

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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Senate Votes To Bar People With HIV/AIDS From Immigrating

[Washington, D.C.]—Joining Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and other conservative U.S. Senators, Wisconsin's Senior Senator Herb Kohl, voted with the majority on an amendment that would make the ban on immigration to the U.S. by people with HIV or AIDS federal law.

Hitherto, the immigration ban has been a matter of policy that the Administration could change. The amendment, if passed by the House, would make that policy federal law.

The vote in the Senate came on February 18. The amendment, attached to a bill designed to strengthen the Office of AIDS Research in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was passed on a 76-23 majority.

Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) voted against continuing the discriminatory ban.

Kohl's office cited the possibility of increased financial burdens as the reason for the Senator's vote. Kohl still says he is "undecided" about lifting the ban against Gays in the military.

Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY), one of the measure's original sponsors, said the vote does not bar temporary visits by people who are HIV infected or who have AIDS who may want to visit family members or seek medical treatment.

"What the Senate did say," Simpson said, "is that we are continuing the current immigration restrictions against HIV-positive aliens who may wish to become permanent residents."

Simpson is the author of the 1990 Immigration Reform Act. The Act says foreigners can be barred if they have a "communicable disease of public health significance."

The NIH bill passed 93-4 and now goes to the House, where a similar effort is underway to put the ban into law.

Observers note that the Senate action, coming early in the legislative process, can be removed from the final bill during a conference committee with the House of Representatives. President Clinton strongly supports lifting the ban.

## New Groups Up The Ante In Battle Over Gays In The Military

[Washington, D.C.]—A new national Gay group, pledged to fight for the right for Gays and Lesbians to serve in the military, have decided that "outing" of Congresspeople is the way to go.

One of the groups, the Nathan Hale Brigade, has said it will reveal the names of Gay members of Congress who demonstrate their "hypocrisy" by voting to retain the ban on Gays in the military.

As reported in the *Washington Blade*, the Brigade has said it will activate a network of Gay "insiders," including current and former Capitol Hill staffers, who will gather and document evidence on the private sex lives of anti-Gay lawmakers.

"The rights of Gays and Lesbians may be determined by a handful of hypocritical

## Gay Student Union Harassed At UW-Madison Law School



FEATHERS AND BEADS—The grand prize winner in both costume and head dress competitions at the February 21 Mardi Gras Ball in Milwaukee was won with the costume shown above. Additional photos are on page 12.

Some observers say privately that the Hale Brigade was formed because of concerns that the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) had not responded adequately to the opposition over lifting the ban.

Spokespeople for both HRCF and NGLTF have told *Light* that the criticism is unfair. They said they are waging an aggressive lobbying campaign to bring an end to the ban.

Rep. Barney Frank said in a phone interview that he would not object to the outing of a hypocritical member of Congress, but added that he did not think the Brigade's tactics would "have much effect on the ban issue."

"The fat of this (the ban) will depend on how many of our people and our allies write to their members of Congress," Frank said.

One member of the Brigade's Board said, "Let the other (Gay) groups play the high road. We will play the low road. We will look for dirt."

The Nathan Hale Brigade can be reached at P.O. Box 5830, Bethesda, MD 20824.

### Another New Gay Group to Battle Bigots

A new group to fight anti-Gay hate crusades has formed and has kicked off its media campaign with the premier of *Hate, Lies and Videotape*, a new tape that exposes the propaganda tactics of the religious right.

The Gay and Lesbian Emergency Media Campaign (GLEMC) announced its formation at NGLTF headquarters in Washington, D.C. on February 16, 1993. GLEMC will produce and distribute media that exposes the agenda of the religious right and promotes Lesbian and Gay visibility. GLEMC is a project of Testing the Limits, an award-winning filmmaking group based in New York City.

[Madison]—For the past month, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Law Student Union (LGBLSU) at the Law School at UW-Madison has been the object of harassment and hatred. Newspaper article, event posters and meeting signs have been ripped off LGBLSU's bulletin board, torn up and thrown in the trash. Even a copy of the Wisconsin Statute that makes such discriminatory actions a hate crime was shredded off a few hours after being posted.

In a press release, Law School Dean Daniel O. Bernstine, has decried the vandalism, but noted that "These acts appear to have less to do with vandalism than they do with homophobic intolerance."

Bernstine went on to say that with all the national attention Lesbians and Gays have been receiving in the media recently, "has come a venting of underlying homophobic hatred and violence." This has led, he said, not only to an increase in Gay-bashing across the country, but in creating a "hostile environment" within the Law School for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual students.

Bernstine said that he had visited classes to emphasize that homophobia "will not be tolerated in this Law School," and to remind every law student that the Law School "must certify the good moral character of law graduates for admission to the bar." Students engaging in homophobic acts, Bernstine said, would "place that certification in jeopardy."

A spokesperson for LGBLSU said that "some good" has come from the situation. LGBLSU is stronger and more visible than ever; communication and networking have increased. "And we have discovered that we are not the first group to have problems. In the past, The Federalist Society, the Jewish Law Students Association, The Right to Life Students and the Women Law Students Association have experienced harassment through interference with their bulletin boards."

GLEMC was formed in response to *The Gay Agenda*, a videotape being distributed nation-wide by the Far Right. The tape includes sensationalist images from Gay Pride events and combined with statements from "medical authorities" and other pseudo-officials.

The *Washington Post* described *The Gay Agenda* as "Men in G-strings gyrating to pulsating music on the backs of flatbed trucks while bare-breasted women parade by children."

GLEMC will produce and distribute short videotapes for organizing and public education; radio/TV public service announcements and advertising; print materials and other media aids.

Copies of GLEMC videos will be distributed as part of NGLTF's "Fight the Right in '93" grassroots effort.

For more information or to obtain copies of videotapes, contact: GLEMC, (212) 229-2863 or write: 39 W. 14th St., #402, New York, NY 10011.

## Propaganda Video To Air March 9 On Milwaukee Cable

### Anti-Gay Video To Be Seen On Queer TV

The religious right's propaganda video can be seen on Tuesday, March 9, 1993 on Queer TV, Warner Cable Channel 47 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Lesbian/Gay activists will be showing the film and taking phone calls.

According to one Queer TV spokesperson, the Christian-funded video is quite graphic. It has been suggested that you record it if you can.

## Milwaukee Making Plans To Attend April 25 March On Washington

[Milwaukee]—The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB) and West Side Dykes are combining forces to make sure Milwaukee is well-represented at the April 25 March on Washington. They have arranged for a "Lesbian Freedom Ride Bus," leaving Milwaukee at noon on Saturday, April 24, and returning by 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 26. The cost per woman will be \$55 and partial scholarships may be available.

On the 25th, the bus will arrive in D.C. by 8:00 a.m. and passengers must be back on board by 8:00 p.m. (which means no need to pay for a hotel room). The bus holds 45, but 16 seats have already been reserved.

For more information or to get a registration form, please call (414) 778-1269; (414) 445-4179; or (414) 264-2600. Sign up now for the pajama party to the great March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi CIVIL RIGHTS!

### LRN and the March On Washington

Milwaukee's Lambda Rights Network (LRN) is also working on providing transportation to the March On Washington and encouraging everyone who can to go. If you are looking for transportation from Milwaukee to D.C., leaving Friday, April 23 and returning Monday, April 26, you can call Scott at (414) 871-4839.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Hate Crimes May Increase In Idaho

[Boise, ID]- A planned initiative to prevent extending rights to Gays in Idaho may spawn an increase in the number of hate crimes against Lesbians and Gays, human rights advocates warn.

Police and human rights agencies in Oregon and Colorado said the number of hate crimes against Gays has jumped and Idaho may not be immune to such a phenomenon.

In Colorado, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Denver said it recorded an 87% increase in the number of anti-Gay incidents from 1991 to 1992.

"Any state with that kind of measure on the ballot will experience that increase in violence and the number of hate crimes," said Capt. Dan Noelle of the Portland, Oregon Police Department.

### Lesbian Army Chaplain Soon?

[Long Beach, CA]- The Rev. Carolyn Dusty Pruitt, 46, discharged from the Army because she is a Lesbian, wants back in the Army to be the military's first openly Gay chaplain.

Pruitt's 32,000 member Metropolitan Community Church, filed an application in July, 1992, in her behalf for a chaplain position. The Armed Forces Chaplains Board subsequently voted to postpone action pending the six-month drafting period President Clinton has imposed.

Pruitt said her chief opposition came from right-wing religious groups. "They are foaming at the mouth," she said. "They're positively rabid about Gay men and Gay women."

### Anchorage Gay Rights Law On Hold

[Anchorage, AK]- A Gay rights ordinance adopted after bitter public debate has been suspended by Anchorage Mayor Tom Fink, an outspoken opponent of Gay rights, while a petition drive moves ahead to put the question on the April ballot.

The petition, sponsored by the Rev. Jerry Prevo, asks voters to reject the Gay rights package, which bars job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The law, adopted January 12, 1993, by the Anchorage Assembly, covers city workers only.

### Gay Rights Heat Up In Washington

[Olympia, WA]- The current measure before the Washington State Legislature was a matter for heated debate between Rep. Cal Anderson (D-Seattle), Washington's only openly Gay lawmaker and Bob Larimer, head of the Washington Citizens Alliance (WCA). Observers called the exchange, the first debate of a campaign to place an anti-Gay rights initiative on the 1994 ballot. WCA's initiative is based on Oregon's Proposition 9 which Oregon voters rejected in November.

Anderson said that his bill "is intended to ensure that Washington's citizens are not denied their basic civil rights." Larimer responded saying that "We're granting more and more legitimacy to a hazardous lifestyle."

Anderson predicts easy approval of his bill, HB1443. Larimer said WCA will seek to have the bill overturned if it passes.

### Michigan Gay Rights Ban Planned

[Lansing, MI]- A candidate for a vacant state Senate seat in Michigan is launching a petition drive for a Colorado-style ban on laws designed to shield Lesbians and Gays from discrimination. The effort is being spearheaded by George Matousek, 62, and the Michigan for Family Values (MFV) group.

The proposal for the November, 1994 ballot is worded exactly like Amendment 2 in Colorado.

"In the beginning," Matousek said, "it was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." Matousek has described himself as a "warrior for Jesus." Opponents have called him "a fanatic."

### Anti-Gay Videotape Preaches Hate

[Lancaster, CA]- A small Christian Fundamentalist church in Lancaster, CA, has produced an anti-Gay videotape that has reached the Pentagon and the halls of Congress. Antelope Valley Springs of Life Ministries, where TV preacher Jim Bakker was reordained in the wake of the PTL scandal, produced a 20-minute video, *The Gay Agenda*, featuring clips of nudity and bawdiness taken from footage from various Gay Pride parades. The 400-member church is headed by Rev. Tyron Beeson.

The tape was released in October, 1992. Since then, 25,000 copies have been distributed across the country, including copies to Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Gen. Carl Mundy, Jr. who, the Associated Press reported, gave copies to the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In addition, the \$13.95 tape was featured in February on Pat Robertson's *700 Club*. Since then, the Robertson organization reports, orders of the tape have run up to 500 per day.

### 'Frank Discussion' Is No More

[New York, NY]- Prodigy Information Services, the Sears and IBM computer information and shopping service, yanked its "Frank Discussion" bulletin board from the service late in January. *The Washington Blade* reports. The move was prompted by complaints that it had become "too racy."

Prodigy created the bulletin board which included a highly popular "Alternative Lifestyles" subtopic, last October.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Prodigy, which has about 2 million subscribers, has a history of struggling with free-speech issues.

### Gay Rights Law Passed In Colorado

[Telluride, CO]- In the first municipal counterattack on the anti-Gay rights Amendment 2, voters in this mountain resort approved an anti-discrimination ordinance that includes protections for Gays and Lesbians.

Telluride and surrounding San Miguel County voted heavily against Amendment 2, as did most Colorado counties that rely heavily on the income from ski tourism.

Movements are underway in at least two other Colorado towns to follow Tulluride's lead. These are Crested Butte and Vail.

### Marriage Bill Introduced

[Austin, TX]- Texas State Rep. Glen Maxey has introduced legislation that would give Gays and Lesbians the same marital rights as other Texans.

Maxey, the Legislature's only openly Gay member, admits his measure has no chance of becoming law, but says it's a start. "I hope to begin the debate in a rational manner. We want our issues discussed," Maxey told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

### Denver Losses At \$26 Million

[Denver, CO]- According to *Equal Time*, and the Associated Press, the boycott of Colorado has cost Denver more than \$26 million, the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau said on February 3.

Bureau President Roger Smith said that a loss of that size would result in "people losing their jobs, in businesses losing money, and in city tax collections being reduced."

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.



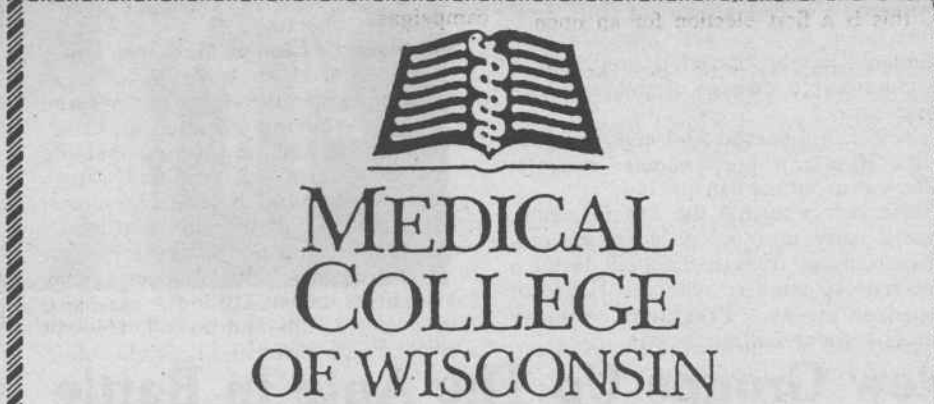
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## Gay/Lesbian Victory Fund Supports Gaylord In Madison Judge Race

[Madison]- Madison attorney and activist Shelley Gaylord has earned the support of the Washington-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in her race for Madison Municipal Judge. The Fund operates in the manner of the highly successful Emily's List, which funds and promotes the candidacies of women seeking office.

The Victory Fund serves as a financial conduit and an information clearinghouse for Lesbians and Gay men nationwide who wish to support openly Lesbian or Gay candidates for public office. In order to qualify, however, a candidate must be able to demonstrate that she or he is both highly qualified and capable of winning — a test that Gaylord passed recently with flying colors.

Over \$250,000 has been raised for openly Lesbian and Gay candidates in the first year and half of the Fund's existence. In last Fall's elections, six of twelve Victory Fund-supported candidates were elected to office, including Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison).

If elected on April 6, Gaylord would be the first openly Lesbian or Gay judge in Wisconsin history — and one of only a handful nationwide. An interview with Gaylord will appear in the next issue of the *Light*. What follows is the description of Gaylord's history-making candidacy that is being sent by the Victory Fund to Lesbians and Gay men nationwide.

### Enormous Potential in Madison For Our Candidates

Dane County and Madison, Wisconsin are shining examples of places where Gays and Lesbians can enjoy almost unlimited political opportunity. Tammy Baldwin, a Lesbian supported by the Victory Fund, was elected to the state legislature just last November.

Now we have an opportunity to further broaden our political success in this area by electing a Lesbian activist, Shelley Gaylord, to a newly created judgeship in Madison.

### The Campaign

Shelley Gaylord is running in an April election to become judge of the Municipal Court in Madison. The new court was created last August with an interim judge appointed who cannot run for a full term. Thus, this is a first election for an open seat.

Shelley's campaign staff draws heavily upon a network of experienced veterans from the campaigns of former State Rep. David Clarenbach, current State Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Judge Sarah O'Brien.

Shelley has already received the support of a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations ranging from AFSCME People to the National Women's Political Caucus. Her impressive list of endorsers includes the Mayor of Madison, the District Attorney, two Court Commissioners, prominent City Council members, County Board supervisors, several State Senators and Representatives and the local police and health care unions. The fact that seven area judges have also endorsed Shelley's candidacy is especially notable as judges usually remain neutral in these races.

The fly in the ointment is a hotly contested battle for control of the school board and a gun control referendum in the same April election. The N.R.A. and the Religious Right have made this the focus of their activities and will be turning out their supporters. That could be detrimental to Shelley's otherwise outstanding prospects, especially if she doesn't have money to finance her winning campaign strategy.

### The Candidate

Shelley Gaylord graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school in 1980. She has 13 years of solid trial experience, handling cases in all venues from traffic court to the Supreme Court.

She co-chaired the Dane County Bar committee that created a mediation service for financial issues in divorce and has served as a mediator for that project and in medical malpractice patient compensation cases. Her judgment and expertise were recognized when the Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed her as the family law chair of the Equal Justice Task Force, a statewide study of gender bias in the legal system.

### Working for the Gay and Lesbian Community

Shelley has represented Lesbian and Gay clients on everything from custody and divorce to wills, powers of attorney, real estate dealings and artificial insemination agreements. She has fought for domestic partnership benefits at the trial and appellate levels and for HIV and



ATTORNEY SHELLEY GAYLORD

anti-discrimination cases. Seeking recognition of the parental rights of Gays and Lesbians, she brought the only Lesbian custody case to date before the State Supreme Court.

Outside the courtroom, she served on Gov. Anthony Earl's Lesbian and Gay Task Force and as a media coordinator for the 1989 GALVANize (Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance) march on Madison.

### The District

Madison, Wisconsin is one of the most politically progressive districts in the nation, one of the few where being a Gay or Lesbian candidate is not a negative factor and may even be a positive one. The area has a long tradition of electing our people to public office. Shelley's support goes far beyond the progressive community, with endorsements from elected officials, lawyers and citizens of every background.

### Can She Win?

Shelley Gaylord's candidacy is so strong that she "scared off" her greatest potential adversary and thus avoided a primary. She has broad support within the Madison community and has assembled a talented team of workers with an impressive track record of running winning local political campaigns.

### Why Shelley's Election Matters to You

All states need a strong judiciary to protect and extend the rights of Gays and Lesbians. Securing Municipal Court positions is the first step towards gaining seats on Courts of Appeals, state Supreme Courts and beyond. Municipal Court is also the only court that really deals with truancy — a problem that affects a disproportionate number of Gay and Lesbian teens. Shelley's extensive experience in family and juvenile law will be invaluable in protecting the rights of all children.

### The Rest of the Story

Shelley has twice appeared before the Wisconsin Supreme Court and has authored many articles and book chapters on family and juvenile law. She served as president of the board of directors for the Dane County Advocates for Battered Women. Shelley also trains lawyers, teachers, law students and university staff on legal issues affecting Gays and Lesbians and she teaches courses on "Women and the Law" and "The Law and Female Sexuality" at the University of Wisconsin.

Contributions may be sent to Gaylord for Municipal Judge, P.O. Box 825, Madison, WI 53701-0825. For more information about the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, write to 1012 14th St. N.W., Suite 707, Washington, D.C. 20005.

## Bible Quote Upsets Israel

[Jerusalem]- An Israeli legislator provoked a walkout by religious colleagues when she cited the biblical story of David's love for Prince Jonathan during a debate on Gays in the military.

Angry lawmakers tried to shout down Yael Dayan, daughter of the late soldier-statesman Moshe Dayan, when she quoted David's eulogy for his friend Jonathan, son of King Saul, in 2 Samuel, 1:26:

"I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love for me was wonderful, passing the love of women."

As the shouts and screams erupted and some religious members walked out, Dayan asked, "Are we to censor the Old Testament? Should we expunge the words?"

## Help Send A Family To D.C. Pride March

[Madison]- For many in our community, the cost of traveling to the March on Washington is beyond their means. This is especially true for members of Madison's Lesbian Parents Network who would like to share the power of the March with their children.

In marching, Gay and Lesbian parents make an important statement to the world. Through their visibility, they communicate the powerful reality — despite the homophobic myths to the contrary — that children and family are central to many of our lives.

Transportation and lodging costs for families with children are greater than for many of us traveling alone. And because

## West Side Dykes Plan March 7 Social Gathering

[Milwaukee]- The West Side Dykes, known for their frolicking, neighborly social gatherings, will meet on Sunday, March 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m. If you want to come and find out what's happening in Milwaukee's Lesbianland, and you're a Dyke living west of the Lake and east of Madison, call (414) 445-4179 or (414) 778-1269.

of our society's undervaluing of women's work, Lesbian families in particular face the additional burden of being on extremely tight budgets.

Your help in making it possible for a Lesbian family to travel to Washington would be greatly appreciated. For more information on how to contribute, contact *Light* Madison reporter John Quinlan at (608) 256-8100.

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# The Wisconsin Light



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## EDITORIAL

### Statewide Coalition Deserves Enthusiastic Support From All

Wisconsin Light heartily and enthusiastically applauds State Rep. Tammy Baldwin's (D-Madison) plan to build a new statewide coalition to foster Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual civil rights (See Wisconsin Light, last issue).

We applaud too her idea to make the proposed coalition all-inclusive of not just Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals, but of Women's rights groups, people of color, peace activists, and members of the religious community. We in the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community need to come together, need to get to know each other and we need to work together.

As Rep. Baldwin so clearly sees, our fight for civil rights cannot be won alone. We need to work with all people whose dream for Wisconsin and America is equal rights for all people. We need to do that now.

Rep. Baldwin's plan comes at an especially important time. The Far Right wing has mustered their forces, seeking by every means at their disposal to squash the civil rights so hardly gained in the past. These people are well funded, well organized and know how to use the media. We, in the Progressive Community, need to do the same. It is only, we believe, in the type of coalition that Rep. Baldwin has in mind, that we will be able to do this.

We encourage all to contact Rep. Baldwin and offer support. Offer your ideas or offer your participation. You can contact Rep. Baldwin's office at [608] 266-8570 or better yet, write to her: Rep. Tammy Baldwin, c/o Wisconsin State Assembly, P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708.

Please take this upon yourself. The rights you work to save will indeed be your own.

## LETTERS

### Amendment 2

**TO THE EDITOR:**

Colorado Amendment 2 must be overturned. Financial pressure must be brought against the companies, groups, and organizations that support bigotry. Nevertheless, some of the tactics of Boycott Colorado are not well thought out. Let's not forget that a large number of Gays and Lesbians (and others who support civil rights for all) live and work in Colorado. Most do not have the choice of simply leaving the state.

Tim Creekmore of Boycott Colorado was quoted as saying, "If it means that Colorado must be isolated from the life of the nation in order to get the message (stop Amendment 2) across, then so be it."

Sure, Tim, let's not discriminate. Just sweep away the lives and dreams of so many citizens already in our camp in the name of "justice." Do we really have to use the same evil tactics of the religious right?

The inclusion of the boycott of Celestial Seasonings is a case in point. This small, independent company employs openly Gay and Lesbian individuals and has a nondiscriminatory employment policy that includes sexual orientation. An effective boycott will cause Celestial to go out of business.

However, this will not hurt Colorado for Family Values, nor change Amendment 2. It will earn Gays and Lesbians the enmity of many Boulder area citizens who feel a strong kinship with this little company. These same people already voted against Amendment 2. Why alienate them now with this foolish action?

Make the boycott make sense.

—Gregg Mulry  
Cudahy, WI

### Hate-Packages

**TO THE EDITOR:**

I would like to reflect a bit on the anger and hatred that some "heterosexuals" display toward "homosexuals" and how this ugly attitude can be handled.

Personally, I do not regard myself as "straight," "Lesbian" or even "Bisexual." To tell you the truth, I don't know who I am. I'm married to a man now, and I have two small children, so I guess I live the so-called normal life.

Several years ago, however, I enjoyed a very intimate, romantic relationship with a beautiful woman. I still love her (she broke it off). Dreamily remembering, and if I may make this claim myself, we were a gorgeous couple. We received quite a few admiring stares when we walked around Milwaukee holding hands. We also had some stones (some rocks) thrown at us.

We were threatened verbally by a scowling "motorcycle enthusiast" who lived down the block from us (fortunately it was difficult for him to move from his porch, as he had only one leg).

Once on a city bus, a little boy intoned that "God hates you and you're both going to hell" when we took it upon ourselves to enlighten a fifth grade class as the essential equality of "Gays" and "straights."

Thinking about all this now, I muse that perhaps I took it too lightly. But I have to admit, that if I were still living with my girlfriend and somebody gave me the equivalent of "you're a Lesbian and I hate you," I'd laugh. Laugh right in their face.

Blind people, people with distorted views, are to be pitied. The way I see it, each of us — doesn't matter whether we're Gay or straight, Black or white, male or female — is, in our own being, utterly original, vast, supreme, an unlimited source of potential. We're an unknowable wonder. Right? So when someone comes up to us with anger, what does that anger have to do with us?

A person who brings a hate-package has to carry that burden around; they own it. And they suffer with it.

Of course, the effects of hatred are real. We can be discriminated against, physically, socially, economically. But these are issues to work on. With an attitude of strength, a calm posture, a clear mind, we can appraise and attack a situation much better.

I guess I'm writing this letter as a kind of caution. I sometimes sense (in the articles I've

read) that it's "us" against "them." That is, some element of society hates us, so we should react angrily.

I know this will sound naive of me, but it is so wrong! Returning hate for hate is like bringing a can of gasoline to a burning house. We maintain our dignity by believing in our own dignity.

Conventional wisdom says that you've got to have approval from the "outside" in order to establish your self-esteem. If this is true, then we're in for one long bumpy road for the old self-esteem. There's always going to be someone out there who calls us "fat," "ugly," "homo," "old," "stupid." And we're always going to experience some difficult problems in our lives. That's reality.

It's a good practice to love ourselves. To love ourselves until we're completely exhausted. Sometimes a little bit of the love leaks out and flies in the face of a hate-filled person. I've seen this happen a couple of times.

They look at you as if you're from another planet. And they walk away.

—Sheila Collins-Arit  
Milwaukee

### Largest Minority

**TO THE EDITOR:**

I would like to make you aware of America's largest minority, the 43,000,000 Americans with disabilities. Surprising?, perhaps. Impressive?, definitely. Now think of how large this group would be if we included the friends, family, and caregivers of those people with disabilities. Now we're dealing with a group large enough to make any marketer stand up and take notice.

Yet, despite its size, this group has virtually no representation among the national broadcast media. This statement is partially true and partially false. While there is a national cable network devoted to disability-related news, entertainment, sports, and education, this network does not reach every community despite the pervasiveness of the audience which it serves.

America's Disability Channel/The Silent Network, is devoted to America's largest minority. Shouldn't they have access to it? If you too believe in the right of information, or if you can directly benefit from this programming and are currently unable to see it in your area, I urge you to contact your cable company and let them know that there is a need for such programming in your community.

If you're with an organization, even better. Cable companies are like any business and will respond to the needs of the many. Let them know that America's Disability Channel/The Silent Network, broadcasts 7 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. EST. In today's information-oriented society, access is imperative! If you don't have it, exercise your rights and take action to get it!

—Dexter Gillett  
Fond du Lac, WI

### Fight for Rights

**TO THE EDITOR:**

I'm writing in response to the commentary by Peter S. Neupert in the Feb. 18-March 3 issue. It seems to me one thing Peter forgot is that in feudal England, the common person was taxed terribly and had a miserable life. Doesn't he think that the majority of people would get quite angry about a lot of tax money spent on demonstrating, and that would turn them against Gays and Lesbian? I support fighting for our rights, but I don't like turning a lot of people off and getting them mad while we do so.

—Tom Mielke  
Kenosha

### Civil Rights

**TO THE EDITOR:**

"What's Wrong With Special Gay Rights? YOU be the Judge!"

That is the front page of one of the highly successful fliers distributed by Colorado for Family Values. I want to point out to you how these people successfully used the term "Gay rights" to defeat civil rights protections for Gay people in Colorado.

Here are some of the quotes from the flier using "Gay rights" or "civil rights": "Special Gay Rights: Fact and Fiction... The so-called 'Gay Rights movement' is gaining ground... Three other states also have special 'Gay rights' laws on the books... consider the facts about how 'Gay rights' laws will really

impact you, your loved ones... In 1989 under a Madison, Wisconsin 'Gay rights' ordinance, two female roommates were fined \$1,500... just one lawsuit under a 'Gay rights' law against a business that refused to hire a homosexual could cost \$250,000 minimum."

In contrast, the flier uses "civil rights" in this way: "In America, special civil rights protections have historically been granted on the basis of characteristics like birth, race... Special civil rights protections have never been given to people who are far more economically, educationally or culturally advantaged than others..."

At the end of the flier is a quote from John Franklin, former Chairman and 8-year Commissioner of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission: "In my opinion, Gays don't warrant special class status... Making sexual preference a protected class does a disservice to all those people presently being discriminated against or mistreated... I would hate to see resources taken away from those who are really in need of protection."

I write because I note that many who are truly friendly toward Lesbians and Gays still persist in using the term "Gay rights." It is easy to see that Colorado for Family Values recognizes the positive perceptions people have of "civil rights," and the negative feelings raised by the term "Gay rights."

In closing, let me paraphrase Colorado for Family Values: What's Wrong with "Gay Rights?" YOU Be the Judge!"

—Al Getersbach  
Milwaukee

### We Must Unite

**TO THE EDITOR:**

I had a nightmare last night that I thought I would share with your readers. In the nightmare, I watched Gay/Lesbian America suffer from the same inertia and lack of unity that contributed to the defeat of the Republican Party in the recent presidential election. Like the Republicans, will our differences set us back or will we seize the moment and unite as a political body?

For now, we have had the spotlight turned on us as never before. Gays in the military, Gay rights in general and, sadly, the AIDS crisis have put us on the cover of national magazines and provided the subject for TV journalists like Maria Shriver to do primetime specials on our lives. From national polls, we are told that about half of America supports our rights — our lives.

So, what's my point? Why the nightmare? Like any group, we are as diverse as Republicans, African Americans and America itself. We are male, female, professional, working class, wealthy, poor, urban, rural, etc. I fear that our intricate differences may result, like the Republicans, in leaving us in a state of disarray.

Among my own friends, I hear Gay men make derogatory comments about Lesbians and vice versa. I hear my young friends talk about "old trolls" and my older friends appalled with the immaturity of our youth. I've seen my professional friends look down on working class Gays and Lesbians. I, myself, am not free of these prejudices as I often complain about Gays who smoke. Yes, kind of silly, but it certainly is a prejudice.

We all really need to get beyond this and we don't have a whole lot of time to thing about it. We need to take advantage of the greatest hope that we have ever had in our history as Gay and Lesbian Americans. In the inaugural ceremony, poet Maya Angelou said it best:

"Here on the pulse of this new day, You may have the grace to look up and out,  
And into your sister's eyes and into,  
Your brother's face, your country,  
And say simply, Very simply, With hope,  
Good morning."

—John Goff, Co-President, Duos  
Milwaukee

### July 17 MAGIC Picnic Seeks Logo

[Madison]- Madison's annual MAGIC Picnic, the "social event of the year," will be held on Saturday, July 17, 1993 at Brittingham Park, from noon to 7:00 p.m. Several thousand people are expected to attend.

The MAGIC Picnic committee is currently soliciting any Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual artists who wish to submit a logo design for MAGIC '93. The chosen design will be used for advertising, promotion and as the official MAGIC '93 T-shirt. The design can consist of no more than two colors, and must include the words "MAGIC — July 17, 1993" — and "Madison, Wisconsin," and should try to incorporate a 20th Anniversary/Annual theme.

The design should be no larger than 12" by 12", and must be submitted to the MAGIC Committee no later than March 15, 1993.

Send designs to: MAGIC Committee, 636 W. Washington Ave., Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

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# SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

## News Notes From The Lesbian Nation

By Jamakaya

**DYKES RULE AT THE GRAMMYS:** Eric Clapton may have won the lion's share of the Grammy Awards last month, but the Lesbian Nation was busting with pride after two open dykes, k. d. lang and Melissa Etheridge, took top honors in the major female categories.

Lang, looking as dreamy as ever (causing this fan to swoon with dizziness), won as Best Female Pop Vocalist for "Constant Craving." The honor was especially significant for k.d., who had taken some risk crossing over from her country roots to pop music, and who took the even greater risk of publicly coming out as a Lesbian last year. It's encouraging to know that her sexual orientation has not prevented the music industry from recognizing her enormous talents as a singer and musician.

Meanwhile, newly out Lesbian Melissa Etheridge won the Grammy as Best Female Rock Vocalist for "Ain't It Heavy." Our community has long claimed Melissa as our own based largely on her appearances at women's music fests. At the queer inaugural gala in Washington she made it official, declaring "I have always been a Lesbian." Melissa was greeted with wild cheers from the crowd and big smooch from k.d., who was obviously thrilled with the news!

**MORE OUTINGS [AND INNINGS]:** Writer Armistead Maupin told *Frontiers*: "Susan Sontag and Annie Liebovitz are lovers. Everyone in New York knows this." Thanks Armistead, now everyone in Wisconsin does too! The Lesbian Nation is most happy to claim these two brilliant women!

Meanwhile, the *National Enquirer* ran a story headlined: "Wynonna Judd Fights Back: 'I'm No Lesbian!'" Judd was responding to a recent cartoon in the *Advocate* which showed her kidnaping a woman and riding off with her on her motorcycle. "I'm spitting mad," Wynonna reportedly said. "I'm no Lesbian."

The *Enquirer* commented: "Big-boned Wynonna has been fighting rumors she is Gay for years, say music insiders. But they add that she's partly to blame because she rides motorcycles, has a weight problem and makes negative comments about men." Friends add that she often dons leather and has a woman on the back of her bike. Oooohhh, dead give-away!

Mama Naomi Judd snipped: "Wynonna's just getting her solo career started...And she sure as hell doesn't want to be known as a Lesbian." Why not, Mama? Look what it's done for k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge!

Proving once again that the admission of ignorance is the beginning of wisdom, comedian Paula Poundstone voluntarily broached the topic of her sexual orientation at a performance in Washington, DC. After making fun of the Pentagon's fear of Gays in the military, Poundstone admitted: "I don't know what the hell I am." We do, Paula...

**DOROTHY ALLISON BANNED IN OKLAHOMA:** The Oklahoma State Center for the Book canceled an appearance by author Dorothy Allison because she is a Lesbian. Allison was a finalist for the National Book Award for her critically acclaimed novel *Bastard Out of Carolina*.

The director of the Center reportedly told an official of the National Book Foundation: "There's no way this woman is coming to Oklahoma. This is the buckle of the Bible Belt. We have only two major events a year, and we do not want one of them to be a Gay event." The director later denied she made the comment and said there was simply a problem with scheduling.

"I'm 43 years old and I've been queer my whole life," Allison told the *New York Times*. "And I have learned that most people, especially in the arts, don't want to get caught expressing their prejudices in public and make up elaborate excuses when they do." Allison says she was not even notified about the cancellation and has demanded an apology from the Center.

**OTHER LITERARY LEZZIES:** Jeanette Winterson, author of *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* and *Sexing the Cherry*, is winning rave reviews for her new novel *Written on the Body*. Male reviewers seem terribly perplexed that Winterson (intentionally) does not reveal the sex of



MELISSA ETHERIDGE

her narrator/protagonist who is having an affair with a married woman. The *Times Book Review* nevertheless called it "an ambitious work...consistently revelatory about the phenomenon of love."

Susan Griffin, author of the deeply profound *Woman and Nature*, was named a finalist by the National Book Critics Circle for her latest effort, *A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War*. The *Times* critic praised it as "an act of creative imagination unlike anything I have ever read."

**LESBIANS ON FILM:** With the recent Gay/Lesbian Film Fest at UW-Milwaukee, local showings of *Paris is Burning*, *The Living End*, *Swoon* and *Claire of the Moon*, and the runaway success of *The Crying Game*, queers and queer sensibility seem ever more visible on screen. Hurrah! Here are some things to look forward to:

Milwaukee's Lesbian Alliance is sponsoring a special benefit showing of *Claire* at 7:30pm April 1 at the Downer Theatre. Advance tickets are \$10, \$12 at the door. It'll be great to see with a big Lezzie crowd.

Future films to watch out for are *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, the hilarious and poignant Tom Robbins book filmed by Gay director Gus Van Sant. One hopes that with a queer director, the book's Lesbian and Gay characters will not end up on the cutting room floor. They are central to the story, so they better emerge intact!

Another flick which wowed 'em at the Sundance Festival was a British film version of Virginia Woolf's rollicking gender-bending satire *Orlando*. Woolf wrote it in honor of her nutty and dear, queer friend Vita Sackville-West. It's a fantasy about how one character changes sexes and re-emerges as different people through the centuries. The book made many deft comments about the ludicrous nature of sex roles.

One film that has unfortunately been lost in the shuffle of all the new queer films is an extraordinary documentary by Lesbian filmmaker Jan Oxnberg called *Thank You and Goodnight*. It's a documentary about Oxnberg's grandmother dying. I know it sounds like a bummer, but Oxnberg's quirky point of view, her humor and compassion shine through. It will be aired on PBS in the next few months. Watch your listings and make sure to set your VCR for this one.

**OSCAR TIME:** The Academy Awards will be presented on March 29 and many queer eyes will be watching to see how *The Crying Game* fares. But watch also in the Documentary Feature category in which *Changing Our Minds: The Story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker* is nominated. Dr. Hooker conducted the ground-breaking research on Gay men that led the American Psychiatric Association to stop listing homosexuality as a disease. Dr. Hooker isn't a Lesbian but she's one hell of an Amazon!

## Fojtik Selected NOW's Feminist Of The Year

[Milwaukee]- Melissa Fojtik who accused Milwaukee mayoral candidate Gregory Gracz of sexual harassment is to be honored Saturday, March 6, as Feminist of the Year by the Wisconsin chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Fojtik is scheduled to receive the award during NOW's annual banquet at the Marc Plaza Hotel.

Fojtik accused Gracz of exposing his penis to her at a 1990 firefighters convention in Racine.

Gracz denied the charge.

## Dykes To Watch Out For



## Gay Domestic Partners Allowed To Register In Nation's Capitol

By John Zeh

[Washington, D.C.]- Unmarried men and women aged 18 and over are allowed to register as domestic partners in Washington, D.C. regardless of where they live, two activist groups announced in celebration of the new year.

The District of Columbia authorized registration of domestic partners in its Health Care Benefits Expansion Act, which took effect June 11, 1992, but was overturned by Congressional homophobes.

Pressed by Gay activists, D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly implemented the law anyway, with strict requirements that require no spending by the D.C. government.

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA) and Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Washington (GAYLAW) are circulating the required forms.

A person and partner must be in "a familial relationship characterized by mutual caring" and share the same residence. Partners apart for educational, health care, or work-related reasons may file.

Blood relatives such as two sisters, an

adult caring for a parent, or an uncle and nephew qualify, as do unrelated individuals — two close friends or widow(er)s.


All that's required is a declaration under oath before a notary public and filing by certified mail. Partners will want to keep a copy for framing and personal records, said GLAA President Jeff Coudriet.

For an application for a Declaration of Domestic Partnership in the nation's capital, send \$2 and self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to: P.O. Box 11212, Washington, D.C. 20008-0412.

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# The Light LIVELY ARTS

## Well-Acted 'Execution of Justice' Opens March 4 In Milwaukee

By Lynn Henry Schmidt

Milwaukee's Lesbian and Gay community in particular, and the public in general, are indeed fortunate in having the Different Drummer Theater Alliance (DDTA) in the city. **The Execution of Justice** by Emily Mann is their third production, and this production continues their splendid record. Those who saw **Adam and the Experts** and **Eastern Standard** will be pleased with this presentation as well. **Execution**, a historical drama, is relevant, thought-provoking, moving and well-acted. It is beautifully directed by Stephen Spera.

The play follows the trail of Dan White, the man who assassinated San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978. The play allows the audience to return to an important incident in history and then focuses on the struggle to obtain justice in a heterosexual society. The justice denied in the play becomes especially sharp as flashes from 1993 and Colorado and the issue of Gays in the military intrude into the theatre experience.

The twenty-three actors in the play form an ensemble that has strength and integrity. Each actor is believable and many of the actors who have multiple roles display a nice, eclectic range.

The performances of F. David Roth and Tom Enslin in leading attorney roles, nicely balance each other and are strong in their roles.

Enslin, who plays defense attorney, Thomas Norman, effectively portrays the frustration of an individual fighting for justice amidst the swirling prejudices and

controversies in the case.

Roth adroitly counters the defense as he cultivates, manipulates, and exploits these same fears and prejudices. I was maddened by his arrogance and confidence.

T.A. Terry, who plays Dan White, is excellent. He is especially effective in his silence. At times, it was scary to watch him, and I frequently found myself looking at him. His despondence, sorrow, anger and confusion, along with an impressively subtle performance by Nicole Horvath, his forlorn wife, left me oddly sympathetic.

This is the third play by this company that Spera has directed. His expertise is without question. While still allowing the audience to reflect on certain emotional moments, he effectively quickens the pace and cadence of the play as events move to the dramatic denouement.

In addition, Spela is an expert with minimalist theatre. Especially noteworthy in this context is his use of music. His choices underscore certain scenes, help delineate various characters and highlight certain events. The music is especially powerful when the murders are announced.

This theatre company is an effective voice for the Gay and Lesbian experience as well as the human condition. They need as much support, nurturing and celebration as possible.

**Execution of Justice** can be seen at Vogel Hall in the Performing Arts Center. The play runs March 4, 5 and 6. Curtain for these dates is 8:00 p.m. There will also be a performance on March 7 at 2:00 p.m.

## Avant-Garde Dance/Theatre Opens 'Flying Lessons' In Madison

[Madison]- Kiroga Theatre Productions will present **Flying Lessons/The Complete Course on Escape** at Kanopy Theater, 315 N. Henry Street in Madison on March 19, 20, and 21 at 8:30 p.m.

**Flying Lessons** is the new company's premiere performance as Madison's newest avant-garde dance/theater group. **Flying Lessons** is an evening-length work that intends to move the audience toward an experimental focus.

Several art forms are represented through explorations of world cultures, history, and the future possibilities in performance art. The body is expressed through the use of breath, voice and meditative movement much like the martial art form, Tai Chi.

Artistic Director Kiro Kopulos was the co-director/founder of the Ann Arbor,

Michigan performance group, Intersect Theatre Dance Company. Intersect was known for their atmospheric, dream-like images and was often compared to the avant-garde Japanese Butoh Theater Group, Sankai Juku.

Kopulos says he is looking at the possibility of helping to fill the "current void in the performance art and dance scene in Madison."

"Who says high art has to be from New York or someplace exotic?" Kopulos asks. "Why not nourish the culture we have here?"

**Flying Lessons** was conceived and choreographed by Kopulos with music composed and performed by Tom Powell, Arthur Durkee and Andrew Rohn. Tickets are \$8 at the door. For more information and reservations, call (608) 255-9862.

## Tim Miller To Perform 'My Queer Body' At UW-Madison

[Madison]- The University of Wisconsin-Madison Dance Program will present dance-based performance artist and social activist Tim Miller in his one-man work **My Queer Body**, Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m. in Music Hall on the UW-Madison campus. The evening-length piece which **New York Times** dance critic Jack Anderson describes as "...a solo as entertaining as it was polemical..." is an autobiographical look at Miller's experience growing up as an outspoken, politically-minded Gay man.

Miller is probably best known as a member of the "N.E.A. 4," a group of performance artists whose fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts

(NEA) were rescinded in 1990 because of the controversial content of their work.

These performances of **My Queer Body** will climax a two-week artist residency by Miller as a guest of the UW-Madison Dance Program. During his stay in Madison, Miller will work closely with students in expressing their fears, prejudices and desires honestly to an audience.

Their work will be presented in a free student showing on Friday, March 26, at 4:00 p.m. in Lathrop Hall, UW-Madison. For more information, call (608) 262-1641.

Tickets for **My Queer Body** are available at the Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706 or by calling (608) 262-1500.

## Madison Gay Video Club to Celebrate Erotic Video Awards March 27

[Madison]- On Saturday, March 27, at 8:00 p.m., the Madison Gay Video Club will be viewing a tape of the First Annual Gay Erotic Video Awards. The gala event was originally held November 23, 1992 in Hollywood and raised more than \$14,000 for Aid for AIDS.

With Chi Chi LaRue as host, eighteen major awards — The Dickies — were given out plus six Gender Awards for more off-beat categories such as Best Groaner.

Superstar of the 1970's, Jack Wrangler, became the first inductee into the Gay Video Hall of Fame. The event was sponsored by the **Gay Video Guide**, an all-male video magazine.

Following the Awards ceremony, clips from the top winners will be shown.

These include **Kiss-Off** (Best Video of the Year), Danny Sommers in **True** (Best Actor) and Chi Chi LaRue for **Songs In The Key Of Sex** (tied for Best Director).

Refreshments will be provided. The event is free and prospective new members over 18 years-old are welcome.

The Madison Gay Video Club meets regularly on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Both non-sexual Gay films and erotic videos are normally shown simultaneously, offering members a choice. For more information, phone (608) 244-8675.

**Editor's Note:** In Milwaukee, the three above mention videos are available at **Paradise Video Store**, 229 N. Water Street in downtown Milwaukee.

## Fest City Singers Seeks Women For Spring Cabaret Musical

[Milwaukee]- Women are needed to audition for several singing and non-singing parts in the Fest City Singers' (FCS) upcoming cabaret musical, **Boyfriends**. The show, which opens in early June, will begin rehearsals shortly.

Women interested in auditioning are invited to attend the next regular rehearsal on the fourth floor of the Milwaukee County War Memorial on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. or call the Festline at (414) 263-SING for information.

**Boyfriends** is a wry, yet tender, farce about the breakup of two men and the attempts of their friends to comfort, interfere and otherwise kibitz. The show was written by the group's artistic director, Peter Mortensen, who wrote and produced the Singers' two previous cabarets, **History**, **Herstory**, **Oursstory** and **Movin' On**.

Each year, in addition to its Spring cabaret, the Fest City Singers present a Christmas show and performs for other special events, including the Gay Pride Day celebration.

"Yellow Northwestern filmmaker Nicole Conn has gone for broke with this one and admirably pulled it off. I recommend it." — Gus Van Sant

"*Claire of the Moon* is a miracle... a masterpiece... the riveting love scene will stay in your mind's eye forever." — Barbara Grier, *Naiad Press*



## Claire of the Moon

One woman's journey into her sexual identity.

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by Edward Morgan  
March 12 - April 18

From the creators of last year's APPALACHIAN VOICES comes a musical journey through the cottages, pubs and rocky glens of Ireland. Join three Irish-Americans as they share their music and stories in an evening of warmth, magic and adventure.



## Milwaukee Repertory Theatre To Be Honored At Make A Promise Dinner

[Milwaukee]- In acknowledgment of their outstanding leadership and meritorious service to the community in response to the AIDS epidemic, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) will present the second annual Sterling Rose Award to the Milwaukee Repertory Theater on March 27, 1993, at the Pfister Hotel at the annual Make A Promise dinner.

The first Sterling Rose Award was presented to Miller Brewing Company.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to assisting the purpose, programs, and services of ARCW. According to ARCW Executive Director, Doug Nelson, the Repertory Theater has been selected as a recipient of the 1993 Sterling Rose Award for many reasons. Among these are:

The Repertory has organized five annual benefit performances each of the last four years, raising more than \$20,000 for ARCW's programs and services;

The Repertory was instrumental in starting and developing the Arts Action Committee, a coalition of over 40 of Milwaukee's performance arts groups dedicated to raising awareness and funding for the programs and services of ARCW;

The Repertory provides ARCW with numerous in-kind donations and imperative assistance with the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, the fourth largest, single-day fundraising event of any kind in the state.

### Dearing, Schmidt to Headline Dinner

Nationally acclaimed entertainers Jo Ann Dearing and Claudia Schmidt will headline the Make A Promise dinner. Featured at the 1992 Make A Promise, Dearing is back by popular demand.



JO ANN DEARING

Dearing has won national acclaim on the stage and TV. Her accomplishments include a number of network and cable performances, including appearances on *Hard Knocks*, *The Rich Hall Special* and her own slot on the *SHOWTIME* "Comedy Club Network."

Schmidt's diverse and popular music, from traditional ballads to tin pan alley,

## A Hat Design Contest Will Benefit MAP, Theatre X

[Milwaukee]- Theatre X will host the second annual fashion and fun event with a fundraiser called "Hats Off To Theatre X." The party, to be held Saturday, March 13, will benefit Theatre X and will include a style show of hats designed by local artists, dinner, dancing, a silent auction of the hats and other items. The show will be emceed by Art Kumbalek.

The grand prize for the "Best of Show" is two round-trip tickets on Midwest Express Airlines. Other prizes include gift certificates, tickets, dinners and more.

The hats will be judged by a panel of distinguished judges: Mayor John Norquist, Meg Kissinger, Barbara Lee Brown, Richard Flagg and Jullilly Kohler. The proceeds from the hat chosen "Best of Show" will benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

"Hats Off" will take place at 208 N. Water Street in the Historic Third Ward beginning at 8:00 p.m. with the style show at 9:00 p.m. followed by music by The Greens. The cost is \$30 (advance price) and \$35 at the door. To reserve a ticket, call Theatre X at (414) 278-0555.



CLAUDIA SCHMIDT

from soulful blues to wailing jazz, has been described by a critic as "a lot like falling in love... You never know what's going to happen next, but chances are it's going to be wonderful."

Schmidt has entered living rooms throughout the country as one of the most frequent and popular guests on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Other entertainers will include Milwaukee's premiere jazz group, Jim Liban, Matt Liban and the Liban Band playing during the cocktail hour.

Featured throughout the dinner will be the music of Milwaukee's John Schneider Orchestra.

### 1993 Hosts for Make A Promise

Numerous community leaders representing many organizations and businesses supporting ARCW will attend the Make A Promise dinner as honorary hosts. Among these are:

State Rep. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee); Congressman Thomas Barrett (D-WI); J. Robert Moore, GAMMA; Daniel M. Finley, Waukesha County Executive; Kitty Barber, Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee; Scott Gunkel, Lambda Rights Network; William Frank, Cream City Foundation; Steve Steinhauer, Lavender Hill; Gary Hollander, Ph.D., Sinai Samaritan Medical Center; Michael Wavra, Grava Gallery.

The 1993 Make A Promise dinner and silent auction will be held Saturday evening, March 27, 1993 in the Pfister Hotel's Grand Ballroom, 424 E. Wisconsin Avenue, in Milwaukee. Tickets are available at \$50, \$85 or \$125 and reflect preferential seating. The event is expected to be an early sell-out.

The anticipated \$75,000 proceeds from Make A Promise will benefit the comprehensive AIDS care, prevention and research programs at ARCW. For more information, call the ARCW Special Events Department at (414) 273-1991.

## Duos Couples Group Plans Travel Seminar March 28

[Milwaukee]- Duos, Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian Couples Group, is sponsoring a travel seminar on Sunday, March 28, 1993 at 2:00 p.m. The seminar is being held in the second floor banquet room at the M&M Club at 124 N. Water Street. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

Couples and singles are welcome to attend and learn more about Gay and Lesbian travel events and opportunities during the upcoming year.

Are you looking for the perfect same-sex love boat? Curious about how Hurricane Andrew has effected the resorts in Key West? Are there Gay and Lesbian accommodations across Europe?

Duos has invited John Joyner of Bottom Line Travel to discuss travel opportunities. John and his partner Bill own Milwaukee's only Gay-owned travel agency. Both have several years of experience in the Gay and Lesbian travel industry. They will present ideas for the upcoming year and take questions from the audience.

For more information, call John of Duos at (414) 425-9778

## The Fabulous Flirtations To Perform March 25 for Madison Benefit

By Terry Boughner

[Madison]- The fabulous Flirtations are coming to Madison to perform at the Barrymore Theatre on Thursday, March 25, 1993, at 7:30 p.m.

I've written a lot about the Flirts in the pages of this paper. I'm an aging groupie and I don't care who knows it. (I even broke my neck to get autographs from two of them, Cliff Townsend and Aurelio Font, the last time they were in Madison.) They are wonderful young men, exuberant, saucy, and their singing is of the very best. They bring life to their music and then hone it down to a sharp political edge that makes their audiences laugh, clap as they realize that there is a joy in, a magic in being Gay.

I've reviewed their latest album, *Out On The Road* and since have played it again and again. What I like is not only the doo-wop tunes they choose, but the "queer twist" they give to the words.

For example, in "Mister Sandman," they sing, "Give him two legs like Greg Louganis, but make him comfortable about his Gayness." The new words blend so easily that listeners often aren't sure what's hit them.

And in between songs, the Flirts introduce themselves, joke with each other, and tease with a stage presence that's apparent even on tape. Fans who have already seen them perform and those who have not, run out and buy tickets whenever they're in town.

### AASPIN

The Flirtations are being sponsored this time in Madison by Adults with AIDS - Special People in Need (AASPIN) Foundation. It's a new group founded by Gene Kubera and Sue Scott, a Madison psychotherapist with free legal help from a Madison lawyer.

The idea for the group came when Louis Larson, Kubera's partner, wanted more than anything to see the Grand Canyon before AIDS took his life. There was no money for the trip, and nothing akin to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for adults. Kubera decided to start his own. The result, with Scott's help, was AASPIN.

The group's aim is to help fulfill the wishes of those 18 years and older who

have AIDS or are experiencing serious medical problems due to being HIV-positive to fulfill a wish they may have.

Wishes cannot include medical treatment or services that may be fulfilled through other agencies.

"We're giving people back a moment of pride, dignity and pleasure at a time when they've been devastated financially, emotionally, and have probably a sense of loss about work and their abilities," Scott said.

Right now, AASPIN's primary need is money. "That's the hardest thing," Scott said, "asking people for money." But with the help of the Flirtations concert, AASPIN hopes to begin solving that problem. Their Board of Directors also hopes to get more volunteers and start asking for wishes.

If he could, Kubera would fill a wish of his own: that his partner could see the growth of the group he inspired.

Larson, 36, died last February. For complete information on the Flirtations' Concert, see the ad in this issue.

For more information about AASPIN, about volunteering or about how to make a tax-free donation, call or write: (608) 273-4501; AASPIN Foundation, c/o Sue Scott, 2828 Marshall Court, Suite 210, Madison, WI 53705.

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WSA Community Pharmacy.....341 State St.  
Forbes-Meagher Music Center.....6301 Odana Rd.  
Tickets are \$12.00 in advance \$14.00 at the Door

All Proceeds Go To The AASPIN Foundation

## Excitement For The April 25 March On Washington Growing Across USA

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- "Because of the epidemic of hate violence; because of the discrimination we endure every day, using services or finding a place to live; because of the expulsion of Lesbian and Gay military service personnel; and because the response to the AIDS crisis continues to be a plague of bigotry, we will march." So says a pamphlet issued by the national office of the March On Washington (MOW) and they are right. The Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual community and their supporters and allies are planning on going to the March for the weekend of April 23-25, 1993.

Into our office here at the paper come nearly 50 Lesbian/Gay publications every week. They come from all over the country and each reports a swelling enthusiasm for going to D.C. and joining the March.

The March is being billed as "the greatest civil rights march in history" and if what we hear and read is true, it is certainly going to be that. Previous prognostications pegged the estimated crowd at one million. Now, just this past week, as more and more people say they'll be going, the figure stands now at a million, five.

### Supporters and Allies

In a historic move, leaders of the Gay, Lesbian, women's rights and religious communities were joined on February 25 by the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization in supporting the march and its aims. The vote to support by the NAACP's Board of Directors was unanimous.

"The endorsement marks the beginning of a new and very important coalition," said Dr. William Gibson, Chair of the NAACP Board. "The NAACP supports efforts to end discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians in areas of American life where all citizens deserve equal protection and equal opportunity under the law. The NAACP endorses and will participate in this historic national march."

Joining with the NAACP in support of the march for equal rights is the 1.6 million member United Church of Christ. The Rev. Jay Lintner, director of the church's Washington office announced the denomination's decision at a press conference on February 25.

"The civil rights coalition that passed critical legislation in the 1960's to end racial discrimination is now assembling to pass similar legislation," Lintner said. "We put all bigots, especially religious bigots, on notice. It is time to change your ways. It is time to quit using the Bible as a book of hate."

### March Activities

The March "weekend" opens Wednesday, April 22 when a federal legislative briefing will be held for activists who plan to lobby their legislators while in town. The briefing will

is sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) as well as MOW. Lobby Days when office visits will be scheduled Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23 and Monday and Tuesday, April 26 and 27.

In addition to Lobby Days, NGLTF will sponsor letter writing events for those in D.C. just for the weekend and expert briefing sessions with Congressional and federal staff members.

Other events include a Fight The Right Town Meeting to be held at the Washington Hilton, Saturday, April 24 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

To climax the day, there will be a Gay Rites Dance at the Washington Hilton, beginning at 9:00 p.m. and going to 4:00 a.m. Tickets are \$25.

### Protests

On Saturday, April 24, ACT UP/DC will host "Hands Around the Capitol," scheduled to begin at noon.

Staffers from the House and Senate Appropriation Committees have said Congress no longer considers AIDS a spending priority. Hands Around the Capitol will serve as a message of urgency to the legislators.

ACT UP/DC is calling on groups and individuals from around the country to join the non-violent protest by adopting sections of the sidewalk. Civil disobedience and arrests will not be part of the action. To indicate participation, call Bryan Barr at (202) 667-8193 or ACT UP/DC coordinators at (202) 328-2437.

In another protest, Gays and Lesbians from D.C., Georgia and New York are calling on activists from around the country to extend the March to Monday, April 26. The activists plan to march on the Pentagon to demand rescission of the military's discriminatory ban on Gays and Lesbians. More information will be available as plans develop.

### Wisconsin and the March

The Upper Midwest Delegation of which Wisconsin is a member, will sponsor a Hospitality Suite at a centrally located hotel (yet to be determined) from Thursday, April 22 through Sunday, April 25.

For updated information, call the Twin Cities Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council at: 1-800-800-0350 (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 1-800-800-0907 (4:00 p.m. to Midnight).

Accommodations in D.C. and the vicinity are scarce and getting moreso. For information on hotels, call Derek Livingston at (401) 621-5339. For Community Housing, call Billy Hileman at (202) 628-0493.

Wisconsin Light will be devoting increasing space to the March and the activities surrounding it in the next few issues. Watch for it! If you need specific information, or a specific number, call Light at (414) 372-2773.

## BestD Clinic Hosts Meeting For Partners Of HIV Support Group

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) will offer a seven-week wellness series entitled **Maintaining a Healthy Outlook: A How-To Course in Wellness**. The course, which will meet each Tuesday from March 30th to May 11th at 6:30 p.m., is designed to teach HIV-positive individuals the skills to take charge of their physical and mental health.

The first two sessions will teach the fundamental skills of relaxing the mind and body. After fully grasping those basic skills, the participants will learn about dealing with "negative" emotions like anger, fear and grief; how to use imagery and visualization to support their health; how to tolerate and lessen pain. In the last session, participants will bring together all the skills into a workable whole.

### Art Therapy

In order to help people living with AIDS and HIV, MASN has developed an on-going **Art Therapy Group** which meets each Monday night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Group is open, free and available to people from South Central Wisconsin.

Group leader and Certified Art Therapist Laurie Ellen Neustadt stresses the group is for all HIV infected individuals who want to discover a different way of exploring feelings and ideas. "You don't need to know how to draw or need any art experience. All any person needs is a desire or curiosity to try something new," Neustadt said.

Those interested in either the Wellness Series or in the Art Therapy Group can

phone MASN for more information. The numbers are: 1-800-486-6276 or (608) 238-6276.

## And MASN In Madison Offers Similar Group

[Milwaukee]- BestD Clinic will host the first gathering of Partners and Lovers of HIV+ Men on Wednesday, March 31st at 7 P.M. This informal gathering will meet on the second floor of the Clinic at 1240 East Brady Street at Arlington Place. Ross Walker, president of BestD will host and facilitate this initial meeting.

The main purpose of the first gathering will be to gather a group consensus of the frequency, meeting times, format and resources which BestD can provide. The participants will also determine whether the group should be self-contained or facilitated by an outside professional.

Walker reported that there have been a number of inquiries expressing interest in this resource for partners and lovers of HIV+ men since the article in the last issue of **The Light**. He restated BestD's interest in providing the space, resources and support for the group to determine it's own format and structure.

Any lover or partner of a Gay HIV+ man is invited and encouraged to attend this first meeting at the clinic. Those attending are asked to use the East Side entrance of the building.

## TEEN TALK- Drug Dealer Dad Kicks Gay Son Out On To The Street

By Jose Delgado

I want to thank everyone for taking the time to read my last article. The response was very positive and got me in the writing mood again. I've been through a lot lately, so I haven't really had time to write.

My Dad's girlfriend got a little snoopy in my room and found the article that I was writing for the last issue. I mentioned something about my Dad being a drug dealer and when he got hold of it, he blew his top! He didn't understand that I was writing with a pen name and no one knew who I was.

He said he didn't go around telling everyone that I was "a faggot," so I shouldn't talk about him.

We argued for awhile about me using drugs and some money problems. Then, he decided he didn't want me living in his house anymore. He told me that I was 18 and old enough to live on my own. So, I grabbed some clothes and was outta there in a couple of minutes.

I stayed with friend after friend, but I got tired of that. Then, I thought up the crazy idea that I wanted to drive to California and hang out on the beach. I took all my money out of the bank and bought a road atlas. I stopped by my house when no one was home to get as much stuff as I could. I made sure to tell no one where I was going.

So, I started on my way. I stopped in Chicago for awhile, but I couldn't find any parking, so I didn't stay too long. While I was driving along I-80 through Illinois, I saw a sign for a town near where my mother lives. I hadn't seen her for about 8 years, so I got off at the next exit.

I really surprised her and she barely recognized me. I spent the night at her house and didn't tell her where I was headed. I left around noon the next day and was in Iowa that night.

I didn't estimate the distance or my money correctly, so I couldn't eat because all the money had to go for gas. I had to drive through a blizzard in Nevada. After I practically froze to death sleeping in my car, I started on my way again.

I didn't get much further when a cop pulled me over for speeding. He only gave me a warning.

I was about six miles from the Wyoming border when my car broke down. I hitched a ride to the next town, but I didn't have enough money for a tow truck, so I tried to sell my car for money to take the bus the rest of the way. I didn't get far on that idea because I didn't have the title to the car, so I was in real deep #\*!?

I'll tell you the rest of the story next issue.

I'm basically telling you about what I'm going through so you know you're not the only Gay teen alive. I can remember when I wasn't sure who I was. But after I had girls and guys, I knew which one I liked better.

If anyone would like to talk to someone, Mike Lisowski said I could give out his number. He lives in Milwaukee. His number is (414) 265-8500. He runs the Gay teen group at the library. The meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month in the first floor meeting room at 1:00 p.m. All Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual teens are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to write me at P.O. Box 85151, Racine, WI 53408.

Thanks for your time and remember, protect yourself at all times!! See ya next issue. PEACE.

## Couples To Be Honored At Mass Wedding

[Los Angeles, CA]- American's longest-term Lesbian, Gay and Bi couples will be honored at The Wedding, a massive ceremony of commitment to be held April 24, 1993, as part of The March On Washington.

The Rev. Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), will conduct The Wedding at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 24. He expects The Wedding to set a world record as the largest ceremony of its kind ever held, with at least 4,000 Gay, Lesbian and Bi couples exchanging vows. The Wedding will be non-sectarian and is open to all Lesbian, Gay and Bi couples and their friends.

Rev. Perry also helped officiate at The Wedding of nearly 1,000 couples at the March on Washington in 1987.

Rev. Perry announced on December 14, 1992, that UFMCC is launching a nation-wide search for the three couples (Lesbian, Gay and Bi) who have stayed together the longest. UFMCC will give all three couples a free round-trip ticket to Washington to attend the ceremony. The three couples will be introduced at The Wedding.

Rev. Perry requests that all couples who believe that their relationship may be one of the oldest in the United States, to write to: Rev. Troy Perry, UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

### Organizations

**Volunteers & Ideas Needed** Hurricane Productions Womyn's Music & Culture, P.O. Box 71268, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

**National Gay Pilot's Assoc.** 703-660-3852.

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

### Personals-Men

**Out-of-state businessman**, mature, but not fat, repellent or gross, quiet-natured, seeks narrow-waisted, pleasant college/grad school-age companion for up-scale dining, shopping, whatever — for weekend of April 2. If mutually agreeable more extensive travel in U.S. discussible later. Please tell about yourself, likes and dislikes, etc. Write to: Wisconsin Light, Box 148, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

### Real Estate

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#### 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.

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## Compromise Proposals To Colorado Amendment 2 on Drawing Board

[Denver, CO]- In order to counter Amendment 2, two compromise proposals are being offered in Colorado. One is the work of Marshall Kaplan, Dean of the University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs and Rep. Sam Williams (D-Breckenridge).

The Kaplan-Williams' proposal would bar discrimination by employers for any activity that is legal and done outside the workplace. It would also prohibit the granting of "protected status" to Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals.

In public accommodations and housing, the proposal, according to Kaplan, would return home rule standing to the cities such as Denver, Boulder and Aspen, which had Gay rights ordinances before the passage of Amendment 2.

At a press conference last month, Williams said that the bill was designed to appeal to "most Coloradans who don't want to discriminate, but also don't want

special rights for any group."

A similar compromise measure is being proposed by Greg Walta of Colorado Springs as a citizen-initiated measure. Williams said that he saw the two measures as complimentary, not in competition with each other.

Williams said that he doesn't think both will make the ballot. The Walta proposal would need nearly 50,000 signatures while the Kaplan-Williams bill would need two-thirds votes in both the House and Senate.

Another bill currently before the State Senate is that introduced by State Sen. Regis Groff (D-Denver), which seeks an outright repeal of Amendment 2.

The Groff proposal has been put on the back burner, pending court action, as has Amendment 2 itself. Williams' proposal will probably go there too, when he introduces it.

In a statement released to the press

from the Board of Directors of Boycott Colorado, Inc., the organization that it was its position that the alleged "extortion attempt" against Celestial Seasonings by New York Boycott Colorado (NYBC) was "unsubstantiated and a distortion of the truth."

The situation arose when NYBC decided to hold a Boston Tea Party in New York harbor, dumping boxes of Celestial Tea into the "murky waters of local indignation" as was reported in *Newsday*. Those plans were scrapped when Mo Siegel met with NYBC's leaders in New York City on February 3, 1993.

Upon his return to Colorado, the local press interviewed Siegel and reported that NYBC had tried to extort \$100,000 from Siegel as its price for exemption from the boycott. That, said *Newsday* reporter Gabriel Rotello, prompted a Denver "media frenzy."

The problem is, Rotello said, "It never happened."

Rotello, who interviewed both Siegel and Mary Mulry, a Celestial Seasonings V.P., reported that Mulry, who was at the meeting between NYBC and Siegel, said

"There was no discussion of extortion." Siegel confirmed Mulry's version of events.

"Throwing around the terms 'extortion' and 'blackmail' seems to be standard practice in Colorado, where such words are used routinely to discredit the national boycott," said Rotello.

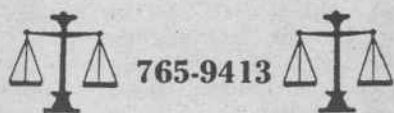
Rotello added, "Many observers say that Amendment 2 was approved because the local press had not carefully explained its implications to voters."

## Call Colorado For Business Friends

[Denver, CO]-Gay and Lesbian consumers can now call 1-800-GAY SPOTS (1-800-442-9776) to find businesses and services in Colorado which are Gay and Gay-friendly. The 800 number is sponsored by Gay Spots, a Gay directory assistance network encouraging the national Gay community to do business with Gay and Gay-friendly businesses in Colorado as much as possible.

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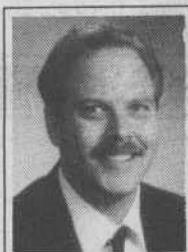
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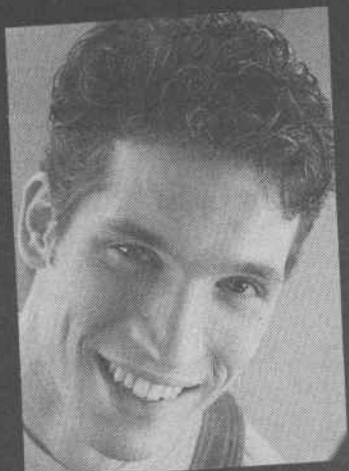
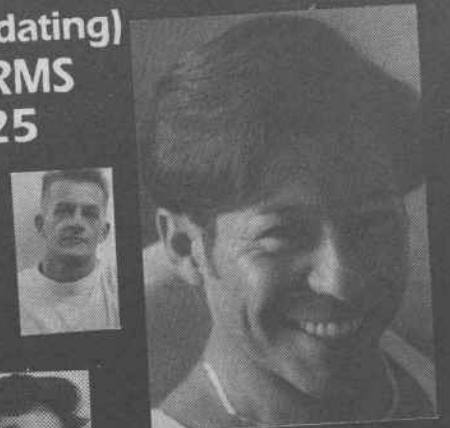
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# Religious Right Will Destroy Itself As Items Are Added to Its Agenda

Commentary By Scott Evertz

I know it's tempting to fight them. I understand how difficult it is to let their bigoted, ignorant comments go unchallenged. And I realize how maddening it can be to see Operation Rescue, an organization claiming to be solely interested in saving unborn children, take a position on President Clinton's attempts to lift the ban on Gays and Lesbians in the military. But I believe if we resist the temptation to confront them and allow them to continue to add issues to their agenda, the religious right will destroy themselves.

As they add new issues to their agenda, they alienate yet another segment of the American population and the absurdity of their "movement" becomes clearer and clearer to mainstream America. They've recently alienated a straight, white, Republican, heterosexual, married Christian friend of mine, and he is now seeking the advice of his Gay friend to defeat them.

About three weeks ago, my friend, who is in charge of a rather large Christian school system, contacted me because a number of the members of the denomination whose schools he runs felt that his educational reforms were nothing short of a Communist plot to weaken young American minds. They have suggested that the educational reforms he

is proposing will cause young peoples' minds to turn to mush and surely encourage them to discard any values that they previously had.

### From Environmentalism to Rocks

Knowing my friend as I do, this is most certainly the last thing he would want to do, but some gurus of the Christian right at the national level have proclaimed the reforms of the type which my friend is proposing as the end of academic education in America.

This new approach to education, they claim, would do horrific things to our young people, such as helping them to learn to accept alternative lifestyles, such as homosexuality. And if that weren't bad enough, there will be a focus on environmentalism in the curriculum. Environmentalism, they assert, is just another way to introduce children to birth control and to teach them to worship rocks and birds.

I know these assertions sound crazy, but that's good. The crazier the religious right sounds, the more followers they will lose. Local representatives of the religious right are going after my friend — a conservative Christian — claiming, in essence, that he is bent on replacing traditional courses such as math and history with sexual and environmental indoctrination. The gurus of the right have spoken so my friend, while

well-meaning, must have become possessed of the devil or the spirit of Lenin.

### A Flawed Philosophical Approach

It's quite obvious to me that every time the religious right adds something to their agenda to which they are opposed, they alienate yet another segment of the population while adding no one to their ranks. They have, in fact, lost my friend, an ally of the right for years, because of their crazy attacks on his educational reforms. They have caused a new alliance to form between me and my friend.

While their crazy assertions regarding educational reforms or those made regarding the sexual practices of homosexuals during recent debates in Colorado cause them to alienate their fellow Americans a few at a time, the religious right suffers from a flawed philosophical approach that will most certainly cause them to ultimately fail.

The religious right will most certainly fail in their twisted plan to evangelize America because their agenda is filled with things about which they are **against**. They are not for much of anything. George Bush's 1992 presidential campaign failed for much the same reason. It was quite difficult to understand what George Bush was for. It was quite clear to see what he was against.

### The Need For A Positive Message

Great American leaders and great American political movements have always had a forward thinking, positive message even in the face of incredible adversity.

Although he was opposed to slavery, as a nation we remember Abraham Lincoln as a man who promoted freedom and rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was opposed to segregation and discrimination, but we remember him as a man with an incredible dream of a promised land.

The Gay community must be careful to craft its message in a positive way that speaks to true traditional American values such as those articulated so well in our Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. We must not fall into the same trap as the religious right and those other movements which have died and those individuals who we never remember because their messages were not messages of hope, but of despair.

### Pat Buchanan, Good For Gays

As frustrating as it was to have to listen to Pat Buchanan call for a "holy way" and his pronouncements of doom and gloom at last Summer's Republican National Convention, his rhetoric probably did more good for our movement than bad.

He has, in fact, made it easier for Gay Republicans to make positive gains in the GOP as he has created new friends for us. Fair minded individuals who never really knew how homophobic the right wing of the GOP could be, now know because of Mr. Buchanan and they don't like what they see.

Let the Buchananites speak and expose themselves for what they are — negative bigots who will surely die unhappy; never having known the true beauty of our country. We know we are the true patriots for we know what America is all about.

But let us remember not to be **against** them, but to be **for** us. If we ask for the same liberties as any other Americans with respect and conviction because we are just like any other Americans, we will most surely, ultimately, succeed.

# La Crosse Is A City of Private Networks With Gays Everywhere

Commentary By Darren J. Foster

In my initial column from La Crosse, I indicated that future columns would include views of the La Crosse Gay scene. To that end, I will begin with a brief overview of "what's happening" in our western Wisconsin city for Gays.

The Gay community of La Crosse is basically a "community" of private networks. Many of these networks are, in fact, cliques which are almost impossible to penetrate; and because of my personal opposition to "outing" (unless you, as a Gay person are also an avowed enemy of the Gay community), I will not mention specific people by name.

These groups include elite businessmen with connections to the La Crosse performing arts community; doctors and other health care professionals at both of the city's hospitals; educators at all three institutions of higher learning; and men who privately enjoy the leather/SM arts which I will address in a future column.

Again, it is all but impossible to penetrate some of these networks, though for me, a student and leatherman, I have greatly appreciated my friendships and associations with those who are in higher education and those who appreciate the practice of the SM arts and leather sexuality.

### La Crosse Needs the "Vision Thing"

To say that some of these networks are exclusive is not to pass judgment on the people who make them up. It is just a reality for Gays in La Crosse who are just coming out or who want to come out, but don't want to endure this process alone. La Crosse's "Gay nets" would do well to become more inclusive and less exclusive.

While George Bush denigrated what he called "the vision thing," we as a community — in La Crosse and elsewhere — must become a visionary people.

### Three Cheers For Gunderson

To accomplish our own need to focus on a vision in La Crosse and greater Wisconsin, allow me to offer the following suggestions.

First, Gays in positions of leadership must become a more welcoming people.

Second, Gays must show a greater responsibility and respect for themselves and for our society by ceasing "in your face" confrontations and by investing in our individual and corporate future through education, career development and business and entrepreneurial ventures.

And to La Crosse and those "PC" fascists in Queer Nation/ACT UP — Michael Petrelis and his "political cleansing groupies" — I say, "Come on folks, let's stand up for U.S. Representative Steve Gunderson!"

Rep. Gunderson has demonstrated a consistent commitment to human rights, to fiscal responsibility and to bringing the GOP back to the political center where the Party of Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and Ike belongs.

Gunderson, throughout the 12 years of Reagan-Bush and into the Clinton era, has also proven to be an independent voice within the Republican Party. He is greatly respected in La Crosse by the broad spectrum of the community.

Finally, the Congressman from Wisconsin's Third District has a 100% voting record on issues of concern to our community — this, according to the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington.

These suggestions are by no means exhaustive, but they are lessons that the Gay community would, I think, do well to learn. If we are ever to be a true community, we must seek the empowerment that will only come by way of a clear focus on who we are, what we are seeking, and what role we hope to play as members of American society.

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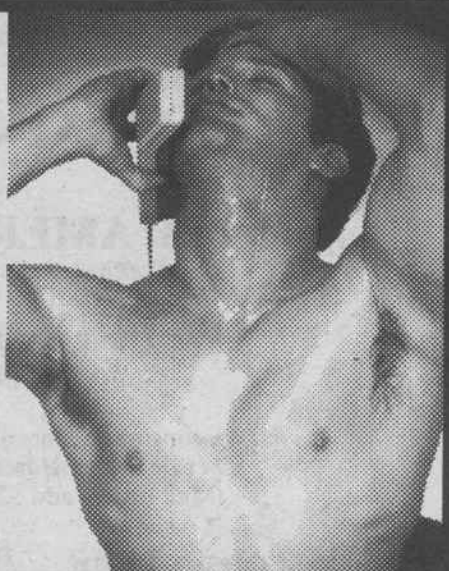
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