



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

The Wisconsin Light

\$3,425,000 Grant Awarded for Inner City AIDS Study to Medical College

[Milwaukee]- The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has been awarded a \$3,425,000 grant to expand its research program evaluating AIDS/HIV prevention approaches among vulnerable inner city communities. The grant, from the National Institute of Mental Health, will fund a new research program to evaluate ways to mobilize women living in low-income public housing against AIDS.

Psychologist Jeffrey A. Kelly, Professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences, Director of MCW's Community Health Behavior Programs and one of the nation's leading AIDS prevention researchers, is principal investigator for the study. Kathleen Sikkema, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences at MCW is co-investigator.

Denise Crumble, former Executive Director of Milwaukee's Inner City Arts Council and a project coordinator for the MCW Community Health Behavior Program, will coordinate AIDS educational activities in Milwaukee public housing developments participating in the study as project coordinator.

"AIDS is now the fifth leading cause of death among adult American women under the age of 45," Dr. Kelly said. "The rate of new HIV infections is increasing more quickly among American women than any other community segment, and most new HIV infections in women are now due to sexual contact. It is essential that we quickly develop effective larger-scale AIDS prevention strategies which reach inner city women because they are most vulnerable to the disease."



JEFFREY A. KELLY, PH.D.

The new research will test an intervention that identifies and organizes small groups of influential and popular women who live in public housing developments to become experts on AIDS; to educate their friends, neighbors and family members about the disease and to encourage others to take steps to prevent AIDS.

"In our past work, we have found that people already known and trusted can have an impact on the AIDS attitudes and behavior of their friends," Dr. Kelly said.

"To the extent that a key group of influential women take on the role of serving as AIDS educators and talking with friends and neighbors to endorse behavior changes, they can help others to protect themselves against this disease. Our research will try to set in motion a process in which neighborhoods are given resources and supports to mobilize a friends-educating-friends approach to AIDS prevention," Dr. Kelly said.

The study, directed by MCW, will be focused on women living in public housing project in Milwaukee as well as in Seattle, Cleveland, Rochester, New York and Roanoke, Virginia.

"The scope of the work will be large
TURN TO MEDICAL COLLEGE, PAGE 8

Mixner: 'Our Civil Rights Movement Has Very Serious Political Power'

Mixner Played a Huge Role in Forging an Alliance Between the White House and the Gay Community



NEAR DISASTER— A fire destroyed the rear, second floor of the 1100 Club, 1100 S. First St., Milwaukee on November 2, 1993. The fire was discovered about 6:30 a.m. as customers were eating breakfast in the bar. Because of water damage, the bars kitchen had to close temporarily although the bar portion reopened later in the day. The worst damage occurred in an area that had been added to the original building decades ago. Built in the 1800's the building originally served as a hotel. The upstairs was being remodeled at the time of the fire.

Resurgence in 'Therapies' Puts Gay and Lesbian Youth at Risk

By Tom Flint

Recent investigations show Gay and Lesbian teenagers are being institutionalized in psychiatric treatment facilities across the U.S. for "gender identity dysfunction" with such behavioral modification techniques as isolation, drugging and electro-shock — all in an effort to make them straight.

These new findings by the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) may come as a horrible discovery to Gay and Lesbian activists who imagined the era of "curing" Gays had ended in 1973 when the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses.

Since 1980, the number of teenagers institutionalized in psychiatric treatment facilities has doubled, largely due to practices of insurance agencies who prefer inpatient treatment. Homophobic parents seeking to have their son or daughter "cured" of homosexuality through institutionalization are adding to the trend.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights has initiated a two-year project to explore the dimensions of the problem, and to challenge unethical practices through legal action.

Public Speaks to Support and Oppose Keeping 'Light' in Hales Corners

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]- The Wisconsin Light poses a danger to children and should not be distributed free in the Hales Corners Public Library, according to 11 people who addressed a library committee Nov. 10.

Two others disagree. "The library is for everybody, not just for religious conservatives," said Beverly Schualler. She asked what might be banned from the library next.

The Library Review Committee, formed after a complaint about the newspaper, took public comments at its Nov. 10 meeting as part of its deliberations. The five-member committee must decide whether the newspaper should stay in the lobby pamphlet rack, be placed somewhere else in the library or be replaced by a different Gay and Lesbian

Reorientation Therapies

The re-orientation therapies take a variety of forms aimed at behavior modification, including hypnosis, counseling, visualization, and escalating to drug therapies and the plethysmograph.

The plethysmograph is an instrument that attaches to the genitals of a male, or is inserted into the vagina of a female, and measures sexual response. The therapist will punish inappropriate response with aversion therapies such as nauseating chemicals, or electro-shock.

A report issued by NCLR states, "Gay youth have become a target for a growing industry of facilities and practitioners who are aggressively marketing behavior modification programs to parents, schools and juvenile courts."

Shannon Minter, an attorney who heads up NCLR's investigation said she was originally skeptical about reports from Gay and Lesbian youth telling of experiences being drugged while therapists attempted to "de-Gay" them with aversion therapy.

Minter no longer doubts that the stories are true.

TURN TO YOUTH, PAGE 8



DAVID MIXNER

AIDS issues) has been weak and indecisive. We have to kick ass.

WL: Have you spoken with the President?

DM: I have not spoken with the President directly since July 31 (after being arrested in front of the White House). I have had numerous discussions with people in the White House, looking for a way to get back on track, especially on AIDS. There is no common ground on the military.

WL: Let me press you. How do you read the President?

DM: It's been a great disappointment, but what he's doing in the federal judiciary will reap benefits for us for years to come. We can walk now directly into the White House. So it's a mixed bag.

We have a President who we can reach on many of our issues, but it's not going to be easy. We must give him courage and the way to do that is to give him no options. And we will remove all options by being the best organized, best funded civil rights movement since the Blacks in the 1960's.

WL: What is your opinion of the Gay movement? Is there a movement?

DM: Absolutely! We have been viewed

TURN TO MIXNER, PAGE 8

NOTICE: Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the deadline for the next issue is Wed., Nov. 17 and ads Fri, Nov. 19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GALVANize Plans Meeting Nov. 21

[Madison]- GALVANize, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance, will hold its next monthly meeting on Sunday, Nov. 21 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Campus Center at UW-Madison, 336 W. Dayton. Call (608) 256-4289 for more information.

Pancake Breakfast Planned in Madison

[Milwaukee]-The Atwood Community Center in Madison, 2425 Atwood Ave., will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast for women on Sunday, Nov. 21 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The cost is a sliding fee of \$5 to \$3. Proceeds go towards future women's programming. Call (608) 241-1574 for more information.

Group Forming for Older People

[Milwaukee]- Announcing... the formation of a new group with an emphasis on older Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and cross gender persons. Ideally, the group will be intergenerational, with no age limits, but will focus on social events such as dances, trips, meetings on topics of interest to older people, as well as professional counseling and services to the homebound.

An initial organizational meeting will be held in the second floor banquet room of the M&M Club, 124 N. Water St. at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2, 1993.

All who are interested in this project are invited to attend to hear a report on the recent SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) conference in New York, see a short film titled *A Family Portrait* and begin the organizational process. For more information call (414) 271-0378 evenings or weekends.

ACT UP Plans Nov. 22 Meeting

[Milwaukee]- The November meeting of ACT UP Milwaukee will take place on Nov. 22, Monday, at All Saints Cathedral, 816 E. Juneau. All are invited to attend. ACT UP especially encourages old members who have drifted and dissatisfied members who have left to come to the meeting.

Ten Percent to Hold Dance Nov. 19

[Madison]- The Ten Percent Society of UW-Madison will be holding its Harvest Ball, Friday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, Memorial Union. The admission is \$3.

Theaters Plan AIDS Benefits

[Milwaukee]- On Thursday, Nov. 18, the Bay View Players will hold a Sneak Preview of *Kopit & Yeston's Phantom of the Opera — The Classic*. Suggested donation is \$8 for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. The performance will be in Bay View High School auditorium, 2751 S. Lennox. Call (414) 744-6267 or (414) 273-1991 for more information.

On Monday, Nov. 15, the Collision Theatre Ensemble will be holding a benefit performance of *Lonely Planet* for the Milwaukee AIDS Project at the New Broadway Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. Call (414) 481-8431 for tickets.

Reception Set for Rep. Leon Young

[Milwaukee]- On Monday, Nov. 15, there will be a reception for State Rep. Leon Young at the Brown Bottle Pub, located in Schlitz Park, 221 W. Galena Court. Hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments will be served. All individual donations will be gratefully accepted.

P-FLAG To Hold Meeting Nov. 21

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Chapter of P-FLAG will be holding its monthly meeting on November 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Kingo Lutheran Church, 1225 E. Olive St. in Shorewood. This meeting will be one of discussion, sharing and support. Also, with the holidays approaching, there will be discussion on how to make our Gay children and our Gay friends feel comfortable and part of the festivities.

Danceworks Plans Mixed Program

[Milwaukee]- Danceworks' program of ballet and modern dance will run from Nov. 18 through 21 and includes choreography by Yves de Bouteiller, Debra Loewen and Christine Stevens. For ticket information and reservations (recommended) call Danceworks at (414) 276-3191.

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'In the Life' TV Show Looks At Challenges Facing Gay Teens

[Milwaukee]- According to **Male Homosexuality: The Adolescent's Perspective**, half of Lesbian/Gay youth interviewed report that their parents rejected them due to their sexual orientation. The Hetrick-Martin Institute lists more than 170 organizations nationwide that deal with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth.

The national Gay and Lesbian Task Force's **Anti-Gay/Lesbian Victimization** study reports that 45% of Gay males and 20% of Lesbians experience verbal or physical assault in high school; 28% of these youths drop out because of anti-Gay harassment.

"School's OUT! — Lesbian and Gay Youth," the next episode of *In the Life*, airing on Channel 10 Thursday, November 18 at 11:30 p.m., examines these statistics as it presents an overview of the challenges facing Gay and Lesbian teenagers.

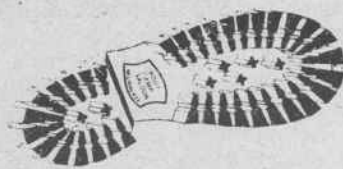
Performer Karen Williams hosts the program, which features interviews with administrators at New York City's Hetrick-Martin Institute, who talk about the bashing and harassment young homosexuals receive and the ground-breaking recreational programs and counseling now available to them.

Also featured are "peer educators" who work with high schoolers on issues of homophobia; a Gay teacher who speaks of the dilemmas facing Gay educators when they see Gay and Lesbian kids in need of emotional and spiritual support; performances and reminiscences by the Gay music duo Romanovsky and Phillips; and excerpts from films, videos and theatre pieces addressing the concerns of young Gays and Lesbians and their parents.

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Photography: David E. Cadle

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GAY & POSITIVE

Milwaukee Public School Teachers Learn About Gay/Lesbian Issues

[Milwaukee]- For the fourth time since 1989, a workshop dealing with Milwaukee Public Schools Gay/Lesbian and Bisexual youth was presented at the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association's 20th annual convention, held November 4-5 at the Grand Hotel.

The workshop, entitled "Breaking the Silence: Creating Change and Fostering Support for Gay and Lesbian Students," was presented by Michael S. Lisowski, Director of Gay Youth Milwaukee (GYM), along with a panel of two Gay and two Lesbian young adults who attend Milwaukee Public Schools and attend GYM meetings. They were: Matt, Brock, Lateasha and Jenny. All indicated that they were "out" at school. It was also their first time presenting at a workshop, especially with teachers present.

Although less than a dozen teachers attended the workshop on Friday afternoon (the last day of the convention), the interest and support of most of the participants was encouraging. While introducing themselves at the workshop's beginning, both the young adults and most of the teachers present mentioned that they were Gay or Lesbian, in addition to saying at which schools they taught.

Participants viewed the award-winning

video, **Sexual Orientation: Reading Between the Labels**, which was produced by Newist/Public Television at UW-Green Bay and funded in large part by the Cream City Foundation.

In addition to discussing the issues and problems that Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual teens face regularly in the schools, both Lisowski and the students offered practical suggestions as to how teachers and staff can support and help Gay and Bisexual teens.

Several of the students related how they "came out" and had to deal with insensitive and callous classmates and teachers alike. For some of the students on the panel, a supportive teacher was crucial in helping him/her cope and develop the self-esteem and courage needed to survive.

When asked what was the one thing that teachers could do to help Gay or Bisexual students, one panelist replied, "Just be there for us. Be supportive."

The participants applauded when one teacher congratulated the panel for their courage at being "out" in school and for providing the teachers insight and suggestions for working with them in school.

New Harvest Foundation Awards \$10,000 in Grants

[Madison]- The New Harvest Foundation awarded nearly \$10,000 in new grants to eleven organizations and programs to aid and advance the Gay and Lesbian community. In its 16th round of giving since 1985, the Foundation selected a wide array of causes for its financial backing.

These included varied support groups for teenagers, elderly men and women, and abused Lesbians. The Foundation also contributed to two women's centers, the 1994 Gay Games and the United's phone counseling service.

This cycle of awards, for the second half of 1993, brings the total gifts of New Harvest in its 8-year history to \$140,000. In June, the Foundation received requests for over \$28,000 in new funding, but was only able to provide one-third of that amount.

Support for Gay/Lesbian Teens

New Harvest renewed its strong financial backing for "Teens Like Us," a support group for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual high school teens begun in 1992.

A joint effort of two Madison social service agencies, Briarpatch and PICADA, "Teens Like Us" offers a safe setting for teenagers to meet and explore issues and gain reliable information about

their sexual orientation. They are enabled to share their experiences with their peers and also to meet positive role models in the community.

"Teens Like Us" meets weekly. The group is facilitated by PICADA staff persons and two Briarpatch volunteers (two Gay men and a Lesbian).

Because of the need for more social activities, part of New Harvest's 1993 grant of \$1,000 will go towards recreation, like bowling and movies. Funds will also be used to advertise "Teens Like Us" in high school newspapers and with posters in Metro buses.

A local dramatic voice plans to expand its repertoire to include a new script concerning AIDS awareness and education that is targeted for a teenage audience.

"Plays for Living" is a program of Family Services of Madison that produces half hour dramatic stage plays about critical family, community health and work related issues.

With a \$1,000 grant for the New Harvest Foundation, "Plays for Living" will introduce their new script concerning AIDS awareness and education and continue its successful run at area community centers and schools.

Viterbo College Newspaper Editor Resigns Amidst Furor

[La Crosse, WI]- Darren Foster, 26, a junior at Viterbo College majoring in pre-law and former columnist for **Wisconsin Light**, resigned in late October from his position as Editor of **The Lumen**, the college newspaper. Foster accused adviser Lyon Evans and publications board chairman Pat Kerrigan of censorship.

Foster, a Gay rights activist, said that Evans and Kerrigan had been putting pressure on him not to publish stories on Gay rights or other issues that might contradict Roman Catholic doctrine. Foster said Evans was "more an antagonist than an advisor."

Evans said that he considered Foster to be highly talented, but that the two had disagreed about Foster's "advocacy

journalism."

"I told Darren that advocacy journalism is an important part of the history of journalism," Evans said. "But it's not compatible with being the editor of a mainstream student newspaper."

Evans denied having censored Foster in "any way. If Darren resigned, it was of his own free will."

Foster said that the issue had come to a head when Evans advised him not to do a story getting comments from Viterbo's seven Army Reserve Officer Training Candidate about Gays in the military.

"My advisor, Patrick Kerrigan, viewed that as advancing the Gay agenda and they demanded that I not pursue that story," Foster said.

Men of All Colors Together Are Planning Holiday Celebration

[Milwaukee]- Men of All Colors Together (MACT) continues to grow as an organization. Plans are in the works for a holiday pot luck celebration celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. A date will be announced by December 1. Another meeting on the issue of racism in the Gay community has been scheduled with the goal of developing a solution-based plan of action.

Membership fees and information are now available. Single yearly membership is \$30 or \$25 if two or more people join from the same household. There will be ten partial membership scholarships available during the next year.

A partial membership costs \$15. These are awarded on a first-come-first-served

basis. A membership plan is available. Membership includes all newsletters, confidential membership mailing list, activity announcements and membership in the National Association of Black and White Men Together.

For individuals not quite ready to join the organization, all newsletters and activity announcements can be had for a fee of \$10 per year.

The next MACT business meeting has been scheduled for November 21, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway. Light refreshments will be served. For information about MACT contact Veral at (414) 347-0580 or Dave at (414) 527-4296.

School Board Upset Over ACT UP Actions

[Milwaukee]- In an update to a previous story concerning ACT UP Milwaukee's distribution of condoms and AIDS prevention literature at the schools, on Tuesday, November 2, 1993, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors passed a resolution requesting the city and/or state legislators to restrict materials distributed to students outside schools or school events.

School Board member Christine Sinicki introduced the resolution about ACT UP's presence at the Bay View Homecoming dance in October.

That evening, Sinicki had arrived and spoken with ACT UP members outside the dance, strongly protesting the distribution of the AIDS prevention and education materials.

In her resolution, Sinicki said that the educational materials "use direct language, graphic cartoons and slang to convey their message."

The resolution further states that parents and "some young people" find the language offensive.

In its current newsletter, ACT UP responded by saying that the language was written for the young people, not the parents; that it was the language that young people use or are used to hearing.

ACT UP further stated that "When we hand out condoms, it's not to say, 'Go on kids, have sex.' Our material plainly states that if you don't want to have sex, that's okay. But if you do, that's okay too. It is your body and it is ultimately your own personal decision. But we are going to tell you what's safe and what's not."

ACT UP went on to remind parents that their children are not "children," but "young adults with much more decision making ability and intelligence than adults give them (credit for)."

"Give the kids some credit. If they're not having sex, they won't start because they read about it. And if they are having sex, they won't stop because parents, teachers or anyone else, tells them to," ACT UP said.

ACT UP says that it will continue its distribution at proms in the Spring.

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Institutional Member



New Political Groups Help Move States Gay Rights Movement Ahead

Commentary By State Rep. Tim Carpenter

Times — they are a changing. The Wisconsin Gay and Lesbian community's political inactivity is slowly waning. Unfortunately, it is in reaction to the Religious Right's rising social intolerance and hatred.

As a fifth term State Legislator, it is encouraging to witness a historic civil rights movement as it organizes, grows and matures. Gays and Lesbians are starting to better exercise their Constitutional rights to speak out freely and raise concerns to their government. They neither want nor deserve to be treated as second class citizens — subjected to hatred, bigotry and discrimination.

Three New Groups: The Victory Fund

Three separate political groups, all with similar goals, have recently been organized here in Wisconsin as vehicles for social change and advancement for Gays and Lesbians.

First, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund assists openly Gay and Lesbian candidates running for public office with necessary organizational and financial support. It is vital for a flourishing democratic process that Gays and Lesbians become elected officials. Our society and government both work best when they are inclusive.

On Sunday, November 21, 1993, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Skylight Theatre, Wisconsin's Victory Fund will hold its first public fundraising event. Victory Fund contributions are one of the main reasons more and more Gay and Lesbian candidates are waging successful campaigns all across the country.

Human Rights League

Second, the Greater Milwaukee Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays is a local organization with written by-laws and a mission statement. Public education, lobbying for Lesbian and Gay issues, and election support of Lesbian and Gay candidates (as well as candidates supportive of human rights issues) are some of the activities the organization plans to undertake.

Log Cabin

Third, a local chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans have organized to advance Gay and Lesbian issues within the Republican Party. After the hateful and mean-spirited statements made by the Religious Right at the 1992 Republican National Convention, the Log Cabin Republicans are a welcome breath of fresh air. They are active in meeting with elected officials, lobbying on behalf of Gay and Lesbian issues and helping to elect supportive candidates.

LETTERS

Police Entrapment

TO THE EDITOR:

I appreciated your editorial in the October 28th edition of the Wisconsin Light about the problem of police entrapment. I agree that we must all work together to reduce the incidence of harassment, whether from the police or other public agencies.

What you fail to include in your statement of righteous indignation, however, is any mention of the social or interpersonal problems of Gay men reflected in the need some members of our community have for seeking anonymous sexual activity in public places. This is not to suggest that the victims of police entrapment are to blame, rather, it is to suggest that we as a community of Gay men and Lesbian women need to work together to support the healthy socialization of our brothers and sisters in a heterosexist and often hostile world.

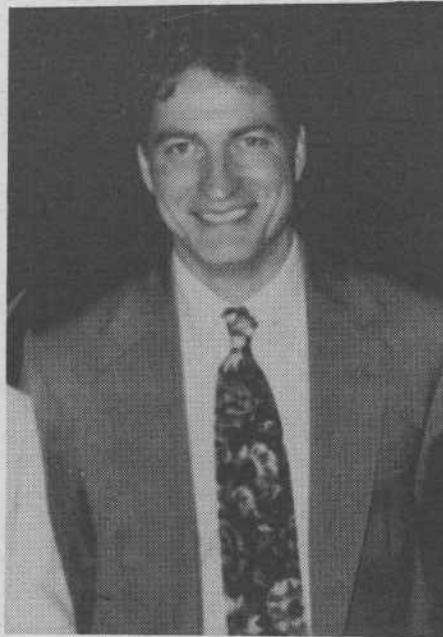
I am also not suggesting that anonymous or any other sexual activity between consenting adults is the question here. The real question, I believe, is that we need to address the effects of anti-Gay prejudice on Gay people, and the behaviors we exhibit that either reflect such prejudice or support it.

Why do so many people seek sex in public places? Is it a question of a limited self-definition as a Gay person? What moves someone to take the risk of having sex in a park with a stranger? Are there not other opportunities for Gay men to fully express their sexuality and lives, less furtively and more openly?

I believe you do the community a disservice by staunchly defending our right to have sex in parks without giving serious consideration to the broader issues of how we are socialized as Gay persons. Where is the invitation to dialogue about these issues?

I condemn police entrapment because it is above all, unfair, and humiliates its victims for the sole purpose of reassuring the heterosexual world that those dangerous Queers are being stopped. The media event that this sort of entrapment always becomes reaffirms what most people believe about us: that we are oversexed, perverted, careless, unstable and dangerous to the public safety.

I suggest, however, that you balance your condemnation of entrapment with the invitation



REP. TIM CARPENTER

All three of these politically oriented groups can play an active and important role in addressing the needs and advancing the goals of the Gay and Lesbian community in Wisconsin. All they need is your support.

Proudly Wisconsin

We should be proud Wisconsin was the first state in the nation, in 1982, to enact anti-discrimination laws for Gays and Lesbians in employment, housing and accommodations. We should be proud Wisconsin has strong anti-discrimination and confidentiality laws to protect our citizens living with HIV/AIDS and provide them with adequate health care and support services.

We should be proud Wisconsin has its first openly Lesbian member of the Legislature, State Representative Tammy Baldwin of Madison. Tammy is a positive role model, dispels old stereotypes and demonstrates Lesbians and Gays can be effective, honest and competent elected public servants.

Yet, all these things we should be proud of do not come without a price. They were achieved with a strong commitment to civil and human rights backed up with hard work and dedication. It is time for all of us to act in whatever capacity we personally feel comfortable with to continue for the cause of human rights for all Americans.

Times — they are a changing and slowly, for the better.

Editor's Note: The author is Speaker Pro Tem of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

to Gay men to begin talking about their experiences. My hope is that we will be able to live our lives freely, openly and proudly as Gay men, and not have to resort to sex in parks as the only way to give and receive affection.

— Richard Beaudoin
Shorewood

Holocaust Museum

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Dr. Boughner,
I was given a copy of your letter in late May just a short time before I underwent surgery. I am sorry that I have not been able to respond until now.

I am very interested to communicate with you about your oral history material on homosexual men who were persecuted under Paragraph 175. One of our consultants is Dr. Klaus Meuller, an openly Gay scholar who has been advising us on the persecution of homosexual men and Lesbians under National Socialism.

We are arranging for him to interview some Gay survivors of National Socialism and would very much like to be able to house the material you've collected in our archives at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

If I may, I am sorry about the incident you described in your visit to the Museum. It is clear that oppression doesn't always teach people to be sensitive — indeed, it often functions in quite a different way.

Also, let me assure you that we are changing the language of "sexual preference" to "sexual orientation," although I am not sure I agree with your short version of the reason to do so. Probably, in the end, neither the term "preference" nor "orientation" is accurate; both are rather superficial terms for such complexities whether one is homosexual, Lesbian, Bisexual, heterosexual, or asexual. But now I have gone on too long.

Please be in touch on the matter of the oral histories. I am most interested.

— Joan Ringelheim, Ph.D., Director, Oral History Department, U.S. Holocaust Museum
Washington, D.C.

Anti-Colorado

TO THE EDITOR:

I live in a small, somewhat backward community and hate spending my hard earned money in local pro-Amendment 2 establishments. I have found a way to get many of the items that I need by saving what are known as "Proof of Purchase" seals found on almost all food containers.

I need help, however, in collecting enough of these to get the amount of merchandise I need. I wonder if your readers might help me.

The Proofs of Purchase that I need are: Betty Crocker "Bonus" points (found on all General Mills/Betty Crocker/Nature Valley food products; Land 'O Lakes; Red Baron Pizza; Camel Cash (inserted into Camel cigarettes); Worth A Winston (on all Winston cigarettes).

Save whatever you can and mail them to me: Philip G. Spotts, P.O. Box 2416, Durango, CO 81302-2416. I'll be happy to return postage or send some "Boycott Colorado" decals in trade.

Since I am also a stamp collector, I'd be happy to trade stamps or we could set up a Proof of Purchase exchange.

— Philip G. Spotts
Durango, CO

The Dike Has Fallen In La Crosse

Commentary By Bill Steffenhagan

Not in a long time, perhaps never, had Gays and Lesbians been so much in the news in La Crosse. My spouse, Darren Foster, had gotten front-page coverage for his Gays-in-the-military protest vigil. Then, on October 3, we announced our marriage laws challenge. Two days later, Congressman Steve Gunderson made the front page with his valiant new political course.

So, I was excited as I attended the UW-La Crosse's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Concerns Task Force press conference and program to present its recommendations to the Chancellor on October 11, Coming Out Day. Red ribbons and Pink Triangles were everywhere in the assembly lounge. We were a very obvious presence.

Later, I lunched with members of the Task Force and special guest, Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison). Tammy's partner, Dayna, was there and I spoke with them about Tammy's efforts to build a statewide coalition/lobbying network that will work to develop grass roots influence.

At the lunch, the conversation fell upon that day's local front page story of a previous evening's Gunderson fundraiser Master of Ceremonies who backed out of the event in protest over Steve's recent decisions. Combine all this with our Tribune's excellent coverage of the national AP reports, and it is fair to say La Crosse has been blitzed!

The Far Right response? The usual religious tripe; very sporadic, weak, incoherent, "shell-shocked." Hey, Bill Meunier, they're running out of fingers! It appears that in La Crosse, the dike has collapsed.

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'No Holds Barred' Anti-Gay Campaigns Wagging Across U.S.

[Washington, D.C.] People For the American Way (PFAW) issued the most comprehensive report to date documenting the broad array of anti-Gay activity in states and localities across the nation. **Hostile Climate: A State-by-State Report on Anti-Gay Activity** reports on a wide range of incidents involving Gay and Lesbian rights, including statewide ballot initiative campaigns, state legislation, and conflicts waged before school boards, in city or county councils, local arts councils and the state courts.

"While national battles over Gay rights have captured the limelight, dozens of low-profile campaigns against basic civil rights for Gays and Lesbians have been proliferating at the local level. The spread of anti-Gay activity has reached a point where millions of Americans fear their most basic rights are being held hostage to hate politics," said PFAW President Arthur J. Kropp in releasing the report. "The Religious Right has moved quickly to tap a vein of intolerance that runs through many of America's communities."

Religious Hate Goes National

Among the findings in the report are: A dramatic increase in state-level ballot initiatives. Nine states are facing efforts to place anti-Gay ballot initiatives on the November, 1994 ballot: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon and Washington State.

Since November, 1992, roughly half the states witnessed state legislative battles involving Gay-rights issues. These include everything from the re-introduction of sodomy laws that apply only to Gays, to pro-active anti-Gay rights bills or bills excluding Gays and Lesbians from civil rights protections in Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Religious Right Leads the Charge

According to the report, the most common catalyst of anti-Gay activity is the Religious Right. Examples include Arizona where Rev. Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) has been instrumental in providing technical assistance to the Traditional Values

Coalition of Arizona. Sheldon himself has been even more involved in the anti-Gay initiative plans in California.

In Florida, the state chapter of Don Wildmon's American Family Association led by David Caton, has virtually enveloped the state with anti-Gay rhetoric and activity, including the state's proposed ballot initiative.

Splitting Minorities

According to the report, Religious Right groups have moved in a pre-emptive fashion to drive a wedge between Gays and other minority groups, particularly African Americans and Jewish Americans. The central weapon in this strategy is the phrase "special rights" — a term used to suggest that civil rights laws, instead of banning discrimination, would provide Gays with an extra privilege or elevated status that has been denied to others.

In tandem with this argument, is the assertion that Gays, unlike other protected classes, are not a "legitimate" minority group.

Censorship

The report says that anti-Gay forces seek to restrict Gay rights by banning art by or about Gays, and by censoring information about Gays in the schools and other public arenas, such as the public libraries. This is being done to **Wisconsin Light** in Hales Corners, among other examples.

Lesbians and Gays Must Fight Back

"To respond effectively to this onslaught, supporters of civil rights for Gays and Lesbian must broaden their alliances," said Kropp. "The only way to battle divisiveness is by reaching out more effectively to the business community, African Americans and Hispanics. We need to show every American why discrimination against Gays and Lesbians hurts our nation."

For more information or copies of the report, contact the Communications Department at PFAW (202) 467-4999.

PFAW is a 300,000-member non-partisan constitutional liberties organization.

Colorado Judge Hears Both Sides In Amendment 2 Anti-Gay Law

[Denver, CO] "The sooner I will be able to rule, the happier I will be," said Denver Judge Jeffrey Bayless. He was referring to the eight day trial on Amendment 2 which ended Friday, October 22. Amendment 2 bars Colorado governments from passing laws that protect Gays from discrimination. The judge's ruling, observers say, could take weeks.

Neither side's position was directly focused on Amendment 2. This is because almost everyone seems reasonably sure that Bayless will declare the amendment unconstitutional. Thus, each side aimed its arguments for an eventual hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court, the only other judicial body that can preserve Amendment 2.

Instead, the trial was turned into an open-ended debate on whether Gays are a true "suspect class."

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, a suspect class is a group that shares an immutable characteristic; is politically powerless; and have historically been the object of persecution.

The Court has already ruled that Gays are not a suspect class, but Attorney Jean Dubofsky arguing against the amendment, feels the case is worth making again, particularly because of new evidence linking homosexuality to the genes.

But the real rub comes in proving Gays are politically powerless. To do this, Dubofsky cited both Jews and African Americans who are recognized as suspect classes.

When state's attorneys called witnesses who testified that Gays molest children, the defense called Carol Jenny, a physician and director of child advocacy for Denver. Jenny said that if Amendment 2 was intended to protect children from sexual abuse, it should have been directed at heterosexuals.

"Children are 100 times more likely to be molested by a heterosexual relative than by a homosexual relative," Jenny said.

Enforcement of Amendment 2 remains suspended, following the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal on November 1 to hear an appeal of a ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court. The state court had ruled 6 to 1 against Amendment 2, saying that the amendment infringed upon the

fundamental constitutional right of Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals to participate in the state's political process.

The Court's refusal to hear the state's appeal means that the final question of Amendment 2's constitutionality will await a ruling by Judge Bayless.

Civil Rights Defeats

Elsewhere in the country, the off-year election did not bring happy results for the Gay/Lesbian community.

By a 62 percent to 38 percent vote, Cincinnati voters repealed a 1992 ordinance protecting Gays from discrimination. A similar law was repealed by a margin of more than 2 to 1 in Lewiston, Maine, and a non-binding vote on Gay rights in Portsmouth, New Hampshire failed by a 3 to 2 margin.

The defeats came as over a dozen states are considering ballot measure for next year that would bar legal protection for Lesbians and Gays.

According to Colorado for Family Values, the election results in Lewiston and Cincinnati were victories for the other initiatives. About \$75,000 of the \$300,000 in funding for the Cincinnati Far Right initiative came from Colorado for Family Values.

Openly Gay Candidates Win

On a happier note, five Victory Fund recommended openly Lesbian or Gay candidates joined the growing ranks of openly Gay or Lesbian elected officials.

The five winners are: San Diego Councilmember Christine Kehoe; Manhattan Civil Court Judge Marilyn Shafer; Carrboro, North Carolina Councilmember Michael Nelson; Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation member Wallace Swan; and Santa Barbara Councilmember Tom Roberts.

Hearing Held In Hawai'i on Same-Sex Marriages

[Honolulu] According to the Associated Press, on Saturday, October 30, hundreds of people turned out for a hearing on the question of same-sex marriage and for 12 hours made emotional pleas for and against the issue.

There were some shouting matches and heated debates from before the meeting started, as people with differing views walked into the Mable Smyth Auditorium side by side.

Five hundred people signed up to testify, and the hearing lasted 12 hours, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The hearing was organized by Hawai'i House Judiciary Chair Terrence Tom, who says the meetings will provide voter comment that will be considered in any bills lawmakers consider next session. There are no specific bills at the moment.

The Hawai'i State Supreme Court has ruled that the state's ban on Gay marriages is unconstitutional, but an appeal means it may be at least two years before a final decision is reached.

"I want to know... I can marry the person I love and that people can't tell me you can't marry that person because she is not a man," said Susan Martin, 19, a deaf woman who gave her testimony in sign language.

"By wrapping it up with a marriage certificate, we destroy the basic value of what has made this country great — the sanctity of marriage between a male and a female," said Pastor Paul Borgia, representing the 66 Assembly of God churches in Hawai'i.

Dr. Wayne Anderson of the City of Refuge Christian Church said it was wrong for Gays to call themselves minorities.

"What an insult to all minorities past and present who have been persecuted, discriminated against and killed — to elevate deviant sexual activity to minority status," Anderson said.

Nina Baehr, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court decision, said it's a question of equal rights, not special rights.

"In asking for a marriage license, we were not asking for a special right, but rather the same right our friends and family in Hawai'i enjoy — the right to marry the person we love," Baehr said.

CENSORSHIP

Continued from Page 1

God, comparing the **Light's** "light" to Satan. "I am not a Gay basher or homophobic but there are some things that are right and some things that are wrong," including homosexuality and adultery.

"The **Light** is not pleasing to god," said Bob Braun, head of the Christian Civil Liberties Union. "This is not censorship. You're merely removing the garbage."

Most speakers objected to advertisements in the newspaper containing nudity or promoting telephone sex lines. Three speakers connected "phone porn" to increases in juvenile sex crimes.

Two speakers objected to the presence of a Whitnall High School junior, Shannon Richter, on the committee. One woman, Violet Stajmiger, presented "this pure girl" with ribbons for National Pornography Awareness Week and said her "little eyes" should not be subjected to the contents of the **Wisconsin Light**.

In a discussion after the public comments, committee members considered the legal definitions of obscenity. Although several, including Richter, said they found objectionable items in the newspaper, "I think we're agreed on the fact that as a whole it doesn't go against" any laws, she said.

Committee members were not sure the newspaper was appropriate for young children, but they also described inappropriate items found in the **Milwaukee Journal** and **Sentinel**, **Cosmopolitan Magazine** and **PC Magazine**.

The Library Board created the committee in September. The Review Committee will meet at the library at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 17 and must make its recommendation in time for the Dec. 1 Library Board meeting.

The board might hold a public hearing after it gets the recommendation.

Jeff Baas, a fifth-grade teacher in Wauwatosa, complained in July that the free newspaper was too accessible to children because it was kept in a pamphlet rack in the library lobby. He also complained that the newspaper's advertising is "almost pornographic"

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and too sexual, especially the phone sex ads and book covers reproduced in an advertising supplement.

In addition to the public comment, the library received 21 letters or telephone calls for keeping the newspaper, four for moving it out of reach of children and 11 for getting rid of it.

Meanwhile, Baas' wife, Marilee, has gotten the Hales Corners Village Board involved. The board voted 7-0 Oct. 27 to consider an ordinance prohibiting the distribution to adult-oriented materials to children.

Mrs. Baas said the issue was not Gay rights or free speech but pornography. She said pornographic material has no place at a library.

Others at the meeting complained about the **Wisconsin Light** and asked if a referendum could be held on the proposed ordinance, but Village President James R. Ryan said the board and residents should wait until the library's Review Committee made its recommendation. He said the board has no power over materials the library carries.

Nevertheless, at the urging of Trustee Daniel Besson, the Village Board voted 4-3 to meet with the Library Board to discuss the issue. Besson said the Village Board approves the library budget and appoints a Library Board member.

No date has been set for that meeting.

Mrs. Baas also said the library Review Committee members were picked to "bulldoze" a decision in favor of the newspaper. The members were selected by Library Director Patricia Laughlin and Library Board President Georgianna Tamel.

The five-member committee includes two library employees, Lee Alexander and Janice Couturier; a guidance counselor at Pius XI High School, Brian Anderson; an assistant professor from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Library and Information Science, Thomas Walker; and Richter. Except for Alexander, all are Hales Corners residents.

Laughlin said the volunteer members of the committee were picked for having an open mind.

Mrs. Baas said the committee should not have included a high school student because her husband's complaint specifies that the **Wisconsin Light** is inappropriate for children.

Shaklee Joe Disch

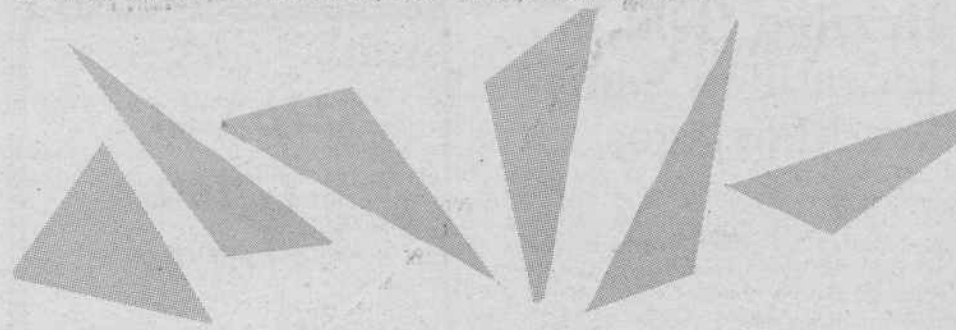
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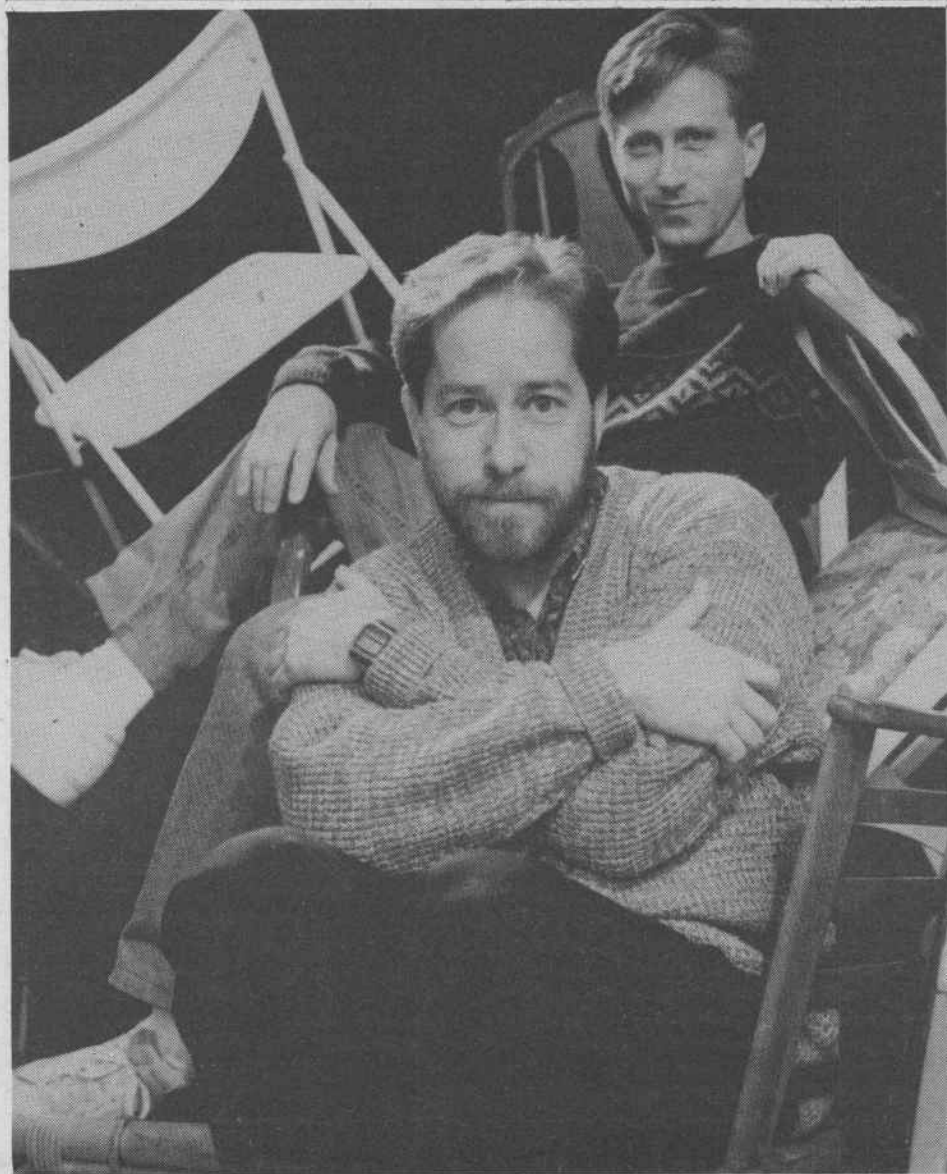
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The Light LIVELY ARTS



COLLISION COURSE— D. Scott Glasser (front) and C. Michael Wright star in the play "Lonely Planet" by Steven Diety from Nov. 11-28, at Milwaukee's new Broadway Theatre Centre. The play which is being promoted as "a funny and universal tribute to the healing power of friendship" is being staged by the Collision Theatre Ensemble. For more information call (414) 481-8431.

Fast Paced Playlets of 'La Ronde' Are Well Directed and Acted

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee's Boulevard Ensemble has opened its season with **La Ronde** by Arthur Schnitzler, a demi-comedy that takes place in ten playlets, connected by the metaphor of the board games we've all played: Monopoly, Trivia Pursuit, Backgammon, games like that. Each playlet centers on seduction, both Gay and straight, on the manipulation and conniving that we've all played out at one time or another in our lives.

Director, Mark Bucher, has mounted a fast paced production that results in holding the audience's attention. Yet, it is not so fast that nuances and humor (of which there is a great deal) are lost. There is time to laugh (sometimes with embarrassment because most of us have "been there"), and time to think how shallow the game of passion actually is.

In most of the plays I have seen at the Boulevard, the women have always been stronger in their art than the men. This time it's different. Both female and male actors are equally strong.

The "best of the best" among the men, in my opinion, are William Clifford and Rodd Walker. They both present strong, convincing performances that leaves me hoping that we will see both again.

Among the women, Pamela Brown is, as always, tops. I have seen her perform many times in various productions at the Boulevard and she is not to be missed. Brown is an actress of first-rate talent, the kind that could easily grace the Broadway stage; a person of grace and elegance who can and does, take an audience and play them like a piano. She is just that good.

Stage Manager Jonathan Meyer's work with the lights and music is excellent and attractive. The back-stage staff in productions sometimes do not get the credit they deserve. Meyer and those working with him contribute immensely to making **La Ronde** a thoroughly enjoyable production.

La Ronde should not be missed and will be performed at the Boulevard Theatre, Thursdays through Sundays through November 21. Curtain time on all nights is 8:00 p.m.

Ten percent of all ticket sales is being donated by the Boulevard to the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Red ribbons are available for sale in the lobby. The money raised will go to MAP.

The Boulevard Theatre is located at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Phone (414) 672-6019 for reservations and ticket information.

Tom Cruise Starring In 'Vampire' Film

By Leonard E. Johnson

Geffen Pictures began "dressing" the 700 block of Rue Royal in New Orleans last month for the filming of **Interview with the Vampire**, starring heart-throb Tom Cruise as the full cloaked vampire Lestat.

The film, based on the novel of the same name by New Orleans writer Anne Rice is being directed by Neal Jordan.

The untimely death in Los Angeles of **Interview** co-star River Phoenix is not expected to delay shooting, according to Katherine Orloff. Phoenix was cast as the vampire's interviewer. "Those scenes were shot in San Francisco," Orloff said.

Jordan has re-written Rice's film script, removing homosexual references popular with Rice's readers. (She is said to not be happy.) Lestat is now mourning not a lost male friend, but a wife. This was done, according to the **New York Times**, to appease Queer-sensitive Cruise.

Rumors also abound that Jordan is giving the film other unfortunate slants, like vampires as a bloody metaphor for AIDS.

A 'Fest City Christmas' Will Brighten Holiday Season December 5

[Milwaukee]- The Fest City Singers will perform their annual family Christmas Concert. A Fest City Christmas, Sunday, December 5, 1993. The performance/party will be at the South Shore Pavilion, 2900 South Shore Drive. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Festline — (414) 263-7464. Admission is \$7. Tickets will be available at the door.

Traditionally, refreshments are served during intermission and an Act II sing-along will be featured.

Music, dance, memories and good food will be shared. Santa Claus promises to

attend and greet children and grown-ups alike. Children are welcome and will be admitted free.

Fest City Singers is a member of the Arts Action Committee (AAC) of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The AAC is a coalition of 43 performing arts groups dedicated to raising AIDS awareness and funding for MAP. AAC supports the MAP food pantry and the Fest City Singers are asking the members of the audience to bring a contribution of food or personal items to the concert as a gift to MAP.

Different Drummer Theatre Will Stage 3 Gay Themed One-Act Plays

[Milwaukee]- Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, Milwaukee's only Gay/Lesbian theater company, is about to open its third season at the new Theater Complex's Studio Theater in the Third Ward.

The group will open the season on January 14, 15, 21, 22 and 23 with three one-act plays dealing with Gay/Lesbian issues.

The first play will be **Kitchen Duty** by Victor Bumbalo, a sly, witty, frightening and funny play about the insights into Gay relationships past and future.

The second play, **The Way We Live Now** by Susan Sontag, is a second, third and fourth-hand reporting of the facts,

events and feelings in witty, sentimental and often hilarious detail by and/or about 26 people gathered around a mutual friend who has AIDS.

The third play is **Forget Him** by Harvey Fierstein. It deals with a virgin's continual search for the ideal man via an all-male dating service. After four years with the ideal man, the virgin soon feels he isn't and is forced to admit the folly of his fantasy and to forget him.

Directors will be Stephen Spera, Joseph Rabensdorf and William Stotts.

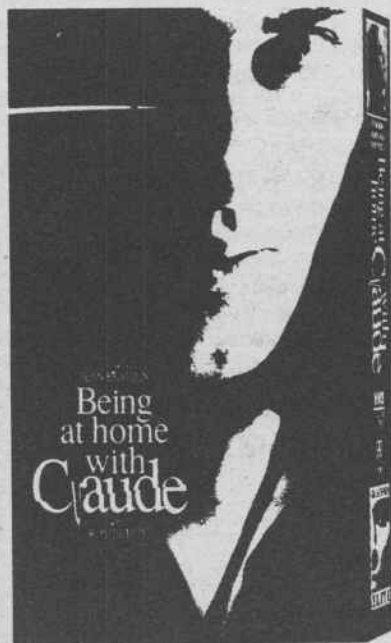
For more information on acting roles and volunteer help, call Spera at (414) 347-0673 or James Bolton at (414) 276-2596.

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Novelist Leavitt Discusses Charge of Plagiarism Directed at Him

By Owen Keehnen

In 1984, David Leavitt burst onto the literary scene with a stunning collection of Gay short stories entitled **Family Dancing**. Two years later he published his first novel which later, went on to become a successful BBC film, **The Lost Language of Cranes**.

At 32, Leavitt has just released a new novel, **While England Sleeps**. The book is a courageous, but sure departure from his earlier works.

However, recent praise, as was told in a story printed in **Wisconsin Light**, has been somewhat muffled by accusations from author Stephen Spender who claims **While England Sleeps** is literary thievery.

Recently, I chatted with Leavitt about his novel, those accusations and his illustrious career.

Owen Keehnen: I thought **While England Sleeps** was an incredible book. The content was so different for you. Was it intended as a novel on the ramifications of our political and social decisions?

David Leavitt: All those things, but initially I envisioned the book as having a much longer contemporary section. I wanted to write a book about Gay men at a time of war that explicitly had nothing to do with Gay men now at a time of war. And we have been at war for the past ten years.

OK: The sex scenes are hot as well. That's a departure for you. Were they difficult to write?

DL: They were the easiest thing in the book.

Why did it take your fiction until now to really jump into sex with both feet?

DL: There was no delay. I would never just sort of stick sex in for no reason; then you're writing pornography. **The Lost Language of Cranes** and **Equal Affections** both had sex, but neither as much as this book. In **While England Sleeps**, I was describing an intense relationship between two young men, 19 and 23, who are very attracted to each other. How can you talk about a relationship like that without talking about sex?

Gay male writers write about sex all the time, but it's usually the fly-by-night variety. I can't think of too many examples of Gay fiction that describe sex within a relationship.

Plagiarism?

OK: Would you care to comment on Stephen Spender's recent charge of plagiarism regarding **While England Sleeps** and his 1948 autobiography **World**

Within World?

DL: It was unfortunate. It has finally been resolved. The bottom line is there should have been an acknowledgment of **World Within World**, then none of this would have happened.

I wanted to put in an acknowledgment, the lawyer told me not to. I was advised badly. An acknowledgment will go in the paperback. It didn't occur to me that there would be a problem, but then again, most people don't write a historical novel using as a source a story from the life of a man who's still alive, and famously irritable.

OK: I've read from the clippings that he seemed mainly offended by the inclusion of sex in the story.

DL: He's of a different generation. It surprised me because Spender has always been so open about his homosexuality, but he wants to control its presentation.

From this point of view, I think this was also the straw that broke the camel's back.

Last year there was a biography of him published in England that was quite critical of him. He had a fit and wrote a number of articles.

The irony is that the biography sold more copies than it would have otherwise. I think at the age of 85, after getting over the ordeal of having this biography published, then this novel comes along — As far as I'm concerned, the real culprit in all this is the journalist at **The Washington Post** who sent him the book and set the whole thing into action for what seems to be his own purposes.

Which is your favorite of your books and why?

DL: Writing a story is like having a really hot and torrid affair that lasts three weeks. It's romantic and sexy and then it's over. A novel is like being married. It's a long relationship; you're with it all the time. Some days you love it and some you hate it.

OK: Any long-term career goals?

DL: I'd like to write a novel that I can consider a truly great novel, something on a par with **Howard's End** or **A Passage to India**. Of course, E.M. Forster was 30 when he wrote **Howard's End**. At this point, I'm fairly in control of the short story as a form, but I have a lot more to learn about the novel.

Editor's Note: David Leavitt's new book, **While England Sleeps**, is available at AfterWords bookstore, 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee.

Leavitt Stole from Autobiography Says 84-Year-Old English Poet

By Bob Roehr

"Poet Sues Novelist for Stealing His Life" read the headline on the front page of the "Style" section of the **Washington Post** on October 26.

The novelist in question is Gay literary wunderkind David Leavitt. The book is **While England Sleeps** now in bookstores across America, including AfterWords in Milwaukee.

Leavitt hit Washington the following day (October 27) on a whirlwind promotional tour for the book. On advice of his attorney, he declined to comment on pending litigation.

The poet is 84 year-old Stephen Spender, the sole surviving member of a group of notable Gay English poets from the 1930's. He argues that much of his 1948 autobiography, **World Within World**, was lifted by Leavitt for his novel. He calls Leavitt's alleged appropriation "idle, slovenly and dishonest."

"He (Leavitt) uses my autobiography as a medium for his pornography, and that's a very disgusting thing to do," Spender told the **New York Times**.

Spender went to court in London seeking an injunction to prevent publication of the British edition. His grounds were two: copyright infringement and violation of his "moral right" to his own book. The latter concept was enacted into law in England only four years ago and has little case law to define its perimeters. It gives authors control over having their work adapted or altered.

Leavitt admitted using Spender's book as a "springboard" for his novel in an article in the September 12 **Washington Post**. He has said that at one point, he considered acknowledging that fact at the front of the novel, an idea vetoed by his publisher's attorney.

Editor's Note: See interview with Leavitt, this issue.

A preliminary hearing on Spender's request for an injunction to prohibit publication took place on October 28.

However, there was no discussion of the substantive issue of the case.

The controversy has worked its way into reviews of the work. "Leavitt's book is a shameless copy of Spender's story... Leavitt's debt to Spender is at times impressive," wrote Alain de Botton in the **New Republic**.

D.T. Max took the opposite tack in the **Los Angeles Times**, calling "Spender's charge of plagiarism to be over the top."

One thing is certain, the press accounts have not dampened sales. Jim Bennett, co-owner of Lambda Rising bookstore, says that Leavitt's novel continues to sell briskly at their three bookstores in Washington, Baltimore and Rehoboth.



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AfterWords Begins Sunday Brunch

[Milwaukee]- Even though Christmas is just around the corner and already AfterWords has gotten some wonderful gift items, there are many events still planned at the bookstore.

Jackie Calhoun

First, everyone at AfterWords is especially pleased to welcome popular Lesbian author Jackie Calhoun for a reading and book signing on Sunday, November 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Calhoun has gained a wonderful reputation with such bestselling Naiad titles as **Lifestyle**, **Sticks and Stones**, and **Second Chance**. This past Fall Calhoun released **Friends and Lovers**, another novel given a Wisconsin setting.

Friends and Lovers focuses on Danny, who has just returned to Wisconsin following a divorce and the end of her first Lesbian relationship. Living with her mother and teenage daughter, Danny becomes embroiled in a project begun by two Gay men — a Bed & Breakfast catering to AIDS patients.

Danny also finds herself attracted to not one, but two women before herself

becoming the object of affection from her long-time married friend, Kara.

With her usual stylistic flair, Calhoun brings to life the rich and fascinating complexity of Lesbian life in the '90's.

Calhoun will read from **Friends and Lovers** as well as briefly discuss her life as an author of Lesbian literature and answer questions about her work.

New: Weekend Brunch

Also, beginning Sunday, November 13, AfterWords will be offering a Weekend Brunch menu to be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, AfterWords has been forced to reschedule its poetry reading with Jen Benka, Jennifer Geigel, and Jennifer Morales, creators of **No Lines: Poetry By Milwaukee Women Under Siege**. This poetry reading in support of the National Abortion Rights League of Wisconsin will now take place Tuesday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m. There will also be an open mike following this event which is free. All are welcome.

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Dykes To Watch Out For



MIXNER Continued from Page 1

as a sideshow, not as a civil rights group. What's happened is we've emerged as a bona fide civil rights movement. We're a very serious political power.

Are we where we want to be? Absolutely not. But we are on the verge of determining our own future; on the verge of a great civil rights battle over the next years.

We're on a path now that no one can turn us from. We won't go back. We have the capacity and the resources to move forward.

We are too hard on ourselves when we expect a broad, single national movement. If we had that, we'd be the first minority to have that. The African Americans had many groups, each with strongly held beliefs. But they all united in a common effort when push came to shove.

WL: What is your opinion of outing?
DM: Probably no issue has caused me more personal struggle. I go back to the time when I was involved in the anti-war movement. The Right Wing then, threatened to out me if I did not quit. I seriously contemplated suicide.

Outing is playing big time with someone else's life. It could do enormous damage to that individual. I think that it is important that we not adopt the anger and the tactics of our oppressors to get our freedom. We must conduct ourselves differently.

I don't want to become like Pat Robertson with his hate. I want to pattern myself after Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Editor's Note: David Mixner will be in Milwaukee on November 21 to attend the Victory Fund Celebration.

MEDICAL COLLEGE Continued from Page 1

because we want to determine whether the approach works in diverse communities," said Dr. Kelly, adding that it is also important to test an HIV prevention program on a scale large enough to have beneficial community impact in reducing the spread of the disease.

Between 2,000 and 4,000 women will participate in the study. The first phase of the 3-year study will include meetings and discussion groups that will involve housing project residents themselves in intervention planning, development and implementation.

The second phase will be community trials of the intervention in housing project communities. It will be evaluated by periodic surveys of women living in housing projects where the program was offered to determine if there are changes in AIDS knowledge, attitudes and behavior, as well as evidence of increased condom use and decrease in sexually transmitted disease incidence in the community.

The Medical College of Wisconsin

Community Health Behavior Program is one of the country's major centers for research on AIDS prevention and AIDS mental health issues. Since 1990, MCW has been awarded nearly \$14 million from the National Institutes of Health to support research evaluating new AIDS prevention approaches for Gay men, women with high risk sexual partners seen in community health care settings, the chronic mentally ill and other groups vulnerable to HIV infection, as well as to support research on mental health services to assist persons with AIDS and their loved ones.

YOUTH Continued from Page 1

Rivendell
The last issue of *Light* carried the story from Lambda Legal Defense of Rivendell, a Utah institution. While Rivendell authorities deny any attempts to "cure" Gay and Lesbian youth, Minter says stories of young people confined there contradict Rivendell's assertions.

Throughout the past Summer, Lambda and the NCLR have been preparing a case against Rivendell, but feel that they are not yet prepared to take the case to court.

A reporter for the *San Francisco Examiner*, Elizabeth Fernandez, has been looking into Rivendell

A Frightening Trend
According to the NCLR report, Gay and Lesbian youth are threatened by the resurgence of therapies, from crude religious propaganda such as is found in *Homosexuals Anonymous* or in "Courage" sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church to sophisticated repression treatments.

Reparative therapy is being promoted by a group of psychiatrists known as NARTH, the National Association for Psychoanalytic Research and Therapy of Homosexuality.

NARTH was founded by Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, who appeared as an "expert" on homosexuality in the anti-Gay propaganda video, *The Gay Agenda*. Nicolosi is also the author of the 1991 book *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality*.

The American Psychiatric Association has strongly condemned the attempts of reparative therapy. An article in the *Psychiatric News* called reparative therapy "one of the most flagrant and

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Nov. 22; Dec. 9; Jan. 6;

frequent abuses of psychiatry in America."

There is a new newsletter for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth who are survivors of reparative therapy. Write: 24-7: Notes from the Inside, Stop Abuse Network, 47 Cuvier St., San Francisco, CA 94112. To contact NCLR call (415) 621-0674.

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Organizations

Group for older lesbians forming. First meeting, Thursday, December 2, 7 p.m., 2nd floor, M & Ms, 124 N. Water. All Welcome! x

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

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Men Seeking Men

BM, 24, like sports, movies, quiet nights and driving people crazy, ISO someone 19-24, black, white or hispanic, for love, companionship and relationship. **Box# 7484**

Bi white teddy bear, 37, If you love hot oral sex, then I'm for you, I have a hungry deep throat. **Box# 1104**

Bob, super personality, If you are lonely, call me.

(Call Thru) **Box# 7934**

Walter, into leather, ISO other leather men. **Box# 7107**

Mike, 32, well-built, masculine, ISO a WM around 6'2, very hairy, for fun hot times. **Box# 9287**

Paul, call me on call thru. (Call Thru) **Box# 6537**

Carl, 29, GWM, 180, 5'9, ISO a sincere open minded man, any race. (Call Thru) **Box# 3779**

GM, 21, blond hair, blue eyes, like bars, safe sex, ISO a masculine and/or feminine guy, lets get it on. (Call Thru) **Box# 4266**

TV, cross dresser, 5'11, 140, 30, blond hair, ISO a big black man. **Box# 1451**

Jeff, 35, WM, 195, brown hair/eyes, good body/looks, hairy chest, looking to have fun with other men. (Call Thru) **Box# 4558**

Michael, BM, 23, ISO guys my age for football, movies, etc. **Box# 6919**

Kevin, masculine, ISO Gay or BiWM, 20-35 who is built and masculine also. (Call Thru) **Box# 3560**

Randy, GWM, 32, 5'9, stocky, submissive, ISO a long hair biker type to show me the ropes. (Call Thru) **Box# 8713**

Mark, 30, 5'8, 150, dark hair, my partner-29, 5'6, 142, light brown hair, ISO men under 40 for goodtime. (Call Thru) **Box# 4245**

Stanley, born in 69, like walks, tennis, volleyball.

Box# 6162

Curt, over-weight GWM, ISO nice, hairy, fun-loving top men. (Call Thru) **Box# 2875**

WM, 6', 190, athletic, well-built, very submissive bottom, ISO a large well-endowed top, you won't be sorry. (Call Thru) **Box# 7197**

Jason, 24, 5'9, 165, well-built, ISO guy around the same age. (Call Thru) **Box# 6510**

John, 6'1, 240, top, aggressive, ISO a passive, very

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6', 190 lb, athletic, well-built 29 yr old. I like all sports and am very straight acting. Looking for another person with the same qualities. Friendship comes first in my book. **Box# 3120**

New to area. 27 yrs old, very clean and very good looking. Call and I'll tell you more. **Box# 8953**

Muscular body-builder, very well-built (chest: 54, waist: 34) late 40s but look and feel younger. Interested in meeting someone between 25-40 who admires a nice body. I love massages, and cuddling and kissing. **Box# 1689**

36 yrs old, 5'5", 135 lbs, hairy chested, and clean shaven. I like a good time, and I particularly like lots of body contact—massages, showers,.... I'm passionate and I'm good. **Box# 2134**

29 yr old black male, athletic, masculine, and looking for other guys who like to have fun. If this sounds like you, give me a call. **Box# 4502**

5'5", 160 lbs, ISO a TV, TS, or very fem male. Please call. **Box# 6633**

Fun-loving, attractive guy in 40s. I like the gym, but am tired of the lines, so I've bought equipment. Seeking buffed, attractive M who knows about fitness to be a partner, motivator, coach. Romance & eroticism optional. **Box# 2864**

38 yr old GWM, 5'10", 185 lbs, stocky build, blond w/ short beard & moustache, seeks masculine type guy, 25-45. If you're serious and want to have a good time, enjoy each other's company,.... then, please give me a call. **Box# 3678**

Athletic, masculine Black male, 5'8", seeks guys with similar builds. You? Let's talk. **Box# 9728**

Looking for a SWM, bi or straight. I like to have a lot of intense fun. Leave a message, and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. **Box# 2887**

Professional, grad student, 40 yrs old, 5'11", 155 lbs, pierced—you'll have to call to find out where. I'm not looking for a relationship, but rather other PMs that are like-minded for some hot, fun play. **Box# 4447**

GWM, well-built, very attractive, 35 yrs old, 6'1", 190 lbs,

blk hair & eyes, passionate & sensuous, serious yet fun. Seeking the same in a man, 20-30. We can get better acquainted through conversation, so please call. **Box# 3249**

29 yr old BM, 5'7", 165 lbs, long black hair, brown eyes, seeking fairly aggressive Ms—not domineering, just aggressive—for get together & fun times. If you're interested, please call. **Box# 3789**

5'9", 145 lbs, blond with blue-eyes, clean-shaven, very tan. A passive bottom, I prefer a masculine top larger than myself—stocky, muscular. I've been told I have very attractive legs. Interested? Please call. **Box# 4874**

Tall (6'4"), good-looking, and fun-loving. I'm looking for an am anxious to find a playmate—hope it's you. **Box# 7416**

WM, 40 yrs old, very masculine and attractive. A really hot bottom, I'm looking for a well-built top. Why don't you make me make your day. Everything considered and lots more. You won't be sorry. **Box# 8285**

I'm looking for someone, 30-40, who's into outdoor, sportsy kinds of things like hiking, swimming, baseball, biking, I'm 5'8", 180 lbs, blond. If you're interested, give me a call. **Box# 9390**

GWM, 33 yrs old. I'm into waterskiing, swimming, fishing,.... anything to do with the outdoors. These days I have a lot of time to play in the sun and water & would love to have some company. Give me a call. **Box# 4108**

Good-looking GWM, 21 yrs old, 5'9", 135 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, seeking a LTR w/ an intelligent, stable, humorous GWM, 18-25. I like music, film, video, art, & good conversation. **Box# 4451**

BM, 5'11", 175 lbs, attractive, smooth, muscular, seeking a WM, 25-40, who's masculine (perhaps a bit husky), professional, easy-going, fun to be with, and looking for some company. **Box# 5101**

GWM, 31 yrs old, 6'4", 190 lbs, brwn hair & eyes, short beard & moustache, looking to meet men of color for good times. I'm very passionate and looking for the world's greatest kisser. **Box# 7754**

This is Tony. You can give me a call. Oh, and by the way, you must be over 6', over 190 lbs, and Black. Peace. **Box# 8614**

33 yrs old, 6'3", 230 lbs, very hairy and well-built, seeking men, over 45, of similar description for fun. Let's see what we can do. Leave me a message. **Box# 8749**

SWM, 28 yrs old, 6'1", 175 lbs, well-built, attractive and very straight-acting. I enjoy many sports as spectator & participant, & most other outdoor activities. Seeking tall, well-built, very masculine guy, 21-35, w/ similar interests. **Box# 9809**

GWM, 25 yrs old, 5'11 1/2", 167 lbs, wanting to meet someone interested in something other than the "same ol', same ol'." I'm looking for someone new, honest & true to himself. I hope that's you; give me a call. **Box# 4873**

GWM, 32 yrs old, 6', 165 lbs, brown hair, pretty good build, and lots of interests. I'm a business professional looking for someone to share the quiet times and fun times with in a friendship/relationship. **Box# 5565**

GWM, 23 yrs old, 5'11", 175 lbs, straight-acting and looking, brown short hair, brown eyes, good body. I'm very attractive and monogomous seeking a LTR. You can call if seeking the same. **Box# 5875**

Seeking TSs, or very feminine cross-dressers. I'm interested in friendship, and possibly a long-term relationship. **Box# 6204**

GBM, stocky build, 22 yrs old, 5'9", brown eyes, passionate & sensuous nature. I like going out to parties as well as giving them, and am seeking GMs with similar interests. I can't wait to hear from you. **Box# 7539**

Seeking someone who's fun, exciting, and great to be with. Hope to hear from you soon. **Box# 9216**

Italian male, 23, 5'8, 145, brown hair and eyes, like outdoors, biking. Seeking male 22-30 for friendship and maybe more. **Box# 9908**

Mike, 18yrs old, wm, 5'11, brown hair, green eyes, looking for friendship. I like bar hopping, alternative high energy dance. Give me a call if you like the same. **Box# 6968**

GWM, 38yrs old, 6', 150lbs, drk. hair, br. eyes, HIV negative, very versatle, looking for mate with simalar qualities to get along with. **Box# 8307**

GWM, 31 yrs old, 5'9", 176 lbs, blue-eyed & blond. I like to go out to the bars, socialize, dance, play pool & darts, go to movies, dine out, etc.... I'm seeking a new friend to do things with. If you're a GWM, 25-35, give me a call. **Box# 1421**

New to area and interested in a first experience. I'm 27 yrs old, 5'10", slender but broad. Not interested too much in looks but rather chemistry. **Box# 1473**

BM, early 20s, 6', 187 lbs. I love the outdoors and like to do a lot of active things like sports, tennis, baseball,.... I'm seeking someone 5'11"+, 160-195 lbs. I like masculine males. **Box# 2514**

Seeking someone who's laid-back and can offer more than just the usual sex. I'm into dance, techno & house music, movies, romantic evenings, cuddling, and a lot more. I'm 25 yrs old, 5'11", 165 lbs, with blond hair & blue eyes. **Box# 2681**

18 yrs old, black hair, baby-blue eyes, into music like Morrissey & Madonna, interested in meeting other Ms, 18-23, for friendship and whatever evolves. If you're interested, leave a message—day or night. **Box# 3137**

SWM interested in meeting someone else who's new to this to explore with. I'm 20 yrs old and curious. **Box# 3163**

20 yrs old, pretty outdoorsy. I like to fish, hike, camp, swim, If you want to find out more, please leave me a message. **Box# 3440**

If you're a muscular, masculine BM top who has been lonely and waiting for that someone special, then look no further. I'm a sexy, bow-legged brother from Brooklyn, 5'8", 160 lbs, intelligent with a good sense of humor waiting to meet you. **Box# 4749**

In search of younger guy, 21-30, who's slim and smooth skinned. Also, seeking someone who's looking for a serious relationship. **Box# 5472**

6'1", 190 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, moustache, hairy, seeking someone to have a good relationship with. **Box# 5546**

SubWM, 25 yrs old, 5'2", 125 lbs, clean, healthy, discreet, and a novice. I'm seeking a top, 40-50, 6' or taller, who's thin and disease-free, for an occasional get together with a playmate. **Box# 6125**

I'm looking for someone who's HIV+, and who loves country music 'cause I do. I can't wait to meet you. **Box# 6458**

Attractive GWM, 23 yrs old, 5'11", 175 lbs, short brown hair, brown eyes, straight-acting; I workout a lot and have a good body. I'm very monogamous and seeking the same. **Box# 6587**

I'm looking to meet some people to hang out (or whatever) with. I've got dark features, a moustache, and blue eyes. Be good and leave me a message so I can get back to you. **Box# 7313**

My partner and I are a GWC, 21 & 29 yrs old, seeking a N/S GWM, 21-35, for discreet get togethers. If this sounds good to you, get in touch. **Box# 7314**

I'd seeking top guys in the area. If you'd like to talk with me, leave a message, and I'll call you back. I'm 25 yrs old, 5'10", 160 lbs, with dark brown hair and blue eyes. **Box# 8532**

GM, 35 yrs old, 6'1", 175 lbs, very attractive, seeking same 40-30 yrs old. **Box# 8867**

27 yrs old, 5'11", 165 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm new at this, but very curious and willing to learn. If you're interested, I hope you'll call. **Box# 9779**

Looking for a bi or GWM, 25-35, who is in very good shape, good-looking, and likes to have fun. Why don't you give me a call. **Box# 9886**

Dave, 5'10, 180, solid muscle, 28, blonde hair, blue eyes, ex-marine, construction worker, surfer, I will be in town for only a short while, if you are interested leave a message of what you are into. **Box# 3570**

BI-male, 42, seeks other males for good-times, this is new to me, look forward to hearing from all. **Box# 1367**

Nick, 42, bi-male, 5'7, 165, beard/mustache, enjoy everything, nothing to kinky. **Box# 3674**

GWM, 23, seeks a real man over 6'2, leave a message. **Box# 4477**

JOHN, 18, Milwaukee area, collects records, likes movies, dinners. **Box# 6684**

JEFF, 39, brown hair/eyes, 5'11", 180, convertibles, antiques, seeks well dressed, hot men, 25-40, long-term relationships. **Box# 1520**

Dan, 30, I like sports, wild parties. Call me. **Box# 5035**

Allen, attractive, BM, 5'8", 160, muscular, great shape, seeks other BM'S who are aggressive, well-built, masculine, down to earth, over 25. **Box# 5504**

Bi-male seeks other bi's, 30-40 for serious relationship, dancing, movies, dining out. **Box# 6133**

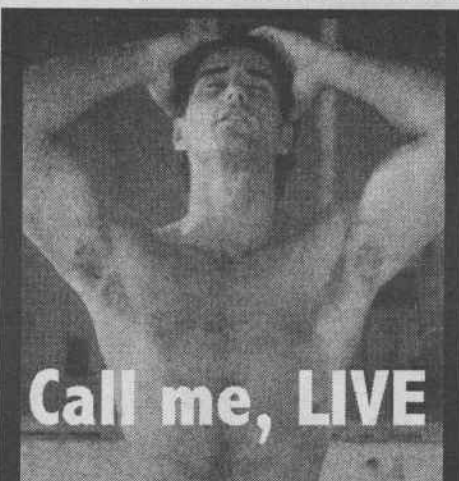
BM, 6'1", 210, HIV Neg., 33, ISO good-looking, disease-free, top-oriented man **Box# 5194**

Married Bi WM, 44, 5'7", 210, bearded, ISO daddy bear for relationship. **Box# 7845**

25, ISO nice, good-looking, fun-loving, sensitive, caring guy. **Box# 5125**

Glen, 6', 185, ISO very athletic, extremely well-built man to have a nice time. **Box# 4408**

Pete, Milwaukee, 25, 5'6", 130, black hair, brown eyes, attractive, like water sports, tennis, movies, seeks friend 21-40 for possible relationship. **Box# 6275**



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Many Disapprove of Transsexuals Due to Incorrect Information

By Samantha

As I have mentioned before, the Gay and Transsexual communities share many of the same problems in dealing with bigoted or ill-informed people. In both cases, there are those who assume that we have some malign ulterior motive in pursuing expression of our legitimate human values. In bigoted minds, patriotism is a cover for the homosexuals' desire to sleep and shower with unwilling same-sex partners. Transsexuals are seen as perverts who disguise themselves so that they can sneak into women's bathrooms.

Some of the Right wing religious types claim that we conspire to corrupt American society, or worse, American children. Our very existence is interpreted as an evil influence.

For instance, my own sister has forbidden me from visiting her home for fear that my mere presence might turn her children into Transsexuals. I assured

her that her children could remain uncontaminated if she would wash them after each visit.

My sister is not unusual in regarding Transsexuals and Gays as sinister. I read in Mike Royko's column that among the weirdos, Tom Snyder has interviewed were Lesbian couples, Transsexuals, and Charles Manson. Mike failed to explain why he associates Lesbians and Transsexuals with a psychotic killer; he also neglects to mention why his column is preferred three-to-one over the usual cat litter, even though it smells long before the cat ever sees it.

Now, obviously Mike Royko, as a TV (television, not transvestite, so far as we know) critic, is not obligated to be an expert on Lesbianism or Transsexualism. But I wish he and other journalists like him would leave these two subjects to people who are more informed and intelligent, such as contestants on the gameshow, *Studs*. Mr. Royko seems to

think that the is not only an expert on television, but is also qualified to decide who should share a cell with Charles Manson. He is also president of the Hair Club for Men.

What I find most galling about such self-styled experts as Royko is not that they disapprove of Transsexuals, but that they base their opinions upon vague and irrational assumptions, rather than honest inquiry. And when confronted with facts contrary to their unfounded prejudices, they develop a curious type of mental stupor which renders them immune to rational discourse.

For example, a few days ago a close friend of mine heard a fellow employee tell a group of avid listeners that only Gays are susceptible to the AIDS virus because they deserve it.

After letting him have his say, my friend proceeded to cite evidence which not only disproved his assertions, but established that he has not benefited from the penis extender he has used since puberty.

As she spoke, he adopted a blank stare, the half-formed word, "Duh," playing about his lips. When she finished, he replied, "You're full of shit," and walked away.

My friend and I discussed the incident at length and concluded that her mistake had been to address the arguments toward his head, under the false assumption that something approximating a human brain was there. In fact, she should have aimed lower, using a different sort of persuasion, preferably in the form of a large cactus suppository fired at point-blank range from a slingshot.

The "You're full of shit" argument, clever though it may be, is seldom used by members of the religious right, who cling like engorged ticks to outworn, slogans and bible phrases. Again, I must regretfully mention my sister, who typifies the species of Fundamentalist who is unable to think clearly upon anything that even obliquely involves sex.

For her sake, I never broach the subject of my transsexuality in our long-distance conversations, but when she does ask me about it, I attempt in the gentlest manner possible to explain why I can't merely change my mind and be a "normal" person.

Her invariable response is to gibber passages from Deuteronomy and Leviticus in a staccato so rapid that I fear her teeth are loosening. I can almost hear them slapping against the mouthpiece of her phone.

Such projectile proselytizing is all too familiar to me, as I encountered it from my childhood. When I was a believer (and unfortunately, still a Transsexual) years ago, I searched the Scriptures for a solution to my misery, and found a great many ordinances in the Old Testament governing the proper use of oxen. After all these years, I am still unable to relate biblical admonitions to my lifelong suffering in and inappropriate body. I thank random chance that I own no oxen, because then I would really be in trouble with my sister.

Fundamentalists like my sister, seem to think that they can apply the same preposterous rationale to any situation. I heard another religious bigot claim in my presence that the Mississippi flood is evidence of God's wrath against homosexuals and abortionists. It is, of course, common knowledge, that only homosexual abortionists live near large bodies of water, and that any loss of life or property damage in these areas is clearly the fault of such sinners.

But I cannot understand why God should punish so many farm animals by drowning them in the same flood. Rarely have I seen cows hanging around Gay bars or abortion clinics. Perhaps they violated one of those oxen laws I worry about late at night. If Transsexual abortionist oxen owners were more prevalent, we'd all be under water. At least this is my opinion when I have drunk a few too many gin and holy waters.

In summary, I don't want to fool myself or anyone else: I want to live my life as a free person, free not only from the damnable opinions of sanctimonious knobs, but free from the constraints of a body I find contemptible and alien, since it does not express the ineluctable essence of my feminine soul.

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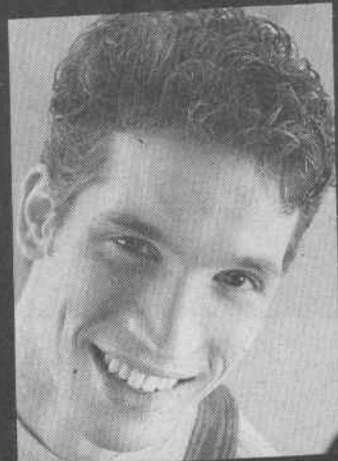
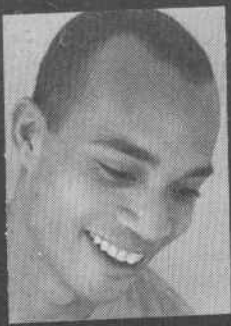
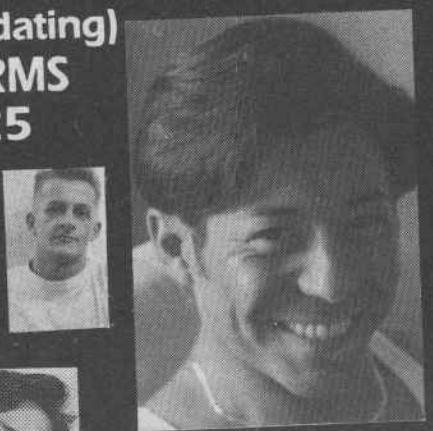


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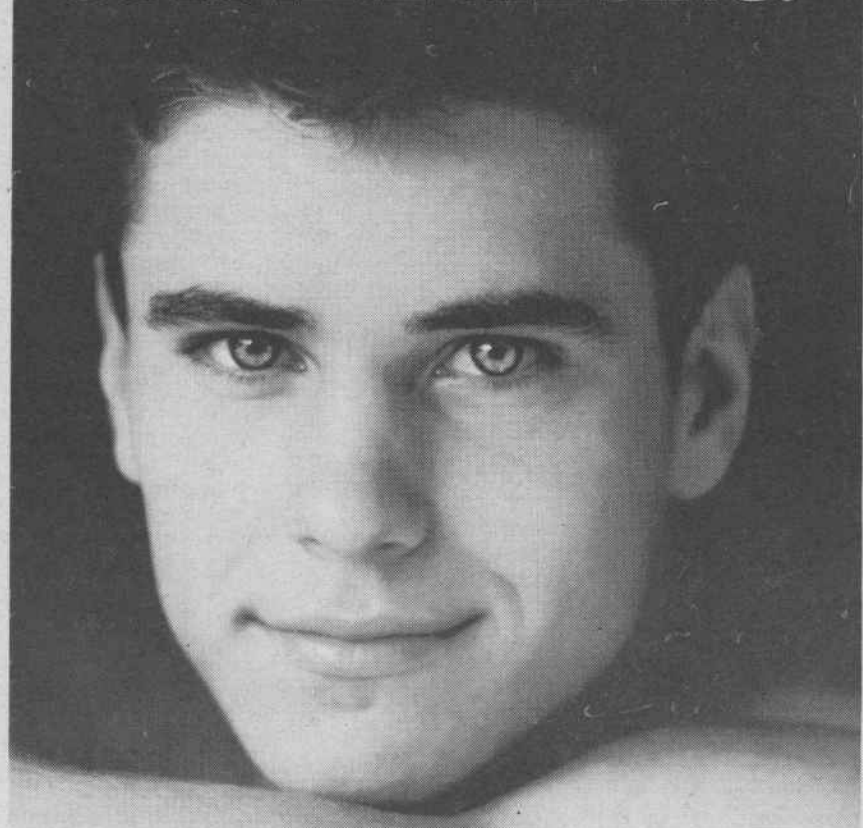
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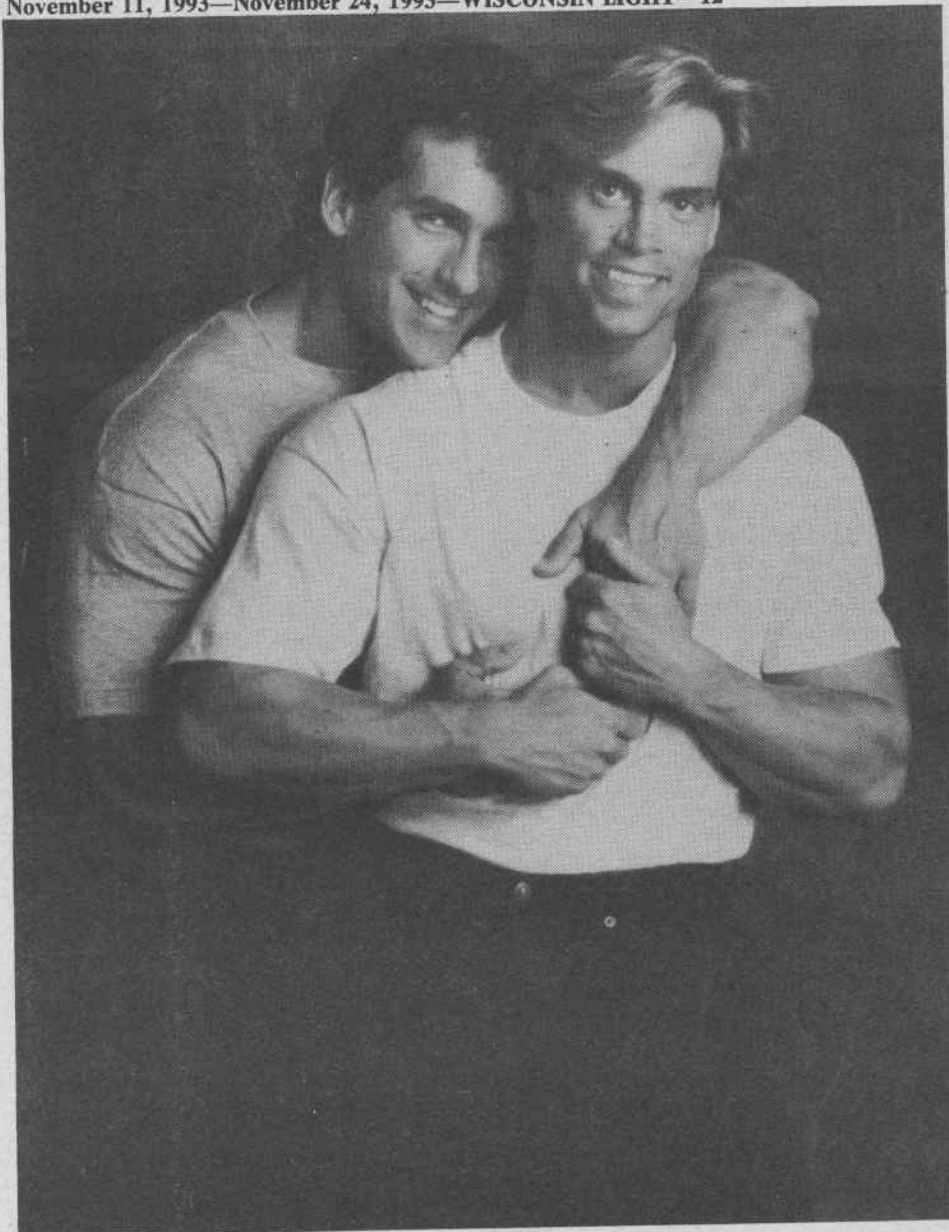


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BOB AND ROD JACKSON-PARIS

'Light' Interviews America's Most Famous Gay Couple, Jackson-Paris

By Terry Boughner

Exclusive to WISCONSIN LIGHT

They were in the mall, walking together as they like to do, and passed a young man with his girlfriend. The young man recognized them and called out "faggot!" They turned and called back, "bigot." It was the dirtiest word they knew.

"They" are Bob Paris, a winner of the Mr. America and Mr. Universe crowns, the highest bodybuilding titles in the world and his bodybuilder husband, Rod Jackson.

If appearances mean anything (and they often do), Bob and Rod are the very epitome of what the straight world thinks of as "masculine." Both have splendid, hard muscular physiques. Both are gifted with classical good looks. Both have silken-deep voices with more than a touch of male resonance about the edges.

Their fame is wide-spread, which is putting it mildly. Some have called them America's most famous Gay couple. Open about their love for each other (a fact clearly evident even when you talk to them over the phone), they have appeared on all the major TV talkshows, lectured across the country, and have been featured in countless magazine and newspaper spreads, doing as much as anyone can to break down anti-Gay stereotypes.

But over and above all, they are Gay activists, spending their time and resources in the struggle for civil rights. Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking to them over the phone at their western home.

Youth

A cause which both feel strongly about is the plight of Lesbian and Gay youth. To that end, they agreed to lend their images to the production of a video titled **Be True To Yourself**. The video places them among some 10 Gay and Lesbian teens who were free to ask questions.

They are "really proud" of the result, Bob said, adding that it is being used in "several school systems" and churches

as well.

Doing the video as well as creating the Be True To Yourself Foundation to help Lesbian and Gay youth is, they say, part of the responsibility that we all, all of us who have survived and are out, owe to the next generation. The "only other option is to leave the kids out on their own."

Asked how they would address the fears that some Lesbians and Gay men have of working with youth; being thought child molesters, etc, their answer is swift and firm.

"We're not child molesters. We've got to quit defining ourselves by other people's ignorance," Rod said, adding, "We've got to get our asses out of the closet." The sad thing is, that if we don't do this, all of us, then "the kids can't fulfill their potential because we don't do the work to say we're okay."

The Fight for Equality

Asked if they saw any hope for Lesbian/Gay equality in the future, they were equally firm. "There's absolute hope for equality," Bob said. But they both warned that "We can't grow tired in the battles."

The purpose of the Far Right's campaigns in Oregon, Colorado and elsewhere, they agreed, was "to make us tired." Those "brush fires were designed to make us tired; designed to prevent us from moving forward in our rights."

"We're getting stronger," Rod said, "and we're moving forward." In fact, they believe that we are "right on the brink" of full equality, within "50 years."

If that should seem like a long time, they cited the African American civil rights movement which is not yet complete. "Racism is as alive and ugly as it has always been," Rod said. "Blacks must still battle every day for equality." And Lesbians and Gay must expect to do the same thing.

In the meantime, they believe that, as Bob put it, "We are in a real defining time. We are finding dignity and integrity about who we are," he said, adding that being Gay is much more than what we do in our bedrooms.

Marriage

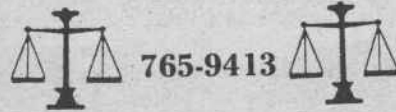
Asked what hope they see for the future of same sex marriage, they answered as was their wont; firmly.

They see marriage as first of all, a personal choice, but also a civil right. "The personal choice of marriage is a right that makes us first-class citizens," Bob said.

They cautioned, however, that when the Hawaiian case reaches the U.S. Supreme

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Court, "it will probably be decided
against us."

Should we be discouraged? No. "We
must hit the streets," they agreed. "We
need 10 million people in the streets."

And again, as they had before, strongly
emphasized that "We must come out of
the closet. We must learn to see being
Gay or Lesbian as a positive quality, not a
negative thing." We cannot let the Far
Right do as they have been doing,
"portraying us as dehumanized sex
machines," Bob said.

Over and over again, they emphasized
strongly that those in the closet must
come out. "If you don't like what Queer
Nation (or ACT UP) is doing, then get out
of your closet and help."

And even if you are out, get into the
fight. The people, they think, who are
most detrimental to the cause are those
who do little but "bitch and moan."

Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris will be in
Milwaukee on November 21 attending the
Victory Fund celebration. For tickets and
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