, Dance, Dance at La Cage, 801-

805 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee.

"History, Herstory, Ourstory" is a musical review about the history of the Gay and Lesbian movement from the 1950's to the present. The performance will take place at 8:00 p.m. and tickets may be purchased at the door for \$6 each.

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-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE

"CHILLS THROUGH TO THE BONE AND BEYOND."

-Michael Wilmington, L.A. TIMES

"A POWERFULLY EROTIC, DEEPLY DISTURBING MOVIE."

-Jami Bernard, N.Y. POST

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# Fest City Singers Triumph In 'History, Herstory, Ourstory'

By J. J. Austin

After months of gossip and rumors that the Fest City Singers (FCS) were history, these indomitable performers made history themselves, kicking off the first weekend of Pride Week with three sold out performances of "History, Herstory, Ourstory" at the Stackner Cabaret. Their musical revue tracing the development of Gay identity from the 1950's to the present has depth, has a message delivered boldly, entertainingly and truthfully. It is ideal theatre for Gay Pride Week.

There have been other trips down Gay memory lane often consisting simply of tunes from the various decades, but rarely anything like the FCS production which is daring, serious at times, clever and satirical at others as in "He's a Faggot," "Ode to a Gym Teacher" and "How Nice," recalling those early closeted years. "Black Boys/White Boys" signals the move toward diversity — it salutes Black/White, Straight/Gay/Bi and ethnic diversity that remarkably mirrors the closely knit Fest City Singers.

A quick change of pace introduced the bar ambience, a major discovery for many at sometime in their careers. Two guest singers familiar to Milwaukee audiences graciously lent their talents to the evening's chronicle of Gay life. James Sampson of the Chicago Light Opera and the Skylight Opera Theatre established a mood of thoughtful awareness with "The Altar Boy and the Thief" by Joan Baez, the song she sang on the steps of the San Francisco courthouse in memory of Harvey Milk. Leslie Fitzwater, widely known for her one-woman show, "Piaf" and numerous appearances with the Florentine Opera, the Skylight Opera and Chamber Theatres, joined Kristie, Leandra, Sandy, Jeanette and Pennv in a stunning flower child rendition of "Sister," stopped the show every night.

The entire Cabaret performance has a unity and authority thanks to the book written and directed by artistic director Peter Mortensen. His script is literate, joyful and right on target. Local history as well as the history/herstory of the Gay Movement are represented — when John Vandewalle bursts onstage as the disco

diva dancing and twirling a pair of fans, the audience each evening reacted with instant recognition. Remember?

Mortensen with his experience as dancer and choreographer conveys ideas, moods and humor through movement and gestures that augment the meanings of the words spoken and sung by the chorus. They create ever-changing meaningful stage pictures, moving easily and naturally. But they're not averse to a bit of camp, either; as Gay nightclub entertainers Charles Golden, Roger Uscila and Michael Westerhausen battle it out for centerstage and the spotlight in their version of the Supremes and succeed in presenting the ultimate in drag. Did I say a bit of camp? Fabulous!

Actually, every member of the Fest City Singers has several opportunities to take centerstage, yet the great strength of this production is in the working of the Singers as a choral group and in small ensembles. In choral numbers like "Let the Sunshine," "Stouthearted Men," "I Think I Need a Friend" and "I Dreamed a Dream," Music Director Charles Golden elicits a vocal quality with depth of tone and harmonies that reflects his own professional musicianship. The Singers, thanks to him, are impressive in the clarity of their expression, in getting their message across to their audiences.

The Gay sensibility of "History, Herstory, Ourstory" encompasses pom-pom girls and Arlyn and Erico in "Dancing Queen" as well as Dan singing "Flesh Failures" together with the seriousness of the AIDS crisis as the Gay community has pulled together, best expressed in "I Dreamed a Dream." This multi-faceted gem of a show has been preserved on tape as part of Ourstory — this reviewer would suggest that the Fest City Singers go on the road again, this time with this original work, to university campuses, to Gay and straight organizations, and to anyone who will listen.

And when the Fest City Singers take their curtain calls singing their theme song, "Hey, Look at Us Now!" their faces glow, their smiles say "It's a helluva show, and we're proud!" Rightfully so.



A large crowd was on hand to say "good-bye" to Jet (center) as her bar, Jet's Place closed May 31 for the last time. The bar reopened June 1 under new ownership and is now called The Three B's.

## Sci-Fi Buffs Want Gay Characters On 'Star Trek'

[Boston, MA]- The Gaylactic Network, an international organization for Gay sci-fi fans and friends, has announced the start of a letter-writing campaign to have openly Gay characters appear in **Star Trek: The Next Generation**.

After five years of requests without results, Gaylactic Network have concluded that the only way Gay characters will be included is by a demonstration of support through letters written by "Star Trek" fans to Gene Roddenberry, the series' creator and Executive Producer.

Those who want to write letters in support for the appearance of openly Gay characters on the show, should write to: Gene Roddenberry, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

For more info about the Gaylactic Network or about Gay science fiction, write to: Gaylactic Network, P.O. Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117-1051.



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## GLAAD Blasts TV GUIDE For Excluding Gay Cable Network

[New York, NY]- According to the latest issue of **The Bulletin** published by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc. (GLAAD), shows produced by National Jewish Television and shows produced by the Gay Cable Network are both shown on channel 35 in Manhattan. Guess which service is not listed in **TV Guide**?

The nation's leading TV magazine includes a selective listing of programming services available on public or commercial access cable channels. Listed services include American Christian TV, National Jewish Television and Black Entertainment Television. One network **not listed** however, is the Gay Cable Network (GCN), which appears in major metropolitan areas.

Unlike ethnic and religious groups, the needs of the Lesbian and Gay community are almost never met by over-the-air networks. In this void, for nine years GCN has provided award-winning coverage — exemplified by "Gay USA," a weekly one-hour news program for and about the

Lesbian and Gay community.

Worse, **TV Guide** has been disingenuous about its failure to include GCN. The editors simply assert that GCN does not fit their arbitrary definition of a "network," although GCN appears on a par with some of the listed networks in terms of programming hours, number of viewers, cities in which it's available and years in operation.

Cable Editor Elizabeth Bacon revealed the magazine's anti-Gay bias when she told GLAAD that GCN is not listed because "TV Guide only includes information relevant to its mainstream readers."

Let **TV Guide** know if it wants the readership of 25 million Gay and Lesbian Americans, it had best include us in that mainstream. Programming for our community deserves the same respect **TV Guide** gives to programs for other minorities. Write **Joe Robinowitz, Editor-in-Chief, TV Guide, 4 Radnor Corporate Center, Radnor, PA 19088.**

## Cream City Foundation Sponsors Gay-Themed Programming

[Milwaukee]- Cream City Foundation (CCF) recently announced its underwriting support for three programs which address issues central to the Gay and Lesbian community.

In **Point Of View's (POV) "Absolutely Positive,"** filmmaker Peter Adair asks 11 people who have tested HIV positive to tell their stories. Adair interviews people from all walks of life — men and women, Gay and straight. The program airs Tuesday, June 18 at 10:00 p.m. on TV Channel 10 in Milwaukee.

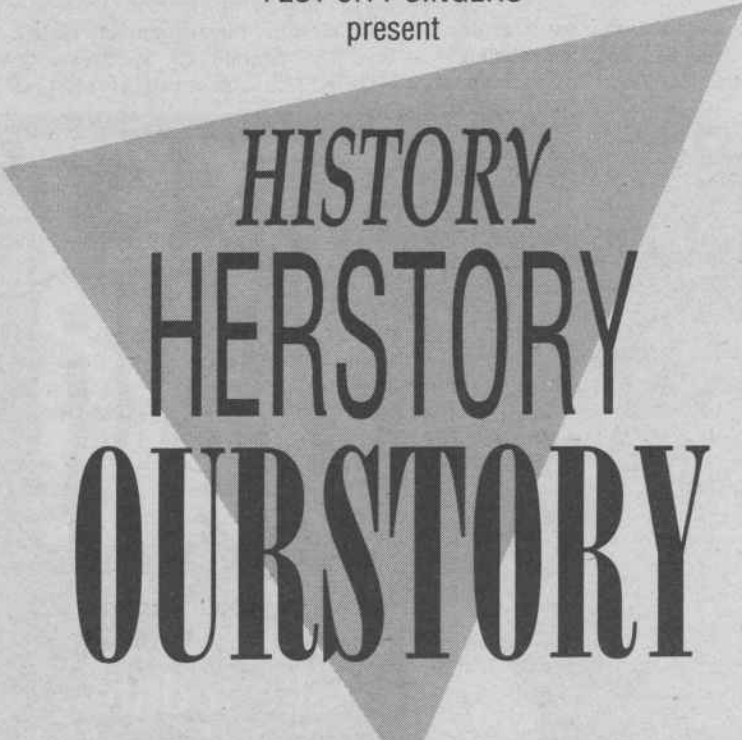
"**Out In America**" takes an in-depth look at the discrimination, harassment and violence suffered by those who have "come out" in this country. The hour-long special examines how this treatment affects Gay Americans and how they are responding in both the political and personal arenas. Hosted by ABC medical correspondent George Strait, "Out In America" airs Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00 p.m. on TV Channel 10.

American Playhouse's "Andre's Mother" centers on a young man's death from AIDS, and how his lover and mother cope with the tragic loss. Starring Richard Thomas and Sada Thompson, "Andre's Mother" airs Friday, July 12 at 9:00 p.m. on Channel 10.

Funds provided by organizations such as CCF help support the operations of Milwaukee Public and Educational Television, WMVS/WMTV Channels 10 and 36.


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

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## Community Physician Charged In Two Sexual Assaults

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Dr. Mark Huffman, familiar to many people in Milwaukee's Gay community for his work with the Milwaukee AIDS Project and the Brady East STD Clinic, has been charged with sexually assaulting two male patients at St. Mary's Hospital.

Huffman, 32, was charged with one count of second degree and one count of third degree sexual assault for incidents that allegedly occurred on February 5 and May 21, 1991 at St. Mary's Hospital.

Court Commissioner Frank J. Liska, Jr. released Huffman on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond and ordered the doctor to have no contact with either of the alleged victims or other patients while the court case is pending.

A statement issued by Sister Renee Rose, President of St. Mary's Hospital where Huffman completed his residency and served as a staff physician, indicated that the hospital was permanently suspending the doctor.

According to the criminal complaint, on February 5, Dr. Huffman allegedly administered an intravenous pain medication to a male patient in his hospital room. The patient stated that he soon became "real goofy, real wacky, dizzy" and realized that Huffman was performing a sex act on him. He pushed the doctor away and Huffman reportedly left the room.

In the May 21 incident, a male patient told authorities that he woke up in his hospital bed to find Dr. Huffman allegedly fondling him.

Both St. Mary's and the District Attorney's Office investigated the February incident but cleared Dr.

Huffman after finding insufficient evidence of criminal behavior. The investigation was reopened, however, after the May 21 incident was reported to hospital officials and the police.

The combined felony charges against Huffman carry a maximum 15 year sentence and a \$20,000 fine. If convicted, Huffman could also lose his license to practice medicine. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 12.

Dr. Huffman has worked for five years with the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and serves on the Board of Directors of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Tim Kennedy, a spokesman for MAP and the ARCW, said that Huffman has been "a big asset to MAP and has been dedicated and supportive of the work done at ARCW." Kennedy noted that as Huffman is innocent until proven guilty, he will retain his seat on the ARCW Board of Directors.

Dr. Huffman also served as Medical Director of the Brady East STD Clinic in 1988 and 1989. In recognition of his many years of service to the community, Huffman was presented with the prestigious Community Service Award by the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee in 1989.

Gary Wells, President of this year's Pride Committee, said: "It's unfortunate that this has happened. But regardless of the charges, Dr. Huffman still provided a great deal of service to the Gay and Lesbian community and was very deserving of the honor."

The *Light* attempted to contact Dr. Huffman, but he was unavailable for comment.

## Gay Hospitality Exchange Launches Membership Drive

[Montreal, Quebec]- The Gay Hospitality Exchange International (GHEI) is now engaged in a membership drive.

GHEI is an organization whose members are prepared to offer a couple of nights of hospitality to other members in exchange for the right to receive hospitality themselves when they travel. It is in no way meant as a "dating network."

Upon payment of an annual membership fee of \$20 US, members' names will be included in the annual

directory along with all the information necessary to other members including a bit of a description of hospitality offered, languages spoken and interests. Members wishing to travel can then contact each other directly using the available to-members-only directory. GHEI covers North and South America as well as many countries in Europe and Australia and South Africa.

For more information (brochure and membership form) contact GHEI, P.O. Box 612, Station C, Montreal, Quebec, H2L 4K5, Canada or call (514) 424-6223.

## Women Musicians In Oregon Victorious In Bias Settlement

[Medford, OR]- Sue Carney and Patricia O'Scannell will receive \$25,000 in damages from the Central Point School District which had canceled their contract to teach Renaissance music after learning of their prior participation in a play about a Lesbian softball team. As part of the out-of-court settlement, the women's teaching contract was reinstated, and the Oregon Arts Council, a co-defendant in the case, has agreed to include an anti-discrimination policy in its contract language.

"The biggest winners are the children at the school who will have a chance to hear some Renaissance music on some very wonderful ancient instruments," said the women's attorney, Renee Jacobs, of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Carney and O'Scannell, who form the Irish folk duo Criona, play 40 different instruments of the Renaissance period. They appear annually at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and lecture and perform at Southern Oregon State College and throughout the Northwest.

They filed their discrimination suit last December. Their contract was abruptly canceled after school administrators learned that Carney had been musical director for a comedy called *The Amazon All-Stars*, which played in nearby Ashland last Fall.

Carney was dumbfounded by the cancellation and told the press: "This suit has nothing to do with my sexuality, but has to do with freedom of association. I wonder, where does this end? Who is going to be denied a job next for being associated with controversial productions?"

The musicians' suit cited First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and association and Fourteenth Amendment guarantees of equal protection.

In addition to monetary damages and reinstatement of their contract, the women are to serve as consultants to the Oregon Arts Commission, advising the commission on procedures to avoid future contractual conflicts.

## Gay/Lesbian Health Conference Scheduled for July 24-28

[Washington, D.C.]- The 13th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference is scheduled for July 24-28 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year's conference coincides with the 9th National AIDS/HIV Forum.

The conference and forum will bring together thousands of health professionals and activists from across the US to share new research and treatment methods and to network in both educational and social settings.

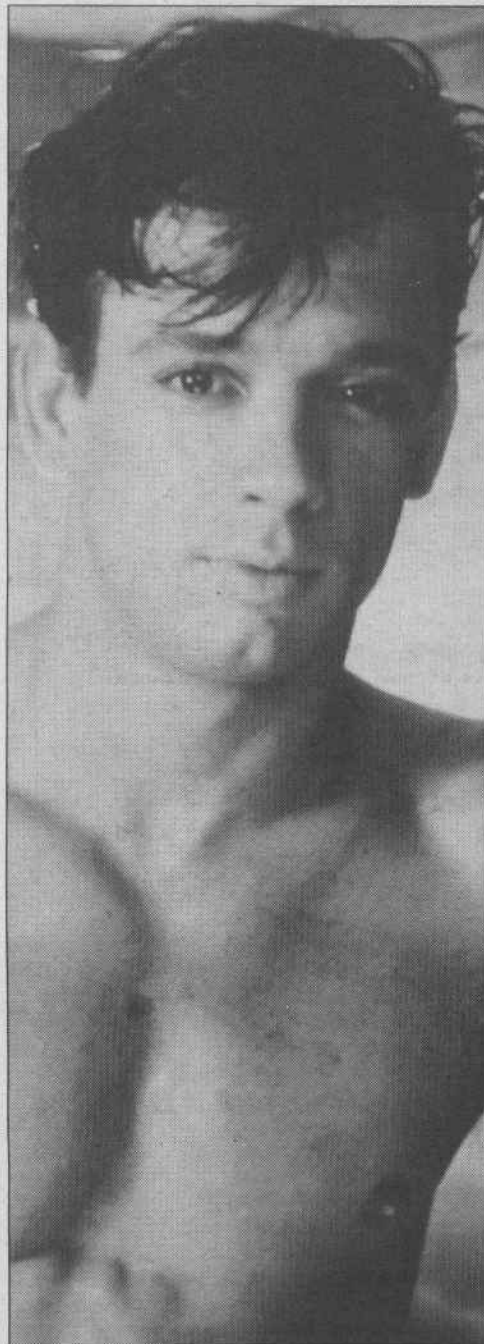
Hundreds of workshops and day-long institutes will focus on: substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, recovery from sexual abuse, coming out, methods of therapy, HIV infection, living with AIDS, home care skills, medical ethics, health issues unique to Gay youth and people of color, breast cancer, wellness models, eroticizing safe sex,

relationships and intimacy, internalized homophobia and many, many more.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases will present a one day AIDS Medical Update on Friday, July 26. The faculty will address: a clinical update on HIV and opportunistic infections; access to clinical trials for people with HIV/AIDS; an analysis and update on HIV infection in women; and "Looking Back: Perceptions on the AIDS Epidemic" by a panel of community physicians and health care providers.

The Health Conference and AIDS Forum is sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation and the George Washington University Medical Center.

For conference registration forms, write to: NGLHF Registration, Office of CME/GWUMC, 2300 K St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.



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## Opinion: Should Marijuana Be Available to AIDS Patients?

By Thomas J. Rondy

Sometimes, I wonder just how in touch with reality our government really is. Whenever I think about it, my conclusion is often, "not very much." One thing which does a lot to strengthen this opinion is the Drug Enforcement Agency's callous disregard for the medical potential of marijuana. What particularly concerns me about his policy is the usefulness of this disparaged substance in effectively treating one of the most formidable and insidious symptoms of the AIDS virus: The constant and overwhelming nausea and resulting weight loss and starvation.

"Poo-poo ca-ca!" you say? Well, it's true. So true, in fact, that there was a revealing news article on the subject recently in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The article starts out by discussing the case of a pot-smoking Person With AIDS (PWA) named Joe whose real name wasn't used so that our friends in blue wouldn't come kicking down his door. (After all, it was Daryl Gates, chief of the now infamous LAPD, who recently said that everyone who smokes pot should be shot.) According to the article, "Smoking marijuana, Joe believes, helped save his life by calming his stomach and giving him 'a voracious appetite.'"

The article also indicates that government studies are beginning to back these anecdotal claims. The findings weren't necessarily surprising; this application of medicinal cannabis is the same principle as the relief from chemotherapy nausea in cancer patients.

There is some scant evidence that cannabis could have a detrimental impact on AIDS cases, but this should be at least verified; medicinal cannabis has medical uses beyond nausea relief. The relief of ocular pressure in glaucoma patients is the most well-known use. Some of the uses mentioned in the article are for epilepsy, Tourette's Syndrome, and migraine headaches; and those are only a few of the potential medical uses.

Even with its current status of total illegality, marijuana is still readily available on the black market, but the "War on Drugs" has sent prices sky-rocketing to between \$200-\$300 an ounce. The profits to be had as a result of our policy of "not sending the wrong message" has spurred the drug's relative potency upward, but these exorbitant prices make cannabis unavailable for the poor, working and unemployed alike.

For impoverished PWA's like Barbara and Kenneth Jenks of Panama City, Florida, that meant actually growing the stuff or facing the waves of nausea and starvation. Apparently, the knights of

right in Panama City couldn't abide the high crime of an ailing couple cultivating one of the oldest plants known to humanity. According to the article, "The couple (was) arrested after police broke down their door and held a gun to Barbara Jenks' head."

Fortunately, they were tried by a judge with a conscience, who handed them a community-service sentence of taking care of each other. Also, they are on non-reporting probation, which means no urine tests. But our friends in blue still have the power to wreak havoc upon the lives of poor PWA's like the Jenks'.

Cannabis in its natural form can be prescribed, but these cases are more the exception than the rule. The DEA has veto power over all applications, which they freely use. The DEA is comprised of anal-retentive bureaucrats who realize on some level that if people ever realized what a crock the Great Drug War really is, they would most likely end up on the business end of a broom, causing them to cling to an unrealistic dogma.

There is also a synthetic delta-nine-tetrahydrocannabinol pill called "Marinol." Each tablet contains 2.5 grams of this main cannabinoid. It is made by a Somerville, New Jersey firm known as "Unimed Inc." Since it's made from the main psychoactive ingredient of marijuana, Marinol can probably do the job for the relief of nausea, but delta-nine-THC is only one of some sixty cannabinoids in marijuana, which also have medicinal value.

The corporations which make synthetic drugs will always tell you that it would be dangerous to allow crude-drug marijuana to be used as medicine, really because natural medicinal cannabis would mean no processing patents for them. In fact, a recent ruling by the DEA's own Administrative Law Judge, Francis L. Young, said that marijuana's legal classification should be changed from Schedule I, which forbids any and all uses, to Schedule II, which would allow for medicinal use; the drug is "one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man," he said in his final decision, which came after days of testimony from both sides of the issue. But exiting DEA chief John Lawn vetoed the decision as one of his last executive acts in that office.

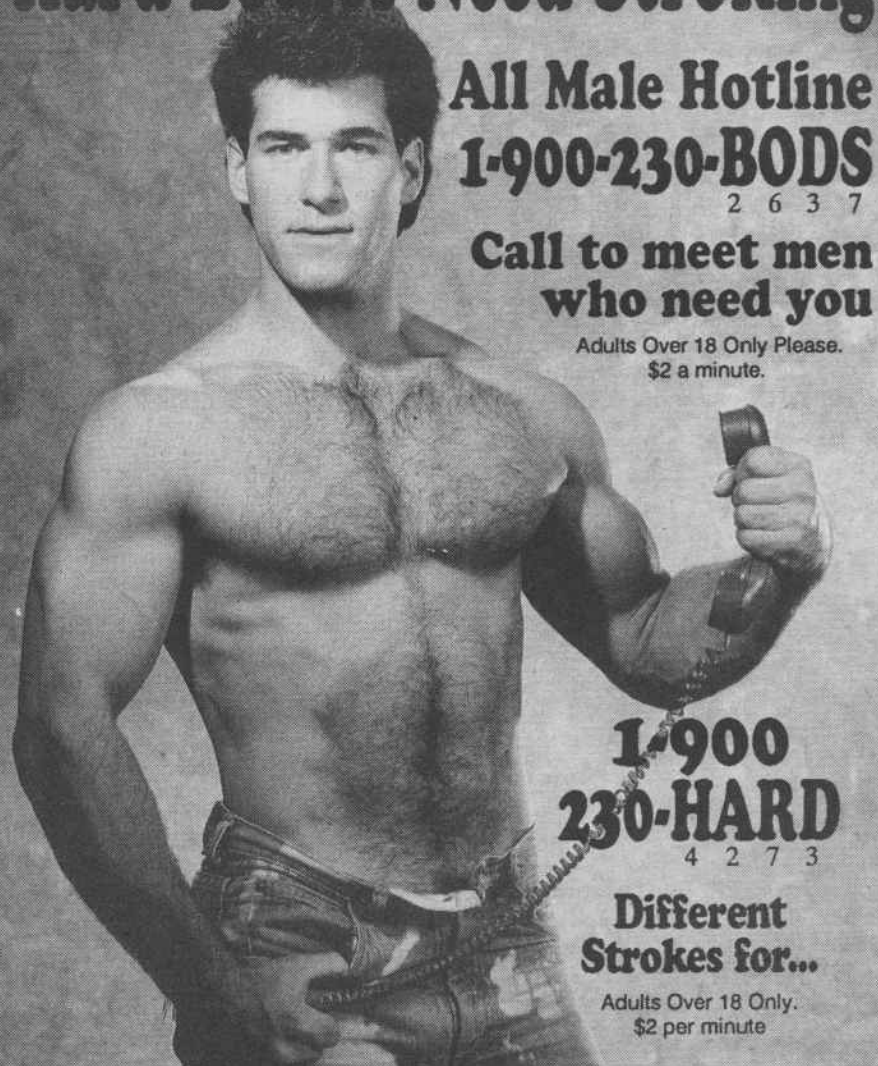
A clear pattern emerges in the government's dealings in the field of medicine, whether it concerns the spread of AIDS or drugs: A callous disregard for reality in favor of an impractical dogma. If the government could at least follow its own recommendations, there would be some cause for hope.

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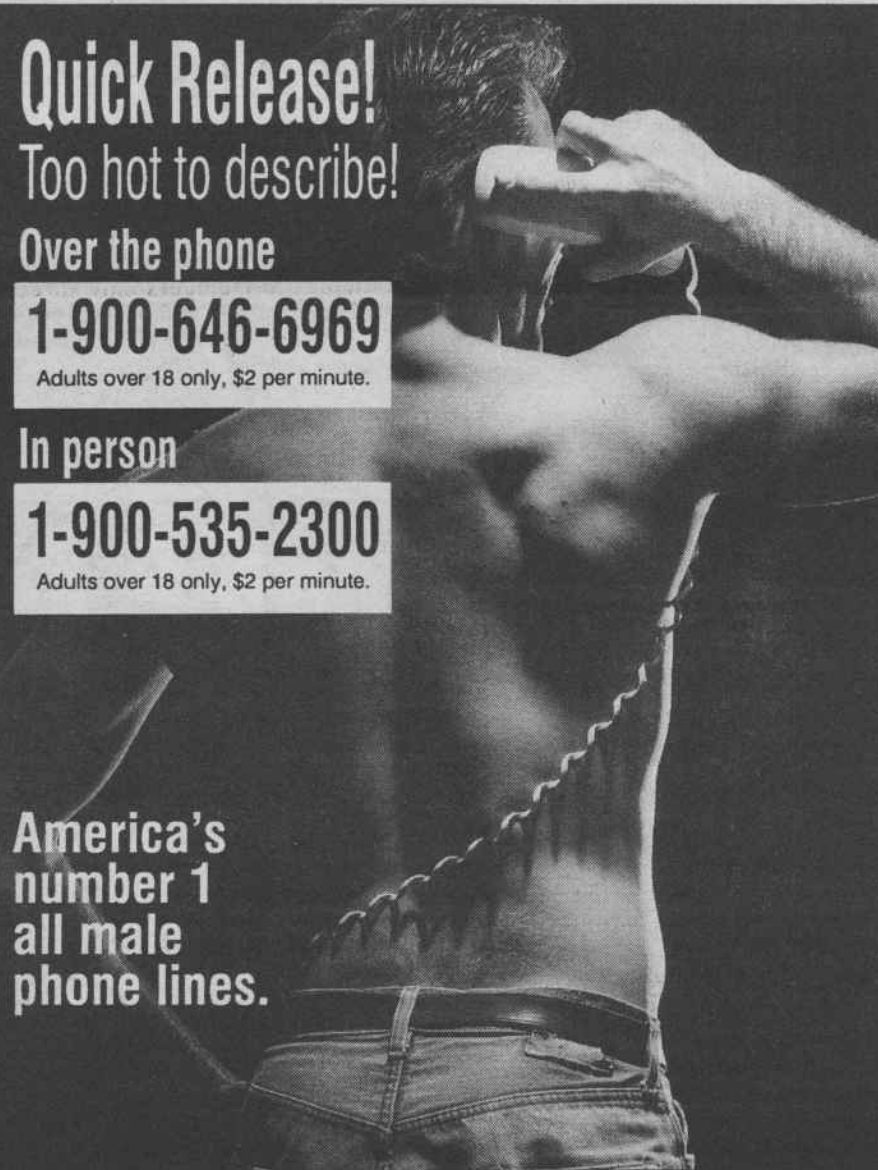
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## 1991 PRIDE WEEK EVENT CALENDAR

The ▼ symbol designates that the event is a fund raiser for the MLGPC.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 15

- ▼ 1991 Annual Pride Parade & Rally. Parade starts at 11:00 am. Rally starts at 12:00 Noon.
- Together Wherever We Go, presented by Cream City Chorus. Centennial Hall, 8:00 pm. \$8/advance, \$10/door.
- PRESENT music presents the Music of Daniel Lentz performed by the Daniel Lentz Group, 8:00 pm, \$10, UWM Fine Arts Recital Hall.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 16

- All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee. Shorewood Woman's Club, Hubbard Park, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Treat your father on Father's Day. \$5/advance, \$6/door. Call 264-2600 for more information.
- PRESENT music presents the Music of Daniel Lentz performed by the Daniel Lentz Group, 7:30 pm, \$10, UWM Fine Arts Recital Hall.
- New Hope MCC. Special Worship Service Celebration at 6:30 pm. Rev. Chris Pasinski will be preaching "Lazarus, COME OUT."

### MONDAY, JUNE 17

- Reception for Elected Officials sponsored by Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee and Lambda Rights Network. Village Church on Juneau, 5:30-7:30 pm. Call 264-2600 for more information.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

- Interfaith Service at the Village Church, 130 East Juneau Avenue. 7:30 pm. Co-sponsored by Dignity, New Hope MCC, UCCL/GC, Lutherans Concerned, the Village Church, and the Cross Church.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 20

- Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Monthly Program Meeting: "Literary Lesbians: A Panel of Writers." 2821 North 4th Street, 6:00 pm potluck, 7:00 pm program. Call 264-2600 for more information.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- ▼ Edelweiss Cruise, cruising the Milwaukee River and Lakefront. The cruise departs at 10:30 pm and returns about midnight. \$20/person, \$35/couple includes beer, munchies & entertainment. Call 32-PRIDE for ticket information.

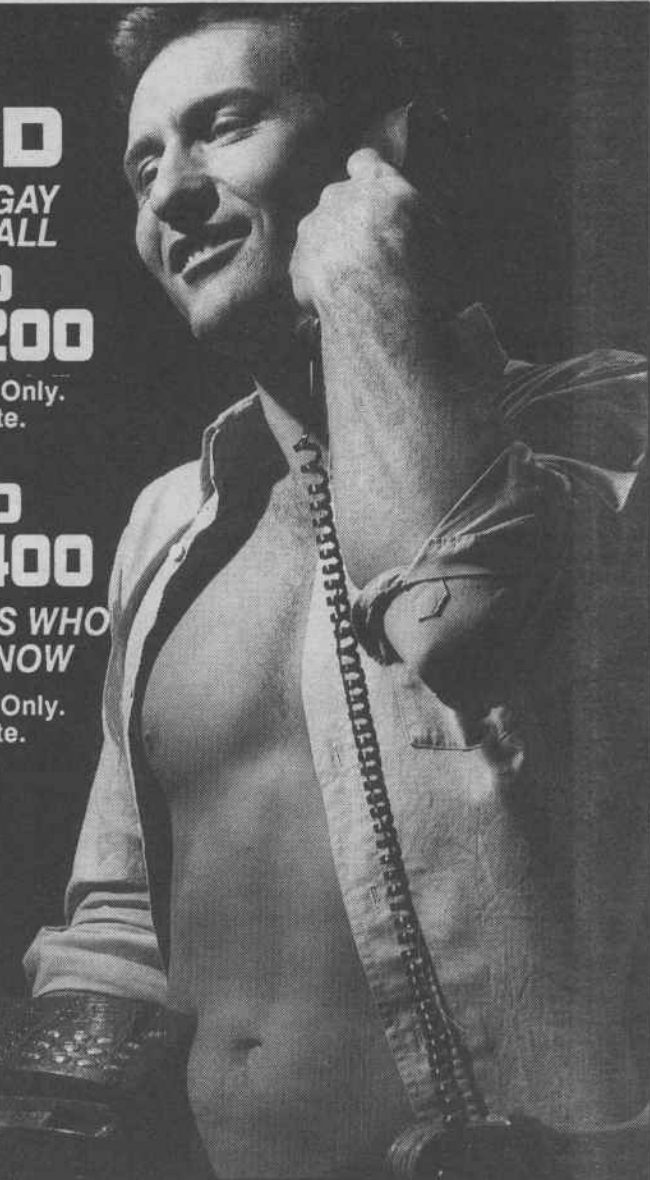
### SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- Getting the Word Out . . . Again. A repeat of the award winning workshop presented by Havlicek & Associates, In Step Magazine and the Wisconsin Light. M&M's upstairs Banquet Room, 1:00-4:00 pm. Hors d'oeuvres. Call 278-7840 or 271-5819 to register.

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## Milwaukee Pride Week Updates: Parade Marshal Announced

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) has announced that Ms. Cynthia Lampman will be the Grand Marshal for the 1991 Pride Parade.

Ms. Lampman is the artist who created this year's Pride logo.

Ms. Lampman has been active in the Lesbian/Gay community of Racine and Kenosha. From 1981-'84, she served as coordinator for the Racine Gay/Lesbian Union. From 1981-'84, she served as the editor and publisher of the Unitarian Universalist Lesbian and Gay World, a publication focused on the concerns of Gays and Lesbians in that denomination. She has been a writer and reporter for the Advocate and other publications, as well.

publications, as well.

In 1982, Ms. Lampman was appointed as the first person in a two-year term as the Kenosha/Racine representative to former Gov. Tony Earl's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues. She was reappointed in 1984.

MLGPC is proud to have such a distinguished member of the Lesbian and Gay community serving as the 1991 Parade Marshal, especially stepping in at the last minute when Rep. David Clarenbach, who was due to serve as this year's Marshal, had to bow out due to schedule conflicts.

Rep. Clarenbach is still scheduled to speak at the Pride Rally.

## Pride Committee Thank-You

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) would like to thank the following bars for their valued assistance and contribution in helping to make this year's Annual Parade and Pride Rally possible: Ballgame, Mint II, Triangle, This Is It, Leaded Shade, 3 B's, JC's Rainbow, Loose Ends, Wreck Room, Boot Camp, Phoenix, Club 219, Fannies, La Cage, M&M, Partners, Station II and C'est La Vie.

MLGPC would also like to thank the Cream City Foundation and Havlicek and Associates.

A special thanks goes to Club 219 and This Is It for their on-going support in selling Pride merchandise and Raffle

tickets.

As in years past, This Is It went out of its way in selling Pride buttons, offering a free drink to anyone purchasing a button and getting patrons to donate other money as well.

On Sunday, June 9, This Is It raised over \$300; more than any other bar in a single day. MLGPC extends hearty thanks to Joe, Rick, Randy and Doug who really out did themselves.

MLGPC would also like to thank This Is It, Wreck Room, Loose Ends, the Cream City Foundation and Havlicek & Associates for donating the money to cover the cost of the airfare in conjunction with Horizon Travel for this year's raffle grand prize.

## Edelweiss Boat Cruise June 22

[Milwaukee]- Do you like to cruise? If so, join the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) for the final activity of Pride Week '91 as we board the Edelweiss for a cruise on the Milwaukee River and harbor.

It happens on Saturday, June 22, from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. Cost is only \$20 per person and \$35 per couple. The price includes the cost of the trip, beer,

munchies, entertainment, and a pre-boarding party at Club 219 from 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There will be free beer, food and \$1.00 rail drinks.

For those who wish to attend the pre-boarding party only (held in the downstairs bar), the cost is only \$7.50 per person.

The cruise departs from 1110 Old World Third Street.

## Sweat Pants and Shirts Canceled

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) would like to extend its most sincere apologies to those who ordered sweat pants and shirts and have not yet received them. Due to late deadlines and inferior quality, the sweats were sent back.

MLGPC will not be selling them this year.

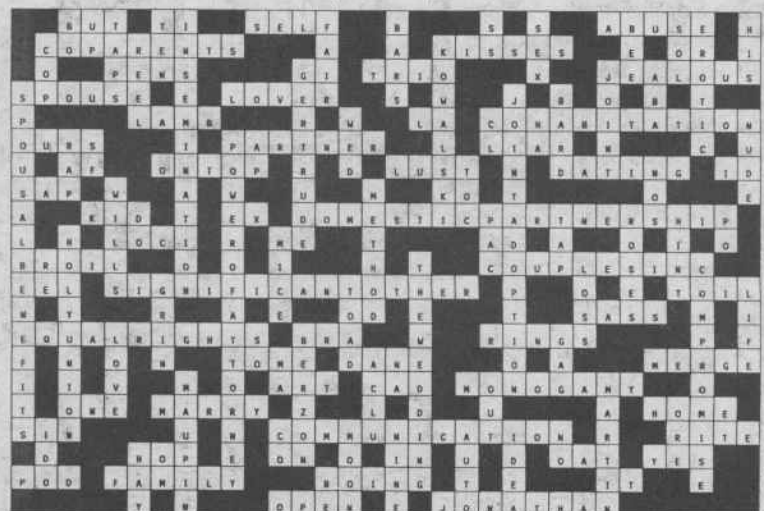
The shirts are expected to arrive by Pride Day.

MLGPC will be refunding the money to those people who have ordered the pants. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

### PRIDE RALLY SCHEDULE

NOON	Emcees David Rogers and Barb Coyle Introduce Floats and Groups
12:30	Rufus and the Singing Machine
1:15	Opening Comments: Gary Wells, President of the Pride Committee; Larry Taylor, Rally Coordinator
1:30	Bill Meunier Presents Alyn Hess Award to Congressman Jim Moody
1:50	Moment of Silence for AIDS
2:00	The Creamettes
2:15	Awards Presented for Best Parade Floats
3:00	City and County Pride Proclamations Read
3:15	Scott Gunkel Presents Special Award to Cream City Foundation
3:30	Gary Wells Presents Community Service Award
3:45	Red, Hot & Twisted
4:00	Peri Jude Radecic, Legislative Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
4:20	State Representative David Clarenbach
4:40	Former Army Sergeant Perry Watkins
5:10	Rev. Renee McCoy, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
5:30	Rev. McCoy Conducts Queer Nation Wedding
5:50	Music Emcee Tony Grady Introduces the Fest City Singers
6:10	Rick Burd
6:30	Raffle Winners Announced
6:45	Bim & Company, Josie Santiago, Robin & Dawn, Wild Boys
8:00	Dawn Roethler, Garret James, Kevin Haydon
8:55	Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin
9:10	Mr. and Miss Black Wisconsin
9:25	Golde, the 219 Girls, D.J. Jams

A PUZZLE FOR PARTNERS -- #1 from PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples



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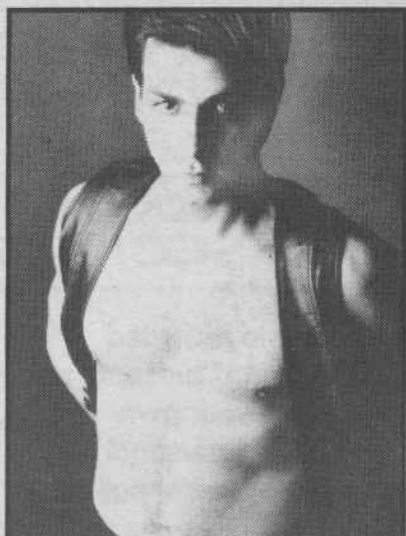
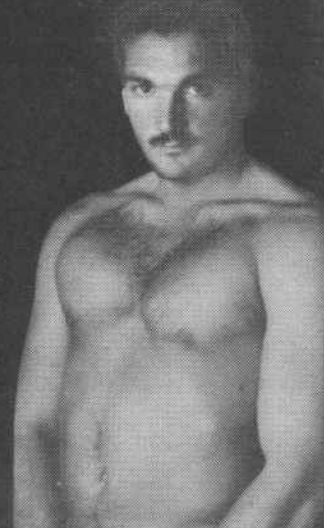
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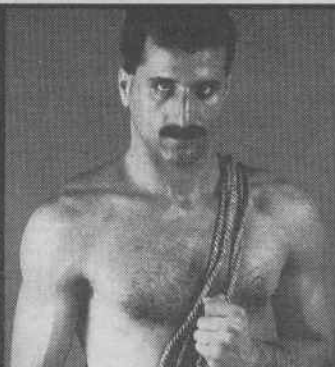
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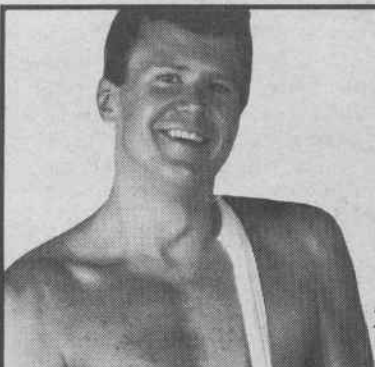
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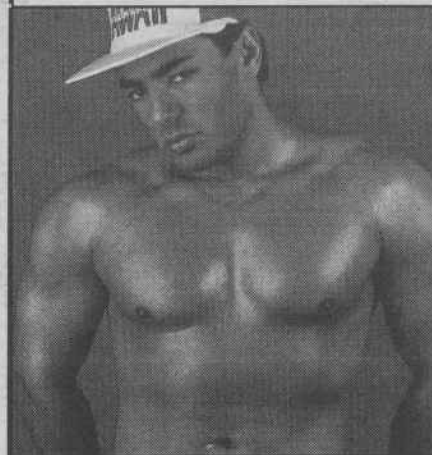
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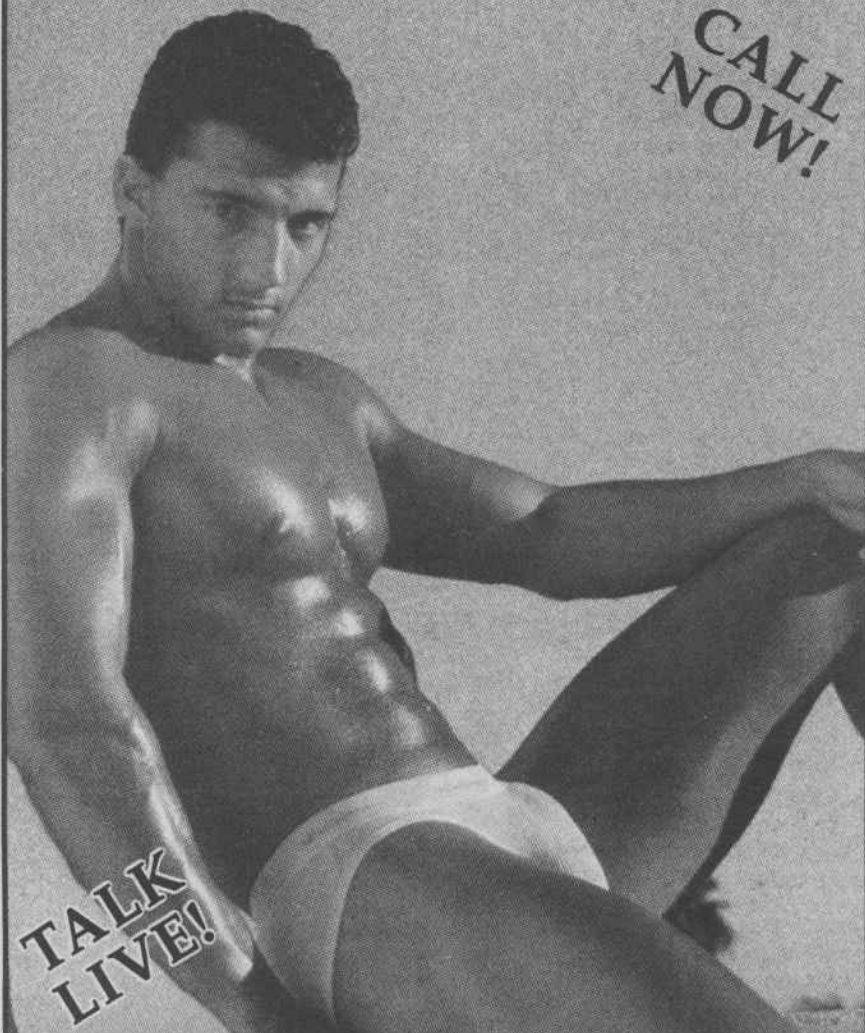
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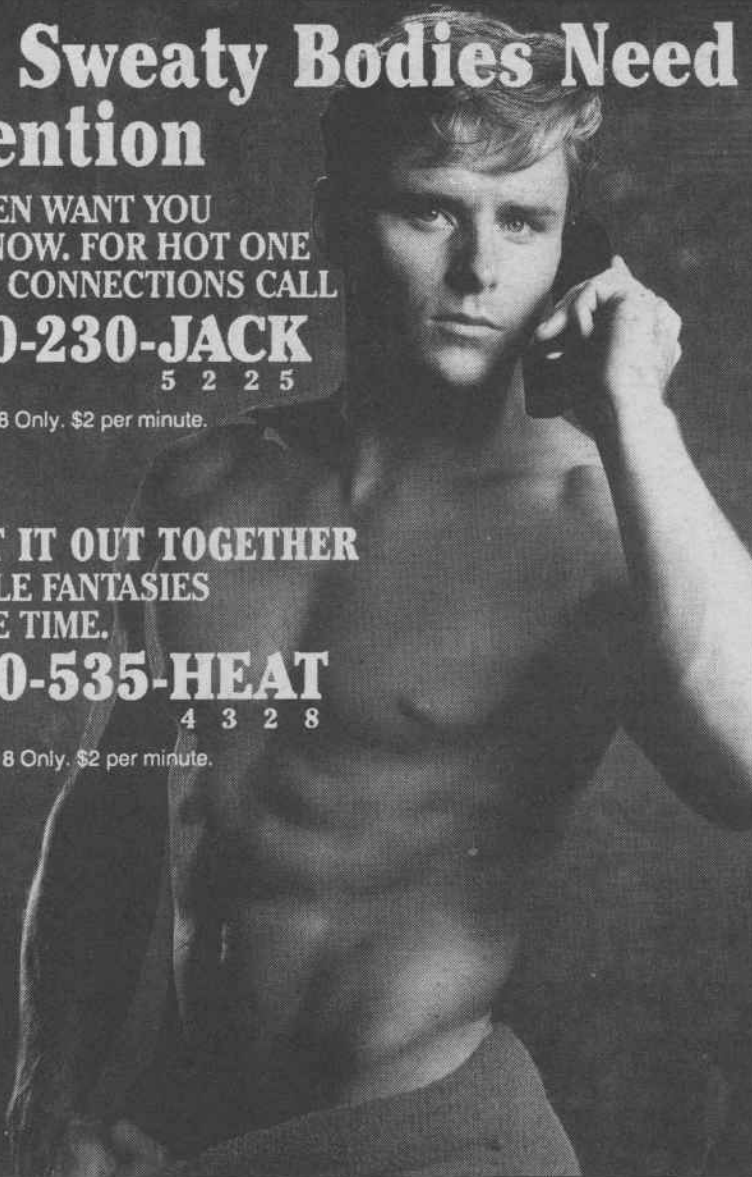
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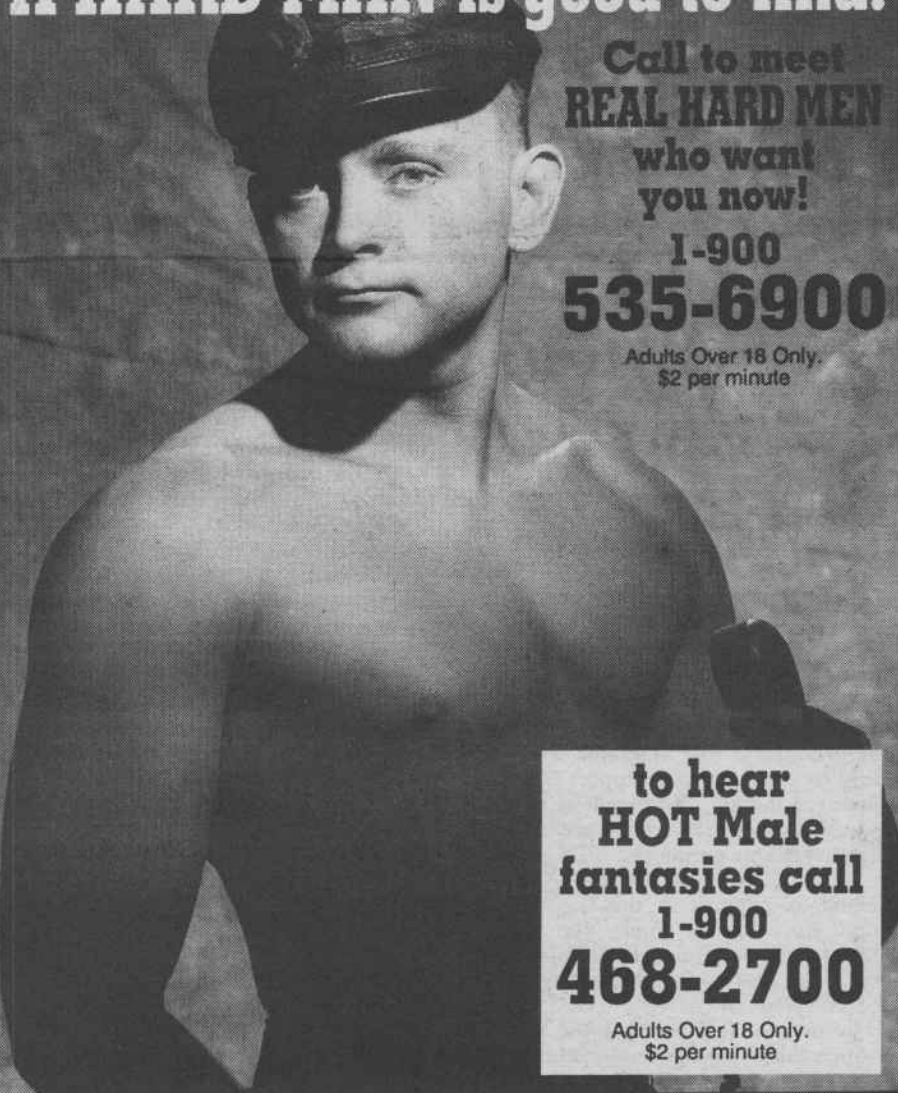


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#### Announcements

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GWM wants Info Re: Costa Rica. Have you been there lately? Wanna go? Jim, POBx 77632, L.A., CA 90007

##### 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.

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#### Organizations

**GALANO CLUB.** A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA, Al-Anon, ACOA and other 12-step meetings. Open nightly. 2408 N. Farwell Avenue. (414) 276-6936. x

**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. L

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# Phranc Talks Frankly About Her Music, Videos and Mrs. Fun

By Jeff Casteloz

Phranc is a funny girl. She's just like the friend you had when you were a kid — warm, cuddly, outspoken, sincere; outrageous at times, and very reserved at others. She has a phlat-top, wears combat boots, and even cries when she watches old movies that conjure up memories of past girlfriends. She's just your everyday girl — who wishes the term "Lesbian" would become a household word so the world could get past its hangup with homosexuality.

Thirty minutes on the telephone with one of the most passionate Pop stars to surface within the past decade didn't seem like much time — and it certainly wasn't. Minutes fly by with each syllable uttered over the telephone; no answer seems thorough enough, no question curious enough.

She was scheduled to phone me at 12:30; I began to fret around 12:36. I figured she was probably worn out from the show at the Forum in Los Angeles the night before where she opened for Morrissey, the British Pop star extraordinaire. The two have recently come to the colonies after a month-long European tour. Or maybe she and Morrissey just went out for a ginger ale after the show — who knows. The only thing that's important is that they'll be at the World Amphitheater in Chicago, June 25 (and tickets are still available!).

Finally, at 12:40, the phone rang. The warm Californian accent of the girl who enjoys being a girl touched on all of the questions I fired at her during our conversation. The "basic, all-American Jewish Lesbian folk singer" conveyed a strong sense of compassion and a true love for her music, and even admits that she's lonely in the pop world where she and Two Nice Girls are the only performers who have come out thus far.

But, whatever Phranc says, and regardless of her vocal tone — she's always frank.

**How was the show at the forum last night?**

"It was great!"

**Was it intimidating playing for a sold-out crowd at the Forum?**



PHRANC

"If you think that you're playing in a huge place it can get kind of scary. But when you're actually on stage, you really can't see beyond the first few rows because of the lights. So, it's really not that much different than playing in a garage! — no, it is in a way. Well, for a second I thought 'Whoa, I'm playing the Forum!' But you just have to put it out of your mind.

**How is it being out with Morrissey?**

"I think he's wonderful, and the tour's great... we just got back from doing the European tour..."

**Do you enjoy your support from the Gay/Lesbian community?**

"Well, yeah... hopefully my music will appeal to everybody, but I love the support from the Gay and Lesbian community. You know, being out as a Lesbian in the world of entertainment I was alone most of the time because the Two Nice Girls are the only other women performers I know that are out, so I think it's very nice to have the support of the Gay and Lesbian community."

**Do you feel lonely in that that respect?**

"Yes, I do. And I wish more people would come out."

**Are there others that you know that haven't?**

(hesitates) "Well — " (laughs

hysterically)

**Do you feel as though you're dangerous — that you're on the cutting edge because you're one of the few homosexual pop artists?**

"Well, I don't really consider myself to be dangerous. Perhaps pioneering would be a better term. And I always refer to myself as a Lesbian and not homosexual, or Gay."

**Do you think the pop world is ready to accept you?**

"I think if they listen to the music, yeah (laughs). Because I think my music is contemporary and it fits in, and you know, this record that I just made, **Positively Phranc**, is a pop record. It's like folk-pop. And yeah, I think the pop world, if they focus on my music and not on my sexuality, I think they are ready to accept me."

**Where does your sexuality come into your music?**

"It doesn't. I mean, on some of my songs I address it, I mention it. Basically it's not the focus of my music, it's not something that I exclusively sing about. My sexuality is no bigger deal than, like my hair or my shoes — it's just a part of me, you know. The only difference between me and others is that I don't let people assume that I'm heterosexual. And the frustration from me is that people focus on my sexuality rather than focusing on my music, with the press. I'd rather have people just focus on the music."

"I say that I'm a Lesbian because I don't want to be invisible. I say that I'm Jewish because I don't want to be invisible — and I don't think that being a Lesbian is a big deal at all. I think if more people would come out and just say it then it would be, you know, an everyday household word. And I think invisibility is very scary, and I think it's really great for Gays and Lesbians to come out."

**Ok, let's talk about Phranc the pop star. Is POSITIVELY PHRANC a progression from I ENJOY BEING A GIRL?**

"It's a little more personal, and it's a little more focused — and it's definitely more pop. Because on the other record, there were songs that were very personal like 'Myriam and Esther' and 'Double Decker Bed,' but the record was also very camp in a way."

**Is that because of the difference between producer Victor Delorenzo's production work on I ENJOY versus Warren's style on POSITIVELY, or did you change?**

"A lot of it was me, but I'd say it was a little bit of both."

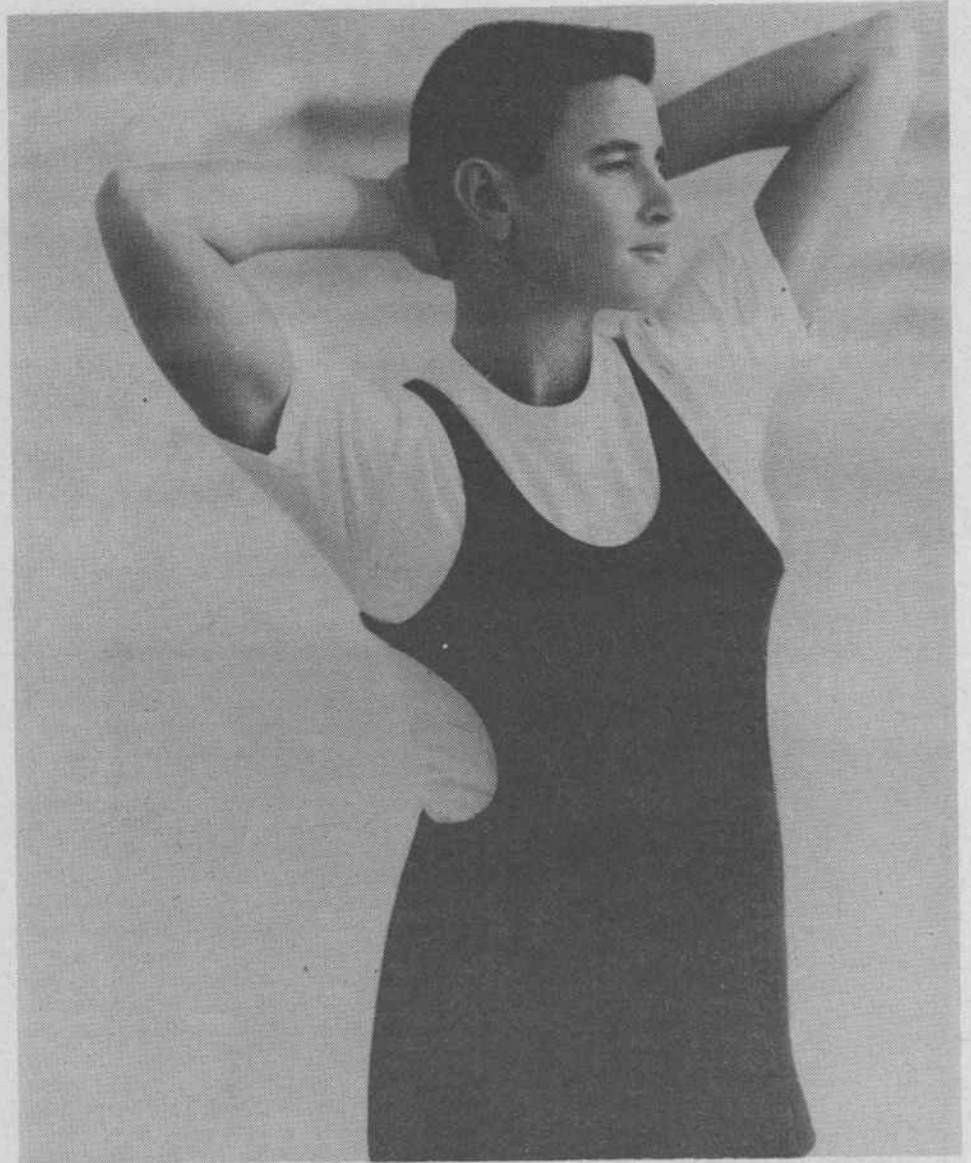
**How do your songs come to you — both the words and the guitar melodies? Do they just appear, or do you have to sit down and consciously write?**

"Well, a little bit of both. Sometimes stuff will just pop into my head and other times it takes much more effort. More recently it's been taking me longer to write songs. When I wrote 'Tipton,' [an account of the life and death of Billie Tipton, the Tacoma-based woman and jazz musician who passed as a man for 60 years], I had to do a lot of research. I had to go to the library and do a lot of reading...sit down, absorb the story and figure out how I was going to tell the story... play the music."

"And it was very emotional writing, you know, I cried a lot when I wrote that song.. it took a while for the song to evolve. For a song like 'Blood Bath' from my last record, I saw a riot in South Africa and I wrote the song very spontaneously. And for a song like 'I'm Not Romantic,' I had the music for eight months and I couldn't find the right lyrics for it — I just could not write the lyrics — and then one day they just came. It's very different for each song."

**On "64 Ford," for instance, the words "It's not crazy for a girl to love her car" could be construed as too quirky to be serious. But even in seemingly serious tunes like "Dress Code" I could imagine you just stopping mid-song and chuckling. Tell me about this balance between self parody and your serious, more frank side.**

"I think humor is a very, very important tool in communicating, obviously I use it a lot in my work. Especially when you're talking about difficult topics — even on the most political song I think you'll find that I use humor because I think it's really hard for people to absorb serious material. And if you can get somebody to laugh, you can get them to open-up a little bit, they're much more receptive to different thoughts and ideas. If you have a sense of humor in your work, you can address just about any subject."



PHRANC

**What if your humor were misunderstood, even taken to the point of controversy — like Morrissey?**

"I don't think there would be any controversies around my work. I did have trouble with the video for the anti-apartheid song 'Bloodbath' — MTV said it was too political, so they wouldn't play it."

**Do you have any new videos?**

"I don't have a video for the new album, but I have a commercial — a 30 second spot that's running on VH1 and it's supposed to run on MTV. I'm laying on a chaise nude, except for my combat boots and I'm covered with a satin sheet and you hear the opening strains of 'I'm Not Romantic' and you don't see my head or my feet, the camera just pans up my body. It's very sexy. Then it focuses on my combat boots and you hear me say, 'Who says a woman has to take off her clothes to sell a record? I'm just being frank.' [or is that Phranc?] So, that's my latest video exploit. And '64 Ford' will be the next single with a B-side of 'Surfer Girl' and a 'Surfer Girl' dance remix."

**How do you feel about Madonna's support of the Gay and Lesbian community?**

"I think Madonna's wonderful — I'm a big Madonna fan and I wish more people in entertainment like Madonna who were willing to stand up and support Gays and Lesbians. I think it's tremendous that she was on the cover of the *Advocate*. She had a big part in sponsoring the AIDS dance in LA... she's always there... she's a tremendous support in the Gay/Lesbian community, and I think she sets a wonderful example, and I just wish there were more people in entertainment that were as bold as she is."

**How do you feel most of the time — more feminine like the tender Phrancness portrayed in "Hitchcock" and "Tipton" — or like you're ready to kick someone with your boots?**

(Laughs) "Like 'Dress Code!' — My records do have a range of emotion... some songs are silly, some are happy, some are very angry, some are very sad. I think my music reflects me as a person — I don't walk around in one mood. I don't think anybody really does — sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down... sometimes I'm just ridiculous and sometimes I'm very serious. I think

the music is a very honest reflection of my personality."

**Are you really concerned about telling the story?**

"I chose the folk format because it's the one I'm most comfortable with, and I think it's the most powerful. A ballad is a great way to tell a story, and I think it can be very, very powerful. For example, 'The Lonesome Death Of Hattie Carrol,' the Bob Dylan cover I did on the first album really blew me away because I listened to that song, and I had never known that incident had happened — it's a factual incident, right out of history — and the way I found out about it was from listening to a record! The thing that's so sad about it is that I can perform the song 25 years later, and it's still contemporary because racism doesn't go away. It really taught me the power of acoustic music — and the ballad particularly."

**If you could become a mega-star like Madonna right now, would you?**

"No matter what I've done in my music career, I've always been myself and I don't think anything is going to deter me — no carrot anyone could dangle in front of me could make me give up who I am. If you can't be yourself, what's the point? You know, some people say, 'Do you think you'd be more successful if you didn't say you were a lesbian,' or 'Why don't you just shut up, Phranc, and maybe you'll get somewhere.' And I just feel that if I couldn't be honest then I couldn't do the work that I do — I can't hide — it's not in me. When I came out, I came out to the world — to my family and to everyone. It's no big deal, it's one of my strengths. Perhaps it's a mistake not to be more mysterious — people love mystery and they love what they don't know. But sorry, I ain't mysterious" (laughs).

**What about Mrs. Fun — they worked with you on I ENJOY. Were they friends of yours, or did Delorenzo introduce you to them?**

"Yes, Victor introduced me to them when we were recording the album at his studio in Milwaukee. They're incredible musicians — Connie and Kim are just wonderful — they're great gals. I went to every one of their gigs at Cafe Melange when I was in Milwaukee."

You should go to Cafe Melange every week to see them!"

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