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The Wisconsin Light

ROTC Records Requested from UW System

[Madison]- Michael S. Dixon, Co-President of the Ten Percent Society, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual organization at UW-Madison, has filed a request under the Wisconsin Open Records Law to view every document in the University's possession pertaining to the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and the issue of sexual orientation.

In accordance with controversial Pentagon policy, the ROTC program does not commission openly Gay or Lesbian officers. The UW Student Association, the Faculty Senate and the Board of Regents have all condemned ROTC, and the UW System has a clear non-discrimination policy regarding sexual orientation. Despite this, ROTC remains on UW campuses.

"For too long we have been told by the Chancellor, Donna Shalala, and the Board of Regents that they refuse to end the University-sponsored discrimination in the form of the ROTC because they are working so diligently and making such progress on the national level," said Dixon, speaking for the Ten Percent Society.

"If this is indeed true, the University's documents will bear their words out, and we will be able to see all the contacts they have made with policymakers in Washington and all of this wonderful progress they claim to be making," Dixon declared.

"The administration has nothing to fear from this request," said Dixon, "unless their own records prove that their claims about their constant lobbying and incredible progress are hollow."

The formal request for ROTC records was sent to Kathryn Lyall, Acting President of the UW System, on October 21. It asks for all documents related to ROTC and sexual orientation dating back to February, 1988.

The request was reviewed by legal counsel familiar with the Wisconsin Open Records Law to ensure that it met all legal requirements. Dixon stated his intention to pursue the request to the fullest extent of the law, including the filing of a lawsuit against the University, if necessary, to obtain the information.

"This is yet another step in our continuing battle to be treated equally by the people whose salaries we pay and who we trust to enforce the anti-discrimination policies of the State and the Board of Regents," said Dixon.

"We had fun playing games with the Board of Regents in September," said Dixon, referring to a spirited disruption of a Regents' meeting September 6. "But now, playtime is over...If they haven't been doing their homework, the next meeting we attend won't be fun and games at all."

Stronger Hate Crimes Bill Passed by Wisconsin Assembly

[Madison]- Enforcement of Wisconsin's law against hate crimes will be strengthened under legislation sponsored by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), which passed the Assembly in the third week of October, 1991.

Assembly Bill 507 was endorsed on a voice vote and sent to the State Senate.

Clarenbach proposed the changes to help police and prosecutors who have been seeking tougher penalties for crimes motivated by bigotry. Wisconsin's Hate Crimes Act, which Clarenbach authored in 1978, allows a judge to add up to five years to a criminal's sentence, if the jury finds that the victim was chosen because of his or her minority status.

"This new legislation intensifies our commitment to fight hate crimes — including Gay-bashing, anti-Semitism and racial attacks — by making sure that the law works as it was intended to," Clarenbach said.

Law enforcement officials have encountered several obstacles in enforcing the law, Clarenbach said. In some cases, criminals have escaped the hate crime penalties because they were

School Board Endorses Report On Support For Gay Teens

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- On October 30, the Milwaukee School Board, without debate or comment, unanimously approved the report of a task force established to examine the unmet needs of Gay and Lesbian youth in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS).

The report's overall theme is that all students, regardless of their sexual orientation, must have an equal opportunity for quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. It recommends that "curriculum materials, teaching strategies and school policies" include non-judgmental information on sexual orientation, and that sexual orientation be addressed within the high schools' health curriculum.

The report also recommends that all MPS personnel receive sensitivity training regarding sexual orientation, that harassing and deprecating remarks regarding sexual orientation be prohibited, that drop-out prevention strategies be targeted to Gay and Lesbian teens, and that school and community-based services be made available to address the special needs of Gay youth.

The report was unanimously approved earlier in October by the Board's Instruction and Community Relations Committee. Several citizens testified before the Committee about how difficult their high school years had been because of lack of support from school personnel and because of harassment and abuse from fellow students.

Committee members Joyce Mallory, Jared Johnson, Christine Sinicki and Mary Bills seemed moved by the testimony and strongly endorsed the report. Sinicki went so far as to suggest that the recommendations be implemented in the middle schools as well as the high schools.

Bills said: "I've always felt that the main purpose of education is to eliminate fear and ignorance, and it depresses me greatly to see the increased attacks and violence occurring not only against Gays and Lesbians but in our society as a whole. One of our purposes is to help these young people feel worthy of dignity and feel, no matter what their sexual preference or their racial orientation, they are a contributing member of society and they are valued."

After the full Board approved the report, Michael S. Lisowski, Director of Gay Youth Milwaukee, was jubilant: "I've been waiting for this moment for ten years. It's great to see that the School Board is courageous enough to tackle this issue."

Citing examples of physical violence and verbal slurs experienced by members of his Gay Youth group, Lisowski said: "My main concern has been that the kids feel safe. Kids can't learn if they don't feel safe."

Kathy Herbst, a Training Specialist with Planned Parenthood who also facilitates a support group for young women dealing with their sexual identity, said that in helping to draft the report she was impressed with the support she had found among MPS staff for the special needs of Gay teens.

But she cautioned that many details are yet to be worked out and worried that "all good intentions can sometimes get lost in the shuffle."

In fact, many steps remain before the proposals can be fully implemented. The School Board has referred the report to the MPS Administration for its response and directives regarding implementation. That response will be reviewed by the Instruction and Community Relations Committee at 7 p.m. November 13 at the School Administration Building, 5225 W. Vliet Street. Lisowski noted that there will be an opportunity for public comment and encouraged supporters to attend.



Hundreds of costumed characters could be seen throughout Wisconsin during this Halloween season. Pictured above are the winners in the annual costume contest at Milwaukee's This Is It bar.

President Bush Signs Law Broadening Hate Crimes Mandate

[Washington, DC] - Building on its historic victory last year when the Federal Hate Crime Statistics Act was passed, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has scored another legislative victory that changes the way the U.S. Government responds to hate crimes, including anti-Gay and Lesbian crimes.

On October 28, President Bush signed into law HR 2608, the Departments of Commerce, State, Justice and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for 1992. Included in the massive piece of legislation was "report language" drafted by NGLTF Legislative Director Peri Jude Radecic.

The report language broadens the Department of Justice's (DOJ) mandate to include religious and homophobic incidents in its response to bias crime, secures a grant for DOJ training on working with victims of hate crimes and allows the FBI to continue to fund law enforcement hate crime training in 1992.

Specifically, the language instructs the Community Relations Service (CRS) of the

DOJ to respond more fully to hate crimes — including Gay bashings and religiously-motivated crime — and corrects inequities in the way the CRS has treated homophobic incidents in the past.

Prior to the report language, the CRS mandate excluded sexual orientation and religion. The CRS Hate Crimes Hotline (1-800-347-HATE), for example, originally refused to take calls on Gay bashings. Reports produced by the CRS on hate crimes omitted anti-Gay and religiously motivated attacks.

Furthermore, when the Jeffrey Dahmer serial murders exploded in Milwaukee and anti-Gay homicides occurred in Houston and elsewhere earlier this year, the CRS was reluctant to become involved.

But because of the new NGLTF-initiated report language, CRS can now exceed its mandate and programmatically respond to anti-Gay and Lesbian incidents.

"This is a substantial victory for activists who work on hate crimes on a daily basis," said NGLTF's Radecic. "They can go to the U.S. Government to help reduce tensions and resolve disputes. In the past, we had to build an elaborate coalition of lawmakers on Capitol Hill and activists around the country to pressure the CRS every time we wanted them to respond."

In addition to changing the way CRS responds to hate crimes, the language also secured for the DOJ a \$150,000 Congressional grant to develop a model training curriculum for criminal justice and victim assistance professionals on dealing with victims of hate crime.

The language also commends the FBI for its work on implementation of the Federal Hate Crime Act, including its training program. NGLTF earlier this year worked with the FBI to train local police departments on how to identify, track and respond to bias crimes. NGLTF Anti-Violence Project Director Kevin Berrill helped the FBI plan and deliver nine training seminars around the country and booked Gay and Lesbian activists on FBI panels.

Victims of anti-Gay and Lesbian attacks are urged to contact the U.S. toll-free Hate Crimes Hotline, 1-800-347-HATE, as well as notify their local law enforcement agency and Gay and Lesbian community group.

wrong about the victim's minority status; in others, they have been cleared because bigotry was only part of the motivation for their crime.

"We owe it to our police and prosecutors — and we owe it to the victims of hate crimes — to close these loopholes," Clarenbach said.

Assembly Bill 507 makes two changes to address the problem. First, it would allow a jury to find that a hate crime has been committed if the criminal acted "in whole or in part" because of the victim's status.

Second, it would clarify that the law applies to the criminal's "belief or perception" about the victim's status, whether or not that belief was correct.

"These may sound like small changes, but they are very important," Clarenbach said. "Our police and prosecutors are trying vigorously to enforce the hate crimes law, but they need our support to get the job done. AB 507 will add muscle to their efforts to protect us from those criminals who make victims of us all by attacking who we are."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Partner's Sick Leave Appeal Upheld

[Denver, CO]- A hearing officer for Denver's Career Services Authority, which oversees the city's personnel matters, has ruled that social worker Mary Ross was wrongfully denied three days of sick leave to care for her seriously injured lesbian partner. Denver General Hospital had denied the leave, saying that Ross and her lover were not "family."

Hearing officer Margot Jones decided that Ross and her "permanent life partner" Jeannie DiClementi were indeed "family" and that the hospital's action was "discriminatory on the basis of appellant's sexual orientation." A City of Denver ordinance prohibits such discrimination.

Citing Ross and DiClementi's long-term monogamous relationship and their sharing of finances and responsibility for DiClementi's children, Jones ruled: "By every measurement used by society to determine whether people have created a family, appellant's relationship with her permanent life partner measures up to that standard."

William Rubenstein of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project was jubilant: "Little by little, courts and administrative tribunals are giving legal recognition and tangible rights to relationships that are, by any definition, families."

Philly Cops Sued By Activists

[Philadelphia, PA]- Nine individuals and six organizations whose members clashed with police when President Bush visited Philadelphia's Bellevue Hotel in September have filed a federal lawsuit charging the police with excessive force and civil rights violations, according to **Philadelphia Gay News**.

Groups included in the suit are: Philadelphia chapters of ACT UP and the National Organization for Women; the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Women for Reproductive Freedom; the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; and Act for Peace in the Middle East.

Attorney David Rudovsky declared: "The police deliberately and without provocation clubbed, maced and beat these individuals who were at the hotel simply to exercise their First Amendment rights and to speak about their positions on important national policies."

Police Commissioner Willie Williams has appointed a citizen's panel to investigate the incident.

Lesbian Denied Job In Georgia

[Atlanta, GA]- Robin Joy Shahar, 28, has filed a federal lawsuit against the State of Georgia and Georgia Attorney General Michael J. Bowers because Bowers withdrew a job offer from Shahar after learning that she is a lesbian who planned to exchange vows with her female partner. Shahar charges that Bowers violated her rights to religious freedom, freedom of association and equal protection under the law.

In 1990, Shahar worked as a Summer law clerk for Bowers and was given a written offer of employment contingent on completing law school and passing the bar exam. She accomplished those goals and was expected to report for work this September. However, Bowers abruptly withdrew the job offer after learning that Shahar planned a marriage ceremony with her partner.

Shahar and her partner of five years participated in a Jewish marriage ceremony on July 28. Shahar told reporters: "Fran and I chose to get married for the same reasons any two people do. We fell in love. We wanted to spend our lives together."

Said Bowers, who successfully defended Georgia's sodomy law before the Supreme Court in 1986: "I'm not going to hire someone who holds themselves out to the public by their own admission as being engaged in a homosexual marriage."

Shahar is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Politics Tainted Grant Process

[Washington, D.C.]- Government documents reveal that the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) caved in to political pressure in denying 1990 grants to radical performance artists Karen Finley, Tim Miller, John Fleck and Holly Hughes. Miller, Fleck and Hughes are Gay.

The four artists are seeking to have their grants reinstated through the federal courts and are represented by the A.C.L.U., the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

In transcripts of closed meetings, NEA Chair John Frohnmayer repeatedly referred to potential opposition to the proposed grants by Congressional conservatives and religious groups. Despite a unanimous favorable recommendation by a peer review panel, Frohnmayer, citing political repercussions, vetoed the grants.

David Cole of the Center for Constitutional Rights, said: "Congress constructed the endowment specifically to insulate it from political interference. It violates the First Amendment for the government to create a forum for the support of artistic expression and then employ political considerations in picking and choosing which art to support."

Meanwhile, the Senate voted in September and the House voted on October 16 to place new restrictions on the use of NEA funds. (See Story, p. 5)

QUICKIES...

[Washington, DC]- The US Navy has formally apologized to the family of Gunner's Mate Clayton Hartwig for suggesting that Hartwig's despondency over a homosexual affair led him to set off the explosion aboard the USS Iowa that killed 47 sailors in 1989. The Navy said the exact cause of the blast could not be determined. Hartwig's family plans to pursue its \$40 million lawsuit against the Navy.

[Los Angeles, CA]- In September, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) endorsed resolutions calling on Congress to pass the federal Gay rights bill and the Women's Health Equity Act, a package of 22 bills meant to ensure more research on and access to women's health care. The DNC also called on Congress to allocate \$3 billion annually for AIDS programs.

[New York, NY]- The New York State Writer's Institute has named lesbian poet, author and lecturer Audre Lorde, recent recipient of the Sappho Award of Distinction from the ASTREA Foundation, as the Official Poet of New York State. A \$10,000 grant accompanies the honor, which is a two year appointment.

[Los Angeles, CA]- Singer Donna Summer has filed a \$30 million lawsuit against New York magazine for claiming that she once called AIDS God's "divine ruling" against homosexuals. Summer, who has been dogged by the story for years, again denied it: "That is completely false. I did not say it. I do not believe it."

[Portland, OR]- By unanimous vote, the Portland City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or source of income in housing, employment and public accommodations. Right wing groups have threatened to put the measure up for public referendum.

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.



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Station II Donates Record Amount To Food Pantry At MAP

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- As of the October 27 Packer game, The Packer Gang of Station II has, since September 26, 1990, donated \$3,100 in food items to the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Food Pantry. This marks the largest amount ever gathered by any bar or organization for donation to the Pantry.

The Packer Gang prepared and distributed the 1990 Thanksgiving baskets and purchased much of the holiday "fixins" that they contained.

In addition, Shirley Fitzpatrick of the "Gang" and Chris and Degni Wroblewski recently donated 77 Hallowe'en packages. These bags, filled with all sorts of treats, were distributed to children who are HIV positive as well as to those with HIV positive parents.

MAP extends its most heart-felt thanks to The Packer Gang. Such efforts as they have shown have done much to make the holidays a bit brighter for those among who often feel alone and afraid.

Now the holidays have come 'round again and the MAP Food Pantry needs many food and personal care items in order to meet the increasing demand being placed upon it.

According to Cheryl Vaughn, MAP's Life Care Services Director, this Thanksgiving some 30 baskets will be given. These will include a plump turkey, stuffing, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and a whole lot more to make up the traditional holiday feast. Please help if you can.

In addition to the baskets, the Pantry continues to provide personal care items and nutritious food to nearly 200 clients each month.

Items currently needed include muffin and cake mixes, sugar, tuna and hamburger helper, jelly, canned goods such as soup, stew, vegetables and fruits, cereals, nuts, coffee, cooking oil, pudding, bread, cheese, meat along with soap, shampoo and conditioner and razors.

These items are generally unavailable at Second Harvesters and the Hunger Task Force, two of the Pantry's regular suppliers.

can be purchased and delivered to MAP or gift certificates for food items can

be purchased at any Pick 'N Save store and mailed to MAP at 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

This holiday season when you're out buying all the good things that make this bountiful season warm with fire- glow cheer, won't you remember those less fortunate and add to your shopping cart some item to share.

HAG RAG to Make Comeback In January

[Milwaukee]- **Hag Rag**, the bimonthly **Intergalactic Lesbian Feminist Press**, is in the process of transforming and is seeking new Lesbian energy. Following a four month re-organizing break, **Hag Rag** will resume publication with the January-February, 1992 issue.

All levels of involvement in the paper are welcome. Volunteers can join in monthly work sessions or take on specific production basics such as writing, creating graphics, typing/layout, correspondence, soliciting articles and artwork, compiling the calendar, fundraising and sales.

Experience isn't necessary, say the "Hags," just positive energy and enthusiasm.

Hag Rag is produced jointly by Milwaukee and Madison Lesbians and operates by consensus. For more information, call Mary in Milwaukee at (414) 372-3330 or Theo. in Madison at (608) 241-9765.

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California Court of Appeals Forbids Job Bias Against Gays

[San Francisco, CA] - On October 28, California Gay activists were victorious on an unexpected front. On that day, the California State Court of Appeals ruled that private employers cannot discriminate against job applicants or established employees who are Gay or Lesbian.

The ruling came as a surprise to many. In the past month, California has been rocked by angry protests — some of them violent — by activists furious with Republican Gov. Pete Wilson's recent veto of a bill that would have added sexual orientation to the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Elaine B. Feingold, attorney for the three job applicants who filed the suit against the Dayton Hudson Corp. (Target Stores) said the Appeals Court decision was "a really strong interpretation of the labor law."

The suit challenged a psychological test used by the giant retailer to screen applicants for security guard positions. Included in the statements applicants were required to respond to were "I am very strongly attracted to members of my own sex," and another inquiring whether the applicant "feels sure that there is

only one true religion."

Three job seekers, offended by the test, filed suit to prohibit the company from using it, citing the right to privacy and other concerns. When a lower court ruled against them, they took their case to the Court of Appeals, which decided in their favor. Dayton Hudson may appeal the latest ruling to the State Supreme Court.

According to the *New York Times*, the ruling is significant because it extends to private employers a 1979 State Supreme Court decision that had affected only public employers. That ruling said that the Gay rights movement was a recognized political activity protected by parts of the California labor code. The labor code guarantees employees the right to engage in political activity.

The October 28 ruling declared: "These statutes also prohibit a private employer from discriminating against an employee on the basis of his or her sexual orientation."

Gov. Wilson said that the decision vindicated his rationale for vetoing the recent bill. He claimed that California's Gay residents were already protected by existing statutes.

P-FLAG Outraged By Homophobic Harassment at National Conference

[Charlotte, NC] - Members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) left their organization's Tenth Annual Convention in this North Carolina city outraged by homophobic harassment from the religious right.

Confessed Christians claiming to promote "traditional family values" harassed convention organizers for months preceding the convention, picketed outside the hotel and invaded the privacy of one family by pressuring their teenaged Lesbian daughter to use prayer to change her sexual orientation. Religionists also used P-FLAG envelopes to slip Christian tracts and other propaganda under the door of her hotel room.

Presenting P-FLAG's three new Issue Papers on Gay and Lesbian teens, national President Paulette Goodman stated, "Our Respect All Youth project is now bringing the issue of Gay and Lesbian teen suicide to the fore. It is a tragedy that some parents find out their child is Gay only after an attempt at suicide. It is our firm will to stem the untimely loss of these young lives."

Past President of P-FLAG, Elinor Kirby Lewallen, who is a lay leader of the Methodist denomination, concurred. "According to statistics, one family in four includes a member who is Lesbian,

Gay or Bisexual," she said. "So how can it be anti-family to embrace these children of God with values of love, support and respect for their integrity? The implication that our children need to change is, to me, a cruel hoax. I have seen so much damage from such hellish confusion that I say it is heresy to ask God to change what God has created."

Fired by their indignation, members raised \$10,000 to finance P-FLAG's Public Service Announcement (PSA) project which will saturate 150 TV markets across the country with PSA spots developed to promote P-FLAG's message and mission.

P-FLAG Board members appointed an ad-hoc committee to prepare a strongly worded statement against religious groups who promote hatred, misinformation and distortions of information about Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals.

"We need to let them know," said Adele Starr, former P-FLAG president, "that we are sick and tired of our children being treated as though they are expendable. There is no difference between the tragedy of our children's deaths by suicide and the deaths of so-called 'innocent' victims of AIDS. This prejudice against our children has to stop."

International Pride Coordinators Discuss Plans and Strategies

By Gary Wells

[Boston, MA] - The International Association of Gay/Lesbian Pride Coordinators (IALGPC) held its annual conference in Boston, MA, October 11-13, 1991. Representing the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee were myself and Dennis Bunch. I had the honor to serve as one of the Midwest Regional representatives to the Board of Directors of IALGPC for the last year and will be succeeded in this position by Dennis Bunch for the coming year.

The Conference was attended by approximately 120 people representing 22 states. There were no representatives from outside the country.

The Conference had workshops on several topics. The highlights: Using the Mainstream Media Effectively; Developing Human Resources; Delegation vs. Burnout; Stonewall 25 and Stress Management.

The Stonewall 25 workshop was a group discussion of the events planned for New

York City in 1994 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. "Heritage of Pride" as the New York committee is known, has requested that all other celebrations in the country take place on some weekend other than the last Sunday in June. This is so that as many people as possible can be in New York for the monumental celebration being planned there.

The Gay Games which will immediately follow Gay Pride Weekend and will last for 10 days, will also take place in New York. The estimated financial impact on New York City for the Gay Games alone is \$111 million.

Tom Swift of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) spoke at the Conference. HRCF had representatives at over 90 Pride celebrations this year and signed up more than 45,000 people for their "Speak Out" campaign. HRCF is second only to the powerful National Rifle Association in its ability to generate mailgrams to Congress.

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So you either stay stuck in the relationship or you go through one lover after another trying unsuccessfully to maintain some semblance of balance in your life, only to realize that when you've finally found the "perfect lover" - again - you've entered into another vicious cycle of frustration, sadness and blame.

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EDITORIAL

Progress In Milwaukee Schools: Taking Care Of Our Own

Virtually all of us who are Gay or Lesbian have painful and traumatic memories of our teen years. Confusion over what we were beginning to sense about ourselves. Fears that others might find out and reject us. Pain from the verbal and sometimes physical assaults other teens leveled against us because of our difference. And terrible, deep, crushing isolation.

As Gay and Lesbian adults, still haunted by those experiences, how often have we all cried out: "If only I had known. If only I had understood. If only I'd had someone to talk to."

The Wisconsin Light heartily applauds the October 30 vote of the Milwaukee School Board to approve a report drafted by the school system's Task Force Regarding Gay and Lesbian Teens. While many details still need to be ironed out, and it may be many months, perhaps years, before full implementation of its recommendations occurs, the School Board has done the right thing, sent the right signal and, perhaps unknowingly, eased the burden of our collective memory.

The Light would like to express its sincere appreciation to those who have been working so diligently to bring about this needed reform: former Superintendent Robert Peterkin who established the Task Force; current Superintendent Howard Fuller who has expressed support for its objectives; the many administrators and school personnel who advised and supported the Task Force, including Robert Jasna, Sheryl Gotts, Jan Doleschal, Erico Ortiz and many others.

A special thank you must be extended to two extraordinary people, social workers and long time community activists who have given much of themselves to champion those without a strong voice, those who have been neglected and discarded: to Michael Lisowski, whose commitment to Gay youth in Milwaukee spans the past decade, and whose dream it has been to see our schools become safe, nurturing environments rather than the hell they often are; and to Kathy Herbst, facilitator of a young women's support group, whose compassion and guidance has won for her from her charges the honorary title "Mom."

What is particularly inspiring about this reform process, whatever its outcome, is the image and the reality of Gays and Lesbians taking care of our own, of working hard to see that the future is more secure and open for our younger generations. In some ways, the special sort of community and commitment we share because of our common oppression has melded us into one strong, loving and responsible family. All attempts to defame and defeat us because of our sexuality pale before that powerful, beautiful reality.

There is likely to be another public hearing before the School Board's Instruction and Community Relations Committee on November 13. Board members were deeply moved by the testimony presented at the previous hearing. We urge our readers to attend that hearing to share your own stories. At the very least, please call Board members to express your support for the proposals.

WISN's Mark Belling Forced To Flee 'Pro-America' Rally At UWM

Commentary by Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Mark Belling fled the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, driven away by angry demonstrators who were, as one said, "fed up to here" with him. The incident occurred at a Pro-America Rally held October 28 in the concourse of the Student Union beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Belling, a highly controversial and arch-conservative talk jockey on WISN-Radio, had come to UWM's campus at the invitation of various conservative campus groups, including the College Republicans, the Conservative Programmers and the student newspaper The Times. This was Belling's third appearance on UWM's campus, the last being two years ago.

According to one student demonstrator, though there were five others slated to speak, "Belling was absolutely the target of the protest."

Speaking on his own radio show later that day, Belling did not seem to understand the reason for the deep antipathy directed against him.

As one observer said, "He doesn't realize how hurtful, how damaging to others his words are. In a city which needs healing, Belling does nothing but add to the pain."

Belling is seemingly unable to understand the difference between provoking and being provocative. For example, seemingly unable to rise higher, he frequently descends to name calling in discussing those with whom he disagrees. He has been quoted as calling the multiple murders in the Dahmer case "logical extensions" of the Gay lifestyle. He has been repeatedly charged by ACT UP with spreading misinformation on AIDS.

Others have asserted that he does not do his homework (this from someone who claims to have been a journalist).

As one student demonstrator said, "He will probably never realize that he brought this entirely on himself." The issue, she said, was not free speech, but responsible speech.

The opposition to Belling was led by the Student Association, the elected student government, and the Black Student Union.

According to Tim Vertz, Student Association President, by the time the rally was to begin, approximately 800 people had gathered in the Union concourse, some 600 of whom were anti-Belling demonstrators. They blew whistles, threw wadded up pieces of paper, pieces of candy and small coins at Belling. Chants were sounded, one being "Shut the Fuck Up."

There was a large poster showing pictures of Reagan, Bush, KKK members and Belling surrounded by the words: "The American Dream Has Been Turned Into the American Nightmare." There

was also a question under the picture asking: "What's the difference among these men? The answer: He's Belling here."

Belling left the platform without speaking. Observers said he "ran" to his car pursued by people wearing KKK uniforms with the word "Hate" written on the conical hats and at least one person wearing a mask of Richard Nixon with a long nose.

One woman, identified as being formerly of the College Republicans, said, "Wouldn't you know it. He even drives a white car."

That afternoon, Belling used the forum of his show to wrap himself in the American flag, complaining in suitably injured tones, that protesters at a pro-America rally had to be anti-American. Belling referred to the incident as "Nazi" and "Fascist." He said he had only left the rally so others might not be injured.

All Belling's callers, except for one, supported him. This proves little. What many, perhaps, do not know is that Belling can screen his calls. A look at the computer monitor above his desk tells him who is calling and, generally, what they are going to say.

Belling vowed on the air to never again accept a speaking engagement at UWM, and used the occasion to lambast student liberals.

Belling, criticizing students for denying him the freedom to speak, is not known for granting that right on his show to those who disagree with him.

As we at the Light have said before, the

conservative viewpoint needs to be expressed, but by someone who is knowledgeable enough and well-read enough to do it justice. Stridency is not profundity. WISN radio should be ashamed of itself for denying Milwaukee a thought-provoking analyst.

LETTERS

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Robert Furlong, General Manager of WCGV-TV, the Federal Communications Commission, Fox Broadcasting Company and Wisconsin Light.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing due to my concern that WCGV-TV, Channel 24, is promoting Gay hatred and prejudice in the Milwaukee area by broadcasting *The 700 Club* (9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday).

On an almost daily basis, under the guise of new-fashioned evangelicalism, this show has blatantly debased and dehumanized Gay people and issues, using pejorative propaganda to denigrate and distort Gay rights, referring to homosexuals as aberrant, perverted, deviant, anti-family, anti-American, bestial, pedophilic, lawless, corrupt, immoral and satanic. It has also used deliberate misinformation to promote AIDS ignorance and animosity against people suffering from this disease.

In addition, beyond advocating the denial of all Constitutional rights, freedoms and protections for Gays, the show's host, former Republican presidential candidate Pat Robertson, has repeatedly suggested that Gay people should be arrested. Certainly, in the wake of unprecedented violence and discrimination against Gays, this type of overtly Hitlerian philosophy can only further incite homophobic fanaticism and enmity.

I do not believe that WCGV would broadcast a similar show proselytizing the inherent inferiority of Black people, Jewish people or other minorities. I thus must wonder why it feels obliged to broadcast *The 700 Club* and its hard-core promotion of Gay hatred, bigotry and inequality. It also concerns me that there is no station disclaimer to these same points of view and that there are no shows on Channel 24 to counterbalance this continuous anti-Gay propaganda.

I would therefore like to know what the attitude of WCGV-TV, Channel 24 is toward homosexual rights and people. I would be more than willing to share your response with our city's Gay and Lesbian community.

—Joe Simon
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: WCGV-TV is located at 5445 N. 27th St., Milwaukee, WI 53209. The phone number is (414) 527-2424.

TO THE EDITOR:

We (International Gay Travel Association — IGTA) are delighted you have taken the trouble to inform your community that Mr. [Larry] Koralewski (Maxam Tour & Travel) doesn't want Gay business. ["Milwaukee Agent Labels Gay Travel Markets 'Fruit Stands,'" October 17-30, 1991 *Wisconsin Light*] We presume that he would find Black agencies and Jewish agencies equally objectionable. His being motivated by principle apparently means more to him than Gay money.

We'd like you to know that there are a couple of IGTA members in your area who want to serve Gay travelers. They are: Horizon Travel in Menomonee Falls, (414) 255-0704 and Bottom Line Travel in Milwaukee (414) 964-6199.

It's always a pleasure to see how the Gay press looks out for all our interests.

—Newt Deltzer, IGTA President
Los Angeles, CA

Editor's Note: This is only one of the many responses that we got condemning Koralewski concerning his accusations that travel agencies who serve Gay travelers are "fruit stands."

One writer sent yet another copy of Koralewski's letter in *TravelAge MidAmerica*, saying in a cover note: "You might want to put the word out about this guy and his travel agency. It has been a long time since I was referred to as a fruit... Trust you understand my not signing my name... this fruit would write about me!"

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Helms Rants, Congress Flip-Flops; More NEA Restrictions Likely

[Washington, D.C.] Arts advocates at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and elsewhere are pointing to recent votes and legislative flip-flopping in the House and Senate as examples of how the fight against censorship in the U.S. Congress is barely holding ground. The latest skirmishes have occurred over the reauthorization of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

On September 19, 1991, the Senate voted 68 to 28 to pass Republican Sen. Jesse Helms' restrictive NEA amendment to the 1992 Interior Appropriations bill (HR 2686).

The Helms' language reads: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, none of the funds made available to the National Endowment for the Arts... may be used to promote, disseminate or produce materials that depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual or excretory activities or organs."

On September 24, 1991, the House rejected a motion to instruct the House/Senate conferees to accept the Helms NEA amendment, 213-204. Conferees iron out differences in bills between the two chambers before laws are finally passed.

Three weeks later, on October 16, 1991, the House reversed itself and approved the motion to instruct conferees to accept the Helms language, 286-135.

In debate on the House floor, Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) read a selective list of works he deemed perverse, including parts of Marlon Riggs' documentary *Tongues Untied* which he called "Tongues of Flame." He went on to denounce Lesbian performance artist Holly Hughes and the Frameline (San Francisco) film festival titles, *Queers Bash Back*, *Multiple Orgasm*, *Yearning for Sodom* and *Portraits of Lesbian and Gay Youth*.

Frameline Executive Director Tom DiMaria countered in a letter October 23 to the NEA that none of the films mentioned by Dannemeyer have ever been part of the film distributors' programming.

According to NGLTF's Peri Jude Radecic, "The stage is set for more votes, especially in the Senate. The flip-flopping of the Congress and the focus on Gay art indicates censorship against us is intensifying."

In the Senate vote on HR 2686, Wisconsin Senators Herb Kohl (D) and Robert Kasten (R) both voted to support the Helms' language.

According to NGLTF, in the House, Democratic Reps. Les Aspin and David Obey voted against Dannemeyer on the bill.

Republican Reps. Steve Gunderson, Thomas Petri, Toby Roth and F. James Sensenbrenner supported Dannemeyer in every vote on NEA.

Democratic Reps. Jim Moody and Gerald Kleczka voted with Dannemeyer — until the final vote, then they voted against him.

Radecic said that Rep. Scott Klug (R) began by supporting Dannemeyer and then "went all over the map." She suggested that Klug didn't seem to know what he was doing.

NGLTF urges Gays, Lesbians and their supporters, as well as all people who value artistic expression, to contact their members of Congress as soon as possible to protest the politicizing of the NEA grant process.

Meanwhile, newly released government documents reveal that the denial of NEA grants to four radical performance artists in 1990 was politically motivated. Please see "News Briefs," p.2.

GALVANize to Host Potluck November 17

[Madison] The Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize), organizers of the Madison March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride, are inviting all interested members of the community to a potluck on Sunday, November 17, 1991.

The purpose of the gathering is a sharing and listening session where people who marched, volunteered or attended any events can talk about their feelings and reactions and give their opinions to the GALVANize board about what was most important to them and how the March could be improved.

GALVANize is also encouraging people to attend who want another March in Madison, even if they weren't involved in any of the events around the October 5th weekend.

The potluck is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jenifer Street on Madison's near east side. Participants should bring a dish to share and their own plate and utensils. Hot beverages will be furnished.

Those who can't attend but want to give the Board their ideas, can send in the evaluation form from the March Program, or write to P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701. For more information on the November 17th gathering, call the GALVANize phone at (608) 255-8061 or Nancy at (608) 244-6595.



Nov. 1 thru Jan. 2
Third Annual
"Stars For AIDS"

Fundraiser — Buy a star for a friend, your lover or yourself!

Nov. 8 — 9 P.M.-1:30

Turkey Party — Turkeys and more given away every half hour starting 10:30 P.M.

Nov. 9 — Starting 2 P.M.
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672-5580

1753 S. Kinnickinnic Milwaukee, WI 53207

MAP Offers Help To Reunite Families Affected by AIDS

[Milwaukee] Since early 1991, five families affected by AIDS have been reunited through the efforts of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

MAP often provides the coordination to transport individuals across the country and, in one case, across the Atlantic, in order for them to rejoin their families. Funds used to provide these services came from private donations to MAP.

Recently, an individual living with AIDS in a western state wanted to come home to Wisconsin. Cheryl Vaughn, Director of Life Care Services at MAP, coordinated what was to become an involved, potentially costly move. The person required either a medical professional or an air ambulance for the trip. This would cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

MAP enlisted the support of Vince Lombardo, a nurse and volunteer for MAP, to provide the medical assistance necessary to transport the person. Lombardo, at MAP's expense, flew to the state and assisted the family in coordinating the many details involved in transporting a hospitalized individual.

Lombardo then flew back to Wisconsin

with the person. A few days after his arrival home, the client passed away. MAP helped make one of the client's last wishes — to spend the remainder of his life in his home state and with his family — a reality.

"There's a lot more involved than arranging for an airline ticket," said Vaughn. "For individuals who are ill, many arrangements must be made with physicians, hospitals, for special services from airlines and ambulance companies."

"MAP cannot address the needs of one infected family member without addressing the needs of the entire family," Vaughn said.

Family members who otherwise would be unable to afford transportation also find assistance at MAP to travel to other parts of the country to visit loved ones who are ill as a result of their HIV infection.

"It is important to note," Vaughn stated, "that we would be unable to provide this type of service without the important private donations that we receive."

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• or call or write •
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(414)-273-1991

Dykes To Watch Out For



The Light LIVELY ARTS



Yer Girlfriend will be performing at UW-Milwaukee on November 16.

Yer Girlfriend's Music: Fun, Danceable, Political, Affirming

[Milwaukee]- Yer Girlfriend, the hot new dance band from Louisville, Kentucky, will be playing at the UW-Milwaukee Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., on Saturday, November 16 beginning at 8:30 p.m. The band plays a mix of folk, rock and original compositions.

Full Moon Productions and the Gay and Lesbian Community at UWM are sponsoring the event, which will take place in a spacious, private room on the ground floor of the Union. Tickets for the dance are \$8, with a cash bar and non-alcoholic beverages available.

The following story about Yer Girlfriend, excerpted here with permission, first appeared in the May, 1991 issue of *Hot Wire: The Journal of Women's Music and Culture*. It is written by Yer Girlfriend's lead singer, Laura Shine, and Patty O. Veranda, who plays keyboards and flute with the band.

By Laura Shine
and Patty O. Veranda

It was a hot summer night in August, 1989 when some 200 women from Kentucky and Southern Indiana gathered on a private piece of land near Louisville for their very own homemade musical festival. The occasion: a benefit to raise money for our band, Yer Girlfriend, to record its first album, *We Won't Be Silent*.

For Yer Girlfriend, that magical night of song and starlight is a symbol of the generous community support that has carried us and our music from one city to another — even to the airwaves of Radio Moscow. And it was among the first of many experiences that continue to convince us that women's communities are hungry for music that is not only entertaining, but also political.

We had been performing every other Saturday night for a year and a half at the Carriage House, the local women's bar in Louisville, playing our hearts out to the most enthusiastic and supportive crowds imaginable.

Whenever we played there, it wasn't just another weekend night at the bar. All along, our premise has been to provide entertainment that's not only fun but also meaningful and, we hope, inspiring. We were playing women's music because we loved it, and we wanted others to be aware of it.

Whenever an audience member would approach us after a gig to ask where to find music by Deirdre McCalla or Ferron, we got the best feeling knowing we had turned her on to women's music — and had given her something that affirms all of us as women and as Lesbians.

Along with playing women's music by other artists, both popular and obscure, we also performed our own original work. Carol Kraemer, our guitarist and principal

songwriter, has provided some of our most powerful songs. The title cut from our album, *We Won't Be Silent*, served as the slogan for Louisville's Gay Pride March.

Another of Carol's songs, "Peace and Harmony," has become something of an anthem for our local community. We end each performance with this song, and it seems no matter where we're playing, our listeners are moved to stand and join hands.

This also happened last year when "Peace and Harmony" was played for the US-Soviet Citizen's Summit in Moscow. Thanks in part to a grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women, we were able to re-record the song with Russian lyrics in the chorus.

A delegate to the summit played our tape for the entire assembly and, again, the audience spontaneously rose to its feet, joined hands and sang along. A Radio Moscow reporter was so taken with the song that she featured it in several broadcasts.

We remain very much a part of our local community, which is why we are still going strong emotionally, physically and creatively as a band. We play regularly at the Blue Moon, a friendly, Lesbian-owned establishment in Louisville. We're also holding our own financially. The benefit/festival raised \$2,000 for Yer Girlfriend, and the cassette *We Won't Be Silent* is now available from our own label, Esther Records.

We believe it's vital to play women's music wherever and whenever we can. We also believe it's important to be out as Lesbians and sing songs with pronouns that reflect our lives as we live them. (This way, if we become famous, nobody can "out" us at a later date!)

We want to carry on the great tradition of women's music: songs that are accessible, danceable, fun, provocative and affirming. We also hope that in the future, other listeners, like those in our own community, will take our message and our music to heart and gladly proclaim, like our t-shirt says: "I'm With Yer Girlfriend."

Editor's Note: *Hot Wire* is an impressive journal that covers all aspects of the women's music and culture scene. For a subscription, send \$15 to: Empty Closet Enterprises, 5210 N. Wayne, Chicago, IL 60640.

'It Got This Way Kissing Girls 6' Set For Two Shows At Barrymore

[Madison]- Kissing Girls Productions, producers of the annual Lesbian Variety Show, "I Got This Way From Kissing Girls," will present its sixth annual show at the Barrymore Theater on two successive nights, Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24.

In past years, the popular Variety Show has quickly sold out, so organizers hope offering the show a second night (in identical formats) will enable more women to attend and leave no one disappointed.

The Variety Show will be the centerpiece of a weekend of cultural events sponsored by Kissing Girls (KGP). All recipients of the 1991 Culture and Creativity grants bestowed by Kissing Girls will participate in some facet of the weekend's activities.

Art Show: Back by popular demand for the second year is the KGP Art Show, showcasing the talent of local and regional Lesbians in a variety of media. The Grand Opening of the Lesbian Art Show is scheduled for 5-7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22 at Apple Island, 849 E. Washington Avenue.

The Art Show will be open until 9 p.m. Friday night. On Saturday, the 23rd, the exhibit will be open from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m., and on Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Poetry Reading: Some of the finest Lesbian poets from the Gay rights state and parts beyond will present their artistic and political visions from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday night at Apple Island. The reading will be ASL interpreted.

"I Got This Way From Kissing Girls

6": The Sixth Annual Variety Show, promising chills, spills, laughs, drama, adventure, music, poetry and always a few surprises (planned and unplanned!) opens at the Barrymore, 2090 Atwood Avenue, at 7 p.m. Saturday night. The Saturday show will be ASL interpreted. On Sunday, curtain time is earlier, 6 p.m. Braille programs will be available (for all weekend programs) and special seating for the physically impaired will be reserved.

Tickets for the Variety Show are \$10 and go on sale November 2 at A Room of One's Own, the Barrymore Theater, Whole Earth, Magic Mill, Green Earth and Four Star Fiction & Video in Madison.

Out of town mail order purchases can be made October 30-November 9. Tickets are available on a first come-first serve basis for as long as they last.

Make checks payable to KGP, Inc. for \$10 per ticket and mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope to KGP, P.O. Box 6091, Madison, WI 53716. Indicate a first and second preference for show dates.

Ticket purchases through the outlets or by mail will be limited to six per request.

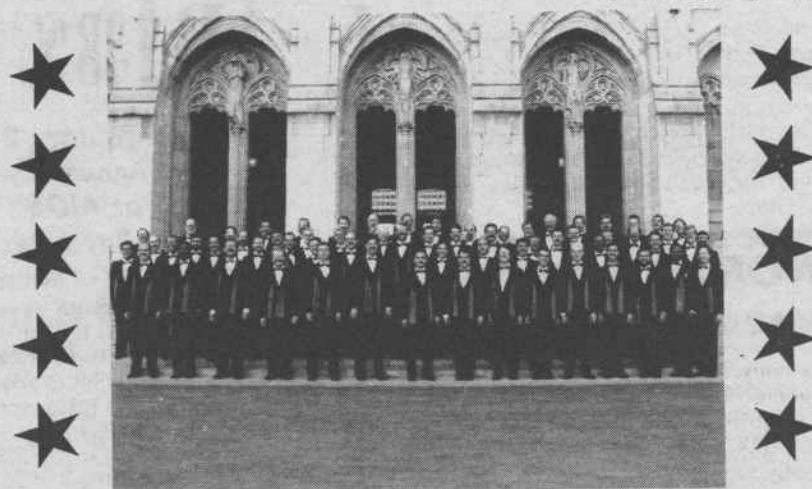
This year, the \$10 ticket to "I Got This Way From Kissing Girls 6" will include admission to all the weekend events. Be prepared to show your ticket at the door of the other events, but hold on to them for the Variety Show!

Those who do not attend the Variety Show but who want to see the Art Show and/or Poetry Reading only will pay just \$2 admission. All women are welcome.

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positively heroic!"

(New York Daily News)



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GLAAD: Turn ON Your TV For Quality, Gay-Positive Programs

By Jamakaya

On October 29, a coalition of anti-Gay censorship groups tried to send the American television networks a message: stop broadcasting positive images of Lesbians and Gay men or "mainstream" America will tune you out.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) wants their homophobic message to backfire and, with your help, plans to send the networks a different message: Gay and Lesbian viewers and people who support them outnumber the homophobes and appreciate accurate and sensitive portrayals of Gays on TV.

"Turn Off Your TV Day," October 29, was a publicity stunt orchestrated by the American Family Association (AFA), Christian Leaders for Responsible TV (CLEAR-TV), Morality in Media and other censorship groups.

In addition to protesting shows like *L.A. Law* and *Designing Women* which have presented Gay characters with positive qualities, the coalition hopes to scare the networks from showing any Gay or Lesbian characters at all, unless those characters are portrayed as sick, unhappy, criminal or suicidal.

Thousands of AFA and CLEAR-TV members made phone calls, wrote letters and staged protest rallies aimed at the networks, local affiliates and advertisers.

GLAAD is encouraging Gays and Lesbians and their supporters to send their own strong message to the networks, to call network switchboards and send letters telling them that many viewers are turning their TV sets on in support of inclusive and fair programming and against narrow-minded censorship.

Gay-Positive Programs

GLAAD suggests that CBS could be thanked for the Gay/Lesbian characters and themes in *Northern Exposure*.

In one episode, it was revealed that the "beloved founders" of Cicely, Alaska, the small town in which the show is set, were a Lesbian couple! One character commented: "They had a good thing and were lucky to have it."

In last season's final episode of *Northern Exposure*, a Gay couple who converted a new house to a bad and breakfast won over a homophobic ex-astronaut. In the final scene, the two men joined together in a slow dance with all the other townspeople.

The sassy wit of the ensemble of *Southern Belles* on CBS's *Designing Women* is also worthy of praise. In numerous storylines, they have learned about friends who are Gay, examined their own attitudes about homosexuality, and mercifully put down obnoxious homophobes.

My favorite zinger? Dixie Carter to a woman making ignorant comments about people with AIDS "deserving" the disease (paraphrased here): "Honey, if they were handing out sexually transmitted diseases to ignorant people, you'd be at the free clinic every week!"

ABC could be applauded for including an ongoing Gay character, Roseanne's boss Leon, played by Martin Mull, into *Roseanne*.

Roseanne is always one of the top rated shows, drawing a viewership of 18-19 million households per week. The impact an ongoing Gay character could have on the public's consciousness is tremendous. Harvey Fierstein is reportedly writing a script for the show in which he would play Roseanne's brother-in-law. Stay tuned!

Roseanne Arnold is a strong feminist and has a brother Ben, and a sister, Geraldine, who are Gay. (Ben runs an AIDS project in Utah.) In addition to having loved ones who are Gay, Arnold has said that her traumatic childhood, her Judaism, and her own non-conformist ways have made her empathize with underdogs.

Besides that, Arnold told the *Advocate*, "Gay people are really cool."

Hooray, L.A. Law!

NBC has consistently included Gay and Lesbian plotlines in *L.A. Law*, including those about AIDS, domestic partnerships, child custody/adoption disputes, and more.

It was *L.A. Law*, of course, that featured the first ever Lesbian kiss on network TV, between the characters Abby and C.J. In accepting an award from GLAAD for *L.A. Law* in April, actress Amanda Donahoe declared that she enjoys playing the "flexible" C.J.!

Also on NBC, in the season premiere of *Dear John*, the macho, womanizing character of Kirk discovered that his ex-wife left him for another woman!

The season premiere of *Roc* on FOX centered on a marriage ceremony between

a Gay African American, Russell, played by hunky heartthrob Richard Roundtree (yes, "Shaft"!) and his partner.

One of the more outrageous lines came from Russell's incredulous brother: "I just don't see how a Black man can be Gay. White people I can understand. They're all descended from those sissy European countries."

Finally, the FOX network could also be encouraged to follow up on earlier promises that its popular *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (my personal fave) would include openly Gay and Lesbian characters this year.

Star Trek, with its utopian future of racial and sexual equality, is seen by its many Gay fans as an ideal environment in which to introduce Gay and Lesbian characters. A campaign orchestrated by the Gaylactic Network, a sci-fi group, generated thousands of supportive letters to the producers last Summer.

Creator and Executive Producer Gene Roddenberry, who recently passed away, released a statement at the time: "In the fifth season of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, viewers will see more of shipboard life in some episodes, which will, among other things, include Gay crew members in day-to-day circumstances."

Since then, the producers have backed away from that pledge, saying only that they are "exploring a number of possible approaches" and "agree that dealing with this issue is an important thing to do."

Trekkers who'd like to see openly Gay characters mingling with Captain Picard, Data, Guinan, Worf, Counselor Troi (be still, my heart!) and the rest of the crew of the Starship Enterprise should write to FOX.

Network Contacts

Here are the phone numbers and addresses of the entertainment divisions of the major TV networks (in both New York and Los Angeles). Save them for future reference.

CBS: (212) 975-4321 (NY) and (213) 652-2345 (LA). Write to: Jeff Sagansky, President, CBS Entertainment Division, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036.

NBC: (212) 664-4444 (NY) and (213) 840-4444 (LA). Write to: Warren Littlefield, President, NBC Entertainment Division, 3000 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523.

ABC: (212) 456-7777 (NY) and (213) 557-7777 (LA). Write to: Robert Iger, President, NBC Entertainment Division, 2020 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

FOX: (212) 556-2400 (NY) and (213) 277-2211 (LA). Write to: Peter Chernin, President, FOX Entertainment Division, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.

Get Involved!

To get involved in a media watchdog group (woof, woof!) in Milwaukee, call the Lesbian Alliance at (414) 264-2600. In Madison, there is a fledgling Media Project. Call John Quinlan at (608) 256-8100.

The New York and Los Angeles chapters of GLAAD put out great newsletters, though you'll be expected to pay a membership. It's worth it. Contact GLAAD/NY at 80 Varick Street, Suite 3E, NY, NY 10013. Phone: (212) 966-1700. Contact GLAAD/LA at P.O. Box 741346, LA, CA 90004. Phone: (213) 558-0750.

Leon Comes Out

This is an excerpt from the teleplay in which Leon (Martin Mull), Roseanne's boss, came out to his poker buddies on *Roseanne*. Dan is Roseanne's husband, played by John Goodman. Arnie is a dolt played by Tom Arnold.

Arnie: Let's say Melanie Griffith wants you really bad. Would you say no?

Leon: Actually, I would.

Dan: You lying dog.

Leon: Guys, I'm serious. Didn't Roseanne tell you —

Dan: What?

Leon: That I'm Gay.

All the Guys: Yeah, right,

Leon: I thought you knew.

Dan: No. I mean, it's OK. It happens.

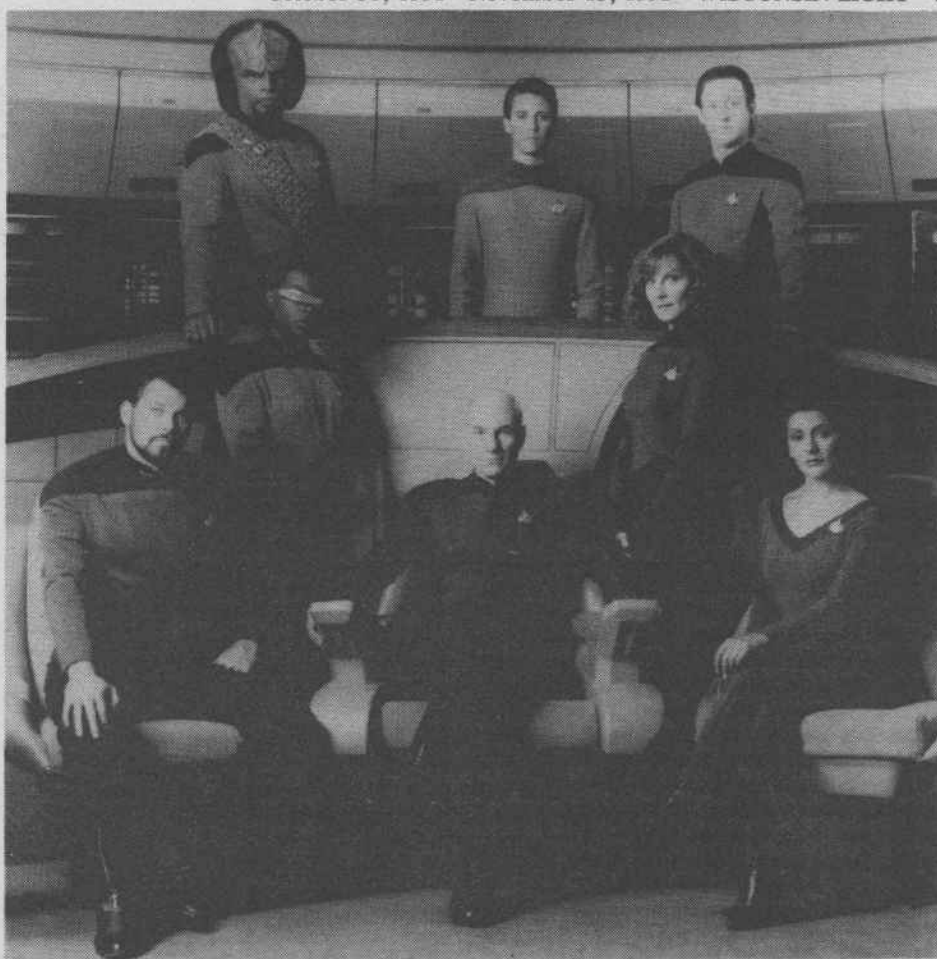
Chuck: You know, I know a Gay guy — his name is Bill. He lives in Chicago. Maybe you know him.

Leon: Yeah. Sure. I know him. From Chicago. Gay Bill.

Dan: Smooth, Chuckie.

Chuck: What? Nobody else was saying anything!

Arnie: OK, Leon, forget about Melanie Griffith. Let's say Andy Griffith hits on you —



Will Gay characters join the crew of the Starship Enterprise? Or will one of the regular come out of the intergalactic closet? Watch the popular *Star Trek: The Next Generation* to find out!

Robert Chesley's Provocative 'Jerker' Set For Madison Run

[Madison]- In 1986, Robert Chesley's ground-breaking play *Jerker* opened to rave reviews in Los Angeles and New York, and is considered a landmark work in Gay literature even today.

From the beginning, *Jerker* has been surrounded by controversy, meeting with opposition in nearly every community where it has been performed. In 1987, in the first obscenity case since 1975, the Federal Communications Commission filed criminal charges with the Justice Department against radio station KPFF for reading excerpts from *Jerker* on the air.

The plot is deceptively simple: during twenty late-night phone calls, two nude young men share their deepest sexual fantasies — and inadvertently fall in love. The play has been called a "poignant tribute to the power of love," delivering its sexual pay-offs without sacrificing the humor and universal humanity at its core.

Ferron In Madison November 16

[Madison]- Ferron, one of the most popular voices in women's music, will appear at the Barrymore Theater, 2090 Atwood Avenue, on Saturday, November 16 at 8 p.m. Her performance is sponsored by Tribade Productions and WORT.

Ferron will be playing that night with the band from her latest LP, *Phantom Center*. Previous bestselling albums by Ferron include *Shadows on a Dime* and *Testimony*.

Tickets for Ferron's show are \$11-\$13-\$15 in advance, \$13-\$15-\$17 at the door. Tickets are available at A Room of One's Own, Four Star Fiction & Video, Green Earth and the Barrymore Box Office. They can be charged by calling (608) 241-8633.

Jerker is making its Madison debut in November, sponsored by the United and presented at the Kanopy Dance Space, 315 N. Henry Street, above Four Star Fiction and Video. Performances are at 8:00 p.m. November 1-3 and November 8-10. Tickets are \$6 at the door only (\$5 for students with ID).

The Madison production of *Jerker* is being produced and directed by Paul Wells, well-known to Gay theatre patrons in Madison for his productions at Broom Street Theatre. The play stars David Laine-Lucas and Callen Harty.

All proceeds will be donated to the United to benefit the community.

Women Musicians Topic of Lecture

[Milwaukee]- Why, in the 19th century, did a sharp distinction develop between professional women musicians who worked in order to earn money (example: Clara Wieck Schumann) and equally accomplished non-professional women musicians of the upper classes who did not perform or compose for fees (example: Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel)?

Drawing on her wide background in both music history and Women's Studies, Nancy B. Reich, currently Visiting Professor at Bard College and author of the award-winning book *Clara Schumann: The Artist and the Woman*, will address these questions in a lecture co-sponsored by the Music Department and the Center for Women's Studies at UW-Milwaukee.

The lecture, "A Question of Class: Women Musicians in the 19th Century," accompanied by slides and musical examples, will take place in the Fine Arts Recital Hall at UWM on Monday, November 11 at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call the Center for Women's Studies at (414) 229-5918.

Faron Evans

Every
Sunday
in Nov.



as always...no cover

October 31, 1991—November 13, 1991—WISCONSIN LIGHT—8

'Ready To Catch Him,' 'Imajica' Impressive Fall Releases

READY TO CATCH HIM SHOULD HE FALL

By Neil Bartlett
Dutton \$19.95

IMAJICA

By Clive Barker
Harper Collins \$23.00
By Jeb Loew

The Fall book release titles are out, and among them are some very strong, important works. Long-awaited second novels from David Feinberg, *Spontaneous Combustion*, and Joe Keenan, *Putting on the Ritz*, will be out soon, while new titles by other Gay authors have already arrived.

Surprisingly though, what may be the most important title this Fall has already been released. It is a masterpiece of fiction from a first time novelist. Neil Bartlett's *Ready to Catch Him Should He Fall* is one of the most sensitive works of recent years and is sure to be a bestseller.

British author Neil Bartlett has already published works of non-fiction, but *Ready to Catch Him* is by far his greatest achievement. Set in a pre-AIDS era, it is a love story of two men, Boy and O, and the sanctuary built around them.

The two meet at the Bar, a place that has had many names but only one owner — the mysterious Madame, always seen in the same costume, a long simple black dress. Like the three Fates rolled into one, Mother, as she comes to be called, steers Boy and O together, providing for them and educating the couple in the intricacies of married life.



CLIVE BARKER

Outside the haven she has created for them, beatings and Gay bashings occur with alarming regularity. When AIDS begins to appear (though never by name), Mother is the first to supply the boys with condoms. Even as the outside world seems on the brink of destruction, Boy and O's commitment deepens. It is this bond that holds the regulars of the bar — and the novel — together.

Most mysterious of all is the narrator: a shadowy figure that seems to assume different identities at will, sharing with us events and histories that no one but

'Resisting Racism' Book Available

By Michael S. Lisowski

The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) has issued a manual to help the Gay and Lesbian community explore the issue of racism. "Resisting Racism: An Action Guide," edited by Gerald Mallon and published by the Racism Task Force of NABWMT, is a useful tool which should be a part of every Gay and Lesbian organization's library.

The revised manual is divided into four parts: Workshop Outlines; Resource Materials; Essays; and Bibliographies.

"Resisting Racism" is a volume worth having and, better yet, worth using. It is an outstanding educational resource and contains over 20 proven action plans for confronting racism. Those utilizing the manual will be the beneficiaries of knowledge that will expand out community into the next decade.

The manual can be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$19.95 payable to NABWMT Publications, P.O. Box 408641, Chicago, IL 60640. It is also available in most Gay and Lesbian bookstores.

Mother, Boy and O should know. The ties that bind the characters together are fragile at best, and keep the reader grasping for ways to understand what has transpired between them in the past that allows for so much familiarity in the present.

Is the Madame really O's mother? Who is the narrator anyway? Boy? Mother? O? The Gay basher? Or no one? And just who is the elderly man who calls himself Boy's father?

Ready to Catch Him Should He Fall is easily one of the most beautiful and insightful novels written today or ever. Don't wait for the paperback!

Another surprise novel, this one from a veteran horror author, is *Imajica* by Clive Barker. Many readers, especially Gay and Lesbian readers, may pass this one up because of Barker's reputation as a 'hack and slash' writer. Don't.

Already on the *New York Times* Bestseller List for several weeks, *Imajica* has certainly caught the attention of the masses, and for Gay readers, *Imajica* has a special appeal.

Barker has written a beautiful fable based on the lives of three characters: Gentle, Judith and Pie "Oh" Pah. The plot revolves around an attempt to reconcile the five dominions that constitute Imajica, of which earth is the fifth. But it is also a story of romance, compassion and the intangibility of sexual identity.

Barker succeeds in creating a novel and a world in which the sexual relations between characters become a process and product of psyche rather than body. Even while the main characters explore the complexities of their own sexualities, a Gay couple provides the most stable and enduring relationship. The insight into interpersonal relationships Barker has shown here is encouraging and nothing short of remarkable.

At over 800 pages, *Imajica* is lengthy, but the language moves us swiftly across alien landscapes where good and evil are confused and love and lust are the cement that holds the universe together. The prose is beautiful, the characters meticulously drawn and the message important.

Imajica is an epic novel about breaking down barriers and about the strength of the spirit. For Gay and Lesbian readers it is a refreshing and encouraging work from a writer outside of the traditional homosexual literary group. For sci-fi buffs, it's a must-read.

Reissued 'Angel Dance' Doesn't Come Together

ANGEL DANCE
By M. F. Beal
Crossing Press \$7.95

By Cynthia Van Vreede

Trying to cash in on the growing popularity of Lesbian mysteries, Crossing Press has reissued M.F. Beal's *Angel Dance*.

First published in the late 1970's, *Angel Dance* is considered a classic Lesbian thriller. I'm sad to report that just because something's old, it doesn't mean it's better. Sometimes it means it's just old.

In *Angel Dance*, our heroine, Maria Katerina Lorco Guerrero Alcazar (Kat) is asked to look after best-selling feminist author, Angel Stone. But Angel keeps disappearing. Somehow Kat always finds her and I'm not sure how she does it. And that's the problem I had with the book.

Events happen without purpose. Kat has information the reader doesn't. The author is not playing fair when she withholds things. I couldn't figure out how Kat came to the conclusions she reached regarding Angel's disappearing act or anything else for that matter. The author also writes important passages in Spanish. Now that's not fair!

Perhaps the plot was too complicated for Beal. After all, drug smuggling and the Vietnam War mixed with documentary filmmaking and incestuous family relationships don't seem to be easy topics to connect to each other. They never really come together in the book.

I suppose when *Angel Dance* was written, it was breaking new ground. At the time there was little Lesbian fiction available, so it does have some herstorical value. When we compare it to *Cop Out*, we can see just how far Lesbian mystery fiction has come in the past decade.



Wisconsin Light writer and book reviewer Cynthia Van Vreede (top left) and Wendy Garber posed with authors M.D. Lake and Ellen Hart at the Scotland Yard Bookstore in Winetka, Illinois.

'Cop Out': Good Dialogue and Tight Plot Highlight Who-Dun-It

COP OUT
By Claire McNab
Naiad Press \$8.95

By Cynthia Van Vreede

Who killed Bryce Darcy and why is the question facing Inspector Detective Carol Ashton in *Cop Out*? The main suspect is his sister Charlotte. He was murdered in her office. She was found next to him, her clothing soiled with his blood. The murder weapon was found next to Charlotte, her fingerprints all over it. An open and shut case. Or was it? Will Carol's partner take the easy way out and pin the murder on Charlotte, copping out of the investigation?

As Carol looks into the murder, she begins to question her life as a police officer. A new, young Constable in the department considers Carol her role model. The younger woman is eager to make her mark in the case. It's not any easier when Carol's partner has taken a keen interest in the career of the Constable.

Carol is tired of the system, burned out, and she's thinking of quitting the force. Her home life is changing too. Her lover, Sybil, is expanding her personal horizons teaching English to migrant women. And on top of that, Sybil wants more control in their relationship, control Carol is not willing to give up — at least not easily.

As she continues her search for the murderer, Carol finds out that Bryce Darcy had recently contacted a support group for Gay married men. On hearing this news, the family reacts in typical homophobic style, increasing the list of suspects.

Cop Out is the fourth book in the Carol Ashton series written by Aussie Claire McNab and published by Naiad Press. Throughout the series, Carol Ashton has struggled with her sexuality. The cop not out in this book is in some way a "cop

out." But the book is well written with believable characters, smooth dialogue and a tight plot. The love scenes are tastefully done. *Cop Out*, like the other books in the series, was edited by Katherine Forrest — no slouch herself as a mystery writer.

Other books in the Carol Ashton series are: *Lessons In Murder* (McNab does for Black & Decker what Alfred Hitchcock did for shower curtains), *Fatal Reunion* and *Death Down Under*.

Luscious 'Metroman '92' Is Calendar Of Delights

By Terry Boughner

[Berlin]- Berlin-based Bruno Gmunder Verlag has introduced its all new pocket calendar for 1992, *MetroMan '92*, and what a choice item it is.

First, it is a clearly arranged calendar in English, French and German.

But secondly, the months are punctuated with really splendid black and white photos of luscious young males in the ardent flowering of their sexuality (leaving, I might add, nothing whatever to the imagination).

In addition to the calendar, there's a handy reference section, complete with detailed maps, of cities across the world showing all the spots of interest to Gay men. This includes shops, bars, clubs, hotels and restaurants for places like San Francisco, Paris, London and New York.

MetroMan comes in sturdy plastic binding and retails for \$9.95. In my opinion, worth every pfennig. It is available in Gay bookshops or directly from Bruno Gmunder Publications, 100 E. Biddle Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

BEST SELLERS OF THE MONTH LESBIAN

Murder By Tradition — Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad.....	\$16.95
Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers — Lillian Faderman, Columbia University Press.....	29.95
Wish You Were Here — Rita Mae Brown, Bantam.....	18.95
Just Say Yes — Judith McDaniel, Firebrand.....	8.95
Lesbian Erotic Dance — JoAnn Loutan, Spinners.....	12.95
Riding Desire — Tee Corinne, Ed., Banned Books.....	9.95
Cop Out — Claire McNab, Naiad.....	8.95
Dykescapes — Tina Portillo, Alyson.....	8.95
Women on Women: American Lesbian Short Fiction — Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, Eds., Plume.....	9.95

GAY

Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey — Martin Duberman, Dutton.....	\$19.95
Halfway Home — Paul Monette, Random House.....	20.00
The Boy Who Was Buried This Morning — Joseph Hansen, Plume.....	5.95
The Boy and Its Dangers — Allan Barnett, St. Martin's.....	8.95
Simple Suburban Murder — Mark Richard Zubro, St. Martin's.....	8.95
Frisk — Dennis Cooper, Grove.....	17.95
Men on Men 3: American Gay Fiction — George Stambolian, Plume.....	10.95
Meatmen II — Winston Leyland, Leyland.....	14.95
Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men — Essex Hemphill, Ed., Alyson.....	8.95
Why Isn't Beckey Twitchell Dead? — Mark Richard Zubro, St. Martin's.....	8.95

LESBIAN/GAY

Ryan White: My Own Story — Ryan White and Ann Marie Cunningham, Dial.....	8.95
People In Trouble — Sarah Schulman, Penguin.....	8.95
Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out — Hutchins and Kaahumanu, Eds., Alyson.....	11.95

(Sources: Room of One's Own and Four Star Fiction and Video in Madison; People's Bookstore in Milwaukee.)

Judi Selle, Pro-Choice Activist, Named NOW Woman of the Year

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]—Abortion might never be wholly outlawed in the United States, Judi Selle believes, and she worries about that.

"Perhaps what we'll see is they'll never overturn Roe," she said. Roe vs. Wade is the 1973 Supreme Court decision that gave women the right to abortion.

"What I fear is going to happen is that we're going to see the right of choice eroded and eroded and eroded." An outright ban would cause an "enormous reaction," said Selle, but a slowly growing limit to abortion might be tolerated. It could eventually mean abortions would be allowed only if the woman would die from the pregnancy or for rapes that are reported in a legally prescribed period of time after the crime — eliminating 99 percent of all legal abortions, she worries.

And she worries that some of those 99 percent will seek illegal abortions, and some will die.



JUDI SELLE

Selle, the Associate Executive Director of Community Service for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin is this year's Woman of the Year for the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

She will be honored at a dinner November 16 at the Park East Hotel. The dinner is \$25. The cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. is \$3 and the program at 9:00 p.m. is free. Ticket information is available by calling (414) 276-8293.

"In the Trenches"

"We wanted to highlight the struggle of women to retain the right to choice," said Joan Zeiger, coordinator of Milwaukee NOW, "and to honor a woman who's been in the trenches."

Selle worked for NOW as an ERA missionary in 1982, but her work for abortion rights goes back to her college days 20 years ago.

The daughter of a Lutheran minister, Selle believed abortion was morally wrong when she arrived at Valparaiso University in Indiana. In the late 1960s, she saw friends get unintended pregnancies, seek illegal abortions, "and in that process I saw tragic abortions," she said.

She came to believe that "the question of morality is not really at issue." The woman's health and safety is at issue, she said, because the woman will by one means or another get an abortion. Outlawing abortion only increases the risks to her health and her life.

Before the Supreme Court's decision, Selle worked for a while for Jane, an underground abortion referral service in Chicago.

From 1978 to 1981, she worked for the Women's Coalition, an umbrella organization encompassing many of Milwaukee's feminist groups. It worked on issues such as displaced homemakers and violence against women. Selle was an organizer of the first massive "Take Back The Night" march in 1979.

In 1982, Milwaukee NOW sponsored her as an ERA missionary to Oklahoma for a half year. As a missionary, she identified Equal Rights Amendment supporters who were voters and got them to contact their state legislators to urge them to vote for the ERA when the Constitutional amendment came before the state for ratification.

"That was my first experience in constituent-based voter education around a specific issue," she said. The ERA lost in Oklahoma by four votes, but Selle returned with skills she used to work on campaigns for Barb Ulichny, now a Wisconsin State Senator, and on other

Democratic campaigns.

Then Planned Parenthood asked her to come on board.

Selle describes her job as management responsibilities in education and training projects statewide, as well as public relations, community service, political work and fund raising.

Assault on Choice

"Planned Parenthood has done more to reduce the need for abortions than all the other groups who oppose abortion combined," she said.

"In the Capitol, we don't see them the opponents working to increase prenatal care, adoption benefits and healthy births," she said. "They're spending their legislative time on parental consent and 'informed' consent and spouses' consent," requirements that would limit a woman's right to abortion.

"We fully expect that if they were successful in outlawing abortion, the next step would be in preventing women control over their fertility destiny with birth control," she said. The move to place "gag rule" restrictions on federally funded birth control clinics was an attempt to defund family planning programs, she said.

If family planning programs are cut back, Selle asserted, "We know what will happen is that there will be less contraception among poor women and more abortions." The pro-life movement claims it has no position about birth control, she said, but defunding clinics and picketing and blocking clinics "all add up to a direct assault on family planning."

"I believe that fundamentally they believe that people should not practice sexuality except for procreation." This means they oppose not only birth control, said Selle, but homosexuality.

Anti-Choice, Anti-Gay?

She noted that the people who opposed Milwaukee County's proclamation in support of Gay Pride Week two years ago "were by and large the same people as the pro-lifers."

Selle said both the Gay and Lesbian rights movement and the pro-choice movement should come together to support state legislators and members of Congress who will affirm the right of privacy for individuals to make their own sexual decisions.

In Wisconsin, anti-abortion legislators occupy the majority of seats in the Assembly and Senate and Governor Thompson opposes abortion.

"Whether or not that will change next November will be up to the voters," she said. All 99 members of the Assembly and about 15 senators will be up for re-election in the Fall of 1992.

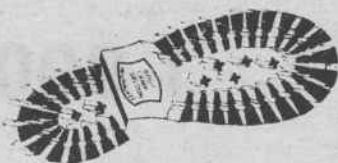
Milwaukee NOW invites its Woman of the Year to pick two speakers for the dinner. Selle has picked Georgia Rasmeyer, an attorney in the Public Defender's Office, and Mary Louise Mussoline, head of MLM Associates, a consulting, training and fund raising firm.

Rasmeyer was a sorority sister with Selle at Valparaiso University and shared the job of Director of the Women's Coalition with Selle.

Mussoline and Selle worked together at Planned Parenthood. Selle described her as a "major cheerleader" on days when Selle felt her work wasn't succeeding, and as a very good friend.

In her own speech, Selle plans to say that the independent organizations in the women's movement must be supported so their activism can continue. Those groups, she said, are "critical to the future of women and children and all people who love freedom."

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

ASK BILL: Columnist Offers Sensitive Political Advice

By Bill Meunier

From time to time, I receive letters asking for my advice on how to deal with sensitive political problems involving the Lesbian and Gay community. I have decided to respond to the latest ones publicly.

Dear Bill,

I am the Governor of a major West Coast state. Recently I vetoed a law that would have outlawed discrimination against homosexuals. Now everyone is mad at me.

The fundamentalists are mad, because in my veto message, I didn't accuse homosexuals of conspiring to bring back the days of pagan Rome. In fact, I went so far as to call the fundamentalists bigots.

Gays are angry because I vetoed the bill after I promised to sign it, but that was before my State Republican Party informed me that you are a threat to the family, and not even a "legitimate minority." Furthermore, I was told that the bill would inconvenience business.

Now whenever I go anywhere, there are Gays throwing things at me, rioting, burning me in effigy and heckling me. I don't hate you guys, but I'm a Republican, you can't expect me to inconvenience business over something minor like human rights.

What can I do to smooth things over with the Gay community?

Sign me
BIG Peter

Dear BIG

Don't worry about the fundies. Short of announcing that you support the death penalty for all Gays and Lesbians you will never please them.

The problem of your eroding support from Lesbians and Gays is a tricky one. I have called up nearly every political consultant in the country and asked them for their suggestions. The verdict is unanimous. There is only one way you can help yourself with our community. You will have to borrow your wife's best dress and beads, put them on and ride a float

down Castro street in San Francisco's next Gay/Lesbian Pride parade.

Good Luck
Bill

P.S. Consider having your wife dress in leather and carry a whip. It might get you extra credit.

Dear Bill,

I represent a district in the Western part of a Mid-Western state. My problem is that recently some people decided to "out" me. They confronted me in a Gay restaurant demanding that I come out of the closet, and they passed out leaflets at a local parade telling people that I am Gay.

I got the Human Rights Campaign Fund to do a special rating for me (eliminating some of my votes) so I could say that I have a 100% voting record on Gay issues, but that doesn't seem to have helped. What should I do?

Wisconsin Steve

Dear Steve,

Your problem is that you are so deep in the closet that you can't find the doorknob, or the light switch. Wake up and smell the coffee. If Gerry Studds can do Europe with a page boy and Barney Frank can hire a hustler and still get re-elected, you can come out and smell the fresh air. Most of the voters in your district have known for some time. Continuing the deceit will only make them question your honesty.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could take your lover with you to your fund raisers and rallies? Imagine having him accompany you to the next National Republican Convention! I can guarantee you, that you'll be the talk of the Party. The Closet Door knob is to your right.

Bill

Write for LIGHT
[414] 372-2773

GIVE A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY Be Part of the Proud Crowd

For \$10.00 you can help make the 1992 Pride Celebration even better! With a \$20 or more donation, you'll receive a rainbow flag pin.* With a \$30 or more donation you'll receive a 1991 MLGPC T-Shirt.* "Proud Crowd" names will be published in the Holiday issues of Wisconsin Light and In Step.

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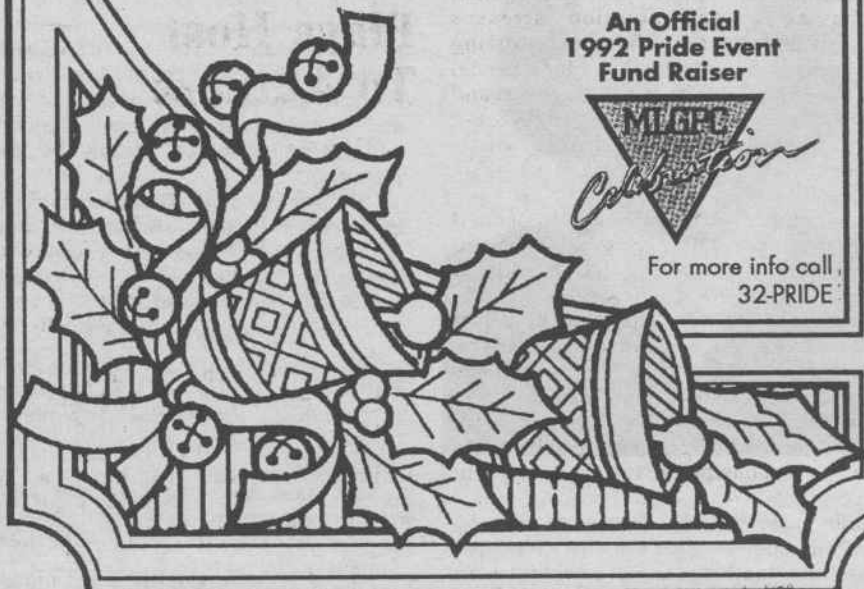
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New Harvest Foundation Dinner At Masonic Temple November 15

[Madison]- All members of Wisconsin's Lesbian and Gay community are invited to attend the 5th annual dinner and dance of The New Harvest Foundation, scheduled for Friday, November 15, 1991 in the Gershwin Ballroom of the Masonic Temple in Madison. The Masonic Temple is located at 301 Wisconsin Avenue.

The theme of the event is "Come Out With The Stars For a Night On Broadway," and will feature a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception at 7:00 p.m., followed at 8:00 p.m. by a catered dinner. Afterwards, the American Jazz Express Sextet will entertain with a

variety of dance music until midnight.

The New Harvest Foundation's annual dinner and dance is open to everyone, stresses co-chair of the event Lisa Fusaro. "It's not a fundraiser. It is an opportunity for our people to get together, wine and dine, sing and dance, and build a sense of community."

Reservations for the dinner-dance are available now at \$35 per person. This price includes the reception, dinner and wine, dessert buffet and entertainment. Reservations will be accepted through Monday, November 4. A reservation can be obtained by calling (608) 255-6553.

Unitarian Minister To Lecture On 'Gays, Lesbians and the Church'

[Milwaukee]- A sermon affirming the religious value of Gays and Lesbians will be presented at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, November 17, at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor Street.

"Come As You Are: Gays, Lesbians and the Church" will be delivered by the Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy. Visitors are welcome.

The Unitarian Universalist Association, which as a denomination stresses freedom and diversity, has been working for equal human rights for sexual minorities since 1975. It has Gay men and Lesbians as ministers, educators and other church officers, and encourages its ministers to officiate at Lesbian and Gay Services of Union.

In an earlier sermon, Kennedy pointed out that the denomination was the first to regularly ordain women to the ministry in 1865. "One hundred years from now, as we look back on it, I suspect we'll be just as proud of our being among the first to ordain Gays and Lesbians as we are of our being the first or ordain women."

Speaking about AIDS, Kennedy said, "As Unitarian Universalists, I believe we have a responsibility to speak out in support of Gays and Lesbians, for ignorance, fear and bigotry are already infecting millions and millions of people across the land so as to constitute an invisible plague of astonishing proportions and of potentially deadly significance."

The service will be preceded by a talk at

9:00 a.m. on Amnesty International's Campaign for Women, presented by a local coordinator of the campaign. Amnesty International usually adopts individual prisoners, but is undertaking a special campaign to stress that women's human rights are systematically abused in many countries around the world.

Four Star Plays Host To Authors

[Madison]- On Wednesday, November 6, 1991, Peter Hedges will be reading selections from his first novel, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* at Four Star Fiction & Video, 315 N. Henry Street. The reading begins at 7:00 p.m.

Also at Four Star, on Thursday, November 7, 1991, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Frank Chin will be signing his recently released novels, *The Chinaman Pacific & Frisco R.R. Co.* and *Donald Duk*. Chin, considered the champion of Asian-American letters, was the first Chinese-American to have a play produced on the New York stage when *The Chickencoop Chinaman* opened in 1972.

The Asian-American Student Union will be sponsoring a talk by Chin at 7:30 p.m. on November 7 in the UW Memorial Union.

Jerry Smith Organ Recital At St. Paul's To Benefit MAP

[Milwaukee]- For the second year in a row, Jerry A. Smith will present an organ recital as part of the "Music at St. Paul's" series. Along with Smith will be performances by the Cross of Life Lutheran Church Handbell Choir of Brookfield, trumpeter David Brown, tenor Gary Wells and a host of other vocalists. Music ranging from the Baroque to the 20th Century will be presented.

This recital, to be held Sunday evening, November 24 at 7:00 p.m., is a fundraiser for the Milwaukee AIDS Project and for people who are living with HIV disease in

'Christian' Message: 'Death to Gays'

[Madison]- "They which commit such things are worthy of death." This, according to a letter being circulated currently in Madison quoting from Paul's letter to the Romans.

According to its letterhead, the letter, signed by Richard C. Halverson, is published by Concern Ministries, Inc., out of McLean, Virginia as a "bi-weekly devotional letter called *Perspective*."

The letter goes on to call homosexuality a "pornographic perversion" that "flies against the face of history, nature, sociology, humanity's future and biblical truth!"

It also notes that "It is not without significance that the Gay community has been gaining momentum" along with the Pro-Choice movement. "It doesn't take a prophet to foresee that pro-choice and homosexuality universalized would mean the extinction of the human race. One sacrifices the gift of reproduction — the other short-circuits it!"

The letter concludes by quoting Paul's Letter to the Romans saying that Lesbians and Gays "are worthy of death."

Editor's Note: Richard C. Halverson can be reached by writing him at P.O. Box 7800, McLean, VA 22106-7800.

LETTER POLICY

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

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Smith is a nationally known classical, theatre and "pop" organist, teacher and clinician. He graduated from the University of Portland, Oregon with a bachelor's degree in organ performance and a Master's in music education. He is currently Director of Music at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Mequon.

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Smith has been featured in three documentaries on AIDS for PBS and is the chair of the People Living With AIDS Coalition of Wisconsin.

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Champion of Artistic Freedom: 'It's Time To Take A Stand'

By John Quinlan

[Madison]. The director of the only museum in the country to be raided by a police vice squad has warned against complacency in the wake of his victory over a conservative, homophobic coalition that attempted to close down an exhibit of the photos of Robert Mapplethorpe.

"A jury of ordinary people made a decision last year heard around the country that they didn't want Jesse Helms telling them what they could or couldn't see," Dennis Barrie told a supportive crowd at the University of Wisconsin on October 23, "but the real struggle for artistic freedom in this country is just beginning. The arts are now politically vulnerable and they are going to be for a long time to come."

Barrie, the director of the Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati, was acquitted in October, 1990 of charges of pandering obscenity and exhibiting nude photos of minor children without their parent's consent. The charges resulted from the exhibition of "The Perfect Moment," a critically acclaimed display of Mapplethorpe's photos that toured the country in the year following his death at age 42 of AIDS.

Mapplethorpe's Art

Seven of the more than 150 exhibit photos were singled out by an Ohio prosecutor as obscene under Ohio law, because of their depiction of sado-masochistic or homoerotic themes. While Mapplethorpe has become known by these more "challenging" works, Barrie's presentation included slides that showed the full diversity of Mapplethorpe's vision.

Typical of the powerful beauty of the majority of these images was a striking portrait of two muscular men — one Black and one white — in a loving embrace. Barrie related that one of the men in the photo, Ken Berry, who had been born without hair because of a congenital disease, found himself overwhelmed by Mapplethorpe's image, saying: "I'd always thought that I was an ugly man; this man made me beautiful."

Barrie pointed out that, when given the facts, the jury and the vast majority of the public overwhelmingly supported the museum's right to show the exhibit. Nevertheless, he added, in the absence of a nationally organized movement to carry on the fight for artistic freedom of expression, the powerful minority who lost in Cincinnati may yet win the bigger battles that lie ahead.

"These people are scary. They are well-organized and extremely powerful and they aren't about to go away," Barrie said of the coalition of fundamentalist groups and conservative politicians who led the fight to ban the Mapplethorpe exhibit. "They had enormous financial resources and used the most sophisticated Madison Avenue techniques. Our biggest mistake was in underestimating them. We mustn't make that mistake again."

Since winning in court a year ago, Barrie has toured the country, urging people to action at a time when he says "the freedom of artistic expression is being challenged as never before." Despite his museum's "victory," the Mapplethorpe controversy has greatly cooled enthusiasm among his colleagues nationwide for exhibitions of art deemed to be unconventional or controversial in nature.

Speaking to a packed house in the Union Theatre as part of the Memorial Union's Distinguished Lecture Series, he described a battle for creative freedom that cost his museum more than \$500,000.

Battle for Creative Freedom

All along, he said, it was much more of a political battle than a legal one. The local sheriff, who had ridden to fame on the basis of a 20 year record of anti-pornography raids, originally declared that none of the Mapplethorpe photos were pornographic under local law. Within days, he reversed himself. Working with a judge who was a long-time political ally, he sent a cadre of deputies into the museum to arrest Barrie and close down the exhibit.

Thousands of people rallied in support of the museum in what became a near riot. Within hours, Barrie was free, and a separate injunction was secured that reopened the museum. As a result of the controversy, a museum record was set as 81,302 people toured the exhibit.

As is the case in many obscenity controversies, Barrie said that most of the museum's critics never bothered to see for themselves what they were criticizing.

The judge and the sheriff were joined by a well-mobilized force of local fundamentalist groups who received financial support from national arch-conservatives Donald Wildmon and Pat Robertson. They were willing to do anything to succeed, Barrie says, including threaten the employers of the museum's board members. In fact, one board member did lose his job as a result of these efforts.

Legal Barriers

In what Barrie describes as a modern-day "Scopes Trial," the presiding judge erected enormous legal barriers, denying all but one of the museum's motions in the many weeks of the trial. Attempting to overcome precedents that exempt a museum from the obscenity statutes, the judge ruled that the Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati was not a museum, but an exhibition hall.

Barrie also said that the judge refused to allow jurors to see the seven allegedly obscene photos in their proper context as part of the totality of the exhibit. Despite the fact that the vast majority of the exhibit consisted of relatively conventional portraiture and still lifes of flowers, the judge only allowed the jury to see the most disturbing images.

These included images of self-mutilation and sado-masochistic bondage, and pictures depicting the practice of "fist fucking," a man with a finger pushed up in his penis and a man urinating into another man's mouth. These were images, Barrie said, from a two-year period in Mapplethorpe's life when he had been intensely involved with a group that practiced sado-masochism in a particularly demeaning way. While Mapplethorpe had since denounced the excesses of that time in his life, he believed artistic integrity demanded that those experiences be represented in the exhibit.

Stripped of the right to show these photos in their proper context, their case didn't look good, Barrie said.

Enlightened Jurors

It was the process of voir dire, or jury selection, that ultimately won the day. Ironically, the jury had been characterized as inherently hostile to the concerns of the museum because they were mostly uneducated, white and working class — and virtually all were non-museum goers.

However, each juror was asked the simple question, "Do you believe that an adult should be able to decide what they can see for themselves?" Those who answered affirmatively were approved for the jury.

One of the incredible things about the nature of a jury trial was that it forced the art experts who testified on the museum's behalf to explain the purpose of art in a very basic and down-to-earth manner. "Art isn't always pretty," Barrie recalls hearing one of the academicians explaining to the jurors, "in fact, some of the most powerful art has power because of how troubling it is. Art can be pleasing, but it can also make you think."

Jurors also quickly saw through the efforts to present two of Mapplethorpe's photos as "child pornography." One, taken at a friend's wedding, depicted a five-year-old girl in a dress, who had managed to slip off her undergarments as children her age often do. Another was a nude study of a six-year-old boy on the chair in his parent's living room. Both mothers filed affidavits stating they had given permission for the photos, something the prosecution discounted because "the mothers had different last names than their children."

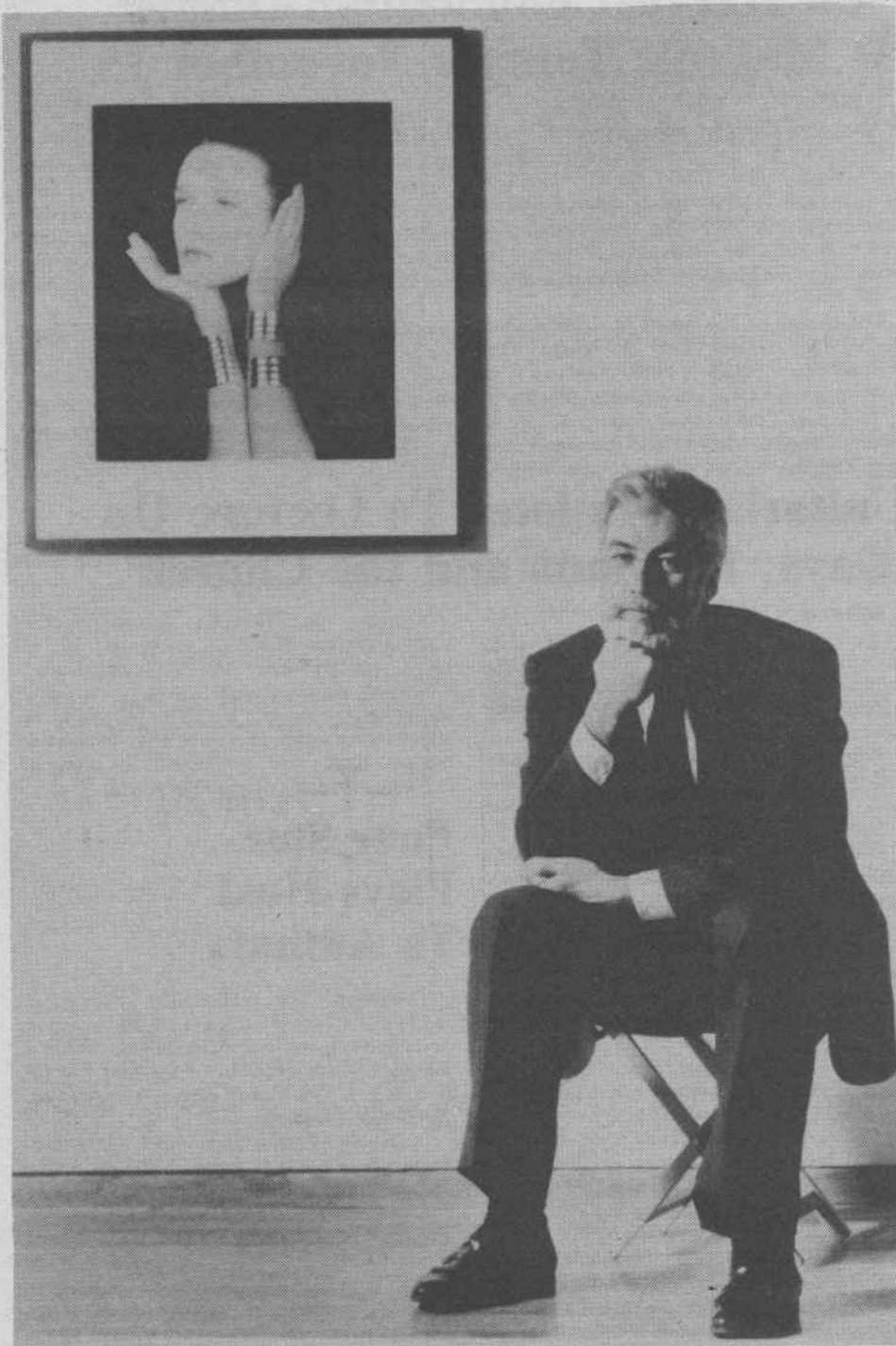
And it became known that both of the subjects, now in their early twenties, proudly displayed these portraits in their homes. In fact, the young man recently playfully re-enacted the same pose au naturel for a popular magazine.

After deliberations that were expected to last throughout the weekend, the jurors returned with a verdict after less than two hours: not guilty on all charges.

"Take a Stand"

In response, the U.S. House of Representatives voted the next week to fully restore funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which had been under fire for funding the Mapplethorpe exhibit and a handful of other controversial displays.

However, a year later, conservatives in the U.S. Senate again pushed through legislation that severely restricts the NEA funding of controversial art. (See related stories, this issue.) According to Barrie,



DENNIS BARRIE

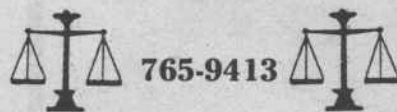
it's a development that's typical of how the ongoing battle is shaping up.

"We won a significant victory last year. But our opposition is everywhere... For those of us who espouse the value of

art that makes us challenge and re-examine our beliefs, our whole world has become vulnerable," Barrie told the crowd. "It's time to take an active stand."

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