



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

The Wisconsin Light

Medical College Promotes Healthy Relationships

[Milwaukee]- The Community Health Behavior Program of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has launched a new program, "The Gay '90's: Having Healthy Relationships," which will focus on sex, dating, and relationship issues facing Gay men in the 1990's. Gay men who are sexually active and between the ages of 18 and 45 are invited to participate in the special program.

Because most Gay men are already knowledgeable about the basic facts concerning AIDS, The Gay '90's is not just another AIDS education program. Instead, the program will focus on such issues as how to communicate health and safer sex interests to partners, dating and intimacy, development of safe relationships, handling risk pressures, and feeling more confident and proud practicing safer sex. In this way, The Gay '90's will address health issues from the perspective of relationship development, community and personal health, pride, and other themes of positive interest to most Gay men.

\$20 In Cash

Participants will be invited to attend either a 7-session group program or one half-day workshop program. Both programs are planned to be fun and interesting, allowing people to meet others in a friendly, casual atmosphere. The Gay '90's is a study intended to evaluate the best new approaches for HIV prevention in the 1990's. For that reason, men will be asked to participate in confidential interviews both before and several times following the program to assist in its evaluation. All men in The Gay '90's will be paid \$20 in cash each time they attend a group session or complete an interview.

The program, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and offered by MCW, employs numerous confidentiality safeguards including use of code numbers rather than names on interview questionnaires. Only MCW professional staff and other participants are present for meetings which will be arranged at convenient times and locations.

For more information, interested persons should call the MCW Community Health Behavior Program at (414) 287-4680 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and ask to talk with a Gay '90's staffmember.

The Community Health Behavior Program of the Medical College of Wisconsin is one of the country's largest AIDS/HIV behavioral research programs and is located in Milwaukee. Studies conducted by the MCW program are intended to identify and evaluate new approaches for AIDS/HIV prevention, and other social health issues. Research of the Community Health Behavior Program is supported by nearly \$10 million in grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health.

National Democratic Convention Will Have Large Lesbian/Gay Presence

[Washington, D.C.]—As in 1989, so this year, there will be a large Lesbian/Gay presence at the Democratic Convention. The convention is being held at Madison Square Garden in New York City beginning on the 13th of this month.

According to Gay & Lesbian Voice '92, a coalition of Lesbian/Gay organizations, there will be an Action Center to facilitate the press and to coordinate the planned activities. Voice '92 is a coalition of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Included among the activities will be press conferences, daily caucuses of Lesbian/Gay delegates as well as receptions honoring Reps. Barbara Boxer, Barney Frank and Eleanor Holmes Norton among others. There will also be on-going protests and leafletting sponsored by ACT UP/NY against delegates from states with "irresponsible" HIV/AIDS policies.

Senator Kohl Joins AIDS Activists In Seeking Justice for Racine Death



ALL THE WAY, MAE!—Madonna, playing outfielder "All the Way" Mae Mordabito of the Rockford Peaches, cheers on her team mates in Penny Marshall's hit movie *A League of Their Own*. See review on page 6.

Milwaukee Social Services Lagging; Central Agency Needed In Madison

[Milwaukee]- Few resources within the Gay and Lesbian community are available to the 120,000 Lesbian/Gay persons who live in the Milwaukee Metropolitan statistical area. Lesbians and Gay men are in need of help in terms of the social complications of their sexual orientation.

This, according to a new study just released by the New Era Institute, a Gay/Lesbian research body located in Milwaukee. The report, written by Robert Melig, Senior Institute Research Fellow, resulted from a study of all Gay/Lesbian groups in Wisconsin. The study is on-going.

The report finds that Gays and Lesbians using "straight" community resources have difficulty in the following areas:

They must be extremely knowledgeable in finding the resources; they will find it difficult to receive "sensitive" assistance; they may be subjected to a "merry-go-round;" and may become frustrated after such treatment.

However, the report says that when one is affected by a sexually transmitted disease, knowledgeable, competent and effective help is readily available and information on helping agencies is widely advertised. The information on these services is supported by 800 numbers for AIDS and outreach clinics by the Brady East STD Clinic.

Milwaukee Behind in Services

According to the report, Milwaukee lags behind cities of similar size in its development of Gay/Lesbian social services. However, the report does note that social services are the last to be developed by any community.

However, the study is up-beat regarding such services as Milwaukee does have. The report points to a few empires, inter-agency squabbles and other such things of the kind being experienced in Milwaukee.

The study points to the presence of a long-organized Community Foundation and other strengths as very positive factors for providing seed money and support for such services as they are developed.

Madison Is Ahead

Pointing to Madison's long-organized United, the study details various minimum structures that could be put into place without difficulty in Madison.

The report makes a strong recommendation for a central agency in Madison that could serve as a focal point for those in need. Such an agency would maintain referral capabilities for both current Gay/Lesbian groups and the straight helping community. It would maintain contact with "Lesbian/Gay sensitive" professionals of the straight community and would provide assistance to new comers to the area. The study strongly embraces the need for a trained and credentialed professional to head the agency.

Copies of the 19-page report can be obtained by writing: The New Era Institute, 3282 N. 46th St., Milwaukee, WI 53216. The cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

[Milwaukee]- According to an ACT UP Milwaukee statement to the press, Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl has joined the AIDS activist organization in its campaign to win justice for Dennis Hill.

Hill is the Wisconsin man with AIDS who died after being held in the Racine County jail last November.

Hill was pulled over for a routine traffic offense on November 17, 1991 and subsequently held in the County jail for two nights. When case workers from the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) arrived to care for Hill, they found that he had been severely neglected. He was lying in his own feces and vomit and partially clothed.

MAP workers took Hill immediately to the hospital, where he died several days later.

The FBI investigated the matter, believing that Hill's civil rights might have been violated. That investigation has been under review by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice for several months. The Division must decide whether to bring criminal charges against the Racine County officials responsible.

The Department of Justice first assigned the Hill case to Attorney Francesca Freccero with a docket number of 1-44-85-458. However, subsequent follow-up by ACT UP Milwaukee revealed that no action had been taken on the case. As a result, ACT UP Milwaukee contacted Kohl.

On May 18, Kohl wrote the U.S. Department of Justice expressing his interest in the Hill case.

In a letter dated June 12, 1992, Linda K. Davis, Chief of the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section responded to Kohl. Davis told Kohl that the Hill matter was still under review. She went on to write that "MAP and the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power can be assured that if evidence shows that there was a violation of federal criminal civil rights statutes, appropriate action will be taken."

On June 20, 1992, Kohl wrote to ACT UP Milwaukee telling them of the results of his earlier inquiry. "You can be assured of my continued interest in this matter," Kohl wrote. "I will contact you as soon as I receive further information."

In a statement to the press, ACT UP Milwaukee said that it hoped that Kohl's letter to Davis would "re-ignite proceedings and bring prompt action from the Department of Justice."

ACT UP Milwaukee To Go To Republican Convention

In another matter, ACT UP Milwaukee will be traveling to the mid-August Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas. There, members will join a national AIDS demonstration. The Milwaukee AIDS activist group has raised funds for two hotel rooms and transportation, and is inviting area activists to join them in protesting 12 years of Republican neglect.

ACT UP Milwaukee says it hopes its presence at Houston will help to firmly tie the Bush-Quayle ticket to the mishandling of the AIDS crisis in the eyes of the public.

Republican Mean Spiritedness

The group cites Bush's decision to attend a fundraiser for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) instead of addressing the International AIDS Conference in 1990 as a "clear example" of Republican "mean spiritedness" in the face of AIDS. Traditionally, heads of state address the yearly gatherings.

ACT UP Milwaukee also condemns the Bush Administration for refusing to implement the recommendations of its own National commission on AIDS, continuing to dismiss AIDS as a "behavioral problem." According to ACT UP, the Administration continues to make "divisive distinctions" between

TURN TO RACINE, PAGE 11

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MASS Forms Gay Youth Commission

[Boston, MA]-On June 11, 1992, at a ceremony at the Samaritans, a suicide prevention agency in Boston, MA, Governor William Weld formally created the "Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth." The commission is the first of its kind in the U.S. Weld appointed Gay activist David LaFontaine of the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, as the commission's chair.

The commission will advise and make recommendations to Governor Weld and the Secretaries of Human Services, Education and Communities and Development concerning creation of programs to counter the high rate of suicide among Gay youth, and will address issues such as homelessness and violence against Gay youth.

The federal government reports that 30 percent of completed youth suicides are by Gay and Lesbian youth. The same report estimates that Gay and Lesbian youth are estimated to be two to three times as likely to attempt suicide as their straight peers.

Growing Catholic Support for Rights

[South Bend, IN]- A nationwide Gallup Survey released on June 18, 1992, indicates continued growth in support for equal rights for Lesbian and Gay people among American Catholics. The survey also indicates that, despite the Catholic Church's condemnation of homosexuality, Catholics are split on the moral acceptability of Lesbian and Gay relationships, with as many Catholics supporting Gay relationships as not.

On a question related to AIDS, Catholics resoundingly reject the American Bishops' ban on condoms as a means of preventing the spread of HIV disease.

Military Challenged on Gay Issue

[Washington, D.C.]-A long-awaited report by the U.S. Government on Gays and Lesbians in the military has revealed that a startling amount of money — \$27 million in one year alone — has been spent to enforce the Department of Defense's (DOD) anti-Gay policy. The report was produced by the General Accounting Office, and released in late June, 1992.

Among the report's findings are: 16,919 service members were dismissed from the military between 1980 and 1990 for homosexuality at a total cost of \$493,195,968 to replace them; the Navy discharged 51 percent of these people and conducted 68 percent of all DOD-wide investigations of homosexuality; public opinion polls show a rise in support for hiring homosexuals in the military from 51 percent in 1977 to 69 percent in 1991.

Perot Rally Disrupted by ACT UP

[Seattle, WA]-Dozens of AIDS activists armed with bull horns, a portable sound system and nominating petitions for the "Independent Queer Party," crashed a Ross Perot rally on the steps of the Washington State Capitol in Olympia on July 2, 1992.

Efforts by Perot's security forces to eject the demonstrators were thwarted by intervention by the Governor's office, which instructed State Patrol to ensure equal access for all to the capitol steps. The AIDS activists held an impromptu press conference chastising Perot's anti-Gay statements regarding military service and cabinet appointments.

CBS News Reports Gay Support

The "CBS Evening News" on Sunday, June 28, highlighted the growing involvement of the Lesbian and Gay community in the presidential campaign of Governor Bill Clinton.

Reporter Rita Braver noted that "Gays and Lesbians are more politically active than ever this election year and the candidates are paying attention. This year more than a hundred openly Gay and Lesbian delegates will attend the Democratic National Convention."

CBS reported that Gay and Lesbian activists are campaigning hard for Clinton who, they say, supports their agenda on AIDS and other issues.

Clinton Zapped by Activists

[New York, NY]- Members of the Queer Nation Presidential Project angrily confronted Governor Bill Clinton during a "Broadway for Bill" fundraiser in Manhattan on June 22, 1992. The activists were upset with Clinton's inaction to overturn his state's Gay-specific sodomy law that equates Gay and Lesbian love making with bestiality. The sodomy statute became law in 1977 during Clinton's tenure as Attorney General of Arkansas.

Clinton replied angrily, "That's right. I was Attorney General. I wasn't governor. I didn't sign the law. I did my best to defeat the law."

However, John Robert Starr, managing editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* said, "Clinton said he lobbied quietly against the 1977 bill. If so, he made sure he didn't get caught doing it."

Mike Petrelis, a member of the Queer Nation Presidential Project, condemned Lesbian and Gay organizations that support Clinton as "Clinton lap dogs."

YWCA Welcomes Gay Families

[Des Moines, IA]- The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of greater Des Moines has directed its staffers to begin offering discounted family memberships to same-sex and unmarried heterosexual couples.

"Household is the key word," said Susan Skinner, the YWCA's fitness membership coordinator. "A family used to be Mom, Dad, and two kids. It's not that easy anymore."

Spousal Benefits Approved in D.C.

[Washington, D.C.]- A District of Columbia ordinance that extends spousal benefits to the domestic partners of unmarried city workers took effect on June 11, 1992, a day after the House of Representatives committee on Washington, D.C. voted 6-3 to reject a resolution that would have blocked its implementation.

The resolution's sponsor, Rep. Clyde Holloway (R-LA), called the ordinance "the first step toward the moral breakdown of this nation."

In a related area, Washington, D.C.'s newly enacted domestic partnership law has couples lined up, waiting to register. However, the *Washington Blade* reports that no one will be able to do so until January, 1993. This is because of the red tape involved in making regulations to implement the law.

Banks Stop Boy Scout Donations

[San Francisco, CA]- Two of California's largest banks have announced that they have stopped making donations to Boy Scout troops to protest the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) policy against allowing Gay men to be scoutmasters. The two banks are Bank of America and Wells Fargo.

Officials of the banks, both of which are based in San Francisco, said the BSA's ban violates the banks' corporate guidelines for charitable giving. Previously, the Bay Area United Way and Levi Strauss & Co., announced that they would not longer donate to the BSA.

Bush: Gay Parents Not 'Normal'

[Washington, D.C.]- President George Bush said in the last week in June that he "can't accept as normal" for a child to have Gay parents. He made the remark in an exclusive interview, Tuesday, June 22, with four *New York Times* reporters. The story was carried by the *Washington Blade*.

Specifically, the question asked by *Times* reporter Andrew Rosenthal was in part, "Is it wrong for people of the same sex or unmarried people to be parents? And why?" Bush replied, "Yes, it's... in my set of values... People of the same sex to be parents?" he asked.

Rosenthal said, "That's right. Or unmarried people." "No, not unmarried people at all," said Bush. "But I can't accept as normal lifestyle people of the same sex being parents. I don't accept that as normal."

Freedom of Choice Act in Congress Will Help Secure Abortion Rights

[Washington, DC]- With the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision allowing states to place new restrictions in the way of women's access to abortion, further whittling away the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion, pro-choice supporters are putting renewed effort into Congressional passage of the Freedom of Choice Act.

The Freedom of Choice Act passed through the House Judiciary Committee in early July and will soon be voted on by the full House and Senate. The Freedom of Choice Act would guarantee the basic protections of Roe v. Wade and prevent the individual states from imposing restrictions on women who seek to terminate their pregnancies.

The language of the Freedom of Choice Act is very simple. It says: "A state may not restrict the right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy: 1) before fetal viability [generally accepted as the third trimester]; or 2) at any time, if such determination is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman."

With the recent Supreme Court ruling, and without the protection afforded by the Freedom of Choice Act, state legislatures can virtually outlaw abortion unless pro-choice activists can organize to stop them on a state by state basis. The federal Freedom of Choice Act would ensure that such costly and debilitating state by state campaigns would be unnecessary.

Danger in Wisconsin

The Freedom of Information Act would have a significant effect in the state of Wisconsin, where a strict anti-abortion

statute remains on the books.

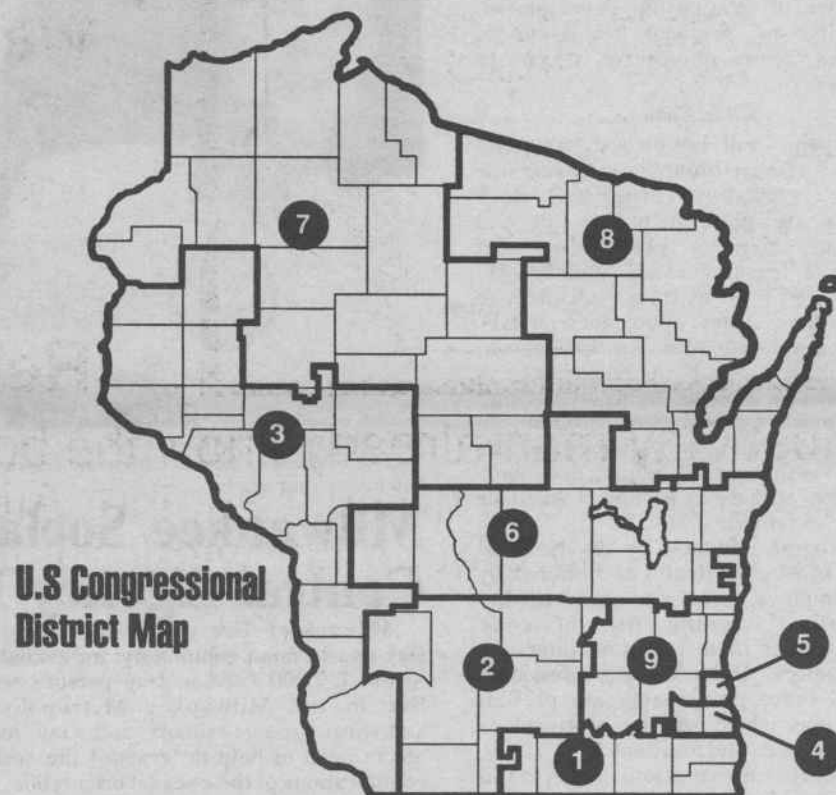
Written in the 1800's and never repealed, Wisconsin statute 940.04 prescribes criminal penalties for any physician who performs abortions. Doctors were prosecuted in Milwaukee and Madison as recently as 1970.

The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision made the state statute unenforceable. But Governor Tommy Thompson (R) and the majority of state representatives and senators are anti-choice. If Roe v. Wade is reversed, the restrictive statute could once again be operative.

Contrary to anti-choice allegations, the Freedom of Choice Act does not create "abortion on demand," force physicians to provide abortions or mandate state or federal funding for abortions. It merely prevents the states from placing restrictions in the way of women's reproductive health choices, as stated in the text above.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin encourages all pro-choice activists to contact their Senators and members of Congress regarding passage of the Freedom of Choice Act. President Bush has promised to veto the bill, but his veto will ensure that abortion rights become a central issue in the fall campaign.

To contact your representatives, please see the detailed chart of politicians with their addresses and phone numbers. Save the chart for future reference when you need to contact them on other important issues.



U.S. Congressional District Map

Key Contacts for the Freedom of Choice Act:

You have a total of four key contacts on the federal level. All Wisconsin voters have these three:

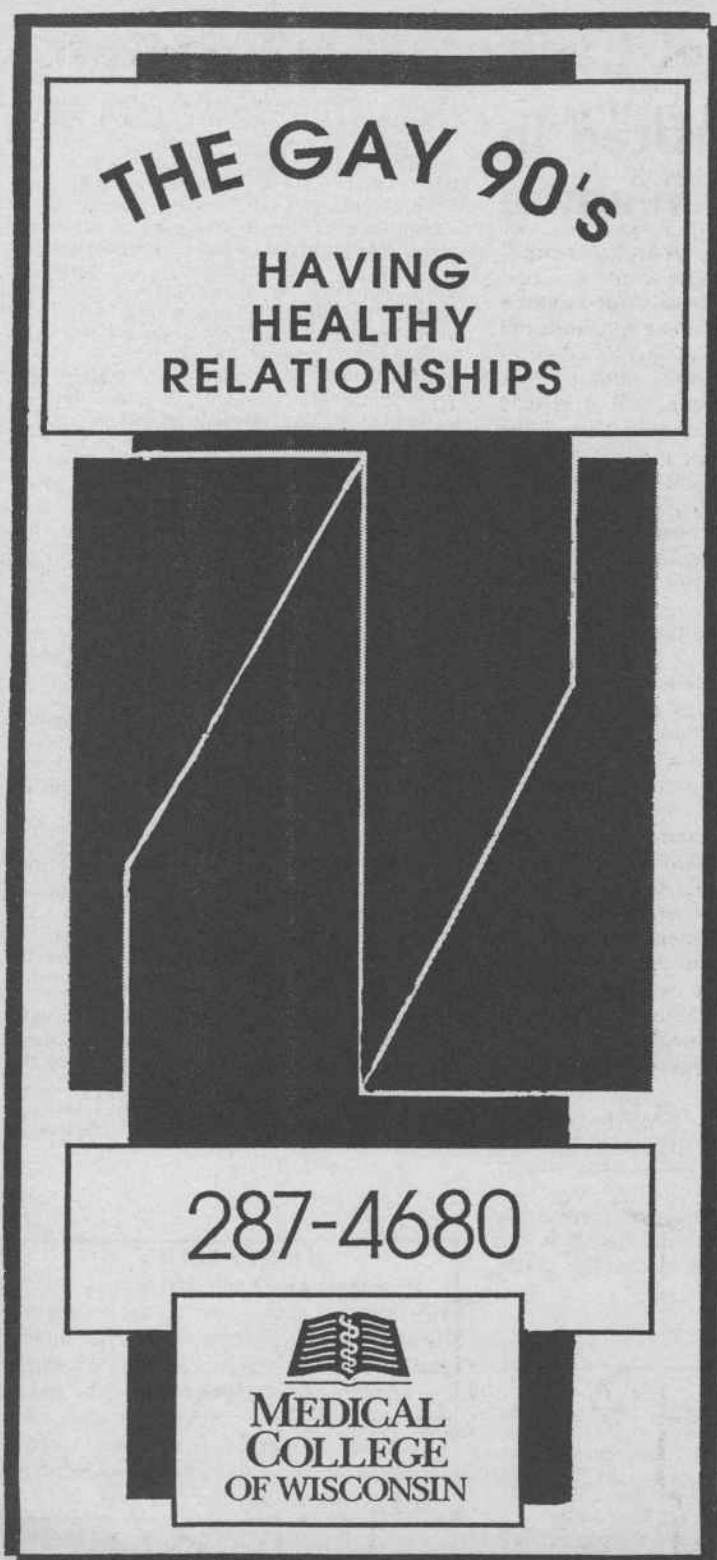
President George Bush 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20500 (202) 456-1414	Senator Robert Kasten 110 Hart Sen. Office Bldg. Washington D.C. 20510 (202) 224-5323 (414) 297-4160	Senator Herb Kohl 330 Hart Sen. Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-5653 (414) 297-4451
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Your fourth contact is your U.S. Congressional Representative. There are nine in Wisconsin. One of whom represents you. Use the map above to identify your congressional district and address your postcard to this person.

1st District Rep. Les Aspin (D) 2336 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3031 (608) 752-9074 (Janesville)	2nd District Rep. Scott Klug (R) 1224 Longworth House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-2906 (608) 257-9200 (Madison)	3rd District Rep. Steve Gunderson (R) 2235 Rayburn House OB Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5506 (715) 284-7431 (Black River Falls)
4th District Rep. Gerald Kleczka (D) 226 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-4572 (414) 297-1140 (Milwaukee)	5th District Rep. Jim Moody (D) 1019 Longworth House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3571 (414) 297-1331 (Milwaukee)	6th District Rep. Thomas Petri (R) 2444 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-2476 (414) 922-1180 (Fond du Lac)
7th District Rep. David Obey (D) 2462 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3365 (715) 842-5606 (Wausau)	8th District Rep. Toby Roth (R) 2352 Rayburn House OB Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5665 (414) 739-4167 (Appleton)	9th District Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner Jr. (R) 2444 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5101 (414) 784-1111 (Brookfield)

To contact the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, call 1(800) 261-2464, or

(414) 271-8045 in Milwaukee (414) 432-5430 in Green Bay	(715) 833-2390 in Eau Claire (414) 731-6064 in Appleton	(608) 256-7549 in Madison
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Sex, dating, and relationships
have become a lot more
complicated--and important--
since health concerns came
along. That's why the Medical
College of Wisconsin Community
Health Behavior Program
welcomes you to its program,
"The Gay 90's: Having Healthy
Relationships."

Most Gay men already know the basic facts about AIDS. That's why the Gay 90's is not just another AIDS education program. Instead, we focus on putting knowledge into action in real life:

- Communicating with partners
- Dating
- Developing safe relationships
- Maintaining healthy behavior

The Gay 90's offers men an opportunity to learn how to stay safe, communicate with their partners, and have healthy relationships. And, you can do it in a way that's fun and interesting in a casual living room environment, with the chance to meet new people, and be paid for attending.

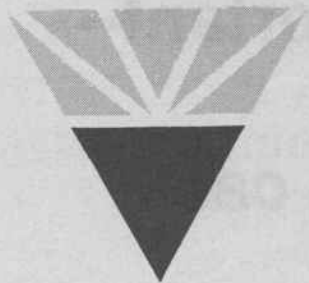
The Gay 90's is open to Gay men who are sexually active and between the ages of 18 and 45. You'll either be asked to join a group that meets for 7 sessions or a group that meets once for a half-day seminar. The Gay 90's is a study so participants will be asked to complete confidential interviews before and after the programs to help us evaluate its effectiveness. You will be paid \$20 in cash for each session attended and each interview completed.

Participation is fully confidential. The only people present will be The Gay 90's staff and people like yourself. Meetings are held at convenient times and in convenient locations.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? CALL 287-4680 BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS, AND ASK TO SPEAK TO ONE OF THE GAY 90'S STAFF.

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will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light



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Institutional Member



EDITORIAL

The Root of Homophobia Is Mired In Straight Men's Treatment of Women

The recent sexual assault scandal in the Navy is being passed off as an "incident." We believe it is no mere "incident," but nothing short of a national disgrace.

The "Tailhook" case as it is known, allegedly took place last year at a naval aviator's convention. Women naval personnel have said that they were forced to run a gauntlet of male sexual harassers. It is only now coming to light.

Department of Defense officialdom are referring to the the situation as "misconduct," but in our opinion, it is far, far more than that. First of all, it is only another sorry example of numberless such assaults against women that go on in the workplaces of America every single day of the year.

And secondly, it, like all the others of its kind, is symptomatic of an ultra-conservative, patriarchal (mostly white) society's attitude toward women in general.

Need we say it again? In this society, women are seen as objects whose identity flows from the male. In fact, the "macho" American male is only "male" if he rules, dominates and controls women. The end of all this is his personal gratification, sexual or otherwise.

He is the "head of the house," we are told. He is the controlling figure, "lord and master," etc., etc., ad nauseam.

So why should we be surprised at Tailhook? Women are violated physically and mentally every day of the week. But, whether the violation is physical or mental (as goes on all the time as well), there is one common cause. That is the religious-based fiction that teaches that women are inferior to the male.

We can see this in the anti-abortionists crusade. It is difficult, if not impossible, to believe that they are motivated by some concern for life before birth when they care so little about life following birth. Their real motivation is that they do not want, perhaps cannot conceive, that a woman should not control her own body. In this, they are right in the stream with the Tailhook men. These latter want to use women's bodies for their pleasure. The anti-abortionists want the government to decide how she uses it. The difference is one of degree, not kind and both, we believe are disgusting beyond words.

We can see the fiction of male superiority operating too among the "family values" people. Translated, the words are simply a code phrase for "women in your place!", the centuries old cry of the patriarchal male.

And what is the lesson in all this for Lesbians and Gay men? It is this. We are a people "out of place." Lesbians refuse to bow the neck to the straight male while Gay men have "betrayed" their sex by being women.

"Who's the women?" a man asks a Gay male couple on a recent TV talkshow. There is a look of disgust on his face as he asks the question. The question is natural. He is mired in the myth that identity and one's place in society comes from only and always gender and those lines have been firmly fixed by some god or other.

Here is the very root of Tailhook and all the other violations against women. Here is the root of the weed of homophobia. We've said it before and we'll say it again. Lesbians and Gay men will never be free while all women are in chains. Tailhook tells us that the chains have gotten heavier.

LETTERS

LAMM Praised

TO THE EDITOR:

The Advocate, a national Gay magazine, recently published a story about Milwaukee. Their focus was to see how we're doing a year after the Dahmer mess. They included many interviews with local spokespersons including Stephanie Hume and Kitty Barber from the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM). These are two women who we should all be very proud of.

Unfortunately, many people are not even aware of the wonderful things that the women from LAMM did in the wake of Dahmer. They put forth a lot of time and effort to work with the police, the media, and the politicians regarding our community. Personally, I am very proud of them and I greatly appreciate their efforts.

I also know that they spent a lot of money in their efforts. One of the best ways to show your appreciation and to say thanks is with a check. Write to LAMM at Box 93323, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

—Patrick T. Wessels
Milwaukee

UPAF Censorship

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following is an open letter to the Board of Milwaukee's United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF)

• • •

In regards to the article in the morning paper about your funding policies: I am very angry at the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) tactics and the Jesse Helms mentality that has invaded UPAF.

Although I have been a small donor for

nearly 20 years, I cannot condone this discrimination toward grass-roots theatre. Yes, UPAF funds the major theatrical organizations in this city, but at what cost? The Rep has become an institution, but for the most part, has forgotten its roots at the old Fred Miller.

The UPAF attitude toward the performing

arts has become elitist in its nature and has taken on the role of moral watchdog within the Milwaukee theatre by its selective funding process. By this process, UPAF now tells the Milwaukee public what they think is good or bad, safe or controversial. By the financial ramifications, UPAF places itself in the same bed with book burners, Christian Fundamentalists and moral purveyors of "good taste." This is censorship at its worst and a violation of our First Amendment rights.

UPAF may counter that a particular production may be significant, but it doesn't have to be funded by the public. This is the same argument voiced by Senator Helms and the NEA.

UPAF's role is to keep the theatrical arts alive and stable financially. It is not there to determine or judge morals, but to fund art. It's ironic that UPAF was the first to scream about NEA censorship and the lack of support by the County for the very same reasons. How hypocritical.

I suggest that UPAF's director take her discriminatory policies and her censorship to the deep South and give up theatre funding. She's obviously in the wrong business.

Finally, where would modern theatre be if we had these policies all along? There would be no Tennessee Williams, Moliere, Swinburne, Capote and a host of others.

Without angels with a "public be damned" attitude, there would be very little good theatre or fine arts. The public would fund bunny rabbits, teary-eyed children and paintings of Elvis on velvet.

UPAF's first word is "united." It is not "selective." Maybe the Board should change its name to the Censored Performing Arts Fund. At this point, I would tell the Director to pack her bags.

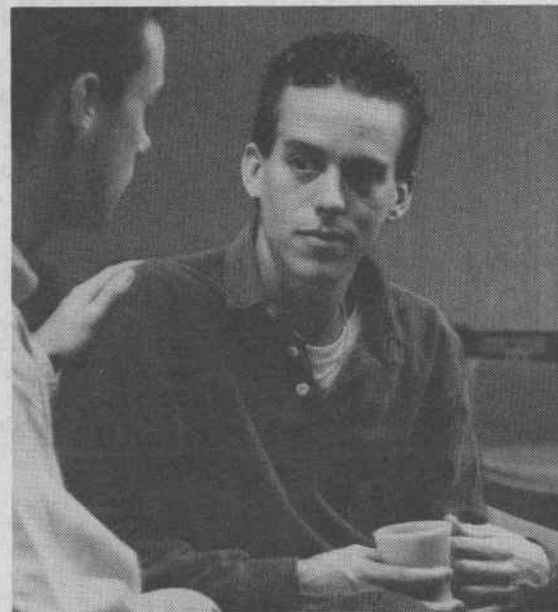
Censorship and discrimination within the arts comes in many disguises. The Director and the Board's present policies are by far the most dangerous.

I will be pulling my donation and giving it to the small theatres directly and will advise others within the theatre community to do the same until discrimination stops.

—Br. John-Paul
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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Of Fetus Freaks, PBS, Fireworks and the Supremes

By Jamakaya

On the Front Lines: It's been inspiring to see dozens and dozens of Lesbians and Gay men on the front lines of the abortion wars in Milwaukee this summer. I expected to see the dykes there (many from LAMM), but the steadfast and disciplined support from the boys of ACT UP and Queer Nation has been remarkable.

One chant seemed to sum it up best: "Racist, sexist, anti-Gay/Born-again bigots go away!" Other favorites: "We asked God and She's pro-choice!" and "1-2-3-4/Civil rights or civil war!"

The defensive strategy has been successful and the Missionaries to the Pre-Born (a self-parody if there ever was one) have failed to close the clinics. Congratulations to the pro-choice warriors!

Ladies Against Women: Lost in the publicity around the clinics was a rollicking action by "Ladies Against Women," who conducted street theatre near the Art Museum during the Lakefront Festival of Arts. Clad in housedresses and aprons, the "Ladies" held signs proclaiming: "Pro-Lifers for Killing Pro-Choicers" and "You're Nobody 'Til You're Mrs. Somebody."

The tongue-in-cheek protest was met with bemused laughter and many confused looks. Undaunted, Ladies Against Women, plans future actions and is looking for feminists with a sense of humor to join the fun. Call (414) 778-1269 and ask for the lady of the house!

Supreme Confusion: Has the U.S. Supreme Court's recent abortion decision got you confused? You're not alone. Read carefully, here's the bottom line:

At the same time that they reaffirmed the court's commitment to the "fundamental principles" of Roe v. Wade, the majority (5-4) upheld most of Pennsylvania's restrictions on abortion. Three justices previously thought antagonistic to Roe v. Wade — O'Connor, Kennedy and Souter — joined in reaffirming it, but the court is still just one vote away from overturning it.

Still confused? Hey, it's called the "One Step Forward, Two Steps Backward" school of American jurisprudence!

What became very clear after this year's court session is that Antonin Scalia is the most arrogant and vicious right wing ideologue on the court and that Clarence Thomas (in the words of Mary Frances Berry) is "Scalia's lap dog." Souter has become Scalia's chief antagonist, frequently trading barbs with him and engaging in intellectual one-upmanship.

(All this only reinforces my prejudicial theories about short men. In the cases of Scalia and Thomas, very short men indeed.)

More PBS Censorship: When Masterpiece Theatre runs the three part series "Portrait of a Marriage" beginning July 19, Milwaukee viewers will be seeing an edited version with 34 minutes looped off the original four hour length. Why? Because its lead characters are Gay and Lesbian and it explores the complexities of love and sex. Why else?

"Portrait of a Marriage" is based on Nigel Nicholson's memoir of his father, Gay British diplomat Harold Nicholson, and his mother, Lesbian writer Vita



JAMAKAYA

Sackville-West. Their unconventional union weathered numerous affairs, including Vita's with the tempestuous Violet (Keppel) Trefusis. This affair, and the effect it had on all parties, is the focus of the series.

Gays who viewed both the edited and the complete film (which aired in Britain without any public outcry) report that the 34 minutes excised deal almost exclusively with the Lesbian relationship and contain some nudity.

PBS requested that WGBH in Boston, which co-produced the series with the BBC, provide an edited version that some PBS affiliates might find less objectionable. Guess which version our spineless friends at WMVS chose?

Yes, the station that censored *Tongues Untied* and *Stop the Church* and that aired the acclaimed 3-2-1 special "What Kids Want to Know About Sex and Growing Up" at 11 p.m. so kids could not see it is at it again!

General Manager Bryce Combs and Manager of Program Operations Thomas Dvorak have become the pit bulls of the "family values" set at Channel 10. While serving as eager watchdogs for the Right, they continue to alienate the progressive constituency (including Gays and Lesbians) that has been public TV's greatest champion.

Combs and Dvorak also continue to drag their feet about the new Gay variety show, *In the Life*, produced by Emmy winner John Scagliotti out of WNYC in New York. *In the Life* was financed independently with no PBS funds but is being made available to PBS affiliates.

The first episode, emceed by comic Kate Clinton and featuring the NYC Gay Men's Chorus, dancer Amy Pivar and the Lavender Light Gospel Choir aired on several PBS stations in June. *In the Life* will be available in monthly installments this Fall. Guess which affiliate won't be carrying it?

I long ago canceled my membership in the Channel 10 Friends, so my influence is limited to making potshots from this column. Please do whatever you can. Combs and Dvorak can be reached at (414) 271-1036.

Meanwhile, for the full story on Harold and Vita and Violet, read Nigel Nicholson's *Portrait of a Marriage* and Violet to Vita: *The Letters of Violet Trefusis to Vita Sackville-West, 1910-21*, edited by M. Leaska and J. Phillips.

Pen Pals: Here's a sharp counterpoint to the PBS blues. In May, I urged you all to write to the producers and writers of *Northern Exposure* to thank them for the wonderful season finale about Cicely and Roslyn, a Lesbian couple who were the founding mothers of the fictional town of Cicely, Alaska.

TURN TO SISTERVERS, PAGE 11

Lavender Space Odyssey Ready For Blast-Off August 16

[Milwaukee]- Lavender Space Odyssey, this year's theme for the Ninth Annual Lavender Hill fundraiser, will blast off Sunday, August 16, 1992 at Renaissance Place, 1451 N. Prospect Avenue beginning at 6:00 p.m. and going to midnight. Over \$40,000 has been raised by Lavender Hill for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) since the fundraiser's inception in 1984.

Costumes will undoubtedly be worn by many of the 450-500 guests expected this year. Attending Lavender Mardi Gras, Lavender Hill, 1991, many guests wore elaborately plumbed, glittering, or brightly colored costumes. Promenading through Renaissance Place were everything from a pair of cows to regal kings. There was even one man who came in little more than a few airy, pink feathers.

Renaissance Place, a magnificent hall on Milwaukee's east side, will again be the site for Lavender Hill. Galactic embellishments will decorate the large foyer, spacious main hall, and balcony overlooking the dance floor.

Your donation of \$30 (or more) per person will entitle you to an evening of music by Muzic in Motion, Inc., dancing, hors d'oeuvres, beer, soda and a cash bar. Miller Brewing, supportive through the years, has kindly underwritten the beer and soda for the evening.

Lavender Hill is an outstanding event, but its real purpose can not be diminished: the spread of AIDS needs to stop and those who are already HIV positive within our community must have our support. It is the goal of the Lavender

Hill planning committee to raise \$15,000 this year to support MAP's work.

Attending the Lavender Space Odyssey is one of the most exciting ways you can support people living with AIDS and HIV infection within our community. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please send your name and address to: Lavender Hill, P.O. Box 93851, Milwaukee, WI 53203. Although reservations are not necessary, they are suggested.

Feminist Twelve Step Support Group Formed

[Milwaukee]- A Feminist Twelve Step Support group has recently been formed. It is composed of women who do not feel empowered by the traditional Twelve Step programs. Instead, they have found that they left the traditional programs with even less power than before. This, due to the patriarchal nature of the twelve steps.

The goal of the new group is to raise women's self-esteem in order to more effectively deal with their daily lives as women. The organizers are women who want to empower themselves and other women.

The group will meet every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the Summer (except for July 11). The meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House in Milwaukee, 3224 N. Gordon Place (two blocks east of N. Humboldt on E. Auer).



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Dykes To Watch Out For



The Light LIVELY ARTS



IN THE BIG LEAGUES—Kit (Lori Petty), batting for the Racine Belles, and her sister Dottie (Geena Davis), catching for the Rockford Peaches, "get dirty" in *A League of Their Own*.

'League of Their Own' Combines Humor, Action and Sentimentality

By Jamakaya

Any serious analysis of *A League of Their Own* would have to expose its wobbly, episodic structure, its one dimensional characters and its cliché-ridden script.

But to hell with serious analysis!

Despite its flaws, *League* is the most entertaining film of the summer season. Penny Marshall's homage to the All American Girls Professional Baseball League is lightweight fare tempered with a touch of sentimentality. I'm thrilled to report there's not a car chase, machine gun, explosion or rape scene in the entire film. Just a bunch of gal pals getting down and dirty on the diamond!

The ensemble cast is a delight. Tom Hanks gives Danny DeVito's Penguin a run for the money in the scenery chewing department. Hanks hams it up mercilessly as the drunken, has-been slugger who is mortified to find himself coaching a girls team, the Rockford Peaches. Jon Lovitz has a brief but memorable role as an irascible scout who discovers two Peaches stars on a dairy farm. "Doesn't that hurt the cows?" he asks of their vigorous milking technique. "Well, it would hurt me," he mutters to himself.

But the movie really belongs to the Peaches and the actresses who play them.

Madonna is cast to type as "All the Way" Mae, whose nickname refers to her batting style as well as her active libido. Madonna's personality doesn't overwhelm the other actresses here — she's just one of the team mates. Her jitterbug scene will leave you (I can't resist) breathless!

Rosie O'Donnell as Mae's pal, the tough talking Doris, makes a strong film debut. She's no slouch at third base either, having played ball in high school and on the Boston University team.

Megan Cavanaugh is perfect as the

frumpy Marla Hooch, the Peaches' power hitter. Tracy Reiner (Marshall's daughter and an awesome beauty) is touching as Betty "Spaghetti." And Bitty Schram, as Evelyn, learns the hard way from the enraged Coach Dugan that "There's no crying in baseball!"

At the heart of *A League of Their Own*, however, is the sibling love and rivalry between the Peaches' star catcher, Dottie, played by Geena Davis, and her kid sister Kit, the team's pitcher, played by Lori Petty.

Forever in the shadow of her older, more talented sister, Kit needs desperately to prove herself and to win respect and recognition on her own. This she ultimately achieves with a notable (and noble) assist from her big sister.

Geena Davis puts in a classy, understated performance as Dottie, whose leadership, patience and wisdom both on the field and off make her a quietly compelling and heroic character. I say "quietly" because in most male baseball movies, the star player is usually a flashy hot dog. There are a lot of baseball movie clichés in *League*, but Dottie is not one of them. She loves the game, but is willing to give it up when her husband comes home from the war. She's an intriguing and complex character.

The confidence and self-respect the women players achieve through exercising their physical prowess is a central theme of *League* and makes it, however unintentionally, a strong feminist film. By any and all means, take your daughters and other girls to see it!

It's a blast to see the sheer joy with which the actresses and veterans of the women's league (seen in an "old timers" game) take to the field. The line that best captures the spirit of the film is delivered by Kit who, after signing autographs for some young girls, advises them: "Get dirty!" Damn good advice.

k.d. Lang's Dynamic Talents Explored in 'Ingénue' Album

By Michele Lasyren

With her newest release, *Ingénue*, k.d. lang has created a truly thoughtful and compelling album in her first full departure from the country music fold.

On *Ingénue*, we find lang unleashing her many influences — including East Indian, Broadway, South American and various European styles — mixing them into an extremely satisfying melange. Like her self-described style of "torch and twang," lang has again developed a unique crossbred sound in which these and various other musical ingredients are skillfully and gracefully blended together. The results are stunning and genuinely beautiful.

By contrast, the emotions expressed here are not always so pleasant. Lang explores falling in love — apparently of the unrequited variety — and the hesitancy, fear, gloom and melancholy it often entails. The album begins with the verse "save me from you/ but pave me/ the way to you."

Within her desire for love, there seems to be some questioning as she stares into a void of loneliness and hurt; whether she would take a leap of faith or be "saved" from the potential of heartbreak.

"Miss Chatelaine" is, by far, the most buoyant on the album. Despite its cheerfulness, the song is tempered by the moodiness of its surrounding tracks. In the context of the album, it reveals a struggle for hope within the hopelessness of a love in vain.

The Struggle Goes On

This struggle extends to one of *Ingénue's* finest tracks, "So It Shall Be" where lang expectantly contends that "shadows/ now curtain the moon/ but fate swears/ it will shine again soon." By the chorus, however, it seems that in her increasingly strenuous efforts to win this person's affections, she is losing sight of herself as lang achingly offers, "I can exist being caught by your kiss/ willingly/ or grant you control of my body and soul/ and it and so it shall be."

Critical thinking and questioning are prevalent throughout the album and refreshingly, lang nowhere tries to convince herself or the listener that there are any easy answers. *Ingénue* ends with

Much of Stories Essence Left Out of 'Fried Green Tomatoes' Audio Book

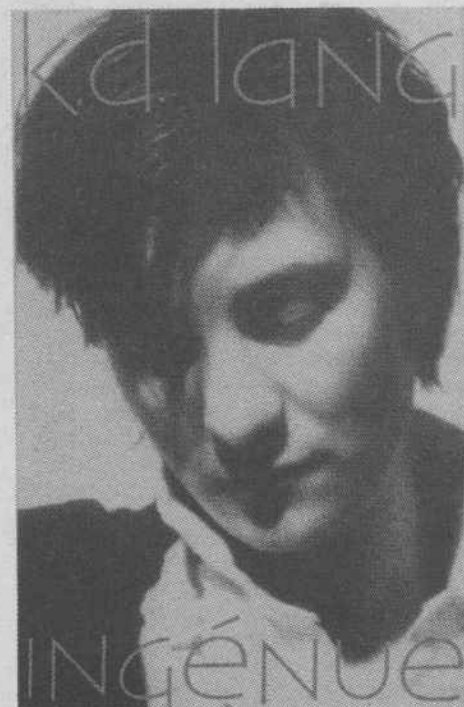
By Mary Shafer

Random House AudioBooks wasted no time in jumping on the popularity bandwagon that carried the motion picture version of Fannie Flagg's *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* to unexpected box office heights this Spring, and has released a double-cassette edition of the book. The narrative is read by the author herself, and the packaging is swiped directly from the movie poster. But as far as this reviewer is concerned, that's where the similarity to the book ends.

With the understanding that nearly all printed books must be abridged for adaptation to audio form, I was nonetheless disappointed with how much of the core of the story was lost in this version. With a running time of two hours, the cassette edition leaves out all of the background of the peripheral characters, as did the movie, which I expected. However, the audio also leaves out much of the most tender and revealing moments between Ildgie and Ruth's characters, who are integral to the plot.

If you can imagine missing the end of the picnic/bee scene from the book, where Ildgie confesses her love for Ruth; the dinner scene where Ildgie makes a fool of herself and several other telling sequences, then you have a pretty good idea of what story the audio sets up.

Now, these scenes were also left out of the film, but with the ability to see facial expressions, certain physical characteristics of the sets, and the very visible physical affection between the



k.d. lang

the unsettled and elusive "Constant Craving." Here lang declares that "always someone marches brave her beneath my skin."

At times throughout her career, k.d. lang has spoken to the restless spirit and *Ingénue* gives that spirit no grounding. It does, however, confirm that it can endure undaunted through difficult stages of growth in the search for its truths. Further, *Ingénue* represents a great musical leap for lang and Ben Mink, who adds brilliant string work and arrangements.

The album exudes tremendously mature and skilled song writing — highly original song forms and lyrics which express complex emotions in few, well-chosen words. In addition, lang's amazing voice shines brighter than ever. Once under *Ingénue's* spell, you'll find yourself craving to see how k.d. lang's vast and dynamic talents continue to evolve in her future works.

characters, the story still comes across without losing much of its power. I found that in the audio version, the character motivations became suspect.

For instance, the motivation for Ildgie to actually go and get Ruth from Frank Bennett's house was not believable for me without the prior set-up of her deep feelings for Ruth.

If Random House was worried that someone wouldn't want to sit through another tape, all they needed to do was check the attendance figures for the movie version, which ran well over two hours.

More Disappointments

Another disappointment was the substitution of a rather "generic" soundtrack for the transitions between chapters. Although it is a minimal part of the audio as far as the time it is heard, I really was hoping they'd use the movie soundtrack. It may be naive to hope that MCA and Random House could have negotiated the usage rights, but they did so for the packaging — why not the soundtrack?

On the positive side, Flagg is as engaging a narrator as she is a writer and her Southern lilt is easy on the ears.

For those who have read the novel and seen the film, I'd say go ahead and give the AudioBook a listen. But for those who have yet to at least see the movie, just say no. You'll miss so much of the magic of the original tale, and it comes off as somewhat shallow and trite, since it dwells mostly on the midlife crisis of Evelyn Couch and fails to establish firm relationships and believable motivations.

BOOKS

Sprightly, Saucy Style Dominates 'Man Who Could Not Kill Enough'

THE MAN WHO COULD NOT KILL ENOUGH

By Anne E. Schwartz

Birch Lane Press, 1992, 225 pp.

By Terry Boughner

It's been a year now since the case of Jeffrey Dahmer entangled Milwaukee like the tentacles of some obscene squid. Even as we struggled to free ourselves, there were books. I read them and found each one of them flawed by the haste of the writers in getting them into print. Now, has come another, **The Man Who Could Not Kill Enough** by Anne E. Schwartz, currently a reporter for WISN-TV News.

Schwartz, then a reporter for the **Milwaukee Journal**, was covering the police beat when the story broke. She had her contacts. One called her in the wee hours of that steamy July morning, getting her out of a sound sleep. With that, she was off and running (literally), reaching Dahmer's apartment just after the serial killer had been taken away.



ANNE SCHWARTZ

As I say, she had her contacts and she got inside, the only reporter to do so. From then on, she would follow the story through to its fetid end.

Unlike the others who have attempted to tell the tale, Schwartz, thankfully, does not sensationalize her story. It's lurid enough as it is. Instead, with a style as

full of energy as a press room on tight deadline, she takes you along with her through the grisly labyrinth. In the process, she gives you the feeling of being with her as she works.

Unlike the other writers, Schwartz knows the life of the cop on the beat and she brings her insider's knowledge to her book. The cops she writes about are not officialdom (for which she has little sympathy) but the ones out on the streets. She describes their trials and pressures, giving a side to the story with an authority I have not read before.

Of special interest in this regard, I think, is her description of the reasons for the tension between the cops and Chief Philip Arreola. That in itself is worth the book.

Let me add that the knowledge that she has, is not laid on with a ham hand. Instead it is done sensitively and well. Even I, who have my profound disagreements with the way the police handled the Konerak Sinthasomphone incident, saw another side to it. There is a great deal of other new information that is well worth knowing.

Schwartz also treats the Gay community with the same sensitivity as she does the cops. She does not focus on it, but integrates the Gay angle into the larger picture.

This is not to say that the definitive book on the Gay/Lesbian situation in the Dahmer case has been written, it hasn't. But Schwartz's book treats the community with balance, fairness and refreshing accuracy.

The same approach can be seen in her handling of the victim's families. She is a reporter on the job, but she makes no attempt to hide her feelings, telling the reader when objectivity is impossible. She empathizes with their sufferings and makes you feel it as well.

The only objections I had were in the lack of an index and with the accompanying photographs. I've seen them all a dozen times before. But then, I live in Milwaukee. My familiarity is likely not true for the rest of the country.

The book is a good one, done in a sprightly, saucy style and giving new insights and sharp analysis not available before. It's a genuinely good read and I recommend it highly.

Alyson to Turn Reign of His Publishing Company Over to Others

[Boston, MA]- Gay book publisher Sasha Alyson, has announced his plans to retire from publishing this year.

In 1980, Alyson brought out his first Gay title under the imprint of Alyson Publications, which is now the country's largest independent publisher of Gay and Lesbian books. In the twelve years since then, the field of Gay publishing has grown tremendously. By one estimate, two Gay books will be published every day of the year in 1992, compared with just a handful each month in 1980.

"It was exciting to be part of that bloom," said Alyson. "Yet the last several years have left me increasingly frustrated. I want to spend more time on AIDS-related activities. I can't do that while running a publishing company."

Alyson Publications has issued a variety of prominent titles. The firm's authors include Michael Nava (**Goldenboy**), Pat Califia (**Macho Sluts**), Joan Nestle (**The Persistent Desire**), Terry Boughner (**Out Of All Time**), Leigh Rutledge (**The Gay Book of Lists**), and many others. In 1990, Alyson announced



SASHA ALYSON

the debut of **Alyson Wonderland**, the first line of children's books to feature families with Lesbian and Gay parents.

The company has been active in Gay community affairs, as well. Alyson coordinated industry-wide support for the book, **You Can Do Something About AIDS**, and distributed 1.3 million free copies nationwide. Since 1982, over 5,000 Lesbian and Gay teen-agers have benefited from a free penpal service that the company sponsors.

Alyson said he will approach several publishing houses that might want to acquire the line, and he has retained Robert Riger of Market Partners International to help him explore possibilities. "If I get a suitable offer, I'll sell it. If not, I'm confident that Alyson Publications can do well without my day-to-day presence," Alyson said.

Alyson added, "I'm eager to see the direction that Alyson Publications can take without me."

Fourth Annual Lammy Awards Given To the Best Gay/Lesbian Literature

By Jamakaya

[Anaheim, CA]- The Fourth Annual Lambda Literary Awards — the Lammys, which honor the best in Gay and Lesbian literature, were presented at a gala banquet at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel May 22.

The Lammy Awards presentation coincided with the American Booksellers Association convention and was designed to garner the widest possible publicity for Gay authors and books during the annual industry conference.

Both the nominees for and the recipients of this year's Lammy Awards testify once again to the profusion of quality Gay and Lesbian literature being published today.

Fiction Winners

Harlan Greene beat competition from the likes of Paul Monette (**Halfway Home**), Dennis Cooper (**Frisk**), Melvin Dixon (**Vanishing Rooms**) and Phillip Gambone (**Language We Use Up Here**) to win the Lammy for Gay Men's Fiction for his second novel, **What the Dead Remember**.

The Lammy for Lesbian Fiction was a tie between **The Gilda Stories** by Jewelle Gomez and **The Revolution of Little Girls** by Blanche McCrary Boyd. Gomez's Lesbian vampire tale also won a Lammy for best Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy, while Frank M. Robinson's epic novel, **The Dark Beyond the Stars**, won for best Gay Sci-Fi/Fantasy.

In the Mystery categories, Joseph Hansen's **A Country of Old Men** and Katherine V. Forrest's **Murder by Tradition** won the Lammys. In Hansen's book, pioneering Gay sleuth Dave Brandstetter (conceived in 1970) makes his final appearance, while Forrest's book is the fourth in her popular Kate Delafield detective series.

Non-Fiction Awards

Cancer in Two Voices by Sandra Butler and Barbara Rosenblum was named the best Lesbian Non-Fiction book. It is the wrenching account, told through journal entries, of a Lesbian couple dealing with one partner's terminal illness. Rosenblum died in 1988.

The Lammy for **Cancer in Two Voices** is all the more prestigious given that it won over such distinguished academic tomes as Lillian Faderman's Lesbian history, **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers**, and Diana Souhami's new biography, **Gertrude and Alice** (Stein and Toklas).

The Lammy for Gay Non-Fiction went to Will Roscoe for **The Zuni Man-Woman**, a biography of We'wha, an honored member of the Zuni tribe who lived his life dressing and playing the traditional female role. Roscoe's book is a

Oakenstar Performing In Beloit, Appleton

[Beloit, WI]- Singer, guitarist and songwriter, Jess Hawk Oakenstar, as part of her national tour, will be appearing at A Different World Bookstore in Beloit from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 26. She will also be performing at the Pivot Club in Appleton on July 29 and August 29. Both performances will be at 8:30 p.m.

Oakenstar was born and raised in Zimbabwe, but makes her home in New Zealand. She has written and performed music for feminist theatre and revues and toured New Zealand in two of the latter. A third revue, "Born to Clean," for which she wrote several songs, had hugely successful seasons in Auckland, Wellington and Sydney, Australia in 1987/88.

Oakenstar is now back to being a solo performer, doing contemporary, upbeat originals and covers which are sometimes moving, sometimes funny and always delivered with a knock out Kiwi style.

Since arriving in the U.S., she has performed in 23 states and recorded her first solo album, **Leave a Little Light Behind**, released May 15 on the Hallows Records label.

Stylistically, the songs range from country rock to ballads with even a little Mississippi Delta sound.

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ADRIENNE RICH

fascinating exploration of gender and sexuality within the Zuni culture and of the Native American concept of "berdache" in general.

Lifetime Achievement Award to Adrienne Rich

The Lammy for Gay Men's Poetry was presented to Assoto Saint for **The Road Before Us: 100 Black Gay Poets. An Atlas of the Difficult World**, Adrienne Rich's most recent collection (and a finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry), won the Lammy for Lesbian Poetry.

Rich was also awarded the Fourth Annual Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in Gay and Lesbian Literature. Last year's recipient was James Purdy.

Rich has published twelve volumes of poetry, two prose collections (**On Lies, Secrets and Silence** and **Blood, Bread and Poetry**) and a landmark cultural study: **Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution**.

Rich's Lesbianism informs all her writing. Her "21 Love Poems," published in 1978 as part of **The Dream of a Common Language**, are often compared to Sappho's lyrics and have been recognized by even so conservative a source as the **New York Times** as among the most beautiful of modern love poems.

As part of the Lammy Lifetime Achievement honor, Rich delivered a keynote speech on the current state of Gay and Lesbian literature at the awards banquet. Look for it in her next prose collection!

Anthologies and Humor

Lammys for best Gay and Lesbian Anthologies were presented to Essex Hemphill, editor of **Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men**, and to Carla Trujillo, editor of **Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About**.

The Lammy for best Humor went to Joe Keenan for his hilarious book **Putting on the Ritz**, while the award for the best Children's/Young Adult Literature went to **The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans**, a collection of Gay-sensitive fairy tales by Johnny Valentine (published by Alyson Wonderland, Alyson's children's division).

Special Awards

The Publisher's Service Award was given to Barbara Grier and Donna McBride, founders of Naiad Press, currently celebrating its 20th year as the first and most successful of Lesbian publishing houses.

The Editor's Choice Award was presented to Lillian Faderman, whose groundbreaking **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America**, was recognized as a "tour de force." An extraordinary achievement by any standards, **Odd Girls** is the first major attempt to synthesize the complexities of Lesbian culture and history over the past 100 years.

The Lambda Literary Awards are sponsored by the **Lambda Book Report**, a Washington, D.C. based literary magazine focusing on Gay and Lesbian writers and themes. Readers submit their own nominations and a panel of writers, critics and booksellers chooses the winners.

To keep up to date on the Gay literary scene and to be eligible to nominate next year's Lammys, subscribe to the **Lambda Book Report**. Send \$19.95 for one year (6 issues) to: **Lambda Book Report**, 1625 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Green Bay Chorus Plans for Christmas Concert

[Green Bay]-Bay City Chorus will have a "New and Continuing Member Get Together," on Sunday, August 2, at 6:00 p.m. A potluck supper is planned. Organizers ask that you bring a dish to pass, and your own hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. Free beer and soda will be provided. For details on the location, call Dave at (414) 469-2897 or Bob at (414) 468-1089.

The Chorus will begin weekly rehearsals for its Christmas, 1992 concert on Sunday, August 9, at 7:00 p.m., in the Music Room of Union Congregational Church, 716 s. Madison St., Green Bay. New members are welcome.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Kessler Is a Candidate Who Will Make a Real Difference in Congress

By Bill Meunier

Every so often a candidate who can make a real difference comes along. Someone who can take us a step further. Judge Fred Kessler, who is running for the Democratic Nomination for Congress in the Fifth Congressional District is such a candidate.

I first met Fred Kessler when I was in High School. Fred was the architect of the strategy that broke a legislative logjam and got Wisconsin's first Open Housing Law passed by the State Assembly. He was running for judge and I volunteered to help.

Fred lost that race, but it really didn't matter because he remained a force for civil liberties in Milwaukee. Over the years he built up a loyal cadre of supporters, conservatives, liberals, moderates and radicals. All of them attracted by Fred's central focus on civil liberties and held together by their belief in his integrity.

Fred's integrity led him to oppose arch conservative Judge Christ Seraphim when no one else would. Fred beat Seraphim in a race that nearly everyone told him was unwinnable. He won out of sheer determination. He won by educating the voters. He made the electorate understand the need to give everyone a fair hearing when they come before the bench.

In 1982 Fred became the first candidate for any major office to openly campaign for Gay and Lesbian votes when he ran for Congress. Fred said that he was serious about Lesbians and Gays receiving equal treatment both before and after the election.

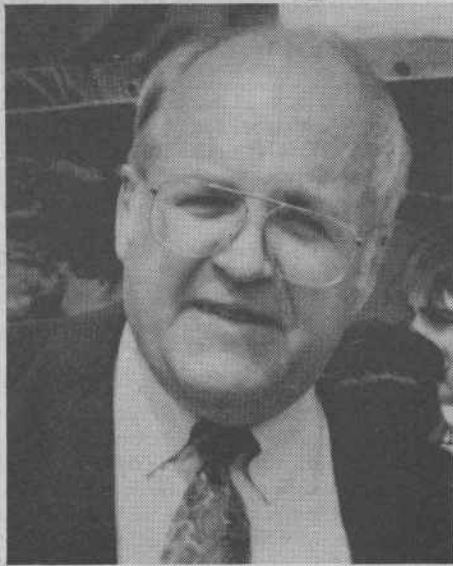
This year Gays and Lesbians have a chance to make a real difference by uniting behind Fred Kessler and supporting him with everything we've got. He is one of the favorites in the race for the Democratic nomination. We can make sure he wins.

The race is going to be close perhaps even closer than it was in 1982, when a mere 1,500 votes separated the third place finisher from the winner. Wouldn't it be nice to unite behind someone that we can really believe in, someone who is solidly in our corner? A strong effort on our part will get Fred elected.

It's that kind of strong united effort that makes politicians think twice, when the politically impotent right wing fundie bigots come calling. It's that kind of effort that makes them much more willing to support our agenda.

That would be reason enough to support Fred Kessler. But there are other reasons as well.

These days most Congresspersons are running for cover, trying to get as much pork as they can, or doing whatever they have to stay non-controversial. We have very few champions in the House of



FRED KESSLER at PrideFest

Representatives. When Dornan, Helms and Gingrich savage us, there has been an ineffectual response. No one has been willing to assume the role of being a full time defender of civil rights especially as they pertain to Lesbians and Gays. Fred Kessler wants that role, he relishes it, he can taste it. Anyone who knows him, knows that he can fill it.

With Fred, civil rights is not just one of his priorities, it is THE priority. Civil liberties has been the central focus of his career. Fred fights for civil liberties with the kind of passion that most politicians reserve for election campaigns. When Fred Kessler says he believes that only when this country uses ALL of its people will it find a way out of its problems and that equal treatment of all human beings is a matter of moral principle you can believe he means it.

Further more, as anyone who has studied Congress can tell you, a good strategist is worth dozens of votes. Fred has an uncanny talent as a legislative tactician. Even when he was a freshman in the State Assembly, that chamber's veterans often came to him for help in developing strategy for getting their bills through. We need someone with that kind of skill on OUR side in Washington.

Over the years I have met many politicians. Some I support because they are the lesser of two evils, some I support because I believe they will be truly helpful. Very seldom do I find myself believing in a candidate as thoroughly as I do in Fred Kessler.

Don't take my word for it. Meet Fred yourself. Along with other Gay and Lesbian leaders I am inviting you to a special reception we are holding for Fred Kessler on July 13th, upstairs at the M and M Club from 5:30 to 7:30.

Let's send someone we can believe in to Washington. Let's pull together and put Fred Kessler over the top.

Kessler Has Been In The Forefront On Seeking Human Rights for All

Fifth District Congressional Candidate, Fred Kessler is picking up support within the Lesbian and Gay community.

Kessler is no stranger to Gay and Lesbian activists who have often sought him out for advice on how to deal with legal and political problems confronting the community. Nor is he unfamiliar to those who, like him, have made the fight for civil liberties a lifetime central focus.

A founder of Wisconsin's Chapter of Amnesty International, Kessler has fought for civil rights throughout his public career. As a State Representative in the late 1960's, even though he represented "a changing district," he masterminded the strategy that brought about Wisconsin's first statewide Open Housing law. Kessler's district was 90%

white and his own polls showed that 70% of his constituents opposed that law.

After getting Open Housing passed Kessler went home to face angry constituents of his near West Side District. Rather than run for cover, he chose to educate the district about the new law and win his district over to his viewpoint. Fred convinced the voters that his actions were in their best interest. He got more votes in his re-election campaign than he garnered two years before.

This is Kessler's second try for the Fifth Congressional District Seat. In 1982, he narrowly lost the Democratic Primary to Jim Moody. Defying the advice of many, Kessler took that campaign into the Gay and Lesbian community. He was the first major

candidate to do so.

Many Lesbian and Gay activists think that Kessler would be one of the best assets the Lesbian and Gay community could have in Washington. As a former Judge, he could be expected to be assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, the committee that reviews all civil rights legislation. Furthermore Kessler is rightly known as a great legislative strategist.

In a recent interview with *Light*, Kessler express his anger over the Federal government treatment's of Lesbians and Gays. "I find it outrageous, that sexual orientation is a determining criteria on receiving assistance, serving in the military and getting appointments and promotions."

He is especially angry over the Helms' initiatives directed at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Fred told *Wisconsin Light* "I support the efforts of people like Congressman Yates and Williams to fund creative, though controversial art projects. The area of arts funding is one of the only areas that Gays and Lesbians could get government grants. Now the far right is even trying to take that away."

When asked what he would do help advance the cause of Lesbian and Gay rights Fred replied, "I want to be able to use my skills as a legislative tactician to overturn some of their (the far right's) successful initiatives. I am offended at the ability of the far right to defund NEA grants, ban Gay and Lesbian organizations from receiving funds, and make discrimination against Gays and Lesbians part of the law. It is inexcusable that Helms was able to amend an anti-drug bill so that Gay and Lesbian Youth organizations aren't eligible for anti-drug education grants."

Kessler is equally adamant on other issues of importance to the Lesbian and Gay community. He calls the Bush administration's response to the AIDS crisis "disgraceful" and he supports the Presidential Commission on AIDS recommendations for dealing with the disease. "Bush appointed the Commission, its time he started listening to it," said Kessler.

In speaking about AIDS, Kessler made special mention of federal restrictions against issuing visas to persons known to be HIV+. "No one should be barred from entering this country because they are Gay or Lesbian or HIV+. We are not talking about a contagious disease where someone breathes on you and you become

sick. That's not what this is all about."

Kessler even raises an issue that even many Lesbian and Gay activists may not have thought much about. The President is required to certify to Congress that certain countries are not abusing human rights based on race, sex, union status, political activities, ethnic group or religion. This certification is needed to qualify these countries for foreign aid and favored nation trade status. It must be given annually. Kessler wants to add sexual orientation to the list of categories covered.

One of Fred's supporters, told *Light* "That may sound unrealistic, but, so did a Wisconsin Open Housing law back in the late 60's, so have many other things that Fred has pushed for on a public and private basis. Those things all came to pass. Give him a chance and maybe this will, too."

There are many Lesbians and Gays hoping that Kessler gets that chance.

July 13 Reception

A number of Gay and Lesbian Leaders are holding a special reception for Fred Kessler on Monday July 13th from 5:30 to 7:30. This free event will be upstairs at the M and M Club. Donations will be cheerfully accepted but are not required.

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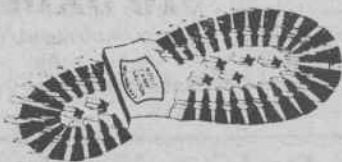
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July 30 Fundraiser Planned For Fred Kessler

[Milwaukee]- You are cordially invited to attend a fundraiser for Congressional Candidate Judge Fred Kessler at 1843 N. Palmer St., Milwaukee, the home of Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson, the editor and publisher of *Wisconsin Light*.

The event will be on Thursday July 30th from 5:00 until 9:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be served.

Any donation to help in the effort to put a real friend in Congress will be gratefully accepted.

First Elected Lutheran Woman Bishop To Serve La Crosse Synod

Commentary By Darren J. Foster

The La Crosse Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) on June 12, 1992, elected the Reverend April Ulring Larsen of Rochester, MN, to replace retiring Bishop Stefan Guttormsson as Bishop of the synod. You may wonder, what is the significance of this act for the Gay/Lesbian and women's communities? Why should our community take notice of this event in western Wisconsin?

The significance, first of all, is that Bishop-elect Larsen is the first woman in the U.S. to be elected bishop in the Lutheran denomination. Furthermore, she is only the second woman to be elected bishop in the entire worldwide Lutheran community. The Lutheran Church in Germany became the first Lutheran church on April 4, 1992, to elevate a woman, Maria Jepsen, to the position of Bishop of Hamburg.

Bishop-elect Larsen, 42, is currently an assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and will assume her new position in La Crosse on August 31, 1992. Larsen is married, and she and her Lutheran minister-spouse, Judd, have three children. The La Crosse Area Synod is comprised of 40,175 members in 82 congregations in western Wisconsin.

Because Larsen's election is unprecedented in the ELCA, her influence will be felt beyond the borders of this synod. This is good news not only for women, but also Gays and Lesbians in the

church — so I have been led to believe by two respected La Crosse pastors.

Unlike retiring homophobic Bishop Guttormsson, Bishop Larsen will preach the "Good News" to Gays and Lesbians without reservation and, more importantly, with affirmation.

Readers of *The Wisconsin Light* will remember how Guttormsson last May defrocked the Reverend Paul Johnson of Viroqua when Johnson revealed that he was both Gay and involved in an extra-marital Gay relationship, while at the time serving Guttormsson as his assistant.

As a result, of Guttormsson's questionable handling of the Johnson affair, my partner, Bill Steffenhagen, and I wrote a guest op-ed article for *The La Crosse Tribune* which condemned Guttormsson's conduct and supported Reverend Johnson. We were not, however, alone in our public condemnation of Guttormsson's role, and we now celebrate the power of the people who see Larsen's election as truly a revolutionary opportunity; as a breath of fresh air in the Christian church.

After Bishop-elect Larsen takes office on August 31, I will be looking forward to interviewing her for *Light* on her philosophy and plans for ministering, specifically, to the needs of women, people with HIV/AIDS, and Gays and Lesbians.

Editor's Note: The author is an Assisting Minister in the ELCA.

Perot Explains His Stand On Gay Related Issues Including AIDS, Health Care, Homophobia, Cabinet

Editor's Note: The report from which the following article is excerpted took place in the Washington State Capitol building on July 2, 1992, where Ross Perot had come to attend a rally of his supporters. The writer is a member of ACT UP/Seattle.

By Steve Michael

Immediately after brief introductions, we were left alone with (Perot). Perot chose to stand. The conversation began.

Perot attempted to explain away his remarks on "20/20." He told me that his initial reaction to the cabinet question was to spare a Gay or Lesbian from the rigors of a confirmation hearing. "If you're the most qualified man for the job," he said to me. "I would sit you down and ask you if you saw the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings." He said that he would want me to determine if I was willing to go through that process.

I thought to myself that Perot just doesn't get it. The goal would be to put homophobia on trial, not a nominee's sexual orientation. Perot continues to tie homosexuality to sexual harassment.

Perot told me that he would not tolerate hatred toward anyone and that he would speak out against hate when he saw it, adding, "I don't hate anyone."

Perot On AIDS

We switched gears and began discussing AIDS. Perot suggested a doubling of money for AIDS research.

I pressured him to see if he really knew

LAMM to Hold General Meeting, Potluck, July 16

[Milwaukee]- The July 16 meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) will address a variety of topics that need a little attention, but not a whole meeting.

Tops on the list is a brief, but fun exercise to be conducted by the long-term planning committee. This exercise is intended to give the Board of Managers some insight into the direction and priorities that the membership feels LAMM should follow for the next few years. This is an opportunity to voice opinions and offer perspective of importance to Lesbians in the Milwaukee community.

Other items on the agenda include a report on the Gay Pride activities and updates on other events this summer.

There is a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m., at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St. LAMM meetings are held regularly on the third Thursday of each month and are open to all Lesbians. For more information, call (414) 264-2600.

about the AIDS crisis. I told him about the importance of alternative, holistic and non-traditional medicines. I told him that drug companies had no interest in researching for a cure in an avenue that would not generate a profit.

His face was a blank. He then started nodding, gesturing support and got this wide grin and asked me if I would want a Perot presidency "to speed up the FDA drug approval process?" I told him that was a small step in the right direction.

His grin grew. He slapped me on the back and said, "You want drugs in your body because you are dying." That did it. Bill Clinton is starting to look pretty good. Perot is the second candidate to make an assumption about my HIV status and the first to have me on the road to Forest Lawn.

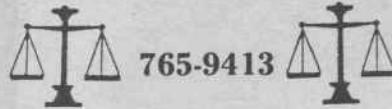
He has no clue. I doubt that the man is educable. My gut feeling is that he is a danger and a real threat to our community and the entire nation.

Perot On Universal Health Care

Switching gears again, I tried to extract a commitment on Universal Health Care. He responded by saying that the he supports "access to health care for all Americans." Imagine a "person in an iron lung," he said. "Even though he is a tax user, we must show compassion."

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Another Perotism that frightened me was when he said that if he got no Gay votes "and the American people still put me in office, I would still fight AIDS."

The most frightening Perot comment came when he talked about immunizing children. He asked me what I thought about his idea about sending in the National Guard to immunize the children in America's inner cities. I couldn't answer. I was shocked.

Both Jeff Harris who was with me and I stressed the need for Perot to speak out against homophobia and Gay bashing. He indicated that he would do so.

Perot must be stopped. Lesbian and Gay Americans must expose this man for the bigot that he is. We must show all other citizens that Henry Ross Perot and his followers are a threat to the Constitution and all our lives.

Medical College of Wisconsin Health Behavior Program Moves Offices

[Milwaukee]- The Community Health Behavior Program of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has moved from its former Farwell Avenue location to larger offices at 1201 N. Prospect Avenue, also on Milwaukee's east side. The new location is the former Judge Jason Downer Mansion at the northwest corner of Prospect and Juneau Avenues. The new offices have sufficient space for the nearly 30 MCW faculty and staff who comprise the program, as well as small group meeting spaces for program activities. The telephone number remains

(414) 287-4680.

The Community Health Behavior Program, directed by Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences, MCW, has become one of the largest AIDS/HIV behavioral research programs in the U.S. Research projects of the Community Health Behavior Program are supported primarily by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health.

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

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Brady East Clinic Needs Clerical/Desk, Counseling and Nurse Help

[Milwaukee]- The HIV virus is a frightening reality that has touched each of our lives. Regardless of our own status, we have all felt the impact among our friends and acquaintances. There is, as yet, no cure, but there are ways to help: prevention of transmission, early diagnoses and counseling.

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Disease Clinic, located at 1240 E. Brady St. in Milwaukee is welcoming volunteers for the following positions: Clerical/Desk; Counseling and Nurses (the nursing staff is responsible for blood draws only).

If you can spare from one to four evenings a month and would like to do something to help this dreaded killer, we at BESTD would appreciate talking to you. To discuss the ways that you can help, call Bob Ambelang, Clinic Director, at (414) 272-2144 between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

SISTERNEWS

Continued from Page 5

I took my own advice, wrote some letters and got a delightful reply from writers Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider (who are also producers). It read, in part:

"As writers on a television show, we often feel as if we're writing into a vacuum — it's difficult to gauge our audience's reaction. So it's gratifying for us to hear from our viewers (particularly fellow writers). The May 18 episode, 'Cicely,' was one of our most difficult production-wise, so it's especially pleasing to get a response."

Whaddya know, even writers in Hollywood need words of encouragement sometimes!

Seeing Fireworks: My overriding goal each summer is to see as many fireworks with as many women as I possibly can. I'm happy to report that the recent holiday was most fulfilling in that regard.

The July 3rd Lakefront fireworks were enhanced considerably by my friend Terry who had the good sense to bring "3-D Fireworks Glasses" along! Never have more simultaneous and multiple "ooohs" and "aaahs" emanated from the small band of gal pals who gather each year for the sensory feast!

On the 4th, I joined my favorite 5 year old and her mother to see the fireworks in Humboldt Park, where we were unquestionably the most non-traditional family present. Our pre-fireworks hijinks included a game of "This little piggy..." with lines like "This little piggy went to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival" and "This little piggy went shopping at Outpost Natural Foods Co-op."

Once the action started, we donned our brand new "3-D Fireworks Glasses" (quite avant garde for the south side), looked to the heavens, and doubled our pleasure, doubled our fun.

After pronouncing the fireworks display "cool," my favorite 5 year old, with mom holding one hand and me the other, closed her 5 year old eyes and sleep-walked contentedly all the way home.

Ahh, the simple joys of summer.....

Madison Dance Planned July 17 By the Ten Percent Society

[Madison]- The Ten Percent Society, a UW-Madison Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay student organization, will hold its Summer dance for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gay men and their friends on Friday, July 17, 1992 in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. The dance begins at 8:00 p.m. There will be a \$3 cover, a DJ and a cash bar.

RACINE

Continued from Page 1

"innocent" and "guilty" people with AIDS.

ACT UP has charged the Bush Administration with gutting AIDS research into teen sexuality, opposing effective safe sex education that mentions condoms and as well as opposing needle exchanges as a way of saving drug users and their families. The Administration continues the "unique ban" on the travel and movement of HIV positive people.

Further, ACT UP says, the Bush Administration continually overstates AIDS research funding by including start-up, administrative and other costs as well as being adamantly opposed to universal health care.

"Wonderboy Dan Quayle rounds out the demented duo," a spokesperson for ACT UP Milwaukee said. The spokesperson continued, saying, "Quayle displayed the Administration's stark ignorance recently when he asked if people at an AIDS care facility were being given DDT!" (DDT is a well-known pesticide.)

All efforts will be made to provide for the housing and transportation costs of Milwaukee activists who attend. Rooms have been reserved from Sunday, August 16 through Wednesday, August 19. For more information, call ACT UP at (414) 769-8708.

Businesses Donate Prizes for July 24 Madison Resource Center Raffle

[Madison]- On Friday, July 24, 1992, the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center (MG/LRC) will be holding a raffle drawing to raise funds for the basic services of MG/LRC. The raffle drawing will take place at 9:00 p.m. on July 24 at

You Were A Farm Boy? Share Your Experiences

[Madison]- Are you a Gay man who grew up on a farm? If so, your experience as a farm boy is an important and largely neglected part of Gay culture. Urban experiences are central to the lives of most Gay men, but they're far from being the whole story. The Gay Farm Boys Project is intended to give Gay men who grew up on farms — whether or not they are still involved in farming — a chance to talk about their experiences and the ways in which their farm upbringings have influenced their lives.

If you are a Gay man who grew up in a farming household and you think you might be interested in contributing to this cultural research project by talking about your experiences, please contact Bill Fellows at (608) 231-3223 for more information or to arrange an interview. You can write to Fellows at P.O. Box 55165, Madison, WI 53705-8965. A Gay farm boy himself, Fellows is an experienced researcher and writer who would like to consider your story for inclusion in a possible publication based on the "Gay farm boys" theme.

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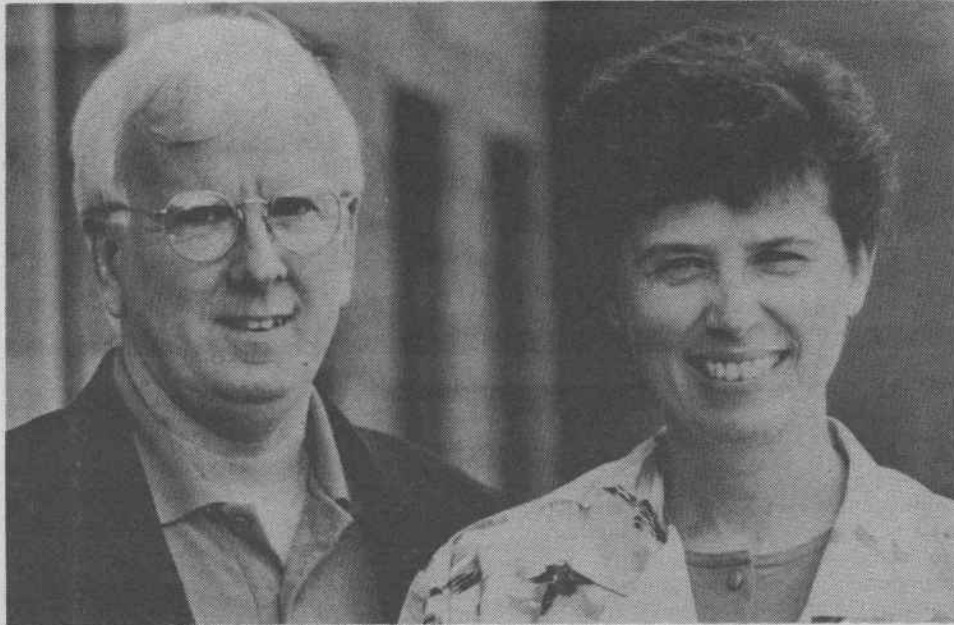
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FATHER ROBERT NUGENT and SISTER JEANNIE GRAMICK

Catholic Nun and Priest Walk Middle Bridge to Serve Gays and Lesbians

By Tim Coffey

"I met Jeannie when I was on skid row," Robert Nugent says with a chuckle.

Nugent, who was doing volunteer work at a skid row hospice in Philadelphia at the time, read a newspaper article about Jeannie Gramick's then-radical outreach to the Gay community.

Gramick, a Roman Catholic nun who was attending the University of Pennsylvania's grad school, was organizing weekly masses in apartments of Gay men who felt alienated by the local Catholic Church.

"I got some fan mail from the article," Gramick says smiling. "One letter was from a young priest. He said, 'I think what you're doing is great. If there's anything I can do, please call me.' So I called him."

Nugent, that unsuspecting letter writer, today doesn't remember having had a strong desire to do Gay and Lesbian ministry when he wrote to Gramick.

"It was probably the last thing I would have wanted to be identified with," he recalls.

But when they met in 1971 Gramick changed that.

"It's a real Adam and Eve story. I gave him the apple," she says.

Building Bridges

In the twenty-plus years since, Gramick and Nugent have collaborated on many projects designed to bring together the Catholic Church and its Lesbian and Gay members.

Recently added to their numerous writings on the subject is their first book collaboration of their own articles, **Building Bridges Gay & Lesbian Reality and the Catholic Church** (Twenty-Third Publications, \$9.95). The collection of essays deals with improving the ways the Church regards its Gay and Lesbian members, explaining the Church teachings, and examining different viewpoints.

"We see our role as presenting what the Church has to say in its theology to the Lesbian and Gay community. And another piece of that is to present the feelings and thoughts of the Lesbian and Gay community to the Catholic Church. We try to hold up one community to another," Gramick says.

"There's the Gay radical left and the Catholic ultra right. We try to walk that middle bridge," adds Nugent. "We raise all the issues. We deal with them honestly. We promote understanding and dialogue. There are some positive things happening in the Church. And it's our job to raise them up."

Given the stereotypical view many have of Catholics' moral disdain for homosexuality, Nugent has found Catholics surprisingly supportive of homosexual rights.

Surveys have shown that 80 % of Catholics would support civil rights for homosexuals and 74% would support repeal of sodomy laws. And 33% would say same-sex relationships can be moral.

A lot of the writing in this collection has appeared in specialized journals, which have limited readership. In hoping to reach more people in the parishes, Gramick says, "We would like to get down to the pews."

They want to illuminate recent positive developments in this area. Nugent feels people need to know that the San Francisco Catholic diocese has said, "Homosexuality is not any kind of psychological disorder. They also say homosexuality is a building block rather than a stumbling block in the search for human wholeness."

Gramick has found many Catholics who "don't know that the church has said

prejudice against homosexuals is a greater infringement of the norm of Christian morality than any sexual behavior."

A Past Full of Challenges

In the mid '70's, Nugent and Gramick were working at the Quixote Center, a peace and justice center in Washington, D.C. They felt there needed to be a center that would directly deal with just Gay and Lesbian social justice issues. So, in 1977, they formed New Ways Ministry in Mt. Rainier, Maryland.

Because of their work, which included studies of the Lesbian coming out process, retreats for Gay women religious, and publication of such works as **Homosexual Catholics: A Primer for Discussion**, they ran into trouble with Washington, D.C.'s Archbishop James Hickey.

"We were forced to resign from New Ways Ministry in 1984," Nugent says. Their work has been carried on by other leadership.

"In terms of church politics, we can't do our work under Cardinal Hickey," Gramick says.

Since 1984, they have worked outside of D.C. and now reside in the Baltimore area. They have traveled extensively throughout the country, speaking in 135 of the 169 Catholic dioceses in the U.S.

Due to the sensitive nature and high profile of their ministry, Gramick and Nugent do not publicly state their sexual orientations. "We've never confirmed or denied it. It's partly a political decision. No matter what we said, some people would use whatever we said against us," says Nugent, who is 54 years-old.

"People make their own assumptions," says Gramick, who is 49.

Crossing Those Bridges

A Society of the Divine Savior priest, Nugent twice before has left Gay ministry to work more on the parish level. But each time he returned because too few people in the church were addressing the issues concerning Gay and Lesbian Catholics.

"It's not an issue I would have picked. It's an issue that's picked me," he says.

Gramick, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame order, sees an interrelatedness between social justice issues.

"A lot of experts agree that the negative judgments made of Gay men are based on the myth Gay men act like women. And the hostility society shows disvalues women and things that are female," she says.

"Therefore the hostility shown towards Gay men is a reflection of the lack of appreciation society has towards women. So there are links between sexism, homophobia and heterosexism."

Writing in the book that it may take "decades, perhaps centuries" for the church to fully accept Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Gramick is confident for the future:

"Lesbian and Gay Christians will save the church by enabling the faith community to make peace with their sexuality and to cease an emotional destruction of human lives...The entire faith community will grow into a freedom that relates sexuality not to duty, procreation, violence or guilt, but to love."

In the book's postscript, the two authors write: "Despite occasional setbacks and some active opposition, we continue because we have seen gradual and positive developments in attitudes and practices in the church...Whatever contributions we might make will probably not realize their cumulative effect until long after we are gone from the scene. One plants; one waters; another reaps."

Gay Rights in America's Heartland: Wisconsin Anti-Discrimination Law

The following is the beginning of a four-part series of articles excerpted from Ms Zierten's Master's thesis. It was submitted to us by Rep. David Clarenbach. Your comments would be welcome.

By Barbara J. Zierten

At first glance, Wisconsin is an unusual place for enactment of the nation's first Gay rights bill. However, certain unique circumstances converged in Wisconsin in the early 1980s that made it possible to pass a revolutionary Gay rights law. An examination of these circumstances reveals that a combination of a creative and intelligent public relations campaign, strong backing from the local religious community, courageous politicians and an appeal to a fundamental belief in human rights contributed to successful passage of Gay rights legislation in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has had tough civil rights laws for many years. Through various amendments, by 1981 virtually every conceivable minority group except homosexuals was covered by Wisconsin law.

Assemblyman David Clarenbach was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1975 when he was 21 years-old. His youthful political vision was formed by a feminist mother and a father who was a civil rights worker. He was elected to represent the 78th assembly district in Madison, seat of the University of Wisconsin and well-known as the liberal bastion of the state and the home to a large Gay population. It was no surprise that once elected to political office, Clarenbach set out to change Wisconsin law to extend civil rights to homosexuals.

Clarenbach And Consenting Adults

Clarenbach knew passing a Gay rights bill in Wisconsin would not be easy. He looked long and hard at what should be done and saw that a different political environment had to be created so that such a law could be passed. Clarenbach studied the existing political climate to understand where his greatest difficulties would lie. He saw the problem as two-fold: first the issue needed to be framed in such a way that legislators felt that they could vote for it regardless of political party affiliation.

Second, he needed to meet the religious, moral and ethical objections a Gay rights bill would create.

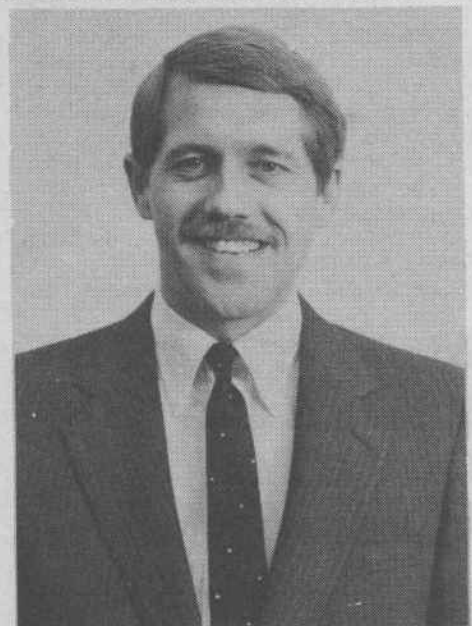
Clarenbach believed that in 1975 the issue of Gay rights was too narrow to garner much support for a bill which would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation alone. He decided instead to begin his campaign to revise Wisconsin law by introducing a bill to legalize cohabitation between consenting adults, a bill that covered heterosexuals and homosexuals alike. Included in the bill was repeal of Wisconsin's criminal sodomy statute. Clarenbach hoped that because the legalization of cohabitation had a broader appeal than Gay rights, it would serve as a stalking horse for a subsequent Gay rights bill in the legislature.

Consenting Adults Fails

When the bill was first introduced in 1975, it was quickly killed in committee. Not surprisingly, most lawmakers believed that voting for the bill would ruin their careers.

When the bill was introduced again in 1977, it once again died in committee.

In 1979, however, the bill made it to the



REP. DAVID CLARBACH

Assembly floor and a series of debates ensued. On roll call, the bill still lost by a three to one margin. But Clarenbach's persistence paid off and when the bill was introduced again in the Spring of 1981, it lost by a margin of only one vote, 50-49. The consenting adults bill was put on the back burner. It had served its purpose for the time being.

Next: Assembly Bill 70.

Editor's Note: Barbara Mack Zierten was born and raised in Wisconsin and graduated from UW-Madison in the 60s. She is a lawyer and lives in San Francisco.

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