



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Four Star Books May Be Forced To Close

[Madison]—Four Star Books may be forced to close its doors if business does not pick up soon at its new location.

Four Star Books opened at 206 State Street in February of this year. David Smith, the owner, notes "We expected business to double or triple when we moved out of the old store on Henry Street. Unfortunately, business has gone down. If business picks up soon, we may be open for another 20 years, otherwise Madison will go back to having no Gay book store."

Four Star Books is one of the premiere Gay and Lesbian book stores in the Midwest, with the largest selection of Gay books in the state. Four Star is also known for its selection of fiction, mysteries and science fiction. Smith is puzzled by the lack of business. "It's only about a block away from the old location," he said.

Smith admits that one problem is the limited hours at the new location. "We used to be open everyday from 10:00 a.m. to midnight, and the video store still is, but the new book store is open everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Many customers have suggested that the store stay open later, so we will extend our hours until 8:00."

Smith said that it is hard to expand hours when you are trying to hold down costs and survive, but he considers customer suggestions to be very helpful. Ken Ginner is the manager of Four Star Books and he would appreciate any further suggestions from customers on how to improve the book store. He can be reached at (608) 258-8100.

### Video Store Safe

Four Star Books opened in 1985 under the name "Four Star Fiction & Video" at 315 N. Henry Street. Originally a book store with a few videos on the side, the video business grew to become the largest video store in the city. The books were moved out to make room for the video operation, which is now called Four Star Video Heaven. Smith said that the video store is not in danger of closing and carries over 200 Gay and Lesbian videos.

Smith says, "I'll carry anything I can get except outright pornography. I used to carry that too (Gay and Lesbian only) but stopped when the new censorship laws were passed in 1988."

Smith has been a vocal opponent of censorship legislation noting that current law says he is a felon for carrying Gay and Lesbian materials in both his store and video stores, if it is considered obscene.

"People don't realize that the only thing between me and a jail cell or punitive litigation is the interpretation of 'community standards' by local or state law enforcement officials. That's not what I call freedom."

### Book Store May Disappear

Despite this adversity, Smith says he wants to keep this Gay institution in business. "I take great pride in what I have created for this community. It saddens me that the book store may disappear. I lost almost \$30,000 on the book store in 1990, and another \$11,000 in 1991. I have allowed the video store to subsidize the book store since it opened. I consider the \$100,000 I have lost on the book store since 1985 to be money well-spent serving the community."

"The goal has been a self-supporting book store that is not subsidized by the profitable video store. Blockbuster Video is building a huge store this Summer several blocks away, so Four Star Video Heaven is going to lose a lot of business. As a consequence, Four Star Books will have to break even or close," says Smith.

Smith and Ginner are both openly Gay. Smith has been active raising funds for the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), and he won the first Rodney Scheel Award in 1990, which is given by MASN for contributions by members of the business community. Smith started the annual "You Make a Difference Campaign" which now involves over 100 Madison businesses who donate 10 percent of their proceeds to MASN in recognition of World AIDS Day.

## Results of MAP AIDS Survey Indicate Lack of Education



**FIGHTERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**—Feminist author Gloria Steinem, Chief Wilma Mankiller of the Cherokee Nation, and Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Frances Berry spoke about "Achieving Social Justice" to a sold-out crowd at UW-Milwaukee April 23.

## Steinem, Mankiller and Berry Set Future Course for Social Justice

By Jamakaya

"Revolutions, like houses, are built from the bottom up, not from the top down," declared Gloria Steinem.

Saying "no" to passivity and looking to ourselves for leadership were the common themes at an extraordinary lecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee April 23 in which Steinem, Wilma Mankiller and Dr. Mary Frances Berry addressed the topic of "Achieving Social Justice in the 1990's."

Several thousand people attended the high energy event, which received no coverage by the *Milwaukee Journal* or *Sentinel*. The *Wisconsin Light* was there.

Wilma Mankiller

Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee Nation, first regaled the audience with a discussion of her name. "Mankiller" was the common name given to military leaders who protected the tribe. But when recently badgered for the umpteenth time about the origin of her name, Mankiller told the hapless questioner: "I earned it!"

Mankiller's sobering conclusion after pondering "Social Justice in the '90s" was: "Is there any, or where is it? Right now I have the feeling that we're losing ground. We're all losing ground — all of us in this country."

For Native Americans, the primary issue in the '90s, as it has been for centuries, is "survival." Citing poor housing, high rates of unemployment and infant mortality, low education levels and the erosion of Native cultures, Mankiller said: "We face a daunting set of problems, but we're not giving up."

"We're beginning to see things turn around in our communities, not because government policy has changed, not because all the well-meaning social workers have done us any good, but because we finally learned to look internally to our own communities — our own history, our own heritage — and began to look to ourselves for solutions to our problems."

Don't Wait for Prophets

"Everybody keeps waiting for some great prophet to come along and save us, or some President to come along who will be able to articulate the things that we feel," said Mankiller. "I can tell you that's not going to happen. The people who are going to have to lead this country are you and me and other people like us, community by community. We're going to have to take charge."

Mankiller also warned about the divisiveness that inhibits greater social progress for oppressed groups. "There are way too many negative stereotypes about Native American people, about

black people, about Asian people, about Gay and Lesbian people," she said. "We can't possibly begin to work on our problems" until we rid ourselves of these stereotypes and begin to deal with each other as human beings.

"I hope my being here tonight will eliminate any stereotypes you might have about what a Chief looks like," she added wryly.

Our collective motto for the 1990s, declared the defiant Mankiller, is that "We're not going to give up one more inch."

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## Mayor Norquist Denounces Hate Crimes, Bashings

By Bill Meunier

Fulfilling a promise he made to a group of Lesbian and Gay activists who met with him in the wake of his Pride Week funds veto, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist soundly denounced Gay and Lesbian bashings and hate crimes in general in a speech given at the Milwaukee Police Academy.

The Mayor was on hand to announce the awarding of a contract for "Diversification Training" of Milwaukee Police officers. The training is intended to help the Police treat minorities with more sensitivity. The Mayor made it clear that one of his goals for this training is the help end hate crimes.

After defining hate crimes as "... attacks on people because of their racial or ethnic background, because they are Gay or Lesbian or because of their religion," the Mayor said, "I want to say publicly that his city does not tolerate hate crimes. Hate crimes are wrong. They are inexcusable. And they must be treated as what they are Crimes, very serious crimes. This City, including its Police force, is committed to doing everything it can to prevent and investigate hate crimes."

Norquist went on to say that he was concerned "because in Milwaukee we value our differences. People from every background and every walk of life have built this City into the great city it is today. All of us must learn to better appreciate the diversity that makes up Milwaukee."

The idea for the diversification training came from a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by the Mayor in the wake of revelations that the Police had turned a 14 year old boy over to convicted murderer Jeffery Dahmer.

The training will be given to all officers and new recruits. It is being funded by four private donors.

[Milwaukee]— "The Federal Government's AIDS prevention campaign is a miserable failure because it does not deliver the fundamental information that is needed by people at risk for HIV infection. It fails to directly address those who engage in high risk behaviors and fails to promote the real life-saving protection, the use of condoms," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Nelson called the government's "America Responds to AIDS" campaign a "terrible waste of millions of AIDS prevention dollars" and said that the campaign was "fundamentally negligent" in addressing the urgent need for AIDS prevention programs in the 1990's.

### MAP Survey

Nelson's condemnation of the Federal Government's AIDS prevention campaign came as a result of the release of a Milwaukee AIDS Project survey of Gay men and their AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and risk-behaviors.

The MAP survey received state-wide media attention with results that indicate that 50% of Gay men who are sexually active with multiple sex partners do not use condoms. The survey also indicated that Gay men who have a high frequency of sexual activity with 10 or more partners in the past year also do not consistently use condoms.

"How can we expect to have complete compliance with safer sex practices such as condom use when the AIDS prevention media campaign fails to promote condom use," Nelson said. "The good news is that half of Gay men who are sexually active with multiple partners are self-educated and have chosen to change behaviors to protect themselves and their partners," Nelson said.

Nelson went on to say that "I have no doubt that if we had an aggressive national media campaign that promoted condom use and focused on people who are choosing to be sexually active, that condom use would dramatically increase and ultimately hundreds of thousands of lives would be protected."

Nelson was clearly irritated by press accounts that interpreted the MAP survey as a failure among Gay men to take the HIV epidemic seriously.

"When we compare the behavior changes adopted by Gay men in Milwaukee to the risk-behaviors engaged in by heterosexuals and teen-agers in the community, Gay men have been the most successful in adopting safer-sex practices," Nelson explained. "Two thirds of teen-agers in Milwaukee who are sexually active with multiple partners do not use condoms and 60% of heterosexuals with multiple sex partners do not use condoms," Nelson reported.

"No one should doubt how seriously the Gay community takes the AIDS epidemic," Nelson said.

### Survey Results

The MAP survey reported that Gay men were definitely choosing safer-sex practices over sexual activity that posed the highest risk for HIV transmission. 86% of the survey respondents chose oral sex as a primary sexual activity. 56% chose anal intercourse. The condom use rate among those engaging in anal intercourse was extremely high.

"It's clear that the Gay men responding to this survey are making intelligent choices about their sexual practices and the necessity for using condom protection based on the risk-level of the activity," Nelson said.

"These choices are a positive sign that Gay men take AIDS prevention seriously and that the hard work that has been done within the Gay community over the first decade of the AIDS epidemic to explicitly and aggressively promote safer-sex practices has been successful," Nelson said.

TURN TO AIDS, PAGE 11



## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Republican Support for Bush Drops

[Atlanta, GA]-According to a poll conducted by Republicans for Individual Freedoms of their 125 members in the New York and Atlanta chapters, Gay GOP support for President Bush has dropped.

Last July a similar poll showed 84% of Gay Republicans surveyed would vote for the President. The new poll, just released, shows this has dropped to 63%.

When asked to evaluate the Democratic field; 48% said Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton would be the toughest opponent; 32% named former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas; 20% named Jerry Brown, Tom Harkin or Bob Kerry.

### Ground Breaking Aging Conference

[San Francisco, CA]- San Francisco will host a first-of-its-kind conference on issues of concern to aging Lesbians and Gay men on June 22 at the Hotel Nikko. It is sponsored by the American Society on Aging (ASA), a San Francisco-based national association of professionals in the field of aging with almost 9,000 members.

According to Marcia Freedman, Director of Public Information for the ASA, there are at least 3 million Gays and Lesbians over the age of 65 in the U.S.

"Our aim," said Freedman, "is to provide a forum in which aging Lesbians and Gay men can be heard by mainstream service providers, policymakers and planners, as well as by younger Lesbians and Gay men."

For information, contact the ASA at 833 Market Street, Suite 512, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call (415) 882-2910.

### The Other Side of the Closet

[Los Angeles, CA]- According to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the February 24 edition of the *Oprah Winfrey Show* presented Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., author of *The Other Side of the Closet*. Included on the panel were a divorced couple and the husband's new Gay lover. The unresolved anger, resentment and betrayal felt by the former wife showed convincingly some of the problems that occur when a heterosexual marriage is viewed as a cure for homosexuality.

Each of the Gay men had been in long term marriages and was a father. Said the wife, "He looks like my husband, the man that I married, but he's not him anymore." Responded the husband, "In my mind and heart I know now that I was born Gay. I thought getting married would put an end to those desires."

Dr. Buxton, who wrote her book after learning that her husband of 24 years was Gay, served as the program's serious, intelligent and enlightened counselor. Her advice to all couples involved in this type of marriage, an estimated 1,000,000 in America, was not to blame each other, tell the truth about yourself, and don't be deceitful.

### Bush: 'Gays Have No Special Rights'

[Washington, D.C.]-In an Associated Press article quoted in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, President Bush told prominent fundamentalist Christians on April 21 that he was against passing special laws to protect the rights of Gays and Lesbians. Included in the group of fundamentalists were Robert Dugan, Jerry Falwell and Bob Jones of Bob Jones University.

According to other published reports, the delegation told the President that the issue of Lesbian and Gay rights was "far more important than abortion."

Dugan said Bush "volunteered" his position against "special rights for Gays and Lesbians" when the subject was broached, but did not elaborate.

Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, said, "Jerry Falwell and Bob Jones do not represent the mainstream of American Christianity. Polling results indicate that '80% of Americans support equal rights for Lesbians and Gays.'"

### New York Mayor Welcomes Games

[New York, NY]-New York Mayor David Dinkins in the third week in April, formally announced that the Big Apple will be the site of the Gay Games IV in 1994, and urged President Bush to rescind the "misguided HIV exclusionary rule" which prevents people infected with the AIDS virus from visiting the U.S. for more than 10 days or immigrating here.

In welcoming the nine-day event, Dinkins noted that it will draw as many as 15,000 athletes and other participants from 40 countries and is expected to pump \$111 million into the city's economy. As many as half a million spectators are expected to witness events occurring in all five of the city's boroughs.

In addition to the economic benefit, Dinkins said that the games will "promote tolerance, understanding, respect and openness among all people."

### Colorado Gov. Supports Gay Rights

[Denver, CO]- An effort to block future state Gay rights legislation has provoked the ire of Colorado Governor Buddy Romer and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, who said he would personally walk the streets to campaign against the anti-Gay endeavor.

Romer and Webb's comments were made at a benefit for the Colorado AIDS Project, March 29, Associated Press reported. The two lawmakers were responding to an effort by the conservative group, Colorado for Family Values, to place an initiative on the November election ballot that would block the state from enacting any future civil rights legislation relating to Gays.

"We need to rededicate ourselves to education, to healing and to love and consideration for those affected," said Romer at the fund-raiser.

### Bush Challenged by Gay Activist

[Seattle, WA]-Queer Campaign '92 has announced that 1180 signatures of Washington State voters were turned into Secretary of State Ralph Munro on April 10 to place the name of Seattle AIDS/Queer activist, Steve Michael, on the Republican ballot for the May 19th Presidential Preference primary.

"We are in a unique position here in Washington State to send a message to George Bush and the Republican Party," said candidate Michael. "An epidemic which has claimed the lives of over 137,000 Americans continues to be ignored. The number is expected to double in the next two years... and the Republicans are largely responsible."

Michael believes that with "the Democrats falling all over themselves to hand the election to Bush, it becomes obvious that we must begin to work inside the Republican Party. We must do what the 'Christian' right did four years ago."

### D.C. Enacts Domestic Partner Law

[Washington, D.C.]- The District of Columbia City Council overwhelmingly passed a local domestic partnership ordinance April 7 in a 10-to-one vote with two abstentions, reports the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). However, just prior to the vote, local religious leaders — organized by Traditional Values Coalition head Lou Sheldon — launched a vicious last-minute attack against the bill.

The attack came just before the second and final vote on the bill and was conducted by local ministers, the Catholic Church, and Sheldon's group. They condemned the measure as against the "traditional" family.

NGLTF and other members of the D.C. Domestic Partner Coalition mounted a successful campaign of information and education to Council members.

The bill defines a domestic partner as a person with whom an individual maintains a committed relationship, sharing a mutual residence for at least six months prior to becoming partners and during the entire time they are registered as domestic partners. Each partner must be at least 18 years-old, unmarried, and the sole domestic partner of the other person.

D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt has pledged to sign the legislation.

News Briefs are compiled by the Editor from mainstream newspapers and wire services, organizational press releases and Gay and Lesbian papers from across the U.S.



Dan F. Schramm

**LEATHER REIGNS**—The first annual Mr. Wisconsin Drummer '92 contest was held April 18 at Milwaukee's Wreck Room, the contest was won by Madison's Mr. Leather '91 title holder, Bret Shoehart. Shown above from left to right are: Co-host Kay Hallanger, International Ms. Leather '91; First Runner-Up Joe Policarpio of Madison; Contest Winner Bret Shoehart; Co-host Woody Bebout, International Mr. Drummer '91-'92; Pam Meyer of Madison, Ms. Midwest Leather '92. Milwaukeeans Terry Zulsdorf and Mark Taxton were the other contestants.

### Fifth Annual Casino Night to Benefit Cream City Foundation May 31

[Milwaukee]- Many members of the Milwaukee community are looking forward to the Cream City Foundation's (CCF) Fifth Annual Casino Night, to be held this year on Sunday, May 31, 1992 at the South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Drive.

As in past years, doors open at 6:00 p.m. From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. attendees will enjoy a casino-like atmosphere not seen often in Milwaukee. There will be actual casino equipment, including Wisconsin's only full-size roulette wheel. There will be an antique craps table, many blackjacks and other tables, all with professional gaming croupiers.

A buffet and a cash bar will be available with musical entertainment provided throughout the evening. Drawing for the Grand Prize, a pair of round-trip tickets donated by Continental Airlines, will cap the evening.

Tickets are \$10 per person in advance, and \$15 at the door. Each ticket gives the holder one chance to win the Grand Prize.

In addition, area businesses have donated other prizes that will be given away in "mini-raftles" held throughout the evening. These include dinners, hotel accommodations, art work and numerous other items. Miller Beer is also a major

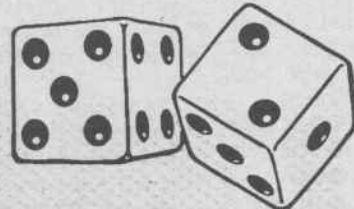
sponsor.

Tickets are on sale at: In Step's office (225 S. 2nd St.); This Is It bar (418 E. Wells St.); the Milwaukee AIDS Project (315 W. Court St.); T.T. Tulip florist (1213 E. Brady St.); Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee office (2821 N. 4th St.); and the CCF's office at 2821 N. 4th St. — Suite 217B. You may also call the CCF office at (414) 265-0880 to order tickets by credit card.

### Women's Bisexual Support Group Meet in Madison

[Madison]-The Bisexual Women's Support Group is a drop-in discussion group for women who consider bisexuality a viable option. We meet bi-weekly, the first and third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison. See *Today in the Union* for room number. Contact us by phone at the UW Campus Women's Center, (608) 262-8093, or write: Bisexual Women's Support Group, P.O. Box 321, Madison, WI 53701.

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## Governor Thompson Wins Activists Award at 'Slammies' Ceremony

By Heather Rhoads

[Madison]-Members of ACT UP/Madison and the Lesbian/Bisexual/Feminist action group, Les/Bi/Femmes, stormed the Wisconsin State Capitol on March 30, 1992 to conduct Madison's First Annual "Slammies" Award Ceremony.

Coinciding with national ACT UP and Queer Nation's Academy Awards protests against Hollywood's defamation and neglect of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual characters and ignorance of the AIDS epidemic, the Madison area activists highlighted local public officials and the media's misogyny, homophobia and AIDSphobia with facetious "Slammy" Awards.

"We have noticed an escalating trend in our society which has developed into an outright hatred of women, queers and people with AIDS," ACT UP member Dale Tegtman explained. "It is irresponsible of the media to exaggerate and exploit stereotypical lies."

### Basic Instinct

Outraged by the portrayal of Lesbian/Bisexual women as psycho-serial killers in the nationwide best-selling movie *Basic Instinct*, Les/Bi/Femmes gave the "Ice Pick" award to the film's director, Paul Verhoeven.

"Through his brilliant direction he convinces us all that women's 'basic instinct' really is to kill men with ice picks," said Slammies presenter Emily Robin-Abbott.

Actor Michael Douglas' innate talent in portraying "your basic fucked-up cop," valorizing rape, murder, alcoholism, drug abuse and bigotry, won him the "Bad Cop, No Doughnut" award. Actress Sharon Stone won the spike-heeled shoe "Glenn Close" award for defending misogynist roles as "great art."

### Madison Slammies

Moving to local incidents of discrimination against women, Les/Bi/Femmes gave a bus transfer, "No Ride Tonight, Honey" award for University of Wisconsin Dean of Students Mary Rouse for her decision to cut funding to the Women's Transit Authority, a local rape-prevention ride service.

ACT UP also honored Department of Corrections Secretary Patrick Fiedler with the "Inmate Abuser of the Year" award for his negligence, deceit and outright cruel and inhumane punishment of prisoners with HIV and AIDS.

ACT UP has targeted Fiedler to improve awareness of AIDS in prisons since the death of an HIV-positive inmate at Waupun Correctional Institute in 1990.

The program's grand finale, the prestigious "Big Prick of the Year" award, went to Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, who has consistently underfunded AIDS projects, refused to mandate the distribution of condoms and dental dams and same-sex safe-sex education in Wisconsin schools and prisons and proposed a "bridal fare" approach to social services which would cut unwed mothers' Aid to Families with Dependent Children funds.

ACT UP member Anita Mann presented Thompson with a gold spray-painted dildo for his "baffling practice of ignoring his own advisors' recommendations" regarding AIDS issues and welfare.

Thompson declined to accept the award. "Come and get it, Tommy," Mann teased. "You know you want it!"

## 'Teen Connection' To Focus on Sexual Orientation

[Milwaukee]- *Teen Connection*, a live, 60-minute call-in television program for teens will air Tuesday, May 19, at 8:00 p.m. The topic will be "Sexual Orientation: Issues Facing Gay and Lesbian Teens." Wisconsin law 118.13 forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation. Wisconsin is one of only four states with the law forbidding such discrimination and is the only state where the law is implemented in schools, grades K-12.

*Teen Connection* is broadcast statewide on Wisconsin Public Television, including Channel 10 in Milwaukee. A toll-free number, 1-800-999-TEEN, is available for viewers to call in to talk to the panel, which will be made up of Gay and Lesbian teens and an adult facilitator.

Portions of the 30-minute television documentary, *Sexual Orientation: Reading Between the Labels* will be shown during this *Teen Connection* program on May 19. *Reading Between the Labels* was produced by NEWIST/CESA 7 and Wisconsin Public Television-Green Bay.

*Sexual Orientation: Reading Between the Labels* will air as part of the *Issues for the '90s* series during the in-school timeslots on Tuesday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m. statewide on Wisconsin Public Television and Channel 36 in Milwaukee, for anyone who wishes to view the program in its entirety.

For information about *Teen Connection*, contact Eileen Littig, NEWIST/CESA 7, IS 1110, UW-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311; (414) 465-2599.

## D.C. Lawyer Requests All Issues Of 'Light' in Brienza vs. Eliason Case

[Washington, D.C.]— *Wisconsin Light* has been contacted about the lawsuit brought by Julie Brienza against United Press International (UPI) and Milwaukee religious broadcaster, Vic Eliason.

On Friday, April 24, *Light* received a phone call from Phil Sechler of the D.C. law firm of Williams and Connolly. Sechler identified himself as representing Eliason in the case. Sechler said he wanted every issue of *Light* that has ever been published (100 issues as of that date). He offered to pay the standard rate for back issues of \$2 per issue. Either that, or he said the issue would be subpoenaed.

Milwaukee legal counsel contacted by *Light* opined that Sechler was on a "fishing expedition."

It should be understood that *Light* is not involved in the suit.

### The Case Continues

According to *The Lambda Update*, the newsletter of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, there has been no major change in the Brienza lawsuit filed against UPI and Eliason.

However, the newsletter says, discovery is proceeding in full force in this novel \$12 million lawsuit.

Brienza is a former U.S. Supreme Court reporter for UPI. She is suing UPI and Eliason for unlawful job termination based on her sexual orientation. The D.C. law firm of Bernabei and Katz and Lambda Legal Defense are co-counsel for Brienza.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in D.C. and alleges sexual orientation discrimination, intentional interference with employment contract, invasion of privacy, and violation of Wisconsin's "hate crime" law, among other claims.

According to the newsletter, discovery has revealed to date that after Eliason, a right-wing homophobe and admitted Christian, learned that Brienza worked for UPI, he contacted other anti-Gay notables and enlisted their help in organizing a campaign to have Brienza terminated.

### UPI Bankrupt

In an unrelated event, UPI has declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy, an act which as added some complexities to the case.

Regarding the bankruptcy issue,

Lambda — represented by Cooperating Attorney Art Ruegger of the Manhattan law firm of Milgrim, Thomajan and Lee and Suzanne Goldberg — recently won a motion in bankruptcy court which will allow discovery to proceed despite UPI's Chapter 11 filing. Lynne Bernabei and Debra Katz are the lead counsel on the case, with assistance from Paula Ettelbrick.

## Volunteers Needed for June 14 Pride Fest

[Milwaukee]- Organizers of Milwaukee Pride Fest need volunteers to assist in the production and operation of the 1992 Fest. The Pride Fest is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 1992 at Juneau Park on Milwaukee's East Side.

"We need organizations, groups or individuals to help us operate concession stands and game booths," said Alan Stroik, Pride Committee President. "In order for the Fest to be completely successful, we hope that we can have volunteers from all sectors of the community."

Anyone wishing to volunteer may call (414) 263-7187 or (414) 384-3911.

### More In Pride

In other Pride news, festival organizers have announced that a 3' x 20' "Our Signatures of Pride" banner will be available for the public to inscribe with a loved one's name, comment or their own name for a \$1 donation. In each succeeding year, a new banner will be made available to sign and previous years' banners will be on display.

A Bazaar will feature crafts, clothing with the 1992 Pride logo and other unique items for sale including rainbow stick flags, pink triangle flags, cloisonne pins and mugs with the pride logo.

Another addition this year will be the "Exhibition Stage" where local entertainers will perform and the Art Fair which will feature a juried art show. Interested artists should contact (414) 933-0761 for information.

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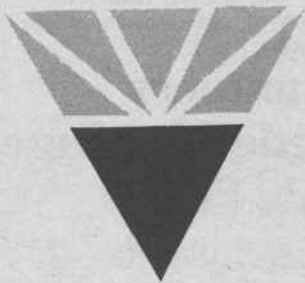
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will find their own way.

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## EDITORIAL

### Shocking Acquittal of L.A. Cops Reverberates Back to Milwaukee

The decision by a jury (without any black members) to exonerate the four police officers who viciously beat black motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles is a shocking travesty of justice. The understandable rage of the black community there has spilled into the streets, expanding and deepening this terrible urban tragedy. All people of good conscious must, at the very least, pause to ponder the continuing racism of America's society and institutions.

After King's beating last year, a special Commission appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley investigated allegations of police abuse. The Christopher Commission found a pervasive pattern of discrimination and unnecessary violence on the part of L.A. cops against blacks, Latinos, Gays and other minorities.

Police Chief Darryl Gates, who has the vision and tact of a Heinrich Himmler, is retiring this year, but it will take many, many years for the new chief to regain the confidence of his community.

The drama unfolding in Los Angeles is not unique. When Jeffrey Dahmer's murders were discovered last Summer, the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) was accused of racism, homophobia and just plain incompetence for failing to detect the murder spree.

A Blue Ribbon Commission appointed by Mayor John Norquist concluded that charges of insensitivity and harassment on the part of Milwaukee cops toward African Americans, Gays and other minorities had legitimacy. Just last month, Police Chief Philip Arreola unveiled a major federally-funded program aimed at sensitizing Milwaukee cops to the diverse communities they serve. Representatives of the Gay and Lesbian community have been working with the MPD since last Summer, but the verdict in this city is still out.

On May 11, Milwaukee's Fire and Police Commission will hear the appeals of the two officers fired for dereliction of duty in the Konerak Sinthasomphone incident. Members of the Gay and Lesbian community should be there, shoulder to shoulder with the city's communities of color, to witness and to demand justice.

Political and business leaders in the City of Milwaukee have done their best to sweep the whole Dahmer mess under the carpet. But unless the underlying issues of racism and homophobia are dealt with, Milwaukee could very well be the next city to explode.

#### LETTER POLICY

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

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## LETTERS

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to urge support for an item I submitted to the State Budget bill which was adopted by the Legislature and is now being considered by Governor Thompson.

The proposal extends the option of maintaining private health insurance for persons who are HIV positive from the current 18 months to 29 months. It also allows employees of small businesses (less than 20 people) who are insured in large groups to be included in the HIV Health Insurance Premium Subsidy Program.

These are important changes to current state law which I believe would be very beneficial to those who are HIV positive. By demonstrating to Governor Thompson that his support for these provisions of the State Budget bill is extremely important, we will be able to show that there is indeed a strong interest in securing these changes.

By informing the readers of *The Wisconsin Light* of these items, perhaps they can then contact the Governor and register their support.

— Timothy W. Carpenter  
State Representative, 20th Assembly District

**Editor's Note:** We urge support for Rep. Carpenter's proposal. Governor Thompson may be contacted at (414) 227-4344 or call the Legislative Hotline (toll free) at 1-800-362-9696.

## IN MEMORIAL

### FLOYD BLACK

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## SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

'Fried Green Tomatoes' Is Outed!  
Lesbians Couldn't Be Happier

By Jamakaya

On April 11, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in Los Angeles presented **Fried Green Tomatoes** with its annual award as Best Feature Film with Lesbian Content.

To the surprise of everyone gathered at the star-studded event at the Beverly Hilton, director John Avnet, who has repeatedly denied that his film has any "homosexual content," accepted the award and delivered what observers described as a "gracious" speech.

Less gracious have been the comments made about **Fried Green Tomatoes** by Gay activists and critics. Queer Nationals protesting at the Oscars lumped it together with **Silence of the Lambs**, **JFK** and **Basic Instinct** as part of a new wave of Hollywood homophobia. Citing the suppression of lesbian storylines in **Welcome Home, Roxy Carmichael** and **L.A. Story**, David Ehrenstein in **The Advocate** wrote that **Tomatoes** "caps a banner year for de-Lesbianization" in the movies.

Even Stanley Kaufmann, a straight, establishment critic for **The New Republic**, chided the film for its "implicit cowardice" in failing to explore the lesbian relationship in greater depth. And in a sly jab at lesbian invisibility, **The Washington Post's** critic referred to the couple in question, Idgie Threadgoode (Mary Stuart Masterson) and Ruth Jamison (Mary-Louise Parker) as "really, really good friends."

## Outing "Tomatoes"

With all this criticism, why would GLAAD give **Tomatoes** an award? In the face of all the homophobic denials by its director, writer and actresses, it seems to have been a pro-active attempt to, essentially, "out" the film!

GLAAD's Ellen Carton told **Entertainment Weekly**: "Tomatoes" filmmakers may have wanted to tone down the lesbian content. Too bad. But we recognize these women as Lesbians. And giving the award is a way for us to acknowledge that these are Lesbians."

Lesbians' reactions to **Tomatoes** have been most intriguing. One would expect we would have the most to be angry about with a film that downplays the intense relationship originally depicted in Fannie Flagg's wonderful novel, **Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe**. But surprisingly, most Lesbians have embraced the film and either dismissed or ignored its apparent homophobia.

"So what," says Kelly Harmon in **Windy City Times**, "if neither of them [Avnet and Flagg] will publicly apply the 'L' word to their movie?" Harmon calls it the best lesbian movie since **Desert Hearts** (1986).

## The Other "L" Word — Love

Interestingly, the redeeming factor cited by most lesbian and feminist critics seems to be that other "L" word — Love.

Anne Lewis in the **Washington Blade**: "Idgie and Ruth...aren't as 'out' as they are in the novel, but it would be hard to find a more uncloseted portrayal of love between women in a mainstream flick... There can be no mistaking this as a film about loving women."

Julie Foertsch in **Feminist Voices**: "What this film does... is make the love that exists between two women, whether straight or Gay, perfectly understandable and, indeed, laudable. The audience seemed captivated by the love story of Idgie and Ruth, although some may not have acknowledged it as 'that kind' of love."

Julia Murphy in **NYQ**: "Are Idgie and Ruth lovers? Whether or not they have sex, the film makes clear that the women are in love only with each other, and they cherish and protect that love more fiercely than most couples who sleep together... The film does not shy away from exploring the intimacy that develops between Ruth and Idgie; Flagg and Avnet seem to know that intimacy does not need to happen in the nude."

"Does it matter that their love isn't physically consummated?" asks Lewis in **The Blade**. "It's just as complete," she notes.

## Why No Anger?

I wonder, is the pure romance of this film preventing us from viewing it with a more critical eye? Are we ourselves being sexophobic by arguing that the sexual dimension of their relationship is irrelevant? Are we so starved for images of ourselves and our relationships that

we're willing to accept what one critic calls the "muted love" between Idgie and Ruth as the most we can hope for from Hollywood in 1992?

Why aren't Lesbians angry about **Fried Green Tomatoes**?

Hollywood has historically treated Gay and Lesbian characters in two distinct ways — it has alternately defamed us or ignored us, rendering us invisible. Some critics have noted that **Basic Instinct**, with its vicious homophobia and misogyny, and **Tomatoes**, with its genteel avoidance of overt sexuality, are two sides of that same lamentable tradition.

But alas, dear reader, even I — political creature that I am — cannot find it in my heart to be angry with **Fried Green Tomatoes**.

I'm certainly disappointed that the nature of Idgie and Ruth's relationship is obscured (we're really naive if we believe the general public is seeing what we are through our lavender-tinted glasses), and there's no question that numerous script elements attempt to heterosexualize the characters. In the book, for instance, Idgie and Ruth's relationship develops quite independently of Buddy Threadgoode, who dies long before Ruth comes on the scene.

## The Power of Women Bonding

While Idgie and Ruth are clearly the heart of the story, focussing on them alone ignores the broader picture. Their love, adventures and defiance of the sexist, racist order in 1930's Alabama as recalled by the aging Ninny Threadgoode (Jessica Tandy) vaults Evelyn Couch (Kathy Bates) out of her mid-life crisis into a newfound self-confidence. Ninny and Evelyn's growing friendship and Evelyn's commitment to house and care for Ninny mirrors that of Idgie and Ruth.

The power of women bonding with women suffuses **Fried Green Tomatoes** and, in a quietly subversive way, makes it (without exaggeration) one of the strongest feminist statements in cinematic history.

That this deeply political message emerges from a film that also succeeds as a popular entertainment with universal appeal is another thing to celebrate. This hopelessly sentimental tale of love and loss, of youth and aging, of memory, regret and renewal has been the surprise hit of the year. "People are taking children, they're taking old people. It speaks to everybody. That's what's wonderful," exults Fannie Flagg.

**Tomatoes** has grossed more than \$70 million, an extraordinary achievement for a relatively low budget, independently produced film. Along with **Thelma & Louise**, which also did well at the box office, "women's films," traditionally disparaged by Hollywood moguls, are earning new respect. That's another reason to appreciate **Tomatoes**. And if we really want to see better images of women in movies, we need to put our money where our mouth is by supporting such films.

## A Final Queer Quote

I've seen **Fried Green Tomatoes** four times and, despite its flaws, have loved it more with each viewing. Its nostalgia and unabashed sentimentality feed my current needs for escapism and catharsis. And, let me tell you, watching Mary Stuart Masterson as Idgie has enhanced this girl's fantasy life considerably!

My favorite comment on **Tomatoes** (destined for the Queer Quotes Hall of Fame) goes a long way toward explaining Lesbians' enchantment and identification with this film. Anne Lewis in the **Blade** (the bold emphasis is mine):

"And anyone still upset they ditched 'the lesbian stuff' can take solace in Mary Stuart Masterson's awesome handling of the role of Idgie. Masterson, who sent millions of young Lesbian hearts aflutter in **Some Kind of Wonderful**, plays Idgie to the full butch hilt — work boots, swagger, slicked-back hair, the whole nine yards. Lesbians can recognize a dyke character anywhere. Masterson is simply marvelous."

So's the movie. It probably won't be out on video until this Fall, so go see it again!

## Stay Tuned...

Those of you suffering from **Tomatoes** fever, stay tuned. We'll soon run a filmography of other movies with Mary Stuart Masterson and Mary-Louise Parker you can rent on video.



NEW TWIST ON THE "L" WORD—Idgie (Mary Stuart Masterson) and Ruth (Mary-Louise Parker) "aren't as 'out' as they are in the novel, but it would be hard to find a more uncloseted portrayal of love between women in a mainstream flick." —Anne Lewis on **Fried Green Tomatoes**.

Kissing Girls Production's Names  
Recipients of Creativity Grants

[Madison]—The Womyn of Kissing Girls Productions are pleased to announce the recipients of the 3rd Annual Kissing Girls Productions Lesbian Culture and Creativity Awards. The 1992 recipients of this award are:

**Triple Crescent**, Madison — contribution towards the production of a spiritual and celebratory cassette tape based on Dianic Wiccan and women affirming music, \$400.

**Dykes, Disabilities & Stuff**, Madison — contribution towards the production of the Spring, 1992 edition of a quarterly newsletter dedicated to publishing the words and art of disabled Lesbians, \$150.

**Fong Hermes**, Hayward, WI — contribution towards photographic equipment to work on multi-media music and slide presentation of **Two-Spirited** (Lesbian/Gay) Native American imagery, \$200.

**Kristine Schwebach**, Ames, IA — photographic materials to enhance presentational style of ten photo series, \$161.30.

**X-TA-C**, Madison and Midwest — contribution towards production costs of African American Lesbian rap song/dance video demo tape, \$300.

**Jini Kai**, Madison — art supplies for a painting series of 13 "Tools of Survival," \$300.

## Other Donations

**Barrymore Theatre** — initiated a matching grant toward the design and construction of a wheelchair accessible bathroom, \$150.

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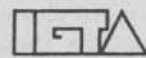
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# The Light LIVELY ARTS

## Barage of Characters Bring Comedy To 'Eastern Standard' May 14

[Milwaukee]- The Different Drummer Theatre Alliance announces the presentation of their Spring production, **Eastern Standard** by Richard Greenberg. The production makes its Wisconsin debut in May at the space of the BCB Studio Theater, 727 N. Milwaukee (third floor). The play will be directed by Different Drummer's founder, Stephen Spera.

**Eastern Standard** is a comedy of values which charts the lives of four young, upwardly mobile professionals during the Spring and Summer of the last year of the Reagan administration. The play revolves around these "yuppies and guppies": a Gay TV executive, his straight Wall Street broker/sister, her architect boyfriend and his best friend who is an artist who happens to be Gay. Toss in an actress/waitress and a schizophrenic bag lady and watch the sparks fly.

Through these characters, we see worlds collide and change, value systems and beliefs challenged while new insight

and meaning to life is gained. The dialogue ranges from high gloss metropolitan repartee of Wildean epigrams to the reality of the gutter and the homeless.

The cast consists of Paul Byrne (Stephen), John Vande Walle (Peter), Joseph Rabensdorf (Drew), Shannon Sloan Spice (Phoebe), Denise Corrao (Ellen) and Kristie Coryell (May).

Performances will take place at the Bauer Contemporary Ballet Studio, 727 N. Milwaukee Street. There will be six performances as follows: Thursday, May 14 at 7:31 p.m. and Friday, Saturday, May 15, 16, at 8:03 p.m. Followed by Thursday, May 21 at 7:31 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, May 22, 23 at 8:03 p.m. Ticket price is \$12.00 which includes \$2.00 to be donated to the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

For reservations and more information, contact Different Drummer at P.O. Box 92756, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or call (414) 347-0673.

## 'United in Compassion' Evening Of Dance to Benefit ACT UP

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Chapter of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) would like to announce **United In Compassion** — an evening of dance to benefit ACT UP Milwaukee. Members of all parts of Milwaukee's dance community are uniting to commemorate the Ninth International AIDS Memorial by helping ACT UP in its fight to end the AIDS crisis.

Performances will feature choreographers/performers Edward Burgess, Wild Space Dance Co., Bauer Contemporary

Ballet, Milwaukee Dance Theater and the premiere of Milwaukee's newest dance company — Et Toi, Tu Danse? Ltd. led by Yves de Beattier.

The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 1992 at the Bauer Contemporary Ballet Studio, 727 N. Milwaukee Avenue. Tickets are \$15 and are currently available at the Harry W. Schwartz Iron Block Bookshop, 209 E. Wisconsin Avenue. Call ACT UP at (414) 769-8708 for more information.

## Foothold Dance Collective to Offer "Six Solos" May 8-9

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- "We are taking the mystique from dance, seeking to educate people about it," said Tom Thoreson of the Foothold Dance Collective.

David Figueroa added that they "relate dance/mime to human lives" and noted, "Everyone moves, everyone dances, to communicate." The dance is not all ballet, they both agreed.

Thoreson and Figueroa are two young men of the six member Foothold Dance Collective, a diverse group presenting a mixture of theatre and the dance. "It presents the very theatrical," Thoreson said, "to the much more traditional in modern dance."

Though both are young (neither one out of their twenties), still they speak of their art from long experience with it. Both have been creating it since their early teens and both speak with obvious pleasure about it.

In the dance, Figueroa finds a vehicle for expressing being Gay and Hispanic while Thoreson speaks movingly of relating people to each other.

Not unexpectedly, both are teachers. Figueroa has a mime class for 10, 14-15 year-olds while Thoreson is working with

a science class, teaching them through his dance, the mythology and symbolism of the animal in art.

I know little enough about the art of dancing, but their enthusiasm is sparkling and infectious. The Foothold Dance Collective deserves our community's support.

The Collective will be presenting **Six Solos: Moving and Speaking** May 8 and 9 at the Lincoln Center for the Arts, 820 E. Knapp St. Performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9 general and \$7 for Seniors and students. For further information, call (414) 278-0717.

## Erotic Lesbian Fiction Wanted

[Boston, MA]- Alyson Publications is currently seeking submissions for a new collection of Lesbian erotica. Format and style will be similar to Alyson's popular **Bushfire: Stories of Lesbian Desire**.

Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and include a SASE. Please, no poetry and no S/M. The deadline is July 15, 1992. Send stories to Karen Barber, Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118.

## Second International Film Festival Continues in Milwaukee

By Woodrow Thalberg

[Milwaukee]- The Second Milwaukee International Film Festival continues through May 7 at the Oriental and Downer theatres on Milwaukee's East Side.

One of the major themes of this year's fest is women directors. **Overseas** is the debut film by Brigitte Rouan. Three sisters live in rural Algeria during the final years of French colonial rule. It is a slowly developing film, but gets better as it goes along.

Australian Jocelyn Moorhouse directs **Proof**, a black comedy about a blind photographer. **Funny Ladies** is a documentary by Pamela Beere Briggs on women cartoonists including Lynda Barry. **The Famine Within** is a timely documentary by Katherine Gilday on the destructive pursuit for the Barbie Doll figure.

Answering the call for cinema by and about women of color is Julie Dash's **Daughters of the Dust**. Set in 1902 on an island off the Carolina coast, the film shows African Americans there retaining their strong African traditions and speaking in a pidgin English dialect called Geechee. The film examines the trauma a clan undergoes before moving to the mainland.

### Other African Themes

Two documentaries directed by white males also touch on African themes. Talking Head, David Byrne's documentary **Ile Ayie: House of Life**, explores the ritual dance music of the Afro-Brazilian religion of Candomble.

Werner Herzog's **Herdsmen of the Sun** is a study of the rituals of an African nomadic tribe, the Woodaabe.

### More Films

Other films include two hi-tech, sci-fi, Japanese animation pieces, **The Lensman** and **Akira**. Making its Milwaukee debut is **Ballad of the Sad Cafe** by Simon Callow. Vanessa Redgrave and Keith Caradine star in this tale of a small town in the 1920's.

Lars Von Treir's **Zentropa** is a German thriller set in post-war, 1945 Berlin. **The Waterdance** is writer, Neal Jimenez's autobiographical story of an author trying to carry on after a crippling accident.

For psychology buffs, Max von Sydow narrates Stephen Segaller's documentary **Wisdom of the Dream**, a study of the life and work of Carl Jung. Reggae fans should note Lol Creme's Jamaican reggae comedy, **The Lunatic**.

### Silent Films

A showing of silent films accompanied by the Oriental's recently refurbished pipe organ will feature Buster Keaton's **Steamboat Bill Jr.** as well as shorts by Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd and the Keystone Cops.

Finally, there will be a showing of shorts by Milwaukee filmmakers Cathy Cook, Tanzy Faick, Diane Huff, Frank Polchert, Michael Walsh, Jim Waples, Iverson White and Rob Yeo. For further information and showtimes, call the Downer Theatre at (414) 964-2720 or the Oriental Theatre at (414) 276-8711.

## United In Compassion An Evening of Dance to Benefit ACT UP Milwaukee

### Featuring:

Edward Burgess • Wild Space Dance Co.  
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## 'Who's No Lady Revue' at La Cage Will Benefit MAP On May 3

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's La Cage with the "Who's No Lady Revue" will present a benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) entitled **Stars That Made Wisconsin Famous** at La Cage on Sunday, May 3, 1992.

According to producer, Miss Samantha Stevens, the "unforgettable tribute" will honor such great entertainers of the past as Ginger Spice, Holly Brown, Josie Blake, Abbey Rhoades and Terry Eisenbart.

Miss Stevens, a former beauty queen and Miss Gay Ohio, brings to the production over 20 years of experience in show business to assemble a

star-studded night. The all volunteer production will be MC'd by Gloria Halloway and Miss B.J. Daniels of the Club 219 Girls. There will be a live rockabilly band with stage and outside entrance designs by Russ Anderson of Astor Floral.

Miss Stevens expects upwards of 400 people to attend from around the state and region. All those attending will be given a red ribbon at the door.

There will be Champagne and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 8:00 with the show to begin "promptly" at 9:30. All proceeds and donations will go directly to MAP.

## 3,000 Women To Attend 18th Annual Women's Music Festival

[Indianapolis, IN]- Three thousand women are expected to attend the 18th Annual National Women's Music Festival, the longest-running of all women's festivals, scheduled for May 28-31, 1992 on the Bloomington campus of Indiana University.

Mainstage performers include women's music legends, Cris Williamson and Margie Adams, the Afro-American dance troupe, Urban Bush Women: women's music favorites Heather Bishop, Lucie Blue Tremblay, and Dianne Davidson: comedian Marilyn Pittman: and the velvet-voices vocalist Melanie DeMore. Percussionist Nurudafina Pili Abena will lead drumming workshops along with performing on Mainstage.

More than just a music festival, the Bloomington festival includes a Spirituality Conference this year featuring Diane Stein, Amylee, Hallie Iglehart Austen and Nana Korantemaa Ayebofo. The Writers Conference hosts the feminist writer, autobiographer and artist Kate Millet, the prolific Sarah Aldridge, and publisher Claudia Lamperti of New Victoria Press.

### And More

Sunday morning, a panel discussion on "Oppression: The effects of the white male system on society and individuals" will discuss the mutual causes of racism, ableism, sexism and homophobia, among others. Panelists are Mary Francis Platt, Karen Thompson, Ellie Galapy, and Mary Morgan.

Film and video screenings will be shown every day of the festival, and hundreds of workshops will focus on performing; classical and acoustic music; Women of Color; women's health, fitness and sports; aging and older women; drama and theatre; women, money and prosperity; and women's legal issues.

A new series of workshops for women with disabilities begins this year. The year's theatre presentation, **8X10 Glossy**, by Sarah Dreher, will be presented twice. The highly successful 5K run and 2K walk that was begun last year will again be on Saturday morning.

### More Info

Sometimes referred to as the "easy" festival, to distinguish it from the women's outdoor event held in Michigan in August, the National Women's Music Festival is held indoors in campus buildings and concert halls. Dorm space and meal tickets are available, as are easy access to local stores, restaurants and hotels.

A 24-hour support service is available for women in recovery, and all events are

## Meet the Winemakers— and Liberace, too, on May 12

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Theatre X and Green Tree Liquor will host a wine tasting on Tuesday, May 12 at Theatre X's new office and rehearsal hall at 241 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Third Ward. The tasting will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. A \$15 fee person includes the wine and cheese.

The proceeds will benefit the production of **Liberace: The Magic of Believing**, a new opera created by Theatre X which will be presented at the Pabst Theatre on May 29-31. The cast members will be present and will offer a glimpse of the upcoming production.

For reservations, call Green Tree Liquor at (414) 352-8282 or Theatre X at (414) 278-0555.

wheelchair accessible, with special headsets, seating and interpreters for the hearing-impaired. Free childcare is offered to those who pre-register.

A four-day pass entitling participants to hundreds of workshops, concerts, films and dances costs \$145. Passes for only one or two days of the festival along with individual Mainstage concerts are available at lesser rates.

The deadline for pre-registration is May 15, or individuals can register on-site. For further information and a registration form, please write to: National Women's Music Festival, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or call (317) 636-7382.

## 'The Power of Love' Concert Set For June 13 by The Cream City Chorus

[Milwaukee]- The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd., will present its annual Spring concert, "The Power of Love," on Saturday, June 13, 1992, at 8:00 p.m. in Vogel Hall of the Performing Arts Center. The concert will feature songs about all facets of love and romance.

The Chorus will be under the direction of their new musical director, Chuck Ellingson, and associate director, Kim Hah. Tickets are available through the PAC Box Office at (414) 273-7206, or by calling the Chorus office at (414)

344-WCCC.

The Chorus is busily readying itself for both their Spring concert and their performance at GALA Festival IV in Denver on July 3, 1992. GALA is the international organization of Gay and Lesbian Choruses. WCCC will be attending the entire festival, which runs through the week of June 28-July 4, 1992. The Chorus would like to thank the Milwaukee community for its generous support in preparation for GALA IV.

## Rufus and the Singing Machine, Mr. Sid Featured in QTV

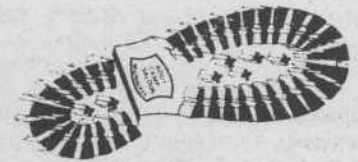
[Milwaukee]- Two of Milwaukee's well-known male entertainers are featured in the April-May programs of Queer Television (QTV), a production of the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network.

Rufus and the Singing Machine sing several numbers, and Mr. Sid of Mr. & Miss Black Gay Wisconsin fame, will lip synch. Host Michael Lisowski also talks with both guests.

All programs are cablecast on Milwaukee Warner Cable's public access Channel 14 (MATA), Thursday and Sunday evenings, 10:30-11:00 p.m.

The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network is a committee of the Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian charitable organization. For more information on how you can get involved,

contact QTV's office at QTV, P.O. Box 239, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or call (414) 277-7671 or (414) 265-8500.



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Opening Performance by **MARI  
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Seats reserved for the differently abled  
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yourself at the door if you desire  
special seating arrangements.



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OUT,  
MILWAUKEE!**







## Humility is the Greatest Lesson In Life; Envy the Greatest Harm

Commentary by Maytee Aspuro

Sometimes, the more shallow part of my personality shows itself to the world. For many years material possessions carried a great deal of weight. Tangibles were a sign of success — or so I was led to believe during the lean years of a poor childhood.

I have recently enjoyed the luxury of having all that I need. I am not rich, but I am financially comfortable. My new apartment is the finest I have ever had of my own. I have all the room I would want and all the toys I dreamed of. Not the most expensive, but functional and of good quality. Most importantly, everything is paid for.

It is almost a cliché that once you have all you worked for, you realize the limitations of the effort. Having the tangibles does not mean instant happiness. Problems do not disappear. My vision still carries the misty perspective of an on-going life with unanswered questions.

I no longer envy those who have, because, as some would argue, I have become one of them. I envy the intangibles. The dreams that were so elusive during my childhood that I stopped believing in their possibility.

I dreamed of the non-existent ideal family. I dreamed of self-esteem, respect and love. I dreamed of a vulnerability that would not result in crushing blows, but protective arms and warmth.

In place of such dreams, I substituted a wish to obtain a different kind of security. Financial security.

I envy. I envy a friend whose parents have acknowledged his homosexuality. Who are concerned for their son's well-being. Who, instead of turning their backs on what they don't understand, have taken steps to acquaint themselves with the unknown.

I envy and yet am grateful for meeting and sharing an occasional dinner with my friend's parents. It hurts to think that my father cannot be as understanding of his daughter as they are of their son. It hurts to turn the pages of my calendar — each day a lost opportunity. And yet, the times I spend with my friend's parents is a time to celebrate. Invitations are not a matter of obligation, but desire. If only other parents would be as generous.

I envy couples with the luxury of living, if not with one another, then nearby. To speak to the woman who captured my heart more than six years ago, I must dial long distance or travel eighty miles. I know couples who live even farther than I and my partner do. I also know many more who do not have to adjust as she and I have. I ache to wake up and have her near, to share a morning cup of coffee as we negotiate our shower times and the availability of hot water.

I envy mother-daughter relationships that breach the generation gap and establish a new dialogue; a blend of adult themes and childhood re-visited. I envied my partner's relationship with her daughter. For a time I behaved quite badly. Wanting to stop my inappropriate behavior, I still found myself faltering. I could not explain the battle cry to my partner, to her daughter or to myself. In retrospect all became clear. But, damage was inflicted in the interim.

It was a time where my mother's memory of me succumbed to a disease and I ceased to exist in her mind, if not her heart. It was a difficult time in my relationship and I felt insecure, unsure and threatened. I was intimidated by my partner's daughter. At twenty, she was a formidable opponent. She did not have to be. The gauntlet was mine to thrust in challenge. Fool that I was, I hurled it before the unsuspecting.

I used to envy individuals with siblings who actually talked to one another. I went without for many years. Again, a cliché is in order because sometimes, time heals wounds and whittles away distances. I am closer to my two brothers now than I have been in a decade. I am astonished by the minimal effort it took to renew our relationships.

Once I may have pointed a finger to my Lesbianism as the only reason for the struggles I have endured. The finger is no longer so restrictive in its direction, no longer so sure of reason.

It may be that I have finally begun to recognize the complexity of my world and have reached a plateau where envy is the greatest harm and humility is the greatest lesson; and life, in whole, exceeds in dimension my sexual orientation.

For Arline and James M.

## May 18 'Northern Exposure' To Feature Cicely's Founding Mothers

[Los Angeles, CA]- The May 18 season finale of *Northern Exposure* on CBS will feature an episode about the founding mothers of the fictional town of Cicely, Alaska — a Lesbian couple!

On a previous episode of the popular show, during the Founders' Day Celebration, a character noted that the two women — Cicely and Roslyn — "had a good thing and were lucky to have it."

In an interview with *The Advocate* earlier this year, writer/producer Diane Frolov said of Cicely and Roslyn: "We don't see their sexuality as the issue. They have a loving and caring relationship, but the show is about how they come to the wilderness with a vision of starting an artists' community."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has praised *Northern Exposure* for its inclusion of Gay characters and storylines. Last season's final episode focussed on Cicely's

resident reactionary, Maurice, who was conflicted over whether to sell a house to a Gay couple who planned to convert it into a bed-and-breakfast inn. He ultimately relented and, in the final scene, the Gay men were integrated among other couples of Cicely, all doing a slow dance.

The Gay couple, Ron and Eric, were featured again most recently in the April 27 episode in which Maurice was flustered with all the Japanese tourists flocking to the inn.

Tune in to the May 18 episode of *Northern Exposure* about Cicely and Roslyn. Then, let the producers know what you think. Write to: Joshua Brand and John Falsey, Executive Producers, *Northern Exposure*, 3000 Olympic Blvd., #2575, Lantana Center, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Better yet, note the sponsors and send them your opinions.

## Unitarian Associates President To Speak May 16 in Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- The Rev. William F. Schulz, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will speak at a reproductive freedom celebration and service at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 16, at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee.

Other speakers have been invited from other congregations and denominations in the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, from women's health and pro-choice organizations and from the wider Milwaukee community and its leaders. A reception and Freedom Fair will follow the service, featuring information from all the pro-choice groups.

The premiere of a specially-commissioned choral anthem will highlight the visit of Rev. Schulz. The music was written by Tom Bengamin, professor of composition and theory at the Peabody Conservatory

at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. It will be performed by the church's choir, the Festival City Brass and the congregation at the May 17, Sunday worship service.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has long supported a woman's right to choice. The First Unitarian Society has been organizing pro-choice activities in anticipation of a Wichita-style "rescue" mobilization in Milwaukee from June 15 to July 27.

The service is meant to encourage women and health care providers and to promote a Summer of freedom in the face of a season of terror.

Schulz will be in Milwaukee on May 16 and 17 to help the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee celebrate its 150th anniversary. He will speak at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service.

## Quilting Bee Planned in Madison May 9 for Names Project Quilt

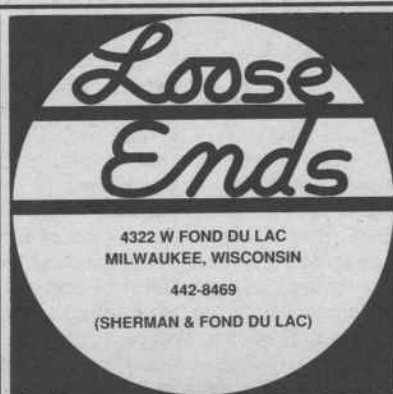
[Madison]-The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) and the Rodney Scheel House for Persons with AIDS, Ltd., are pleased to announce a **Quilting Bee** to make panels for our friends who have died of AIDS to be sent to the **Names Project Quilt** in San Francisco.

The Quilting Bee will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in The New Bar, 636 W. Washington

Avenue, Madison. Please bring your own background panel material (6'x8') and any scrap fabric you have available. It is helpful if you can bring a sewing machine, but if not, there will be a few available.

There will be videos of our friends of past quiltings. Refreshments will be provided.

For further information, please call Sherry or Pam at (608) 256-0166.



**Who's Who Party**  
**Saturday May 30**

6-10 P.M.

Bring in a baby picture  
and guess who's who!

## TAKE COLLECTIVE DIRECT ACTION TO END AIDS

**Town Hall Reorganizational Meeting**  
**MONDAY, MAY 18 • 7:30pm**

**ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL • 816 East Juneau**

Come set a new course for ACT UP Milwaukee in the coming year. Want to work on an AIDS issue of particular importance to you? We can form working groups on issues like drug research and access, prison issues, youth education, injection drug use, women's treatment issues, and others.

ACT UP Milwaukee is a diverse group of individuals united in anger and compassion and commitment to direct action to end the AIDS crisis.

Whether it's forcing dentists to take people with AIDS, correcting right-wing misinformation, or radically reforming Wisconsin's prison system's HIV policies, ACT UP is out there working for you.

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## MAP Food Baskets, Children's Party Help 200 Celebrate Easter

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) provided holiday food baskets that enabled more than 200 people affected by HIV disease to celebrate Easter.

Through the generosity and commitment of local businesses and individuals, volunteers and employees put together 70 food baskets and more than 120 children's Easter Baskets.

"The food was delivered to those celebrate Easter," said Tim Baack, manager of support services at MAP.

Hams, roasting chickens, potatoes, fruits and vegetables and Easter candy were included in the baskets.

In addition, a special Easter Party, hosted by the Packer Gang at Station II, was held for nearly two dozen youngsters affected by HIV disease.

The following groups and businesses deserve special thanks:

**The Packer Gang at Station II** — for hosting the children's party, soliciting considerable financial donations to purchase food, helping to assemble the food baskets, and creating more than 120

Easter baskets for children;

**3B's** — for soliciting private financial donations to purchase items for the baskets, as well as for generating community support and enthusiasm;

**Wreck Room**— for soliciting donations from their patrons to help purchase food.

"It is because of their generosity that the Milwaukee AIDS Project was able to conduct such a wonderful holiday giving program," Baack said.

## UWM Dance Planned for May 23

[Milwaukee]-The Gay and Lesbian Community at UW-Milwaukee will be sponsoring a non-alcoholic dance on Saturday, May 23 from 8:00-11:30 p.m. The dance will be held at the UWM Union in the Wisconsin Room West and lounge located on the second floor. A professional DJ will spin your favorite dance hits and musical requests will be welcome.

Free sparkling water, non-alcoholic beer and soda will be available. Admission is \$4. The dance is open to the public, all ages are welcome. Profits and any donations from the dance will fund future social events.

For more information call the Gay and Lesbian Community at (414) 229-6555.

## Bisexuals Hold Gathering May 11

[Madison]- A social gathering and discussion for the Bisexual community will be held on Monday, May 11, 1992 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the UW Union South, 227 North Randall Avenue in Madison. See **Today in the Union** or call (608) 263-2600 for the exact room number.

Meet new people in a bi-friendly environment. Bring a friend, socialize, talk, have fun, help plan future events and build community. This is our second meeting and is open to everyone.

For more information, contact: Bi My Side, P.O. Box 321, Madison, WI 53701.

## Ross Perot Supports AIDS Funds, Gay Rights

[Washington, D.C.]- The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), on April 24, welcomed remarks made by potential Presidential candidate Ross Perot on the issues of Lesbian and Gay rights, AIDS funding and abortion rights.

According to the **New York Times**, "Mr. Perot said he considered an individual's sexual orientation a matter of individual rights." Perot, who contributed \$20 million in 1988 to research facilities in Dallas, also stated that he would increase funding for AIDS research. "If I am in this job, we will go night and day to get that done," Perot said. Speaking of a vaccine for AIDS, Perot stated "we want to be the country that discovers these things."

Tim McFeeley, HRCF's Executive Director, said, "Of course we are pleased that Mr. Perot has addressed these issues and has taken a strong stand in favor of equal rights for Lesbians and Gay men and accelerated funding for AIDS research."

Perot comments, reported in the

**Times**, were made in an interview with David Frost that appeared on public TV stations on April 24 throughout the country.

"Ross Perot understands that it is counterproductive to discriminate against competent and qualified Americans, including Lesbians and Gay men. He also understands that America must devote the necessary resources to conquer AIDS. We look forward to his leadership in discussing these issues during the coming campaign," McFeeley stated.

## SPEECH

Continued from Page 1

Mary Frances Berry

Dr. Mary Frances Berry, educator, activist and longtime member of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, placed her comments in the context of struggles for social justice around the world, in South Africa and Haiti, whose people "are not permitted to become refugees in this country, though everybody else can..."

Berry emphasized the economic basis of inequality and discrimination. "There is general sickness in the economy — not enough good jobs, wages not rising fast enough, and middle class people worried about the future. It's the kind of climate in which selfishness, status quoism, fear of difference, and bigotry and intimidation thrive."

"We don't just have a race problem," she noted, "we have a class problem. We don't just have a sex problem, we have a class problem."

Berry is skeptical that electing women to office will solve these problems. While the black women in Congress are all progressive, other women legislators (like Sen. Nancy Kassebaum) argued against the 1991 Civil Rights Act and opposed the family leave bill. "Too many women politicians do what the men do. They focus on reflecting public ignorance rather than taking risks by making leadership their goal. And when they do that, they spit on the legacy of all those people who suffered that they might have the opportunity."

"But we have failures of will and nerve in the black community too," said Berry,

TURN TO SPEECH, PAGE 11

## WYOU T.V. Cable May Schedule

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

**May 6** — 5th Annual Gathering of Openly "Out" Gay/Lesbian Government Officials — held in Wisconsin State Capitol, November 17. "How the Census will Change our Electoral Districts"

**May 13** — Jay Hatheway — "Real Eyes Realize Real Lies"

**May 20** — Conversations with Sam Day

**May 27** — The 15 Annual Women's Conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin System at U.W. Whitewater, "Women in Prisons."

## 'Her Turn' Radio Show Seeks New Members

[Madison]-Her Turn, WORT's weekly half hour radio news program by and about women, is looking for new collective members. Volunteers must be able to work 5-10 hours per week, be available on weekends, and make at least a one-year commitment. Radio experience is not necessary, since we have an excellent training program, but a feminist perspective is!

This is a great opportunity to acquire new skills and to do something positive for women. Applications are available at WORT-FM, 118 S. Bedford Street, Madison, WI 53703 or call (608) 256-2001 during business hours to have an application sent to you. Women of color, Lesbians and women with disabilities are encouraged to apply.



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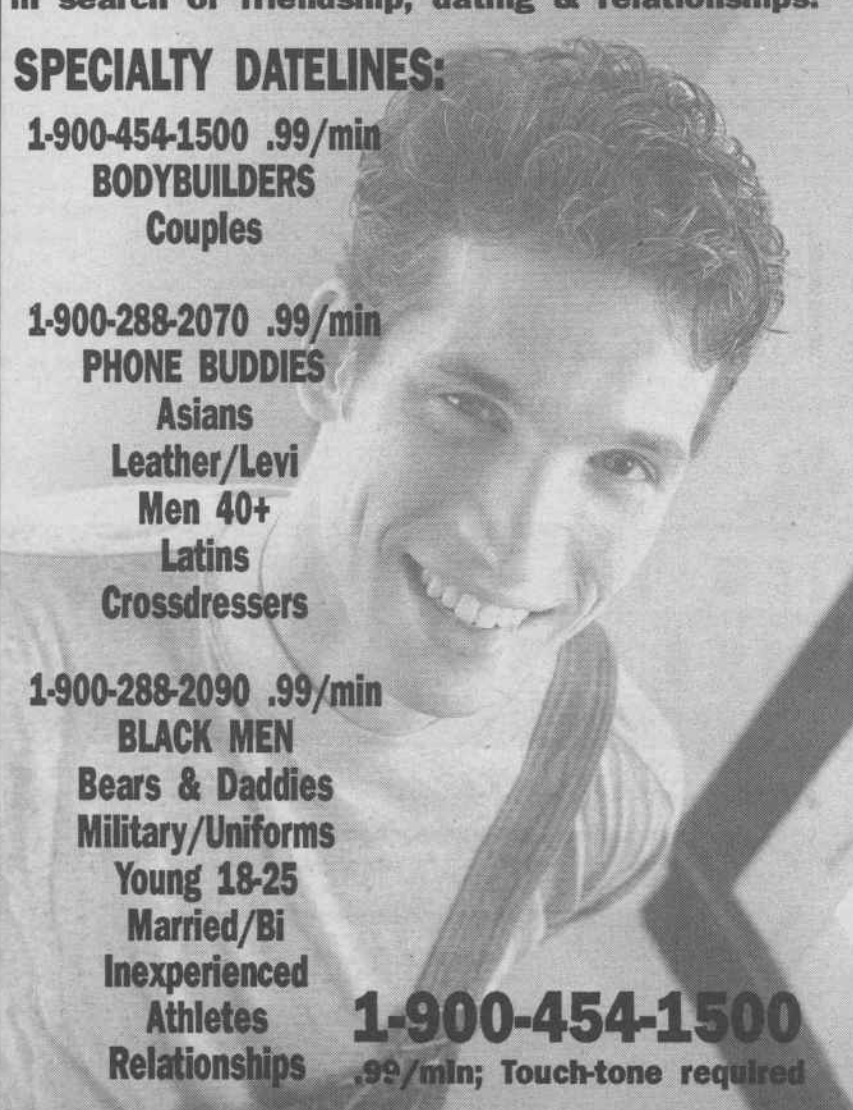
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## SPEECH

### Continued from Page 10

who contemptuously referred to newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as Justice Antonin Scalia's "lap dog."

"We should get more good women, but we have to choose character, sometimes, over sex, and character over race..."

Berry reinforced Mankiller's call for self-reliance: "We have to rely on ourselves and our community organizations to make a difference. We are more reliable than any politician...We can either shape the future we desire and conjure how to make it possible, or we can be bystanders while decisions are made for us."

#### Gloria Steinem

After a glowing introduction, Gloria Steinem quipped: "Every time that I hear I'm one of the '25 Most Influential Women in America,' I realize what deep shit we're in."

She further won the hearts of her audience by observing that "If we really had social justice, Mary Frances Berry would be the Attorney General of the U.S. [laughter], before becoming a Supreme Court Justice [applause], because she would be appointed by President Wilma Mankiller." Wild applause and cheers shook the hall.

Steinem spoke eloquently about the intersections of sex and race: "Whether in America, South Africa or Nazi Germany, sexual caste systems and racial caste systems go together...Sexism and racism are inextricably intertwined, and one cannot be uprooted without also uprooting the other."

Steinem, whose book, *Revolution From Within* currently tops the bestseller lists, stressed the need for individual action and commitment: "It doesn't matter where we start. We can start anywhere, anywhere...I cannot emphasize to you how important every microcosm of the big problem is."

She urged the reformation of American families along more democratic lines, arguing that the traditional hierarchical structure of the family is a paradigm for sex, race and class oppression. She urged a re-definition and re-valuing of work, claiming that the sex, race or class of the worker determined the value of the job. "Why else would parking lot attendants make more than child care attendants? Or why is it that nurses make less than the garbage men who pick up the garbage at their hospitals?" she asked rhetorically.

Steinem indicted the "brainwashing" of the educational process, noting that studies indicate women's self-esteem decreases with each year of higher education. She also passionately defended women's (and men's) rights to reproductive autonomy: "We should be able to decide the fate of our own physical selves...We should say 'The power of the government stops at our skins.'"

Steinem concluded with an inspiring call to action and expressed confidence in our ability to bring about change. She encouraged everyone to become members of the "Secret Society of Butterflies' Wings." As quizzical glances shot across the room, she clarified her meaning:

"Even the most hard-nosed physicist will now admit that the flap of the butterfly's wings here influences the weather thousands of miles away...Everything we do matters," said Steinem, "everything. The art of acting morally is acting as if everything we do matters."

## AIDS

### Continued from Page 1

#### Methodology and Demographics

The MAP survey was a pilot survey among 329 Gay men in Milwaukee which was conducted between August, 1990 and August, 1991. The survey sought results from men who self-identified as being Gay. Surveys were distributed at venues where Gay men congregate such as bars, meetings, support groups, and a variety of social functions.

The age range of survey respondents was 17 to 67 years of age with a mean average of 33 years. 83% of survey respondents were Caucasian and 12% were African American. 81% of respondents stated that they knew their HIV status.

Nelson explained that in spite of the reassuring aspects of the survey, there were some concerns.

20% of the survey respondents indicated that they engaged in sexual activity with individuals who they knew to be HIV positive. 43% of these individuals did not use condoms consistently.

"There continues to be risk behavior within the Gay community that will fuel the HIV epidemic," Nelson said. "We must not conclude that our success in changing risk behavior to date means that we have conquered AIDS. We must not be satisfied until there is 100% compliance with safer-sex practices," Nelson emphasized.

"Until there is a vaccine that ends the AIDS epidemic, we need to be ever

vigilant in pursuing the most aggressive prevention strategies," Nelson added.

Another concern cited by Nelson was that the use of alcohol is an influencing factor in the choices made during sexual activity. 57% of respondents indicated that they had sex after having had a significant amount of alcohol. 42% reported that they had sex when they were drunk.

"We know that alcohol impairs good judgment and when the choices about safer-sex practices are to be made, the use of alcohol may not result in the best decision-making," Nelson explained.

The majority of survey respondents, 61%, did not have a long-term monogamous relationship within the past year.

Having a long-term relationship and continuing to have sexual activity with others was not a trend among survey respondents. 83% of those individuals in a long-term relationship reported that they were monogamous.

The survey also indicated that respondents generally believed that their sexual behavior was safer than it really was. Few individuals placed their sexual activity in a category of high-risk for HIV transmission. Most indicated their belief that their sexual activity was low-risk.

#### Survey Purpose

Nelson said that the survey results are an indicator of the relative success of HIV prevention strategies among Gay men and that they would be used to influence the design and development of more innovative prevention programs for the Gay community.

"We must determine where we stand and what needs to be done to slow down the AIDS epidemic among all populations who are at risk," Nelson explained.

"We are conducting surveys among injection drug users, among heterosexuals who are in the singles scene and among adolescents and teen-agers. We must gain base-line information on knowledge, attitudes, and risk-behaviors through these surveys so that we can design the most effective AIDS prevention services," Nelson said.

"The mission at MAP is to empower people with the information and strategies that will protect them from this tragic epidemic," Nelson said.

#### Blames Far Right

"Unfortunately, we get no help from the Federal Government which is wasting millions of dollars every year on the most miserable of AIDS prevention campaigns. The media is everything," Nelson emphasized. "It elects presidents, it sells Japanese cars and it can change personal behavior."

"We need a national media campaign that tastefully promotes condom use. If the networks can advertise feminine hygiene products for douching, then this country is ready for a tasteful condom ad," Nelson said.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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Had counseling/therapy? UW-Madison researcher wants to survey your experience. Speak out & earn \$5 for 15-20 min. of your time. All responses confidential. Write M. Sweet, Dept. Coun. Psych., UW-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, or call (608) 222-0599.

**\$5 FOR PP** Dirt poor queer activists need your cold hard cash. See related news stories in newspapers across America. Age, race, size, HIV status unimportant. Fats, fems, barflies welcome, 'straight acting' need not apply. Respond ACT UP Presidential Primary Project, P.O. Box 34673, Washington, D.C. 20043-4673 or call 202-328-AIDS.

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**FOR RENT - Humboldt** Near UWM. 2 bedroom upper. Available June 1st. \$400/month. Call (414) 352-9148.

**Sunny, Milw-Bay View** upper, 1 BR + LR & DR, appliances, garage space, references required, \$400, 482-1771 evenings.

### Organizations

**GALANO CLUB.** A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA, Al-Anon, ACOA and other 12-step meetings. Open nightly. 2408 N. Farwell Avenue, (414) 276-6936.

### Personals-Men

**GM visiting Madison** summer '92, may move there Fall '92 seeks GM to show me the best Madison has to offer. Derek, P.O. Box 1971, Baltimore, MD 21203.

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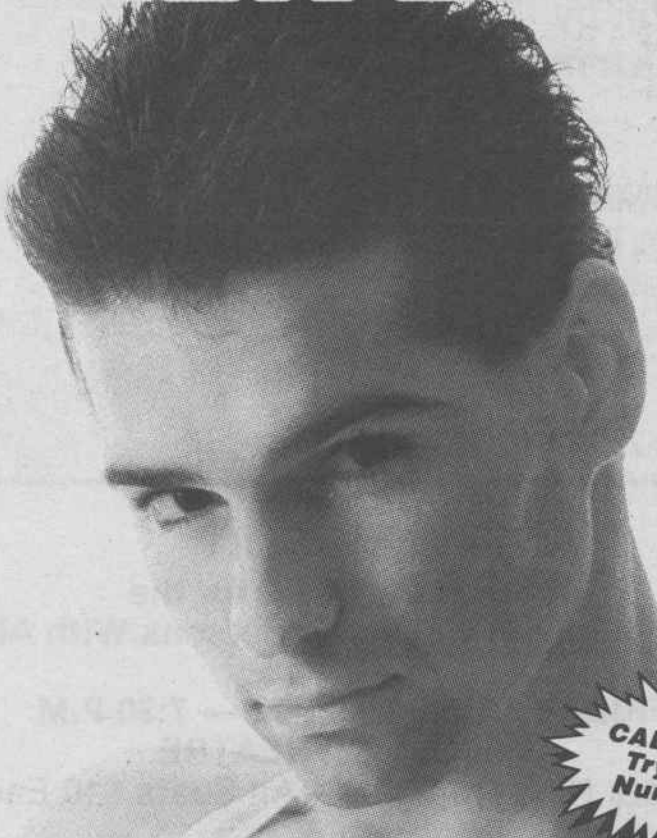
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MESMERIZING  
FILM

that bristles with  
fury, sexuality and  
radical wit. Swinton  
is a sexy, roaring  
wonder. It's a piercing  
cry from the heart."

—Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE



Based on the Play by  
Christopher Marlowe

# Edward II

A Film by  
Derek Jarman

BRITISH SCREEN AND BBC FILMS PRESENT A WORKING TITLE PRODUCTION A DEREK JARMAN FILM EDWARD II BASED ON THE PLAY BY CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE  
STEVEN WADDINGTON ANDREW TIERNAN TILDA SWINTON NIGEL TERRY KEVIN COLLINS JEROME FLYNN JOHN LYNCH DUDLEY SUTTON  
COSTUME DESIGNER SANDY POWELL PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHRISTOPHER HOBBS MUSIC BY SIMON FISHER TURNER FILM EDITOR GEORGE AKERS PHOTOGRAPHED BY IAN WILSON  
SCREENPLAY BY DEREK JARMAN STEPHEN MCBRIDE KEN BUTLER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SARAH RADCLYFFE SIMON CURTIS PRODUCERS STEVE CLARK-HALL ANTHONY ROOT DIRECTED BY DEREK JARMAN



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A Division of New Line Cinema

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A Special Benefit for the  
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