



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

The Wisconsin Light

U.S. Army Memo Suggests Reversal Of Ban On Gays

[New York, NY]- According to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in a document released by the Justice Department on June 19, in the course of a lawsuit against the U.S. Naval Academy, the Department of the Army appears to be considering a proposal to reverse its current ban and permit Gay and Lesbian persons to serve.

The document was released by the Justice Department in conjunction with the discovery process in Joseph Steffan's landmark Gay and Lesbian civil rights lawsuit against the U.S. Naval Academy which discharged him for being Gay in 1987. The fact that the document, which proposes changes in the Army's treatment of Gay servicemembers, was produced by the government's attorneys defending the Naval Academy suggests that the memo reached the highest levels of military policy administration.

The four-page document—which has been described by Gay activists as “stunning” and “staggering”—begins with a critical review of the background of the current policy, citing military research that indicates “homosexual personnel are no greater security risk than are their heterosexual counterparts,” making sharp distinctions between sexual orientation and sexual behavior, acknowledging the great social changes that have occurred in the fifty years since the ban was first instituted, and recognizing that “homosexuality” has gained more acceptance in “society at-large as a visible alternative lifestyle and a valid sexual orientation.”

The memo goes on to state that a change in policy is needed “in order to establish a supportable Army policy that can withstand the inevitable challenge by either the courts or Congress.”

The document ends with a dramatic proposal to change the current policy and states, in part, that “The Army shall not discriminate in recruitment, promotion or retention practices based on sexual orientation.”

The memo was originally withheld on the basis of a claim by the government that the document was “privileged.” The author of the document, the circumstances under which it was prepared and the date it was written and the status of the proposal are not clear.

Chicago Police Brutally Arrest ACT UP Members at AMA Confab

By April Elledge

[Chicago, IL]- Allegations of police abuse and felony charges were exchanged by ACT-UP Chicago and Chicago Police respectively following ACT-UP's demonstration against the American Medical Association at its annual conference on June 24. Twenty-seven activists were arrested.

Activists Jay Hanson of Milwaukee, Kriss DeJong of Kansas City, and Gary Lawman of New York exhibited signs of

Ben-Shalom Appointed to MPS Committee

[Milwaukee]- Dr. Howard Fuller, recently named Superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has announced that he is forming a committee of teachers and involved citizens to explore the needs and situation of Gay and Lesbian students in MPS.

Don Ernest, head of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association called Miriam Ben Shalom on June 26, 1991 and asked her to represent the union on the commission.

Ben Shalom, a long-time activist and advocate for Lesbian/Gay rights and the civil rights of all citizens, told *Light* that she had responded in the affirmative.

As of press time, the committee is still in the process of formation and has yet to hold its first meeting.

Guilty Convictions Delivered In Two Gay-Related Murders



The Cream City Chorus paraded with a dragon in Milwaukee's Third Annual Pride Parade on June 15.

Democratic Presidential Hopefuls Discuss Issues With The LIGHT

By Bill Meunier

[Milwaukee]- Three out of four of the potential and announced Presidential candidates present at Wisconsin's State Democratic Party convention, held June 14-15 at the Marc Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, told *Wisconsin Light* that they favor Lesbian and Gay rights. All four of the candidates denounced the Reagan-Bush era AIDS policy.

The convention was billed by many observers as the first chance to take stock of the potential standard bearers for the national party in 1992. The only announced candidate, former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas, and three potential candidates, Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton were in attendance.

When asked about his support for Lesbian and Gay rights, Tsongas pointed out that he was the “original” sponsor of Federal Gay and Lesbian Rights Act.

abuse ranging from dark, foot-shaped bruises on wrists and upper arms to major concussions, sprained and fractured fingers, and bruised and broken cheekbones and noses.

None of the twenty-seven arrestees were observed by anyone but the police while allegedly breaking the law, and videotapes of the demonstration and arrests do not show protesters engaged in illegal civil disobedience.

Also not shown on video was the alleged biting of Chicago Police Officer Ronald Parram by Gary Lawman, who was also charged with disarming a police officer after allegedly pulling an officer's gun from its holster.

Videotapes of the arrests do show protesters thrown head-first to the pavement. In addition, some Chicago police officers were wearing disposable rubber gloves, apparently in a misguided attempt to avoid infection.

Said activist Jay Hanson, “I wanna know why this happened to me. I joined a legal demonstration to protest the AMA's treatment of people with AIDS and to call for National Healthcare for all Americans. I thought that was my democratic right.

“No one, particularly a sick person, deserves to be brutalized the way I was by the Chicago Police Department,” said Hanson. “I call on concerned queers everywhere to prevent this sort of brutality from being inflicted on any other person in Chicago, regardless of their perceived sexual orientation or HIV status.”

He also denounced the Pentagon policy of discrimination against Lesbians and Gays in the military.

Said Tsongas, “I don't believe in discrimination. I take perhaps a humanist view of that, but I think we are better off in the long run. A nation that is divided, competing with nations that have a mono cultural component or character is going to have trouble. We have strength in our diversity, our composite nature.”

When asked if as Commander in Chief he would end the Pentagon Policy of throwing out Lesbians and Gays, Tsongas replied, “Yes I would.”

Clinton was also asked about the Pentagon Policy and told *Light* “If I were elected President and someone served my country with honor, I think I would permit them to continue to serve with honor.”

Harkin indicated support for Gays and Lesbians in the military. When asked if he would end the policy of discrimination in the military, he said: “As I have said before I am opposed to discrimination in any form when it is based on sex, religion, race, national origin, or lifestyle.”

Neither Harkin nor Rockefeller who are currently in the Senate have signed onto the Federal Gay Rights bill.

When asked if he was a co-sponsor, Rockefeller curtly replied, “No I am not and I don't particularly care to comment as to why not.”

Harkin said, “Its just not something that I have focused on, but anyone who knows me can tell you that I have always said that discrimination based on race, sex, religion, lifestyle, or sexual preference or orientation is wrong.”

On the subject of AIDS, Tsongas ripped Bush and Reagan for their handling of the AIDS crisis. Alluding to his battle with cancer, a battle he won but which forced him to leave the Senate, Tsongas said, “I am particularly sensitive on this, if my doctors treated my cancer the way they are treating AIDS, I wouldn't be here today. Obviously we would be a lot better off if Reagan had acknowledged it, could have uttered the words, could have gotten past that. I think that recent controversy about letting people into the country shows that attitude is still there.”

When asked what he thought of the Bush handling of the AIDS crisis, Senator Rockefeller said “No, the response is not adequate. Talk to the first person who headed it up.” When asked what he objected to, the Senator went on to say, “If they would listen to the Pepper Commission every single person including people who had AIDS would have health insurance; it would include people on the grates on Lafayette Avenue,

TURN TO PRESIDENT, PAGE 15

[Milwaukee]- In mid-June, justice was meted out to two men who were convicted for separate Gay-related homicides which occurred in Milwaukee and Madison last Fall.

Charles E. Jackson, accused of the murder of Cleveland “Ricky” Roundtree in October, 1990, was found guilty of first degree homicide by a Milwaukee jury on June 14, 1991.

Jackson was charged with 1st degree intentional homicide and with carrying a concealed weapon.

Roundtree's murder, covered by *Wisconsin Light* and the other media at the time, was generally considered a hate crime.

Jackson was tried separately from Patrick Harden, the other person implicated in the crime. Harden's trial is scheduled to begin in July.

Jackson, the only witness to the crime, testified that Roundtree entered the Black Velvet Tavern located on W. Fond du Lac Ave. where Jackson and Harden were drinking. The two thought Roundtree was making a pass at them. According to Jackson, Roundtree denied it, but Harden was “mad.”

Jackson testified that Harden said, “Let's pop the fag.” meaning to kill Roundtree.

According to Jackson, a third man identified only as “Will” was also involved, but Will has never been found. There appear to be some doubts if he exists.

Jackson testified that when Roundtree left the bar, the three men followed him. Roundtree allegedly went into a nearby alley, into an abandoned building. Jackson testified that he got the gun from Harden who gave it to Will, saying, “You do it.”

According to Jackson, Will shot Roundtree twice. Jackson was close enough to hear Roundtree sigh as he fell into a stairwell.

According to the forensic pathologist at the trial, the first shot was at point blank range, the second at close range. The first bullet lodged in Roundtree's spine. The second entered his heart, ending up in his kidneys. There was only an 80% chance that he was dead.

The body was subsequently set afire, covering 80% of the body with 3rd and 4th degree burns. The fingers were burned off, the leg tendons exposed.

According to Scott Gunkel, observing the trial for the Lambda Rights Network, Roundtree's family “seemed glad somebody was there, interested in the case.” No one from the NAACP or the Urban League was there.

The all white jury deliberated for 3-4 hours before returning a guilty verdict.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karine Mareno-Taxman. According to Gunkel, Mareno-Taxman made abundantly clear that Roundtree was killed because he was believed to be Gay. However, she did not invoke the Hate Crimes Law.

Her reasons were: in a murder charge, motive need not be proved; Hate Crimes is a misdemeanor and Jackson was charged with the highest crime.

Gunkel said Mareno-Taxman also admitted that she was not familiar with the Hate Crimes Law, not having read it.

Sentencing will take place on July 18, 1991 at 8:30 a.m.

In Madison, on June 21, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Gerald Nichol sentenced Joseph Darryl Wills, 25, to life in prison for the first degree intentional homicide of Mark F. Starkey.

Starkey, 21, was shot to death in an alley in downtown Madison last September 8.

Wills, who fled the scene but later turned himself in to police, claimed that Starkey had made a sexual proposition to him. In his statement to police, Wills made derogatory comments about Gays

TURN TO CRIMES, PAGE 15

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Navratilova Sued by Ex-Companion

[Fort Worth, TX]- Judy Nelson, former lover and companion to tennis champion Martina Navratilova, has filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit seeking half of the assets acquired during their seven-year relationship. Nelson argues that Navratilova failed to comply with a "non-marital cohabitation agreement" both women signed in 1986.

A hearing on the case in Fort Worth Circuit Court was scheduled to coincide with Navratilova's participation in the Wimbledon tennis championships in England.

Navratilova accused Nelson of being "terribly malicious" in the timing of the suit. "This is obviously a premeditated move on the part of Judy and her lawyer... knowing how important Wimbledon is to me and how I need to concentrate on playing tennis."

Nelson responded through her attorney: "For the past four months I have explored every possible avenue to avoid litigation and the resulting publicity, without success. Martina and her representatives have placed the issue before the court."

Helm's Hometown College Bars Bias

[Raleigh, NC]- Chancellor Larry Monteith of North Carolina State University (NCSU), located in Raleigh, the hometown of homophobic Sen. Jesse Helms, has prohibited sexual orientation discrimination at his state-sponsored institution.

Monteith's memo to university deans and department heads reinforced the school's traditional non-discriminatory policy and added: "It is my position that an individual's sexual orientation is another factor which is not relevant to educational and employment decisions."

A spokeswoman for the university denied that Monteith's memo was issued as a challenge to Helms, but said: "I think it would be fair to say that Chancellor Monteith doesn't share the Senator's sometimes peculiar preoccupation with people's private behavior."

Library Bans Langston Hughes Poem

[Los Angeles, CA]- Los Angeles City Librarian Elizabeth Martinez Smith has forbidden the use of a poem by African-American writer Langston Hughes on materials promoting the library's observance of Gay and Lesbian History Month. Smith also prohibited the listing of Hughes' books in a special Gay/Lesbian bibliography being distributed by the library system.

Smith defended her decision by noting that the Hughes family denies that the poet was homosexual. In 1989, the Hughes estate obtained a restraining order which prevented the showing of *Looking for Langston* at the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Smith said that raising the issue of his sexuality would "distract attention from the positive focus of the June observance."

But the library's Gay and Lesbian United Employees (GLUE) said: "If the purpose of the L.A. Public Library's series of monthly observances is to 'bring about better understanding among the diverse elements of our city,' the worst possible policy would be to pander to bigotry... So much of the oppression experienced by Gays and Lesbians centers around enforced invisibility."

On the literature which was banned, Hughes' poem "Tell Me" was printed over a symbolic triangle. It reads: "Why should it be my loneliness, Why should it be my song, Why should it be my dream, deferred overlong?"

CUNY Opens Gay Studies Center

[New York, NY]- The *Washington Blade* reports that the Board of Trustees for the City University of New York (CUNY) has approved the establishment of the country's first graduate research center for Lesbian and Gay Studies. It's the first time the field of Gay Studies has received recognition in the U.S. at the level of a graduate research center.

The goals of the new center are to encourage research, to serve as the center of a national and international scholarship network, and to publicize new research through lectures and conferences.

"We hope to be something of a Kinsey Institute devoted to Gay Studies," said the Center's first executive director, Martin Duberman. Duberman, a professor at CUNY's Lehman College and Graduate School, has written a dozen books on American history as well as a recent biography tracing his development as a Gay man, *Cures*.

Lesbian Couple Attends Va. Prom

[Manassas, VA]- Seventeen year-old Heidi Leiter and her girlfriend Missy Peters, 20, attended the Osbourne Senior High School prom in May with the approval of both their parents and the school. Leiter was a senior. Peters attends nearby Radford University.

The women, who have dated for over a year, wore matching tuxedos, rented a limousine and were accompanied by a reporter from *Glamour* who recorded the evening. Leiter said: "We're not going to the prom to upset anybody else. We're going because we have a right to go just like anybody else."

Leiter was harassed somewhat by fellow students, but said: "They kick you when you're down, but if you don't get down they can't kick you." Once when she saw "Heidi is a dyke" written on a desk, she said she left her own message: "Yes, and proud of it!"

Olympic Medalist Hayes Comes Out

[Los Angeles, CA]- Olympic Gold Medalist Bruce Hayes has told the *Advocate* that joining Team New York Aquatics, the city's Gay swim team, "really helped me integrate the two sides of my life, the Gay side and the swimming side. I feel very comfortable with the Gay community now."

Hayes is a gold medalist and world record holder for his part in the 800-meter freestyle relay at the 1984 Olympics. He won three gold medals at the Pan American Games in 1983 and was featured on the cover of *Swimming World*.

Hayes told the *Advocate* that stress and training for the Olympics made him a "one dimensional" person, which may have delayed his coming out process: "All I ever thought about was swimming."

Hayes won seven gold medals in Gay Games III last summer in Vancouver, but shunned publicity even at that time. Hayes, 28, has a degree in political science from UCLA and currently works as a public relations executive.

Chicago Men Win Settlement

[Chicago, IL]- Two Gay men who filed a complaint with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations after being thrown out of the Baja Beach Club for dancing together and kissing, have won a \$4,500 cash settlement.

Charles Ward and Steven Klienedler were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union. They filed a complaint of sexual orientation discrimination which is prohibited by the city's human rights ordinance.

In addition to the cash payment, the Baja Beach Club must post a notice at its entrance which says it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, national origin or sexual orientation. It is also required to distribute that policy among its employees.

GLAAD: Million Names Project

[New York, NY]- When "L.A. Law" airs a Lesbian kiss, or "Thirtysomething" shows two Gay men in bed, the homophobes flood the networks and advertisers with protest calls and letters.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's (GLAAD) new "Million Names Project" will help mobilize our community to counter their response — in big numbers via overnight mailgrams charged to members' phones. You can help GLAAD launch the Million Names Project by signing up.

For more information, call Bill Kavanah at the GLAAD/New York office, (212) 966-1700.

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.



Jamakaya

ACT UP remembered those who have died from AIDS at Milwaukee Pride Parade on June 15, 1991.



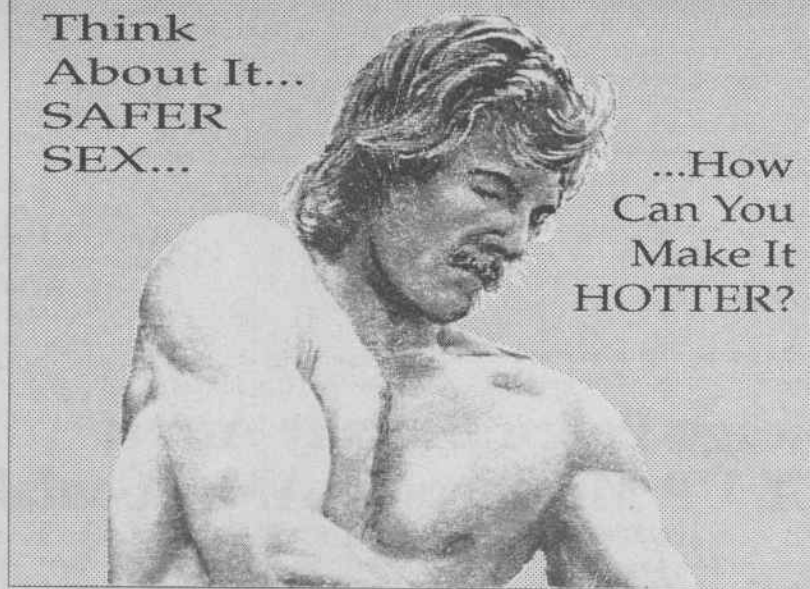

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MEN ALOUD is a fun-filled workshop for gay and bisexual men presented by the Milwaukee AIDS Project. It is designed to help you be sexually safe and help make condoms a comfortable part of your life. With games, hot videos and tips on using condoms, you are encouraged to take charge of your life and eliminate unsafe sex.

SESSION DATES

Wednesday, July 10 Held from 7 to 10 p.m.
upstairs at the M & M CLUB
Tuesday, July 30 124 North Water Street

Thursday, August 22 Held from 7 to 10 p.m.
upstairs at the Milwaukee AIDS Project
315 West Court Street



To make a reservation for MEN ALOUD, contact Mike Lisowski at the Milwaukee AIDS Project—273-1991

Artwork by Tom Rezza.

Milwaukee Pride Day Speakers Urge Activism and Commitment

By Jamakaya

The major speakers at Milwaukee's June 15th Pride Rally had inspiring words for the crowd.

Sergeant Perry J. Watkins, U.S. Army Ret., the first openly Gay soldier whose right to serve in the military was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, spoke of his long struggle for justice. Watkins' court battle lasted more than nine years, and he urged others to be equally outspoken and persistent in fighting for their rights.

"Do not let people walk over you because you are Gay or Lesbian. If it means taking them to the Supreme Court, then take them there. Do not let them tell you that you are not capable of doing something that you know you are perfectly capable of doing. We can do anything that anyone else can do and, generally, we can do it better."

"What happens in the military is very important," said Watkins. "If we can defeat the homophobic machine of the Department of Defense, we'll have no problem defeating that same homophobia in the non-military environment."

Peri Jude Radecic, Legislative Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, encouraged the crowd to become "active participants" in the Gay/Lesbian political agenda of the 1990's.

She said that that agenda includes: passing a federal Gay rights bill; overhauling the nation's health care system; repealing the sodomy statutes of 25 states; working for domestic partners legislation; and ending the "deeply discriminatory and homophobic policies of the Department of Defense."

Radecic noted that Congressman Jim Moody is the only Wisconsin representative to co-sponsor the federal Gay rights bill. She said that Reps. Les Aspin, Gerald Kleczka, David Obey and Sen. Herb Kohl should be inundated with letters. She also urged everyone to work for the defeat of Reps. Thomas Petri, Scott Klug and Sen. Bob Kasten, "who doesn't think twice about voting with Jesse Helms."

State Rep. David Clarenbach pointed with pride to the historic standing Wisconsin has in the Gay rights movement nationally.

Wisconsin was the first state to extend full civil rights guarantees in employment, housing and public accommodations to its Gay and Lesbian

citizens. It has enacted special criminal penalties against Gay bashing and other hate-motivated crimes.

Wisconsin has prohibited discrimination based on HIV/AIDS status, restricted involuntary AIDS testing, and was the first state to adopt a bill of rights for people with HIV/AIDS so that medical providers cannot refuse them treatment.

To achieve these reforms, said Clarenbach, "We successfully isolated the Moral Majority as the lunatic fringe that they are." In forming the supportive coalition that included Republicans and religious leaders, "We didn't ask if homosexuality was good or bad. We asked whether bigotry and discrimination against any group should be tolerated."

The great moral issue that confronts us, said Clarenbach, is "whether to extend the principles of dignity and fairness which we enjoy in this state to all of the other states as well."

Finally, Rev. Renee McCoy, a long-time activist and minister with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, presided over an inspiring commitment ceremony that united more than 50 couples.

After Rufus sang the romantic song "Truly" to get everyone in the proper mood, Rev. McCoy quoted from 1 Corinthians: "If we have no love, we have nothing. For love endures forever. Love is kind. Love does not envy. Love is not vain unto itself... Love does not seek its own way — it shares."

She then had the couples repeat this vow:

"I pledge my love to you. To be your friend so that you will never feel alone. To support your dreams, to quiet your fears. To protect you in the face of oppression. To protect you in the face of rejection.

"May all the powers of the universe bless and strengthen our relationship and give us hope and peace and visions, and strength and power and life, and hope and strength and energy, and power and everlasting love.

"Let us all say, Amen."

Some couples wept with joy, family and friends gleefully threw rice, and at least one newlywed was seen tossing her plastic beer cup to the ground, smashing it, and shouting "Mazel tov!"

Mazel tov, indeed! It was a wonderful wedding and a great day for Lesbian and Gay Pride!

Queer Nationals Arrested Again In Marriage Bid

[Milwaukee]- Tim Grair, Chris Lupis, Christopher Fons and Stan Straka, members of Queer Nation (QN), were arrested by Milwaukee police on Monday, June 17, 1991 while trying to present a petition and to obtain marriage licenses from the Milwaukee County Clerk's Office. The office is headed by Rod Lanser.

With the major media present, Lanser refused to speak on-camera. When QN members began chanting, sheriff's deputies were summoned.

Grair reported being roughly handled by the deputies at which point, he and the others were arrested. They were taken to the County Safety Building and given the option of promising not to return to Lanser's office or be booked.

The four choose the latter and were charged with disorderly conduct and fined \$261 each.

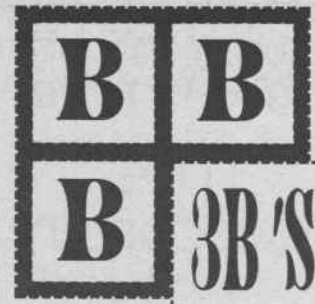
Commitment '91 for 12-Step Groups Set For Sept. 6-8

[Milwaukee]- Commitment '91, Milwaukee's sixth annual round-up for Gay and Lesbian members of A.A., Al-Anon, N.A., and other 12-Step groups, has set September 6-8, 1991 as the dates for the event to be held at the Milwaukee County War Memorial.

"Steps to Freedom has been chosen as this year's theme. The schedule of events includes numerous recover-orientated workshops and speakers, Saturday night's banquet and dance, Sunday morning's spiritual breakfast and, new this year, Friday night's play entitled "Snow White and the Seven Drunks."

An early registration price of \$30 (before August 29th) has been set. Registration includes all workshops, general sessions, the dance and Sunday's breakfast. The banquet is available for an additional charge of \$18.

For more information or registration forms, write: Commitment '91, P.O. Box 92794, Milwaukee, WI 53202.



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Threats Force Cancellation of ILGA's Conference in Mexico

[Guadalajara, Mexico]- Government harassment and threats by right wing homophobes have forced the cancellation of the 13th Annual Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA). The conference was scheduled June 30 to July 6 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Guadalajara's mayor, Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra vowed to arrest all those attending the ILGA conference for "immoral behavior." He forced the host hotel to cancel its contract with ILGA and promised to withhold police protection from the conference.

In addition to the mayor's opposition, the governor of the state of Jalisco also promised to do whatever was necessary to prevent the conference from taking place.

Gay activists in Guadalajara had become increasingly concerned about security at the conference after death threats and other homophobic graffiti began appearing on buildings throughout the city in the last few weeks.

Jorge Romero, an official with a local Gay organization, said: "We could not take a chance to risk the safety of the delegates."

Leaders of ILGA called the mayor's behavior an "outrageous" violation of international human rights and called for protests outside of Mexican embassies worldwide. They hope to reschedule the conference in New York or Los Angeles as soon as possible.

The cancellation occurred despite support for the conference from Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the Mexican Commission for Human Rights. In addition, like the U.S. Constitution, Mexico claims to guarantee its citizens freedom of speech and assembly.

Julie Dorf, co-chair of the International Gay/Lesbian Human Rights Commission, declared: "The cancellation of the conference is a tremendous blow to all of us and points to the urgent need for greater international solidarity in the fight to secure human rights for Lesbians and

Gays around the world."

In a related story, Rex Wockner reports that 30 skinheads, armed with clubs and iron bars, attacked people gathered for an ILGA fundraiser in Berlin on May 25.

In recent months in Germany, windows have been smashed at Bonn's Gay center, at Munich's Gay bookstore and at a Gay cafe in Berlin. Police have also defused a bomb addressed to a Gay rights group in Dortmund.

German authorities acknowledge that up to 15,000 Nazi skinheads are active in the states which comprise the former East Germany.

Needle Advice Offered by MASN

[Madison]- Recently, there has been concern regarding children in the Madison area finding hypodermic needles while at play and being pricked by them. The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) is concerned about this problem.

MASN has two full-time outreach workers who can visit neighborhoods and hand out information about disposal of hypodermic needles, HIV/AIDS prevention, HIV testing and case management support through MASN.

If you have concerns about your neighborhood, please contact Dave at MASN, 238-6276. The call will be kept in confidence and services will be discreetly provided in your neighborhood.

New Swim Club Being Formed

[Milwaukee]- A Gay swimming club, The Milwaukee Flippers, is being formed for the purpose of health and fitness and the camaraderie of working out with other Gay swimmers. They will be working out several times per week and plan to enter masters swimming competitions in the Fall. For further information, call Leonard Sobczak at 963-1990.

WE DID IT MILWAUKEE, "TOGETHER IN PRIDE!" A "BIG" THANK YOU TO:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Eric, Tony, Tony Brown, Joe B. | Red, Hot, & Twisted | Parents & Family of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) | Alderman Steven Cullen |
| Peter Christensen | Rufus & the Singing Machine | Queer Nation & ACT-UP | Alderman Marlene Johnson |
| Henrick Christensen | BIMM & Co. | LAMM | Alderman Thomas P. Donegan |
| Janice Clark, Paul Ernest | Fest City Singers | TT Tulip | Alderman Wayne P. Frank |
| John Ford, Gayleen Hoffman | Cream City Chorus | Xotic Imports | Alderman Donald F. Richards |
| Barb L., Lilly Levy | Creamettes | Molly | Alderman Mary Anne McNulty |
| Gregg Mulry, Shane Reister | Dawn "E-Poo" Roethler | ACLU, Chris Ahmuty | Alderman Robert A. Anderson |
| John Schneider | Ivana Black | Elaine Pridgen | Alderman Chris A. Karjnlak |
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| Tony Grady, Barb Coyle | New Hope UCC | Chris Pasinski | State Rep. David Clarenbach |
| David Rogers, Fred Bauer, | St. Pius X Church | Diane Vanderlinde | This is It! |
| Shawn, Pauleen | Cross Lutheran | Becky Hargens | Wreck Room |
| Andre Soloman | UCC/LGC | Nancy Miegowski | Boot Camp |
| Carol Marshall | GAMMA | Jacques Reideberger | Partners |
| Debbie Majeski | Lesbians of Color | Randy Torkelson | Nitengens |
| Michael St. Hilary | Beer Town Badgers | Bill Wood | Leaded Shade II |
| Mark Dair, Steve Lemer | Dykes on Bikes | George Lits | The Ballgame |
| John Ford, Dexter Greer, | Gay Youth Milwaukee | Kitty Barber & Karen Gotzler | M&M/Glass Menagerie |
| Vincent Heflin | Gay Men/Lesbian Support Groups/CCM | Robert Zimmerman | Club 219+ |
| Shawn Staples, Rachel Winley | Gay/Lesbian Coalition of Greater Milwaukee | Rev. Janis Doleschal | La Cage/Grubb's Pub |
| Ray Rubner, Bernice Simpson | Gay/Lesbian Coalition of UW-Milwaukee | Rev. Jim Bartos | Triangle |
| Simona Tatum | Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Veterans of America | Rev. Joseph Ellawanger | Fannie's |
| Dane Clausen | Gay People's Union | Lutherans Concerned | Loose Ends |
| Katrina Freeman "Blaze" | Grapevine | Dignity | JC's Rainbow Bar |
| Kim Sharp, Leon Robert | Cream City Foundation | Lambda Rights Network | The Mint Bar |
| Erik Buske, Dan Skanen | Horizon Travel | Gay Bicycling Network | The Phoenix |
| Rod, Rick & Jim Seabooth | Havlicek & Associates | Div's Hair Salon | C'est La Vie |
| Bill Horema | Hurricane Productions | Club Muse | The 3 B's |
| Barbara L. & Jennifer | In Step Magazine | Cafe Melange | Station 2 |
| Michelle Oakline | Wisconsin Light | Brady East STD Clinic | Cool Doug's Subs |
| Jane Kramer | Milwaukee AIDS Project | Davita Shanklin | Signature Salon |
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From the 1991 Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee



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

The Wisconsin Light



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EDITORIAL

LIGHT Readers Urged to Protest Censorship of "Tongues Untied"

The recent decision by Milwaukee's Channels 10/36 not to show *Tongues Untied* gives the lie to the claim that the MATC owned TV stations serve as a forum for the presentation of conflicting ideas, ways of life and differing view points.

What the decision shows clearly is that the management of TV 10/36 is concerned with money and, consequently, not offending in the slightest way those with pockets deep enough to provide those funds.

The decision further demonstrates that anti-intellectuality with an ugly homophobic, racist tinge to it, is alive and well at the station.

Those who run things over at 10/36 do not have the sense or willingness to see the difference between prurience and real life; to see the difference between erotica and pornography.

TV 10/36 should be made aware that many of those "Friends" they are appealing to for help and will appeal to again in August are those of our community; those who detest and abhor censorship, homophobia and racism.

We urge all our readers to call the station and write Mr. Bryce Combs, Acting General Manager, at Channels 10/36, 1036 N. 8th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233 (271-1036) telling them exactly where we stand in this matter of blatant censorship.

We further urge all our readers and will be urging everyone we see, to demand of Channel 10/36 that not only should they cease their attempts at censorship, but they should immediately institute a program — a *Gay/Lesbian Nouveau*, if you will — to inform the public about who we are; women, men, of color and white, in all our splendid diversity; to help educate the public about our history, culture and our lives.

If not, let our fingers do the walking — away from our checkbooks and our pens.

Michael Lisowski Is Great Choice For 1991 Community Service Award

Michael S. Lisowski was the recipient of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee's prestigious Community Service Award for 1991. We at the *Light* think that he was an excellent choice.

Michael has been an active member of Black and White Men Together and the Gay People's Union for 15 years. He is also well known as the director and guiding spirit behind Gay Youth Milwaukee, a support group for Gay and Lesbian teens.

Earlier this year, Michael received more than 1,000 votes as the first openly Gay candidate to run for the Milwaukee School Board. He has volunteered with the Pride Committee, written articles for the *Light* and *In Step*, and works as an educator with the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

In his acceptance, Michael noted with pride that some members of Gay Youth Milwaukee who were present at the rally were now active in Queer Nation and ACT-UP. He also mentioned that after years of work, a committee would be recommending special services for Gay and Lesbian teens to the School Board this Fall.

"It just proves that all these things do come to fruition at times," Michael commented philosophically. "And the one thing that keeps me going is the young people in our community."

We'd like to extend our congratulations to Michael for winning the award and our sincere appreciation for his many years of service to Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community. His compassion for young people, his commitment to anti-racism, and his patience and persistence in seeking practical reforms through the system should be admired and emulated by us all.

Good work, Michael!

Kudos Extended to Scott Stewart For Directing Cream City Chorus

The Cream City Chorus' Spring Concert ended an era. Scott Stewart, the only director the Chorus has ever had, surrendered his baton in order to increase his time with the Florentine Opera Company. We can not help but be saddened by his stepping down.

Stewart has had a big impact on Gay/Lesbian Milwaukee's musical scene. He took a group of voices and molded them into a chorus that ranks among the best in the country. Under his direction the Cream City Chorus has become a shining star in our community and a genuine source of pride.

Stewart was more than a Musical Director. The tears on stage and in the audience as the chorus paid tribute to him stand as testimony to what Stewart has meant to so many. As more than one Cream City member put it, "He taught me to love myself."

That is the greatest gift Scott Stewart or any of us could hope to give. It is the reason the Chorus has chosen as its signature song, "I Love Myself." We hope that the Chorus can find someone equally as able to replace Stewart and we wish him well at the Florentine. If he ever wants to direct a chorus again, we think we know of a group that would love to have him back.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Terry Boughner

The most recent outbreaks of anti-Gay violence — name calling, beatings and murder — while deplorable, should be seen in the wider context of the anti-Gay/Lesbian Hate Crimes that are growing with disgusting rapidity across the U.S. From reports from other papers and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, no area of the country is, unfortunately, immune. The question is, what is to be done about it?

One of the things that seems most clear is that here in Milwaukee, as in the rest of the state, our community must develop a sense of self-awareness, a heightened sensitivity that these random, hate-filled acts of bigotry can happen to you. In the name of all you hold sacred, take precautions when going out. Don't be stupid. The life you save could be yours.

But along with that, our community — which is really not too much different in most ways from any other Lesbian/Gay community — must develop or be led to develop a self-awareness that says "I am part of a larger whole. What happens to one, happens to all — to me too as well as my lover, my friend, the stranger in the streets."

I do not believe that the system, police or political, is, with malice aforethought, working against us. We can and should take advantage of it. I'm not saying that there aren't homophobes in City Hall, the Court House or in law enforcement. There

are. But, over all, the people who make up the system are people of good will, willing to work with us.

It's up to us to form and develop a sense of unity, a spirit of common cause. Look at it this way. When all is said and done, no matter how many people support us and are willing to help, we're all we've got.

That realization, that sense, that community self-actualization, if you will must be a part of our thinking if we are to confront the violence directed against us; if our groups, organizations and publications are to serve us as they should.

Owners of Gay and Lesbian businesses have a moral obligation to give their support. Those who do nothing but see Lesbian/Gay life as a bar tramp, have a moral obligation as well as an interest in their own rights, safety and preservation, to get involved, help out. Those who sit in their closets and think they have nothing to fear, have similar moral obligations to the whole.

There is a dark cloud of repression looming on America's horizon and that cloud is growing day by day. If we don't come together, don't develop self-awareness, the bigots, the zealots, the ultra-conservatives, will pick us off one by one and we'll have no one to blame but ourselves.

LETTERS

Disappointed

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to express my disappointment of the crowd at the Pride Rally. It was an excellent parade and rally. The Pride Committee has to be complimented for a well-organized event with fantastic speakers and acts. A lot of work must have gone into making the event turn out so well.

But I was disappointed at the crowd's response. Some people didn't even bother to applaud! The music groups and choruses and comedian all gave very good performances. The speakers couldn't have been better, and the content of their speeches was excellent. Yet the crowd just didn't seem responsive. I'm not saying people have to yell, but at least they could show appreciation by clapping. What's wrong, Wisconsin, the first Gay Rights State?

—Tom Mielke
Kenosha

Pride in Closet?

TO THE EDITOR:

What were the members of the Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride Committee thinking when they decided to omit the words "Gay" and "Lesbian" not only from the cover of this year's Pride Guide, but also from all of their merchandise? Perhaps the theme of this year's parade should have been "Together We Hide."

—Daniel Fons
Milwaukee

HIV Exclusion

To The Editor

Ten years into the AIDS epidemic, even the most basic efforts to stem the tide of the disease can still be derailed by "politics as usual." If we needed more confirmation of this dismaying fact, we received it when members of the Bush Administration moved to continue bans on travel and immigration to the U.S. by people with HIV.

This development, which ignores sound public health policy in order to pander to homophobia, racism and xenophobia, is all the more discouraging because it had seemed that this time, on this one issue, common sense and medical science might prevail. After a nationwide survey of public health officials, the Centers for Disease Control had concluded that restricting entry of HIV infected people does nothing to protect the American people, and even the conservative American Medical Association weighed in on the side of reason.

In the face of this unanimous body of medical and public health opinion, the Administration's own top health officials had publicly called for lifting the travel and immigration restrictions. This was to take effect June 1, 1991. That did not happen.

As they so often do, those who would institute reactionary AIDS policies argue that immigrants with HIV may become a "public charge." No such argument has been raised with regard to other, equally expensive diseases.

The revived restrictions lend widespread public credence to the discredited notions that the threat of AIDS comes from abroad, or that the disease can be spread by casual contact, rather than engaging in specific, unsafe behaviors.

The restrictions also convey to the American public — and the world — the message that it is acceptable to discriminate against people with HIV. We can be virtually certain that the restored ban will be arbitrarily enforced not only against people with HIV, but against Gay men and people of color.

Under the regulations, resident aliens in the U.S. who are found to be HIV-positive can be deported to their country of origin.

In defense of their actions, the Administration cites "a flood of mail," some 30,000 letters, in protest to lifting the ban. It is clear that this "flood" was organized by the same groups who bombard the government with mail on every issue which would benefit people with HIV, Gays, Lesbians, people of color and women.

To make your voice heard, we ask all of you in Wisconsin to write to: Charles R. McCance, Director; Division of Quarantine; Center for Prevention Services; Centers for Disease Control; Mail Stop E04; Atlanta, GA 30333. You must say that you are responding to Interim Rule 42 CRF Part 34, "Medical Examination of Aliens," and that you strongly oppose including HIV on the list of contagious diseases.

—Julie Rioux, Dana Van Gorder, John Willoughby
Cambridge, MA

GOP Hypocrites

TO THE EDITOR:

Senator Jesse Helms and other Republicans are out to stop homosexual rights in the U.S.A. They are out to stop abortions too. But so many GOP wives have had abortions. Many Gays are hiding in the Republican Party and are Gay-bashers to cover up their "sin." Many Gays are on the GOP staff, Congressional staffs. The Republicans can't have their cake and eat it too. Two staff members on Senator Helms's staff are Gay. The cuts now coming from the AIDS program due to President Bush are from don't-care feelings.

ACT UP needs to go to the Congressmen's and Senator's offices in Milwaukee and act up.

—Rev. Jesse T. Jones
Milwaukee

Superior Murder Spurs Mixed Reactions

By Terry Boughner

[Superior, WI]- Gays and Lesbians of Superior/Duluth remain fearful in the aftermath of the slaying of Kevin E. Dutcher, 27, who was stabbed to death in his home on June 4, 1991. The man alleged to be responsible for the killing is Stuart Ellanson, 21, of Duluth.

In a story in the last issue of *Light* Twin Ports papers reported that police said Ellanson told them at the time, "My whole life is devoted to killing faggots and child molesters...They spread AIDS."

According to the Superior *Evening Telegram*, Gays and Lesbians are reporting heightened incidents of harassment and intimidation since the news of Dutcher's murder.

"This has always gone on, but there has been a marked increase since the murder," said Sara Phoenix, a bartender at the Main Club, a popular Superior Gay bar.

Inez Wildwood, chair of the AIDS Advocacy Resource Coalition for Help, said she has spoken with a number of Gays and Lesbians who are "terrified" because of the increase in homophobic remarks; some of them saying Dutcher "got what he deserved."

Bob Jansen, owner of The Main Club, expressed outrage at elected officials for not publicly condemning homophobia in the wake of the Dutcher murder.

Jansen reported to *Light* that Superior Mayor Herb W. Bergson denied on TV that the killing was homophobic in motivation and he doesn't think people should talk about it. Bergson "doesn't think it's the place of public officials to speak out on this issue," Jansen reported.

Bergson also refused to issue a Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamation saying that he saw no connection between local government and Gays, Jansen said. According to Jansen, politicians in Duluth have been equally silent in condemning homophobia.

On Monday, June 10, approximately 70 Gays, Lesbians and supporters gathered on the steps of Superior's City Hall to express anger and bewilderment over what they see as the city's indifference to the murder, according to the *Duluth News-Tribune*.

Betty Hupperinch of Aurora: A Northland Lesbian Center, condemned the local media for focusing reports on Dutcher's character and background.

According to local papers, Dutcher had AIDS and had been involved in past disorderly conduct charges.

"It is so easy for this emphasis to evolve into victim-blaming," Hupperinch told the crowd. "Our focus needs to be placed upon the degree of prejudice and hatred in our midst, which serves to justify and condone this type of violence." She also called on the media and community leaders to "educate" the public about homophobia instead of remaining silent.

Hupperinch and others condemned the printing of a Letter to the Editor in the June 9 issue of the *News-Tribune*. The letter, signed by George Katalinich of Duluth accused "homosexuals" of "sodomizing all four corners of this planet" and condemned them for "demanding 'our compassion.'" "What these guys need is more closet space!" Katalinich wrote.

The *News-Tribune* defended its publication of the letter on the basis of the need for free expression of views, but denounced all hate crimes and, in a separate article, called for the end to homophobia. "It would not exist in a truly enlightened society," the paper said.

Other letters in both Duluth and Superior papers have condemned homophobia.

"I am outraged," wrote Mary Jo Hughley of Duluth. Robert T. Turner, Clerk of the Duluth-Superior Friends Meeting, condemned the "hate crime" and called for support of Gays and Lesbians.

Meanwhile, Ellanson, described by the *Evening Telegram* of Superior as "a young drifter," is reported by the paper to have told his grandmother, Jeanette Rusten that he was "drunk out of my mind" at the time he is alleged to have killed Dutcher.

On Friday, June 7, Ellanson appeared in Douglas County Circuit Court. Ellanson, a native of Madelia, MN, waived his right to a probable cause hearing.

In addition to the first-degree homicide charge, prosecutors also included a hate crime "penalty enhancer" in the complaint.

June 15, 1991 Milwaukee Pride Pride Rally



Gay Bashing Incidents Discussed, Debated at Milwaukee Meetings

[Milwaukee]- As a result of the most recent spate of anti-Gay violence in Milwaukee, the Lambda Rights Network (LRN) and Queer Nation (QN) held a first meeting on June 18, 1991 at Club 219 Plus to discuss possible steps that might be taken to prevent such things happening again.

At bar-closing time on Sunday, June 8, 1991, Kurt Zarling who recently returned to Milwaukee from Los Angeles, left La Cage where he had been dancing to drive a friend home. Zarling was set upon by five men, one with a baseball bat, others with bricks and bottles and beaten senseless. Gays who had been dancing with him at La Cage either stood by or ran, but did nothing to help.

At the LRN/QN meeting which Zarling attended, he spoke of his deep appreciation of Michael Dietrich, an employee of Steny's, a straight bar. Without Dietrich's intervention and help, Zarling feels he might not have survived. As it was, he suffered broken teeth and other severe damage which took 120 stitches to bind up.

In other anti-Gay incidents reported, a Gay man living in an apartment house near 25th and Concordia claimed in Court to have been harassed by the Rev. Charles Emery, a "reformed" Gay. Emery allegedly has pestered the man with religious propaganda and with biblical sayings condemning Gays written on the apartment walls. The judge, Dominic Amato, refused a restraining

Ellanson remains in custody at the Douglas County Jail, where he is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

An arraignment is scheduled for July 1. Ellanson's court-appointed attorney, Randy Holtz, said he didn't know how his client would plead.

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

order when the landlord said it was alright with him if "the word of the lord" was written on the walls.

As a result of these and other on-going incidents of Gay-bashing, LRN/QN sponsored the meeting of concerned people. A representative of the Milwaukee Police, 2nd District, from the Crime Prevention Section, assured those attending that the police take anti-Gay/Lesbian hate crimes very seriously indeed; just as seriously as any other acts of violence. However, it was pointed out that a great many of these go unreported.

Attendees were advised that if they see violent crime taking place, shout "FIRE," which is sure to attract attention, and call 911.

Do not try and break it up yourself.
The general feeling in the meeting was that Lesbians and Gays must learn self-awareness — i.e. avoid dangerous situations. The police also advised that bar owners employ door people and that in trying to control violence, straight bars as well as those which are Lesbian and Gay must be involved.

On Sunday, June 23, 1991, LRN and QN again sponsored a meeting held at Club 219 Plus. Present were approximately 20 people among them, owners or representatives from bars including La Cage, 219, the Boot Camp and Nitengales. While Ray from Nitengales reported that that bar had experienced no trouble, the same could not be said of the rest, all of whom had examples of harassment and abuse to talk about.

It was also reported that in the efforts to curtail the violence, Steny's and Mug Shots, two straight bars in the 2nd and National area, are willing to participate.

George Prentice, owner of La Cage, spoke of the need for statistics on the numbers of cases of violence.

Bobby Lyons, 219 Plus owner, pointed out that he has seen "many" instances of Gays, standing outside along the sidewalk, provoking straights, yelling at them as they pass. Others mentioned examples of Gay-Gay fights that happen. Si Smit of the Boot Camp reported that on Friday, June 21, five cars were broken into on Mineral St. but Smit also agreed that the presence of a parking lot attendant at the Boot Camp seemed to cut vandalism.

In the end, talk centered on two things. One is the possibility of some kind of non-confrontational patrol in the bar areas, especially at closing time which all owners agreed was the most dangerous time. In this regard, Lyons offered to contribute money to help finance such patrols.

It was also agreed that the people who go to the bars must be educated to become aware of their surroundings; to watch out for themselves and where they are.

Don't be afraid to ask someone to walk you to your car; at all costs avoid parking or walking in poorly lit areas.

The next meeting will take place on July 8 at 7:00 p.m. SHARP! It will last until 9:00 p.m. and is tentatively to be held in the Milwaukee County Public Library.

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Jerry Johnson

Cheryle Williams and La Mer Riehle spoke with Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones at a June 17 reception for elected officials as a part of Milwaukee's annual Pride Week Celebration. Additional elected officials in attendance included: County Board Chairman Tom Ament; County Supervisor Paul Matthews; State Senator Barbara Ulichny; Milwaukee Alderman Paul Henningsen; Alderman and Common Council President Tom Donegan; County Supervisor Anthony Cozaja; Alderwoman Lorraine McNamara McGraw; County Supervisor Sheila Aldrich and Alderman Chris Krajniak. David Reimer, head of Milwaukee's Department of Administration also attended.

3,000 Celebrate Pride at the Third Annual Milwaukee Parade and Rally

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- I don't sleep much on the night before Pride. Like a kid on Christmas Eve, I'm too excited and this time was no exception. I was up at 4:00 and out of the house at 7:30, refusing to carry an umbrella despite the lowering clouds.

The Rally site at Juneau Park was a festival of bright, colored tents — "just like a mardi gras" someone said — whipping wind and people intent on last minute preparations; Shane, Eepoo, Bob, Don, Gary and maybe a dozen more, each of us blessing Tim when he arrived with coffee having exhausted a small store's supply.

I left for the Parade about 10:30, getting there to the corner of Ogden and Jefferson just as it started to spit rain. No big deal. People laughed and shrugged and put up umbrellas. Mary assured me the rain would soon end to "show the Fundies God really does love Lesbians and Gays." I don't know how much God had to do with it, but Mary was right.

The whole area was a crayon box of colors; the rainbow flag in a whole variety of forms. And floats everywhere; the Chinese dragon of the Cream City Chorus, the M&M Club's classy creation in black and silver, the phantasmagoria of color that was 219 Plus, *In Step*, its float greeting the world in Lesbian/Gay unity, Ron Geiman's ideal, Tom Rezza's embodiment, and the float from the Triangle, belching smoke in billows as people danced up a storm.

There was Allen Eslinger and Brent in the classic white T-Bird, all done in yellow ribbons — yards and yards of it, honey — the color welcoming home the Lesbian and Gay troops. As is tradition now, Allen carried the Grand Marshal, Cindi Lampman.

And there were representatives from around the Badger State; from Madison, the 10 Percent Society Rod's, the New Bar and Club 3054 and Wings/3054, the leather club I promised I'd mention, open to both women and men. The Northern Womyn from the Fox Valley were there and the Bay City Chorus and Za's from Green Bay and the Minnesota Freedom

Band from Minneapolis.

It was beautiful, I thought as honestly, the shivers tingled up and down my spine. How proud and pleased, how very proud, the Pride Committee must be.

So many old friends to see: Mary and Sue from out of the north and Doug Nelson and Sharon Otto from MAP to march proudly with their delegation.

The Parade started on time, the antique cars from the Kettle Moraine Model T Ford and Vintage Car Club leading the way. *Wisconsin Light* clip-clopped along, Dan, Bill and I in a horse and carriage sponsored by the Boot Camp with Jamakaya and Jer circling in every once in awhile.

Later, organizers would estimate that some 2,500-3,000 participated. That certainly seemed right as I looked up and down the route. The number of by-standers seemed larger this year too and though hecklers were reported, I didn't see or hear any.

Down Wisconsin Avenue we went and then swung past City Hall where the parade judges sat; Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Alderman Paul Henningson and Don Buzanowski.

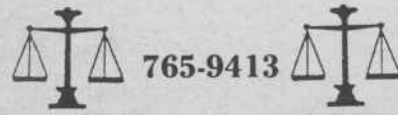
The sun was shining by the time we entered Juneau Park. The park was packed. Thank whatever for LAMM's Media Tent. LAMM deserves heartiest thanks for that; coffee, sodas, potato chips (a staple in my diet) and tables to sit and interview celebrities present, all in close proximity to the stage so that I could see, hear and record all that was going on. Barb Coyle and David Rogers did their usual superb job as emcees.

Food booths were sponsored by Outpost Natural Foods, La Cage and Club 219 Plus. The food was good, abundant, the only "minor" glitch being the late arrival of the Miller beer truck. But it showed up and all was well.

In addition to the food tents, there were 26 others clustered about, sponsored by groups and organizations such as Sands Gift Shop, GAMMA, ACT UP, Queer Nation, the Cream City Foundation, *In Step* and numerous artists and craftspeople.

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Parade float awards were announced by Pride Committee members Gary Wells, Peter Thomas and Scott Gunkel. The Most Creative Business Award went to the M&M Club; the Cream City Chorus took the Most Creative Organization Award; the Best Use of Theme for a Business went to Club 219 Plus; the Best Use of Theme for an Organization went to Queer Nation and the Committee's Choice Award was given to *In Step Magazine*.

In addition, there were three special awards. One to the Cream City Foundation in gratitude for their constant financial support and general encouragement. The prestigious Community Service Award went to Michael S. Lisowski in recognition of his years of service, working with Lesbian and Gay youth.

Finally, the Alyn Hess Award, presented every year to a supportive non-Gay person by the Gay People's Union, went to Congressman Jim Moody (D-WI) for his constant support of Lesbian/Gay rights.

There were three major speakers and the Queer Nation-sponsored wedding. See Jamakaya's article, this issue.

That night, Jer and I went to some of the bars. It's a great feeling doing that on Pride Night; being among those who are my own; feeling the heady excitement in the air.

Only one suggestion I would make. As *In Step* has suggested, I think that the Parade should start in the afternoon, at 1:30 or 2:00. An 11:00 a.m. step-off is much too early.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Provocative New Movie "Poison" Wins Awards, Causes Controversy

By Geno

"Pride is the only thing that lets you stand up to misery."

Jean Genet

"Poison," a 16 mm low budget film written and directed by openly Gay Todd Haynes, was this year's surprise Grand Prize winner as the best feature film at Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Despite the prestige of this award, Haynes' experimental film, independently produced and out of the mainstream, might have had difficulties winning distribution and wide attention.

But thanks to Rev. Donald Wildmon, right-wing lobbyist for the Mississippi-based American Family Association, "Poison" has received widespread publicity, even notoriety.

The good Rev. began a vicious letter writing campaign around the country including faxes to members of Congress condemning the movie (which he admitted not having seen). He attacked the movie on several counts stressing its homoerotic content and attacking John Frohnmayer, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), for awarding a grant of \$25,000 to Haynes and his production company.

The Rev. Wildmon and his ilk never seem to learn, do they? Frohnmayer stood by the NEA's decision and publicly defended "Poison" as "the work of a serious artist dealing with a serious issue in our society." "Poison" premiered successfully in New York and has been distributed around the country. It is now on view at Madison's historic Majestic theatre.

Haynes' provocative "Poison" features three separate, but interrelated and intercut stories inspired by the work of Jean Genet, "Saint Genet" according to Jean Paul Sartre. Although completely different in content and style, the three stories cumulatively move toward a shattering climax. They are entitled "Hero," "Horror" and "Homo."

"Hero" is done as a takeoff on television evening news reports. It seems that seven-year-old Richie Beacon shot his father and then flew out the window, according to his mother, disappearing up

into the sky. Neighbors, teachers and his peers are interviewed and furnish all the cliches we have become used to — "He was an imaginative child," "He was a liar," "Richie bugged the other kids," "You would never expect him to do something like this." The satire is amusing though a picture of the boy who didn't fit in comes through to the alert viewer.

Haynes explores another film genre, the "B" horror movie of the '30s and '40s in "Horror," a sci fi melodrama about a scientist who isolates the sources of the sex drive. He accidentally drinks the resulting potion and becomes the "Leper Sex Killer," a pus dripping horror who frightens others away since they believe his very presence may be contagious. Filmed in black and white from grotesque angles, "Horror" suggests parallels to the AIDS crisis, but parallels to the Gay condition and homosexuality itself furnish another subtext.

The most controversial and disturbing of the three stories is "Homo." It is set in a prison and composed of elements taken from Genet's "Our Lady of the Flowers," "Thief's Journal" and "Miracle of the Rose." Quotations from Genet's works are also flashed on the screen or given in voice-overs throughout the movie.

It is rendered in a neo-realistic style appropriate to a story of prison life where "fags" are brutally used while some men love one another yet fear to show their feelings and be identified as "fags" themselves. There are flashbacks to contrast with the grim prison metaphor; two boys in reform school pledge their love for one another in an idyllic setting (did it really happen or was it a wishful dream?)

"Poison" bends and explores different levels of reality throughout and the three stories work together thematically suggesting the games that people play, the price paid for sexual and social deviance and depicting the alienation of the Outsider, the joy and violence of love. As *Newsweek* observed, "This suggestive, discordant movie takes you places you haven't been."

Cream City Chorus Spring Concert : One of Its Finest Performances

By Bill Meunier

The Cream City Chorus (CCC) gave Music Director Scott Stewart a good sendoff with its Spring Concert, producing one of its finest performances yet.

Musically the Chorus was on solid ground. The few hesitations were barely noticeable and with the exception of one song, the sections blended well together under Stewart's sure hand. From the first notes to the last it was obvious the Chorus was well prepared.

Of special note in the first half of the concert were "The Gay Pride March" and "Sing A Simple Song." The "Gay Pride March" was sung with a flair that even the poor acoustics of Centennial Hall could not diminish. "Sing A Simple Song" challenged the Chorus to change its mood with every verse. It met the challenge with great success.

While the Chorus was outstanding, the highlight of the evening was a solo performed by tenor Garret James. James has a remarkable range and a rich, powerful voice. Accompanied by a tape, he sang "We Will Stand." As he finished, the house erupted into prolonged wild cheers, shouts and whistles. He was fantastic.

The Creamettes also performed in the first half of the concert. Their "Swing, Swing, Swing" medley was uneven. At times the fast paced timing of the selections left them out of sync with each other. They recovered nicely though with

"From A Distance."

The guest artists, The Minnesota Freedom Band, performed three numbers. Give them A for effort, but with only 25% of their members present, the band was missing too many people to be effective.

The second half opened with the comic relief of the "Beauty Shoppe Quartet." Their medley brought the house down. Especially delightful was a rendition of "I Feel Pretty" done in evening gowns.

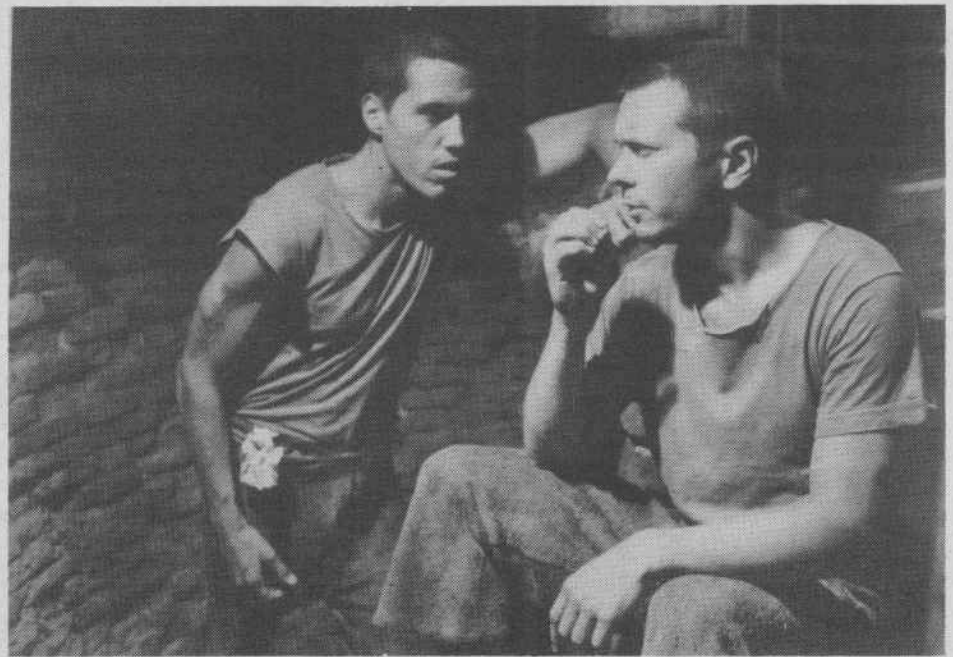
This was followed with three medleys of the works of Jule Styne, interspersed with medleys performed by the Creamettes. Stewart's direction elicited a fine effort from both.

Of particular note were the Creamettes singing "My Funny Valentine," and "The Boy From New York City." The latter was sung by Patty Micale. She and the rest of the group had the audience clapping in time. Both Micale and Creamettes received deserved prolonged applause for their efforts.

The emotional high point of the evening came with a tribute to Stewart who will become more involved with the Florentine Opera. The tribute was finished off in fine style with Ron Thate directing the Chorus as it sang "One" from "Chorus Line" and dedicated to Stewart.

The concert concluded with Stewart taking up the baton for the final time as the Chorus sang its signature song, "I Love Myself." They never sang it better.

Its a shame that the house was more



James Lyons and Scott Renderer are featured in the award winning film "Poison" which is showing through July 4 at Madison's Majestic Theatre.

than half empty. The Chorus and Stewart deserved better. The events of the day, the parade and the day long rally undoubtedly had something to do with that. But the tendency of the chorus to repeat selections may be having an impact as well.

Now the Chorus must move onto new challenges. Chief among them is the selection of a new music director. Lets hope it meets that challenge as successfully as it met the challenges of the evening of June 15th.

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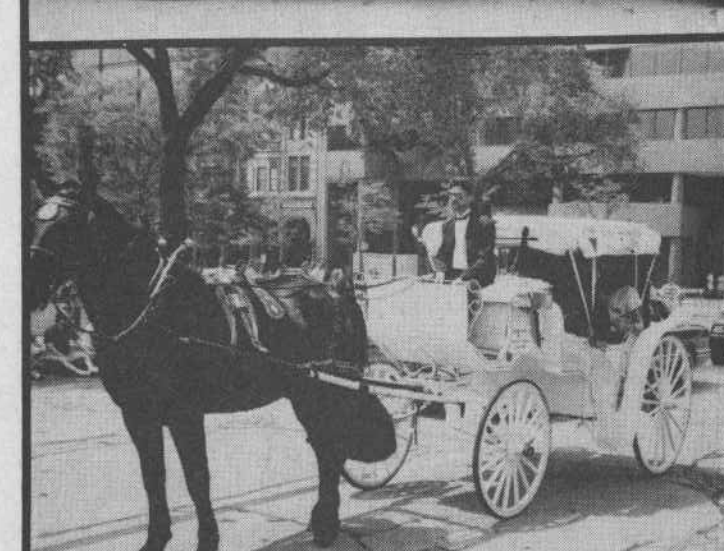
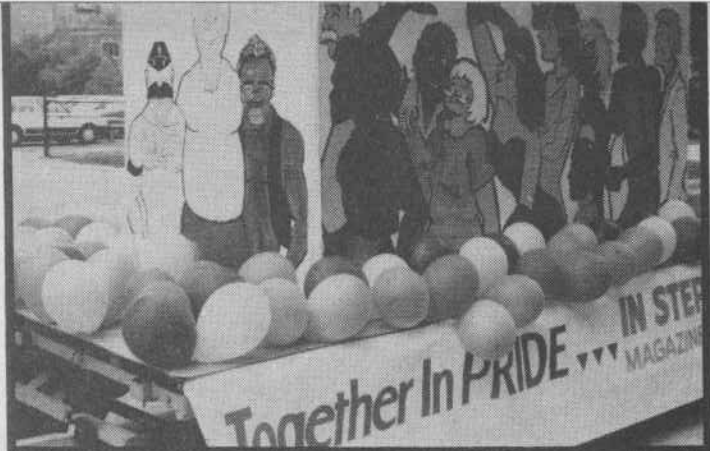
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Milwaukee Pride Parade June 15, 1991

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Cabaret Players's "Cindy Feller:" Funny, Outrageous Drag Fantasy

By Barb Coyle

Milwaukee's new acting troupe, the Cabaret Players performed an original spoof on the classic fairy tale "Cinderella" titled "Cindy Feller" on June 16 at Miss M's Walker's Point Cafe.

As the setting sun gleamed off the windows of the Allen Bradley Clock tower, our tale began. A baroque musical fanfare set the stage, and the popular breakfast and after hours restaurant was transformed into the hearth of the misbegotten transsexual, Cindy Fella.

Cindy was berated by the three "lovely" sisters, Clitley, Titley and Lickley, but the day was saved, in true story book fashion (not form) by Hope, the good fairy in biker drag. I'm sure you know the importance of the prince, and this gifted saga is no exception. Prince Nipantuc, the plastic surgeon ends up searching the kingdom for, well, maybe I won't give away the whole plot...Let's just say, it's a darn fine story line and

well worth seeing.

I have to admit, this is really the first drag show that I have had the opportunity to see. Drag is more frequently followed by the Gay men's community, and I was uncertain as to what to expect. I very much enjoyed the irony of drag being done in a fairy tale, and enjoyed the Gay cultural undertones both in character development and costuming.

From a production standpoint, I thought the cast and crew did a good job of using the small, seventy capacity dinner theatre setting, by providing the audience with several stage changes, fun lighting and good sound. Of course, my more fantasy oriented self lusted after the purple and white feather boa and spaghetti strap sequinned gown worn by Cindy, but I'd never be able to wear it to the office anyway.

Cabaret Players is planning on doing an encore performance of this production. Look for this fantasy in drag... and may all your dreams come true.

Kissing Girls Names Recipients of Lesbian Creativity Grants

[Madison]- The Womyn of Kissing Girls Productions (KGP) are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2nd Annual Kissing Girls Productions Lesbian Culture and Creativity Awards. The recipients are:

Rebekah Sneed of Madison for her anti-homophobia poster series utilizing positive Lesbian imagery. \$350; **The Cowgirl Sweethearts** of Madison for their production of **Western Roundup**, a country western show and dance. \$250; **Deb Trent** of Madison for her 3D ceramic Lesbian sculpture based on a Goddess story. \$200; **Anne Lucas** of

Madison for her Lesbian comedy routine (research and development). \$100; **Nicole Rigden** of Appleton, photographic equipment. \$150; **The Madison Lesbian Herstory Project**, slide-tape presentation of Madison Lesbian Herstory for archival purposes. \$250; **Janis Senungetuk** of Madison for art supplies for an upcoming portrait show. \$100.

All of the above artists will exhibit or perform their work in the 1992 Lesbian Variety Show. Many will also be exhibiting in other area forums. Please watch for ads or listings of their work.

ACT-UP/Madison Plans July 17 Protest Over Treatment of PWAs

[Madison]- Since March 16, 1991, ACT UP/Madison has been protesting the treatment of PWA's in Wisconsin prisons. In particular, Donald Woods who ACT UP/Madison alleges was killed by prison guards. ACT UP/Madison has also been protesting vigorously what they call "the inadequate, inappropriate and even dangerous treatment" being accorded Roger Hillman (a PWA) at Waupun Correctional Institution.

After numerous other protests, ACT UP/Madison will be holding a Phone Zap on Wednesday, July 17, 1991.

On that day, ACT UP is asking people to call Governor Tommy Thompson (608)

266-1212 (office), (608) 266-7484 (Exec. residence) and the Department of Corrections at (608) 266-2471 (ask to speak to Secretary of Corrections, Patrick Fielder.)

ACT UP asks that the following demands be made:

1) Demand AIDS education for guard and staff; 2) Demand support services for HIV+ inmates; 3) Demand complete confidentiality of inmates' HIV status, stop I-9 coding, stop single celling, and end work restrictions; 4) Demand compassionate early release; 5) Demand distribution of condoms.

Michigan Womyn's Music Fest Set For Six Day Run in August

[Walhalla, MI] - The 16th Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is scheduled for August 13-18, 1991 in the woodlands near the town of Hart, Michigan. Almost 8,000 women are expected for the event, this year expanded to six full days of music, workshops and fun.

Performers featured at this year's festival include: Ferron, Lucy Blue Tremblay, Mary Watkins, Sue Fink, Rhiannon, Talila, Mimi Fox, Judy Fjell, Melanie DeMore and comedians Marga Gomez and Karen Williams.

Groups scheduled to appear include: Deuce, Urban Bush Women, Reel World String Band, Two Nice Girls, Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women, Edwina Lee Tyler & A Piece of the World, the Diane Ellis Jazz Quartet, Linda Tillery & Skin Tight, the Bay Area Women's Brass Quintet, Altazor and many more.

Attendees can join the Festival Chorus, the Festival Gospel Choir or the Festival Concert Band and participate in their performances on the last day of the fest.

Day long intensive workshops will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, the 13th and 14th. Films will be shown and dances and concerts will be held throughout the week.

Registration for childcare and differently-abled services must be in by July 23. A full 6-day festival pass is \$190 in advance, \$205 at the gate. The price for shorter stays is scaled down from there (for instance: 3 days at \$110/advance,

\$130/gate).

For registration, directions and additional information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. Or call (616) 757-4766.

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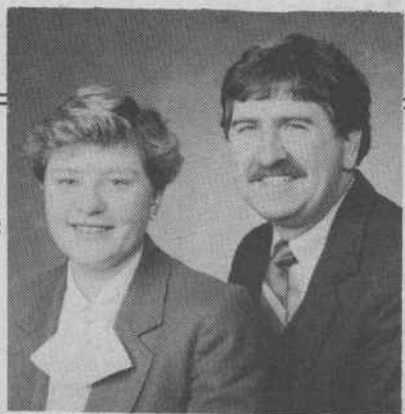
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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Democrats Go On The Attack To Achieve Success in 1992 Campaign

By Bill Meunier

Can the Democrats win the White House in 1992? There are signs that it may be possible. Reeling from losses in five out of the last six Presidential elections, they are searching for a new strategy. Pieces of that strategy were evident as four potential Democratic standard bearers spoke to the Wisconsin Democratic convention.

The Democrats will make Republican campaign tactics an issue in the next election. Iowa Senator Tom Harkin told the press that Democrats left their convention well in front of George Bush "... because in their guts the people knew something was wrong. But then came Willie Horton, Boston Harbor and the Pledge of Allegiance and we didn't fight back." Others also angrily mentioned the Horton ads.

Democratic anger goes beyond campaign commercials. Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton accused Bush and Reagan of deliberately creating "social wreckage" like cuts to the Head Start program in order to alienate the middle class.

Clinton and others also accused Bush of trying to alienate the middle class by making them angry at the poor. As one example he cited the Bush proposal to eliminate the middle class from all student aid programs, not to give more money to the poor but to further alienate middle class families who need help for their kids and make them angry with the poor.

Clinton, Harkin and former Senator Paul Tsongas along with West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller blasted Bush over the civil rights bill controversy. The Democrats are backing a bill written by Bush's own Republican Business Advisory Council, but Bush has threatened a veto claiming the bill would require quotas, a charge even many Republicans deny. According to the Democrats this is proof that Bush is using race for political gain.

On economic policy, the Democrats will seek to use the "I'm on your side." strategy effectively used by Dukakis in the last three weeks of the '88 campaign.

Tsongas pointed out that when Ronald Reagan was elected the average American wage was the highest in the world and now is ranked ninth. Tsongas said when Bush says the workers are earning more "he is right, the only problem is that he

is talking about Germany and Japan." Senator Jay Rockefeller called Bush's domestic strategy "aggressive neglect." Clinton attacked the Bush policy of subsidizing American companies who build factories outside of the country. Harkin told the delegates, that under Reagan and Bush, "the rich got richer and they did it with your work, your money and with debts that your children are going to have to pay."

The problem for the Democrats will be convincing the American people and their own activists.

It is one thing to cite statistics, it's quite another to convince people who've listened to 12 years of well funded conservative campaigns that unions and attempts to help blacks are not the cause of their making less, and that the Reagan Bush policies of subsidizing corporations, promoting corporate mergers and trade deficits is. Furthermore, the GOP has managed to make "liberal" a dirty word and no matter who the Democrats nominate, expect the Republicans to call him a liberal.

The Democrats will try to avoid issues like Lesbian/Gay rights. The words Gay, Lesbian and AIDS were never spoken from the convention podium. One veteran activist told me, "I hate to say it, but lots of people are going to have to understand that while we are on their side, we can't afford to say it."

There is also the problem of convincing the party activists to support the party's national ticket. If the national ticket is not considered liberal enough, many may concentrate on local races. On the other hand if it is too liberal it may turn off everyone else.

Whether or not Bush can be beaten in 1992 remains uncertain. Recent revelations about the Iranian hostage scandal will hurt him. Further slumps in the economy and the wage levels of the American worker will play into the hands of the Democrats. A lot more can happen too.

No matter what happens the Democrats have a tall order to fill, but as one observer put it, "This time we'll know what kind of sleazy tactics we are up against. And we are finally starting to attack back. It is a start." The Wisconsin Democratic convention provided evidence that a start has been made. Whether it will flourish into victory, however, remains to be seen.

MAP Studies Alternative Methods To Prevent HIV Among Addicts

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is in the initial stages of conducting a study to identify the unmet needs of injection drug users and to formulate strategies for HIV prevention among this targeted population.

According to Elizabeth Burden, director of Education and Training at MAP, "Ultimately, the benefits of this project will reveal programmatic plans and structures to address the HIV prevention needs of substance users."

According to Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, MAP has been the initiator of many innovative programs that address education methods that work best with injection drug using and disenfranchised communities. "This study is the first in the nation that will thoroughly examine all aspects of alternative HIV prevention methods so that controversial programming such as clean needle programs can be thoughtfully considered," Nelson said.

Tony Somlai, MAP's research and evaluation specialist, is in the final stages of an extensive literature search in order to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative HIV prevention programs for substance users.

The literature search is just one step in the comprehensive study. Other elements include an initial description of the HIV risk behaviors of the target population. This will be done through a variety of measures, including a determination of the seropositivity rate of syringes collected from Milwaukee streets, which, if shared, would transmit HIV infection; documenting the injection works- sharing behaviors taking place; the sexual risk behaviors occurring; and determination of the extent of shooting galleries and drug houses in the metro-Milwaukee area.

Another major step in the program will include the evaluation of alternative measures for preventing HIV transmission in the substance using

community. The evaluation will include assessment of current risk-reduction programs, the level of desire among drug users for treatment and the identification and assessment of different clean needle programs throughout the country.

The final stage in the study will synthesize all the information gathered to determine the feasibility of implementation of alternative measures for HIV prevention. Expected to begin in early 1992, this process will include a determination of community opinions regarding clean needle and other identified HIV prevention strategies.

A task force of community leaders and representatives of area community service agencies that provide service to substance using populations is currently being formed to oversee the implementation of this study. "The purpose of this study is to examine the need for and community response to alternative programs, such as clean needle programs, for the prevention of HIV disease," Burden added.

Individuals interested in providing support to this task force should contact Elizabeth Burden at MAP, (414) 273-1991.

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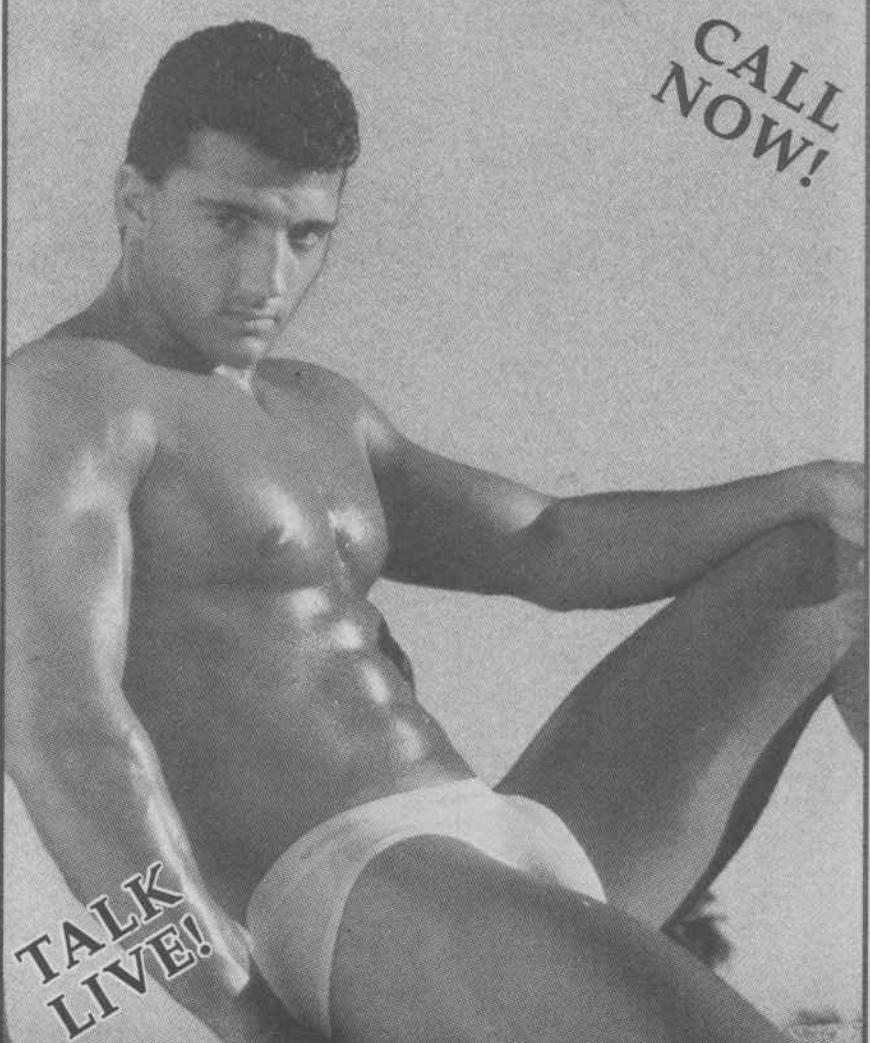
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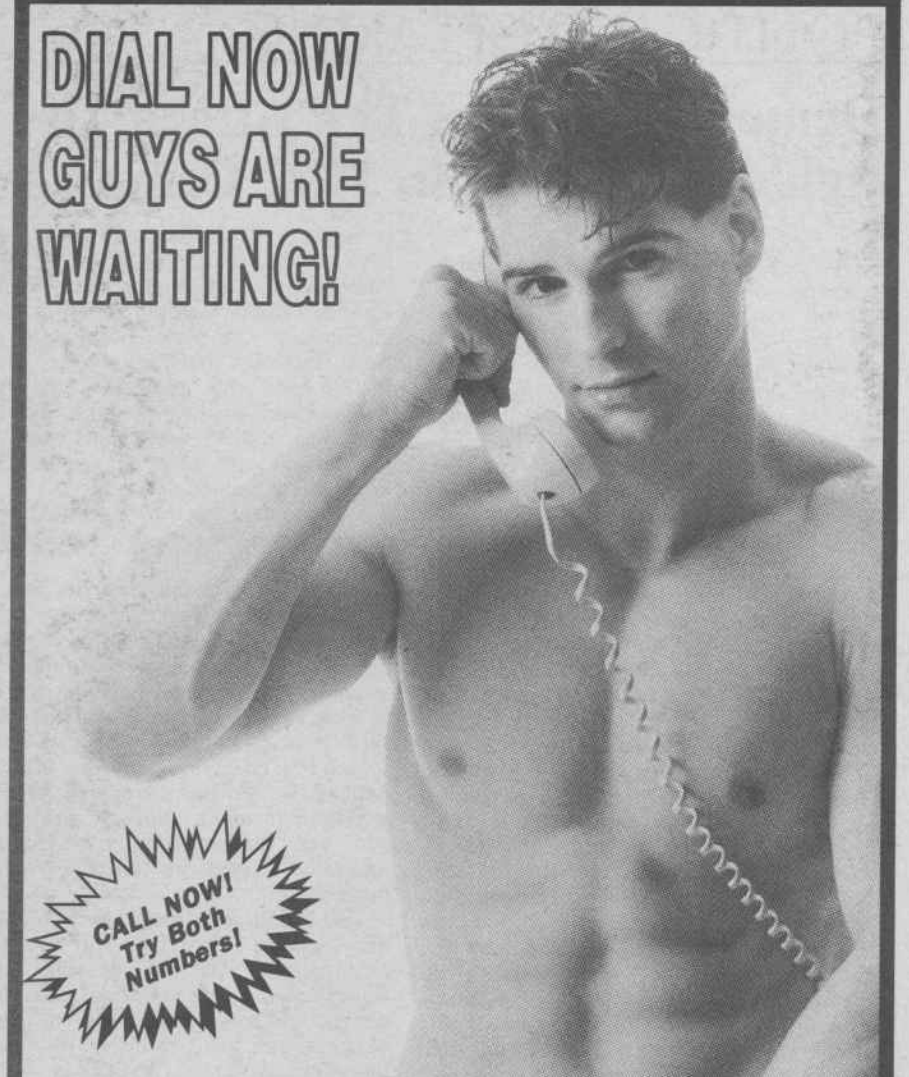


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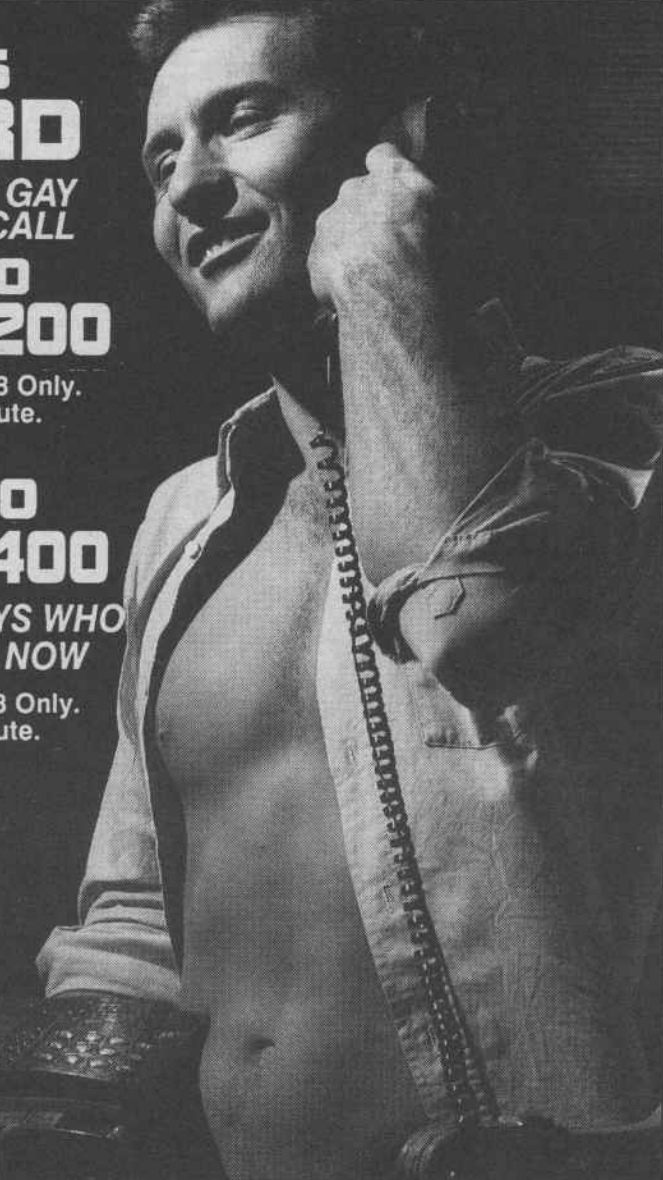
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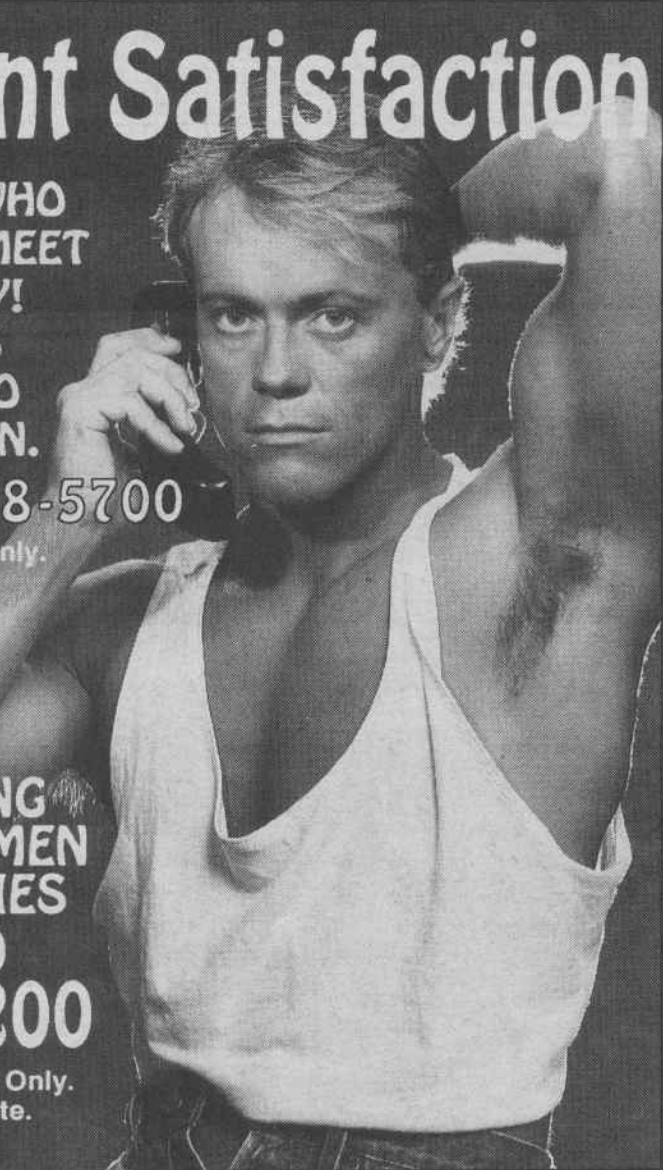
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MAP Brings Prevention Project Directly Into Milwaukee Bars

[Milwaukee]- By July 4, 1991, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) in cooperation with Milwaukee tavern owners, will begin a major drive to bring AIDS/HIV risk reduction information to patrons in the bars.

Tavern Owners Preventing AIDS or "TOP AIDS" is a program, according to Elizabeth Burden, director of Education and Training at MAP, that will bring potentially life-saving HIV prevention information out to the public.

TOP AIDS is directed to tavern patrons between the ages of 21 and 45. A variety of outreach activities are planned, including staffed information tables, free condom distributions, display of AIDS prevention posters in restrooms and assisting tavern owners with acquiring condom machines.

The program, funded by the City of

Milwaukee Health Department, began with a survey mailed to all Milwaukee tavern owners and liquor license holders. Of the 160 surveys returned, the majority indicated they were interested in participating in the program according to Jay Jasper, program evaluation specialist at MAP.

Educational sessions will be made available to tavern owners who sign up to participate in the program. This is to provide them with AIDS/HIV prevention information so that they will feel more comfortable with answering questions that patrons may ask as the education begins in the bars.

Estimates indicate that more than 8,000 people in the Milwaukee area are already infected with HIV and, by 1995, that number will increase to 12,600 persons.

1991 Wisconsin AIDS Walk Scheduled For September 22

[Milwaukee]- The 1991 Wisconsin AIDS Walk slated for September 22, 1991 along Milwaukee's Lake Front will for the first time have two new co-sponsors. The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) and the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP) have agreed to become official co-sponsors of the popular walk which is produced by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

"We are thrilled that MASN and SEWAP will join in sponsorship of the Walk," said MAP executive director Doug Nelson. "This means that there will be much greater participation from people in the Madison area and in the Racine-Kenosha area which will make the Walk bigger, better, and truly a Wisconsin event."

The Wisconsin AIDS Walk is the largest fundraiser and educational event for AIDS produced in Wisconsin. This year's goal is to raise \$285,000 through the support of 3,000 walkers and 30,000 pledgers.

Bud and Sue Selig of the Milwaukee Brewers will lead the Walk this year.

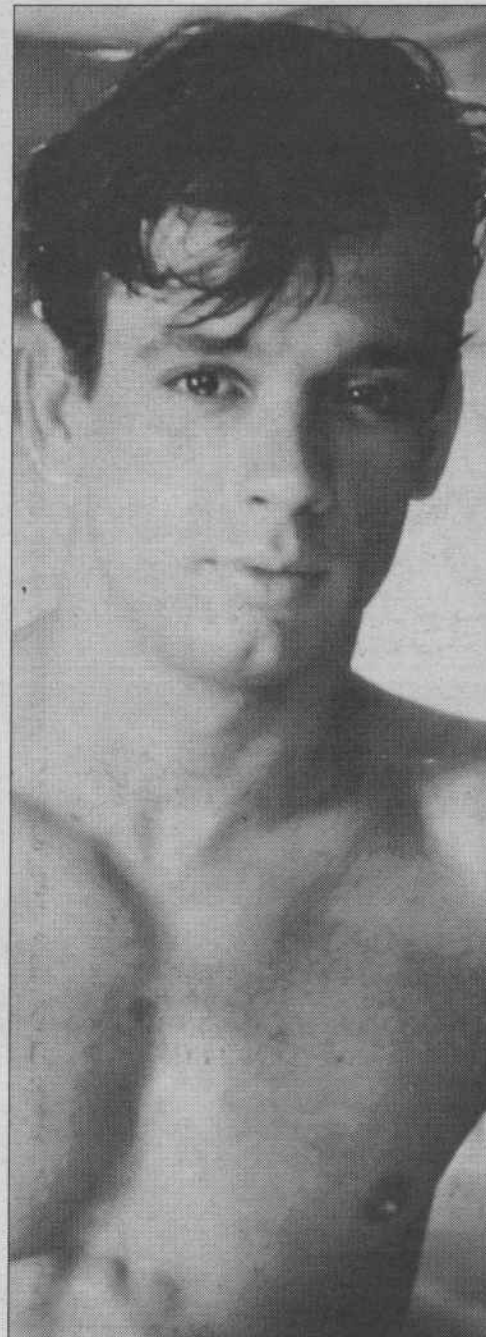
As a co-sponsor of the Walk, MASN will receive 10% of the net proceeds from the Walk. Nine other AIDS Service Agencies from throughout the state will share 15% of the Walk net proceeds. Because of SEWAP's affiliation with MAP, the two AIDS Service Agencies will share 75% of the Walk's net proceeds.

"The Wisconsin AIDS Walk is continuing to grow in numbers, and in popularity," said Nelson. "This momentum is essential if we are to raise the private sector dollars that MAP and MASN and SEWAP need to meet the service demands of the exploding AIDS epidemic."

Posters, pledge forms and registration materials for the Walk will become available by July 15, 1991. Wisconsin Light will be carrying more information in upcoming issues. For immediate information call MAP 273-1991 or MASN at (608) 238-MASN.

Volunteer For AIDS Walk!

[Milwaukee]- With the anticipation of well over 3,000 walkers, hundreds of volunteers are needed prior to and during the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, set for September 22, 1991. In addition to volunteers for the day of the Walk, people are needed now to help distribute registration brochures and posters to retail establishments. Individuals interested in volunteering should call the Walk Headquarters at MAP — (414) 273-1991.



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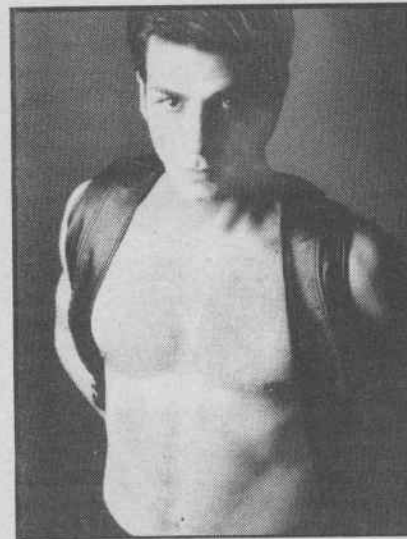
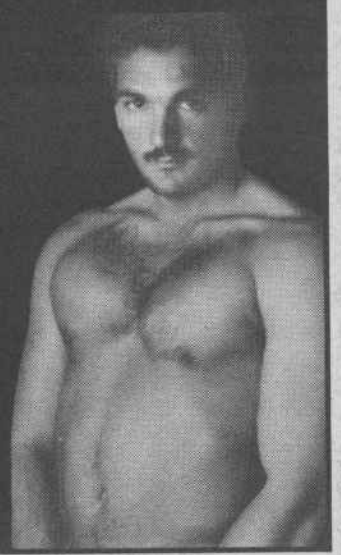
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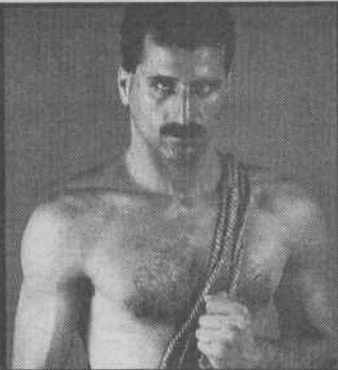
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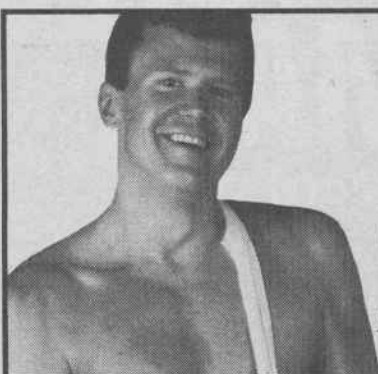
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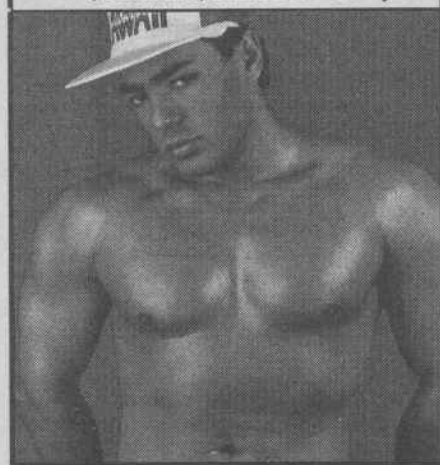
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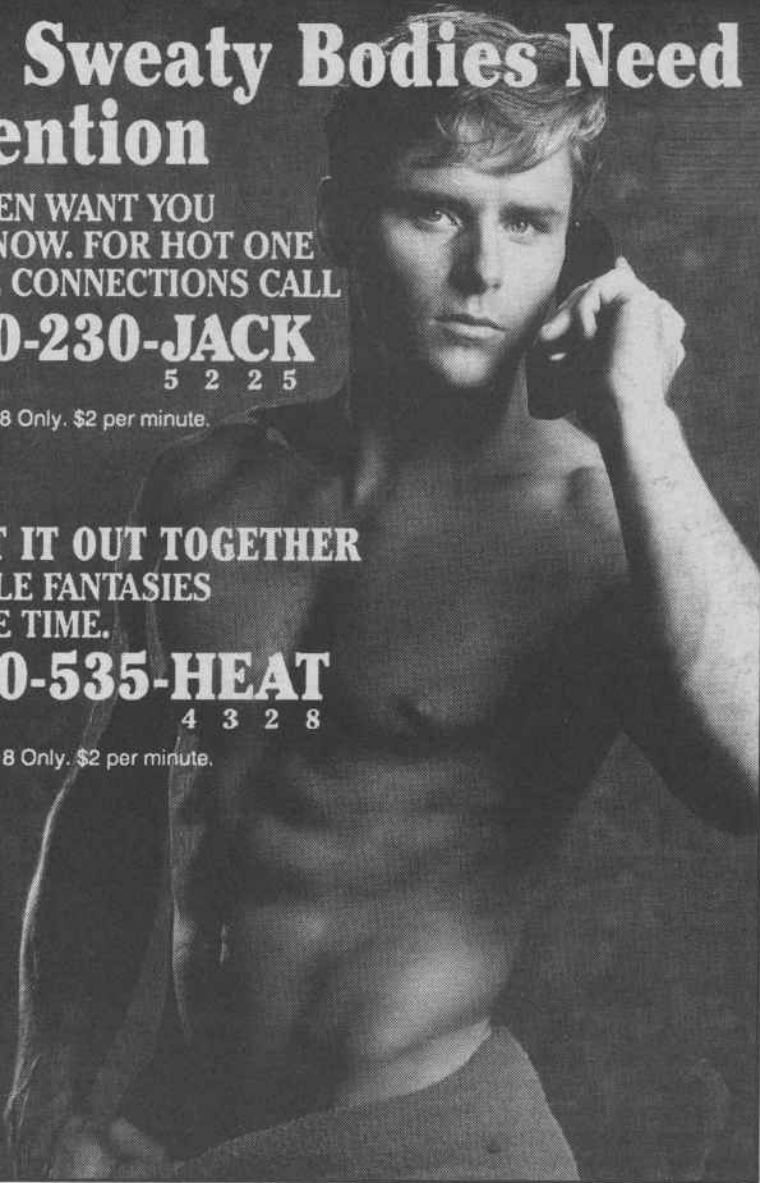
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CRIMES Continued from Page 1

and said: "I know this sounds odd, but if I had to do it over again, I would do the same thing."

At the time, Wills, a drifter from Louisiana, entered pleas of "not guilty" to first degree homicide, violation of the Hate Crimes statute and an additional weapons charge.

Assistant District Attorney Gretchen Hayward told the *Light* that just before the case was to be tried before a jury, Wills changed his plea to "guilty" of intentional homicide. Because the murder charge carries a life sentence, the other charges were dropped. Wills will not be eligible for parole for 24 years.

Henry Starkey, the victims' father, criticized the media for publicizing Wills' story that the younger Starkey had allegedly propositioned him. Starkey said he does not know whether his son was Gay.

At the time of Starkey's murder, Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, District Attorney William Foust, Sheriff Richard Raemisch, UW Dean of Students Mary Rouse and other community leaders held a press conference to call for greater tolerance and an end to crimes motivated by hate.

PRESIDENT Continued from Page 1

everyone."

Governor Clinton warned against politicizing AIDS. "I believe that there is a lot more that can be done, I don't want to politicize that, because I've always believed that the more we can do to keep the American people together on that issue, the more we should, but I believe that not enough is going on," Clinton said.

Harkin called the Bush AIDS policy, "shortchanged." He went on to point out that the Ryan White bill on AIDS funding came before his sub committee and stated his commitment to more money, not only for AIDS funding, but for other medical research as well. All of the candidates except for Rockefeller were polite in responding to *Light's* questions; all except Tsongas seemed somewhat surprised by them. When asked about

Bush's AIDS policies both Clinton and Harkin thought they were being asked about foreign aid. Harkin also asked for an explanation on the Gay/Lesbian rights bill in Congress before answering a question regarding whether or not he is a sponsor.

The Rockefeller staff may have been nervous about the Senator being asked questions by a Gay reporter. After he refused to comment on why he is not a co-sponsor of the Federal Gay and Lesbian rights legislation, his "handler" told him it was time to go.

Potential Presidential candidates who were not present at the convention include Jesse Jackson, Tennessee Senator Al Gore, Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder and New York Governor Mario Cuomo. Jackson and Gore are expected to enter the race sometime in the fall.

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Organizations

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July 11, July 25, August 8

Heat and Passion Dominate 17th National Women's Music Festival

By Jamakaya

Hot and steamy best describes the weather and the musical talent at this year's National Women's Music Festival. More than 3,000 women attended the 17th annual event, held May 30-June 2 at Indiana University in Bloomington. The following is a review of the major performers and events, beginning with Mainstage.

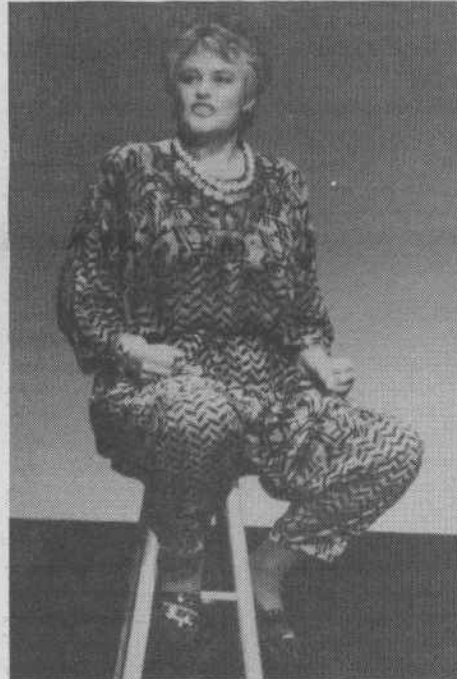
Ronnie and Rhiannon

Ronnie Gilbert got things off to a rousing start on Friday's Mainstage, belting out her anthem to older women, "No Rocking Chair." ("I can think, I can work, I've got years to share/So don't put me in no rocking chair.")

At 64, Ronnie's voice and social conscience are stronger than ever. She dedicated "Sinner Man" to Saddam Hussein and George Bush and sent chills down the spine with her emotional rendering to Judy Small's anti-war song "Mothers, Daughters, Wives." Her version of the sweetly melodic "Music in My Mother's House" is helping establish it as a feminist classic.

Ronnie has a wonderful rapport with the audience and her performance that night was as powerful and emotional as I've ever experienced. She was in top form. My only regret was that the audience did not serenade Ronnie with her Weavers' hit "Irene Goodnight." Ah well, another time Ronnie.

Emotions were high from Ronnie's set when Rhiannon came on and blew everybody away! Whew! Rhiannon's scat and jazz improvisations were mesmerizing. Alone onstage, with only her voice as an instrument, she captivated the audience with largely autobiographical material from her album *Toward Home*.



RHIANNON

Rhiannon took on the persona of an immigrant woman, trekking across the continent to establish a homestead in the Dakotas, losing two children in the process. Rhiannon made us feel that loss. She sang about her own roots in the farmlands of South Dakota, about trying to escape those roots and about coming to terms with her mother before she died.

Rhiannon's stories/songs were intensely revealing. Many women were openly weeping. Happily, she ended her set with the body-positive "Hokey-Pokey" ("You put both breasts in and you shake them all about!") which helped loosen us up again. Rhiannon's one woman production of *Toward Home* may open off-Broadway soon.

Kay Gardner and the Sunwomyn Ensemble, consisting of Kay on flute, Carol Rowe on viola, April Kassirer on guitar and Narudafina Pili Abena on percussion closed the evening with selections from *Garden of Ecstasy*. I know that Kay's laid-back compositions are aimed at physical and spiritual healing, but that night they just made me want to snooze! The contrast between her ethereal melodies and the raw passion of the earlier performers just didn't blend well for me.

Narudafina Pili Abena did a half hour solo set — all percussion — at a smaller stage later in the festival that wowed the crowd. She and Annette Aguilar, who backed Casselberry-Dupree, exhibited some of the most riveting percussion I've seen in cons. Damn, they were hot!

Ann Reed At Last!

Saturday's Mainstage opened with Ann Reed, a great songwriter, guitarist (12

string) and singer who for too long has been slighted by women's music festivals. Perhaps the new — and proper — emphasis on ethnic rhythms and musical diversity has caused producers to overlook an artist perceived as a traditional folkie. But Ann Reed ain't your average folkie!

She has been recognized by the National Academy of Songwriters as one of the "Most Promising Songwriters of the '90's" and was selected Minnesota's Artist of the Year in 1990, beating out — now get this — Prince! With six albums in the past decade, it seems the lady's credentials are in order.

What you get with Ann Reed are lovely lyrics and unadulterated music. Ann sang "Told You So," "If You Were Mine" and other cuts from her new *Road of the Heart* LP along with newer songs not yet recorded. At her first Mainstage in years, she could have played it safe, singing older tunes more familiar to the audience. Not Ann Reed. Her patter between songs was humorous, her manner throughout, confident. Ann Reed is a Mainstage act.

Bay Area comedian Marga Gomez presented a riotous 40 minute set that ranged from political humor to a hysterically funny imitation of Minnie Mouse.

Marga's got great one liners: "I'd like to talk about co-dependency — if it's okay with everybody here;" "If Madonna is 'Like a Virgin,' is Dan Quayle 'Like a Genius?'" And my favorite: "One minute you're the wind beneath her wings, the next you're the gas beneath her tail." Not bad for la muchacha de "Hispanica."

Nice Girls Rock

The four girls from Austin, Texas who brought down the house at last year's Mainstage and whose careers have skyrocketed since — Two Nice Girls (2NG) — made a triumphant return to Bloomington. 2NG are: Kathy Korniloff and Gretchen Phillips (lead vocals and guitars), Meg Hentges (bass) and Pam Barger (drums).

2NG played selections from their new album, *Chloe Like Olivia*, and the rockier they got, the better they sounded. Their ballads are insipid. But their rock soars with the youthful vigor and hard edges one expects of good old rock 'n' roll.

In my notes in the phrase "Raucous Jam." This is either the name of a 2NG song or a description of the hell that broke loose onstage during their last two numbers! Jamming like mad, playing fortissimo and mugging through it all, 2NG know how to party!

In a surprise appearance, Milwaukee's Mrs. Fun joined the onstage bedlam, with Kim Zick banging cymbals and Connie Grauer bumping and grinding with the Girls.

Ferraro Speaks

In a departure for the festival, former Congresswoman and Vice-Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro addressed the crowd from Sunday's Mainstage. She stressed the need for more women in politics and emphasized that "If you don't run, you cannot win."

She said that women are bringing new dimensions and values into politics: greater willingness to negotiate; long-term rather than stop-gap solutions; and a disdain for patriarchal win/lose, black/white dichotomies.

Ferraro endeared herself to the crowd by nonchalantly referring to God as "She" and suggesting that what Dan Quayle doesn't know, Marilyn Quayle will surely teach him! She handled questions from the audience as deftly as...well, as deftly as a politician!

Ferraro said she had no regrets about the 1984 campaign and spoke eloquently of the "ripples that spread beyond the immediate impact, the ripples still being felt everywhere."

The New Yorker is currently challenging Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato for the U.S. Senate in 1992.

J., Jaque & Odetta

Judith Casselberry and Jaque Dupree 'lived up' the audience with a mix of reggae, funk and African inspired rhythms. Before the concert I had wondered aloud whether I'd be in the mood for their music until I was roundly chastised by another festivalgoer: "J. and Jaque gonna put you in the mood!"

She was right. And their set raised the heat and passion level considerably. Accompanied by the extraordinary Annette Aguilar on drums and Nerida Rojas on bass (She cooked! She boiled!), Casselberry-Dupree sang some new



Judith Casselberry (right) and Jaque Dupree.

songs like "Pink Dress On" as well as songs by Toshi Reagon, Lillian Allen and Bob Marley. Everybody was on their feet by the end of this gig. Casselberry-Dupree are dynamite!

Then, the more laid-back but smoldering voice of the legendary Odetta. Odetta took her little old time gettin' it together, then she delivered. Referring to her legendary status, she asked the crowd to please not view her as "precious," but then proceeded to illustrate why she is.

She sang a wrenching a cappella version of "Kumbaya," which was invested with greater meaning for many women when she explained that it originated on the slave ships with the shackled captives crying out to God: "Come by us!"

Odetta sang "Alabama Bound," freedom songs (all her songs are freedom songs!) and led a jaunty audience sing-a-long to "This Little Light of Mine." Her warmth, her depth and the breadth of her politics enveloped the audience. Hers was a wonderful tone on which to conclude the Mainstage entertainment.

Emerging Talent

Outstanding new talent showcased at the festival included Melanie DeMore, whose strong, bluesy voice did justice to a Joan Armatrading song and original material from her debut cassette *Come Follow Me*. Her vocal range and abilities on the piano, guitar and flute are quite impressive. DeMore is the director of Voices, the Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble.

Marilyn Pittman, a marvelous comedian, cracked up the audience with her reading of Lesbian personal ads from San Francisco newspapers. Her imitation of Ethel Merman singing "Like a Virgin" (yes, Ethel Merman) had everyone in stitches. Pittman is a wonderful comedian.

Meanwhile, Jamie Anderson seems to be popping up everywhere these days — happily so. She sang, strummed and generally charmed her way through the "Wedding Song," "Straight Girl Blues" and other selections from *Closer to Home*. Anderson's humor and easy rapport with her audience are winning new fans daily.

Awards to Ronnie, Toni

Dear, deserving Ronnie Gilbert, "a woman who knows how to sing and what to sing about," was presented with this year's Jane Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music. Gilbert's musical career has spanned 40 years, from the Weavers in the 1950's to the resumption of her solo career in the 1980's and '90's.

This year's Jeanine Rae Award for the wAdvancement of Women's Culture went to Toni Armstrong Jr., founder, publisher and editor of *Hot Wire: The Journal of Women's Music and Culture*.

The awards included cash prizes of \$500 each. In a typically Generous gesture, Ronnie Gilbert donated her money to *Hot Wire*. (For a subscription to *Hot Wire*, send \$15 to: Empty Closet Enterprises, 5210 N. Wayne, Chicago, IL 60640.)

Dance and Videos

Dance buffs had an extraordinary range of options at the festival: spiritual dancing workshops with Arisika Razak; dream dancing with Afro-American ritualist Luisah Teish; two-stepping and tush-pushing with country line dancers Maile Klein and Maria Hodgini; and general shake-rattle-and-rolling with the Louisville band, Yer Girlfriend.

I spent many hours viewing woman-made movies at the Film and Video Series, a growing part of the festival. Documentary, dramatic, comedic and experimental films were shown daily, and the late night erotic films drew standing-room-only crowds!

Dry Kisses Only, a witty documentary that analyzes the contents and subtexts of

Hollywood films, was my favorite discovery. It hilariously juxtaposes old movie clips with arch commentary by Theory Woman and Lesbian on the Street interviews. In its most outrageous segment, Dykella and Dykenna, the Siskel and Ebert of Lesbian vampires, really sink their teeth into *The Hunger*.

"*Dos Lesbos*," the first full length theatrical presentation produced for the festival's Drama Series, was a delightful musical revue about the trials of Lesbian life and coupledom. It played to two enthusiastic sold out audiences.

Pam Petrucci as Peg and Abbie Greene as Gracie danced, sang, laughed, cried, argued and mugged their way through a series of vignettes about work, sex, depression, coming out and meeting your partner's parents (in funny 'before' and 'after' scenes). Terry Baum's dialogue was incisive and Petrucci and Greene displayed great versatility and charisma, especially in the musical interludes.

"*Dos Lesbos*" seeks bookings for local appearances. Wise women producers can contact director Barbara Harrell at 5129 N. Guilford Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

Susie Sexpert

Susie Bright, author of *Susie Sexpert's Lesbian Sex World* and editor of the Lesbian sex magazine *On Our Backs*, used her workshop to expound on the physical, aesthetic and political aspects of Lesbian sexuality as it has evolved over the last decade.

Bright described herself as "first and foremost a sexual liberationist." She urged listeners to overcome their ignorance and inhibitions surrounding Lesbian sex and to experience and accept the full diversity of Lesbian sexual expressions. She also lambasted the "hypocrisy and double standards" of those bookstores which sell her book but refuse to carry *On Our Backs* (usually because of its explicit photos).

Susie Bright struck me as a wonderful speaker — articulate, politically savvy and, basically, very reasonable. Overall, the sex-positive message she delivers is much less threatening than the outlaw image that precedes it.

Bright appeared with Dr. June Reinisch, Director of the Kinsey Institute (located on the Bloomington campus), in a fascinating presentation on "Women's Sexuality in the '90's." Reinisch was no dry academic — she was more like the Joan Rivers of the Kinsey Institute! Her non-stop wit sparkled throughout an extremely informative lecture.

Reinisch talked briefly about Alfred Kinsey's life (and how he was hounded to his death) and the goals of his sex research institute. She showed dozens of fascinating slides which depicted the roles of women and their sexuality cross-culturally through history. Her knowledge of sexual artifacts and practices was awesome, and her constant asides cracked everybody up. Mainstage next year, Dr. Reinisch?

Loose Ends

If all this weren't stimulating enough, you could always pop in to hear award-winning author Marge Piercy reveal her writing process or view the original work displayed at the Emerging Women's Art Exhibit.

You could shop till you drop in the crafts and merchants area or attend workshops on everything from therapy, songwriting and parenting to tax tips, animal rights and African textiles. You could participate in a 5K Run to benefit differently-abled services or just sit back and cruise, cruise, cruise...

Never a dull moment in Bloomington. Next year, the National Women's Music Festival is scheduled for June 4-7. Plan ahead. Bring your gal pals. Treat your mother. Find out what these wonderful women's music festivals are all about!

To get on the mailing list, write to: NWMF, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

M.J. Hochberg

M.J. Hochberg