



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

The Wisconsin Light

Health Workers Disease Prevention & Insurance Bills Become Law

[Madison]-State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) on April 30, 1992, applauded Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson's decision to sign into law a bill Carpenter called "an extremely important aid to those medical professionals working on the front lines in our battle against AIDS."

"I congratulate Governor Thompson on his decision to sign Assembly Bill 414 into law," Carpenter said. "This bill will be a tremendous benefit to those who work with an extensive number of AIDS and HIV-positive patients."

AB 414, authored by Rep. Carpenter, allocates \$50,000 to fund the purchase of devices designed to prevent accidental needle punctures in various health care settings. Carpenter wrote the bill with the help of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals and other interested groups.

The result, according to Carpenter, is a bill that will help prevent the accidental exposure of nurses to deadly bloodborne diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis B.

"This law will allow medical professionals to continue their work with these patients without some of the apprehensions that have unfortunately become part of their working lives," Carpenter said.

Insurance Continuation Bill

In another matter, on May 5, Carpenter also praised Thompson's decision to allow an important insurance continuation provision in the State Budget to remain free from veto.

The provision allows insurance continuation coverage for 29 months while an HIV-infected person is on an unpaid medical leave of absence due to an HIV-related condition.

Federal law allows continuation coverage premium subsidies for 29 months, if a person suffered loss of employment due to a handicap, but Wisconsin law had only allowed coverage for up to 18 months. The Carpenter provision makes Wisconsin law consistent with federal law.

"This is an important and crucial change that will be a tremendous benefit to those with an HIV-related condition," Carpenter said. "I'm very happy with the Governor's decision to allow this proposal to remain in the budget."

"It is critical that an HIV-infected person know that they will have insurance coverage while they are on a leave of absence," Carpenter stated. "This provision will allow the peace of mind that is so necessary and important."

ACT UP Demands that Charges Be Brought Against Racine Officials

[Milwaukee]- After six months of waiting for justice for Dennis Hill, ACT UP Milwaukee has stepped up its campaign.

According to ACT UP, Hill's death in November, 1991, was precipitated by "negligent treatment at the hands of Racine, Wisconsin police. ACT UP is demanding that civil rights charges be brought against those Racine officials they say are responsible for Hill's death."

Hill, a person with advanced AIDS, was, according to ACT UP, picked up by Racine police last November 17 for a routine traffic offense. He was taken to the Racine County Jail and held there for two nights. When caregivers from the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) picked Hill up at the Jail, he was severely ill and neglected, lying in his own feces and vomit and breathing with great difficulty according to those who saw him.

The MAP caregivers took Hill directly to a hospital where he died several days later. The FBI has investigated the case to ascertain if Hill's civil rights were violated.

ACT UP Milwaukee is expected to mount a demonstration similar to its one

Medical College of WI to Promote Safe Sex With \$3 Million Grant



EDWARD II — Isabella (Tilda Swinton) and Mortimer (Nigel Terry) appear in the film "Edward II." Wisconsin Light and In Step are sponsoring opening night benefits in Milwaukee and Madison. See page 9 for details.

Clarenbach Announces Candidacy For U.S. Congress in Second District

[Madison]- Declaring that "when it comes to change, actions speak louder than words," State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), officially launched his campaign for Congress on Sunday, May 3, 1992 and released a list of nearly 2,000 supporters — The 1992 Club — who will urge him on.

Clarenbach, Speaker Pro Tem of the Wisconsin State Assembly, will seek the House seat held by incumbent Republican Scott Klug. His announcement came during a two-day tour of eight counties in the Second Congressional District.

Clarenbach, a staunch and long-time fighter for civil rights, charged that the incumbent has joined the ranks of conservative Republicans backing President Bush, while creating the false impression that he is a moderate and an outsider.

"Scott Klug may want us to think otherwise, but what he has spent most of the last two years doing is standing with the Bush Administration, defending the status quo. I have spent twenty years fighting for change," Clarenbach said.

Clarenbach pointed to significant health

care, environmental, economic and civil rights laws he has authored during 18 years in the State Assembly, and to his advocacy of reproductive rights. Clarenbach is also the author of ever piece of Wisconsin legislation dealing with AIDS.

"As we look to the future, we look for change — and when it comes to change, actions speak louder than words," Clarenbach said.

Clarenbach's Platform

Clarenbach called for national health care reform, responsible federal budgeting and a shift from military to domestic priorities. He said Congress has become too embroiled in partisan bickering to pay attention to the real issues.

"The people who get results in politics are not the show horses, but the work horses," Clarenbach said, "not the ones with the snappy sound-bite solutions, but the ones who roll up their sleeves, learn the system and do the hard work it takes to make change happen."

"It's not how long you've served that counts; it's how well you've served," he said.

Clarenbach, 38, has compiled two decades of public service in Wisconsin. He has been elected to the State Assembly since 1974, after serving as a Dane County Board Supervisor and Madison city alderman from 1972-74.

He chairs the Assembly Special Committee on Reform of Health Insurance and the Agriculture Subcommittee on the Future of Family Farming. He is a member of the committees on Labor, Financial Institutions and Rules, and has been chosen Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly since 1983.

Clarenbach has received national recognition for his work in helping those struggling against HIV/AIDS and for his fight on behalf of the civil rights of all people.

The 1992 Club — nearly 2,000 people from all walks of life who are demanding better representation, and who believe Clarenbach is the best candidate to provide it — is evidence of his broad-based support, Clarenbach said.

"Their growing ranks will form the grassroots backbone of this campaign," he said.

Clarenbach's two-day announcement schedule included appearances in Madison, Beaver Dam, Portage, Baraboo, Richland Center, Dodgeville, Darlington and Monroe.

[Milwaukee]- A new research program evaluating methods to support long-term consistent maintenance of safe sexual practices by Gay men has been launched by the Community Health Behavior Program of the department of psychiatry and mental health services at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).

The community-based project is headed by nationally recognized psychologist Jeffrey Kelly, Ph.D., program director and MCW professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences.

The new five-year study will assist those homosexually-active men in Milwaukee who have experienced risk behavior lapses or find it difficult to maintain a safe sexual lifestyle. The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will collaborate with MCW in the work.

"Gay men have done an enormous job in changing risk behavior, and have made great progress in the fight against AIDS," said Kelly. "The focus of our program is to encourage and help men to maintain these changes on what may need to be a lifelong basis," he said.

\$3 Million Grant

The research project has been awarded \$3,029,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). With this new grant, research support totaling approximately \$10 million has been awarded for the varied AIDS projects being directed by Dr. Kelly at the MCW Community Health Behavior Program. MCW is one of a handful of centers doing extensive research in AIDS prevention.

TURN TO MEDICAL COLLEGE, PAGE 11

Stronger Hate Crimes Bill Signed Into Law

[Madison]- A bill to strengthen Wisconsin's law against crimes motivated by bigotry, sponsored by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), has been signed into law by Gov. Thompson.

The bill (AB 507) provides clearer standards for judges and juries to use in deliberating over "hate crimes" cases, according to Clarenbach. It amends a 1988 law which allows judges to impose additional penalties when a criminal selected their victim because of the victim's race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

"Our police and prosecutors asked us for stronger tools to fight these insidious crimes, and the Legislature delivered," Clarenbach said. "I commend the Governor for signing AB 507."

The bill would clarify two aspects of the law: (1) hate crime penalties could be imposed even if minority status was not the sole reason for selection of the victim; and (2) being mistaken about the victim's minority status would not allow a defendant to escape the penalties.

Clarenbach predicted the change will result in more hate crimes convictions, because it removes doubts about the precise meaning of the law.

"Authorities around the state are strongly supporting the law. This bill will encourage and strengthen their enforcement efforts by telling judges and juries more clearly, exactly what constitutes a hate crime," Clarenbach said.

The neglect of basic human and economic needs in our society, Clarenbach noted, has made more and more innocent people — particularly members of minority groups — victims of desperately looking for scapegoats.

"It has never been more important to ensure that crimes arising from bigotry and intolerance are punished, so that people of all races, religions and lifestyles can live peacefully among their neighbors," Clarenbach said.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Vermont Approves Gay Rights Law

[Burlington, VT]- On April 23, according to the **Burlington Free Press**, Vermont Governor Howard Dean followed the lead of five other states and signed a statewide law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Opponents of the bill had attempted to intimidate the measure's supporters by using death threats, hate mail and telephone harassment, but in spite of such things, the bill passed the state legislature on April 15, 1992.

The Vermont law covers housing, insurance, public and private employment and public accommodations.

Carter and Tutu Lend HRCF Support

[Washington, D.C.]- Former President Jimmy Carter and Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa have agreed to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Human Rights Campaign Fund's 5th Annual Atlanta Dinner. The event, which raises funds for the nation's largest Lesbian and Gay advocacy organization, is to be held on May 16th in Atlanta.

Former President Carter is the first President of the U.S. to associate himself with a fundraising effort in the Lesbian and Gay community.

Archbishop Tutu joins one other Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel, as a vocal supporter of Lesbian and Gay equality. In his letter to the organizing committee of the Lesbian/Gay fundraiser, Archbishop Tutu stated, "I believe in all you seek to accomplish."

U.S. Pressured on Hate Crimes

[Washington, D.C.]- Working in coalition with ethnic, religious and civil rights groups, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is pressuring the U.S. Government to respond more inclusively and aggressively to hate crimes in America — in particular, anti-Gay and Lesbian hate crimes.

A coalition of national organizations, including NGLTF, testified before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights for fuller implementation of the Federal Hate Crime Statistics Act by the Community Relations Service (CRS) of the Department of Justice.

Despite the mandate of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the CRS has, at times, refused to include anti-Gay and religiously-motivated incidents in its educational materials and programs.

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

'Die Queer' Chicago Posters

[Chicago]- The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force has received notice from the Chicago Transit Authority of a grant of public service space valued at \$13,500 for its youth anti-violence transit poster campaign titled "Die Queer." The poster calls public attention to the homophobic, psychological and physical abuse suffered by many Lesbian and Gay teenagers.

The poster shows a line of school lockers. The words "Die Queer" are scrawled in white letters on one of the locker doors.

Copies of the poster signed by the artist are being offered for a donation of \$250 for a 21x22 size and \$500 for 46x60 size. Donations will go to display the poster in areas least often exposed to Lesbian, Gay or bisexual messages. To order, call (312) 975-0707.

End of Gay Military Ban Sought

[Washington, D.C.]- On April 30, 1992, a retired lieutenant commander of the U.S. Navy, who is an Episcopal clergyman, testified before Congress to demand an end to the military's ban on Gay and Lesbian servicemembers. The Reverend Canon Charles E. Wood called the expulsion of Gay and Lesbian servicemembers "outright discrimination and a waste of taxpayer dollars."

"The facts are that Gays and Lesbians have and will continue to serve this country and serve honorably," Canon Wood said.

Wood noted that as a result of the nearly 50 year-old discriminatory policy, Department of Defense estimates that about 2,000 individuals are dismissed or discharged each year. A 1984 Government Accounting Office review of this policy found that in the decade between 1974 and 1984, the military spent over \$180 million to train and then investigate and discharge 14,311 members of the service.

P-FLAG Begins National TV Ads

[Washington, D.C.]- In a groundbreaking public service announcement (PSA) currently being aired on television stations across the country, members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) gather to proclaim their love for all their family members, according to Tom Sauerman, P-FLAG Executive Director.

Starring 45 P-FLAG members of all races and ages, the PSA evokes the impression of a giant photo of a warm and diverse family with voice overs of parents recalling the experience of coming to terms with having a Lesbian, Gay or bisexual family member.

The PSA is intended to serve as a strong statement to right-wing religious and political groups as well as to more typical traditional families that P-FLAG families are whole, loving, healthy and productive.

Ann Landers Says Gays Are Happy

[Chicago]- Syndicated advice columnist, Ann Landers, has been told that the great majority of us are "glad to be Gay." This, according to the results of her poll on homosexuality published in the last week in April. It seems that Gay men and Lesbians who are happy just the way they are outnumber those who would "rather be straight" by a 30-1 margin.

Landers concluded that it was her "firm conviction that homosexuality is not a learned behavior, it is genetic. It can be suppressed," Landers stated, "but not altered."

Bush Gets Poor Grades in AIDS Fight

[Washington, D.C.]- The chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on AIDS gives the Bush Administration poor grades in fighting the disease, saying that "We've been shouting, and we're not being heard."

Dr. June Osborn, Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan added, "The world is laced with the HIV virus. We're not doing at all well to mobilize against the greatest health crisis of our time. It's like the day after Hiroshima; a new force has entered our world."

If there is good news, Osborn said, it is that the AIDS virus is not easily transmitted. But it has still claimed more lives than the Korean and Vietnamese wars combined, she said.

U.S. AIDS Ads Are Insulting & Timid

[Washington, D.C.]- In a one-page reply to sharp questions from Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA), the head of federal AIDS education efforts on May 7, defended the Administration's HIV/AIDS advertising campaign and rejected more explicit alternatives. Studds characterized the defense as "somewhere between exasperating and insulting, and still too timid."

After reviewing the new federal AIDS education initiative unveiled in March, Studds has been prompted "to sound an alarm regarding the continued superficial and uninformative quality of our government's AIDS message."

Studds strongly urged the Centers for Disease Control to "provide information up front" in TV and print ads.

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.

Sensitive Drug Alcohol Treatment Available for Gays and Lesbians

[Milwaukee]- Fifty-nine agencies in the greater Milwaukee area and Southern Wisconsin have endorsed principals and criteria that recognize the need for sensitive treatment of Lesbians and Gay men for alcohol and other drug abuse related problems.

The principals and criteria, written by the Task Force on Lesbians and Gay Men AODA Treatment, are meant to be instructive items to help agencies develop treatment that is sensitive to the needs of Lesbians and Gay men.

In the Fall of 1991, the task force distributed the principals to alcohol and other drug abuse problem-related agencies asking each to review them and sign an unbinding endorsement. The respondents became the foundation of a directory of facilities sensitive to the issues.

The directory is available to any individual interested in appropriate alcohol and other drug abuse treatment providers for Lesbians and Gay men.

This project was sponsored and


coordinated by the Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism with partial financial assistance from the Cream City Foundation.

For further information or a copy of the directory contact: Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism, 2266 N. Prospect, Milwaukee, WI 53202, or phone (414) 276-8487.

Sobczak Wins Swimming Meet Competition




[Milwaukee]- Leonard Sobczak competed in the Wisconsin State Masters Swimming Championship in Kenosha on April 25, 1992, swimming in the men's 35-39 age group.

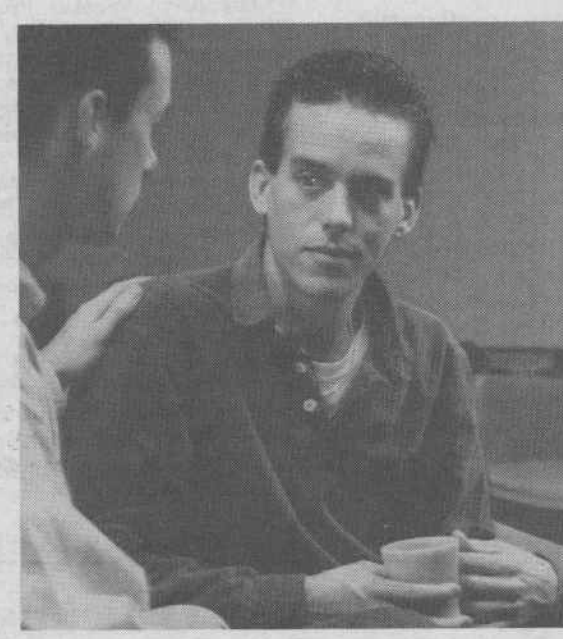
Sobczak, a Milwaukee native, took first place in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:10.52 and fourth place in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:08.22.



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Rodney King Verdict Stirs Strong Gay Reaction in Washington, D.C.

[Washington, D.C.]— Hundreds of protesters, including a noticeably large contingent of Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexuals, demonstrated on May 4 against the Rodney King verdict and pervasive racism in the U.S. at a lively picket and civil disobedience at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, D.C.

Chanting, "This Isn't Justice, we're disgusted," protesters marched around the DOJ building then shut down historic Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, among other streets, for nearly four hours.

Demonstrators demanded that the DOJ issue federal indictments against the four Los Angeles police officers who beat King, and called for an independent national commission named by President Bush and appointed by community leaders to investigate police violence and the King case.

Some 275 protesters were involved in the demonstration, with downtown Washington office workers, pedestrians and more activists joining in throughout the morning. D.C. police declined to make arrests even though activists blocked traffic during the busy morning rush hour.

The action was sponsored by the "People's Coalition for Justice," a hastily gathered, Washington based group that included the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)

NGLTF Issues Strong Protest

In an early statement issued to the press, NGLTF declared itself "outraged by the acquittal" of the four Los Angeles police officers. "To watch the videotape of King's beating," the statement said, "is to witness overwhelming documented evidence of criminal brutality."

NGLTF said that "the only conceivable explanation" for the "not guilty" verdict was that the jury had looked at the tape "through the lens of racism." NGLTF went on to say that the King beating "reflects a pattern of hate crimes perpetrated by police against African Americans and other minorities, including Lesbians and Gay men."

Gay men and Lesbians, the statement said, know "all too well the bitter reality of abuse by both the police and their courts." NGLTF cited its recent Anti-Gay

violence report which showed that a median proportion of 20% of Lesbians and Gay men reported having been victimized by the police because of their sexual orientation.

NGLTF said that it "stands in solidarity with the African American community in what is one of the most shameful and depressing moments in race relations since the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lambda Legal Defense

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund joined NGLTF and other Gay/Lesbian groups in expressing outrage over the King verdict and drew a firm connecting line between what had happened and the general oppression of all minorities in the United States.

In a press release, Lambda said, "Throughout the history of this country, the assaults on vulnerable groups — native people, people of color, women, Gay men and Lesbians, people with HIV/AIDS, religious minorities and others — has proliferated uninterrupted.

Like many other commentators, Lambda blamed the Reagan/Bush Administration. "In the last 12 years of Reagan/Bush...these attacks have only accelerated," said Lambda and called urgently for a transformation of American society.

"The acquittal of Rodney King's attackers and its aftermath have shown us plainly that our society must be transformed if it is to survive," said Lambda.

"The cause of the violence and rage that followed the Rodney King verdict was not only a failure of twelve jurors to see Rodney King as a human being. The violence and rage result from decades of fragmentation and marginalization of people of color from and by the larger society."

Lambda urged the continuing and strong challenge to racism, classism, sexism and homophobia. To this end, the organization urged the "forging of bonds of coalition" between Lesbian/Gay groups and other oppressed minorities in the on-going struggle against the values of a white-male dominated society.

"The survival of each of us depends on the survival of all of us," Lambda said.

Gay Sergeant Resigns and Files Suit To Avoid Dismissal From Army

[Chicago]— Jim English, a former member and President of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee and who has spent almost 18 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, has resigned his post rather than face a hearing seeking his dismissal on grounds that he is Gay.

Army Guard Reserve Sgt. English on April 28, 1992, quit the service after a federal judge declined to stop the military hearing.

"I'm admitting I cannot beat the Army on an issue of sexual preference," said English, who serves as a full-time personnel sergeant with the 138th Army Reserve Battalion in Rosemont, Illinois.

English's resignation follows his "coming out" at a 1990 Milwaukee Pride Rally before an estimated 1,500 people and his decision to appear in full dress uniform in the November 14 cover of *Gay Chicago* magazine.

He decided to permit the magazine to

publish the photo, he said, "to promote the rights of homosexuals in the military." English has long been known as a champion of equal rights for Lesbians and Gays.

On Tuesday, April 28, U.S. District Court Judge George Lindberg rejected English's request for a temporary restraining order to stop the military hearing. English complained in his lawsuit that the Army had been aware of his sexual orientation since 1990, but allowed him to re-enlist in June, 1991.

In December, 1991, Army officials notified English that they were going to seek his dismissal, citing his appearance in the magazine and his being openly Gay.

English's attorney, J. Cunyon Gordon has filed a lawsuit against the Army, the Secretary of the Army and others, on the basis that the Army had been aware of English's homosexuality at the time of his 1991 re-enlistment.

Lesbian Mother's Support Group Founders to Speak at LAMM Meeting

[Milwaukee]— Recognition of the mothers within us and around us is the focus of the May 21 meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM). The program features a presentation by two founders of the Lesbian Mothers' Support Group.

Like a growing number of Lesbian couples, they made a conscious choice to become parents and raise a child. They will share their reasons for doing so, how they went about it, and the joys and challenges they've experienced in raising

their now 3-year-old son — who will also be there to share his perspective. There will be a discussion time afterward, for all to share experiences of being mothered or being mothers.

There will be a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and the program will follow at 7:00 p.m., at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St. Secure, lit parking is available.

LAMM meetings are held regularly on the third Thursday of each month. All Lesbians are welcome. For more information, call (414) 264-2600.

International Mr. Leather Contest Planned in Chicago on May 24

[Chicago]— The 14th Annual International Mr. Leather Contest will be held in Chicago on Sunday, May 24, in the Aragon Ballroom. The contest attracts annual over 1,500 leathermen and 50 contestants from around the world and is surrounded by four nights of parties and events. These include the International Club Night and the Black & Blue Ball.

This year's contest has been dedicated to all persons living with AIDS and to the memory of co-founder and chief judge, Dom Orejudos, better known as the world-renowned master of sexual fantasy art, "Etienne."

Unknown to much of the leather community, Orejudos was also an accomplished ballet choreographer. His works have been presented nation-wide, including Milwaukee, San Francisco and New York. In 1968, his ballet, "The Charioteer," was chosen to inaugurate

the first color broadcast of WTTW, Chicago's PBS TV station.

Registration for the leather weekend is on Thursday, May 21, at Chicago's Executive House Hotel. Tickets for the entire weekend of events, including reserved seating at the contest, are available for \$95 from International Mr. Leather by calling (800) 545-6753. Contest only tickets are available for \$35.

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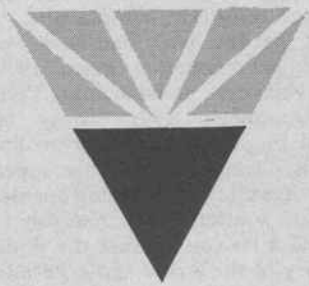
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Executive & Editorial Offices

1843 N. Palmer
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 372-2773

Light FAX: (414) 289-0789

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Publisher
Jerry Johnson

Executive Editor
Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Geno

Advertising Manager
Jerry Johnson
372-2773

Advertising Representative
Chris M. Chun

COLUMNISTS

State Rep. David E. Clarenbach, Karen Lamb, Ph.D., Jamakaya, Bill Meunier, Maytee Aspuro, Deb Procknow.

REPORTERS

Eugene Brzenk, Ph.D., Sue Burke, Michael Lisowski, Jeb Loew, Bill Lyne, John Quinlan

Typography & Process Graphics
C.S.P., INCORPORATED

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EDITORIAL

Clarenbach's Progressive Voice Desperately Needed in Washington

We greet with great pleasure David Clarenbach's formal announcement of his candidacy for Congress in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District. We can think of no finer person, no more dedicated public servant, no one more worthy of our support, than he is.

Clarenbach's record on civil rights for all people is one to be both admired and emulated. Throughout his political life, he has been in the forefront, championing the cause of African Americans, Lesbians and Gays, women, those living with HIV/AIDS and a host of others. When those lacking power have needed help, David Clarenbach has been there for them.

We believe that there is no better time, no more desperately urgent time for Clarenbach to be in Congress than now.

What have we gotten from the Republicans? Racism, sexism, homophobia and all sorts of divisions in our land. What have they done to heal our country, to help its people? Nothing, nothing at all!

One hundred fifty thousand people have died of AIDS, millions more live with HIV, and Reagan and Bush have hardly even mentioned the words.

The hideous outrage of the Rodney King verdict and the explosion that followed it should show us that the once gleaming ideal of America's promise, civil rights for all people, is little more than a cruel lie. And the Republicans do nothing, nothing at all.

The Supreme Court steadily eats away at a woman's right to choose while the GOP chuckles behind its collective hands.

Meanwhile, Robert Kasten, James Sensenbrenner, Scott Klug and their ilk cling to their wealth, status-quoism and white male supremacy and work for a world where "change" is a dirty word and compassion a near obscenity.

The do-nothing, lackluster, visionless George Bush and his people have got to go. And with them the rest of the inept, unprincipled and narrow-minded herd. It is time to elect true public servants to office and throw the politicians out!

The Wisconsin Light urges everyone in Madison and throughout the Second Congressional District to work for the election of David Clarenbach as if their future depended on it. Because in this case, it really does.

Methodist Church Strongly Condemned for Anti-Christian Beliefs

Guest Commentary By Dan Frederick Schramm

Ignorance comes in many forms, but none is more dangerous than that which hides behind the Bible. No betrayal of Christian ideals is more complete than that exhibited by the Methodist Church on Monday, May 11, 1992 when they voted to uphold their position that "homosexuality was incompatible with Christian teaching."

The vote of 710-238 to retain this position was evidently an exercise in power and control. I doubt if the teachings of Jesus Christ even crossed the minds of the 710 voters for intolerance, much less the history lessons all Christians should know about; how the Bible has been used to justify every prejudice under the sun. It has been used to justify slavery, torture, murder and outright genocide.

Methodists, like others, conveniently over-look the crystal-clear fact that Jesus never said a single word about homosexuality. If it was such a grievous sin, as the fundamentalists like to claim, then surely Jesus would have said something about it. Nope, not a word.

Christians believe Jesus Christ is either God Himself or the Son of God, and their salvation is dependent upon this belief. How conveniently they ignore the teachings of Jesus to love one another and to not judge others. They have voted to continue their condemnation of Gays and Lesbians; the direct result being increased suffering, homophobia, Gay-bashing and teen suicide. This will be on their shoulders. When their time comes, I can see them at the gate of Heaven. God, Jesus Himself, will ask them why they did not follow His teachings. They will stammer for a moment or two and undoubtedly proclaim that they followed the teachings of Paul. Jesus will shake his head sadly before sending them down to their just desserts.

The Methodists have made a fundamental mistake confusing Paulinity for Christianity. The writings of Paul are constantly used to justify prejudice. I certainly would not want to base my eternal salvation on the writings of this man. Paul, who wrote half the New Testament was a Jew named Saul who was persecuting the new Christians. He claimed to have had a vision of Jesus. He claimed a conversion to Christianity and changed his name. He then proceeded to mold the Christian religion to his personal interpretation. Paul never knew Jesus, never heard Jesus preach, and only knew a few of the disciples. His writings are replete with ignorance concerning Jesus while boasting of his own importance. He writes of his own miracles, yet knows nothing at all about the miracles of Jesus. Paul is a man without credentials.

Even if one wants to base their salvation upon Paul, the Methodists conveniently ignore that Paul had no use for sex of any kind, and only begrudgingly accepted heterosexual sex and marriage. He believed the end of the world was at hand, and that Jesus would return within his lifetime. Thus there was no need for sex or marriage. He believed everything should be directed towards salvation before the end of the world. No one, least of all God, bothered to tell Paul that the return of Jesus was going to take 2,000 years or more. If Jesus had bothered to tell Paul, there is little argument that his views toward sex would have been much different.

Obviously, Paul wasn't much of a prophet. The Methodist leaders aren't real Christians either. They should stop lying to the world, and call themselves "Paulites" rather than continuing to give Jesus and Christianity a bad name by claiming they are "Christians."

LETTERS

Political 'Sissys'?

TO THE EDITOR:

How fittingly stereotypical the election advice given in a local Gay newspaper was: the two "men" who gave the advice to voters to recommend rewarding a back-stabbing opportunist and thus throwing away whatever political clout Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community might have, while the woman who also gave a recommendation had the guts to stand on principle and suggest several write-in candidates.

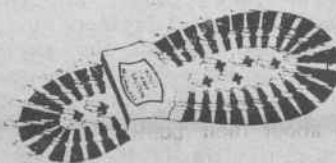
A commonly heard derogatory term for Gay males is "sissy." Gays will never be respected by certain elements of society unless they show that they are willing to fight. Those who cave in to the Norquist betrayal and voted for him deserve what they get, but unfortunately their foolishness will harm others, because they reinforce the belief that Gays are sissies who can be kicked around without the risk that they will try to fight back. Gays would be much better received if their attitude, their actions and their vote were "Fuck with me and you'll pay for it!"

So Norquist "fulfilled" an election promise to speak out on Gay bashing, and now "all is forgiven." Bullshit! Let Norquist go on public television and tell the Gay Bashers that Gay Bashing is wrong and will not be tolerated! Those who are satisfied with his insipid remarks to the police academy show how weak they are: they grasp at anything to rationalize their timidity. They say "Thank you" for John Norquist's kick in the ass and surrender all hope of being taken seriously in the foreseeable future.

— Al Geiersbach
Milwaukee

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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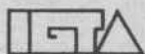
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Pressing Issues: The Things I Should Have Said...

By Jamakaya

In April, Kitty Barber and I spoke to a packed meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) about Lesbian issues and images in the media.

Kitty, the LAMM spokeswoman who represented us with such dignity and eloquence throughout the Dahmer nightmare, focused on practical ways to influence the mainstream media: pitching story ideas to reporters; developing ongoing communication with editorial boards; expressing our opinions through letters and phone calls; and responding in assertive, responsible fashion when confronted with negative images or inaccurate information.

(LAMM played its usual heroic, but unheralded, role when *Basic Instinct* opened in Milwaukee in March, sending local film critics a letter and information on Hollywood's long history of homophobia. LAMM made clear it did not advocate censorship but wanted to raise consciousness about the defamation of Lesbians in the movies.)

Kitty underscored the importance of working with the mainstream print and broadcast media because of the wide audience it reaches, an audience more vast than our humble queer presses, like *Wisconsin Light*, can ever hope to reach.

It would have been logical for me at that point to enumerate the many advantages alternative media, like the feminist, Black and Gay and Lesbian presses have to offer, but nooooo..... Instead I talked about Hollywood, the Oscar protests, the recent media awards given by GLAAD (to *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Frankie and Johnny*, *Roseanne*, *Roc*) and tacky tidbits of Lesbo gossip.

Far from being annoyed with my rambling, unfocused delivery, the group responded enthusiastically. LAMM members, perceived by many in the Gay community as fierce political Amazons, eschewed analysis (at least that night) and shamelessly clamored to hear more about Jodie and Winona! When I razzed them about their political incorrectness, several responded with the irreverent cry: "But Jamakaya, *inquiring minds want to know!*"

It was a fun night, but I can't help feeling, in retrospect, I missed the opportunity to make some serious points. So here are a few things I probably should have said.

Queer Press Plays Critical Role

While working to ensure accurate portrayals of Gays and Lesbians in the news media and the entertainment industry, we also need to show greater support for our own communications media. Queer publications and TV and radio programs may reach more limited audiences but play a critical role in our communities. Each is a vital communications tool and a vehicle for documenting our history: our political struggles and internal debates, our personal relationships and lifestyles, our artistic achievements, future goals, etc.

No one can record and analyze our culture and our lives with the depth of understanding that we can through our own Gay and Lesbian media. That point was illustrated most dramatically in the past year as the Dahmer murders and their horrible aftermath gripped Milwaukee's Gay community.

For the most part, the mainstream media engaged in what can only be described as "homophobic overkill." My favorite outrageous comment came from an *Inside Edition* crewmember who, while filming in a local Gay bar, instructed the cameraperson to "Make it look really sleazy."

It was *Wisconsin Light* and *In Step* which provided the most accurate, non-sensational and detailed coverage of Dahmer's impact on the Gay and Lesbian community and followed through with the most thorough coverage of all that came in its aftermath — the Blue Ribbon Commission hearing on police abuse, the school board debate on services for Gay teens, the "Flirting with Danger" controversy, and Mayor Norquist's veto of Pride funds. All these events and the shabby way they were covered by the mainstream media reinforced for me the necessity of our own Gay-run media.

Radical Messages Censored

We need to maintain a healthy skepticism about just how far the corporate media will ever go to represent our interests. During her speech about



JAMAKAYA

"Achieving Social Justice" at UWM last month, Dr. Mary Frances Berry charged that the major media "bow down before power" and exist primarily to support the status quo. As if to prove her point, neither the *Milwaukee Journal* or *Sentinel* covered the lecture (!) which featured Berry, Gloria Steinem and Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller advocating radical transformation of our society's rotten institutions. The silence of our daily papers regarding this major event — attended by thousands of people — was as disgraceful as it was predictable.

At the LAMM meeting, I talked about my decision to step down as News Editor of the *Light*. Along with limited finances, burn-out, and the paper's brutal production process, I also voiced my frustration (again) with the lazybones Lezzies who do not contribute to the paper

but who constantly complain that there's not enough Lesbian content. I'm afraid I was at my undiplomatic worst, lambasting the LAMMites who, Kitty reminded me (to no avail) are the most active Lesbians in the city. (It's not for nothing my friends call me a "bull dyke in a china shop.")

It's still unbelievable to me that in almost five years, less than a handful of Lesbians have consistently contributed anything to this newspaper. Some of the finest Lesbian poets in the country live here. Many of us regularly attend

May 14, 1992—May 27, 1992—WISCONSIN LIGHT—5 women's music festivals and read the books pouring forth from Lesbian publishers. In the past decade, a baby boom has swept our community and there have been fascinating debates about separatism, racism, butch-femme relationships, political correctness, etc. That more of these events and ideas have not been covered in the *Light* is due not to the alleged sexism of its publisher/editor but to the apathy of the Lesbian community itself.

TURN TO PRESSING ISSUES, PAGE 11

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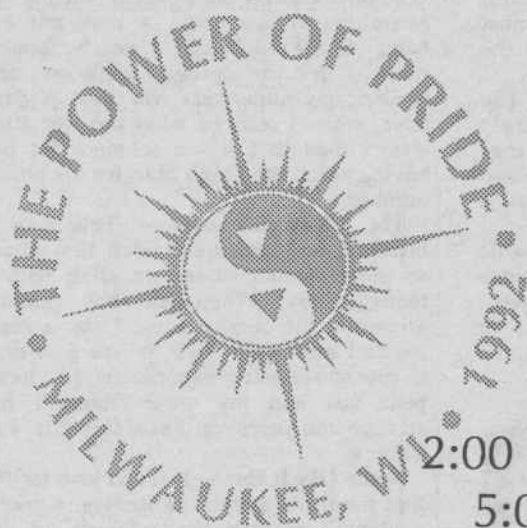
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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Witty, Thought-Provoking 'Eastern Standard' Is a Comedy of Values

By Lynn Henry Schmidt

Eastern Standard, the second production of the Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, is splendid. Their first offering, **Adam and the Experts**, was remarkable and theatergoers who saw that play will not be disappointed by this production. It is a witty, thought-provoking, and well-acted play. It is superbly directed by Stephen Spera.

The play is a comedy of values concerning four upwardly mobile professionals who begin to examine their lives and who find their value systems challenged. These "yuppies/guppies" include a Gay television executive, his straight Wall Street broker sister, her architect boyfriend and his best friend, a Gay artist. Their encounter with a bag lady and an actress/waiter is one of the sparks which leads them to new insights.

The six actors who play these characters form a pleasant ensemble. The actors nicely balance each other and each has notable moments in the play. Paul Byrne who plays Stephen is strong throughout the play. The scene in which he drunkenly and exuberantly quits his job is exhilarating to watch.

John Vende-Walle who plays Peter is poignant when he reflects on the "good ole days" of Gay life. Denise Corrao, Ellen, is very funny in her "sense/memory" excursion. This is Corrao's first role and she shows much promise. Shannon Sloan Spice, Phoebe, is touching in the scene when she returns

from New York after again being "used" by her boyfriend.

Kristie Corevall and Joseph Rabensdorf, two actors who were very good in Spera's production of **Adam**, are, happily, in this production as well. Both are great. Corevall, the bag lady, moves from indignation to passivity beautifully. Her speech concerning the plight of the homeless and their sense of isolation is moving.

And, in that same category of bravura is Spera's direction. Those who saw **Adam** and now this production, are becoming acquainted with the Spera touch and it is exceptional. His creative touch is evident not only in his set design, but also in the selection of music and sound for the show.

The Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian acting company, provides a welcome addition to the theatre in our area.

Performances of **Eastern Standard** will take place at the Bauer Contemporary Ballet Studio, 727 N. Milwaukee St. Dates are: Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17 at 8:03 p.m. Followed by Thursday, May 21 at 7:31 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23 at 8:03 p.m. Ticket price is \$12 which includes \$2 to be donated to the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

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

Controversial, Award Winning Film, 'Poison' Comes to Video May 28

[Milwaukee]- Fox Lorber Video has announced the up-coming release of the long-awaited controversial film, **Poison**. The film will be released on May 28 following a successful theatrical run.

Poison was the most talked about film of the year after ultra-conservative Rev. Don Wildmon and his American Family Association called **Poison** a film "that no one should see," alleging that the movie "includes explicit porno scenes of homosexuals involved in anal sex."

Winning the Grand Jury Prize at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in 1991, the movie ultimately appeared on several "Top Ten Films of the Year" lists of 1991 and has received rave reviews in the press.

Fun Down There

In other video news, Water Bearer Films under an exclusive agreement with Frameline Inc., of San Francisco, has licensed for home video rights to the previously unavailable film, **Fun Down There**. The film marks the first release in the Water Bearer Films up-coming line of films targeted for the Gay and Lesbian community.

A contemporary look at the classic Gay story, **Fun Down There** is an adventure of Buddy, a young man living with his very ordinary family in upstate New York. Up till now, his only source of sexual gratification has been between the covers

of **Playgirl Magazine**. Buddy leaves the small town and heads off to New York. During his first week in the East Village, Buddy finds a new job, new friends, (safe) sexual adventure, and, perhaps, the beginnings of romance.

Urinal

Another Water Bearer Films release under exclusive agreement with Frameline is **Urinal**, the first full-length film from the respected Canadian director, John Greyson.

Urinal is exactly what you think it's about, but much, much more. The film does examine the issue of public washroom sex, but branches out into the broader issues of ruined lives, unwarranted police surveillance and anti-Gay laws. And it does it in the most unbelievably humorous way, although the film does have its dark side.

According to Steven Gaydos of **The Advocate**, the film is "Amusingly outrageous, funny and disturbing, original and offbeat and the best and looniest... A whimsical approach to a serious subject."

All three videos are or will be available at fine video stores including Video Adventures Superstore in Milwaukee, 1418 E. Brady (414) 272-6768 and in Madison, Four Star Video Heaven, 315 N. Henry, (608) 255-1994.

'Liberace: The Magic of Believing' Has World Premiere in Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- Theatre X will present the world premiere of **Liberace: The Magic of Believing** from May 29-31, 1992, at the Pabst Theater. The performance is a full scale opera which explores the mythic appetite for love, success and wealth which catapulted the Milwaukee pianist into one of the most celebrated entertainers of his time.

World-renowned Chicago imagist painter, Ed Paschke, will be the scenic designer for **Liberace**, marking his first opera set. Paschke's work is on permanent display at the Chicago Art Institute, MOMA, the Met, the Whitney, and many other major museums throughout the United States and Europe.

The libretto was composed by Theatre X members Wesley Savick and Pamela Woodruff; the score by Chicago composer Michael Vitali. The production will be

directed by Savick and will feature a cast of twelve including the Theatre X ensemble, as well as opera singers from Milwaukee and Chicago.

Liberace also marks Theatre X's first appearance in the Pabst Theater where **Liberace** debuted with the Chicago Symphony in 1940. Opening night activities on Friday, May 29th, will include a special gala champagne reception to be held in the Milwaukee Center Rotunda.

Performances for **Liberace: The Magic of Believing** are Friday, May 29th at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 30th at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 31st at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$25 and are available through the Pabst Theater Box Office at (414) 278-3663.

My Gay Life at the Movies: From Judy Garland to 'Querelle'

By Barry Martin

A friend, a straight woman, recently asked me, "What is it about Gay men and movies? Why their preoccupation with the world of entertainment?"

And, she is certainly right. Time after time, at dinners and other Gay activities, the conversation turns to what movies the guys have recently seen and what ones they're going to see in the future. To stop it is like trying to halt a lava flow.

Whatever my lack of patience with a society in which current artistic perimeters are **The Player** and **Beauty and the Beast**, I have to admit that much of my life as an American Gay male has been influenced by movies. For example:

For Me And My Gal — I was about five years-old and I think this is the first movie I ever saw. It's kind of fitting that it starred Judy Garland.

Sweet Rosy O'Grady — This is the movie in which I fell in love with Betty Grable. We sing in the same key.

The Homestretch — I was nine when I saw this one with my friend Richard. We tried to depants each other. Richard was just kidding, but I was dead serious.

Captain from Castile — I was about ten. There was something mesmerizing about Tyrone Power. Those eyes! That chest! I didn't have feelings like that about Betty Grable.

Lovely To Look At — I was 14 when I saw this musical in a seedy theatre in Miami, my home town. A man put his hand on my thigh and I nearly fainted when I felt a strange sensation and realized my underwear was wet. A year later, when I realized what the wet stuff was, I thought I was a schmuck for not having asked the Thigh Man for his phone number.

The Game of Love — This was a beautiful and obscure French film about an older woman having an affair with a teenage boy. When the boy jumped around in the ocean waves, I saw a male ass and some pubic hair for the first time in my movie-going experience. My heart beat fast and my lower stomach felt strange and yearning. I saw this film 4 or 5 times.

Some Like It Hot — I was in love for the first time. His name was Stanley, a drama student I met in the cafeteria of the University of Miami. Stanley thoroughly enjoyed the movie, but I was consumed with thoughts of getting him out of there and back to bed.

Planet Of The Apes — My first movie on a plane. I saw this with Ron on our first trip to California where we moved in 1973. This wasn't a movie for the small screen, but I didn't really care. I was traveling with the guy I loved to a place 3,000 miles away.

Victor/Victoria — This was the first time I saw more Gay people than straights in a movie theatre not showing porn. The freedom and elan of the film triggered a joy in all of us. Gay men left the movie not just feeling good about themselves, but feeling special.

Querelle — Although I had seen several Gay films, this was the most prestigious one so far. The line at Beverly Center in L.A. looked like one outside a mainstream Gay bar on a Saturday night. The movie, alas, died quickly and deservedly.

I see at least 50 movies a year in the theatres and far more on video. While I enjoy the experiences, I really don't like to talk about them. For me, they are a transitory experience, not worth dredging up and rehashing. When I meet someone new or an old acquaintance, I want intimacy and profundity, not what they thought about the last movie they saw. That's of no interest to me.

Do we as Gay men talk about movies because they are safe and mutual territory? Is it easier to talk about **Wayne's World** than our situation at work? Is it less complicated to talk about **Bugsy** than to discuss our relatives? Are the complex relationships in **Fried Green Tomatoes** easier to discuss than our own more complex situations?

I don't know.

Fat Chance Theatre Group To Hold Meeting

[Madison]- Fat Chance Theatre, a fat women's theatre group, is now forming. The initial meeting will be June 11, 1992 at Apple Island, 849 E. Washington Avenue in Madison. The time will be 7:00 p.m. All fat women are welcome. Questions about access, childcare and other information can be answered by calling Sharon at (608) 241-9119 V/TTY.

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Masterson and Parker Videos Should Delight 'Tomatoes' Fans

By Cynthia Van Vreede
and Jamakaya

To help ease the "Tomatoes" Fever which has felled many in the Lesbian community recently, we thought we'd present a filmography of actresses Mary Stuart Masterson and Mary-Louise Parker. Most of their films are available on video. Enjoy!

• • •

"From a very early age," says Mary Stuart Masterson, "I saw acting as something noble to do." The talented actress, now 25, is currently stealing hearts as the ol' bee charmer herself, Ildie Threadgoode, in *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

Masterson was raised in New York City in a family that nurtured her theatrical ambitions. Her father, Peter Masterson, is an actor and writer/director of both stage plays and films (*The Trip to Bountiful*). Her mother is actress Carlin Glynn.



MARY STUART MASTERSON

Masterson made her film debut at the tender age of seven in *The Stepford Wives*, (1975). Dad Peter played the lead opposite Katherine Ross. Since 1985, she's starred in at least 10 feature films, most available on video and briefly outlined below.

A member of the prestigious Actor's Studio in New York, Masterson has also distinguished herself in a number of off-Broadway plays. She recently completed a stint in Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* and is currently vying with Sissy Spacek for the lead role in the NBC miniseries *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* (based on the bestselling novel by Gay writer Allan Gurganus).

Masterson Filmography

Some Kind of Wonderful, 1987: A must-see for Lesbian fans! Masterson looks her dykiest best in this flick about a tomboy named Watts who loves just two things, her drums and the boy next door (Eric Stoltz) who, unfortunately, only has eyes for a more glamorous senior class princess. It takes Stoltz all 93 minutes to figure out where his true love lies. Meanwhile, Masterson, with the same mix of bravado and vulnerability that makes Ildie so compelling, absolutely steals your heart! This is the last (and perhaps best) of the teenage angst movies produced by John Hughes.

My Little Girl, 1987: Another must-see film in which Masterson has the lead role. She plays Franny Betlinger, a 16 year old volunteer at a children's center in Philadelphia. She works with two sisters under the supervision of a social worker (James Earl Jones). When one sister is transferred to another home, Franny goes to rescue her. Geraldine Page (longtime friend of the Masterson family) plays Masterson's grandmother.

Immediate Family, 1989: Masterson plays Lucy Moore, a poor unwed mother, while Glenn Close and James Woods play the couple who want to adopt her baby. After living with them for several weeks, Lucy has her baby, then struggles with her reluctance to give it up. The sweetest moment in this film has to be when the two women dance together to a Van Morrison tune. Masterson won a Best Supporting Actress Award from the National Board of Review for this performance.

Gardens of Stone, 1987: Masterson plays Rachel Feld in this film directed by Francis Ford Coppola. It's a Vietnam War flick without the combat, set in and around Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. In an interesting twist, Carlin Glynn and Peter Masterson — real life mom and dad — appear in the movie as Masterson's parents.

Chances Are, 1989: A dead man (Robert Downey Jr.) escapes heaven to

return to earth and the love he left behind (Cybill Shepherd). When he returns, it's 23 years later, however, and Downey is the age of Shepherd's attractive, grown-up daughter Miranda (Masterson).

Heaven Help Us, 1985: The focus in this comedy is on three boys in a Catholic high school. Donald Sutherland and brat-packer Andrew McCarthy and Kevin Dillon star along with Masterson, in a supporting role.

Mr. North, 1988: Based on a Thornton Wilder novel, this film tells the story of a Yale graduate who makes his way in Newport society by "curing" the rich. In a supporting role, Masterson plays Elspeth Skeel. It also stars Lauren Bacall, Anthony Edwards and Anjelica Huston. It was directed by Danny Huston.

At Close Range, 1986: In this dramatic film starring Sean Penn and Christopher Walken, Masterson plays Terry, Penn's girlfriend.

Funny About Love, 1990: Masterson plays the "other" woman in this comedy with Gene Wilder and Christine Lahti. Produced by the *Tomatoes* team of John Avnet and Jordan Kerner, it was panned by critics and bombed at the box office. But we think any film with Christine Lahti and Masterson can't be all bad!

Married To It, 1991: This comedy focuses on the ups and downs of three straight couples as they grapple with marriage and parenthood. Ron Silver and Cybill Shepherd are the lead characters. Masterson plays Nina Bishop, the better half of a newlywed yuppie couple. Directed by Arthur Hiller, it didn't play very long in theatres and it's not available on video yet.

Mary-Louise Parker

Mary-Louise Parker, who plays the genteel, church-going Ruth Jamison in *Fried Green Tomatoes*, has extensive theatrical experience on Broadway and in regional theatre. She received both Tony and Drama Desk nominations as Best Actress for the role of Rita in *Prelude to a Kiss* on Broadway (and then was outrageously passed by for the film version!). She also had a recurring role on the daytime soap, *Ryan's Hope*. In addition to *Tomatoes*, Parker has appeared in just three other feature films so far, all of them quality projects.

Longtime Companion, 1990: Parker plays Lisa, the best friend of Fuzzy (Stephen Caffrey), in this landmark film that traces the physical and emotional impact of AIDS on a close-knit group of Gay men through the 1980s. Bruce Davison was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of David. It's already a Gay classic.



MARY-LOUISE PARKER

Signs of Life, 1989: Residents of a coastal town in Maine face crisis as the wooden fishing boat factory on which the town depends closes. Parker has a supporting role as Charlotte. Her *Tomatoes* co-star Kathy Bates is also featured. (Both *Longtime Companion* and *Signs of Life* were produced for *American Playhouse* on PBS.)

Grand Canyon, 1991: Set in Los Angeles, this Lawrence Kasdan film centers on the friendship between a white lawyer, Mack (Kevin Kline), and a black tow truck driver, Simon (Danny Glover). Parker plays Dee, Mack's secretary, who is miserable after sleeping with her boss. Her chance meeting with a gallant cop helps her put things in perspective. The wonderful ensemble cast also features Steve Martin, Alfre Woodard and Mary McDonnell. It will soon be released on video.

Fans can write to Mary-Louise Parker at 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., 16th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067. Write to Mary Stuart Masterson at 40 W. 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.



Jerry Johnson

A star-studded cast made up the "Who's No Lady Revue" at Milwaukee's La Cage on May 3. A capacity crowd attended the event which was a benefit for MAP. Several of the performers are shown above.

Film Giant, Marlene Dietrich, Can Be Remembered on Video

By Woodrow Thalberg

A Kiss on the Mouth

Last week the world lost Marlene Dietrich at age 90. Not only was she one of the last remaining giants of old Hollywood, she probably did as much for androgyny as any movie star ever. It is no accident that she is impersonated by more female impersonators than any other woman. With her plucked pencil eyebrows, husky voice, mile-high cheek bones and million dollar legs, she will forever be the picture of androgynous glamour.

For those interested in examining her career on video, the best place to begin is the documentary *Marlene* directed by her *Judgment at Nuremberg* co-star, Maximilian Schell. In spite of her aloof sophistication, she comes off as down-to-earth as a movie icon can be and as a woman who weathered the Hollywood star machinery much better than contemporaries Greta Garbo, Jean Harlow, Joan Crawford, or Vivien Leigh. *Marlene* covers her entire career from Weimar Germany to Hollywood to nightclub chanteuse.

Films of particular interest to fans today include Orson Wells' *Touch of Evil* and three masterpieces by Joseph von Sternberg. Who can forget her in *Morocco* where, donned in top hat and tails, she kisses another woman on the mouth; that's as homosexual as old Hollywood ever got on the screen.

In *The Scarlett Empress*, considered by some critics to be the greatest pre-*Citizen Kane* Hollywood film, she plays Catherine the Great with all the sexual energy the role requires. Finally, if one were to rent only one Dietrich film it should be the film that made her a star, *Blue Angel*. Singing "Falling In Love Again," she plays music hall femme fatale Lola Lola. Her last film before getting the Hollywood star treatment, though she still has baby fat, she defines the role she would play for decades to come. Dietrich's Lola Lola is the strong, independent woman who attracts everyone and who appeals as much to future generations as to her own.

Marlene, we miss you already.

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Italian Community Center
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Produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

Fourth Annual Lambda Literary Awards to be Announced May 22

[Washington, D.C.]—The Fourth Annual Lambda Literary Awards, recognizing excellence in Gay and Lesbian writing and publishing, will be presented during a gala celebration in Anaheim, California, on Friday, May 22, 1992, on the eve of the American Booksellers Association Convention.

Readers from around the country sent in ballots to the **Lambda Book Report**, sponsor of the "Lammys," naming over 30 titles for the Gay men's fiction category. The five Gay men's fiction finalists selected were: Harlan Greene's poetic **What the Dead Remember**; Dennis Cooper's grisly **Frisk**; Melvin Dixon's **Vanishing Rooms**; Philip Gambone's essays, **The Language We Use Up Here**; and Paul Monette's **Halfway Home**.

Lesbian Nonfiction

Another strong category indicative of the depth of contemporary Gay and Lesbian thought and research were the titles selected for the Lesbian nonfiction Award. These were: Lillian Faderman's **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers**; Sandra Butler and Barbara Rosenblum's account of Rosenblum's losing struggle with breast cancer, **Cancer in Two Voices**; a rich anthology of writing about Lesbian sexuality, **An Intimate Wilderness**; Minnie Bruce Pratt's book of essays, **Rebellion**; and Diana Souhami's hymn to Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas' "marriage," **Gertrude and Alice**.

Poetry and African Americans

Nineteen ninety-one was also a good year for Gay men's anthologies, Lesbian fiction, Gay men's non-fiction and Lesbian poetry, where the National Book Award nominee, Adrienne Rich, (**An Atlas of the Difficult World**) is joined by four other fine poets, including Eloise Klein Healy (**Artemis in Echo Park**), Maureen Seaton (**Fear of Subways**), Becky Birtha (**The Forbidden Poems**) and

Eileen Myles (**Not Me**).

It was a year in which the emerging African American Gay community found recognition with six nominees — **Brother to Brother**, edited by Essex Hemphill; **The Road Before Us**, edited by Assoto Saint; **Vanishing Rooms** by Melvin Dixon; **The Forbidden Poems** by Becky Birtha; **The Dark Beyond the Stars** by Frank Robinson and **The Gilda Stories** by Jewelle Gomez nominated in two categories.

New Trends

The mix of Gay male and Lesbian titles in the humor category was at least a metaphor for a trend, the increasing numbers of books aimed at both male and female audiences, a trend perhaps typified by **Indivisible**, a collection of short stories by both Gay men and Lesbians, which was a finalist in both the men's and women's anthology categories.

Another sort of "cross-over" was indicated by the dominance by mainstream presses of some categories, such as Gay men's fiction, as well as the strong presence of books from university presses, a sign that Gay and Lesbian studies are becoming an inseparable part of the academy.

Publishing Leaders

The nominees were selected from thousands of ballots sent in from readers of **Lambda Book Report**, and from others around the country. A total of 72 titles from 43 different publishers were selected as finalists. Boston's Gay press, Alyson Publications, led the pack with 12 titles, followed closely by Penguin USA with 10 and the Lesbian Naiad Press of Tallahassee, Florida, with six.

Recipients will now be determined by 75 judges, 5 in each of 15 categories, representing a cross-section of the Gay and Lesbian literary communities.

Bush Administration Record On AIDS Is Not A Pretty Picture

[Washington, D.C.]—The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), on May 6, released a report chronicling the Bush Administration's record on AIDS research. It is not a pretty picture.

January 29, 1992 — The President released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 1993, in which he requested \$873 million for National Institute of Health (NIH) AIDS research, a 3.5% increase in spending over 1992. The request fails to keep pace with the rate of inflation for biomedical research, and is over \$300 million less than the NIH request.

February 24 — NIH AIDS research director Dr. Anthony Fauci testified before the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment that "things are falling between the cracks." He stated to the committee that the NIH is only able to fund about half the "scientifically justifiable" AIDS research, including laboratory, treatment and vaccine research, under the current levels of funding.

March 17 — Dr. Fauci, in a complete reversal, testified before the House Appropriations subcommittee on Health and Human Services that the NIH will have sufficient funds to conduct AIDS research under the President's budget request. According to HRCF, several Administration sources, who ask not to be identified, suggest that Fauci had been accused by the Office of Management and Budget of "budget busting" at the

previous February 24 hearing and had been severely rebuked.

April 6 — The Department of Health and Human Services issued a memo stating "at a recent HIV Leadership meeting, Dr. James Mason, Assistant Secretary for Health had approved an option to assess the Public Health Service agencies for \$900,000 in FY 1992" to enable the National AIDS Program Office to perform... "management functions on behalf of the Assistant Secretary of Health." Of all the agencies being cut, Fauci lost the most — over \$400,000 in AIDS research funding in FY 1992.

HRCF has demanded a full accounting from Mason for the unexplained transfer to his office of the \$900,000 from critical federal AIDS programs.

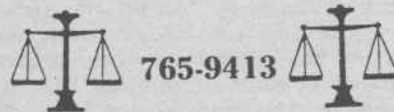
Fest City Singers To Hold Rummage Sale May 17

[Milwaukee]—The Fest City Singers will hold a giant rummage sale on Sunday, May 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., next door to Grava Gallery, 1209 E. Brady.

The sale is a fundraiser for the chorus which is planning to attend the national convention of the association of Gay and Lesbian choruses (GALA) in Denver from June 17 to July 2.

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a GOP convention action around hate crimes.

The Log Cabin Republican Clubs have agreed to work with potential openly Gay Republican delegates and coordinate "insider" activities in Houston. Contact Leonard Green, Capital Area Log Cabin Club, (202) 546-8139.

For more information, contact Paul Cooper at HRCF, (202) 628-4160 or Robert Bray, NGLTF, (202) 332-6483.

Presidential Convention Activities Planned

[Washington, D.C.]—Representatives from a variety of Lesbian/Gay, AIDS and women's groups met in Washington recently to coordinate their organizations' efforts for the 1992 Presidential election. Included were the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), NOW, the National Abortion Rights Action League, the National Women's Political Caucus, the AIDS Action Council, ACT UP/DC, Queer Nation/Houston and many others.

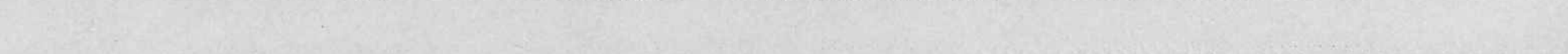
A significant portion of the meeting focused on events scheduled around the Democratic Convention in New York City, July 13-16, and the Republican Convention in Houston, August 17-20.

Among the announcements made at the meeting were:

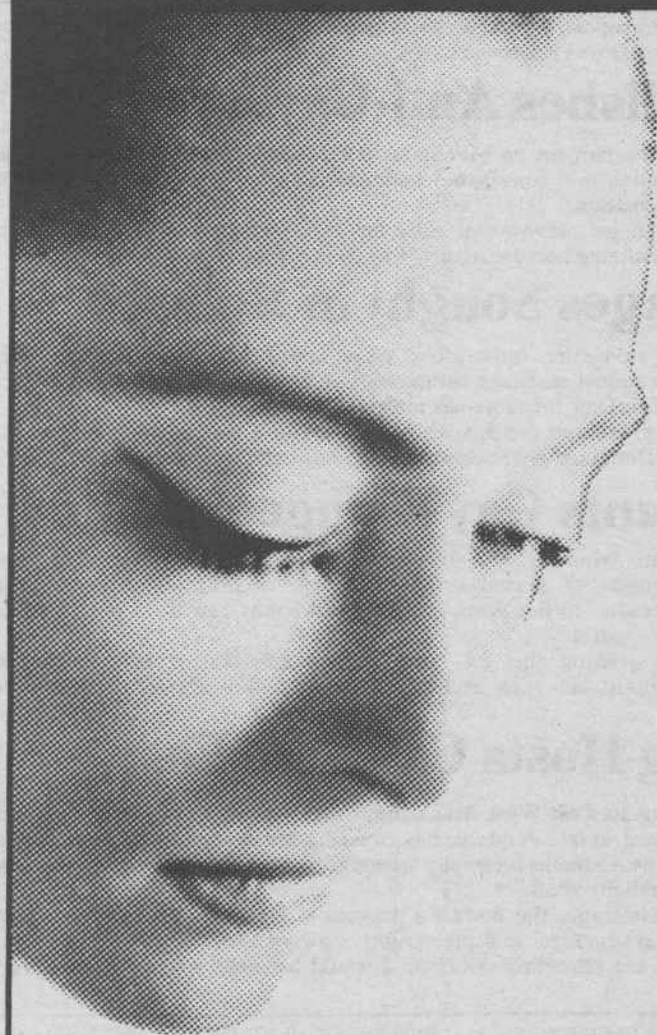
HRCF and NGLTF will coordinate and distribute election year information under the umbrella coalition, Gay and Lesbian VOICE '92. Submit calendar items to HRCF, 1012 14th St. N.W., #607, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 628-4160.

A massive AIDS march sponsored by the coalition, United For AIDS Action, will be held on July 14 at the Democratic Convention. Contact the Gay Men's Health Crisis for more information. (212) 807-6664.

ACT UP/NY and Queer Nation/Houston are discussing direction action plans at the conventions. NGLTF will coordinate



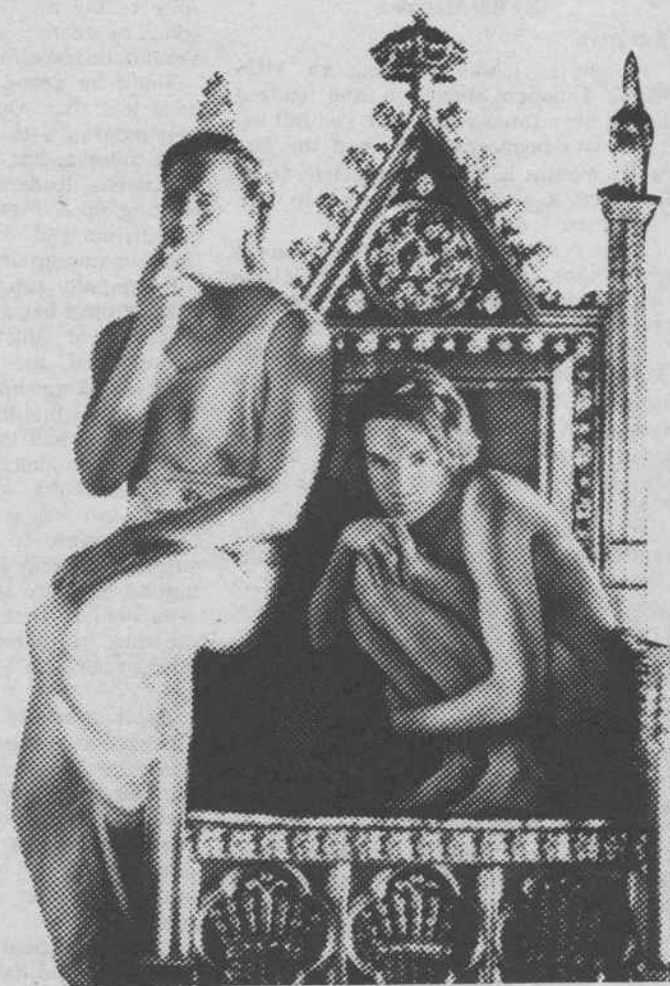
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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

We Continue to Work Hard Towards The 'Dream of Equality'

By Bill Meunier

Dear Alyn,

Tonight as I was watching an AIDS benefit, I thought about you, and realized that it's been three years since you left us.

It hasn't been easy here and the last twelve months have been especially hard. But then again like you used to say, "What else is new."

There is some good news. Wisconsin is no longer the only state with a Gay/Lesbian rights law. Just as you predicted, other states, Massachusetts, Hawaii, New Jersey and just last month, Vermont have joined us. And there is real hope that more will soon follow. Plus a number of states and even the Federal government have passed hate crimes legislation to document Gay/Lesbian bashings.

We are still faced with the daily rantings of Mark Belling, and the "Rev." Vic Eliason. In fact the media in general has been rather hostile. A new group "Queer Nation," actually got a major advertiser to pull its ads from Belling's show. You'd like QN, they got the kind of spunk I always saw in you.

A Gay mass murderer, Jeff Dahmer, was discovered here in Milwaukee, but only after he had claimed 17 victims. Just as we were beginning to deal with the reality of that horror, hundreds of fundamentalists (most of them from outside the City) convinced the Milwaukee School Board to gut a proposal that would have helped Gay and Lesbian students.

We almost got City funding for our Pride celebration. But after getting a miraculous vote in our favor from the Common Council, Mayor Norquist vetoed the money.

Lesbian and Gay bashings are increasing. It's getting to the point where just about everyone knows someone who was either verbally or physically attacked. Even my partner Jim was shot.

Throughout it all, I have often wondered what you would say if you were here. Sometimes I can almost hear your

voice telling me "We just have to keep going at them," and "Don't complain about it, do something about it."

You'd be proud of the way we have done just that. Out of the horror of an apartment on 24th St., a determination to work together has risen. A diverse group of activists, leaders and independents are meeting on a regular basis, exchanging information and ideas and trying hard to find common ground.

Community support for the Milwaukee AIDS Project has grown enormously. Now that straight athletes are admitting they are infected, the straight community is finally waking up. I must admit that sometimes I feel bitter wondering why so many of us had to die before they cared enough to do something.

The reaction to the Mayor's Pride Week veto was so vocal and vociferous, that it even took many activists by surprise. He may have done us a favor in uniting us more than anything I've ever seen before. That reaction didn't revoke the veto, but it may have made him and others realize that they have to deal with us.

Speaking of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, it is going strong. I know this was something close to your heart. It was the last major project you worked on. I was amazed at how you sat through all those meetings sick as you were determined to make sure that all understood the importance of feeling proud.

Last year, about 2,000 people attended the Parade and Rally. This year, the Rally has become a festival so we can really display and celebrate our many talents. When the Parade begins I will think how proud you would be to see it, and I will know that with every person who steps into the street, you are there with them.

As one of the first male members of NOW, I know you'd be proud of Milwaukee's Lesbians and their new organization, The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee. In a short time they have grown to over 400 members, and

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Europe Passes Gay Rights Law

[London, England]- The European Parliament recently approved a Charter on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace which includes protection for Lesbians and Gay men. This is the first time that the European Parliament has explicitly included Lesbians and Gay men in a proposal. The Charter was approved by 193 to zero with 26 abstentions.

Latvia Abolishes Anti-Gay Law

[Brussels]- The Latvian Parliament on March 1st, 1992, abolished Paragraph 124.1 or the Penal Code which criminalized consensual homosexual acts. The repeal passed the Parliament without any opposition.

The age of consent of 18 for homosexual acts, however, remains unchanged. Latvia follows Ukraine in decriminalizing homosexuality. Russia is expected to follow soon.

Gay Marriages Sought In Holland

[Amsterdam]- Thirty Dutch cities now allow Gays and Lesbians to register their relationships — and even conduct marriage ceremonies — at City Hall, even though there is no provision in Dutch federal law for same-sex marriage.

In February, 250 cities presented the Justice Minister with a petition demanding the Netherlands catch up with Denmark where Gay marriage has been legal since 1989.

Austria Grants Gay Refugee Status

[Vienna]- The Austrian Ministry of the Interior announced in January that "persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation can, according to the Geneva Convention, constitute a reason to flee from a country and thus can be a reason to be granted political asylum in Austria."

Austrian Gay activists greeted this as "good news now that it is official that persecuted Gays and Lesbians can seek asylum in Austria." Friends from the United States are welcome.

Hong Kong Hosts Gay Film Fest

[Hong Kong]- According to *East-West Magazine*, The second Hong Kong Gay and Lesbian Film festival, staged in late January, has caused a stir among more homophobic brethren. A member of the Catholic hierarchy announced that he would pray that the media give the event no publicity at all.

Judging by the media coverage, the prelate's prayers to Her had little effect. *East-West* reported that Festival organizer and playwright, Edward Lam, said, "I don't mind that the festival and films are attracting criticism. I would be more worried if they were ignored."

they've become our leading organization.

This is an election year. It looks like Bill Clinton of Arkansas will be the Democratic nominee. Unfortunately, far too many of us will either vote for Bush or Ross Perot or not vote at all. I remember how frustrated you used to get over things like that. Believe me, I am frustrated enough for the two of us.

Our friend, Jim Moody, is running for the Senate and our good friend, Fred Kessler, is running for Congress to replace him.

As you might expect, I will be there

helping, I wish you could be there, too.

The main thing I want you to know is that while your dream of equality has not yet come about, it will and those of us who share in that dream are working hard to make sure it does.

Till we meet again old friend,
Bill

• • •

Alyn Hess, one of the original founders of the Gay and Lesbian movement in Wisconsin, died due to complications from AIDS on March 31, 1989.

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PRESSING ISSUES

Continued from Page 5

Quality Depends on You

In the almost two decades I've worked in the alternative press, I have uttered one constant refrain: **the quality of our publications is largely dependent on input from the communities we serve.** We do not have salaried personnel assigning stories and reporting events. We are dependent on you, our readers, for much of that.

What I failed to do at the LAMM meeting was to offer some constructive suggestions on how Lesbians can contribute to the *Light*. So here goes...

Review copies of new Lesbian books are available for women to critique (and keep). Anyone wanting to review concerts or plays can often get a complimentary ticket and, in the case of movies, can attend critics' screenings. (I get to see the new *Alien* film before it opens — whoopee!) Personal impressions of music fests and conferences are most welcome and photos of community events are always needed (*Light* provides the b/w film and will develop it).

You can also help by sending us clippings of Gay or Lesbian news items you find in other publications. Criticism can be expressed through opinion pieces or letters to the editor. (This method is highly preferable to the usual route Lesbians take of confronting me personally — usually in the women's room at some social event! — and telling me everything that's wrong with the paper.)

You can contact the *Light* at (414) 372-2773 or by mail at 1843 N. Palmer Street in Milwaukee, 53212. Your participation can be as limited or expansive as you choose. It's always best to consult with Terry Boughner or Jerry Johnson before writing your story.

I relinquished the News Editorship, in part, to have more time for my own writing. So I'll still be here, plugging away, railing against lazybones Lezzies and the depredations of the patriarchy with equal vigor. And for you shameless LAMM members who showed your true colors at last month's meeting, I'll soon be back with enough juicy gossip and queer quotes to satisfy those inquiring minds of yours.

MEDICAL COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

According to Kelly, results of the MCW study will be shared with AIDS service

programs nation-wide so they can directly benefit from the research.

The new research is unique in that it will identify and evaluate methods promoting consistent and sustained risk reduction behavior changes. "Our studies show that most Gay men have significantly reduced their risk for contracting HIV infection," Kelly said. "But some still have trouble consistently maintaining the changes. These are the people we will reach and assist."

The program's goal is to identify approaches that help Gay men to make safe practices a permanent part of their lives.

Program Adds to Understanding

While the new program borrows from other areas of behavior change, such as smoking cessation, dieting and weight control, substance abuse, and exercise, it is anticipated that the new research will also add to the scientific understanding of how people can maintain other healthy habits over long periods of time.

"Anyone who has started a diet, begun an exercise program, or vowed to quit smoking, knows how easy it is to slip or lapse," Kelly said. "In the case of AIDS risk reduction, the same is true, but the consequences of any lapse can be grave."

600 participants in groups of 20-25, will meet in either day-long or four-session programs. Some men will be followed up with on-going phone calls and personal contact.

"Our program will extend beyond AIDS education alone to the important 'next generation' of prevention," Kelly said. "This involves helping men learn, use, and continue the behavioral skills needed to remain safe all the time." participants will be asked to fill out confidential questionnaires before and after the free programs in order to evaluate their effectiveness.

New Program One of Several

The new prevention program is in addition to several other AIDS/HIV behavioral research projects already being conducted by the Community Health Behavior Program. These include AIDS prevention groups for inner city women at risk for contracting HIV infection, a program evaluating mental health services for those suffering depression after contracting HIV infection, community interventions which train popular opinion leaders to promote awareness of necessary behavior change to their peers, prevention programs for the chronically mentally ill in Milwaukee

at risk of contracting HIV infection, and support programs for those coping with the AIDS-related loss of a family member or friend.

The Community Health Behavior Program's sessions are conducted by approximately 30 MCW faculty and other staff under strict guidelines protecting privacy and confidentiality. For more information, contact MCW at (414) 266-4740.



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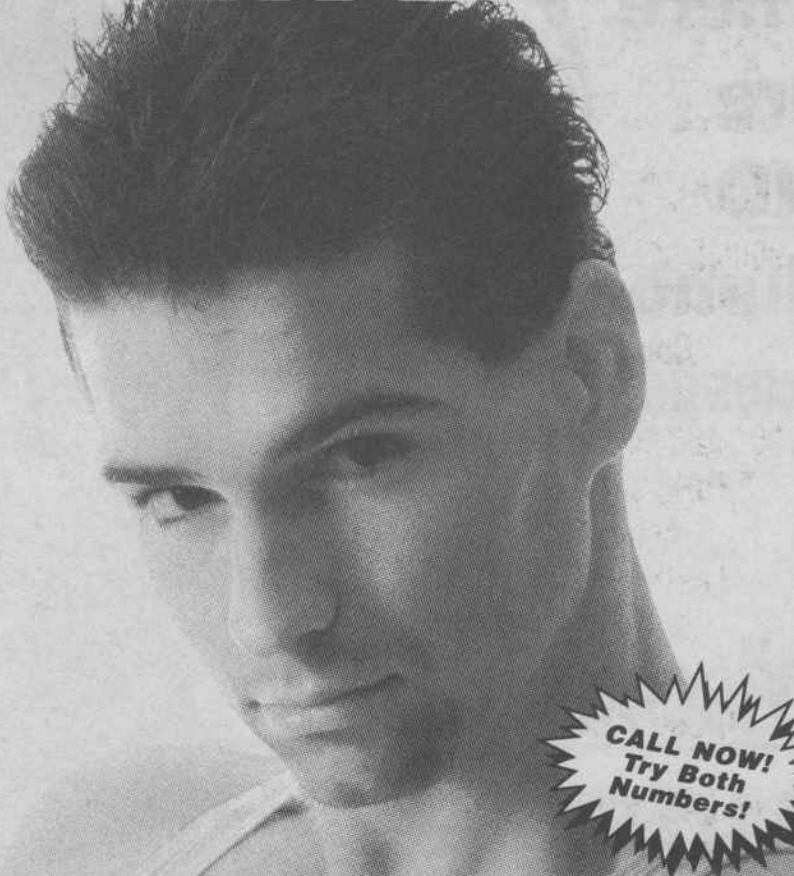
Organizations

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. x

Personals-Men

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700 Softball Players Converge On Milwaukee for Annual Tourney

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee will be the Gay and Lesbian Softball Capital of the World on Memorial Day Weekend as the Saturday Softball Beer League hosts the Milwaukee Classic Tournament, the nation's oldest Lesbian/Gay softball event.

The tournament will be played at Milwaukee's Wick Field located on 52nd and Vliet St.

Almost 700 players are expected to compete for trophies in three divisions. Teams are coming from 11 cities Boston (2), Chicago (16), Cincinnati (2) Columbus Ohio (1) Milwaukee (6) Minneapolis (7) Nashville (2) New York (2) Norfolk Va (1) St. Louis (3) and Toronto (4).

This year marks the first time that teams from Ohio have entered the Classic and tournament officials are pleased to welcome them.

With 46 teams this year's event will be the biggest Classic ever. The tournament will have three divisions, Men's Competitive, Men's Recreational, and Women's.

Unlike past tournaments all of the games will be played in one location giving fans a chance to see their favorites without having to shuttle between two parks.

The eight teams in the Women's division will play a double elimination tournament. Early losers will play in a consolation tournament.

In the Men's Competitive and Recreation Divisions each team will play three games on Saturday. The top six teams in the Competitive Division and the top eight teams in the Recreational Division as determined by play on Saturday will play a double elimination tournament on Sunday. The Recreational Division will also have a consolation tournament for the next four teams, which will be played on Sunday.

Standings for Sunday play will be determined by won-loss record and run differential. A team's run differential (the difference between the number of runs a team has scored and the number of runs that have been scored by its opponents) will come into play to break ties between teams with the same won-loss record.

Games will begin at 8:00 am both days. The Championship games will be played between 3:00 and 5:00 on Sunday. As has been the case in the past the games will be followed by a banquet. This year the banquet will be held at Serb Hall. Because of the number of players involved in the tournament, it is doubtful that any tickets will be available for the banquet, but if any are, they will be sold at the ball diamonds.

Teams to watch in the Men's Competitive Division include Milwaukee's own Triangle Trojans, New York's Spike, the Ramrod from Boston, the Virginia Outlaws from Norfolk, and perennial powerhouse Side Tracks of Chicago.

In the Recreational Division the favorites include last year's champion, The Brass Rail Bandits from the Twin Cities, Chicago's North End, the Rangers

from St. Louis, the Chap Stallions from Boston, and Milwaukee's Wreck Room Spurs and Partner's softball teams which finished second and third in last year's tournament.

In the Women's Division watch out for Milwaukee's Bad Girls. The Bad Girl's are sponsored by Wizard's.

Food and soft drinks will be available at the field, but alcoholic beverages are not allowed. For those who feel that softball and beer go together, arrangements are being made with two bars across the street from the diamonds.

Those coming to the tournament from out of town are advised to take 94 to 41 North, exit at Vliet Street and turn left. Wick Field is two blocks from the freeway. When you arrive be prepared to watch great softball played with friendly but intense competition, and to have a great time.

Problems of Youth Addressed By National Network

[San Francisco]- Youth Networks is a 15 year-old, San Francisco-based organization that addresses the problems of Lesbian/Gay youth nation-wide. Among its many projects, it has compiled **Pen Pal Services**, a list of services for corresponding with other young Gays locally and internationally.

For those interested in receiving a copy, send a first class SASE (business size) along with a signed statement that you are 25 years of age or under to: Youth Networks, Dept. P, 2215 Market St., #479, San Francisco, CA 94114-1612.

Youth Networks also publishes **We Are Here**, a resource guide and newspaper put together and distributed on a volunteer basis. **We Are Here** is geared especially to the needs of Lesbian/Gay youth.

Anyone interested in a copy of this publication, should send \$5 to: We Are Here, 2215 Market St., #479, San Francisco, CA 94114-1612.

Bi-Sexual Mag Makes Debut With 'Dream'

[San Diego, CA]- The Klinger Group and publisher Casey Klinger have announced the release of a new magazine specifically targeted for the bisexual market.

The new publication known as **Dream**, will feature photo layouts appealing to a bisexual audience. Editorial features include the latest in fashion for men and women, profiles of international personalities like Anjelica Huston along with fiction from the best of new writers. Restaurants reviews, travel features and the latest European news and gossip rounds out each issue.

Fantasy Important to Enjoyment Of Safe Sex for Leathermen/Women

By Jim Chandler

By now, most of you should know about the precautions needed to have safe sex. Because most Gays appear to engage in predominantly "plain vanilla" oral and anal sex, these new restrictions have made sex less interesting and more tense for many of our buddies. Some have gone so far as to have sex only with themselves or to cut down to mutual masturbation as their main sexual outlet.

Most leatherwomen or men have found that they can still engage in a multitude of fun, exciting and varied activities while staying perfectly safe. In fact, if care is taken regarding blood contact, exchanging of body fluids and keeping toys clean, most leather activities can still be performed with little or no chance of exposure.

While many of our friends are getting less and less "turned on" by the restrictions put upon them sexually, a versatile and imaginative leatherman or woman can do a different activity every week to stay excited and still enjoy their sexuality.

Think about it, what is your deepest fantasy? Does it involve someone in uniform, perhaps a cop? Bondage or being tied up? Having your body shaved (all or part)? Maybe your fantasy involves humiliation or, on the other side, domination? Your ideal scene could be as simple as a body worship fetish with oil and mirrors, or something heavier involving some sort of physical stimulation such as hot wax or clothespins. Even toys and dildoes can be great fun with a buddy.

The great part about most leather sex scenes is that the orgasm isn't necessarily the most important or predominant part of the scene. Two buddies can go on for hours in a fantasy scene involving uniforms, bondage, shaving, etc. with both parties getting a great deal of excitement and enjoyment out of each other, without either one of them getting off (although they both may be very sexually aroused).

Then, near the end of the scene, they could get down to a quick masturbation trip or other release, and still end up feeling more completely satisfied than they ever felt possible. Give it a try!

There are still a few activities which are taboo, and if these are your special areas of interest, some adjustment will be necessary. The main fetishes to avoid are water sports, rimming without protection and anal sex without protection. But with all the activities that are safe and the many possibilities within your imagination, the possibilities are endless.

So start looking into your past. Remember what you were dreaming about when you had a wet dream last. Start thinking about what you **can** do with your buddy that is new and exciting to you — or her or him (it might surprise you what turns them on), and quit thinking about what you can't do. It's all up to you!

Editor's Note: Jim Chandler holds the title: "Mr. Leather Colorado, 1991. His syndicated column "Sir" from which this is taken, appears nationwide. He has submitted this essay to the **Light** to, as he says, "test market" our reading public.

"I would like your readers to decide," he writes. Let us know what you think.



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