

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

The Wisconsin Light

AIDS Education Brought to Schools

[Milwaukee]- The People Living With AIDS (PLWA) Coalition of Wisconsin, based in Milwaukee, has reached an agreement with Superintendent Howard Fuller and Sheryl Gotts of the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to bring a new program of AIDS education into MPS's middle and high school classrooms.

Through the Coalition's Speakers Bureau, PLWA members will be working with health education teachers following a program already successful in the San Francisco area. There, as here, HIV infected persons will be teaching about the dangers of AIDS.

The program consists of 4-one hour sessions and includes "condom and needle cleaning demonstrations." Two middle and two high schools have already been selected as pilots for this new program.

During September, the PLWA Coalition will be actively recruiting persons living with HIV to be trained for this program. People of all ages, backgrounds, genders and ethnic backgrounds are needed. They must be able to speak candidly and openly about their diagnosis and themselves. Prospective volunteers can call the Coalition office at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) at (414) 273-1991 for an application.

The PLWA Coalition has assisted and successfully filed a suit in Wisconsin District Federal Court on behalf of a man incarcerated at the Winnebago correctional facility regarding his care as an HIV infected inmate. The suit charges, among other things, breach of confidentiality and lack of psychological care.

This is the first step the PLWA Coalition has taken toward filing a class action suit on behalf of all HIV infected inmates in the State of Wisconsin.

In August, the Midwest Hispanic AIDS Coalition of Chicago sponsored a conference to deal with minority issues and AIDS. Those attending the Conference from Milwaukee discovered that far too many see AIDS as a "Black" disease, a "Hispanic" disease, a "Native American" disease. The PLWA Coalition sees AIDS as a "people's" disease and does not want to see any individuals or groups left out or ignored.

The PLWA Coalition is teaming up with the MAP Client Recreation Committee to sponsor a "PWA TEAM" for this year's Wisconsin AIDS Walk on September 22 and urges other walkers to join its contingent.

The PLWA Coalition has its office at MAP. It can be contacted at P.O. Box 92505, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or by calling (414) 273-1991. The Coalition meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Queer Nation Plans Major Protest Against Milwaukee Media, Police

[Milwaukee]- Queer Nation (QN) Milwaukee has called for a National Demonstration to take place in Milwaukee on Monday, October 7, 1991 to protest the way the city's media and institutions responded to the Jeffrey L. Dahmer serial murder case.

According to Tim Grair of QN/Milwaukee, QN Chapters across the United States have been contacted. As of press time, many have agreed to send a delegation, including QN/New York, which Grair reports as being "very enthusiastic" about the proposed protest.

The reason for the national demonstration, according to QN/Milwaukee spokespeople, is to show QN's "anger and disappointment at the actions, inaction and reactions of the Milwaukee Police Department, the Mayor's office and the media" regarding the Dahmer case.

QN/Milwaukee has called it "unacceptable" for the police force to be more concerned with the suspension of officers "than for the safety of minorities and Gays. It is unacceptable for people of color, Gays and Lesbians and women to

Massive Turnout Expected For Annual Wisconsin AIDS Walk



Among the 2500 people who attended MAPFest in Milwaukee on September 1 was a python snake. Needless to say the crowd was fascinated as was this woman who bravely volunteered to "wear" it.

Colder's Cancels Advertising On Mark Belling's WISN Radio Show

[Milwaukee]- In what Queer Nation-Milwaukee (QN) is calling "a significant victory for the Lesbian and Gay community," Colder's Furniture of Milwaukee has announced that it has "permanently canceled advertising on Mark Belling's WISN Radio show, 3:00-6:00 p.m. weekdays, or any other times." Colder's had been the controversial radio talk show's largest sponsor.

The announcement from Colder's advertising manager, Bob Garbutt, came on August 30, just one day before members of QN-Milwaukee had planned to visit the store to protest its continued support of Belling's show. The protest, billed by QN as an "afternoon of queer shopping," was to have included talking to Colder's staff, greeting customers and testing out display beds with same-sex partners.

According to QN, over the past three weeks, Colder's has received "hundreds of calls and letters" from Gays and Lesbians upset about what QN calls "Belling's most recent on-air Queer-bashing." Among Belling's statements cited by QN are those

maintaining that all Gay males should be branded as health risks and that the behavior of accused serial killer, Jeffrey Dahmer, represents the "logical extension" of the "Gay lifestyle."

Belling, who has a reputation for arch-conservatism, was parodied recently by a Milwaukee Sentinel editorial page cartoon for reportedly making statements in a public meeting that Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola's handwriting was "feminine." Belling later defended himself, saying he was joking and that "you had to have been there."

QN spokespeople said that they took action to confront Belling because of their belief that "anti-Gay statements in the media can lead to anti-Gay violence in the streets."

Tim Grair, a member of QN-Milwaukee said, "We're happy to see that, for once, the Lesbian and Gay community has benefited from an organized response to bigotry."

Grair emphasized that this victory is just "the first step in preventing hate-mongering from remaining a paid position in Milwaukee."

QN has announced plans to target Steinhafel's Furniture in the near future. According to QN, Steinhafel's, a large retail furniture outlet, has been a sponsor of Belling's show for years.

Steinhafel's advertising manager, Dennis Brown, can be contacted at (414) 784-0500 or by writing to: Steinhafel's Furniture, 16250 W. Rogers Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151.

For more information, contact QN at (414) 384-3911, or write to QN at P.O. Box 93951, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Blue Ribbon Commission Hearing Scheduled for September 17

[Milwaukee, WI] -A hearing before Mayor John Norquist's Blue Ribbon Commission on police-community relations with a special focus on individual testimony from Gay men and Lesbians is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th Street (S. 9th and Washington Streets). Anonymity will be respected.

The Police Proposal Task Group of the Lavender Network is urging Gays, Lesbians and Bi-sexuals to attend the hearing to provide personal testimony about their own experiences with the Milwaukee Police Department and/or to show support for others who will testify.

[Milwaukee]- Hundreds of people, young and old, have pre-registered for the 1991 Wisconsin AIDS Walk scheduled for September 22, 1991, starting at 12:30 p.m. along Milwaukee's Lakefront. The Walk will promote state-wide awareness of AIDS and raise essential funds to address the challenges of the epidemic.

The Wisconsin AIDS Walk, the second annual event of its kind, is the largest fundraiser and educational event for AIDS produced in the Badger State. It is sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and co-sponsored by the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP) and the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN).

"This year's goal is to raise \$285,000 through the support of 3,000 walkers and 30,000 pledgers," said Tracey Carson, co-chair of the Wisconsin AIDS Walk Steering Committee.

In 1990, the first year of the Walk, Milwaukee area corporations donated \$33,000 to support the event. This year, the Walk has exceeded its goal of \$50,000 in corporate financial donations from businesses throughout the state by more than \$15,000. The Walk has received approximately \$50,000 in in-kind donations which include printing, postage, prizes, food and a variety of other services.

The 3,000 plus expected walkers will be led by Walk Honorary Co-Chairs Allan "Bud" Selig and Sue Selig of the Milwaukee Brewers. The Seligs will also be among leaders throughout the state attending the Walk Leadership Breakfast that will precede the Walk.

The Breakfast will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Professional Marketing Services, 2071 N. Summit Ave., Milwaukee. Hosts include Senator Herb Kohl, Leonard Goldstein, president and CEO of the Miller Brewing Company, Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, State Representative David Clarenbach and James E. Doyle, state Attorney General.

More than 300 people are expected to attend the Breakfast. A \$50 donation will augment the proceeds generated through the pledge walk.

The 10K (6.2 mile) Walk will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Urban Park with registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. Along the route, refreshments, activities and a variety of entertainment for adults and kids alike will be available.

Walkers will head north, up along the Lake Front, past Bradford Beach, the Gun Club and shortly, turn south to pass Lake Park Pavilion, the North Point Water Tower and, finally, return to Urban Park for closing ceremonies.

A free shuttle service, sponsored by Safe Line Fleet, will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to and from Urban Park, the location of the Walk's opening and closing ceremonies.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of MAP, emphasized the importance of the Walk. "Without the strong state-wide community response to the AIDS

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All concerned community members are encouraged to complete the simple, anonymous survey on police performance included in this issue of *Wisconsin Light*. It must be returned to the Lavender Network at the address below prior to September 17 so that the findings can be tabulated and presented to the Commission.

The Lavender Network is especially encouraging former and current police officers who may be Gay, Lesbian or Bi-sexual to come forward with their opinions and experiences about police-community relations and the treatment they have received within the

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Appeal Filed In Kowalski Case

[Minneapolis, MN]- With the assistance of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, Karen Thompson has filed an appeal to an April ruling which denied her guardianship over her brain-injured lover, Sharon Kowalski. The case will be heard by the three member Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Thompson and Kowalski's parents have fought legal battles over Sharon Kowalski's medical care, visitation rights and guardianship since she was disabled in a car accident in 1983. On April 24, St. Louis County District Judge Robert Campbell granted guardianship to Karen Tomberlin, a friend of the Kowalski's, saying that as a "neutral third party" Tomberlin could see that Sharon maintained her relationships with both her parents and Thompson.

According to **Equal Time**, the appeal claims Campbell's decision was illegal because Tomberlin had not filed a petition for guardianship. It says that inappropriate hearsay about the personal lives of Thompson and Kowalski influenced the decision and that the judge ignored testimony by medical professionals that Thompson was best equipped to meet Kowalski's physical and emotional needs. The appeal also alleges that by rejecting Sharon Kowalski's own stated wishes to be with Thompson, the ruling violated Kowalski's constitutional rights.

Decoy Cops Bashed In Houston

[Houston, TX]- Officers of the Houston Police Department (HPD) involved in an "extensive undercover operation" to ferret out criminals who have been attacking Gays and Lesbians, have been victimized by the Gay bashers themselves.

Since early August, the decoy cops have been posing as Gay couples in the Montrose section of Houston where many Gay bars and businesses are located. One officer was beaten with a baseball bat, one was slugged in the face, a pair of cops were maced and others have had rocks and beer cans thrown at them from passing cars. More than a dozen people have been arrested on charges ranging from assault to illegal possession of weapons to attempted murder.

The HPD launched the sting, dubbed "Operation Vice Versa," after being criticized by local activists for inaction in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Gay banker Paul Broussard in July. More than 1,000 Gays and Lesbians had rallied on July 13 demanding greater protection and enforcement of the laws by city police.

Panel Endorses Needle Exchanges

[Washington, DC]- In a report on **The Twin Epidemics of Substance Use and HIV**, the National Commission on AIDS recommended that all laws restricting access to clean hypodermic needles be scrapped in an effort to reduce the spread of AIDS. The Commission's analysis of several needle exchange programs indicated that the spread of HIV among addicts who utilized such programs was greatly reduced.

Noting that one third of all AIDS cases and up to 70% of AIDS cases in women are caused by contaminated needles, the Commission concluded that the Bush administration's criminal justice approach to drug use is "myopic" and that "a public health approach is desperately needed."

Needle exchange programs, "rather than encouraging substance use, lead substantial numbers of substance users to seek treatment. For those who cannot stop injecting drugs, it is imperative that we remove these legal barriers so that the transmission of HIV can be lessened."

Needle distribution programs have been shut down by authorities in a number of cities. But eight activists, arrested last year for distributing clean needles in New York City were recently acquitted. The judge in that case said that "the harm the defendant's sought to avoid was greater than the harm in violating the statute."

Videotaped Basher Found Guilty

[San Jose, CA]- Superior Court Judge Thomas Edwards has found 18 year old Joshua Huff guilty of three felonies and sentenced him to ten months incarceration for the June beating of William Kiley, 44, a Gay man. The beating was widely publicized because Kiley had videotaped it and released the tape to the media.

Huff was found guilty of battery causing serious physical injury, felonious assault and use of force based on a victim's sexual orientation, a hate crime in California. Huff, who was 17 at the time of the attack, will serve the ten months in a juvenile correction facility. He could have received up to seven years.

Kiley has filed a \$20 million civil suit against Huff and his family. His attorney, Paul Wotman, declared: "We want Gay bashers to know not only will they be prosecuted, but they will be sued and held responsible for the pain and suffering they have caused."

Columnist Fired For Coming Out

[Houston, TX]- Columnist Juan R. Palomo, whose acknowledgement that he is Gay was edited out of a recent column about hate crimes and who subsequently discussed the censorship with other newspapers, has been fired by the **Houston Post**.

Charles Cooper, Vice-President and Editor of the **Post**, explained Palomo's dismissal this way: "The best interests of the **Post** come before the personal agenda of an individual. Juan chose to take the matter public to the extent I felt would be detrimental to the **Post**, and I told him that."

Palomo told the **New York Times**: "I don't think they are homophobes and racists but... it doesn't make any difference if they take the same action as homophobes and racists. If there is any legal action I can take against the **Post** that has a reasonable chance of success, I'll take it."

Gay and Hispanic groups have come to Palomo's defense. (The **Post** reportedly had only two Hispanic employees on its writing staff of 100. Now, it has one.) Send letters to Editor Charles Cooper at the **Houston Post**, P.O. Box 4747, Houston, TX 77210-4747. The number is (713) 840- 5600.

Quickies...

[Houston, TX]- The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has labeled "inappropriate" anti-Gay slurs voiced by US District Court Judge Sam B. Hall Jr. of Beaumont, but said a formal reprimand was unwarranted. In remarks from the bench in July, Judge Hall referred to prison inmates as a "bunch of queers."

[Atlanta, GA]- The House of Delegates, the governing body of the American Bar Association, rejected by a 194-154 vote a request by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) to become an affiliated group. Such affiliate status would have given NLGLA a seat in the House of Delegates. Although disappointed, Gay attorneys were encouraged that supportive votes were higher than in previous years and, for the first time, no one spoke against the measure.

[New York, NY]- Tom Duane, an openly Gay man running for a seat on the New York City Council, announced recently that he is HIV- positive. Duane's opponent in the September 12 Democratic primary is Liz Abzug, daughter of former Congresswoman Bella Abzug and an out Lesbian.

[Raleigh, NC]- The American Civil Liberties Union has won its suit against the North Carolina Department of Transportation, which must now allow the Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance to participate in the state's Adopt-a-Roadway anti-litter program. The home state of Sen. Jesse Helms must also pay court expenses.

[Vancouver, British Columbia]- The Vancouver City Council has forgiven an outstanding bill of \$16,700 that the Metropolitan Vancouver Athletics and Arts Association owed the city for its sponsorship of last year's Gay Games. Celebration '90 still owes more than \$100,000 to creditors.

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.

Clarenbach Sponsors Pro-Choice Bills In State Legislature

[Madison]- Two crucial pieces of pro-choice legislation have been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature by State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Clarenbach sponsored Assembly Bill 1 as the first legislation introduced in the Assembly this session. AB 1 would repeal the statutory language imposing criminal penalties for abortion.

The second bill, Assembly Bill 444, would repeal Wisconsin's ban on the use of state or local funds for abortion.

Clarenbach said the likely appointment of another anti-choice Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court makes enactment of the bills more urgent than ever.

"This court may be bent on dismantling women's reproductive rights, but it will only succeed if state legislatures pass the kind of anti-choice laws that the justices are inviting," Clarenbach said.

Future court rulings could result in renewed attempts to enforce the criminal penalties which have remained on the

books in Wisconsin despite the Roe v. Wade decision affirming the legality of abortion, Clarenbach warned. Enactment of AB 1 would prevent this.

"If the court wants to leave abortion rights up to each state, then let Wisconsin have a free and open debate — not automatically revert to an obsolete statute that hasn't been enforced for twenty years," Clarenbach said.

AB 444 would repeal a 1977 law which prohibits the use of state or local government funds for abortions except when the life or health of the mother is endangered or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

"This intolerable policy, which holds that poor women may not access the same legal reproductive health choices as other women, cannot be allowed to stand," Clarenbach said. "This kind of discrimination has no place in a society that professes to guarantee equal protection of the laws."

Fair Housing and Employment Office Opens At City Hall

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist announced the opening of the Fair Housing and Employment Commission office. The Commission is made up of five citizen members who were appointed by the Mayor. They are responsible for providing equal opportunities in housing and employment to all City residents without regard to race, gender, handicap, sexual orientation, religion or lawful source of income.

Among the Commission members is Jerry Johnson, Publisher of **The Wisconsin Light**, the state's Gay/Lesbian newspaper.

The Commission will be staffed by trained Equal Rights Specialists and

support personnel. The office is located in Room 605 of City Hall.

The Commission is unique in that it has subpoena powers to assist in the execution of its duties. It can order an employer to redress any injury caused by violation of the Fair Housing and Employment Ordinance and also to cease and desist from further violations. The Commission may impose fines ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. The Commission will seek employment for the wronged party and back wages to the extent appropriate.

The Mayor indicated that "the elimination of housing and employment in the City of Milwaukee is one of the most important issues we face as a City."

Milwaukee Repertory Costume Shop Designs Flags For AIDS Walk

[Milwaukee]- The Second Annual Wisconsin AIDS Walk, set for September 22, 1991, sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and one of the agency's biggest fundraisers of the year, is rapidly gaining a spectacular momentum.

MAP has announced that the Milwaukee Repertory Theater Costume Shop is currently developing flags which will adorn the many areas along the Walk, identifying registration, information, food and a variety of activity areas.

According to Dawna Gregory of the Costume Shop, the idea behind the flags is "to create a colorful, festive atmosphere." It will be an "exciting, fun environment," Gregory said, "a place where people can enjoy themselves and raise money for AIDS throughout the state."

Other members of the Costume Shop involved in the project are Rey Dobeck, Julie Kennedy, Patricia Orndorf, Diane Dalton, Chris Merrill and Raeleen McMillion, actor and friend of the Rep.

Last year, the Shop created a huge, quilted banner of the AIDS Walk logo which was displayed prominently in Urban Park, the site of the Walk's opening and closing ceremonies. The

banner will again be on display this year.

Registration materials and pledge forms are now available at all Kohl's Food Stores or by calling MAP at (414) 273-1991; the Madison AIDS Support Network, (608) 238-6276 or the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (800) 924-6601.

Deborah Wiese Signs Books At People Like Us

[Chicago]- Deborah Wiese will be signing copies of her book, **Hodag Winter** at People Like Us bookstore, located at 3321 N. Clark Street in Chicago on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1991 at 7:00 p.m.

Hodag Winter is a work of fiction focusing on Gay rights legislation in Madison, Wisconsin and follows the life of Colleen O'Hare, a first grade teacher who is fired because of her sexual orientation. The book was published by Mother Courage Press of Racine.

Wiese is a native of Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Admission is free and open to the public.



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March, NAMES Quilt, Concerts Highlight Madison Pride Weekend

[Madison]—Madison, the capital city of the Gay rights state will be hosting its second major March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride on Saturday, October 5, 1991. The March will be the centerpiece of an extended weekend of concerts, workshops and other events.

The largest Midwestern showing of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt — almost 1,700 panels — will be displayed October 4-6 at the McClain Athletic Facility, next to Camp Randall Stadium at Regent and Monroe Streets. Admission will be free.

The weekend actually starts Thursday evening, October 3 with the opening of an Art Show at Steep & Brew on State Street. "GAYLA Affair," a talent show of song and dance, will be held Friday night in the Great Hall of the UW Memorial Union.

The Saturday March will be kicked off at 1 p.m. by a brief rally on the steps of the Capitol featuring Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The March will wend its way through downtown and

campus streets and end in James Madison Park where a celebration with food, music and dance will fill the afternoon.

Saturday night, the Barrymore Theatre at 2090 Atwood Avenue, will be the Gayest place in the state with separate back-to-back shows by her-sterical Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton and the Gay a cappella singing sensations, The Flirtations.

Sunday, October 6, includes a Community Brunch, an Ecumenical Service and a Gay Video/Film Festival.

The September 19 issue of **Wisconsin Light** will include detailed information on times, locations, prices and all other relevant information regarding the weekend activities.

GALVANize, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance of Madison, is the overall sponsor of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration. GALVANize can be reached at (608) 255-8061, or by writing to P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701-1403.

Pride March Meeting For Groups

A special information-sharing meeting is being held on Sunday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the UW Memorial Union for organizations participating in the October 5 March for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Madison and its related events. The meeting is sponsored by GALVANize.

Interested community-based groups are encouraged to send a representative to this meeting. The meeting will be a chance to look at the Big Picture — all of the events being held around the March,

the Quilt, and Coming Out Week on campus and in the community in late September and early October.

While the September 8th meeting is specifically for organizations, individuals who want to learn more about how they can help are encouraged to attend the September 6th GALVANize General meeting at 7:30pm at the Memorial Union, or to call GALVANize at (608) 255-8061.

Special Needs At Madison March?

People with special needs who will be attending the October 5 March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride in Madison are asked to contact GALVANize as soon as possible.

Childcare, or a voucher system for the provision of childcare, will be provided at most events. March organizers are asking for parents to contact them at least 10 days before the events so that adequate provision for childcare can be made.

Housing will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. Madisonians are asked to consider helping out if they have a guest bed or crash space to offer. (Leave a message at (608) 255-8061 if you can help.) Motel space may be difficult to come by because Madison is also hosting

a marijuana smoke-out, an abortion rally, and the World Dairy Expo that same weekend.

People with disabilities who have special needs are also asked to contact GALVANize as soon as possible. Efforts are being made to identify special parking arrangements, as are efforts to make events physically accessible. Arrangements are also being made to provide interpreters for the hearing impaired.

Please contact GALVANize at P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701 if you have any of these special needs. Mark the envelope to the attention of the Housing Subcommittee, Childcare Subcommittee, or Access Subcommittee as applies.

Volunteers Needed For Weekend

With one month left before the October 5th Madison March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride, GALVANize members have a message for everyone in the community: "WE NEED YOU to help make this a weekend to remember."

There are dozens of ways people can help, says Nancy Graham, GALVANize Board member. For example, people are needed to help with fundraising events, get out mailings, do posterizing, help set up and staff the events, 'adopt' reporters, return phone calls, speak to community groups, provide childcare, make floats, arrange for housing, and serve as 'peacekeepers' during the March itself.

"One of the best ways to help is to simply spread the word," board member John Quinlan says. Packets of posters, flyers, and press releases will be available at September events and will be

mailed to anyone who wants to get out the word in their own community.

Committee meetings meet on weeknights at the Memorial Union at 6:30. The Outreach/Media committee meets on Tuesdays, their focus is getting out the word about the March. The Events Committee meets on Thursday nights, their focus is on coordinating the March itself and in staffing events around the March. A separate ad hoc committee on the Quilt meets every Tuesday night at 6:30. Help is also needed on fundraisers and in providing peacekeepers for the March itself. The meeting schedule is announced on the GALVANize hotline at (608) 255-8061.

Anyone wanting to volunteer in any of these various capacities should call the GALVANize hotline at (608) 255-8061, or write to GALVANize at P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701.

GALVANize Receives Grants

[Madison]—The board of GALVANize (Madison's Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance) has received grants from two local foundations for support of the October 5th March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride and its associated events.

GALVANize has received a \$1500 grant from the Madison-based New Harvest Foundation. New Harvest funding has been instrumental in the success of wide range of Lesbian and Gay projects and organizations in the Madison area.

GALVANize also received a \$1500 grant

from the Wisconsin Community Fund (WCF). WCF, which will be celebrating its tenth anniversary next year, provides important seed money for new groups and special project funding for established groups working for social justice throughout the state.

"We are very appreciative of the enthusiastic and long-standing support of New Harvest and WCF," said GALVANize Treasurer Tom Otto. "Their commitment to Lesbian and Gay rights and social justice is a shining example to everyone in our community."

Quilting Bee Set Sept. 21

The Rodney Scheel House will sponsor a Quilting Bee on Saturday, September 21 at the New Bar, 636 W. Washington Avenue in Madison from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Those who want to create a panel for a loved one for the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt are urged to participate.

Interested people should bring their own fabric and materials. Sewing

machines will be provided.

Local panels of the NAMES Project Quilt will be put on display at the State Capitol, Wednesday, October 2.

For further information on the Quilting Bee, call Pam Geisler or Sherry Nelson of the Rodney Scheel House at (608) 256-0166 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



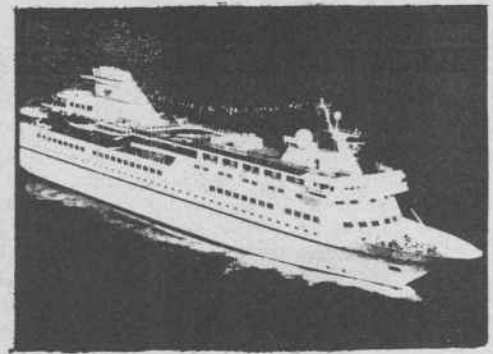
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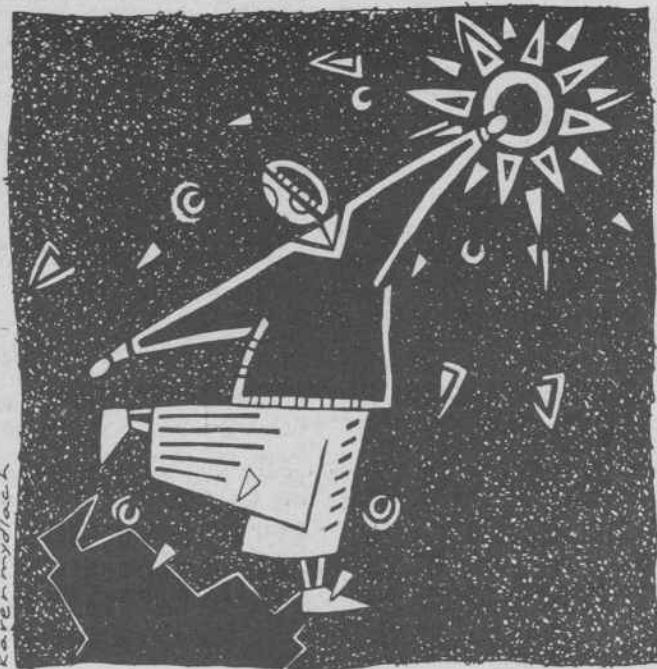
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Co-Sponsored by the Madison AIDS Support Network and Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project.

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The Wisconsin Light



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PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

Now's The Time To Air Complaints Before Blue Ribbon Commission

It is very difficult to overemphasize the importance of the hearing before Mayor John Norquist's Blue Ribbon Commission on Police-Community Relations. It will be held, as noted elsewhere in this issue, on Tuesday, September 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the United Community Center, 1028 S. 9th Street in Milwaukee.

For long and untold time, we have complained rightly about police insensitivity, brutality, harassment and the general demeaning ways in which many of the officers of the "Breier mentality" have conducted themselves towards Gays and Lesbians and other minorities. Cops of this stripe have spent numberless and wasted hours invading our bars, measuring the width of G-strings, staring gimlet-eyed at "exposed" flesh. All this while ignoring or treating lightly and with laughter the hate-crimes committed against us.

Now is the time to let our complaints be heard.

The Wisconsin Light strongly urges everyone who can possibly be there to attend the Blue Ribbon hearing. We further urge everyone who can to speak; to let the commissioners know just what has been going on.

If you can't be there, if you do not feel free to voice your complaints and injuries, then please call the Lesbian Alliance or the Lambda Rights Network. Give details of any harassment or encounters you have had with the Milwaukee Police Department and let them speak for you. Please. It's that important. It really is.

This violence against Gays and Lesbians has got to stop. Our just grievances have got to be heard. Please help yourself and help us all.

Call LAMM at (414) 264-2600 or LRN at 871-4839. Better yet, be there yourself. Let your voice be heard.

New Study on Homosexuality Raises Many Questions, Concerns

The recent finding by noted neurobiologist Dr. Simon LeVay of the Salk Institute that part of the hypothalamus in the brains of Gay men may be structurally different from those found in heterosexual men is, at best, a double edged sword for the Gay and Lesbian community.

On the positive side, the new (albeit preliminary) evidence that homosexuality may be biologically based, lends credence to the claims of masses of Gay men and Lesbians who, for generations, have argued that their sexual orientation is an inherent part of their being, that it is an in-born characteristic, something that has **always been there**.

Since societal views of homosexuality in America have ranged from it being a mark of the devil, a sexual perversion, a moral defect and a mental illness, a biological explanation could potentially free homosexuality from the straitjackets of superstition, religion and Freudian psychology.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund even saw potential legal advances from the research: "If there is a biological basis for homosexuality, it is difficult to fathom on what moral, ethical or religious basis one can reasonably discriminate."

On the negative side, Gays and Lesbians know that the bulk of the research into the "causes" of homosexuality has often had as its ultimate agenda the search for a **cure**. While this does not seem to be the motivation of Dr. LeVay, a Gay man himself, we cannot ignore the historical record. The burnings at the stake (with the lighting of "faggots"), the cliterectomies, the shock treatments, the Nazi exterminations were all sanctioned by religious, medical and government authorities.

Rather than creating greater understanding, the news that Gays may be biologically different could fuel greater homophobia. The loathsome illustrations of the skulls of Black and white men which were used to "prove" the inferiority of the Black race immediately come to mind.

If the difference becomes more clearly detectable and "treatable," will parents someday choose to alter or abort fetuses found to have these biological markings? Can something as complex as sexual identity and behavior be traced to one tiny part of the brain? And what the heck is going on in the brains of Bisexual people?

Many, many questions remain.

Most reasonable people, like Dr. Evelyn Hooker, a pioneer who debunked the homosexuality as "disease" theory back in the 1940's, believe that sexual orientation is the result of a complex set of interactions — of biology, psychology and environment. It cannot be reduced to a single "cause." We at the Wisconsin Light concur.

Research must proceed. But we wish that scientists, medical professionals and the media would give as much attention to the lives and extraordinary accomplishments of Gay and Lesbian people as they do to pondering what makes us what we are.

In the words of the young militants of Queer Nation: "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it!"

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Remember the Pride Parade and Rally? Remember how successful they were; balloons bobbing in the air, floats moving along? And then there were the speakers, the entertainment, the booths, stands and good friends in the park? It was great, wonderful, the best ever — AND there should be another next year.

But IF that's going to happen, the Pride Committee needs funds and you can help.

The Committee is bringing the a cappella singing group, "The Flirtations," to town. They'll be here on Thursday, September 19, 1991 — and, to put it mildly, they are GOOD.

They are an up-front, out of the closet Gay group who are making it big and getting recognized on the national stage. The reviews in the major media have been universally rave. No matter where or when they appear, they perform to SRO audiences.

No wonder. By turns they are light, lively, indulging in lively humor and then, they switch to some silken love ballad that can make you turn to cotton candy inside. They sing of our hopes and dreams as a people. They also serenade to our warm and inmost desires.

The Pride Committee needs your help. They are working as hard as they can — and their bringing in The Flirtations is a master stroke.

Tickets are on sale now at all Ticketmaster outlets including Mainstream Records, select Boston Stores, Radio Doctors and the Mecca Box Office. Tickets are also available at the Wisconsin Light and In Step offices. (See ad.) Tickets can also be charged by calling Ticketmaster at (414) 276-4545. Give

yourself a wonderful time and attend the concert.

—Terry Boughner

LETTERS

Needed: Gay Cops

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. The writer is a former alderperson from Madison now resident in Milwaukee.

TO THE EDITOR:

The time for lip-service is over and the time for action has arrived. The creation of a "blue-ribbon" commission to study the problems the Milwaukee Police Department has dealing with minority communities is not going to change what we already know. I have had some contact with Milwaukee Police officers and have always found them to be rude, impatient and intolerant.

On the other hand, I have had extensive contact with Madison Police Officers... and have found each of them polite and tolerant of even the most obnoxious individuals. While some might attribute this to the difference between being a big city cop and a medium size city cop, I believe the difference exists because of differences in personnel policy between the two departments.

Frankly, I believe that the Madison Police Department does a better job of screening candidates for their positions. Serious screening of candidates for Milwaukee Police Officer positions is long overdue.

If we are to have an effective police force, free of bigotry, it will only occur if bigots (such as the officers recorded laughing about a "boy-boy" fight and joking about needing delousing) are kept out of the police force. Each candidate should be scrutinized to determine his or her attitudes regarding racial minorities, women and Gays and Lesbians. This scrutiny should not be limited to posing questions to the

candidate, but should also involve questioning of the candidate's peers to determine their perceptions of the candidate's attitudes.

Additionally, the Milwaukee Police Department needs to actively recruit openly Gay and Lesbian applicants for officer positions, in addition to redoubling efforts to improve racial minority representation in the force. I believe that a significant reason the Madison Police Officers are so tolerant of Gays and Lesbians is because there are so many open Gays and Lesbians in the force.

Of a force of some 300, nearly 40 officers are associated with the Gay and Lesbian organization within the Police Department.

While not all of these officers are open about their sexual orientation, their presence in the police force has changed the attitudes of many of the heterosexual members of the force. Not only should the Police Chief be making a public appeal for openly Gay and Lesbian officers, but so also should the Mayor of this city. It is time to stop the lip-service and make some real changes now.

—James L. McFarland
Milwaukee

Don't Blame Us

TO THE EDITOR:

From recent news articles and letters to the editor, prison staff are once again the scapegoats under public criticism for inhumane treatment and policies within Wisconsin's Prisons (Wisconsin Light, July 27-August 7 and August 22-September 4, 1991 issues).

Inmate populations have increased 200% in Wisconsin's prisons since 1970, yet staffing and facilities have not even kept pace with the rate of inflation. Limited staff in antiquated facilities are expected to deal with overcrowded prisons and more violent and sophisticated convicts while maintaining security with common sense daily decisions.

Correction officers are expected to keep order and prioritize care while required to hand out prescription medication, diagnose illnesses and tend to two inmates in 9'x 5' cells at Waupun.

Waupun Correctional facility was built in the 1850's and has a rated capacity of 850 inmates. Today 1200 men reside in cramped, underprogrammed, unavailable work and treatment within the walls.

Recently, the head of correctional health services in Wisconsin stated that prison infirmaries are poor health care providers due to "bottom of the barrel" staff and antique facilities.

It is true of the facilities, but staff in Wisconsin are better than other health care providers because they can work in these horrid conditions and still overcome the repressive environment and treat inmates with dignified care.

Instead of brow beating and intimidating staff, correctional leadership in the Department of Corrections should support staff.

Examples of on-going retaliation, threats, harassment and vendettas against prison staff who speak out on illegal policies or that disclose misconduct of administrators must cease. If anything is at the bottom of the barrel, it is the morale of line staff that must work in these conditions and then be blamed for the failure to communicate, failed policies and practices and the refusal of bosses to recognize our ideas and concerns.

Recently an inmate with AIDS died at Waupun prison and a public outcry to punish staff involved for their actions is an example of blaming line staff for following orders. Employees in prison must follow administrative procedures as was done in this case. Prison staff are not allowed input in policies and would be fired if not adhered to.

Prison staff do not create laws that lock up the increased number of convicts. The judicial branch of government refuses to allow prison staff legal standing to challenge the inhumane conditions within the prison unless we are killed or tortured at work.

And when we approach the administration with our concerns, our bosses threaten our careers and jobs through reassignments, disciplines, poor evaluations and terminations.

I urge all correctional staff and the public to target those responsible for the administrative actions and the deteriorating conditions in Wisconsin's prisons.

Let us do our jobs with dignity and the resources required to do a good job.

Respect prison staff through supportive actions and begin by listening to the facts.

—Jeff Holubowicz
Local 18, Pres. AFSC&ME
Waupun

Editor's Note: Grammatical errors in the preceding letter are those of the letter writer.

Needed: Womyn

TO THE EDITOR:

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) should not be a battleground, but rather a classroom in which we, as students, of the Lesbian/Gay experience, learn about ourselves. Let it provide an environment, as was intended, in which the full diversity of our experiences, sex, race, culture, politics and preferences can be expressed and appreciated.

MLGPC's annual meeting, including election of Steering Committee members on Sept. 10 at the M&M Club is crucial to our sharing of each other. All the seats up for election are designated for womyn. I cannot stress how much we need the involvement of strong, self-aware womyn on the Committee.

As much as I can be sympathetic to womyn, I cannot understand what it is to be a womyn because I am not. But I can learn, through constructive interaction, to communicate and through that communication among us all, MLGPC can, as it must, learn and grow.

Please, Womyn of Milwaukee, come to MLGPC's annual meeting. Bring your strengths, your talents and your experiences so what together we can be just that, together.

—Dennis L. Bunch—
Vice President, MLGPC

TURN TO LETTERS, PAGE 13

Clarenbach Proposes Amendment To Secure Right To Privacy

[Madison]- The right of privacy would be recognized in the Wisconsin Constitution, under a proposal initiated by State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Clarenbach has introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 47 (AJR 47), which would amend the state constitution by adding privacy to the rights spelled out in the document. With the amendment, the preamble to the constitution would read:

"All people are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights; among these are life, liberty, privacy and the pursuit of happiness; to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Clarenbach said the amendment is needed because of "an epidemic of intrusions upon privacy."

"In a free society, no person should have to fear government intrusion into their private thoughts, expressions or associations," Clarenbach said. "But this freedom to be left alone will remain under attack, until it is specifically spelled out in law."

Eleven states recognize a right of privacy in their constitutions; several others recognize the right in statutory provisions.

AJR 47 is pending before the Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law, which held a public hearing on it May 29, 1991.

ACT UP Prison Issues Demo In Madison September 9

[Madison]- AIDS activists from across the nation will arrive in Madison on September 9, 1991, the first anniversary of the death of Donald Woods at the Waupun Correctional Institution.

The demonstration has been called by the Madison and Milwaukee chapters of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) to protest what ACT UP calls "the improper treatment and murderous abuse of incarcerated PWAs[people with AIDS]."

ACT UP is demanding that the recommendations of the Governor's HIV/AIDS Technical Advisory Committee

be followed. These include education of inmates and prison staff; improved treatment of inmates with HIV/AIDS, compassionate early release and support services for HIV+ inmates and distribution of protective devices.

ACT UP chapters from Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis, along with local and national AIDS and prisoner's rights groups, are expected to attend the demonstration.

For more information call Dan Savage at (608) 257-6089 or Christopher Fons at (414) 483-0376.

Huge Turnout Makes Sixth Annual MAPFest A Success

[Milwaukee]- More than 2,500 people attended MAPfest, the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) sixth annual festival, held Sunday, September 1 at Milwaukee's Schlitz Park. This year's fest raised more than \$26,000 for AIDS care and education programming.

MAP and the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP), a MAP affiliate, currently serve more than 525 people with HIV disease. Funds raised through MAPfest and other development efforts are used to assist clients in a variety of areas including legal assistance, housing services, support groups, financial assistance and case management.

Educational programs designed to stop the further spread of the disease will benefit from MAPfest as well.

"The support offered by the Gay and Lesbian community has been the backbone of our continued ability to meet

the challenges of AIDS," said Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director.

"As MAPfest continues to be a strong component of all of our development work, it is one of our gifts back to the Gay and Lesbian community — an exceptionally fun, exciting and entertaining event destined to be back in years to come," Nelson said.

Nelson further noted that without the dedicated work of the Volunteer Fundraising Committee of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW), MAP's parent organization, MAPfest could not have happened. ARCW extends its thanks to the following individuals:

Tom Boll, Ron Marks (Chair), Stan Matschnig, Jim Schleif, Lynn Schmidt, Gary Steen, Michael Sessler, John Terhardt, Roger Uscila, John Wagner and Tom Wayer.

McFarland Speaks to Republicans At Log Cabin Club Confab

[Chicago]- James McFarland, former openly Gay alderperson of Madison and now a resident of Milwaukee, was the featured banquet speaker at the national convention of the National Federation of Log Cabin Clubs (NFLCC) held in late August in Chicago.

The NFLCC is the umbrella organization of Gay Republican groups around the country.

McFarland, a long-time champion of Gay rights, spoke to the assembled delegates of his experiences as an openly Gay Republican office-holder.

"We have a place in the Republican

Party and we will not always be shunned," he said.

McFarland detailed the many occasions when Madison Republican officials defended him from attacks from the religious right.

"The religious fundamentalists are only in control if we let them be in control," he said to a loud round of applause.

NFLCC's 1992 convention is tentatively scheduled to coincide with the Republican National Presidential Nominating Convention, and a push will be made to have openly Gay and Lesbian delegates.

Anti-Gay Initiatives Launched To Repeal, Restrict Protections

[Boston, MA]- Religious leaders and conservative groups are mounting campaigns in four different states which would repeal Gay rights laws or make the passage of such laws much more difficult.

The Committee to Restore Traditional Morality in Massachusetts has launched a drive to repeal the state's Gay rights law and to prevent Gay people from getting married or becoming foster parents. In a strongly worded statement, Gov. William Weld (R) opposed the measures.

Colorado for Family Values is collecting signatures for its proposed initiative which would "ban sexual orientation from special, protected class status." If successful, the referendum could repeal Gay rights ordinances in Denver, Boulder and Aspen. (A local attempt to repeal Denver's ordinance was defeated by voters in May.)

The Oregon Citizens Alliance has launched a petition drive for a referendum that says state and local governments cannot "promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism." It also mandates public schools to teach that these behaviors are "wrong, unnatural, perverse" and should be "discouraged and avoided." Almost 90,000 signatures are needed to place the initiative in the 1992 ballot.

Meanwhile, in California, the Rev. Lou Sheldon and his Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) are circulating petitions for a referendum which would require a two thirds vote of the electorate to pass any legislation based on sexual orientation. The referendum would automatically repeal dozens of municipal protections in the state and make it exceedingly difficult to pass any statewide Gay rights bill.

Calling the proposal "a bizarre initiative that would bitterly divide Californians," Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy (R) urged citizens to ignore the TVC effort. "If Lou Sheldon's initiative ever became law, it would be open season for discrimination against millions of Californians."

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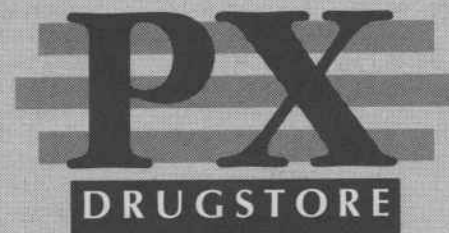
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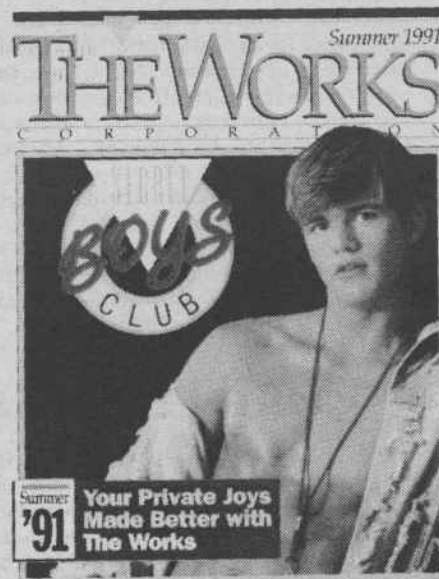
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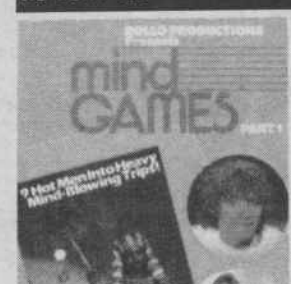
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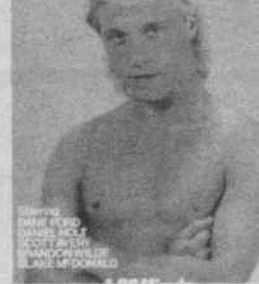
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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

Notes From The Lesbian Nation

By Jamakaya

k.d. lang Videomania! k.d. lang's much-awaited long playing music video, **Seven Year's Harvest**, is now available at stores. Don't rent it. This is one to buy, sisters. Chronicling the first seven years of k.d.'s career, it's a veritable love letter to her fans, sealed — literally — with a kiss!

The 60 minute tape captures some of her early, raw performances as Kathy Lang on Edmonton TV, and progresses through her sessions with Owen Bradley to her more recent and eclectic work. k.d., looking like the most wholesome and relaxed dyke-next-door, adds brief but pithy comments between songs.

Highlights include: "Trail of Broken Hearts" under her beloved Alberta sky; the "Honky-Tonk Angels Medley" with Kitty Wells, Loretta Lynn and Brenda Lee; a hysterically tacky production number, "Turn Me Round," from the 1988 Calgary Olympics; and the mournful "So in Love" from **Red, Hot and Blue**.

k.d., in full and glorious drag, also croons "Riding the Rails" with the hep cats of Take 6, and — be still my heart! — performs two wrenching renditions of "Crying," the video she did with Roy Orbison, and her stunning performance at the Songwriter's Hall of Fame show. It is breathtaking.

Seven Year's Harvest is only \$20. Go get it.

Noble Candidacy: Elaine Noble of Massachusetts, the first openly Lesbian candidate to win statewide office in 1974, has thrown her hat into the ring again — this time for a seat on the Cambridge City Council.

Democrat Noble served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1974-78. She was a strong advocate for tenants' rights, battered women and the Equal Rights Amendment. She authored and introduced the state's first Gay rights bill (which took a mere 17 years to pass!) and encouraged other Gays and Lesbians to seek political office. She was the first President of the Pride Institute, the drug rehab facility in Minnesota, and has since worked as an educator and health consultant.

If elected in November, she will be the first openly Gay member of the Cambridge City Council. "In one of the most liberal cities in the country," says Noble, "the time has come."

Send greetings and contributions to the Committee to Elect Elaine Noble, 457 N. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Or give her a buzz at (617) 876-6523.

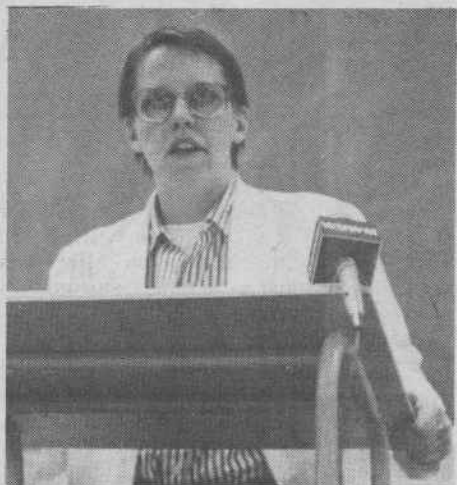
Barbie's Dad: Jack Ryan, an inventor who held more than 1,000 patents and who gained fame as the developer of the Barbie Doll, died August 19 at the age of 65.

Women readers might be amused — but not entirely surprised — to learn that when not designing the buxom Barbie for Mattel, Inc., Ryan worked at the Raytheon Corporation developing Sparrow and Hawk missiles for the Defense Department!

True story. I could not make that one up.

Aw, Throw 'Em to the Lions! The Christian Film Commission of Atlanta, in its "Biblical Guide to Movies and Entertainment," describes **Paris is Burning** as "sordid and evil," and is calling on all "moral Americans" to boycott the film.

The 'Christians' proclaim that drag "is a despicable lifestyle that God



JAMAKAYA

abhors." (This, despite the fact that Jesus wore long hair and a gown and hung around with twelve guys!) They are urging followers to write members of Congress to complain about the film's government funding. Director Jennie Livingston (a Lesbian) received a \$5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (prior to the anti-Gay restrictions of 1990).

The sanctimony, ignorance and cruelty practiced in the name of Jesus never ceases to amaze me.

Woman Warrior: Saying she would probably have "grievances, litigation and court battles until I retired," Merle Woo has accepted a \$75,000 settlement from the University of California at Berkeley.

The outspoken Lesbian, a professor of Asian and Women's Studies, was dismissed by the university in 1982. Woo claimed it was because of her Asian heritage, her sexual orientation and her radical politics.

She won reinstatement in 1984, but at the end of that contract, UC-Berkeley refused to rehire her, leading to more court action. Woo currently teaches in the Women's Studies Department at San Francisco State University.

Woo has recently undergone surgery and chemotherapy for breast cancer. In accepting the settlement, she indicated she wasn't sure she had the stamina to continue the protracted legal battle.

Misogynists at Work: It looks like federal funding for breast and ovarian cancer research is doomed. Commander-in-Misogyny Bush has promised to veto the current appropriations bill for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for these reasons: 1) it would lift the 1988 ban on fetal tissue research, and 2) its allocations for women's health are deemed "unnecessary."

The bill's \$4 billion budget includes just \$95 million for women's health: \$50 million for breast and ovarian cancer research; \$40 million for osteoporosis research; and \$5 million to study infertility and contraception.

More galling to its reactionary critics (like Rep. William Dannemeyer and his ilk), are its mandates to include women and minorities in all NIH research and to establish a permanent Office of Research on Women's Health to identify and monitor research into women's health needs.

Virtually all the NIH's landmark studies — on cancer, diabetes, heart disease — have used **exclusively** white male subjects. As women's metabolisms are clearly different from men's, scientists can only speculate as to what the results mean for women (and minority populations).

As an example of this criminal neglect, while women and minority men are three

times more likely to get diabetes, the most recent, allegedly "comprehensive," NIH study on diabetes was conducted **solely** on white men! Says an outraged Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CO): "Women pay half the tax dollars and we're not getting anything out of it!"

During debate in the House, an emotional Rep. James Oberstar (DFL-MN) cried out: "Do not tell this member, whose wife has fought for eight years against breast cancer, who is lying in a hospital now, that breast cancer research is unnecessary! More women will die this year of breast cancer than all people will die of AIDS."

Rude letters and hexes can be aimed at the Wisconsin villains who voted against the bill, essentially voting to kill more women: Reps. "Closet Case" Gunderson, Petri, Roth and Sensenbrenner — all Republicans, of course.

The Senate will vote on the NIH Re-Authorization bill, HR 2507, this Fall. Letters to Sens. Kasten and Kohl and to President Bush are strongly recommended.

Send one to Barbara, too. It'll probably do more good.

Say It Ain't So Lo! I was pleased to see that Lois Blinkhorn wrote a feature story about Lillian Faderman and her new book on Lesbian herstory, **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers**, in the August 18 **Milwaukee Journal**. I didn't expect to become so quickly disheartened, however.

In an otherwise sensitive and intelligent profile of Faderman and her research, Lesbian readers got this slap in the face. Referring to the acceptance Faderman's work has won among her academic colleagues, Blinkhorn wrote:

"Perhaps this wholehearted acceptance can be attributed as much to Faderman herself as to increased tolerance of Lesbianism by the public. A clearly intelligent, low-key, soft-spoken woman, Faderman carries no hint of the masculine or 'butch' Lesbian manner that is off-putting to some..."

Now she does distance herself with the words "off-putting to some," but the damage is done. What was particularly disappointing to me was that, throughout the article, Blinkhorn faithfully conveyed a central theme of Faderman's work: the diversity of Lesbian life.

I'll be sending her a copy of Joan Nestle's essay on butch-femme Lesbians. Maybe it'll help, but I dunno. Some people just don't get it.

Flirts and "Dos Lesbos": I'm worried that Lesbian readers may not think the **Flirtations**, playing in Milwaukee September 19 (see ad), are of interest to them. Au contraire! They are something really special and should not be missed.

I first saw the **Flirts** perform in 1988 at a Gay health conference in Boston. I was absolutely blown away! To this day, I remember it as one of the best, most inspiring concerts I have ever attended. I didn't expect the emotional wallop their performance had on me. The only comparable experience I've had was seeing Jennifer Holliday on Broadway in the original **Dreamgirls** back in '82. That's sayin' a whole lot, sisters.

The **Flirts** do beautiful harmonies and inject great humor and passion into their wonderfully eclectic material — all delivered a cappella. And if it doesn't cost me my membership in the Lesbian Nation, I also find them absolutely gorgeous to look at. Go get your tickets!

Finally, mark October 11 and 12 on your calendars and plan to attend the musical comedy **"Dos Lesbos"** at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall (see ad on p.8). It played to cheering, overflow crowds at the Bloomington Fest this year and Hurricane is producing it here. Invite your honey or your gal pals. Group rates available! It'll be a blast! The Fall social season is about to begin!



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Dykes To Watch Out For

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Stop The Norquist Bashing:
Give Commission A Chance

By Bill Meunier

What you are about to read is definitely not the opinion of some Gay and Lesbian activists, but it needs to be written. It's time to stop the attacks on Milwaukee Mayor Norquist's actions surrounding the Dahmer case and the problems with Milwaukee's Police Department.

From what I have heard some people saying, one would almost think that our Mayor is a combination Jerry Falwell-Ronald Reagan masquerading as a sympathetic big city mayor.

There are those who say that Norquist is to blame for the problems with the Milwaukee Police Department. They blame him for the backsliding the Department has done on Gay and Lesbian issues since the departure of Chief Ziarnik and they attack him for his appointments to his Blue Ribbon Commission.

Despite popular belief, Mayor Norquist does not run the Milwaukee Police Department. In fact any attempts by him to do so would turn out to be politically disastrous. Imagine the political fallout that would result from an announcement by the Police Chief that despite the State Law which takes the Police Department out from underneath the jurisdiction of the Mayor, Mayor Norquist has been ordering him around.

There is also the debate over who the Mayor put on the Blue Ribbon Panel he appointed to make recommendations on changes in the Milwaukee Police Department. These appointments included a Gay man, Gary Hollander. Hollander's big sin seems to be that he is not a well known activist and that he said he doesn't represent the Gay and Lesbian community because he doesn't believe that as diverse as we are one person can truly represent us all.

Some activists would have us believe that since Norquist didn't appoint a known Gay activist we are not represented on this commission. They argue that someone who has been more active on Police issues should have been chosen. They contend that the Mayor's Gay appointee is not representative of the community.

Hollander is correct. No one person can be representative of the City's 60,000

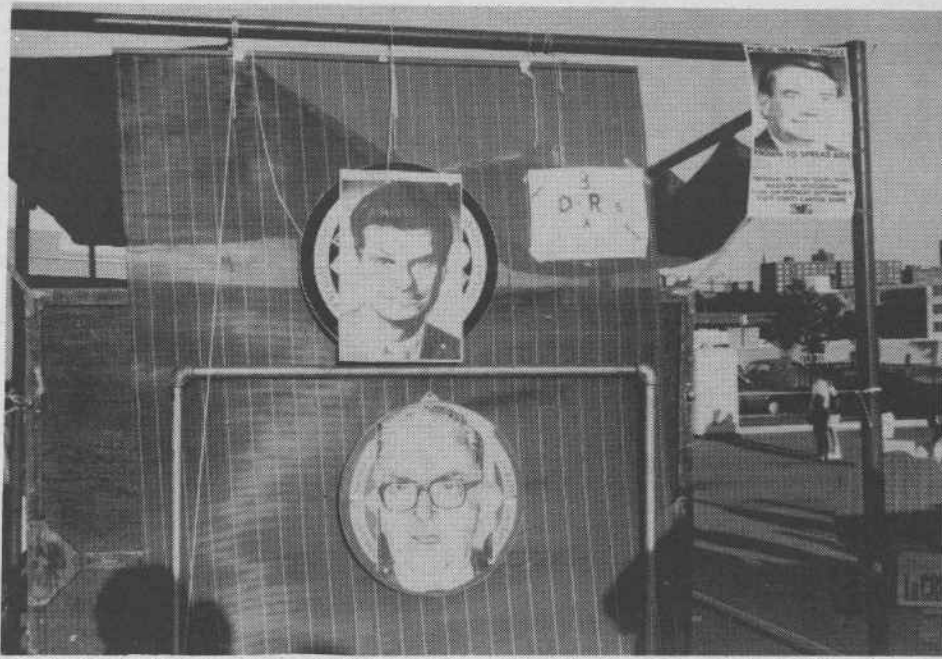
Lesbians and Gays, the rich and the poor, the radical and the conservative, the activist, the married and so on. What the Mayor did was choose a man of ability to listen to the evidence, weigh what he hears carefully and reach some judgments.

Insiders at City Hall say Norquist is sincere in his desire to see major changes made in the Milwaukee Police Department. The Mayor knows that he can not order those changes and that while he obviously has influence with his appointees on the Fire and Police Commission, the Commission has proven itself to be a poor vehicle to effect substantive change. He is counting on support from folks like the those on the Greater Milwaukee Committee to get needed changes in Police policies and programs.

He also knows that vital support has not been forthcoming when community groups aired complaints and made recommendations concerning the Police in the past. That fact tells him and should tell all of us that a panel of grass roots activists will not be taken seriously and its recommendations will be ignored by the people whose support is critical if they are to be implemented.

Because the Mayor REALLY wants to get something done he appointed a group that can't be easily ignored because it is composed of people with influence who can't be accused of pre-judging the Police. If he wanted to make political hay, Norquist would have appointed well known activists not only from the Gay community but from other communities as well. The Mayor's interest in getting results rather than playing politics should be commended not condemned.

John Norquist has a tough job. Many (myself included) would say it is the toughest job in Wisconsin. Let's keep in mind that he is the Mayor of a City that is facing tough problems, a city composed of many different groups all of which want to be served and catered to. He may not be perfect, but Norquist has given us no reason to believe that he is our enemy, or even that he doesn't care about us and it's time that some of us recognized that and acted accordingly.



The photos of talk show host Mark Belling and Senator Jesse Helms were used for dart throwing at a MAPFest booth in Milwaukee on September 1.

“How To Come Out” Is Topic of LAMM September Meeting

[Milwaukee]- “How to Come Out as a Lesbian: A Leadership Support Program” is the topic of the September 19 meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM).

The aftermath of the Dahmer case has pushed the Lesbian and Gay communities into the spotlight both locally and nationally. Due to the efforts of a small group of Lesbians and Gay men, the attention has been managed in a positive way. There is a need for more Lesbians who are willing to act as representatives of and advocates for the community. Not all Lesbians need to be ready to appear on TV or to be interviewed by the press — there are many ways to be “out.”

The September LAMM program will explore how Lesbians can be advocates for themselves in ways that are

comfortable and positive. LAMM members will identify a range of activities requiring varying degrees of “out-ness,” look at the concerns and fears surrounding these, and try to find ways to make it easier. Women who have taken highly visible roles will share what it's like and how it affected their lives. Others are encouraged to bring their own stories of “out-ness,” and tell how it felt to take the risk.

There is a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th Street (one block south of Locust). The parking area is secure and well-lit.

LAMM meetings are held regularly on the third Thursday of each month and are open to all Lesbians. For more information, call (414) 264-2600.

Judge Upholds Gay Teachers' Suit For Domestic Partner Benefits

[New York, NY]- In mid-August, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced the landmark ruling of a New York court recognizing that Lesbian and Gay employees have a legal right to sue for health insurance benefits for their domestic partners. The ruling in “Gay Teachers Association v. New York City Board of Education” represents the first time a state trial court judge has upheld a series of claims alleging sexual orientation and marital status discrimination for failure to extend benefits to unmarried domestic partners.

Lambda Legal Defense represents three Gay employees of the New York City School system, their long-time domestic partners, and the Gay Teachers Association in the precedent setting case. The suit, filed in May, 1988, claims that the Board of Education's policy of providing health insurance only to benefit the families of married employees, but not those of unmarried employees, violates the constitutional and civil rights of unmarried employees. Lesbian and Gay employees are particularly disadvantaged by the Board of Education's policy because New York law bars them from marrying their partners, regardless of the length of their relationship. Two of the couples involved in the suit have been together for nearly two decades. The third is a Lesbian couple with a child.

“This is the most significant civil rights breakthrough to date for Lesbian and Gay employees,” declared Paula Ettelbrick, Lambda's Legal Director. “The court has given teeth to the civil rights laws by recognizing that Lesbian and Gay employees are just as entitled as anyone else to equal pay for equal work. That right includes equal benefits for our families.”

Ettelbrick noted that the U.S. Department of Commerce has determined that, on average, up to 38% of an employee's compensation may consist of benefits beyond salary. “That's a lot of financial compensation that any unmarried employee is denied under the Board of Education's policy.”

In her opinion, Judge Karla Moskowitz of the New York Supreme Court recognized “the need to go beyond the labels ‘spouse,’ ‘husband’ and ‘wife’ in reviewing a public agency's practice of providing health insurance benefits.” To adhere “to the traditional view of single ‘legally married,’” the court “would be rejecting ‘the reality of family life’ in this day and age.”

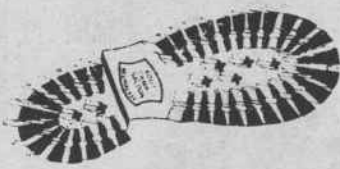
The court rejected the City's

arguments that the cost and administrative inconvenience of extending the benefits to Lesbian and Gay employees justified the exclusionary policy. The court also rejected the argument that extending benefits “would require the Board of Education to investigate the nature and conduct of teachers' relationships.”

“We hope this ruling will encourage many more Lesbian and Gay employees to stand up for equality in the workplace,” stated Lambda staff attorney Evan Wolfson. “We also hope it will encourage Mayor Dinkins, who has pledged support for domestic partner benefits, to change the City's policy without more costly litigation.”

Efforts to change such discriminatory employee policies and to recognize the relationships of Lesbian and Gay couples have received increased attention in recent years. Last February, San Francisco's law allowing unmarried partners to register their relationship went into effect. Cities like Berkeley, CA, Seattle, WA and Ithaca, NY allow some benefits for the partners of unmarried city employees. In New York City, the Mayor's Executive Order allows paid leave to unmarried city employees for bereavement or family illness of a domestic partner.

According to David Braff, a lawyer involved with the Gay Teachers' case, the City may appeal this preliminary ruling and the case may still proceed towards trial.



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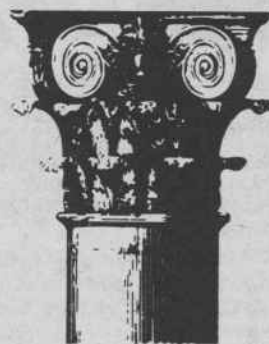
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The Light LIVELY ARTS



Todd Haynes Gay themed film, "Poison" plays at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre on September 13 and 14. The film was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the 1991 Sundance Film Festival. Much of the film takes place in a prison setting as the above photo depicts.

Fest City Singers Set Tour For "History Herstory Ourstory"

[Milwaukee]- The Original Fest City Singers are taking their show on the road, traveling to Green Bay and Appleton with their highly acclaimed musical revue, "History Herstory Ourstory."

The show, written and directed by Peter Mortenson and musical director, Charles Golden, will have a kick-off performance in Milwaukee at La Cage, 801 N. 2nd St., on Friday, September 27 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and can be reserved by calling the Fest City Singers' Hot Line: (414) 962-7221 or can be purchased at the door on the evening of

the performance on a first come, first served basis.

Saturday, September 28, History Herstory Ourstory will be performed at the new Za's in Green Bay, 1106 Main Street. The show is scheduled to begin at 10:00 p.m. For further information, phone Za's at (414) 435-5476.

The Pivot Club in Appleton will host the Fest City Singers, Friday, October 4th. Showtime is 10:00 p.m. The Pivot Club is located at 4518 W. Prospect (Hwy. BB) Appleton, Wisconsin. Phone (414) 730-0440 for further information.

Present Music Announces Free Neighborhood Concert Series

[Milwaukee]- Present Music recently received a major grant from the City of Milwaukee (\$10,000) enabling it to perform 14 free concerts at community centers, libraries and institutions in Milwaukee's diverse neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Concert Series Kick-Off will take place on September 11, 1991 at 10:30 a.m. at the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall (733 N. 8th St.). This concert will feature Michael Torke as guest composer and pianist in his exciting work entitled "Rust." As a special part of this concert, Present Music will perform Erik Satie's "Entr'acte" to the original 1924 surreal film by Rene Clair. Works by George

Antheil, Charles Ives and Misha Mengelberg will also be performed.

The remaining 13 concerts in this series will be announced this Fall and will include Present Music performances at: the United Community Center; Badger Home for the Blind; Northwest Side Firehouse; Milwaukee Jail; McGovern Park Community Center; St. Ben's Church; Washington Park Community Center; Clinton Rose Center; DePaul Hospital; and four City of Milwaukee Neighborhood libraries.

These concerts will take place from Sept., 1991 through May, 1992. For more information about the Concert Series, call: Present Music at (414) 271-0711.

Sappho Award Of Distinction Presented To Writer Audre Lorde

[New York]- The Board of Directors of Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation has granted its Sappho Award of Distinction to Audre Lorde, Lesbian feminist poet, writer and activist — an honor which is part of Astraea's newly established Lesbian Writers Fund.

The \$5,000 award will be given to the internationally acclaimed Lorde in recognition of her body of work which is a model and inspiration for Lesbians and women worldwide. Among Lorde's many works are *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, a bio-mythography, and *Sister Outsider*, a collection of essays.

The Lesbian Writers Fund also awarded its first five grants to emerging Lesbian writers, selected by an anonymous panel of judges. Astraea will present poets Yasmin Tambiah and Melinda Goodman, and fiction writers Mariana Romo-Carmona, Ana Maria Simo and Magdalena Zschokke with \$11,000 each.

A celebratory event to honor the winners will be held late this Fall in New York City.

"Lesbian poets and writers are today's visionaries," said Katherine Acey, Executive Director of Astraea. "They record the many Lesbian voices which carry us forward toward political and social change."

Gay male artists have begun to receive some attention in the media and by critics, but Lesbian writers remain



LORDE

unacknowledged. This historic grant is the first time Lesbian writers have received national attention. Lesbian writers will now have a forum for Lesbian voices, a creation which complements Astraea's mission for Lesbian visibility and leadership.

Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation is the first nationwide multi-racial social change foundation that supports Lesbians and other women's projects and organizations through a semi-annual grantmaking cycle.

Madison's Kissing Girls Bring Musica Femina To Apple Island

By Leslie Wilmot

[Madison]- There is an incredible lack of Women's Classical Music available to most any community, and Madison is no exception. On Friday, September 27, Kissing Girls Productions (KGP) plans to remedy that situation by producing Musica Femina, a female classical duo, who describe themselves as "informance artists."

Flutist, Kristan Aspen (formerly of Izquierda Ensemble) and her partner, guitarist Janna MacAuslan, have focused their creative efforts on rediscovering the classical works of women composers, which have been all but obliterated over time.

While the likes of Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky have become staying giants in the field of classical music, Kristan and Janna have asked... where are the women? To that end, they have devoted numerous hours over many years researching, transcribing and performing "lost" classical works by women. During their performances, they awaken their audiences to the herstory behind some of the compositions they play.

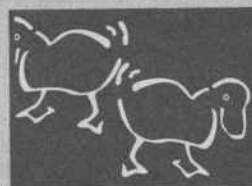
Musica Femina does not limit their concerts to "lost" works only. They also perform a generous selection of newer pieces by the likes of Kay Gardner. In addition, they gracefully share their own compositions with the audience. Many of their own works would be more aptly categorized as jazz crossover music, for their own pieces have been infected by their long-time love of ragtime music.

One thing is certain, you won't want to miss out on the opportunity to experience the intimacy, warmth and exuberance of two such accomplished musicians. Musica Femina will be performing at Apple Island, 849 E. Washington Ave., Madison on Friday, Sept. 27, 1991 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale September 7th at Green Earth, A Room of One's Own and Whole Earth in Madison. Ticket prices will be on a sliding scale from \$5-\$10. Mail order tickets can be obtained by sending a check for the number of tickets desired and an SASE to: KGP, Box 6091, Madison, WI 53716. Remaining tickets will also be sold at the door. Get your tickets early for what promises to be an evening to remember!

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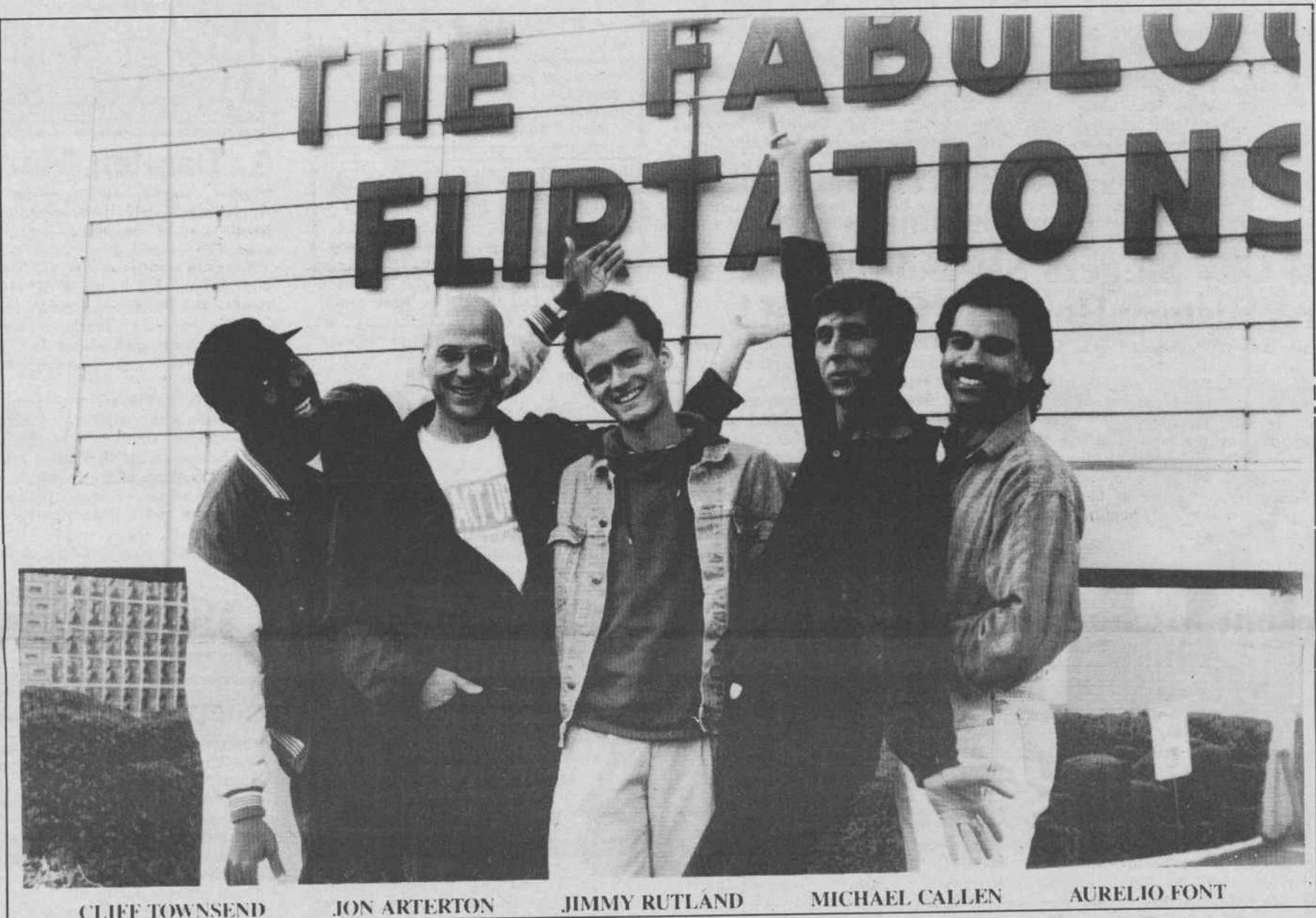
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AN OFFICIAL FUND RAISING EVENT FOR THE MILWAUKEE LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE

Navratilova Bares Her Soul To Barbara Walters on "20/20"

By Jamakaya

[New York, NY]—No one can say Barbara Walters minces words. On a recent 20/20 segment on ABC-TV, she asked tennis pro Martina Navratilova: "Do you consider yourself bi-sexual, a Lesbian, what?"

"That's a tough one," Navratilova answered. "I think I like men and women but I would prefer to be with women. I mean, if I had to go out to dinner with ten men or ten women, I'd rather be with the women. I find women more interesting, but I like being around men as well. I'm attracted physically to both. I just prefer, emotionally, the company of women."

"Do you ever think about marriage to a man?" asked the persistent Walters.

"No, no I don't," said Navratilova, with nary a pause.

The fifteen minute interview focused primarily on the widely publicized lawsuit brought against Navratilova by former companion Judy Nelson. The women signed a cohabitation agreement in 1986 and Nelson is now seeking half of the assets acquired during their seven year relationship. The tabloids have dubbed it a "galimony" suit and the first hearing coincided with Navratilova's appearance at Wimbledon this Summer.

Navratilova told Walters that she was unclear about what she had signed. She thought the original intent was to protect Nelson from Navratilova's parents to see that Nelson received half of Navratilova's estate in the event of her death.

"As it turned out, I was protecting Judy and hurting myself by doing that," said the tennis pro. "I trusted her. I trusted the lawyers. And now I'm in big trouble."



MARTINA

Navratilova denied reports that she offered Nelson \$2 million in a settlement.

"No, I did not. I don't have that kind of money. I mean, I give her that and I'm broke. I might just as well start all over again — eighteen years of playing tennis down the drain."

Navratilova said she felt "totally betrayed. My failure is that I don't love her anymore. Well, should I pay for that?"

Walters cited Nelson's contention that she had done "everything for Martina but hit the tennis balls."

"Yeah, well, I had been doing pretty well before I met Judy," said the champ. "Whatever she did, she was paid for," added Navratilova, noting that, in 1985, a year after living together, she had placed Nelson on salary. By 1990, that annual salary had reached \$90,000.

Walters asked why the relationship broke up and if it had anything to do with rumors that Navratilova was now romantically involved with skier Cindy Nelson (no relation to Judy).

"We've been having problems for a couple of years... Judy knew that there were problems. It's not like I just got up and left and said 'See you later.'"

"I'm very, very close to Cindy. We are very good friends, but she is not the reason why I left Judy... I left her because I knew there was no future in that relationship for me anymore."

The worst part of the experience for her?

"I think it is the personal trust that has gone into the wind. I've always been one to trust people until proven otherwise, and now the person that I trusted in my life that I thought for sure wouldn't be in it for the money has proven me wrong. It's a lesson I would rather not have learned. I will think twice before I get involved, before I commit myself that trust will have to be earned."

Walters asked if Navratilova had any regrets about how open she has been about her life and relationships.

"I don't think it's anybody's business to know what your relationship is with a man or a woman. I don't think people have to know that," she said.

"But I believed people when they said:

Americans love honesty.' Well, then you give it to them and they don't know what to do with it. You say too much and you get in trouble. But now that it's out in the open, there's not much I can do about it just keep being honest the best way that I can."

Navratilova, almost 35, admitted the personal crisis was affecting her game.

"Now may be the last one or two years of my career and I'm saddled with this lawsuit I have to think about instead of enjoying my game. That's pretty sad to me. I just don't know how much I have left. I have to be 100% with it, and now I feel very vulnerable off the court as well."

"I don't feel like #5. I'm still planning on playing next year. I guess I still think that I can play a major championship without any help. I still feel that I can beat the best players. I think the US Open will be a good yardstick to see where I am."

"Any message for your fans?" asked Walters.

"I ain't dead yet!" quipped the champ.

The next court date on Nelson's suit was scheduled for September 9, just days after the conclusion of the US Open."

FBI To Conduct Seminars On Hate Crimes Investigations

[Washington, D.C.]—In a major nationwide effort to implement the Federal Hate Crime Statistics Act, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is undertaking a series of regional seminars aimed at training local police departments on how to identify, track and respond to hate crimes, including anti-Gay crimes.

"Recent anti-Gay murders in Milwaukee, Houston, Minneapolis, Pensacola and elsewhere, along with the sharp increase in homophobic assaults... demonstrate how critically important it is for law enforcement to respond vigorously to attacks against our community," said Kevin Berrill, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Anti-Violence Project Director.

The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Section has scheduled nine trainings for the nation's 315 law enforcement agencies that serve metropolitan areas with 100,000 or more persons. Over August and into September, the conferences took place in Atlanta, Ft. Lauderdale, Baltimore, Dallas, Chicago and San Diego.

The two-day seminars feature sessions such as, "A Cop's Perspective on Hate Crimes" and "Investigative Techniques."

Among those presenting at the seminars on behalf of the Gay/Lesbian community were Berrill of NGLTF, Bruce Monroe and John Thomas of the Dallas Gay Alliance, Tara Hardy of Chicago's Horizon Community Services Center and others representing Atlanta, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Milwaukee was not represented.

Pallas Athena Network For Women Veterans Established

[New Market, VA]—The Pallas Athena Network has been formed by women veterans to provide an open, supportive network through which women veterans can discuss issues, experiences, thoughts and ideas with other women who share the common bond of military service.

A bi-monthly publication, *Pallas Athena*, provides articles of interest to women veterans and resource information as well as letters, fiction and creative works by women veterans.

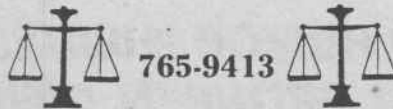
All women veterans are encouraged to participate — regardless of race, creed, religion or sexual orientation. A discreet supplement by/for Lesbian veterans is available.

The Pallas Athena Network is not affiliated with any agency of the government nor aligned with any political party. The mailing list is held in strictest confidentiality.

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

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OBITUARIES

Gale Wilhelm

Gale Wilhelm, the author of two early classics of Lesbian literature, died at her Berkeley, California home on July 11. She was 83 years old.

Among the six novels she wrote in the period 1935-45 were *We Too Are Drifting* and *Torchlight to Valhalla*, two pioneering works that examined the complexities of Lesbian relationships. Both books were reissued by Naiad Press in 1982 and are currently available in bookstores.

Wilhelm also wrote *No Letters for the Dead*, *Bring Home the Bride*, *The Time Between* and *Never Let Me Go*. She was inducted into the Mark Twain Society in 1943 for her "outstanding contribution in the field of fiction."

Born in Eugene, Oregon, Wilhelm spent most of her life in the San Francisco Bay area. She is survived by her partner of 43 years and by several grandnieces and nephews.

Brian Coyle

Brian Coyle, the President of the Minneapolis City Council, died of heart failure and complications from HIV infection on August 23 in Minneapolis. He was 47 years old.

Coyle, who was first elected to the city council as an openly Gay man in 1983, had a long record of involvement in progressive causes. He gained prominence in the 1970s as an anti-war activist and as an advocate for tenants' rights. He was the object of some criticism within the Gay community for his vote in 1988 to shut down the local bath houses.

Coyle revealed that he was HIV-positive in April, saying he hoped to show people with HIV that they could still live productive lives.

Coyle is survived by his mother, Georgia, and sister, Cathy, both of Fargo, North Dakota.

Irving Bieber

Dr. Irving Bieber, a leading psychoanalyst who headed a major study on the origins of homosexuality, died in Manhattan August 27. He was 80.

The 1962 study, *Homosexuality: A Psychoanalytical Study of Male Homosexuals*, analyzed 106 Gay men over a period of nine years. It concluded that homosexuality was deviant behavior caused by disruptions in family relationships.

Bieber held steadfastly to the view that homosexuality was a mental illness. Even after the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders in 1973, Bieber insisted that "a homosexual is a person whose heterosexual function is crippled, like the legs of a polio victim."

Dr. Judd Marmor, a colleague of Bieber's, said: "It was one of Dr. Bieber's characteristics that he found it very hard to admit his mistakes."

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A. Damien Martin

Dr. A. Damien Martin, a founder of New York City's Harvey Milk High School, died of complications of AIDS on August 15. He was 57.

In 1979, Martin, along with his companion, Dr. Emery S. Hetrick, founded the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth. It was later renamed the Hetrick-Martin Institute and offered a broad range of social services to Gay youth.

The Hetrick-Martin Institute, in cooperation with the New York City Board of Education, established the Harvey Milk High School as an alternative school for Gay and Lesbian teens unable to cope in traditional school settings because of the homophobia and violence leveled against them.

Martin, who was a speech pathologist, was involved in many Gay rights groups and served on Governor Cuomo's Task Force on Teen Suicide and the New York City Task Force on AIDS.

Martin was preceded in death by Hetrick, who died in 1987. Martin had three sisters and two brothers.

Joseph DiSabato Jr.

Joseph P. DiSabato Jr., President of Rivendell Marketing and an advertising pioneer for the Gay press, died of heart failure induced by a severe asthma attack on August 20. He was 44.

DiSabato, of New Jersey, was a founder of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association and Rivendell Marketing, which placed national advertising in Gay and Lesbian papers around the country. DiSabato acquired such significant accounts as Columbia House Tapes, Remy Martin, the Pride Institute, 900 phone services and regional airlines. These ads helped subsidize the Gay press, including the *Wisconsin Light*.

In recent years, DiSabato fought tenaciously with condom companies over their refusal to advertise in the Gay press.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Michael J. Gravois, who will carry on the marketing business. He is further survived by his father, Judge Joseph P. DiSabato, a stepmother, two brothers and one sister.

TRIANGLE

Hot Music

Hot Men

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643-9758



The downtown Milwaukee skyline was a spectacular backdrop for MAPFest which was held at the historic Schlitz Brewery on September 1.

Gay and Other Progressive Groups Oppose Nomination of Judge Thomas

[Washington, DC]—As the Senate Judiciary Committee prepares to open hearings on the nomination of Appeals Court Judge Clarence Thomas to the US Supreme Court September 10, most Gay and Lesbian organizations and other progressive groups that have allied with Gays in the past have gone on record against President Bush's nominee.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) plans to submit written testimony opposing the Thomas nomination. The Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association have also indicated their opposition to Thomas.

Because Thomas has served on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia only a year and a half, he does not have a long record of formal legal opinions that can be analyzed. Attention has focused instead on his writing and public statements and on his controversial tenure as chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

In a 1989 law article, Thomas wrote that he had "misgivings" about the 1965 Supreme Court decision in *Griswold vs. Connecticut*, which helped establish the concept of the Constitution's implied right to privacy. (The ruling struck down Connecticut's restrictions on birth control and guaranteed "the right to privacy in marital relations.") Thomas has repeatedly said that he doubts that such a right to privacy exists.

Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director of NGLTF, told the *Advocate*: "The existence of a constitutional right to privacy is central to almost any argument concerning the civil rights of Gays and Lesbians. There's no question that Thomas's confirmation would be a threat to civil liberties and to the concept of a constitutional right to privacy."

Stephen Smith of the Human Rights Campaign Fund shared Vaid's concern about whether Judge Thomas recognizes the right to privacy, but told the *Washington Blade*: "We're also concerned about his record as chair of EEOC, failing to vigorously enforce civil rights law."

Thomas was appointed chairman of the EEOC by President Reagan and served in that position from 1982 to 1990. The EEOC is charged with enforcing the country's civil rights laws.

During his tenure as head of EEOC, Thomas was criticized by Black leaders and women's and senior citizen's groups for not investigating cases of discrimination more aggressively. A huge backlog of thousands of complaints mounted and then had to be dismissed when the two year statute of limitations lapsed. Records indicate that in 1989, the EEOC dismissed 52% of the cases it investigated, claiming they had no merit.

Thomas has been a popular figure within conservative circles and has repeatedly stated his opposition to affirmative action programs and hiring quotas.

The District of Columbia's Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men argues that Thomas's "consistent opposition to group remedies for classes of people who have been historically discriminated against... make him an unacceptable nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Tom Stoddard of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund minced no words when he declared: "Thomas's record on civil rights is abominable."

Both the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Organization for Women (NOW) have gone on record against the Thomas nomination.

In a 75 page report, the Women's Legal Defense Fund indicted Thomas for "a disturbing pattern of disregard for the most fundamental principles of gender equality and reproductive freedom."

The National Abortion Rights Action League opposes Thomas for his

outspoken views against abortion, and the AFL-CIO has also opposed the nomination, criticizing President Bush for attempting to pack the high court with members of the "far right wing."

The Congressional Black Caucus, Americans for Democratic Action, People for the American Way and the National Federation of Business and Professional Women have all formally opposed the Thomas nomination.

Board members of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) voted 36-25 to oppose the nomination, but that was one vote short of the 60% majority required under the group's guidelines. The ACLU, which played a central role in the liberal coalition that defeated Robert Bork's nomination in 1986, is expected to remain neutral on Thomas.

Opposition to Thomas among liberals and civil rights groups is so intense because his confirmation is likely to solidify and maintain a conservative majority on the Supreme Court for decades to come.

Thomas would also replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall, a heroic figure of the civil rights movement, whose consistently liberal decisions during his tenure on the court have expanded individual freedoms and opportunities considerably. Many Supreme Court observers agree that any nominee's credentials would pale in the shadow of Marshall's historic legacy.

BESTD Clinic Seeks Volunteers

[Milwaukee]—The Brady East STD Clinic has openings for volunteers to participate in providing direct client services. The positions include several for health care professionals — physicians, nurses and nursing assistants, several for persons with counseling skills and several which require no specific professional skills but for which training will be provided.

The Brady East STD Clinic, Inc. (BESTD Clinic) is a not-for-profit health care facility managed and operated by volunteers at 1240 East Brady Street. The clinic provides HIV counseling and testing at the Brady site and at various locations throughout the city. In terms of client use, it is one of the largest such HIV testing sites in the state of Wisconsin.

The BESTD Clinic also offers general STD (sexually transmitted disease) diagnosis, counseling and treatment, hepatitis screening, an alternative women's clinic and a 12-Step program. The clinic provides all services without charge, though donations are always welcome. Donations provide funding for the site, its medical equipment and supplies.

Erv Uecker, treasurer of the clinic, said there has been a significant increase in the demand for the clinic's services in recent months, and thus the need for additional volunteers. In addition, the Board of Directors would like to initiate a third HIV on-site testing clinic with additional hours, also requiring more volunteers.

All volunteers will be trained and placed in positions which best utilize their skills. Working with the various clinic managers, all volunteer staff can schedule hours as their schedule permits.

The BESTD Clinic provides services to all segments of the population, although its roots and sensitivities are especially focused to the Gay and Lesbian communities. The clinic has a firm policy of non-discrimination both for staff and clients, and clinic services are provided to everyone, regardless of means. The BESTD Clinic has served the greater Milwaukee area for seventeen years.

Those interested in discussing volunteer opportunities may contact BESTD Clinic Vice-President Ross Walker at (414) 353-4798.

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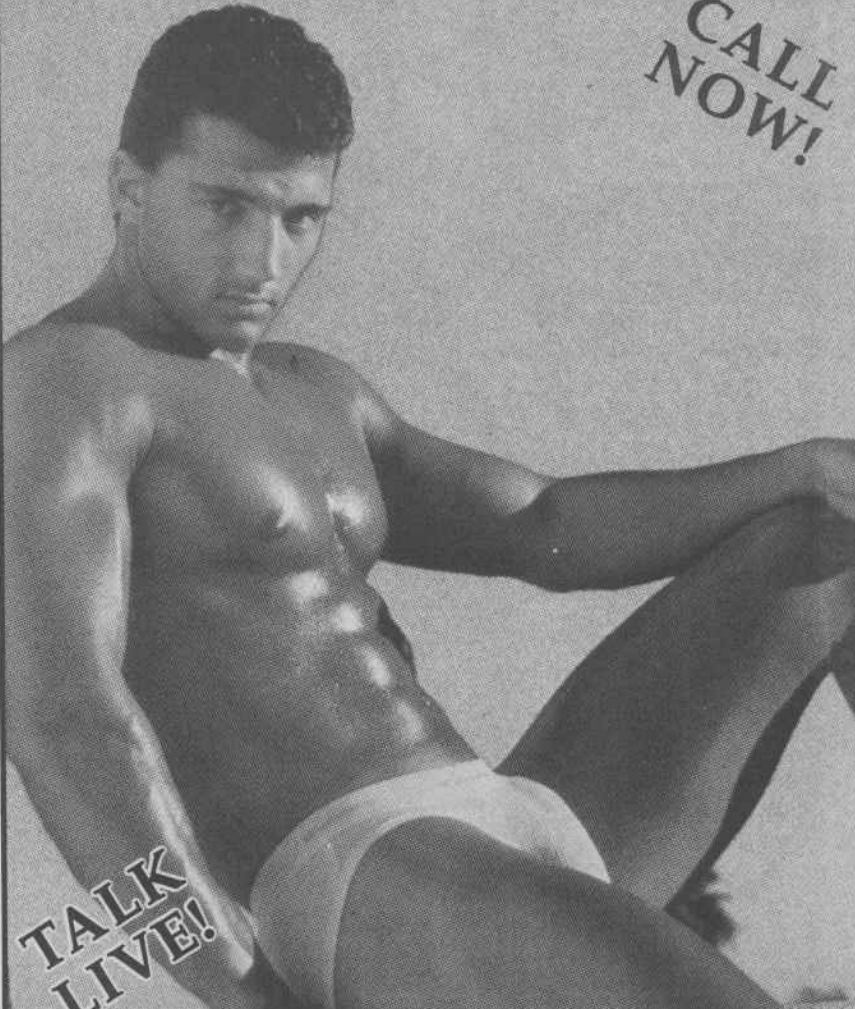
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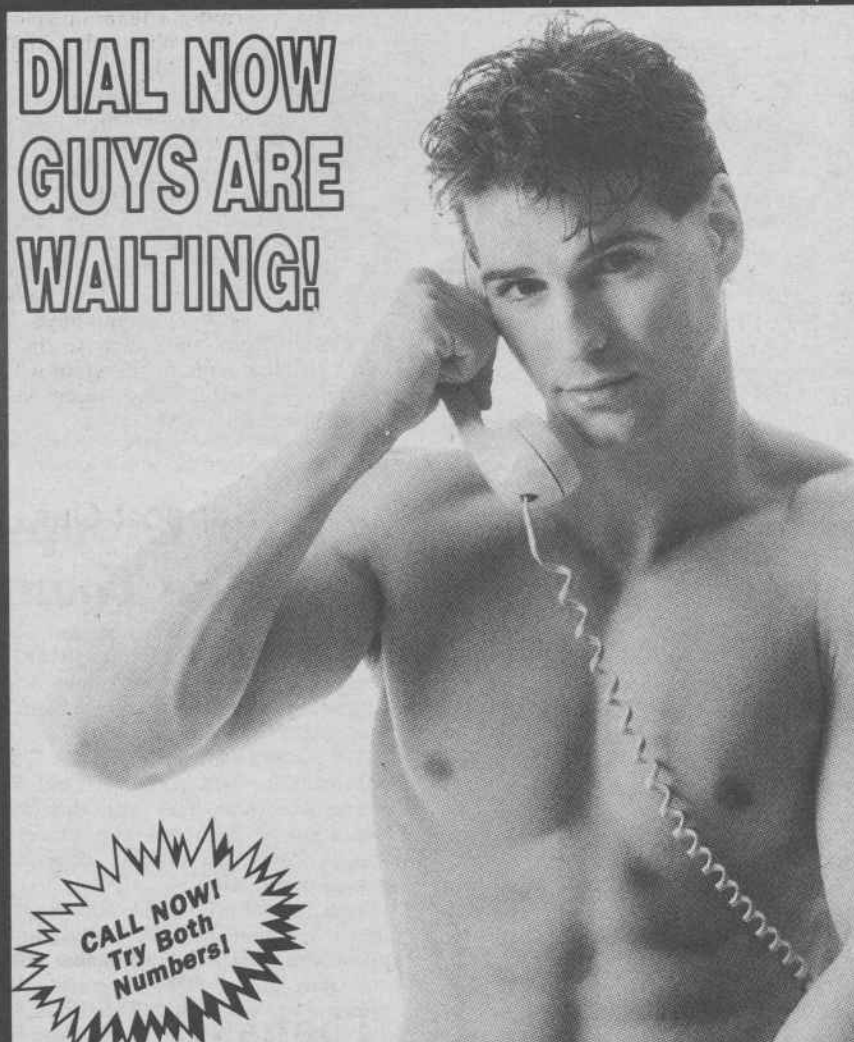


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WALK

Continued from Page 1

epidemic, organizations like MAP and MASN would not be able to sufficiently keep pace with the needs of the communities they serve."

MAP and its affiliate, SEWAP, will receive 75 percent of the Walk proceeds to support AIDS prevention education programs, volunteer resources and support services provided to people living with AIDS. The remainder of the proceeds will be disbursed to other organizations that provide AIDS services in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Nelson noted with enthusiasm and gratitude the wide-spread community commitment and involvement in the Walk. "It is encouraging," he said, "to see so many corporations and individuals coming forward and making a contribution to AIDS services. Without them, we could not begin to meet the immense challenges that AIDS places on our communities."

Nelson emphasized as well, the continuing and urgent need for volunteers to help with the Walk.

Individuals interested in walking,

pledging, forming a team or volunteering should call the Wisconsin AIDS Walk headquarters at MAP, (414) 273-1991; MASN at (608) 238-6276, or SEWAP at (800) 924-6601. Registration materials are also available at all Kohl's Food Stores.

"Following the outstanding success of last year's event," Nelson said, "the Wisconsin AIDS Walk has proven its ability to mobilize businesses and individuals from throughout Wisconsin to meet the challenges that AIDS has presented to our community. We are confident that the increase in support from all segments of the state will ensure a bigger, better, and more successful walk this year."

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

Wait On Thomas

TO THE EDITOR

Darren Foster attacks Supreme Court Justice nominee Clarence Thomas because "he does not display a regard for the right of privacy, for precedent, and for civil rights;" moreover, Thomas's fidelity to natural law "places his particular version of Roman Catholicism above constitutional precepts." (*Wisconsin Light*, Aug. 8, 1991) Foster jumps to conclusions — many of them wrong.

First, precedent alone should not be the primary concern of the courts. From 1896 until 1954, the Supreme Court had ruled in favor of separate but equal schools, etc. The Court had legalized segregation for nearly 60 years. It was attorney Thurgood Marshall who led the legal fight to overturn precedent and make segregation illegal which he accomplished in the 1954 Brown case.

It is noteworthy that in the 1896 Plessy case, the lone Justice who dissented from the segregationist majority, did so because he believed the Constitution was color-blind. In the early 1960's, President Kennedy also urged a color-blind approach. At the March on Washington in 1963, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. enunciated this hope when he dreamt of a time when a person would be judged by his character and not by the color of his skin. And Attorney Marshall fought cases in court on this basis.

But once on the Court, Justice Marshall and the other liberals, in collusion with bureaucrats in the EEOC, destroyed the implementation of this ideal when they rejected the application of equal opportunity for all. Instead, they legalized racial preferences for some and gender preferences for others.

Now, the Democrats foolishly endorse this institutionalized racism and sexism. As Chairman of the EEOC, Thomas rightly denounced the favoritism of affirmative action and urged instead the restoration of the equal opportunity, color-blind ideal. For this he is denounced.

Thomas seems to favor equal rights for all. Many of his Democratic opponents favor continuation of privileges based on color, gender and cultural heritages. Certainly, Thomas's view of equal justice is preferable to that of most Democrats.

I know little of Thomas's views on privacy or Gay rights. I hold off judgment until the confirmation hearings so as not to pre-judge (prejudice) my opinion of Thomas.

Finally, Justice-nominee Thomas is divorced and attends an Episcopal Church. His views on natural law should be elucidated at the hearings, but surely he is not unique in holding such beliefs. Rev. King often appealed to higher law when protesting against local, segregationist law. Indeed, our nation was born from natural law; just read our Declaration of Independence!

As Gays, we should appeal for equal rights (rather than special-interest privileges) as we demand our natural rights to life, to liberty and to the pursuit of happiness.

—Hugh Murray
Milwaukee

Hollander A.O.K.

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to convey my strong personal support for Gary Hollander's appointment to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on the Milwaukee Police Department. Gary will be a powerful, intelligent and sensitive advocate for us on the serious issues of police-community relations that are of great concern to the Gay and Lesbian community.

Gary has long made an enormous contribution to our community's response to the AIDS epidemic. Professionally, as an openly Gay psychologist, he has dedicated his practice to serving the mental health needs of individuals with HIV disease.

Since the creation of the Milwaukee AIDS Project in 1985, Gary has been instrumental in developing MAP's volunteer resources, AIDS prevention and client services programs.

For the past three years, he has volunteered his time to spearhead the crucial fundraising efforts of MAP. Through his astute leadership, MAP has never failed to meet its fundraising goals, and this year will raise \$740,000 to fund essential AIDS services in the Milwaukee area.

Most importantly, I know Gary to be fiercely dedicated to the cause of equal rights and

justice for Gay men and Lesbians. In all that he does, he is doggedly determined to get the best results.

That's why he will be an articulate, powerful and highly effective advocate for us on the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel.

—Doug Nelson
Executive Director
Milwaukee AIDS Project
Milwaukee

Thanks!

TO THE EDITOR:

A very warm thank you for hosting the Garden Party in my honor on August 15. What a wonderful turn-out! My thanks to the Gay and Lesbian community who came to show their appreciation for my efforts in the area of Gay and Lesbian civil rights. I was touched by the outpouring of support I received. We have a long way to go and I look forward to continuing our work together.

—Rep. David Clarenbach
Madison

From 'Up North'

TO THE EDITOR:

I've just finished reading your latest issue as well as the "Extra" concerning the horrible goings-on in the Dahmer case. I can't tell you how upsetting it was.

As we would hear bits and pieces coming from the news media up here, it was initially horrifying, frightening and morbidly fascinating. But not until I read it in "our" paper the *Wisconsin Light* did it really hit home for me. Reading about the Vigil, about the reactions of people I know really gave me the proverbial "kick in the ass."

I wanted to tell you and your readers that we've missed Milwaukee now and then since moving up to the Northwoods, not for the usual reasons most city transplants up here seem to, but for the sense of family and community we'd developed among our Lesbian and Gay friends there. Many times we've shared the thought that the only real unpleasant aspect of being up here is the sense of isolation from others like ourselves, and particularly from those who have become like our own family.

Well family, I want to tell you that I grieve for you and for us as a whole. I want to tell you that I miss you and that, at least now, wish I could be with you. Even before these ghastly events, I was glad to be moving out of the city just because I'm a country girl at heart. Now, I'm torn between being glad I'm out of there and wanting to be where I could comfort and feel comforted.

I want to tell you from an "outsider's" point of view that we have an ally in Wisconsin Public Radio, which has covered the case with objectivity and professionalism from the very outset. They recognized that the case was inherently sensational, without any undue inflation on their part. They also gave voice to our community leaders and I mean the real ones, not the elected ones.

I want to thank you, Scott Gunkel and Kitty Barber, for your voices, your courage, your righteous anger and your willingness to speak for the Lesbian/Gay community in Milwaukee. You were articulate, reasonable, sane and inspired. I was proud to be able to say that I know you every time I heard you on one of the broadcasts up here.

I had originally been afraid that we would have been in sort of a "news vacuum" up here, since the case focused on many aspects of Gay life, and that isn't the sort of topic that gets preferred coverage in my (literal) neck of the woods. I suppose that was the only good thing about the extreme grisliness of the murders, since they overcame even the entrenched homophobia up here to warrant major coverage.

I wish I was writing to you all about something less unpleasant, but I simply had to take the time for this one a letter home, you might say. For even with the ugliness and the insanity, I know a different Milwaukee exists one with kind people who care, to whom all life is precious, for whom there are no "people who don't count."

As long as there are people like Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson, like Jamakaya and Annabelle Havlicek, like Ron Geiman and Michael Lisowski, like Kitty Barber and Scott Gunkel, and all the rest who have a voice to speak with and the courage to use that voice, I will never believe otherwise. In spite of it all... Stay Gold, Milwaukee. With Love.

—Mary Shafer
Park Falls, WI

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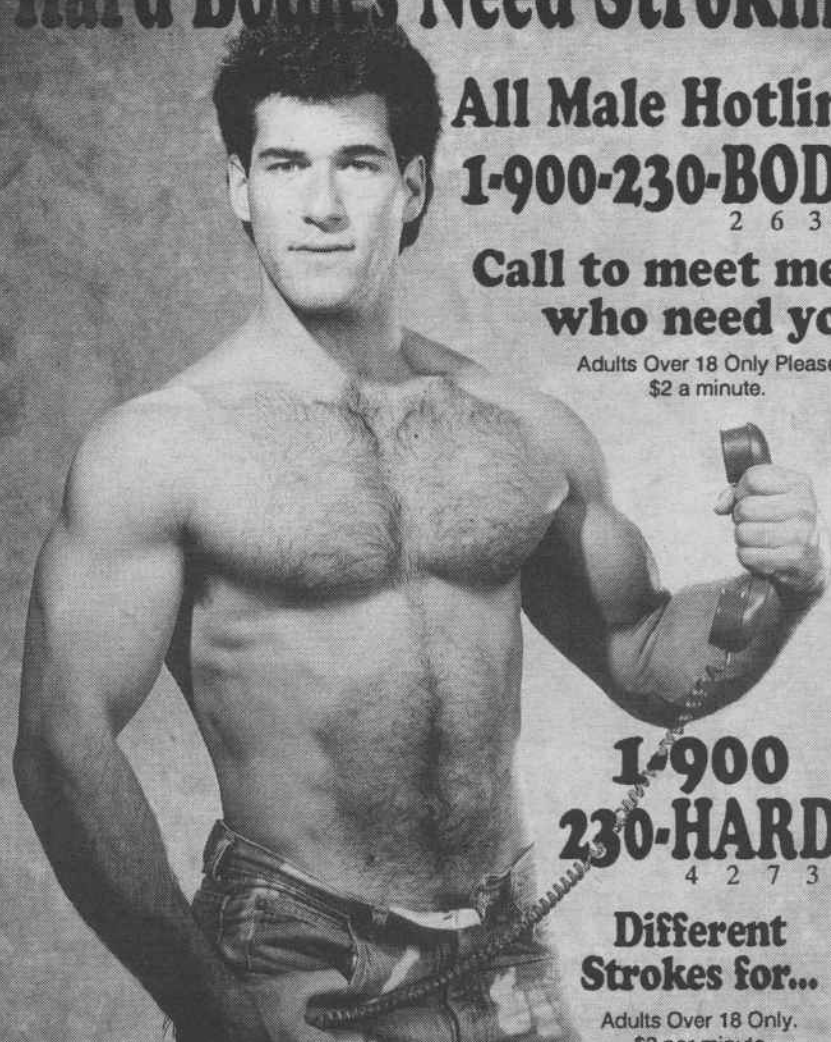
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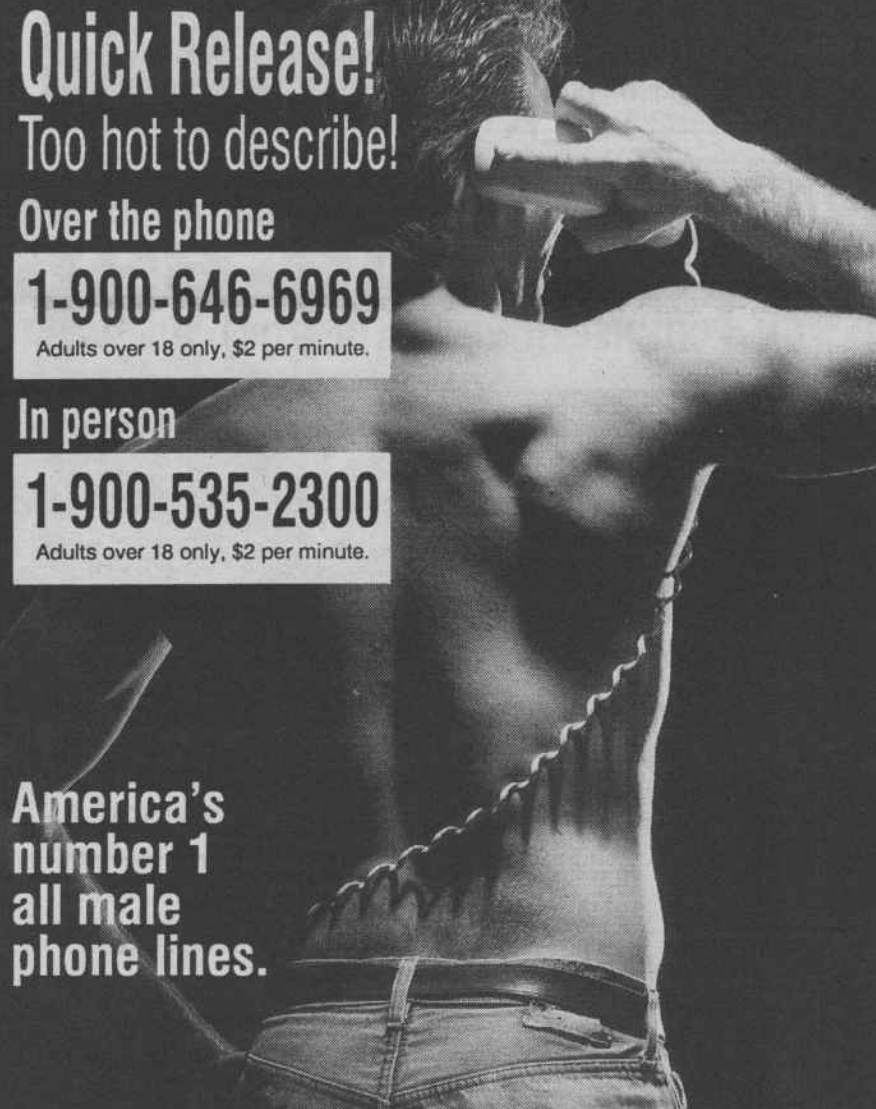
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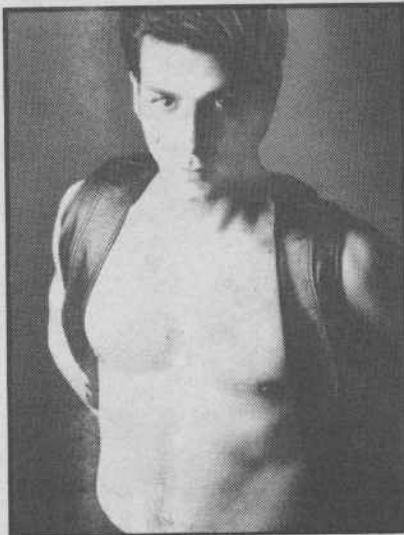
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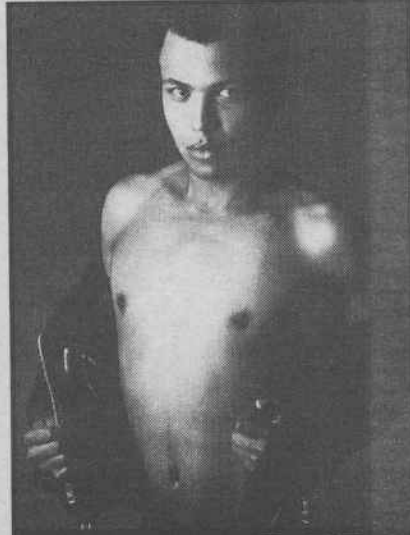
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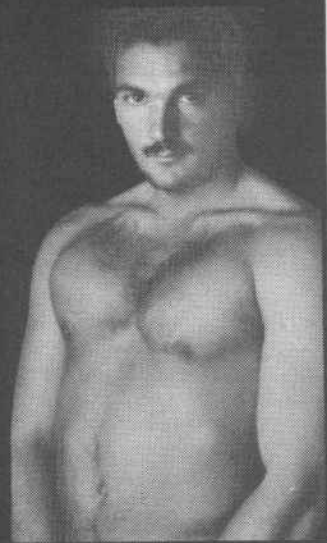
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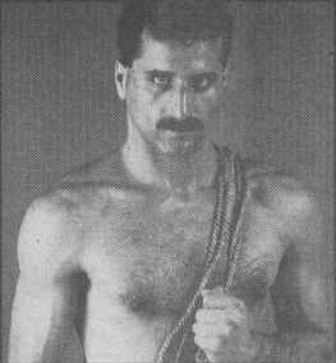


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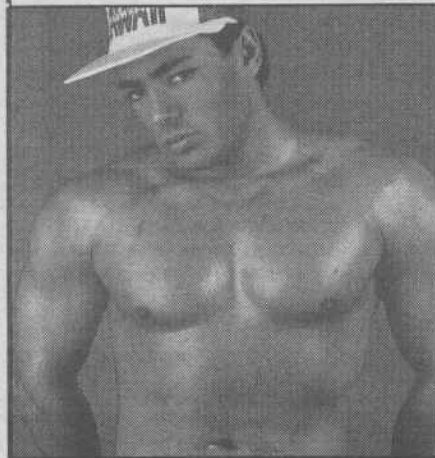
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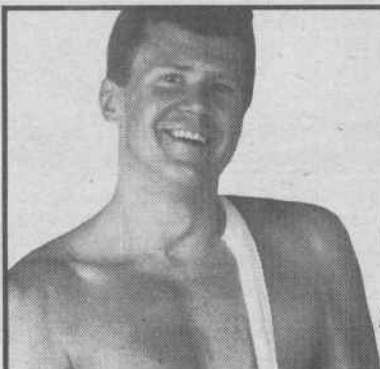
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P-FLAG Lends Support To Gays In Russia

[Washington, D.C.]—Parents of Lesbians and Gays in the Russian Republic will have support from the International Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). This as a result of work by P-FLAG Program Director Laurie Coburn, who was one of 70 American delegates to the International Gay Symposium and Film Festival held July 23- August 2 in Russia.

Coburn met privately with Gays and Lesbians and their parents in Moscow and took part in a condom distribution held in front of Moscow City Hall. She also was part of the first Russian Gay and Lesbian Rights demonstration, held on the steps of the Bolshoi Ballet.

"I was touched by the many Russian young people who clearly longed for affirmation from their parents and were hungry for help in coming out," said Coburn, who distributed P-FLAG buttons and 300 copies of a Russian translation of the P-FLAG newsletter containing Barbara Bush's letter supporting the Federation.

COMMISSION

Continued from Page 1

Police officials claim to be unaware of any Gay or Lesbian officers on the force, and the Lavender Network feels the experiences and input of such officers would be valuable for the Commission to hear.

Anonymity is promised to all those who testify at the hearing. No television cameras will be admitted. Personal experiences can be expressed without revealing one's identity. Testimony can also be submitted in advance in writing or by video or audio tape (which can be distorted to protect anonymity).

For assistance in preparing testimony, or for those wishing the Lavender Network to present testimony on their behalf, call (414) 264-2600, or write to the Police Proposal Task Group, Lavender Network, P.O. Box 11864, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

A second meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission, intended for testimony by community organizations, will be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 3 p.m. at

Holy Angels Church, 3785 N. 11th Street in Milwaukee.

The Police Proposal Task Group of the Lavender Network was formed after an August 14 meeting of local Gay and Lesbian activists. Its purpose is to coordinate the response of the Gay/Lesbian community to the need for improved relations with the Milwaukee Police Department.

In addition to publicizing the upcoming hearings and developing the survey, the Task Group is writing a proposal for improving relations between the police and the Gay community which will be presented at the hearing and to the Fire and Police Commission.

(The Task Group was slated to present preliminary results of these projects at a community meeting September 5 at 7 p.m. at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th Street. This was after the Light went to press.)

Both the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission and the Lavender Network were formed in August after allegations of police negligence, racism and homophobia arose in the wake of the Jeffrey Dahmer serial murder case.

The hearings present an important opportunity for Gays and Lesbians to air both grievances and constructive suggestions. For further information, or to get involved, call (414) 264-2600.

In related developments, public outrage at the Dahmer murders and the Milwaukee Police Department's response remains high. On September 2, the Community for Justice Committee demanded that Police Chief Philip Arreola fire the three officers involved in the May 27 incident in which police returned Konerak Sinthasomphone to Jeffrey Dahmer's custody.

"If these officers are not terminated," said the Committee, "we shall send a delegation to Washington, D.C. to request federal intervention, and we shall lead our community in massive civil disobedience until we receive justice."

Adding considerable weight to the threat was the fact that Aldermen Marvin Pratt and Michael McGee, County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggins-Jones and State Rep. Polly Williams all joined in the call for civil disobedience.

Queer Nation/Milwaukee is also planning a protest on October 7 (see related story).

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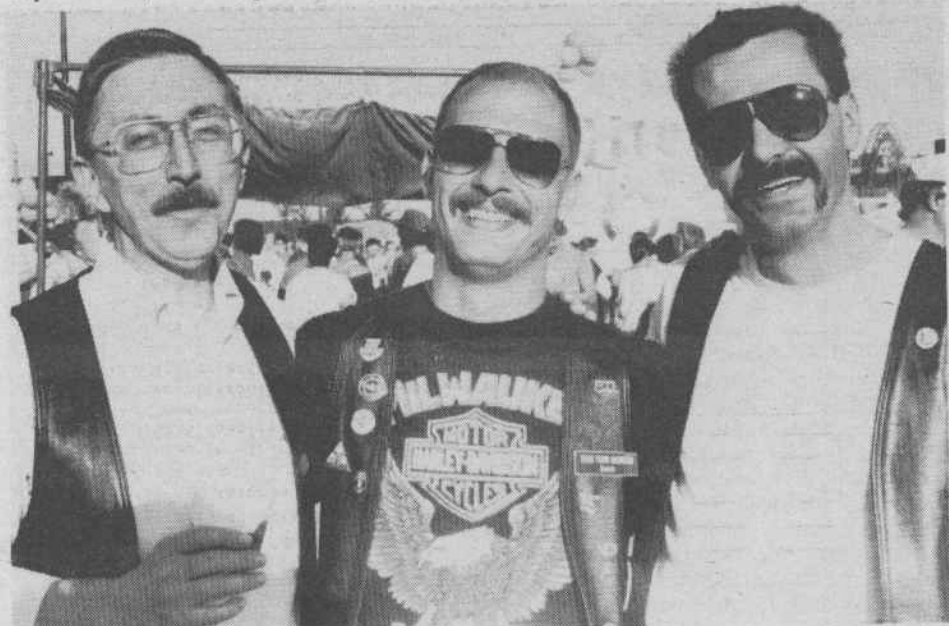
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These young lads attended MAPFest wearing their Sunday best. Now, lets see... wouldn't a nice boa and a little lace go nicely with that leather?

Despite Privations, Gay Community Begins To Emerge In Nicaragua

By Scott Sorrell
Special to Wisconsin Light

[Managua]- When I first came to work in Nicaragua, I asked where to find the Gay community. I was told that there was no such thing — only some "mariposas" (effeminate men who wear frilly aprons) who sell food in the local markets.

In time, I learned that Gay people frequented "parque central" — Central Park in downtown Managua. Gay people met not only in the park itself, but in the surrounding areas — an open field, an abandoned cathedral destroyed during the earthquake of 1972 and the bushy, footworn paths along the shore of Lake Managua.

The people coming to this area were men and boys as young as 10 or 11. The younger boys came to barter sex for a piece of fruit, a hot meal, an article of clothing or some money to help their families.

I am a social worker by profession, with three years of experience working on the streets of Toronto with runaway teens (mostly males) who ended up in prostitution, but I was not prepared for what I found here. I understand the unspoken message they get from this environment: "I see and walk amidst garbage and filth, therefore I am garbage and filth."

Many of the boys had nowhere to sleep at night. The abandoned cathedral not only provided shelter for sexual activity, but also, for some, it became their home.

As my friendship grew with the people I met, I heard about the problems they endured. I listened to the many stories of abuse; the drunks and thieves who came to use the boys for sex, then rob and beat them.

The majority of the people in the park area were worried and frightened about HIV/AIDS. Many of them mistook

common sexually transmitted diseases (STD) as certain signs that they had contracted HIV. Condoms, I learned, were not very popular. They were expensive and most were of poor quality. Then too, the Nicaraguan culture has a strong male-dominant value system in which men feel no need to take sexual responsibility. Generally, men believe that to use a condom lessens their manhood.

Five weeks after I discovered the park area, I decided to begin an STD and HIV/AIDS prevention program. I had originally brought condoms, lubricant and literature on HIV/AIDS and STDs to Nicaragua, believing that I could donate them to a Gay organization. I decided to distribute them myself.

In the beginning, I was laughed at and ridiculed. I was the "condom man, the gringo with the rubber balloons." I persisted, going into the area three times a week. At night, I walked into the darkened cathedral, passed by the overgrown surrounding fields next to the park and walked along the bushy paths near the lake, giving out condoms and information.

After a few months, I saw that people



People came from throughout the area to Milwaukee's MAPFest on September 1. This trio traveled from Madison to attend the annual fundraiser.

were using the condoms. In fact, they would complain that I was only giving out three at a time. They asked me questions: about HIV/AIDS, STDs and even what it was like to be Gay in my country.

Within the last three years that I've been here, an active Gay community has begun to emerge. We have weekly meetings, every Thursday, in the CEP-SIDA (The Collective of Educators for the Prevention of AIDS) house. The initial purpose of the meetings was HIV/AIDS prevention, but they have turned into more than that.

We have talked about the need for a unified Lesbian/Gay voice and about the need for a Gay/Lesbian bar or dance place. They have seen, for the first time, Gay videos such as *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Mass Appeal*, both of which I was fortunate enough to get with Spanish subtitles. They loved those movies and talked about them for months afterward — and about the idea of people living their lives naturally without apologizing for their sexuality.

They have asked for books in Spanish on human sexuality, on Lesbianism and homosexuality ("homosexual" is a term used here applying only to men). There are dances with special themes, cultural dances representing early Gay Nicaraguan society and even a few drag shows.

Small groups have begun to form: a

Christian Gay collective, a transvestite support group, a feminist Lesbian collective, a homosexual collective, and there is an umbrella organization called "The Movement of Feminist Lesbians and Homosexuals in Nicaragua."

Today, on behalf of the Movement, I am asking support from you in Wisconsin. This can take several forms.

Letters of encouragement to the Nicaraguan LesGay community would be deeply appreciated. So would videos, books, magazines and posters in Spanish on LesGay themes or LesGay positive subjects.

We desperately need condoms and water-based lubricants (individually packaged).

Please help. You can write to me: Scott Sorrell, Apdo. 4750, Managua, Nicaragua.

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Gay/Lesbian Survey On Police- Community Relations

Please complete this survey by September 17, 1991. The data will be compiled by lesbians and gay men and presented to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Police Community Relations.

	During 1990 &/or 1991		Prior to 1990	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
1. Do you believe that the Milwaukee Police Dept. provide the same services to gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals that they give to heterosexual individuals?				
2. Because of your sexual orientation, have Milwaukee Police Officers ever:				
a. used anti-gay/lesbian names in addressing you?				
b. made you the object of verbal abuse?				
c. threatened you with violence?				
d. used excessive force with you?				
e. physically assaulted you?				
f. failed to respond to your request for assistance?				
g. harassed in other ways?				
please specify _____				
3. Have you ever reported a "hate crime" against you (assault or harassment due to your sexual orientation) to the Milwaukee Police Dept.?				
4. If so, were the police				
a. sensitive?				
b. indifferent?				
c. hostile?				
d. threatening?				
e. professional?				
f. abusive?				
g. efficient?				
h. helpful?				
i. homophobic?				
5. Have you ever failed to report a "hate crime" to the Milwaukee Police Dept.?				
If so, Why? _____				

6. In your contact with Milwaukee Police other than instances of a "hate crime", were the police	During 1990 &/or 1991		Prior to 1990	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
a. sensitive?				
b. indifferent?				
c. hostile?				
d. threatening?				
e. professional?				
f. abusive?				
g. efficient?				
h. helpful?				
i. homophobic?				

7. In general, how do you feel about the Milwaukee Police Department?

8. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Gender (Circle One): Male Female

Sexual Orientation (Circle One): Gay Lesbian Bisexual

Race: _____

Occupation: _____

Affiliation with Gay, Lesbian, and/or Bisexual groups: _____

DEADLINE FOR RETURN: 9-17-91

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