



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

The Wisconsin Light

Madison Voters Face Critical Choices On April 7 Ballot

Analysis by John Quinlan

[Madison]- Progressive control of both the Dane County Board and Madison School Board is at stake in the April 7th election, according to Gay and Lesbian political activists. Coming at the same time as the presidential primary, this is not an election which Gay and Lesbian voters can afford to miss.

School Board Race Endorsements

In the school board races, three incumbents face candidates sponsored by the conservative Citizens Advocating Responsible Education (CARE) committee. Incumbents Jim Fullin, Jerry Smith, and Paul Dvorak face a CARE-sponsored opponent. All three candidates have been endorsed by MTI Voters, the political action committee of the teacher's union, Madison Teachers, Inc.

While the local chapter of Gay and Lesbian Education Employees (GLEE) does not make endorsements, GLEE co-founder Jack Siebert confirmed that he and most of the Lesbian/Gay educators he knows will be supporting Fullin, Smith and Dvorak.

Voters in the Madison school district have the opportunity to vote in all three races. According to Siebert, MTI Voters was less enthusiastic about Dvorak than Fullin or Smith, but chose to endorse him because of the extreme conservatism of his opponent.

CARE Gay-Baiting

Issues facing Gay and Lesbian youth and families have played a part in recent elections involving many of the same players. In the 1990 school board elections, controversial CARE co-founder Earl Kielley was blatantly homophobic in his rhetoric, trying to stir up voter resentment about district programs which seek to promote better understandings of Gays and Lesbians, and people of differing backgrounds.

Early in the 1990 campaign, a McCarthyesque photo of Kielley waving a copy of a directory of Madison's Gay and Lesbian organizations made the front page of Madison's *Capital Times*. Kielley said that the directory should not be made available to school counselors, and then went further, defining homosexuality as "aberrant behavior" and likening it to "pedophilia and prostitution." He also issued blanket condemnations of multi-cultural curricula in the schools — especially those that affirmed the lives of Lesbians and Gay men.

Leaders of Madison's Lesbian and Gay community, working in a progressive coalition with the Jewish community and people of color, responded with a highly successful get out the vote campaign. One Gay man who worked the phone bank that year remarked that he'd never seen such enthusiasm in an election by Gays and Lesbians. As a result, many people who didn't ordinarily vote in school board elections were mobilized, and both Kielley and another conservative were soundly defeated.

Voter Backlash

However, in 1991, CARE changed its tactics — having learned its lesson that a message of blatant intolerance wouldn't fly in Madison. Despite this, Kielley and other archconservatives continued to pull the strings. CARE exploited confusion about the school district's newly redefined holiday policy, which was drawn up to clarify the fact that religious celebrations of Christmas and other holidays weren't appropriate in the schools.

As school board members later admitted, the holiday policy had been poorly explained to teachers and the public, who wrongly interpreted it as banning any celebrations of holidays, such as the performance of Christmas music at band concerts. The results were disastrous.

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St. Patrick's Parade Controversy Flares In New York and Boston

By Jamakaya

[New York, NY]- Hundreds of Irish Gays and Lesbians participated in a lively protest march prior to New York City's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade after a federal judge and the city's Human Rights Commission found that the parade's organizers, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, had the right to exclude the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO) from the event.

In Boston, where for the first time Gays were allowed to march as a contingent in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Gay marchers were attacked by hooligans who threw smoke bombs, beer cans and insults. Eight people were arrested.

In Milwaukee, self-described "Gaylic" members of Queer Nation marched up North Avenue in the St. Patrick's Day Parade March 14, brandishing pink shamrocks and "Veto Norquist" stickers. The stickers referred to Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist's recent veto of city funds for the Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade. They encountered numerous mayoral bodyguards, but no harassment from spectators.

New York City

Carrying signs declaring "Pluralism is Nothing to Fear" and "Inhospitality is the True Sin of Sodom," and chanting "Hey, hey! Ho ho! Homophobia's got to go!" Irish Gays and Lesbians rallied outside the Plaza Hotel and marched up Fifth Avenue an hour before the big parade began.

In an unprecedented display of support for the Gay and Lesbian community, many prominent politicians in New York either boycotted the St. Pat's Parade or joined the Gay protest.

True to his pledge, Mayor David Dinkins, a strong advocate for the Irish Gays who actually filed a discrimination complaint on their behalf with the city's Human Rights Commission, refused to attend because of the Gays' exclusion.

Dinkins was recovering after a recent hospital stay, but indicated that had he been healthy enough, he still would not have attended. It is the first time since 1923 that the Mayor of New York City has not attended the parade.

Others joining in solidarity with the Irish Gays included: City Council President Andrew Stein; Council member Tom Duane, a Gay man; Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman; Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger; State Attorney General Robert Abrams; and many others.

Former Mayor Ed Koch and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato marched in the parade.

The Legal Battle

The Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO) was formally excluded from the parade after its appeals to the city's Human Rights Commission and federal court failed.

On March 13, Judge Rosemarie Maldonado found that the parade was a place of "public accommodation" from which the Gay group had been unlawfully excluded. But she ruled that forcing the Ancient Order of Hibernians to accept the Gay group against its wishes violated the Hibernians' First Amendment right to freedom of association, a right which Maldonado said superseded the Gay group's claim.

On March 16, Federal Judge Pierre N. Leval also ruled against ILGO, but on more narrow grounds. He declined to rule on the constitutional question of whose First Amendment rights were paramount. Instead, he ruled that the Gay group had no right to vault ahead of other groups on a waiting list of would-be participants in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He also said ILGO had sought an injunction to stop the parade too close to the time of the event.

TURN TO PARADE, PAGE 9



BE CAREFUL WITH THAT ICE PICK, CATHERINE!— Catherine (Sharon Stone) is poised to strike while Nick (Michael Douglas) doesn't know quite what to expect in the long-awaited, much debated film *Basic Instinct*, now playing in theatres nationwide. Our reviewer found it to be — surprise! — another sordid chapter in Hollywood's shameful history of misogyny and homophobia.

'Basic Instinct' Arrives With Misogyny and Homophobia Galore

Commentary by Susan Schramm

The press kit for *Basic Instinct* includes a variety of promotional photos, one of which, favored by the straight media, depicts stars Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone wrapped in a "steamy" embrace. Another one — my personal favorite — features bisexual homicide suspect Stone, ice pick in hand, stabbing away at a block of ice in preparation for drinks with lust-smitten cop Douglas. It has a faux sinister quality bordering on camp, not unlike the film itself. I'm tempted to post it on my refrigerator door with the cautionary inscription: "Lesbians and ice picks — a dangerous combination." But of course the truly worrisome combination is Hollywood and Lesbians.

There's been a lot of controversy surrounding production of *Basic Instinct*, which has the distinction of featuring not just one, but three, homicidal bisexual or Lesbian women. The film has been the target of vigorous protest by Lesbian and Gay activists, who object to its vicious stereotyping.

Director Paul Verhoeven (*Total Recall*) claims their disruption was minimal, and blithely stands by his production. Even when scriptwriter Joe Eszterhas, who met with activists, proposed to alter the script, Verhoeven refused to budge, claiming any change would damage the "integrity" of the film. Uh-huh. The characters' sexuality, he has stated, is simply "there," and is "not an issue."

Homophobic Sleaze Intact

So now, with all of its homophobic sleaze stubbornly intact, *Basic Instinct* has arrived. Just how bad is it? Well, don't cancel your plans to spend a pleasant evening defrosting the freezer (with or without ice pick) to see this

movie. It is mediocre at best, even if one discounts the significance of the "non-issue," which of course won't be discounted here.

Granted, it's a slick production, and with a \$49 million budget (including a record \$3 million script), one might expect as much. But it often plays more like a shallow, lurid farce than like the "erotic psychological thriller" it purports to be.

The "thrills" include plenty of blood, violence, rough sex, an air of free-floating testosterone, and yes, even car chases. (One thing to be said for those dykes: they sure do lead a mean car chase!)

And for those of us who've considered forsaking politics for pleasure, the touted "hot sex" is all *het* sex — the Lesbian elements are here to serve a darker, less obvious purpose.

Just what might that purpose be? First, here's a very brief rundown of plot dynamics:

Ice Pick Murder

The film opens with a scene like something out of "9 1/2 Weeks Meets Psycho." A bout of the aforementioned hot sex climaxes with the graphically bloody ice pick murder of an aging rock star by the sensuous, unidentified female astride him.

Prime suspect is Catherine Tramell (Stone), who'd been engaged in an emotionally detached but very physical affair with the victim. She is taken on by police detective Nick Curran (Douglas), who's determined to match wits with this "brilliant and evil" seductress in her penchant for "mind games," and who is quickly if ambivalently seduced by her. As more homicides occur, and past homicides emerge, additional suspects

TURN TO INSTINCT, PAGE 11

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Protest Planned for Oscar Gala

[Los Angeles, CA]- West coast chapters of Queer Nation plan to stage a major protest in and around the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Academy Awards ceremony March 30. Activists hope to draw attention to the way Hollywood alternately defames and neglects Gay and Lesbian characters and themes.

Central to the activists' concerns are: 1) the bizarre, hedonistic depiction of Gay men in JFK, the transvestite killer in *Silence of the Lambs* and the Lesbian and female bisexual killers in *Basic Instinct*; 2) the de-Lesbianization of the characters Iggy and Ruth in *Fried Green Tomatoes*; 3) the snubbing of *Paris is Burning* and Madonna's *Truth or Dare* for nominations as Best Documentary; and 4) the lack of any major film about AIDS.

Protesters are expected to line the streets outside the theatre as the stars arrive, and Queer Nation has announced its intention to "infiltrate" the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion itself. QN also plans to hand out maps indicating where prominent closeted movie stars live.

Producers of the Oscar show have added extra security and vow to cut to commercials if any disruption occurs inside the theatre. The Academy Awards presentation will be shown on ABC March 30.

Gay Cases to Move Forward

[Atlanta, GA]- Two important legal cases asserting the employment and privacy rights of Gays and Lesbians have been given the green light by federal judges.

In Georgia, an attempt by Attorney General Michael J. Bowers to dismiss a lawsuit brought against him by a Lesbian attorney who was denied a job was rejected. The plaintiff, Robin Joy Shahar alleges that a job offer from the Attorney General's office was rescinded by Bowers after he learned that Shahar and her woman partner participated in a Jewish wedding ceremony.

Bowers, who successfully defended Georgia's sodomy law in the U.S. Supreme Court (*Bowers v. Hardwick*, 1986), argued he was compelled to withdraw the job offer from Shahar to ensure public confidence in the enforcement of the state's laws.

But federal Judge Richard Freeman found credibility in Shahar's contention that her constitutional rights to freedom of association, equal protection, due process and freedom of religion may have been violated. Shahar's case will now move forward in the courts.

William Rubenstein of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project told the *New York Times*: "What this means is that Lesbians and Gay men who are open about their sexuality do not lose their constitutional rights, or their right to public employment. It's a major victory for Lesbians and Gay men, and it's part of a recent trend toward respecting our rights."

In February, a federal judge in San Francisco refused to dismiss the lawsuit of a Gay man, Frank Buttino, who was fired as a special agent for the FBI after the Bureau learned of his homosexuality. Buttino, who worked for the FBI for 20 years, also claims his constitutional rights were violated. His case will now proceed.

Texas Sodomy Law Unconstitutional

[Austin, TX]- On March 11, a Texas appeals court unanimously upheld a lower court's ruling that the state's 1879 statute prohibiting sodomy between consenting adults is unconstitutional.

"The state has not met its burden of showing that a compelling governmental objective justifies the intrusion," wrote Chief Justice Jim Carroll of the Third District Court of Appeals. "The state makes no showing that criminalizing private conduct engaged in by consenting adults in any way advances public morality."

In February, a district court judge in Dallas ruled that the sodomy law could not be used by the Dallas Police Department (DPD) to ban Gays and Lesbians from becoming officers. The court reinstated the application of Mica England, a Lesbian recruit who was rejected by the DPD when her sexual orientation was revealed.

The Texas Attorney General is expected to appeal the most recent decision to the State Supreme Court. That ruling will either sustain the law or, more likely, wipe it off the books. Governor Ann Richards, against the advice of her closest aides, has been a vocal opponent of the sodomy law.

U.S. Forbids Marijuana Therapy

[Washington, DC]- Denying relief to tens of thousands of sick people — many of them terminally ill — the Public Health Service announced March 10 that it would no longer provide marijuana to patients suffering from AIDS, cancer or glaucoma.

Bill Griggs, spokesman for the Public Health Service, said government scientists have concluded that "existing evidence does not support recommending smoked marijuana as a treatment of choice for any of the medical conditions," and might, in fact, compromise patients' immune systems.

Tim Braun, a Minneapolis ADIS patient, told the *New York Times*: "I think it's a decision made by some bozos that don't get their fat duffs out of the office and ask doctors who work with patients like this, talk to the patients who are using it, talk to the families and friends that see the difference."

Advocates of marijuana therapy contend it reduces the nausea, vomiting and weight loss experienced by AIDS patients and cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Marijuana is credited with reducing the eye pressure associated with glaucoma and the muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis and other neurological disorders.

Patients who support marijuana therapy warn that the government's ban on the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes will force them to become criminals, seeking the weed from underground drug dealers.

Helms Calls Gays 'Repulsive'

[Washington, DC]- In recent Senate debate over a proposal barring federal drug prevention funds from going to programs targeting Gay and Lesbian youth, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) declared that Gay people are "repulsive."

An amendment introduced by Helms states that "No youth should be deemed to be at risk for substance abuse solely on the basis of the youth's homosexuality." It further states that no federal funds disbursed through the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act may be used to "pay for homosexual support or education services."

In a 45 minute diatribe, Helms said: "It should be clear by now that the homosexual lobby in this country is no longer content with forcing the schools and other institutions to teach children that homosexuality is normal and an acceptable lifestyle. They are now demanding the right to go into schools and private institutions — preferably at federal expense — to proselytize for homosexuality and to recruit sexual partners."

"Parenthetically," said Helms, "I despise the use of the word 'Gay.' They are not Gay; they are repulsive."

The Helms amendment passed the Senate on a voice vote. If it passes in the House and survives a House-Senate conference committee, anti-drug programs aimed at Gay teens in California, New York and Ohio could be denied funds.

Quickies...

[Boston, MA]- Less than two weeks after the Massachusetts Senate defeated a Gay youth bill, Republican Governor William Weld signed an executive order establishing a Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth. The first of its kind in the nation, the commission will identify resources state agencies can use to assist Gay and Lesbian teens.

[Dallas, TX]- Tennis champ Martina Navratilova reached an out-of-court settlement with her former partner Judy Nelson just two weeks before the so called "galimony" case was scheduled to begin. Nelson got the couple's \$1.3 million home in Aspen and other undisclosed assets. Said Navratilova of the legal battle; which she admits had a deleterious effect on her tennis game: "It's too costly, and now I can just get on with everything."

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.

'Surviving the Backlash' Speech By Jamakaya Set for March 25

[Milwaukee]- Jamakaya, feminist historian and News Editor of *The Wisconsin Light*, will speak on "Surviving the Backlash Against Feminism and the Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement" Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Milwaukee Room of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Student Union.

Jamakaya's speech is part of a program sponsored by the UW-M Student Association, the Gay and Lesbian Community, and Social Action For Gender Equality to celebrate Women's History Month. It is free and open to the public.

Jamakaya, a veteran Lesbian-feminist activist with 17 years' organizing experience, has written an award-winning history of Milwaukee's women's movement. In addition to her position at the *Wisconsin Light*, her articles on feminist and Gay issues and her reports on the Dahmer case have appeared in

dozens of papers across the U.S.

In her talk, Jamakaya will review past accomplishments and offer constructive suggestions for strengthening the women's movement and the Gay rights movement during this period of backlash. For further information, call (414) 229-6555.

April 1 Meeting Of Bisexuals

[Madison]- A social gathering for the Bisexual community will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 1992 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Harmonia, 406 North Pinkney Street, Madison. Meet new people in a bi-friendly environment. Bring a friend, socialize, talk, have fun, help plan events and build community. For more information contact: Bi My Side, P.O. Box 321, Madison, WI 53701.



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GLEN MAXEY

Candidate for Texas House of Representatives

First elected in a special election last Spring, Glen is now running for a full term in the Texas House of Representatives. When he first took his seat, several colleagues moved because they didn't want to sit next to a "known" homosexual.

An important leader in ending Texas' anti-gay sodomy statute, Maxey needs your help to win a very tough primary battle.



TAMMY BALDWIN

Candidate for Wisconsin State Assembly

A member of the Dane County (Madison, WI) Board of Supervisors, Tammy could become the first openly lesbian/gay member of the Wisconsin State Assembly. As an attorney, she has an impressive track record representing gays and lesbians against discrimination.

She also lobbied for the creation of an AIDS Task Force and became its first chair. Tammy is locked in a fierce battle with three men and will need help from other lesbians and gay men to win.



JERRY KEENE

Candidate for Oregon House of Representatives

A win by Jerry could make his election the "turning point" in gaining crucial Republican support for passing a gay rights bill in Oregon. Facing a seven-term incumbent, Jerry needs your help to ensure his victory.

He plans to counter the anti-Gay Oregon Citizens' Alliance (OCA) as a "responsible, progressive, pro choice gay Republican with no time for their brand of bigoted nonsense." He will need your help.



TOM NOLAN

Candidate for U.S. Congress

Tom is running to become the first openly gay man ever to win election to Congress. (Barney Frank and Gerry Studds each came out after they were elected.) As the popular and accomplished former president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Tom is far more than just a "gay" candidate. But he does have tough opposition in the Democratic primary.

Your contribution could help him win and make history for all of us. (Since this is a federal race, corporate contributions are not permitted.)



GAIL SHIBLEY

Candidate for Oregon House of Representatives

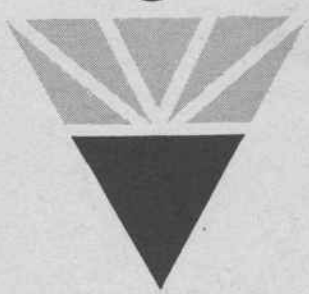
A year ago, Gail became the first openly lesbian member of the Oregon House of Representatives when she was appointed to an open seat. Now she must win election in her own right, against tough opposition from the Oregon Citizens' Alliance (OCA), the anti-gay group that's also fighting to pass a state constitutional amendment condemning homosexuality. The OCA is raising lots of out-of-state money to defeat Gail. She'll need your help to win.



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The Wisconsin Light



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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

The publisher, editors and senior staff of the **Wisconsin Light** were unable to reach consensus on who to endorse or whether to endorse anyone in the April 7 contest for Mayor of the City of Milwaukee. We believe this division reflects the divergence of opinion among Gay and Lesbian Milwaukeeans as a whole.

We have therefore decided to turn our editorial page over to a "Pro" and "Con" debate about the merits of the incumbent, John O. Norquist. We hope it stimulates discussion and we urge **everyone** — no matter who you support or decide to write-in — to cast your ballot in the April 7 election and to stay involved in the political process.

• • •

Re-Elect Mayor John Norquist

In the Milwaukee Mayoral election April 7, the choice is as clear as it was four years ago, and that choice is John O. Norquist.

His opponent, Greg Gracz, isn't in the same league as Norquist. Gracz has made no attempts to reach out to the Gay/Lesbian community. He is the head of Milwaukee's Firefighters Union but has been silent on the issue of recruiting Lesbian and Gay firefighters.

Like many of you, I am upset with Mayor Norquist for vetoing our Lesbian/Gay Pride parade funds, but let's recognize what he **has** done for our community. Under Norquist, Milwaukee has seen the first appointments of openly Gay and Lesbian citizens to city wide commissions, the first Mayoral Pride proclamations, regular meetings with the Mayor and his top staff members, and Mayoral protests over police raids of our bars. Anyone who thinks Greg Gracz offers us more than that doesn't have the intelligence to stop walking east even after their hat is floating.

Let's also recognize that **not** voting in the Mayor's race is the same thing as voting for Gracz.

Many Gracz supporters consider the changes made by Mayor Norquist to be threatening. These folks don't like the police being held accountable for their actions. They are piqued over the increased efficiency of city government in enforcing building codes against slumlords and crackdowns on landlords who knowingly rent to drug dealers.

The Gracz supporters say they are incensed over the city's taxes. What they are really angry about is the fact that the reassessment process eliminated the inequity of over-valuing properties in poorer areas of the city while under-valuing those in higher income neighborhoods.

Gracz and his friends talk about change. But they propose to turn back the clock. They want to raid the City Treasury for the police and other government employees. They talk about fighting crime, but Gracz's union endorsed and gave money to an aldermanic candidate who is a member of the Black Panther militia. The 'militia' headed by Alderman Mike McGee has threatened to use violence. Gracz's refuses to endorse McGee's opponent, Leroy Butler.

Yes, Milwaukee has its share of problems. These problems didn't build up overnight and they won't go away in four years. Norquist has made a good start on dealing with the challenges confronting Milwaukee. I think he deserves the chance to continue building on the foundation he has laid so far.

In the last four years Milwaukee has actually seen a net increase in the number of manufacturing jobs. How many Rust belt cities can say that? Mayor Norquist has streamlined city government, cutting the tax rate **without** significant reductions in city services. Norquist has pushed programs to make our neighborhoods safer, such as Milwaukee's Community Oriented Policing Program, while starting new programs that go after the root causes of crime: urban decay and unemployment.

I have personally seen John Norquist bring together people who wouldn't have even dreamed of speaking to each other. As a result, numerous partnerships between neighborhood groups, business and government have been formed to confront Milwaukee's problems head on.

That's the kind of Mayor Milwaukee needs, and in his wildest imagination (if he has an imagination), Gracz couldn't even begin to measure up.

Gregory Gracz doesn't have the vision to see across the room let alone to run a big city. He should have stuck to what he knows best: putting out fires instead of trying to start some. On April 7th Milwaukee's Lesbians and Gays would do themselves and the City a service by sending a message to Greg Gracz and his supporters. That message should be in the form of our votes helping to re-elect John Norquist for a second term.

—Bill Meunier, Political Reporter/Columnist

Write-In Anyone But Norquist

In the year of Jeffrey Dahmer, when Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian community was under attack by bashers in the streets, in the media and on the school board, Mayor Norquist abandoned us. He didn't just abandon us; this cowardly man whom we worked so hard to elect in 1988 actually joined in the bashing himself. He has not earned either our respect or our support.

Norquist took almost a week to condemn the obvious racism and homophobia connected to Dahmer's crimes. At a vigil for the victims, he stuttered, paused clumsily and failed to utter the words "Gay" and "Lesbian" before the largely Gay crowd. He was rightfully heckled.

During heated debate over services for Gay teens at November's school board meeting, Norquist remained silent. In the wake of a "holocaust" of Gay and minority youth and a homophobic backlash by crazed fundamentalists and ignorant board members, he showed no leadership. (A mayoral aide told the **Light** at the time that Mayor Norquist never intervened in school board issues. Yet, only a few weeks later, in a statement that got major headlines and media coverage, Norquist suggested that the entire public school system may have to be scrapped!) Only a week after the disgraceful display of bigotry at the school board, Norquist touted "traditional values in our families" in a speech at the police academy. His cynical ploy to garner conservative votes was all too transparent.

Finally, after an inspiring show of support by the Common Council in favor of city funds for the Pride parade, Norquist, arrogantly declaring that parade funds were not "the cutting edge of civil rights for Gays and Lesbians," vetoed the bill. With that action, Norquist delivered the coup de grace to a community already reeling from the Dahmer backlash. He gave official sanction to the hatred being leveled against us.

In defending his actions at a special meeting with Gay and Lesbian representatives (chosen by Norquist) in February, the Mayor proudly compared his veto to his 1979 campaign while state senator to abolish the Commission on the Status of Women! At that same meeting, he criticized police raids on Gay bars **not** because they are **wrong**, but because they take too much money and police time!

Whatever debt we owe to John Norquist for his support of the state's Gay rights bill has long since been paid. He may have appointed several Gay people to city commissions, but those are non-paid, non-policy-making positions. He issues an annual Pride proclamation, but that too is a largely symbolic gesture that costs him and the city nothing. He established the Blue Ribbon Commission on Police-Community Relations, but only after the worst massacre in the history of Milwaukee.

Norquist and his cronies on the Greater Milwaukee Committee and the Redevelopment Corporation focus their efforts almost exclusively on downtown hotel/convention development, ensuring minimum-wage, dead end jobs for Milwaukeeans — what one Black activist calls a "slave economy." The tours of Steeltech currently being undertaken by politicians only point out the token status of that new, minority-owned enterprise. In both words and actions, Norquist is doing little to address the scandalous, uneven economic development of Milwaukee or the severe racial divisions which continue to fester.

I am **not** suggesting we support Greg Gracz. The man is a sexist, uneducated boor who heads one of the most reactionary unions in the city. But we **do not** have to cast our ballot for an insensitive, arrogant man who not only has turned his back on us, but viciously kicked us when we were down.

Milwaukeeans can write-in candidates, and write-in we should. I do it often, when I am unhappy with the choice before me or when I want to make a statement. This April 7, I suggest for Mayor either County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Alderman Marvin Pratt or State Rep. Gwen Moore. All have been consistently supportive of Gay and Lesbian rights and the broader progressive agenda. All are committed to combating the

two great challenges facing Milwaukee: racism and uneven economic development. After I cast my write-in, I will send a letter to Norquist to explain my vote.

Some will say write-ins are wasted votes. I strongly disagree. They are principled votes that can send a message and fill the person voting with satisfaction and pride. I refuse to choose the "lesser of two evils." And I absolutely refuse to vote for a man who clearly cannot be trusted and who has so deeply injured me and the people I love.

—Jamakaya, News Editor

Note From The Editor's Desk

I will be going to the polls this April 7 with decidedly mixed feelings. On the one hand, I will cast at least one enthusiastic vote. One other I will check off with disappointment and regret.

Dorothy Dean is running for re-election as Milwaukee County Supervisor in my district and I will cast my vote for her happily. She is a great lady, full of warmth, compassion and strength. Over the years since she's been in office, she has fought and fought hard for the rights of Lesbians and Gays. Dorothy's good people. She deserves our support. I will vote for her gladly — and feel good about it.

I will vote too for Marlene Johnson who is running for Alderwoman in the 6th District. She has been very supportive of our issues and deserves our vote.

As to other candidates who I can vote for, I would heartily and enthusiastically recommend Elizabeth Coggs-Jones. She's also running for Milwaukee County Supervisor and, like Dorothy Dean, can always be counted on in the struggle for human rights. In the proud tradition of her family, Elizabeth Coggs-Jones has fought and fought hard for everyone's equal rights. I admire her without stint and, if I could, I would vote accordingly.

I would give my vote too if I could to Paul Henningson who is running for Milwaukee Alderman in the 4th District. He's been there for us at every turn. I hope those of you in his district are now going to be there for him.

If I could, I would vote for Chris Krajniak, who is fighting a hard battle in the 14th District against Susan Breier. Breier's the daughter of former Police Chief Harold Brier and from all accounts, holds many of her father's views. We don't need another Breier in office — of any kind.

Emilio Lopez is running to succeed Alderwoman Mary Ann McNulty in the 12th District where most of the Gay bars are located. Both Al Thomas of the Triangle and George Prentice of La Cage praise Lopez highly and say that he has the same philosophy as McNulty, who has been a constant friend and supporter of our community. If you live in the 12th District, vote for him.

I wish I could be as enthusiastic about the mayoral race. I can't. Rarely if ever, in any election, have I done so much soul searching as with this one contest, but this is what I will do.

I will reluctantly vote for John Norquist. I don't say that easily, not at all. I am still disappointed with him over the veto of the Pride funding. I think he handled it with singular lack of political skill and compromised himself in the doing. Still, I will vote for him and suggest that others do the same. Here are my reasons.

First and foremost, when it comes to matters of concern for the Lesbian/Gay community, I think we can work with him. I think, even now, he is making moves in that direction. I believe we need to continue to educate him, however.

Secondly, I absolutely cannot vote for Norquist's opponent. I think that man's frightening. I don't think he has any better concept of equal rights than a post.

Thirdly, I've decided that a write-in vote wouldn't be a protest against Norquist, it would be a vote for his opponent.

In my present thinking, I cannot endorse Mayor Norquist with the enthusiasm I would like, but I will vote for him. I suggest to everyone that they do the same.

—Terry Boughner

LETTER POLICY

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

WYOU TV Schedule For Month of April

[Madison]-The following is a list of the programs scheduled for **Nothing to Hide** on Madison's WYOU TV for the month of April, 1992.

April 1 — "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it all For You."

April 8 — Jay Hatheway — "Real Eyes Realize Real Lies." A world view from a small town perspective.

April 15 — Sam Day's Conversations: Sam will be awarded the 1992 Fellowship of Reconciliation's Martin Luther King, Jr. Award on Sunday, April 19.

April 22 — Ethnic Notions — a view of African American stereotypes by white culture; Marlon Riggs, director.

April 29 — The 15th Annual Women's Conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin System at UW-Whitewater, "Women to Women: Enduring Ties."

Bowling Tourney Plans Benefit Events

[Milwaukee]-The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) recently announced two upcoming benefit events. On March 28, HIT will be sponsoring a Bar Crawl to Chicago. Partygoers will initially meet at the Triangle, 135 E. National Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. with the bus leaving promptly at 7:00 en route to Halsted Street. The bus will return to Milwaukee at 1:00 a.m.

On April 25, HIT will be sponsoring a bus for second shift entrants of the MILMAIDS bowling tournament. This party kicks off at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street, at 9:30 a.m. with the bus leaving for Madison at 10:30 a.m. The bus will return to Milwaukee at 10:30 p.m.

Each of these events costs \$15. This includes bus fare and cocktails to and from the event, and other special surprises. Anyone interested in additional information should contact Tim McCall at (414) 223-3139.

State's First Leather Daddy Contest April 4

[Milwaukee]-On Saturday, April 4, the Argonauts of Wisconsin will host state's first Levi/Leather Daddy Contest. Contestants from throughout the state will be vying for the title of Wisconsin's hottest Daddy. The contest will start at 10:00 p.m. at the 1100 Club at 1100 S. 1st Street in Milwaukee.

The Argonauts expect a host of Daddies

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and Daddy enthusiasts to be in attendance, and strongly urge everyone who counts themselves as part of this group to be present for the event.

A raffle will be conducted, in which numerous leather articles will be distributed to members of the audience. The contest will be the Spring kick-off activity for the Leather community of Wisconsin.

Admission will be \$5 at the door which includes one rail drink. Discounts apply for groups of six or more. Advance tickets and reserved seats are available with the deadline March 26.

To obtain advance tickets write to: Northwoods Prod., P.O. Box 22096, Green Bay, WI 54305. For more information, call the 1100 Club at (414) 647-9950 or Bob, (414) 435-8869 or Joe at (414) 342-3674.

LIGHT Seeks Gay Families To Interview

[Madison]-Recognizing the diversity of relationships and families found among Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals, the **Wisconsin Light** is interested in hearing from people in a diversity of circumstances who are willing to share their stories in future editions of the **Light**.

If you have an interest or know of someone with an interesting story to tell about their "alternative" family, please contact John Quinlan of **Light's** Madison Bureau at (608) 256-8100, or call the Milwaukee office at (414) 372-2773.

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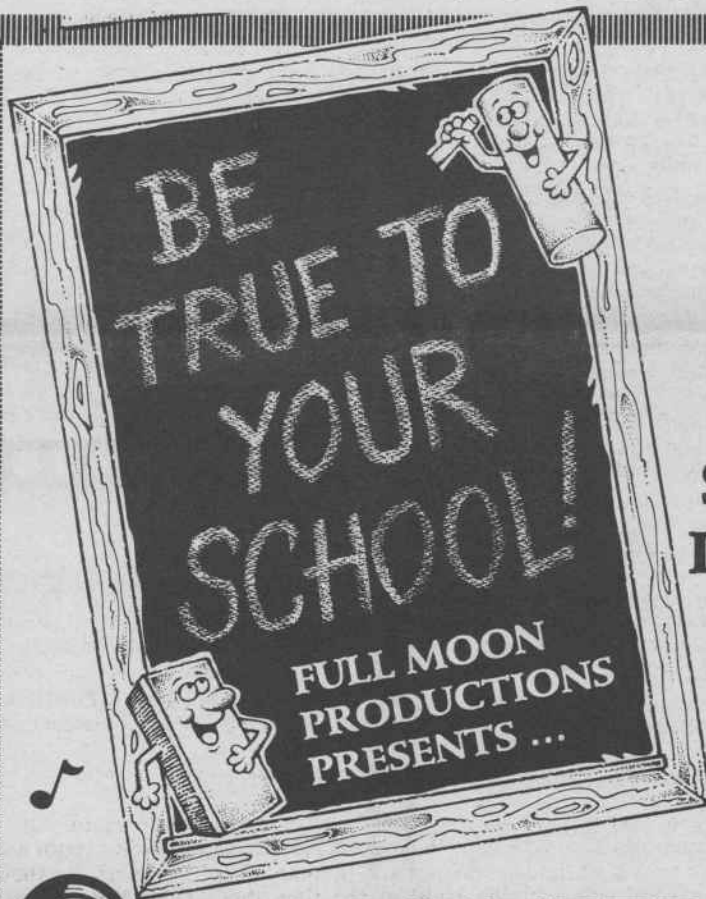
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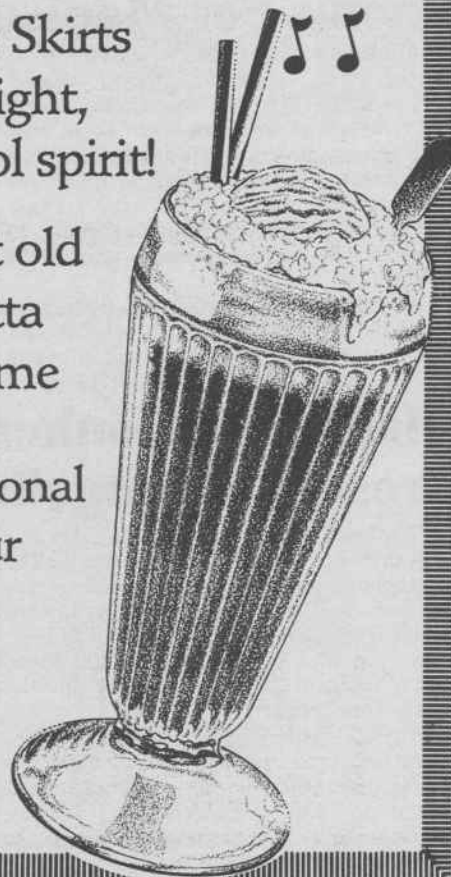
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Here's your chance to wear all those great old
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The Light LIVELY ARTS



BEREZAN AT APPLE ISLAND—Kissing Girls Productions is bringing singer/songwriter Jennifer Berezan, a popular new voice on the progressive folk scene, to Apple Island, 849 E. Washington Avenue in Madison, March 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6-\$8-\$10 on a sliding scale and available at A Room of One's Own, Whole Earth and Green Earth. They will be sold at the door if still available.

Betrayal, Love and Skulduggery Reign in Shakespeare's 'Pericles'

By Terry Boughner

Shakespeare's *Pericles* is not one of the Bard's more famous or oft done works. Yet, more's the pity. It's an exciting drama, full of sensuality and skulduggery, full of betrayal and love, lost and then regained. It was the first of Shakespeare's romances, setting the style for a whole new genre that was to follow, both from his pen and those of others.

Neither has the play been popular through the years. The 18th Century found the appearance of the Goddess Diana and the resurrection scene too irrational; its explicit sexuality was too much for the "proper" 19th Century, while many in the 20th Century complained that it was too complicated — not lively enough.

Like so much else in this misbegotten time of ours, this simply is not true. Boulevard Ensemble director Mark Bucher and the cast show that *Pericles* deserves another look. In their capable hands, the long neglected work comes to vibrant life. There is humor in the production, but also we see clearly the dark forces, full of mystery and magic, that swirled in an undercurrent beneath golden Greece and Rome.

Joe Haseleu as Prince Pericles presents a well-rounded portrayal of a man, flung out on his own resources, who

finds love, loses it and finds it once again. No one who sees the play will not have a lump in their throat in the recognition scene between Pericles and his daughter, Marina.

Among the women, it is difficult to pick the strongest one. Amy Hastert plays a brilliant Marina. I've seen both she and Pamela Brown (who plays a devilishly good Queen Dionysa) before. Every time, their performances are riveting. Barbara Kerr is excellent as Helicana. Deanne Phillips is superb as the Healer and funny as the Bawd.

The men, other than Haseleu, are not as strong as they should be. In a couple of cases they seemed to be aware that they had arms, but hadn't the faintest idea what to do with them. The best that could be said for them is that they memorized their lines.

Throughout, it is Haseleu and the women of the Boulevard Ensemble who carry the play wonderfully and well. They make this a "must see."

The Boulevard Ensemble's production of *Pericles* runs Thursdays through Sundays to March 29. Curtain is at 8:00 and tickets are \$8-\$9. The Boulevard Ensemble is located at 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee. For reservations or more information call (414) 672-6019.

Fax Art Response Seeks Drawings, Photos For Madison Art Exhibit

[Madison]—Fax Art Response is a participatory art and activism project where individuals can express to others their cares and concerns about their lives and communities. This project is a response to election campaigns which are often remote and unresponsive, yet are intimately connected and important to people's lives, experiences and well-being.

Individuals may participate by faxing pictures, drawings, clippings, photos and other expressive information about their political concerns to (608) 251-0712 up to

April 25, 1992.

All faxed images will be included in an installation exhibit which will be on display at Survival Graphics, 853 Williamson, Madison, WI, from April 4 to April 25, 1992. The public is invited to the exhibit opening on April 4 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Documentation of the exhibit will be sent to all participants who provide return addresses or fax numbers.

For more information write (with SASE): Lora Jost, Fax Art Response, 414 S. Mills, Madison, WI 53715.

Madison's Lionheart Theatre To Present 'Changeling in Exile'

[Madison]—The Lionheart Gay Theatre will present a poetry performance of *The Changeling in Exile*, by Chicagoan Gerard Wozek, on Saturday, April 4 at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, at 8 p.m. The work is a poetic described as a "personal journey into the radical faerie heart."

Along with *Changeling in Exile*, Lionheart will present *Dear One*, an exploration of the pre-Stonewall Gay world in an brief, rollicking tribute-collage clipped from the early pages of

One magazine on the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1952.

One was the first openly Gay journal to be sent through the mail and sold on the newsstands of America. It led the way to the explosion of Gay magazines, newspapers and publishing that we know today.

The performance is a benefit fundraiser forers: Gay Men's Outreach. A donation of \$5 is requested at the door, \$4 before the performance, \$3 for students with ID, people with AIDS, free.

'Queer Television' Succeeds 'The New Tri-Cable' on MATA

[Milwaukee]—After a successful two year run of service, information and entertainment, Milwaukee's Gay cable TV program, *The New Tri-Cable Tonight*, is drawing to a close. The last two shows will be telecast in March and April, but a new program, *Queer Television*, is soon to debut.

Milwaukee's leather community is highlighted in the second to last program of *The New Tri-Cable*, the first part of a two-part series. Moderator Michael Lisowski interviews members of the leather/levi community on bondage and uniforms to find out "what all the fuss is about." This part will be cablecast on March 19 and 22 on Milwaukee Warner Cable's public access Channel 14 (MATA), at 10:30 p.m.

The second part of the program on the leather/levi community will be cablecast on March 26 and 29, April 2, 5, 9 and 12 — all on Channel 14.

The original *Tri-Cable Tonight* began in 1987 and lasted two years. After a year hiatus, the program had a new incarnation as *The New Tri-Cable Tonight* and lasted another two years. The second part of the program on the leather/levi community will be the 28th and final show for *The New Tri-Cable Tonight*.

Queer Television

However, Producers Mark Behar and Bryce Clark have announced a new series of Lesbian/Gay oriented TV shows. *Queer Television* or *QTV* will premiere live on Warner Channel 47 for two and a half hours beginning at 7:00 p.m. on April 9.

The first airing of *QTV* will feature a host of exciting segments about Milwaukee's diverse and colorful Gay/Lesbian community. The Fest City

Singers will present a musical extravaganza, "The Sleeping Mayor: A Fairy Tale for Fairies," a political satire about Mayor Norquist's veto of the Lesbian/Gay Pride funds. Syndicated columnist and comedian, Bill Wells, will present a "News Brief," offering a Gay twist to the real world. Several of Milwaukee's favorite drag queens will also perform.

In addition, "Homo 101" will feature a call-in about homosexuality. Clark and Behar say callers will be able to find out if "queer" and "homo" are really derogatory terms; discover if a person is homophobic or whether they're closeted or coming out.

Viewers may also call in and speak their mind on questions posed to them. The number to call is (414) 799-LIVE. A future call-in segment is being planned about the mechanics of "safer sex."

Future *QTV* shows will be cablecast on the same days, times and channel as the retired *Tri-Cable* series. Cablecast dates for *QTV* in April are April 16, 19, 23, 26.

Date/Mate Hunt

Behar and Clark are planning a "Man Hunt/Womyn Hunt" dating segment, and, they say, "daring participants are wanted." If you don't mind appearing on camera, and would like to be interviewed by Moderator Michael Lisowski and by callers, call *QTV* to register. The numbers are: (414) 265-8500 or (414) 277-7671.

The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network is a committee of the Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian charitable organization. Contact *QTV* at: P.O. Box 239, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or call (414) 265-0880.

GOTTA DANCE!

...At the Cream City Chorus Anniversary Gala!

We're celebrating five years with
an evening of fun
- drinks, dinner and dancing -
on Saturday April 4, 1992.

The Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World Third Street

6pm • cocktails
7pm • dinner
8pm • music by Singsational Productions
Price: \$20 per person

Call Audrey at 933-1224
for ticket information.

RSVP by March 31, 1992.



FILM

Majestic and Downer Theatres Offer Gay/Lesbian Film Series

By Geno

The Gay and Lesbian Film Series at Madison's Majestic and Milwaukee's Downer Theatres is scheduled for midnight showings, Fridays at the Majestic, Fridays and Saturdays at the Downer through early April. Here is a brief summary of the films. *Pink Narcissus* was not available to preview.

Resident Alien

Resident Alien is a film portrait of Quentin Crisp, best known for his brilliant book *The Naked Public Servant* and for his openly gay hijinks and successful tweaking of the British Establishment's nose. His free spirit and wit are immediately evident in his declaration that he is "the stately homo of England."

The movie follows Crisp on his daily rounds in Manhattan; he came to America in his seventies to realize his ideal image of New York gleaned from the movies of the 30's and 40's. He maintains that the city itself is more real than the movies, and throughout the film he has the viewer doing a balancing act between real life and reel life.

To see this sexually ambiguous figure walking nonchalantly down the mean streets of the abandoned neighborhood where he lives in a one-room walkup is to see the gallant spirit of one who has always been true to his nature.

Crisp's main achievement in life, though he calls himself "a professional failure," is the public persona he has created for himself. He was ostracized and often physically beaten for his eccentric behavior and appearance in earlier days in England, but today his eye shadow and makeup, his gray hair in a dowager's upswipe topped by that hat at a jaunty angle win him immediate recognition and outbursts of affection.

Well known figures in the New York world of the arts and theatre testify to his courage and independence. Holly Woodlawn sees him as a free spirit like herself and playwright Robert Patrick, Sting, the editors of *Screw Magazine* and the *Village Voice* show their appreciation of this self-created Gay icon. *Resident Alien* is a splendid tribute to a plucky octogenarian who knows that IT, meaning death, "can't be far off now, can it?"

Resident Alien is on view at the Downer Friday and Saturday the 20th and 21st of March.

Extramuros

In *Extramuros*, directed by Miguel Picazo, two cloistered nuns who are lovers conspire to fake stigmata to save their convent from ruin. Such religious pranksterism in the time of the Spanish Inquisition could have dire consequences, including the risk of eternal damnation.

Sister Ana (Carmen Maura) suffers excruciating physical torment, strengthened by her lover cutting the wounds and keeping them open. The secrecy, the forbidden nature of their relationship, give a terrifying impulse to the action of the film.

Sister Ana follows the belief of flagellant Penitentes that "sin is erased by ecstasy, leaving the body free of obligation." Like the Penitentes, she seeks to achieve ecstasy by having her lover lash her bare flesh, actions which also increase the fervor of their love for one another. The beauty, the intrigue, the hysteria of convent life are beautifully conveyed in warm, glowing photography.

The Duke, impressed by the "Saint," promises to enrich the convent and send his daughter there as a postulant. The townspeople expect to find miracles. But the ousted and disgruntled Prioress promises trouble, which soon appears as the sisters are summoned to the court of the Inquisition. The final scenes of the film question whether purification and salvation are possible, and the shifting boundaries between love and lust, pain and ecstasy, are thoroughly explored.

Extramuros will be shown March 27 at the Majestic and April 3 and 4 at the Downer.

Poison

Poison is a 16mm low budget film written and directed by openly gay Todd Haynes. It was the Grand Prize winner as best feature film at Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival in 1991.

Haynes' provocative *Poison* features three separate, but interrelated and intercut stories partly inspired by the writings of Jean Genet. They are entitled "Hero," "Horror" and "Homo."

"Hero" is done as a takeoff on

television evening news reports, an amusing satire of reporters trying to find newsworthy angles in a mother's incredible story that her little Richie shot his father and then disappeared up into the sky.

Haynes explores another film genre, the "B" horror movie of the 30's and 40's in "Horror," a sci-fi melodrama about a scientist who isolates the sources of the sex drive. The scientist becomes the "Leper Sex Killer" when he accidentally drinks his own potion. Filmed in black and white from grotesque angles, "Horror" suggests parallels to the Gay condition and homosexuality as the scientist roams the world as a pus dripping horror who frightens others away. Can love save him?

"Homo" is set in a prison, its story composed of elements taken from Genet's *Our Lady of the Flowers*, *Thief's Journal* and *Miracle of the Rose*. It is rendered in neo-realistic style showing prison life where "fags" are brutally used while men who love one another fear to show their feeling lest they be identified as "fags" themselves. Correspondences to life outside prison will be evident to the alert viewer.

Poison bends and explores different levels of reality and the three stories work together thematically to suggest the games that people play, the price paid for sexual and social deviance and the joy and violence of love.

Todd Haynes' *Poison* plays at the Downer on Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11.

Without You I'm Nothing

Without you I'm Nothing is the comedic version of Sandra Bernhard's performance piece that attracted a large Lesbian following in its long New York run. Unfortunately, its place in a Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is highly questionable as it has only passing references to Lesbianism.



SANDRA BERNHARD

Anyone who grew to love Bernhard through her hilarious appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman* will probably be disappointed with *Without you I'm Nothing*. Instead of witty repartee, Bernhard's strength, she attempts to portray a series of flamboyant characters.

Unlike her inspiration, comedic genius and human chameleon Lily Tomlin, Bernhard makes no effort to become these characters: Etta James, Diana Ross, a Sandra Dee type. Instead, she satirizes them mercilessly. The result is narcissistic and remarkably unfunny.

The highlight of the film, if indeed there is one, is her American flag rendition of Prince's "Little Red Corvette."

Without You I'm Nothing plays at the Downer Theatre March 27 and 28 at midnight and at Madison's Majestic April 3 at midnight.

(Ed. Note: Woodrow Thalberg contributed to this article.)

Kurasawa's Haunting 'Rhapsody' Explores Memory, History, Change

By Woodrow Thalberg

At the 1990 Academy Awards Steven Spielberg introduced Akira Kurosawa as "the world's greatest living filmmaker." After reviewing *Rhapsody in August*, I agree. Although it will not be a staple of 20th Century film classics like his landmarks *Rashomon*, *Ikiru* and *Seven Samurai*, or his 1985 masterpiece *Ran*, it is must viewing for anyone who appreciates Japanese film.

Rhapsody in August is the story of four cousins who come to spend the Summer of 1990 with their grandmother, Kane, on her tiny farm outside Nagasaki. Their grandfather was killed in the atomic blast. They know nothing of him or of the war, which their parents want to forget. Their grandmother can't forget. They become fascinated by her tales of the war and their family of long ago.

Many themes run through *Rhapsody in August* concurrently: the generation gap, religious devotion, familial duty, the loss of loved ones, Japanese-American relations, the Japanese heritage. They all have a common reference point: the atomic bomb. The bomb has been the subject of numerous films, but this is Kurosawa's only statement on it. Alain Renais' maudlin and overrated *Hiroshima Mon Amour* pales in comparison.

The site, Nagasaki, is significant. Unlike Hiroshima, Nagasaki plays down its nuclear past, so much so that on a recent European talk show the mayor of Nagasaki was asked by a caller if his town was bombed during the war! It is ignorance of history — the world's, a nation's, a family's and one's own (even Kane doesn't know her own brother) — that is at the heart of *Rhapsody in August*.

In Claude Lanzmann's nine hour Holocaust documentary *Shoah*, Lanzmann asks a Polish woman if she remembers the name of the Jewish family who before the war lived in the house she now occupies. The woman says she has forgotten. Lanzmann concludes: "It is a great sin to forget." Kurosawa agrees.

When a senile Kane retreats into the past to look for bombing victims, she is

Author of George Cukor Study To Appear At Webster's March 24

GEORGE CUKOR: A DOUBLE LIFE

By Patrick McGilligan
St. Martins, \$24.95, 404 pp.
By Carl Szatmary

Even the mere mention of the name of George Cukor to most avid moviegoers evokes a flood of Hollywood memories from the fabled "Golden Era." Cukor belonged to the Hollywood of legend. And Cukor was the director of legend, the man responsible for some of the most sparkling Hollywood classics: *The Philadelphia Story*, *Camille*, *Gaslight*, *A Star is Born*, and *My Fair Lady* among many, many others.

Yet, according to Patrick McGilligan in his recent biography, *George Cukor: A Double Life*, this director of the stars was fired from Hollywood's biggest movie ever, *Gone With The Wind*, because he was a homosexual.

By today's standards of scandalous, "tell-all" Hollywood bios, *A Double Life* emerges as witty and sophisticated as one imagines Cukor himself to have been. Cukor's story is remarkable. His homosexuality was an open secret in Hollywood.

His genius with working with difficult actresses, his string of successful romantic comedies, his reputation as the "classiest director" in Hollywood all enabled Cukor to transcend the usual rules, including a morality clause that was an inevitable part of all MGM contracts.

After briefly sketching Cukor's youth and early theatrical days, McGilligan swiftly draws the reader into the heady days of Hollywood. By 1936, Cukor was well established as one of the leading hosts of Hollywood.

Yet beneath the successful facade is George Cukor, the man. Drawing upon accounts from longtime friends and co-workers, McGilligan weaves the portrait of a man often at odds with the Hollywood system and with himself.

But, while McGilligan teases us with the image of Cukor and Somerset Maugham cruising sailor boys in Nice and other stories, there is an unfortunate reticence to delve below the surface of amusing anecdotes to explore this key aspect of this very complex man.

Where *A Double Life* really excels is in its delicious readability. McGilligan has amassed an impressive arsenal of gossip,

atoning for her family, nation, and world, which have all chosen to forget. Nonetheless, Kurosawa concludes, forgetting is inescapable.

In a key scene, three of the children make a pilgrimage to Nagasaki. Upon return, they discard their American T-shirts for Japanese T-shirts, but they are still wearing T-shirts, while their grandmother wears traditional Japanese clothing. By the next day, they are back to their American clothes. Their pilgrimage discovery was genuine, but limited and fleeting. Like contemporary Japan, they will never make more than a token recovery of their Japanese heritage. Of course this is sad, but Kurosawa, unlike Lanzmann, never falls to utter despair.

Rhapsody in August is yet another Kurosawa masterpiece. The cinematography is outstanding and includes the stunning Japanese skyscrapers we expect from Kurosawa. The acting is superb. Eighty-seven year-old Sachiko Murase gives a virtuoso performance as the grandmother Kane. A film star since the silent era, she also has been a leading actress of Japanese avant-garde theatre for nearly seventy years.

I have one problem with *Rhapsody in August*. We are asked to believe that Richard Gere is half-Japanese! This is ridiculous, but we come to see that Gere's character, even though he is supposedly half-Japanese, represents America. So, symbolically at least, he isn't such an absurd choice.

This film was completed well before the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, George Bush's barf bag trip to Tokyo, or the current round of mutual America- and Japan-bashing. Its theme of Japanese and American reconciliation has become even more relevant.

Since *Cinema Paradiso's* breakthrough, there has been a steady decline in support for foreign films. *Rhapsody in August* merits support. Remember, subtitles can't hurt you! It plays at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre through March 26 and at Madison's Majestic Theatre March 20-April 2.

amusing stories and choice bits of Hollywood lore, but without losing focus on his subject.

The story of living openly as a homosexual, without compromise, even in the fairy-tale world that was Hollywood in the 1930's and '40's is an impressive achievement.

Author Appearance

Patrick McGilligan will appear at Webster's Books and Cafe, 2559 N. Downer Avenue on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Cukor, his book, as well as to present a program of clips from Cukor's films. For more information call Webster's at (414) 332-9560.

'Tocks' Ballet In Madison

By Melissa McPheeters

[Madison]- Hair chest and rippling biceps abound when the all-male corps of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo presents its playful, entertaining spoof on ballet at the Madison Civic Center on April 3 at 8:00 p.m. The company last performed to an enthusiastic Civic Center audience in March, 1985.

Founded in 1974 by a group of ballet enthusiasts to parody classical ballet, "The Trocks" quickly garnered a major critical essay by Arlene Croce in the *New Yorker*. Reviews in the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice* established the company as an artistic and popular success.

Since those beginnings, The Trocks have proven themselves to be a major dance phenomenon throughout the world. "The Trocks are to dance what Victor Borge is to music; only people with an abiding love of an art form could create such acute, rib-tickling satire," writes Janice Berman of *New York Newsday*.

Tickets are \$18, \$15, \$12 and \$9 and are available at 211 State Street in Madison, or by calling (608) 266-9055, ((608) 267-2674 teletypewriter). Groups of 20 or more receive \$2.50 discount off each ticket. For group information call (608) 266-9055 and ask for the sales manager.

Seating for persons in wheelchairs and with vision impairments is available. Persons with hearing impairments may request the use of assistive listening devices from the box office.

Plans For June 14 Pride Festival In Milwaukee Move Forward

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee is moving ahead with exciting plans for this year's celebration June 14, and some new faces have joined the committee to help.

In the past month, MLGPC elected six new members, Miriam Ben-Shalom, Regina Henry, Roberta Niggemeier, Bill Meunier, Louis Santaniello, and Gary Wells. Alan Stroik has also been elected President, replacing Scott Gunkel who resigned to concentrate on his duties as President of the Lambda Rights Network.

The committee has been busy laying plans for this year's festivities, scheduled for Sunday, June 14th. In a major change from previous years, the group unanimously decided to alter the emphasis of the Pride Week activities, renaming the rally following the parade, Pride Fest.

"The idea is to celebrate all of the diverse elements of the Gay and Lesbian community," said Pride Fest co-chair Bill Meunier. Meunier, who has over seven years of Festival organizing experience, is planning an event that will do just that. "Certainly we will have the parade in the same way that we have done it in the past, but many people in our community aren't into marching. We are going to put on a festival that will offer something for everyone."

Festival plans currently include an Art Fair, continuous entertainment, an area for groups like the Cream City Squares, (Milwaukee's square dancing club) to show their skills and teach others, games, a raffle, food and much more.

In another change, MLGPC will be doing the festival food and drinks itself. "Putting on a festival is a major

undertaking," said Pride Fest Co-Chair Roberta Niggemeier, "We want to use the revenue food and beverage sales generate to reduce our dependence on fundraising."

Fundraising for this year's events continues. MLGPC is embarking on a major fundraising campaign called, "Vote For Pride."

Gary Wells, Fundraising Co-ordinator, said "We want to give people a chance to vote for Pride this election year." From now until April 7th, MLGPC volunteers will be conducting a phone campaign to solicit donations. The weekend of April 3-4, "Campaign Headquarters" will be set up at a number of Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay bars to assist volunteers who will request donations.

Those who "Vote for Pride" with a donation will receive an "I Voted For Pride" button. The campaign concludes with an Tuesday April 7th, election night party, a \$5.00 Beer Bust complete with City, County and State Election returns, entertainment and, of course, the returns on the Vote For Pride campaign.

The North Star Rodeo Association and the Cream City Squares will be holding a fundraiser at the 3 B's on Saturday April 11th. A \$3.00 donation is requested. Raffles, square dancing and other activities will be featured at this event which begins at 8:00. The 3 B's Bar is located at 1753 S. Kinnickinnic.

If you wish to get involved, the Pride Committee can use help in a variety of ways, especially raising funds and helping at the festival. The Committee is also looking for entertainers and artists for Pride Fest '92. For more information call (414) 263-7187.

Country Dance Set to Benefit Pride Committee

[Milwaukee]- The North Star Gay Rodeo Association (NSGRA) plans an exciting night of country/western dancing and special events, Saturday, April 11, from 8:00 p.m. to close at the 3B's Bar, 1753 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. Proceeds will be donated to the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee.

"Everyone is invited to come for a fun evening," said Randy Elliott, a Milwaukee member of NSGRA. In addition to country/western dancing, there will be indoor rodeo games, line dance and square dance exhibitions, and raffle prizes. The cover charge will be \$3.00.

"Whether you're a long-time country/western and rodeo fan, or if you're just curious, you're sure to have a great Saturday night," Elliott added. "The 'Country Pride' dance and party is being promoted in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota, and we expect an excellent turnout."

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Assembly Committee Endorses Universal Health Care Bill

[Madison]- The Assembly Special Committee on Reform of Health Insurance has voted 8 to 3 in favor of Assembly Bill 555, creating the Wisconsin Universal Health Plan, sponsored by State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

The vote is a significant development for those with AIDS and HIV infection who are faced with enormous medical and many non-covered expenses under the current system of reliance upon private health insurance.

The bill would create a single-payer system guaranteeing access to health care for all Wisconsin residents. Clarenbach is the chief sponsor of the bill, developed by the Coalition for Wisconsin Health, which represents a broad spectrum of consumer, senior citizen, religious and labor groups.

"The Universal Health Plan may not pass both houses of the legislature and be signed by the Governor in the few short weeks we have left in this session, but this vote is significant nonetheless," Clarenbach said.

"The Legislature is taking other important, limited steps to improve the system," he said. "But we should also give the public a sense of where we're going in terms of long-term health care reform, and that's where the Universal Health Plan comes in."

Provisions of the Bill

Under the bill, individuals would continue to have the right to receive from the health provider of their choice. But rather than billing the patient or an insurance company, the provider would be reimbursed by the state plan.

Direct billing of patients would be eliminated.

The savings from eliminating the complex paperwork and administrative duplication of the current system would help meet the cost of covering those who currently have no private insurance.

Under the plan's funding mechanism, instead of paying premiums for private health insurance, individuals and employers would contribute to the state plan based on their ability to pay.

Medical costs would be controlled by requiring providers to negotiate payment levels with the plan's administrators.

"This plan recognizes that, just like public education or police protection, health care is something we should provide everyone, regardless of income," Clarenbach said. "And it does so in a way that promotes efficiency, preserves choice and controls costs."

Women's Video Screenings Set For April 4

[Milwaukee]- The premiere showings of *Eroticaah* and *Street Wise*, two new videos by Dena Aronson and Evelyn Patricia Terry, will take place at Walker's Point Center for the Arts on Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Walker's Point Center for the Arts is located at S. 9th Street and National Avenue. General admission is \$3; students, \$2.



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LETTERS

Baldwin, Yes!

TO THE EDITOR:

On Wednesday, February 26, 1992, the membership of the Ten Percent Society, the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual student organization, voted to endorse incumbent Supervisor Tammy Baldwin in her re-election bid for the office of Dane County Supervisor, District 8. The election will be held on April 7, 1992. She is opposed by UW student and area-resident Jim Bishop. District 8 includes most of the UW-Madison campus and the State Street and Langdon Street neighborhoods. The vote in favor of the endorsement was unanimous.

Supervisor Baldwin has compiled an excellent record in her six years on the County Board since she first came into office while a first year law student at the UW in 1986. She currently serves as the Chairwoman of the Human Services Board. She will also appear in the Democratic primary for the Wisconsin State Assembly, to fill the seat which will be vacated by Assemblyman David Clarenbach. If she wins a seat in the Assembly, she will be the highest-ranking openly Lesbian official in Wisconsin.

— Ten Percent Society
Madison

Act Up!

TO THE EDITOR:

ACT UP Milwaukee is conducting a campaign to force politicians to address AIDS issues this political season. We are asking *Wisconsin Light* readers to go to candidate debates and ask pointed questions.

We also encourage readers to call the Grac campaign (414-475-1222) and the Norquist campaign (414-483-0411) and ask what they would do as Mayor to end the AIDS crisis (ask about their stands on clean needle exchange, anonymous testing, condom distribution and TB outbreaks in Milwaukee jails that may be AIDS-related).

Candidates for US Senate include Jim Moody, Russ Feingold, and Bob Kasten. The major Presidential candidates are Brown, Clinton, Tsongas, Bush and Buchanan.

ACT UP is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power. We are a direct action group that meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at All Saints Cathedral, 816 E. Juneau. Call us at (414) 769-8708 to find out how you can help.

— Patrick Flaherty
ACT UP Milwaukee

Thanks

TO THE EDITOR:

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) wishes to thank Jerry Johnson and Allen Eslinger for hosting and coordinating "Mardi Gras '92" sponsored by *In Step* and *Wisconsin Light*.

Through their efforts "Mardi Gras '92" was the largest single fundraiser for MLGPC to date, as well as one of the social highlights of the year.

It is through community support such as theirs that MLGPC is able to continue its efforts to provide a showcase of community cultural events which, through celebration, promote an understanding of the beauty of the diversity of who and what we are.

We look forward to next year's event in anticipation of the even larger success that it will be.

— Dennis Bunch
Acting President, MLGPC

Homophobia Kills

TO THE EDITOR:

Those of you interested in the sickness/evil of Jeffrey Dahmer followed the trial in the news as I did.

The judge, in his comments after sentencing, came to the same conclusion I did very early in the trial: Dahmer is a homophobic homosexual who cannot deal with his Gayness.

This points up what P-FLAG and I have been saying all along: homophobia KILLS! Poison spewed out by the likes of WISN resident bigot Mark Belling, most Fundamentalist clergy and many members of society in general **poisons minds!** When, as in Dahmer's case, such a poisoned mind happens to be homosexual, the result can be disaster! When he killed his victims, he was symbolically killing the "bad" part of himself — his homosexuality. When he ate body parts, he was, in his own warped way, keeping these "friends" from leaving him, but that's another story.

If our sick, homophobic society could bring itself to accept homosexuals and others who "don't fit the mold," it is my firm conviction that Dahmer would never have gone on his murderous spree.

Yes, he is sick, very sick, and his sickness played a major role in his actions, but I feel that it was his homophobia which caused his loneliness to become tragic for so many others.

This is the strongest argument I know for

re-educating the bigoted segment of society, particularly the clergy, who spew homophobic poison from the pulpits, and **eliminating the so-called "Reparative Ministries"!** I can see no greater justification for us to redouble our efforts to re-educate our homophobic society to **accept** those we do not understand, to **love** those who are different from ourselves as the Bible tells us over and over again!

Let us pray that the psychiatrists who study him will learn enough from him that we will be able to spot and help the next "Dahmer" before things degenerate to disaster as they did with him.

"I have never been especially impressed," writes columnist Ellen Goodman, "by the heroics of people who are convinced they are about to change the world. I am more awed by those who struggle to make one small difference after another."

— Tamara M. Iverson
Sheboygan

Editor's Note: The writer is the Editor of *Lakeshore FLAG*, the monthly newsletter of the Lakeshore chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

Abortion Rights March On D.C. Set For April 5

[Milwaukee]- On Sunday, April 5, thousands of members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and other feminist and progressive activists from the U.S. and other countries will march and rally in Washington, D.C. in support of reproductive choice.

NOW considers this action to be particularly vital since the U.S. Supreme Court seems virtually certain to gut or overturn *Roe v. Wade* in the very near future.

In the Milwaukee area, the local affiliate of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) is arranging transportation for anyone who wishes to go to the march and rally. Buses will leave Milwaukee on Saturday, April 4, and return on Monday, April 6. Round trip fare is \$80. Alternative transportation may also be available. For reservations or more information, call NARAL at (414) 332-4664.

Lambda Network Gives Awards March 24

[Milwaukee]- The Lambda Rights Network (LRN) will bestow its Cream City Awards at its annual meeting to be held Tuesday, March 24, 1992 in the Colonial Room of the Wisconsin Hotel beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited.

The awards are given to groups or individuals for conspicuous service to the Gay and Lesbian community. Started by the now defunct Cream City Business Association in 1984, the awards are now sponsored by LRN.

There are five awards: The Cream City Brick Pace Setter Award; The Torch Bearer Award; The Group Spirit Award; the President's Award and the Spotlight Award.

Last year's winners included Jamakaya, News Editor for *Wisconsin Light*, Dave Begel, then spokesperson for the Milwaukee Public Schools and Club MUSE, a social support group for Black Lesbian and Gay people.

For further information, call (414) 871-4839.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

Some legal observers sympathetic to the rights of Gay people were pleased by the decisions. They noted that had the Hibernians been forced to accept the Gay contingent against their wishes it might have created a precedent whereby the annual Gay Pride Parade would be compelled to include skinheads, religious fundamentalists or groups hostile to its purposes.

'Saddest St. Patrick's Day Ever'

Despite the rulings, before the protest and parade on March 17, Anne Maguire of

ILGO expressed pride and determination. She told CBS: "Boston had its first Gay contingent. In Cork, [Ireland] Gays came out for the first time. Everywhere — we are not going to stay in the closet. We're going to be seen and we're going to be visible."

But after sitting on the sidelines of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Maguire confessed to the *New York Times*: "There was nothing joyful. Nothing at all. This is the saddest St. Patrick's Day I ever had."

Meanwhile, the *New York Times* editorialized against the Hibernians' "hateful" discrimination: "What a tawdry tribute to a proud people who themselves have surmounted centuries of discrimination... The Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed more than 400 years ago in Ireland to defend civil and religious liberties. Its refusal to accept human differences today is an embarrassment to the traditions of the Irish people, and to a city that still stands for tolerance."

Gays Attacked in Boston

The St. Patrick's celebration took an ugly turn in South Boston where, for the first time, a small contingent of Irish Gays and Lesbians were allowed to participate in the annual parade which was held on Sunday, March 15.

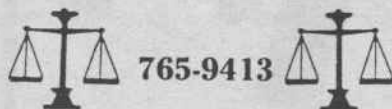
The Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Pride Committee was allowed to join after Superior Court Judge Hiller Zobel ruled that the parade's organizers could not interfere with the group's rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

Despite the protection of a motorcycle escort of riot-clad police officers, smoke bombs, rocks and beer cans were thrown at the peaceful Gay contingent. Homophobic slurs were shouted at them along the entire parade route, and at least eight people were arrested for disorderly conduct.

In a case of *deja vu* for many residents of "Southie," as the largely white enclave of South Boston is called, memories of the racial violence brought

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on by court-ordered busing twenty years ago seemed to come alive again.

The Irish Gay and Bisexual group plans to march again next year and hopes to have an even larger contingent.

Milwaukee's St. Pat's Parade

Milwaukee's Queer Nationals marched near Mayor Norquist as the St. Patrick's Parade proceeded from the city of Milwaukee west on North Avenue into Wauwatosa. Noting that unlike the Gay Pride Parade, the St. Pat's Parade received festival funding from the city of Milwaukee, the Queer Nationals serenaded the mayor with chants of "As long as it's a straight fest, John thinks it's a great fest!"

Some spectators expressed interest and amusement in the "Veto Norquist" stickers being handed out, and no one showed hostility toward the Gay marchers even when they exhibited affection for each other by holding hands.

Queer Nation/Milwaukee will meet on Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Milwaukee Public Library at 814 W. Wisconsin Avenue.

Topics for discussion include: QN's participation in this year's Lesbian/Gay pride Festival; possible action against a new Cracker Barrel Restaurant opening soon in Kenosha; and the boycott of United Way over its funding of the Boy Scouts of America.

Queer Nation can be contacted at (414) 384-3911.

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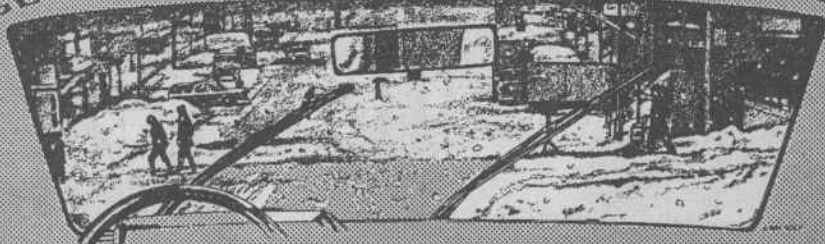
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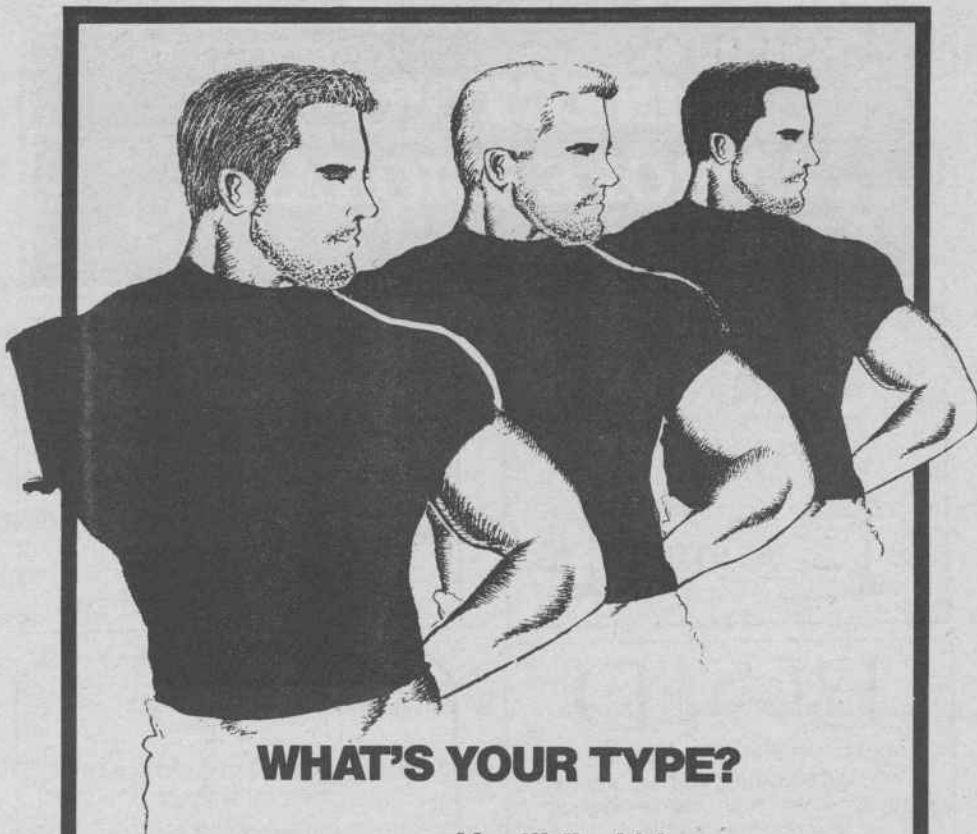
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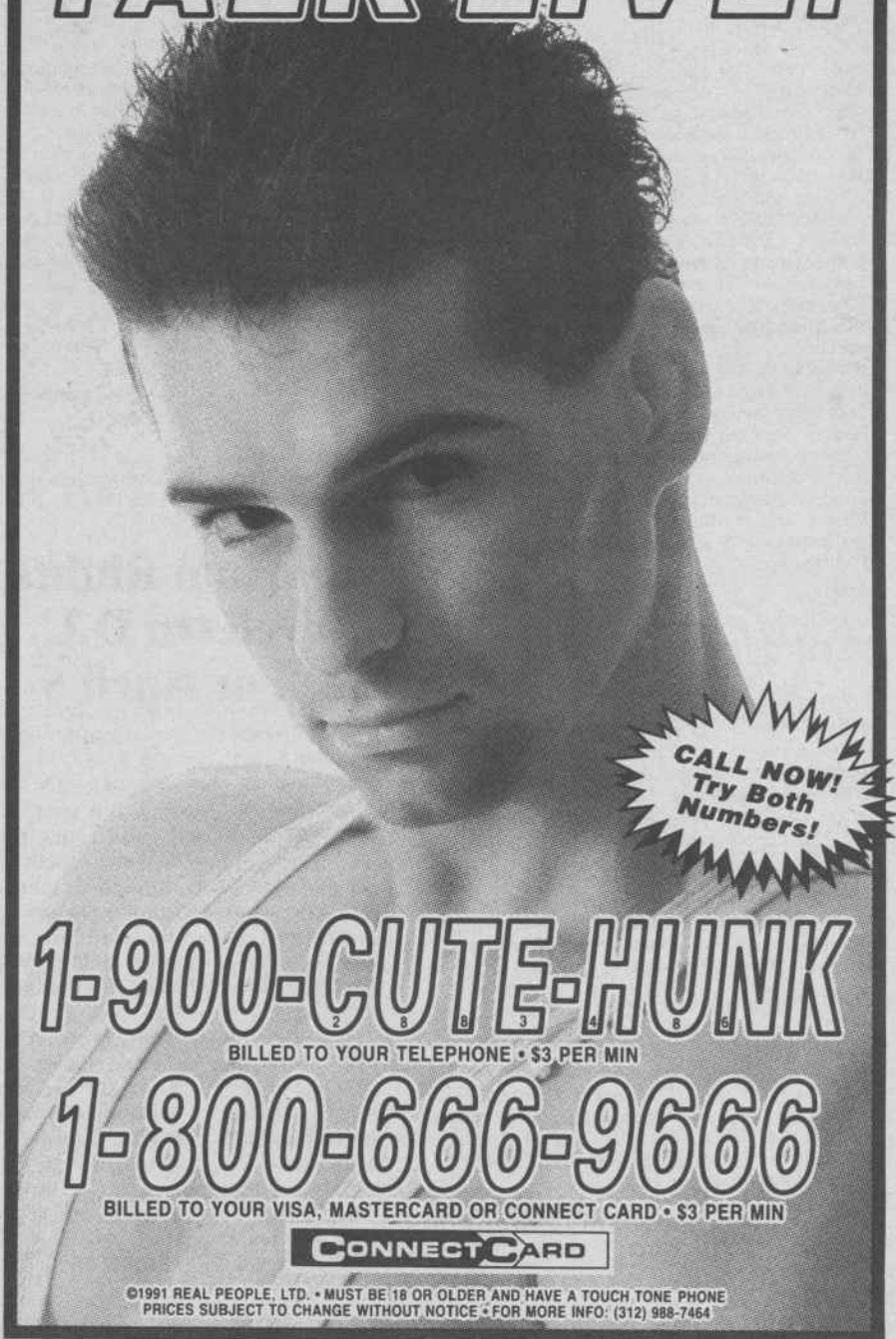
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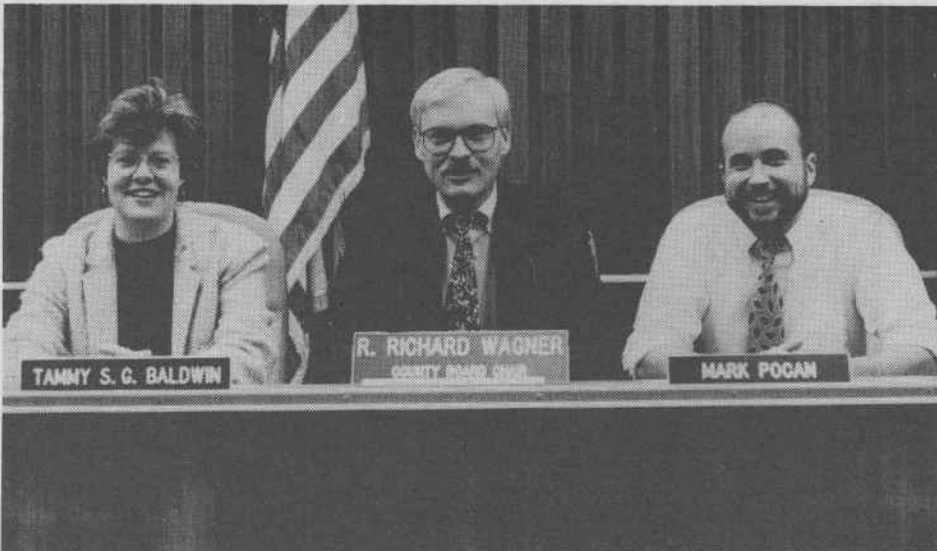
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DANE COUNTY'S GAY SUPES— Tammy Baldwin, Dick Wagner and Mark Pocan constitute the openly Gay contingent on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Only Baldwin faces a challenge in the April 7 election.

MADISON

Continued from Page 1

Thanks in part to eleventh hour radio spots featuring the voice of the "outlawed" Easter Bunny, CARE candidates were swept ahead in the momentum of a voter backlash last Spring. Six year incumbent Mary Kay Baum, a progressive icon, was defeated by CARE-candidate Greg Samp, and board president Nan Brien only narrowly escaped defeat (despite the fact that she was running against a candidate who had been declared ineligible for office due to a conflict of interest with his state job).

In the wake of these developments, many Gay and Lesbian teachers and administrators have felt a return to a climate of fear. Some have even faced the possibility of having their children taught by blatant homophobes who surfaced during the 1990 election.

Only the Names Have Changed

While many criticize CARE's single issue approach to school issues and their demagogic exploitation of "traditional family" themes, most observers agree that they are a force to be reckoned with. Though relatively small in number, they are well organized and have a large mailing list and phone network that effectively mobilizes their forces among Madison's burgeoning fundamentalist congregations.

This is all happening at a time when the schools and the community are becoming increasingly diverse racially and economically — and at a time when a large Lesbian and Gay baby boom means that large numbers of children from alternative families will be reaching school age. However, there is fear that a perceived conservative backlash will cause administrators to turn back the clock on programs that encourage an appreciation for the full diversity of families who live in Madison.

"Two years ago we learned that we could really make a difference in school board elections," a Lesbian parent told this reporter, "but somehow we've forgotten that. The archconservative forces are frighteningly well organized, so we've got to be, too. Even though they're not foolish enough to be vocal about it this time around, CARE clearly doesn't care about our families."

"Over the long term, we've got to get better organized," she added. "And in the short term, it's important for everyone who cares about the future of our children to get out and vote for Fullin, Smith and Dvorak on April 7th."

Crucial County Board Election

Currently, progressives hold about a four vote majority on the Dane County Board — a margin that could be lost if well-organized conservative forces have their way on April 7th. One consequence if the conservatives gain: openly Gay Dane County Supervisor Dick Wagner could lose the important post of Dane County Board Chair.

"Most races represent a fairly sharp choice between conservative and relatively progressive candidates," says openly Gay Dane County Supervisor Mark Pocan, who notes that 23 of the board's 39 positions are being contested. Of the three members of the openly Lesbian and Gay delegation on the county board, neither Pocan nor Wagner faces a re-election challenge. However, both men are working hard on other campaigns to retain a progressive majority.

Openly Lesbian Dane County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, is seeking a fourth term on the board, running from a district that includes much of the University of Wisconsin and the Langdon Street area. Her 20-year-old opponent, who has received the active support of the Republican Party, is running a mostly negative campaign, saying that Baldwin has lost touch with her constituents.

Baldwin, however, cites numerous supporters, including many inside of student government, who feel she has done an excellent job representing their district.

Baldwin, who will also be on the ballot in the Fall as a candidate for the state assembly, plans to take the unusual step of holding both offices simultaneously if elected to both.

"During my tenure on the county board, the state's shrinking commitment to the people of this county has become very clear. Serving in both offices would give me the opportunity to influence the state decision-making process while remaining in touch with grassroots concerns at the county level," Baldwin said.

Baldwin, a local attorney and lifelong Madison resident, is currently the fourth ranking member of the Dane County board. She is chair of the Human Services Board and is the founder and chair of the county's AIDS Task Force.

John Neess

Openly Gay candidate John Neess is seeking his first term on the county board, representing a fragmented suburban district that includes Maple Bluff, Shorewood Hills and portions of Middletown and the Town of Westport. Neess is currently a Village Trustee in Shorewood Hills, where he serves as chair of the Parks Committee.

Neess, 66, has recently retired after serving 39 years as a UW professor. A biologist and ecologist who has taken his academic interests with him into the political arena, Neess had also served as the director of the Wisconsin Environmental Decade for nine years.

Neess has also worked locally for the New Harvest Foundation, the United, and Community Shares of Wisconsin. He is a volunteer emergency medical technician on the Shorewood Hills ambulance squad.

Pocan expects to see a high level of voter interest in this year's campaign due to the coinciding of county board elections with the presidential primary. In an election where many face a clear-cut choice, he encourages Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and their supporters to call their local candidates on their stands on the issues. Better yet, he says, it's important to find a way to support progressive candidates in the days remaining before the election.

With the recent downsizing of the board from 41 to 39 seats and population shifts, some voters may find themselves in a different district. Dane County residents can call the County Clerk at (608) 266-4121 or the City of Madison clerk at (608) 266-4601 for information about their voting district.

Wisconsin law makes voter registration a very simple process. Voters need only produce a document that verifies their residency of the word of another voter who is registered in that district.

For information about Tammy Baldwin's campaign, call (608) 258-9298. For information on John Neess's race, call Mark Pocan at (608) 256-6214.

INSTINCT

Continued from Page 1

include Catherine's jealous Lesbian lover Roxy and Nick's recent lover Beth, a police psychologist whose own murky bisexual past is eventually exposed.

While the sexual orientation of the women isn't foregrounded, particularly in the initial segment of the film, it becomes an increasingly significant element as the overwrought plot unwinds. It will be apparent to a Lesbian and Gay audience and to other astute moviegoers that nothing in this film would make any sense if sexuality — specifically queer sexuality — was not an issue. This film is actually held together by what it purports not to have. (No wonder Verhoeven thought

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☐ April 2; ☐ April 16; ☐ April 30; ☐ May 14; ☐ May 28

script changes would damage its integrity.)

Lesbianism = Deviance

On a background level, Lesbian sexuality functions simply as a marker of deviance and transgression, and of potential treachery to men — these women could be capable of anything. On a more active level, it is reliance on stereotypes of Lesbians (pathological man-haters who resent and compete with men) that ends up doing much of the work of this film and serves to make the ludicrous seem credible.

Because of a straight audience's presumed willingness to believe the most tacky things about Lesbians — or at the least its willingness to suspend disbelief of those things — there is no need to provide substantial motivation for these female characters' behavior, no matter how outrageous or incredible.

Is it really a big surprise to discover that when Catherine's Lesbian lover Roxy was a teenager, she brutally murdered her little brothers, since the boys in the family were getting so much attention? ("Gee, sure, that sounds like something a young killer-dyke might do.")

Though it can be argued that two of the women are bisexual, it is the "Lesbian" aspect of their sexuality that makes them sinister and suspect.

Misogyny

There are no good women in this film, period. And coincidentally (!) there are no clearly heterosexual women. In fairness, the men are no role models either, including our "hero" Nick. But being a fool with low impulse control may be his worst fault, which still looks good in relation to homicidal psychopaths. All things considered, it doesn't take much effort to label the tone of this film as misogynous.

In fact, **Basic Instinct** reads like a soft porn noir male backlash against recent reports of women's favorite sexual fantasies (per Masters and Johnson and Nancy Friday): sex with another woman and "women on top." This film could

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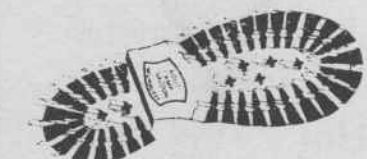
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Organizations

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Milwaukee Activists Advise Cops On Community-Oriented Policing

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]—Jeffrey Dahmer was a watershed. Dahmer crossed over all lines. What he did, forced the churches, the police, the minority communities, including the Lesbian and Gay community, and the entire City of Milwaukee to look at themselves," Stephanie Hume told *Wisconsin Light*.

Hume is an open Lesbian, a member of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), the Lavender Network, and a representative of Milwaukee's Gay community to the Community Oriented Policing Coalition (COPC).



STEPHANIE HUME

COPC has as its main goal sensitizing police to the needs of the various minority communities and Milwaukee neighborhoods.

The germ of the idea for COPC, said Hume, came in July, 1991 after the news of the Dahmer murders broke. Minority communities were "outraged" at the way the police had handled Dahmer and were especially angered at their mishandling of the Konerak Sinthasomphone incident.

Bridge to Other Groups

Out of this came the Community Action Coalition (CAC). CAC, Hume said, was the "first bridge built by Lesbians and Gays to reach other minority communities."

Immediately, CAC faced two major problems. One, according to Hume, was that its agenda was too broadly based. "It was not realistic," she said. The second was more vague, but equally real. As the Dahmer crisis lessened, a "struggle for parity" grew among minority organizations. Groups tended to fall back on their own interests.

For example, Hume said that since three quarters of the members of CAC's steering committee were Lesbian or Gay, "some concern" developed among other minority members over Gay/Lesbian power.

CAC lasted until the end of October, 1991. In the meantime — mid-October — the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission Report on Police-Community Relations was issued. Among its recommendations was the inauguration of community oriented policing.

In response to this, CAC before it ended, agreed to form COPC.

A part of COPC is the Community/Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) Committee on Community Oriented Policing. Hume is the Lesbian/Gay representative on this Committee.

Chief Arreola's Pledge

Hume describes this committee as an "advisory group" to the police. She said Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola has said that if he turns a Committee recommendation down, he will meet with Committee members to discuss his reasons. The Committee is in the process of setting up a meeting with the Police Chief and the Fire and Police Commission to discuss their aims and goals.

Hume speaks highly of the professionalism of the police officers with whom she is working in this volunteer capacity. Of the current make-up of the police force she noted that many of the officers were white males. They are "middle class people," she said. "They have that mind-set. It's how they judge the outside world."

But she is highly optimistic that things are beginning to change; that better relations are developing between the Lesbian/Gay community and the MPD.

Unit to Monitor Hate Crimes

Part of that effort is the development of the Sensitive Crimes Unit which, as part of its mandate, will handle incidents of hate or bias crimes such as Gay bashings. Gays and Lesbians have lobbied for such a special unit for several years.

The officer coordinating this unit is Deputy Inspector James Koleas and Hume is advising Koleas in that process.

When finally developed, the Sensitive Crimes Unit will be a resource center for officers in the field to help them in dealing with and defining bias crimes. The Unit will also keep records and statistics on bias crimes so that they can be closely monitored.

When established, the Unit will be staffed by professionals, working two shifts a day. These will be people specially trained to deal with bias crimes, domestic and child abuse, missing persons reports and sexual assaults.

As things are going now, Hume says the proposal will be on Arreola's desk by the beginning of April. From there, it will go to the Fire and Police Commission for final approval.

Hume praises the creation of the new unit and sees important significance for our community. "It will give us a place to call," she said, where we will be able to "talk with people trained to handle" anti-Lesbian/anti-Gay hate crimes. "We're not going to be outsiders anymore," she said.

Get Involved!

But though Hume is optimistic, she is fully aware that the struggle for our rights goes on. She urges Lesbians and Gays to get involved in the struggle for equal rights. "The Gay/Lesbian agenda," she said, "has got to be put out at every time possible: at lunch, at dinner, at meetings, everywhere." She hopes that Lesbians and Gays will refrain from being overly critical. "How we got our foot in the door shouldn't be scrutinized as much as it should be supported," she said.

For more information on working for reforms in the MPD, call Stephanie Hume at (414) 342-8885 or Scott Gunkel at (414) 871-4839.

1992 VOTE FOR PRIDE CAMPAIGN



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