



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

The Wisconsin Light

Miller Brewery Gives \$100,000 To MAP

[Milwaukee]- Michael J. Brophy, manager of corporate communications for Miller Brewery announced a contribution of \$100,000 to the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The money comes from Miller and the Magic Johnson Foundation and is to be used to support community-based AIDS education and awareness programs in the Milwaukee Metro area. Brophy added that Miller's contribution is being made as part of the company's leadership role in supporting efforts to expand AIDS awareness, education and practical care programs.

The \$100,000 is part of the \$500,000 contribution given by Miller to the Magic Johnson Foundation on November 22, 1992 in Los Angeles.

Originally, the check was to have been presented to Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, at a special pregame ceremony on January 3, 1993, when the Milwaukee Bucks met the Los Angeles Lakers at the Bradley Center. However, when Johnson was unable to attend, the ceremony was canceled.

Nelson praised Miller for its corporate commitment and for being "an active player in helping improve the quality of life for everyone in the community."

"Miller Brewing Company is a leader in the community's response to AIDS," Nelson said.

United Offers Support Group for Rural Gays

[Madison]- The United, Madison's Lesbian and Gay agency for social change, is offering a support group for rural Lesbians and Gays. The group began meeting on January 10, 1993 and will continue for eight weeks in Mineral Point. Those interested should call the United at (608) 255-8582 for more information.

United Seeks Fundraisers

Experienced in fundraising, or willing to learn? The United is growing and needs to expand its fundraising base, focusing now on developing potential community resources.

A strategy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 1993 at the United, 14 W. Mifflin, Suite 103 (on the square) at 7:00 p.m. Please call (608) 255-8582 for more information.

Schools To Be Targeted For AIDS Education

[Milwaukee]- ACT UP Milwaukee hopes to add Milwaukee to the growing list of cities that seek to save young lives with aggressive AIDS education that deals frankly with youth sexuality.

The AIDS activist group plans to renew its campaign for condom availability and non-judgmental education at an organizing meeting Monday, January 11, 1993. The AIDS education campaign meeting replaces ACT UP Milwaukee's general meeting and will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at All Saints' Cathedral, 816 E. Juneau. All are invited, but educators and young people are especially welcome to enrich the discussion with their experiences.

With public attention focused on school building and school board elections, ACT UP hopes the renewed interest in building a future for youth will invigorate its campaign. The group has worked for several years on AIDS education, from cultivating student interest to "safe sex raps" at area high school dances.

While Milwaukee AIDS activists initially faced illegal arrests when they tried to distribute condoms and brochures, times have changed. One school invited ACT UP to its dance, while the Milwaukee Journal supported the group's efforts in an editorial.

Momentum Grows As Colorado Boycott Spreads Across U.S.A.



Down With Hatred— As the boycott against Colorado grows, postcards such as the one pictured above are beginning to circulate throughout the United States, encouraging people not to visit the state or purchase goods and products from Colorado.

Operation Rescue Anti-Choice Group Said To Be Organizing Against Gays

[Wichita, KS]-According to an article in the *Wichita Eagle* of December 11, 1992 and bylined to Tom Webb, leaders of the Operation Rescue anti-Choice movement said on December 10, 1992 that they're organizing against "a new evil." That is, homosexuality and especially the issue of Gays in the military. The group will also urge American business leaders not to hire Lesbians and Gay men.

According to the report, the anti-Gay effort is centered in Wichita and is being organized by the Christian Defense Coalition (CDC), a group founded by Operation Rescue's Randall Terry and led by many of the same officials. At a news conference in Washington, D.C. held December 10, 1992, Terry was quoted as saying the CDC was battling "the advance of paganism and anti-Christian behavior."

Bob Jewitt, Operation Rescue's national media coordinator said that the aim of the CDC was "to have clergy saying they don't want people to hire homosexuals, they don't want people to tolerate that lifestyle, they want people to oppose it every step of the way."

Jewitt was quoted as saying that the CDC plans anti-Gay demonstrations in "75 cities" nation-wide. However, he would not reveal which cities were targeted "for fear of tipping off militant Gay groups like ACT UP and Queer Nation."

"Obviously those people would like to see everyone in America get AIDS so they could spend more money on research," Jewitt said.

Dick Kelsey of the Wichita Alliance of Evangelical Churches, a group whose 150 congregations generally offered strong support for Operation Rescue during its 1991-92 Summer protests, said he hadn't been contacted by the CDC.

"It will be quite interesting to see if the pro-life groups hook into that issue," and whether they do will "depend on how it's framed," Kelsey said. "If you're saying support the military leaders who don't want to have Gays in the military, yeah, they'd support this," Kelsey said. "If you're saying ban homosexuals from any kind of job, no, they wouldn't support this."

"This is not an easy issue," Kelsey added. "I don't think we ought to be bashing them, persecuting them or anything else, but I don't think their lifestyle ought to be protected with special laws."

Latest on Operation Rescue

As we go to press, attempts to reach Operation Rescue were unsuccessful. A phone call to their headquarters in Binghamton, NY, resulted in a tape

recording telling the caller to "Just say no to homosexuals in the military."

The tape went on to say that callers who want to "join with other god-fearing Americans to stop this abomination" can leave their name, address and phone number and someone would "get back to you." No one has done this as yet.

Phone company information provided a second number for the group, which, in turn, produced yet another recorded message. This one offered "books advertised on *Randall Terry Live*, Terry's radio talk show.

Plans for the Inaugural

Wisconsin Light came into possession of a flyer from a group calling itself the "Christian Defense Coalition." This is an offshoot of Operation Rescue. The flyer calls on supporters to come to Washington for the inauguration and stage protests. These include: A January 19th rally at the Crystal City Marriott Underground Theatre at 7:00 p.m.; a January 20 demonstration at the inauguration; a January 21st "prayer and resistance at the White House and a January 22nd "pro-life march" and prayer at an abortion clinic in Washington.

The Associated Press again quoted Jewitt as saying that one of the aims of Operation Rescue was to persuade people "not to hire homosexuals."

Bell Ringing Encouraged On Jan. 17 at 5 P.M.

[Washington, D.C.]— The Clinton Inaugural Committee is sponsoring "Bells for Hope" to be held coast-to-coast on January 17, 1993.

On that day, President-elect Clinton and Vice President-elect Gore and their families will lead a procession from the Lincoln Memorial across the Memorial Bridge to Lady Bird Johnson Park at the gates to Arlington National Cemetery and ring a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Americans across the country are being encouraged to have their own bell ringing events. The Committee asks that the bells be rung beginning at 6:00 p.m. EST (5:00 p.m. CST) to exemplify the Inaugural theme, "An American Reunion — New Beginnings, Renewed Hope."

People who do not have access to bells or who cannot attend a Bells for Hope event are asked to use noisemakers, gongs, sirens, or anything else they may have available to celebrate the event.

By Bill Meunier

On November 3rd, the voters of state of Colorado took an unprecedented step. By a wide margin, they voted to approve State Constitutional Amendment 2 which overturned, all of their state's Gay and Lesbian rights ordinances AND banned the passage of any more such ordinances.

Amendment 2, changed the wording of the Colorado State Constitution. Under its provisions, neither the state nor any unit of government within its boundaries may enact or implement any legislation that forbids discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. On November 3rd it was approved by a substantial majority of Colorado voters.

It wasn't supposed to turn out this way. Pre-election polls showed the amendment losing by a wide margin. Nearly every newspaper in the state called for its defeat. Commercials produced by the amendment's proponents were called "bigoted," "homophobic," and "misleading" and rejected by just about every available media outlet in the state.

Opponents warned that if Amendment 2 passed, the state's economy which is heavily dependent on tourism would be wrecked by a boycott. Those favoring Amendment 2 were outspent by a margin of over 2 to 1.

How then did "2" manage to win? The answer depends on who you talk to. Some observers say the "No on 2" campaign was complacent and didn't try to educate voters outside of the state's larger cities. Others point to voter alienation with "big government." Nearly everyone agrees that CFV ran a clever, if misleading campaign.

CFV's main weapon was a slick tabloid that purported to give voters the "facts about the homosexuals." Among these so called facts were undocumented statistics claiming that "41% of all homosexuals engage in fisting" and stating that "despite the fact that they comprise less than 2% of American people, homosexuals account for 1/3 to 1/2 of all child molestations." The FBI says that nearly 98% of all child molestations are heterosexual in nature.

Despite its efforts to spread what many objective observers termed "stereotypical, hateful" images of Lesbians and Gays, CFV claims that its campaign was not anti-Gay. Its founder Kevin Tebedo says that Gay rights are "special rights." According to Tebedo, Gays and Lesbians live affluent lifestyles and are not the victims of discrimination. In fact the CFV tabloid insisted that if

TURN TO COLORADO, PAGE 9

Kelly Named Associate Editor Of Journal

[Milwaukee]- Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has been appointed to serve a three-year term as Associate Editor of *Health Psychology*, a journal of the American Psychological Association.

The journal publishes work in Dr. Kelly's own speciality, behavioral medicine, focusing on research that involves the application of psychological principals for illness prevention, psychological treatments for persons who are ill, and the interplay of behavioral and medical factors related to health and illness.

With over \$10 million in grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Kelly is one of the nation's leading researchers in AIDS prevention through community-based behavior modification programs in urban Milwaukee and small cities throughout the country, for at-risk populations, including Gay men, minority women and the chronically mentally ill.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Buttons Welcome NEA Head's Exit

[Washington, D.C.]—According to John Zeh of the Capital News Service, workers at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) are wearing buttons saying good-bye to departing political appointees, especially Anne-Imelda Radice who says she is a Lesbian.

"Arrivederci Radice" say the buttons since one of Radice's last decisions was to reject NEA grants for three Gay film festivals. Radice says she'll work through Clinton's inauguration, but has not decided on future plans.

Gay Sailor Beaten To Death

[Tokyo, Japan]—The Associated Press reports that the U.S. Navy is investigating whether a Seaman Allen Richard Schindler, 22, based in southern Japan, was murdered October 27 because he was Gay.

The report, originally published in the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, said Schindler had informed his superiors that he was Gay. Two of Schindler's shipmates, Navy Airman Charles E. Vins and Airman Apprentice Terry M. Halvey, were taken into custody in the death. Vins has been punished and discharged. Helvey is awaiting trial.

Church Refused Special Treatment

[Philadelphia]—A New Jersey church that fears anti-discrimination laws could force it to hire Gays and Lesbians has lost a court battle for an exemption.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on December 15, 1992, denied the Orthodox Presbyterian Church's request for a preliminary injunction barring the state from enforcing Gay and Lesbian civil rights provisions against it.

Under 1992 amendments to New Jersey anti-discrimination laws, employers cannot discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in hiring or other employment practices.

The three-judge panel agreed with a U.S. District Court's assessment that the Right-wing church would not suffer any immediate "irreparable harm" without the injunction since it was facing no lawsuits or state actions.

Clinton Thanks Gays for Support

[Washington, D.C.]—In a letter read at the opening of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Creating Change conference in November, President-elect Bill Clinton thanked NGLTF for "the hard work you have done for the advancement of human rights for Gay and Lesbian people everywhere. It is an inspiration to us all."

Clinton went on to thank all Gays and Lesbians for their support. "Without your support our victory on November 3rd would not have been possible."

Advocate Names Man, Women of Yr.

[Los Angeles]—On December 15, 1992, *The Advocate* announced its choice of Donna Red Wing and David Geffen as its Woman and Man of the Year.

According to the magazine, Geffen is a billionaire producer and Hollywood deal-maker who has donated large sums to fight AIDS and encroachments on Gay and Lesbian civil rights. He long resisted loud criticism from activists demanding that he publicly acknowledge his sexual orientation.

In an interview, Geffen criticized activist "terrorists" who make people "more afraid, not less afraid" of revealing their sexuality.

Red Wing, executive director of Portland, Oregon Lesbian Community Project, was one of the leaders against Oregon's anti-Gay Measure 9.

In an interview, Red Wing said, "I have nothing against campaigners who happen to be Gay, but I hope they stick around now that Measure 9 is defeated, because the fight against bigotry is far from over."

End Of Military Ban Supported

[New York, NY]—In a significant sign of support for President-elect Bill Clinton's pledge to overturn the military's ban on Gays in the service, the American Civil Liberties Union on December 11, 1992, announced that 125 educational leaders and institutions have signed a resolution calling for an end to the ban. The endorsements were published in on full-page ad in the *New York Times* on Sunday, December 13, 1992. Another such ad followed on December 15.

Among the 125 listed was Donna E. Shalala, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and John H. Schroeder, Chancellor, UW-Milwaukee.

Swarthmore College Extends Benefits

[Swarthmore, PA]—Prestigious Swarthmore College has announced that same-sex partners of staff and faculty will be treated as spousal equivalents and accorded benefits that are currently given to different-sex spouses. The college is currently seeking insurance companies who will provide medical insurance to spousal equivalents.

According to Swarthmore President Alfred H. Bloom, this step was taken to "create a more just community that welcomes all on equal terms."

Canada Makes Herstory

[Vancouver, BC]—Herstory was made in Canada this year when the New Democratic Party nominated Betty Baxter to run for Parliament. She will be the first out Lesbian ever to run for national office in Canada. There is currently only one openly Gay member of the Canadian Parliament, Svend Robinson, and only a handful of out, Gay politicians at local and provincial levels.

Baxter is well-known in the Gay Games movement and was one of the principal organizers of Celebration 90, the 1990 Gay Games held in Vancouver. She runs a small educational business and is a former Olympic athlete.

Krueger Appointment Hailed

[Washington, D.C.]—The Human Rights Campaign Fund has hailed Texas Governor Ann Richard's appointment of Texas Railroad Commissioner Robert Krueger to fill the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Lloyd Bentsen. Krueger is a former member of Congress who later served as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico under President Jimmy Carter. He was not a cosponsor of the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill during his service in the House, but was viewed as a supporter by Lesbian and Gay activists.

Lou Sheldon: ...He's Back...

[Los Angeles]—Not to be outdone by Colorado bible thumpers, the Rev. Lou Sheldon, head of the Anaheim-based Traditional Values Coalition, is calling for a "California Amendment 2" to imitate Colorado's anti-Gay measure. Sheldon has sent out fundraising letters for the effort.

Sheldon's latest effort to merge church and state portends similar efforts brewing elsewhere in the nation, including traditionally liberal Washington state.

Canada Closer to Same-Sex Marriage

[Toronto, Canada]—The Ontario, Canada government will not appeal September's landmark provincial Human Rights Commission ruling that the term "conjugal relationship" in the Human Rights Code applies to Gay couples.

The ruling came in a lawsuit over survivor benefits for lovers of provincial Gay employees, but it extends to all government entities and private businesses, mandating they offer benefits to Gay employees' partners. Discriminatory laws on such matters as wills and child custody will also have to be rewritten.

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

People, AIDS Issues Emphasized At Appleton Events Jan. 22-24

[Appleton, WI]—The Fox Valley AIDS Project and The Pivot Club will present a weekend of activities January 22 through January 24 that will focus on the many positive contributions made to the Fox Cities by people who have AIDS or who live with HIV.

The Pivot Club, 4815 W. Prospect, Appleton, will host all weekend events.

Headlining the weekend on Friday, January 22, is a special video presentation of the watercolors of El Jahr. Jahr, a local artist whose media also included pottery, handmade paper and writing, died in November, 1987. The showing of "Watercolors: El Jahr" begins at 10:30 p.m. and will include a brief biography of the artist as well as some of his poetry.

Celebrating People's Lives

"Celebrating People's Lives" comes to the Pivot stage immediately following the video show. This variety program will feature the Green Bay musical group "A Minor" as they present "The Big A," a song dealing with AIDS.

Also scheduled for the evening are vocalists, impersonators and other entertainers. There is no admission charged for either of the evenings' events will benefit the Fox Valley AIDS Project.

Quilting Bee

Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., people are invited to a "Quilting Bee." The award-winning documentary *The Quilt* will be shown at 1:00 p.m. For those interested, several sewing machines and exact specifications for the creation of panels for the Names Quilt will be on hand.

A Discussion of AIDS

A Sunday afternoon discussion led by Jan Talbot, education coordinator for the Fox Valley AIDS Project, begins at 1:30 p.m. "A Whole Lot More Than Just The Facts, Ma'am" will address AIDS as an everyday issue in the lives of Lesbians, Gays and heterosexuals. A question and answer session will follow.

Organizers of this special weekend say their goal is to show that people who have died from AIDS or live with HIV have contributed to our community in a variety of ways.

"This weekend is a celebration of the

wonderful things people have done with their lives and what they have left us. We hope people will walk away and say, 'I wish I knew that person'," said Talbot.

All events are open to the public, free of charge. Attendees must be 21 years-of-age to enter. Appropriate ID is required. For more information, contact Susan at The Pivot Club, (414) 730-0440.

Film Promoted With Tom Of Finland Contest

[Milwaukee]—Great Lakes Film and Video and the Wreck Room present a Tom of Finland contest after the screening of *Daddy and the Muscle Academy* in the Great Lakes Film and Video Gay and Lesbian Film Festival on Saturday, January 30.

The film will be shown at 9:30 p.m. at the UWM Union Cinema, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. with a reception immediately following at the Wreck Room, 266 E. Erie.

The contest will begin at 1:00 a.m. and prizes will be awarded to the people most closely resembling the Tom of Finland image.

For more information, call Great Lakes Film and Video at (414) 229-6971.

Editor's Note: See brief description of the film in this issue.

Foothold Dance To Hold Auditions January 20

[Milwaukee]—Foothold Dance Performance will be holding auditions for new artistic and associate members on Wednesday, January 20, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Center for the Arts, Room 110, 820 E. Knapp Street. For more information, call (414) 278-0717.

Foothold has an opening for an administrative assistant. Experience in the arts field is preferred with fundraising and grant writing skills a priority. For more information call: (414) 278-0717.



MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

We want to learn more about Black men, White men, all men who have sex with other men in Milwaukee. The Medical College of Wisconsin Community Health Behavior Program needs to talk to gay and bisexual men about personal attitudes and sexual practices. Your two hours of time can help us develop new programs for improving the health of gay and bisexual men and contribute to research on AIDS.

You will be asked to complete an interview and a written questionnaire, which should take a total of two hours. For your time, you will receive a minimum of \$15.

All Information Will Be Kept Strictly Confidential!

Consider Helping Today!

Want to learn more? Call 287-4200 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and ask to speak with Dave.



SECOND ANNUAL

MARDI GRAS

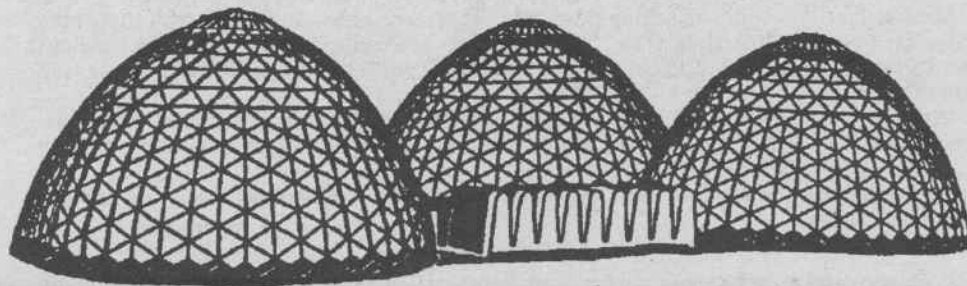
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 414/372-2773

**A Benefit for the Milwaukee
Lesbian Gay Pride Committee**

**Sponsored by Wisconsin Light &
In Step Magazine**



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

The Wisconsin Light



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Institutional Member



EDITORIAL

Yes to Colorado Boycott: Unless All Enjoy Liberty, All Are Slaves

Wisconsin Light joins Queer Nation Milwaukee and other Gay/Lesbian organizations across the country in supporting a boycott of Colorado. A boycott of the state is the only effective means we can see for restoring to all its citizens the rights they should enjoy as a free people.

We support a boycott not only to relieve a tyranny being practiced against Lesbians and Gay men. We support the boycott because the Colorado for Family Values (CFV) group is part of a nation-wide, anti-modern movement of unparalleled bigotry and hate. It espouses a totalitarian outlook, an outlook that is inimical to and destructive of the liberties Americans traditionally hold most dear.

These values include the right of a person to employment without discrimination; the right of any person to be secure in their person and in the enjoyment of their lawful possessions; the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. In Colorado now, all these things are denied to Lesbians and Gays because of Colorado for Family Values.

But is this boycott a matter only for Lesbians and Gay men? We think not. History teaches, if nothing else, that as soon as one group is singled out for persecution and for hate, others will soon be added. Make no mistake about that.

It is a truth that Americas founders knew well. That is that unless all enjoy liberty, all are slaves.

Like all totalitarians in all history, these people are utterly devoid of compassion, any kind of love, or desire for understanding. Like all totalitarians, they are ignorance in action and nothing, absolutely nothing is more dangerous.

What Can You Do?

1) Do not vacation in Colorado. Do not be a part of any convention or group meeting in the state.

For the many who have no occasion or means to go to Colorado, there are other steps we can suggest.

1) Do not buy any product made in or distributed from Colorado. This, of course, includes Coors beer (a notorious backer of right-wing causes), but there are numerous other products as well.

When you're shopping, look at the labels on cans and packages. They will say where they come from. If it's Colorado, choose some other brand.

We will do this ourselves, but if anyone will send us names of products, we will be glad to publish them in the next issues.

3) Write a letter to the mayor of Colorado Springs (CFV's home base). The address is: Mayor Robert Isaac, City Administration Building, P.O. Box 1575, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

You can also write to the governor. His address is: Gov. Ray Roemer, State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 136, Denver, CO 80203. Tell them both what you think.

4) Send a contribution to Boycott Colorado. They are struggling to get the amendment overturned. The address is: Boycott Colorado, P.O. Box 301158, Denver, CO 80203.

Note: Project VisAbility is selling postcards. These are green and white with the words "Boycott Colorado. The Hate State" on them. They are trying to raise funds for the fight to overturn Amendment 2. You can get five cards for \$1 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Write: Project VisAbility, P.O. Box 1823, Boulder, CO 80306. Please be generous. Remember, CFV is being heavily funded by religious hate groups from around the country (including here in Wisconsin).

This thing must be stopped and stopped in Colorado or it will spread. Make no mistake about that either.

To Our Friends in Colorado

We sympathize with our sisters and brothers in Boulder, Aspen, Denver and elsewhere. You will suffer hardships. But you know as well as we that CFV is representative of a tyranny that is stalking us all.

Their values are not Christian values. Their values are not American values. American values enshrine the freedom of the press. CFV's fellow travelers advocate the censorship of books and all the media which does not conform to their hateful line.

American values uphold the right of all to the maintenance of health. These people fight to deny the means by which people can protect themselves against AIDS.

(In Colorado, Amendment 2 can permit insurance companies to deny coverage to Lesbians and Gay men simply because they are Gay.)

American values uphold the concept of the family as the basic societal group. These people in Colorado and elsewhere seek to deny to millions of Gay and Lesbian families the right to exist.

For these reasons as well as all the others stated we support the boycott. We believe that all people who love liberty will do the same.

Milwaukee Police Chief Ziarnik Remembered as Community Friend

He never made national headlines, never caught a serial killer, or gunned someone down. What Robert Ziarnik did as a Police officer was much more important. He made a difference.

Chief Ziarnik took over a Milwaukee Police Department that was in turmoil. His predecessor Harold Brier left a legacy of racism, sexism and homophobia that had cost the Department the confidence of the public it was intended to serve.

Undoing the damage done by Brier was a task that would have daunted most others, but as Chief, Robert Ziarnik tackled that task head on. He met with members of Milwaukee's minority communities including Gay and Lesbian leaders. With his actions and his words he told the Milwaukee Police force that it belonged to all of its citizens. The result was increased citizen co-operation and a marked decrease in citizen complaints about Police abuse.

When he left his post, Robert Ziarnik had earned the accolades of a grateful populace. At the 1989 Pride Rally, Ziarnik became the first recipient of GPU's Alyn Hess Award. As the thousand in attendance stood and cheered him, Chief Ziarnik had to know that while he may not have done everything he wanted to, he had succeeded in bringing the community closer to its Police.

When he died on January 2nd, Robert Ziarnik left Milwaukee a legacy richer than the wealthiest philanthropist. He left us a solid foundation of tolerance laid by a decent, honest, fair man who many of us will always think of as THE Chief.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Forcing People Out Of The Closet Will Not Help Our Causes

By Terry Boughner

Recently, there's been a flap in the electronic and print media over whether one of President-elect Clinton's cabinet appointees is a Lesbian or not. What possible difference it could make, I do not know, but several national news magazines and organizations have been calling around to members of the community in both Madison and Milwaukee to "find out," so I've been

told.

The whole thing seems to have been brought about by a Gay organization or members thereof, from outside Wisconsin. Here is the source of the news releases to the major media.

The problem is that to hear Jerry Taff of Channel 12 News tell it, you'd think Wisconsin Gay organizations, such as Queen Nation Milwaukee, were responsible. Such is not true. Either Taff

knew the facts and didn't report them or he had not checked with Lesbian/Gay sources in the state to find out what the truth was. In either case, his two sentence report was irresponsible journalism. It was the kind of thing I'd expect from Mark Belling.

While I'm at it, let me say that Monday, January 4th's issue of the Milwaukee Journal was no better. Their editorial was very poorly researched and ill thought out.

Wisconsin Light Against Outing

Though we've said it before, let me here say it again; Wisconsin Light is against outing and will not engage in the practice.

Having said that, let me say also that outing is one of the greatest, if not THE greatest ethical question that faces our community. There are arguments on both sides. My position is based on three points.

One is that I will not use a quality that I was born with and that I like in myself (being Gay) as a bludgeon against someone else.

Secondly, it took a lot of pain, struggle and effort for me to come out myself. But once I had, I found it to be one of the greatest growing experiences of my life. I would strongly encourage everyone who is Lesbian or Gay to come out for the good of the community, for the good of themselves. But neither I nor this paper can do it for you. To do that, would, I believe, negate the growth experience that I found so precious. In short, I can't grow for you and have no right to force you to do it, no matter how healthy I think it is.

Thirdly, I demand of the fascist religious Right-wing fringe, the twin rights of privacy and dignity. I do not believe that I can then turn around and, in outing, deny those rights to anyone else.

I sympathize deeply with those who are deeply closeted. It can be a lonely place and some of you live sweat-drenched in fear. But rest assured, neither I nor this paper will pursue you. If you come out, we will applaud and welcome you to the struggle for all our rights. If not, we must get along without you.

Finally, if the major media want to talk about issues dealing with the Lesbian/Gay community, then why not talk to members of the Lesbian/Gay community--in Wisconsin. That's where the information will be found.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the column in the December 10 issue of the Light, written by Jose Delgado. I think it is great that your paper is targeting Gay teens and informing them of their options. I hope that Jose will keep up the good work.

Although I am not a teen anymore, (I'm 21), I can relate to those confused 16, 17 and 18 year-olds. I live in a small, conservative city northwest of Milwaukee where there is absolutely no Gay community. I wish that I could have read something like this a few years back. That was a time when I really needed to be befriended.

— Name and City Withheld on Request

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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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

Quotes Of A Passionately Queer Nature

By Jamakaya

"It's a delicious kind of story, just as it would be a delicious kind of irony if I were Gay. And that's why some people really wanted me to be Gay. They needed me to be Gay, in a sense. And the fact that it wasn't true really didn't make a difference after awhile."

Donna Shalala? No! Ron Reagan, Jr. in the *Advocate*.

"This charge is ridiculous. Have I lived an alternative lifestyle? The answer is no. I've been investigated up the kazoo by the best investigators in the world, and they've turned up their hands and said, 'You're just going to have to live with it. Crazy people make crazy calls.'"

Ron Reagan again? No! Donna Shalala! Favorite queer tabloid headlines of 1992: "Gay Terrorists Plot to Destroy Oscars!" "Kristy McNichol in Trial Marriage — With Another Gall!" "Strange Town Where Men Aren't Wanted: 10,000 Cuddling, Kissing Lesbians Call It Home Sweet Home." The *Enquirer* referred to Northampton, MA as "Lesbianville, U.S.A."

The real pits of tabloid exploitation were reached with the *Enquirer's* story on actor Robert Reed, who died of AIDS complications. "Brady Bunch Dad Led Secret Gay Life" was the headline. The copy read like bad Mickey Spillane: "They all called him a '\$200 trick.' He gave them \$100 for sex and an extra \$100 to shut up."

Meanwhile, that Knight in Shining Armor, Mayor David Dinkins, came to our rescue again, this time speaking out against a rap song ("Boom Bye Bye" by Buju Banton) that advocates shooting Gays in the head.

Said His Honor: "When one part of our gorgeous mosaic is subjected to ugly, vicious assaults, all of its parts are. Lyrics so vile do not belong on the public airwaves. Let us never censor artistic expression, but also let us never condone artistic expression which might lead to the death or injury of our brothers and sisters in the Gay and Lesbian community."

Another ally, Barbra Streisand, has caught flack from some Hollywood colleagues for her support of the Colorado boycott. Contrary to press reports, she has not backed off in her support. At a recent Hollywood gathering, she angrily maintained: "If that law were passed against Jews or people of color, the whole country would be outraged, and nobody would question a boycott of that state!"

At an AIDS fundraiser last November, Streisand offered these equally passionate observations about the political scene:

"The moral immune system of this country has been weakened and attacked, and the AIDS virus is the perfect metaphor for it. What's happened these last twelve years is that bigotry was legitimized. Rules were made by and for white, Christian, heterosexual males. All the rest of us were left out. And a disease that has infected far more heterosexuals than homosexuals throughout the world was dismissed as a Gay disease, with that official homophobic wink, implying that those deaths really didn't matter."

"I will never forgive my fellow actor Ronald Reagan for his genocidal denial of the illness's existence, for his refusal to even utter the word AIDS for seven years, and for blocking adequate funding for research and education which could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives...."

Regarding the Republican convention, Babs reached even greater rhetorical heights: "The radical right linked the issues for us and reminded us of how much was at stake as they branded the concerns of women, Gays, minorities and Democrats as un-American. How dare they call us un-American?"

"When Pat Robertson stood up and warned of Clinton, and I quote, 'He wants to repeal the ban on homosexuals in the military and appoint homosexuals to his administration,' I and millions of other Americans were convinced Bill Clinton was our candidate. And when Pat Buchanan thundered, and I quote, 'We stand with George Bush against the amoral idea that Gay and Lesbian couples should have the same standing in the law as married men and women,' I wondered, who is Pat Buchanan to pronounce anybody's love invalid? How can he deny the profound love felt by one human being for another, a love that all too often takes



Barbra Streisand as "Yentl"

them to the bitter end, holding each other in hospices and hospitals all over this nation?"

In his memorable interview with the *Advocate*, Larry Kramer also railed against injustice and hypocrisy, this time as practiced by elements in the Gay community itself. I particularly relished his diatribe against Gay historians, "Second rate academics affiliated with third rate educational institutions studying our history, telling me there was no such thing as homosexuality before 1890. Fuck them!"

"There are so many of these Gay historians...who believe we can only officially claim the existence of homosexuality as a named activity since 1890, when Havelock Ellis and Krafft-Ebing defined homosexuality as an entity. So fucking what! You can't tell me dicks weren't being sucked by male mouths since shortly after the Garden of Eden. So what if it didn't have a name then! So what! Does that mean my entire history and heritage is invalid and unworthy of acknowledgment?"

"This is one of the most destructive, damaging things," said Kramer, "that our own historians refuse to acknowledge that homosexuality has existed since the beginning of time." He named Martin Duberman, but could have mentioned Lillian Faderman and many others as well. Give 'em hell, Larry!

Even Larry would probably agree with this oldie but goodie from my favorite separatist, the radical fairie Harry Hay: "We Gay people are a separate people whose time has come...We should always remain separate from heteros because we have separate responsibilities, and as a separate people, we need our own inviolable space into which we can pull back when we want to: a space to heal ourselves, to develop new ideas..."

"Once Gay people separate from the hetero world, we can begin to discover who we truly are and who we've always been throughout history. Gay people have spiritual, philosophical, emotional and ritual responsibilities to perform that are tremendously important to the life of all people, Gay and straight."

Finally, Paul Monette, winner of the National Book Award for *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*, told the *New York Times*:

"It sounds awfully melodramatic to say this might well be my last book, but it just might be. Would I be satisfied? As the song says, Non, je ne regrette rien. If that's the way it is, that's the way it is. I may have six months left, or a year, or a couple of years, so the matter of great urgency is not to write one more perfect poem. I would rather be remembered for loving well than for writing well."

Lesbian Visibility In Playing Cards

[Chicago]- We really are everywhere — and a Chicago Lesbian card club is making sure we are well represented at the poker and bridge tables.

The Queens Rule Poker Club has developed two new card decks: the Dyke Deck and the Queens Rule deck. The cards are standard playing cards — with a difference.

In each deck, the traditional face cards have been replaced by other personages. The queen is the card with the highest face value, followed by a lady-in-waiting and a maiden. Also, the suits are altered to include a star, crescent moon, labrys, and woman's symbol.

Decks are available for \$7.50 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling from: Queens Rule Poker Club, P.O. Box 268383-GP, Chicago, IL 60626, or call (312) 463-2819.

Dykes To Watch Out For

NO PLACE LIKE HOME
©1992 BY ALISON BECHDEL

OUR VALIANT HEROINES HAVE VENTURED FORTH ON HOLIDAY VISITS TO THEIR FAMILIES OF ORIGIN. LET'S JOIN THEM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

TONI CHOOSES THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE.

EMBARAZADA?? WHO'S THE FATHER??

UM...NO SE.

A LA PUTA! AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF SCHOOL, AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE FOR YOU! YOU TURN OUT NO BETTER THAN YOUR COUSIN CARMEN! WHAT WILL WE TELL LA FAMILIA?

CALM DOWN, JORGE. IT COULD BE WORSE... AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW SHE'S NOT UNA LESBIANA.

CLARICE GETS UPSTAGED.

I SWEAR, SHE'S TRYING TO KILL ME.

NOW DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP.

MAMA, IT'LL BE A GOOD THING! YOU'LL HAVE A GRANDCHILD!

YOUR ROOMMATE'S ILLEGITIMATE BABY IS NO GRANDCHILD OF MINE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? TONI AND I LOVE EACH OTHER. WE'RE A FAMILY, AND WE'RE GOING TO RAISE THIS CHILD TOGETHER!

CLARENCE, QUIT EATING AND HELP ME OUT HERE!

IT'S OKAY, MAMA. I'M GAY TOO.

LOIS REMINISCES WITH THE GIRL NEXT DOOR...

LOIS! IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT! BRING MARY JANE UP HERE AND WATCH YOUR FATHER OPEN THE CHAMPAGNE!

WE'RE COMING, MA!

AND MO DISCOVERS JUST HOW ABUSIVE HER FAMILY SYSTEM REALLY IS!

ATTA BABY! RIGHT ON MY HOTEL!

HAH! YOU'RE COMING UP ON MY LITTLE RESORT DEVELOPMENT NEXT! GOOD LUCK!

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Barbara Hammer To Appear At Great Lakes Gay/Lesbian Film Festival

[Milwaukee]- Great Lakes Film & Video will present a Gay/Lesbian Film & Video Festival from January 29 through February 5, 1993. The program is funded with a grant from Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation and will be held at the UWM Union Cinema, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Highlights of the Festival include a guest appearance by Barbara Hammer with her film *Nitrate Kisses* on February 4 and performances by Milwaukee artists Debbie Davis, Jane Kramer, David Figueroa, and Joseph Rabensdorf on January 29.

All tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket prices are \$5 for individual shows, \$3 for students. Festival Passes good for all shows are \$35, \$25 for students. Please call (414) 229-6971 for more information.

Friday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.

Queer Performance — Live! Featuring *Languish* created by Debbie Davis who performs the piece with Jane Kramer.

David Figueroa performs *Sweet Querida*, a movement monologue that explores some aspects of growing up Latino and Queer in Milwaukee's South Side.

Food Piece by Joseph Rabensdorf completes the program.

also showing:

Janine (USA, 1990, video, 9 min.) by Cheryl Dunye. The story of a Black woman's relationship with a white, upper middle-class friend.

I Need A Man Like You (Canada, 1986, 16mm film, 24 min) by Kalli Paakspuu and Daria Stermac. A zany burlesque of sex roles.

Splash (USA, 1991, 7 min) by Thomas Harris. An experimental collage; the artist's becoming a Gay man.

Friday, January 29, 9:30 p.m.

An All-American Story (USA, 1992, 21 min) by John Keitel. Taking your boyfriend to your class reunion.

Strip Jack Naked (Great Britain, 1991, 90 min) by Ron Peck. Growing up Gay in London.

Saturday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.

The Twin Bracelets (Hong Kong/Taiwan, 1990, 100 min) by Yu-Shan Huang. Written and directed by women; a tragic portrayal of one woman's struggle for independence, and for the love of another woman.

Saturday, January 30, 9:30 p.m.

Daddy and the Muscle Factory (Finland, 1991, 55 min) by Ilppo Pohjola. A documentary of the life of Tom of Finland, completed shortly before his death at age 71; a complete review of his drawings.

Time Expired (USA, 1992, 30 min) by Danny Leiner. Stay with his wife or go with his former prison roommate/lover, a no-nonsense Latino drag queen?

Sunday, January 31, 5:30 p.m.

Tina and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women (USA, 1987-'88, 30 min) by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss. The story of jazz drummer Ruby Lucas and her long-term lover, jazz trumpeter Tiny Davis.

Turnabout: The Story of the Yale Puppeteers (USA, 1992, 58 min) by Dan Bessie. A documentary of the Yale Puppeteers, Harry Brunett, Forman Brown, and Roddy Brandon.

Sunday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.

Kiev Blue (USA, 1992, 28 min) by Heather MacDonald. Recent interviews with nine Lesbian and Gay men living in Kiev, Ukraine.

Changing Our Minds: The Story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker (USA, 1992, 75 min) by Richard Schmiechen. The story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker whose work resulted in the removal of homosexuality from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders.

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.

I Never Danced the Way Girls Were Supposed To (USA, 1992, 6 min) by Dawn Suggs. Examines the way women are supposed to move, eat and act.

It Wasn't Love (USA, 1992, 20 min) by

Sadie Benning. Milwaukee artist Benning makes a film noir road movie that never leaves her bedroom.

In[visible] Women (USA, 1991, 26 min) by Marina Alvarez and Ellen Spiro. The response of three women of color with HIV/AIDS.

A Goat Named Tension (USA, 1992, 6 min) by Kate J. Goodnight. A charming visual pun.

Among Good Christian Peoples (USA, 1991, 30 min) by Jacqueline Woodson and Catherine Saalfeld. The story of a Black Lesbian raised as a Jehovah's Witness.

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.

No, Je Ne Regrette Rien (USA, 1992, 30 min) by Marlon Riggs. Five Black seropositive Black Gay men speak of their individual confrontations with AIDS.

The Disco Years (USA, 1991, 30 min) directed by Robert Lee King. An adolescent Gay man comes of age while in high school in the '70's.

The Dead Boys Club (USA, 1992, 25 min) by Mark Christopher. A boy coming out in the AIDS-weary days of the 90's is magically transported back to the '70's.

Fear of Disclosure (USA, 1989, 5 min) by David Wojnarowicz and Phil Zwickler. Explores sexual responsibility and Gay desire in the days of AIDS.

Thursday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

Nitrate Kisses (USA, 1992, 67 min) Barbara Hammer in person presenting her provocative and groundbreaking new film that searches between the lines for the lost vestiges of a Gay and Lesbian culture.

Hammer is America's most prolific and renowned Lesbian filmmaker.

Friday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

Stigmata: The Transfigured Body (USA, 1992, 28 min) by Leslie Asako Gladsjo. Explores the outer limits of female sexuality (Not for the faint hearted.)

Skin Complex (Great Britain, 1992, 20 min) Explores the fashion styles of the skinheads and the Gay male adoption of them.

Blue Boys (Great Britain, 1992, 25 min) by Stuart Marshall. Challenges the myths about the volume and violence of today's porn and the dangers presented by it.

Black Body (USA, 1992, 5 min) by Thomas Harris. Examines cultural conceptions of the Black body.

Friday, February 5, 9:30 p.m.

Drag Queen Blues (USA, 1992, 3 min) by Gabriel Gomez and Elspeth Kydd. An enigmatic look at the musical, and political, Joan Jett Blakk.

Vegas in Space (USA, 1992) by Phillip R. Ford. A Science Fiction adventure/music/comedy/drag epic. Stars are Doris Fish and the renowned performance artist Miss X.

Ten Minute Plays Sought For June Festival

[Milwaukee]- Playwrights Studio Theatre (PST) is seeking Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual-themed ten-minute plays for its second annual Festival of Ten-Minute Plays June 4, 5, 6 and June 11, 12, 13, 1993 at the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. "We want to reflect the experience of midwestern Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals," said PST Artistic Director Michael Neville. "We're looking for all kinds of treatments of this topic: comedies, dramas, AIDS plays, Bisexuals in recovery, Gay grandpas, Lesbian wing commanders — in short, the reality of Gay life in America."

Scripts should not exceed ten pages or four characters, and should have minimal set and costume requirements.

Submissions can be sent to: Festival of Ten-Minute Plays, Playwrights Studio Theatre, P.O. Box 1616, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1616. Deadline is February 1, 1993. There will be a \$150 award for the play selected as the audience favorite.



A scene from the film "Dead Boys Club" which will be shown Feb. 3 in Milwaukee as part of the Gay/Lesbian Film Festival.

Madison Variety Show Encore

[Madison]- Apple Island Productions will begin their 1993 production season with an Encore Night of the Lesbian Variety Show. The production will take place on Saturday, January 23, 1993, at Apple Island, 849 E. Washington Avenue in Madison at 8:00 p.m.

The evening will feature acts from the Lesbian Variety Show in November as well as some fun surprises.

Among those performing will be: Falcon River, Triple Crescent, Bottoms and Tops Barbershop Quartet,

Mixolydian Mode, Kristin Roman and Beth Binhammer and Anne Lucas.

The show will be a benefit for Apple Island. Ticket prices are based on a sliding scale: \$4-\$6, with a basic price of \$5. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m.

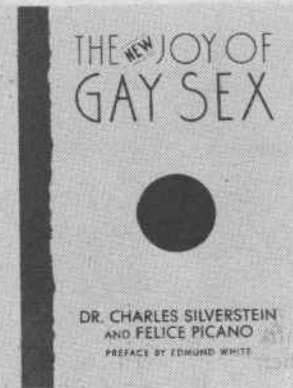
Apple Island is wheelchair accessible as well as a smoke, alcohol and scent free space. Please show your support for Apple Island by "coming out" for an evening of fun for women. For more information, call: (608) 258-9777.

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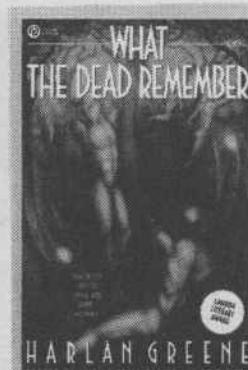
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THE BEST IN NEW GAY FICTION AND NON-FICTION!

Sissy Man Blues: Unstraight Music Available From The '20's and '30's

By David Bornhuetter-Machen

In the 1920's, blues and jazz records — the real jazz, not the bleached ripoff Paul "The King of Jazz" Whiteman rode to the bank on — weren't even called blues or jazz records. They were, as dictated by Jim Crow, marketed as "race music," the race in question being African-American.

In most cases, they were advertised only in Black newspapers like the **Chicago Defender**, and distribution would be severely restricted to centers of Black population. One legend about this industry-wide policy is about the time John Hammond, the legendary record producer and talent scout, took a trip from New York to the deep South just to buy copies of **Terraplane Blues** and **Last Fair Deal Gone Down** by Robert Johnson; they were released by the New York-based Brunswick company (on their Vocalion label), but never distributed in the North until Columbia reissued them on a 1961 LP.

As a result of having no expectation of sales in the white community or even radio airplay, the jazz and blues recording stars of the day were much freer to sing about sexual matters than even modern-day performers like "2 Live Crew" or "Body Count" find themselves able to do. And they didn't stop at heterosexual relations either.

Sissy Man Blues

Stash Records was the first to build a catalogue based on reissues of "vice"-related jazz material during the 1970's; although later specializing in rare Fats Waller and Charlie Parker records, they made their big money with a string of marijuana albums and a legendary release called **Copulatin' Blues**. One of the cuts included in the latter was "Sissy Man Blues" by Connie McLean's Rhythm Boys ("If you can't send me some woman, send me a sissy man").

In subsequent years, Jass Records, a sister label to Stash, has reissued most of the same material, including an expanded **Copulatin' Blues Compact Disc** (which, while a Jass release, still contains the original Stash "sack" trademark on the cover).

The CD's popularity has led to another Jass compilation of sex tracks, **Sissy Man Blues: 25 Authentic Straight and Gay Blues and Jazz Vocals** (Jass J-CD-13).

First, there's a little bad news involved with this release. Audiophile this isn't. The material comes from collectors' copies of the original 78 RPM editions, low-fi sound and scratches intact. (Victoria Spivey's 1926 "Black Snake Blues" suffers the worst from this. Not only is the source record scratchy and worn, it starts out with a couple of skips that were never corrected in the remastering process.)

Nor is the track listing accurate, since "Dirty Dozens" by Speckled Red, which appears as Track 8 on the cover, actually doesn't appear until Track 24, making every listing in between one number too high and a nightmare of memory searching. And, although there are two versions of the title song included, one is misidentified as being the Connie McLean version (it's actually by an unidentified country blues singer).

There can even be the legitimate complaint, I suppose, that these aren't even the "dirtiest" tunes to be reissued by Jass (that would be Lucille Bogan's "Shave 'em Dry," which appears in gloriously profane aroma on Jass' **Street Walkin' Blues** and, in damaged condition, on **Copulatin' Blues** and the Columbia Legacy comp **Raunchy Business: Hot Nuts and Lollypops**).

For sheer musical value, there's early material from such landmark performers as Louis Armstrong and Fletcher Henderson (both of whom back Maggie Jones on her 1924 cut "Anybody Here Want to Try My Cabbage?"), Cozy Cole (who drums for Blanche Calloway and Her Joy Boys on "I Got What It Takes"), and the father of modern-day gospel music, George Tom Dorsey (gleefully plunking away on the Tampa Red's Hokum Jug Band ribald 1928 single "It's Tight Like That.")

Billie Holiday

However, the real treat here is hearing some of the greatest pioneers of recorded blues singing about Gay and Lesbian sex. It's more than Josh White accepting a Gay man as a substitute in his rendition of the title tune. Monette Moore was one of John Hammond's favorite vocalists. On a 1932 trip to a Harlem nightclub to see Moore, Hammond discovered her opening act, a soulful jazz singer named Billie Holliday. Here, Moore offers the story of "Two Old Maids In a Folding Bed."

But of the greatest historical importance is the original version of a song that has become a staple of Lesbian performers' repertoires, Ma Rainey's 1928 record of "Prove It On Me Blues." (It's particularly interesting to compare this version to Teresa Trull's Olivia recording five decades later.)

Rainey was one of the earliest African-American recording stars. "C.C. Rider" was one of her creations, and in terms of record sales, only Bessie Smith (who had been a vocal student of Rainey's) racked up higher numbers during the 1920's.

And not only is this cut of historical import to blues fans and Lesbians, it also figures prominently in the history of music in the State of Wisconsin.

While only recording for a five-year period during the 1920's, Ma Rainey was one of the main stars signed to Paramount Records, a Black-oriented company that, ironically, operated from 1923 to 1931 out of offices and studios in Port Washington and Grafton.

No Room For Blacks In Ozaukee County

So heavily segregated was Ozaukee County at the time that Paramount's performers would have to take the train up from Milwaukee or Chicago for a recording session and return the same afternoon, lodging for African-Americans in that county being non-existent in that era.

Incidentally, Georgia Tom Dorsey also plays piano on "Prove It On Me Blues." One has to wonder how severe the hemorrhage would be in Vic Eliason's brain once he learns that the performer who single-handedly developed Black gospel music ("Precious Lord, Take My Hand" was a Tom Dorsey composition) played piano on a Lesbian classic?

Only a select few realized that "Put out your cans, here comes the garbage man," a call by Scatman Cruthers every week on "Chico and The Man" in the mid-1970's, was taken from a Gay jazz classic of 1936, "Garbage Man (The Call of the Freaks)" by The Harlem Hamfats.

Even fewer ever realized that the time, that the jazz catalogue had once been rich with Gay and Lesbian themes. **Sissy Man Blues** hardly closes the gap in that case, but it does go a long way in that direction, and, despite the production faults, is worth tracking down.

(By the way, "Prove It On Me Blues" by Ma Rainey also appears, in a wonderful job of sound restoration by Australian engineer Robert Parker on **The Golden Years of Digital Stereo: The Blues 1923 to 1933**, ABC Records CD 836 046-2. That one is even more deserving of a listen.)

Editor's Note: The writer, new to our pages, is a resident of Madison.

Nominations Sought For The Best Writings Of 1992

[Washington, D.C.]—On December 1, 1992, the **Lambda Book Report** opened nominations for the Fifth Annual Lambda Literary Awards. The "Lammys," recognizing excellence in Gay and Lesbian writing and publishing, will be presented during a gala banquet in Miami, Florida, on Friday, May 28, 1993, during the American Booksellers Association Convention.

The public is invited to nominate their favorite Gay and Lesbian books of 1992 in 15 categories: Lesbian Fiction, Gay Men's Fiction, Lesbian Non-fiction, Gay Men's Non-fiction, Lesbian Anthologies, Gay Men's Anthologies, Lesbian Mystery, Gay Men's Mystery, Lesbian and Gay Humor, Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy (the same category for Gay men), Lesbian Poetry, Gay Men's Poetry, Gay & Lesbian Small Press Book Award (for a single book published by a Gay men's or Lesbian press), and Children/Young Adult.

Nominations must be received in the **Lambda Book Report** offices by February 10, 1993.

For more information, contact **Lambda Book Report**, 1625 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-1013 or phone (202) 462-7924.

Advertise In Wisconsin Light



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

I Say, Is This a Lesbian I See? 1992 Images In Film and Video

By Maytee Aspuro

Fried Green Tomatoes; the story of Roslyn and Cicely on **Northern Exposure**, **Portrait of a Marriage**, **Basic Instincts** and **Claire of the Moon**; the portrayal of Lesbians in each of these works has triggered a fair share of discussion and/or controversy.

Prior to my recent viewing of **Claire of the Moon**, I believed the most successful effort was the **Northern Exposure** episode. It documented the existence of the era's pronounced and profound assertion of feminism. Women were devoting themselves to each other. It was a white, middle-class phenomenon and the episode captured a great deal of the spirit of the times. For those who have studied women's history, the images and ideas were familiar. The only surprise was that such candidness had hit network television.

Northern Exposure: A Normal Relationship

The story does not hide behind the concept of a "romantic relationship." Cicely clearly states that her heart belongs to Roslyn and, in another instance, Roslyn notes that women have a viable alternative to men.

Northern Exposure utilized a minimalistic strategy which "normalized" the relationship of Roslyn and Cicely. There was no hysteria, no over-wrought emotionalism, no melodrama, no conflict, in the existence of an intimate relationship between these two women and their community's knowledge and acceptance of it.

Although Cicely was killed at the conclusion of the story, her death is not punishment for her love of Roslyn, but for her courage to lead a town against injustice. At death, she is not betrayed by the town's people, but honored, the town taking her name, a modest gesture for immortality.

The story is a tragedy, but it is one where strong women change a people. That Roslyn is broken by the death of Cicely reflects the depth of the bond they shared. There was more to Roslyn and Cicely than their love, but there is also no denying that their love was their greatest strength.

Fried Green Tomatoes

As I sat in the darkened movie theatre watching **Fried Green Tomatoes** (FGT), I found my mind open to specific images within the film. I returned to the movie theatre a number of times. Each time I was in a state of alertness, picking up the subtle, tender nuances of word and gesture between the characters of Iddie and Ruth. Much has been written about the film's lack of courage, its failure to name Iddie's and Ruth's relationship as undeniably Lesbian. My contemporary prejudice leads me to search for clear, precise visual and dramatic definitions of a character's sexual/personal orientation.

I appreciate the historical context in which FGT took place. Reading Lillian Faderman's review of 20th Century Lesbian history, **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers**, I am reminded that the term "Lesbian" has gone through extreme scrutiny and that "romantic friendships" were still a possibility in the 1930's, especially in a non-urban community such as Whistle Stop, Alabama.

Watching: An Act of Intervention

The act of watching a film/video is an act of intervention. Everyone carries their

own individual language inside them. It is a language comprised of our own history, knowledge and prejudices. It is this personal language that translates what we see and hear to what we experience.

FGT is abound with codes/clues. I, with my Lesbian sensibilities, read specific codes within the film to denote that Iddie and Ruth were in love and did share a Lesbian relationship.

The question of did their relationship ever enter the realm of the sexual is another issue, one rooted in the definition of a Lesbian, a definition Lesbians struggle with to this day. Personally, I don't think it matters.

Another audience member, specifically one of heterosexual orientation, with little exposure to the Lesbian community, would have easily read the clues differently. Both readings of the film are valid and I believe the controversy the film generated would not have been as great if it were not for the existence of the novel which preceded it.

The film failed to follow the novel on a number of points, but I find two specific points to be the crux of the argument. First, Ruth never met Iddie's brother, Buddy, thus Ruth's heterosexuality was never strongly presented in the novel.

Similar to the film, there was no indication that she loved her husband. She married because it was expected of her.

Secondly, in the novel, Iddie boldly declared her love for Ruth and Ruth "wished more than anything in the world that she could just grab her (Iddie) and hold her as tight as she could; but if she had, she knew she would never let go."

These departures infused sufficient ambiguity into the film to allow for the Lesbian argument to become an issue. Here was the Lesbian community's disappointment. Here was also probably the reason why the film grossed over \$70 million. It worked on both levels, Lesbian and heterosexual.

To Be Continued

'In The Life' Gay Variety Show To Air In Madison

[New York, NY]—On Friday, January 15, **In The Life** will air in Madison. The show, a hot new Lesbian and Gay variety series out of New York, will be broadcast on WHA Channel 21 at 11:30 p.m.

This show is the first in a series that has been aired around the country since October, 1992. It features stage and film comedienne Lily Tomlin as Mrs. Beasley, head of the "Concerned Heterosexuals of Calumet City" who has embarked upon a fact-finding tour of Gay/Lesbian America. She is presenting her findings to the "good" citizens of Calumet City.

Tomlin will be joined by **Bewitched** star Dick Sargent and by **Entertainment Tonight's** Garrett Glaser.

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of shows, a series that has been damned on the floor of the U.S. Senate by Sen. Robert Dole as "degenerate" and acclaimed by the **New York Times**, the **Washington Post**, and **USA Today** among others. Only a handful, (27) PBS station have had the intestinal fortitude to air it. Only five of those broadcast it earlier than 10:30 p.m. Perhaps they didn't want to pre-empt rebroadcasts of Lawrence Welk. hmmm?

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

The Tale Of Colorado: A Boycott, A Whip and Stupidity

By Bill Meunier

I am beginning to believe that January is the month for the stupid.

The biggest news story is of course the Colorado boycott. It really is picking up speed.

Meanwhile those wonderful folks who brought us Amendment 2 continue to insult our intelligence by claiming that they have done nothing to promote hatred of Gays.

What I can't understand is how an entire state could let itself be so thoroughly bamboozled. Does the thin air of the Rockies affect their brain waves or were they just born that way?

Any person of reasonable intelligence who reads the tabloid put out by Colorado For Family Values, (CFV) wouldn't know whether or not to laugh or cry. Even hard core bigots can't really believe that "41% of all homosexuals engage in fisting." Or can they?

The fact is that Colorado is just the beginning. Unless we wake up and do something we will see more Colorado's in the very near future. A boycott may or may not be the perfect weapon to use to combat this threat, but it is one of the most effective and it is the only one currently available to those of us who live outside of Colorado.

On a computer bulletin board, I read a sob story from a self-described sympathetic Colorado straight. He said he voted for Amendment 2 by mistake. He said the wording was confusing. In the interest of fairness he asks that we not boycott Colorado since as he put it, "There's lots of idiots like me that didn't know what we were voting for." Next time fellah pay attention. Stupid, stupid, stupid.

His remarks are a pillar of reason compared to the reaction of the Gay and Lesbian Community of Aspen. These greedy little money grubbers are trying to convince us to turn scab and break the boycott. To hear them tell it, all we have to do is descend on Aspen in massive numbers, spend our little hearts out and our problems will be solved.

Yeah right and Santa is still looking for my apartment so he can give me that

Billion bucks he forgot to leave on Christmas Eve. I can just see those bigots from CFV shaking in their boots. "Oh no, here comes more of them with high limit credit cards! We give up, we'll back repeal. We'll do anything, just don't spend more money here."

Anyone who believes that we can spend our way out of this one should jump to the head of the line at the home for the terminally dumb.

Speaking of dumb, how about those QN fools who are trying to "out" Donna Shalala. Is it just me, or does outing someone who has done nothing to us, been fairly supportive of our agenda and is about to be put in a major Cabinet office seem like a bad idea to you, too?

Thanks to Mike Petrallis, any move Shalala makes on our behalf, will now be suspect. And what did it gain us? Nothing. It just boggles the mind.

Speaking of mind boggling, how about Steve Gunderson resigning as Deputy Whip for the Republican minority in the House of Representatives. According to Gunderson he was turned off by the "hard right wing" rhetoric at the national Republican convention.

His explanation has to be the lamest thing I have ever seen since Zola Bud's accident at the track. I mean who really believes this? Gunderson is supposedly concerned about the direction his beloved Republican party is taking. So what does he do? He resigns a position where he could have been helpful in fighting against the intolerance that he rails against.

He is either awfully stupid or he is a liar. I have no special pipeline on this one, but I wonder if his Gayness didn't become an issue. It certainly is not beyond the realm of possibilities that the right wing might have threatened to expose him in order to get him to quit. I am not saying that happened, but it certainly makes a lot more sense than the explanation we have been given.

I just hope that this year turns out to be a lot better than it has started out to be. Either that or I hope that a lot of people wise up and get smart real fast.

AIDS Resource Center Board Elects Boychuk and Wallenfelsz

[Milwaukee]- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) Board of Directors at their December, 1992, meeting, elected two new members and re-elected three others.

Donald Boychuk, Director of Finance and Administration for the Jewish Community Center of Milwaukee, was elected to a three year term. In addition to his work with ARCW, Boychuk was active with the Governor's Council on Gay and Lesbian issues and the Cream City Business Association.

Also elected to a three year term was Scott D. Wallenfelsz, S.D.S. He currently serves as a Director of Financial Affairs for the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee.

Re-elected to the ARCW Board were Thomas Reed, Director of Corporate Issues at Miller Brewing Company, David Wiggins from Republic Realty, and

Sharon Otto from Bonfield and Co., S.C.

With the recent merger of the Wisconsin Community-based Research Consortium (WCRC), with ARCW, Barry Bernstein, M.D., was elected to the ARCW Board. WCRC's Board of Directors was disbanded following the merger.

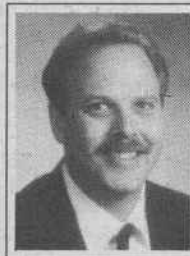
The ARCW Board will elect officers at its January meeting.

Three New Directors Hired

David J. Ernat was chosen to direct the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project (NOWAP). Ernat is an attorney and Lutheran Pastor. He is a Pastor of the Drammen and Pleasant Valley Lutheran Parish.

John Ammerman has been hired as Director of Prevention Services at ARCW. Ammerman comes to the agency with 16 years of non-profit management

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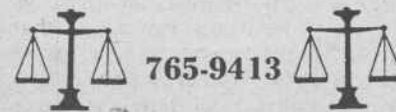
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experience. His duties will include overseeing ARCW's comprehensive HIV prevention and outreach programming, professional training programs, the Wisconsin AIDSLine and Wisconsin AIDS Library.

Neil Albrecht has been hired as director of Volunteer Resources at ARCW. Albrecht comes to ARCW from his previous position as controller at the Park East Hotel in Milwaukee. His volunteer experience at ARCW includes emotional support volunteer, team leader of emotional support volunteers, and involvement with the Wisconsin AIDS Walk.

Albrecht will be responsible for the recruitment and recognition of ARCW's extensive volunteer program which now includes more than 625 individuals. He will also oversee all ARCW employment policies, procedures and systems.

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Fallout from Colorado's Amendment 2 Passage Was Immediate, Intense

COLORADO
Continued from Page 1

Amendment 2 passed, "Gays will still have the legal recourse everyone else has."

Tebedo and other CFV spokespersons claim that they do not favor discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. Yet they fail to explain why they have spent so much time and effort removing all legal protection from such discrimination.

The fallout from Amendment 2's passage was immediate and intense. In Denver incidents of Gay and Lesbian bashings more than tripled, going from 15 for all of November in 1991 to more than 45 in November, 1992. Lesbian and Gay organizations have been receiving wide spread reports of firings and evictions. They blame the propaganda put out by CFV for the increased bashings.

On the other side of the coin, the fight against Amendment 2 has moved to the court room and to the corporate board room. Suits challenging the referendum have been filed in state and federal courts.

Colorado economy is getting pounded from a mushrooming boycott. By the end of November Denver's Convention Bureau admitted that the "Mile High" City alone had lost over \$10 million in convention business. More conventions and business meetings have pulled out since those initial figures were announced.

The lawsuits are given little chance to succeed. Most observers say the best chance for a repeal lies with a nation wide boycott of Colorado.

The National Gay Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, have both come out in favor of boycotting Colorado. A growing number of cities including Philadelphia, Atlanta, Austin Texas, Portland Oregon, Boston, Chicago and Seattle have to one extent or another officially signed on the boycott.

Conventions are booked years in advance, yet some prominent groups ignoring the extra expense last minute moves entail, have pulled out of Colorado. Chief among these is the U.S. Conference of Mayor's which was supposed to meet in Colorado Springs in June.

The Mayor of that City, Robert Isaac, is a former head of the Conference. He had worked for years to bring its annual meeting to his city. Some say the move was poetic justice. Amendment 2 began in Colorado Springs and won by a wide margin in that city.

Among the Mayors who called for moving the conference was Milwaukee's Mayor John Norquist. In a letter he sent to New York Mayor David Dinkins, Norquist said "We can not and will not tolerate the infringement of any individual's civil rights." Norquist went on to suggest that the Conference "formally commend" the Mayor's of Denver, Aspen and Boulder for "their support of Gays and Lesbians." Norquist pointedly left out Isaac's name. The Mayor's Conference announced it's intent to cancel out of Colorado Springs the week after Norquist sent his letter.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is not the only high profile group to pull out. Quark Inc., makers of the popular "Quark" Desktop publishing program is located in Colorado. The company spent over \$50,000 on ads opposing Amendment 2. It recently announced that it will be moving its sales associate meetings to another state. Another computer company, The XChange Inc. has dropped its plans to open a plant in Colorado. That decision cost the state an estimated \$5 million dollar a year payroll.

Those pulling out range from large groups like the National Center For Social Studies (4,000 attendees), and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (8,000 attendees) to the small, like the Lotus Software Company which canceled a January sales seminar for 500 sales associates. Even the Sisters of Loretto, an order of Catholic Nuns based in Denver, has changed its conference location moving it out of its home state.

Tourism and convention experts are quick to point out that these cancellations are bad news for Colorado. Booking convention business is a highly competitive proposition. Most meeting planners would probably rather go to a place where they don't have to worry about controversy. Furthermore a number of groups have been canceling even though they will lose meeting room deposits and other pre-paid expenses.

Many experts say the real impact of the boycott has yet to be felt. Many meetings

and conventions scheduled for 1993 will go ahead because of the difficulty and expense of moving them at the last minute. The real impact will be felt in 1994 and beyond as cancellations mount up and as businesses and trade associations refuse to consider Colorado for future meetings.

A national boycott of Arizona cost that state an estimated \$500 million when it refused to approve a statewide Martin Luther King Day holiday. Ironically a national group of black skiers will be celebrating Martin Luther King Day in 1993 on the slopes of Colorado. The Brotherhood of Skiers has a multi-year meeting contract with Colorado. So far there is no talk of canceling the contract after this year.

But even within the "Brotherhood of Skiers" there are those who say they can't and won't attend this year's gathering. The national press has helped fuel the boycott. All five major news networks have done extensive stories on it. The New York Times and other major papers have editorially supported it.

The press reports had much to do with Denver Mayor Wellington Webb canceling the last leg of a damage control trip out East. Sources close to Webb say his trip to New York served only to bring out more publicity about the boycott and did not succeed in changing anyone's mind. For example, just two hours after Webb's highly publicized lunch with New York Mayor Dinkins, Dinkins signed an Executive order banning city paid travel to Colorado.

When Webb returned to Denver after his disastrous foray into New York he told the local press, "The reality is that the boycott is going to spread. This has become a discussion point across the country, whether we like or not."

Why have so many appeared willing to "draw the line in the snow?" According to many activists the real danger posed by the passage of Amendment 2 is that it may be a precursor to similar referendums in other states. In its editorial endorsing the boycott, The New York Times said "...it would send a potent warning to other states that may soon consider similar measures."

The Times blamed the "forces of intolerance aligned with Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition," and said "The Colorado law amounts to an aggressive statewide policy to allow discrimination and block attempts to mitigate it."

Indeed right wing, fundamentalist Christians are planning to get similar referendums on the ballot in Missouri, Minnesota, California, Idaho, Maine, Ohio and Oregon. Some like California's Traditional Values Coalition are citing the "victory of pro-family forces" in Colorado in their fund raising appeals.

It is feared that in each of these statewide campaigns more hateful literature like that used in Colorado will stir up more bigotry and result in more bashings. As a Colorado Gay man put it, "How can we expect people to read that we live a sex addicted and tragic lifestyle" or that "Gays are using tax funds to recruit children through the schools" and not react against us. Losing the referendum wasn't the only issue, we also lost friends due to their (CFV's) lies."

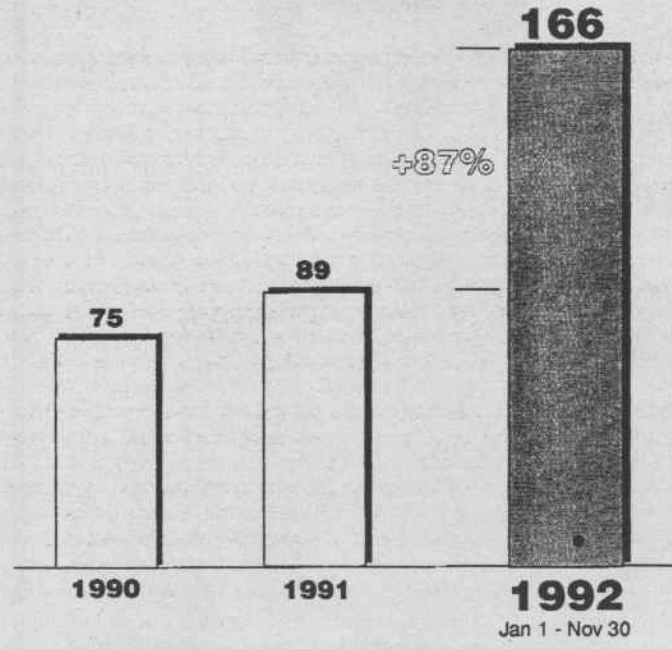
The plans of the right wing Christians have allowed Lesbian and Gay activists to sound the alarm and get straight sympathizers involved in the boycott. As the Times put it, "...a successful boycott could help reverse the tide. The boycott is a legitimate weapon in a democratic society and historically one of the most effective."

The battle over Amendment 2 may well depend on just how effective the boycott of Colorado becomes. Many Gays and Lesbians are outraged with what some are calling "the battle of Aspen." For years, Aspen has sponsored a Gay ski week. Thousands of Gay and Lesbian skiers flock to the city for a week of fun in the snow.

Tim Gill President of Quark Inc. said "The leadership of CFV is using the expected presence of these skiers to say to the rest of the state, 'you see there is nothing wrong with what you did. These people know they are after special rights and that they are wrong.'" Adds Gill, "We must not let them say this."

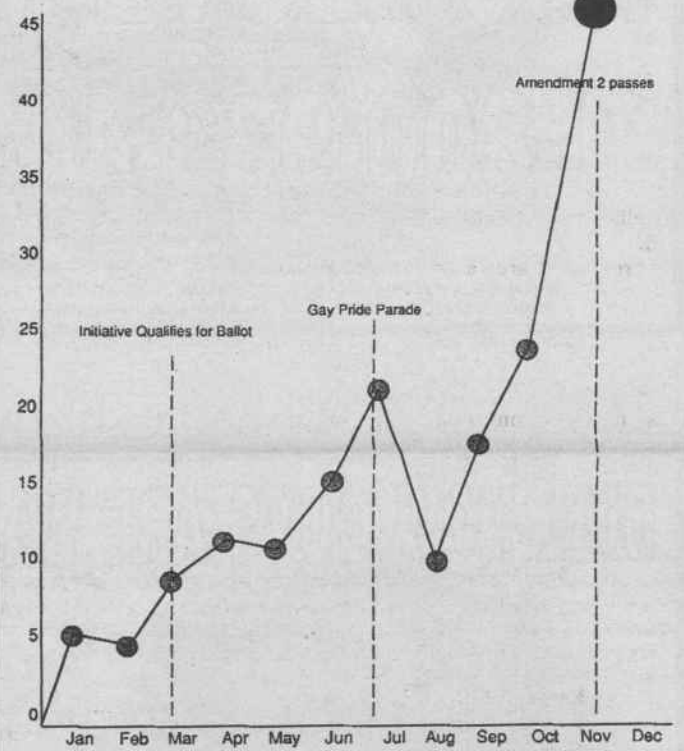
Yet, the Aspen Gay and Lesbian Community, the local Gay and Lesbian group, is trying to promote the Aspen ski week. It has run ads in the ADVOCATE, The Wisconsin Light and other papers trying to convince Gays and Lesbians to break the boycott. According to the Aspen resort owners, boycotting is the wrong

Amendment 2 Campaign Spurs Violence in Colorado



Source: Anti-Violence Project of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado 303.831.6268
Published by: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 202.332.6483

Anti-Gay Violence Explodes in Colorado



Source: Anti-Violence Project of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado - 303.831.6268
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approach. They contend that if more Gays and Lesbians than ever before come to Aspen, it will show the economic power of the Gay and Lesbian community.

Others see problems with that approach. Gays and Lesbians visiting Colorado will not be so easily identified unless they wear some type of sign or badge. Furthermore there are those who argue that economic power is worthless if it is not used.

And the battle for Lesbian and Gay

rights in other states may well be decided by how many visitors and conventions avoid a state many are now calling "hate state USA." What happens in Colorado now will serve as a warning. If the boycott succeeds, it will be a warning to other places not to put civil rights up for a vote. If the boycott doesn't succeed the warning will go out to Lesbian and Gay activists that no place, not even a progressive state like Colorado, can be considered safe.

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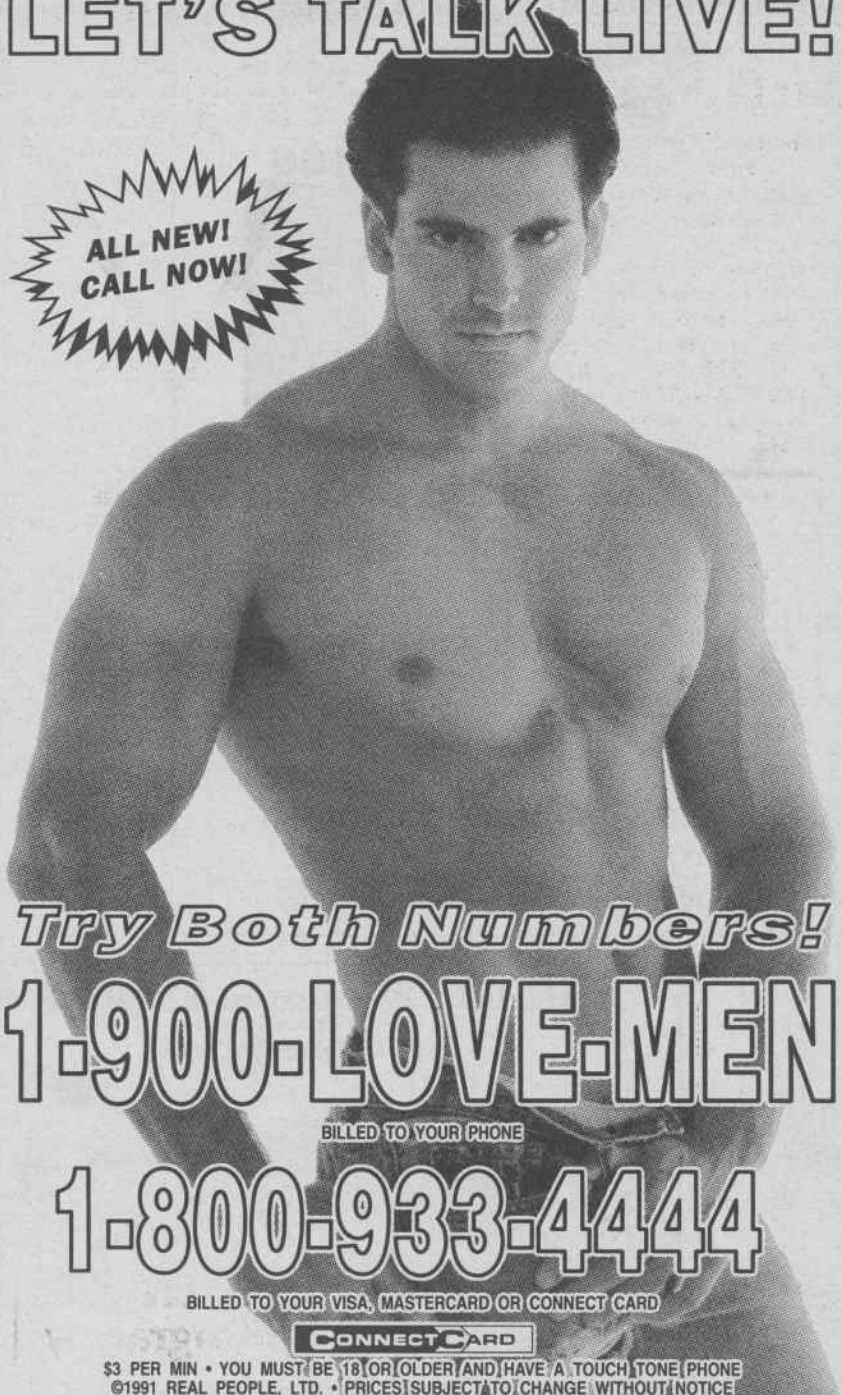
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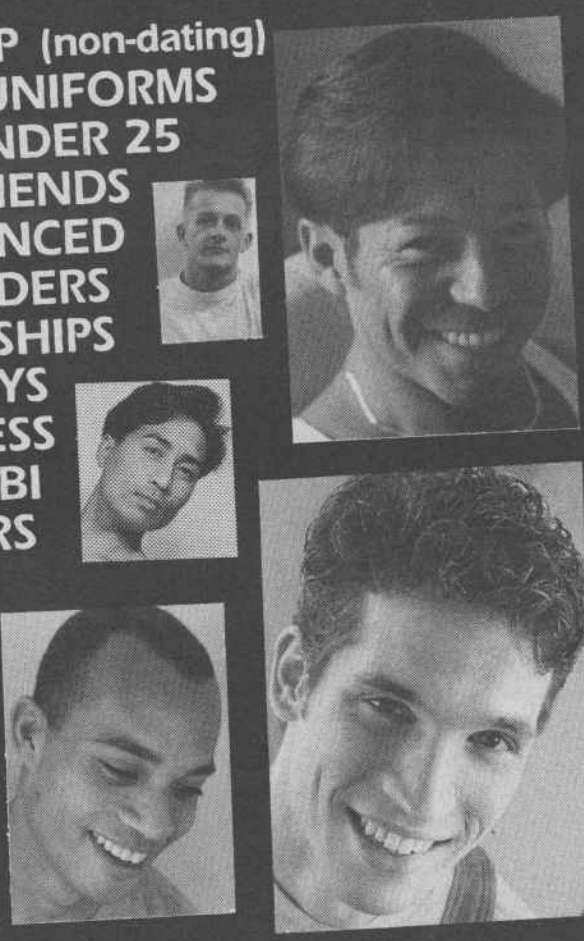
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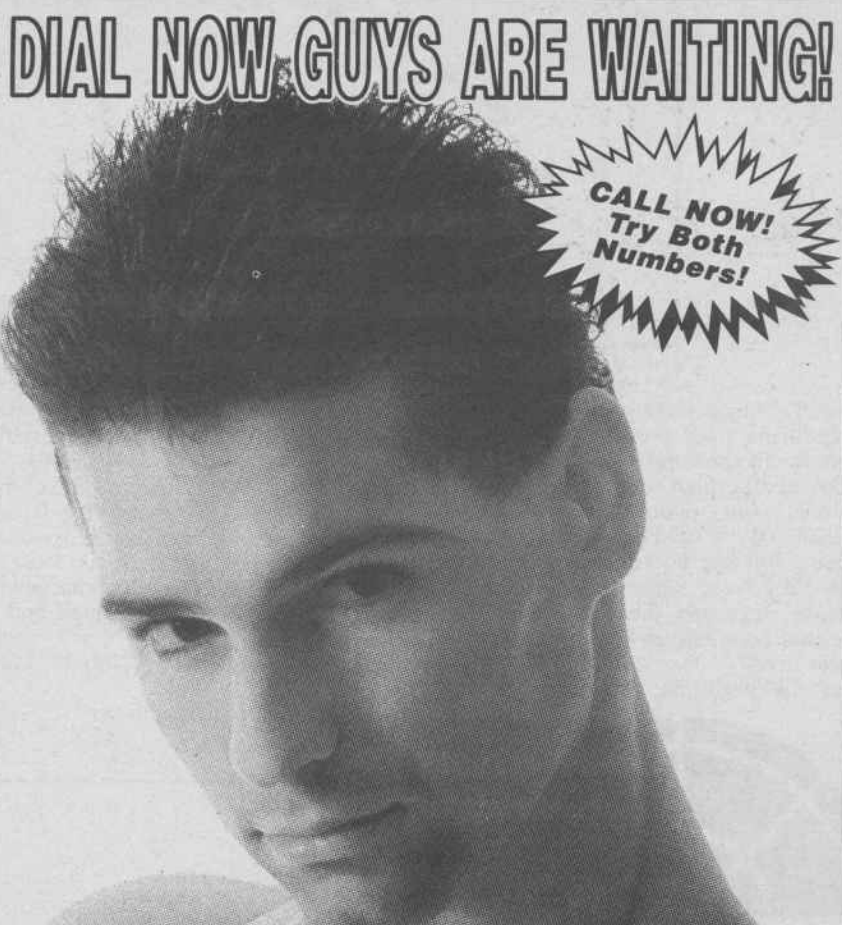


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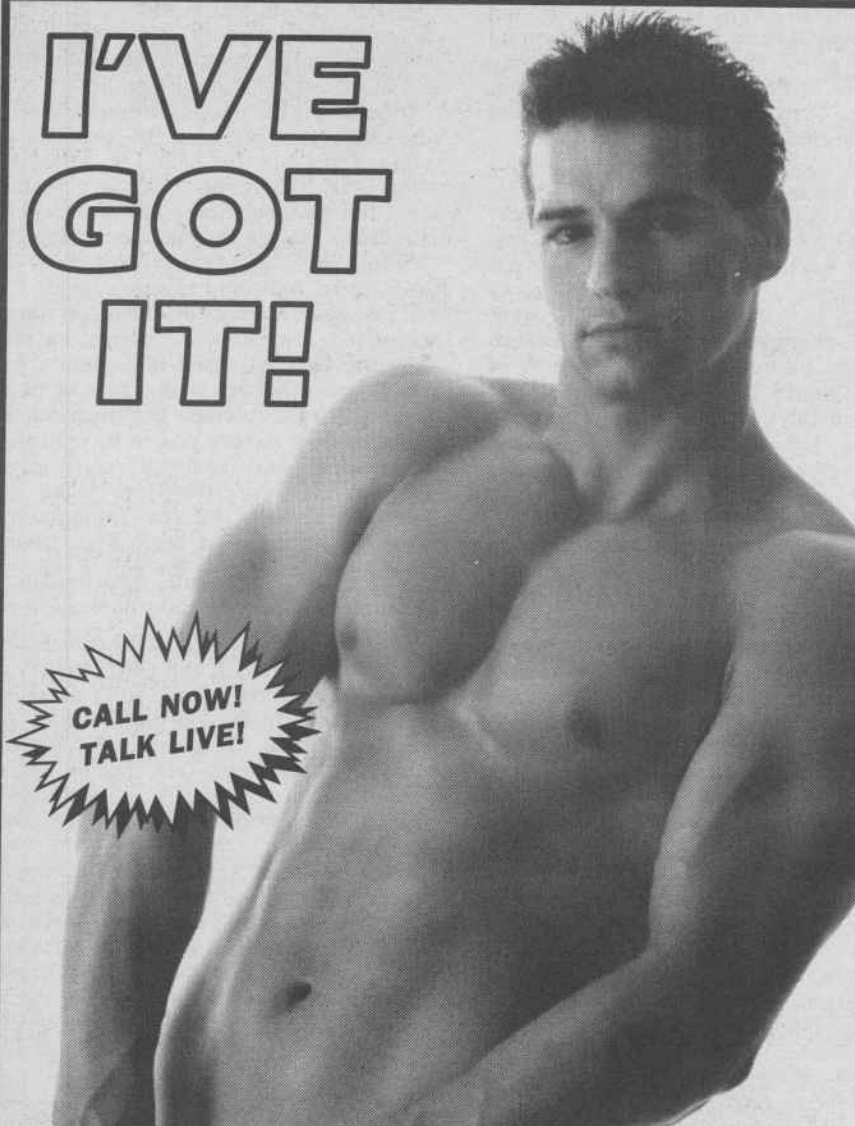
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There Is Only One Thing Colorado Bigots Will Take Note Of: A Boycott

Commentary By Brian Treglown

The discussion of whether or not we should boycott Colorado over passage of their homophobic, anti-Gay amendment is raging full force. Most Colorado apologists, those who think a boycott of the whole state is unfair, keep referring to the "Good Three" cities of Denver, Boulder, and Aspen. Since the amendment was defeated in these cities, and these are the cities that most tourists would visit, we are told the boycott would hurt our friends. Well, maybe. Let's take a closer look at the State of Colorado.

It's really two states, one mountainous, one flat. The western half is dominated by the Rocky Mountains, the eastern half by the Great Plains. Denver and the other important cities sit in a line running from the north to the south along the center of the state, at the eastern edge of the Rockies.

Denver is the largest city in the state, of course, but do you know what is second? It's Colorado Springs, and let me tell you, Colorado Springs is a bastion of homophobia. It's a military town with a generous sprinkling of religious zealots thrown in. They like Queers like they like Liberals, which is to say not at all.

MASN Receives \$35,000 From AIDS Walk

[Milwaukee]- Mary Alice Mowry, Executive Director of the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), was presented a check for \$35,255 by Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) on December 17, 1992 at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The money represents MASN's share of the net proceeds from the 1992 Wisconsin AIDS Walk held on September 20, 1992 in Milwaukee. MASN was a co-sponsor of the Walk.

According to Nelson, 22 teams and nearly 350 walkers represented the Madison area at the annual pledge Walk, which was lead this year by honorary co-chairs Paul and Linda Molitor.

The 1992 AIDS Walk, produced by ARCW, raised more than \$411,000, making it the largest fundraising and awareness event for AIDS ever held in Wisconsin.

Correction

In our last issue, *Wisconsin Light* reported that Milwaukee School Board member Mary Bills would not seek re-election in the 5th District. Bills has, in fact, decided to run again. We regret any inconvenience to Bills or to our readers.

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After Colorado Springs, comes Fort Collins, a city of 150,000 whose economy centers on farming and ranching. Next is Pueblo, a steel town in the southern part of the state. The top five cities are rounded out by Greeley, another industrial and farm-related town.

Notice that both Boulder and Aspen are missing from the top five. In fact, the population of Aspen is 3,000. That's about the number of people who cram into the balcony to hear one of Jerry Falwell's hate sermons.

The point is that Boulder and Aspen are not typical of Colorado. And if Denver is so dominant, how did its influence fall so short in this election? Remember that 53% of the state voted for bigotry. That's a pretty comfortable margin of victory.

But even retired generals and religious zealots listen to the sound of money. Tourism is vital to Colorado on a statewide basis. Taxes paid by hotels in Denver and ski lodges in Aspen help reduce the tax crunch on "the good people" of Colorado Springs, too. There's only one thing these bigots will take note of, and that's a total, statewide boycott.

All of us must boycott Colorado like our lives depended on it. Cause it does.

UWM Professor Runs For State School Post

[Milwaukee]- Alex Molnar, 46, of Shorewood formally announced his candidacy for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on January 5, 1992 at a 9:00 a.m. press conference at Milwaukee's City Hall. Molnar stressed the need for broad-based reform in Wisconsin public education. "It is time to put more fairness in Wisconsin's system of public education," he said.

Molnar will run on a platform calling for more equitable financing of public schools. He said that under the present system, public schools had become a financial hardship for residential property taxpayers.

Molnar is seeking to succeed Herbert J. Grover who has held the post since 1981. Grover is not seeking re-election.

Molnar, a professor of education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee made national headlines when he protested President's Bush's decision to send troops — including his son — to the Persian Gulf.

A primary is likely to be held February 16. The general election is April 6.

Northland Gay Men's Center Opens In Duluth

[Duluth, MN]- The steering committee is pleased to announce the formation of the "Northland Gay Men's Center" in Duluth, Minnesota. The mission of the Center "is to provide information, referral and support in an atmosphere of caring, openness and tolerance of diversity for all persons of the region regardless of sexual orientation or identity.

Furthermore, the Center seeks to work with the community at large to dispel oppression and discrimination and create a positive environment of physical and mental well-being, while building solidarity in the Gay community of Northwestern Wisconsin and Northeast Minnesota.

Current hours are 5:00-8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday. The interim coordinator is Dean Goebel.

For further information, call the Center at (218) 722-8585.

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OBITUARIES

Steff Neuman

Steff Neuman, a witty and wise Lesbian separatist, known and loved in the Milwaukee, Iowa City and Chicago Lesbian communities, died of a stroke on January 2, 1993.


A founding member of D.O.E. farm and current friend of the Chicago Mt. Moving Coffeehouse collective, she was striving to achieve an M.S.W. degree while attaining her 50th Spring. She was proud of achieving all A's in her studies.

Steff was a passionate thinker and dyke-idealist who was dedicated to finding dykely ways of being. She was twelve and a half years sober.

She loved dinosaurs, crossword puzzles, play-doh, glitter and Chicago. She told great stories and was loyal and irreverent. She was also a natural at co-counseling.

Steff was the mother of two adult daughters, Merideth and Kristin Neuman, both living in Chicago and wives with Michael Brady. She is also survived by her heart throb, Helen Eisen; her long-time butch-buddy, Senecarol Rising; her side dish, Moire Martin; also Shel Bannister, Justica Fere, Cynthia Staples, and her countless adoring friends.

A tribute to her memory and a celebration of her life will be held Saturday, January 16, 1993 at 5:00 p.m. at Mt. Moving Coffeehouse, 154 W. Morse, Chicago. Call (312) 252-3154 for details.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS
Receive gifts for Christmas you couldn't use or simply don't need? Donate them and other rummage items to the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Committee. All items will be sold during June's PrideFest to help defray the cost of the annual parade and festival. Items can be dropped off at the home of Jerry Johnson and Terry Boughner, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212, or can be shipped via mail or UPS to that address. Questions? Call (414) 372-2773.

CAN YOU TYPE? PROOFREAD?
Volunteers needed to type recipes into a computer on the Milwaukee Pride Committees first cookbook. Your help would be most appreciated. The work can be shared by several people. The sooner this job is done, the sooner we can get the book printed. Proofreaders also needed. To volunteer, call Jerry Johnson at *The Wisconsin Light*, 372-2773, Thanks!

Cleaning Services

RENTA-YENTA — Cleaning up the Milwaukee community. I clean, cook, do laundry, run errands and shop. Call your mother! (414) 264-9927.

THE COMPULSIVE CLEANER
Weekly, biweekly, monthly cleaning in your home. Serving the Gay/Lesbian community in East Side and downtown Milwaukee for 15 years. Let me unleash my compulsive cleanliness at your place! Call 276-6935.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ORDERS: Completely fill out this form and mail to WISCONSIN LIGHT, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

RATES ARE \$2 for each line. Each line can contain up to 42 characters, (including spaces). Indicate if you would like a **BOLD HEADLINE** of up to three words above your ad for an additional \$2.50. Also indicate classification under which your ad is to be run.

DEADLINE for placing a classified ad in WISCONSIN LIGHT is noon Wednesday prior to publication. If you mail your ad we must receive it on or before Wednesday. **NO CREDIT** or **BILLING SERVICES** are offered, and we **DO NOT** accept any classifieds on the phone for placements or renewals.

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Jan. 21; Feb. 4; Feb. 18; Mar. 4; Mar. 18; April 1;



Hillary and President-Elect Bill Clinton in Milwaukee in October.

As Inauguration Day Nears, Is It Politics As Usual for Clinton?

Analysis By Scott H. Evertz

To my Democratic friends in the Gay community... congratulations on the results of Election '92. Your hard work and effort to elect Bill Clinton paid off. His campaign owes the Gay community a great deal.

In fact, it is this debt that I believe Bill Clinton owes the Lesbian and Gay community and some of his rhetoric in the campaign that caused even me, a fairly staunch Republican, to react to his victory with a level of excitement, (although I kept my excitement to myself at Bob Kasten's "victory" party). I have to admit that I was somewhat excited not only that policies of importance to me as a Gay man may change, but that politics itself would change. Governor Clinton did speak quite well to the need for institutional change.

Hope Now Clouded

I was hopeful that it would not be politics as usual in the Clinton Administration. Unfortunately, something has already happened, during the transition, that has clouded this cynical Republican's rose-colored view of the new administration. I refer to Donna Shalala's response to questions during her security clearance interviews about Lesbianism and subsequent attempts by some Gay activists to "out" her.

Some Gay activists rather swiftly seized upon Shalala's nomination to be Secretary of Health and Human Services as an opportunity to expose this individual that they believe to be a Lesbian to the entire nation.

Please understand, I, in no way, endorse "outing" of this sort. I am as opposed to attempting to "out" Ms. Shalala as I was when a member of Queer Nation D.C. attempted to do the same to a member of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation.



DONNA SHALALA

What is particularly disturbing, however, is Ms. Shalala's response. As in the case of the congressman, if the activists were correct in their assessment, it would have been nice for the Secretary of HHS—designee to have acknowledged that they were correct. Ms. Shalala could have gone on to indicate that she intended to be the best damn Secretary of HHS this country has ever seen.

In no way do I mean to suggest that I believe the activists are correct. This is not my point. I suggest, however, that a Lesbian or Gay man in Clinton's new administration should feel comfortable acknowledging with pride that they are

Gay or Lesbian. That's why, in part, you all voted for Clinton, right? Because you wanted no more of closet politics as usual.

If The Activists Were Wrong

Now let's assume that the Gay activists were wrong in their assessment of Ms. Shalala, and we have to do that because that is what Ms. Shalala has said. Both in her interviews for her security clearance and in response to the press, Ms. Shalala has indicated that she is **not** a Lesbian.

Again, assuming she is straight, would it not have been far more appropriate and politically-correct for this woman who has implemented many positive programs for Lesbians and Gays and other minorities while at the University of Wisconsin to have responded by saying, "that makes absolutely no difference to my performance as Secretary of Health and Human Services."

Her response, in contrast, is politics as usual. By saying "I am not a Lesbian" — even if she is straight — suggests that there is something wrong with being a Lesbian. She chose to proactively deny that she is a Lesbian and distance herself from our community, a community that was of importance to the victory of her new boss.

Perhaps I'm a little too cynical, but before you conclude that Ms. Shalala was merely trying to set the record "straight," ask yourself this question: When was the last time you recall someone who was mistaken for being heterosexual clear things up by announcing their homosexuality?

The administration's response to the Shalala incident was as disturbing as Ms. Shalala's herself. The Clinton administration said that the allegations that Ms. Shalala is a Lesbian are irrelevant and untrue.

At first listen, that sounds reasonable, but it really does indicate that it may be "politics as usual" in the new administration. It either is indeed irrelevant whether someone is Gay or straight or it isn't irrelevant.

If it truly is irrelevant whether someone is Gay or straight, then you must not follow the statement up with the denial that someone is a Lesbian, whether she is or she isn't.

Until our elected and appointed officials understand these subtleties, politics will unfortunately continue on as usual and we will not make the significant gains many of you hoped for in electing Clinton.

Until those elected and appointed officials who are truly Lesbian or Gay feel comfortable acknowledging their orientation with pride, the general population will continue to believe that we don't really make a difference and our young people will have no role models.

Clinton and Shalala: Failed First Test

I had thought that Governor Clinton was creating an administration, and perhaps even a national consciousness, in which sexual orientation truly would not make a difference. It was the one reason I had to smile at his victory while amidst a roomful of mournful Republicans.

He and his appointee for Secretary of Health and Human Services have failed their first test. But, you know, I'm not as cynical as I thought. I'm still willing to give the President-elect a chance. I will, however, stay tuned and I'll be watching and listening because I'm afraid many of those who supported Clinton simply assumed that the work was over and that our rights would be assured because of the Governor's victory.

Next episode: Les Aspin and the ban on Gays in the military!

Anti-Gay Tapes That Won Vote In Colorado To Be Aired on Queer TV

[Milwaukee]- Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., the "Brand New Queer Program" brings the latest in Queer news, events and views to Milwaukee on Warner Cable public access Channel 47.

While the hour-long call-in show has a decidedly flexible format, the show's producers, Mike Lisowski and Dan Fons, plan to cover certain topics during the next couple of weeks.

Fundy-Mentals

January 12 A portion of this show will be devoted to reviewing an anti-Queer tape made by the folks who brought us Amendment 2 in Colorado. As laughable as the material can appear to us, it is all many people see of Queers, and it is crucial that we know how to counter ignorance spread by such material.

What Has He Done For Us Lately

January 19 This week's show will mark the one year anniversary of Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist's infamous veto of city funding for the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. During the uproar that followed his action, Mayor Norquist successfully exchanged quiet promises for election year votes. Has he kept any of the promises? Join Mike and Dan for a look back at the Mayor's Queer record during the past year.

Also watch for Melloney Nelson, an African American Lesbian to bring her view of the world to the Queer Program in January.

As viewers may recall, Melloney called

in during a Queer Program in December and offered to appear on the show. It is as easy as that to contribute to the Queer Program.

The Brand New Queer Program is scheduled to be rebroadcast every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. on Channel 47. However, it has been known to show up on Warner Cable Channel 14 instead, so don't be afraid to turn that knob to look for the show on Saturdays.

Interested persons can contact the Queer Program at P.O. Box 93951, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Galano Club To Host Dance January 23

[Milwaukee]- The Galano Club of Milwaukee, Wisconsin's only Gay and Lesbian recovery club, is holding a dance, Saturday, January 23, from 10:30 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

The dance is titled "Hot Winter Night" and is a fundraising event for the Galano Club. It is open to the Gay and Lesbian community and their friends. The dance is **ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE**.

The cost is \$5 at the door or \$3 if dressed in leather or lace underwear. The dance will be held at the Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell. Come meet new friends in a sober environment.

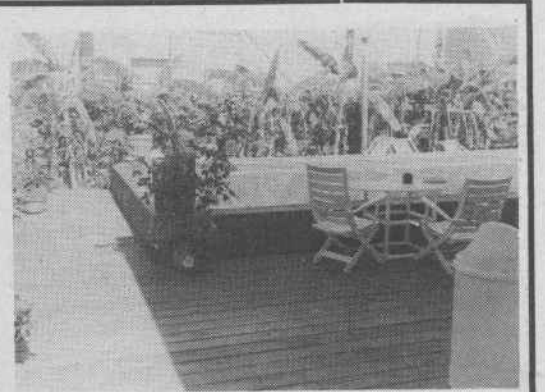


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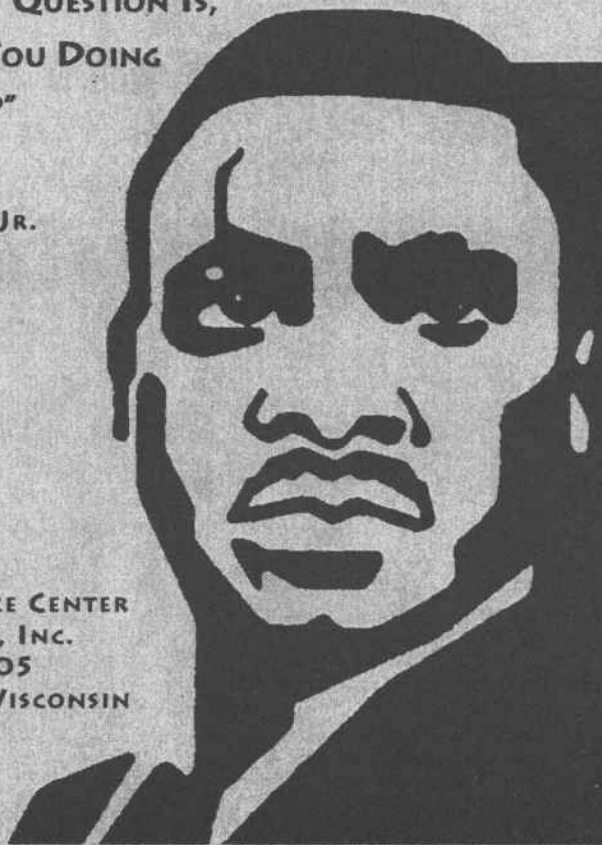
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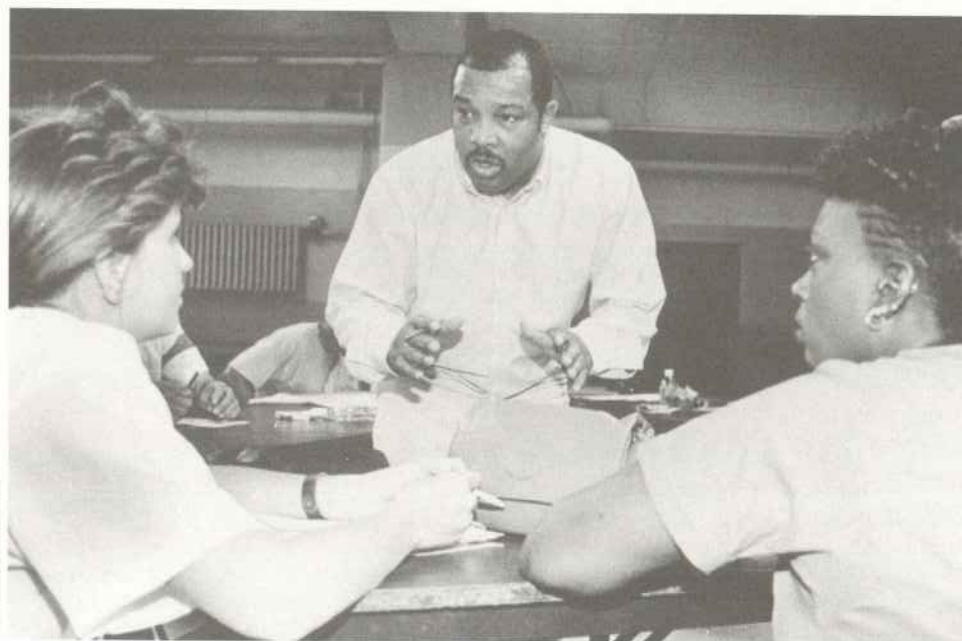
Jerome Nelson is proof-positive that there is life after prison. He made the transition from a life of violence to being a proud homeowner and family man.

As Project Coordinator for Project RETURN, he works daily with ex-offenders, helping them find jobs, counseling them and giving them the kind of support that changed his life. Jerome has a special interest in children. He takes his story from the streets of Detroit to the schools of Milwaukee and lets kids know the real deal — that there's a nasty payoff for crime and drug abuse. He tells them they can beat the streets if they believe in themselves. Because someone believed in him, Jerome wrote his own success story.

You can help others write their success stories when you support ACHOICE.



Once a heroin dealer, Jerome Nelson served time for attempted murder, robbery, burglary and felonious assault. Now a trusted counselor with Project RETURN, Jerome is available 24 hours a day for any ex-offender who needs his help.



Milwaukee Sentinel Photo

*"Change happened for me because one person took the time to work with me and helped me to believe in myself."
-Jerome Nelson*

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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WISCONSIN / FOUNDATION

207 E. Buffalo
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(414) 272-4032

The public education and litigation branch of the ACLU of Wisconsin works to protect our civil liberties. The ACLU defends our constitutional right to privacy and protects our freedom of speech. In addition, they advocate for workers' rights and support civil rights for all citizens.

CAREER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2601 N. Martin Luther King Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 264-6888

A multi-purpose agency established to address the needs of central city youth and their families. For more than 23 years, CYD has been working on critical issues such as chemical dependency, child abuse and neglect, delinquency, teen pregnancy, juvenile justice and self-esteem.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Brooks Hall, Room 100
Marquette University
620 N. 14th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53223
(414) 288-3707

A nationally known public interest law firm advocating for consumers and the poor. The Center understands working families' needs for economic survival and provides legal advice that empowers people to take control of their lives. CPR continues to advocate for tougher insurance regulation.

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

647 W. Virginia Street, Suite 305
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 271-7280

Works to prevent and fight environmental health threats through research, advocacy and citizen empowerment. CBE is leading efforts to reduce the use of toxins in our air, water and work places. Through enforcing existing laws and pressing state and federal authorities for more protective regulations, CBE is getting industry to use less toxins.

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

2821 N. 4th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 265-0880

Supports and funds organizations and activities that educate the public about Milwaukee's gay and lesbian community. CCF fosters understanding of diversity, promotes cultural awareness of issues concerning gay people and sponsors education to help reduce discrimination and violence directed toward gays and lesbians.

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

2004 W. Highland Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 342-1412

A neighborhood school that serves economically and ethnically diverse families from Milwaukee's central city. Highland offers Montessori education for early childhood and elementary grades. Parents are directly involved in the success of their children and their school because Highland is parent run.

HONOR (HONOR OUR NEIGHBORS ORIGINS AND RIGHTS)

2647 N. Stowell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 963-1324

An ecumenical and secular human rights coalition focused on Native American issues. Through advocacy, education, action and communication, HONOR promotes intercultural understanding between Native Americans and non-Indians. It emphasizes respect for treaties, tribal sovereignty and protection of the earth.

JOBS WITH PEACE

750 N. 18th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 933-6010

Through citizen education, voter registration and its newspaper, *The Milwaukee Advocate*, Jobs With Peace is keeping critical issues before the public. They work to redirect government priorities to focus attention on jobs, health care and affordable housing. Jobs With Peace has entered its second decade of outspoken activism for peace and economic justice.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN / EDUCATION FUND

1126 S. 70th Street, Suite S413A
West Allis, WI 53214-3151
(414) 475-2100

A non-partisan organization working to increase public participation in the democratic process. Through research, public education, voter registration and candidate debates, the League provides information on governmental issues and public policy.

LISBON AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

1952 N. 36th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-1214

"We don't just talk about jobs, we create them." LAND is a community-based economic development corporation striving to revitalize the neighborhood surrounding 35th and Lisbon by creating jobs and providing needed services. LAND's primary mission is to create viable employment and training opportunities for area residents. LAND also provides needed services that will strengthen the community and enhance the lives of neighborhood residents.

MATA CHANNELS 14/47

1610 N. 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 225-3560

A non-profit public access televising facility providing training, equipment and channel space for all citizens wishing to exercise their first amendment right to free speech. By enabling people to inform the public about issues of concern, MATA is a public forum and a vehicle for creative expression.

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS

1150 E. Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 276-6272

Provides education, job training and employment to at-risk, ethnically-diverse young adults. Through work projects and other activities, youth develop skills and achieve self confidence. MCSC enables young adults to obtain the skills needed for long-term professions.

MILWAUKEE INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1228 W. Mitchell Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 383-8363

Assists American Indians in establishing or expanding business enterprises. MIEDA is a successful representative of minority entrepreneurs, and serves as an advocate for expanded services to address historic economic injustice. MIEDA is advancing ethnic diversity and cultural awareness in the marketplace.

MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL PEACE EDUCATION PROJECT

1001 E. Keefe Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 964-5158

While the MFS continues to lead the fight for nuclear disarmament, the Peace Education Project is focused at the local level. They inform people about urban toxic dumps and the effects of environmental racism on Milwaukee neighborhoods. An exciting new project is the Riverwest Organizing Committee, where tenants, landlords and homeowners work together for neighborhood pride by ensuring that decent rental properties are maintained.

9TO5 WORKING WOMEN EDUCATION FUND

238 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 272-7795

9to5 provides leadership, advocacy and a national voice on the issue of sexual harassment. As public awareness of this issue has increased, workers and employers are turning to 9to5 for advice, training and support. Overall, 9to5's mission is to empower low wage women to achieve self-sufficiency. Priority issues include health care, civil rights, family leave and child care.

PROJECT INVOLVE, INC.

3435 W. Clybourn Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 937-3080

Through at-home support services and senior citizen employment, Project Involve fosters independent living and the value of older adults in community service. The agency

emphasizes participation and self-determination for older adults while finding or developing resources to resolve problems of daily living.

PROJECT RETURN (RETURNING EX-OFFENDERS TO URBAN REALITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS)

1821 N. 16th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205
(414) 344-1746

Assists ex-offenders in all facets of their re-entry into the community. The issues are job development, education, family/community connections, housing and personal well being. Project RETURN assists in opening jobs, worship and community activities. Services include housing location, support groups and GED tutoring.

RETHINKING SCHOOLS

1001 E. Keefe Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 964-9646

An independent newspaper dedicated to an equal and quality education for all children. It provides a grass-roots voice for parents, teachers and students so that they can be active participants in reforming our public schools. Rethinking Schools currently has a circulation of more than 35,000 and is distributed free in the Milwaukee area.

THE HEAVY HITTERS

2803 N. Teutonia Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53206
(414) 283-1756

A grass roots group of recovering addicts/ alcoholics, co-dependents and concerned citizens who are hitting hard against drugs and crime in Milwaukee's central city. The Heavy Hitters speak at schools, churches, AODA treatment centers and correctional facilities sharing their success stories and introducing solutions. This unique and highly successful aftercare program keeps recovering people from relapsing.

THE OPEN GATE

1131 N. 12th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 344-7582

A multifaceted service organization providing physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual

support to the homeless. The Open Gate engages the problems of homeless people in a community living setting. Services include transitional and permanent housing, medical treatment, AODA counseling, job placement, legal advocacy and long-term goal planning. The Open Gate is not a shelter, it is a home. It is family.

WISCONSIN COMMITTEE FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

1717 S. 12th Street, Rm. 203
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 671-6117

Brings together professionals and concerned citizens to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children. Through education, advocacy and resources for parents, the WCPCA is working to support and strengthen families. Support for victims and training for professionals is provided. The focus is on breaking the cycle of abuse that destroys too many families.

WISCONSIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL DECADE INSTITUTE

1001 E. Keefe Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 964-2412

Works to improve Wisconsin's environmental quality through lobbying, litigation and public education. A leader in environmental advocacy for statewide programs insuring clean drinking water, safe energy options and protection of important land resources in Wisconsin.

WORK FOR WISCONSIN, INC.

735 N. 5th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 225-6200

Work For Wisconsin, formerly Congress For A Working America, seeks to help everyone who wants to work get a job, and to make work pay so that the cycle of poverty and despair can be broken. Work For Wisconsin creates job opportunities for unemployed people by working directly with employers. They promote good employment public policy by fostering dialogue between the unemployed, underemployed, business leaders and lawmakers.

