

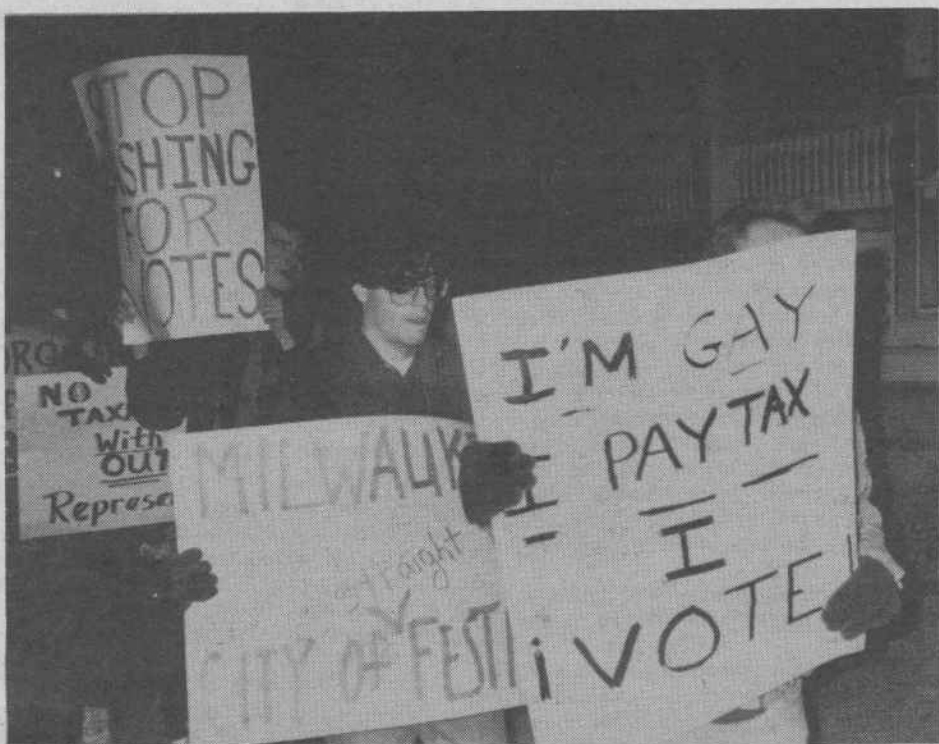


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Mayor Norquist Joins Gay Bashers And Vetoes Pride Parade Funds

Milwaukee Community Stunned, Disgusted and Outraged



STOP BASHING FOR VOTES— After Milwaukee Mayor Norquist vetoed the \$5,000 for the Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade, 15 activists gathered on very short notice to picket the Mayor's residence the evening of January 22 to protest the veto.

Dahmer Murder Case: Will Milwaukee Ever Respond To The Firebell In The Night?

Commentary by Jamakaya

The Jeffrey Dahmer murder case is a firebell in the night in terms of racism and homophobia in the city of Milwaukee.

The racial divisions which have characterized this case from the beginning seemed in evidence again at the pretrial hearing January 13. The judge, all of the many attorneys on both sides, the sheriff's deputies, the clerical personnel in the courtroom and the hundreds of media people crowding the halls and the press room were almost exclusively white.

The small band of victims' families who quietly filed into the reserved row of seats in the courtroom were exclusively Black and Hispanic. After the hearing they had to practically fight their way into the press room where they had to wait for some time as District Attorney E. Michael McCann and defense attorney Gerald Boyle held forth before the cameras.

Only when a frustrated cry of "Won't someone show some respect for the families?" was uttered by a

conscience-stricken reporter did the D.A. beat a hasty retreat and allow the families to have their say.

They said a lot that day and in the days since. Their message needs to be heard.

They are incredibly frustrated with a system that they believe has given every advantage to Dahmer while ignoring their own needs. They are angry that Dahmer could end up in a state hospital where he could be eligible for release every six months.

They are angry at the media's depiction of their sons as streetwise hustlers, all Gay, all "flirting with danger." And they are particularly angry that they have not been told the whole story about how their loved ones met their fates, and must first hear all the gruesome details in a nationally televised media circus.

Listen to the Voices

"I want to know what happened to my brother from the time Jeffrey Dahmer met him to the time he killed him. I want to know every detail," said a tearful Carolyn Smith.



FAMILIES SPEAK OUT— Carolyn Smith, sister of Eddie Smith, and Shirley Hughes, mother of Tony Hughes speak their minds to the press.

By Terry Boughner and Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]— "I feel beaten, devastated and betrayed," said Allen Eslinger.

Eslinger was speaking of Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist's January 21 veto of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee's (MLGPC) request for city festival funds for its annual Pride parade.

In a move that stunned the Gay community, Norquist issued his veto message just hours after the Common Council voted 9-6 to approve the funds. Gays savored their brief victory in the Council chamber, but the mood swiftly turned to bitterness as news of the veto swept the city.

Scott Gunkel, MLGPC President said: "I am astounded and outraged that a supposed friend of the community has stabbed us in the back. He's cowering down to the bigoted Right in time for the election, when he should be leading us against such discrimination."

Kitty Barber, spokeswoman for the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), said, "This is a cowardly act by an ignorant man who cares more about his own career than the city he serves."

Barber added: "I think this is an attempt to play our community against

other groups, further dividing a city already in trouble. But it won't work."

His 'Honor's' Veto Message

In his veto message, Norquist stated: "I do not agree with the recommendation by the [Milwaukee Festival] board and the Common Council to fund the Gay Pride Parade."

The Mayor declared that "using taxpayer dollars for this type of parade is inappropriate. It would be as improper as using property taxes to pay for a 'pro-life' or 'pro-choice' parade."

Norquist denied that "tax funding" for the Lesbian/Gay Pride parade was an issue of civil rights, as many Lesbians and Gays see it. "Property tax funding for a parade," Norquist wrote, "is not the cutting edge of civil rights for Gays and Lesbians. The issue here is not civil rights — the issue is the use of property tax dollars."

According to the Mayor, "Parades and festivals are meant to be non-controversial civic celebrations." But this resolution, he stated, has stirred controversy because of the funding for the Pride parade.

Norquist vetoed the entire package of \$200,000 in city festival funds. Events such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Puerto Rican Festival, the Veterans Day Parade, the Riverwest Art Walk and many others also lost their allocations through his veto.



MAYOR JOHN O. NORQUIST

Word out of City Hall is that there are not enough votes to override the Mayor's veto. It would require a 2/3 vote of the Common Council, or 11 votes. It is likely, however, that the entire package will be re-introduced, but the Pride funds will probably be deleted. At press time, Gay leaders were developing a strategy to see if they could yet salvage the funds.

Debate in the Council

Debate in the Common Council was thoughtful, civil and, in some cases, most eloquent. None of the ignorant statements and homophobic slurs which characterized last November's debate at the School Board were in evidence.

Alderman Donald Richards talked about the need to respect diversity in the city of Milwaukee. He said the litmus test of democracy and living in a free country was that "What is fair for one group is fair for all."

"The part that is true about the American melting pot is not that everyone becomes the same in this country," said Richards, "but that we somehow learn to live with each others' differences."

Council President Tom Donegan lectured his colleagues on their improper use of words like "preference" and

No remains of her brother Eddie (who was known to his friends as "The Sheik" for his exotic headgear) have ever been recovered. Dahmer identified Eddie as one of his victims after viewing a photo. Police have withheld any other information, reportedly telling his sister: "It was so gruesome. You don't want to know at this time."

"Why do I have to hear it in court in front of millions of people — what he did to my brother — before I actually know? It's my blood," Smith said of her brother.

The repeated claims of D.A. McCann and Boyle that they want to "spare the poor families" more pain don't sit well with Smith.

"I want Mr. Boyle, I want Jeffrey Dahmer and I want E. Michael McCann to stop thinking for me because I know what I want and I know what I feel..."

"From Day 1 they've been playing with our emotions, our feelings, and we're not going to take it anymore," said Smith. "Since Day 1 everything has been to protect Jeffrey Dahmer."

Dorothy Straughter, the mother of 17 year old Curtis Straughter, who was known to his friends in Gay Youth-Milwaukee as "Demetra," also wants more information. "It's not sparing me any not letting me know," she said. "The way I am now, my imagination can run away and it's probably going to drive me crazy."

"My Son Had a Life"

Catherine Lacy, the mother of Oliver Lacy, expressed another concern common among the families: "Everyone wants to talk about what kind of life Jeffrey Dahmer had. I don't give a damn what kind of life Jeffrey Dahmer had."

"My son had a life," she asserted. "There was people that cared about him, and we got robbed of my son. We got robbed of what my son could have given this community. It may not have been much, but it could have been a little bit and that little bit might have helped."

"What it all boils down to is it's the system's fault for not investigating these boys being missing," said Janie Hagen, sister of Richard Guerrero. "They were

TURN TO FAMILIES, PAGE 11

TURN TO VETO, PAGE 15

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Marriage License Denial Appealed

[Washington, D.C.]—Craig Dean and Patrick Gill, two Gay men who have been partners for five years, will appeal the recent ruling by a District of Columbia Superior Court Judge that they are not qualified to obtain a marriage license.

Judge Shellie F. Bowers ruled December 20 that although the D.C. marriage law is gender-neutral in its wording, it contains gender-based distinctions. The couple had argued that denying them a marriage license was a violation of the D.C. Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. But the judge ruled that the marriage law was exempt from that statute.

In his ruling, Judge Bowers invoked the Bible and the Judeo-Christian ten commandments. He argued that since procreation is legally recognized as an "integral part of the institution of marriage" and because, in Bowers' view, homosexuals cannot procreate, they therefore cannot marry.

"Society has recognized," said the judge, "that it takes a man and a woman to form a marital relationship." He also said that sexual acts between members of the same sex could not meet the standards of consummation, as legally defined.

After the ruling, Gill said: "We have been told by a court of little courage, little wisdom and very little compassion that although the state is happy to take our taxes, it will not recognize us as full citizens because of who we love. We have been denied the most basic right a person has: the right to love."

The appeal will be heard before the three judge panel of the D.C. Court of Appeals. Dean and Gill have vowed to take their case all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Candidate Harkin Frustrates Activists

[Manchester, NH]—Presidential candidate Tom Harkin (D-IA) is under pressure from Gay activists for his failure to sign on as a sponsor of the federal Gay rights bill and for his failure to speak out more forcefully on the issue of Gay and Lesbian rights. Harkin is running as a progressive.

When questioned by Gay activists at a campaign stop in New Hampshire in December, Harkin turned his back and walked away. At a meeting of Minnesota's Democratic Farm-Labor Party last year, Harkin reportedly lost his temper when confronted with the Gay issue. *Equal Time* recorded Harkin's words: "I'm proud of what I've done. Just because I won't put my name on a bill that doesn't have a snowball's chance in hell of making it, you're gonna hold that against me? No way."

The *Washington Blade* reported that shouting could be heard through the wall when Queer Nation activists met with Harkin's staff members at his Capitol Hill office in November. At that meeting, Harkin's office manager, Jackie Bennet, revealed that she is a Lesbian. Bennet said she believed Harkin would be a strong supporter of Gay rights as President.

St. Pat's Controversy Continues

[New York, NY]—The Manhattan chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians has once again refused to allow the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Hibernians also decided to exclude Division 7, the branch of its own group which invited the Gays to march last year.

"They've decided to spank us," said Bernard Morris, president of Division 7. "We've tried to bring peace to the parade and this is our thank you."

Mayor David Dinkins, who marched in solidarity with the Irish Gays last year, was said to be reluctant to issue a parade permit to the organizing group. He is seeking a compromise that would turn over control of the parade to the state chapter of the Ancient Order.

Gays Win Two, Lose One

[New Orleans, LA]—In December, the New Orleans City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals in housing, employment and public accommodations.

"I oppose discrimination in all forms because it's wrong, wrong, wrong," said Council member Dorothy Mae Taylor. "As a lawmaker, my job is to make the wrongs right."

At the same time in Ithaca, New York, the Tompkins County Board of Representatives adopted a Fair Practice Law that guarantees Gays and Lesbians equal rights in housing, jobs, education, public arenas and credit applications.

To the fundamentalists who opposed the measure, Rep. Charles Evans, a Republican, said: "Long ago, we stopped burning witches at the stake. It seems to me it's about time we stopped burning homosexuals."

Meanwhile, the Baltimore County Council defeated a recommendation by the Human Relations Commission to amend the county's Human Rights Ordinance to include sexual orientation.

Partner Named Guardian Of Son

[Duxbury, VT]—The Vermont Gay paper *Out in the Mountains* reports that Susan Bellemare has won a legal battle for custody of the child of her deceased Lesbian lover.

Susan Hamilton, who was killed in a car accident in 1989, indicated in her will that her partner of thirteen years, Bellemare, should be granted custody of her son Collin. But Hamilton's parents contested the will, demanding custody of the boy and citing Bellemare's Lesbianism as a detriment to the child's development.

A settlement was reached just before the case was to go before the Superior Court. Bellemare has been granted full guardianship of the boy and the grandparents will be allowed visitation rights.

Bigotry Of Young Catholics Exposed

[Kansas City, MO]—A 1990 survey conducted in six parishes in the Kansas City area revealed that a majority of Catholic teenagers believe that anti-Gay violence is acceptable. The survey, summarized in the *National Catholic Reporter*, was part of a graduate school thesis written by Diocesan Confirmation Coordinator Michael Maher.

Maher asked the 123 participants whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about homosexuality that he paraphrased from an official church report.

Almost 50% of the women and 80% of the men said that anti-Gay jokes and slurs were acceptable. Half of all respondents said that the Catholic Church should not speak out against derogatory terms and violence against Gays. A whopping 88% of those polled agreed that the Church should not sponsor programs for Gays and Lesbians.

Quickies...

[Dallas, TX]—State District Judge Jack Hampton, who once gave a lighter sentence to a convicted killer because his victims were Gay, is running for the Dallas Court of Appeals. He will face Barbara Rosenberg, an appointee of Gov. Ann Richards, in the November election.

[Washington, D.C.]—Tim Drake, who headed the Privacy Project and Military Freedom Initiative of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, has resigned to seek office as a state legislator in Illinois. Drake will run as a Republican.

Meanwhile, Sandra Lowe, former staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has been appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo to become Director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns for the State of New York.

[Manchester, NH]—Activist Michael Petrelis has asked that assault charges be filed against two campaign staffers for Republican Presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan after they roughly removed him from a Buchanan press conference. Petrelis had interrupted Buchanan with shouts of "ACT UP! Fight back! Fight AIDS!"

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.



Jerry Johnson

HONORING GINGER—Chris Gorski, the lover of the late entertainer, Ginger Spice, greeted fans at a memorial benefit held for Miss Spice at Milwaukee's Club 219 on January 21. Entertainer Mama Ray (right) was one of the performers on the evenings program. Ginger Spice died November 26 of complications due to AIDS. Proceeds of the benefit went to the Milwaukee AIDS Projects.

Medical College Offers Programs For Caregivers, Coping With AIDS

[Milwaukee]—Care for AIDS Caregivers and Coping with AIDS Loss are two new programs being offered by the Community Health Behavior Program of the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).

The former program will evaluate the benefit of stress coping interventions to assist those who are currently caring for a person with AIDS/HIV. The latter program evaluates benefits of mental health services for persons who are coping with grief and bereavement following the loss of loved ones or close friends to AIDS.

There is no charge for participation, although participants will be asked to complete confidential study questionnaires before and after the programs in order to evaluate their effectiveness. The two programs are offered on the East Side of Milwaukee, employ careful protections of privacy and confidentiality and are conducted by MCW faculty and professional staff.

Care for AIDS Caregivers

Those persons who care for loved ones with AIDS feel stresses and fears, and have needs of their own. The Care for Caregivers program is an eight-week series of small group sessions — also with the same members each week and led by MCW mental health professionals. It provides help in coping with stress, concerns and the emotional pressures experienced by persons who are caring for someone with AIDS.

It is intended for lovers, spouses, family members and friends who feel they would benefit from help to deal with these pressures. For information, please call (414) 287-4680 weekdays during daytime hours and ask about the Care for Caregivers Program.

Coping With AIDS Loss

This program is open to persons who are experiencing difficulty coping with the loss of a loved one to AIDS, whether the loss has been relatively recent or long ago, and whether a single loss or multiple losses. The eight-week series of small group sessions will always have the same members and be led by experienced MCW professionals. Participants will

have the opportunity to receive support from others also coping with bereavement; express emotions and fears; develop strategies for handling depression, loneliness and anxiety; or just talk in a concerned, supportive and open atmosphere. For information, please call (414) 287-4680 and ask for information on the Coping With Loss Program.

Community Health Behavior Program

The Community Health Behavior Program conducts research on AIDS/HIV, including improved AIDS prevention approaches and methods to meet the mental health needs of persons who are affected by HIV. Projects with the Medical College of Wisconsin's Community Health Behavior are supported by nearly \$7 million in research grants from the National Institute of Mental Health. Based in Milwaukee's East Side, the program is a leading national center for AIDS prevention and mental health research.

LIGHT Editor To Speak At UWM February 13

[Milwaukee]—The Gay and Lesbian Community at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will be sponsoring a series of speakers and discussions on topics concerning issues relevant to Gays during the months of February and March.

The series will begin with a look at the past. On Thursday, February 13, Terry Boughner, Ph.D., Executive Editor of the *Wisconsin Light*, will talk about Gays in the Nazi Holocaust. The talk will take place in the Fireside Lounge of the UW-M Union and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Other discussions throughout the series will focus on today's attitudes toward diverse groups within the Gay community. The series will end with a discussion of Gay activists and their role in shaping future political policies. For more information, call the Gay and Lesbian Community office at UW-M at (414) 289-0789.

Lunch - M-F-11:30-2:30
Sat. - noon-3
Sun. Brunch-11-4
Dinner - nightly-5-11

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- **Free of charge.

For more information, please call:

287-4680

Community Health Behavior Program
Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences
Medical College of Wisconsin

Lost a Loved One?

Losing someone to AIDS can be overwhelming.

Those who lose a loved one or close friend to AIDS often face a difficult time coping with their bereavement, especially if they can't talk much with others about their feelings, fears and concerns. The coping with loss program offers assistance in dealing with loneliness, depression, anxiety, and getting life back in order.

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For more information, please call:

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Community Health Behavior Program
Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Services
Medical College of Wisconsin



Community Health Behavior Program

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- ◆ Stress management and health behavior promotion
- ◆ Careful protections of privacy and confidentiality
- ◆ Call weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and ask for the Positive Health program. We'd be happy to talk with you

287-4680

Positive Health is a project funded by the National Institute of Health to evaluate the best ways to help people who are HIV positive to adapt and cope. The project has careful safeguards to protect participant confidentiality, and is offered by faculty in the Medical College of Wisconsin's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences.

We're here, we understand, we can help.



MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

COMMUNITY HEALTH BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences

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Institutional Member



EDITORIAL

Norquist's Veto Displays Cowardly Lack Of Leadership, Morality

Mayor John Norquist's veto of the Milwaukee Festival Fund resolution, in which he specifically targeted the grant to the city's Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee, displays a cowardly lack of leadership and morality.

For months, the **Wisconsin Light** has been writing editorials about the vicious homophobic backlash which has gripped Milwaukee since the Dahmer murders were exposed. We have drawn attention to the growing violence against Gays in the streets and the bigoted statements emanating from certain media outlets, fundamentalist elements and, most shamefully, even School Board members.

Mayor Norquist could have spoken up. But instead, his veto of the Gay Pride funds makes one thing crystal clear: he has actually set the tone and given official sanction to all the hatred being leveled against us. As the chief officer of this city, Norquist is ultimately responsible for the orgy of Gay-bashing that has engulfed Milwaukee.

The Mayor had a golden opportunity to sign the funding package and deliver a principled statement regarding tolerance and respect for diversity in our city. Instead, he took the politically expedient step of playing to the most ignorant, bigoted elements in our community. All of his previous rhetoric about valuing diversity is a lie. He certainly is not contributing to the solution. Norquist is a sickening example of the problem.

We at the **Wisconsin Light** have seen this coming for some time. Last Summer, we noted how tardy the Mayor was in condemning the obvious racism and homophobia involved in Dahmer's crimes. At the vigil for the murder victims in August, we noted how Mayor Norquist stuttered and stammered and never managed to get the words "Gay and Lesbian" out of his mouth. He was rightfully heckled by some of those in attendance.

His silence during the shameful outbreak of homophobia at the School Board in November frustrated us further. In an attempt at damage control, an aide told us that the Mayor didn't get involved in School Board issues. That too was a lie. Only a few weeks later, in a statement that garnered major headlines, Norquist declared that it might be time to abolish the entire public school system!

Just one week after the School Board fiasco, where almost a thousand fundamentalists had shrieked their hatred about Gay people and threatened to recall Board members who supported Gay teens, what did Norquist do? The political skunk delivered a major speech at the police academy touting "traditional values in our families," saying it would be a major theme of his re-election campaign. His aides, once again doing damage control chores for the scoundrel, claimed it was merely an unfortunate choice of words. We don't think so, Johnny. Your calculated use of the buzz words of the political Right was all too transparent.

The evening before you vetoed the Pride funds, one of your chief aides met with representatives of the Gay and Lesbian community. Even though you had already decided to veto the Pride funds should they be approved, you did not have the decency to prepare our leaders for what was coming. Your callousness astounds us.

Your token Pride proclamations mean nothing to us Johnny, if you're not there when we really need you. And you haven't been. The lack of a strong alternative candidate that the city's Gay community can support in the April election is a measure of the utter bankruptcy of this city's institutions. But if we've survived Dahmer, we can certainly survive you.

As noted elsewhere in this issue of the **Light**, the Dahmer case has been a firebell in the night in terms of the institutional racism and homophobia plaguing the city of Milwaukee. The city's response to these twin evils has been woefully inadequate because it is rather clear to us that the fish stinks from the head down.

An Open Letter to Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist

Dear John:

Why did you do it? The veto, John, I simply do not understand. I've read it a dozen times, maybe more, trying to make sense of it and still, I don't understand.

Is it a political statement of some kind? If so, it's like a foghorn on a mist-filled afternoon: loud, but vague. You should have heard the Alderpeople in the morning, John. For or against, their statements were reasoned, clear and well thought out. Your message does not equal, does not even come close, to any one of them.

What did you hope to accomplish by it? Was it, as many think, a political grandstand play? If so, it was worse than stupid. It was a mistake. What you've done is to sacrifice many of your supporters and gain no new ones in their place. I don't want to believe that of you.

What I do think now is that for all your past support of the Gay/Lesbian community and our struggle for civil rights, you really, honestly don't comprehend what we're all about. Through its misty vagueness, there's a ghost of that incomprehension in your veto message. That being so, you can't possibly understand our anger, hurt and rage.

You see, John, we are not an advocacy group. We are a minority fighting for our civil rights. You can say as others do, that we have those rights. That's not true. You wouldn't think that if you lived in my shoes.

You haven't been threatened with physical extermination for being who you are. I have.

You haven't been told that the best thing that could happen to you is to die from AIDS. I have.

You haven't been told on the radio airwaves that a serial murderer is a logical extension of the person you are. We in our community have.

You haven't lost your home, your family, your job because of who you are. Many of us have.

You haven't been carefully taught to hate yourself. You haven't had to endure the struggle of recovery to self-worth. I have. So have many others of my community.

You haven't had to stand with parents at the grave of a child who has committed suicide because they believed they should not live because they were Lesbian or

Gay. I have.

Aren't these civil rights, John? If they are not, then what are they?

See, John, that's why we march. Because we're proud in the face of those who call us scum. Wouldn't any oppressed minority do the same?

We march to resist those who would like us to remain invisible. Invisible people have all the rights of dogs.

We march to show that we are a people bonded by a common history, a common culture. You are right, John, when you say that we have contributed much to this society. Don't you think it's ironic that the people so love what we've created while they despise the creators? Doesn't that strike you as odd?

I don't think you'll ever read this John — and if you do, I am forced to believe you won't care. See, John, that's what hurts most about all this. Me, anyway, I thought you knew and understood and cared. I thought you could see what we were trying to do.

I thought you understood that without dignity, life isn't worth much. I thought you understood that one of the duties of government is to enhance the dignity of all the citizens. I thought you knew that prejudice and discrimination cannot be singular, but are all of a piece. I thought you knew that when one group is slandered and has vile epithets heaped upon it, all suffer. This is the democracy of tyranny, John, where prejudice treats all just exactly alike. I thought you realized all that. I see now I was mistaken.

Further, John, I believed you cared and could lead others to do so. I was wrong. God knows, I am disappointed in you, John, so bitterly disappointed.

Sincerely,

Terry Boughner,
Just another Gay man.

LETTERS

Look Out, Harvey!

TO THE EDITOR:

When Oliver Stone wrote the screenplay for **Midnight Express**, he portrayed Billy Hayes' relationship with a fellow inmate in the Turkish prison as being purely platonic. This was at odds with Billy Hayes' own account, in which

he says he and his Swedish friend had indeed been lovers.

When asked about this inconsistency, Stone said he hadn't wanted the movie to "be about homosexuality." There were other major falsehoods, yet he blithely went on claiming that his screenplay was faithful to Hayes' true story.

Now Stone is presenting fabricated, Gay-hating images of Clay Shaw in **JFK** as "true." So leave it to Hollywood — good old Hollywood that is supposedly changing its ways — to give Stone a green light on **The Mayor of Castro Street**. Given Stone's record, is there any chance in hell that Harvey Milk will be portrayed with empathy and love? More likely, Stone will turn him into a simpering conniver who provoked Dan White into an unfortunate, but understandable, assassination.

—Michael Neville
Milwaukee

Send Your Story!

TO THE EDITOR:

The Milwaukee chapter of **Fairies Appalled** by Gyration Straights (FAGS) was recently formed to combat the invisibility of Gays and Lesbians in a society controlled by self-centered heterosexuals. Imagine our horror and delight upon reading that the **Milwaukee Sentinel** (1/19/92 issue) will publish a special Valentine's Day section comprised of funny romance stories submitted by its readers.

At first I thought it sounds too appalling for words. But wait! It's a great opportunity to increase our visibility by flooding their editor with lots of stories featuring same-sex couples.

We urge everyone to submit a story to the **Sentinel**. (Any story will do the job even if it's not humorous.) While their goal is to amuse their readers, ours is visibility. Make it clear that your story is about a same-sex couple. Send your stories to: Funny Valentines, Features Dept., Milwaukee Sentinel, P.O. Box 371, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

—Name Withheld on Request
Milwaukee

People With HIV

TO THE EDITOR:

The People with HIV Infection Action Group of Madison is a non-facilitated group whose purpose is to support each other in taking actions that will enhance our lives. The group is not affiliated with any agency or institution because part of the action we take is evaluating the services available to us. The group is non-facilitated because the group is about guiding our own decisions and making our own rules.

Join us for an organizational meeting, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Parkside Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 4002 Lien Road which is the first right after K-Mart going east on East Washington Street in Madison. Enter by the parking lot door and go downstairs.

—People With HIV
Infection Action Group
Madison

'JFK' Not Biased

TO THE EDITOR:

In your last issue, you mentioned that GLAAD found **JFK** as "homophobic as films get" because it depicted David Ferrie and Clay Shaw as two twisted Gay men who happen to be the most prominently explored J.F.K. conspiracy suspects, because anti-Gay epithets are sprinkled throughout the movie and because there are "allusions" (I counted one) to a "Gay underworld" instrumental in arranging the assassination of President Kennedy.

I must disagree with this assessment. In fact, I think there are two shining moments where this film brings into question the extent to which justice was available to queer folk at that time.

First, the opinion cited in the article fails to take into account that Stone hoped to base this film to a large extent on detailed facts about a real-life event. There may well have been a government conspiracy behind J.F.K.'s death. Shaw and Ferrie may well have been involved and they were, quite possibly, homosexual. Studies of Garrison and J.F.K.'s death, document this fairly well. It may be an unpleasant fact that (at least) two ultra-right Gay men helped to kill J.F.K.

Further, the third significant Gay character, Willy O'Keefe, a male prostitute, is significant in that he was Garrison's sole living witness to conversations about the conspiracy between Ferrie and Shaw concerning their hatred for J.F.K. It was crucial to events as they actually happened, that Shaw's alleged patronage of O'Keefe's services led to Garrison's efforts to link him with the two additional gunmen that he theorized in court.

If Garrison and Stone's reconstruction is accurate, Shaw mixed his participation in Gay life with his career as a spy and conspirator.

It is O'Keefe who makes the reference I caught to a Gay underworld to explain to Garrison why he first took the discussion between Shaw and Ferrie as idle talk. He states that everyone "especially in the homosexual underworld" likes to make themselves seem bigger than they are. The underground he is alluding to is the culture that was created in response to the need to live in hiding during that time.

The opinion cited made it sound as if there were allusions to a Gay conspiracy. If that had been intended, Stone would surely have dragged up J. Edgar Hoover's apparent homosexuality. He does implicate Hoover in the conspiracy to kill J.F.K. This aspect of Hoover is not mentioned because Stone is not trying to allude to a sinister Gay Illuminati. It is irresponsible that the article makes it sound as if a Gay conspiracy is depicted.

Ferrie is depicted as a Catholic priest who was defrocked for what he still considers "a terrible weakness." It is true we do not have a

TURN TO LETTERS, PAGE 15

Legal and Financial Advice Offered To Couples In Relationships

[Milwaukee]- Attorney Tom Martin and Financial Consultant Bob Moore have put together an informal, yet comprehensive seminar for persons in Gay and Lesbian relationships. Various aspects of planning for the future with a loved one will be discussed, including home ownership, wills and living trusts, health powers of attorney, retirement savings/wealth accumulation and other estate planning matters as they pertain to a same-sex relationship.

Couples - and individuals in relationships are encouraged to attend the event, which will take place on Thursday, January 30th, in the upstairs meeting room at The M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street. The evening will begin with registration and refreshments at 5:30 p.m., followed by a presentation by Martin and Moore at 6:00 p.m.

Tom Martin has been serving the Gay and Lesbian community in the private practice of law since 1984. Prior to private practice, he served as a federal prosecutor, during which time he received the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Superior Performance. Recently, he was cited by *Milwaukee Magazine* as "one of

Milwaukee's top attorneys," in a survey of attorneys in the Milwaukee area.

Bob Moore has also been active in the Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian community. He is the founder of Milwaukee GAMMA, served on the board of the Lambda Rights Network and has been active in numerous organizations, including Lutherans Concerned, Gay Peoples' Union and the Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group. He was a director of the Executive MBA Program and the Small Business Institute at UW-Milwaukee, where he also served as an assistant professor in Finance. Through his company, J. Robert Moore Associates, he provided financial planning for both personal and business needs.

There is no charge for this event. For more information, call (414) 963-9833.

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FUNDS FOR AIDS— Louise Searing, ARCW special events manager, Eve Tai and Dave Rompa, of the Madison AIDS Support Network were present as Dave accepted a check for \$18,369 from the Wisconsin AIDS Walk.

AIDS Resource Center Disburses Funds From 1991 AIDS Walk

[Milwaukee]- In a small ceremony January 14, Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, presented a check for \$18,369 to Dave Rompa, acting Director of the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN). The funds are a part of a total disbursement of \$183,691 from the 1991 Wisconsin AIDS Walk.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, which operates the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP), received \$137,764. The 1991 Walk was produced by MAP with the co-sponsorship of MASN and SEWAP.

Each of nine other organizations that provided AIDS services from throughout

the state received \$3,062. These include: Center Project, Inc., Green Bay; Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation, Wauwatosa; Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center, Madison; Milwaukee Center for Independence; Opportunity Industrialization Center of Racine County; STD Specialties Clinic, Inc., Milwaukee; Visiting Nurse Association, Milwaukee; Waukesha County Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Addictions and the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin has begun planning for the 1992 Wisconsin AIDS Walk, which will take place on Sunday, September 21, 1992. For more information, call (414) 273-1991.

Cracker Barrel Sues Gay Activists; Shareholders Demand Answers

[Washington, D.C.]- Late last year, Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, Inc. intensified its actions against the Gay and Lesbian community by suing activists who have protested the eateries' anti-Gay employment policy. The chain also moved to prevent Gay and Lesbian activists who own stock in the company from attending its annual shareholders' meeting. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has stepped in to defend the activists.

On November 21, Cracker Barrel filed a suit seeking damages from organizers of non-violent protests in Georgia and Tennessee. Activists view the recent Cracker Barrel actions as an escalation of hard-line tactics against the Gay and Lesbian community.

In early 1991, Cracker Barrel fired at least nine Gay and Lesbian workers for violation of company policy which states it is inconsistent with the chain's "traditional American values... to employ individuals... whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate heterosexual values."

A statement claiming the policy was "a well-intentioned over reaction" was later released by Cracker Barrel. But after months of demonstrations at the restaurants, none of the dismissed employees has been rehired nor has any restitution been made.

Ivy Young, Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Families Project, was one of the defendants named in the suit. Also named were six members of Queer Nation Atlanta; Donna Christy of the Tennessee Cracker Barrel Boycott Coalition; and "John and Jane Doe."

"Cracker Barrel should know from history that this kind of intimidation tactic has never worked when the issue at hand is the basic struggle for justice and equality," said NGLTF's Young, who has served as a liaison for activists and has organized a national petition drive against the company. "We are not going to stop our protests, demonstrations, petition drive or boycott until this company makes it clear that Lesbians and Gay men can work for them in safety and security. We are not turning back."

The suit alleges that "...these defendants... are planning a mass demonstration for the purpose of disrupting the annual stockholders' meeting..." The suit sought an injunction to prevent the demonstration and "damages."

"This is a blatant example of prior restraint on free speech," said Abby Rubinfeld, attorney and NGLTF Board

member. Rubinfeld and Paula Ettelbrick of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will spearhead the defense team.

The stockholders' meeting was held on November 26 at the company's headquarters in Lebanon, TN. Gay activists who own Cracker Barrel stock were delayed from entering until the meeting was almost over.

"We are investigating the possibility of hitting Cracker Barrel with a counter-suit for federal securities violations, claims of malicious prosecution and abuse of process," said Ettelbrick. "It's essential that we challenge this homophobic abuse of corporate power."

The City of New York, which has \$3 million in pension funds invested in Cracker Barrel, sent a representative to the meeting. Earlier this year, trustees of the pension fund voted to ask Cracker Barrel to adopt a policy barring discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. The pension fund also asked Cracker Barrel to inform them of steps taken to compensate the terminated employees.

At the meeting, Patrick Doherty, the NYC pension fund representative, questioned Cracker Barrel chairman and president Daniel Evins, who responded by saying the policy was never corporate-wide policy and that the employees were not fired for being Gay. Evins also released a statement claiming the firm "is an equal opportunity employer that adheres to the letter and the spirit of non-discrimination in the workplace."

However, NGLTF has the termination forms for two employees, one of which states, "The employee is Gay," and the other, "Violation of company policy on homosexuals."

Activists are urged to contact NGLTF for more information about the ongoing campaign against Cracker Barrel. Write NGLTF, 1734 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 332-6483.

**ATTEND THE
MASQUERADE
BALL
See Page 16**



**What are your rights if your lover becomes seriously ill or worse...dies?
What if you lose your job?
Are both of you protected?**

Seems like we hear a lot of talk lately about protected vs. unprotected sex. But how many of us in relationships talk about protecting the legal and financial aspects of our lives together?

Attorney Tom Martin and Financial Consultant Bob Moore have put together an informal but comprehensive event to talk to you about safeguarding the future that you and your loved one are planning together.

Topics discussed will include:

- Home ownership • Retirement Savings/Wealth Accumulation
- Wills and Trusts • Other estate planning matters

Thursday January 30, 1992 • 5:30pm refreshments/presentation

M&M Club upstairs meeting room • 124 North Water Street

There is no charge for this event. For information, call 963-9833.

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Shalala: 'Not Enough' Progress On ROTC, But Fight Continues

By Jamakaya

[Madison]—In a recent interview with the *Wisconsin Light*, University of Wisconsin Chancellor Donna Shalala had an unequivocal response to the question of whether there was any progress to report on the issue of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) on campus.

"Not enough," said the Chancellor.

Shalala and several other university officials met with Pentagon brass last November to express concern about the policy which excludes Gays and Lesbians from serving in the ROTC and in the wider armed services.



DONNA SHALALA

Chancellor Shalala came away from that meeting more convinced than ever that pressure needs to be focussed directly on the Department of Defense: "No one's going to change it at the local level. It's going to have to be changed by the Department of Defense itself."

Of the Pentagon officials, she said: "My sense is that they were quite surprised when they saw us directly to hear from us...The Department of Defense has clearly gotten no mail. Congress has gotten mail. And there's been a lot of mail to the universities themselves. But the people that will eventually make the decision in the Department of Defense have gotten very little mail from the public or from influential [figures] in the community."

Legal Pressure Felt

Shalala said Pentagon officials are "certainly feeling the legal pressure" from the increasing number of court challenges to the anti-Gay policy that are being initiated all across the US. "Any number of those cases could affect ROTC," she noted.

At the time Shalala met with Pentagon officials in November, the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) agreed to help raise the funds and support litigation aimed at ending the Pentagon's policy. Shalala serves on the Board of the NASULGC, which represents 148 of the nation's major public universities.

While she declined to predict when legal action might begin, Shalala indicated that proposals are currently being submitted to foundations to raise the necessary funds for such a challenge.

If the University of Wisconsin signed on as a plaintiff in such a case, it would require the approval of the Board of Regents, which is increasingly dominated by conservative appointees of Gov. Tommy Thompson.

When asked whether the Regents

would approve such action, Shalala said: "I can't give you a reading. I honestly can't. They're on record as being opposed to discrimination. They're on record as telling us to use any legal means [to reverse the policy], but I can't give you a nose count and we're not at that point yet."

The State of Wisconsin and the UW System prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The UW Student Association, the Faculty Senate and the Board of Regents have all gone on record against the ROTC's discriminatory policy. But the Regents have refused to remove ROTC from campus.

Recognizes Inconsistencies

Shalala said she "absolutely" understands the frustration students and faculty members feel with the UW's inconsistent policies around ROTC: "I share their frustration, and I can see that the policies are inconsistent. But I do not have executive authority on this issue."

The Chancellor said she was not offended by the pressure tactics of the UW's Ten Percent Society, the Gay and Lesbian student group. Members of the Ten Percent Society disrupted a meeting of the Board of Regents in September.

"The students have been doing what students who care deeply about an issue ought to do. I have not complained about the students. They're not supposed to be patient. They care deeply about the issue and they're acting accordingly. That's their role," said Shalala. "And I have to do my best."

"I have a lot of colleagues that would say that I should not get involved in Gay and Lesbian issues, particularly in a state as conservative as Wisconsin," said Chancellor Shalala.

"For me, it's a moral issue, a fundamental issue of civil rights. There's no question in my mind, if you could see my mail on this issue, that there is not a lot of public support for the University's position — as led by me — on this issue."

"But there are some things you just have to do," said Shalala, "and in some cases it involves personal risk."

Asked whether she faces opposition to her ROTC stand from other administrators within and outside the UW System, Shalala commented: "As you well know, there's a lot of homophobic behavior in this country, and that's in large part why public leaders have been very reluctant [to speak out], not just on the ROTC issue, I believe, but in general on Gay and Lesbian issues."

"But at some point you have to have a bottom line in your life," said the Chancellor. "For educators, I think you've got to have a consistent position on the fundamental issues of morality and the fundamental issues of civil rights."

Shalala urged like-minded people to write to Secretary Dick Cheney at the Department of Defense and she vowed to continue her own efforts to reverse the anti-Gay policy.

Editor's Note: The Ten Percent Society has criticized Chancellor Shalala for suggesting that they shift their activism from the university to the Defense Department in Washington. Skeptical about whether Shalala is doing all she can to pressure the Pentagon, Michael S. Dixon has filed an open records request to review all UW documents and correspondence regarding the ROTC issue. The *Light* will continue to keep readers informed of ongoing developments.

Coming Together: The Idea Of Coalition Takes Off In Madison

By John Quinlan

Madison—In an ongoing effort to increase communication and build coalition, the United will be hosting a potluck and community meeting in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin Street, on Sunday, February 2 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Over 30 women and men representing over two dozen groups attended the first coalition-building meeting on December 8th in the Gates of Heaven building at James Madison Park.

At that time, there was consensus that coalition activities occur through the United, instead of attempting to form a new group. At meeting's end, there was a strong sense of optimism about the possibilities for improving communication and cooperation among groups and individuals working for Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals and our supporters.

All those present shared the full breadth and depth of their activities. There was a growing awareness of a basic need to improve communication. Several practical suggestions came out of that. These include: 1) expanding the United's newsletter and adding to its mailing list, 2) building a Madison bureau of the *Wisconsin Light*, 3) developing a phone tree that ties into existing groups and networks, 4) taking advantage of current technology by developing computer bulletin boards and automated phone information lines.

Studds: Pentagon Policy Doomed; The Only Question Is When

Just a few years ago, there were many times when I felt alone in battling the military's discriminatory policy banning Lesbians and Gay men from service. Quite frankly, few community activists held much hope against an institution as powerful as the Pentagon.

Today, however, momentum is clearly on our side. We can now turn for help to community organizations, university faculties, professional associations, major newspaper editorial boards and several of my fellow members of Congress. There is no longer any doubt that this policy will fall; the only question is when.

Several critical events in 1991 have given me even greater hope that the change — which I feel is inevitable — will occur sooner, rather than later.

Hypocrite Exposed

The Persian Gulf war shed brighter light on the thousands of Lesbians and Gay men already serving with distinction in our armed forces. It also illuminated the continued hypocrisy when the Pentagon suspended its anti-Gay policy temporarily during the conflict, then actively hounded Gay soldiers upon their return.

This occurred at a time when our support among the public was growing. A national poll, commissioned by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, revealed that the majority of Americans believe Gay men and Lesbians should be allowed to serve in our military. An even greater number objected to discharging those already on active duty.

This broad public support was specifically demonstrated in two important areas. Increasingly, students, faculty and administrators questioned the appropriateness of Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units and military recruiters to operate at schools with anti-discrimination policies. Similarly, the American Psychological Association

"Beyond networking," said the United's Jane Vanderbosch, "the real challenge is identifying ways of working in coalition."

At a January planning meeting, Vanderbosch suggested that one way of doing this was to set up a group of task forces to work on such issues as education and family issues, responses to homophobic violence, building communication, and media-related work. This concept of a coalition of groups coming together to work on task force projects of joint interest has been very successful for groups such as the Wisconsin Women's Network, said Vanderbosch.

The February 2 meeting will begin with a social time. Each group represented will then report what it can offer the larger coalition, a task that everyone agreed to at the December meeting. A general discussion will follow about developing a skeletal framework for the coalition, including an ongoing steering committee. Areas of mutual interest will be identified and the large group will break into smaller work groups. Each group will then report at meeting's end.

"It's exciting to see all of the possibilities for communication and coordination," said coalition member Mark Porter, representing the New Harvest Foundation. "This is something that could really take off."

For more information on the meeting, call the United at (608) 255-8582.

began assembling a broad coalition of professional, scientific and higher-education organizations to attack the policy of the Department of Defense.

The legal front proved a mixed battle ground in 1991. A favorable court decision in California sustained the argument of Army Captain Dusty Pruitt that the Army must offer a rational basis for its regulations. Yet the December decision of a District of Columbia court, in the case of Navy Midshipman Joseph Steffan, suggested that the spread of AIDS was a legitimate excuse for barring Gays from military service.

As often happens, we benefited most when all the facts were brought to light. In October, I obtained and released yet another internal Defense Department study, entitled "Homosexuality and Personnel Security." It concluded that Gays and Lesbians are not security risks and that "sexual orientation is unrelated to character." These conclusions were reflected in remarks of Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, who charitably characterized the security risk argument as "a bit of an old chestnut" during House Budget Committee hearings in July.

The year concluded with the introduction of joint House and Senate Congressional Resolutions (H. Res. 271 and S. Res. 236) urging the President to end the anti-Gay military policy. The fact remains, however, that President Bush could rectify this injustice with a simple stroke of his pen. Until he does, bringing to light the truth about Lesbian and Gay military service continues to be our best weapon against this ban.

Editor's Note: This commentary first appeared in Boston's *Gay Community News* and was sent by Rep. Studds (D-MA) to the *Wisconsin Light* for publication. Rep. Studds is the first openly Gay member of Congress.

Dykes To Watch Out For





WHAT A DRAG!— The 3 B's bar of Milwaukee held its Fourth Annual 'Stars for AIDS' show as a benefit on January 11, raising nearly \$500 for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. Among the entertainers performing were (left to right): Michael Jaske, Kylie West (Ms. Gay Racine), Mary Richards (Miss Gay Wisconsin U.S.A.), Duanna Moore (Miss Club 219 and Miss Milwaukee U.S.A.) and April Mae.

Morality, Sexuality Cannot Be Dictated By Holy Decree

Commentary by Mark Meadows

I first remember experiencing the magnetic pull of female sexuality at the age of six. I do not remember saying to myself, "I think I will follow the Almighty God's plan and lust after women." I do not remember my parents pointing out women to me and saying, "That's what you want." I do remember them whispering "You like squash" in my ear, to no effect whatsoever.

In short, I had no more control over my affection for women than my aversion to squash.

I find it hard to understand why men would want to have sex with men. But I also have a hard time understanding why women would want to have sex with men, which is not only acceptable to me, but rather desirable.

Many people, however, do not seem to think this way. They evidently believe that my attraction to women is not a part of my basic identity, but rather a choice. They seem to think that the person next to me said, "Nah, that girl stuff's too boring. I think I'll go for a life of persecution, hatred and alienation behind Door Number Three."

Of course, they must believe that sexual orientation is chosen, because the vengeful, all-powerful god that they worship evidently hates homosexuals, yet has to escape the blame for being responsible for their existence in the first place.

Because this hairy thunderer is not conscientious enough to come down out of the sky and rain his thunderbolts on these sinners himself, they feel that they must argue the case of this omnipotent — yet inactive — deity.

Thus, sexual orientation becomes a "moral issue."

In any conventional "Immoral Act," an action by one party causes damage or injury to another party. Sexual relations between consenting adults of either sex do not cause this injury. They claim that non-reproductive sex is immoral. Yet the Catholic Church actually starves people to death in the Third World by providing food and not birth control, which increases the population and results in more starvation. This is moral? In an overpopulated world, non-reproductive sex decreases, rather than increases, human suffering.

Failing this argument, homosexuality became a "crime against nature." Yet as anyone who knows anything about nature can tell you, animals of all types have few scruples about sex with others of the same sex and even different species. A male dog, for example, may attempt to mate with a male cat. And that's just my dog.

Failing in all these arguments, the self-righteous invoke the Grand Argument: homosexuality makes God mad. Of course, the aggrieved party never bothers to bring His/Her/Its case to court — despite its supposed omnipotence. So the "Holy Minion" takes it upon his or herself to carry out the Holy Decree.

This Holy Decree does not, as you may have assumed, exist solely in the prejudices of the Holy Minion. No, it is backed up by the Holy Word. Of course the Great and Powerful One did not bother to write this Holy Word.

Instead, She employed other Holy Minions who took it upon themselves to collect their own prejudices into a collection of poems, letters, stories, recipes and advice to the lovelorn known as the "Holy Bible."

This is not to say that the collection did not contain wisdom. Yet this wisdom was no lesser or greater than that of the people who wrote it down. For every "love your neighbor" there was a "do not suffer a witch to live."

This book, being filled with the contradictory statements of its various and sundry writers, is only as good as the people who attempt to make use of it. In this respect, it serves only to reinforce the

inclinations that are already present in its readers.

I, myself, will not attempt to base my morality on the precepts of, say, a Palestinian lawyer of the first century A.D. who passed on his prejudice against "men lying with men" based on the cultural need for his underpopulated society to produce more children. Especially not when our society has the exact opposite problem.

Rather, I will observe the basic human rights and human dignities that every individual, regardless of sexual orientation, deserves.

Realizing that another's sexuality in no way hinders my celebration of my own, I will respect and encourage the natural expression of love and affection, whatever its target. Seeking a life of passion and fulfillment for myself, I will not deny it to another.

This is what I would consider a moral action.

Editor's Note: The above essay was reprinted from *The Frontiersman*, the Madison newsletter for Gay men's outreach.

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They'll make great gifts, and you'll certainly want a copy for yourself. Order your MLGPC Cookbooks now and receive \$2 off each cookbook ordered. Cookbooks will be sold for \$7.95 per copy. But you can order as many copies as you like for only \$5.95 but only until February 27, 1992. You can use the convenient order form below.

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Please type or clearly print each recipe on a separate sheet of paper. Don't forget to include accurate measures and cooking instructions including time and temperature.

In the event of duplications and for the sake of variety, multiple recipes may be used from some cooks.

Recipes for inclusion will be chosen on the basis of availability of ingredients, uniqueness, and complete and clear preparation directions.

Please include your name and city. If you prefer that your name not be published, please indicate so.

Deadline for submitting recipes is February 27, 1992.

Mail your recipes to the Wisconsin Light office at the address listed.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS



ROAD WARRIORS— Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis star in the critically acclaimed 1991 hit 'Thelma & Louise.' The movie has rapidly become a feminist cult classic. The dynamic duo is once again burning rubber, this time at a video store near you. Check it out!

Trends In 1991 Cinema Were More Disturbing Than Positive; Stay Tuned For Sequel-Mania!

By Steven Shea

Nineteen ninety-one was a good year for movies. Although the highly budgeted and hyped films were usually of fair to middling quality, there were plenty of very high quality films to keep one busy. The identifiable trends of 1991 cinema were more disturbing than positive.

The most distressing trend of 1991 cinema and, indeed, the last two and a half decades, is that there is seemingly no satiating the movie-going public's appetite for violence. Martin Scorsese, supposedly the world's greatest director, says that his masterwork of just a decade ago, the very violent **Raging Bull**, would not be violent enough for today's audience.

The box-office success of **Terminator II**, **Silence of the Lambs**, **Cape Fear**, and **Robin Hood** will, no doubt, keep the bullets, knives, arrows and red blood cells flying across our screens.

My vote for the most irresponsible violent film of last year goes to Jonathan Demme's **Silence of the Lambs**. Not only was it homophobic, it helped to glorify serial killers to the point of demi-god status.

Another sad trend is the meager support shown for quality foreign films. One could sit in the Oriental or Downer theatres in Milwaukee (or the Majestic in Madison) reading subtitles in near solitude. **Ju Dou**, **The Nasty Girl**, **Europa/Europa**, **My Father's Glory**, and **My Mother's Castle** all played for distressingly short periods.

Dearth of Women's Roles

Also worrisome is the continued dearth of women's roles. **Thelma & Louise** notwithstanding, 1991 was a grim year for actresses. It is said there are fewer roles for women now than at any point in film history. When some of Hollywood's most talented and acclaimed actresses, Sissy Spacek in **JFK**, Diane Keaton in **Father of the Bride**, and Gena Rowlands in **Once Around**, stoop to playing "the wife" — one dimensional stereotypes — something is wrong.

In 1991, Bruce Willis eclipsed Sylvester Stallone as Hollywood's most obnoxious actor. After ending 1990 with the critical and box office bomb **Bonfire of the Vanities**, Willis dropped more bombs last year than Operation Desert Storm. The combined production budgets of **Vanities**, **Billy Bathgate**, **The Last Judgment** and everyone's choice for worst film of 1991, **Hudson Hawk**, would be enough to rebuild Iraq and Kuwait.

Happiest Trend

The happiest trend I saw last year was the increasing number of films directed by someone other than white males. African-American males and white women directed some of last year's more artistically successful films.

Spike Lee's **Jungle Fever** and John Singleton's **Boyz in the Hood** were two of last year's best.

On the women's side, Jane Campion's **Angel at My Table**, is my personal choice for best film of 1991. Coming after her previous success, **Sweetie**, **Angel at My Table** places Campion as one of the world's leading directors.

Nick Nolte is a front runner to win a "Best Actor" Oscar for playing Tom Wingo in Barbara Streisand's **The Prince of Tides**. If Nolte wins, a very important signal will be broadcast to Hollywood's titanic male egos that it will be safe enough for them to put their testicles in front of the camera with a set of ovaries behind it.

Thelma & Louise will hopefully, all by itself, start a positive trend. Although brilliantly reviewed in these pages by Jamakaya, I do feel a need to write some things about this film.

First of all, one of the true tests of the quality of any given film is the number of scenes one can remember months or years later. I can remember many from **Thelma & Louise**.

Second, ever since **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**, Hollywood has given us male-bonding films ad nauseam. How about a couple of decades of female bonding films in recompense?

Bravo, Sarandon!

Of all the actresses with a realistic chance to win the "Best Actress" Oscar, I hope Susan Sarandon wins. Now pushing 45, Sarandon has been America's most under-appreciated, not to mention gorgeous, cinematic actresses in two decades. The Academy's failure to even nominate her for **Bull Durham** is one of the worst omissions ever.

Unfortunately, the notoriously conservative, upper-middle class, middle-aged Academy membership usually does not recognize ground-breaking films, any films released before Labor Day — or New Yorkers like Sarandon.

Other than Spike Lee's **Malcolm X**, I am not particularly looking forward to 1992 films. We may be living in the golden age of costumes, make-up, art direction and special effects, but we are living in the tin foil age of screenplays from original source material. In Hollywood, nothing is despised more than an original idea for a film.

This year promises plenty of sequels: **Home Alone II**, **Batman II**, **Lethal Weapon II**, **Alien III**. Also in the works are American remakes of foreign films: **Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown**, **Cinema Paradiso**, **A Taxing Woman**.

Conspicuously absent in 1991 was the leading source of original screen plays by Woody Allen. He had released at least one film every year over the previous nine. Reportedly, his new film with Jodie Foster and Madonna has run into trouble.

Filmmaker Cathy Cook Premieres New Works Feb. 9

[Milwaukee]— Local award winning filmmaker Cathy C. Cook will be premiering her latest film, **The Match That Started My Fire** on Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Avalon Theatre, 2473 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. The event is sponsored by Great Lakes Film & Video.

The Match That Started My Fire (1991, 20 min.) juxtaposes candid interviews with women about their early sexual discoveries, fantasies and pleasures with an impressionistic collage of sometimes suggestive imagery. The film began out of the filmmaker's curiosity about the exclusion of women's sexuality in sex education films of the 1950's and 1960's.

Cook will also show her other films: **Mother Nature** (1992, 5 min), **Bust Up** (1989, 7 min), **June Brides** (1987, 10 min), **26 +** (1983, 6 min), and **Toe Jam** (1985, 6 min). Like her latest film, Cook's past work is an exploration of women's sexuality and desire. She uses animation, collage, found footage, and elaborate sets to make films that are both funny and biting social critiques.

The entire program will last about an hour and will be followed by a reception. Tickets cost \$3.00 and are available at the door. For more information, please call Great Lakes Film & Video at (414) 229-6971.

Gay Theatre Company Sets Auditions For February 18-20

[Milwaukee]— The Different Drummer Theatre Alliance will be holding auditions for its next production, **Eastern Standard** by Richard Greenberg. Auditions will be held on February 18, 19, and 20 at 404 S. 7th Street (access from Virginia Street). The time is 7:00-10:00 p.m.

The roles available are for three men, ages 20-40 and three women, ages 20-50. For more information, call Different Drummer at (414) 347-0673 or write: Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, P.O. Box 92756, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Other works being considered by Different Drummer for future Milwaukee premieres are: **My Blue Heaven**, **The Sum of Us** and **The Execution of Justice**. Productions are being scheduled for this coming Summer and Fall.

WYOU Program Highlights For February

[Madison]— The following is a list of the programs scheduled for "Nothing to Hide" on Madison's WYOU TV for the remainder of January and February, 1992.

January 29 — Carter Heyward, one of the first women ordained as an Episcopal priest, part 3: "Sexual Ethics and Justice Making" or "Why We Must Ask Questions About Monogamy, S&M, Therapy, the Church and Reagan-Bush."

February 5 — "A Gentle Debate on Outing" featuring Dan Savage and Dick Wagner.

February 12 — Jay Hatheway's "Real Eyes Realize Real Lies."

February 19 — Sam Day, Madison's Radical Progressive.

February 22 — Milwaukee's Gay-Lesbian Pride Rally: June 15, 1991 featuring Perry Watkins, David Clarenbach, etc.

February 26 — The Gay/Lesbian community in Nicaragua.

February 29 — Carter Heyward, part 2, "The Crisis of Recovery."

POETRY Running

By A.S.

written by an HIV+ for those who are also

runnin in the mornin
runnin by the shore
lookin cross the water
at the pink forever more
runnin right behind me
is a fella wearin black
got his padded sneakers on
silent at my back
grinnin right behind me
with his bones all bare and white
that's ok my brother runner
I know I'm in your sight
swing that cutter when you like
I know that I'll go down
that's the rule of the game
I won't have a frown
but til you swing, my brother friend
I'll make you run real fast
with the strength I put into each leg
this race is gonna last

I Wonder As I Wander

By David Carroll

I Wonder as I Wander out under the sky,
Why so many people I know soon will die,
From AIDS or from drugs or from living a lie,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Night holds me close in a lover's embrace,
Stars cloak my footsteps; nocturnes in space...
I feel that he loves me alone in this place,
but tonight all is quiet — snow kisses my face.

Night holds me captive with ghosts all around,
the dead and the dreaming, the ice on the ground.
I hear the gods talking — to Truth I am bound,
but Fate keeps his counsel, and utters no sound.

The wind whips my vision away with a tear,
I return to the living, to those I hold dear,
with friendship and music and a sensitive ear,
I wonder as I wander this earth with no fear.

Give Me A Chance

By A Milwaukee Poet

I'm lost, can I be found?
Give me a chance, to look around.
I need the answers of life and love
Give me a chance, to believe in God above.
I need to find relief from life
From all it gives, especially the strife
My head is open to all thoughts and beliefs
Give me a chance to find relief.
Give me a chance, the sword is not the way.
I'm looking hard for answers, day to day.
Why can't life be easier, without all this?
Give me a chance to remain sane.
Sometimes I wonder who I should be.
I really don't know, the real me.
Can't someone help, I need to be found,
Especially now, when I'm feeling down.
I'm sorry that I cannot comply
With the demands from society
But maybe tomorrow, I'll find reasons why
I should continue to be only me.

After A Year, Columnist Reflects On the Process, Impact of Writing

Commentary By Maytee Aspuro

It has been over a year since *Wisconsin Light* published my first article. My life partner gave me a scrap book of my articles as a gift. With it came instructions to continue to add each new article I write. Recently, in the process of packing my belongings, I paged through it.

Lending a critical eye to my previous efforts, I winced at certain phrases in need of editing and smiled at an occasional combination of words that seemed to succeed in conveying a thought or emotion. I saw my own slow, painful growth as I explored certain issues and as I expressed mounting emotions in the face of social challenges.

I remember a person in a college writing workshop say that no one is a writer until they are published. I never forgot that definition. It prevented me from ever describing myself as a writer even though I had been writing since I was a child.

If publishing makes a writer, I became one at age 32. If a writer must be published, then, in theory, all the years that preceded my first publication held no meaning. And yet, in retrospect, I know that what I bring to my opinion pieces encompasses all that I am in the moment. Years of searching for answers to vague concepts, years trying to find solid footing in the mist, cannot be severed from what my pen now produces.

In the past year, I have angered, provoked and touched a few readers. Receipt of letters as well as random comments has told me much. But, for the most part, I write in isolation. Other than myself, my partner is my severest critic and I value her judgment. But for all her piercing honesty, I still long for a greater number of responses from those who have little or no connection to me other than my words.

I recently attended a speech by Lynn Cheney, Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Her topic was political correctness and its role in higher education. During the question and answer period, I identified myself as an Hispanic Lesbian. It was proper in the context of the discussion to do so.

One point that I made prior to continuing to comment was that I spoke

only for myself. I did not presume to speak for my community whichever one an observer wished to place me in, be it the women's community, the Hispanic community or the homosexual community.

To be outspoken and yet to present oneself as an individual is a matter of walking on a tight rope. When presenting one's opinion in the media such as in a Gay/Lesbian newspaper, the words of the writer may impact with a force greater than ever intended.

I haven't written for a number of months. The pause was due in part to the fact that I moved from Milwaukee to Madison to begin a new job. Managing all the changes in my life left little time to sit and wonder. Taking time to think has always been one of my greatest pleasures, and my writing is a direct result of it.

Not being in the frame of mind to write, I began to read instead. I just finished *Cancer in Two Voices* by Sandra Butler and Barbara Rosenblum. It chronicles three years shared by these two women. It began with Barbara being diagnosed with cancer and followed her journey as well as her partner's until Barbara's death.

The book is powerful in its honesty. One of its greatest strengths is that the writers take chances. They express all feelings. Although a profound tenderness is woven within the pages, the horror, the fear and the pain is never understated or lessened in its importance or impact.

I take my writing seriously. I am told I take it too seriously at times. As I begin my second year of writing for the *Light*, I consider checking my concerns of making a mistake. In the past I have worried that I would express a totally ignorant statement or callous remark.

If I have done so, it has been unintentional. Ever human, I expect I shall never cease knowing failure. The best that I can do is be honest even in the face of discomfort.

The Wisconsin Lesbian and Gay community has had reason to mature this past year as it has in every preceding year. With the passing of each calendar, as individuals, as partners, as friends, as advocates and as a community, we continue.

Outwrite Gay Writer's Conference Set For Boston This March

[Boston]- Outwrite '92, the National Gay and Lesbian Writer's Conference, will be held in Boston March 20-22, 1992.

The third annual meeting of Gay and Lesbian writers, editors, publishers, literary agents, booksellers and readers is leaving its base in San Francisco and heading east for the first time.

"We look forward to 2,000 or more people to join us for a full weekend of discussion, schmoozing, networking and socializing," said Michael Bronski, a member of the planning committee.

Speakers scheduled to appear include poet and fiction writer Dorothy Allison, novelist Melvin Dixon and Chilean-born

poet and essayist Marianna Romo-Carmona.

The conference will feature 54 different panels, workshops and discussions. More than 80 people will read from their work. Over 30 publishers, booksellers and journals will have exhibits at the conference.

Outwrite '92 will be held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers. Registration is \$40 before February 15 and \$50 afterward or at the door. For registration forms and more information, write to: Outwrite '92, 540 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. The phone number in Boston is (617) 695-0511.

'Gay Sex': Valuable, Succinct And Safe-Sex Conscious To Boot!

GAY SEX by Jack Hart

Illustrated by Bradley M. Look
Allyson Publications, \$14.95, 192pp.

By Terry Boughner

Jack Hart's new book, *Gay Sex*, is one of those rare things: a truly valuable book for the Gay man. Subtitled "A Manual for Men Who Love Men," this coffee-table sized volume is an encyclopedia of information on everything from aging to wrestling, from vacuum pump to bars, to cruising and how to do it. This, plus everything in between.

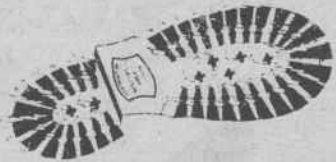
The descriptions are thorough yet succinct, non-judgmental (even about zoophilia!) and safe-sex conscious throughout. The prose is not heavy nor clinical, but clear and informative. It is spiced with a wry humor that makes the book a delightfully easy read.

The book is a veritable primer of all sorts of "how-to" hints made concrete through the author's use of examples drawn from men he knows. There is everything from how to prepare for a romantic evening to what to do if romance has faded and it's time to part. There's advice on how to get the most from various sexual techniques and scenes and tips on how to use a condom.

The book is illustrated with numerous black and white drawings. These are the only things I don't like about it. I find the artwork wooden and not up to the light-hearted sensuality of the prose.

But the drawings are a minor point. *Gay Sex* is a gem; a positive "must" for any young man just coming out. But the older, more experienced Gay man will find it just as valuable as well. If proof of this is needed, no better examples are at hand than the interest shown in it since the book came to our house. Young and old have started to thumb through it and then settled in for a long read. One time I even caught it "walking" out the door!

For those of you who think it's "all been said," forget it. *Gay Sex* is a valuable addition to any Gay man's library.



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'Resisting Racism' Action Guide Is A Useful Tool For Everyone

[Chicago]- 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 Dr. 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.

Workshop Outlines is a series of twenty ideas for workshops to be used by groups to delve into the issue of racism in individuals, in groups and in society at large. It contains over twenty workshop outlines, each with the purpose of exploring the roots of racism in ourselves and in our communities. Each workshop module provides an explanation of the workshop's specific purpose and a set of guidelines for the facilitator of the program. In some, there are suggestions for materials to be used in conjunction with the workshop.

Gays and Lesbians as members of our society are no freer from racist conditioning than any other member of our culture. They are trapped by institutionalized racism, which goes on both subtly and overtly every day. The manual points the way toward exorcising the racist attitudes that are part of everyday life in this country. Titles range from "Confronting Racism in the Gay and Lesbian Community," and "Personal Awareness Inventory," to "Consciousness Raising on Racism," and "Examining Our Racial Experience."

The second section, Resource Materials, provides some of the materials needed for use in the workshops as well as other helpful information. There are checklists for assessing the degree of racist feelings and attitudes of persons, reprints of articles from the Gay press dealing with racism and race-related issues, and other materials that provide useful data for combating racism.

The third section, Essays, provides the reader with a selection of writings by nationally known Gay and Lesbian activists. It also provides the reader with NABWMT's positions on racism, bar discrimination and the importance of multiculturalism in our Gay and Lesbian movement.

Section Four, Bibliographies, is made up of three exhaustive lists. The first, "Recommended Reading List on Race and Racism," covers works of fiction and nonfiction. The second bibliography, entitled "Suggested Readings on Racism and Native Americans," deals with Native Americans' views on their history, treaty rights, cultural diversity, and how institutionalized racism has separated the original inhabitants of our continent.

The third bibliography consists of more than 90 reading selections and provides a sound basis for anyone wishing to know more about how to combat racism. Altogether, these bibliographies are indispensable for anyone wishing to be well-read on the topic of combating racism.

Resisting Racism is a volume worth having and, better yet, worth using. The value of the manual is summed up by former National Co-Chair Michael Warner: "The Manual is a source of indispensable information that pursues unity among diversity, those utilizing this manual will be the beneficiaries of powerful knowledge that will expand our community well into the next decade."

The *Resisting Racism 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.

'Daughters of Artemis' Is A Serious Book

DAUGHTERS OF ARTEMIS by Lauren Wright Douglas Naiad Press, \$8.95, 220pp.
By Cindy Van Vreede

"I'll tear your heart out!" Those were the words rapist Sean Macklin screamed at Caitlin Reece as he was taken from the courtroom. That was six years ago, but Sean was recently set free and making good on his promise to "get" Caitlin and the woman who testified against him in court.

Caitlin has also been hired to find a young college student who has run away from her family and friends. According to the missing woman's sister, a group calling themselves "Daughters of Artemis" may be involved. The older woman thinks the group is trying to get at her sister's trust fund and wants Caitlin to try talking the younger woman into returning home.

Adding to Caitlin's case is a serial rapist and Diana McNeil, a woman with her own disturbing needs.

In *Daughters of Artemis*, Douglas makes some interesting observations about jury trials and why it is so hard to convict men of rape. She writes of how juries are taking concepts from tort law and civil law such as "contributory negligence" and "assumption of risk" and applying them to rape cases. She wonders how women can ever win when juries are so accommodating to male defendants. She also thinks the media lionizes rapists by giving them romantic titles like the Full Moon Rapist or the Green River Strangler.

And as Caitlin observes, "If my years in the Crown Prosecutor's office taught me anything, they taught me that woman-as-victim is still a titillating tune on far too many male hit parades."

Joining Caitlin on her latest adventure are many characters from earlier books. Making return visits are Malcolm and Yvonne, Caitlin's upstairs renters; Tonia Konig, the Women's Studies instructor; Lester Baines, photographer; Francis the Ferret and the wonderfully mystic Gray Ng.

Daughters of Artemis is the third Caitlin Reece mystery penned by Douglas. The other two are: *The Always Anonymous Beast* and *Ninth Life*. Douglas has also written a sci-fi thriller, *In The Blood*.

BEST SELLERS OF THE MONTH GAY

<i>Halfway Home</i> — Paul Monette, Random House.....	\$20.00
<i>A Body to Dye For</i> — Grant Michaels, St. Martin's.....	8.95
<i>Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey</i> — Martin Duberman, Dutton.....	18.95
<i>The Boy Who Was Buried This Morning</i> — Joseph Hansen, Plume.....	5.95
<i>Hometowns</i> — John Preston, Dutton.....	21.95
<i>Spontaneous Combustion</i> — David B. Feinburg, Viking.....	19.95
<i>Boys of Life</i> — Paul Russel, Dutton.....	19.95
<i>How Town</i> — Michael Nava, Ballantine.....	3.99
<i>Ready to Catch Him Should He Fall</i> — Neil Bartlett, Dutton.....	19.95
<i>The Body and Its Dangers</i> — Allen Barnett, St. Martin's.....	8.95

LESBIAN

<i>Murder By Tradition</i> — Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad.....	\$18.95
<i>Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers</i> — Lillian Faderman, Columbia University Press.....	29.95
<i>Just Say Yes</i> — Judith McDaniel, Firebrand.....	8.95
<i>Fire in the Rain, Singer in the Storm</i> — Holly Near, Morrow.....	10.00
<i>Wish You Were Here</i> — Rita Mae Brown, Bantam.....	4.95
<i>Benediction</i> — Diane Salvatore, Naiad.....	9.95
<i>The Sparkling Lavender Dust of Lust</i> — Tee Corinne, Banned Books.....	8.95
<i>Rebellion: Essays 1980-1991</i> — Minnie Bruce Pratt, Firebrand.....	10.95
<i>Beverly Malibu</i> — Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad.....	9.95
<i>Riding Desire</i> — Tee Corinne, Ed., Banned Books.....	9.95

GAY/LESBIAN

<i>Coming Out: An Act of Love</i> — Rob Eichberg, Dutton.....	\$18.95
<i>Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism</i> — John Shelby Spong, Harper.....	16.95
<i>The Vinyl Closet: Gays in the Music World</i> — Boze Hadleigh, Los Hombres.....	9.95

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

We're Here, We're Queer, But This Writer Won't Get Used To It

Commentary By Jeffrey R. Nickel

queer (kwer). adj. 1. strange or odd from a conventional viewpoint; unusually different; singular. 2. of a questionable nature or character; suspicious; shady. 3. not feeling physically right or well; giddy, faint, or qualmish. 4. mentally unbalanced or deranged. 5. Slang. a. homosexual. b. bad, worthless, or counterfeit — v.t. 6. to spoil; ruin. 7. to put (a person) in a hopeless or disadvantageous situation as to success, favor, etc. 8. to jeopardize — n. Slang. 9. a homosexual.

I've been avoiding this. But I can't stand it anymore. It's crept its way into practically every Gay newspaper and magazine — and even a few "mainstream" publications — in the country. Already I've canceled one subscription because of it, and I'm well on my way to nixing another; all because of the rampantly increasing use of that awful word **queer**.

Previously, mostly because of cowardice, I was loathe to criticize this ill-chosen synonym because I feared the juggernaut of politically correct protest that would engulf me. With the exception of one anonymous quote printed in *The New York Times* several months ago, I haven't read or even heard a single piece of criticism regarding it. Doubtless the self-appointed guardians of radicalness have cowed any dissenting voices into utter and complete submission; except, that is, for this one. I fear not the p.c. police.

In the *Times* piece, a Gay man asks the question: "Can you imagine a Black organization called [excuse the profanity] 'Nigger Nation'?" I hope not. Similarly, I can't envision Hispanic newspapers referring to its community members as "spics," or Italians publicly calling one another "wops." Yet, when we use the word "queer" in place of Gay, we do the same thing, don't we? Or is "queer" somehow **different** and therefore acceptable? If it is, I don't see it.

All-Purpose Word?

Proponents of "queer" say it's different because it has the virtue of encompassing several groups; Gays (meaning Gay men), Lesbians, Bisexuals, transsexuals, transvestites, etc. It's an all-purpose word, the argument goes.

I'm not totally unsympathetic to this. There's something impersonal and even unreal about speaking of "Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual" rights rather than simply "queer" rights. It is difficult to communicate our aspirations to others when the phraseology we use approaches such an absurd degree of unwieldiness. Simpler terms are indeed much less pretentious and much more comprehensible. But "queer" is no solution.

Others believe that a parallel can be

Judy Dale At MCC Service February 2

[Milwaukee]—Lay District Coordinator Judy Dale will be guest preacher at New Hope Metropolitan Community Church on Sunday, February 2 during the regular 6:30 p.m. worship service. Dale is the District Coordinator of the Great Lakes District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches celebrates 25 years of ministry; ministering primarily to Lesbians and Gays and proclaiming a positive and affirming message of liberation. It is a tradition in the UFMCC to acknowledge and encourage the ministry of the laity. Lay leadership is present in all facets of church ministry and government, including District Coordinators and the highest office of Elder.

Dale is a lay person who resides with her spouse, Rev. Dee Dale, in Louisville Kentucky. According to Co-Pastor Rev. Nancy Smiegowski, Dale proclaims a powerful inclusive message that is a testimony that ministry is a common calling not limited only to people who are "ordained" but extended to all people.

New Hope Metropolitan Community Church worships in the upper chapel of Kenwood United Methodist Church at 2319 E. Kenwood Boulevard, across the street from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For further information please call the church office at (414) 332-9995.

found in the pink triangle; taking back a symbol that has been used to oppress us and transforming it into a source of pride and power. For most who use it, though, I expect "queer" is appealing because of its sheer shock value. It's a way of telling others that we **know** they think there's something wrong with us, but we don't care; it's the ultimate "in-your-face" politics.

Assuming that making people angry for the sake of it is a good thing, there is, however, still another, greater danger. Adopting new labels for ourselves is all right, so long as we don't do so very often. It took a great many years before we were able to convince each other and "the mainstream" to call us, rather than "homosexual," the much less clinical and more human term "Gay." Should we be so foolish as to attempt it, we would take many more years to change the lexicon once again. And for what?

Who Are We, Anyway?

It would seem to be a truism that the rest of America will have no idea how to think and talk about us if we don't first develop some kind of consensus about how we shall think and talk about ourselves. If I refer to myself as Gay, but someone else calls himself queer — or even calls me queer — what are people supposed to read from that? It wouldn't trouble me so much to be called "queer" if I believed that were the term we'd finally settled on. But I know it is not; next week there's an even chance that yet another label will become all the rage.

What harm does "queer" do? A great deal. It tells both ourselves and heterosexuals that we are so fundamentally different from them they they couldn't possibly understand who we are and what we're about. It reinforces the already all-pervasive notion that Gay people lead lives that are totally unlike those led by straight people. That can only harm us.

"Queer" reminds me of when the chant "Black Power" first rang out in the land some twenty-five years ago. It too had many positive connotations; it was a simple message that really seemed to empower people. But it was nevertheless deeply troubling to many Black civil rights leaders of that era — especially to Martin Luther King, Jr.

King would say that if by Black Power they meant strength through community, he was for it. But he was concerned that "Black Power" might be sending another, far less helpful message; a startling, threatening message that could only alienate and inflame white America. Martin Luther King was right about so many things. Could he have been so wrong about that?

'Queer Can Frighten'

The case of Gay people using the word "queer" is worse than most of the self-deprecating and self-defeating terms used by other minorities, because many Gay people are not completely convinced that the stereotypes about us are nonsense. Certainly those of us who are just coming out don't know they're nonsense. They are frightened enough about "Gay" people. Think about how frightened they must be about people who call themselves "queers."

I fear that my criticism of "queer" could be taken as a condemnation of the activities of Queer Nation. This is not my intention. I believe that the old debate between insider/outsider politics is at its core a false one; we clearly need both. The "conservative" inside players would accomplish little without others protesting outside. And the "radical" activists would be a useless cacophony if the "team players" weren't there looking infinitely more reasonable.

No. It's not as if we would win faster if only we were more "respectable." Those who most ardently oppose us will always find excuses for doing so, no matter what we do. No, this isn't about militancy vs. moderation. It's about making a choice between convincing people that we're just as abnormal as many already think we are, or convincing them that we are human beings, with many of the same problems, hopes and dreams.

Bigotry Not Funny

Some people argue that calling ourselves "queer" is simply the same kind of playful kidding that all other minority groups engage in. It's true that members of other groups will joke about themselves among themselves, just as we do. But it's also true that such derision is not funny at all when engaged in by people outside of the group. What is mere banter in the community becomes bigotry in society at large.

"Queer" is unlike other pejorative terms for minorities. It had a distinct, inarguably negative meaning far before it became a slang synonym for homosexual. Unlike "queer," "gay" was a word with very positive origins; it meant happy and lighthearted. Actually, I was surprised to learn that "gay" has been at least an oblique reference to homosexuality for at least a hundred years. And certainly by the 1960s, it had solidly secured its place as our term of choice. What's wrong with "gay," anyway?

Would a parent be more likely to try to understand a child who came home and said she was Gay, or a child who came home and said she was queer? Would it be easier to pass a Gay rights bill or a queer rights bill?

I recently spoke at a press conference in Boston on behalf of a statewide Gay youth services bill. There were a few people — some of whom I knew — standing outside handing out flyers that talked about "queer youth suicide." I thought to myself: How many heartstrings does that pull? "Gay" youth, sure. But queer youth? I wondered how many state legislators would vote for something called "The Queer Youth Services Bill." Hell, even if I were in their shoes, even though I'd probably vote for it, I'm not sure I could be a great proponent of it.

Somehow, speaking about "queer youth" (or perhaps "young faggots") just doesn't seem to help others to empathize with our young people. Precisely the opposite. When we talk about "queer" children (or queer anything else) those who are still unsure of what we're about — the vast majority of Americans — find it virtually impossible to take us seriously. Can anyone really be surprised about that?

The slogan says: "We're here, we're queer; get used to it." But they never will.

Editor's Note: A longer form of this article first appeared in the December 22, 1991 *Christopher Street*. The author lives in Washington, D.C. Send your comments to the *Light* at 1843 N. Palmer Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

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Womyn's Land Co-Op Says: 'Come On Out!'

[Madison]—The Wisconsin Womyn's Land Cooperative (WWLC) invites women to visit the Daughters Of Earth (DOE) Farm for a winter outing.

February 7-9, 1992 will be a "Cabin Fever Cure" weekend. Facilities include a secluded chemical-free farmhouse/lodge, sauna, sledding hill, and space for breaking cross-country ski trails. Nature hikes are apt to scare up wild turkeys. Cider, popcorn and women's music will be furnished. Visitors are asked to bring a sleeping bag and pad, food, towel, sled or toboggan, skis, and favorite womyn's music tapes or CDs.

DOE Farm is southwest of Tomah, about fifteen miles off I-90. WWLC is requesting a \$5.00 per night donation from each visitor during the weekends. This is less than half the usual rate for staying at the lodge. To make reservations or for more details, call (608) 244-3154 in Madison, or the WWLC number: (608) 269-5301.

DOE farm has 80 acres of beautiful rolling land with a campground, a four bedroom lodge, and a barn with dance floor and meeting space. It is owned and managed by members of WWLC. Membership is open to any woman who supports the co-op's purpose. WWLC is looking for women to work as summer caretakers. For more information, write to WWLC, Rt. 2, Box 42, Norwalk, WI 54648.

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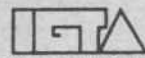
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What's Safer Sex? Educators Can't Quite Seem To Agree

[Boston, MA]- Professional AIDS educators disagree dramatically about the relative risk of various sexual activities, says the author of a new Gay sex manual.

In researching his book, *Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men*, author Jack Hart asked AIDS educators around the country to rate each of twenty activities "on a scale of 0 to 1,000, where 0 represents no risk of transmitting HIV, and 1,000 represents the risk involved in receptive anal intercourse without a condom."

"I expected some disagreement, but not as much as we got," reports Hart. Ten individuals and organizations responded. The most dramatic differences focused on the risk to the insertive (active) partner in anal intercourse without a condom. Two of the ten respondents gave this a rating of 40 to 50; but two rated it at 700 to 900. The others were completely dispersed in between.

The subject of rimming (oral-anal

contact) was also controversial. Two educators said that being rimmed involved no risk of getting HIV; at the other end of the scale, one rated it at 175 and another at 300.

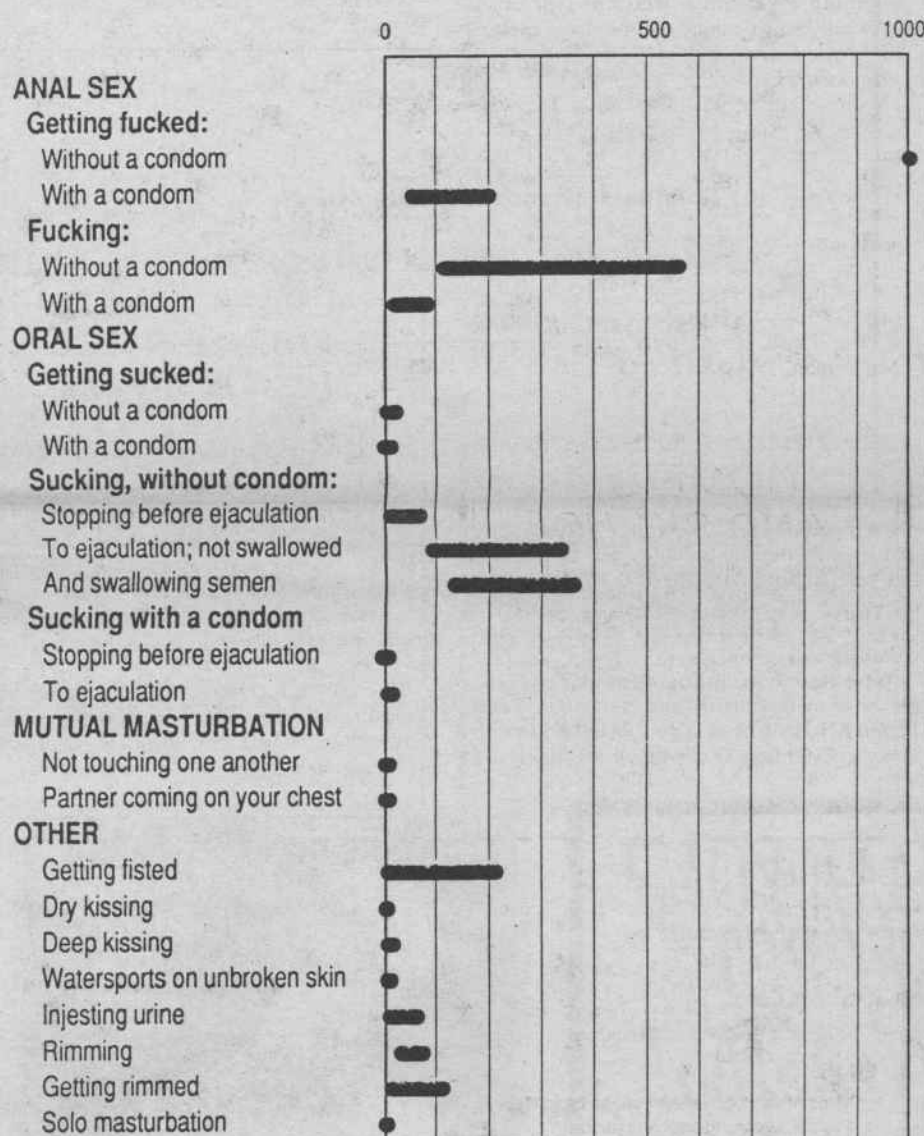
On the subject of oral sex, everyone agreed that there was some risk in allowing a man to ejaculate in one's mouth. Four felt that the risk increased if the semen was swallowed; six believed it did not.

"I hope this isn't taken as a criticism of AIDS educators, because I think they're doing a heroic job under difficult circumstances," said Hart. "But these discrepancies highlight two issues. First, we need more study and discussion of these issues among AIDS professionals. Differences this extreme suggest that some clients are getting unrealistic advice."

"Second, it's clear that we all need to get opinions from several sources before we decide what to consider safe and unsafe in our own lives."

WHAT'S SAFE? WHAT ISN'T?

Estimated risks of HIV transmission



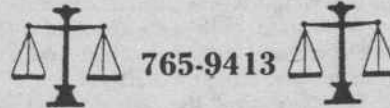
There are no scientific statistics as to the likelihood that a given activity will transmit HIV. To estimate the relative risks, the author of the new book *Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men* surveyed a group of AIDS educators. Each respondent was asked to rank certain activities on a scale where 0 represented risk-free solo masturbation, and 1000 represented receptive anal intercourse (getting fucked) without a condom. Author Jack Hart then averaged the lowest half of the answers, and the highest half, and used those averages to portray an approximate range of risks. "The full range of responses, from the very lowest estimate for each activity to the very highest, was actually much wider," noted Hart. He emphasized that this graph represents informed opinion, not scientific fact, and urged readers to get opinions from several sources before drawing conclusions.

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FAMILIES

Continued from Page 1

minorities so they didn't care. This is a very racist city."

Indeed, the layers upon layers of racism in this case boggle the mind.

First, there was the racist and predatory way in which Dahmer chose his victims. An acquaintance of mine who saw Dahmer occasionally in downtown Milwaukee in the 1980's described him, in retrospect, as "a Nazi stalking the Grand Avenue Mall."

Colossal Bungling by Cops

Then there was the colossal bungling of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) which, somehow, after at least a dozen young men of color disappeared — some of them from similar locations — could not manage to detect a pattern and failed to follow up on missing person reports.

The callousness with which the families of the missing men were treated by authorities has become legendary.

When the family of Errol Lindsey reported him missing in April of last year, they were greeted by skeptical cops who said, incredulously: "Well, he's grown."

When Carolyn Smith reported her brother missing and informed the investigating officer Eddie was Gay, "You could see his whole attitude change," said Smith. She believes that when the cop left he tore up the report. Something happened to it, because when she called the police several months after Eddie disappeared to report anonymous phone calls in which the caller claimed to have killed her brother, the MPD could not find the initial report.

After filing a missing person report, Janie Hagen called every few months to see if the police had any leads on her brother. At one point, she was told the case had been closed because they thought Richard had been found. "You thought wrong," Hagen told the cops.

The failure of police to assist Konerak Sinthomphone and to heed the pleas of the diligent citizen Samaritan Glenda Cleveland has been widely publicized. This single incident epitomized the negligence, racism and homophobia that contributed to this terrible tragedy.

Continued Victimization

The families now feel further victimized by a legal system that ignores their rights, social service professionals who have offered little assistance, a media that continues to exploit their tragedy (they are especially upset with Court TV) and politicians and community leaders who they feel have abandoned them.

"Where are all the aldermen and senators and ministers who were out there at the beginning?" asked Stanley Miller, uncle to Ernest Miller.

"Where is the Hispanic community?" asked Janie Hagen, who has found support primarily from the Black families whose sons were lost.

The only person all the families credit with unstinting support is veteran community activist Jeannetta Robinson, who sponsors a "Survivors of Homicide" support group at the Career Youth Development agency. Robinson has been with them through the worst of times. She knows what they're going through because her own daughter and granddaughter were murdered too.

Revolution?

The anger the victims' families feel is often most forcefully expressed by Janie Hagen, who says of the murders: "It's changed my life — completely." When asked what goes through her mind when she sees Jeffrey Dahmer, Hagen replied "I just want to kill him myself."

Hagen has also warned: "If nothing gets resolved [the families' grievances], there will be a revolution here in Milwaukee, because there's a lot of

things they're [the authorities] are hiding."

Just days after Hagen said that, another voice in Milwaukee raised the spectre of revolution — Alderman Michael McGee. Now, Hagen and McGee are two very different people. But I was haunted by the fact that two such disparate voices coming from two very different places were expressing, almost word for word, the same sentiments.

Another bizarre coincidence occurred. Or was it a coincidence?

At one press conference, Dorothy Straughter pleaded: "How many more people have to die before this community wakes up?"

Her words seemed strangely familiar to me. Then I realized why.

In covering the School Board debate about services for Gay teens last November, Lesbian activist Miriam Ben-Shalom cried out: "How many more children are going to have to die before they do something?"

The same week that Janie Hagen and Alderman McGee warned of revolution, another extraordinary person gave up the fight, at least, temporarily. On January 10, Queen Hyler, founder and driving force behind the "Stop the Violence" group, announced she was taking a break. Expressing despair over the record homicide rate in Milwaukee, which is disproportionately taking the lives of young Black men, including her godson, Hyler told the *Milwaukee Journal*: "I don't seem to be making a difference. I feel helpless."

The pain and rage and despair of many people and groups in Milwaukee who feel excluded and denied has reached the boiling point. Will this city ever respond to the firebell in the night?

There is one additional anecdote I feel compelled to share.

The anguish of the victims' families was lifted for just a few moments in the courtroom before the pre-trial hearing began.

Some of the survivors wear photos of their loved ones clipped to their clothes. When reporters admired the photo of Tony Hughes clipped to his mother's blouse, she smiled and pulled another photo from her purse.

"Little Toni, with an i," Mrs. Hughes explained proudly as she passed the photo around. It was her new granddaughter, named in memory of her son and born on Christmas Day.

"A gift from God," she mused and nodded to herself, "a new beginning."

Editor's Note: Jamakaya, News Editor of the *Wisconsin Light*, who has covered the Dahmer case from the very beginning, has been granted one of only twenty seats reserved for the press in the courtroom for the Dahmer trial. Rather than reporting minute-by-minute testimony, which will be covered extensively by the daily press, Jamakaya will share her personal observations about the case with *Light* readers.

Write For LIGHT
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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Reap As You Sow: Get Involved Or There Will Be No Harvest

By Bill Meunier

As you sow so shall you reap. So it is written and so it is, at least that's the way it appears to be as the 1992 Presidential campaign picks up steam.

George Bush is in trouble. Bush, Reagan and their associates raided the Treasury to award big tax breaks to the wealthy, defense contracts for weapons we don't need and bailouts to financial institutions that have made their relatives and contributors rich. Now the seeds they have sown have sprouted as weeds choking our economy.

Bush, Reagan and company screwed the public so many times that if they'd practiced safe sex while doing it, every man, woman and child in this country would have enough rubber to make a new set of tires for a fleet of 18 wheel semis. During their watch we've gone from the biggest creditor to the biggest debtor nation on earth. While they blamed unions for our troubles, the wages and benefits garnered by the American worker has gone from 1st to 9th in the world.

Even though Bush has sown the seeds of his own political destruction, the Democrats aren't exactly prepared for the harvest. They've been run over more often than road kill on the LA freeway. Instead of standing up and offering alternatives some of them simply acquiesced.

SOME (but not all) of them followed along with the Reagan Bush line that the wealth would "trickle down on the middle

and lower classes." Now they realize that instead of being trickled on, we were tinkled on and it wasn't a better lifestyle that came down.

Now some of them like Senator Kerry stand before the faithful and apologize for what they have done. By not standing up to King George, people like Kerry may have squandered their best chance to seize the White House since the revulsion over Watergate gave it to them in 1976. How can a Presidential candidate criticize policies he voted for as a Senator?

At the same time the Gay and Lesbian community has almost nothing to harvest either. This time we don't have a Jesse Jackson to bring our issues to the forefront and we have no national leaders bringing our issues up on our own.

Why has the issue of Lesbian and Gay rights not been raised at the initial campaign forums? Why did the Governor of California (a man with national ambitions) feel politically secure enough to veto a Gay/Lesbian rights law he promised to sign during his campaign? All of those who believe that our national organizations are doing all that is needed should go into the line at the right. It is reserved for the permanently deranged.

Bush complains that the Labor Day AIDS protesters at KenneBUNKport Maine "ruined the Labor Day business for local merchants" and our highly paid mouthpieces in Washington can't or won't demand a public apology. Cross burnings in Iowa make national headlines, but when a Gay man is beaten to death in a Minneapolis park by a fag basher it makes the back pages of that city's local papers and is not noted elsewhere.

This is an important point. The campaigns of Bush's Republican opponents especially that of hate monger Patrick Buchanan will foist more homophobic propaganda upon us, adding to the Gay/Lesbian bashing already done by the media. Are we ready to respond to it, or have we become so jaded that we expect such abuse and are happy that it isn't worse?

We don't necessarily have to take the streets, sit in, promote mass disobedience or anything like that (although in some cases that may be appropriate) BUT we've got to do better to get our point across.

It's not just the fault of those "professional Lesbians/Gays" running our organizations. We all share the blame. How many of us write letters to



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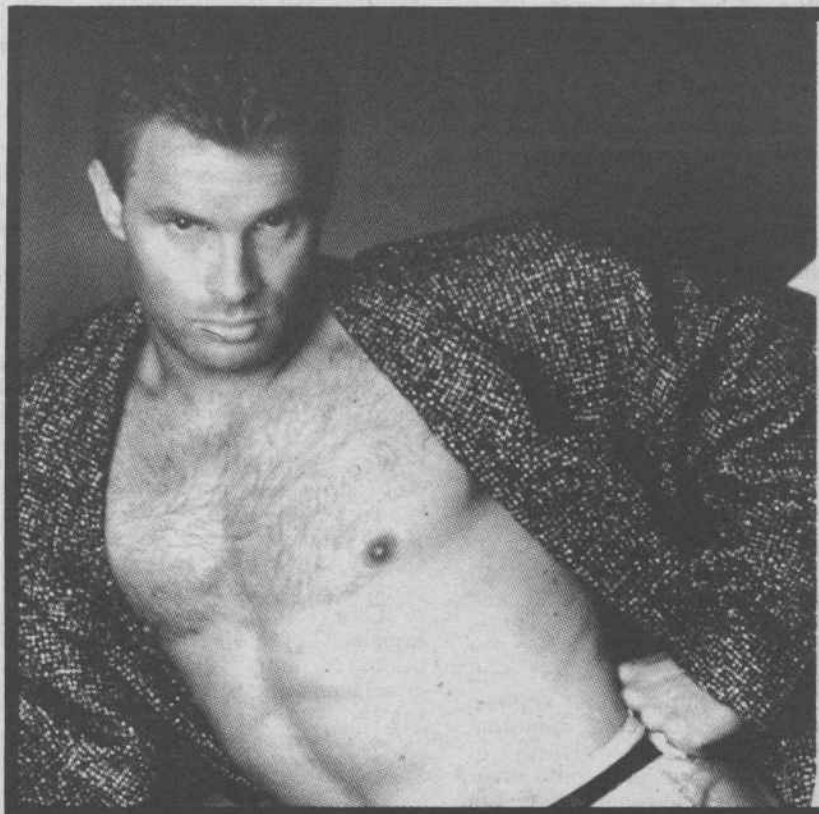
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Oberons Hold Valentine's Party Feb. 8

[Milwaukee]- The Oberons, Milwaukee's levi/leather social group, will celebrate Valentine's Day in a different way this year.

The theme of "All's Fair in Love and War" will highlight the group's Valentine's gathering on February 8 at the Wreck Room bar at 266 E. Erie Street. Uniform and military dress by participants is encouraged. The party begins at 10 p.m.

The Oberons invite participants to become "a prisoner of love, and help us violate the Geneva Convention. Put on your favorite uniform and put yourself in the line of fire of the slings and arrows of outrageous romance."



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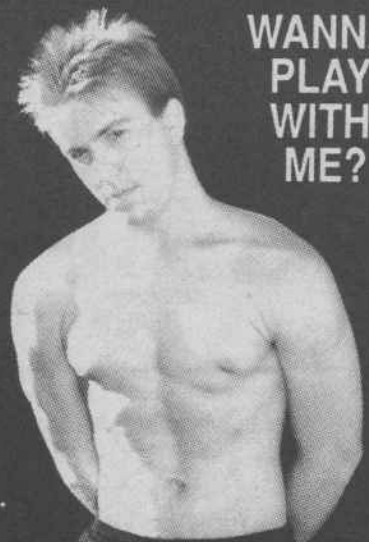
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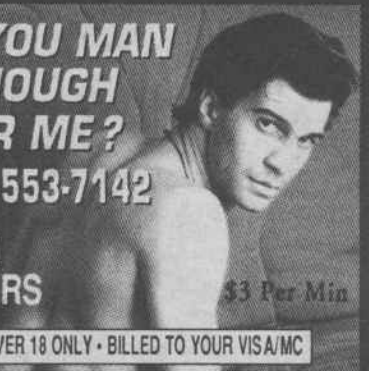
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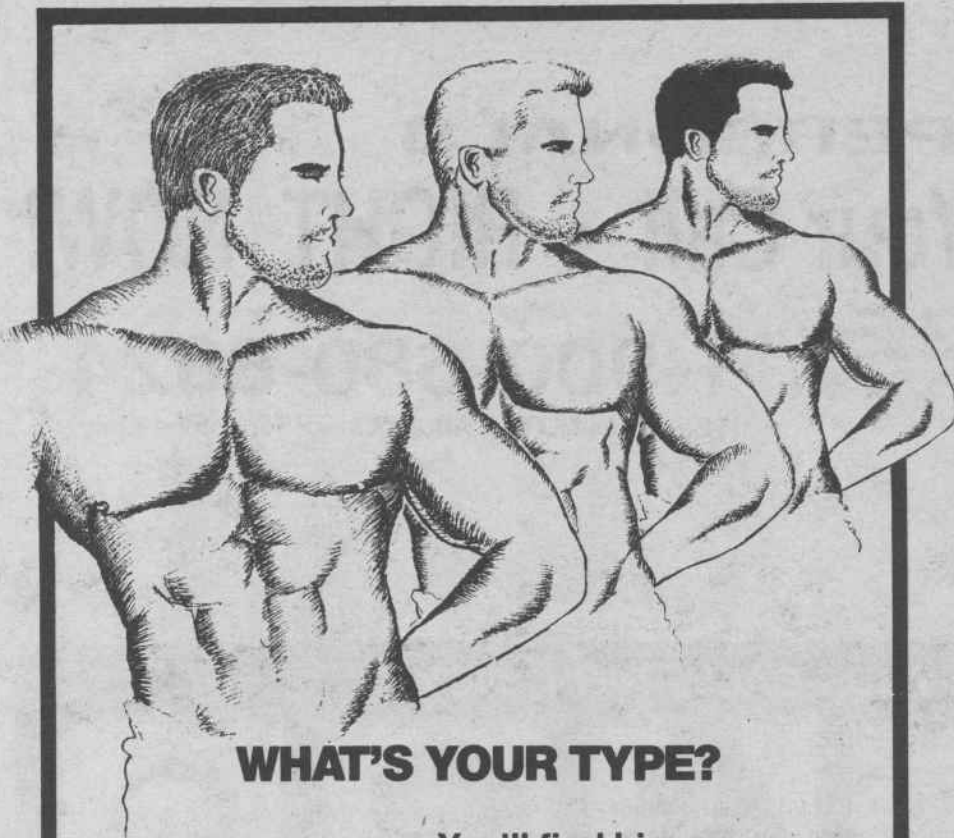
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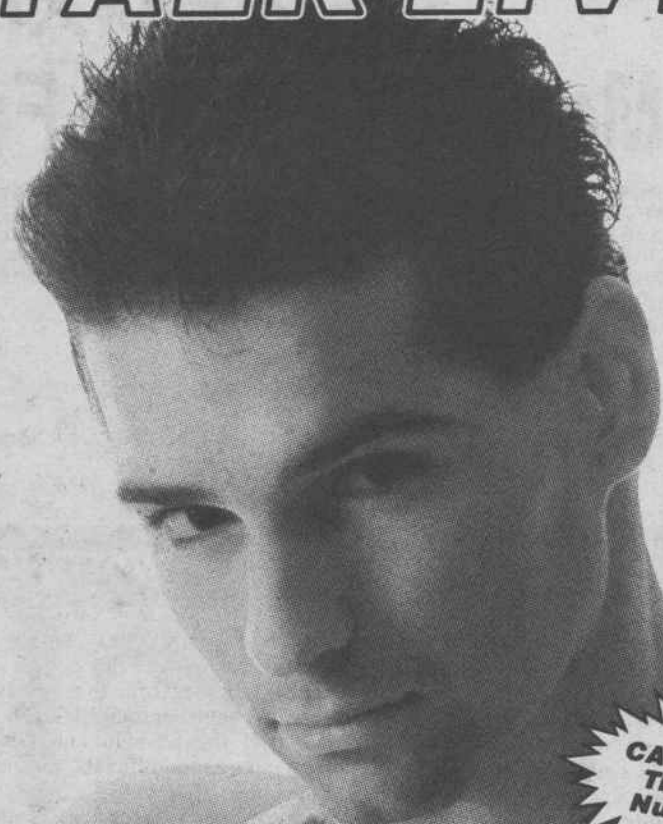
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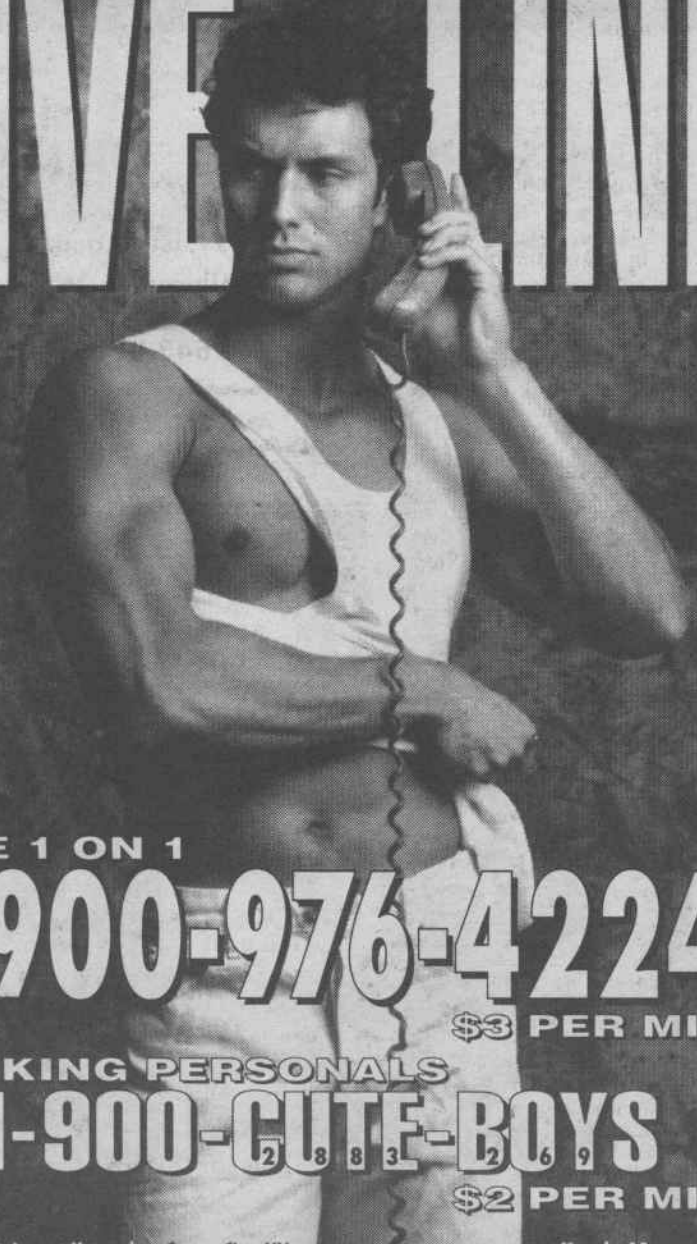
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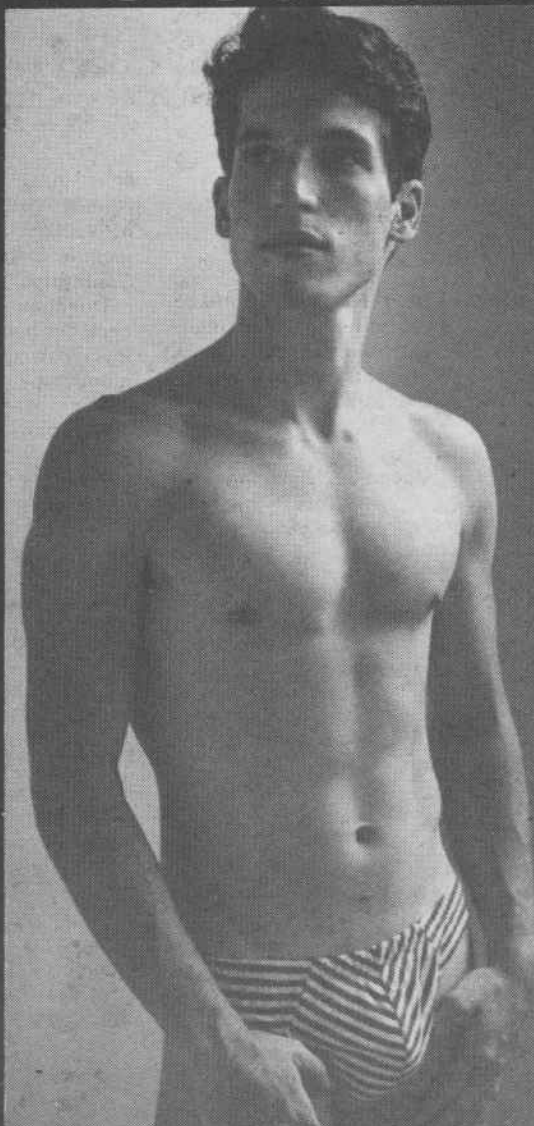
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Pride Committee Responds To Veto

[Milwaukee]—Following is the text of a statement issued by Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee in response to Mayor John Norquist's veto of the \$5,000 Festival Fund grant.

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) is angered by the apparent lack of character and reliability of Mayor John Norquist. We view this veto as an act of blatant homophobia and discrimination. Further, we find his opinions to be self-contradictory to the point where they are becoming flat out lies.

Mayor Norquist has stated that he feels parades and festivals are not meant to be controversial, and for this reason he will not sponsor the Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade and Rally. Yet, during the Gulf War, he attended an anti-war demonstration at Reuss Federal Plaza in the face of the best coordinated pro-war sentiment seen since World War II. So, it's obvious that he is not afraid of controversy as long as it is something that he really has concern for.

In his veto, Mayor Norquist stated, "...I believe using taxpayer dollars for this type of parade is inappropriate." We fear that this is a thin lie to cover the fact that he does not support the Gay and Lesbian community despite the Proclamations from his office. As an elected official, we would prefer him to either support or oppose our community consistently, as honest opponents (as well as allies) are to be respected.

He then avoids the issue by bringing up future activities of abortion activists which could only serve to create more controversy by bringing in additional opposition. If he is in opposition to discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, then we suggest that he read the comments given on the floor of the Common Council, in particular the eloquent words of Alderman Richards, who, among other Alderpersons, stated repeatedly that to deny Festival Funding to the MLGPC parade would be blatant discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Mayor Norquist is obviously out of touch with "the cutting edge of civil rights for Gays and Lesbians," as this is the first openly Gay and Lesbian organization to apply for City funding in the State of Wisconsin — Wisconsin being the first Gay and Lesbian Rights State in the United States. As such, we are the legal precedent-setting test for this law as it pertains to City, County or State funding which is available to other communities. The outcome of this issue, if he stops funding, will establish that the Lesbian and Gay community does not have the right to public representation by our elected officials, nor do we have any right to our tax dollars because we are Gay and Lesbian.

As Mayor Norquist admitted, "Gays and Lesbians also pay property taxes." It is an accepted (low) estimate that Gays and Lesbians make up 10 % of the population. This means that we are 10 % of the taxpayers, i.e. 10 % of those property taxes are ours. While he may have the power, he does not have the right to decide for us whether or not it is an appropriate spending of our tax dollars. The recommendation of the Festival Board is valid. It was later reinforced by the Common Council in spite of political grandstanding and much opposition. The funding is less than 3 % of the \$262,000 Festival Budget. We are not asking for more than our fair share. In fact, we are asking for very little. Mayor Norquist, however, is asking us to give up our rights to the same community support that every other culture in America enjoys.

If, as Mayor of Milwaukee, he really wishes to be a friend of the Gay and Lesbian community or at least someone who is against discrimination, then we suggest that he retract his veto and meet with representatives of the Lesbian and Gay community (who want to meet with him), who would inform him as to what "the cutting edge of civil rights for Gays and Lesbians" is.

Pride Committee Seeking 1992 Logo And Bids To Publish Pride Guide

[Milwaukee]—The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) is now taking bids from companies interested in producing MLGPC's annual official **Pride Guide**.

The **Pride Guide** has been developed as a means of informing the community about the events involved during Pride Week; at the same time, it allows MLGPC to sell advertising as a means to raise money to pay for the event.

In the past, the **Pride Guide** has consisted of advertisements, layout of the parade, listing of events, articles of interest and background on speakers.

Any company interested should be able to do the following: solicit advertising, type-setting, layouts, copying and distribution. Any company wishing to bid

Demonstration Planned For Norquist Speech

[Milwaukee]—Queer Nation/Milwaukee is planning a welcoming party/demonstration when Mayor John Norquist gives his State of the City address on January 27 at the MECCA Complex in downtown Milwaukee.

Queer Nation hopes that everyone who wants to show the Mayor how they feel about his recent veto of Pride funds will attend. The "party" — which promises to be very Gay — begins at 5:00 p.m. Formalwear not required. For more information, call (414) 384-3911.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

depiction of a proud Gay man angry at his treatment, but one who seems to accept that it is a shameful thing to be Gay. I found Ferrie disturbingly believable and three dimensional and even sympathetic.

Just as GLAAD saw fit to link JFK to larger issues, I see fit to link their objections to the film to a larger issue. Since Bi- and Homosexuality are cross sections of the general population, there are members of our community like Ferrie and Shaw.

One of the most insidious weapons used against minorities is the notion that every member of a group must be without moral stain. If one or a few of us do bad things, it "gives us a bad name."

There is the third option, the healthy option, of admitting that queers do bad things also. If Shaw and Ferrie were Gay and were J.F.K. conspirators who did some of their dirty work via the Gay underworld, I view it through this third perspective and GLAAD would be well-advised to do the same.

—Benjamin Pierce
Madison

on the **Pride Guide** should send a letter of interest to: MLGPC, c/o **Pride Guide**, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Pride Logo Needed

The Power of Pride! Sound good? What does it look like? Got an idea? Good. Design it and send a camera-ready copy to MLGPC.

This year's theme is "The Power of Pride," and MLGPC is looking for a logo to go with the theme. Those who have an idea and artistic skill are encouraged to send camera-ready copy to: MLGPC, c/o Logo Contest, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

VETO

Continued from Page 1

"lifestyle" when referring to Gay people. He was the most uncompromising supporter of the Gay and Lesbian community. He declared: "I personally cannot vote for funds into the 1992 Milwaukee Festival Fund that do not include money for the Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee."

Donegan may have felt able to stick his neck out because he is leaving the Council this year and running, unopposed, for a judgeship.

Even Alderwoman Annette Scherbert, who opposed the allocation, kept her remarks brief, clear and civil: "I do not believe it is appropriate to use taxpayer dollars for a parade that supports your sexual preference any more than I would say that a parade of heterosexuals for their sexual preference should be funded by taxpayer money."

Alderwoman Lorraine McNamara-McGraw said the grant to the Pride Committee was important "to heal the destruction that has occurred in this city because of the horror of the Dahmer murders."

Alderwoman Mary Anne McNulty drew laughter when she disagreed with a colleague's assertion that the Gay Pride Parade was not a cultural event but an "advocacy" event. She said she thought the only event slated to receive funds that could really be considered guilty of "advocacy" was the St. Patrick's Day Parade, noting that the Irish were often very insistent that everyone join them and become Irish, even if only for a day.

McNulty also elicited chuckles from the Gays present when she confessed, with a twinkle in her Irish eyes, that Gays and Lesbians had never tried to "recruit" her. McNulty is also retiring from her Council seat this year.

More Community Reaction

Karen Gotzler, Chair of the Board of



REMEMBERING GINGER—A capacity crowd was present at Milwaukee's Club 219 for the January 21 memorial for Ginger Spice. Included in the crowd were Cheri Becher (center), Club 3054 Madison bar owner and two of the club's bartenders, Terry Halverson (left) and Greg Port who tends bar downstairs in Wings.

Managers of LAMM, said, "While we have been looking to the Mayor for leadership, instead we've gotten a lack of understanding, a lack of commitment and a lack of action." She added, "The real issue is that Norquist has equated our sexual orientation with a moral choice."

Miriam Ben-Shalom, long-time activist and chair of Gay/Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, said of the Mayor's veto: "I thought that [former Police Chief] Breier had retired. I didn't realize he had changed his name to Norquist."

Dan Fons of Queer Nation said he was not surprised by the veto. He never believed Norquist was a friend to the community. "He has shown his true colors," Fons said.

Many saw Norquist's veto as an election ploy.

Ron Geiman, Publisher/Editor of **In Step**, wondered: "Does he think he's going to gain votes he's lost previously? All he's done is wound himself by losing our support."

Annabel Havlicek of Havlicek & Associates, said, "The Mayor wants it both ways, no doubt due to the up-coming election. He says he supports Gay rights, but this is a funny way to show it."

One Common Council member, who asked for anonymity, offered this analysis: "Norquist is abandoning the very people who got him elected in the first place. He abandoned the teachers and the environmentalists. Now, he's abandoned Gays. Norquist will be running for governor and he's appealing to all the rednecks."

"It is clear," Scott Gunkel said bitterly, "that Gays and Lesbians are the sacrificial lambs of this election year."

Sources inside City Hall said that many on the Mayor's staff were unhappy with the veto.

Unhappy was hardly the word to express what many in the community felt. The anger was almost palpable. By actual count, the **Light** received 19 phone calls in the space of an hour about the matter. Every caller expressed outrage. In the words of one, "Norquist won't receive a dime from me in this campaign."

At 9:45 in the evening of January 21, Queer Nation sponsored a demonstration in front of the Mayor's home at 1030 S. 26th Street. Fifteen demonstrators marched, chanted and held signs that read "Oust the Bigot" and "Stop Bashing for Votes."

The demonstration was peaceful and lasted approximately 45 minutes. No arrests were made.

On Wednesday, Gays and Lesbians delivered a bowl of rotten fruit to the Mayor's Office. They presented it to an aide, saying that Norquist was the recipient of the first ever "Rotten Fruit" Award for Gay-bashing and homophobia.

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CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS IN THE TROPICS . . .

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST

6PM TO MIDNIGHT

1992 Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball in Milwaukee at the Mitchell Park Domes

Sponsored by Wisconsin Light and In Step Magazine

**Order Your Tickets NOW! \$22.50 per person suggested donation through
February 24, 1992. \$25 per person after February 24, 1992!**

Cash Bar

Hor d'oeuvres

Raffle Prizes

Watch the next issue for more details on prizes!

Dancing

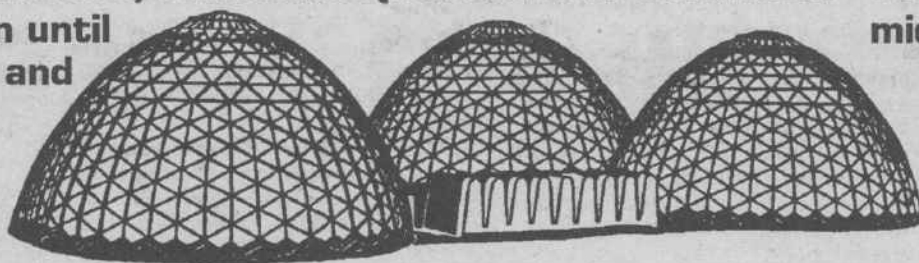
Celebrity Judges

Costumes on Parade

Contestants will parade thru the New Orleans Gazebo in the
Mardi Gras Show Dome as the judges choose the winners!

Music by Select Sound

The Masquerade Ball will be held at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes),
524 South Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee (located near downtown - I-94 via 27th Street. All
three domes will be open until midnight. Enjoy the world
famous tropical, desert and the Show Dome, deco-
rated with the theme "Mardi Gras."



Tickets now on sale at the Wisconsin Light and In Step offices. Or through the mail. The suggested donation is \$22.50 per person before February 24; \$25 per person after February 24 or at the door. Complete the order form below and mail it with your check or money order payable to MLGPC to: MLGPC, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your tickets by return mail. Orders for tickets received after February 24 will be held for pick-up at the door.



Please send me _____ ticket(s) at \$ _____ each = \$ _____ enclosed.

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