



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

The Wisconsin Light

Gays Respond To WISN TV's 'Flirting With Danger' Series

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community watched with bated breath as WISN, TV-12 ran its highly promoted four-part series, "Flirting With Danger," as part of its 10:00 p.m. newscast November 19-22.

The series was publicized as an investigation into Gay life in some bars and cruising areas of the city in the aftermath of the Jeffrey Dahmer serial killings. Reported by Dane Placko, it purported to investigate the "dangerous situations Gays put themselves in."

Prior to the series and before each segment was aired, anchors Jerry Taff and Marty Burns Wolfe emphasized that the report depicted the practices of only a small segment of the city's Gay community.

Nevertheless, many Lesbian and Gay activists reacted with strong apprehension over the effect the series might have on the community, particularly over the possible increase in anti-Lesbian and anti-Gay violence.

There was also anger that Channel 12 would spend its time focusing on the Gay community during the November "sweeps" month when the electronic media seek to gain a wider audience to increase ad revenue. TV stations often focus on sensational subjects at this time to improve their ratings.

Community spokespeople pointed out that most of our bars are very aware of the problem with underage drinkers and have adopted strict controls to handle the situation.

There was anger too at WISN for airing the series at the same time as the Milwaukee School Board was about to vote on the Report on Lesbian and Gay Teens.

Sources at WISN maintained that the timing of the report was coincidental and that there was no intent to hurt the community. Fred D'Ambrosi, WISN-TV's news director, said the station had "every intention of being responsible;" that "every word" in the report would be carefully reviewed and that community spokespeople would have an opportunity to react.

Two "crisis" meetings were held by local activists to discuss the situation. One took place on Friday evening, November 15, in the offices of *In Step*. It was attended by about 25 Lesbian and Gay leaders representing many of Milwaukee's Gay activist groups. The second was held November 18 at the Counseling Center under the auspices of the Lavender Network.

At both meetings, discussion returned again and again to the Christian Fundamentalist outcry, led by WVCY's Vic Eliason, over the Lesbian/Gay Teen

TURN TO WISN, PAGE 11

School Board Director David Lucey Apologizes for Homophobic Slur

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee School Board Director David M. Lucey has issued an apology to the Lesbian and Gay community for remarks he made at the School Board meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 1991. At that time Lucey said he did not believe Gay people were either normal or healthy.

In a phone call to the Editor of *The Wisconsin Light*, Lucey said he wanted to apologize and sent a letter addressed to the paper. The letter reads:

"Following Wednesday's School Board action on the report on the Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Teens, I responded to a pointed 'yes' or 'no' question with an answer that I regret. I want to make this public apology to all Milwaukeeans.

"Contrary to my response to the question Wednesday night, I do not believe, in the words of the questioner, that Gays and Lesbians are 'abnormal' or 'unhealthy' people. In the heat of the

School Board Succumbs To Pressure Of Bible Thumpers

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Caving in to the pressure tactics of self-confessed Christian Fundamentalists, the Milwaukee School Board on November 20 approved watered down versions of the school administration's responses to a Task Force Report Regarding Gay and Lesbian Teens. (The full text of the Report along with the administration's response is on p. 12.)

More than 800 Bible-thumping, hymn singing zealots, many from outside the city of Milwaukee, packed several rooms of the School Administration Building to listen to the discussion and vote. Some carried signs saying "No More Tax Funded Perversion," "Vote for the Family: Mom, Dad and the Kids," and "Homosexuality Means Hopelessness, Pain and Death."

The religious hymns were occasionally countered by chants of "Two, four, six, eight, how do you know your kids are straight?" and "Hey, hey! Ho, Ho! Homophobia's got to go!" from the small Gay contingent of 30 or 40 people.

Only three Board Directors publicly commented on the Gay Teen Report. Lawrence O'Neil speculated on whether homosexuality was a "mental defect," a "physical defect" or a "biological condition." David Lucey, playing to the audience, repeatedly repudiated the report's assertion that homosexuality could be "normal and healthy."

Speaking to reporters after the vote, Lucey went on to say that homosexuals were neither healthy nor normal and that they should seek psychiatric treatment to "reverse" their condition. The son of

TURN TO SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 7



A "Christian" is transported with religious fervor at the Nov. 20 Milwaukee School Board meeting. The sign reads "Homosexuality Means Hopelessness, Pain and Death."

Vic Eliason Sued for \$12 Million By Washington D.C. Journalist

[Washington, D.C.]- Former United Press International (UPI) reporter Julie Brienza, on November 20, 1991, charged that a group of right-wing religious broadcasters, including Paul Cameron and Milwaukee's Vic Eliason, orchestrated a smear campaign against her designed to compel UPI to fire her because she is a Lesbian and because she was freelancing for the *Washington Blade*, a Gay/Lesbian newspaper.

Eliason runs WVCY radio and WVCY-TV (Voice of Christian Youth), using them as a platform for all sorts of invective in support of every kind of cause.

In April, 1990, as originally reported in *Wisconsin Light*, Eliason, a right wing, religious televangelist, and a confessed Christian, discovered that Brienza was both working for UPI and writing for the *Blade*. Eliason then contacted a number of other "Christian broadcasters" and together they broadcast a continuous series of reports about Brienza, calling her a "mole" and a "double agent" and referring to her employment at UPI as a "case of Lesbian penetration" of the press agency.

Brienza's attorneys have uncovered in discovery, facts supporting the contention of a right-wing religious conspiracy, which include the fact that Eliason, Cameron, Accuracy in Media and other

right-wing broadcasters suggested to their listeners that Brienza should be fired. Further, some urged their audiences to block UPI telephone lines with their demands, which led to UPI receiving hundreds of phone calls from listeners complaining about Brienza and demanding that she be fired.

Calling UPI officials directly, TURN TO ELIASON, PAGE 10

Neglect of Prisoner With AIDS Spurs Call for Reform in Racine

[Racine] - An inmate with AIDS at the Racine County Jail who was given no medication and left to lie in feces and vomit was denied "even the most minimal standards of humane treatment," according to Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Nelson is urging Racine County authorities to develop and implement humane and effective policies for managing HIV/AIDS in its prisons.

Dennis Hill, a client of MAP, was in the custody of Racine County authorities on November 17 and 18, during which time his already precarious health status "quickly and seriously deteriorated."

Hill was stopped by police for swerving in traffic on I-94. He was cited for operating a vehicle after revocation of his license and for resisting arrest. Hill told officers that he was very sick from AIDS, but no effort was made to transport him to a hospital or to meet his medical needs.

When staff members from MAP visited Hill in his cell the following day, they found him to be "critically ill and requiring hospitalization. He was in great pain, was unable to walk, had extremely labored breathing, was partially clothed and lying in his own feces and vomit."

In a strongly worded letter to Racine County authorities, MAP's Nelson said the jail's failure to respond to Hill's critical condition "demonstrates professional negligence and a reckless disregard for fundamental principles of humane treatment."

Nelson demanded an independent investigation into the way Hill was treated at the Racine County Jail as well as an evaluation of the current policies and procedures governing people with HIV disease in the jail.

Nelson called for comprehensive AIDS education for all jail employees and the use of universal infection control procedures by all employees for all

inmates. He called for high quality medical care for inmates with HIV disease and compassionate leave for those in critical condition.

He also called for the firing of any employees who discriminated against inmates because of their HIV status.

In his letter to Racine County Executive Dennis Kornwolf, Board of Supervisors Chair Jean Jacobson and Sheriff Robert Rohner, Nelson said his recommendations were "not radical, but bottom line, fundamental, humane policies" necessary for the successful management of the AIDS epidemic. He urged the officials to "act swiftly" to implement them.

Meanwhile, the Milwaukee City Jail is reviewing its policies regarding the handling of prisoners with HIV/AIDS after the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin filed a complaint with the Fire and Police Commission.

The ACLU is urging that the practice of identifying inmates with HIV (often written on a card outside the inmate's cell) be stopped immediately. Officers should be trained to treat all prisoners with universal precautions.

The ACLU recommended that specific guidelines on the treatment of people with HIV, from street contact to intake to incarceration, be adopted; that officers receive ongoing training on the nature and transmission of HIV; and that the Police Department develop its own policy on employees with HIV.

The Milwaukee Police Department is expected to submit its own policy proposals to the Fire and Police Commission in December.

AIDS activist organizations, citing the deaths of Donald Woods and Ricardo Thomas, have criticized the State Department of Corrections for negligence and mishandling of prisoners with HIV/AIDS at the Waupun Correctional facility.

TURN TO LUCEY, PAGE 9

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

More Sponsors For Gay Rights Bill

[Washington, DC]- In the past month, five more members of Congress have signed on as co-sponsors of the federal Gay and Lesbian civil rights bill (HR 1430), bringing the total number of Congressional sponsors to 99 (of 435). Thirteen of 100 US Senators have also sponsored the bill (S 574).

The new co-sponsors — all Democrats — include House Majority Whip David E. Bonior (MI), Ron Wyden (OR), Ben Jones (GA), and Henry Gonzales and Albert Bustamante (TX). Bonior's support is most welcome by Gay lobbyists because as Majority Whip, his job is to rally his party in favor of specific legislation.

The bill would add "sexual orientation" to federal laws that prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and federally funded programs. Sponsors hope to schedule a hearing on the bill before the end of next year's session.

Of the Wisconsin delegation, only Jim Moody (D) has signed on as a co-sponsor.

Ann Arbor Okays Partnerships

[Ann Arbor, MI]- On November 14, Ann Arbor became the first city in Michigan and the 18th in the nation to pass a law allowing unmarried couples — Gay or straight — to register their domestic partnerships with the city. The measure offers official recognition to those relationships but does not provide for health care or other benefits to be extended to domestic partners.

The Ann Arbor City Council adopted the resolution after a four hour public hearing in which the majority of about 100 residents spoke in favor of the law.

Councilwoman Ann Marie Coleman, chief sponsor of the measure, said she wanted to "support and affirm the concept of family for Lesbian and Gay and Bisexual people." She has also introduced a resolution to study the costs of extending city benefits to registered domestic partners.

And the Mayor of Ann Arbor said: "I think it's very fortunate that the city of Ann Arbor can take a pioneering role in the state of Michigan on this issue."

Homophobe Nabbed For Soliciting

[Tampa, FL]- Monsignor Norman Balthazar, who led his parishioners in a campaign against Tampa's civil rights amendment on sexual orientation and who compared homosexuality to bestiality, was arrested for soliciting sex from a male police officer October 30. The police recorded the priest as saying to the decoy cop: "You give me a blow job then I will give you one."

Balthazar apologized to his parishioners and friends, saying he "was not in control of my senses." His attorney denied that Balthazar was homosexual and said that his client could not recollect the incident.

But Bill Cagle, a Tampa activist, told *The Weekly News*: "This is a man who is so self-hating that he's going around preaching that Gay sex is sinful and evil, and then he goes and picks up a police decoy on the street...No wonder this guy was so homophobic, he was basically trying to cover his own ass."

Gay Adventists Win Case

[Los Angeles, CA]- In another victory for Gay rights, a US District Judge has ruled that Seventh Day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. has not infringed on the trademark or copyright of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The Church had sued to prevent its name from being used by the Kinship group, which is a support group for Gay and Lesbian Seventh Day Adventists and their friends. The judge ruled that "Seventh Day Adventist" is a generic term for a religion and therefore not entitled to trademark protection.

The Kinship organization has over 500 members and operates a toll free hotline: 1-800-4-GAYS-SDA.

Pink Panthers Must Change Name

[New York, NY]- A federal judge has ruled that New York City's Pink Panther Patrol, the Gay-operated anti-bashing street patrol, must change its name because it infringes on MGM-Pathe's copyright to the Pink Panther cartoon character. The group can continue to use a paw print as its logo, however.

US District Judge Pierre N. Leval ruled: "The patrol's use of this very distinctive and familiar name will raise questions in the minds of the public as to whether the promoters of the comic Pink Panther are engaged in sponsoring the patrol's cause and efforts."

Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said: "There is no way that anyone could confuse a cartoon, Pink Panther with the serious struggle against violence in the streets that Gay people face every day."

FOX First To Run Condom Ads

[Los Angeles, CA]- The FOX Broadcasting Network announced on November 12 that it would be the first major television network to run advertisements for condoms. The ads will focus on condoms as a method for preventing transmission of HIV and will not mention their role in contraception.

CBS and NBC executives are also reviewing their ad policies and evaluating whether to accept condom ads. But a spokeswoman for ABC declared: "ABC has no intention of changing its policy. We have not and will not be accepting condom advertising."

FOX's local affiliates can decide whether or not to air the condom ads.

Quickies...

[Cambridge, MA]- Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton (D) said on October 31 that if he was elected President he would sign an executive order ending the Pentagon policy of banning Gays and Lesbians from military service. Clinton said the best time to have ended the policy was in "the afterglow of victory" in the Persian Gulf war.

[Austin, TX]- Dr. Connie Peterson-Miller, who provided chiropractic care to HIV-infected patients at the Austin Immune Health Clinic, was among the 24 people killed in the massacre at Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen, Texas recently. Peterson-Miller, a mother of two, was shot in the side of the head by George Hennard as she lay motionless on the restaurant's floor.

[Dallas, TX]- Dallas police have determined that the threats of "C.J.," the woman who called radio talk shows to claim she was intentionally spreading the AIDS virus to sex partners, were a hoax started by a teen-ager and "copycatted" by at least six other young women.

[Washington, DC]- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) in the nation's capital has launched a \$14,000 advertising campaign in support of Gays and Lesbians. Ads currently appearing on the city's buses and subways feature photos of happy family gatherings along with the message: "We Love Our Gay and Lesbian Children."

[Morgantown, WV]- Military recruiters have been banned from the West Virginia University College of Law after representatives of the Judge Advocate General Corps refused to sign a pledge not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

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.

ON THE EVE OF WORLD AIDS DAY, SEE IT & UNDERSTAND

THE NAMES PROJECT AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

UW-MILWAUKEE
STUDENT UNION

Saturday

November 30 (10am-10pm)

Sunday

December 1 (10am-10pm)

Monday

December 2 (8am-4pm)

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

Saturday, November 30

7:30pm

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.

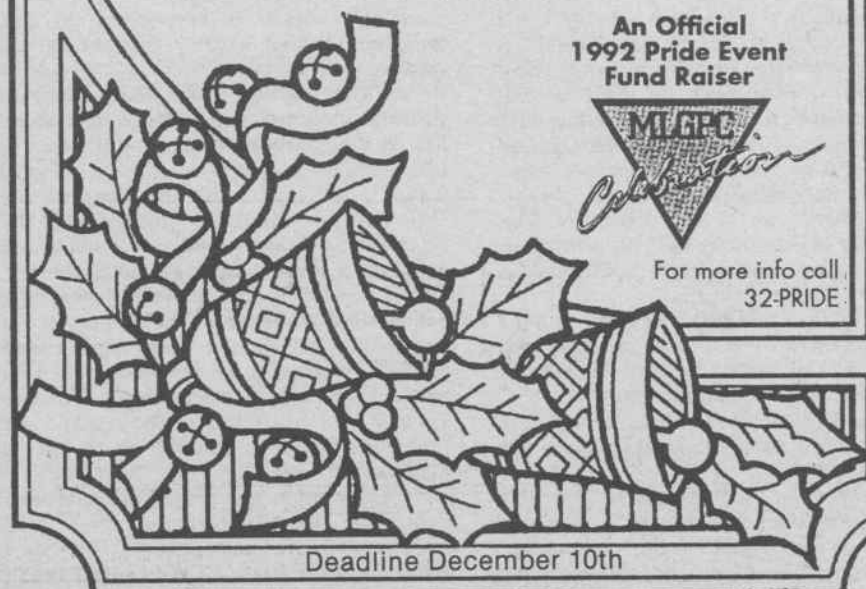
Send donation to:
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Milwaukee, WI 53203

*All gifts will be sent via return mail and are valid only while supplies last. Only one gift per person with qualifying donation.

An Official
1992 Pride Event
Fund Raiser



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32-PRIDE



Deadline December 10th

Milwaukee Braces For Epidemic As AIDS Cases Exceed 500

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has sounded a strong warning to the Milwaukee community that, without a much greater effort to address the AIDS epidemic, Milwaukee will experience a major crisis with health and social service agencies becoming overwhelmed by the impact of the epidemic.

The warning came in conjunction with a new Wisconsin Division of Health report that, for the first time, indicates that the number of people diagnosed with AIDS in metropolitan Milwaukee County exceeds 500.

"I am worried that Milwaukee is not prepared for the worst of the AIDS epidemic that is yet to come," said Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director. "To avoid being overwhelmed by this epidemic, a much greater investment of resources and energy must be made by the Milwaukee community and its institutions."

The October, 1991 AIDS Surveillance Summary, compiled by the Wisconsin Division of Health, AIDS/HIV Program, indicates that 510 individuals diagnosed with AIDS have been recorded in Milwaukee County.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," said Nelson. "The pace of the AIDS epidemic is rapidly increasing here and there are very rough times ahead."

A report issued by the Metropolitan Milwaukee AIDS Planning Consortium earlier this year indicated that there are estimated 8,000 individuals in metropolitan Milwaukee infected with the AIDS virus. The report also stated that by 1995, this number would increase to more than 12,000 cases.

MAP currently provides case management and support services to 476 people with HIV disease, which includes people with AIDS and those who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

According to Nelson, MAP expects to serve more than 650 individuals by the end of 1991. With the high number of individuals infected with HIV in metropolitan Milwaukee, the agency will continue to experience a dramatic increase in demand for services throughout the first half of the 1990s.

"I don't believe our health care system is prepared for the big AIDS caseload that lies ahead," said Nelson. "We do not have enough primary care physicians to deliver necessary medical care to people with HIV disease over the next five

years," said Nelson.

Nelson stated that at a minimum, 25 additional primary care physicians who will dedicate a high percentage of their practice to people with HIV disease will be needed in each of the next four years. "We will need another hundred physicians to carry a moderate AIDS caseload to back them up," he added.

According to Nelson, only five hospitals in the metropolitan area serve 90 percent of the community's AIDS patients, and four nursing homes, out of 70, provide care for people with AIDS.

Preventing the spread of HIV is the only means currently available to gain control of the AIDS epidemic. Nelson stated that children coming out of area school systems are not fully educated on how AIDS is transmitted or on how they can protect themselves from HIV infection.

"All public and private school systems must begin age-appropriate AIDS education for all students, from Kindergarten on up to high school graduation," Nelson added. At least 50 percent of all individuals with HIV disease between the ages of 20 and 29 were infected during their school-age, teen years.

Nelson also expressed that other children are born with HIV disease. "All children in our school systems are entitled to AIDS education because, for them, it is an issue of life and death."

Concern has also been raised that there will not be a sufficient number of volunteers, particularly among the African-American and Hispanic communities. Volunteers are needed to assist in the delivery of support services to people affected by HIV disease and in the provision of HIV prevention programming.

Two thousand volunteers will be needed at MAP by 1995. "We will need to increase our volunteer staff by 400 new volunteers in each of the next four years," Nelson said.

The cost of the AIDS epidemic to metropolitan Milwaukee, according to a recent report, will be more than a half a billion dollars over the next four years.

"If every person and institution that currently contributes to AIDS-related causes would double their contribution over the next four years," Nelson said, "the money raised would not be sufficient to address the challenge of the epidemic to our community."

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The Classic.....\$15 Winning Combination\$21

A unique variety of the favorites. Includes three 8-oz blocks; Mild Cheddar, Colby & Muenster, a 7-oz Gouda and a 12-oz stick of beef Summer Sausage. Serves 6-8 people.

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A real winning combination of Wisconsin favorites. Includes four 8-oz blocks; Mild Cheddar, Medium Cheddar, Colby & Muenster, a 7-oz Gouda, a 7-oz Edam and two 12-oz. beef Summer Sausage sticks. Serves 12-14 people.

A \$4 Shipping & Handling charge per address will be added to your order.

MAP'S FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES A CASH
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New Harvest Foundation Dinner Draws A Large, Diverse Crowd

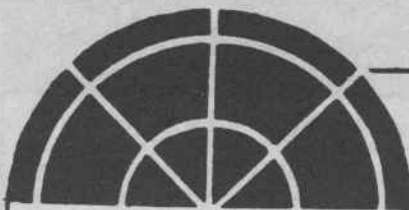
[Madison]- Over 186 members of the Lesbian and Gay community "Came Out with the Stars for a Night on Broadway," Friday evening, November 15 at the annual Dinner and Dance of The New Harvest Foundation. The diverse crowd, with people coming from as far away as Milwaukee and Illinois, converged on Madison in the Gershwin Ballroom of the Masonic Center for an evening of conversation, celebration, dining and dancing.

The festivities included a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception, dinner, and dancing to the swinging sounds of the American Jazz Express Sextet. For the fifth annual Dinner and Dance sponsored by The New Harvest Foundation, attendance exceeded the preceding year by over one-third, indicating the strong and positive response from the Lesbian

and Gay community for the event.

The New Harvest Foundation contributes to groups and projects that benefit the Lesbian and Gay communities of Dane County. Since its inception in 1984, the Foundation has raised and dispersed over \$100,000 and was instrumental in bringing George Segal's sculpture, "Gay Liberation," to Madison where it was installed in Orton Park for four years.

Contributions from the Lesbian and Gay community constitute the majority of gifts received each year by the Foundation. These tax-deductible donations are then dispersed through a competitive grants process to social, health, education and cultural projects and programs that further the equality and rights of Lesbian and Gay people.



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Dykes To Watch Out For

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OUR GALS AT MADWINN BOOKS ARE REELING WITH POST-THOMAS CONFIRMATION STUPEFACTION!



The Light LIVELY ARTS

Performing Arts Community To Support MAP's Food Pantry Throughout The Holiday Season

[Milwaukee]- Performing arts groups from the metropolitan Milwaukee area will use the world-wide attention generated by World AIDS Day this December 1, to kick off a food drive to support the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Food Pantry.

Food barrels will be set up during area performing arts events, including those provided by Theater X, the Boulevard Ensemble, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and the Skylight Opera Theater in December. Non-perishable food items placed in the barrels will be made available to the nearly 500 clients of MAP through its Food Pantry.

In October, the Pantry served 218 individuals and families, providing them with nutritional food and personal care products. Individuals may receive up to four bags of groceries per month and families, up to eight bags.

"The arts community has historically been a strong presence in meeting the many challenges of AIDS," said Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director. The Arts Action Committee, a volunteer group, is dedicated to ensuring the continued commitment of performing arts organizations and individuals to support services provided by MAP.

ARTS/HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE PARTICIPANTS

Acacia Theatre, 3302 N. Sherman

Boulevard, 223-4996, A Christmas Festival, Dec. 6, 7, 8; Tickets: \$5 & \$7;

Boulevard Ensemble Theatre, 2250 S. Kinnickinnic, 672-6019, The Belle of Amherst, Dec. 13-29, Tickets: \$8 & \$9;

Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, BCB Studio Theatre, 727 N. Milwaukee St., 347-0873, Adam and the Experts, Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14; Tickets: \$10;

Milwaukee Public Theatre, Majestic Theater, 1124 W. Mitchell St., 271-8484; The Snow Queen, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Tickets: \$4;

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells St., 224-9490; The Christmas Carol (Pabst Theatre), The Gin Game (Powerhouse Theatre), Appalachian Voices (Stackner Cabaret), Dec. 10-19;

Skylight Opera Theatre, 813 N. Jefferson St., 271-8814; The Cocoanuts, Dec. 4-31, The Italian Girl in Algiers, Jan. 29-Feb. 16, Tickets: \$18 & \$26;

Theater X, 158 N. Broadway, 278-0555, A Christmas Memory, Dec. 5-29, Tickets: \$10- \$14;

UW-Milwaukee Fine Arts Theatre, University Campus, 229-4809, The Three Musketeers, Dec. 11-21, Tickets: \$10- \$12.

Write For LIGHT
[414] 372-2773

Play Reading Benefit Set By Studio Theater

[Milwaukee]- A reading of two new plays and excerpts of a third play has been scheduled at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. The readings, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 3, are of *Miss Universe*; *Ciao, Ricky* and *Positives*. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Miss Universe, written by Michael Neville, is a play about a family with AIDS. The father of the family is a former Mr. Universe title holder and steroid user. The couple's son, Miss Universe, is a witch who is working to purge his father of the steroids' toxic effects.

Ciao, Ricky is about a composer's efforts to get in to his lover's funeral. The deceased lover's mother, a doctor from Cuba, poses a formidable obstacle. The 10-minute play also was written by Neville.

Positives is a play about life in an AIDS hospice. The play, written by the late Gordon Drootsan and Tunji Rockbid, in collaboration with Neville, was a 1990 project for ARTREACH of Milwaukee. Excerpts from the play were published in *Milwaukee Challenged*, an ARTREACH publication.

Admission is by way of a cash donation. Playwrights Studio Theater will donate all proceeds to MAP. For more information, call Terry Gillick at (414) 445-2142, or Michael Neville at (414) 476-8984.

Cream City Chorus Christmas Concert Planned December 8

[Milwaukee]- The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will present "A Cream City Christmas" holiday concert on Sunday, December 8, 1991. The concert will be held at 3:00 p.m. in Vogel Hall of the Performing Arts Center, 929 N. Water Street, Milwaukee.

The Chorus will sing holiday selections, both contemporary and traditional, under the direction of Joe Appleman and Kim Hah. Tickets are \$10.00, and are available through Chorus members, the PAC Box Office, or charge by calling (414) 273-7206.

The Chorus will again perform at the annual City of Milwaukee Tree Lighting in Red Arrow Park across from the PAC on November 30, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. The Chorus will also be caroling at health care facilities and various bars in the community on Saturday, December 14th.

Proceeds from these activities will help to send the Chorus to the GALA IV Choral Festival in Denver in July, 1992. GALA is the international organization of Gay/Lesbian and mixed choruses. This will be the second appearance of the chorus at the GALA festival.

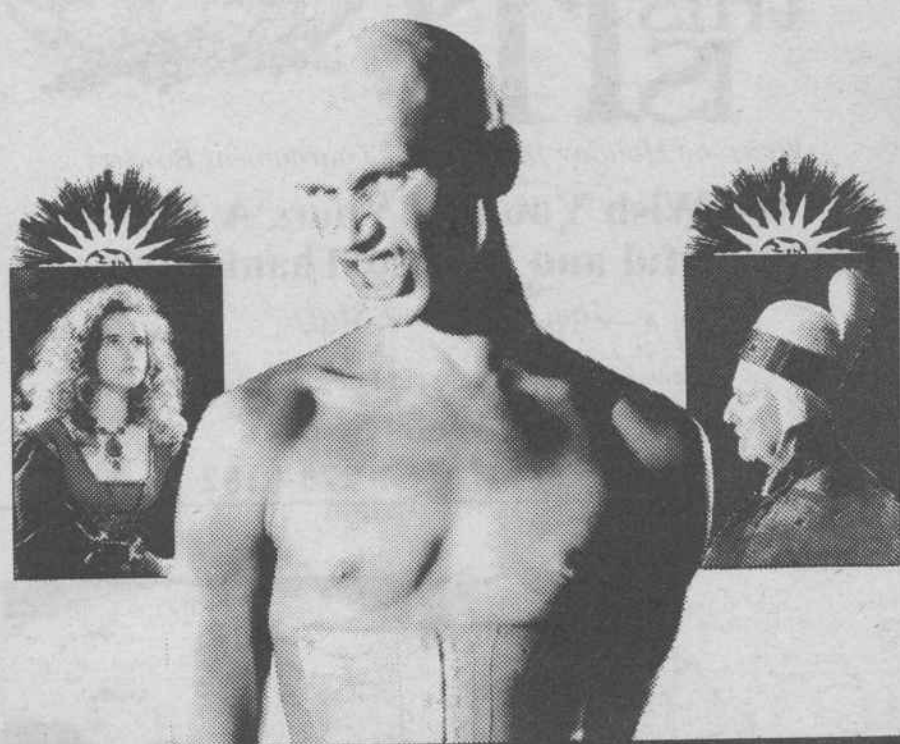


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Sir John Gielgud is incomparable! So tremendous are the gorgeous sets, the evocations of Renaissance painting and the unruly crowds of naked bodies!"

Vincent Canby, THE NEW YORK TIMES



John Gielgud in Peter Greenaway's

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Daily: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

A Cream City Christmas

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd.
Sunday, December 8, 1991
3 p.m.
Vogel Hall
Milwaukee Performing Arts Center

Admission \$10
Tickets Available at
P.A.C. Box Office or
charge by calling 273-7206



Morticia (Anjelica Huston) and Gomez (Raul Julia) preside over that spooky-ooky clan, *The Addams Family*.

'Addams Family': No Camp Classic Just A Pleasant Divertissement

By Jamakaya

I was sitting in a darkened theater this past Summer when, suddenly, the syncopated beats of a tune familiar to every American vidiot boomed out of the speakers, causing the audience to break into peals of laughter and applause. Da-da-da-dum. Da-da-da-dum. Da-da-da-dum. Da-da-da-dum. Beep! Beep!

The *Addams Family* was being made into a movie! What a gas! With no less than Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia playing the roles of Morticia and Gomez! I couldn't wait to see it. But I did. I saw it and was somewhat disappointed.

The Paramount movie is based on the original cartoons of the "Addams Family" created by Charles Addams for the *New Yorker*. Producer Scott Rudin hoped to capture the spirit of Addams' mordant wit and macabre sensibility.

"One of Charles Addams' favorite cartoons of the family was the one of Morticia putting Wednesday to bed and saying, 'Kick Daddy good-night,'" says Rudin. "That was one he felt was emblematic of the family he created, and that was what we tried to realize in the film — a loving, devoted, monstrous family."

Addams created many such outrageous tableaux, some of which are incorporated into the film, like the Addamses pouring

SCHOOL BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

former Democratic Governor Patrick Lucey has since formally apologized for his remarks. (See story this issue.)

Director Mary Bills said that while "I thought I'd heard it all during segregation, I have recently listened to enough hate and intolerance to last a lifetime."

She said she believed the job of education was to "eliminate fear and ignorance," and that "the integrity of a democracy based on majority rule is only as good as its ability to protect its minorities." The only Director present to take a stand against bigotry, her words were drowned out at one point by shouts of "Recall! Recall!"

The Board did not adopt the Gay Teen Report, but the administration's amended response to its recommendations.

The final version sidestepped the issue of incorporating non-judgmental information on sexual orientation into the general and health curricula. It also omitted mention of the Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Teens altogether. This is significant because the original administration response had called for ongoing consultation between the Task Force and school personnel.

The Board did approve a statement

TURN TO SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 11

hot liquid from a cauldron over unsuspecting Christmas carolers or Wednesday strapping Pugsley into the electric chair as Morticia looks on approvingly.

These images are amusing, sometimes startling and always delightfully droll. However, a series of tableaux do not a feature film make. They just can't sustain the whole film.

In paying homage to Addams' original conception, the movie avoids the outright farce that characterized the TV show. But with the notable exception of the bloodbath at Wednesday's and Pugsley's school play, the film seems

almost too reverent, too restrained. I missed the liveliness of the series.

The film is also handicapped by a flimsy plot about a phony Uncle Fester out to raid the family vault. A more thoughtful story whose execution added some new twist to the horror genre or the obvious satire on family life involved would have given it more depth.

There are certainly some delicious moments. Huston is a great Morticia. She fills that black gown better than anyone else I can imagine. She's vampy, campy and totally ghoul. "Gomez," she cries in mock terror, "Yesterday you were like some desperate, howling demon. You frightened me." Long pause. "Do it again." Huston and Julia have several such smoldering interplays with each

other.

Christina Ricci is riveting as the malevolent Wednesday and Thing, newly liberated from its box, nearly steals the show.

The film is rich visually, with the Addams family mansion in all its dismal, deteriorating glory, the center of the action. The lighting, photography and details of set design (there are many sight gags) capture the spooky-ooky milieu. You certainly do feel drawn into the Addamses' creepy world.

I still felt somewhat disconnected from it all. I guess I hoped *The Addams Family* would be a new camp classic. It's hardly damning criticism to say that, at best, *The Addams Family* is more of a light divertissement.

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Karen Zimmerman, Kitty Barber and Stephanie Hume represented Milwaukee at the "Creating Change" Conference held in Washington D.C. from Nov. 9-11, 1991.

Milwaukeeans Participate In NGLTF Leadership Conference in D.C.

[Washington]- More than 1,000 Lesbian and Gay activists from 50 states and a number of other nations met November 9-11, 1991 at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Fourth Annual "Creating Change" Conference, held this year in suburban Washington, D.C. Milwaukee was represented by Kitty Barber, Stephanie Hume and Karen Zimmerman, all members of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB).

With more than 70 workshops, meetings and special sessions, daily plenary sessions with panels and keynote speakers, information exchange and networking opportunities, "Creating Change" is the major political event in the country for Lesbian and Gay activists.

The theme of the 1991 conference was "The State of the Movement," and also included daily press conferences. Milwaukee's Kitty Barber, LAMB Spokeswoman, spoke at Saturday's press conference on the increasing violence against Lesbians and Gay men as it was reflected by the Jeffrey Dahmer serial killings this summer.

"In the Summer of 1991, Milwaukee was an average, typical American city — reported incidences of violence against Lesbians and Gay men had risen 42% in six key cities...and Milwaukee was no different," said Barber.

Barber then briefly described the uncovering of the Dahmer murders and the police response to the Koneak Sinthasamphone incident. "This sick and sickening attitude of the police allowed at least four more men to die...the society that spawned Jeffrey Dahmer belongs to you all...we will not remain silent, we will not remain invisible and we are beginning to fight back," Barber said.

Workshops ranging from "Organizing the Leather Community" to "Fundraising 101" were presented daily, but the major theme of the conference was the involvement of Lesbians and Gay men in the political system. Legislative briefings, sessions on lobbying, PACs, Civil Rights legislation, organizing against violence and sessions for activists of color led the way. It was clear that across the country, Lesbian and Gay issues are coming to the forefront.

As our movement(s) become more sophisticated and effective, our own internal struggles are also emerging. Mario Solis-Marich, AIDS Project-Los Angeles, in a moving keynote speech, articulated this theme well. "10% of the population is an impressive number — it is the number that makes politicians think is the 10% of ALL of us — that's why it is so important to create coalitions and alliances. It means making agreements and keeping those agreements...I am always asked, 'Why do the people of color always have to meet by themselves?' I want to lift that veil of secrecy — the reason is that we are creating our family structure — re-creating what has been taken away from us — so that we have the strength to stand together with you...people that I create alliances with believe in empowerment — it means that they LOOK for people to include in decision-making, and to share power with; they ACTIVELY look for people with other perspectives, and make OTHERS their decision-making process."

Solis-Marich went on to say, "For me, my allies oppose oppression — not JUST homophobia or racism, but sexism too, class oppression — ALL oppression — because even if we are all together, we STILL are only 10% — and the alliances we make beyond that can get a lot more done."

This theme, of building alliances and coalitions within our own communities

and with other groups, was reinforced throughout the conference. One of the more popular workshops was entitled "Transforming a Monocultural Organization," which was presented by the directors of the Shanti Project in San Francisco.

They detailed how (and why) Shanti was changed from an organization that excluded women and people of color to one that actually met the needs of the whole community.

Eric Rofes, Shanti's Executive Director, explained the two-year plan of this organization, which has a yearly budget of \$4.2 million. "The meaning of cultural diversity is NOT outreach, but shared ownership of the organization. For Gay white men, it means looking at what our privileges are and what we get from them and GIVING THEM UP — not empowering others, but GIVING UP POWER so that others can become empowered."

Creating Change has grown from an attendance of 250 in 1988 to more than 1,000 participants in 1991. The 1992 conference will be held in Los Angeles and organizers are expecting participation to exceed 1,500.

For information on this informative, powerful and exciting event, contact the NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 Fourteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009-4309.

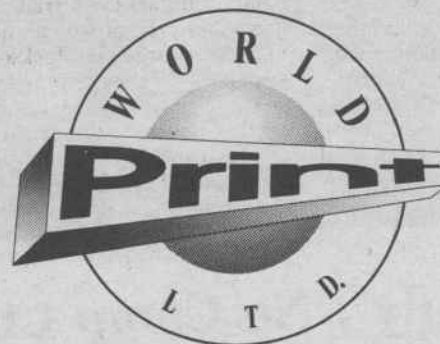
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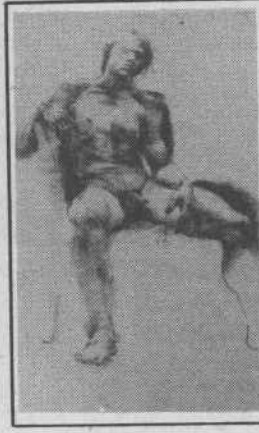
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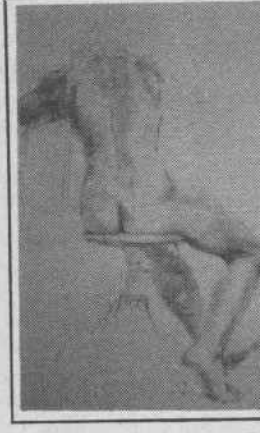
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Second Killer of Ricky Roundtree Sentenced to 25 Years

[Milwaukee]—On November 15, Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey Wagner sentenced Patrick R. Harden, 21, to a maximum of 25 years in prison for his role in the Gay-related homicide of Cleveland "Ricky" Roundtree in October of last year.

Harden had pleaded guilty to first degree reckless homicide and being party to a crime while armed. His accomplice, Charles E. Jackson, 22, was earlier found guilty of intentional homicide in Roundtree's death and was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole until 2041.

Roundtree's body was found at the bottom of the steps in an abandoned building at 2535 W. Fond du Lac Avenue on October 15, 1990. He had been shot at close range both in the abdomen and through the heart. The assailants then set Roundtree on fire, inflicting third and fourth degree burns over 80% of the victim's body.

The criminal complaint and trial testimony indicate that Harden and Jackson met Roundtree on Saturday evening, October 13, 1990 at the Black Velvet Bar on W. Fond du Lac Avenue. Roundtree allegedly propositioned Harden and the men argued. Harden and Jackson then followed Roundtree outside to the nearby building where he was killed

and his body was burned. Jackson was arrested that night for carrying a concealed weapon, a gun which proved to be the murder weapon.

Both defendants repeatedly referred to Roundtree as a "fag" and, in prosecuting Jackson, Assistant District Attorney Karine Mareno-Taxman made clear to the jury that Roundtree was killed because he was perceived to be Gay. Yet the District Attorney's Office did not invoke Wisconsin's hate crimes law.

Mareno-Taxman told Scott Gunkel of the Lambda Rights Network, who monitored Jackson's trial, that it was not necessary to prove a motive for the murder charge in Jackson's case. She suggested that since Jackson was charged with the most serious felony, adding the hate crimes charge, a misdemeanor, as a penalty "enhancer," would have been superfluous.

Mareno-Taxman also admitted that she was not familiar with the hate crimes law.

Of his brother, Ricky Roundtree, Johnny Roundtree said: "He was a good dancer. He liked to dress like a model, like GQ or Michael Jackson." He couldn't understand why anyone would want to kill Ricky.

Roundtree is survived by a seven year old daughter, Telisha.

Marquette Minority Affairs Director To Oversee Gay Committee

[Milwaukee]— "Marquette University does not consist of 8,000 white, heterosexual males," said Bill McGrail, Student Government Business Administration Senator, in the November 22 issue of the *Marquette Tribune*, a student newspaper.

McGrail made his remarks during a Student Government discussion concerning an amendment expanding the duties of the Director of Minority Affairs to include overseeing a new Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Affairs committee. The change is part of the proposed restructuring of the student government executive board.

The amendment required a two-thirds vote by all present to pass into the bylaws. It passed by one vote, 24-5-2.

Christine Jaspers, Student Government President, said the new position will coincide with the responsibilities of the Rights and Equality for All Sexual

Orientations Now (REASON) group on campus.

Jaspers said the new duties will include: education for the general campus regarding sexual orientation concerns; support for the Campus Ministry sexuality discussion group; sensitivity workshops for the campus; and a program to bring speakers knowledgeable on the subject of sexual orientation to Marquette.

Meanwhile, a new group called Students for AIDS Awareness has formed on the Marquette campus. The group will attempt to make the university aware of AIDS by distributing educational pamphlets and condoms around campus.

"We're upset at how little Marquette University is doing to educate students about AIDS prevention methods... The administration is naive if they don't think people are having sex," Christie Warren told the *Tribune*.

Madison Groups Plan Potlucks, Craft Fair for Holiday Season

By Bill Lyne

[Madison]— Madison Lesbian and Gay organizations will host several special events for the upcoming holiday season.

Pot-lucks, those bastions of queer sociability, will certainly be held. WING (Women In Nature Group) is sponsoring a Thanksgiving pot-luck meal at Apple Island. Madison's smoke-free, non-alcohol space for women. Those participating are asked to bring a dish to pass and a place setting. Socializing begins at noon on Thanksgiving Day (November 28), with the meal at 2:00 p.m.

According to WING organizers, the pot-luck will allow women a chance to give thanks for having Apple Island. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Call (608) 258-9777 for more information.

Frontiers, a social and recreational group for Gay men, will host its Thanksgiving pot-luck at 4701 Judy Lane, on Madison's northeast side. The Gayla turkey event begins at 4:30 p.m. Call Dean or Dave at (608) 241-8184 for more information.

On December 7, Apple Island will hold a Women's Art and Crafts Bazaar from

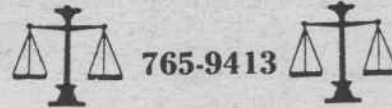
Women of Color Sponsor Dance At Lake Park Pavilion

[Milwaukee]— LOC Women of Color will be sponsoring a Women's Dance Party at Milwaukee's Lake Park Pavilion on December 6 at 8 p.m. It will be a fundraiser for the Women of Color group.

The dance, featuring D.J. Sandra Silk as disc jockey, is \$6 at the door. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. The Pavilion can be reached by entering Lake Park at Lake Drive and Newberry Boulevard.

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Lucey."

Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist, who was an original backer of Lucey in the last School Board election, could not be reached for comment. An aide, Jeff Bentoff, said "The Mayor is glad that David Lucey clarified his stand."

Lucey made his homophobic remarks in the presence of two staff members of the *Wisconsin Light*, News Editor Jamakaya and columnist Bill Meunier, who, along with other reporters, were questioning him aggressively.

Jamakaya comments: "Despite his apology, I think Lucey's comments that night do represent his views on Gays. His behavior at this and at a previous committee meeting, in which he shamelessly played to the Fundamentalist element by repeatedly denouncing the findings of the Gay Teen

Report, prove to me his true colors."

"The Gay and Lesbian community should not forget that he authored a substitute motion presented at a committee meeting November 13 which asserted that 'marriage is the foundation of family and society, and that the stability of marriage is basic to morality and civilization.' Any supplemental materials identified by the Task Force on Gay Teens was required to conform to that view. Luckily, that irrelevant and superfluous motion, motivated by political grandstanding, was defeated.

"Lucey is clearly of the opinion that the institution of heterosexuality is threatened. Perhaps the psychiatrists who he repeatedly suggested could help homosexuals 'reverse' their 'problem' could help Mr. Lucey with his."

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Protest Against Bigotry in Dubuque Is Planned For December 7

By Virginia Lynns and Stacie Neldaughter

[Madison]- "All are welcome except queers, dykes and fags." This is not a direct quote from Dubuque's major employers, but the message between the lines of a statement addressed to the citizens of the Dubuque, Iowa, published in the Dubuque **Telegraph-Herald** on November 10, 1991, is clear: "We want people of diverse backgrounds, religions and race, but we don't want Gays."

In the Fall of 1989, the "good" citizenry of Dubuque rose up together in outrage over the cross-burning that happened there. And, we agree with them. It is outrageous that crosses are burned in any city, anywhere, any time.

However, where was the outrage, where was the out-pouring of liberal sentiment, where was the uprising of good citizens to form a committee and a "plan for constructive integration" when two years earlier Dubuque Gays and Lesbians and their supporters were egged, harassed, threatened and told to "go home" by huge crowds of hecklers and homophobes?

Not only did the "good" citizens and businesses of the community not rise up in outrage, but some of them were quoted as saying, "Gays cause AIDS" and other ignorant statements. In fact, many of the members and supporters of the "We want to change" constructive integration task force were the very people who spoke out against even supporting civil rights for Gays and Lesbians when the human rights ordinance amendment to include sexual orientation was before the Dubuque City Council in 1989.

Well, now we are outraged. Mayor Jim Brady, when we called him to ask whether his position against Gay and Lesbian rights had changed, told us that he still maintained a negative stance on that issue. When we told him we were going to do an action, he replied, "I beg you not to do it. Don't mix the two issues," he said. the Constructive Integration Plan and Lesbian/Gay rights "If you do, the Plan will fail."

Well, again, we disagree. If the Constructive Integration Plan fails, it will be because Dubuque is an overwhelmingly bigoted, prejudiced city

which deserves to suffer the disgrace due a city which is the only one outside Louisiana that has a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of White People (NAAWP).

Editor's Note: Milwaukee has a branch of the organization as well.

Dubuque deserves whatever tourism and other economic losses it suffers due to its bigotry. It is time all citizens of Dubuque — labor, business, religious, educational, political, etc. — took a deep, deep look inside themselves and begin to root out the hatred, anger, fear, bigotry and violence which is buried there against any other group of human beings, including people of color, people of other nationalities or religions and NOT excluding Lesbian and Gay people.

We are going to do an action in Dubuque on December 7, 1991. We will be patronizing specific businesses in Dubuque. You will know us by our black, white and purple ribbons. This will be the first-ever "Kiss-in, Sit-in" Dubuque, Iowa has seen.

We are also planning a performance which addresses the issues of civil rights of all people and celebrates diversity of all kinds. Please wear a black, white and purple ribbon and join us. Call us for details at (608) 233-3014.

ELIASON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fundamentalist broadcasters argued that Brienza could not be an objective journalist and threatened to cancel their contracts with the financially troubled news service if she were not fired. Family Stations, Inc., a group of about 32 religious radio stations based in Oakland, California, also called UPI to complain about Brienza after Eliason started his campaign.

Night after night, on his TV talkshow, "In Focus" Eliason was heard to harp away about Brienza's connection with the **Blade** which he constantly identified as a "homosexual newspaper." "In Focus" is heard weeknights on Eliason's station, WVCY-TV beginning at 7:00.

On April 26, 1990, as reported in **Light**, UPI fired Brienza on the ground that she had used UPI facilities to write a freelance

'The Belle of Amherst' Opens December 12

[Milwaukee]- The Boulevard Ensemble will bring the life and writings of Emily Dickinson to Milwaukee for the holiday season when it presents William Luce's **The Belle of Amherst** in December at the Boulevard Theatre.

The Ensemble will present the one-woman show based on Dickinson's life Thursdays through Sundays, December 12 to December 29, at the Boulevard Theatre, 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in Bay View. Tickets for Thursday and Sunday performances are \$8. Tickets for Friday and Saturday performances are \$9. All performances begin at 8:00 p.m. To reserve tickets, call (414) 672-6019.

Emily Dickinson has been called "a New England mystic" and "an

story. Cameron and Eliason claimed credit for her termination and congratulated their audiences on their efforts.

"The true values of groups such as Eliason's are revealed by their hate campaigns against people like Julie Brienza," said attorney Lynne Bernabei of the Washington D.C. law firm of Bernabei & Katz, which is representing Brienza.

In Brienza's \$12.5 million suit, filed in U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia this month, she charged Eliason with malicious interference with her UPI contract, unlawful invasion of privacy for "outing" her, and violation of the District of Columbia's Human Rights Act and Wisconsin's Hate Crimes statute. On November 20, Brienza moved to amend her complaint to include charges that Eliason had orchestrated the conspiracy which ultimately led to her termination from UPI, and defamed her through their public statements impugning her journalistic integrity based on her sexual orientation.

Paula Ettelbrick, Legal Director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is acting as co-counsel in this case, added, "Eliason's witch hunt tactics against this one reporter are a tragic reminder of the power of homophobia and the sheep-like response of some right-wing fanatics."

epigrammatic Walt Whitman" for her views of American life. Her poems, with their cryptic style and preoccupation with love, life, nature and death, brought her little acclaim during her lifetime. Since her death in 1886, however, America and the world have embraced Dickinson for her poems' themes, as well as her style. Surrounding her work was a life filled with mischievous fancy and a need to explore the human condition.

Debra Babich, a Milwaukee actress, will portray Dickinson. Susan Fete will direct the Ensemble's production of **The Belle of Amherst**.

In presenting **The Belle of Amherst**, The Ensemble, one of Milwaukee's most acclaimed theatre groups, continues its sixth season of bringing entertaining, challenging theatre to Milwaukee area audiences.

For more information on the Ensemble's presentation of **The Belle of Amherst** or other Ensemble activities, please call Mark Bucher, the Ensemble's general director, at (414) 672-6019.

Editor's Note: Emily Dickinson was a Lesbian. Much of her remarkable poetry is filled with the lonely anguish of a love for another woman that had gone wrong.



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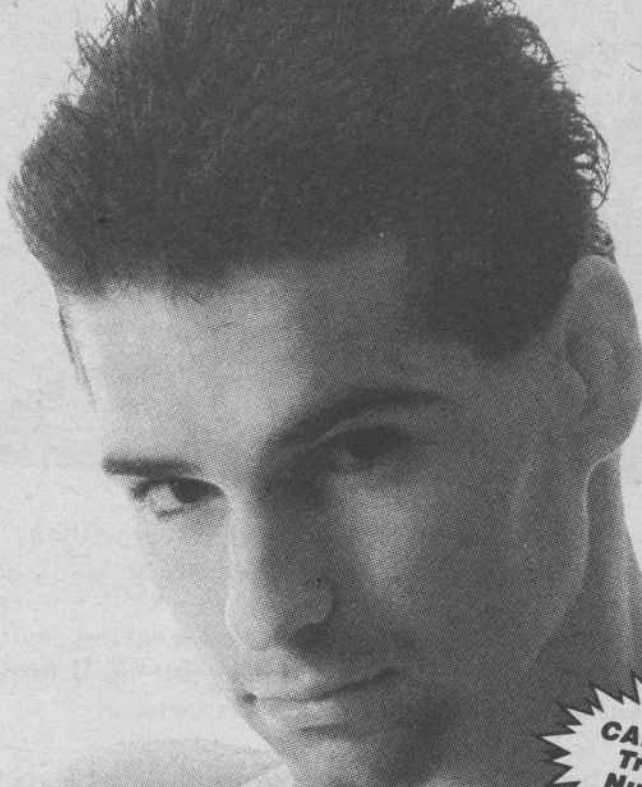
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WISN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Report and fueled by WISN-radio right-wing talkshow host Mark Belling.

Those attending the two meetings were urged to call and write WISN to protest the series and to attend the School Board meeting on the 20th.

The series, as finally broadcast, used young men and hidden cameras to show men soliciting sex in parks and allegedly underage youths trying to enter at least one Gay bar.

Two young men, their faces hidden and names changed, were interviewed on camera. They asserted that underagers could get into the bars, that drugs were available and that the situation hadn't changed much since Dahmer.

One local computer bulletin board, Crossroads, was also accessed. It was alleged that older men used the computer network to seek younger ones for sex.

In the meantime, there were reports and speculation within the community about the origins of the report.

Both **Light** and **In Step** were contacted by people who provided names of the anonymous Gays who cooperated with the station and information on how Placko had gotten the story.

Ron Geiman, publisher/editor of **In Step**, faxed a letter on November 19 to D'Ambrosi, voicing the fears of many over the series. He also gave him the information that had been received concerning the origin of the story, suggesting that WISN's sources themselves may not be above reproach.

"Word has been going around for weeks," wrote Geiman, "about the series and its origin. Word is that Placko went to school with a certain Gay male Milwaukeean, who I will not name here, even though his name is known to many. (Your 'source' has threatened suit against one of my sources.)

"That individual told Placko of activities supposedly involving underage males in Milwaukee bars and in sexual contexts. That man has been labeled as having a vendetta against certain Gay bar owners. Placko's school 'chum' has himself been accused, by numerous sources, of being involved with minors in a sexual context."

Geiman went on, "It thereby seems Placko may have been used as a pawn between his former school mate and that man's 'enemies.'"

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

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Employment

MALE MODELS NEEDED Serious work for new product packaging, mail order catalogs, and advertising. Couples needed too. Call for appointment. Portfolio and resume helpful, but not required. GLINN Publishing Corporation (414) 289-8644.

Opening Soon: New "Leprechaun Lounge" applications for bartenders now being accept. Call 425-7134.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

PLEASE CHECK THE ISSUE(S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD TO APPEAR.

☐ Dec. 12; ☐ Jan. 9; ☐ Jan. 23; ☐ Feb. 6; ☐ Feb. 20

A male, saying he was one of the youths interviewed in the series, called the **Light**, offering an interview on terms of strictest confidentiality. That was agreed upon but the man did not keep his appointment.

This editor called D'Ambrosi to underline support for Geiman's letter and to voice community concerns over the series. D'Ambrosi only reiterated what he had said earlier: that the reportage was balanced and that great care would be taken with how it was done.

In the Friday evening segment, Scott Gunkel of the Lambda Rights Network and Kitty Barber of the Lesbian Alliance were given a moment to respond to the series. They emphasized that the behavior exposed represented a small minority of the Gay community. Gunkel also spoke about the lack of meeting spaces and legitimate outlets for Gay men, particularly Gay youth, and the oppression from society which forces Gays to be closeted and secretive.

One startling, unscripted incident reinforced Gunkel's words. While talking with a Gay teen at Shorewood High School, Placko and his crew recorded the sound of someone yelling "Fag" at the interview subject.

SCHOOL BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

reinforcing the school system's non-discrimination policy regarding sexual orientation. It approved inservice training to sensitize school staff to Gay and Lesbian issues and gave the administration the green light to identify community-based services and resources that offer assistance to Gay students and to refer students when appropriate.

Michael Lisowski of Gay Youth Milwaukee, who worked on the Task Force and supported the more comprehensive proposals, remained optimistic after the vote. "We recognized there would be a compromise because of the volatility of the issue. While we would have liked stronger statements, I feel we went in with eight proposals and came out with eight positive responses."

Lisowski said the process of working with the Task Force had created many opportunities for contact and consciousness-raising among school administrators and staff. Despite the demise of the Task Force, he expects to maintain and build on those relationships. He said news about the Gay Teen Report had spread across the state to other school districts and throughout the Department of Public Instruction. "We've opened the dialogue and that's always a sign of progress," he said.

Citing the Board's renewed statement against discrimination, Lisowski vowed to hold teachers and principals accountable for any violence or slurs directed against Gay or Lesbian students in the schools. He frequently hears of such incidents from members of the Gay Youth group.

"I'm going to be an aggressive watchdog," said Lisowski.

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Walker's Point. Clean 2 bedroom cottage. Cozy, private. \$425, plus utilities. Jan. 1st, possibly sooner. 643-9271 x

Organizations

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LAWRENCE O'NEIL

"The unfortunate thing about homosexuals is they are very promiscuous. It's like taking cocaine or drugs — you get hooked."

"They're not totally sure whether this is a mental defect, a physical defect or whether it's biological. Certainly it's not genetic since they were born of heterosexuals..."

"Instead of doing any teaching of it, maybe we should be testing to find this chemical defect... There could be therapy put into these individuals to bring them back..."

"You [Gays] have a political agenda... because you're killing yourselves off. You want to get more. You want to go out there recruiting."

—Lawrence O'Neil
Milwaukee School Board Director

Report of the Gay Teen Task Force: Read It and Decide For Yourself

Milwaukee—The Report of the Task Force Regarding Gay and Lesbian Teens, which caused such controversy for the Milwaukee School Board, is printed here in its entirety.

The report has been consistently misrepresented in the mainstream press. WITI Channel 6 repeatedly used the inaccurate phrase "homosexual classes" to describe the report's goals, and other broadcast and print media used the term "Gay curriculum" as a sort of reductive shorthand to describe its comprehensive proposals.

The **Wisconsin Light**, the only newspaper to consistently follow the development of the Task Force and its report, wants to set the record straight (in a manner of speaking!).

The original response to the report by the Milwaukee Public Schools' administration follows each resolution of the Task Force. The amended response, which was ultimately endorsed by the School Board on November 20, is in bold type.

Report of the Task Force Regarding Gay and Lesbian Teens

1. A committee was formed in May, 1991 to review issues related to the needs of Gay and Lesbian youth in our schools.

2. The committee summarized their findings as follows:

A. Little has been done in schools until recently to include Gay and Lesbian issues or to acknowledge the existence of Gay and Lesbian youth. In 1989, the National Education Association passed a resolution calling for greater inclusion of Lesbian and Gay issues in education and for increased outreach to Lesbian and Gay youth. Young people of all sexual orientations need to be taught that homosexuality is normal and healthy.

B. Given the increased levels of anti-Gay and anti-Lesbian prejudice and the rising tide of verbal and physical abuse against Gay and Lesbian youth and adults, it is critical that Milwaukee Public Schools act now to relieve anti-Gay and anti-Lesbian prejudice.

C. Because of isolation, discrimination and rejection by family and peers, Lesbian and Gay youth are at greater risk for suicide, homelessness, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and substance abuse than heterosexual youth. Therefore, Lesbian and Gay youth need to learn: a) coping skills, b) to deal with isolation and c) what supportive resources are available.

D. Wisconsin State Statute 118.13 forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation: "Pupil discrimination is prohibited. No person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the

benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability."

E. It is the policy of the Milwaukee Public Schools that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap as required by S.118.13 Wisconsin Statute.

F. The following resolution is recommended for the MPS Board of School Directors' adoption:

Whereas, the educational system in the United States traditionally has been expected to provide instructional and support programs which meet the needs of diverse groups within the student population and to discourage discrimination against individuals based on group membership;

Whereas, of the millions of young people between the ages of 10 and 20 in the United States, a significant number (10-12 percent estimated by the Kinsey Institute) are known to be predominantly or exclusively Gay or Lesbian;

Whereas, research indicates that sexual orientation may be established before birth or is developed between the ages of three and nine;

Whereas, the 1989 report of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Youth Suicide states that Gay and Lesbian teenagers are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual teenagers;

Whereas, in a recent study of Lesbians and Gays by the National Gay Task Force, one-fifth of the females and nearly half of the males reported they were harassed, threatened with violence, or physically assaulted in high school or middle school because they were perceived to be Lesbian or Gay;

Whereas, unlike other oppressed minorities, Lesbian and Gay youth often do not have the support of family and peers;

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Public Schools believes that school personnel must demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of all students;

Therefore, be it resolved:

A. That all youth be guaranteed the



MARY BILLS

"While I thought I'd heard it all during segregation, I have recently listened to enough hate and intolerance to last a lifetime."

"I grew up in Milwaukee in a family that had a saying that it takes all kinds of people to make a world. And I grew up believing it is the job of education to eliminate fear and ignorance."

"I also grew up believing that the integrity of a democracy based on majority rule is only as good as its ability to protect its minorities."

"I can think of no reason to change these views."

—Mary Bills
Milwaukee School Board Director

right to a free public education in a safe and nurturing environment regardless of their sexual orientation.

Response: The administration supports this recommendation and continues to reinforce that all administrators, faculty and staff have a responsibility to provide a nurturing and safe environment for all students. The administration requests the task force to develop strategies to assist faculty and staff to carry out this responsibility.

Revised Response: The administration will reinforce that all administrators, faculty and staff have a responsibility to provide a nurturing and safe environment for all students.

B. That all young persons have an equal opportunity for quality education regardless of their sexual orientation.

Response: The administration will assist the task force in the dissemination of the strategies developed in recommendation (a) to school staffs in order to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Revised Response: The Administration will reinforce the right of all students to have equal opportunity for a quality education.

C. That curriculum materials, teaching strategies and school policies which include non-judgmental information on orientation be implemented in schools.

Response: The administration directs the task force to identify supplemental materials that can be integrated into existing curricular areas. These materials will be presented to curriculum specialists for inclusion in their specific areas. Guidelines for implementation will be provided for teachers.

Revised Response: The Board does not agree that a "non-judgmental" [in the sense of "value neutral"] approach to curriculum, teaching strategies or school policies is desirable or even achievable. While every student is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of his or her sexual conduct or sexual orientation, it is the essential role of the school system and all educators in it to help children learn how to exercise good judgment in their own lives.

With regard to sexual conduct, this school district does not condone or encourage sexual activity of any kind, whether homosexual or heterosexual, among its students. It is further this Board's policy that no child should be encouraged by any administrator, faculty or staff member to express or adopt any particular sexual orientation. The administration will continue to review and revise all curriculum materials to ensure that they are consistent with these views.

D. That sexual orientation be addressed in the sexuality component of a comprehensive health instruction curriculum.

Response: The administration requests the task force to develop materials that address sexual orientation in human growth and development including gender neutral terminology.

Revised Response: See response to recommendation C.

E. That school personnel prohibit any sexually oriented deprecating, harassing and prejudicial statements.

Response: The administration will remind principals to enforce the existing student nondiscrimination policy as described in Section 118.13, Wisconsin Statutes, which prohibits discrimination against pupils on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. This policy is described on pages 42-43 of the parent/student handbook, "Milwaukee's Promise to our Children, for our Future."

Revised Response: Same as original response.

F. That all administration personnel, faculty and staff receive training to increase their knowledge of and sensitivity to Lesbian and Gay culture and issues.

Response: The administration recommends that the task force develop and implement appropriate inservice for Milwaukee Public Schools personnel.

Revised Response: The administration will provide appropriate inservice that is consistent with this statement of Board policy to ensure that staff, particularly middle school and high school counselors, are prepared to address the problems that are faced by Gay and Lesbian students.

G. That drop-out prevention strategies targeted towards Gay and Lesbian youth be developed and implemented.

Response: The administration directs the task force to examine existing programs both internal and external and develop strategies appropriate to MPS students.

Revised Response: Given the actions outlined above, access to existing programs will be used as appropriate to help ensure that students stay in school.

H. That community and school-based services and resources be made available.

Response: The administration requests the task force to identify available services and resources and suggest appropriate involvement strategies for implementation within our schools.

Revised Response: The administration will identify services and resources and provide students with information regarding these services. For example, church, community-based organizations, support groups, etc.

Recommendation:

That the Board accept the responses of the administration to the recommendation of the Task Force Regarding Gay and Lesbian Teens.

The revised responses were adopted by School Board Directors Mary Bills, Christine Sinicki, Jared Johnson, Jeanette Mitchell, Donald O'Connell, David Lucey and Sandra Small. Director Lawrence O'Neil opposed points F, G and H. Joyce Mallory was absent because of illness.